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# THE BRITISH PERUVIAN CORDILLERAS EXPEDITION 1985



**Expedition Patron;**  
Christian Bonington C.B.E.

**Expedition Leader;**  
Lt. Jerry M. Gore R.M.

**Film Adviser;**  
John Earle.

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## INTERIM REPORT ON "THE BRITISH PERUVIAN CORDILLERAS EXPEDITION 1985"

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND OUTLINE OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

The main aim of "The British Peruvian Cordilleras Expedition 1985" was to make a filmed ascent of a major peak in the Cordillera Blanca. The completed film would then be submitted for "The Mick Burke Award 1985".

Base Camp was established on 1st June near the head of the Quebrada Cayesh, thus allowing access to a number of possible objectives for the film.

Reconnaissance and acclimatisation climbs were then carried out by all members and these revealed two facts:-

1. The N.W. Ridge of Nevado Cayesh (5,721m.), which was originally considered, was badly out of condition and would take as long as two weeks to rid itself of early season snow-fall.
2. A major and unclimbed route existed on the West Face of Milpocraju (5,420m.) at the head of the Quebrada Cayesh. This elegant line, traversing the main part of the face, had been spotted by our two professionals, Messrs. Payne and Peter.

After much discussion the route (Alpine T.D.) on Milpocraju was decided upon, and was subsequently completed and filmed in its entirety over the three day period, 11th - 13th June.

A further two weeks was spent in finishing all the remaining filming commitments in and around the Quebrada Cayesh involving the peaks Nevado Cayesh and Nevado Maparaju (5,326m.).

The majority of the Expedition, due to work commitments at home, departed on 3rd. July. Hinkes, Thorns, Travis and Gore remained in Huaraz in order to carry out the remaining Expedition aims. These were:- a) A reconnaissance of one of the central mountain massifs in the Cordillera Blanca, with a view to a possible future traverse of this range and b) to complete certain other specific mountain objectives.

In accordance with the first of these aims a traverse involving the twin peaks of Chakraraju Oeste (6,112m.) and Chakraraju Este (6,001m.) was fully surveyed. The outcome was that the route appeared extremely feasible from Quebrada Yanapaqtsa to the South, and this valuable information is to form the basis of a planned expedition to the Cordillera Blanca in 1986.

Continued.....



To: Expenses in Peru during expedition

Food	460 <del>0</del>	U.S.
Porterage	110 <del>0</del>	"
Transport	160 <del>0</del>	"
*Cilor	210 <del>5</del>	"
Hotel	100 <del>0</del>	"
Exped. Equipment	150 <del>0</del>	"
Others	410 <del>0</del>	U.S.

N.B. No expedition expenditure 2nd July - 31st Aug. '85

\* Cilor - cash in lieu of rations.

d) BALANCE 31st Aug. '85 £3,669. 12  
(£1,473.18 + £1,230.77)  
= £ 965. 17

e) OUTSTANDING 31st Aug. '85

Income: Sale of expedition assets ; (approx. £50)  
Insurance claim: (unknown)  
Sale of tent: (£100)

Expenditure: Standard refund all members: (approx. £695 - 200~~0~~ U.S.  
already paid)  
Cost of printing report: (approx. £115)  
Cost of developing photos: (approx. £50)  
Contingencies: (£240)

NOTE: Expenses in Peru were kept to a minimum because of two reasons:-  
a) The strength of the U.S. dollar against the local currency, soles.  
b) The cost of living in Peru, by Western standards, is very low.

#### 4. MEDICAL SUMMARY:

No unusual medical problems were encountered throughout the entire expedition. A few problems were experienced by certain members, while resident in Huaraz, involving minor stomach upsets.

The altitude acclimatisation programme was carefully prepared and fully executed, thus no problems associated with A.M.S. were encountered.

In general, Peruvian cities and centres of population, especially the mountain towns such as Huaraz and Caras, were found to be refreshingly clean and well kept. This was reflected in the standard of hygiene experienced at restaurants, and when buying local produce.

Submitted by.....

J.M. Gore  
Expedition Leader

## C O N T E N T S

1. Introduction
2. Local Area Map
3. Finance Report
4. Food Report
5. Equipment Report
6. Movement Report
7. Medical Report
8. Film Report

# THE BRITISH PERUVIAN CORDILLERAS EXPEDITION 1985

## INTRODUCTION

1. General Outline: The British Peruvian Cordilleras Expedition 1985 was organised as a highly mobile and lightweight venture, adopting an alpine-style approach to the mountains. Nine mountaineers took part. The Expedition was located in the Cordillera Blanca of the Peruvian Andes between May and August 1985. The Expedition successfully completed a television climbing Documentary, based around an ascent of the unclimbed West Face of Milpocraju (5420m.). Other reconnaissances and climbs were also successfully completed.

2. Aim: The aim of this report is to record the climbing and filming achievements of the Expedition and list administrative arrangements that may be helpful to organisers of similar expeditions.

## PREPARATION AND PLANNING

3. Background: During the Summer Alpine season of 1983 Jerry Gore (the Expedition Leader) decided to lead a climbing expedition to Peru, and Richard Thorns (Cameraman/Deputy Leader) expressed a desire to make a climbing film in South America as a sequel to his film on Aconcagua. The two ideas were combined and an objective, Nevado Cayesh (5721m.), was chosen after detailed research of the new route possibilities within the Cordillera Blanca - the best documented mountain range in Peru.

4. Cordillera Blanca: This mountain chain (literally "White Range") is one of the few ice-clad regions within the tropics. It exceeds the mountains of New Guinea, Africa, Ecuador and Columbia in altitude and extent, and is more extensively ice-covered than other ranges in the Andes including Aconcagua. Yet the range is extremely accessible. The heads of most valleys can be reached by a two day walk-in from the road. Transport, food and accommodation are cheap. Peak Fees and Liaison Officers are almost unknown which means that expedition expenses are minimal. The Cordillera Blanca represents one of the most attractive high-altitude mountain areas in the world.

5. Aim of the Expedition: The main aim of the Expedition was to make a filmed ascent of the N.W. Ridge of Nevado Cayesh in the Chinchey Region of the Cordillera Blanca (see Appendix A). The film would then be submitted for the B.B.C.'s "Mick Burke Award 1985". The secondary objective was to complete a full reconnaissance of one of the central mountain massifs in

the Cordillera Blanca, with a view to a future traverse of this range. The final aim was to complete other mountain objectives within the Cordillera.

