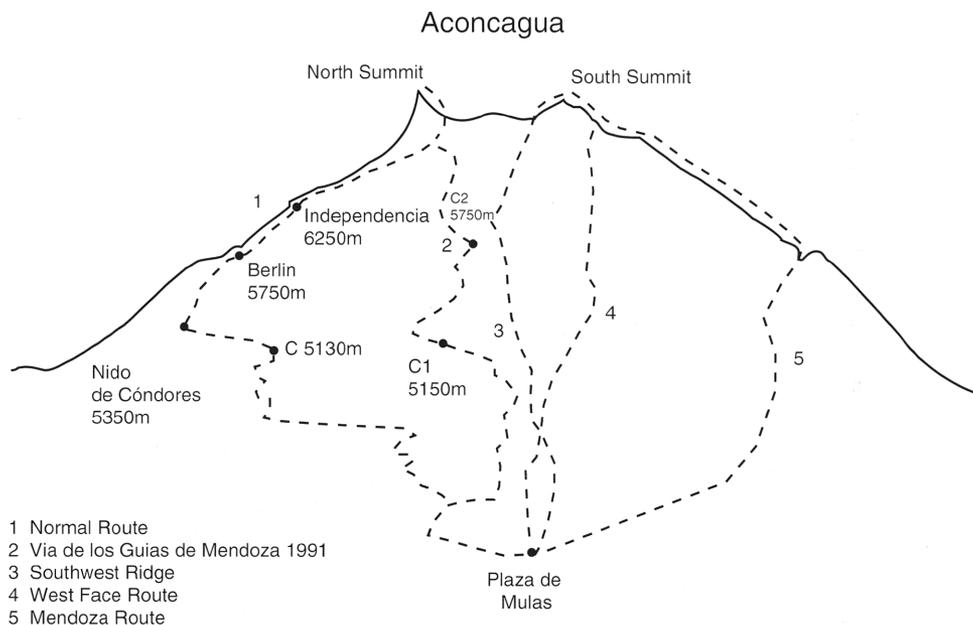


Aconcagua, Vía de los Guías de Mendoza. During nine days in early February, the Second Ecological Expedition to Aconcagua carried out its objectives of making a variant to the right of the normal route and left of the southwest ridge and of inspecting and cleaning the shelters of Nido de Cóndores and Berlín. The Governor of Mendoza promised to improve these huts, where no work has been done in the past 30 or 40 years. The new route will relieve pressure on the normal route. It is no more difficult. Camps I and II were placed at 5150 and 5750 meters. The summit was reached on February 12 by Alejandro Randis, leader; Rodolfo Gabrielli, Governor of Mendoza; Arturo Lafalla, National Deputy for Mendoza; Daniel Rodríguez, Jorge Giaquinta, Carlos Santilli and Domingo Alvarez.

MARCELO SCANU, *Grupo de Montaña Huamán, Buenos Aires, Argentina*



Cerro Colorado Correction. On page 175 of AAJ, 1994, it gives the climb as a first ascent. The mountain had previously been climbed; Guillermo Cremaschi and Mauricio Fernández ascended the peak by a new route.

Argentine-Chilean Patagonia

Avalanche Tragedy, below El Tronador, above Bariloche. On April 25, a group of ten young Argentine climbers were camped in snow caves on the side

of the Vieja Ridge on el Tronador. This was a training course for high-mountain guides, who were under the very able supervision of Sebastián de la Cruz. [The readers of *AAJ*, 1994 will remember his, Teodoro Plaza's and Ramiro Calvo's remarkable exploits, which are recounted in the second article. The other two were also present at the course.] An extraordinarily heavy snowfall counseled retreat. On the morning of the 26th, the group set out, climbing toward the crest of the ridge. When Sebastián de la Cruz was within 20 meters of the ridge top, he suddenly felt a puff of air and sensed the snow giving way under his feet. Luckily, he and four others were not buried, though two were injured. They quickly dug out one who was half buried and another who, despite being completely covered by the snow, could be revived. Probing with ski poles for the other three, including Teo Plaza and Omar Moscoso, proved fruitless. A litter was improvised for Nicolás de la Cruz, brother of the director of the course, who had broken his pelvis. They struggled in the deep snow down the ridge to where at dusk there was no longer avalanche danger. A rescue group, summoned by radio arrived in the night and in the morning the whole group descended to the Refugio Meiling for helicopter evacuation. This has been a very sad year for the talented young Argentine climbers. Before his fatal accident, Teo Plaza had earlier nearly completed a new route of Cerro Stanhardt when he was struck by a falling cornice, as is described also in *AAJ*, 1994. The descent in his injured state was an epic. A second victim of this avalanche was Omar Moscoso, editor and publisher of *Escalando*, doubtless the best Latin American mountaineering magazine. Horacio Bresba was returning from an attempt on the Franco-Argentine route on Fitz Roy when he slipped and fell to his death. Their very good friend and frequent companion, the South African Phillip Lloyd, fell to his death from the Torre Norte del Paine when his rappel anchor pulled out.

Cerro Matus or Titlis, 1993, Northern Patagonia. In February, 1993, Argentines Patricio Figueredo, Sebastián González Chiozza, Osvaldo Méndez and guide Darío Remorino climbed Cerro Matus (1860 meters, 6102 feet: also called Titlis), on the border with Chile, south of Cerro Cacho and west of Lago Espejo in the Nahuel Huapi National Park. They found a paper of Otto Meiling dated February 22, 1941, recording the first ascent. Since Remorino had been on the summit once before, this was probably the third ascent.

MARCELO SCANU, *Grupo de Montaña Huamán, Buenos Aires, Argentina*

Shipton Corridor Expedition, 1993-4. Andrzej Makaram and I hoped to reach the Patagonian Icecap from the Soler Glacier. On December 21, 1993, we camped at 250 meters at the tongue of the glacier. After reconnaissance, we decided that the only way to get to the icecap was to traverse the southern slopes of Cerro Hyades. On January 2, we were on its south ridge at 1340 meters. Zigzagging between séracs and crevasses, we had established a new camp by