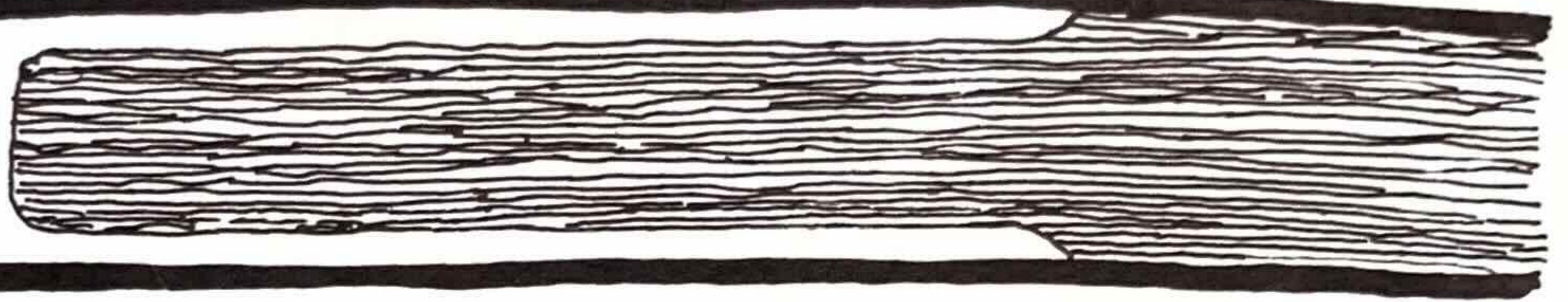


ROCKCLIMBING IN THE
WARRUMBUNGLES.

GRAHAM TISO



Send for Illustrated Catalogue

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Edinburgh 7
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ROCKCLIMBING

in

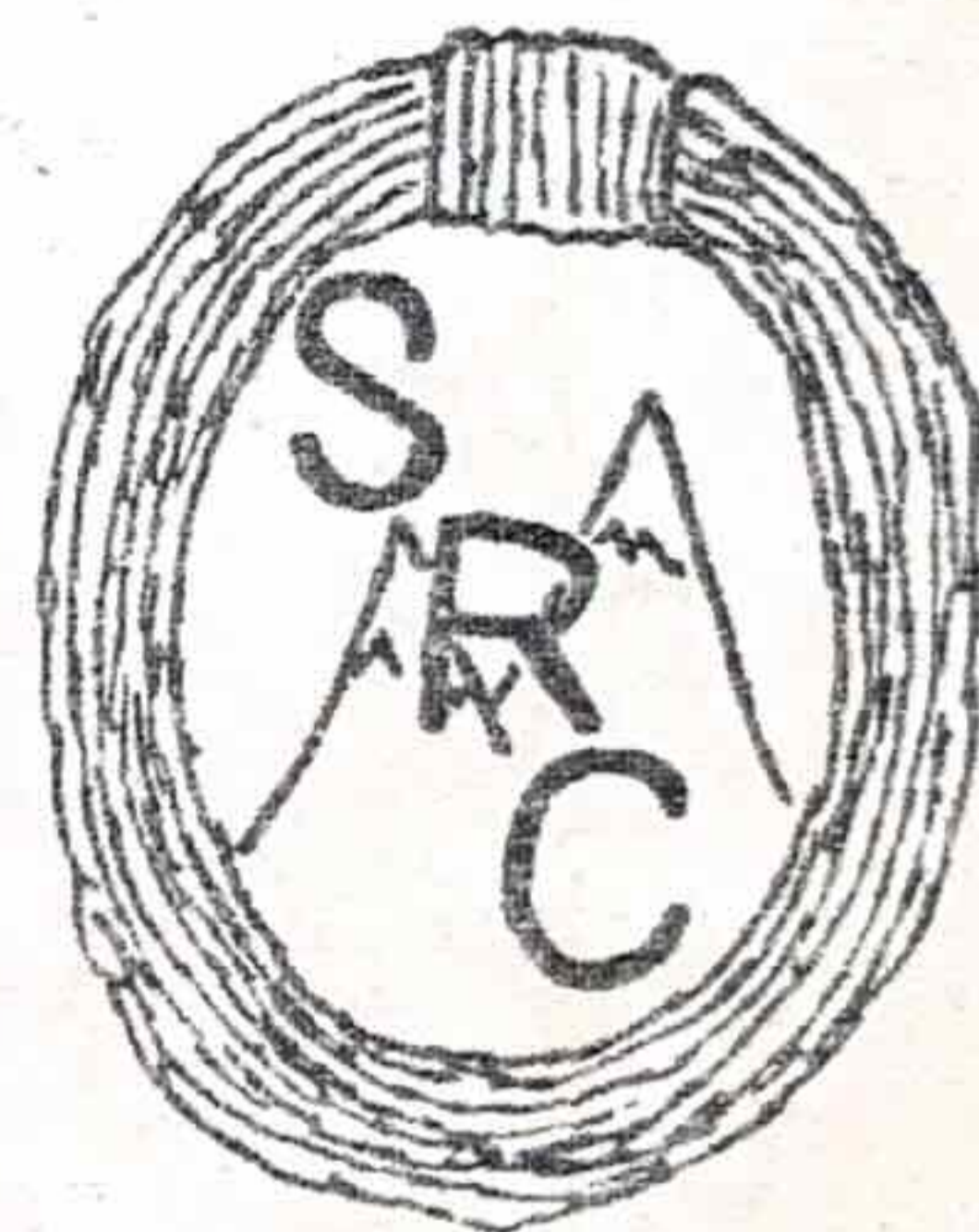
the

WARRUMBUNGLES.



First Edition; 1973

Published by



THRUTCH
50 Ryan Place,
Beacon Hill,
N.S.W. 2033

The
SYDNEY ROCKCLIMBING CLUB,
P.O. Box A592,
Sydney South,
N.S.W. 2000

INTRODUCTION

This book forms a natural successor to Thrutch's previous publications in this field. Around 1969 when work started on this project it was felt that climbs in the Warrumbungle Mountains required immediate coverage as they were in danger of disappearing into complete oblivion with their route descriptions being lost forever.

In many cases it was difficult to dig up accurate records and verify grades and names, let alone pitch lengths. Many face climbs follow no direct route, and variations are both endless and difficult to document. In 1971 we felt we were in a position to print, but pressures on Thrutch built up and publications seemed to slip aside. During 1972 the work was 'lost' and early in 1973 it was found. It's appearance now is mainly due to pushing from Warwick Williams, who has also given valuable advice and aid.

Other individuals who have assisted materially were John Ewbank, who supplied material for the history and access to his climbing records; Bryden Allen who supplied information on some little known routes and who's "Rock-climbs in N.S.W." inspired this revision; John Davis for unlimited access to his vast photographic collection; to Mrs Monteath for drawings of the Spires; Mrs A Pavey for typing manuscripts; to Sue Royce for typing the final work, and Colin Monteath for helping the idea move initially. Thanks to all who have assisted in production.

Corrections and additions should be sent to THRUTCH or THE SYDNEY ROCKCLIMBING CLUB.

We hope you enjoy rockclimbing in the Warrumbungles as much as we have - they are a truly beautiful and unique piece of Australia.

-Andrew Pavey
1973

C O N T E N T S

- 1 Geology
- 3 History
- 5 Access Map
- 6 Camping And Access
- 8 Sketch of Belougery Spire
- 9-18 Belougery Spire (routes)
- 18-26 The Breadknife (routes)
- 27-35 Crater Bluff (routes)
- 30 Sketch of Crater Bluff (from North)
- 36 Sketch of Bluff Mountain
- 37-41 Bluff Mountain (routes)
- 42 Naman (routes)
- 43 The Needle (routes)
- 44 Tonduron (routes)
- 46 Mata Rocks (route)
- 47 Belougery Split Rock (route)
- 48 Mopera Rock and Timor Rock

PREFACE

In 1962 when I started climbing in N.S.W. the Warrumbungles was considered by most N.S.W. climbers to offer the best climbing in the state - possibly in Australia. I climbed in the area from 1962 to 1965 and concurred with this general view. Since then our opinion has changed but I think the pendulum of reaction has swung too far. Certainly the 'Bungles cannot compare with Piddington or Booroomba for cleanness of lines, quality of rock or technical interest. What it does offer, however, is a unique adventure into the unknown. On all major routes you will have a high probability of losing the route and spending the night on the face. Most routes contain some superb quality rock as well as some dubious chunder. One is likely to freeze in a biting wind in early morning then suffer from heat exhaustion in mid afternoon. On all routes one will have magnificent situations by the glorious scenery of the Warrumbungle National Park.

One point seems to emerge from this guide - that future editors could be more selective in describing routes in detail. Mentioning many of the non-descript climbs in general terms. Certainly many of my climbs could be happily chopped out. This could lead to more brief, useable guides.

Thus I hope this guide persuades climbers to taste again the peculiar joys of climbing in the 'Bungles. In particular the longer, harder routes of Bluff Mt, North Face of Tonduron and the faces of the Breadknife deserve at least some ascents.

Congratulations to Warwick Williams, Andrew Pavey et alia on bringing out this fine guide to climbing in the Warrumbungles. This is a definitive text on all that has been done in the 'Bungles and should be and deserves to be well used.

Bryden Allen

31/7/73

GEOLOGY OF THE WARRUMBUNGLES

The oldest rocks deposited in the region are Permian conglomerates and shales, outcropping at Canyon Camp. The next rocks to be deposited are the Jurassic sandstones, which outcrop extensively along the roads into the lower Bungles and along Wombelong and Spirey creeks.

No rocks were then deposited until the tertiary but by the beginning of the Tertiary there was probably a fairly typical mature topography (PENEPLAIN) in the area. This consisted of a series of streams flowing north west through wide valleys out into the flatlying sandstones.

During the Tertiary period volcanic activity accompanied by varying degrees of uplifting became a feature of the eastern side of the continent. The nature of the vulcanism was marked by large scale outpourings of basalts which formed massive flows and buried the previous topography. (In the Bungles region it appears the magma intruded the underlying sediments to form a lacolith, which acted as a magma reservoir.) This uplifted the sediments forming a blister. The first volcanic activity of the Bungles complex was the outpouring of extensive flows of olivine basalt which submerged the surrounding landscape, filling the valleys with deep layers of basalt and covering the broad ridges inbetween with less deep strata. These lava flows emanated from one or possibly more fissures in the earth's crust. The location of the fissure or fissures is not yet known, but it has been suggested that it might have been located along the eastern boundary of the park between Mt Wheok and Tonduron Spire, or along the line between Mt Caraghan, Needle Mt, The Bluff and Mt Exmouth. A third line of trachyte features suggestive of an old fissure can be traced from Bluff Mt to Beloungery Split Rock. Subsequent volcanic activity has, however, thoroughly confused the location of the original fissures from which the initial basaltic flows were extruded. Following these basaltic outpourings the lava becomes more trachytic, with basaltic flows still occurring but decreasing in quantity. Thus it appears that the Bungles volcanic pile was built up by successive and alternating extrusions of basalt and trachyte, but that the overall trend from the early period of volcanic activity to the latest was one of a decreasing volume of basalt relative to trachyte being extruded.

An almost continuous flow of lava systematically building up a huge shield volcano did not take place in the Bungles. Instead alternate and gradually varying extrusions of basalt

and trachyte occurred, with at least four phases of violent volcanic activity producing strata of oftenuunconsolidated pyroclastic deposits. The pyroclastic material produced is predominately of trachytic composition.. Some of these pyroclastics can be seen on the track beside the Breadknife. It is probable that domes and spires similar to those which are now exposed must have been formed during the earlier phases of the volcano, but these were presumably explosively destroyed. This explosive activity being due to the gas pressures being created in the magma chamber and the trachytic plug or plugs being explosively ejected.

Hence no major features of the trachytic rocks of these periods would necessarily remain as evidence. This cyclic process was repeated at least four times during the life of the complex.

During the later periods of volcanic activity trachyte and trachydolerite intrusions were injected into the above basalts trachytes and pyroclasts and are now revealed as large domes, spires and dykes. It is most unlikely that all the now exposed trachyte emplacements were formed during the last period and so some would presumably represent earlier phases of trachytic emplacement. There is evidence that some of the trachyte features were intruded in an almost solid state. In such a situation a column of volcanic material is forced vertically into the air by pressures derived from beneath.

