

INVITATION TO THE ANDES

PART II

BY GODFREY FRANCIS

Introduction

I AM glad to be able to extend John C. Oberlin's invitation (*A. J.* 60. 69) to cover more specifically the Southern Andes of Peru. These mountains I visited in May, June and July 1954, with my wife and P. B. (Tim) Fisher. The expedition was sponsored jointly by the Peruvian Government and by the British Museum of Natural History. Our objective was an economic and scientific study of a mass of unusual rock, nepheline-syenite, which outcrops in the Province of Carabaya in South Peru.

Our view of the Southern Andes coincides exactly with Oberlin's view of the more northerly ranges. They are magnificent peaks, with ice-fluted flanks and often slender, spiry summits. The approach is easier than in the Himalaya, the system of roads in the high country being more extensive. The weather too appears better. In the Cordillera de Carabaya, close to our study area, the peaks were in climbing trim from May to July with the exception of perhaps four days. Bernard Pierre records worse weather in the Vilcabamba chain, but the Cordillera Blanca often enjoys equally perfect weather in the dry season. Once in Peru, the cost of travel, Indian servants and food is not high. Some notes on our experiences may be of use.

Transport

Two railways, the Central and the Southern run from the coast to the climbing regions of the Peruvian Andes. The Central Railway, as Oberlin describes, gives access from the coast at Lima to many of the central cordillera. The Southern Railway is useful for travel within the Southern Andean region. One cannot reach it easily from Lima, however. If the party stays on its ship and if the ship calls at Mollendo (the coastal terminus), then approach to the Southern Andes by the Southern Railway would be a good plan. There are, however, so many reasons for stopping in Lima (sight-seeing and interviews with Government officials, etc.) that it may be impossible to go straight to Mollendo. Here I should say that these interviews are important. The great prize is a letter from the *Supremo Gobierno*, the national government in Lima. This veritable touchstone unlocks all police barricade check-points, which are numerous on the roads, produces willing co-operation from all government servants, helps in the assembling of mule- and llama-trains and smooths travel in many other ways.

Once halted at Lima there are two feasible modes of travel to the southern cordillera, the roads or the air. As Oberlin says, the roads

are really hazardous. It is not often possible to camp by the vehicle and so hotel bills (however small) must be added to petrol, repairs and food expenses. In sum, it is cheaper, quicker and safer to fly to Cusco than to go by car. A single fare costs around £8 and the Faucett Company have in the past been very obliging over charges for carrying expeditions' kit. However, if time is not pressing and money can be spared for it, a car journey is a magnificent experience. It will give a far deeper insight into the country than the short flight can do. The ideal vehicle is a fully enclosed station-wagon type, as new and as rugged as can be arranged. Any default in these specifications invites trouble. Open backs, as in pick-ups, have two disadvantages. Firstly, dust settles so thickly and penetratingly on the kit that it is made unfit for camping at short notice, secondly, it invites theft. In our own experience from the first moment to the last of a Peruvian expedition a responsible eye should be kept on the kit. As soon as a pick-up stops one of the party should go round to the back and not move until the car is about to leave. A French expedition lost the entire contents of an open trailer by not watching it during a stop for petrol. It is a wise precaution to carry a very solid padlock of one's own to add to the hotel padlock on the hasp of hotel garage doors. I will return to this problem in discussing servants. Once arrived at Cusco the road-heads will lie from one to three days' drive away for the party with its own vehicle. For those who have come by air, the ranges as far south as the Bolivian border can be approached either directly by truck to the nearest ones, or by the Southern Railway to more distant ones. From the nearest station to the selected peaks a truck and/or a mule-train will bring the party to base camp. The contrast with Himalayan travel is that here base camp is reached without load-carrying porters. For the north Bolivian peaks the party should start out from La Paz.

A few words on expenses: petrol, which is produced in Peru, is cheap. It costs 6*d.* a gallon at Lima, rising progressively to 2*s.* 2*d.* a gallon in the remotest parts of the Cordillera. Oil costs about as much as in Britain. Fares on a postal lorry-bus (these run on contract for the postal services) cost us 25 soles per single fare for a run of about 100 kms. plus 35 soles for the expedition's entire kit (£1 = 55 soles de oro in 1954). Railway fares are much cheaper than in Britain but I have no exact figures. Mule-trains are employed for the journey only and move off after the destination is reached. A mule-train usually can be found again at about 2-3 days' notice. Hiring a mule-train must be preceded ritualistically by a long, spirited, but unhurried haggle. Muleteers (*Arrieros*) are apt to fasten on awkward loads, uphill routes and precipitous trails as reasons for payment in excess of normal rates. It is usual to make a deposit (usually 10 soles per beast) before the journey and the rest of the payment should if possible be delayed until after the journey. (Our totals were about 15 soles per beast for 40 kms.) One also pays about 10 soles to each mule-driver as a tip. (There are usually two of them.) Saddle horses cost about 30 soles for a comparable journey (latterly we found them unnecessary

and walked). Donkeys and llamas are inferior to mules in weight carrying but cost much less. (Llamas take 50 lb. ; mules in our train sometimes must have carried close on 200 lb.) Llamas cost about a third or a quarter a mule's hire. Hotels cost from about 18s. bed and breakfast in the excellent government-run 'Hotel Turistas' to about 7s. in the hutches dignified by the same name in the remote villages.

