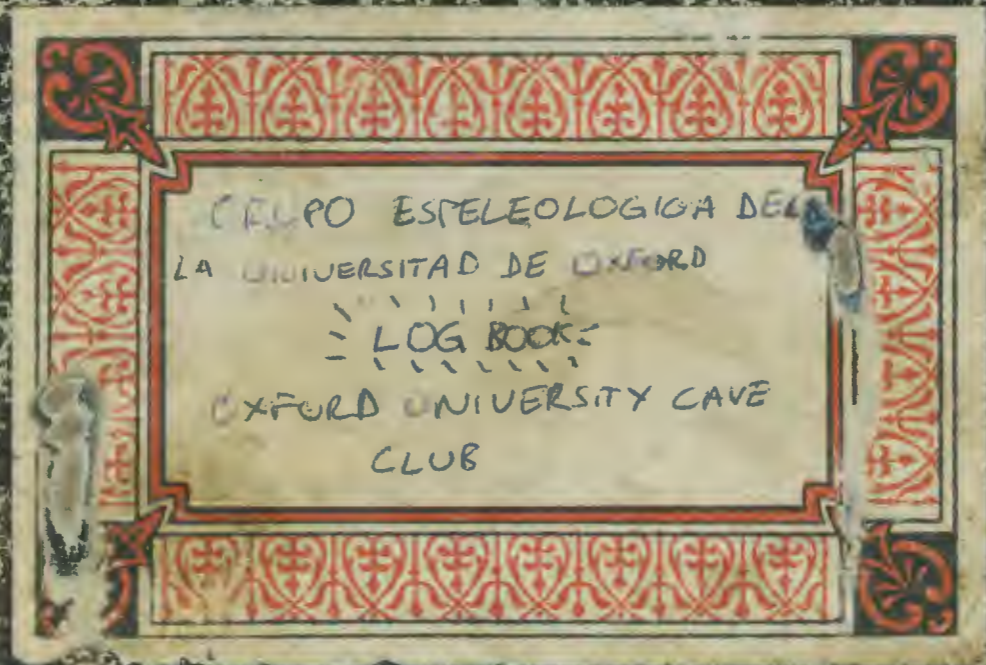


O U Cave Club

1981 Expedn

Log



Top team set for depths...



THESE cavers from Oxford University are part of a team attempting a record-breaking descent in caverns in northern Spain.

They are trying to break their own descent record, set last year.

Pictured are, in front, Colin Nicholls and from left to right at back: Graham Naylor, John Simpleton, Trevor Neatherway and Richard Gregson.

The team descended 859 metres last year in a cave called Pozo del Xitu, before they ran out of rope due to lack of money.

This year, with more money and more rope, they hope to go down 1,300 metres — nearly four and a

half thousand feet in a seven-week expedition.

David Rose, the club's Press officer, said it would mean rigging ladders and ropes over 31 vertical drops, some as great as 450 feet.

He said it might take the team, which will be 28-strong at times, two weeks to get to the farthest point reached by last year's expedition.

"You have got to set everything up again," he said. "If we are very efficient we might reach the present limit in ten to 12 days."

An underground camp will be set up, as the journey to the surface will take 28 hours.

"It is very strange down there. It's a very eerie feeling," he said.

Secretary to the De
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 The post of Dean is a new permanent app holder will require a Secretary. Applicants secretarial qualifications and experience, a undertake a wide range of duties. Salary will be on the C3 scale, £5,14 (review).
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Closing date for applications 24

Centre chief

Mr Kenneth Owen, assistant governor at Usk Bors-tal, has been promoted to governor of Campsfield House Detention Centre at Kidlington.

He replaces Mr Frank Jones who has been promoted to governor of Wetherby Borstal.

Mr Owen, 48, joined the prison service in 1957 and served as a prison officer at Cardiff Prison before moving to Bristol and Feltham. He became assistant governor at Usk in 1972.

RECEP TELEF

(£2,508 - £

needed by Oxfordshi Service, 42 Park End work are 9 - 5.30, Mo Fridays, with an hour to deal confidently v good telephone mar

Applications in writin.

EXPEDICION A LOS PICOS

00001

DE EUROPA, MACIZO DE CORNION

4th July 1981 - 22nd August

OXFORD UNIVERSITY
CAVE CLUB
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7th July Poru del Xitu Dave + Richard (12 hrs)

Rigged entrance series. Super fun. 6 trips
Through rift - worse than I remember it - Que hombres!

8th July Xitu Dave + Richard. (9 hrs)

Rigged to Gap + rebolted it. Ladder on end inlet
climb a considerable improvement. Tackle carrying
through Teresa series a pain to the perineum.

9th July Campos de Oros Dave + Richard.

Spent 8000 ptas on ham, sausage, & cheese etc. Some
thought this a bit bit much but the owner of the
supermarket gave us 2 bottles of cider + some
cherries to express his joy.

10th July Xitu Dave, Richard + William. (13 hrs)

Water dropping after night of rain (see notes on
~~the~~ trip below) but still v. wet. A bit of an
epic with William a bit unprepared. ~~much~~
Much pondering about convinced me that no real
alternative exists to last year's Flat Iron ridge; ~~alternatives~~
the only way to avoid either water (much
today) or cross. ~~As~~ A rather unsuccessful trip - only
DL ② + FI ① rigged + 5m climb before FI.

00000

9th July - Xitu - Jan + Keith - 12 hrs approx.

We went down at 10 to 12 with intention of rigging Flat Iron

Seems ~~exciting trip~~ ~~we started~~ The plan was we were to go down $\frac{1}{2}$ hr before the Brunnie & contingent. We carried rope for ~~the~~ Pythag, Dampier, Pablichook & Nape & Nape together with some rigging gear & a Gyp Ladder, GBU, Pilling Slop DL ladder tackle. We returned to use the Gyp ladder and to string a rope down GBU by which time ~~the~~ S&S would have arrived. However the most carefully hatched plan after go across - and this wasn't the most carefully hatched plan. - ~~by the time~~ we went ~~down~~ down GBU - no sign of S&S. - so we rigged Pilling Slop & DL ladder, and then went down to ledge on LHS - we we we rigged DL patch with 2 ropes hatched together intending to go on to rig Flat Fe - but by this time we'd been down a few hours and it was the first trip in a long time for both of us so we decided to exit. Found S&S at GBU - they'd taken a long time due to tackle - lugging and then we made a rapid passage through ~~the~~ Trossa series. Meanwhile a few hundred feet above us the heavens had opened up & as a result we found the Entrance series a pleasantly wet and refreshing experience. We exited in heavy cloud and rain at about 12.30 up sparry night but a rather unsympathetic chubble for on two comrades later to follow us up the entrance series in a torrential stream.

9th July Xitu Shunk & Skippy. 16 hours

We followed Jan & Keith down with intention of meeting up at GBU. J&K to then rig flat iron, Me and Shunk to tidy up GBU. A slow descent due to weight of tackle, ~~them~~ (3 bags) Shunk muttering about me going a bit slow until he took over 1 of the bags leaving me with one, when the situation reversed.

Eventual arrival at GBU, no J or K around, so spent long time assessing a better rigging. Unfortunately very few options. Then met up J&K who exited early because Jan said Pt in 2 better placed bolts at GBU. I abbed down to wet ledge but no feasible place for a dryer reddy due to grotty rocks.

Then steady out at. Noticed water levels up in streamway. Entrance pitches f. wet. Shunk no electric light, made for interesting slow ascent. Eventual thankful exit very late (? early) but v. dark, rain & mist reduced visibility to about 3 yards with a light. After spending some time attempting to follow the path for 10 yards without losing it, I persuaded Shunk to give up & wait for daylight in Xitu entrance, which we did, coldly, for about 2 hours. Back at refugio @ 6.00 am

11th July Skippy Jan Trevor. Xito. 12 hours

Trip to (today) entrance pitches up to rid Xito of
abysmal ^{shit} Shepherd bolts, & make laddering &
self lining possible

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| entrance pitch. | OK. |
| 1 st rift pitch | Ladder lengthened |
| 2 nd rift pitch | rerigged via large buttress with nylon
tape belay. Removed badly placed
bolts put in calcite by someone
previously mentioned |
| 3 rd rift pitch | Rerigged with 2 bolts, somewhat
nearer the top of the pitch than
the two they replaced. |
| 4 th rift pitch | OK. |
| 5 th rift pitch. | Rerigged as 3 rd |
| 19m pitch. | Extra bolt put in high up. Self
lining now much better. Ladder lengthened. |
| 8 th pitch | Ladder lengthened, take off easier. |
| 9 th pitch | Back up bolt put in on rope, to
replace inadequate back up to ladder bolt. |
| 1 st bluewater P. | Ladder shortened to just reach ledge. |
| 2 nd bluewater P. | Rebelayed to flake on opposite side of
chamber. Ladder placed (replaced none previously) |
| 3 rd bluewater P. | OK. |

Tackle bag with 155m new Marlow left on ledge between 1st & 2nd bluewater P.
Exited at 02.00. Refugio locked & guarded by obnoxious
alsation belayed to table. Knocked up Eduardo since all
OVCC in a coma.

N.B. Rope protectors now needed on 2nd & 5th rift-pitches
1st bluewater pitch still needs attention - shaker belay wire + bolt?
Only 4 bolts left above ground. No rope protectors or
wire belays.

Xite trip continued.

Shippy also attempted to hasten the demise of Trevor by chucking various rocks, rucks etc. down 9th pitch where there was little room for escape. Unfortunately for the expedition the attempt was unsuccessful.

12th July

John, Graham, Mark and Hywel arrive in Mark's car minus Hywel's clothes and caving suits, John's OMIC and Mark's cassettes and cheque and Access Cards. All were nicked in Bordeaux at 11pm on the 11th by some thieves who smashed the rear quarter window.

12-13th July

Richard + Dave

Xite

19 hours

To Samaritans + NuevaBalleria - EL PUPITAN!!

We went down with the intention of rigging below Plat 10m. Unfortunately although we carried what we thought was all the tachte (4 bags) from Concert Hall ledge to the Samaritans, arriving there we realised with considerable frustration that we had left the bag with Samaritans + Sanpturation rope behind. Fuck. So we rigged Sam. 1 with a 40m + a 10m rope with a knot and Sam. 2 with a 30m. At first the pitches are ready and all someone has to do is change the ropes there + there is enough tachte there for all the come up to + beyond Rape Bope pitch ready for use between the two Samaritans. The Samaritans are re-rigged - the first now completely clear of the water and the second with less abrasion than last year. Sam. 1 needs a rope-protector at the top which we

didn't have.

So as to achieve a bit more we ~~was~~ decided to explore concert hall really thoroughly. Climbing right round it we first proved conclusively by simple observation that there can be no possible doubt that the water coming down Flat Iron runs straight into the lower streamway + can be followed through the boulders all the way. None of it goes in the other direction towards tree.

So to the 'black-pore' left from last year. The back of the chamber tapers off into a rift about 1-2m wide at the top of the boulder slope. This was descended by a throtchy climb into a sizeable passage + chamber. This + the following series is to be known as EL PURITAN.

The way on is at first a hair-raisingly ~~loose~~ exposed 15m climb ^{down} into a chamber - LA SALA DE LA DISCIPLINA INGLESE - beneath an aven. Here a note in the floor emits the sound of a stream - probably the noise from cooler "combined Ticks" in the known cave.

Beyond La Sala de la Disciplina Inglesa there is EL Puritan ~~Pass~~ bends decidedly to the right, away from the streamway which can no longer be heard. 2 further climbs ~~in~~ ~~cham~~ in a second chamber - LA SALA DE LA ROPA INTERIORE, the second of which ~~has~~ has a very nasty exposed mantle shelf traverse move - lead into a definite passage, a high, ancient, brittle rift of considerable depth ~~and~~ below the traverse point - GALERIA DE LAS MUJERES PEVERAS. Progress is variously waltzing on jammed boulders, crawling + climbing to a very nasty climb at a T Junction where I nearly ~~knocked~~ ^{went} to the bottom @ about 40' with a large boulder which was the main

handhold.

Beyond this point we took the left hand way until it looked like a ladder would have to be rigged down to the bottom of the widening rift. The pitch (LADY DIANA'S MONEYBOX) will be about 40' + wants bolting. There is a considerable draught.

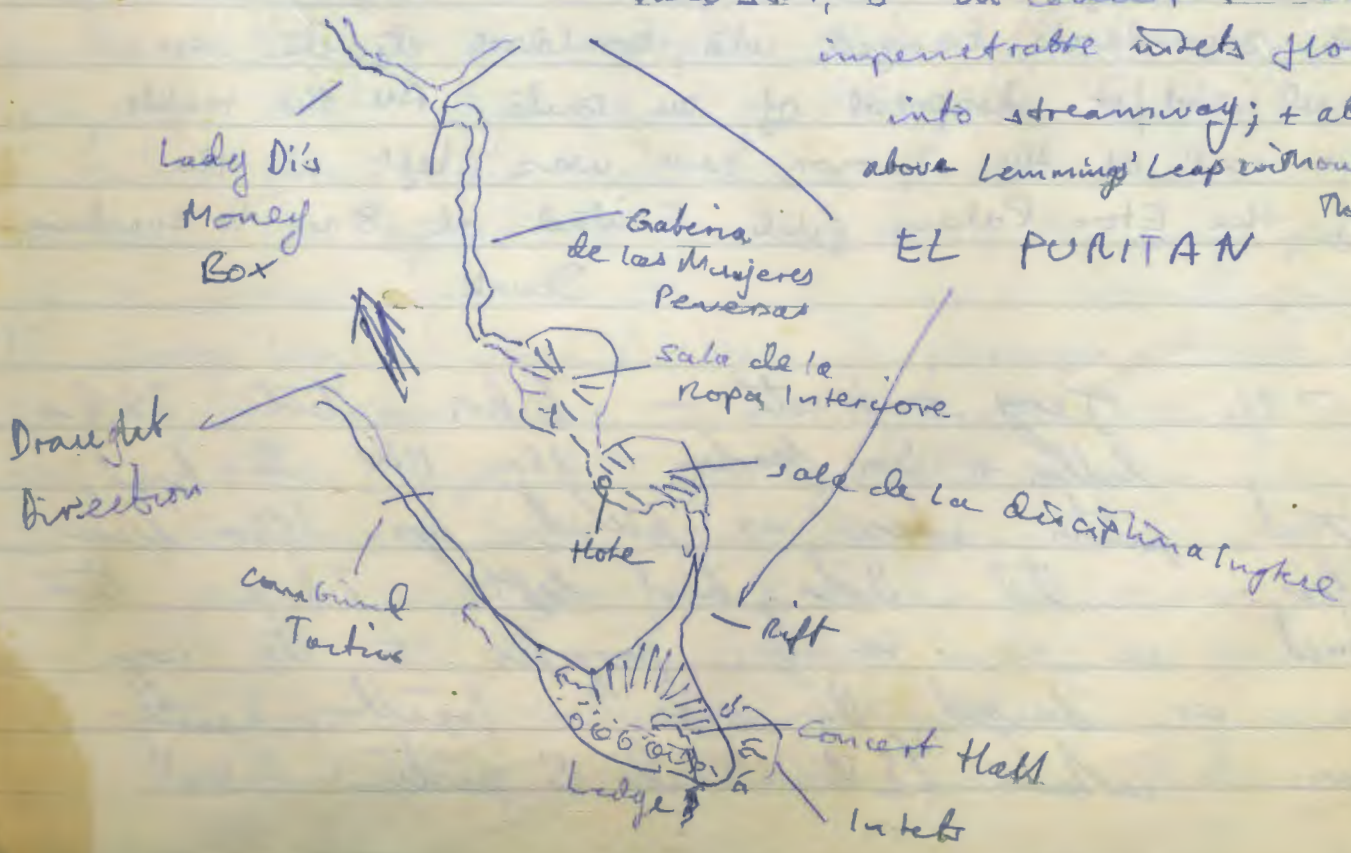
So - Discovery of the century at concert hall? The peak of human boldness + ^{NO!} ~~intrepitude~~ ^{intrepitude (Dave)} ^{FP}. For us it is above all a giant step along the path towards the knowledge of the porno-geology of Aris, and the culmination of work which needs the thick lead lute of the Argonauts and (why not?) a certain deontology. Now the juckety thing will have to be pushed properly and ~~over~~ above all surveyed. About 150-200m of passage took us over 2 hours there + back - it's that hairy.

Grade 1 survey!

(Not to scale, especially chambers!)

PS. Also described in Chambers above lower stream + tunnel high high level (huge) with nice stal, + in concert hall several impenetrable insets flowing into streamway; + about 100 above Lemming's Leap without reaching the roof.

EL PURITAN



00008

PORNO ODISEA



UNANIMIDAD TOTAL



La mejor revista del mundo y parte del extranjero

LAS MUJERES PEVERSAS.

EL PURITAN.

GRADE 6 SURVEY? what? using a Theodolite?

Sat. 11.7.81.

Keith & Skunk. Xite. 19 hours.

An efficient and productive trip re rigging the Flat Iron and Eton Palais pitches. 2 bolts were put in at the head of Flat Iron and a traverse line, and 2 bolts were put in at the head of Eton Palais pitch. All ledges ~~were~~ and previous secondaries banged into boulders etc etc were gardened and/or disposed of en route. All the tackle for the rest of the known cave was left at the top of the Eton Palais pitch. Exited at 8am to sunshine
Skunk.

Tue 14.7.81

Jerry + Keith - 6 hrs - took 3x5m ladders + 5m Marlow + 15m BW to head of trench pitches where we picked up 155m New that John had left. There then followed a sweaty progress to the Crap where we dumped the rope together with spare carbide (1st Evl S parts + 2 small

contains) + 1 phit, apple flukes + 2 hours shoe -
for tomorrow's pushing trip. We then returned to
head of TP pit series - pushed up tangle hay
and went down to pig hold step - I put
the Madon around a natural - put on a spreader + 2x5m
ladders - and descended - bladder appeared to be
5 to 10m from floor - all it needs is someone to shove
another ladder on the end - our third 5m
ladder had fallen out the bottom of the
grotty red tangle hay - we found it
on the way back and left it at bottom
of Inlet Ladder. We made good use
out - Jerry led and showed good
~~navigation~~ route-finding ability and fitness
and we quickly got up the recently
re-rigged entrance series getting out to catch
the last of the day's sun.

14-7 81 Xibe John, Mark + Trevor 10 hrs
Surveying Williams bit. Down much earlier than the
other lazy types. In 11-30am out 9-30pm. No real
problem on the way down. Replaced less efficient mag-wire
belly with shorter type sling on 8th pitch. Packed on down
to find Williams hole which was located with no real
problems. Then spent a long time hiding a survey point in
Teresa Series.

40 survey legs Williams Bit has 3 passages - one of 10m which
one of 50 metres where John decided to survey a
real Grotty Passage to a Grotty Little Sandy Chamber.
Found 15 metres of boring virgin passage.
Larger passage much more fun to survey, but we were all
getting a bit peed off with surveying before we found out it
was so much easier. Eventually, we stopped having surveyed
c 150 metres. Found nice sandy ex-bow to this passage

00010

about 100 metres work, but haven't found connection back to
Williams Bik. Both passages draught strongly. Possible
surface connection. Also noted N-S trend in passages.
Mark a bit knackered on way out but no real
trouble. Nice to get out in daylight.
Ps - why is so much of Xite named after Williams?

Tuesday 14th July

8/5 Jan Skip Sean. 7 hours

8/5 rigged, surveyed, bottomed, derigged.

Pitches measured at

- 1) 11.9 m
- 2) 21.6 m ~~(tried vice p)~~
- 3) 18.4 m (tried vice p)

Jan put in a good bolt at top of 2nd p.

Exploration got no further than Shippy's limit set in 1979
The rift gets too tight, but there is a good draught
at the end of it. The SIE have also left their
mark at the bottom since 1979.

15.7.81.

JOKE Q. What's the difference between an OUGC expedition and
a ping pong ball in a fountain. A. The ping pong ball rickles
about in a fountain.

Wednesday 15th July

Graham, Sean, Hywel.

Put rope on entrance pitch, a handline in Customs Hall
and a bolt at Service Pitch.

Wednesday 1stth July

Ship & William 2/5 & 3/5 Survey. 9 hrs.

