

SECTION 7

PENTADAKTYLOS (THE FIVE FINGERS)

History

Dhighenis, renowned for his heroic escapades and feats of might is said to be responsible for the formation of the pentadakylos peaks. (Five Fingers). The story relates to an incident during which Dhighenis was being pursued on the Kyrenia Mountains by the Saracens when at some point he found himself cornered on three sides with the steep mountain to his back. His only channel of escape was to leap over the mountain. Dhighenis put the palm of his hand on the mountain side and used it as a springboard to help him jump over it. The result is what one can see there to the present day - the imprint of his hand and fingers detected in the shape of this mountain.

Introduction

This is wholly based upon Bob Hopton/ Dave Benson's Guide, which itself was almost a reprint of Archie Jeffrey's guide with the addition of better directions and maps. The diagram below is apparently very accurate and could not have been better done if photographed. Sadly, access for non UN personnel is currently all but impossible as current BFC policy prohibits "organised" conduct of AT in the North (even private trips would appear to be included). We can travel there and admire but not climb. Access for UN personnel, however, should not be a problem. The Pentadakylos would appear not to be just rock climbing but mountaineering at a very good standard.

Access

From Nicosia (Lefkosia). Drive through Ledra Gate and City Centre to bypass and join main road to Famagusta (Gazi Magusa). Drive along this fast well maintained road for approximately 8km until left turn to Kyrenia (Gime). This has large sign prohibiting entry to UN vehicles. Follow this main road until you reach the obvious Cot at GR 425043 (Sheet 3, Series K717, Edition 1 -GSES 1:5000). Note that the road isn't shown on the 1:50,000 map but goes from approximately GR 436032, behind the prominent feature 'Kokkinokremmos' up to the Col. At GR 425043 (Crossroads) turn right along fairly well maintained dirt track and park vehicle on the bend at GR 430048. The entire South face of Five Fingers can be clearly seen from this vantage point.

From Famagusta. Drive through 'Black Knight VCP' and head towards Famagusta (Gazi Magusa). At the first traffic island (complete with grotesque war memorial) take the first exit off (sign posted to airport) which is the main road to Nicosia (Lefkosia). Drive for approximately 40km until major junction to the right past Trakhoni (Demirhan) follow the main road (prohibited to UN vehicles) to Col at GR 436032; see comments as previously mentioned.

QUICK DESCENTS FROM EACH OF THE FIVE FINGERS

THE THUMB

From the top go west and start to scramble down over easy rocks. An abseil from a gully then gains the saddle between the Thumb and the Clock Tower.

THE INDEX FINGER

From the top go west again to the top of the white wall over looking Hunt's Stab. There is an abseil peg in an obvious crack here. Abseil down onto a large ledge and then scramble down to the saddle at the foot of Hunt's Slab. From here the easiest scramble down tends to be the right. There is a strong rumour going around that some bastard pinched the peg. (Given that this comment was made in '68/69 it's probably long gone! Ed).

THE SECOND FINGER

By far the easiest and quickest way down from here is to move to the east and abseil down from the peg on top of Hunt's Slab. From here scramble to the south and right.

THE THIRD FINGER

Go along the top of the ridge to the west and then scramble down some easy rocks into what is called Green Gully. This is the same gully as is used for the easiest descent from the Fourth Finger. This gully can also be used as a quick easy way of reaching the top of the ridge.

THE FOURTH FINGER

There are two easy ways down from this finger. The first is to abseil back down Great End Chimney. The second is to climb down Green Gully.

FOURTH FINGER

GREEN GULLY Mod

Location, the gully between the Third and Fourth Fingers. This climb is really just a long scramble and no technical description is needed, however, it is a very quick and handy way up to or down from the top of the ridge.

STILL BORN 48m Hard/ Diff Swill Conway 26 May 69

Location, on the right of three gully. Start directly below a crack, move up on the right of two small trees. Cross the crack to the left side then up and into it. Follow crack to the top.

SLADGE ROUTE 96m Diff Swill Conway, Priestly

Location, on the right of number two gully. Climb up the slabs to a good belay in a well just below the steep part of the climb 32m. Move round to the left of the steep rib and up to a stance 32m. The steep rib can be climbed and the grade remains the same 32m.

