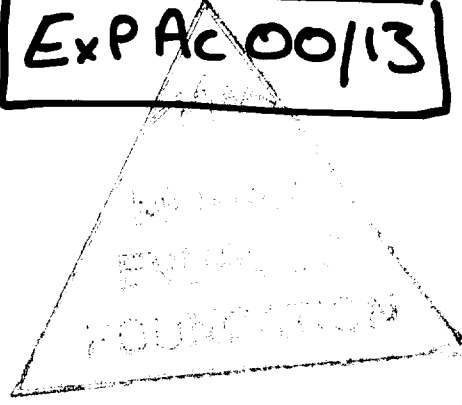


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Quimsa Cruz & Illmani

Bolivia 2000



Expedition Report

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## **ACNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We should firstly like to thank the Mount Everest Foundation , The British Mountaineering Council and the Alison Chadwick fund for supporting this expedition.

Thanks should also be conveyed to Mr Malcolm Creasy and Mr Graeme Etle who agreed to act as referees and to Andrew Huddleston who helped with the reproduction of photographs for the report.

A thank you, must also go to Paramo who supplied us with some very tasty fleeces (see back cover)

Finally, in title only as expedition leader I should like to thank, Sue, Di, Catrin, Sarah and Clare for all the work and effort they put into organising the expedition, climbing the hills and compiling this report. For without team members the expedition could not have taken place.

## **SUMMARY**

The idea of a possible expedition to visit the Southern region of the Quimsa Cruz Bolivia was first proposed in September 1999 after Sue Savages successful trip to the Northern region. Having limited information concerning the area Sue Savege and I set about researching possible mountains to visit. Finally we decided to explore the Alpine style peaks in the area of Corichuma (5675m) and to establish a base camp at Laguna Choca Kkota (Map1). This area appeared to offer a great deal of potential for new routing and making possible first ascents. With very little idea of what challenges this area could provide us with we decided to conclude the expedition with a direct objective to climb Pico Norte Illimani via the Khoya Khoyu route. With funding from the British Mountaineering Council, The Mountain Everest Foundation and the Alison Chadwick fund a team of six female climbers was assembled the team left the UK in July 2000 and flew directly to La Paz. After organising supplies, retrieving lost baggage and acclimatising to the lack of oxygen we left La Paz to be dropped off at the side of the road 9hrs later. After a very uncomfortable camp on a 30° slope we ferried all the equipment to base camp (4500m). With perfect weather and surrounded by mountains we set about our exploration, initially scrambling on unclimbed peaks below the snow line and climbing on a granite buttress close to the base camp. Base camp buttress was ascended by Di and Sue on a route called Bakers oven E1 5b and by Clare and Sarah on a loose and not recommended line V.Diff. In addition to completing new routes on

Cerro Huari Taranca and on the SW ridge of Cerro Salvadora we were able to recce the area and acclimatise. Within a couple of days we were all ready to tackle our first Alpine routes. In two teams we set off with separate objectives and successfully completed an ascent of an unnamed peak now named Les Tres Marias (5480) and an ascent of the West peak of Cerro Yaypuri (5500m). At around Alpine grade PD+ these mountains with no recorded ascents enticed us to look at possible lines onto the S Ridge Korrichuma. Two routes onto the ridge were made with an ascent of Cerro Hualla Kkota as well. Gaining the S. Ridge from the east was perhaps the better choice and a delightful Slab took Sue and Di to the central tower on the ridge. The western approach was not so profitable and definitely not recommended. After some more new routes on our base camp buttress. Two teams set off onto explore new lines on subsidiary summits of Chiaro Jancho Kkuno (5460m). A superb line straight up the South face named Passos Celestios was made to the east peak. The following day this route was repeated and a traverse west to an unnamed peak now named Pico Helado (5400) achieved. With just a couple of days left and the threat of unsettled weather the team concluded their trip with a day out on the upper tier of base camp buttress during which 5 new rock routes were climbed. With the arrival of snow the team walked out satisfied with their exploration.

Within a couple of days we all set off to Illimani to attempt the Khoyu Khoyu route. Bad weather and a complicated glacier approach meant that we had to retreat despite two attempts.

So, the direct objective was not to be but our exploration of the Quimsa Cruz was extremely productive and most importantly great fun.

#### EXPEDITION MEMBERS

Adele Pennington (Expedition Leader). School teacher North Yorkshire

Sue Savege (MIC) Mountaineering instructor N. Wales.

Catrin Thomas (MIA) Mountaineering instructor N. Wales.

Di Gilbert (MIC) Mountaineering instructor Scotland

Sarah Nuttall (MIA) Mountaineering instructor Cumbria

Clare Waddingham School teacher (VSO worker) Preston

## **Research of areas to be visited.**

### **Quimsa Cruz**

The area we visited was the Southern end of the small mountain range known as the Cordillera Quimsa Cruz, which is an 8hr jeep drive from La Paz. Considerable research at the RGS and Alpine club library allowed us to identify an area, which had seen very little activity. The area we were going to concentrate on was that around Korichuma (Immaculado) 5675m first climbed in 1911 from the North. In 1992 Dakin Cook revisited the area and made an ascent of Korichuma via the SW Face and also climbed a peak thought to be called Nevado Virgenes. After some confusion the proper Nevado Virgenes was climbed in 1997 together with an ascent of Chiara Jancho Khuno (Plate 1). We were unable to find any more references to peaks in the surrounding area and therefore left considerable potential for new routing and first ascents from a base camp at Laguna Choco Khota.

### **Cordillera Real.**

It was proposed that the team would attempt the Khoya Khoyu route on Pico Norte Illimani 6403m first climbed in 1972. The route description was taken from Yossi Brain's guide book.

Maps. A 1:50,000 map of the Quimsa Cruz had been obtained from the institute Geographico Militar (IGM) on Sue savages expedition in 1999. This map was difficult to get hold of, however maps for the more popular climbing areas were obtained easily from bookshops in La Paz.

### **Flight**

There are numerous ways of flying to La Paz and most of the major airlines offer regular flights costing in the region of £800. Problems were met when flying American Airlines and from our experience we advise that all baggage is correctly labelled and a description taken. Furthermore you should ensure that your tickets are booked all the way through and confirmed before leaving the UK

The one advantage with American airlines is that you are able to take 64Kg of luggage meaning that all equipment can be taken except fuel.