2/5

Surveyed & bottomed. Ent pitch = 14m Bolted by William.
Crawl under boulders leads to 2nd p. of 16m landing in
small chamber with no way on, except v. narrow canyon (4")

3/5

(SNAIL)
CARACOL POZU - LOTS WHITE SNAIL SHELLS IN ENTRANCE ROCKLE

Not expected to lead to much. Crawl down rift &
lots of unstable horrible choss leads to 1st P. 8m. Bolted
courtesy of SIC. Lands in small chamber with tight squeeze
descending off. Squeeze widens & drops ^{to 10 climbs leading to} head of 2nd P. clean
washed Yorkshire looking pot. Belay to flake gives 40ft pitch.
Lands in small chamber with 2 tight canyons (which join quickly)
leading off. Following down (rusty muddy crawly thutch leads
to 5m pitch. From pitch bottom, series of climbs lead
down, 1st major climb needs a rope due to smooth walls &
slippery mud. More climbs (10ft, 15ft, 25ft, 10ft) lead to crawl
head & head of 4th P (40ft) v. awkward take off - backward
& crawling down passage to head of pitch. Belay to distant dubious
flake. Pitch has small ledge 10ft from bottom. More (thutchy
descent leads to a) 5th pitch - following water - undescended due to lack of
cackle

b) 50' horrible chossy series of climbs to another
(dry) pitch \approx 25ft

This must be investigated further!!

More ladder needed - This pot does not lend itself to
SRT or obese covers.

N.B. SIC gave up at bottom of 2nd P when going got
tough - rest of cave is ^{definitely} (was) virgin - Getting bigger &
better towards bottom - Present exploration limit about 100m

(SEE PAGE 00094)

00019

Wed 15th July Xita John, Jan, Mark 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs

Dipit survey by oxbow. The stick. \overline{TN} .

Finished surveying 'Wilkins bit' - including a side passage with a strong draught which ended in an oven full of wet mud (in an otherwise dry section). There must be a surface connection here somewhere. This passage was very small -

11 stations in 29 m of cave.

After that, we went to investigate the 'bold step' which Keilh had partly rigged yesterday. We didn't des and - didn't jerry a 70' ice-hanging ladder with no lifeline!

Thurs 16 July Messing about with tackle in Xitu Graham Mark Hynes
10 hrs

For me, most of the trip went like the enclosed mayhem. Nearly killed Mark on several occasions via rocks falling off Acaulake pitch. I for one would feel a bit happier if someone took a broom to all the dross on top of this pitch. Impressed. Took 3 bags of camping gear to top of big pitch.

Hynes.

0 val Maillon + open gate + sideways load = 40' free-fall (nearly!)

Thurs 16th July. John, Richard, Dave. Xitu. 10hrs.

At last! The secrets of the '6dd step' revealed! A v. efficient trip with 2 bolt kits took us down 5 excellent shafts to Chopper Pitch chamber. 3 ropes + 2 ladders. Some of the bolted rock was a trifle dubious but the "situations" are first class; particular the 4th pitch leading off from a ledge with a "wall" of caliche-slit. At the top of the next + last 1 bolted played the harmonica while the others bolted like demons to complete the rig in about 15 ~~minutes~~ minutes. We would have surveyed it but I dropped the tape down most of the pitches from the top, which did it no good at all. A much nicer route to the far L^u Upper Streamway than the Trench/Leat/Chopper way, even if not quite the discovery of the century some hoped it might be.

00014

Thurs/Fri. 16th/17th The Treen Campaign
renew + Jan. A tale full of horror, suspense, mystery.
The horror - the "path" we followed down to Treen involving
vertical bits, horrible loose scree slopes, and generally bloody
lethal all round.

The suspense - would we get down without breaking our necks

The mystery - where the fuck was the path gone?

Hints to all those walking from Ains to Cain

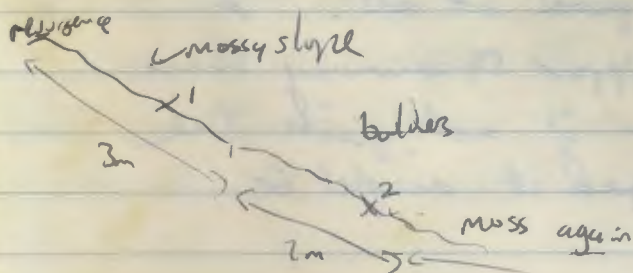
- 1) Go the right way at the beginning - it's quite easy (ie as
easy as the hardest bit from Lagers to Ains, all the way).
- 2) Don't follow the stream bed down from Treen.
- 3) The best way to find the path is guess.
- 4) It's easier by road.

Anyway the net result was Jan + I absolutely knackered worse than
nothing went right at all. A total abortion all round.
Still we found the Treen resurgence + placed 2 detectors.
Location of Treen detectors.

Stream comes out down mossy slope.

2 metres from mouth of stream we placed the first detector
fixed to white calcitey rock.

5 metres from mouth of stream second detector is placed.



Stream was through boulders + is only visible in one place six inches
from bank - second detector again fixed to calcitey rock.

Wed 15th - Fri 17th Xitu Skunk + Keith. 36 1/2 hours

This was the trip we'd been looking forward to for mgh on a year. Preparations had been extensive - well, maybe not extensive but Jerry & I had taken some food and the ISS in Madon down to the head of the Gap the previous day. I'd spent hours cutting the ends off cigarettes so they'd fit in my cigarette case and we'd even taken some space carbide. We'd awoken and breakfasted late with the intention of an unhurried start. In this at least we did not err. Midday arrived and we were nearly ready, at 1.00 pm and we were more nearly ready and at 2.00 pm we actually got down the ice. We set off down the ice at a relaxed comfortable pace ~~pace~~ unimpeded by tache.

At the Gap we picked up the ISS in rope, 1 photo apple flakes, 3 bars chocolate, 1 roll of ase wipe that already looked as if it had been used six times over, 3 bars choc. and an assortment of Topy slings. We reached the big patch by 5.00, descended and picked up the bag of rope (63m - Vytty, 20m ~~pebblehook~~ 35m - Page 5' rope) that the No (52m - Sam I, 20m - Sam II, 20m - Dumpster) that the Rose - Gregson duo had thoughtfully omitted to take down on their "purging" trip of a couple of days before. Progress was subsequently rather slower. 8.00 saw us at the head of Sam I where we replaced the ropes which Dave had tied together to descend. ~~At~~ At head of Sam II we made the interesting observation that the wire belay was cutting through the rock rather like cheese and therefore attached it. We picked up the three tache bags that Dave & Richard had left and continued with our 5 tache bags - progress was strenuous and awkward

from there on through the difficult section of streamway
to Dampstunation. We rigged this patch using
the most-rotten anchors of the previous year
deciding that the promulg at least would shortly
have to be replaced as rather a lot of
it sticks out from the rock
Pythagoras was easy to rig - was belay as I^o
top as II^o on same materials as last year. And at
the bottom we managed to get all the tackle on 4
tackle bags.

~~Chorchoch~~ A few minute inspection of
the top of chorchoch revealed a miscellany of
excellent natural belays far superior to the handful
of mud and grit "wedged" in the rift which
had been used last year. I chose a couple
such that gave a nice dry preclimb that with only
one rope protector necessary at the top.

6.00 am Thursday morning we reached Base
B'Base. A nice big wedged boulder gave a
reasonable belay for the end of 40m Madon ~~base~~
which I used as a safety line while climbing
down a 7m to a ledge above the patch.
Made a thread belay as I gave a or decent dry
100' preclimb to the bottom of this fine shaft.
10m old Madon was used as a tail to hang
down the preclimb as the rope between I^o
& II^o is taut - some people might like to
lose a foothold for the changeover for the
head of the patch.

A ~~tin~~ of We breakfasted on a tin of
sardines a few ^{squares} of chocolate and a
very welcome bag and at 7.15 am - 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours
of the bottom of L'ete.

A nice section of ^{large} winding maddled streamway with a few short chinks saw us to a 3m
 scramble down to an attenuated Lake greenish
 lake of unknown depth - ^{Emerald Lake} we traversed
 around the RH wall. ~~A little more~~

The streamway soon gave way to a short
 inclined rift which was blocked by a boulder
 fall after 50m or so. Climbing up
 over the boulders leads to a larger section of passage
 which ~~was~~ shortly returned to the streamway.

The stream subsequently cascades down a rock
 slope for about 40' the top section is chert
~~rock~~ - but the bottom is too steep. The pitch

~~however~~ was obviously designed for ladders
 - of which we obviously had none. However not
 to be defeated I eyed a small
 hole between large boulders jammed overhead
 in the rift. Balancing precariously on a rock

a lunged upwards - caught hold of a
 flake and hauled myself upwards - I
 quickly tried to jam myself in the small
 hole between the boulders before I fell out
 and then laboriously worked myself through the
 upward squeeze. Emerging into a small
 chamber I looked around and a few
 feet away observed a much larger hole
 leading back into the rift. I'd put
 word out of what had been observed from
 below. There then followed a period of

profound blasphemy
 As the floor descended and
 subsequently disappeared and I found myself
 in the roof of the rift with the
 streamway ~~which~~ 100' below. I

rigged the pitch with natural - short was being to flake us I° ,
 tapes for II° and III° . This pitch is to be known
 as Flier Pot. We found it after 18 hours of
 crawling and an 18hr shift is known as "a flier"
 It dropped into nice piece of streamway liberally
 sprinkled with clinks. This is followed by
 waterfall which is bypassed on right by "The
 Traverse of Truth" - one then climbs along
 an area of rock - the "Tetrahedron" which
 after 50' or so drops in a tight, sharp
 hanging rift which rps Petzl's route to
 Shreds - ash Shred - this is "Ferdie's Delight"
~~Several~~ Several hundred feet of this
 nut-shagging, body-shagging, morale-shagging
 passage are followed by a small chamber the
 river disappears down a 4" slot to left and
 we climbed up to a perch 25' above
 the stream from which a rather unsafe climb
 down regains the streamway. After 50'
 they lead to a wet overhanging 10m pitch
 which will require botting for a day
 strong. This appears to lead on a ledge ~~where~~
 beyond which is 15' drop to another ledge and
 then we thought we could make out another
 short pitch beyond.

11:30 am Thursday morning we set forth
 began our 15 hour ascent out of the
 cave - emerging to a beautiful moonlit night
 at half past two Friday morning.
 Tackle recommended for extensive cache
 lugging, pushing trays in Xiter = Four boxes
 (a) 4 boxes normal cigarette supply
 (b) Ammo box of either Valium or Librium.
 (c) Cyanide capsule (only to be used in extremis)
 (d) Biome clinks - not susceptible to damage

when belted against rock walls.

- (e) Spare boots, light undersuit, oversuit, SRT gear, knucke
- (f) Replacement crutch - to be used when the first one is chafed out of existence
- (g) Replacement harness - to be used when front one is worn out of existence by lack of sleep.

Fri 17th July. Xitu Bold step pitches. Shippy Sean Ferry. 10 hours

Trip to Survey, photograph, detackle Bold step → Chopper chamber.

This was done. Slowly. Entrance pitches mildly wet on way out. Exit @ 00.30 hrs.

Saturday 18th July Xitu - Lower Picture Area Tackle retrieval. W & William & John

Got off at 11.30am. in direct contrast to y'day's trip. Case v. wet. ^{3 1/2 hrs} changed position of tackle bag rope, in waterspout on 6^m 9 metre pitch, ran off quickly to lower picture area where retrieved 2 tackle bags & bolt kits chained rope. Out rapidly in passing wet conditions. Like Swildons but different

SIE 1

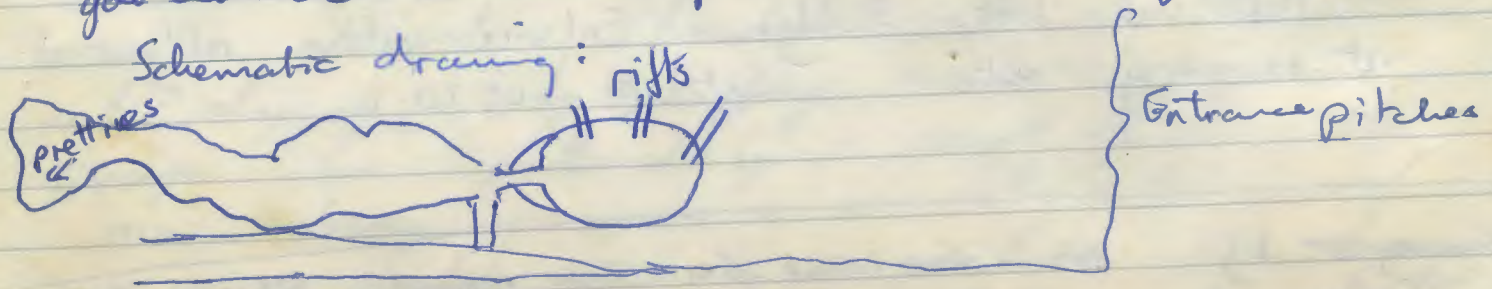
20mins

William & Jerry

WJS dropped ammo can down pit when outside hauling. Rigger pitch (40') with ladder & found snow plug with festing carbide dropped by Jha & also a slightly bent ammo can. Speedy exit. Acquire of way on at bottom.

Sunday 19 July Pushing/surveying trip above big pitch William Trevor Hynes
2970 hrs

Started off doing a bit of surveying in Williams holes had a look around the Theresa series for holes & went down a few, with no results. At the end of the series, a little way before the climb, we had a bit of success. At this point, just before a small sandy chamber, a large cubic boulder lies wedged in the path. normally you walk under it but if you get on top of it & climb up the rift for a little way to your right you arrive in a large chamber, just to your right.



Crawling past the large flake to your left you find that you are in a series of impressive chambers over boulders which for some or for a couple of hundred metres till you end up in a grotto of pretties (really pretty). An obvious name for this bit seems to be the SNOW CASTLE and the series going up to it THE SHANNON series. we had a look at most of the lower level possibilities for continuation with no success & at some of the rifts going up through the roof of the first chamber which look fairly promising. One note: look where you tread because there are a lot of delicate punctures on the floor, all over the place. Bugged off out.

Note:- also nice crystalline formations in Snow Lake Chamber. Very interesting.

Trevor's ox-bow is the greatest place for surveying imaginable

Monday 20th July

Shank + Trevor surveyed between Refugio + Xitu entrances for re-estimation of height of Xitu.

Afternoon spent walking over the hills + her canyon.

After 2 1/2 hours spent heading towards the tabled ridge cave (possibly ~~the~~ a hymn of Dave Ross imagination)

we decided enough was enough + came back again.

Caving-wise little of interest, some shafts but probably too far away to be of use. 28/5 could do with pushing.

Tue. 21.7.81.

Altitude of Xitu entrance calculated at 1652m.

Tuesday 21-7-81

Xitu. Trevor, Colin, Leo, George, Tony

Surveying pretty bits + introductory trip to CAGT base great for lugging 200m maulow through rift due to

CN taking dumb high level route. Still an hour later at the bottom of the 1st Rift Pitch we were able

to move on it v. slowly. Eventually reached bottom of Snow Castle Series. While C, K + T surveyed up using mega 20m

legs. G + I looked up for all possible holes as ways on. Most climbs unfortunately extremely chossy + so not pushed

terribly hard due to Law of Death. All were terribly impressed with Snow Castle + prettier. Looked around a lot and found even more beautiful stuff

A really great place, pity we were shifting it up. Left + detached, hopefully only one more trip - photographic will

be going there. Today rope to Gap + then jammed on out with few problems. Everyone a bit knackered on entrance series

it was their first Xitu trip. Still a good trip. T.N.

Tues 21 EL PURITAN pushing & surveying (Mark William Jerry Myrval)
 at this point (just having come out) there were only two
 things I want to say. First, thanks to skip for helping
 me out on the big pitch & secondly, if you go down
 the 40ft ladder suggested by Dave & Richard you get
 to a small chamber LA SALON DES INCONTINENTES
VOLURS DE BORDEAUX which after a short
 climb descends into combined fact as a deep part of
 the low level opening out of these chambers. Only way
 on seems to be over a mud slope which we
 didn't have the gets or tackle for. Someone else
 please write something I'm going to bed

Mark & Hywel pushing and rigging, William & Jerry surveying
 Efficient? - no chance. We bolted first climb down (45') and
 used handline. Investigated hole in floor (see page 7 for
 sketch) - it does go through to Combined Tacties. Then climbed
 loose rubbish at end of chamber, onto right. Bolted &
 loaded 40' hole in floor. Hywel descended. This also
 goes to main streamway. That was as far as we got
 what pioneers! We thought we had reached the end, so
 Hywel & Mark exited immediately while surveyors de-rigged.
 We met the returning campers at the bottom of the big
 pitch. Various cock-ups ensued, which I should describe
 since my part in it wasn't very clever. The result was that
 I exited at about 5am (17 1/2 hrs) Hywel at 8:30 (21 hrs)
 with John & Skippy, and William / Jerry at midday (22 hrs)
 Sorry chaps. No courses.

Mark

Surveyors - 22 3/4 hrs, ARGG

Meanwhile the Surveyors went on a trip which started efficient & ended highly
 inefficient. Caught down at 12:30 & went quickly enough to catch up pushing party rigging
 2nd climb. Thus a lot of waiting, surveyed what there was to survey (7 legs) & detached
 went down cave to allow ^{time for} Mark & Hywel to get up Big Pitch & met John & Skippy (11 pm) ^{who asked us to carry their packs}
 who asked us to carry bags. Fine trip to Samaritan I² & returned to find Big Pitch still blocked
 (fell at 2:30am) & hauled tackle bags to top & set off at a snail's pace out -
 7 hrs! Another epic which achieved almost nothing. William
 * Jerry didn't fall, The cave fell on Jerry!

Saturday 18th - Mon 20th

Resurgence location & detector placing - Cores Gorge
Mark, Graham, Jan

Camped at Cornamonia on Saturday night, and walked to Caen & back on Sunday (24 kms) Placed the following detectors.

- 1) Large obvious resurgence on opposite side of Gorge to path
 - 2) Resurgence at Cutibomb
 - 3) Stream from A ria, near sea
 - 4) Caen resurgence
 - 5) A bare Caen resurgence, in river
- Graham has full details.

This gorge is very impressive. If any of you get the chance to walk it - take it.

We also found a fairly grotty cave entrance near ^{Cutibomb} ~~the~~ which is in the right area to connect with Xitu.

Camped Sunday night at Cornamonia, returned Mon am

Sunday 19th July - Wednesday 22nd July.

Skippy, Dave, Richard, John (S)

EL Camping

After an abortive attempt on Saturday to start this trip, the campers were finally ready on Sunday morning. (The previous attempt was abandoned due to lack of tackle bags). At two o'clock, the party left the sunshine etc. with three tackle bags full of assorted clothes, camping gear and ropes and struggled through the rift. More gear was picked up at Cover piccy Aven and at the top of the Big Fitch, giving the campers seven bags and one ladder to carry down. The descent was fairly smooth from there onwards except for the bolting of the mantle shelf, ^{for a ladder} where lethargy and cold set in.

However, hauling tackle up or down the Marble Steps is hell, especially if the contents of the bags mustn't get wet.

The campsite was chosen as one of the boulder chambers at stream level just at the base of the Pythagoras Pitch. While Skip and Dave went to recover the bolt kits from left last year in the Cheese Grater, Richard and John set up one of the hammocks and put half a packet of Beef Stroganoff on. The time was now about three forty am. Dinner ~~was~~ finally consisted of soup, Beef Stroganoff, A can of sardines each and some water.

After some histrionics involving trying to get into sleeping bags and hammocks at the same time everyone got to sleep at about 5-30 am, with Dave on the floor as his hammock was too high.

