

ic. Titanic follows a right-facing dihedral that was streaming with water, so we climbed a considerably drier left-facing dihedral. We climbed this dihedral for three pitches, to where Titanic tends to the left. We continued up the dihedral for one more pitch. Here Much first tried climbing right but ended in a cul-de-sac, before finding a solution to the left. The next pitch followed a perfect open-book crack for about 25 meters and then exited around a sharp arête. From here it was short and easy to the snowfield. The weather looked nasty, and it was time to descend again, but we had completed a new variation and learned that climbing Torre Egger alpine style was possible. The rest of Titanic looked like it wouldn't present too much of a problem. Now we needed weather that would allow another attempt.

Back in Norwegian Camp we told Timmy O'Neill and Nathan Martin that they should have a go at our line. We gave them a topo of our variation.

I doubted that we would get another go at the mountain before the end of our trip, but two days later the clouds broke again. Much and I were still really tired, so we spent one more day resting, but then were at the base of Torre Egger again. In 12 hours we climbed to just above the snowfield and the Bivi del Canto.

And once again the clouds came rolling in. Earlier we had seen Timmy and Nathan just above us. They were trying a similar line to ours and started a day earlier. It looked pretty certain that they would make the summit. Much and I decided to bivvy, although we had not intended to. It was a bitterly cold night without bivy-gear, and the next morning the weather became worse—snow, spindrift, and wind. We started to descend and at the snowfield saw Timmy and Nathan three pitches above us. Good to see that they were okay, because that night had been really tough. Timmy and Nathan had reached the summit. Much and I decided to return next year and try to reach the summit.

We free climbed every pitch, and we intend to climb the entire route free and alpine style. Much and I believe that the style in which a mountain is climbed is the most important thing. Torre Egger has had six ascents, and progress is only possible regarding style.

PETER JANSCHKEK, *Austria*

*Aguja CAT, Mate Humo.* This obscure tower, located at the northern end of the Cerro Torre group between Aguja Cuatro Dedos and Cerro Domo Blanco, saw a new route by Austrians Tommy Bonapace and Christian Zenz. Their line, which they completed in late March, climbs the steep east face and involves 11 pitches with difficulties to 6/A1. Theirs might be the first ascent of this peak, as there is no clear historical record of any previous ascents. They named their route Mate Humo.

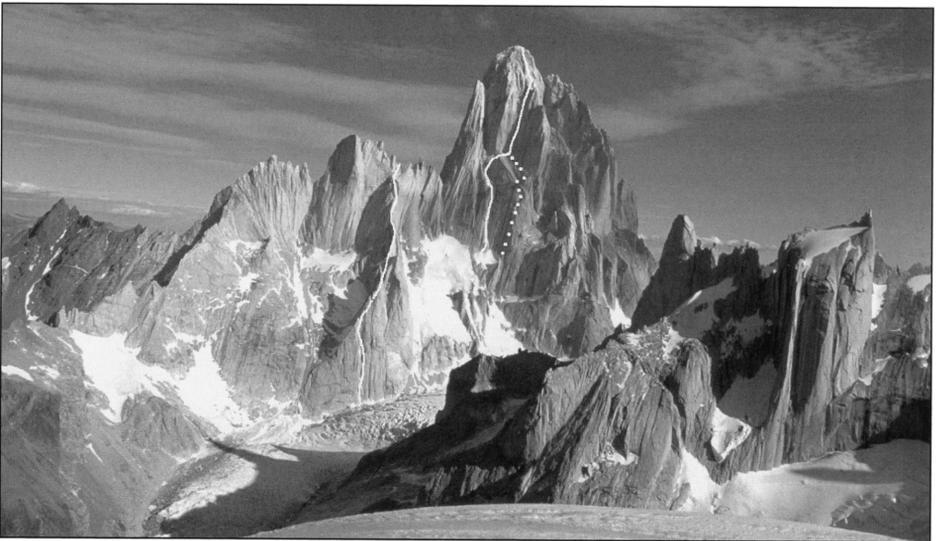
ROLANDO GARIBOTTI, *AAC, Club Andino Bariloche*

*Cerro Pollone, lower south buttress of east summit; Beg, Borrow, or Steal.* Blair Williams and I arrived in El Chalten on January 7. The next day we arranged for horses to carry our bags to Piedra del Fraile, our planned base camp and a pleasant place that is well worth the little money to stay there. The next few days were spent carrying loads to the end of Lago Electrico, our planned advanced camp for climbing on the Marconi Glacier. But after talking with German climbers, we thought we would have better success if we had an advanced camp by Paso de Cuadrado. They had already built a snow cave there and were kind enough to let us move in as they were moving out.