6. Preliminary Administration: Planning and preparation took place between November 1983 and May 1985. A summary of procedures and results are included as Appendices in the hope that they will be useful to future expeditions. These are:

a)	Appendix A	Local Area Map
b)	Appendix B	Finance
c)	Appendix C	Food
d)	Appendix D	Equipment
e)	Appendix E	Movement
f)	Appendix F	Medical
g)	Appendix G	Film Report

#### Team Composition:

Jerry Gore	Leader/Climber
Richard Thorns	Deputy Leader/Cameraman
Steve Derwin	Sound Recordist
Roger Payne	Climber
Al Hinkes	Climber
Iain Peter	Climber
Surg. Lt. S.Travis	Doctor/Treasurer
George Raynes	Base Camp Manager
Arthur McCourt	Rations Officer

#### EXECUTION

##### U.K. TO BASE CAMP

8. Movement to Peru: Open-ended air fares (£470 per person), plus a baggage allowance of 40Kg. per person were obtained from VIASA (Venezuelan Airlines) via "Journey Latin America" Travel Agents. The team flew out on 25th May 1985 furnished with that elixir of life, kindly donated by Messrs. Gloag and Sons! We arrived in Lima mid-morning on the 26th of May to be greeted by Cesar Morales Arnao and newspaper and pressmen. As head of Administration of the Peruvian Andes, Cesar proved to be of invaluable assistance both before and during the Expedition. Captain G.A.Hogg R.N. the British Defence Attache, was also at the airport, and together they helped us through customs with all our equipment.

9. Organisation in Lima: We were greeted with the news that the Customs and Dock Workers at Callao had gone on strike the day before. This was a major blow as equipment such as fixed rope and rations, which had been freighted from the U.K., now lay 'froze' in the docks. The Expedition retired to the palatial suburb of Camacho, just outside Lima, kindly hosted by Jerry Gore's

relatives, Brigitte and Coco Irazola. It was decided that Jerry would remain in Lima in order to recover the freight while the remainder of the Expedition departed on Tuesday the 28th May for the mountains. Access to our gear was steadily gained through the efficient and industrious help of Messrs. Coco Irazola and Carlos Sebastiani of Miraflores Freight - Handling Agency. The freight was finally collected on the 1st June and henceforth transported by bus to Huaraz (single ticket for the eight hour journey was roughly £4). Due to the problems encountered it is strongly recommended to future Expeditions that NO equipment whatsoever be freighted by ship to Peru. In our case freighting was necessary because of the consignments of gas cannisters (Butane and Propane Mix), cookers and lanterns generously provided by EPI Gas, together with two crates of rations and fixed rope.

10. Preparations In Huaraz: Huaraz (3048m. 80 South of the Equator) is the principal town of the Cordillera Blanca, and has established itself as the mountaineering centre of Peru. The town has been largely rebuilt since the catastrophic earthquake/landslide of 1970 (50,000 died). It now offers an amazing range of foodstuffs and expedition gear, from Peanut Butter to Titanium ice-screws! We stayed at the Hostal Landauro for approximately 70 cents (U.S.) a night. This hotel is run by Lola and Guy - a Belgian, with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry who provided first class hospitality and very useful local information. Within four days of arrival the Expedition was ready for the move up to Base Camp in the Quebrada Cayesh.

11. Approach March: Transport from Huaraz was by truck up to the road head at Pitec (see Appendix A), where our muleteer Maximo, was waiting with 6 mules. Our equipment was rapidly secured onto these strong animals in mule bags specially made by Berghaus. The 32 km. journey to Base Camp took a whole day and was filmed by our film-crew, Richard Thorns and Steve (Sounds) Derwin. Our four walkie-talkie radios from Gadelius Elektronik soon proved their worth as the caravan spread out, helping to coordinate film and action. The route followed the path of an ancient Inca road, passing numerous ruins dating back to the 15th century. An estimated 2000 people lived in Quelcayhuanca valley until Western diseases (smallpox and measles) and a re-location programme, both introduced by the Spaniards, depopulated the Sierra in the 16th century.

12. Base Camp: Base Camp (4100m.) was established at the head of the Quebrada Cayesh on 1st June below the snow line and 75m. from a river. 500 meters



away and 600 meters above was a line of seracs that avalanched several times a day. Our Base Camp Support Team, (Messrs. Raynes, Travis, and McCourt) soon swung into action, and dry-stone walls, assorted tents and a kitchen sprung up from nowhere. By the time Jerry, together with the freighted equipment, rejoined the Expedition on 5th June, there was a definite atmosphere of "Home-from-Home" about the camp.

#### ASCENT OF MILPOCRAJU AND ATTEMPT ON NEVADO CAYESH

13. Filming Schedule: The filming schedule was at the mercy of the prevailing weather and mountain conditions. Quebrada Cayesh had been chosen not only for its accessibility to Nevado Cayesh, but because it also allowed access to a number of other mountain objectives, should this be necessary for this film. It was as it turned out!

Once the team was fully assembled, reconnaissance and acclimatisation climbs were carried out and these revealed two facts:-

1. The N.W. Ridge of Nevado Cayesh was badly out of condition and would take at least two weeks to rid itself of early season snow-fall.

2. A major and unclimbed route existed on the West Face of Milpocraju (5420m.) at the head of the Quebrada Cayesh. This elegant line traversed the main part of the face and was first spotted by our two professionals Roger Payne and Iain Peter. After much discussion the route (Alpine T.D.) on Milpocraju was decided upon.

14. Ascent of Milpocraju: The decision to attempt Milpocraju was the right one. The route involved mixed rock and ice conditions similar to those anticipated on Cayesh, but more important it allowed much of the filming to be completed whilst succeeding on a technically demanding route. The ascent was filmed in its entirety between the 11th and 13th June. The two climbing teams (Payne and Peter, Gore and Hinkes) took it in turns to lead whilst the camera crew were stationed centrally, with the second climbing team bringing up the rear. The cameraman could thus film either from above or below a climber at any stage during the climb.

After negotiating the crevassed glacier that abutted the West Face, a 50m loose rock wall presented the first obstacle which was tackled by Roger. Two pitches of mixed and then firm neve led above this to the first bivouac on a spacious snow slope.

An alpine start the next day saw the group at the foot of the narrow 600-800 gully that lead through 10 pitches of classic Scottish Grade III to the summit ridge. At 3pm Jerry surmounted the final pitch of IV

to reach the top. At that moment a Condor flew overhead, we then repelled to the bivvy ledge. A second series of abseils were rigged, once more by Iain and Roger and we finally romped into Base Camp around 5 pm overjoyed with our success. Something must be said for the strength and determination of our camera crew, who filmed AND climbed it as well.

15. Filming at Base Camp: Unlike other mountaineering films, an attempt was made to convey the attitudes of those on the expedition. Individuals' thoughts on their role in the expedition (Jerry's on Leadership; the Doc's on Altitude Acclimatisation) were captured as well as a multitude of answers to diverse questions concerning people's motivations and aspirations. These and other more mundane filming commitments, such as glacier crossings and cut-aways of ice axes and crampons, were completed by 18th June. It was now time for George and Arthur to leave for the U.K. and for the rest of us to have another look at Cayesh.

16. Attempt on Nevado Cayesh: After an horrendous farewell party for George and Arthur on the night of the 18th, the climbers departed for the mountains once more. Over the next 10 days two major attempts were made on the N.W. Ridge. The first of these, spearheaded by Iain and Roger succeeded in crossing the large bergschrund that lay at the foot of the N.W. Col (5400m.), forcing a way up the 600 ice and neve slopes to the base of the Ridge. Seven people on the route, including our gallant Doctor, meant slow progress. When we reached the col the weather decided to close in, hence, amidst falling rock and the threat of overhanging seracs, retreat seemed advisable. The second attempt (a week later) ended in failure 5 pitches above the col. After a continuous 24 hour push, Jerry and Al found themselves beneath a broken overhanging wall, with no bivouac in sight. Time and food had run out and caution prevailed.

