

*Cerro Torre.* The furor goes on unabated over the 1971 ascent of Cerro Torre by Cesare Maestri, in which the Italian climbers placed an enormous number of bolts with the help of a pneumatic drill. It will be remembered that in 1959 Maestri claimed the first ascent by the east face, north col and north ridge. In this climb he was accompanied by Toni Egger, who on the descent was swept off to his death by an avalanche. Over the years, more and more doubts have been expressed as to whether they had actually got to the top. Maestri's 1971 ascent apparently did not end at the summit but on the shoulder below the final mushroom of ice, possibly 200 feet from the top. *Mountain*, 23, of September 1972 has devoted much of the issue to the Cerro Torre. Included is an article on Maestri's climbs, one on the Anglo-Swiss attempt of 1972, and an interview with Maestri.

*Cerro Solo.* After the Anglo-Swiss expedition to Cerro Torre, Eric Jones made in February a solo ascent of Cerro Solo in five hours.

*Monte Sarmiento, Western Summit, Tierra del Fuego.* The third Italian expedition led by Giuseppe Agnolotti to attempt the western summit of Monte Sarmiento from October 27 to November 20 got to within 125 feet of the summit but could not climb a final overhang covered with cauliflower snow. Accompanying Agnolotti were Rinaldo Bonino, Ezio La Boria, Antonio Perino, Alberto Re, Franco Girodi and Padre Giuseppe Ferrari.

## EUROPE

*Grandes Jorasses and Aiguille de Leschaux, Mont Blanc Group.* On August 11 Guido Machetto and I made the first ascent of the south face of the Grandes Jorasses. We climbed the 5000-foot-high face in three days, starting from the Ferret Valley. Our first bivouac was 500 feet above the base and the second 1300 feet below the summit. The new route is the longest face climb in the Mont Blanc group. On August 23 Miller Rava and I made the first ascent of the *direttissima* of the northeast face of the Aiguille de Leschaux. Our route is left of Cassin's. We climbed the face in two days, starting from the Dalmazzi hut. The face is 2600 feet high and we bivouacked 350 feet below the top. It was very difficult free and artificial climbing.

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## ASIA

### Nepal

*European Everest Expedition.* The pre-monsoon European Everest expedition's attempt to climb the southwest face ended in abject failure

due mostly to poor leadership and dissent among the climbers. The leader, German Dr. Karl Maria Herrligkoffer, was with the expedition for only three weeks of its three months' duration. Shortly after arrival at Base Camp, he had to return to Germany for more clothing and equipment for the Sherpas. Later he was evacuated for medical reasons, stemming probably from his return to 16,000 feet by helicopter. The climbers were Michel Anderl, deputy leader; Fritz Kuen, leader on the face; Adolf Huber, Adolf Weissensteiner, Werner Haim, Horst Schneider, Adolf Sager, Sepp Maag, Peter Perner, *Austrians*; Leo Breitenberger, *Italian*; Don Whillans, Doug Scott, Hamish MacInnis, *British*; Peter Bednar, *naturalized German of Czech origin*; Hans Berger, *Swiss*; and Misha Saleki, *Iranian*. The weather was generally excellent but there were early delays in the Khumbu Icefall because of insufficient Sherpa clothing. Details vary in different reports but it would seem that certain Austrians stayed rather constantly in the lead, fearing that if the British reached that position, they would never relinquish it. They also accused the British of laziness and of wasting oxygen, while the British felt there was no overall planning and that they were kept from doing what they were capable of. In any case, morale was terrible. Finally after establishing Camp VI at the same point as on the International Expedition in 1971, Kuen and Huber made a half-hearted summit attempt on May 21, from which they returned because of the cold. They reached 27,000 feet, about the same point as Whillans and Haston the year before. The attempt was given up at that time; the three British had quit in disgust five days earlier.

*Mount Everest Post-Monsoon Attempt.* The British expedition which attempted the southwest face of Everest in the post-monsoon period was fighting from the beginning against time. It was led by Christian Bonington with Lieutenant Colonel James Roberts as deputy. They reached Base Camp on September 14 and in five days had a route worked through the Khumbu Icefall. Camp II (Advanced Base) at the foot of the southwest face was established on October 1 by Nick Estcourt and Dave Bathgate, who put in the route to Camp III at 23,000 feet the next day. Doug Scott and Mick Burke pioneered the route to Camp IV at 24,500 feet on October 10. Hamish MacInnes and Dougal Haston finished preparing the route to Camp V at 26,000 feet on October 14. Since the face had considerable snow cover, no fixed ropes from previous expeditions were usable, but conditions were generally good. Two snowstorms had delayed the team and as Chris Bonington and Sherpas moved up, the terribly strong post-monsoon winds began to slow down their effort. A bad four-day storm hit at the end of October and all but Graham Tiso were forced back down off the face. On November 6 they started fixing ropes towards Camp VI. By November 14 there were finally enough supplies at Camp VI for Haston, MacInnes, Scott and Burke to move up, hoping to establish two men there. Their plan had been to climb the rock band by starting