

SOUTH COAST

CAPE FAREWELL REGION

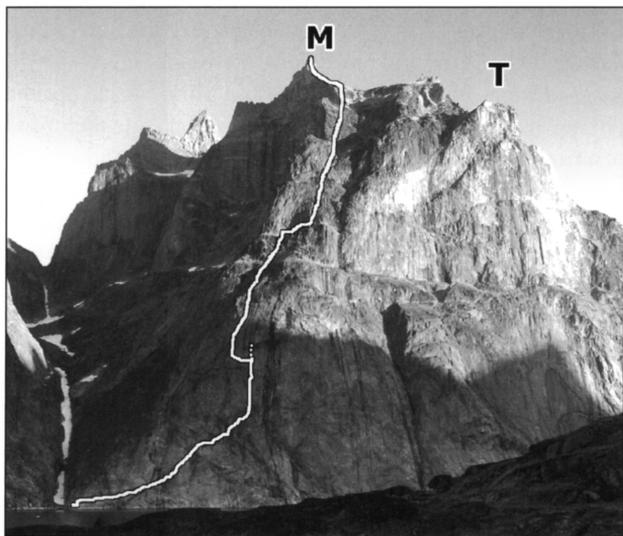
Agdlerussakait, Maujit Qoqarsassia, new route. On August 14 Eliza Kubarska and I, from Poland, finished our new route to the summit of 1,560m Maujit Qoqarassia [a subsidiary summit of 1,750m Agdlerussakait, above the west bank of Torssukatak Sound—Ed]. The east face of this summit, which rises straight out of the fjord, has been called one of the tallest sea cliffs in the world and can only be reached by boat. Despite the fact our team was only two, we decided to travel by kayak; we were not only able to explore the cliffs but also have our full share of adventure. As usual we would have to overcome our fear of falling, but this time falling into water, where hypothermia would set in fast.

After traveling deep into the fjord, we established base camp on Pamiagdhluk Island, 2km from the wall on the opposite side of the channel. Kayaking to the foot of the face was the only way to start the climb and unlike the other three parties that have climbed routes on this face, we had to work alone with no one left at base. Our first problem was finding a place we could safely leave kayaks, and get back to them after sending the route. We found a good spot but then had to make a traverse to our chosen line, and here we left a few fixed ropes.

After climbing the first 600m we reached spectacular overhangs, and found that aid would be necessary to circumvent them. However, our goal was free-climbing, so we rappelled two pitches (including a wonderful pitch of 7a) to a ledge and went looking for other possibilities. We found a line that avoided the roofs on the left. We were fortunate with bivouacs: each

night, by luck, we found some sort of ledge.

Three days of climbing took us to a big terrace that cuts across the face. That same day the weather turned bad and, after spending the night under a big boulder in a storm, we decided to retreat by following the terrace left, traversing a system of ledges, and descending vertical grass to the snow couloir that borders the left edge of the face. Going down from here was rather dramatic. It was raining; the couloir was steep with 10m-deep breaks, and water thundered underneath. Having to negotiate this in approach shoes, with a hammer instead of an ice axe, totally psyched



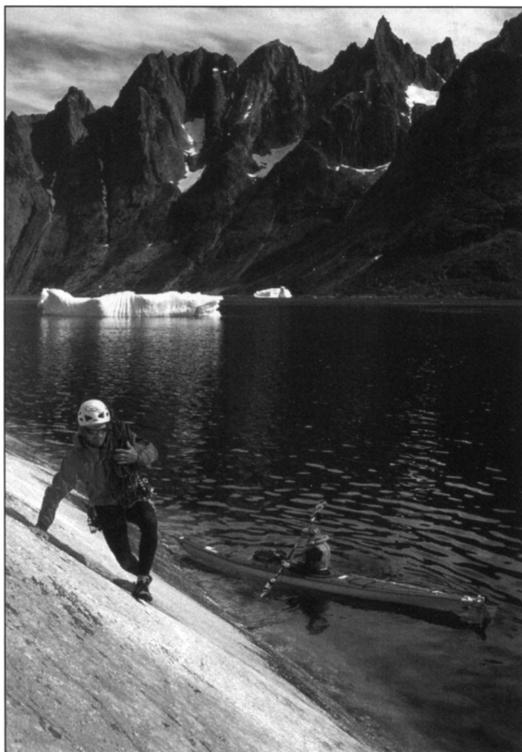
On Pamiagdhluk Island, the east face of (M) Maujit Qoqarassia rises some 1,500m from the Torssukatak Sound and can only be reached by boat. (T) is the slightly lower summit known as the Thumbnail. Marked is the new Polish route, Golden Lunacy. This is the fourth route on the face, the lines of the other three being visible in *AAJ 2004* p. 268. *David Kaszlikowski*

us out. The rope wasn't proving much help, and our biggest fear was falling into a slot with the river below. We hadn't taken axes or crampons, because we didn't want to carry them on the face, and the couloir had looked easy in good weather.

