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# Everest from the North

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'We are going to sail to the top this time and God with us – or stamp to the top with our teeth in the wind.'

*George Leigh Mallory  
Letter to Tom Longstaff, 1924*



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CHARLES WARREN

## Everest 1935: The Forgotten Adventure

(Plate 5)

As the only surviving member of Eric Shipton's reconnaissance expedition to Mount Everest in 1935, I have allowed myself to be persuaded by Michael Ward that I ought to put on record my memories of that expedition, which never got the publicity it deserved. It seemed at the outset to have a not unreasonable chance of success on the mountain, but my diary notes show that the monsoon season was unsuitable and that we suffered from many altitude-related health problems. Moreover, without the help of oxygen we probably had little real prospect of pulling off 'the mountaineering coup of all time'. However, we carried out valuable survey work and made first ascents of Kharta Phu, Kharta Changri and many other peaks above 20,000ft.

I think it was early in 1935 that Shipton asked me if I would join his proposed reconnaissance to Everest that year. He explained that we would not be expected to climb the mountain itself because it would be too late in the season to do that. The purposes of the expedition would be threefold: firstly, to examine snow conditions during the monsoon period; secondly, to carry out a professional survey of the environs of Everest under Michael Spender; and thirdly, to test potential newcomers for an all-out attempt to climb the mountain in 1936. Having already proved, in 1933, that I could go high in the Himalaya, I was invited, I liked to think, primarily as a mountaineer rather than as a doctor.

In those days we travelled out to India by sea and it took us a month to get there, passing through Egypt where some of us climbed the Great Pyramid. At Darjeeling we recruited porters at the Planters' Club and it was here that the great Tenzing was engaged to come with us. At the age of 21 he was our youngest Sherpa. Our party then passed through Kalimpong and the lovely foothills to Gangtok, where we were hospitably received by the Maharaja of Sikkim, before making our way up the beautiful Teesta valley to the Kongra La pass. Instead of going into Tibet by the traditional route via the Chumbi valley in Bhutan, we went straight up through Sikkim – a better and more direct way. However, once over the Kongra La pass into Tibet, Eric decided not to continue north to rejoin the old route at Kampa Zong but to turn west to the village of Sar, with a view to acclimatising while exploring and climbing in the Nyonno Ri range.

My diary takes up the story; I like the diary to speak for itself because it reveals exactly what I did and felt at the time.



5. Kharta Changri, 7056m. The first ascent was made by Charles Warren and Edwin Kempson during the 1935 Everest Reconnaissance Expedition. (*Charles Warren*) (p3)

### 9th June

Langmu. Up and away by 7.30 am. The village managed to provide one pony – a lazy little mare – which [Dan] Bryant and I shared. The transport went well and we reached Sar by 11.30 am and found the others all packing up in preparation for early start in the morning. Far too much of a rush. I have just had time to collect together some dressings and medicines for the mountain parties.

Tilman, [Edwin] Kempson and I are to rush at Nyonno Ri, and hope to get up it. I could not help thinking that inspection from a distance would have been a wise preliminary measure and certainly not a waste of time.

Later in the afternoon I went with Karma Paul [interpreter] to visit a man who was reported to be very ill up in one of the houses in the village. We walked right round the base of Sar, which is indeed a striking place, before we reached the house of the sick man whom we found squatting in the usual dark hovel. He was very breathless and it only took a short time to observe that he was suffering from heart failure. I gave what advice I could and his son returned with us to the camp for the medicine with which we were to treat the poor man's condition so inadequately.

Sar consists of two portions: the ruins of the old fort walls, so solid when compared to the loosely flung together houses which form the newer village. The old part was apparently destroyed over a century ago by the Nepalese. The old ruins rise magnificently from the rocks on which they are built and are so perfectly suited to the starkness of their surroundings.

### 10th June

Up early. I kept on being held up in my arrangements by the advent of various sick from the village. There was a man who was reputed to have malaria. I also saw a small girl with phlebitis.

Away at last at 8 am. Struck a path which conducted one gently up the hillside towards the snout of a glacier flowing east off the Nyonno Ri group of peaks, and here in a little green dell at the very snout of the glacier was a pretty gumpa. We flung [ourselves] down on the lovely green turf and soon the men had brought us chang from the monastery. I cannot imagine a lovelier spot for a camp.

