

BMC

Exp Pg

03/22

TORSSUKATAK SPIRES 2003

"It sounds like more fun than a
pub crawl with Boris Yeltsin."
Oliver Metherell



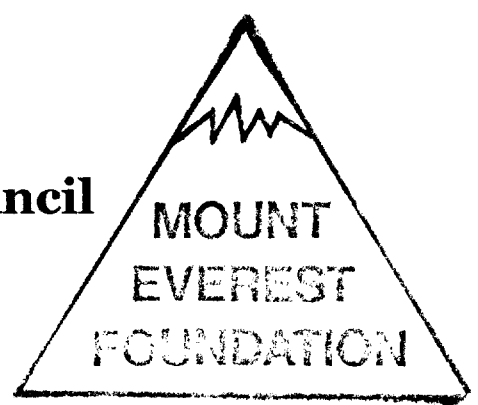
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Mount Everest Foundation (Ref: 03/22)



UK Sports Council

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The Baron



The Butler



Our expedition

The Baroness

was kindly and generously supported by the British Mountaineering Council, The Irish Alpine Association, The UK Sports Council and The Mount Everest Foundation.

The compilers of this report and the members of the expedition agree that any or all of this report may be copied for the purposes of private research.

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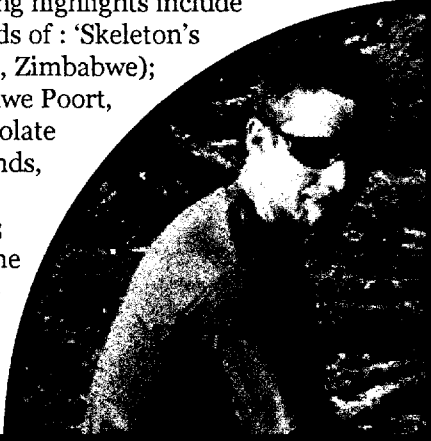
Jon Roberts

(Pronounced: Jon Roberts)

Expedition Leader

Age 26

Outdoor Instructor. Qualifications include S.P.A and M.L.(Summer). He has been climbing for seven years in many areas of the U.K. and in France, Switzerland, the U.S.A. and Southern Africa. In 2002 he spent 6 months on a climbing trip from Nairobi to Cape Town, as part of a team attempting the first transglobal overland climbing expedition. During this time he has taken an active part in exploring many new climbing areas and putting up new routes. New routing highlights include ground-up onsight leads of: 'Skeleton's Walk' E1 5b (Mt Dema, Zimbabwe); 'Skeleton's Rib' (Sebakwe Poort, Zimbabwe); and 'Chocolate Orange' E1 5c (Rocklands, S.Africa). He usually climbs in the V.S to E3 range and has spent one summer season climbing in the Alps. He is not based in Sheffield.



Richard Sonnerdale

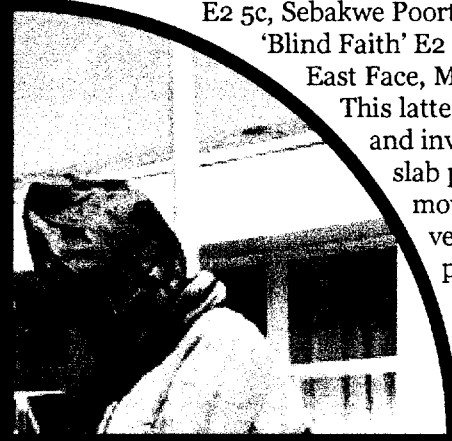
(Pronounced: Richard Sonnerdale)

Deputy Expedition Leader

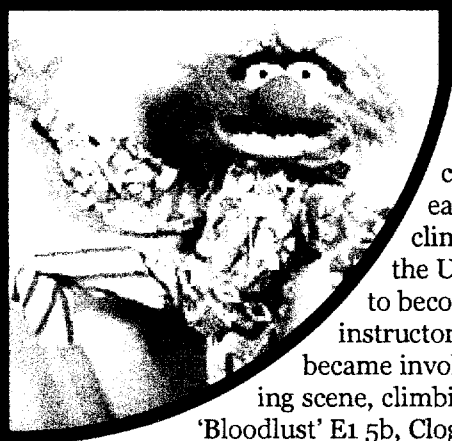
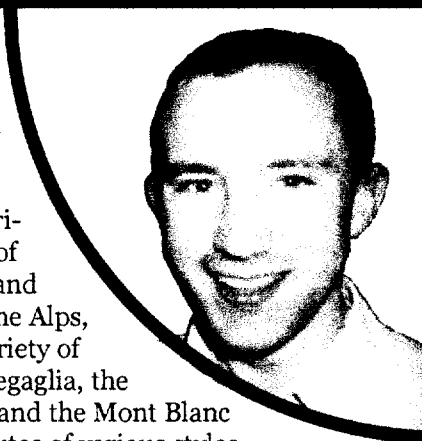
Age 25

Richard has taken a break from Commercial Law, so that he can spend more time climbing. He has recently spent 6 months climbing in Southern Africa, following 6 months climbing in Spain. Highlights: Sport: 'Der Paulo Turette' 7c+ Redpoint, Siurana, Spain; 'Papagora' 7c Onsite, Siurana and many 7b onsights. Details on 8a.nu. Traditional: Onsite ground-up first ascents include: 'Bootylicious' E4 6a, Hell's Gate, Kenya; 'Traverse of the Trad God' E3 5c, Mt Dema, Zimbabwe; 'Funbags' E2 5c, Sebakwe Poort, Zimbabwe; and 'Blind Faith' E2 5b/c 550m, Chambe East Face, Mt. Mulanji, Malawi.

This latter route took 11 hours and involved very runout slab pitches, with 5b moves, relying on velozia creepers for protection! He is Australian. He is not based in Sheffield



James is a Human Rights researcher. On the rock he climbs in a similar grade range to Jon, but has considerably more alpine experience. Over the course of four summer seasons and one winter season in the Alps, he has climbed in a variety of areas including the Bregaglia, the Dolomites, the Ecrins and the Mont Blanc massif. He climbed routes of various styles, including mixed routes such as the Frenedo Spur, long rock routes like the West face of the Sialouze and Ice routes including the Supercoulour. James spent three months new routing in Southern Africa and has also put up new routes on Inis Meain. He is Irish. He is not based in Sheffield.



Outdoor Education Co-ordinator. Dewi has been brought up on caving and climbing from an early age and has climbed extensively in the U.K. Whilst training to become an outdoor instructor in North Wales, he became involved in the new routing scene, climbing routes such as 'Bloodlust' E1 5b, Clogwyn Cyrae, North Wales. While in Spain he took the opportunity to climb longer routes such as 'Anthrax' 400m, 6a, El Chorro. Dewi also enjoys mountaineering, climbing in the scottish winter and high altitude trekking in the Himalayas. His professional qualifications include the S.P.A, 4 star Sea Kayak, and R.Y.A Level 2 Powerboat. He is not based in Sheffield.

James Mehigan

(Pronounced: James Mee-gan)

Deputy Expedition Leader

Age 25

Dewi Durban

(Pronounced: Deh -wee Derr-bun)

Deputy Expedition Leader

Age 21



INTERVIEW

Everything you ever wanted to know about planning a visit to Pamiagdhluk Island, by Jon Roberts Expedition Leader

Introduction

Why choose southern Greenland as a destination for a first major climbing expedition? The inspiration behind our expedition came from the article in the November 2000 issue of 'Climber' magazine. Emblazoned on the front page were the words 'Biggest sea cliff climbed'. Ian Parnell and his team of talent had just made the first ascent of the Thumbnail. I love sea cliffs and I love climbing on Granite. This place sounded like paradise. The scenery looked incredible and the potential for long free routes was apparently vast. Even more exciting was the potential for easier routes. Maybe there would be some equally inspiring routes for the mid range climber.

In 2001 I began my research. The excitement of visiting the Royal Geographic Society was matched by the intimidating Victorian décor of the building and the archaic filing system. The reports from previous expeditions to the Torssukatak Sound area, suggested that this

was definitely the place to go for mid - grade free climbing. They were right. Miles of perfect unclimbed granite in a magnificent fjord setting. It was time to train.

When I heard of the 'Hot Rock' expedition, I quickly realized this was the perfect opportunity to get some experience of new routing in wild places and meet some like minded people. On this trip, James and Richard were recruited to the team and the plan was set. While in Africa, we were acutely aware of the deprivations faced by many of the locals and we resolved to try and do something to help them. Raising money for UNICEF seemed the best way way to help as many people as we could. It was hoped that our expedition to Greenland would help raise awareness of the current crisis caused by disease and food shortages in many parts of Southern Africa.

Once I was back in the U.K., we finalised the details of our plan. We selected a site for our base camp on Pamiagdhluk island, directly opposite the Thumbnail cliff on Maujit qaqarssuasua. This is an area which, until recently, has seen few rock climbing expeditions.

In the mid nineties a strong German team visited the island and reported the

potential for long free rock routes in the area and interest was renewed. In 1996 Simon Inger lead a small team to begin exploring the climbing in the neighbouring Torssukatak Spires area. A couple of years later Matt Dickinson noted the massive potential for climbing around Torssukatak sound while on a sailing expedition. The subsequent Thumbnail and Baroness expeditions confirmed the quality and potential of this beautiful area.

Logistics

Organising the expedition was made much easier by the invaluable help of Niels Taekker Jepsen at the Nanortalik Tourist Office. Through him, all travel from Copenhagen to Base Camp was arranged, as well as accommodation in Youth Hostels and dinghy hire. No permits were required for this area of Greenland.

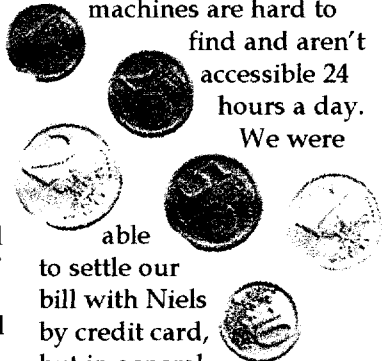
Flights

Southern Greenland can either be approached via Iceland or Denmark. The most expensive leg, by far, is the Air Greenland flight from Copenhagen or Reykjavik to Narsarsuaq. If you are in a group of six people or more it is possible to get a return flight from Copenhagen to Narsarsuaq for 5000 Danish Kroner per person (around £425). This is if you book early, several months in advance. In the Autumn of 2002 it seemed likely that we

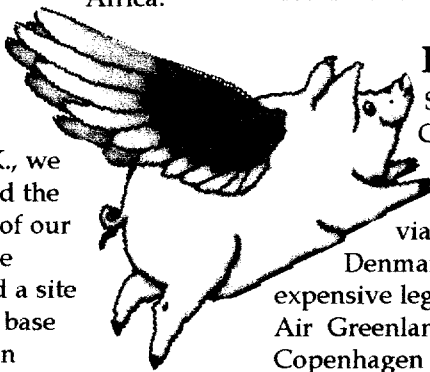
would have six people on our expedition, so I booked six seats. Our booking was confirmed in January, but by then it was apparent that only four of us would be going. I had to cancel the booking and re-book new seats. By this stage it wasn't possible to get the cheapest seats, so we had to pay around £669 each. The moral of the story is to confirm your team as early as possible and make booking flights a priority. Air Greenland are very strict on excess baggage, we were charged 300 Dkr (less than £30) for being a couple of kilos over the allowance. By contrast, Easy jet were much easier to deal with. The return flight from London to Copenhagen cost us £50 each. They allow 10kg sporting goods allowance, so excess baggage wasn't a problem.