### **Accommodation**

There are a number of hostels/hotels in La Paz the cost ranging from \$5 to \$35 per night. Prior booking of Hotel Republico ensured that we had accommodation on arrival. We did find the hotel rather expensive and had a few problems when they cancelled our booking on returning from the mountains. Hostel Austria proved to be better option at \$5 per night and the remaining nights in La Paz were spent at this Hostel.

The Lonely planet guide was a valuable source of information and should be consulted when planning a trip.

### **Acclimatising**

On arriving in La Paz it is a good idea to spend 2 or 3 days acclimatising and organising equipment and supplies. All expedition members had taken Diamox prior to arrival in La Paz. This meant that we were able to function and organise equipment and supplies. If more time were available it would be better to acclimatise slowly and perhaps incorporate a trip to Lake Titicaca.

### **Money:**

Two main currencies, Bolivianos and US Dollars are accepted in La Paz. (£1 being worth approximately 10 Bolivianos). There are several money exchange shops (Cambios) and it is worth being selective to obtain the best exchange rates. Street money trading is legal and offers a convenient method of exchanging US \$. It is also possible to use plastic money and obtain cash directly from the bank cash machines.

### **Food. And Fuel**

The main bulk of food can be purchased from the markets in La Paz. The markets are split into areas selling particular types of food. Market shopping was entertaining and with a certain degree of haggling most items such as tea, coffee, milk powder, smash, pasta, rice, herbs, biscuits, sweets, cheese, fruit and vegetables could be purchased cheaply. In order to obtain tinned fish, hard cheese and bread a Western Style supermarket called Zaks was used. This was expensive and required a taxi journey from the main city centre.

A number of items from the UK were taken these included, muesli, yeast, egg powder, muesli bars, soya protein, peanut butter, custard and pancake mix. It would be also worthwhile taking noodles and pasta from the UK and purchasing a pressure cooker from the markets to ensure that your pasta did not resemble rice pudding!

A washing up bowl and large pan purchased in the markets were extremely useful.

Fuel for petrol stoves is readily available but it essential to take a fuel filter. Two MSR Dragon Fly stoves were purchased for the trip however we were very disappointed with the way in which they performed. In fact they were a constant source of annoyance and made cooking a chore. Approximately 1 litre of fuel was used per day.

### **Kit and Equipment.**

With alpine style climbing in mind the kit we took was that you would expect to take for a Scottish winter trip or to the Alps.

4 x 50mm 8mm ropes and 100m 7mm rope were purchased for the trip. This gave us plenty of scope to mix and match ropes depending on the climbing. The 7mm rope became very useful as tat; furthermore this could also have been used in for an emergency retreat.

3 small winter racks were taken and one set of friends. 6 snow stakes were also faithfully carried but only two were used!!

Plastic boots or leather alternatives were taken together with rock boots and approach shoes, which were suitable for the walk in.

In addition to climbing equipment and personal equipment a nylon tarpaulin was taken for use as a cooking shelter.

A selection of books, duvet jacket, and 4-season sleeping bag are also important in order to occupy the long dark very cold nights.

### **Health and Hygiene.**

The main health problems associated with climbing in Bolivia are those due to altitude and contaminated water.

Diamox was taken for the first few days of the trip and appeared to alleviate any real problems of altitude sickness. We were all very careful to avoid drinking any water that had not been treated with iodine and with careful choice of food we managed to stay relatively tummy bug free.

A cold bug carried from the UK did pose problems and presented as flu at altitude. All but one member of the team was struck and a secondary chest infections were treated with Augmentin a general purpose antibiotic. Advise that you stay away from poorly people before the trip!

A comprehensive medical kit was carried and luckily not used. In the future it would be useful to carry a dental repair kit just in case.

Personal hygiene is most important and we all felt that we could have been more vigilant at base camp.

### **Transport.**

Transport arrangements were made in the UK though Carlos Escobar who had proved to be extremely reliable on the 1999 expedition. Although expensive \$620 return to the Quimsa Cruz and \$220 to Illimani it did mean that we were assured to get to our required location and more importantly to be picked up. It is advisable to have the route planned and to navigate on the journey to avoid any detours. Once off the main road, obtaining fuel is difficult and presents a worry to the driver who needs to return to La Paz.

As Trekking and mountaineering are becoming more popular in Bolivia there are now numerous agencies that can provide transport. These appear to be cheaper and therefore in the future I would recommend that transport arrangements be made once in La Paz.

For shorter journeys taxis can be arranged very economically if you are prepared to haggle. On the whole the Bolivians seem to be very reliable and we had no problems with any of our transport arrangements.

### **Environmental Issues.**

With increasing popularity of the mountain ranges in Bolivia it is important to consider waste management. On this trip all combustible waste was burnt and the ash carried out together with non-burnable waste. Human waste was left to decompose naturally as the base camp was well below the snow line and therefore the temperature would be such to allow natural decomposition. Toilet paper was burnt. Designated areas were set in order to avoid any contamination of the watercourses.