During the last half hour of the advance I was most definitely affected by the altitude: very breathless on the slightest slope and that feeling of loss of power in the limbs just as if one had got out of a sick-bed after being confined there by illness for a long time. At 2.30 pm we pitched camp beside a small lake in the moraine-covered glacier at an altitude of about 18,000'; a most attractive site with the highest peak of Nyonno Ri standing guard over us threateningly.

### 11th June

Woke up at 5 am. Red sky with long cloudy streamers coming from the south. A little later some sleet. Got going at 7 am and advanced up the

moraine. Soon came to a glacier lake into which an ice fall broke off abruptly. It was up the line of this glacier and ice fall that we hoped to go. The upper part of the route to my mind looked impracticable.

Party broke up. Tilman and Angharkay went to make a way through the ice fall, Edwin and I set off to climb a peak of about 19,700', above camp, with a view to getting a better idea of the lie of the land. This proved infinitely worthwhile. On the summit we spent an uncomfortable time taking angles and photographs with the theodolite. An exasperating game waiting for the mountain to come clear of mist. Reached the summit at 1.30 pm.

Quickly made camp and found that Tilman had crossed the lower ice fall but found the upper one impracticable.

### 12th June

Set out to reach the glacier coming from between Eric [Shipton]'s peak and Nyonno Ri which we had seen yesterday from our observation peak. First part of walk up some easy old moraine heaps. Perfect morning and, as we mounted, all the peaks of the main range stood out in the clear air. A few plants between the rocks made life more tolerable during the last and more arduous part of the march: a lovely little magenta primula and a tiny blue star of a flower attracted my attention.

At 1.30 pm we were up on the glacier and the men had set to work to hack out a platform for the tents on the moraine. Tilman very weak and feeling unhappy. Very tired myself but not feeling ill, just weak in the leg muscles. Retired to sleep for a couple of hours and was much refreshed. Pretty certain we can reach the col tomorrow but very uncertain about the possibility of climbing the mountain.

### 13th June

Started at 8 am for the col. Very slow, and everyone feeling the effects of the altitude. Snow on glacier particularly unpleasant: little pinnacles 1 ft high on a base of dry glacier. At the start of the final slope to the col Tilman had to go back. We advanced slowly, the snow conditions becoming more and more exhausting. Eventually I went right through into a crevasse which, after I had extricated myself, proved on inspection to extend almost indefinitely in both directions. We halted, exhausted.

It was decided that a course close to the rocks would be the best one to take, but we all felt much too exhausted to tackle it today. On the way back to our camp we climbed up on to a small moraine peninsula on the left bank of the glacier and set up the theodolite, taking a round of angles on the distant giants which were clearly visible in a cloudless sky.

### 14th June

Slept well last night. Started at 7.30 and moved much more easily and rapidly towards the col. Tilman slightly weak, but beyond being a little

short-winded on the uphill bits I was feeling very fit and going well, quite different to yesterday.

We made for the snow where it abuts against the rocks and worked a way up this until we could get onto rocks and climb 50' to the col. The snow was considerably crevassed at this place, but the crevasses were easy to see and to avoid falling into although on the descent I did go into one up to the waist.

The col on its westerly slopes consisted of a precipitous gully so that a descent from it on that side was impossible. We had to content ourselves with a return whence we had come. Before leaving, the theodolite was set up and a round of angles and photographs was taken.

Camp was regained at noon and Angharkay was despatched to send up the other porters to carry down our camp. We ourselves set off an hour later and after walking well past the lake at the foot of the glacier began to fear that we had missed the porters' camp. However, we eventually recognised Angharkay's footprints and continued our way over the next rise, from which we at once spotted their tent in a little mossy hollow in the moraine heaps.

Lying full length in the afternoon sun on the grass of this sheltered spot will remain longer in my memory as one of life's more enjoyable moments than all the excitement of climbing to the col.

### **15th June**

Uncertain of our objective on setting out, but making for south Sar glacier. After examining the route from a distance we decided to make a short day of it. Found a delightful hollow with a lake in the moraine and settled down to camp here at 10 am.

### **16th June**

Carried camp up a stony gully and along the ridge until a suitable site was found some 1 hour short of the col. The men levelled out two platforms for the tents, and we are very comfortable here. Rest of day spent lounging about camp. Tomorrow we hope to climb the south peak of Nyanno Ri. From here it looks absurdly near. It should go if we can get over a somewhat forbidding rock step in the lower section.

