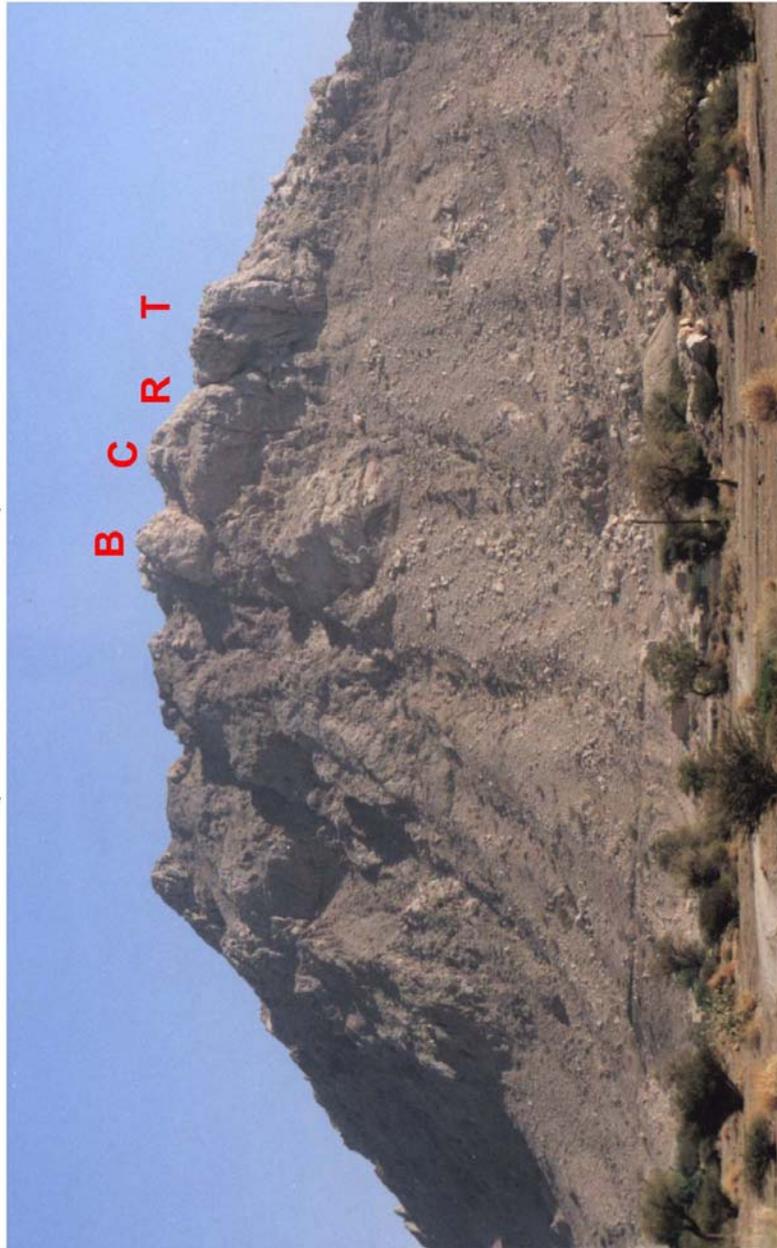


**JEBEL UMM BAKK**  
(From Zaroub Roundabout)



B Buraimi Buttress C Central Buttress R Rucksack Gully T Trinity Wall

**ZAROUB GAP AREA**

**JEBEL UMM BAK**

Jebel Umm Bak is the first mountain to be seen directly ahead when approaching through the Zaroub gap from Buraimi.

The cliffs of Jebel Umm Bak were first 'discovered' in the winter of 1975, by Bob Jackson. Climbing solo, he discovered Buraimi Buttress, and quickly followed this with other ascents. Realising that he had at last found some relatively solid climbable rock, he wasted no time in introducing others to the possibilities. In the spring of 1976, he returned with Dave McKinnell, who after an introduction to the existing routes, went on to lead 'The Desert Falcon' and the strenuous 'Prince of Darkness'. After the summer heat had passed, further routes were added, and this phase of exploration was rounded off with the successful ascent of 'Scimitar Wall'. After this date, no records of further new ascents have been found, and it is not known if any more recent repeat ascents have been made.

Jebel Umm Bak lies just E of Zaroub Gap. It is a kidney shaped mountain formed by two ridges. The main ridge runs N - S, and has a conspicuous 'Cock's Comb' skyline when approaching from Buraimi the cliffs are seen high on the right hand skyline, and face west. They are best approached directly and laboriously up the long scree slope, which lead s to a good cave at the foot of Rucksack Gully. The cave provides shade throughout the day.

**Character**

The cliffs of Jebel Umm Bak are set in a fine position on the crest of the mountain. Most of the climbs are on the west face, with a few on the east, and nearly all finish on the summit ridge. The cliffs are split into five areas. On the West Face, from left to right are Buraimi Buttress, Central Buttress, Trinity Wall, and Goats Buttress.

The rock can be divided into two types. The white limestone is generally quite solid and clean. There are however some loose sections and all the holds should be treated with respect as the extreme temperatures and variations in humidity can loosen flakes that were once quite solid. The other type of limestone is much darker, is very friable. Great care is needed.