Servants

The question of servants is underlain by the whole question of an expedition's attitude to the mountain Indians. Unfortunately, and for reasons which cannot adequately be discussed here, they are quite unresponsive to the Eighth Commandment, although they do try to follow the 'Eleventh' : (Thou shalt not be found out.) This failing should not allow one to lose interest in these Indians or despise them. They are a race of great interest and illustrious past, deprived of the bulk of their Inca heritage and reduced to exploited and unpitied tutelage, "Bronze-Age survivals in a twentieth century which understands them not and which they do not accept," as Harold Osborne has described them. The rule in these circumstances is never to put temptation in their way. On the trail one must always watch the muleteer and the mule loads ; in camp no kit should be left lying about outside the tents, especially at night, and, when climbing, a 'gringo' or absolutely trusted Peruvian should remain at base camp. In omitting this precaution a German party lost the bulk of their high altitude kit whilst all of them were on a reconnaissance, with the result that all further big peaks were barred to them. Once this fundamental condition of Peruvian travel is learned it ceases to be irksome. Precautions must be complete and automatic. A very good plan which has been used by many expeditions, but which we were not able to employ, is to take one or two Peruvian Army N.C.O.s in the party. Being under military discipline these men are far more reliable than hired civilians. (High pay is not a strong incentive to greater work or to greater loyalty to their employers amongst the mountain Indians.)

In the absence of army N.C.O.s it will be advisable to employ mestizo (mixed blood) servants in camp. Our own mestizo camp boy was useful and honest but inclined to take French leave every fortnight or so. Being irreplaceable we had to overlook this. Pure blood Indians would not be advisable in a camp. The native languages *Quechua* and *Aymará* are difficult to learn and an expedition with limited time would do much better to concentrate on Spanish. In every Andean community there is someone who can speak it.

Food

Even in remote mountain regions; food supply is not a big problem. Most of these regions are close to the Amazon forest and are traversed by llama-trains carrying food to the interior plateaux of Cusco and Lake Titicaca. From these can be bought chickens and eggs, maize, onions, carrots, beans, rice, salt, sugar-cane, crude but delicious brown sugar,

bananas and oranges. In the small hill towns are flourishing mestizo merchants stocking an astonishing range of food: American tinned porage oats, Peruvian tinned tuna fish, Argentinian corned beef, English cocoa and Worcestershire sauce, Italian tomato purée, Peruvian jam, marmalade and crude chocolate, and Chilean apples. Bread is either absent or, if present, inadvisable. The usual substitute being large soda biscuits rather like dog biscuits. Butter is a luxury (30 soles per pound) and milk is evaporated and tinned (soles 2-50 per tin). Primus stoves and Coca-cola represent two commercial empires beyond whose limits it is almost impossible to penetrate (and who would seriously wish to?). The high country itself produces potatoes and the sweet root *oca* together with occasional sheep carcasses. We bought one whole sheep for 25 soles. It is a great advantage to cook with a pressure cooker at altitudes above 14,000 ft. An English pattern of light pressed construction and without projecting handles was found ideal. At first we used a good deal of paraffin on Primus stoves (lit with *aguardiente*, the local raw cane-sugar spirit), later we cooked in the traditional way—on native pottery stoves fired by llama dung. This fuel burns slowly with a hot glowing heat like peat. It costs nothing.

Medical

Apart from normal medical requirements and the usual injections which a doctor would suggest (lists are also given in some of the books on Everest), special attention should be given to antibiotics and soothing doses for internal disorders. Stomach upsets are frequent. The food at all but 'Turistas' hotels is suspect. Fruit is suspect unless it has a thick skin (oranges, bananas). Local cheese is to be avoided entirely. Indigestion is also common and should be anticipated in the medicine box. Europeans living locally think it is due to lessened oxygen above 14,000 ft. affecting the digestion. Malaria, yellow and other tropical fevers and snake bite will not be met above 10,000 ft. in all the Andean region. When a suspected fracture occurred we found it possible to reach a hospital with an X-ray apparatus in 48 hours, which might be an average for such an emergency. We either boiled our water or used the excellent army water purifying tablets obtainable at London climbing outfitters.

The climate of the Southern Peruvian plateaux resembles that of Tibet and consequently ample supplies of salve for sun and wind are vital. High altitude throats are another likelihood, and they may become infected. In the Altiplano one can buy any potent medical drug for the asking, no one demands a prescription. We cured our sore throats (for all I know unwisely) with American aureomycin lozenges.

Camps and Climbs

Oberlin's views on tents and clothes agree with ours. We slept on air mattresses in two sleeping-bags each and in full clothing. Down jackets were a necessity and long woollen underpants very welcome.

The pre-dawn temperature in Carabaya was around zero Fahrenheit above 14,000 ft.

Two of our party had fur-lined suède boots with crêpe rubber soles and a zip-fastener, for camp use. The third member of the party keenly regretted not having them. Climbing equipment should be similar to that used by a small Himalayan party. Canvas overboots might be an advantage provided they could be taken off even when frozen.