GOAT RIB 64m Diff Swill Conway, Ray Carey 25 May 69

Location, follow the left hand edge of number two gully. Climb a short wall and continue up to a good belay (29m). Continue up keeping to the edge of the gully. After a bit the ground eases to easy scrambling leading to the top of the ridge (34m).

FLUTE 34m Hard/ Diff Bob Stewart, Taff Ahern 26 May 69

Location, near the top of number one gully, more or less a continuation of Chimp. Start, climb a curving crack tending to the left towards some blocks. Now climb directly up a slab to a short wall then up a little crack to the top.

CHIMP 36m VDiff Bob Stewart, Taff Ahern 26 May 69.1

Location, this climb follows the right hand wall of number one gully. Climb the wall until you can move into the gully again and so to the top.

GREAT END CHIMNEY 68m VDiff Archie Jeffrey, Mich Taylor 11 Dec 68

Start, to the left of the Red Wall on the Fourth Finger there is a huge chimney with a giant sized chock stone in the middle. Mainly scrambling to start apart from a couple of awkward pitches. End of first pitch, 36m. Belay on the dead tree beneath the huge chock stone at the start of the chimney proper. Go to the back of the chimney and bridge upwards on slippery rock for about 15m. Ground now eases to large stance and another tree belay. After initial awkward bulge the ground now eases to the top of the ridge, about another 12m.

GUILLOTINE C Weavers, J Henery, B Banks 24 May 60

Location, a large wide prominent crack to the left of the Fourth Finger, about 45 metres left of Error. Scramble at first then climb up to just beneath a group of chock stones. It is not really advisable to belay from these as they do not seem too safe. Bridge upwards for about 3m then move out left to another smaller crack. Jam up this then easier ground leads to the top.

ERROR 73m VDiff Archie Jeffrey, Fred Brown 25 May 69

Location, about 45m left of Great End Chimney. High up on the wall there is a prominent dovetail shaped gap. Start directly below this gap. Easy climbing leads to a sloping stance 32m. Continue up to a small awkward wall beneath a tree. Climb the wall and move into crack above. There is a stance part of the way up the crack 18m. Move up and climb the left wall of the dovetail gap on small holds on beautiful rock to a large platform. Continue up short wall above to a stance on top of the ridge 20m.

WANDERER 175m VIDiff Mac McAuliffe, Al Logan 22 May 69

Location, the right hand'side of the South face of the Fourth Finger. Start, just to the right of a large corner on a broken face. Climb up 30m then move diagonally up and left for about 64m. This takes one across beneath a huge pillar which is prominent high up on the right of the wall. From here follow the left hand side of the pillar all the way to the top.

SLOB SLAB 44m HVD Roger Cox, Alan Richards 24 May 69

Location, the slabs to the right of Great End Chimney. Climb straight up the slab on small holds for 9m. Now traverse left towards the huge chock stone of Great End Chimney and up to a shelf. Traverse right and follow a crack system to the top.

MANDARIN 150m MS RG Blyth, D Wood 14 Jun 69

On extreme Western end of South face an indistinct ridge leads **up** to the foot of a steep face. Start, at foot of steep grey triangular wall by a horizontally growing tree. Ascend wall to broken ledge on a profusion of holds (18m). A second wall, less steep and more broken, leads to a second ledge (21 m). Straight up broken rocks to belay stance (34m).

Continue up broken rocks to foot of eastward facing groove (15m). Start groove with difficulty and on good holds to small stance and mantelshelf onto large ledge (21 m).

Traverse left and force upward route onto summit ridge at first opportunity 34m.

HONE 66m Severe

Mick Stanton, Taff Wifflarn 1 Oct 67

Location, on the Fourth Finger about 75m to the right of the Red Wall. It is seen from the field below as an obvious affite.

Start, at the trees to the left of the gully. Up easy rock for about 24m. Now climb the short wall and continue up the knife-edge. After reaching a small platform move right beneath a little overhang. This overhang was originally climbed with a peg. Since then however, various teams have found it quite an easy pull up. This brings one to a roomy if slightly chossy belay ledge. After leaving this stance climb up the wall for 9m. An exposed traverse left through overhanging blocks gains an obvious ramp leading diagonally up to the left. A final easy pull up gains the top.

