

Northern Quimsa Cruz, Various Ascents. Frank Van Herreweghe (Andorra) and Marc Gavalda put up two rock routes on minor peaks way to the left of the Obelisco and Halcon peaks: *Kawsachun Coca* (6b A1, 160m) on June 10, and *Uk amaki* (6b, 215m) on June 12. On the north face of Cuernos de Diablo (5270m), they put up a new variation (F6b, eight pitches) to the classic North Face route on July 23. The pair reported superb climbing on clean graniodorite with excellent protection. There is an aluminium box left by the 1987 German expedition on the summit for registering ascents. The pair were the 11th to write in the book. On July 25, they put up a new route on the first tower left (from Base Camp) of the obvious flat-topped tower southeast of Pico Halcon. The pair followed a finger-to-fist crack in the middle of the tower, reaching a corner crack after one pitch. They then climbed one full pitch up the corner crack until it became too wide to jam or protect, at which point they veered right for 50 meters. The final pitch brought them to a platform from where they bouldered to the summit. They reported no signs of previous ascents and graded the climb F6b, very mossy.

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Cordillera Quimsa Cruz, Various Ascents. It was reported that Spaniards Óscar Acín, Javier Pina and Miguel-Angelo Zaragoza made a number of first ascents in the Cordillera Quimsa Cruz. They first climbed *Directa Inti* (IV/3) on the 500-meter south face of Nevado Piroja (5400m). Next, they put up *Vía de Raciones y Hombres* (IV/4) on the 400-meter south face of Vola Collo (5200m), a direct route that climbed mixed ground (80°) to the upper snow face (max. 65°) to the top. Descent was made by rappelling the route. They then climbed *Vía Aragonesa* (IV/4) on the 500-meter south face of Nevado San Luis (5600m). The route trends slightly to the right, passing to the right of the large serac band half-way up the face and left of two rock barriers higher up. The crux was the exit pitch onto the summit ridge. (*Desnivel* 141)

CORDILLERA OCCIDENTAL

Cordillera Occidental, Overview. Snow conditions were extremely poor in the Cordillera Occidental. Bolivia's highest mountain, the extinct volcano Sajama (6549m), is normally a snow plod, but the 1998 season saw very few non-guided or guided groups summiting due to the length of time needed to climb a 40-meter, 60° ice gully to reach a huge and time-consuming penitente field with spikes up to 1.8 meters high. Parinacota (6330m) was completely clear of snow on the east (normal route) side, leaving a massive amount of decidedly unpleasant-looking volcanic scree. Teams were failing on the Chilean (western) side of the mountain due to the length of time needed to get through the penitentes. No peaks south of Parinacota had any snow at all.

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CORDILLERA SUD LÍPEZ

Cordillera Sud Lipez, Overview. The Cordillera Sud Lipez lies to the east of the southern part of the Cordillera Occidental and runs down to the Bolivia-Chile-Argentina border. Major peaks include Cerro Lipez, Morurco (5681m), Uturuncu (6008m), and Zapeleri (5656m), which sits exactly on the point where the borders of Bolivia, Chile and Argentina meet. The peaks are volcanic, technically easy and normally snow-covered, but in 1998 no snow was