

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 Cavagnetto, 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 Reykiavik, 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

to add any new bolts to our route, even if it should eventually be free climbed.

An important notice for those not used to expeditions in this area: The risk of bad weather is continuous, mosquitoes in basecamp are quite miserable, and the area is completely isolated. Don't get hurt. In certain cases the ice pack closes the access to the fjord, making return impossible.

MICHEL PIOLA, *Club Alpin Suisse*

*Mount Forel Attempt.* The Isortoq-Mount Forel Kuummiut '95 Expedition consisted of Jan Mila (Norway) Nels Niemi (Alaska) and Hans Christian Florian (Greenland). The objective was to travel in the previously unexplored area from Isortoq to Mount Forel, approaching the 3360-meter peak from the west, around the huge Helheim Glacier. This approach had been tried by Mila and Florian in 1993 but was abandoned because of huge crevasses west of Helheim Glacier. This year they met with a stronger party and chose a more westerly route which avoided the crevasses. This revised route took them about 90 kilometers inland and through the upper parts of the Skakt, Fenris, and Jura Glaciers, reaching the entrance to the glaciers of Schweitzer Land through the Doren ("The Door") at 2100 meters altitude. At this point they encountered polar bear tracks. This was very surprising, as the nearest hunting grounds were at least 80 kilometers distant. Luckily, the bear itself was not encountered. The base of Mount Forel was reached, and, on May 1, an attempt was made to climb Mount Forel from the northeast. The attempt was abandoned at ca 2900 meters altitude because of steep blue ice. It had been a very windy and snowless year. The route down to the village of Kuummiut was heavily crevassed and difficult to negotiate. This is thought to be because of the small amount of snow this year. The expedition covered new land and made the earliest yet attempt of Mount Forel. The team traveled 370 kilometers in 23 days.

DAN CHÁVEZ

*Ascents in the Mount Forel Area.* Paul Walker and Tangent Expeditions made several climbs in the Mount Forel area. Walker flew his expedition in and out with a ski-mounted Twin Otter.

On the flight to retrieve the Walker expedition, Douglas Cooper's British Mount Forel Expedition was landed at the head of Avantgarden Glacier, just east of Mount Forel. The team consisted of Cooper, Claire Cooper, Jonathan Godson, Adam Hyne, Adam Hanlon and Jon Mayne. The group made climbs in the very remote region around Mount Forel, but failed to climb Forel due to the same difficult conditions experienced earlier this year. Their plan was