

Several months after the accident, Replogle wrote to John Dill and told him another important factor not mentioned in the interview. Barnett's wife told Replogle that her husband had been diagnosed in 1976 as having rheumatoid arthritis, and had been taking naprosyn to reduce inflammation in his back. She indicated that if he missed his once per day pill, his stamina would be severely affected and that he "could hardly get out of bed in the morning." She said he was quite athletic before this, and was distressed and possibly secretive about having this physical limitation.

After the accident, Replogle and Barnett's wife searched through all of his belongings for his pills and found none. If he had run out, this could have contributed significantly to his lack of stamina and unwillingness to bivouac. (Source: John Dill, SAR Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

FALLING ROCK

California, Tahquitz Rock

In May of 1984, Kimberly Eittreim (23) was killed when a rock weighing in excess of 240 kilograms, which was accidentally dislodged by the lead climber on Sahara Terror, fell a distance of ten meters and landed on her right shoulder and arm, pulling it from its socket and amputating her right hand. It was obvious that she had bled to death in seconds. (Source: *RMRU Newsletter*, Volume XX, Issue V, May 1984)

Analysis

For some reason there had been a large amount of rock fall in this area all day, according to climbers who were on the rock or in Humber Park. The small ledge on which the victim was standing when struck—less than a meter in width—offered little protection from rockfall. In addition, the victim probably had no time to react when the large rock was dislodged. (Source: *RMRU Newsletter*, Volume XX, Issue V, May 1984)

STRANDED, DEHYDRATION, SEVERE NOSE BLEED, CLIMBING ALONE

California, Yosemite Valley

On June 25, 1984, Paul Truecki (19) was rescued from the west face of Leaning Tower. He suffered a severe nose bleed and subsequent heavy loss of blood that left him unconscious for an unknown length of time.

He had started the climb on the morning of June 24, stopping at 1430 because of the heat. He consumed three liters of water and half a package of fig newtons that day. Early the next morning, while the route was in the shade, he did two pitches, returned to his bivy ledge, and finished his remaining water—about half a cup. He tossed off his haul bag and started climbing for the top. He felt weak on the next pitch and assumed he was dehydrated. He rappelled to clean the pitch, and while at the belay, he blew his nose. This started a massive nose bleed which was difficult to stop. He became disoriented and probably unconscious for short periods. When he noticed he was making mistakes in setting up a safe belay, he yelled for help.

Rangers Dill, Jackson and Hargis lowered him off. (Source: John Dill, SAR Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

Analysis

In addition to little water intake, Truecki had a history of nose bleeding problems. He has to have his nose cauterized every two years or so. (Source: John Dill, SAR Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

FALLS ON ROCK, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE, INADEQUATE PROTECTION

California, Sierra Nevada, Charlotte Dome

On July 7, 1984, Michael Renta (37) was off route on the eighth pitch (5.7) of Charlotte's Web when he injured his ankle and ribs in a five to six meter tumbling fall. Renta's partner, David Brown (42), lowered him and took over the lead and was on route, above the crux section, when he fell three meters to a ledge, severely injuring his ankle. Two other members of the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group who were above them returned and helped them up and over the peak, returning slowly to camp, with great pain to the injured climbers. Assessing the situation, the team decided to arrange for an evacuation. (Source: Excerpted from China Lake Mountain Rescue Group *Operation Reports*, Number 84-9)

FALLING ROCK

California, Yosemite Valley

At 0030 on August 9, 1984, Todd Mazzola (22) and Michael Daugherty (22) reported that they, their climbing partner, Craig Thomas (26) and a separate climbing party, Paul Augustine (40) and Eric Hutchinson (20), were sleeping on Dinner Ledge on the South Face route of Washington Column when rockfall landed on them.

During the afternoon the climbers had observed other persons climbing the South Face above them, apparently attempting to reach the summit that day. After retiring, Mazzola noticed small quantities of gravel falling on Dinner Ledge from above, possibly dislodged by the climbers above.

The climbers lay down to sleep about 2045. At 2215 Mazzola heard a "thud noise" followed by a shower of gravel. He and the other climbers scrambled to the wall side of Dinner Ledge to reduce their exposure to the rockfall. After a time period, described by the involved parties variously as 20 seconds to five minutes, it was noticed that Hutchinson had not moved from his sleeping position. Mazzola and Augustine examined Hutchinson who was lying in a prone position on top of his sleeping bag. A wound described as an abrasion with surrounding "stretched skin" was noticed on the left side of Hutchinson's lower back. Hutchinson was unresponsive and, it became quickly apparent, not breathing. Mazzola, trained as an EMT, also determined that the victim did not have a radial pulse. No signs of animation were displayed by the victim. Their efforts at CPR were in vain, so they rappelled off to inform the Park Service, who effected a rescue and recovery by 0930. (Source: J. R. Tomasovic, Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

Analysis

The party above was, as an interview with them indicated, trying to be careful. They were climbing at night on rotten stuff. While the possibility of being hit was a