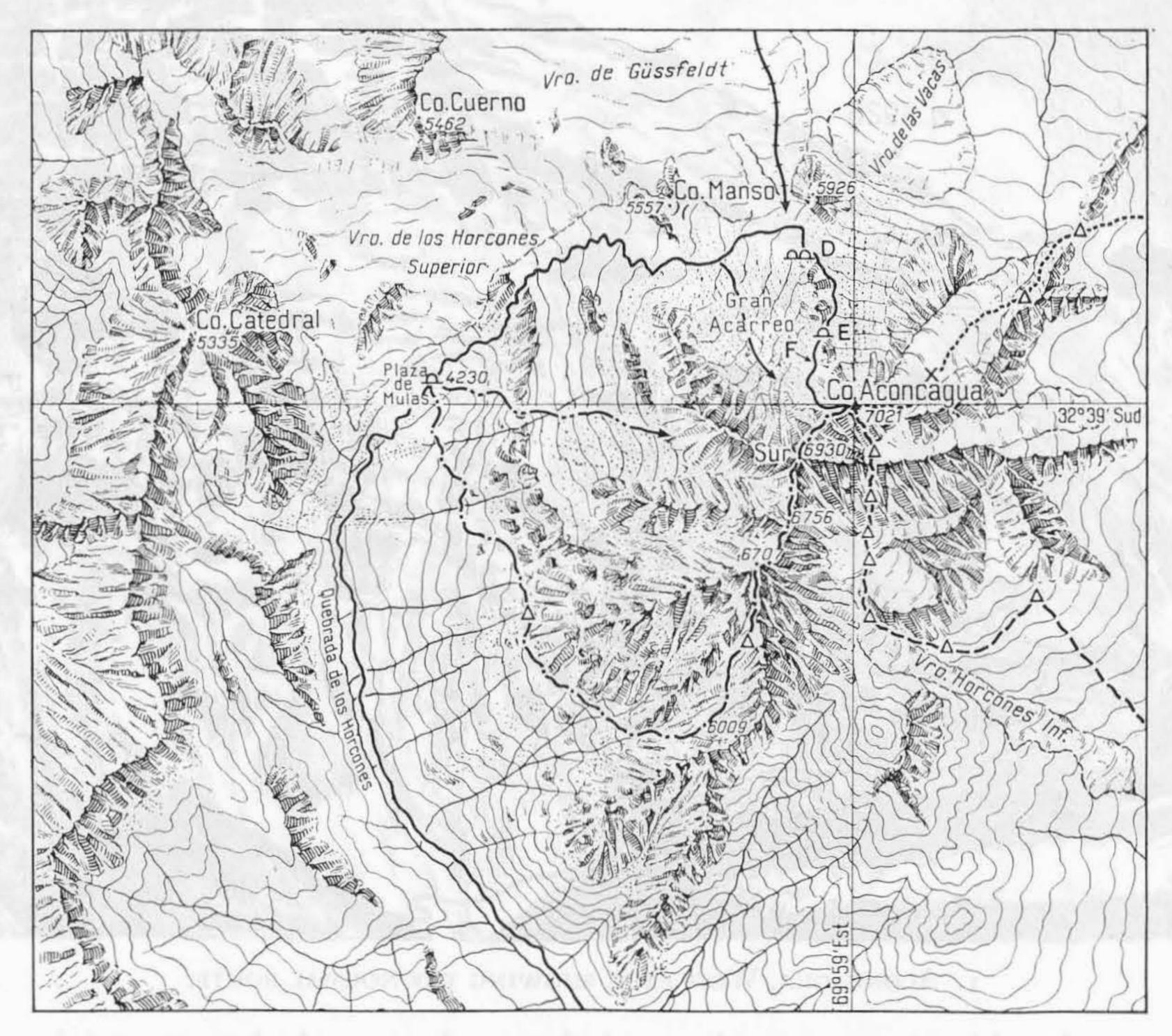
SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF ACONCAGUA

By MARIO FANTIN

(Four illustrations: nos. 65-68)

[Although considerable interest was aroused in this country by the French ascent of the South face of Aconcagua in 1954, few British mountaineers have thought the mountain worth visiting since the relatively



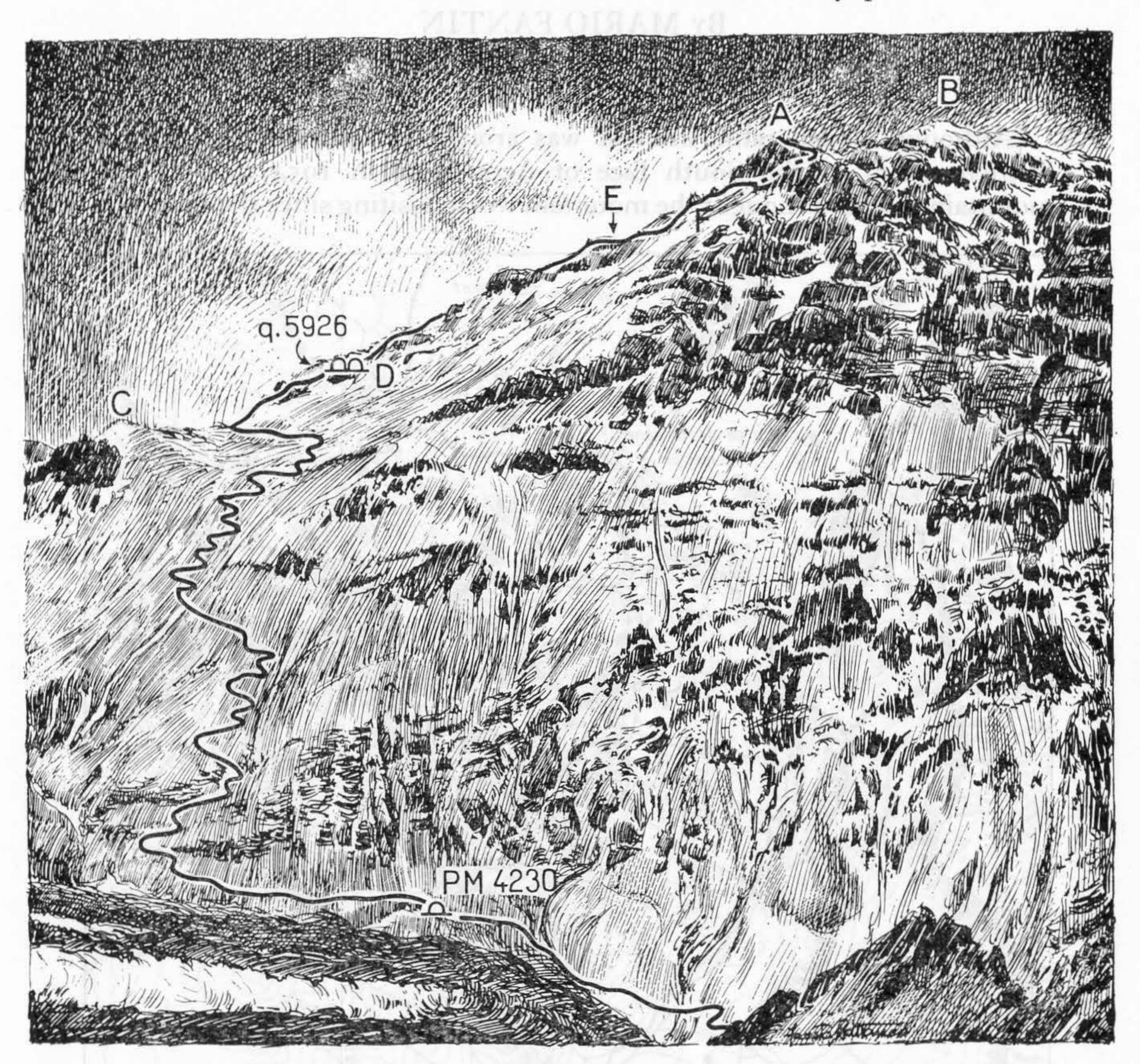
Map of Aconcagua, showing the various routes