Volcanic activity ceased about twelve million years ago, and the landsurface in the Bungles area was one of a huge pile of volcanic debris forming a CONOPLAIN surface. The volcanic pile was quickly attacked by rejuvenated erosion, resulting in a classical centrifugal drainage system establishing itself with streams all flowing directly off the conoplain to the surrounding flat plains. However during the emplacement of the volcanic pile the ancestral bed of the Castlereagh River was blocked, so it has been forced to almost circle the Bungles, to continue its north west flow.

...Brian Luxford

HISTORY

The Warrumbungles were discovered in 1818 by the Surveyor General, John Oxley, on his second inland expedition. Prior to this an aboriginal tribe, the Kamilaroi, occupied the general area. Oxley named the highest peak in the area Mt Wambelong (1208.5m), now popularly called Mt Exmouth (the real Mt Exmouth is now Mt Bullaway).

The first rockclimbing in the area took place in 1934 with a visit by members of the Blue Mountaineers (affectionately known as the Katoomba Suicide Club) when Dr Eric Dark and Osmar White climbed Tonduron via the 'West Ridge' and Belougerie Spire via the well known 'Tourist Route'. In 1935 there was a second trip, this time including some members of Sydney Bushwalkers, and Dr Dark made the first ascent of Crater Bluff with Dot Butler (nee English) when they accidentally set fire to the top.

Although these routes are of no great technical interest, they are notable as being amongst the first rockclimbs ever done in Australia. The equipment and techniques used were magnificently primitive, and access to the area somewhat less of a jaunt than it has become.

After these early efforts no further climbs of any note were recorded until the first ascent of the Breadknife via the South Arete in 1954, by Russ Kippax and Bill Peascod. The next ascent accomplished by the same pair in that year was Vintage Rib on Crater Bluff - this remained the hardest climb in the area for six years, and did not have a second ascent for ten years. Exactly where the original route went is still not certain, but it was definitely the best climb prior to those of the early sixties.

The area became popular in the late fifties, when a number of medium grade routes were accomplished, notably the North Arete of the Breadknife in '56, again a route led by Kippax, with Rootes, Field and Hardy, and in '58 The Diagonal Route on Crater Bluff, also by Peter Hardy and Jeff Field. The only other route of note was The North Face route on Crater, put up by Ted Batty and Ron Malor in 1960.

The big wipe-out of the entire area started in '62, with the arrival of Bryden Allen and Ted Batty. The pair started with the first ascent of Lieben, quickly followed by Cornerstone Rib and Out and Beyond all in the same year. The following year saw Scunge Gully and Lieder by the same pair. Bryden then proceeded to pick the eyes out of the place by turning his attention to the Breadknife. This time accompanied by a young and inexperienced Chris Regan he did the first ascent of the West Face - Heartstopper. Regan was in full

accord with this choice of name. In the late afternoon of the same day they went on to do the much easier (after Heartstopp anything would have been easier), Minor Route, also on the same face, but taking a much easier and lower line. The orgy continued into '64, taking in the first ascent of the East Face, again with Batty (Regan could not be found), the first ascent of the face of Namor - this with a completely inexperienced second ("say what are these spikes for?", "how are we going to get the rope up there?"). On Crater Bluff, with Batty, the ascent of Job. Lastly attention was turned to the great face of the 'Bungles, that of Bluff Mountain, and with John Ewbank he ascended Elijha.

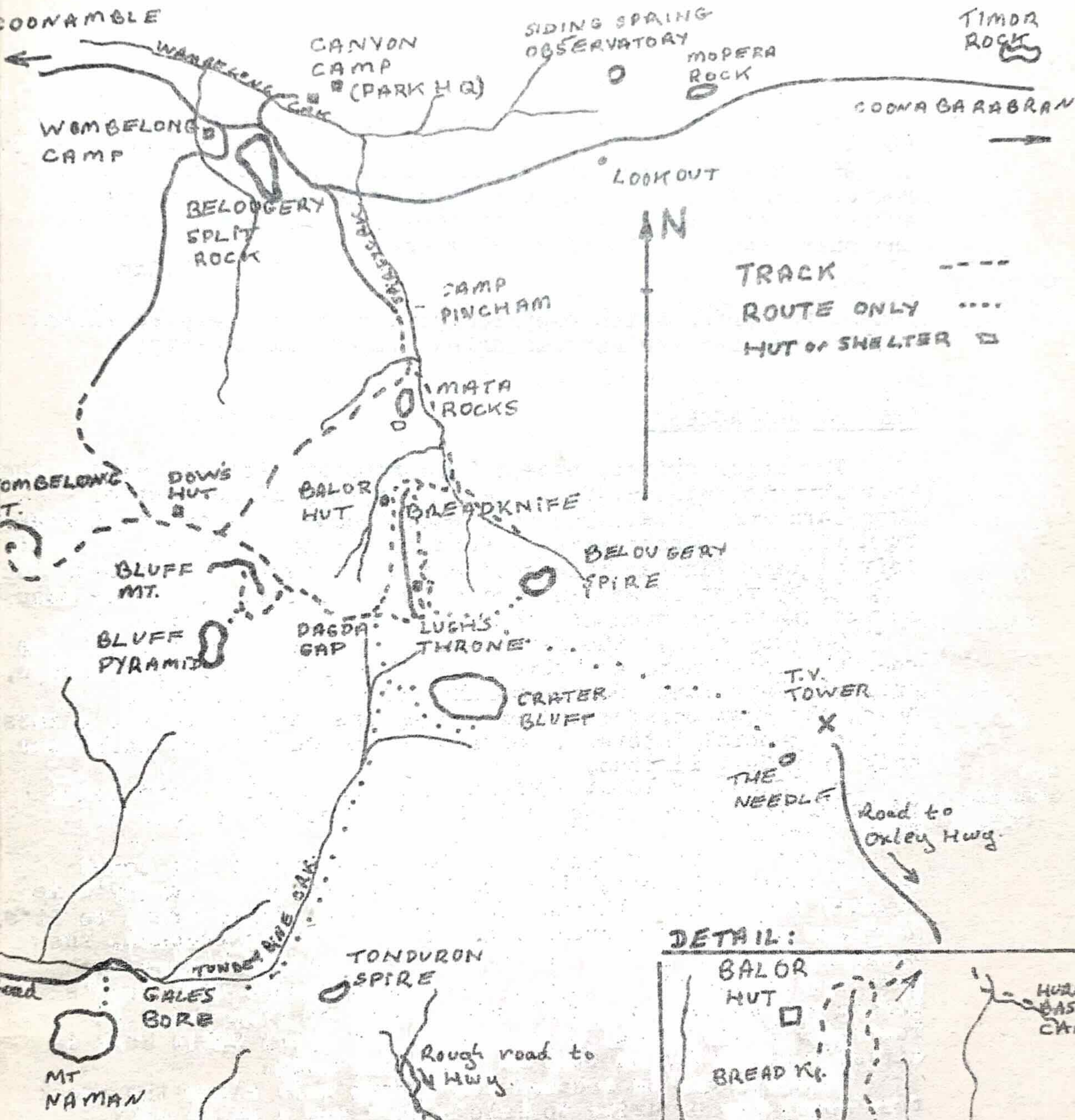
These climbs are not only outstanding in their consistency, difficulty, class and general high quality, but are all the more noteworthy when the equipment used is taken into consideration. For example on Lieben only three or four pitons, these were next to useless, and apart from the occasional bit of string around a block here and there this was about it. Add to this Ted Batty in sandals and an extremely hot day and the route will be seen as a considerable achievement. If anything Heartstopper was even more astounding in the manner in which it was climbed, as with Lieben, straight off with no previous recce. The easier climbs out of this group have become classics, though repeats were sometimes a long time coming. At the same time, the harder routes have rarely been touched.

These climbs were in fact the first hard routes in modern sense to ever be climbed in Australia, at the time several grades above anything in existence elsewhere.

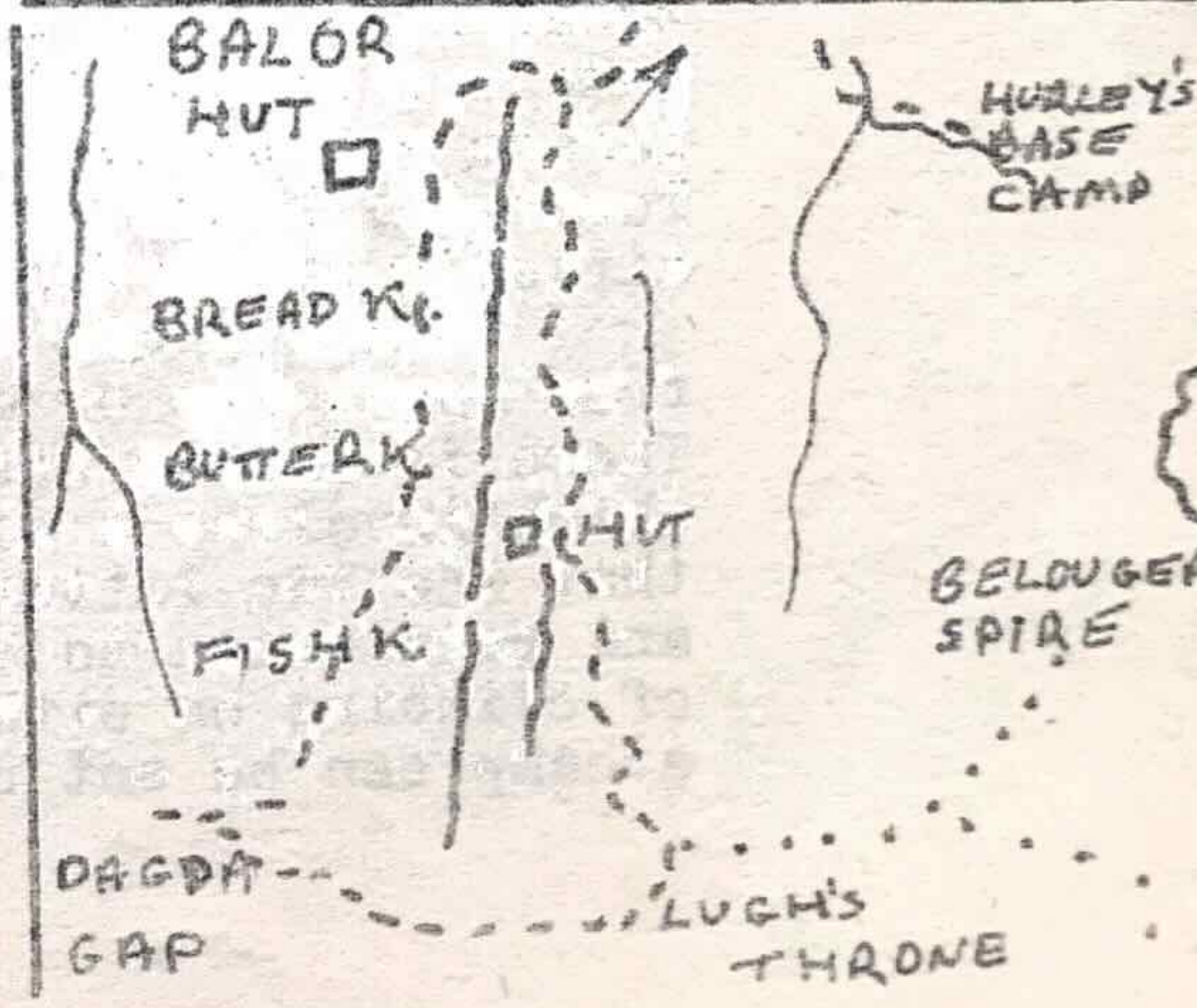
In early 1965 Bryden and John Davis made the first ascent of Northern Groove, so far the only route on Tondurion of any real class. It is sustained at a high standard and has been repeated only once.

The only two routes of any significance to be done in this four year period apart from those by Bryden are Broadswor the girdle traverse of the West Face of the Breadknife by Ewbank and Davis in '64, and Caucasus Corner on Belongery, by Lawrence and Witham.

The next burst was in late '66 and early '67 :- a series of short hard routes on the West Face of the Butterknife and Crucifixion, a route similar to Lieben on the West Face of Crater Bluff. Since then the only activity has really been on Bluff Mountain with Ginsberg and Stonewall Jackson in '69 by Bryden and Ewbank followed by Icarus by Keith Bell and Greg Mortimer in late '72.



DETAIL:



THE WARRUMBUNGLES
 Drawn W. WILLIAMS, July '72 (not to scale)

Perhaps there will be a major effort in the near future but as suggested by Bryden Allen in "The Rockclimbs of N.S.W." in 1963, the presence of definite lines is limited - hence routes tend to wander and are hard to pinpoint. However the amount of good quality rock in the area is almost limitless and only requires the right climbers.

