

Everest conquered 60 years ago

On May 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first men to scale the world's highest mountain, using the latest technology available at the time. Since then, more than 3,000 climbers have reached the summit of Mount Everest



Routes to the top

Nationality of expedition	
1	1953 British
2	1960 Chinese
3	1963 U.S.
4	1975 British
5	1979 Yugoslavian
6	1980 Japanese
7	1980 Polish
8	1980 Solo expedition <i>Reinhold Messner, Italy</i>
9	1982 Soviet
10	1983 U.S.
11	1984 Australian
12	1984 U.S.
13	1988 International
14	1995 Japanese
15	1996 Russian

Expedition technology

BREATHING APPARATUS:

Open circuit system combines external air with pure oxygen supply to compensate for thin air at altitude

- Pressure reduction valve
- Flow rate manifold
- Trip valve: Opens on intake of breath
- Economiser
- Mask

Weight: 18kg
Each of three cylinders holds 800 litres of oxygen, lasting 4.5 hours at 3 litres per minute – flow rate on final assault



Food:

New vacuum packaging reduces weight and bulk, allowing for supplies closer to European diet

Assault boot: Designed for use above 6,000m – weight just 1.9kg. High level of thermal insulation sandwiched between waterproof rubber outer layer, inner vapour barrier, and mesh insole

Lightweight microcellular resin sole further improves insulation

Walkie-talkie:

Plastic parts replaced with pure rubber to avoid shattering in extreme cold

Everest ascents

More than 800 climbers aim for the summit each year, with around 500-600 successful every season in recent years. Over 230 people have lost their lives on Everest since the first recorded deaths in 1922