HONE DIRECT

93m Severe Archie Jeffrey, Dave Wright 4 Aug 68

The only difference in the bottom part of this climb and the normal Hone route is that instead of climbing the short wall by the crack on the right, climb it on the knife edge. Instead of moving left after the last stance continue up the knife-edge. An awkward move up a sloping corner enables one to gain a sharp pointed block. From this block a high step up round the corner onto the wall overlooking the gully. Climb up the easy wall to the top.

NEVER AGAIN DIRECT 61 m Severe

Archie Jeffrey, Taff Evans 15 Jun 69

Location, round to the left of Guillotine there is a broken area which has a diagonal line leading off right to the top of the ridge. To the right of the broken area there is a line of cracks up a steep wall leading to the diagonal line. Climb the cracked wall until a hard move gains a good ledge, continue up for another 9m or so to a belay 24m. Move into the diagonal break. Easy scrambling leads to a final steep corner. Climb this to top.

RAT CRACK 50m Severe

A Richards, R Cox, C Weavers 23 May 69

Location, on the left of Great End Chimney there is a huge bulge with a ten inch crack running up ft. Climb the small slab on the left then move right to enter the crack. Climb the crack which is very strenuous, to a large V shaped opening containing a dead tree. Belay on a good flake 25m. From here move up the wall on the left. Exit from here is hard. An awkward fight with a chock stone and a large ledge is reached, if you win. Climb up into a dovetail shaped gap and exit this by a crack on the right 25m. A fine strenuous route. The crux is reaching the ledge on the second pitch.

PLINTH DIRECT 15m VS Archie Jeffrey, Alan Richards, A] Logan 30 Apr 69

Location, the Plinth to the left of the Red Wall Crack. Start, directly beneath the Plinth on the steep wall. Climb the wall which soon becomes a little awkward and then move up and right. A few moves later the right hand corner of the Plinth can be gained. Another couple of awkward moves then the ground eases with big jugs all the way up to the top of the Plinth.

RED WALL CRACK

17m VS

Capt Hastie

Start on the thin crack in the middle of the Red Wall of the Fourth Finger. Straightforward although thin climbing follows-for 12m or so. A semi-layback move into a sentry box gains a stance with a peg in the crack on the left. The way from here to the top of the Plinth is hard and the crux of the climb. From the stance place the right foot as high as possible in the crack and stretch across the bare well on the left until it is possible to reach a small ledge with a 'Thank God' hold above it. From here the going is easier until the top of the Plinth is reached.

UNFINISHED ROUTE

21 m Severe Archie Jeffrey, Dick Bond Apr 69

Location, on the Red Wall just to the left of the Plinth. Start, climb up the wall leading to a vertical crack. Move left to get around bulge. A hard layback move gains the crack which is now followed for about 6m. A traverse line leading left is now followed to the top overhanging roof. The route at the moment ends here.

THE THING 170m HVS Archie Jeffrey (1 s' & 2nd halves), MacAuliffe (1 st half 18 May 69), Fred Brown (2nd haft 24 May 69)

Location, about 18m right of Red Wall Crack here is the hint of a line through the bulges up towards the right hand side of a large grey corner which is prominent at about haft height on the face. Start up some easy rock to a ledge beneath a steep

corner with a very thin crack in it. Climb the bulge then crack which leads to a small stance and belay 21 m. Move onto the wall on the left, up over a bulge to a ledge which leads off left to another corner with a large flake at its back. Climb the corner above and pull up onto another ledge. Move left along the ledge then climb up 6m to meet a steep curved corner. This corner is very thin for a while then it relents to a good stance 34m. Climb up onto a sloping ledge then up another bulging wall by a crack. This leads to a dead tree. A couple of awkward moves above then the rock eases to a stance a little higher. This stance is nearly halfway up the grey corner (32m). Continue up the corner over some bulges then pull up over some bulges then pull up over onto a good platform (24m). From here climb up easier rock on the left to a stance beside a tree near a huge corner (18m). Climb the wall to the right of the corner and behind the tree, first to one ledge then over a bulge to another (24m). Move up the crack on the right to the top of a pinnacle, then over a little wall to the top. A long hard route but very enjoyable. Pitons are advised for runners.

