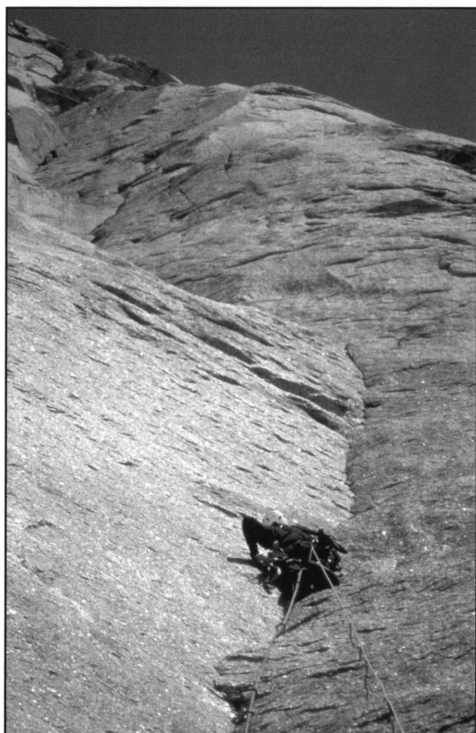


In the first part of the ascent, we found the belays left by Nigel Shepherd and Ian Wilson, the Welsh party who attempted the route in 1996. After the first pitches, the route is very logical. It is so logical that it seemed impossible to us that nobody had climbed it before. Except for the first two pitches of face climbing, and a snow field of about 100 meters, the line follows the great dihedral that cleaves the center of the pillar. We used one bolt for progression in the opening of the 19-pitch route. Most of the pitches were free climbed. Very short parts of the route were aided. The rock on this wall is just wonderful, with difficulties up to 6c and A3.

On May 31, Giancarlo Ruffino was forced to give up the summit due to a knee injury. At 7 p.m. on June 1, in stormy weather, Jérôme Arpin, Francesco Vaudo, and I summited. We named the route *Non c'è Due Senza Tre* (When it has happened twice, it will happen again). On May 5, we reached base camp, hauling back all the equipment and gear from the advanced camps. On June 14, the expedition returned home.

MARIO MANICA, *Italy*



Mario Manica on pitch 7 of *Non c'è Due Senza Tre*. GIANCARLO RUFFINO

Nalumasortoq, Planeta Spisek, New Route, and Ulamertorssuaq, Ascents. The Polish Greenland 2000 expedition climbing team consisted of Jacek Fluder, Janusz Golab, Stan Piecuch, and Marcin Tomaszewski. They were accompanied by a small television team with Slawek Ejsymont as cameraman. They departed Copenhagen for Greenland on June 30 and returned August 7. In speaking with other teams visiting the area, they felt the weather was exceptionally good; they experienced only three or four days with snowfall, but many with mist and drizzle.

On the south face of Nalumasortoq's (2051m) Right Pillar, Fluder, Golab, Piecuch and Tomaszewski established *Planeta Spisek* (The Conspiracy Planet), named after Orson Scott Card's book, the only one taken on the expedition. The 21-pitch route (5.11c/d A3+, 800m) was attempted on July 6 and climbed July 9-15 in capsule style. Two bolts were placed (on an A3+ pitch).

The line has a few pitches up 50- to 70-degree slabs that lead to a broad snow terrace, from which the team initially started directly up the upper (main) wall to an obvious vertical system of dihedrals and cracks. This 300-meter-plus system runs up the central part of the pillar. A few pitches above the terrace, the team found old pitons. They gained a point ca. 50 meters left of the final slanting formations of the British 1996 attempt (*Candle in the Wind*, Shepherd-Wilson)*. Seeing pitons above, and realizing the route continues through this

*On pages 82-85 of *World Mountaineering* (Audrey Salkeld, Editor. London: Mitchell Beazley, 1998), photos and text by Nigel Shepherd, a member of the *Candle in the Wind* team, indicate that seven pitches were climbed in the attempt. On page 217 of the 1997 *AAJ*, a fall by Shepherd is given as the reason for the retreat.

prominent system and had probably already been completed, they retreated. Snowfall also contributed to the retreat.

