

while Jed continued. He reached the summit without problem and even walked some way south along the ridge to be sure he was on the highest point. Pachi and Camilo repeated the route in the early hours of the next morning and were back by midday on the 21st. The measured height was 4,074m and all the mountains above 4,000m in the Sentinel Range have now been climbed.

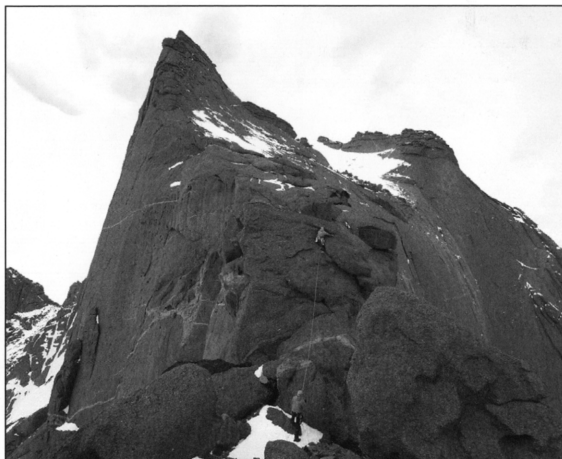
Running short of time, we left camp later that evening and sledged around into the cirque beneath Mt. Morris. Although less than 4,000m, Morris is a good-looking peak with no easy way up. Late on the 22nd Camilo, Pachi, and Jed set off in poor weather, climbing an obvious shallow couloir on the southwest face. They reached the summit around midnight, after climbing through continuous bad weather. The descent proved as long as the climb, but all were back in camp later the following morning. The measured height was 3,793m.

We began skiing out at 2 a.m., the following day in cold and windy weather with poor visibility. We spent around eight and a half hours traveling 22km, much of it ploughing through fresh snow sometimes 30cm deep. This was the greatest accumulation of snowfall—not just drift—I have ever seen in the range. After safely descending the steep slope down on to the Branscomb, we hauled up the last section and reached Vinson base camp at 10:30 a.m. on the 24th. That night we were collected by Twin Otter and after my customary five-day wait at Patriot Hills, we flew out to Chile in the early hours of January 30. The expedition had achieved all its main objectives in term of GPS work and climbing, making 12 ascents, all of which were either first ascents of peaks or new routes.

DAMIEN GILDEA, *Australia, AAC*

QUEEN MAUD LAND

Fenriskjefte mountains, *Ulvetanna*, north face, and other ascents; *Holte-dahl* mountains, six first ascents. Stein-Ivar Gravdal, Trond Hilde, Ivar Tollefsen, and I visited the Orvin mountains in Queen Maud Land from November 2 through December 10. In the magnificent *Fenriskjefte* mountains we climbed the north face of ca 2,960m *Ulvetanna* (ca 960m, 21 pitches, 5.10 A4) in 16 days, November 5-20. We climbed in capsule style, fixing the first four pitches from a tented camp on the ground, before moving onto the face and establishing three portaledge camps on our way to the summit. The climb follows a thin line slightly to the left of the center of the wall, ca 150m left of the other, more obvious, line attempted in 1994 by Thomas Cosgriff and Trond Hilde, who only got four pitches (150m) up before aborting.

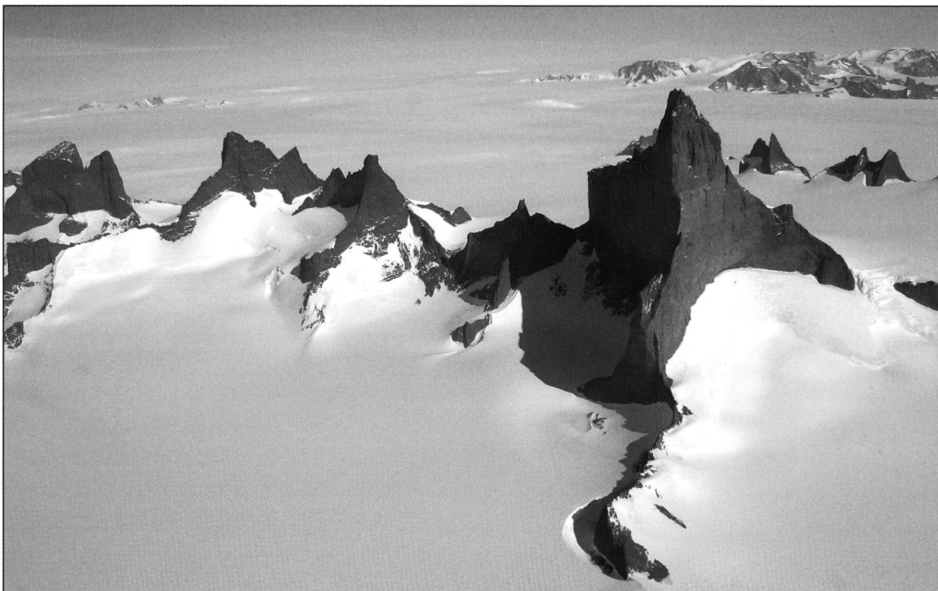


On the northwest ridge of *Store Gruvletind* (2,254m), *Holte-dahl* mountains, during the first ascent. *Stein-Ivar Gravdal*