DETAILED ITINERY of QUIMSA CRUZ/ILLIMANI EXPED.2000

DATE	WEATHER	TIME	ACTIVITY	ALTITUDE m	TEAM
24th July	Good	3 days	Arrive La Paz: Organise equipment and food supplies		
26th July	Good		Met Carlos Escobar to arrange transport and the purchase of fuel	4770	
27th July	Good	9hrs	Travel to Quimsa Cruz in 4x4 GR625259: Camp	4500	
28th July	Good	8hrs	Transport Equipment and set up base camp. GR 642286	4900	CT, DG, CW, AP&SN
29th July	Good	8hrs	Recco North of base camp, to GR 650301 viewing possible routes on Korrichuma		
30th July	Good	8hrs	Slab Route (Diff) and ascent of S. peak Cerro Huari Taranca		DG SN
	Good		GR 635288. FIRST ASCENT (PD+)	4935	
	Good	8hrs	Ascent of SW Ridge Cerro Salvadora to 3rd Pinnacle (Scrambling)	5000	CT CW
	Good		GR 655295		
31st July	Good	6hrs	Establish high bivi for route on unnamed peak E of Korrichuma	4900	SN SS AP
	Good		Bivi site GR655302. 3hr boulder field from hell		
1st August	Good	12hrs	Ascent of peak (unnamed) Les Tres Marias GR 666312 via the SW face. New Route and FIRST ASCENT (PD)	5480	SN, SS, AP
	Good		Return to base camp		
1st August	Good	14hrs	Ascent of W Peak Cerro Yaypuri GR 673302 via SW Face and Nridge NEW ROUTE and FIRST ASCENT (PD+)	5500	DG, CT, CW
	Good		REST DAY		
2nd August	Good	10hrs	Ascent of Cerro-Hualla Kkota (FIRST ASCENT) SE ridge followed by NE Ridge (Diff) Continuation NE to Pt on S ridge Korrichuma	5380	AP CT
3rd August	Good		NEW ROUTE (D-)		
	Good	12hrs	S. Ridge Korrichuma traversed to east of first tower, then west onto main ridge via RED Slab route's) to central tower. (D-)	5380	SS, DG
	Good		LH Slab Route (Vdiff) Lower Buttress GR 648289		SN CW
4th August	Good	4hrs	Rock route named Bakers oven E15b Lower Buttress GR 648289		SS, DG
5th August	Good	6hrs	S. Face of E peak of Chiro Jancho Khuno NEW PEAK and ROUTE		
6th August	Good	17hrs	Route named Passos Sylestios. Descent via abseil of ascended route	5500	AP SN
	Good		Recco of S Ridge of E peak of Chiro Jancho Khuno		CT DG
	Good	7hrs	Ascent of Cerro-Hualla Kkota and Cerro Huari Taranca	5100	CW
	Good	8hrs	Repeat of Passos Sylestios followed by traverse to peak at GR 662311		
7th August	Cloud	10hrs	descent via SW face route of Les Tres Marias NEW PEAK named est Helado (D-)	5400	CT DG



DETAILED ITINERY of QUIMSA CRUZ/ILLIMANI EXPED.2000

DATE	WEATHER	TIME	ACTIVITY	ALTITUDE m	TEAM
8th August	Snow		Rock route on upper buttress of SW Ridge Cerro Salvador a 2pitches then abseil retreat due to weather. (HVS 5a)		SS, CW, AP
9th August	Cloudy		Rock Routes on upper buttress of SW Ridge Cerro Salvador a LH Slab Route A (MS) 80m LH Slab Route B (MVS 4b) 80m RH Slab Route C (S) 80m RH Slab Stones Throw V94c (80m)		CT,SN,DG CT,SN,DG SS, CW,AP SS, AP,CW
10th August	Snow/Rain	10hrs	Walk out to road head 600269. Knackering two Journeys		
11th August	Cloud		Return to La Paz		
12th August	Cloud		Wash, eat, drink and prepare for next trip to Illimani		
13th August	Stormy				
14th August	Cloud		Travel to Estancia Una 4x4. Walkinto base camp Puente Roto	4400	AP, DG,CW,CT,SN
15th August	Cloud	8hrs	Attempt to reach site of high biv for start of Khoya Khoyu. Ascended Glacier that comes down between Picos Central and Picos Norte. Failed to reach site due to complicated glacier. Returned to site seen for ABC.	5100 5300	
16th August	Good		Left ABC 10pm to attempt route on LH side of glacier no joy, stuck in an amphitheatre of creaking ice with dangerous exits Retreated back to ABC		AP, DG, CT
17th August	Good		Return to Base camp		
18th August	Good		Return to Estancia Una, drive back to La Paz		
19th August	Stormy		Organised trip to Condirri region		
20th August			Transport to Laguna Tuna, walk into Base camp		
21st August	Snow		Walk to Pt Austria		DG, CT, AP DG, CT, AP DG, CT, AP DG CT
22nd August	Storm/Snow		TENT BOUND		
23rd August			Ascent of Alpimayo via normal Route for 2/ return to Laguna Tuna for AP		
24th August			AP FLY HOME		
25th August	Snow		Attempt on Condirri, retreat due to conditions		
26th August			Return to Laguna Tuna		

THE END KNACKERED FLY HOME

SUMMARY	OF	ROUTES COMPLETED OR ATTEMPTED	Height gain
30th July	Rock	8hrs Slab Route (D) and ascent of S. Peak Cerro Huari Taranca GR 635288. FIRST ASCENT (PD+)	DG SN 4935
	Rock	8hrs Ascent of SW Ridge Cerro Salvadora to 3rd Pinnacle (Scrambling) GR 655295 NEW ROUTE	5000 CT CW
1st August	Snow	12hrs Ascent of peak (unnamed) Les Tres Marias GR 666312 via the SW face. New Route and FIRST ASCENT (PD)	5480 SN,SS,AP
1st August	Snow	14hrs Ascent of W Peak Cerro Yaypuri GR 673302 via SW Face and Nridge NEW ROUTE and FIRST ASCENT (PD+)	5500 DG, CT, CW
3rd August	Rock	10hrs Ascent of CerroHualla Kkota (FIRST ASCENT)SE ridge followed by NE Ridge (Diff) Continuation NE to Pt on S ridge Korrichuma NEW ROUTE (AD)	5380 AP CT
	Rock	12hrs S. Ridge Korrichuma traversed to east of first tower, then west onto main ridge via RED Slab route's) to central tower. (D-)	5380 SS, DG
4th August	Rock	4hrs LH Slab Route (Vdiff) Lower Buttress GR 648289	SN CW
5th August	Rock	6hrs Rock route named Bakers oven E15b Lower Buttress GR 648289	SS, DG
6th August	Snow	17hrs S. Face of E peak of Chiaro Jancho Khuno NEW PEAK and ROUTE Route named Passos Sylestios. Descent via abseil of ascended route	5500 AP SN 5100 CW
	Rock	8hrs Ascent of CerroHualla Kkota and CerroHuari Taranca	
7th August	Snow	10hrs Repeat of Passos Sylestios followed by traverse to peak at GR 662311 descent via SW face route of Les Tres Marias NEW PEAK named est Helado (D-)	5400 CT DG
8th August	Rock	Rock route on upper buttress of SW Ridge Cerro Salvadora 2pitches then abseil retreat due to weather. (HVS 5a)	SS, CW, AP

9th August	Rock Rock Rock Rock Rock	Rock Routes on upper buttress of SW Ridge Cerro Salvador LH Slab Route A (MS) 80m LH Slab Route B (MVS 4b) 80m RH Slab Route C (S) 80m RH Slab Stones Throw Vs4c (80m)	CT,SN,DG CT,SN,DG SS, CW,AP SS, AP, CW
15th August	Mixed	Attempt to reach site of high bivi for start of Khoya Khoyu. Ascended Glacier that comes down between Picos Central and Picos Norte. Failed to reach site due to complicated glacier. Returned to site seen for ABC. Left ABC 10pm to attempt route on LH side of glacier	AP, DG, CW, CT, SN 5100 5300 AP, DG, CT
16th August	Ice		
23rd August	Snow	Ascent of Pequeno Alpamayo via normal Route	5300 DG CT

## DETAILED ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Cordillera Quimsa Cruz Korichuma Cirque**

#### **Camps & Bivouacs**

##### **Base Camp**

Laguna Choco Kkota 4,400m. Base camp can be made pretty much anywhere around the shores of the lake. You can if you want, camp pretty much where your transport drops you off, but a more agreeable campsite can be found amongst the boulders, at the northern corner of the lake.