#### WALK-OUT FROM BASE CAMP

17. Base Camp to Huaraz On 1st July Base Camp was packed up and loaded onto 4 mules, 7 climbers and two horror - stricken muleteers. The weather was clear and sunny for a change, so spirits were high as the camp was dismantled with Richard taking some closing shots of the climbing teams departing. The walk-out to Huaraz was completed in a day, and Steve, Roger and Iain left the next day for Lima for the return to the U.K. on 3rd July. The guides were bound for the Alps and the start of their Summer Season.

Steve returned to Cleveland and his job as Assistant Youth and Community Officer.

#### FURTHER AIMS

##### 18. Reconnaissance of Chakraraju Oeste And Este.

Jerry, Al, Simon, and Richard remained in Huaraz in order to carry out the remaining Expedition aims. The first of these was a reconnaissance of one of the central mountain massifs in the area. For this, the peaks of Chakraraju Oeste (6112m) and Este (6001m) were chosen. These were located above the Llanganuco valley (to the North of Huaraz). Both mountains presented formidable challenges in themselves. They are linked by a long (1.5 Kilometres) ridge at an altitude of 5,500 m. Due to their isolation they represent a mountain range in miniature, awaiting a first ascent.

The peaks were fully reconnoitred from 5th to 9th July. It was thought that a new route on the South Face of Chakraraju Oeste could be used for the initial ascent of this peak. Once ascended, the route would take the ridge to Chakraraju Este although this is heavily corniced and would take at least two days. (detours into deep snow on the fluted East Face would be necessary). Chakraraju Oeste has already been ascended by its technical South West Rib. The plan decent to the glacier would be via the initially vertical South East Shoulder. This slope becomes shallower in its lower reaches. From Quebrada Llanganuco to the south the overall line did seem feasible but would require highly technical climbing at altitude over a period of five days or more. This is the basis of another expedition to the Cordillera Blanca in 1986.

##### 19. Subsequent Ascents.

The second aim completed, the remaining members could turn their full attention to other mountain objectives within the Range. Due to the diverse nature of individual ambitions it was agreed that the four members split up and climb in self-contained two men groups. This way a far larger number of peaks could be attempted than if we all climbed together.

The result are as follows:-

Jerry Gore:

A) West Face Direct, Nevado Churup (5495m). New route, Solo, Alpine T.D. inf natural directissima taking a line through the initial central couloir

involving two pitches of 850 ice smears over rotten ground, continuing straight up to the summit via a 600 neve field and well - formed flutings - 800m face 5 hours from starting below glacier to summit.

B) South Face, Nevado Pisco Oeste (5752m), new route - alternative leads, Alpine T.D. minus. 20 hr. continuous from Llanganuco Base Camp (3900m) to summit and return to Llanganuco (3704m of ascent and descent). The line taken lies further to the West than the original route up the South Face. The new route takes an initial 550 neve slope directly below the summit seracs. 200 m. below these overhangs a 750 - 800 rock band comprising very poor ice veneers is crossed (90m) and the line traverses left and exits onto the summit ridge (West) via a Y shaped system of vertical couloirs - 600m. face.

C) S. Ridge, Nevado Chopikalki (6345m) - alternate leads - alpine A.D. Long snow ridge with pitches up to 600 - 2445m height gain from Llanganuco Base Camp.

D) S.E. Ridge, Nevada Kashan (5723m) alternate leads - alpine A.D. - initial granite slabs leading to 450 - 600 slopes involving neve penitentes fields and isolated rock steps. Vertical height from Base Camp was 750m - 7 hours for ascent.

E) W. Face Santa Cruz (6259m). After a two day approach (2400m. height gain to our Base Camp) my partner became exhausted half-way up the face, necessitating retreat.

Partner for routes b) to e): Phillippe Bord (French).

Al Hinkes:

A) N. Face Huandoy Oeste (6090m) new route - Alpine T.D.

B) Huandoy Norte (6395m) - Alpine D+

Partner: Steve Untch (U.S.A.)

Richard Thorns and Surg. Lt. Simon Travis R.N.:

A) An attempt was made to establish a new route on the West Face of Huascarán Sud (6768m) but this failed due to very poor weather conditions. Both then left Huaras for sightseeing excursions to the Amazon Jungle and to some of the colonial cities to the south.

## 20. CONCLUSIONS

The main objective of the Expedition undoubtedly was the completion of the film. In this respect the venture was a success. Only events in June 1986, when all six Mick Burke Films will be judged, will dictate to what extent.

However, it is fair to say that in a variety of ways a number of other triumphs were achieved. Perhaps the greatest of these was through the knowledge shared by all that when it came to it, the right mountaineering decisions had been made. We live to tell another tale, and perhaps that in itself is the greatest measure of success.

Many lessons were learnt, though, and not all to do with Expedition filming by any means. The feasibility of technical climbing, alpine-style and at altitude was experienced and the exciting possibilities realised. Moreover, the Expedition opened up to members the amazing scope for mountaineering that exists within the Peruvian Cordilleras.

In terms of finance, accessibility and administration, these mountains win every time in comparison to the peaks of the Himalayas. The weather conditions are definitely more stable from May through to July in comparison to the other "Great Ranges" of the world, and the standard of health and hygiene is good. Thus, it was generally agreed by all that the Cordillera Blanca deserves a second visit. Equally, for anyone planning their first serious expedition, Peru would be hard to beat.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

21 The Expedition was assisted by many agencies and individuals. In particular the members would like to record their gratitude to:

- A) Christian Bonington C.B.E. - who very kindly agreed to act as our patron.
- B) E.P.I. Gas International - who generously supplied all the cooking and lighting equipment used during the Expedition.
- C) Bergaus - who donated a number of waterproofs and mule bags.
- D) Caesar Morales Arnao - for his unfailing assistance and support in all things Peruvian.
- E) Brigitte and Coco Irazola for their unlimited hospitality whilst in Lima.
- F) Carlos Sebastiani of Miraflores S.A. for his unstinting and essential work in securing our freight.
- G) Gadelius Elektronikk of Norway for supplying the Expedition with four transmitter/receiver radios and a Solar Panel.
- H) Medway Shipping for sending all our Expedition Equipment "freight free" to Peru.

In addition our thanks must go to all the following organisations, firms and individuals who gave their support:-

## FINANCE

Mount Everest Foundation  
Royal Navy And Royal Marines Mountaineering Club  
G. & L. Plant Ltd.,  
British Mountaineering Council  
British Broadcasting Corporation

## FOOD/EQUIPMENT

Drinkmasters  
Batchelors  
North Cape  
C.P.C. Ltd.  
Twinings  
Ski And Climb International  
Fine Fare - Stirling  
Sharwoods  
James Marshalls  
Alpine Sports  
Mathew Gloag & Son  
Adidas  
Phoenix Mountaineering  
Karrimor  
Wilderness Ways  
Silverscreen  
R.A.F. Leuchars  
Moorland Rambler  
Ever Ready Batteries  
Lesley Brown

## GENERAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

45 Commando, Royal Marines  
Bill and Rita McCormack  
Patrick Ford N.P.  
T.N.T. Road Freight  
The Peruvian Embassy, London  
Cdr. George Hogg, R.N.