After resting in base camp, they then traversed about 150 meters to the left along the terrace, to avoid uncertainties, and climbed their new line, which leads independently to the top. The route finishes slightly left of the crest of the main pillar (this crest is well defined only in the upper half of the wall; it lies much left of the above-mentioned corner system). The slabs below the terrace may have been previously climbed; the lower part of the route is overhanging with hard aid pitches, and the upper portions offer interesting free climbing with a few points of aid.

On the west face of Ulamertorssuaq's western summit (2031m), two speed ascents were made. From 8 a.m. to 7 a.m. on July 23-24, Golab, Piecuch, and Tomaszewski climbed *Moby Dick* in 23 hours non-stop. The team climbed for 16 hours, then waited at a stance below the second 5.12d/13a pitch for three to four hours due to cold and snowfall. They then finished the last three pitches of rime/verglas-coated rock in plastic boots in three hours. They encountered difficulties up to 5.12b before climbing the final three pitches mostly via aid (A0/A1).

Tomaszewski onsighted the initial 15 pitches up to 5.11d, then Piecuch led onsight until the first 5.12d/13a pitch, which was climbed with rests on gear. Golab then did most of the leading, and took a serious fall due to evening cold from a 5.11c/d offwidth crack on pitch 23 (5.12b). The fall resulted in massive contusions, especially to the ribs. After the fall, the team's free climbing ambitions were reduced.

