

ROCK CLIMBING ROUTES AT KRANSBERG



DATE OF PUBLICATION: January 2013

ISSUE NO: 3

PUBLISHER: MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH
AFRICA

(JOHANNESBURG SECTION)

PO BOX 1641

HOUGHTON

2041

Preface

This guide is basically a reprint of the previous update to the route book. A number of new routes have been included and in a few cases, existing routes have been described differently, in an attempt to make it easier to find/follow a route. As far as possible the volume is complete. If however, any routes are missing or incompletely described, this is unintentional.

The intention behind the publication is to provide frequent issues of the route guide each containing the latest set of route updates. Feedback regarding any errors, omissions or additions is most welcome. Please submit all feedback to ClimbZA (www.climb.co.za), the MCSA or the author.

This route book is the collective work of many people and I would like to thank all those who helped in any way. Mention must be made of the contributing authors of routes, without whom there would be no route book.

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All photos were taken by the author unless otherwise stated.

Andrew Porter, January 2013

Indemnity

Mountain climbing, rock climbing, abseiling and other related activities are dangerous and can lead to or cause serious injury, material loss and death. The Mountain Club of South Africa advises you not to participate in these activities unless you are competent to do so or are under the guidance of a competent person, and unless you are using the correct equipment.

This route guidebook serves only as an indication as to those routes that have been done before and the degree of difficulty encountered by the opening party. The degree of difficulty expressed herein is highly subjective and will vary from person to person. There is no warranty, express or implied, that these routes are safe for you to do, that you will be able to do them, that you will find and identify them correctly or that you will stay on route.

You climb entirely at your own risk. While every effort has been made to ensure correctness and accuracy, the Mountain Club of South Africa accept no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any accident, injury, death or material loss arising from the use or misuse of this guide book.

General

The Mountain Club of South Africa partially owns the land at Kransberg. Access is limited to members and their guests.

Kransberg is a remote area with trad climbing (only). The routes are between 3 and 6 pitches long and provide excellent exposure in a natural setting. A large vulture colony is found immediately west of the climbing area.

Kransberg offers a number of good quality multipitch climbs of moderate to easy grades. Combined with an hour walk in and an easy, obvious descent, this makes for a friendly place to practise your multipitch skills before heading off to bigger, harder walls like Blouberg.

That said, the climbs will keep you honest. On most climbs, expect to have to climb a few meters between gear placements, especially on the faces where you will encounter a few more blank rails than you may like. The popular routes are well enough protected though, so do not worry too much.

Please note that bolting is not allowed at Kransberg.

Route Sequence

The routes in this guide are arranged from west to east, or left to right as viewed from below. The photographs are arranged in the same sequence.

Aspect

The cliffs are south or east facing. They tend to be a little cold during winter. It normally works out best to go in summer.

Conservation

At the time of writing, a number of large raptors have built nests in the vicinity of the route SWIFT CRAG. If new routes are attempted, the raptors should not be disturbed. Also, please note that no climbing is allowed west of AUF WEIDERSEHEN. This is due to research work being carried out on the vulture colonies in the area.

Camping and access

The road is passable with a normal car. Contact the MCSA for the key and the latest access conditions. Please keep the gate closed at all times, don't litter and do not make a noise all of which may upset the owner and jeopardise access.

There is a basic campsite with no facilities, keep it clean and tidy and bury your business please. There is no water available so you need to bring along enough water for the trip.

To get to the climbs from the campsite, walk west until power lines are reached. Follow them north (in the direction of the mountain) for about 3-4 power line posts. Cut diagonally left for about a 100m until you reach an old earth dam. Follow the (usually) dry streambed and continue in the same direction for a further few hundred metres against the side of the trees. The faint path then traverses left and across the main gully. Ascend a steep path just left of the trees until the cliffs are reached. Traverse right into the trees to the shallow cave with a perennial drip. This point is the base of GROOTHOEK GULLY. Allow for approximately 1 hour for the ascent. Note that it can be difficult to find the cars amongst the trees in the dark.

Safety and Medical

The first aid dump is found on the true right of the base of GROOTHOEK GULLY. Facing the base of the cliffs to the left of the gully, move 20-30m left of the trees. The first aid dump is in a cave 8m up. In case of emergency, contact the MCSA Rescue team.

Water

There is a permanent drip about 20m up the gully. This is also a useful spot to ditch your pack while out climbing. There is no water near the campsite.

Conventions Used

The routes in this guide are arranged from left to right when facing the cliffs. i.e. From West to East.

The star rating of the individual climb is a guide to the quality of the route. In general the following applies:

- No stars The route has not been climbed enough. Climb it if it looks good, or give it a skip.
- * A route of little merit
- ** A mediocre route
- *** A good route
- **** An excellent route
- ***** One of the finest. Exceptional.

For grading, the newer numeric system is used. Grades have been converted from the old alphanumeric system, using the convention as per the article "Grade Comparison Guide" by Clive Curson, p118 of the MCSA Journal #98 of 1995. This is a guide only so some of the grades may be out by a grade or two.

KRANSBERG: List of Climbs

Climb Name	Grade	Stars	Pg
ECHARD'S ERROR	22	*****	65
WAGES OF FEAR	22	*****	64
FACTION FIGHTIN	22	****	66
ENDVOELS ARSE	22		37
ARMAGEDDON	20,A3	*****	11
CHEETAH	20,A0	****	35
WILD THING	20	***	27
LOST CONTACT	19	*****	59
THE RELUCTANT ACCOMPLICE	19	*****	41
APOCOLYPSE	19	****	42
ZARDOZ	19	****	18
SIGMA	19	***	21
TOM-TOM	19,A2	***	36
BLACK CARNAGE	19		9
YANKEE CRACK	19		19
REACHING RAPTORS	18	****	46
ABBEY ROAD	17	*****	5
DOUBLE EXPOSURE	17	*****	20
GASOLINE ALLEY	17	*****	63
AASVOELS END	17	****	37
REPROBATE	17	****	45
RUM DOODLE	17	****	33
SWIFT CRAG	17,A2	****	40
HAIRYBACK	17	***	53
IMAGINATION	17	***	58
JERRYMUNGLUM DIRECT	17,A0	***	39
PWOIT	17	***	55
EXODUS	17,A1	**	10
JERRYMUNGLUM	17	*	38
CLAYPOT	17		28
ENEMA	17		54
EXECUTIONER	17,A2		8
LIBERTY	17,A2		7
THE BASTILLE	17		6

Climb Name	Grade	Stars	Pg
THE RIGHT THING	17		23
THE SINNER	17		50
THE BULGE	16	****	16
CHUKAMISA	16	***	46
THE LEFT THING	16		22
THE UNION CRACK	16		17
VAVOOM	15	*****	62
ANGEL RECESS	15	****	51
BLACK EAGLE CRAG	15	****	44
HATCHET	15	***	31
PERDEBY	15,A1	***	26
POTPOURRI	15	***	13
VINTAGE ADVENTURE	15	***	57
TAPESTRY	15	**	2
THE SAINT	15	**	50
LEGO	15	*	49
AIRWAYS PINNACLE	15		3
DESPERATION	15		4
LAVENDER CRACK	15		57
CONE FACE	13	***	34
FEEDBACK	13	***	3
GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY	13	***	41
HOLE AND CORNER	13	***	34
JERRIES' JITTERS	13	***	52
SNOWFLAKE	13	***	30
PIGEON PIE	13	**	54
AUF WIEDERSEHEN	13	*	24
WAFER CRACK	13	*	32
CHANEL CRACK	13		56
CRACK OF DOOM	13		61
DRY WATERFALL	13		49
EIERKRANTZ	12	****	25
PLUMBLINE	12	****	67
TONIC	12	***	15
BACCHUS	12	**	29

Climb Name	Grade	Stars	Pg
FEATHER RECESS	12	**	49
CABIN CRACK	12		60
DRY VULCH TRAVERSE	12		56
THREE CHICK PINNACLE	12		7
ANGELICA	11	***	51
CARRION CRAG	11		2
CHOCKSTONE CRACK	11		20
MATERNITY COUCH	11		14
SURPRISE CRACK	11		14
SUNSHINE CRACK	10	***	47
DEVIL'S HIGHWAY	8	*	48
CLEFT ARETE	8		1
GARDEN ROUTE	7		58
YELLOWWOOD GULLY	7		28
GROOTHOEK GULLY	6		48
CARRION GULLY			1
DEATH RATTLE GULLY			9
SURPRISE PINNACLE			14

Climbs to the west

CLEFT ARETE

8

At the westernmost extremity of the range, behind the farm at the top of the pass, is a peak cut off from the rest of the escarpment by a deep cleft. The route takes the line of least resistance on the ill defined ridge to the left of the cleft. The climb is easy but clean and enjoyable.

Note:

Descend by an obvious "B" route on the Western skyline of the peak.

First ascent: Jun 1947 Miss R. Fouche, J. de V Graaff and J.M. Thorp.

CARRION GULLY

?

Immediately to the west of CARRION CRAG there is a gully that can be used for descent. The top of the gully is marked by a solitary tree. One abseil is made at a point about half-way down. Continue rightwards down the grass where the gully opens out, then traverse horizontally leftwards towards CARRION CRAG along a ledge to avoid a 30m drop to the foot of the krantz below.

First ascent: Date unknown Party unknown

CARRION CRAG

11

This climb is situated about 300m west of the "Bastille" and commences on the right of a large overhang. After climbing up to the overhang, traverse under its roof to the left into a crack which is ascended to the second overhang. A traverse to the right brings one to an arete which is followed keeping generally to the right to the summit.

First ascent: 1951 R. Charlton, E. Lude and G. Burrows.

TAPESTRY

15 **

The start of the climb is just to the left of FEEDBACK, at the foot of the very prominent figure '7' formed in the rock by a huge roof with a slab running up to it.

- 1. 30m 15** Climb the crack where the slab meets the wall and into the bottomless crack. Chimney horizontally along this (the top of the '7') then up to a stance on the outside edge of the crack above.
- 2. 25m 15** Continue up the crack using the left-hand crack near the top. A grassy ledge is gained.
- 3. ?m ? ?**
- 4. 75m 12** Climb back into the chimney and ascend it. Climb up the recesses. When stopped by overhangs climb through them on the right.

First ascent: 13 Oct 1973 P. Andersen and D. Andersen.

FEEDBACK

13 ***

The climb goes up the second, and more prominent pinnacle to the left of the Bastille. From the top of the pinnacle (which goes half-way up the krantz) the route continues up an exposed "staircase" corner to the top. On the left of the start of the climb there is a remarkable scooped out "7".

- 1. 33m 11** Start in the right of 2 parallel chimneys. 8m up, move across to the left chimney and up to chockstone belay.
- 2. 18m 11** Traverse right to huge yellowwood tree in right crack and continue to top of pinnacle.
- 3. 18m 11** Climb down to narrow col between pinnacle and main krantz and climb diagonally left up steep face to grassy ledge.
- 4. 41m 13** Climb exposed staircase corner to second vultures ledge. (Alt. belay on first one.)
- 5. 30m 12** Continue up staircase crack for 24m to where it steepens then climb diagonally left up to large vulture ledge. Finish by scrambling to top.

First ascent: 12 Dec 1971 A. McGarr and D. Peters.

AIRWAYS PINNACLE

15

This pinnacle is separated from the Bastille by a large recess. The climb follows a crack between two adjacent detached pinnacles.

- 1. 27m 11** Climb up the crack to large stance.
- 2. 33m 15** Up to large stance which is sunken at the rear, chockstone belays.
- 3. 27m 11** Climb up crack in rear to stance in recess. Stay in crack until overhangs force you out, then a ledge on the left will be found above large grass ledge.
- 4. 20m 15** Climb up the face to vulture ledge.
- 5. 33m 8** Traverse right through a hole in the pinnacle to a large yellowwood tree.