Money

Paying for things in Greenland isn't always straightforward. Cheques are apparently difficult to handle in Greenland, so we paid for flights, charter boat and dinghy hire by international money transfer. Once in Greenland, credit cards aren't widely accepted and cash machines are hard to find and aren't accessible 24 hours a day. We were



able to settle our bill with Niels by credit card, but in general plenty of cash is needed.



Insurance

The B.M.C.'s Alpine and Ski policy provided adequate insurance for our activities in this area. The cost was £100 each.

B.M.C. insurance has been highly recommended by friends who have relied on it in crisis situations. Richard is from Australia and was unable to obtain B.M.C. insurance from their website, so he opted for Foundry insurance.

Equipment

A large free climbing rack was perfectly adequate for our objectives. Per team of two: two sets of nuts, a good range of cams (10 to 15), plenty of quickdraws, a couple of bits of large gear, bailing karabiners and a lot of abseil tat are highly recommended. We took pegs, basic aiding gear and a portaledge with us, but ended up needing none of it. We climbed all our routes without using fixed rope. The only bit of aid was on nuts and cams. Most of the routes require abseil descents, so take plenty of gear for descents, especially abseil tat. Offwidths aren't uncommon, so remember to take a couple of big cams (Friends 5 and 6). Metolious three cam units seemed to be particularly useful in the shallow placements often found on the slabs.

We climbed in pairs. Richard and James used

double 60 metre ropes and Dewi and Jon used double 50m ropes. Sixty metre ropes are definitely preferable and essential for some of Richard and James' fixed descent routes.

Tents

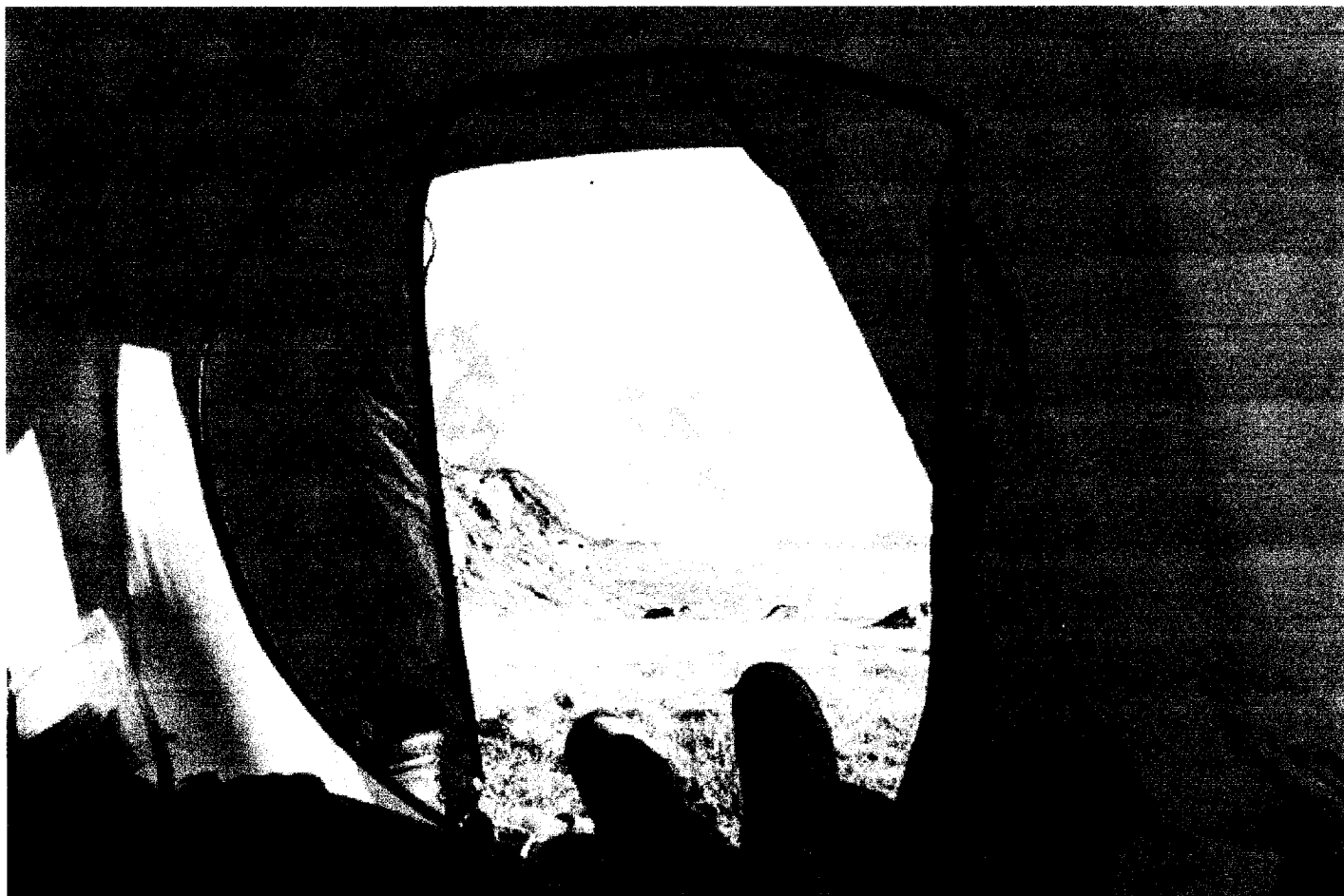
We used two four pole geodesic mountain tents. Reports of destroyed tents aren't uncommon, although we had fine weather. Some arrangement for a mosquito proof group shelter is highly recommended. **Don't forget headnets!**

Freighting

It may be possible to avoid freighting if only a standard British climbing rack is taken and all food is bought in Nanortalik. However, this would restrict your potential climbing objectives and would place limitations on your diet. Food prices are quite expensive and the supermarkets are in short

supply of certain items. I would highly recommend shipping luxury food items such as chocolate, cereal bars, desserts and tinned meat. There is a hardware store in Nanortalik for items such as flares, tarps and fuel containers. Gas cylinders (in a limited quantity) and pump petrol are available. We left some hardware with Neils like petrol cans. Check with him, lots of expeditions must be leaving stuff behind.

Most of our logistical problems arose through freighting. We used a company called Bluewater Shipping, which I would advise you to avoid at all costs. Amazingly, our freight did arrive on time and did eventually make it back to the U.K. I was asked which port I would like to ship the freight from and was duly quoted a price from Southampton to Nanortalik. After phoning the U.K agent I was told to





Dewi Bouldering on Pam Island. Thumbnail in background

have the gear ready for shipping by the end of May, for departure in early June. Despite faxing a complete list of the contents, size, weight and value of the freight on the 29th of May, I was unable to get a price for the shipping until early July, when I arrived in Nanortalik!

When the freight was ready I phoned Bluewater to find out where in the port I had to take the gear. I was then told it was

going from Ipswich! The Bluewater agent told me it wasn't a problem, because they could arrange a pick up in Southampton during the next week. A pick up was arranged, but they did not arrive at the agreed time and no-one was able to meet them. Another pick up time was arranged and yet again they were late, but my mother waited for them and was consequently late for work. At least the equipment had made it in time for the shipping,

However, upon arrival in Nanortalik I discovered they had charged me an extra 700Dkk, because they had to do an extra pick up! Needless to say, this wasn't paid.

The freight back to the U.K. (one solitary barrel instead of four) cost an astonishing £300. In January they had quoted me the freight prices for this journey, but neglected to tell me about the large handling charge or cost of clearing the freight through customs.

Stoves

A good gas stove is recommended. Bring a back up. It was suggested, though we didn't do it, that a two ring gas stove which attaches to a normal household bottle would have been the best. See Rich's unsolicited advice.

Local Transport.

We choose to travel from Narsarsuaq to Nanortalik by ferry. The journey took two days and was the cheapest option. It is much quicker to travel by helicopter, but it is more expensive and more dependant on good weather. However, early in the season, pack ice can restrict boat travel.

Linking up transport from town to town isn't always easy. On the return journey there was no ferry link up from Qaqortoq, but Niels found us a private boat to travel on. We chartered a boat to take us from Nanortalik to Pamiagdlok. The cost of this depends on the number of passengers, so if you are a small expedition, linking up with another team could be beneficial. We hired a dinghy from Niels to transport us around the local area. This was essential to get to the base of the 'Thumbnail'

Rich's unsolicited advice

Fuel

We used an MSR and a camping gas stove both were ok but the MSR had some problems with blocking. The petrol is very dirty so clean your stove. Also buy your fuel from Nanortalik. The Spanish team who appeared later bought their fuel from Agpilagtoq and it was almost unusable (very dirty) we gave them our spare fuel when we left.

I think a gas bottle and ring burner would be the best so bring a 2 or 4 ring burner from home, buy a 15 kg bottle from Nanortalik and check with Niels (Tourism Bureau Nanortalik) about availability.

cliff and generally very useful for getting around.

Communications. In case of emergency, we took a V.H.F. radio and an EPIRB. It is possible to hire an emergency beacon from Niels. We used short range radios for communication on the wall (3km range). These were very useful and are highly recommended.

Medical arrangements. Dewi and Jon undertook first aid training prior to the expedition. The nearest hospital is in Nanortalik.

Environment

Greenland is one of the world's most unspoilt areas of natural wilderness and we sincerely hope it stays that way. The lush green vegetation of Southern Greenland appears to be easily damaged and is slow to recover. The areas where previous expeditions have had their base camps where evident by flattened brown areas. A year later, the area of the Baroness base camp was still painfully obvious. This is not meant as a criticism of those expeditions, but just to highlight the fragility of the environment. We do not wish to deter expeditions from visiting the area, but we would like to make people aware that too many people in one area could cause real damage to the local environment. In this respect, smaller expeditions are better.

All biodegradable waste was buried well away from potential water sources, as was toilet waste. All non-biodegradable waste was bagged and disposed of in Nanortalik. A fast flowing stream, ten minutes from base camp, provided us with our water supply. There was no need for

water purification.

Terrain

The granite spires rise incredibly steeply from the water. The vegetation is often very thick and frequently hides boulder fields. There are many fast flowing streams and very few flat areas.

Consequently, getting around by land is usually very slow going and quite arduous. Trekking poles are invaluable and walking axes can also prove useful for some approaches.

Weather

During the first couple of weeks the weather was a mixture of sunshine and showers. For the remainder of the trip we were blessed with fine sunny weather. There were occasional cold, strong winds, but we didn't experience any extreme weather. Cloud inversions were quite common during the morning.

Wildlife

If you are interested in ornithology, Greenland seems to have a wealth of bird life. We rarely observed other wildlife,



but were lucky to see the occasional seal and even a Minke whale. And one arctic fox.

