

requiring good weather. In the second phase we had as objective Cerro Norte, which had resisted three earlier attacks. This time my brother Pedro and I climbed to the summit on February 5 after 25 hours of ascent. It is among the most difficult peaks of the region, even including Fitz Roy. We climbed the west face, which rises some 4000 feet and consists of ice and snow couloirs and rock. There were two artificial pitches and the rest was very exposed. We placed some 80 pitons. Toward the bottom there was an additional problem of avalanches. We reached the summit at the beginning of a storm and had to bivouac in a torment during the descent.

JORGE JUAN SKVARCA, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Cerro Torre and Fitz Roy.* The Gakuyukai expedition was led by Masatoshi Yokota and composed of Satoshi Aoki, Nobuhiro Matsumiya, Masaaki Kitagawa and Katsuhiko Hojo. After establishing Base Camp on Lago Torre, they hoped in three months, January to March, 1969, to climb both Cerro Torre and Fitz Roy but bad weather defeated them on both peaks. The lower half of the first-ascent route of Cerro Torre of ten years ago is very unstable at present and offers no possible way. Bonatti's Continental Icecap route seems possible only if the weather allows access to the start of the route. The Japanese tried the same route as Dougal Haston's party of the year before, which was turned back 650 feet from the top. The Japanese had only four fine days in 90 and the result was the same as with the British. The last 650 feet are very difficult and will take many days. They attacked Fitz Roy by rush technique only four days before they had to leave. In one day they reached the col (Camp III of the French) via the great couloir behind the French route on the Torre side. But here they retreated too, because of the bad weather.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club and A.A.C.*

*Fitz Roy.* John Hudson and Roman Laba arrived in the Fitz Roy region early in 1969. They made several attempts on the peak but were thwarted by bad weather.

*Monte Sarmiento, Tierra del Fuego.* A group of four Italians led by Giuseppe Agnolotti attempted to climb the west peak of Sarmiento in December, 1969 and January, 1970. They failed because of bad weather.