

PERU 2008



FIGURES ON THE RIDGE

COPA ~ UPPER SNOWRIDGE



‘Resolve to succeed. The greatest discovery one can make is that nothing is impossible’.

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With support from



Mount Everest Foundation

<http://www.mef.org.uk>

The report was compiled by Ken Findlay.

My thanks to Paul Hudson and Brian Swales for the additional material in this expedition report.

This expedition report is dedicated to my father who sadly passed away during the writing of it.

JOHN FINDLAY 1922 - 2009

Ken Findlay

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Summary of the trip

The aim of the expedition was to explore and climb the southeastern side of Nevado Copa 6188m in the Cordillera Blanca from our Base Camp at Lago Allicocha. From our research it seemed that this area had not been really explored especially by British teams.

The expedition took place between July 16th and August 22nd 2008.

Our main objective was Copa but we did look at other options, but they were put on the back burner as we put all our effort into the 'big one'.

Because we were going into the Park National Huascarán we needed a tourist permit, which cost 65.00 sols (\$20)

All the logistics (transport, donkeys & arrieros, cook, base camp tents, food for BC) were organised by Chris Benway (La Cima Logistics) of Huaraz. Access to this section of the park is quite remote, but the roads are reasonable all the way to Vesubio from there it is a good days trek to the Lake and a reasonable camping spot. Local people with their cows and horses use the area for grazing where we camped.

Unfortunately as we were making progress on Nevado Copa and pair of bandits came into Base Camp and attacked our cook and stole money from him before running off into the night. This incident was the reason why we decided to retreat from the area and head back to Huaraz and seek safer mountaineering options in the Blanca.

The lower summit of Vallanuraju



The team

From our team of five Paul, Ken, Les, Brian and Keith that was submitted to the MEF there were two events that changed the dynamics of the group.

First off, Les the market gardener had been delayed in his planting of over 50,000 seeds (broccoli/cabbage) due to the really wet weather we were having. So Les made a decision to withdraw from the expedition, so that left four of us to soldier on.

Then out of the blue, Paul was diagnosed as having lymph cell cancer after a routine health check and was advised to have chemo treatment straight away. This really put us under pressure in that we were now down to an expedition of three. There was a chance of Kieran O'Sullivan joining us as he was travelling around South America for around four months. To cap it all my own relationship was going through a tough time, I had wondered if I was in the right frame of mind to be going out on an expedition but you pay your money and take your chance!!!!

Base Camp 4,200m



KEN FINDLAY (EXPEDITION LEADER)