Climbing

This lived up to our high expectations. The potential for free rock routes from H.V.S upwards, is truly vast. The climbing encompasses a variety of different styles from delicate, poorly protected slabs to steep, well protected jamming cracks. Although the quality of rock is generally very high, there are areas of looser rock (usually avoidable) and black lichen covers some slabs. Beware of the vegetated off-widths on the 'Going the Distance' slabs. Turf cutting with a nut key is not pleasant!

Twenty hours of daylight gave us plenty of time for the one day pushes that became our usual style. The only time fixed rope was used, was on the first two pitches of the upper wall of the 'Thumbnail' cliff. Aid climbing techniques were rarely needed, despite myself, James and Dewi having a technical limit of around British 5c.

Routes

The major climbing achievements were the second ascent of the 'Thumbnail' cliff via a new route, the first ascent of 'Mark' (900m) and the first ascent of 'The Butler' (900m). In total the expedition put up over 4000m of new routes.

Potential Objectives

Too many to mention. The most obvious objective is 'The Baron'. There are clearly many potential lines on this mountain. Please contact me (Jon: jrob8@hotmail.com) if you would like some more photographs of this objective. There are many more unclimbed faces further

south and further inland on Pamiagdhluk island. On the south side of 'The Butler' there is a large, immaculate looking wall, featured with steep corners and grooves. It appears to be around 500m long. Well worth a look.

Comments

Stable summer weather, quality rock, and a well motivated team provided the ideal components of a highly successful expedition. Its success relied on the help of a great many people. In particular, thanks are owed to Niels Taekker - Jepsen of Nanortalik tourism, Lorraine Rees (of UNICEF) and Ian Parnell, for his advice on the 'Thumbnail' cliff. The most crucial role was played by Dawn Croston, Secretary to the expedition and responsible for the leader's welfare. Yes please, I'd love a cuppa! The expedition is very grateful for the generous support of the B.M.C., the U.K Sports Council, the M.E.F and the Irish Alpine Association. A special mention should be made for Dragon caving, who kindly made us two customized haulbags the day before the team left! We had been waiting two months for a pair of haulbags from Black Diamond.

To date the expedition has raised around £1000 for UNICEF's Southern Africa Appeal, but hopes to raise more through slide shows.

EXPEDITION DIARY

Saturday 5th July

After an eventful week of shopping, climbing in Pembroke and a celebrity radio appearance for Jon and James (from Sydney, whoever he is) on 'Good morning Wales' we finally got underway. Flying Easyjet to Copenhagen. No flack with being overweight on the baggage. They seem to have a sporting goods allowance which gives an extra 10kg. Don't know if this is per person or group. We didn't need to push it.

We spent the night in the 'Sleep Inn Green' hostel. About £9stg. It was at this point that we started coming to grips with the Danish Krone. It is a

daft currency that makes everything expensive and seems to be for people who are afraid of joining the euro and think it's cool to have a monarchy. So it's the same as the Pound. The coins are more like fishing weights than coins. Ten local roubles (DKK) was approximately £1stg.

Sunday 6th July

Flew Copenhagen - Narsarsuaq with Greenland Air. The girl at the check in desk could not have been a bigger pain in the ass about weight. (baggage weight, not fatness). We were about 10kg over in total. So we threw out some stuff and got it down to 7kg. She demanded we pay for

7kg. The Inuit girl at the pay for excess baggage desk was much nicer and let us only pay for 5kg. Still, if we had been a bit more savvy we would have checked in seperately and hidden heavy hand luggage. The Copenhagen admin staff are savage for weight allowance, weighing our hand luggage and not being inclined to negotiate/discuss what was going on. One American party we met had previously had to dump c.US\$1000 in kit as the Danes were so anal about baggage allowance. On the plus side, you can bring whatever you like on the plane as hand luggage. James and Rich brought their entire

racks and James left a 3 inch pen knife in his hand luggage all the way home. (By accident).

Once we got to Narsarsuaq, we made the connection to the boat without too much hassle, though it was essential to have the boat booked in advance.

The first day's ferry ride was to a town called Qaqortok. We were booked in one hostel but couldn't find it and stayed in a lovely hostel called "The Siniffik Inn". It was a bit dear (225 DKK £22stg) but there was an all you can eat breakfast which was really nice and the hostel had a chin up bar and a weird vibrating chair that did massages and all sorts.

Monday 7th July

Ferry trip from Qoqortoq to Nanortalik. Finally got to meet the famous Neils Taekker-Jepsen. Noone got seasick, despite Rich and James' past history of seaborne chucking. Jon & Dewi shopped for hardware (gaz stove, petrol cans for the MSR and Boat, washing basins etc.)

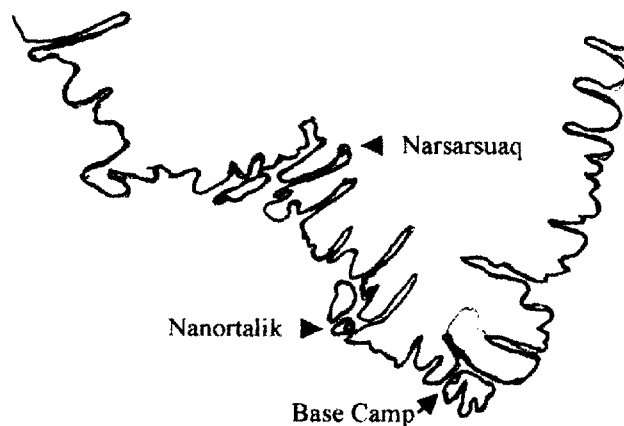


Rich & James did the food shop. See appended food list. Now, this is a crucial point and can't be made enough: **THE SUPERMARKET IN NANORTALIK DOES NOT TAKE CREDIT CARDS.**

But there is no need to stress. If you are using Neils and the Nanortalik Tourism Service (it will take years off your life to try and go it alone), he can put it on his bill and you can pay the credit card bill all in one go, before you leave Nanortalik. There is also a cash-point which takes VISA in the post office. It is only open at funny times so if you see it open, use it. Or bring loads of Danish roubles with you from the start. Then we went out for a beer or two with the Americans and Spanish who were heading to Tasermuit sound. At 40DKK a small bottle of beer it was pretty expensive. The fiasco of dancing with drunk locals and trying to play pool with Nanortalik's top air-guitar guy, is probably best told some other day.

Tuesday 8th July

We realised we hadn't enough food bought yesterday so we went



back and loaded up again. You can never have enough food. Charter boat Nanortalik to Pamiagdruk island. The trip took 2.5 hours. And the boat was plush. It has a video (and TV obviously) so bring a copy of 'Bleau', 'Hard Grit' or 'Chicks with dicks 2' to keep you amused. Or you could spend ages looking at all the unclimbed rock. Mental stuff.

On arrival we set up camp, it is worth noting that the big shipping barrels are ball-busters when full.

Two small ones would be better.

Wednesday 9th July

Went climbing on campsite hill. It is so called because it is above the Baroness Base Camp. It is about 45 minutes walk from the Thumbnail base camp over bracken, scree and boulders. Rich and James put up 'Do you love me more than this empty can of coke' HVS (5a). 315m, 7 pitches. See appended topo.

Jon and Dewi climbed "Feast for the flies" E1 5c (Top crack originally aided, later freed), 200M, 5 pitches.

Rich's unsolicited advice: Base Camp

Mosquito proof shelter is essential. Buy a big Mosquito net from Nanortalik or bring from home. The Spanish team bought a framed shelter and it worked well.

Head nets are essential! You will climb some days in one.

Bring small barrels with handles, as large barrels are a nightmare to move and use in camp. It is easier to handle a larger number of small barrels than a couple of large ones especially when they are full of food and gear.

Thursday 10th July

The plan for the Thumbnail had been to approach the half way ledge by the descent route, leave food, stove, sleeping bags there. Then climb lower half in one day, sleep on ledge and do upper half on second day. So Jon and Dewi dropped Rich and James at the bottom of the descent gully and they started off up. But they didn't get far. The snow cover was not very deep and this meant there was a first waterfall obstacle which was passable. The second one, however was impassable. It was a c. 20m smooth sided waterfall. Having left the fire engine behind we decided to rethink tactics.

The new tactics were to climb the lower half in one day and descend, leaving a rope in place over the waterfall and use that for the ascent to the half way ledge. Then return by the descent route and do the upper half.

Jon & Dewi collected them after a voyage to Augpilagtoq, 45 minutes away by dinghy. The day wasn't a complete failure, as we managed to get a good look at the lower wall from the dinghy



as we approached. Thus ruling out the obvious corner (basically a waterfall) and leaving us with even less option of where to go.

Friday 11th July

Rich and James went to 'look at' the Baroness. Met Tony & Sarah Whitehouse who are based in Sheffield. So we had a big chat with them and decided to try the first few pitches of 'Venus Envy'. Once we got there, we decided to try and knock out the first three pitches of 'The Fur Trappers'. As the Whitehouse's fixed

ropes were in place we were able to rap straight down again.

James forgot his rock shoes and ended up seconding two 5c pitches in big boots.

Jon and Dewi went exploring. Scoping out the peak between the Baron and the Baroness. It looks fantastic. Around 300M of golden, featured granite.

Saturday 12th July

Rest Day: Ate lots of food and sat about.

Sunday 13th July

Had intended to try

the Thumbnail but it rained overnight so we all went to a crag down the fjord (south from the Thumbnail. Rich & James put up 'Captain Pugwash' E1 (5b), 180m: 6 pitches. See appended topo. Weather was threatening and drizzling all day.

Jon and Dewi try a line further right.

After 10 scary meters of mossy slab and rubbly corner, it starts to rain. They retreat and hide under a boulder.

Monday 14th July

It poured rain. Rainy camp day. General miserableness ensued. The kitchen is swamped. Richard and James put up the group mossie net. The flies are particularly bad today.

Tuesday 15th July

Jon & Dewi set off for the Butler (Mountain between Baron & Baroness). They make it 4 pitches from the top and have to turn around in what turns into an epic day. Rich & James sit about whale watching.

Wednesday 16th July

Jon & Dewi return from Butler
Rich & James put up 'Called into Question' E2 (5b) 450m: 9 pitch-

es. See appended topo. The route is on an unclimbed peak at the top of the Baroness valley. They named the peak 'Mark' as it is lower than the Baroness and as the only Baroness they know of is Thatcher, they felt it appropriate to name it after her son.

It is the left of two peaks shown in a photo at the end of the Thumbnail 2000 expedition report.

Thursday 17th July

Rest Day.

Friday 18th July

Some weather.

Saturday 19th July

A lot of weather.

Sunday 20th July

More weather. Though we did see a whale swimming 20m from shore by the campsite. Jon and Dewi found a dryish line on campsite hill "Transylvania" HVS 5a, 142M (3 pitches)

Monday 21st July

Rich & James put up 'Going the Distance' E1 (5a) 460m: 8 pitches. See appended topo. The route is on a large slab rising out of the sea on Pam island

north of camp. Jon and Dewi explore a single-pitch crag near base-camp. It proved to be very disappointing.

