

## PATAGONIA

From Puerto Aisen to Punta Arenas on Magellan's Strait, a distance of about 900 kilometres, the peaks of the Andes are quite low (few exceed 3000 metres) and rise for the most part from immense expanses of ice which maintain an average elevation of 1500 metres, and which are commonly referred to as the Patagonian ice-caps. In this region there is no distinct cordillera forming the boundary between Chile and Argentina, the various mountain chains being diffuse and not always forming the watershed. The area, which is bounded on the west by a complex series of islands, peninsulas and fiords, and on the east by a series of lakes, has been the subject of several boundary disputes and is still imperfectly surveyed. The famous explorer Alberto De Agostini wrote of this land, 'The singular beauty of its fiords, the majesty of its mountains, the imposing vastness of its glaciers, which descend almost to the sea in a green frame of exuberant virgin forest, make of this region one of the most picturesque and enticing quarters of the globe'.

At lat. 48°S. the deep Baker Fiord on the Pacific coast is linked by the Rio Pascua to Lago San Martin to the south-east, thus constituting the only major interruption in the glacier system. The ice-cap to the north is referred to in these notes as Hielo Patagónico Norte ('H.P.N. '); the much more extensive ice-cap to the south as Hielo Patagónico Sur ('H.P.S. '). From these ice-caps emerge the highest peaks and rocky ridges of the cordillera, while at the margins, especially to the east, are found granite peaks of far more striking form, e.g. Fitzroy. Between these two areas, and lying some seventy-five kilometres to the east, rises a complex and largely ice-covered mountain system, dominated by the massif of San Lorenzo. The very small rugged group headed by Cerro Castillo lies north-east of the H.P.N.

The first exploration of the region took place in the days of the great navigators who sailed along the Pacific coast, such as Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa in 1579-80 and Robert Fitzroy in 1830-36. More recent are the seven expeditions made by Hans Steffen from 1892-1902, in the course of which he reconnoitred the Pacific slope and the courses of its many rivers. In particular he explored both Baker Fiord and Rio Baker, and the hinterland of the Rio Bravo and Rio Pascua. Other explorers included the Chilean geographer Luis Riso Patrón in 1899-1900; the German geologist Steinmann in 1882; Carlos Ameghino between 1887-90; the Italian naturalist Clemente Onelli in 1894; and Rudolf Hauthal, who worked for the Argentine government. Pre-eminent among the twentieth century explorers were the Italian missionary Padre Alberto De Agostini; the German geologist Frederick Reichert, also employed by the government of Argentina; and, more recently, Eric Shipton.

The nearest thing to a guidebook to the mountains of Patagonia is contained in the Buscaini's book, *Patagonia: terra magica*, pages 175-269. It includes many illustrations, maps and topos.

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### **Cordillera de Castillo**

Approximately eighty kilometres south-east of Puerto Aisen is a small group of rugged peaks headed by Cerro Castillo. This peak and Cerro Puntudo were first climbed in 1966 by a party of Chilean university students led by Osvaldo Latorre. In 1972 and 1976 Thomas Clarkson led two New Zealand parties into the range. In addition to Castillo and Puntudo, they climbed Cerro Feo, which was unpleasant because much of the steep rock was loose, and Cerro Palo, after having been turned back in 1972 high on the south-west side of the summit towers on rock plastered with new snow. The 400-metre rock tower of the upper part makes it the best rock-climb in the range.

#### **Peak List**

*Cerro Barros Arana 2300m: ice draped peak above Rio Milta valley: 1-1990 via N. side, fairly difficult in upper part.*

*Cerro Gotico c.2500m: a marble tower:*

*Cerro Pintado: granite with marble and diorite intrusions:*

*Cerro Castillo 2670m: rugged S. face, many pinnacles: 1-1966 via W. face, rock/ice: S.E. face 'Super Couloir'-1982: W. face couloir-1987.*

*Cerro Peñon 2035m: N.E. of Cerro Castillo: 1-1973.*

*Cerro Palo c.2320m: black rock tower at head of Estero del Bosque: 1-1976.*

*Cerro Puntudo 2061m (perhaps more): W. of Cerro Palo: 1-1966.*

*Cerro Feo c.2300m: N.N.W. of Cerro Puntudo: 1(?) -1976, steep & loose.*

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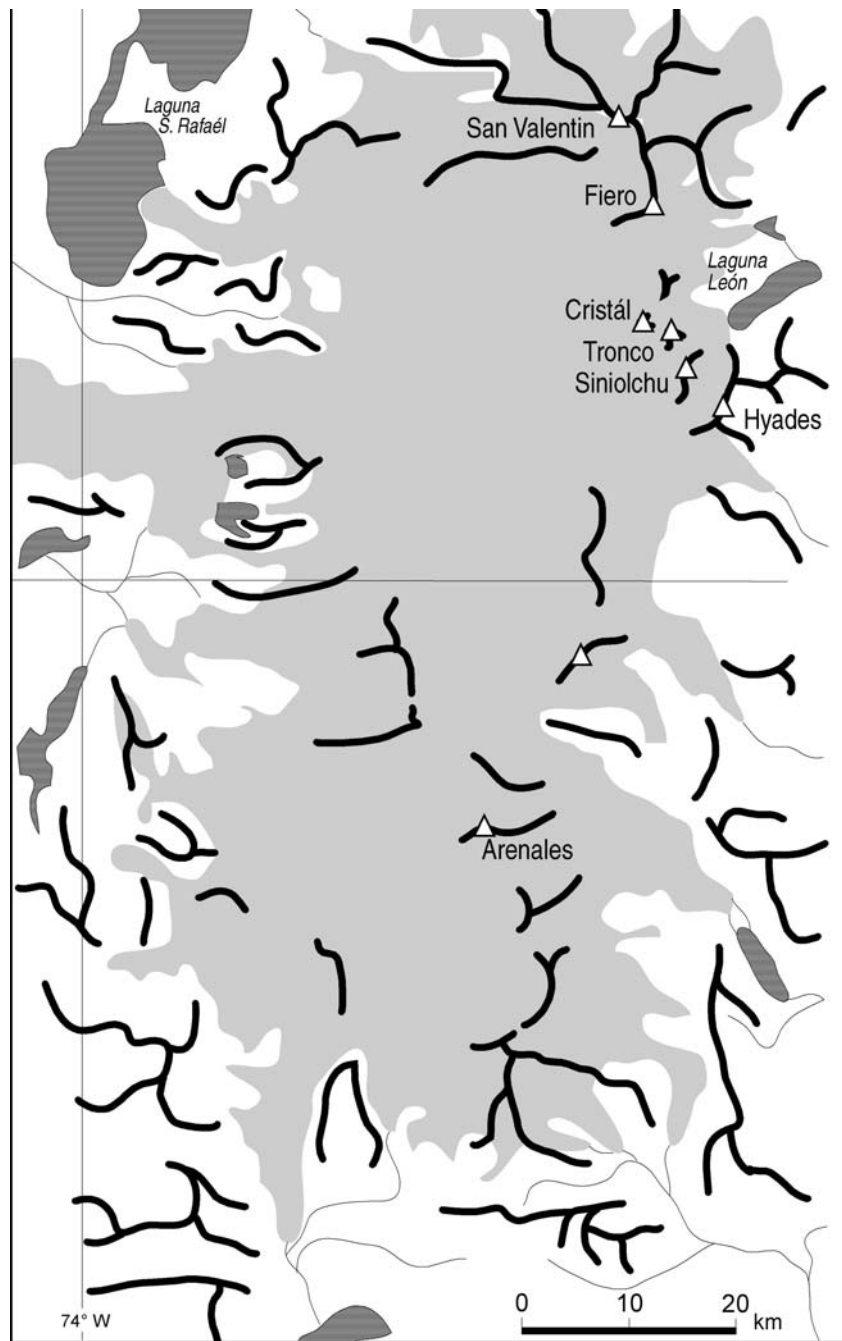
### **North Ice-cap (Hielo Patagonico Norte)**

The H.P.N. is bounded to the west by the Taitao Peninsula and the Golfo de Penas, to the east by Lago Buenos Aires, and to the south by the Rio Pascua. In the north of the H.P.N. lies San Valentin, the highest peak in southern Patagonia, surrounded by glaciers. South of San Valentin is the H.P.N. proper, divided into two sections by a chain of rocky peaks running from north-west to south-east and headed by Cerro Arenales. North of this barrier is a huge ice-field from which the very long and inaccessible San Tadeo glacier, and the shorter easier San Rafael glacier flow towards the Pacific Ocean. Towards the east Cerro Hyades and other peaks rise above the ice in a north-south direction.

To the south of the Cerro Arenales ridge the ice-cap is funnelled slowly towards the long Steffen glacier which flows into the sea.

In 1920-21 the Nordenskjöld expedition explored and mapped Kelly Inlet and the San Tadeo glacier on the west side of the ice-cap. Alpine activity started in 1921 when Frederick Reichert organized his first expedition to San Valentin, succeeding only in reaching a nunatak some eighteen kilometres into the interior of the ice-cap. In January 1939 Reichert, with Mrs Ilse von Rentzell, Walter Ihl and members of the Club Andino de Chile, explored the Leones valley to the south-east of San Valentin, but the lakes Leòn, Sur and Fiero prevented them from continuing. During the summer of 1939-40 the Swiss geologist Arnold Heim, accompanied by Hermann Hess and W. Schmitt, crossed Lago Leòn in a collapsible boat to reach the glaciers. Almost at the same time Reichert was repeating his attack from Lago San Rafaél south-west of San Valentin. They installed their fourth camp on the nunatak and on 13-14 March 1940 Hoffmann and Ihl, using skis, reached a depression (c.3000m) in the principal crest to the west of Lago Fiero. In 1942 Hermann Hess and several companions, in a carefully prepared expedition, were prevented by bad weather from getting further than Hoffmann and Ihl. However, through the preparation of a map and erection of a tiny refuge on the nunatak, they contributed greatly to the success of the next expedition, which was organized by the Club Andino Bariloche in 1952. Between 9-17 December the party, led by Otto Meiling, established five camps, the last being about 150 metres below the furthest point previously reached. After a short night and a well prepared meal, three separate groups set out on the morning of 18 December and reached the summit of the ice peak without further trouble.

**Map showing Hielo Patagonico Norte, Patagonia**



There was no further activity in the H.P.N. until 1958 when a Chilean-Japanese expedition climbed Cerro Arenales, and attempted Cerro Arco. The following year an expedition organized by the Centro Andino Buenos Aires and led by Hermann Joos climbed Cerro Helbling five kilometres north of Lago Leon. In 1960 the second C.A.B.A. expedition explored the Leon glacier, getting to the base of Cerro Condores, and reaching a height of 1900 metres on Cerro Hyades.

