

# Mount Everest Foundation Expedition Report (Summary)

## Anglo-Niwi Latch Expedition

Team: Carol McDermott (leader)  
 Dave Wills  
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 Andy MacNae

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Objective: 1<sup>st</sup> Ascent North Buttress of Latch I (7145m)

Date:	Arrive Rawalpindi	27-5-91
	Begin Approach (from Askole)	3-6-91
	Arrive Base Camp	5-6-91
	L.O. leaves expedition	10-6-91
	First attempt at objective	10-7-91
	Depart Base camp	25-7-91
	Arrive Skardu	26-7-91

Weather: The first half of June was hot and sunny, but deteriorated to remain unstable for the remainder of the trip. The mountains were well covered with snow and received regular top-ups. By mid-morning of a sunny day, it was not safe to be climbing on snow and this effected our progress on the mountain. During July, the weather was particularly unsettled. Two of our 3 attempts were allowed only 2 days of good weather before the onset of heavy snowfalls.

Health: Two members of the team were effected by accident and illness.

During our first attempt on the route (10-11 July) Andy MacFarlane was struck on the upper back close to the spine. He suffered severe bruising but no

serious damage. We lowered Andy off the mountain and he later headed home unable to participate further with the expedition.

During our next attempt (17 July) suffered a temporary illness (as yet unidentified). This occurred at the first belay stance being just solved 450m of ice gully. Andy was belaying and was therefore at rest. To begin, Andy began to feel extremely sleepy. This was followed by tingling in his fingers and then uncontrollable hyperventilation. He then had increasing loss of motor control to arms legs and speech muscles until he was unable to stand. At all times, he was completely aware of what was happening but could do nothing. Once he began to recover (without being moved), he was fully recovered within 5-10 minutes. Andy had no previous history and suffered no recurrence. We helped Andy off the mountain and he paid no part in the 3rd and final attempt which was aborted in a snow storm (July 19-21). Total time of illness - 1 hour.

Technical:

Due to large snow mushrooms adorning the crest of the ridge we failed (on our first attempt) to climb the lower rock buttress. We eventually bypassed the buttress via an ice gully east of the ridge (Scottish 6). We bivvied at an altitude of 5350m at midday due to dangerous snow conditions. The route then climbed diagonally rightwards up snow slopes to gain the main central buttress containing sustained mixed climbing. We climbed 3 pitches of this buttress, to bivvy at a high point of 5550 metres. We retreated the next day through a snow storm - a total of 32 assaults.

Cost:

£ 9 400.

Regards.

Dave Wells