CLIMBS ON THE SECOND FINGER

CHASM

36m Diff

Location, the huge wide gap to the left of Samuda. An easy climb into the back of the chimney is followed by a bit of a thrutch up past a large chock stone on a very slippery rock. This brings one to a fantastic passageway which curves up and round to the left. The top of the ridge can now be gained by climbing the wall on the right. The small tower on the left can also be climbed, although it does not lead anywhere.

ARETE CLIMB 79m HVD Fred Brown, Taff Williams 30 Apr 67

Location, in the North West face of the Second Finger to the right of a gully which breaks the face near its left hand edge. Climb easily up towards a large spiked block and belay it below it (18m). Climb the chimney behind the block. Make a step to the right before reaching the top of the block. From here continue up until just beneath twin cracks and traverse right. Now the arete proper is reached (24m). The arete is now climbed to the top and can be broken up into more than one pitch if desired (34m).

CHAPRONE ARETE

64m VID

Ian Roney, Gerry Chapman 68

Location, on the North West side of the Second Finger there are three aretes. This climb is the arete on the left. Start, at the base of the gully on the left of Arête Climb. Traverse out left then up and across a slab to a bulging wall topped by a large tree (32m). Climb the crack on the left to the tree, from here on up the line is obvious. The crux, an exposed move, is met a metre from easy ground 32m.

UPPER TRAVERSE HUNT'S SLAB 32m Diff

Start from the cave on the left edge. Move out across a good ledge to the other side of the small pine tree. Climb up a couple of metres then out to the far edge on good holds.

THE PERFUMED GARDEN

41 m VD Jim Thundercliff, Archie Jeffrey 4 Aug

68

Location, the wide chimney to the left of Kneewrecker which is just round to the South of Hunt's Slab. There is a huge flat ledge which is reached by an easy scramble. Begin climbing the wide chimney which has a very awkward move out and around a bulging chock stone in its middle. This brings one to a large letter box which leads deep inside the chimney. In fact it is possible from here to climb out **through a pothole** at the back of the chimney and up to the top of the finger 10m. Move into the back of the chimney and bridge up to the roof. A thread runner round a large block can be arranged here. From here climb back towards the outside edge of the chimney. After about 4m the roof ends and a pull up over the corner enables a broken chimney to be reached. Continue up this box type chimney to the top.

HELL'S LUM44m V1)

Location, on the wall below the Third finger on the South side. A ridge runs South West from between the Second and Third Fingers. Near its left hand end a huge cleft can be seen, this is the line of the climb. Scramble through some nettles and pull up into the start of the chimney proper. From here move into the back of the chimney and start bricking upwards. A good crack can be arranged to protect a couple of awkward moves out and around two large blocks. This brings one to a good stance and belay 32m. Either climb out of the rest of the crack above, which is a bit broken or traverse left around the end of the ridge into the gully beyond 12m.

HUNT'S SLAB LEFT HAND ROUTE 22m V1)

Scramble from the saddle up to a good platform on the left hand edge of the slabs. Good belay around a small tree. From this stance climb directly up the slab keeping to the left edge. There is a good variation about 9m up, here it is possible to move right and climb up over a bulge and then direct to the top. There is a good ring peg a metre down from the top beside a stance. This peg is used to abseil back down to the starting point and is in fact the quickest and easiest way off the top of this Finger.

RIGHT HAND ROUTE 96m VD

Start in the gully on the North side of the saddle at the foot of Hunt's Slab. Climb the wide diagonal crack leading up and right. An awkward bit in the middle soon eases and leads to the same ledge with a dead tree as is mentioned in the Lower Traverse (26m). Continue out to the tree then up a short wall above. Easy ground leads to a good stance and belay spike 36m. Easy scrambling leads from here up then across to the top of the slabs 32m.

KNEEWRECKER 34m V1)

Location, on the right of the South face of the Second Finger, not far round from Hunt's Slab. Scramble up to the large platform which is also the starting point for the Perfumed Garden. This climb starts on the right. Climb the small wall up to a good stance where the crack opens out into a chimney 15m. Go into the chimney for 3m and then jam direct to the top. Although there are not many details here, the climb is straight forward and unless you fall off you are unlikely to wander off route (18m).

