

all 23748
RONDOY WEST FACE EXPEDITION

MAY 82

JON TINKER26 JOHN ST LONDON WC1N 2BL
OI 242 8184**ANDY HYSLOP**MEF Ref 82/16

Dear Sir,

Andy & I left Heathrow on May 8, arriving the next day in Lima. We flew with VIASA (Venezuelan Airlines) at a price of £400 return. This was the major expense of the trip. I would thoroughly recommend VIASA, their London agent is extremely helpful, giving me a letter of introduction which enabled me to take 30 kilo's excess baggage back from Peru.

We spent a couple of days in Lima. There are no bureaucratic formalities for climbing in Peru but it is worth seeing Senor Cesar Morales Arnao, who is the civil servant responsible for andinism. He showed us a list of expeditions expected. There were about 50, of which only 4 were from the UK. Cesar gave us a letter of introduction which we didn't have to use but which could have been & useful but which we didn't need to use.

We took an overnight coach from Lima to Chiquian, the roadhead for the approach walk to the Huayhuash. The walk-in takes 2 days at minimal cost. We hired 4 burros & an arriero (mule driver) named Rosalino Callupe who is 'teniente' of the local 'guardia civil' & highly recommended. WE arrived at Laguna Jahuacocha, base camp for the Western flanks of the Cordillera Huayhuash, on May 15.

We spent 13 days doing acclimatisation walks & climbs, also receiving the approach to the face. ON May 28, the day we were going up for the route, Andy decided to go home, having decided to give up mountaineering. There was no personal rift involved, we are still friends. I assume that he was not getting enough satisfaction out of the game for the risks involved.

My trip (& your money) was in danger of being wasted after Andy left, but I was fortunate to make friends with a team of Czechs who were also in the area. Two of them, Jan Porvaznik & Dusan Becik, were also after the West Face, and they very kindly invited me along. We took the most obvious, but most dangerous, line on the face, based on a gully system topped by a double-decker pair of seracs. This provided continually difficult & interesting climbing, with vertical sections of climbing on most pitches. There was also one very hard rock pitch which took Jan most of an afternoon to lead. The average angle of the first half of the face, which has a limestone base, was about 70 degrees. Our attempt ended half-way up the face, near the end of the technical difficulties. Dusan was ill & wanted to descend. I led another pitch, at the top of which my belay collapsed & I took a hundred foot fall. I suspected a break but it turned out to be only severe bruising. This meant that I was unable to return with my friends a couple of days later when they completed the route up easier ground. *(made EPT for those interested in those sort of things)*

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Whilst my injuries were clearing up I managed to limp up Rasac with Denis Bibollet, a French friend.

I had a go at one more new route in the Huayhuash. This was the mountain best known to the British as 'El Toro'. I think it is the highest unclimbed point in South America. I tried it via the West ridge with Jan Krajcik & Neil Harding-Roberts, an Englishman now resident in New Zealand. We failed at about half height at the start of the real difficulties, a typical Peruvian mushroom problem which appeared to extend to the summit.

After this I left the Huayhuash & journeyed north to Huaraz, which plays the Chamonix role for the Cordillera Blanca. I spent about 3 weeks there, climbing with 2 extremely mellow Coloradans. We did 3 easy but extremely enjoyable peaks in the Ishinca valley then went for the West Ridge of Huascaran. This came to a halt when I fell in a crevasse after a bridge collapsed. I got a nasty scalp wound. I decided, reluctantly, to go home, to recover.

I am sending an article to the Alpine Journal.

EXPENSES

Flight.....£400 each.
INSURANCE.....£ 44 ,,
Expenses Peru...£100 ,, per month.

IF you, or anyone else, wishes more information, I would be pleased to help.

Thanks a lot for your support & interest.

Yours sincerely,

JONATHAN TINKER