1987

ARIO II

1-98

ARIO LOG VOLUME II

No one has written anything in this logbook yet! Do they have they?

What's This Then?

A figment of your imagination

3

Comments on the Shaft Bashing Kit

4/8/87 by Gerhard

1) As to 5/5, William says it leads to a hammered squeeze and then becomes too tight. I don't remember ever having explored 5/5! (?) W.

2) I seem to remember 4/8 had been looked at by Richard & Steve R in '85, or was it 4/9? The cave they investigated chokes in death-threatening fashion. (See a few pages later in the shaft bashing kit.)

3) Area F, referring to the holes found by Richard, Graham and Mike on 2/8/86.
The former is a very ~~small~~ narrow slit indeed (25 cm)!
The latter is a tube some 10-15 m long, apparently used temporarily as a sheep stable. It was looked at to the bitter end by Margot & me (on the way to a 2/6 photo trip with Martin Hicks) in 1985. (It is situated at the Top Camp side foot of the huge erratic boulder known as Redondo del Conjurtao.)

PS. Have been to 5/5 today. Beautiful calcite crystals more than an inch long in the entrance! Didn't go down what I thought to be the first pitch, and afterwards spent an hour failing to locate 22/5.
Bearings from (a point slightly above) 5/5:
22° to deepest point of Jou la Costra (not far down from the entrance)
214° to Cuvicente
38° to Cabeza Verde
51° to Cabeza del Cura

Cuchutera, Julayu, C^za la Forma or C^za Julagua cannot be seen from there.

(2)

Cavers Supper / Breakfast.

- Large stew pot
  - Cornbeef hash
    with cornbeef, potatoes, onion garlic
    + white / cayenne pepper.

- Small bent pan
  - Tuna hash.
    As above but with tuna, not cornbeef
    ? For Sherry.

- Medium pan with wooden spoon
  = fried / stewed tomatoes
  with red wine + oregano.

A full menu of side dishes, salads and sweets will also be available, together with refreshments including the house Vino de Mesa "

Sorry already drunk.

4/8/87 continued. Another 4hrs shaft-bashing walk in the evening. Got up to 2/7, marked survey stations ②, ③, ③A with little red dots, and tried to pick up the bearing towards 'head of first Big Pitch'. This, however, does not lead down into the bowl - it more or less follows the cairned path! At the right distance (more or less) from 2/7, the surface consists of an unholy mess of boulders and scree. No clear tectonic features except an ill-defined bedding plane (?) striking 21° and dipping 70°-ish. - The top of the Big Pitch is at the same level as the Ario Camp, i.e. a long way below the bottom of the Jou del Juttayu (= bowl). If there is a short cut to it it could start out from any old entrance in

the Jou, but there isn't going to be a plumb-vertical cave to that point. — The only entrance along the right line from 2/7 is the 6m circular hole between two route cairns marked by & choked with sheep's (?) bones, which I wasted half an hour upon (and regretted it). No other significant finds. Encountered 4 rebecos during the walk down.

Gerhard

Tuesday 4th August - Wednesday 5th August.

2/7 Surveying Trip Surveyed Supper Time - Wet ledge above false floor. Surveying Time - 8hrs. Bill Steed: Book, Mike BL: Tape, Dan Inst.

At eleven o'clock they walked up the hill,
Dan, Mike & don't forget Bill.
By half one they were changed and went down the cave,
Photographer Martin gave them a wave
The tackle bag slipped tho' the rifts with great ease.
This caving trip was a jolly good wheeze
They passed Paradise squeeze & on down the climb,
The cavers had an ~~pretty good~~ excellent time.
The direct route they did not miss,
At the bottom of a rifts they stopped for a .... rest.
Out of the rift did Dan & Mike pop,
& found themselves over a vertiginous drop
Back to the rope the two cavers did go
Pleased that they hadn't fallen below
Down the ropes they zoomed and glided
With rocks & walls they never collided
At supper time the three began to survey
Damart balaclavas kept the cold at bay (almost.)
Down & down they surveyed over a hundred metres,
The cave was devoid of brown furry creatures
Eight hours later we started off out
Then nauseated & nauseated; the ropes swaying about

(4) Back at supper time the three cavers ate,
& carried on caving until it was late.
They went thro' the rifts & climbed & thrashed
On small choxy rocks their fingers scrabbled & clutched.
In Graham's rift the tackle bag burst,
The three cavers swore & started to curse.
Litter was scattered all over the rift,
This was not their idea of a gift.
Out of the cave they made great ~~haste~~ speed
On peanuts & chocolate they continued to feed.
They arrived at the surface 21 hours after the start,
Proving caving makes you fit & is good for the heart,
Its dark now & I can't see the page
& as I can't be bothered to think of a rhyme I'll just end here.