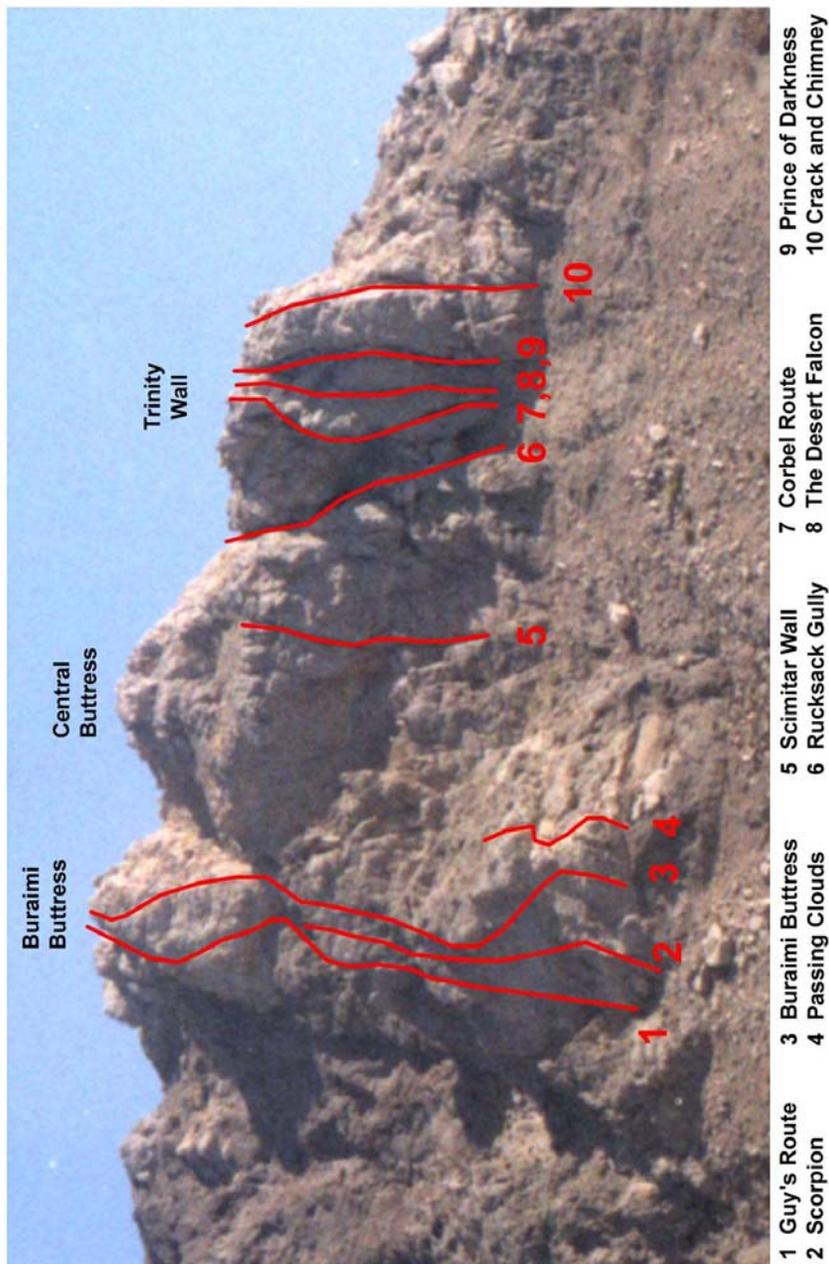
There are descent routes at either end of the cliff, with the one down the side of Goats Buttress being the best. It is possible to shorten this descent, if going to the Trinity Wall, or Central Buttress climbs, by traversing round onto the front of the buttress and descending by Goats Terrace.

**The diagrams should be used with caution, as none of the routes have had recent ascents, and the lines have been plotted from the original 1970's descriptions and telephoto images.**

**BURAIMI BUTTRESS** comprises three rock features and gives the longest routes on the cliff. A large slab topped by a small buttress of rather unsound rock leads to a hidden saddle, which gives access to the final summit buttress. The routes are described from left to right. The first climb ascends the left hand edge of the large slab to the right of a shattered gully.

- GUY'S ROUTE 122m Diff** R.Jackson, D.C.McKinnell ( alt) 1976 Nov 5th
- 1 21m Climb the left hand edge of the slab to a stance below the broken crest of the buttress.
  - 2 13m Climb up broken rock to the crest of the lower buttress. Belay well back
  - 3 27m Buraimi Buttress pitch 4. Scramble up the ridge to a wall, climb this and follow the arete to a belay at the top.
  - 4 6m Descend the short wall and walk across to the foot of the left hand buttress.
  - 5 19m Move up and traverse left across the obvious ascending rake to the left hand arete.
  - 6 36m Directly up the broad summit arete to the top.

## JEBEL UMM BAKK



### SCORPION 45m Sev ( Mild)

D.C.McKinnell, R Jackson ( alt) 1975 May 21st

Starts 3m right of the last route.

- 1 24m Climb directly up a series of indefinite grooves to a belay below the overhanging upper part of the buttress.
- 2 21m Traverse down right, move round an overhanging block to climb the corner at the end of the overhanging wall above.

### BURAIMI BUTTRESS 126m Diff

R Jackson 1975 Nov 23rd

Start about 5m r of Scorpion at the foot of a prominent nose.

- 1 24m Climb the nose of rock to a sloping gangway. Ascend this, to the right to a stance below the edge of the slab.
- 2) 19m Traverse left across a small bulge and make an ascending traverse up the slab to a belay below a corner at the end of the overhanging wall above.
- 3) 13m Climb the corner, or slab, and move right over broken, loose ground to a belay on the ridge.
- 4) 27m Scramble up the ridge to a wall, climb this and follow the arête to a belay at the top.
- 5) 6m Descend the short wall into the saddle and walk across to the foot of the right hand buttress.
- 6) 6m Climb the broken wall to the foot of a wide gully.
- 7) 36m Climb the left hand wall of the gully to gain the broad ridge. Climb up this to finish on the summit of Umm Bakk

### PASSING CLOUDS 36m V. Diff (hard) D.C.McKinnell, R Jackson ( alt) 1976 Nov 19th

Start at the right hand end of the large slab, 6m R of Buraimi Buttress.

