

taken us ten wall days to this point, along with a few bad weather days in BC. Unfortunately, we found massive amounts of trash here (especially Russian candy wrappers, packaging materials and gas cylinders) and thrown-down gear (lots of US ropes). Later, the Russians even threw their portaledge down, which barely missed us. Even their line did not take a pretty end: about 200 meters under the exit they could go no further with their spartan gear and had to traverse about 100 meters to the left.

Rita and Stephan left us on August 13 after their summit attempt failed at 6000 meters due to weather. After the Americans and the Russians ended their routes (both supposedly VII 5.11 A4), we started our final push on August 14. We climbed for a number of rope lengths on an almost continuous series of corners and cracks that moved to the left. Since most of the formations were polished and compact, we had to climb mostly on tied-off hooks, beaks and copperheads. The passage between 5300 meters and 5600 meters thus became the key to the route (A4+, A3, A4, A3, A4-, A3, A4- clean, new-wave pitches).

Unfortunately, the weather was bad and very cold nearly throughout. A number of times, we were forced to wait idly through storms and snow for many days in the portaledge. After August 25, it turned into downright winter in the upper part of the wall (-10°C in the tents). On August 28, P. Schäffler finally gave up and descended.

Because we were only a threesome from that point forward and we had too few days for an independent line, we decided to climb into the American route, only ten meters away, in order to make more rapid progress. So on the 36th pitch we climbed over and repeated from that point forward all the rope lengths judged as difficult by the "Quokka Route." Unfortunately, we found a climbing style that showed only one thing: when you have a million dollars backing you up, you have to get up no matter how! Next to "normally" climbable fine cracks, corners and hook areas, we found drilled rivets and copperheads, as well as rows of bathook holes (25 holes in the 26th pitch alone). We also often found the ratings exaggerated (the most difficult US pitch, pitch 28, was actually A3+). Had these pitches been, for example, on El Cap, then these three top men would have lost face.

From the 40th pitch on, the wall laid back a bit, but on the other hand the icing up of the cracks increased dramatically. Thus our "winter ascent" was made more difficult. Renewed storms stopped us once again for three days. At this point, time became too tight, but we wanted to continue until the last hour. We stopped about 60 meters before the exit (at about 6000 meters) in the 44th pitch, which would offer fantastic free climbing in the summer.

We rapped down and broke down all of our equipment in three days, cleaned up and transported all of the trash that could be burned to BC, where our porters were already waiting. During the night, everything was packed into porter loads and the next morning we were allowed to begin our three-day walk out after 25 wall days. The result: *Lost Butterfly* (VII 5.10 A4+), new plus ten pitches of the American route, *Parallel Worlds*.

THOMAS TIVADAR, *Germany*

*Trango Pulpit, More Czech, Less Slovak.* In July, the Czech/Slovak expedition consisting of Ivo Wondráček, Tomáš Rinn, Pavel Weisser and Michal Drašar (all Czech) left Prague June 18. Jaroslav Dutka from Slovakia had problems with his transit visas to Great Britain and joined the expedition in Base Camp on July 2. The approach to the face of the Trango Pulpit was grade 4-5 climbing in itself. The team established Camp I at the base of the wall. The face is composed of three pillars separated by big snow fields. There were already climbers from Norway to the right of their proposed route. The Czech climbers had food for 20 days.



*Great Trango Tower, with More Czech, Less Slovak (Drašar-Dutka-Rinn-Weisser-Wondráček) on the Trango Pulpit indicated. IVO WONDŘÁČEK*

The climbing itself was more or less cracks in solid yellowish granite. They climbed left to a unique rock formation, the Guillotine, which stuck up from the face.

On July 8, they reached the first snow fields at 4900 meters, where they established CII. From July 11-13, the weather was very poor and the climbers waited in their portaledges. On July 16, Dutka and Weisser reached the second snow field some 1500 meters above the base, where they established CIII (5400m). They also found signs from a previous attempt to climb the Pulpit via this line at this point. Above the snowfield the rock was untouched.

On July 17, Rinn and Wondráček climbed almost to the final ridge. Dutka and Drašar reached the summit of the Pulpit (5800m) the next day, then descended to CIII late in the evening. On the 19th, the weather deteriorated. Dutka, Wiesser and Drašar decided to descend to BC to wait for better weather. Rinn and Wondráček stayed in CII for the next six days.

On July 26, the weather improved. Rinn and Wondráček started to climb from CII to the summit of the Pulpit. They reached the final ridge at dusk, where they slept. In the morning, they summited the Pulpit. Wondráček felt sick and decided to descend to BC. Rinn stayed to wait for Dutka and Weisser. They wanted to continue with their climbing to the top of Great Trango. The three slept on the top of the Pulpit on July 28, then, in perfect weather the next day, they traversed to Great Trango via the 1977 American Route, climbing 13 pitches to the summit, which they reached at 5 p.m. They then descended to the Pulpit, spending the night there once again. On July 30, the weather deteriorated again. The next two days they cleaned the route of all ropes and gear.

Their route, which they named *More Czech, Less Slovak* (VII 7- A2, 53 pitches, 2100m), was the first ascent of the Trango Pulpit on the Great Trango Tower. The team hand-drilled all bolts at the belays.

VLADO LINEK, *Slovakia*

*Trango Pulpit, Norwegian Trango Pulpit Direct.* From June 28-August 4 (plus two days of fixing), Robert Caspersen, Gunnar Karlsen, Per Ludvig Skjervén and Einar Wold established the *Norwegian Trango Pulpit Direct* (VII A4 5.11, 48 pitches) on the Trango Pulpit (ca. 6050m). The Trango Pulpit is a secondary summit on the Great Trango massif. Climbing capsule style, the team linked together the lower wall, which faces northeast, and the upper wall, which faces directly north. The two faces are divided by a 180-meter hanging glacier. The team found reports of two other attempts on the wall, one by a Spanish team, who reportedly turned back after only five or six pitches on the lower face, and another by an Australian team that tried a slightly shorter, not-so-direct (but more feasible-looking) line up the right side of the lower face. It is said the Australians turned back after reaching a section of very hard aid on the 12th or 13th pitch. The Norwegian route takes the central line on both the lower and upper face. They used hand drills on their route and brought food for 30 days. The climb took 38 days. A full account of their journey appears earlier in this journal.

*Nameless Tower, Claire de Lune.* Gabriel Besson, Claude-Alain Gaillan, David Maret and I arrived at Base Camp on the Dunge Glacier at the beginning of July. The route we opened, *Claire de Lune* (VI 6b A3, 1230m), lies between that of Michel Piola (*Gran Diedre Desplomado*) and the Spanish Route (*Insumisoa*). Approximately 900-1000 meters of our route was new. We started on the left side of the base of the Tower's southwest face at 5000 meters with the first three pitches of *Insumisoa*, at which point we made our first camp. We then opened a new line on the slab directly above. The route followed the gray rock through