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THE RYE EXPEDITION TO PERU  
AND BOLIVIA

June 1989 - December 1989

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## S U M M A R Y

The 'EYE Expedition' initially aimed to climb the mountains 'Rondey', 'Yerupata' and 'El Toro' in the Cordillera Huayhuash of Peru, hence the name, but due to political instability in that area, a secondary objective was tackled, in the Cordillera Vilconota of Peru and then in the Northern Cordillera Real of Bolivia.

The Expedition aimed to set up base camp on the relatively unknown S E side of Auzengate, with a view to climbing peaks of the Sorimani group, satellite peaks of Auzengate and Auzengate itself. It was planned to make the first British ascent of Auzengate as well as to establish a new route on this mountain. Through our exploration it was hoped to identify and climb as yet unclimbed peaks in the area.

Following this, the expedition would travel to the Northern Cordillera Real in Bolivia to climb in the Ancohuma region, with the intention of making a reconnaissance of that area for future trips - as this area will surely become very popular due to the instability in Peru.

The 'EYE Expedition' achieved a vast amount of its stated aims. A number of new routes were climbed on previously unclimbed peaks, as well as making the first British ascent of Auzengate.

The two members that travelled to Bolivia, successfully climbed a number of peaks as well as noting areas of new potential.

## P L A N N I N G

### A) Information

Collecting comprehensive information about the areas visited is a time-consuming business. For the main references we found the following invaluable:-

- (i) Mountaineering in the Andes - Jill Neat
- (ii) Alpine Journals, magazines
- (iii) Post expedition reports
- (iv) Previous expedition members

By using Jill Neat's book it is possible to list the relevant Journals of interest and so go well organised to the Alpine Club Library or to the RGS. and by using post expedition reports it is possible to contact members of previous expeditions.

### B) Maps

It is possible to get a full range of maps for Peru and Bolivia from Stamfords of London. Give at least 3 months notice for the maps you wish to purchase. It is also possible to buy the maps in Peru and Bolivia, but availability is not guaranteed.