- 1) 24m Climb up a loose section of rotten rock to the slab proper and take the indefinite crack line to a large ledge and first belay of Buraimi Buttress
- 2) 12m Climb directly up the ridge behind the belay making a balance move right to pass the bulge.

### CENTRAL BUTTRESS AREA

Central Buttress is separated from Buraimi Buttress by Buraimi Gully. This gully runs up to the saddle below the final section of Buraimi Buttress before turning to split the two areas. There is a 40' pitch of climbing (severe) at this point, but as the rest is scrambling it is not worth listing as a separate route.

In the centre of the buttress is a prominent groove.

### SCIMITAR WALL 60m VS D.C.McKinnell, R Morris 1976 Dec 13th

- 1) 18m Climb the broken slab to a stance below the deep cut groove.
- 2) 42m Move R from the belay and ascend the wall above to a crack line that curves to the left. Follow this with difficulty to the point where it joins the prominent groove. Climb the groove for 3m to the overhang and exit via the right hand crack.

### TRINITY WALL AND GOATS BUTTRESS AREA

The great gash of Rucksack gully marks the start of Trinity Wall Area. The first climb here begins in the back of the large cave at the bottom of Rucksack Gully.

### RUCKSACK GULLY 50m V Diff D.C.McKinnell 1976 Mar 13th

- 1 25m Pull up, with difficulty, over a large boulder at the back of the cave, then climb up over the jammed blocks to an awkward exit at 13m. Climb up left and then right over large boulders to a tricky finish into the "Amphitheatre".
- 2 25m Walk across the "Amphitheatre" to the obvious left hand continuation of the gully. Climb up the prominent rib to gain the gully and up this to a fine finish over some large chockstones.

**CORBEL ROUTE 58m VS** R Jackson, D.C.McKinnell ( alt) 1976 Nov 5th

This route takes the first of the three cracks in Trinity Wall and starts 5m R of Rucksack Gully

1 24m Climb the crack direct with a awkward move out of the sentry box.

2 21m Walk up the gully bed to the back wall. Climb the corner on the right for 3m, then make an ascending traverse R across the side wall via a prominent rake to finish on the front edge of the buttress.

3 13m Climb the arete to an inset corner and ascend this to an airy finish. A fine exposed pitch.

**THE DESERT FALCON 57m VS** D.C.McKinnell, R.Jackson 1976 Mar 5th

This classic route takes the crack in the centre of Trinity Wall, 3m R of the last climb.

1 39m Climb the crack direct to a tricky finish.

2 18m Ascend the slab to the continuation corner crack on the left. Swing up into this and climb it to the top.

**PRINCE OF DARKNESS 50m HVS** D.C.McKinnell, R Jackson ( alt) 1976 May 25th

This takes the chimney crack 6m R of Desert Falcon.

1 30m Climb the chimney and move R with difficulty round an overhanging block to a good ledge.

Climb the left hand of the two overhanging cracks above ( crux) to a stance and good block belay.

2 20m Climb the block and more easily up the wall above, trending R via an indefinite crack line.

**CRACK AND CHIMNEY 65m Diff** R Jackson 1975 Dec 12th

This takes the obvious crack / chimney line 6m R of the last route.

1 23m Climb the crack up the obvious pot hole marked wall to a belay on Goats Terrace.

2 42m Climb directly up the chimney behind the belay and exit L onto the buttress. Climb the broad ridge to the top.

**HIDDEN BUTTRESS AREA**

This buttress is a continuation of Buraimi Buttress on the East Face of the mountain. Best reached by a descent from the summit ridge.

**GROOVED SLAB 30m Sev** R Jackson 1975 Nov 23rd

1 15m Climb the gully to a good stance below an overhanging block.

2 15m Climb the slab on the R of the gully to a difficult exit via an obvious "V" groove.

