

# LONDON GREETS CONQUERORS OF EVEREST

## Col. Hunt's Tribute to Shipton Survey

### FILM RELEASE IN AUTUMN

#### DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

A large crowd cheered the 13 members of the victorious British Everest expedition when they arrived at London Airport yesterday [pictures—P5].

Each member was clapped as he made his way down the gangway from the British Overseas Airways plane which had brought them from Zurich, where Swiss alpinists had given them a tumultuous welcome.

The first to appear was Col. John Hunt, 42, leader of the expedition, in a light grey suit. He waved an ice-axe with a small Union Jack tied to it which had gone 28,000ft up the mountain. He said later that a film of the expedition would be released for public showing in the autumn.

Edmund Hillary, 34, in sports jacket and grey trousers, and Tensing, 39, the Sherpa, in bush jacket, followed their leader. These, the two men who reached the summit, received the loudest acclamation. There was also a warm greeting for Mrs. Tensing and her two daughters, who were presented with bouquets.

#### TENSING'S GREETING Bewildered by Reception

Tensing, smiling broadly, gave the Indian sign of greeting, placing his hands together and raising them above his head. He appeared somewhat bewildered by his reception.

Among those waiting to greet the expedition were Mr. Head, Secretary for War, Capt. Crookshank, Lord Privy Seal, Sir Edwin Herbert, chairman of the Joint Himalayan Committee, Sir Frederick Doidge, High Commissioner for New Zealand, and Mr. Eric Shipton, leader of the reconnaissance party of the southern approach in 1951.

Mr. Shipton presented the expedition with a basket of bananas. About 100 relatives and friends waited in an enclosure about 50 yards away.

Mr. Head said the expedition might have wondered why a War Secretary should greet them. "The Prime Minister thought it fitting that I should come as a tribute to your great leader, who is a regular soldier and serving at this time."

#### "SPARK OF FIRE" Ordinary People Inspired

"However prosaic the lives of ordinary people may be, there is in all of us some spark of that fire that drove you up Everest, and in thousands of hearts that spark became warmer and more inspired by your achievement."

At Press conferences at the airport and the headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society, Col. Hunt said that the basic reason for the expedition's success was the

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## EVEREST TEAM

(Continued from P. 1, Col. 8)  
accumulation of experience and information provided by their illustrious predecessors, more recently the Shipton reconnaissance.

Planning also had played a big part. "We had a paper plan in London which, day-for-day and detail-for-detail, worked out and by which we got to the top."

Asked who reached the summit first, Col. Hunt said: "To anyone who climbs mountains, the question could not matter less. You get to the top of a difficult mountain only as a result of climbing with other companions. It is the work of a team."

"This particular trouble was started well over our heads. As to which of two fine chaps got there first, they got there together. They got there on the rope, each having a job to do, and from their understanding, each taking his turn and alternating the jobs."

They might try to tackle the third highest mountain in the world, Kanchenjunga (28,170ft), South-Eastern Himalaya, which had not been attempted for more than 22 years.

At Camp 8, 26,000 feet up Everest, on the South Col, they were visited by a mountain chough, a member of the crow family, which was breathing satisfactorily — without oxygen!

There would be a series of public lectures by members of the expedition, probably starting about the middle of September. Dr. R. C. Evans, a member of the party, had stayed behind to explore the country, and was making a map of the territory.

#### CRUX OF THE CLIMB Conquest of Lhotse Glacier

Questioned again, Col. Hunt said that the crux of the climb was the conquest of the Lhotse Glacier by Mr. W. G. Lowe, 28, a New Zealand schoolmaster, and Mr. C. W. F. Noyce, an English schoolmaster. Lowe had made a remarkable contribution by staying up there for nine days cutting and recutting steps to give the climbers their access to the summit.

The oxygen was their most valuable piece of equipment. "It requires improvements if it is to be used in the future, but it is far better equipment than we have had before, and it was its great success which got us to the top. The possibility of making the climb without oxygen was extremely small."

"Everybody who went up the South Col lost up to 10lb. On the whole, they did not lose as much weight as expected."

