EVEREST CLIMBED - SOUVENIR EDITION

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THOUSANDS SPEND NIGHT ON CORONATION ROUTE

PLACES TAKEN UP 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE

Thousands of people spent last night on the Coronation route, having taken up their positions yesterday in readiness for to-day's procession. They were not dismayed by showers of rain, and even sleet, against which many were poorly protected.

For to-day, cool, showery weather, with sunny intervals, is forecast.

Final preparations were made yesterday, including the completion of the decorations on the route with thousands of flowers, many of which had been flown from Commonwealth countries.

ABBEY CEREMONY TO-DAY

DRIVE IN STATE COACH

The Queen will be crowned in Westminster Abbey to-day in the presence of her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Great Officers of State, and an illustrious assembly; in the hearing, through the agency of broadcasting, of unnumbered millions spread over a large part of the world, and in the sight of another great aggregation of audiences within television range.

St. Edward's Crown will be placed upon the Queen's head by the Archbishop of Canterbury at about 12.30 p.m., towards the middle of a protracted service of rich imagery and deep spiritual significance. This moment of actual Coronation will be announced to the people outside the Abbey and in the streets by the firing of salutes of artillery at the Tower of London and in Hyde Park. Scenes of rejoicing will mark the event and the day throughout the Kingdom and Commonwealth and in many lands beyond.

Through streets lavishly decorated and lined with men and women of the services, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will drive to the Abbey in the state coach, drawn by eight grey horses, by way of the Mall, Northumberland Avenue, and Victoria Embankment, leaving Buckingham Palace at 10.26 a.m. After the Abbey service they will drive back to the Palace by a much longer route, and for this return journey the state procession will be extended by the addition of contingents of the three services of the United Kingdom and detachments from the defence forces

upon their laps asleep. There were older men and women who whiled away the minutes talking of other Coronations. There were abundant young people, contemporaries of the Queen, who conscientiously studied law and economics, made pencil sketches, or took down shorthand dictation one from the other until such time as it seemed good to sleep.

They were variously equipped. Many had canvas stools, some had sleeping-bags, others merely shrouded themselves in blankets. All had flasks and packages of sandwiches to supply the wants of at least 24 hours. But some had shown too much trust in the weather.

FEARS JUSTIFIED

It was the weather that filled the thoughts of the waiting multitude. Early in the day they had looked, not with dismay but with irritation, at clouds that seemed to borrow their grey from London's asphalt, as the sea borrows its blue from the sky, and several times their fears were justified.

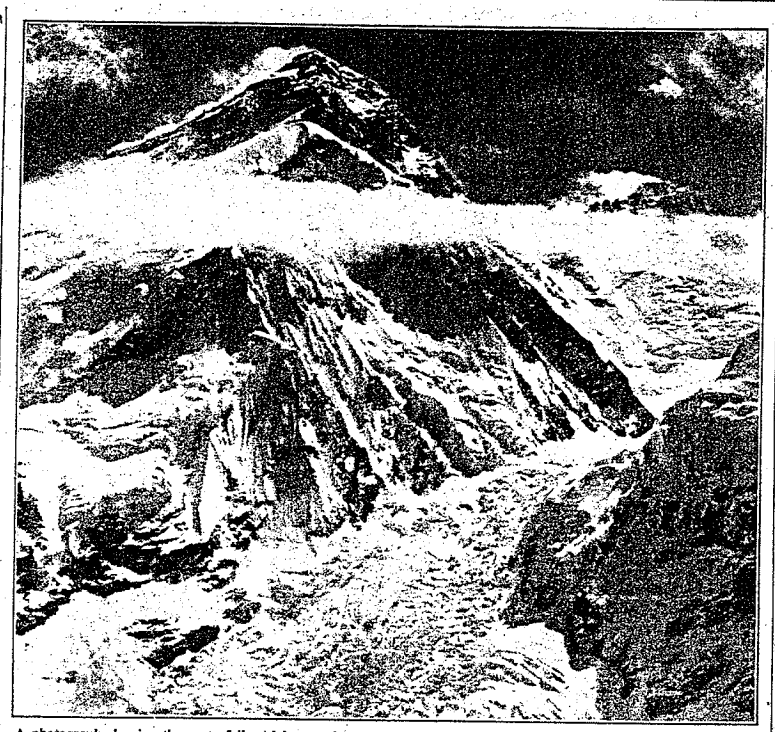
In the morning there came a sprinkling of rain in a wind that blew eagerly from the north to play the tyrant with the flags and banners. At noon the clouds parted and the sun shed comfort and grace upon the dripping mackintoshes and umbrellas, but the good spell did not last. As the afternoon turned to evening the sky dropped sleet which stung like small darts. But in spite of this and heavy showers, no inch of ground was yielded, nor would it be whatever mischief the weather attempted during the night.

While the first crowds of the morrow sought their space to bivouac, the streets of central London were overwhelmed by sightseers. Those who have seats in the stands could be seen finding their precise positions, and worrying the police for information about how best they might travel.

Those who will follow the day's glory on the television screen were out to enrich their small square of spectacle with a preview of the flags, heraldry, and festoons that dress the processional streets. Some made the tour by bus or coach, thousands went on foot. Always a multitude stood along the railings of Buckingham Palace, scarcely daring to hope that their watch would be rewarded, yet afraid to take a decisive step that would carry them away from the possibility.

BUSES DIVERTED

Always, too, a crowd was gathered at West-



A photograph showing the route followed by members of the British Everest expedition up the ice-fall (foreground), through the Western Cwm, and thence by the Lhotse face to the South Col (hidden by cloud) and the south-east ridge to the summit.

RECEPTION BY THE QUEEN

DELEGATIONS AT THE PALACE

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, received representatives of Commonwealth countries who are in London for the Coronation in the Throne Room at Buckingham Palace yesterday. Nearly 80 representatives were presented to the Queen, who afterwards moved informally among the company.

Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, the Home Secretary, Lord Swinton, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, and Mr. Oliver

DR. ADENAUER FOR ROME TALKS

CONCERN OVER TREATIES

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

From Our Own Correspondent

BONN, JUNE 1

Dr. Adenauer, the Chancellor, has decided to attend the conference in Rome of the Foreign Ministers of the six mem-

CONTROL OF U.S. FOREIGN AID

STATE DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION

From Our Own Correspondent

WASHINGTON, JUNE 1

President Eisenhower to-day proposed to Congress a reorganization of the State Department which will bring under the department's authority all foreign economic assistance programmes, including the Mutual Security Agency.

For administrative purposes a new agency will be set up to control the activi-

EVEREST CONQUERED

SUMMIT REACHED BY TEAM FROM BRITISH EXPEDITION

A message was received from Colonel Hunt, leader of the British Mount Everest Expedition, 1953, last night that E. P. Hillary and the Sherpa Tensing Bhutia reached the summit of the mountain, 29,002ft. high, on May 29. The message added: "All is well."

Thus the British expedition, under its leader, Colonel H. C. J. Hunt, has succeeded in its enterprise. Hillary, a New Zealander, was one of the members of the 1951 expedition which, under the leadership of Eric Shipton, found the Western Cwm and so discovered the southern route to Mount Everest, by which the success of the present expedition was made possible. It was Tensing who, with Raymond Lambert, on the first Swiss expedition of 1952 reached the record height of 28,215ft. on May 28.

OXYGEN APPARATUS

If the plans announced were followed, Hillary and Tensing formed the second assault party in this season's attempt. They were using portable oxygen apparatus of the "open circuit" type. The first assault, made on May 25 with "closed circuit" appartus by Bourdillon and Evans, presumably failed. Both were made from Camp VII—"that vital camp," in the words of our Special Correspondent with the expedition, "established on the bleak plateau on the South Col, at 26,000ft."—and the climbers must have returned safely on the day that they started.

The failure of the first assault was not a surprise. The closed-circuit apparatus, in spite of various advantages over the other, was found to have certain disadvantages and is, in any case, less well tried. If the second, now successful, attempt had failed, a third was to have been made this season after a 10-day withdrawal to the Western Cwm. Hhad this in turn failed, the arrival of the monsoon would have necessitated a postponement until the autumn. Plans for this eventnality had been made.

PLANS DELAYED

As reported in a message published yesterday, the timing of the assault was delayed, largely through obstacles, caused

monsoon. The leader of an Everest expedition knows that during the monsoon snow conditions will be prohibitive and that at most other seasons terrible winds will sweep the summit of Everest; he must therefore make all his plans to allow an attempt during one of the two lull periods, of about three weeks each. Sometimes these lulls are not complete; sometimes they do not occur at all. This year Colonel Hunt had plans ready for an autumn attempt on the mountain if his spring assault failed or if the weather betrayed him.

Everest has proved so difficult an objective of adventure that the assaults that have been made on it during the past 30 years or so have acquired something of the nature of a campaign; each attempt has been a skirmish in battle rather than a complete battle in itself, and from each climbers have learnt more of the problems of the mountain and of the involved methods that must be adopted to solve them. Besides basic climbing skill and resolution, any endeavour to climb this monstrous peak—for it has little grace or delicacy of mountain form about it—entails staff work of high competence and intricacy. Colonel Hunt's plans of action, drawn up with great care and foresight, have been themselves essential weapons of assault; and it is perhaps no coincidence that, with the exception of the two New Zealanders, every member of this year's expedition is or has been an officer in the British Army.

The campaign against Everest has fallen into two phases because of the mountain's theatrical situation across the frontiers of two "secret" countries—Tibet and Nepal. Before the last war Nepal was completely forbidden to foreigners, while the Dalai Lama, then the temporal as well as the spiritual ruler of Tibet, was sometimes willing to allow expeditions to Chomolungma, "Goddess Mother of the World," as Everest was known to his subjects.

THE RONGBUK ROUTE

The first seven expeditions to Everest, all British and all between the wars, therefore journeyed to the mountain from the north, starting from Darjeeling and travelling through the plains of southern Tibet to the Rongbuk glacier, which forms the northern highway to the Everest massif. The Lho La pass, high above the moraine hillock on which your Correspondent is sitting, would, if it could ever be crossed, lead a traveller from the south directly into the Rongbuk route of the early Everest adventurers.

The first expedition to Everest, mounted nearly seventy years after the discovery of the mountain as the world's highest, was a reconnaissance led by Colonel C. K. Howard-Bury in 1921. It was saddened by the death of one of its climbers, the celebrated Scottish mountaineer Dr. Kellas, who had a heart attack during the wearing approach march; but its members explored the approaches to Everest from north and east, and found what appeared to be a practicable route so far as the north-east shoulder of the mountain. Next year General C. G. Bruce, working on these findings, led an expedition which made the first assault on the summit. During it G. I. Finch and Captain Geoffrey Bruce climbed to 27,300ft. This expedition, too, was marred by death, for during a later attempt on the summit, just before the monsoon, seven Sherpa porters were killed in an avalanche.

Colonel E. F. Norton led the next expedition, in 1924, made famous and terrible by

Deutscher Alpenverein DAV

CIP.

45 MINUTES TO PASS

The return procession will take about 45 minutes to pass. Its head is timed to leave Marble Arch at 2.55 p.m.; the state coach with her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh leaves Westminster Abbey at about 2.50 p.m. and is due back at Buckingham Palace at about 4.30. The route will be:—Whitehall, Cockspur Street, Pall Mall, St. James's Street, Piccadilly, East Carriage Road, Oxford Street, Regent Street, Haymarket, Cockspur Street, and the Mall.

After the Queen has re-entered the Palace she will come out on the balcony to take the salute at 5.15 of a formation of 168 jet fighters of the Royal Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force flying across the Mall from right to left of her.

At 9 o'clock this evening the Queen will broadcast to her peoples in all B.B.C. services. Her address will be preceded by one given by the Prime Minister at 8.55 from Downing Street, and will set the seal on a memorable programme in the Home service, beginning at 8 o'clock, entitled "Long Live the Queen," in which a distinguished array of Prime Ministers and other statesmen and leading figures in the Commonwealth and Empire will speak.

UNDISMAYED BY THE RAIN

TRAFFIC STOPPED BY DENSE CROWDS

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Into a London transformed for pageant and carnival there streamed throughout the hours of light and darkness yesterday the first-comers of the great concourse that will be gathered to acclaim the Queen. They mixed with the working millions and the sightseeing thousands and choked the pavements of the processional way. They overflowed on to the roads and stopped the traffic. They spread their blankets on the kerbs, set up their chairs; and looked down the long vista of their waiting hours undismayed.

In these matters figures hide a lot of guesswork, but an estimate by the police that by midday more than 5,000 intending spectators had begun their vigil in central London seemed not to lean towards exaggeration. By last night the total had grown by leaps and bounds, and many who thought they would be in good time for a commanding view found the front positions, and in some cases the second and third rows, already occupied and almost defensively entrenched.

Yesterday morning would have proved almost too late to be sure of room in the front row along the Mall, for by noon from the crowded railings of Buckingham Palace (where the guardsmen sentries patrolled inside the forecourt) to the nautically bedizened Admiralty Arch both kerbs were lined two and three deep by spectators, who lay at large on air cushions, blankets, and outspread newspapers. As the afternoon and evening hours wore on their ranks continually thickened, and towards dusk it began to seem that no space was left.

FAVOURITE CHOICE

If the Mall was the favourite choice, partly because of the long and broad processional prospect it will offer, the East Carriage Road through Hyde Park came next. Here, as in the Mall, to the agreeable setting has been added the boon of refreshment booths to supply the needs of the crowds during the long hours of their wait, and those who arrived early kept in mind the two tactical considerations of access to the tea counters and a long view north and south. All quickly found that the Park offered another comfort; they hired deck chairs, not only to sit in but to use as windbreaks.

Others of the sightseeing vanguard established themselves early in Trafalgar Square, with the comfortable knowledge that there alone would a hardy vigil be rewarded by three separate opportunities to see the Queen as the procession takes its course; and others staked the first claims to points of vantage in Whitehall, Parliament Street, Parliament Square, Piccadilly, and Piccadilly Circus.

FROM ALL PARTS

They were of many degrees and conditions, these thousands who foreran the millions, and they had been drawn from all parts of Britain, the Commonwealth, and the world outside the British family.

There were mothers, their backs propped against trees, with young children sprawled [illegible] sudden second-hat spectacle like a rehearsal, but imprinting the historic scene upon memory, detail by detail, colour by colour. So dense were the crowds during the afternoon that buses were diverted to avoid Whitehall and Trafalgar Square. They were running up to an hour late.

As the crowds jostled along the processional way, as traffic stood halted and impatient to move, as the sky now threatened and then smiled, the last polish was put upon the beaming face of London. More flags were hoisted, more fabric draped upon the terraced fronts that now seemed meant for medieval tournament. Banks of flowers fresh from the nursery went into a thousand window boxes, and among them blooms flown from the Commonwealth and Empire.

Just before the Queen enters Westminster Abbey, in Parliament Square, she will pass a set-piece of floral homage from Australia, Bermuda, British Columbia, Ceylon, Hongkong, India, Jamaica, Malaya, Malta, Northern Rhodesia, Pakistan, South Africa, Tasmania, and Trinidad.

And already waiting for her, on every stretch of her way to and from the Abbey, is the homage of which flag and symbol and flower are no more than an expression—the love and loyal service of her people.

REVIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS

EXPECTED AGENDA FOR PRIME MINISTERS

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister will preside over the opening session of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference at 10, Downing Street to-morrow. At this first meeting the Prime Ministers will agree on a general agenda for the conference, which is expected to last until June 9.

Two of the sessions are expected to be taken up by a general review of international affairs and a survey of the economic position of the Commonwealth in the light of developments since the last Commonwealth economic conference. The Prime Ministers will not be meeting to take policy decisions, which are for their individual governments, but it is generally felt to be most opportune that their presence together in London for the Coronation should occur at a significant juncture in world affairs. The conference, for example, will be of great value to the Prime Minister in enabling him to fortify himself with the views of the other Commonwealth Prime Ministers as a preliminary to his forthcoming meeting with President Eisenhower and the French Prime Minister at Bermuda.

The plenary sessions will be primarily devoted to matters of common concern in foreign, defence and economic affairs, but if the custom of previous meetings is followed, there should be some useful exchanges between individual Prime Ministers on topics of particular interest to themselves. The sort of topics which might be more usefully discussed at these smaller and more informal meetings would be the problem of Kashmir, the proposed federation of Central Africa, Pacific defence, with special reference to the A.N.Z.U.S. pact, and Egypt and the Arab States, on some of which there are divergences of view between the Prime Ministers concerned.

The Prime Minister will preside over the conference and other United Kingdom Ministers who will probably attend one or more of the sessions will be Mr. Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Alexander, Minister of Defence, Lord Swinton, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Mr. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who is deputizing for Mr. Eden. The Commonwealth Prime Ministers will be Mr. St. Laurent of Canada, Mr. Menzies of Australia, Mr. Holland of New Zealand, Dr. Malan of South Africa, Mr. Nehru of India, Mr. Mohammad Ali of Pakistan, Mr. Dudley Senanayake of Ceylon, and Sir Godfrey Huggins of Southern Rhodesia.

PALACE INVESTITURE

The Queen received Princess Margaret and Princess Marie Louise at Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon and invested them with the insignia of a Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order which they received in the Coronation Honours list.

Her Majesty also invested Sir Alan Lascelles, her private secretary, with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, and Colonel Sir Dermot Kavanagh, Crown Equerry, and Sir Arthur Penn, treasurer to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order. General Sir Gerald Templer, High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaya, received the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George.

were in attendance. Each Prime Minister was announced by the Lord Chamberlain and presented members of his delegation in turn.

Among those who attended were the Prime Ministers of Canada (Mr. St. Laurent), Australia (Mr. Menzies), New Zealand (Mr. Holland), South Africa (Dr. Malan), India (Mr. Nehru), Pakistan (Mr. Mohammad Ali), Ceylon (Mr. Senanayake), Southern Rhodesia (Sir Godfrey Huggins), Northern Ireland (Lord Brookeborough), and Malta (Dr. Borg Olivier). Sir Winston Churchill joined the Commonwealth Prime Ministers and the assembly also included the High Commissioners for South Africa, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Canada, India, and Southern Rhodesia, and Mr. Bustamante, the Chief Minister of Jamaica.

The Queen later gave a luncheon for the Prime Ministers and other representatives. Members of the Royal Family present at the luncheon were Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and the Earl of Athlone, Admiral Lord Mountbatten of Burma, and Lady Mountbatten.

When the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret left the Palace, people waiting outside swept across the road and impeded the progress of their car. Six mounted policemen had to clear a passage to allow it to drive up The Mall. The car was brought to a standstill two or three times and then moved forward at hardly more than walking pace until a way was cleared.

PRINCESS MARGARET AT THE ABBEY

Princess Margaret was given an enthusiastic reception by crowds gathered outside Westminster Abbey when she arrived there yesterday afternoon. She was met by the Earl Marshal. Later the Duke of Gloucester arrived with his two sons.

Princess Margaret remained at the Abbey for about half an hour. As she walked to her car near Dean's Yard the crowds, which had increased rapidly, broke through the police cordon and gathered around. With difficulty the police eventually made a way through to enable her to leave. The Duke of Gloucester and his sons left a few minutes later.

REGALIA TAKEN TO THE ABBEY

In a closed van, with one police car as escort the Coronation Regalia was taken from the offices of the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company to Westminster Abbey early yesterday. The Dean of Westminster, Dr. Don, was waiting at the cloisters entrance in Dean's Yard to receive the Regalia when it arrived there at 7.45 a.m. It was taken to the Jerusalem Chamber, where it will remain until this morning. A guard of eight Yeomen Warders was mounted.

The Regalia, which is normally kept at the Tower of London, was sent from there recently to the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company for cleaning and overhaul.

SUNSHINE AND SHOWERS

BY OUR WEATHER CORRESPONDENT

Cool, showery weather will continue in all districts to-day. During the afternoon and early evening some showers will be heavy and accompanied by hail and thunder, especially over the eastern half of the country. There will, however, be sunny intervals.

EGYPTIAN TALKS ON CANAL ZONE

CAIRO, June 1.—The Egyptian Congress (the civilian Cabinet and military junta in joint session) met to-day to discuss the latest developments on the Suez Canal zone in the light of an "important communication" from Washington. Mr. Adlai Stevenson flew from Cairo to Fayid in the Suez Canal zone to-day. —*Reuter.*

PRESIDENT OF FREEDOM HOUSE

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JUNE 1

Mr. Ernest Gross, who with the change of Administration in Washington has retired from the American mission to the United Nations and has joined a private law practice, has been elected president of Freedom House in succession to Mr. Sumner Welles.

OBITUARY

We announce with regret the deaths of COLONEL SIR GILBERT TANNER, D.S.O., T.D., for many years president of the Colne Valley Conservative Association; SIR PHILIP SMYLY, formerly Chief Justice of the Gold Coast; and MR. ALEX JAMES, the well-known International and Arsenal footballer. Obituary notices will be found on page 8.

which opens on June 12. The original intention was that the deputies should meet to consider the draft of a constitution for the proposed political community, but in view of the coming Bermuda meeting, which is assuming ever greater importance in German eyes, the Chancellor hopes that Rome may show, especially to American public opinion, that the movement towards European integration is not stagnating.

The Chancellor has been influenced in his decision by the concern he feels over the delay in bringing the treaties with the west into force. The effects of Senator Taft's recent speech have, notwithstanding President Eisenhower's dissociation from it, not been erased. To the delay has now been added the uncertainty caused by Mr. Semionov's appointment as Soviet High Commissioner, and the danger of a rift in western unity. The Chancellor's view is clearly that the process of integration is in need of a new driving force.

POLITICAL COMMUNITY

The Chancellor's initiative follows the sudden visit of Professor Hallstein, the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, to Paris at the week-end, when he saw Mr. David Bruce, the United States representative with the Coal and Steel Community, and assured him of the Federal Government's full support of the proposed political community. It is stated here that Professor Hallstein also raised the question of German association with the Bermuda meeting. The allied view seems to be that if Germany was represented, however loosely, it would not be possible to exclude other west European countries, and that such an extension would defeat the purpose of the meeting.

Herr Ollenhauer, the leader of the Opposition, has urged that the Federal Government should draw up a constructive plan for submission to the "big three," and at the same time prepare proposals, to be forwarded to Mr. Semionov by the Allied High Commission, which might test the sincerity of Soviet policy with regard to the future of Germany. The proposals, Herr Ollenhauer suggested, should deal with the scarcity of food supplies in the Soviet zone, the expansion of trade between east and west, and the removal of restrictions on inter-zonal traffic.

Herr Ollenhauer coupled with his suggestion the demand that "every possible step should be taken to prevent the ratification of the treaties"—a demand which a semi-official commentary describes as asking "the German people to get to work digging graves." Whether the Federal Government has direct contact or not with the Bermuda meeting, it will certainly have a comprehensive memorandum to submit to the three western statesmen.

AT BERMUDA

According to reports from coalition circles, the Chancellor has already made his wish known through diplomatic channels that the Federal Republic should be at any rate indirectly associated with Bermuda. Even though the treaties are not yet in force, German participation is, it is held, absolutely necessary, and is in the interests of the western partners also. Dr. Conant, the United States High Commissioner, who is going to Washington to appear before the appropriations committee, has been informed of the German view, and in the light of his report on his return to Bonn the question of sending a liaison official will be discussed by the Cabinet. Such an official, coalition circles say, might be stationed in Washington, and from there maintain contact with Bermuda.

MAU MAU ACTIVITY INCREASING

FOREST GANG ROUTED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

NAIROBI, JUNE 1

Military police and Kikuyu guards combined to crush a gang of terrorists in the bamboo forest of the Uplands district of Kiambu. At least 20 terrorists were killed and 15 wounded in 24 hours, and the remainder fled and were pursued.

The gang of 45 left Nairobi to join others in the forest. One prisoner declared that he and others were forced to join the gang in Nairobi, and said that they were half-starved and living on tree bark and roots. The Kikuyu guard first made contact with the gang after one of their number had been killed and four women kidnapped. In the same area security forces found another gang of 32 and killed four. Several loyalists, including women, had been killed or wounded.

It is officially stated that there has been a deterioration in the Meru district during the past month, and greatly increased Mau Mau activity.

[illegible] but the Secretary of State will be directly responsible for all decisions on policy. The new agency will be called the Foreign Operations Administration and will presumably be presided over by Mr. Harold Stassen, the present mutual security administrator.