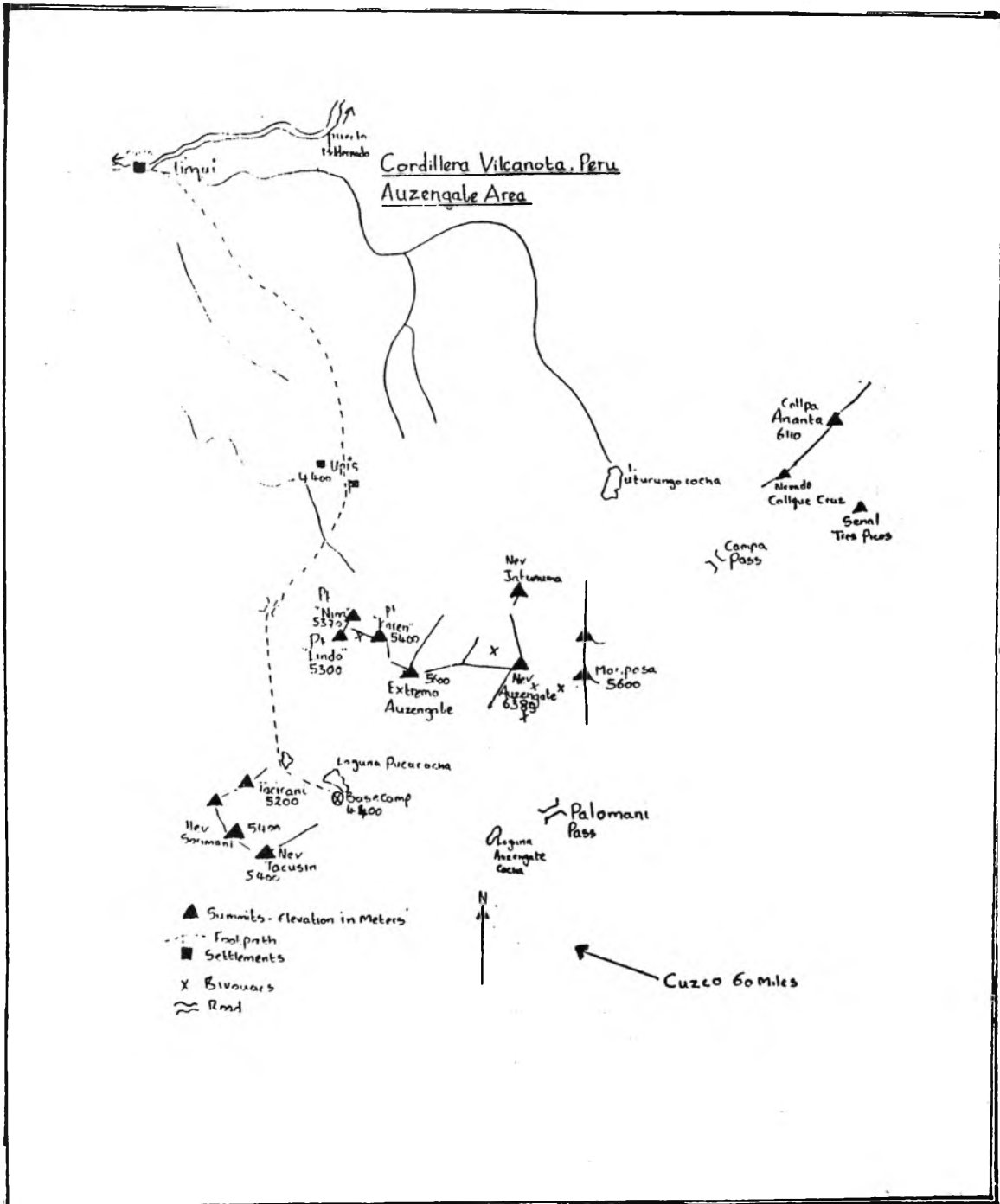
### C) Visas

British passport holders do not require visas for Peru. Visas are now required for Bolivia.

### D) Finance and Funding

Compared to the Himalayas, South America is a relatively cheap area to climb in. Our expedition was mostly self-financed and was supported by generous grants from the BMC and MEF. *Wild Country and Vango* also kindly

PERU



# P E R U

## Travel

All expedition members flew out to Lima and then, to maximize time, on by plane to Cuzco. It is possible to travel to Cuzco by bus, this takes three days and could incur a loss of equipment if vigilance is lowered. To fly from Lima to Cuzco costs about US\$80, but it is worth shopping around to try for a lower price.

It is easy to arrange for a truck from Cuzco to Tinquí. The trucks leave just along from the Puno railway station. and it costs around US\$2 for the 12 hour ride. If feeling flush, and only a small team, it's worth trying to get on a tourist bus!

There are no worries about trying to get horses to carry gear into base camp from Tinquí - the man to find is Cayantano Crispin Gonzalies. Horses cost around US\$2 per day and carry 40kg loads. It is also necessary to hire an Arriero to lead the horses, this is the same price. It is advisable to have someone to guard the base camp, as this area is well populated, even up to 16,000 feet.

To reach our base camp at Laguna Pocacocha follow the track (walled for a few kilometres) to Upis (5 hours). Magnificent views of Auzengate can be seen from here. Continue along the left side of the wide valley directly towards Auzengate. Obvious camp site past and below Upis.

From the Upis camp site cross the river and follow the track up and over

the col West of Auzengate. Follow track around to the left (East) eventually drop down into the Pocococha valley to idyllic camp next to Laguna Pocacocha.

### Adventurous Activities

From base camp at Laguna Pocacocha several summits were climbed by members of the expedition.

15 June 1989:

NE ridge Nvdo Tacusiri (5,200m).

Very straightforward, follows S side of NE ridge, bypassing initial pinnacles, before climbing ridge direct to summit. Descent down snow slopes to North.

AB, SA, JL, BJ.

17 June 1989:

S Face "Pt Linda" (GR 545745, 5,300m) 650m.

Excellent route, taking a direct line up the impressive South face, following gullies and shallow grooves.

SA, JL.

20 June 1989:

East face "Pt Karen" (GR 555745, 5,400m).

Climbed from snow hole on glacier. 40° snow/ice.

BJ, AB, SA.

**21 June 1989:**

West aspect "Pt Nina" (GR 550750, 5,370m).

From same snow hole, very easy route up to the summit.

SA, BJ, AB.

**22 June - 24 June 1989:**

Auzengate (6,372m) Main summit.

22 June 1989: Bivi at base of mountain below Cerro Puca Punta.

23 June 1989: Follow side of morain around to the East and up steep slope to gain broad shoulder level with glacier. Follow obvious route up towards rocky ridge. Follow this until steepening forces route onto the side of glacier and up past small serac barrier onto a snow plateau with steep face at its head.

