

the mountain. The route was technically easy. About 1500 feet of easy rock were followed by 1500 feet of a very elegant snow ridge and finally 500 feet of moderately-angled snow, leading to the broad summit. We returned to the ship and set sail for Australia on February 26. The boat was knocked down twice in a force 11 gale, our sails were torn and the motor failed. We sailed through four major ocean gales and were blown to New Zealand, landing safely in Christchurch on March 22.

GREG MORTIMER, *Australia*

Vinson Massif. Vern Tejas climbed the highest peak in Antarctica in 14 hours from Base Camp to summit to Base Camp on December 11, five days after guiding two other men to the top. His only difficulties on the day-long journey, which began at four A.M., were whiteout conditions on the lower part of the mountain on his return to the 7500-foot camp. When Tejas left his resting companions, he merely said he was going for a long walk. On the first climb on December 7 with Frank Fischbeck and Keith Kerr, both of Hong Kong, he planted the Alaskan state flag on the summit. On the solo climb, Tejas traveled very lightly, carrying no rope or tent and eating snacks as he went. He scooped up the flag he had left on the summit the first time to display as proof of his solo.

LEWIS FREEDMAN, *Sports Editor, Anchorage Daily News, Alaska*

EUROPE

Eiger North Face, Switzerland. Although I remember the Editor referring to the Eiger North Face as an “attractive shooting gallery,” when I soloed it on September 7, it was frozen together nicely and therefore offered minimal rockfall. Heavy verglas, however, made the climbing quite technical and exciting. I passed a total of ten other climbers and managed to do the climb in 9½ hours. Descent via the west flank took another 3½ hours.

MARK WILFORD

OCEANIA

Irian Jaya

Puncak Trikora, 1987. On August 16, 1987, Günter and Werner Hönlinger and I made the first ascent of Puncak Trikora (4765 meters, 15,633 feet) by its west ridge.

WOLFGANG AXT, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*