Excellent trip. Good work chaps!!!

Tuesday 4th - Weds 5th, photographic trip in 2/7
Martin, Sherry & Lynn.

(The ~~haiku~~ haiku poem will be copied into the logbook later.

Thu 6 Aug 1987.

S

Walk to the Polish T.C. abandoned due to bad visibility, MBL & PC & Dan & Hany bring down lots more Moonflakes from our T.C.

Found that D1 has been relabelled 12/8, and the new inscription (admittedly in a more sensible place than the old one) lacks a year. !

Gerhard in the meantime had a look at the reputedly diggable sink in the Vega de Altredo. There's definitely CAVE below the floor of the valley, but ~~it looks like~~ it looks like one would had to shift a ton of pebbles in order to gain access, only to find it collapsed & choked again after a few metres. (There's a whole lot of shakeholes all around it.) Anybody fancy applying some chemistry?

eg.

Thursday 6th August Jonathan Cooper & Silvia

(6) Silvia's 1st caving trip of the expedition!
Will it be her last?
A rengging trip, which did less than intended although I was never very clear about what was intented. It did less than it because I felt very small and a long way from home.
Jonathan put a ladder on the rift climb - PABLO'S PITCH or POT (with rope.) and rengged the first pitch after the first very knobbly rift. I sat surrounded by bags; tapes; wires and a bolting kit and endeavoured to pass Jonathan the right bits without losing them or me down rifts or holes in the floor. This was difficult as I don't know the difference between a wedge and the other one that I can't even remember the name of. ~~We took a~~

We took a long time getting down the cave as I struggled to relearn the principles of downward changeovers. particularly on the big loop on the second pitch. [Graham: will you try to cater for those who don't do ten one-armed pull-ups before bed] And as Jonathan struggled with a large tackle bag which obviously had no desire to go deep, and strenously resisted attempts to make it do so.
? strenously
strenuously?

Jonathan's caving shorts also proved a hindrance - for those tempted to imitate the style. At the front they bunched up to resemble a large cod-piece. This has enabled me to answer the long unsolved question of why mediaeval man was not, in general, active in caving.
As far as we went I thought it was a good cave and I have to admit I enjoyed myself.

Thanks due to Jonathan without whose route finding on the way home I would probably still be wandering around Jubrayn!

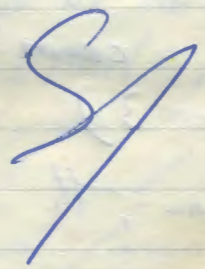
Thursday 6th August

Surveying "Take it to the Limit"
Steve R as Book
Dave H as Instrument
Martin M as Tape
Val Doonican as himself
The Incredible Shrinking Man as Euphonium
Roy Rogers as Trigger
etc.

"He turns the air blue with the greatest of ease
The Speleo stuck in a 2/7 squeeze –
His knees are a-tremble, his brain has gone dead,
and his Troll suits' envoiled away"

Cave now 620m deep, OK?
It took us 15 hours to survey this out though, so take note!

Warning! If you piezo packs in, 600m+ underground is not a good place for it.
Always carry a spare helmet.



Actually I quite like surveying these days – a sedate activity quite suitable to gentlemen of advanced years.

(8) Friday 7th

Martin runs down straight from 2/7 to Los Lagos to make sure lynn cables the right bus.

Dave sleeps all day

Steve attempts to make sense of his survey notes

Silvia + Jonathan read. ("Silas Marner" + "Rob Roy")

One of my wetsocks + my generator has mysteriously vanished. Could I have left them at the cave entrance. They so unsettles me

I eat Queso Cabrales + drink Ricard.

Earlier we had:

Onion soup with garlic croutons

"Reheat special" stew.

Jonathan Flapjack ("encore" by popular request)

Lots + lots of tea.

Then Dan, Harry, + Paul Cooper go caving! To verify, survey + push. (One of them may have had a camera + then was talk of taking a Pole or 3)

Ho hum, they must come in again.

S

Friday 7th Aug. cont'd

(9)

Mike Bod & Gerhard: surface surveying around 2/7 continued. Loop closure 80cm hor., 1.2m vert. over ~500m circumference. —

Carried down 6 ladders & 1 rope from 24/7, and another rope from 21/7. Failed to locate 10/7 where there's supposedly still one rope. — Found unmarked rift entrance just above main col, close to 21/7, above 5/7. ~~[illegible]~~. Unaware of the present ~~[illegible]~~ usage of numbers we labelled it 28/7. It has a 3s drop plus bounces, and nothing much to rig from. Sketch map & bearings to follow.