Monday

"Morning" arrived at about 12 noon with my alarm clock going off. Breakfast was the rest of Beef Stroganoff and half a tin of Morning Foods porridge with the traditional cup of tea (one mug between four!). We finally set off down the cave at about 3-30 pm with Dave and John pushing and Richard and ~~Mr~~ Skippy surveying. When we arrived at Rope & rope the rig was so bad that Richard and Skippy stayed behind to put two ~~more~~ bolts in while Dave and I went ahead to find the route. About half way to Flyer Pitch we heard a huge crash which

turned out to be the primary belay of Rope B
 being kicked off. After a wait at the head
 of Flyer we finally went back to get
 the bolt kit and pushed off. The
 Truth Traverse turned out to ~~appear~~ be a bit
 dicey so it was bypassed by hanging
 a rope from two tape slings ~~from~~ by
 a waterfall. As the traverse is directly below
 the Flyer, it isn't too inconvenient to prusik
 up the bypass and keep your gear on.
 A climb up leads to the start of the
 rift. Instead of going straight down to
 the stream, follow a horizontal crevasse
 which soon widens into a boulder chamber.
 As soon as the water is reached again,
 traverse up about 4 metres and then follow
 the rift at its obvious widest point until
 the roar of the stream can be heard
 below. Dave and I then rigged a line
 down to the stream and straight away
 ran into Abasian pitch. I put in a
 secondary and Dave banged in a primary
 and then abseiled down to find a large
 pool, which probably explains the gloop-
 gloop noise heard from above. The
 passage beyond is huge vadose streamway sloping
 down at $\approx 20^\circ$ and containing much more
 water than seen before in the cave.
 We then returned speedily to the head
 of Flyer where we found Skippy and
 Richard, who had surveyed the passage
 up ~~to~~ there. Richard had then thrown
 both of their prusik bags down a part of
 the rift inaccessible to the pitch. The rope

was snagged and the rope used for Richard to abseil down to grab the bag. Confusion ensued ~~and~~ which resulted in about 5m of the rope being snagged on a ledge as he started to pull out. He fell about 4-5m and landed on his wrist and arm, fortunately not doing much ~~of~~ damage.

We got to bed at about 6 am after chilli con carne and pea soup Tuesday.

The alarm clock didn't go off and so we started out at about 5-30pm. Richard's wrist was a bit bugged so he bound it up with tape and we fetched the line off PAFS pot, rigged the bag before, to use to help him up climbs. Dave and he set off first, followed by Skippy and me with ~~to~~ a tackle bag each. The bloody things were a bit of a bind on the marble steps and we were glad to leave them with Janvy and Will at the Big pitch. Dave and Richard got out at ~ 2-30 am. We got out with Hywel after the traffic jam described before at about 9 am.

JS.

Footnote: John + Richard held out the full trip without a shit. Skippy went on Day 2 somewhere near The Flyer announcing that the need was... er... pressing. Dave used the UNESCO/WHO approved method of a buried plastic bag on day three + notes that putting on a dammart top before pulling down one's furry is a useful refinement. DR.

Wed's 22nd July - Colin, Jan, John F. + Jim.

Supposedly a combined trip, Colin + Jan to tidy up Dream Lake 1 and fetch gear from top of Flat Iron, John + Jim to learn cave down to the gap. After John + Jim left, efficiently as usual, Jan + I fiddled around until 2:30, but then caught them up on the last extreme pitch. Fairly slow going to trench pitches with J + J. requiring much carbide fettling. Speeded up through Teresa series where John refused at Servicio (4 faults), rightly pointing out a shitty belay (there are an awful lot of them around.) and refusing even to descend the new super-improved version. Jan + I carried on down to D.L. + spent 3 1/2 hrs looking for a decent bit of rock to bolt, or a reasonable natural belay. There aren't any so don't waste any more time. ~~Got~~ Got thoroughly cold + pissed off so we exited having put a 60m Marlow on DL1. Retrieved Graham's prussik bag for him, but otherwise achievement rated a big '0'. Absolutely knackered after a 11 hr trip.
Colin.

Friday 24th July - Colin, George, Kevin.

An attempt to make up for the last abashin. Descended @ 12:30 thanks to more fiddling around by me. Very smooth trip to D.Lake. 60m Marlow rigged onto D.L. 1 + 2 + D.L. 1 ladder extended. System is now: Ab. down DL1, convert into big loop, change onto DL 2 + carry on down. Prussik DL2. convert into loop + self line up DL1. Not too bad but:

- 1) beware, the mega rope protector is only just long enough to cover both nub points of DL 1
- 2) could be neater to extend ladder belay by ~ 4' + remove bottom 5m ladder.

Carried on down to F.I., George fixed knackered rope protector on F.I. II + we exited with two tackle bags of assorted guano from camp.

Mucho rubbish left in cave - sardine cans, choccy wrappers carbide etc. tried to tidy up as best as possible. Smooth but slowish exit @ 12:30 - a good trip, the best I've had for some time.

Colin.

For the tackle master information gear is distributed as follows.

Top of trench: 60m Marlow, 5m old marlow handline, Tape loop, 3 Krabs.

Gap: Bag of tape - 19m 1" orange, ~ 15m s/blue tube + odds + sods

Pitling clip: 25m B/W, spreader, 2 mailons, cat.

F. Iron: 200m Marlow, 1 Marlow bag, 25m B/W, 1 hand line, couple of Crabs.

00028

Sat 25th July Tom & Andy 10/5 & 11/5 exploration.

10/5 had an old JIE bolt in it, but we put in a good new one with natural backup. 30m rope plenty. Shaft chokes at bottom (with a large boulder blocking a short crawl - at least 6ft horizontal). Halfway down though, a ledge gives access to a number of passages. Behind the ledge, a rift can be followed for about ~~10~~ 10m until too chossy & narrow. Along the ledge gives a short crawl to chokes. Traversing across the shaft gives another tight crawl which chokes after 10m.

11/5 shakehole has a new shaft by a tree on its side. This had been previously explored to a snow plug, and we can repeat this result - but it's a ~~few~~ ^{few} ~~big~~ ^{big} snow plug. Double natural backup plus protectives left the 30m rope dangling free, so we put on the 80m. A number of parallel shafts join up underground, but no route past the snow could be found. Measured depth 22m (by hand) - but felt like more. A promising shaft apart from the snow.

T.A.

Sat 25th July Mark & Pete Xiter 13 hrs

This was an introductory trip for Pete, and the intention was to investigate the holes in the floor of Teresa series after 'snow-castle', and the holes in COB series around the Overhang (currently 'dotted in' on main survey). We discovered a series of phreatic passages which provide a connection between a trench in the floor of the main passage above the Overhang, and the aforementioned holes. We surveyed the connection, but not the lower passages. These go down about 30m, and take a small stream, previously seen in the main passage. The series ends in a collection of mud swamps.

Pete got very tired on the way out - as is usual for a first-timer, and a serious problem arrived when he lobbed off the right

pitch, and landed on me, 15' below. He suffered no physical injuries except concussion. I got badly bruised ribs. He made a second attempt, using my cross-tail this time, but by the time he reached the top the concussion/shock was taking effect. He was seriously disorientated, and was unable to remember ~~about~~ anything for more than a few seconds. Eventually I got him to come back down the ladder, and went up myself with all the gear. It was then a fairly simple matter to guide him through the rift from ahead, and we returned to the Regio without further incident. The whole business added about an hour to the length of the trip. The moral of this story is that the pitch you drop off will be the one where you don't use a lifeline.

Mark

Sun 26th July

Amazing! Absolutely everybody doing something today - and all gone by 1:30 pm - except me.

M

28/5 John, Trevor + Ken. H.

Left on the great march at 11:30 with 80m maulaw, 1 ladder, 1 belay, tape + bulk kit. Bravely staggered on up the hill in terrible heat to reach cave - about 200m above Xiter. To find it is quite easy. Use a mega-obvious hole on the hillside of the hill next to Sulayu and 28/5 is 100m to the left.

Having reached said hole, we spent 2 hours passing around trying to find a suitable belay for the left pitch. 20ft down the hole - 20ft easy climb but a rope handy. However, there is a distinct lack of natural belay, and the rock is 100% pure caliche \Rightarrow no way we

could bolt the bigger. At this point we decided to give up and find lots of belays etc. + try and ladder the last pitch and bolt lower down when the rock is rock and not shit. After this we set off along the ridge to Tylkay, a walk which is pretty heavy if you're nose sense of heights and a rucksack on your back. TW.

Sun 26th July Pozo del Conalizo

Tony, Ken, Andy (lugging), Pete (weeieing)

Arrived with 140m (ish) rope for 137m shaft (!!) with intention of pushing passage off shaft about 40m down.

We used 3 SIE bolts + 1 new (good) one and many hours of knotting practice until we had a good rig (2 bolt backup traverse line across shaft to 8m-high on dual bolts). Ken descended to a ledge about 10m down & attempted to re-bolt. A number of chossy holes & a poor bolt, ^{added by} later, he came up. I went down to finish off & discovered an SIE bolt lower down. It was OK (! Amusement!). So rebelayed with backup on Ken's bolt and continued down. Ken had placed a protective at the top.

I placed the only one I had just below the SIE bolt, but it required another good meter length one about 1 1/2m below bolt. Having discovered this, I returned up & we had another hour of rope snapping before a horrible piece of springing twisting rubber appeared. I managed to trap this & tie it to the rope - but it refused to lie still. While changing back to abbing gear, it & the rope reversed! After bawling around I managed to trap most of it behind the rope, & descended down very slowly. After another 15-20m a shelf appears to the side with a nice passage off. A 3m pendulum would land on the ledge, but would have removed the essential protective - so it was left. It went away from Xitu, & I would feel that it was 'upstream'. I continued down (free) into a large black

void about 15m diameter, bottom not visible with a good beam. It should have been about 100m down. No other obvious passage existed, so due to lack of adequate protection & short rope I came out. We left the pitch rigged as ~~described~~ described and further protection will be necessary for the pendulum, or (presumably) further rope for the bottom. It would be possible to use a separate rope for the top 10m.

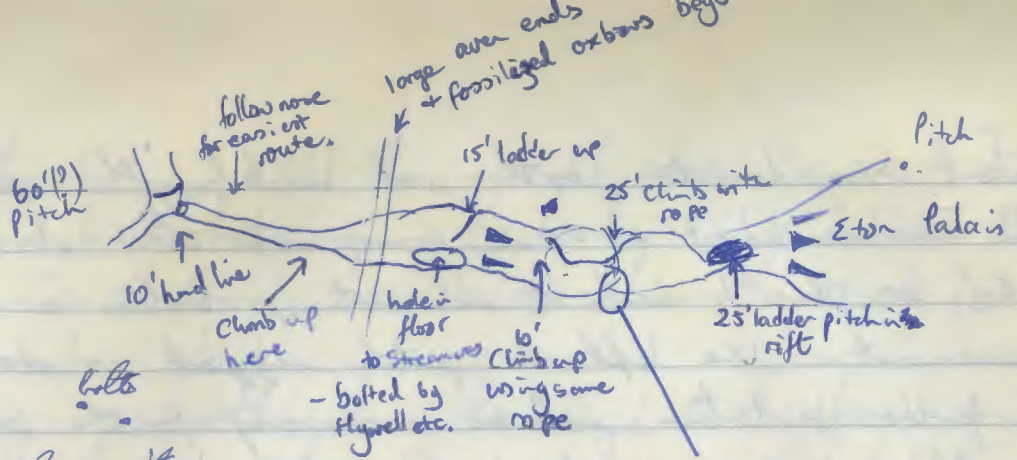
P.S. Floppy rubber inner tubes are not rope protectors!

P.P.S. A large amount of personal gear was used for ~~rigging~~ rigging (all crabs & mauls, some thimbles).

107

Sun 26th & a good part of 27th July El Paríter Dave, George, Colin

Desaded around 12-30, a ~~and~~ smooth trip down to Plat 1m



60' Pitch higher route for, dips down & leads to another pitch (40-50')

leads on formation leads back

following left after the climb & trending downwards, leads to a stream

- Tackle distribution :- E.P. Aven 60m Marlow, short Marlow Handline, tape bag, Gup - tape bag ~ 30m assorted tape Pilling Slip - 25m B/W, spreader, cut matlan?

Cavalitas Sun 26th Tony, Andy + Kev S.

Found entrance easy enough! Put a really good bolt in and used old SIF bolts as secondaries - seemed good enough. Kev S. descended - placed one rope protector. Further down there is another rub point which can be avoided if you abseil to passik intelligently! At a small ledge follow down a sloping crack on the lower wall of the shaft to 2 bolts. Kev put one in which was pretty awful and was halfway through another when it was realised that the rock around the bolting spot was cracked all around. So another was started until loss of circulation prompted an exit. Tony then descended to found an old SIF bolt so used this as primary and Kev's bolt as a secondary. A 3ft rope protector was needed below the belay to protect against many rub points and further down Tony realised there was another rub point. The floppy old inner tube protector that was

placed here proved to be particularly useless — nevertheless Tony descended to a ledge at about -30 → 40m and abseiled a bit further down the main shaft. The way off that we were supposed to look at was seen leaving from the big ledge but needed a pardu. So Tony came up and we called it a day.

Mar 27th. Canalizers again, Kevs + Andy.

Quickly down to second belay point due to the excessive heat altside. Managed to change over onto main hang OK but put 2nd rope protector in wrong place. Pussiked back up & fixed it. Tapped the rubber protector up with small strips of rubber & it seemed to work quite well. And set an anchor to the large ledge.

Unfortunately it was difficult to pardu onto the ledge because I was 1/2m from the nearest wall. Attempts to "wobble" over to the rock walls only gave me twangs from another bad rub point about 13m above. Eventually got across to the ledge by reaching with the bolt hammer & catching a small flake. Tumbled up onto ledge. Since I was now safe I started to undip everything and almost let go of the rope until I realised I wouldn't be able to retrieve it!! Gulp! Wanging in a pitor & looped a long cars-tail around rope. I now had to climb up a 5ft overhang to get to the bit which seemed to go off. This wasn't too bad but I realised going back down was going to be a bit "orrid". The way off turned out to be 2 'eye' pits both of which almost certainly link with the main pitch below. No way off horizontally at all.

I now had to get on the rope again and didn't want to climb down the 5' overhang. The rope however was out of reach and to retrieve it I had to fish for the castail holding it in to the ledge, with the bolt hammer. See below.

Luckily this worked and I got hold of the rope. Rigged the rack then, because I didn't want to twang the rope too much / gradually lowered myself over the edge. As I was doing so I heard a grating noise and looked down to see the piton about to come out. I realised that if it did I would lose my long castail, a crab and a piton so I panicly flung a leg out and put my boot under the ~~castail~~. This sudden movement caused the piton to give way, and me to lose my hand-hold. So I parachuted into the main shaft, completely out of control with my left leg stuck up at some ridiculous angle!

After the tremendous twanging subsided I got hold of the castail - piton & crab OK and descended another 15-20m with the rope & twanging periodically. The pitch opened out in the direction of the 2 'eye' pots so they must certainly link with the main shaft. Illuminating all around further down showed no other possible side



passed so I came up. Rope had to be chopped as the
above mentioned rub point had done half the job
already.

15 There is an SIF bolt & hanger on the ledge as shown in
the drawing ←. If you want to go down further, re-
belay here and put another bolt over the main drop.
There may be an SIF bolt somewhere over the main
drop but I couldn't see it. Kev.

Mon 27 July

28/5, now 3/9

John, Trevor & Pete.

An hours walk in the searing sunshine towards the cave (re-named 3/9 by
Jerry in green paint the previous day) again, with several ladders, belays etc.

Yesterday's surra belay points, around a rock were already rigged with an 80m

Marlow & 25' ladder. A further 25' & a 15' ladder were added by Trevor. John

& myself then laddered down past the first rub point, about 15' down, & abseiled

to the ledge, ~65' feet down. Put in 2 bolts over main shaft (over 1 hour each in very hard

white rock.) then abseiled down to bottom, some snow plug, up to 20' thick. No way on. Dimensions 6m x 1.4m x 55m
height

restoring my authority, etc.

Sunday 28th July. In search of new potential. Jerry William Skip

Left fairly late (ie after lunch) to search for promising holes
near Canalizos, armed with a jam pot of green paint and a
brush supplied by Eduardo. Two false starts: first a forgotten
camera and second a lack of notebook & pens. Pleasant troll
over to canalizos to find Kev Tony & Andy having great fun.

+ learnt how to do fig of '8's & bowlines on bights. Will munched
on dry prot veg! Labeled canalizos as 1/8. since we weren't
sure which area we were in, and decided it wasn't 5.

Departed uphill over Karrens, found promising rift that lost
its promise after closer investigation. Labeled rift as 2/8 to

warn off others. Back down Karren a short distance found a

really good hole with snowplug, but closer investigation ~~revealed~~

revealed a positive lack of potential so once again labeled

* or how 28/5 became 3/9!

(as $3/8$) to avoid people wasting time rediscovering it. Good chockstone in entrance rift provided good photo of Skip above black void. however. Heading SSE found large shakehole with passage leading S to short pitch we were unable to descend, first decent find!! Marked as $4/8$ stopped for oranges and Will munched some dry prostoreg. By now standard work to describe the descent and sounding out for potential of all holes rifts etc was established as to "go for a firkin!" Heading SE, across a valley to an obvious entrance nothing decent was passed. The obvious entrance was quite large with a snowplug but the rift at the end was choked and possibilities on a ledge at a higher level proved to be non-existent. However the size of this entrance merited a mark, so this is now marked as $5/8$.

Continuing SE out of valley Will set off up a dry valley which after inspection revealed none. Further east an area of multiple collapse was inspected and revealed little else other than snow plugs, but just as we left the area we noticed an SE mark and returned to find a very decent shaft. It was marked as bottomed \otimes . The shaft was about 20m deep to a snowplug, and we marked it Oucc $6/8$ \circ ie unbottomed, since it may be worth a poke around (or a 'firkin'). It is worth noting that we may have easily missed $6/8$, so who knows what we did miss?

Kept on heading SE into next valley, but time was getting on (I'm not mentioning countless blatantly choked shakeholes that were investigated since we could have been up to about $77/8$ by now!) Stopped for some sardines and Will ate some dry prostoreg (and so did I). Skippy was suffering from a U.V. overdose so decided to depart for the refugio. I however wanted to mark a fantastic shaft I'd found the other day on the way to investigate ridge cave (we never got round to that), so Will & I continued. Lots of boring choked shakeholes were half

heartedly investigated going SE one of which could not be conclusively crossed off since it wasn't possible to get down to its snowplug so we marked it as 1/9 (we got tired of area 8 so since we were in a new big valley naturally called it area 9). Then we went to that high entrance visible from the refugio area, and had a good Pitkin and decided that though impressive in dimensions and looking in potential and safety, due to collapse, some quite recent, it deserved a number, so that was 2/9.

And so Will & I trotted on to this fantastic shaft I'd found a few days earlier, but shock! horror! there was a ladder down it! There being no response from below we carefully marked it as 3/9. (who wouldn't)

Will departed to go up Juttayu (to round the day off) and I followed shortly after then I didn't make the top cos I was knackered. Then back to refugio to discover that 3/9 was really 28/5. (stomach sank, great annoyance, etc, etc) but saw numerous, side (if there was one) sorry this is so long but I'm a bit tiddly.

RIPDIP.

27th-28th July Squalid days at Ais
 Everyone sensibly left for Lagos (carrying a few brave souls (succ, hard-men) ^{youmen} to live with no sugar, salt, bread, meat etc. If this wasn't bad enough they decided to add salt in the moorad by sending up stale bread. Many of the 20th saw us without gas as well. Anyone for dried bread + water?
 Weekend food organisation obviously started this week.

