

# SOUTH FACE OF BILBO BUTTRESS

Scene of the earliest CMC route development, this cliff is largely ignored today. Dog's Biscuit is a good short route and is easily combined with others on The Runes and Runewall to the left. As the cliff heads east and then north, it grows considerably in height and complexity. Deep gullies and corner systems separate the crag into striking aretes and intriguing formations. Exploration will likely unearth a few good existing routes and perhaps some new ones.

## Approach

As for The Runes and follow scree trails right (east) beneath the crag. These end near Crowley's Corner and the farther east you go the more obscure the routes become.

## Descent

For all routes going to the top of the cliff, walk left and go down the Main Descent Gully.

### Dog's Biscuit\* 70 m, 5.7

C. Perry & S. Jennings, March 1973

On the south face of the buttress, 100 m east of Dirty Dago, is a wall of good gray rock bounded on the right by a pillar. Two routes climb the wall, both starting from ledges on the left at the top of a short chimney. Dog's Biscuit is the easier of the two and is well worthwhile. A small selection of pitons is useful on both climbs, which have little fixed gear.

**Start** Follow the scree trail east until it joins the cliff near the low point of a long pillar or buttress. Scramble up and back left (west) to a broad bay with a low-angle, right-facing chimney on its left side. Climb the chimney and continue left on ledges to a bolt belay.

- 1) 35 m, 5.7 Climb up easily for about 15 m and move right to a bolt. Move up and left, and then step right and continue directly up the wall. Traverse left to the foot of a groove and belay a few metres up this in a niche.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Climb the groove to a bulge, move out left and continue more easily to the top.

### El Cid\* 85 m, 5.7 or 5.8

J. Firth & C. Perry, April 1973

Alternate: N. Hellewell & C. Perry, February 1977

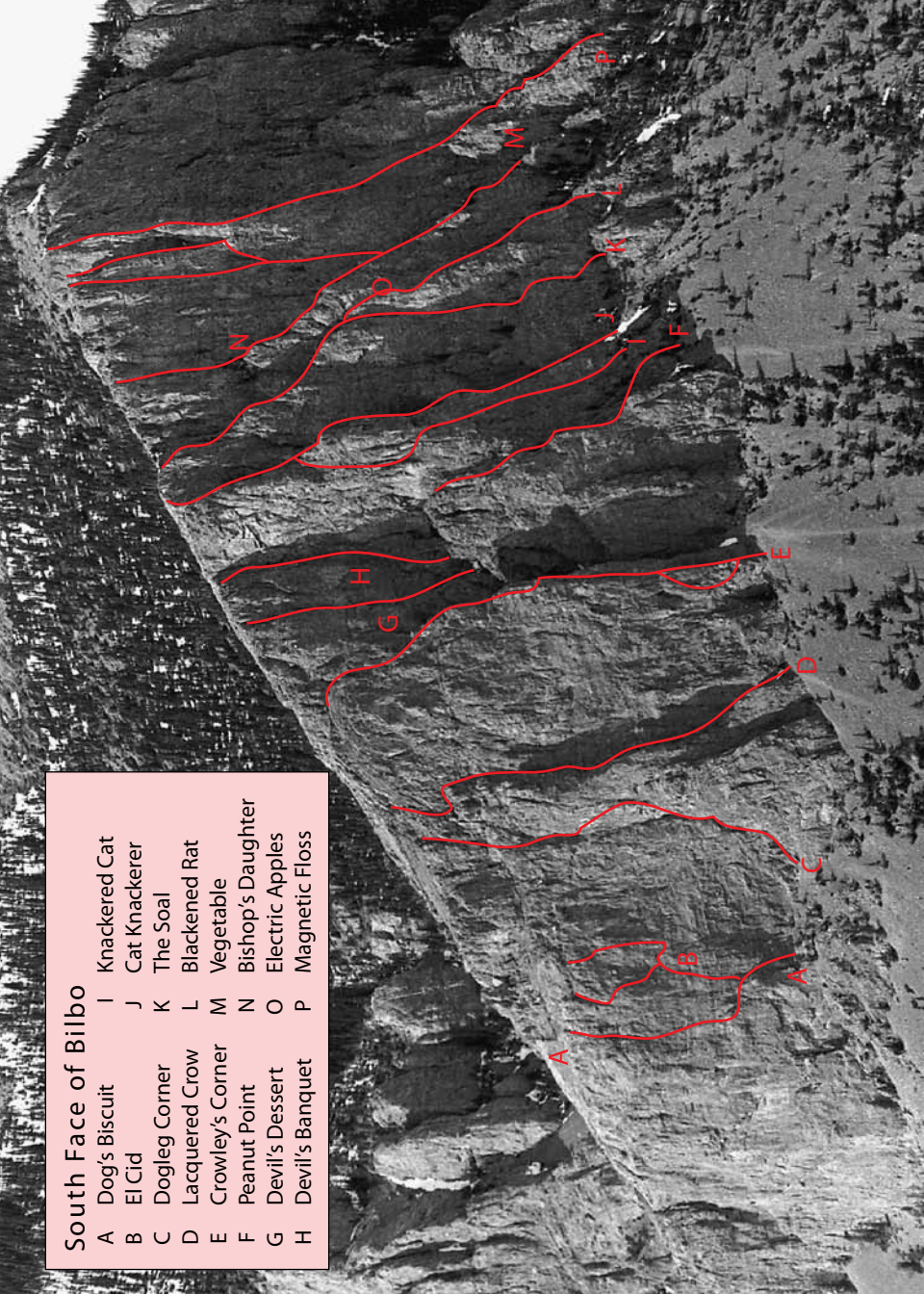
**Start** as for Dog's Biscuit. Begin near the top of the approach chimney, below a shallow groove.

