

little snow and were not able to use their skis, as expected, most of the way down.

HUMBERTO BARRERA V., *Club Andino de Chile, Santiago*

### Chile and Argentina—Patagonia

*Climbs in Patagonia.* We update the account given in *A.A.J.*, 1974 on pages 201-2. There are excellent reports on the Italian ascent of Cerro Torre on pages 26 to 29 and on the Swiss attempt on the east buttress of Fitz Roy on pages 32 and 33 of *Mountain* of September, 1974. The British expedition to the east buttress of Fitz Roy led by Peter Minks failed, as did the Polish expedition on the American route. An Argentine expedition on February 10 made the first ascent of Aguja Mermoz, which is north of and attached to Fitz Roy. Guillermo Vieiro, Héctor Cuiña and Fermín Olaechea climbed the 2500-foot north face to reach the top. Cerro Moyano, which had been unsuccessfully attempted by Jorge Skvarca's expedition in 1973, again repulsed Cesare Fava, Boris Kambic and Fausto Barozzi. Before his death on Cerro Adela, Rafael Juárez unsuccessfully attempted with José Luis Fonrouge the east face of Cerro Murallón.

*Peaks above the Northern Patagonia Icecap.* The British Joint Services Expedition (11 members, plus two Chilean army lieutenants), led by C. H. Agnew and C. S. Gobey, spent five months (October 1972-March 1973) on the Chilean Northern Continental Ice. From the base, set up at Kelly Inlet, the group made inland trips to pursue research in hydrology, geology, glaciology, natural history and surveying. During the survey trips, a party attempted Patagonia's highest peak, San Valentín, reaching no higher than 2000 meters because of bad weather and avalanche danger. Cerro La Torre (the "Torre Tobler", of the New Zealanders) was likewise attempted and the attempt abandoned because of avalanche risk. One of the leaders and two climbers tackled Cerro Arenales (11,253 feet), reaching a pass of 2000 meters on the Colonia glacier, but were forced to abandon the attempt on the peak because of crevasses. The last four weeks of the expedition were spent exploring and partially surveying the Benito, San Quintín, San Rafael, Colonia and Andrée glaciers. On March 21, 1973, the party was evacuated by ship.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Torre Egger and Innominata.* Our expedition consisted of Dr. Daniel Reid, Rick Sylvester, *Americans*, Rafael Juárez, *Argentine*, Eric Jones, Tut Braithwaite, Martin Boysen, Mick Coffey, Keith Lewis, Don Whillans and me, *British*. For more than two months, from the first days of December into February, we threw everything we had at a vertical pillar

which is topped by a mushroom of ice. Torre Egger, named after Toni Egger, the Austrian who disappeared on Cerro Torre, on first acquaintance is rather diminutive compared to its higher neighbor, Cerro Torre. This is a false impression for although its summit is 800 feet lower than Cerro Torre, the climbing starts 1000 feet lower. We were surprised when we had run out of 5000 feet of fixed rope how much of the climb was still left. We had our customary fair share of the indescribably bad Patagonian weather, but ironically it was not the bad weather but the good that stopped us from reaching the top. A spell of weather lasting eventually for 20 days was given us, but our team at that stage was weak. Jones had torn a knee ligament; Whillans had gone home; I had shingles; and Juárez had died with a companion on Cerro Adela. This left Reid, Sylvester, Boysen and Braithwaite with Coffey to back them up, still a strong team but reduced in size. The weather was good and progress was made, but it went slowly for the walls of Torre Egger are very steep and don't lend themselves to fast progress. The mushroom was collapsing and Torre Egger was turned into a murder place. We saw pieces the size of houses slide off and a small piece—no larger than a tennis ball—broke Braithwaite's arm. A gigantic icicle, 100 feet long and of many tons, loomed above the route. The high point that Reid reached was just below its tip but everyone else agreed that continuing was unjustified. Two days later I had recovered sufficiently to join the team and we changed our objective to the unclimbed Innominata. After 3000 feet of scree and slabs, we reached the bottom and had a comfortable bivouac. At six the next morning we started to climb the steep slabs leading to the col between the Innominata and the Aguja St. Exupéry. These were pleasant and often difficult but above were no mushrooms or icicles. Above the col the headwall reared steeper. Reid nailed it, followed by Boysen and me, while Sylvester brought up Braithwaite with his fractured arm. We had thought that we would reach the summit that night and had no bivi gear but by seven P.M. Reid came to a vertical crack that looked as if it needed bongs. We had none and so Boysen climbed it free at what he thought to be good Welsh extreme standard and in boots. He climbed it with one boot and one hand in the crack with his other limbs lashing along the edge of the crack. He thought he was off a few times before he reached the top of the crack and when he did, he was so exhausted that he could not belay for five minutes. We all followed, but still there was one pitch left. Reid went up again nailing and reached the summit as darkness arrived. Fortunately sixty feet below the top was a ledge covered with large boulders. Here we bivouacked without food and bivi gear. Cannily Sylvester and Braithwaite had *duvets* in the bottoms of their rucksacs. I had an anorak, but Reid and Boysen had only shirts on and spent a cold night dancing together beneath the southern stars with the wind starting a storm. We thought we were in trouble but it