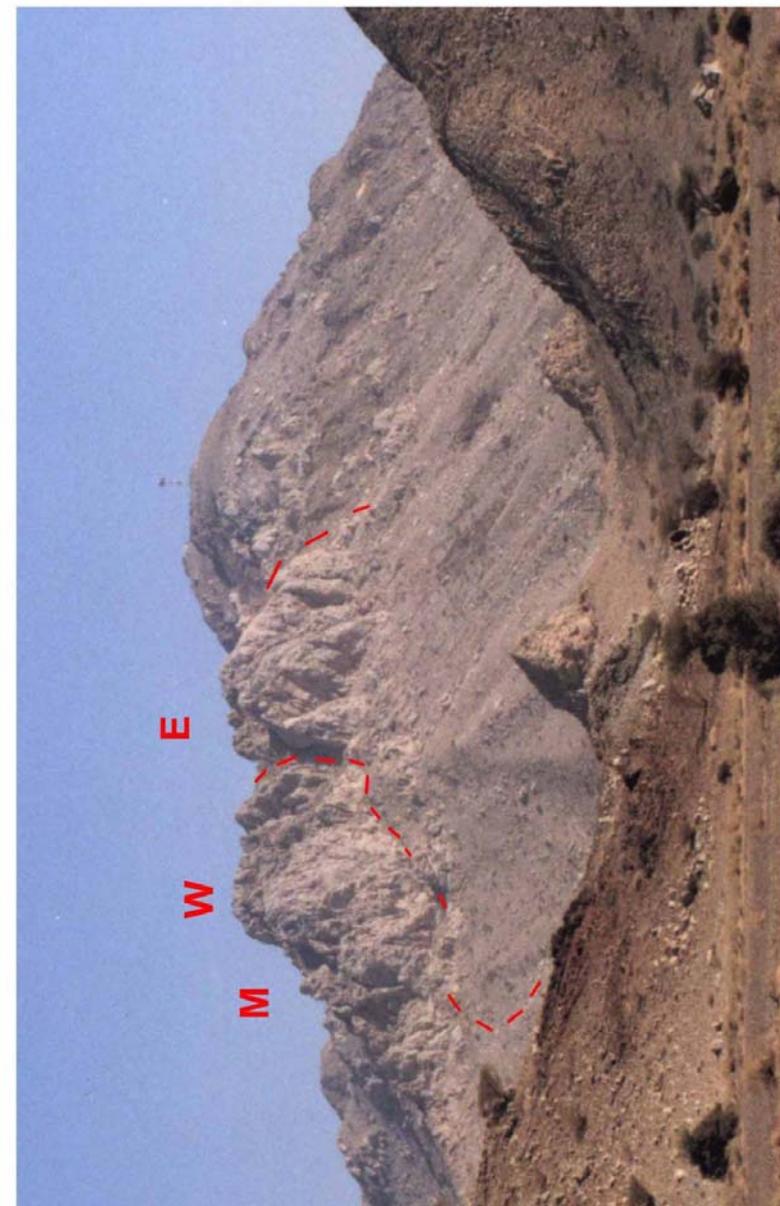
**JEBEL DHAWAN**

The first recorded climbs on Jebel Dhawan were made in December of 1976. A period of intense exploration followed with a group of climbers from Abu Dhabi climbing some 25 routes in the winter of 1976 / 1977. No further routes were attempted until the spring of 1996, when Bill Wheeler Steve Clarke and Alan Stark attempted lines on the North face. Apart from one later visit when difficulty was found in locating routes on the West buttress due to the disappearance of trees and bushes mentioned in the original descriptions, no further recent ascents are since known to have been made, mainly due to developments elsewhere. This should not be a reason to neglect this very good climbing location.

Apart from metrication, the route descriptions have been taken, verbatim, from the original text by Dave McKinnell in 1977.

**The diagrams should be used with caution, as none of the routes have had recent ascents, and the lines have been plotted from the descriptions and telephoto images.**

**JEBEL DHAWAN -- SOUTH FACE**



Jebel Dhawan is situated on the Oman Border, 4Km Northeast of Jebel Umm Bak. This large mountain is close to the main road and is easily recognised by the Antennas in the summit. The climbing is located on the rocky west ridge, which falls from the summit of the mountain towards Buraimi. Most of the routes are located on the South Face of the ridge, but a few harder routes can be found on its shady North Face.

#### **Approach and Access.**

From Zaroub Roundabout continue on the Sohar road, until a good track (signposted MADAH) is seen on the left, just past a small mosque and some shops. Continue along the track for about 500 metres, until tracks lead off R towards the mountain. Head towards a gap, between some mounds and a black ridge. Pass through the gap and the South Face comes into view on the right. Take the wadi directly ahead, and park on stony ground below a ridge leading to the cliffs. It is possible to get a 2WD vehicle to the foot of the ridge, but care must be taken when crossing areas of unconsolidated gravel and rock strewn terrain. Either follow the ridge to the foot of the crags, or make a direct approach up the boulder slopes.

The South Face is more continuous than the North, and has three main areas, West Buttress, Middle Rock and East Buttress. When facing the South Face the first small buttress on the left is Madha Buttress. Coming round from the main ridge is a slab like face, which merges into a steeper front face that contains some fine vertical crack lines. On the right of the buttress is a wide gully, and to the right again, at a higher level, is the start of the main West buttress.

The West buttress is bounded on the left by a long rib, which comes down from the main ridge. A gully with a wall beneath it then follows. The bulging wall has twin caves in it, which forms the basis of Labyrinth Wall. From here the buttress gains in height, with a lower wall sweeping up into a line of overhangs, above which the rocks lie back in a series of slab like steps. At the end of this wall there is a small buttress of rock split from the main face by a short gully. Leading up from the bottom of the gully are the twin cracks of Half Pretzel. From the top of the gully a steep broad ridge sweeps up to the highest point of the West buttress. This is the fine line of Chameleon. On the right a prominent open gully slants up to the left, and next to this a large pillar of rock leans against the face. The crack on the right hand side of the pillar gives the first pitch of Boaz. On the right of this is an impressive corner capped by an overhang. The ground level now rises and the buttress ends in a short gully.

The third feature of the west side is the Pimple. This small fluted peak of rock is on the right of the West Buttress. Behind it, coming down from the left is an easy angled terrace, which provides a way down from the West buttress. On the right is a gully, which gives an easy way down from the East Buttress. Between these two features, and behind the Pimple are the buttresses of Middle Rock. Although broken, these could yield some good routes.

The East Buttress begins with a long prominent ridge of rock. On the right side of this is a large bay, which contains some of the best routes on the cliff. The right side of the bay consists of a series of impressive grooves and slabs, finest of which is Crucial Toast. The Buttress pushes out again to give a double fronted feature with a shallow gully in the middle. After this the ground level rises and the buttress cuts in to form the second large bay. There is a massive hanging block wedged across the back with an overhanging wall above. An impressive part of the cliff with routes going up crack lines on both side walls. Moving right again the buttress angle eases as a deep gully and a small ridge are passed. Round from this is the final wall. The ground slopes up steeply from this point and the buttress ends with a broken gully, which is used as an easy way down.

The North Face is best approached from the west by traversing across broken ground from the foot of the ridge, although a tedious direct ascent from the below the face is possible. The climbing on this side is restricted to a large intimidating buttress of rock with a separate pillar below.

The face is split by the North gully, which runs from right to left and has a step at mid height. From the left the North Pillar emerges from broken rock to form a long slabby face, which looks out over the valley.

Moving round to the side, the slab continues for the lower half, but above it steepens into a wall which is bounded on the right by the two short overhanging corners of Foolish April. The climbs on the North buttress all start from the gully. Moving down the wall from the left, the upper section emerges from a deep overhanging chimney and runs continuously under large overhangs to a point where they break back to form a slab. To the right the slab steepens to meet the lower wall and the cliff curves round to form an impressive overhanging arete. The gully step is at this point, and above this is a hollow in the arete with a huge bird's nest in it. Round from the arete is the prominent 'V' groove of Deliverance, which is bounded by a bulging wall leading into a corner, then broken rocks.