KEITH WADDELL



BRIAN SWALES



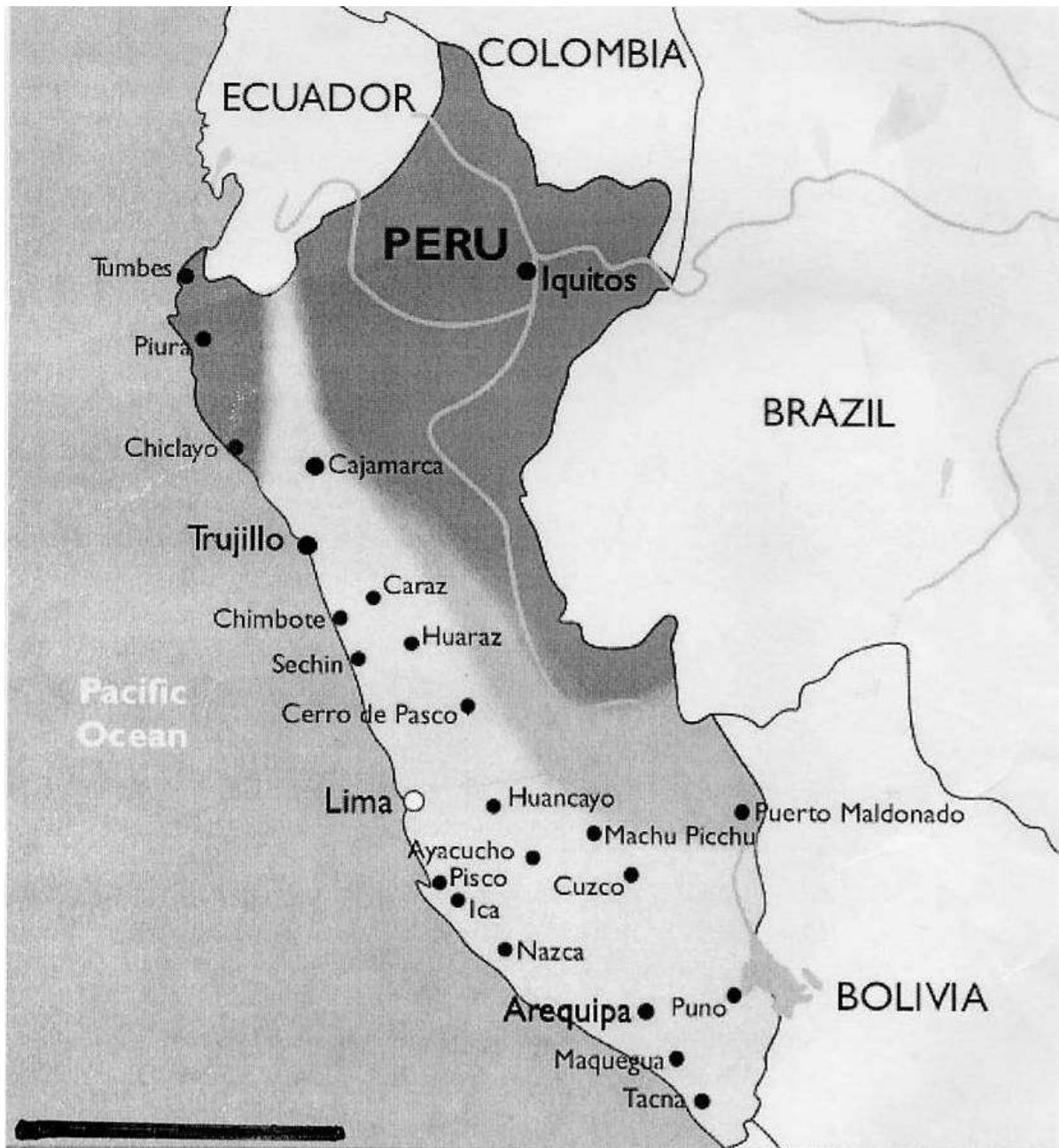
KEIRAN O'SULLIVAN

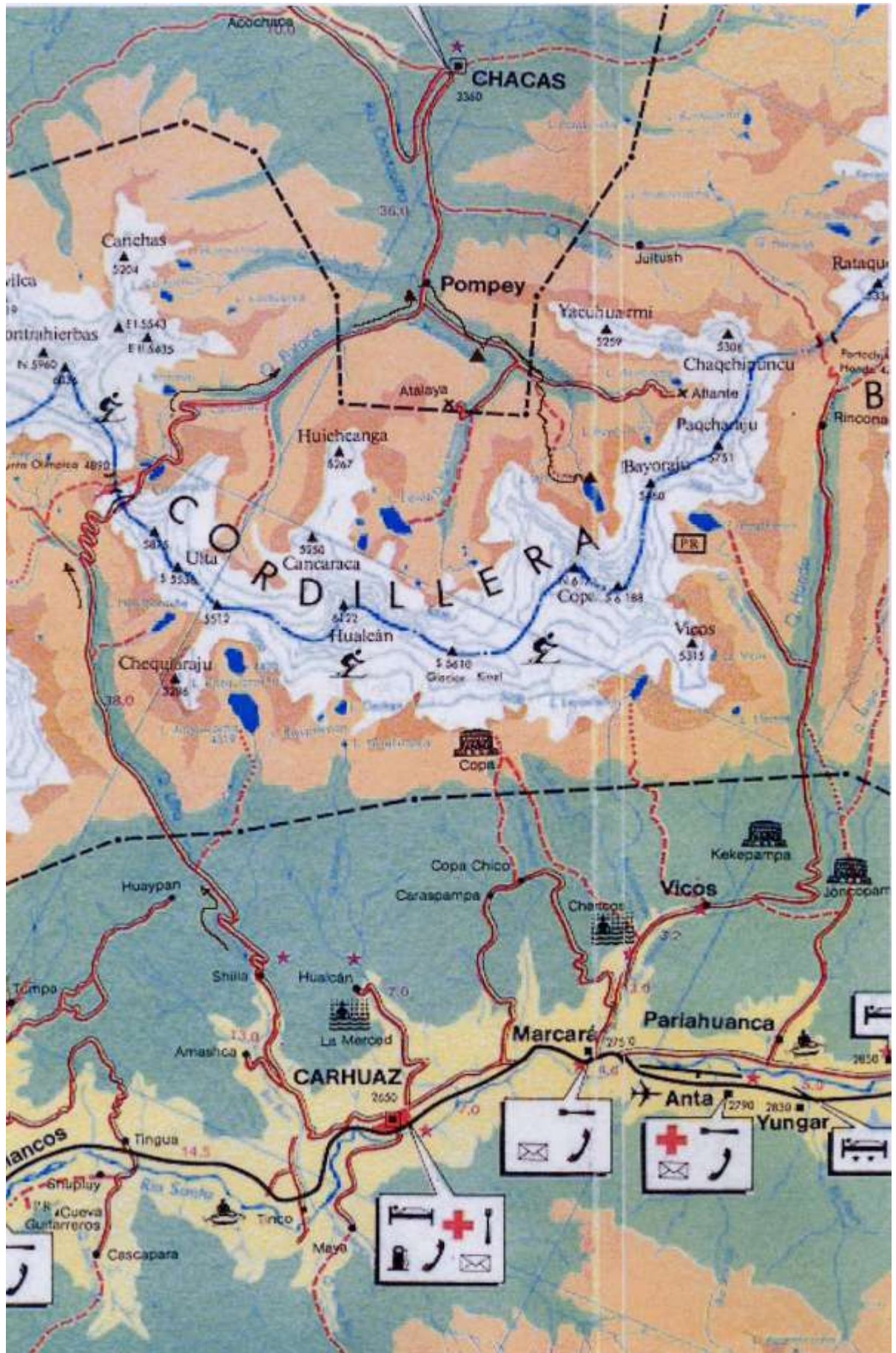


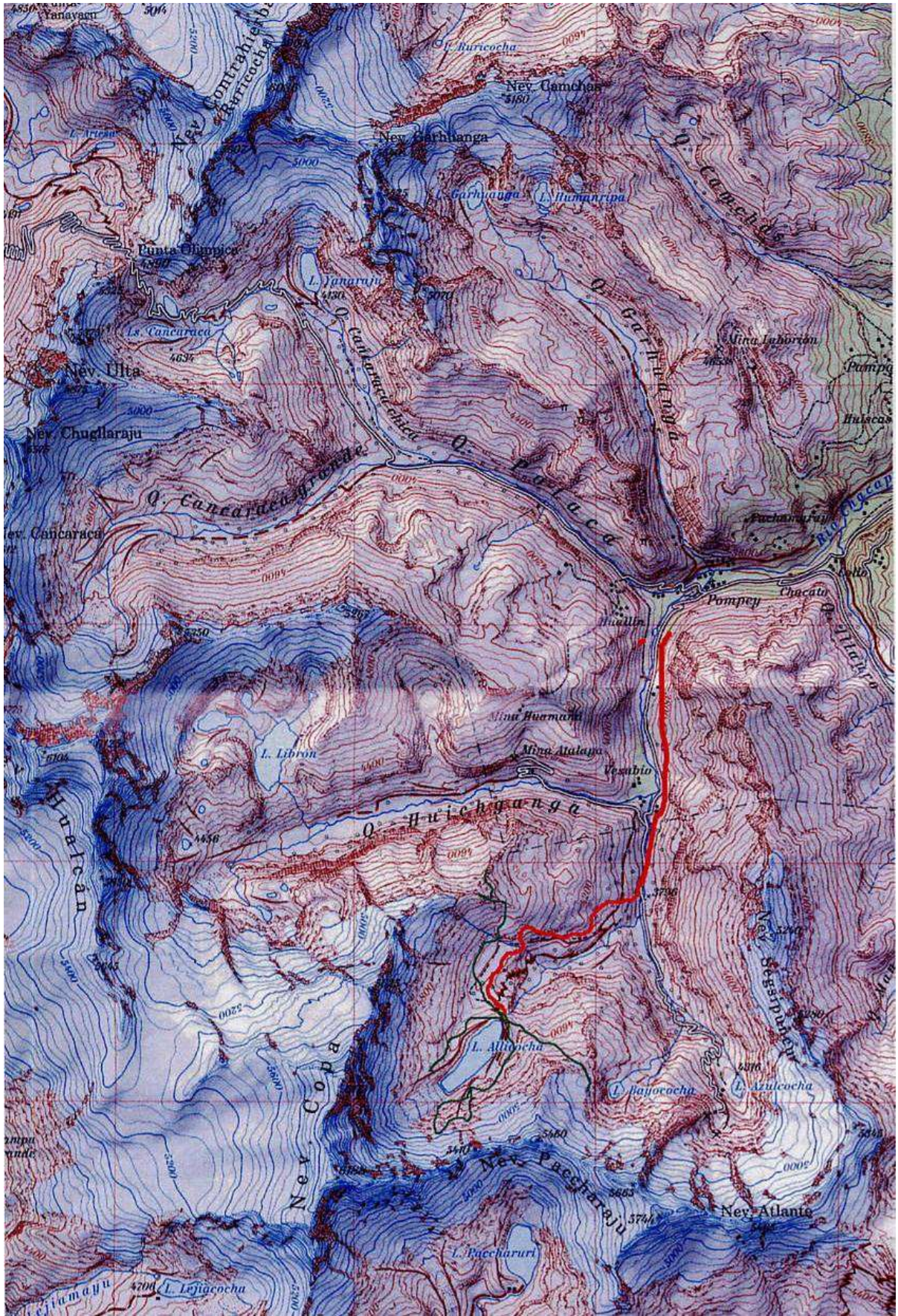
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Map of Peru







Preparation

Research

South America was going to be our destination even though we had been there in 2006. Since 1993 I have been off, in general, every two years and never to the same place and each of the areas had to be firstly relatively unexplored and secondly interesting peaks.

As Paul had already had a look at the Copa area of the Cordillera Blanca in 2006, we had a number of photographs and information to go on.

In addition to this we looked at various reports on the Blanca from the MEF and the BMC along with some guidebooks of the area.

Agents

It is always a difficult thing to choose from afar, an agent that will assist and not rip you off, or just ruin ones expedition by being ineffective and disorganised, so to some extent it is always a bit of pot luck.

But having used Chris Benway's Cima Logistics two years ago for our Huayhuash trip we had no reason to choose anybody else. We also had recommendations from Brad Johnson who used them as well.

Another possible objective the Southeastern ridge of Copa



Itinerary

- 16/7 KF flies out from Manchester to Atlanta
- 17/7 Arrive in Lima at 6.30 a.m. Coach to Huarez. Sunny
- 18/7 In Huarez went food shopping. Sunny
- 19/7 KF takes a taxi to Ishinca valley and then camps near the refuge 4390m. Sunny
- 20/7 Walk up to Nevado Urus bivvy 4590m. Sunny
- 21/7 KF has a recce below Nevado Urus. Snowing
- 22/7 KF is ill. Cloudy
- 23/7 KF climbs the East Ridge of Nevado Urus 5430m (PD-). Sunny
- 24/7 Packed up and went down to the refuge at Inchinca 4390m. Sunny
- 25/7 KF climbs the South West ridges of Ishinca 5530m (PD-). Cloudy and overcast
- 26/7 Walked down to Huillac and then taxi to Huarez. Sunny
- 27/7 In Huarez watched a procession in the town. Sunny
- 28/7 In Huarez, met Kieran in Café Andino. Brian and Keith arrive in Lima. Sunny
- 29/7 Brian and Keith arrive in Huarez. Sunny
- 30/7 All the team wander around Huarez. Sunny
- 31/7 Pack all the sacks and collect more provisions. Sunny
- 1/8 Drove to Vesubio and camped there. Sunny
- 2/8 Walked into Lake Allicocha and camped near some ruins 4200m. Sunny
- 3/8 Walked up to the Lake and looked around 4600m. Rain in the morning
- 4/8 Had a look at the South Ridge of Copa 4875m. Snowing
- 5/8 Rest day, raining
- 6/8 Reached a bivvy site on the South Ridge leaving provisions at 4995m. Cloudy
- 7/8 Snowing stayed in Base Camp 4200m
- 8/8 The team on the South Ridge of Copa reach bivvy site at 5000m. Our cook attacked at BC and robbed. KW and KO go down. Cloudy
- 9/8 KF and BS go down to BC. Security team arrive to take us out. Walk out and then 4 x 4 to Huarez. Sunny
- 10/8 In Huarez the team make statements to the Police decide what to do next. Sunny
- 11/8 Taxi to Vicos 2600m then we walked in towards the West side of Copa and camped at 4000m Sunny
- 12/8 Walked in to Lake Lechiococha 4300m and camped there. Brian not well. Sunny
- 13/8 The entire team attempt the West slope on Copa; BS is unwell and turns back. KF, KW and KO all bivvy above the col at 5200m, very windy.
- 14/8 No let up with the wind, we turn back and go down to BC. All the team walk out weather changing. It's a sunny day but windy high up.
- 15/8 In Huarez we meet Joel's parents. Sunny
- 16/8 Taxi to the Llaca valley and we stay in a bivvy hut at 4474m Sunny.
- 17/8 The team climb the South Ridge of Vallunaraju (AD-) 5686m. Back to the hut and then taxi to Huarez. Sunny
- 18/8 We sort out all the gear. KW goes to the ruins at Willkawain. Sunny

- 19/8 We take a taxi to the Llanganuco valley and walk up to the Pisco hut 4665m.
Sunny
- 20/8 The team climb the West Ridge of Nevado Pisco (AD-) 5752m. Cloudy
- 21/8 KW wanders across to Laguna 69 and the rest of us go down back to Huaraz.
Sunny
- 22/8 KW arrives back from Pisco hut. KF, BS and KO go to the ruins of
Willkawain. All go the Mayors off during the evening. Sunny
- 23/8 KF, KW and BS leave Huaraz and go to Lima, check in at the Manhattan
Airport Hotel. KO continues his trip around South America.
- 24/8 The team fly from Lima to Atlanta.
- 25/8 The team arrive in Manchester airport and head up to Leeds and home

Peaks climbed

Nevado Urus	5495m
Nevado Ishinca	5530m
Vallanuraju	5686m
Vallanuraju (Sub top)	5650m
Nevado Pisco	5752m

‘Promises are only words until they are tested. It is when your best intentions meet hard reality that true character is revealed. Maintain your integrity in those difficult times and your word will gain a quiet strength that others will never doubt’.

