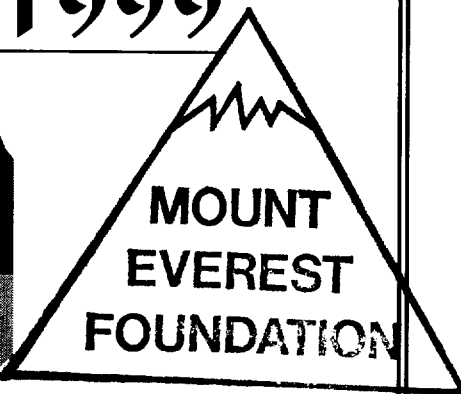


# British Schweizerland

## Expedition '1999



### Final Report

Supported by

**British Mountaineering Council  
Mount Everest Foundation  
Scott Polar Research Institute  
The Sports Council**

Assistance from

**Rab Clothing                      Terra Nova  
Troll Equipment                  WL Gore**

Date:  
Location:  
Climbers:

**22 July 1999- 22 August 1999  
16th September Gl - Schweizerland, East Greenland  
Al Powell                              Kenton Cool  
Andy Benson                          Pete Benson  
Andy MacNae                          Richard Spillet**

#### **Abstract**

Free climbs on Big Walls at the head of the 16th September Glacier in Schweizerland, East Greenland during Jul-Aug 1999. The expedition climbed 10 routes between 4-1100m in length, 8 of which were first ascents (5 being ED's) on the south faces of Tupilak, Rodebjerg, P2070 and other summits in the region.

## CONTENTS

1	<b>Area Sketch</b>
2	<b>Introduction</b>
3	<b>Expedition Diary</b>
4	<b>Travel</b> Flights Boats Helicopter Walk in/out
5	<b>Environment</b> Base Camp Flora and Fauna Rock Weather Daylight Glaciers Litter and Waste Management
6	<b>Climbing</b> Tupilak Rodebjerg Red Wall Fallen Star Little Midi Beacon Devils Thumb
7	<b>Equipment</b> Maps Climbing Hardware Tents Stoves and Fuel Pulks Food and Stores Freight
8	<b>Formalities</b> Permission Radio Licence
9	<b>Finance</b> Accounts Budgeting
10	<b>Objectives and Access</b>
11	<b>Assistance and Info</b> Contacts Bibliography Further Info
12	<b>Thanks</b>
13	<b>Maps and Topos</b> Area Map Tupilak - S Face (W Summit) Tupilak - S Face (E summit) Red Wall - S Face Fallen Star - SE Face (Hidden Wall) Little Midi - SE Face

Welcome to the land of make believe - any resemblance to places real or imagined is purely coincidental!

# Schweizerland - Tupilak Area

(The Caledonian Alps)

Very Approx. 5km

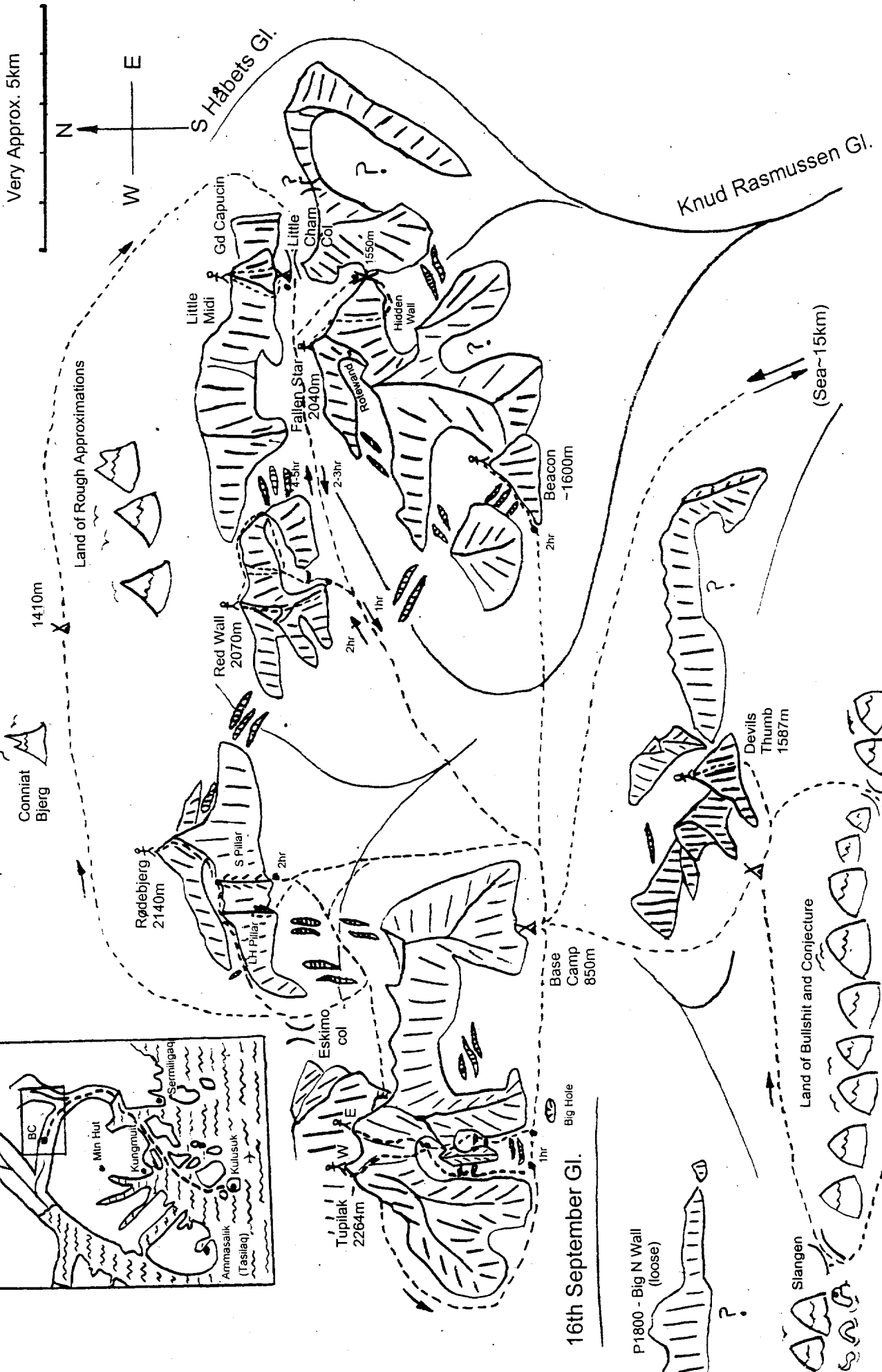
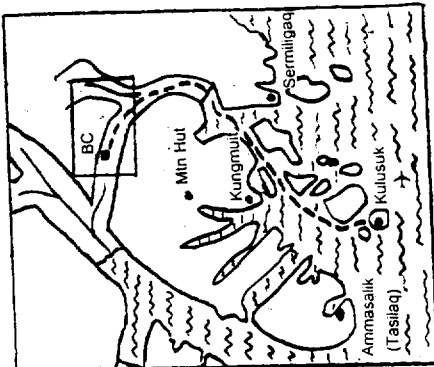


Land of Rough Approximations

1410m



Conniat Bjerg



16th September Gl.

P1800 - Big N Wall (loose)

Slangen

Land of Bullshit and Conjecture

(Sea ~15km)

## 2. Introduction

Schweizerland lies on the East coast of Greenland 80km N of Ammasalik and the airstrip of Kulusuk. The area around the summits of Tupilak and Rodebjerg contains numerous good quality rock walls ideal for exploratory free climbing. This report is intended to help other parties interested in visiting the region, in addition to recording our own activities. So if you like the idea of BIG spaces, huge blue skies and miles of perfect jamming - then read on.

**Team** This consisted Al Powell, Kenton Cool, Pete and Andy Benson, Andy MacNae and Richard Spillet climbing in three pairs and now referred to by initials in the report. With around 25 expeditions all over the world between us to some very gnarly objectives, this was a very relaxed trip to be on.