In the southern summer 1963-64 Eric Shipton and his companions, E. Garcia, C. Marangunic and M. Gomez, made a crossing of the H.P.N. from north-west to south-east. Having established base camp at the end of November at the snout of the San Rafaél glacier, they negotiated the heavily crevassed ice-fall, reaching the ice-cap plateau on 11 December. Then they steered a straight course 10° east of south for five days, passing along a flat corridor about sixteen kilometres wide, between two ranges of granite peaks of exciting shape, to the foot of a col heading south-east across a northerly spur of the Arenales group. Entering a vast basin of glaciers and keeping close under the main range, they reached Cerro Arco, which was climbed on Christmas Day. Finally they followed the route off the ice-cap used by the Chilean-Japanese expedition of 1958, exiting via Lago Colonia.

During the 1969-70 season a strong party of New Zealand climbers, celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Tararua Tramping Club of Wellington, made a number of first ascents in the chain of peaks running south-south-east from San Valentin on the eastern margin of the H.P.N. They also climbed the most northerly of the peaks on the eastern side of the corridor traversed by Shipton's party, confirming that this chain appeared to offer wonderful opportunities for new ascents. In 1973 a Joint Services expedition traversed the H.P.N. from north to south. Starting from the Andrée glacier they travelled down Shipton's corridor to the head of the Colonia glacier, and crossed a col (2200m) to gain the upper basin of the Steffen glacier, which was followed to its snout. Their return route was via the Benito glacier, so ending a nineteen-day sledge journey covering 200 kilometres.

### **Peak List**

*Traverses, Ice-cap crossings, etc.: Nordenskjöld-1920-21: Swiss-1939/40: Chile Japanese-1958: Shipton-1963/64: Joint Services-1973.*

### **San Valentin-Arenales**

*San Valentin 4058m (possibly only 3876m): 1-1952 via three routes from ice-cap, (a) S.W. ridge intégral, (b) S. face & (c) S.W. ridge, S. face, S.E. ridge: W. ridge in winter-1989.*

*Cuerno de Plata (Silberhorn, Titlis, Tararua) 3850m: 1-1969 on ski to south col, S. ridge.*

*Cerro Fiero 3300m (perhaps only 2950m): 1-1969 on ski to N. slope easily to summit plateau.*

*Pico Sur (Pamir) 3300m (perhaps only 3100m): 1-1969 via E. ice ridge, mostly easy.*

*Cerro La Torre (Torre Tobler) 2900m: 1-1969 on ski to col, steep E. ridge.*

*Cerro Mocho 2600m: N.E. face of cleft granite: 1-1970 via easy S.W. snow face.*

*Cerro Cristal 2600m: beautiful peak with two tops: 1-1970 via W. ice ridge from north.*

*Cerro Tronco 2500m: granite walls to E., broad snow cap: 1-1945 on ski.*

*Cerro Siniolchu 2400m (or 2600m): impressive notched ridges: 1-1970 via W. ridge from N. face.*

*Cono Helado 2400m (perhaps higher but less than 3000m): 1-1970 via easy N. snow face.*

*Cerro Turret 2000m: isolated rocky peak west of Cono Helado: 1-1970 via easy E. face, mixed ground.*

*Cerro Hyades 3078m: large snowy pyramid: 1-1970 via N. snow face, easy: S. ridge-1973.*

*Cerro Agudo (Heim's 'Aguja') 2600m (perhaps less): two peaked granite pyramid: 1-1970 via S. ridge, long, mixed & exposed.*

*Cachu 2600m (perhaps less): battlemented rocky walls facing Leçn glacier: 1-1940.*

*Cerro Largo 2744m: Attempted in 1971.*

*--S. Summit Pico Naranja 2700m: 1?-1985 on skis.*

*--P.2700m I (may be same as Pico Naranja): 1-1971.*

*--P.2700m II: 1-1971.*

*P.2100m ('behind Cerro Largo'): 1-1978/9.*

*Cerro Cachet 2800m: 1-1971.*

*P.3012m: 5 km N. of Cerro Arenales: Unclimbed?*

*Cerro Arenales 3437m: imposing ice pyramid: 1-1958 from E., very difficult glacier approach: From north(?), during traverse of ice-cap-1963.*

*Cerro Arco 3012m: 1-1964.*

*P.2987m: 5 km N. of Cerro Pared Norte: Unclimbed?*

*Cerro Pared Norte 3100m: Unclimbed?*

*Cerro Pared Sur 3000m: Unclimbed?*

### **Pre-Cordillera Peaks**

*Cerro Helbling 2500m: east of Lago Fiero: 1-1959, probably from south.*

*Cerro Poblete 1800m: east of Lago Sur: 1-1945.*

*P.2000m (Reichert's 'La Torre'):*

*Diablo Negro: east of Lago Sur:*

*P.2545m: rock spire N.W. of Cerro Campamento: 1-1973.*

*P.2100m ('Torre Plomo'): rock spire above Lago Plomo: 1-1973.*

*Cerro Campamento 1800m (possibly 2380m): Attempted 1973.*

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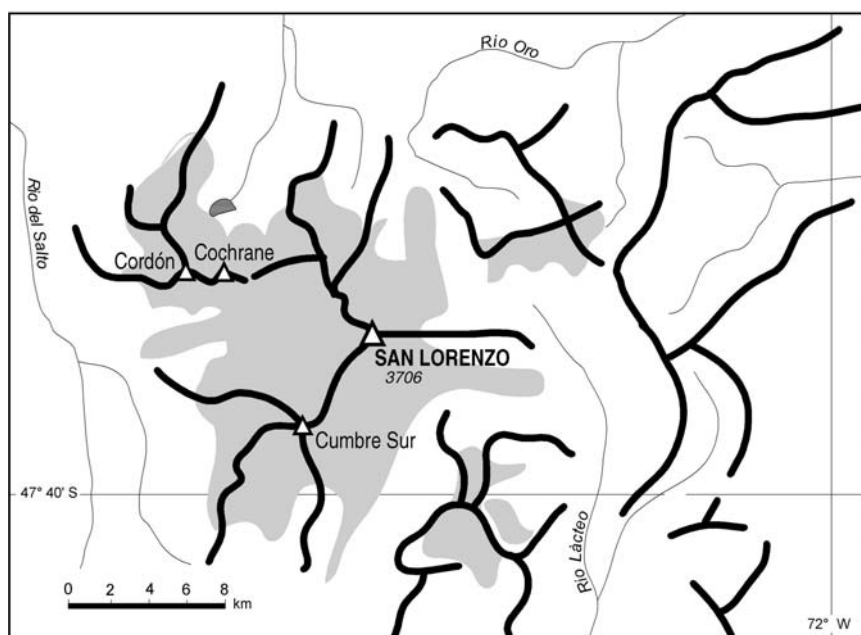
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## San Lorenzo Group

San Lorenzo is the highest of a small group of heavily glaciated peaks lying astride the Chile-Argentina border between the H.P.N. and the H.P.S. The first approach to this fine peak was made in 1937 by De Agostini from the south-east along the valley of the Rio Lacteo; and in 1940 he continued exploring the eastern approaches via the Rio Platten and Rio Furioso. In 1941 he explored the western approaches by following up the Rio del Salto, and reached a subsidiary peak a few kilometres west-north-west of San Lorenzo. Convinced that San Lorenzo was accessible, he returned again in December 1943, accompanied by Alessandro Hemmi and Heriberto Schmoll. This time they attacked from the north, going up the Rio Tranquillo, and after two weeks' hard work succeeded in making the first ascent from their second camp on the western slopes of the mountain. There have not been many visits to this area since but Gino Buscaini and his wife were active there in 1985 and also made a new route on San Lorenzo in 1986. The Cordón Cochrane is the north-westerly extension of San Lorenzo's ridge system, which also extends south of the main peak. There are independent subsidiary chains to the north-east and east.

### Map showing San Lorenzo



### Peak List

*San Lorenzo (or, Cochrane)*

--Hombro Norte c.3150m:

--Cumbre Principal 3706m: 1-1943 via western slopes from the north: E. face, 1st ascent from Argentine side-1986: E. ridge (South African route) variant-1987: N. face to summit ridge-1987.

--Cumbre Sur 3385m: 1-1986 via S. face, W. ridge, snow/ice.

Cerro Piramide 2060m: last point on S. spur of San Lorenzo Sur:

Cerro Penitentes 2930m: 1-1985 via N. glacier.

Cerro de los Pedreros 2290m: 1-1985, easy.

Cerro de las Agujas Sueltas 2240m: 1-1985, easy.

*Piràmide Bella Vista 2130m: 1-1985, easy.*

*Cerro Hermoso:*

*--Principal c.2500m: 1-1976.*

*--Este c.2400m: 1-?: S. face, E. ridge.*

*Cerro Arido 2250m: 1-1955.*

*Cerro Aspero 2075m: 1-1955.*

*Cerro Q 1980m: 1-1983.*

*Cerro W 2205m: 1-1983.*

*La Chimenea 2086m: 1-1986.*

*Cerro Dos Picos ('Twin Peak') 2275m: beautiful two pointed summit E. of Cerro Hermoso: 1-1977,  
E. peak: W. peak-1980: S. face-1987.*

*Cordòn Cochrane:*

*Torre Norte del Cochrane c.2570m: 1-1966.*

*4 peaks in Rio Tranquilo area: 1-1971.*

*Cerro Tres Hermanos 2073m:*

*Punta Aftosa 2000m: 1-1956.*

*Cerro de los Còndores 2250m: 1-?(cairn found).*

*P.2100m: 1-1932.*

*P.2517m: 6 km N.W. of San Lorenzo: 1?-1989 via S. face.*

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### **South Ice-cap (Hielo Patagonico Sur)**

The huge region of the H.P.S. is approximately 330 kilometres long and its width varies from eighty kilometres in the north to thirty kilometres in the south. It is bounded to the north by Baker Fiord and the Rio Pascua; to the east by the great lakes San Martin, Viedma and Argentino; and to the west by the indented Pacific coast. To the south it is interrupted by the channels (c.lat.52°S.) which lead to the Golfo Almirante Montt, dividing it from the Peninsula Muñoz Gamero, which also has a small ice-cap, the Gran Campo Nevado.