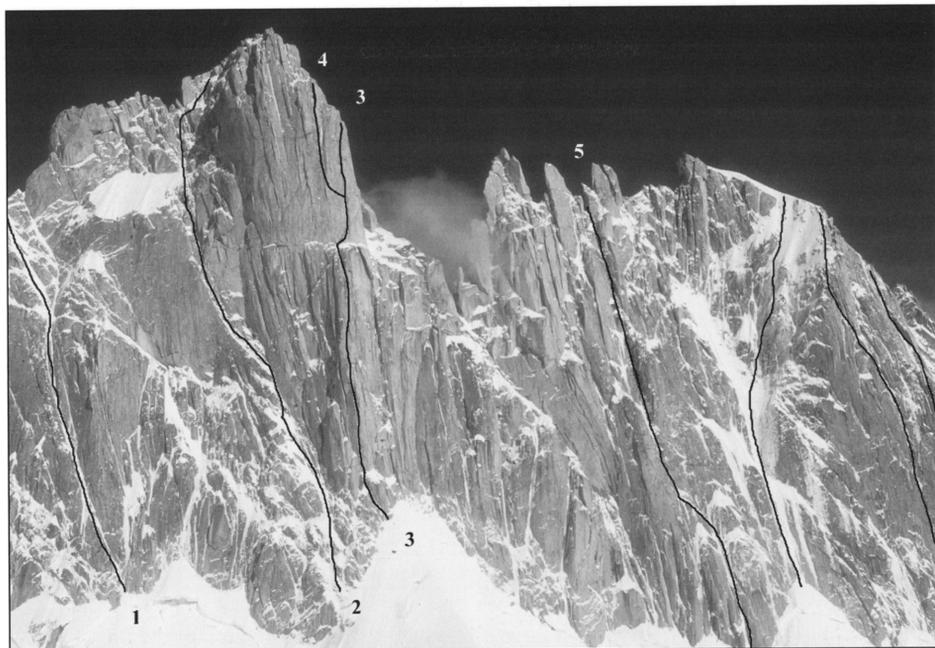
After an icy attempt on Guillaumet's Fonrouge route, we returned and completed the 13-pitch route. We were treated to amazing views of the surrounding mountains and the ice cap, then rappelled down the Amy Couloir. The next morning we awoke to clouds and wind, so we rolled over and stayed in bed. By 8:00 the clouds had cleared and the wind died, so we packed up, hiked to the snow cave, and picked up our stashed gear and continued to the base of the La Granja route on Aguja Pollone's east ridge. The route offered amazingly varied climbing. Everything from thin cracks to slabs to liebacking arêtes. We topped out around 6:00 p.m. and had an absolutely amazing view of big Fitz Roy. After too many summit photos we made five long rappels to the base.

After heading to town for beer and pizza, we were back in the spacious cave, waiting for the weather to clear and, sure enough, it cleared.

We had been eyeing the lower southeast buttress of Cerro Pollone's east summit and thought it was the perfect time to go for it. After a casual three-hour approach, we got a close look at the unclimbed face. We saw obvious cracks leading all the way to the top. Without even a photo we started up. One crack led to the next, with ledges almost every 200 feet. We came across signs of the only previous attempt at the face. An Italian team had tried the face earlier in the year but were stopped by ice in cracks. The last bolt they placed was at the base of a 60-foot offwidth that may have been another reason they retreated. I found the pitch to be quite enjoyable and reminiscent of a Yosemite 5.10a offwidth. We felt confident that we would make it to the top if the weather stayed good. One pitch after another led us to the top of the lower southeast buttress of Cerro Pollone's east summit. We chose to go no farther, as we felt we had reached the summit of the piece of rock we chose to climb. We made eight 60-meter rappels, using a few nuts but mostly threads and slings around blocks. We named the route Beg, Borrow, or Steal. We thought it was in the mid-5.10 range and around 1,500 feet long. We used no pitons or bolts (except the Italian bolts) and thought the route was a classic alpine rock climb.



The north face of Cerro Fitz Roy, Aguja Mermoz North, and Aguja Guillaumet, showing (from left to right), Slovene route on the west pillar of Mermoz, 2002; the French route, 2002 (Arpin et. al.); Tehuelche, 1986 (Italians Sterni, et. al.), the dotted line. *Rolando Garibotti*



Mermoz, showing, (1) Padre Viento, 2001, Donahue-Ogden; (2) Andy Parkins solo; (3) Tiempo Ensueños, 1983, Donahue-Harvey (no bolts); (4) Albert-Arnold 5.12; (5) The Gambler on Guillaumet, 2001, Donahue-Ogden. *Topher Donahue*

On February 4 we returned to snow and cold in Seattle. This seemed ironic after three weeks of perfect weather in Patagonia. I thank the American Alpine Club for awarding me a Mountaineering Fellowship Grant and their continued support of climbing youth.

MICHAEL SCHAEFER, AAC, *The Cascade Trad Klan*

*Aguja Mermoz, northwest crest.* On October 21 Vasja Kouta, David Pehnc, and I arrive at base camp, Piedra del Fraile. The weather is bad. First we attempt Supercanaleta on Fitz Roy but turn back a few pitches above the block. Later, conditions on that route are still not good, and we change the plan. The weather is Patagonian.

On November 9 the weather becomes good. We are a little late, but we leave Piedra del Fraile anyway. At midday we are at the base of the northwest crest of the Mermoz. The first few pitches are in a great crack. After that we arrive at a snow gully, which leads to the top of the first tower. In the evening the weather becomes worse, so we fix a rope on the left side of the slope and descend to base camp. For the next few days the weather is still bad.

We have had enough waiting, and early in the morning on November 13, despite strange weather, we leave base camp. It is quite cold with a little snow and the wind is getting stronger. After just a few pitches in icy cracks, ending at the top of the next tower, we descend to base camp again. In the next 10 days the weather is befitting to Patagonia, with a lot of precipitation. We even have snow in base camp. Our expedition is coming to an end, and we have just a few days.

We try again on November 23. Today we are only Vasja and me. David has leg problems.