

*Vinson Massif, New Route, and Mount Craddock, 1992.* A full article by Jay Smith on an expedition to Antarctica appears earlier in this *Journal*. It describes the ascent of Vinson Massif via the south face and the first ascent of Mount Craddock.

*Vinson Variant, 1992.* André Hokke and I landed at Patriot Hill on December 11, 1992 and flew to the base of the Vinson Massif on the Branscomb Glacier together with New Zealand guides Hall and Ball with their three clients. Taking advantage of good weather, both teams left separately for the climb alpine-style the same day. We got to Camp II at 2800 meters in seven hours. The next day we camped at 3900 meters and on December 14, 1992, we reached the summit. We two took the Chilean variant on the last part. Instead of the direct route to the summit, we chose the technically more interesting summit ridge to the left, ascending from east to west. The Hall-and-Ball party reached the summit two hours after us.

EDWARD BEKKER, *Valkenburg Alpine Friends, Netherlands*

*Vinson Massif, New Routes.* My wife Jo and I have just returned from the Vinson Massif, where we completed two new routes on Vinson from the west. The first route was made from Camp on the normal route. In a four-day climb up and down, we took a line up the right-hand icefall due west of the summit. The second route took a direct line up a thin couloir in the center of the steep 6200-foot wall left of the icefalls. I climbed the route solo in 6 hours 50 minutes and descended the northwest ridge in an hour and a half to just below Camp II on the normal route. I didn't go to the true summit since I had been there a few days before. (WI3, 5.9.) [Written February 1, 1994.]

JAY SMITH

*Mount Vaughan Attempt, Queen Maud Mountains.* From 1928 to 1930, Norman D. Vaughan was a member of Admiral Richard E. Byrd's first Antarctic Expedition. In 1929, under the leadership of Dr. Laurence Gould, a party made a long geological sledge route across much of the southern continent's unexplored terrain. Vaughan was an important member of the team, being one of three in charge of the sled dogs. In honor of his service, Admiral Byrd named Mount Vaughan (3139 meters, 10,300 feet) for him. After 1993, sled dogs will no longer be allowed on the continent. Vaughan conceived the idea of sledging 300 miles to the mountain and climbing it, hoping to reach the summit on his 88th birthday, December 19, 1993. Vaughan was accompanied south by his wife, Carolyn Muegge-Vaughan, guides Vernon Tejas and Skip Horner, Dr. Ken Zafren, Dolly Lefever, who recently climbed Mount Everest, dog handler Larry Grout, veterinarian Dr. Jerry Vanek and several others. On November 6, an advance party with 20 dogs, Grout, Vanek and the plane crew took off from

Punta Arenas in Chile in a DC 6 plane. The plane crashed on landing at Patriot Hills. Fortunately, only Dr. Vanek was severely injured. Four of the dogs escaped. The whole group and the remaining 16 dogs were flown back to Punta Arenas. On January 4, 1994, both Vaughans, Horner, Tejas and several others were flown to Patriot Hills. They hoped to be flown from there to a Base Camp at 6000 feet on the Vaughan Glacier at the foot of the peak to make an attempt on the mountain. For the next two weeks, the weather made it impossible to fly in or out of Patriot Hills. Finally, on January 19, 1994, it was decided to abandon the expedition for this year and to use the good weather to fly back to Punta Arenas.

*Renegar Glacier Region, Royal Society Range, 1992.* A geological research team from the University of Itago spent six weeks in the Renegar Glacier region 100 kilometers south of Scott Base. The peaks are subsidiary mountains at the southern end of the Royal Society Range. On November 24, 1992, David Crew, Brian Alder, Guy Simpson and I climbed P 2250 and continued northwest over P 3000 almost to Mount Kempe before returning to our camp via the upper reaches of the Renegar Glacier. Alder later completed an ascent of a northeast-facing rib on P 2250. We established a second camp northwest of Base Camp alongside the ridge running west from Mount Kempe (3004 meters) to Mount Dromedary (2600 meters). Alder, Simpson, Yvonne Cook and I ascended Dromedary. Cook and I scrambled up another P 2250 and P 2600 between Dromedary and Kempe as well as Kempe. Other geological parties had visited the region previously and had climbed both Mounts Kempe and Dromedary, but the other four peaks are believed to be previously unclimbed.

ROSS CULLEN, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

## EUROPE

*Grands Charmoz and Aiguille Sans Nom, French Alps.* On October 19 and 20, Mark Twight and Scott Backes climbed a very difficult new 10-pitch route on the west face of the Grands Charmoz. It was mostly ice and mixed climbing with one pitch of A2. On October 27 and 28, the same pair made another difficult new route on the north face of the Aiguille Sans Nom. The 900-meter route had vertical ice, difficult mixed climbing and one A3 pitch on loose flakes. On both of these routes, much of the ice was very thin. These peaks rise above Chamonix in the Mont Blanc region.

*Lofoten Islands, Norway.* Ed Webster has a full article earlier in this *Journal* which gives climbing history in these remote Arctic Norwegian Islands and tells of his experiences there, making climbs of extraordinary difficulty.