

DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE MOUNTAINEERING SUMMARY—1984

<i>Mount McKinley</i>	<i>Expeditions</i>	<i>Climbers</i>	<i>Successful</i>
West Buttress	114	428	219
West Buttress (Guided)	19	134	79
Muldrow Glacier	3	25	3
Muldrow Glacier (Guided)	1	14	0
West Rib	3	12	2
West Rib (Guided)	3	19	0
Cassin	9	22	7
South Buttress	9	32	7
North West Buttress (Guided)	1	6	4
South Face	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	163	695	324
<i>Mount Foraker</i>	11	33	10
<i>Mount Foraker (Guided)</i>	1	5	0
<i>Mount Hunter</i>	9	25	13
<i>Mount Huntington</i>	7	17	2
<i>Mooses Tooth</i>	2	5	3
<i>Kichatna Spires</i>	1	3	3
<i>Rooster Comb</i>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	32	90	33
TOTAL	195	785	357

Mount McKinley, Ridge of No Return. The Ridge of No Return is the southeast-trending ridge which descends from Point 15,000 on Mount McKinley's South Buttress before ending on the west fork of the Ruth Glacier. It lies approximately one kilometer to the south-southwest of the Isis route. From Base Camp on the Ruth Glacier, I passed solo under the north face of Mount Huntington to arrive at the foot of the route. It begins on a 1000-foot-high triangular snow face at the southern or left end of the enormous snow-and-ice wall which forms the vertical east face of the southeast spur. After reaching its top, in order to continue along the southeast ridge, it is necessary to pass through a series of enormous cornices of all shapes and sizes, overhanging in different directions. Several grade-5 rock towers were passed in this section, although the climbing was predominantly snow and ice. The climbing was always very exposed and dangerous, with many vertical and overhanging sections on both snow and ice, some of the most difficult I have ever encountered. The last 3500 to 4000 vertical feet were climbed first along a snow-and-ice wall, then on mixed ground, and finally on snow and ice again. The steepest part of this section reached 65°. I left Base Camp on April 29 and reached the top of Point 15,000

Photo by Bradford Washburn

Ridge of No Return on McKinley.
The ridge was reached from the
cirque on the left. The ridge
diagonals up from the center to
the snowy point in the middle left.



at 9:30 P.M. on May 11. I was hindered by bad weather on the first seven days; this was followed by five days of good weather. The ridge is three miles long and rises 7000 feet. I used five rock and six ice pitons along with one deadman for protection. I used no fixed rope, left nothing on the mountain and climbed alpine-style. I made a new descent which lies about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile to the east of the standard descent route on the steep portion of the South Buttress route. My descent involved about 3500 feet of 70° water ice and is not recommended. During the descent I watched a team of three fall from an ice wall. I realized it was impossible for me to give any immediate help and so I decided to get to Kahiltna Base Camp as fast as possible to call for the rescue helicopter. I walked all night and the next morning met some climbers who lent me skis. The rescue team, which I joined, could save them.

RENATO CASAROTTO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Mount McKinley, South Face, New Route. From May 13 to 23 we climbed a new route on the south face of Mount McKinley to the right of the Cassin Ridge. Ján Špakula, František Adamík and Ervin Velič helped Tono Križo, František Korl and me from Base Camp to our first bivouac and then they climbed the South Buttress. We had very good weather for the first five days but it was rather bad after that. Bivouac sites caused us great problems. Only on three nights, 5, 6 and 9, could we pitch our tent; on all other nights we had to hack out bivouac shelves. The climbing on the face was UIAA IV to V+ on rock and 60° to 90° on ice. We placed 150 rock pitons and 40 ice pitons. We wore out new crampons and ice axes. We got to the summit at two A.M. on May 23. We met our support climbers near the summit and Velič accompanied us to the top. We all descended the South Buttress.

BLAŽEJ ADAM, *IAMES, Slovak Mountaineering Association*

McKinley, Foraker, Hunter, Rooster Comb, P 11,300. An expedition of the French Groupe Militaire de Haute Montagne was led by Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Claude Marmier. They made an amazing number of climbs. The description of the Hunter climb is given below. The others follow: McKinley via Western Rib, June 8 to 18, by Marmier, E. Giot, Yves Tedeschi, Benoît Grison, E. Bellin, via West Buttress, June 14 to 18, by P. Royer, E. Gramond, and West Buttress-Muldrow Traverse, June 17 to 23, by H. Sachetat, L. Mailly, Philippe Renard; Foraker via southeast ridge, June 8 to 13, by Sachetat, Royer, Mailly, Renard, Gramond; Hunter via north face (noted below) and via west ridge, July 1-4, by Sachetat, Mailly, Renard; P 11,300 via south ridge, May 30 to June 1, by Sachetat, Mailly; and Rooster Comb via north face, May 30 to June 2, by Gramond, Grison. The Rooster Comb climb may have been the second ascent of the route. They climbed a difficult 2000-foot-high ice gully. The ice over the rock on the mixed sections was thin and often friable. The McKinley traverse was done in the remarkably short time of six days. We are grateful to Lieutenant Colonel Marmier for this information.