Gerhard

Saturday 8th August

Decided that Graham's bolt deserved some recognition in view of his idiosyncratic contribution to the rigging of 2/7. It was agreed that a Graham Naylor memorial award should now be constructed featuring an appalling bolt, badly underdrilled + funnelled round the top. After several attempts, however, we ended up with a lot of cracked rocks and a pretty reasonable looking bolt - well, better than several I've prussiked on. We need to take lessons from G.A.N. himself.

W.

Silvia "I don't see why the boy's got the best seat" Dave.

Date (unsure) Sat/Sun. Dave, Paul C, Harry.
Rerigged the first big pitch, and down to the false floor (supper time). Brought out one tackle bag with spent carbide, and found it very mechanical and hard work.

Martin "I'm really quite innocent, honest" May

(10)

8/8/87

EXTRACT FROM

100 CLASSIC SRT TRIPS IN THE PICOS

Number 97: Pozo Claro (28/7)

Etymology: This is rather obscure. The literal translation is "Bright Pot" (not "Clear Pot"!). Probably this is a pun on "Cueva Oscura".

History: The pot was discovered by Gerhard on 17 August 1987 whilst waiting for Mike B-L. A partial descent was completed by G. the following day. The pot was bottomed by Silvia one hour later.

Tackle required: Walking waterproofs (no trollsuit), Helmet, SRT gear.
Take a light if you intend to stay overnight.
50m rope, 1 ring hanger, 2 twisted hangers, 3 maillons, 1 25' lightweit ladder. Cave food. The Great Book of Knots. (1 sling & 1 maillon lopt.)

Access: Having paid 10p goodwill fee to the landowner, walk up the Jultayu path from Ario. Talk nicely to Anabel & Julia whom you meet on the way. Follow the path up almost to the Bayeya ridge. Just before you come up and look into the Jou del Jultayu, keep right and traverse into the obvious scree valley. Climb up this past a cliff

overhang by a tree and ignoring the obvious path leading off to the right towards 9/7. At the head of the valley you are faced with a choice of four routes. The leftmost one leads down into the Jou. The rightmost goes up a grassy col and leads to 2/7 and 5/7, or alternatively up the ridge to 2/7 and beyond. The second from the right is a grassy gully leading nowhere in particular and the second from the left is another such. This is the one. Go up, waving to the tourists on the Juttayu path, but don't step too far since you're standing on a perched soil choke in the entrance rift.

Interesting surface walks in the surroundings: Recommended for short-sighted people who want to read the inscription which is on the righthand wall on the far side of the hole. Climb up just to the left of the slot and traverse past it to the grassy space beyond.

Descent: Standing in front of the entrance slot and looking towards Cuvicente if it weren't raining and thundering you'll spot a bolt in the righthand wall which is very well placed in rather poor soft rock. This won't give a free hang so look out for another bolt on the opposite wall. This too is exceedingly well placed in very soft rock. (If you imagine the soil away you'll notice that this bolt is sitting in a big flake.)

Option – put a sling round a flake way up left, tie the end of your rope to it (maillon!), and you'll have a safe backup for what follows. Use the Book to think of a suitable knot for a Y hang, and the entrance shaft will be yours.

Note. The revolting dead-sheep smell does not stem from the cave but from your gloves.

The first pitch is ~16m and lands on a rickle ledge. STILL heading in general direction cuvicente, climb down 4m over boulders to where the rift narrows. Here you'll find a ~~second~~ third bolt

(12)

In the righthand wall, the hallmark of the 2nd pitch, which is 5–6m (depending on how far you swing about) and best laddered since the well-placed bolt (in a flake) won't give a free hang. However, you find you haven't brought a spreader. All right then, the tackle list didn't mention one; but there wouldn't have been any at Aro anyway. So you've brought up the ladder for nothing.

Thrutch down the second pitch and subsequent climb to a ledge which consists half of a flake, half of jammed boulders. There are three ways to make the rest of the way (25') to the floor:

Silvia's trick — just ab down, and find the rope has snagged in a notch so you can't prusik back up.

Gerhard's failure — tie a wire (assuming you got one) round the largest boulder behind you. It will roll off immediately.

The industrious solution — waste another bolt on it.

