

... of black crumbly magnetic & haematite? and some amazing mud
 ... in the passageways at the bottom of the dark pitch in the
 ... tiny pebbles perched on pillars of mud above the
 ... Surveying should be a very interesting task cos
 ... passageways leading off to subsidiary chambers
 ... although such a network did confuse the discovery of
 ... at the bottom of the last entrance pitch!
 ... to the rope ... ignore the two bigger
 ... Plenty of water down for carbides but
 ... to make life miserable. A warm cave as
 ... generally brilliant in interest and enjoyable. The feeling of relief
 ... through the squeeze is unbelievable!!! (It's well
 ... the hammering UlKey... thanks!) Some nice chisels too.

conference of
 2 engineers
 to form
 3rd. P.
 got here
 not in a
 of the
 inlets.

Underground:- 10 hrs 30 mins. Felt v. justified. eating masses of Stewed
 Bouillon by starlight on

SQUEEZE HINT #37 to generator, secured an electric with loose chi stop.
 ... helmet through ^{4 rails} (only one if you are the 1st person up) then climb
 yourself. At this point it is recommended that you arrange for
 not to come off and for your glass in your electric not to fall

... all the ...
 ... of ...
 ... of ...

(12)

26 July 1984

Well done, 12/5 sounds tremendous from your description above. You are obviously in the right place as F7 has "bottomed", and more correctly, has linked in with F2 to give Sistema Jarcada Blanca. We are out dye detector prior to a magnifying photo, survey, water trace and detectable F7. (don't worry, though, there will be plenty of time for you both to both - it if you wish. We could also dye trace 12/5 if you consider it worthwhile.

I shall deal with the pointer on your note and try to get things done by this evening. Good luck.

EL Jefe

26 July 1984

Tan

And now ... to explain how the trick was done. The thermometer cannot be found by most of the audience because it has been, by then, taken away, broken, and removed to basecamp by

The meteorologist's assistants who work under cover of a convenient
 of big. Less miraculously, the thermometer reappears
 of being placed there by Me at 18:20 26/7/84.
 The thermometer is now carried, is on a bearing of 232°
 the water table rain gauge, and ~25m away. It is
 side of the valley, looking up, about 8m from
 of this valley, and 2m from the crease line of the
 when you find it (it is now pretty obvious), behind its
 wall, take care removing it as it is not very secure
 of.

Verily 12/5 is a friendly cave. I say unto you,
 ye for the carbide mark on the RH wall above a
 10m climb, and ye shall find the limit of sea
 's explanation. Verily I have also brought you food,
 and most of the ~~you~~ you requested. Unfortunably
 could't bring bones, cos the socko drove off with it
 this morning. If you feel OK, I see no reason why
 shouldn't keep caving, by the way.

I could only bring a little sugar (the van drove off)
 we have no krabs at base (the expedition was very
 You should be able to use mailbags (I know there
 30 or so in the cave) for all but deviations however.
 If you haven't done so already, please re-rig the pitch
 the crack - the ribs are quite serious I think. One
 the advance ladder pitch ropes seemed quite worn above spot also.
 c/u. Jan

Still couldn't find the thermometer. Not surprising really considering it had been moved as we later discovered.

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The 26th July:-

Our original plans if on only start disintegrated after our mega late arrival last night and so it was gone 2 before we actually got underground. Passed the squeeze with little hassle and on to the "window" in the chamber. Seen 1 ton had found. Rerigged the ladder into this chamber (accessible along a gravelly passage less uncomfortable now following a quick hammering session from Phil) and then on to the boulder choke slope and drop. Yesterday for speed and safety we rigged a rope over this but realising Seen 1 ton must have found an alternative way down as they hadn't used ropes, I went down and then worked backwards finding a free climb through the boulder choke which brings you out halfway up. Although the scramble up the last half of this is free climbable its very loose and so we've put a hand line down. Might be an idea for a later party with more gear to re-rig this with a non SRT rope ^{as SRT is too} the only stuff we had with us? Slight disappointment further on when we discovered Seen's route in some rock/mud - what we thought we were the first people along yesterday had been discovered already by the original Thin Man Team! The passageway is steep though:- arches and doors through thin sections of crumbly rock, short climbs up and down waterfalls and then eventually a 10m or so drop into a pool down which we rigged a ladder. Through an enormous chamber and up a pile of boulders and rubble (look up at the ceiling..... and try not to think of earth tremors etc...!) and then a fairly big pitch. Put two bolts in at the top of this and Phil rigged a very nice free hanging rope from here using a Y-hang. ~~At the top of the next pitch~~ with the lightest rope we had.. 70m lightweight. Abseiling down this brings you to a lower level from where there is another pitch ^{→ wet!} so we rebelayed the 70m rope using a bolt to give a free hang straight down the next pitch past a ledge on which there are some more

