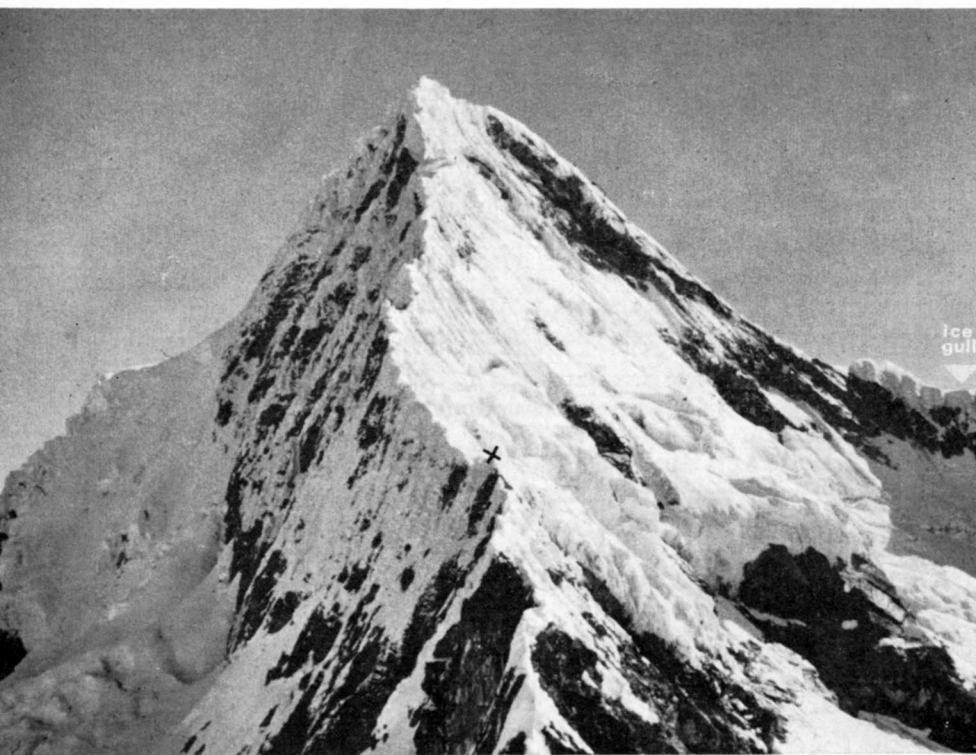


El Capitan, East buttress, 23 July. Grade IV, 5.10. With R. Robbins, S. Brown.  
 Lower Cathedral Rock, East face direct. 24 July. Grade 5.10. With R. Robbins.  
 Lost Arrow Chimney. 27–28 July (article, p 92).

Royal Arches, Serenity Crack. Second ascent. With R. Robbins.

Sentinel Rock, North face, Steck/Salathe route. 3 September. Grade V, 5.9.  
 With R. Robbins.

**Nose of el Capitan** Mick Burke did the first British ascent on 26–30 June 1968 (article, p 125).



116 *Alpamayo from the east* The South ridge, route of the first two ascents, is on the left; the East ridge is in the middle, dividing light from shade ('x' marks the highest point reached by the 1968 expedition); the North ridge, the 1968 expedition's route of ascent, is on the right. See also *A.J.* 69. [35] for view of East ridge in profile. Photo: Nick von Tunzelmann

# South America<sup>1</sup>

## Ecuador

**Chimborazo** First ascent of North ridge by an American party on 6–11 August 1968.

## Peru

### CORDILLERA BLANCA

**Summary, 1968** The highest summit of this range, Nevado Huascarán, was ascended at least three times, by American, Japanese and Chilian parties, but the main objectives were the South face of Huandoy Sur (20,210 ft) and some tough, unclimbed peaks. The almost vertical South face of Huandoy Sur repulsed two expeditions, one British (see below) and one Argentinian. The latter (Rafael Sánchez and José L. Fonrouge) subsequently made the third ascent of this peak, via the American route of 1964. A Japanese expedition from the Tokyo Dental College made the first ascent of the difficult peak of Nevado Aquilpo 18,242 ft, by the East face on 12 July (S. Matsushima, S. Asanami, Y. Yoda, K. Yamaguchi); this mountain had been attempted previously by a South African party in 1965. Another Japanese party (Aichiken Mountaineering Association), following their ascents of Huascarán, did the Central ridge of Nevado Pisco (18,950 ft) on 15 September. An American expedition, led by H. Adams Carter explored the eastern slopes of the Cordillera Blanca, attempting two high unclimbed peaks each of Nevado Chinchey, but failed to find safe routes on them. Two lesser peaks, Nevado Ango and a 5177 m snow peak, were ascended for the first time. A Swiss party was active in the Ishinca valley (article p 39).

**Alpamayo, Tayapampa and attempt on Chopicalqui, 1968** Canadian-New Zealand Expedition (Dave Drake, Gerald Holdsworth, Lisle Irwin, Bruce Jenkinson, John Ricker (leader) Nick von Tunzelmann). From Lima we went by bus to Pomabamba, on the north-east side of the range, and only recently opened to motor traffic, and moved by *burros* thereafter to our Base Camp almost alongside Pucacocha, in the Quebrada Tayapampa. We hoped to use this northerly approach to reach the unclimbed and impressively serrated East ridge of Alpamayo [116], first attempted by the 1964 New Zealand

<sup>1</sup> Except where otherwise stated, we are indebted to H. Adams Carter and Eveiol Echevarria C. for the majority of this information.

Andean Expedition when Harold Jacobs and Ed. Cotter spent a day traversing along the ridge, but in trying to descend directly to the glacier in the evening, Jacobs slipped and broke his leg, thus necessitating a major rescue operation (*A.Ĵ.* 69. 224). This appears to be the complete history of the ridge until our attempt. Jacobs and Cotter had approached the ridge from the south (the Quebrada Arhuei, a tributary of the Santa Cruz) and in fact, owing to inaccuracies in the Kinzl-Schneider map, had mistaken Alpamayo for Quitaraju (see note below).

From our base at approximately 15,000 ft, we carried to a prominent col at the foot of Alpamayo's East ridge, through an intermediate camp on a moraine wall. Ropes had to be fixed up the rock bluffs immediately above this moraine camp because of awkward outward-sloping holds. Above the bluffs the route climbed up a névé to a schrund, then 150 ft of steepish front-pointing led to the col at 17,100 ft. This col had previously been crossed by Nelson and Mackay of the 1964 expedition, and a month or so before us by a Peruvian party. A good camp site was located on the edge of a schrund on the far side. Two weeks much interrupted by bad weather were spent finding and fixing a safe route along the ridge, generally beneath the fragile line of double cornices. This took us scarcely one-third of the way to the summit, and with the unsettled weather and the fact that the greatest difficulties still lay ahead, while traverses on to either face looked to be menaced by stone-fall, we decided to abandon the East ridge, and revert to the North ridge. The well-known Franco-Belgian party of 1951 had used this ridge to gain the lower North summit, and in 1966 a British group completed the ascent to the high peak (*A.Ĵ.* 72. 18). A German party followed the British route later in the same season, and also climbed the North-west ridge.