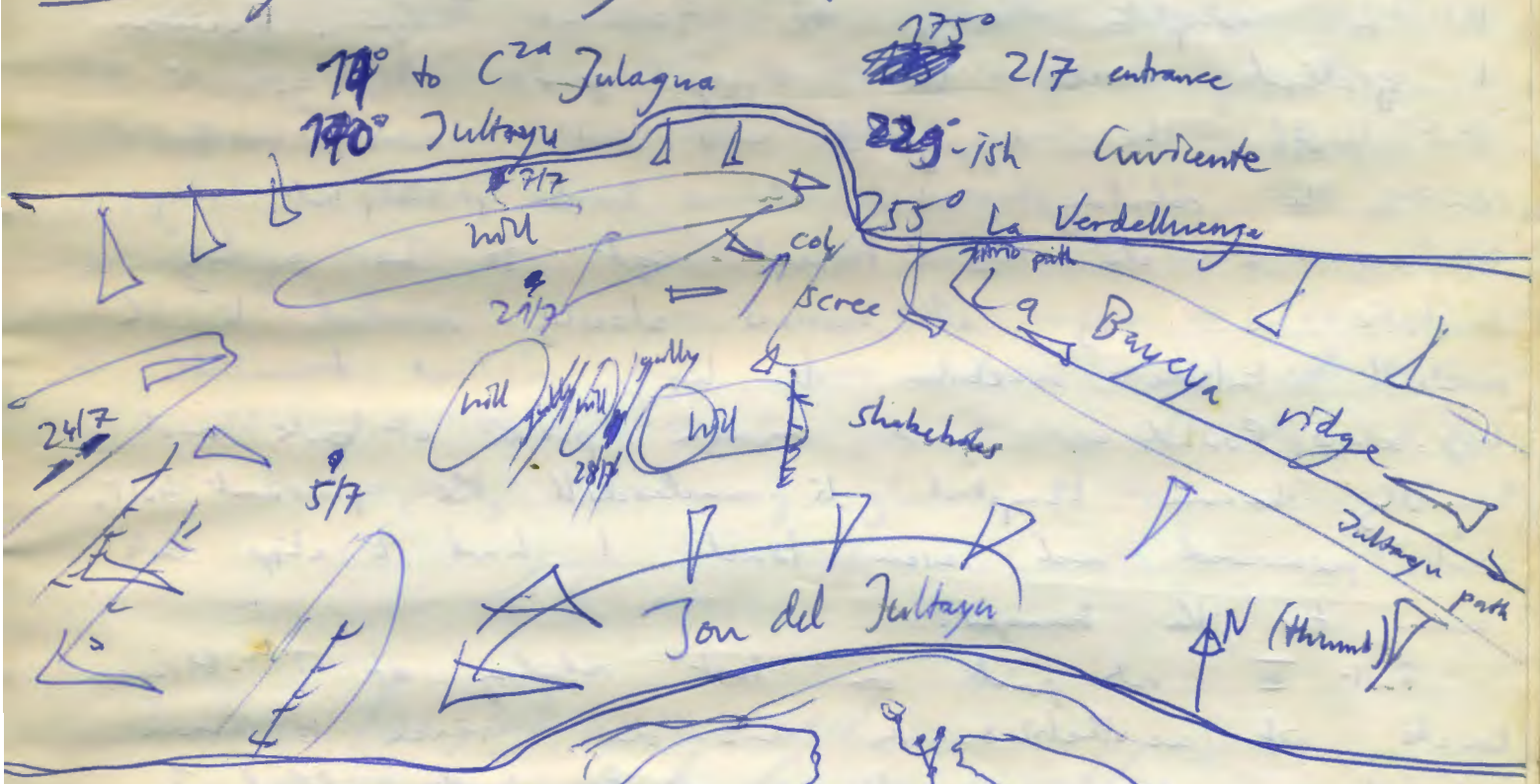
The first way is probably the best choice. This lands on a boulder floor sloping back underneath where you've come from (i.e. towards Aro). This leads to a hammered squeeze (not yet) and to a choke. Going upslope, you find a rift continuing down in the farthest corner (close to the righthand wall). If you're not carrying a trained salamander, you could gain access to another 5–10 horrible metres by chiselling away a flake and a chockstone. This would also remove the only two sensible natural belays encountered so far. The rift can be seen to continue and seems to get narrower again. Stones dropped hit a boulder floor after 3s.