Another part of the plan will establish a new governmental body, the United States Informational Agency, to conduct all foreign information programmes, now divided between the State Department, the M.S.A., the technical cooperation programme, and the Voice of America.

MEETING A CHALLENGE

WASHINGTON, June 1.—In a message to Congress accompanying these proposals, the President said they were necessary to meet the challenge imposed by the nation's role of leadership in the non-Communist world.

"Our nation to-day is dedicated to international action in concert with other nations—through the United Nations and in regional arrangements with other nations—for collective security, for economic and social cooperation, designed to foster a community of world law," he said.

"We have come to know that national security entails mutual security with other free nations. And we have come to know that their freedom, in turn, depends heavily upon our strength and the wisdom with which we use it."

President Eisenhower said the reorganization would fix clearly the central responsibility for foreign policy below the President and group together other programmes, at present scattered, which implemented foreign policy. "Slackness, confusion, blurred authority, and clouded responsibility—any of these can defeat the noblest purposes of any foreign policy," he said.

A key point in the plan would be the creation of a separate agency "setting forth official United States positions for use abroad"—that is, presenting the official American view on a variety of questions.—*Reuter.*

CRICKETERS KILLED BY LIGHTNING

PAVILION STRUCK

Three cricketers were killed and two seriously injured yesterday evening when, during a thunderstorm, lightning struck the home team's dressing room in the pavilion of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's soap works ground at Irlam, near Manchester. The team was playing against an Irlam district side as part of the Coronation celebrations. Players in the visitors' dressing room were unhurt.

Mrs. Hope Robinson, aged 36, of Ilkeston, Derbyshire was struck by lightning while playing golf at the Chesterfield course yesterday. She was taken to Chesterfield Royal Hospital, suffering from burns on her face and neck.

About 400 passengers on board the steamer Snaefell watched the rescue of three brothers named Whipp, whose vessel, the sloop Austral, had been dismasted by a north-north-west gale eight miles off the Isle of Man yesterday. The three men, Christopher, Frank, and Ian, were making for the shelter of Douglas. The Douglas lifeboat eventually took the vessel in tow after the crew had been taken aboard the Snaefell in heavy seas.

Over 50 vessels of the Moray Firth fishing fleet sailed in heavy seas yesterday to take part in a review off Lossiemouth. The gaily bedecked vessels sailed in line astern out of port and past the reviewing vessel H.M.S. Welcome, a fishery cruiser, but so stormy was the sea that it was impossible for the reviewing party to board the cruiser. The ceremony took place from the pier.

STABBED GIRL FOUND DEAD IN THAMES

COMPANION MISSING

Barbara Songhurst, aged 16, a shop assistant, of Teddington, Middlesex, was found dead in the River Thames yesterday with wounds to her head and back. After a post-mortem examination police decided that she had been murdered.

Death was stated to have been caused by three stab wounds in the back. The girl went cycling on Sunday with a friend, Christine Reed, aged 18, of Hampton Hill, who is missing. The discovery of blood stains on the verge of the towpath one mile and a half away led detectives to the spot where it is believed Miss Songhurst was attacked and her body thrown into the river on the ebb tide, between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Sunday.

E. P. Hillary.

by bad weather, in the crossing of the difficult ice-covered Lhotse face, which leads to the South Col. This delay led to rumours in Katmandu—whence they were spread abroad—that the pre-monsoon assault had failed. Although there was some sickness among members of the expedition, as well as the obstacle of bad weather, there is no reason to think a withdrawal was contemplated at any stage.

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LONG RECORD OF ATTEMPTS

MOUNTAINEERS' ROLL OF HONOUR

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BASE CAMP, KHUMBU GLACIER

With the conquest of Mount Everest, one of the great prizes of adventure has been won. Everything about Mount Everest is big, and its long record of victory over successive expeditions is of course due principally to its stupendous size. Here at the expedition's base camp at the head of the Khumbu Glacier the array of mighty peaks that surrounds the Everest massif is spread in panorama. To the south are the two fine summits of Taweche, and just across the valley to the west is Pumori, the noble mountain that George Leigh Mallory first saw and named. The twin peaks of Lingtren stand to the north, with the romantic pass of the Lho La which leads dramatically, between towering heights, into Tibet. Behind the pass is the summit known as North Peak, and to the east is the enormous mass of Nuptse, from the south a menacing mountain wall, from here a gracious rock pile dressed in snow.

Above all these magnificent mountains, recognizably the greatest among the great, stands the summit of Everest itself, harsh and formidable; and down into the glacier around this camp tumbles the huge ice-fall of Everest, an extraordinary jungle of ice pinnacles and winding ice lanes that has become the staircase to the mountain's summit. The tremendous scale of it all, beside which even the sublimest offerings of human genius can seem stunted and wizened, raises its own major problems for the mountaineer. It is so far from base to summit, for example, that a number of intermediate camps must be placed high on the mountain; and to these camps, at extreme altitudes, porters chosen from the local Sherpa population (of Tibetan origin) must carry loads.

So high is Everest that difficulties caused by rarified atmosphere are extreme. Even at base camp—about 18,000ft.—the unacclimatized visitor can suffer grave inconvenience from headaches, breathlessness, vomiting, or general weakness; 11,000ft. higher the effects of lack of oxygen can be conclusive. Everest climbers must spend weeks acclimatizing their systems to high altitudes, and their oxygen equipment must be as effective, and at the same time as light, as scientific ingenuity can make it. But the most obvious handicap of Everest's size is the sheer slogging energy that a mountaineer must expend to reach its upper slopes. From base camp a climber at the head of the icefall—merely on the first stage of his journey—can scarcely be seen with the naked eye.

Another major problem of Everest concerns the weather. It is now generally accepted that at only two periods of the year can an assault on Everest reasonably be launched—in the lulls that generally occur, in May and September, before and after the monsoon. Each Prime Minister was announced by the Lord Chamberlain and presented members of his delegation in turn.

Among those who attended were the Prime Ministers of Canada (Mr. St. Laurent), Australia (Mr. Menzies), New Zealand (Mr. Holland), South Africa (Dr. Malan), India (Mr. Nehru), Pakistan (Mr. Mohammad Ali), Ceylon (Mr. Senanayake), Southern Rhodesia (Sir Godfrey Huggins), Northern Ireland (Lord Brookeborough), and Malta (Dr. Borg Olivier). Sir Winston Churchill joined the Commonwealth Prime Ministers and the assembly also included the High Commissioners for South Africa, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Canada, India, and Southern Rhodesia, and Mr. Bustamante, the Chief Minister of Jamaica.

The Queen later gave a luncheon for the Prime Ministers and other representatives. Members of the Royal Family present at the luncheon were Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and the Earl of Athlone, Admiral Lord Mountbatten of Burma, and Lady Mountbatten.

When the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret left the Palace, people waiting outside swept across the road and impeded the progress of their car. Six mounted policemen had to clear a passage to allow it to drive up The Mall. The car was brought to a standstill two or three times and then moved forward at hardly more than walking pace until a way was cleared.

PRINCESS MARGARET AT THE ABBEY

Princess Margaret was given an enthusiastic reception by crowds gathered outside Westminster Abbey when she arrived there yesterday afternoon. She was met by the Earl Marshal. Later the Duke of Gloucester arrived with his two sons.

Princess Margaret remained at the Abbey for about half an hour. As she walked to her car near Dean's Yard the crowds, which had increased rapidly, broke through the police cordon and gathered around. With difficulty the police eventually made a way through to enable her to leave. The Duke of Gloucester and his sons left a few minutes later.

REGALIA TAKEN TO THE ABBEY

In a closed van, with one police car as escort the Coronation Regalia was taken from the offices of the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company to Westminster Abbey early yesterday. The Dean of Westminster, Dr. Don, was waiting at the cloisters entrance in Dean's Yard to receive the Regalia when it arrived there at 7.45 a.m. It was taken to the Jerusalem Chamber, where it will remain until this morning. A guard of eight Yeomen Warders was mounted.

The Regalia, which is normally kept at the Tower of London, was sent from there recently to the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company for cleaning and overhaul.

SUNSHINE AND SHOWERS

BY OUR WEATHER CORRESPONDENT

Cool, showery weather will continue in all districts to-day. During the afternoon and early evening some showers will be heavy and accompanied by hail and thunder, especially over the eastern half of the country. There will, however, be sunny intervals.

EGYPTIAN TALKS ON CANAL ZONE

CAIRO, June 1.—The Egyptian Congress (the civilian Cabinet and military junta in joint session) met to-day to discuss the latest developments on the Suez Canal zone in the light of an "important communication" from Washington. Mr. Adlai Stevenson flew from Cairo to Fayid in the Suez Canal zone to-day. —*Reuter.*

PRESIDENT OF FREEDOM HOUSE

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JUNE 1

Mr. Ernest Gross, who with the change of Administration in Washington has retired from the American mission to the United Nations and has joined a private law practice, has been elected president of Freedom House in succession to Mr. Sumner Welles.

OBITUARY

We announce with regret the deaths of COLONEL SIR GILBERT TANNER, D.S.O., T.D., for many years president of the Colne Valley Conservative Association; SIR PHILIP SMYLY, formerly Chief Justice of the Gold Coast; and MR. ALEX JAMES, the well-known International and Arsenal footballer. Obituary notices will be found on page 8.

mountain of two remarkable Englishmen, George Leigh Mallory and Andrew Irvine. The expedition began badly, with appalling weather. During the early weeks a Gurkha accompanying the party died of a clot in the brain, and a Sherpa porter of frostbite. But in May Norton himself reached a height of 28,126ft., climbing for the last part alone; and early in June Mallory and Irvine set off for a further assault on the summit in high confidence and good weather conditions. They were last seen at about 28,000ft., and it is not known how high they climbed. The only trace of them was an ice-axe found eight years later not far from the place of their disappearance.

There were four full-scale expeditions to Everest in the thirties, besides successful flights over the summit made by British pilots, flying British aircraft, in 1933. In that same year Hugh Ruttledge led an expedition in the course of which F. S. Smythe, Wyn Harris, and L. R. Wager all climbed to about 28,100ft. In 1935 Eric Shipton led a reconnaissance to examine snow conditions and test climbers new to the Himalaya. In 1936 a second expedition led by Ruttledge was thwarted by bad weather, the monsoon arriving in the Everest region exceptionally early, and two years later the last attempt from the north, led by H. W. Tilman, was again defeated by the weather. In 1938 the lull before the monsoon never occurred.

SOLITARY CLIMBER

One strange episode on Everest between the wars should be recorded. In 1935 Shipton's reconnaissance party found, at the bottom of the mountain's North Col, the body of a solitary climber, with the ragged remains of his tent and his diary. He was an Englishman in his late thirties, Maurice Wilson, who had become convinced in the previous year that his ascetic principles demanded a solo attempt on Mount Everest; by this means, he thought, he could persuade the world of the merits of spiritual and bodily purification. He travelled to the mountain, in disguise, through Tibet and, in spite of his complete lack of technical knowledge, made a series of attempts to climb the slopes of the North Col. He died of exposure, and his diary has told his story.

Since the war the pattern of action against Mount Everest has necessarily changed. Entry into Tibet, now under Communist control, is out of the question for western climbers. In Nepal, on the other hand, changes of regime have led to an easing of restrictions on the entry of foreigners. British, French, Swiss, American, German, and Japanese expeditions have all been permitted to enter Nepal in recent years.

Tensing

The present expedition has enjoyed several advantages over its predecessors, although most of its climbers had little previous experience at very high altitudes—since the war there has not been a large reserve of experienced Himalayan mountaineers in England. First the weather—perhaps the most important and least foreseeable factor of all in an assault on Everest—has not been at its worst: the mountain has shown, in Mallory's words, "forgetfulness for long enough of its more cruel moods." The expedition's oxygen apparatus, after long years of hard trial and sometimes painful error, has proved more satisfactory than before. The Sherpa porters have improved in mountaineering skill and confidence. The *sahibs* enjoyed remarkably good health and fortune in the early weeks of the attempt.

But above all, as Colonel Hunt is first to emphasize, the 1953 expedition has been able to build upon the experience of others. Ten previous expeditions have learnt their lessons of Everest; at least 16 men have died in the learning. To-day, high above the rugged Nuptse ridge, Everest looks as surly, as muscular, as scornfully unattainable as ever; but after 30 years of endeavour the greatest of mountains is defeated, and many are the ghosts and men far off who share in the triumph.

(*Copyright*)

☞ Man's Challenge to the Heights, page 7.

Deutscher Alpenverein

LONG LIVE DREAMS™

ESTATE HARRODS OFFICES

32, 34, 36, HANS CRESCENT, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.1. Tel.: Kensington 1490
and at SOUTHAMPTON (Tel.: 2171), WEST BYFLEET (Tel.: 149), and HASLEMERE (Tel.: 953).

AUCTION, 6th MAY (if not sold privately).
AS A WHOLE OR IN 3 LOTS.
Old Orchard, Harefield, Middlesex.
Fine situation with lovely views.
Only 20 miles from London.
A Charming and well-appointed Modern RESIDENCE; lounge hall, 1 reception, 5 principal bed and dressing, 3 principal baths, also staff flat of 4 good rooms and 1st bath; co.'s services; part central heating; 2 garages; excellent chalet-style lodge and good cottage as separate lots; delightful gardens and grounds about 14½ acres FREEHOLD. Possession of whole.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 309.

AUCTION, 19th APRIL (if not sold privately).
By direction of Field-Marshal The Rt. Hon. Viscount Alanbrooke, K.G., G.C.B., O.M., D.S.O.
Ferney Close, Hartley Wintney, Hants.
On high ground about ½ mile West of the Village.
In unspoilt country, enjoying delightful views.
Due South aspect.
A FREEHOLD GEORGIAN RESIDENCE with a later addition, entirely on two floors; lounge hall, 3 reception, 7 bed and dressing (3 b., and c.), 3 bath; also two small wings for staff, including third bath; main electricity and water; oil-fired thermosiphon central heating; garage for 3; stabling for 2; outbuildings; pleasant gardens; 2 good paddocks, in all about 8 acres. Possession.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 504.

AT A LOW RESERVE.
AUCTION, 29th APRIL (if not sold privately).
Little Shaw, Woldingham, Surrey.
Of Special Interest for Conversion or Division.
Walking distance Down and Station.
FINELY SITUATED FREEHOLD RESIDENCE; hall, 1 reception, music room, bath, 11 bed, 3 bath; co.'s services; central heating; 2 garages; first-class newly erected Lodge, with built-in garages; delightful grounds and orchard about 3½ acres. Possession, including Lodge.—HARRODS Ltd. (Ken. 1490. Extn. 810); and Messrs. C. and F. RUTLEY, Woldingham Station, Surrey (Woldingham 3244).

AUCTION, 6th MAY (if not sold privately).
AS A WHOLE OR IN 3 LOTS.
Old Orchard, Harefield, Middlesex.
FINE situation with lovely views, only 20 miles from London. A charming and well-appointed Modern RESIDENCE; lounge hall, 1 reception, 5 principal bed and dressing, 3 principal baths. Also staff flat of 4 good rooms and 1st bath; co.'s services; part central heating; 2 garages; excellent chalet-style lodge and good cottage as separate lots; delightful gardens and grounds about 14½ acres FREEHOLD. Possession of whole.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 309.

AUCTION, 13th MAY (if not sold privately).
(As a Whole or in 3 Lots.)
Tudor House, Parson Street, Hendon, N.W.4.
Suitable for Occupation or Development.
FREEHOLD RESIDENCE and about 1¼ Acres, occupying a prominent corner site in this sought-after residential area. Large frontages; hall, 3 reception and billiards room, conservatory, 7 bed, 3 bath; garage; delightful mature garden. Vacant Possession.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 828.

AUCTION, 13th MAY (if not sold privately).
Newlands, Camberley, Surrey.
Within about ½ mile Station, and under a mile golf course.
FREEHOLD FAMILY RESIDENCE suitable single or occupation or division. Lounge hall, 3 reception, 6/7 bed, 2 bath; Co.'s services; part central heating; garage, stables; Cottage of 4 rooms and bath; well-timbered gardens and grounds about 2½ acres. Possession.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 807.

AUCTION, 28th MAY (if not sold privately).
AS A WHOLE OR IN 4 LOTS.
Maids Moreton House, near Buckingham.
LOT 1.—Excellent FREEHOLD RESIDENCE (at present used as Guest House with Club Licence), 400ft. up, south aspect; almost close to village, lodge and drive; lovely views; 4 reception, 10 beds, 3 baths; main electricity and water; central heating; garages, stables; about 5 Acres.
LOT 2.—Modern COTTAGE of 5 rooms and kitchen with bath; Danish Pigsties for 300 and pasture; about 10½ Acres. LOT 3.—Pasture Field, 10½ Acres. LOT 4.—Fair Picturesque Thatched Cottage ideal for modernisation. Possession of whole.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 809.

AUCTION, 22nd MAY (if not sold privately).
Parvis Court, Branksome Park, Bournemouth.
Best residential area within 400 yards of the sea.
A excellently appointed FREEHOLD RESIDENCE on 3 floors and in almost faultless order; lounge hall, 3 reception, 6 beds (2 b. and c.), 2 bath; main services; practical thermosiphon central heating; heated garages, greenhouse; detached music room; very charming secluded gardens about 1¼ acres. Possession.—HARRODS Ltd. (Ken. 1490, Extn. 810), and 40, The Avenue, Southampton (Tel.: 2171).

AUCTION 19th JUNE (if not sold privately).
Creekside, Wargrave, Berks.
LOVELY RIVERSIDE HOME with over 150ft. river frontage, large paved landing stage and wet boathouse. Beautifully appointed Residence; 2 reception rooms and fine lounge, 7 bed rooms, dressing room, 4 bath rooms, including fine master suite; co.'s services; central heating; 3 garages; very delightful gardens and field (at present partly market garden), in all about 3½ Acres. FREEHOLD. Possession.—HARRODS Ltd. (Ken. 1490, Extn. 504), and Messrs. SIMMONS and SONS, Henley-on-Thames (Tels. 2).

AUCTION 10th JUNE (if not sold privately).
Antye Farm, near Haywards Heath, Sussex.
Few miles Haywards Heath Station (London 45 minutes).
Lovely outlook over unspoilt country.
A Fascinating MINIATURE ESTATE. Picturesque 17th-Century Residence, beautifully modernized and in almost faultless order; 3 reception, sun lounge, hall (4 b. and c.), 5 dressing, 3 baths; central heating; main electric light, power and water; garages, stabling, &c., good outbuildings; delightful gardens and grounds; good pasture; in all about 7½ Acres. FREEHOLD. Possession.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 809.

AUCTION, 6th MAY (if not sold privately).
Court Manor, West Meon, Hampshire.
Delightful situation on the margins of the village to the lovely Meon Valley.
AN Historic Small MANOR HOUSE, skilfully modernized and in a charming setting; 4 reception, 7 bed and 2 dressing, 5 bath; mains electricity and water; central heating; lodge, garages and stabling; delightful gardens and grounds about 5½ acres intersected by River Meon. FREEHOLD.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 506.

Alton and Winchester.
4500ft. up in secluded situation, but not isolated.
AN Attractive and Solidly Built FREEHOLD RESIDENCE.—Hall, 2 reception, 4 bed, bath, and 3 w.c.s; Co.'s electricity; own water supply (mains available); garage for 2; finely timbered garden of nearly 2 acres. Possession. Price £6,500.—Sole Agents: HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 810.

Northwood.
Easy reach Shops, Station and Golf Course.
WELL-BUILT MODERN HOUSE on a southern slope. Lounge hall, dignified drawing room, oak-panelled study, walnut panelled dining room, 4 bed, 2 well-fitted bath rooms, 3 staff bed and bath room; main services; brick-built double garage; delightful, but inexpensive garden of about ½ acre. FREEHOLD for Sale. Vacant Possession.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 807.

Unspoilt Radnorshire.
On the Slopes of the Lugg Valley, Facing Radnor Forest.
A Stone-built Modernized HOUSE with about 42 acres. 3 reception, 7 bed and dressing (b. and c.), 3 bath; co.'s supplies; garage in 2 cars; with irrigation and easily kept up grounds, kitchen garden, good orchard, well-stocked paddocks.
NOTE—the tenancy of the land is at present let, but vacant possession by agreement with the tenant might be arranged.
Golf, fishing and shooting are available in the district. FREEHOLD, £9,500.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 809/810.

East Grinstead 2 Miles.
In lovely position, convenient to a station and about 30 miles from town.
MODERN FARMHOUSE RESIDENCE and about 10 acres; 2 reception, 3 bed, bath room; main drainage; co.'s electric light and water; stabling, outbuildings. For SALE FREEHOLD; dead stock included in price, livestock at valuation. — HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 807.

Ashford and Canterbury.
On high ground, with superbe views, and close to one of the loveliest villages in South-East England.
A MODERN FREEHOLD RESIDENCE; 3 reception, 5 bed (4 b. and c.), bath room; co.'s electricity, gas and water; main drainage; garage for 2; tennis court; kitchen garden, orchard. About 2½ acres. Possession. Only £6,500 for Quick Sale. Additional 4 acres Fruit (at present let) would also be sold.—Joint Sole Agents: HARRODS Ltd. (Tel. Ken. 1490, Extn. 810), and KENNETT & SONS, 72, St. Dunstan's Street, Canterbury.

A Fisherman's Paradise.
About 1½ miles Salmon Fishing on the River Torridge and about ½-mile Trout Fishing on the River Lyn.
NORTH DEVON (miles Okehampton, 18 Bideford and 30 miles Exeter).—Attractive brick-built BUNGALOW RESIDENCE especially fitted for Anglers with 2 fine reception, verandahs, playroom, 6 bed, 3 fitted cabins or staff rooms, 2 bath (fitted basins, b. and c.); main electricity, water by gravitation and auxiliary supply, septic tank drainage; riverside fishing huts, garage for 3 or 4 and outhouses; easily kept grounds of about 1½ acres.
MUST BE SEEN TO BE APPRECIATED.
PRICE £10,000. FREEHOLD.
Joint Sole Agents: Messrs. R. BLACKMORE and SON, The Quay, Bideford, (Bideford 73), and HARRODS Ltd., Kens. 1490. Extn. 810.

Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough.
On high ground about 1 mile from Rotherfield village, overlooking rural views.
CHARMING GEORGIAN HOUSE, completely modernized, in splendid order, ready to step into; lounge hall, 3 reception, 4 bed, dressing room, 2 baths; self-contained quarters, sitting room, 3 beds, bath room; garage 3 cars, chauffeur's flat, small outbuildings; lovely gardens, grounds with many choice ornamental trees, shrubs, spacious lawn, woodlands, walled kitchen garden, in all about 6½ acres. For SALE FREEHOLD.—HARRODS Ltd. Kens. 1490. Extn. 807.

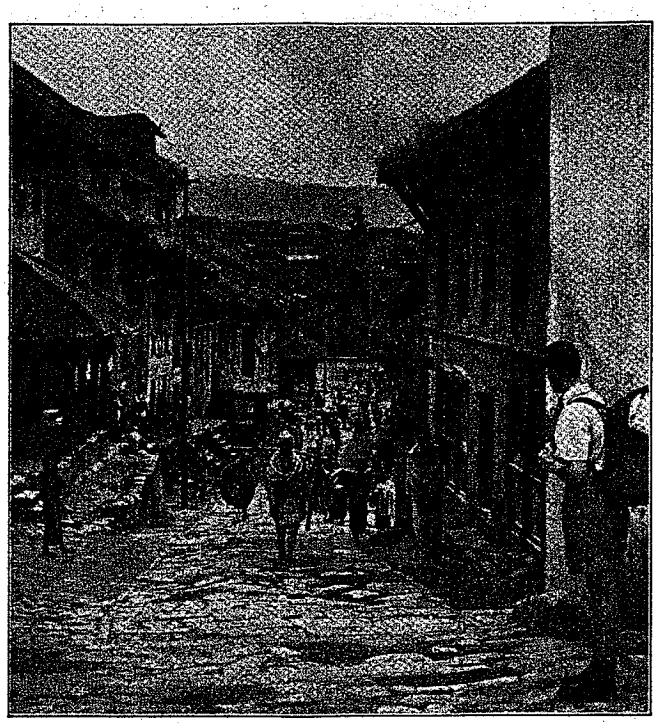
Essex—only 13 Miles from the City.
SURROUNDED on all sides by open fields, scheduled as a green belt.—Most Attractive PERIOD RESIDENCE, reputed to be King John's hunting lodge; entrance and inner halls, cloak room, 3 reception, sun room, 6 principal beds, 2 baths, 4 attic bed rooms; main electric light, power and water; modern drainage; garages for 4 or 5, stabling; grounds disposed in tennis or other lawns, orchard, paddock, &c., in all about 4½ acres—intersected by a small brook. FREEHOLD £10,000.—HARRODS Ltd., Kens. 1490. Extn. 628.