PLATE 66

*Photo by Leo Dickinson*

**TORRE EGGER, Patagonia.**

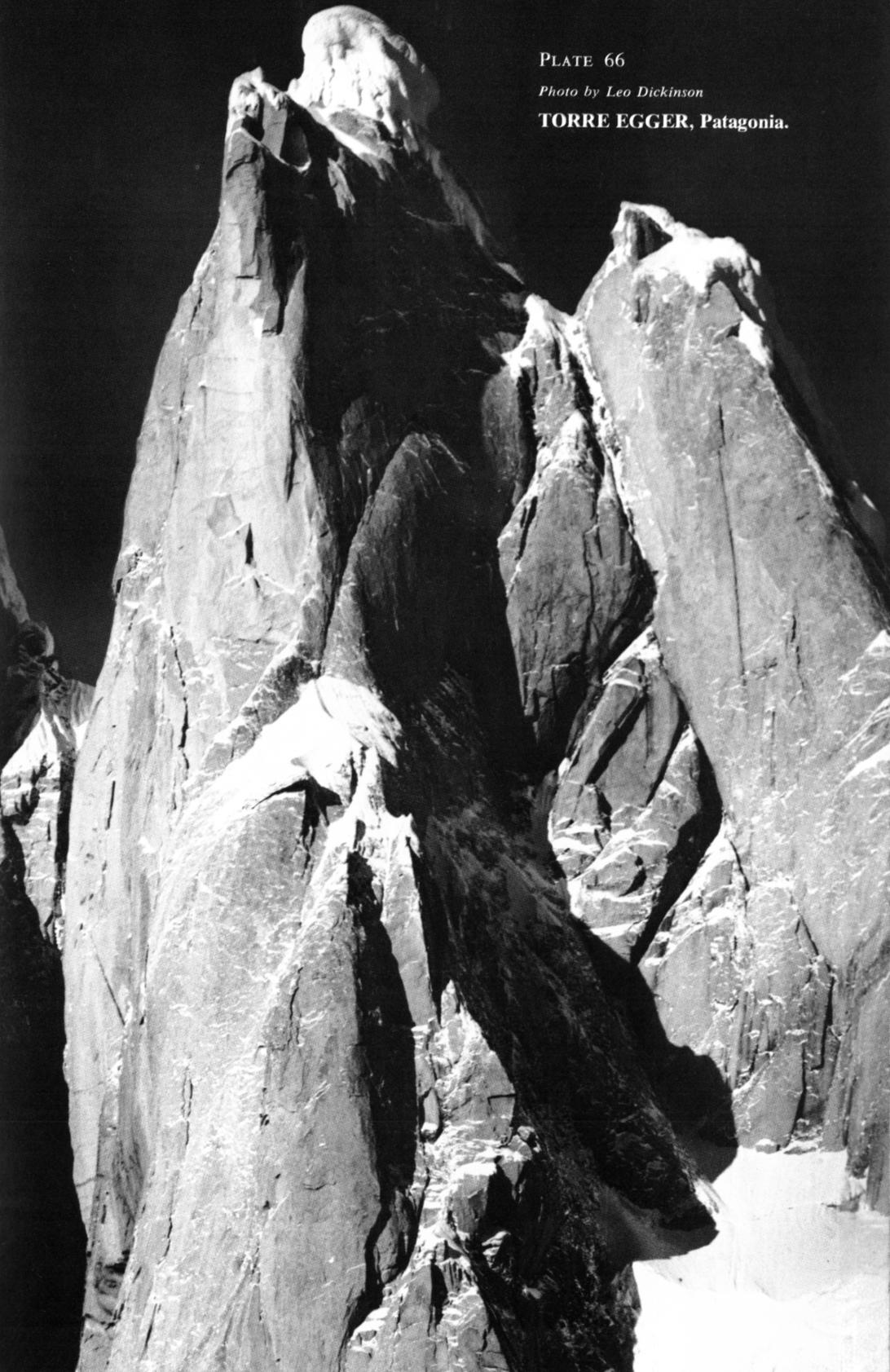
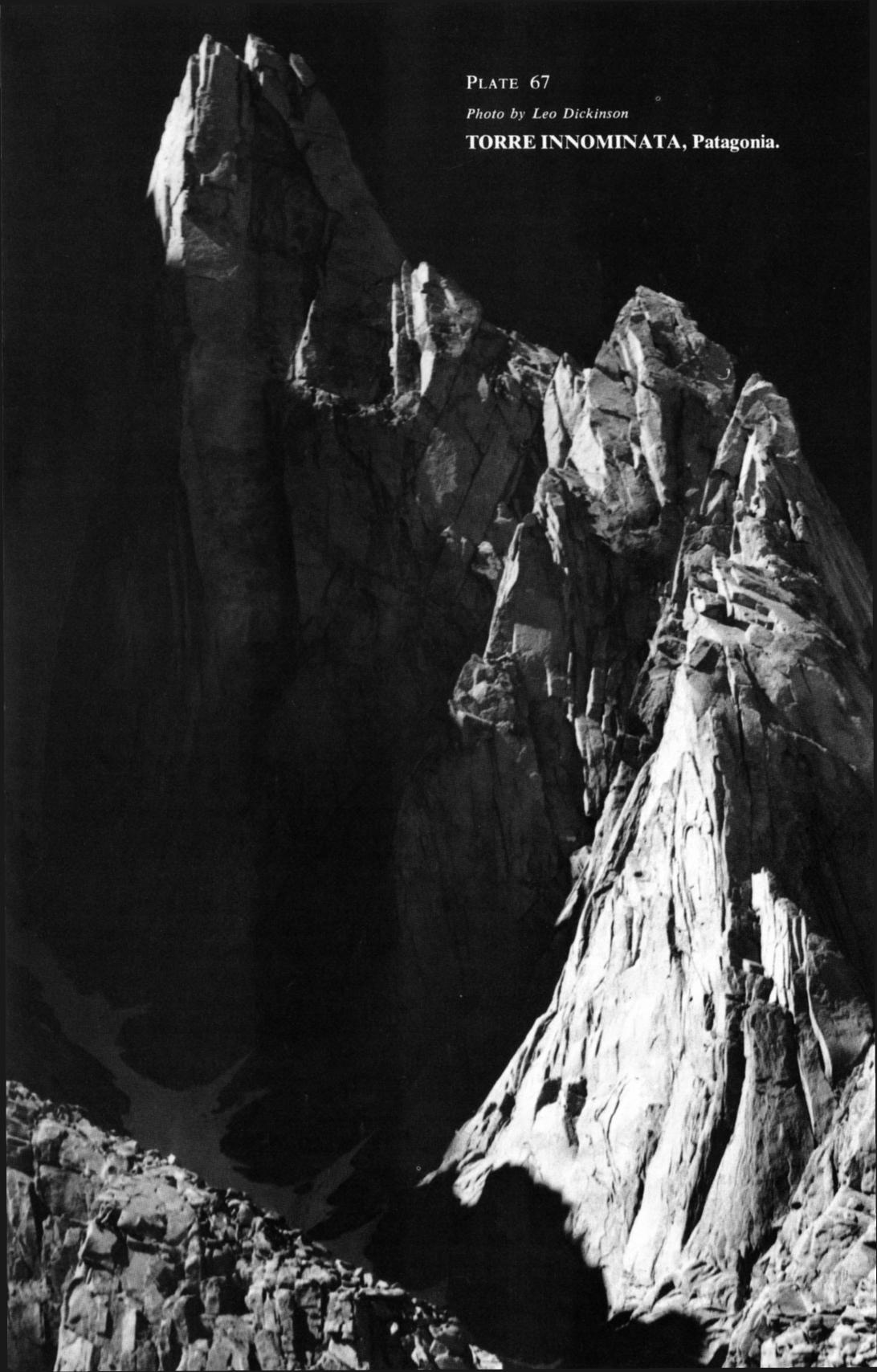


