

May 29 1953

Dear Diary,

The morning started off disastrously. We awoke at 4:30 am, which was due to our oxygen supply ran out. Unfortunately, we could not start our ascent right away either; my boots- which I took off last night- were frozen solid; we had to wait for them to defrost. Eventually, we did set off on our historic climb!

Disastrously, the weather conditions were horrendous making the steep climb even more dangerous. My thoughts swirled like the snow around me; they shouted at me that we would fail! Whenever this occurred, I would say to myself: Forget it! This is Everest; you have to take a few risks.

Thankfully, as we approached the Summit ridge, the weather cleared up! Continuing our journey (moving steadily and cautiously) we were greeted by a rock vertical rock face, which would be our final hurdle before reaching the summit. Desperately, I searched for a way to scale this tricky wall made of ice. Suddenly, my eyes noticed a slight gap between the sheer ice and rock wall. Without delay, I wedged myself in the small gap and pulled myself up. Anxiety fluttered in my stomach, which grew tighter and tighter the higher I climbed; at any moment we could have fallen. I forced the icy dangerous thoughts from my head and persevered forward. Using every last ounce of strength, I hauled myself up to the top.

Glancing next to me, I saw Tenzing, who was just as out of breath and exhausted as me. Another question suddenly filled my brain, did we have the will to go on? Before this thought could take hold, the clouds separated showing the peaks of other mountains. It took a second for the realisation to hit; we did it- we climbed Mount Everest! Tears begin to build in my eyes as relief flooded my very bones; We were the first to climb Everest!

Quickly, I grabbed my camera. I took the most magical photo in the world- Tenzing smiling, holding his axe with all the flags dancing in the wind. After taking in the specular sights, we buried our treasures at the top (which included the cross John Hunt asked me to include), we began our decent. I didn't think to ask Tenzing to take a photo of me at the top; the summit of Mount Everest was no place to teach a novice how to use a camera. We just won't tell Tenzing that.

Yours,

An ecstatic Edmund Hillary!

**Commented [MK1]:** Remember this was the date they made it to the top

**Commented [MK2]:** This section talks about walking up in the morning and the frozen boots. Can you find the semi colon and the relative clause? Can you include the same?

**Commented [MK3]:** Climbing the ice wall. Can you find where I described how Hillary felt? How could you describe how they felt?

**Commented [MK4]:** Reaching the top! How did they feel? Did I include a semi colon? Can you include one?

**Commented [MK5]:** I described what they did at the top before heading back down. How have I tried to include humour? Can you do the same?