**Plan** The idea had been to visit East Greenland on the cheap whilst maximising climbing time for those with limited holidays. We worked out that a team of six using one helicopter ride and two boats was the least expensive way to get everyone to base camp and back without wasting time hauling heavy loads on the way in. KC and AP flew out 3 days in advance, headed to the Knud Rasmussen Glacier by boat and skied in. The others then flew in via helicopter with all the food and freight. At the end of the trip everyone skied and walked down the Knud Ras. Gl. towing pulks and made a couple of load hauls down the final 6km before being picked up by boat and taken back to Kulusuk. This worked out well bar a couple of flight delays, lost freight barrels and exploding pulks to add to the fun.

**Objectives** Our objectives were to climb a new route on the S face of Tupilak, make the 1st ascent of the S pillar of Rodebjerg and explore other Big Walls in the area. Since the first two were climbed within 5 days of arriving, this left plenty of time for exploring. Rodebjerg S pillar however, was not a first ascent. We had been informed that it was unclimbed, but attempted in '86 and quite hard. It turned out to be straightforward and we found a summit message from a Swiss team who made the 1st ascent in 1973 - such are the perils of relying on second hand information. Nevertheless a good warm up route. By the end of the trip the team had made a couple of good repeat ascents, climbed 8 new routes including 5 at ED and enjoyed some fine ski touring too. So all in all a highly successful outing.

## 3. Expedition Diary

Date	Event	Weather
22 Jul	AP+KC fly LHR to Reykjavik	Rain
23	AP+KC fly to Kulusuk	Sunny
24	AP+KC - boat to Knud Rasmussen Gl. Walk 4hr up Gl.	Sunny
25	AB+PB+AM+RS fly to Reykjavik. AP+KC ski 10hr up Gl.	Cloud, clearing pm
26	AB+PB+AM+RS delayed in Reykjavik. AP+KC arrive Tupilak	Sunny + Windy
27	AB+PB+AM+RS arrive Kulusuk pm	Rain, clearing pm
28	Freight problem. Chopper to Tupilak, arrive 6pm	Sunny
29	AP+KC+AB+PB check Tupilak. AM+RS check Beacon Pk	Sunny
30	AP+KC climb S Pillar Rodebjerg, AB+PB climb S rdge P2070	Sunny
31	AM+RS climb W rdge Beacon Pk	Sunny
1 Aug	All slob	Cloud am, Sun pm
2	AP+KC climb S face Tupilak. AB+PB tour Tupilak	Sun am, Cloud pm
3	AP+KC descend Tupilak	Cloud and Windy
4	AM+RS ski round back of Rodebjerg	Sunny
5	AM+RS ski down Habets Gl. AB+PB climb Red Wall	Sunny
6	AM+RS return to BC	Sunny
7	AP+KC approach then descend from Tupilak	Clear am, Rain pm
8	All slob	Rain am, clear pm
9	AB+PB approach Tupilak. AP+KC climb Red Wall	Sunny
10	AB+PB climb Tupilak. AM+RS ski to Little Cham col	Sun am, Cloud pm
11	AB+PB descend Tupilak	Snow am, rain pm
12	AM+RS climb Little Midi. AP+KC ski to Hidden Wall col	Sunny
13	AP+KC climb Hidden Wall. AB+PB ski to Slangen walls	Sunny
14	AP+KC return to BC. AB+PB climb Devils Thumb	Sunny
15	AB+PB tour Access Gl. + Slangen. KC gets Duschd	Sunny
16	Clear BC, depart 6.30 Ski 3hr	Sunny
17	Descend Knud Ras. Gl. Load hauls for final 3hr. 14hr day	Sunny
18	3/4 hr pulking then 2 hauls out to coast. 12hr day	Sunny
19	Boat to Kulusuk 2hr	Sun am, cloud pm
20	Sort freight, Fly to Reykjavik, All night Clubbing Action	Rain
21	Doss in Reykjavik	Rain
22	Fly to London. Arr 12.30	Rain

## 4. Travel

Basically we flew to Kulusuk via Iceland - 2 people went 3 days in advance, took a boat to the end of the Knud Rasmussen Gl. and skied in. The others arrived 3 days later, collected the freight and flew in with all the heavy gear in a chopper.

**Flights** We booked in late March directly through the airlines with a visa card. Iceland Air (tel 0171 3885599) run 2 flights daily Heathrow-Keflavik International. Flugfelag Iselands (confusingly called *Air Iceland* Tel 00 354570 3610) run 6 flights a week (non on Sundays) from Reykjavik city airport to Kulusuk. We picked up the Kulusuk tickets at check in. Since all the tickets had Icelandair written on them, you could easily book the whole lot via Icelandair in London. Be very aware that when you book a flight with Icelandair, you cannot change details and dates again later. We left spare days in the schedule to allow for hold-ups, which proved wise as the 2nd flight to Kulusuk was delayed by fog for 28hrs.

**Reykjavik** Take the flybus (£7) to the campsite by the Youth Hostel (there is a 10-11 shop 2 mins away), then next day the No 5 bus takes you to the city airport. On the way back you can book flybus tickets at the campsite and get on outside the YH. NB The 3rd Sat in August is national party night in Iceland, but at £5 a pint get the duty free in first.

**Kulusuk** The village itself is 30min walk from the airport. Shop is the size and range of a Spar. OK for basics (pasta, oil, bit of fruit and veg etc), but we freighted out breccie, day food and dry meals. The locals appear to eat eat mostly pop and crisps judging by the amount on display (all the seals in the harbour are for dogmeat). There are phones at the airport, the hotel on the way to village and at the post office (which shuts at 3pm Fri for the W/E).

**Boats** Hans Christian Florian (Local climber and doctor, Tel/Fax 00299 98 1320 Fax 1378) arranged for us the services of Vittus Michaelson, who owns a a boat that wouldn't look out of place cruising the Algarve rather than negotiating ice filled fjords and hunting expeditions. From Kulusuk to the Knud Rasmussen Gl. takes typically 2-3hr depending on ice conditions. We were charged 3000dkk for 2 people out and 6000dkk for 6 people back. If you camp near the airport it is easiest to pick the gear up at the airport jetty.

**Helicopters** These are based in Ammasalik. Book with Air Alpha (Tel/Fax 00 29994 3004 Fax 3400 Email- air.alpha.jav@greenet.gl). A Bell 206 (V small) and a Bell 222 are available. We booked the latter which will carry 4 passengers + gear. The cost was 18355dkk to Tupilak (+ we were charged another £110 to fly after 5pm, coz the chopper got called out on search and rescue duty the day we wanted to fly). Payload was quoted at 680kg - we thought this meant people included, but on lift off the pilot announced us way too light and it transpired this meant maximum 680kg of gear. Flight time was about 25mins to BC. They apparently do special rates of £1000 to the Tassilaq Mtn Hut (you could get 5 in for this trip if you stay light on gear).

**Walk/Ski in and out** We headed up the Knud Rasmussen Gl. as it was reportedly smoothest and flattest. The first 6km are heavily crevassed in the middle and a bit of a mare. Thereafter it is very smooth up the middle. It took 19hr travel time to reach Tupilak. On the way out we moved nearer the true L bank on the last stretch which proved far better. We did 2 load hauls down this section (~2-3hrs each) Travel down the upper and middle section proved technically straightforward, but due to pulk breakdown carnage this still took a long time. At least we enlivened the day for a gang of 4 Italian ice cavers encountered 12km up the glacier (they were barking - all of them!)

## 5. Environment

**Base Camp** This was located under a small bluff at (66° 16'N, 36° 26'W) on the S side of Tupilak. This is an excellent spot essentially off the glacier on moraine. It is sheltered, with sunbathing rocks, running water and plenty of cragging opportunities.