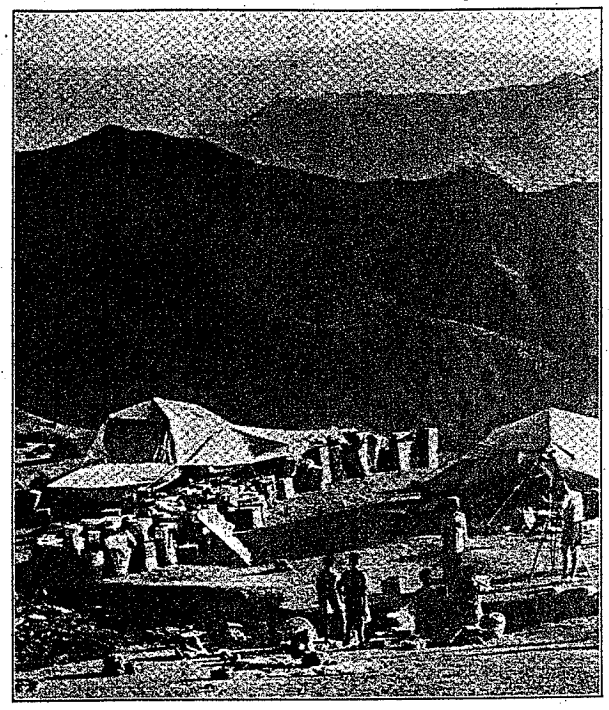
TOWN

AUCTION, 22nd APRIL (if not sold privately).
The Bleiner Private Hotel,
2a, Marloes Road, Kensington, W.8.
FOR SALE as a going concern.—Fully Furnished and Equipped. The excellent FREEHOLD premises comprise hall, 3 lounges, 11 bed rooms, fitted basins (h. and c.), hanging cupboards; radiators and points for electrical gas fires; staff bed room, 3 bath, modern offices; garden at the rear.—HARRODS Ltd. Ken. 1490. Extn. 628.

Furnished Cottage with Garage.
KNIGHTSBRIDGE.—Most attractive, easily run COTTAGE in quiet residential area, close to shops, amenities. Redecorated and nicely furnished. Contains 2 bed rooms, dressing room, bath room, 2 reception, kitchen. Available now for long LET.

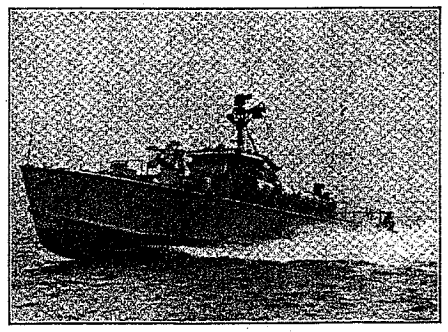
TOWARDS EVEREST: ON THE ROUTE FROM KATMANDU





Two pictures taken of men of the British Everest expedition on their journey from Katmandu to the rear base camp near Thyangboche, where they are now training for the assault. That on the left shows coolies laden with supplies and members of the expedition passing through Bhatgaon, capital of one of the ancient Nepalese kingdoms. The other picture shows a camp pitched on a plateau farther east.

MODEL RAILWAYS.—Some of the exhibits of the Historical Model Railway Society at the Model Railway Exhibition, which was opened at Central Hall, Westminster, yesterday.



THE GAY BOMBARDIER, first of the Gay class of patrol boats accepted from the builders, Messrs. Vosper Limited, of Portsmouth, by the Royal Navy. These boats, designed by the Admiralty, can be used as gun boats, or (as shown above) as torpedo boats.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH photographed at Windsor Castle with members of a party of boy boxers from New York who are to meet boys of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs at the Empress Hall to-night.

THE TIMES

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ascent of Everest — reported first in The Times — we present a compilation of reports

ON THE ROAD TO EVEREST

EQUIPMENT TESTED BY STORM

OXYGEN FOR EVEREST TESTED

50 CRATES OPENED AND REPACKED

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ATOMIC BOMB EXPLODED

FOURTH OF SPRING SERIES

EVEREST PARTY'S PROGRESS

HARD WORK AT BASE CAMP

From Colonel John Hunt

PRELUDE TO EVEREST

TRAINING CLIMBS UP TO 19,000FT.

From Colonel John Hunt, leader of

THE TIMES

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ascent of Everest — reported first in The Times — we present a compilation of reports and photographs of the event, together with other news at the time. Colonel John Hunt, who had taken over the expedition some nine months earlier, was accompanied by a young James Morris, whose dispatches by runner from Base Camp to Kathmandu, along with those of Colonel Hunt, are reproduced here

Congratulations to the British Everest Expedition

ROLEX

7 Times on Everest
Finally—to the top!

ON May 29 the long story of Everest was fulfilled. Thirty years of gallant attempt and pioneering effort culminated in the conquest of the mountain by the British Expedition, led by Colonel Hunt. With the British, as on previous expeditions, went Rolex Oyster watches.

The story of Everest is not one of sudden achievement. Ten previous expeditions had built up the store of experience, giving help to those following. On seven of these—from 1933 onwards—climbers wore Rolex Oyster watches. Rolex has become an acknowledged part of Everest equipment.

And not only on Everest, but on almost every Himalayan expedition, including Eric Shipton's many Himalayan climbs, Rolex Oyster watches have accompanied the high-level pioneers.

At such heights, a watch must stand up to the worst conditions, driving blizzards, immersion in snow, extreme variation of temperature, hard knocks on rocks and ice. The Oyster case, a Rolex invention, guarantees perfect waterproofness and complete protection against the hazards of humidity, snow and dust.

Another curious but inevitable result of climbing at over 25,000 feet is that the mind becomes numb and dazed. A climber tends to forget details such as winding his watch; he doesn't want to be bothered with this when all his energy is concentrated on the climb. But there was no need for the Everest climbers to remember, since another Rolex invention, the Perpetual self-winding "rotor," kept their watches fully wound all the time. No need, either, for them to slip off their warm gloves to attend to this irritating detail.

Nor did they have to worry about accuracy. Their Rolex Oyster watches had passed the severe tests of accuracy set by Official Swiss Government Testing Stations. Letters from many Everest climbers have attested with gratification that their Rolex Oyster Perpetuals kept perfect time, and were quite unaffected by extremes of temperature experienced in the change from tropical foothills to the highest altitudes.

This is not surprising, since, at the Swiss Government Testing Stations, Rolex chronometers are subjected to severe tests—in an electric oven and later in a refrigerator. Everest experience has confirmed what was already certain—that Rolex Oyster Perpetuals will remain accurate under every possible climatic condition.

The story of Everest will be told again and again, and Rolex are proud that their Oyster watches were present at this moment of achievement and proved worthy of those who wore them.

HIMALAYAN ROLL OF HONOUR

Rolex Oyster watches were worn on these historic Himalayan Expeditions

1933 British Everest Expedition which reached 28,150 feet.
1933 Houston Expedition which flew over Everest for the first time.
1934 Expedition to Nanda-Devi — Eric Shipton and H. W. Tilman.
1935 British Everest Reconnaissance Expedition led by Eric Shipton.
1936 British Everest Expedition led by Hugh Ruttledge.
1937 British Reconnaissance Expedition to Shaksgam led by Shipton.
1938 British Everest Expedition led by H. W. Tilman.
1939 Expedition to Karakoram led by Shipton.
1947 Swiss Alpine Club Expedition to Gangotri.
1952 Swiss Alpine Everest Expedition led by Dr. Wyss-Dunant
1952 Swiss Alpine Everest Expedition led by Dr. Chevalley.
1952 British Himalayan Expedition led by Eric Shipton.
1953 BRITISH EVEREST EXPEDITION LED BY COL. HUNT.

The Rolex Oyster Perpetual that reached the top of Everest on May 29. Waterproof, self-winding and a miracle of accuracy, this watch is the highest achievement of the watchmaking industry.

ON THE ROAD TO EVEREST

EQUIPMENT TESTED BY STORM

FROM COLONEL JOHN HUNT, LEADER OF THE BRITISH EVEREST EXPEDITION

KIRANTECHAP, EASTERN NEPAL, MARCH 15 (BY AIR MAIL)

The departure of both caravans from Katmandu went according to plan on March 10 and 11 and our first party has now completed six marches of our 17-day journey to Thyangboche; it is here that we intend to site our base camp initially, for the purpose of training and acclimatizing.

The route we are following is the most direct approach from the Valley of Nepal to the district of Sola Khombu. Leading for the most part due east, it naturally cuts across the grain of the country and involves the crossing of a succession of high ridges and deep valleys. This fact, and the size of our caravans, means slow travelling, for apart from the fatigue to our carriers of these constant steep climbs and descents, the stages are dictated by the need to stop for the night where food and water can be obtained for large numbers of men.

But this leisurely progress is welcome to us from more than one viewpoint. It suits admirably my desire that the expedition members should get fit gradually, without any undue exertion at this stage in our programme; it provides an excellent means for us to settle down as a team; finally, only in this way is it possible fully to enjoy the wonderful country through which we are passing.

INCREASING INTEREST

In order to enable the carriers to be on their way while it is still cool we have adopted the routine of rising at 5.30 a.m. and starting off soon after 6.00. A halt is made for breakfast after marching for two to three hours. We usually reach the end of the stage for the day in the early afternoon, leaving ample time to settle into camp and indulge in our various interests; bird-watching, entomology, photography, and so on.

Our journey so far has been one of steadily increasing interest and delight. On the second day after starting, we finally left the Valley of Nepal and descended into the deep gorge of the Sun Kosi, one of the major rivers of eastern Nepal. That night we camped at only 2,000ft., and it was a relief to climb up next day to the hamlet of Chyaubas, situated at nearly 7,000ft. on a broad ridge which gave us our first view of snow mountains to the north and east, though partly obscured by cloud. In spite of the steep climb, it had been a pleasant walk up through terraced fields and past scattered cottages, with the almond trees in bloom.

We camped that evening in open grassy downland, and on the morning of the thirteenth we followed this high ridge for some miles before descending to another river. The track led through a forest of mixed oak and rhododendron, the latter a blaze of scarlet. By evening we had climbed to yet another ridge, and camped in the compound of a Buddhist temple at Risingo. Here we were overtaken soon before dark by a storm of exceptional violence. Hail fell for some minutes—the stones were as large as a quarter of an inch in diameter—and this was followed by torrential rain which continued for nearly three hours.

TRYING CONDITIONS

The compound was partly flooded, and it was a remarkable testimony to the 12-man dome Arctic tent in which we were sheltering that we remained comparatively dry throughout this deluge. In spite of the trying conditions, our Sherpa cooks prepared and served an excellent meal with their customary cheerful imperturbability. Our loads had perforce been left in the open, and some anxiety was felt lest their contents might be damaged. So far as we have been able to discover, however, this has not occurred, which is a further tribute to the packing of both food and equipment.

This storm cleared the air, and was followed by two days of perfect weather. On arriving at the crest of another ridge yesterday, we had a superb view of a chain of high peaks unmasked by any cloud, and at fairly close range. We were able to recognize Gauri Sankar and Melungtse on the left of this group—both over 23,000ft.—and Karyolung on the extreme right. Between and in front of these were numerous unnamed and unexplored mountains, many of striking appearance. We camped last night in full view of this wonderful background; in the last of the light, as the setting sun lit the summit snows, we could pick out to the east the profile of three further ridges which we must cross in the coming days, before finally turning northwards to reach Namche Bazaar.

TOWARDS THE PEAKS

As I write this dispatch from our camp near this hamlet, I am able to look up the deep glen of the Bota Kosi river to the towering mass of Gauri Sankar at its head. Although we are still some distance in time from our destination, this scene reminds us of the physical proximity of the big peaks among which we shall be living for the next few months, and which have provided the inspiration for the journey.

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ATOMIC BOMB TESTED

50 CRATES OPENED AND REPACKED

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BANUPA, NEPAL, APRIL 1

As a result of their false start yesterday on receipt of a message from Colonel Hunt, the leader, the rearguard of the British Mount Everest Expedition under Major J. O. M. Roberts was slightly delayed to-day in this village at the beginning of the Himalayan foothills for an examination of the second consignment of oxygen being taken for the Everest climbers.

After it had started on its first day's march from Katmandu to Banupa yesterday the party received a message from Colonel Hunt, who was already at rear base camp at Thyangboche within sight of the mountain, reporting that some oxygen cylinders taken by the main party had been found to be leaking. The message asked that all cylinders be inspected.

PRIESTS IN SAFFRON

This entailed opening and repacking about 50 well packed crates which was done early this morning on a small plateau above this village with the hills close behind and a pagoda-like temple away across the valley. An eager and persistent audience watched the last part of the operation. It includes large numbers of ragged children, four Buddhist priests, resplendent in their saffron coloured robes, and a beggar girl impervious to invective.

Happily the results of the inspection were reassuring. Of 111 oxygen cylinders only eight seemed to have inadequate pressure Major Roberts therefore sent a message on in advance to Colonel Hunt reporting the results of the inspection. Then, doing its best to ignore the beggar girls, the rearguard settled down to a belated breakfast of tea and eggs before resuming its interrupted journey to Thyangboche, where it now hopes to deliver the additional supplies of oxygen about April 16 before the main party moves up the Khumbu Glacier to embark on the establishment of camps in the western Cwm from which the assault will be launched.

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AFGHAN RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

REASONS FOR "STRAIN"

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR, APRIL 1

Sultan Ahmad Khan, the new Afghan Foreign Minister, has restated his country's foreign policy. He said that Afghanistan wanted to maintain cordial relations with all other countries, particularly the neighbouring states. Afghanistan would continue to abide by the United Nations Charter and to strive for promoting the cause of peace. Sultan Ahmad Khan said that relations with Pakistan were strained because Pakistan was not giving "due consideration to the Pakhtoonistan issue." His statement, as broadcast by Kabul radio, concluded: "Even now, if Pakistan shows a little far-sightedness in this matter, all present differences between the two countries can be ironed out and the two nations can live on brotherly terms."

Members of the Afghan royal family are now touring the country more frequently than before. Shah Mahmood, the Prime Minister, visited the eastern provinces recently, and King Zahir Shah has just returned to Kabul from Ghazni and Gaudahar.

Near Kandahar dams are being built across the Heltmund river as part of an irrigation project capable of bringing nearly 300,000 acres under cultivation.

"SOCIALIST UNDERWEAR"

SPRING GARMENTS IN EAST GERMANY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BERLIN, MARCH 31

Under the title of "Socialist underwear," *Der Kurier* yesterday announced the presentation of the "spring collections" of garments by the east German "Institute for Fashion Culture," created last autumn. The models shown in the collection are to be reproduced by manufacturers throughout east Germany. Herr Amberg, the manager of the institute, stated in an announcement that all the garments would become official utility "types," whatever their use and irrespective of whether they remain fashionable or not.

All the models, according to the announcement, have to be made in a manner approved by the institute and "free from cosmopolitan influences." They must be characterized by "Socialist realism." The length of material needed and the sizes of each model are given by the institute. The designs, it is said, will "promote the education of progressive taste, in harmony with the cultural inheritance of the nation."

EVEREST PARTY'S PROGRESS

HARD WORK AT BASE CAMP

From Colonel John Hunt

Leader of the British Everest Expedition

FIRST BASE CAMP, THYANGBOCHE, MARCH 29

Continuing our journey from Kirantichap on March 16, we crossed the three big ridges the profile of which we had seen from our camp at that place.

From the first of these, the Chyangma-la, we had our first view of Everest towering, even at that distance, above the intervening ranges and distinguished from its neighbours by its banner of wind-blown vapour. These ridges, which we crossed respectively at 8,500, 10,000, and 12,000 feet, with the steep descents to the rivers dividing them, have enabled us to become increasingly accustomed to the altitudes in which we shall be operating during the next phase of our programme. The walk out to base camp has, in fact, been an important part of our general preparations for the later task on Everest itself; we have taken advantage of it to climb in our oxygen masks during some period each day.

On March 22 we came down to the Dudh Kosi, which drains from the general vicinity of Everest, and at last turned towards the north, following the left bank of this fine river for three days to Namche Bazar.

HIMALAYAN ABRUPTNESS

From this moment the scenery at once became more rugged and Himalayan in scale, the mountain-sides across which our track was traced rising above us and plunging to the gorge beneath with an abruptness which is not met with at comparable heights in the Alps. Above the crags of the containing ridges we now had occasional glimpses of higher peaks—Karyolung (22,900ft.), Kwangde (21,300ft.), and Kangtega (23,300ft.)—each incredibly far above and apparently inaccessible. But this stark grandeur was softened by the foreground scene of firs, rhododendrons in a variety of blossoms and, perhaps most beautiful of all, the magnolia trees with their great white flowers.

On March 25 we climbed the steep hillside contained between the junction of the Dudh Kosi and the Bhote Kosi rivers, to reach Namche Bazar, the chief village of Khumbu, which is the home district of our Sherpas. It is characteristic of these charming folk that on this day and on the day following, as we continued to our destination at Thyangboche, we were met on the track by relatives of our men, dressed in their best attire, who offered us tea in decorated pots, *chang* (a potent drink brewed from rice) and hot potatoes, the main crop in this land.

On our way up to Namche and again at our camp-site above the village, we were thrilled to see Everest once more, this time close enough to distinguish certain of those features which will form the focus of our interest in a few weeks' time—the south-eastern ridge and the final *arête* joining the two summits, the problems of which are the subject of considerable conjecture. The weather has been brilliantly fine and we have been struck by the comparatively snow-free appearance of the north-west face; there is much less snow on the rocks than last year, as observed at about this period by the Cho Oyo party. In fact, but for the mile-long snow-plume, it would be easy to believe that conditions were already favourable for the ascent.

INACCESSIBLE FANG

On March 26 and 27 our two caravans at last arrived at the monastery of Tyangboche, situated at nearly 14,000ft. on a little grassy plateau just beyond the crest of a big ridge running down to the junction of the Dudh Kosi and the Imja Khola. For sheer grandeur of background and beauty of the immediate surroundings I have never seen its like in the Himalaya, the Karakoram, or elsewhere. To the north—and now looking deceptively close—the head of the Imja Khola is blocked by the immense barrier of Lhotse and Nuptse, immediate neighbours of Everest, which are joined by an *arête* running for over two miles above 25,000ft. Behind this great wall we see the solid pyramid of Everest. Nearer, on the left flank of the valley, rises a huge fang of ice and rock—Ama Dablam—which, for utter inaccessibility, rivals the famous Mustagh Tower in the Karakoram. Immediately to the south-east and south-west we now have more proportionate views of Kwangde and Kangtega, while to the west and just across the Dudh Kosi is a splendid 19,200ft. rock peak, Khumbila, which invites comparison with the boldest peaks in Savoy.

It is appropriate to the nature of this idyllic place that the lamas insist on the area's remaining a sanctuary for game: musk deer and *chikor*—a Himalayan partridge—can be seen close to the buildings and around our camp, wandering unconcerned by our presence.

Base camp is now the scene of great activity as we prepare for the first period of acclimatization in the neighbouring valleys. Each of us is busy with his particular task: the distribution of rations, clothing, oxygen, tentage, climbing gear, and so on. Instruction is being given by our experts in oxygen equipment, cooking stoves, and wireless sets; the carriers who have brought our numerous baggage on this long journey from the valley of Nepal are being paid off by the transport officer, Major Wylie.

PRELUDE TO EVEREST

TRAINING CLIMBS UP TO 19,000FT.

From Colonel John Hunt, leader of the Expedition

FIRST BASE CAMP, THYANGBOCHE, APRIL 8

Our three parties have now returned to the base camp at Thyangboche after a week's absence in the neighbouring mountains. In general, this period of training and altitude testing has proved an outstanding success. Favoured by good weather, we have all been able to increase our state of fitness without undue fatigue and have succeeded in getting higher than I had expected in this early stage and at this time of year. We have all been up to, or nearly to, heights between 18,000ft. and 19,000ft.

These facts are not significant in themselves, but they speak well for the policy of our preparations in view of the fact that all members of the climbing party have achieved a similarly high level of fitness and performance. Providing that this can be maintained in the coming weeks, it will greatly increase our chances of success on Everest and will simplify my own task in deciding the tasks for each of us to that end.

Oxygen tests with our open circuit apparatus have convinced us of its value, both as regards speed of climbing and comfort—an average performance for climbers of one party, arriving directly for the first time during this expedition at 18,000ft. from our present base camp, was a climbing rate of nearly 2,000ft. an hour between that altitude and 19,000ft., using a comparatively low oxygen supply (three litres a minute). Indeed, we have enjoyed an intensely interesting time, exploring little-known country. I have asked members from each party to recount their own experiences.

PARTIES RECONSTITUTED

We are now busy with preparations for the second stage in our training for operations on Everest. The parties, still three in number, are now reconstituted and new areas are to be visited. In addition to this all-important training, I have decided that a reconnaissance should now be carried out of the Khumbu icefall, which bars access to the Western Cwm of Everest. This vital task, which will enable us to save time when the moment comes to start the move of our gear up the mountain, is to be undertaken by a party consisting of Hillary, whose previous experience of the icefall with Shipton in 1951 will be valuable, Lowe, Band, and Westmacott.

Evans, with Tensing, Wylie, and Gregory, will be mainly engaged in training the most promising of our Sherpas in the use of oxygen, operating at the head of the Imja Khola, while my party, which includes Bourdillon, Ward, and Noyce, is to spend some days in the same area undertaking further tests on our closed circuit oxygen, before moving up to the foot of the icefall in order to take part in the preparation of a route into the Cwm. To Evans and his party will fall the task of returning to Thyangboche at the conclusion of this period, in order to close our present base and move the stores up to the foot of the icefall. We expect that Major J. O. M. Roberts will arrive here on April 16, bringing with him the second consignment of our oxygen equipment, which is intended for use in the eventual attempt on the summit.

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A REHEARSAL AT PANMUNJOM

FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR EXCHANGE

20 U.K. PRISONERS

From Our Own Correspondent

TOKYO, APRIL 13

United Nations and Communist staff officers met at Panmunjom to-day to co-ordinate plans for the movement of disabled prisoners to freedom next week. The Communists announced that the first convoy of allied personnel would leave tomorrow from Chonma, some 12 miles from the Yalu River boundary, and would arrive at Kaesong on Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

The United Nations have trains ready to carry their prisoners from hospital camps near Pusan, in South Korea, and landing craft to take others to the mainland from the island camps off the south coast. They have already sent an ambulance train, equipped with comforts and medical staff, to Munsan ready to receive incoming prisoners.

At to-day's meeting a Communist staff officer said that, apart from 450 South Koreans, 120 Americans and 20 Britons, the remaining 15 disabled persons to be returned would include Australians, Canadians, South Africans, Greeks, Dutchmen, Turks, Filipinos, and Colombians.

EVEREST REAR PARTY AT NAMCHE BAZAR

TREK MARRED BY STORMS

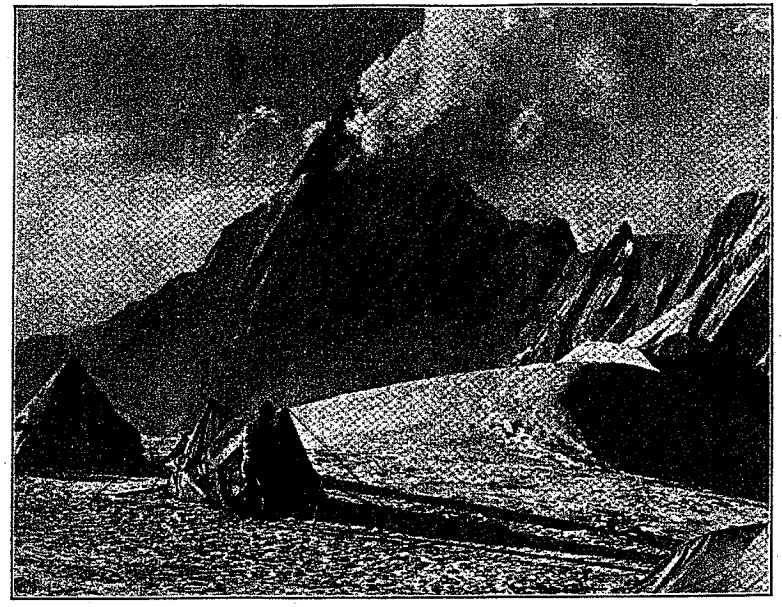
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NAMCHE BAZAR, NEPAL (by runner to KATMANDU), APRIL 16

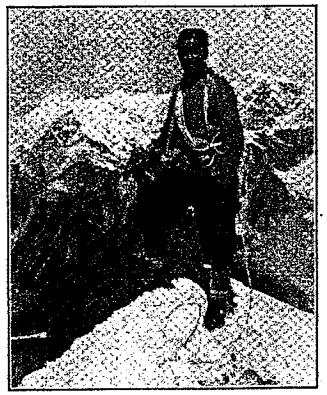
The rear party of the British Everest expedition, which has been skilfully marshalled from Katmandu by Major J. O. M. Roberts, to-day arrived at Namche Bazar. The entire expedition, complete with men and material, is now in the region of Everest, and a start is being made on the moving of stores from the rear base at Thyangboche, about 55 miles north-east of here, to the advance base on the Khumbu glacier.