The rock on the north side is very different in character from the south, being full of bulges and holes, and is a lot darker in colour. The Climbs are described from left to right as one faces the crag.

## **SOUTH FACE MADAH BUTTRESS**

The first route on the south side takes the large open face on the left of Madah Buttress. From the main ridge descend to a dead thorn tree, where the route begins.

### **SENTINEL FACE 45m Mod**

D.C.McKinnell 1977 Jan 14th

1 19m From the tree climb the slab direct to a small cave below the upper part of the buttress.  
2 26m Descend a little, traverse left and climb a prominent slanting crack (loose at the top). Continue up the slab like wall above to finish at the top of the buttress.

## **WEST BUTTRESS**

From the foot of the Madha Buttress ascend a grassy slope to a rocky platform below the left hand end of the west buttress.

### **EASTER GULLY 60m V Diff (Variation - Sev)**

D.C.McKinnell 1977 April 10th

At the left hand end of the West buttress is a rake leading up to a small tree growing in a niche below a rib. Easter Gully starts at the bottom of this rake.  
1 30m Climb the easy angled rake and move right at the top to a short crack with a tree growing in it. Climb the left wall, past the tree, to a ledge and belay.  
2 18m Ascend the gully above to a pair of large jammed blocks. Turn the blocks on the right then traverse back left. It is also possible to turn the blocks on the left at severe standard. Climb up to a further block and move over this to belay in the gully bed.  
3 12m Easier climbing up the gully leads to the top.

A variation finish gives a further 2 pitches of pleasant climbing leading to an airy finish on the crest of the ridge. Starts below the final block of pitch 2  
3a 20m step onto the wall to the left of the block and move up right and then left to easier ground below an steep crack. Move right to a groove and climb up to a fine ledge and belay close to the crest of the ledge.  
4 12m Follow the crest of the ridge to the top of the tower to a good belay. (as pitch 4 Jacko's Leap).

Scramble down from the top of the tower, then up the open scree gully above to the saddle. Follow easy rakes to the foot of the crag.

JEBEL DHAWAN -- SOUTH FACE



- 1 Sentinel Face
- 2 Jacko's Leap
- 3 Labyrinth Wall
- 4 The Half Pretzel
- 5 Samothrace
- 6 Chameleon
- 7 Aperatif
- 8 Boaz
- 9 Stomatoporiid Variant

**JACKO'S LEAP 63m Sev**

R.Jackson, D.C.McKinnell ( alt) 1976 Dec 31st

Starts 5m right of Easter Gully below a small tree.

1 36m Climb the lower wall direct to a ledge below a steep rib. Ascend the wall on the left of a tree to gain the rib and climb this to a small overhang. Make a difficult move over the overhang and belay above.

2 18m Continue up the rib direct to a large gap.

3 9m Stride across the gap and climb the ridge to a belay.

It is possible to walk off right at this point, but it is more pleasant to climb the last variation pitch of Easter Gully

**LABYRINTH WALL 60m Sev (Hard)** D.C.McKinnell, P.A.Taylor 1977 March 18th

This route starts 4m right of the last climb and threads it's way through the overhanging bulges above.

1 27m Start at the right hand side of the wall at the foot of a prominent diagonal crack. Traverse left up this crack , easier using it for the hands at the top, and move up until level with the twin caves. Hand traverse right and move up into the second cave. Continue traversing right up to a ledge below a scoop wall. Climb back left up the scoop to large ledges.

2 33m Climb the left hand crack above until a move can be made onto the upper wall. Climb this to a large ledge then ascend the final wall at the left hand end.

From the rocky platform move right and cross under the overhanging main wall section to the some thorn bushes at the base of a scree filled gully which separates a small buttress of rock from the main face. Above the bushes, twin cracks run up the face to form the basis of the next route which tackles the buttress at its highest point.

**THE HALF PRETZEL 100m Sev (Hard)**

D.C.McKinnell, I Dundas 1977 March 3rd

1 19m From the tree climb the left hand of the two prominent cracks to ledges and belay below the upper cracks.

2 36m Climb the right hand crack, with difficulty towards the top, to a large cave.

3 13m Climb the chimney through the back of the cave and up the wall on the right to a large ledge below an overhang.

4 35m Move round the arete on the right to a crack and climb this to a difficult finishing move. Ascend the crack on the right wall to the ridge and final belay.

The next route starts at the top of the scree filled gully and climbs an obvious crack and rake line.

**SAMOTHRACE 79m HVS**

D.C.McKinnell, R.Morris, R.Jackson 1977 April 4th

At the top of the gully a broken crack line can be seen leading up past a poised tooth of rock. Leading off diagonally left form the crack is a deep cut rake.

1 42m Climb the crack over two loose bulges to a broken ledge by a poised block of rock and below an overhanging wall. Move up to the crack line and make an ascending traverse left across the retaining wall to the arete. Pull over the edge into the bottom of a rake and ascend this gangway to a large cave.

2 36m A wide crack leads from the cave. Make a difficult move from the cave to gain the base of the crack. Make a series of hard moves up the crack to exit on the left ( crux ). Traverse left to the right hand crack and ascend this to a ledge. Climb the crack on the right wall to finish as for Half Pretzel.

Note : Pitch 2 can be avoided on the left which reduces the grade to VS (Mild)

**CHAMELEON 88m Sev**

R.Jackson, D.C.McKinnell ( alt) 1976 Dec 31st

This route starts 6 metres right of the last climb and ascends the main West Ridge direct. ( the large dead tree mentioned in the 1978 guide was not found in 1997)

1 33m Climb past the tree on the right up to the broad arete and climb this on its right side to a small ledge. Climb the wall above and move left and up to gain the slab ( difficult ). Climb the slab to a belay.