LOWER TRAVERSE HUNT'S SLAB 32m V13

Start from the level of the saddle and move out across a fault line. About 2/3 of the way across there is a thin move or two over and down to a large ledge with a dead tree on it. From here a thin ramp is followed up and out to a large pine tree on the right hand edge. From this tree it is possible to go either up or down the Right Hand Route.

HUNT'S SLAB CENTRAL 27m Severe

This route has been superseded by the Direct. There is however, a slight difference between the final pitch of the Direct and the Central. This variation in the route makes quite a difference to the grade. Start, from the same ledge as is used to start the Left Hand Route. Move out into the middle of the slab on a good ledge. Now climb up between the small bush and the tree. From here continue up the thin crack system which leads diagonally left to the top.

THE SKULL 15m I-Sf A1 Chuff Gerrard, Bob Stewart Apr 69

Location, on the North Face of the Second Finger. 48m right of the gully leading down from Hunt's Slab. Start by moving into a sentry box below an overhang which is split by a crack. A peg inserted high on the right hand wall is used for direct aid. From here continue up the ledge above to a tree which is used to abseil back down to the start.

MAC'S CRACK 15m Severe Neil, McCaskel, A Webb Summer 68

Location on the South side of the ridge of rock running South West from the Second Finger. Start, from a ledge high up to the left of Hell's Lum. Climb up 3m then traverse 31/2m left to the foot of the crack. Climb the crack which has an awkward start. Good belay on top.

SAMUDA 34m HS Slim Hemmings, John Shepherd 25 Mar 67

Location, this climb is near the top of the South face of the Second Finger. It starts to the right of a big yellow chimney known as the Chasm and by a fallen monolith. Climb up the wall and traverse delicately right in to the crack after about 4m. Follow

--th-e-li-n-e--of-th-e-crack -to the tree on the right (9rri). -Continue up the crack which now steepens to near vertical. Difficulty is sustained all the way, a little bit in the middle particularly thin. At the top the crack moves under a sort of roof. This is beaten by a move out onto the wall on the right. After a metre the top can be reached 24m. This is a very good route on sound rock.

HUNT'S SLAB **DIRECT** 63m HS Archie Jeffrey, Dick Bond 8 Feb 69

Location, climb down from the saddle into the gully on the North between the Index Finger and Hunt's Slab. The first crack is curved and blank at its bottom end, so the next crack down serves as the start. Climb the crack which tends slightly to the right. The beginning is quite thin and very awkward when it's wet. After a little it eases to a

stance and peg runner. There is in fact an old peg in the top of the crack, which could not be removed after the first ascent. From this stance a very delicate traverse left follows, it's handy to have a long reach here (23m). At the end of the traverse there is a crack leading directly up. This crack is climbed with the use of a couple of pegs. After a bit a good horizontal crack is reached. Continue up for about another 3m to a good stance. From this stance move up and slightly right onto a small slab which leads to a ledge beneath the prominent bulge, peg runner. A bold layback move or two enables one to gain the large flat ledge in the centre of the slab. Peg belay 14m. From here climb up to the left of a small bush then bear slightly right to join a thin crack which then tapers and eases as it nears the top 23m.

POSEIDON 29m VS Mac McAuliffe, Roger Cox 26 May 69

Climb the crack to the left of Perfumed Garden. A- nut runner is placed above the bulging part and is used to pull up on. Move up into the groove and belay after 9m. Traverse left from the saddle to an obvious flake. Climb up the corner to the right of the tree. Move up a slab to the wall and traverse right out onto the face. From here go straight up to the summit (18m).

POTHOLE 160m Severe

A full description of the Pothole was not available at the time of writing this guide, however, I am told it is an excellent day's potholing.

CLIMBS ON THE INDEX FINGER

FAREWELL ROUTE

65m Mod - V13

G Williams, A Fairless

Start, at the bottom of the gully to the left of the central buttress on the South face of the Index Finger. Ascend the bulge and traverse to the right. Now climb diagonally up into the gully with a prominent spike, belay 12m. Ascend the wall behind the spike and onto a ledge that slants to the left. From here make a large step to a square block and up towards three trees. From the trees traverse right and up over a mantelshelf (24m). Scramble up to a large ledge and belay (12m). Climb two slabs on the right of the gully then move back into the gully and scramble up to a platform behind a tree. From here climb the crack in the corner to the top 12m.