Tuesday 22nd July

Rest Day.

Wednesday 23rd July

Jon dropped Rich & James to the bottom of their chosen line on the Thumbnail at about 5.30am. The route went fine as far as the ledge and they were on the half way ledge by 2.30pm. The Lower half was E3 (5c) 850m: 10 pitches. See appended topo. They spent an hour and a half trying to find the kit left behind by the Thumbnail 2000 expedition. They collected up the two spare ropes and other bits and peices. On descent (which was really poxy and took about 4 hours). One of the 'bootied' ropes was fixed in the (descender's) right of the waterfall to allow for return to the ledge. The other was used in setting the rappels on the descent from the top of the face to the ledge.

For the descent: walk as far around the (climber's) left of the thumbnail until you are well back in the descent gully. We could see the rope left

by the 2000 party at the back of the gully but were able to make some tricky scrambly moves to get down near it. From there it is possible to work, glissade, fall, stumble and slide your way down to the big step. We set a yellow rope around a big boulder on the (descender's) right of the waterfalls and used the end of this as the anchor for abseiling over the lower step. Do not expect to enjoy this hellspawn descent.

Meanwhile, Dewi and Jon were having their own epic on the slabs to the left of "Going the Distance". Eventually they concede defeat and rap off.

Thursday 24th July

Jon, Rich & James went climbing at the 'Pugwash Wall'.

Captain Pugwash himself stayed in camp. Jon put up an off-width 'Welsh Bed' HVS (5a) 25m. Rich headpointed an E4 (6a). - at least. Probably more E5 6b

An Arctic fox has started visiting the kitchen. We have been pretty clean so that might be why it has taken so long to appear. It was never a problem during the rest of the trip.

Friday 25th July

Rich freed Jon's crack line from the first trip to Campsite Hill. 'Ju' E2 (5c) 155m: 3 pitches. See appended topo. Jon & Dewi set off early to attempt the Butler again. This time they were successful. "The Tortoise and the cripple" E2/3 5c A1 200m + 200m for scrambling. Climbing a seven pitch E3

including a pendulum and a tension traverse. They returned at about midnight.

Saturday 26th July

Rest Day. Rich & James get packed up for the upper section of the Thumbnail.

Sunday 27th July

'Walked' in to the middle ledge of the Thumbnail. More jugging, scrambling and climbing than walking. A shortcut was taken and though both parties are still talking to each other, a valuable lesson was learnt. They also fixed the first two pitches of the upper section.

Jon explores around "The Baron"

Monday 28th July

Rising at 4am, leaving before 5 and summit-



ing at 2pm. The whole route was called 'The Cruise Line'. The upper section was E2 (5b) 505m: 10 pitches. See appended topo. The whole route then was 1015m of pitched climbing and totals between 1350m and 1400m when the scrambling and weaving of the route is taken into consideration. No apology is made for trying to find the easiest line on this huge cliff.

Descent: We walked back down from the summit to the top of the pitched section. Then we moved out to the (descender's) right and set up a solid set of rap anchors. We used the rope bootied from the 2000 expedition and set 6 raps which are marked in the topo. Setting raps, the descent took 4

hours. We went slowly and left good anchors. If you can find our anchors and just replaced our tat, it could save you time on descent. Bivied another night on the ledge.

Tuesday 29th July

Started descending early and as we had ice axes and good boots, the descent was easier than the last time when we had been moving very light. Still took a long slide in the snow mind.

When we got down we met our new camp-mates, www.ceciliabuil.com and www.robortanunes.esp.br who had arrived in sea-kayaks to climb the Thumbnail. They had a big campsite and

were great fun to hang out with. Rich had been swearing that the spanish climbers were the best at organizing expedition's food lists. He was right.

Wednesday 30th July

Rest Day

Thursday 31st July

Jon & James climbed 'Arms Trader' E2 (5c), 180m: 4 pitches on peak 'Mark'. See appended topo.

Friday 1st August

Breaking camp day.

Saturday 2nd August

Walked camp, only some bio-degradable material left behind (buried). Return boat trip: Pamiagdhluk Island to Nanortalik. Had a few

beers and a big feed.
Sunday 3rd August

Did some boulder problems about Nanortalik. Also ate, cooked, packed and shopped.

Monday 4th August

5hr boat trip to Qoqortoq. Stayed in the same hostel

Tuesday 5th August

Early boat to Narsarssuaq. Had all day there, and it really is only an airport so we walked up to the glacier and ate all our remaining food.

Wednesday 6th August

Flight Narsarssuaq - Copenhagen. We checked in two groups of two and the others waited outside with the heavy hand luggage. We were still a little over weight but they didn't mind.

Thursday 7th August

Full day in Copenhagen.

Friday 8th August

Flew back to London. Again Copenhagen airport women were really stopy about the baggage. Finally conceded that Easyjet had a sporting goods allowance.



BUDGET

Income

B.M.C. Grant	£1100
M.E.F. Grant	£200
I.A.A. Grant	£172
Personal Contributions	£5841

Expenditure

Flights	£2883
Boat charter + ferries	£1458
Dinghy Hire	£817
Accommodation (Y.H)	£515
Food and Fuel	£585
Group Equipment	£135
Insurance	£400
Shipping	£520
Total:	£7313

Total: £7313

Total: £7313

CONTACTS

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www.unicef.org.uk

FOOD

For 4 people

Item	Quantity	Source	Comment
Breakfast			
Oats	1kg bag	Gl	Mistake thought it was flour!
Cornflakes	4 large boxes	Gl	Not enough some eaten for other meals
Baked Beans	4 tins	Gl	
Spaghetti	4 tins	Gl	
Lunch			
Salami	6 salami	Gl	Danish ,Tasty
Tuna	6 tins	Gl	Hard to find
Mackerel	12 tins	Gl	
Liver Pate	20 tins	Gl	Nice
Havarti Cheese	20 wheels	Gl	Lasts
Wasa Crisp bread	15 packets	Gl	Good; needed more maybe 20 total
Rye bread	8 loaves	Gl	4 sliced, 4 unsliced Unsliced got mouldy in 15 days
White bread	6 loaves	Gl	Stale after 4 days
Digestive biscuits	20 x 400g packets(1Box)	Gl	Bought a box and it travels well
Tinned corn	4 tins	Gl	
Marmite	1 small jar	Eng	Not as good as vegemite!!
Jam	1 large jar	Gl	
Mayonnaise	1 300g tube	Gl	Bought some nasty mustard Mayo by mistake ! Yuck
Cup a Soups	10 packets assorted	Eng	
Dinner			
Fresh			
Carrots	4 packets 500g each	Gl	10 days then went mouldy

Item	Quantity	Source	Comment
Onions	4 bags (60 large onions)	Gl	Lasts all trip
Cauliflower	1 large head	Gl	
Potato	4 bags (4 kilos)	Gl	Sweet tasting lasts all trip
Cabbage	1 large head	Gl	£8stg per head
Garlic	6 heads	Gl	Too much
Green Lentils	2 bags (1kg)	Gl	
Staples			
Rice	10kg 15 packs	Gl	Bought too much
2 min noodles	8 packets	Eng	Needed more good for bad weather
Tortilla	1 packet (8 tortilla)	Eng	
Pasta	10kg 20 x 500g packets	Gl	Spaghetti was cheapest bought too much
Tinned			
Beef Stroganoff	8 tins 600g each	Gl	Very nice good sauce
Curry beans	8 tins 400g each	Gl	
Chili Beans	8 tins 400g each	Gl	
Meat balls	2 tins 600g each	Gl	Popular needed more
Kodwallers	6 tins 600g each	Gl	Nasty! fish patties in rice with curry sauce
Tuna	6 tins 200g each	Gl	
Franks and spaghetti	6 tins 600g each	Gl	
Mango	2 tins	Gl	Treats!
Paw Paw	2 tins	Gl	Treats!
Tinned tomato	8 tins 400g each	Gl	Useful
Jars			
Pesto	1 jar 200g	Gl	Very good goes far
Bolognese sauce	2 jars 400g each	Eng	
Oregano tom Sauce	2 jars 400g each	Eng	
Sauces			
All were great			
Hollandaise	1 packet (4 sachets)	Gl	
Cabaret	1 packet (4 sachets)	Gl	
Curry	1 packet (4 sachets)	Gl	
Chili con carne	1 packet (2 sachets)	Eng	
Cheese	2 sachets	Eng	
Sweet things			
Chocolate	40 x 400g blocks	Gl	Assorted brands and types Expensive!
Cadburys Chocolate	4 x 400g blocks	Eng	
Mars bars	2 packets (40 60g bars)	Eng	
Flapjacks	4	Eng	

Item	Quantity	Source	Comment
Brunch bars	12 bars	Eng	Good wall food
Jelly babies	2 packets	Eng	
Wine gums	2 packets	Eng	
Wall Food			
Wayfarers meals	4 x 600g meals	Eng	
Choc brownies	2 x 600g meals	Eng	
Stores			
Butter	1 x 500g tub	GI	
Hot chocolate	300g loose	Eng	
Coffee	1 medium jar	GI	
Tea	100 bags	GI	Herbal teas. If you're into tea, bring your own, there is no 'normal tea'.
Milk	24 x 1litre UHT blocks	GI	Semi skim
Oregano	1 jar	GI	
Stock cubes	10 cubes	Eng	
Sugar	200g	Eng	
Salt	50g assorted sash	Eng	
Soya sauce	50ml bottle + sash	GI	
Chili sauce	200ml bottle	GI	Not hot enough bring from home
Mustard	100g jar	GI	
Oil	1 litre bottle	GI	
Honey	100g jar	GI	
Lemon juice	4 small lemons	GI	
Assorted stores			
Washing liquid	1 small bottle	GI	Concentrate with antiseptic
Washing bowl	1	GI	
Scrubbers	4	GI	
Brush	1	GI	
Matches	6 boxes	GI	
Toilet paper	4 large rolls	GI	Used large kitchen towel useful
Garbage bags	10 bags	GI	
Bug net	1 communal net	GI	Useful
Kitchen tarp	1 large	GI	Bad quality eyelets blew out

GI = Greenland in Nanortalik

Eng = England

SAMPLE MENUS

Dinners for 4 people

Chili

1 large onion
1 tin chili beans
1 tin tomato
4 carrots
400g rice
chili sauce
chili con carne mix

Lentil Curry

1 large onion
1 tin tomato
400g lentils soaked
6 potato cubed
curry sauce 1 sash

Tortilla "Aussie Style"

8 Tortilla
6 potato
100g cheese
1 onion
400g rice
2 tin tomato
cabaret sauce

boil potato, drain then add cabaret sauce and cheese

2 tins of tomato with 1 onion chopped and 400g rice
stir frequently till rice softens adding water as needed

butter hot frying pad and toast tortilla adding potato
mix then tomato and rice mix fold over ingredients
and toast to seal closed

eat and enjoy !

Pesto Potato + cauliflower surprise

1 large onion 1/2 head of cauliflower
6 potato hollandaise sauce
2 tea spoon of pesto cheese sauce
100g grated cheese
garlic to taste

Tuna patties

1 can corn
6 potato
1 can tuna
1 onion
garlic

Rich's unsolicited advice: Food to ship

I think it would be very smart to ship items from home as some items in Greenland are inferior, unavailable or expensive.