(For key to symbols used, both on the map and on the accompanying sketches, see note at end of article.)

early days of its history. Signor Fantin's notes, even in the modified form in which they appear here, together with his valuable map and diagrams of the various routes on Aconcagua, may serve to correct the impression that, apart from the South face route, it has nothing to offer but the ordinary route; and even on the latter, the high number of failures and

fatalities which he records is a reminder of the serious character of the peak.

Signor Fantin's contribution, as originally submitted, contained a brief note of every attempt on Aconcagua, successful or unsuccessful, which the author had been able to trace, from 1883 to 1965. (In January, 1965, he himself had been turned back on the mountain by persistent bad



1. Aconcagua, West face, showing the normal route.

weather, his attempt coinciding with the search party which recovered the bodies of Father Fernando de la Mora and Dieter Raab.) His list, comprising over one hundred entries, was compiled from the printed sources available to him in Italy and from information supplied by Argentinian mountaineers—Colonel Emiliano Huerta, Vicente Cicchiti, Fernando Grajales, Tito Lucchini and Rodolfo Benvenuti. It did not claim to be exhaustive, as Signor Fantin had not been able to consult all printed sources and also because it was impossible to be certain of the number of ascents which had gone unrecorded.

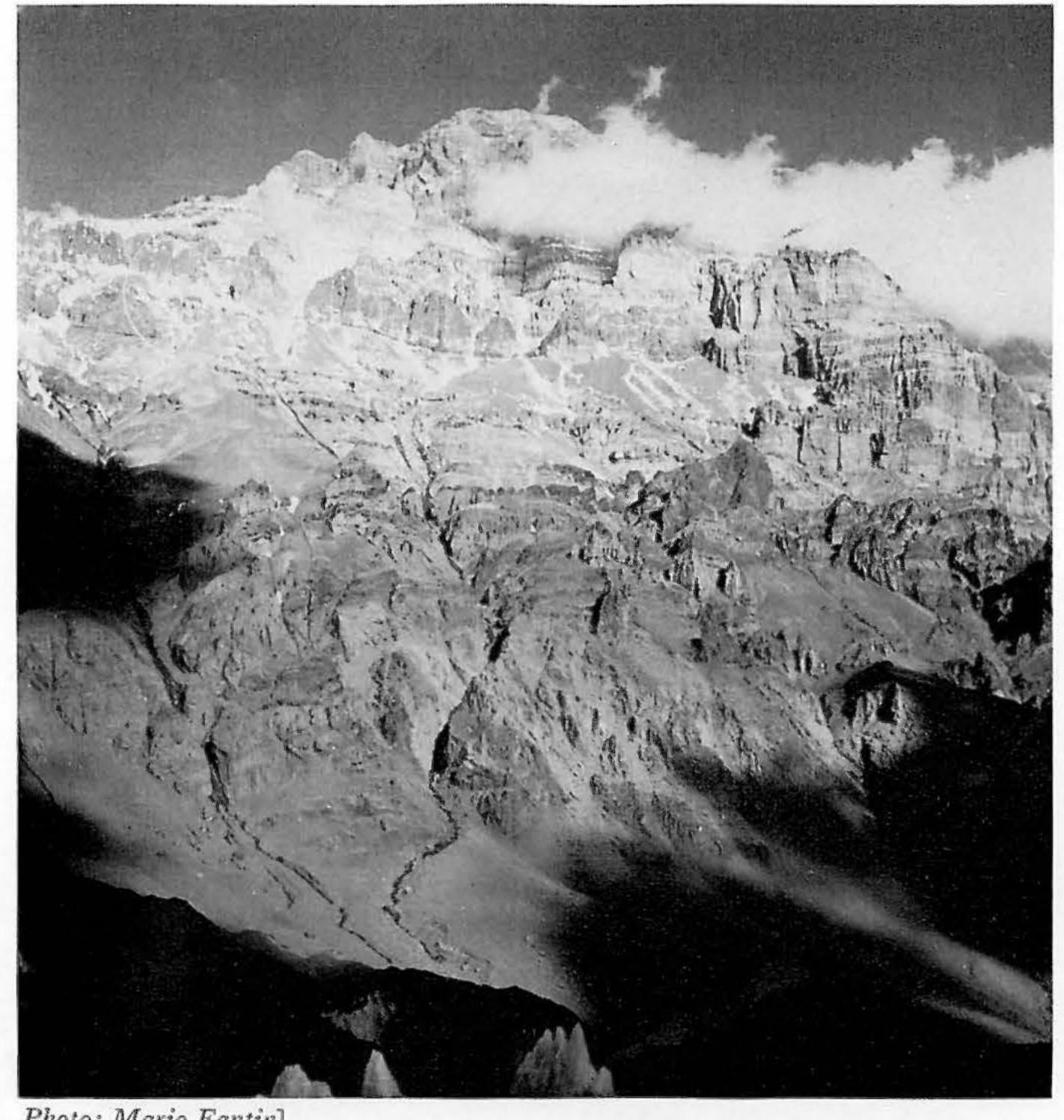


Photo: Mario Fantin]