On the eastern margin of the northern sector of the H.P.S., west of Lago San Martin, lie several prominent mountain groups, among which are Cerro Azul, Cerros Mellizos and Cerro Peine. Between the O'Higgins glacier and the Brazo Oeste of Lago San Martin are Cerro Alesna and Cerro O'Higgins. South of the O'Higgins glacier is Cordòn Gaea (Cerro Piràmide), which is separated by the Chico glacier from another complex to the south-east (Cerro Milanésio, Cerro Gorra Blanca). West of Cordòn Gaea, near the northern extremity of Seno Eyre rises another conspicuous group, Cordòn Pio XI, bounded to the south by the glacier of the same name, and containing the active volcano Lautaro. Just south of Cordòn Gaea and Cordòn Pio XI is a huge plateau, the Paso de los Cuatro Glaciares.



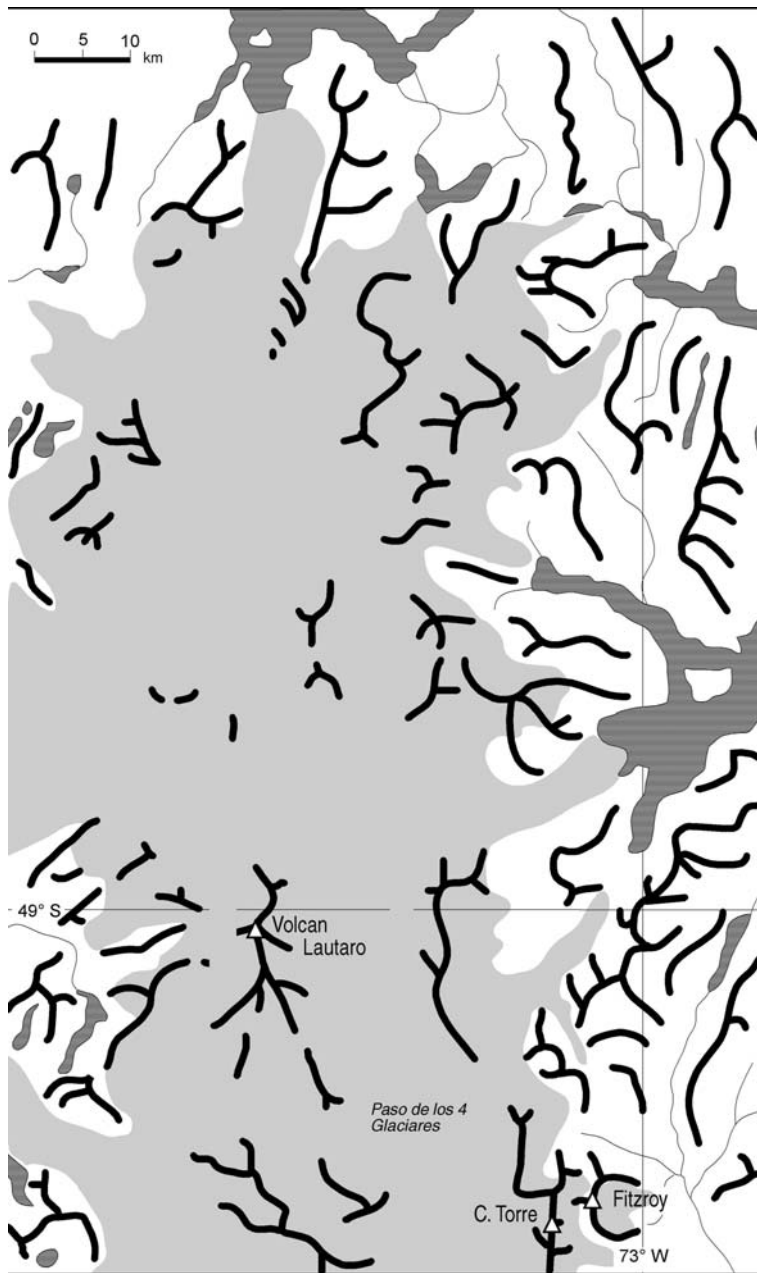
Further south the Patagonian cordillera becomes very discontinuous, with numerous mountain groups breaking the uniformity of the ice-cap. On the watershed (or, *divortium glaciorum*), and south of Paso de los Cuatro Glaciares, rises the Cordòn Mariano Moreno; to the east is Cordòn Marconi, an extension of Cordòn Adela (Cerro Torre) and the Fitzroy group. South of Fitzroy, near Lago Viedma, is Cerro Huemul. Between Cordòn Mariano Moreno and Cordòn Adela is 'Volcàn Viedma', once thought to be the mysterious active volcano seen by Reichert (which has now been shown to be Cerro Lautaro).

From the southern spurs of the Cordòn Mariano Moreno the ice-cap extends southwards, with slight undulations, at an altitude of about 2000 metres to the plateau known as the Altiplano Italia, bounded on the west by the Cordòn Riso Patròn and on the east by the Cerro Campana group. To the south it is interrupted by the central chain (Cerro Cono, Cerro Don Bosco, Cerro El Murallòn), which here forms the frontier between Chile and Argentina. Between these peaks and Cordòn Moyano to the east is the head of Glaciar Upsala, the longest in Patagonia, running for nearly sixty kilometres almost to the shores of Lago Argentino.

From Cerro Roma west of the foot of Glaciar Upsala southwards (between lat. 50°-51°S.) the Patagonian cordillera is flanked to the east by the many arms of Lago Argentino, and to the west by the Penguin, Europa, San Andrés and Calvo fiords. The ice-cap descends towards Lago Argentino via numerous glaciers, e.g. Moreno, Ameghino, Mayo, Spegazzini, Onelli and Upsala. Along the axis of the cordillera, east of the ice-cap, rise a succession of mountain groups, among which are Cerro Agassiz, Cerro Heim, Cerro Mayo, Cerro Cervantes, Cerro Cubo, and finally Cerro Stokes in the Cordòn Barròs-Arana. Astride lat. 51°S. is the striking Paine group with its north-western outlier Cordòn Olguin. West of these groups the ice-cap is dotted with mountain chains which scarcely rise above the ice. Around lat. 51°25'S., near the head of Seno Ultima Esperanza, rise Cerro Balmaceda, the final bastion of the mainland Andes, and the small Cordillera Prat. Between this peak and lat. 52°S. is the Cordillera Sarmiento, the peaks of which are around 2000 metres in height. Beyond this range lie the peaks of the Peninsula Muñoz Gamero, headed by Mount Burney.

The weather in the region of the H.P.S. is predominantly bad and may close in for days or even weeks at a time. The summer period is very short, violent winds blow from the west and north-west, precipitation is abundant, and movement is frequently obstructed by mist.

**Map showing Hielo Patagonico Sur (Parte N)**



The first expedition to explore the H.P.S. was sponsored by the Sociedad Cientifica Argentina and led by Frederick Reichert. The party set out from Lago Argentino in January 1914 and travelled up the moraine on the north side of the Moreno glacier. After two weeks they had succeeded in reaching the head of the glacier and the ice-cap, suffering all the while appalling weather conditions. In 1916 Reichert organized an attempt to cross the ice-cap from the head of Lago Viedma; those taking part included A. Kölliker, F. Kühn and L. Witte. Having discovered a pass to the Viedma glacier they moved north-westwards to the ice-cap, and reached the watershed at the foot of the Cordón Mariano Moreno. This expedition was also frustrated by bad weather.

Dr. Reichert's third and last expedition to the H.P.S. was in 1933. The party reached the ice-cap by ascending the O'Higgins glacier from Lago San Martin. After being pinned down by violent storms for a fortnight on the edge of the plateau their supplies were nearly exhausted. However they continued westwards and reached a point close to the watershed near Cordón Pio XI. For a few minutes there was a break in the mist and they saw a volcanic cone 3000 metres high from which clouds of steam were issuing. This discovery was subsequently ignored in scientific circles and not proven until the same volcano, Cerro Lautaro, was clearly sighted in 1960 by Eric Shipton.

**Map showing Hielo Patagonico Sur (Parte S)**

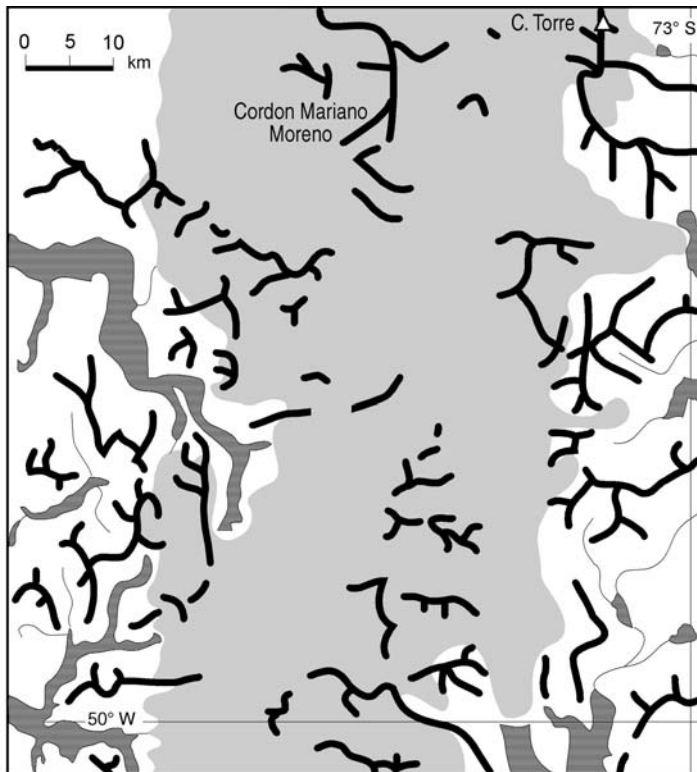


The other great Patagonian explorer, Alberto De Agostini, paid his first visit to the interior of the H.P.S. during the 1930-31 season. Together with Egidio Feruglio and the two Courmayeur guides Evaristo Croux and Leone Bron, he set up his base at Estancia Cristina, at the head of the Brazo Norte of Lago Argentino. From there they went by boat to explore most of the fiords and glaciers descending into them. Particularly important was the ascent of Cerro Mayo, on a beautiful calm day,

from the top of which De Agostini was able to survey and photograph a vast tract of the interior cordillera, with hundreds of unvisited peaks and glaciers. Leaving the estancia on the next stage of the expedition, with a month's provisions, they gained the ice-cap via the Upsala and Bertacchi glaciers and, travelling north-west, got to within sight of Falcon Fiord on the west coast without mishap. Not content with this, De Agostini then travelled north and explored the Fitzroy group.

