

Patagonia Orocline Expedition. A full article appears earlier in this *Journal* about exploration in various parts of Patagonia carried out while making geological research in 1967-8.

Bífida, East Buttress, 1992. Austrians Georg Schörghofer and Paul Bruckner climbed a new 24-pitch route on the east buttress of Bífida which joined the Bonapace-Dünser route toward the top. Further details have not reached us.

Torre Egger Attempt. A very strong American party led by Jay Smith made an attempt on the east face of Torre Egger early in 1993. They were turned back some five pitches from the summit by very inclement weather.

Cerro Torre and Torre Egger Attempts, 1992. Italians Ermanno Salvaterra, Adriano Cavallaro and Guido Bonvicini attempted in October, 1992 to climb the 1959 Egger-Maestri route on Cerro Torre. They climbed about 600 meters in two days, but the objective dangers were too great and they retreated. Later, they attempted Torre Egger's east face. They got to the foot of the northeast buttress at the Col de la Conquista but again they found the weather too severe. They found the "superbox" left in 1978 by Britons Campbell-Kelly and Wyvil and also occupied by Proctor and Burke in 1980. They took shelter for some time in the box. They climbed the Compressor Route on Cerro Torre and the Argentine Route on Fitz Roy before leaving in December.

Cerro Stanhardt and Torre Egger Attempts, 1993-4. From October 30, 1993 to January 24, 1994, we attempted two difficult new routes. Lorenzo Ortiz and I met our Argentine teammate, Teo Plaza, in Calafate and on October 30, we arrived at the Bridwell Base Camp. Cerro Stanhardt, 15 kilometers higher at the head of the valley, had been climbed only once to the summit, by Americans Jim Bridwell, Jay Smith and Greg Smith in 1988. Their route, called Exocet, was to the right of ours, also on the east face. We dug an ice cave at the foot of the face and supplied it during the bad weather that prevailed during the first half of November. At the end of the month, in 2½ days of good weather, we began the attempt. On the first day, we climbed half the wall and bivouacked, where we rested a day before climbing by noon of the third day to within 200 meters of the summit. Bad weather surprised us after we had finally climbed some 80 vertical meters. We rappelled the Exocet route, which was shorter than ours, and got to our cave the next morning. Five more attempts failed in bad weather before in the middle of December Ortiz had to return to Spain to his work. Plaza and I made four more attempts. Finally, at two A.M. on December 31, we left the cave and by six o'clock P.M. had climbed half the route up vertical mixed terrain and rock. Because the snow was too warm, we waited until nine P.M. before continuing up snow ramps and vertical ice to a short bivouac at the foot of the final wall. At three A.M., we started up the final