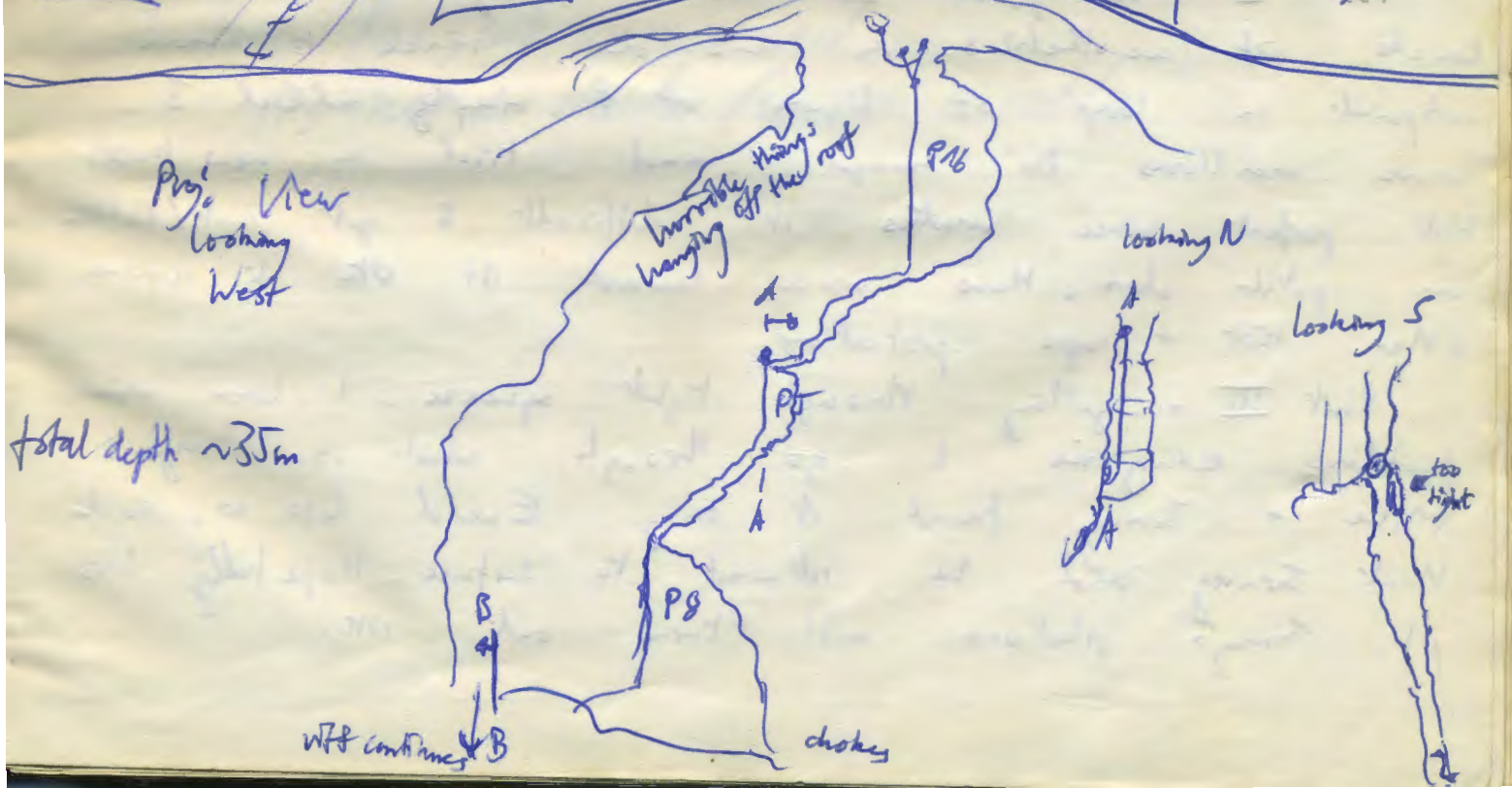
<u>Note to geologists.</u> Thing about this cave is that the rock is noticeably laminar, and the bedding is dipping 20°-ish <u>south</u> whereas bed dip is <u>north</u> almost everywhere else around here.

Ascent: The same as descent but in reverse. In view of the terrible rubs on the 3rd and 2nd pitches, try to free-climb up these which is quite feasible except for a few spots of a couple of metres each. — A ladder on the 2nd pitch would be useless anyway 'cos there's no space to bend your legs. The take-off at surface is mildly entertaining when you try to stay on the wrong side of the Y. hang.

References: none.

P5 — bearings when standing to the left & above the entrance:





total depth ~35m

14.