**Flora and Fauna** Skiing about on the glaciers one would be forgiven for thinking this is a barren, lifeless region. Don't be deceived however, as the S facing walls provide an amazingly mild micro climate with its own ecosystem. Step off the snow onto the rock and the temperature rockets up to a comfortable T shirts/thermals cragging venue (until the sun goes in and you start to freeze!) The cliffs are host to a whole variety of Arctic flowers, whilst in the air snow buntings are common with the odd cry of a raven and one falcon being spotted. The only evidence of mammalian life consisted of a few lemming turds and a set of fox prints in the snow.

**Rock** Greenland is blessed with hundreds and thousands of beautiful mountains, mostly composed of tottering choss. This area is no exception, being made of metamorphosed gneises and schists of various descriptions. Here and there however, are sections of immaculate golden rock which we generally concentrated on. Various walls also looked solid (eg 700m E face of P2070) but were split by numerous ledges piled with unstable sand and rubble. In the good areas we found excellent 'granite' crack climbing and some of the best quality new routing we had ever been involved in. You still have to expect the odd exfoliating flake and the usual quota of hanging blocks to contend with though.

**Weather** This was basically excellent (see diary). The trigger for bad weather appeared to be sorties onto Tupilak, all 3 of which resulted in a temporary crap out. Only 4 climbing days were lost due to poor weather which allowed plenty of time for leisurely dossing and resting at BC between routes. The prevailing wind was constantly from the west with large amounts of cirrus always preceding some form of cloud, which usually came to nothing. Interestingly the pressure always remained high during poor weather, then took a temporary dive just as it began to clear. Coastal fog is common and sometimes crept up the glacier and also caused a 28hr flight delay on the way in. Expect to climb in base layers on warm rock during the day but encounter a thermal crash and cold nights as soon as the sun goes. Back in Kulusuk we encountered the only really wet spell of weather during the trip, when a proper Atlantic depression rolled in.

**Glaciers** They are BIG as you'd expect. Apart from the lower 6km, the Knud Ras. Gl. is very smooth up the middle. Due to the seasons good weather, large slots were appearing all over the shop by early August together with numerous lakes and water hazards. Early morning and late evening unsurprisingly proved the safest travel times, roped skiing being necessary in the afternoons. All of us put a ski down a hole at some time: ie no serious falls, but a lot of potential.

**Daylight** Initially it never got dark, but the first stars appeared after a week into August and an hour or so of darkness arrived. From August on a head torch would certainly be a good idea for all night abbing sessions. Darkness also allowed good views of some fine shooting stars from the perseids meteor shower in mid August and an early aurora display too.

**Litter and Waste Management** It came as quite a shock to find deliberately discarded food packaging and other litter on every mountain we visited. No words can describe this other than a bloody disgrace. Abb tat and leaving summit messages are one thing but stuffing rubbish under a pile of rocks doesn't make it go away. As for the moron(s) who placed a BOLT on the top of Rodebjerg, words fail me. If you want it back by the way just let me know your address and I'll happily post it through your window attached to a brick. Detritus of a traceable nature had been left by the following parties:

1973 Swiss expedition on Rodebjerg, 1976 Slovenian Expedition on Tupilak, 1986 Scottish Expedition on Rodebjerg, 1997 German (Glowacz - Albert) Expedition on Tupilak, 1997 German (Dresden) Expedition on Fallen Star.

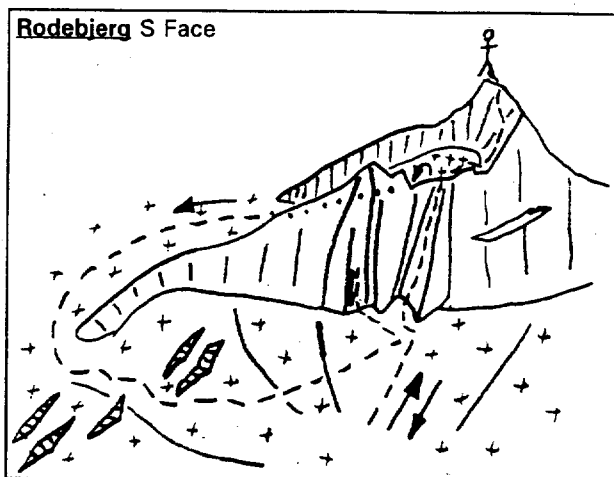
All litter collected from the above, plus ash from burnables and our non burnable waste amounted to no more than 8kg to carry out for proper disposal. Future parties are encouraged to maintain this pristine environment by removing any other trash they may find - it takes no effort at all.

## 6. Climbing

Where the rock is good, the crack climbing and protection are excellent. The following details are of the ascents we made during the trip, on a mountain by mountain basis rather than chronological order. (# denotes a new route).

**Rodebjerg** (2140m) 66° 21'N, 36° 25'W  
S Pillar, 1100m, D+ 2nd asc AP+KC  
30/7/99

Having been informed the route was unclimbed but attempted in 86' by a Scots team who spent 1 1/2 days before backing off near the summit, we expected a stiff climb on this magnificent line. As it turned out, the 'fair bit of HVS' consisted of a 20ft 4c crack and lots leisurely climbing and scrambling to the summit in 7hrs. We were not too surprised therefore, to find a summit message from a team of 4 Swiss who made the first ascent in 1973 in 7 1/2hrs. Having removed a bolt from the summit and collected the Scots bivi litter



we decided to forgo abbing the 650m lower pillar and walked off the back down the glacier in rockboots (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hr - chilly toes!) to regain our skis.

*Description:* Start 60m up the snow cone L of the pillar and follow the line of least resistance just L of the crest to the top of the lower pillar (650m 31/2hr II - IV, one small section V). Walk along the level crest (1 short abb) and scramble up loose scree and walls on the upper buttress, working L ward and eventually climb a chimney to the ridge and summit shortly after (21/2hr II-IV). Descent: Down climb the upper buttress and descend the snow bay on the back below the clean W face.

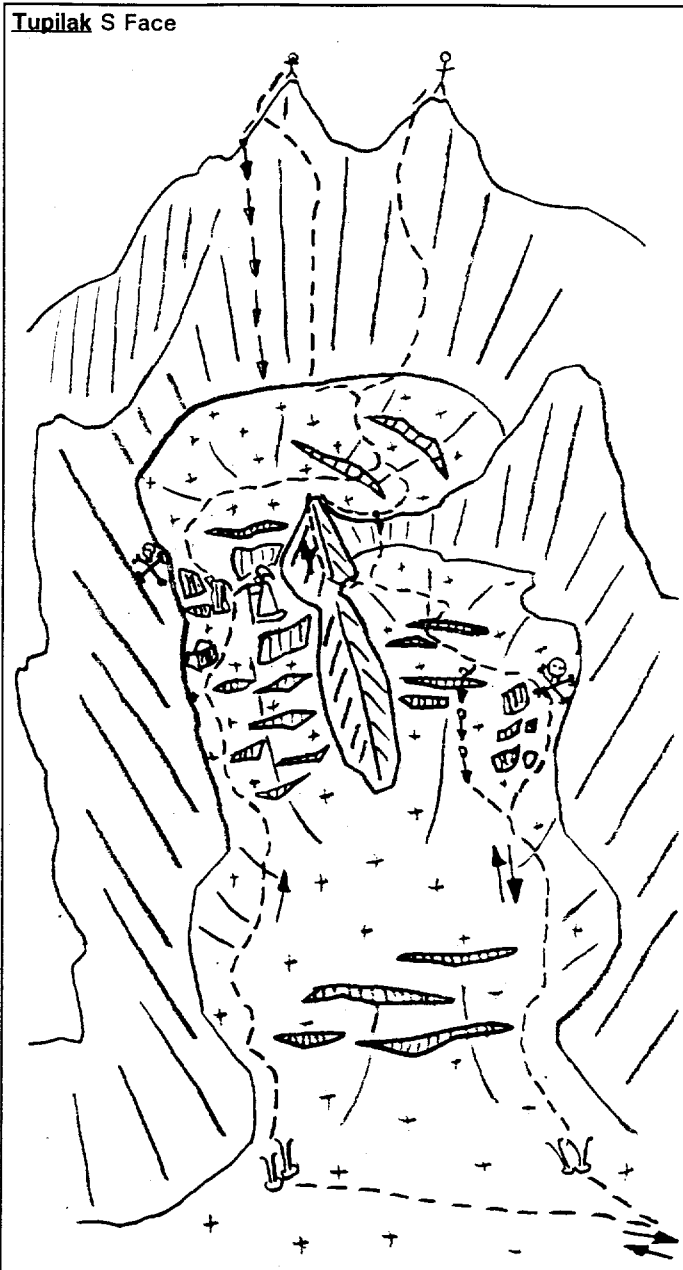
NB. Left hand pillar. This fine 650m pillar looks to offer V good climbing higher up. Unfortunately the lower section is poor and loose and the Bensons abandoned their attempt (2/8/99) after 3 pitches.