- 6. 33m 8** Climb up slope behind AIRWAY PINNACLE to a tree just short of the top of the slope.
- 7. 27m 11** Traverse out to the left on the pinnacle (facing out) to the corner and then up the corner to 2 yellowwood trees.
- 8. 10m 11** Traverse 5m along ledge to small crack then up to summit.
- 9. 10m 11** Aerial Traverse: If previously arranged a rope can be thrown to someone on the main berg. Alt. 27m 11 The leader can abseil to a stance between the pinnacle and the berg. From here traverse right then up to tree then up and left to large blocks used for anchoring aerial ropes. A sling must be left on the pinnacle.

First ascent: Aug 1951 S.O. Penny, D. Williamson, R. Niven and R. Kinsley.

DESPERATION

15

Climb the cone for 30m (8), then move 24m diagonally left and complete the initial part of the climb by a short traverse left on a thin face (15) into a gully. Walk up the gully to the face of the main berg which lies between AIRWAYS PINNACLE and the Bastille to the east. The route then follows the crack behind the Bastille, although not actually in it, until a traverse left to a crack on the main berg becomes necessary. Climb the latter crack for 3 long pitches (15). The rock is rotten here. Finally, traverse right into the crack behind the Bastille and finish the last 27m of the climb up this crack (15).

Note:

Rotten rock did not inspire the opening party with enthusiasm or confidence.

First ascent: Jul 1960 R. Charlton and M. Urban.

ABBEY ROAD

17 *****

In the centre of the Bastille Buttress, starting from ground level is a system of deep chimneys and cracks used by THE BASTILLE. To the left of this, in the lower section, is a thin but prominent crack slanting slightly leftwards which this route follows. Start 7m to the left of the start of THE BASTILLE.

- 1. 15m 15** Start in a "V"-shaped recess. Using the right wall pull up into the crack above, climb to higher of two stances.
- 2. 30m 17** Climb the crack. After a steep section the angle eases slightly below a block overhang. Make a semi-hanging belay below this.
- 3. 13m 15** Climb over blocks at the overhang and move slightly left to continue up the crack. Pull up into a slight widening and deepening of the crack and take a semi-hanging belay. This pitch could be combined with the next.
- 4. 30m 17** Climb up the crack and through an awkward bulge. 5m below the stance, leave the crack and climb the wall to it's right.
- 5. 21m 13** At the back of the stance is an indefinite crack slanting up to the right. Climb this taking the left fork and after a further 10m make a stance by the crack.
- 6. 40m 13** Continue up the crack for a few metres and then traverse left. Climb the steep wall on good holds then traverse back to the right. Take the easiest diagonal line to a stance below a deep chimney up to the right.
- 7. 25m 11** Climb the chimney and belay under the overhangs which block it.
- 8. 30m 15** Climb up to the left past overhang and up the crack in the wall above.

First ascent: May 1974 J. Linke and P. Andersen.

THE BASTILLE

17

On the left side of the Bastille an obvious chimney can be seen at the base, splitting into two at the overhang at half height. Above the overhang it continues to the top. The first 17m of the chimney forms a funnel to a vegetated crack before it opens out again. Start below a flake crack 20m to the left of the chimney,

1. 45m 17 Climb the crack with some strenuous moves to a grass ledge. Move left and continue up the flake crack to the traverse line at 17m. Traverse right on small holds to start, then large holds until a descending move is necessary (about 13m along). Traverse 1m, then climb diagonally right to the base of wide chimney. Move up the chimney for 10m to chockstone belay.

2. 30m 11 Climb up the back of chimney and continue up the groove to a peg belay and stance below overhang.

3. 27m 15 Move down a couple of metres and traverse right for 5m to the base of a groove. Continue up this to a large ledge and belay on the right.

4. 23m 15 Move back left and climb through the overhanging chimney using large chockstones. Another large chockstone provides an awkward move at 20m, then belay on the ledge at the base of the wide chimney.

5. 30m 11 Climb the wide chimney until it narrows next to a large overhang. Move onto the left wall and across to a small stance and peg belay.

6. 23m 13 Traverse right across the chimney onto the right wall. Ascend the wall to a ledge and tree belay on the right of a large flake.

7. 20m 11 Move up past the flake and directly up to a large ledge well to the right of the chimney.

8. 45m ? Scramble up right on easy rock to the top.

First ascent: Mar 1968 A.D. Barley, M. White and A. Carmen.

LIBERTY

17,A2

The climb follows the crack system between BASTILLE and EXECUTIONER.

- 1. 35m 13** Climb left-hand chimney on pinnacle to top.
- 2. 30m 17** Climb face behind stance for 10m. Traverse left into crack and climb crack to big ledge.
- 3. 25m 17,A2** Climb right-hand recess to prominent roof. Climb roof (using chockstones A2). Climb 6m up and traverse left into crack, move up 2m to small but comfortable stance (cubby hole).
- 4. 32m 13** Climb crack system until natural chockstone is reached (5m above ledge).
- 5. 35m 12** Climb up crack and recess for about 5m. Traverse right onto face and climb to top (tree belay).

Variation:

3b. 19 Climb left-hand crack via natural chockstone to stance.

First ascent: 18 Jan 1975 J. Linke, E. Drushke and C. Ward.

THREE CHICK PINNACLE

12

To the east of the Bastille is an obvious pinnacle rising $\frac{1}{2}$ way to the summit. This pinnacle can be climbed on both sides, although the normal route goes up the left side. From the top of the pinnacle traverse 9m left, then up 47m of "staircase" ending in a narrow chimney. The top of the chimney is blocked, but on reaching the roof one can traverse out beyond a large chockstone to the summit.

First ascent: 1947 S. Penny, E. Lude, R. Charlton and H. Rowland.

EXECUTIONER

17, A2

At the base of the Bastille near the right-hand arete, there is a 33m pinnacle, and above this a white chimney leading up to the horizontal break half-way up. The route ascends the front of the pinnacle, continues up the chimney and crack line above until this peters out, then continues up the wall and right-hand arete to the top. Start from a ledge below the front face of the pinnacle, 6m to the left of the gully.

- 1. 40m 15** Climb front of pinnacle, generally staying near the right-hand arete, to top of pinnacle.
- 2. 40m 17** Descend right side of pinnacle until it is possible to step right into wide chimney. Ascend chimney to cave in the horizontal break.
- 3. 25m 15,A2** Ascend the overhang above until it is possible to gain a shallow chimney (5m). Continue up the steep wall on good but widely spaced holds to small ledge. (Nut or peg belay).
- 4. 35m 12** Traverse to the right-hand arete and move up onto a gangway. Follow this for a short distance, then move back to the arete and follow this to ledge with peg belay on left, directly above previous stance.
- 5. 45m 9** Continue over ledge and walls to top.

Note:

After pitch 4 it is possible to traverse to the Bastille via a 20m 17 traverse to the left

First ascent: 10 Oct 1968 A.D. Barley, A. Carmen and R.P. Barley.

DEATH RATTLE GULLY

?

The gully provides a convenient means of descent. The top of the gully splits in two. Scramble down the left hand (facing outwards) split until the chimney becomes overhanging. An abseil of 42m is the easiest way down but two 21m abseils are possible. Continue down right hand side of gully.

First ascent: Date unknown Party unknown.

BLACK CARNAGE

19

About 400m to the left of the "Chevron" there is an obvious deep gash (DEATH RATTLE GULLY) which is bounded on its left by an isolated bastion (Bastille). To the right of the gully there is a face with a prominent pinnacle two thirds of the way up (THREE CHICK PINNACLE) above a large ledge with a tree. The route gains the ledge directly via a crack in the steep wall below, and follows the continuation crack up the subsidiary pinnacle, leaving the left-hand end of the ledge. From the top of THREE CHICK PINNACLE a detour to the left-hand chimney is made, then an airy traverse to the right-hand chimney is made, and followed to the top. Start immediately below the thin crack splitting the initial face about 50m to the left of the gully.

1. 33m 19 Climb the crack to the belay on a large block beside a pinnacle with occasional moves on to the face. A sustained section at 12m provides the crux, but the pitch is sustained throughout and well protected.

2. 43m 19 Continue up the crack which is also sustained but adequately protected, until forced to the right above the top bulge onto vegetation which is followed to a large ledge.

3. 20m 19 From the extreme left-hand end of the ledge climb a thin crack to a small stance.

4. 23m 17 Continue up the crack above, with a step to the left half-way up, to the top of the subsidiary pinnacle.

5. 13m 13 Climb the wall just to the right of the left-hand arete to the top of the main pinnacle.

6. 27m 15 Step off the top of the pinnacle and climb the wall directly for 13m, then traverse to a tree belay in the left-hand gully.

7. 33m 15 Climb onto the left-hand arete and move around to a ledge on the face. The traverse level is difficult to determine, but one ends up on a level with the large ledge in the right-hand chimney on which one belays.

Protection on pitches 6 and 7 is poor.

8. 23m 11 Climb the chimney to a tree belay below a large chockstone.

9. 33m 15 Climb to a large recess 13m from the top. Either climb the tree and step off onto the right-hand arete, or struggle up the chimney to the top.

Variations:

1b. 17 18m right of the crack of pitch 1 there is another crack with overhanging roof. Climb this moving out left at top. Continue up to Stance 2.

1c. 17 Start at tree between the 2 cracks. Ascend slightly overhanging face then diagonally right to Pitch 2.

(July 1949). Graaff, P. Campbell and E. Chadwick)

First ascent: Nov 1967 A.D. Barley and C. Cowley.

EXODUS

17,A1 **

About 200m right of DEATH RATTLE GULLY is an area of reddish rock with a huge corner capped by overhangs. The left side of this buttress is bounded by a long, vegetated corner. On the front of the buttress between the 2 corners is a thin crack line guarded at the bottom by a 33m narrowing recess. This is the line of the route. Scramble to a long wide ledge at 13m easily gained from the left.

1. 18m 17,A1 Ascend the left-hand corner of the recess for 9m, then ascend a thin crack in a wall (A loose block

prevents continuation up the corner). From the last peg, gain a foothold and move diagonally right on steep rock with good holds to a ledge and peg belay below the right-hand corner crack.

2. 18m 15,A2 Move up the right of the crack for 5m, then swing left into the chimney. Move up this to its top, then, using 4 pegs, ascend to where the angle eases, and continue up to good stance and tree belay.

3. 23m 11 Ascend the narrow chimney using the right wall, to a stance and chockstone belay.

4. 23m 15 Move up to the bulge and make an awkward move past it. Continue up to a stance on the right. Peg and chockstone belays.

5. 26m 17 Move up, then diagonally left to an exposed position on the arete. Traverse back right into the shallow groove at the same level as a prominent spike at the base of the groove. Continue up the groove to a peg belay on a ledge below the steep red section.

6. 36m 13 Traverse down rightwards for 5m, then up a steep wall on good holds to a shallow broken chimney. Continue up this to a stance with piton belay.

7. 40m 12 Continue up the chimney to a stance with good belay below the deep final chimney.

8. 40m 11 Ascend the chimney line to the final overhang and escape right. Move up then right to block belay. Scramble to top.

First ascent: 17 Aug 1969 A.D. Barley and M. White.

ARMAGEDDON

20,A3 *****

Some 65m to the right of DEATH RATTLE GULLY there is an area of reddish rock with a huge corner capped by overhangs and vulture nests above. Immediately to the right of this corner is a crack-line following an overhanging arete. The

route follows this line and continues through the overhangs above.

Start directly below the crack-line and scramble to a ledge at 6m (cairn).

1. 45m 13 Climb a 13m flake crack then move up via grooves and ledges to belay below the overhanging section of the crack.

2. 16m 15,A2 Climb 4m up a square corner then step to the left across the wall to gain a series of overhanging grooves. Climb these to a narrow chimney below a chockstone. Surmount this to reach a constricted stance and peg belay.

