

EXPEDITIONS

THE EASTERN CORDILLERA OF SOUTH PERU. A geological expedition to the Province of Carabaya in South Peru brought Alan Charig and myself (of the Natural History Museum), and Simon Clark and Beverley Holt (of Cambridge), within striking distance of the Massif of Nudo Allinccapac (18,963 ft.). This was the second geological expedition which I have led to the district, the first, in 1954, had also given the opportunity for some climbing in the Massif, but only of a very preliminary kind (*A. J.* 60. 280-92), resulting in the ascent of an outlying peak, which we named Nevado de Japuma (18,141 ft.), after the valley above which it stands.

In 1959 we hoped to climb the highest peak of the range and also the next two in order of height, Nudo Huaynaccapac (18,751 ft.) and Nudo Chichiccapac (18,426 ft.). Thinking that we were the only expedition within miles we concentrated at first on the geological work from June 3 until the end of the month, and then set out with our two servants and two pack horses to establish a base camp at the western foot of Chichiccapac above the Chambini valley. Alan Charig was at this time away on a fossil-collecting tour near Cusco, and the party that roped up at dawn on June 30 comprised Simon, Beverley, Julio Cárdenas, our chief servant, and myself.

Chichiccapac is a long, complex ridge of snow and ice, running N.N.W.-S.S.E. with a central, well-defended summit dome. After steady going on the North-west glacier of the peak we had to negotiate an ice-fall dropping from a saddle between the mountain and a north-westerly subsidiary rock peak. The snow here was waist-deep, lying on very steep slopes, and much cut about by large and rather obscured crevasses. By the time we were on the glacier shelf above we were all tired by the long flog through deep snow and I, who had broken the trail from the glacier tongue, was glad to hand over the lead to Simon. He then continued up steepening slopes of rather firmer snow, and then led a good ice pitch in fine style. Once above this a further ice-fall with soft snow and circuitous route-finding brought us out on the summit plateau and then to the summit itself. Julio, who had climbed very well, declared himself '*contentísimo*' and also '*emocionado*'.

Our pleasure was rather dulled by some very suggestive markings in the snow which, rationalise as we would, could not be explained as other than half-observed footprints and rope-marks. Disappointment



NUDO ALLINCCAPAC (18,963 FT.) FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



THE SUMMIT OF NEVADO DE JAPUMA (18,141 FT.) IS JUST OUT OF THE PICTURE ON THE LEFT. ON THE RIGHT, NUDO ALLINCCAPAC (18,963 FT.) TAKEN FROM ANTAHAUA VALLEY.

and mystification added to fatigue slowed our descent, and it was a tired party indeed which reached camp half an hour or so after dark that evening.

Two days later Alan rejoined us at base camp. Various enquiries we had made through Julio brought answers that the mysterious tracks might be the work of ' *un viejo Italiano* ' and his Peruvian porter, who had recently arrived in the district. Rumour went on to say that he was already at Allinccapac. At this news we at once moved camp to the glacier at the head of the Antahaua valley, immediately below Allinccapac, brewing up hard words for the unexpected ' intruder ' who was bidding fair to rob our party of all the mountaineering objectives that we had planned.

When we arrived at the glacier snout we found a trim camp of two little Italian mountain tents on ledges cut in the steep moraine. Between them stood the equally trim figure of Signor Piero Ghiglione. Bad humour vanished at a puff and we exchanged fraternal handshakes in the name of the Alpine Club, and launched into a rapid and absorbing barter of questions. Yes, it was he who had climbed Chichiccapac on June 22 with his porter Mautino, from the Cordillera Blanca. On this particular day (July 3) they had attempted Allinccapac, but had been repulsed by exhausting, hip-deep ' south-snow ' on the glacier. But not content with this they had made the second ascent of Nevado de Japuma, not a bad campaign for a climber of seventy-six, he allowed himself to comment, and we heartily agreed. We at once invited Sig. Ghiglione to join us on the following day on another attempt on Allinccapac, and set to, pitching our camp 200 ft. further up the moraine on the next shelf.

Early in the morning Mautino arrived to present a most courteous note addressed :

' al Señor Dr. G. H. Francis,
Here.'

