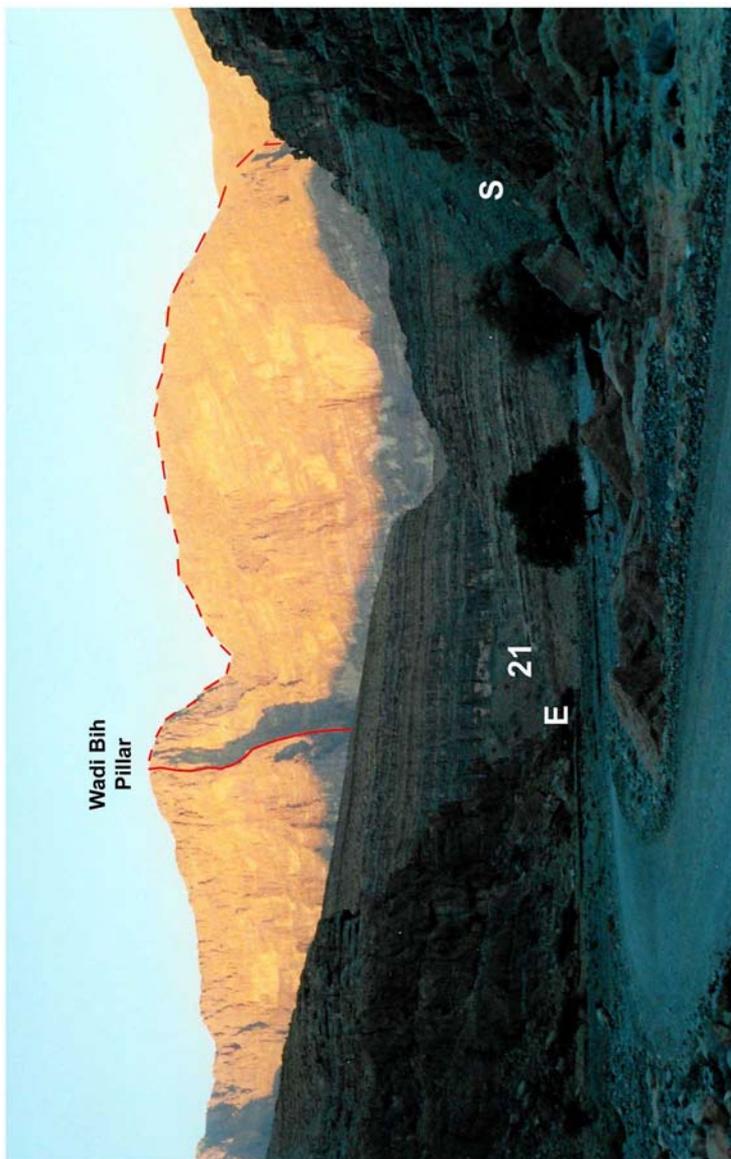


Sunset in Upper Wadi Bih



Wadi Bih
Pillar

S

21

E

E Evening Wall

21 Camp 21

S Spice World

THE GREAT PILLAR OF WADI BIH

Immediately behind the border post, an impressive mountain rears up to over 1500 metres in height. Its summit is accessible from the top of the pass, by a long and difficult scramble. (A rope is advised for all but the most experienced.)

The north face of this mountain (invisible from the Wadi Bih border post) has a major rock wall, (over 1000m high) and is so far unclimbed.

Directly behind the border post a prominent pillar falls from the summit of the mountain and has yielded the longest route in the whole region. It has over 800 metres of climbing, and was climbed in 9 hours by a very competent and fast Swiss party.

They approached the face by road from Khasab in Musandam, and were able to park about 1km from the border post below the slopes giving access to the pillar. The descent involved crossing the border, and having to negotiate the border post on foot to return to their vehicle. The descent took 5 hours, mostly in the dark, and the climbers switched off their headtorches as they approached the border post as they did not wish to be mistaken for illegal immigrants.

LONGUE VIE AU QUATRE (Long Life to the 4th Grade) 830m TD-
FA Claude Redard, Pascal Sprungli 2004 Feb 10th

After a long scrambling approach, (the lower third), the main pillar was climbed more or less directly in 22 pitches to give a sustained route rarely less than grade 4, with occasional pitches of grade 5, and a crux pitch of grade 5+. The top 100 metres consists mainly of scrambling, and the climbers moved together to save time.

From the summit, follow the ridge southwards to a col (2 rappels) then continue along the ridge towards the road at the head of the pass. From there a fairly direct scrambling descent is possible to reach the border post.

It has been possible for UAE based climbers to approach the base of the mountain on foot from Camp 21 for a recce, but has not been attempted carrying sacks of climbing gear.

The photograph shows the upper two thirds of the face, taken from near Evening Wall. The foreground ridge is the ridge above camp 21. The face is a further 2km away.

THE GREAT PILLAR OF WADI BIH



Longue Vie Au Quatre 830m TD- 5+ obl