



below the very small cornice on the ridge, it was not felt that further slide danger existed from above. Thus, as soon as the snow stopped sliding, the two men remaining on the ridge (Keller and Katten) started down, looking for people or equipment on the way. About 100 feet down the slope one ski was found; its owner, Hermann Haertel, was found clinging to a tree about 20 feet below. He was in considerable pain and claimed his right leg was broken. His left ski, still secured to his boot, was removed and, together with both skis belonging to Keller, was placed in the snow below him so he could relax without rolling down the slope. He was left there while the search for survivors continued. Keller went down to the point where several people were digging for Hollander who had been completely buried except for one hand, while Katten went to assist another group.

When the snow stopped sliding, a group of seven skiers—Hollander, Steortz, Steve and

June Viavant, Carl Schwenk, Max Townsend, and Carol Wiens—were bunched together. Steve Viavant, who found himself on top of the snow, saw a hand. He started to dig and found Hollander. Hollander immediately asked if anyone else was buried. Viavant looked around and saw another hand nearby. He dug there and found Steortz. June Viavant had also remained on top of the snow. She helped Schwenk, Townsend, and Wiens who were all buried to depths ranging from knee to waist deep. Keller arrived about the time Steortz's head was uncovered and helped dig Hollander out. As soon as he was free Hollander helped dig out Steortz, while Keller headed for another group, counting heads on the way.

Once the snow had stopped sliding, Hovingh, Delbert Wiens, and Suzanne Haertel had been thrown together. Wiens found himself free on top of the snow. Haertel was buried to her waist to the west of Wiens. Hovingh was completely buried, but when he