

The start of David's climb

David Cole has begun his quest to climb Mount Everest and hopefully, *Advertiser* readers will be able to follow his progress over the next month or so as the team makes its way up the mountain.

On Sunday, April 6 with Mingpu Sherpa and Tawa Sherpa, David left Lukla at around 8.30 am headed for Namche Bazaar at 3440 metres, for what was to be an eight hour hike.

"However, from the outset of leaving, it rained the whole way, making the trail muddy, slippery and slow going," David described.

Arriving at a village called Monju, they met up with a 15 member Indian team also climbing Everest.

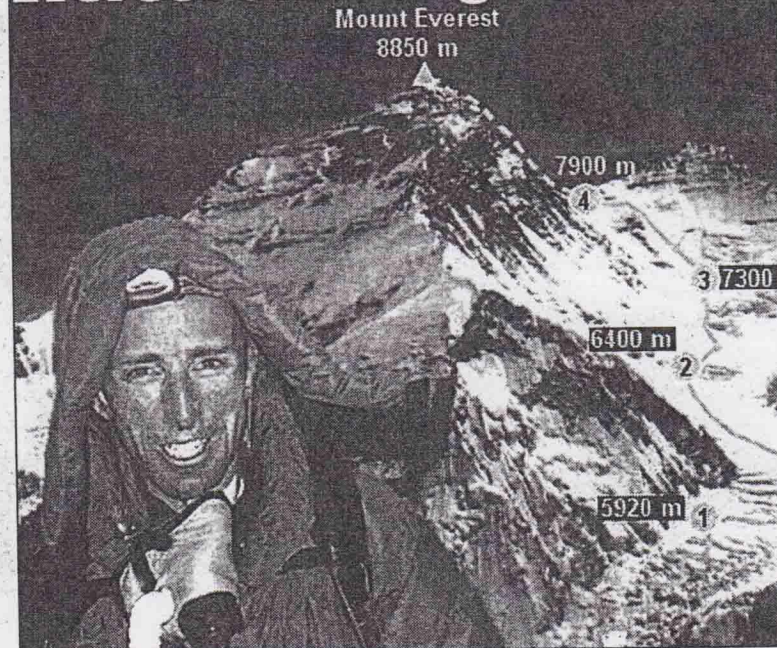
"We departed Monju on Monday morning, and headed up the valley towards Namche.

"We gained our first glimpse of Everest some 50 kilometres further up the valley, towering over all surrounding peaks.

"It's hard to imagine that is where we are eventually heading," David said.

"All the snow capped mountains

Everest Challenge 2008 - D



around us look so cold and barren; Everest will be more so.

David said Namche Bazaar is a small town which is the heart of that region, providing the gateway to the high trading pass into China, to the Everest region and to the lower valley of Lukla where they had walked from.

"We will now stay here for a couple of days doing some hikes to

higher altitudes, and wait for the rest of our team to arrive, by which time we will be itching to keep going higher.

"We still have another 50 kilometres to walk.

"The outlook for us now is to be fully acclimatised by the time we reach base camp."

The team hoped to be at base camp by today.

M ... of peace not war