

into opposite wall. Gracious projection. It falls off.  
I hustle back under the waterfall.

Hey, dummy, why not hang it off the bolt above?  
Wow - it works!

At this stage, about 5 or 6 hours underground alone, I start to wonder if solo caving destroys the brain.

Back down, more pendulums and this time a working deviation. Down to the bottom, I untied the old rope and prussiked up, detaching the old rig as Steve Roberts arrived at the pitch base - with the news that we had joined Xitu.

It was nice to see a human being? again. We shared chocolate (mine.) I later found out that Steve had already eaten rather a lot, which explained his leaving 2 squares. I legged it out, closely followed by Steve and less closely by Dave, + managed to get the Cretan style stuffed peppers hot by the time they arrived in camp.

9 August 1984

Dave H., Fred + Richard go off surveying Cistra. Sara & Philip S. do a surface survey between Cistra & Xitu.  
CISTRA is 73.60 m lower than XITU.

After cooking a gourmet meal for the returning

(62)

Surveyors we returned to the Refugio to finish the work  
and SIE lent us their HP41C to do some survey  
calculations. Very Nice of them indeed.

The fine trip upwards to magnificent view  
of the boiling gorge has not been mentioned.  
The rapidly advancing holes of grey cloud  
discouraged a trip up Tultayan but the  
peak above the camp is definitely worth a  
visit.

10 August 84

Sara + Hillary arrived late last night + left for  
top camp ~ 09:00. Then we discovered that the  
surveying compass used by Fred + people for the past  
3 or 4 trips has a RANDOM ERROR (the scale is loose)  
and they didn't think to tell anyone but just kept on  
using it.

We (Sara + Phil + S.) are going down to survey  
down from the Tcing on the cables and desperately  
hope for some relief party to come & continue  
from us after a few hours! We are taking the  
old class + the ~~Set. of Geology~~ <sup>other club</sup> compass.

Dave H. Fred & Richard (me) surveyed La Gitta.  
 I gazed with delight at a chance to taste the  
 sweet waters of Papa del Xitu again. I was almost  
 as Fred at descending La Gitta. A foothold  
 slipped away and pitched me the first into the stream.  
 Suddenly a dread horror swept upon me as though  
 of probing I had eaten. Did this fall represent  
 the return of the old trouble? In Borneo every  
 coming trip left me with a new injury - dislocated  
 shoulder, gashed arm, knee etc. But I digress.  
 We reassembled at the head of Gashellschaft.  
 The rope was through to the cave... the water  
 thickened to tip over the top of our welly boots...  
 But we re-rigged La Gitta having turned the  
 ropes upside down. We were dismayed at our  
 predicament. Where could we put the ropes  
 properly?? Where could we put the deviators??  
 We wouldn't find any spot. Unfortunately we had  
 to settle for second best: we rigged a completely  
 dry ice hang from two good naturals with a  
 paper to take off. I'm afraid the spirit of Picos causing  
 a little trouble on us.

An efficient and speedy surveying trip followed and  
 then we toured to the Xitu stream. Ah yes! what  
 memories were brought back. Dampuration pitch was

(64)

famous for the fastest CRT in Xim. A shallow  
pitch, it was so wet that you can get off the  
rope real quick man. Prussiking it wasn't  
because coming so soon after the hot Pythagoras  
it was only a little bit more than refreshing.  
Dampthation was also famous (apart of course for Graham's  
BTR and the chain of over 20 maillons which  
constituted the primary) because it was one of the  
unresolved problems of wings on in Xim. One, at  
the bottom of the Big Pitch turned out to be  
El Puritan series (which memories make me shiver  
with horror) but the black space above Dampthation  
was never pushed. This was because it was a  
drift - which we now know to connect to  
the lower part of Big Brother. A tremendous  
the fur once.

PS: ¡Cabeza Muxa ha terminado verdad!  
Profundidad al sifon terminal = 900 m  
Sifon terminal esta 1000 m de profundidad  
al bajo directamente del Refugio MUXA

Phil Sargent, Sara + caught up by Phil R.

came and went unnoticed behind the  
 foggy mist. The road to complete the survey was  
 delayed. All went calmly until  
 Gesellschaft where the rope broke, no less.