PLATE 67

*Photo by Leo Dickinson*

**TORRE INNOMINATA, Patagonia.**



held back and as the false dawn broke, Braithwaite, Sylvester and I went to the summit, took a few photos, left a badge of Rafael Juárez's Cordoba Alpine Club and started our retreat. Five hours later we were back on the glacier at our Advance Base Camp. Some of us waited for another six weeks to see if colder weather would bring a fresh spell of good days, but this was not to be.

LEO DICKINSON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*An Early Report on Patagonian Climbing in the Southern Summer of 1974-5.* The expedition to Cerro Moyano did not succeed despite exceptionally good weather for Patagonia. Jure Skvarčič and Mario Serano could not overcome the technical difficulties, which will require a bigger strong team. All possible routes have not yet been investigated. At this moment (January 24) a strong Italian team led by Cesarino Fava is on the same peak. The good weather favored the Swiss, who climbed the American route on Fitz Roy, reaching the top at the end of the first week of January, 1975. They also made a first ascent, that of Aguja Bífida in the Cerro Torre valley. Australians failed on Fitz Roy's east buttress, which has repelled several previous groups. The English were unsuccessful in their attempts on Torre Egger and Torre Standhart. They did, however, find Toni Egger's body, who died on Cerro Torre in 1959. The Club Andino Bariloche sent out a group of 14, mostly youths from 15 to 17 years old, including three girls, who in November crossed the Paso de los Vientos to the Nunatak in the Continental Icecap, previously visited by Shipton. They reached the highest summit (c. 6500 feet) of this rocky massif.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Gran Campo Nevado, above the Straits of Magellan.* For 40 days Peter Bruchhausen, Jack Miller and William Rodarmor explored the region north of the Straits of Magellan. They left Punta Arenas on November 23 and emerged at Puerto Natales, having covered some 300 miles in a rubber boat, made seven portages and explored untracked territory. They visited Xaultegua Gulf, Canal Gajardo, Seno Skyring and Seno Otway. They made the first ascent of the huge massif which lies in the Gran Camp Nevado and rises to over 5000 feet, which was not without its climbing difficulties. We hope to have a more complete report next year.

### **Tierra del Fuego**

*Cordillera Alvear, Tierra del Fuego.* On March 4, 1971 Rod Saunders, Ehardt Drushke and Rick Hoare made the first ascent of Cerro Alvear (4500 feet), the highest peak in the Cordillera Alvear, some ten miles northeast of Cerro Olivia. On March 6 Saunders and Hoare