

The Summit of the Gods

SCRIPT:
YUMEMAKURA BAKU • ART:
JIRO TANIGUCHI





CHAPTER 19 : EVEREST'S MYSTERY

CHAPTER 20 : TOWN OF THE VENOMOUS SNAKE

CHAPTER 21 : DASHAIN FESTIVAL

CHAPTER 22 : TURQUOISE

CHAPTER 23 : CLIMBING DEVIL

CHAPTER 24 : GURKHA

CHAPTER 25 : REMINISCENCES

CHAPTER 26 : SHERPA VILLAGE

CHAPTER 27 : A MOTHER'S NECKLACE



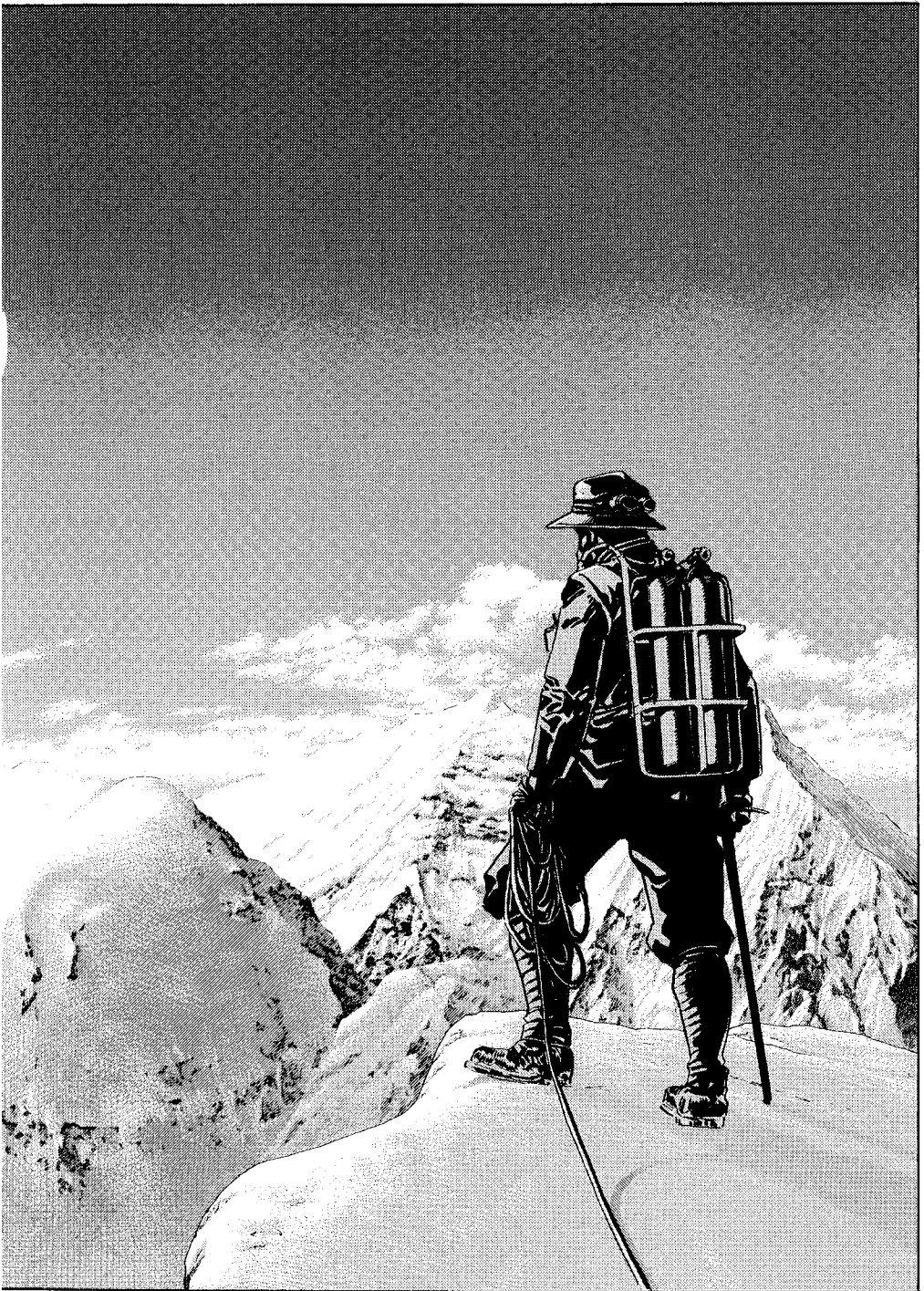
CHAPTER 19

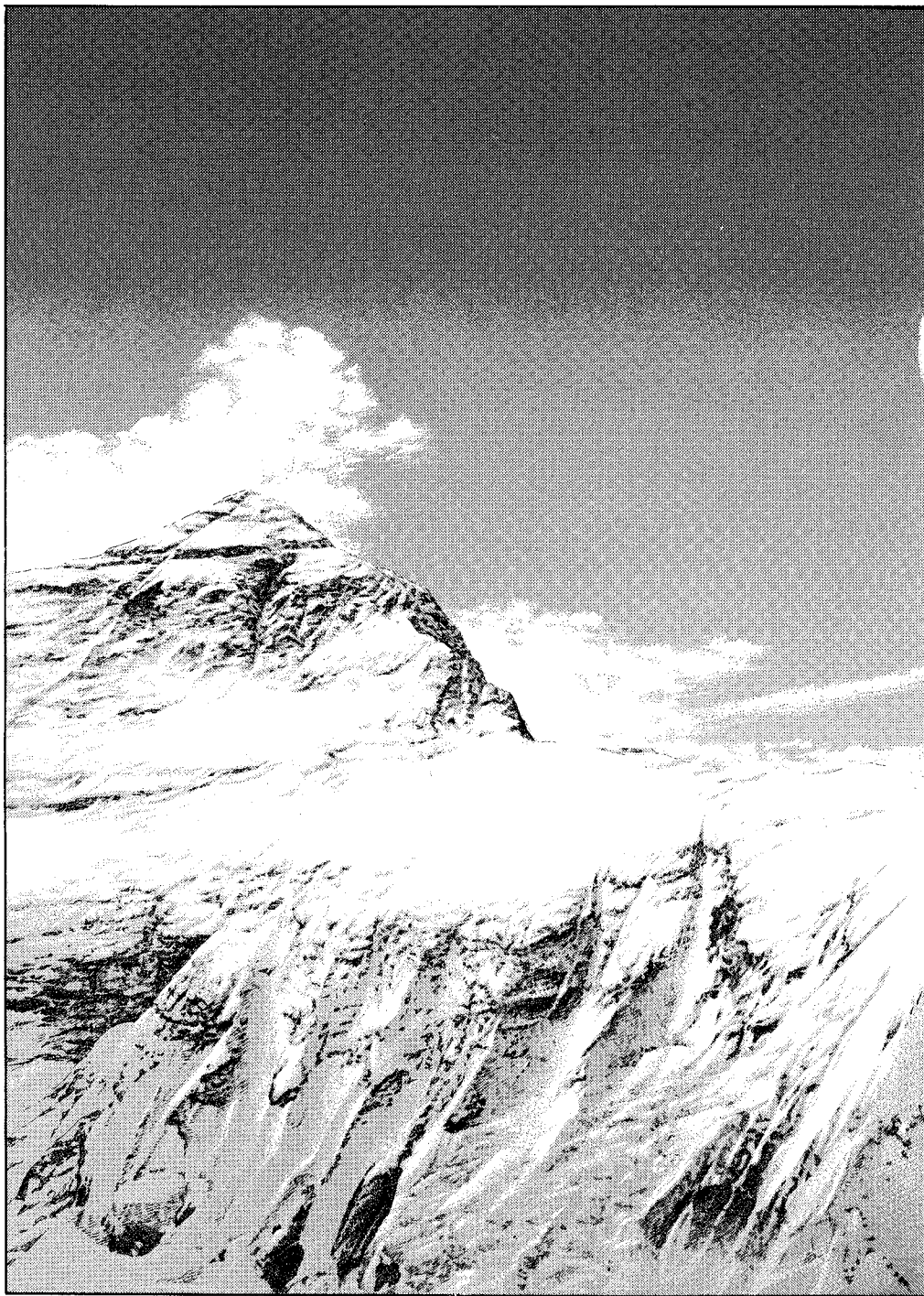
EVEREST'S MYSTERY

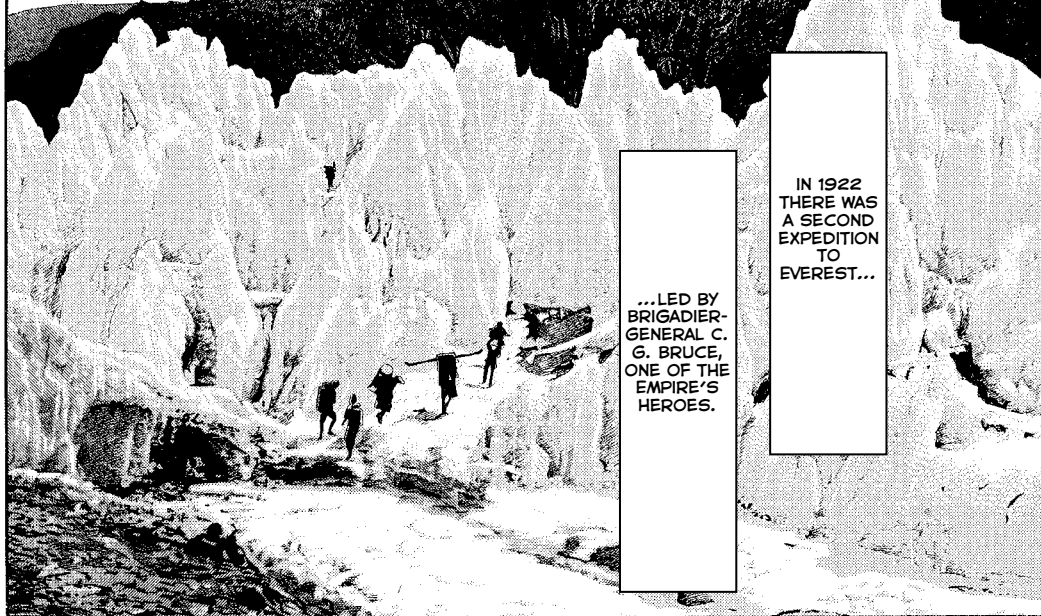


THE FIRST
TIME THE
BRITISH
EMPIRE
SENT
OUT AN
EXPEDITION
WITH THE
AIM OF
SETTING
FOOT ON
EVEREST'S
HIGHEST
PEAK WAS
IN 1921.

THEY NEVER
SUCCEEDED
IN REACHING
THE SUMMIT,
BUT AMONG
THE TEAM
MEMBERS
WAS 35-YEAR-
OLD GEORGE
MALLORY.

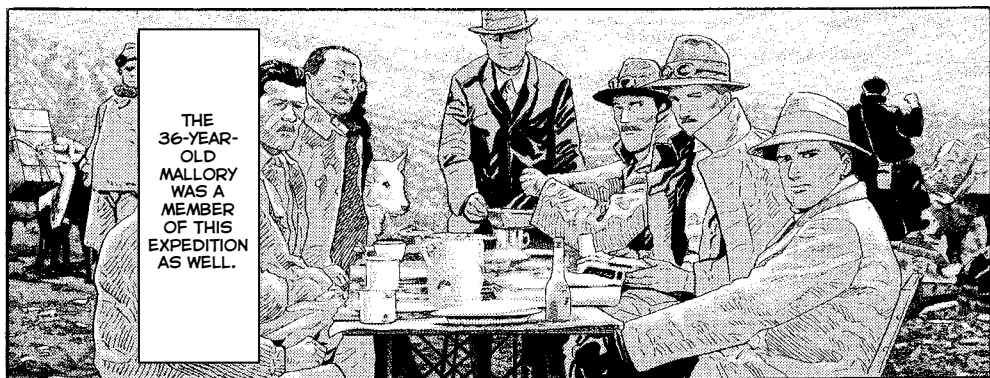




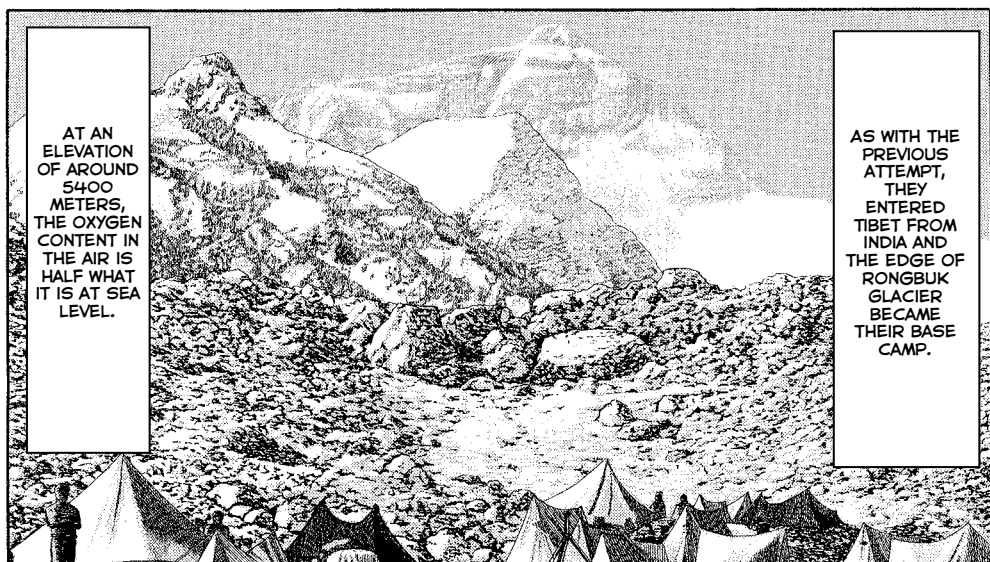


...LED BY
BRIGADIER-
GENERAL C.
G. BRUCE,
ONE OF THE
EMPIRE'S
HEROES.