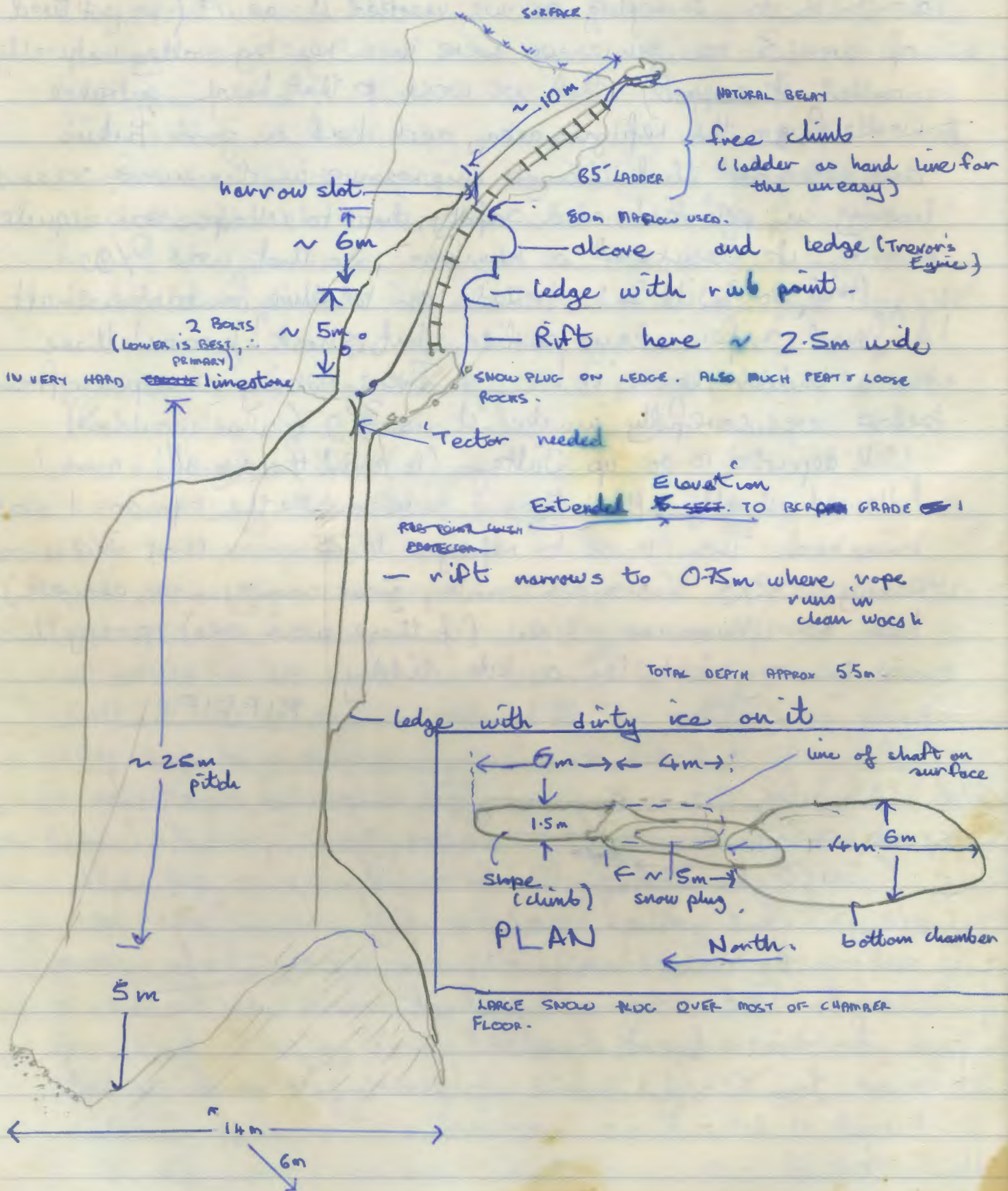
TN

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MON 27TH JULY

3/9 (CONTD.)

JOHN, TREVOR & PETE.



Mon 27th - Tues 28th July El Puriton (again) Tony, Vivian H, William 18 hrs

Set off to finish the survey & push it inspired in El Puriton. Left Refuge at about 12 midday, and had a reasonable trip down to Eton Palais. I noticed a couple of poor bolts - 1 on D.L. II, the other on Flat Iron II, and we thought we might rebolt F.I. II on our way out.

We progressed through El Puriton slowly but steadily. We found it safely tackled. By the time we got to Lady Di's Money base, we were a few hours behind our planned time, & so we decided not to descend. We then detackled the whole series, hauling up & leaving most of the tackle at the top of F.I. Some other small ropes were left with the 80m Manba at C.P. Area. Our exit was slow, but steady and we emerged at Dawn. (6 am). A satisfying but bruising trip.

Tackle Posn: -

- Flat Iron 2 ladders, rope + handline ^(25m?) ^(10m?) from Lady Di's M.B., Down + Up Handline (20m?)
 + Krab, thimble & hanger (total) on Mulu bag containing above ropes.
- C.P. Area: 2 x 5m handline, 25m rope (B/W) - these were collected on the way ~~was~~ down from U.P.A.
- Other krabs, hangers etc brought out.

28th July First Photographic Trip to Snow Castle
Kew S., George, Trevor.

After a good deal of listening eventually descended
at 2.30 → 3.00 pm. TN took tackle for Snow
Castle, Kew his Rollei "3" (2" x 1") + George his mysterious
tripod + mega-camera carrier, which was a real
drag for him to get down the cave. No real problems
to inlet ladder (nice by John + Jim) + streamway.
Photo session at grotto where scalloping in prehistoric
tube seems to indicate stream once flowed in
opposite direction? I finally reached chamber at bottom
of Snow Castle, where to our surprise we met Hymel
+ Terry on the way down - they ^{well just spent 2 years in bloody snowdrifts & lost} set off chairs
^{your kids fight} before us. Obviously setting the world's slowest
caving trip record. Still off to Snow Castle, where
Kew + George took lots of pictures of me, and a few
of the formations. A couple of hours of this and we
decided to move on out. However, the trip was obviously
too easy so we decided to make things hard, Kew by
knocking his backside, somehow, and TN by spraining
his ankle in notaway passage in Teresa Series of his
only goes to prove that one shouldn't get too close
about being so close to the entrance. Despite this we
managed a good speed getting out + emerged at 4pm
after about 9 hours. TN's ankle bloody painful & was
Kew's b.m. Bloody excellent meal on exit!

Note on SF + JS rigging - by TN.

15m Bluewater I - back-up a real useless belay - if the
primary goes God help whoever is on the pitch
19m - why the hell was the primary lowered - much
better where it was make much better a take-off -
self-liming so much easier.
2nd 10m pitch - rope badly abraded needs replacing +

28th July.

Tackle Retrieval + Tourist Trip

Hywel & Jerry

disagree! About 12.30 - 14.00! Hywel

After much delay, set off down cave at about 1.30 - 2.00 pm
~~and~~ contrary to the preceding semi legible scrawl. However, discovered
 that a certain fig of 8 descender had been kidnapped from head of
 entrance pitches, so trip began with extended painful classic abseil
 session as far as bottom of bluewater III where amazingly a certain
 rack remained un-kidnapped. Descent continued with two minor
 stops (for urgent reasons), as far as Snowcastle country where a
 brief (2hr) detour was made to view, and 'Pirkin' assorted
 climbs, my verdict pretty natty stall etc, up to Otter standards
 easily, but some of climbs a bit dodgy. Profusivity of calcite
 deposits probably indicates ultra tight inlets. Dropped down into
 Teresa again to meet Ker Trev + George, who departed up
 as we set off down again. No problems down to GBU where
 usual delays occurred. Dream take took ages since we found
 re-rigged pitches unsatisfactory. Noted nasty wear on DL I
 about 6-8 feet down; one very nasty gash in sheath.
 On to Top of Big pitch to pick up rope + Mulu. Found fantastic
 clear large calcite crystal on way down which was pocket size
 and hence no longer there. Proceeded out steadily
 Smooth ascent up to the gap where a good deal of wear
 was noted in top 2-3 feet of the rope presumably due to
 awkward take off. Not yet sufficient to warrant replacement, but
 certainly should be watched. Cruised on to CBW where large
 stal fragments were noted amongst general rubble stal
 chunks up to 6" in diameter suggest presence of Snowcastle II
 somewhere above. Also a nest of cave pearls noted in
 the middle of the passage floor about 10 meters down
 passage from foot of ladder (have these been noted before?)
 Take care with your feet, though actual location provides
 some protection. Steady ascent continued as far as base
 of bluewater III as fast as Mulu & Ropes allowed.
 Just as last of the nicotine supplies were cashed, a welcome

28th July First Photographic Trip to Snow Castle
Kew S., George, Trevor.

After a good deal of festering eventually descended
at 2:30 → 3:00 pm. TN took tackle for Snow
Castle, Kew his Rollei "3" x 2 1/4" + George his rucksack
typed + mega-camera carrier, which was a real
drag for him to get down the cave. No real problems
to get in let ladder (nice ng John + Jim) + streamway.
Photo session at grotto where scaling in pneumatic
tube seems to indicate stream once flowed in
opposite direction? Finally reached chamber at bottom
of Snow Castle, where to our surprise we met Hymel
+ Jerry on the way down - they ^{well just spent 2 hours in} bloody snowdrifts ^{but}
^{your backs figure} before us. Obviously setting the world's slowest
caving trip record. Still off to Snow Castle, where
Kew + George took lots of pictures of me, and a few
of the formations. A couple of hours of this and we
decided to move on out. However, the trip was obviously
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KS's bum. Bloody excellent meal on exit.

Note on SF + JS rigging by TN.

- 15m Bluewater I - back-up a real useless delay - if the
primary goes God help whomever is on the pitch
- 19m - why the hell was the primary lowered - much
better where it was makes much better a take-off -
self-lining so much easier
- 2nd 10m pitch - rope badly abraded needs replacing +
rope protector

relief party arrived; from below! Jan + Kieth with the truth about Xitu (see later), fags, and a appetite for imitation chocolate. We gave them right of way and followed up the entrance series. Mammoth table hauling by Hywel speeded the ascent and in no time we were at the Rift, where combined tactics (you yank while I boot it) allowed the Mulu to effortlessly pass. Emerged into starlight at precisely sometime in the morning. One short bluevector length may have come adrift at bottom of b.w III if Kieth + Jan didn't take it. Bolognese + pasta much appreciated Trev & we are pissed off about the bread lo. ~~After thought about D + I - there's probably enough at (no there's not)~~ Pleasant trip on the whole, and the tuna is a damn sight better than sardines, though the oil is not so hot.

RIFDIP

25th - 29th July CAMP II Skunk, Richard, Graham, Jan, Keith
 Skunk + Richard set off unladen, about 1.00 pm.
 Their plan to descend gradually to Big Pitch - cut the 200m
 N. Marlow into two and carry one length each to the
~~bottom~~ Camp and then go pushing. Thus they carried
 out efficiently. ~~Then~~

Meanwhile we got together camping gear + food
 in 3 tackle bags and ~~set~~ set off 3.30 pm -
 carried one each down to camp arriving 3.30 a.m.
 Sunday morning: keeping clothes, sleeping bag etc dry
 in the middle reaches of Xitu is no small
 problem. We had arranged to have cooked dinner
 for the pushers by 3.30 a.m. - in fact it
 wasn't ready till 4.30 am - which was really a
 piece of convenient of inadvertent timing: they
 didn't arrive till 5.00 a.m. ~~They~~

The pushers had in riggered F-lier to
 conserve rope - cut off the remaining end of the 155m
 rope and lugged it to bottom of Chunder Pot.
 - just by the "Old Pacific Sea" (viz. the song)
 They'd then descended about 45/50m of the
 most sporting passage in the cave - a miscellany
 of ~~our~~ climbs, cascades and shoots (chutes?) ranging
 from damp through wet to motherfucker's soaker.

This section ended in a 15/20m waterfall at which
 point they left a 35m rope, belay gear and then rested.
 - took them 4 hours from there to camp - Beware all
~~massive~~ future caves - it takes longer than you think.

We dined on dried apple flakes, chicken curry, squid
 and tea - got to "bed" - if this is an accurate
 description - at 6.00 am Sunday Morning.

Alarm went off at 2.00 pm Sunday - breakfast
 of dry porridge, apple flakes, milk, beefy chunks + tea.
 It's all v. well saying you should be able

to leave camp within $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs of waking - it doesn't
 happen. Jan + I set off to push 5:30 pm Sunday.
 It took $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs of blood, sweat and tears to
 100m rope ^{+ wire belays} to head of Charles Pot. We pulled up
 the 120m rope there and transported both down
 the Clarke - Grayson streamway to the pitch they'd
 found. This streamway takes the cave below
 1 km depth - hence the proposed name "Classic Numbers"
 - but this is still a matter of heated discussion
 between the explorers. The pitch we've rigged
 with 2 naturals and has an interesting take
 off - even more interesting if you're trying to
 abseil down with 2 cable bags on your
 harness. This is to be named "Camper's Pot"
 as the first pitch to be discovered + rigged from
 camp. This dropped into a short section of
 streamway similar to "Classic Numbers". Then there's
 at 15' waterfall much better than the rest -
 descent would involve jumping down and ascent would
 require use of holds in the full form of the
 stream. We found a bypass ^{"sport bypass"} by climbing 2M
 wall traversing 30' over pool below. Then
 climbing down narrow slippery rift beyond
 - we dropped back to stream climbed down 2 more
 cascades and then were halted by a 25' waterfall.
 We climbed above this and found suitable
 naturals 20' above stream level for a traverse
 line, I° & II°. A rapid return to the bottom
 of Camper's Pot we pulled up 100m N. Maslow
 for pitch 15m BW II for traverse line and the
 bag of rigging gear and rigged pitch - remaining
 gear left at the top. We descended a 15m pitch
 to short v. steep section with more
 short climbable, damp waterfalls. This

A Camping part 2.

'Day 1'

Skunk & I left c. 12.00 or 1.00 to move the room of Marlow to the camp. We also left a stove at the head of the big pitch and a box of Beef Stroganoff. To date this hasn't been eaten at all, ^{probably} due to lack of pans, spoons etc. After arriving at the camp we left ^{with c. 100m of marrows} ~~to go~~ pushing. At the bottom of Chunder Pot is a big pool, like deep and whilst Skunk was passing the tackle bags across one fell in and promptly sank without trace. I got my sack out to try & dredge for the bag but Skunk had heroically stuck his leg right in and hooked it on his foot. We then descended a seemingly indefinite number of v. sporting wet climbs for about 50m to a pitch head. We sat there, realizing that we were now probably >1,000m but that we didn't have time to rig the pitch, and went back to the camp. It took us 4 hours to return why? After our 'fungal but well earned meal' and about 8 hours sleep we got up and started putting on our wet, heavy fannies. Graham, Skunk & I sent off Keith & Jan to go pushing, & washed up. We then went off to survey from the ~~bottom~~ ^{top} of Flyer, Graham to make notes being the first station involved me hanging from one foot loop in a jammed position above the pitch - interlocking. We then painfully moved from Flyer to Chunder, marvelling on the way at the 'Traverse of Truth'. Because this had been discovered by Keith & Skunk, John & Dave had assumed, not perhaps unreasonably, that it was impassable by humans, and had rigged it as a rope pitch. However, their rope lay in a vertical sump and the traverse itself was a piece of piss. Now we laughed. On the return, we re-rigged this as a traverse, with a handline, and it is now no obstacle at all.

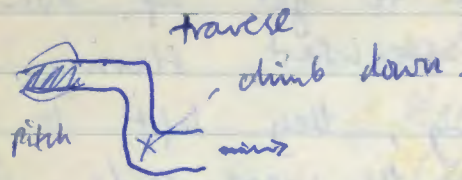
Returning to camp, we cooked dinner on time, etc it and worried about K & J. It was eventually decided that Apache and I would go to bed, and be woken by Skunk after 3.

only 9-30 a.m, actually! -KP

(11 am) if they hadn't returned. They came back eventually, of course, with tales of another -200 m + and getting lost in high level bypasses. Keith also said he had found a pool, which he had not crossed owing to lack of time, and beyond which running water could be heard. And so to bed.

Next 'morning', Keith & Jan gave more instructions about the bypasses of which Jan's was the most use - see below. Off went Skunk, Graham & myself, to investigate Keith's pool. We descended rapidly to the series of cascades - now called the 'Classic Numbers' after much debate - and laughed at Keith's rig of the first new pitch - ^{There's nothing wrong with that rig} ~~Campers pitch~~ ^{KP}. This we re-rigged on the return. After this wet 15m pitch there are some more classic numbers and ~~then~~ then an unrigged pitch - climb above this, more or less keeping the same height as the pitch head and traverse above until the passage bends right & then left.

This involves a hairy crossing of the passage during the traverse which is worse on the return.



After this there are more cascades, and then Cobbler's Pitch - so called because it's the last pitch and because ^{Exactly, there's} ~~the rigging~~ ^{fuck-all else you can rig it from - rock's too shifty for bolts.} as a fudging cobble. but what can you do? \wedge

After this pitch, the cascades kind of run together and the water flows down the rift rather than across it. You gain depth, a lot of depth, very quickly indeed. At the bottom of this an interesting chimb out leads to the head of a 1 foot wide wet pitch. The bypass to this is "Xiti's last Stand".

Keep the same height or gradually descend in the high level, and then go leftwards down a small hole into a small unstable chamber. Now descend another similar hole directly beneath and going back under the first hole.

This leads you to a huge ledge, with a fine view of the waterfalls. The way ~~of~~ on now lies to the left - 90° to the direction of the water at the ledge. Climb down to a big high level chamber with a floor of boulders, and after about 20 meters the stream below can be heard. Climb down here.

It is a short distance of flat stream from there to the swamp, for such it is. We climbed round, I put a new battery into my electric, peered, threw rocks, played with the stream. The sound of running water is the echo of the feeder stream. Skunk climbed right round at water level, falling in twice. There is no way on. We returned, after a sombre tin of sardines each.

After re-rigging Campers and putting a line on the most difficult of the Numbers, we returned to the camp, not meeting Jan or Keith on the way. This was because they were still in bed, having failed to get up, even though they were awake during our breakfast, having destroyed two hammocks, done no surveying, they left to go to the surface - 'Oh, sorry John the wire ends, we didn't do any of the wet surveying because we slept for 25 hours - by the way stitch these hammocks together.* They did carry out the wire belays.

Actually, it's probably better that they didn't survey, because there is now a lot of that to be done, and therefore good reason for others to go and look at the big green pool - Stag Pool, as it was ~~discovered~~ discovered on Prince Charles's stag Night.

Richard

* POINTS TO EXPLAIN THE FACT WE DIDN'T SURVEY

1/ You hadn't woken us when you left - ~~as~~ which you'd promised to do - we didn't awake till 1.30 p.m. by which time there were only 7hrs available for surveying trip with 2 people i.e. we couldn't have done any more than got to Campers's Pot + back

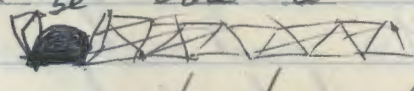
② Jan's hammock had burst - of it's own accord - during the night and he hadn't had any kip

③ Richard Graham + Skunk seem to have given the impression that they were working their balls off whilst we ~~had~~ lazed in sleeping bags - it should be pointed out that in fact we'd done all the work the previous day - all they did was a tourist trip down to the bottom and back to camp - and took an inordinately long time to do it at that!!
With the compliments of the pushers!

Useful Maxim to Bear in Mind when reading Living Log
- "Accounts of rigging, work done by pushers etc" ^{given} by tourist
- covers (eg R. Gregson) should be taken with a pinch of salt"
^{↑ the size skipper had with comaloes!}

The Trip out - Jan + Keith
Left camp at 4.45 pm Tuesday with Table bag containing:
" 2 broken Hammocks
" Thousands of wire lags for surface work
" Bolt kit (that we'd taken down)
" Hammer
" Camp Clothes (Damat etc)

This provided considerable hassle during the exit
It seemed to be of such a weight that when
pushing - a strong resonance was set up
such that after about five pushes steps
it was swaying to side to side with such
vehemence that a rest was inevitable.
Having discovered this problem we tried hauling it up
Dumprivation - this was fine except the rope wrapped
itself around a jughandle when and I had to
abseil down to free it. Anyway we eventually
got both table bags + overalls out to the
~~the surface~~ surface by 3.30 a.m. Warm air, grass
and a star-strewn sky. It's the rest

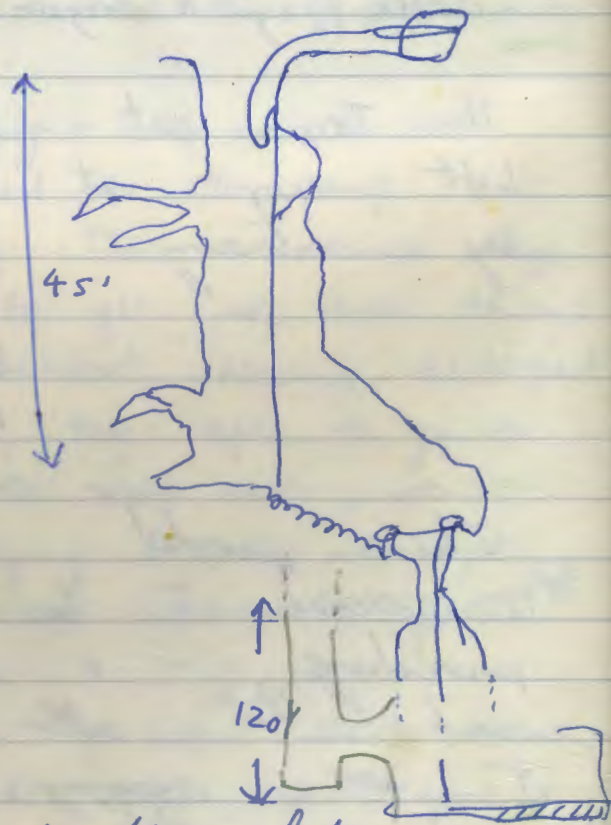
of time you want to be a poet and be able to describe how much you appreciate  the basis of life. We snuggled on bread + pate and bedded down in a real dry, sleeping bag on a bed - luxury of luxuries.