3. 23m 19 Climb the continuation chimney, using a peg for aid where it steepens. Continue up the overhanging chimney and then strenuously up an overhanging crack to reach a "sentry box". Move up this, step to a ledge and peg belays.

4. 23m 19 Climb the groove above, with a detour to the left at 6m to avoid a bulge. Continue up to a small stance below the overhang (chock and peg belay).

5. 9m 19,A2 Surmount the overhang, using two pegs and a sling, and climb an awkward crack to a tiny stance and peg belay to the right.

6. 16m 20 Continue up the steep cracks and up to the right to a short bulging chimney. Climb this (very strenuous) to a small ledge and peg belays below the final roof.

7. 23m 15,A3 Climb 3m up to the roof using a nutted sling, then cross the roof on inverted pegs to its lip. Gain an overhanging groove with the aid of a "bong" (most of the pegs were left in place) then move up strenuously on good holds to another overhang. Step to the left to a narrow ledge where the angle becomes vertical. Move up to the right to good ledges.

8. 20m 11 Climb up steep rock and turf ledges to a platform. Scramble up and to the left along a grassy rake and then over rock to top.

Note:

This is an exacting route with the crux at the top, where retreat becomes impossible because of overhanging rock below. With 50m ropes retreat is just possible from the top of pitch 4.

First ascent: May 1969 A.D. Barley, R.P. Barley and N. White.

POTPOURRI**15 *****

POTPOURRI takes the 2nd line of weakness to the left of the deep narrow gully. SURPRISE CRACK takes the 1st line. The route follows the line for 2/3rd 's of the face and then goes right on a distinct traverse line above a large white vulture patch and finally follows a ridge to the top.

- 1. 37m 8** Start up a grassy conical buttress just to the left of the start to SURPRISE CRACK. Climb 10m to overhang, traverse right to gully and climb diagonally left to top of buttress.
- 2. 18m 13** Climb chimney to large chockstone, move left into open book and continue up round corner to ledge with large tree belay.
- 3. 25m 15** From right side of ledge traverse 3m right and climb steep face to block. Semi-hand traverse left to ledge.
- 4. 25m 12** Ascend the chimney to good stance.
- 5. 37m 12** Climb several faces inside a very deep crack to emerge on big ledge.
- 6. 30m 15** Climb exposed face on right to ledge underneath prominent overhangs. (A 30mm wide bong provides a useful runner)
- 7. 12m 11** Follow the traverse line rightwards into gully.
- 8. 65m 8** Climb two pitches up ridge on right to top.

Note:

Pegs provide important source of protection.

First ascent: 20 Apr 1969 D. Peters and A. McGarr.

SURPRISE CRACK

11

The route lies just to the left of the first deep gully west of EIERKRANTZ. It goes up a long prominent chimney which appears from below to lead to, the top of the cliff. In fact, the chimney terminates on a small col which joins a huge pinnacle to the escarpment. The deep gully referred to above curves round behind the pinnacle. Descend from the col into the gully and up to the top. The direct route entails a short traverse left from the col onto the face and up to the top by an exposed pitch of grade 15. A longer traverse reduces the grade to 11. Another alternative is to traverse left for 32m before the top of the pinnacle.

First ascent: 1947 J. Graaff and J. Thorp.

SURPRISE PINNACLE

?

No information known.

First ascent: Date unknown Party unknown

MATERNITY COUCH

11

This climb takes the easiest line, marked by some mauvish rock, immediately to the right of the deep gully which provides the final pitch of SURPRISE CRACK. The left-hand member of a pair of long parallel chimneys inclining slightly over to the right, accounts for most of the height. Beneath the final overhangs a descent and traverse, also to the right leads to the laborious and exposed "couch" section and the finish, which is almost directly above the top of a third long chimney, prominent from the slopes below

First ascent: Aug 1947 J. Graaff, H. Rowland, B. Fourie and R. Charlton.

TONIC

12 ***

In general the route takes the crack to the right of the prominent MATERNITY COUCH crack and to the left of a "porridge spoon" set of red overhangs. Start next to the start of MATERNITY COUCH.

1. **30m 7** Scramble up right of cone which leads to the base of a deep gully, to a grassy ledge.
2. **20m 11** Climb grassy rock bearing diagonally right to ledge 3m below 1m overhangs. (Peg belay)
3. **21m 11** From block on right of ledge surmount bulge and continue diagonally to ledge with deep crack below it on right side. Scramble 24m to top of ledge which ends at base of deep chimney leading to top of krantz. (Chockstone and nut belay)
4. **32m 9** Climb the chimney to stance 5m below two eyes. (Chockstone belay)
5. **14m 12** Worm through two eyes and up to yellowwood tree.
6. **18m 12** Worm through 3rd eye, move out left and continue up crack till level with platform on right and yellowwood tree on left. Traverse horizontally left to yellowwood tree. (One-man stance)
7. **37m 12** Continue up chimney with a few grade 12 moves to cubby hole above yellowwood tree.
8. **34m 12** Move left out of cubby hole and climb up to large ledge.
9. **24m 8** Continue to top.

First ascent: Jul 1953 R. Charlton, E. Adcock, H. Rolfes, J. Patchitt and H. Davies.

THE BULGE

16 ****

The route starts about 65m to the left of CHOCKSTONE CRACK and is distinguished by a hairline crack, with 2 trees growing out of it, running up to the summit. The first tree is about 60m from the bottom.

- 1. 25m 8** Ascend the ramp to base of hairline crack.
- 2. 22m 12** Climb crack and bypass overhang by climbing through wormhole.
- 3. 13m 13** Continue up crack.
- 4. 22m 16** Continue up crack. Avoid overhang by climbing right hand wall to tree belay.
- 5. 22m 16** Continue up crack and surmount prominent bulge.
- 6. 32m 16** Continue up crack and surmount another prominent bulge. Climb to 3m below a tree then traverse left into recess. Ascend recess to tree
- 7. 35m 11** Move onto face, then ascend face.
- 8. 32m 16** Move back into crack and negotiate overhang.
- 9. 9m 9** Move to the right to summit.

First ascent: Aug 1964 A.G. Chinery, B. Fletcher, B. Honey and C. Cowley.

THE UNION CRACK

16

To the left of AUF WIEDERSEHEN is a nose presenting grooves which are undercut. Immediately left again is a huge black cleft which cuts up rightwards. This is the line of the route.

Start slightly left of the base of the cleft and scramble 37m up to the base of the ramp which leads up rightwards to the cleft.

- 1. 18m 11** Ascend diagonally right up a bulging crack to peg belay below shallow chimney. (which leads up to a prominent crack line.)
- 2. 24m 11** Ascend rightwards up a chimney, along ledges then up to the base of the cleft.
- 3. 21m 16** Ascend the chimney past a bulging chockstone to a ledge and thread belay.
- 4. 27m 16** Continue up to an overhang provided by a chockstone, move round it and up to belay in a narrow chimney.
- 5. 9m 11** Move up and crawl behind a chockstone, then up to belay on large ledge.
- 6. 24m 11** Up to the continuation chimney, over a large chockstone to chockstone belay in the chimney below the overhanging section.
- 7. 18m 11** Ascend the back for 6m then move out diagonally over chockstones. Ascend a further 6m to peg belay above overhanging section.
- 8. 15m 13** Continue up the chimney line to peg belay below the overhang.
- 9. 30m 10** Traverse left then diagonally up left to another overhang. Traverse back right above the first overhang then up a wall on good holds to a large block belay. Scramble to top.

First ascent: 16 Aug 1969 A. Barley, B. Honey and M. White.

ZARDOZ

19 ****

Start at the base of a small pinnacle on the right hand side of the face between YANKEE CRACK and THE BULGE.

1. **18m 13** Climb easily up the left hand ridge of the pinnacle to the top. Step onto the main face and traverse left on good holds for 4m before moving up onto a stance on a small ledge. Nut and peg belay.
2. **25m 16** Climb the shallow scoop above the stance for 4m and the traverse delicately around the buttress. Step down left and then continue diagonally leftwards up the face for 15m to a small stance with nut and peg belays.
3. **25m 18** Climb the steep rock above the stance for 8m and then diagonally left to below the left hand end of the overhang. Continue up leftwards past the overhang to a good stance below a shallow recess.
4. **30m 19** Climb the face and the steep recess about 6m above the stance. Continue up the line of the recess with several deviations onto the right hand face. There are some difficult moves involved in gaining a small cubbyhole on the left of the recess beneath a small overhang. Move diagonally leftward from the cubbyhole to a small ledge above and then traverse right about 2½ m to a small stance.
5. **45m 12** Climb diagonally rightwards from the stance and continue up the face following the easiest line to a ledge.
6. **25m 11** Continue more easily up to ledge at the base of the steep final face near its centre.
7. **25m 16,A1** Move up the broad recess generally keeping to the right hand side. One piton was used for aid to overcome a blank section although it may be possible to find a route up the recess that does not require any aid.

First ascent: Dec 1974 A. McGarr and P. Fatti.

YANKEE CRACK

The route follows the crack immediately to the left of CHOCKSTONE CRACK (incorrectly marked in the guide book as UNION CRACK). Approach the base of the crack from somewhat left of the crack. About 35m of scrambling and then about 10m of E grade climbing brings one to a ledge at the base of the crack.

- 1. 27m 19** Ascend crack on right side of ledge for 3m, traverse 2m left into main crack and ascend this to a small stance below where chimney narrows.
- 2. 40m 15** Continue up crack to small stance on ledge formed by partially detached block.
- 3. 30m 17** Continue up crack for 4m to another small ledge with block on face to left. Avoid the next section of the crack, which would provide very difficult climbing, by traversing left 4m, moving up 4m and then traversing right at first via a sharp handrail right back into the crack. Move up the crack past the overhang to a ledge above.
- 4. 44m 13** Continue up crack line and then diagonally right up face to small ledge near base of recess.
- 5. 43m 12** Ascend recess then face above to top.

Variation:

13 From deviation leftward onto face in pitch 3, continue diagonally left for two long pitches into chimney followed by THE BULGE. Finish up the final pitch of THE BULGE. (1 Jan 1973 A. McGarr, J. Gregory, M. Makowski)

First ascent: 2 Jun 1974 M. Makowski and A. McGarr.

CHOCKSTONE CRACK

11

In general, the route follows a steep crack / chimney which is noticeable when the face is seen obliquely from the west. The first 33m is best climbed to the right of the crack. Some strenuous chimney pitches follow. A deviation to the face on the right is made about 2/3rd's of the way up, where the chimney temporarily narrows. A roof at the top of the chimney is avoided by traversing to the left, by ascending, and then by traversing to the right (above the roof) to where an obvious route up the short final face exists. The route is steep and reasonably clean.

First ascent: Dec 1956 R. Davies, D. Mitchell, J. Clayton and R. Ansell.

DOUBLE EXPOSURE

17 *****

Starts on the left edge of extensive slab near the base of CHOCKSTONE CRACK. After crossing the slab the route follows the arete and face between CHOCKSTONE CRACK and SIGMA through the overhangs.

- 1. 45m 13** Ascend diagonally right across slab to stance in recess.
- 2. 40m 16** Traverse right to arete, ascend to top of arete to stance in recess on right at base of chimney.
- 3. 40m 17** Climb to top of chimney, then diagonally right up face for 7m. Traverse left above bulge and below overhangs to rib on corner. Continue traversing left round rib into main corner, then up and left onto main arete to stance on large ledge below band of overhangs.
- 4. 20m 17** From right hand edge of ledge traverse 3m right to base of chimney. Move up chimney 3m to ledges on either side. From left ledge traverse left 3m to corner. Then up and diagonally right to ledge in recess above band of overhangs.
- 5. 45m 12** Up easier rock to summit.