The following season De Agostini was in the Lago Viedma area, with another Courmayeur guide Mario Derriard and two Chilean porters. After having climbed a small peak in order to study the configuration of Cordón Moyano, they completed their trip with an ascent of Cerro Elctrico in the Fitzroy group. Three years later (December, 1935-February, 1936) he organized another expedition to Fitzroy, this time exploring the Cordón Marconi; they also climbed a small peak further north, to the south-east of Gorra Blanca. In 1936-37 De Agostini made a long flight over the Paine group and Cerro Balmaceda. Then, accompanied by two young men, Cassero and Zampiera, he explored the southern reaches of Lago San Martin, making the first ascent of Cerro Milanésio. To complete his study of this area of the cordillera, the next summer he explored the Upsala glacier and Seno Trinidad.

**Map showing Hielo Patagonico Sur (Parte Centrale)**



There were no more attempts to travel on the ice-cap until 1949, when Héctor Gianolini of the Club Andino Bariloche tried a traverse, starting from the Fitzroy neighbourhood. The difficulties of terrain and climate ended this attempt at Paso de los Cuatro Glaciares. However, in February 1952, a short, tough Argentine colonel, Emiliano Huerta, with glaciologist Mario Bertone and three others, made the first complete crossing of the plateau, having gained it north of Cordón Marconi and traversed the Paso de los Cuatro Glaciares to the head of the Pio XI glacier. Since then a small base has been established on the ice, which is supplied by air-drops.

Most explorers of the H.P.S. have started and finished their journeys on the eastern side because of the difficulties of the western approaches, but in 1956 H.W. Tilman took his boat 'Mischief' into Calvo Fiord, with the intention of traversing to Lago Argentino. Tilman and his two companions ascended the Calvo glacier and marched north-east, passing close to Cerro Cervantes, before descending to the front of the Moreno glacier (which Tilman refers to as the Bismarck); they returned the same way. This was a journey as the crow flies of some forty kilometres each way and involved six weeks of arduous travel.

In January-March 1959 a C.A.B.A. party, led by Hugo Corbela, followed Reichert's route to the ice-cap from Lago San Martin and marched south, mainly on skis, for eighty kilometres to Lago Viedma. From the same starting point they traversed the ice-cap westwards to the Greve glacier and Eyre Fiord. While this group was in the vicinity of the genuine Lautaro volcano, Eric Shipton was disproving the myth of 'Volcàn Viedma' further south. In 1959-60, with Peter Bruchhausen and Jack Ewer, Shipton set out to find this elusive peak. After relaying loads for two weeks to the edge of the plateau they pitched camp on a comfortable ledge on a large rock outcrop above the O'Higgins glacier. By a lucky chance it was a fine evening and away to the west they could see clearly a steady stream of vapour mounting from a black fissure in the northern ice slope of Cerro Lautaro, some 100 metres below the summit. Weather and sickness in the party prevented them from reaching the peak, which was climbed in 1964 by two Argentines, Peter Skvarca and Luciano Pera, and again in 1973 by Eric Jones, Mick Coffey and Leo Dickinson.

In the southern summer of 1960-61 Shipton carried out an ambitious journey over the entire length of the ice-cap, from Baker Fiord to the north-western arm of Lago Argentino, a distance of about 240 kilometres. The large area north of lat.49°S. had never been visited before. The party established a daily routine and sledged south in the usual bad weather, making a 'landfall' on the nunatak near Cerro Lautaro where Shipton had camped the year before. They continued on a south-westerly course and, after three days of blizzard, reached the upper basin of the Viedma glacier. Having the opportunity, they digressed to climb Cerro Don Bosco and El Murallòn, being turned back by the weather on the summit ridge. The journey was completed via the Upsala glacier to Estancia Cristina, after a crossing lasting fifty-two days.

In 1962-63 a Chilean party led by Professor Eduardo Garcia traversed from Exmouth Fiord eastwards to Laguna Eléctrica, near Fitzroy. From there they continued back across the H.P.S.

During the 1960s and 1970s the Skvarca Brothers, Jorge ('Jure') and Peter, from the Club Andino Bariloche, either together or with various companions, made a number of first ascents of peaks on and around the southern ice-cap. Starting in 1964 Peter Skvarca led a joint Argentine-Slovene expedition to the active volcano Lautaro. Base camp was set up at the Piedra del Fraile in the valley of the Rio Eléctrico. On 12 January first ascents were made of Gorra Blanca, from the south-east, and Cerro Cardinal Cagliero, both difficult ice climbs. Gorra Blanca was climbed again two days later from the west by a rival group. After sitting out a storm in an ice-cave for two weeks Skvarca and Luciano Pera reached the base of the volcano after a twelve-hour journey on skis. The ascent was completed in eight hours the following day, the most difficult part being the final ice wall 150 metres high.

In 1965 the Skvarcas, with two companions, were again in the northern part of the ice-cap where they made the first ascent of Mellizo Oeste ('West Twin'), a lovely rock and ice climb similar to Paine Grande Principal but on a larger scale. The peak was reached via a difficult crossing of Lago San Martin, thence up the western arm to its head, and ascent of the Huemul glacier. An attempt on the

west face was defeated by the vertical and overhanging walls of the final 200-metre tower. Hampered by bad weather the two brothers then attacked the much higher and very difficult east face, which was climbed up the right-hand side, the whole expedition taking twenty-six hours. (N.B. There is some confusion over nomenclature here; see AAJ 14 (1965): 458).

In 1966 the brothers started with an attempt on the south-east face of Cerro Norte. Attempts on the left and right-hand sides were repulsed by avalanches, one of which caused a night long descent through crevasses and seracs. They concluded that the only practicable route lay up the centre of the face but as they did not have sufficient pitons and fixed rope they were forced to retreat. Starting again from their base at Estancia Cristina, they turned their attention to the peaks in the vicinity of the mysterious Cerro Roma. After making camp on the heavily crevassed Glaciar Agassiz, they climbed a peak they named John F. Kennedy, struggling back in a violent snowstorm. Three days later the weather was fine and Peter climbed Cerro Agassiz, while his brother climbed Cerro Bolado and another peak to the west. The only difficulties encountered on these peaks were the summit mushrooms. At nine o'clock in the evening they met up on the glacier and, after some soup, decided to continue to the Cerro Bertrand massif, which they reached after midnight. Climbing in the moonlight they reached the lower summit (Bertrand) at eight o'clock next morning but to their great sorrow they were too exhausted to tackle the higher peak ('Vivod', i.e. Cerro Roma). They finally reached their tents again at seven o'clock in the evening. They named the higher peak Vivod, and a peak in the Bolado massif Tomek, in memory of two friends killed on Tronador.

In 1967 the Skvarcas made their second attempt on the difficult Cerro Norte, about twenty kilometres north of Estancia Cristina. This attempt, their first try at the west face, was defeated by bad weather, as was their third attempt in 1968. Their best climb that year was the first ascent of Cerro Campana, the last 100 metres of which was direct aid ice climbing. In 1969 M. Serrano and Jorge Skvarca climbed the highest peak in the Roma-Bertrand massif ('Vivod'); it is also the highest in this part of the ice-cap. Starting by moonlight they reached the summit some thirty hours later after negotiating large crevasses and windslabs, the last part of this climb being an ice mushroom. The peak lies west of Cerro Bertrand.

In 1970 ascents were made of the technically easy snow and ice peaks Cerro Bertachi, Cerro 29 de Octubre and Cerro Santa Cruz, west of Glaciar Upsala; being far out into the ice-cap these peaks require good weather. The two brothers then renewed their assault on Cerro Norte, which was climbed via the west face, taking twenty-five hours. The 1200-metre face consists of snow and ice couloirs and rock, with two artificial pitches, and all very exposed; on the lower pitches there is the additional problem of avalanches.

Another major ascent in which Jorge Skvarca participated was that of Cerro Moyano, south of Lago Viedma, the last main unclimbed peak in the Moyano range. After six unsuccessful attempts, including one by C. Fava's party in January 1975, Skvarca and two other Argentines reached the top on 2 February 1976. This peak is considered to be only slightly less difficult than Fitzroy or Cerro Torre. After climbing the 600-metre north face (Grade V-VI, A1), from a little col the climbers ascended the north-east ridge with its towers (V-VI) to a 100-metre ice mushroom, which had to be traversed before the slope eased off to the summit. The top was reached at nine o'clock in the evening and they descended next day after a bivouac.

**Peak List**

*Traverses, Ice-cap crossings etc.: Reichert-1914: K'lliker-1916: De Agostini-1931: Reichert-1933: Huerta-1952: Tilman-1956: Shipton-1961: Lucero-1962: Garcia-1963: Sakagami-1969: Takeushi-1971: McSweeney-1980: Giongo-1985.*

**San Martin-O'Higgins**

*Cerro Azul 2740m: Explored in 1965-66. Dense forest and weather defeated attempt on peak.*

*Cerro Steffen (De Agostini's Mellizos Oeste) 3050m: 1-1965 via E. face (right side), hard.*

*Cerro Indeterminado: 1-1962, easy.*

*Cerro Santa Lucia: small elevation in middle of valley west of Lago O'Higgins:*

*Cerro O'Higgins 2910m: a large mountain N. of O'Higgins glacier: 1-1960 via S.W. face, 6 camps.*

*'Martinez de Rosas' 2250m: 1-1960.*

*Meseta del Quemado and Meseta del Viento: extensive tablelands between Lago San Martjn & Lago Viedma:*

*--Monte Cangrejo 2025m: superb large rocky tower, highest point in massif: 1-1970/71, massif traversed N.- S.*

*--Cerro Astillado ('Splintered Peak') 1746m (perhaps 1900m): symmetrical rock peak with series of towers: 1-1985 via S.W. face, long and hard climb on poor rock.*

**Mountains of Fiordo Bernardo**

*Series of domes rising 100-300m above the average height of the western edge of the ice-cap:*

*--Punta Casari c.2000m: 1-1985 via S.E. flank after long approach.*

*--P.1829m*

**Cordòn Lautaro (Pio XI)**

*Volcàn Lautaro 3380m (Monte Pio XI): 1-1964 from south, descend E. face: West side-1986.*

*Cerro Mimosa: active (fumaroles) volcano 15 km N. of Lautaro: 1-1973 via S. ridge, steep, seracs.*

**Piràmide-Gorra Blanca group**

*Cerro Piràmide c.2700m: 1-1972 via S.E. side, steep E. ridge, then N.E.*

*Cerro Neumayer; Cerro XXX Aniversario 1912m: runs E.- W., rocky walls: Climbed many times.*