Weather Watch

17 th	July	Atlanta to Lima, coach to Huarez. Sunny
18 th	July	Huarez. Sunny
19 th	July	Walk up the Ishinca Valley 4390m. Sunny
20 th	July	Walk up to below Nevado Urus and camp 4590m. Sunny
21 st	July	Wander around the area. Snowing
22 nd	July	Had the runs. Cloudy day
23 rd	July	East Ridge of Nevado Urus 5430m (PD-). Sunny
24 th	July	At the refuge at Inchinca 4390m. Sunny
25 th	July	Climbed the South West ridges of Ishinca 5530m (PD-). Cloudy and overcast
26 th	July	Back to Huarez. Sunny
27 th	July	Huarez. Sunny
28 th	July	In Huarez, met Kieran in Café Andino. Brian and Keith arrive in Lima. Sunny
29 th	July	Brian and Keith arrive in Huarez. Sunny
30 th	July	Huarez. Sunny
31 st	July	Huarez. Sunny
1 st	Aug	Camped at Vesubio. Sunny
2 nd	Aug	Walked in 4200m. Sunny
3 rd	Aug	Walked up to the Lake 4600m. Raining
4 th	Aug	On the South Ridge of Copa 4875m. Snowing
5 th	Aug	Raining.
6 th	Aug	Find a bivvy site on the South Ridge at 4995m. Cloudy
7 th	Aug	Base Camp. Snowing
8 th	Aug	On the South Ridge and find a stone bivvy site. 5000m. BC attacked and our cook Joel robbed. KW and KO go down. Cloudy
9 th	Aug	Walk out. Sunny
10 th	Aug	Huarez. Sunny
11 th	Aug	West side of Copa. Sunny
12 th	Aug	Lake Lechiococha. Sunny
13 th	Aug	On the col at 5200m. Cloudy/Very windy
14 th	Aug	Back to Huarez. Sunny
15 th	Aug	Huarez. Sunny
16 th	Aug	Llaca Valley. Sunny
17 th	Aug	South ridge of Vallunaraju 5686m. (AD-) Sunny
18 th	Aug	Huarez. Sunny
19 th	Aug	Pisco hut 4665m. Sunny
20 th	Aug	West Ridge of Nevado Pisco 5752m. (AD-) Cloudy
21 st	Aug	Huarez. Sunny
22 nd	Aug	Huarez. Sunny
23 rd	Aug	Huarez to Lima. Sunny
24 th	Aug	Lima to Atlanta
25 th	Aug	Manchester and home

Weather Stats

	Days	
Sunny	26	(70%)
Cloudy	6	(16%)
Snow	3	(8%)
Rain	2	(6%)

‘Our lives are determined not by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens: not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes, creating extraordinary results’.

The view above Lake Allicocha



Expedition Diary

Wednesday 16th July

Paul gave me a lift to Manchester Airport; it seemed really strange that he was not going with me, after so many trips together, due to his medical condition, this would be one trip he would have to miss after all the research he had done for the team. After getting out of the car, not only did I leave one of my trainers in the trolley, but I left my plane ticket in Paul's car, only his quick thinking reunited me with it, otherwise it would be yet another set back for the expedition.

The flight to Atlanta was 9 hours and then an 8-hour wait for my connection.

The flight left at midnight from Atlanta to Lima 6 ½ hours away.

Thursday 17th July

In Lima at 6.30 am, as I collected my baggage I noticed my lock was missing from my holdall, it turned out that a pair of trousers, a pair of gloves, a hat, chocolate and my binoculars had been stolen.

I was collected from the Airport and taken to the Cruz Del Sur Bus station where the connection to Huarez was. An 8 ½ hour journey was made bearable by the number of films that were shown on the monitors above the seats, they include 'I am legend', 'The Guardian', 'The Death of John Tucker' and 'Last of the Titans'.

It was great to be back in Huarez and to see Chris Benway again, see so many familiar faces that we met on our last visit here.

Friday 18th July

The main task today was not only to finalise some of the details regarding the expedition and the timings of getting into and out of the mountains, but also to get a park permit for myself so I can do some acclimatisation before the others get here. We got the ticket from the tourism office and it cost 65 Sols (around £20), this lasts for a month and if it runs out you can be fined by the park wardens who man the barriers going in and out of the area. Also they check that you have disposed of all your rubbish environmentally.

Saturday 19th July

I took a taxi to a small village in the Ishinca valley called Huillac, from here a walk of 11 km of around 3500m to the Ishinca refuge at 4390m. The track was good but it was hard work in the heat of the day, I had started walking at 10.25 am and had eaten very little up to this point. I finally reached the refuge and bivvied close by, there were lots of people wild camping including some Brits along with animals such as horses and cattle.

I had a sleepless night.

Sunday 20th July

My plans were fairly flexible in that I had a week to kill before the rest of the team came out to Peru. So after some water and a couple of chocolate biscuits I decided to go up the moraine at the side of the hut and head towards Nevado Urus which looked like a good acclimatisation peak and technically easy.

After a good 4 ½ hours I got to a boulder field and spotted a wonderful slab so I made camp there, great views on all sides. Tried a meal but threw it away and had a couple of wedges of cheese and orange tea. I had another sleepless night.

Monday 21st July

Woke up not feeling good and this was made clear when I crapped myself soon after and had to spend an hour cleaning myself up. I had yogurt and biscuits for breakfast. The gortex bivvy tent I was using, had not worked the previous night and some of my stuff was wet from condensation, so I had planned to find a cave to provide some cover for me.

This was a priority as it soon started to snow. I find just the spot a few hundred yards from my current spot, and after a brief excavation it was deemed hospitable, a good job I am only 5ft 6”!!

Went for a wander above the bivvy and decided that Nevado Urus was going to be the first training climb.

Had half a packet of noodles, crackers and orange tea as my evening meal.

In my cave by 7p.m, and had yet another sleepless night.

Tuesday 22nd July

Still in my bag at 9.30 am the weather looks unsettled. Had the runs again today, don't feel too good.

Not eating well, only managed a few mouthfuls of pasta and sauce, along with some crackers.

Sorted out my sack for tomorrow and turned in at 6.20pm.

Wednesday 23rd July

Up at 2.45am, feeling groggy, tea and biscuits and I was on my way for 3.40am.

The boulder field was tiring but I felt ok, soon I was on the ridge and the path was much better, even though I was still using my head torch.

At one stage I traversed too low and had to retrace my steps and make a number of moves on loose rocks and ice.

Before long the path turned into snow and the crampons came on, lights below meant I had company.

Just as I got to the first snowfield an American 'Luke' came past me, he had been up this mountain three times in the last four days. His friend was struggling so he carried on up to the summit while I encouraged his friend to keep going. I carried on. The snowfield led to a dome then once over this it led to another snowfield before the summit came into view.

I reached the summit at 7.05am and soon after two Mexicans Flavio and Jorge arrived, we chatted for a while and I left the summit at 8 am before getting back to my cave at 9.35am.

So I had lots of time to dry gear out and think about going back down to the refuge and going up Nevado Ishinca the day after tomorrow. I had cheese and crackers for tea.

Thursday 24th July

It was a lovely sunny morning and not a cloud in the sky. Packed up the gear and went down to the refuge. It is situated in a spectacular area and is modelled on the Italian huts, stone on the outside and all wood panels for the interior. Just like the Alpine huts there were bunks of two high with a wood burning stove in the centre of the dormitory.

The cost was 35 sols per night for bed only, that's around £10. I spent the afternoon taking pictures and sitting on various rocks, only four other people were in the hut, many others electing to camp.

Friday 25th July

I was up at 3 am, had yogurt, biscuits and water, and left at 3.35 am. No one else on the track crept silently past the other tents and up the well used track.

After an hour I reached the first hanging valley then I followed a long snaking track to a second hanging valley.

I approached an old bivouac hut with two lagoons (Vipaque) on the far side, unsure of where to go I took time out to study the map. I worked out that I had to traverse a rock buttress with a couple of grade III moves before the track finally ends up on the glacier leading up to Nevado Ishinca.

Once armed with axes and crampons I went up the glacier, a fairly easy section led to a broken section, which saw me traverse over the ridge and down the other side for around 200m. This did not look too stable and the weather was boiling up and I could here thunder in the distance. After making a scary traverse across some loose power I managed to regain the ridge after crossing a bergshrund and continued up towards the main summit ridge.

The track went on forever and never seemed to end. I finally got to the top section in which I had to front point up a vertical ice wall of 20m before getting to the top at 10.55am.

Left the top at 11.10 and got to the hut at 3.25pm, feeling good and mentally better than on Nevado Urus.

Slept better but still tossing and turning.

Saturday 26th July

Up at 7am and packed up and said my goodbyes. The total bill for the hut was 103.50 sols, but I only had 102.30, to my relief they let me off the rest of it.

The way down was hot and thirsty work, I tried to cut a few corners but they only ended up as dead ends, so it was a frustrating morning. I stopped at a village called Pashpa and managed to get a taxi to take me to Huarez for a cost of \$10.

Sunday 27th July

I watched a procession of all the Public Services in the centre of Huarez, a very colourful display of flags and music and dance.

Now it's a question of biding my time until the rest of the team get here on Wednesday.

Monday 28th July

The usual ritual of either breakfast in Café Andino or in Café California, followed by a visit to the CD and DVD shops then wander around taking photographs.

Tuesday 29th July

Up at 9am wandered across to Café California and met some Brits with tales of epic climbs on gigantic ice walls. Thrilling stuff! Met Kieran (also in the Leeds MC) in Café Andino and I suggested that he made up a fourth person for our trip, he quickly accepted my offer.

Wednesday 30th July

Again the same ritual, going for breakfast at café California and then shopping for more CD's and DVD's.

Met Keith and Brian at the bus station had meal in Chilli Heaven the owner id from Blackburn and is a Who fan. Top man!!!

Thursday 31st July

Breakfast at Café Andino, then we all had jobs to do, I purchased a tarpaulin, food supplies, string and other bits and bats.

We packed the sacks ready for tomorrow's trip to Vesubio.

Friday 1st August

Last minute packing during the morning before the 4x4 came to collect us at 12.20p.m outside the Café Andino. Some great views of the mountains as we made our way out of Huarez, long winding trails and lots of dust, true Peru!!!

The road was impressive especially as we made our way to the Atlantic pass, which reaches an altitude of 4,660m at its very top. The scariest thing was the number of trucks and buses passing us with very little space between the edge of the road and our vehicle, looking over the edge of a 500 ft drop did not fill me with confidence. For this section of the journey, I kept looking out on the road for safe spots in which I could jump out onto in case of an emergency.

As we came down the pass on the other side we came in to contact with more traffic and a number of dwellings began to come into view.

Our driver was unsure of the area and every so often he would stop and ask a local for directions to Vesubio.

We passed through Pompey and took a rough road up the valley until we came to a couple of dwellings in front of a pair of double gates. This we were told was Vesubio, four sheds and a river.

A woman came over to speak to our driver; she was the one who had the key for the gates which locals took their animals through to gain access to Lake Allicocha Joel our cook made up all soup followed by pasta and cheese for tea. For the first time in ten days I slept well.