##### **High Camp**

Most of the routes in the area can be done in a single long day from base camp, but a high camp or a bivi is an enjoyable aspect of a high altitude ascent. A comfortable high camp can be made at the bottom of the Yaypuri glacier at around 4,900m. To reach high camp first walk northeast to the head of the valley. On the right hand side a cairned moraine ridge takes the easiest line up through some very difficult and tiring moraine. Just below the start of the glacier are some wide sandy bays. The second sandy bay you come to has running water and makes a good place to camp.

#### **Alpine Routes**

##### **Las Tres Marias (Pt 5400m Chiarro Jancho Khuno) PD**

1.8.00. Sue Savege, Adele Pennington, Sarah Nuttall

Time taken 6 hours from bivouac

Grid reference 666312

Start at the left hand edge of the Yaypuri/Bengalo glacier. Go easily up the snow arete bounding the rocks on the left. At the first obstacle, a series of large crevasses, zigzag first right then left through them, finally entering one large crevasse and climbing steeply up out of it. From here continue straight up pleasant slopes on to the summit ridge. Bear slightly rightwards to the small rocky summit. The fastest descent is a reverse of the route (2 hours)

##### **West peak of Cerro Yaypuri 5500m by the southwest flank and north ridge. PD+**

1.8.00. Catrin Thomas, Claire Waddingham, Diane Gilbert

Time taken from the base of the glacier to summit 4 1/2 hours, descent 2 hours

Base camp to glacier 2 1/2 hours

Grid reference 673302

From the base of the Bengalo/Yaypuri glacier, ascend the right hand side of the glacier, initially very straightforward, then after a short while start heading for the right hand-side of an obvious isolated rocky buttress on the glacier. From here head up a short steep slope (50 degrees) for about 50 metres, after this the angle eases. From this point pick a line through the obvious crevasses, heading towards the ridgeline and slightly rightwards. Once on the ridge, head directly to the summit via a small easy rock step. Beyond the summit a traverse to the east summit looks tempting, but the rock is very poor and the best descent is to reverse the route.

**Central Tower of the South Ridge of Korichuma. By the South rib and South East flank to the summit. 5380m. D- PLATE 4**

3.8.00. Sue Savege. Di Gilbert

Total time 12 hours. Ascent 9 hours. Descent 3 hours

From base camp go up the slopes on the left hand side of the valley to reach some old mining works. From here pick your way up the easiest line through the boulders on to the south ridge of Korichuma. Where the ridge starts to steepen up considerably, go round the to the right hand side of the ridge passing a small lake (possible high camp). From the small lake make your way up the rib that can be seen in front of you coming down off the main south ridge. Scramble pleasantly up this rib (AD), moving slightly rightwards as you gain height. This leads on to a huge ledge at the bottom of some a large slab. From the ledge make a rising traverse right into the top of a gully. Follow this gully to the top of the tower.

Descent

Descend by a gully on the western side of the ridge. 2 abseils take you down the icy gully, after which continue down the very loose gully in to the valley. As soon as is possible reascend the ridge on the right making for a col between the s.w. ridge of Korichuma and Cerro Hualla Kkota. Once through the col make your way south through endless boulders to a small valley. From here a good path leads to the mining settlement and on down to base camp.

### **South Peak of Cerro Huari Taranca 4935m PD+ and Slab Route D. PLATE 3**

30.7.00. Sarah Nuttal, Di Gilbert

8 hours

Head up the initial slab, starting at the large ledge (below scoop), - nothing harder than diff/v diff but extremely chossy and bold. C.50m lead climbing which took us up to the ridge which proved impossible for us. An easy day. Head up the obvious rock ridge which eventually leads to the south peak of Cerro Huari Taranca (4935m).

### **Cerro Hualla Kkota 5080m by the south east and north east ridge and continuation by the north east ridge to south ridge of Korichuma. AD**

3.8.00. Adele Pennington, Catrin Thomas

10 hours

From base camp head NW up valley towards Cerro Hualla Kkota. Pick up traverse path and ascend to col NE of Cerro Hualla Kkota. Follow NE ridge climbing (Diff) to summit. A delightful ridge reminiscent of the A'Chir ridge Isle of Arran.

Continuation.: Follow NW ridge towards south ridge of Korichuma., loose with steps of Diff climbing (Not recommended).

Descent Retrace steps to GR 640 308; descend loose gully and scree to valley floor and rejoin ascent route to Cerro Hualla Kkota.

### **South west ridge of Cerro Salvador to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pinnacle PLATE 7**

Grid reference: 655295

30.7.00. Clare Waddingham, Catrin Thomas

8 hours

From base camp walk up to the col to the east of the lake and follow the side of the ridge around passing some large craggy sections (these would go as easy climbs). Make your way onto the ridge from the back and once on the top follow it all the way along going parallel to the main valley.

There are some fairly large blocks and craggy areas along the way, but all of these can be bypassed by dropping down the right hand side of the ridge. As soon as the ridge

veers off towards the summit (which looks like a good day out), drop down into the main valley down easy gullies and slopes

**Passos Celestios D-. South face of east peak of Chiaro Jancho Khuno) PLATE 6**

6.8.00. Adele Pennington, Sarah Nuttall

17 hours. Descent by same route.

Grid reference 661 305 (start)

From base camp head towards high camp. Just before high camp head NW through glacial moraine to GR 652304 (3hr). Start route to right of obvious buttress. Ascend easy snow slopes 40/50 \* for 150m. Two 30m pitch follow (Scottish 11/111) to reach final ridge. Traverse right then head NW to follow ridge to summit. (Step of Scottish11).