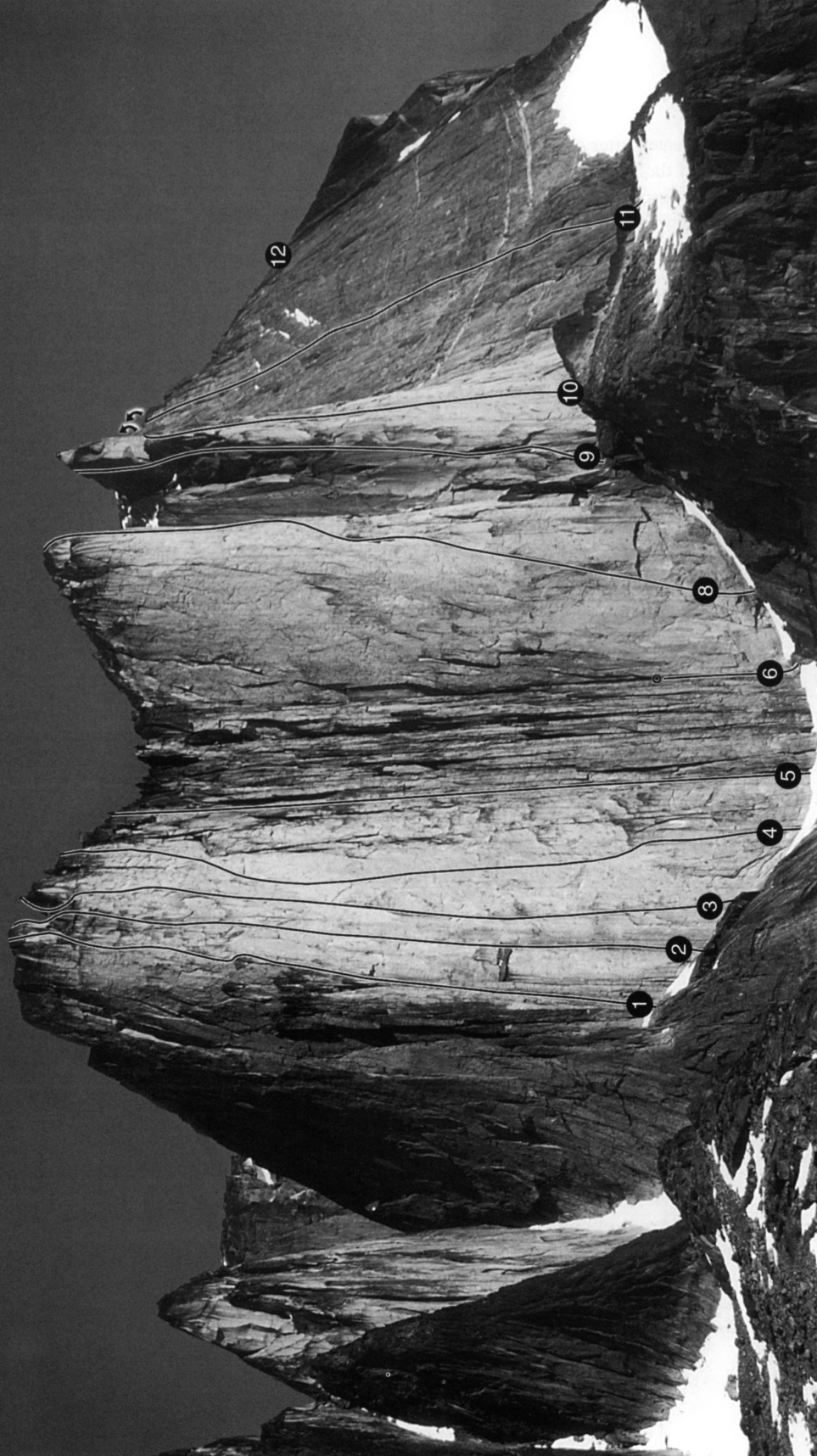
In 15 continuous hours on July 30, Piecuch and Tomaszewski climbed the 900-meter *Geneva Diedre/War and Poetry*, with difficulties up to 5.12a/b and a pitch of 5.12c with a few points of aid (resting on gear). Piecuch onsighted pitches up to 5.12a/b (pitch 13 on the topo in *High Mountain Sports* #210, p. 80) and, at 11 a.m., after six hours of climbing, climbed pitch 17 (5.12c) with a few rests on gear as well. In the face of difficult (5.11c/d) offwidth cracks, their clean climbing style was compromised, and they progressed using a few points of aid.

Piecuch suggests that *Moby Dick* is technically slightly more difficult, though less serious, than *War and Poetry*. If the weather worsened, it would be easier to force up *Moby Dick*. *Geneva Dihedral/War and Poetry* has more wide cracks, is more sustained, and more difficult to protect (for example, in some cracks even the #5 Camalot was useless), resulting in some long 5.11d leads with only two cams for protection. Even on the slabs the distances between bolts is greater.

Both of these ascents were the fastest to date. They were performed without fixed ropes or siege tactics, as had been used on previous ascents. The light and free tactics were quite successful for the initial two-thirds of the routes, at which point fatigue, cold, dusk, and rime reduced the style to "anything if quick."

On July 18, and again on July 20-21, Tomaszewski attempted a new route solo on the right-hand side of the Ulamertorssuaq massif. (The location of Tomaszewski's attempt is visible just right of the pillar receiving the narrow strip of sunlight on p. 112 of the 1997 AAJ.) On his third day of climbing, after a portaledge bivouac, rock fall cut his only dynamic rope.