EAST FACE INDEX FINGER 48m V1)

Start, at the same place for Meandering, between the Clock Tower and the Index Finger. Go up the wide sloping ramp that leads off to the right. This ramp leads to a large flat ledge in a corner. Belay (12m). From this stance move off left, or to the South to be precise. The ledge goes off round the corner past the spike which is used as the start of the second pitch of Meandering. Continue out to where the ledge narrows and climb directly up. The ground eases considerably after the first few feet and a good belay stance is reached at about 29m. Another 9m or so and the top of the ridge can be reached (36m).

GARDYLOO CHIMNEY 58m V/Diff

Location, on the south-west face of the Index Finger. Start, scramble up the first part of the gully to a stance about 6m below a chock stone. Begin on the right hand wall. CAkffi on slanting holds past the chock stone and up to a platform. Belay on a small **chock deep** inside the chimney (1 2m). Start again on the right wall. Climb this for 3m. Now move into the chimney and climb this for about 15m to another chock stone. Runner can be arranged here. Continue up for another 9m to a second platform and belay. Beware of the loose stones on the platform (29m). Start, yet again on the right wall. Climb on good holds past another platform and then bear left up a short wall and finish on top of the ridge. There seems to be several variations to the last pitch (1 5m).

THE INDEX SOUTH-EAST ARETE 65m Diff

Location, looking at the South face of the Index Finger there is a prominent wide ridge on the right hand side with a sort of gully on the left. Scramble up over a series of blocks to gain the ridge proper. Continue up the ridge which is very easy. The angle not steepens and after a bit a corner is reached, belay. From this corner follow a system of cracks for about another 32m to the top.

MEANDERING 48m V/Diff Archie Jeffrey, Tony Wilson Jun 68

Start, the first pitch is the same as the first pitch of the normal East Face Route. From the stance move left on the ledge to the spike then up an awkward sloping corner. Continue up over a slightly broken corner to a small wall. Climb this on the left and then hand traverse across a slab to reach the foot of a chimney. Climb the chimney to a stance and belay. From here a few feet of easy scrambling leads to the top of the ridge 36m.

POINTER 50m V/Diff Archie Jeffrey, Derek Jones 30 Jun 69

Location, starts in the gully round to the right of White Corner on the Index. Climb up a steep wall past a tree and up an awkward corner. An easy ramp leads left to a final up onto the large platform to the right of White Corner 29m. Climb wall behind the tree then move out to the right hand edge near the top. Move up overhand on huge 'juggies'to gain knife edge which is easily traversed to top 20m.

THE WHITE CORNER 52m V/Diff

Start, from the saddle between Hunt's Slab and the Index Finger go down slightly to the North towards a large tree on the West Face of the Index Finger. Climb up a series of blocks in the corner which is awkward at first. This brings on to the ledge which serves as the drop off point for the abseil down off the Western end of the Finger 29m. Go up and over to the crack in the large corner. Climb the crack until a couple of metres from the top then move left out onto a tiny little ledge. From this ledge it is possible to reach a large break in the wall which is followed to the top 24m.

TOWER CORNER 18m Severe Pete Kelly, Army bloke Sep 68

Location, choose any one of a number of easy routes up the South Face of the Index Finger. On the top of the finger and about its centre there is a prominent tower. The

climb is on the South West face of this tower. (On the left as you climb the Tower). Start, from the gully-on the left of the tower there is a crack leading off to the right. Follow this crack out to the pointed block on the outside edge. The wall on the left is now eJimbed. It is very thin to start but then it eases slightly and enables one to gain a very awkward sentry box type stance. From here a bold move up out of the box leads to easier ground and the top of the tower. Although this route is very short, it's quite hard and well worth the effort required.

