

*Torre Egger.* Our expedition consisted of Jim Donini, Jay Wilson and me, supported by Jane Hunter, Jane and Sherm Wilson and Maureen Donahue. We arrived in the area on December 1 and after much load carrying started the climb on December 10. Beautiful alpine free climbing on perfect granite under a brilliant sun let Jay and me fix ropes up the first 500 feet. One stormy month later, we were only 100 feet higher. When the weather finally started to improve on January 20 we found our snow cave and our equipment at the top of the glacier buried under 30 feet of fresh snow. After two hard, frustrating days, we were in our new quarters. After two more days of storm we started again. Two days of climbing took us to the top of the large snowfield almost halfway to the "Col of Conquest" between Cerros Torre and Egger. A brief storm slowed things, but after four more days we reached the col at sunset on February 4. A cold bivouac preceded descending the ropes the next day in wind and rain. February 16 saw us back at the cave and the next day we chopped a platform and pitched our box tent 2000 feet higher up the ropes. We continued fixing ropes in unsettled weather until finally, after a bad icing storm on the 21st, we three pushed the last three pitches in high winds and heavy cloud to the top on February 22, 1976. We descended to the box that night, cleaned the route the next day and were back at Base Camp on the 24th. Up to the col we were on the northeast face of Cerro Torre, following a line close to that of Maestri and Egger in 1958. From the col we were on the south face of Torre Egger. NCCS VI, F9, A4; 4500 feet of technical climbing; 4000 feet of fixed rope; ice up to 75°; 37 pitches of which 13 were on ice and 18 with substantial aid; 11 bolts, all but one for anchors.

JOHN BRAGG

## EUROPE

*New Routes in Chamonix: North Faces of Grands Charmoz and Grand Pilier d'Angle.* During the Rassemblement International, Americans did some fine climbs in the Chamonix region. Steve Zajchowski and I were the representatives of the American Alpine Club. On July 8 with Roger Martin I did the first one-day ascent of the North Face Direct of les Droites. On the 14th I soloed the north face of the Grand Pilier d'Angle. Zajchowski did the Northeast Spur Direct on les Droites with the French climber Xavier Fourger. Zajchowski and I did the third ascent of the Couloir Nord de la Brèche des Drus in one day on July 22; previously the best time was three days. On July 28 and 29 Steve Arsenault and I did the Walker Spur. On the 30th Zajchowski soloed the Swiss route on the north face of les Courtes. On August 7 Zajchowski and I did a new route on the north face of les Grands Charmoz. *Grand Pilier d'Angle North Face:* The route follows narrow gullies in the pillar