The camp we had established on the eastern col was shifted across the glacier to be set up in a filled-in crevasse at the foot of a steep wall of mixed snow, ice and rock leading up to the North ridge. Access to the ridge, which was gained lower down than by the British, who had come from the other (western) side, was by a snow slope and a treacherous ice gully [116]. On 21 July, from the glacier camp at about 17,450 ft, Jenkinson, Holdsworth, Drake and Irwin climbed in one nineteen-hour day to the North peak and returned, descending the wall in the dark. It was obvious that the main summit was beyond easy reach of this camp, so a higher camp was packed in to the site of the British Camp II, at the very foot of the North ridge. On 24 July, Ricker and von Tunzelmann, favoured by a cold wind ensuring firm snow, went to the main summit and returned before dark. A brief period of fine weather followed during which the same pair climbed Tayapampa (*A.A.Ĵ.* 1968, 316), a second ascent by skirting around under Nevado Jancarurish from the glacier camp,

and made the first ascent of a lesser snow peak, *c.* 18,100 ft (lying between Alpamayo and Pucahirca Sur), from the moraine camp. Meanwhile, on the day that the high peak of Alpamayo was climbed, Drake had slipped on a small ice slope on the *névé* while packing and cut his arm, requiring evacuation to Pomabamba and ultimately Huaraz. With our time in the Tayapampa region expired, three of the party crossed the East ridge col and followed the Quebrada Santa Cruz out to Caras and Huaraz.

After a week of reorganisation, the party trekked into the Quebrada Uta from Carhuaz to attempt the virgin East and South-east ridges of Chopicalqui. Base Camp was established near the tree-line at about 14,000 ft. The East ridge was abandoned on close inspection, and would involve a strong team in a major undertaking. However, the virgin peak at the foot of this ridge (*c.* 18,400 ft) was climbed by Drake and Holdsworth on a spare afternoon. By contrast, the South-east ridge looked quite reasonable, and two camps put us right at the start of the difficulties, around 17,900 ft. Ropes were fixed up the first part of the ridge and generous steps cut. Unfortunately the arrival of the rainy season on 16 August, unexpectedly early, prevented an ascent when we were in quite a good position (further up the South-east ridge joins the South-west and normal route on the mountain). Much food and gear had to be left behind in our hasty withdrawal.

**Nick von Tunzelmann**

**Heights in Alpamayo region** During our 1968 expedition (see above) Holdsworth made a theodolite survey while Ricker worked with prismatic compass and altimeter. Corrected altimeter heights for Alpamayo and Tayapampa were 19,610 ft and 18,700 ft respectively. Heights by theodolite, in which we place more confidence, were 5947 m (19,510 ft) and 5675 m (18,619 ft). The former agrees well with Schneider's estimate of 5950 m and regrettably confirms the doubts expressed as long ago as 1962 (*A.A.ŷ.* 1962. 168) that Alpamayo is not a twenty-thousander. Pucahirca Norte was estimated by theodolite as 6045 m, and Pucahirca Sur as 6040 m. Holdsworth is preparing a map of the Quebrada Tayapampa since existing maps are hopelessly astray for this area.

**Nick von Tunzelmann**

**Relationship of Quitaraju, Alpamayo, and Quebradas Tayapampa and Santa Cruz** Although not as high as its neighbours, Quitaraju and Pucahirca, Alpamayo is geographically the key to the section of the Cordillera Blanca north of the Quebrada Santa Cruz. The famous West and North-west faces (which gave rise to the description 'the most beautiful mountain in the world') both drain into the Q. Alpamayo, which lower down becomes the Quebrada de los Cedros, a tributary of the Rio Santa. These faces are bounded by the



North ridge, connecting to Jancarurish, Tayapampa, and the extreme north of the Cordillera; and by the South ridge which drops steeply to a saddle before rising again as the East ridge of Quitaraju. Quitaraju is thus South-west of Alpamayo and the sketch-map in *A. J.* 69. 92 is incorrect on this point. Goody's sketch map in *A.A.J.* 1967, 320 is accurate, to the best of my knowledge, but does not extend to the valley system east of Alpamayo. In fact the North-east face of Alpamayo falls into the Quebrada Tayapampa; the East ridge of our attempt separates this face from the South-east wall, which is drained by the Arhuei tributary of the Q. Santa Cruz. These observations will be given definition and further clarification in the forthcoming map mentioned above.

**Nick von Tunzelmann**

**South face of Huandoy, 1968** British Expedition: Dave Bathgate, Ian MacEacheran, Brian W. Robertson, Don Whillans (leader). We left Huaras on the morning of 22 June and established Base Camp that evening in the Quebrada Llanganuco, between two lakes at 14,000 ft. Whillans and Bathgate spent the next two days organising the camp while Robertson and MacEacheran reconnoitred a route to the foot of the South face, plainly visible from the camp. The following ten days were spent in establishing two more camps. Camp 1 was four hours away on the moraine at an altitude of *c.* 17,000 ft. Camp 2 was a snow cave placed just below the South face and at *c.* 18,000 ft. Whillans and MacEacheran moved into the snow cave on 2 July.

The chosen line of attack was via a steep snow ramp which sloped at an average angle of  $45^{\circ}$  and was estimated to be 1500 ft in length. The ramp terminated in the centre of the face where the main difficulties of the climb would begin. It was decided that the entire length of the ramp should be fixed with rope and this operation was completed on 11 July. Two teams, Whillans and MacEacheran forming one, and Bathgate and Robertson the other, alternated in the work. On 12 July, everyone moved up to the top of the snow ramp, and while Bathgate and Robertson started work on a rock and ice traverse, Whillans and MacEacheran established a bivouac site at 19,700 ft and then returned to the snow cave leaving the climbing party to occupy the bivouac.

Three possible routes presented themselves from the top of the ramp. The first, to the right, was discarded immediately because of the bad rock which was continuously overhanging. The second in the centre, which started from the highest point on the ramp, was the route eventually chosen. The third possibility, however, was probably the best of the three but began some 400 ft to the left of the ramp and looked extremely long and devious. All three routes entailed climbing on bad rock which in the main was either vertical or overhanging and it was obvious that the climbing between 19,700 ft and 20,100 ft



117 *The South face of Huandoy Sur showing the route of the 1968 British expedition, and the highest point reached. See also A.J. 69. [31-2] for side view. Photo: H. W. Kendall*

was going to be the crux of the whole climb. The plan was that Bathgate and Robertson should spend the next two days working on the problem and returning to the bivouac site each night. Circumstances caused it to be abandoned. The day after descending to the snow cave, I returned to Base Camp to collect cigarettes and any mail. MacEacheran remained in visual and radio contact with Bathgate and Robertson on the face. At the Base Camp, I found a lonely camp-guard, worried because he had seen no one for two weeks. I sent him down the valley to buy more cigarettes and then waited for his return. Two days later I returned to the snow cave to find that the decision to abandon the climb had been made, and that the fixed ropes were being removed from the ramp. The rock traverse above the ramp had proved unjustifiably dangerous.

