

*Alberta, Canadian Rockies, Mt. Olympus.* On the morning of 2 July Hartmut von Gaza (23) and Athol Abrahams (26) were ascending the N.W. ridge of Mt. Olympus (9,800 feet) at the head of Fryatt Creek. After mixed fourth and fifth class climbing, they reached a point about 500 feet from the summit where the ridge was blocked by a large gendarme. Hartmut led the first pitch and made a belay with jam nuts. Abrahams then led a rising traverse, placing a piton for his first runner, and a loop over a spike of rock for his second. From the spike he continued the traverse. He was mantleshelfing when a small (quartzite) flake serving as his only hand hold came away. He fell virtually free for about 20 feet, swung under the spike runner, and turned around so that the back of his head struck the rock. He found himself standing on a small ledge with a very sore ankle. He thinks it hit the ledge rather hard when the perlon rope stretched. Hartmut felt almost nothing of the weight of the fall at the belay; the runners appear to have taken most of the stress. Abrahams continued climbing along the ledge to a stance and placed a piton. Hartmut followed, being able to down-climb to the ledge. He led the next pitch (5.4 rock) and then the last 45° snow slope before they could walk to the summit. The ankle by this time was very painful and felt quite swollen. Nevertheless, they descended the S.E. ridge (a walk down snow-covered scree and boulders), and descended a 500 foot 45° snow slope to the glacier under the N.E. face. Abrahams waited on the moraine while Hartmut went to get help from climbers at a hut two miles away.

Abrahams expressed his gratitude to the members of the Calgary Section of the Alpine Club who carried him two miles over difficult moraine to the hut, and to the National Parks Board who provided a helicopter to transport him out of the valley.

*Source:* Athol Abrahams

*British Columbia, Northern Selkirks, Mt. Colossal.* On 19 July Margaret Bland (30) and Al Ramanaukas (29), participants in an Appalachian Mountain Club Climbing Camp organized by the New York Chapter Mountaineering Committee, and Donald Sprecker (48) left Fairy Meadow Cabin to climb Mt. Colossal by the usual route (south east ridge). They reached the summit successfully and decided to descend the south face in order to cross over to climb Horn or Unicorn. They glissaded the slope simultaneously, three abreast and roped together. They triggered an avalanche that carried them over a 50-foot high rock band which resulted in the injuries. Another party, Ed and Joan Nestor, Brad Snyder, and Don Wallace from the A.M.C. group were in the neighborhood and responded to the noise of the avalanche and Sprecker's shouts. The accident occurred about 1300. The other party reached the accident scene at about 1600. Ramanaukas was already dead. Bland was severely injured and died shortly thereafter. Sprecker had compound fractures of both legs. Snyder went down the glacier to send up aid from Fairy Meadow Cabin. He picked up a companion and the two continued on down Swan Creek for eleven hours before they reached the bank of the Columbia River. Here they were fortunately able to hail a passing truck on the other side of the River. Another truck with a two-way radio was flagged down and a helicopter rescue was requested.

In the meantime Sprecker was placed inside three sleeping bags with ponchos under and over him. The rescuers put up a tent where they spent