

*Illimani Peak Names.* By far the best map of Illimani is *Cordillera Real Süd Illimani*, published by the Deutschen Alpenverein in 1990. It contains far more information than the *Bolivian Instituto Geográfico Militar* maps and has relief shading. It is also accurate. (N.B.: When the then-head of the U.S. Defense Mapping Agency in La Paz, Liam O' Brien, climbed Illimani to verify its height with modern instruments, he came out with a height of 6439 meters for Illimani's highest peak, compared to the DAV figure of 6368 meters.) From the DAV map, starting in the north, the first of the five peaks is marked as Pico del Indio (6109m). Next is Pico Norte (a.k.a. Pico de Paris, 6403m), then Pico Central (6362m), Pico Sur (6438m) and finally Pico Layca Kholu (6159m). The *Bolivian Instituto Geográfico Militar* map uses the same peak names.

It should be noted that Pico Norte is not Pico de Paris. Pico de Paris was thus named by Frenchman Charles Wiener on May 19, 1877. Wiener did not climb Pico Norte, which was climbed for the first time in 1950 when Hans Ertl and Gert Schröder got up it by what was then the hardest route in Bolivia.

Wiener got to the base of Illimani by following the Río La Paz, which cuts through the Andes immediately south of Illimani and divides the Cordillera Real from the Cordillera Quimsa Cruz. He started from the southeast from what was then the hacienda of Cotaña and is now a village. If he had climbed Pico Norte, he would have crossed Pico Sur on the way and thereby have made the first ascent of Illimani's highest peak.

Pico de Paris was renamed Pico del Indio by Martin Conway, the first person to summit Illimani's highest peak, Pico Sur (September 9, 1898). While on the subsidiary peak of Pico de Paris, Conway found a piece of goat hair rope and took this as proof of a legend that a shepherd climbed up into the eternal snows, never to return. (Conway appears to have overlooked the possibility that Wiener's party might have left the piece of rope.) Conway then named the peak Pico del Indio in honor of the legendary shepherd.

If Conway had climbed the as-marked Pico del Indio on his way to Pico Sur, he would have made the first traverse of the entire mountain. In his account of the climb, there is no mention of successive nights above 6000 meters, high narrow exposed ridges or any of the rest of what makes a good climbing tale.

Wiener's account of his expedition was published in 1880 as *Perou et Bolivie*; a Spanish translation was published in 1993. His account lacks any significant detail, and it is not possible to tell what he climbed. His given coordinates for the peak climbed are from Paris and not from Greenwich, England, making it difficult to establish what he climbed. However, he clearly states that he climbed the most southeastern of Illimani's peaks, that it was next to the highest peak and that it had an altitude of 6131 meters. Following the DAV map, these facts would make Wiener's peak Pico Layca Kholu (6159m).

Further clarification: Hans Ertl, in the 1953 *Mountain World* (p. 149), writes: "In 1877, Pico dell Indio, southern outpost of the Illimani, was climbed by Wiener. . . . In 1898, Conway crossed the Pico dell Indio. . . and made the first ascent of the south summit of Illimani."

Further confusion: in an article by C.R.P. Vandeleur in the 1955 *Alpine Journal* (p. 172), he quotes Conway as being aware that Wiener had made a considerable ascent on the same side of Illimani as himself, but he could not work out what peak Wiener had climbed. A footnote, presumably written by the *AJ* editor, says that Wiener climbed the Central and lowest summit of Illimani. However, 1) according to the DAV map, Pico del Indio (6109m) is the lowest of the five major peaks, followed by Layca Kholu (6159m), Central (6362m), Norte

(6403m) and Sur (6368m); 2) if you got up Pico Central, it would be about 45 minutes to cross the basin and climb Pico Sur.

Further clarification: Evelio Echevarría states in a footnote in the 1978 *American Alpine Journal* (p. 577) that Wiener got to a summit (6131m) on the south side and named it Pic (sic) de Paris, and that Conway traversed this peak in 1898 on his way to the summit and renamed it Pico del Indio. He also states that Norte was first climbed in 1950 by Ertl and Schröder and Pico Central by Bolivians in the 1950s.

There is sufficient proof to argue that the DAV and IGM map names are wrong. I think there is enough evidence to suggest that the as-marked Pico Layca Kholu is in fact Wiener's Pico de Paris and Conway's Pico del Indio.

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### CORDILLERA QUIMSA CRUZ

*Cordillera Quimsa Cruz, Note on Activity.* Please note: the only way to know what has been climbed in the Quimsa Cruz is if climbers use grid references to identify the peaks. There is more confusion over peak names in the Quimsa Cruz than in any other part of Bolivia. Climbers tend to make up their own names for peaks and routes, which makes it very difficult to find out what has been done.

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*Quimsa Cruz, Various Ascents.* The 1998 Scottish Bolivian Expedition (Tony Barton, leader; Ken Marsden, Tom Wiggins, Tony Hill, Russel Weedon, Dougie Bayne and John Miller) touched down at El Alto on June 7. After ascents in the Condoriri group (Tarija, 5250m; Jancopiti, 5875m), part of the team left. The remaining members turned our attention south of the Cordillera Real to the little-visited Quimsa Cruz, a compact range of mountains some 50 kilometers long with a high point of Cerro Gigante (5748m). Its central and southern parts are glaciated, while in the north, apart from a few minor glaciers, it consists of a wonderful array of rocky peaks and spires up to 5350 meters. Armed with a full set of maps, we arranged 4x4 transportation and after seven hours arrived at Viloco, a large and somewhat unsightly mining town. It is worth remembering that but for the mines there would be no road. A simple three-hour walk took us to a campsite. The next seven days featured excellent weather and we were able to climb several routes, four of which we believe to be first ascents, and all on impeccable rock. Ascents included: the west ridge of Cerro Torrini (5100m; GR 587 420), July 1, Barton and Wiggins, solo. The east ridge (V-, 200m, five pitches) of Cerro Taruca Umaña (4852m; GR 572 403), July 2, Barton, Wiggins and Marsden. The south ridge (III+, 155m, three pitches) of Pt. 4905m (GR 577 410), July 3, Barton, Wiggins and Marsden. The east face (IV, 195m, six pitches) of Pt. 4685m (GR 591 393), July 5, Wiggins and Barton. The east ridge/north face (V, 240m, seven pitches) of Grosse Mauer (5080m, GR 599 387), July 6, Barton and Wiggins. The north ridge of Pt. 5060m (GR 591 399), July 6, Marsden, solo. Grid references refer to the IGM Viloco 1:50,000 sheet.

Considerable potential remains and with all the peaks so close to hand it is a pleasant area in which to climb.

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