Our attention now turned to the scientific part of the programme which involved collecting plants and seeds for Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens. We collected fifty different species of flora growing between 14,000 and 17,000 ft, and captured numerous specimens of the drosophila fruit fly for use in the laboratories of the Zoology Department of Edinburgh University.

Our departure from the Llanganuco valley on 19 July, coincided with the arrival of a ten-man Argentinian expedition which intended to do the same



118 and 119 *On the South face of Huadoy Sur*

climb. Six days later, in Lima, we heard that they had abandoned their original plans after several days observation of the face.

In Lima we separated, Robertson and MacEacheran destined for California where they intended to spend several weeks in the Yosemite Valley, and Bathgate and I to return to Britain by way of the Rio Huallaga and the River Amazon.

Our overall conclusions were: (1) any future party should be equipped with a minimum of 2,500 ft of fixed rope; (2) a team of six climbers would be a minimum sized party; (3) two weeks of moderate load carrying from the Base Camp to the foot of the face would serve as an acclimatisation period for the extreme difficulties to be faced at such a high altitude; and (4) a large area of very high-angled, bad rock at an altitude of over 19,500 ft makes it desirable to establish a reasonably comfortable and well-stocked camp at the top of the snow ramp (the average time taken from the snow cave to the top of the ramp via fixed ropes was three hours). We encountered the following conditions on the face: a negligible amount of sun, moderate stone fall, moderate fall of ice fragments, fairly constant spindrift which became severe after snowfall, moderately strong winds. There is a considerable danger of frost-bite—the

expedition had one case of blisters. During the 1968 season, the weather in the Cordillera Blanca was not good and as a result numerous parties failed on oft-climbed peaks. The effects of the weather on our own attempt on the South face was of little consequence; approximately three days out of the total climbing time were lost because the weather prevented any movement.

**Don Whillans**

#### CORDILLERA HUALLANCA

**First exploration of Minapata valley, 1968** The first known expedition to this little range, located between the Cordilleras Blanca and Huayhuash, was by a party of three Brazilians and three Italians, who placed a base camp in the Minapata valley, at the southern end of the range, and climbed Nevado Huallanca (17,946 ft), Nevado Burro (17,717 ft), Nevado Tunacancha (17,454 ft), Minapata (17,257 ft) and Tancan (16,972 ft). All these figures, obtained from altimeters, should be regarded as provisional, since only the northern extreme of the range has been mapped [see the Kinzl 1949 map of the Cordillera Blanca (southern part)].

#### CORDILLERA HUAYHUASH

**Yerupaja**, 21,765 ft, the highest peak of the range, which had already been climbed four times, received further ascents by a New Zealand party via the classic South-west ridge and by an American-British party via the North-east face (article p 7).

**Yerupaja: climbing history to date** As noted in my article on p 7, Yerupaja was climbed for the first time on 31 July 1950 by Harrah and Maxwell, and subsequently attempted nine times before the further ascents of 1966. The history of these various expeditions, as recorded in the *American Alpine Journal*, is briefly as follows.

*Austrian expedition, 1954.* Attempted Yerupaja early in July, but were defeated by an 'insurmountable ice barrier on the West (South-west?) ridge'.

*Argentinian expedition, 1958.* Climbed the 21,375 ft South Summit via the West wall (i.e. left side of the South-west ridge), A first ascent on 3 August with three camps.

*Mexican expedition, 1959.* Attempted the Main and South Summits by the

South-west ridge, mainly on the southern side. Two assaults were made, one was defeated through lack of pitons on the rock wall facing south, and the other by a thousand foot ice face below the South Summit.

*American expedition, 1963.* Leif Patterson and two other climbers attempted Yerupaja by the North-west spur, without tents or fixed ropes, and with only eight days' food. They retreated later to an ice-cave bivouac at 19,500 ft on their sixth day, having reached a point 20,500 ft on the spur.

*Scottish expedition, 1964.* Approaching from the north-east side of the range, they climbed a direct route on the North-east buttress to 17,000 ft. From Camp 2 the party turned back at 17,700 ft after a 20 ft section of artificial rock climb. The leader, Malcolm Slessor, considered the North-east spur of the East ridge to be the most practical route, which he described as 'capped by two ice roofs, and then at 19,500 ft the difficulties really commence: almost a mile of ice ridge with two enormous breaks. Yerupaja from this side remains a stupendous mountaineering problem'.

*Argentinian expedition, 1964.* Attempted Yerupaja on 17 June by the West face (?). They climbed to the col between the two summits, but were defeated on the summit ridge by a verglas coated rock wall with only 500 ft to go.

*Argentinian expedition, 1965.* Attempted Yerupaja by the new South-east face route, but had to give up 150 ft below the South Summit because of 'impossibly loose and dangerous snow conditions'. They had climbed the 3500 ft wall with an average slope of  $68^\circ$  in only two days.

*Swiss expedition, 1965.* Made a second ascent of the 21,375 ft South Summit on 22 June, by the South-west ridge. They found it 'impossible to continue to the Main Summit because of cornices'.

*Japanese expedition, 1965.* Approached the range from the north-east, and attempted the South Summit from the col between Siula and Yerupaja and the South-east ridge, where they gave up at 19,700 ft.

*Scottish expedition, 1966.* Attempted the North-east wall and East ridge routes, but were defeated at 20,250 ft immediately below the Eastern Summit ridge.

*Swiss expedition, 1966.* Attempted Yerupaja by the South ridge on 13 and 20 June, reaching the South Summit on each occasion. They were unable to continue to the Main Summit because of fragile cornices.

*American-Argentinian expedition, 1966.* From a camp on the glacier west of Yerupaja, Patterson and Peterek climbed the West face by a direct route with five bivouacs. They finished by the South Summit ridge after traversing to the col between the summits, to make the second ascent of the Main Summit. After a bivouac at the col they descended by way of the South Summit with members of South-west ridge party.

*American expedition, 1966.* Members of Patterson's party climbed by the South-west ridge to help their friends after the West face climb, and continued on 17 July to make the third ascent of the Main Summit, returning by the same route.

*Japanese expedition, 1966.* On 23 August three climbers reached the South Summit by the South-west ridge, and on the following day two completed the fourth ascent of the Main Summit, descending by the same route.

**David Adcock**

**Other ascents by New Zealand expedition, 1968** In addition to Yerupaja, we did the following other ascents in the period 17 May–28 July 1968.