Only on the highest peaks of South Peru will there be need for two camps above base camp. Salcantay and the bigger Vilcanota peaks needed no more. Porters are likely to be a big problem in any of the remoter areas, only veterans of the few larger expeditions to the Vilcambamba and Vilcanota groups would have previous experience. It may be better to plan that high camps be established by the party themselves, as in Alaskan expeditions.

Notes on the Massifs

The principal climbing areas are shown shaded black and numbered on the map (Fig. 1). Our own route from Lima to Macusani (out via Arequipa and back via Cusco) is shown dotted. These notes are taken largely from Bernard Pierre's book *Salcantay, Géant des Andes* (Amiot-Dumont, Paris, 1953), which useful source I gratefully acknowledge, and also where possible from my own experience.

1. *Cordillera Real, Bolivia*

This great granite range is on the watershed of the Eastern Cordillera between the Amazon and Titicaca basins immediately north-north-east of La Paz, the commercial capital of Bolivia, and is best reached from there. The peaks are amongst the highest in the Andes. The principal summits are climbed, but other summits and great new routes remain.

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CONWAY, Sir W. MARTIN, *The Bolivian Andes*. Harper & Brothers, 1901.
ERTL, H., *The Mountain World*, 1953. Arnold, London.

MAPS

1 : 1,000,000 of the American Geographical Society, Sheets E 19, La Paz ;
D 19, Puno-Río Beni.
1 : 1,000,000 World Aeronautical Chart, U.S. Air Force, sheet 1136.

2. *Volcanoes of the Western Cordillera*

These huge extinct volcanoes mostly in the Arequipa region are of little mountaineering interest. Rising from great deserts on the coast and from interior steppe country they reach 6,000 m. (19,686 ft.) in height in some cases. They are climbed mostly on névé slopes, and all the important summits have already been reached. As they are so

