

*Huascarán Norte, North Face Solo, 1981.* The Belgian climber Johan de Schepper soloed the French 1966 route on the north face of Huascarán Norte in July, 1981. He took two days to make this difficult climb.

*Chopicalqui, Northwest Face, Solo in one day.* From camp at 13,125 feet above Yurac Corral in the Quebrada Llanganuco, I decided to attempt a new route on the northwest face of Chopicalqui to the left of the route climbed in 1981 by Sigayret, the Rollands and Roberts (A.A.J., 1982, pages 176-7). I searched the route among the séracs with binoculars. Late in the afternoon, a huge avalanche swept the whole face and glacier. At three A.M. on July 24, I set out in the frigid cold with my headlamp. At dawn I climbed verglas-covered rock to set foot on the glacier. The avalanche had swept the whole glacier, filling crevasses. I rapidly ascended the resultant toboggan chute, letting me reach easily the icefall of the northwest face. Several nearly vertical gullies of blue ice led me to 18,700 feet. At eight A.M., I was at the foot of a chiseled wall of ice flutes, which averaged 60° to 70°. The ice was glassy and even black in the steeper pitches. After eating a bit, I chose the widest furrow and climbed without stopping to the very sharp north foresummit. Life took on a new savour, ice-axe, ice hammer and crampons were remarkably secure tools to give me confidence and a feeling of freedom. On the foresummit my altimeter read 6050 meters (19,850 feet). The main peak was cloud-covered. The last 1000 feet were torture. In heavy clouds I plowed up knee-deep snow. Finally at 10:30 A.M. I forced myself up the last meters to the summit (6345 meters, 20,817 feet). No visibility, but I delighted in the solitude and calm. I immediately began the descent. Through a hole in the clouds, Huascarán smiled at me. I left the north peak and descended to the glacier and made the long traverse off the glacier, thinking of yesterday's avalanche. Then rock, moraine, grass came. At three P.M. I found our porter, Pompeo, waiting for me by the stream.

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*Chopicalqui, East Ridge.* Our expedition was composed of René Desmaison, Dr. Alain Vagne, Guy Giraud, David Autheman, Michel Arizzi and me. We had our Base Camp in the Quebrada Honda and established two more camps to acclimatize and to move up supplies. We prepared the route on the beginning of the unclimbed east ridge for three days, finding fixed ropes of a previous attempt in the first 650 feet. On August 17 Desmaison, Vagne, Arizzi and I set out. In the first part we had snow and ice with problems of huge cornices and varying snow-and-ice conditions. A section had rotten rock. The cornices were so high and thin that we had windows through to the other side, veritable labyrinths of ice. The climb was complicated by unstable weather and heavy loads. We each carried a rucksack and we had two haul sacks since we were making a movie. We made seven bivouacs and reached the summit on August 25.

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