- * Chocolate 200g (they cost 2.50 GBP a bar in Greenland)
- * Home brew kit
- * Sweets
- * Biscuits
- * Pre prepared food (pasta + sauce)
- * Tea (only herbal tea available)
- * Tarp canvas or heavy duty plastic with strong eyelets
- * Big pasta pot if you are cooking for 4 or more
- * Comfort food (you are in Greenland for a month if it goes bad, things from home are great I really missed crunchie bars from Oz)

ROUTES

These Routes are described in chronological order (the order in which they were put up). The exception is the Cruise Line on the Thumbnail. This was climbed over two climbing days (23rd and 28th July) and some routes were climbed in the intervening days. So we have set the route out at the end of the route section. These are scans of the original topos which we drew the same or next day to the climbs. I think they look okay in print from a lazer or inkjet printer. If they don't photocopy, email me

(jamesmehigan@email.com) or jon (jrob8@hotmail.com) and we'll try and get the original scans or prints of them to you.

This page contains a description of what the topos symbols mean. I'm really sorry, but none of us are much when it comes to art so I have tried to put some lines on pictures to help describe the routes.

As well as the numbers in the original scan I have put in pitch numbers at the top of each pitch to try and make it clear.

- Belay ○
- Groove ↑
- Ledge ↗
- Overlap ||||
- Spike ▲
- Blocks ⦿
- Slab □
- Flake & Sling ⚡



From left: Mark, The Baroness, The Butler & The Baron.

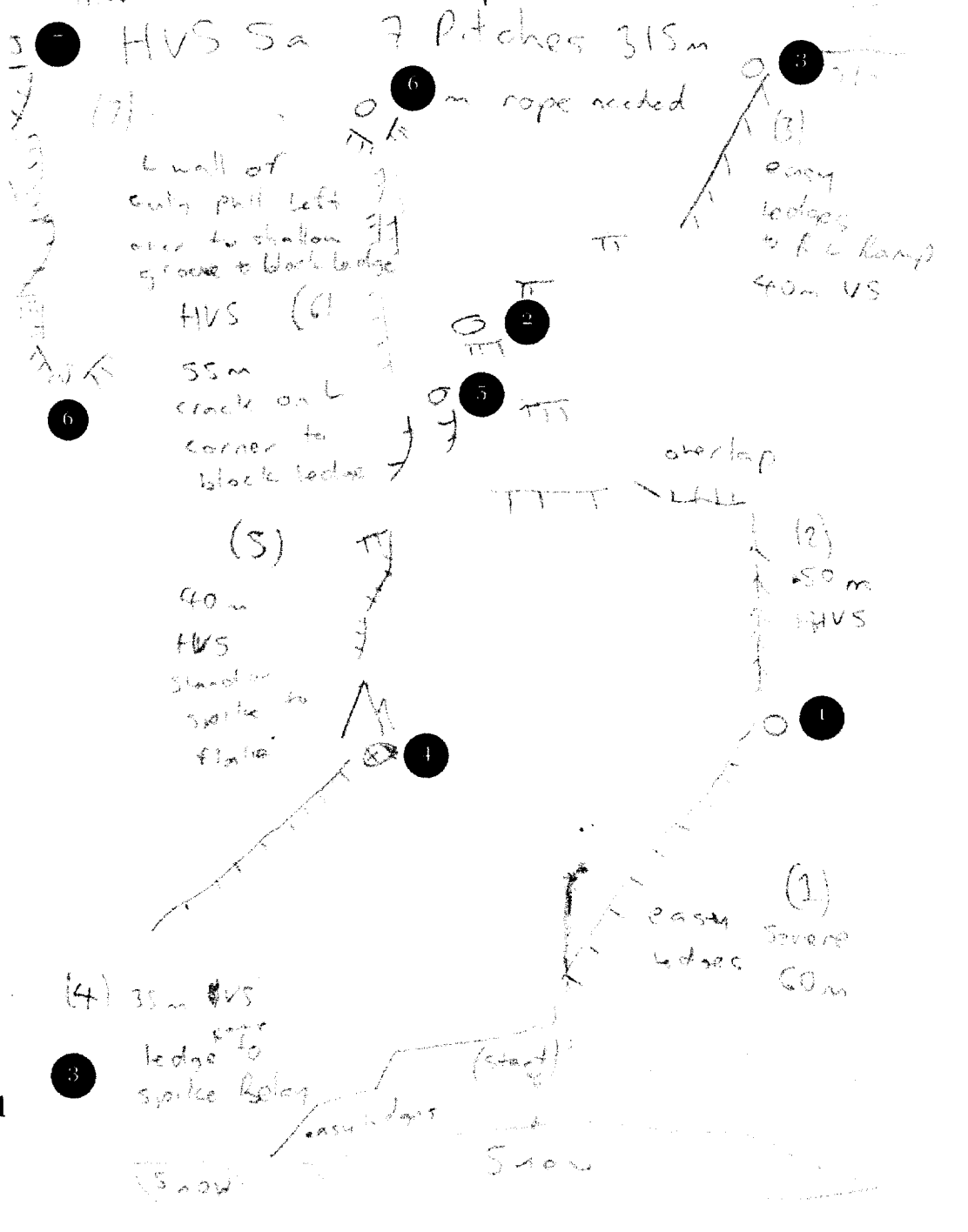
DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THIS EMPTY CAN OF COKE?

HVS (5a) 315m
 R. Sonnerdale & J. Mehigan 9th July, 2003

large buttress facing baroness in gully
 YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THIS EMPTY CAN OF COKE
 R. SONNERDALE & J. MEHIGAN 9/7/03

This route lies on the large buttress above the Baroness base camp and which is generally referred to as 'Campsite Hill'

1. S 60m Easy ledges
2. HVS 50m
3. VS (4c) 40m Easy ledges to rightward leaning ramp
4. VS 35m Ramp, ledge to spike belay.
5. HVS 40m Stand on spike to flake.
6. HVS 55m Crack on left. Corner to blocky ledge.
7. S left wall of gully, pull left over to shallow groove to block ledge.



Descent: Rise slightly over easy ground and head away from the cliff face. It was possible to weave down the ledges leaving only two bits of tat.

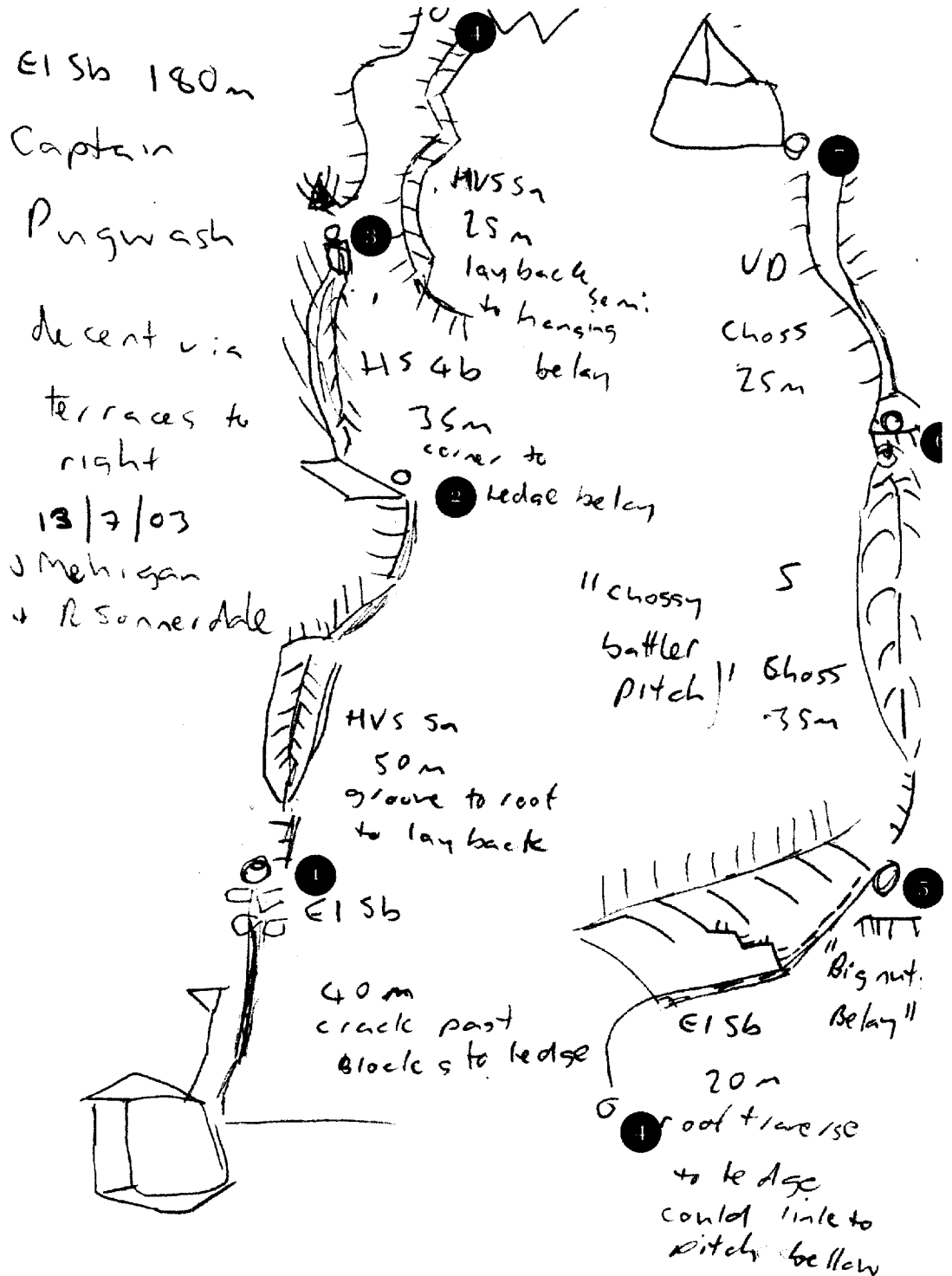
CAPTAIN PUGWASH

E1 (5b) 180m
 Richard Sonnerdale
 & James Mehigan
 13th July, 2003

This route is located on a wide band of rock on the same side of the fjord as the Thumbnail. The band is on the (climber's) left of the Thumbnail, and is roughly a mile south.

1. E1 (5b) 40m
Crack; past blocks to ledge.
2. HVS (5a) 50m
Groove to roof to lay-back.
3. HS (4b) 35m
Corner to ledge belay.
4. E1 (5b) 20m
Roof traverse to ledge. (The "big nuts" belay, long story). Could link to pitch below.
5. S 35m
The 'chossy battler' pitch. This was wet and slimey when we were there. Could be okay dry.
6. VD 35m Choss.

Descent: via terraces to the (climber's) right.



