

On Mount Everest, Surviving an Earthquake and an Avalanche

By James Estrin May. 5, 2015  8

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Roberto Schmidt, the chief photographer for South Asia for Agence France-Presse, was at the Mount Everest base camp in Nepal when an [avalanche triggered](#) by a massive earthquake hit. His dramatic images of the avalanche and its aftermath [were published](#) around the world. Mr. Schmidt, 49, recounted his experiences in a phone conversation with James Estrin, which has been edited.



A cloud of snow and debris triggered by an earthquake flew toward Everest base camp, moments before it flattened part of the camp in the Himalayas. When an avalanche thundered down Mount Everest, guides tweeted calls for help and dramatic video footage quickly went viral as trekkers used Wi-Fi on the roof of the world. April 25, 2015.

Roberto Schmidt/Agence France-
Presse — Getty Images



Rescuers used a makeshift stretcher to carry an injured person after the avalanche.

Roberto Schmidt/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



An injured Sherpa being assisted by rescuers after the avalanche.

Roberto Schmidt/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images





Prayer flags framed a rescue helicopter as it ferried the injured from Everest base camp.

Roberto Schmidt/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



Rescuers in Nepal are still searching for survivors, digging through rubble in the devastated capital, Kathmandu, and airlifting victims of an avalanche at Everest base camp.

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