Note:

Pitches 1 to 3 were first climbed in Nov 1971 by A. McGarr and R.D. Hoare.

First ascent: Jan 1972 A. McGarr, J. Levy and M. Briggs.

SIGMA**19 *****

- 1. 45m 9** Scramble up easy rock and grass to the base of a recess.
- 2. 45m 19** Climb the recess (4 pegs in place) on polished holds. Move out left and continue up the chimney and cracks above.
- 3. 45m 17** Climb the off width crack above to easy ground. (Above, the crack closes up to an awkward looking offwidth.) Traverse left for 8m and up to a jagged crack. (Peg in place at the base. Ignore the misleading peg, 6m over to the right.) Climb the crack and traverse back right and up to a large block.
- 4. 40m 13** Climb the chimney above, taking the left-hand branch.
- 5. 45m 13** Continue up the chimney to the top.

Note:

The first free ascent is unknown, but the description has been supplied by: A. Wood, N. Carver and C. Ward.

First ascent: 1956 R. Davies, G. Carter, J. Clayton and R Charlton.

THE LEFT THING

16

Between SIGMA and AUF WIEDERSEHEN is a buttress with 2 vertical lines. The route takes the left chimney/crack line and starts by ascending a prominent groove in the lower buttress. Start immediately below this groove almost at the lowest point of the buttress.

- 1. 18m 15** Climb directly up a steep wall to a good ledge and peg belay below the overhanging groove.
- 2. 40m 16** Enter the groove by awkward layback and climb steep section to good ledge on right. Continue up easy angled groove for 15m to where it becomes more vegetated. Traverse 5m left and move up passing a block then move left to good ledge and peg belays.
- 3. 30m 7** Scramble up grass to base of main berg (Cairn).
- 4. 24m 13** Above is an obvious line of a rather vegetated chimney. Climb this to stance with large loose blocks on left. (Vulture's nest)
- 5. 12m 13** Ascend the inverted funnel of the crack line to stance.
- 6. 12m 13** Continue up line of crack to small stance and peg belays where crack narrows.
- 7. 21m 15** Ascend the thin crack above to ledge below overhang, step left and climb wall just left of crack to stance in niche. (Peg belay)
- 8. 30m 11** Step right and climb the crack again to where it steepens. Traverse right across the wall below the overhang and up to a grassy chimney. Scramble up this to a good ledge and chock belay.
- 9. 60m 8** Scramble up grass and rock to top.

First ascent: 2 Aug 1696 A.D. Barley and R.P. Barley.

THE RIGHT THING

17

To the left of AUF WIEDERSEHEN is an arete based on two rounded buttresses about 50m high. The climb starts near the centre of the right hand one. This section may be eliminated by scrambling up a gully 30m to the right.

- 1. 25m 13** Starting from a cubby-hole near the middle of the buttress, ascend 5m up the face on its left. Traverse to the right for 3m above the overhang, then ascend a broken face to the broad ledge at the top of the buttress.
- 2. 23m 13** From the ledge ascend a small face for 5m. Traverse to the right for 3m, then move up to the base of an open book. Climb 13m to the ceiling, to a chockstone belay.
- 3. 27m 15** Move 7m to the right and 3m up to a small ledge. Ascend a corner for 10m, then move up to the right into the crack. After climbing the crack for 5m, move to the left around the corner. Climb a thin face for 3m before traversing to the right back into the crack.
- 4. 20m 13** Ascend a steep chimney to the base of a steep crack above the slabs.
- 5. 23m 15** Climb a steep crack for 7m to a good eye belay. Traverse 10m right to the base of a bottomless book. Ascend the book for 4m to easier rock. (Alternative: climb straight up to the vulture ledges)
- 6. 27m 12** Climb easy sloping rock to a corner and move round it onto vulture ledges. Traverse left to a stance on block.
- 7. 20m 17** Step left onto a spectacular face and traverse 7m across this. Move up to small stance below a book. Climb 8m to top.

First ascent: Circa 1969 M. Prior and J. Anderson.

Chevron area

This is the area of rock to the left (west) of the GROOTHOEK GULLY as viewed from below. Please note that no climbing is allowed to the left of the climb AUF WIEDERSEHEN.

YELLOWWOOD GULLY and GROOTHOEK GULLY provide easy routes off the top. The approach follows the route described above, before traversing along the base of the cliffs. Most climbs start from the ledge that traverses for the entire part for the crag, about 30-70m up. Various grassy gullies exist to reach this ledge. The first pitch often sucks, but the steep and clean rock above makes up for this. Shorter routes exist to the true left of the GROOTHOEK GULLY.

AUF WIEDERSEHEN

13 *

The route is centred about the crack on the left side of the Eierkrantz buttress. Ascend from the bottom of the face to the ledge from which EIERKRANTZ usually starts, either by climbing in the corner, or on the grey face to the right. About 46m higher, the crack is almost blocked but one can pass through an eye and traverse left onto a face. Descend 3m and make a short traverse to the left (13) until an easy route leading back into the main crack higher up is reached. Climb in the corner for 18m (13) to reach a subsidiary crack lying up the flank of the Eierkrantz buttress (The main crack is blocked above this point). Follow the subsidiary crack to the top.

Variation:

At a point about half-way up the subsidiary crack traverse left to the main crack and follow the latter to the top.

First ascent: Oct 1961 M. Urban, R. Charlton, W. Wieder and Miss R. v.d. Riet.

EIERKRANTZ

12 ****

To the left of the Chevron there is a deep gully. Climb this for about 70m to a prominent ledge on the left. Traverse along this, down a short easy chimney, (Alt. Move along the outline of the ledge) and continue along the ledge for another 60m to a sloping corner with a crack in it, just before the prominent gully comes into sight.

1. 28m 12 Climb the easy sloping corner for 20m. Move 2m left and up to large ledge on left with one or two blocks.

2. 28m 12 Climb from right to left up steep smooth face. Continue up corner for 7m (to old peg). Traverse right for along an obvious ledge for 16m past one vulture nest and make a stance at the second.

3. 40m 12 Climb up 8m to a ledge, move left on the ledge for 3m and ascend the face to another ledge. Traverse right for 10m to a wide ledge beneath an overhang.

4. 20m 11 Climb the face to the left of the overhang or alternately follow the obvious crack line up from the right of the ledge.

Note:

The climb can be lengthened by ascending the 40m of nondescript rock up to the ledge at the normal start to the climb.

First ascent: Jun 1947 J. Graaff, J. Thorp and Miss E. Chadwick.

PERDEBY

15,A1 ***

Start (cairn) from the same ledge as EIERKRANTZ on top of some large blocks about 27m from the start of the ledge and 10m left of the prominent open book which WILD THING takes.

1. 40m 15 Step off the large block onto the face below a loose flake and climb diagonally left to a steep vertical crack (25m) (ledge and peg belay). Ascend the steep recess requiring an etrier move (peg hammer marks). Continue up an awkward bulge and climb on good holds to a ledge below overhang. (Peg and nut belay)

2. 20m 13 Move 5m right to the obvious crack line via the right of two parallel cracks (13). Climb corner (11) to the large ledge which is shared by EIERKRANTZ.

3. 32m 11 From the right of the ledge ascend a short chimney (6m), then ascend the corner, which curves off left, to the top.

*First ascent: 1959
Williamson.*

J. Graaff, J. Clayton and D.

WILD THING

20 ***

Traverse leftwards out of YELLOWWOOD GULLY on a ledge 13m above the base of the buttress. Belay below a slanting corner.

- 1. 23m 19** Climb a short way up the corner, then swing to the left to a large cubby-hole. Reach far out from the cubby-hole and continue up a crack moving slightly to the left to a peg belay on ledge.
- 2. 17m 11** Move left and pass overhang. Climb to the top of buttress.
- 3. ?m ?** Scramble to the base of overhanging corner 20m to the left of YELLOWWOOD GULLY.
- 4. 25m 20** Climb the crack in the right hand wall making an awkward move into the shallow cubbyhole 8m out, using a sling. Then up 13m to cubbyhole. Continue up easier rock until it is possible to bridge to the left hand wall. Move up to the overhanging block and surmount this.
- 5. 18m 19** Climb the overhanging chimney to a loose flake at 3m. Move to right hand wall then diagonally up to the right and continue up to a ledge on the right hand arete.
- 6. 33m 13** Step onto a detached block and traverse left to the base of a corner which is followed to a large ledge, then climb the twin cracks to a belay below a large overhang.
- 7. 33m 19** Move down and traverse onto left hand wall below a shallow groove. Move up left onto ledge and traverse 5m further then ascend the bulge in the left hand wall of the scoop-like face to an overhang about 22m out. Pass the overhang on the right and proceed directly up the steep wall until a move can be made left to a ledge below an overhanging nose. Belay in the chimney on the left.
- 8. 23m 19** A difficult traverse from the ledge to the right is followed by a mantleshelf. Climb up to a large ledge then ascend the left hand arete of the chimney to the top.

First ascent: Nov 1967 A.D. Barley, C. Cowley and M. White.

CLAYPOT

17

The route starts from YELLOWWOOD GULLY at a point about 37m up, where the ledge which leads out to EIERKRANTZ starts.

- 1. 19m 17** From a tree belay ascend the face to a large stance (peg belay) by a pull up on an overhanging section, followed by a one arm pull up to the stance.
- 2. 32m 8** Climb up to large block on skyline.
- 3. 26m 15** Ascend the face adjacent to skyline to summit.

First ascent: 1964 A.G. Chinery, B. Honey and C. Cowley.

YELLOWWOOD GULLY

7

This gully is the deep cleft to the right of Eierkrantz buttress. It provides a pleasant descent route. Towards the bottom there is a 14m abseil from a big yellowwood tree. A short distance further on there is a second abseil, mostly free, of 20m also from a big yellowwood tree, which takes one past a huge chockstone. Water trickles are sometimes to be found at the foot of the gully in summer.

First ascent: Date Unknown Party Unknown

BACCHUS

12 **

The route starts on the extreme right hand side of YELLOWWOOD GULLY, at the level of the traverse used for the start of EIERKRANTZ.

- 1. 25m 11** Climb up a recess on the right of smooth face for 10m, then traverse 5m to the right to a crack. Climb the crack to a small stance 10m further up. Chockstone and nut belay.
- 2. 25m 12** Continue up the crack for 8m, then traverse right on a small ledge to the corner of YELLOWWOOD GULLY. Climb the corner for 10m on small grips to a small grassy ledge, where the angle eases off. Continue up a small recess to a block, then traverse right to a small ledge and chockstone belay.
- 3. 30m 12** Climb up diagonally left for 6m, then traverse left for 10m under the overhang (exposed) until a yellowwood tree is reached. Continue up in the recess past a small tree to a broad ledge and tree belay.
- 4. 22m 11** Climb the crack in the corner for 12m to a tree. Scramble up to a large tree belay on the broad ledge that marks the traverse of SNOWFLAKE.
- 5. 60m 1** Walk to the left extremity of this ledge (about 60m) to where 2 deep cracks are situated, the right hand one of which is the final pitch of SNOWFLAKE, and the left hand one of which is blocked by an overhanging chockstone.
- 6. 30m 12** Climb diagonally left for 6m on the face to the left of the blocked chimney, until a thin vertical crack is reached. Climb straight up on good jug (exposed) to a small stance under an overhanging roof.
- 7. 20m 11** Continue up the crack, moving up the left-hand wall to where the crack gets blocked towards the top. Scramble over some loose blocks to the top and block belay.

First ascent: Aug 1971 D. Steenkamp, H. Boshoff, F. Baumgartner and D. Lubbe.

SNOWFLAKE

13 ***

To the right of YELLOWWOOD GULLY there is a long crack with a step in it, extending about two thirds of the height of the face. Two trees show from the crack above the step. The climb follows this crack. Scramble up to the base of the crack, onto a ledge with several trees.