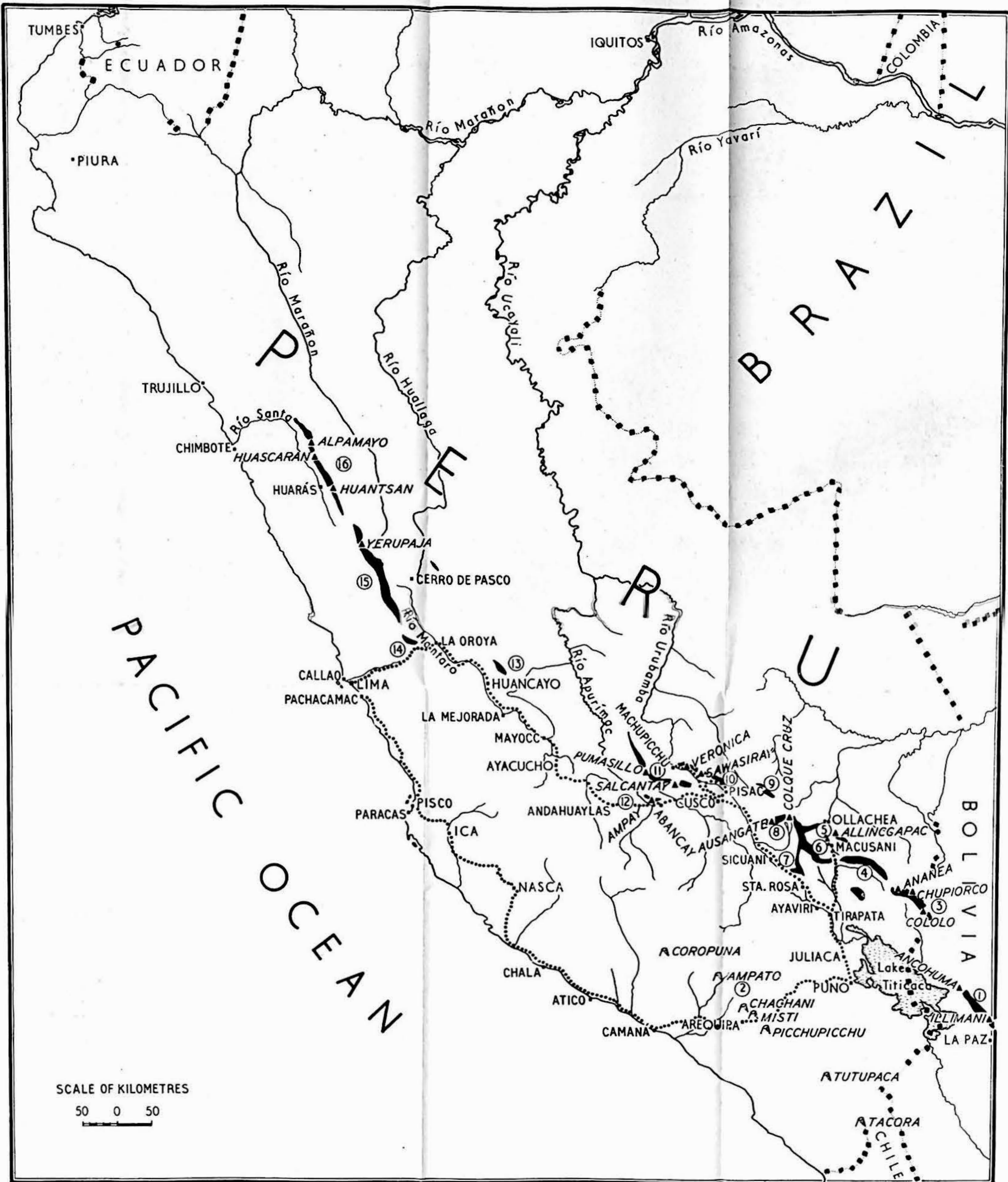


FIGURE 1. CLIMBING REGIONS OF PERU. BLACK AREAS MARK SNOW-CLAD PEAKS OF MOUNTAINEERING INTEREST. THE EXTINGUISHED VOLCANOES OF THE AREQUIPA REGION ARE SHOWN SEPARATELY. THE DOTTED LINE SHOWS THE ROUTE TAKEN BY OUR EXPEDITION IN 1954: FROM LIMA TO MACUSANI *via* AREQUIPA AND BACK *via* CUSCO.

high and require considerable effort to climb they do offer quite suitable training peaks. Solimana, between Coropuna and Ampato, is the most interesting peak.

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MAPS

- A.G.S. of N.Y. Sheets D. 18, D. 19, E. 18.
U.S.A.F. Sheets 1135, 1136, 1194.

3. *Cordillera de Apolobamba*

This lies on the Peru-Bolivia border, separated by a low part of the watershed from the Cordillera Real. The best description of the range is in the thorough report of the Boundary Commission organised by the Royal Geographical Society for the two countries for the accurate demarcation of this part of their common frontier. It contains a large number of photographs of the peaks with an excellent map. Glaciers are big (though retreating) in this group.

On the Bolivian side are Pupuya (5,816 m.), Huellacaloc (5,836 m.), Ccachuca or Cololo (5,915 m.), Huanacuni (5,796 m.) and a group reaching 5,679 m. rejoicing in the name Matchu Suchi Coochi. Huanacuni and Cololo appear to be fine mountains in photographs. Cololo resembles the Ober Gabelhorn.

On the Peruvian side are the three Palomani peaks (highest 5,768 m.), the Chupi Orco peaks (highest 6,044 m.), an unnamed 5,998 m. peak above Sina pass, Calijon (5,837 m.), and Ananea (5,842 m.). According to Ahlfeld a Bolivian captain has climbed Palomani. The Peruvian peaks do not have striking outlines or apparent difficulties in the photographs. The natural approach to all these would appear to be from Peru via Tirapata on the Cusco-Puno railway via Asillo and the valley of the Río de Carabaya to Poto, or from Juliaca on the railway, via Huancané to Poto. It may not be permitted to cross or to climb on the frontier, and in this case the Bolivian peaks will have to be approached from La Paz—probably a difficult route.

REFERENCES

- AHLFELD, F., 'Hochgipfel in den Peruanischen Anden,' *Die Alpen*, 1932, pp. 130-36 and 218.
- ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY: Peru-Bolivia Boundary Commission, 1911-1913. *Reports*, 1918.

MAPS

- A.G.S. of N.Y. Sheet D. 19.
U.S.A.F. Sheet 1136.
R.G.S. (*loc. cit.*). Sheet 1, 1 : 250,000 : Río Suches to Río Heath.

4. *Cordillera de Aricoma and Nudo de Sunipani*

These peaks are extremely little known to climbers. The Aricoma range continues the Cordillera Oriental from the Apolobamba peaks to the pass of Oquepuña near Quenamari Grande. There is no report on their climbing possibilities but they are almost certainly lower than Quenamari (5,850 m. = 19,193 ft.) which is not itself interesting to climbers.

Sunipani is an isolated mass to the south of the last, separated from it by the Río de Carabaya (Río Asángaro lower in its course). It has several summits, probably at 5,500 m.; none appears very striking.

5. *Allinccapac Group*

This group, entirely within the Amazon basin, is adjacent to the area in which we were working (see map, Fig. 2). Unfortunately, we did not have sufficient time thoroughly to explore the group after our geological work was completed. From our last geological camp, in the Japuma valley, we were able with an early start to climb, on July 6, 1954, the highest peak at the head of this valley (5,544 m. = 18,184 ft.). We named it Nevado de Japuma, a name which now has official sanction. This outlying peak of the group has a series of small glaciers and ice-falls on the Japuma side, crowned by an ice-wall and a horizontal, corniced summit ridge. It provided a short but interesting climb of no great difficulty. The summit is an ideal viewpoint for the two finest peaks of the group, Huaynaccapac (18,751 ft.) to the north and Allinccapac (18,963 ft.) close by. These are both difficult peaks and very worthy objectives for an expedition. Both appear impossible from the south. Allinccapac would, I think, best be attempted from a base camp by the small lake beside its great western glacier. The route would then reach the summit ridge of Allinccapac either (1) via the west ridge and the summit of a snow point north of Allinccapac and thence to the main peak by a snow ridge, or (2) the snow ridge might be reached from the cwm between Allinccapac and the snow point. Allinccapac has two principal summits. The western appears slightly the higher. It is a thick and slightly tilted ice-cap. The second is a rock point on the summit ridge. To the east of the main summits are three subsidiary rock peaks of ferocious aspect. The first resembles the point of a mighty screwdriver, the second is a tapering Dolomite-like campanile and the third a bulging sugar-loaf. Huaynaccapac appears impossible from the south (Japuma) direction. It is surrounded here by ice-fluted precipices. A way up should be sought from the direction of Ayapata in the north. West of Huaynaccapac is a smaller but difficult-looking ice peak which we referred to as Trident Peak. South-east of the Allinccapac Group proper is Chichiccapac (18,492 ft.) a fine, domed summit with promise of an excellent route or routes, but probably easier than its larger neighbours.

