HEARD ISLAND

*Mawson Peak, New Route.* Mawson Peak (2745m) is the highest point of Big Ben, the volcano on Heard Island. The peak received its third ascent when Australian climbers Robb Clifton, Stuart Davies, Matthew Rogerson and Tim Curtis journeyed to the island by fishing boat from Perth, Western Australia, and climbed the mountain via a new route from the west. They reached the summit on January 10 after an attempt two days earlier was beaten back by the island’s notoriously harsh weather. The party found generally poor climbing conditions with many crevasses and noticed that both sulphur and steam were emanating from a vent near the summit. The first ascent of Mawson Peak was from the Gotley Glacier to the southwest in January, 1965. The second ascent was from the east in February, 1983.

DAMIEN GILDEA

AFRICA

MALI

*Kaga Tondo, Croatica, and Other Ascents.* From mid-January to mid-February, an expedition of Croatian climbers was active in Mali. Boris Cujic and Ivica Matkovic led the team, which climbed a new line on Kaga Tondo. *Croatica* (F6c+, 650m) was established from the ground up with electric drill and bolts. The route took four days to be established. The team experienced an average temperature of 30°C.

They also climbed (traditional style) four new routes with difficulties from V+ to VIII up to 650 meters in length. (Further details are lacking.) Finally, they repeated the French Route (Guy Abert et al) on Suri Tondo (F7a, 580m).

EMANUELE PELLIZZARI

*Kaga Tondo, Various Ascents.* It was reported that in December, 1998, Claus Obrist, Helmut Gargitter and Pauli Trenkwaldar put up the 600-meter *Inshallah*, which follows an obvious crack system to the left of *Garmi Airlines* (Griso-Lucas, 1985). Three attempts were necessary to reach their high point, some 60 meters below the summit, where heat and lack of water forced a retreat.

In February, 1999, Polish climbers Bogdan Fic, Tomek Samitowski and Krzysiek Zielinski, with Waldi Niemiec and Michael Zielinski in support, put up the 19-pitch route *The Last Beer in Hombori* (7a+ A0). The route takes possibly the last logical unclimbed line on the east face, to the right of the right-facing corner system of *Marabu Loco*. *(High Mountain Sports 205)*

*Suri Tondo, Veus del Desert and BMW.* It was reported that Spanish climbers Sílvia Vidal and Pepe Masip established *Veus del Desert* (6b+ A4+, ten pitches) on the middle of the southeast face of the south summit of the 400-meter Suri Tondo. The first five pitches were almost entirely aid, while the remainder of the route went free at 5 to 6b+.