2 27m Make an ascending traverse left up a sloping gangway round onto the front of the ridge. Continue upwards for a few metres until it is possible to traverse back right. Move up and leftwards into the bottom of an open chimney. Climb this and the wall above to a large ledge.  
 3 24m Move out left onto the ridge and round into a corner. Climb this to gain the crest of the ridge and follow this direct to the top.

**APERITIF 75m Diff** R.Jackson, D.C.McKinnell ( alt) 1976 Dec 17th  
 Starts 6 metres right of Chameleon and takes the open gully.  
 1 30m Move up over broken rock to gain the lower part of the gully. Climb the deep chimney to exit on the right wall past a thorn bush and continue up the crack to belay below the upper part of the gully.  
 2 45m Climb the left hand chimney and continue up the gully above, branching right at the top to the summit ridge.

The next climb starts 6 metres right of the gully at the foot of a crack, below a large pillar of rock.

**BOAZ 48m V Diff** D.C.McKinnell, P.A.Taylor 1977 Jan 21st  
 1 24m Climb the deep crack on the right side of the large pillar of rock.  
 2 24m The continuation crack leads up to the right. Traverse right from the pillar and climb the crack to easier ground.

**STROMATORPOROID VARIANT. 70m Sev** D.C.McKinnell, J Scallon 1977 Feb 11th  
 This climb takes the first pitch of Boaz, and finishes up the wall above the pillar.  
 1 24m P1 of Boaz  
 2 27m Above the belay are two blocks forming an open corner. Climb the corner, then up the vague crack above.  
 3 18m Move up to a deep cut crack to the finish.

After the last of the corners of the West Buttress are the fluted lines of the smaller Pimple. Behind the Pimple and between West and East buttresses are the Middle Rock Buttresses. No routes have been recorded on these features

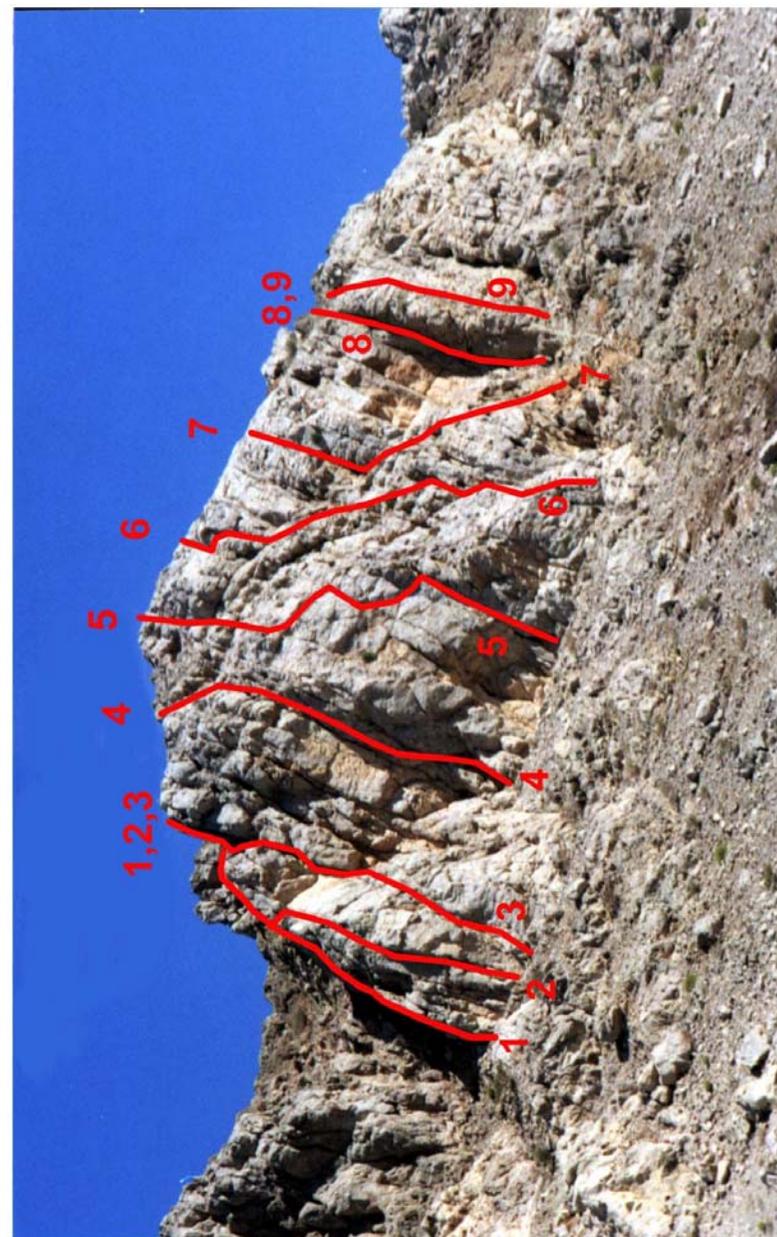
**EAST BUTTRESS**

The first route on the East Buttress takes the long rib of rock at the left hand end.

**CHOCTAW RIDGE 97m V Diff**  
 This climb starts at the foot of the rib, right of the descent gully.  
 1 42m Directly up the front of the rib to gain the arete.  
 2 42m Continue up the ridge to the top of the first section above a saddle.  
 3 13m Descend into the Saddle and climb the facing wall to a small cave. Move left and up round the overhang then make a bold swing up right to gain the upper part of the ridge which is followed to the top.

Moving to the right, on the other side of Choctaw Ridge, is the first of the large bays, which typify the East Buttress. The climbs in this bay are some of the best on the cliff.