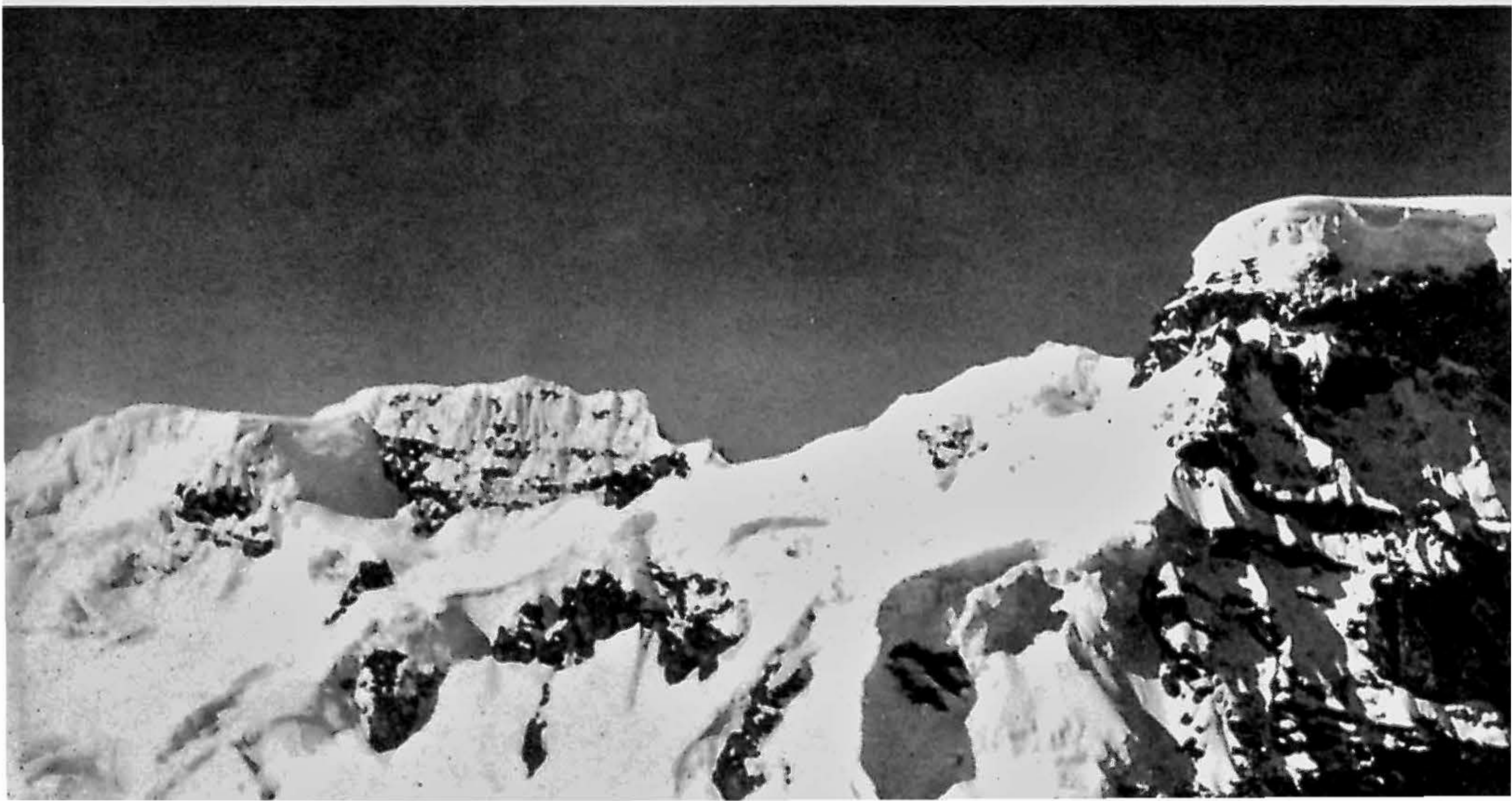
The main town and road-head of the area is Macusani (ca. 14,200 ft.) which is linked to Tirapata station by a lorry-bus which runs to Macusani



NORTH-WESTWARD VIEW FROM NEVADO DE JAPUMA. BASE CAMP FOR NUDO ALLINCCAPAC
COULD BE PLACED IN GLACIAL VALLEY IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE.

