

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.

MARIO MANICA, *Club Alpino Italiano*

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.

Crossthwait, December 1984; *David Range*: Fang Peak (900 meters) unknown, Elliot (1300 meters) unknown, Coates (1280 meters) by J. Bennett, G. Mantin, R. Lachal, A. Varana, January 1966, Hordern (1510 meters) first ascent unknown, traverse over east peak and 10-meter-lower west peak by W. Williams, Crossthwait, December 1984.

WARWICK WILLIAMS, *Australia*

Vinson Massif, Sentinel Range. On November 24, our group reached the summit of the Vinson Massif. We were Pete Ackerman, Bob Failing, John Otter, Bill Martin, Mike Meyer, Dave Tollakson and I. The ascent commenced following our November 17 landing aboard our privately chartered Twin Otter aircraft piloted by Giles Kershaw. Due to poor weather, we were delayed four days in reaching the mountain following our initial Antarctic refueling stop at the Chilean Marsh Air Base on the Peninsula's King George Island. One further refueling at the Chilean Air Base at Cavajal on the Peninsula's Adelaide Island was also required before the final 3½-hour flight to Base Camp. From Base Camp at about 7500 feet we followed the original 1966 American route, establishing three intermediate camps before the final seven-hour summit push. Significant stormy weather did not materialize during our ascent, although one breezy day with accompanying poor visibility forced an aborted summit attempt on November 23. The lowest air temperature noted during our seven-day ascent was -36° F recorded at Base Camp, although summit weather, amid ultimately clear and slightly windy conditions, was probably much colder. Within two weeks following our descent, three other groups, one led by Adventure Network's Martyn Williams for Mountain Travel and others including Reinhold Messner and Hector MacKenzie were also successful in reaching the summit. It was Messner's seventh continental summit. By our reckoning, 53 persons have now summited the Vinson Massif.

PAUL PFAU

Vinson Massif. On November 27, Reinhold Messner, Wolfgang Tomaseth and I reached the highest point of Antarctica 26 hours after Giles Kershaw had landed us below the peak. The weather was wonderful and the climb, during which we slept at what is normally Camp II, was a real pleasure. Reinhold Messner thus became the second person, after Canadian Pat Morrow, to reach the highest summits of all the continents, considering Carstensz Pyramid the highest point in Australasia rather than insignificant Kosciuszko, which is the highest in Australia.

OSWALD OELZ, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

The Highest Summits of the Continents. In trying to calculate which are the highest summits of each of the continents, one must first figure whether *Australia* should be taken as a continent by itself or whether the islands of the Pacific