

30 March Day 12 Easter  
Happy Easter!

It was a cold, hard night in the tent, but morning brought clear skies and a beautiful view of the peaks. I had built a snow cross on a snow mountain to sort of make something special of the occasion. I had several people watching wondering just what I was making. I had great trouble at first because the snow would not hold together. Finally, using a pan I got enough snow piled in a column to carve out a cross on top of a mountain of snow. I faced down the valley towards Everest as my pictures will show.



The Easter Snow Cross facing Mt Everest and our campsite looking down the Dudh Kosi Valley to Mt Everest in the clouds.



Behind me is the Tengboche Monastery and the picture to the right to the right of the Monastery and is the gathering place for teams planning an ascent of Everest. And, it's only fitting that my guide/friend for the past two weeks, Sarkay Tsering, and I have our picture taken with Mt Everest in the background.



After much picture-taking we departed the Tengboche monastery for Shyangboche. I noticed wispy clouds at about 0900 (9:00 AM) and by 0930, when we stopped for lunch, there was a fairly cool breeze blowing.

As we climbed out to the Everest View Motel, it was downright cold and windy. The "motel" or whatever it is, is really beautiful and sets perfectly for a view of Everest. It's all stone and of a modern architectural base - something on the lines of a big ski lodge.



Looking back towards Shyangboche and the Kunde and the airfield - the opposite direction from Mt Everest - if you look closely you can see part of the trail carved out of the mountainside.

It's 1250, and we're back at the STOL airfield. It's still very cold, and we'll be staying in a small "motel" just beside the field. It's much warmer in the "motel" than it could possibly be in a tent, and for the last night, 3 N. rupees a bed is simply not worth the trouble and cold of the tent. If the clouds keep moving in it will probably snow tonight.

Just a few words about Easter here, and the unusual way the Lord has allowed me to spend it. We slept in the shadow of the famous Buddhist Monastery at Tengboche, and this in part, was a reason for my snow cross. It was sort of a reminder that even in this country of Buddhism and Hinduism, Christ is still the Lord and the magnificent peaks are His handiwork. I really feel that the whole trip worked out according to His plan, and I merely acted a part, a rather tough part at times, going up and down etc. etc.

As I previously noted, I'm scheduled for the STOL aircraft tomorrow morning at 0800 (8:00 AM). I've already seen the operation, so I'm rather looking forward to a flight in a Porter (the Pilatus Porter is a STOL-type aircraft used extensively when there is a short runway and a grass or dirt strip to fly out of - it literally jumps up off the earth and flies). I also must add, as this is for the record, that I'm tired and glad it's all over. The trek simply takes a lot out of an inexperienced person which I am admittedly. I'm renewed in spirit, in body, and ready for the responsibility I shall face in the coming months in the Air Force. Escape from life and its demands by trekking is not an answer, it's simply another of the many defense mechanisms that an individual can choose to remove himself or herself from life's responsibilities.