1. 33m 13 Climb the crack until a suitable place is found to move out left to a stance.

2. 33m 12 Traverse back into the crack, and continue chimneying until a large floor is reached just above a chockstone, which tends to block the chimney. (Block belay)

3. 23m 12 Start climbing below an obvious fault about 8m up, the chimney now being much wider, to a large chockstone 18m up. Move out left under the chockstone and climb the face to a large ledge. (Tree belay)

Scramble up the crack above the ledge to the top and walk along the ledge to a large tree in a corner. Climb the face just to the left of the tree, and then scramble out right and up to the top.

First ascent: 1947

T. Louw, W. Curle and E. Axelson.

HATCHET

15 ***

This climb is situated just to the right of the Eierkrantz buttress, between SNOWFLAKE and WAFER CRACK. From about half-way up the middle of the face between these two climbs there are two prominent, parallel cracks, fairly close together, the right hand one running right through to the top, while the other one stops just short of it. Scramble up to the ledge from which SNOWFLAKE starts and belay from the left one of two trees on this ledge, just below a recess about 6m to the right of SNOWFLAKE.

- 1. 23m 15** Climb up the recess for about 7m (where a sling can be put in a branch of a tree), then traverse right to a smallish ledge. Climb diagonally left up steep rock to grass ledge (peg belay, large stance)
- 2. 28m 13** From the right side of the ledge there is a crack leading up, to the right of which there is a large purple face with rounded holds. Climb up this crack for 6m. Traverse out right for 5m and then climb up this face for 18m until a short open book is reached. Climb up this. Traverse right and then up to a stance at a vulture nest behind a large block below right hand crack.
- 3. 26m 12** Traverse into the left crack and then climb up to a very small stance on a block above where the crack starts overhanging and closing up. (Peg belay, 2-man stance)
- 4. 32m 13** Traverse right (exposed) for 9m until just before the right crack, which has become more of a recess, and climb up the left side for 23m to a block with a small tree on the left side of the recess. (Tree and block belay)
- 5. 29m 11** Climb 13m then traverse out right and make a stance in the large tree at the top of WAFER CRACK.

First ascent: Apr 1966 P. Venter and P. Fatti.

WAFER CRACK

13 *

The start of this climb is about 50m to the right of SNOWFLAKE. After climbing for about 24m a well defined ledge is reached from where the climb proper starts. This section is the crux. The crack bifurcates after 80m. Take the left branch, then about 35m of further climbing to the top.

First ascent: 1948 B. Harris and D. Gilham.

RUM DOODLE

17 ****

To the right of WAFER CRACK is a brownish red buttress ending in a steep section of greyish rock. RUM DOODLE goes up the steep face to the right of this red buttress and makes its way through the large overhang near the top. Scramble about 45m to large tree at the bottom right hand corner of the above mentioned red buttress.

- 1. 27m 11** Climb diagonally right up to a clean steep face to the right end of an overhang. Traverse right along a grassy ledge for 15m to peg stance.
- 2. 21m 13** Climb grey face directly above to rock pinnacle beneath a very steep section (peg belay).
- 3. 15m 17** Pull up and mantleshelf onto ledge 3m up (17). Move 3m left, make tricky, wide step across to left (17), then move diagonally left to good stance. (Peg belay)
- 4. 12m 17** Ascend difficult recess to one-man stance 4m below left end of long, broad overhang.
- 5. 18m 13** Traverse right underneath overhang to large blocks on corner.
- 6. 30m 17** Climb up to overhang then move left past a tricky hand swing section (17). Move diagonally left then diagonally right to top.

Variation:

For an alternative start, start from broad ledge below face, to right of and well below normal start.

- 1. 25m 17** Ascend face first moving diagonally right, then left into recess leading up to overhang. Just below overhang, move left about 2m and then up onto ledge.
- 2. 15m 13** Move about 2m right along grass ledge and up recess to higher ledge and peg belay. Continue with pitch 2 of normal route (Apr 1972 P. Fatti, P. Venter and A. McGarr.)

First ascent: Nov 1966 J. Anderson, P. Venter and P. Fatti.

CONE FACE

13 ***

The route takes the prominent conical buttress, then goes diagonally right to a chimney which it takes to the top.

- 1. ?m 8** Two long pitches take one up the right hand side of the cone to tree belay on top of cone. Alternatively climb left side of cone.
- 3. 25m 13** Climb the face to the right and round corner (13 move) to spacious cubby-hole stance.
- 4. 25m 11** Ascend chimney and take easiest line to top.

First ascent: Jun 1947 J. Graaff and J. Thorp.

HOLE AND CORNER

13 ***

Start at a yellowwood tree just left of the very deep cleft that bisects the Chevron. Ascend 30m and traverse left to a slanting crack that runs parallel to and 18m from the right side of the cone of CONE FACE. Follow this crack (it involves a move through a hole, or on the outside of the hole) into the bottom of a steep recess 13. Ascend the recess to where the CONE FACE route enters from the left. Traverse right to an exposed but easy face and take the best route to the top.

First ascent: Jul 1959 J. Graaff, J. Clayton and J. Stapley.

CHEETAH

20,A0 ****

This climb lies between TOM-TOM and HOLE AND CORNER.

The start is common with both those climbs.

1. 40m 12 Ascend about 30m keeping slightly left until it is possible to traverse diagonally up left to a large ledge. (This pitch is common with HOLE AND CORNER)

2. 15m 15 From the right-hand side of the ledge climb the steep corner crack to the top of a large buttress (common stance with TOM-TOM).

3. 25m 17,A0 Climb the recess slanting steeply up to the left to where it narrows down at a small yellowwood tree. Using a peg (in place) for aid, climb up and out left onto sloping footholds. Traverse left and step down to an exposed ledge below the overhangs. From the left hand side of the ledge stretch across to a peg (the "cheetah-peg") and using this for aid, swing left past the end of the overhangs to a ledge and nut belay.

4. 20m 20 Climb the slightly overhanging shallow recess until it is possible to break out diagonally up right to where the angle eases. Climb diagonally right to a stance in a recess.

5. 45m 12 Climb the recess, grassy in places, to the top.

Note:

Aid on pitch 3 has been eliminated.

First ascent: Sep 1979 L.P. Fatti and M.A. Prior.

TOM-TOM

19,A2 ***

The climb lies between HOLE AND CORNER and AASVOELS END. The start is common WITH HOLE AND CORNER.

1. 30m 12 Ascend moving slightly to the right up grassy rock for 21m. Move out right and up over more difficult rock to a small stance. Jutting rock and peg belay.

2. 24m 11 Climb up to large ledge with yellowwood tree. Climb up open book to left of ledge until one can traverse 4m left to top of large buttress.

3. 30m 19,A2 Climb 5m up shallow recess at the left to 1m below overhang. Up 5m mechanically moving slightly right (5 pegs). Resting place at foot of open book. Crux is layback on rounded holds 3m above this. Straight up 15m to overhang. Traverse 3m left to large stance. Block belay.

4. 27m 15 Move up 3m in left recess. Traverse to right recess and ascend it past tricky layback until recesses meet. Traverse left to cubby-hole stance (2-man).

5. 15m 13 Move down and left via awkward move to a crack which leads to the top.

Note:

The aid on pitch 3 has been reduced to 1 point.

First ascent: Jan 1964 T. Kerrich, M. Makowski and J. Anderson.

AASVOELS END

17 ****

The line generally follows the left crest of the buttress and then continues up a thin crack which starts two thirds of the way up the buttress. Scramble 60m diagonally leftwards up gully (7/8) to highest possible stance.

1. 37m 17 From right extremity of ledge climb diagonally right up small ramp to stance (5m) then up face for 12m.

Follow easiest line diagonally leftwards to small ledges.

Continue up 5m to larger vulture ledges.(Peg and nut belay)

2. 30m 15 Traverse diagonally right past loose block to recess. Continue diagonally left up small recess to tiny stance (old peg). Traverse left 5m and up 3m to next ledge. Traverse a further 3m left and climb up to large vulture ledge.

3. 34m 13 Traverse to right of vulture ledge and continue diagonally right to recess mentioned in beginning of description. Climb recess past small tree and continue past awkward section (alt. use right face) to one-man stance.

4. 43m 12 Continue up recess (initially using right face), thereafter climb grassy rock to top.

First ascent: 1949
Graaff.

B. Thompson, B. Harris and J.

ENDVOELS ARSE

22

Start as for JERRYMUNGLUM. The climb takes the steep face between JERRYMUNGLUM and AASVOELS END.

1. 30m 22 Climb the steep crack in the middle of the face to a small stance.

2. 15m 15 Continue up the easier crack on the left to stance about 5m below roof.

3. 30m 22 Climb up and into the recess cutting through the roof. Continue straight through and up to easier ground to top.

First ascent: Sep 1979
Cheesmond.

B. de Bruin, C. Lomax and D.

JERRYMUNGLUM

17 *

Situated between AASVOELS END and the prominent red overhangs of SWIFT CRAG is a large depression formed by two extensive grey faces. From the base of the left face a tree lined crack runs diagonally right to the centre of the depression. The first two pitches go up this fault. 30m of grassy scrambling (7/8) brings one to the foot of the fault.

- 1. 30m 10** Ascend the tree lined fault to yellowwood tree on large stance.
- 2. 12m 12** Continue up fault. The last section before the expansive stance (tree belay) is climbed on the steep left hand face.
- 3. 32m 17** Ascend 3m to next tree, move out round corner and continue traversing for 6m. Cross slight recess (13), ascend 2m (13) then move back into recess and move up to blocks. Traverse right and move round corner (13). Climb up a little and move back left onto face. Continue more or less straight up to good tree belay. The (17) section is a move right into a short shallow recess 6m below the stance.
- 4. 6m 15** From right extremity of stance lean out beyond dirt filled crack and climb to good tree stance at foot of chimney by laybacking.
- 5. 21m 15** Ascend chimney, then crack to a stance with small tree.
- 6. 34m 12** Chimney 3m, move round block and continue chimneying. Move out left using good holds to half way up 2nd chimney, then climb up grassy rock until blocked off. Traverse out right and up.

Note:

The first free ascent was in Jan 1965 by K. Bennets, J. Brigg, P. Fatti and J. Anderson.

First ascent: Nov 1964 D. Cretchley, M. Makowski, P. Venter and J. Anderson.

JERRYMUNGLUM DIRECT

17,A0 ***

An improvement on the original route whose lower sections consist mainly of vegetated scrambling. The climb starts directly below the vertical slit, which forms the top two pitches of JERRYMUNGLUM.

- 1. 30m 11** Climb a vague exfoliation crack line to the left of a smooth white face to a stance above which the rock steepens.
- 2. 30m 13** Traverse right then climb the steep face up to the left. From a ledge climb the clean red slab on the right.
- 3. 17m 17, A0** Step left and climb the recess (17) to a resting place. Move up a further 3m. Around to the left a crack runs up underneath a poised block. Climb the crack (peg, 2 nuts) and bypass the block on the right. The peg on the face is to help the second retrieve the nut.
- 4. 30m 17** Climb up a few metres and traverse left around the corner. Join the original route (halfway up pitch 3) below a face to the right of a steep vegetated recess.

First ascent: Dec 1974 R.H. Smithers and P.H. Andersen.

SWIFT CRAG

17,A2 ****

The climb works its way through a series of overhangs on the right hand half of the Chevron, part of the route following the vertical crack topped by a single tree.