CALLED INTO QUESTION

E2 (5b) 450m
James Mehigan &
Richard Sonnerdale
16th July 2003

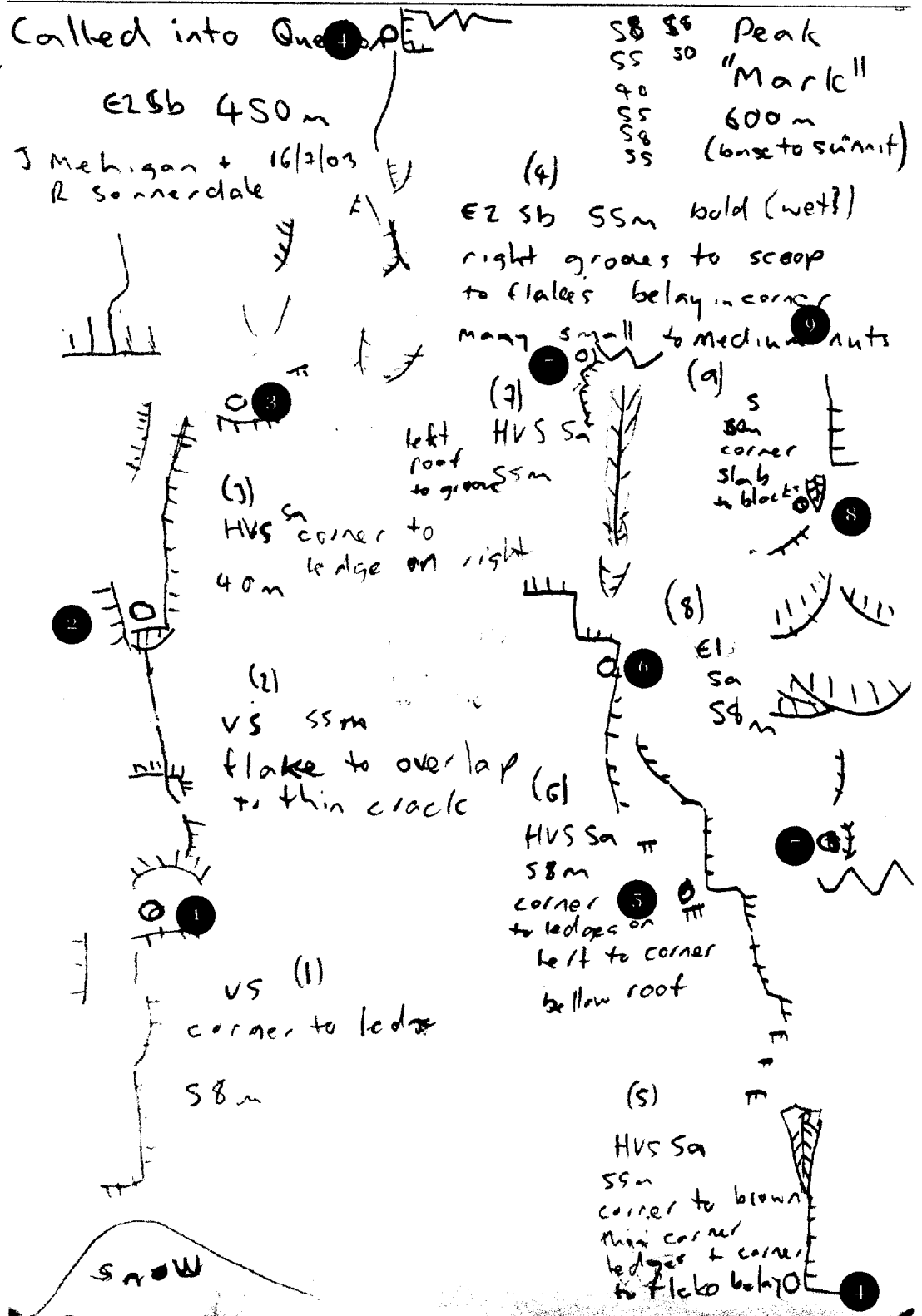
This route is on Peak 'Mark'. The peak is at the top of the Baroness valley. Walking up the valley with the Baroness on the right and Mark is straight ahead. We think this is the first ascent of this peak. If it has a local name then we apologise. We chose Mark as we only know of one Baroness, Margaret Thatcher and so named this satellite peak after her son.

1. VS 58m
Corner to ledge
2. VS 55m
Flake to overlap to thin crack.
3. HVS (5a)
Corner to ledge on right.
4. E2 (5b) 55m (bold; some cracks were a little wet.) Right grooves to scoop to flakes. Belay in corner. This pitch needs lots of small and medium nuts.
5. HVS (5a) 55m
Corner to brown thin corner ledges + corner to flake belay.

6. HVS (5a) 55m
Corner to ledge on left up second corner to roof.
7. HVS (5a) 55m
Left over roof to

- groove.
8. E1 (5a) 55m
 9. S 50m
Corner slabs to block belay.

Descent: We made our way down the north side to the col making four rappels (each 60m).



THE CRIPPLE AND THE TORTOISE

E2 (5c) A1, 200m
 First Ascent:
 J. Roberts & D.
 Durban July 25th,
 2003.

This route is on the South Face of The Butler. The Butler is the mountain between the Baron and Baroness.

1. H.V.S. (5a), 25m. Start at the col on the southern shoulder. Scramble up the loose ridge to an obvious gully separating the ridge from the wall. Move into the gully at the top and cross over into the rubble filled corner. Climb up this, past the odd loose block, to a belay in the corner.

2. H.S. (4b), 15m. Go up and rightwards, following a ledge to belay under a groove, a few metres right of a big chimney.

3. E2 / E3 (5c) A1, 40m. Follow the groove until a massive, precariously perched block stops further progress. Place gear high in the crack, lower two metres and tension traverse into a groove on the right. Strenuous climbing takes you above the

block and back into the crack.

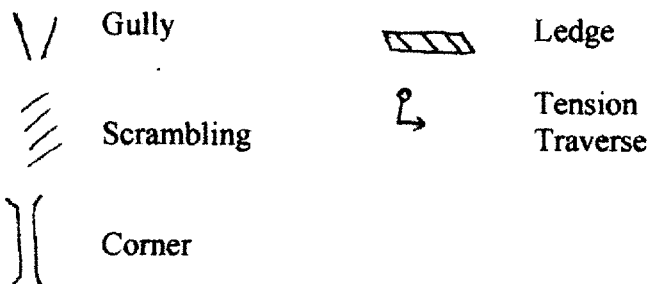
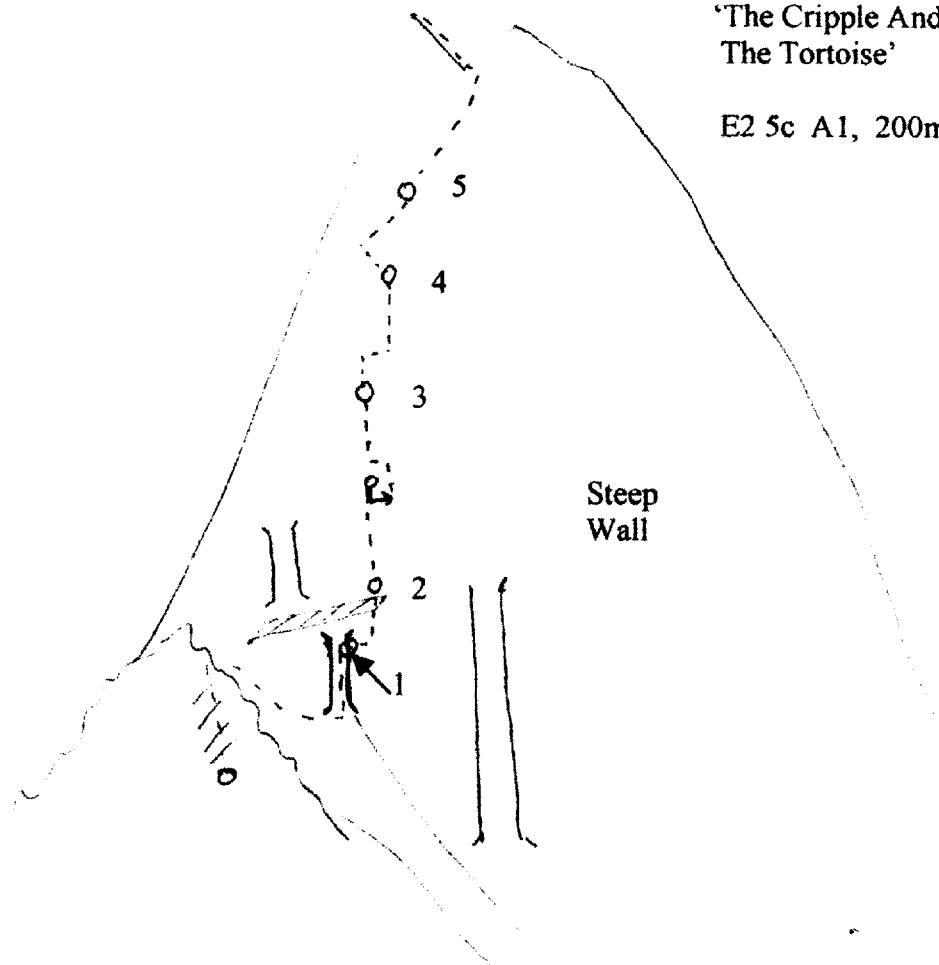
4. V.S. (4c), 40m. Move up and right, along a ledge and then up the steep slab and wall above. Belay on edge of low angle slab, or scramble up under the roof to belay behind a large block.

5. H.S. (4b), 15m. From the block, go left a few metres until rightward trending slabs lead to a belay ledge.

6. E2 (5b), 50m. Much weaving around beneath the overhangs, led to a breakthrough diagonally right to a large sloping, lichenous ledge. A

'The Cripple And The Tortoise'

E2 5c A1, 200m



crack to the left takes you the final five metres to the summit.

'JU'

E2 (5c) 155m

First Ascent:

Pitches 1 & 2; R. Sonnerdale & J. Mehigan
25th July 2003

Pitch 3: J. Roberts & D. Durban July 2003.

First Free Ascent of pitch 3: Sonnerdale & Mehigan 25/7/3.