Sig. Ghiglione thanked us for our invitation, expressed regret for his inadvertent *tour de montagne* ahead of our party (which had had two expeditions to the area ; and over a month's work there already in 1959) and excused himself from joining us as he could no longer postpone a visit to Cusco.

We were all disappointed at this, and as time was short could not go down to his camp to say good-bye. We hurried up to the glacier edge and were well started upon it when the first sun arrived. On this day (July 4) Simon Clark was unwell and his place was taken by Alan Charig in our party of four. Allinccapac is a great rampart of a mountain, its western summit a flat pancake of ice, and its lower, eastern summit one of a series of ice-covered pinnacles on an almost horizontal ridge running away from the pancake. Frontal attack

appears hopeless in view of the overhanging margins of the pancake and the great ice-swept face between the summits and the glacier. The only apparently reasonable route leads up in a spiral round three sides of the peak, by means of a series of glaciers, cols and ridges.¹

We first reached a wide col between the mountain and Japuma Peak. Then we descended to a glacier flowing northwards, and from it climbed to a broad snow-covered ridge dividing the last from another glacier, also flowing northwards. All the way the snow was atrociously soft, even softer than on Chichiccapac, and it seriously delayed our progress. At 1 p.m., when we should have been at or near the summit, we still had not reached the second north-flowing glacier, nor had we made sure that this glacier could open the way to a col on the summit ridge, which itself is the only approach to the pancake.

After a long discussion we finally took the disappointing decision to turn back. We had felt that the ascent was possible in a long day (and given firm snow in the morning it would be possible). In present conditions if we continued we faced a certain bivouac, without proper equipment, and in seriously low temperatures; moreover two of the party, for different reasons were not entirely fit. The return to camp, where Simon joined us, went slowly but uneventfully, and we were glad to see the last of the 'south snow', which when it gets established in these mountains does not freeze hard at nights for quite long periods.

We now found that with Alan and myself about to leave for home and the others not really fit, circumstances would not allow us to return to the attack. With a good deal of regret about our unfinished climbing programme, but pleased with the climbing and exploration we had achieved, we moved back to our base camp on the open pampa.

GODFREY FRANCIS.

PERU. 'During June-July 1959 in the Andes of South Peru, I did with the Indian porter, Fortunato Mautino, fourteen new climbs, 5,000-6,000 m., i.e.:

Huantinsuyo, about 5,200 m. Calca district, from the south.

Unnamed peak which I named Punta Italia, about 5,100 m., from the north.

Chichiccapac, 5,610 m., from the west. Macusani district.

Tapuma, 5,150 m., from the south-west. Macusani district.

Yatuncucho, about 5,200 m. Vilcanota area, from the north-east.

Yatuncucho, about 5,100 m. Vilcanota area, from the north-east.

Chinchina East Group, 4 summits. Aguas Calientes district, 5,300-5,350 m. from the north.

¹ Photographs and a map of the area are included in the article in *A.J.* 60. 280-92.

Chinchina West Group, 2 summits, 5,440–5,430 m., from the north. Huamanchoque, 2 summits, 5,300 m. Calca-Lares district, from the north.

I started from Milano by airplane with only 20 kg. equipment.

PIERO GHIGLIONE.

CORDILLERA DE APOLOBAMBA.¹ As we go to Press we have received news of the Imperial College Expedition to this range last summer and give a brief summary of the results.

The party spent forty-two days in the area and had continuously fine weather, snow falling on only ten days.

Pelechuco Huaracha (18,537 ft.) was climbed by Messrs. Jenkinson, Melbourne and Caraffa on July 23. Having reached the North-west ridge they found the going easy until within a quarter of a mile of the summit when progress was barred by a sudden drop in the ridge, and they were forced to descend to the south-east flowing glacier, losing 800 ft. of height. By way of snow-covered frozen scree and a snow gully the ridge was rejoined at a considerably higher point and the summit attained at 1 p.m., the final portion of the arête consisting of some seventy yards of curving, corniced ridge.