- 1. 12m 8** Ascend to the ledge below the first overhang.
- 2. 21m 8** Traverse to the right. If the eagle's nest is occupied, traverse at a level 3m lower (11).
- 3. 21m 11, A1** Use a shoulder and etrier to get onto the slab, which is undercut at the bottom. Climb the slab for 21m to a small ledge below a vertical recess.
- 4. 9m 15,A2** Ascend the steep right angled corner on the left side of the recess. The first 3m is mechanical. Make an uncomfortable stance at chockstone.
- 5. 30m 17, A2** Climb the shallow crack.
(Strenuous free and mechanical climbing.) Make peg stance at top.
- 6. 6m 8** Ascend 6m then traverse to right out of crack to small stance on face.
- 7. 30m 15** Climb exposed grey face bearing right and leading up to final overhang.
- 8. 12m 11** Turn final overhang by traversing right into a crack that leads to the top.

Notes:

- 1.** Stances are small and the rock steep.
- 2.** Alternative to Pitch 4: Ascend crack in right side of recess. A time saving variation of grade 17.
- 3.** The climb has been freed at grade 21.

First ascent: Sep 1961 D. Smith, R.F. Davies and H. Williams.

THE RELUCTANT ACCOMPLICE

19 *****

Immediately left of the start of GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY is a 15m high pillar. Start on the left hand side of this.

1. 45m 18 Climb the corner formed by the pillar and main face for about 8m to a left on the face to the left. Move to the left hand side of this and then climb more or less straight up, passing the overhangs on the left. About 35m up you will pass 2 stepped overhangs stretching right. Move above these, and traverse right and then slightly up to a hanging belay in the corner crack.

2. 45m 19 Climb up the crack for about 5m. Rail right for about 10m (steep and exposed) to a feint crack heading diagonally right up the steep rock. Follow this, passing overhangs to the left, to gain ledges above in a shallow recess.

3. 45m 16 Follow the recess, and then move diagonally right around the rounded arête until you reach a small overhang just left of the final gully of APOCOLYPSE. Pull this to a stance.

4. 10m 12 Follow easy ground to the top.

First ascent: 19 Nov 2011 Hector Pringle, Andrew Porter and Nic Grech-Cumbo.

GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY

13 ***

The climb follows the long chimney extending the whole height of the rock face. The chimney is situated between the steep red faces and overhangs of SWIFT CRAG and the gully. It is the second obvious crack on the face after the gully, moving west. The climb stays in the chimney the whole way.

Note:

Clean and sustained climbing with possibly one 15 move.

First ascent: Jun 1947 T. Louw, B. Curle and Miss L. Peirson.

The route goes up the conical buttress between GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY and BLACK EAGLE CRAG, continues up the steep wall to the left of GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY and finishes up the overhanging chimney to join the final pitch of SWIFT CRAG. Start at the huge yellowwood tree midway between the start of GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY and BLACK EAGLE CRAG.

- 1. 30m 15** Climb the crackline in the dihedral until it steepens and then head diagonally right up the face to some narrow ledges below the large overhang. Traverse right and belay on the outer edge of the ramp used by the first pitch of BLACK EAGLE CRAG.
- 2. 25m 12** Climb the ramp, first in the corner and then on the right side until it is possible to traverse left onto the large ledge which crosses the conical buttress.
- 3. 35m 18** Traverse left past some blocks midway along the ledge and climb diagonally leftwards up the face to the overhang. Traverse right to the corner and move up onto the ledge on the right (crux, 1 move). Traverse a few meters further right and climb the exposed grey face to just below the top of the conical buttress. Traverse left and if necessary a little down, to a yellowwood tree belay in GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY (just below an overhang).
- 4. 25m 19+** Climb the very steep corner which leads onto the wall to the left of GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY. Continue up the overhanging crack (sustained) then traverse a few meters left to a scooped-out ledge with protection points beneath an overhang.
- 5. 25m 15** Traverse about 5m right, climb a steep face the head diagonally left to a triangular ledge. Climb the corner at the back of the ledge and head rightwards to the base of the overhanging chimney.
- 6. 25m 18** Climb the overhanging chimney (pro is excellent) to the roof. Traverse left to bypass the roof and continue up a few meters to a good ledge on the left.

7. 45m 13 Traverse right to the pillar. Climb the pillar then traverse back to the chimney. Ascend this to the top.

Note:

Excellent climbing made less serious by the proximity of GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY.

Variation:

5. 10m 15 Traverse horizontally left and move up to a good ledge on the nose. (Belay this side of the nose). (From just around the nose one can see an aloe filled corner up to the left.)

6. 25m 17 From just around the left side of the nose climb up (flake on left) about 5m. Traverse round to the face on the right side of the nose. Climb up to a small stance on the edge of the nose at 10m (crux). Traverse left to the corner. Climb the right face of the corner to a good ledge on the right.

7. 28m 13 Traverse left across the corner and climb the face (just left of the corner) (steep at start). Continue more or less straight up the face to where it steepens (at 25m). Traverse a few metres left. Move up and right to a small stance (old peg marks).

8. 12m 12 Climb diagonally up to the roofs and follow very exposed horizontal traverse right to final chimney.

9. 35m 11 Climb chimney to top.
(Feb 1984 D. Peters, C. Fatti and E. Jones)

First ascent: Mar 1982 M. Arsenjevic and D. Peters.

BLACK EAGLE CRAG

15 ****

In the centre of the Chevron is an easy vegetated crack leading up to some large overhangs. The start is in this crack, which is 15m right of GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY.

1. 27m 12 Climb the crack over a series of large ledges until 3m below overhangs. (Block belay)

2. 21m 10 Move right on obvious traverse line for 15m to the corner. Climb blocks on corner to ledge on right. (Tree belay) **3. 45m 15**

Climb the steep ramp above, keeping close to the crack in the corner on the right. At the top of the ramp traverse slightly left to a narrow overhanging face 3m high. Climb face and chimney above. When chimney closes, move left onto face and up to a tree belay.

4. 40m 13 Traverse left around the corner. Climb diagonally left to detached block. Move diagonally right through steep rock to a large ledge. Continue on towards GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY and climb up to tree belay.

5. 27m 15 Climb diagonally right for 11m to an orange face. Traverse right across a smooth sloping concave slab. Step into recess on right and ascend broken face to the stance. (Peg belay and loose blocks)

6. 24m 13 Climb diagonally left for 8m. Traverse left under large overhang using the slippery floor under it as a handrail. Move into GROOTHOEK CHIMNEY. Climb this and scramble to the top. (Alt: Before reaching final overhang climb out right and up to top.)

Variations:

1b. 18m 17 Right of crack of pitch 1 there is another crack with overhanging roof. Climb this moving out left at top. Continue up to stance 2.

1c. 17 Start at tree between the 2 cracks. Ascend slightly overhanging face then diagonally right to pitch 2.

First ascent: Jul 1949 J. Graaff, P. Campbell and E. Chadwick.

REPROBATE

17 ****

Start about 10m left of CHUKAMISA's second pitch.

1. 30m 17 Climb straight up on a nose from a small ledge and block. Move up for 2 to 3 meters and traverse diagonally up right for about 6m to a break leading diagonally up left for about 15m to an awkward step. Continue moving left and up for approximately 5m and then traverse slightly right. Continue up to a large ledge. Belay.

2. 18m 11 Traverse left along the ledge to the left-hand side of the face. Belay near blocks.

3. 20m 13 Climb up for approximately 4m and climb diagonally up right across the face to a good ledge. Belay.

4. 40m 15 Traverse right to a grass and aloe ramp. Climb up the various corners above until a ledge leads to the right. Move a few meters right and up a wall to the top, finishing about 4m left of CHUKAMISA.

Variation:

3. 33m 13 Halfway along this pitch is a small rib extending down. Climb up a few metres right of this. Continue diagonally up left passing a block to a grassy ledge. Belay.

4. 30m 13 Continue up and bear left to an easy arete. Move over right under the overhangs to a crack and shallow recess running up through the overhangs. Climb to the top.
(Aug 1979)

Notes:

1. A very good direct start (17) has been climbed to reach the start of pitch 1.

2. Pitch 1 is sustained 15 climbing.

3. The variation finish provides better climbing.

4. This climb is the same as PIDDLE WALL.

First ascent: May 1979 A. Lambert and C. Ward.

CHUKAMISA

16 ***

There is a scimitor-like curved crack to the right of BLACK EAGLE CRAG. An overhanging cave-like recess marks the start.

- 1. 25m 15** Climb out of cave. Move left and climb face until level with large ledge on right with tree. Traverse right to this.
- 2. 20m 15** Ascend easy right slanting ramp for a few meters before traversing diagonally left back into base of crack (crux). Ascend crack and right hand face to 3 man stance (large rock that rocks slightly).
- 3. 40m 16** Climb straight up from stance, past small overhang (crux). Step left under large overhang. (Very sustained until here) Possible stance, or traverse left before ascending diagonally right to a large stance.
- 4. 34m 8** Clean and exposed climbing. Climb out of recess onto right-hand face then across the recess onto left-hand face. Climb steeply to top.

First ascent: Jun 1961 K. Bennets, T. Kerrich and K. Lechmere-Oertel.

REACHING RAPTORS

18 ****

Scramble up to the ledge at the base of the main crack of CHUKAMISA. The route starts about 10m right of this route, immediately right of a short pillar.

- 1. 45m 18** Climb the face to the right of the pillar to gain a left facing open book. Follow this, and establish yourself on a small ledge 2m above it. Rail right to a stance on a ledge just past the overhang above.
- 2. 45m 15** Climb the right facing corner just left of the overhang. Move diagonally left up the easy angled faces above to a ledge of your choice.
- 3. 25m 14** Climb to top.

First ascent: 19 Nov 2011 Hector Pringle, Andrew Porter and Nic Grech-Cumbo.

SUNSHINE CRACK

10 ***

The route generally goes up the crest of the buttress on the left of GROOTHOEK GULLY. From 60m left of where the path enters GROOTHOEK GULLY scramble 45m to 60m diagonally right to a large corner on the crest of the buttress, with overhang 5m up (thread belay).

1. **34m 8/11** Either climb up the corner moving left to avoid overhang (6m 11) or scramble diagonally left 8m to where one can traverse diagonally right round nose over clean rock to corner above the grade 11 section. Continue up corner into chimney with small stance at yellowwood tree.
2. **8m 10** Continue up chimney, facing right to overcome crux, to big platform at base of prominent recessed corner.
3. **18m 8** From extreme right of platform, traverse 2m to right round corner and continue up jug- handled rock to ledge with 1m high pinnacle on edge.
4. **35m 8** Climb straight up to large grassy ledge.
5. **15m 6** Climb to top.

Variation:

3. & 4. **70m 15** From the large ledge, move onto the left hand face at a point about 5m left of the main corner. Climb diagonally leftwards up face to reach top.
(2002 A. George and A. Porter)

First ascent: Aug 1949 P. Campbell and J. Graaff.

DEVIL'S HIGHWAY

8 *

At the same level as the top of the C-grade waterfall in GROOTHOEK GULLY, on the true right (i.e. facing downhill) there is a small up-stream facing corner next to a yellow-wood tree. The climb starts in this corner. Though there is some loosish rock near the bottom, there is always enough solid rock to climb on. After the first 15m, the rock quality improves to perfection. Protection is adequate for the grade.

1. 30m 8 Ascend the corner for 6m until a ledge is reached below overhangs. Turn the overhangs on the right, before angling up and left across the face. Stance on a generous recessed ledge below overhangs.

2. 70m 8 Exit the recess up and to the left. Angle up and left initially, then straighten out to finish on the upper portion of SUNSHINE CRACK. Stance as dictated by rope drag and communication.

Note:

The initial pitch is very steep for the grade, but is fairly graded for Krantzberg, as the holds are huge and plentiful.

First ascent: Feb 2001 R. Thomas and D. Morgan.

GROOTHOEK GULLY

6

This is the usual descent route involving grade 6 scrambling in one short sections. There is a small but comfortable campsite by an overhang on the right side of the gully (facing up) slightly above the level of the foot of the main krantz. The small pond here is clean and perennial.

