

Dave & Richard

Sam Bill & Martin went pushing. Dave & I eventually got rigged and went to survey with M. He however, had bad ices, and, rightly, was concerned about the entrance ladder pitch not being lined. He eventually decided to jack at the head of the pitch, which turned out to be 38.9 m. We got v. cold but started to joke +r. This is coming with a difference - die of hypothermia with a smile!

first ~~that~~ we surveyed to the out of the bolt of the pitch after the rift. 30 stations.

The next day, no-one appeared to push. It was v wet. We got into the cave to find a lot of water. My firma kept going out because of the drips: the water container filled to the brim in the time it took me to ~~fall~~ put on my sit harness. Faced with bad light, being wet & cold and having had no real food for four days we jacked after getting the 86m mark through to the Mistral shaft.

We walked from FV56 to Lagos direct, in the mist. Got lost. Cursed. Fell over. Wiped off mud. Fell over again. Heard cow bells. Made for them. Found ourselves at Bobias! Went to Amadores & had:

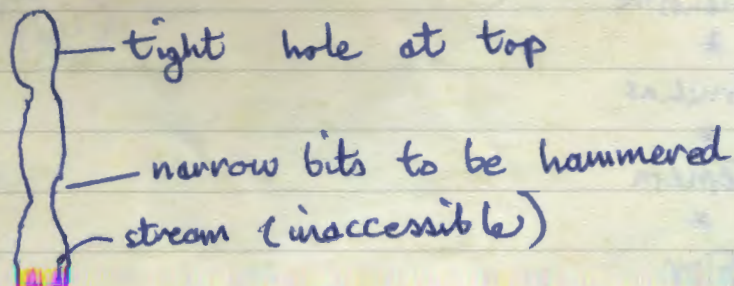
- soup
- * menestra
- * Truchas
- * Temera
- * Flan
- * Flan
- * Caffe x2
- * Cognac.

SV

5/08/82

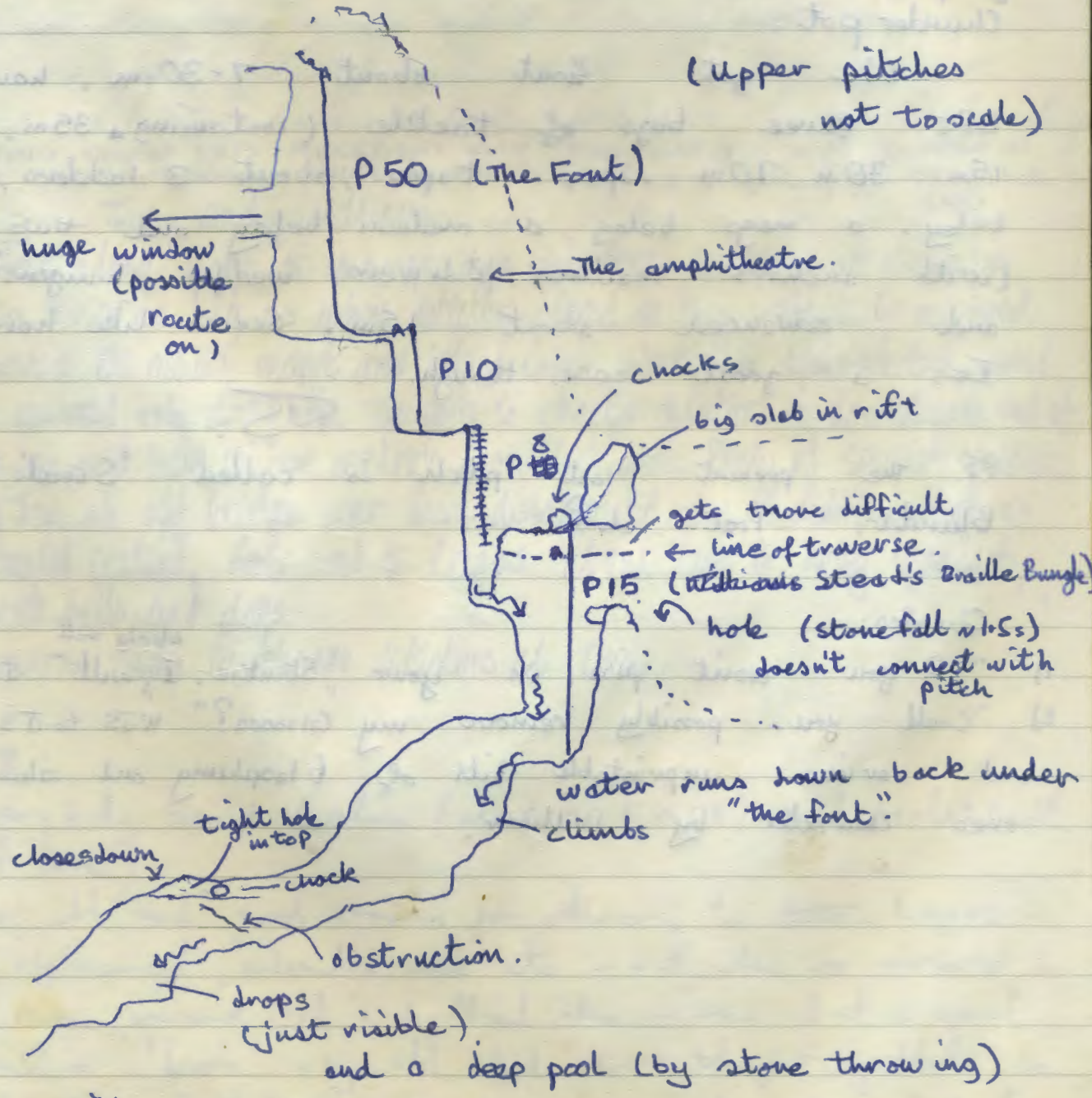
FU 56 (Sima de la Jorcala Blanca) John, Martin H, William,