- 1) 40 m, 5.7 Climb the groove and continue up the wall, trending right. Move left and belay on a small ledge.
- 2) 45 m, 5.7 Follow a ramp and corner system on the left to the top.
- 2 alt.) 20 m, 5.8 Traverse right and down slightly to the top of a groove. (An unclimbed line reaches this point directly from below.) Continue right with difficulty to a ledge below a right-facing corner.
- 3 alt.) 30 m Climb the corner to a ledge on the left.
- 4 alt.) 25 m Continue to the top.

### Dogleg Corner 130 m, 5.9

## South Face of Bilbo

A	Dog's Biscuit	I	Knackered Cat
B	El Cid	J	Cat Knackerer
C	Dogleg Corner	K	The Soal
D	Lacquered Crow	L	Blackened Rat
E	Crowley's Corner	M	Vegetable
F	Peanut Point	N	Bishop's Daughter
G	Devil's Dessert	O	Electric Apples
H	Devil's Banquet	P	Magnetic Floss



R. Breeze & J. Horne, 1972

Start approach as for Dog's Biscuit, but move across right to a steep, yellow corner on the left side of a large pillar.

- 1) Climb the left side of the pillar past a prominent yellow corner until just right of a groove near the apex of the pillar.
- 2) 5.9 Move left with difficulty to gain the groove and continue up this until it steepens. Traverse left and climb a short overhanging wall; then move back left into the prominent corner.
- 3) 5.6 Continue up the corner to the top.

1-2 alt.) On the original ascent a traverse left into the groove may have been made earlier.

### Lacquered Crow 110 m, 5.6

J. Jones, B. Schneider & C. Smith, October 1970

This route climbs the large corner system on the right side of the long pillar or buttress.

Start From the scree trail go up a large scree cone for 50 m to a right-facing chimney system on the east side of the pillar. Scramble up the gully for about 45 m and belay below a bottleneck.

- 1) 30 m Climb the bottleneck (crux) and continue up cracks to a ledge.
- 2) 30 m Climb the gully above, following the left-hand break to a large ledge.
- 3) 30 m Climb up above the ledge to a belay.
- 4) 20 m Trend up and right over easy, broken rock to the top.

### Crowley's Corner 130 m, 5.8

J. White & P. Zvengrowski, May 1971

The climb follows the well-defined rib to the right of Lacquered Crow and immediately left of a deep gully. The bottom section can be climbed directly up the corner or via the wall on the left.

