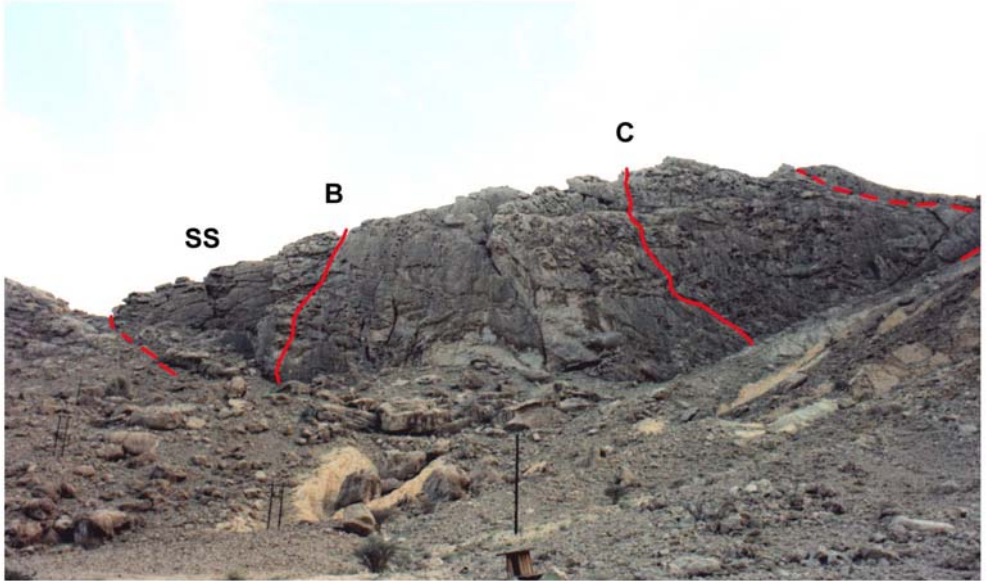


WONDERWALL -- SOUTHERN BUTTRESSES



SS Southern Slabs

B The Barley Mow

C The Committee

SOUTHERN BUTTRESSES

Routes in this section are described from right to left.

** THE COMMITTEE 125m Sev (Hard)

B Wheeler, TRichards, A Stark 1997 March 3rd

From the cave at the foot of the buttress, walk up the rake to a left slanting crack and groove, just right of centre of the buttress. A fine route, sustained at its grade, needing a bold approach in places. Continuously interesting, with some exposed moves on good rock. The flake on the last pitch requires a gentle handling.

1 45m Start right of a small thorn bush, climb a scoop to gain the crack line. Follow this to another scoop, and climb this awkwardly to a cave and belay. -- Pegs advised.

2 27m From the left end of the ledge, step boldly round the rib, and up to easier ground. Continue to a good ledge.

3 26m From the belay, move up and right into a scoop. Climb the right side of the scoop, until a move can be made back left onto a slab. Continue upwards more easily to a large ledge below a crack in the final wall. Good thread and nut belays.

4 27m Start just left of the belay, move up and right to gain the crack. Climb the crack to a hanging flake. Up over the flake, with care, to a good runner, and more easily up a continuation crack, to a short open groove. Bridge boldly up this until a pull over can be made to a notch in the crest of the ridge.

Descent: Mostly scrambling, but ropes, runners and belays are advised as the narrow crest is invariably subjected to strong winds. (Fixed pegs may be placed in future to protect the last man) Move right from the belay, until it is possible to gain the crest of the ridge. Follow in a northerly direction, down and up sloping ledges on the back side of the ridge, to regain the crest. Follow a long ledge round onto the front face. An exposed slanting ledge system, with a little down climbing in places, eventually leads to a deep gully and easy way down.

The central section contains some impressive crack lines, situated high above an overhanging scoop of rotten dusty rock. At the lowest point of a buttress is a good cave. The next route finds the line of least resistance up the impressive looking pillar at the left hand end of the buttress, immediately right of the bounding arete.

****THE BARLEY MOW 150m VS** R Thornton, Lydia Hooley 1997 March 3rd
Rick didn't name his route, but his rendition of the song round the campfire was always an occasion to savour. A detailed description is not available, as they didn't make it down before dark, so couldn't point out the line. An expedition. 5 or 6 pitches generally on good rock which starts at a scoop, at the lowest point of this section and climbs up rightwards to below the overhang. Turn this on the right, and follow crack and chimney lines to the top.

