

## Oman write-up

### New routes near village of Sibi:

- 1/11/12 arrive in Sibi, most of the crew greet the villagers, Alex Honnold solos Jebel Letub up the prow closest to the village, faces west, at half height he entered the gulley system and upper ridge which faces north (which is hard to see from the ground). He said there was no climbing harder than 5.6.
- 2/11/12 Alex Honnold, Mark Synnot, Hazel Findlay solo the north facing peak opposite Jebel Letub, in our approach shoes, mostly at 4<sup>th</sup> class.



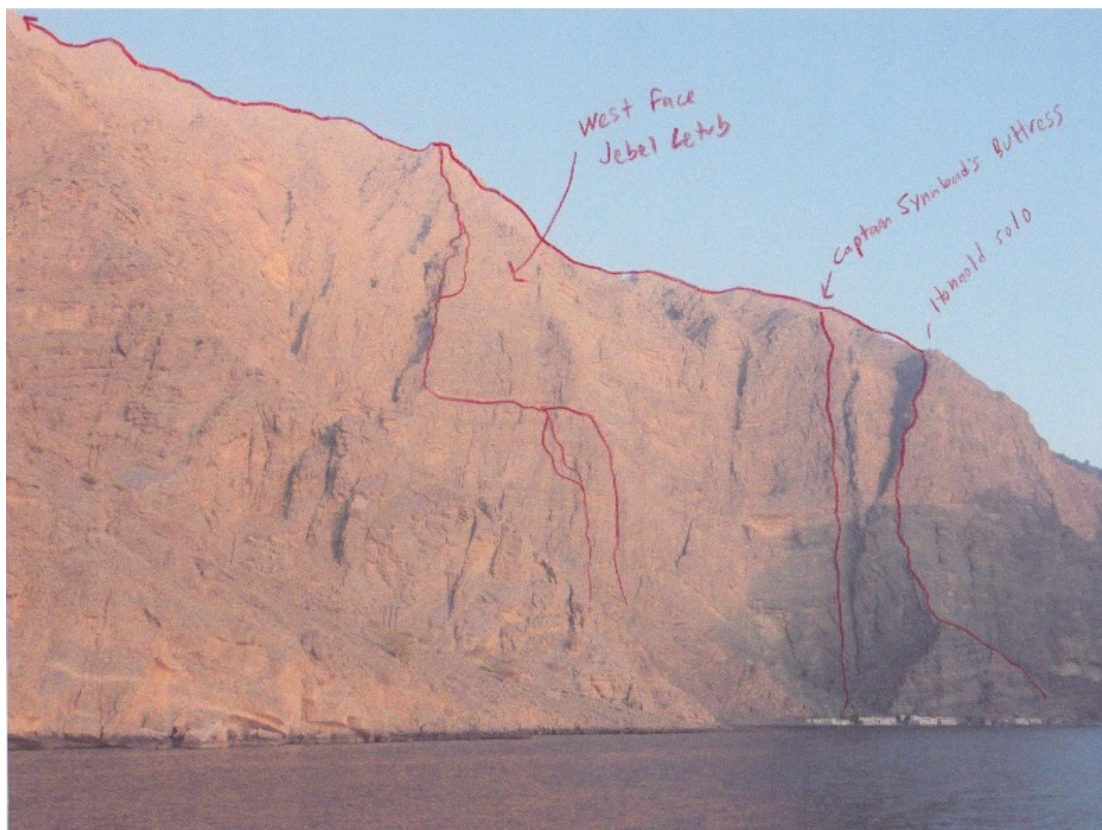
- 4/11/12 Alex and Hazel climb Jebel Letub by a steeper (not so much cleaner) line.  
Description: start up the right side of the pillar which is left of the main south west face, follow this (2 pitches) until you reach a chossy band (towards the end of the third pitch), crawl left along a roof-capped dirty/chossy ledge until you reach a bigger ledge covered in loose rock, go upwards from here onto a huge ledge system where you can make a belay. At this big ledge system we started to trend left on easier and less loose ground (we mainly trended left to avoid the encroaching sun)