IN 1922
THERE WAS
A SECOND
EXPEDITION
TO
EVEREST...



THE
36-YEAR-
OLD
MALLORY
WAS A
MEMBER
OF THIS
EXPEDITION
AS WELL.

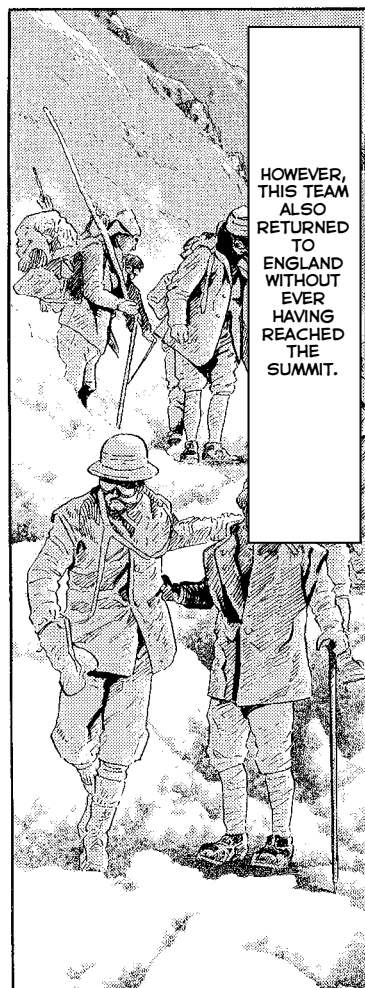


AT AN
ELEVATION
OF AROUND
5400
METERS,
THE OXYGEN
CONTENT IN
THE AIR IS
HALF WHAT
IT IS AT SEA
LEVEL.

AS WITH THE
PREVIOUS
ATTEMPT,
THEY
ENTERED
TIBET FROM
INDIA AND
THE EDGE OF
RONGBUK
GLACIER
BECAME
THEIR BASE
CAMP.



IN THE
FIRST
ATTACK
THEY
REACHED
8225
METERS.



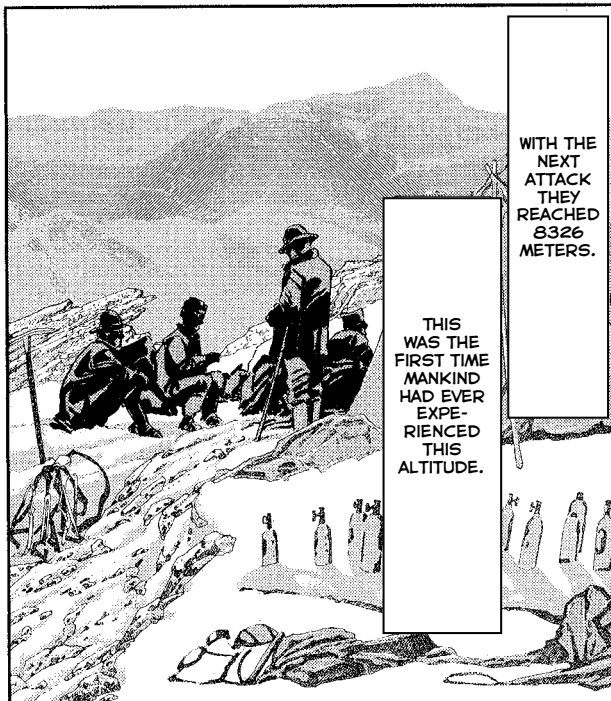
HOWEVER,
THIS TEAM
ALSO
RETURNED
TO
ENGLAND
WITHOUT
EVER
HAVING
REACHED
THE
SUMMIT.



HUHH

HUHH

HUHH

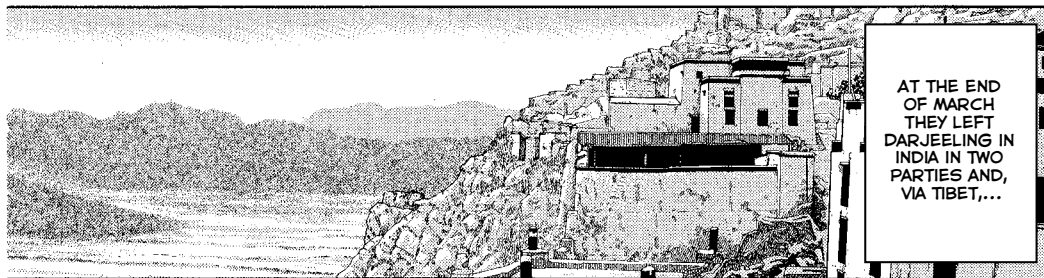


WITH THE
NEXT
ATTACK
THEY
REACHED
8326
METERS.

THIS
WAS THE
FIRST TIME
MANKIND
HAD EVER
EXPERIENCED
THIS
ALTITUDE.



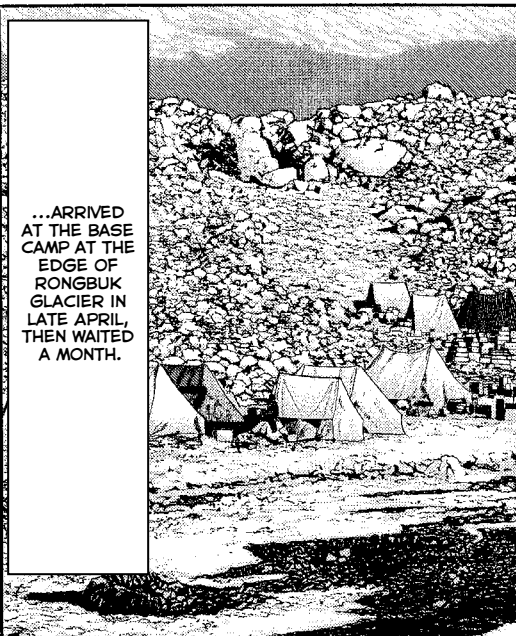
THEN, IN
FEBRUARY
1924, THE
THIRD
BRITISH
EXPEDITIONARY
TEAM BEGAN
ARRIVING IN
THE REGION.



AT THE END
OF MARCH
THEY LEFT
DARJEELING IN
INDIA IN TWO
PARTIES AND,
VIA TIBET,...



BESET
NUMEROUS
TIMES BY BAD
WEATHER,
THEY FELL
FAR BEHIND
IN SETTING
UP THEIR
CAMPS.



...ARRIVED
AT THE BASE
CAMP AT THE
EDGE OF
RONGBUK
GLACIER IN
LATE APRIL,
THEN WAITED
A MONTH.

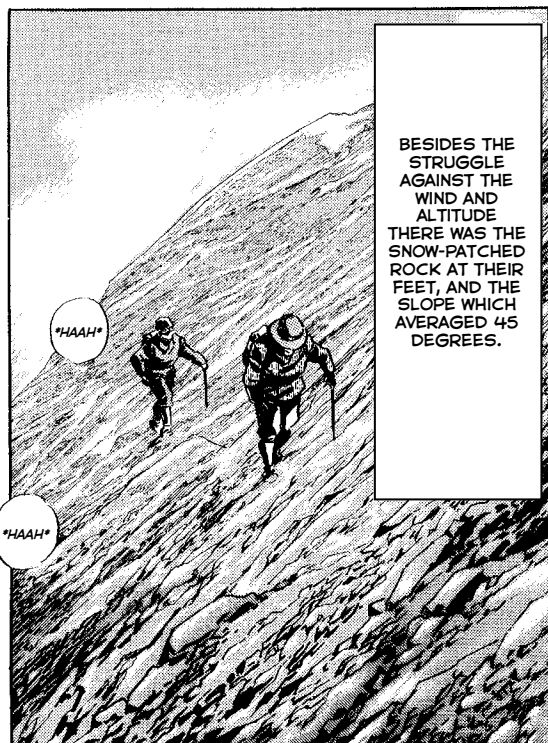
JUNE
4.



COME
JUNE,
THEY
WERE FINALLY
SUCCESSFUL
IN ESTABLISHING
CAMPS 5 AND 6.



NORTON AND
SUMMERVILLE
OF THE FIRST
ATTACK TEAM
AIMED FOR
THE SUMMIT.



BESIDES THE
STRUGGLE
AGAINST THE
WIND AND
ALTITUDE
THERE WAS THE
SNOW-PATCHED
ROCK AT THEIR
FEET, AND THE
SLOPE WHICH
AVERAGED 45
DEGREES.

"HAAH"

"HAAH"

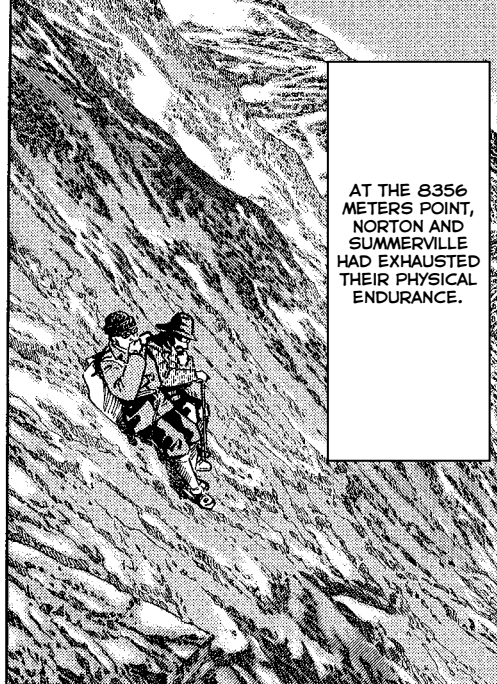


HAAH

HAAH

HOW-
EVER,
THE
CLIMB
WAS
EXTRE-
MELY
HARSH.



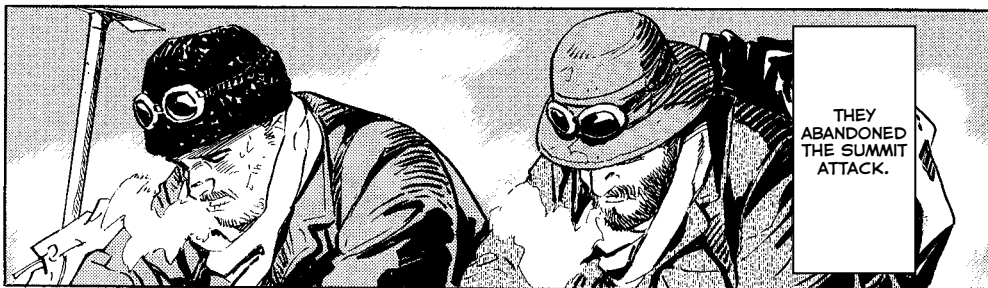


AT THE 8356 METERS POINT, NORTON AND SUMMERVILLE HAD EXHAUSTED THEIR PHYSICAL ENDURANCE.

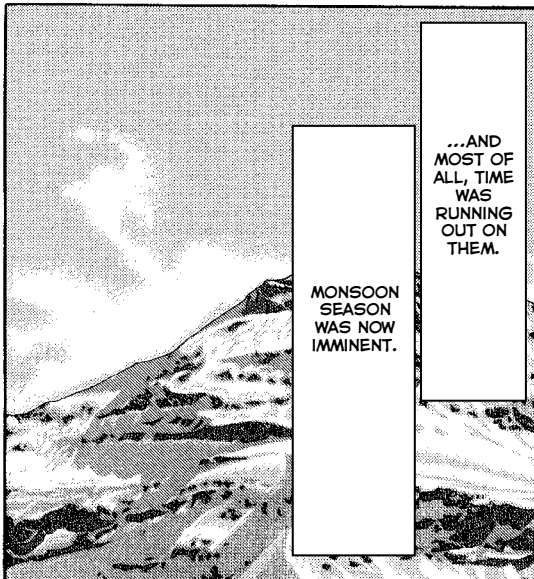


...MAKING BREATHING HARD TOO.

EVEREST'S DRY, COLD AIR ASSAULTED THE MUCOUS MEMBRANES IN THEIR THROATS...



THEY ABANDONED THE SUMMIT ATTACK.

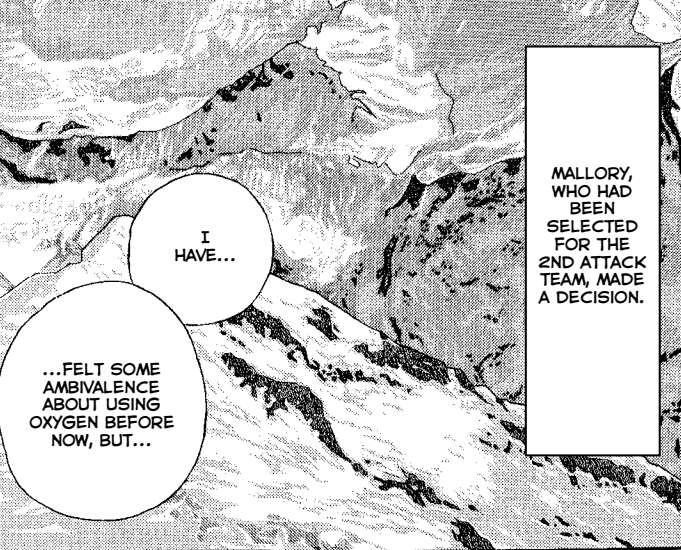


MONSOON SEASON WAS NOW IMMINENT.

...AND MOST OF ALL, TIME WAS RUNNING OUT ON THEM.



THEY WERE ALREADY SHORT ON FOOD SUPPLIES AND SHERPA SUPPORT...

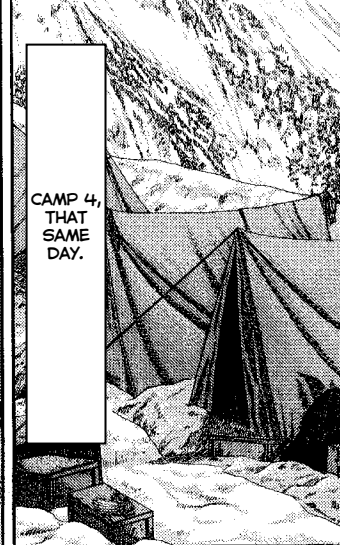


I
HAVE...