**JEBEL DHAWAN -- EAST BUTTRESS**



- 1 Choctaw Ridge
- 2 Great Eastern
- 3 East Gully
- 4 Crucial Toast
- 5 Crimson Dynamo
- 6 Years End
- 7 Grid Iron
- 8 Quartic Crack
- 9 Dhawan Ridge

The next route takes the obvious crack line up the right hand face of Choctaw Ridge.

#### **GREAT EASTERN 85m Sev (Hard)**

D.C.McKinnell, P.A.Taylor, R.Jackson, M McDonald 1977 Jan 21st  
(top rope used for pitch 2)

- 1 30m Starting at the green Bush, climb the deep crack above to a bulging overhang. This is climbed by climbing out on the right wall then back left into the crack. Continue up the crack to a large block roof. Exit right, move up and back left across the top of the block to reach ledges and a belay.
- 2 25m Climb the diagonal crack line up right over slabby rock to a small tree. Traverse horizontally left until above the belay then ascend the broken crack above to the ridge.
- 3 30m Follow Choctaw Ridge to the saddle.

#### **GREAT EASTERN DIRECT 78m VS** D.C.McKinnell, R Jackson, R Morris 1977 Feb 11th

- 1 30m As for Great Eastern up the deep broken crack to the first stance.
- 2 18m The crack line continues directly over the belay. Climb this to a bulge. Make a difficult move up and climb the crack until a move left can be made onto the slab. Climb directly up the slab and broken crack above to the ridge.
- 3 30m Follow Choctaw Ridge to the saddle.

#### **EAST GULLY 78m Sev (Hard)** 1977 Mar 23rd R Jackson, D.C.McKinnell ( alt)

East Gully starts 3 metres right of the last climb.

- 1 18m Scramble up the wide gully to a belay below the red rocks at the top.
- 2 30m Above the belay is a large tooth of rock. Move round underneath this and climb the chimney on it's left hand side. Climb up left over large broken blocks into the bottom of the upper part of the gully.
- 3 30m Continue up the gully to the saddle, walk across left and climb the upper crack line. The upper bulging section is best climbed facing left.

The next climb takes the largest of the grooves on the right wall.

#### **CRUCIAL TOAST 81m VS.** D.C.McKinnell, I Dundas 1977 Mar 3rd

This fine exposed route starts below a large grey slab/wall with a cap overhang at two thirds height.

- 1 18m Climb the 'V' groove on the left and belay at the bottom of a small slab just below the main one.
- 2 45m Move up the small slab to a ledge at the left of the main slab. Using the crack make a difficult layback, move round the overlap to gain the slab. Continue up the left hand side of the slab until the crack closes at a small roof. A line of holds can be seen leading across the slab to the right hand edge. Traverse delicately to the edge of the slab and move directly up to gain the crack again at the end of the large overhang. Climb the narrow slab above to an exposed move round into the final corner crack. Ascend the crack direct to finish up a short wall. It is possible to split this pitch with a chockstone belay, either at the top of the slab, or in the final corner crack, if the rope drag is too great.
- 3 18m Scramble up to a large cave and the ridge.

#### **CRIMSON DYNAMO 122m HVS.** D.C.McKinnell, R.Morris 1977 Mar 25th

The route starts 15m right of Crucial Toast and takes the last (furthest right) of the slabby grooves.

- 1 37m Start below the deep crack on the left of the narrow slab. Climb the crack and move right below the overhang to the narrow slab. A peg runner can be placed in the thin crack above. Make a series of difficult moves up the slab and corner to gain the upper part of the slab (crux).Climb the slab to a cave belay at the top.
- 2 42m Move round from the cave and follow the continuation crack line to the right, traversing up and across the front of the buttress to a belay below a large overhang.

3 12m Climb up under the roof and make a difficult move right to climb round the overhang. The crack line is again followed via an open chimney with wall above to finish.

Moving down from the last climb, the rock thrusts out once more to form a large buttress.

#### **YEARS END 85m Sev (Hard)** D.C.McKinnell, R Jackson ( alt) 1976 Dec 31st

This climb starts at the foot of the buttress round the corner 6 metres from the last route.

- 1 37m Starting from the lowest point of the buttress climb up to a flat ledge. Follow a groove right, move back left and climb an open corner and exit left onto a sloping ledge. Move up the ledge until a move back right can be made to gain the slab. Ascend the slab trending leftwards and climb the wall above to ledges and belay below the scoop overhang.
- 2 30m On the left of the overhang, a steep crack leads up through the bulges. Climb this and follow the gangway right until a move left is made into a second crack. Follow this and make a move round left onto a slab which leads to the belay.
- 3 18m Up easily to a large cave and the summit ridge.

To the right of the last buttress is the second large bay. A prominent feature in this bay is the huge hanging block on the back wall.

#### **GRID IRON 66m VS** D.C.McKinnell, R Jackson ( alt) 1977 Mar 11th

This route follows the obvious slanting corner crack, in the back of the second bay, at the junction of the left hand and back walls.

- 1 36m Start 3m left of the corner, away from the rotten rock, and follow a rightward curving line to meet the corner just before the wall changes angle to become the slab. Make a difficult layaway move to gain the slab and follow the crackline to the top of the slab. Move round the arete and climb the corner above to easier ground.
- 2 30m Above and to the right is a continuous crack line. Either climb the crack direct, or climb the slab to the right and follow the broad arete to finish. It is possible to continue up slabs above to the ridge, but if descending to the South Face, traverse across the slabs to the right and descent gully.

On the right wall of the bay there are three cracks. The next climb takes the furthest right of these.

#### **QUARTIC CRACK 56m Sev** D.C.McKinnell, P.A.Taylor 1977 Jan 21st

This fine climb starts in a deep 'V' groove right of the last route.