SOUTHERN SLABS

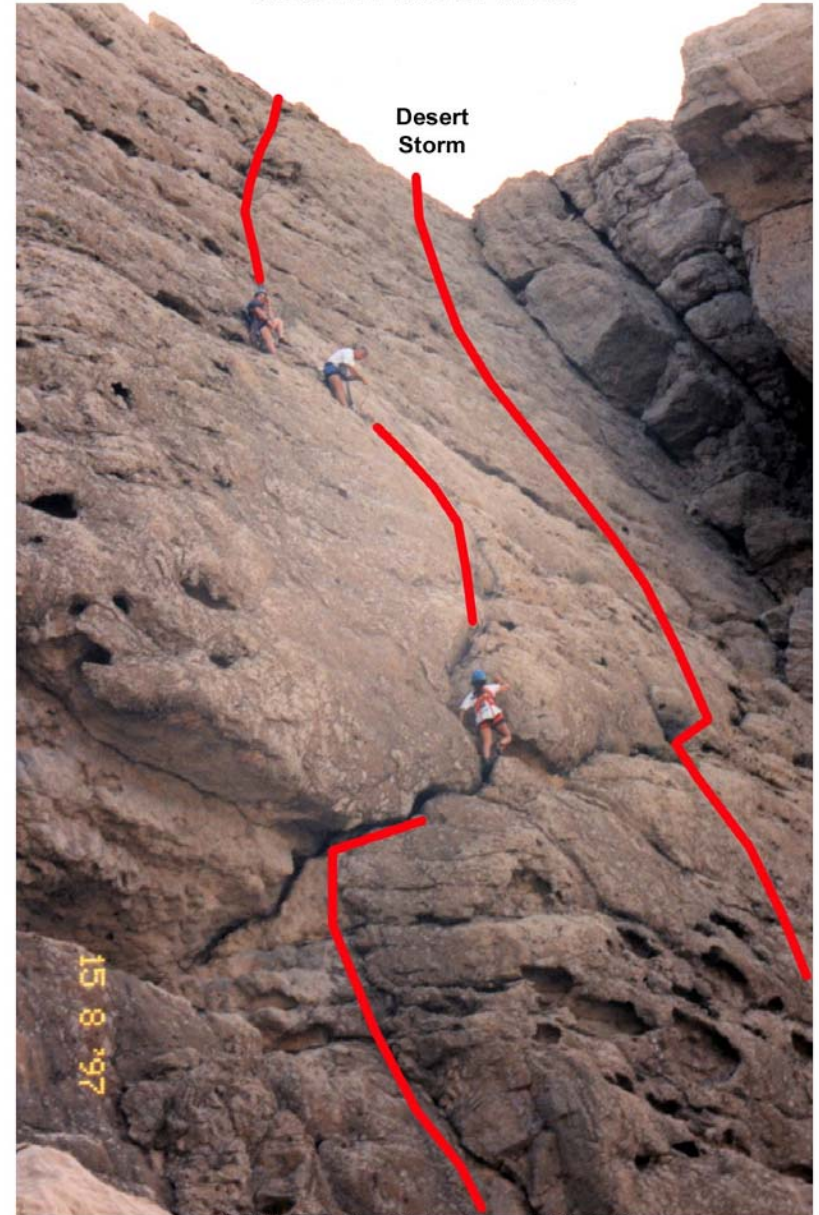


1 Princess of Oman 2 American Express 3 Desert Storm

SOUTHERN SLABS

All routes in this section finish on a narrow rock ridge. Whilst the routes are in the easier grades, the descent requires a short abseil. At the right hand side of the slabs, is a repulsive corner and chimney, which extends the full height of the slabs. The first route described takes the obvious crack some 10m left of the corner, and then finishes up the slabs above.

SOUTHERN SLABS



Bill Algaier, Tim Richards and Olivia Pozzan on American Express

DESERT STORM 80m VS (mild)

B Wheeler A Stark 1996 June 28th

Climbed in summer whilst thunder and lightning were affecting the surrounding area, and a severe sandstorm was developing on the plain to the south west. -- Not the most sensible time to climb here. We got down just in time to see the ridge being struck by lightning. Apart from some loose looking blocks which have to be climbed at the start to pitch 2, the rock is some of the best in the area.

- 1) 18m 4b Climb the crack with difficulty and sparse protection to a cave belay -- Pegs advisable.
- 2) 40m 4b Move R and climb the bulge on loose blocks to gain the upper slabs. Follow shallow cracks and grooves in the slabs with adequate protection to a horizontal break and belays.
- 3) 22m 4a Climb more or less directly upwards to the ridge, moving leftwards to a good ledge but poor belays. (pegs advised)

PRINCESS OF OMAN 50m Sev

B Wheeler, F Poltroneri, Fosca Poltroneri 1997

A pleasant route that starts 8m left of Desert Storm.