Espolon Tam Sur	18,192 ft	12 July	Gallagher, Sheppard; Bates, Dingle
Huacrish Norte	16,952 ft	8 „	Bates, Dingle, Sheppard
		10 „	Gallagher
Jahua Este	16,522 ft	20 May	Adcock
		21 „	Barry
Jahua Sur	16,165 ft	20 „	Adcock
		21 „	Barry
Leowacanan	15,814 ft	22 July	Barry
		23 „	Adcock, Gallagher
Llamac	16,854 ft	24 „	Bates, Dingle
Llauche	17,058 ft	17 „	Bates, Dingle (SE-N traverse)
		17 „	Gallagher, Barry, R. and J. Brooks (N)
Mexico	16,611 ft	24 May	Adcock
		30 „	Gallagher
		3 June	Barry, R. and J. Brooks
Patarcocha	16,624 ft	24 May	Barry
		29 June	Adcock
Rasac Norte	17,215 ft	24 May	Brooks
Siulacocha Este	16,132 ft	22 July	Barry
Siulacocha Central	16,158 ft	22 „	Barry
Incachuain Norte	17,244 ft	16 „	Bates, Dingle

**David Adcock**

#### CORDILLERA RAURA

**Italian expedition, 1968** Located some 120 miles north of Lima this range was visited by a C.A.I. expedition led by Giuseppe Dionisi. They first tackled the unclimbed East spur of Yerupaja, but weather prevented success, so they transferred to this district, where they made the first ascents of Yarupa Norte

## Pumasillo group, 1968



120 *The Pumasillo group of the Cordillera Vilcabamba, Peru*, showing the activities of the 1968 New Zealand expedition. See *A.J.* 69. 43 for the 1963 map by D. A. Mackay on which this is based.





121 *Pumasillo, from the west* (near Pucapuca). Pointer indicates the highest point reached on the North ridge by the 1968 New Zealand expedition. This and following photos: Ken McNatty

(18,406 ft), Matador (c. 18,000 ft), Culi (17,422 ft), Calua (17,356 ft), Pucacalle (17,635 ft) and an unnamed tower of almost 17,000 ft, on a rock ridge. On 28 June, C. Rabbi and V. Lazzarino, of the same expedition, accomplished the fourth ascent of the difficult Yarupa (18,726 ft) by its West face and South ridge, a new route.

#### CORDILLERA VILCABAMBA

**Pumasillo area: New Zealand expedition, 1968** Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club: Dick Cowan, Peter Goodwin, Paul Green, Allen Higgins, John Lawrence (North Carolina; 8 June–2 July only), Bob McKerrow, Ken McNatty (leader) and Mac Riding. We established Base Camp on 2 June at about 14,500 ft in a valley north of the Pumasillo basin, known locally as the Rio Raccachacca. We had fine settled weather in June and July, but poor weather in August, when we left Base Camp on 20 August. For map see *A.J.* 69. 43. One of our main objectives was an attempt on the North ridge of Pumasillo and we established two camps on the North Pumasillo glacier, Camp I at 17,000 ft and Camp II at about 19,200 ft. We got onto the North ridge and traversed Pico Ccucho and Nevado Lazona. Lawrence and McKerrow reached a point less than 200 ft below the summit but were some 600 ft away in the distance. They were blocked by a huge gap in the ridge of several hundred feet and beyond there were an estimated five rock towers with huge overhanging snow caps, the final tower being the true summit. With very unstable south



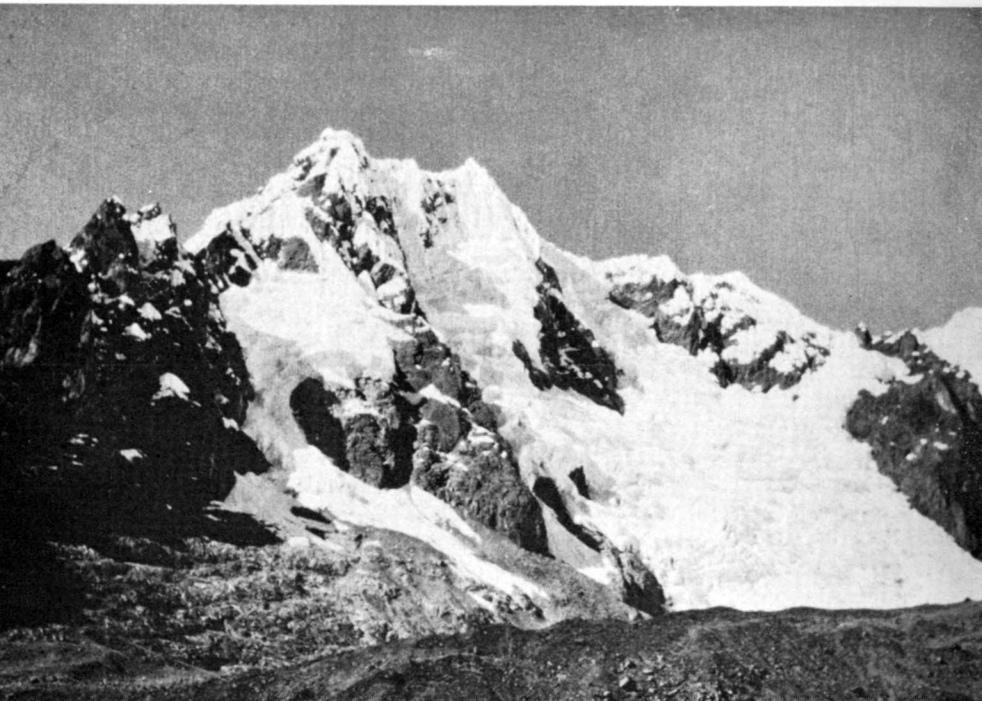


122 *Pumasillo: looking back down the North ridge, to Nevado Blanco la Aguja*



123 *View south-east from Ñu Ñus showing Torayoc on left (route of first ascent went up left-hand ridge) and Pumasillo behind Mitre on right.*

124 *Mellizos: North Peak on left, South Peak on right.*



125 *Nevado Blanco from Torayoc*. The route of ascent went up the South face of Tuttu Orcco (the wide glacier to the left of the main summit) along the ridge, over Tuttu Orcco (immediately in front of Nevado Blanco at the top of the major rock spur) and along the North (snow) ridge to Nevado Blanco.

facing snow on the approach to the gap we abandoned the attempt on 27 June on account of the risks involved. Might be possible with heavier snowfall than we experienced.

Our other climbs were as follows.

Cúpula*	6 June	First ascent, South ridge: McNatty, Green, McKerrow
c. 17,000 ft		
La Aguja*†	7 „	First ascent, South ridge: McNatty, Green, McKerrow
c. 17,500 ft		
Cima Rocallosa	6 „	1—Third ascent, West ridge: Riding, Cowan, Goodwin
16,810 ft	19 „	2—First ascent and traverse by East ridge: Lawrence, McKerrow
	15 July	3—Fourth ascent, West ridge: McNatty, Green
	13 August	4—Fifth ascent, West ridge: Higgins, Green
Tutu Orcco*†	13 June	First ascent, South face: Higgins, Cowan, McKerrow, Lawrence
c. 17,000 ft		
Torayoc*	16 „	1—First ascent North ridge: McNatty, Green, Riding, Goodwin
c. 18,000 ft	21 „	2—Second ascent North ridge: Lawrence, McKerrow
	15 July	3—First ascent and traverse by East face: Cowan, Goodwin
Mellizos	17 June	North Peak: 1—First ascent North face: Lawrence, McKerrow
c. 18,400 ft	19 „	2—First traverse and second ascent North face: Higgins, Cowan
	14 July	South Peak: 1—Third ascent, East ridge: McNatty, Green
	14 „	Low Peak: 1—Second ascent, East face: McNatty, Green
Ñu Ñus	19 June	First ascent to both East and West Peaks from the west: McNatty, Green, Goodwin, Riding
c. 16,500 ft		
Kaiko	21 „	1—First ascent and traverse by North ridge: McNatty, Green, Goodwin
c. 17,500 ft	15 July	2—Third ascent from the east: Higgins, McKerrow
Redondo	21 June	1—Third ascent, West ridge: McNatty, Green, Goodwin
c. 17,700 ft		



