

Tempo fa ho trovato sul sito di High Mountain il seguente testo. Non sono per niente certo sulla fonte. Cito High Mountain soltanto perché nel titolo del documento con il quale registrai il testo è High Mountain Info November 199. Oggi, 02.10.11, non ho trovato alcun riscontro nel web. Sta di fatto che il testo sio riferisce alla nostra vicenda.

lorenzo merlo

da: www.highmountain.com?

Eldorado

Controversy still rages over the routes completed in 1994 by the Italian Victory Project team (see INFOs 153 and 156). Two of these routes Tullio (550m, 14 pitches: VIII-(6c), VII (6b) obl) and the adjacent X and X (nine pitches: VIII (6c+), VII (6b) obl: 350m to the junction with the last five pitches of Tullio or other existing routes) were intertwined amongst existing routes such as the Remy brothers' Gletscherweiss, with belay bolts now in the middle of Gletscherweiss's pitches and some protection bolts a metre or less from existing bolts. However, the Italian climbers had apparently started work on both their projected routes before the existence of Gletscherweiss in 1993.

Local climbers from Meiringen, who were now seemingly unable to follow the correct line of their chosen route due to the proliferation of confusing fixed gear, decided to remove the bolts they thought were unnecessary; or according to the Italians, sabotage the route. Chopping bolts is not a practice one immediately associates with the Swiss so the feeling must have been widespread and strong, a feeling perhaps shared by Jurg von Känel, who in his 1996 edition of Schweiz Plaisir refused to publish the descriptions. Lorenzo Merlo and several fellow climbers from the Victory Project Team returned in the summer of '96 and repaired the 'damage'.

Not previously reported is the group's ascent of a third route named Cenerino Blues, which takes the right side of the compact rounded buttress in the centre of the dome originally climbed by the Remy's 6b route, Metal Hurlant (see photo in INFO 143).

The 16 pitch, 500m high Italian line starts round to the right of the foot of the pillar (and the start of Metal Hurlant) directly below the summit of the dome, climbs sustained slabs to the top of the buttress where it crosses Metal Hurlant, then continues out left below a prominent series of overlaps before taking a more direct line to the top. Apart from the last pitch, all are VI-/VI or above with the crux at IX-(F7b). Seventy two, 8mm bolts protect the route but with 32 of these on the belays, most of the protection comes from Friends (up to No.3) and small wires/RPs. Used for aid on the crux sections, the bolts allow the climb to be completed at VII (F6b) maximum. The route was created from the ground up by Franco Genolini, Lorenzo and Stefano Merlo, plus Giovanni Sicola during 1994 and then repeated in six and a half hours on the 2nd November of the same year by Lorenzo Merlo and Genolini. Presumably the Swiss have left this one alone?