

EXPEDITIONS

CORDILLERA DEL PAINE. The Cordillera del Paine is a mountain range on the south-eastern side of the Patagonian Ice-Cap, some 200 miles north of the Magellan Straits. The eastern flank of the range is approachable by a rough road from Punta Arenas. The Paine massif, rising to 10,000 ft., is sharply bounded from the surrounding country, the Rio Paine flowing along the northern and eastern flanks until it turns west into the fjord of Lago Nordenskjold (300 ft. above sea level), which forms the southern boundary. The western boundary is formed by the Glaciar Grey and Lago Grey, the latter linking up with the out-flow of Lago Nordenskjold.

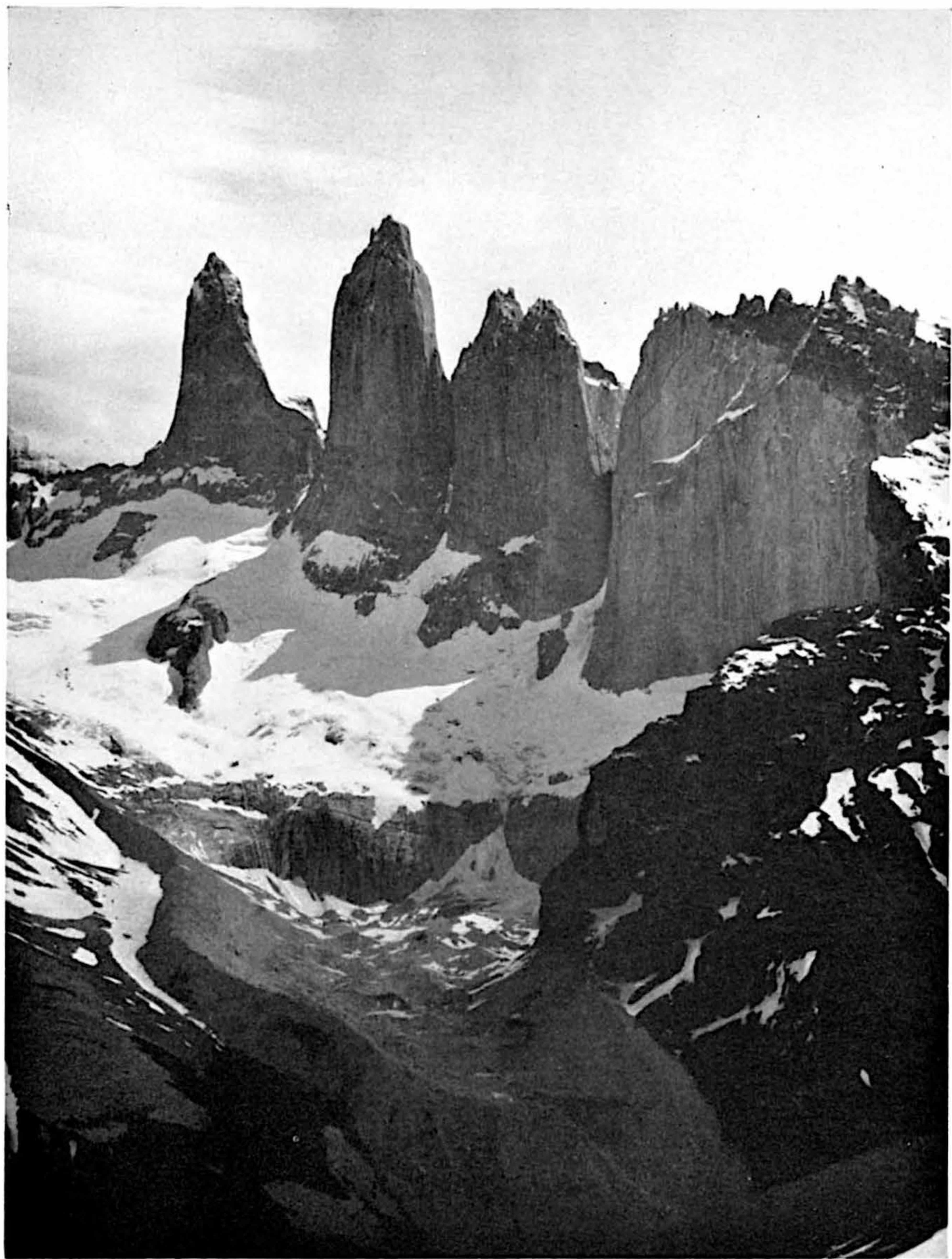
An expedition under the late P. C. Henry left England in the early autumn of 1960 and was joined at Punta Arenas by a number of Chilean military personnel, and throughout had much help and encouragement from the Chilean authorities. The main delays to their activities were due to difficulties at London Docks, which held up stores and equipment. Base Camp, however, was pitched in November, and Camp 1 in the valley of the Rio Ascensio, from which, in December, the eastern cwm was visited and the col between the South and Central Towers of the Paine group was reached. A few days later (December 8) the northern cwm was reconnoitred. Weather and other difficulties prevented the establishment of Camp 2 until January 13. Throughout this month and February several efforts were made on the South Tower, in vain; the highest peak of the Trident Group, however, was climbed on January 22.