First ascent: Date Unknown Party unknown.

DRY WATERFALL

13

Start up-gully from THE SAINT / THE SINNER in a recess. The climb lies immediately upstream of a corner with a large block in it.

- 1. 35m 12** Climb crack on left-hand side of recess with big block on right. Dry grass hanging down gives appearance of waterfall.
- 2. 43m 13** Climb crack immediately above belay ledge (crack eases and widens) until chockstone. Crack then steepens and becomes damp at back.
- 3. ?m 7** Scramble to top.

First ascent: Feb 1983 S. Middlemiss and L. Gardiner.

FEATHER RECESS

12 **

About 80m from THE SINNER on the same side of the decent gully is a large recess and corner. In the summer this forms a natural watershoot, but in winter it is bone dry

- 1. 20m 11** Straight up the right-hand crack in the corner to a large ledge. Belay.
- 2. 20m 10** Continue up to the next large ledge.
- 3. 40m 12** Climb straight up in the corner to the top.

First ascent: Aug 1979 C. Ward.

LEGO

15 *

Start about 10m right (downstream) of FEATHER RECESS.

- 1. 20m 15** Climb steep crack to ledge.
- 2. 35m 15** Climb crack on right hand side of pillar to ledge
- 3. 40m 12** Finish up the FEATHER RECESS corner.

Note:

Loose rock detracts from an otherwise good looking line.

First ascent: 2003 A. Porter, T. Viljoen, G. Rehmet and R. Oosthuisen.

THE SINNER

17

1. 85m 17 About 10m up from THE SAINT in a chimney / crack system.

First ascent: 1979 A. Lambert and C. Ward.

THE SAINT

15 **

The route takes the distinct recess about 30m to the left of ANGEL RECESS. The start is 6m to the right of a 1/4m diameter tree and directly below the recess which the route takes.

1. 33m 15 Ascend the steep face for 6m then climb 8m diagonally right to where the slope eases. Continue diagonally left for 8m on good grips to the ledge below the short chimney, which forms the start of the recess. Ascend the short chimney which breaks through the overhang to a ledge.

2. 21m 11 Ascend the chimney. Bypass a tree by traversing 2m onto the right face then continue up chimney to a ledge with loose chockstone and excellent thread belay on right. Above the ledge the chimney narrows.

3. 23m 12 Climb the narrow section of the chimney and continue to a stance where a large chockstone blocks the chimney.

4. 37m 8 Straddle past the chockstone and continue up for 30m. A further 6m of scrambling takes one to a stout yellowwood tree belay.

First ascent: Nov 1973 P. Andersen and D. Peter.

ANGEL RECESS

15 ****

About 10m left of ANGELICA is a buttress about 10m high, leaning against the main face. The climb starts here and continues straight up to the top.

- 1. 10m 8** Scramble to the top of the buttress, climbing up the crack between the buttress and the main face on the left hand side.
- 2. 46m 13** Step onto the main face and climb a vague vertical crack. Continue vertically until some overhangs are reached (35m). An obvious cubby-hole stance can be seen to the right. Continue up a further 6m to a ledge beneath an overhang.
- 3. 27m 12** On the right of the overhang is a recess which is ascended to just below a large orange scar on the rocks. Peg belay on small stance in recess.
- 4. 27m 15** Continue up the crack and when near the overhang at the top, traverse right on good ledges to the nose then diagonally up left to top.

First ascent: 1964
Stapley.

G. Chinery, B. Honey and Mrs R.

ANGELICA

11 ***

The climb goes straight up a prominent right facing corner crack on the right of GROOTHOEK GULLY. Scramble out of the gully and across to behind the 10m high pinnacle with Jordaan's Plaque. Yellowwood tree belay.

- 1. 20m 10** Climb 8m to large tree. Continue to ledge above large chockstones (chockstone belay).
- 2. 30m 10** Continue up crack to yellowwood tree.
- 3. 30m 11** Using right face straddle past bulge (3m 11) and continue up to large yellowwood tree. Scramble to top.

Note:

Min gear.

First ascent: 1957

P. Harris and J. Anderson.

JERRIES' JITTERS

13 ***

The climb follows the prominent crack between ANGELICA and PIGEON PIE. Scramble up onto the bulge on the left of the crack, and climb down diagonally to the right till a large dead tree is reached about 10m from the bottom, 17m to the right of the crack proper.

1. 23m 11 Using the tree as take-off, surmount the first overhanging section and continue upwards until a small ledge is reached.

2. 33m 12 Continue upwards over the face (smooth at times and devoid of sling points) to a little platform just to the right and above the prominent overhang in the crack.

3a. 40m 13 Climb straight up into the recess, continue up on good grips until it becomes over hanging. Traverse left onto the corner, and climb down under the slit and overhang to a good stance in the crack.

3b. 40m 13 Alternatively, do a delicate traverse to the left into the crack proper, and climb the crack to the stance mentioned above.

4. 17m 8 Climb up crack to tree belay.

5. 40m 12 Continue up the crack until it forms a bulge on the right. Climb onto this and continue up until a delicate traverse, overhanging towards the end, enables one to reach a stance on a platform (large tree).

6. 27m 11 Continue up the crack to the top.

First ascent: Feb 1968 K. Kroger, Miss E. Meyer and D. Lubbe.

HAIRYBACK

17 ***

The route takes the rib immediately left of PIGEON PIE threading the overhangs at 1/3rd height by following a prominent crack. It then ascends the mossy rib above. Start as for PIGEON PIE at the base of a slab and corner.

1. **10m 15** Ascend to a shallow chimney, 5m left of the corner, and up to a large flake block belay.
2. **23m 17** Traverse right and ascend a shallow groove to a small overhang. Step right and up leftwards to a peg belay in a horizontal break. (8m below the split overhang)
3. **23m 17** Traverse left and up into a shallow recess taking care on dubious flakes. Move right to immediately below the crack splitting the overhang and traverse left. Move up the slab to handrail. Traverse right, crossing the crack, then up and left to narrow ledge in crack (peg belay).
4. **33m 17** Follow the crack diagonally right to its apex, ascend to ledges. Traverse left below an undercut flake crack and move up to small overhang. Layback into the shallow groove and step left onto the undercut rib. Move up to ledge and peg belay.
5. **13m 11** Up the arete to peg belay (PIGEON PIE)
6. **13m 11** Continue up arete to below chimney.
7. **33m 17** Ascend behind the tree to the third ledge. From a peg move to the extreme left end of the ledge and pull up to reach good holds on nose. Continue to top.

First ascent: Nov 1968 A.D. Barley and R.P. Barley.

PIGEON PIE

13 **

Climb 30m up a mossy slab to a small cave (8). Traverse to the right and climb up to a large platform (11). Walk left to a crack. Climb a short distance up the crack, traverse to a nose and climb it for 6m (13) to the bottom of a grassy diagonal ramp. Scramble up ramp to ledge with vulture's nest on its left. Traverse right to crack (6). Finish by climbing crack (11).

First ascent: 1947 T. Louw, W. Curle, G. Burrow and E. Lude.

ENEMA

17

The climb takes the obvious vertical crack to the left of PWOIT.

1. 30m 13 From below the crack system start 10m to the right and ascend a shallow recess for about 6m to a ledge. Move slightly right and up a short wall bearing left to a ledge system. Traverse left into a cave at the base of the chimney/crack.

2. 27m 17 Ascend the chimney above and continue up the narrowing crack system (crux). After this the crack opens up to a chimney again. Climb up to a tree belay.

3. 33m 15 Continue up the chimney for about 6m until one is able to traverse left along a ledge to a small overhanging corner. Ascend the corner on the left wall (awkward). Move left onto the nose and continue up to a small grass bands and a short wall beneath a small overhang. Move up the wall and traverse left to a short narrow chimney and pull out over to the top.

First ascent: Mar 1979 C. Baker and C. Ward.

PWOIT

17 ***

Starts at a fairly large tree.

1. 26m 12 Diagonally right up easy rock. Semi-hand traverse to the left. Move up chimney and diagonally up left to a tree stance on large ledge Walk along ledge 13m to left.

2. 26m 17 Up recess 18m (A variation near the bottom: - out left, up 3m and back-may be taken to avoid wide straddle moves over grassy region). Move out right and up face to excellently protected one-man stance.

3. 32m 15 Move up a little and out left, then out slightly towards overhang, which is reached finally by a fine layback move left and passed at its left end. Ascend recess 16m to an excellent peg stance. The pwoit move through an extremely narrow slit is about 3m below the stance. (It can be avoided by 15 moves on the face to the left)

4. 16m 8 Move out right and then up to top.

First ascent: Sep 1965 J. Anderson, M. Makowski and Anne Torry.

DRY VULCH TRAVERSE

12

The climb starts at the first big crack to the left of CHANEL CRACK.

- 1. 40m 12** Climb the crack for 10m, then diagonally up and out to the left, over a slightly overhanging face to a loose looking block. Taking the line of least resistance, do a delicate traverse for 20m to a stance.
- 2. 13m 8** Walk left and climb the corner to a stance at a dead tree beneath chimney.
- 3. 20m 11** Do a delicate traverse to the left, going about 5m to stance in corner.
- 4. 13m 12** Step down to, enter and ascend chimney to gain stance above chimney.
- 5. 17m 11** Climb the face to the left of crack and join the crack at dead tree.
- 6. 40m 8** From the stance traverse right for 3m and climb the crack to complete the climb.

First ascent: Jul 1970 M. Prior and G. Athiros.

CHANEL CRACK

13

The climb follows a prominent, dark crack containing at least 2 large trees. The crack is located at the point where the face is highest. Negotiate a minor rock band to reach a grass ledge from which the route proper starts. It is necessary to deviate to the right of the crack at 2 points approximately 20m and 33m up the crack.

Length: about 100m.

First ascent: Feb 1960 P. Scott, G. Patrick and P. Urban.

VINTAGE ADVENTURE

15 ***

The climb is situated between CHANEL CRACK and LAVENDER CRACK. Start directly below centre line of face.

1. 45m 12 Climb straight up on good rock to large band. Walk to rock face.

2. 40m 15 Climb up 5m on large broken-off pieces of rock and step onto face. Traverse about 5m to the right and climb diagonally up right to belay about 5m to the left of large chimney.

3. 30m 15 Ascend 3m then traverse left around nose. Traverse 10m, below overhang, to far end of overhang. Ascend 2m to overhang and step across to the left onto good ledge. Climb 2m left and up 2m. Belay in open book.

4. 45m 13 Traverse above overhang 8m to right, 4m straight up, then slightly right and on up to the top.

First ascent: Feb 1983 H. Seuring, H. Vogl and E. Muller.

LAVENDER CRACK

15

The route is 70m to the right of CHANEL CRACK in a corner formed by a step in the face. The vegetation has discouraged subsequent parties.

Length: about 100m.

First ascent: Jun 1947 B. Harris, G. Burrow and D. Roberts.

IMAGINATION

17 ***

The climb is situated to the left of GARDEN ROUTE next to an open book under a chimney.

- 1. 45m 17** Climb up open book past tree into narrow chimney. Continue to a good stance.
- 2. 45m 15** Climb straight up to overhang into large white patch (bird droppings) - piton in place. Move up and left to stance next to a tree.
- 3. 20m 12** Move left around tree and up through overhangs to the top.

First ascent: Mar 1982 M.R. Bill, P.L.A. Bill, E. Muller and H. Seuring.

GARDEN ROUTE

7

This climb is located in the next recess to the right of LAVENDER CRACK. To the right of this recess, the face is unbroken for about 150m, and is marked by two white crescent-shaped patches of vulture droppings. In spite of its name, the climb is reported to be reasonably clean.

First ascent: Nov 1958 P. Urban, P. Scott and J. Clayton.