### **17th June**

Slept fairly well. Got started at 7 am. Tilman led up the glacier and took us straight to the col. Surprising views down the other side which is quite precipitous. Did not waste time but moved on up from here over a snowy hump in the ridge towards the rocky obstacle. The rocks were slabby but we mounted by a gully which was full of loose stuff with comparative ease. In attempting to make an exit onto the ridge, Tilman upset some large blocks which descended upon the party. We all fled for shelter and fortunately nobody was struck, but it was a near shave. After this I led through

to the right and came out onto the ridge. Above the rock section we tried the snow on the crest but it soon became icy and so we took to the rocks just below the ridge.

I had to cut 2 dozen steps down to the rocks in fairly hard ice and was completely exhausted, with cramplike pain in the arm at the end of it. Tilman took the lead and we mounted by the rocks for as long as possible but eventually had to come out onto the snow crest and cut many steps in steep hard snow. Above this it was a question of mixed rock and ice work, usually pretty steep and trying.

At 12 noon we gained the prominent point on one peak, about 21,600', which almost seems to constitute a separate mountain: the true summit was some 200' above and a considerable distance away from us, yet with a difficult section of ridge connecting us with it. We all decided that any attempt to reach it would so exhaust the party that the day might end in disaster. Our mid-summit was a somewhat narrow snow pyramid. We sat for nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour enjoying the tremendous scenery on all sides of us. It was perfectly warm in the sun and one might almost have been on an Alpine peak.

On the ascent, for one moment the clouds to the west parted and we got our first glimpse of Everest which looked quite unimposing at 30 miles distance. The descent was accomplished without event and we reached camp again at 3 pm.

### 18th June

Went up to the col again this morning and spent an hour up there taking angles on peaks and panoramic photographs. The weather is definitely more unsettled: there were heavy cumulus clouds coming up from the south early and by the time we had regained camp at 10 am it was snowing. We found the rest of the troops there with tea ready prepared for us.

### 19th June

Got started by 6 am. The idea was to continue survey work, but the mists were on the hills early today and it was snowing gently most of the time; in fact it looks as though the monsoon has arrived.

Returned in the direction of Sar by emerging from our last valley and crossing towards the mouth of its northerly neighbour where we found the camp which the men had moved down for us at about 1.30. Pretty tired after a fairly strenuous walk with much up and down hill work in it.

[There is a gap here in my diary while we were travelling between Sar and Rongbuk and not actually mountaineering.]

### 8th July

Last night we camped  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour beyond Camp 2 on moraine in the midst of East Rongbuk ice pinnacles. There was a lovely view of Kellas peak as



one looked down the trough in the glacier between the ice pinnacles. We got going at about 9 o'clock and, for the first few hours of the stage, I was able to walk in my shirt-sleeves so warm was the sun.

Towards 2 pm a few monsoon clouds began to pile up towards the north and behind the mountains to the south, but the weather remained good throughout the day. We spent some little time clambering over and between the ice pinnacles in order to make our way to the great moraine trough in the centre of the glacier where the route lies. At one point we were stopped by a little glacier lake. Shipton and Tilman tried to circumvent this obstacle and in the process Bill went right into the icy water up to his neck. He was fished out, having lost his ice axe, and made a rapid change into some dry clothes. The axe was lost for good and all in spite of prolonged fishing operations. Eventually another route, involving a little descent of an ice wall, down which the loads had to be lowered, was found which brought us into the trough.

The trough is quite remarkable. It is a strip of moraine which runs for several miles between an avenue of ice pinnacles some 25'-30' high. It provided an easy highway up the glacier. As we advanced, the trough steepened and became shallower and more narrow. Eventually we climbed out onto the smooth surface of the upper part of the glacier where the going was good. There was a thin layer of firm snow, not more than 2-3 inches deep, on what was to all intents and purposes dry glacier. Here Eric raced ahead; it was easy to see that he was the man who had been high before. It seemed a long way round the corner to Camp 3, but the going was good and eventually we reached the moraine heap which forms the camp site. Bill, Edwin and Edmund [Wigram] were pretty tired on arrival, particularly Edmund whose frightful paroxysmal cough (almost like whooping cough) was a continual reproach to the doctor as he came up the glacier.

### 9th July

Did not sleep well until the early morning but was quite warm. Decided to move camp some 1 hour further up the glacier. We set off about 9.30 am. There was some monsoon cloud blowing up from the south, but at first I walked in my shirt-sleeves. I was a little way ahead of the others, and Eric had just sat down on a stone to rest. I saw a boot lying in the snow and a little ahead was a green mass which I took to be a tent left as a dump by the last expedition. I shouted to Eric as I advanced – hello! here is a perfectly good pair of boots and a tent; must be a dump. Then on approaching the green heap I got a bit of a shock to see that it was the body of a man lying huddled in the snow. At once the thought flashed into my mind – Maurice Wilson. I shouted to Eric – I say it's this fellow Wilson. Quite soon the rest of the party came up with us and we had to decide what to do.