**Pico Helado by Passos Celestios and traverse east to Pico Helado 5400m D-**

7.8.00. Di Gilbert, Catrin Thomas

10 hours. Descent by south west face route of Tres Marias

Grid reference 662311

From the top of Passos Sylestios traversing east for about 45 minutes takes you to the top of the summit of pico helado c.5400m. A simple traverse watching out for the crevasses!. Summit cone roughly 50m of 50/55 degree snow before heading down to gain the route of Las Tres Marias.

## **Rock Routes PLATES 6 & 7**

### **Basecamp Crag**

#### **Lower Buttress**

Grid reference 648289

These very compact gritstone like crags are situated at the back of the valley floor on the right hand side.

#### **Left hand slab route V.diff**

4.8.00. Sarah Nuttall, Clare Waddingham

#### **Baker's Oven E1 5b (UIAA 6)**

6.8.00. Sue Savege, Di Gilbert

Approach.

Go up the right hand side of the lower slabs at the back of the valley, ascending steeply to a small mine workings. The rock here is all quite steep and compact.

Pitch 1 10ms

From the back of the platform scramble up to a boulder and go up small grooves.

Pitch 2. 20m 5b.

Make difficult moves using a small edge on the right to ascend the first groove. From here continue up the groove until it is possible to climb out right onto the arete. Follow the arete to a good stance in the groove.

Pitch 3.30m. 5b

Another difficult groove. Start off laybacking then bridging onto slabs above. Continue up to an open groove, good runners on the left at the start, then bold, but pleasant 5a moves up the groove lead to easier climbing and a sloping ledge.

Pitch 4. 40m. 5b

Easy moves up and left around a boulder, then back right lead to a small groove. Ascend this with difficulty on to a smooth arete on the right. Teeter up this for a few minutes and then follow easy ground left to the top.

Descent.

Go up and right until it is possible to scramble down a sandy gully.

#### **Upper Buttress' of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tower of south west ridge of Cerro Salvador**

Grid reference

Approach.

From base camp go to the head of the valley and walk up the left hand side of the lower slabs. Scrambling up the next set of slabs on the left. Go up to the next band of slabs and either scramble up by a gully on the left or climb easily up them.

#### **White Slab Direct HVS 5a**

8.8.00. Sue Savege, Adele Pennington, Clare Waddingham

Pitch 1 3b 50m

Start at the easy grooves on the left of the lower slabs below the main face. Climb up easily to a terrace.

Pitch 2. 30m. 5a.

Walk left along the big ledge to the bottom of a smooth white slab. Follow the seams on the left until below some overlaps, then make a hard step right into a groove. Follow this for a few feet into a cave.

The first ascent retreated from here by abseil because of snow, but a continuation up on slabs at around severe is possible.

**Left hand Slab route A. Severe**

80m

9.8.00. Catrin Thomas, Di Gilbert, Sarah Nuttall

From the left hand edge of the slab go directly up in 3 short pitches.

**Left hand Slab route B. MVS**

80m 4b

9.8.00. Catrin Thomas, Di Gilbert, Sarah Nuttall

Pitch 1

Follow the first obvious groove line on the left hand side of the slab.

Pitch 2 &3

Go directly up to the big ledge and descend down the big gully on the left

**Right hand Slab route C. Severe**

8.8.00. Sue Savege, Adele Pennington, Clare Waddingham

Pitch 1. 40m 4a

From just right of a gully (descent gully) descending from the first tower, go through a small groove at the base of the crag. Go up the slabs pleasantly and slightly right to belay on a narrow ledge.

Pitch 2. 40m 4a

Climb direct on pleasant rock to a large ledge before the summit .

Descent

Follow the easy gully to the left

**Stone's Throw. VS4c**

8.8.00. Sue Savege, Adele Pennington, Clare Waddingham

Pitch 1 4c 40m

Start at the grooves on the left side of the white slab. From a small cave like belay follow grooves and pillars straight up. Exit left and go up to a good stance with huge boulders to belay.

Pitch 2. 4b 40m.

From the stance go direct to the top and follow the arete to a good ledge.

Descent

Pass through the narrow gap on the left and cross the ledge to the descent gully



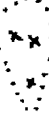








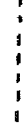
**CORDILLERA REAL Illimani Pico Norte (6403m) Attempted route Khoya Khoyu.**