### Tupilak (2264m) S Face

66° 19'N, 36° 32'W

NB Access. The approach is objectively serious and quite tricky. In '99 the LH icefall was very unstable and dangerous. Severely threatened climbing up to Sc4 gave relatively quick access to the face, but we weren't prepared to run the gauntlet again in either direction. Up the RH side of the RH icefall is another option (though also exposed to stonefall in the afternoon), then climb 120m of VS up the central crest to gain the upper bay. In descent, a couple of abbs down the rockwall gains the RH icefall then either take your chances down the right or more safely abb over large crevasses and down the smooth ice in the middle.

The face is generally good rock, ~550m high and seamed with good cracks and corners. The LH side has the best, most continuous steep lines. The German route *Nordlicht* (VIII-, Albert - Glowacz et Al '97) goes up here somewhere and has double bolt belays. Despite the dubious ethics of such an approach to adventure climbing, we would certainly have been the first to use the line as a descent had we found anything more than a power bar wrapper near the top. Fortunately incompetence prevailed and we had to rig our own abb line, thus maintaining a true sense of alpine adventure to the proceedings. An attempt to re-ascend our rap line, which would have been an awesome route, was unfortunately thwarted by bad weather.



### The Routes

1. **Big Air** 870m, ED1, VII+ or E3 6a. 13hrs Al Powell + Kenton Cool 3/8/99 #  
(40hr round trip from BC)

In the centre of the wall directly below the W summit is a grey tower. The route starts here at a crack, 5m right of a small corner below a roof. Simply set off up the crack with a bulge at 10m. Route finding is quite tricky higher up (see topo) and leads to the shattered chimneys running up L to the W ridge (various direct finishes possible).

*Descent:* Down climb from the summit (1 abb), past the shattered chimneys to a level section and go through the gap in a split tower. Just beyond, abb off the ridge down a bay to a ledge with a big block (German power bar wrapper found here). We bivied at this point in failing light, then could not find the bolts so abbed off the R end of the ledge - see topo. *Nordlicht* runs up somewhere just L of our abb line - Pete and Andy spotted the first 3 belays when they went up to do the following route:

**2. Ulysses** 950m, ED1/2, VII+ or E3 5c 14hrs Pete and Andy Benson 10/8/99 #  
Below the E summit a big corner system leads up from the highest bit of snow at the foot of the face. Start 30m down and right from here (see topo). Please note that Pete drew the topo from a foreshortened image, so things are a bit compressed at the top. After visiting the E summit, Pete and Andy made a very cold bivi on the ridge before abbing the route under light snowfall the following day.

**Red Wall (P2070m) S Face**  
66° 20'N, 36° 22'W  
This prominent summit SE of Rodebjerg has an immaculate 5-700m cirque of red gneiss on its S side. Access is via a straight forward icefall which leads into the upper basin (1hr).

#### The Routes

**1. S Ridge** ~800m, D+, 6hr #  
Pete and Andy Benson 30/7/99  
From the foot of the icefall, climb a gully on the left to gain the ridge. This is followed to the left of the crest with interest III-V.

**2. Red or Dead** 8hr  
580m, ED1, VII or E2 5c #  
Pete and Andy Benson 5/8/99

An excellent line with sustained HVS climbing and an E2 crux on top quality rock. Start at the L most snowpatch in the middle of the wall. Traverse to its L end where a crack leads up to the main corner system of the route (see topo).

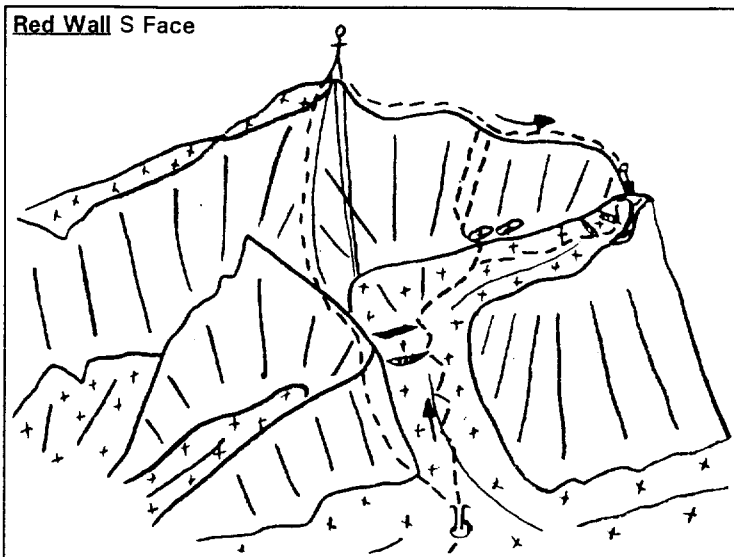
**3. The Baron** 620m, ED1, VII+ or E3 6a 9hr Al Powell and Kenton Cool 9/8/99 #  
The equally good corner to the L of the previous route gives more exceptional crack climbing. Start as for the previous route (see topo).

*Descent:* Scramble East along the ridge turning difficulties on the R, down climbing or making a final abb to the col. After 1 short abb over ice it is possible to descend the glacier in rockboots (small 'schrunds) to the foot of the wall - a technique not illustrated in the BMC Alpine Training video, but saving on weight! NB by 8pm the snow is hardening up - beware.....

**Fallen Star (2040m), 66° 19'N, 36° 16'W.** SE face (Hidden Wall - see area sketch)  
This clean cut unmarked summit SE of the Red Wall has a fine 2-300m SW facing wall climbed by a German team from Dresden in '97 (crack line on the left VI+). They christened it *Rotewand* (red wall!). However - visible from lower down the Knud Rasmussen Gl. the peak had a far larger 5-600m SE facing wall out of sight from BC. This had to be investigated. Access was via a col (1550m - see map) up and beyond the Red Wall on the R (5hr from BC).  
NB Approach from the S would be impracticable due to a large icefall.

**Vidal Soupspoon** 850m, ED1/2, VII+ or E3 6a 9hr Al Powell and Kenton Cool 13/8/99 #  
Takes the obvious L facing corner on the R side of the main face. Very high quality steep and sustained climbing leads to the E ridge (see topo) which is followed with interest to a fine crested summit. The summation of Als 10 years hair growth were cut on the summit.  
*Descent:* Reverse the ridge and abb the route.

**Little Midi (~1650m) 66° 21'N, 36° 15'W.** S Face (see area sketch)  
SE Face 260m, TD, VI or HVS 5b Richard Spillet and Andy MacNae 12/8/99 #  
The obvious SE facing tower near little chamonix col - somewhat reminiscent of the Aig du Midi, is climbed in 7 good pitches (see topo). *Descent:* Down the S flank to the L of the SE face.





**Beacon** (1600m) 66° 17'N, 36° 17'W. W ridge (see area sketch)

W Ridge, 800m, D+ (climbed before) RS + AM 31/7/99

The striking pyramidal peak a few km E of BC provided Andy Mac and Spills with a fine warm up. The W ridge leads in 6hrs to the summit followed by a similar time for its descent via down climbing and a couple of abbs.