Saturday 2nd August

Up at 7 am, packed and had breakfast, omelette, and coffee, jam and bread. We were told that the mules would be here for 8 am, but no mules, the local children came to look at the 'Gringos' playing with rocks, one had a slingshot and had great aim knocking tin cans off a wall at 200 feet. Looking around this valley has potential for trekkers. There were remains of old tin mines and some small shacks scattered the hillside, a very tranquil setting.

9am, still no mules, 10 am no mules yet. The mules finally arrived at 10.20am and then the fun started in putting the gear on these animals. As usual some of the animals ran off and had the men chasing them across the fields. We had 8 mules and 2 horses to transport all our gear up the valley.

The track was steep to start off with, and most of us were gasping for the first few hundred metres. A traverse took us across the steep hillside above the river taking us up to a hanging valley that is used by animals. From here we rounded a spur before seeing the tents, this concerned us, as we had thought that Base Camp was going to be next to Lake Allicocha, but the locals told us that the tents would not fit along the edge of the Lake and that this was a better choice.

So the mules were packed off and we started the job of sorting out all the gear.

Sunday 3rd August

The day started cloudy as we got organised and eventually we took a walk up to the Lake and we were in agreement that the BC was ideal as the ground next to the lake was too narrow and the tents would have had to be spaced out.

Once on the moraine above the lake we looked at the possible routes and came up with at least three possible plans.

We decided that our first objective would be the eastern section of Copa and see how that goes, as there are only four of us it would have to be multiple carries on whatever we choose in this area.

Monday 4th August

Weather is unsettled, we had snow this morning, but by 10am it was improving, we decided to go across to the eastern side of Copa and have a look at ways up onto the ridge.

We dropped down from BC onto the grassy plain, before going up the left-hand hillside towards a ramp leading up to the ridge. As usual there were a couple of false ridges before we rounded a grassy spur, which led up to thick grassy bushes. Once above this energy sapping stuff we got to a slab, which we rigged with a rope as we were carrying a lot of gear. We all had 5 days worth of food, bivvy gear, climbing gear and tents. We reached a rock slab where we left our gear and went back down to BC with almost empty sacks.

Tuesday 5th August

It snowed over night so we decided to stay put and do the things we always do at BC, wash, shave, read and mend things.

Wednesday 6th August

Up at 7am, low cloud but that was not going to deter us.

Again we had a long trudge ahead to the grassy section up towards the ramp onto the grassy spur, then up to the slab and our 'stash spot'. Both Brian and Kieran got on with loading the sacks ready for taking further up the ridge, while Keith and I scouted further up the ridge.

We soloed up along the ridge and eventually got up a loose corner and gained a col. In front of us Keith went along a snow gangway 'Waddell's Waddle' to below a buttress. From here we climbed up towards the ridge and were happy to find a rock niche just below the ridge that could accommodate all of our gear and us. This became camp 1. So we all then started ferrying the gear up to camp 1. We had had a very successful day.

Thursday 7th August

Up at 7.30am to be greeted with low cloud, before long it started to rain, so we all agreed that we would go up tomorrow. So we had another day in Base Camp.

Friday 8th August

Again as we got up it was low cloud, but soon enough the sun came out and we decided that this was the day we would go up and try to force our way across the Copa ridge from Camp 1.

All of us packed up and started out as the cloud kept coming in and blotting out the view of Copa and our intended ridge. Once up to the ridge we quickly went across the traverse and up to the niche at Camp 1

It was around 4pm when Brian was looking through the binoculars towards Base Camp, that he thought he saw someone going into the tents. This caused us some concern we now began playing scenarios in our heads, what if we have been robbed and our passports and money stolen? Where was our cook?

So both Kieran and Keith decided to go down to camp to see what has happened. As they went racing down, we kept an eye on the situation through the binoculars, we had decided to call frequently at agreed times on the walkie-talkie.

So it was a worrying time for all of us, both Brian and myself were spectators both powerless to help in this developing situation.

Unknown to both of us at the time Keith lost his temper with Joel who had moved our personal gear into the cook tent for added security. And this created an atmosphere that night at Base Camp.

Up at Camp 1 after the 7pm call we got into our bags as it began to snow.

I kept looking down towards Base camp and it was unusual to see the light on for most of the night in the cook tent, something was wrong!!!

Saturday 9th August

The radio call at 7 am summed up our worst fears, two masked men attacked Joel as he was in his tent, and they had a knife held to his throat and a rifle pointed at him.

They hit him on the head with the rifle and he had some cuts and bruises to his arms and face. The bandits did not realise that two of the team were in Base Camp; Joel managed to stagger out of his tent towards Keith and Kieran to raise the alarm. By that time both bandits had fled in the darkness with around \$200 cash.

So Joel was naturally shaken and bruised and wanted to leave the area immediately, we all decided that evacuation was the best policy.

Keith had rung Chris Benway soon after the robbery and he had contacted the Mayor who mobilised a security team to come in and take us back to Huarez.

So Brian and I stripped Camp 1 and retreated back down the mountain. Keith and a local guide from Chacas called 'Elias' met us on the way down

Who helped with all the gear and took it down to the grassy section below Base Camp.

Kieran was busy organising the mules that had been sent from Pompey and the packing at Base Camp.

The Mayor of Huarez had sent a vehicle along with a security team to wait for us at Vesubio.

We made it down for 5pm and had a bite to eat before setting off back to Huarez, eight people being crammed into the vehicle. The drivers and a couple of chickens in the front, the expedition members in the back and Elias and Joel stood up in the back of the pick up for the long ride home.

At one stage on the way home on the Olympic pass, we all had to get out of the vehicle and push the vehicle which caused some amusement.

We eventually got back to Huarez at midnight, quite an eventful 24 hours.

Sunday 10th August

We gave all the details to Chris Benway about the incident at Copa.

The morning was spent in the Police station making statements, which was painstakingly slow, the rest of the day was spent sorting out the gear and getting some clothes washed.

We decided that we would go and attempt Copa on the popular side.

Monday 11th August

We took a taxi to Vicos and from here it was a seven-hour walk up towards the Copa Base Camp. It was a hot and thirsty walk in.

Brian and I caught up a couple of girls taking pigs and sheep to the high pastures.

Eventually passed them but had lost both Keith and Kieran in the meantime.

We finally came into a wide river valley and crossed this with difficulty and shortly after met up with both Keith and Kieran, before having to ascend a hill through some very prickly bushes.

Once up at the top we had to traverse across the valley and then ascend another hill before finding a track leading up to Copa.

Our driver had definitely dropped us off in the wrong place as our walk in had uncovered.

Because we had lost time due to starting in the wrong place, we made camp (4,000m) near a stream on the main path up to the Base Camp. It was a lovely spot overlooking the valley.

Tuesday 12th August

Up at 7.30am and took a leisurely walk up to the Base Camp at 4,700m. There were some old dilapidated shelters, but decided to sleep in a walled out section. A lovely evening and made plans for an early start.

Wednesday 13th August

Up at 5am and had porridge it was a cold morning. The cloud kept coming in and was racing across the summit of Copa. From Base Camp we turned the Lake on its left side and traversed across the hillside and headed towards a col that led up to the ridge. Brian had not felt well today and was experiencing stomach cramps and decided to go back down to camp. The boulder field was tiring and I was glad to get to the bottom of the col. The start was quite steep, but the cause of concern was the stuff coming down, but it was not that bad. As we progressed up the wind got stronger and stronger as the snow got softer and softer.

Once on top of the col it was bitterly cold, we spent a long time trying to find a bivvy spot, but there was not a lot on offer. At one stage my pan that I was using to dig with was blown out of my hands. We eventually found a sloping slab that we could sleep behind, but the wind did not let up. We spent a lot of time during the evening melting snow.

A very difficult night's sleep

Thursday 14th August

The wind did not let up all night and by the morning it was clear that we would have to go down.

Brian was still at Base Camp and we all walked out together, Brian was feeling a lot better if not a little weak.

Once down in Vicos we got a taxi back down to Huarez.

Friday 15th August

A sunny day in Huarez met Joel's parents and just relaxed.

Saturday 16th August

Up at 8am, had a leisurely breakfast before taking a taxi to the Llaca valley that leads up to the refuge below the peak Vallunaraju. The ride was very good along dusty tracks avoiding livestock along the way, through the winding valley, over wooden bridges and then into a gorge with some fantastic rock walls on either side.

The hut was very basic, wooden bunks with no blankets or pillows, or showers, very much like a basic Scottish Bothy. We had lunch in the sun, and then went to explore the first section of the climb. As we followed the path along the river it occurred to us that there had been a landslide that had wiped out a section of rock where our path

led. After further exploration by Brian, we decided to go back to the hut and ask the two park guards about the start of the route. As suspected the route had changed and now the approaches was not from above the hut, but a short walk down to valley and then traverse the hillside and head up towards the South Ridge.

Because I thought that the hut would be like the Ishinca refuge, I only brought a liner and no bag, so I had to sleep with all my clothes on.

Sunday 17th August

We got away for 2.15am and it was a crispy cold night. Going down the road was great, no problem, but the track up the hillside was steep and tiring as it snaked through a series of buttresses and then on to a boulder field and up to the moraine camp. By now the sun was scorching as we approached the snowfield guarding the rock ridge. Soon we were on the South ridge with lots twists and turns before it led us out into the glacier. A few crevasses kept the mind focussed but it was generally straightforward.

As we approached the col below the summit ridge the wind picked and it became quite cold. We met three Peruvians who worked for Galaxia tours coming down the mountain, one on a mountain bike, the other two holding him on a rope. The tyres of the bike had metal studs in them to get a better grip on the snow. It was quite funny watching them teetering along the ridge. Mad people!!!

We got to the summit of Vallunaraju (5686m) at 10.45 am, great views and a huge relief that we had finally got up something after a quick bite to eat we went down to the col and climbed the subsidiary peak (5650m).

Then it was a long slog back down eventually picking up our tracks in the soft snow of the afternoon.

We arrived back at the hut at 3pm with the taxi waiting for us to take us back to Huarez, quality.