#### LAST 400FT Snow Was Unsafe

Mr. Hillary said that the main worry nearing the summit was the supply of oxygen and whether they would have enough to get down. The last 400 feet were the most dangerous, because of the unsafe condition of the snow.

"In normal Alpine conditions one would not have gone up, but seeing that it was Everest, Tensing and I decided to push on. We would kick steps into the thin crust of snow and every now and then it would give way and we would slide down half a dozen steps."

"You can move about on top reasonably freely and we sat down and ate some food." Apart from the offerings to Buddha left by Tensing, they left nothing else there.

#### "ICE GAVE WAY" Tensing Pulled Hillary Up

Asked about the report that Tensing had saved his life, Mr. Hillary said: "We were nearly at the top, and had been climbing together. I was leading down the ice wall when a large piece of ice gave way and there was a crevice."

"Tensing had the rope tied to me and he pulled me up. I managed to get up by the rope."

Tensing faced his large audience without the slightest trace of uneasiness and was not put off by the barrage of flash bulbs.

At Zurich Tensing accepted an invitation by the Swiss Alpine Foundation to spend a holiday in Switzerland after his visit to London.

# TENSING ARRIVES TODAY

# EVEREST, CONQUERORS

## D.I.C. Reception On Monday

Tensing Norkay, conqueror of Everest, is scheduled to arrive at Safdarjung airport from Calcutta at 5 p.m. on Saturday. He is being accompanied by his wife and two daughters.

A hero's welcome awaits Tensing and during his short stay in the capital both the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Delhi Municipal Committee have arranged civic reception in his honour.

The Delhi Municipal Committee's reception will be held on Monday at 8 a.m. at Gandhi Grounds, where a dais is being constructed to seat 2,000 guests, including Ministers, foreign diplomat citizens. Seating arrangements are also being made for the general public.

A welcome address will be read by Mr. Sham Nath, President, Delhi Municipal Committee. Tensing and Sir Edmund Hillary will be presented silver replicas of Mount Everest, Col. Sir John Hunt and other members of the party will each be presented a silver replica of the Asoka Pillar. Tensing will also be presented a purse for Rs. 1,100.

At the New Delhi Municipal Committee's reception, tentatively scheduled to be held at the National Sports Stadium on Wednesday at 9 a.m., Tensing will be presented with a purse of Rs. 5,000.



Tensing, Sir John Hunt and Sir Edmund Hillary, with Tensing's two daughters, on arrival at Safdarjung airport, New Delhi, on Sunday.—Statesman.

## TENZING, HILLARY AND HUNT IN DELHI WARM RECEPTION AT AIRPORT

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Admiring crowds burst through Safdarjung airport barriers and a police cordon to welcome Sir John Hunt, Tensing and Sir Edmund Hillary on their arrival in New Delhi on Sunday.

The climbers were engulfed in the crowd before they could leave the runway. It took 15 minutes for Sir John and Lady Hunt, Sir Edmund Hillary and Gregory to get into the U.K. High Commissioner's car and drive away.

Tensing found it even more difficult to make his way to the Nepal Ambassador's car. He was cheered all the way to the airport entrance.

A second Nepal Embassy car had to be sent rushing back to pick up one of Tensing's two daughters who had been left behind in the crowd. She was rescued by a police officer and led into the terminal building.

In spite of the heat and the pressing crowd, everyone was in good humour. Sir John posed repeatedly for the battery of Press photographers and movie cameramen. He held the Indian flag tied to an iceaxe.

The acting U.K. High Commissioner, Mr. Middleton, and the Nepalese Ambassador, General Bijaya Shamsheer Jang Bahadur, were present at the airport. The Government of India was represented by the Chief of Protocol, Mr. L. S. Chandra.

The Bharat Airways Dakota

bringing the climbers from Calcutta arrived 45 minutes late. The airport was crowded more than an hour in advance.

As it landed, spectators waved and shouted. Cheers went up as Sir Edmund Hillary was recognized at the door, followed by Tensing who acknowledged the greeting with folded hands.