Soral Este (17,950 ft.) was climbed by Bratt, Jenkinson, Melbourne and Smith on August 7 by way of a 300-ft. gully—which required nearly two hours work—leading to the North-east ridge. This was followed to the summit, the final ascent being up a 200-ft. ice slope.

Among other summits climbed were Azucarani (18,307 ft.), Soral Oeste (18,307 ft.), Chucuyo Grande (17,815 ft.), and several peaks, all over 18,000 ft., on the Matchu Suchi Coochi ridge. An attempt on Katantica (18,346 ft.) was abandoned because of a stolen food dump and poor visibility.

ALPAMAYO.²—An American expedition attempted the second ascent of the highest peak last year but had to turn back 100 ft. below the summit owing to the vast quantities of powder snow in which they sank so deeply that further progress was impossible. A fuller note will appear in our next number.

MATTERHORN, North Face. July 9, 1959. Herbert Raditschnig, Hans Zarl. Good conditions. Nine hours. According to *Der Bergkamerad*, Munich, this face was also climbed in mid-August, 1959, by Diether Marchart of Vienna by himself in five hours.

¹ *A. J.* 60. 285.

² *A. J.* 63. 260.

Chinchina West Group, 2 summits, 5,440–5,430 m., from the north. Huamanchoque, 2 summits, 5,300 m. Calca-Lares district, from the north.

I started from Milano by airplane with only 20 kg. equipment.

PIERO GHIGLIONE.

CORDILLERA DE APOLOBAMBA.¹ As we go to Press we have received news of the Imperial College Expedition to this range last summer and give a brief summary of the results.

The party spent forty-two days in the area and had continuously fine weather, snow falling on only ten days.

Pelechuco Huaracha (18,537 ft.) was climbed by Messrs. Jenkinson, Melbourne and Caraffa on July 23. Having reached the North-west ridge they found the going easy until within a quarter of a mile of the summit when progress was barred by a sudden drop in the ridge, and they were forced to descend to the south-east flowing glacier, losing 800 ft. of height. By way of snow-covered frozen scree and a snow gully the ridge was rejoined at a considerably higher point and the summit attained at 1 p.m., the final portion of the arête consisting of some seventy yards of curving, corniced ridge.

Soral Este (17,950 ft.) was climbed by Bratt, Jenkinson, Melbourne and Smith on August 7 by way of a 300-ft. gully—which required nearly two hours work—leading to the North-east ridge. This was followed to the summit, the final ascent being up a 200-ft. ice slope.

Among other summits climbed were Azucarani (18,307 ft.), Soral Oeste (18,307 ft.), Chucuyo Grande (17,815 ft.), and several peaks, all over 18,000 ft., on the Matchu Suchi Coochi ridge. An attempt on Katantica (18,346 ft.) was abandoned because of a stolen food dump and poor visibility.

ALPAMAYO.²—An American expedition attempted the second ascent of the highest peak last year but had to turn back 100 ft. below the summit owing to the vast quantities of powder snow in which they sank so deeply that further progress was impossible. A fuller note will appear in our next number.

MATTERHORN, North Face. July 9, 1959. Herbert Raditschnig, Hans Zarl. Good conditions. Nine hours. According to *Der Bergkamerad*, Munich, this face was also climbed in mid-August, 1959, by Diether Marchart of Vienna by himself in five hours.

¹ *A. J.* 60. 285.

² *A. J.* 63. 260.

MONT BLANC DE SEILON, North Face. August 23, 1959. Kurt Diemberger, Max Eiselin. 3rd ascent (?).

OBER GABELHORN, North Face. July 12, 1959. A party of six members of the Chaux-de-Fonds section of the S.A.C., led by the late Adrien Voillat and the guide André Meili (8 in all), made the ascent and the first descent of this face. Mme. Voillat and Maurice Brandt, specialists with Adrien Voillat in such climbs, were members of the party. (Adrien Voillat was killed on the Calanques de Cassis on August 1.)

TRE CIME DI LAVAREDO, Cima Ovest, via direttissima. July 6-11, 1959.

The first part of the wall, 340 m., is wholly overhanging; the second part, 250 m., is merely vertical.