Monday 18th August

Warm day as usual, sorting all the gear out and planned to climb Pisco in the next couple of days. Keith went off to the ruins of Willkawain, while the rest off us wandered through Huarez, taking pictures and yet more souvenir hunting.

Tuesday 19th August

Taxi came at 10am and took us up the Quebrada Llanganuco valley to a place on the road called 'La Curva'. Here a track took us down to a meadow where we had a beer from a shack and also managed to acquire donkeys for the walk up to the Pisco hut. It was a lovely walk up to the hut carrying minimal gear and taking photos on the way. Our view from the hut was spectacular as we could Huascarán and other giants such as Huandoy and Chopicalqui.

Wednesday 20th August

Up at 1 and away for 2.15am from the hut it was up the moraine and then down the moraine and across a boulder field before going up a ridge towards the glacier.

There was a lot of cloud to start with but as it got lighter the weather improved. The tracks were good and we quickly made up ground on a large French group.

The top section of the mountain was a 30m steep wall (80%) leading up to the summit of Pisco 5752m.

The views were fantastic- Huascarán, Huandoy, Chopicalqui, Yanapacca, Alpamayo and Chacaraju to name a few.

On the way down the cloud was building up; some of the groups coming up would not get the views we had from the summit. The route down was fast and we got back to the hut by 11.45am. It was great to lay out all the gear in the sun and just chill, great day.

Thursday 21st August

We were woken up at 1am by noisy trekkers, but managed to get back to sleep until 9am. We had breakfast on the veranda before deciding that three of us would go down, while Keith was going to explore the area around Laguna 69.

Once at 'La Curva' we had to wait for a taxi as ones that were there had been pre-booked. Eventually we managed to squeeze into a taxi with three other people on their way to Huarez.

Friday 22nd August

The morning was spent shopping for souvenirs; Keith arrived back from Pisco at 11.30am. The rest of us went to visit the ruins at Willkawain where the ancient burial sites pre date the Incas.

At 5pm we had an invitation to meet the Mayor of Huarez and had drinks and photos with him at the Municipal Building. There were various speeches that were translated to us of how they were very sorry about our experience in the Blanca with reference to the bandits.

We then went to watch a couple of films at the 'Incafest' a two-day mountaineering film festival.

Saturday 23rd August

Up at 7am packed the rest of the gear and met with Chris and did the final accounts.

Set off back to Lima at 1pm, said our goodbye's to familiar faces.

Again watched some films on the portable screens to pass the time away, got into Los Olivas at 8pm, this hotel was situated 15 minutes from the Airport.

Good nights sleep.

Sunday 24th August

The morning call from the hotel was confusing as it came at 1.45 instead of 4am. Not a good start to the day. After breakfast we checked in at the Airport at 5am and flew to Atlanta at 7.45am and back to the reality of life.

The ridge that we climbed along, the bivvy spot is just below the second rock tower (centre)



Route selection

The initial reconnaissance provided by Paul Hudson gave us valuable information on which objectives to target. He had also enlarged and joined photos to give us a more detailed view of the potential objectives. We had already discussed the NE ridge of Copa North as well as some peaks overlooking the south side of Lake Allicocha mainly Nevada Paccharaju Pt. 5410 & Pt 5460.

On our reconnaissance we all agreed on one of the latter (Pt.5460m) that had a slabby approach to a col then up a steep snow ridge was one objective with the peak to the right when viewed from the lake (Pt.5410m) as a second possibility ascending up the rock buttress then up the summit ridge but the main choice was for the NE ridge of Copa North (6173m).

North East Ridge of Copa

I agreed whole heartedly with this choice but to approach the ridge direct from our BC was very steep, loose and had objective dangers in the form of seracs and stone fall. We may also miss out part of the ridge so by descending slightly from BC we could initially ascend a comb followed by a subsidiary ridge to the start of the main ridge. We started to ferry food & equipment up to an excellent bivouac found by Ken that overlooked our BC (circa 5000m) and was 200m below the start of the main ridge. We were poised for a summit attempt and envisaged at least one more camp as the ridge steepened but due to the incident at base camp the consensus was to abandon the expedition. This was very frustrating having worked hard to achieve everything in place and the ridge waiting to be climbed.

The other objectives are also still feasible from the same base camp but with possibly an advanced camp below the slabs or at the col.

‘Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow’.

Clothing and Equipment list

ROCK CLIMBING MOUNTAIN GEAR CAMPING GEAR

Rock boots	Boots	
Harness	Large sack	Small tent
Chalk bag	Socks (thick) x2	Karrimat
Chalk?	Socks (thin) x2	Thermarest
Rack	Salopettes	Sleeping bag
Slings	Thermal pants	Stove
Tube	Thermal top	
Nut extractor	Coolmax top	
Shunt?	Balaclava	
Ropes x 1	Hat	
Sack	Inner gloves	
First aid kit	Wind bloc gloves	Plate
Sweat band	Over mitts	Mug
T shirts	Specs.	Cutlery
Track bottoms	Goggles	Torch
Fleece	Ski poles	
Helmet	Axes x 2	Toilet roll
Pants	Screws x	
	Pegs x 3	Matches
	Snow stakes x 2	Lighters
	Water bottle	Polybags
	Head torch	
	Crampons	
	Duvet/jacket	
	Mid fleece	
	Fleece pants?	
	T shirts	
	Gaiters?	
	Cagoule	
	Bivvy bag	

WASH BAG

Soap
Cloth
Shampoo
Tooth brush
Tooth paste
Roll on deodorant
Razors
Shaving gel
After-shave
Foot spray
Foot cream
Cotton buds
Dental floss
Lipsil
Blistease
Zovirax
Talcum powder
Towel x2
Hair brush
Vaseline
Olbus oil
Hem cream
Dioralite
Lamatil
Anti-histamine
Nail brush
Prickly heat powder?
Tissues
Mirror

PAPERS

Passport
Maps
Travel/mountain insurance
Address book
Currency \$300+
Wallet
Credit card
Sun glasses
Glasses x 2
E tickets

Spare magazines

CLOTHES

Sun hat
Shorts x 2
Pants x 2
Socks x 2
Trainers
Underwear
T shirts
Shirt
Fleece

REPAIR KIT	EXTRAS	FIRST AID KIT
Needles	Insect repellent	Plasters
Thread	Playing cards	Vent aid
Tape various	Binos	Scissors
Super glue	Cameras X 2	Anti inflam
Tie wraps	Solar charger?	Aspirin
File	Slide film	Tooth kit
Wire	Books x 2 + lamp	Antiseptic cream?
Araldite	Compass	Tweezers
Ptfe	Sun cream x 2	Magnifying glass
Screw driver set	Bum bag	Scalpels
Multi tool	Army knife	
Nuts & bolts	Nalgene bottle	
Safety pins	Water bottle	
Rescue flasher	Knife, fork & spoon set	
Scissors	Plate	
Spanner	Mug	
Allen keys	Body wallet	
Drill	Pens	
Rubber adhesive	Flint	
Candles?	Space blanket	
	Spare camera battery	

Medical first aid kit		
Equipment		Quantity
	Forceps	1
	Thermometer	1
	Scissors	1
	Pencil, pen and waterproof paper	1
	Lightweight CPR barrier kit	2
	Gloves	6
Dressings		
	Stretch crepe bandages varying sizes	4
	Triangular bandage	4
	Safety pins assorted packet	1
	Melolin dressings × 2 sizes	20
	Fast aid plasters box	2
	Plasters assorted sizes box	2
	Steristrip wound closures various sizes packet	4
	Micropore tape	2
	Zinc oxide tape	2
	Paraffin gauze dressing	5
	Antiseptic wipes packet	4
Medications		
Skin		
	Olbas Oil	1
	Flamazine silver sulphadiazine 50g tube	1
	Tinc Benz	
	Vioform Hydrocortisone	
	Vaseline	
	Antifungal cream	
	Tea tree oil	
Antihistamine		
	Piriton	25 tablets
	Pseudephedrine	25 tablets
Ears, eyes, dental		
	Clove oil	10ml
	Chloramphenicol eye ointment	4g tube
	Optrex eye drops	50ml
	Gentisone ear drops	10ml

	Antiseptic throat drops	24 tablets	
	Emergency dentist filling kit		1
Altitude			
	Diamox (Acetazolamide) 250mg 100 Tablets		100
	Dexamethasone		
	Nifedipine		
Antibiotics			
	Ciprofloxacin Xoxan tablets alternative 500mg £27.43		30
	Amoxicillin Augmentin 500mg 20 Tablets		20
	Erythromycin E-Mycin 400mg - 100 Tablets		100
	Metronidazole Trichozole (Flagyl) 400mg 100 Tablets		100
	Tinidazole see above (Ian has some of these)		
Analgesics			
	Paracetamol		
	Aspirin		
	Ibuprofen		
	Tramadol Citrama 50mg - 30 Tablets		30
	Diclofenac		
Gastrointestinal			
	Rehydration sachets box		2
	Antacid		
	Loperamide hydrochloride capsules [Imodium]		84
	Sennekot		40
	10 ciprofloxacin hydrochloride [500mg]		
	10 tinidazole [1000mg]		
	20 cloxacillin [500mg]		
	14 diclofenac [100mg]		
	2 diclofenac suppositories [100mg]		
	Savlon dry spray		
	Savlon wound wash		
	Assorted bandages / plasters / tape / Melolin / duoderm		
	Emergency dentist filling kit		

FINANCES

ITEM	COST						
Food	900						
Transport	775			Extra expenses			\$
Hotel	389			1. Elios Morales			80
Park/camping	75			2. Transport & staff - Allicocha, Huaraz			
Cook	735			3. Medical expenses - as of 10/08/08			200
Arriero	40			4. Loss from theft			250
Burros	100						
Gas	75					Total	530
Toilet	30						
Kitchen	180						
La Cima logistics	400			Accomodation		389	
Extra expenses	530			Kieron		8	
Final Total	4229			divide x 3		381	
						127	
	4229						
Ken's expenses	107						
	4122						
Accomodation	389						
	3733						
Deposits	1600						
	2133						
Kieron's input	600						
	1533						
divided x 4	383.25						
		Kieron	Brian	Keith	Ken		
		600			107		
		383.25	383.25	383.25	383.25		
		8	127	127	127		
		991.25	510.25	510.25	617.25	Total	2629
						Deposit	1600
						Grand total	4229
Brian's expenses						£	
				Woolworths-glue etc.	5.98		
				Tesco-crunch bars	9.94		
				Morrisons- soups etc.	11.83		
				Airport taxi	140		
				Total	167.75		
Paul's expenses				Taxi for Ken	35		

The above expenses have excluded the cost of the flights, which were roughly £850.00 per person.