ACONCAGUA FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

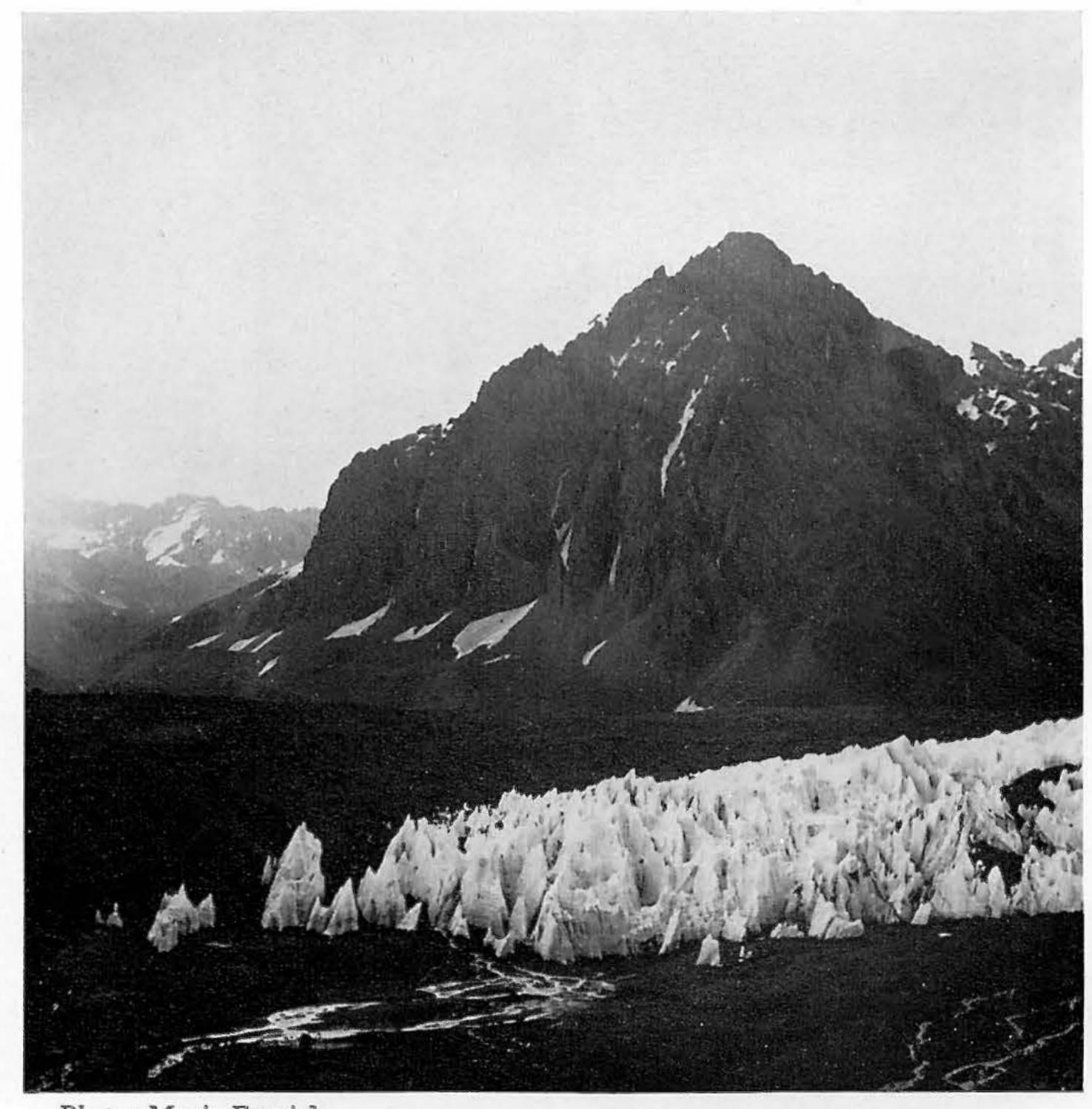


Photo: Mario Fantin]

Aconcagua: Horcones glacier.

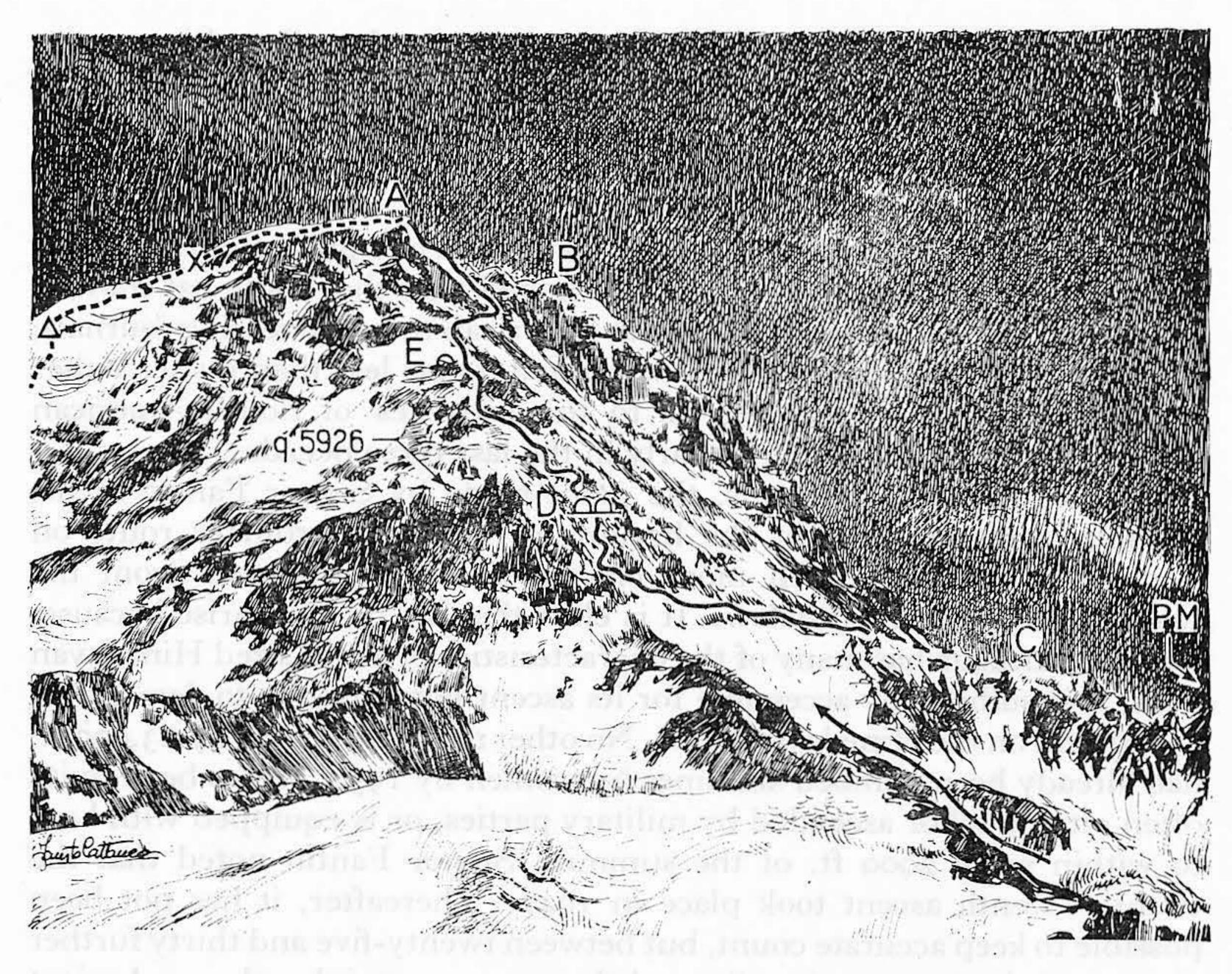
Many entries in the list related to the attempts of parties whose names are as unfamiliar in this country as would be those of British climbers in South America. Signor Fantin has been kind enough to allow me to select from his original list those entries, and especially all first ascents, which are likely to be of most interest to British readers, and to supplement some of them with more detailed notes, which have been compiled almost entirely by Mr. D. F. O. Dangar. It is to be hoped that the whole list may be published shortly in one of the South American mountaineering journals, since the relatively few entries now printed do far less than justice either to Signor Fantin's researches or to the activities of South American climbers on Aconcagua, particularly in the last three decades.

