



89/25

Leader: John Garner  
Hill Crest  
Clawthorpe  
Carnforth  
Lancs. LA6 1NX

## 1989-1990 SOUTH PATAGONIAN ICE-CAP EXPEDITION

*A Journey Through An Unexplored Region Of The  
Patagonian Ice-Cap.*

M.E.F. Reference No. 89/25

Summary Report for the Mount Everest Foundation of the 1989 - 1990 South Patagonian Ice Cap Expedition.

Expedition Members: John Garner, Andrew Dell, Bruce Jardine.

Contact Address: John Garner, Hill Crest, Clawthorpe, Carnforth, Lancs. LA6 1NX  
Tel 0524 781055

Objectives: Principal objective to make a return crossing of the South Patagonian Ice Cap between latitudes 51° 00'S and 51° 10'S  
To extend this to an exploration of the area dominated by the locally important summit of Cerro Mano del Diablo if prevailing conditions should permit, and to assess the possibility of a mountaineering ascent.  
To establish the feasibility of a new route onto the Ice Cap via Glacier Tyndall.

Dates: Overall Dates of Expedition October - December 1989  
( Return to UK February 1990 )

October 1st	Arrive Santiago Chile
October 19th	Overland & Sea transport to Torres del Paine National Park.
October 27th	Establish Base Camp E Side Tyndall Glacier 3 days access to this point, 3 further days to ferry loads to glacier.
October 31st	Camp 1 Tyndall Glacier
October 31 - Nov 13th	Ice Cap
Nov 13th - 18th	Retreat
Nov 24th - Dec 1st	Return to National Park, finally leaving the area December 2nd.
February 17th '90	Return UK

### General Description of Weather Conditions:

Fine and surprisingly calm weather prevailed during the time spent on access and the first two days on the glacier, though the Ice Cap remained covered in cloud. Subsequently with two brief exceptions of a couple of hours visibility was minimal to complete white out for the duration of the expedition. It was predominantly windy. Winds were strong to storm force. Snowfall was exceptionally heavy.

Several metres of snow fell during the course of the expedition. Blizzard conditions were the norm. Heavy snowfall and bad weather appeared to continue to the end of December.

Route Description:

Base camp was established on the East side of the Tyndall Glacier. Loads were ferried over easy ground to establish a gear dump on the glacier. The glacier provided good going for sledges, with few crevasses on the lower section, and at an easy angle. A steeper ramp with several large crevasses joins the glacier to the Ice Cap Plateau. The sledge route followed the east side of the glacier to the ramp gaining access to the plateau near the centre of the glacier. The route moved north then west to the western edge of the main ice cap in the latitude of Cerro Quijote.

Retreat:

The exceptionally heavy snowfall and constant spindrift experienced during the eight days at camp four on the ice cap, prevented digging out tent and sledges. Sledges with food and most climbing equipment were lost; the tent was eventually buried and uninhabitable resulting in retreat on the same route as original access. There was no noticeable improvement in the weather before the end of December, making a return and search for camp four untenable.

Estimated total cost:     £ 5,300

J. Garner

1-3-90