Called this big pitch the Armadillo,

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↗
mud formations etc.. Unfortunately the rope doesn't quite reach the bottom (as Phil found out!) and as we'd run out of gear, time and Torkie bars we headed back.

Wiser to the ways of the squeeze getting through was far less daunting and difficult than our original contractions and without getting lost on our return this time (!) we were back at camp without much delay..... a good job considering how long we'd been underground! Stewed Steak Chasseur by starlight with all sorts of goodies which Santa Claus had left whilst we'd been gravelling around below rounded off an enjoyable, if long (!) day. Tommorrow's push --- beyond the 70 m pitch.....

Time underground: - 2.30 pm → 2.00 am. So much for being back before dark.

Friday 27th July:-

Awoken by the clattering of ^{two} goat bells at some Godforsaken hour of the morning (after crashing out at 3.30 on any time is God forsaken!) Friday dawned with brilliant sunshine and clear skies, goats, flies and aching bodies. I was treated to lemon tea in bed (the luxury...) before Phil enthusiastically frogged off to Logos for more equipment and a bolting set to re-rig the first long rope pitch as advised by Ian in his note to us (our bolting kit is at the limit of expectation at the far end of the cave) whilst I, not quite so enthusiastically, dogged myself up for the strenuous task of treating the cooking stuff to its first taste of washing up liquid. I think somebody got the easycup there.....! Sean appeared at about 1.00 to drop some veg and collect his craning gear which has been festering in a corner of the store tent for a few days now before disappearing over the horizon towards Top Camp band

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for a surveying trip. Now 2:30 pm and no sign as yet of Phil.....

Phil arrived at 5:10 pm and ~~is~~ suffering from excessive sun exposure retired to the tent for 40 winks..... Apparently we were supposed to go down to Base Camp today which we didn't realise ^{- we'd been} following his statement about keeping caving which we thought was a suggestion from El Teje. Never mind such as life. Silvo & Graham appeared around 6 on their way to Top Camp to collect caving gear & return here and as no-one was down 12/5 we thought we might as well go caving while we were here... 40 winks later (well, $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs actually but!) and the Arica camp was again roused into the ritual packing of rucksacks, tortillas etc... before venturing into the unknown. Aiming to get down the cave by 9:30 pm; rigging first rope pitch after the squeeze (will probably take a while cos of bolting...) and then change lightweight rope on yesterday's last pitch with a longer 80 m proper SRT rope which this time we hope will reach...! Hope to be out sometime early tomorrow morning after which it's back down to Base Camp.

Feeling very peeved off. Bugged up bolt driver putting bolts in on first rope pitch to rig it - dubious belay on this very dubious - it had been worked loose somehow. Well worth rigging if you'd — bolt driver isn't bugged Phil feeling "mentally tired" and complaining of backache in his shoulders (!?) and initiated a retreat. Back up the squeeze on which I did worse this time than ever before — and so back to Arica. Feeling cheated of things ~~at~~ so was no surprise to find Silvo,

Caravan had left out a concave mix, Very nice even after a ridiculously short trip.

Crawled into a pit ready for departure to Base Camp tomorrow morning
time unlogged 3 1/2 hours

Tackle in cave 1) 80 m SRT rope on ledge after squeeze

4 tapes " " "

Yellow tackle bag " " "

Ladder

Sorry - didn't see

this till retreat

one day and

hence not in

a bag.