[To face p. 282.]

NORTH-EASTERN VIEW FROM SUMMIT OF NEVADO DE JAPUMA. *Left*, SOUTH FACE OF NUDO
HUAYNACCAPAC ; *right-centre*, SNOW POINT ON N. RIDGE OF ALLINCCAPAC ; *Right*, SUMMIT
ICE-CAP OF NUDO ALLINCCAPAC.



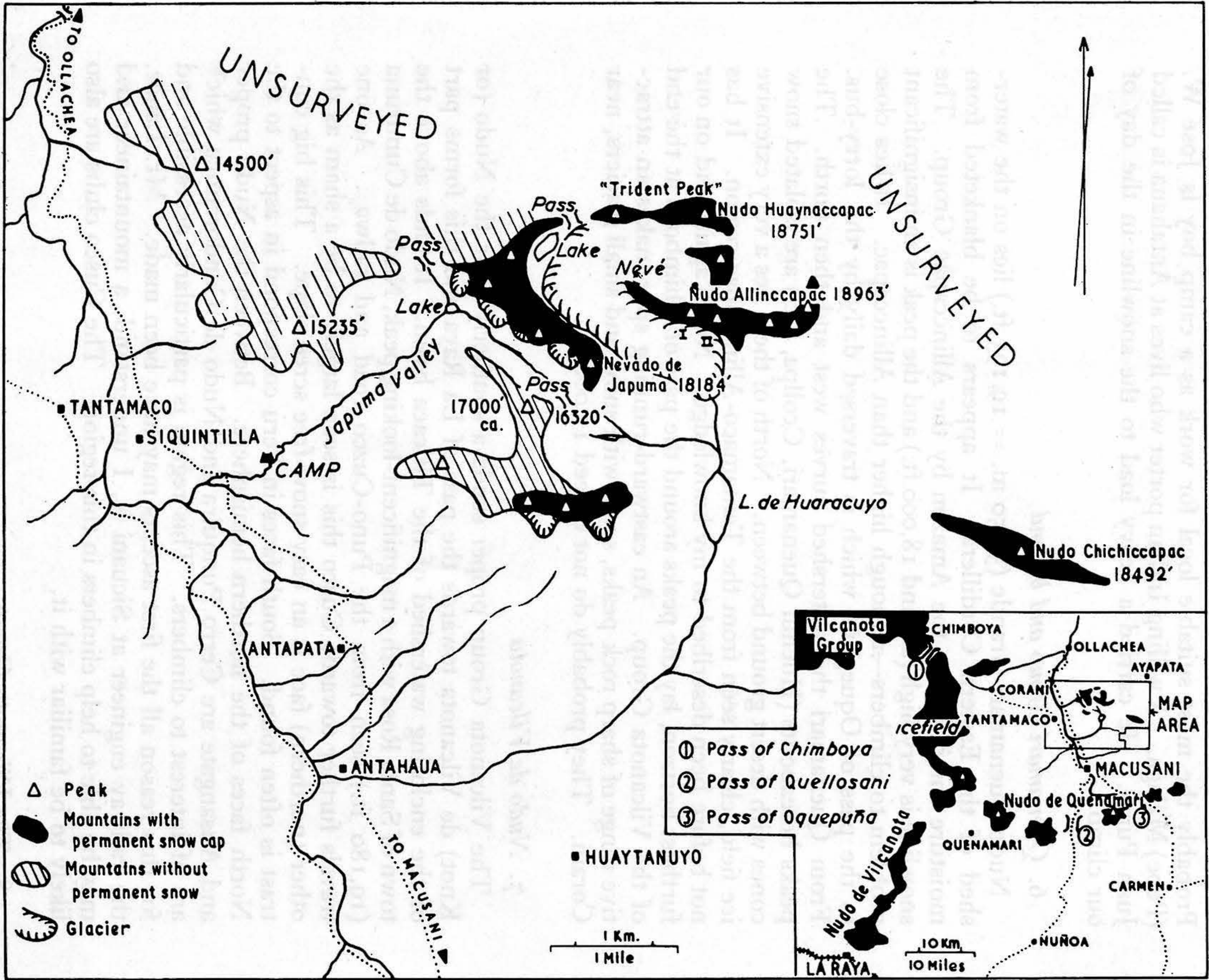


FIG. 2. The Allincapac Group, massif No. 5 in the text. Inset map shows relation to neighbouring massifs, Nos. 6, 7 and 8 of Figure 1.

on alternate days. Mestizo shops in Macusani are plentiful and well-stocked. There is an hotel of sorts and mule-trains are available. Probably the most suitable local for work as a camp boy is José W. (Pepe) Málaga. A willing Indian porter who lives at Antahaua is called Juan Puma. He carried a heavy load to the snowline in the day of our climb.