The body was lying on its left side with the knees drawn up in an attitude of flexion. The first boot I had found some 10 yards down the slope, the second was lying near the man's feet. He was wearing a mauve pullover,

grey flannel trousers with woollen vest and pants underneath. There was a stone near his left hand to which a guyline of a tent was attached. The torn remains of the tent was pulled out of the snow some few feet down the slope from him.

We wondered whether to tell the porters, but by this time they had come up to us and had seen what we had discovered. For the most part they took the matter very casually, except Jigmy who was sitting on one side during the unpleasant operation.

Before disturbing the body we searched in the snow for his notebook and other belongings. Eventually a lightweight rucksack was found along with a small Union Jack on which were signed the names of his girl friends, and most important of all his diary – an extraordinary documentary revelation of monomania and determination of purpose. It ended several days prior to his death with a statement that he was off to the North Col for the second time.

From his position I think that he must have died in his sleep in his tent of exhaustion and exposure, the tent having blown away at a later date. There are three curious points in connection with the tragedy. 1. No sleeping bag was to be found. 2. He was within 200 yards of the 1933 Everest food dump which he knew about since he had already made use of it. 3. He was within hailing distance of Camp 3 where Tewang was supposed to have been waiting for him.

After some discussion it was decided to bury him in a crevasse: the moraine was changing too rapidly for a surface burial there. So we wrapped him in his tent, and after cutting away the lip of a suitable crevasse, slid the body into the depths where it immediately disappeared from sight. We all raised our hats at the time and I think that everyone was rather upset over the business. I thought that I had grown immune to the sight of the dead, but somehow or other the circumstances and the fact that he was after all doing almost the same as ourselves seemed to bring his tragedy a little too near home.

We built a cairn at the spot where the body was found and that evening we read through his diary to try and find out some of the circumstances of his death.

The old food dump was discovered under some rocks some 200 yards further on and here we pitched our camp and revelled for half a day in the delights of jams, cakes, soups and such delicacies as Carlsbad plums from Fortnum and Mason until I for one felt almost sick at the sight of such abundance of food.

### 10th July

Went up to North Col and found a good route in steep but excellent snow conditions. Started to snow halfway up so porters became fed up and refused to go on higher; they just dumped their loads and laughed at us. There was no alternative but to go down. Eric justifiably annoyed at the attitude

of the men: wondering whether to send them all down to Rongbuk. After a talk, however, the men were very repentant and said that they were willing to carry in the morning.

### 11th July

Again up to North Col. There has been a good deal of snow during the night which has obliterated our tracks. Eric led the men up to the crevasse which we reached yesterday and here they dumped the second relay of loads. I brought up the rear very slowly with Bill, Edmund and Edwin. Bill was completely done in and it is quite obvious that he will not get to the col just yet. Edmond's cough is frightful. Very hot and frightful glare which damages the face and lips greatly. Was in my shirt-sleeves most of the time. Began to cloud up on North Col towards midday. Back by 2 pm.

After some discussion it is decided that Eric, Edwin and self establish North Col camp with 10 porters tomorrow. Other two advised to stay at 3 and acclimatize better. Bill very annoyed because he is left with only 2 porters: Jigmy is sick and Nima has a headache. But still we must have the men up on North Col, and they would be much better resting for 2-3 days.

Jigmy obviously no good up at 3; has bronchitis and is feeling altitude very much; have advised him to go down to Rongbuk.

### 12th July

Set out to establish North Col. Snow still good and got half the loads up by mid-day. Only one steep bit where 2-3 steps had to be cut. Eric led up here. I brought up the second rope. Fine until about 3 pm when North Col in cloud. Half the food still to be fetched up from lower snow slopes.

### 13th July

Went down to the dump to shift up rest of the food with the fit porters. Upper part of route a little steep, but snow on the whole holding well. Personally slept well last night with the aid of Allonal. We are managing to get down nearly 5 oz of pemmican at night, but only with a struggle.

### 14th July

Off day on North Col. Warm sun up till about 11 am. Then cloud. Nothing to do but lie in sleeping-bag. Discussed plans a bit and argued about possibilities. Idea is for Eric and Edwin to make a 3-camp attack on the summit.

