

just south of Punta Arenas, we kayaked across the Magellan Straits, through the Aqualisman Channel and along Cockburn Canal to reach the shore east of Sarmiento. We failed to attempt Sarmiento because of its scale and the weather. We climbed two small mountains south of Seno Agostini and failed on a 6600-foot peak that lies between the other two. We were totally self-contained, carrying alpine climbing gear, filming equipment and food for two months.

ALAN HUGHES, *Wales*

Cordillera Darwin Traverse. Eight students of the Universidad Austral of Punta Arenas accomplished in February, 1983 the first complete traverse of the Cordillera Darwin, the principal and by far the most complex mountain massif in the Chilean portion of Tierra del Fuego. The expedition started on the north coast, with a landing place at the Seno (fjord) del Almirantazgo and dragged its four sleds loaded with supplies for the next 20 days. The students climbed the main glacier, which they named after their university, where they located remains of an old airplane crash. They descended toward Puerto Williams, on Beagle Channel.

HUMERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile*

Attempt to get to Antarctica. In December Canadians had hoped to fly to Antarctica to climb the Vinson Massif. They started with the same plane used by Bonington and the Americans in 1983 but they had British pilots. After difficulties about landing at the Esperanza Base, for which they had permission from the Argentine government, they landed instead at Río Gallegos. The Argentine authorities there took the pilots into custody because they were British and thus the expedition ended.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche, Argentina*

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Royal Bay and Ross Glacier Area, South Georgia. Our team, David Craw, Peter D. Johnstone, Alan J. Knowles and I, was accompanied by a film crew, Bev and Rob Brown. We were landed at Royal Bay in early November and collected on Christmas Eve. We climbed the following peaks between 2000 and 3000 feet around Royal Bay: Mount Krokisius, Binary Peak, Pirner Peak, Neighbour Peak, Coffin Top, Mount Burley, Mount Fagan and Broken Peak; and around St. Andrews Bay: Mount Skittle, Szielaska Icecap and two unnamed peaks beside the Cook Glacier. Four first ascents were made of these peaks of 3000 to 5000 feet around the Hindle Glacier: unnamed northern outlier of Smokey Wall by Knowles and Johnstone, unnamed peak between Hindle and Weddell Glaciers by Craw and Knowles and two smaller peaks on the Hindle-Weddell divide. The Hindle Glacier, never previously visited, was explored and

surveyed. We made ski crossings of the Weddell Glacier and of Ross Pass and the first ascent of two unnamed peaks between the Cook and Heaney Glaciers. Geological work was carried out on all trips away from the Royal Bay base. The film crew recorded expedition activities, the local wildlife, old whaling activity and the influence of the recent conflict on the island. During a stopover at Grytviken the team also traversed the Petrel Peaks and Mount Hodges.

IAN M. TURNBULL, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

ANTARCTICA

English Coast and Eastern Ellsworth Land, 1984-5. On December 11, a seven-person U.S. Geological Survey party, including Pete Rowley, *leader*, Karl Kellogg, Tom Laudon, Dave Lidke, Mike O'Neill, Janet Thomson and me, flew from McMurdo Station to FitzGerald Bluffs on the English Coast. We completed a geological reconnaissance of the English Coast and in late January, 1985 made a 270-mile snowmobile and ski traverse southeastward to the Barendt Mountains of eastern Ellsworth Land. In addition to the geological work, first ascents were made of several prominent peaks: Schwartz Peak via the east face and south ridge by Kellogg and me on December 27; Mount Thornton, a large snow dome capping an extinct volcano, via the south face by Kellogg, O'Neill and me on January 13, 1985; Mount Rex via the north ridge by Lidke, O'Neill, Rowley and Thomson and via the east face by me on January 15. In the Barendt Mountains, Lidke and I made the second ascent of the northwest ridge of Mount Chandler and I climbed the easy south ridge of Mount Suggs, both on January 26. The summit of Suggs was a 10-foot-high mushroom whose top I reached via several exposed moves on its southwest corner. On January 5 Kellogg and I attempted Mount Benkert, an 1800-foot ice-plastered volcanic spire, which rises directly from the frozen sea near Spaatz Island. We climbed 50° snow granular ice on the north face to the crest of the west ridge. Benkert's lower west peak is home to nesting snowy petrels; as we worked along the narrow ridge crest, these beautiful, all-white birds swooped past us. About 150 feet below the summit, we were stopped by a fantastically corniced section of the arête. Benkert is easily the most impressive peak in the entire southern Antarctic Peninsula. Its first ascent will be a real prize, though the approach is formidable. On February 4 we were picked up at FitzGerald Bluffs and returned to McMurdo Station after 56 days in the field.

WALTER VENNUM

ASIA

Bhutan

Jichu Drake or Tsherim Kang Tragedy. Our 13-man expedition left Italy on August 21. We were flown in a small plane of the Bhutanese Airline to Paro at