6. *Quenamari Group and beyond*

Nudo Quenamari Grande (5,850 m. = 19,193 ft.) lies on the watershed of the Eastern Cordillera. It appears to be blanketed from moisture coming from the Amazon by the Allinccapac Group. The snowline is very high (around 18,000 ft.) and the peak is an insignificant problem to climbers—although higher than Allinccapac. It lies close to the pass of Oquepuña which is traversed daily by the lorry-bus. From Quenamari the watershed curves west and then north. The peaks hereabouts (Huchui Quenamari, Ccollpa, etc.) are isolated snow cones with desert ground between. North of them lies a very extensive ice field, clearly seen from the Tantamaco-Allinccapac region. It has not before been described to my knowledge. North again, and on our furthest horizon, lay the peaks around the pass of Chimboya at the end of the Vilcanota Group. An eastward-running spur makes an attractive range of sharp rock peaks, some with snow and small glaciers, near Corani. They probably do not exceed 17,000 ft.

7. *Nudo de Vilcanota*

The Vilcanota Group proper sends a southerly spur the Nudo (or Knot) de Vilcanota towards the pass of La Raya and this forms part of the enclosing watershed of the Titicaca basin. It ends above the town of Santa Rosa with a magnificent-looking peak, Nudo de Cunuruna (19,180 ft.) seen from the Puno-Cuzco road and railway. As one travels further towards Cusco this is seen largely to be a sham as the other (northern) face is an easy snow-free scree slope. This big contrast is often found. South faces in Peru correspond in aspect to the North faces of the northern hemisphere. Between the Nudo proper and Ausangate are Cerro Punquira and Nudo de Condorcunca which are of interest to climbers. This region is particularly accessible and for this reason all the first ascents may have been made. Mr. Lance, the railway engineer at Sicuani is, I understand, a mountaineer and may be able to help climbers in this region. The Cusco clubs are also likely to be familiar with it.

8. *The Vilcanota Group*

This is one of the largest and finest of the Peruvian massifs. Unfortunately, the literature is somewhat confused and it is hard to get a clear picture of the topography and climbing possibilities as a whole. The greatest peak in the range is Ausangate. The A.G.S. map is probably in error in giving its height at 6,153 m. Later estimates for

the principal summit are 6,384 m. (German party), 6,550 m. (Bolinder). It is a great ice-clad mass with at least four summits, situated at the western end of the range. Three (north-west, central and east) were climbed by members of Ghiglione's party (himself, Bolinder and Rebitsch) in August 1952. The highest summit was climbed by the German expedition (F. Maerz, J. Wellenkamp, H. Harrer) on July 24, 1953. Later ascents have been made by F. Marx on April 8, 1954, and by members of the Club Laramani of Cusco on July 4, 1954. Bernard Pierre rightly compares Ausangate seen from Cusco with the Italian face of Mont Blanc. By the West ridge of Ausangate is the rock tower of Surimani (5,450 m.) climbed by Wellenkamp on July 21, 1953. Continuing east along the range one reaches the Callangate (or Cayangate) Group. The summit of this peak (6,001 m.) is the westernmost of four points and was approached by the Germans from the Lauramarca (northern) side. They climbed the North-west face by a much broken ice-fall, to reach a gap in the summit ridge at 5,700 m. and from there to the summit. The Callangate Group also contains Verena (5,750 m.) and Lomellini (5,500 m.) climbed by Ghiglione's party on August 29 and September 3, 1952. An unclimbed peak in this group is Hajangate.

South and east of these peaks are Campa I (5,400 m.), climbed by Wellenkamp by the North ridge on July 1953 and Campa II (5,500 m.) (Wellenkamp and Steinmetz, August 21). These rise from the Pachanta valley.

East of the Callangate peaks is the Yanaloma range with Huayna Ausangate (5,700 m.) and Colque Cruz (6,111 m.). From the village of Huiscachani (4,600 m.) the Germans climbed Huayna Ausangate, a sharp pyramid, by the glacier to its east, thence to the North ridge and finally by very steep ice on the North face of the summit cone (August 2).

Colque Cruz was approached from a camp at 4,800 m., three hours east of Huiscachani. It was a complex, difficult and dangerous climb, by an involved glacier basin, to reach the West ridge at a deep gap. The ridge was double corniced and ended with 60 metres of steep iced rocks. Descent by rappels (August 4, 1953).

T. De Booy noted a peak in this region (Pirhuayani) which might be identical with Huayna Ausangate, and the A.G.S. map marks another called Huiscachani. In the area further to the south-east, near to the pass of Chimboya is the Coilliriti (or Coylloriti) Group. P. Ghiglione and F. Marx are credited with the ascent of the peak on August 25, 1953, in *El Comercio*, the Lima daily paper (July 28, 1954, issue). *Alpinisme* (No. 106, p. 333) records the ascent of the neighbouring peak of Colquepunco (6,020 m.) on August 22, 1953, by the same pair, but not the ascent of Coilliriti. J. A. Douglas has noted a peak called Chimboya immediately north of the pass of the same name.

Access to most of the Vilcanota ranges is relatively easy. They are quite near to Cusco and a car road runs along the whole northern front of the mountains on its way to Marcapata in the Amazon jungle.

Hacienda Lauramarca has in the past been a much-used base owing to its suitable position and to the hospitality of its owner Don Carlos de Luichi Lomellini.