- 1 Climb the flake crack to a cave and belay.
- 2 Continue pleasantly up the slabs to the top

AMERICAN EXPRESS 45m V.Diff

T.Richards. W Algaier, Olivia Pozzan 1997 August 8th

A pleasant well protected route on good rock. Takes the obvious diagonal line across the main slabs, from right to left. Scramble up to the obvious cave, at the left of Desert Storm.

- 1 25m. Climb the obvious diagonal crack line to a good stance and belay at a horizontal break.
- 2 20m Climb the pleasant slabs, trending rightward up a vague continuation crack. Belay on the crest of the ridge.

Descent - Follow the ridge towards the power line. A short abseil down a loose groove leads to a ledge system. Descend rightwards to the rear of the ridge, until ledges lead to the power line, which is followed easily to the foot of the crag.

CHIMNEY FACE



- 1 Virgin Surprise
- 2 Bowel Movement
- 3 Playing Mantis
- 4 Deflection
- 5 Thin Lizard
- 6 Bedevil
- 7 Inclination
- 8 Slapper
- 9 Queen of Sheba

THE CHIMNEY FACE

This section is about 250 m long, and up to 120m high, ending in the impressive rightward facing corner taken by Queen of Sheba. Routes are described from left to right.

***VIRGIN SURPRISE 25m HVS 4 c** B Wheeler, A Stark 1996 May

The first route to be attempted on this major crag proved to be as deceptive as the name suggests. Large Friends may make protection in the lower section easier to arrange, which may reduce the overall grade to VS.

The route takes a left slanting groove to the right of the main descent rake.

1) The innocuous looking groove is climbed awkwardly to an overhung cave. -- Passage through the cave may be possible for the anorexic or expert in yoga. Normal climbers can arrange a good runner and move left out of the cave onto the face where a few exciting moves lead to easier ground and a belay (well back on the descent rake)

***BOWEL MOVEMENT 57m Sev -, 4a** A Stark T Richards (alt) 1996 August 2nd

The obvious deep chimney 20m R of Virgin Surprise.

1) 22m Scramble up into the back of the chimney and climb more or less directly upwards, facing left, until more positive holds on the L wall can be climbed when the chimney widens. Straight up passing some doubtful flakes and moderate runner to a good ledge but very small wire belays. Good nut to resist upward pull low down L of arete. -- Best used in opposition with other nuts.

Two possible finishes are available, at about the same standard.

2a 35m 4a Climb boldly up the wall directly above the belay, trending R to the corner crack and passing more doubtful flakes. Climb the wall above, passing the overhang on the L to easier ground. Good belays well back.

2b 35m 4a Traverse 6m R along the dusty ledge to the corner crack. Climb this using good jams, and avoiding loose flakes, until better holds on the L wall are reached. Straight up to exit through the top of the chimney to a good ledge but no belays. Continue up easy ground to a better ledge and good belays. It may be advisable to extend the belays so that a stance can be taken on the lower ledge to prevent the ropes snagging against the movable chockstones in the upper portion of the chimney, and to prevent debris being dislodged onto climbers below.

To the right of Bowel Movement is a prominent tree. The next route starts 10m R of the tree, below an obvious vertical corner.

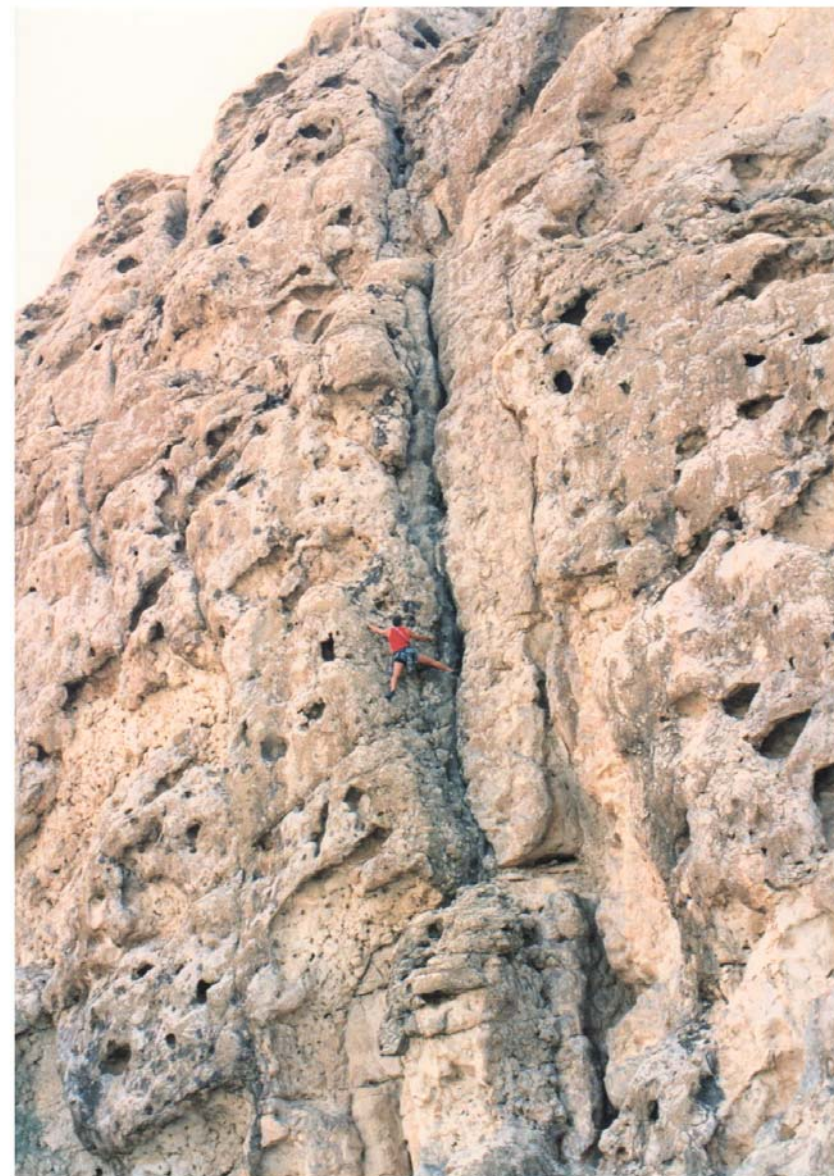
****PLAYING MANTIS 60m VS (Mild) 4b,4a** A Stark T Richards 1996 August 30th