...FELT SOME
AMBIVALENCE
ABOUT USING
OXYGEN BEFORE
NOW, BUT...

MALLORY,
WHO HAD
BEEN
SELECTED
FOR THE
2ND ATTACK
TEAM, MADE
A DECISION.

CAMP 4,
THAT
SAME
DAY.



YET, SETTING
UP THE CAMPS
WITHOUT OXYGEN
DAMAGED HIS
HEART.

FIRST OF
ALL, THINK
ABOUT HOW
ROBUST
BRUCE WAS.

.....



...I'VE COME
TO REALIZE
THAT WE CANNOT
DO WITHOUT IT
IN THIS SUMMIT
ATTACK.



...THERE IS
THE ARGUMENT
THAT USING
OXYGEN WOULD
BE AN UNFAIR
ADVANTAGE.

BUT...



NOW, SURE
ENOUGH, YOUR
ATTEMPT ON THE
SUMMIT WITHOUT
OXYGEN HAS
FAILED.

.....

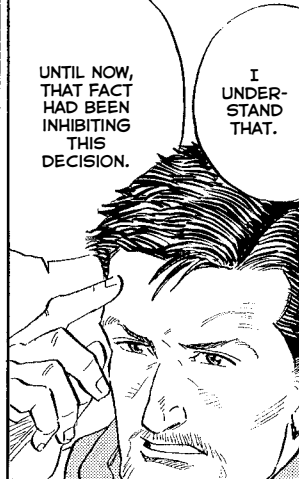


OTHER TEAM
MEMBERS ALSO
SUCCEMBED
TO THE WORK
AT HIGH
ALTITUDES.



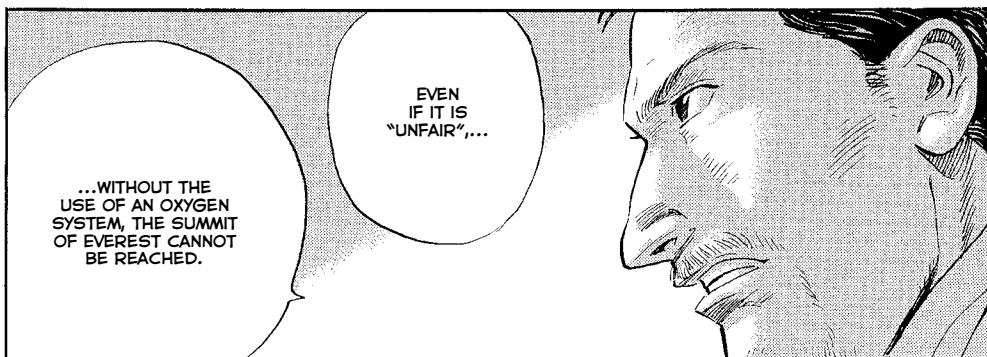
THE MAXIMUM
ALTITUDE WITHOUT
OXYGEN MAY BE
7000 METERS.

BUT THERE
IS A LIMIT
TO HUMAN
ALTITUDE
ACCLIMATIZATION.



UNTIL NOW,
THAT FACT
HAD BEEN
INHIBITING
THIS
DECISION.

I
UNDER-
STAND
THAT.



EVEN
IF IT IS
"UNFAIR",...

...WITHOUT THE
USE OF AN OXYGEN
SYSTEM, THE SUMMIT
OF EVEREST CANNOT
BE REACHED.



I'M GOING TO
CLIMB THE SUMMIT
ATTACK CARRYING
OXYGEN TANKS.
I WOULD LIKE TO
NOMINATE IRVINE
AS MY PARTNER.

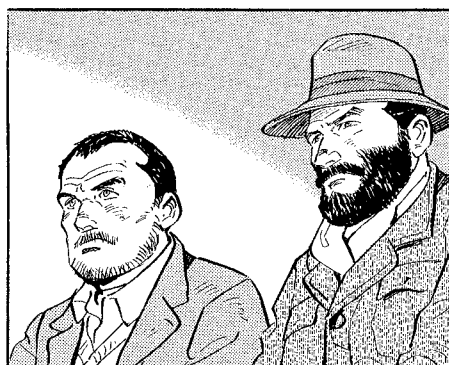
I'VE COME
TO A CLEAR
REALIZATION
IN THIS
MY THIRD
EXPEDITION.

IRVINE?

NOT
ODELL?



THAT BEING
SO, DON'T YOU
THINK WE
SHOULD BE
USING
OXYGEN?

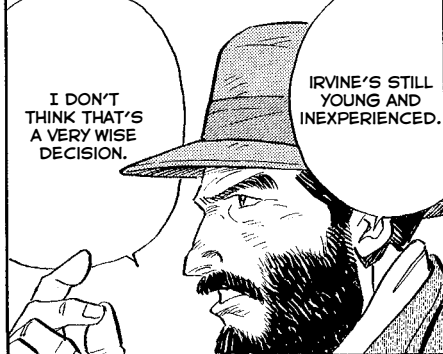




MOST
IMPORTANTLY,
IRVINE IS AN
EXPERT WITH
THE OXYGEN
APPARATUS.

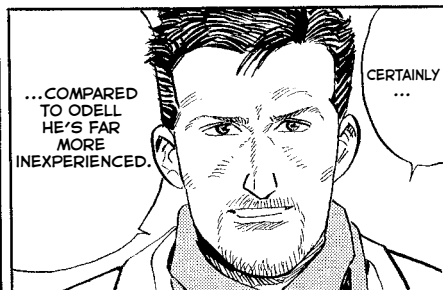
HOWEVER,
HE HAS THE
CONSTITUTION.
PHYSICALLY
AND MENTALLY,
I THINK HE'S
IDEAL.

HE'S GIFTED
FOR QUICK
ADJUSTMENTS
AND
MAINTENANCE
OF IT.



I DON'T
THINK THAT'S
A VERY WISE
DECISION.

IRVINE'S STILL
YOUNG AND
INEXPERIENCED.



...COMPARED
TO ODELL
HE'S FAR
MORE
INEXPERIENCED.

CERTAINLY
...



I
WANT TO FULLY
PRIORITIZE THIS
TECHNOLOGY
AND TALENT.



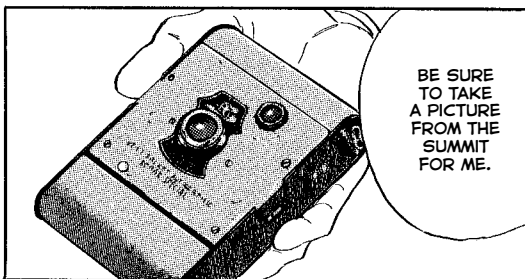
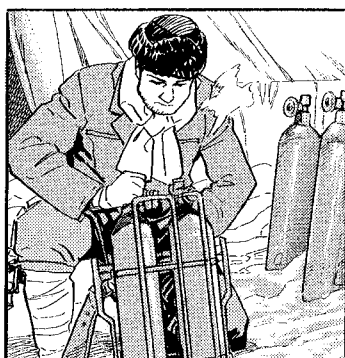
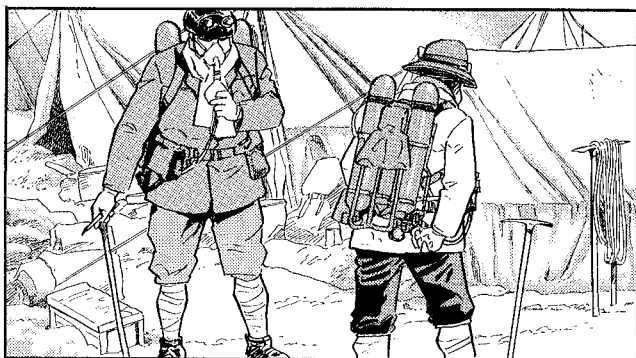
AS LONG
AS THERE WAS
A HOPE, HE
WOULD NOT
ACCEPT DEFEAT.
WITH SUCH
FORCE OF
WILL AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL
STRENGTH
THEY COULD
SUCCEED.

HE WAS
IN AWE OF
MALLORY AS
A MAN OF
INDOMITABLE
RESOLVE.

FINALLY
NORTON
CONCURRED
WITH HIS
DECISION.



JUNE 6,
8:40 AM.
ELEVATION
7066
METERS.

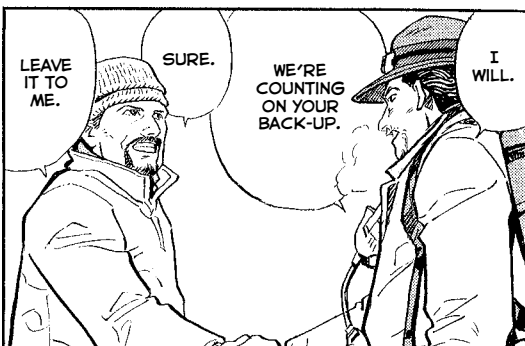


BE SURE
TO TAKE
A PICTURE
FROM THE
SUMMIT
FOR ME.



MALLORY.

PLEASE
DON'T
FORGET THE
POCKET
CAMERA.



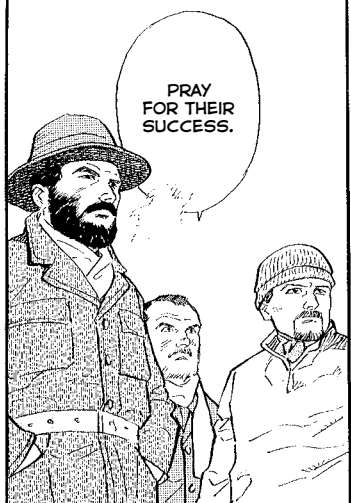
LEAVE
IT TO
ME.

SURE.

WE'RE
COUNTING
ON YOUR
BACK-UP.

I
WILL.

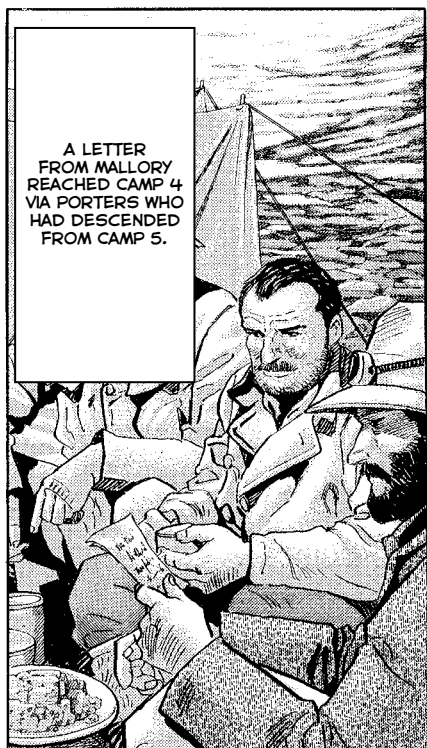
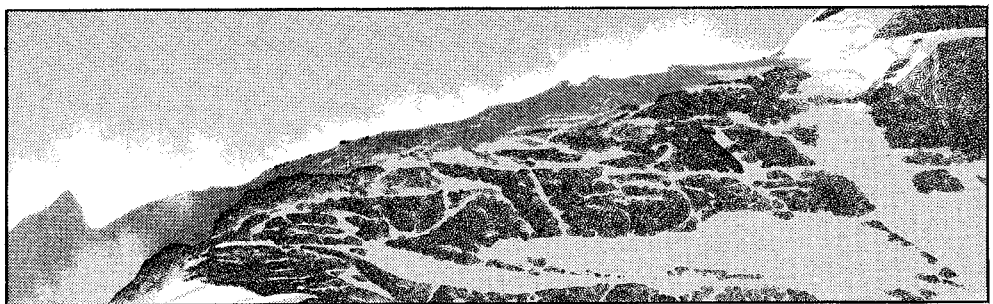
AH/
ODELL/
SORRY.



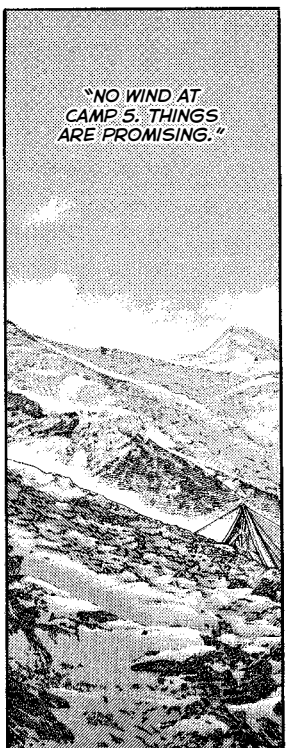
PRAY
FOR THEIR
SUCCESS.



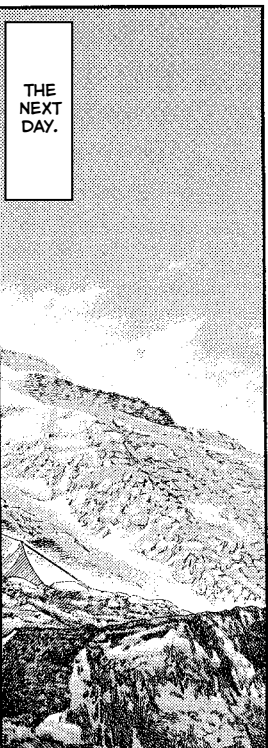
CARRYING FOOD
SUPPLIES AND
OXYGEN TANKS,
MALLORY AND
IRVINE HEADED
FOR CAMP 5
ALONG WITH
EIGHT PORTERS.



A LETTER
FROM MALLORY
REACHED CAMP 4
VIA PORTERS WHO
HAD DESCENDED
FROM CAMP 5.



