Ascents in the Mount Forel Area.

Paul Walker and Tangent Expeditions made several climbs in the Mount Forel area. Walker flew his expedition in and out with a ski-mounted Twin Otter.

On the flight to retrieve the Walker expedition, Douglas Cooper's British Mount Forel Expedition was landed at the head of Avantgarden Glacier, just east of Mount Forel. The team consisted of Cooper, Claire Cooper, Jonathan Godson, Adam Hyne, Adam Hanlon and Jon Mayne. The group made climbs in the very remote region around Mount Forel, but failed to climb Forel due to the same difficult conditions experienced earlier this year. Their plan was to add any new bolts to our route, even if it should eventually be free climbed.

An important notice for those not used to expeditions in this area: The risk of bad weather is continuous, mosquitoes in basecamp are quite miserable, and the area is completely isolated. Don't get hurt. In certain cases the ice pack closes the access to the fjord, making return impossible.

MICHEL PIOLA, Club Alpin Suisse

Mount Forel Attempt. The Isortoq-Mount Forel Kuummiut '95 Expedition consisted of Jan Mila (Norway) Nels Niemi (Alaska) and Hans Christian Florian (Greenland). The objective was to travel in the previously unexplored area from Isortoq to Mount Forel, approaching the 3360-meter peak from the west, around the huge Helheim Glacier. This approach had been tried by Mila and Florian in 1993 but was abandoned because of huge crevasses west of Helheim Glacier. This year they met with a stronger party and chose a more westerly route which avoided the crevasses. This revised route took them about 90 kilometers inland and through the upper parts of the Skakt, Fenris, and Jura Glaciers, reaching the entrance to the glaciers of Schweitzer Land through the Doren ("The Door") at 2100 meters altitude. At this point they encountered polar bear tracks. This was very surprising, as the nearest hunting grounds were at least 80 kilometers distant. Luckily, the bear itself was not encountered. The base of Mount Forel was reached, and, on May 1, an attempt was made to climb Mount Forel from the northeast. The attempt was abandoned at ca 2900 meters altitude because of steep blue ice. It had been a very windy and snowless year. The route down to the village of Kuummiut was heavily crevassed and difficult to negotiate. This is thought to be because of the small amount of snow this year. The expedition covered new land and made the earliest yet attempt of Mount Forel. The team traveled 370 kilometers in 23 days.

DAN CHÁVEZ


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to ski, by the traditional route, the approximately 180 kilometers to the fjord close to the settlement of Sermiligaq. On August 23, Adam Hyne was pulled backward by his sledge into a crevasse at the head of the Avantgarden Glacier. Hyne fell 20 feet and suffered a head injury and was unable to extricate himself from the crevasse. A protracted helicopter rescue ensued. On August 26 the whole team was flown to Tasiilaq and Hyne was admitted to the local hospital. Hyne was released two days later in good spirits.

Dan Chávez

Apostle’s Thumb, Northeast Face. Last summer a small but well-organized Austrian party climbed the Northeast Face of the Apostelens Tommelfinger (The Apostle’s Thumb) above Lindenows Fjord in South Greenland. The ascent of the 1400-meter face was pushed little by little over a four-week period. A more or less direct line was chosen. The typical unsettled weather repeatedly turned the climbers back to their "Moskito Base Camp." They found good rock on all but some leads, where the granite was rotten. In the lower part the climbing was slowed by wet rock and the climbers were often soaked. Ropes were fixed about three-quarters of the way up the face. In the upper part a portaledge was used. The very delicate upper 300 meters contained a roof which they managed to climb directly. The final ascent was made in a two-day push. More than 40 ropelengths were climbed, over 30 of them at a standard of 6 and 7 with long aid sections to A3. The flat top was reached by all six members: Joachim Lugger, Siegfried Girstmair, Christian Zenz, Hany Riedl, Kurt Radner and Sepp Delmarco. This was the first Austrian ascent of the mountain and probably fifth or sixth ever. The Apostelens Tommelfinger (2300 meters) was first ascended by a French party led by Maurice Barrard in 1975 (first attempts were made in 1971 by French and Irish expeditions, 1973 by Italians). In summer 1976 another French expedition repeated the ascent by a new route. In 1977 the French High Mountain Military Group (GMHM) led by Jean-Claude Marmier climbed the lower southeast face and attempted the impressive northeast face but had to retreat just some 300 meters from the summit.

Józef Nyka, Editor, Taternik, Poland

Ascents of Cone and Dome Peaks and Gunnbjørns. The first Spanish Expedition to the Gunnbjørns Fjeld went to Greenland with the goal of climbing to the top of the highest summit of the Arctic. The team was: Jake Molins, Marc Bernat, Monica Belenguer, Robert Rodergas, and Josep Pujante as an expedition leader. We departed from Akureyri (Iceland) on July 2, refueling in Isafjordur, and landed in Greenland. We camped near the valley at the west of the icefield (a continuation to the north of the