Start in a wide crack to the right of the lowest part of the yellow rib.

- 1) 10 m Climb up to a protruding ledge, left of the main corner.
- 1 alt.) 5.8 Climb directly up the corner.
- 2) 5.8 Traverse up left on easy ground for 5-10 m, and then move right and up with difficulty to a belay at the top of the main corner.
  - 3) 5.6 Move right and climb up to a double dihedral. Follow this on good holds to a belay on the left.
  - 4) 5.6 Climb the face above, first to the left, then moving right almost to a corner. Layback up to a belay.
- 5-6) Follow the crest of the rib easily to the top.

### Peanut Point 90 m, 5.5

J. Martin & G. Pilkington, April 1971

About 100 m right of Crowley's Corner is a buttress that reaches about halfway up the cliff. This is Peanut Point.

**Start** The route follows the rib on the right side of the buttress and begins just right of the rib, at a ledge with some small trees.

- 1) 25 m Climb a groove to a small ledge.
- 2) 25 m Continue easily up left and climb a short, loose wall. Move left and up slightly to a tree belay.
- 3) 40 m, 5.5 Climb the obvious crack above and then traverse right a short distance below an overhang to a groove. Climb this and the crack above to the top.

**Descent** An easy route to the top of the cliff leads up left from the small col behind Peanut Point. Two other routes, Devil's Dessert and Devil's Banquet, climb the two prominent corner systems in the steep wall above. Alternatively, there is an easy descent in the gully to the right (east).

**Devil's Dessert** 60 m, 5.7

R. Breeze & J. Horne, May 1972

This route climbs the left of the two corner systems in the steep wall above the top of Peanut Point. Approach either via that route or use an easy gully to the right (east) of the point.

**Devil's Banquet** 80 m, 5.6

G. Pilkington & S. Slymon, April 1971

Devil's Banquet climbs the corner to the right of Devil's Dessert. Either climb the Peanut Point route or use an easy gully to the right (east) of the point to reach the start of the climb.

- 1) Move up right into the main corner.
- 2) 45 m Continue up the corner to a belay on the left.
- 3) Climb the loose wall above to the top.

**Knackered Cat** 150 m, 5.6

B. Greenwood, J. Keunzel & F. Williamson, April 1971

Immediately right of Peanut Point is a buttress with a protruding rib on its right side at the bottom. Knackered Cat begins below a shallow corner immediately left of the rib and to the right of a crack. Easy climbing leads almost to the base of the corner.

- 1) Move left and then back right to gain the corner. Continue up to a small stance on a slab.
- 2) Climb diagonally left across the slab, over a bulge and up to a small stance below a corner.
- 3) Climb the corner. From a pinnacle on the left side of the buttress, climb diagonally left across a wall and then climb easy rock up and right to a big ledge on the crest of the buttress.
- 4) Follow the crest of the buttress to the top.

### Cat Knackerer 150 m, 5.9

B. Greenwood & S. Slymon, May 1971

This route climbs the protruding rib to the right of Knackered Cat.

- 1) Scramble up the rib to the base of a steep slab.
- 2) Climb the slab to an overhang. Bypass this on the right and then climb straight up until the wall steepens. Traverse left and move up to a ledge.
- 3) Climb slabs above to a steep wall. Climb this (5.9, fixed pitons) and gain a chimney that is followed to a good belay (top of pitch 3 of Knackered Cat).
- 4) Follow the crest of the buttress as for Knackered Cat.

### The Soal\* 90 m, 5.8

J. Firth & J. Horne, June 1973

On the wall to the right of the Cat Knackerer buttress are two corner systems. The Soal follows the right-hand of these. Scramble up to a rib behind a huge squat rock just out from the wall.

Start From the rib go down the scree for 10 m to a large tree and scramble up to the base of a short corner leading to a ramp.

- 1) 40 m Move up left on the ramp and then climb up over a bulge into a groove. Continue up this and climb a second bulge to a tree. Move left and up to a belay below the crack.
- 2) 50 m Climb the crack, which is very steep, to a small ledge, then continue up a chimney to the top.