Will and I walked up to FU 56 and met Martin there and we all got down the hole at about 12-10pm, each with a Mule Bag of tackle. A fairly rapid descent followed to the ladder pitch before the traverse, where we added a 5m ladder, shortened the belay and removed the tapes. The traverse was found to be easier than it looks and we reached the font fairly quickly. The pitch below the font (c. 10m) was rigged with a tape back up over the same huge knob as the wire primary (if the knob falls, it'll probably fill in the rest of the cave) and the belay shortened and the ladder lengthened on the following pitch. After some cock ups as to who was carrying what, the final rope pitch was rigged using two tapes round chocks and two rope protectors. At the bottom a short series of chimbs leads down to a tight rift where young truly inserted himself and had trouble getting out again. When Martin got down he also went in and announced that it needed some adjustment with a hammer, ~~tether~~. About five hours of hammering and moving chocks followed. The rift in section is like this:-



The idea was that Martin knocked the ledges off to get down to the stream using

a ladder belayed to a chock wedged into the tight hole at the top. The problem was manipulating the chock into a suitable position: i.e. so that it was directly above the widest part where Martin was hammering. In the end we couldn't get the chock far enough into the tight hole and a rather more unsuitable bit had to be hammered. It probably requires about 3 hours more work. On the way out we had a look at possible alternative ways on: the situation is:-



So the possible routes on are:-

- 1) continue hammering the obstructions
- 2) Pendulum into large window on the Font to find parallel shaft which ^{maybe} hits (?) stream lower on. Martin went into ^{the base of} a similar parallel shaft next to one of the "Bathroom Steps".
- 3) Continue traverse above last pitch away from stream to find an equivalent of the Teness Series.

One ominous note: the final squeeze emits glooping noises like a sump. However, so did Chunder pot.

We got out about 7-30am, having left three bags of tackle (containing a 35m, 20m 15m 30m 70m ropes, tapes, about 3 ladders, a short belay, a mess belay, a medium belay and two bolt kits (with anchors maillous, 2 drivers, wedges, hangers) and advanced about 15m. Seems like hard work. It's a great cave, though.

JS

P.S. the present last pitch is called "Stead's Braille Blunder." Poetic, eh?

Quotes:

- 1) "If you woult piss in your stinkie, I, will" JS to WJS ^{bloody well}
 - 2) "Could you possibly remove my Glasses?" WJS to JS in Meander of Argonaut
- and various unprintable bits of blasphemy and shurs on one's character by William.