- 1 18m Bridge up the 'V' groove, exiting right at the top to belay below the upper crack.
- 2 36m Climb the right wall of the upper crack to a point where the crack lies back. Move into the crack and follow it to the top. A loose section at the top can be avoided on the right.

Moving down out of the bay the next feature is a deep gully with an easy angled ridge on it's right.

#### **DHAWAN RIDGE 56m Mod** D.C.McKinnell 1977 Jan 14th

- 1 30m Start just left of the gully and follow the crest of the ridge to belay below the upper wall.
- 2 26m Up left from the belay past a steeper section then up easier ground to the top.

Round the corner from the last climb is the final wall of East Buttress. The ground slopes up steeply at this point and a prominent deep crack can be seen near the end of the wall. The next route takes this crack.

#### **THE RATTLER 26m Sev (Hard)** D.C.McKinnell, P.A.Taylor ( alt) 1977 Mar 18th

This is the final climb on the South Face.

- 1 15m The obvious crack is climbed direct with the deep section of rough rock in the middle best being climbed facing left.
- 2 Climb the diagonal crack on the right to an airy finish.

## NORTH FACE

More intimidating and less sound than the sunnier South Face, the routes provide some serious undertakings.

## NORTH PILLAR

At a lower level, and to the left of main North Face is the North Pillar. The first route goes up a long slab of rock on the front face.

**TOWER ROUTE 56m Sev ( Mild)** R.Jackson, D.C.McKinnell ( alt) 1976 Dec 17th

1 42m Start round the front and at the lowest point of the pillar and climb the wall using large "jugs". Continue up the slab to a tree and belay above.

2 14m Climb the corner crack on the right wall to the overhang. Traverse right to exit on the summit slab.

**FOOLISH APRIL 54m HVS** D.C.McKinnell, R.Morris ( alt) 1977 April 1st

This short but strenuous climb starts 9 metres right of the last route, at the bottom of the North Gully. It takes the slab before moving round to finish up two vicious corner cracks.

1 36m Starting from the foot of the North Gully, climb the slab to where it meets the upper wall. Traverse right to the edge of the slab and step up and round the arete. Climb the wall above to a large ledge and belay.

2 18m Climb the corner crack above with difficulty to a sloping ledge on the left. The second corner is taken to finish up a slab with belays well back.

## NORTH BUTTRESS

The North Buttress is split from the North Pillar by a steep gully. The buttress can be divided into two sections, at a step in the gully. The upper wall has large overhangs above it, and the lower section is just as impending.

**JOMAC II 66m Sev (Hard)** D.C.McKinnell, R Jackson ( alt) 1976 Dec 17th

This climb takes the crack in the centre of the wall above the gully step. This climb is best combined with one of the routes on the North Pillar to give a long and interesting piece of climbing. From the top of the North Pillar, a loose traverse line leads left along the rotten ridge and into the North Gully. The hump of rock is crossed to reach the foot of a straight crack, which leads up into the overhangs.

1 36m Climb the crack to below the overhangs. Traverse right, past a large knob of rock and move up large ledges and belay below a roof.

2 30m Climb the crack on the right of the roof and follow this to the summit ridge.

The next climb is at the other end of the North Buttress, and is best approached by scrambling up the right hand branch of the North Gully from the bottom.

**DELIVERANCE 75m HVS** D.C.McKinnell, R.Morris 1977 April 1st

This fine steep route takes the crack line in the prominent 'V' cleft at the right hand end of North Buttress. It starts below a large overhang in an undercut chimney, which has a crack at the back leading up to the 'V' cleft.

1 24m Make a difficult move to start and pull over the undercut to gain the base of the chimney. Climb up the chimney and follow the crack past some large jammed blocks to meet the main crack below a 'V' corner. Small stance and belay.

2 21m Climb up and gain the corner (peg runner). Climb this with difficulty and exit to a ledge on the left - loose. Climb up, move back right and ascend the crack to the final overhang, which is turned on the right.

3 30m Climb the crack on the right to a short final wall that leads to the top.

## MINOR CRAGS

### RAMADAN MOON BUTTRESS



D Jebel Dhawan

1 Ramadan Moon

2 Belly Button Wall

## RAMADAN MOON BUTTRESS

Discovered in the spring of 1996, this little outcrop lies on the approach to Jebel Dhawan, and was probably bypassed by earlier climbers with their sights set on 'higher things'. Continue along the main track for another 500 m or so, and turn off across the plain towards the prominent small outcrop. It is approached easily by saloon car, which can be parked virtually at the foot of the climbs. After the winter rains, a large pool forms near to the base. Two pleasant routes exist, on excellent rough white limestone, with adequate protection. Both have problematical starts, with 'penalty clauses', but once established on the face, the routes are pleasantly exposed and offer sustained climbing within their grade.

**RAMADAN MOON 18m Sev (Hard) 4b** B Wheeler S Clarke A Stark 1996 Feb

Starts at the right hand side of the pedestal block at an overhung corner, and climb awkwardly and boldly up and left to the foot of the obvious crackline. Follow this directly to the top.

**BELLY BUTTON WALL 18m Sev (Hard) 4a** B Wheeler S Clarke 1996 April

Start at the left hand side of the block, and pull over the bulge. Climb directly up the steep slab, passing the obvious 'navel' shaped hole, avoiding straying into the crack of Ramadan Moon near the top.

## ZAROUB CRAG

From the roundabout, follow the Wadi Ajran road for about 2 Km, passing the truck road junction. Zaroub village is off to the right, and the crags are beyond this. Passage across the gravel plain is possible in a 2WD vehicle with care, as long as soft stretches of gravel are avoided or driven over at speed (pray the car's got a good sump guard). A couple of poor routes were climbed, but later that day we found **WONDERWALL**(April 1996)