Descent The route ends on the crest of a rib (Blackened Rat). Continue up that route, otherwise an easy descent leads down the gully to the right (east).

### Blackened Rat 160 m, 5.5

J. Martin, S. Slymon & S. Stahl, April 1971

This route follows the rib to the right of The Soal. From the rib near the base of The Soal cross a gully to the right and scramble up to a rib with a tree below a steep section. Alternatively, traverse scree below the squat rock near The Soal and scramble up more directly to the route.

- 1) 30 m Climb a short distance up slabs; then traverse left to a corner and follow it to a tree ledge.
- 2) 35 m Traverse up and right to a corner on the right edge of the rib. Climb this (loose) and then traverse up and left on slabs to a belay at the left edge of the rib.
- 3) 30 m Traverse right on slabs to a steep groove. Climb this (5.5) until the angle eases and continue easily to a large ledge (top of The Soal).
- 4-5) 65 m Follow the crest of the rib easily to the top.

### Vegetable 170 m, 5.6, A1

J. Martin, P. Zvengrowski & D. Knaak, May 1972

To the right of Blackened Rat is a deep gully. Vegetable follows a broken rib to the right of the

gully that runs up and left. Scramble up to a short steep wall on the rib.

- 1) Climb the steep wall and the rib above to a large tree.
- 2) Continue easily up a ridge to a belay above a short wall.
- 3) Climb the wall on the right side and continue to a tree ledge.
- 4) Walk and traverse easily left past a small dead tree. Climb a short, steep wall (two or three aid moves) and pull up left into a corner. Follow the corner to a belay behind a pinnacle.
- 5) Climb the corner/gully on the left to the top.

### Bishop's Daughter 180 m, 5.7

T. Mould & M. Toft, May 1973

Scramble up the gully right of Vegetable to a prominent crack.

- 1) 40 m Climb the crack and belay on large ledges on the left.
- 2) 30 m Climb straight up a steep wall and continue over a bulge to a ledge with a small tree.
- 3) 20 m Go up and right over blocks; then drop down and traverse farther right to an inside corner. Climb the corner (5.7) to a ledge.
- 4) 45 m Climb an obvious chimney, go slightly left and up to a loose bulge, climb this and continue to a good ledge.
- 5) 45 m Aim for the final exit groove and follow this past some steep layback moves to the top.

### Electric Apples 165 m, 5.7

J. Martin & J. White, June 1971

This route starts in the gully right of Vegetable and finishes in a prominent exit gully near the high point of the crag. Start as for Bishop's Daughter. The routes diverge after one pitch.

- 1) 40 m Climb the crack, as for Bishop's Daughter, and belay on the large ledges on the left.
- 2) 35 m Descend a short distance to the right and then continue right to a steep corner/

crack. Climb this (5.7) to its top and belay above loose blocks.

- 3) 30 m Climb the wall to the right and continue up a slabby groove. Climb the chimney above and when it ends at an overhanging wall, traverse right across steep slabs to a large ledge at the base of the exit gully.
- 4) 20 m Climb a short chimney, then continue more easily to a belay on the left below a steep section.
- 5) 40 m Climb the steep wall on the left and then continue without difficulty to the top.

### Magnetic Floss 160 m, 5.7

J. Martin & J. White, October 1971

This route follows a scrappy rib right of Electric Apples. (The line marked on the photograph is approximate.) Climb up the first gully right of Electric Apples and traverse left onto the rib where it steepens.

- 1) Climb easily to a short overhanging wall. After a few awkward moves, traverse left to a steep corner/crack and follow this to a tree ledge.
- 2) Traverse left around a rib into a corner that overhangs at the top. Climb nearly to the top of the corner; then step right and climb a short face to ledges.
- 3) Traverse left and climb an easy chimney. Belay down right at a tree.
- 4) From the top of a tottery block, step across to a steep wall. Move up and right; then climb a slab to a large ledge.
- 5) Climb the steep rib above on its right side to the top.