24 June 1989: Up steep face (45° - 50°) to large undulating summit area and up summit ridge. reached summit at 10.30am.

AB, JL, SA, BJ.

**26 June 1989:**

N ridge Sorimani Central Peak (5,300m).

Large snow couloir and narrow snow crest to summit.

JL.

**27 June 1989:**

South Couloir Tacirani (5,390m).

13 pitches of very difficult mixed climbing up snow ramp and couloir on

South face. Longer and harder than it looks.

JL, AB.

**28 June 1989:**

S peak Nvdo Jatunuma (5,350m).

Climbed from SE via glacier and col.

BJ, SA.

BJ and SA attempted a new route on the North side of Auzengate, but found icefall below face very complex. A route could be forced through the icefall over two days from an advanced base camp. Above icefall there are a number of superb ice lines. Rock barrier on right of face an obvious challenge. Also this face sports a large free hanging icicle, of the Breach Wall type.

**30 June - 1 July 1989:**

Attempt on the W face of Mariposa (5,808m).

Very poor snow conditions, caused a retreat from 1/3 way up face

BJ, SA, JL.



## Conclusion

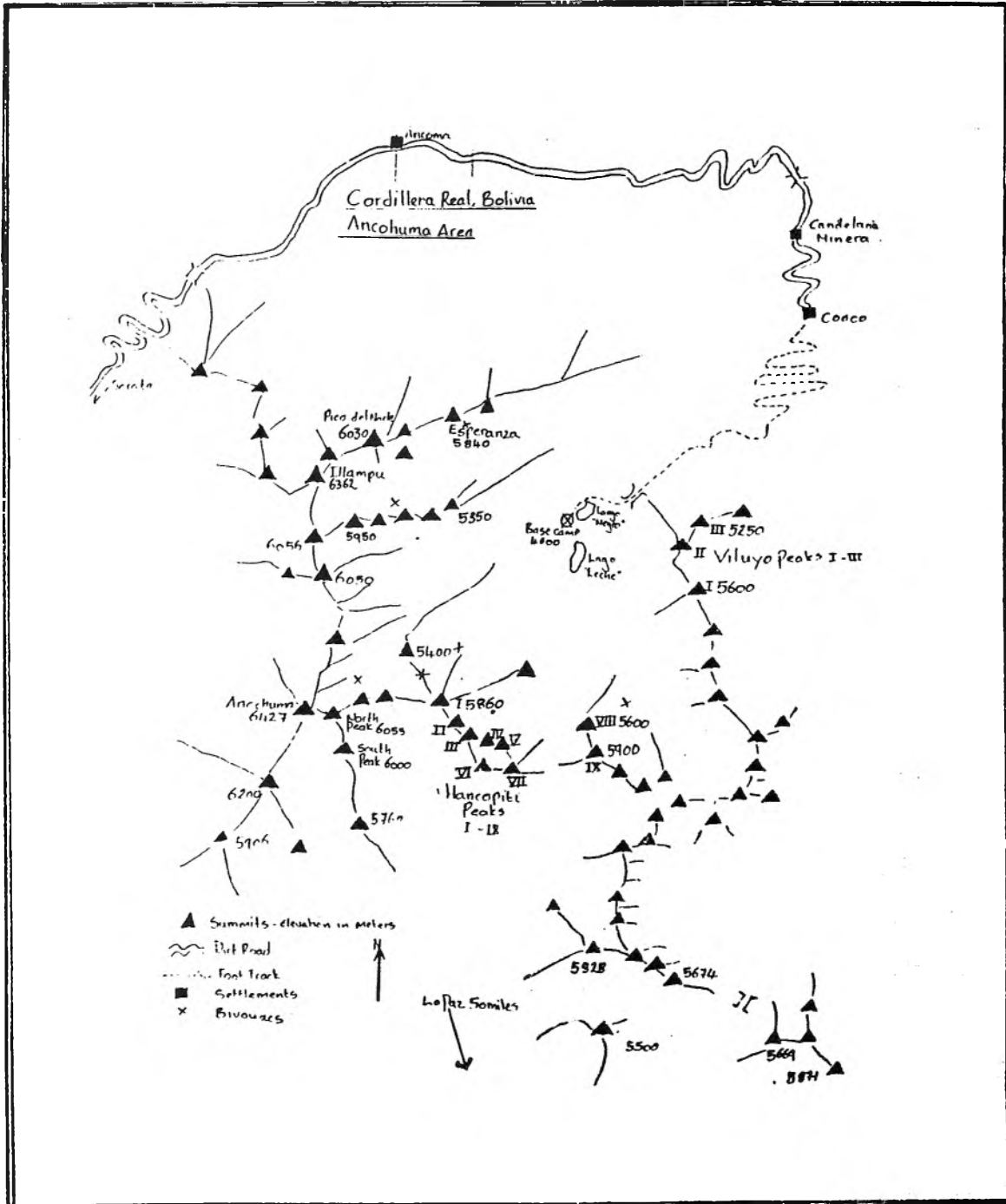
Though initially disappointed at being unable to follow through with our original plans for the Cordillera Huayhuash, the expedition soon realized the potential and scope for mountaineering in the Cordillera Vilconota.