Sir John Hunt stood at the door with the Indian flag tied to an iceaxe and all three posed for the assembled cameramen. Lady Hunt, Mrs. Tensing and her two daughters came in the same aircraft.

Sir John and Lady Hunt and Sir Edmund Hillary are staying with the U.K. High Commissioner and Tensing and his family with the Nepalese Ambassador.

## Triumph Of Humanity Over Nature —TENZING

Tensing said in New Delhi on Sunday that the conquest of Everest represented the triumph of humanity over nature.

Speaking to correspondents at the Nepalese Embassy, Tensing pleaded that the controversy over his nationality and as to who reached the summit of the mountain first should be laid to rest.

He said he was born in Nepal where his mother and sister were now living and he owned some land there too. He had, however, settled at Darjeeling where he had married. He had affection for both countries and wanted to honour both Nepal and India; that was why he carried the Indian tricolour flag also to the top of Everest.

Asked which factor contributed most to the success of this expedition, Tensing said that weather was the most important factor.

At the top of Everest three peaks merged—the north, west and south-west. On the northern side, there was a very deep descent. The southern slope, along which he and Sir Edmund Hillary had approached the summit, was not so steep.

Questioned if it was possible to reach the summit without the aid of oxygen, Tensing said that it was very difficult for anyone, even with extraordinary powers of resistance, to go above 28,300 ft without the aid of oxygen.

He discounted the possibility of human survival at such heights.

When a correspondent sought his view on the popular belief among Hindus that Rishis and Yogis were supposed to live in these regions, Tensing said that only supernatural beings could live there.

He could not stay on the top of Everest for more than 10 minutes. It was lucky that there had been no gale or strong breeze; otherwise he would have been swept off.

Tensing expressed his gratitude to the citizens of Delhi for the warm reception they accorded him in the afternoon.—PTI

WHICH OTHER SOUND NEWS REELS COVERED STORY

.. .. SILENT .. ..

M

1.30PM.

ADD: HILLARY.

A CROWD OF ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED WITH ABOUT 100 RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EVEREST EXPEDITION, HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MOUNTAINEERING GAVE THE TEAM A GREAT WELCOME WHEN THE PLANE ARRIVED FROM ROME.

FIRST OF THE CLIMBERS TO LEAVE THE AIRCRAFT WAS EDMUND HILLARY, THE NEW ZEALANDER WHO IS TO BE KNIGHTED, AND BEHIND HIM WAS "TIGER" TENSING WHO IS TO RECEIVE THE G.M.

MR ANTONY HEAD THE WAR MINISTER, REPRESENTED THE CABINET AND MR HARRY CROOKSHANK, LORD PRIVY SEAL, ALSO JOINED IN THE WELCOME.

SIR FREDERICK W. DOIDGE, NEW ZEALANDER HIGH COMMISSIONER, SIR EDWIN HERBERT, CHAIRMAN OF THE HIMALAYAN COMMITTEE AND MR ERIC SHIPTON, LEADER OF A PREVIOUS EVEREST EXPEDITION WERE ALSO AT THE AIRPORT.

MR SHIPTON CONGRATULATED MR HILLARY AND SHERPA TENSING AND SAID THAT HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION WOULD VISIT HIM AT HIS ESKDALE MOUNTAINEERING CAMP.

MR.  
STAGG.

Handwritten notes on the right side of the page, including "Mr. Stagg" and other illegible scribbles.

M

2.55PM. ADD: HILLARY AND TENSING.

WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE WORST EXPERIENCES OF THE CONQUERORS OF EVEREST TOOK PLACE IN A SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM AT LONDON AIRPORT AFTER FRIENDS AND RELATIVES HAD GREETED THE CLIMBERS THEY WERE USHERED INTO THIS ROOM TO FACE A BATTERY OF CAMERAS AND MICROPHONES

AND TO BLINK THEIR EYES, AS THEY MIGHT HAVE DONE WITH SNOW BLINDNESS, UNDER THE BRILLIANT GLARE OF BRIGHT LAMPS.

THEY CARRIED OUT THEIR TASK HEROICALLY.