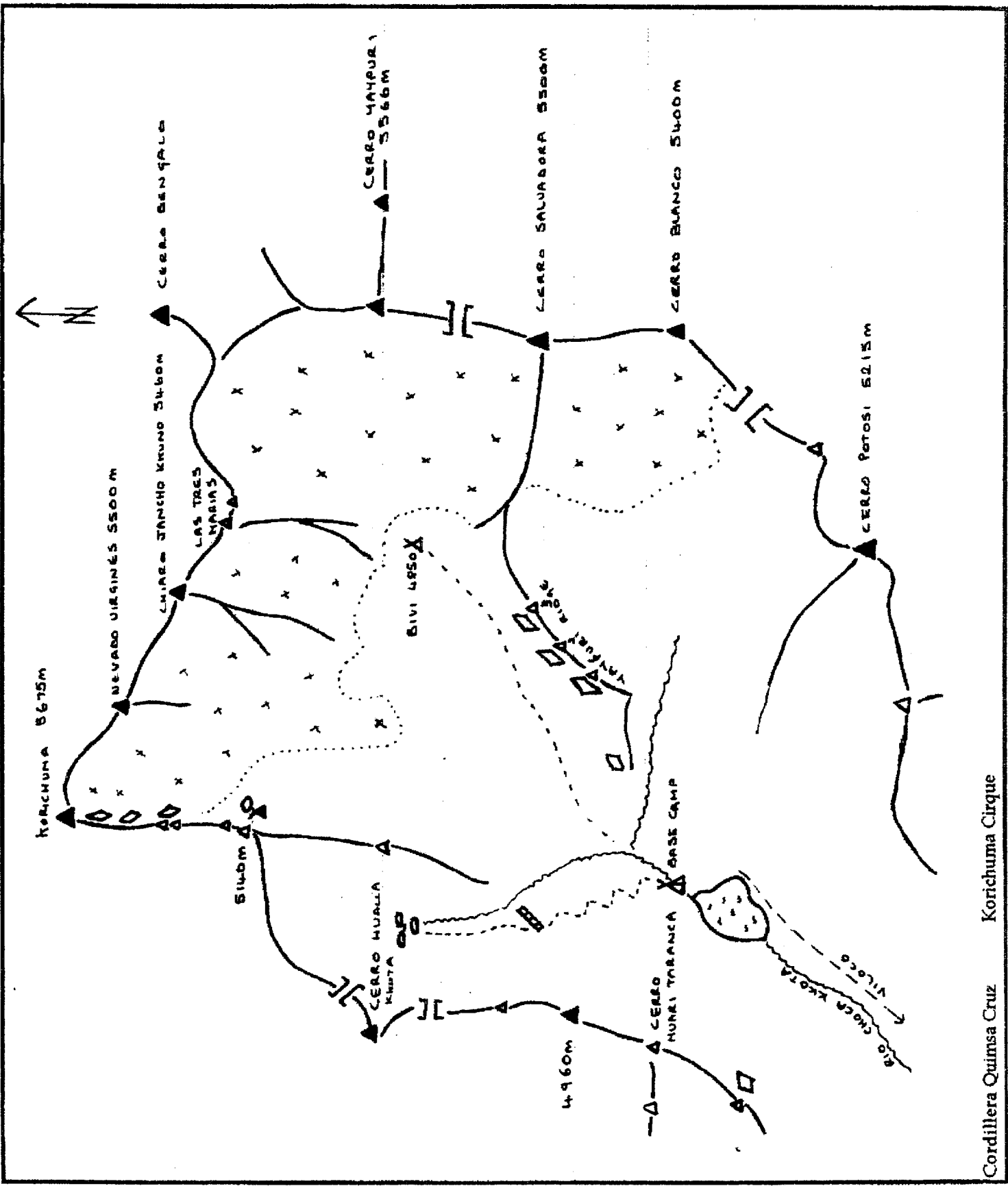
Illimani base camp Puente Roto was reached from Estancia Una. From Puente Roto the mining road is followed towards Nido Condores., turning left after crossing the stream. Before reaching the glacier a small depression was reached. The glacier was first tackled on the right but running late and carrying heavy loads a retreat was made back to the depression where a camp was made. The following night the left hand side close to the rock band was attempted. Glacial recession has left the glacier as a series of complicated open crevasses and bergshrunds. Progress was slow and an amphitheatre of paper-thin ice stopped further advancement. With no spare time to try again high camp was not reached. Further attempts at this route may need to reach high camp via a different route.

**Condoriri group.**

A flying visit to the Condoriri group was made at the end of the trip. Ascents of Pt Austria (5000m) and the normal route on Pequeno Alpamayo (5370m) were made following the guidebook descriptions.

**LEGEND**

- Glacier 
- Major summit 
- Subsidiary summt 
- Ridge 
- Slab 
- Camp/Bivi 
- Mines 
- Track 
- Pools 
- Path 



Cordillera Quimsa Cruz      Korchuma Cirque

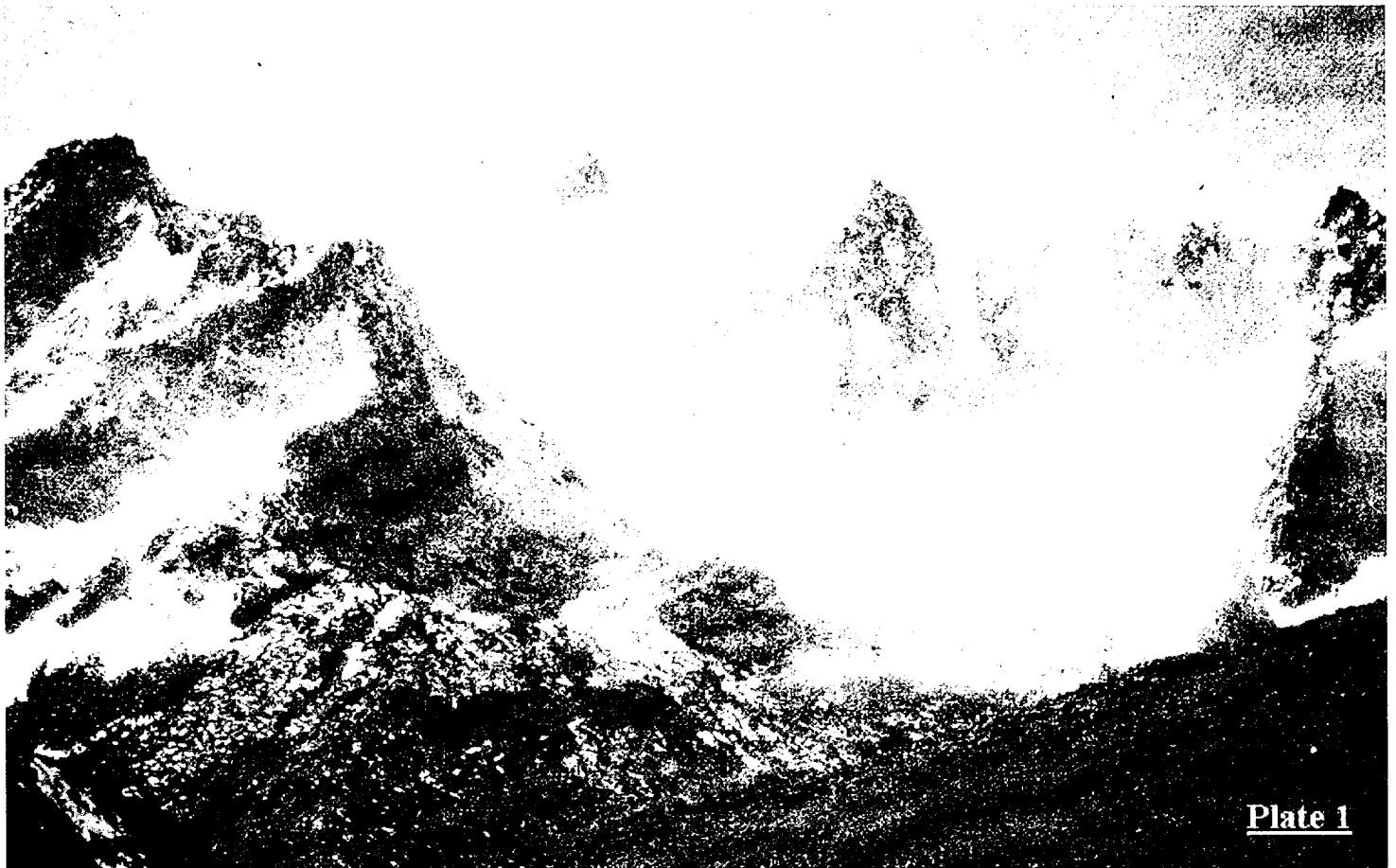


Plate 1

The Choco Cota region of the Cordillera Quimsa Cruz.  
(A) Corichuma 5675m (1<sup>st</sup> ascent 1911)  
(B) Nevado de las Virgenes (1997)  
(C) Chiaro Jancho Khuno (1997)



