



At the Top of the World

Who is Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner? Who is Edmund Viesturs?

Who is Kim Chang-ho? What is the significance of “14 eight-thousanders”?

Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner slowly climbed up. The snow was deep. The air was thin. The winds were rough. She couldn't feel her fingers and toes. She climbed up steep slopes. She strained her legs. She finally **summitted** the mountain. To summit means to reach the top.

She tried to climb K2 six times. It's the second-highest mountain in the world. One time, she saw a climber fall. He died. Another time, the weather was too cold.

She became the second woman to climb the 14 **eight-thousanders**. Eight-thousanders means mountains that are over 8,000 meters tall. That's 26,247 feet. There are 14 of them. They're in the Himalayan mountain range. They're in central Asia.

She's the first woman to do so without using oxygen tanks. She did it without **porters**. Porters carry people's gear.

Eight-thousanders are the tallest mountains in the world.