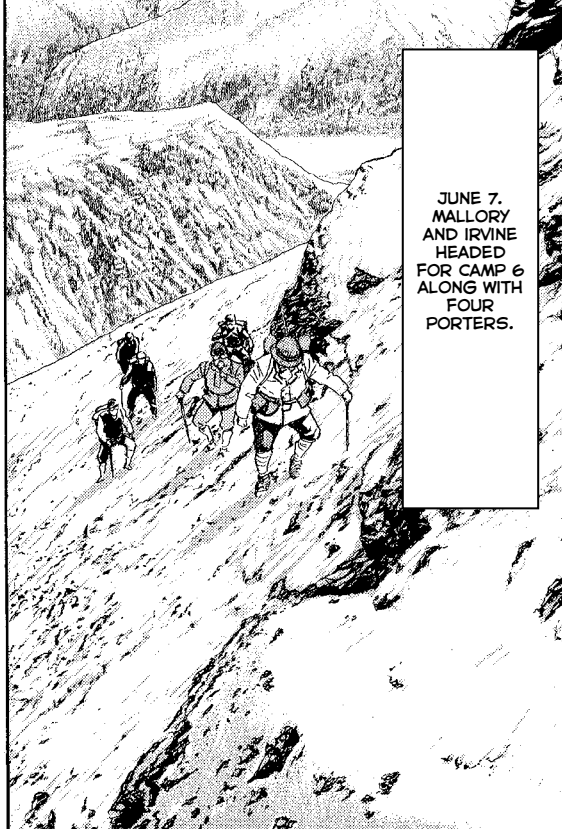
"NO WIND AT
CAMP 5. THINGS
ARE PROMISING."



THE
NEXT
DAY.



AT THE
SAME TIME,
ODELL
AND TWO
PORTERS
HEADED FOR
CAMP 5.



JUNE 7.
MALLORY
AND IRVINE
HEADED
FOR CAMP 6
ALONG WITH
FOUR
PORTERS.

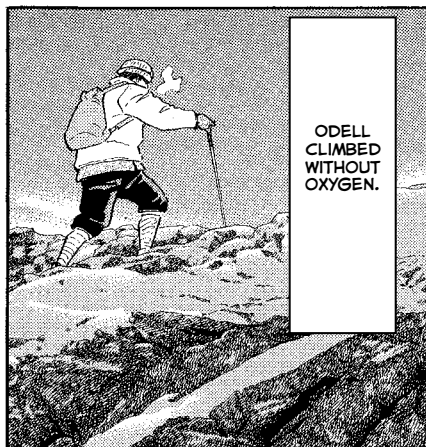


ODELL WAS
PREPPED
TO GIVE
SUPPORT TO
THE SUMMIT
ATTACK TEAM
IF REQUIRED
AS THEY
DESCENDED.



WAS HE
ACCLIMATIZING
QUICKLY TO THE
ALTITUDE?

HE HAD FELT
THE OXYGEN
APPARATUS, WHICH
WAS STILL IN ITS
EXPERIMENTAL
STAGES, WAS NOT
VERY EFFECTIVE
FOR HIM
PERSONALLY.



ODELL
CLIMBED
WITHOUT
OXYGEN.

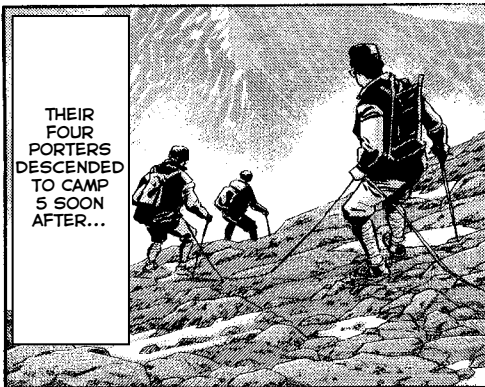


SOON AFTER,
MALLORY AND
IRVINE ARRIVED
AT THE HIGHEST
CAMP - C6.

ELEVATION
8230
METERS.



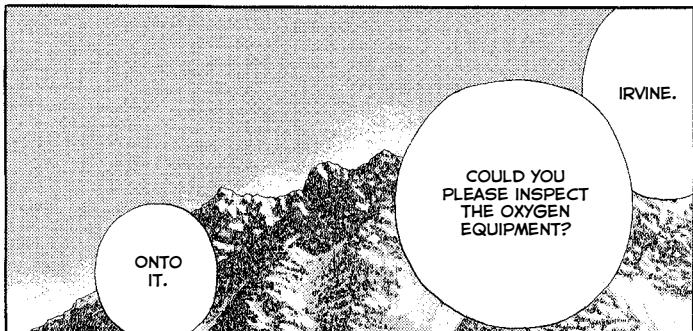
...LEAVING
JUST
MALLORY
AND IRVINE
BEHIND.



THEIR
FOUR
PORTERS
DESCENDED
TO CAMP
5 SOON
AFTER...



I WILL
CLIMB IT,
I'M SURE.



ONTO
IT.

COULD YOU
PLEASE INSPECT
THE OXYGEN
EQUIPMENT?

IRVINE.



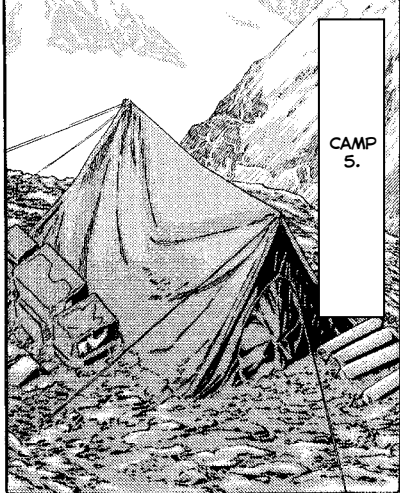
IF THIS
WEATHER
KEEPS
UP...

...TOMORROW
WILL BE
PERFECT.



ONE WAS
ADDRESSED
TO THE
PHOTO-
GRAPHER
CAPTAIN
JOHN NOEL
WHO WAS
IN CAMP 3.

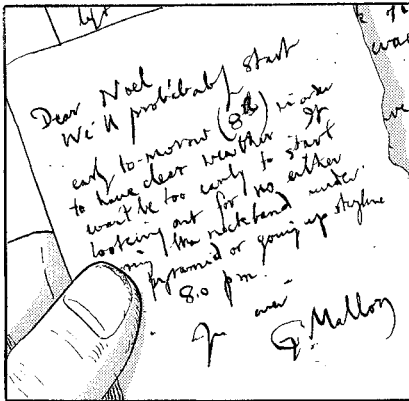
ODELL
RECEIVED
TWO NOTES
FROM
MALLORY
BROUGHT
DOWN BY
PORTERS.



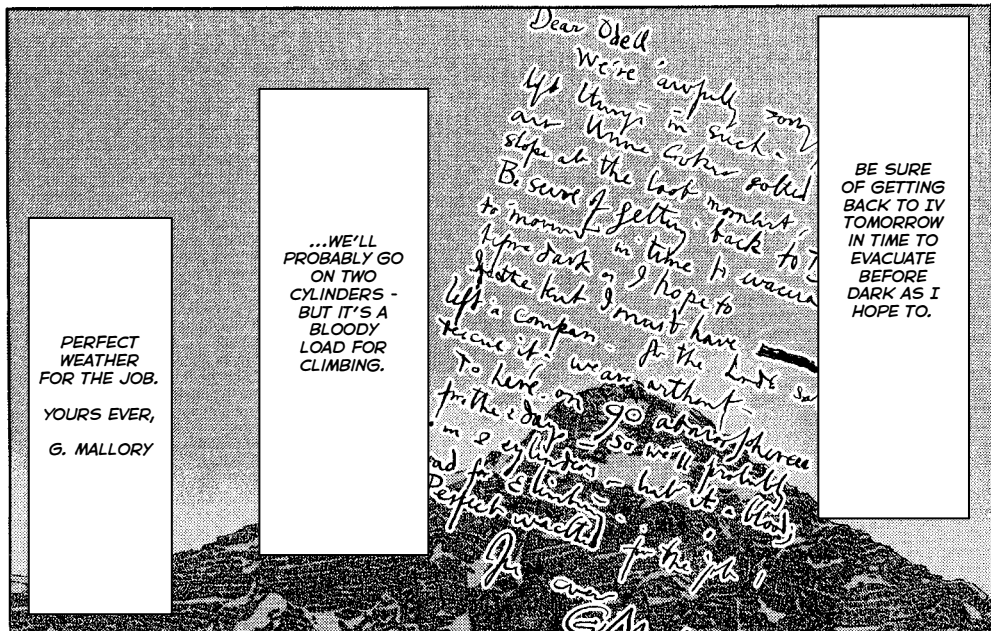
CAMP
5.



THE
SECOND
LETTER WAS
ADDRESSED
TO ODELL.



THIS MEMO
STATED THAT
THEY WOULD
BE STARTING
OUT EARLY AND
THAT, BY 3AM
THEY WOULD BE
EITHER UNDER
THE PYRAMID
OR GOING UP
SKYLINE.



PERFECT
WEATHER
FOR THE JOB.

YOURS EVER,

G. MALLORY

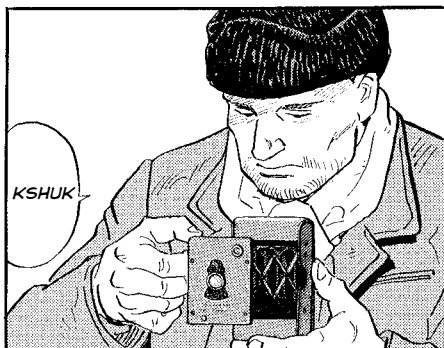
...WE'LL
PROBABLY GO
ON TWO
CYLINDERS -
BUT IT'S A
BLOODY LOAD FOR
CLIMBING.

Dear Odell
We're awfully sorry
life changes in such
a time when you
step at the last moment
to save getting back to
home dark in time to vacate
before dark. I hope to
leave but I must have
left a companion for the
house. We are without
fuel here on go above three
miles - so we will probably
not be back - but it's a bloody
perfect weather for the job.
G. Mallory

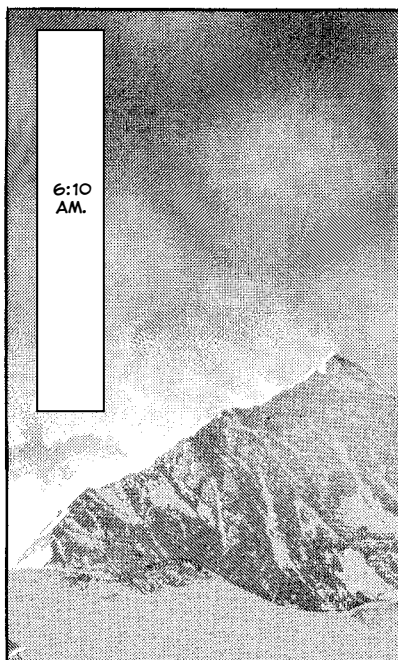
BE SURE
OF GETTING
BACK TO IV
TOMORROW
IN TIME TO
EVACUATE
BEFORE
DARK AS I
HOPE TO.



JUNE 8.
CLEAR.



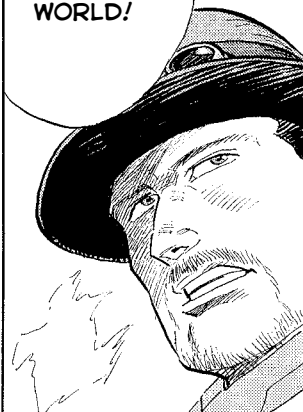
KSHUK



6:10
AM.

THE
FIRST
IN THE
WORLD!

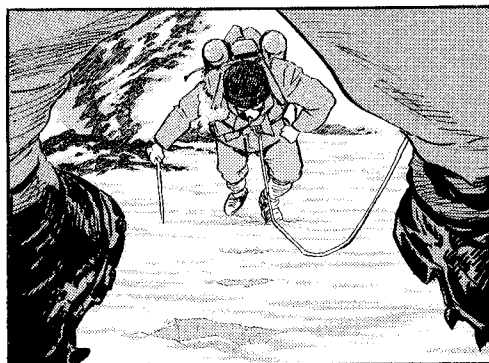
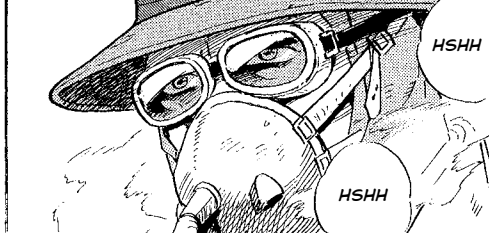
SOMETHING
NO ONE'S
EVER SEEN
BEFORE!!!



ALL
RIGHT.

NEXT
PHOTOGRAPH
WILL BE FROM
THE SUMMIT.

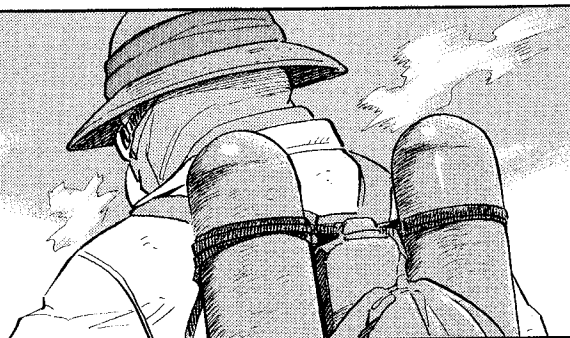




MALLORY
AND IRVINE
SET
OUT FOR
EVEREST'S
SUMMIT.

THE OXYGEN TANKS
WEIGHED FOURTEEN
KILOS EACH.

CARRYING TWO OF
THOSE AND THEIR
BREATHING APPARATUS,
THEY COULD ONLY TAKE A
LITTLE LIGHT EQUIPMENT
IN ADDITION.



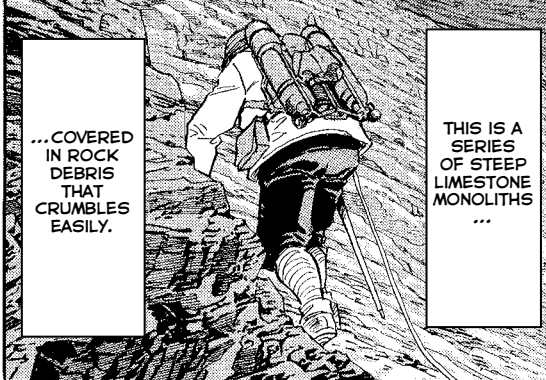
FIRST
IS THE
YELLOW
BAND.



