PERU

Cordillera Blanca

Huascarán Norte, Northeast Face. The northeast face of Huascarán Norte was first climbed by an expedition composed of Maurice Barrard, leader, Marceau Agier, Nicole Chesnais, Dr. Philippe Courtin, Lionel Desrivières, Alain Durin, Dr. Pierre Helardot, Daniel Hughes, Georges Narbaud, Marcel Parde, Michel Pelle and Jean-Jacques Ricouard. The summit was reached on August 18 by Barrard, Desrivières, Narbaud and Ricouard. The next day bad weather broke, preventing the rest of the team from getting to the top. The route had 5500 feet of fixed rope. The northeast face is a huge shroud of snow and ice, defended at the base by a 350-foot rock band and ending in an overhanging rock wall. It is bounded on the left by a magnificent rock triangle which rises to the east ridge and on the right by a rotten couloir dominated by the northeast ridge. This direct route is perfectly protected from objective dangers. From Base Camp at 14,275 feet we climbed moraine to slopes below the glacial tongue, traversed slightly left to a rocky spur, up which we worked a route to Camp I at 17,300 feet. We attacked the ice slope straight up, over a rock band and through broken ice and bergschrunds. From there we continued diagonally right to just under a rock outcrop which was avoided by keeping right towards steep ice flutes. These we climbed on variable snow to below a very steep snow spine (70° to 75°). The ridge being impracticable, we crossed right 200 feet and continued up to isolated rock (60°) and straight up to the top of the snow ridge where it merges with the face. Camp II was carved in the ice there at 19,000 feet. The slope above continued uniform and without weaknesses at an average of 55° to 60°. Halfway up, a short ridge led to the final step. Camp III at 20,575 feet was dug out of the ice below the obvious break in the summit ridge. We attacked the step by a dihedral (UIAA IV, A1), traversed left on a very compact slab (V) to a belay point. We continued up detached flakes (IV+), up a narrow ledge (IV+) which led to a vertical crack (V, A1) and then traversed slightly right to attack a severe overhang (V, A2) which ended on easy rock and led to a snow col (20,975 feet). We followed the east ridge to the summit.

MAURICE BARRARD, *Club Alpin Français*

Huascarán, Southwest Ridge. Dr. Ulrich Schwabe, Karl Gabl, Dr. Raimund Margreiter and I got to Base Camp above Carhuaz at 14,000 feet on July 6. We traversed across moraine to the ridge and set up Camp I at 17,000 feet. The climbing on the glacier and ridge to there was easy, but we had to fix ropes on nearly all the difficult ice ridge above Camp I. An American expedition, which followed us up our route, provided us with rope since we had not counted on such difficulties.

Camp II was at 19,200 feet at the top of the steep section. We climbed the next day up easier terrain with a few steep pitches to just under the summit of the south buttress, where we placed Camp III. A severe storm blew up in the night and kept us from going to the main summit, but we did climb some 250 feet to the top of the south buttress. It was July 18. We descended that same day to Base Camp.

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Huascarán, Southwest Ridge. Our party included Thomas Bowen, Stu During, Richard Hildner, Richard "Munch" Cussler and me. Our route was the southwest ridge of Huascarán to the summit of the south spur at 21,031 feet. We all reached this summit on July 25. Leaving from the town of Shilla, we placed Base Camp at 14,280 feet at the foot of the glacier south of the southwest ridge, Camp I at 17,340 feet on a snow chute between the ridge and the glacier, Camp II at 19,280 feet on the ridge at the top of the headwalls above the glacier and Camp III just below the summit of the south spur. Snow conditions were generally poor with knee-deep snow presenting avalanche danger above Camp II. The most interesting part was the exposed, knife-edged ridge between 17,000 and 19,000 feet. Although we intended to climb the main summit, only two of us could climb effectively above Camp III. Two of us traversed around the south spur at 20,800 feet and descended across the bergschrund that extends around the spur on the north side. We feared that thigh-deep snow might conceal crevasses and felt it too risky for two to proceed further. Our route differed from that described in *A.A.J,* 1969, 16:2, p. 425 in that they avoided the southwest ridge and traveled across the glacier south of the ridge to the headwall and crossed the ridge into a bowl west of the spur summit.

DAN W. BENCH, *Unaffiliated*

Huascarán. In one of the commercially organized trips of Bepe Tenti, seven Italians, Romeo Colombo, Giancarlo Corbellini, Carlo Del Dot, Antonio Foi, Lodovico Gaetani, Giuse Locana and Francesco Maragnoli, and the Pervuvians Emilio and Macario Angeles reached the summit of Huascarán on August 2.

Huascarán Norte and Pisco. Raúl Bárcena Y, Guillermo Díaz R, Antonio Carmona and Vicente Hinojosa A climbed the normal route on Huascarán Norte, reaching the top on August 3. On August 11 Carmona, Samuel Díaz M, Andrés Méndez and Guillermo Díaz R climbed Pisco.

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