

Sources:

1. <https://dyatlovpass.com/>
2. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ural-Mountains>
- 3.

Dyatlov Pass Incident

Today we are talking about the Dyatlov Pass incident. So before I get into it I will mention that this is a true story and probably one of the more scary/creepy things I have come across that happened in history. Small trigger warning for gore and mythical creatures. So this happened in the Northern Ural Mountains which are located in Russia. The Ural Mountain range forms a rugged spine in west-central Russia and the major part of the traditional physiographic boundary between Europe and Asia.

So there were 10 hikers most of them were attending or graduates of Ural Polytechnical Institute or UPI for short.

1. Igor Dyatlov - 23M - 13 Jan 1936 5th year student in UPI - Radio Engineering
2. Yuri Doroshenko - 21M - 9 Jan 1938 4th year student in UPI - Radio Engineering
3. Yuri Krivonischenko - 23M - 7 Feb 1935 graduated from UPI in 1957 - Construction and Hydraulics. While working in Chelyabinsk - 40 a secret nuclear facility he experienced a disaster that became known as Kyshtym Accident
4. Yuri Yudin** - 21M - 19 Jul 1937 4th year student in UPI - Engineering
5. Zinaida Kolmogorova - 22F - 12 Jan 1937 5th year student in UPI - Radio Engineering
6. Nikolay Thibeaux-Brignolle - 23M - 5 July 1935 graduated from UPI in 1958 - Civil Engineering. At the time of his death he was working in the construction department of Sverdlovsk. The name is not exactly known. Options: UNR 154 or Office of Mechanization №1.
7. Lyudmila Dubinina - 20F - 12 May 1938 4th year student in UPI - Engineering and Economics
8. Rustem Slobodin - 23M - 11 Jan 1936 graduated from UPI in 1958 - Engineering Technology, working in Enterprise PO Box 10 at the time of the events.
9. Aleksander Kolevator - 24M - 2 Feb 1921 graduated from the Institute of Physical Education in Minsk in 1950. He was an instructor Kouravka tour base at the time of his death.
10. Semyon Zolotaryov - 38M - 2 Feb 1921 graduated from the Institute of Physical Education in Minsk in 1950. He was an instructor Kouravka tour base at the time of his death.

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So out of the 10 hikers one ended up not completing the last leg of the trip and that was Yuri Yudin - I will come back to this in a bit.

On Friday, January 23rd 1959, the 10 hikers set out on this expedition to Otorten Mountain in Russia. This expedition was lead by Igor Dyaltov who was an experienced mountainer and avid outdoorsman. The beginning leg has a few different accounts but according to one of the diaries kept by the hikers, they traveled by train to Serov where they spent the night. By all accounts it appears that they went drinking or got their hands on some Vodka or at least Krivonishenko did because he was arrested for singing too loud, and was accused by another person of stealing his vodka. He was released and they continued their expedition. On January 25 All 10 hikers road a train to Ivdel and then traveled by bus to Vizhay. Following that they all took a bus to a logging community called District 41 also called Sector 41. The next day all 10 members take a sled 24KM north to a mining settlement.

So there are a few accounts that the group encountered a tribe on this leg of the trip who warned them not to go and referenced their destination as "the mountain of death" however I cant find a clear source for this outside of other podcasts. The original plan was to be back in Vizhay by Feb 12th - spoiler alert that didnt happen.

So January 28th is when Yuri Yudin gets sick with a sever sciatica flare up and decides to hang back while the rest of the group proceeds on the expedition. From here the group continues towards the mountain and ends up setting up camp along the Lozva River bank.

January 29th, the group heads on skis farther up the mountain to the Auspiya River where they make camp. 2 days later on January 31st the group tries to ascend the shortest way from Auspiya to Lozva river (now called Dyatlov pass) and goes back to spend the night on the banks of Auspiya river. Recovered photos and journal entries suggest that everything was fine, even if there was a lot of snow and the weather was bad, slowing down the hikers. The following day Feb 1st the group lightens their packs, and on a late start, they ascend 500M off their planned route and cover 2km and pitch their tents on the "Height 1079," north slope of Kholat Syakhl this spot is known by the Mansi tribe. Feb 2nd not a single member of the 9 hikers was alive.

So what the fuck happened?

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Well as I briefly mentioned, the plan was to have the group back in Vizhay on Feb 12th. When that didn't happen friends and relatives began to worry. On February 26, a search party discovers the abandoned tent on the slope. This is when everyone was found and buckle up it's wild.

