COMUNITÀ MONTANA
LARIO ORIENTALE
VALLE SAN MARTINO

Comune di Mandello del Lario

50 YEARS AGO THE GREAT FEAT OF LECCO MOUNTAINEERING ON THE WEST FACE OF CERRO TORRE

Cerro Torre is located in Argentina, in the Patagonian area, bordering Tierra del Fuego to the south, the Pacific Ocean (Chile) to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.
It has been called many things: Stone Scream, Wind Tower, World Bolt, Petrified Flame, etc. to underline the mountaineering absurdity of any approach by man.
Leading the Lecco mountaineering expedition of the Ragni della Grignetta, in the southern summer between 1973 and '74, was the thirty-three-year-old Casimiro Ferrari, fresh from the previous expedition in 1970. With him were Pierlorenzo Purchasepace, Pino Negri, Mario Conti, Daniele Chiappa, Gigi Alippi, Claudio Corti, Angelo Zoia, Giuseppe Lafranconi, Ernesto Panzeri, the cinematographer Mimmo Lanzetta and the doctor Sandro Liati.
The group left Italy on 17 November 1973 and reached Rio Gallegos (in the province of Santa Cruz) after about two days of flight. A few days later, after having traveled over 400 kilometers of pampas, they reach the Alvorsen estancia (the last inhabited area of that remote land on the banks of Lake Viedma). From that point the circumnavigation of the mountain begins with all the materials transported on the shoulders or towed by self-built sleds.
It takes them around 40 days to reach the base of Cerro Torre, carrying food, equipment and climbing materials along a route of about fifty kilometres, ready to besiege the mountain.
The peak "only" reaches 3128 metres, but the west face of the Torre rises from the Viedma glacier to an altitude of 1300 meters and rises steeply and vertically for 1800 meters to the top.
Another peculiarity not to be forgotten is the atmospheric turbulence of that area, constantly battered by storms and the terrible humid wind coming from the west which cools as it travels along the large glacier and discharges the humidity collected from the Pacific Ocean onto the peaks, covering them with a armor of ice crystals.
The Spiders attack the mountain on December 23rd and soon reach the Hill of Hope. On Boxing Day, under the raging of strong storms, they touch the shoulder of the Elmo in the center of the wall.
The Spiders' attacks follow one another continuously even if they are always beaten by the storm and the very strong Patagonian wind.
In the first days of the new year they realize that the food is not enough. The expedition leader decides that some of the climbers will have to give up, to give at least two teams the chance to resist for a few more days and attempt the summit.
Four remain on the mountain: Casimiro Ferrari "Miro", Mariolino Conti "Zenin", Giuseppe Negri "Pino" and Daniele Chiappa "Ciapin". It will be up to them to resist and attempt the final assault.
Unexpectedly, on January 13, 1974, a break in the strong storms gave the four Ragni the space of about ten hours to overcome the "key passage" that leads to the first shoulder. After a series of difficult spurs of spongy ice and dizzying overhangs, at 5.45pm they reach the summit, conquering what many think is the most beautiful and most difficult mountain in the world.

THE REMOTE WESTERN SLOPE OF CERRO TORRE, SEEN FROM THE HIELO CONTINENTAL, WITH THE GRANDEUR OF THE SPACES. FROM RIGHT TO LEFT: IN THE AMPHITHEATER OF THE CIRCO DE LOS ALTARES THE CERRO TORRE RISES ABOVE THE TORRE EGGER, PUNTA HERRON, CERRO STANDHARDT, AGUJA BIFIDA AND AGUJA CUADRO DESOS.

Archivio MOdiSCA (MOntagne di SCAtti)
Comunità Montana Lario Orientale Valle San Martino

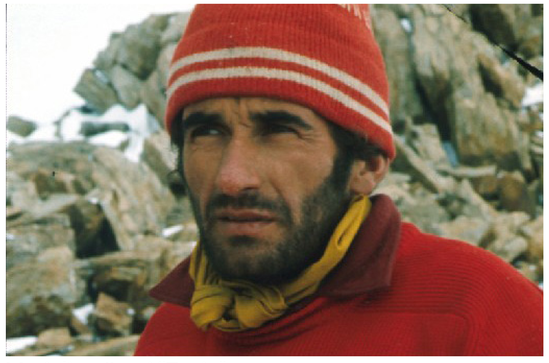
COMUNITÀ MONTANA
LARIO ORIENTALE
VALLE SAN MARTINO

Comune di Mandello del Lario

THE MOUNTAINEERS OF THE RAGNI GROUP WHO MADE UP THE "CITTÀ DI LECCO" EXPEDITION. STANDING FROM LEFT: GIGI ALIPPI, GIUSEPPE LANFRANCONI, PIERLORENZO ACQUISTAPACE, PINO NEGRI, SANDRO LIATI, ERNESTO PANZERI, MIMMO LANZETTA. KNEELING FROM LEFT: MARIO CONTI, DANIELE CHIAPPA, CLAUDIO CORTI, CASIMIRO FERRARI, ANGELO ZOIA.

Casimiro Ferrari "Miro"

Daniele Chiappa "Ciapin"



Mariolino Conti "Zenin"

Giuseppe Negri "Pino"

Archivio MOdiSCA (MOntagne di SCAtti)
Comunità Montana Lario Orientale Valle San Martino

COMUNITÀ MONTANA
LARIO ORIENTALE
VALLE SAN MARTINO

Comune di Mandello del Lario

ON 13 JANUARY 1974, AFTER MANY ATTEMPTS WITH WORLD-CLASS PROTAGONISTS, FOUR CLIMBERS FROM THE RAGNI GROUP REACHED THE SUMMIT OF CERRO TORRE. THE OPEN ROUTE, WHICH DEVELOPS ALONG THE DIFFICULT AND TORMENTED WESTERN SIDE, IS AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT UNDERTAKINGS IN THE HISTORY OF MOUNTAINEERING. AT 5.45PM, ENVELOPED IN THE BLIZZARD, CASIMIRO FERRARI AND MARIO CONTI SET FOOT ON THE END OF THE SUMMIT MUSHROOM, FOLLOWED BY DANIELE CHIAPPA AND PINO NEGRI.

Daniele Chiappa, Pino Negri e Casimiro Ferrari

Pino Negri, Casimiro Ferrari e Mario Conti

Casimiro Ferrari “Miro”

Daniele Chiappa “Ciapin”

Mariolino Conti “Zenin”

Giuseppe Negri “Pino”

Archivio MOdiSCA (MOntagne di SCAtti)
Comunità Montana Lario Orientale Valle San Martino