Brit climbers in knife terror

Published: 19 Aug 2008

THREE British climbers had their food, money and equipment stolen by armed robbers who burst into their tent the night before their bid to scale a remote mountain in the Andes.

The masked gang — carrying knives and guns — threatened to kill Ken Pindlay, 54, William Waddell, 52, and Brian Swales, 55, who were sleeping at a base camp before tackling the 20,000ft Copa peak in northern Peru.

Their 24-year-old local guide was knifed in the hand, but managed to lead the Brits through darkness to get help at a village.

Peru's tourism minister Mercedes Araoz vowed to track down the robbers.

But she added: "These sorts of problems occur everywhere."



Victimas denunciaron indiferencia de la Policía Nacional

TURISTAS INGLESES QUE SUFRIERON ASALTO.

Cuatro turistas Ingleses que pensaban quedarse más de 10 días escalando y acampando en los Nevados del Callejón de Huaylás junto a un grupo de guías profesionales en alta montañas, fueron atacados por cuatro delincuentes quienes totalmente encapuchados y con armas blancas y escopeta en mano, ingresaron a las carpas donde descansaban los visitantes, en el campo base del nevado Copa, para luego atacar primero al guía Joel Vargas, a quien le cortaron la mano derecha, y luego en voz alta y con una serie de insurias asustar a los turistas, a quienes les exigieron la entrega de todas sus pertenencias, entre dinero, equipos de escalar, máquinas fotográficas y todo lo que traían consigo.

Este hecho ocurrió la madrugada del 09 de agosto. Luego de tener todas las pertenencias de los turistas, los asaltantes huyeron del lugar con rumbo desconocido, mientras que las víctimas muy nerviosos por los momentos de horror vividos en el nevado Copa, solicitaron ayuda de la Policía Nacional del sector de Chacas, al no tener respuesta positiva por parte de los efectivos de la jurisdicción se contactaron con el personal de Serenazgo Municipal quienes acudieron inme-

diatamente en su ayuda, logrando rescatarlos del lugar (sector Huayá), trasladándolos posteriormente hasta la ciudad de Huaraz.

Cristopher Marck, de nacionalidad norteamericana junto a los guías Elías Salazar y Joel Vargas, agradecieron este gesto de la Municipalidad de Huaraz, señalando que gracias a la oportuna intervención de los serenos se pudo evitar una desgracia mayor, lo que debió ser una visita de aventura proyectada por todo el país.

Este lamentable hecho, alarmo a los turistas de diversas nacionalidades que vienen llegando a Huaraz, por lo que los agraviados dieron a conocer que a través de la Embajada Británica harán llegar su preocupación a la Policía Nacional de Ancash a fin de que refuerce los controles de ingresos a los diversos nevados existentes en esta parte del país.



guardian.co.uk

British climbers robbed in Peru

- * [Alexandra Topping](#)
- * [The Guardian, Tuesday 19 August 2008](#)
- * [Article history](#)
- * [Article history](#)

Three British climbers attempting to scale a remote peak in Peru had their expedition cut short yesterday when armed robbers stole their equipment and provisions in a night-time raid.

Ken Pindlay, 54, William Waddell, 52, and Brian Swales, 55, were asleep at their base camp when masked men entered their tents and threatened them with guns and knives.

Their guide, Bernardo Vargas, 24, was stabbed in the hand. After the raid, he led the trio through the dark to the nearest village before receiving hospital treatment.

The climbers had planned to scale the Copa summit in the Cordillera Blanca, one of Peru's most celebrated mountain ranges.

Climbers normally acclimatise in the town of Huaraz, 250 miles north of Peru's capital Lima, to avoid the worst effects of altitude sickness.

Peru's minister for foreign trade and tourism, Mercedes Aráoz, said: "These sorts of problems occur everywhere and we are going to take action over this. But I must point out that the number of robberies on tourists has gone down."

British climbers abandon Andes attempt after armed raid on Peru base-camp

A group of climbers have been forced to abandon their attempt on a remote Andean summit after being robbed of their equipment in a night-time raid at base camp.

By John Bingham

Last Updated: 7:01PM BST 18 Aug 2008

Masked men forced their way into a tent in which the men named locally as Britons Ken Pindlay, 54, William Waddell, 52, and Brian Swales, 55, were sleeping as they prepared to climb the 20,000-ft summit of Copa summit in Peru's Cordillera Blanca range.

The robbers, who were armed with knives and guns, threatened to kill the climbers unless they kept quiet.

Related Articles

[Brazil police find stolen Picasso \(/news/worldnews/southamerica/brazil/2581935/Brazil-police-find-Pablo-Picasso-print-stolen-in-heist.html\)](/news/worldnews/southamerica/brazil/2581935/Brazil-police-find-Pablo-Picasso-print-stolen-in-heist.html)

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As one kept watch the others went into a second tent and attacked a local guide, named locally as named as 24-year-old Bernardo Vargas, stabbing him in the hand as he tried to defend himself.

After raiding a third tent, containing the men's rucksacks laden with equipment and rations for the following day's ascent, they made off on foot.

Despite his injuries, the Peruvian guide walked the three men to safety in the nearest village, in pitch black conditions, before going to hospital to have treatment.

Copa is one of the best known peaks in the spectacular Cordillera Blanca range, Peru's climbing mecca.

The eighty-mile-long mountain range - White Knight in English - has 27 peaks over 20,000 feet including Peru's highest mountain Huascarán.

Peru's minister for Foreign Trade and Tourism, Mercedes Araoz said: "We are going to take action over this.

"But I must point out that the numbers of robberies on tourists has gone down."

Research

Internet

Trails of the Cordilleras Blanca and Huayhuash of Peru, Jim Bartle, 1980

The Peruvian Andes, Ph Beaud 1988

Cordilleras Blanca, John F Ricker 1981

Guide to the Worlds Mountains, Michael R Kelsey 1990

MEF Reports in the Sheffield Library

BMC

Climbs of the Cordillera Blanca of Peru, David Sharman 1995

Classic climbs of the Cordillera Blanca Peru, Brad Johnson 2003

Maps

Cordillera Blanca Nord – Austrian Alpine Club, sheet 0/3a 1:100,000

ISBN: 3-928777-57-2

Cordillera Blanca Sud – Austrian Alpine Club, sheet 0/3b 1:100,000

ISBN: 3-937530-05-3

Contacts

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Chris Benway

<cafeandino@hotmail.com> Mobile (from Lima) 043 991 4063 or Cafe Andino 42120 ~

At home Huaraz, (43) 721203

This was the organisation that assisted us in the Blanca. He is a very friendly and helpful person. Straight forward accounting at end of the trip, all charges identified, thus any anomalies soon sorted out.

Family Meza Lodging

Cafe Andino, Lucar y Torre 530, Corner of Jiron de la Mar & Jiron u Torre

Tel home office 421884/Cafe Andino 42120

Excellent for all climbers and other travellers, Safe area through locked outer gate (own key to outside gate and room) Communal kitchen area, drying roof, TV.

NB. The streets around can be noisy at times.

Bus service

Cruz Del Sur, Av Javier Prado 1109 San Isidro. Good straightforward service. Good value.

Airline

Delta airlines, food ok all vegetarian meals were there, Flights ran on time, no delays on either flight from Manchester to Lima via Atlanta.

Eastern Blanca Reconnaissance Trip

MEF 06/14

The original idea for this trip was a two-man trip to explore an area that seemed both interesting and unexplored. During the preparation for the trip my partner had to pull out quite late in the proceedings. Fortuitously just at that time I had the chance to change the flight as the original one had been moved by the operator. This meant that a more suitable time allocation could be given to this now reconnaissance trip.

Hi Ken,

At La Cima Logistics I am in partnership with Chris Benway an American in Huaraz. I work as the marketing guy, answering questions, making suggestions and giving advice for people like you. Chris does the 'on the ground' organisation.

We help climbers and trekkers who want to have all or part of the logistics arranged for their trip, thus helping you avoid the loss of any time in Huaraz making arrangements and organizing food etc.

Our charges (for a group up to 4 people) a flat fee of \$250.00 for all our services. For larger groups of 5 people and above, we normally charge a per-person fee of \$100, unless it is a big group splitting into smaller groups all going in different directions. Our services can include arranging for airport transfers in Lima and hotels in Lima and Huaraz, (we have some very good clean, inexpensive places we can recommend), bus tickets from Lima to Huaraz, we will meet you at the bus station in Huaraz and transfer you to the hotel, we will get all the food organized for you based on the length of your trip and how many people you have and your type of diet (climbing food you should organize). We will arrange for all transportation to and from the mountains, we will organize all the arrieros and burros needed. In addition we are familiar with the current fees now being charged in certain valleys in the Cordillera Blanca.

Because there are now so many little shops offering trekking services it has become common for these "agencies" making arrangements, to either charge more than the daily rate for say, a cook or porter, and then keep the difference or get a kickback from the arrieros/porters/guides they contract. Being the customer you never really know what you are paying for. We prefer to charge this flat fee for our logistical services and any rental fees for our kitchens, tents, and other gear is extra. This way our cooks, porters, arrieros and guides get paid what they deserve and are not cheated.

Our accounting to you for the services we contract is available for you to examine, and our contracted staff are the best available. In addition most all these agencies in Huaraz are not organized enough to provide reliable services beyond the city limits of Huaraz in terms of Lima airport transfers, bus tickets and hotel reservations.

We specialize in the Cordillera Blanca and we have developed a great team of cooks and arrieros who live in the region. These guys have been working with all of our groups for a number of years now. They are very hard workers, very reliable and know the region like the backs of their hands.

