

Summary

Dates: Between 03 and 06 Jan 2019

Climbers: Charles Dunn (UK) and Edward Dunn (UK)

Area: South of Jygerlan in Karakol, Kyrgyzstan

Summary of outcome: Subsidiary peak (~3,600m) climbed but main objective (peak 3,941) not reached. We believe that neither the main peak, nor the subsidiary peak, have been climbed before.

Report

The intention of the trip was to explore a (likely unclimbed) ridge near Jygerlan in Kyrgyzstan. We visited the area in 2018 on a skiing trip and returned in 2019 with equipment to climb as much of the ridge as possible.

Local information, and enquiries to the Kyrgyz Alpine Club, indicate that there have been no previous attempts to climb this mountain, or this ridge. We saw no evidence of prior attempts during our trip.



Figure 1

Photo of ridge climbed. Camp 2 is indicated by a blue triangle and the final point reached (~3,600m) is indicated by a green arrow. The large peak in the distance is peak 3,941. Photo taken by a party on a neighbouring mountain

On 03 Jan 2019 we departed from Jygerlan and reached camp 1 (indicated by the red triangle in Figure 2, approximate grid k44 051 369 150) in around 5 hours. We were using skis and carrying our equipment in rucksacks.

On 04 Jan we climbed to camp 2 (indicated by blue triangle in Figure 2, approximate grid k44 051 366 137), this was reached in 3 hours from camp 1. Camp 2 was around 3,200m in height

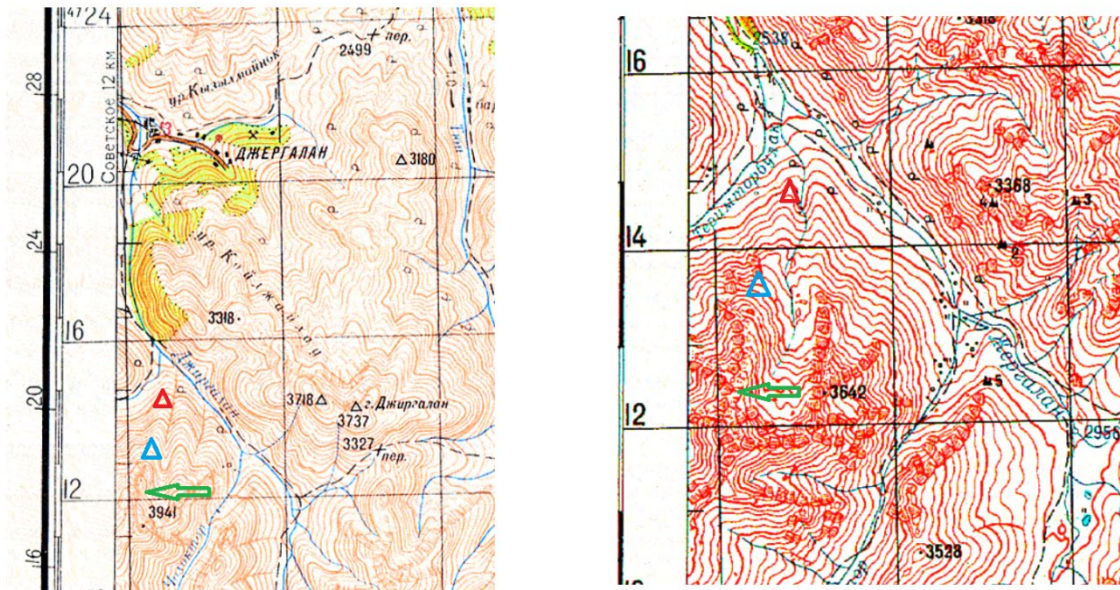


Figure 2

Extracts from Soviet Military Topographical Map (SMTM) showing camp 1 (red triangle), camp 2 (blue triangle) and final point reached (green arrow)
 Left hand map 1:200,000, k44 XIV,
 Right hand map 1:100,000 k44 051
<https://kac.centralasia.kg/maps/>



Figure 3: View of Edward Dunn skiing between camp 1 and camp 2

On 05 Jan we left camp 2 to head towards the summit. The climbing was non-technical scrambling (UK grade 2/3) and no protection was required to maintain the ridge. Route finding was reasonably simple. The only obstacle to progress was deep snow. After around 4 hours we reached our most advanced point on the ridge, approximately grid k44 051 362 125. This point was a subsidiary peak of around 3,600m. Between this and the main peak

(3,941m) there was a drop of around 50-100 metres to gain a more serious looking ridge which led directly to the summit. We estimated that the ridge would take at least 6 hours to climb (from our current location, and hence ~10 hours from camp 2), and the return would not be much faster. We returned from this point to camp 2



Figure 4: View of the ridge leading to the 3,941m summit from our final point



Figure 5: typical view of the ridge above camp 2

On 06 Jan we returned directly to Jygerlan from camp 2.