On Friday 06/08/82

Tom, Perry, Martin H - left the refuge amidst much tears mainly from me. They are life for England, home and Queen - lucky sods - will all see them soon back in the old country, where life is civilized and you can get a good pint of best bitter. Not this vino stuff which makes so many people puke - or was it my food - Ahrrrrgh - G's got to get rid of them some how, only those with strange stomachs will survive this expedition!!! Kelly

Sory chaps dissecting you, you'll have to feed for your selfs. Going for a dirty mid-week to Ovada with Alvaro - Bye Bye much love Kelly - back Wednesday

DISGUSTING, NONE OF THIS MISCEGENY WITH THE NATIVES WAS ALLOWED IN MY DAY. GRUMPH, GRUMPH, MINES A BRANDY, WHAT? A Disgusting^{ed} OLD OUEC Hack (RW)

7-8-82 Jan, Andy, William.

Went along gorge to change dye detectors. Resurgence at Culienbro more than twice as big as when detectors placed, so they couldn't be retrieved. Found most of the others, except ones behind Cain. Detector in hydro-electric canal had been removed, only string left. Too dark to change detectors in downstream end of Rio Lores, so will have to use controls from last year. Plenty of Spanish spectators watching Jan ab. off bridge near Cain, disappointed when he didn't fall off so they applauded instead. Got back to Lagos about 1am to noisy Spaniards, cows with bells, and dogs.

Someone needs to change detectors at Trea.

6. 8. 82

Every body except Graham (alone at F456) and Helen (not close at Aris)

We all had good reasons for returning to Aris Lagos - detector replacement, culienbro cave etc - but when we arrived in pouring rain, someone had a brilliant idea - how about a meal at A madori - 'Losh' say all 'I'd never thought of that' so we did. A round low-key 4-course meal, to celebrate

the impending departure of Martin, Martin, Tom & Penny, No
drumming, but John fell over, spill wine etc. William fell
asleep in his Menestra several times

7.8.82

before meal, just after
I'd changed into clean clothes
and into a cow turf.

Martin, Martin, Tom & Penny left today. Tears all
round, mainly from everybody who couldn't get in the car with
them. Filthy sucking dogs weather. I want to go home.

Mark, Paul, George - Grotte de Culambro, photographing

Jan, Andy, William - Replace dog detector

Dani, Marika - Protect bus from Argentinians, test

suspension at 1 pm

Typical early start - left Rio Grande after saying goodbye
to Martin, Martin, Tom & Penny again, and consuming
2200 pts worth of Tortilla etc. Entered cave at 4:20,

and to amusement ~~to~~ of tourists in Gorge. Pretties
start almost immediately inside entrance, so photos start straight
away. Unfortunately (?) George is ill, so we spend only

3 hrs plotting, then Paul and I visit streamway,
and by pass upstream sump via complex upper levels,
only to find a further sump. Sumps are very deep, clear
and fast-flowing. Very nice cave - clean, clear, free,

formations, impressive stream. It may be possible to
move upstream via upper levels - but would be hard work.
Back to ~~the~~ lakes at 1 am. Mark

