

I'm Jose Carlos Tamayo, a spanish climber who was in South Patagonia Icecap on 1.992 (from Jorge Montt Glacier to Paso del Viento) and on 1.993 (from Jorge Montt Glacier to Tyndall Glacier, crossing the Reichter Fault by helicopter) and also on 2.001 (from Exmouth Fiord to Upsala Glacier) and in relation with the allusions made by Pablo Besser in his confrontation with Borge Ousland concerning our expedition of 1.993 and his of 1.998/99 I want to specify:

- 1/ We never claim for any "first". In the only report (that I wrote myself) about the expedition (Desnivel Magacine N° 87 September/93) I was very clear " ... *The first? no, we weren't. We design that route by pleasure and for filming, without paying attention to the previous not the future crossings. I'm not going to give that crossing any adjective not any special importance. If somebody has the courage is the people who, as Juan Nahuel, live on such places all the year round.*"
- 2/ In the report that Rodrigo Fica sends to Desnivel Magacine on 10 February 1.999 he says textually: "*...At this point (Tyndall Glacier) we went to the South by the French Plateau, going over two cols. Between the first and the second we discovered that the Icecap stopped,We had to carry our sledges by hand about 100 meters over nunataks exposed by the retreat of the ice. After that, we went over the last col and went down to the Balmaceda Glacier.*" So his point of view is clear. I don't understand why now they say the Icecap ends at Balmaceda Glacier and not at this point. Perhaps is the same point Borge Ousland marks on the aerial photograph?.
- 3/ About support Pablo says: "*Before the expedition, we traveled on a Navy vessel, then carried food and equipement in our backpacks for 8 days (4 persons) and placed a cache*".

That is a lie. They had their store at sea level; on 14 December 1.998 they went down to the Fault Reichter and from a camp at a height of 700 meters, at the edge of Garcia Glacier; up to 22 December (8 days) they carried up their cache from the seashore (again from Rodrigo Fica's report).

- 4/ Their strategy was to throw sledges, unnecessary equipment, food, rubbish, etc. and go down with a rucksack each one and reach the deposit. There, they will find new sledges, new equipement, 300 meters fix rope, food, gas, etc.

If they need 8 days 4 persons to carry up the supplies, how big was the deposit? 800 Kgs at only 25 Kg per load/person/day? With such strategy they made not a supported crossing but two independent crossings.

- 5/ The South Patagonia Icecap has two diferent sections, separated by the Fault Reichter. To climb a mountain of 2.250 mtrs from a col at 1.300 mtrs. and then, to abseil a steep wall of 600 mtrs. is not the idea of an Ice Field.

For me, it would be better to talk about the Nort (San Valentín area), the Central (from Jorge Montt Glacier to Fault Reichter and Cerro Aguilera) and the South (from Fault Reichter and Mayo Glacier to Monblano and Tyndall Glaciers).

Even the Central and the South Icecaps should be crossed in a single unsupported trip as Borge Ousland and Thomas Ulrich had

showed. Others had tried to cross the North, Central and South ones without success. I suppose they will do it in the future, first supported and later unsupported.

- 6/ I do not agree with your point of view about the use of sails on this kind of crossings. Supported by the wind?. Every one chooses oneself equipment, deciding what is worth for the weight you carry and if useless you must transport it anyway . Sledges and skies are also support? GPS and communication systems also? (we didn't use them on 1.992).

For example when we cross from Exmouth Fiord to Estancia Cristina across Rokko Pass (coming from Puerto Eden and going to Puerto Santa Cruz) we decide to use snowshoes instead of skies (easy and light to carry in kayak), but we found that the small sails (not kites) that sometimes we used for navigation on the fiords or on Argentino Lake were also useful on the ice. And nobody benefits from the very same wind that stopped the chileans. Or it is good on the back for all or it is bad on the face for all.

Since the Shipton age, with piramidal tents of 27 Kgs or Leo Dickinson on 1.974, using a parachute as a kite, many things and many equipment have changed and the chileans know about sails. Minimun, since they helped Arved Fuchs on 1.995.

Only to remember to everybody something I wrote on 1.993 in Desnivel's report: *"about waste: The suggestion is obligatory .Take out all the rubbish and all the equipment you bring into the Icecap, trying not to leave marks of your passage"*. This has not change.

- 7/ About media, Pablo saids: *"We live in a age when media owns the power to kill the truth, ... and the best example is the spanish expedition in 1.993. ... their media power was so consolidated that it took 10 years of efforts to convince people they didn't do it."*

Pablo Besser is not fighting with us for 10 years, nor convincing people we didn't do something we don't claim. He and Rodrigo Fica have been trying to discredit our expedition for the last four and half years (since they finished their crossing) just to exalt theirs.

In our age, anybody can libel and do it again and again, and this becomes reliability and nobody pays attention to compare the original and reliable sources. For example, in the Annals of Patagonia Institute, Magallanes University, Volume 29 Year 2.001 about Southern Patagonia Icefield : Its History, pages 70 and 71, (It looks a very serious work !!!!) they explain our 1.993 expedition as: *"Full supported style, with porters, change of members and use of helicopters..."* (pay attention to the plural)... *"They went fast because they carried light weight on their sledges"* (30 days food instead 45 of the chileans, but 40 Kgs of extra weigth for filming equipment including 1 Arriflex SR camera, 1 Bolieu camera, 1 cinema tripode, batterys, solar panels, accessorys and many rolls of 100 mtrs and 30 mtrs of 16 mm film; and we also spend a lot of time recording the film) ... *"They went out of the ice for 12 days across Paso del Viento where they rested"* (we were 9 days out of the ice on Paso del

Viento Hut, without crossing the Pass, some days carrying supplies to the glacier and the last 5 days waiting for the rain to stop, before we were allowed to leave the flooded hut, with water up to the knees)"...*There 2 persons lelf the traverse*" (right, the director and the cameramen; this is not a change of members, so, why the falsehood at the beginning if they knew the truth?) And so and so for.

And it's sad that they don't write this by ignorance, because they refer this information to my report on Desnivel Magacine !! (and chileans also speak spanish). Later on, somebody will copy this information and will add whatever they want and, in a few years time, the helicopter will be carried our rucksacks all the way from camp to camp.

Yes, yes, we did used a deposit in Paso del Viento Hut A deposit we didn't carried ourselves that year (I carried it myself in1992 and we didn't used it that year because we lelf the traverse at this point); and we did used a helicopter to cross the Fault Reicher (we were lucky because at that time there was an helicopter at Perito Moreno Glacier and we contacted with our friends outside with a VHF radio from the camp near the fault, not in the previous Italian Plateau or in the Japanis Plateau, and after 8 days stucked in that camp and exploring the area was clear we had no chances to cross the fault, and we decided to use the helicopter in order to follow exploring) and I never regreted it.

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