1) 30m 4b An excellent sustained pitch with good gear. Climb the corner, with an awkward move where it widens, to a good ledge and belays.

2) 30m 4a Climb the continuation crack for 8m, and follow the obvious chimney groove more easily to the top.

20m right of Playing Mantis an obvious corner leads to a vicious hanging groove, which has so far resisted several determined attempts.

The next route takes the corner but avoids the challenge of the groove above by a traverse to easier rightward trending ramps.



Playing Mantis - P1
Climber Tim Richards

DEFLECTION 90m VS (Mild) 4b, -, - T Richards A Stark 1996 August 9th

1 25m Climb boldly up the thin crack to the bulge (thread runner) and continue upwards on small positive holds. Better holds lead to a good ledge and excellent belays below a vicious overhanging groove.

2,3 65m Move up and traverse right until a sloping ramp system leads in 2 easy pitches to the top. Follow the ridge to the top of Playing Mantis, and descend as for that route.

***THIN LIZARD 75m VS 4a, 5a, 4c** T Richards A Stark (var.) 1996 August 16th

Climbs the vertical crack and chimney line, to the left of the highest pinnacle. An excellent varied climb, with good protection and sound rock, which has a definite crux.

1) 25m Climb the crack for 10m, then easily upwards to a good belay ledge deep in the chimney.

2) 20m Climb up through the flue for 15m and out onto a pedestal below a large jammed boulder. It may be possible to pass through the hole above, but most will have to make an exciting, strenuous, but well protected swing out round the overhanging boulder, to gain a good ledge and bombproof belays.

3) 30m Ascend the corner crack by a variety of techniques, to the top of a pinnacle resting against the face. Climb directly up the wall above on small but positive holds, passing a good thread belay, to easier ground and belays. Scramble up and left to below the summit ridge.

BEDEVIL 90m VS

B Wheeler, D McEnery 1996 August 23rd

Takes the deep chimney crack R of Deflection, climb this for 2 pitches to a point where an escape can be made rightwards up diagonal sloping ramps, to the summit ridge.

The following route was the result of a failed attempt to climb the impressive right facing corner in the upper part of the cliff. A direct ascent will undoubtedly be a hard and serious undertaking.

INCLINATION 100m Sev (Hard) T Richards, A Stark 1996 August 23rd

10 m right of the chimney line of Bedevil, is an impressive right facing corner crack at half height with distinctive red rock.

1 Start more or less below the corner, and wander boldly upwards to a good stance and belay.

2 Move up and right to ledges below the corner, then diagonally rightwards up the obvious ramp.

3 Climb the ramp and slabs to the top of the ridge.

SLAPPER 140m VS (Mild)

B Wheeler, A Chubb (Alt leads) 23rd July 1999

Takes the lower level ramp starting at the foot of Bedevil. The higher ramp line is Inclination.

1. 20m Climb up to a crack at the back of the chimney and ascend this, moving right at the top to the foot of an obvious crack on an obvious ramp.

2. 45m 4c Follow the ramp line for a full rope length, climbing a short step on the right to a good belay above.

3. 45m Follow the ramp further, up a short step, over broken rock and up a crack to a belay.

4. 30m Continue to the top