AT 600M
BELOW THE
PEAK THERE
ARE SOME
DIFFICULT
OBSTACLES.



...COVERED
IN ROCK
DEBRIS
THAT
CRUMBLES
EASILY.



THIS IS A
SERIES
OF STEEP
LIMESTONE
MONOLITHS
...



THEY
CLIMBED
SLOWLY
AND
CARE-
FULLY.



IRVINE
WAS
LAGGING.



HSHH

HSHH



NEXT IS
A HARD,
VERTICAL
ROCK WALL
OF ABOUT
30 METERS
- THE FIRST
STEP.

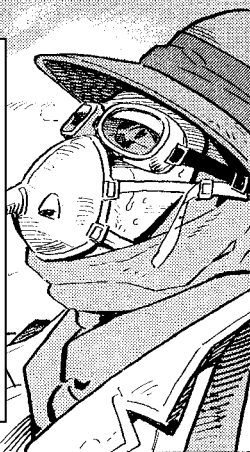
THE
ENERGY
HE GAINED
FROM THE
OXYGEN
WAS MORE
EFFECTIVE
THAN HE'D
IMAGINED.



HSHH

HSHH

EVEN
AT THIS
ALTITUDE,
MALLORY'S
CONSCIOUS-
NESS WAS
SHARP.



W H O O O O O

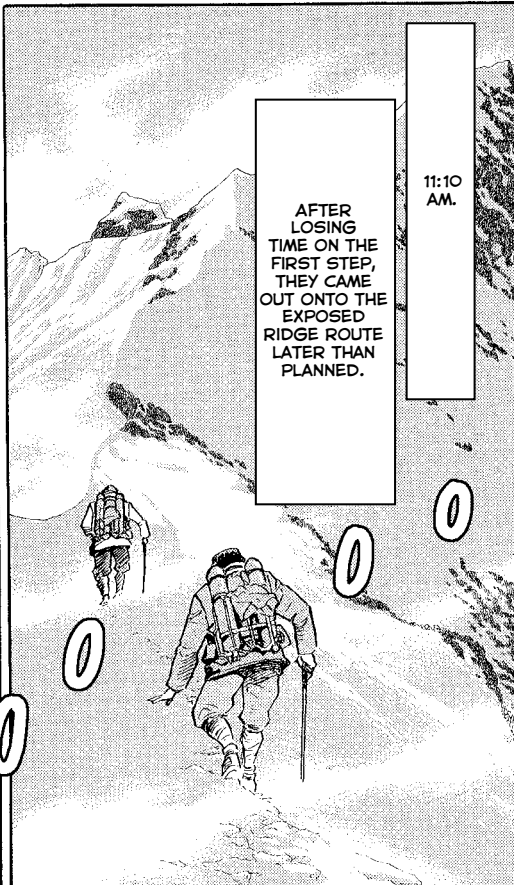


HSHH

HSHH



V W H O



11:10
AM.

AFTER
LOSING
TIME ON THE
FIRST STEP,
THEY CAME
OUT ONTO THE
EXPOSED
RIDGE ROUTE
LATER THAN
PLANNED.



O

O

O

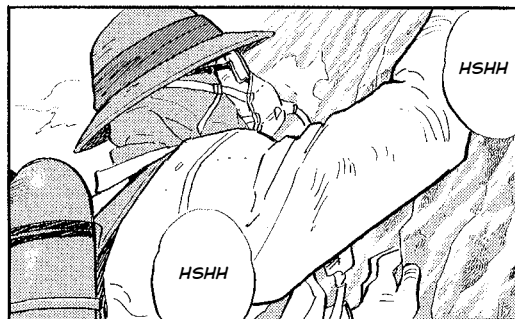
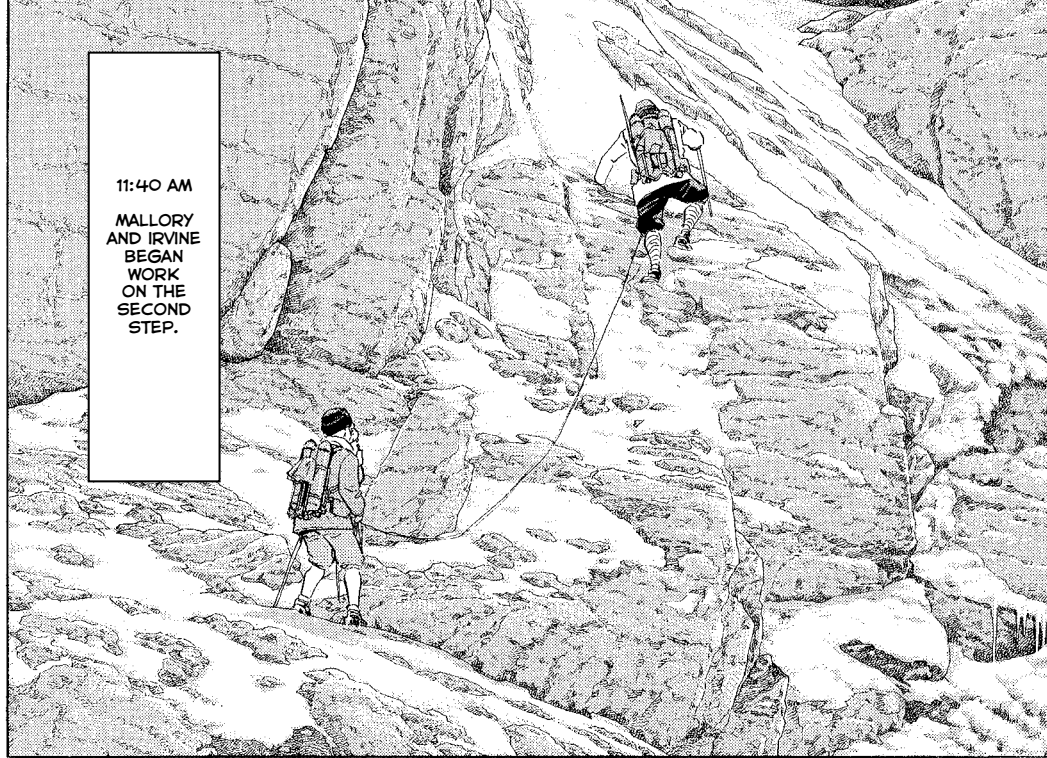
THEN
THE TWO MEN
SAW BEFORE
THEM THEIR
GREATEST
OBSTACLE -
THE SHEER,
VERTICAL
SECOND
STEP.

W
H
O
O
O
O
O
O

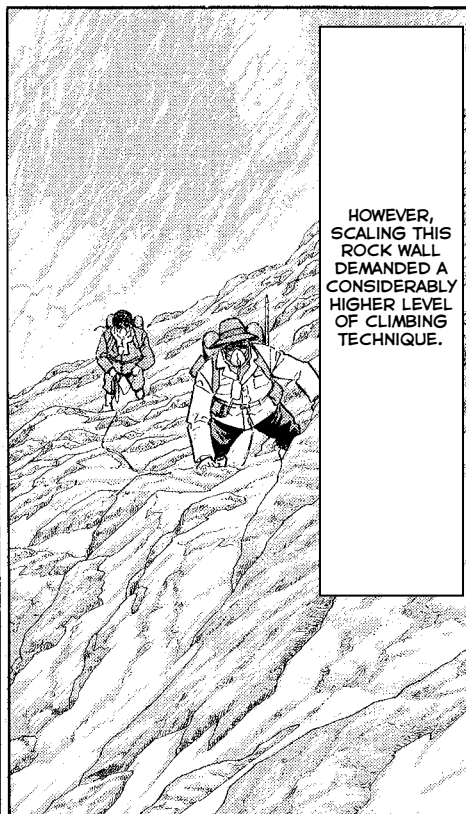
O
O
O



11:40 AM
MALLORY
AND IRVINE
BEGAN
WORK
ON THE
SECOND
STEP.



HOWEVER,
SCALING THIS
ROCK WALL
DEMANDED A
CONSIDERABLY
HIGHER LEVEL
OF CLIMBING
TECHNIQUE.





AROUND
THE MIDDLE
OF THE
SECOND
STEP, THEY
CAME ONTO
A FIELD
OF SNOW.

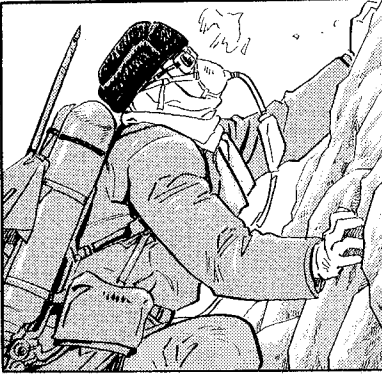
HE
SCALED A
NARROW
GROOVE
BETWEEN
THE ROCK
WALL AND
A ROUND
ROCK
SURFACE.



MALLORY
TOOK
LEAD AND
CAREFULLY
WORKED
OUT THE
ROUTE
AS HE
CLIMBED.



THEY
WERE
FAR
BEHIND
SCHEDULE.



FOR
IRVINE,
WHO HAD
LITTLE
CLIMBING
EXPERIENCE,
IT WAS A
BRUTAL
STRUGGLE.

HSHH

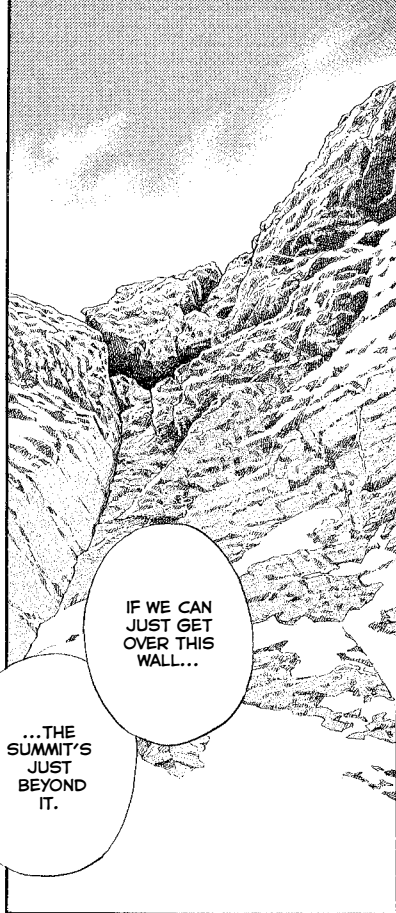
HAAH

HAAH

HSHH

THAT'S
IT. RIGHT
THERE!

USE THE
FOOTHOLD
ON YOUR
RIGHT TO
SUPPORT
YOUR BODY.



IF WE CAN
JUST GET
OVER THIS
WALL...

...THE
SUMMIT'S
JUST
BEYOND
IT.



WE'RE
JUST A
HAIR'S
BREADTH
AWAY NOW.

HAAH

HAAH

THERE
WASN'T
MUCH
OXYGEN
LEFT.



HFF

HFF

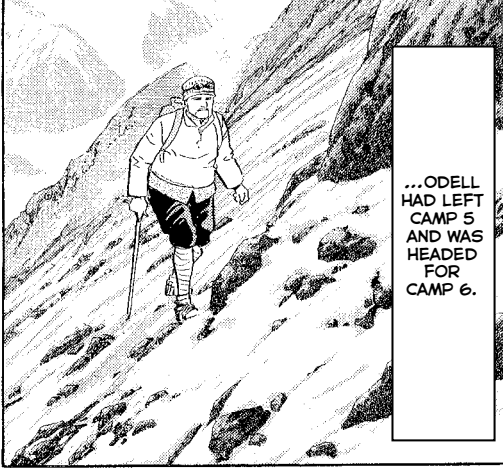


IT SEEMS LIKE
WE'LL BE ABLE
TO REACH THE
SUMMIT AND THEN
RETURN TO THE
CAMP WHILE
IT'S STILL
LIGHT.

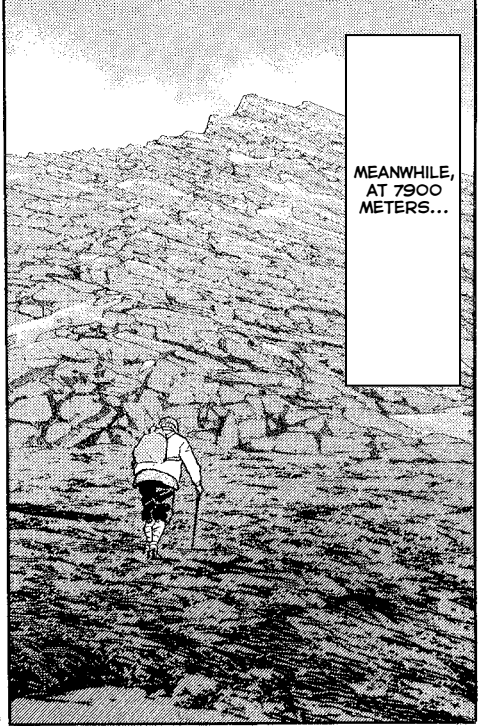


ONWARDS AND
UPWARDS...
THE TWO MEN
CLIMBED
TOWARDS
THE BLUE.

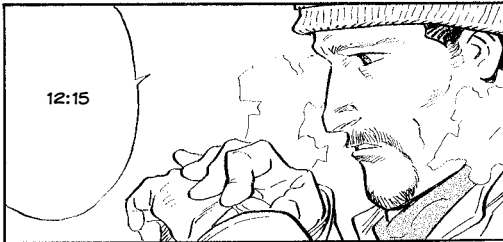
Vwo o o o o



...ODELL
HAD LEFT
CAMP 5
AND WAS
HEADED
FOR
CAMP 6.



MEANWHILE,
AT 7900
METERS...



12:15



VWO O O O O



AAH...!

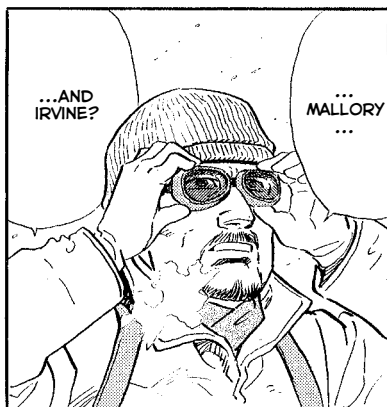


IT'S
POSSIBLE...