**Devils Thumb** (1587m) 66° 14'N, 36° 25'W (see area sketch)

S face, 300m, TD, VI +, or HVS Pete and Andy Benson 14/8/99 #

The massif S of base camp contains a number of appealing peaks. Seen from the direction of Slangen, one in particular appears to have come straight out of Close Encounters. The line taken follows a groove system up the centre of the S face. Descent: down the easier angled E ridge (climbed before).

## 7. Equipment

**Maps** The standard 1:250,000 Danish Survey maps are available mail order from Stantons in London. These do contain inaccuracies though. 1980 aerial photos can be bought - at a price - for more accurate navigation direct from the Danish survey. Finally Hans Christian Florian will sell you a decent 1:100,000 map of the area between the Mtn hut above Tasilaq Fjord and the 16th Sept and Knud Ras Gl's for 100dkk. Unfortunately this map didn't cover Tupilak, Rodebjerg and most of our activity area. All heights are around 50-100m lower on this map than the older survey. NB magnetic deviation is quoted at 30dg 30' W of *true north* (rather than grid) in 1998, decreasing ~1dg in 4 years for this area. This amounted to ~37dg W of Grid North.

**Tents** Three Hyperspaces courtesy of Terra Nova loan stock plus a single skin Macpac summit tent for sorties further afield proved an ideal combination. 2mm foam underlay and thermarests maintained warm and condensation free conditions in tents. Lightweight emergency bivi kit tried out included a 4 man Terra Nova bothy (good for 2) - highly recommended and ultralight plastic survival bags.

**Climbing Hardware** We took out 60m ropes and standard racks (2xnuts 1-10 + brass, set of cams, 12 QDs + slings). In addition to this 3 rockcentrics (7,8,9) more than paid for themselves. Pete and Andy also carried and found use for a Camalot 4. Various pegs resided in BC for the whole trip. 120m of tat and a lot of spare nuts proved just sufficient for abb descents. Titanium screws were used for glacier travel and Tupilak descent (can self retrieve if necc).

**Clothing** A good selection of thin layers, ultralight waterproofs plus a few warmer items and a duvet would be good. Bring a decent 4 season bag too.

**Skis + Boots** We took Alpine ski mountaineering kit coz that's all we own and they take placcies. MacNae had a pair of Trango Extrems which were V light, but challenging for downhill. As it turned out most route descents were achieved by rapping back to gear or walking down the glacier in rockboots, so carrying boots wasn't a problem. If you plan a lot of skiing rather than climbing take Nordic touring kit.

**Stoves and Fuel** We ordered 25l of Heptane from HCF but his supply didn't turn up, so we used Kerosene instead in 2 whisperlites. Without the need to melt snow we used less than half of it. Four Kg of gas was about right for trips into the field and priming the whisperlites on at BC, so they don't soot up. Fuel is available in Kulusuk - Kerosene from the airport or 'petroleum' from the kiosk in town.

**Pulks** An article in the American mag *Climbing* entitled "Yo cheapskate, build a sturdy mountain sled for pennies" immediately caught our eye. Basically get a kiddie sledge (with as broad a base as poss.) then buy a load of 20mm plastic electrical conduit from B+Q for the traces and you have a pulk for under a tenner. Tie it together with cord NOT wire as the latter snaps and keep the weight as low as possible, clipping the traces to a sac full of clothing. You are now ready to enjoy the thrill of mending a sledge that breaks down 20 times a day and eventually explodes on the glacier. They work fine on snow and easy angled ground, but fall to bits on dry ice as they cannot take the battering. Again if you plan a big ski tour, buy a proper pulk from Snowsled in Gloucester.

**Food and Stores** Kulusuk has a small store about the size of a Spar that sells just about everything, but cannot be relied on as it depends on the supply ship. We freighted out the Gas and nearly all our food from the UK, using the shop for pasta and condiments such as oil, milk powder etc plus whatever veg. was on offer. Working on 150 man days the food lasted fine.

**Freight** We used Leman in Bradford. The cost was £305 out for 0.6m<sup>3</sup> (150kg in 5 barrels) and £170 return for 0.3m<sup>3</sup>. To get on the 1st boat of the year, freight must depart the UK ~2nd week in June to arrive in Greenland ~1st week in July. We had some trouble locating the freight in Kulusuk. After

checking with Leman back in the UK it turned up in the airport freight warehouse (it's on the right, half way to the airport jetty) rather than at the village. All climbing gear, breccie, day food and dry meals went out. Full contents spec are required by Leman both out and back for customs - avoid using the word 'chocolate' or you might get slapped for an import tax.

## 8. Finance

**Accounts** There follows below a summary of finances for the trip. We were very grateful for the three major grants awarded to the expedition - East Greenland need not be extortionately expensive if you get the logistics sorted. Expect to spend at least £50-100 for a good night out in Reykjavik though! The only other major expense is BMC expedition insurance at £116 each for a months cover.

Item	Income	Expenditure
Flights		-3552
Boats		-842
Helicopter		-1833
Freight		-476
Food + Supplies		-788
Travel Expenses		-433
Radio Licence		-73
Admin + Misc		-155
BMC Grant	1350	
MEF Grant	900	
Gino Watkins Fund Grant	1000	
Personal Contns (£817x6)	4902	
Balance	£8152	£-8152

### Budgeting

The following may help in planning a future trip.

**Flights** - we paid £592 ea return to Kulusuk - 1 month Apex.

**Boats** - 3000dkk for 2 people to Knud Ras. Gl. 6000dkk for 6 people back to Kulusuk.

**Helicopter** - 18000dkk to Tupilak BC (~10000dkk to Tasilaq Hut) - Fax for a quote.

**Freight** - £300 for 0.5m<sup>3</sup> out, £170 for 0.3m<sup>3</sup> back - send to Leman for a quote.

**Food and Supplies** - ~£120 per person. Fax HCF for Heptane quote.

**Travel Expenses** - ~£100 each + Reykjavik....

**Radio Permit** - cost us £73 incl money transfer.

**Admin** - at least £150.

**Insurance** - 1 month BMC sunpeak - £116 in 1999.

## 9. Formalities

**Permission** The Danish Polar Centre (see contacts) issue permits for expeditions to uninhabited areas in Greenland. Drop a line and they will send you a reference no, and the forms, which must be in 3 months before departure (x10 copies!) In order to get the final permit they must have the insurance form and the radio permit 3 weeks before departure.

**Insurance** You will need BMC expedition insurance (£116 for a month) and get their insurers to stamp the insurance form so you can send it to the DPC.

**Radio Licence** You must have a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and apply for a radio permit from the Radio Admin dept in Nuuk (if you have probs the office guy speaks good English). This costs ~£70 by the time you pay for the money transfer. We borrowed a Sea Marshall PLB7, then promptly left it down at the sea by mistake (along with my glacier glasses and a few other essential items.....)

## 10. Objectives + Access

1. Numerous excellent lines still exist on Tupilak, Red Wall and Hidden Wall.
2. Gd Capucin - just E of Little Midi - a striking prow as big as it's namesake.
3. P1800 (SW of Tupilak) - 800m N face (rock looks poor) Good winter potential.
4. Tupilak N Face - 1000m , awesome but loose - winter objective?
5. P1860 on E side of Habets Gl. - reportedly unclimbed? - looks steep and tasty.

**Access:** The Knud Rasmussen Gl. is shortest and smoothest. Another alternative would be via the Mtn Hut above Tasilaq Fjord (~£10/night - Fax HCF for bookings) . This can be approached via boat + load hauls or Helicopter (~£1000), then ski in via Deep Freeze or Norske Skar and on to Slangen(2-3 days we met a British pair - Dan+Dan - who had done just this).