LOST CONTACT

19 *****

The climb starts approximately 50m to the right of IMAGINATION, more or less below an overhanging looking recess.

1. **40m 15** Climb up on good clean rock keeping to the right until a good platform is reached.
2. **40m 19** Traverse approximately 8m to the left, then up 2m and 4m to the right. Ascend 4m (piton recommended) and proceed to below the overhangs, then traverse leftwards to a recess. Piton in place for belay.
3. **45m 15** Step across left into recess and then straight up through overhangs.
4. **20m 11** Continue ascending to the top.

First ascent: Apr 1982 M.R. Bill, E. Muller and H. Seuring.

CABIN CRACK

12

This climb lies west of CRACK OF DOOM. It commences at the bottom of the right hand side of a pencil in three blocks situated below the vertical crack referred to as one boundary of the trapezium- shaped face of the escarpment. Scramble 13m to the crack between the pencil and the main krantz

1. 23m 11 Climb the crack through much vegetation to a cubby-hole, about 23m up the crack.

2. 18m 11 Continue up the chimney to another cubby-hole under a chockstone. (Thread belay beneath chockstone) Continue up the right hand wall (facing outwards). This leads to a steep gully 8m long, leading into the "cabin".

3. 8m 8 The "cabin" is left by the south western exit and a slanting ridge ascended to a platform under an eagle's nest.

4. 20m 11 Climb diagonally for 10m to a big chockstone. From the chockstone traverse down and left into a chimney.

5. 31m 12 Climb the chimney for 26m, then traverse right for 5m. A tree belay can be made a further 6m to the right.

6. 23m 11 Traverse right, and ascend to the big yellowwood tree immediately above. Ascend the gully above for 20m to the foot of a chimney on the extreme right side of the gully.

7. 26m 12 Ascend 3m in the chimney using the main krantz and continue over the chockstone to a cubby-hole 20m up with a 2nd chockstone above. Ascend 5m to a grassy stance.

8. 20m 9 From a yellowwood tree, climb the chimney on the right to another yellowwood tree at the top. Scramble up the crack to summit.

First ascent: Dec 1939 H. Wongtchowski, H. Barker and G. Hoehn.

CRACK OF DOOM

13

About 4km East of the Chevron, the escarpment forms an elongated hump extending between 2 gullies about 1km apart. At the highest portion of this hump a rock face of trapezium shape is defined by 2 cracks or chimneys, one on each side and about 22m apart. The crack on the left appears almost vertical and that on the right slightly inclined. The climb starts approximately in the centre of the trapezium, at the base of a short crack formed at the left-hand side of a small projecting buttress.

- 1. 25m 11** Climb the crack to a ledge about 1m wide on the right.
- 2. 13m 8** Scramble along the ledge to the right. Climb the crack, which widens to a chimney, to a large chockstone, used as belay.
- 3. 9m 12** Climb up the left-hand side of the chimney to another large chockstone. Surmount this and continue to an exposed ledge on the right. Poor belay.
- 4. 13m 13** Climb to a small ledge with a small tree belay.
- 5. 13m 6** Scramble up the crack to the base of another chimney 4m wide, where there is a large tree.
- 6. 25m 13** Climb up the chimney for 13m to an overhang. This is surmounted by stepping across to the right-hand ridge of the chimney (delicate). Move up to a ledge a few metres to the right. Ascend for 13m to a bush covered ledge in a narrow crack.
- 7. 32m 13** Climb through bush to a small ledge, and then traverse 4m right. Climb up over easier rock for 8m, keeping on the ridge until a convenient ledge with tree belay is reached.
- 8. 21m 13** Scramble for 9m in the crack to a short narrow chimney. Climb this. Another 9m of crack climbing leads to the top.

First ascent: Dec 1939 M. Burton, M. Gaze and B. Harris.

Wages of Fear area

This is the area 5km to the east of the Chevron. The access is from Helberg's farm. Please contact the MCSA for the latest access details. Some of the hardest and best climbs are found here.

VAVOOM

15 *****

About 5km east of the Chevron there is a large right-angled open book starting about a third of the way up the face. Immediately to the left of this feature there is a very large round corner which forms the left-hand retaining wall of the open book. The bottom third of this corner is overhanging. The climb starts in the first recess to the right of the overhangs, directly below a tree 45m up on the left-hand side of the open book. Scramble up 8m to a ledge.

- 1. 28m 13** Climb up the recess on the left of this ledge for 8m. Traverse right for 3m into another recess and then up to a ledge. Walk 6m to the right of this ledge and climb up on the corner (13) for 6m to a ledge with an obvious block belay.
- 2. 28m 13** Move up from the block via an awkward mantleshelf move. Climb up and slightly right for 9m and then diagonally left over grassy rock to the aforementioned tree.
- 3. 21m 13** Traverse left behind the tree for 3m into a recess. Climb up the recess for 6m to a small tree. Move left onto the face and then up for 6m below some slight overhangs. Traverse left along a small ledge using low handholds for 4m and move up 2m to the stance.
- 4. 25m 12** Traverse left from the stance, moving slightly down for 11m. Climb up 14m to a 3-man stance on a hollow sounding block.
- 5. 32m 12** Move up for 2m from the stance. Traverse left for 9m along ledge to the corner (exposed). Move up on less exposed rock. Climb up over grassy rock to an overhang in the

corner topped by some aloes. Climb through this standing on a delicate-looking block and up to a large stance.

6. 35m 15 Climb up steep rock from the left side of the stance just to the left of a slight recess for 8m to a ledge. Traverse left, moving slightly down, for 6m into a recess. Climb up the recess, then up easier rock to a small grassy ledge.

7. ? ? Climb up the most obvious route to a grassy ledge.

8. 32m ? Scramble to top.

First ascent: Nov 1965 Paul Fatti and P. van Nierop.

GASOLINE ALLEY

17 *****

To the right of VAVOOM there is a very large grassy triangle about one third of the way up the cliff. A prominent crack curves up to the extreme right-hand side of the triangle. 30m to the right is a parallel crack line which leads up to overhangs two-thirds of the way up the cliff. The route generally follows this crack line to the overhangs, makes a rightward traverse to the crest of the buttress then continues up to the top. Start from the leftward sloping ramp on the buttress between these two cracks.

1. 35m 11 Climb up bearing right towards a cubby hole at the bottom of a fault. Before reaching it traverse rightwards around the corner and climb straight up the buttress to a narrow ledge just below a long shallow overhang to the right.

2. 45m 15 Pull through the overhang onto the wall on the left and then climb diagonally to the right. Then take the easiest line to a ledge with shattered blocks beneath a large overhang, which is the start of the prominent crack. Good layback holds on the right lead past the overhang to gain a crack. The stance is 5m further up the crack.

3. 25m 17 Climb the crack until it opens out, to a stance on the left.

4. 45m 17 20m above and to the right is a long narrow overhang. At the end of this, on the skyline, is the next stance. Climb the crack for 4m and step across left to a ledge (peg runner). Move up right using the last of the crack to a handrail. Traverse 4m left on the handrail and pull up to a resting place (peg runner). Pull ups and a long reach over an overhang gain the ledge (17). At the right hand end of the ledge descend slightly. Just below the overhang an exposed hand traverse leads right. Step down awkwardly (peg runner) then up and continue traversing to comfortable block stance.

5. 45m 17 Climb the recess above until steeper rock forces a traverse left. Descend slightly and move left to the top of another recess. Pull up out of this and climb diagonally right until directly above stance (peg runner). A hard pull-up and mantleshelf (crux) leads to easy rock. Belay on left.

First ascent: Mar 1974 P. Andersen, D. Peters and J. Linke.

WAGES OF FEAR

22 *****

About 5km east of the usual campsite is an earthworks borrow pit on the left. A band of trees runs up from this parking place to the cliffs. WAGES OF FEAR starts 35m to the right of the edge of this tree band.

1. 30m 17 There is one tree at the base of the line, but start 5m left of this tree. Climb up 14m then traverse right for 4m to a large block on a ledge. Climb 2m up at the block and then continue traversing right to under an open book. Climb this for 2m to a stance below roofs.

2. 35m 22 Climb up the recess above, awkwardly in places, for 7m. The crack above can be climbed but this move can be skirted by traversing left 3m, up 3m and back right 3m making it a 19. Continue up the line to a good stance on the left.

3. 40m 22 Continue up the line past three roofs to a semi-hanging stance (spike belay). The last roof is climbed diagonally rightwards and is a series of strenuous pull-throughs. Don't traverse right below the last roof (21, dead end).

4. 40m 17 Traverse 4m right (15; if it is harder, you are on the wrong line) and then climb up over sparsely protected but easier rock to the top.

Note:

The first free ascent was in 1980 by C. Lomax and D. Cheesmond.

First ascent: 1980

E. Haber and party

ECHARD'S ERROR

22 *****

The route is situated 75m right of WAGES OF FEAR i.e. about 5km east of usual campsite. It starts on the left side of a 20m gendarme and then follows an obvious line all the way up.

1. 25m 19 Climb the gendarme. Move up another 8m to stance on a small ledge.

2. 20m 20 Climb the break to a large ledge on the left.

3. 20m 20 Take off from the stance with difficulty in a superb position. Climb to another ledge on the left with a large block on it.

4. 20m 22 Take off from the stance with difficulty and then do a very thin traverse right on green rock 2m above stance. Move up and back into the crack. Climb to a stance.

5. 25m 19 Easy ground, but there is a strenuous sequence. At the big roof move left to surmount it.

6. 30m 17 Scramble leftwards then to the top.

Note:

Opened in good style - one ascent, no aid, falls, rests, yo-yos or tight rope.

First ascent: Jun 1984

C. Lomax and G. Mallory.

FACTION FIGHTIN

22 ****

About 5km east of the normal camping area is an overhanging red crag with routes WAGES OF FEAR and ECHARD'S ERROR. This route starts about 75m right of ECHARD'S ERROR and about 150m right of WAGES OF FEAR. There is a very obvious line, which slopes diagonally right at the base but peters out higher up. Start about 6m right of this at a small tree.

1. **20m 22** Climb up a vague line to a good stance. Tricky move at 5m.
2. **20m 20** Climb diagonally left to gain the main line.
3. **10m 20** Climb up this line to a large stance where the line peters out.
4. **20m 22** From the stance finger rail left and up to gain a precarious ledge. Move up and right to a position 4m above the stance. Move around the arete with difficulty then up a vague break to a poor stance.
5. **20m 20** Move left across face to gain the base of a well-defined corner. Up the corner to stance where the corner peters out.
6. **45m 20** From the stance climb on steep rock on the left. Continue more or less straight up but finding the easiest way. Gain a stance that is under a roof in a corner.
7. **10m 15** Scramble to top (right).

Note:

On pitches 1 and 4 the leader used 1 aid point which was free climbed by both seconds on top-rope. Opened in one day with no falls.

First ascent: Jul 1984 T. Holt, C. Lomax and G. Mallory.

PLUMBLINE

12 ****

Thirteen km east of the normal campsite, the Krantzberg bulges out to form a huge buttress, which has a radio mast on its summit. Park at Helberg's farm. The climb follows a line just to the left of the centre of the buttress, up a thin but prominent crack which starts one third of the way up the face. It is easily seen from Helberg's farm.

- 1. 21m 10** Start on right edge of distinct grey cone which leads up to the thin crack mentioned. Climb diagonally left to tree on left edge of cone.
- 2. 18m 12** Step up and slightly right to top of cone (4m) at the base of the chimney which is climbed for 15m to a good stance.
- 3. 27m 12** Climb up to where the chimney bulges. Break through the bulge by straddling the chimney, keeping as far out as possible. Climb out on right wall of chimney to large ledge above.
- 4. 40m 7** Continue up to top.

First ascent: Apr 1969 A. McGarr and D. Peters

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