... THEY MAY
BE STARTING
ON THE FINAL
PYRAMID RIGHT
ABOUT NOW.

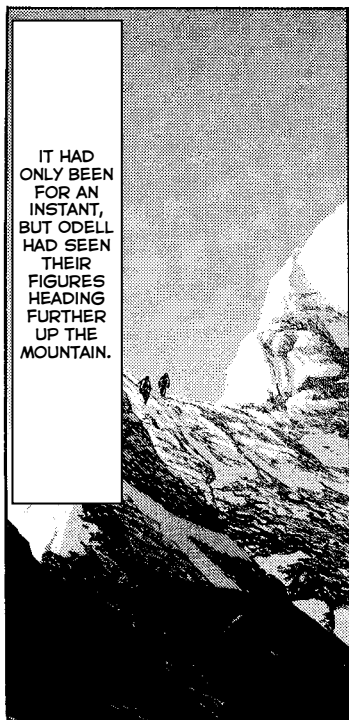
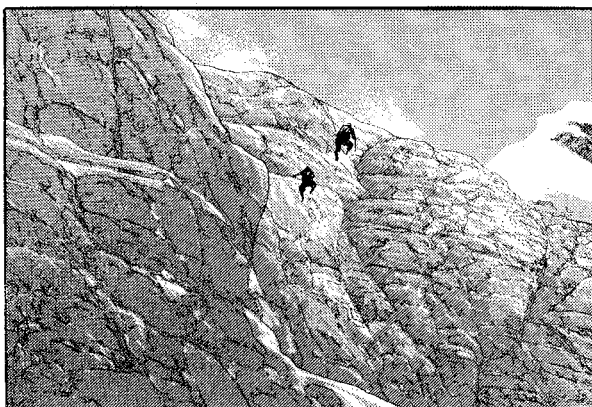


IS
THAT...



...AND
IRVINE?

...
MALLORY
...



IT HAD
ONLY BEEN
FOR AN
INSTANT,
BUT ODELL
HAD SEEN
THEIR
FIGURES
HEADING
FURTHER
UP THE
MOUNTAIN.



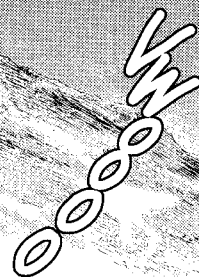
...AND THERE'S
STILL ANOTHER
200 METERS TO
THE SUMMIT.



BUT,
THEY MUST
BE BEHIND
SCHEDULE.

IT'S
12:50
NOW...

IN THE NEXT
MOMENT,
MALLORY AND
IRVINE
DISAPPEARED
INTO A PLACE
HIGHER THAN
ANYWHERE
ELSE ON THIS
EARTH.



THAT WAS
THE LAST TIME
THE TWO MEN
WERE SEEN BY
HUMAN EYES.

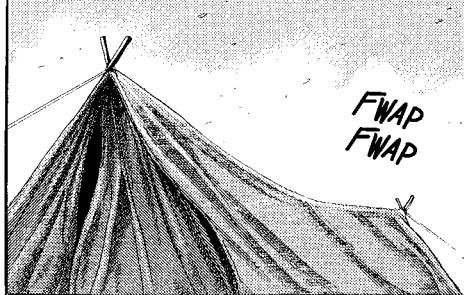
ODELL
CLIMBED
TO READY
CAMP 6
FOR WHEN
THE TWO
MEN WOULD
NEED TO
USE IT.

AT THAT
PACE...

...IT'S GOING
TO TAKE THEM AT
LEAST ANOTHER
THREE HOURS
TO REACH THE
SUMMIT.

EVEN
IF THEY CAN
START THEIR
DESCENT WHILE
IT'S STILL
LIGHT...

...THEY'LL
NEED TO
OVERNIGHT
AT CAMP 6.



FWAP
FWAP



WHEN HE
REACHED
THE CAMP,
THERE WAS
A SNOW-
STORM
BLOWING
ON THE
MOUNTAIN.



ODELL
TOOK
SHELTER
IN THE TENT
TO AVOID
THE
BLIZZARD.

FHH!

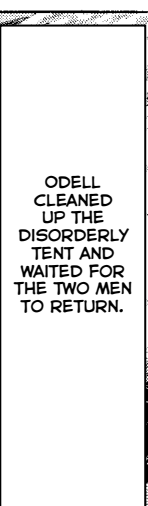


INSIDE HE
FOUND FOOD
WASTE,
CLOTHING AND
FIXTURES FROM
THE OXYGEN
APPARATUS
SCATTERED
ABOUT.



PERHAPS
IT'S STILL
TOO EARLY...

...FOR
THEM TO
BE BACK.

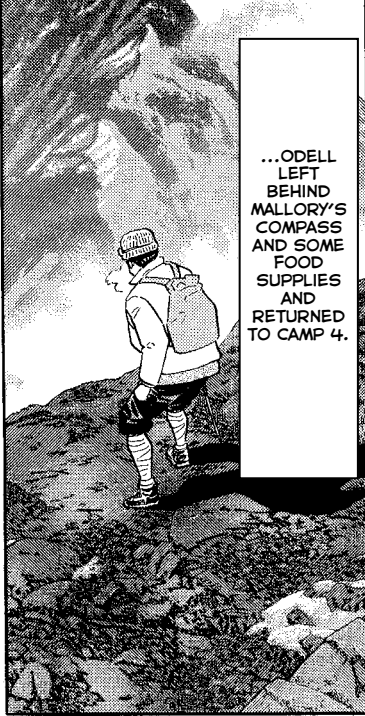


ODELL
CLEANED
UP THE
DISORDERLY
TENT AND
WAITED FOR
THE TWO MEN
TO RETURN.



4:40
P.M.

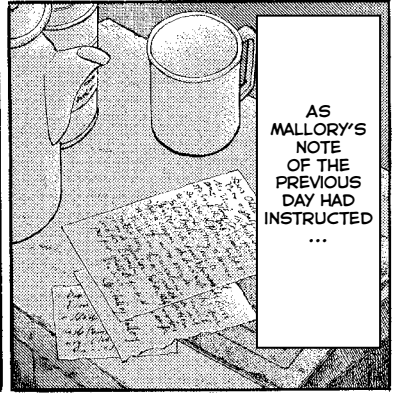
WHEE



...ODELL
LEFT
BEHIND
MALLORY'S
COMPASS
AND SOME
FOOD
SUPPLIES
AND
RETURNED
TO CAMP 4.



SHOULD I
RETURN TO
CAMP 4
WHILE IT'S
STILL LIGHT?



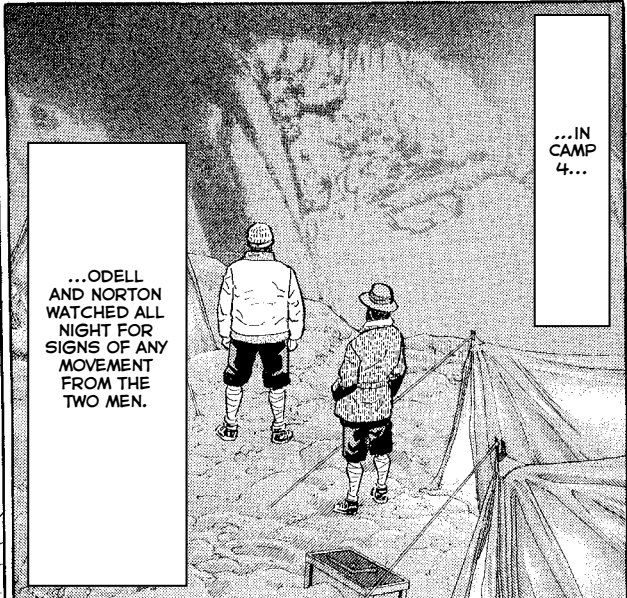
AS
MALLORY'S
NOTE
OF THE
PREVIOUS
DAY HAD
INSTRUCTED
...



THAT
NIGHT
...

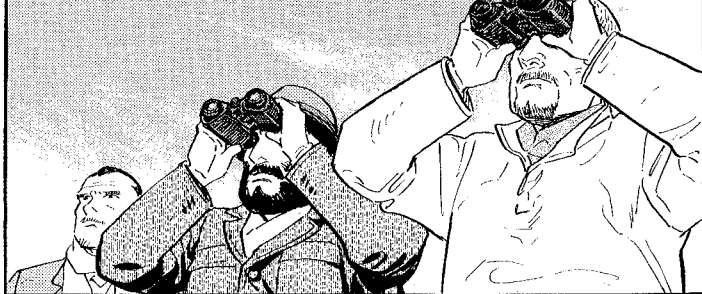


BUT
THEY SAW
NOTHING.

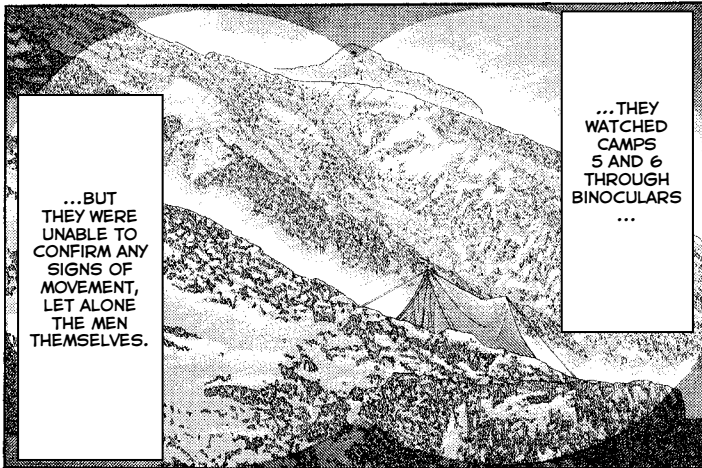


...ODELL
AND NORTON
WATCHED ALL
NIGHT FOR
SIGNS OF ANY
MOVEMENT
FROM THE
TWO MEN.

...IN
CAMP
4...

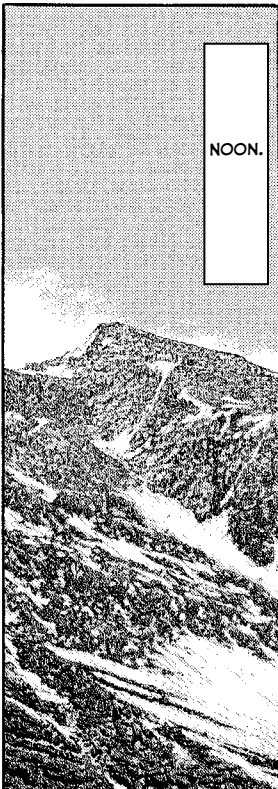


THE
NEXT
DAY...



...BUT
THEY WERE
UNABLE TO
CONFIRM ANY
SIGNS OF
MOVEMENT,
LET ALONE
THE MEN
THEMSELVES.

...THEY
WATCHED
CAMPS
5 AND 6
THROUGH
BINOCULARS
...



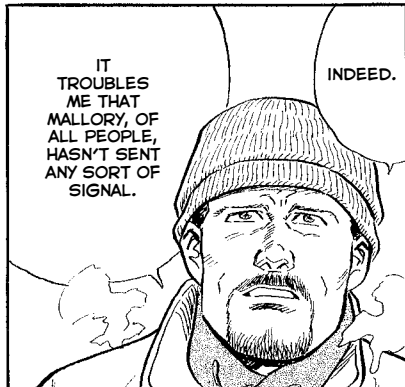
NOON.



SHOULDN'T
THE TWO OF
THEM HAVE
ARRIVED BACK
AT THE CAMP
AGES AGO
NOW?

IT'S
STRANGE.

WHAT
COULD HAVE
HAPPENED?



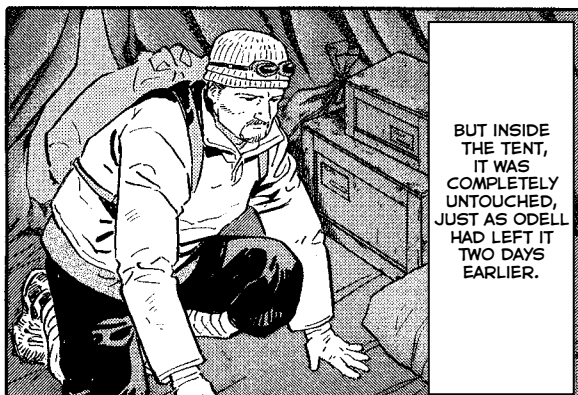
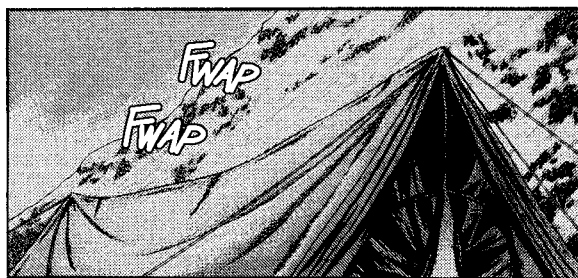
IT
TROUBLES
ME THAT
MALLORY, OF
ALL PEOPLE,
HASN'T SENT
ANY SORT OF
SIGNAL.

INDEED.

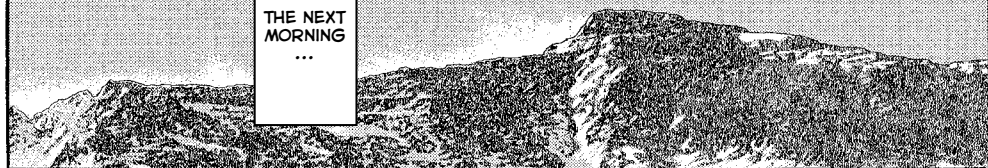


...MUST
HAVE
HAPPENED.

SOME-
THING...



THE NEXT
MORNING
...