29/7/81 John & Jim to bottom of big pitch & photography in ent. series / Snowcastle.

30/7/81 Hywell, Jim & John

29/5 descended. 1st pitch, ~45' (one re-belay just below top).

Score slope to top of 2nd pitch. 2 nice "naturals" gave an acceptable hang, but J.F. decided that a belt was needed ca. 12' down. Hanging off rope in ca $\frac{3}{4}$ " diam shaft, the dread "below" was heard; in the circumstances, one can do nothing but cringe. So John cringed - & got hit on the head by $\frac{1}{2}$ " a brick which then squashed his hand against the wall.



At fondo, a big passage lead off - but, in fact, this closed down after a few metres. Part way down P-2, Jim & Howell got into a parallel shaft - which ended quickly. John investigated some high-level gravel - futility in deed.

"Tony's hole" was then looked at by Hywell - who found it choked at ca 5m. (probably owing to the fact that he had kicked down ca $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of

rubble before descending.

A few more holes down towards basin were looked at - & found wanting.

2/7 - Pozo del '30m below eye-hole' Wed & Thurs 29-30th July

Wed. John, Mark & myself set ^{off} in the searing afternoon heat to a hole I found the previous evening below the eye-hole on Tuitayun - at about 1900 m. Entrance is a large ditch on a steep slope, with a rift going down back towards the slope. We rigged 2 bolts for the 1st Pitch (10 m) into the rift, then down a short, very loose, scree slope to the 2nd pitch. This sounded at least 30 m, but we only had one rope, ^(30m) so John climbed the first pitch, and then passed us the 30m rope on the end of 2 ladders. We placed 2 bolts, with a nice Y-belay to a free hang. Mark descended to the end of the rope, with a snow plug about 10 m down. The cone was strongly draughting & looked hopeful. We exchanged rope for ladder & came out. Walked back via the top.

Thurs John, Pete & myself set off again with even more gear (80m x 25m). We rigged both pitches & descended to find the snow plug plugged. (It was choked anyway). We surveyed out and struggled back down well overloaded with gear. The draught at the bottom disassembled us "a boulder choke designed for suicidal midgets."

31 JULY

3/7 → 6/7

DARRE & PETE

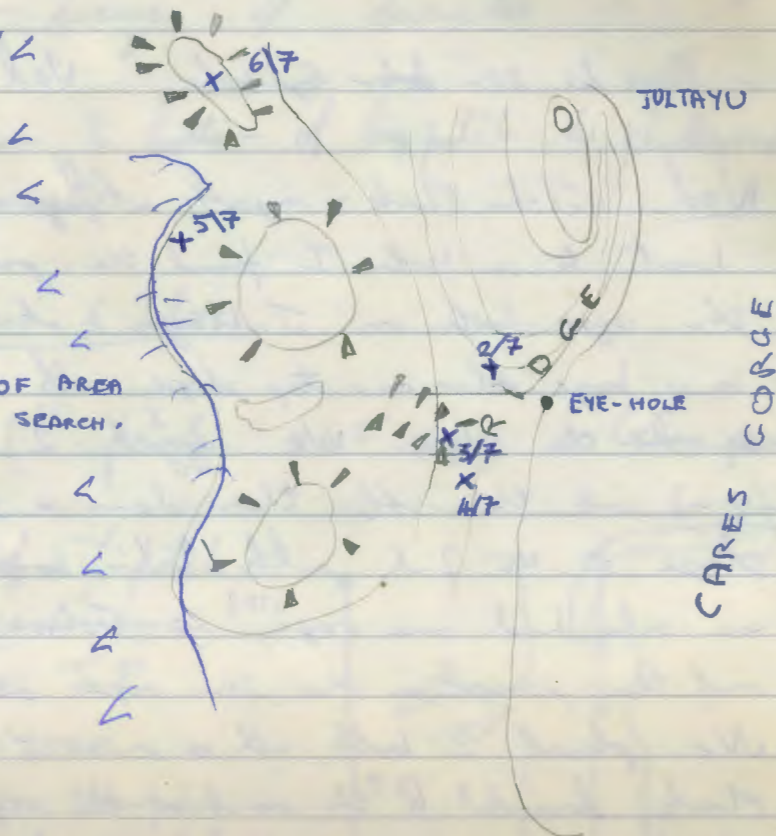
After lunch on the summit ridge of Jultayu, and armed with a pot of green paint, we began to scout the entire slope of Jultayu for caves.

2/7 was labelled as such, and a crossed circle,



added.

SKETCH MAP OF AREA COVERED BY SEARCH.



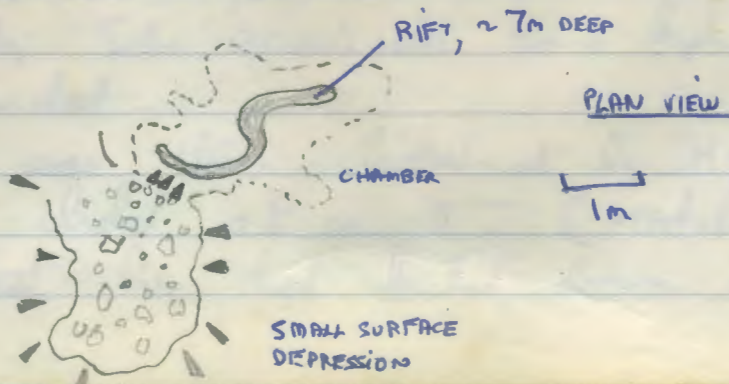
3/7

~ 200m from 2/7, further along ridge, away from Airo. Slightly lower. Very near the lowest part of the ridge. At the head of an obvious gully.

Open shaft, ~ 9 x 3 m across top. Snow plug visible ~ 20 m down, probably on a ledge. Stones thrown over this took between 5-12 seconds to hit the bottom, hitting the sides several times on the way. (Sounds very similar to 2/7)

4/7

Near 3/7, slightly higher & further along ridge, in a shallow depression filled with rocks. Clearing away the rocks from against the wall in one corner revealed a small chamber, just below the surface.



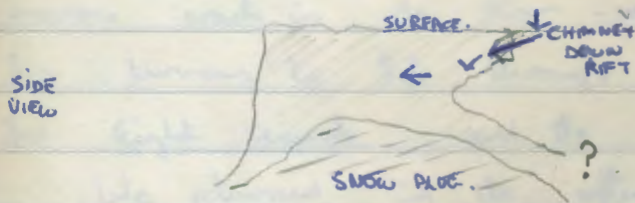
In the floor of this small chamber is a rift, probably easily climbable, averaging about $\frac{1}{2}$ m wide and about 7 m deep. Stones dropped down the rift apparently hit a stony floor.

5/7

On the opposite side of a large depression from Jultayo, almost up to a small col. All the rocks in this vicinity were very broken or friable. A climb down through very large boulders led to a shaft, ~ 25 m deep. Cool draft. Stones thrown in hit bottom in $\sim 2\frac{1}{2}$ sec, then don't continue.

6/7

An open rift near the bottom of a depression, surrounded by collapses. About 8 m to top a massive snow plug.



It is just possible, but unlikely, that a way on could be found from the deeper (downslope) end of the rift.

So, we found 4 caves, none of which is too promising, but 2 of which (3/7 and 5/7) might be worth a proper look with bolts, tackle, lights etc... A thorough search of the area covered by the sketch map was made, and it is felt that no further caves remain to be discovered in this area.

P.D.H.

00054

Snow Castle Photographic Trip 30th July.

Clive Wootlake

Ros Walters

Mark Godden

Simon Fowler

Andy Riley

Photographed the snow castle very thoroughly including the approaches to it and surrounding formations, such as large aragonite crystal 'trees' 3" high.

This followed by a quick trip to see the gap. And then out.

who rigged the big entrance pitch with 12" spacing ladder? - it makes it rather harder.

31st July

Simon Fowler + Ros Walters

13/5

Chokes after 1st Entrance climb of about 20'. No sign of any continuation. ~~Ros~~

N.B. Previous description is accurate.

31st July12/5 - Cueva del "near miss".

Simon Boulton + Ross Walters

The discription for the location of this pit is very misleading. The map is right but the pit is situated on the top edge of a very steep slope above ^{and to the left of} 13/5. It is NOT in a depression other than a fairly typical small one.

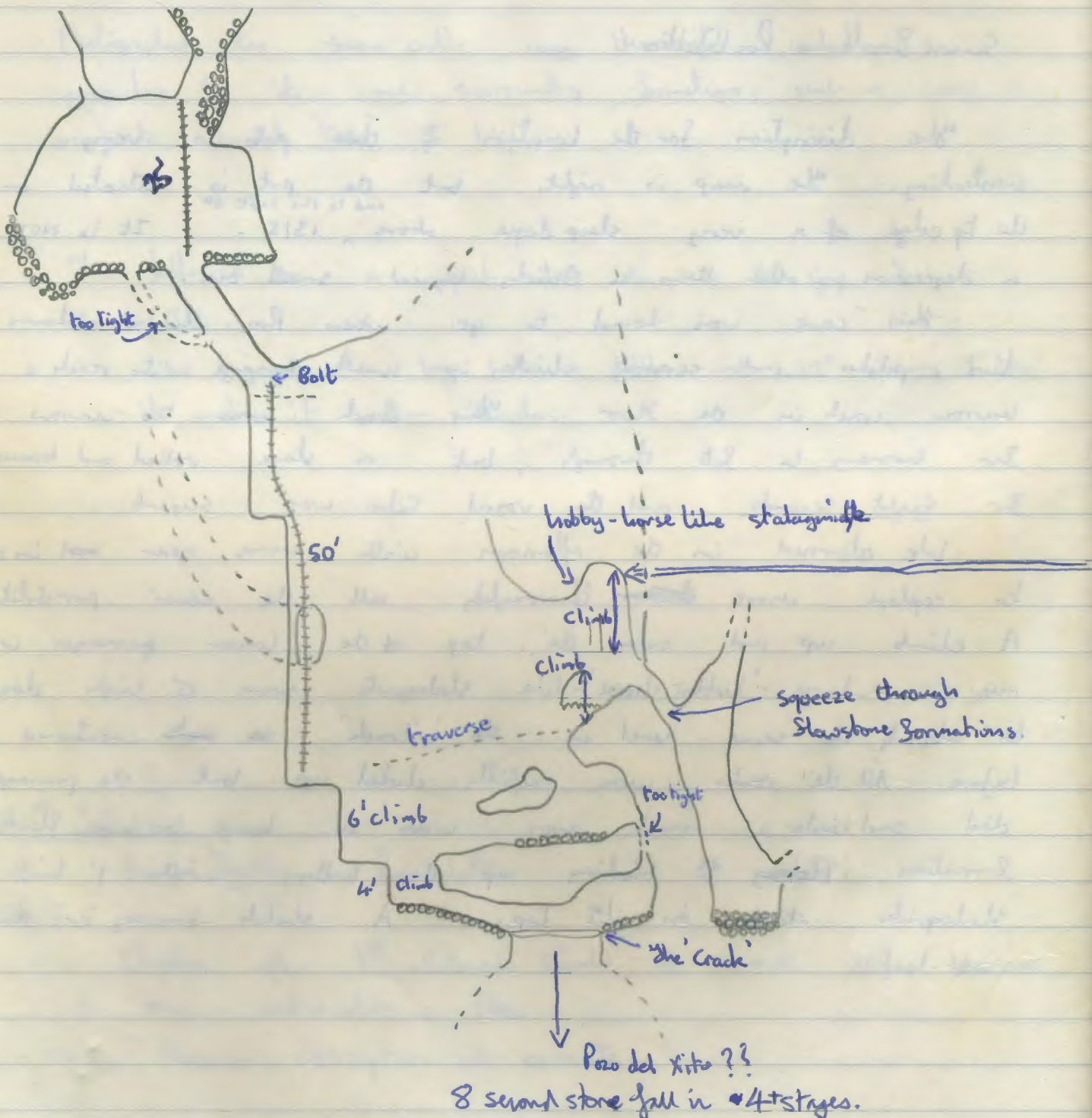
This cave was found to go when flow climbed down two pitches and several climbs in small passage to reach a narrow crack in the floor. This crack was too narrow for humans to fit through, but a stone rolled and bounced for eight seconds and the vocal Echo was superb.

We returned in the afternoon with more gear and in order to explore more ~~thoroughly~~ thoroughly all the caves' possibilities. A climb up and over the top of the lower passages, went over a large "lobby-horse"-like stalagmite some 15' high down to about the same level as the 'crack' ~~is~~ mentioned before. All the routes were solidly chiseled up but the passage died out under a small aven with a huge beehive flowstone formation ~~blocking~~ blocking up the bottom, with 1' high stalagmites ~~on~~ on its top. A sketch survey is shown over-leaf.

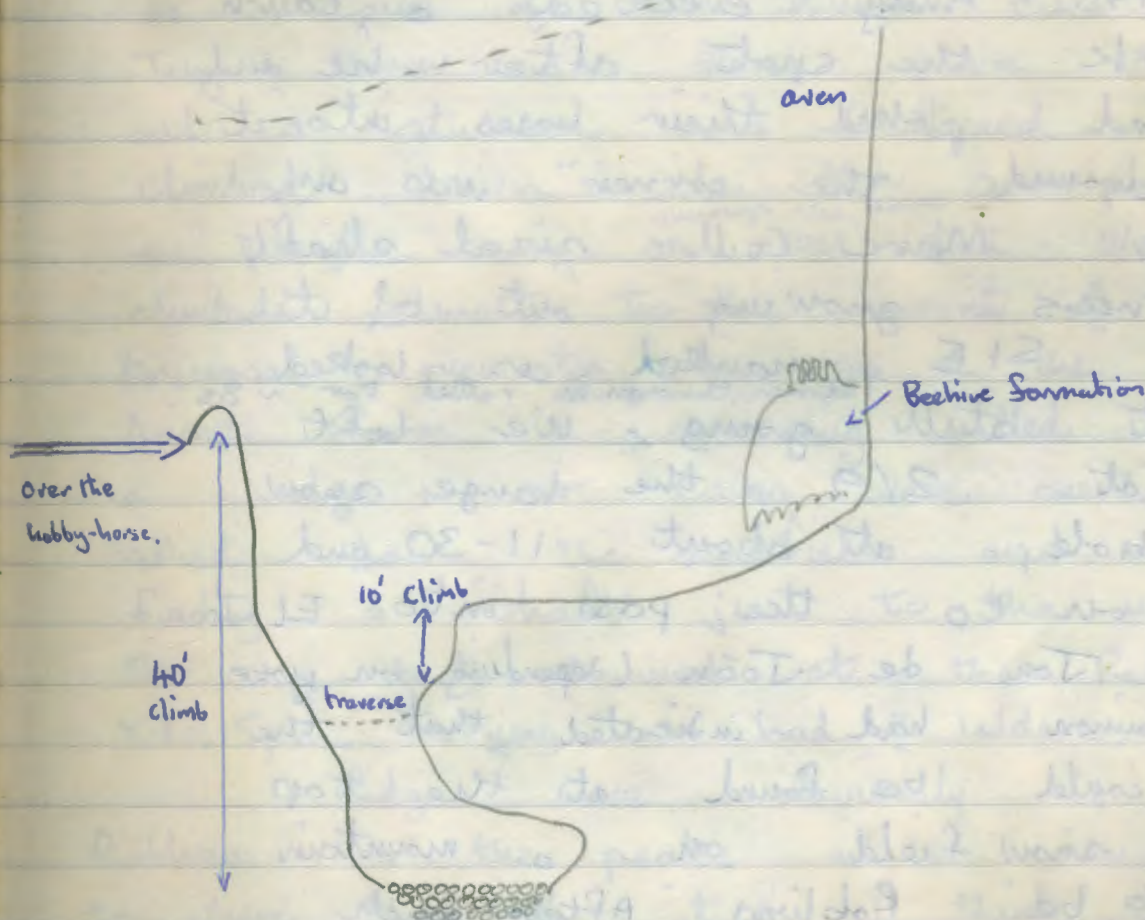
00056

12/5 - Cueva del "near miss" - sketch survey.

Explored 31st July '81



"the crack" will be definitely worth 'banging' sometime as it certainly looks like a possible entrance to Xito somewhere in the gap region.



Pro.

00058

Tony Moulton, John Singleton, Andy Riley.

The Search for Ridge Cave:

"Find and explore Ridge Cave," the leader told himself.

So, After a heavy night on the vuvu, Tony and I set off at 10-30 with a suffering Andy in tow. Shortly after

the latter^s threw up we stumbled on the small hole leading to a tight rift noted by Martin L and me in 1979. Andy erected a ^{megalithic} cairn

to mark the spot after he and Tony had poked their noses into it.

"Just around the corner" was an impressive Merve Gill sized shaft with trees growing out of it.

It was SIE ^{marked} as ^{stones through in} rattled ^{For ~ 8s.} looked at but still going. We left

Andy at 2/9, the large snow filled hole, at about 11-30 and carried on to the pass into El Joon

on the Joon de Joon (depending on your map) Simon had indicated that the

cave could be found at the top of a snow field on a mountain presumed to be Robliza. After much

thought we decided that the best way to approach the many snowfields on Robliza was to contour round over

La Verdelluenga. In the end the contouring proved so epic that it was decided to go over the top

of La Verdelluenga. About 50' from the summit this too proved too dire so

that lunch was had before we beat

a retreat. We then decided on a new approach and headed down some scree towards the Tou bottom. After contouring at a lower level round La Verbelluenga we set off up the easiest ridge towards the gap between Robliza and the next peak ^{west} _(which is part of a rift running ~ E-W). There we found a shaft in very broken limestone containing a snow plug which is now known as "Cave of the Stunned Bird": - all because Tony threw a stone down the shaft and a stunned bird fluttered out. Tony climbed down inside the snow plug and a possible way on ^{through the snow} was noted. We then climbed almost to the summit of Robliza and traversed over to the top of the snow fields. Apart from a ^{20m x 5m x 5m high} snow plug filled chamber ^{with a horizontal entrance} on a ridge, no caves were seen, and so we skied down the snow fields and made for Anio, finding a shaft just to the west ^(~ 200m) of 2/9 on the way back. Arrived at the Refugio at ^{still} 7-15pm carrying our load of ladders, rope bolts etc. Ridge cave obviously isn't on La Robliza or the peaks in the immediate area, so where the hell is it? I think it's possibly closer to Anio on this side of the ridge around the Tou de Toon above the much smaller snow fields there.

JS

P.S. Also found a snow filled shaft about $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometre North of La Verbelluenga.

0006A

Bob Walters + Daryl Thomas.

1st Aug.

An 8hr trap in which we lost some of the bait traps for Simon along the Teresa series. These traps involved placing a small fragment of cheese under a stone. Each place was marked with a number engraved on a piece of paper left nearby.

Daryl.

wow!!

SEND A COPY OF MONTGOMERY TO THE ASTURIAN SPELEO GROUP ADDRESS BELOW =

GRUPO ESPELEOLÓGICO "POLIFEMO"
ASTURIAS Nº 9. ENTRESUEZO
OVIEDO
SPAIN

I will do this (Ken Senior)
Remind me at BCRA - or ask me
if we dare it yet!

Baits in the Teresa Series - (roughly)

1. Turned bank on left hand side on bottom of twisty vadose trench below 1st ladder pitch + 1st rope climb after entrance series.
2. Cover Picture Hall - stoney Salce floor at waist-level on left as you enter.

Baits in the Tercon Series - (roughly)

1 - mud bank on left hand side on bottom of twisty vadose
Trench below 1st ladder pitch + 1st rope climb after entrance
series.

2 - Cover Picture Hall - stoney, Salce floor at waist level
on left as you enter.

3 - C.P.H further inside on left on shoulder level
Pulse floor, on a stoney / muddy patch. Just as
you leave.

4 - As you descend out of the huge boulder ~~climb~~ chocke
step under a huge chocke-stone and look back
behind and to the ~~right~~^{left} of the boulder just crossed.
Bait on a mixed stoney bed.

5 - Obvious mud bank at Stry level. In next walking
passage on R.H.S.

6 - Swollen on at level-level at a bend
on R.H.S.

7 - Opposite the cave pearls, chest level near
white flow stone

29th July - 2nd August

Skippy + Dave Xike 92 Hours - their version - ie the fucking truth.

