

Piz Buin Trip- April 2016

with Bergführer Dres Abegglen

We left Guarda (1580 M) at 6.45am. An hour of walking in grass meadows with skis on our backpacks, and then skinning (Route 65 on the TARASP touring map) had us reaching the Tuoi Hut around 9.15. We stopped for a drink, and then climbed



The Tuoi Vallee



Approaching the Tuoi Hut... already hot

in the hot sun to the Fuorcla Vermunt (2798M), arriving at the Austrian border around 12 noon.



The Furcla Vermunt passage to Austria

A short lunch and a short drop on a traverse lead us to the NW facing slope of the Dreiländerspitz (Route 624a rated ZS-).

There followed a quite steep 300 M skinning ascent, criss-crossing the glacier. Leaving our skis and pack at the base of the rock outcrop, Dres roped me up and we scrambled and climbed perhaps 100M to the three countries peak at 3197M.



The approach to the peak

Belayed in... but on a natural basis – no artificial bolts.



Although not technically difficult to climbers, the narrow ridge certainly pushed my heart rate up.



Hanging on to the Cross,

Total first day climb – 1617Metres.

Ski down to the German run Weisbadener hut at 2443 M for the night. More like a hotel, than a hut Running water and packed with perhaps a hundred beer-drinking guests. The access from the Austrian side is easy, on path beaten flat by a Rat_track

Second day has us taking a late (in hut terms) 6 am Breakfast. We start climbing around 6.45 am - heading first south, and up a crevasse field, with the Silbretthorn to our left. Then swinging round to the east to get to the base of the Piz Buin rockface around 9.30 am at 3051M.



Approaching the Piz Buin

There followed a 35-minute scramble up the best known peak in the Silvretta region, the Piz Buin at 3312 Metres, also on the Swiss/Austrian Border. Sadly, shrouded in clouds.



Piz Buin in Cloud, with the sun just poking through

- so no good photos from the summit

After scrambling down (harder than going up) we now headed west, with a short skin up to the Fuorcla dal Cunfin (3040M), and a splendid, if lonely, ski over the La Cudera Glacier,



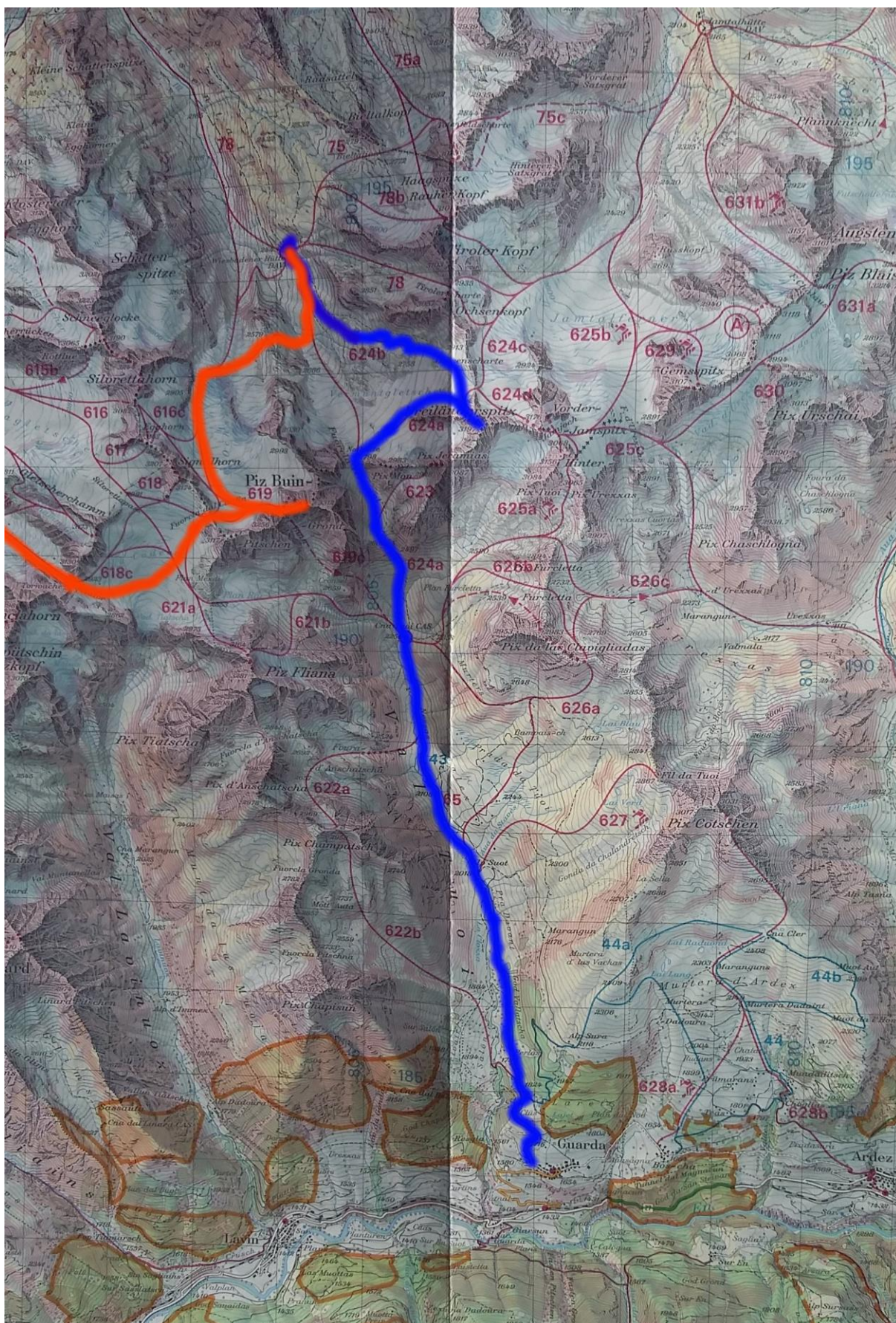
La Cudera Glacier

before another short skin up to the Verstanclator pass (2923 M), and then down the long Verstancla valley to Klosters



Spring snow in the Verstancla valley, with the pass at the top

Climb on the second day – about 1150 Metres Plus, a lot of polling at the end.



Blue – first day.... Orange, second day

Richard Wylde April 2016