Even though Auzengate has a number of established routes, there is still scope on the North and North-West sides for hard mixed routes. The major problems here being access through the steep initial ice-falls.

There are also many isolated peaks that offer good opportunities for interesting climbing.

The weather was very settled throughout June, with pleasant daytime temperatures and light winds, but very cold at night. The weather deteriorated in the last few days of June, with cold winds and snow at base camp.

BOLIVIA



# B O L I V I A

## ANCHOHUMA REGION

### Travel

Two expedition members travelled overland from Cuzco to La Paz. The most common method is by taking the train to Puno, and then a bus on to La Paz. This journey can take around 3 days depending on connections, and costs about US\$15.

From La Paz we caught a bus to Sorata, there are usually two buses a day and they leave from near the cemetery. From Sorata it is usually necessary to hire a truck for the 6 hour drive to Cocco. It is worth visiting the Club de Andinismo in La Paz to see if they have any transport going into the area.

From Cocco, a path climbs steeply into the mountains, and it takes approximately 6 hours to walk into a good base camp at Lago Negro.

It is possible to hire llamas in Cocco US\$5 per day and they carry a 15kg load. It is worth haggling for half a day to get this price.

### Adventurous Activities

From the base camp at Lago Negro several summits were climbed.

23 July 1989:

Viluyo II (5,500m).

Obvious hill behind base camp. Easy climbing up obvious route to gain glacier high on its left side. On to summit. Good acclimatisation climb.

BJ.

**26 July - 28 July 1989:**

Traverse of Hancopiti IIX (5,800m) and Hancopiti IX (5,700m).

Gained glacier from the North, and up to the col between satellite peak to East and Hancopiti IX. Climbed satellite peak then back over the col and up E slope of Hancopiti IX (40°). Followed the ridge down to the col between Hancopiti IX and Hancopiti IIX. Traversed well South to bypass seracs and bergshrund, and on up to the summit.

MC, BJ.

**31 July 1989:**

S ridge Hancopiti I (5,860m).

Approached up glacier towards Ancohuma until obvious col reached. Climb superb knife edge ridge to hollow summit.

BJ, MC

**31 July 1989:**

Un-named Satellite Peak (5,400m).

Small satellite peak on opposite side of col from Hancopiti I.

BT

**3 August - 6 August 1989:**

Attempt Ancohuma (6,430m).

Intended to climb normal route. Weather poor until 6 August. Spent 3 days at col below Ancohuma waiting for the weather to clear.

On 6 August MC fell into bergshrund below summit ridge. No serious injury but retreated back to base.

**10 August 1989:**

Traverse Viluyo I (5,600m) and Viluyo II (5,500m) via South face of Viluyo I.

Approached S face of Viluyo I via valley and then obvious huge moraine coming down from near Viluyo I. S face about 150m 50° - 75° snow ice, unconsolidated at the top. Then up ridge to summit. Obvious route over Viluyo II.

BJ, MC.

**13 August 1989:**

SE pillar Pico Esperanza (5,400m).

Failed to properly gain pillar.

**17 August 1989:**

SE ridge Pico del Norte (6,100m).

Reached about 6,000m before being turned back by bad weather. High winds and visibility around 15 - 20m. Difficult descent. Climbing up to 6,000m superb.

**21 August 1989:**

Left base camp for valley. Weather had deteriorated steadily since 17 August.

