

Singh, who had been a cook at Camp II and had helped carry loads although he was really not a climber, slipped on a tilting ladder about 20 meters from the bottom of the Khumbu Icefall. He had a nylon sling tied around his waist that he had attached to the safety rope along the ladder. When he fell, it pulled tight like a noose, ruptured his kidney and broke his back. The fourth man to die with an Everest expedition on the Nepalese side was a 43-year-old Nepalese, Subba Singh Tamang, who was cook at Base Camp for a Spanish team. He never went above Base Camp, but he suffered a fatal heart attack.

A summary of all this activity via the South Col follows. *15 Indians* led by Hukam Singh: summit reached on May 10 by Prem Singh, Sunil Dutt Sharma, Kanhayalal Pokhriyal and on May 12 by Lopsang Sherpa, Miss Santosh Yadev, Mohan Singh Gunjyal, and Nepalese Sange Sherpa and Wangchuk Sherpa; *5 New Zealanders, 5 Americans, 1 Belgian, 1 Israeli, and 2 Hong Kong Chinese* led by Rob Hall: summit reached on May 12 by New Zealanders Rob Hall, Gary Ball, Guy Cotter, Americans Ned Gillette, Douglas Mantle, Randall Danta, Hong Kong Chinese Cham Yick-Kai, Israeli Doron Erel, Belgian Miss Ingrid Baeyens, and Nepalese Sherpas Sonam Tshering, Ang Dorje, Tashi Tshering, Apa and Ang Dawa; *10 Netherlanders* led by Roland Naar: summit reached on May 12 by Roland Naar, Edmond Öfner, Dawa Tashi Sherpa and Nima Temba Sherpa; *19 Russians and 1 Pole* led by Vyacheslav Volkov: summit reached by Aleksandr Gerasimov, Andrei Volkov, Iliia Sabelnikov, Ivan Dusharin on May 12 and by Sergei Penzov, Vladimir Zakharov, Yevgeni Vinogradsky and Fiodor Konyukhov on May 14; *13 Americans, 1 Briton and 1 German* led by Todd Burleson: summit reached by Americans Skip Horner, Louis Bowen, Vernon Tejas, Dawa Temba Sherpa and Ang Gylzen Sherpa on May 12 and by Peter Athans, Todd Burleson, Hugh Morton, Briton Keith Kerr and Nepalese Lhakpa Rita Sherpa, Gopal Man Bahadur Tamang and Dorje Sherpa on May 15; *17 Spaniards* led by Francisco Soria on the South Pillar: summit reached on May 15 by Francisco Gan, Alfonso Juez, Ramón Portilla, Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa and Pemba Norbu Sherpa; *5 Chileans* led by Mauricio Purto: summit reached on May 15 by Mauricio Purto, Ang Rita Sherpa and Ang Phuri Sherpa; *2 Czechoslovaks, 1 British, 1 Russian* led by Miroslav Šmid and Mrs. Dina Šterbova: summit reached on May 15 by Briton Jonathan Pratt; *6 Frenchmen* led by Denis Chatrefou: high point of 7900 meters reached between May 14 and 18; *15 Indians* led by Deepak Kulkarni: high point of 8750 meters reached on May 12; *6 Spaniards and 1 American* led by César Pérez de Tudela and Juan Luis Salcedo: high point of 7400 reached on May 4; *10 Spaniards* led by Albino Quinteiro: high point of 8000 meters reached on May 13.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest West Ridge Attempt.* Our British Services Everest Expedition was composed of Majors Bronco Lane, N.G. Williams, C.D. Spencer, R.C.A. McAllister, Lieutenant Colonel M.G. Bridges, Captain S.P. Lowe, Sergeants C. Barnes, T. Moore, Lance Corporals Angphula Sherpa, Lalitman Limbu, Flight

Lieutenant S. Hunt, Flight Sergeants J. Morning, D. Howie, Chief Technician W. Batson, Corporal G. Stamp, Surgeon Lieutenant Commander A. Hughes, Surgeon Lieutenant P. Davis, Lieutenant S. Bell, Mr. Lincoln Rowe and me as leader. Our objective was to climb Everest via the Khumbu Icefall and the west ridge. After acclimatization on lesser peaks, our team was complete in Base Camp on March 20. We occupied Camps I, II, III, IV, V and VI at 5910 meters, 6400 meters (in the Western Cwm), 6900 meters, 7640 meters (on the west ridge), 8000 meters (at foot of Hornbein Couloir) and 8500 meters (at top of Hornbein Couloir) on March 26, April 2, 11, 21, May 11 and 17. The weather was bad throughout the season. From April 27 to May 6, high winds and cold held up all expeditions. On the night of May 20, the tents at Camp V were destroyed by wind. With the supply line to Camp VI cut and oxygen and gas running out, the decision was taken to withdraw all climbers. We left Base Camp on May 24. Our route from the Western Cwm went straight up the ice wall and through a prominent gully onto the west ridge and did not follow the 1963 American route. On May 20, several of our team were involved in the rescue of a member of the French Ultra Lightweight Expedition, that had no oxygen. The climber was suffering from severe high-altitude sickness and was kept alive only with the aid of three of our 1400-liter oxygen cylinders. It took our team 14 hours to get him down the Western Cwm and the Khumbu Icefall. Throughout the season, we and the Spanish military expedition had considerable difficulties with small, badly equipped parties attempting alpine-style attempts. Had we, in agreement with four other teams, not opened and constructed the route through the icefall, they would not have got near the mountain. They were literally climbing on our backs.

MICHAEL H. KEFFORD, *Colonel, British Army*

*Everest Survey.* Vernon Tejas and Skip Horner accompanied Louis Bowen to the summit of Everest on May 12 with the assistance of Sherpas Ang Gyalzen and Dawa Temba, who carried up the stand, the housing and the tubing for the laser prisms. Vern assembled these and the 90 inches (2.3 meters) of aluminum tubing sections on which they sat. It had been planned to have the stand and housing erected on the tubing, which would be driven into the snow until it hit bedrock. However, everywhere the snow was too deep to have the aluminum tubing sections reach bedrock on the summit. The stand and housing were anchored by the tube and rested on the surface. When Vern looked for the prisms, he found that they had been left in a stuff sack on the South Summit with the oxygen equipment. They then descended upon what was an Everest record summit day when no less than 32 climbers found success on the rooftop of the world. On May 15, the weather looked dubious but improving. Todd Bursleson and I sounded the call to arms and Sherpa leader Lhakpa Rita readied the team for departure. Dorje Sherpa and Gopal Man Bahadur Tamang plus American Hugh Morton and Briton Keith Kerr (who would finish the ascent of the seven summits of the continents that day with his ascent of Everest) also climbed with