

CLASS X ENGLISH COURSE BOOK UNIT III - LESSON 6 THE SAGA OF A MOUNTAINEER AND EXPLORER

NOTES

There are some kind of activities which need courage, determination, intelligence and physical strength of a higher order. **Sir Edmund Hillary**, the New Zealand mountaineer and explorer becomes the first to scale the Mount Everest, with **Tenzing Norgay**, in 1953. Numerous Everest expeditions had failed and one was vanished in 1924. Mount Everest lies on the Nepal-Tibet border. Sir Edmund and Norgay were part of a Royal Geographical Society- Alpine Club expedition led by Colonel Henry Cecil John Hunt. At 6.30 am, on May 29, 1953, they began the final attack. They faced many hardships throughout the whole expedition. At last, the vast panorama of the Himalayas lay before them. There was a modest celebration. Four days later, the news was flashed around the world. Queen Elizabeth II promptly made Edmund a knight commander of the order of the British Empire, while Norgay received the George Medal of Britain and other honours and were greeted in India and London. Today, Everest expeditions are almost commonplace. Sir Edmund wrote or was a co-author of 13 books, including *No Latitude for Error* (1961) about the Antarctic experience. He died of heart failure in 2008.