Swift descent in two parties - others being Terry, Colin + George - to camp. Next day all to the bottom where it was found that George had dropped the "Captain's Log" somewhere so the survey couldn't proceed. Thus it was decided that George, Winnie + Skip would ~~do~~ do photography + Terry + Dave would look for the survey gear.

This area was found at the far end from the ~~east~~ camp of Fernie's Delight. To show willingness despite cold + fatigue they went back to the top of Chunder Pot + started surveying. But 10 stations later Dave's incompetence with the compass was producing haywire results so they gave up. Meeting the others George was seen to be a bit ~~slow~~ slow but with his absurd camera box this was no wonder; it was only back at camp that he mentioned he had a stiff knee. With Dave's hand swollen to the size of a small balloon it was taken as part of the game.

Next "day" Dave was shown that the compass worked if you knew how to use it + so Skippy + Dave ~~set~~ set off to survey while the others went out. There wasn't much food but they felt that to come out with no work done just wasn't on. They completed 50 (fifty) ~~depth~~ stations to the bottom of the steep rift - the "DEPTHSCALATOR." An enjoyable + efficient trip. After another sleep they made their exit in 8½ hours from the camp ~~emerging~~ at 8am, a ~~day~~ after 92 hours.

They expected some thanks for their extra 24 hours underground. Instead they were greeted with a storm of abuse ~~centering~~ around the facts that a) their survey was only grade 5 without cross sections + b) they hadn't helped George out

I thus deprived certain members of the expedition of the chance to camp. They are extremely pissed off about this.

First point: if you look at a cave survey the cross sections are the last fucking thing you worry about: ^{NO YOU FIND THIS FROM THE CROSS-SECTIONS} you want length, depth & passage character. All this has been included: Their survey is not "almost totally useless."

Second point: what actually happened? Stiert Dave Art knowing full well that, as was the case, George would be slow but fully capable of getting out under ~~their~~ his own steam. With only one spare cordless supply, carried by Colin, somehow or other Jerry made the balls-up of not staying with the others. ~~The~~ long cold wait at Samantans & Flat Iron presented him with a ~~diff~~ dilemma to go out or go back to find out what had happened. He did the wrong thing, albeit quite understandably, & came out. Meeting the next camping party ~~he~~ he told them that George was either back at camp or coming out slowly. They went down to GBC + meeting the geologists "helped them out," abandoning their trip for 2 days!

Why? George had got to the Gap + was damn well going to get out, as anyone who knows him will testify. The hardest part was all over: + what could "helping him out" involve beyond moral support + carrying his box? Was someone looking for an excuse not to do a long trip or what? Whatever else, don't blame it on us boys, it was your decision & one based on a poor appreciation of the facts & (dare I say it) a lot

of ghoulish jumping to conclusions.

Others, who have come even tens close to doing some proper caving instead of putting about in Snowcastle or surface shafts also criticize us. I have only one thing to say: stuff it up your are until you ~~or~~ voluntarily stay down another 24 hours for the sake of the expedition with a wet furry + only sardines + potato powder to eat + not even enough futuristic tea bags.

Don't miss this, talk about us behind ~~your~~ our backs. But we are right + you are wrong + the sooner you stop "text book caving" à la Georges Marbach + get stuck in to the reality of a kitu you will realize this. Meantime ~~at~~ we deserve an apology.

Dave

WELL YOU AIN'T GETTING ONE!

I am not as hot tempered as Dave.

I agree with all he says

I wish I had not bothered.

Shippy

4 hours kip later - one thing I want to add. On reflection the decision of the next camping party appears to me to be more justified. ~~But even~~ even with Colin already tired it was obviously worrying to leave George to exit unaided. But would not it have done to send one person back who could perhaps have guided the party with someone else next day? And what of Jerry? The point is, for the remark I have just overheard which has rekindled all my

anger there is no justification: That "Skip + Dave have
by their actions delayed the whole expedition two days."
Incidentally, George left for Los Lagos several hours ago.

A quick comment from George: 5th August 1981

I have just read the various accounts concerning our
(Dave, Skippy, Colin, Jerry & self) camping trip. Much has
been said, so perhaps the best contribution I can offer
is to put forward my account - in particular, relating
to my knee; since this seems to have caused some mis-
-understanding.

Having reached what we assume to be the terminal
rump, I investigated the area by traversing round the side
of the rump, moving up & down where necessary. I
found no way on - just stagnant water. Returning
to the group, rump-pool photographs were taken. The
ceremony over, I discovered that I had lost the
'Captains log' from my pocket bag - it wasn't crabbled
on. I accept responsibility for cocking-up the sur-
vey programme.

This situation was accepted as a 'fait accompli' & the
party divided into two, hoping to make the most effi-
cient use of man-hours. Colin, Skippy & I started
to work our way back toward the camp taking a few
photographs.

It was shortly after entering the rift passage
that my ^{right} knee started to seize up. As time proceeded
my right knee became immobile; however, it was still
capable of taking my full weight in a variety of
positions including wide bridging. Concerning my prog-
ress, climbing pitches & SRT, the latter on one leg, were
not slowed down much (no-body even noticed), on
mixed ground, especially where I was slow. My knee
healed up & I had to go through the odd queasy spell.

30^m3rd

0006

29th July - 2nd of August. Dave Skippy George Jerry & Colin.

Skippy & Colin set out first carrying a heavy Mulu bag and about 1hr later Dave George & Jerry followed carrying a heavy & a light Mulu. The second party picked up photographic equipment at the climb up to snow castle and continued on the next the first party at the big pitch. Skippy was heard singing the well known Rod Stewart hit: "I'm abseiling". The first party forged ahead to the camp, and the second party arrived shortly after. Main meal Beef Stroganoff!

Next morning set off altogether after Chilli con Carne, porridge etc planned trip to bottom with Dave Jerry + Colin surveying up & Skip + George photoing up. Descent took a long time with delays in Fernies Delight bypass & particularly Xitu's last stand. Route finding occasionally difficult and some climbs need lines for extra protection. Final arrival at terminal sump accompanied by feeling of great remoteness. Discovered that the survey log and pencils had been mislaid en route. After much cursing was decided that Dave + Jerry would ascend to find log and commence the survey while Skip George + Colin would photograph the lower regions of Xitu.

Log was recovered in bypass to Fernies delight & survey commenced from Chunder pt. Photographic party passed by on the ascent. Discrepancies between survey figures & common sense led to severe doubts of accuracy of survey (later shown to be faulty technique) led to abandonment of survey in classic numbers. Surveyors rejoined rest of party in Fernies delight bypass and whole group continued return to camp. It became apparent that George's leg was injured (not by any specific incident, by the general wear & tear) however by sheer strength the return to camp was effected after some 18 hrs carrying.

Main meal was Bolognaise Sauce + pasta. A decision was made that the next day Skip + Dave would return to chunder and survey while the rest of the party made ^{their} way out. (Sufficient food provided by potato mix 9 tins of sardines, porridge & some beef chunks in sauce). After 8 hrs sleep & Chicken Curry & porridge breakfast, Skip + Dave set off down, Jerry set off to the big pitch and Colin and George ascended slowly. Skip + Dave managed 50 legs of surveying from chunder to well below cobbler. Jerry waited above Sam I until too cold to remain, as Colin & George greatly

hindered by George's injury (possibly aggravated by a night in a hammock). Jerry went up to wait at top of big pitch to prepare soups. Colin + George were however very much delayed but continued up. Jerry forced to move again due to lack of carbide (supply was with Colin + George) decided to head for the gap, fearing Colin + George had returned to camp (only 20 mins carbide left & faulty electric). Colin + George continued up, George only able to prussik on one leg. Jerry then continued up hoping to meet next camping party and did so at the 19M pitch and informed them he had not seen following two for 9 hrs, despite 1 1/2 hr wait at top of Sam I & 2 hr wait at top of big pitch. Jim John(S) John(F) + Tony descended prepared to meet either slowly ascending Colin + George, or same two having returned to camp. Jerry ascended to call off a further photographic trip in case help was needed later. exit at 11:30am Sunday. J.J.S + T encountered Colin + George at ~~the~~ G.B.U. still ascending slowly and decided to accompany them to the surface, emerging at about 6:00pm. Meanwhile having spent an extra day underground surveying Dave & Skip ascended to emerge at about 7:00am on Monday after 92 hrs underground. Unfortunately the result of all this was that the party of Jim John(S) John(F) + Tony (camp 4) was put off for 2 days, and Jim + John(F) had to ~~sacrifice~~ ^{forgoe} their trip to the bottom due to lack of time.

RIPDIP

John S. John F. Jim, Tony Camp IV

After preparing on the previous day, the party got off to an early start with Jim and John F going down at 10am and John S and Tony following at 10:20. Everyone met Jerry at the 19m who informed them of what had happened to George. A ~~for~~ speedy descent to Graham's Balks up followed where the two Johns encountered George prussiking on one leg with his photographic gear and a carbide-less Colin. The camp supplies were broached for some carbide and chocolate ~~and~~

and then the camping party assisted George with his photographic gear out of the cave (ie we carried the large box!). Everyone got out at around 6-30pm, with George Prusiking all the pitches.

NB 1 It would be well worth mentioning in the Proc 10 that all pitches, no matter how short should be self lined, so that an injured person can prusik up them. Many thanks to Jim and John F for ensuring all the pitches are like this.

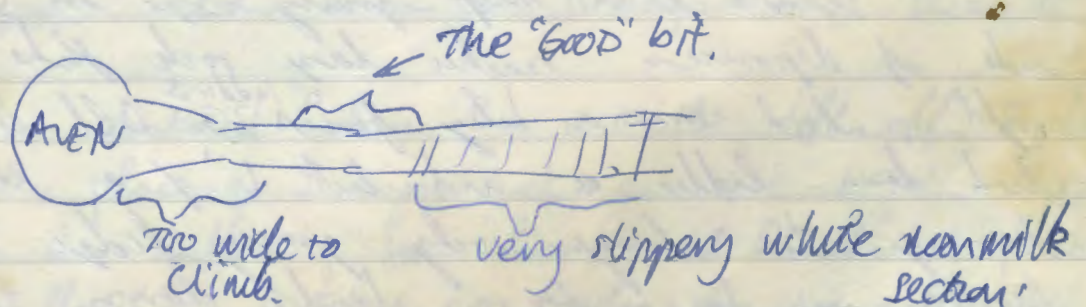
NB 2 I didn't think there were paranoid covers until this morning!

There aren't. PR.

JKS.

Mon 3rd Aug, Kev + Pete - Xitu - Upstream.

Short trip as my piles had not really healed! Aim was to try and climb up vadose trench before the final upstream aven and traverse across the top - well in fact there is only a short section of the vadose track that you can climb ie as below.....



Anyway I started up trailing a rope, lost kit etc and got somewhere between half way to 2/3 the way to the roof then it became a bit impossible as the walls were wide, smooth and covered in brown & white "neomilked" stal. So gave up. Oh well.

Kev.

Monday, 3rd August.

Huwel, Daryl, Andy assisting Simon and Clive. Photographing Flat Iron. 6 hours spent going up and down, hanging in space, firing mega hurls, freezing at bottom, smashing spent hurls with rock. Huwel + Andy out first with George's ammo box and 30 m rope from bottom of entrance series, rest later (12-14hr trip)

CSW

Monday 3rd Aug

alias Moregill

Roo + Keith - Pozo del Katherine - named after

Mrs K. Senior who one evening after several mugs of vino expressed her disappointment that after 3 consecutive years in Spain no one had been named after her.

Tom + John ~~did not~~ accompanied us up to this imposing entrance depression which was, with a little bit of imagination be said to bear a slight resemblance to Moregill. It is about 20 minutes from Aro - a couple of hundred metres this side of Snaxtree Cavern.

Scramble down steep grassy slope on South side of depression reaches large rock flake on right which serves as belay for ^{25' ladder} 35m Old Malon. Climb down ladder ~~is~~ and last 1/2 of a small chimney to large rocky grassy ledge. The Old Malon is line for climb down to 2nd lower, smaller ~~cross~~ ledge. Admable Y belay ~~is~~ is takeoff ^{for} for 50' ahead - first 38' down a nice chimney followed by 15' freehanging or narrow ledge is start of traverse to right for which ~~is~~ a line. ^{The rope goes for 50'} A II ^{main} rope can be used bolt of next pitch on a ~~1/2~~ small ledge. I⁰ is about 5' lower

down and looks to give hang with several minor sub points.

This pot appears to be a beautiful loose shaft made of light ~~fluffy~~ ^{flaky} rocks that seems ~~to~~ not to have much of a head for heights in that it keeps looking off ~~about~~ ledges and falling down the shaft. It should provide several people with some light entertainment over the course of a couple of trips. The odds are the end will be a bouldery floor at the bottom of the shaft - but if it did 'go' it would add some useful depth to Xitu.

Tues 4th August Martin & Pete. Xitu

A quick, barbarous trip part way through the rift to barbecue Martin's beard & give a good excuse to go back to the refuges for another cup of tea.

Pete doesn't have a lot to add but will give an inch by inch account if you ask him very nicely and are very alert so you ~~don't~~ don't miss it first time round.

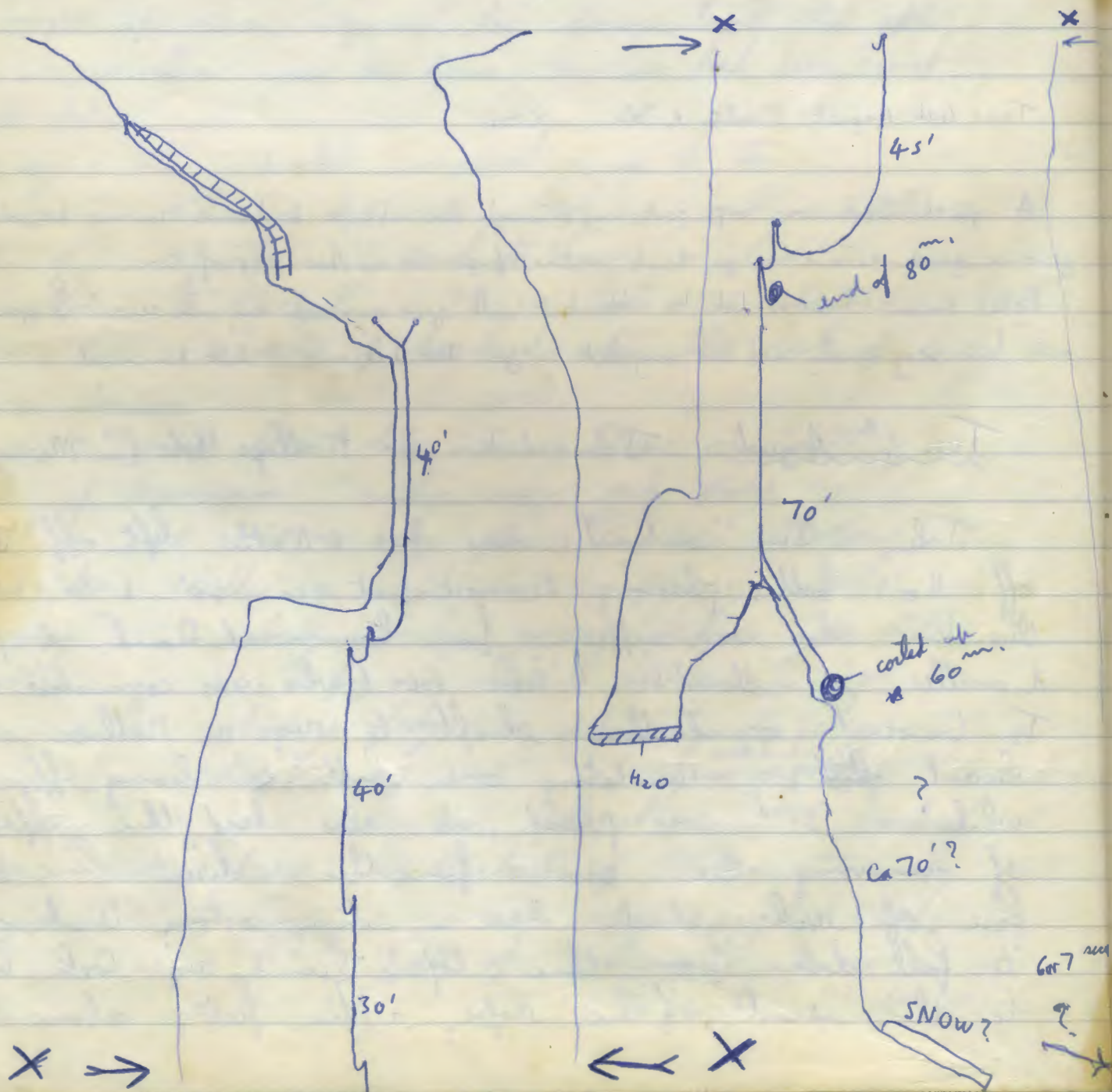
Tues 4th August. John & Jim in Kally's Hole ("Mozegill")

John & Jim continued where Roo & Keith left off. J₁ added off Roo's bolt, placing 2 more at ca. 40' & 70'; by this time, he was suffering from "hammered hand" & pins & needles, so allowed J₂ to take over (who was somewhat cold). J₂ traversed around the shaft to rig a rather elegant ~~that~~ ^{6 belays} necessitating one bolt to hang off while a 2nd. was placed; it also had the effect of removing the caves from the direct line of fire of rocks which have a disconcerting tendency to fall down from the top. Jim's rig took him to the end of the rope, a few feet above a

ledge. So, John returned ~~with~~ for more rope - only to ~~meet~~ meet Jim with a sheepish grin on his face, as a result of having dropped the wedges. Anyway, the 60^m. rope took him to Jim's ledge, ~~where~~ from which a boulder lobbed off hit what appears to be snow after 2 seconds - & then rattles on down for a further 6 or 7.

So - 90^m (?) underground - and a boulder goes for 8 or 9 sec.....

There ~~appears to be~~ ^{is} a side passage from the ledge which appears to choke after 30' or so.



TUESDAY 24th AUGUST

MARTIN & PETE

XITU (again)

After Martin's beard snagging tip into the rock, we set off again, some time & a cup of tea later. The late hour dissuaded us from our initial objective (Doran Lake) and we did a simple tourist trip to Cover picnic Area. Martin propped up the first few pitches of the entrance series on the way out, to test his gear, & somehow managed to bend open a Nicholls jammer!

Started on P.00064

My knee obviously gave me much thought for concern and consequently my photography ceased. I managed to get back to camp without any problem.

Skippy examined my knee which had swollen slightly. Everything looked OK so he applied a bandage to help support. The following morning my leg was still stiff.

After a long discussion Dave & Skippy were persuaded to spend an extra day surveying. Jerry & Colin were to proceed out of the cave at my speed. Jerry carried my box up pythagoras. At the top we found a bag of rope for Jerry to carry out (50 100 m), Jerry feeling tired, set off at a steady pace while Colin joined me at the top of the pitch. Jerry agreed to wait at the top of Damerita's pitch.

Colin & I proceeded slowly trying to take a few photographs en route. Our speed or rather lack of it can be attributed to two causes: firstly, I was slow on the mixed ground in between the pitches, & secondly, Colin was having trouble on the SRT pitches.

We never met Jerry on our way out, hardly surprising since he could obviously move more quickly without waiting for anyone. Considering that he was hauling 100 m (or more) of rope out of the cave we didn't mind.

Meeting John S & John F. below the gap was pleasant. The chocolate was welcome, it was also 'lifting' to

just be able to chat to someone else. John F. offered to come out with me; I accepted his offer. I was able to move faster without any load to carry. Jim went on ahead to check the ladder pitches since it was my policy to prussik up everything possible since I could move quickly on ropes.

Arriving on the surface was pleasant even if the weather was grim. My first impressions on meeting Andy & Chris, were that somehow things had got out of hand. Throughout our trip from the camp I felt physically & mentally OK. I am reasonably fit, my base nearly made our coming trip considerably longer.