between the Fréhel-Dufour route and the Cecchinel-Nomine. It is characterized by mixed climbing in the extreme while on the actual face and by the usual sérac dangers of all the climbs in the area. The bergschrunds could present a problematic crossing. From the Col Moore, cross the plateau under the Great Couloir of the Route Major. Cross the bergschrunds below the Pear, bearing left at the level of the initial rocks of the Pear. This is most easily done at night by climbing the avalanche cone. The actual gully begins with a rock pillar to its left and at about the same level as the first rocks of the Pear. Follow this gully through difficult mixed climbing for over 1200 feet to an enclosed area with rock pillars on either side and two narrow tongues of ice descending from a vertical shield of rock. Follow the tongue on the right for several hundred feet (extremely thin ice) and traverse right onto the pillar via huge ice-encrusted flakes forming something of a chimney. At the top of the chimney is a right-leading ledge system. Follow the ledge to a slightly overhanging 10-foot corner. (The only piton of the route was used here and should still be in place.) Climb the corner and continue by easier, lower-angled slabs for 100 feet. The route here gets on the final snowfield. Follow the snowfield to the Peuterey ridge. The summit is three hours from this point in good conditions. The route is rated the same as the other routes on the face, E.D. sup. and represents a marked evolution over the Ceccinel-Nomine and the Fréhel-Dufour since it used no direct aid. An attempt on this route claimed the lives of two climbers several years ago. *Grands Charmoz North Face:* The route climbs the east side of the north face of the Grands Charmoz and finishes in the prominent couloir to the right of the Aiguille de la République. It is characterized by sustained high-quality climbing on both rock and ice and represents two ice pitches steeper than the Dru Couloir, the Couloir Chaud and the Grand Pilier d'Angle. There is considerable stonefall danger in certain sections, so the climb must be done rapidly. Approach the face from the path to the Envers des Aiguilles Hut, turning off before the path leads away from the Charmoz. Climb the left side of the Charmoz Glacier (the right bank), cross the bergschrund and start across a snowfield to a rock pillar leading to the base of the small couloir going to the Brèche de l'Aiguille de la République. Climb the pillar via an obvious chimney system, which is slightly overhanging. Two pitons were used to climb out of the bergschrund onto the pillar. Follow the chimney to the base of the small couloir (F9). Climb the couloir 600 feet to its end (stonefall) and traverse right onto the rock face for 200 feet. Go up a left-facing series of corners and continue up icy crack systems for nine pitches (F8) to easier ground. Get on the final ice slope and climb a narrowing and increasingly steep couloir for four or five pitches to an almost vertical ice wall (very steep ice, stonefall). Two pitches will overcome the headwall; two pitches more on easier ice lead to the final two or three on mixed ice and rock. The climbing here is of

extreme standard and is terribly loose. Care should be taken not to dislodge huge, tottering blocks on the belays. A ridge leads to the summit. Zajchowski and I used 22 nuts or pitons for protection as well as four ice screws. We took 13 hours.

JOHN BOUCHARD

## AFRICA

*Nyabubuya, Northeast Gully, Ruwenzori Group.* Our party included Frank Eastwood, David Higgs, Dr. Arnold Pines, Roger Reid, Alan Roberts and me. We climbed Mount Baker, Mount Speke and the four peaks of Mount Stanley. In addition, on July 21 Alan Roberts and Higgs made one new route: Nyabubuya (15,950 feet), the southeast extremity of the southern Stanley peaks. The eleven pitches took five hours. From the Elena Huts they traversed across the Elena Glacier and terraced rocks to the foot of the climb, which starts in a groove. The crux pitches occur halfway up, where overhangs barred a direct line. They climbed right on very steep, greasy slabs. A right-hand slant finally led to the summit ridge.

ERIC ROBERTS, *Alpine Club*

*Mawenzi, East Face.* The members of our expedition who made this climb were Dario Mozzanica, Bruno Deangeli, Giovanni Balossi and I. At dawn on February 12 we left our bivouac on the south side of Mawenzi and in 12 hours climbed five 13,000-foot ridges, dropping between to less than 11,500 feet. We bivouacked in sight of the east face at 13,800 feet. On the 13th we descended into the Gran Barranco to 10,500 feet and bivouacked on the wall of the middle spur some 350 feet higher, having placed 18 pitons. On the 14th we climbed a dihedral with 26 pitons to a bivouac some 500 feet higher. On the 15th, except for one ledge of sound rock, we struggled up the rotten edge to climb to the crest of the middle spur, where we placed our fourth bivouac at 14,000 feet. On the 16th we climbed easy friable rock to the last steep step. We climbed this up a funnel with 16 pitons. We continued up mixed rock and ice with difficulties comparable to the Major route on Mont Blanc. At seven P.M. we reached the summit of Point Brochers. We rappelled down the west face in the dark.

IVO MOZZANICA, *Club Alpino Italiano*

## INDIAN OCEAN

*Mont Ross, Kerguelen Island.* In the Indian Ocean at about 50° S. latitude, halfway between Australia and Africa, lies storm-buffeted Kerguelen Island. Its high point, Mont Ross, is only 6070 feet high, but it