2)

Mions and Hangers at very bottom of last rope in entrance series

(Vardase canyon bit)

CARBIDE DUMP BY STREAM AFTER RAMP CLIMB. (before)

3)

Yellow tackle bag containing as far as we can remember

20 m rope

25 m rope

10 m rope

on a ledge in streamway after rope climb + free climb down boulder slope (after carbide dump)

not in bag

was using

bag as rope protector.

4) On half way (rebelay) ledge down the Armadillo -

← 3 wire belays

Milk bottle containing a couple of bolts etc. -

Bolt driver + hammer

Desperately needed ... ROPE PROTECTORS !!!

Recommended ... take down a supply of bolts, hangers, wedges etc. - to add to declining milk bottle supply.

Good luck to the next pushers this is a really enjoyable cave. Hope it goes further!

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SATURDAY 28 JULY

Arose leisurely at 9.30, G. went off to take net. readings & couldn't even find rain gauge - my mistake, I should have gone too. B'fast somewhat delayed by queue of the Kettering 8 at the water pipe. Nicola goes down to Lagos feeling the call of duty for some base-camp-minding. I take G. & S. to show them 12/5, take lots of pictures of them ~~at~~ walking, charging, going underground. Went down had a look at 13/5 50m down slope of 12/5, heading right, needs 15' ladder - could be checked out by "borrowing" the 1st ladder in 12/5?

I sat at top of 1st extreme ladder & waited, "listening to noises of people preparing to go through The Nest". Eventually, Graham's voice faded, and after a bit, Silvia's chirrups + squeaks of interrogative disbelief (Rhetorical I imagine) faded also - so they were below Pissed As A Nest by 12.45. Bit stiff as I climbed out (Old Trouble).

I returned to camp, packed up, fetched water, hewn wood etc and will return to base with rubbish.

How about a ~~new~~ name for 12/5 now? Any good ideas? Cueva del Stalagtitos Verdos?

Going down now (14-30) Why do I always do this in the heat of the day??

(NB) Size 10 wellies here are spare I brought them up by mistake.

Phil S.

(Felipe Serjente)

Saturday Pushing 12/5 Silvia e Graham

Well we didn't have any trouble finding the cave (possibly because we were kindly escorted by previous writer) Nor however did we or rather he (G) have any trouble finding our way back in the dark, though on our previous performance it's perhaps surprising we didn't try to find our way down the Trea Path into the gorge. The changing area is a veritable sun trap which makes descending into the cool of the cave a pleasure. It might also explain why Graham chose to stand around in a state of nature long enough for Phil to take photos of him. My squeaks + chirrups were more accurately oaths of disgust as I got stuck in the squeeze or at least my helmet did, turning my glove on the carbide flame when I tried to remove. Graham of course had no problem 'just a bit tricky that's all' he said in his encouraging way.

Graham then sat around a lot in various situations while I puffed around in various others. As the bolt driver had wrecked Graham's mole grips rather than Graham's mole grips getting the wedge out of the bolt driver we had to leave the unnamed pitch (40 m) as it was, except for a deviation, with a tape from the one bolt Phil had put in to try to bring the rope out from the wall. After amusing at the 80? m Amadillo Pitch

* This pitch is now called The Shaven Hedgehog.

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Cranham disappeared over the edge with a 90m rope and I sat at the top worrying about him. I decided eating peanuts was more constructive. There was much noise from below, which turned out to have been Cranham giving possible relay points "some wellie". This unfortunately resulted in all the possibilities falling off, except for one which he couldn't get in a good position to kick at it. This ~~was~~ was used for a deviation.

This pitch is in a large shaft which ends in a puddle. There is then a short length of a wonderful passage way, marbled black and white floor. It's also very sculptured but I don't suppose much of that will last for long. This short twisty bit of passage leads to another pitch * - with a beautiful free hang and incredibly easy take-off (I was paid for that bit - but I have to agree.) Then lots more passage, which one weaves along attempting unsuccessfully to miss the projections. (Note Route finding straightforward - follow stream except where there's a place where you turn off to the left down a dry muddy oxbow - rather than follow the water which would involve going flat to through The Hole in the Wall and so on until we came to climb which was felt to need a hand line.