

To: Mrs Bradshaw
Monavale
Ladysmith
N.S.W.
Australia

From: E.E. Shipton
Dunsburg
Hillbrow
Liss
Hants

24/7/52

My dear Margaret,

I got your letter of 29th March when I got home a week ago. Diana didn't forward any of my mail as it wasn't really worth while.

This year's expedition failed in its main objective, i.e. to climb Cho Oyu where it was supposed to give some of the party experience in climbing at great altitudes, mainly because the southern approach, on which we put our hopes, proved hopeless and the only alternative route, up the West face, involved a trespass across the frontier into Tibet. We did, in fact, commit this indiscretion in the hope that we might find the climbing sufficiently easy to make a blitz attempt, but it was not that easy, and a horrible visit by Chinese Communist troops made it inadvisable to build up anything like a sufficient base at the foot. It was a tantalizing decision to have to make. Since we did in fact trespass, none of this could be published. However, the rest of the trip was great fun. We covered a great deal of unexplored country and climbed about a dozen peaks of between 20000 and 22500 ft. In June, four of us, Hillary & Lowe (New Zealanders), and Evans and I, did a journey that I had set my heart on last year. We crossed the two passes to the S.E. of Everest that Hillary and I found last year into the Barun, explored the watershed between Everest and Makalu and then went down the Barun gorge to the Arun. It was terrific country, and altogether was the sort of thing that I enjoy more than anything. I have to write all this up for *The Times*. Do you see the articles? If not, I will sent them along. We got back to India early in July and I flew home on 16/17th. Its grand to be back, especially at this time of year – this is such a lovely part of the world. We too are suffering from quite a serious drought – it hasn't rained for a month.

Diana and the boys are very well. Nicky is rampaging about the place and, for some odd reason, seemed very pleased to see me back. John is tremendously full of energy too. We are going to Cornwall at the end of August for a fortnight. As we are having another crack at Everest next spring it looks as if I am going to have plenty to do, though I haven't made up my mind whether to go myself or not. The Swiss did very well, though I am surprised that more of them didn't get above the South Col, which is only about the height of our old Camp 5 and its easy going beyond that – until the last 300 ft., which looks bloody awful. I hope your drought has broken – it must be hell coping with that climate of yours.

Love from us both,
Eric.