In the full list of attempts, the point made by Signor Fantin in his opening paragraphs about the hazards of even the ordinary route on Aconcagua emerges much more clearly than might appear from the selected entries printed below. It is clear that the dangers arise because, while Aconcagua has many of the characteristics of a fair-sized Himalayan peak, it is sufficiently accessible for its ascent not normally to demand an expedition on the Himalayan scale. No other mountain of nearly 23,000 ft. had already been climbed six times by women by 1952, or has been quite often attempted or ascended by military parties, or is equipped with huts to within some 2000 ft. of the summit. Signor Fantin noted that the twenty-seventh ascent took place in 1947. Thereafter, it has not been possible to keep accurate count, but between twenty-five and thirty further ascents are known, up to 1965, and there were certainly others. Against this, no less than thirty-six lives had been lost on the mountain by 1965, a lamentably high proportion of fatalities to successful ascents.

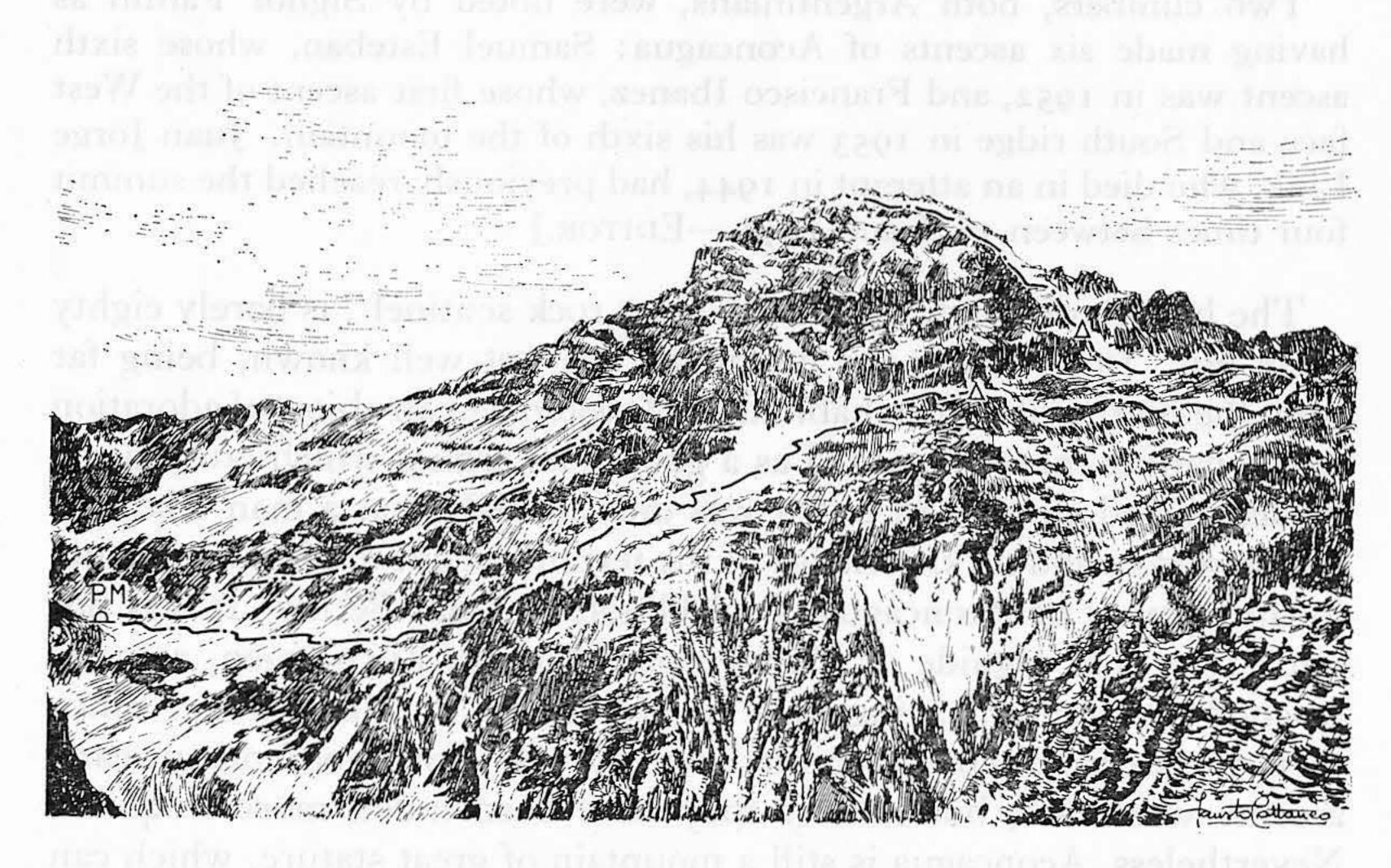
Two climbers, both Argentinians, were noted by Signor Fantin as having made six ascents of Aconcagua: Samuel Esteban, whose sixth ascent was in 1952, and Francisco Ibanez, whose first ascent of the West face and South ridge in 1953 was his sixth of the mountain. Juan Jorge Link, who died in an attempt in 1944, had previously reached the summit four times between 1936 and 1942.—Editor.]

The history of Aconcagua, 'the great rock sentinel', is barely eighty years old. In antiquity the mountain was not well known, being far from the centres of human habitation. It was never an object of adoration to the natives, never regarded as a god. The armies which crossed the Andes passed close to it, but it was only in 1883 that a man who had few resources and no knowledge of the terrain set out to discover a route to the summit of Aconcagua, Paul Güssfeldt from Berlin. It was not until 1897 that a guide of Macugnaga, Matthias Zurbriggen, actually reached the summit, having made the last part of the climb alone. Since then, the ascent has been repeated many times. For a good many years, ascents were rare, but latterly they have been much more frequent. Nevertheless, Aconcagua is still a mountain of great stature, which can only be climbed if conditions are favourable.

¹ In the Aymarà language, 'Kon-Kawa': 'Snowy mountain'.



2. Aconcagua, North-north-east face, showing normal route, Foerster's route of 1951 (the route of Güssfeldt's 1883 attempt) and on the left the upper part of the Narkievicz-Jodko route of 1934.



3. Aconcagua, West-south-west flank, showing the Marmillod (1953) and Mason (1965) routes. Only the South summit is seen, the North summit being hidden.

In the first forty years after the first ascent, the mountain was climbed again a dozen times. In the fiftieth year from the first ascent, the number of ascents had already reached twenty-four. The first victim of Aconcagua was Juan Stepanek in 1926; by 1953 the number of people who had died on the mountain had already reached fifteen. At the same time, out of seventy parties which had started out for the summit, well over thirty had been successful.