## 11. Assistance and Info

**Contacts** There follows a list of useful folk to speak to.

Contact	Assistance
Air Alpha Box 1, 3952 Ilulissat, Greenland. Tel 00 299 94 3404 Fax 3400 Email: air.alpha.jav@greenet.gl	Helicopter flights from Kulusuk or Ammasalik.
Hans Christian Florian Sygehuset, DK-3913, Tasilaq, East Greenland. Tel 00299 98 1320 Fax 1373	local climber and Doctor - runs 'Mt Forel Expedition Support' - can arrange boats, transport and fuel in Greenland. Highly recommended.
Iceland Air Tel 0171 3885599	Flights to Iceland (and no doubt to Greenland also)
Air Iceland - Reykjavik Tel 00 354570 3610	Flights on to Greenland
Leman Dealburn Rd, Woodroyd Ind. Est., Bradford, BD12 0QN. Tel 01274 693231	Sea freight to Greenland
Derek Fordham 66 Ashburnham Grove, Grenwich, London, SE10 8UJ Tel/Fax 0181 692 7651 email:Derek.Forham@btinternet.com	Arctic veteran - edits AC journal on Greenland. Good source of advice and info.
Jim Gregson Tel/Fax 0161 9698233	The inspiration for our trip. Jim has visited this part of the world several times and was full of ideas.
Paul Walker 10 Stockdale Farm, Moor lane, Flookburgh, Grange over sands, Cumbria, LA11 7LR Tel:01539 559087 Fax 399088 paul@tangentexp.demon.co.uk	Knowledgeable commercial operator who specialises in East Greenland. For around 2 grand he will organise your logistics for you.
Danish Polar Centre, Strandgade 100H, DK - 1401 Copenhagen K, Denmark Tel 0045 3288 0100 Fax 0101	Issue permits for expeditions to uninhabited areas. Apply 6mths in advance for scientific expeditions or trips to the National Park. 3 months in advance for other areas.
Danske Bjergklub Dolfi Rotovnik, Solgardsvej 5, DK-2927, Skodsborg, Denmark. dolfi@vip.cybercity.dk	Send your report here. They try to record all climbing activity in Greenland. V helpful for info.

### Bibliography

Iceland, Greenland + the Faroes  
Schweizerland 96

The undiscovered mountains of East Greenland

Lonely Planet Guide

Oxford Uni Trip Report (via BMC)

Hans Christian Florian

### Further Info

If you want to know more, just drop us a line any time:

Al Powell, 15 Hessie Walk, Hyde Park, LEEDS, LS6 1HE Tel 0113 2740484

Andy Benson/Kenton Cool, 143 Machon Bank Rd, Nether Edge, Sheffield, S7 1PH. Tel 0114 255 7546

## 12. Thanks

To Jim Gregson for the photos that inspired the trip, Paul Walker and Phil Bartlett for advice on East Greenland logistics, Rab, Troll, WL Gore and Terra Nova for help with equipment, Dave Wills and Rich Cross for references, Derek Fordham and Dolfi Rotovnik for research assistance, Allan Walker and the team at Leman for sorting the freight, Hans Christian Florian for assistance in Greenland and the MEF, BMC and Gino Watkins fund for all the dosh.

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.