My thanks to Dave & Skippy for helping to correct my bells up with the surveying by staying on to survey. My thanks also for the support offered by John S, John F, Jim & Tony.
George

Wed 8th AUG POZU DE KATALINA - Jan & Keith
We didn't quite manage to pull off the 'early' that had been envisaged. Mind, we did lug a m rope & 2 x 25' ladders up the mountain. I collected my SRT gear from the entrance to the uninvestigated hole below Andy's Cairn (should be looked into). We then proceeded to change into caving attire to be considerable ~~with~~ bovine curiosity. Undeterred by a smack across the nose with a wetted sock, they seemed less happy about boulders being hurled at their backsides. Anyway, we finally got changed, ~~was~~ consumed some bread + meature

and set off over the hill to the hole doing quite reasonable impressions of walking Xmas trees as remembered as we were by fathoms of superblue, leagues of wire belays, and multitudes of hangers, bolts and anchors + aforementioned tackle - we tripped down the entrance pitches (literally) and ~~after~~ continued down the cave. I was surprised to see that the Fordis - Sheppard team had left a metre or so of slack between the I° & II° bolts for 2nd rope pitch rather than keeping the intermediate rope tight and putting a tart down from II° as we two + I had intended - however - not having a suitable tail we could not alter this. The next 4 bolts ~~were~~ ~~placed~~ gave easy chagrons and we reached John's ledge from which the passage goes off to pool on right. I then climbed down from this ledge to another 15' lower and traversed along the and down a crack to a stance on a shocked boulder. The rope from the previous pitch provides a reasonable self-line for this. Then dropping a stone down a shaft to LHS of boulder gave SIX SECOND FALL! - a quick $s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$ calculation - meant 180m - subtract $\frac{1}{2}$ second for 331 ms⁻¹ x sound and a bit for Major still meant a good 120m so we returned to the refuge infidelity to continue where we left off I'd met in two bolts for a V-belay and rigged a superb natural with a shag to act as tertiary

Thu 6th Aug POZU DE KATALINA

This time it really was going to be an early start - emerged from pit 7.45 am - went up to Refugio and found Joan - even made us both an omelette in order to decrease the amount of bread it was necessary to eat. Unfortunately Joan felt shitty and even the thought of an undescended deep shaft could not spur him to activity. However recalling the envious looks and drooping mouths of Dave + Skippy when we had told them of our find the night before they were quickly awoken.

11.00 am we set off (so much for good intentions) with Howard coming along for the walk. ~~The~~ In heavy ^{cloud we} proceeded slowly ~~between~~ ^{along} the ~~series~~ series of caons that Joan + I had built the previous evening with Howard ~~emulating~~ emulating a rather chubby 'Quicksilver' - dashing energetically between myself in front trying to take compass bearings on successive conceivable caons and Dave + Skippy who were behind. I don't think they quite trusted me to find the ~~shortest direct~~ shortest direct route between two caons.

Anyway we arrived at the hole at midday and after a scanty report (bread + pate) we made a rapid descent of the ~~provisionally~~ rigged pitches. Despite the fact that the belays had already been sorted out ~~regarding~~ the pitch was not a brief operation as both Skippy + Dave mentioned repeatedly at the time. ~~We had~~

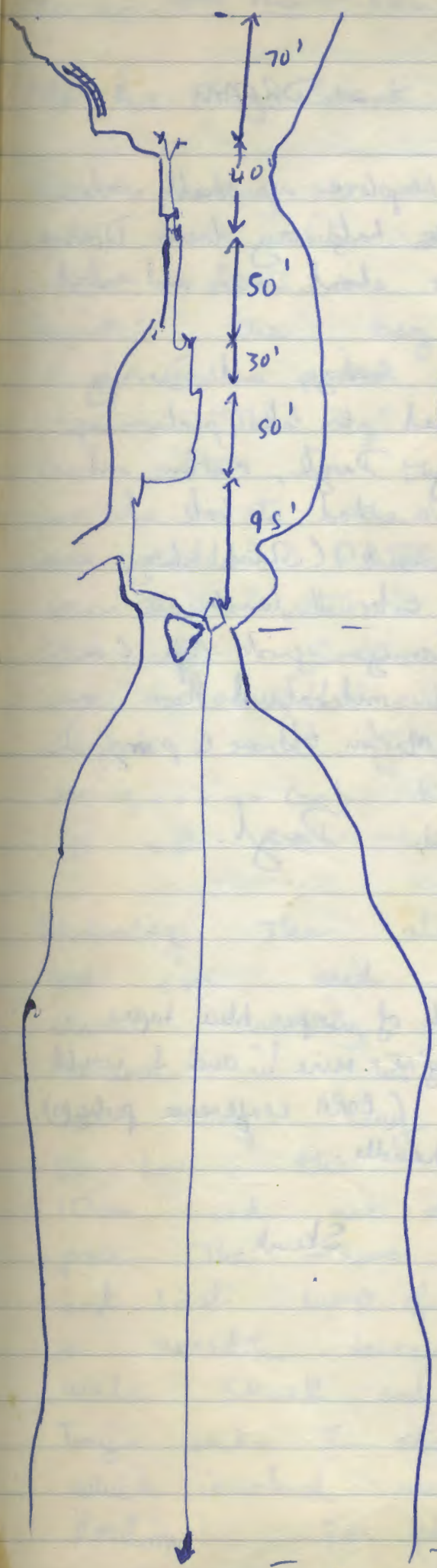
I connected III^o to both the bolts with a length of BW, put rope protectors on the 2 bolts to counter the effects of friction if one of the bolts failed and tied 87m New Madon to 60m New Madon to 30m Old Madon with fig of 8 knots.

After ~~for~~ an ~~long~~ all too brief cancer stick while we arranged suitable signals and I clambered down to the ledge by the belay. ~~Putting~~ ~~up~~ ~~the~~ ~~rope~~ I nearly gave myself a hernia taking the weight of 600' of rope in order to put my brand new Petzl Autotorch descender on the rope but eventually succeeded and descended the rope at a rate of about 1"/hr some feeding the rope through is no easy task - especially with the autotorch ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~1~~ hand has to hold down lever so only 1 is available to left rope weight.

The vertical small chimney belled out into a huge shaft. A small trickle descended from the snow covered ledge to the left and another small stream ~~came~~ descended on the other side further down.

350' down rope passes within 2" of a ledge which I passed but rope appeared to twang occasionally so I reascended to place 2 rope protectors - I recontinued descent but then decided to go up yet again to readjust their position - ~~I passed~~ this I then descended past this ~~up-point~~ for the third time decided it was satisfactory and continued - 480' down ~~there~~ the rope again passes quite close to a ledge but this only twangs occasionally.

To my surprise + delight I reached the 2nd
 knot and there was still no sign of
 the bottom - I'd thought the 2nd knot would
 probably be on the bottom.
 To my surprise + consternation I reached the
 end of the 3rd rope and there was
still no sign of the bottom. I unspooled
 a stone from a nearby crack - and
 - one, two, three, four - bang - $S = 0 + \frac{1}{2} \times 9.8 \times 4^2$
 + take a bit off - it had to be 200'. -
 an 800' freehang. - I pringed up the
 pitch like fury - my head full of the
 vast chasms and mind-blowing bottomless
 abysses that could be beyond. It took
 25 minutes to top - 1 hr 35 minutes
 after I'd clipped on to the rope. Having ~~trav~~ given
 the ~~plan~~ glad tidings to the other two +
 we proceeded out ~~the~~ excitedly.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ way up the entrance series +
 Dave remembered Eduardo relating how
 last year the SIE had descended 315m
 not to a choke that as far as he
 recalled fitted the description of Katakera
 We returned to the refugio +
 accosted Eduardo - he showed us the SIE
 survey - there was no doubt - they were
 the same - it was a great disappointment
 - our hopes dashed brutally. - but I'm
 glad it happened the way it did - it's one
 fresh of a shaft - the most impressive I've
 ever been - Adam not eat your heart
 out!



POZU

DE

KATALINA

(SIE name : Pozu Tres La Hayada)
 - bottomed by SIE - 315m 1980.

600'

200' deep from end of rope

00082

Thurs 6th Aug.

≈ 15hr POZU DEL XITU - DREAM LAKE

Daryl, Martin & Colin left to explore a small vertical trench on the right side of the cave half way down Dream Lake pitch. The trench continued for about 50' and ended in a boulder choke.

On the way out we met George and Danny at the Gap. Here George proceeded to take pictures of Colin ascending the pitch. Eventually Daryl, Martin and Danny left George and Colin. We had a look at Snow Castle & then made a slow exit (which always seems the case) carrying a 60m rope. It took at least an hour to get through the rig! It was Danny's first trip & he did find the rig challenging, but I understand there was problems with tackle [at this point Martin told me to pass on].

Daryl.

7.8.81

If anybody finds a 10m length of Super blue tape or a pair of grey cord trousers — they're mine! and I would appreciate it if you could return them (BCRA conference perhaps). Also a knife with orange tape on the handle.

Skunk.

Tuesday 4th Aug - Fri 7th Aug.

John S., Tony, Skunk, Kev H.

After packing on Monday evening, John and Tony got down Xitu at about 10am followed by the others about an hour later. The first two repacked the bag left by Sunday's ill fated trip and picked up a ladder at Dream Lake, leaving "The Bag" which they had brought through the rift for the others. John and Tony arrived at the camp at 5.30 pm and left to ladder PAFS pot, meeting the other two on their return. A leisurely meal of Beef Stroganoff, Soup, Biscuits, Chocolate and several brews occupied everyone until 10 pm, when they all crashed out. (This bloody third person stuff is boring..... God knows what writing a D Phil up will be like.)

Wednesday. The alarm clock went off at six am and various mugs got up and started making breakfast. Skunk, as usual, sensibly remained in his pit until the first brew was ready. Tony and I left the others to do the washing up at about 10am and set off placing baits at a leisurely pace. The others caught up placing the 10th and last lump of smelly cheese ^{at Chandler Pot.} and we made a smooth descent as a foursome to the sump. While Skunk and Kev took photographs Tony and I started the survey out, a process which involved me traversing into a very precarious position to plumb the sump to 5m deep at least.

After filling the sump with Rhotamine, Skunk and kev joined us and the surveying proceeded efficiently, reaching "S" after about 6 hours and 52 ^{Grade 56} x survey stations. We returned to the camp, at about 1pm to and had a superb meal of Bol Sauce and Mashed potatoes before getting to bed.

PS The draught which goes downstream from Xitu's Lost Stand disappears up into the rift about 200m from the sump. Should be worth pushing.

Thursday - Friday.

Got up at about 11 am, and sent Kev and Skunk ^{with "The Bag"} out first at ~ 4:45pm, after pannage and the rest of the Bol Sauce and Spud. Tony and I followed about an hour later and caught them at the Samaritans and the Big Pitch. We took the "Bag" from the Big Pitch onwards, and got out about 2-30am Friday morning.

An efficient and enjoyable trip. The first time I've done the mantle steps without tackle. Much better!

John S

Xitu @ Al: 1653 metres

10-8-81

Resurgence (tree): 925.64

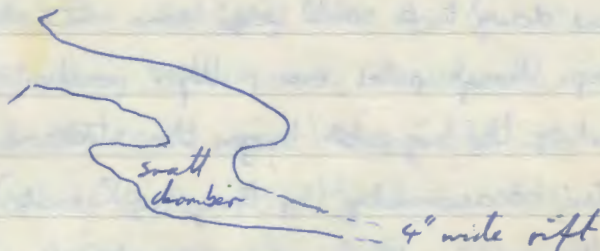
Difference: 727 metres

Al.

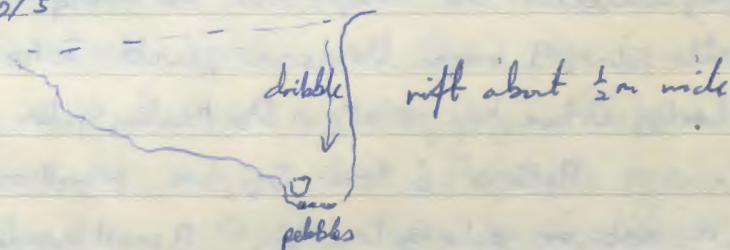
Height entrance $\frac{2}{5} = 1611$; $\frac{3}{5} = 1622.4$

Sun 9th Aug. 20/5 etc. Along.

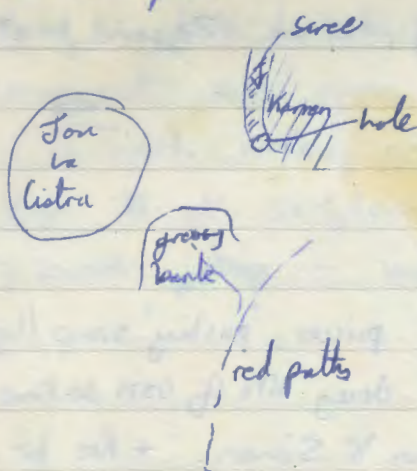
Scabbled around on the surface looking for holes. Found very little. Fully pushed 20/5 (not too hard):-



Also looked in an unnumbered over 79 rift nearer the Mirador from 20/5



Found 'Suicide pot' :-



hole exists underneath a pile of 'loose' boulders from a small swice slope at the base of some stiff korren. There are two holes just about body sized, and stones rattle down for about 40' Probably chokes. Can hear dribbles.

00086

MON 10TH AUGUST

DE-TACKLING POZU DE KATALINA

JOHN, ROO & PETE.

Pete set off first, and after 7 bolt & 1 knot change-over, reached the head of the big pitch. Roo continued down to a small ledge some 40' above, while John set up a hauling system (rope through petrol, over pulley & powered by foot ropewalker.) Meanwhile, Pete, at the head of the big pitch began the strenuous task of hauling up 600' of rope, by hand! Resting occasionally (by tying fig. 8 knots) the first rope was fed into a tackle bag, and the second & third ropes were chained. In all, 3 tackle bags, containing numerous ladders, belays, bolts kits etc and 3 chained ropes were hauled up to John. Having collected the hangers and the sling back-up belay from a large natural over the pitch, I began the ascent, with John further out of the cave on a larger ledge where he re-set up the hauling system. I followed out, collecting hangers etc. After a 6 hour trip, we found ourselves sitting at the entrance with a massive pile of tackle. A small quantity was dumped at a nearby entrance, to be pushed later, ~~the~~ the rest was loaded onto our backpacks, (2 full tackle bags & 3 ropes), and we staggered back to the Resequejo.

Pete

Sat 8th → Mon 10th

Camping: pieces, 'pushing' sump/bypasses, examining baits, doing lots of cross sections etc.

Keith, Jan & Simon. + Roo for a little bit.

The two members of the party with experience of camping slightly managed to send Simon & Roo off with both tacklebags saying "we'll be a little while yet." A "little while" proved to be 1½ hours, enabling us two poor sods to have the pleasure of the rift + tacklebags. Roo's light & Roo himself weren't feeling too good by the time the streamway was reached so he dropped out. Keith took him out and Jan & I continued down. Apart from Jan lobbing off twice the rest of the trip was uneventful. Took some pieces in Eton Palais and the boulder chambers, managed to lose the first of Clive's adaptors.

Got to the camp at 9:00 pm & were dosing by 11 pm. When the alarm went off at 07:00 I got up, being rather naive about these things, to find that Keith & Jan expected their 1st brew served to them in bed. We got off by about 10:30 and proceeded in a leisurely style to the bottom, apart from all the sodding bits of f----- awful passage that we had to do. Most of the bits were examined with thoroughly negative results, in fact about the only non-human life down there was a large carabid beetle that leapt out of my funny. We spent an hour or so at the sump, with Jan looking stupid holding the infamous "him & her" flag, Keith splashing & gasping around the sump pool and me searching in vain for the last lump of cheese: I suspect John got hungry at this point? No sump bypasses were found so the ~~our~~ journey back to camp was stashed with the aim of mass photography. Unfortunately, a torn slide film, another lost bulb adaptor and a lost flashbulb gun had a detrimental effect on this worthy objective. Still, took some B&W photos and hopefully the slides have been taken by all the other care photographers on this expedition! Not much worth taking in this hot section anyway!

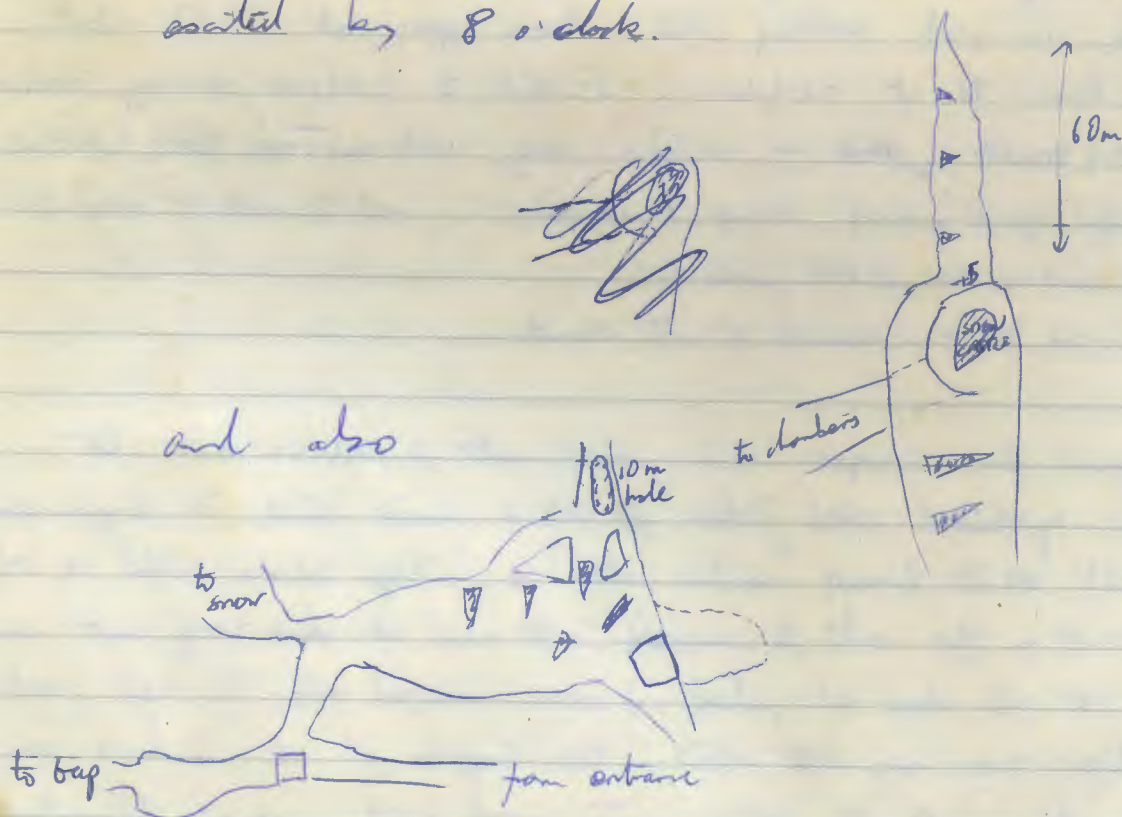
Got back to the camp at just gone 9:00 pm - keeping our all-important circadian rhythms in good working order. Alarm again at 07:00 - but this time Jan's turn ~~to~~ at serfdom. Exited to brilliant evening sunshine at 8:00 pm. Very smooth ~~and~~ - unlike my arse and Jan's knees & elbows.

Tues 11th

Snow Castle with Dudley Camp

Tony + Perry, Dave, Dave, Pete

Set off about 11ish for entrance. Met Dave in rift & took a few photos in rift & next pitch. Waited a fair while while banging hearing noises come from the rift. Communication was poor as we were well strung out. Eventually we all got to the bottom of the ladders (about 2 hrs). We let John & Pete pass us there, and then followed on. After what felt like 15 mins, we all arrived at the rope climb. Here I questioned the feasibility of a trip at the current speed. Dave, Dave & Pete agreed (decided) to about & go out, leaving Perry & I to continue to Snow Castle. This we did, taking photos en route & none at Snow Castle (first couple with John & Pete assisting). We then explored the un-sketched passage off & explored some other climbs. We then exited by 8 o'clock.



Tue 11th August

SNOW-CASTLE & GRAHAM'S BALLS-UP.

JOHN & PETE.

Set off on how after Tony & Dudley group, arrived at the cave only to discover 2 people still not through the rift. Eventually, after much clanking of ammo cans etc., we followed them through and down to Customer hall. Here, we passed Tony's group and made a fairly rapid descent to Snow Castle - Incredible, especially the tiny crystal trees, & so white

(used to think Shalter Cave had white formations, till someone discovered Snow Castle!) Met Tony & Perry on the way out, went back to take a couple of pics, then on down to Graham's Balls-up, to change a very badly worn rope. Sheath was worn right through, & 3 core strands were broken. Rope was replaced with a 60m new MacLow. Made a slightly slower exit, with John still carrying the tackle bag, & apparently unaffected by its weight! On the way out through the rift, we replaced the first section of the traverse line with the good section of rope removed from G.B.U.

Trip time ~ 9 hrs.