RESURRECTION 42m Severe

Archie Jeffrey, Dick Bond 6 Apr 69

Location, on the East Face of the Index Finger opposite the Clock Tower. On the left of the face behind a tree there is a large crack. Climb the crack which leads directly up towards a good wide ledge and stance. The final moves in the crack are the most awkward 18m. Move across to the left towards the corner and climb the steep face above by a series of cracks. This brings one to the end of the difficulties. The top of the ridge is about 36m of easy scrambling away 24m.

THE PASSOVER 22m Severe Archie Jeffrey, Mac McAuliffe 17 May 69

Location, on the East face of the Index Finger a couple of metres to the right of Resurrection. Start, climb the corner up to a tree which is just below a sharp overhang. This corner is quite strenuous. From the tree, climb the overhand on its left edge and a few moves later the ground eases and leads to the large ledge which crosses the face at about half height. From here any of the other routes are used to gain the top.

CLIMBS ON THE THUMB AND CLOCK TOWER

CLOCK TOWER 39m Diff

Location, in the centre of the west face of the Clock Tower. Start, up a large crack in the face which soon eases to little more than a scramble. Continue up past a tree on a line which leads to the left edge of the final steep part. This steep edge is now climbed on the North side to the top.

THUMB EAST RIDGE 225m V/Diff

A good mountaineering route with some excellent positions. Start, at the lowest tongue of rock on the eastern end of the ridge there is a series of sloping ledges. An obvious fault leads to the ridge. Climb the fault to join the ridge and then follow the ridge for about 56m until just below a vertical wall at 60m. Traverse right and up to a ledge with a good belay. Move left off the ledge and into a sentry box. Climb out of the box and up to a stance. Another twenty feet and the angle of the ridge eases. From here a long and interesting scramble leads to the top of the thumb 20m