The north face of Ulvetanna (ca 2,960m) showing the line of the Norwegian Route (ca 960m, 21 pitches, 5.10 A4, Caspersen-Gravdal-Hilde-Tollefsen). The face was attempted in 1994 by a line a little further right. *Stein-Ivar Gravdal*

We had a wonderful time on the face. Climbing in capsule style with portaledge and plenty of food was quite comfortable. The climbing was ecstatically good and totally surpassed all our expectations. In general the rock in this area is heavily frost weathered, giving it a coarse and flaky structure. From earlier experiences we were expecting shitty rock and a lot of squeeze chimneys and offwidths. However, our line followed thin formations on surprisingly good rock, and the amount of natural skyhooking and delicate nailing was a positive surprise. The most difficult pitches were in the lower half of the wall. For comfort and

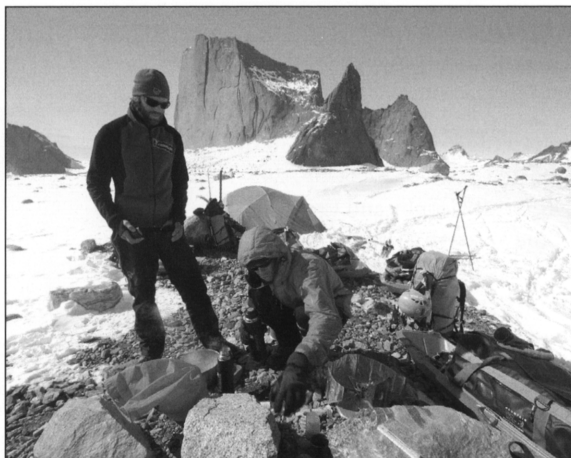


The Ulvetanna group from the northeast. The dominant peak on the right is Ulvetanna (ca 2,960m, first climbed in 1994 by Norwegians via the northwest face. The north face, climbed in 2006, is sunlit). To the left are Hel (2,335m, Norwegians in 1994), Stetind (2,558m, climbed in 2001 first by a multi-national and then a Spanish team, and again in 2006 by Norwegians), Kinntanna (2,724m, climbed by Norwegians in 1994 and again by multi-national and Spanish teams in 2001), Holstind (2,577m, climbed by Norwegians in 1994 and again by a multi-national team in 2001) and, peeping up just behind it, the upper part of Holtanna (2,650m, climbed by a multi-national team in 2000). Peaks of the Filchnerfjella are visible in the distance. *Stein-Ivar Gravdal*

aid we placed a total of five expansion bolts on the pitches, 40 on belays (by hand drill of course), and drilled 25 bat-hooks. We felt that this was an acceptable style for such a seemingly compact wall. We experienced mainly good weather, apart from one 48-hour snow-storm (60cm on the ground) that we sat through in our portaledge halfway up the face. Temperatures averaged -20°C .

All in all, the route has great climbing, the line is very aesthetic, and the face and mountain is in a class of its own in this area—all the right ingredients to make it a future classic.

After the climb we skied 30km with pulks and light climbing gear eastwards to the Holtedahl Mountains, where we did what we believe to be six first ascents. We found no traces of previous activity. The only person we know to have been in this area is Mike Libecki, who climbed two summits there the previous season (Windmill Spire and Andersnuten). The six climbs we did all had major and distinct summits: Store Gruvletind (2,254m); Kubbestolen (2,079m), and four nameless summits of ca 2,200m along the Vinten-Johansen ridge. All the ascents involved fairly easy climbing (max 5.10), with only shorter sections requiring the use of a rope. After this we skied a further 30km east and climbed the freestanding Sandneshatten (2,200m) in the same style—in one day and only roping up for a short section. We then skied back to Fenriskjefte and the Ulvetanna region, where we did some smaller climbs, including a route on the west face of Stetind (ca 2,500m), first ascended in 2001 by André Georges and Alain Hubert.



The camp below Kubbestolen (2,079m), which the Norwegians climbed via an ice gully behind the large pinnacle and relatively straightforward mixed terrain above. The rock formation near the left edge of the picture is Andersnuten, climbed in 2005 by Mike Libecki and dubbed the Ship's Prow. Kubbestolen was first climbed in 2000 by a Swiss couple. *Stein-Ivar Gravdal*

ROBERT CASPERSEN, *Norway*

Editor's note: The Holtedahl mountains were probably first visited by a climbing party in 1999-2000. Cestmir Lukes and Irene Oehninger ascended six peaks including Kubbestolen, which they climbed via the west face. In January 2001 a Spanish party made the second ascent of Stetind (2,558m quoted) via a route on the west face. The first ascent, earlier the same month, was made via a south to north traverse. See AAJ 2001, pp. 316-319.