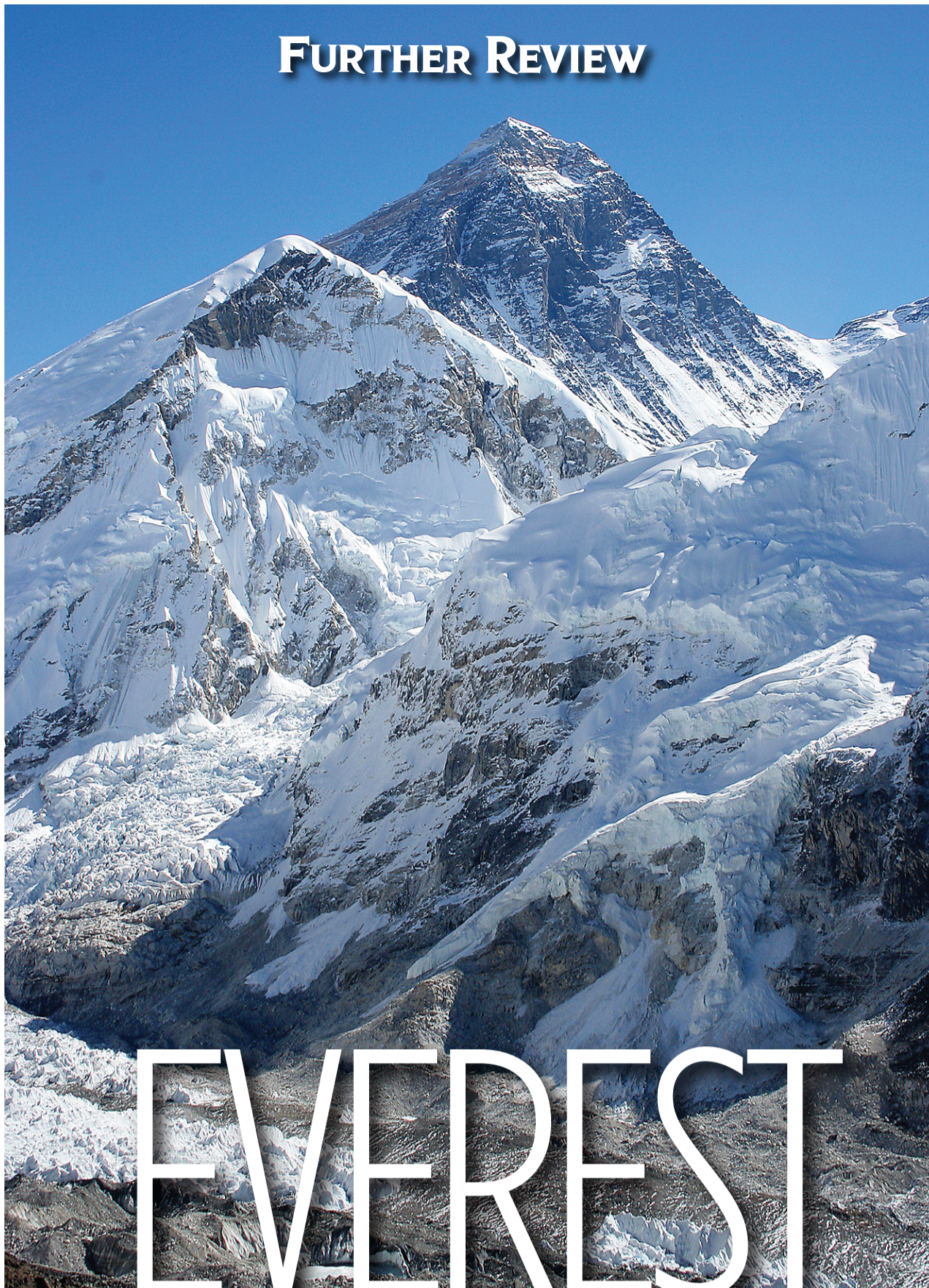


FURTHER REVIEW



DEATHS OF CLIMBERS ON MOUNT EVEREST

Mount Everest as it looked in 2005. Hillary and Norgay's route took them up the mountain's southeast ridge — at the extreme upper right, along the skyline of this photo.