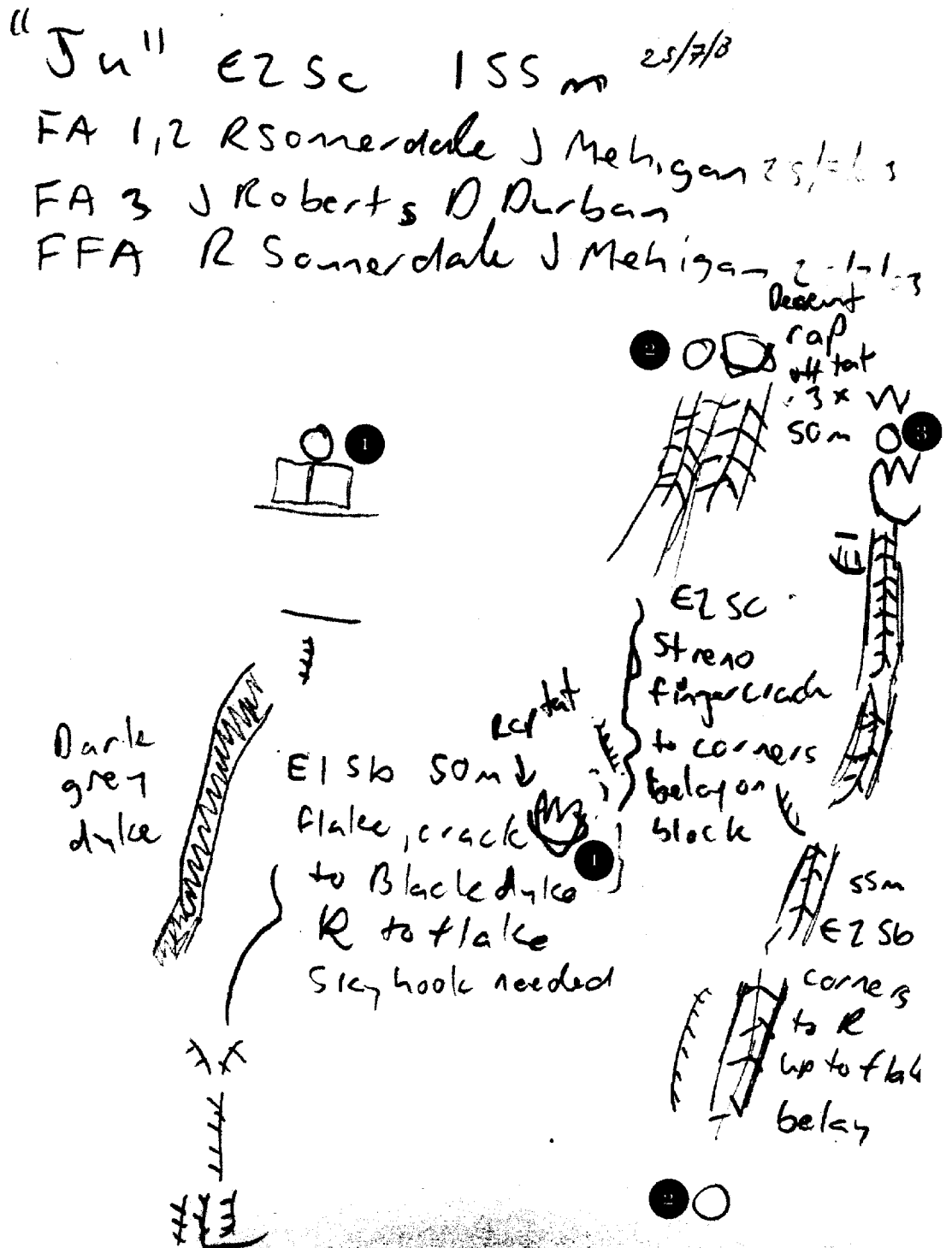
This route is on the seaward end of Campsite Hill.

1. E1 (5b) 50m
Flake, crack to black dyke. Right to flake. Skyhook needed.

2. E2 (5c) 50m
Strenuous finger crack to corners. Belay on block.

3. E2 (5b) 55m
Corners to right up to flake belay.

Descent: rappel the route on slinged flakes/spikes.



ARMS TRADER

E2 (5c) 180m
James Mehigan and
Jon Roberts
31st July, 2003

This route is on Mark.
about 200m left of
'Called into Question'.

overlap/cave and up a
higher layback crack
to a big triangular
ledge.

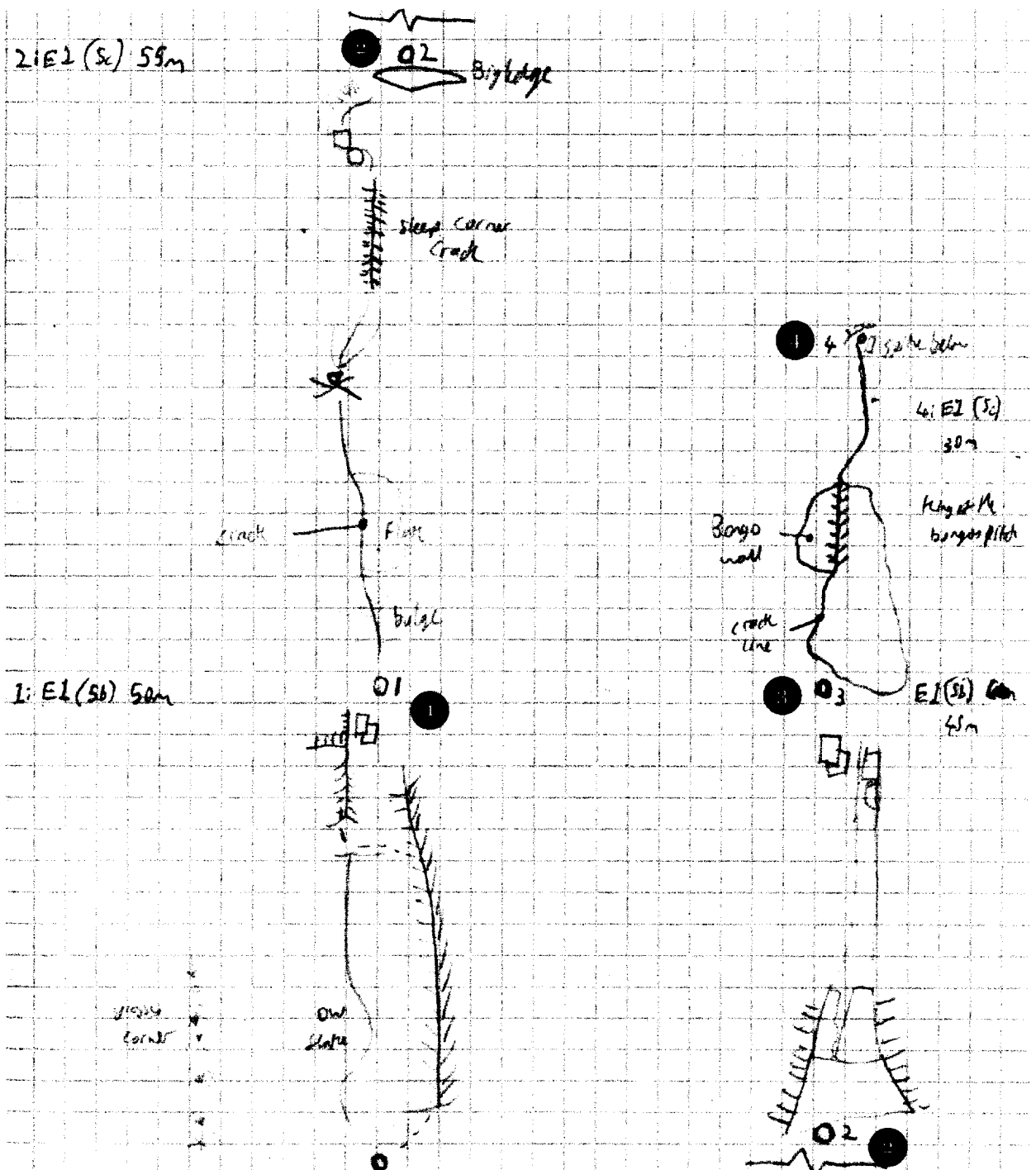
3. E1 (5b) 45m
Climb the obvious corner
and step left at the
top.

4. E1 (5c) 30m
Climb the groove and
into the 'bongo flake'
corner. The flake on
the left of the dihedral
is hollow as. It makes
a great sound. Good
gear can be placed in
the corner crack
between the rock

behind the flake and
the other wall.

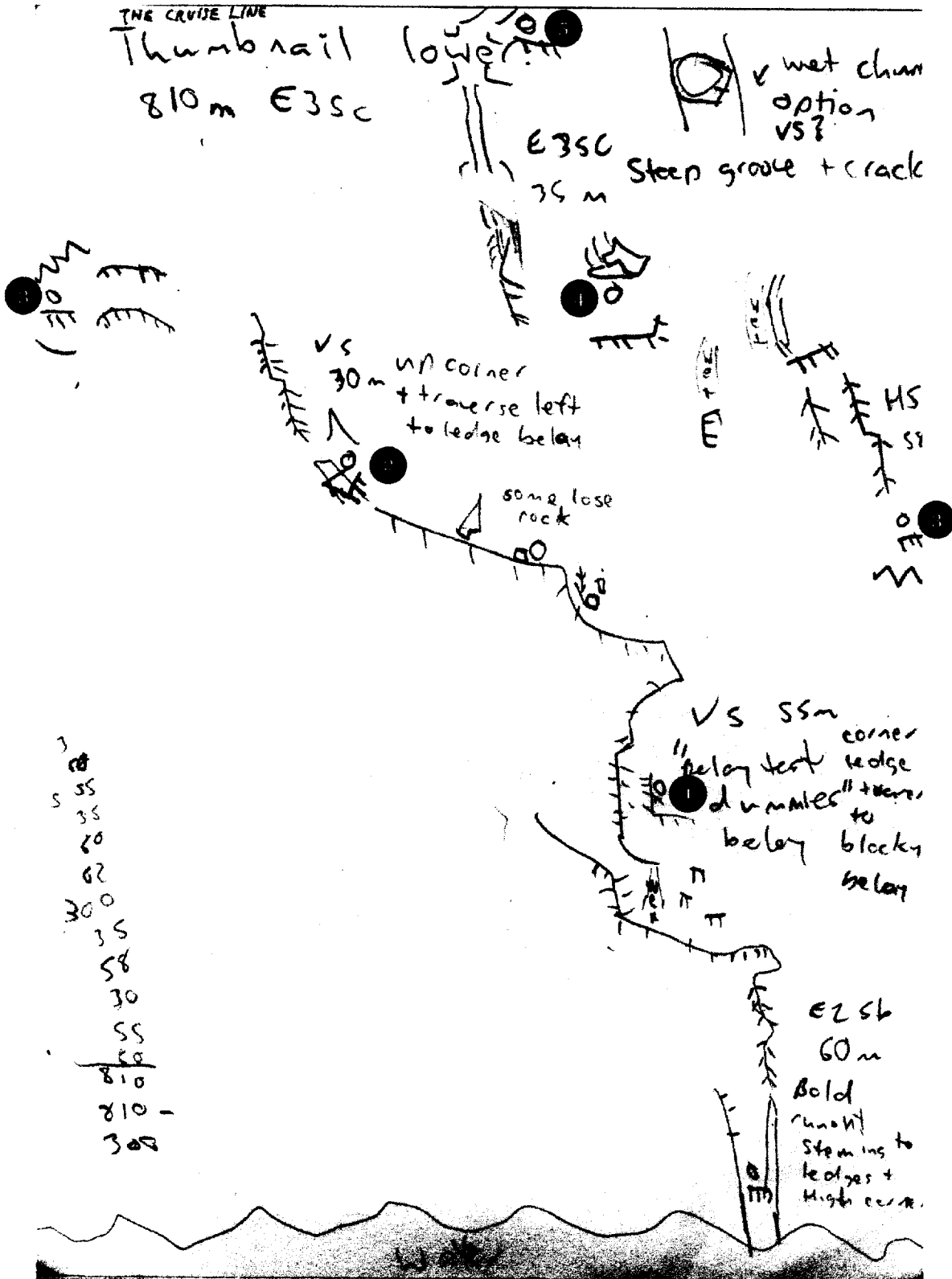
1. E1 (5b)
50m
Take the
right hand
corner
rather than
the chim-
ney flake.
Reach the
overlap-
ping corner
and make
an exciting
slab move
up to a
belay
ledge.