The rear party's march was marred by heavy rain and hailstorms; the best moment of the trek undoubtedly occurred four days ago,

TRAINING FOR THE ASSAULT ON EVEREST



In the latest message to be received from Colonel Hunt, it was stated that members of the British Everest expedition were assembled at the main base camp on the Khumbu Glacier, and were ready to begin operations on the mountain. The picture above shows the camp set up on Mera Col during a practice climb. In the background is Amadablam. That on the right shows members of the expedition wearing crampons on the Nuptse Glacier.



Noyce, wearing crampons and oxygen equipment, climbing a snow ridge of a 19,000ft. peak at the head of the Chola Khola valley. Centre: Evans, wearing closed circuit oxygen equipment, and Bourdillon, wearing open circuit apparatus, climbing the south-wes ridge of Amadablam. Right: Sherpa Tensing photographed by Colonel Hunt during a practice climb on the N tse Glacier.

MAY 15 AS TARGET DATE FOR ASSAULT ON EVEREST

SHERPAS INITIATED IN OXYGEN TRAINING

From Colonel John Hunt,
Leader of the British Everest Expedition

LAKE CAMP, KHUMBU GLACIER, APRIL 16

meet us on April 16. He has now arrived, bringing our second consignment of oxygen cylinders, intended for use on Everest itself,

EVEREST MEN IN READINESS

POISED FOR ASCENT

FORMIDABLE ICE CONDITIONS

FROM COLONEL JOHN HUNT,
Leader of the British Everest Expedition

EVEREST PARTY PUSH AHEAD

ICEFALL FORCED

WAY OPEN TO WESTERN CWM

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

EVEREST PARTY AT GLACIER CAMP

INCURSIONS INTO THE ICEFALL

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THYANGBOCHE, APRIL 27

The final consignment of oxygen and oxygen equipment for the British Mount Everest expedition arrived here from Katmandu to-day, and the expedition is now complete in men and material for the

RECONNAISSANCE IN SNOW STORM ON EVEREST

VALUABLE LESSONS ON HIGHER SLOPES

The following dispatches from Colonel Hunt, leader of the British Mount Everest Expedition, and from our Special Correspondent with the expedition were written earlier than the dispatch published in Saturday's issue of The Times, *but were delayed in transmission.*

FROM COLONEL JOHN HUNT,
LEADER OF THE BRITISH EVEREST EXPEDITION

KHUMBU GLACIER, MAY 9

The main event of the past 10 days has been the successful conclusion of a reconnaissance initiated by myself, Evans, and Bourdillon, and continued by the latter two reinforced by Wylie and Ward, of a route towards the South Col.

The first party moved up from Camp III on May 1, and the following day made their way up to the site of the Swiss expedition's Camp V (approximately 22,600ft.) at the head of the Western Cwm. Their aim was to examine at close quarters the so-called Lhotse face, a steep glaciated wall which rises to the summit of Lhotse, and which must be climbed to a height of some 26,000ft. to reach the South Col between Lhotse and Everest. This preliminary reconnaissance would thus clarify the scope of the main party in the following days.

In very bad weather the climbers continued up the slopes above Camp V for a further hour and a half making slow progress in a heavy snowfall and deep new snow. As a result of this journey, during which a height of about 23,000ft. was probably reached, it was clear that, apart from the altitude, no rapid progress towards the South Col could be expected. The ground is a steep surface alternating between bare ice and deep snow of doubtful stability. The mission of Evans's party was therefore limited to an attempt, within a time limit of 48 hours, to reach the Swiss Camp VII, from which the Swiss attained the South Col under adverse conditions last autumn.

USEFUL EXPERIENCE

Setting up camp at the Swiss Camp VI—some distance up the face—on May 3, Evans and Bourdillon pushed on to about 24,000ft. the following day. The going throughout was arduous and slow, and precautions had to be taken owing to the unsafe nature of the snow. Several fixed ropes left by the Swiss to safeguard parties on this route were found, but after so long an interval these were no longer secure.

Enough had been seen and experienced to decide the route upwards and to give a clear indication of the preliminary work needed to prepare it; the party therefore returned to base on May 6. Apart from its value in providing information on the route, this mission was given most useful experience in the tactical use of oxygen.

The reconnaissance task had been combined with the first test at high altitude of both types of oxygen equipment—Bourdillon, Evans, and I had used the closed circuit system from Camp III upwards whereas Ward and Wylie were equipped with open circuit apparatus. The lessons learnt from these experiments have enabled me to decide on the plan for the attempt on the summit and preparations are now going ahead in the light of them.

CYLINDERS FOUND

In passing, it is interesting to note that Evans and Bourdillon found a number of charged oxygen cylinders left by the Swiss at their Camp VI. During a visit to Zurich with Evans in the last week in January I had been told to expect this store, and contact was then immediately established between our oxygen apparatus assembling firm and the German firm which supplied the Swiss. Adaptation tools were provided for us, and as a result Evans and Bourdillon spent a comfortable night at this camp with the aid of oxygen from the German-made bottles.

Following up the information provided by Evans's party, it was decided that Lowe, Westmacott, and Band should establish themselves at Camp V in a few days' time. From there they were to prepare a route to and establish our Camp VI, whose location was to be that of the Swiss Camp VII. This vital task was to pave the way for the assault.

The plan [which was described in a dispatch published last Tuesday] consists of sending two pairs of climbers on successive days up the Lhotse face to the South Col from Camp V. The first pair will use closed circuit oxygen equipment, and will attempt to reach the top directly from the col. Should they have done so, or in any event, the second pair will in turn set off up the south-east ridge, but in their case they will be accompanied by a supporting party of climbers and Sherpas, who will set up a final camp as high as possible on this ridge.

From this camp, the second pair, who will be using open circuit apparatus, will make their bid for the summit next day. The whole operation will be immediately preceded by a party of two climbers and about 12 Sherpas, whose task will be to carry the necessary tents, oxygen, food, and other stores to the South Col.

From this brief outline of our intentions, it will be seen that a considerable effort must be expended, both in men and material. Should neither of the attempts succeed, we shall require to reorganize and rest before mounting a further assault, but we shall still have sufficient resources to do so, and would make this third effort if required. Poor weather is hampering, but not preventing, our final preparations: everyone is in good spirits, and we are full of hope and confidence that, if the weather settles for a sufficient period, we have good prospects of success.

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ARDUOUS TASK FOR SHERPAS

MOVING STORES THROUGH ICE FALL

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BASE CAMP, KHUMBU GLACIER, MAY 11

Like a young general's headquarters before a daring and crucial operation, the base camp is to-day alive with excitement and directed energy, as members of the expedition prepare for their supreme adventure.

High above the Western Cwm, one party of climbers is laboriously preparing the glaciated Lhotse face—the route to the South Col—for the passage of loaded porters; at a daunting altitude they are cutting ice steps, fixing ropes, and establishing a route of reasonable safety. Down in the Cwm, other climbers are supervising the stocking of the advanced base camp with enough stores to enable more than 30 men to live there, if necessary, for a fortnight.

Between here and the Cwm, climbers and Sherpas are taking the last loads of stores from the base camp through the hard and treacherous route of the ice fall, and each morning, as they set off on their climbs, the clash of their crampons and ice-axes, echoing across the glacier, sounds an eager theme of resolution.

PROBLEMS OF SUPPLY

The implacable mountain itself is full of voices. Daily from here messages are exchanged with the higher camps over the expedition's admirable portable radio telephones. At Camp III they may need more cookers. At the advanced base there is not enough paraffin. How many tents are now at Camp V? Will the next ice-fall party please bring some extra sleeping bags?

The logistical problems of the assault are immense. In the sphere of rations alone there are four different standards. For everyday purposes the expedition uses Army "compo" rations. For use in the high camps there are assault rations—carefully chosen foods hermetically packed. The Sherpa porters not only share these rations, but also have substantial supplies of *tsampa*, the cereal which is the basis of their normal diet. Finally there are a few "luxury boxes."

UP AND DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

TRIALS OF AN EVEREST CORRESPONDENT

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THYANGBOCHE (NEPAL), APRIL 23

I have just come down here from the mountain. It is bitterly cold up there, with a nasty wind and snow, so, as I already have a cold in my head, I have set up camp here for a day or two: the surroundings are delightful, and I have

"LITTLE EUROPE"

MINISTERS TO HOLD FURTHER TALKS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, MAY 12

The six Ministers of "Little Europe"—M. Bidault (France), M. Van Zeeland (Belgium), M. Beyen (the Netherlands), M. Bech (Luxembourg), Signor De Gasperi (Italy), and Dr. Adenauer (western Germany)—who have been meeting here to-day to discuss the draft constitution for a

MAY 15 AS TARGET DATE FOR ASSAULT ON EVEREST

SHERPAS INITIATED IN OXYGEN TRAINING

From Colonel John Hunt,
Leader of the British Everest Expedition

LAKE CAMP, KHUMBU GLACIER,
APRIL 16

In our planning in London we had estimated that it would be necessary to have completed our training by mid-April, in order that we might move to the foot of Everest and start shifting our stores into the Cwm during the latter part of this month.

This stage has now been reached and it is satisfactory to record that the objectives which we set ourselves for the preliminary period of training have been attained. In spite of a few temporary setbacks all members of the climbing party are uniformly fit and have acclimatized themselves successfully to the altitudes attainable at this time of year; we had, in any case, decided that this height—about 20,000ft.—would be appropriate to our eventual oxygen policy on the mountain.

Our experiments with oxygen during this period have been encouraging, for all potential users on Everest have used it with success and have gained confidence in its value. During this second period of acclimatization our open-circuit apparatus has been worn continuously for more than five hours, without discomfort, by some members of the party.

SUCCESSFUL TESTS

Further tests of the closed-circuit apparatus have been so far successful and I have decided to carry these experiments a stage further on Everest itself. If this experiment should prove itself at high altitude, the economy in logistics and time of an attempt on the summit with such apparatus would be very great. Of particular interest in connexion with our oxygen training has been the initiation to its use of a carefully chosen party of Sherpas.

Here again, this elementary training—for further practice will be necessary—has proved a success. I watched these men climbing with oxygen under the instruction of Evans, Wylie, and the Sherpa Tensing; their performance was impressive. All of them expressed themselves as enthusiastic about its effects, one comment being that it made going uphill equivalent to going downhill.

For myself, perhaps, the most pleasing of all the benefits derived from the acclimatization period as a whole has been the way in which we have settled down as a team. Ours is in fact a very happy party. It has long been my conviction that success in this great venture will depend on this factor of teamwork as much as, if not more than, any other. We are all persuaded that there is little significance attached to the final effort or to those who may undertake it; each of us has a full and equal part to play.

Here are brief accounts of the activities of each party during the second acclimatization period.

HEAVY SNOWFALL

EVANS'S PARTY.—Gregory, Wylie, Tensing, and I left for Dingboche, in the Imja Valley, on April 9. With us were nine Sherpas selected for training in the use of the open-circuit oxygen apparatus. During our first night at Dingboche there was a heavy snowfall, and on the next day we stayed in camp, taking advantage of the delay to initiate the Sherpas into the use of oxygen.

In the morning we taught them to assemble the apparatus, and we found most of them able to learn the main points about it at once. We then put it on them and sent them off, two and two, to climb a nearby hill. Their enthusiasm was so great that there was some danger of the experiment turning into a race against the clock, so that we had to warn them that they would get the most out of their oxygen by keeping to their normal climbing speeds.

Making every allowance for their praise of this new toy, it is certain that they derived substantial benefit from its use, even at 16,000ft.

The head of the Imja Valley, about eight miles beyond Dingboche, is a great cirque, whose rim is everywhere higher than 19,000ft. In the centre, surrounded by glaciers, is an attractive mountain of 20,000ft., known to us as the Island Peak, and on April 11 we moved up to camp at its foot. To reach it we had to cross some very broken ground at the junction of the glaciers which flow on either side of the peak, but once there we found a pleasant grassy hollow by a small lake with plenty of juniper fuel to hand. Next day we took tents up the south ridge of the mountain, building platforms for the night on a steep scree slope at 18,800ft.

STEPS CUT

On April 13 six of us went to the top: Gregory, Wylie, and Ang Temba on one rope, Tensing, Da Namgyal, and I on another.

The final part of the climb was up a bare ice ridge. The lowest and steepest bit of this we were able to avoid by climbing to its left, on the west face of the mountain, where snow clung to the steep ice slopes. Nevertheless, many steps had to be cut, and it was noon when Tensing, who had done most of the hard work, stepped on to the summit.

On April 14 we started back for Dhyang-

meet us on April 16. He has now arrived, bringing our second consignment of oxygen cylinders, intended for use on Everest itself, and the next few days will be occupied in moving our main stores to the foot of the icefall.

HILLARY'S PARTY.—Hillary, Lowe, Band, and Westmacott, with five Sherpas and a large train of coolies, left Thyangboche on April 9 and camped at Phalong Karpo. A snowfall during the night made the next three days' journey to the foot of the icefall very arduous; a number of coolies were snow-blind, and for all of them goggles were finally improvised.

The party arrived at the Swiss Camp I site on April 12, and levelled platforms for the tents. The coolies were paid off; they had done a gallant job, and many of them had had to sleep out unprotected.

On April 13 Hillary, Band, and Westmacott set out with four Sherpas for Camp II. They found the lower reach of the icefall more complicated than they had expected, and sent back the Sherpas before achieving most of the way to Swiss Camp II. It had been a long day.

SAFER ROUTE

On April 14, while Band improved the lower part of the route, Hillary and Westmacott, with Ang Nangyal, found a variation to the right which brought them out more easily on the platform at Camp II. This route is also easier and safer than one tried still farther to the right the next day.

At the time of sending this report Hillary, Band, and Lowe, with four Sherpas, have taken tents in the hope of establishing a temporary Camp II and of reaching the top of the icefall to-morrow.

In general it may be said that conditions on the icefall appear at present to be more difficult than either in 1951 or 1952. Nor is the present Base Camp site altogether satisfactory. Nearly all members of the party, including the Sherpas, have been suffering from minor complaints.

HUNT'S PARTY.—My party, consisting of Bourdillon, Noyce, and our doctor, Michael Ward, was primarily concerned with carrying out further tests of both the open and closed circuit oxygen equipment. We placed a camp beside the left bank of the Imja glacier, across the pasturage of Chukkung, and beneath the towering northern precipices of Amadablam (22,300ft.). In the course of a three-day stay we climbed a very striking rock peak of 19,500ft. which dominates Chukkung, dwarfed though it is by its close neighbour Amadablam. It is known locally as Imba Gyabjen. The closed-circuit apparatus was used for a part of this ascent. We also gave some training in icecraft to our Sherpas on the great stream of glaciers flowing down from the western ridge dividing the Imja from the Hongu valleys, ascending to about 19,000ft. Noyce and Ward, operating on this same terrain, carried out an endurance test of the open-circuit system, climbing with it throughout one day.

YAK HERDS

From the Imja Valley we crossed over to the Khumbu on April 13 and 14, using a route from Chukkung by which, later in the year, yak herds are moved from one pasturage to another. From the 18,500ft. pass dividing these valleys, Bourdillon, Noyce, and Ward climbed a 20,000ft. summit, known locally as Pokalde. This journey has brought us to this site on the right bank of the Khumbu glacier, known to the Swiss as Lake Camp, and used by them as their base during their pre-monsoon attempt on Everest. We are one short march from the foot of the icefall.

With the arrival in a few days' time of Evans's party accompanying our main baggage and strengthened by 14 additional Sherpas, and depending on a successful outcome of the icefall reconnaissance, the issue of which is still in doubt, the stage will be set for our operations on Everest itself. A certain period must still elapse before we shall be in a position to make an attempt on the summit. I have set May 15 as a target date by which all must be ready for this event. Meanwhile, great quantities of stores must be shifted into the Western Cwm, over a route which, once established—and at the time of writing this is still in the balance—will be both difficult and dangerous. Further, tests of our oxygen must be continued at increasing altitude, the crucial exit from the Cwm must be reconnoitred and a route up the enclosing wall—known as the Lhotse Face—must be prepared.

There is, in fact, a great deal to do, and it is fortunate indeed that we are in sufficient numbers and in good fettle for the tasks ahead.

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EXPEDITION'S REQUEST FOR CRAMPONS

DIFFICULTIES OF SUPPLY

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KATMANDU, MAY 4

An urgent request has been received from the British Everest expedition for an additional 20 pairs of crampons, 18 spoons, and 18 forks. The cause of this sudden request is not yet known.

EVEREST MEN IN READINESS

POISED FOR ASCENT

FORMIDABLE ICE CONDITIONS

From COLONEL JOHN HUNT,
Leader of the British Everest Expedition
MAIN BASE CAMP, KHUMBU GLACIER
APRIL 23

With the arrival two days ago of Evans's party, bringing up the bulk of our stores from our first base camp at Thyangboche we are now assembled and ready to begin operations on the mountain. Undoubtedly one of the most important events of the past week has been the arrival at Thyangboche of the main consignment of our oxygen equipment, whose safe and timely arrival has been due to the many firms and individuals concerned in its preparation at home, to the cooperation of the R.A.F. and Indian Air Force and to Major Roberts, who escorted it during the last stage of its journey through Nepal.

In this period of transition from a training to an operational footing a number of us have been following up the masterly route-finding of Hillary and party, by preparing a track through the icefall which will be fit for our Sherpas to carry the considerable quantities of stores which we shall require in the Western Cwm. This work, complicated by many crevasses and the maze of fallen icebloc ks, has been further handicapped by a good deal of fresh snow, fine mornings followed by afternoon snowfalls seem to be a feature of the weather at this time of year.

MOVEMENT OF ICE

It is snowing very hard at present and this may slow down the moving of our stores. A factor which we have already experienced and one with which we must reckon during the coming weeks of building up stores sufficient for our attempt on the summit, is the frequent and unpredictable movement of the ice. Already a remarkable change has occurred just below Camp II—half-way up the icefall—new chasms have opened up and masses of ice have subsided where the track was first made, fortunately at some moment when no one was at that place. Indicative of the astonishing state of change in this green tumbling cataract of ice are the occasional marker flags placed by the Swiss last autumn: some of which still stand, isolated by huge clefts and a ruin of ice blocks, to a route which is utterly impracticable now.

Those of our Sherpas who were with th Swiss last year are unanimous in their view that the condition of the ice is incomparably worse than in 1952: the fact that a route ha been forced in spite of this, is a fine testimon to the icecraft and hard work of Hillary an his party.

Our anxiety, which was very much in ou minds, was happily removed yesterday Although a point had been reached severa days ago where the floor of the Cwm dip over into the icefall, bad weather had pre vented further reconnaissance to confirm tha no impassable crevasse lay ahead which migh bar our progress up the Cwm. After spending a night at Camp II I went up with Hillar and Band yesterday beyond the site selecte for Camp III; we were much relieved to fin that beyond a crevasse whose narrowest gap did not exceed some 15ft. the route upward appeared clear. We hope to bridge this gap to-morrow with a part of our sectional ladder

MOVING UP STORES

To-morrow, therefore, provided the weathe improves, we are able to start this programme of moving up our stores, which had long been planned initially. Three parties, each consisting of four Europeans and 11 Sherpas, will be engaged in lifting loads upwards to Camp III, staging at Camp II. A fourth party located at Camp III, will take these stores up the Cwm to the site, yet to be selected, for our advance base.

During a second stage in this programme the number of parties thus working in th Cwm will be increased to two and a proportion of the stores—those required for the eventua plan of assault—will be carried up to a depo at the foot of the Lhotse Face. This "build up" should have progressed sufficiently fa by mid-May to enable us to attempt the summit at any time after that date. We expect tha its smooth progress will be greatly facilitated by our portable wireless communications which are already functioning satisfactorily between the base camp and Camps II and III.

Meanwhile, reconnaissances will be taking place to pave the way. To-morrow Hillary Evans, Tensing, and myself are to go up the Cwm in order to choose a site for advance base and to inspect the exits from the Cwm.

Early next month I hope to organize an important reconnaissance of those exits in which a high altitude trial of our oxygen equipment will play an important part.

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PULITZER PRIZES

NEW YORK, May 4.—The Pulitzer prize for American fiction for 1953 was awarded to-day to Mr. Ernest Hemingway for his short novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*. The award for the best drama went to William Inge for his play *Picnic*.

The history award was won by Mr. George

EVEREST PARTY PUSH AHEAD

ICEFALL FORCED

WAY OPEN TO WESTERN CWM

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KHUMBU GLACIER

The British Mount Everest expedition has established a route through the ice fall, the formidable barrier of ice pinnacles and crevasses which blocks the entrance into the Western Cwm of the mountain. This success, achieved encouragingly early, has been followed by the establishment at the head of this glacier of headquarters camp—to be called simply base camp in contra-distinction to the advanced base camp which Colonel Hunt, leader of the expedition, hopes to set up later in the Western Cwm. The expedition thus stands ready, a good three weeks before the expected assault period, for the movement of stores and equipment on to the mountain proper.

The icefall was forced during five days of hard climbing by Band, Hillary, Lowe, and Westmacott. They found conditions on it rather worse than in 1951 when it was first reconnoitred by Eric Shipton's expeditions, or last year during the two Swiss attempts on Everest. There is frequent movement of ice formations in icefalls, which rise in a maze of cliffs and seracs to nearly 21,000ft. In the past few days noticeable changes have occurred in the upper part of the route. Some flags used by the Swiss to mark their route up the icefall are now to be found perched on high and unapproachable pinnacles.

CREVASSES BRIDGED

A firm way, with dangerous crevasses bridged and threatening ice formations demolished, has now been made as far as Camp 2 halfway up the icefall. To-day a similar route is being prepared and flagged to Camp 3 at the top of the icefall. During the next few days Sherpa porters, guided by Europeans, will begin the movement of stores up the icefall route—stores which will eventually be used to provision camps higher up the mountain.

In all, 34 Sherpas have been chosen to work on the mountain—14 only to ferry goods up the icefall, and the remaining 20 to work up to the highest altitudes. The last of these Sherpas are now on their way to the base camp from Thyangboche under the leadership of the redoubtable Sherpa Tensing, who climbed so high on Everest last year with the Swiss guide Raymond Lambert.

The hardiness of the Sherpa race was strikingly demonstrated yesterday when a party of about 200 Sherpa porters who were bringing supplies here from Thyangboche was caught as dusk fell in a snowstorm a few miles down the glacier. The party included many women. Few of the porters had any kind of shelter or protection other than their clothes; they spent the night crouching behind piles of stones or huddled together in the snow for all the world like huskie dogs.

SNOW BLINDNESS

This morning, the storm over, they faced a new hazard of snow blindness, a temporary but most unpleasant complaint, for the glare of the sun on new snow is excessive. As many as possible were fitted out with the expedition's sun goggles, but scores had to improvise with bits of cardboard or cloth, or even with their own pigtails wrapped around their faces. Yet this morning the whole party, harassed like miscreants in some medieval morality play by successive extremes of ice and sun, arrived at this camp in the highest spirits. In the valleys the Sherpas are apt to appear as people lacking in sensibility. Here in the harsh high mountain places where personal delicacies are not at a premium their qualities of courage and indomitable cheerfulness can best be appreciated.