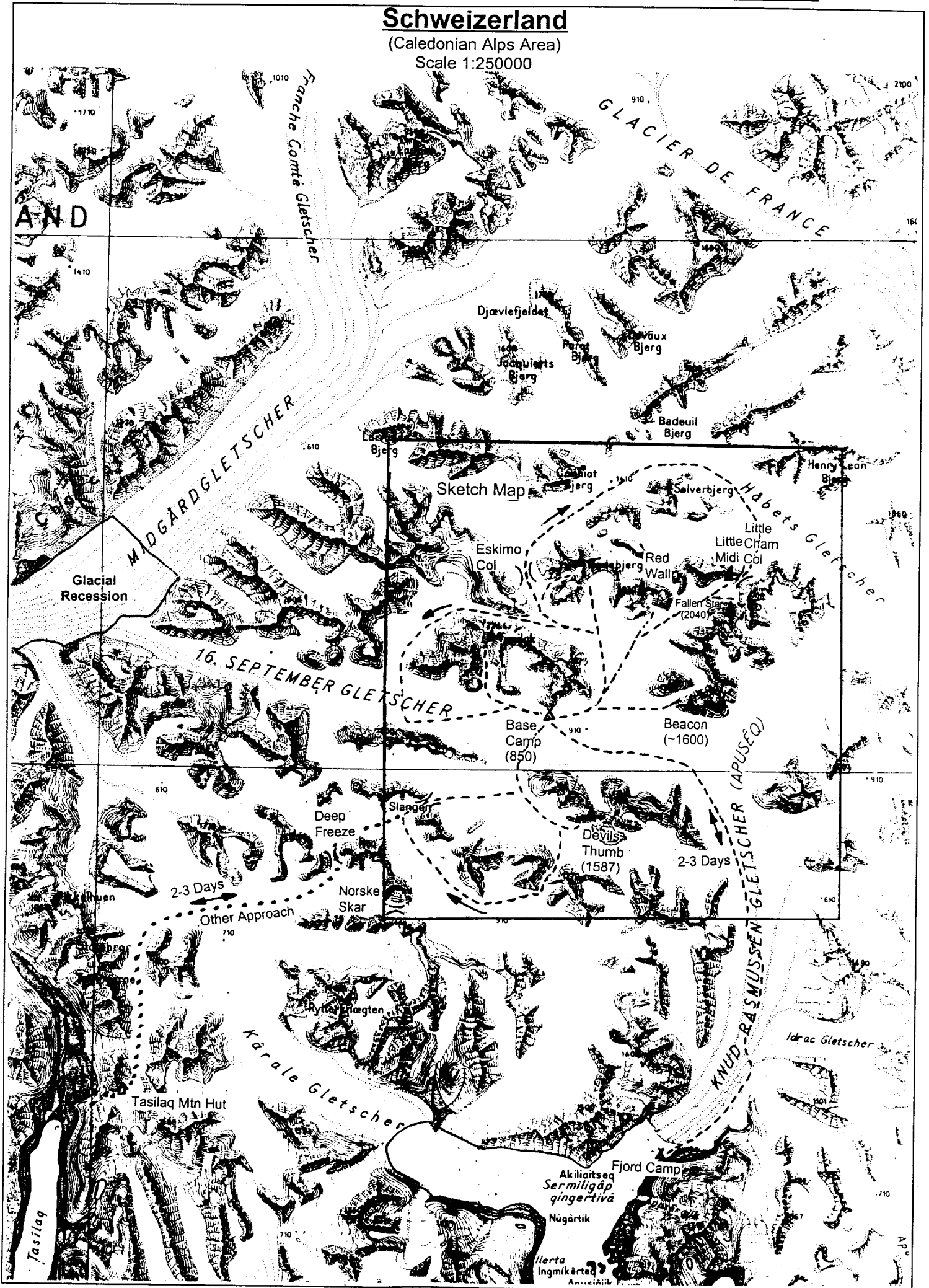
Al Powell

12 /99

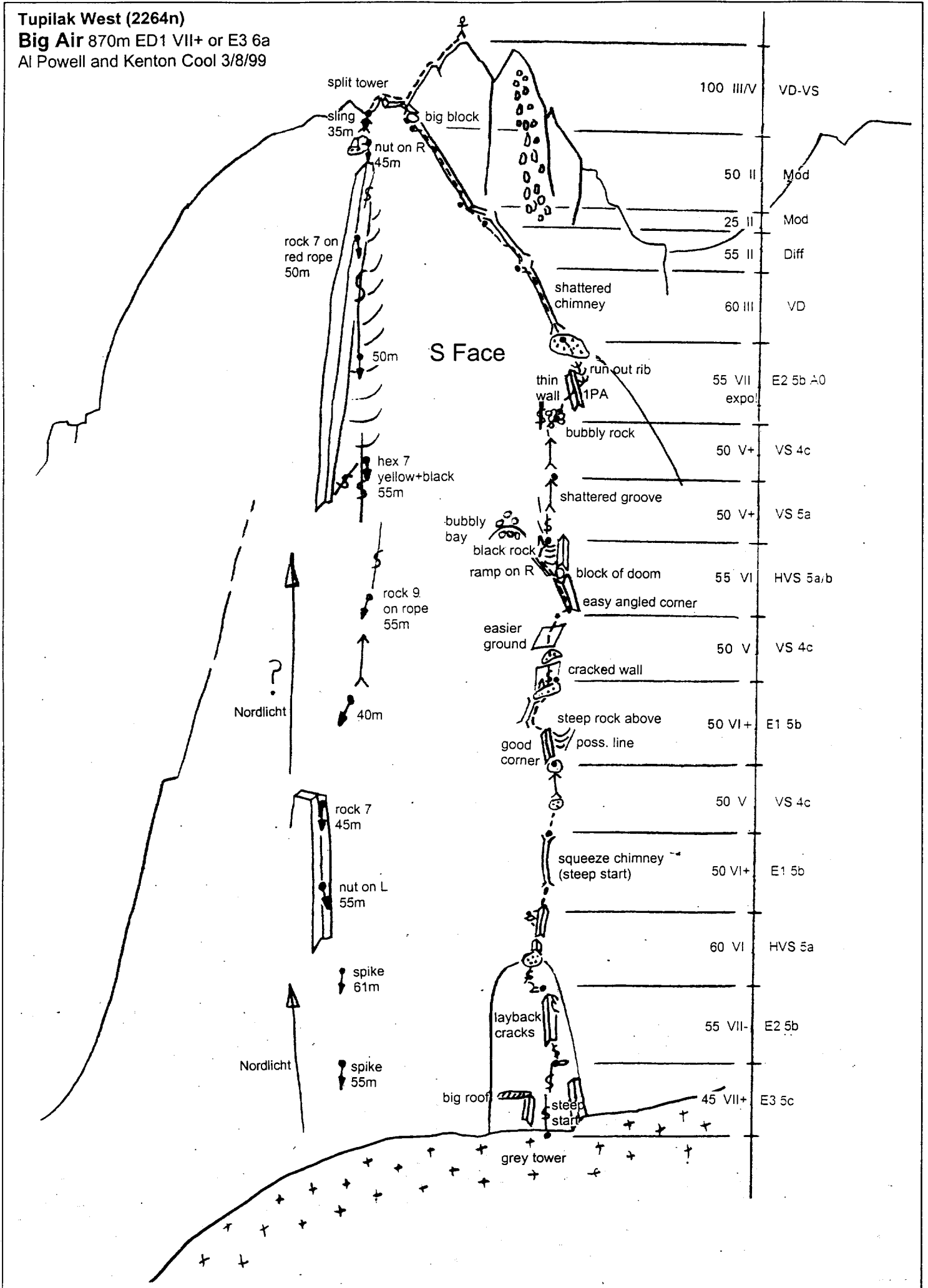
# Schweizerland

(Caledonian Alps Area)

Scale 1:250000



Tupilak West (2264n)  
**Big Air** 870m ED1 VII+ or E3 6a  
 Al Powell and Kenton Cool 3/8/99



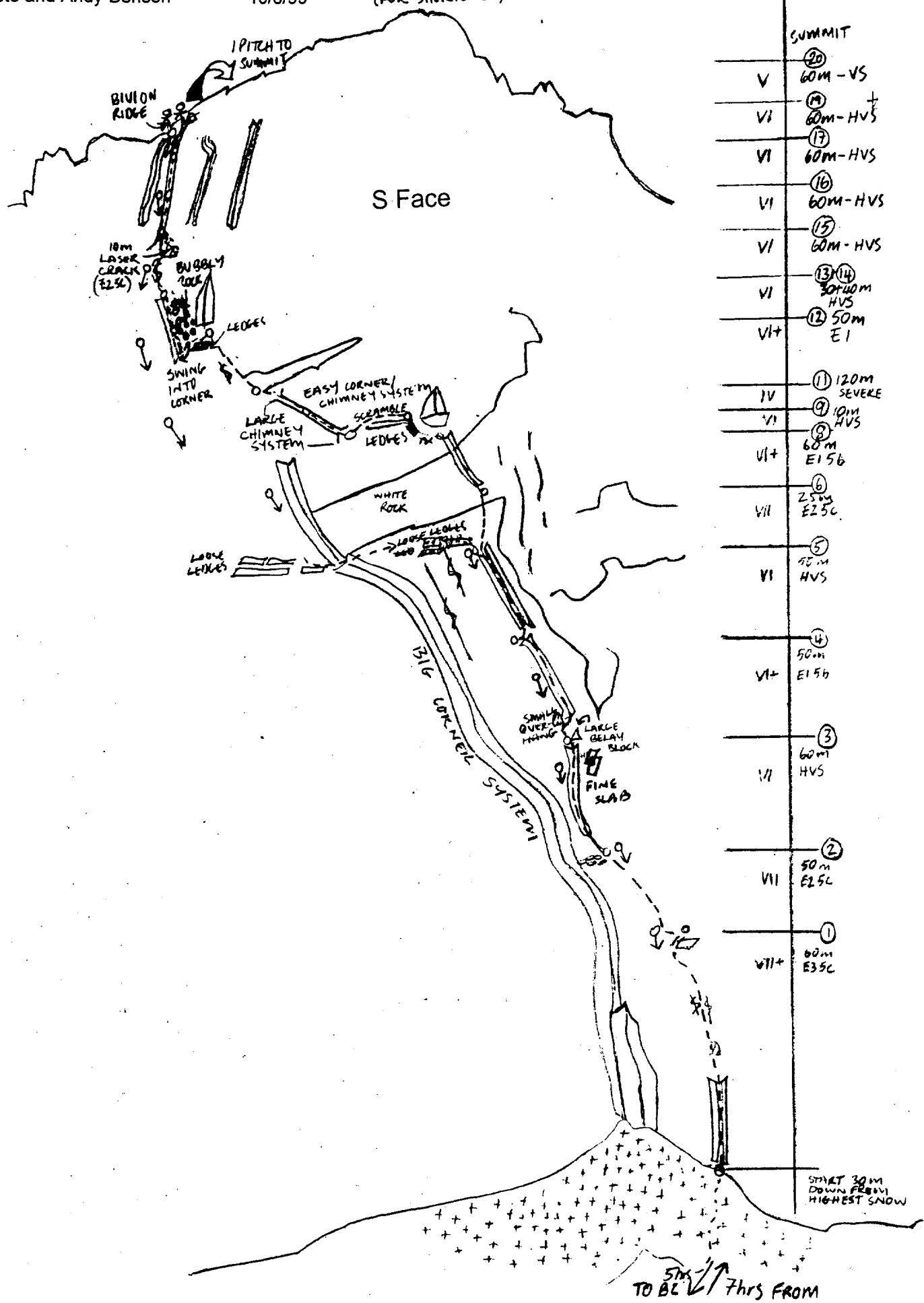
Tupilak East (~2200m)