	15 July	2—Fourth ascent: McKerrow and Higgins
	31 „	3—First traverse and retraverse by East and South ridges (attempting South ridge of Torayoc): Higgins, Goodwin, Cowan
Pico Ccucho*†	26 June	First ascent, North face: Lawrence, McKerrow
c. 19,500 ft		
Nevado Lazona*†	26 „	First ascent, North ridge: Lawrence, McKerrow
c. 19,800 ft		
Nevado Reyerta*†	1 July	First ascent, East ridge: Cowan, Higgins
c. 16,500 ft		
Pacca Orcco*†	18 „	First ascent, West ridge: McNatty, Green, McKerrow
c. 16,800 ft		
Nevado Blanco	20 July	First ascent, North ridge: McNatty, Green, McKerrow
17,790 ft		
Pico Granito*†	26 July	First ascent, South face: Cowan, Goodwin, Higgins
c. 16,000 ft		
Nevado Copo de Nieve*†	3 August	First ascent, West ridge: Cowan, Goodwin
c. 19,200 ft		
Nevado Fortaleza*†	3 „	First ascent, East ridge: Cowan, Goodwin
c. 19,300 ft		

All heights should be regarded cautiously.

**Ken McNatty**

†Name to be officially approved.

\* First ascent of actual peak by any route.

**Salcantay, North face, 1968** In June an Austrian party made the first ascent of this face. Great difficulties were overcome in finding a way through the séracs and two bivouacs were needed. At their Base Camp the expedition erected a memorial to Fritz Kasperek, Heinrich Harrer's companion on the first ascent of the Eigerwand in 1938, who lost his life in the course of an attempt on Salcantay in 1954. (Source: *Der Bergsteiger*, November 1968.)

**Salcantay, South ridge, 1968** A Japanese group (Aichiken Mountaineering Association) did a new route on the South ridge, reaching the summit on 17 July, after twenty-five days on the mountain. It took five days to establish Camp I (5300 m) on the South ridge. After two days of snowfall climbing on the South ridge started on 7 July. It took three days to climb an 80 m ice-wall of over 70°. The party then descended a knife ridge (100 m), like the Chacaraju ridge, to establish Camp II (5600 m). Camp III was a snow hole at 5770 m. Summit party: Yukihiro Kato (leader), Hideo Kato, Noriaki Soga, Isao Asahi.

**Ichiro Yoshizawa**

**Soray (Humantay) South ridge, 1968** The same Japanese expedition did a new route by the South ridge, reaching the summit (5830 m) on 4 August, after sixteen days. Camp I was at 4950 m, and Camp II at 5350 m. Summit party: Y. Kato, N. Soga, Hitoo Makino, Hiroshi Yamamoto. They subsequently went to the Cordillera Blanca (see above).

**Ichiro Yoshizawa**

#### CORDILLERA URUBAMBA

**Irish expedition, 1968** Before leaving Dublin, we (S. Billane, E. Goulding, A. Ingram, M. Lunt, P. O'Leary (leader), P. McDermott, N. Rice) had decided to climb in Southern Peru, but we felt it wiser to wait until we arrived in Lima before making a firm choice of area. A chat with the newspapers there and a visit to Señor Morales at the Ministry of Education persuaded us that the Cordillera Urubamba seemed to be the only major cordillera likely to remain unvisited by other expeditions during the climbing season. We knew that Chainapuerto, 18,954 ft, which was attempted by the Scots in 1964 (*A.J.* 70. 240), was a beautiful peak and one of the highest unclimbed in Southern Peru so we decided to make it our main objective.

We established Base in the Quebrada Huamanchocque on 12 July. Freshly fallen snow (the first snow to fall in the Urubamba valley in living memory) hindered us on the approach and on the mountain itself. We followed the route chosen by the Scots and placed our first camp in approximately the same posi-

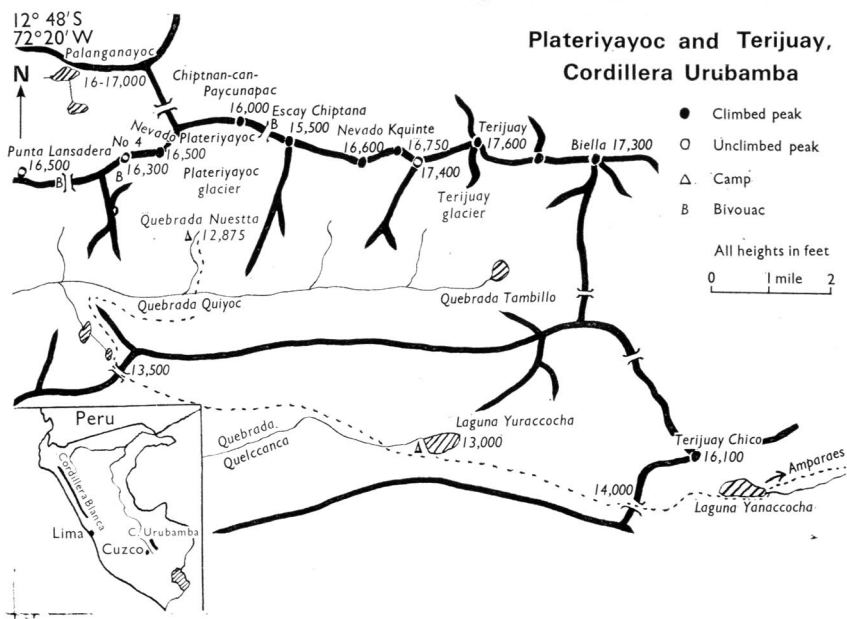
tion as theirs at about 15,000 ft but because of the deep fresh snow we sited a second camp on the glacier between Punta Urco and Chainapuerto. From this second camp Goulding and McDermott tried to reach the summit but lost a great deal of time floundering in the fresh snow and in dealing with a particularly dangerous slope leading to the summit ridge. (Byran and Bennett also had difficulty here during the Scots attempt.) They reached the heavily corniced summit ridge at 2.30pm and retreated, reaching Camp I in darkness. Next day, 19 July, O'Leary and Ingram, utilising the track prepared by the other pair, reached the ridge at 11.15am and were on the summit by 12.15. The climbing on this final section was pleasant on good ice. Two ice-towers on the ridge—one about 30–40 ft high—had to be circumvented. Goulding and McDermott reached the summit on 21 July. Other ascents: Punta Rosaleen, 17,500 ft (first ascent, Rice and Billane, 19 July). The same pair also climbed Punta Urco, 17,500 ft and Nevado Can Can, 18,000 ft.