Warwick Williams

Thanks for information supplied primarily from Bryden Allen, John Ewbank and The Warrumbungles Historical Society.

CAMPING AND ACCESS

The major spires, except Tonduron, are located within the Warrumbungle National Park, roughly twenty miles west of Coonabarabran, N.S.W.. The best road access is from Coonabarabran via the Coonabarabran - Coonamble road. Cars are usually left at Camp Pincham (the road ends) and further access to the Park is by foot on well marked and graded tracks. Please stay on the tracks as much as possible to minimise erosion etc..

Camping within the Park itself is restricted for obvious reasons hence there are three main campsites used by climbers, Hurley's Base Camp, Dow's Hut and Balor Hut, the latter being the most popular and providing easy access to the climbs of more general interest. Balor Hut is a one and one half hour walk from Camp Pincham.

Dow's Hut is located close to Bluff Mountain and hence is ideal for these routes and the old practice routes on Bluff Pyramid.

Crater Bluff is reached by the Dagda Short Cut track and following the creek bed to the West Face. Belougery's is reached from Lugh's Throne, following the marked trail to its northern end, from where all climbs are easily reached. The Breadknife, well if you can't find it from Balor give the game up. The Needle is again via a vague track from Lugh's Throne which involves much bush bashing or from the T.V. Tower which has a road to its base. Belougery Split Rock is directly above Canyon Camp or Wombelong Camp.

Tonduron can be reached via a long walk along the creek from Dagda Gap or drive to Gale's Bore and a short walk. There is also a road (?) up the valley on the South East side which involves a very short amble indeed. It should be noted that the two latter routes involve crossing private property and permission to enter should be obtained. If a great deal of climbing on either Tonduron or Mount Namon is anticipated a camp can be set up at Gale's Bore.

Mopera Rock and Timor Rock are each reached from the Coonabarabran Road.

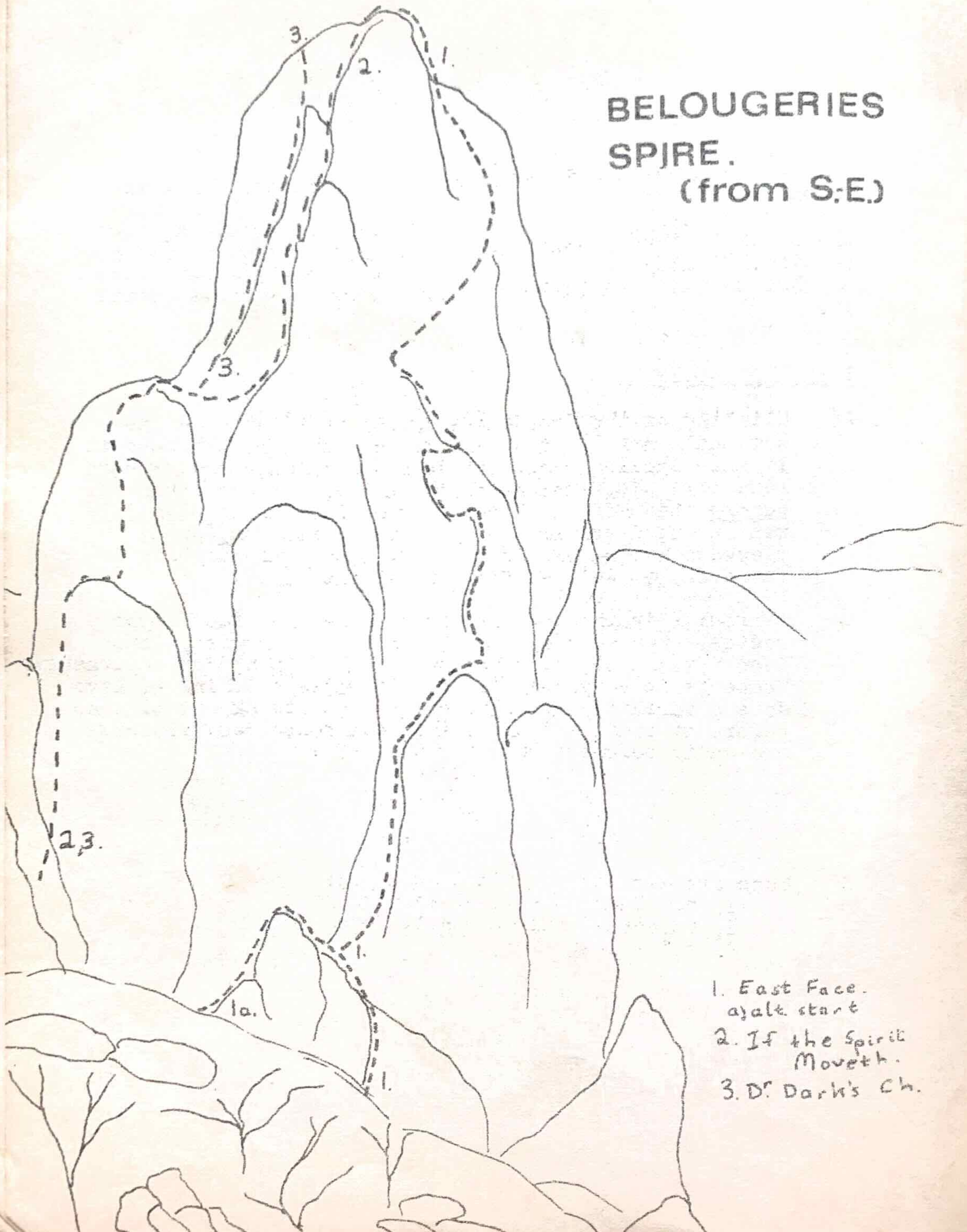
If you stay in the huts; hut fees are payable as are the usual National Park fees, remember to carry out all your rubbish. Finally for those who are that way inclined there are hot showers available at Canyon Camp, if you can stand it.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- A/ Climbing on the Breadknife is now prohibited by the National Park Trust as the trail lies directly beneath it and 'falling rocks are dangerous' (unquote). Please remember this. The photos in this guide were taken before the ban was placed and the section on climbing was included primarily for historic reasons, as it played a large part in the development of climbing in the area, as well as for general interest.
- B/ As routes in the 'Bungles tend to mainly 'face' type routes, they have a natural tendency to wander. Route descriptions of faces are thus hard to pinpoint accurately. Hence it is very easy to get off route or think to have done a variant. Take note of this and think out pitches before starting and check that new route descriptions are valid before submitting them to:-
 Climbs Recorder
 Sydney Rockclimbing Club
 P.O. Box A592
 Sydney South 2000
- C/ Maps are kept to a minimum assuming:
 1. the Park is self explanatory
 2. Coonabarabran is easily found and
 3. we're lazy.

WW 7/73

BELOUGERIES
SPIRE.
(from S.E.)



1. East Face.
ayak start
2. If the Spirit
Moveth.
3. Dr. Dark's Ch.

**RICK
WHITE'S**

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POINT V

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UIAA Ropes and Cords.

SALEWA

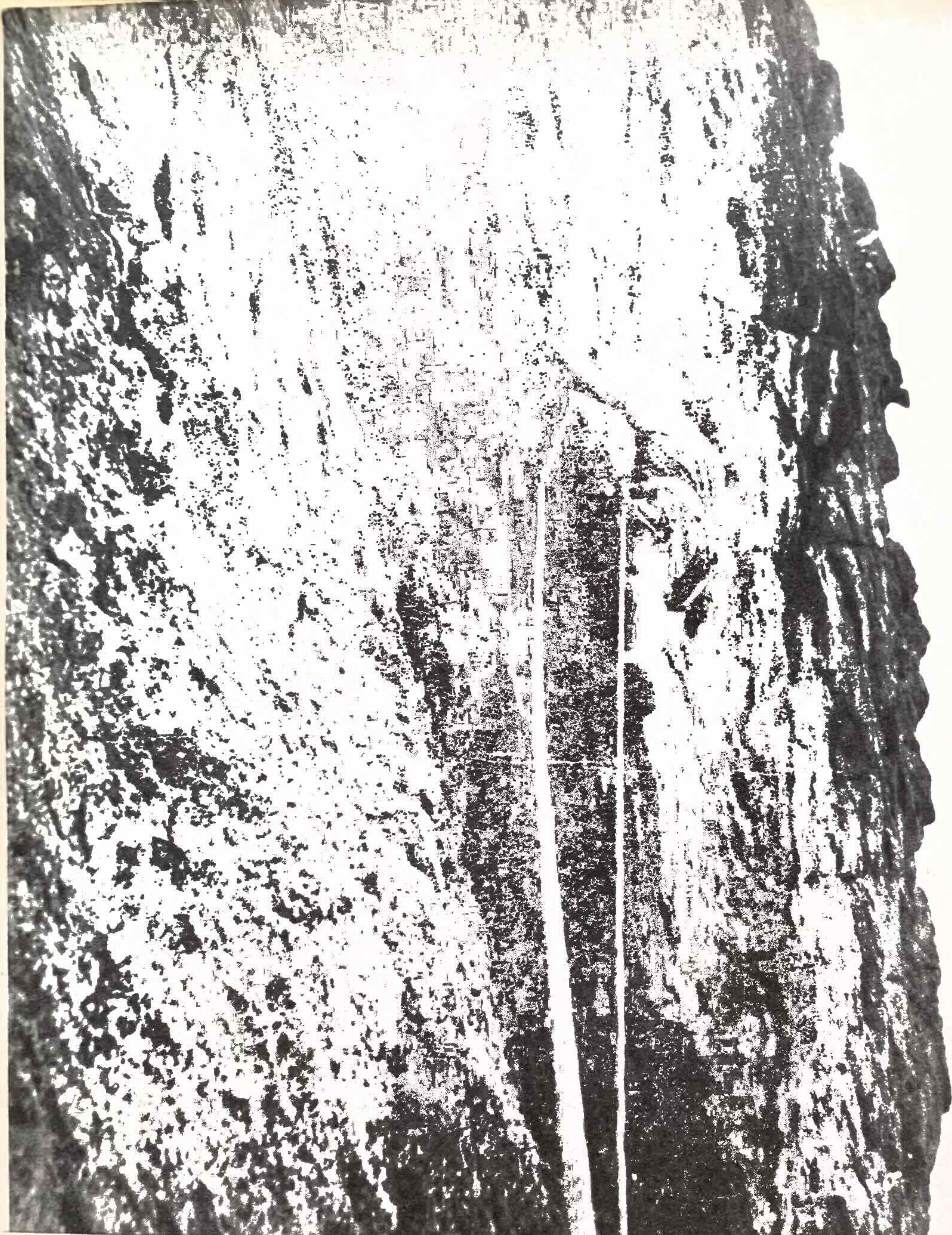
Crampons, Ice-screws, Belay plates.

SEAB

High load packs, Tents.

WRITE:

PO BOX 12, TOOWONG 4066, BRISBANE, QLD. Ph. 933771.



VERTICALITY

Contemplating committance
to the crux of "The Rapier"
on the west face of the
Butterknife, Warrumbungles.

BELOUGERYS SPIRE

EAST FACE ROUTE(S)

Grade 10

850'

Several lines have been climbed but details are vague. First climbed by Kippax, Field, Hardy. A route to the right of that described below has been ascribed to K & T Westren.

Start: At the south east corner.

- Pitch 1:100' Follow up a vertical chimney (40') then out on the right till stopped by an overhang. Awkwardly back into the chimney and squeeze up.
- 2:60' Scramble left to the base of small corner.
- 3:90' Up to small ledge then up on rotten rock to overhang. Traverse left around nose then up to tree trunks as belay.
- 4:100' Scramble around and up right into gully bearing right.
- 5:90' Climb buttress on the right to tree belay.
- 6:120' Traverse left 10' into gully, thence up (50') until a traverse out right onto a large slab is possible. Up on the right to a gully sloping left.
- 7:110' Up the gully then back right to piton belay.
- 8:90' Up to the left then back to right to strong tree belay.
- 9:90' Up to the summit ridge.

C Ivin
 B Montgomery
 P Griffiths 1958

OUT AND BEYOND

Grade 15

830'

A climb which goes very much into the unknown. A novel start and an exhilarating finish make a magnificent climb.

Start: On the north east face. Find the prominent pinnacle on the east face and then traverse towards the north.