29th October, 1985

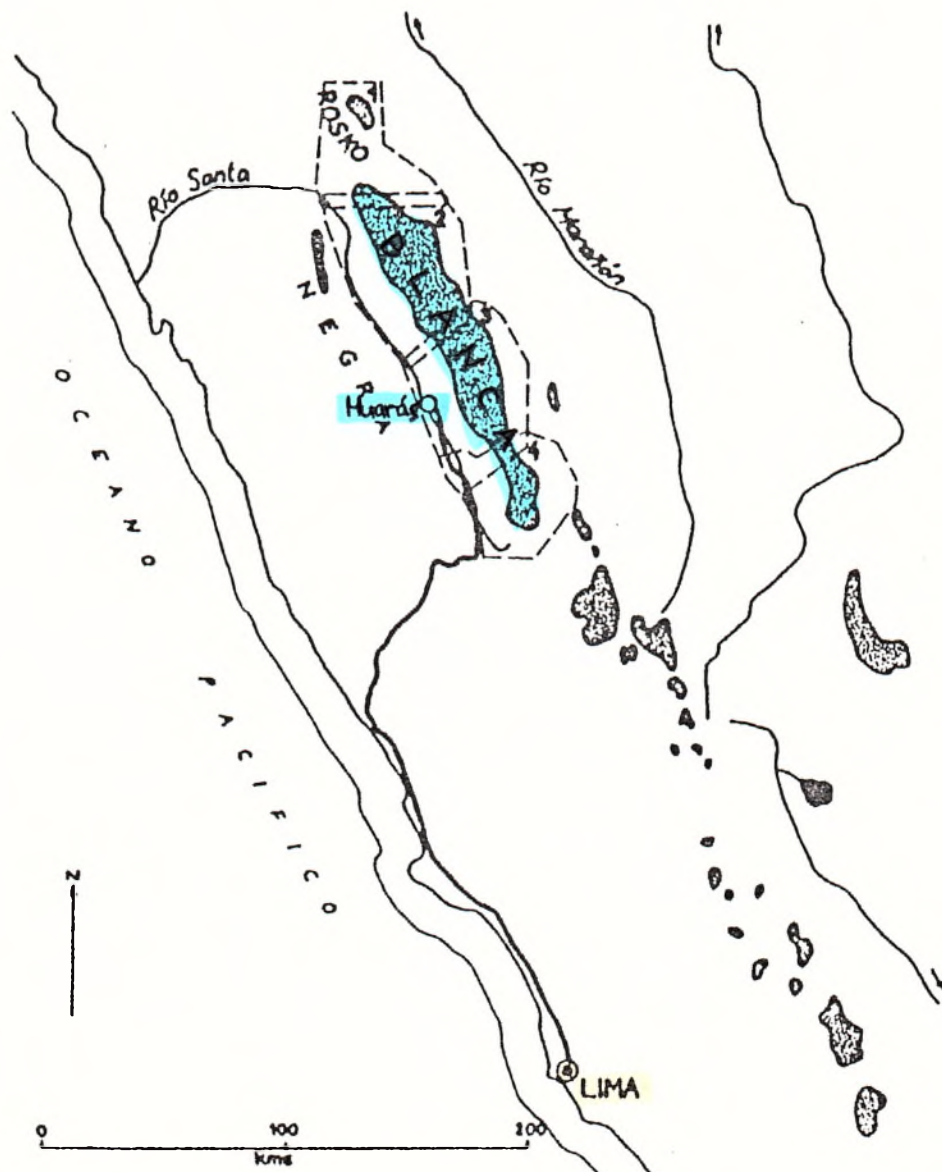
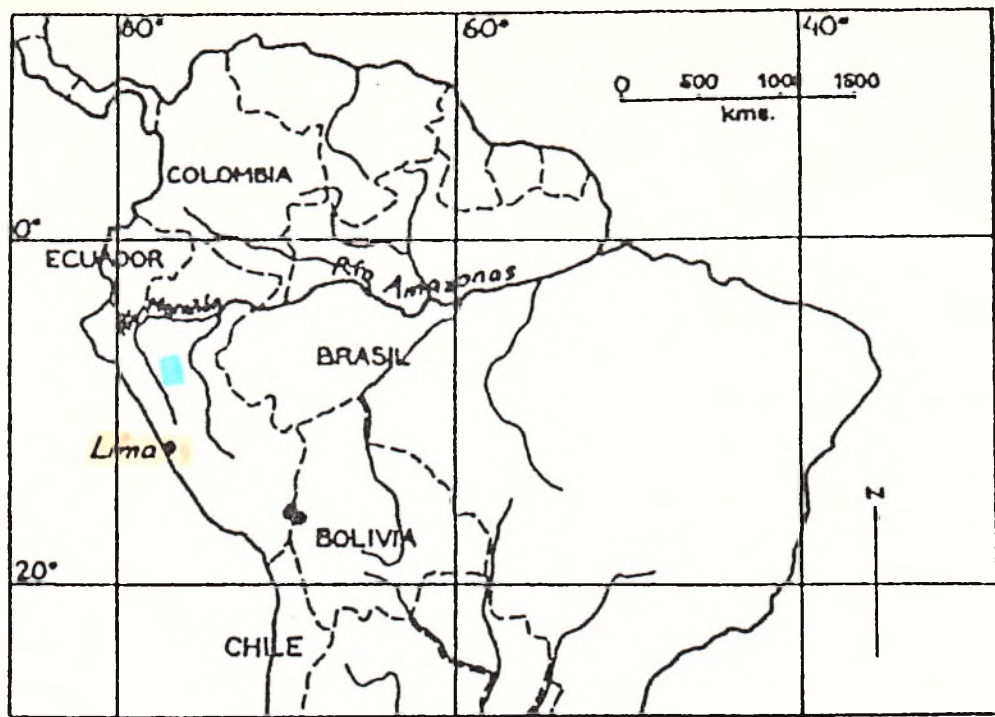
J. M. GORE

Expedition Leader

Appendices:

- A) Local Area Map
- B) Finance
- C) Food
- D) Equipment
- E) Movement
- F) Medical
- G) Film Report





FINANCE REPORT1. Expedition Income and Expenditure Balance:-a) INCOME

2 August 1984 - 31 August 1985      £3,669.12

From: B.B.C.  
M.E.F.  
B.M.C.Others Sponsors  
Personal Contributions (£100.00 each)b) EXPENDITURE

2 August 1984 - 25 May 1985      £1,473.18

To: Expenses in U.K. before departure to Peru  
excluding airfares (£470.00 each) paid by  
individuals.c) EXPENDITURE

26 May 1985 - 2 July 1985      £1,230.77

To: Expenses in Peru during Expedition

Food	-	£354.00
Porterage	-	£ 85.00
Transport	-	£123.00
* Cilor	-	£161.00
Hotels	-	£ 77.00
Exped. Equipment	-	£115.77
Others	-	£315.00

TOTAL		£1230.77
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N.B. No Expedition expenditure 2 July - 31 Aug 1985

\* Cilor - cash in lieu of rations.