*Gorra Blanca 2907m: ice dome with 2 tops joined by long horizontal knife-edge: 1-1964 via S. face of south peak, N.E. face to main summit, difficult ice climb: From W.-1964: N.W. ridge, ski climb-1984.*

*--Gorra Blanca Sur 2800m:*

*Cerro Cagliari 2570m: has beautiful S.E. face with hanging glaciers: 1-1964 via S.W. flank to ridge, difficult ice climb.*

*Loma del Diablo c.1800m: largely a detritus ridge, good viewpoint:*

*--P.1850m: small rocky top:*

*Cerro Vespignani c.2200m: corniced crest overlooking Laguna del Desierto: 1-1968, easy.*

*Cerro Milaneseo 2010m: 1-1936/37 via N.slope, great view.*

**Cordòn Mariano Moreno**

*Cerro Moreno 3554m: isolated peak in middle of ice-cap: 1-1958 via E. ice spur, long climb.*

*--Pico Sur: S. ridge-1972/73: S.W. ridge-1972/73.*

*--'Nunatak Viedma': rocky island S.E. of Cerro Moreno:*

**Cordòn Marconi**

*Cerro Marconi Norte 1978m: 1-1952, fairly easy.*



*Cerro Marconi Central 2210m: 1-1966 via W. face, fairly hard.*  
*Aguja Volonqui c.2100m: 1-1976 via N.E. spur, alpine style (omitted 2m summit mushroom), hard.*  
*Cerro Rincòn 2465m: 1-1971 from N.E.*

**Fitzroy group**

(See below)

**Cerro Torre-Cordòn Adela**

(See below)

**Cerro Campana-Cerro Norte**

*Cerro CAB 2700m: 1-1971 via high ridge reached from west.*  
*Cerro Mascarello 2697m: 1-1973.*  
*Cerro Cacique 2600m: 1-1971.*  
*Cerro Campana 2750m: from W. appears as bold pyramid with ice mushrooms: 1-1968 via W. slopes, top part very difficult, descend to east.*  
*Cerro Anders: 1-1971.*  
*Cerro Cristyl 2200m: 1-1968.*  
*P.1984m: elevation on ridge between Cristal & Moyano: 1-1931/32 from E.*  
*P.1850m: minor point between Rio Mascarello & Seno Moyano: 1-1932, ascended for view.*  
*Cerro Moyano 2720m: imposing peak with steep faces of rock and ice: 1-1976 via E. face, N. ridge, alpine style, hard.*  
*Cerro Norte 2950m: steep ice walls, almost as hard as Fitzroy: 1-1970 via W. face: E.N.E. buttress-1986.*  
*Cerro Boj c.2700m: 1-1969.*  
*Cerro Mesa Chico: 1-1965.*  
*Cerro Pintado 2547m: isolated peak E. of Estancia Cristina: 1-1968 via ridge above high walls.*

**Cordòn Riso Patròn**

*Riso Patròn 6 (N. Summit?) c.2950m: 1-1969 via N.E. slope.*  
*Cerro Riso Patròn c.3000m: elegant rock and ice pinnacle: 1-1988 via E.S.E. ice face.*

**Murallòn-Roma group**

*Cerro Don Bosco 2515m: beautiful ice peak with big, steep S. face: 1-1957 via E. ridge: S. face, very difficult-1990.*  
*Cerro Murallòn 2831m: big rock walls to E. & N., separated by striking edge, ice faces: 1-1961 from N.W. & long summit ridge (may not have reached topmost point): N.E. pillar, most difficult route in this region-1984.*  
*Cerro Cono c.2500m: ice cone at edge of Upsala glacier: 1-1967, mixed, fairly hard.*  
*Cerro Bertachi 2600m: ice peak: 1-1970, easy but far into ice-cap.*  
*Cerro 29 de Octubre c.2600m: 1-1970, easy but far into ice-cap.*  
*Cerro Santa Cruz: 1-1970, easy but far into ice-cap.*  
*Cerro Roma (Vivod) 3270m: broad, snowy peak with two tops: 1-1969 from N.E.*  
*Cerro Bertrand 3170m: massive ice mountain E. of Cerro Roma: 1-1966.*  
*Cerro MacAndrews c.2800m: 1-1977 via snowy N.E. ridge.*  
*Monte Torino (Cerro Turin) 2252m: western culmination of Altiplano Italia: 1-1931.*  
*Cerro Agassiz 2940m: 1-1966.*  
*Cerro Masters: Masters, Bolado, Kennedy & Jani lie S. of Cerro Agassiz: 1-1966 from Baia Onelli.*

*Cerro Bolado (Cerro Tomek) 2740m: 1-1966.*

*Cerro Kennedy c.2400m: 1-1966.*

*Cerro Jani c.1900m: 1?-1978.*

*P.2470m: dominates N.W. corner of amphitheatre above Lago Onelli: 1-958 via N. ridge.*

*Lliboutry's 'Cerro Aguilera' 2438m?: the true Cerro Aguilera lies c.20 km to E.: Found to be a volcano by 1985 scientific party.*

*Cerro Aguilera: beyond Fiord Andrew:*

### ***Mountains of the Penguin-Europa-San Andrés fiords***

*Cerro Akira 1341m, Cerro Iruka-Dake: 1-1972, traversing from Fiord Falcòn.*

### ***Mayo-Cervantes-Cubo group***

*Cerro Mayo 2450m: imposing peak with complex rocky S. face: 1-1931 via N. slope, N.N.W. ridge: S. face, W. ridge, difficult-1984.*

*Cordòn Ameghino: 1-1959 (see AJ 65 (1960): 158-66).*

*Cerro Cubo 2920m (2880,2400m?): in Cordòn Adriana: 1-1978 from lower tongue of Dickson glacier.*

*'Cerro Jos, Maria Iglesias': N. of Cerro Cubo:*

*Cerro Sonntag: close to Cerro Cubo: 1-1985.*

*U/n (N.W. of Cerro Cubo): 1?-1977.*

*Dedo del C, sar 1900m: isolated tower on secondary ridge between Laguna Frjas & Cerro Cubo: 1-1978.*

*Cerro Daudet 1771m: frontier peak:*

*Cerro Arielle 1550m: culminating point of rocky islet S. of Cerro Cubo: 1-1982 via W.couloir during traverse of ice-cap.*

### ***Adjacent to Paine group***

*Cerro Dargier c.2300m: 1-1982/83 by difficult route & 2 towers on N. ridge.*

*Cerro Carmen, Cerro Natacha, Cerro Ecrins 2330m, Punta Bichendaritz: All climbed by same expedition, along with Cerro Dargier, during traverse of ice-cap.*

*Cerro Planchòn 2450m: 1-1968.*

*Cerro Stokes 2140m: rocky pyramid S.of Dickson glacier: 1-1976 via difficult S. face.*

*Cordòn Barros Arana c.2200m: lies N.- S. between Grey and Olvidado glaciers: 2 peaks climbed in 1948.*

*U/n (2nd peak from E. of 4 peaks due W. of Cerro Stokes): 1?-1977.*

*Cerro Centuriòn 2000m+: 1-1975/6 via S.E. Spur.*

*Cerro la Proa c.2000m: steep, rocky tower: 1-1976.*

*Cerro Punzòn c.2000m: imposing rocky tower: 1-1974/75.*

*Glaciàr Olvidado minor summits P.1550m, P.1870m, P.1971m, P.1575m: 1-1975/76.*

*Tricornio 1552m: 1-1976.*

*La Fortaleza 1673m: N.W. side of Paine group (not the Fortress): 1-1976.*

*Cerro Gringo 1870m: 1-1976.*

*Punta Puma 1971m: 1-1976.*

*Cerro Amistad 1885m: 1-1976.*

*Cerro Condòr 1900m: 1-1976.*

*Cerro Olgujn 2300m (or 2265m): Cordòn Olguin rises between Grey & Perro glaciers: 1-1969.*

*Cerro Ostrava 2250m (perhaps less): 1-1969.*

**Paine massif**

(See below)

**Mano del Diablo-Balmaceda**

*Cerro Blanco 2600m: prominent peak near head of Grey glacier: 1?-1976 via E. ridge. May be same as P.1900m climbed by Japanese party in 1965-66.*

*Cerro Cisne 2300m: culminating point of horseshoe ridge S.E. of Co. Blanco:*

*Centinela: 2 peaks at N. & S. extremes of above ridge:*

*--I (Norte) 1775m: 1-1976 via N.E. ridge.*

*--II (Sur) 1900m: 1-1976.*

*Cerro Quijote 2500m: S. of Centinela Sur: 1-1976 from Pingo valley.*

*Cerro Mano del Diablo: above fiord S. of Fiord Peel: 1-1987 from col between Mignolo & Anulare.*

*Cerro Patrullera Villarica 2133m: 1-1982 on skis during traverse of ice-cap.*

*Cerro Ferrier 1590m: 1-1985.*

*Cerro Zapato 1450m: 1-1985 from Guarderia post.*

*Cerro Balmaceda 2035m: massif which dominates Fiord Ultima Esperanza, extremely rainy area: 1-1957.*

*--Punta Arenas:*

*--Punta Clerk:*

*Cordillera Arturo Prat: N. side of Fiord Ultima Esperanza: Explored in 1937, climbing various summits.*