Plate 2



Plate 3

Plate 3: Sarah Nuttall on Slab Route S. Peak Cerro Huari Taranca  
Plate 4: Red Slab Route onto Central Tower (S. Ridge Korrichuma)

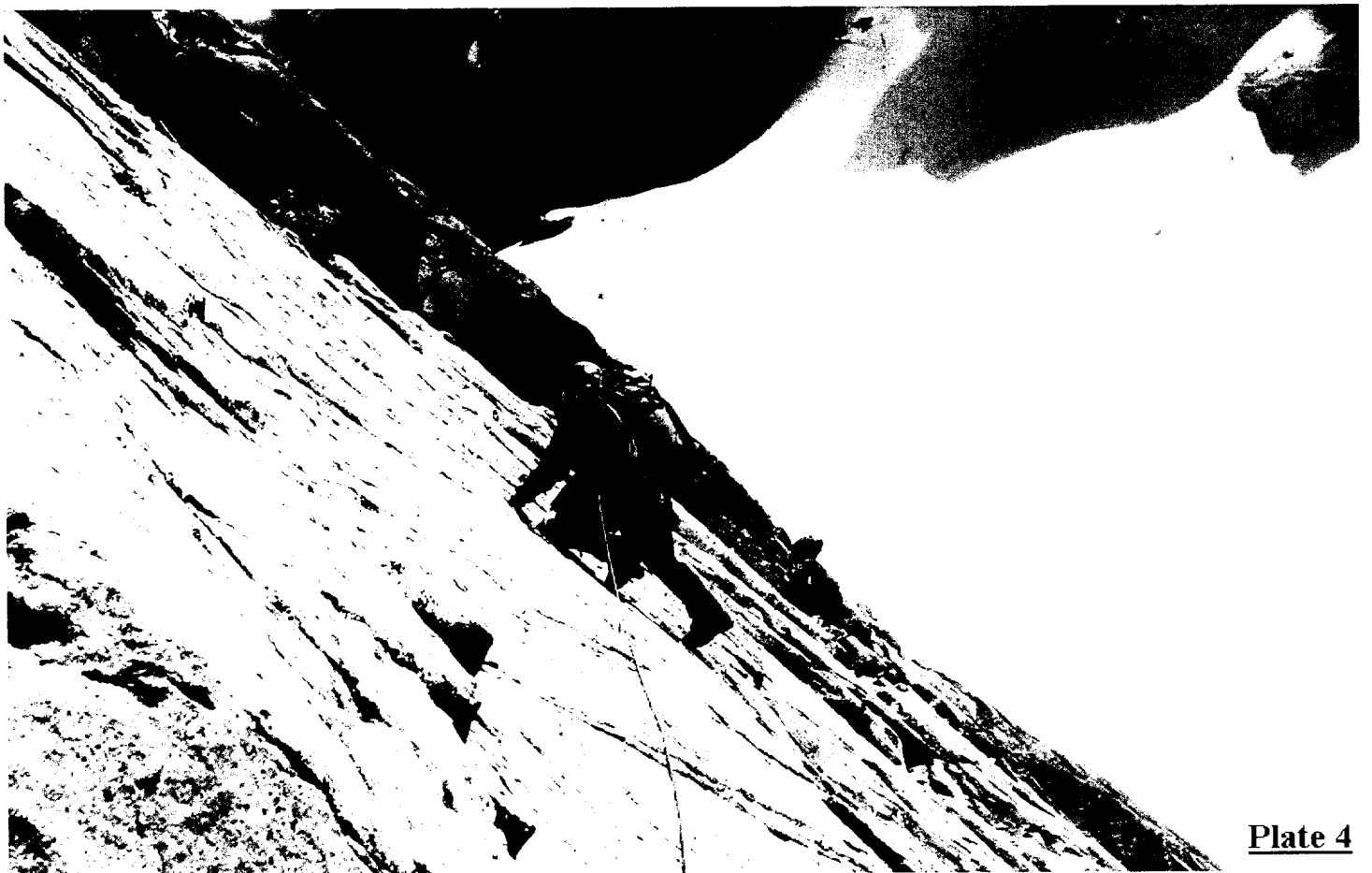
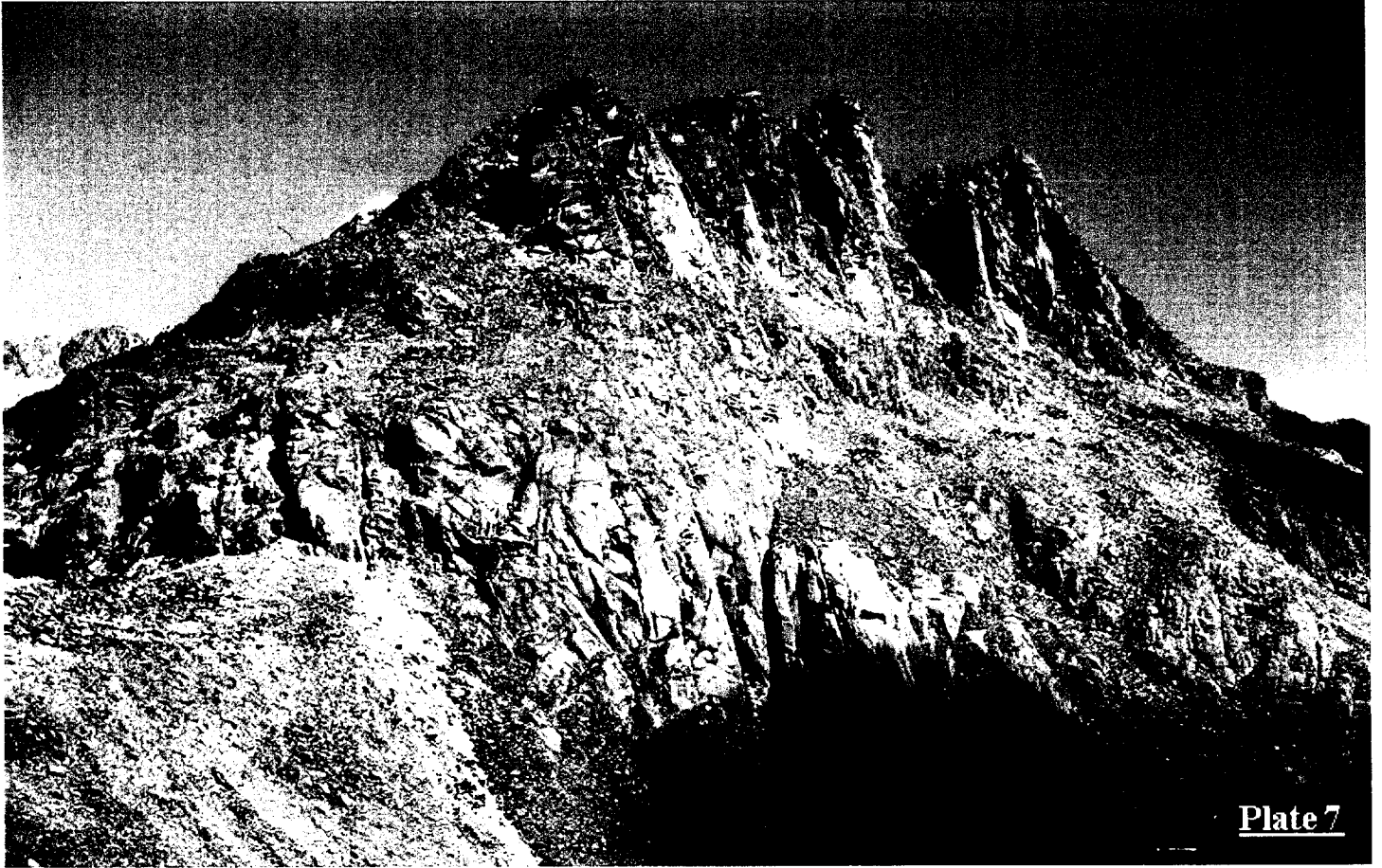