COLOR PLATE 12

Photo by Lorenzo Ortiz

**Cerro Torre, Torre Egger, Cerro
Stanhardt.**

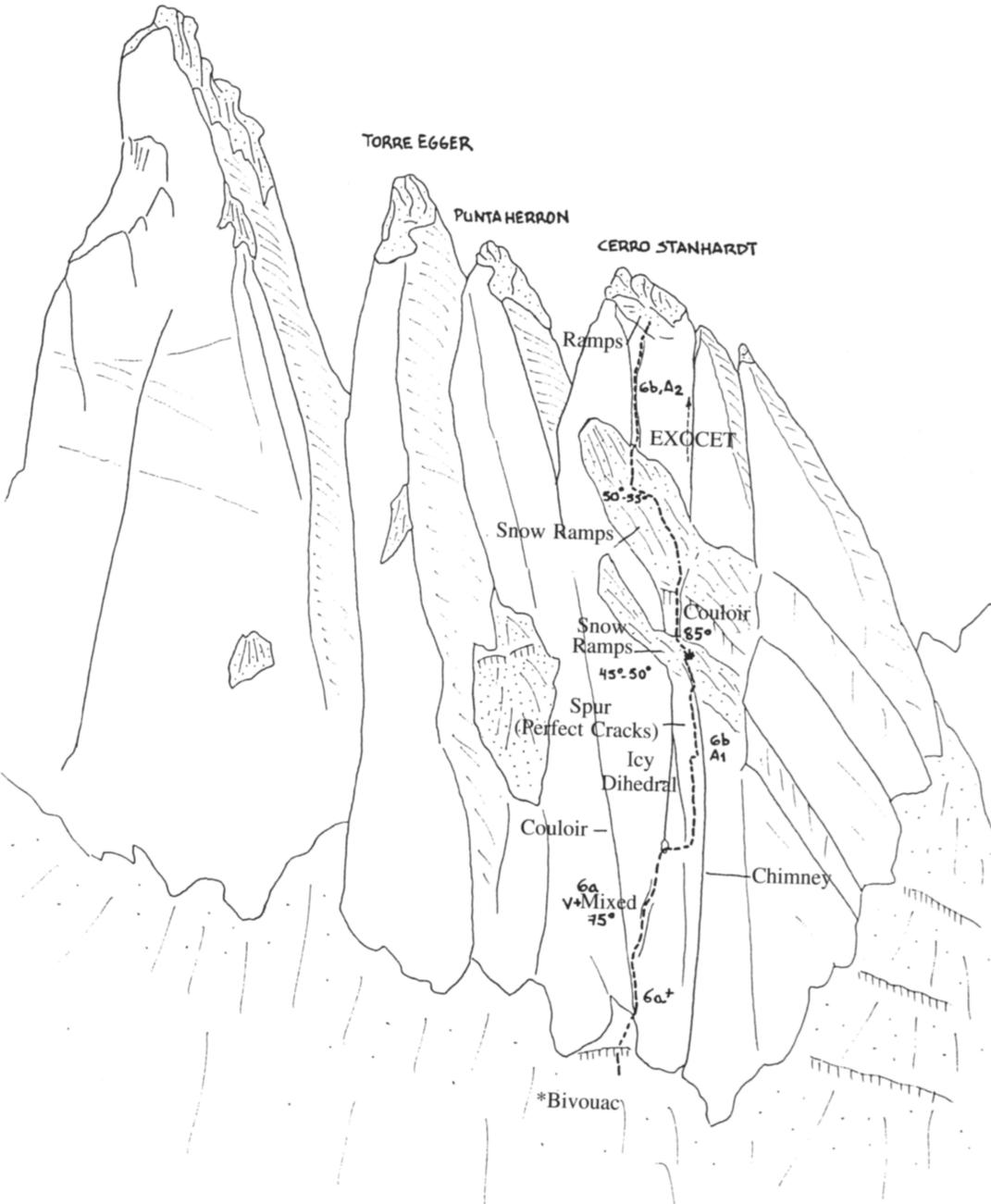


CERRO TORRE

TORRE EGGER

PUNTA HERRON

CERRO STANHARDT



*Bivouac

250 meters. All went well until nine A.M. as we ascended vertical rock. The temperature had risen considerably and blocks of ice were falling from the summit. On the next to last pitch, Plaza was about five meters above the belay when a huge ice block struck him. He continued to lead up an overhanging crack past ice blocks and through water running down the rock to within 45 meters of the summit. There remained only 35 meters of 30° slope and 10 meters of summit mushroom. However, Plaza's injuries were getting much worse. He had torn ligaments in his right knee, severe bruises on his right thigh, contusions on his right shoulder, numbness and early indications of frostbite. We had no choice but to go down. We descended all night, keeping 20 meters to the right of our ascent route in the top wall to avoid the cascade of ice blocks. Despite many problems, we got to the ice cave in the morning. The next day, we reached the glacier. A helicopter flew Plaza to the Calafate hospital from there. I returned to Base Camp to team up with Italian Ermanno Salvaterra to try a new route on Torre Egger's east face. We began up the face at four P.M. on January 12, 1994. By nine o'clock, we had climbed 500 meters when I was struck by a granite block, which injured my left shoulder and right arm. We kept on to a bivouac. At five A.M., we started out, hoping my injuries would improve. However, after three painful pitches, it was obvious I could not continue and we descended.

JOSÉ CHAVERRI, *Montañeros de Aragón de Barbastró, Spain*

Cerro Torre, Maestri-Egger Route Attempt, Domo Blanco and Cerro Doblado. From April 2 to June 17, Gerold Dünser, Toni Ponholzer and I were based at the Bridwell Camp, hoping to climb the Maestri-Egger route on Cerro Torre. We stocked supplies at the foot of the face and prepared our hanging bivouac tent. After two failed attempts, on May 10 we felt that the weather looked promising. We set out with ten day's supplies and on the third day reached the Collado de la Conquista. That night, the weather shifted with wind and snow squalls. The bivouac tent was really tested for the first time. The next day, the weather seemed to improve and we hurried upward from the col. The afternoon brought more wind and great cold. We were 150 or 200 meters above the col, still 350 meters from the summit and had moved from the more sheltered east side to the west. Damp air from the Pacific was accompanied by -15°C temperatures. We waited for better weather. On the morning of the eighth day, the fourth at the bivouac, a bit of sun cheered us, but the weather was still threatening. As we retreated, the cold was less when we regained the eastern side. We still had to bivouac 500 meters above the foot of the wall. We descended on the ninth day in a heavy snow storm with many powder-snow avalanches. We reached the foot of the wall in the early evening. The weather for the next 2½ weeks showed its worst side. We finally were able to use short breaks for two climbs. On June 6, we made the second ascent of the Domo Blanco (2507 meters, 8250 feet) by a new route, from the col between it and