Eventually we reached a 20m-high ice wall. On either side rose wet, vertical walls. Rivers cascaded around us, soaking everything except the jammed block on which we were standing. We were cold, our sleeves were wet, and our feet freezing. We took a minute to warm up, then began a rappel, praying that the rope wouldn't slip off the rock, in which case I'd probably drown in the waterfall. The haul bag turned me upside down but I managed to catch the first rock sticking out of the water and pull myself towards it. Thank God I didn't tie a prussic; being wet it would have almost certainly jammed. After six hours we reached the kayaks but it was too rough to paddle the fjord, so we spent another night in the rain, sitting on our ropes with plastic bags over our heads. Fortunately it was calm in the morning, and after 20 minutes paddling we were inside the tent.

It now rained for six days. When it stopped, we returned to the face, using rope left in place to speed our return up the tricky couloir to the terrace. After a bivouac we reached the top in 10.5 hours. This upper part was beautiful climbing on solid granite, with sections of 6c+. Some of the most interesting parts were terribly difficult, wet offwidths led by Eliza. The last pitch to the summit was a 60m tower, at 6c+, with an amazing view. However, just after we topped out, clouds built over our heads, and soon we couldn't see farther than 100m. We rappelled late into the night from natural gear. The top section of our route may share common ground with *Hidrofilia* (6c+/7a A2+, 1,620m of climbing), completed by Cecilia Buil and Roberta Nunez in 2003. [There are two other routes to the right that lead to a slightly lower summit, dubbed *The Thumbnail*. One was climbed in 2000 at British E6 6b by Ben Bransby, Matt Dickinson, Ian Parnell, and Gareth Parry from the U.K, the other in 2003 by James Mehigan and Richard Sonnerdale at British E3 5c. Both have a vertical gain from the sea of 1,350m. The wall is around 1.5km wide—Ed.]

Our route, *Golden Lunacy*, was 1,500m high with maximum difficulties of 7a+. Apart from one pitch, where a rest point was used while drilling a bolt to pass a loose block, the route was free-climbed onsight, some pitches being climbed unroped. There are five bolts



David Kaszlikowski takes a tentative first few steps onto the 1,500m east face of *Maujít Qoqarassia*. Eliza Kubarska waits below. Behind are rocky spires on the northwest coast of *Pamiagdhluk* Island. *David Kaszlikowski*

on the route: three on belays and two for protection. The granite was excellent throughout; we believe these fjords house some of the best granite climbing in the world, with unclimbed walls 700–900m high.

DAVID KASZLIKOWSKI, *Poland*

Tasermiut Fjord, Tininnertuup, northeast face, attempt. Sarah and Tony Whitehouse attempted a major variation to the unrepeated Rapakivi Road on the northeast face of Tininnertuup (1,725m), the 1,000m route (28 pitches, 1,300m of climbing) put up in 2004 by Swedish climbers Martin Jacobsson and Ola Knutsson. Rapakivi Road takes the large, steep, inset slab to the left of the prow climbed in 2002 by a Norwegian-Swedish team to create Qivitoq (VI F7a A2, 1,000m, 26 pitches, Blixt-Krane-Massih, 2002). Based in the underdeveloped valley that lies between the Tininnertuup Qaqqat and the Hermelnbjerg, the British couple fixed ropes on the lower section, then attempted to climb the prominent left-facing corners above the point where the original route moves right. Bad weather prevented a completion, but the pair hopes to return in 2008 to this area, situated at the head of the Tasermiut, south of the Sermitsiaq.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*, www.climbmagazine.com

Tasermiut Fjord, Ketil, west face, first alpine-style ascent, correction. AAJ 2000 reported an ascent, thought to be the fourth, of the 1977 French Route on the west face of Ketil. The two climbers, Americans Jon Allen and Doug Byerly, believed they were making the first alpine-style ascent of the route, which they completed in two days to a bivouac that was 50m of easy scrambling below the summit ridge. Next day, ferocious winds forced them to retreat down the line of ascent without visiting the summit a short distance above. In fact, during July 1980 Erich Baud, Pierre Lainé, and I, from France, climbed the route over three days in alpine style. We reached the summit and descended the easy south face in perfect weather. We flew from France with only 20kg of baggage each, and on the climb had only one 90m rope, and traditional protection including a few pitons. On the first day we climbed 22 pitches to the first possible bivouac ledge, and on the second another 22. On day three we climbed five difficult pitches and then a further 14 of easy ground to the summit. Close to the top we realized that the south face looked far easier and safer than descending the 50-odd vertical pitches of the west face. We rappelled the south face in a day, bivouacked at the bottom, and hiked back to base camp in a further half day. This was the second overall and first alpine-style ascent of the route.

BRUNO CHRÉTIEN, *France*

Tasermiut Fjord, Nalumatorsoq, Stupid White Man. On July 20 Jørgen Becher, Steffen Laetsch, and I completed an ascent of Stupid White Man on the south-southwest face of the Left Pillar of Nalumatorsoq. The same team made an attempt on this line during August 2005, climbing the first four pitches, mostly free with a 6b offwidth. Bad weather meant that this was as high as we got. Returning in 2007 we started up the line on July 4. Above our previous high point the climbing is primarily in finger cracks, and we needed to do a considerable amount of garden-ing. Progress was slow, particularly as we were hand-drilling our bolt placements, about 40 in all. Due to our speed, we decided to climb the hardest parts on aid and free the whole route