Plate 4



Plate 5: Passos Celestios East Peak of Chario Jancho Khuno (5500m)  
Plate 6: View of range showing central peak Pico Helado (5400m)





**Plate 7: View of Base Camp Buttress Lower and Upper Tier**

ACCOUNTS QUIMSA CRUZ/ILLIMANI EXPED 2000

**INCOME**

BMC GRANT	£1,400.00
MEF GRANT	£700.00
Alison chadwick	£600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,700.00</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

FLIGHTS	£785.70 x6	£4,714.20
INSURANCE	£130 x6	£780.00

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,495</b>
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Equipment purchased	£503.43
	£124.00

Food UK	£50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£677.43</b>

**IN COUNTRY**

Transport Quimsa Cruz	\$600	£413.80
Fuel	\$20	£13.80
Total Accommodation La Paz	\$407	£280.70
Transport Illimani	\$220	£151.70
Expedition Food	1924Bs	£213.79 \$310
	\$75	£51.72
Maps	42Bs	£4.66 \$6.77
Tips	90Bs	£10.00 \$14.5
Living La Paz	3161Bs	£351.60 \$509.8
	\$11.5	£7.89

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,499.66</b>
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Added Extra	
Expenses CONDORIRI	556Bs £61.80
Transport	\$120 82.75

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£144.50</b>
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AIRPORT TAX	\$25 each	£103.40
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£103.40</b>
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<b>SUB TOTALS</b>	<b>£5,495</b>
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**£677.34**

**£1,499.66**

**£144.50**

**£103.40**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,920</b>
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**OTHER EXPENSES INCURRED**

Expedition Report	£25
Slides for Kendal Mountain Festival	£20
Accomodation Team members Kendal	£50
Transport London Interview	£63



## **THE FUTURE**

Although we did not achieve all the goals of our expedition we felt it was a very successful trip and more importantly a very enjoyable one. Bolivia is a fantastic country and the Bolivians are on the whole are very accommodating to western Visitors. We had no problems with theft but it is essential to look after your belonging. Padlocking rucksacs as a deterrent and being vigilant in the city are important. The locals were very happy to receive small gifts such as spare fuel, containers and food in return for some load carrying.. We did find that in the Illimani area the local children had learnt to beg for sweets etc. This is most likely due to the influence of Western Climbers and despite being annoying is leading to an Everest trail culture!. We also saw the evidence of base camp rubbish problems and would like all future visitors to consider their impact on both the environment and Bolivian culture.

To conclude this expedition report a number of points that could improve future expeditions to Bolivia are summarised below.

- 1) Ensure all flights are confirmed and booked through to the final destination before leaving the UK.
- 2) Ensure baggage labels are firmly attached to avoid lost baggage
- 3) Ensure when booking accommodation you have written proof of your booking and any money paid.
- 4) Acclimatise slowly and carefully
- 5) Treat ALL water with Iodine
- 6) Take Pasta, noodles and hill food from the UK
- 7) Don't be proud hire mules or llama if you can!!
- 8) Visit Mongos Rock Bottom Café for a post expedition feed.
- 9) Learn Spanish

## REFERENCES

### Books

Yossi Brain (1999) Bolivia A climbing Guide  
Yossi Brain Trekking in Bolivia. A Travellers Guide  
John Biggar (1996) The High Andes: A Guide for Climbers.  
Bolivia. Loney Planet Guide  
Jill Neate. Mountaineering in the Andes Expedition Advisory Centre 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed 1999

Expedition Reports (Available from the Alpine Club Library)

Bayreuther Andean Expedition 1987. Cordillera Quimsa Cruz  
Scottish Bolivia 1998  
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### Articles

Joseph P. Prem ' Climbing in the Bolivian Andes,1939 The American Alpine Club  
Journal p322 –328  
Angus Andrew Cordilleras and Quimsa Cruz, 1990 The American Alpine Club  
Journal 1992 p157-159  
High Mountain Info(189) August 1998

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### Maps

Map references: BIGM. Carta Nacional Bolivia 1:50,000  
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