Rerigging / Tourist / Photography Trip.
Me (Jonathan C.), Mike B-L, Sonny T. + Evald Baersac

A taken trip so he can does not forget what a caver and his Troll suit looks like. We had been warned of sub-points, bolts underdrilled and other serious dangers of SRT which at least a dozen people had abseiled, prusiched, etc on, with little knowledge which were spread evenly throughout the rifty but of 2/7, from the 2nd "Unnamed" pitch to a complete re-rig of Graham's Podger. Because I grabbed all the rigging gear I got to start off the rigging. A new bolt was needed on the rebolting of the 2nd pitch, but my keenness to do this turned out to be a big mistake as my sit harness slowly reverted to the ancient torture machine it had evolved from the hip-screw. Found a good enough piece of rock and rapidly became tempted to underdrill the replacement bolt, but persevered and even found I had to chip rock away for the hanger.

Part II sub point on last rebolting of 7th Heaven. Lack of aesthetics in this one since to remove subpoint in loop of figure of 8 simply added 3 more maillons to hanger and tried a new knot. Not perfect since makes it difficult to get rack/bolthan on pitch above. Have since learned its OK to remove other bolt + rope protector.

Part III - getting through tight squeeze. I have more problems every time I go through which is strange. Mike + Sonny found it easy, Ewald less so, so to that Sonny and he returned to surface. Hopefully lots of Sonny's photoes will turn out OK.

Part IV Grahams Todger pitch:- Two people were more efficient than 4 so we got to the pitch in no time, despite we kicking + screaming ("Why the f**k won't you s****g little w****r leave my ****g cowtails alone, you b*****d,") though some bits of rifle. Hand back over the recagging reins to Mike who spent an age finding somewhere to put a tape round + a further age to get the tape/wire/longer tape around a piece of chess. In meantime a prussick found its way down to the bottom of the pitch and a further rubbed bit of rope discovered. & Mike had to go down, whereupon we found the bottle's pints bottle had deposited all our anchors + wedges in the previous passageway, so we could not have a primary bolt in some chess to give a free hang. So cerrigged the pitch as it had been before and Mike set off for the abseil prussick hang. Efficiently out by 9.45 to rapidly darkening gloom, & now after descent

S.C.

Jonathan has just announced:-
"Its not as much fun on a table."

(76)

August 1987.

Attacked by cows in the night. Top Camp is covered in shit. Luckily stew is safe.

Friday 7th August, Paul Cooper, Harry, Dan.

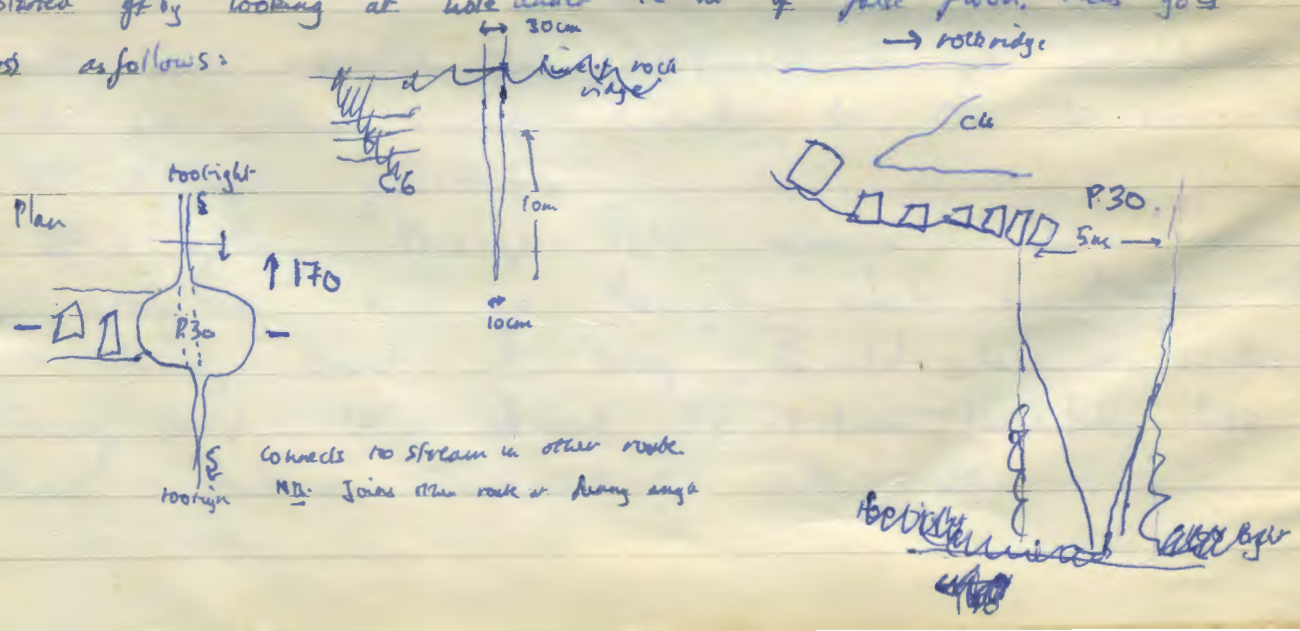
Took Paul down 2/7 for first time. Went thro Paradise OK, apart from me who got my legs ~~[illegible]~~ hopelessly stuck. Rerigged long hand and put in new bolts below "Supper Time". Paul topped at 5 second warning & Harry & I rerigged down to the 1st false floor. Put ladder on pitch below that & came out. Took Paddle bag out, bloody knackering, took along time getting it thro' Paradise. Out at dawn.

