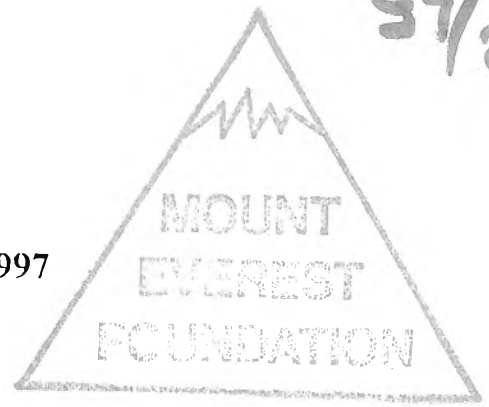


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97/2

Walsall Bolivia Expedition 1997
MEF Ref 97/2



Members of the team

Pete Marshall (did not take part in Katantica Traverse)

Yossi Brain

Dean Wiggin

Eaomonn Flood

All are members of Walsall Rock and Ice MC, Pete Dean and Eamonn are founding members of The Blue Blancmange Gentlemens Mountaineering Club. Pete and Dean are members of Wolverhampton MC; and we wish to thank members of these clubs for advice and assistance received.

Katantic Traverse

21 May

1200 bus from La Paz

22 May

0745 get off bus. Establish Camp 1 at 4400m 200m from road. DW and EF go up moraine ridge and dump 2 sacks in mist.

23 May

2 hours up to establish Camp 2 at 5150m on glacier due south of Katantica Central below a small glacial pool.

24 May

leave spare food and kit plus tent. Set off 0300 with nearly full moon. 1 hour up glacier to join SE ridge of Pt 5550. Pitch steep dry mud onto rock ridge. Follow ridge to summit 0830, F. **Pt5550** first climbed 1968 Hofmann and Reus (German) from SE. 1st British ascent 1995 Garside, Arcari and Franklin.

0915 head off down NW ridge, drop sacks, drop right to avoid rock towers and reach broad summit of **Katantica Oeste** 5630m at 1100, PD, new route. K Oeste 1st ascent Gross and Wolf (German) from SE, 2nd ascent Gorter, Hasse, Helbig, Doerschel, Schiemann and Schutte (German) 1969 from S, 1st British ascent 1992 W face Southampton University.

Return to sacks, drop down to Camp 3 at 5300m 1300 just below the col between Pt 5550 and Katantica Central.

25 May

0600 head up W ridge of **Katantica Central** 5610m, beautiful line, cornice switched from right to left, right hand (south) side bottomless powder at 75 deg plus, summit 1200, AD+, max 65 deg, new route, first British ascent. 1st ascent Gross and Hain (German) 1968 from ENE.

Spent 1 hour finding way off summit by lowering DW off down the steep bits, find ESE face, probable first ascent line by Germans in 1968. Downclimbed first 40m and then easy walk down to Camp 4 1600 below col between Katanticas Central and Este at 5300m.

+533

1997

26 May

0630 go through pass between the two Katanticas and then head up N face, AD, 65 deg, 300m, 3 hours, new route led by DW on his birthday, and then follow ridge up for 15 mins to summit of **Pt 5560**, first British ascent, 2nd ever ascent. Pt 5560 first ascent 1985 B and J Petroske (US) W side of N ridge (confusingly called K Oeste in AAJ 1987 p200).

Follow impressive ridge SE to base of **Katantica Este**, 30 mins. Beautiful 50m pitch, 70 deg, AD, up SW face to join mushy NE face and follow to summit, 5592m, first British, possible 2nd ever ascent. Descent same, downclimb pitch. 1st ascent 1968 Hofmann and Wolf (German) 1968 from S.

Descend, cross glacier heading south to reach Camp 5 on dry spot between two lakes surrounded by glacier, very windy, 1750, 5050m, due south of Katantica Este.

27 May

Woken up by sun, finally leave 0945 to col in NE ridge of Katantica Sur, head NE to reach **Pt 5200**, PD, probable first ascent.

Cross glacial basin and follow SE ridge to **Katantica Sur**, 5300m, finishing up loose rock, AD-, 45 deg, new route, first British ascent, probable 2nd ascent. 1st ascent 1968 Wolf, Hain and Hofmann (German) 1968 from NW. Descend German route, N face, 45 deg and return to camp.

1400 head back to above Camp 2, lower EF down over crevasse, decide too dangerous for last man so DW and YB go up glacier and thread a way through crevasses getting within 200m of Camp 4 before crossing, sunset, and then making a way down the glacier to reach Camp 2 at 2045.

28 May

Descend glacier and then moraine and carry on down valley to Camp 6.

29 May

Squeeze onto Pelechuco bus and reach Pelechuco 0900.

30 May-1 June

Wait for bus out of Pelechuco while elections take place. Spend a lot of time in bed.

2 June

arrive La Paz

Illimani Traverse

5 June

0700 jeep from La Paz to Pt 3275 S of Illimani 1200 start kit carry to abandoned miners house at 4200m, arrive 1700.

6 June

0530 Move up to start of glacier, kit up, move up and then spot rucksack. Investigate, find bones and passport that shows it is remains of Spanish climber missing since September 1994. Bury climber. Continue up to bivi site at 5200m, camp 2.

7 June

0200 move up glacier and reach base of Pico Layca Kholu in gale force winds 0930.
Majority decision to bale. Reach camp 2 in 2 hours. Reach camp 1 in another 2 hours.

8 June

Walk out to Cohoni in 6 hours.

9 June

0300 bus back to La Paz. YB reports body discovery to Spanish Consul.

Other climbs done by members of the team.

Pequeno Alpamayo 5370m

Huayna Potosi 6094m

Illimani 6402m

Members of the team also went trekking on Isla del Sol (Lake Titicaca), visited Salar de Uyuni, Isla de Pescadores, Laguna Colorada and Laguna Verde.

We all wish to thank The Mount Everest Foundation, The British Mountaineering Council and BG plc for financial support, and Ms Uli Shatz for moral support (and putting up with this rabble in La Paz!)

Slides attached

1 Illimani

2 -5 Katantica traverse.

Accounts

Income		Expenditure	
MEF	£500	Airfares	£1700
BMC	£450	Equipment	£1120
BG R & T	£350	Insurance	£660
BG Storage	£250	Travel in Bolivia	£360
BG Trnsco	£350	Food and living expenses	£2460
Personnal	£4400		
Total	£6300		£6300