

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.

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*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 Burleson 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

Todd, Lhakpa and me. Two hours after departure, the weather cleared beautifully and the winds became light. By ten A.M. Lhakpa and I were on the summit, having picked up the prisms, and found the erected stand and housing that Vern had placed. We tried again to put it in different positions along the summit promontory but were unable to find a place where the bottom of the aluminum tubing rested on bedrock. This showed that there was a minimum of 90 inches or 2.3 meters of snow on the summit. With Lhakpa's assistance, I aimed the housing over the Nuptse ridge and slightly right of the Thamserku north face. Lhakpa confirmed it and then we inserted the prisms into the top and bottom of the three mounts. Fortunately it was extremely mild (20°F) and nearly windless. Keith, Todd, Hugh, Gopal and Dorje arrived and we celebrated by taking innumerable photographs. On the day that Brad Washburn and competent geodisists from the Survey of Nepal made the laser sightings of the prisms on the summit from Thangboche, we were all back in Base Camp and unfortunately missed the dramatic moment. These laser sightings give the exact distance from the Thangboche station, but further GPS work is needed to complete the survey.

PETER ATHANS

*Everest, 1991, Correction.* Inadvertently, on page 204 of *AJ, 1992*, the name of Spaniard Antonio Ubieta was omitted from the list of those who reached the summit of Everest on October 6, 1991.

*Everest, Post-Monsoon South Col Ascents and Attempt.* A total of 32 climbers ascended Everest in the post-monsoon season, all via the South Col. On September 25, Spanish Basques Pitxi Eguillor, Patxi Fernández and brothers Alberto and Félix Iñurrategui got to the top, followed on October 1 by Iosu Bereciartúa and on October 3 by leader Pedro Tous, Juan Tomás and Mikel Reparaz. A Franco-Italian group led by Agostino Da Polenza put Italians Giuseppe Petigaz, Lorenzo Mazzoleni, Mario Panzeri, Frenchman Pierre Royer and Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa on the summit on September 28, Frenchman Benoît Chamoux and Italian Oswald Santin on the 29th and Italians Abele Blanc and Giampietro Verza on the 30th. Frenchman Bernard Muller's expedition of two Frenchmen, a Belgian and a Luxembourger placed the latter, Eugène Berger, on the summit on October 1. Six Germans, four Swiss and an Austrian were led by German Ralf Dujmovits. Dujmovits and Sonam Tshering Sherpa climbed to the top on October 4. Frenchman Michel Vincent led three Frenchmen, two Americans, a Canadian, a Mexican, a Spaniard and a Nepalese. Vincent reached the summit alone on October 7, followed on October 9 by American Scott Darsney. Mexican leader Sergio Fitch Watkins left his expedition before the climbing was completed, handing over the leadership to American Wally Berg. There were eleven other Americans, another Mexican and a Peruvian. On October 9, Berg, Mexican Alfonso de la Parra, Peruvian Augusto Ortega and Sherpas Pasang Kami and Apa made the ascent. The last successful expedition was composed of