Upon the maintenance of these qualities the success of the expedition partly depends. The mountain cannot be climbed without fit and resolute Sherpas ready to carry loads up to the South Col (about 26,000 feet) or higher.

It is greatly encouraging that the expedition has arrived safely and in good order at the mountain, has proved its men and material in exacting acclimatization trials, and has overcome the first major obstacle in the ascent—and all this without serious sickness. But into all Colonel Hunt's careful plans there enter two great imponderable factors—the health and morale of the Sherpas and the weather. Here at the very foot of the mountain, with snow and a fierce wind blowing through the tents, with everywhere the sound of Sherpa voices and laughter, he perceives clearly enough the alliances of men and nature that must be concluded if Mount Everest is ever to be climbed.

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EVEREST PARTY AT GLACIER CAMP

INCURSIONS INTO THE ICEFALL

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THYANGBOCHE, APRIL 27

The final consignment of oxygen and oxygen equipment for the British Mount Everest expedition arrived here from Katmandu to-day, and the expedition is now complete in men and material for the assault on the mountain, which may be expected in about a month.

Colonel Hunt, leader of the expedition, is already at the advanced base camp at the Khumbu glacier, about 20 miles from here, and Hillary, Band, Lowe, and Westmacott, with a number of Sherpas, have made their first incursions into the icefall; according to messages reaching here by runner, they hope to reach the top of the icefall to-day. Conditions on the ice are said to be rather worse than in 1951 or last year.

All other climbing members of the expedition have completed their preliminary acclimatization period, during which they have been active in several parts of the Everest region. To-morrow those members of the party who are still at Thyangboche—Bourdillon, Evans, Gregory, Wylie, and the Sherpa Tensing—will move up to the advanced base, and the first base camp will then be closed.

About 300 Sherpa porters have been engaged to move stores from here to the glacier camp. Most of these men come from the Sherpa headquarters village of Namche Bazar—just out of sight from here, over the crest of a hill—where interest in the expedition is running high. Namche is not altogether unaware of its new fame as a base for assaults on Everest; the village schoolmaster has been shown a photograph of himself in a book published in England, and many Sherpas are to be seen wearing climbing boots and Swiss quilted coats.

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

But passing sahibs still possess a fatal fascination. Last night your Correspondent's bed on a friendly verandah in the village was surrounded by sightseers until all was dark and the very mountains were asleep. Questions about the expedition flowed fast, and volunteers for service with it were many and voluble.

Everest apart, Namche, set in a bowl in hills high above the Dudh Kosi river, has an importance of its own as a major centre for trade across Nepal's northern frontier. Yesterday one old man with flowing hair and high embroidered boots offered a gentle invitation to join a caravan across the Nangpa La pass into Tibet, and it was difficult to explain, in words of one syllable, the intricacies of international relationship which made acceptance impossible.

Even here, amid the gentle surroundings of Thyangboche, it is easy to feel that this Everest adventure is taking place on the frontier between two worlds. Away to the north are the great mountains which form the border barrier of Tibet, and over the massive ridge of Lhotse and Nuptse can be seen the peak of Everest itself—in all not two but three worlds, perhaps, and one of them still inviolate by man or politics.

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"PARTITION" OF N. RHODESIA

AFRICAN LEADERS' SUPPORT

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT
NDOLA (N. RHOD.), APRIL 28

The Northern Rhodesian African National Congress is expected to decide in Lusaka to-night whether or not to endorse the decision made last night by its executive committee to support a "partition plan" as a last-minute alternative to the scheme for Central African Federation.

The Rev. Michael Scott, who recently took a prominent part in anti-Federation activities among the Nyasaland Africans, arrived in Fort Jameson by air this morning and was due to arrive in Lusaka at 6 p.m. It is expected that Mr. Scott will meet the assembled African Congress delegates at Lusaka, but it is not known what his view on the proposal to support partition will be.

Sir Stewart Gore-Browne, who has long advocated the partition plan, last night addressed the Congress by invitation. Under his proposals, Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia would be divided into one European and two African States. One African State would embrace the eastern and northern provinces of Northern Rhodesia and the whole of Nyasaland, and the other would consist of Barotseland and the part of the southern and central provinces of Northern Rhodesia not falling under the European State area.

"LESSER OF TWO EVILS"

Mr. John Moffat, the senior nominated member for African interests in the Legislative Council, was also present at the Congress meeting. He said he thought partition would

UP AND DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

TRIALS OF AN EVEREST CORRESPONDENT

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THYANGBOCHE (NEPAL), APRIL 23

I have just come down here from the mountain. It is bitterly cold up there, with a nasty wind and snow, so, as I already have a cold in my head, I have set up camp here for a day or two: the surroundings are delightful, and I have a faithful old Sherpa retainer to look after me, so I am in no particular hurry to go back up the glacier.

Everest really is the most staggering affair—photographs give absolutely no inkling of the size of it all. I am in a filthy state, like everyone else. I badly need a clean shirt, my nails are dirty and broken; my beard has just reached the state of looking intentional; my old shoes are beginning to crack; by hair is too long and needs a good wash. The extraordinary thing is that in spite of it all one feels perfectly well, with an enormous appetite, and an apparent ability to go on walking for ever! Luckily my powers of acclimatization seem good.

Though I felt bad coming down from the mountain I felt quite all right going up. The most unpleasant part about it, to my mind, is the breathlessness that overcomes one. One pants at the slightest exertion, such as tying a shoelace.

NYLON STOCKINGS CONSPIRACY

CLERK PLACED ON PROBATION

DAVID MICHAEL JAMES, aged 25, an insurance clerk, of St. George's Square, S.W.1, came up for sentence at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. Last session he had been found Guilty with two other men of conspiracy to supply nylon stockings, otherwise than by export, in contravention of the regulations. He was also found Guilty of procuring the Eros Lingerie Manufacturing Company, Limited, to supply 200 dozen pairs of nylon stockings otherwise than by export.

Yesterday Mr. James Frost, the probation officer, told the Common Serjeant (Sir Hugh Beazley) that James's weakness was a tendency to associate with people who lived by their wits rather than by hard work. James was placed on probation for two years.

BOVRIL IS THERE AGAIN!

ONCE AGAIN, Bovril goes with the men who make the assault on Everest. For this sternest of all tests of human endurance, Bovril and Bovril pemmican have been chosen as an important part of the food supplies. Bovril will sustain and invigorate the climbers amid the rigours of extreme altitude and intense cold. Bovril pemmican will supply much-needed calories: there are 1,800 per pound in this, one of the most concentrated of all foods.

BOVRIL's part in past achievements. Bovril is no newcomer to the field of mountain and polar expeditions. After the 1952 Everest Expedition Mr. Eric Shipton, leader of the expedition, expressed his satisfaction with the Bovril and Bovril pemmican which had been supplied. His tribute has a place alongside those of men like Sir Ernest Shackleton and George Binney, leader of the 1924 Oxford University Arctic Expedition, who also knew the invigorating powers of Bovril.

Bovril is sure to be carried in the future by explorers and mountaineers who seek to test their endurance to the farthest human limit. And the same invigorating—and delicious—Bovril will continue to bring the goodness of prime lean beef into the lives and homes of millions.

BOVRIL the concentrated goodness of Beef

"LITTLE EUROPE"

MINISTERS TO HOLD FURTHER TALKS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
PARIS, MAY 12

The six Ministers of "Little Europe"—M. Bidault (France), M. Van Zeeland (Belgium), M. Beyen (the Netherlands), M. Bech (Luxembourg), Signor De Gasperi (Italy), and Dr. Adenauer (western Germany)—who have been meeting here to-day to discuss the draft constitution for a European political community, this evening decided that they would hold a conference of Ministers or their deputies in Rome on June 12, and a further conference of Ministers in The Hague on July 10.

The Ministers had spent part of their time trying to decide how best to pursue their study of the document. There appear to have been two main theses, each in its own way symbolizing the difference of approach toward the subject which is to be found among the six Ministers.

Thus Signor De Gasperi, emphasizing the need for rapidity and prudence, thought that it was the Ministers who ought to consider the matter.

TELEVISION "THREAT" TO NEWSPAPERS

FEARS FOR SMALLER PUBLICATIONS

MR. R. P. T. GIBSON, chairman of the Birmingham Gazette and Despatch, Limited, said last night at the annual dinner of the Birmingham area committee of the Newsvendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution that he was not impressed by the measures being taken to meet the "threat" of sponsored television.

"I think this threat affects you through us, for if our prosperity is impaired many of the publications you handle may disappear," he said.

After the Government's decision to allow sponsored television outside the B.B.C. a great many newspapers—including some of those which he served—applied for licences. "Some have definite plans for the erection of stations and for the operation of programmes, but one feels that in many cases the application for a licence may not be more than the staking of a claim.

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WITH VACANT POSSESSION
(except for 14 acres of grassland).
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Solicitors: Messrs. Lawson, Cormack & Hart, 18, Tib Lane, Cross Street, Manchester 2. (Tel.: Deansgate 7964-8). Auctioneers: KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY.

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FREEHOLD. POSSESSION 2 MICHAELMAS, 1953.
For SALE BY AUCTION (unless previously sold), on Monday, 8th June, 1953, at the White Hart Hotel, Lewes. Solicitors: Messrs. Herbert and Gowers and Co., 6/7, King Edward Street, Oxford. Land Agents: R. H. and R. W. CLUTTON, Old Store House, East Grinstead. Auctioneers: KNIGHT, FRANK and RUTLEY.

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ABOUT 4 ACRES. VACANT POSSESSION.
(Furnishings and Effects (Valuation if required).
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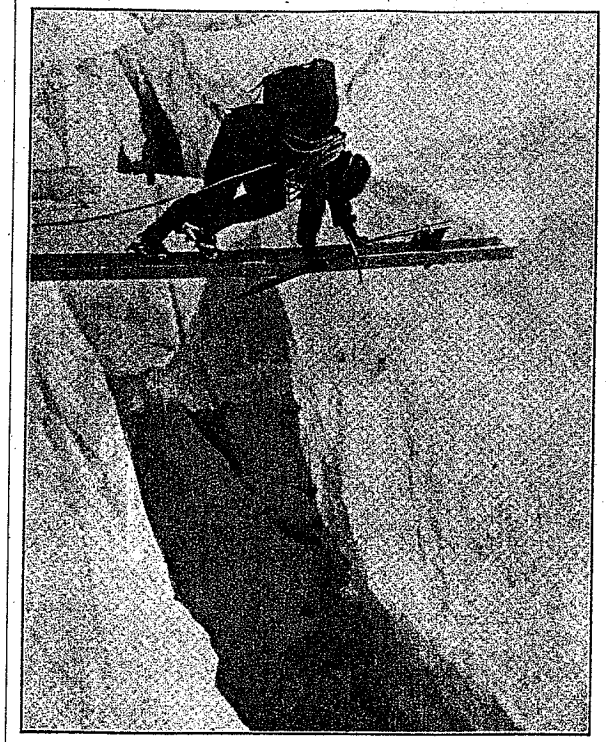
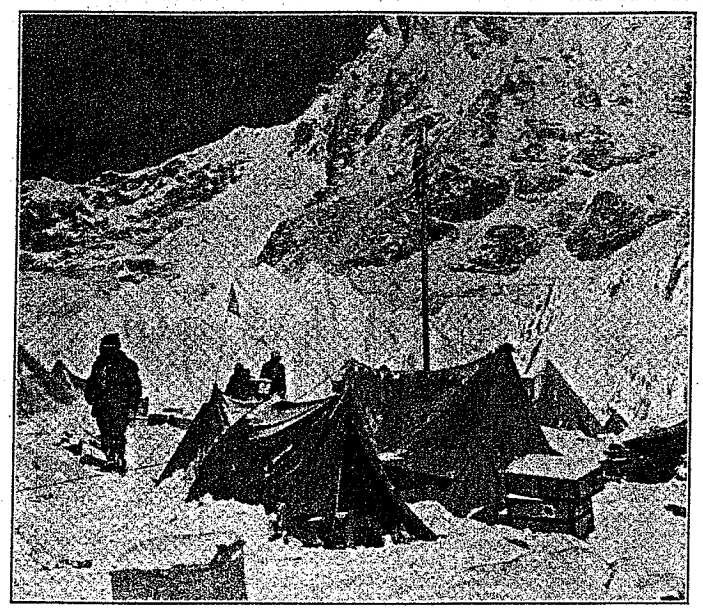
PREPARING THE ROUTE TO EVEREST

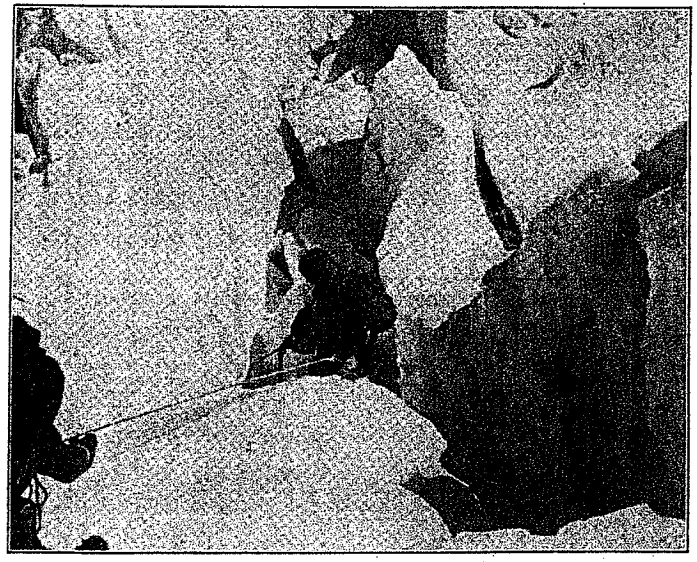


Stages in the preparation for the assault on the summit by the British Everest expedition are illustrated on this page. Above, a member of the expedition is seen crossing a crevasse on a light ladder while marking the route to Camp II.



The base camp on Khumbu Glacier after an all-night snowstorm. Persistent snowfalls have hampered the preparation of tracks.

Colonel Hunt with Bourdillon, Ward, Noyce, and Sherpas photographed after returning from the Nuptse Glacier area after a training climb. Right: Band and Hillary negotiating a difficult crevasse on Khumbu ice-fall. Camp II was established on the ice-fall at about 19,500 feet.



PLANS FOR DOUBLE ASSAULT ON PEAK OF EVEREST

COLONEL HUNT PICKS HIS FINAL

FINAL ASSAULT ON EVEREST DUE TO-DAY

WEATHER FORECAST FAVOURABLE TO

COMBATING ILLNESS AND SNOW

FROM COLONEL JOHN HUNT
LEADER OF THE BRITISH EVEREST EXPEDITION

ADVANCE BASE, WESTERN CWM, MAY 16

The preparation of a route suitable for

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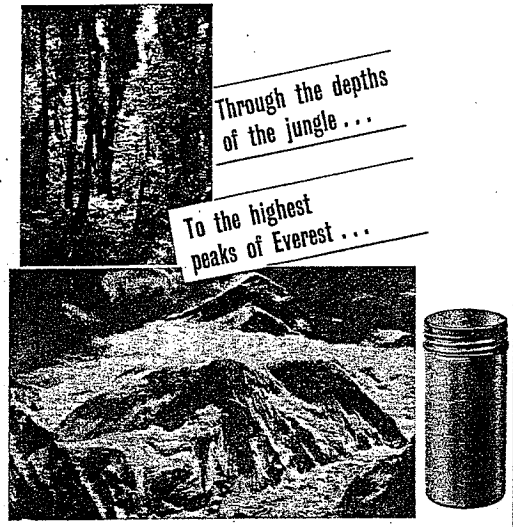
FRENCH POST OVERRUN IN LAOS

TONGKING STRONGHOLD ALSO ATTACKED

The French Union post of Muong-Khoua in Laos has fallen to the Viet-Minh, whose troops yesterday also engaged a French Union reconnaissance force 20 miles from Luang Prabang, the Laotian capital.

In the Red River delta three Viet-Minh divisions are mounting an attack on Yen Vi, south of Hanoi, to which General Navarre, the new French Commander-in-Chief, flew yesterday to confer with General Salan, whom he is succeeding.



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PLANS FOR DOUBLE ASSAULT ON PEAK OF EVEREST

COLONEL HUNT PICKS HIS FINAL TEAMS

Colonel Hunt, the leader of the British Everest Expedition, has completed his detailed plans for a double assault on the peak, using alternate types of oxygen equipment. The later forecast of weather in the Everest region speaks of its being, apart from winds of from 40 to 50 knots at high altitudes, "generally fair."

The message printed below, which was received last night, was dispatched a few days ago by Our Special Correspondent with the British Everest Expedition from the base camp at the Khumbu Glacier.

RELIANCE ON OXYGEN

TWO TYPES OF EQUIPMENT

From Our Special Correspondent

The British expedition's initial attempt on Everest, which can be expected soon, is to be a double assault employing two kinds of oxygen equipment—the closed circuit in which the climber breathes only from cylinders, the open circuit in which he breathes a proportion of fresh air. Successive attempts by pairs of climbers using each type will be followed if necessary by a third assault mounted after a period of rest and reorganization.

Colonel John Hunt, leader of the expedition, told his climbers of these plans at a conference which he has just held under canvas at his base camp at Khumbu Glacier. The first attempt on the summit will be by two climbers—chosen, but for the moment necessarily nameless—employing closed circuit oxygen equipment. This system was used with success by the reconnaissance party which returned here after several days at extremely high altitudes. It has advantages among others of high stimulative effect and economy of consumption; the first pair will therefore make their bid direct from Camp VII, to be established on the South Col at about 26,000 feet, returning there the same evening.

LITTLE TESTED

The closed circuit system, however, has even now been relatively little tested, and has certain established disadvantages. Colonel Hunt consequently made it clear that this first attempt, though it has the summit of Everest among its objectives, will have fulfilled its purpose if the climbers reach the south summit and return with information about the unknown final ridge.

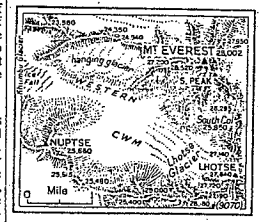
If the closed circuit party does not reach the summit it will be followed from the South Col the next day by a pair of climbers using the open circuit system. Since the consumption of oxygen in this type of equipment is higher and the beneficial effect rather less powerful, an intermediate camp will be established between Camp VII and the south summit. There, the climbers will spend one night before moving on towards the summit. This party will be supported by a group of two climbers and four Sherpas who will first set up the intermediate camp—Camp VIII—and then be ready to provide any help needed by the assault group.

If the open circuit attempt also fails, the expedition will probably withdraw from the mountain, perhaps for as long as 10 days, to reorganize and to prepare a third assault; but Colonel Hunt emphasizes that for the moment all energies must be devoted to these initial, meticulously planned attempts.

It seems probable that the chief weight of this "double barrelled" attack on the mountain will lie in the open circuit attempt. Though it may well be that the first pair find themselves able to climb direct to the summit, it is undeniable that the closed circuit equipment is still something of a gamble. The first attempt will, therefore, be primarily in the nature of a scouting mission, with final victory over Everest as no more than a glittering possibility. The second assault, with well tried and successful oxygen equipment, with an intermediate camp within ready striking distance of the summit, would seem to offer as good a chance of success as any in the history of the mountain.

But before these ultimate enterprises can be launched an immense amount of work must be done to prepare the way. About 350lb. of stores, for example, must be carried up to the South Col, itself nearly as high as the summit of Annapurna. The reconnaissance party, consisting of Bourdillon, Evans, Ward, and Wylie, after coming down from the mountain, confirmed earlier suspicions that the face of Lhotse across which the traverse must be made to reach the South Col needs careful preparation before it is fit for the passage of loaded porters. Three climbers and four Sherpas will therefore be employed for a few days in cutting steps and fixing ropes—at an altitude of well over 23,000ft. Farther down in the cwm the advanced base camp (Camp IV) must be stocked with supplies for a possible stay of a fortnight by 36 men. Tents, bedding, cooking, fuel, and oxygen must all be taken to this and other high camps. At the same time near the foot of the mountain there must be vigilance to ensure that the treacherous ice-fall does not become impassable in the course of its constant and insidious structural changes.

It has yet to be decided at what point the climbers during the assault period will first use their oxygen. Some members of the expedition believe it worthwhile to breath it from the very beginning of the climb—that is to say from this base camp; others consider it wiser to delay its use until high on the mountain. But high altitude reconnaissances have provided most valuable information about the powers and limitations of both kinds of equipments, and seem to have proved their essential worth.



oxygen. It is a bleak spot high above the Khumbu Glacier, and with the ugly mass of the ice-fall spilling below. Already at this height there are vicious extremes of heat and cold, and the newcomer who is not well acclimatized is only too aware of the altitude: his head is probably throbbing, his breath coming in too frequent gasps, his brain perhaps just a little fuddled.

BOILED SWEETS

Your Correspondent has been refreshed by solicitous companions with boiled sweets—the recuperative effect of which is astonishing—and with melted ice heated over a camp cooker and tasting slightly of paraffin. In such circumstances, and with snow driving among the seracs, it is daunting to remember that the summit of Everest is still nearly 9,000ft. above.

Now, as the route is laboriously established, the mountain climbers are paying added attention to the weather, which can, of course, spell success or failure. Special weather bulletins are being broadcast to the expedition by the B.B.C. and All-India Radio (the former especially pleasurable as well as useful as a direct and living link with home).

During the last few weeks the weather has not been over-friendly, but in this waste land, as in Mr. Eliot's, April can be the cruellest month. Many of the climbers are at the moment of writing at Loje, a place but six miles down the Khumbu Glacier, where the green grass on the hillsides offers a more pleasant background for a short rest. For the time is now near—provided that the pre-monsoon weather lull occurs as is hoped—when they will need their boldest energies, mental and physical, for the assault on this monstrous mountain.

FINAL ASSAULT ON EVEREST DUE TO-DAY

WEATHER FORECAST FAVOURABLE TO COL. HUNT'S PLANS

The latest message from our Special Correspondent on Mount Everest indicates that preparations for the final double assault on the peak are complete and that Colonel Hunt was planning that it should take place to-day and to-morrow.

Yesterday's forecast issued for the expedition by the Alipore meteorological office promised generally fair weather.

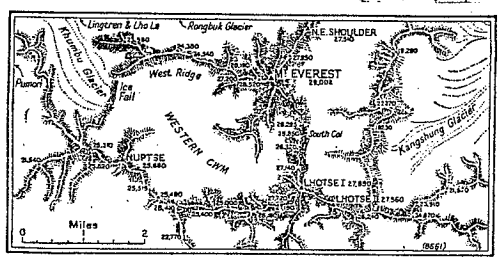
ULTIMATE TEST

LAST STAGES OF PREPARATION

From Our Special Correspondent

CAMP FOUR, EVEREST, MAY 14

The weather, which has not been friendly since the beginning of May, appears to be smiling shyly, and Colonel Hunt, the leader of the expedition, intends that the present final preparations shall be followed immediately by a double assault. This is now planned for May 23 and May 24. The high-altitude climbers, both European and Sherpa, are now being assembled here or at the higher camps. Some will expend all their energies preparing the last and arduous part of the route, or in carrying supplies to the South Col, or even higher; four men are preparing themselves for the ultimate ordeal of the oxygen attempt on the summit.



It is a glorious day here among the snows of the Western Cwm. The sky is a flawless blue, but for the thin streamers of driven snow and vapour flying from the pinnacles of Lhotse and Everest. Far down in the Khumbu Valley banks of cloud are marching up from the south, but the experience of the past two days has shown that they are not likely to rise higher than about 19,000ft., and that they bring little snow.

CLIMB TO SOUTH COL

For the moment the heavy afternoon snowfalls have ceased. Whether this is the hoped-for lull before the monsoon remains to be seen, but if the present weather holds the chances of success seem undoubtedly better than ever before.

High on the face of Lhotse Glacier two small figures can be seen through binoculars. For three days Lowe and the young Sherpa Ang Nima have been working on the difficult, glaciated face which must soon be crossed by loaded parties on their way to Camp Seven on the South Col. Steps have been cut and ropes fixed at formidable altitudes, and the site of the Swiss Camp Seven, more than half-way up the Lhotse face, has been reached. There the British Camp Six is being established.

A more powerful effort with more men is being launched to clear the upper part of the Lhotse route during the next three or four days, and this task will be followed by the first lift of stores to the South Col. It will be a long, hard climb for the loaded porters and climbers, for the site of Camp Seven will be on the South Col plateau, so far over the edge of the ridge as to be out of sight from here. But the journey will be evenly staged. The night will be spent at Camp Six, and the best Sherpas are already eager to go.