We then moved to Quebrada Cosnoriti and attempted Padre Eterno by its North ridge and North-east spur. The North ridge will be a tough nut to crack, but the North-east spur appears quite feasible. It was abandoned hurriedly at the onset of a thunderstorm and lack of time prevented further attempts. Other ascents in this area: O'Leary and Ingram, Rice and Billane, North-east Huacratanca 17,800 ft; Rice, Billane and Lunt, Chucillani 16,500 ft; Rice and Billane, unnamed 16,000 ft rock peak which is linked with Padre Eterno by the latter's North-east spur.

**Patrick O'Leary**

**Plateriyayoc group, 1968** Normal College (Bangor) party (O. Davies, G. Hughes, A. Hunt (leader), D. Kemp, M. Lewis, M. O'Gorman, M. Williams). This area had been visited in 1963 by an Italian party which climbed the major peaks of the Terijuay group (*Rivista Mensile*, 1964, p 413); it had also been noted by Malcolm Slessor in 1964 (*A.J.* 70. 243) as likely to offer much pleasure to a small party. After travelling over 700 miles by truck from Lima we eventually set up Base Camp in the hanging cwm of Quebrada Nuesta (12,875 ft); like the Italians we used the southern approach, one from the north being prevented by thick jungle and a complete absence of any form of track.

On 6 August we carried out a reconnaissance of the Plateriyayoc glacier and saw to our left the summits of the Plateriyayoc, impressive granite, capped by glistening snow, and to our right the snows of Pt 5300 and the Terijuay tumbling in chaotic glaciers to the unknown valleys and jungle of the Madre de Dios. The scant information we had been able to gather together about our range had numbered the peaks of the Plateriyayoc from 1 to 5. From the col we scrambled over unstable blocks and increasingly soft snow towards No 1.



126 *Plateriyayoc and Terijuay group, Cordillera Urubamba, Peru* showing the activities of the 1968 Normal College expedition. Sketch map only: improved version in preparation by O. R. W. Davies

Prior to 1968, I had always associated Peru with snow mushrooms and fluted ice, but here we were clutching great handfuls of rough granite. A pitch of III sup. and No 1, became Escay Chiptana. As we returned down the now soft snow-cover of the glacier to Base Camp, increasing cloud obscured the whole range, and it later became apparent that this was part of a set weather pattern: mornings would invariably start clear and sunny, but cloud drifting from the jungle to the north would gradually penetrate the valleys and spill over the ridges until everything was obscured by about gam. Sometimes it rained at Base Camp, with fresh snow higher on the mountains, but generally as the sun went down so the cloud dissipated and the mountains reappeared along with the first stars. Any idea of 'off' days in Base Camp spent lounging in the sun were quashed; duvets and sweaters became the mode of dress for surveying, field work or any one of the sundry tasks that cropped up.

Because of the poor weather conditions it wasn't until 9 August that further attempts at unclimbed peaks were made. The enforced delay gave us all time to recover from the hectic march in, and living at 13,000 ft helped tremendously towards acclimatisation. With limited time at our disposal and the obvious harbingers of the wet season in the form of the early onset of the daily cloud and showers, it was decided to split into groups and make separate attempts on three of the major problems of the area, namely No 5, Punta Lansadera at the west end of the range (Hunt, Davies, Lewis and Martyn Williams), No 3, at the head of the Base Camp cwm (Kemp, Thomas and Dave Williams) and Pt 5300 of the Terijuay group (O'Gorman and Hughes).



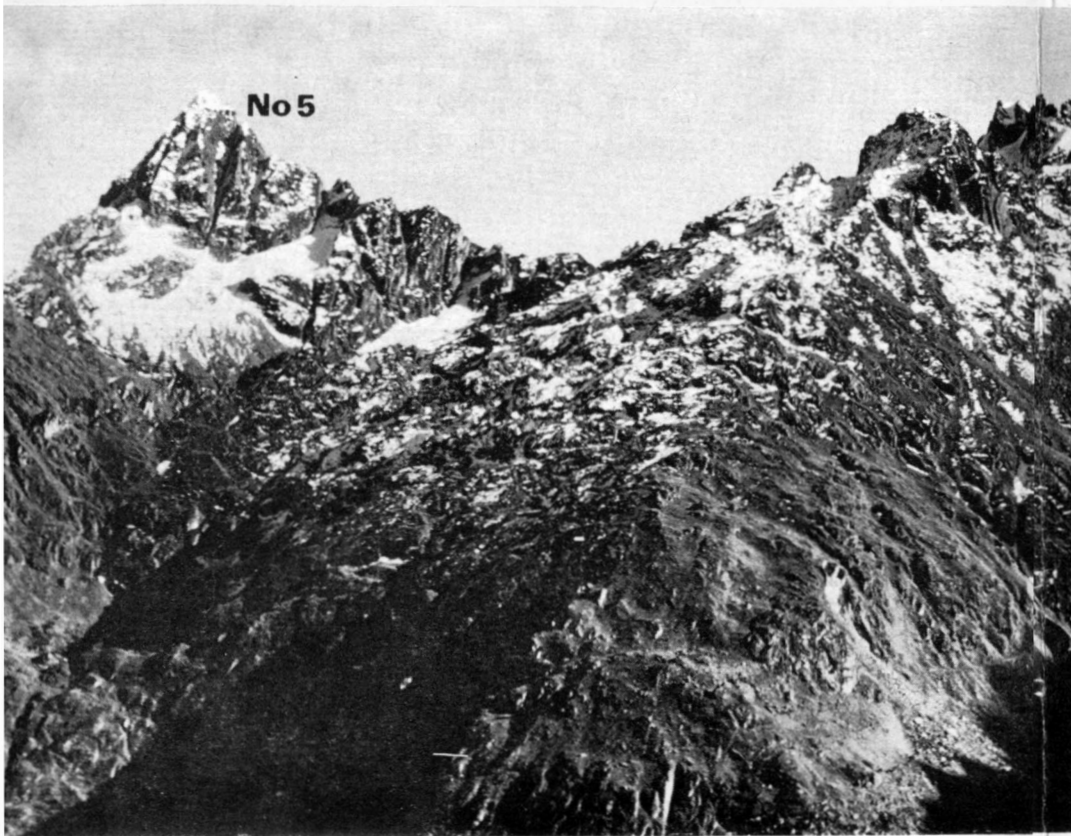
The Punta Lansadera party set off in the early hours, to find the best point for an attempt on the mountain. We toiled up a steep gully for what seemed like hours, and after several failures, at last found a route across an intervening ridge to the southern slopes of the mountain. This route finding all took place in thick cloud and both relief and surprise were felt, when through a gap in the mists the impressive South face of the mountain appeared. The next few hours were appalling. A long broken snow-slope led to a col on the ridge, from a bivouac on this col we hoped to be in a strong position for an attack on the East ridge. We had decided on bivouacs rather than tents to cut down on weight and avoid having to stock camps. This is made possible in this part of the Cordillera, because the highest peaks are only 17,000 ft, and consequently night temperatures, in the dry season, are not unbearable. However, in the wet season, the proximity of the range to the jungle, means increased precipitation, falling as snow on the mountains. Hence the glaciers down to 13,000 ft and a correspondingly lower snow-line. The snow was deep unconsolidated filthy stuff that collapsed at every step and upward progress became an effort of will, but eventually we reached the top and crawled into our bivouac sacs for the night. Next morning progress was halted at a large impending step in the ridge at about 15,000 ft. To climb it would have meant difficult free and artificial climbing for far longer than the weather would allow. The only solution was to retreat by abseil and traverse across the North face to some promising rock ribs that converged into the summit snow-cone. As we descended the cloud drifted in and blotted out the whole face and the damp, chilling cold made conditions very unpleasant. The climb was obviously going to take longer than expected, so two descended to Base Camp and left their food to enable the remaining pair to stay for three days.

