

points. At the third stake, Tom Hand rappelled and soon reached the stance. Then, without warning, the snow gave way under his feet and he fell down the slope and disappeared over the northeast face. Attempts to locate him failed. All we could do was to continue our descent in a state of shock and distress. All subsequent attempts to locate his body failed.

CALVIN TORRANS, *Dal Riada Club, Ireland*

*Alpamayo Norte.* On June 17 R.J. Campbell, Carson and Lynn Black and I left Huaraz for the Quebrada de los Cedros. It took us three days to reach Laguna Jancarurish via Hacienda Colcas. Leaving Lynn to tend Base Camp, we three men set out with five days of food for Alpamayo. We spent one short day going over the pass to the Kogan Glacier. After another day-and-a-half spent weaving through séracs and jumping crevasses, on June 22 we finally reached the col below the north ridge of Alpamayo. The next morning, after one pitch of steep slabby rock and two more of dangerously thin, honeycombed ice, we abandoned the north ridge for a safer alternative. We set out in the dark early on June 24 for the west face, which we climbed to just below the large crevasse that cuts the face. A traverse took us underneath the cornices of the north ridge. One lead of steep water-ice brought us onto the crest above the rotten ice formations on the lower part of the north ridge. Except for steep, bottomless slush above the rock band, we found enjoyable mixed snow, ice and rock. We spent a cold, but safe, night on the north summit, waiting for the snow on the upper ridge to consolidate enough to hold rappel anchors. Early the next morning we reversed our route.

DAVID BAMBERGER, *Unaffiliated*

*Alpamayo, Southwest Face.* Rudolf Riedl and I set up our Base Camp at Jancarurishcocha in the Quebrada Alpamayo on July 11 along with our friends from the Attergau expedition. (Austrians Karl Eichhorn, Horst Pelska and Franz Schaden of that group climbed the north face of Quitaraju on July 16.—*Editor.*) We set up Camp I with them between Loyacjirca and Quitaraju at 16,400 feet. On July 13 we two went through the long and difficult Alpamayo icefall, which we should have avoided by climbing below Quitaraju. Camp II was at 17,550 feet below the southwest face of Alpamayo. On July 14 and 15 we climbed the southwest face, bivouacking at 19,000 feet. We climbed Quitaraju on the 17th under ideal conditions. Before returning to Huaraz, we reconnoitered Santa Cruz's northeast ridge. Like the Attergau expedition, we feel that because of the drought the first-ascent route is objectively dangerous from the enormous loss of snow, which has exposed rotten rock; it seems no

longer climbable. (See photos.) The entire northeast ridge could be climbed but it would take a long time.

REINHARD PÖLTNER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Allpamayo, Kitaraju.* Our expedition was composed of Wally Barker, Rick Hanners and me. From Base Camp at the confluence of the Quebradas Arweiqocha and Santa Cruz, on July 20 Barker and I unsuccessfully attempted Kurikashjana. On July 29 he and I bivouacked on the west col between Allpamayo and Kitaraju and woke at two A.M. under a full moon. The snow at the base of the southwest face of Allpamayo was deep and it was work to get to the bergschrund. Instead of crossing the schrund and proceeding up the Italian route as we had intended, we were disoriented and ended up too far right. We crossed several flutes and continued right until we came to a main channel in midface in which we climbed directly to the summit ridge on superb conditions. We bivouacked on the summit and descended the north ridge. After a resupply in Huaraz, we had six days of bad weather. Peter Millar and Jim O'Neill established themselves at our camp. They left for the west col of Allpamayo on July 15. I followed them the next day. The weather broke and together we made an enjoyable climb of the north face of Kitaraju. Two days later Millar and O'Neill climbed the southwest face of Allpamayo behind two Frenchmen. I watched as the accident occurred. (See below.)

STEVE CONNOLLY, *Dead Boys Mountaineering and Ammo Club*

*Kitaraju, Allpamayo, Southwest Face and Tragedy.* Peter Millar and I made Base Camp at the junction of the Quebradas Arweiqocha and Santa Cruz. After several days, we camped in the Allpamayo-Kitaraju col. On July 18 we enjoyed a climb on the north face of Kitaraju with Steve Connolly. After a day's rest, Millar and I bivouacked at the base of the southwest face of Allpamayo. A cold night kept us in our bivouac sacks longer than expected, allowing two French climbers, Serge Beriol and Bernard Lay, to beat us onto the route. We gave them a bit of a head start before starting up the face 100 meters behind them. A bend in the flute we were climbing prevented our seeing exactly what happened and probably saved our lives. One of the massive ice towers below the summit collapsed either under its own or the lead French climber's weight. All we heard was a roar and seconds later the flute was filled with blocks of ice. The face is so steep near the top that the ice avalanche passed over us as we hugged the face and tried to make ourselves as small as possible. After the slide stopped and the debris cleared, I looked up to find one of the French climbers hanging upside down ten meters from me. He must have been killed instantly. As his rope was still taut and