Pitch 1:80' Climb onto the bridge between the pinnacle and the face via a short wall south of the pinnacle. This includes a vicious fight with scrub in a delicate position. However this whole pitch may be avoided by a long traverse along a scrubby ledge.

2:120' A novel pitch. Belay on top of the pinnacle. The leader then allows himself to fall from halfway up the pinnacle onto the face, the gap is about 6'. A short wall and then a long delicate and rotten traverse to the right till a large broken boulder is reached. The exposure increases dramatically.

3:100' Upwards.

4:100' To the right, then up through scrub.

5:100' Up, mostly through scrub.

6:100' One now finds oneself on the wall with a corner on the left. Up on magnificent rock.

7:30' Traverse right and up delicately. Good stance and belay.

8:100' Traverse right, then back up left till one finds oneself on a magnificent belay beneath an overhang and a tremendous drop below.

9:100' Cunningly avoid the overhang by a hand traverse above the corner. Easier rock to the top.

Bryden Allen
Ted Batty 1962

DIRECT FINISH

Grade 14

Pitch 6a:90' From the diagonal band of mack, follow the line to the top, up the obvious crack corner.

7a:160' Follow the line to the top.

Rick White
P Caffyn 7 Apr 1969

SCUNGE GULLY

Grade 15

1070'

One of the longest climbs in the 'Bungles. Grade 13 if the final chimney can be squeezed.

Start: Above the scunge in the centre of the north face, up the scrubby gully, come to the chimney leading right.

- Pitch 1:40' Up to the large Moreton Bay figs.
 2:110' A delicate start, then up through the scrub.
 3:50' Move right towards the rib and belay before it in the corner.
 4:80' Up to a large platform without belay on the rib.
 5:30' Up left to a good piton belay.
 6:80' Continue up. A good tree belay.
 7:60' Long stretch to the gully and up (?).
 8:80' Up with some rotten rock.
 9:90' One comes to a bush.
 10:80' To the conspicuous chimney.
 11:80' Up to a good chockstone belay.
 12:50' Either up in the chimney (13) or (dangerously) on the outside (15), up through rotten rock to a stance belay.
 13:90' Up then easily on, out to the right.
 14:80' Up the pleasant little walls.
 15:70' An easy walk finishes to the top.

Bryden Allen
 Ted Batty 1963

CAUCASUS CORNER

Grade 17

1080'

Often mistakenly called "Prometheus Bound" .

Start: 50yds right of S cunge Gully.

- Pitch 1:150' Up for 30', then diagonally traverse up to the left to a belay at the foot of a corner sloping steeply right.
- 2:70' Up corner. Bush belay.
- 3:120' Step out left to the rib and up easily to the base of the projecting buttress.
- 4:95' Traverse right and up steep wall to the right of the groove. Belay on ledge above small layback.
- 5:70' Up the corner and finish through loose blocks and then scramble up to the large green ledge. (First ascent party camped here!)
- 6:110' Traverse left and slightly down across the wall, delicately (on small holds) across to the foot of the huge corner.
- 7:80' Up corner to belay on block under impending wall on the left. (rotten rock bridge to the right).
- 8:60' Out right to avoid loose blocks and up wall to stance below overhang. (peg in place).
- 9:80' Traverse left across corner and up diagonally left (loose blocks abound). Good belay ledge on extreme edge. Peg belay 5' above.
- 10:70' Round corner to left and past first groove. Climb second groove to ledge. (Escape to left possible).
- 11:70' Begin up to right. From peg in small corner go up nose on left and into groove. (small overhangs). Belay on shelf.
- 12:110' Step right and swing up through overhangs. Left and up to peg. Left and up to summit.

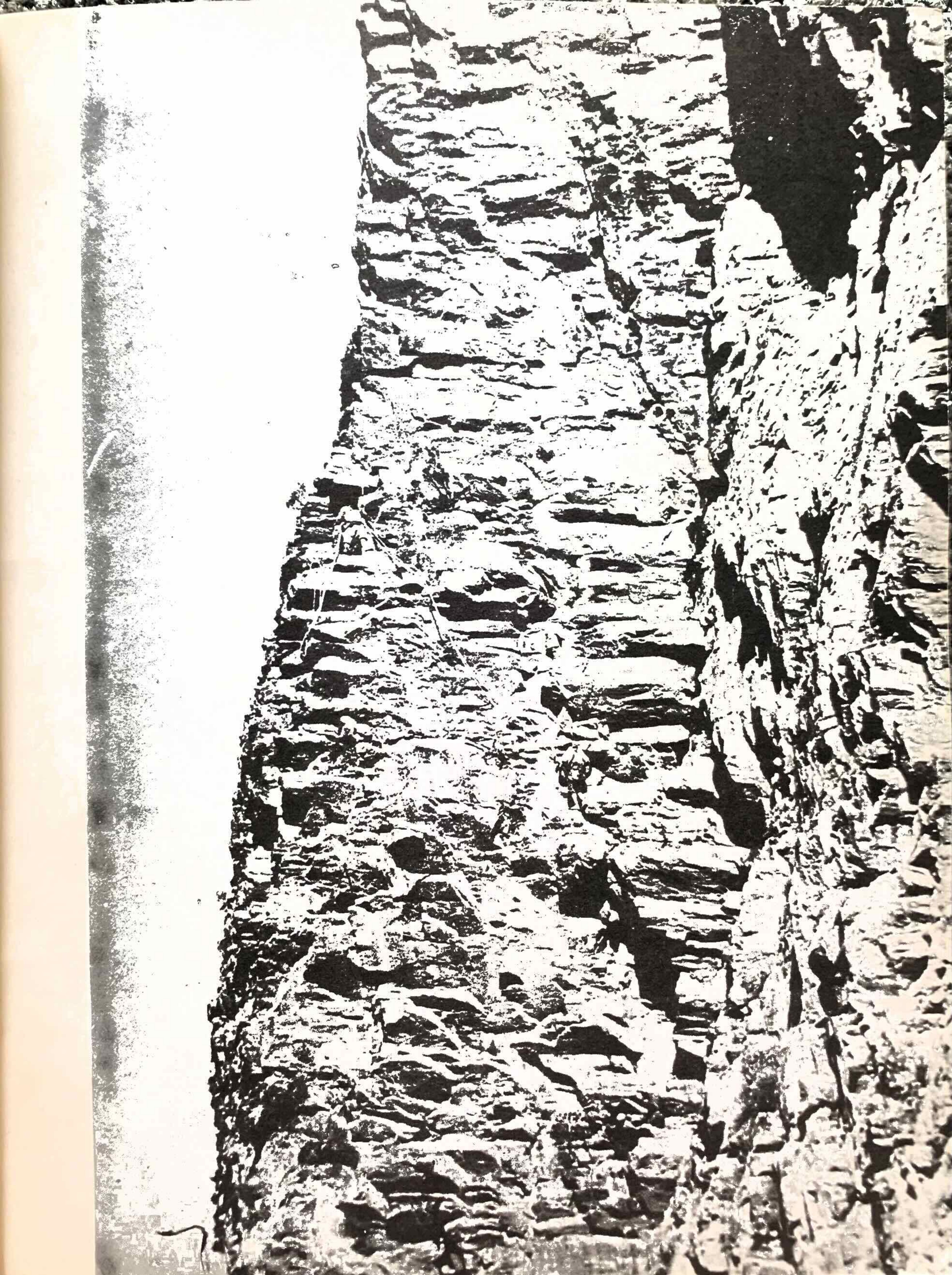
John Lawrence
Dave Witham 1965

Note: The name "Prometheus Bound" is a misinterpretation of the comment passed at the top of pitch 9. John remarked that Dave "looked like Prometheus Bound" .

"Prometheus made man out of clay, and stole fire for them out of heaven. For this altruism, he was taken to Mount Caucasus and bound there on a rock. Vultures gnawed at his liver. The more it grew again, the more they gnawed. The books do not say if he ever died. You are forcefully reminded of this story by the wedgetails on the edge of Caucasus Corner."

AJP

Photo opposite; Pitch 9 Caucasus Corner, photo by John Davis





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PEGASUS

Grade 15

850'

This route goes up the north west buttress of the spire for about 500' to the terrace, then takes a line between the upper part of Scunge Gully and Vertigo.

Start: The first obvious entry to the cliff on the way down from the pinnacle to the start of Scunge Gully i.e. roughly 100 yards right of Scunge Gully.

Pitch 1:70' Up the ramp which goes steeply leftwards below a red wall crowned by overhangs.

2:90' Continue to the top of the ramp, then step out left from the corner to outflank the overhangs. Up to belay above small bush.

3:110' Up the right hand wall of the corner. Step right at about 30' to avoid overhangs, then up to a jammed ball-race (left in position). Up into groove which trends rightwards. Shortage of rope entailed a rather poor belay at the first chockstone.

4:100' Go past a good chockstone at the head of the groove, up to the right and over the bulges (good protection with a peg). Straight up then right to belay round a detached block.

5:90' Left into a shallow groove and up to easy ground which leads to a tree belay.

6:70' Avoid the vegetated gully with nice climbing up steep slabs behind the tree.

Cross the terrace. The upper section may have been climbed before as there is a totally useless peg in place below the main difficulty.

7:115' The fault line which starts midway between Vert go and the upper half of Scunge Gully is followed steeply up to the right. At the top of it there is loose rock which has to be surmounted before stepping left and up on good rock.

8,9,10:200' Another 40' leads to the Tourist Traverse, then straight on to the summit.

D Witham

J Willis 30Sep 1967

WEST FACE ROUTES

There are several means of access up the west face. The normal method is to skirt round the pinnacle at the end of the track, up the short chimney behind, traverse left over easy rock and scrub to the gully. Up the gully, at the top a left turn leads to the base of Vertigo and abseil gully, a right turn up the gully leads (carefully) to the base of Dr Dark's Chimney. The alternative is the Direct Start to the West Face".

VERTIGO

Grade 10

260'

A fine classical climb up a steep exposed wall and slab on good rock.

Start: Scramble up to below the red brown wall in the centre of the west face between the big buttress and Abseil Gully.

Pitch 1:110' Up, zigzagging, trending to the centre. Piton belay.
 2:50' Up to the blackboy, slight overhang.
 3:70' Up, superb climbing with easy jam protection. Block anchor.
 4:30' Continue to the top.

Roger McDonald

Alex Hromas 1961

(see photo opposite p.23)

ENDEAVOUR FACE

Grade 14

270'

Start: 20' right of Vertigo below bulging rock.

Pitch 1:75' crux Awkwardly up right and onto bulge then straight up. Jam anchor.

2:35' Straight up to jam anchor on Tourist Traverse.

3:110' Straight up till angle eases. Thread belay.

4:50' Up easily to middle peak.

Adrian Cooper

Eric Hinder

Jon Wurth May 1971

TOURIST TRAVERSE

Grade 6

300'

It now seems certain that this route was the route of the original ascent of Belougery Spire by Dr Dark and Osmar White in 1932. A description of the first ascent (in Walkabout 1/4/36) includes "one pitch is a 300' traverse across the face of the mountain on a ledge from a foot to three feet wide..." which must be a unique identifying feature for this route as opposed to Bryden's ascribing the first ascent to the chimney on the south west arete. As a recognition of Dr Dark's achievement we propose (in the interests of least confusion) to retain the original mistake. Thus Dr Dark's chimney continues to be the name of the route up the chimney on the south west arete and the name 'Tourist Traverse' is retained for the original ascent route.

Start: From the west face ledge.

Pitch 1:50' As for pitch 1 of Abseil Gully.

2etc: Traverse along the obvious big ledge, a variety of finishes are possible depending on how soon you leave the ledge and go up.

If you go right along then you arrive in a fine chimney, which contains the famous "Anti-Marilyn" squeeze hole. It is not really tight, though Marilyn presumably couldn't do it.

Dr Dark

Osmar White 1932

ABSEIL GULLY

Grade 10

150'

Start: From the large ledge on the west face in the obvious corner.

Pitch 1:60' From the left hand side of the gully go up, belay on a tree on the right hand side.

2:15' Up the crack above. Small tree belay.

3:70' Traverse left 15'. The little overhang requires some cogitation. Up, good tree runner, then finish up the right hand side of the gully.

DIRECT START TO WEST FACE Grade 10 150'

Start: In the middle of the west face below Abseil Gully.
 Pitch 1:40' Walk left along rotten ledge, bolt runner around the corner and pull up on good holds.
 2:70' Up the gully on the left, finishing on the right (piton runner).
 One can now easily join the normal routes to the top.