Today, the number of attempts on Aconcagua exceeds one hundred, and only 40 per cent of them have reached the summit. Of those taking part, 20 per cent have incurred injuries or frost-bite or have lost their lives. Evidently, it is a peak not to be under-rated. Equipment of Himalayan type, and gradual acclimatisation, are necessary, and first-aid drugs should be taken to give protection against the severe cold and other weather conditions. Raging storms break out suddenly without giving the climbers time to reach lower levels. Conditions on the mountain may, within forty to fifty minutes, become such as to make survival impossible. The history of Aconcagua is one of hard struggles, appalling hardship, heroism, collapse, exhaustion—caused by the altitude and the very low temperatures, by the murderous wind and the sudden storms. 'White winds' may reach 160 m.p.h., and temperatures may fall to -35° or -45° Centigrade.

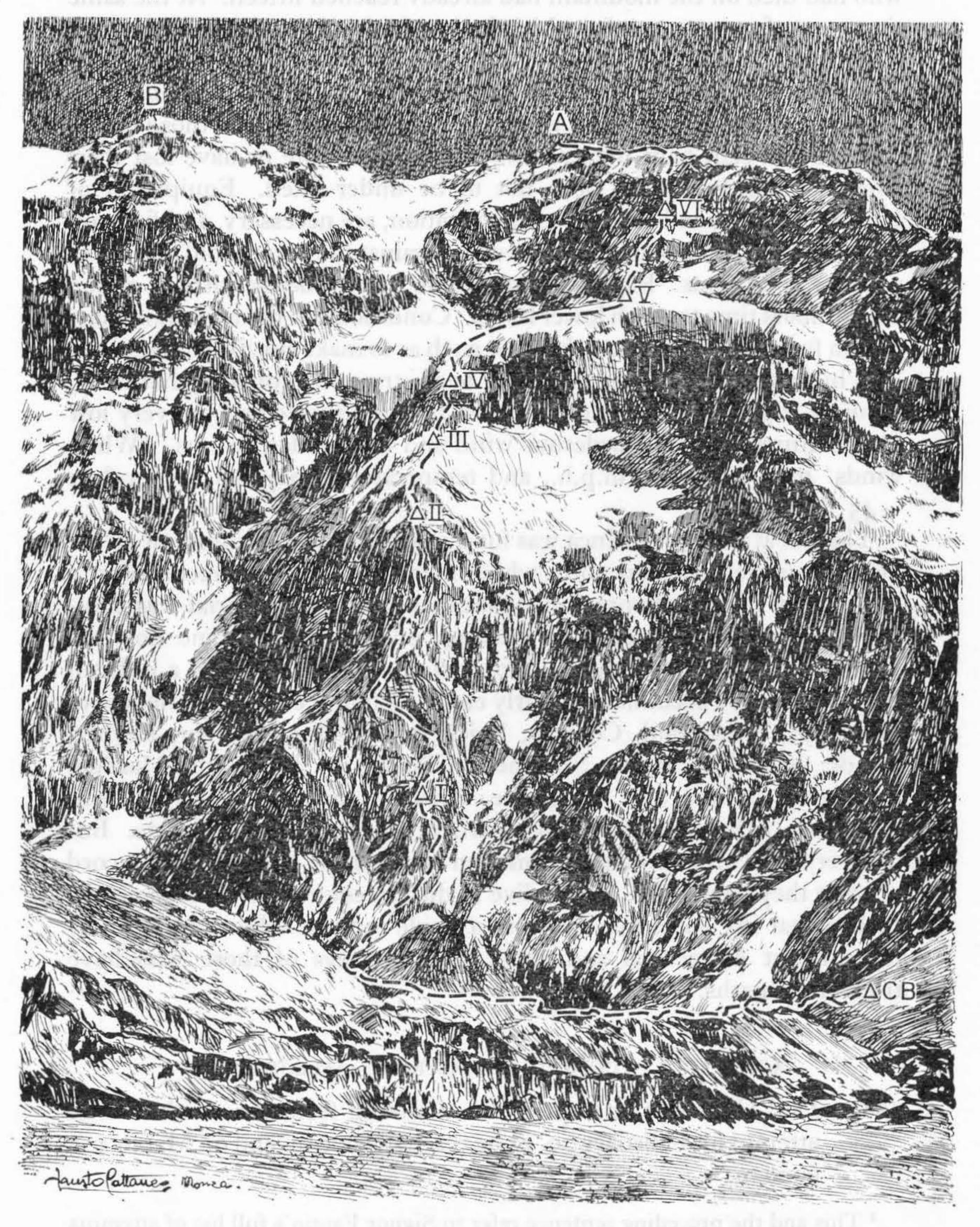
The inn at Puente del Inca was for many years the repository of all the documents, records and notes which made it possible to reconstruct a chronology of the attempts on Aconcagua. All this material was carelessly destroyed as a result of a change of management, and now the collection of the fragmentary information on the subject is a difficult matter. Printed accounts can fairly easily be found of the experiences of Güssfeldt, FitzGerald, Conway, Reichert, Helbling, Schiller, Reyner, Sundt, Koelliker, Ryan, Stepanek, Ullman, de la Motte, Marden, Borchers, Chabod and Ghiglione, Anselmi, Strasser, Newell Bent, J. J. Link, Schukert, Fernando Solari, Freile, Huerta and Ugarte. But it is very difficult to obtain information about those who leave no record of what they have done, or who live in distant countries.² I hope nevertheless that my notes may serve as a guide to those who want to know more about Aconcagua and about the Odysseys of those who have trodden its paths.

ACONCAGUA: ATTEMPTS AND ASCENTS—SELECTED LIST

Paul Güssfeldt attempted the mountain from the north. In an attempt on February 20–21 he reached 6600 m. and on March 4–5 6200 m.

² This and the preceding sentence refer to Signor Fantin's full list of attempts on Aconcagua.—Editor.

[Dr. Güssfeldt reached Valparaiso in October, 1882, with Alexander Burgener. The latter, ill on the voyage, went into hospital on their arrival and shortly after announced that he wished to return home. Güssfeldt was thus compelled to make his attempts with Chilean *huasos*, who knew nothing of mountaineering and had little heart for the venture.



4. Aconcagua, South face, showing the French (Ferlet) route of 1954.



Photo: Mario Fantin]

ACONCAGUA FROM THE AIR.