EDMUND HILLARY WAS ASKED TO DESCRIBE HIS WORST MOMENTS DURING THE CLIMB. "I SUPPOSE ONE OF THE WORST MOMENTS" HE SAID "WAS IN APPROACHING THE SOUTH SUMMIT AT 28,700 FT. THE APPROACH IS RATHER STEEP AND THE SNOW IN AN UNSTABLE CONDITION. WE HAD AT TIMES TO, CONSIDER WHETHER WE COULD GO ON, BUT I SUPPOSE WE BOTH THOUGHT WE WEREN'T LIKELY TO GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN EVERY DAY, SO WE DECIDED TO PUSH ON. THE MAIN WORRY WAS THE SUPPLY OF OXYGEN. EVEN WHEN WE WERE AT THE TOP WE WERE VERY WORRIED AS TO WHETHER WE WOULD GET DOWN AGAIN. MAY MAIN FEELING AT THE SUMMIT WAS ONE OF RELIEF THAT WE HAD GOT THERE. I SUPPOSE WE BOTH FELT FAIRLY PLEASED ABOUT IT, BUT LACK OF OXYGEN NUMBS THE SENSES. THE NEXT BAD MOMENT WAS WHEN TENSING SAVED ME FROM GOING DOWN A CREVICE."

TENSING AND I WERE COMING DOWN AND I WAS LEADING. WHEN I WAS PASSING DOWN THE CREVICE A LARGE LUMP OF ICE GAVE WAY AND I STARTED TO GO DOWN, BUT TENSING KEPT A TIGHT ROPE AND I DIDN'T GO DOWN VERY FAR. WHAT I WANT TO DO NOW IS TO HAVE A BIT OF A HOLIDAY. MR HILLARY SAID THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT HE WOULD GO TO THE NORTH OF ENGLAND WITH HIS FRIENDS. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HOPED TO BE IN ENGLAND FOR AT LEAST A MONTH AND WOULD HAVE SOME MEDICAL ADVICE ON HIS STOMACH TROUBLE. TENSING WHO SPOKE NO ENGLISH SAID THROUGH ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WHO INTERPRETED THAT HIS REACTION ON REACHING THE SUMMIT WAS "I WAS VERY HAPPY. I AM VERY HAPPY TO HAVE DONE IT."

IT WAS COLONEL HUNT WHO GAVE THE REASONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE EXPEDITION. HE FELT THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE REASONS FOR ITS SUCCESS WAS THE EXPERIENCE GAINED BY PREVIOUS EXPEDITIONS AND ANOTHER THE CAREFUL PLANNING WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE BEFORE THE EXPEDITION STARTED. "WE HAD AN ACCUMULATION OF EXPERIENCE AND INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR US BY OUR INDUSTRIOUS PREDECESSORS ON THE MOUNTAIN," HE SAID.

3.20PM.

ADD:- HILLARY AND TENSING.

"ALL THOSE EXPEDITIONS WHICH WENT TO THE NORTH SIDE AND GOT SO NEAR THE TOP GAVE US VALUABLE INFORMATION. THEN THERE WAS THE RECONNAISSANCE OF ERIC SHIPTON IN 1951 IN WHICH HE TRACED THE ROUTE WHICH WAS EXACTLY FOLLOWED BY US AND MOST RECENTLY THE MAGNIFICENT EFFORT LAST YEAR BY THE SWISS CLIMBERS. NOT ONLY DID THEY GET SO NEAR ON THE SOUTH APPROACH BUT THE FACT THAT THEY GOT THERE SHOWED THAT WE COULD CERTAINLY GO AS FAR IF NOT FURTHER. WE HAD BEHIND US THE EXPERIENCE OF THIRTY YEARS.

"COMING TO PLANNING, WE STUDIED ALL THE INFORMATION AND GOT DOWN TO METICULOUS PLANNING IN LONDON RESULTING IN A PAPER PLAN WHICH, LOOKING BACK, WORKED OUT ALMOST DATE FOR DATE AND DETAIL FOR DETAIL OUR PROGRESS TOWARD THE TOP. WE KNEW WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO AT EACH PERIOD BEFORE WE STARTED OUT AND WE JUST SORT OF TICKED OFF THE ITEMS. THE EQUIPMENT TOO PLAYED A GREAT PART.

