

Aconcagua, Polish Route. A Catalonian expedition under J.M. Molina that was attempting the Polish route in winter, managed to place two of its members on the summit on August 22. Skis were used from a height of 14,000 feet to some 200 feet below the summit, since the last tract was devoid of snow. Aconcagua had been ascended previously in the winter season (June to August), but this is the first ski ascent of the Polish route.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Tupungato, South Face Variant. A 20-man expedition of the Padova section of the Club Alpino Italiano, led by Gastone Scalco, attempted from the Argentine side the unclimbed east ridge of Tupungato. Deep snow forced the group to abandon this side in favor of a variant on the south face, parallel to the 1963 route climbed by Argentines under J. Burgos. High camps were placed at 13,700, 17,400 and 19,100 feet. Two first attempts were beaten back by adverse weather and *soroche* (altitude sickness). On January 19, M. Flamini, P. Lincetto and S. Santori reached the summit. Their altimeters confirmed as accurate the official Chilean height of 6550 meters (21,490 feet) for Tupungato.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Argentine and Chilean Patagonia

Fitz Roy, North Face, 1979. Guy Abert, Michel and Jean Afanassieff, Gilles Sourice and Jean Fabre made the first ascent of the north face of Fitz Roy. Despite bad weather, they transported supplies up the glacier to the foot of the face and ten days after their arrival were camped at 6000 feet below the unclimbed wall. Miraculously, the wind had dropped the next morning. They rapidly ascended a couloir to prepare the route as high as possible in the calm, warm weather. The Afanassieffs led, Sourice filmed and Abert and Fabre fixed 1800 feet of rope and hauled supplies. By two o'clock they had reached the high point of previous attempts. When they returned to their high camp three days later, they found the tents destroyed and the fixed rope frayed by the wind. On December 24, 1979 they set out alpine-style for the final assault. Crampons and overboots were now needed on the rime-covered granite. The weather returned to its normal, foul nature. Despite great technical difficulties (UIAA V+, A2) and stormy weather, they persevered and after four bivouacs, reached the summit at four P.M. on December 27.

Fitz Roy. On February 21 Chilean Gino Cassasa and Austrian Walter Bertsch reached the summit of Fitz Roy. Following the American route with a variant in the upper part, they overcame the difficulties on Feb-

ruary 20 and bivouacked on the easy summit ridge. The wind rose on the 21st, obliging them to crawl to the summit on hands and knees. It was hard work to descend but on the 22nd they managed to reach their snow cave on the upper col.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

Routes on Fitz Roy. The following routes have been done on Fitz Roy:

1. 1952, French (Terray et al.), east face. M.A. Azema, *The Conquest of FitzRoy*, London: Andre Deutsch, 1957.
2. 1965, Argentine (Fonrouge and Comesaña), supercouloir (*supercanaleta*) on west wall, *A.A.J.*, 1966, pp. 75-80.
3. 1968, U.S. (Chouinard et al.), southwest ridge. *A.A.J.*, 1969, pp. 263-9. (Called west buttress in *A.A.J.*, 1976, p. 194.)
4. 1972, British and U.S. (Mo Anthoine et al.), "from saddle between French and American routes," *A.A.J.*, 1973, p. 477.
5. 1977, Italian (C. Ferrari and V. Meles), east buttress, *A.A.J.*, 1977, p. 231.
6. 1979, Italian (Casarotto solo), north pillar, *A.A.J.*, 1980, pp. 383-6.
7. 1979, French (Afanassieff et al.), north face, *A.A.J.*, 1981, above.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Cerro Torre Attempt. I was four weeks on the Cerro Torre in February, attempting the Maestri bolt-ladder route on the southeast buttress, a beautiful route. I got up to within 650 feet of the top but had to give up because of bad weather. It is well to note that in Argentina costs are now double those in the United States. While I was there Americans Don Peterson and Tom Bowman attempted the Maestri-Egger route and in three months got up only nine rope-lengths and failed even to get to the Col of Conquest because of the weather.

REINHARD KARL, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Torre Egger, Southwest Face. During February and March Italians Bruno Di Dora and Giuliano Giongio climbed the southwest face of Torre Egger. The face was objectively very dangerous because of falling ice and rockfall. The route had previously been unsuccessfully attempted by British and American climbers.

Fortaleza, Paine Group. The Fortaleza (Fortress) is a gigantic granite tower crowned by black sedimentary rock covered with ice and snow