HAHH

HAHH

HAHH

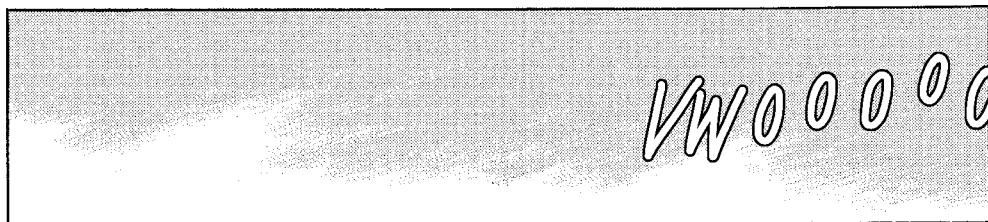


...AND
ODELL
HEADED
FOR CAMP
6 ON HIS
OWN.



...THE
PORTERS
WERE
AGAINST
GOING ANY
FURTHER,
SO HE
SENT THEM
BACK...

Wooooo



... WAS AN
UNOCCUPIED
TENT WITH
THE POLES
WRUNG OUT
BY STRONG
WINDS.



...WHAT
ODELL
FOUND AT
CAMP 6...



BUT
...

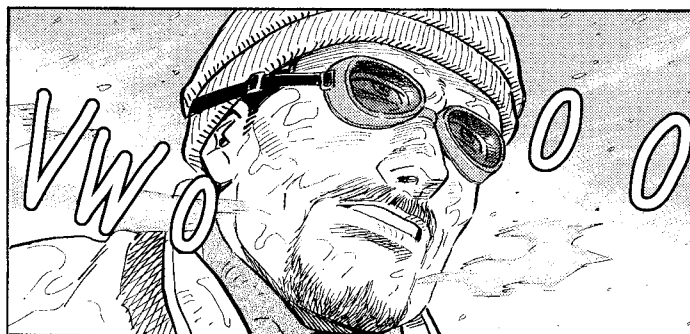


AFTER THAT, ODELL FOLLOWED THE ROUTE THEY HAD TAKEN FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, CLIMBING THROUGH THE SNOW STORM, BUT HE FOUND NOTHING.



MALLORYYY!!

IRVINE!!



STANDING DEAD STILL IN THAT PLACE, THE ONLY THING THAT RANG IN ODELL'S EARS WAS THE ROAR OF THE STRONG WIND STRIKING THE EMOTIONLESS WALL.

NOTHING WAS EVER HEARD FROM MALLORY OR IRVINE ON THIS WORLD AGAIN.

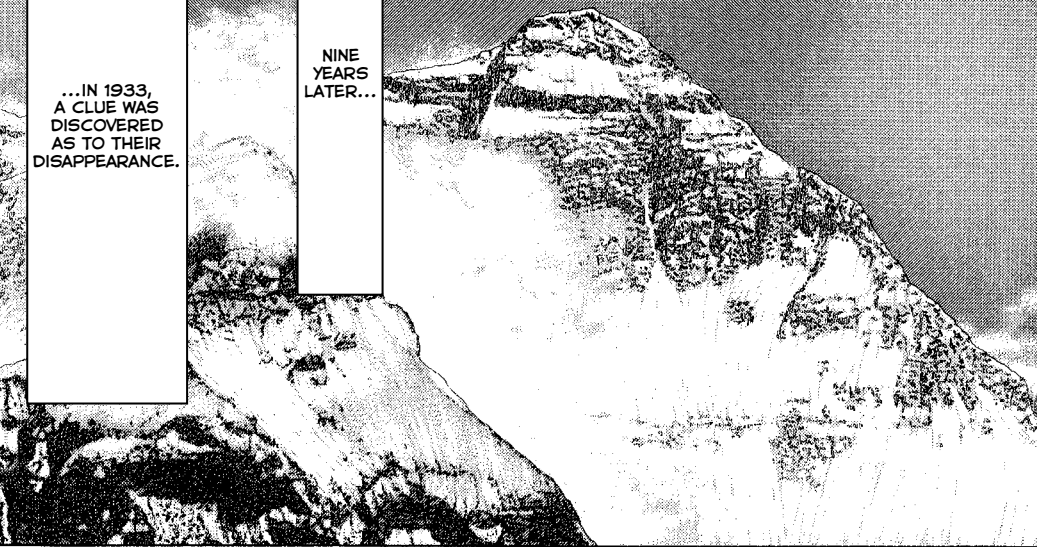


**"IN THE END,
DID MALLORY AND
IRVINE SET FOOT
ON THE SUMMIT
OF EVEREST?"**



...IN 1933,
A CLUE WAS
DISCOVERED
AS TO THEIR
DISAPPEARANCE.

NINE
YEARS
LATER...



FOR A
FOURTH TIME,
THE BRITISH
EMPIRE WAS
GOING TO
ATTEMPT
THE WORLD'S
HIGHEST PEAK.

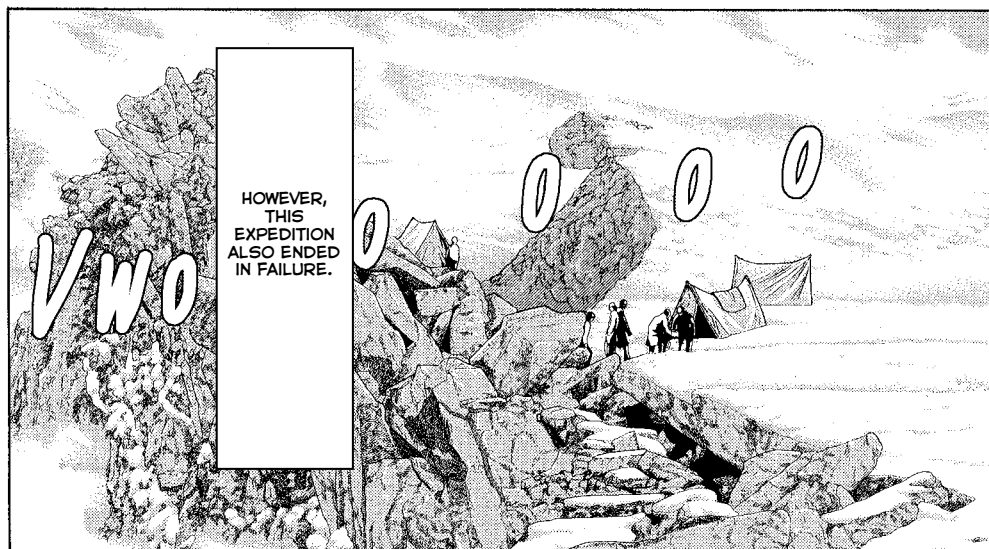


IN THIS YEAR
A FOURTH
EVEREST
TEAM WAS
FORMED.

Vwo

HOWEVER,
THIS
EXPEDITION
ALSO ENDED
IN FAILURE.

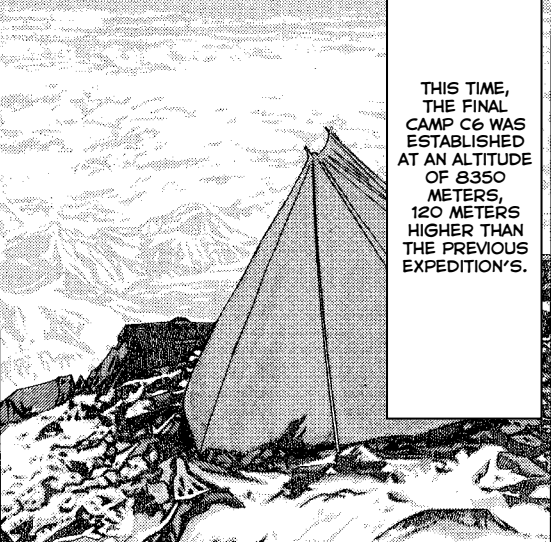
0 0 0 0



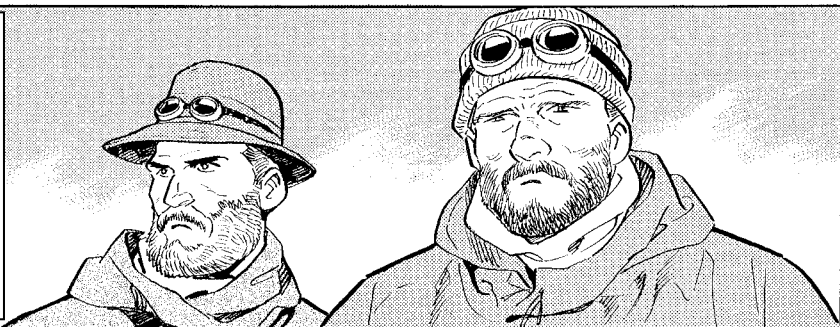
MAY
30.



THIS TIME,
THE FINAL
CAMP C6 WAS
ESTABLISHED
AT AN ALTITUDE
OF 8350
METERS,
120 METERS
HIGHER THAN
THE PREVIOUS
EXPEDITION'S.



DEPARTING
ON THE
FIRST
ATTACK
WERE
HARRIS AND
WAGER.



ONE HOUR
AFTER
LEAVING
CAMP 6...



JUST BEFORE THE FIRST STEP THEY DISCOVERED A SINGLE ICE AXE.'

AAH...!

...?!

IT'S--!

WHAT--?

WHAT IS THAT--?!

OR IRVINE'S?

SO THEN...

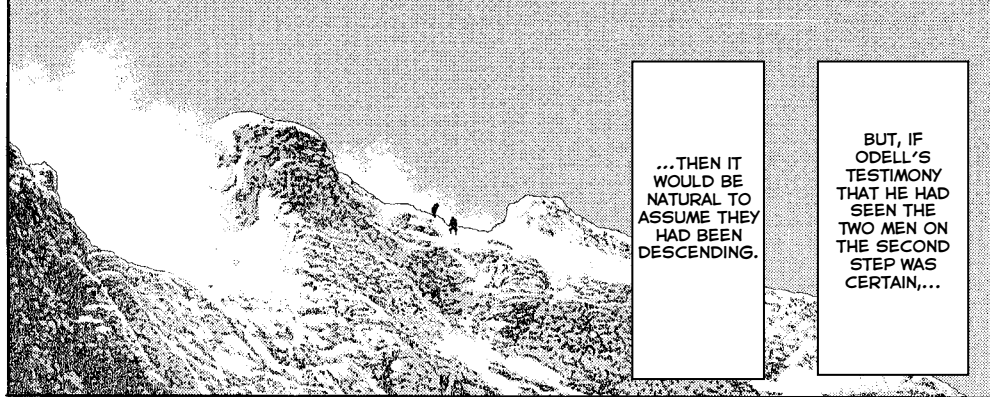
THIS MUST HAVE BELONGED TO THE PREVIOUS TEAM!

...IS IT MALLORY'S ...?

DID IRVINE DROP THIS WHILE THEY WERE CLIMBING UP, OR WHILE THEY WERE DESCENDING?

LATER, IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT IT HAD BELONGED TO IRVINE.

BUT THIS AXE CREATED A RIDDLE.

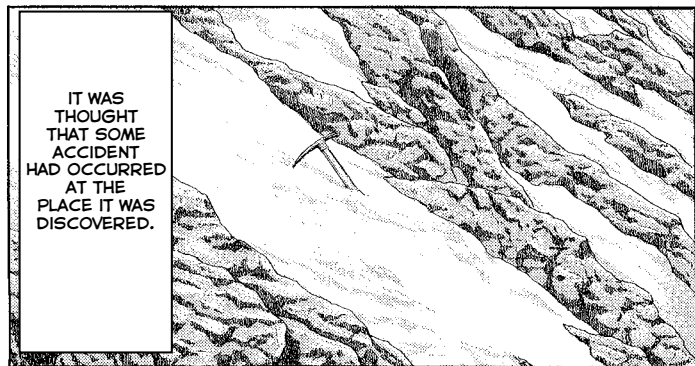


...THEN IT
WOULD BE
NATURAL TO
ASSUME THEY
HAD BEEN
DESCENDING.

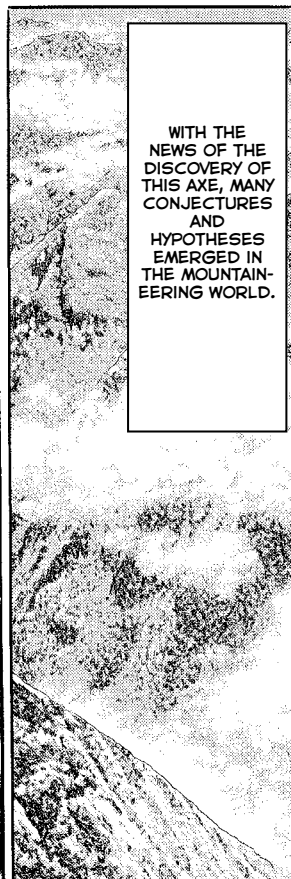
BUT, IF
ODELL'S
TESTIMONY
THAT HE HAD
SEEN THE
TWO MEN ON
THE SECOND
STEP WAS
CERTAIN,...



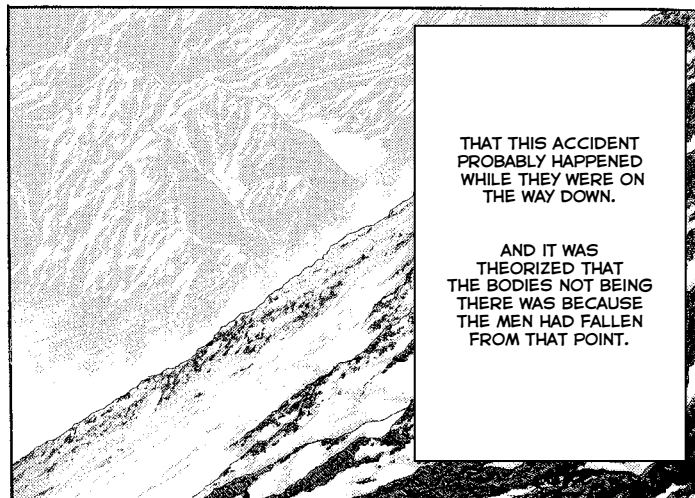
THE REASON
BEING ONE
WOULD NOT
SUPPOSE
THEY WOULD
PROCEED
AHEAD
WITHOUT
THE AXE.



