

SOUTHERN CORDILLERA REAL

Tiquimani, New Route. In August, 1997, Spaniard Pere Vilarasau soloed the imposing Tiquimani in an impressive five hours round-trip. The 5519-meter mountain northeast of Huayna Potosí (misnamed Cerro Illampu on the IGM maps) has seen few ascents in recent years due to increasingly thin conditions. From a camp ten minutes from the face, Vilarasau climbed 50° scree to a 100-meter mixed (V 80-90°) section to reach a 50°, then 70-80° section to the col on the ridge. He then followed the ridge to the summit with one abseil before the last 100 meters (III) up to the summit. He descended the same route. The snow and ice were good, but the rock was very poor.

YOSSI BRAIN, *United Kingdom*

CHILE

CENTRAL ANDES

Tupungato, South Face. It was reported that on January 6, 1997, Christiane Herrmann, Olaf Hollik and Frank Kostrovn climbed the south face of Tupungato (ca. 6550m), a popular high volcano in the Central Andes. The line (40-50° snow) may or may not have been new. (*High Mountain Sports* 190)

Cerro Giobbi and Cerro Centinela, First Ascents. I decided to take a sabbatical to guide young climbers to unexplored mountain ranges and to give them, in practical terms, some of the climbing forces that drove us in the 1960s.

In January, 1997, we went with the climbers of the Club Alpinista Paulista (Brazil) to southern Chile. The chosen range was located close to an unknown and never-visited fjord 100 miles southeast of Puerto Eden, a village on Wellington Island. Base Camp was destroyed twice by big waves and icebergs coming from a huge icefall half a mile away. Some of us had to sail back to a nearby, more protected shore to fix the damage to the boat's hull made by the ice.

In spite of the weather conditions, we succeeded in climbing, alpine-style, two virgin summits: Cerro Giobbi (1650m), located at 49° 57' 36" S and 73° 49' 27" W, and Cerro Centinela (1450m), located at 49° 57' 22" S and 73° 49' 48" W. Both of them rise straight up from sea level. Centinela was climbed on January 27, 1997, and Giobbi on February 3.

The area is impressive for its climbing potential, weather conditions, glacial activity and difficult access and retreat. We were also able to locate Cerro Gariota (ca. 2600m), a fantastic unclimbed rock and ice pyramid north of Penguin Fjord.

After the climbs, we began to pull out from the area, but were locked in by 15 miles of icepack. After getting ashore and reinforcing the hull with wood, anchor and old tires, we spent two days pushing against the ice to reach the Icy Channel. Sailing north, we arrived at Puerto Eden days later.

CARLOS COMESAÑA, *Brazil*

ARGENTINE PATAGONIA

Argentine Patagonia, Various Ascents, and Second Ascent of Condorito. (This account complements the brief notes in last year's volume, pp. 281-2.) On January 29, 1998, Michael Richter and I climbed Guillaumet via the Col de Droite. On February 4, Jack Tigle (Scotland) and I climbed the Aguja de la Silla via the Brecha de los Italianos (normal route, 5.9). The route starts from the same point as the American route on Fitz Roy. On February 8, Jack Tigle and I climbed Poincenot via the Whillans route. Ten other teams climbed this route in February. In February, Jack Tigle and I climbed Fitz Roy via the Franco-Argentine route (5.10.+). The conditions were perfect, so we managed to climb every pitch of the route free. Starting at Paso Superior (high camp) at 2 a.m., we reached the top at 7 p.m. and were back at Paso Superior at 3:30 a.m. the next day. I needed five attempts to reach the top.

On February 18, I climbed Aguja Saint Exupery via *Condorito* with Rainer Treppte. It was the route's second ascent. The route has 101 (!) bolts, including two bolts at every belay. The first eight pitches are perfect, involving steep cracks of every size, then two pitches of free/A1/A2, then four pitches of flakes/cracks.

On February 24, Frank K. (Belgium) and I attempted the Casarotto Pillar on Fitz Roy via the Kearney-Naight route. We made it up to rock pitch 8. After climbing the 400-meter couloir, we slept for two hours. The morning started with clouds and at 11 a.m. the top of Fitz Roy was covered in clouds and storms started again. February 23 was the last good weather day of the season.

JENS RICHTER, *Germany*

ANTARCTICA

Antarctic Peninsula, Various Ascents. It was reported that in February, 1997, Greg Mortimer led an Australian team that made a number of ascents from their boat, *Professor Molchanov*. The team climbed the central peak of Ronge Island; a 600-meter peak on the south side of Seaplane Point in Curtis Bay; and another ca. 600-meter peak, "Mt. Dan Roberts," at the southeastern end of Lemaire Island. No further details are available, though the ascents were believed to be straight-forward. (*High Mountain Sports* 190)

Mt. Shinn, Northeast Face. It was reported that Ralph Dujmovits led a four-member team that made the first ascent of the easy northeast face of Mt. Shinn (4557m) in December, 1995. They then climbed the southeast flank (50°) of Mt. Avalanche (3950m), the south ridge (I/II, 50°) of Mt. Jumper (2890m), and the North (2450m) and South (2400m) summits of Mt. Bearskin. (*High Mountain Sports* 190)