SUCCESSFUL SUMMITS OF MOUNT EVEREST

1921 0
1922 0
1923 0
1924 0
1925 0
1926 0
1927 0
1928 0
1929 0
1930 0
1931 0
1932 0
1933 0
1934 0
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1951 0
1952 0
1953 2
1954 0
1955 0
1956 4
1957 0
1958 0
1959 0
1960 3
1961 0
1962 0
1963 6
1964 0
1965 9
1966 0
1967 0
1968 0
1969 0
1970 4
1971 0
1972 0
1973 10
1974 0
1975 15
1976 4
1977 2
1978 25
1979 18
1980 10
1981 5
1982 18
1983 23
1984 17
1985 30
1986 4
1987 2
1988 50
1989 24
1990 72
1991 38
1992 90
1993 129
1994 51
1995 83
1996 98
1997 85
1998 120
1999 117
2000 146
2001 182
2002 159
2003 264
2004 335
2005 307
2006 477
2007 603
2008 427
2009 462
2010 523
2011 539
2012 571
2013 666
2014 133
2015 0
2016 670
2017 674
2018 801
2019 858
2020 27
2021 452
2022 323

First successful summit May 29, 1953

By Charles Apple | THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Seventy years ago next Monday, Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa from Nepal, became the first climbers to successfully reach the summit of Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth.

A TEAM OF 370 TO SUPPORT TWO CLIMBERS

A number of attempts had been made since the first in 1921 to climb to the summit of Mount Everest, 29,035 feet above sea level.

A few had resulted in deaths of climbers. None had been successful. In 1952, a Swiss expedition got to within 825 feet of the summit but had to turn back because it was running out of oxygen: The air at that altitude is so thin that climbers need breathing aides to stay alive.

In early 1953, a British team launched an attempt backed by an army of assistants to help carry supplies and set up camps along the way.

By May 21, the team was ready to make its assault on the summit. Two noted climbers were chosen to set out from their highest camp. But after slow and tough climbing and running low on oxygen, they were forced to turn back only 330 feet from the top.

Three days later, the expedition sent its second pair upward: 33-year-old beekeeper



Above, Hillary and Norgay are joyous after their return to base camp. At left is the photo Hillary made of Norgay at the summit.



Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and 38-year-old Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay — the latter of whom had been part of the Swiss summit team the previous year.

By 9 a.m., the duo had reached an impossibly thin rocky ridge. Hillary and Norgay used their axes to squeeze

between a pillar of rock and a sheet of ice. This final obstacle to the summit came to be known as the Hillary Step.

They reached the summit just before noon. They congratulated each other, Hillary snapped a photo of Tenzing and they began to climb back downward after only 15 minutes or so.

News of the successful summit was rushed by runner from the advance camp to base camp

farther down the mountain. A reporter at base camp sent a coded radio message to England, where the Times of London announced the achievement on June 1, 1953: The eve of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Since then, Mount Everest has become a magnet for mountain climbers. About 800 people attempt to climb Everest every year, risking hypothermia, frostbite and lack of oxygen. Videos have emerged of climbers lined up near the summit, waiting to have their picture taken at the very top.

Hillary was knighted by the Queen later that year. Norgay, who was awarded the British Empire Metal, died in 1986 at age 71. Hillary died in 2008 at age 88.

On May 10, 1996, eight climbers attempting to descend from the summit are killed in a blizzard. Journalist Jon Krakauer writes about the incident in his book "Into Thin Air."

On April 25, 2015, 7.8-magnitude earthquake kills more than 9,000 people and injures more than 23,000 in Nepal. The earthquake triggers an avalanche that kills 19 climbers.

On April 14, 2014, an avalanche kills 16 sherpas.

Climbing is halted during the peak of the COVID pandemic.