*Cerro Chacabuco (Prat Grande) 1568m: 1-1930*

*Cerro Tenerife 1560m: 1-1931.*

*Cerro Prat Chico 1400m: 1-1937*

*Punta von Heinz 1240: 1-1937.*

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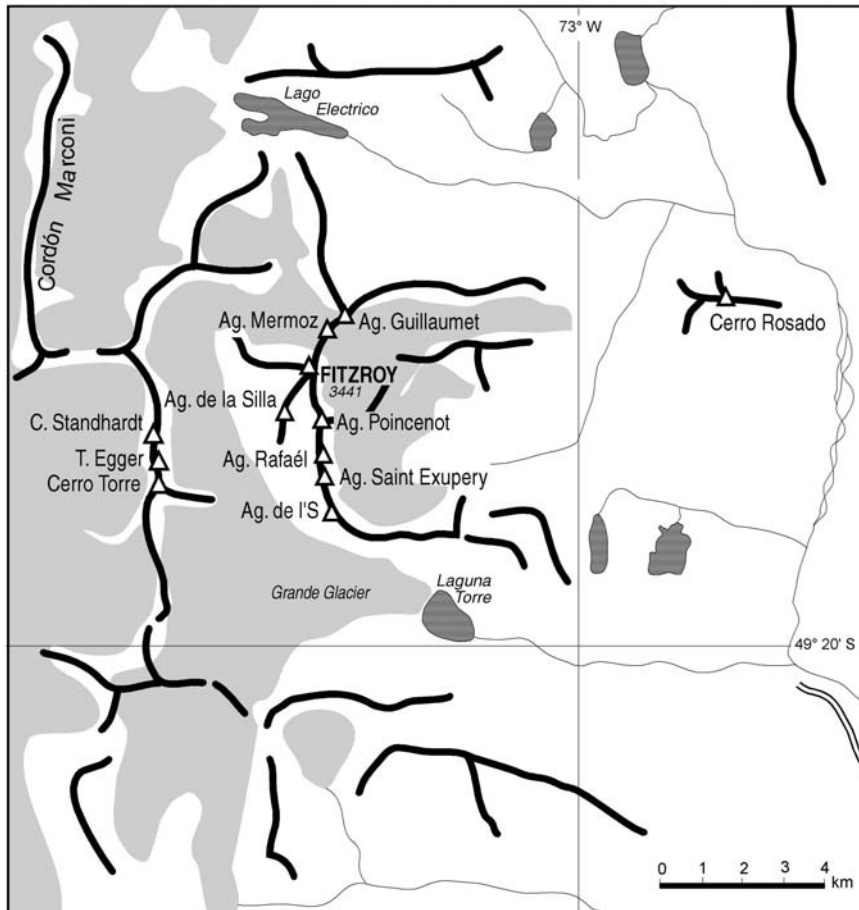
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## Fitzroy - Cerro Torre Group

### Map showing Fitzroy – Cerro Torre



This group which lies between Lago Argentino and Lago Viedma is renowned for its spectacular granite towers which have attracted many of the world's finest climbers. Firstly there is the E-shaped Fitzroy chain, of which Fitzroy is the central and highest peak. Five kilometres to the south-west is Cerro Torre, the highest peak in the Cordón Adela, which runs north-south. In addition there is the Cordón Marconi, which is the northern offshoot of the Cordón Adela.

### Fitzroy

The mountaineering history of Fitzroy may be said to begin in 1916 when A. Kölliker, F. Kühn and L. Witte explored the Tunél valley and climbed Cerro Huemul south of the main massif. The next visitor was Alberto De Agostini who, as already mentioned, in the course of three expeditions in the early 1930s explored the foothills to the east, penetrated the valleys of the rivers descending from the north and west of the peak, and climbed a lesser peak, Cerro Eléctrico, to the north-east. The first serious attempt to climb Fitzroy was made in 1937 by three distinguished Alpine guides, Ettore Castiglione, Titta Gilberti and Leo Dubosc, led by Count Aldo Bonacossa. They attacked the mountain from its eastern side, reached the rocky saddle (Brecha de los Italianos), and arrived at the foot of the southern side of the final spire. Unable to continue they climbed a fine snow and ice peak, Cerro Ñato, in the adjacent Cordón Adela.

Two determined attempts were made in 1948 and 1949 by parties led by Hans Zechner, an Austrian climber resident in Argentina. Zechner thought it would be easier to tackle the peak from the west and made his first attempt by a couloir on the south-west side. Two days later he tried a series of snow-covered terraces between the base of the main summit and the lower buttresses of the north ridge. Then he retired baffled in order to carry out further reconnaissance. Returning in 1949 with an even stronger party of climbers, he investigated Bonacossa's route briefly, then again made two unsuccessful attempts on the west side. One of these was in the direction of the north spur following a ridge which he called the Mannequin's Crest; the other by means of a wide couloir of smooth slabs, subject to stonefall. By way of final reconnaissance they climbed Cerro Pollone to the north-west, from where they were able to inspect the northern aspect of Fitzroy, particularly the 'Supercanaleta'.

In 1952 an expedition which included some of the best French climbers succeeded in climbing Fitzroy by the south buttress, using Bonacossa's approach route from the east. After stocking camps and preparing the first 120 metres of the face with fixed ropes, Lionel Terray and Guido Magnone decided to attempt the summit on 1 February. By the end of the day they were high on the peak and bivouaced. The next day they made good progress over easier ground and reached the top at 4 o'clock. Then, with the weather deteriorating, they descended in six hours.

Fitzroy has been climbed now from all sides, with over a dozen routes recorded. There is an excellent guidebook (including the major adjacent aiguilles), giving general information, history, route diagrams and illustrations of all routes completed to end-1984. (See books by G. & S. Buscaini and Carles Capellas C.).

### **Cerro Torre**

Cerro Torre, the highest point in the adjacent Cordón Adela, has been one of the most talked-about mountains in the world for many years. This is not only because it repulsed so many attempts to climb it, but because the man who claimed to have climbed it twice, Cesare Maestri, incurred the opprobrium of the climbing world. In 1959 Maestri reported having climbed Cerro Torre with Toni Egger, in two days from a notch known as the Col of Conquest. However, the previous year Walter Bonatti and Carlo Mauri had been turned quickly back on the other side of the peak by ice-covered overhangs and the realization that extensive siege tactics would be required to effect an ascent. This coupled with the fact that any photographic evidence was lost when Toni Egger fell to his death carrying the camera, served to cast doubts on Maestri's claim.

In 1968 the British team of D. Haston, M. Burke, P. Crew and M. Boysen were joined by the Argentine climber Jos, Fonrouge but they only managed 600 metres of very difficult technical climbing up the south-east ridge. Japanese and Argentine expeditions that followed failed to improve on this performance but an Italian attempt on the west side in 1970 reached a point only 180 metres below the summit. During the next twelve months Maestri laboured to make his second controversial ascent, using a compressor, rock drill and expansion bolts, although apparently they did not actually climb to the highest ice encrustations. This time Maestri's critics objected to his unsporting methods. The American climbers Yvon Chouinard and Royal Robbins were the next to try but it fell to the 1973-74 Italian team led by Casimo Ferrari to make the first complete and undisputed ascent, via the west face.

## Other Peaks

The first of the other difficult spires in the Fitzroy-Cerro Torre group to be climbed was Aiguille Poincenot which yielded in 1962 to an Anglo-Irish group, spearheaded by Don Whillans. From the south-east glaciers, a long ice ramp (on which extensive use was made of ice caves and fixed ropes) led to the 300 metres high rock spire (IV+,V). The climb was completed at the third attempt, requiring 'twenty hours of gruelling effort'. In 1968 the Argentines Jos, Fonrouge and Alfredo Rosasco, climbed the 1200-metre south-west face; in 1970 the same pair ascended the 900-metre north-west face. The west face was climbed in 1977 by Rab Carrington and Alan Rouse. North of Cerro Torre is Torre Egger. The east face was attempted in 1974-5 by a largely British party, which included Martin Boysen and Paul Braithwaite, but ironically the good weather made the summit ice mushroom dangerously unstable and the climb was called off. The first ascent was made in 1976 by three Americans via the difficult south-east face. North of Torre Egger is the third peak of this formidable trio, Cerro Standhardt, the last important peak in the range to be climbed. In the 1974-5 season an Anglo-American team made several attempts on the east face; later they found the remains of Toni Egger who fell from Cerro Torre in 1959. In 1977 two members of the British South America Mountaineering Expedition, Brian Hall and John Whittle, climbed the south-east face after several attempts frustrated by bad weather. With an early start and prior knowledge of the route, the ascent was completed in two days of hard mixed climbing.

### Peak List

*Domo Blanco 2507m: 1-1952 by traverse N.E.-S.W., via sloping ramp from base of N.W. face of Piergiorgio.*

*Cerro Piergiorgio 2719m: imposing rocky N.W. face, icy S.E. side: 1-1963 via narrow, sloping couloir on S.E. face, alpine style: N.W. face, 800m-1985.*

*Cerro Pollone 2396m: 1-1949 via E. slope.*

*Aguja Pollone 2579m: N.E. outlier of Cerro Torre chain: 1-1976 via S. face, hard.*

*Gran Gendarme del Pollone c.2200m: 1-1976 via S.E. ridge, rock and ice.*

*Loma Blanca c.2150m: 1-1936 via N.W. slope.*

*Filo del Hombre Sentado ('Mannequin's Crest'):*

*--Punta Anna 2050m: 1-1958 from Torre glacier.*

*--Punta Mujer 2150m: 1-1958 from Torre glacier: N. slope-1984.*

*Cerro Lelia 2100m: 1-1958.*

*Chaltén/Fitzroy 3405m: 1-1952 via S. buttress (French route): W.N.W. couloir (Supercanaleta)-1965: S.W. buttress (Californian route)-1968: S. face (British route)-1972: E. pillar (Ferrari)-1976: N.N.E. pillar (Casarotto)-1979: N.N.W. face (French)-1979: W. face (Czech)-1983: N.E. dihedral (Yugoslav)-1983: S. spur (Argentine direct)-1984: S.E. face (Spanish)-1984: Casarotto route variant-1984: N. face (Polish)-1984: S. face (Yugoslav)-1985: N. dihedral-1986: N. face (Tehuelche route), incomplete-1986: S.W. pillar in winter, solo-1990.*

*Punta Val Biois: between Fitzroy & Ag.Mermoz: 1-1978 from Bloque col, i.e. south.*

*--Punta Lorena: detached pinnacle of Punta Val Biois: 1-1978 via S.W. ridge.*

*Aguja Mermoz 2754m: 1-1974 via N.W. face, N. ridge, on excellent rock: Couloir left of E.S.E. face to S.S.W. ridge, ice: N.W. face, 300m dihedral-1989.*

*Aguja Guillaumet 2539m: 1-1965 via N.W. Ridge: E. Face (lefthand couloir)-1968: E. Face (righthand couloir)-1968: S.E. Face-1979: N.E. Buttress-1981: E. Face (Buscaini Route)-1981: E. Face (Wüschner Route)-1983: N.E. Buttress, variant on 1981 route-1987: W. face to join N.W. ridge, solo (600m)-1991.*

*P.2270m (perhaps more): between Aguja Guillaumet and Cerro Eléctrico: 1-pre 1974.*