As Phil absailed the outer disintegrated leaving  
 what looked like about 5 flimsy strands.  
 Sara, bravely, hard to press with crossed  
 fingers, descended part it, tried a mega knot,  
 then both enormous cursing took 20 minutes  
 to descend part it. We apologised to those  
 following but, aside from telepathy, could not  
 make a warning.

Phil R. found us at Hammersmith Palace  
 we had a large meal from the Christmas  
 cake of ration he had brought. The survey  
 station was soon found and the restaurant  
 located. The clinometer declined to incline.  
 cold hour was spent fiddling with it in  
 determined (honestly) attempt to make it  
 work, without success. We decided not to make  
 a touristy trip to the bottom (the surface  
 was a long cold way away) and in fact  
 the exit had quite an efficient exit. Please

(66)

don't assume that this trip was completely as we enjoyed it very much.

Also I joined the blow  
Earlside container up in your  
dumb' arlen I tried to have  
Took at that dreadful dino  
top of the Armadillo.

3<sup>rd</sup> August. Dave H. Richard & Satch.

The first surveying trip down 12/5 (written up very  
late.) Arrived at the entrance and surveyed  
from the SIE circle down the entrance.

Surveyed to the bottom of the 1st ladder.  
Dino failed to work. After 15 minutes of dino  
broke a bath, deciding whether to go on or not.  
The dino decided to work again. Surveyed

the way down the entrance series and  
down the upper streamway. Left two inches  
in millways chamber and all the chamber  
chrome the squeeze to be surveyed at  
a later date. All 4 members of the party  
had no difficulty with the squeeze, over

On arrival back at Rio some complaints  
were heard about the accuracy of the dino  
and lack of elevation, which were in fact there.

Richard's notes are decipherable only by Richard.

It's said that Ian says he's useless in the middle of the night....

12.8.84

11~~th~~ August 1984. Stephen G. and Jan.

An unusually efficient start, awake at 0600 and in the cave by 0900. Our plans for a tidying-up surveying and sedimentological trip were shelved when we learnt that the previous night's arrivals from the cave had failed to do any surveying because of an erratically-reading <sup>alino</sup> compass. We therefore agreed to complete the survey, as someone else would be sent down to help us, followed by the first of the detackling party. An easy and uneventful descent, with the exception of an interesting technical changeover at a knot whilst not wearing any ascending gear. Having been assured by Richard that 20 survey stations would see us to the bottom of the cave, we surveyed ~30 in 4 1/2 hours before

(68)

counting our remaining bits of carbide and deciding that we ~~didn't~~ <sup>didn't</sup> even have enough left for a tourist trip to the bottom. A pleasantly-paced exit we left the cave at 0110. Early morning starts must be the sensible way to do trips of this sort of length. A pity no-one else arrived to give us a hand, as with someone to read the instruments we could have proceeded at twice the pace, and could probably have completed the survey.

12 AUGUST 1984

Philip S., Iestyn + Phil Duncan.

I & PD underground at 11:00 or so, PS rushes back to camp for the anti-skin pills + to fill some tubs with grease. I (Phil S.) caught them up at the top of the Amadillo and watched Iestyn remove his rock to negotiate the deviation.

Otherwise uneventful trip to pitch 30 where the top & lost survey point was found - we did one vertical leg into the chamber below the traverse line and spent an hour boiling the compass and other bubble bubbles + tailing trouble ~~for~~ trying to get it in a fix state to read, PD jacked at Iestyn & I went for a tourist trip down into Xitu - SURRENDERS! Big Brother is AMAZING!! Vague ghostly shapes looming out of



