

since all routes that traverse are swept by avalanches." Dudzinski and his companions, Estanislao Blicharski, Dr. Andrés Pastewski and Jorge Peterek, established Base Camp in the Las Casas valley on January 30, 1961. From Camp I at 14,000 feet they carried out a ten-day acclimatization program. On February 10, after crossing an extensive field of *nieves penetentes*, they attacked a very steep rib which rises at an average of not less than 65° up most of the 5500-foot high wall. In excellent weather they climbed some 2400 feet during that day and carved out a platform for their tent in the ice. From there they decided against crossing to the left glacier that descends the face because of its "forest" of *penetentes* and planned to continue straight upward despite the rockfall danger. On February 11 they climbed 1000 feet in 17 hours. During this day Dudzinski became bothered by the beginning of an attack of appendicitis! The next day he felt somewhat better and the attack continued, but after some hours, it was obvious that he would have to be evacuated. In deteriorating weather the day was spent in trying in vain to find a suitable escape route, for they hoped to avoid the descent down the line of ascent, which was threatened by rockfall. Finally on the morning of the 13th the party split, Dudzinski and Dr. Pastewski descending, while the other two continued upwards in a snowstorm and endangered by fresh snow avalanches. At five P.M. the clouds cleared although high winds persisted, and the two climbers found themselves on the final ridge. They reached the top an hour later. While descending the easier northern side, they were halted by utter lack of visibility because of clouds only 400 feet below the summit. On the next day they stumbled through the fog and completed their descent into the Quebrada La Angostura rather than to El Vallecito, which had been their objective. Both groups managed to get to Mendoza late the next day.

Cerro Pier Giorgio, Patagonia. The Cerro Pier Giorgio (ca. 9500 feet) lies northwest of Lake Viedma, closing in on the north the valley of the Torre Glacier. This glacier descends from Pier Giorgio between FitzRoy and the Cerro Torre, which are situated about three miles southeast and south of the former. The first of two expeditions organized by the Centro Andino Buenos Aires ascended the Río FitzRoy to the Laguna Torre in mid-January, 1960. They established Camp I at the foot of the Cerro Mocho and Camp II on an icefall of the Pier Giorgio Glacier. It stormed continuously in February and the attempt had to be abandoned in early March.

The second group, consisting of Juan José Quintas, leader, Osvaldo Biondini, Carlos Bottazzi, Oscar Reali, Leda and Luis Tofanelli, left Buenos Aires by air on December 4, 1960. Again very adverse weather

conditions prevented the ascent. Base Camp was pitched on the shores of the Laguna Torre, Camp I below the Cerro Mocho, Camp II at the base of the Aguja Cuatro Dedos and Camp III at the foot of the rock wall of the peak itself above the icefall of the Pier Giorgio Glacier. Having established the camps by the end of December, the climbers could discern a direct route up the rock wall that offered hopes of success. Climatic conditions, especially the hurricane winds which are characteristic of the region, prevented a final assault. There were only four good days scattered through the eighty-two spent in the field.

JUAN JOSÉ QUINTAS, *Centro Andino Buenos Aires*

AFRICA

Sierra Club Ruwenzori Expedition. (Although this group made no first ascents, it is included here because the region has not been visited often by Americans.—*Editor.*) On this fifth in a series of informal expeditions sponsored by the Outing Committee of the Sierra Club, the 17 members met in Kampala, Uganda, on July 19. We approached Base Camp above Bujuku Lake by the usual three-day route from the Ibanda roadhead, northwest of Kasese. For the carry to Bujuku, 75 porters were required and five of these generally excellent men were retained for work higher. Because of the variety of vacation plans, not all members remained in the mountains for the full three weeks. Even so, enthusiasm and remarkably fine weather allowed the following ascents to be completed between July 22 and August 10: Speke Group, west face of Vittorio Emanuele Peak (16,042 feet), normal route from Bukuju; Baker Group, Edward Peak (15,889 feet), normal route from Kitandara Hut; Luigi di Savoia Group, Weismann Peak (15,157 feet), normal route from Kitandara Hut; Stanley Group, Margherita Peak (16,763 feet), normal route from Elena Hut, Moebius Peak (16,134 feet), south to north traverse, and Alexandra Peak, south to north traverse. Much of the success and pleasure of the trip was due to the kind hospitality, help and advice of members of the Mountain Club of Uganda. The trip was organized on a non-profit basis with expenses shared by the members. The median cost was \$590, round trip Kampala, but did not include personal equipment and travel costs to Africa. The trip was organized and led by Douglas R. Powell and Alfred W. and Gail Baxter. Other members were Ija Korner, James Bennett, Stanley Birge, Robert Elliott, Lothar Kolbig, Michael and Phyllis McMillan, Margaret Prouty, John Tupper, Michael Wright, Christopher and Mary Young, Fletcher Dutton, and Nicholas Ellena.

ALFRED W. BAXTER, JR.