After four days spent pegging the first 120 m., P. Mazeaud and R. Desmaison started at 4.0 a.m. on July 6, taking with them 340 m. of cord for the haulage of stores and equipment. They reached a relatively comfortable establishment on July 8 and hauled up supplies. On the morning of July 9, P. Kohlmann and M. Lagesse started from the bottom while the first pair proceeded on their way. On the evening of July 10, the last overhang was overcome; this was the most difficult pitch of the climb, but also the end of the overhanging section. Mazeaud and Desmaison reached the top at 4.0 p.m. on 11th and Kohlmann and Lagesse about 6.0 p.m. on 12th.

Compared with the Direct Route on Cima Grande, the artificial climbing on this route is harder, but the free climbing less so, not exceeding V. Sup. The artificial difficulties are exceptional. (350 pitons; 5 bivouacs.)

PAMIRS.—A party of eleven Russians led by Vitaly Abalakov made the first ascent of Mount Voroshilov (21,664 ft.) last summer.

KANJUT SAR.—The first ascent was briefly mentioned in our last issue. Kanjut Sar is the first of the greater mountains in the area north of the Hispar glacier to be climbed. The Italian expedition led by Guido Monzino left Hispar in the early part of June and proceeded up the Hispar glacier to the point where it is joined by the Khani Basa glacier. Here the bulk of the coolies deserted and there was a week's delay, but with porters from Hispar, Base Camp was established at c. 16,000 ft. at the head of the Khani Basa glacier beneath the South face of the mountain.

After Camp III, *c.* 19,700 ft., had been erected on the South-east ridge a heavy snow storm blocked the party in Camps II and III and when this had ceased they withdrew to the Base Camp. So soon as the weather had improved another assault was made. Three more camps were established, the last at nearly 23,000 ft., and from here Camillo Pélissier and Jean Bich started for the summit at about 5 a.m. on July 19. Three hours later, Bich, suffering from frost-bitten hands and exhaustion, had to give up, and Pélissier eventually reached the summit alone, six and a half hours after starting. He arrived back, exhausted, at Camp VI the same evening.

SARAGHRAR.¹—The first ascent was made last August by four members of an Italian expedition led by Fosco Maraini.

OTHER HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS.—Madame Claude Kogan led a party of women climbers to attempt Cho Oyu last autumn. On October 1 Camp IV at 23,000 ft. was occupied by Madame Kogan, Mlle van der Stratten and the Sherpa Angnorbu. The next day two other Sherpas set out to bring help to the advance party but were caught in an avalanche and one was killed. Several days of blizzards followed with winds up to 100 m.p.h. and when it was possible to get through to Camp IV it was found to have been obliterated by an avalanche.

Madame Kogan, forty years of age, was one of the most distinguished women mountaineers and had climbed extensively in the Himalayas and the Andes. In 1952 she was a member of the party that made the first ascent of Salcantay; the following year she made the first ascent of Nun (23,410 ft.), with Pierre Vittoz, and in 1955 reached the highest point of the Ganesh Himal (24,299 ft.) with Raymond Lambert and Eric Gauchat, subsequently reaching a height of *c.* 25,300 ft. on Cho Oyu, the women's altitude record. She had also visited Greenland and the Caucasus.

The German Karakoram Expedition was compelled by bad weather to abandon an attempt on Diran; Herr Bardodej and a porter reached a point within about 700 ft. of the summit.

Chaukamba (23,420 ft.), first climbed by L. George and V. Russenberger in 1952, was ascended by members of an Indian Air Force expedition in October last.

The entire personnel of a Japanese expedition to Gaurisankar was at first reported to have been lost on the mountain but eventually arrived back safe and well. The leader told reporters that he considered Gaurisankar impossible to climb.

¹ See *A.J.* 64. 116.

BELGIAN CONGO. Mt. Kahusi, 10,800 ft., is the culminating point of the Mitumba range to the west of Lake Kivu in the Belgian Congo. In the course of their scientific researches the Cambridge Congo Expedition, consisting of D. C. D. Happold, M. J. Swift, M. J. E. Coode, P. J. Curtis and R. M. Polhill, spent five days, in September 1959, collecting and mapping on the summit, staying in a small aluminium hut just below.