# Tackle List for 1215

12/8/84

Pitch No.	Pitch Name	Belay + Tackle
①	ENTRANCE	F, IT, 2W, 2M, SP, L (25') / F, IT, M / 10R
②	2ND LADDER PITCH (UPPER)	B, M / B, M / SP, L (50') / 15R, RP
③	NEWT	THR, 10W, M, 5T, M, 15R
④	BASTHOUSE	B, M / F, IT, M / B, M // DEV = B, M, IT, K // RB = B, M / DEV = B, M // 50R
⑤	HANDLINE CLIMB	NATURAL CHOCK, 2W, M, 10R / IT, M
⑥	OWL	B, M / F, 2W, M, IT, M / 15R
⑦	RIFT CLIMB (OPT)	3 THR, 3W, M, SP, L (5M) / THR, 2T, M / 10R, RP
⑧	MILLWAYS	THR, 2T, M / THR, 2T, M / F, 3W, M / 25R
⑨	THE WINDOW	<del>4W</del> CROSS LUMP, 4W, 2T, 2M, SP, 10R, L (25')
⑩	BOULDER SLOPE HANDLINE	BOULDER IN RIFT, 4W, 4T, 10R, 2M
⑪	OPTIONAL PITCH TO AVOID TRANSVERSE MUD FORMATION LADDER	USE 15R ON PITCH ⑩ / F, 2W, L (25')
⑫		F, 1W, M / F, IT, M / SP, L (10M) / 20R
⑬	ARMADILLO (1)	B, M / B, M / 20R, RP
⑭	ARMADILLO (2)	B, M / B, M / F, IT, M / 75R // RB = B, M, 2W, M, 2T // DEV = 2W, 4T, K
⑮	SHAVEN HEDGEHOG	F, M, 4T / 2W, F, M / 20R, RP
⑯	1ST LADDER (LOWER) FISHING POND	F, 1M, SP, L (5M)
⑰	2ND LADDER (LOWER)	B, M / F, IT, M / SP, L (25') / 10R
⑱	CAMSHAFT	F, 1W, M / B, 2W, M / THR, 2T, M / 40R
⑲	GESELLSCHAFT	3W, M / IT, M / IT, M / 35R, RP
⑳	CLIMB	F, 2T, M, 15R
㉑	THOMPSONS GESELLSCHAFT	B, M, 1W / F, 1W, M / 40R // RB = F, 2W, M / F, IT, M

90

Pitch No	Pitch Name	Belays and Tackle
22	EDDIE SHAH	F, 4W, M / F, 4T, M / 30R // DEV = F, 2W, K
23	GRAND MAL	F, 2W, M / F, 3W, M / SP, L (25') / 15R
24	PETIT MAL	F, 2T, 2W, 2M, 15R
25	HAMMERSMITH PALAIS	THR, 2T, M / F, 2T, M / 20R, RP
26	LADY MITCHELL	F, 5W, M / F, 2W, M / 25R, RP
27	LADY HARRIETS HALL	F, IT / F, IT, 1W, M, SP, L (25') / 20R
28	ICING ON THE CAKE	F, 6W, M / B, M / 15R
29	CLIMB ALTERNATIVE	BOLDER, 20R, 5T, M
30	THE HEATH TRAVERSE LINE PITCH	F, IT, M / F / F / F, 2T, M / THR, 1W, M / 40R
31	JUMP FOR YOUR LIFE	B, M / B, M / CHOSS, 3W, M / SSR (WINSTON SMITH?)
32		2T, M, F / F, 2W, M / 15R (JULIA?)
33	ROOM 101	IT, M, 15R / F, 0.5W, SP, L (25') / IT, 2M
34	BI & BROTHER	B, 0.5W / F, 1W / 60R

Key: F = Flake, B = Bolt, M = Maillon, THR = Thread belay  
 3T = 3 metre tape, 4W = 4 metre wire, SP = Spreader  
 65R = 65 metre rope, L (25') = 25 foot of Ladder  
 DEV = Deviation, RB = Rebelay.  
 / = Separates belays at same general height  
 // = Gear + Belays required further down pitch

Example: Eddie Shah comprises a 4 metre wire and maillon around one flake, a 4 metre tape and maillon around another flake, some and uses a 30 metre rope. This rope is deviated some way down with a 2 metre wire and knot around a flake.

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(flake.)