IT WAS
THOUGHT
THAT SOME
ACCIDENT
HAD OCCURRED
AT THE
PLACE IT WAS
DISCOVERED.



WITH THE
NEWS OF THE
DISCOVERY OF
THIS AXE, MANY
CONJECTURES
AND
HYPOTHESES
EMERGED IN
THE MOUNTAIN-
EERING WORLD.



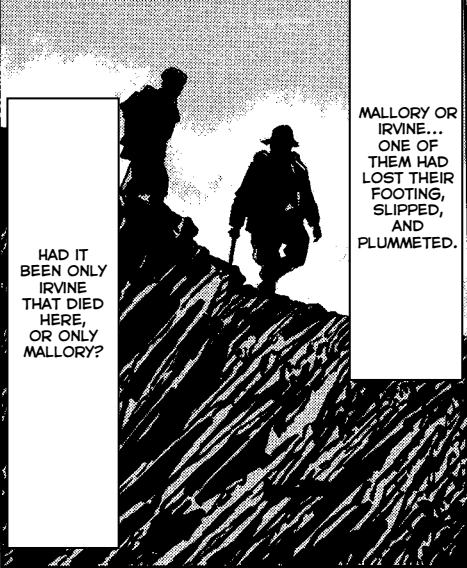
THAT THIS ACCIDENT
PROBABLY HAPPENED
WHILE THEY WERE ON
THE WAY DOWN.

AND IT WAS
THEORIZED THAT
THE BODIES NOT BEING
THERE WAS BECAUSE
THE MEN HAD FALLEN
FROM THAT POINT.



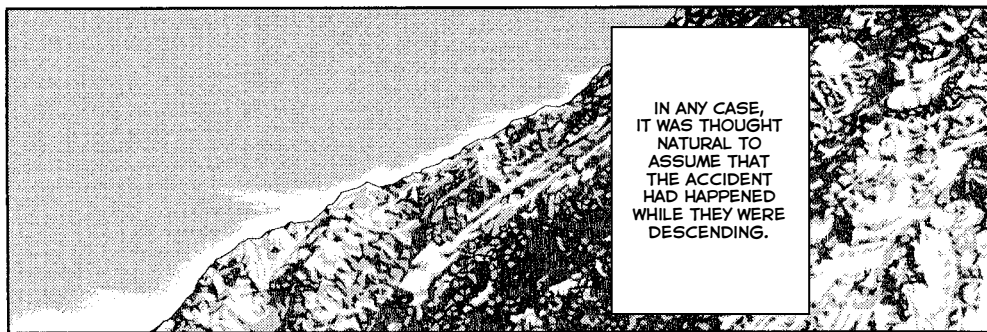
THE ONLY THING THEY'D LEFT BEHIND THEM WAS IRVINE'S AXE.

OR HAD THE TWO OF THEM FALLEN WITH THEIR ROPE STILL TYING THEM TOGETHER?

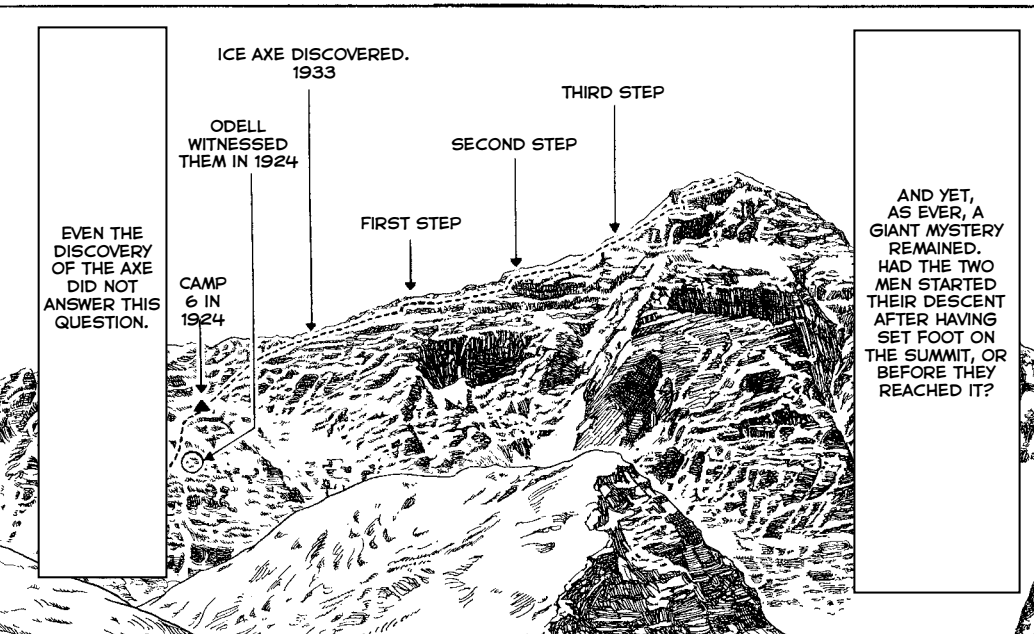


HAD IT BEEN ONLY IRVINE THAT DIED HERE, OR ONLY MALLORY?

MALLORY OR IRVINE... ONE OF THEM HAD LOST THEIR FOOTING, SLIPPED, AND PLUMMETED.



IN ANY CASE, IT WAS THOUGHT NATURAL TO ASSUME THAT THE ACCIDENT HAD HAPPENED WHILE THEY WERE DESCENDING.



EVEN THE DISCOVERY OF THE AXE DID NOT ANSWER THIS QUESTION.

ICE AXE DISCOVERED.
1933

ODELL
WITNESSED
THEM IN 1924

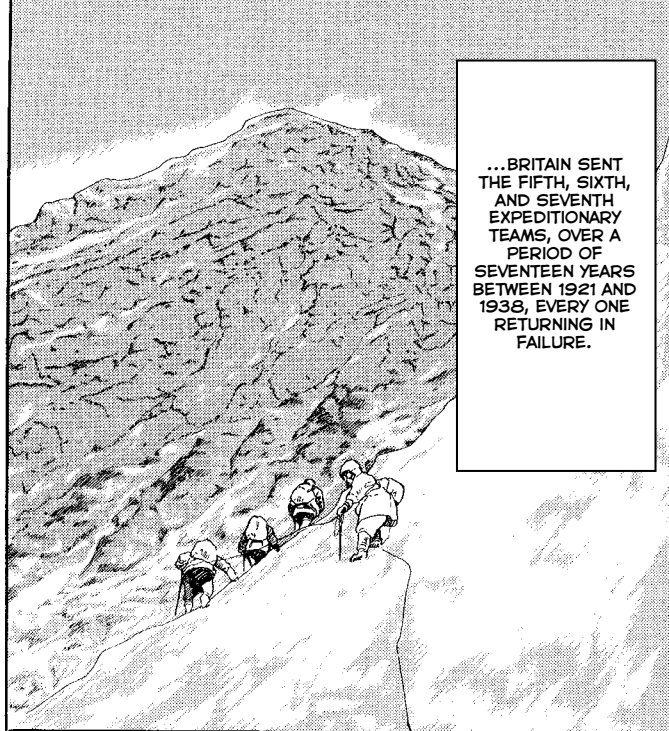
CAMP
6 IN
1924

FIRST STEP

SECOND STEP

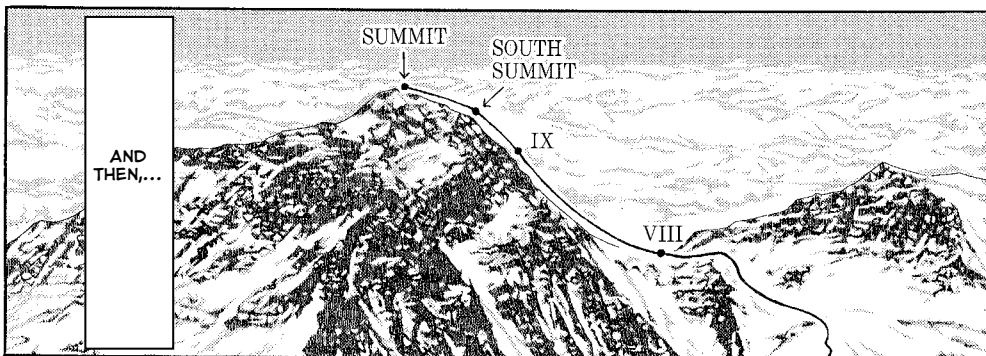
THIRD STEP

AND YET, AS EVER, A GIANT MYSTERY REMAINED. HAD THE TWO MEN STARTED THEIR DESCENT AFTER HAVING SET FOOT ON THE SUMMIT, OR BEFORE THEY REACHED IT?



...BRITAIN SENT
THE FIFTH, SIXTH,
AND SEVENTH
EXPEDITIONARY
TEAMS, OVER A
PERIOD OF
SEVENTEEN YEARS
BETWEEN 1921 AND
1938, EVERY ONE
RETURNING IN
FAILURE.

IN THE
END...



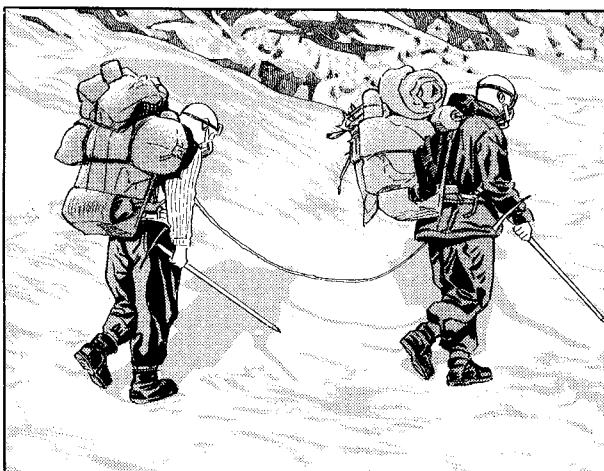
AND
THEN,...

SUMMIT

SOUTH
SUMMIT

IX

VIII



IN
FACT, IT WAS
THIRTY-TWO
YEARS AFTER
THE FIRST
EXPEDITION,
ON MAY 29,
1953.

...AFTER THE
SECOND WORLD
WAR, THE FIRST
STEP WAS
FINALLY TAKEN
ON THE SUMMIT
OF EVEREST.



THEY WENT
VIA NEPAL TO
THE SOUTH
COL OVER
THE KHUMBU
GLACIER.



THEY
CLIMBED TO
THE SUMMIT
USING A NEW
ROUTE ON
EVEREST'S
SOUTH-EAST
RIDGE.




HSHH



SO,
HILLARY OF
THE BRITISH
TEAM, AND
THE SHERPA
TENZING WALKED
WITH EVEREST'S
SUMMIT BENEATH
THEIR FEET.



BUT THE
MYSTERY
REMAINED.




ODELL,
THE LAST MAN
TO SEE THEM
ALIVE, WAS ONE
OF THEM.

MANY
PEOPLE
BELIEVED
THAT
MALLORY AND
IRVINE HAD
STOOD ON
EVEREST'S
SUMMIT IN
1924.



CHFF

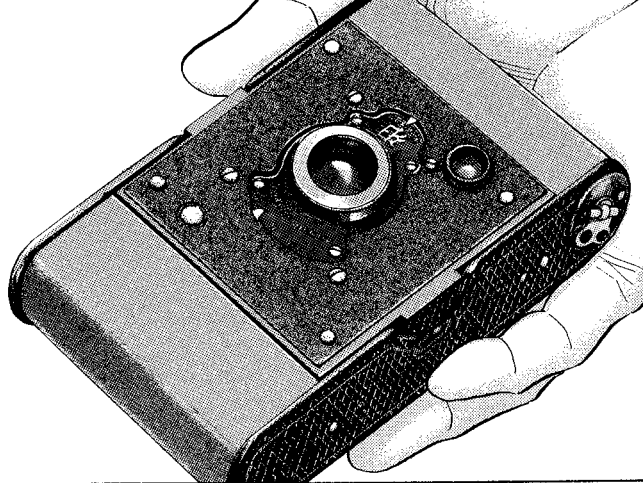
"WAS THE SUMMIT
CONQUERED ON THAT
EXPEDITION?"



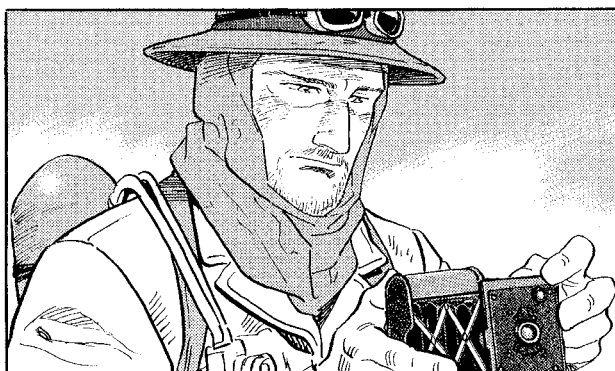
DURING HIS 1924
SUMMIT ATTACK,
MALLORY WAS
CARRYING A
STRUT FOLDING
CAMERA HE'D
BORROWED FROM
FELLOW TEAM
MEMBER,
SUMMERVILLE.

THERE
WAS ONLY
ONE WAY TO
ANSWER
THAT
QUESTION.

THIS
CAMERA TOOK
BROWNIE
FILM AND
HAD JUST
GONE ON
THE MARKET
AT THE TIME.
IT WAS STATE-
OF-THE-ART.



A "VEST
POCKET
AUTOGRAPHIC
KODAK
SPECIAL."



IF MALLORY
HAD REACHED THE
SUMMIT, THEN IT
WAS AN ABSOLUTE
CERTAINTY THAT
HE WOULD HAVE
TAKEN PHOTOS
FROM IT WITH THIS
CAMERA...

....AND KODAK WERE
SURE THAT, IF THE FILM
WAS STILL INSIDE THE
APPARATUS, IT COULD
STILL BE DEVELOPED,
EVEN MORE THAN
FIFTY YEARS LATER.