As far as transportation goes I would NOT recommend using public transportation as it will be slow and not on your time schedule. Having your own vehicle you will get to the trailhead faster allowing you to possibly start walking the same day and second,

given the amount of equipment you will have you will be better off with your own vehicle than travelling with the local busses. We would be happy to arrange private transport for you and your crew (leave when you want from your hotel, pick you up when you want to return).

Burro drivers (arrieros), burros or horses need to be arranged in advance. These arrieros are good guys and they will jump in and help with anything from setting up tents to washing dishes and helping the cook. You must provide food and shelter for them, which is not a big deal as the cook will purchase enough food for the arrieros going with you and usually the arrieros sleep in the dinning tent or kitchen tent.

We have some great cooks who work for us throughout the season, they will organize all the food and kitchen supplies for you in Huarez and get it all boxed up in burro loads prior to departure. The cook can act as camp guard as he won't usually be going past a moraine camp. Cooks can use MSR type stoves (ours or yours) however we recommend a larger propane-type stove for trekking and base camps. We have bigger kitchen and dining tents available, stoves, propane tanks, pressure cookers, table and chairs, but all of these items have their associated rental cost (not too expensive).

One thing for you to decide is how much gear you want to bring as opposed to renting from us. We are cool with mixing and matching a plan to meet your needs.

.....
Tel/Fax: 970-626-5251
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www.peaksandplaces.com

Later I was in contact with Chris Benway and also asked his about the Eastern Blanca area around the village of Pompey.

Ken - I am not personally experienced in that eastern area you mention, but I know some very good local mountain guides who are. I am fairly certain they would have photos. DO you have any specific routes in mind - and if you want to keep that info discreet, maybe general mountains from the eastern aspect? I might be able to scrounge up some photos for you after the holidays.

The lack of information has more to do with the tendency of climbers through the years going where the going is easy - where there is information and transportation is routine...etc. Combined with the language and cultural challenges, and the abundance of routes close to Huarez - people don't do a lot of new around here. There is a lot of stuff to do, especially on the east side. My long-winded way of saying that I don't think it's a (lack of) snow or rock quality issue.

Chris
.....

Ken,

I have had a bit of a challenge trying to locate and confirm an arriero and burros for your Pompey adventure. There are not dedicated mountain workers there like there are on the west side of the CB, as you might guess.

Yesterday afternoon, I was able to meet with a guide from Chacas who told me that he was going to arrange through his brother (in Chacas) and let me know on Sunday. I feel good about where the status is now. When you get off the bus (in Pompey) there will be someone to meet you, the arriero with three burros, and you guys might actually be able to make it into BC that day.

When you get to the airport, and through immigration and customs, there will be a guy (among the many) with a sign with your name on it. This person is from the Hotel Espana, and they will take you there, where you will have a single room (which is actually a double, but billed for single occupancy) with attached bath.

It is important to remember that there are two charges in Lima that you will have to pay yourself...well, three, really. The airport p/u and transfer to Espana, which is \$9 (usd) and the room, which is about \$13 or \$14 (because it is a single) and in the morning, a taxi to the bus station, which should be about \$3 to \$3.50

It is ok and a good idea to change maybe 40 or 50 dollars in the kiosk in the airport baggage claim area, as they give a pretty good rate.

Your bus ticket will be paid for by me, and available for you to pick up at the bus station when you show your passport at the ticket counter. It would be a good idea to leave the Espana by 8:15am, asking the desk-person to get a taxi for you, and be sure to go to the JAVIER PRADO Cruz del Sur station in San Isidro.

Then, we will see you in Huaraz.

cafeandino@hotmail.com

(From Lima) 043 991 4063 ~ 1 sol per minute

Christopher benway

Hi Ken,

How are things going? Had an email from Paul & he said you were on with the report as well as looking after your mum, dad & brother. If you need any help with the report give me a shout.

I also had an email from Chris Benway & he says Joel is working at cafe Andino and now has a little boy. I emailed Chris at New Year and he may have been prompted to reply as I have a mate out there at the moment. Paul told me about Keith's mum so please keep me posted. It would be good to meet up with you, Keith & Kieran sometime and look at the photos. I have been on the Leeds MC web site and looked at Keith's and seen a few of Kieran's on UK climbing site.

Hope all is well with you.

Regards

Brian

From: schedulechanges@airline-network.co.uk
To: undisclosed-recipients,
Subject: Letter from Airline Network
Date: Thu, 29 May 2008 16:37:40 +0100 (BST)

Invoice No. 8200032
Locator 4AVZPC
Departing 28-Jul-2008
Letter Sent 29-May-2008
Passenger Names:
Mr L Holbert
B Swales
K Waddell

Flight No.	Airport	Date	Time
AF 03628	Departs Manchester Airport	28-Jul-2008	11:10
	Arrives Atlanta William B Hartsfield	28-Jul-2008	15:20 DL
00349	Departs Atlanta William B Hartsfield	28-Jul-2008	17:15
	Arrives Lima Airport - Peru	28-Jul-2008	22:50
DL 00352	Departs Lima Airport - Peru	24-Aug-2008	07:45
	Arrives Atlanta William B Hartsfield	24-Aug-2008	15:48 AF
03629	Departs Atlanta William B Hartsfield	24-Aug-2008	19:55
	Arrives Manchester Airport	25-Aug-2008	09:20

Dear Mr Holbert,
SCHEDULE CHANGE

It is common at certain times of the year for airlines to amend their flight schedules for commercial and operational reasons.

As shown above, there has been a flight schedule change to your booking.

This may have an impact on other travel plans you have made. Please ensure that any hotels transfer or tour bookings that you are currently holding are amended in accordance to the new flight details.

If you have already received your E-ticket and the schedule change of 1hour or more, and/or one or more of the flight numbers have changed, then a new E-ticket receipt will be forwarded to you.

‘Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence’.

CITACIÓN POLICIAL Nro. 216 - 2008-XIII-DTP-DIVINCRI-PNP-HZ

SEÑOR : Ken FLINDAY

DOMICILIADO :


Por intermedio de la presente se le cita a Ud., a fin de que concurra a la División de Investigación Criminal - DIVINCRI -- PNP – Huaraz, sito en el Jr. San Martín 7ma. Cuadra – Distrito y Provincia de Huaraz, Para el día 14 de Agosto de 2008, a horas 15:00 con la finalidad de recepcionársele su manifestación, referente a una denuncia que obra en esta Unidad por el presunto Delito Contra El Patrimonio – Robo Agravado contra los que resulten responsables, Hecho ocurrido el día Viernes 08 de Agosto De 2008 , en la quebrada Allicocho – Jurisdicción de Chacas en agravio de su persona y otros.

Huaraz, 13 de Agosto del 2008.

ENTERADO

DNI. Nº :
FECHA :
HORA :




OP-206309
WILLIAM MENDEZ PACHECO
CMDTE. PNP
JEFE DIVISION DE INVESTIGACION CRIMINAL
APOYO A LA JUSTICIA PNP HUARAZ

COPIA CERTIFICADA DE DENUNCIA POLICIAL

DIVISION DE INVESTIGACION CRIMINAL Y APOYO A LA JUSTICIA PNP HUARAZ

EL SECRETARIO DE LA DIVISION CRIMINAL Y APOYO A LA JUSTICIA HUARAZ, QUE SUSCRIBE:

CERTIFICA:

Que, en el Libro de Registro de Ocurrencias que obra en la División de investigación criminal PNP Huaraz, correspondiente al presente año existe una signada con el número 115, cuyo tenor literal es como sigue.

Nº 115.- HORA: 13:00.- FECHA: 11AGO2008.- PARTE S/N-2008-XIII-DIVINCRI-HZ.- El SOT1 PNP FLORES MANAYAY Juan.- DA CUENTA.- Que a las horas 12:30 del día de la fecha, se presentó a esta Jefatura de Investigación Criminal Apoyo a la Justicia PNP Huaraz, la persona de Bernardo Joel VARGAS ROSA (24), Huaraz, Técnico Automotriz, soltero, DNI. Nº 42015265, domiciliado en la Nueva Florida Nº 133 Independencia Huaraz, denunciando que a horas 21:00 aproximadamente el día 08AGO2008, ha sido víctima de robo de dinero en efectivo de la suma de \$ 25 Americanos, del mismo que se habría producido en circunstancias que se encuentran en el interior de una carpa, ubicado en el lugar denominado quebrada Aillicocha lado del nevado COPA, jurisdicción de la Provincia de Chacas, el mismo que habría protagonizado por dos sujetos encapuchados, provisto de arma blanca (cuchillo) y de fuego (escopeta), los mismos, que al ser descubiertos perpetrando el hecho lesionaron al agraviado, reduciéndolo y apuntándolo con dicha arma de fuego significándose que el dinero sustraído pertenecía a la persona de nacionalidad inglesa KEN FINDLAY KEITH, WILLIAM WADDELL y de BRIAN JAMES SWANSON quienes habían acampado en el mismo lugar, pero en otras carpas, refiriendo que después de consumarse el hecho los presuntos autores huyeron del lugar con dirección desconocida. Lo que se da cuenta para los fines de su competencia.- FDO: SOT1 FLORES MANAYAY J.- ES CONFORME: CMDTE PNP WILLIAM MENDEZ PACHECO.- RESOLUCIÓN: Manifestación, Se Investiga, se expide certificada.

"ES COPIA FIEL DE SU ORIGINAL"

Huaraz, 13 de Agosto de 2008

EL SECRETARIO

SP-91-30916164-72
Luis L. Guerrero Mocarroz
8072 PNP.



OP 206309
WILLIAM MENDEZ PACHECO
CMDTE. PNP
JEFE DIVISION DE INVESTIGACION CRIMINAL





COPIA CERTIFICADA DE DENUNCIA POLICIAL
DIVISION DE INVESTIGACION CRIMINAL Y APOYO A LA JUSTICIA PNP HUARAZ

EL SECRETARIO DE LA DIVISION CRIMINAL Y APOYO A LA JUSTICIA PNP HUARAZ, QUE SUSCRIBE:

CERTIFICA:

Que, en el Libro de Registro de Ocurrencias que obra en esta Division de investigacion criminal PNP Huaraz, correspondiente al presente año 2008, existe una signada con el número 115, cuyo tenor literal es como sigue.