However, in future it is strongly recommended that expeditions carry all their funds in American dollars, either in cash or Travellers Cheques. These can always be readily changed but should only be done so in small quantities as the inflation rate in Peru is now over 80%! English pounds are treated with some suspicion and so it is not worth bringing them into the country as U.S. Dollars are so sought after.

b) BANKERS GUARANTEES

Separate Bankers Guarantees were obtained from Lloyds Bank to cover the temporary importation of both our freighted and personal equipment. This was to avoid the payment of customs duty.

Advice was sought at The Peruvian Embassy in London (as well as from Lloyds) via Mrs Teresa Quesada, the Cultural Councillor. Mrs Quesada kindly issued each man a letter of introduction as well as officially endorsing our personal equipment lists.

All the above measures were taken to ensure a smooth passage through Customs in Lima. In the event, only the bankers guarantees covered our freighted equipment was really necessary. This was purely because Cesar Morales Aranao and Captain G.A. Hogg were there to assist us at the airport.

Subsequently, however, on numerous occasions, our letters of Introduction were used to sort out various problems. Thus, it is recommended that future Expeditions obtain official endorsement from the Peruvian Embassy, as well as Customs Guarantees for their Expedition equipment, whether freighted or taken as personal baggage.

c) THE RESPONSIBILITIES

Jerry Gore acted as Expedition Treasurer until departure. Surgeon Lieutenant Simon Travis took over as Treasurer in Lima and controlled all expenditure extremely efficiently for the duration of the Expedition.

3)

### CONCLUSIONS

Expenses in Peru were kept to a minimum because of two reasons. Firstly, due to the strength of the American dollar against the local currency an extremely favourable exchange rate was obtained. Secondly, the cost of living in Peru by western standards was very low. Thus, although a few items were to be of comparable price, generally one can live very cheaply in Peru.

Finally, it is worth noting that Banks are closed on Saturday, Sunday AND every afternoon. Also it can take up to 2 hours to change Traveller Cheques at a Bank, where commission is always charged. Local restaurants and shops are quicker, more convenient, and usually take no commission.

## FOOD REPORT

All food for the Expedition was based on a calorific value of 6000 KJ per man per day, this was calculated on the fact that energy requirements were 100% above that at Sea Level (3000kJ). To this end it was decided to go for high energy value food such as "pasta" which also converted easily and quickly in the body (see carbohydrate loading for runners).

### Food Despatched To Peru From U.K

Pasta, sauces, powder drinks de-hydrated meats and high-altitude mountain rations.

The above came to approximately 45cwt in total and was transported in London by T.N.T. Ltd, from there Medway Shipping Ltd despatched it by Cargo Ship 2 months prior to our departure.

When we arrived in Peru the shipment of supplies were at the Dockside, our troubles started when we tried to get them released. The authorities required bonds to be lodged etc. After a week we took receipt of our supplies only to find that 50% had been stolen.

It is therefore recommended that you do not ship out any supplies or equipment.

We therefore had to make contingency plans for alternative foods. When we arrived in the mountain town Hauraz we found that most of our requirements could be met in the local market and shops i.e. pasta, chocolate, fresh vegetables, fruit and de-hydrated potatoes etc., note mountain rations and de-hydrated meats were unobtainable.

However, as most mountains are only one to two days by pack mule from Hauraz then one can afford the luxury of tinned foods.

## BASE CAMP FOOD

Eggs  
Homemade Rolls  
Porridge  
Tea  
Coffee

## LUNCHESES

Soups  
Sardines  
Pasta  
Rolls  
Fresh Fruit  
Biscuits  
Chocolate

## DINNERS

Stew  
Soup  
Sausages  
Potatoes  
Carrots  
Onions  
Chapatis  
Semolina  
Rice  
Pasta

## HILL RATIONS

Cupa Soup  
Batchelors De-Hydrated Meals  
Ra Bars  
Chocolate  
Porridge  
Drinkmaster Hot & Cold Drinks  
Sweets  
Cheese (spreading c/w crackers)

## COOKING

Was carried out on EPigas camp and hill stoves which worked very well. We also had a back up using a local Kerosene Stove costing £10.00 This proved to be very efficient and cost effective.

The general concensus from the other expedition members was that the diet was sufficient and they were not left looking for more also the variety was interesting (both of these factors appear to be a problem with expeditions).



EQUIPMENT REPORT

1. Responsibilities:

Jerry Gore acted as overall supervisor as regards all equipment used during the Expedition, except the filming equipment which is discussed in Appendix G.

2. Equipment Plan:

The basic premise upon which equipment was organised was outlined during the Expedition's first meeting on 31st December 1983:- "The Expedition will be a mobile, lightweight affair following basically an "Alpine-Style" concept. Therefore, a minimum of equipment that is easily divisible will be necessary to increase mobility, aid individual acclimatisation, and to increase the choice of peaks open to the Expedition."

It was later planned that the six climbers would form totally independent two men teams, complete with their own climbing gear, cookers and food. Thus, before leaving England, each team had worked out and organised its own personal requirements. Each would also need to be interchangeable in the event of damage or loss, injury or illness. So climbing equipment was also standardized as far as possible. The gear to be used was divided into two categories; 'Personal' and 'Group Stores'. Members moved most of their personal gear within their 40KG, individual baggage allowance, while 352 Kgs of stores of rations went as seafreight, courtesy of Medway Shipping Ltd.

3. Equipment Sources

(A) Personal.

It was agreed that each man would provide all his own personal clothing, climbing hardware and snow/ice gear. Substantial amounts of clothing and equipment were also generously donated to members by Berghaus, Northcape and other smaller organisations as described in Paragraph 21 of the Main Report.

(B) Group Stores.

It was agreed that the expedition would provide the facilities for cooking, eating, sleeping (i.e. tents not sleeping bags), and any specialist equipment such as radios or snow stakes. As regards cooking we were helped enormously, both financially and practically by the extremely generous offer from EPI Gas to supply enough gas cannisters, cookers and lanterns for the duration of the Expedition.

Our effectiveness and mobility were also greatly enhanced by the use of four FM2016 Transmitter/Receiver Radios kindly supplied by Gadelius Elektronikk A.S. of Norway.

4. (A) Personal

Conditions ranging between Scottish Winters and Alpine Summers were expected and so equipment was selected accordingly. Generally, such conditions were experienced and the only change to a Summer Alpinists rucksack was the addition of a Four Season plus sleeping bag and gore-tex bivouac bag, as temperatures at night are often quite low.

(i) Climbing Gear

The rucksacs that were used by most were the "AB70" and "Expedition" sacs by Berghaus. These did the job adequately, although they were found to be on the heavy side and some members complained of discomfort during prolonged use. Because of the alpine nature of the routes Berghaus "Red Wall" sacs were also used extensively by Jerry and Simon and were found to be very comfortable and lightweight. With a few minor alterations these sacs were capable of carrying sufficient gear and food for seven days worth of multi - ascents, away from a Base Camp.

Long handled axes, although previously suggested were not used a great deal, whilst 44-5 5cm technical axes and hammers were used very effectively by most. As were foot<sup>ang</sup> crampons, although members did complain of the crampons weight. A trial done on the new salew a messner scissor-crampon proved very successful. These crampons were found to be

very good on mixed ground, as well as for steep ice, and were quick to adjust and to put on and take off.

