

niques. The character of the rock reminds us again and again of the wonderful Yosemite classics.

We worked on obtaining the summit by rotating teams. Our main goal was to create a well-thought-out, secure free climbing route. We protected the cracks with cams and nuts, and placed bolts where it became too thin. The belays all are secured by two solid bolts. Our goal was also to later free climb the whole route, but we failed by one 5.13 pitch near the top. There were a lot of 5.12 pitches and one 5.13. I highly recommend this unique line on the Ulamertorssuaq. Now it's possible to repeat the route alpine-style in two to three days. We left all the gear that was placed by a hammer on the wall. To repeat the route I recommend a double rack of Friends and Stoppers up to number four Camelot and two 60-meter ropes. It's possible to abseil the route.

KURT ALBERT, *Germany*

*Ulamertorssuaq, Left-Hand Tower.* High quality big-wall-type climbs can be found in the Tasermiut Fjord region of South Greenland. Many lines have not had ascents. The Ulamertorssuaq Towers form a line of three satellite peaks to the main mass of Ulamertorssuaq. The latter was climbed for the first time by a French party in 1960. It was our original intention to attempt a line on the central tower; however, on our arrival we found that a Swiss party was firmly ensconced on this route (they subsequently failed after about 10 pitches). We therefore decided to attempt the line that had been tried by Masterson and Albert.

After flying from London on June 28, David Anderson, Craig Dring, Paul Tattersall and I made two boat trips to Base Camp in Tasermiut Fjord. From July 2 to July 5 we set up Advanced Base Camp and fixed the approach to the route. From the top of the moraine we crossed a small glacier to the base of a band of wet slabs stretching across the bottom of the face. We ascended the slabs at the narrowest point to a band of ledges. The route started just left of a series of vertical crack lines in the center of the face. From July 6 to July 14 we managed four climbing days, climbing in pairs. We fixed 12 pitches over three days. We followed leftward-diagonal cracks for 14 sustained and steep pitches to a large ledge, then a short pitch right across a gentle slab to a series of roofs. A further three steep pitches led to the top. The climbing was predominantly crack climbing from finger to off-width/chimney. Fifty-meter ropes were required. We protected the stances with one or two bolts. Protection on pitches consisted of nuts and camming devices. No bolts or pegs were placed for direct aid or protection on pitches. On day four all members reached the summit then rappelled the line of ascent. We graded the 800-meter route E4 A2; a strong team would be able to free the route in its entirety at a standard of E5 with one pitch of E6.

A note on existing and potential climbs in the Ulamertorssuaq base-camp region: The best rock in the area is to be found on the steep vertical faces. The low angel rock tends to be mossy and loose in places.

IAN DRING, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Ulamertorssuaq, Quadrophenia.* Our team (Paolo Cavaghetto, Manlio Motto and Vecenzo Ravaschietto from Italy, and me, Michel Piola, from Switzerland) took a train from Geneva to Luxembourg, a flight from there to Reykjavik, Iceland, a boat to Massansuak, a helicopter flight to Nanortalik (where we bought basecamp materials), before finally navigating to basecamp in the Tasermiut Fjord area of Greenland in a small Zodiac boat. We had come to try a new route in the heart of the south face of Suikarsuak. This was the third time I had visited the area; in 1983, I had climbed the *Diedre de Genevois* with Christian Dalphin, Jean Probst, and Bernard Wietlisbach on the same formation, and in 1984, I had completed a new route on Ketil, the *Directissime*, with Dalphin and Nicholas Schenkel. The face of our present objective had been climbed by two different routes besides *Diedre des Genevois*, which climbs the big central dihedral: the 1977 *Voie Originale*, through the big dihedral on the left and, in 1994, *Moby Dick*, which ascended the pillar just on the right. Despite bad weather (strong winds, considerable precipitation, and only two consecutive days of good weather in one month), after a good month of pregnancy in basecamp we became the proud fathers of *Quadrophenia*, a new-born that measured as follows: 1000 meters, ED (sup) 6c A4 on extremely steep sharp granite. After an initial exposed free climbing section (6b/c) on the lower part of the face, the overhanging central part was a delicate progression up very compact rock. Some delicate A4 pitches, with lots of hooking, gave us lots of problems before we got to our first camp on portaledges, which we installed at the base of the Shield. From there, we followed a single crack for 350 meters, climbing seven continuous pitches that ranged from thin crack to off-width. Although at first it had looked quite improbable, it became an extremely beautiful line.

A bad storm, with strong winds, cold and snow, surprised us five pitches from the summit. Manlio and I joined the *Diedre de Genevois* 40 meters below the top (a section of the wall that I'd already climbed in 1983), but then were forced to retreat to our bivy at the base of the face. Paolo and Vicenzo left toward the summit and gained the 1983 route at the end of the day. They then descended to the portaledges and spent the night there. In the middle of the night they found themselves hanging in the void after the wind shredded their portaledges to pieces.

We encountered very good rock all along, with very good free and aid climbing. All the belays were equipped for rappelling. We placed 64 bolts, 25 in between pitches and the rest in belays. We kindly ask future parties not