



*The view from atop Tangent Peak, with the high peaks of the Pourquoi-Pas Glacier on the skyline.*

JAMES GREGSON

climbed included The Sphinx (two summits, 2050m and 2080m); Tangent Peak (2420m) by the south ridge; several summits of Coxcomb Peak (2180m), including the highest, a jutting prow of rock over a big rockface; Parrotspitze (2400m) by the Parrot's Beak Arête (West Ridge); Two Peters Peak (ca. 2370m); Hidden Peak (2270m) by its northeast flank; and Well-Hidden Peak (2240m). A number of other repeat ascents were also made by team members, along with several additional attempts given up in the face of unsafe snow or loose rock. Many other fine objectives remain to be accomplished in this area.

Two other British groups also operated in adjacent areas, making a number of ascents before a final rendezvous at the Tangent base camp from where everyone was flown out by Twin Otter on August 11.

JAMES GREGSON, *Alpine Club*

Mont Forel Area, Various Activity. It was reported that a CAF expedition with the goal of making the 50th anniversary of the Expeditions Polaires Francaises to Mont Forel flew to the Femstjernen Glacier via the Bell 212 helicopter provided by Tangent Expeditions. They made base camp two kilometers southeast of the Bjornepas (ca. 2100m), were pinned down by bad weather, then, on August 5, ascended Mont Forel (3360m) via the normal Southeast Ridge

route, summitting at 1 p.m. They returned to base camp by 5 p.m. and took two days to ski back to a rendezvous with the helicopter. A decision was made to make only one flight out, which forced the "highly controversial decision" to abandon a load of equipment on the Femstjernen Glacier, very much in contrast to efforts of all other visitors to maintain the pristine character of the Arctic environment.

A Norwegian group led by Eirik Tryti landed on the Fenrisgletscher near the end of July and, on August 4, made an ascent of Nordposten. They then made three possible first ascents, all around ca. 3050 meters high, in the Bredekuppel area in the vicinity of N66° 54' W36° 53'. Afterward, they climbed two peaks further to the south before moving to the northeast of Forel. On August 7, they climbed the northeast flank to gain the col, from which they climbed the standard Southeast Ridge, reaching the summit after five hours of climbing. The same day, Jorn Hauge made the first known solo of the mountain when he followed the team's footprints, catching up to them on the last pitch. All climbers were able to follow the tracks of the French group, which had climbed the mountain two days before.

On August 8, five members of the group climbed Sydbjerg via the north ridge from the north col, finding two pitches of mixed climbing and easy scrambling. The next day, the team made a straightforward ascent of Perfektnunatak. (*High Mountain Sports* 181)

#### CAPE FAREWELL

*Icecap Crossing and Various Ascents.* It was reported that in July and August, Douglas Campbell and Malcolm Thorburn crossed the icecap from Narssarssuaq to the western/central icecap, making several ascents of peaks up to 2000 meters at a grade of AD- along the way. (*High Mountain Sports* 181)

*Torssuqatoq Spires, Various Ascents.* It was reported that Andy and Pete Benson, Kenton Cool and Al Powell (U.K.) visited the Torssuqatoq Spires, a short distance southeast of Tasermiut Fjord, making some 18 new routes up to 800 meters in length. They established base camp on July 29, then split into pairs. On August 1, Cool and Powell made the second ascent of Magic Line via a new line up the north ridge (D- V+, 300m). The Bensons climbed the 400-meter southwest face of Blizzard Ridge. Cool and Powell climbed the south face of Maujit Qaqarssuasua via the route *Rampart* (TD/TD+ VII, 800m), stopping shy of the summit while on the west ridge in the face of a storm. They descended the ridge and then the north face. On the Prow, Cool and Powell climbed *Portion Control* (VII, 375m), a seven-pitch line on excellent gneiss. On August 9, the Bensons climbed the south couloir and ridge to the main summit of Maujit Qaqarssuasua in 11 hours (D-). Cool and Powell climbed the 14-pitch *Colour of Magic* (ED2 VII A1, 750m) on the 1550-meter northeast-facing granite wall of Navianarpoq in 15 hours, bivouacking on the summit and descending the north flank the next day. The Bensons, meanwhile, climbed The Totem, a finger of rock on the ridge north of Magic Arrow, employing aid (A1) to make the ascent. On August 13-14, they climbed the right-hand tower of Navianarpoq (a.k.a. the Wall of Early Morning Light) via *Steel Drum* (ED2, 600m) in 14 hours. Cool and Powell climbed *Totty* (ED2 VII+, 750m) on Maujit Qaqarssuasua, then the south flank of Agdlerussakasit (1763m) at AD+. Two more routes on the Prow were climbed as well: *Deathflake 2000* (E4, 5c) by Cool and Powell, and *Skirmish* (D HVS, 400m) by Benson and Benson. The team reported much scope for new routes in the area, but stressed that minimum-impact style is to be employed on any new activity. (*High Mountain Sports* 186)