The other item of climbing gear that was trialled was the Salewa "Diso" ice screw. Although slightly heavier than other types of drive-in screws, the diso was always easy to place and to clear of ice, as well as providing a very solid belay.

(ii) Clothing

Thermal underwear was kindly provided by Northcape in the form of a zipped turtle-neck top and Longjohns. Both garments proved invaluable as a base layer, and provided more than adequate insulation for the conditions experienced. Fibre-Pile "Ogre" jackets were also provided by Northcape, and these were worn continuously by all members, often as an outer layer as they were fairly resistant, as well as being extremely warm and hard wearing.

Various combinations of shell clothing were used, mostly supplied by Berghaus in the form of their Interactive Stormbelt and Mistral Jackets. Most people used their super Goretex overtrousers to make up the suit.

## TRANSPORT/MOVEMENT

Flights from London to Peru were by Venezulean Airlines booked through Journey Latin America Ltd and cost £470.00 return open dated for upto 6 months, also we were allowed a conce ssion on our baggage of 20 Kgs upto 40 Kgs.

### MOVEMENT WITHIN PERU

Transport from Lima to Hauraz was by bus costing £4.00 single for some 500 miles and taking 8 hours.

The buses where modern, clean and comfortable (the driving left a lot to be desired).

*Pick-up and*

From Hauraz to Base Camp was by a donkey. We used 13 donkeys which carried a load of about 70 Kgs each and cost £1.50 per day, and £3.00 for the mule man and his keep. We found them very honest and conscientious.

MEDICAL REPORT

Preparation

1. Vaccination

Tetanus, Typhoid, Polio and Yellow Fever vaccinations were recommended. Normal Immunoglobulin was kindly supplied by the Blood Transfusion Department, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, and administered on arrival in Lima.

2. Dental

Everyone was advised to have a check up before departure.

3. Stores

A list, compiled with the assistance of Surg Lt A R O Miller RN, is at Appendix 1. The coachtrimmer at 45 Commando RM made an excellent rucksac to contain the stores. A first aid kit was supplied to each member.

4. Pharmaceutical Companies

Supplies of Haemaccel (Hoechst), Loperamide (Imodium, Janssen) Miconazole (Daktarin, Janssen) and Naproxen (Naprosyn Syntex) were generously donated by the companies concerned. All the necessary suncream was supplied by L'Oreal Golden Ltd (Ambre Solaire Factor 8 and Biotherm Factor 15).

Insect repellent was kindly donated by Wisconsin Pharmacal Company (Repel 100) and Pickles J and Sons (Mijex).

Financial contributions (£50 - £200) were gratefully received from Hoechst UK Ltd, Lederle Laboratories, Reckitt and Colman, Smith, Kline, and French Laboratories Ltd and Syntex Pharmaceuticals Ltd. All contributions went towards the general costs of the expedition.

## 5. Literature

Useful publications on altitude sickness were:-

Hackett P H, 'Mountain Sickness: Prevention, Recognition and Treatment' American Alpine Club, New York 1983.

Rosedale B, 'Medical Problems of High Altitude' in Lightweight Expeditions to the Great Ranges 1984.

Clarke C, 'Acclimatisation, Acute Mountain Sickness and Travel to High Altitudes' from Mountain Medicine Data Centre, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1 (1982).

Birmingham Medical 'Acetazolamide in Control of Acute Mountain Sickness', Lancet 1 (8213) 180-183, 1981.

Greene M K et al 'Acetazolamide in Prevention of Acute Mountain Sickness: A Double-Blind Controlled Cross-Over Study', British Medical Journal 283 (6295) 811-813, 1981.

Sound general advice on health matters in the Peruvian Andes is given in 'Trails of the Cordilleras Blanca and Huayhuash' by Jim Bartle, 1981.

## Illness

### 6. General

The following conditions were seen during the expedition:-

Gastroenteritis	4
Headache, nausea	3 (Symptoms of Acute Mountain Sickness)
Snow Blindness	1 (resolved in 12 hours)
Chest Infection	1
Tenosynovitis	2
Tinea	1
Otitis extcena	1
Chronic laryngitis	1

When in Huaras several adults and children were seen with minor ailments. There were no serious injuries.

#### 7. Acute Mountain Sickness

The members of the expedition who had symptoms attributable to altitude sickness found that they were rapidly resolved. The fact that only mild symptoms occurred is attributable to the time spent in acclimatisation. Although the team travelled from sea level to 3000m in 8 hours and 3000m to 4100m (Base Camp) in 12 hours, there was a 4 day break in between and long periods of rest at Base Camp.

Four members of the expedition regularly took Acetazolamide (Diamox, Lederle) 500mg o.h. each morning above 3000m. Their subjective opinion was that it assisted acclimatisation and that they would use it for prophylaxis on future high altitude expeditions. Paraesthesiae occurred in all people taking the drug but were self limiting. The diuretic effect was obscured by taking the tablets in the morning. Capsules of Diamox Sustets kept in the top of rucksacs melted (daily temperature 25°C).

#### 8. Sunburn

No cases of sunburn were observed. Ambre Solaire Factor 8 was sufficient for most people. Its water resistant properties do reduce the frequency of application. Biotherm Factor 15 was used by 3 members to protect especially vulnerable parts (nose, ears, backs of hands and neck).

The combination of Ambre Solaire Factor 8 and Biotherm Factor 15 meets the requirements for sun protection during high altitude mountaineering. Ambre Solaire Aftersun was remarkably effective in relieving the discomfort following mild over exposure to the sun.

'Chapstick' (A.H. Robins Ltd) was used for protection of the lips and found to be extremely effective.

#### 9. Cold Injury

No cases were seen during the expedition (minimum temperature - 15°C). One case of mild superficial frostbite occurred after the expedition when climbing at 6000m. The affected toe was still numb 4 weeks later.

## 10. Health and Hygiene

Owing to good food and a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables (180 lbs potatoes, 90 lbs onions, 30 lbs carrots, 20 lbs broad beans), general health was excellent. Everybody lost a few pounds but there was certainly no loss of appetite. Loss of appetite below 7000m is likely to be due to a combination of dehydration, arduous exercise and unappetising food rather than a direct effect of the altitude.

Fresh food was kept in the open or the store tent. A sink pit (a pit filled with graded stones) was dug for disposal of washing up water and grease. Rubbish was contained in a plastic bag. There was no evidence of vermin even though rodents were seen in the vicinity of Base Camp. There were no insects.

Fresh water was collected from a stream 75m away; glacial rock flour content was minimal and it was not sterilised.

A large moraine 100m from the camp was used as a latrine. Urinating on bushes more than 10m from the camp was allowed but the cattle were a nuisance since they enjoyed the salt at the base of these bushes.

## 11. Local Medical Facilities

There was a 100 bed hospital at Huaras (built 1963), a day's walk from Base Camp. Surgical, medical and X-ray facilities were available with a doctor on call 24 hours a day. Limited laboratory facilities were available. Bed occupancy was about 50%. Comprehensive medical insurance and access to a better equipped hospital in Lima were reassuring. Medical equipment from the expedition was donated to the hospital.