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 U.S.A.F. Sheet 1136.
 GHIGLIONE, P. 1 : 250,000 in *Berge der Welt*, 1951, pp. 181-95.

9. *Nudo de Ayacachi*

A little-known group forming the north-east side of the Paucartambo valley, linked to the Colque Cruz region by the ridge on which is the pass of Huallahualla (traversed by the road to Marcapata). The peaks are snowy, but certainly lower than 6,000 m. The highest peaks are Condorani, Payacraca, Ayacachi and Paccopampa. Maps—as in No. 8. References as in No. 8, with also Oppenheim, V. and Spann, H. J., *Boletín 5, Inst. Geol. del Perú* (for Paccopampa).

10. *Eastern Cordillera Vilcabamba*

These peaks lie east of the Urubamba river in the Ollantaitambo-Pisac region. They would be relatively easy of access from Cusco by the narrow-gauge Santa Ana railway or by truck, followed by a mule-train. Apart from the beautiful peak of Veronica mentioned by Oberlin there are Hanancoma (east and west peaks : 5,625 m. and 5,685 m.) and Huacratanca (5,914 m.) climbed by Ghiglione and Marx on September 6 and 7, 1953, Padre Eterno (or Hucaivilca : 6,250 m.), which the above party explored. The latter is the highest peak in the Veronica area. There are also Sawasiray (or Saguasiray) and Chicon. Fine views of Veronica appear in Bingham's book *Lost City of the Incas* (Phoenix House, London). The whole range is composed of peaks of admirable outlines and climbing promise.

11. *Central Cordillera Vilcabamba*

To Oberlin's summary it is only necessary to add that Soray (Huantantay) was climbed on August 2, 1953, by P. Ghiglione, A. Parodi, T. Mazenhauer and F. Marx.

12. *Southern Cordillera Vilcabamba*

This is a single restricted mass comprising the peak of Ampay (or Jayuri) (5,228 m.), which rises behind Abancay and is well seen from the main Lima road across the Pachachaca river from Abancay. It

appears to have no great difficulties and could be climbed with the comfortable Hotel Turistas at Abancay as a base and perhaps one night's camp near the snowline before the climb.

REFERENCE

BERNARD PIERRE (*loc. cit.*) gives full information on, and other references to the Vilcabamba peaks.

13, 14. *Lesser Ranges*

These, including Huagoruncho (East-north-east of Cerro de Pasco), are unlikely to attract the attention of an expedition from Europe, as greater ranges lie to the north and south. The most complete summary of these groups is in Bernard Pierre's book. Maps additional to those quoted are in J. V. Harrison's paper, 'Surveying in the Eastern Andes of Central Peru,' *Geographical Journal*, vol. 110, 1947. Dr. Harrison, of the Department of Geology, Oxford University, knows and has mapped all this area.

15. *Cordillera Huayhuash*

In addition to peaks noted by Oberlin, Puscanturpa (5,652 m.) was climbed on July 16, 1954, by Bachmann and Lugmaier, Jirishanca Chico (5,467 m.), by Klier and Lugmaier (all of the Austrian Alpine Club).

16. *Cordillera Blanca*

Some of the peaks listed below as recently climbed, are in this range.

Recent Ascents

In the Independence Day (July 28) Supplement, 1954, the newspaper *El Comercio* of Lima published a long article, 'Andinismo en el Peru,' by Alfonso Miró Quesada, including a list of peaks recently climbed, but unfortunately without an indication of where they all lie. The following is a list taken therefrom, excluding peaks mentioned in the text above. A number corresponding to those in Fig. 1 to indicate the range is put in where possible. I also give, from the same article, a list of Peruvian climbing clubs. These might well help with useful information and arrangements.

<i>Peak</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Party</i>
Pakcharuri	August 4, 1952	16?	Grupo Andinista Cordillera Blanca.
San Cristobal	August 15, 1952	16	Grupo Andinista Cordillera Blanca.
Rajupakinan	January 29, 1953	16?	Ing. Torres, Dr. La Rosa Sánchez.
Lasuntay	?	13	Grupo 'Los Intrepidos.'
Rimarima	?	16?	A. Morales Arnao, G. and P. Yanac.
Urus	March 8, 1954	16	A. Morales Arnao, G. and P. Yanac.
Yana Ujshu	?	16?	S. Rodriguez, D. Cerron.
Vallanraju	June 17, 24, 1954	16?	?
Huancro	July 6, 1954	13?	Club Andinista, Huancayo.

Clubs

- Lima : Club Andino Lima.
 Club Peruano de Montana.
 Huarás : Grupo Andinista Cordillera Blanca.
 Huancayo : Club Andinista ' Los Intrepid.'
 Club Andinista Huancayo.
 Arequipa : Club de Andinismo de Arequipa.
 Club ' Bon Ami.'
 Cusco : Club Andinista ' Laramani.'
 Matucana : Club ' Internacional.'

I hope that these notes will be of use for reference purposes. These wonderful peaks are ready and waiting to be visited. Those yet unclimbed will not wait for British parties. They are being climbed very rapidly by other Europeans and Americans, and now increasingly by Peruvians. For anyone who wants to take part in the exploration phase of these ranges the time is now.