Nº 115.- HORA: 13:00.- FECHA: 11AGO2008.- PARTE S/N-2008-XIII-DTP-DIVINCRI-HZ.- El SOTI PNP FLORES MANAYAY Juan.- DA CUENTA.- Que ha horas 12.30 del día de la fecha, se presentó a esta Jefatura de Investigación Criminal y Apoyo a la Justicia PNP Huaraz, la persona de Bernardo Joel VARGAS ROSALES (24), Huaraz, Técnico Automotriz, soltero, DNI Nº 42015265, domiciliado en la Av. Nueva Florida Nº 133 Independencia Huaraz, denunciando que a horas 21.00 aprox., del día 08AGO2008, ha sido víctima de robo de dinero en efectivo de la suma de S 250.00 Americanos, del mismo que se habría producido en circunstancias que se encontraba en el interior de una carpa, ubicado en el lugar denominado quebrado Hillo-cha lado oeste del nevado COPA, jurisdicción de la Provincia de Chacas, el mismo que habría sido protagonizado por dos sujetos encapuchados, provisto de arma blanca (cuchillo) y arma de fuego (escopeta), los mismos, que al ser descubiertos perpetrando el hecho lesionaron al agraviado, reduciéndolo y apuntándolo con dicha arma de fuego, significándose que el dinero sustraído pertenecía a la persona de nacionalidad inglesa KEN FNDLAY KEITH, WILLIAM WADDELL y de BRIAN JAMES SWALES, quienes habían acampado en el mismo lugar, pero en otras carpas, refiriendo que después de consumarse el hecho los presuntos autores huyeron del lugar con dirección desconocida. Lo que se da cuenta para los fines de su competencia.- FDC SOTI PNP FLORES MANAYAY J.- ES CONFORME: CMDTE PNP WILLIAM MENDEZ PACHECO.- RESOLUCIÓN: Manifestación. Se Investiga, se expide copia certificada.

"ES COPIA FIEL DE SU ORIGINAL"

Huaraz, 15 de Agosto de 2008

EL SECRETARIO

V. E.

Quem...

--- En la ciudad de Huaraz, siendo las 11:13 horas del día 15 de Agosto del 2008, presente ante el Instructor Policial; y ante la presencia de la Representante del Ministerio Público Dra. **Meriela RODRIGUEZ LEYVA**, Fiscal Adjunta del POOL de Fiscales de Ancash, Que interviene por Delegación Verbal del Dr. **Donato LEON SANCHEZ**, Fiscal Provincial Penal de la 4ª Fiscalía Provincial Penal de Huaraz, en una de las Oficinas de la Unidad Especializada **DIVINCRI PNP** Huaraz la persona de **KIERAN ELLIOTT O' SULLIVAN (19)**, quien al ser preguntado por sus generales de ley, dijo llamarse como queda escrito en la parte superior, Nacionalidad Gran Bretaña -Inglaterra - Liths, nacido el 27 de Junio del 1989 , de estado civil soltero, con grado de instrucción superior, de ocupación estudiante, Identificado con Pasaporte N° 459172728, con domicilio actual en , a quien se le procede a instruir la presente Manifestación por encontrarse su persona y otros como agraviados del presunto Delito Contra El Patrimonio - Robo Agravado contra los que resulten responsables, hecho ocurrido el día Viernes 08, de Agosto de 2008 en la Quebrada Allicocho - Jurisdicción de la Provincia de Chacas, con el siguiente resultado :-----

01. PREGUNTADO DIGA: ¿Si para rendir su presente manifestación requiere la presencia de un abogado defensor? Dijo.-----
--- Que, no lo considero necesario por el momento.-----



PREGUNTADO DIGA: ¿A que actividades se dedica, desde cuando y compañía de quien o quienes vive? Dijo:-----
--- Que, soy estudiante, pero he venido de Tours a la Quebrada Allicocho, hemos acampado por ocho días desde el 01 de Agosto hasta el nueve del mismo mes.-----

O'Sullivan

03. PREGUNTADO DIGA: ¿Narre la forma y circunstancias del delito contra el patrimonio - robo agravado, en agravio de su persona y **Kelth William WADDEL, Brian JAMES SWALES**; Denuncia materia de Investigación en esta Unidad Especializada? dijo-----
--- Que, el día que se me indica estuvimos en el campo base yo y mi compañero de alpinismo KEITH aproximadamente a las 22.00 horas llego nuestro cocinero Yoel gritando , excitado ,asustado y Sali de mi carpa y vi que estaba con sangre cortado, la mano y no pude ver las personas pero empezamos a darle los primeros auxilios y solo eso se.-----

04. PREGUNTADO DIGA: ¿Indique el motivo de su estadía en esta ciudad, asimismo diga si conoce a las personas de **Kelth William WADDEL, Brian JAMES SWALES** y **Bernardo Joel VARGAS ROSALES**? dijo.-----
--- Que, Me encuentro en esta ciudad por una Expedición de ALPINISMO, desde el 09 de Agosto al 21 de Agosto , pero debido a los hechos suscitados nos regresamos esa misma noche.-----

05. PREGUNTADO DIGA: ¿Indique si Ud. Tiene conocimiento en que circunstancia la persona de **Bernardo Joel VARGAS ROSALES**, se habla

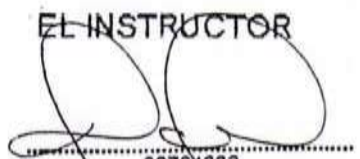
[Handwritten signatures and stamps]
Meriela Rodríguez Leyva
Fiscal Adjunta Provincial (P)
30704882
Juan G. Flores Manayay
SOT PNP

lesionado? dijo: _____ Que, personalmente no he visto nada, pero Yoel nos contó que le habían puesto un cuchillo en su mano para asaltarlo, tratándose de dos personas siendo una la que le puso el cuchillo en el cuello. _____

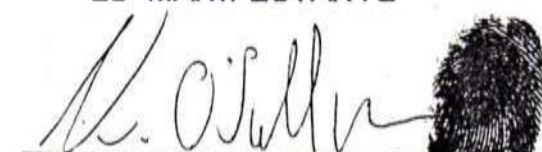
06. PREGUNTADO DIGA: ¿SI Ud. Tiene conocimiento de la cantidad de dinero que tenía dicha persona y por que lo llevaba con sí? Dijo: ----
--- Que, si tengo conocimiento por referencia de Yoel que el monto de dinero de S/500.00 nuevos soles, ya que eso era en ese momento, posteriormente me enteré que se trataba de S/400.00 nuevos soles y \$100.00 dólares. _____

07. PREGUNTADO DIGA: ¿SI tiene algo más que agregar quitar o variar a su presente manifestación? Dijo: _____
--- Que, No, leída que fue mi presente manifestación encontrándola conforme en todas sus partes firmo e imprimo mi huella digital del índice derecho en señal de conformidad en presencia del RMP y el instructor que certifica. _____

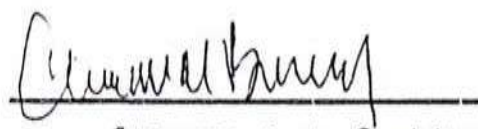
EL INSTRUCTOR


30704632
Juan G. Flores Manayay
SOTI PNP

EL MANIFESTANTE


KIERAN ELLIOTT O'SULLIVAN

EL TRADUCTOR


CHRISTOPHER M. BENWAY

RMP.


Maricela Soledad Rodríguez Leyva
Fiscal Adjunta Provincial (P)

Peru

Malaria risk in rural areas East of the Andes and West of the Amazon Basin below 1500 metres - regimen 2.

(Chloroquine 300mg **weekly** (2x150mg tablets). **PLUS** Proguanil 200mg **daily** (2x100mg tablets).

Amazon Basin area - regimen 1.

(Mefloquine one 250mg tablet **weekly**. OR Doxycycline one 100mg capsule **daily**. OR Malarone one tablet **daily**.)

Mefloquine (Larium) is contra-indicated if going to altitude!

Yellow Fever

Hepatitis A

Typhoid

Tetanus

Polio

- All vax recommended but not a requirement of entry.

Diphtheria, Rabies & Hep B – only if staying 3 mths or more

Altitude Advice:

<http://www.traveldoctor.co.uk/altitude.htm>

HEALTH

Medical treatment can be expensive and not always available in some parts of the country.

There have been cases of people having contracted HIV from blood transfusions in Peru. The Ministry of Health has recently declared the blood banks to be in a state of emergency.

Yellow fever is endemic to Peru, particularly in mountainous and jungle areas. If you plan to travel from Peru to Brazil, you will need to show evidence of a valid yellow fever inoculation to the airline at Lima airport. There has been recent press reporting concerning the deaths of three Peruvian nationals following inoculations for Yellow fever administered in the Ica region. The Health Ministry has launched an investigation to confirm any link between the inoculations and deaths.

Dengue Fever is endemic to Latin America and the Caribbean and can occur throughout the year. In 2007, there has been a marked increase in the number of reported cases of dengue, notably in the area around the province of La Libertad. Other areas of northern Peru and the jungle areas are also affected.

There is a risk of malaria in northern Peru and the jungle areas. Movement at altitudes over 9,000 feet (3,000 metres) can be debilitating, particularly upon arrival. If you

intend to visit Cusco, Puno, the Colca Canyon or other high altitude areas you are advised to take things easy, eat only light meals, drink plenty of water and drink no alcohol for the first day or two after arrival.

You are advised to seek medical advice before travelling and to ensure that all appropriate vaccinations are up to date. NHS Direct (0845 46 47) can provide you with advice on the vaccination requirements for Peru.

For further information on endemic diseases, like malaria, health outbreaks and the vaccination requirements for Peru you should check the websites of [NaTHNaC](#) and [NHS Scotland's Fit For Travel](#).

For more general health information see: [Travel Health](#)

‘The compilers of this report and the members of the expedition agree that all or part of it may be copied for the purposes of private research.’