

EAST PEAK : EAST WALL

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HISTORY This impressive rock wall, perhaps the highest and most extensive in S.E. Qld. had always presented an obvious though intimidating challenge. Regarded by bushwalkers, who get a superb view of the wall on their way up Barney via Logan's ridge as "impossible", it was not really set foot on until 1960 when Ron Cox, Grahame Hardy, and Basil Yule abseiled down the face (roughly on the future ascent route). In doing so they spent a night on the wall. Later Pat Conaghan did a reconnaissance of at least the first pitch; and in April 1966 John Tillack and Ted Cais did the first five pitches. Barely a fortnight later John returned and led the successful first ascent, and so the label of impossibility was dispelled once and for all.

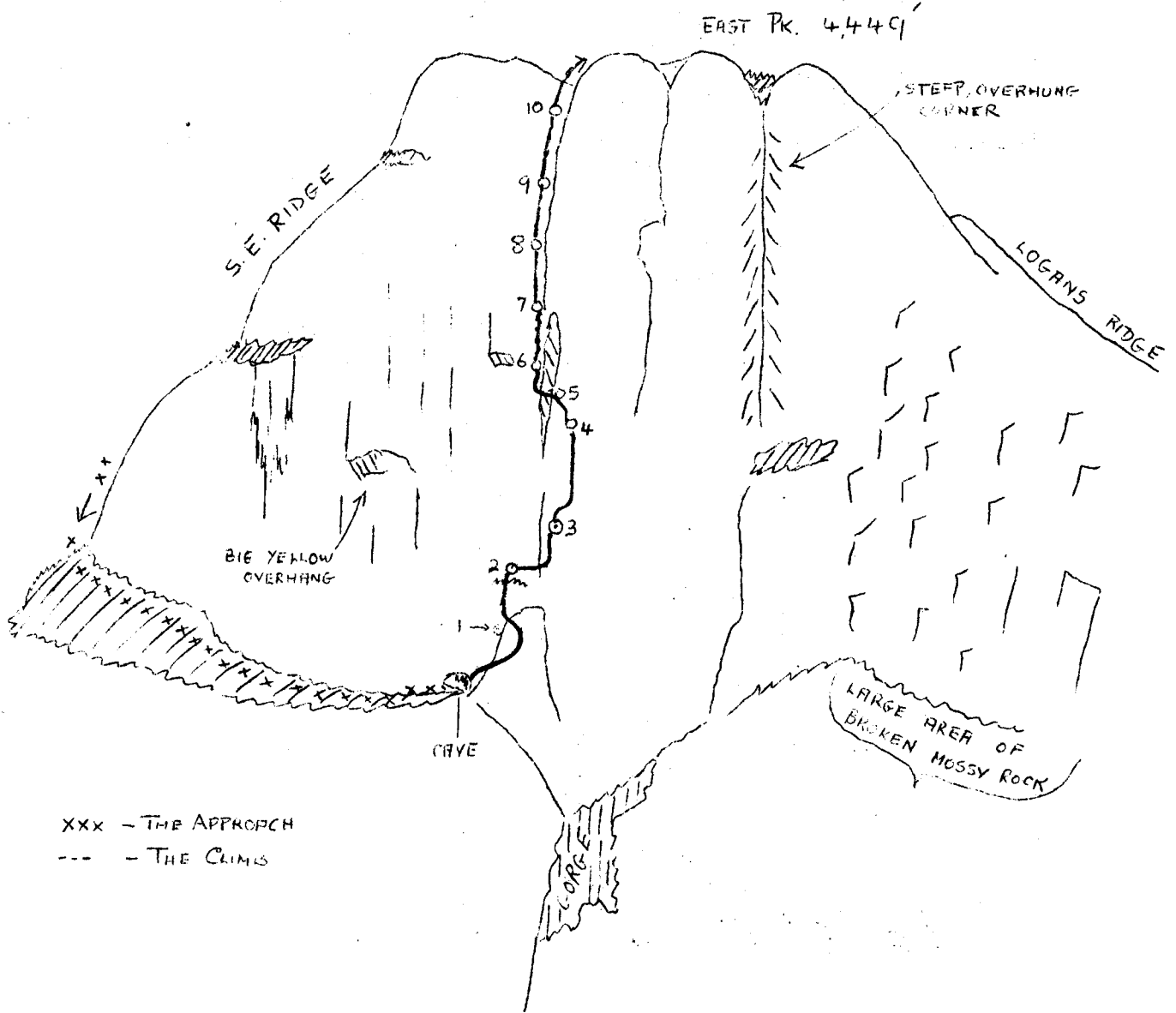
APPROACH It is a big mistake to approach the wall from below; i.e. by S.E. ridge. It is far quicker and easier to follow "Peasants" or South ridge to the hut in the saddle of East and West peaks, and then follow on to the summit of East Pk. It is then possible to descend the uppermost section of S.E. ridge (fairly good track for a way) for about a 1000ft. until it is possible to cut in under the wall along a belt of thick scrub. Some vicious scrub bashing along under the wall eventually leads to a conspicuous yellow cave, from which the climb begins. Two interesting volcanic dykes run side by side right up the face and may be seen in the left wall of this cave. There is very little water under the wall.

Standard :- Severe

1st. Ascent :- John Tillack, Les Wood, Donn Groom 26/5/66

- 1...110ft...3+...From the cave go out onto the rib on the right hand wall and follow this straight up-laybacking in an easy groove, to a ledge and tree belay. One already feels the exposure.
- 2...95ft...4...Up wall on left of belay tree and then straight up steep wall above on good holds to a very scrubby ledge and tree belay.
- 3...100ft...4...Enter the right hand dyke above, tree runner, and follow it up by bridging in places and battling with some prickly scrub, to reach a grass tree and possible peg belay. (The rock in the dyke is very rotten).
- 4...90ft...5...Out around corner to the right and up the very exposed wall on small holds to a bush belay and tiny platform on the face, with tremendous drop below.
- 5...70ft...5...To the right slightly and up to a groove. Ring peg runner, and back left to dirty ledge and bolt belay. (1x5/16" bolt in sleeve-not too good).
- 6...110ft...5...Traverse left 10ft. to cave. Walk to back of cave & chimney up to top of cave. There is an overhang above with one possible sound hold. Up by lassoing the rotten tree (crux)-not advisable though; as yet a better solution is not possible; and up chimney for 25ft. to tree belay.
- 7 to 10...400ft.?...4+...Ascend easier rock via chimneys up to the scrubby exit gully and so easily to the top. The obvious finish.

# Mt. Barney - THE EAST WALL



xxx - THE APPROACH  
--- - THE CLIMB