CRUMBLING EDGES

Nobody is being carelessly optimistic about the weather, but it is difficult to over-emphasize the relief provided by the past day or two. It is not merely that daily snowfalls can be dampening and tend to blunt the edge of the climber's vigour; but fresh snow on the ground makes the going immeasurably harder. Your Correspondent's climb here through the ice-fall through new, fairly deep snow was decidedly unpleasant. The route stamped out by the passage of the climbers and porters had been entirely obliterated. Edges of crevasses were inclined to crumble as one jumped across, and in the precipitous parts of the climb ice steps had disappeared and were awkward to cut.

Colonel Hunt, leader of the Everest Expedition, writing a dispatch after an acclimatization test.

The ice-fall is always dangerous enough with its widening crevasses and constantly shifting seracs, some of which impend perilously over the route like tottering fortresses; climbing can be seriously impeded if to these normal hazards are added the dangers and annoyances of constant fresh snow. Similarly, higher on the mountain the long climb up through the Cwm is infinitely longer and more tedious if one's legs are dragging through soft snow, and on the Lhotse face, energies already weakened by the altitude can quickly be sapped.

COMBATING ILLNESS AND SNOW

FROM COLONEL JOHN HUNT
LEADER OF THE BRITISH EVEREST EXPEDITION

ADVANCE BASE, WESTERN CWM, MAY 1[illegible]

The preparation of a route suitable fo[illegible] laden Sherpas up the 3,600ft. face at th[illegible] head of the Cwm has been severely hand[illegible] capped by daily snowfalls and by th[illegible] untimely sickness of two of the thre[illegible] members—Band and Westmacott—of th[illegible] party selected for this task. As a resu[illegible] Lowe, with one Sherpa, Ang Nima, ha[illegible] had to carry on this formidable task fo[illegible] four days alone. Based at Swiss Camp V[illegible] these two have fixed ropes over most of the distance to the foot of the face, replacing the Swiss cards. They have also made a track up to the Swiss Camp VII, fixing further ropes to secure passages over steep ice pitches. Much of their hard work, undertaken in the trying conditions of the rarified atmosphere above 23,000ft., has been undone by a heavy snowfall.

FEAT OF ENDURANCE

When I visited Lowe on May 13 at Camp VI, I had to plough thigh-deep through heavy new snow which obliterated his carefully made track. It has been a magnificent effort of endurance on the part of Lowe, and his Sherpa companion.

Faced with this situation, I have had to call on other members of the expedition who were undertaking lighter tasks before the assault or resting after the reconnaissance of the Lhotse face, to speed up this work of forcing a route through this serious barrier to our progress to the South Col. Noyce and Ward have been sent up to join Lowe, who has insisted on remaining at his post. Evans and Hillary are to escort the Sherpas to Swiss Camp VII (24,300ft.) carrying stores required for the assault. This camp has been occupied to-day by Noyce and Lowe to prepare a route upward.

Meanwhile, the weather has turned fine, in spite of a strong north-westerly wind higher up. In the hope of a settled spell, we plan to send up the parties carrying stores to the South Col on May 20 and 21, and, if the weather holds good, to follow these immediately with the assault parties and their supporting elements. Much depends on the behaviour of the weather in the next 10 days. We are nearly ready, and keen to seize the expected opportunity.

Copyright

VITAL INTEREST IN WEATHER

AN ENIGMATIC PROPHET

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BASE CAMP, KHUMBU GLACIER, MAY 11 (delayed)

There is no hint yet of the impending monsoon, but the climbers are inevitably wondering whether the present series of climatic disturbances may not lead directly into the rains of the monsoon period; it being recalled that during the 1936 expedition a pre-monsoon lull never occurred at all. Tensing Bhutia, the most famous and experienced of the Sherpas, contents himself with saying that he has never before seen a condition quite like this year's.

FINAL REHEARSAL IN ABBEY

RICH SPECTACLE FOR CROWDS

THOUSANDS WAIT AND WATCH

From Our Special Correspondent

The richest spectacle of all the Coronation preliminaries, gay or solemn, rewarded the patience of thousands who waited and watched by the approaches to Westminster Abbey yesterday. At 12.45 p.m. the final, full-length rehearsal of the Coronation ceremony came to an end, after two and a half hours of ritual performed strictly *in camera*, and the whole company of those who on Tuesday are to carry out their many duties—virtually all were present except the members of the Royal Family—flowed out from the Abbey in their beautiful dresses and vivid uniforms to find their ways through sombrely dressed crowds in the streets of Westminster.

DAV Deutscher Alpenverein

A PRAYER FOR A BEGINNING REIGN

HE Who is Order, Beauty, Power and Glory,
HE, the All-Wise, Who made the eterne abyss,
The Splendour, without Presence, without Story,
Maker and Arbiter of all that is,
HE set within Man's mind
All thought and image of a kingly kind:
In serving earthly Kingship we serve HIS.

Therefore, to THEE, All-Glorious, let us pray
For Her; THY Destined, consecrate today.

We, then, beseech THEE, Everlasting Power,
That This, THY dedicated Soul, may reign
In peace, in wisdom, for her mortal hour
In this beloved Land.
So guide Her with THY ever-giving Hand
That She may re-establish standards shaken,
Set the enfettered spirit free again
With impulse green again in hearts forsaken,
With light to gladden as men reawaken
That they, after such winter-time, may flower.

Grant, KING OF KINGS, All-Merciful, All-Knowing,
That in Her reign Her people may advance
In all fair knowledges of starry sowing
In all arts that rejoice,
In beauty of sound of instrument and voice,
In colour and form that leave the soul befriended,
In ancient joy, our Land's inheritance,
In thought, the quest for guidance never-ended
For Light of THINE to make our living splendid
In service to the Queen who guides our going.

We, as a people, have been split in sunder
By all a century of thoughtless greed.
What glory in that time has been kept under?
What stunted hopes allowed?
What miles of squalid city under cloud?
Let us forget all this as done forever;
This is a season of the springing seed
Of all a People one in an endeavour
To make our Sovereign Lady Queen indeed
Over a Kingdom worthy, the World's wonder.

—JOHN MASEFIELD.

HEAVY ALPINE SNOWSTORMS

VILLAGE THREATENED WITH DESTRUCTION

From Our Correspondent

GENEVA, JUNE 2

Abundant snowfalls have been recorded in Switzerland down to the 3,000ft. level, with the result that nearly all the Alpine passes, as well as many roads in the Engadine, have been closed to traffic.

Heavy rains started a landslide in the Haute Savoie mountains 13 miles south of Lake Geneva, where rocks have been continually falling on the village of Nicodex (2,800ft.); the authorities have ordered the evacuation of the village, which is menaced with complete destruction.

Snowfalls caused the death of a Zürich skier who fell 1,200ft. on Monte Sissone, south of Val Bregaglia, in the Grisons. The cold spell and storms have necessitated the abandonment of the search for the two Zürich climbers Peter Petri and Arthur Beyeler, who are missing in the Chamonix region. Their skis were found at the foot of Whymper's couloir on the Aiguille Verte, and their bodies are assumed to have been buried under an avalanche which swept down the couloir.

THE HAGUE, June 2.—To-day was the coldest June day in Holland in more than 100 years, the Dutch Royal Meteorological Institute announced to-night. The highest temper-

BROADCAST BY THE QUEEN

INSPIRATION OF LOYALTY

"I SHALL STRIVE TO BE WORTHY"

The Queen, in a broadcast over the B.B.C. Home and Overseas services last night, said: "As this day draws to its close, I know that my abiding memory of it will be, not only the solemnity and beauty of the ceremony, but the inspiration of your loyalty and affection."

Her Majesty said: When I spoke to you last, at Christmas, I asked you all, whatever your religion, to pray for me on the day of my Coronation—to pray that God would give me wisdom and strength to carry out the promises that I should then be making.

Throughout this memorable day I have been uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that your thoughts and prayers were

MAN'S CHALLENGE TO THE HEIGHTS

YEARS OF ENDEAVOUR CROWNED BY THE EVEREST VICTORY

Seldom since FRANCIS DRAKE brought the Golden Hind to anchor in Plymouth Sound has a British explorer offered to his Sovereign such a tribute of glory as COLONEL JOHN HUNT and his men are able to lay at the feet of QUEEN ELIZABETH for her Coronation day. It somehow seemed from the outset that the aura of victory went invisibly with this expedition, as with none of the other companies of equally skilled and gallant men who had matched themselves against the giant and fallen back defeated. None could easily give a reason for the air of hope and confidence that surrounded them; but it is pleasant to think that the atmosphere of youth and aspiration belonging to the new reign inspired COLONEL HUNT's men in a contest which, as has long been recognized, could be won only if the spirit repeatedly triumphed over the weakness of the flesh, and even of the exhausted mind.

For more than thirty years the vast and mysterious challenge of Everest has stirred the imagination of mountaineers, and nerved them to repeated and ever more determined onslaughts. None of these attacks was made in vain. Many valiant climbers whom advancing years have compelled to withdraw from the campaign, or who for other reasons did not have the good fortune to be in the front line at the hour of victory, will hasten to lead the applause for those who attained the goal; but these happy few will be prompt to acknowledge how large a share of honour is the due of the men who opened up the road. All alike will join to pay tribute to the memory of the fellow-adventurers who gave their lives in clearing the way for others—KELLAS, MALLORY, IRVINE, WILSON, and not a few of the Sherpa and Gurkha auxiliaries. The conquest of Everest has been achieved by the cooperative labours and discoveries of all the teams who have successively embarked upon the quest.

A REMOTE GIANT

Everest stands not only geographically but politically remote; the approaches to it, whether from north or south, lie through lands which are always suspicious of visitors from the outside world. Only after the route through Tibet had been closed by Communist revolution did the one through Nepal, by which the summit was eventually reached, happen to become passable. Yet the men who threw themselves so repeatedly against the northern crags made their own contribution to the sum of knowledge. Though their exploration of the Tibetan route was abortive, they painfully accumulated for the benefit of later comers much of the necessary intelligence about the winds and snows at great altitudes, the behaviour of the human body in rarefied atmosphere, and its effect in undermining the power of the will. The final assault has been accomplished by long and arduous training; by intense study in laboratories of the facts observed in action; by careful study on the part of the climbers themselves of the counsel that science had to give; and by the daily guidance of the specialists accompanying the party. Finally—and to-day this must count above all—it was accomplished by the courage, tenacity, and spirit of comradeship of the men who climbed as one articulated and disciplined unit, though only the small spearhead could even hope to stand upon the summit.

VICTORY OF THE SPIRIT

That spearhead was eventually composed of MR. E. P. HILLARY, a former officer of the New Zealand Air Force who had already won his spurs on Everest, and TENSING, the most famous of the Sherpa porters from Nepal, who had given the highest service in other Everest expeditions. In a sense their glory is unique; nothing can dim the lustre of the memories they will cherish of having stood where no human foot has trodden and seen a view never before seen from the solid earth by human eyes. Yet it is also true that every man in the expedition had his necessary share in bringing the laurels within their reach. To COLONEL HUNT and all his men belongs the fame of this great victory.

That which justifies the expenditure of so much aspiration, effort and even life upon an exploit that brings no visible gain, as gain is understood in the market-place, is the instinctive feeling that these men of valour and resolution are representatives and champions of humanity itself. Their warfare is not against flesh and blood but against the eternal hills, against the mighty pinnacles of lonely rock and snow. Their victory is a victory for the human spirit.

COL. HUNT'S AIM

A SECOND EVEREST FEAT POSSIBLE

MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN

The summit of Mount Everest may by now have been reached a second time. A message (given below) from our Special Correspondent with the British expedition confirms that Colonel Hunt, leader of the expedition, and Gregory were to accompany the first two successful climbers, Hillary and the Sherpa Tensing, as a support party to the South Col: and it is known that Colonel Hunt had every intention, if the weather and other factors were favourable, of scaling the summit himself with a companion member of the

EVEREST LEGEND UNPROVED

NO TRACE OF THE SNOWMAN

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT WITH BRITISH EVEREST EXPEDITION

It seems improbable that the present British expedition to Mount Everest, whatever its other achievements, will be able to record an encounter with the Abominable Snowman; for among the habits of that intriguing creature appears to be a preference for imprinting his squashy footprints in the snows of autumn.

The Snowman may rest assured, however, that he is not forgotten; your Correspondent has looked eagerly for traces of him in every secluded gully and on every patch of clear snow, and has been disappointed that not so much as a toeprint has been produced in response to an offer of 100 rupees (about £5) made public among the local Sherpa population.

In a way this is odd; for there seems no

SHERPAS' FINE RECORD

VOLUNTEER OF 49 AT SOUTH COL

From Our Special Correspondent

BASE CAMP, EVEREST, MAY 26 (Delayed)

The fine spirit of loyalty and devotion being shown by the Sherpas at great heights on Everest is now becoming clear. On May 21, when the South Col was first reached by Noyce, all but one of his six Sherpas were genuinely too exhausted to make the grade, and returned to Camp VI. But next day no fewer than 12 Sherpas reached the South Col with their heavy loads, and only one man, a reserve, fell out.

They were told that it was the last big carry they would be required to do, but when the party returned to Camp VI there was a demand for six more loads to the South Col (which is as high as Annapurna). Six Sherpas at once volunteered for a second carry.

They included Dawathondup, aged 49, the oldest man in the expedition. No Sherpa has before carried twice to the South Col in the same expedition. Indeed, in their two attempts last year the Swiss only succeeded in getting 11 Sherpas to the South Col. In all, 15 have so far climbed there with the present expedition, and it is confidently expected that a further nine will reach it to-day with stores for the second assault.

It is probable that relations between the climbers and Sherpas are happier in this than in any previous expedition, owing partly, perhaps, to the presence of Major Wylie, an experienced and affectionate Gurkha officer. Here at the Base Camp your Correspondent, amid his little band of wildish hillmen, feels himself among a company of good and faithful friends. Higher on the mountain, when one's life may depend upon the Sherpa next in line along the rope, the sense of comradeship that has been established with people so alien as to be almost outlandish is extraordinarily strong, and strangely satisfying.

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PLANNING AS BASIS OF SUCCESS

COL. HUNT'S PART IN FIRST ASSAULT

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KATMANDU, JUNE 3

The success of the British Everest expedition can reasonably be said to have been achieved by meticulous planning, and intensive efforts of all members of the expedition both high on the mountain and lower down on the Lhotse face and in the Cwm. To this should be added the climbing experience and judgment in the final thrust for the summit exhibited by the representatives both of the British race, which has given so much effort and sacrifice to Everest, and of the local climbers, who have made up in courage what they lacked in climbing teaching, and without whom no success, either this year or any year, would have been possible.

Details of how this has been accomplished, with such timeliness, should be available within some days from Colonel Hunt, whose own achievement in leading the support group which established the final camp for Hillary and Tensing, probably at nearly 28,000ft., is itself a remarkable effort in climbing at high altitudes for a man of 42.

SPIRIT OF ELATION

Coronation Day was celebrated by the British community here—and no doubt, too, by that British community 90 miles away on the Western Cwm or at the Everest expedition's Base Camp—in a spirit of double elation brought about by the coincidence of the success on Everest being made known on the eve of the Coronation celebrations in London.

The whole British community at Katmandu—its members are fewer than that on Everest, even though swollen to nearly twice its normal size by the presence of those concerned in sending on the news from Everest—was present at a Coronation service conducted by a Church of Scotland minister from Calcutta in a room of the British Ambassador's residence on Sunday night. The service was also attended by many members of the slightly more numerous American community.

Last evening the Ambassador gave a reception, to which the King of Nepal and members of his family were invited, as well as the Indian Ambassador, and prominent Nepalese and Indians in the capital.

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A report by Our Special Corre-

FIRST ACCOUNT OF CONQUEST OF EVEREST

CLIMBERS' 15 MINUTES ON SUMMIT

Mr. E. P. Hillary, who, with his fellow-conqueror of Everest, the Sherpa Tensing, has returned safely to Camp IV, has described their victory to our special Correspondent. Fifteen minutes were spent on the peak, which he calls "a symmetrically beautiful snow cone summit."

It has been announced that the Queen is to confer the honour of knighthood on Colonel John Hunt, the leader of the expedition, and on Mr. Hillary.

FLAGS RAISED ON HIGHEST POINT

UNSPECTACULAR VIEW

From Our Special Correspondent

CAMP IV, EVEREST, MAY 31

The masters of Everest, Hillary and Tensing, returned to this camp from the South Col yesterday afternoon in a blaze of sunshine and triumphant emotion, bringing their news with them.

It was a significantly beautiful day among the snows of the upper Western Cwm. All was crisp and sparkling, with the awful block of Nuptse only faintly shining with the curious greasy sheen of the melting surface snow. From the ridge of Lhotse a spiral of snow powder was driven upwards by the wind like a genie from a bottle. From down the Cwm came from time to time a sudden thrilling high pitched whistle as a boulder screamed down from the heights. Everest itself, its rock ridge graceless against a blue sky, was as hard and enigmatical as ever.

It was a day for great news. Here in the camp on the north side of the Cwm there was already yesterday morning a tension, nerve racking and yet deliciously exciting. At 9 a.m. on the previous day, May 29, the two summit climbers had been seen by their support group, Gregory, Lowe, and one Sherpa, already crossing the South Summit at about 28,500ft., and going strongly up the final ridge.

PERFECT WEATHER

The weather had been perfect, the gales of the preceding days which had so ravaged Camp VII on the South Col had died down. Hillary and Tensing were known to be two of the most powerful climbers in the world, and were using the well-tested open circuit oxygen equipment. Reports brought down from the South Summit by Bourdillon and Evans, who had reached it on May 26 in the expedition's first assault, seemed to show that the unknown final ridge was not impassable, though undoubtedly difficult.

Because of these several encouraging factors, hopes at Camp IV were dangerously high, and the feeling of taut nerves and suppressed wild convictions was immeasurably strengthened when, just before lunch, five tiny figures were seen making their way across the traverse at the top of the face of Lhotse. They could only be the summit team and their supporters from the South Col. They were moving fast, and in three hours they would be in the Cwm. The camp was now alive with stinging expectation.

ECSTATIC GREETINGS

"They must be getting to Camp VI," the watchers said. "They are hidden behind that serac with the vertical crack in it—you know the one." "Two of them are sitting down; now they are up again." "Only another hour to wait. What are the odds?" At last, soon after 1.30, just as the radio was announcing the reported failure of the assault, the party emerged above a rise in the ground 300 yards or so above the camp, their blue windproof jackets sharp and cheerful against the glistening snow. Hillary and Tensing were leading. All at once it was through the camp by the magic wireless of excitement that Everest had been climbed.

There was a sudden rush up the snow slope in the sunshine to meet the assault party. Hillary, looking extraordinarily fresh, raised his ice axe in greeting. Tensing slipped sideways in the snow and smiled, and in a trice they were surrounded. Hands were wrung ecstatically, photographs taken, there was the whirr of the cine-camera, and laughter interrupted

50lb. to 65lb. each and Sherpas 40lb. to 45lb. It was a difficult climb. For what seemed hours no possible site showed itself, and the ridge was covered with difficult snow. Oxygen began to run short, and Gregory and Ang Nima had to use some from the assault cylinders. Tensing remembered a possible tent site just below Lambert's Point. Successive ridges in the rock proved impracticable, but at last the place was found at an estimated 27,800ft. Camp VIII was established—incomparably the highest camp ever put up on a mountain—and Gregory and Lowe, their mission brilliantly accomplished, returned to the South Col.

Hillary and Tensing were left alone in their eyrie. They spent the next two hours pitching a tent on the snow-covered rock, but were handicapped by the lack of rock pitons. The tent platform was on two levels, with a step in the middle. Tensing sat in the lower half, Hillary in the top.

SARDINES AND BISCUITS

As darkness gathered they took a little sleeping oxygen, but throughout the night they sustained themselves with sardines and biscuits—"paradise" is Tensing's word for them. It was a calm night though a cold one—the temperature at one time was minus 27deg. Centigrade. At four in the morning they thawed their boots over the Primus stove, and half an hour later looked out of the tent. It was a glorious clear morning, calm and peaceful. They could see far down the valley to the monastery of Thyangboche, the expedition's original rear base, on its lofty wooded hill.

They were away from camp by six o'clock on May 29, and started up through deep, crusty, powdered snow towards the South Summit. There were no signs of tracks left by Bourdillon and Evans and they had to cut steps constantly, taking it in turns to break the trail. They kept going steadily, but Hillary describes this climb to the South Summit as the hardest part of the day. At nine they were on the South Summit, the little knoll of snow-capped rock about half a mile from the summit proper, and were seen by the exhilarated watchers on the South Col. They spent 10 minutes there, and took off their oxygen masks without any sudden reaction. Nevertheless their main worry was their shortage of oxygen supplies. To economise, when they moved off again they reduced their flow of oxygen from the normal four litres a minute to three.

They were now on the final ridge of Everest, never reached before. Hillary describes it as "technically good, interesting Alpine work." They moved along the west side of the ridge, characterized by difficult cornices, with occasional glimpses of this camp, an infinity below. They crossed safely the one major obstacle on the ridge, a difficult rock step almost vertical. At every moment they expected to see the summit, but time and again minor elevations deceived them. It was at 11.30 a.m., May 29, 1953, that they stepped at last on to the snow-covered final eminence of Everest.

Hillary describes this as "a symmetrical beautiful snow cone summit"—very different from the harsh rock ridge which is all that can be seen from below. The view was not spectacular. They were too high for good landscape, and all below looked flat and monotonous.

15 MINUTES ON SUMMIT

To the north the route to the summit on which pre-war Everest expeditions pinned their hopes looked in its upper reaches prohibitively steep. Tensing spent 15 minutes on the summit, eating mint cake and taking photographs, for which purpose Hillary removed his oxygen mask

DAV Deutscher Alpenverein

destruction.

Snowfalls caused the death of a Zürich skier who fell 1,200ft. on Monte Sissone, south of Val Bregaglia, in the Grisons. The cold spell and storms have necessitated the abandonment of the search for the two Zürich climbers Peter Petri and Arthur Beyeler, who are missing in the Chamonix region. Their skis were found at the foot of Whymper's couloir on the Aiguille Verte, and their bodies are assumed to have been buried under an avalanche which swept down the couloir.

THE HAGUE, June 2.—To-day was the coldest June day in Holland in more than 100 years, the Dutch Royal Meteorological Institute announced to-night. The highest temperature registered was 48deg. Fahrenheit.—*Reuter.*

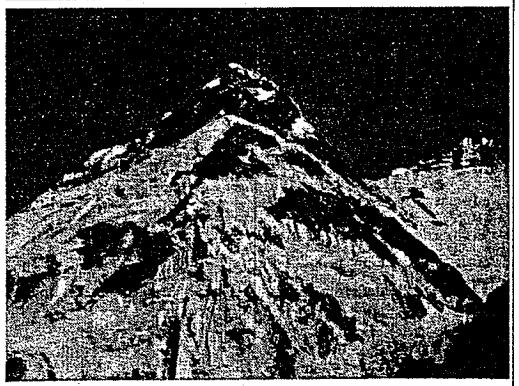
PERMANENT RECORD OF CORONATION

"THE TIMES" SUPPLEMENT

A Coronation Supplement of *The Times* is published to-day separately from the paper.

This is designed as a permanent record and presents a detailed and fully illustrated biography of the Queen from her birth to the Coronation. Drawn from the issues of *The Times* during those years, it describes not only the Queen's part in great events but also those everyday circumstances of her childhood and of more recent years which to-day stir affectionate memories. The supplement includes a description and illustrations of the Coronation ceremony and celebrations.

The Times Coronation Supplement, consists of 16 pages.



For the first time, each of the camps now being used by the Everest climbers is linked by Radio Telephone. This equipment was supplied by Pye Ltd. of Cambridge.

Telecommunications

CAMBRIDGE ENGLAND

PYE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD CAMBRIDGE

close, I know that my abiding memory of it will be, not only the solemnity and beauty of the ceremony, but the inspiration of your loyalty and affection."

Her Majesty said: When I spoke to you last, at Christmas, I asked you all, whatever your religion, to pray for me on the day of my Coronation—to pray that God would give me wisdom and strength to carry out the promises that I should then be making.