(No. 65)

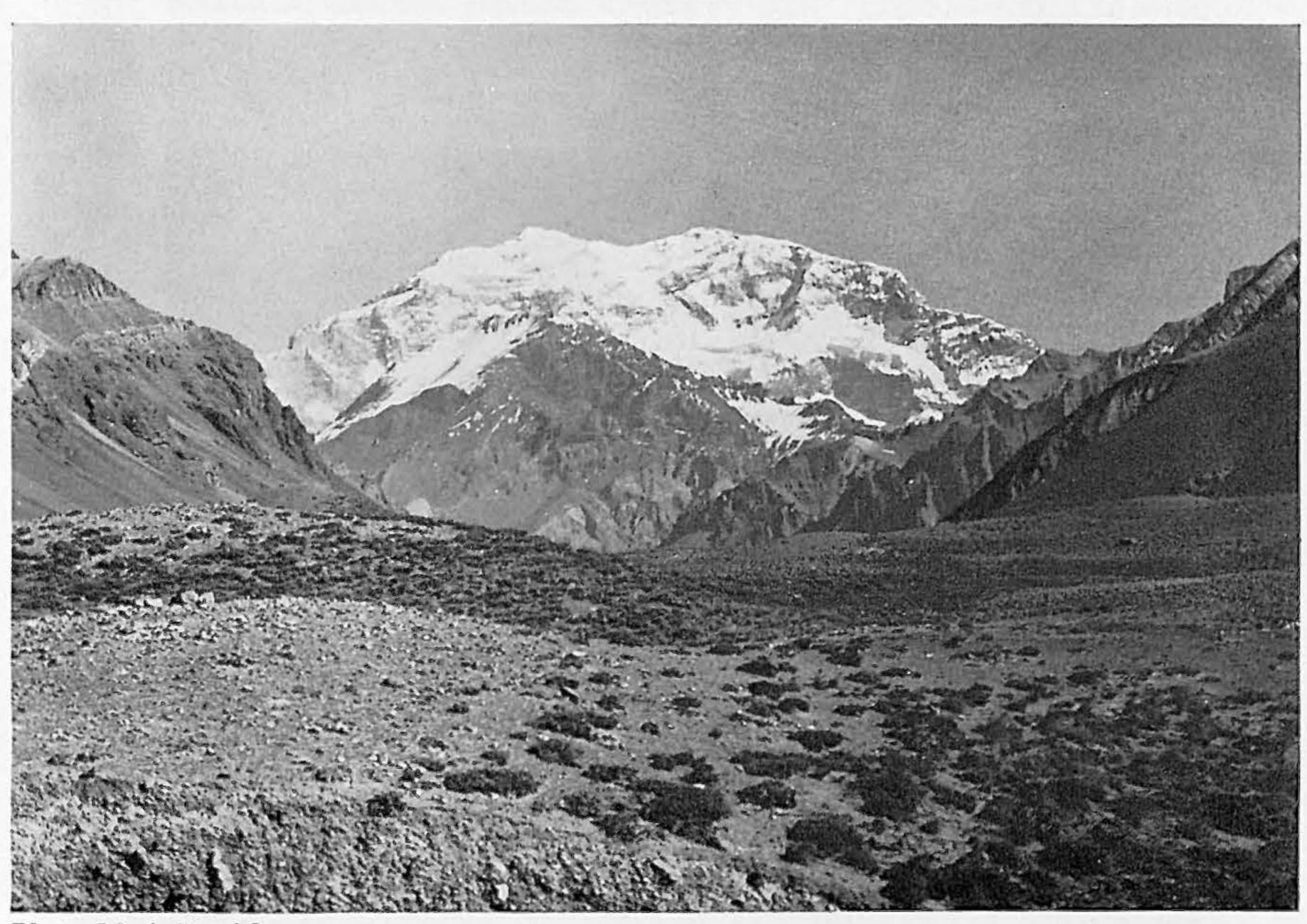


Photo: Mario Fantin]

THE SOUTH FACE OF ACONCAGUA.

He started for Aconcagua in February, 1883, and caught his first view of the mountain on entering the Valle Hermoso from the west. On leaving this valley he made his way up the Valle Penitente (or Cañon del Volcan), approaching his peak from the north.

His base camp—if such it may be called for he had no tent and no shelter—was pitched at 11,752 ft. in the upper part of the Valle Penitente. Güssfeldt then found that an immense rocky barrier lay between him and Aconcagua, which he named the Sierra del Penitente, but he discovered a couloir by which it was possible to climb to a gap named by him Portezuelo del Penitente or Büsserthor.

On February 20 he set out on his attempt and left his camp at 4 p.m. riding to the foot of the Sierra del Penitente, reached three hours later; here he rested until 8.30 p.m. Güssfeldt resumed his journey with two Chileans, Filiberto and Vicente, and by 10.30 the great barrier had been surmounted. In brilliant moonlight the party crossed a snowfield and it was nearly 2 a.m. before they set foot on the lower slopes of Aconcagua itself and began the real ascent. The Chileans were affected by the toilsome climbing and the cold winds, which rose with the increasing altitude. At ten o'clock Vicente collapsed with frozen feet (at a height of over 20,300 ft.) and was unable to proceed. Güssfeldt induced the other Chilean to continue the ascent and by 12.30 they had reached a point about 1,300 ft. below the top and made a long halt. The sky suddenly clouded over and sleet began to fall, forerunner of a snowstorm, and at 1.30 they were compelled to descend. Picking up the Chilean who had been left behind they hurried down, reaching camp at 11 p.m. after an absence of thirty-one hours, spent without sleep and with but little food.

On March 4 Güssfeldt made his second attempt and on this occasion decided to bivouac on the mountain. He and his companions left camp at 10 a.m. and found a suitable place for a bivouac at 17,390 ft. A miserable night was spent; no fire could be lit; and the three men had to squeeze into a sleeping bag for two and Güssfeldt himself was suffering from violent toothache. It was 6.40 next morning before a start could be made and between then and 12.30 p.m. no less than twelve halts were made, consuming more than two hours of precious time. Once again a snowstorm compelled them to turn back, though they had not reached so great a height as on the first occasion. Camp was reached at 8.15 p.m. Güssfeldt considered it unlikely that they would have reached the top even in fine weather.

- A.J. 11. 407–8, taking its information from the O.A.Z., says that the height reached by Güssfeldt on his first attempt was 6400 m. (20,998 ft.) and on the second 6100 m. (20,013 ft.), but the height of Aconcagua is given as 6806 m. (22,330 ft.).]
- The FitzGerald expedition. On January 12, Matthias Zurbriggen reached the ridge between the two summits, c. 6900 m. On January 14, Zurbriggen and FitzGerald reached 6800 m. FitzGerald had to give up, and Zurbriggen reached the summit

by himself (first ascent). On February 13, Stuart Vines and Nicola Lanti also reached the summit (second ascent).

[All the attempts by the FitzGerald expedition were made from the Horcones Valley. FitzGerald and Zurbriggen with four porters started on their first attempt on December 23, 1896, making their first camp at 14,000 ft. at the snout of the Horcones glacier. On Christmas Day a suitable site was found at 18,700 ft. on a pronounced saddle on the Northwest ridge and camp was established here next day. Meanwhile Zurbriggen had reached a point some 2,000 ft. higher and returned late in the evening completely exhausted. The whole party was suffering from the height and next day FitzGerald decided to withdraw.

