

15 meters and the most, four pitches. This is the third new route climbed by Slovenes on the Cerro Torre.

JANEZ JEGLIČ, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

*Cerro Torre, Cleaning of Fixed Rope.* Discovering that over 1000 meters of fixed rope had been left during the filming of an ascent of Cerro Torre, Austrian Tommy Bonapace and a companion were helicoptered to the summit of the mountain. They spent the next two days stripping the Maestri Compressor Route of this mess of fixed rope.

*Climbing Season in the Fitz Roy-Cerro Torre Area, 1994-95.* [The time between the Patagonian season and our going to press is always so short that it is difficult to have a complete record. For that reason, we are grateful to Chis Breemer, who has just returned from there, for writing this report in early March.—*Editor.*] Tremendous new routes were climbed on Fitz Roy, Torre Egger, Saint Exupéry, Cerro Stanhardt and Cerro Torre. Two of the finest were done on Fitz Roy. Italians Andrea Sarchi, Lorenzo Nadali and Mauro Girardi alpine-style made the first ascent of *Ensueño* (VI, 6c/7a, A1) on the northwest side of Fitz Roy, immediately right of the *Supercanaleta*. Following a beautiful 1500-meter buttress, they climbed 36 new pitches before joining the *Supercanaleta*, which they ascended to the summit. Climbing for five days, they encountered one 10-foot section of aid and were also fortunate enough to find bivouac ledges stocked with snow and large enough for a tent. When I left, Germans Kurt Albert and Bernd Arnold were working on a new route on the 1500-meter east pillar of Fitz Roy. Starting just left of *Corazón*, they discovered a continuous system of beautiful cracks with no climbing harder than 5.12a. Near the top of the pillar, Arnold was injured by rockfall and they had to retreat to Base Camp. They were planning to reascend their route and continue to Fitz Roy's summit. French climbers did one of the most difficult aid routes, *Le Petit Prince*, on the east face of Saint Exupéry. [See below.] American Charlie Fowler teamed up with Argentine Rolando Garabotti and climbed Saint Exupéry, Rafael (also called *Innominata*) and Poincenot between January 24 and 27. On Saint Exupéry, the pair climbed a new 700-meter route right of the *Claro de Luna*. Waking the next morning to continuing good weather, they climbed the original west-face/southwest-ridge route to the summit of Rafael. Taking a rest day on the 26th, they were delighted to find continuing good weather and on the 27th, they climbed the Carrington-Rouse route on Poincenot, a route Fowler compares to climbing El Capitan in a day. On the other side of the valley, on the east buttress of Torre Egger, Jay Smith, Conrad Anker and Steve Gerberding completed *Badlands* (VI, 5.10, A3, WI4). Following a steep, dark wall to the right of the 1986/87 Slovene route, they eventually exited onto a steep ice smear that led to the base of the summit

mushrooms. There, they discovered two natural tunnels through the ice. Climbing through them, they arrived on the summit, making the fifth overall ascent of Torre Egger. Later in the season, Anker and Gerberding made the first ascent of *Tomahawk* (5.8, A2, 90°), an 8-pitch direct start to *Exocet*. On the west side of Cerro Torre, Maurizio Giarolli, Elio Orlandi and Odoardo Ravizza climbed a 25-pitch route, *Crystals in the Wind*. [See below.] Frenchmen David Autheman, Fred Valet and Patrick Pessi traversed Cerro Torre in December. Hoping to descend the Compressor route, they were soon appalled to find that they had accidentally rappelled onto the Slovene east-face route. Pitifully equipped to descend or reascend such an enormous wall, they fortunately discovered a cache left during the original ascent. Using that equipment, they eventually arrived on the glacier with only their harnesses and figure eights remaining. [See below.]

CHRIS BREEMER

*Cerro Torre, West Face Attempt, "Crystals in the Wind."* On October 23, 1994, despite doubtful weather, Elio Orlandi, Odoardo Ravizza and I headed for the Southern Patagonian Icecap to wait out the weather in a snow cave. On October 27, a surprisingly serene morning spurred us on. After crossing the menacing crevasses below the imposing west faces of Cerro Stanhardt, Torre Egger and Cerro Torre, we began to climb the central spur that dominates the bottom of the wall. That line, though difficult, seems relatively safe, being somewhat sheltered from ice mushrooms and snow that might fall from southwest side where the 1974 Italian route rose. During the second night of the climb, the weather turned characteristically cold, windy and snowy, but fortunately not so bad that we couldn't continue. We climbed on through snow squalls and up verglas; occasionally the sun broke through the frozen curtain of clouds. After four bivouacs and having climbed higher than the Col de la Conquista, on November 1 we ascended difficult cracks and dihedrals to the summit wall. We had climbed two-thirds of the face and had joined the 1959 Egger-Maestri route at a point just below the grandiose summit mushrooms, possibly one or two pitches below them. Impetuous winds upset our balance and made us give up hope of surmounting the mushrooms to reach the actual summit. We were back at the foot of the wall on November 3. Almost all the climbing could be protected by Friends, stoppers and wires. Because of overhanging snow patches and unstable ice, we were forced to the left to the north spur on the final section and could not continue up the central dihedral.

MAURIZIO GIAROLLI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Cerro Torre, West-East Traverse.* Frenchmen David Autheman, Fred Valet and Patrick Pessi became the first climbers to complete the traverse of Cerro Torre. From December 2 to 5, 1994, they repeated the difficult Ferrari route. Large sections of very steep rock were covered with ice and the trio had to climb