Bryden Allen
 Wes Kilham 1964

DR DARK'S CHIMNEY Grade 6 400'

Start: Up the west face gully.
 Pitch 1, 2, 3:300' Up to right through scrub and up easy walls to the base of the chimney.
 4:90' crux Up easy chimney with tree runners, then scramble to summit.

IF THE SPIRIT MOVETH Grade 8 500' (?)

Originally attributed to Davis and Pettigrew by B Allen (1963). This description comes from an earlier and more detailed record.

Start: At the point where the access track reaches the south west arete.

Pitch 1: Up gully directly above. Traverse out to the nose.
 2: Continue up nose on the gully side. Walk up to top of pinnacle.
 3: Traverse to right under Dr Dark's Chimney.
 4: Exposure increases dramatically. Traverse around to right across a difficult nose. Continue up at about 45° to the base of a rib. Piton belay, communication difficult.
 5: Continue climbing and scrambling to south summit.

Graeme Mitchell
 Warren Little
 John Drummond 7 Jan 1959

IF THE SPIRIT DOESN'T MOVETH Grade 11?

One of the many variants on ISM, Variants are possible both up to the base of Dr Dark's Chimney and from there out onto the south face. A more adequate description might be "up the SW arete, to the base of Dr Dark's Chimney, traverse right onto face and up to the top."

Start: Above access gully on the south west arete.

Pitch 1: Up corner on righthand side, traverse left and up to large block. Up to ledge with grass. Peg belay on right in place.

2:40' Mantleshelf and up to tree belay.

Walk to base of Dr Dark's Chimney.

3:80' Traverse right and up to tree belay in gully.

4:100' crux Up in gully, right, jam runner. Up to right, jug runner, continue up to the right. Thread belay near tea-tree.

5:120' Up to rib and up rubble, chock runner in chimney, bush belay.

6:100' Easily up to top.

John Pickard

G Rosie Easter 1966

Photo opposite; The SW face of Belougery Spire, from Rib and Gully on Crater Bluff. Photo John Davis.

THE BREADKNIFE

Note: Climbers are warned that there is a \$100 fine for climbing on the Breadknife. This is to protect persons using the track up the east face from falling rocks. Use your own discretion.

The climbs are ordered as follows:

Breadknife - clockwise down east face and back along west face.

Fishknife - north along west face.

Butterknife - north along west face.

THE EAST FACE ROUTE

Grade 17&M2

230'

- Start: An inspiring overhanging face.
Almost directly below the white streak from the "Eagles Nest", just to the right of some vines growing on the face.
- Pitch 1: 25' An obvious route up on large boulder for 15', then traverse left 10'.
- 2: 60' Step down and traverse left 20', then up over a bulging rock, then up the wall using a "V" shaped cleft. Up another 5' to bolt belay.
- 3: 30' Traverse right on a rising ledge to a corner which will take a piton runner. Then a very hard, overhanging mantleshelf, assisted by a bolt runner and hand hold. Belay off a piton in the corner.
- 4: 70' Continue up the wall going slightly left to the "Eagles Nest". 2 piton runners. A bolt is used for direct aid to overcome the roof of the "Eagles Nest". Artificial up the corner for 15' using 4 pitons. Then 6' of free climbing leads to a recess and a piton belay.
- 5: 30' Step right, round the corner and follow a crack for about 8' then go right onto yellow rock 8' then up to a bolt runner, then left and up to the top. Do not attempt to follow the crack mentioned above all the way to the top, as it gets very narrow and eventually gives out.

Bryden Allen+

Ted Batty+ April 1964

SOUTH EAST RAMP

Grade 14

110'

Pleasant climb on good rock, crux is technical but well protected.

Start: The climb starts up the east side of the steep but juggy wall below the ridge one walks along to get to the base of the south arete. Start directly below the first belay of the south arete.

Pitch 1:45' Climb wall to peg belay as for South Arete.
2:65' crux. Move right onto steep ramp. Climb up to below overhanging step, peg runner in place. Over the step with difficulty then continue up ramp to top.

John Ewbank

John Worrall 31 Dec 1966

SOUTH ARETE

Grade 11

110'

The original route to the top. A fine climb on good rock. Exposed.

Start: The gap between the Bread and Butter Knives. Scramble along the ridge for 50' to the base of the arete. Piton belay on eastern side, as shared by South East Ramp.

Pitch 1:40' Two little walls to mantleshelf, up to the pinnacle and anchor off it.

2:70' Drop down a bit, then move left, around the arete and onto the west face. Move up diagonally left, piton runner, then easily to the ridge.

From here, the southern tip, it is only a scramble to the summit. Loose blocks and considerable exposure keep it sporting, however. Down the gap between South and North Top and so up to the Northern summit.

Descent: A 70' abseil down the south arete. A sling should be taken, so as to be able to utilise the bolt or chockstone anchors.

Russ Kippax

Bill Peascod 1954

NORTH ARETE

Grade 13

350'

An excellent and classic climb of moderate difficulty on first class rock and in an inspiring situation. Pitches may easily be lengthened, or varied.

Start: On the East side at the North end, next to the "No climbing on the Breadknife" sign. Up about 15' onto rock ridge and bollard anchor.

- Pitch 1:30' Traverse left 10', up a slight ramp, then right back undervan overhang and block belays.
- 2:30' Traverse left onto the East face, then up a 15' corner and right onto nose. Block anchors.
- 3:80' Up the broken arete to ledge.
- 4:20' Straight up the wall.
- 5:20' crux Up onto block, then up bulging grey rock above.
- 6&7:130' An exposed though easy traverse onto the East face, and thence up a ramp which leads to the gap between North and South summits.
- 8:40' Up to North summit.
- 9:110' Along the ridge to abseil point. This completes the traverse of the Breadknife of course.

R Kippax D Roots
P Hardy J Field 1956

SKYLINE TRAVERSE

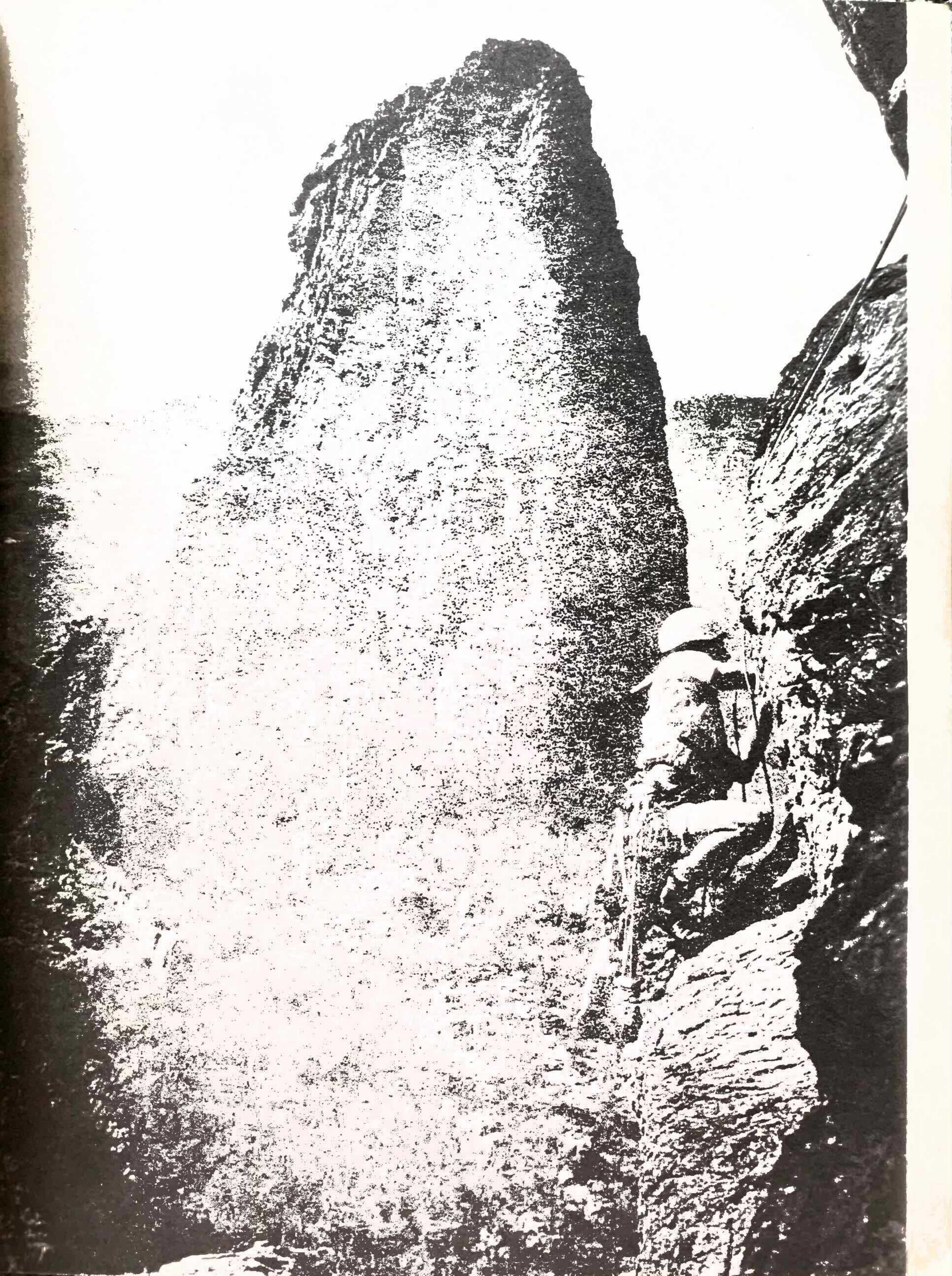
Grade 14

A tremendously aesthetic traverse across this spectacular feature.

Start :As for North Arete.

- Pitch 1:60' Follow arete till piton belay (in place) on east side.
- 2:80' Cross to west side and up to belay on large blocks at base of steep wall.
- 3:120' crux. Up wall then awkwardly turn overhang. Traverse delicately around to "ramp" on east face. Belay on bollards or pitons (in place) on ramp.
- 4:60' Follow ramp to saddle. Block belay. Up to north summit and return.
- 5:40' To south summit via west face.
- 6:150' Follow ridge avoiding much loose rock to bolt belay on top of south arete.
- 7:120' Abseil down south arete - thus completing traverse.

R Kippax D Roots
P Hardy J Field 1956





THE FISHKNIFE

THE SICKLE

Grade 14

130'

Takes a curving corner which looks much more impressive when seen from the Butterknife than it really is.

Start: The cairn 50' right of Scythe.

Pitch 1:60' Poor rock for 20', then up the water worn line on hard black rock, to small ledge and spud belay.

2:70' crux. Move right to overhang, and up the curving corner, - delicate, keeping in corner, and follow the line to the top.

John Ewbank

Alec Campbell 25 Feb 1967

THE SCYTHER

Grade 14

170'

A short climb, pleasant, and a good warm up for trachyte.

Start: A cairn below a steep black wall which runs into large roofs at 80'.

Pitch 1:60' crux Up on slick rock and then a move right, onto perched blocks, up, then left and up to small ledge and jammed spud belay.

2:110' Up 20' on good sharp holds on good rock to below roofs. Traverse right 30', and then follow the roofs around and up the corner to the top, and block belays. Easy 20' scramble to get off.

John Ewbank

Alec Campbell 25 Feb 1967

Photos opposite; Breadknife Arete, photo by John Davis

upper; Vertigo, Belougery Spire; lower; Cornerstone Rib
Crater Bluff, photos by Warwick Williams.

THE BUTTERKNIFE

THE SABRE

Grade 16

250'

A direct wall climb with a long crux pitch. Completely bolt and piton free. Plenty of natural protection.

Start: A slight broken buttress about 60' left of the scramble down. The first two pitches head up directly for a series of broken cracks which form the crux pitch. Cairn marks the start.

Pitch 1:60' Up as you will to rock bollard, belay directly above start. Good anchor. Decent stance.

2:90' Up directly to jumbled rock belay. Good stance.

3:110' Move leftward to the weakness. Follow it to the top. Strenuous with resting places inbetween. Protection is good if care is taken. Bollard belay at gap.

John Ewbank+

John Worrall+ 28Dec66

THE RAPIER

Grade 19

270'

Technically hard for a few moves. A good line, with an airy crux on good rock. Not as well protected as the Sabre but adequate protection can be arranged with small nuts and spuds on the crux.

Start: 40' left of the Sabre, at cairn. Directly below large corner at top of the cliff.

