

The 2001 Mallory & Irvine Research Expedition

Expedition Overview

Mallory and Irvine's summit attempt on Mt. Everest remains one of mountaineering's greatest mysteries. On June 8, 1924, George Mallory and Andrew Irvine were last seen high on the Northeast Ridge. On May 1, 1999 the remains of George Mallory were found, but many questions remain unanswered today. What happened to these climbers? Did they perish before, or after, reaching the summit? Were they actually the first team to summit the world's highest mountain?

The 2001 Mallory & Irvine Research Expedition team will continue the work begun in 1999 by conducting further historical research. The 2001 team will retrace Mallory and Irvine's footsteps on Everest. Along the route climbers will attempt to locate and document artifacts of the early attempts-tents, oxygen cylinders, diaries, cameras, etc.-in order to reconstruct the events of the early climbs. The team will investigate the 1924 camps and the snow terraces where Mallory's body was discovered. Using metal detectors and subsurface imaging techniques, they will search for additional clues to the missing climbers and their cameras.

The 2001 Expedition Team

Returning to the mountain are 1999 expedition leader Eric Simonson and climbing team members Dave Hahn, Jake Norton, Andy Politz and Tap Richards. New to the search team in 2001 will be veteran Himalayan climbers Brent Okita and John Race. The climbers will again be joined by team historians Jochen Hemmleb and Larry Johnson as well as expedition doctor Lee Meyers.

The 2001 Itinerary

The 2001 Mallory & Irvine Research Team will depart from home on March 11, 2001 and travel to Kathmandu, Nepal before driving overland to Tibet and Everest's Rongbuk Base Camp at the foot of the North Face. The team hopes to commence the search activities starting not later than April 20, 2001 weather and conditions permitting. The expedition is slated to leave the mountain by no later than May 31, 2001 and will again travel overland by truck to Kathmandu, Nepal before continuing home to the US.