Nalumasortog Massif, showing 1. Life is Beautiful (Suzuki-Yamaoka, 2000). 2. Sekitori (Kanehara-Suitsu, 1997). 3. Mussel Power (Gore-Penning-Karo, 1996). 4. Left Pillar (Anderson-Dring-Dring-Tattersall, 1995). 5. Umwelten (Thomas-Turner, 1996). 6. Attempt (Czech party, 2000). 7. Vertical Dream (not shown) (Castella-Dalphin-Lehner-Truffer-Zambetti, 1998). 8. Cheese Finger at 3 O'Clock (Berthet-Brambati-Dalphin-Flugi-Vitali, 1996). 9. Planeta Spisek (Fluder-Golab-Piecuch-Tomaszewski, 2000). 10. Non c'è Due Senza Tre (Arpin-Manica-Ruffino-Vaudo, 2000) (the first seven pitches of this line were climbed by Shepherd-Wilson in 1996). 11. South Face (Guillot-Domenech-Perrottet-Gorgeon-Chapoutot, 1975). 12. Southeast Arête (Aberman et al, 1974). HITOSHI YAMAOKA



He retreated after climbing the next few pitches with a static rope, having climbed less than the half the wall. The slaty, wet, mossy slabs do not offer attractive climbing.

All descents were made by rappel.

GRZEGORZ GLAZEK, *Polski Związek Alpinizmu, Poland*

Nalumasortoq, Life is Beautiful. Takashi Suzuki and I opened a new route on the Left Pillar of the Nalumasortoq Tower in July. The route is named *Life is Beautiful* (VI- 5.9 A2+, 600m, 13 pitches). Nanortalik was still surrounded by a dense ice pack when we arrived on July 12. On July 16, a chartered boat took us to the Tasermiut Fjord. Fortunately, the density of the ice pack decreased as the boat made her way into the fjord. We landed at our base camp on the seashore near Ulamertorssuaq; from there, it was a five-hour walk when lightly loaded to the starting point of the wall. We established two relay camps between BC and the wall, to facilitate the transportation of the equipment and to observe the wall to find a new route.

We were finally at the starting point of the wall on July 21. Our route was on the left side of the big overhang on the left pillar (the overhang can be easily recognized). We spent ten days on the wall, with one night and the next full day trapped in the portaledge by a storm. The following day (July 30), after climbing three pitches in fine weather, we reached the top of the left pillar. We descended our route the next day.

We normally placed two bolts by hand at each belay point and an additional one or two bolts at three portaledge points. We never used bolts or rivets for the actual climbing, and were able to follow a beautiful crack system to the top. From the sixth pitch on, it was not necessary to use pitons; instead, many kinds of camming devices from small (Aliens) to big (number 4 Camalots) were required. Free climbing should also be possible, although we aided most pitches for safety.

When descending the small glacier below the wall, we noticed that many crevasses had grown wider, and were dangerous. The night before we left BC, we observed an aurora surrounding the Pole Star. Its mysterious curtain flickered for ten minutes. We would like to stress that further exploration of Greenland fjords seems worthwhile, as there may still be unknown big walls.

HITOSHI YAMAOKA, *Japan Workers' Alpine Federation*

Ulamertorssuaq, Piteraqa, and Little Ulamertorssuaq, Mosquito Attack, New Routes. From June 27 to July 19, we established a new route on Ulamertorssuaq's 900-meter south face. Our team was Torben Redder (Denmark), Jens Søndergaard (Denmark), Lars Haugen (Norway), Matthias Körner (Germany) and I. The route is located just right of *Moby Dick* and left of *Geneva Diedre/War and Poetry*. Occasionally it shares pitches with these two routes, but contains 13 new pitches, mostly 55 to 60 meters. Because it is squeezed between two hard routes we called it *Piteraqa* (VI 5.9 A3, 900m), a Danish name for the wind on the east coast of Greenland that becomes very powerful as it squeezes in between mountains. The quality of the rock in the lower half is not always fantastic, but in the upper half it is absolutely perfect. All kinds of climbing are found in the route, from tiny copperhead cracks to chimneys, and there is free climbing potential for some of our aid pitches. For the lower half of the route we fixed ropes, and on the upper half we spent seven nights in portaledges. Our portaledge camps (at 450 and 600 meters) were very exposed to the occasionally strong wind (the ledge hovered in the strong wind once), but not to water running down the wall.