8-9/8/82

Richard + Dave

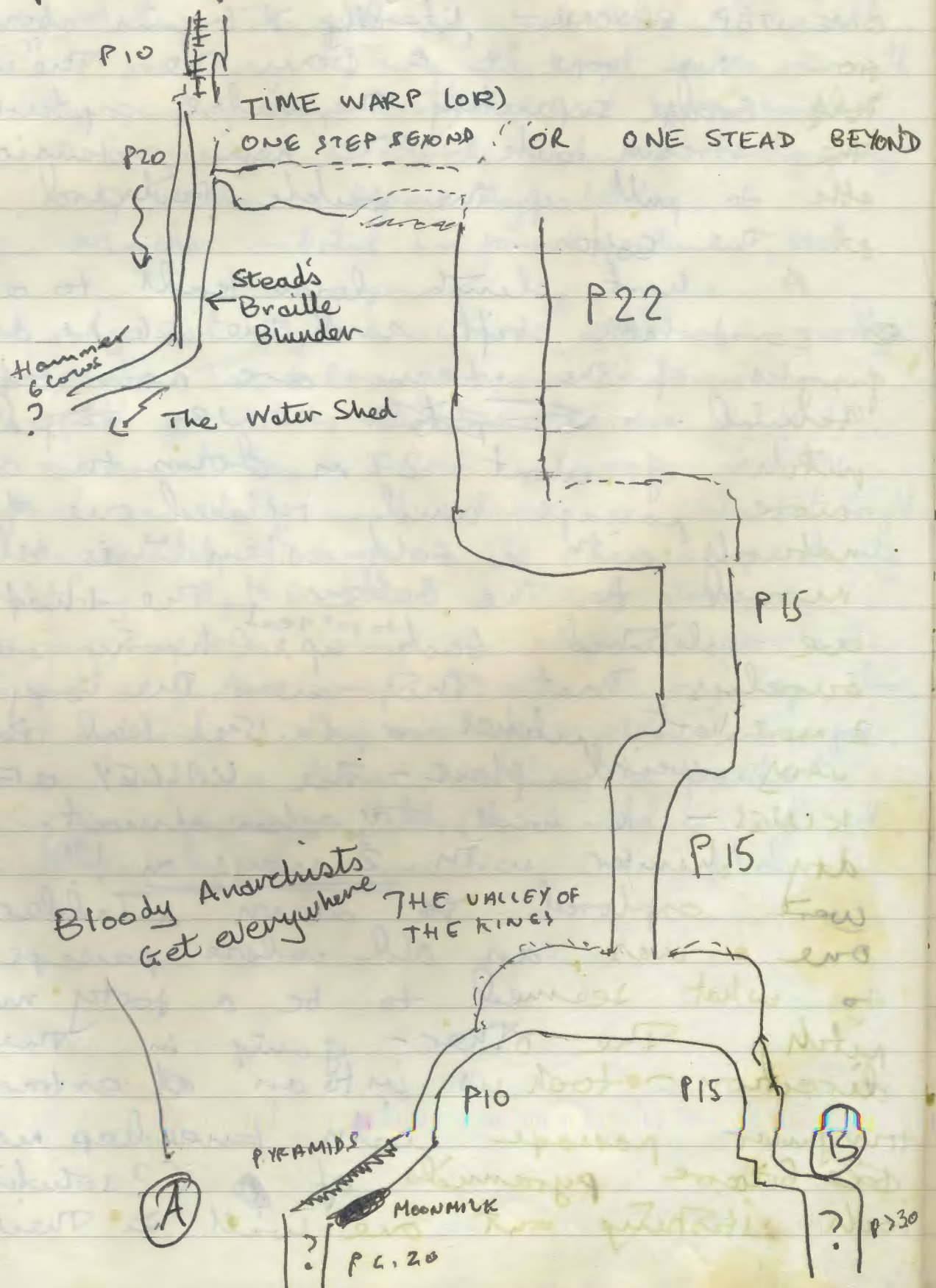
FUS6

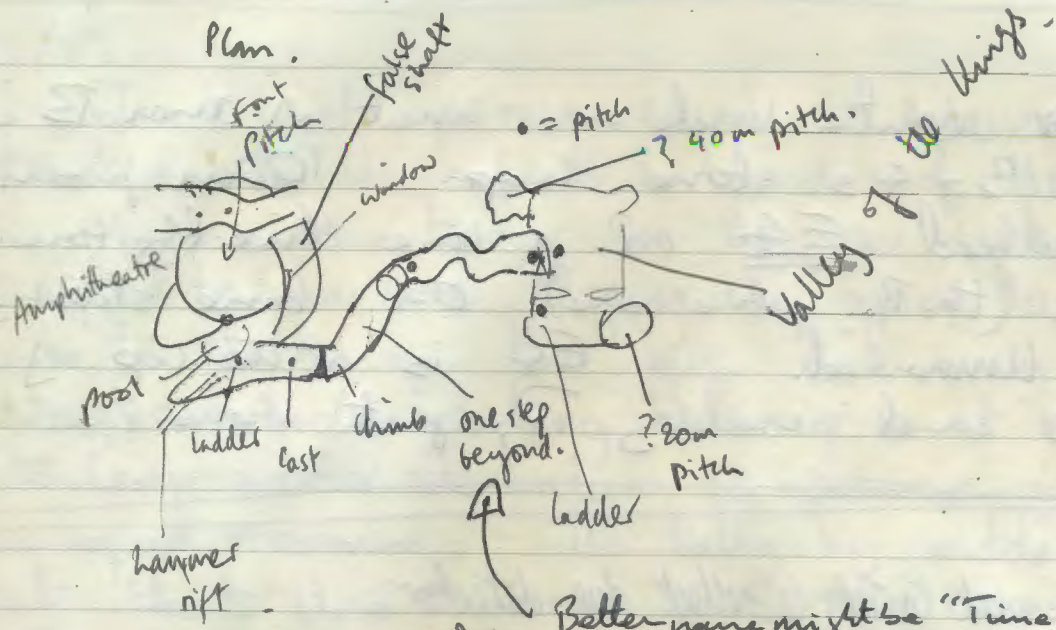
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Descended rapidly to limit of exploration & decided not to bother with the hammering so Richard went down the last rope pitch while I found another way on in the rift above - ONE STEP BEYOND - literally, it begins about 2 feet from the rope + from the "watershed" ridge bridge separating the vadose capture of the stream route + the new extension I was able to pull up the tackle Richard found at the bottom.