"AGAIN I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION SHIPTON AND HIS VALUABLE ADVICE. AMONG THE MANY COMPLICATED ITEMS, THE MOST OUTSTANDING WAS THE OXYGEN. IT IS BY NO MEANS YET PERFECT IT IS STILL CUMBERSOME, BUT IT UNDOUBTEDLY GOT US TO THE TOP."

COMING THE CONTROVERSIAL POINT AS TO WHO WAS THE FIRST MAN TO REACH THE SUMMIT, COLONEL HUNT SAID: "TO ANYBODY WHO CLIMBS MOUNTAINS I FEEL IT COULD NOT MATTER LESS. IT IS A QUESTION OF A TEAM AND NOT A INDIVIDUAL IN CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN LIKE THIS. IT IS OF NO IMPORTANCE TO US WHO GOT TO THE TOP. WHAT DOES MATTER THAT THEY WERE BOTH CLIMBING ON A ROPE. IT DOES NOT MATTER IF YOU ARE FIRST ON THE ROPE OR SECOND. THIS CONTROVERSY WAS STARTED WELL OVER OUR HEADS AND ALL I CAN SAY IS THEY GOT THERE TOGETHER, EACH ON THE ROPE. IT WAS EACH TAKING HIS TURN AND ALTERNATING HIS JOBS."

ASKED WHAT MADE PEOPLE WANT TO CLIMB MOUNTAINS, HE REPLIED: "EACH PERSONS HAS HIS OWN FEELINGS. SOME CLIMB FROM INTEREST IN THE TECHNIQUE. OTHERS DO IT FOR PHYSICAL SATISFACTION AND OTHERS GET INTO A SUBLIME FIELD WHEN THEY FEEL THEY ARE IN ANOTHER WORLD.

"A BIG PROBLEM LIKE EVEREST CONFRONTS WITH A CHALLENGE AND THERE IS AN URGE TO SOLVE AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM."

AS TO THE FUTURE HE SAID THEY HAD A GREAT DEAL TO DO. HE, PERSONALLY, WANTED TO GET DOWN TO WALES "TO SEE THE SMALLER HALF OF MY FAMILY."

3.27PM.

ADD: HILLARY AND TENSING.

MR ANTONY HEAD, THE WAR MINISTER, GAVE HIS OFFICIAL WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED THE MOST SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ON THE EXPEDITION'S ACHIEVEMENTS.

"YOU MAY WONDER WHY YOU HAVE BEEN GREETED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR. THE PRIME MINISTER THOUGHT I SHOULD COME TO GREET YOUR LEADER, WHO IS A REGULAR SOLDIER AND SERVING AT THIS TIME. THE WHOLE ARMY IS INTENSELY PROUD THAT YOU LED THIS SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION. I ALSO WOULD ASSURE YOU THAT THE WHOLE NATION AND THE WHOLE COMMONWEALTH WAS INTENSELY MOVED AND PROUD OF YOUR GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS."

SIR FREDERICK DOIDGE, NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER, SAID THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY PROUD TO WELCOME HIS OWN COUNTRYMEN, EDWARD HILLARY AND GEORGE LOWE.

"THESE TWO NEW ZEALANDERS BROUGHT HONOUR NOT ONLY TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY BUT TO THE EMPIRE." HE SAID THAT BOTH OF THEM HAD GAINED THEIR EXPERIENCE IN THE SOUTHERN ALPS OF NEW ZEALAND.

AN OFFICIAL GREETING WAS GIVEN TO COLONEL HUNT BY MAJOR-GENERAL H O CURTIS, COLONEL COMMANDANT THE 1ST BATTALION K.R.R.C., ON BEHALF OF THE REGIMENT OF WHICH COLONEL HUNT IS A MEMBER.

WHEN PEOPLE CONGRATULATED SHERPA TENSING HE SMILED AND INDICATED THAT ALL WAS WELL.