BIG BEN

39m V/Diff

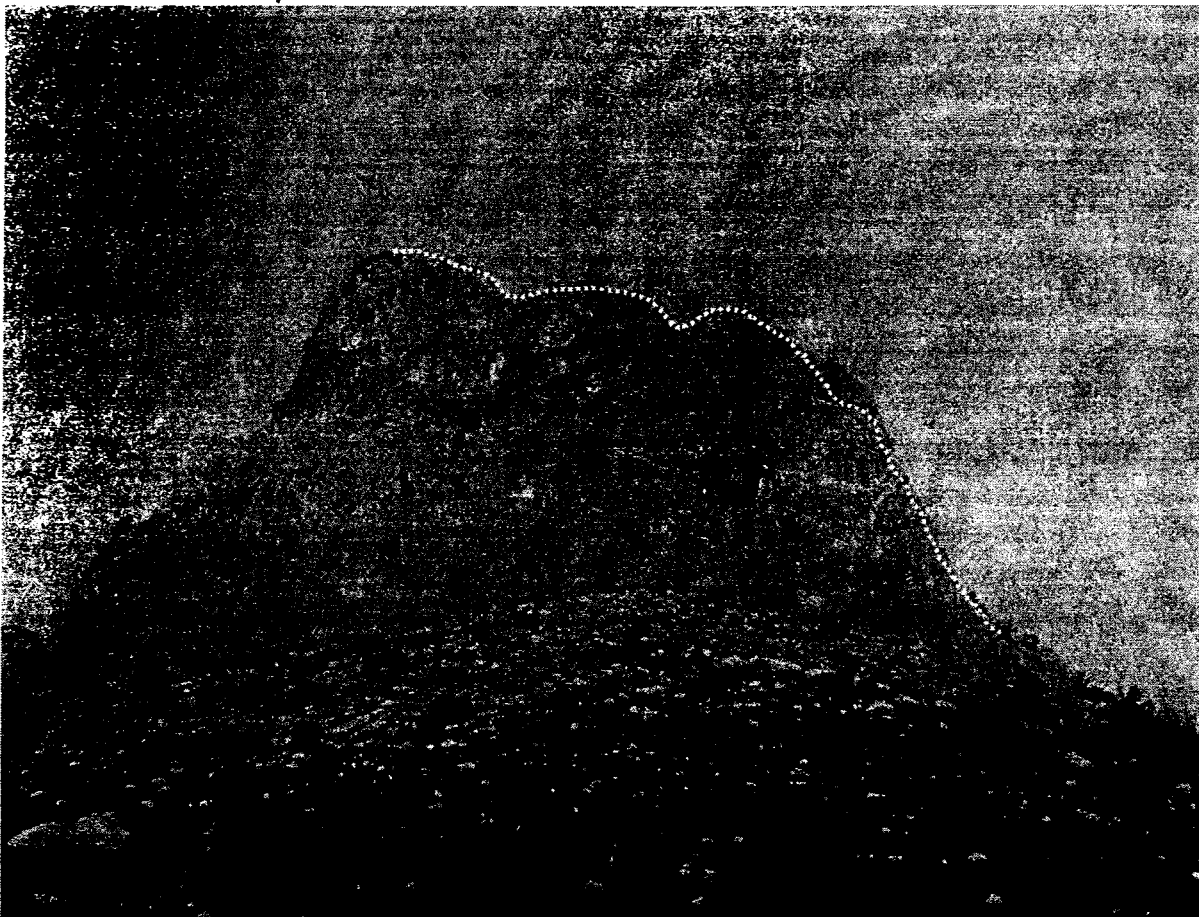
Archie Jeffrey

13 Apr 68

Location, on the right hand side of the west face of the Clock Tower. Start, climb up and across the smooth wall to its outside edge. Continue upwards passing a small ledge then the angle eases and a short scramble leads to the final wall. This wall is climbed by pulling up over a series of large blocks which leads on to the top of the Tower.

VULTURE'S TRAVERSE 170m V/Diff

A good long route. Location, South Face of the Thumb. Start, at foot of groove forming right hand side of obvious red triangle. Ascend up this groove and negotiate steep crack to bush stance. Poor belay at 26m. Up the rest of the groove to apex of triangle 20m. Climb large slab above on the right. Continue left on rising easier rocks 32m. Scramble up the left hand corner formed by pillar and main face. Steep



16m. Straight up the left hand corner formed by pillar and main face. Steep 24m. Straight up through steep rocks to arrive in shady bower 32m. Continue up steep face to crest of ridge 1 8m.

TAFFS FOLLY 70m V/Diff

Location, on the left of the triangular red wall at the foot of the South Face of the Thumb. Climb up a short wall and into a narrow gully which leads to the foot of a narrow chimney. The chimney is best climbed by jamming the left arm and leg on the inside. This leads to a good big stance at the apex of the red wall 34m. From the stance move up and left across the foot of a slab. Continue up and around onto a kind of affite. A couple of awkward pull ups and then the angle eases to a stance and belay. You should now be at the apex of the huge light grey wall which takes up the lower half of the Thumb 32m.

PENTADAKTYLOS RIDGE

V/Diff

A good days outing of 6 stages, can be made harder if preferred. Start on the east of the Thumb.

1 st Climb the east ridge and go over the top and down to the Clock Tower.

2nd Scramble up the Clock Tower and descend. it by the Normal Route.

3 rd Climb the east face of the Index by any of the routes, and go along the top and abseil or climb down the White Corner across from Hunt's Slab.

4 th Climb the slabs, again there is a variety of routes. A long scramble along the top is followed by another abseil down to the Third Finger.

5th Climb up and over the finger and down to the Green Gully.

& Either move straight across the top of the gully or descend it and climb Hone Direct to the top of the Fourth Finger. From here there is a long scramble to the very end of the ridge. To go from West to East is not as interesting because there is not nearly as much climbing involved.

PRODIGAL 64m HVD Slim Hemmings, Archie Jeffrey

Location, the white wall about 100 yards round to the south of the start of the East Ridge. Climb up the sloping wall up past a tree then bear left out onto easier ground (32m). From this stance climb up and slightly right round a bulging nose. This lands one on an affite which joins up with the East Ridge and so on to the top of the Thumb (28m).

ONE STEP IN THE CLOUDS 32m MS AI Logan, Cyril Weavers 12 May 69

Location, on the South Face of the Thumb slightly right of the apex of the large triangle. There is a large curved grey slab with a crack on its right. Start by moving across the foot of the slab and up into the crack. The crack is now climbed all the way until the top of the slab is reached. There is a stance and belay here. It is a walk off from there to the top of the Thumb. Combined with either Taffis Folly or Vulture's traverse this route gives over 96m of good climbing.