



AAC Publications

Parchamo, West Face of North Ridge

Nepal, Rolwaling Himal

In November 1996, Kili Sherpa and I climbed a line on the far left side of the west face of Parchamo (6,273m) to reach the shoulder on the north ridge at around 5,950m. From our camp at approximately 5,485m on the Drolambo (Drolambau) Glacier, we began the route at a rock band of excellent granite, split by obvious cracks that led to good climbing on a mix of snow and rock. This was followed by steep névé. Fifteen pitches brought us to the normal route on the north ridge. We descended from there, reaching our tents on Tesi Lapcha Pass (5,755m) by midnight.

This line is well to the left of the direct route climbed in 2014 by Alan Rousseau and Tino Villanueva (USA). In Villanueva's photo published in AAJ 2015 (see photo below with the 2014 line), it lies left of the obvious large serac formations on an upper hanging glacier. The face had much more snow in 1996 and the seracs were less menacing.

– Tad Welch, USA

Images



Parchamo's west face, showing the 2014 Rousseau-Villanueva route. In 1996, Kili Sherpa (Nepal) and Tad Welch (USA) climbed a line of about 15 pitches to reach the north ridge and descended from there; the 1996 route lay to the left of the obvious large seracs.

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