

3

The expedition arrived in Peru on 16th June and left the country on 26th July.

Great importance was attached to careful acclimatisation, a factor to which so many expeditions attribute their success. The opportunity was therefore taken to combine this with a visit to Macchu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas.

The City of Cuzco (10,000 ft.) was used as a base. After a short railway journey to the starting point, four days were spent travelling the old Inca road through the Cordillera de Carabaya 35 or 40 miles to Macchu Picchu. The journey involved crossing the Llulluchapamja Pass at 13,776 ft., another pass at 13,150 ft. and the summit of Wayna Picchu at 9,600 ft. We returned by rail to Cuzco where a couple of rest days were spent.

The expedition then travelled via Lima to the town of Huaraz at 10,000 ft, our base for the Cordillera Blanca.

From here the main climbing excursion was made. This was a journey into the Ishinca Valley where two weeks were spent climbing from it as a base. A slow ascent was made using Burros to carry the heavier gear, with camps at 14,500 ft. and 16,500 ft. From this high base at the snow line, after a rest day, our first peak, Nevado Ishinca (18,150 ft) was climbed in a day by its west ridge.

After another rest day a camp was carried to the Ishinca Col at 17,600 ft. from where, the following day, we climbed the North summit of Ranrapalca (20,000 ft.) by the fairly steep East face. This involved seven roped pitches on poor neve. After a second night on the Col the party returned to the lower base camp at 14,500 ft. After a much needed rest day, the beautiful little peak of Urus Este (17,777 ft) was climbed.

At this point the weather broke, forcing us back down to Huaraz to plan our attempt on Huascarán.

After a delay of several days while fresh snow consolidated, the team set off for Huascarán. It was climbed over three days, a further day being spent in the descent. A stove failure forced us to attempt the last two days climb in one, a day of 4,000 ft. via the ordinary route. Three of the team reached the summit, at 22,205 ft. the highest tropical mountain in the world, the fourth having to turn back at the Garganta Col (20,000 ft.).

It proved impossible to attempt the expeditions other objective, Alpamayo, as it was out of condition throughout our stay. Two days were usefully employed travelling by raft down the Rio Santa and a journey was made to the famous Indian Markets at Huancayo.

Owing to careful and slow acclimatisation no major problems were experienced with altitude. Some slight trouble with disturbed sleep and a case of piles were the extent of our difficulties.

The other factor in our successful ascent of all the peaks we attempted was very good luck with the weather. It was a very bad year and we missed the periods of bad weather by pure chance. Other quite competent parties had reached only one summit in three months.

PERTH HIGH ANDES EXPEDITION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

D S & J Anderson (Joiners, Perth)	500
Mount Everest Foundation	250
Mountaineering Council of Scotland	250
Scottish Mountaineering Trust (Sang Award)	100
	<hr/>
	1,100
Personal Contributions (4 x 975)	3,900
	<hr/>
	£5,000

EXPENDITURE

Flights, Heathrow - Lima (4 x 475)	1,900
Flight, Lima - Cusco (4 x 138)	552
Other travel	230
Insurance	320
Food & Fuel	700
Equipment	250
Accommodation	120
Local Labour (burros, arrieros, guardian)	28
Miscellaneous (film, airport tax, rafting, etc)	900
	<hr/>
	£5,000