### 15th July

Much snow fall in night. Eric woke me at midnight to point out drift coming in at our door. Snow in boots and on sleeping-bags. The blizzard worried us considerably. Eric very cold all night which disturbed me too. Sun got onto our tents at 8 am and the snow drift began to melt off.

Everest dead white. Avalanches coming off the N face all night. Set off for a short ascent towards 5. Snow was pretty good but there was some new stuff. Edwin started to get some pains in the chest; he is looking very blue. I was going fairly well, though my toes were getting cold. N peak in cloud most of the time. We only went about 400' up the slope to see what the snow was like, then returned.

### 16th July

Heavy snow fall during the night. Lay awake listening to stuff coming off N face of mountain. We had decided to make a push for 5 in the morning – Edwin or I to stay up there with Eric according to how we were going – but on looking out of our tents the mountain was so obviously out of condition for several days that we decided to evacuate N col, leaving food and 2 tents up there. We were all rather worried as to what the slopes on the col would be like.

The views from the col this morning were the best we have had. Everything in white snow mantle with lovely fleecy clouds piling up behind almost every peak: Pumori to the west, Kharta Phu to the east, and Everest to the south.

Eventually set off about 9 o'clock in two ropes. Eric and Edwin, Edwin leading, with 5 porters went down first. I followed with a second string of 5 men. Angtharkay next to me. The first party had only gone a few yards down the slope when they got to a place where the surface snow had avalanched; they worked down this cleared surface but soon had to traverse beneath a plaque of unavalanched snow which was at least 1 yard deep. The snow on which they were traversing was good, but the whole party was exposed to the serious danger of the snow slope above them avalanching. I shouted to Edwin to know if I should take my men back, and without hesitation he said yes. However we waited on a safe surface, which had come off from top to bottom, until the others had crossed beneath the *mauvais pas* to a place of safety. Then we ran the gauntlet to reach the safety of an overhung crevasse. The whole descent was the most dangerous and unjustifiable thing that we could have done considering there was still 10 days' food up on the col and that we could have waited there for conditions to improve.

[Edwin Kempson wrote in his diary: 'I had been last on the lower rope and Charles was first on the second rope. I had entreated him to return and he most strongly agreed, but moral persuasion I suppose led him to come down all the same – and we reached the bottom safely. We had a colossal argument about the safety of the up and down route. Eric stoutly maintained that the former was the more dangerous.' Walt Unsworth commented in *Everest*: 'Shipton's argument was that if the place had already avalanched it was unlikely to do so again for some time – a nicety of judgement when twelve men's lives are at stake.']

Lower down the slopes two of my men deliberately unroped and started to run down on their own; the others tried to do a sitting glissade with distinct danger to the party below. I did my best to pull the party together, but I had not enough Hindustani to tick them off properly.

After glissading the last slope singly we reached our No 3 at noon, where we were let loose into the good things of the 1933 dump. Glorious to sleep on rock again.

### 17th July

Started at about 9 o'clock for the glacier bay west of Kharta Phu, taking with us 6 porters, all of whom are to return to No 3 after carrying up our equipment to the foot of the mountain. By 2 pm we had put up our tent in the little coomb which lies beneath the col to its north. The journey up the lateral glacier, after the crossing of the E.R.G. [East Rongbuk Glacier], was simplified by another typical trough on its true left bank. In the latter part of the journey there was a slightly troublesome schrund to cross. We are hoping to get started on the mountain at 6 am tomorrow.

### 18th July

Got away at 6 am after rather a miserable breakfast of tea, biscuits and jam. Very cold start.

At first mounted rapidly in good hard snow crust towards the col, but after ½ hours' going the slope steepened up and turned to ice. Eric spent nearly an hour cutting steps for about 100' onto the lower lip of a small schrund while Edwin and I stood and shivered in our steps below him. I remember watching the sunlight creeping up the slopes away on our left and wishing that it would soon hit us. Above this icy section the slope again became crusted and less steep. Here we came up into the sunshine and were able to stamp back some feeling into our numbed toes on a small outcrop of rocks whilst we admired the view to our east. Already there was cloud filling the valley, but several great peaks topped the white foam. The Kellas rock peak stood out fearfully pointed and forbidding in appearance. As there was still a chance of taking some angles and photographs from the summit we continued to shoulder our loads; easy scrambling, at first, but began getting very cold in the feet. Eric had to stop to take off his boots. Personally going well. Final section of ridge longer than it looked, and very narrow. A short section of rotten rock followed by a narrow snow crest.