*Cerro Eléctrico* 2257m: 1-1932 from N.E.: W. ridge-1982.  
--*Cerro Eléctrico Oeste*: N.W. of Paso del Cuadrado: 1?-1983, solo.  
*Aguja Poincenot* 3002m: 1-1962 via S.E. face, S. face: W. face-1968: W. face variant-1977: W.N.W. pillar-1986: S.E. buttress to 1962 route-1986: S. face-1986: N.W. buttress left of 1977 route-1986: E. face (in 2 stages)-1989: S.W. face (centre)-1992.  
--*Punta Velluda* 2010m: on Poincenot spur: 1-pre 1974.  
--*Cerro Madsen* c.2100m: on Punta Velluda spur: 1-pre 1974.  
*Aguja Rafa*, l (Innominata) 2501m: small but attractive rock needle: 1-1974 via W. face, S. ridge: W. face variant-1988: N. spur-1989.  
*Aguja Saint Exupéry* 2680m: 1-1968 via E. ridge: E. ridge, variant approach-1981: W. face-1987: S. pillar-1987: N. face-1988.  
*Aguja de la S* c.2350m: 1-1968 from east: W. face-1986: E.S.E. face-1989.  
*Mojon Rojo* 2224m: granite spire near Techado Negro: 1-1961 via small E. face: From W. & N. couloir-1977.  
*Cerro Ana* 2200m: 1-1958 (see RM, 77 (1958):112-4).  
*Techado Negro* 2173m: massive summit with many rock pinnacles: 1-1961 via E. face: S. face-1961.  
--*Loma de las Pizarras* 1691m: satellite E. of Techado Negro: 1-pre 1974.  
--*El Ñire* c.2000m: point on E. ridge of Techado Negro: 1-1960/61.  
*Aguja Cuatro Dedos* 2245m: 1-1977 via N.W. edge from east, difficult.  
*Aguja de la Silla* 2978m: reached via Brecha de los Italianos & Silla Americana: 1-1989 via E. spur.  
*Aguja Bifida (Sur)* 2450m: one of chain of impressive needles: 1-1975 via S.W. ridge.  
--*Norte* (slightly higher): 1-1989 via N. face.  
*Cerro Standhardt* c.2800m: 1-1977 via E. face, alpine style: W. face, very difficult-1989  
*Punta Herron* c.2780m: north forepeak of Torre Egger: 1-1980 on descent from Torre Egger.  
*Torre Egger* c.2900m: 1-1976 via S.E. face: E. face-1980: S.E. face & dihedral-1986.  
*Cerro Torre* 3102m: 1(disputed)-1959 via N. face: E. ridge (compressor route)-1970: W. face (Ferrari)-1974: S.E. buttress-1979: E. face-1986.  
*Torre de la Media Luna*: tower between El Mocho & Cerro Torre: 1-1988.  
*El Mocho* 1980m: 1-1978 via S.E. buttress, left of couloir: S.E. ice couloir-1986: S.E. face, E. pillar, right of couloir-1986: N. face-1986: Left of E. buttress-1987: Left of E. buttress, new route-1989: S. face-1991/2.  
*Cerro Adela Central* 2960m: 1-1958 via W.S.W. couloir: S.E. face solo, descend via Adela Sur-1991: 2 other routes have been done on S.E. face (see AAJ, 34 (1992): 172).  
*Cerro Adela Sur* (not same as Cerro Ñato) 2860m: 1-1958 by traverse N.W.- S.: S. ridge-1958: N.E. ridge-1967: N.E. face-1986.  
*Cerro Ñato* (wrongly identified as Doblado originally) 2808m: 1-1937 via S.W. ridge: S.S.E. spur-1987.  
*Cerro Doblado* 2675m: ice horn S. of Paso Doblado: 1-1958.  
*Cerro Grande* 2751m: 1-1958 from north.  
--*Cerro Luca* (Cerro Grande Oeste) 2790m: 1-1958.  
*P.c.*1980m: above Circo de las Cascadas: 1-1958.  
*Agujas del Rio Tunel*:  
--*Aguja T-48* c.2400m: the highest of these towers: 1-1966.  
*Cerro Solo* 2121m: beautiful viewpoint, often climbed: 1-1949 from N. & E. glacier.  
*Cerro Huemùl* 2750m: 1-1916.

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### **Cerro Torre Group**

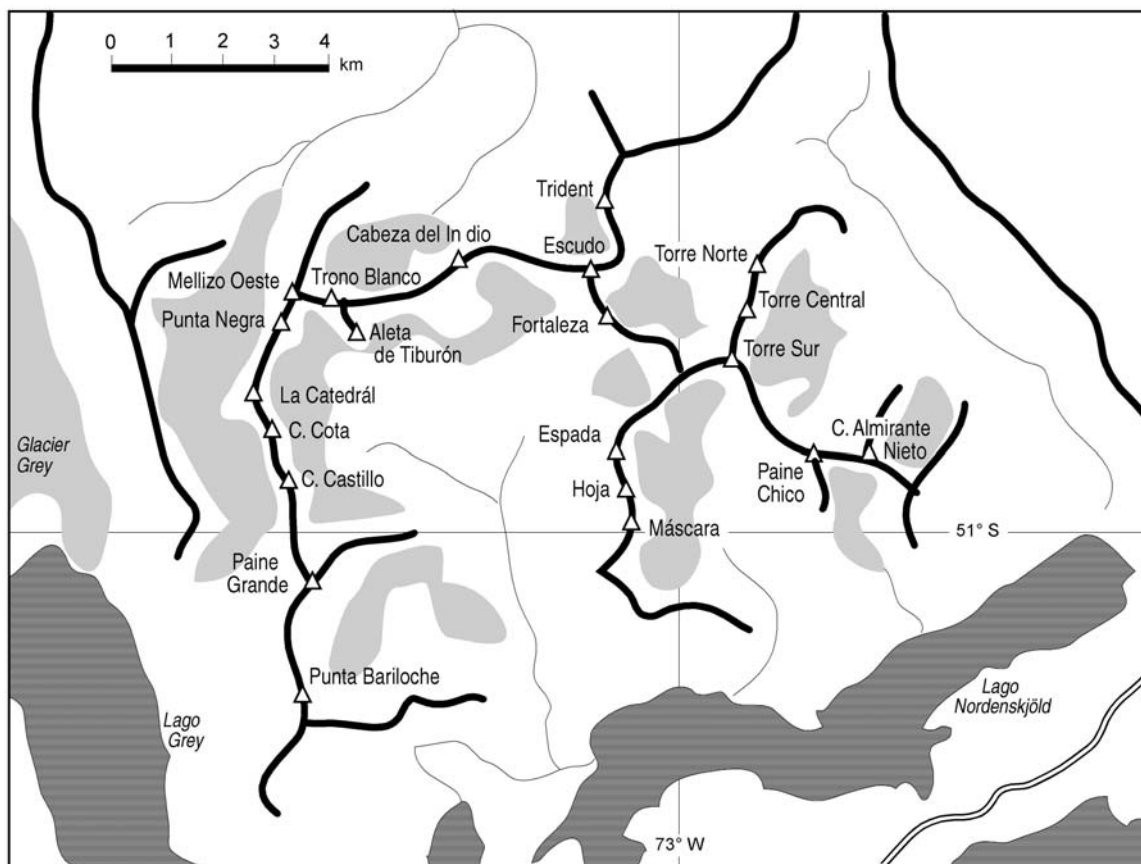
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## **Paine Group**

Some 200 kilometres further south, in Chilean territory, is the Paine group (c.lat. 51°S.), just north of Lago Nordenskjöld. Territorially it is smaller than the Fitzroy-Cerro Torre range but probably has a greater number of severe peaks. It is certainly equally impressive, with granite towers and snow peaks. In form the range is a series of linked ridges. In the extreme south-west is Paine Grande, a mixed rock and ice massif with four peaks (Punta Bariloche, Central, Principal, Norte). Continuing north are Catedral, Cerro Negro and Mellizos (The Twins). Here the ridge turns east and continues with the Shark's Fin, Indian's Head and Shield. From the Shield a ridge runs north to Trident and several lesser peaks (Cordón Vittorio Alata) climbed by Armando Aste in the 1965-6 season. Southwards on the main ridge the next peak is the massive Fortress. Beyond the Fortress the ridge again divides - to the south the small towers Sword, Blade and Mummer; and the triple-peaked Cuernos del Paine (Norte, Principal, Chico): to the north the three Towers of Paine. From the southern Torre an easterly spur culminates in Paine Oriental, otherwise known as Paine Chico or Almirante Niete. Adjacent to the Paine peaks, on the western side, is the lesser Cordón Olguin, the highest peak of which is Castillo del Paine.

**Map showing Paine Group**



In 1937 two Bavarian alpinists, Stefan Zuck and Hans Teufel, made the first ascent in the range, that of Paine Oriental, which was climbed via the north-east ridge, a long difficult route over steep rock with 700 ice near the summit. The ascent took eleven hours and the descent six. In the same year De Agostini made a long flight over the Paine region and Cerro Balmaceda. There was no further activity in the area until a Club Andino Bariloche expedition arrived in December 1953, their objective being the ascent of Paine Grande Principal. Their attempts were hampered by a month of atrocious weather but their reconnaissances failed to discover any easy route. During their stay Birger Lantschner and Toncek Pangerc attempted the Cuerno Principal but were defeated by lack of time and the technical difficulties of the vertical and brittle rock about 100 metres from the top. The second ascent of Paine Oriental was made by Otto Meiling and Kaltschmidt via the south-east ridge, a new route. The expedition's final attempt on Paine Grande ended in disaster when the leader Heriberto Schmoll and Tonchek Pangerc vanished in an avalanche on the east face. The following season Meiling and Vallmitjana reconnoitred the western cliffs of the massif and reached about 2300 metres, below the col between the Principal and Norte peaks. Two months later, in January 1955, a Chilean expedition led by Eduardo Meyer attempted the same route but also were stopped by bad weather and vertical rock plastered with snow 100 metres below the same col. Switching to the southern end of the massif they then climbed the Punta Bariloche and Central peaks, via a couloir on the west side to a col between the two.

In 1957 members of an Argentine group led by Augusto Vallmitjana managed another attempt just before the arrival of a large Italian expedition led by Guido Monzino. Carlos Sonntag and Davorin

Jereb attacked the south-east face of the main peak, difficult ice climbing bringing them finally to the foot of the rocks. Then they climbed the severe rock-face and reached a snow gully below the summit ridge, which they thought would lead them easily to the top, but deteriorating weather forced a retreat. Shortly afterwards the Italians, after four weeks on the mountain, found severe difficulties above the Argentine high point, climbing for six and a half hours beyond the point where they found the last Argentine pitons before reaching the top. Two weeks later members of the Italian party, starting from the west side, made the first ascent of the Torre Norte del Paine via the south ridge, from the Col Bich between the north and central towers. The first seventy-five metres were the hardest, being a succession of vertical slabs and overhangs. Above this were less steep stretches followed by vertical slabs and some snow, leading to the big summit block.