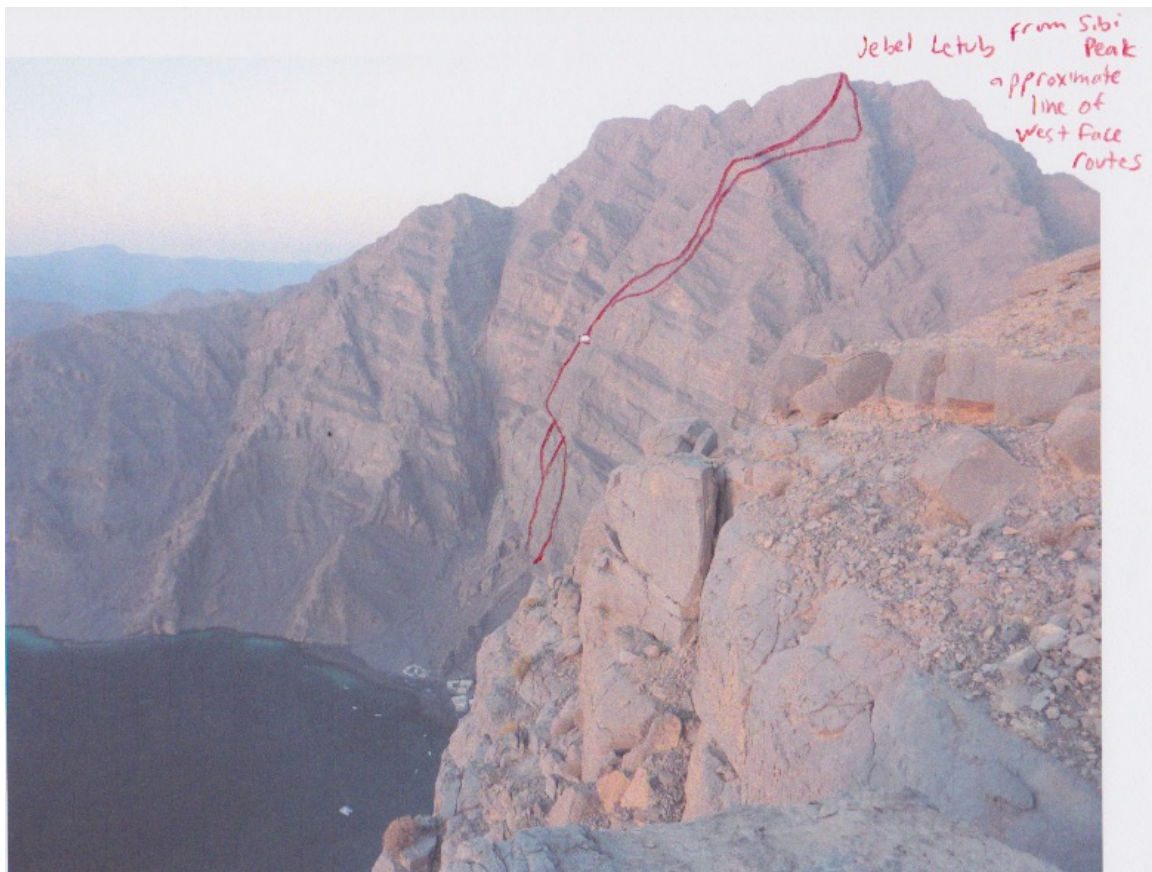
Descent: follow the ridge line that leads to the gully behind the village. The ridge line is fairly complex to find as there are a series of them. Once you reach the pylon you will see a path that leads down to the village. We thought the climbing was no harder than 5.11b ish

On the same day Mark Synnot, Jimmy Chin, Renan Ozturk and Mikey Schafer also climbed two other lines on the face to the left of Alex and Hazel's line. This line went directly up, following vague corner and crack systems, they finished up roughly the same line as Hazel and Alex. All the climbing we did on this wall was very chossy, both on a small and large scale. One small rock fell off and cut Mikey's rope (without him knowing), Alex and myself also experienced some heavy doses of choss. This wall is also in the sun for most of the day, and although we started in the dark, we needed to take a lot of water. These things said, the team had a great adventure on this wall that won't be forgotten.

5/11/12 Alex soloed another route here he describes it:

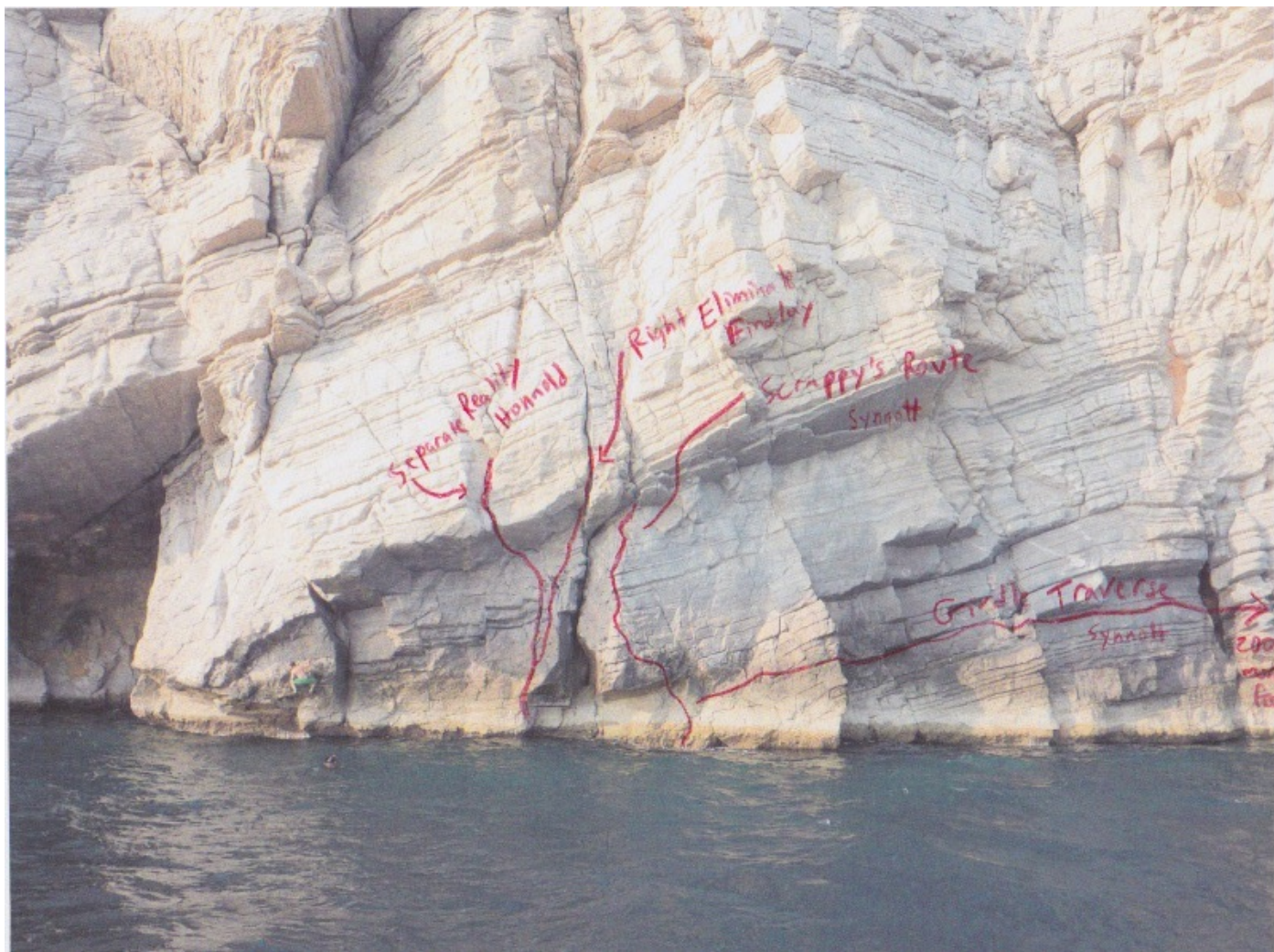
"I did the other buttress which I named Captain Synnbad's buttress in honour of our illustrious leader. It started slightly left of the first route I did and took crack systems up the nice obvious line. In the middle of the wall, where it intersects the gully and where the other route went right, it continues straight up the improbably smooth looking face, right on the buttress itself. It was probably 6a, but felt pretty hardcore. By far the best climbing of all the things we did above Sibi"





8/11/12

- Some FA(?) DWS on the island of Jazirat Salamah (which is quite far out, 15km or so from Iran). We did two routes which were both quite good.
- Separate Reality of Oman, 5.11b, left roof crack line on the steep section of rock 15 or so feet above the water (sorry don't know what direction this faces, but the island isn't very big, so you will spot it from the boat)
- I did the wider crack to the right, at about 10b, which was fun, albeit a little sandy. I'll call that 'Right Eliminate'



9/11/12

- We did an FA on a southwest facing wall, right in the Lions Mouth, we called the route The Lions Mouth. To find the wall, sail through the lion's mouth (coming from the north) and when you reach the most impressive looking wall that will be it. It has an extremely steep arête on it's right edge, we climbed the face to the left which can be characterised by it's half height roof and horizontal bands/cracks on the face above.

Description: pitch one: start in a wide crack 15 or so metres left of the arête, follow the crack until you reach a chossy ledge system which you crawl awkwardly along rightwards. You'll end up on a ledge, unfortunately there isn't much of a belay on the ledge, so instead make tricky moves up and left from the left most edge of the ledge via a finger lock. A few metres up and left of the finger lock you will find a collection of broken cracks with which you can build a belay. 5.10c or E4 5c  
pitch two: move up and right to a crack through a roof, get good protection here, because this will be the last of it. Pull over the roof and quest rightwards up the face above until you reach the summit near the arete. The climbing is remarkably easy, but remains unnerving since the

horizontal bands provide limited gear, and the rock is a bit suspicious. Walk off climbers left and then do a short scramble/jump into the sea.



4/11/12

Sand Castle Bay (not sure what it's near –could draw where it is on a map??)

From the Sand Castles we sailed a mile or so north and found quite a cool little DWS cave. It didn't seem like it had been climbed on and wasn't in the guide, but it's hard to tell. Alex did 3 routes out the cave, I repeated two and most of the team repeated one. The first two were really good. Alex said the third wasn't as good as it was more chossy.

- the right hand line out of the cave on big jugs (some of which are chossy and dirty but just require a little cleaning), then climb round over the lip to an obvious foot and hand jug finish. Called it 'Hamming it up' I think we gave it 6c+
- 'Hazel's Double Ds' if your tall, reach out to an obvious tooth in the middle of the cave, or if you're short, do a double handed dino to it, then follow the jugs up and (climber's) left around the lip. 7a
- 'Hazel's Double D's Direct, same start but then go straight out the roof, on choss 7a

11/11/12

We climbed one of the sand castles – the pointy smaller one, left of the big pyramid one. Alex, Hazel, Mark and Renan soloed it at 5.5 ish.