Sat on summit for about ½ hour; not a bit cold. Much cloud about, but the mists varied frequently so we got splendid views of Everest and Makalu from time to time.

Down to the col again within an hour, then quickly down the snow slopes of the morning. At the ice steps went down one at a time held from above on the end of 100' rope, then untied and glissaded.

**20th July**

Off day at 2. Towards evening Edmund came complaining of toothache and a swelling in the mouth. It turned out to be an abscess arising from a dead tooth which I pulled for him under local anaesthesia.

**21st July**

Two parties of us start off for a camp near the snout of the little glacier which comes off the Kellas peak in a southerly direction. I am with Edwin and [Michael] Spender with the survey party. The others are out to climb the Kellas peak, all except Dan who was left to convalesce at 2.

We went over into the main trough which was followed down until we were opposite the first great tributary which comes into E.R.G. on its true right. Here we struck out of the trough towards the glacier right bank and had an amusing time picking a route through the ice towers and in crossing a glacier stream. Our camp is beside a delightful little lake at the snout of the above mentioned glacier. The Kellas peak party have camped near the screes 500' higher up.

**22nd July**

Away at 6 am with Spender to help him establish his stations, then on to climb 22,000er on ridge immediately to the east of Kellas. Saw the other party reach the col between us and Kellas, and a little later on saw them put up their tent near some rocks. Reached our summit about 11 am. Much more airy than anticipated. Shouted across to the others in their tent and had a reply; then descended to Spender in ½ hour. After this a glorious descent down scree slopes and the rest of the day spent in comfort at our lakeside camp ...

**24th July**

Up and away, with Da Kitar and Tenzing B. [Bhotia, later known as Norgay] carrying the theodolite and a little food, to climb the 22,000er above our camp and Spender's station.

I set a slanting course up steep but well frozen snow slopes so as to gain S ridge at a point just short of a conspicuous tower. Working in the shade until we came up on to the ridge, where we got the most perfect views we have yet had. The cloud bank was still low round the waists of the mountains so that we had clear views of Nyonno Ri, Makalu, and all the giant peaks as they rose from the foam. Kharta Changri, our next door neighbour, looked very fine, and we worked out a possible route for an attack on her in a few days' time.

¾ hour put us on the summit, a lovely little rocky table on which one could lie and sleep in the warm sun. We were surprisingly aloft on this unmarked summit, in fact we seemed to be not far short of our neighbour to the west and of Kellas peak.

Edwin set up the theodolite and took a round of photographs, whilst I traversed over to a lower summit and took stereos. We lay in the sun until the peaks clouded up and then quickly returned to camp.

### 25th July

We set off at about 11 am with Tenzing and Da Kitar. Very hot on glacier: I was going badly and feeling nauseated. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour from camp vomited some pemmican which I had recently taken.

We pushed on round the corner into the next coomb where we decided to put a camp on some moraine in the middle of the glacier, lower than intended, and to have the camp moved up next day.

### 26th July

Our two men appeared at 8 am and we struck camp and advanced up the glacier, finding an easy route through the ice cliffs, until we had reached the flat shelf below the depression in the ridge and here we pitched camp. Tenzing and another are to come and fetch us down at 10 am in the morning. Glorious views of Everest and Makalu from the camp.

Food is not too plentiful, but we had pemmican for the evening meal to fall back upon.

### 27th July

Got the primus going at 5 am and got started at 6 am for Kharta Changri. Easy route up hard snow to the col, but feet got very cold. Above the col snow bad, but soon reached lowermost rocks and here halted. I took off my boots in order to thaw my toes; only half successful. Moved on again up ridge, snow and rock alternating. Preferred the rock where possible on account of cold feet and bad snow: we were kicking in up to our knees. Last two rises in ridge very steep snow and extremely exhausting. However, reached the summit, a sharp snow cone to which 3 ridges converge, at about 9.30 am. Poor view on account of mist. SE ridge from here seems to be impracticable.

The ascent of this fine looking mountain turned out to be remarkably free from technical difficulties.

### *Envoi:*

This surely must have been one of the most *enjoyable* of all the expeditions to Mount Everest. It was small and achieved the objectives set for it at little cost. Not the least satisfying aspect of it was helping Michael Spender with his survey work, because this inevitably involved exploration and the ascent of unclimbed peaks. A new map of the Tibetan environs of Mount Everest was the outcome.

Charles Warren  
14 July 1994