

permits in Buenos Aires before leaving for mountains. Permits can be obtained locally, but we experienced some trouble and nearly a week's delay at Fitz Roy doing this. The regulations are 1. a passport for identification; 2. a letter from a club certifying to the climber's experience; 3. a medical certificate that one is fit to climb; 4. parental permission if under 22; 5. a "leader" must be responsible for the whole party; 6. no fire arms; 7. equipment must be inspected. Further information may be had from Servicio Nacional, Parques Nacionales, Sante Fe 690, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

IAN R. WADE, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Chilean and Argentine Patagonia

Cordillera Castillo and Northern Patagonian Icecap. We five New Zealanders climbed in Chilean Patagonia: Dave Bamford, Paul Milsom, Geoff Spearpoint, Ian Thorn and I. We were in the Cordillera Castillo to the north of Lago General Carrera in December 1972 and March 1973 and in the ranges bordering the Northern Icecap on the east in January and February. The only climb completed in the Cordillera Castillo was the peak adjacent to and slightly lower than the true Cerro Castillo but labeled on the Chilean Carta Preliminar as Cerro Castillo 2675 m., which Bamford, Spearpoint and I traversed from Estero del Bosque to Río Turbio. In March an attempt on Cerro Castillo (marked as Cerro Palo on maps) was made from Río Palo. Bamford and I turned back high on the southwest side of the summit towers on rock plastered with new snow. We approached the Northern Icecap by way of the Río Saler's north branch. We had the misfortune to be stuck at about 10,000 feet on Cerro Hyades for seven nights in a storm without food or bivouac gear. We later travelled extensively in the glacial region bordered by the Río Saler, the Icecap, Río León and Lago Bertrand. Ascents made were Hyades (10,171 feet), 2nd ascent by a new route, the south ridge on January 15 by me, Aguda (c. 9200 feet), 2nd ascent on January 29 by Bamford and me, P 2545 (8350 feet) on February 6 by Bamford, Thorn and me and P 2000 (6562 feet; dominating Lago Plomo) on February 13 by Bamford and me. The last two were rock spires.

THOMAS S. CLARKSON, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

Don Bosco, Southern Patagonian Icecap. Noel Cox, Steve McAndrews, Randy Udall and I spent six weeks from early March to mid-April in the Cordillera Darwin and along the Upsala Glacier. The usual murderous climate gave us only 2½ days of good weather and kept us from our objectives: Riso Patrón and unknown peaks on the Pacific side. We spent twelve days reading in a buried snow cave at our furthest point, on the flank of Cerro Don Bosco (8251 feet), which we climbed by its east ridge on a single day of good weather, April 15. This route

has previously been climbed by the Argentines Peterek, Klenk and Pastewski on February 3, 1957. Eric Shipton and Jack Ewer made the second ascent.

JEFFREY B. SALZ

Fitz Roy and Paine Cuerno Attempts, Patagonia and P c. 1700, Cordillera Darwin, Tierra del Fuego. The South African Andean Expedition started its climbing in the Fitz Roy area from December 1972 to February 1973. The main objective was the Fitz Roy Supercouloir. The weather during our stay was at least consistent: five good days in ten weeks! However Roger Fuggle and Tony Dick (accompanied on two occasions by Brian de Villiers and me) made a total of eight attempts on the 5000-foot couloir. On their best attempt in February they had actually completed the couloir and had only 500 feet of easy ground to the summit when a storm prevented them from continuing. De Villiers and I also made the third ascent of Aguja Guillaumet via the south-east ridge (UIAA IV+) with one bivouac, and accompanied by the rest of the party, Judy Dick, Lynette Adnams and Ineke Moseley, visited the icecap near Gorra Blanca and made an ascent of Cerro Solo. Three of us, de Villiers, Ineke and Greg Moseley, visited the Cordillera Darwin in February. From Lapataia we walked across the Chilean border to Bahía Yendegaia. We proceeded up the Río Yendegaia for two days to the Stoppani Glacier, which we followed to a large tributary which entered from the west. We followed the north bank of this for a few hours to a perfect campsite in a hollow in the moraine. The next day, February 25, we continued to the head of the glacier from where we climbed the peak (c. 1700 meters or 5578 feet) immediately south of the col by an interesting mixed route of UIAA IV difficulty. In March we made a brief visit to the Paine range. From camp on the Río Francés Dick and Fuggle attempted the Cuerno Principal. The peak is very easy until the final 250-foot tower. This last section has repulsed several strong attempts, including Whillans, Clough, Jack Miller and Japanese. After circling the peak, our friends found no feasible route and so the mountain awaits a second ascent. The first ascent was made by Chileans in 1968.

GREGORY MOSELEY, *South African Alpine Club*

Fitz Roy, Tragedy in the Supercouloir. The United States-New Zealand Patagonian Expedition entered Argentina on October 22, after the Peruvian-Bolivian season, cruising in a yellow pick-up headed for Fitz Roy. We were intent on legendary Fitz Roy to be followed by exploits in the Paine group and Tierra del Fuego. I had proposed November as the most hopeful for a few days of benevolent sunshine. In that respect we were not to be disappointed. The members of the expedition that actually convened at the base of Fitz Roy were Steve McAndrews,