

January 3, dragging on their sleds 45 days of food. They descended the Mills Glacier and found two difficult icefalls at its junction with the Beardmore Glacier. Finally, after 92 days, the pair reached Scott Base near McMurdo. (Herr Messner was kind enough to send us a report from which we quote an excerpt. — *Editor.*) “Each of us pulled his own sled, loaded with from 120 to 50 kilos. Each kept his own pace. Each carried out certain duties. Arved Fuchs navigated. I kept ahead following his compass directions. We were the smallest possible group and the rules of living together were dictated by the tiny size of the tent and nature. Also the length of the crossing: from the edge of the Weddell Sea to Scott Base it was 2580 air-kilometers, but we traveled 2800 kilometers because we had to traverse 1000 kilometers of sastrugi fields and 200 kilometers of heavily crevassed glaciers and icefalls, which put all Himalayan ice formations in the shade. The sleds behind us and the skis under us, mixed with our breathing and pulses, were the only sounds. Else all was silence. What silence! At first this depressed me. I was not accustomed to such silence. But then it became peace, a peace from my very soul.”

REINHOLD MESSNER, *South Tirol*

Antarctic Traverse by an International Group 1989-1990. From Seal Nunatak, Graham Land on the Antarctic Peninsula which extends south towards the tip of South America to the Soviet Mirny Base on Davis Sea is some 6400 kilometers. From July 28, 1989 to March 3, 1990, an international expedition spent 219 days to cover this distance. The group was composed of American Will Steiger, Frenchman Dr. Jean-Louis Etienne, Soviet Viktor Boyarski, Briton Geoff Sommers, Japanese Keiko Funatsu and Chinese Qin Dake. They carried supplies on dog sleds and had a total of 42 dogs. A number of times they were stopped by severe storms with winds up to 120 kilometers per hour and frigid temperatures. Drifting snow or poor visibility kept them from finding two of their supply depots which had been previously set out. Nevertheless, they often averaged 40 kilometers per day. They reached the South Pole on December 15, 1989 and rested three days there. On January 20, they got to the Soviet Vostok Base. It is there that the world's coldest temperature of -89.2°C was recorded on July 21, 1983. The traverse was completed on March 3. A very important goal of the expedition was to emphasize the fragility of the environment of Antarctica, which can be protected only by international cooperation.

Mount Huggins, Royal Society Range, 1989. On December 19, 1989, Brenton Worley and I made the second ascent of Mount Huggins (3733 meters, 12,248 feet), the southernmost peak of the Royal Society Range in South Victoria Land. The first ascent had been made by New Zealanders Bernie Gunn and Richard Brooke, who climbed the other side of the mountain from the Polar Plateau in 1958. We left Base Camp at 1500 meters on the Pipecleaner Glacier on December 18 and skied up the Panorama Glacier to camp on a ridge between

the Panorama and upper Pipecleaner Glaciers at 2000 meters. At 2:40 A.M. on the 19th, we set off for Huggins, traversing first to Auster Pass and then up the southeast ridge. The first 500 meters were relatively straightforward but a series of dolerite bluffs forced us onto the south face at 2800 meters, where soft snow on loose rock required much care. We climbed a system of broad gullies to the southeast shoulder. The rest of the route to the summit involved traverses around large blocks on the ridge. We reached the top at eleven A.M. Descent began down easier-angled western slopes toward the Polar Plateau and then down onto large snowfields on the south face, traversing back to the southeast ridge just above Auster Pass. We were back at our high camp at 5:40 P.M.

SIMON COX, *New Zealand Antarctic Research Programme*

Vinson Massif, East Ridge, 1989. Chileans Arturo Fernandois, Fernando Luchsinger, Jaime Roca, Italo Valle and I as leader were flown from Punta Arenas by the Chilean Air Force to its base on Isla Rey Jorge and only 21 days later, because of bad weather, to another base on Isla Adelaida. On November 20, 1989, two small planes flew us to the base of the Ellsworth Mountains. The planes returned for us a week later. From our Base Camp at 2400 meters, on skis we pulled sleds toward an icefall that descends from the Vinson-Shinn col and to a camp at 3100 meters. We then climbed the icefall and placed Camp II at 3660 meters in the col itself. On November 24, we set out for the summit of Vinson, heading up a high plateau on the east flank. Only the last part was at all steep (45°). At 1:20 A.M. on November 25, 1989, we all reached the summit. The east route was a new variant since the south side is the normal one. We descended to Base and on the 27th were picked up by the planes. The expedition took 40 days in all.

MAURICIO PURTO, *AAC and Chilean Section of Club Alpino Italiano*

Vinson Massif. During the southern 1990-1 winter, Pedro Nicolás and I made the first Spanish expedition to the Antarctic mountains to carry out geological research. We approached Vinson in the company of the Canadian Adventure Network, but we climbed separately and were in the region double the time they were. We followed the classic route, placing Base Camp, Camps I, II and III at 2400, 2600, 3200 and 3800 meters on November 26, 27, 30 and December 1. We got to the summit on December 2 at seven P.M. with a temperature of -35° C and a 35-kilometer-per-hour wind.

JERÓNIMO LÓPEZ, *Federación Española de Montañismo*

South Georgia, 1989-1990. Our expedition spent three months on the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia. It was jointly led by Stephen Venables and me; the other team members were Brian Davidson, Lindsay Griffin and