So the tent was cut from the inside, as if the hikers had to rush to flee their night-time shelter, running into the freezing dark night. Nine pairs of footprints lead the search team down the slope towards the nearby woods. Under a large cedar tree at the edge of the forest next to the remains of an improvised campfire, two frozen bodies were found. The next three bodies were found at varying distances between the tent and the cedar tree, covered by snow. Autopsies later revealed that all five had died of hypothermia. The last four hikers were found in May 1959 at the bottom of a small ravine inside the forest, covered by 3 meters (9 feet) of snow. Three of them had sustained lethal injuries.

About a hundred feet downhill, the search party found "very distinct" footprints of eight or nine people, walking (not running) toward the tree line. Almost all the prints were of stockinged feet, some even bare. One person appeared to be wearing a single ski boot. "Some of the prints indicated that the person was either barefoot or in socks because you could see the toes," a searcher later testified. The party followed the prints downhill for six to seven hundred yards, until they vanished near the tree line.

The next morning, searchers found the bodies of the mandolin player Krivonishchenko and the student Doroshenko under a tall cedar tree at the edge of the forest. They were lying next to a dead fire, wearing only underwear. Twelve to fifteen feet up the tree were some recently broken branches, and on the trunk bits of skin and torn clothes were found. Later that day, a search party discovered the bodies of Dyatlov and Kolmogorova. Both were farther up the slope, facing in the direction of the tent, their fists tightly clenched. They seemed to have been trying to get back there.

The four bodies were autopsied, while the search for the others continued. The medical examiner noted a number of bizarre features. Krivonishchenko had blackened fingers and third-degree burns on a shin and a foot. Inside his mouth was a chunk of flesh that he had bitten off his right hand. Doroshenko's body had burned hair on one side of the head and a charred sock. All the bodies were covered with bruises, abrasions, scratches, and cuts, as was a fifth body, that of the recent graduate Slobodin, which was discovered a few days later. Like Dyatlov and Kolmogorova, Slobodin was on the slope

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leading back to the tent, with a sock on one foot and a felt bootie on the other; his autopsy noted a minor fracture to his skull.

Something had happened that induced the skiers to cut their way out of the tent and flee into the night, into a howling blizzard, in twenty-below-zero temperatures, in bare feet or socks. They were not novices to the winter mountains; they would have been acutely aware of the fatal consequences of leaving the tent half dressed in those conditions. This is the central, and apparently inexplicable, mystery of the incident.

Four bodies remained missing. In early May, when the snow began to melt, a Mansi hunter and his dog came across the remains of a makeshift snow den in the woods two hundred and fifty feet from the cedar tree: a floor of branches laid in a deep hole in the snow. Pieces of tattered clothing were found strewn about: black cotton sweatpants with the right leg cut off, the left half of a woman's sweater. Another search team arrived and, using avalanche probes around the den, they brought up a piece of flesh. Excavation uncovered the four remaining victims, lying together in a rocky streambed under at least ten feet of snow. The autopsies revealed catastrophic injuries to three of them. Thibault-Brignoles's skull was fractured so severely that pieces of bone had been driven into the brain. Zolotaryov and Dubinina had crushed chests with multiple broken ribs, and the autopsy report noted a massive hemorrhage in the right ventricle of Dubinina's heart. The medical examiner said the damage was similar to what is typically seen as the "result of an impact of an automobile moving at high speed." Yet none of the bodies had external penetrating wounds, though Zolotaryov's was missing its eyes, and Dubinina's was missing its eyes, tongue, and part of the upper lip.

A careful inventory of clothing recovered from the bodies revealed that some of these victims were wearing clothes taken or cut off the bodies of others, and a laboratory found that several items emitted unnaturally high levels of radiation. A radiological expert testified that, because the bodies had been exposed to running water for months, these levels of radiation must originally have been "many times greater."

The Soviet authorities investigated to determine the causes of the Dyatlov Pass Incident, but closed it after three months, concluding that a "compelling natural force" had caused the death of the hikers. In the absence of survivors, the sequence of events on the night of February 1 and 2 is unclear to this day, and has led to countless more or less fanciful theories, from murderous Yeti to secret military experiments.

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PART 2:

Pictures



Photo taken from a roll of film found at the camp of the Dyatlov Pass incident