

gusts as well as freezing rain and snow. Visibility was near zero. The rain gear was not sufficient to protect the party members due to the extreme winds, and a decision was made to turn back until morning. In the white-out conditions it was also decided that the party would not have been able to attempt safely a search above Pebble Creek. The Akja was left at Pebble Creek for use by the next rescue attempt.

At 5:30 a.m. the next morning a second rescue effort was made. Weather conditions were still poor, although less severe than the previous night. Claringbould was able to accompany the party at this time, and indicated that the accident scene was well to the east of the location he had given earlier. The rescue party was in the process of splitting into 3-man teams in order to search along the Paradise Glacier at about 8:00 a.m. when Bartram was sighted crawling out of the crevasse. Dr. Gerstmann rappelled into the crevasse a short time later and pronounced Elmer and David Post dead. Bartram was taken back to the rock cleaver at the edge of the glacier, put in a tent, and given hot tea and dry clothes. Dr. Gerstmann examined him and found no sign of frostbite. Temperatures in the area the previous night had dropped to an estimated 20 degrees. Bartram was later able to walk to Paradise. The two were evacuated by Akja litters to Paradise with the assistance of a support team.

*Source:* Paul F. Haertel, Park Ranger; Douglas Erskine and Cleveland F. Pinnix.

*Analysis:* The party was not properly clothed even for the weather at the start of the trip. No rain wear, down apparel, very little wool clothing. A compass and necessary skills may have helped them get back on the route. The basic survival ingredient was missing . . . *a will to live.*

*Alaska, Mt. McKinley.* The winter McKinley party composed of Jacques Batkin (36), Gregg Blomberg (25), Arthur L. Davidson (22), John S. Edwards (35), Raymond Genet (35), David P. Johnston (24), Shiro Nishimae (31), and George Wichman (39), flew to 7,400 on the south-east fork of the Kahiltna Glacier on 29 January and began ferrying loads up the glacier unroped. Some used skis or snowshoes, some not. At noon on the 31st Batkin and Johnston had just finished a lunch break and Johnston was ahead on snowshoes as they packed loads toward a new campsite others were preparing about 8,100 feet on the main Kahiltna. Batkin, who was carrying a very heavy load and not wearing skis or webbs, fell through a hidden crevasse. Johnston did not know it but those above looked down to see one approaching where two had been before and soon all were assembled at the hole which was blocked by Batkin's pack. Johnston jumarded in immediately and found Batkin caught on the second ledge some 50 feet down. He rigged a sling around him by which the others pulled him to the surface while Johnston jumarded up. Although he was out within half an hour of his fall, Dr. Wichman pronounced him dead of head and chest injuries.

*Source:* J. Vin Hoeman, Gregg Blomberg

*Analysis:* (Hoeman) Always rope on a glacier where the crevasses are thinly hidden. If impossible or impractical, skis or snowshoes will help.

(Blomberg) The area in which Batkin died was later found to contain

a number of well-concealed crevasses. The slot into which he fell was just barely wide enough for his body to enter. Had he been wearing snowshoes or skis he probably would have passed over the crevasse. The party had considered the possibility of crevasses but by mutual agreement we were packing loads unroped. Future winter expeditions should remember that crevasses are an even greater danger than they are in the summer. There is no question but that a rope should be used at all times.

A few days after this incident, John Edwards (35) of our party took a roped fall into a crevasse after a heavy snow fall. Because of the soft snow on the surface and crevasse walls, the rescue proved very difficult. In view of these two incidents, I recommend that if possible, members should carry prussick handles and practice and thoroughly know simple pulley rescue techniques. Placing reliance on prussick knots or other self-help methods for crevasse rescue can lead to disastrous consequences.

*Alaska, Mt. McKinley.* Highcamp for the winter McKinley party was a snowcave at 17,200 feet West Buttress. All seven climbers attempted the summit from this camp on 27 February, but were turned back by whiteout and storm at about 19,000 feet. The following day they all tried again and Blomberg, Edwards, Nishimae, and Wichman turned back short of Denali Pass at 18,200 feet while Davidson, Johnston and Genet continued to the South Peak, 20,320 feet, for the first winter ascent. On the way down they were stopped by the storm at Denali Pass and dug in. Their empty packs were blown away but they had their sleeping bags and some food; Johnston remembered where he and Hoeman had cached some gasoline in 1963 and was able to find it. During the next week the storm continued. Blomberg and Edwards returned to basecamp on the Kahiltna Glacier, Nishimae and Wichman tried unsuccessfully to reach the pass, finally gave up for dead those above, and came down to Kahiltna Pass igloo camp at 9,900 feet. When the storm let up on the summit area the three given up for lost made their way down on March 7th. They were spotted that day and picked up the next by helicopter at 13,150 feet at Windy Corner. Nishimae and Winchman were the last ones evacuated on March 9th.

*Source:* J. Vin Hoeman.

*Analysis:* The group claims that their last weather forecast before their summit attempts had been for a period of good weather, but it seems that the weather was actually marginal as they made the attempts and they may have felt willing to take more than ordinary risks. (See also analysis of McKinley accident where seven died.)

*Alaska, Wrangell Range.* On 10 May Katsuomi Aoke (24), Hyhozi Matsunaga (21), Hirokazu Yamazaki (30), Osamu Iwatake (24), Takehisa Shiono (23), and Kiyoshige Seiryu (20), six climbers from the Tokyo University Alpine Club, Japan, were flown to the upper Nabesna Glacier by bushpilot Jack Wilson to attempt the unclimbed northeastern ridge of Mount Blackburn. Members reached near 14,000 feet on this climb 26 May and 2 June before deciding to give it up and shift their objective to the nearby Atna Peaks which they mistakenly believed to be unclimbed. Shiono and Seiryu succeeded in climbing the western Atna Peak, 13,860