

a new route on the impressive west face of Pier Giorgio. We set up our tent on the Marconi Glacier, three hours from the wall. Up there, some hours beyond the last habitation at Piedra del Fraile, we spent first five days and then eleven days waiting for good weather. The conditions were so bad that we decided to do a shorter climb, the 600-meter-high west buttress of Cerro Pollone (2396 meters, 7860 feet). In two half-days with better weather, we fixed 200 meters of rope. Then, on December 28, 1988, we set out at three A.M. to try to climb to the summit. In the afternoon the next snowstorm began. Still 100 meters below the foresummit, some 13 pitches up, we decided to rappel off. During the first part of January, the weather was better whenever it was windy. We went to the Cerro Torre Base Camp. On January 4, we walked to the base of El Mocho (1980 meters, 6496 feet) and made a new route on the left of the east buttress. This 500-meter-high climb was interesting and principally free. We rappelled down the same route. We came down late at night and had a rest day. On January 6, we made the first ascent of the north spur of the Torre Innominata (2501 meters, 8205 feet). This 400-meter-high beautiful ascent was mainly in cracks. We climbed five pitches on the west flank of the ridge and the last six on the east side. The incredibly strong west wind nearly blew us off the normal east-ridge route on the descent. We got back to the Cerro Torre Base Camp at 1:30 A.M. The next afternoon we returned to Chaltén. The following day, we went up to the Paso Superior. On January 9, we first started up the snow-and-ice ramp on the Aguja Poincenot (3036 meters, 9961 feet) on which the first-ascent route begins; this route was originally climbed in 1962 by Don Whillans and Frank Cochrane and is now the normal route up the needle. Halfway up the ramp, we turned to the right and regained the rock of the east face. After a difficult climb of 10 pitches, we reached the summit at eight P. M. We finished our descent to the Paso Superior at two A.M. Fortunately, it began to snow and so we had a forced rest day. On the 11th, we climbed straight up seven pitches to where we had begun our rock climb on the 9th; we had rappelled down this section on the previous descent. Thus we completed all 17 pitches of this 600-meter-high climb in two efforts. Finally, on January 12, we climbed a new route on the southeast face of the Aguja Guillaumet (2539 meters, 8330 feet). Part of the rock was gravelly. Again the wind was very strong on the top and during the descent. That evening we returned to Chaltén and left the national park the day after. (Our routes may be followed on the accompanying drawings, all done by my companion, Michel Piola. "R" followed by a number indicates a belay stance; "pa" indicates direct aide.)

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*Aguja Mermoz, East Buttress.* Italians Vanni Spinelli, Ezio Tanzi, Antonio Colombo, Giulio Maggioni, Danilo Galbiati, Giorgio Confalonieri and Davide Corbetta climbed the 700-meter-high east buttress of the Aguja Mermoz. They set up Base Camp at the Piedra del Fraile on October 19. Bad weather delayed them but on October 24, they got to the Paso del Cuadrado. The next day, they



fixed rope on snow-covered slabs. More storms followed. On the 28th, they began working up a 300-meter-high dihedral. Finally, on October 31, those who had been preparing the route were joined by all the others, who ascended the fixed ropes. Together, they climbed the whole day, getting to the summit at ten P.M. They then made several attempts on Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre, all frustrated by bad weather. Finally, Spinelli and Maggioni made a 120-kilometer crossing of the Southern Continental Icecap.

*Cerro Stanhardt, West Face.* Italians Maurizio Giarolli, Ermanno Salvaterra and Elio Orlandi climbed a very difficult new route on the west face of Cerro Stanhardt. It rises 1200 meters. On September 21, they attacked the west face from the Bifida-Stanhardt col. The first 500 meters were slabs that diagonalled up to the right. They bivouacked at the base of the vertical climbing. On September 22, they climbed straight up very difficult rock and finally through ice mushrooms. They reached the summit at four P.M. in dense fog. They descended the east face, bivouacking on the wall.

*Aguja del S.* A 4-man Bulgarian party led by Alexandr Ruevski had hoped to climb Fitz Roy but could not because of bad weather. Miroslav Sevilevski and Valentin Trenev took advantage of a calm day to make a new route on the east-southeast face of the Aguja del S in the St. Exupéry ridge. After four hours of climbing up to UIAA V-, they reached the top.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Punta Negra, Tridente and Cerro Norte del Paine.* Ian Burgess, David Lister, David Tyson and I arrived on September 30 for a six-week stay in the Paine region. We set up Base Camp high in the Río de los Perros valley. On October 19, we all made the first ascent of Punta Negra (2100 meters, 6890 feet), a sedimentary rock peak which lies north of Catedral and southwest of the Mellizos. Starting from the Olguin Glacier, the route followed the northwest face via two long snow gullies onto the hanging glacier. We then climbed a steep mixed gully to a notch in the north ridge, which provided six pitches of very loose rock to the summit. This was our second attempt on the peak. The ascent took nearly 24 hours non-stop. On October 27, from a high camp under the north face of the Escudo, we followed two easy snow gullies and a short rock step to ascend the minor peak, Tridente (1900 meters, 6234 feet) via the apparently previously unclimbed northwest face. This was a fantastic viewpoint for the Towers of Paine. On November 7, we made an ascent of the North Tower of Paine by the normal Col Bich route. We took 22 hours, starting from the Japanese camp in the Río Ascensio valley. We had problems with fresh snow and the cold. The fixed rope on the 100 meters of mixed ground leading to the Col Bich was removed that same day by its American owners.

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