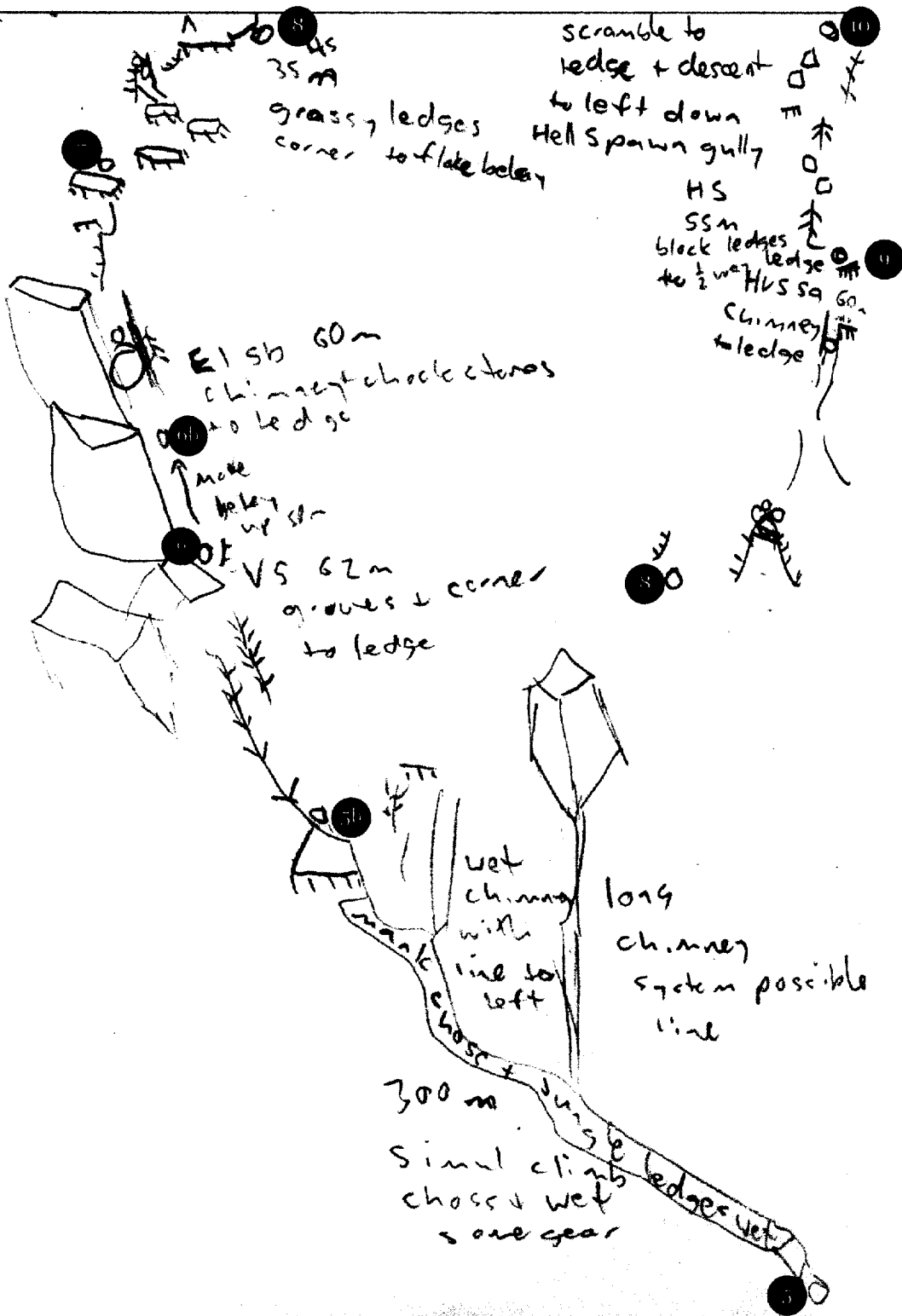
2. E2 (5c)
50m
Climb the
obvious
weakness
through an



THE CRUISE LINE

The climb is shown in order from the water up. The first day's climbing is described in the first two pages of topo; the second day in the last two. The pitch numbers continue from sea to summit. A belay marked with a 'b' (4b, 5b etc.) means that we walked or scrambled up to the start of the next pitch.





HS
35m
grassy ledges
corner to flake below

scramble to
ledge + descent
to left down
Hell spawn gully

HS
SSM
block ledges
ledge
to 1/2 way
HS S9
60m
chimney
to ledge

E1 S8 60m
chimney + chock stones
to ledge

↑
more
to ledge
up S8

V5 62m
grooves + corner
to ledge

Wet chimney
with
line to
left
long
chimney
system possible
line

300m
Simul climb
choss + wet
ledges wet
one gear

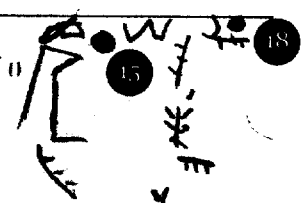
Upper thumbnail

E2 S6 SOSm

28/7/3

10 ASm of
20 pitches

"Photo VS 60m
princess"
pitch



40m rap
S 55m
easy line
R of pillar
50m rap

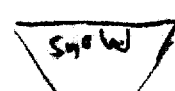
spect
block

E1 S6
55m
groove
R to
ledge

60m
rap
escape
R

HVS 55m
crack
L to 30m
Ew below

VS
40m
cornes
+ crabs



E2 S6
55m
corner
to wide
lan back

55m
rap

60m
rap

ledge
(dirty)

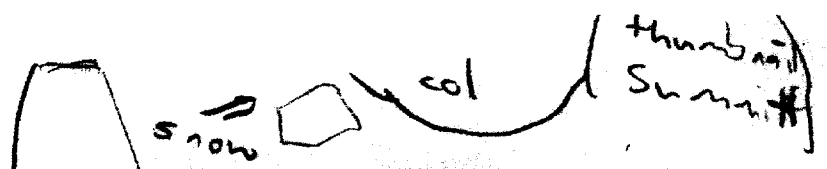
VS
50m
easy line

E2 S6
55m
L side of
pillar to
slab to
corner +
V chimney

55m
rap
go right

S scramble or
pitch waterfall
traverse +
up blocks





Descent via
ridge + 8 rapell
down waterfall
+ lower 6 pitches
(fixed gear)
200m + rock ridge + tat
scramble to col + Summit

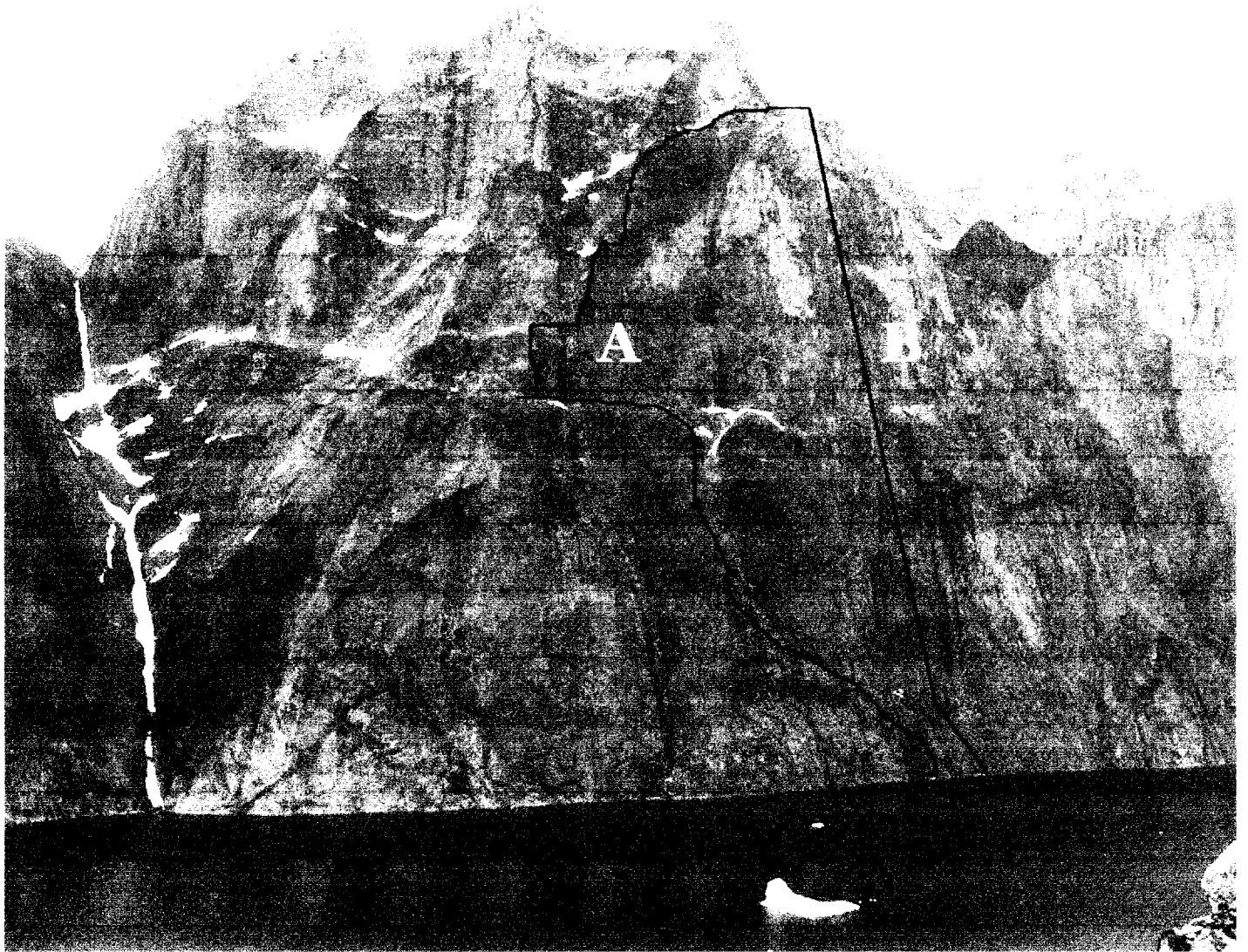
60m
pitch of class
d. + blocks below
from "pinball alley"
loose blocks wall



50m
eisb streno
corners to ledge below right



15



A: The Cruise Line E3 (5c) 1400m
R. Sonnerdale & J. Mehigan
July 23rd & 28th 2003

B: The Thumbnail E6 (6b) 1350m
B. Bransby, M. Dickinson, I. Parnell & G. Parry
July 2000

Note: www.ceciliabuil.com and www.robortanunes.esp.br
climbed a line left of The Cruise Line after we left. I believe it
crossed our line just left of the A on the above photo and went
to the top of one of the peaks above. It took 4 days and was
approximately f7a and A3.