Pitch 1:70' Up quite directly on quite easy rock. Small stance and piton belay.

2:80' Up to steeper brown rock. Small ledge and piton belay, 50' below a small niche of yellow rock with a hand jam crack in its roof.

3:120' crux Upward and slightly right on steep rock then directly up to niche. Traverse left for 15'; under the bulging yellow wall on smooth rounded holds, to resting place. Go up wall and surmount small bulge, to get into bottom of the corner. Continue up corner to top and block belays.

John Ewbank+

John Worrall+ 28Dec66

STILLETTO

Grade 18&M2

300'

An impetuous climb, taking a daring line up the highest and most forbidding section of the face.

Start: The cairn 30' right of Cutlass, below a short steep left slanting ramp.

- Pitch 1: 110' Up 15' to top of ramp. Move back right, then up steep rock to small overhang at 60'. Turn it on the left, continue up lichen covered rock to the large blocks. Large bollard belay and small stance.
- 2: 90' Continue up the blocks then up on the wall and piton runner (35'). Move right, then up the steep light coloured wall to small ledge. Move left then up on yellow smooth rock to ledge. Poor piton runner. Diagonally left 15' to bolt belay and small stance.
- 3: 100' crux Move up to the right of bolt to small roof (2 spuds for aid). 2 bolts lead up and right, then a free move to place poor piton, then cracker, to another bolt-bracket on, then free moves right to steep juggy but strenuous wall. Up it and strenuous mantleshelf to resting place and poor piton runner. Continue up 30' of delicate, pleasant black rock to bush and top and boulder belays at summit.

John Ewbank

Alec Campbell 24Feb67

CUTLASS

Grade 18

290'

Technical and very strenuous climbing on very steep rock.

Start: The cairn 30' right of the start of Minor Route below steep wall.

- Pitch 1: 110' Up the slight rib for 30' on very slick rock. Move left at slight overlap, then take a line pretty directly up, trending right at 70' to small stance and large bollard belay.
- 2: 60' Left 15' and then straight up on easy rock to recess just where the wall steepens. Piton belay and small stance.
- 3: 120' crux Diagonally left for 15' on good black rock. Up a little then back right to directly above belayer. Move up then poor piton runner. A couple of hard moves follow to poor resting place. Piton runner. Move up on hard rock for 15' to easier rock and resting place. Move right to final groove. Up this to the top.

John Ewbank

Alec Campbell 24Feb67

TOAST AND JAM

Grade 14

30m

Comment: A pleasant climb on a hot summer's afternoon. Takes the only crack on the east side of the Butterknife.

Start: On the south end of the face not far from the water tank.

Pitch 1: 30m Up crack to belay on the top.

Ross Vining
Bill Blunt
Al Ross

CRATER BLUFF

THE CRUCIFIXION

Grade 18

850'

The long awaited new route up the centre of the West Face of Crater Bluff. Takes a more exposed and central line than Lieben. The climb is sustained, but protection is adequate. Double 150' ropes are essential.

- Start: The left hand side of the scrubby ledge 100' up the west face. Scramble up gully on left. Knob belay.
- Pitch 1: 120' Move diagonally leftward up ramp for 50'. Up wall for 20'. Bolt runner. Now diagonally right for 50'. Bolt after 25', to bolt belay. Stand on foothold and in slings.
- 2: 80' Diagonally rightward for 30". Up 10' to bolt runner. Move up and left to a nice little ledge and good bolt belay.
- 3: 80" Diagonally right for 35' up ramp to bolt around a small buttress. Continue on same line to a manky bolt. Belay, stand on foothold and slings.
- 4: 90" Upward and leftward towards a scoop, then easier up to a good ledge, 6" long and over 1" wide. Piton belay.
- 5: 150' crux You are now right of a chimney cun gully, 40' long. Up the wall on its right to the 100" vertical wall. Move left, then up the wall. After moving right slightly on a ramp a bolt runner is found 100" vertically above your second. One could belay here in slings. Instead continue a further 45' to a small ledge above, below the chimney. Rock knob belay.
- 6, 7, 8: 300' Up the chimney onto slabs and a pleasant slab buttress to finish. All natural runners and belays.

John Ewbank

John Worrall Dec 1966

TOURIST ROUTE

Grade 9

110'

A very interesting route in fascinating surroundings with little climbing involved. When coming down do not get the top confused with the top of another gully starting further to the east and leading into nothing.

- Start: On the bottom of the north side of the west face are ramps leading up to the right. Scramble 150' up these until a small overhang starts 30' above you. Tree belay.
- Pitch 1:50' Up slight overhang to belay round big pillar.
2:60' Up chimney behind to ledge and tree belay. There is an abseil chain at this point.

Walk right to the start of Green Glacier. Two short easy pitches over muddy rock require care and possibly the rope, then easy scrambling remains to the top.

Dr Dark

D Butler (nee English) 1935

LIEBEN *

Grade 17

670'

- Start: Slightly to the right of the middle of the west face.
- Pitch 1:80' Climb a short wall onto the top of a scrubby ledge in the middle of this face.
2:130' Climb up and left from the top of the ledge till a good block belay is obtained at the top of a white streak.
3:80' Up and then a difficult move left at 15'. Slightly further left then up.
4:80' Easily up the rib to a good piton belay.
5:80' The vertical, shallow, rotten corner is now the crux of the climb. Best climbed by bridging.
6:110' The slight overhang above is extremely strenuous and gives no resting places. Easier rock then leads to the grassy ledge we call "Green Haven" and rest. The sun reaches this ledge at 11.5a.m..
7:110' Up the obvious line of weakness from the centre of the ledge. It is not quite as easy as it looks and one should stick to the left under the overhang. Best also if the pitch is broken in two.
8,9,10:Easier rock to the top.

Bryden Allen

Ted Batty 1962

LIEBEN - DIRECT START *

Grade 18

160'

Pitch 1:60' Up trending left to base of white streaks.
 2:100' Right and up from stance. Back left and up onto the obvious traverse line. Traverse left and up onto the white streak and up left to a groove. Easily up a ramp to Lieben stance 1.

Rick White
 Paul Caffyn 4Apr 1969

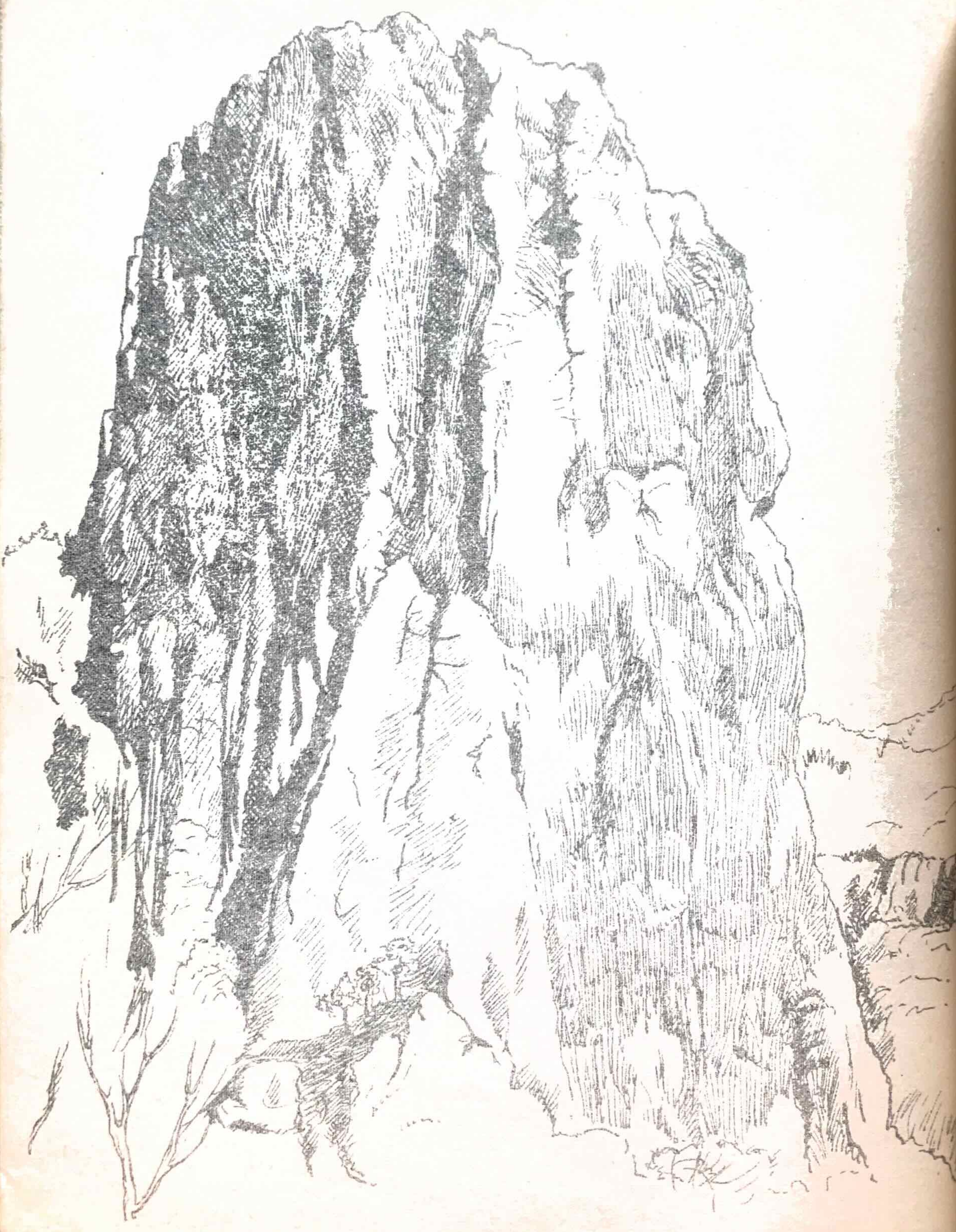
LIEDER

Grade 16

Start: On the left hand side of the west face only 30' from the rib. An obvious upward traversing route leads into the black gully.

Pitch 1:110' Easily up and right.
 2:100' Right into the gully, then up to an obvious platform with a bolt belay.
 3:110' Up then out on the right, continue up right to the grassy ledge. Piton belay.
 4:115' Right, moreton bay fig tree runner then up to the ledge. Piton and thread belay.
 5:80' Up the gully, around the nose on the left. Piton belay.
 6:25' crux 2 bolts for runners and direct aid help onto a piton. Belay further up on the left.
 7:50' Up the chimney type gully to a large chockstone belay.
 8:60' Bridge up then out to a tree belay.
 9,10:250' Scramble to the top.

Bryden Allen
 Ted Batty Oct 63



RIB AND GULLY

Grade 13

- Start: The obvious rib on the north west corner.
 Pitch 1,2,3:280' Potter up rib to large gully on the right, walk into the back of the gully.
 4:120' Start up slab to the left of the left gully. 40' to a piton runner, up underneath the overhang then right to a piton. Tricky into the gully and a bush belay.
 5:100' Chimney up to a huge rock wedged in gully.
 6:100' Up. The chimney becomes narrow and vertical.
 7:30' Up the wall on the left to a tree belay. Scrambling remains to the top.

C Ivin & party 1954

DIRECT START TO THE GULLY ON RIB AND GULLY Grade 15

- Pitch 1;80' Up obvious corner to right and behind usual crux pitch on Rib and Gully. Strenuous but good jam protection. It is possible to join normal route but move right and up the overhangs directly to the tree.

Bill Zemek
 Wes Kilham 5 Apr 1969

RELUCTANCE RIB

Grade 13

220'

- Start: Up the rib 250' as for Cornerstone Rib and Rib and Gully. Belay at the base of the gully between Rib and Gully and Vintage Rib.
 Pitch 1:100' Climb the chimney then up the gully (left side harder). Traverse left (crux) under the grey slab and onto the rib, then continue up on good holds to a pleasant stance.
 2:120' Up above stance, then traverse right to base of gully. Cross it and continue on rib to right. Belay in trees above. Peg and jam protection.

Wes Kilham
 Bill Zemek 6 Apr 1969

Opposite; The North face of Crater Bluff, featuring Rib and Gully (on the right), and the Diagonal Route (centre left). Drawing by Mrs Monteath.