Further attempts were made. That of December 31 was abandoned at c. 20,000 ft. because Zurbriggen was overcome by the cold and altitude, his feet being slightly frost-bitten, and was unable to continue. In the course of another attempt they reached a greater height, but were defeated by a violent gale.

In the final assault FitzGerald was overcome by mountain sickness and had to abandon the ascent but Zurbriggen continued by himself and at five o'clock in the afternoon of January 14, 1897, he reached the summit.

FitzGerald made further attempts with Stuart Vines but was always defeated by the altitude, exhaustion, or the weather. Vines and Nicola Lanti, an Italian porter, succeeded in making the second ascent on February 13, reaching the summit in the late afternoon, the unfortunate FitzGerald having to give in 'in a state of complete collapse from violent nausea' at about 20,000 ft.]

On January 18, Emil and Robert Conrad, using the northern route, reached 6500 m.

[As the FitzGerald expedition was setting out from Puente del Inca a German-Chilean party headed by the brothers Emil and Robert Conrad began an attempt by Güssfeldt's route. The party was not well equipped, but one of two miners accompanying it carried a sack of charcoal to a camp at c. 5800 m.

From this camp a bid for the summit was made on January 17. Zurbriggen and FitzGerald had already gone down but in the course of the day the German-Chilean party passed their high camp and spoke with Pollinger and Lanti who were there at the time. That night camp was established at 6300 m. but next day, after advancing some 200–300 m., the summit party (G. Brant, R. Conrad and the miner Albino) was forced by bad weather to abandon the attempt.]

1898 The two Conrads, trying again, reached 6300 m. on February 4.

1898 Martin Conway, with Luigi Pellissier and Jean-Antoine Maquignaz made an attempt that ended, on December 7, scarcely 100 m. below the top.

[Conway, with Pellissier and Maquignaz, left a camp at 18,500 ft. at 3.30 a.m. on December 3, 1898. Pellissier turned back, ill; Conway and Maquignaz reached the ridge connecting the two summits and 'climbed over several undulations to the top of a peak near, and not many feet lower than, the highest peak'.

There was no difficulty to be seen between the point reached and the summit but Conway turned back. He wished to rejoin Pellissier as soon as possible and he thought that, Vines having beaten the altitude record in reaching the summit, he himself might be accused of 'mere jealousy' if, after overcoming all the difficulties, he too reached the highest point. Years later he wrote that he thought it would be harmful to the prestige of FitzGerald's book (*The Highest Andes*), which had not yet been published, if he were known to have accomplished in a week what was supposed to have taken FitzGerald's party several months.

Conway estimated that he was within ten minutes of and at the very

outside 50 ft. below the summit.]

January 31, Helbling reached the summit by himself (third ascent). Reichert had reached 6700 m. the preceding year, and on February 3 reached 6900 m.

A winter attempt was made by Eilert Sundt, Thorleif Bache and Lützow-Holm. On September 28, the first two reached a point only a very few metres below the summit, but were stopped by the great snow cornices.

[It was hoped that the accumulation of snow would render the scree slopes of the North-west face less laborious than in summer. Skis were taken, but it was a season of little snow and they were abandoned in the Horcones Valley.

The party spent a night in a hut at the foot of the mountain and a second night in a bivouac. On the third day they reached the summit ridge only to find that the dangerous condition of the snow rendered quite inaccessible the last hundred feet or so to the summit.]

On February 14, M. F. Ryan, C. W. R. MacDonald, J. Cochrane and F. Clayton made the fourth ascent. Ryan, Cochrane and E. Pilditch had attempted the mountain in 1923, and Ryan had reached 6400 m.

[Second complete British ascent. This party followed the usual route, and their Chilean arriero managed to get two mules up to a high camp at c. 19,000 ft. Leaving camp at 5 a.m. on February 14 (11?), they reached the top at 6.30 p.m., where Vines' visiting card was found in a box with a scrap of paper on which he had written, 'I am carrying a heliograph which I cannot use because of the clouds. I have left my ice-axe and maximum and minimum thermometer. Temperature 45° below zero (F).' (A.J. 37. 199.) The temperature which Vines recorded in his chapter in The Highest Andes, p. 115, was +7° Fahrenheit.]

1926 Attempt of Juan Stepanek and Miguel Gossler. Death of Stepanek, the first victim of Aconcagua.

1928 J. Ramsey Ullman and Edward S. G. de la Motte reached the top on March 5 (fifth ascent).

1928 A solo attempt by Basil Marden ended in tragedy (second fatality).

[The second, and first British, victim of Aconcagua. Captain Marden left Puente del Inca on July 15, equipped with skis, a sledge and provisions. The weather was most unsuitable for an attempt and efforts were made to dissuade him from the undertaking.

When he failed to return search parties followed his tracks up to 3300 m. in the Horcones Valley, where they found his tent. His footprints were followed up to 3800 m. and at 4000 m. the search party, in view of the obvious risks, decided to return.

Captain Marden's body was found five months later at c. 4110 m.; the indications were that he had been overwhelmed by an avalanche.]

At 12.30 p.m. on March 8, the Italian expedition of Renato Chabod, Piero Ghiglione, Nicola Plantamura and Mario Pasten reached the summit (seventh ascent).

[J. Ramsey Ullman's remark (*High Conquest*, p. 129) that in 1934 an Italian party reached the summit accompanied by two dogs must refer to this expedition, the only Italian party to make the ascent that year.

The feat of these dogs was repeated later by other canine mountaineers. Police-ie, the Everest dog of 1933, disappeared at about 22,000 ft. so that the canine altitude record is perhaps held by the several dogs who have reached the summit of Aconcagua (22,835 ft.).]

At 6 p.m. the same day (March 8) four members of a Polish expedition, Konstanty Narkievicz-Jodko, St. Daszynski, Wiktor Ostrowski and Stefan Osiecki, also reached the summit (eighth ascent). This party opened up a new route on the East face.

[The Polish party made the first ascent by the East face. Setting out from Uspallata in Mendoza Province a base camp was pitched in the Los Relinchos valley after a three days march. Leaving this camp on March 5 mules were taken to 4850 m. and a height of 5500 m. was reached that day, but on the following day the party gained only 400 m. and passed the night beneath some rocks at between 5900 and 6000 m.

Here the party divided. Dorawski and Karpinski hoped to reach the summit in one day but by the late afternoon had only attained a height of 6560 m. and returned as it was clear they would be unable to gain the top before nightfall. The other four, Daszynski, Narkievicz-Jodko, Osiecki, and Ostrowski bivouacked among the séracs of the glacier at 6350 m. on the night of March 7. Next day, much hindered by the difficulties encountered on the upper part of the glacier, they only reached the summit at 6 p.m. in strong wind and bitter cold. Darkness overtook them during the descent, and though Daszynski and Osiecki reached the tent at 3 a.m.

the other two bivouacked in a crevasse at 6800 m. without tents or sleeping bags.

The glacier high on the North-east face was named Ventisquero de los Polaccos by this expedition.]

