

Rongzhar Valley

Tibet

Dear Mr^{rs} Mallory

22.6.24

It is my painful duty to write you my deepest sympathies in the loss of your husband. It has all happened so suddenly & unexpected, that one really cannot realise it as yet. As you will have seen from Norton's communique to the 'Times', to which I added an appendix, I was the last to see them on the mountain, & they seemed to be going so well that success seemed assured. Whether they actually reached the top must ever be a mystery, but I really think the odds are in favour of their having done so. It was a magnificent achievement getting as far as we know they got & establishing a world's record. From a mountaineering point of view they died a really glorious death, however it came about.

It had always been my ambition to be a member of George's party either at home or in the Alps, & that wish was only fulfilled on this expedition. I was associated with him in all our attempts & frustrations this year, & admired his skill & method ~~as~~ a mountaineer. While back at the Base Camp last month, he, Somervell, & I had a delightful day's rock-climbing on a neighbouring peak. It was quite exhilarating to see the way in which George led the not too easy pitches. He seemed so

intensely delighted to be back on rock — his first
love in the climber's régime so to speak. I had so
looked forward to more pleasures of this kind with him,
& it grieves me to think that this cannot be.

But I grieve most for you & your family, & if
I can be of any assistance on my return home in early
September I do hope you won't hesitate to tell me.

My permanent address is 44 Compaque Gardens, N.W. 6, which
always finds me, though I shall be in N. Wales to begin
with, where my wife now is.

We have packed up what remains of your husband's
kit, which you will eventually receive. All letters are
also being returned to you.

Again, with my sincerest sympathies towards you in
yours, & our, great loss.

Yours very truly
Noel E. Odell