Throughout this memorable day I have been uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that your thoughts and prayers were with me. I have been aware all the time that my peoples, spread far and wide throughout every continent and ocean in the world, were united to support me in the task to which I have now been dedicated with such solemnity.

"HARD TO FIND WORDS"

Many thousands of you came to London from all parts of the Commonwealth and Empire to join in the ceremony, but I have been conscious, too, of the millions of others who have shared in it by means of wireless or television in their homes. All of you, near or far, have been united in one purpose. It is hard for me to find words in which to tell you of the strength which this knowledge has given me.

The ceremonies you have seen to-day are ancient, and some of their origins are veiled in the mists of the past. But their spirit and their meaning shine through the ages, never, perhaps, more brightly than now.

I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust.

The summit of Mount Everest may by now have been reached a second time. A message (given below) from our Special Correspondent with the British expedition confirms that Colonel Hunt, leader of the expedition, and Gregory were to accompany the first two successful climbers, Hillary and the Sherpa Tensing, as a support party to the South Col: and it is known that Colonel Hunt had every intention, if the weather and other factors were favourable, of scaling the summit himself with a companion member of the expedition.

On learning of the successful ascent of the mountain, the Queen sent the following message to the British Ambassador in Katmandu:—

Please convey to Colonel Hunt and all members of the British expedition my warmest congratulations on their great achievement in reaching the summit of Mount Everest.

ELIZABETH R.

MR. SHIPTON'S VIEWS

Mr. Eric Shipton, who led the 1951 expedition to the discovery of the southern access, and who has taken part in more Everest expeditions than any other man, expressed the view yesterday that the climb owed its success to two causes. First, the southern route provided relatively easy slopes on the last stages of the climb, instead of the overlapping slabs which made the going so difficult on the northern face; and, secondly, the development of portable oxygen apparatus of considerable capacity enabled the climbers to prevent high-altitude deterioration from a comparatively early point in the ascent.

The expedition, besides, had been blessed by good weather, relative absence of wind, and a late monsoon, he said. The presence of snow on the Lhotse face was probably of great benefit; had there been bare ice, as might have been feared, it would have taken far longer to get a route to the South Col established—at a far greater cost in reserves of energy. He and all who had been on Everest were particularly happy to know that the first party to reach the summit included a Sherpa; and Hillary, on his previous experience with Mr. Shipton, deserved to be first as much as anyone.

Many in addition to the Queen have sent messages to Colonel Hunt. The Duke of Edinburgh sent the following telegram: "Everybody is delighted with the wonderful news. Well done. Congratulations to you all—Philip."

A message from the Prime Minister runs: "My congratulations on this memorable British achievement, in which the whole world has been interested for so many years."

Mr. Head, Secretary of State for War, has written: "Congratulations to you and your splendid team. I am sure that the whole Army is very proud that a serving soldier was the leader of this great and successful attempt."

CULMINATION OF EFFORT

The following message was sent yesterday to Colonel Hunt by the president of the Royal Geographical Society, Mr. J. M. Wordie, and by Sir Edwin Herbert, president of the Alpine Club and chairman of the Himalayan committee sponsoring the expedition, and by Mr. Claude Elliot, vice-president of the Alpine Club:—

"On behalf of our respective councils, fellows, and members we send you heartiest congratulations on your expedition's magnificent achievement, and on the great feat of Hillary and Tensing in being the first to conquer Everest."

Messages have been received in *The Times* office from private persons. One, addressed to the Editor, reads: "Pray accept, Sir, our congratulations on, and our thanks for, your patient encouragement which has crowned the Everest expedition so gloriously and so opportunely." Another has been received from Germany.

N.Z. PRIDE IN HILLARY'S ACHIEVEMENT

OFFICIAL CONGRATULATIONS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WELLINGTON (N.Z.), JUNE 2

News of the conquest of Everest sent a wave a pride and rejoicing throughout New Zealand. The first intimation was broadcast at 10.15 a.m. in the form of a message from *The Times*. The news spread fast among crowds gathering in the main cities for the Coronation processions. Thousands assembled in front of the Parliament Buildings for the principal State ceremony cheered and waved when Mr. Holyoake, the acting Prime Minister, said at the end of his Coronation address: "I am able to announce a news flash just come through advising that the New Zealander, Hillary, has succeeded in conquering Everest. He has put the British race and New Zealand on top of the world. What a magnificent Coronation present for the Queen. How proud we all are that this gift comes from our loyal little New Zealand."

Mr. Holyoake has sent Hillary a message of "warmest congratulations from the Government and people of New Zealand."

Abominable Snowman, for among the habits of that intriguing creature appears to be a preference for imprinting his squashy footprints in the snows of autumn.

The Snowman may rest assured, however, that he is not forgotten; your Correspondent has looked eagerly for traces of him in every secluded gully and on every patch of clear snow, and has been disappointed that not so much as a toeprint has been produced in response to an offer of 100 rupees (about £5) made public among the local Sherpa population.

In a way this is odd; for there seems no doubt at all in the mind of any local inhabitant that the Abominable Snowman or *yeti*, exists and has his home in the mountains of the Everest region. The monks of Thyangboche monastery, some miles south of the mountain, tell almost casually of the occasion when a Snowman appeared on the heights above their buildings and was frightened away (as well he might be) by the concerted blowing and thumping of the monastic trumpets and drums.

They speak with the same realistic acceptance of what they call a recent incident in a region of southern Tibet, only a few miles away across the mountain frontier. There, it is said, Snowmen made an intolerable nuisance of themselves each night by undoing every job of work undertaken by the villagers—uprooting their potatoes, unroofing their houses, dirtying their washing. The villagers dealt simply and traditionally with them by placing large bowls of *chang* (home-brewed beer) in prominent places near their houses. Next night the Snowmen, intoxicated as apparently only *yetis* can be, were easily slaughtered.

FAMILIAR FOLK-STORY

This familiar folk-story, with the Abominable Snowman playing the part of the Welsh goblin, has a curious and unexpected sequel. According to the monks of Thyangboche the local Tibetan authorities had qualms of conscience about the rather tainted methods used to defeat the *yetis*. To-day, they insist, in all seriousness, there exists in that district of Tibet a local administrative order forbidding the ill-treatment of Abominable Snowmen.

In 1951 Sen Tensing gave Eric Shipton a circumstantial eye-witness account of the appearance of a *yeti* at Thyangboche; and he is still ready to talk about the creature. He says that Snowmen, though of moderate height, have the strength of four men; one village in the Sherpa district of Khumbu, he claims, has been repeatedly annoyed by their predilection for removing the roofs of houses (Sherpa roofs are not very firmly attached to their walls, and indeed in some hill villages are merely held on by heavy stones).

Another Sherpa porter claims to have met a *yeti* face to face in the Khumbu valley, the glacier valley running down from Mount Everest towards Namche Bazar. From his account of the incident it seems likely that he did in fact see some sort of creature; but he has been asked to tell the tale so often that the details have acquired an unnatural clarity, and include that familiar goblinesque feature, feet placed back to front.

SHERPAS IN AGREEMENT

All this, it may be said, is no more than fable and legend of a kind common among peasant peoples the world over; but there is a disconcerting measure of agreement among Sherpas on the general characteristics of the *yeti*. He is said to stand about 5ft. 6in. high and to be covered, including his face, with brownish hair. He walks sometimes on his hind legs, sometimes on all fours.

His cries are of two kinds—a sort of wail, and a bark; sounds heard recently by Colonel Hunt, leader of this expedition, and some companions, and taken by them to be the cat-calls of Sherpas, were confidently interpreted by their porters as the calls of the Abominable Snowman. The principal food of the *yeti*, so it is said, is the small tailless Tibetan rat, not unlike a hamster, which is common among these mountains. (Other rather less convincing accounts say he eats yaks and humans.)

The Sherpas appear to think of the *yeti* as some kind of wild man rather than any species of animal. Most of the evidence, however—and among this expedition it is generally assumed that the *yeti* exists in some form or another—seems to point to an ape; and it is perhaps not without significance that the mountains of this range are known locally as the Mahalangur—the Great Langur Range. Langur monkeys do live in the lower hills of the Himalaya, though not generally above the snowline, as the *yeti* apparently does; it has been suggested that the Abominable Snowmen are elderly and unproductive members of Langur tribes, expelled into the high mountains to spend a mysterious dotage among the snows.

FOOTPRINT RIDDLE

But the spoor of the Snowman is unlike any known animal's, and those who have seen it are not inclined to accept the theory that each footprint is a double imprint—fore and hind foot superimposed—of the langur monkey: a theory that has found a certain amount of favour among remote London savants. It is equally difficult for anyone who has visited this part of Nepal or southern Tibet to swallow the ingenious suggestion, recently put forward in the *Glasgow Herald*, that the Snowman's footprints are no more than some kind of meteorological phenomenon. Intelligent opinion here is so entirely convinced—indeed, so matter-of-fact on the subject—that the *yeti* is a creature of flesh and blood.

—its members are fewer than that on Everest, even though swollen to nearly twice its normal size by the presence of those concerned in sending on the news from Everest—was present at a Coronation service conducted by a Church of Scotland minister from Calcutta in a room of the British Ambassador's residence on Sunday night. The service was also attended by many members of the slightly more numerous American community.

Last evening the Ambassador gave a reception, to which the King of Nepal and members of his family were invited, as well as the Indian Ambassador, and prominent Nepalese and Indians in the capital.

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A report by Our Special Correspondent on an Everest legend is on page 5.

NEPALESE TO REWARD TENSING

TRIBUTE FROM W. BENGAL

DARJEELING, June 3.—The wife of Tensing, the Sherpa who reached the summit of Everest with the British expedition, received congratulations at her home here to-day by Dr. H. C. Mookerji, the Governor of West Bengal. In a message, he said: "Permit me, Madam, to congratulate you on the glorious achievement of your husband, Tensing Norkay, who has set up a mountaineering record by being the first man to set foot on the summit of Mount Everest, which was hitherto considered unconquerable. As head of the State of which is an inhabitant, I cannot but exult in his glory, which will rebound to the credit of all our countrymen in the eyes of the whole world."—*Reuter.*

DELHI, June 3.—The Nepalese Government is to reward Tensing "in a manner befitting this great deed." The Nepalese Ambassador in Delhi, Lieutenant-General Bijaya Shumshere Jung Bahadur, said here to-night.—*Reuter.*

MESSAGE FROM AMERICA

The Royal Geographical Society has received the following message from Dr. Joy M. T. Kimble, director of the American Geographical Society: "The president and council and staff of the American Geographical Society send their most hearty congratulations to the organizers and members of the Everest expedition on this most memorable of days. The conquest of Everest is yours by right and is acclaimed by all American explorers and mountaineers. It also adds lustre to the crown of the second Elizabethan era. Long live the R.G.S.!"

The Ministry of Defence yesterday sent this message to Colonel Hunt: "The United Kingdom Chiefs of Staff wish to convey their warmest congratulations to you and to your whole team on a truly magnificent achievement. They are particularly proud that such a tremendous enterprise should have been led by a serving officer. Well done, and a safe return to you all."

BRIEF MOSCOW REPORT

Moscow, June 3.—*Red Star*, the newspaper of the Russian Ministry of Defence, to-day carried this report sent by Tass from London: "According to a communication transmitted from the camp of the English expedition on Everest, on May 29 a member of the English expedition, a New Zealander, Hillary, and a local guide, Tensing, ascended to the summit of Everest. Ten previous attempts to climb Everest ended in failure."

The report was published without comment at the bottom of the foreign news page. *Red Star* was the only Moscow paper to-day to publish anything about the success of the expedition.—*Reuter.*

EQUIPMENT FOR EVEREST

BRITISH INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION

The tenacity and determination of the British climbers in their conquest of Mount Everest was supported magnificently by many sections of British industry which supplied special equipment for the ascent, much of it manufactured after careful proving and experiment in conditions similar to those encountered or expected at high altitude. More than 100 British firms and about 10 Continental companies supplied items of gear for the team, ranging from oxygen and radio equipment to ink powder used as a snow dye.

Colonel John Hunt, leader of the expedition, has already described in *The Times* much of the new equipment which was taken on the assault, but more reference is made here to the special development of certain items, notably the windproof material.

above the camp, their blue windproof jackets sharp and cheerful against the glistening snow. Hillary and Tensing were leading. All at once it was through the camp by the magic wireless of excitement that Everest had been climbed.

There was a sudden rush up the snow slope in the sunshine to meet the assault party. Hillary, looking extraordinarily fresh, raised his ice axe in greeting, Tensing slipped sideways in the snow and smiled, and in a trice they were surrounded. Hands were wrung ecstatically, photographs taken, there was the whirr of the cine-camera, and laughter interrupted congratulations.

Hillary and Tensing, by now old climbing colleagues, posed with arms interlocked, Hillary's face aglow but controlled, Tensing's split with a brilliant smile of pleasure. As the group moved down the hill into the camp a band of Sherpas came diffidently forward to pay tribute to the greatest climber of them all. Like a modest monarch, Tensing received their greetings. Some bent their bodies forward, their hands clasped as in prayer. Some shook hands lightly and delicately, the fingers scarcely touching. One veteran, his pigtail flowing, bowed to touch Tensing's hand with his forehead.

"We so far forgot ourselves," wrote an English climber of an earlier generation, "as to shake hands on the summit." This expedition so far forgot itself that everywhere one fancied that sunglasses were steaming embarrassingly: and suddenly, as if spontaneously, each climber, Hillary and Tensing the first of them, turned to Colonel Hunt, reflective in the background, and shook his hand in recognition of the truth that in a team venture of great happiness and success his has been the friendly hand which inexorably as it seems has led the expedition to success.

In the pyramid tent, over an omelet served on an aluminium plate, Hillary told the story of the final climb. The tent was uncomfortably crowded. Newspapers were all over the floor; and in one cofner the discredited radio lay scornfully tilted on a cardboard box. The climbers lounged around on packing-cases, groundsheets, and bedding rolls. From time to time the flushed face of an excited Sherpa would appear through the tent door with a word of delight.

HILLARY'S ACCOUNT

Hillary's account began with the events of May 28, when he, Tensing, and the support party—Gregory, Lowe, and a tough young Sherpa, Ang Nima—left South Col to establish Camp VIII on the ridge below the South Summit. Colonel Hunt had already dumped most of the necessary stores at about 27,500ft. during the first "reconnaissance-assault." Now the camp was to be established at a point as high as possible so that the next day Hillary and Tensing, relying in large measure on their limited oxygen, would not have so far to climb. It had been planned that two Sherpas would accompany the party, but one was sick and as a result the amount of oxygen carried had to be reduced.

The party left Camp VII on the South Col about seven, and set off up the backbreaking steepness of the ridge to find a suitable camp site for climbers carrying beautiful snow cone summit"—very different from the harsh rock ridge which is all that can be seen from below. The view was not spectacular. They were too high for good landscape, and all below looked flat and monotonous.

15 MINUTES ON SUMMIT

To the north the route to the summit on which pre-war Everest expeditions pinned their hopes looked in its upper reaches prohibitively steep. Tensing spent 15 minutes on the summit, eating mint cake and taking photographs, for which purpose Hillary removed his oxygen mask without ill effects. Tensing produced a string of miscellaneous flags and held them high, while Hillary photographed them. They included the United Nations and Nepal flags and the Union Jack. Tensing, who is a devout Buddhist, also laid on the ground in offering some sweets, bars of chocolate, and packets of biscuits.

At 11.45 they left the summit on the return climb, keeping a careful check on the oxygen gauges. Because of the shortage of oxygen supplies they dare not stay at the ridge camp, and they moved straight down towards the south Col, the going being reasonably good. Above the South Col they met Lowe and Noyce. Noyce was the leader of a rescue or reinforcement party which had come up from Camp IV; it was Noyce's second climb to the South Col. By 4.30 all four were back at Camp VII, and yesterday morning, May 30, they made their way down the face of Lhotse to the Cwm.

Hillary and Tensing seem in astonishingly good form, with none of the desperate fatigue that has overcome Everest summit parties in the past. Nor have they any other than modest pride in their achievement, and more still in the wonderful success of the expedition as a whole. The heroic quality is undoubtedly in them, as it is in most of this fine team, but yesterday afternoon, after the first flood of emotion, it was agreeably shielded by the aura of not very good omelettes (eaten indigestibly fast).

ONE LAST HAZARD

For within a day or two the expedition will be down at the base camp at Khumbu Glacier on its way home. One obstacle remains before it—the icefall has now changed beyond recognition since the centre of operations moved into the Western Cwm. Three weeks ago it had a certain state and nasty grandeur; now, under the pressure of the thaw, it resembles nothing so much as a gigantic squashed meringue. It is as if the mountain, thwarted of its isolation, has prepared one last hazard for the climbers, and there is certainly no member of the expedition who will not feel a deep relief when this danger is passed.

Setting foot on the base camp again will be a symbol, undramatic perhaps but vivid, that implacable Everest's sting has been drawn at last. It has been drawn, if one may descend for a moment into the personal, by as good a company of adventurers under as skilful a captain as your Correspondent can ever expect to meet.

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EVEREST CLIMBERS AT CALCUTTA

NOISY WELCOME FOR TENSING

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CALCUTTA, JUNE 24

Four members of the victorious British Mount Everest expedition arrived at Dumdum, the airport for Calcutta, to-day in two separate aircraft. Tensing came first in a private Dakota placed at his disposal by King Tribuvahn of Nepal.

He was followed later in the day by Colonel Hunt, Hillary, and Gregory, travelling by the normal commercial airliner. All are to-night the guests of the Governor of West Bengal, Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, in the fine old mansion which was once the home of the Viceroys.

Calcutta is in a state of excitement to-day, partly because of the death in custody announced yesterday of Dr. S. P. Mookerjee, partly because of the advent of Tensing, "conqueror of Everest." There was thus a faint note of hysteria underlying the riotous welcome that greeted the royal aircraft at the airport.

WE CLIMBED "ALMOST TOGETHER"

TENSING'S APPEAL

CALCUTTA, June 24.—Tensing told a Press conference here that he and his "lifelong companion" Hillary had issued a signed statement at Katmandu saying they climbed to the summit "almost together," and appealed to every one not to keep the controversy burning. "I desire an end to this controversy," he said.

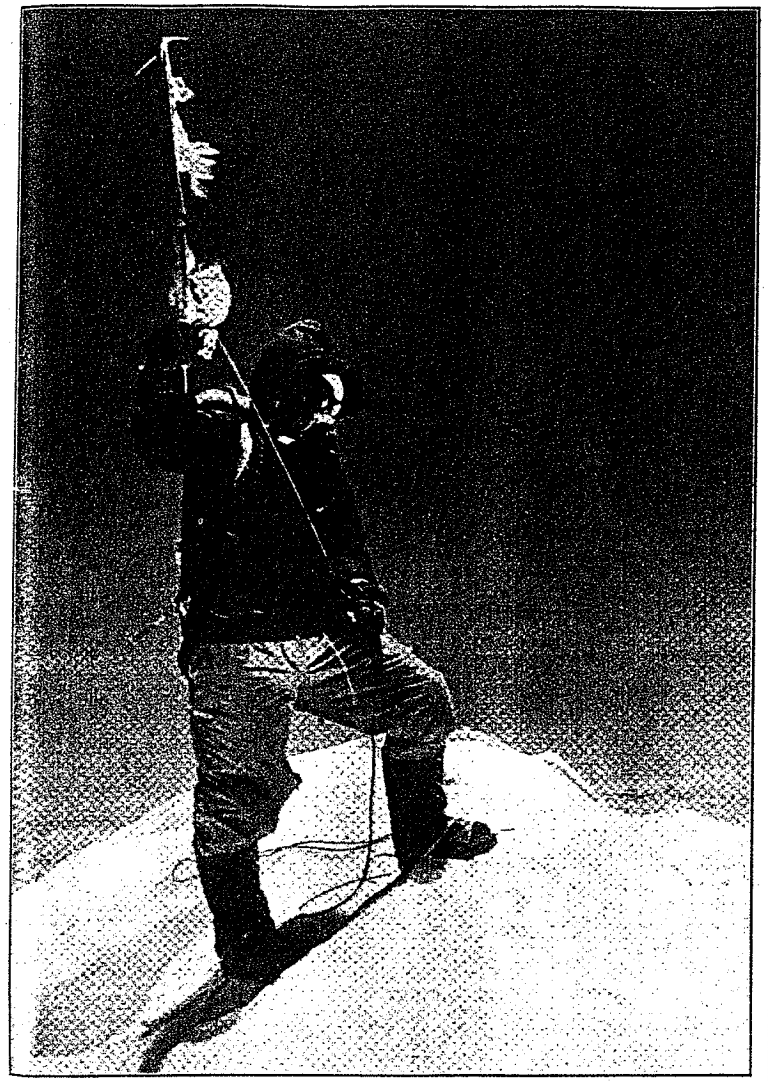
Only two or three people could stand on top of the world, he said, and 20ft. or 30ft. below the top "there is enough flat space for two people to sleep." Describing other features of the summit, he said "there is snow on the north side, rock on the south and east, and snowy rock on the west."

Replying to another question, "How did you feel reaching the top of the world?" Tensing said: "Certainly we were overjoyed. We took minutes to believe our success. We looked round to get a view of the horizon from the top, but soon fear overtook us—should we be able to get down and see our fellows again? We then cheered ourselves and rallied our strength of mind and nerves."

Tensing said it was incorrect to say he had rejected the invitation to go to England.

DAV Deutscher Alpenverein

ON THE SUMMIT OF EVEREST: THE GREAT MOMENT



A dramatic moment on the top of the world. A photograph taken by Mr. E. P. Hillary on the summit of Everest, 29,002ft., of his fellow climber Sherpa Tensing Bhutia, as he held aloft a string of flags including the Union Jack and the flags of Nepal, India, and the United Nations. It was taken at about half-past eleven on the morning of May 29. Fifteen minutes were spent on the peak, which Mr. Hillary described as a " symmetrical, beautiful snow cone summit."

A view from the snow-covered top of Everest. On his return Mr. Hillary, who took the photograph, said that the view was not spectacular, for they were too high for good landscapes. All below looked flat and monotonous. The picture below shows Hillary and an unidentified member of the support party about to leave the South Col to establish Camp VIII on the ridge below the South Summit.

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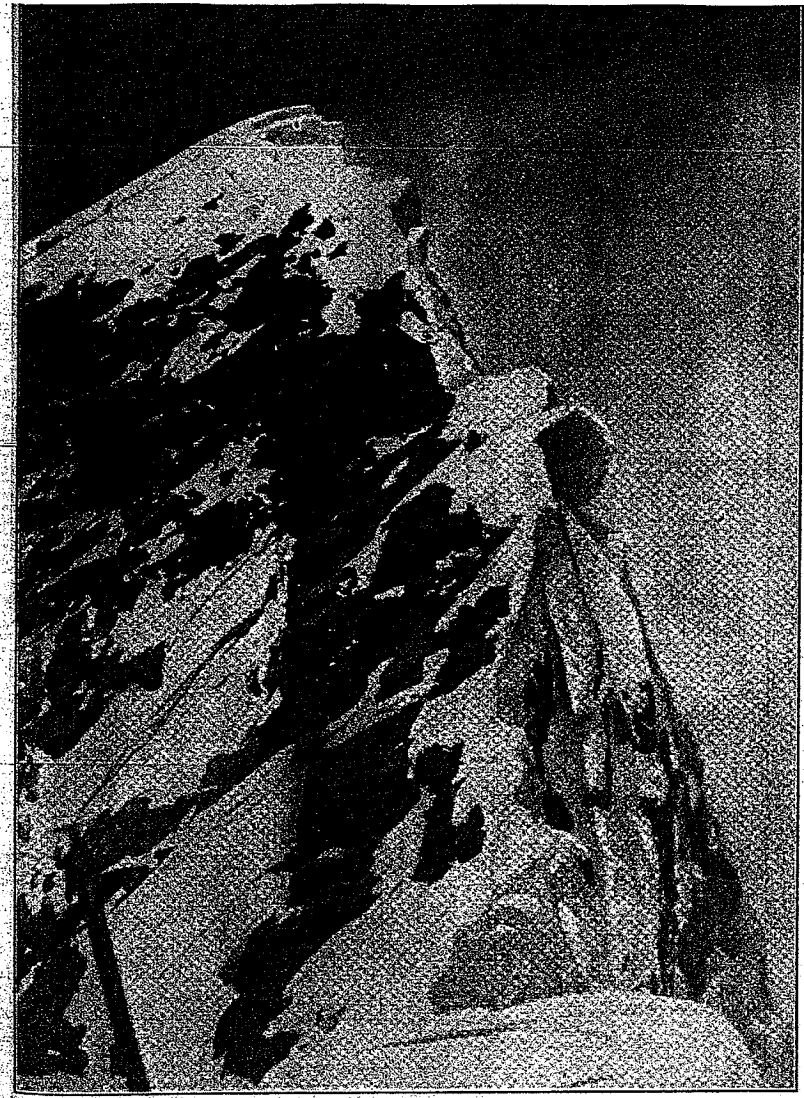

The final ridge of Everest seen from the South Summit, about 28,000ft, (right foreground), reached by Bourdillon and Evans during the first assault on the summit. Hillary and Tensing moved along the west side of the ridge to the summit. Right : A picture taken on the route from the South Col during the first attempt on the summit.