VINTAGE RIB

Grade 15

- Start: Up rib as for Rib and Gully into large pocket.
- Pitch 1:70' Traverse right 20' to a ramp type ledge which goes up to the right for 30' into a corner, piton runner. Up the corner then traverse left to an old piton in a gully. The original route may have come straight up this gully.
- 2:40' Up the gully to another old piton. Traverse right slightly to a home made vertical piton at the base of some rotten rock.
- 3:70' Left up the wall which continues onto the rib, up the rib and belay from a piton which is done while standing on a loose rock. (This pitch was good rock, hard moves, is very exposed and has no runners).
- 4:50' Continue up the rib to the gully on the left which leads to the top of Rib and Gully. The original route may not have gone into the gully but continued up on the right. This would most likely give another pitch or two of rib climbing. The climb was not repeated until 1964.

Russ Kippax
Bill Peascod

CORNERSTONE RIB

Grade 14

630'

- One of the most pleasant climbs in the 'Bungles.
- Start: Potter up the rib as in Rib and Gully. From here the rib becomes sharper and steeper.
- Pitch 4, 5:130' Up and around to the left hand side of the rib. Good knob and jam runners. Continue up till angle eases.
- 6, 7, 8:200' Up the remaining part of the rib which looks rather rotten.

Bryden Allen
Ted Batty 1962

Many variants have been done e.g.
VARIANT Grade 8

- An easier way round the hard pitches.
- Start: Before the harder more vertical pitches of Cornerstone.
- Pitch 1:40' Left and downwards to obvious platform.
- 2:100' Up gutter to left of starting platform.
- 3:90' Continue upwards to the "Green Pocket", then as usual.

K&T Westren 1962

CROSS-CUT

Grade 11

600'

Originally named "St Andrew's Traverse" by Bryden, earlier records now to hand suggest that this climb was called "Cross-cut" by the first ascent party.

Start: Directly below the middle of the north face, at an obvious weakness.

- Pitch 1:100' Scramble up and to the right.
 2:115' Up a 9' wall, and continue the traverse.
 3:85' Up towards the green pocket on the right.
 4:30' Around a tricky nose and a 12' wall and you are in the pocket.
 5:90' Traverse across the rib and 50' up it.
 6:50' Diagonally across the wall that goes into the gully. Belay halfway. (possibly the crux).
 7:70' Up, then traverse to the top of the gully. Scrambling remains.

John Davis
 Jack Pettigrew 1963

DIAGONAL ROUTE

Grade 16

785'

Start: In the little corner about 200' left of the start of Rib and Gully.

- Pitch 1:40' Easily up the corner.
 2:120' Easily up, piton runner, then a slight overhang on the left and scramble up.
 3,4,5,6,7;450' Back a bit to the right then up and onto the ledge. Scramble along the ramp now, via scrub and little chimneys, until it finally flattens off and stops.
 8:30' Up a little wall, traverse left at the top to a small crevasse.
 9:35' crux Up the block on the right. Now traverse left to a bush belay. This can be protected by a runner above.
 10:110' Easily up to the top.

Peter Hardy
 Jeff Field 1958

NORTH FACE ROUTE

Grade 17

620'

Start: Up to the green pocket on the north face however you like.

Pitch 1,2,3,4:400' Up to the green pocket.

5:20' Up to the ledge and piton anchor on the left.

6:30' crux Daintily left slightly, tremble, then up to layback (left). Belay.

7:70' Traverse slightly down and right about 15', up a nose and into a shallow chimney. Fig tree belay.

8:100' Continue up the chimney, then out to right, onto rib and scramble off.

Ted Batty

Ron Malor 1959

JOB

Grade 14, MI

400'

Start: On the north east face is an obvious weakness going up to the right. Below this is 25' of yellow overhang.

Pitch 1:30' Artificial up the line of bolts then left to the tree.

2:120' Scramble through bush along ledge to rock.

3:70' Up in the corner, surmount the small overhang and up to a bolt belay.

4:70' Left and up.

5:110' Into the gully on the left and up.

Bryden Allen

Ted Batty Apr 1964

EASTERN ROUTE

Grade 12

300'

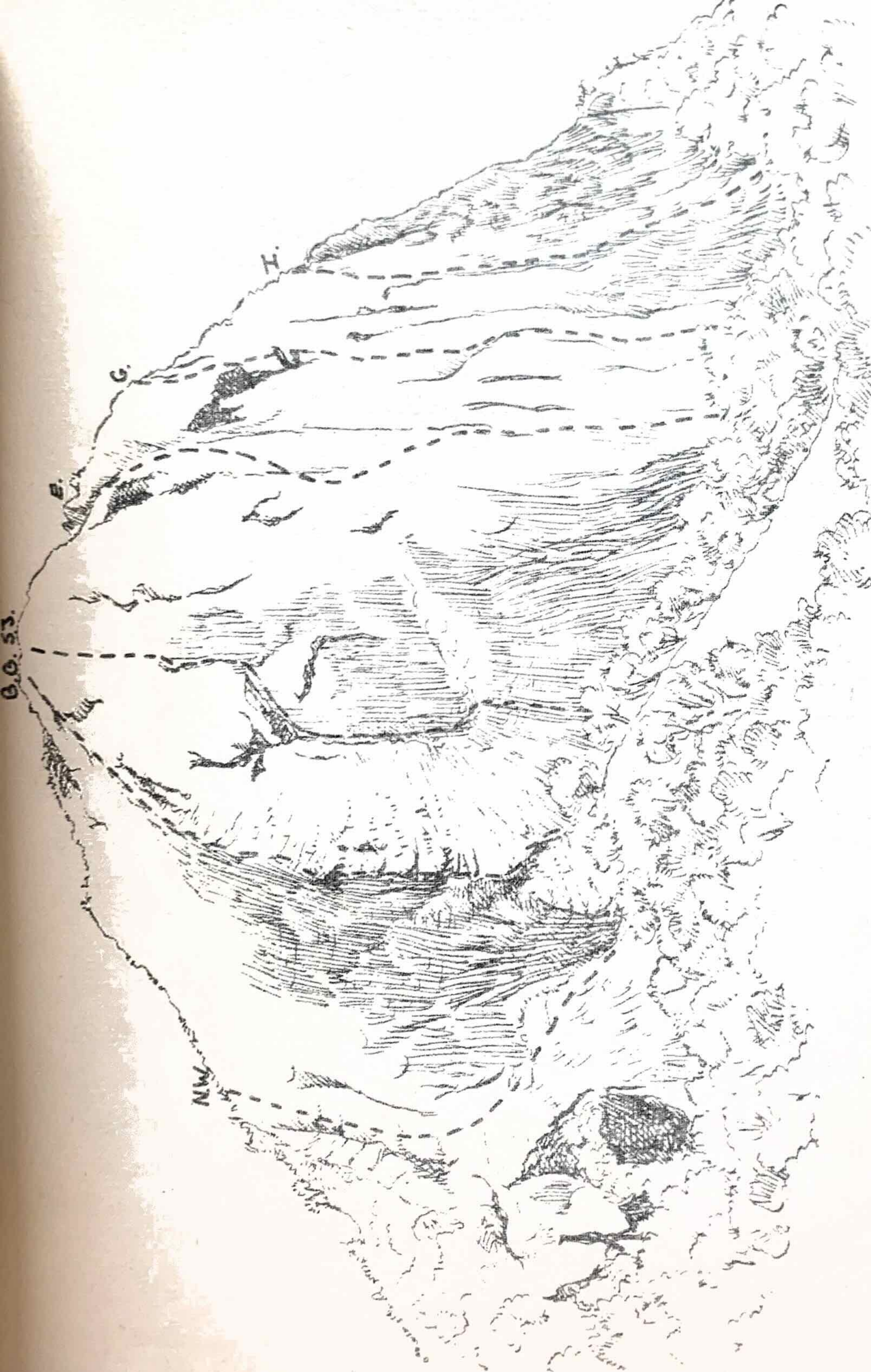
Start: The climb goes up to the right of the big gully on the eastern side.

Pitch 1,2:200' Scrambling on the right hand side of the gully. From there it is possible to go to the left over the top of the gully and from a narrow ridge, you can look down into the Green Glacier.

3:100' Up the wall on the right (rather broken). The ridge at the top of this leads to the summit.

Peter Hardy

Ron Maylor 1959



Bluff Mountain.

N. W.--North West Gully; B. B.--Bastion Buttress; S. J.--Stonewall Jackson;
E.--Elijah; G.--Ginsberg; I.--Icarus.

BLUFF MOUNTAIN

NORTH WEST GULLY

Grade 10

600'

Start: The line of a small waterway leading up to the left on the left handside of the great face.

Pitch 1: 100' Scramble up.

2:110' Up to a small ledge beneath a small wall in a gully.

3:80' To the right then up to a crack up to a rock belay on the left.

4:100' Up the gully until blocked by a small chimney. Go 5' to the right, then left again to large ledge around the corner.

5:120' Up.

6:120' Anywhere. Up the slabs is very pleasant. Climb or scramble off.

C Ivin

B Montgomery

P Griffiths 1960

BASTION BUTTRESS

Grade 13

800'

A relatively easy and very enjoyable way of bagging Bluff Mtn without resorting to the tourist track.

Start: Just right of grey buttress to the left of Stonewall Jackson. Cairn marks the start.

Pitch 1, 2:200' crux Climb slab above cairn and move leftwards taking easiest line across slabby blocks below small overhang. Overhang relents to the left of grey buttress. Move up and belay on nuts just to the left of overhang and buttress.

3-7:600' Climb rightwards towards buttress. The rock on all the above section looks steep and rotten although surprisingly offers beautiful climbing of a consistent grade 10. Natural and cracker protection abounds and no pitons are required. After the crest of the ridge has been gained all pitches tend slightly rightwards. A classic climb offering some classic situations although very steep and exposed.

Keith Bell

Greg Mortimer 22Dec72

STONEWALL JACKSON

Grade 17&M4

955'

A very fine climb which follows a natural line up the great corner. It is steep and sustained with small stances but in typical (so far) Bluff Mtn style it is never technically very hard. The rock is generally good but the loose blocks must be treated carefully.

Start: Directly below the main corner is its continuation corner. Both L and R of this are smaller corners. Start in the easy angled groove immediately R of the main corner.

- Pitch 1:** 125' (14) Climb the groove then up the steep section above trending right for a little way then across left (delicate) and up to a large foothold stance and jam anchor.
- 2:125' (17&M1) Climb up to small ledge below the shallow square black recess. Climb this, peg runner in place and continue up easiest corner above to below steep section. Up this on two pegs (both in place) and straight up to fir tree anchor.
- 3:50' (7) Traverse easily left to corner and up it to ledge on left. Peg anchor.
- 4:50' (9) Climb up a little and traverse onto and up the right wall of the corner to foothold stance and peg and jam anchor.
- 5:75' (16) Up corner being careful with slick rock and loose blocks, 3 peg runners. Traverse left 8' to jam anchor below smaller corner. Good bivi site 20' on left.
- 6:90' (16&M1) Up corner, over bulge with two pegs for aid (M1) and continue free again to a combined peg and bolt anchor, and small foothold stance.
- 7:90' (16) Traverse right, 3 peg runners. After 50' up diagonally over grey rock to rock shelf and peg anchor.
- 8:80' (16) Climb small corner, peg runner, and continue up chimney corner to a bolt anchor below where it steepens.
- 9:70' (15&M4) A short free section over the bush and initial bulge is followed by constant pegging through small roofs and loose blocks. Free up the squeeze chimney and over final bulge with a bong (in place) and peg. 2 bongs, 2 angles in place, about 5 others needed. Small stance and peg anchor above dead tree.
- 10:60' Up for 15' below bulge. Traverse left along shelf below smooth overhanging wall, around nose, up then right to tree anchor.
- 11:70' Up chimney gully, natural anchors.
- 12:80' Continue up right hand side of chimney gully to easy summit rocks.

John Ewbank
Bryden Allen 5/6Oct69

ELIJAH

Grade 17

1195'

The biggest part of the face is contained in two main buttresses. The climb starts up rock which to begin with is an easy angle. The major overhangs halfway up are avoided by traversing to the left buttress and so to the top.

