

coffee-induced manic motivation, everything from chalk to ropes to bones still damp from a six-inch snowstorm two days prior, we set off on an ill-prepared attempt, forgetting headlamps, tape, gloves, extra food, and water. Neither of us expected the rock to be dry, nor did we believe that we would make it up more than a couple of pitches. Nevertheless we found ourselves at our high point, with blue skies and virgin rock overhead. We diverged from the Cornerstone and continued for another six pitches until it was too dark and we were too exhausted to climb further. We huddled on a two-foot ledge in a rotten, wet gully, unsure of our location in relation to the summit, shivering for what might have been five hours. When we started climbing again, we reached the summit in just two pitches.

Pat and I made what we believe to be the second ascent of the Fortress, as well as the first free ascent. We climbed the first four pitches of the Cornerstone (only the first pitch had been freed) and eight more pitches, of which none appeared to have been climbed, to create You Enjoy Myself (V 5.12). We placed one bolt at the fourth belay. To be honest, I admit that after our second or third attempt we left two fixed lines, but we removed them on the following attempt, dissatisfied with the idea of not climbing in proper alpine fashion. On our final go we climbed the route in a single push, freeing every pitch from bottom to top.

HANK JONES

CIRQUE OF THE UNCLIMBABLES

Unnamed spire, attempt. Bryan Palminiter and I attempted a new line on an unnamed spire to the right of the Lotus Flower Tower in August. Since our return, we have learned that the high point of our attempt came within 50 feet of intersecting a Belgian line on the same formation, which was mislabeled "Tathagata Tower" in the 1979 AAJ (p. 205). The spire appears to be the right (northwest) buttress of the Lotus Flower Tower, but has a distinct summit (best seen when mist blows between it and the main tower). It can be recognized from below by right-slanting black rock at the base and a large square-cut roof with a left-facing corner on the lower head-wall. There is a smaller, slender triangular spire (with no recorded climbing history) between the Lotus Flower Tower and the one we attempted.

We started left of the black slabs and climbed three 60m easy 5th class approach pitches. The first followed blocky crack systems to below a 10-foot step. After passing this 5.9 step, the route trends up left to the base of the main wall. The main wall starts above and is quite vertical, with rock similar to that on the Lotus Flower Tower. We chose a large straight-in crack near the right edge. We followed the crack and nearby flakes and face features for two 100-foot pitches of 5.9/10-. We explored a little higher on more difficult ground before time forced us to turn around. We were attempting to reach the right arête of the spire, where we would have (unknowingly) joined the 1977 Belgian line. Several excellent lines are visible to the left of our line, and we were surprised there was no record of them being climbed. While in the Cirque we also climbed the regular route on the Lotus Flower Tower and climbed Unicorn Peak.

KEVIN JONES