## Conclusions

The doctor's culinary skills were in greater demand than his medical expertise.

The equipment list at Appendix I is a suitable guide for future high altitude expeditions.



## APPENDIX 1

### FIRST AID KIT(Individual)

- 1 Omnopon 30mg syrette
- 2 Bupremorphine 0.2mg tablets
- 10 Aspirin 300mg tablets
- 2 Metoclopramide 10mg tablets
- 2 Temazepam 10mg capsules
- 5 Loperamide 2mg capsules
- 1 Amethocaine 0.5% tube
- 3 Bradosol Lozenges
- 1 Maloprim tablet
- 5 Acetazolamide SR capsules
- 5 Assorted plasters
- 1 First Field Dressing

### MEDICAL KIT

#### Analgesia

- 10 Omopen 30mg
- 20 Bupremorphine 0.2mg
- 50 Dihydrocodeine 30mg
- 200 Aspirin 300mg
- 5mls Lignocaine 2% plain

#### Antibiotics

- 150 Amoxycillin 250mg
- 150 Fluclexacillin 250mg

100 Cotrimioxazole tablets  
60 Metronidazole 200mg  
5 Triplopen injection

#### Respiratory

1 Salbutamol inhaler  
2 Aminophylline 500mg injection

#### Gastrointestinal

250 Loperamide 2mg  
50 Dimetidine 200mg  
10 Fybogel sachet  
2 Prochlorperazine 12.5mg injection  
30 Metoclopramide 10mg

#### ENT

2 Sofradex drops  
40 Bradosol Lozenges

#### Ophthalmic

10 Amethocaine 0.5%  
10 Chloramphenicol ointment  
4 Fluorescein

#### Anti-inflammatory

200 Naproxen 250mg  
5 Lasonil tube

#### Intravenous fluid

2 Haemaccel 500ml

### Dental

5ml Oil of cloves  
1 Provipast temporary filling  
50 Mouth wash tablets  
20 Cinnarizine 15mg  
10 Chlorpheniramine 4mg  
30 Nitrazepam 5mg

### Miscellaneous

150 Maloprim  
2 Frusemide 20mg injection  
400 Acetazolamide 250mg  
50 Acetazolamide SR 500mg  
50 Multivite  
10 Vitamin C 1g  
5 Water for injections  
5 Miconazole cream  
2 Flamazine cream  
1000 Sterilizing tablets  
2 Bonjela ointment  
40 Temazepam 10mg

### Dressing

40 Gauze swabs (unsterile)  
4 Crepe bandage 7.5cm  
1 Elastoplast 7.5cm  
2 Steristrips  
1 Zinc Oxide 5cm

- 1 Micropore 1cm
- 100 Assorted plasters
- 2 Triangular bandages
- 2 Tubigrip

#### Equipment

- 1 Forceps, fine toothed haemostatic
  - 1 Suture holder
  - 1 Scissors - large
  - 1 Scissors - small
  - 2 Scalpel - disposable
  - 5 Blades (size 11)
  - 1 Dental mirror
  - 1 Dental probe
  - 1 Dental spatula
  - 4 Sutures 3/0 Ethilon
  - 1 Suture 5/0 Silk
  - 2 Thermometers
  - 20 Syringes 5ml
  - 20 Needles (green)
  - 10 Needles (blue)
  - 40 Sterets
- 200ml Weak Iodine
- 2 Giving sets
  - 2 Venflon (grey)
  - 1 Jet splint (Femoral)
  - 1 Trinedel Airway

## FILM REPORT

INTRODUCTION1. The Mick Burke Award:

The Mick Burke Award is an annual competition organised by BBC Television in conjunction with the Royal Geographical Society. The award is a tribute to the memory of Mick Burke, the BBC cameraman, who lost his life while filming the ascent of the South West Face Of Everest in 1975.

The 1985/86 competition (the films will be completed in 1985 but transmitted in 1986) will be the sixth in the series, which hopes "to encourage exciting and interesting films to be made in remote parts of the world. It is an opportunity for aspiring non-professional film-makers, who are based in Britain, to produce a film about the expedition."

PREPARATION AND PLANNING2. Application and Selection:

I applied for entry to the competition in January 1984, at which time some doubt was expressed by the BBC as to whether the competition would continue to run. However, in January 1985 I received word that the competition would go ahead though in slightly altered form.

The Expedition Leader, Cameramen, and Sound Recordist from each of the 12 expeditions initially selected, were asked to attend an interview on 14th March 1985. The interviewing panel consisted of representatives of the BBC and The Royal Geographical Society. The panel's main concern was to establish that the expeditions chosen to compete for the award had "the necessary aims, organisation and financial backing."

On the 27th March we were notified that we had been accepted as one of six expeditions to take part in the 1985/86 Mick Burke Award.

### 3. FILMING TRAINING:

Steve Derwin (Sound Recordist) and I were asked to attend a four day course of instruction to be held at the BBC Television Film Studios, Ealing. Before attending the course (30th April to 3rd May) each expedition was asked to make a short 3 minute test film under the working title of "changing a Car Wheel." All of the necessary equipment for filming and sound recording was supplied by the BBC.

Before Taking part in the BBC course both Steve and I contacted our local television stations where it was arranged for us to spend some time with the BBC Film Crew. Steve also visited his local BBC Radio Cleveland Station and gained much valuable advice.

### 4. ORGANISATION AND PLANNING:

Our team was chosen to give what we considered to be the best possible chance of filming on the mountain. Once we had embarked on a climb it would not be possible to re-run action which, for one reason or another, had been missed by the camera.

So between myself and Jerry Gore we worked out a system involving two climber teams of two, and a film unit consisting of a cameramen and Sound Recordist. A Base Camp Support Group of three persons was used as a back-up.

On the mountain the film unit would operate between the first and second climbing teams, which would allow us to film up or down on the climbers as they worked. When working in the valley Arthur, one of the Support Group, would join the film unit.

Two decisions were taken early in the planning stage of our film. Firstly, this would not be a film about making a film. Therefore, at no time would the Cameraman or Sound Recordist be seen or mentioned - this gave a few problems in that discussions which were to be filmed or wildtracked, and which were considering plans for movement on the mountain involving the film unit, had to be carefully edited. The film unit did not exist but had to be planned for. Secondly, ours was to be a film of the mountains which would appeal to a wider audience than that of just the climbing world. Therefore, we did not wish to become deeply involved in the technical climbing terms or techniques.