**Ulysses** 950m ED1/2 VII+ or E3 5c 14hr

Pete and Andy Benson

10/8/99

**TUPILAK EAST**  
(FOR-SHORTENED)



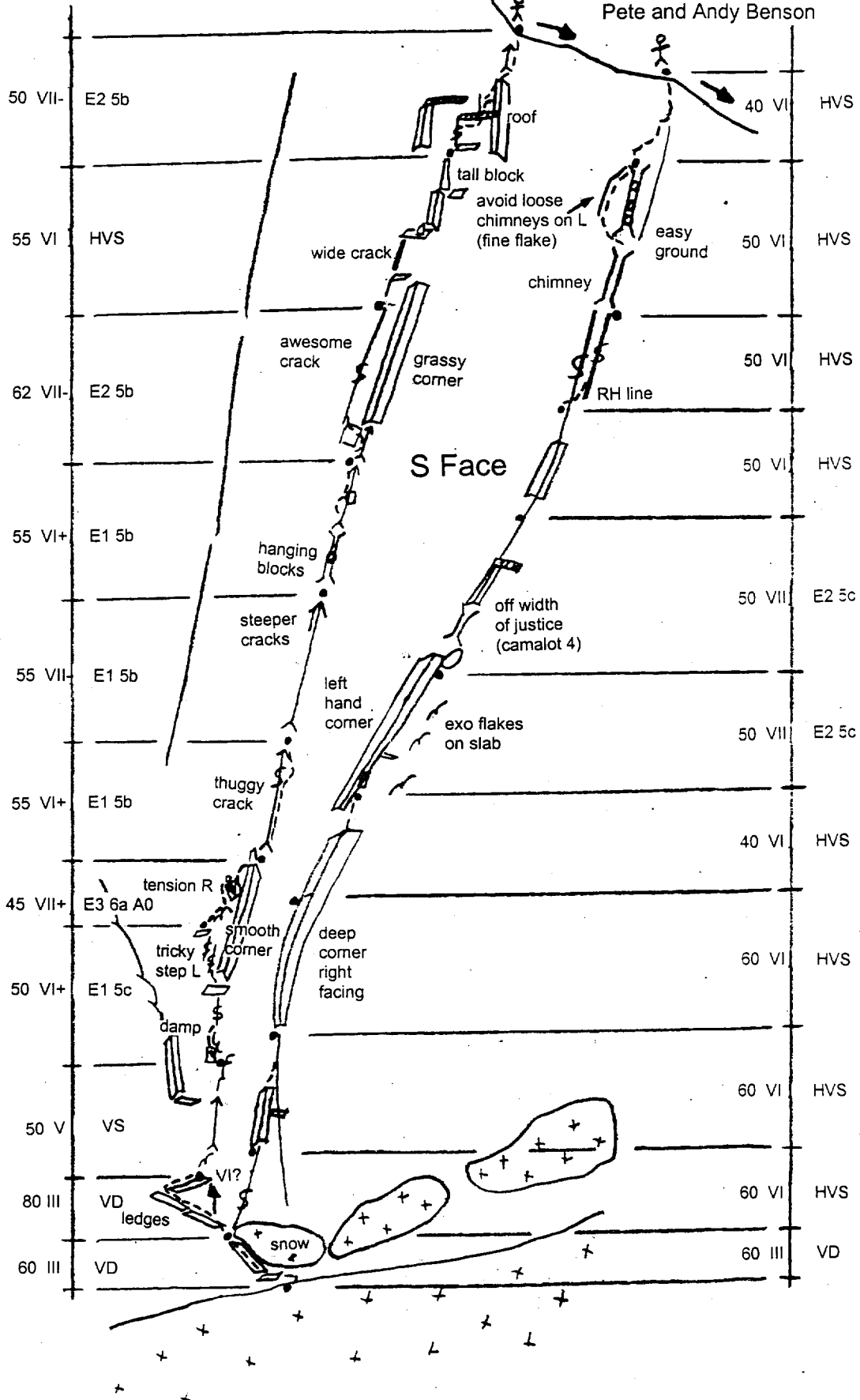
Grade	Height / Description
	SUMMIT
V	20 60m - VS
VI	19 60m - HVS
VI	17 60m - HVS
VI	16 60m - HVS
VI	15 60m - HVS
VI	13, 14 30-40m HVS
VII+	12 50m E1
IV	11 120m SEVERE
VI	9 10m HVS
VII+	8 60m E1.5b
VII	6 25m E2.5c
VI	5 75m HVS
VII+	4 50m E1.5b
VII	3 60m HVS
VII	2 50m E2.5c
VII+	1 60m E3.5c

5hrs TO BL  
7hrs FROM

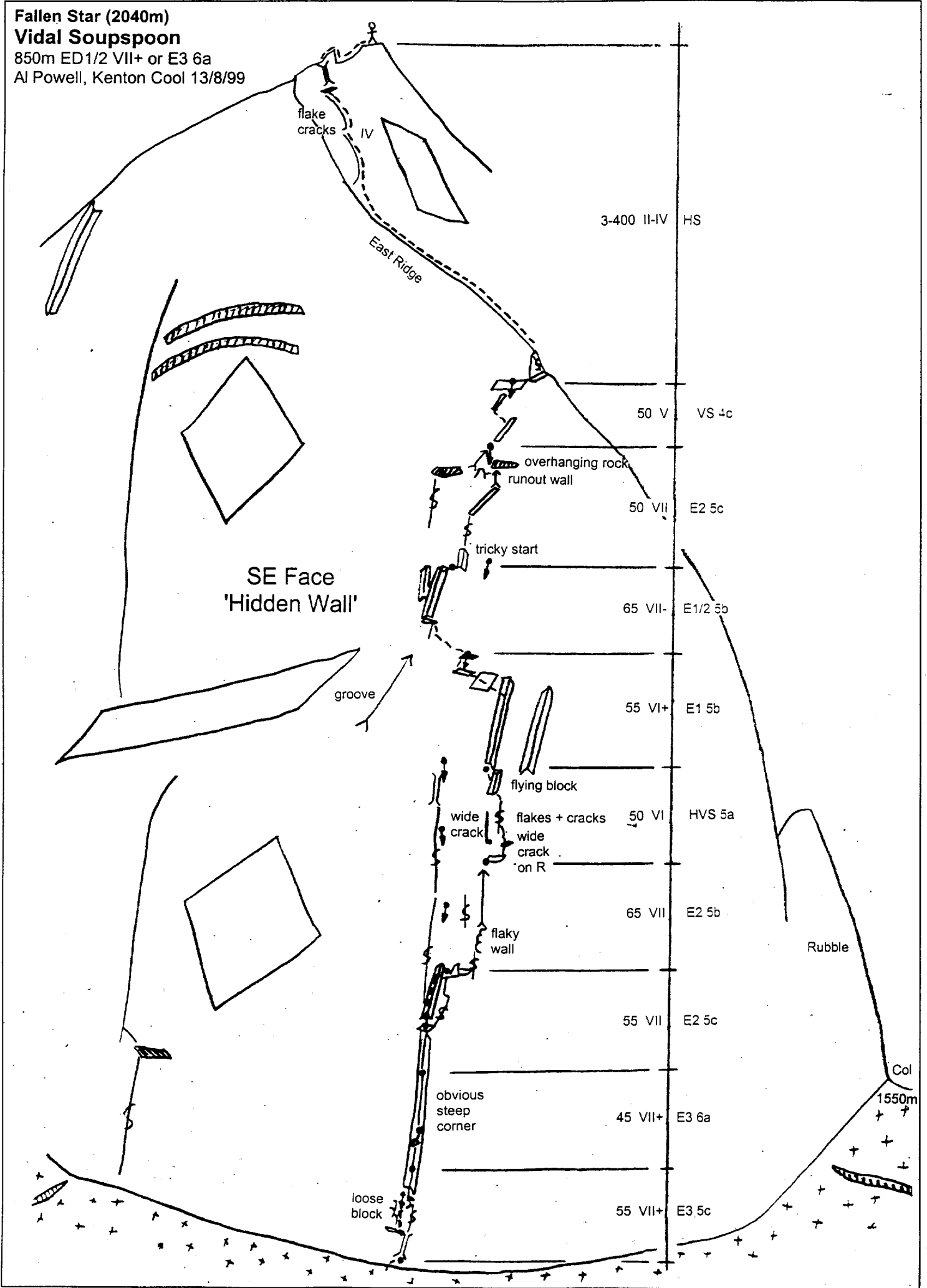
Red Wall (2070m)

**The Baron** 620m ED1 VII or E3 6a  
Al Powell and Kenton Cool 9/8/99

**Red or Dead** 580m ED1 VII or E2 5c  
Pete and Andy Benson 5/8/99



Fallen Star (2040m)  
Vidal Soupspoon  
850m ED1/2 VII+ or E3 6a  
Al Powell, Kenton Cool 13/8/99





Little Midi (~1650m)

SE Face 260m TD VI or HVS 5b

Richard Spillet and Andy MacNae 12/8/99

Descent: down S face to left of SE face.

