Vaux glacier, but rockfall at the campsite leveled all five of the tents there. Despite the fact that most of the climbers were caught in their tents, there was only one injury that required medical attention. A rock passing through a tent hit two of the occupants, one of whom sustained a severe muscle bruise to the right thigh. As well as destruction of the tents, the Americans reported losses of an ice ax, a boot, eyeglasses and other articles.

A dense cloud of dust and continuing rockfall made travel that night too dangerous. The climbers took shelter beneath overhangs in some nearby gulleys until morning, when they assisted the injured man down to a safer location. Park wardens evacuated him by helicopter. (Source: J. L. Turnbull, Glacier National Park, J. A. Creore)

Analysis

The meadows have been used as a standard bivouac site and several tent platforms had been built. Future parties should camp at the col, which is entirely protected from rockfall. A notice to this effect has been posted by the Park Warden Service. (Source: J. L. Turnbull, Glacier National Park, J. A. Creore)

SLIP—RIVER CROSSING, INADEQUATE BELAY, INEXPERIENCE British Columbia, Purcell Mountains, Bugaboo Creek

About noon on August 23, 1983, two climbers from Ontario (ages 19 and 17), were attempting to cross swollen Bugaboo Creek near Boulder Camp. Peter had crossed successfully and was belaying Joseph, but was unable to hold him when he slipped. Joseph was swept into a boulder/debris jam. While hurrying downstream to locate Joseph, Peter also slipped into the creek and was carried for some distance before managing to get out. He received numerous cuts and bruises and was in shock.

A helicopter was summoned and Peter was flown out. The Park Warden rescue team located Joseph's body but were unable to recover it. Two National Parks divers were brought in and the body was recovered at 2030. (Source: J. Timmins, S. Shaw, C. Sadleir)

Analysis

Considering the extremely swollen waters of the creek, a crossing probably should not have been attempted. (Source: C. Sadleir)

(1984)

AVALANCHE, HYPOTHERMIA Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Cascade Waterfall

On February 4, 1984, two climbers completed without incident an ascent of Cascade Waterfall, a popular Grade III ice climb near Banff. They then decided to continue 200 meters further up the mountainside to investigate the spring source of the water.

Leaving the spring about 1630, they started a traverse left across rocky slabs toward forest and an easy descent. Part way across, one of the climbers (21) triggered a small Class II slab avalanche and was carried about 75 meters over rough terrain to