Tuesday 11th

Dye-tracing.

Eleuted charcoal from detectors placed in Cullisbro resurgence and in River cabs at Carmamona - No colour showed.

(Detectors collected on Sunday 9th).

Am.

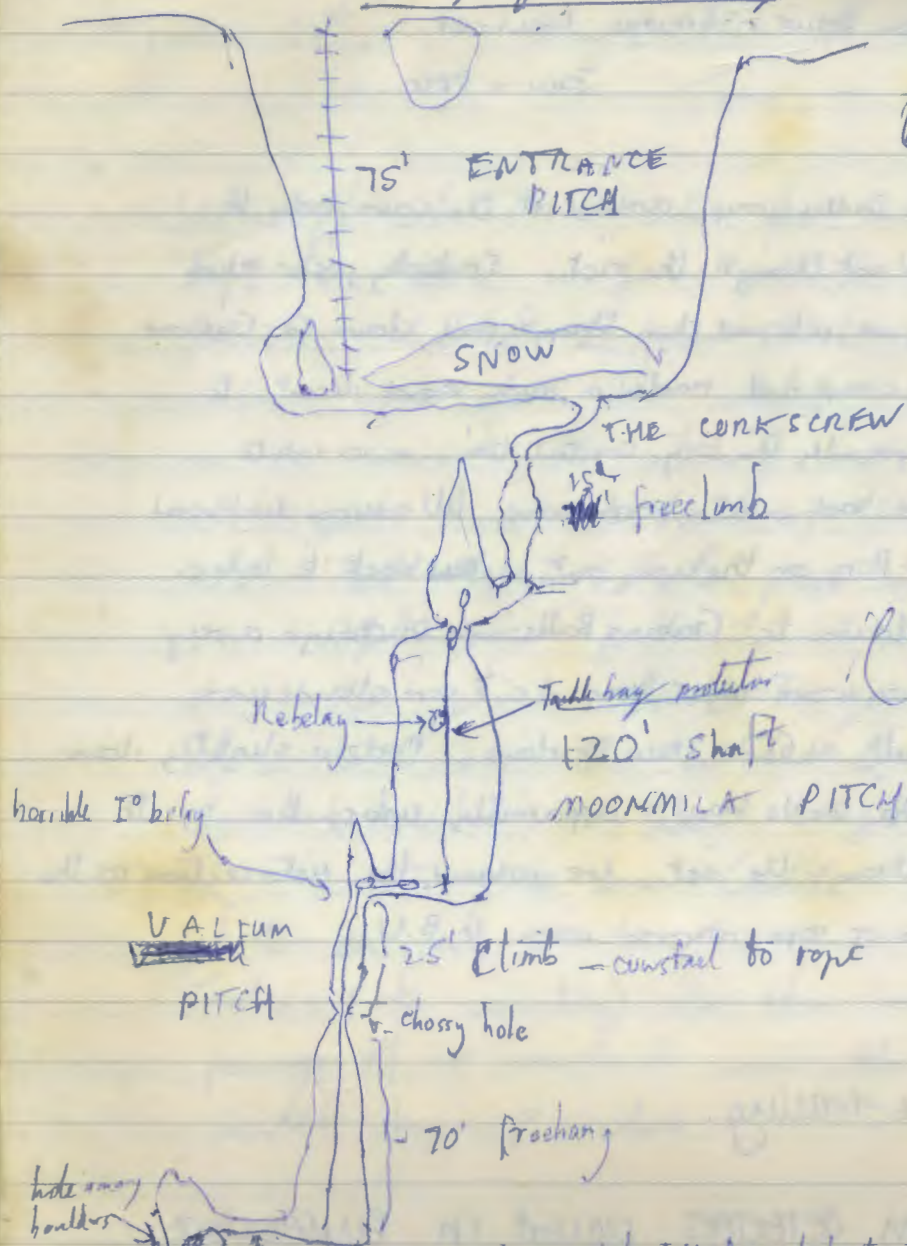
Tuesday 11th August

Dream Lake

Clive + Roo

Went straight down to Gap and waited for 1½ hrs for John, Pete and new rope for GBU. When they didn't appear, descended Gap and Roo eventually persuaded Jerry rope on GBU through his descender. Dumped south and removed leaders from Dream Lake 1. Back at Gap met John, Pete and rope. A newtful exit. 7½ hrs

WED 12TH PETE + KEITH - OPTIMISTO
 00090 I spotted the shaft on Tuesday evening
 on a walk over Forma - diagram below tells the rest
 no sign of SIE markings



POZY
DEL

OPTIMISTO
 (Xitu Upper Series?)
GRADE 5 1/2

(draughts nicely)

hide away boulders
 tight rift - sit harness, belay belt, lamp, helmet all have to come off and most of overcoat gets left behind.
 bloody tight - would be easy if I am + shoulder could be temporarily amputated
 hole to RHS needs hammering to get past - leads onto 8' drop into bottom of a shaft - possible ways lead off either side as far as can be seen

THE STRIPSNOW

MON 10th - Wed 12th Xitu detackling camp Graham Darryl Martin Dave & Hymel

An uneventful & efficient camp. Dave & Hymel set off about 11.30 the others to follow later. Hymel managed to abseil past the gaping hole in the rope on GBU without noticing it, Dave did & reversed the rope. Arrived at camp about 7.30, others arrived at couple of hours later. All set the alarm for 6.00 am & set off about this is pretty boring and no-one will read it anyway, if you're in for an interesting read I'll write this page out. However, I've finished so I'll start, We set off about 10 or so & made a speedy trip to the bottom. Dave & Hymel picked up the first tackle bag & sped on back to the camp, collecting a further full tackle bag at the top of choss chock which shouldn't have been there given the ground. D+H intended to then carry on out with 3 tackle bags to the big pitch & exit immediately but by the time the others arrived at the camp with their 3 tackle bags (We decided to wait just in case the others got into trouble) D+H were in bed with the alarm set for 4am. Arrived at Cambria tactics with 4 full tackle bags, & made speedy exit from camp. GOM exited some hours later.

Hymel.

~ 6 am after alarm at 11 am; food & camp tidying / Barabish burying until ~ 12.30; carrying 7 bags to Pythagoras, hauling up & denigging (~ 4 hrs 'cos the rope was too short to allow for a hauling system & knots except with fiendish climbs up the choss slope at the bottom of the pitch); carrying a bag each to Ebn Palais while knackered from Pythagoras.... Drank soup at top of Big pitch, but no one had thought to provide a spoon to stir the soup, but a rock works quite well - First taste of clean water (no fluorescense)

This case proves that some caves are designed for ladders.

Dick

Thursday 13th August (Two years after Pearl Pitch was pushed)
Xcite Jerigging 18hrs. Tony John Roo

After dragging the location of the bags from several sleeping and festering bodies from the previous party, ~~the~~ ^{the three} set off down the cave at about 11am. A leisurely descent to the Big Pitch with everyone feeling knackered followed and then things ^{really} took off with Roo changing from "stop" to figure of 8 in mid descent and Tony "weeing" down the rope. Five bags were collected from the head of Pythagoras and dragged back to Dampstation, where the scatty Bluewater meant that the bags had to be hauled hand over hand by John (as the rope wouldn't run through his ~~own~~ hauling system). A "haul - and - pass" up the Moult steps using the Dampstation Rope followed leaving everyone panting, in spite of a Moults lunch break in the middle. Cornesome Rope at Sam II meant that bags were hauled hand over hand again, this time with Tony and John pulling. John finally got his hauling system working on Sam I by hanging from the belay and rope walking on the line over a pulley. This method whisked the bags up, although it meant that Roo, who was holding the Petd below the pulley in place, got stomped on several times. As Tony derigged the pitch, a huge cataclysmic boom sounded from below. After counting the tackle bags ~~at~~ the party decided that it was merely the secondary belay for Sam II falling off. Sweaty tackle ~~hands~~ carrying with two bags

each (OULCC 5 being a special bastard) followed
as far as combined Tactics, where four
more bags were collected and hauled.
The whole lot eventually arrived at
Eton Palais in spite of YUCPC's only
tackle bag hopelessly puncturing on the way and
shedding a belt kit which Tony recovered from
a choke below. An efficient exit (The
cave is marvellous if you're not carrying
a Mule Bag for a change) concluded
the trip, everyone getting out at 4-30
- Sam.

John S

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST

GOD, POSEN, & BEN TURPIN (OULCC)

3/5 CARACOL POZY (SEE PAGE 0011)

Descended to head of fifth pitch as per page 11.
Belayed fifth pitch ladder high in rift giving
a 15 ft pitch into POSE CHAMBER with pretties.
Continued past stabs to a flat out crawl under
false floor to head of 6th pitch (40 ft). Tunnelled
up through false floor to obtain belay. Aftward
take off into smooth walled shaft. Series of
small climb downs at base of pitch led to chossy
7th pitch (40 ft). From bottom of pitch three
short climbs down typical bastardised Vorhohipe
meandering stream passage led to a 40 ft climb
down heavily chirted shaft giving out onto the
top of the 8th pitch (20 ft). Pitch has aftward
take off into bell shaped chamber. Tight rift

leads off base of pitch for about 30 ft. and then widens and drops down 5 ft. Passage goes back on itself following the water and chokes after 30 ft. Rift continues on for 15 ft. before becoming too tight. Rift can be seen to continue and widen. No tang needed for any further exploration.

GOD

P. J. M. M. M.

Saturday 15th August

John Martin Graham Perry Pete (Skippy's Brother)
Daryl Roo.

De rigging Xitu 11 am - 9-30 pm.

All Bags withdrawn as far as base of Entrance series and Xitu derigged to 4m Stream Pitch. Graham Pete and Daryl looked at Snow castle on the way. Thanks to the DCRT lads for their help. John S.

Sunday 16th August

John Pete Roo Daryl Perry. ~~Simon~~

Detackling + Derigging Xitu.

Hauled 21 Bags up Entrance series. Were joined by Simon and Jan later who derigged as far as the top of the 19m pitch. Emerged with bags at about midnight.

John S.

Monday 17th August

Graham Amelia John Jan Pete Simon Daryl.
Finishing Derigging.

It's Finished!

00094
Wynn & Hymel Optimista Tues 18th.

A nice ~100 ft keith-rigged pitch leads to a section of stream passage which makes Climax rift look like the tiddy beaver picnic. After ~100 ft of slithering in a direction roughly away from Xito one arrives in a bloody disgusting state at the head of a 70 ft pitch. We were suggested if we'd go all the way back to collect tackle which we would have to derig again almost immediately, so we didn't rig the pitch. If you traverse across the left you can see that the shaft continues around the corner. Whilst looking for a pitch bypass I climbed, if climbed is the word, a steeply inclined old stream passage to the left of the pitch for about 100-150 ft! The going is hampered by a series of difficult inclined (45°) squoeres for which you have to take off all your gear. The "passage" continues in this style until it is impossible to be sure of a safe return. However on the surface a surface projection showed the passage to lie on an area of ground below the main entrance; so it's probably not worth bothering with again. We then derigged the case. This case definitely makes Xito look like something you could take the family down. ~~that~~

Hymel

PS my petal unit lasted several trips down Xito but 12 hours in Optimista and it's in shreds.

Friday 14th August
Kivu Derigging

Pete, Jan, Simon, Hywel, Keith, God, Dick ← ^{Yes he really went caving!}
1 pm - 5.30 am

Pete & Jan went down first making a leisurely descent down to top of FI, really savouring the pleasure of caving without nasty growths on ones back (tacklebags). Simon & Hywel caught up at Dream Lake, Simon removing the unnecessary (for SRT) retray 2m down. Jan went down FI II followed by a shower of rocks from the top of FI I, and on to bottom of Eton Palais to attach tackle bags to rope. While Strongarm Pete was pulling them up hand over hand Simon & Hywel set up a hauling system ~~on~~ ^{at} Eton Palais. Simon had said to put the two heaviest bags on first, which Pete duly did. But with 100m of hauling rope and friction at the pulley he had to push ~~himself~~ ^(or rather, back) against the roof to prevent himself moving up with the bags remaining stationary. ~~Boxes~~ This slowed things down a bit, so all 14 bags were at the top of Eton Palais, and the pitch derigged by the time the first pair had got to the top of FI II. Fortunately most of the remaining tacklebags went up somewhat faster, but even so Pete & Jan had a long wait at the bottom. As the last two ^{bags} were about to be hauled up someone at the top of the pitch decided to have some bomb-aiming practice. When no direct hits were scored they threw some larger rocks down, which shattered on landing sending shrapnel across the ledge. Even this didn't hit anyone, though some came very close to Pete, so they gave up. Simon ~~the~~ put the bolts back in at the top of FI 3, Pete prussiked up followed by Jan at about 10.00 pm. All the bags had by this time been hauled up FI I by Keith, God & Dick, who had followed on down about an hour after Simon & Hywel. Pete & Jan then derigged FI & caught up with Simon at Dream Lake. ~~where the rest of the bags~~ The last couple of bags including the FI rope ~~at~~ were hauled up this, the pitch derigged and the tackle dumped at base of GBC. Keith, God & Dick had set up their hauling system ~~in~~ ^{on} the gap so Simon & Pete pulled the stuff up. During this process there was a bright glow from the top of ~~GBC~~ GBC, which looked quite spectacular from the bottom as the gap was illuminated, due

00098

(& igniting it!)

to Simon dumping some carbide in a puddle. Dick then had to restrain Hywel to prevent him from emptying the whole of the large camping container into a pool. Finally everything was at the top of the trap including the trap rope. Five bags were also taken to Customs Hall.

Pete was last up 3rd BW pitch, and as he leapt on to the ladder a rock was dislodged higher up. Those above just heard a horrible rumbling ~~and~~ sound, as though Pete had gone to the bottom of the 40m blind pot, followed by silence. Cries of 'Pete! Pete! are you all right?!' etc were answered by groaning sounds. Jan went back to find Pete hanging free on his self lining gear. He had been knocked off the ladder by a rock which the ladder somehow dislodged. It had hit him on the knee, so he was unable to climb ladders, meaning he had to Prusik all the entrance series. When it was realised that he was able to do this the others went on out leaving Hywel & Jan to help him (by holding the rope taut etc). They emerged after a slow ascent at ~ 5.30pm.

00198
REFUGIO
START.

SPRING.
FILL STINKIE
→ & THROW
AGAIN. SPEND 1/2 hr
looking for false teeth after
last night's drinking

LOSE PATH
Attacked by dogs
RETURN
TO REFUGIO
TAKE A PENALTY

XITU ENTRANCE
Run back to Refugio
to get fire extinguisher!
NEXT PERSON
for Laundry heard &
MISSES GO

HEAD OF
FLAT FE.
(IRON).
SCARED
SHITLESS MISS
ONE GO TO
CLEAN SUIT

ABSEIL
DOWN COW'S
TAIL BY
MISTAKE
GO BACK TO

ROPE TOO
SHORT
PRUSIK
BACK TO

ETON PALAS
RUSH THROUGH
RUCKEE
TO
SAMARITAN. I

DREAM LAKE
DISLOGE ROCKS.
ANYONE ON
GO BACK TO

Go THROUGH
FERNIES DELIGHT
BY MISTAKE
MISS TWO GOES
TO MEND SUIT.

FIND SARDINE
CHAMBER. MAKE
A SAND CASTLE
AND MISS A GO.

TAKE A SWIM
IN THE PACIFIC
SEA. RUSH ON TO
44 IN EFFORT
TO KEEP WARM.

FAG
BREAK.
NON SMOKERS ON
TO

TRAVERSE OF
DEATH.
Fall down
wet bit go on
to 41.

HAVE A GOOD REST AT THE END. WA-SH
BUT DROP IN SUMP. LOOSE PETZLE JET
FLAT. DEVELOPE JOCK ROT. BREAK SARDINE KE 7.

PILLING
"FIND MASTER
CAVE"
TOSS AGAIN.

THE FLYER
DROP PRUSSIK
BAGS DOWN
PITCH & MISS
A GO

FIND THE
SUMP, BUT YOU
THINK ITS NOT THE
END. GO BACK
FOUR SPACES.

GET LOST
IN XITU'S LAST
STAND. GO
BACK ONE SPACE

G.B.U.
BOLT FAILS
THROW SIX IN
NEXT THREE GOES
FOR BACK UP TO
HOLD. OR START
AGAIN.

~~RABE BRAE~~
THROW A 5 IN
3 GOES TO REACH
BOTTOM BEFORE THE
RELAY DOES. IF NOT
GO BACK ONE SPACE

HAMMOCK
SPLITS - BACK TO
REFUGIO TO
REPAIR IT!

CAMP IF YOU
WENT TO SCHOOL IN
BATH, FORGET TO
WAKE UP AND MISS
A GO.
(NOT ALL OF US STAY IN BED!)

ATTACK OF
THE SHITS &
MISS A GO
TO FIND BOG
ROLL.

THE GAP
SUPER FREE
HANG!
GO ON TO

C B N
HIT BY SHOWER
OF RUBBLE
AS WILLIAM ENTERS
FROM 3/5
RETURN TO REFUGIO

FIND
CHOCOLATE DUMP
GO ON TO
+

<p>ENTRANCE <u>CUNAX RIFT</u> THROW EVEN <small>to climb over chimney</small> TO CONTINUE</p>	<p>RETURN TO ENTRANCE TO TO PICK UP FORGOTTEN TACKLE BAG OR TAKE PENALTY</p>	<p>ENTRANCE SERIES RIGGED WITH NEW MARLOW ABSEIL TO 10</p>	<p>00199 RACK BAR WORN THROUGH TAKE PENALTY TO REPLACE</p>
<p>26 <u>COMBINED TACTICS</u> WAIT HERE TILL SOMEONE ELSE LANDS HERE <small>from 22 PURITAN</small></p>	<p>27 REFILL CARBIDE MISS ONE GO.</p>	<p>28 <u>SAMARITAN I</u> SMOOTH DESCENT GO ON TO 30</p>	<p>6 10M PITCH. TAKE ONE PENALTY SUICIDE RIG AND MOVE ON TO 6</p>
<p>43 CARRY THE 1,000 EXTRA METERS OF ROPE DOWN TO CAMPER'S PITCH & MISS A GO.</p>	<p>44 CAMPERS <small>knackered by sock pot throw a 5 for Talan</small> PITCH - SCARED SHITLESS BY TAKE OFF. THROW A 5 TO CLEAN SUIT.</p>	<p>29 <u>SAMARITAN II</u> RIGGED BY DAVE ROSE MISS GO TO RE RIG.</p>	<p>7 <u>DESCEND BLIND POT</u> MISS & NEXT GO TO CLIMB OUT</p>
<p>WASH ASCENDERS JET & BATTERY'S KEY. A LONG WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR.</p>	<p>45 FALL OFF TRAVERSE. THROW A 6 FOR A SHITTY HANDHOLD. <small>choxy</small></p>	<p>30 FAG BREAK. NON SMOKERS ON TO 31</p>	<p>8 <u>BLUEWATER I</u> REPLACE A BOLT TAKE A PENALTY</p>
<p>47 SLIDE DOWN THE DEPTH SCALATOR GO ON TO 49.</p>	<p>46 COBBLERS PITCH NEEDS A RE- RIG MISS A 40 BUT FAIL TO DO IT.</p>	<p>31 MARBLE STEPS BASH YOUR KNEE FROM NOW ON ALL SIXES DON'T COUNT</p>	<p>9 <u>BLUE WATER III</u> THROW A 6 OR TAKE A PENALTY TO CROSS PIT</p>
<p>34 <u>PYTHAGORAS</u> LOST YOUR RACK. CLASSICAL ABSEIL FUCKS YOU UP FOR TWO GOES</p>	<p>33 TRAVERSE WET SUIT CRUTCH. <small>WET</small> REARRANGE BALLS AND HOBBLE ON TO 35</p>	<p>32 <u>DAMP- -URATION</u> STINKIE H EXTINGUISHER. THROW FIVE TO RELIGHT.</p>	<p>10 TAKE OFF HARNES AND PACK AWAY MISS A GO OR TAKE A PENALTY.</p>
<p>14 NAME A SERIES AFTER YOUR GIRLFRIEND MISS FIVE GOES IF THIS APPLIES TO YOU</p>	<p>13 DESCEND TRENCH PITCHES BY MISTAKE MISS TWO GOES.</p>	<p>12 EASY GOING IN INLET PASSAGE GO ON TO 15</p>	<p>11 <u>CUSTOMS HALL</u> LOSE WAY - GO BACK 3 SQUARES</p>