- Pitch 1:120' Up the easy angled rock, going left past a small tree to a bolt belay in a chimney type gully on the left.
- 2:50' Up chimney, thread runner, up right to bolt belay.
- 3:100' Up and left, thread runner, up right and so to big ledge. Walk right, up and easily left to very good piton belay.
- 4:60' Left and up, piton protects delicate move left. Up, bolt runner, right to bolt belay.
- 5:15' Up to big ledge and bolt belay.
- 6:70' Left and up, continue left. Piton runner and bolt belay, left and beneath overhang.
- 7:60' Up, big bolt runner, left, piton runner, continue delicately left and up to poor bolt belay.
- 8:60' Tricky move up on the right to bolt runner. Delicately left to bolt runner. Up the overhang using direct aid on piton to further bolt belay.
- 9:40' Left and up. Bolt belay.
- 10:100' Down, along and up to a very good peg runner. Hand traverse left with glorious exposure and up. Continue left and up to bolt belay. One is now on the left buttress with retreat a problem.
- 11:80' Continue easily left and up to a bolt runner on ledge. Up the crack with more difficulty to a big ledge and bolt belay.
- 12:90' Right and up. Delicately left and up to piton runner then easily up to bolt belay. As it stands this is the crux of the climb as the hard moves are very badly belayed. A bolt should be placed.
- 13:70' Right and up onto ledge, piton runner. Up with glorious exposure below. Bad piton runner, then belay.
- 14:80' Right then onto easy angled rock.
- (15:200' Easily up to the top.
- (16:

Bryden Allen
John Ewbank May 64

GINSBERG

Grade 17&M1

1050'

A very fine companion route to Elijah. Possibly a little more direct. It is exposed and sustained and though the rock is basically sound it contains some loose blocks. The mechanical pitch could possibly be bypassed with a more direct free pitch.

- Start:** Ginsberg runs up the central rib of the face. Just left of the rib for about the first 300', then on it then on its left edge until just below the big roofs where it moves right and finishes up the gully. Start at a crack running up for about 90', 30' left of the nose of the rib.
- Pitch 1:** 90' Up crack and hollow sounding pedestals to jam and thread anchor in recess. Awkward stance.
- 2:120' Move right from recess, over bulge and up wall. Left along ledge to jam anchors below overhanging subwall.
- 3:120' Easily left then up slanting corner to jam anchors in recess at top.
- 4:70' Move right and cross the rib, peg runner in flake at other side. Up slight weakness to jam anchor on foothold stance.
- 5:120' Up then left of beer barrel size loose block. Climb diagonally leftward onto small ledge, over loose blocks to below corner. Climb this on loose blocks to overhang at top. Move left across nose onto ledge and bolt anchor.
- 6:20' Technical climbing on good rock, straight up to bolt anchor on ledge. Very pleasant.
- 7:80' Right over piled up blocks. Up short corner to below roofs, traverse right on steep slab and up to below roof. Over roof with two jams for aid (M1). Continue up to narrow ledge and bolt runner. Hard moves left to place a peg then peg up crack (3-4 pegs) to small stance and bolt anchor. (small tree provides excellent sun shade).
- 8:100' The key to the prison door pitch. Move left dubiously at first on clanky rock, up diagonally and around nose, continue up in shallow recess, clamber over bulge to jam anchor.
- 9:80' Over steep bulge directly behind anchor, then diagonally rightward up under the bulges on jugs. Peg runner around nose, into gully and across it to small stance and large jam anchor.
- 10:125' Up left hand crack of open gully. Jam anchors.
- 11:125' Up juggy wall to top.

Bryden Allen
John Ewbank 7Apr69

ICARUS

Grade 19

970'

- Pitch 1:150' Up leftward sloping ramp to small stance below obvious slab with tree- nut anchors.
- 2:100' Up slab past tree and into superb corner. Up this to small stance - belay on nuts.
- 3:120' Traverse 40' left across slab to gully. Up and rightwards out of gully. Move leftwards for 20' then back right and up. Belay on nuts and spike at base of obvious groove. (16)
- 4:100' Up corner to small roof then move leftwards for 20' pull up over bulge and move back right into groove. Belay on nuts below where crack peters out. (16)
- 5:100' Up corner to point where crack closes then traverse left for 20' into shallow corner. Pull over bulge above then upwards and left to bolt belay. (17-18)
- 6:40' Traverse right to pedestal, tree belay. (17)
- 7:120' crux Diagonally leftward to hand traverse line. Traverse to left for 10' along this then up steep shallow corner (peg runner underneath bulge). Pull up over blocks to resting place below tree. Fight past tree and up onto big blocks. Traverse left (peg runner) to bolt anchor.
- 8:110' Up black wall above moving right to nose. Step left and up wall above to belay on nuts. (16)
- 9:130' (possibly crux) Up to corner directly above. Up this then move out left and over orange steps. Climb rightwards to small ramp, hand traverse into corner. Up this to peg belay on large ledge - easy scrambling remains.

Keith Bell

Greg Mortimer 20Dec72

NAMAN

The east face of Naman is about 400' high and overhangs at the top. The rock plateau at the top of Naman is well worth visiting.

STACCATO

Grade 14

360'

Start: The climb goes right following beneath the yellow overhangs. Scramble left and up to an obvious tree belay below the overhang.

Pitch 1: 110' Left; up obvious route, bush runner, right battle with bush, belay on the second tree.

2: 70' Left and behind is a crack in a corner. Up using doubtful holds then further right to a bolt belay.

3: 80' Up through a fig tree to the open and very rotten chimney. Bolt belay.

4: 100' Right and swing around the corner using a bolt for direct aid. Fine slab to the top.

Bryden Allen

Bill Crowle Oct 64

PLIMSOLE

Grade 14

320'

The rock on the corner slabs is appalling but it gets better towards the top.

Start: On the left hand side of the face great slabs stretch upwards to the top at a much more reasonable angle. The climb goes up on the right hand side of these. The reason for the easy angle soon becomes apparent. If it was two degrees steeper it would fall down.

Pitch 1: 60' Up from prominent flat rock left 60' to obvious belay.

2: 50' Up using shoulder jam to belay on top of pinnacle.

3: 30' Traverse left to tree or more easily by a "duffler traverse".

4: 80' crux. Up on left rib of bad rock. The rock gets better towards top.

5: 100' Easy climbing to right.

J Pettigrew

A Rhomus

D Owen

S Boyd 1963

THE NEEDLE

THE CLIMB

Grade 8

130'

A short pleasant climb. The original ascent route.
 Start: On the left hand side of the east face. The obvious route up from a big tree. Scramble up to the tree.

Pitch 1:30' Up the corner to the obvious stance.

2:100' Either a) Up slightly left (tricky) then up more or less on the south rib (some bad rock).

b) Right onto the rib and up. It might be easier for the leader of the second pitch to start on the right hand rib from the bottom.(?).

Members of UNEMC 1959

RAMSHEAD SOUTH

Grade 12

170'

Start: SW face of the Needle at a crack on the lowest rib of this face.

Pitch 1:50' Up crack, chock and jam runners. Squeeze through hole and belay above chock.

2:70' Up crack on right hand side of gully, bolt runner and bolt belay.

3:50' Scramble right and up.

Alec Campbell

John Pickard 30Oct65

TONDURON

Tonduron, when viewed from the Park or the Oxley Highway presents an impressive image as a spire. It is in fact known to local farmers as "The Spire" or "Spire Mountain".

Climbing information is hard to come by and the only parties that the editors know of having visited the area have been reluctant to write down their activities - hence what is below is it. Still it appears as if the spire is well worth visiting as it was not decried by any.

The rock has a somewhat smoother character when compared to the rest of the 'Bungles.

WEST RIDGE

Grade 4

550'

Little more than a scramble.

Start: On the ridge below the rock slabs.

Pitch 1:300' Scramble up the rock slabs and grassy ledges.

4:50' Rope up. Climb around a block and layback to the right. Up a chimney on the left or more exposed climbing on the right.

5:200' Easy scrambling or walking follows to the top.

SOUTHERN GULLY

Details lost. Follow the obvious gully on the scrubby south side which reaches the west ridge just below the top.

Dr Dark 1935 (?)

NORTHERN GROOVE

Grade 18

500'

The details are lost but it is the very obvious and impressive line up the Northern Face. A very worthwhile line.

Bryden Allen
John Davis

Photo Opposite; Taken on first ascent of Northern Groove.
Bryden Allen leading (photo courtesy Bryden)



MOPERA ROCK AND TIMOR ROCK

These two areas suffer only from being too close to the main 'Bungles. If they were situated anywhere else many more routes would have appeared on them.

On TIMOR ROCK, for example, the standard "Tourist Route" (i.e. for tourists) is of at least grade 8. It is climbed by following the track markers (N.B. NOT PUT IN BY ANY RECOGNISED AUTHORITY) from the park at the base of the rock. These lead on, as one becomes more amazed at what "tourists" can do, until a rude sign states "PROCEED WITH CARE"! From here the operative word for MR AVERAGE would be desperate. Be warned - unless you can down climb with confidence, take an abseil line.

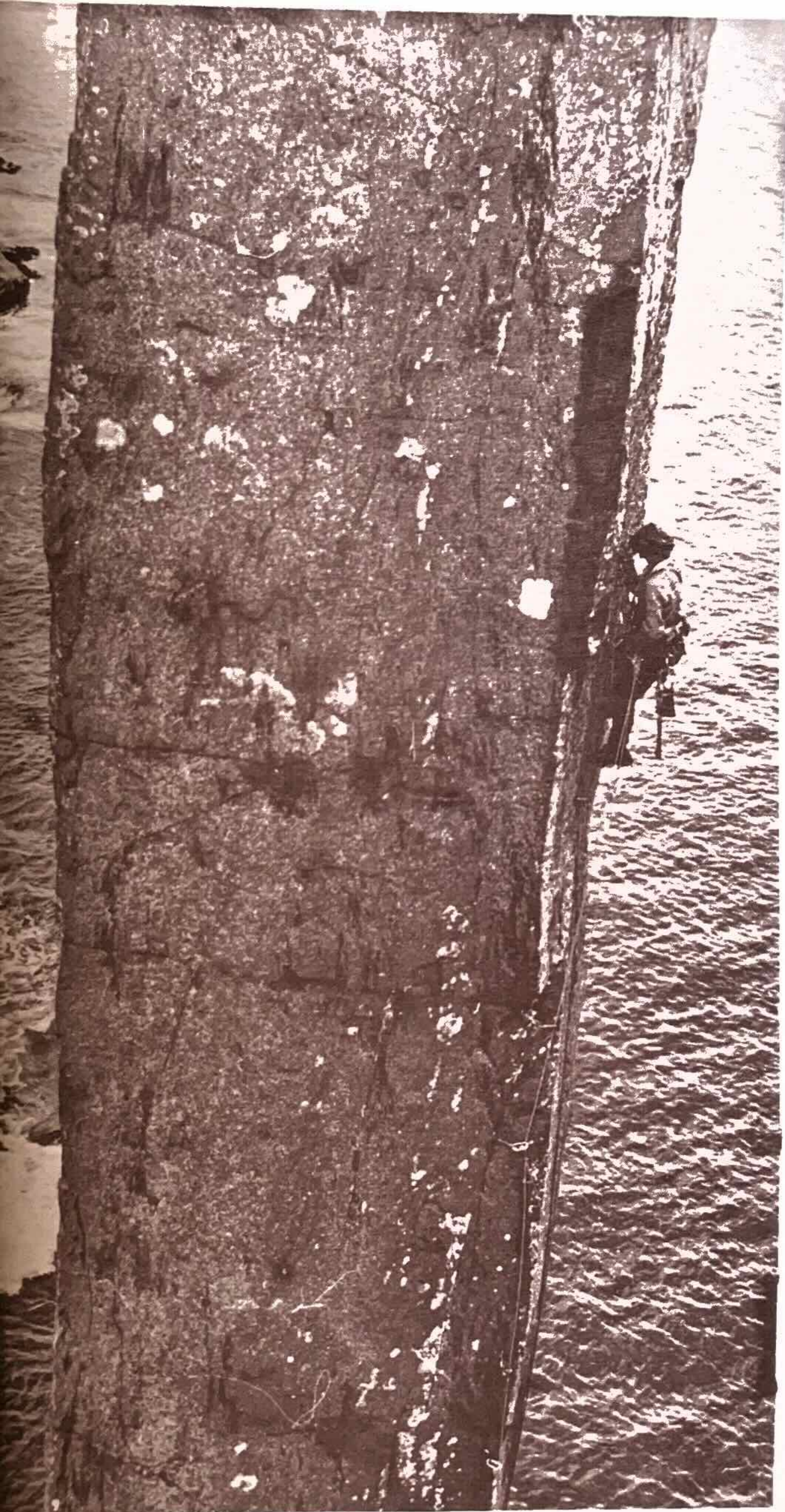
The rock on both tends to be basically good if somewhat knobbly, with both large and small bollards.

If someone has the time and inclination a profitable time could be spent.

WW

Paddy Tallin

Phone: Sydney
26-2685



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