In 1961 Peter Henry's South Patagonia Survey Expedition encountered atrocious weather and the only climb achieved was that of Trident, a small peak next to the Shield. Later Henry was drowned in Lago Nordenskjöld whilst ferrying supplies. However the information and photographs brought back by this party aroused great interest amongst British climbers. The following year a very strong British party laid siege to the Central Tower of Paine, which they attacked from the notch on the north side. After bad weather had forced a retreat to base camp, Don Whillans and Chris Bonington returned to the climb, whereupon Whillans nearly fell when a fixed rope broke, frayed by the wind. The summit was reached at 7.30 p.m. and the descent was made next day, Bonington having a lucky escape this time when an abseil rope broke. During the climb the British were harried by a rival Italian team led by Armando Aste, but matters were resolved amicably, with the Italians making the second ascent the next day. They went on to make the first ascent of the South Tower three weeks later.

Nothing more was achieved in the range until 1968 when three major first ascents were made from the Francés valley - Fortress, Shield and Cuerno Principal. The massive bulk of the Fortress, the highest of the Paine rock peaks, fell to a party led by Ian Clough. The summit was reached by John Gregory, Gordon Hibberd and Dave Nicol after a long difficult climb which included a 70ø ice hose, long pitches of Grade V+ slab climbing and a great corner (V,VI,A2), where they found traces of an earlier attempt by Armando Aste and his companion Solina. On the adjacent Shield an Italian expedition led by Piero Nava encountered hurricane force winds and great technical difficulties, on a hard climb during which they used over 1000 metres of fixed rope and 200 pitons. To the south a party of four Chileans successfully climbed the Cuerno Principal, which is a very easy peak except for the final 75-metre tower; this had previously repulsed strong attempts by, among others, Whillans and Clough.

The next big year in the history of Paine climbing was 1971. The fine Cathedral peak was climbed by all the members of Dave Nicol's expedition, via the north-west ridge, which was found to be a sharp arête, steepening towards the summit, with steps of Grade V+,A2. Also in the area were a party of South African climbers led by Paul Fatti, who made the first ascents of the Sword and Cuerno Norte from base camp in the Francés valley. After securing a safe route to the vertical section of the Sword, a 2-man camp was established at the foot of the final rock face. Changing climbers every two days, the route (VI,A2) was completed in eight days, fixed ropes being used on all pitches. After Christmas festivities, they turned their attention to the Cuerno, climbing to the col between the north and principal horns. Having surmounted fifty metres of vertical granite the whole party scrambled the final 300 metres of loose rock and snow together. The whole climb included over 300 metres of Grade V,A2.

During the 1973-4 season Paul Fatti led another South African group to the east face of the Central Tower of Paine. This was climbed via the huge dihedral that runs up the right side of the face which is

1500 metres high. At the end of 1975 Dave Nicol and friends made three separate attempts on the Blade via the west face. Another group of British climbers attempted the Mummer, reaching a point about 120 metres below the summit, having climbed mainly in a very loose couloir. Both parties were defeated by the extraordinarily bad weather. A year later two South Africans made the first ascent of the Mummer via the south-west face above the col between that peak and the Cuerno Norte. The pair were obliged to bivouac eight pitches from the top. The route was on excellent rock with some mixed climbing near the top (V,VI, A4). In 1979 K. Myhill, P. Burke and M. Horlon climbed almost to the top of the east face of the Fortress after their first two attempts had been defeated by the weather. This extremely difficult climb, which is over 1800 metres high, lasted thirteen days. As Burke had frozen hands and the weather was closing in the climbers did not do the final rope-length up the summit terraces.

More recently, the Blade was climbed in 1981 by a French party, who also climbed Sword and Cabeza del Indio (Indian's Head). Several ascents have been made of the remarkable rock peak Aleta de Tiburòn (Shark's Fin).

### **Peak List**

#### *Paine Grande:*

--Principal 3050m: 1-1957 via E. face, N.E. ridge: Spur on complex E. face, very difficult-1984.

--Norte 2760m: 1-1969, very difficult.

--Central 2730m: 1-1955 from col leading to S. peak.

--South (Punta Bariloche) 2660m: 1-1955.

Cerro Castillo del Paine c.2100m: fine rock peak: 1-1980 via difficult S. face.

Cerro Cota 2000m: 1-1969.

La Catedral c.2200m: 1-1971 via W. ridge from base of S. face.

Punta Negra (Cerro Negro) 2100m: rock peak N. of La Catedral & S.W. of Mellizos (Twins): 1-1989 via N.W. face.

Punta Quirquinchos 2000m (perhaps 1900m): 1-1982 via E. snow couloir, traverse W. face, N. ridge.

Mellizo Oeste (West Twin) 2450m (perhaps less): 1-1981 from 1968 British base camp, difficult mixed ground: From S. (cracks, ice couloir)-1991.

Trono Blanco (Mellizo Este, East Twin) 2430m (perhaps less): ice peak: 1-1969.

Aleta del Tiburòn (Shark's Fin) c.1850m: rock peak: 1-1978 via W. face: S. ridge-1982: E. face-1982.

Punta Catalina 2100m (perhaps less): W. of Cabeza del Indio: 1-1982 via W. ridge?

Cabeza del Indio (Indian's Head) 2350m?: 1-1981 via S. flank, hard.

--E. Summit (Punta Yohan) c.2230m:

Escudo (Shield) 2450m (2600,2680m?): 1-1968 via S.W. face & long summit ridge.

Fortaleza 2700m (2755,2865m?): 1-1968 from S.W.: S.E. rib (incomplete ascent)-1979: N.W. ridge-1989: E. face-1990: Centre line between S.W. & S.E. routes-1991: S.W. route variant-1991.

Punta Eboulis c.1750m: just E. of La Espada: 1-1982 via N. face, easy.

Espada (Sword, El Dedo) c.2050m: 1-1971: W. face-1981.

Hoja (Blade) c.1950m: 1-1981 via N. ridge: W. face (central crack), S. ridge-1982.

La Màscara c.1850m: 1-1976 via dihedral on S.W. face: S. ridge (or face), very hard-1982.

'The Mummer': 1-1976.

#### *Cuerno del Paine:*

--Norte c.2000m (perhaps higher): 1-1971.

--Central (Principal) 2100m (perhaps higher): 1-1968 via N. ridge: S. face-1976: Summit tower variant to N. & N.E.

*Paine Oriental (Paine Chico, Almirante Nieto) higher east summit 2670m: 1-1937 via N.N.E. ridge: E. ridge-1954.*

*--Oriental (west summit) 2530m: 1-1969.*

*Torre Sud 2500m (perhaps higher): 1-1963 via N. face, N. rib: E. face, very hard-1984: 1963 route in winter-1987: S.W. buttress-1987: W. face to join S.W. ridge-1987.*

*Torre Central 2460m (perhaps higher): 1-1963 from N.: N.E. dihedral-1974: S. face-1982: N.W. face-1986: E. face-1986: S.S.W. face-1986: N.W. ridge-1990: S. face-1991: W. face (left of 1990 route)-1991: E. face (centre)-1991.*

*Torre Norte 2260m (perhaps higher): 1-1958 via S. ridge: S. face, solo-1986: S. ridge in winter-1987.*

*Peineta (Nido Negro de Còdores): 1 km N.E. of Torre Norte, on connecting ridge: 1-1990 via E. face (800m).*

*Tridente c.2300m: 1-1961: N.W. face-1989.*

*Cima Oggioni c.2200m: 1-1966.*

*--Cima Rovereto 2050m, Cima Barozzi 2050m, Cima Brescia 2050m: from Cima Oggioni a ridge runs N.E., with elevations of diminishing importance: 1-1966, all.*

*--Other points on same ridge: 1-1966, solo.*

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### **Península Muñoz Gamero (and other southerly peaks)**

The Península Muñoz Gamero lies south of the Cordillera Sarmiento (the southern extremity of the H.P.S.) and in its north-west corner lies Mount Burney. The Península is joined to the mainland on the east by two tiny necks of land known as the Paso del Indio, which permit portage of light boats between Seno Obstruction and Seno Skyring. In 1962 Eric Shipton and two friends were the first to investigate Mount Burney, about which they knew nothing except its geographical position and the fact that the rough air survey showed a system of inter-connected lakes which extended from the Paso del Indio to a point approximately twenty kilometres south of the peak. Having reached this point Mount Burney was revealed as a broken massif of peaks and ridges, heavily glaciated and dominated by a sharp white fang, instead of the simple volcanic cone which had been expected. Further inspection convinced Shipton that at least a month would be needed to make even a cursory exploration of Mount Burney and the surrounding country. This he accomplished the following year with Jack Ewer and John Earle. With the advantage of the previous reconnaissance the group reached the peak in eight days. They made a complete tour of the mountain lasting sixteen days but the atrocious weather constantly obscured the upper part.

In February 1973 Eric Shipton, Roger Perry and Peter Radcliffe were landed on the coast of the Península, due west of Mount Burney. After working their way through dense forest and swamp land they established themselves at a height of 600 metres on a western spur. Their first and second attempts were frustrated by wind and mist, but eventually they reached the crater rim, crowned by a crescent of spectacular spires, on the afternoon of a still and cloudless day. They returned to the coast via the north glacier where they were picked up by helicopter.

In November 1974 American Jack Miller and three friends sailed halfway up Canal Gajardo, a long narrow sea channel which connects Seno Skyring with Magellan's Strait in order to attempt the small ice-cap known as Gran Campo Nevado. This approach had been examined the year before by John Ridgway's party who eventually got to the summit plateau from the north-west. Miller worked out an intricate route to the ice-cap of this great mesa-like mountain and the group marched ten kilometres to what appeared to be the highest point, which they called 'Triad'. A year later Miller led a

commercially organized expedition to the peaks on the shores of Seno Skyring, making several first ascents. At the end of that trip he went off to explore and climb in the Cordillera Sarmiento.

**Peak List**

*Monte Burney 1768m: crater with jagged rim: 1-1973 from W., W. ridge.*

*Gran Campo Nevado: small ice-cap:*

-- '*Triad Peak*' c.1524m: 1-1974

*Mountains around Seno Skyring:*

--*Mount Misery:*

--*Cerro Volcàn c.1500m: 1-1975.*

--*Cerro 1° de Septiembre 1554m: 1-1975.*

--*Cerro 'Rhyme and Reason' c.1800m: 1-1975.*

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