A short climb down leads to a 65p, comfortable rift and the 3 loops and gorges of the stream are now left behind. ~~A pitch~~ we rigged a pitch of about 22m down to a bit more passage, and replaced one of the naturals with a bolt when this delay moved to the bottom of the shaft as we climbed back ^{to get gear} up (having satisfied ourselves that this was the way out). 2 more short pitches (c. 15m) lead to a very weird place - the VALLEY OF THE KINGS - a wide, dry chamber almost totally dry chamber with 2 ways on!! Both were explored ~~to~~ down a ladder length. One was an old vadose passage leading to what seemed to be a forty metre pitch. The other - going in the opposite direction - took us into an extraordinary triangular passage with kneedeep moon milk, ~~6~~ bizarre pyramids of (? solutional) rock sticking out one wall in their

Thousands and a 20m pitch at the end
 one again the cave goes!! From an
 estimated depth of over -400m we exited,
 reaching the surface at about 4am. A
 lot of prussiking.





Plan
 Better name might be "Time Warp!" - escape
 (Jump to left then a step to the right)
 And it goes back in time!

9-8-82 Andy, Mark, ~~John~~, Jan.

Supposedly surveying FUS6 from where John & Graham left off, following Paul & John (who were pushing) on way in. But they were somewhat quicker, the 3 of us not having been down the system before. So we also had to route find. Andy got pissed off by the time we were squeezing our way through the first Meander and decided to go out. Mark & Jan continued, & took rather a long time getting through the second rift (Meander?). At this point they decided that it was rather silly going down to survey without someone who knew the cave, and weren't sure how to continue ie whether it was safe to abseil down the rope at 45° (we didn't know how securely it was attached at the next belay point) or to free climb down the side, which neither of us was keen on. So we left, albeit rather slowly. Mark had problems with his SRT gear, like foot ascenders not working. Got out after 7 1/2 hours down the cave, & went back to Arid. Met William who was on his way up with Gar & food.

Paul & John

To limit of exploration FUS6

2 ways along Valley of the Kings One didn't look too promising? Blind path. However other way
 5m free climb 10m ladder to large muddy ledge. Then 5m plus stone drop ? 75m pitch or more
 Ripped but not descended. Went, seeing place. Very very quiet. Called the pitch THE SPHINX. -
 Old, mysterious & covered in sand! The cave is going!

NOTE.

On ~~return~~ route back - limit of area B is a shaft. B-4's stone drop. 100m from cave marked E4 on a line directly towards Jayada (the Big yellow cave). On some slabby rocks. Unmarked. E4 is at the lip of valley B and valley D, just above Pin Catalina.

10-8-82 Jan - went to Trea to collect dye detectors

11-8-82 Dave George & I woke up today with heavy hearts, knowing that we had to leave the sun behind and go deep underground to descend on 60m shaft on Edlerid. What horrors lay waiting beneath the Sphinx? What secrets lay hidden below the limit of exploration? What lay in store for us in our strange journey deep in the bowels of the mountain? No-one of course could say.

Only one thing was for certain,
it was to be... no picnic!

(N. Casteret.)

10/8/82 Graham & William

Very late start after unsuccessfully trying to persuade anyone at Ario to do some more surveying with me. Went to Top camp where William was waiting fit & able after a few more hours of preparation. Lifted rope on 1st S.R. + pitch rigged Marble bathroom surveyed the last three ladders of the "Marble steps" and down the 55m pitch. Put a line on the last ladder pitch. William fell down a climb and badly sprained his ankle, but didn't ^{seem} to make him any slower. Got out of the cave ~ 11-30pm into a beautifully starlit night with bright shooting stars.

15
thor3
possible!