

Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, Tiger of the Snow 1914 - 1986

A brief Bio:-

Tenzing Norgay, often referred to as Sherpa Tenzing, was one of the most famous mountaineers in history. On May 29th 1953, he became one of the first two climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest. The other was Sir Edmund Hillary. Testing the limits of human endurance and going where no human had been before, the iconic image of him on the summit is also an enduring symbol of the human spirit.

But all this came only with hard work and dedication - leaving his hometown at an early age to pursue his passion for adventure. At a time when there were historic changes around the world, Tenzing became a symbol of hope for many and became one of the first Asian to rise from humble beginnings to be world renowned.

After Everest, Tenzing kept a promise he made to Prime Minister Nehru to “produce a thousand Tenzing’s” by establishing the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI) in Darjeeling in 1954 where he was Director and Advisor for many years. The HMI has produced most of India’s finest climbers and Tenzing became the inspiration for anyone seeking adventure. Tenzing remained a guiding spirit to the HMI till his death in 1986.

Highlights of his extraordinary achievements and awards are listed below:

- 1935 - Accompanied Eric Shipton’s reconnaissance expedition to Everest.
- 1936 - Went with Hugh Rutledge’s expedition to Everest and reached the North Col.
- 1938 - Accompanied H.W. Tillman’s expedition to Everest and reached camp 6 (27,330 ft)
- 1939 - Went on an expedition to Turchmir in the Hindukush range and reached 23,000ft. Later during the Second World War years, Tenzing trained the Chitral Militia in mountaineering skills.
- 1946 - Carried out explorations in the Kanchenjunga region.
- 1947 - Accompanied the Swiss to the Kumaon Himalaya and climbed several virgin peaks.
- 1949 - Carried out many explorations in Nepal with H.W. Tillman.
- 1950 - Accompanied the Doon School expedition to the Kumaon Himalaya.
- 1951 – Member of the French Expedition to Nanda Devi - climbed the East summit (25,000ft)

1952 - Accompanied two Swiss Expeditions to Everest in the Spring and the Fall, reaching the height of 28,210ft and 26,560ft, respectively without supplement oxygen, with Raymond Lambert.

1953 –Member of the British Everest Expedition led by Col John Hunt - first to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, along with Sir Edmund Hillary, on 29 May.

Worldwide recognitions:

Padma Bhushan of India, President's Gold Medal, Nepal Tara, Nepal PratapVardak, Iran Shah Medal, George Medal, Coronation Medal of Queen Elizabeth II, Tiger Medal of the Himalayan Club, Hubbard Medal of the National Geographic Society, U.S.S.R. Sports Special Medal, Special Olympic Medal, French Sports Special Medal, Italian Sports Special Medal, Doctor of Law Northland College, Wisconsin, Golden Plate Chicago, IMF Gold Medal.