Camps 3 and 4 were set up in February in the western cwm, and in view of incessant bad weather round the Paine group, attention was directed to the Cuernos, which, being lower, had better weather conditions. On the 19th, however, the leader, P. C. Henry, whilst transporting equipment by boat on Lago Nordenskjold, was capsized in a storm and drowned. By the time a search was finished, to say nothing of the completion of the expedition's survey and other work, the party had to leave the area on their way home.

From the mountaineering angle, there is much yet to be done in this region, but the climate will always be a major factor militating against success. It is understood that some of the members of this expedition hope to revisit the area in the near future.

PATAGONIA. Members of the Irish Universities Andean Expedition are reported to have made the first ascent of the Aiguille Poincenot¹ after several unsuccessful attempts. Further details are lacking.

¹ For photographs of the Aiguille Poincenot see *Alpinisme*, 1952, pp. 43-4.



Photo, S. R. G. Bray, South Patagonia Survey Expedition, 1960]

THE PAINE GROUP, CORDILLERA DEL PAINE (SOUTH PATAGONIA).

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KEY

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|----|---------------|------|----------------------|--|---------|
| | RIVER | | LAKE | | GLACIER |
| | RIDGE | | PEAK | | |
| pg | Paine Grande | 1-4 | Camps | | |
| pc | Paine Chico | A, B | Bivouacs | | |
| st | South Tower | r | Estancia Cerro Paine | | |
| ct | Central Tower | b | Black Peak | | |
| nt | North Towers | cs | Corner-stone | | |
| c | Cuerno | bg | Ben Grizzly | | |
| c | Cuerno Chico | | | | |
| f | Fortress | | | | |
| s | Shield | | | | |
| t | Trident | | | | |
| rp | Rhumbo Peak | | | | |

SCALE 0 1 2 3 Miles



This remarkable aiguille, 3,036 m. in height, is a near neighbour of FitzRoy and was named after Jacques Poincenot, a member of the French expedition which made the first ascent of FitzRoy in 1952. He was drowned while endeavouring to cross the Rio FitzRoy during the approach march to the foot of the mountain.

CAUCASUS. A party of fifteen Polish climbers was in the Caucasus from August 7 to 26 last year. Favoured by excellent weather, with only one wet day, they accomplished sixteen ascents, among them:

DONGUZ-ORUN (4,468 m.). Z. Jurkowski, J. Krajski, A. Nowacki. Second ascent of the North face by Kachiani and Chergiani's route. Grade Vb. Twenty-four hours' climbing time and one bivouac.

PIK SHCHUROVSKY (4,259 m.). K. Berbeka, J. Michalski. Second ascent of the North-east face by Abalakov's route. Grade Vb. The climb was accomplished in one day.²

SHCHELDA (4,279 m.). K. and R. Berbeka, M. Gryczyński, J. Michalski. The third Western peak by the North face buttress. Grade Vb.

ULLU-TAU-CHANA (4,363 m.). M. Baranowski, H. Bednarek, Z. Rubinowski, R. Zawadzki. By the left-hand buttress of the North face.³ Grade Vb.

ULLU-KARA-TAU (4,302 m.). Same party. By the left part of the North face. Grade Va.

Members of the expedition also climbed Elbruz.⁴

CORSICA. *La Montagne et Alpinisme* (December, 1961, p. 157) reports, with a good photograph showing the route, the first ascent of the North-west face of Paglia Orba by W. Hertrampf, W. Kaah and G. Ross on September 13, 1961. The climb (600 m., E.D.) is described as the hardest so far made in Corsica.

MONT BLANC. Frêne face. The first ascent of a route to the right of the North Pillar was made on September 21, 1961, by W. Bonatti and C. Zapelli. This route lies on the rather indefinite face between the Pillars and the Peuterey arête.⁵

² The first ascent was made on August 30–September 2, 1953. See *Journal of S.S.A.F.*, no. 7, p. 117. For Abalakov's own account of the climb see *Les Alpes*, 1959, p. 153.

³ The first ascent of the North face was made by a party of Leningrad alpinists in 1946. The climb took several days.

⁴ We are indebted to M. Boleslaw Chwaściński for the information contained in the above note. He reports that the Tatra, as every year, were overcrowded by young climbers and that several all-women ropes achieved some of the most difficult routes.

⁵ Illustration, *La Montagne et Alpinisme*, February, 1962, p. 192.

Brenva face, Route Major. Ascended on August 5, 1961, by B. Annette and A. G. Smythe; 8½ hours from Col de la Fourche. Mr. Smythe writes: 'This climb was in good condition, with a firm crust of snow on the higher ice-ridges, enabling us to move together almost continuously. The highest rock island was icy, however, and the Grade III chimney round on the right was the best bet. The hardest part of the climb was finding a safe route through the séracs at the top, and the way we took was a seventy-foot ascending traverse across an ice-wall inclined at about seventy degrees.'