## FILMING EQUIPMENT

### 5. Camera Equipment Used

The following items of equipment were loaned to the Expedition by the BBC:-

#### 1. Film Stock:

44 Rolls Striped Kodachrome 40  
20 Rolls Mute Kodachrome 40  
2 Rolls Striped Ektachrome 160

#### 2. Cameras:

1 Beaulieu 6008.8  
1 Schneider Zoom Lens 6mm - 70mm  
1 Braun N120 801 Macro  
Fixed Lens 7mm - 80mm Schneider Zoom.

3. Power Systems:

- 1 Beaulieu Small Charger Braun Plugged
- 1 Beaulieu Large Charger
- 1 Beaulieu 12v Car Cigarette Lighter Charging Adaptor
- 1 Beaulieu External Battery Pack
- 2 Braun Battery Boxes
- 1 Beaulieu Battery Clip
- 1 External Battery Pack to Braun Camera Adaptor Lead
- 60 Batteries, Nickel Cadmium ES KR AA 1.2v
- 60 Ever Ready Batteries various
- 12 Ever Ready Batteries, Nickel Cadmium ES KR-C 1.2v

4. Filters:

- 2 Hoya 72mm SkyLight (1b) for Beaulieu
- 2 Hoya 67mm SkyLight (1b) for Beaulieu

5. Hoods:

- 1 Beaulieu Split Hood (for series filters)
- 1 Rubber Hood for Braun

6. Eye Cushions:

- 1 Beaulieu Rubber Eye Cup
- 1 Braun Rubber Eye Cup

7. Zoom Bar:

- 1 Braun Fitting

8. Lens/Eye Caps:

- 1 Beaulieu eye piece blankting-cap
- 1 Braun Schreider Lens Cap

9. Remote Leads:

- 1 Beaulieu Control Lead



10. Lens Care:

- 1 Large Lens Cloth
- 2 Small Anti-static Lens Cloths
- 1 Can Dry Air
- 2 Blomer Brushes

11. Tripod Chest Pod:

- 1 Lightweight
- 1 Shoulder Mounting

12. Repairs:

- 1 Small Tool Kit

6. Film Equipment Performance

The one major problem which dogged our Expedition almost from the outset was trying to keep the two cameras running in cold conditions. Despite keeping the cameras in my sleeping bag at night, or in my jacket when I was climbing, whenever there was the slightest drop in temperature, the battery warning lights came on. When climbing, this meant that I could only film for a few moments at a time, before the cassettes would slow or jam and I would have to re-warm the camera. This caused the batteries to become drained more quickly than would normally be the case. Even keeping the batteries warm inside my jacket, and using the external battery pack, made no difference to the performance of the cameras. We used 120 batteries to shoot just 165 minutes of film, and some of these batteries were re-charged and used again. On one occasion it was necessary to film at night. So in order to keep the camera warm we put the camera on a tripod and taped polythene bags to it. Throughout the night Simon and I filled the bags with hot water, as the camera filmed in the time lapse mode.

The Beaulieu was the camera most used for filming, it having a sound recording facility. However, towards the end of the expedition, it was beginning to show signs of fatigue. The Lens loosened in its mounting and could be moved some quarter of an inch in any direction. This will undoubtedly effect the focus of some shots.

Carrying the camera whilst climbing was a problem, especially since I wore a troll full body harness and the camera had to remain inside my jacket to keep it warm. It was not possible to carry or set up a tripod during climbing, and at times I used a chest pod. This however, did little to steady the camera, since at altitude the camera seems to move in sympathy with exaggerated breathing.

Four silver camera cases were used to transport both the film and sound equipment. These proved difficult but at least afforded the equipment the necessary protection.

It was agreed with the BBC that in addition to the 50 rolls of film allowed to each expedition, we could, if we so desired, purchase a further 15 rolls. This we did, bringing our total to 65 rolls.

#### 7. Sound Equipment

- 1 Sennheiser K3-V mic amplifier = 3
- 1 Sennheiser ME-80 directional mic head
- 1 Sennheiser anti-vibration mount
- 1 Panasonic RQ335 Cassette Recorder
- 1 Future Films 20 DB attenuator
- 1 AKE D190E 200 ohm hand mic
- 1 AKE mic holder
- 1 Sennheiser HD-410 headset

- 2 Windgag for directional mic + 1 windgag for hand mic
  - 1 Erip support for anti vibration mount
  - 20 One hour cassettes
  - 1 Container head cleaner
  - 1 Reel electrical tape
  - 1 Can WD40 spray
- Plus various leads and adaptors

#### 8. Sound Equipment Performance

Shortly before we left for Peru, the tape recorder developed a fault and Steve had to arrange for another one to be sent to him. Despite this he seemed to be plagued by irritating little faults throughout the Expedition. The recorder suffered from the cold in the same way as the cameras and many of the interviews recorded replayed at varying speeds. There were problems with miscellaneous noises and scratching sounds and sometimes no sound at all. One of the biggest problems was getting away from unwanted background sounds, be they cars in the towns or, as was often the case, the sound of the wind passing over the microphone head.

Although we used striped film on all of the climbing sequences, it was not always possible to get Steve near enough to the camera to be able to connect the microphone and headset. On the occasions when it was managed the noise of the camera became a problem.

When recording sound on film we used one of the two auto positions available on the cameras audio system. However, we found that if we were recording anything with a loud, sharp sound such as hammering in a piton, the first blow would be recorded very loudly and the blows thereafter recorded very quietly, as the limiter system shut down almost to nothing.

Before leaving for Peru, Steve also added an extra quantity of audio cassette tapes.

## 9. Conclusions

Commitment to the film was something that was stressed many times during our course in London, but it was not until our Expedition got underway that I think we realised just how much organisation and time the film was going to take. Every member of the team accepted, from the outset, that above all else a successful film was our main objective.

To this end much was sacrificed especially by those who, because of work commitments, had to return home as soon as the filming had been completed. I believe that it is possible that even the ascent of Nevado Cayesh was, to some degree, sacrificed to the betterment of the film.

Finally, at the time of writing (October 1985) we are awaiting a videotaped copy of our unedited film to be sent from London. From this tape we must re-construct the story of our Expedition which will then be edited during three days at Ealing Film Studios, sometime in November 1985.

## 10. Acknowledgement

I am grateful to all of my companions for their friendly support, their much valued advice, and their dedication to the film throughout the venture. In addition, Steve and I owe a debt of gratitude to all those people from both local and national BBC Stations who, in a most friendly way, have given freely of their time to help and advise us.

We would finally like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Willaims of Ever Ready Batteries, for her most generous support in supplying the Expedition with an additional, and very necessary, supply of batteries.

Richard Thorns  
Deputy Leader/Cameraman



BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

KENSINGTON HOUSE RICHMOND WAY LONDON W14 0AX

TELEPHONE 01-743 1272 TELEX: 265781

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: TELECASTS LONDON TELEX

20th May, 1986

Dear Mr. Gore,

I write to tell you that your expedition's films was a close runner-up in the Mick Burke competition. I say "close" because the decision between your film and that of the eventual winner (a London University film about a "flora and fauna" expedition in the Madagascan rain-forest) was very tight.

Yours was certainly a very well shot film with excellent use of sound - a nicely judged "philosophic" line of thought. If it had a disadvantage, it lay in the fact that it was really two films: having climbed the first mountain, you then took us round again - up the second one.

We will be showing the three "leading" films in our World About Us programme on 20 July. I have a feeling that we are likely to end your film at the shot of one of your party abseiling down the first mountain. But until we have "packaged" the whole programme, I can't be sure about this.

Thank you for all the time and trouble you took to help make the programme. I hope you will be pleased with what you see on 20 July. And not too disappointed in the competition result; it was a very good film.

Yours sincerely,

(Tim Slessor)  
Executive Producer  
"The World About Us"

Jerry Gore, Esq.,  
Falkner-Eggington Court,  
Loughborough University,  
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