Hillary (second from left) and Tensing (roped, walking behind on the right) with Colonel Hunt (left) and other members of the expedition, who met them on their return from the summit. Left : Hillary and Tensing on their return.

BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS: TIMES/GEOGRAPHICAL OFFER

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ascent we have teamed up with *Geographical* magazine to offer Times readers an exclusive subscription offer. For only £27.30 you will receive 12 issues of *Geographical* (worth £39), a companion travel guide worth £14.99 and a free copy of the *Geographical* 180-page Everest commemorative issue. Published since 1935, *Geographical* magazine is packed with more than 100 pages of fine photography and award-winning journalism every month. As the magazine of the Royal Geographical Society, each issue includes cultural stories, travel features and destination guides, news and reports from expeditions, environmental analysis and wildlife. For this offer, call 01795 414881 or log on to www.geographical.co.uk and click on The Times Special Reader Offer.

There are tickets available for the two Everest shows celebrating the climb at the Odeon, Leicester Square, London, tomorrow. Many survivors of the climb will be there. Tickets for the matinée performance are £20 each for Times readers (reduced from £25). Call 020-7591 3034 today or buy them tomorrow at the theatre by 12.30pm. VIP tickets are available at £100 each for the Royal Gala performance at 5.40pm. Call 020-7591 3034 tomorrow. For news of the Royal Geographical Society's plans to unlock its archives contact www.rgs.org for a fascinating insight into the world of Everest and exploration.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT THE TIMES

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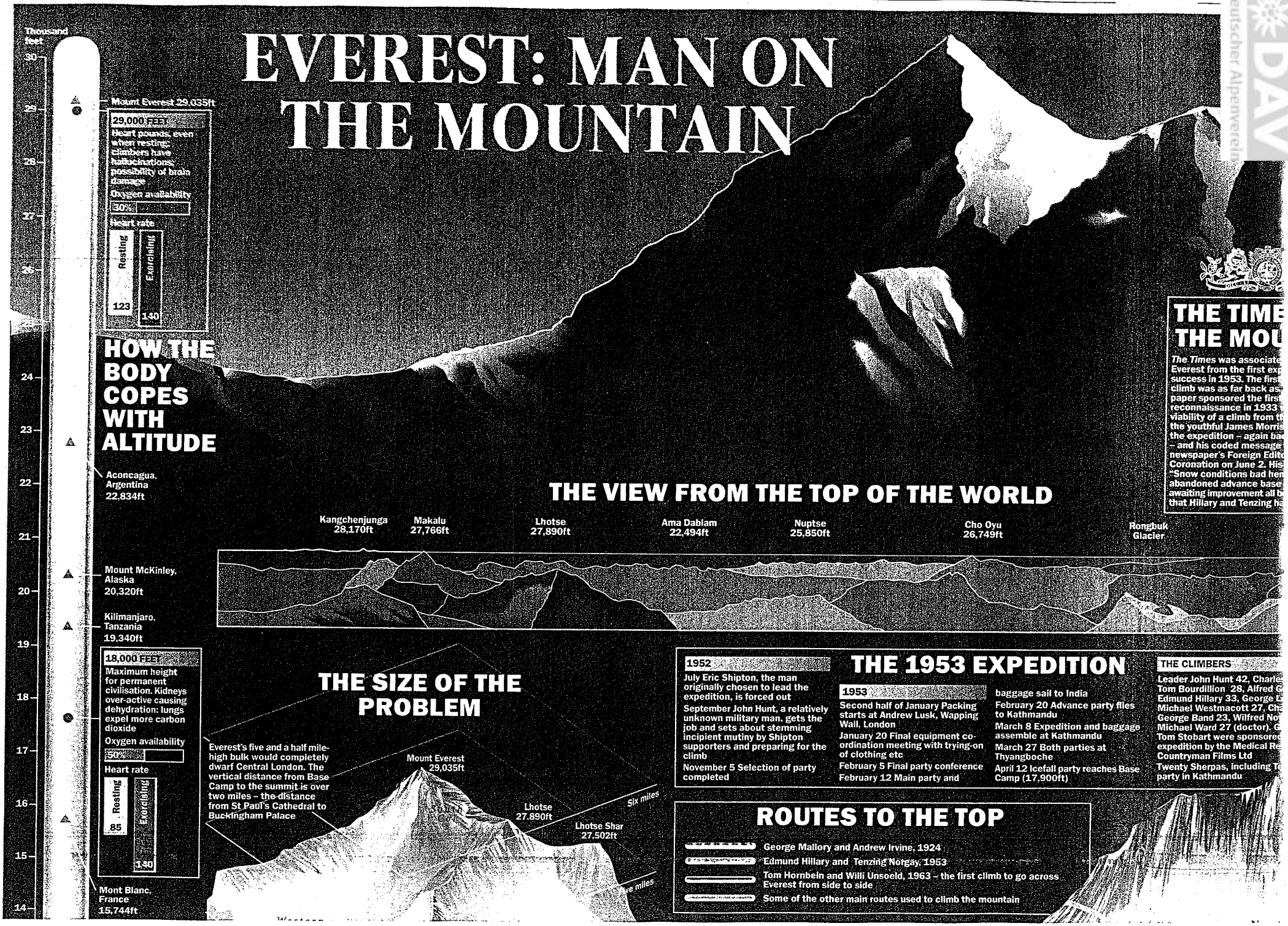
EVEREST: MAN ON THE MOUNTAIN



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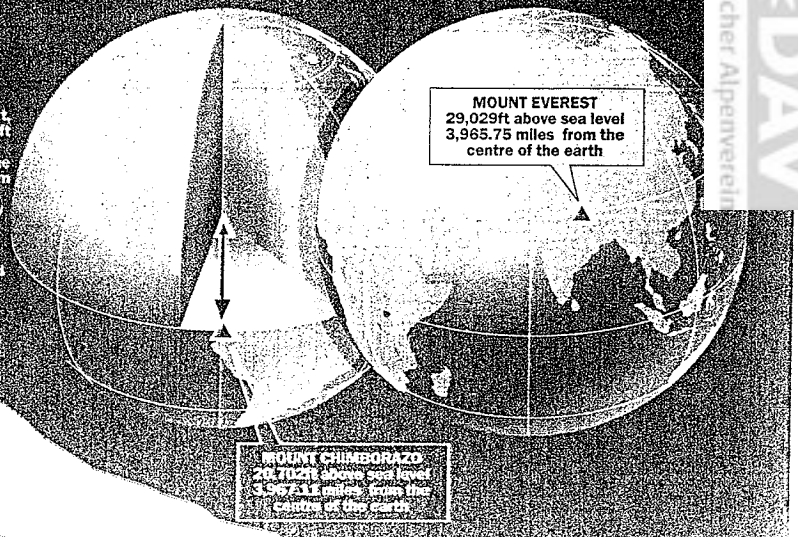
THE TIMES AND THE MOUNTAIN

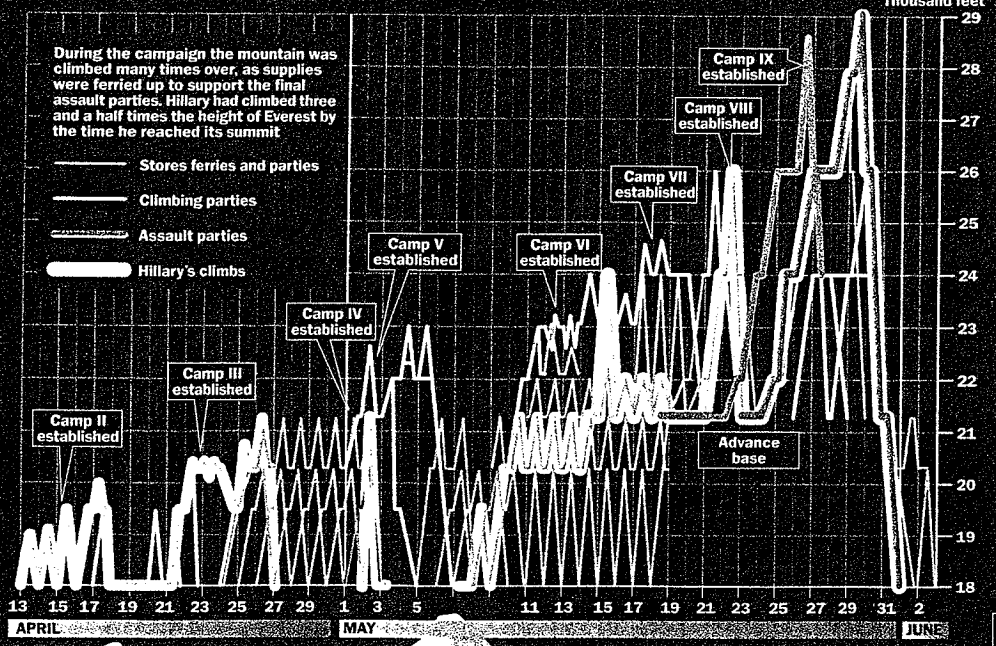
The Times was associated with climbing Everest from the first expeditions until the success in 1953. The first report of a planned climb was as far back as June 1920. The paper sponsored the first aerial reconnaissance in 1933 which proved the viability of a climb from the south. In 1953 the youthful James Morris was sent to cover the expedition – again backed by *The Times* – and his coded message was sent to the newspaper's Foreign Editor in time for the Coronation on June 2. His message read: "Snow conditions bad hence expedition abandoned advance base on May 29th awaiting improvement all being well." It meant that Hillary and Tenzing had reached the top

HOW HIGH?

Bradford Washburn, overseeing a National Geographic Society project, measured Mount Everest at 29,035ft in 1999 but its "official" height remains 29,029ft. Although it is the world's highest peak measured from sea level, the top of Mount Chimborazo, in Ecuador, is actually the point furthest from the Earth's centre, due to the fact that centrifugal force makes the planet bulge slightly around the Equator



UPS AND DOWNS OF THE CLIMB



ORLD

Dyu
9ft

Rongbuk Glacier

Tibetan plateau

XPEDITION

baggage sail to India
February 20 Advance party flies to Kathmandu
March 8 Expedition and baggage assemble at Kathmandu
March 27 Both parties at Thyangboche
April 12 Icefall party reaches Base Camp (17,900ft)

THE CLIMBERS

Leader John Hunt 42, Charles Evans 33, Tom Bourdillion 28, Alfred Gregory 39, Edmund Hillary 33, George Lowe 28, Michael Westmacott 27, Charles Wylie 32, George Band 23, Wilfred Noyce 34, Michael Ward 27 (doctor), Griffith Pugh and Tom Stobart were sponsored to join the expedition by the Medical Research Council and Countryman Films Ltd
Twenty Sherpas, including Tenzing, joined the party in Kathmandu

P

imb to go across
ountain

Bei
Peak

EVEREST
Summit

Northeast Ridge

North Face

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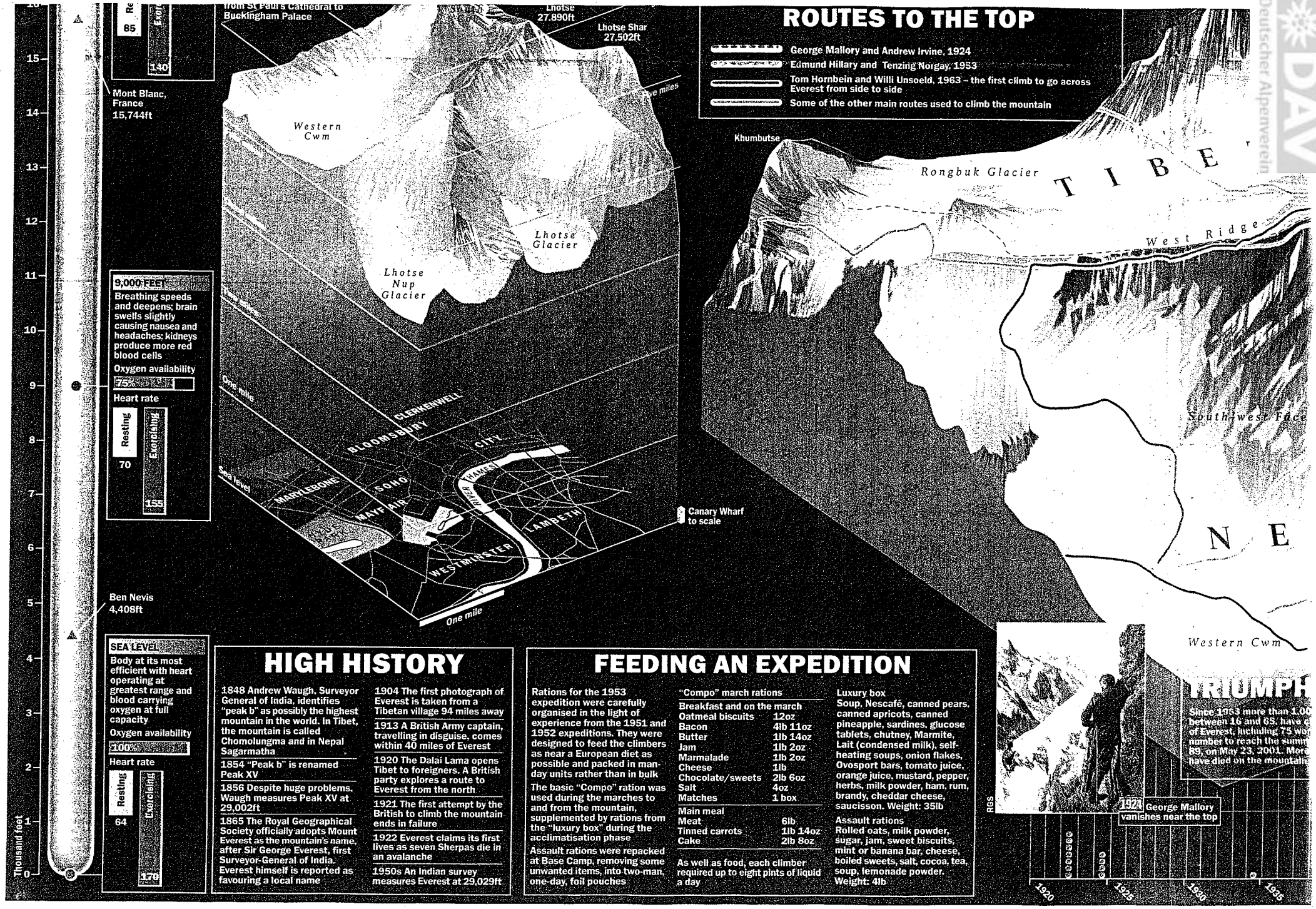

HIGH HISTORY

1848 Andrew Waugh, Surveyor General of India, identifies "peak b" as possibly the highest mountain in the world. In Tibet, the mountain is called Chomolungma and in Nepal Sagarmatha

1854 "Peak b" is renamed Peak XV

1856 Despite huge problems, Waugh measures Peak XV at 29,002ft

1865 The Royal Geographical Society officially adopts Mount Everest as the mountain's name, after Sir George Everest, first Surveyor-General of India. Everest himself is reported as favouring a local name

1904 The first photograph of Everest is taken from a Tibetan village 94 miles away

1913 A British Army captain, travelling in disguise, comes within 40 miles of Everest

1920 The Dalai Lama opens Tibet to foreigners. A British party explores a route to Everest from the north

1921 The first attempt by the British to climb the mountain ends in failure

1922 Everest claims its first lives as seven Sherpas die in an avalanche

1950s An Indian survey measures Everest at 29,029ft

FEEDING AN EXPEDITION

Rations for the 1953 expedition were carefully organised in the light of experience from the 1951 and 1952 expeditions. They were designed to feed the climbers as near a European diet as possible and packed in man-day units rather than in bulk

The basic "Compo" ration was used during the marches to and from the mountain, supplemented by rations from the "luxury box" during the acclimatisation phase

Assault rations were repacked at Base Camp, removing some unwanted items, into two-man, one-day, foil pouches

"Compo" march rations

Breakfast and on the march	
Oatmeal biscuits	12oz
Bacon	4lb 11oz
Butter	1lb 14oz
Jam	1lb 2oz
Marmalade	1lb 2oz
Cheese	1lb
Chocolate/sweets	2lb 6oz
Salt	4oz
Matches	1 box
Main meal	
Meat	6lb
Tinned carrots	1lb 14oz
Cake	2lb 8oz

As well as food, each climber required up to eight pints of liquid a day

Luxury box
Soup, Nescafé, canned pears, canned apricots, canned pineapple, sardines, glucose tablets, chutney, Marmite, Lait (condensed milk), self-heating soups, onion flakes, Ovosport bars, tomato juice, orange juice, mustard, pepper, herbs, milk powder, ham, rum, brandy, cheddar cheese, saucisson. Weight: 35lb

Assault rations
Rolled oats, milk powder, sugar, jam, sweet biscuits, mint or banana bar, cheese, boiled sweets, salt, cocoa, tea, soup, lemonade powder. Weight: 4lb

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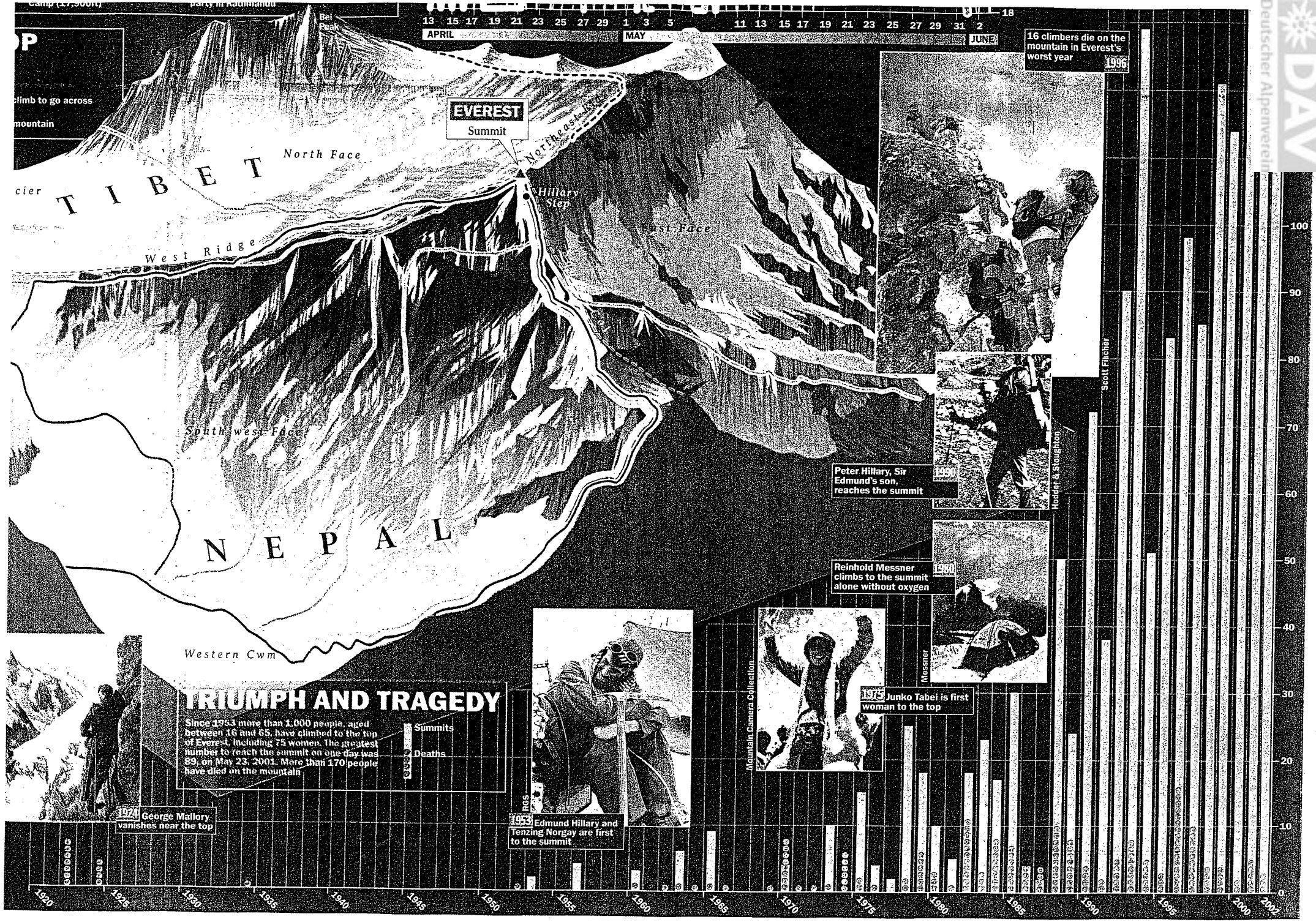
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
EVEREST
Summit
Northeast Ridge
Hillary Step
East Face
North Face
TIBET
West Ridge
Southwest Face
NEPAL
Western Cwm
16 climbers die on the mountain in Everest's worst year
1996
Scott Fischer
Peter Hillary, Sir Edmund's son, reaches the summit
1990
Hodder & Stoughton
Reinhold Messner climbs to the summit alone without oxygen
1980
Messner
1975 Junko Tabei is first woman to the top
Mountain Camera Collection
1953 Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay are first to the summit
RGS
1924 George Mallory vanishes near the top
TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY
Since 1953 more than 1,000 people, aged between 16 and 65, have climbed to the top of Everest, including 75 women. The greatest number to reach the summit on one day was 89, on May 23, 2001. More than 170 people have died on the mountain
Summits
Deaths

THE TIMES

EVEREST CLIMBED - SOUVENIR EDITION

THE TIMES

TUESDAY JUNE 2 1953

THOUSANDS SPEND NIGHT ON CORONATION ROUTE

PLACES TAKEN UP 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE

ABBEY CEREMONY TO-DAY

DRIVE IN STATE COACH

RECEPTION BY THE QUEEN

DELEGATIONS AT THE PALACE

DR. ADENAUER FOR ROME TALKS

CONCERN OVER TREATIES

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

CONTROL OF U.S. FOREIGN AID

STATE DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION

EVEREST CONQUERED

SUMMIT REACHED BY TEAM FROM BRITISH EXPEDITION

REVIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS

EXPECTED AGENDA FOR PRIME MINISTERS

UNDISMAYED BY THE RAIN

TRAFFIC ADOPTED BY GREAT CROWDS

RIGHTS TAKEN TO THE ABBEY

EGYPTIAN TAKES ON CANAL CONC

PRESIDENT OF FREEDOM ROUTE

PALACE INVESTITURE

OBITUARY

MAU MAU ACTIVITY INCREASING

FOREST GANG ROUTED

CRICKETERS KILLED BY LIGHTNING

PATERNOSTER STRUCK

STABBED GIRL FOUND DEAD IN THEATRE

COMPANION MISSING

LONG RECORD OF ATTEMPTS

MOUNTAINEERS' ROLL OF HONOUR

VOLUNTARY CLIMBER

EVEREST CONQUERED

Don't miss your free eight-page souvenir supplement, featuring original reports, articles and pictures from 1953

Free inside *The Times* on Wednesday

Tickets are available for the matinee of a show that celebrates the ascent of Everest at the Odeon Leicester Square, London, on May 29. Organised by the Mount Everest Foundation it will include appearances by surviving climbers and excerpts from the film *The Conquest of Everest*. Special offer for *Times* readers: £20 each. Contact 020 7591 3034 or everest@rgs.org

For a special Everest edition of *Geographical* magazine and a special *Times* reader subscription offer, contact: www.geographical.co.uk

For news of the Royal Geographical Society's plans to unlock its archives contact: www.rgs.org

WHAT'S IMPORTANT

THE TIMES

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