9/10 August

CAVE BOTTOMING TRIP

William, M.B.L Harry + Steve.

Had started off by looking at hole under 1st bit of false floor. This goes (i.e. stops) as follows:



(335) (17)

How they brought the BAD NEWS From Juracao to Avio

I strapped on my harness, with Mike Berners-Lee
And William & Harry, we prusiked all four (4?)
I prusiked, he prusiked, we prusiked some more
And prusiked and prusiked till we felt at death's door

We prusiked like demons – like demons? Nay, MEN!
And prusiked and prusiked & prusiked again
Mike prusiked, Bill prusiked and Harry as well
And I prusiked and prusiked in the vertical hell

We prusiked past ledges, we prusiked past bolts
(We stopped on the ledges for nourishing halts)
To get news to Dan that the cave had now ended
And his prusiking future plans should be amended

The prusiking's over! The news is brought down
to the cavers who wait in our small tented town
But when campfires are lit, tell tales of those four
Who prusiked like f**k to bring news to Dan's ~~door~~ door

... When I strapped on my harness, with Mike Berners Lee
with William and Harry, and we prusiked all four

four?

17 ws.
16 hours is a fuck of a long time in a sit harness!

This may be my deepest ever trip, beating my 1980 Xibu Survey epic by ≈ 5 metres.

(18)

We descended to end of the main route. The rigging approximates to lethal: Mud conceals a 25m drop in 9mm rope above 40m!

Now to the site of my previous survey finish. -620m, and the big push down the hole in the floor. It went!! for 15 Bloody metres to a very terrible chamber.

A whole week has passed with the 'limit' of the '1200m deep' pothole being poised on tiny drops above its scrofulous tight conclusion.

Score me to the Picos. Turn round at ~2a.m, out at 10 am to a dazzling sunny day – a real treat after the misty walk up. What a bummer!

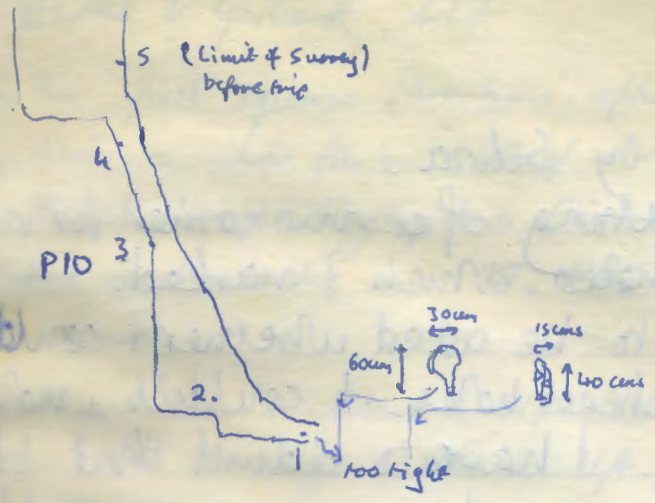
Mind you, that shaft system is unbelievable even when you see it.

"A fine pot, with many magnificent situations and NO EASY WAY OUT AT THE BOTTOM."

In fact 5 hours sitting in your harness and 3 scuffling through these shitty rifts.

William says "There's NO EASY WAY IN AT THE TOP, either".

Steve



(That Monday Morning feeling)

This is a rough guide to the amount of cave surveyed!

LOST PROPERTY!

Steve has lost

(a) a pair of blue Nylon Running Shorts

(b) a pair of brown ordinary-type sox.

(c) one purple (!) ord-type sox.

Please put in Steve's tea of food.