## Conclusion

The Ancochuma offers a wealth of climbing at all standards. For those willing to walk a long way there are still a number of new routes to be climbed.

The North side of Hancopiti IX sports a couloir, which would surely have some of the wildest ice climbing in South America - frontal labotomy recommended before attempting it!

For the rock stars there are two big rock walls East of Pico Esperanza that have not been developed.

Most of the peaks have easy access and very straightforward descents.

The weather was settled in late July and the first couple of weeks of August, but deteriorated after that, with storms most afternoons and evenings, and snow down to base camp.

## A P P E N D I X

### EXPEDITION MEMBERS

Bruce Jardine: 26 year old graduate, currently working in special education. 8 years climbing experience, including 4 visits to the French Alps and a trip to the Wadi Rum area of Jordan.

Steve Aisthorpe: 26 year old graduate of Ilkley College, working as an assistant warden of an outdoor pursuits centre. 9 years climbing experience, including 6 Alpine seasons, 2 trips to Norway (1 in summer and 1 in winter), as well as being a member of 2 expeditions to Nepal.

John Lyall: 28 years old with 9 years climbing experience, including 2 trips to the Alps. John is also a Scottish winter activist, with a number of hard, new routes to his credit.

Andy Bunage: 29 years old graduate of Ilkley College with 11 years climbing experience, including 7 Alpine seasons, 1 trip to Norway, a trip to Yosemite and an expedition to the Karakorum.

Matthew Cant: 27 year old graduate at present residing in New Zealand where he is actively involved in the exploration of the large cave systems there. He has 6 years climbing experience, with 1 visit to the Swiss Alps.

## FOOD

### a) Peru

It was possible to buy most of the expedition food in Cuzco. The exception to this was dried hill food and instant soups.

#### **Foods available in Cuzco:**

Pasta

Rice (limited)

Potatoes (fresh)

Full range of fresh vegetables and fruit

Dried fruit and nuts

Dried beans

Dried milk

Coffee and Tea

Tinned fish

Margarine

Soup powder

Chocolate and sweets

Powdered fruit drinks

Biscuits

Flour

Eggs

Oil

Herbs and spices

Tomato puree

Oats

Sugar

Cheese



All fresh goods from the market are very cheap, ie, 2kg nuts costs the equivalent of 70 pence. Supermarket goods tend to be a little more expensive.

Note that due to the current political situation in Peru, there may be shortages of basic foods, such as flour and sugar..

#### b) **Bolivia**

The street markets of La Paz offer a huge variety of food-stuffs. We bought all our expedition food in La Paz. The only thing that we were unable to get were '*Cup a Soup*'s. Prices are similar to those in Peru.

## MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Triangular Bandage x 3

2" Bandage x 3

1" Bandage x 3

Sterile Dressings x 15

Elastoplasts - Variety

Dressing Tape x 1 roll

Antiseptic Cream

Anti Bacterial Cream

Eye Drops

### **Painkillers:**

Aspirin

Aspirin and Codeine 400/8 mg

Meptozianol 200 mg

Dihydrocodine

### **Antibiotics:**

Amoxycillin 250 mg

Cotrimoxazole (Septrim or Bactrim)

### **Anti Amoebic**

Metronidazole 400 mg

Tiniba 500 mg

### **Anti Histamine:**

Mebhydrolm (Incidal)

### **Diuretics**

Acetazolamide (Diamox)

Fruzemide (Lasix)

### **Anti Diarrhoea:**

Lomotil

Imodium

**FINANCES**

**Income**

Mount Everest Foundation	£ 300.00
British Mountaineering Council	£ 300.00
Personal Contributions @ £750.00	£3,750.00
	<u>£4,350.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>£4,350.00</u>

**Expenditure**

Equipment	£ 269.00
Food purchased in UK	£ 106.35
Insurance	£ 450.00
Travel in UK	£ 135.00
Medical	£ 36.00
International flights	£2,350.00
Internal flights - Peru	£ 397.00
Other travel - Peru	£ 67.00
Food - Peru	£ 176.25
Accommodation - Peru	£ 39.00
Horses, drivers and base camp guard	£ 53.00
Travel - Bolivia	£ 60.00
Food - Bolivia	£ 140.40
Accommodation - Bolivia	£ 30.00
Llamas and drivers	£ 40.00
	<u>£4,350.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>£4,350.00</u>