

Central Tower of Paine, West Face. Fabrizio Defrancesco, Fabio Stedile and I arrived at Base Camp on October 14. After several unsuccessful attempts, stopped by bad weather, we finally completed on November 2 the first ascent of the west face of the Central Tower of Paine. The route followed a crack which starts at the bottom of the wall and ends at the top. In this wonderful red-colored rock in a dreamy landscape, you may still find many possibilities for new routes. We were climbing on eight days, bivouacked four times on the wall and climbed 800 vertical meters. There was continuous UIAA difficulty of VIII, A3.

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Central Tower of Paine, East Face. Ermano Salvaterra, Mauricio Giarolli and Elio Orlandi made a difficult new route on the east face of the Central Tower of Paine. They spent ten days on the climb with eight bivouacs. They rated it at UIAA grade VII, A3.

Torre Norte del Paine, Solo, 1985. Italian Elio Orlandi climbed the North Paine Tower solo on December 29, 1985. He was accompanied to Base Camp by Nora Rigotti. On December 28 he approached the western foot of the three towers, where he bivouacked. On the 29th he rapidly climbed the couloir between the north and central towers, getting to the top of the Brecha Bich at 1:30 P.M. He was attracted to the south face of the north tower and set off immediately. He had overcome the difficult pitches of the long crest by 7:30 and reached the summit at 9:30 P.M. He descended until one A.M., when he bivouacked on a ledge, and on the 30th he continued down to his bivouac tent on the moraine. The onset of bad weather drove him back to Base Camp on the 31st and ended his climbing in the region.

ANTARCTICA

Framnes Mountains, MacRobertson Land. I was working in a scientific capacity in the Framnes Mountains near the Australian station of Mawson in the winter of 1984 and the summers of 1984-5 and 1985-6. The three main ranges of Henderson, Masson and David are visited regularly and the easier peaks have mostly been climbed. The fourth range, the Casey Range, has rarely been visited. In January 1984, while working there, I made a north-to-south traverse of the range. In the Framnes Mountains very few summits require technical skill. The attraction is the remoteness of the locality and extreme isolation. I have drawn up a list of major peaks and tried to indicate what I believe are first ascents. *Henderson Range:* Henderson (970 meters) by P. Law, L. Bechenaise, Shaw, February 1955, Goldsworthy Ridge (960 meters) unknown; *Masson Range:* Rumdoodle Peak (721 meters) unknown, Ward (1030 meters) by W. Williams, M. Conde, January 1985, Ferguson Peak (900 meters) by J. Trealar, Conde, Williams, January 1985, Burnett (1050 meters) by Williams P.