We arrived at Base Camp to find that No 3 had been ascended giving excellent climbing up snow then rock, the last pitch about IV sup. up a beautiful crack in splendid granite. This was really good news. No 3, or Nevado Plateri-yayoc as it was now called, was probably the most attractive mountain of the group and one of our main aims.

The Pt 5300 bid had been narrowly thwarted, after climbing two subsidiary summits and running out of rope, left behind at irreversible abseil points. The descent had proved to be something of an epic. Ice-axe belays tearing out and falls stopped by a providential arm hooked over the lip of a crevasse!

After this period of hectic activities, the return of bad weather halted further attempts for several days. Martyn Williams and Lewis returned, disconsolate and exhausted after a second bivouac in very bad conditions on Punta Lansadera, and Base Camp began to resemble the infamous Biolay camp site,



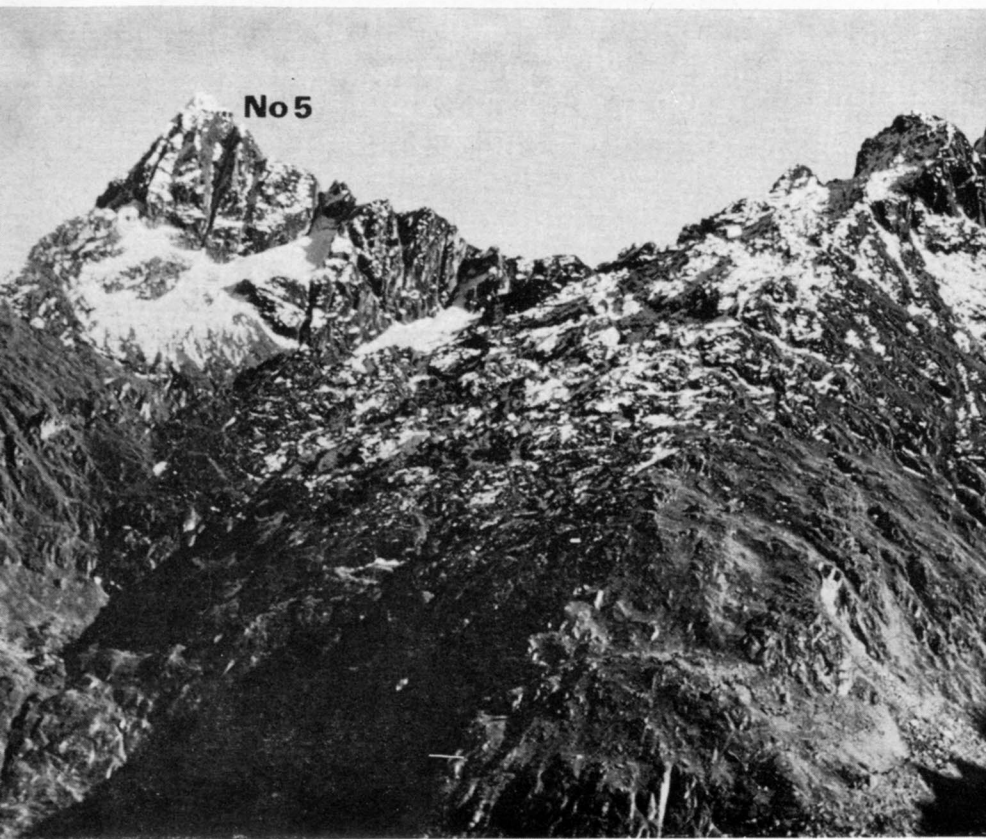


127 *Plateriyayoc group* Panorama from survey ridge. This and following photos: Dennis Kemp

with frustrated climbers tripping over each other. Suddenly the weather improved and fresh plans were hatched. On 12 August, despite hail storms, Dave Williams, Hughes, Martyn Williams and Davies set off to bivouac at the foot of Twisting Rib, via which they hoped to reach the main ridge and from there climb the West ridge of No 4.

The remainder of our party set off at 3am on the 13th to attempt No 2, and if possible traverse the ridge to the col at the foot of Nevado Plateriyayoc East ridge. Everything went very smoothly, from the glacier a steep snow-slope gave onto a rocky ridge. The ridge culminated in a fine crack, which landed us right on the summit. The view was incredible on all sides. To the south the main Cordillera Urubamba of Veronica, Helancoma, Yucay, Saguasiray and Chainapuerto stretched along the horizon, with Salcantay and Pumasillo merging into the haze behind. To the north, the cloud sea of the Amazon basin and the Madre de Dios jungle reflected the morning sun, like a vast ice-field. Patches were already breaking off and drifting up the valleys at our feet. The unclimbed range of the Palaganayoc was already sinking below the mists.





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No 4

No 3

Punch

Base Camp







128 *The Terijuay group from the south*

129 *The Terijuay group, from No 2: one* See opposite for right extension

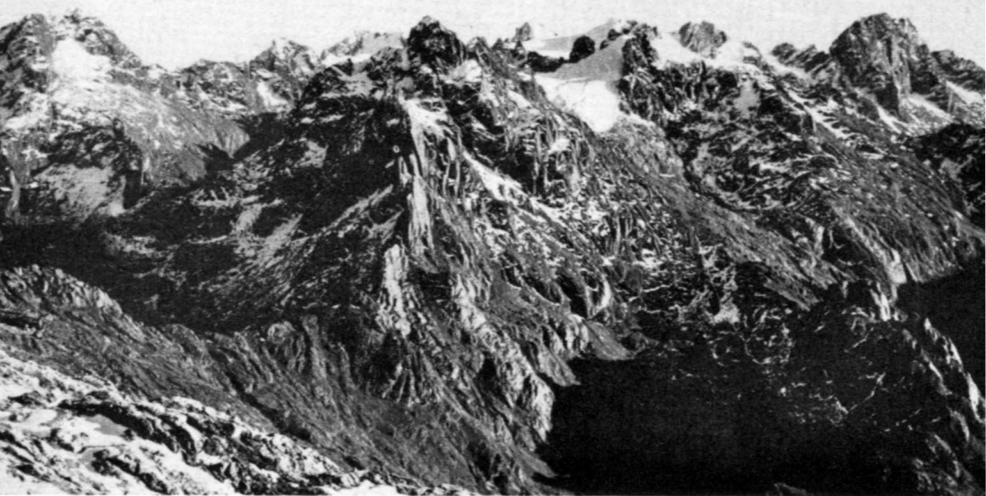


In the far distance a small dot appeared on a snow-dome, quickly joined by another. It was the other party on No 4. They still had a very steep rock section to negotiate and already the cloud was rolling into the Base Camp cwm; we later found that they retreated in the face of huge banks of powder snow, piled at amazing angles against the already difficult rock. Our proposed traverse was also abandoned in the face of deteriorating conditions and we retraced our steps.