On March 7, the summit was reached by Adriana Bance Link, Pablo Franke, Semper, Etura, Lopez and J. J. Link (the latter's third ascent). One member of this party, J. Kastelic (a priest), died—the mountain's seventh victim.

[Adriana Link was the first woman to make the ascent of Aconcagua. With J. J. Link and two others, she perished in another attempt on the mountain on February 17, 1944.]

On January 7, Thomas Kopp and Lothar Herold celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the first ascent of Aconcagua by making the first ascent of the South summit (some metres lower than the highest point).

1949 Victor M. Bringa, Samuel Esteban, Lucas Serrano, Manuel Svars and Jose Mirelis reached the summit on January 15. They left there a statuette of General San Martin, the 'great Captain of the Andes'.

First complete ascent from the north. W. Foerster, L. Krahl and E. Maier followed Güssfeldt's route of 1883 until joining the usual route.

[This was the first complete ascent by the route pioneered by Güssfeldt in 1883. No new ground was covered, as the Güssfeldt and ordinary routes join some distance below the Plantamura bivouac.]

On March 11, Francisco Ibanez (his fourth ascent) and Lionel Terray reached the summit.

January 20–23. Francisco Ibanez (his sixth ascent), with F. Marmillod and his wife and Fernando Grajales, made the first ascent by the West face and South ridge, emerging on the North summit.

[In point of distance covered, this appears from the map to be the longest of the routes on Aconcagua, involving as it does a rising traverse of the whole West face and the crossing of various subsidiary points, including the South summit, once the South ridge has been reached.]

August 11–15. Emiliano Huerta, F. A. Godoy and H. Vasalla made the first winter ascent. (The top had almost been reached in the winter of 1915.)

February 25. First ascent by the South-south-east face, made by a French expedition led by R. Ferlet; Attilio Ramazzi and Mario Pasten also took part. Those who reached the summit

were Pierre Lesueur, Adrien Dagory, Robert Paragot, Edmond Denis, Lucien Bérardini and Guy Poulet. Many of them suffered from frost-bite.

[Little need be said of this expedition, the most noteworthy achievement on Aconcagua to date; an account of the ascent can be found in A.J. 60. 17–24.

On January 31, 1965, an Argentinian party was forced to abandon an attempt on the face, after thirty-two days of effort, at a height of 5300 m. as a result of persistent bad weather.

In 1966, the face has been climbed three times, once by a route new at any rate in part. The second ascent followed the original French route of 1954, and was by an Argentinian party which started work on the face on January 5; two members, Jorge Aikes and Omar Pellegrini, reached the top on February 2. An international expedition, led by the Austrian, Fritz Moravec, climbed the face by a route leading directly to the South summit; the two successful climbers in this large party were Jose Luis Fonrouge (Argentinian) and Hans Schönberger (Austrian), who reached the summit on February 9 after a final effort lasting three days. In addition, a Japanese party is reported to have made the fourth ascent of the face, following the French route.]

1965 At 9.30 p.m. on January 17, after six days' climbing, Gene W. Mason, T. R. Hill and Ralph Mackey reached the summit by the West face (first ascent). Paul Williams was also a member of this North American expedition.

[This ascent is briefly reported in the current (1966) A.A.J., p. 185: '... The ascent took them seven days from the Plaza de Mulas. The route led up two chutes. They established a high camp at 17,000 ft. below the upper chute. The latter was ice-filled, but gave access by a broad ledge to the northern side of the peak at 19,000 ft.']

It will not be an easy task to compile any complete chronology of Aconcagua, since in recent years many attempts and ascents have been made starting direct from Chile up to Puente del Inca. As a result, the Mendoza Andean Club is no longer able to check and register the names of parties and the dates of their attempts.

Another point to be noted is that, in compiling a chronological list, one finds that the heights given by the authors of printed accounts are, in the majority of cases, exaggerated. This is the natural result of the fact that the two refuges on Aconcagua are regularly regarded as being situated at a considerably greater altitude than they really are. The 'official' heights, which should be compared with those given below, are, according to information given me by J. Peron, 6400 m. for the Plantamura refuge, 6700 m. for the Indipencia. People who know Aconcagua

say that these erroneous, but tacitly accepted estimates have a psychological explanation. A climber who finds himself at the Plantamura refuge, for instance, and deludes himself that he has only 600 m. climbing ahead of him, continues the ascent; the prospect of 1100 m. (the true figure) to the summit would make him give up.

In the sketch-map attached to this article, I have decided to leave the official height of 7021 m. (I.G.M.A. map, 1951), which is still the accepted height in the Argentine. The most recent measurement, carried out before 1957 by Ingegnere Baglietto, gives a height of 6959 m., which is the figure given in most recent maps.

It is interesting to note the various heights attributed to Aconcagua over the years:

1883	Güssfeldt	6970 m.
1897	FitzGerald	7035 m.
1898	Chilean Boundary Commission	6960 m.
1898	Argentinian Boundary Commission	7130 m.
1904	Schrader	6953 m.
1928	I.G.M.A. map (1: 500,000)	6940 m.
1951	I.G.M.A. map	7021 m.
1957	Aeronautical map (O.A.C.I.)	6959 m.
1962	I.G.M.A. map (1: 2,500,000)	6959 m.

The most reliable dates for the construction of permanent shelters on Aconcagua are:

Plaza de Mulas	1951
Rifugio Link (destroyed)	1943-44
Plantamura	1946
Libertad (adjacent to Plantamura)	1951
Indipencia	1951

After careful comparison of data, sources and photographic evidence, my opinion is that the actual heights of named points on Aconcagua are as follows:

Puente del Inca	2719 m.
Plaza de Mulas	4230 m.
Nido de Condores	5450 m.
Cerra Manso	5557 m.
Plantamura and Libertad huts	5850 m.
Indipencia hut	6480 m.
Foot of Peñon Martinez	6680 m.
Foot of final couloir	6800 m.
Summit of Aconcagua	6959 m.

Among the sources which I have consulted have been:

Rivista Mensile, 1934, article by R. Chabod

L. Costa, 28 bajo Zero

Punzi, Ugarte and de Biasey, Historia del Aconcagua

M. Zurbriggen, From the Alps to the Andes

E. A. FitzGerald, The Highest Andes

Revista Geografica Americana, 1935, article by F. Strasser.

The following should also be consulted, but have not been available to me in Italy:

Thomas Kopp, Cinquenta Anos de Lucha en el Aconcagua Tibor Sekelj, Tempestad sobre el Aconcagua.

	KEY TO SYMBOLS USI	ED ON MAP AND S	SKETCHES
>	Zurbriggen, 1897	-·-·-· M	armillod, 1953
	Narkievicz-Jodko, 1934	F	erlet, 1954
111111111	Foerster, 1951	-··- M	
\(\text{Camp} \)	A Hut	× Bive	ouac

PM Plaza de Mulas (4230 m.)

- A North (highest) summit
- B South summit
- C Cerro Manso
- D Plantamura and Libertad bivouac huts
- E Indipencia bivouac hut
- F Peñon Martinez (prominent rock)
- CB Base Camp.