Of the five peaks we had set out to climb, three had been ascended, plus the subsidiary peaks of Pt 5300. There are still problems to attract the mountaineer to this area, Punta Lansadera, No 4, and Pt 5300 of the main range, plus the completely virgin range of the Palanganayoc to the north [131]. The mountaineering in the area offers everything, from snow and ice work to high standard rock climbing on excellent granite, but I would advise any further exploration to be attempted from the north. Access from this side is easier once the mountains have been reached, but the initial approach might be very long and tedious. The climbing season in this part of Peru is usually favourable until

130 *The Terijuay group, from No 2: two* See opposite for left extension





131 *The unclimbed Palanganayoc range to the north of the Plateriyayoc, seen from No 2*

late August, but 1968 was a bad year throughout the Andes, with heavy unseasonal snowfalls in July and persistent bad spells after that date. The proximity of the jungle to the Plateriyayoc means that the daily cloud reaches these mountains before the main Cordillera Urubamba to the south-east. Bluntly, if bad weather is about this range gets it first. Bearing these factors in mind I would suggest June as the most favourable month for climbing, although even then there may be excessive snow remaining from the wet season, if precipitation has been high, as in 1967.

The cheapest means of travel in Peru is by open lorry, but it can be uncomfortable and hair-raising! We took five days lorry travelling time from Lima to get as close as possible to the mountains. The total cost for nine men and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons of equipment and food was in the region of £60 single. We could have flown to Cuzco but this would have doubled the cost, and would also have meant leaving the crates unguarded, an unwise move. Despite statements to the contrary from U.K. Agents, it is possible to ship direct from the U.K. to Matarini, a port south of Lima. From there a two-day rail journey leads to Cuzco, where a lorry can be hired for onward travel. This is the cheapest and probably the best way of reaching the Cordillera Urubamba. Travel in the hills away from the dirt roads is by pony or llama—ponies are best and cost about 6s per day. Though much cheaper, llamas carry a lot less weight and tend to be difficult to control. On our march out we had five 'spares' and because of others bolting we used them all!

**Alan S. Hunt**

## CORDILLERA CARABAYA

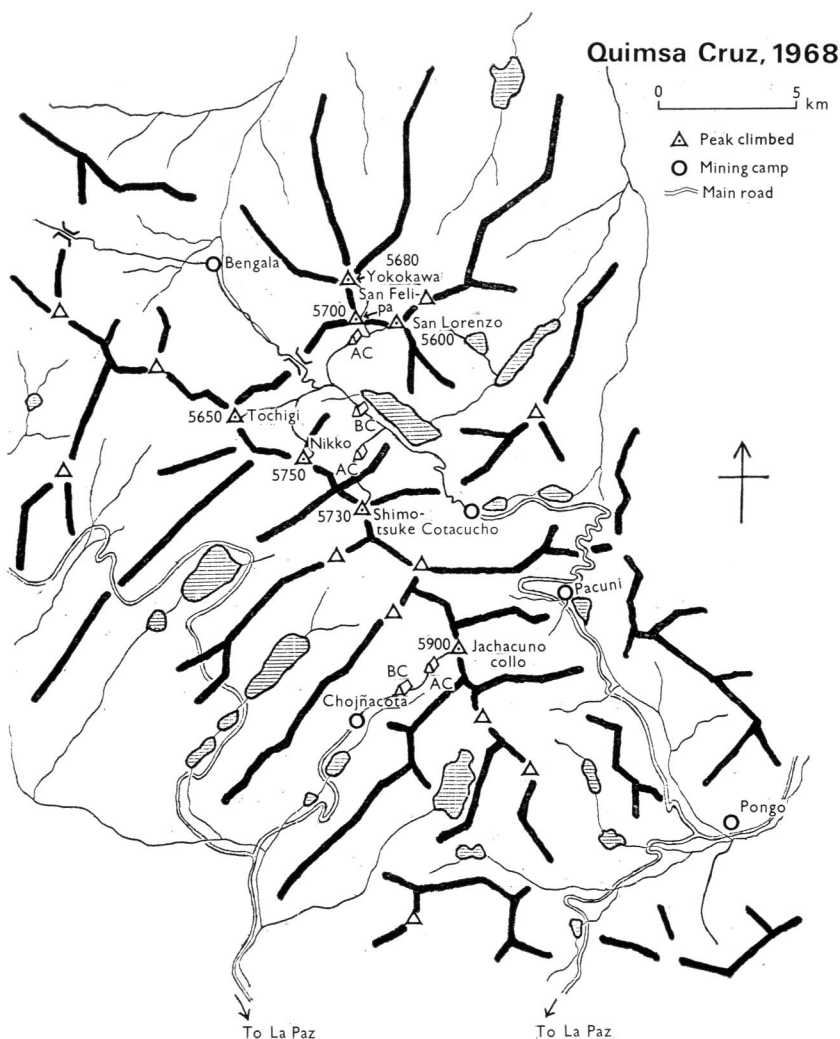
**Allinccapac group, 1968** Roger and Elspeth Whewell, who had visited this area in 1967 (*A.A.ŷ.* 1968. 200) climbed 'Wedge', *c.* 18,000 ft, at the second attempt on 25 May, via the glacier between it and 'Screwdriver'. They aptly named it Chilpariti, which means 'snow wedge' in Inca.

## Bolivia

**German expedition to Cordillera Apolobamba, 1968** This party of eight, led by Erwin Hofmann, placed two base camps in the valleys draining east from the Chaupi Orco massif, and climbed sixteen peaks, including the two highest, Chaupi Orco, 19,830 ft, and its northern neighbour, so far unnamed, measured at exactly 6,000 m (19,686 ft). Its first ascents were Catantica (18,346 ft), and points 5630, 5610 and 5550 m of the Matchu Suchicuchi ridge; Taro and Hanaco, both about 18,700 ft; and two peaks over 18,000 ft, all from the ridge descending east from the main massif (see map in *A.A.ŷ.* 1960. 38). The same party entered Peru and ascended there Cacahuaycho (17,881 ft) and Ritipata (17,296 ft), of the same range, which forms the highest part of the border between Bolivia and Peru. The Cordillera Apolobamba has now been visited by several expeditions, and most of its peaks have been climbed.

**Japanese expedition, 1968** A party from Tochigi led by Shigeo Abe, spent two months in Bolivia from 28 May. In the Cordillera Quimsa Cruz they climbed San Felipe (5700 m), Nevado Yokokawa (5680 m), San Lorenzo (5600 m), Nevado Nikko (5750 m) Nevado Tochigi (5650 m), Nevado Shimotsuke (5730 m) and Nevado Jachacunocollo (5950 m). They subsequently climbed Nevado Sajama (6531 m) and Nevado Illimani (6480 m). See map [132].

**Ichiro Yoshizawa**



132 *Cordillera Quimsa Cruz, Bolivia* showing the activities of the Japanese expedition, 1968. Japanese names yet to be approved. Sketch map supplied by the expedition