10th August (20)

Shaft marking trip by Silvia.
"Shaft" being something of a misnomer for most of the stone filled holes which I marked.
I also arrived back to be asked whether I could give compass bearings on these holes. I couldn't, nobody had told me to do this. I have to admit that I had wondered ~~whether it was~~ how anyone would know where which cave was. So for now a map will have to do. Sorry, no initiative points.
~~For some reason I also~~ Marked 13-7 to 20-7 inclusive and 24-7 to 27-7 inclusive and 30-7 onwards. (oh no!) ~~I should have looked at the bashing guide first as~~
Yes I know there already is a 24-7 sorry about this as well. This has been sorted out, see ~~next~~ pages on.

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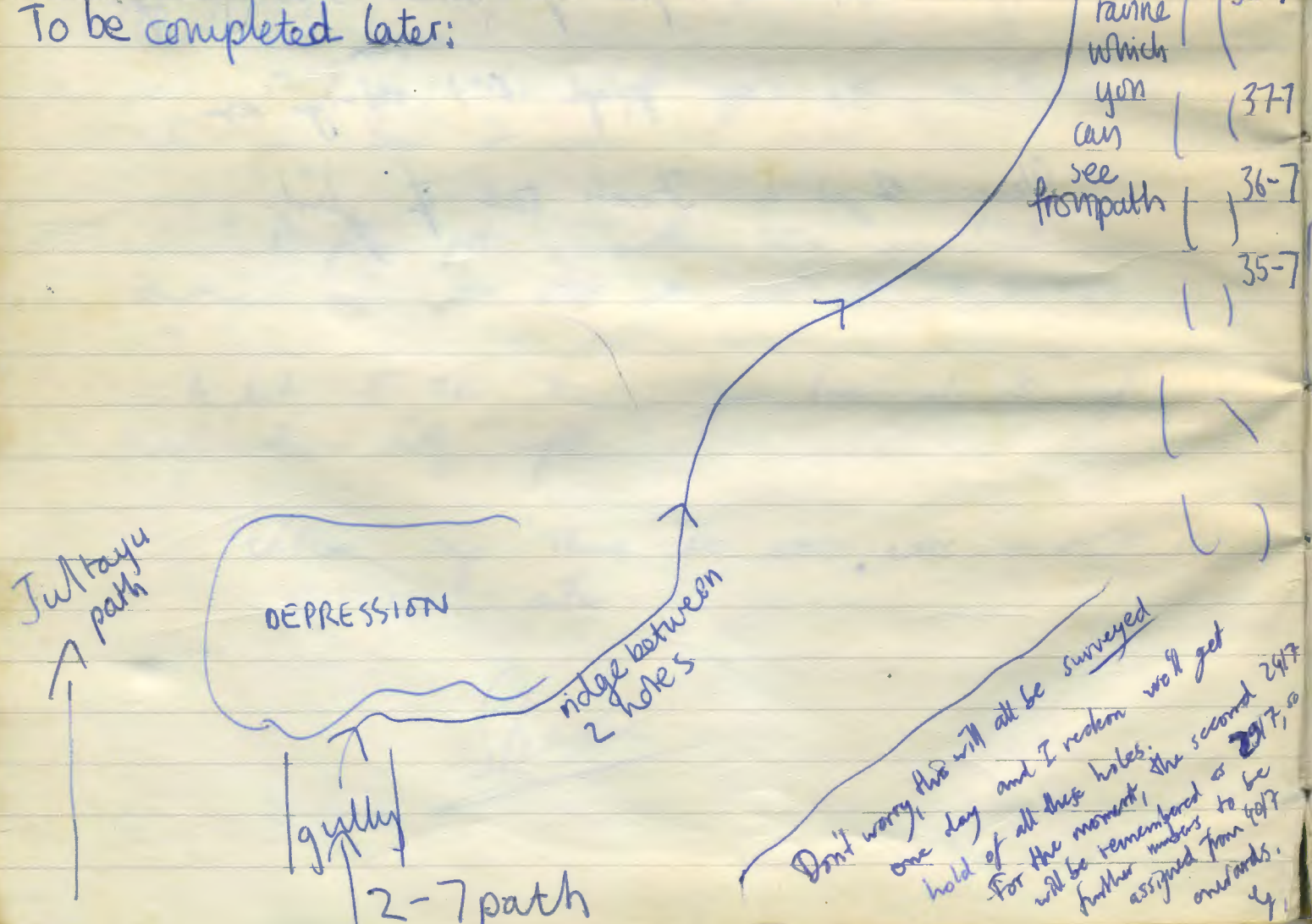
To be completed later:

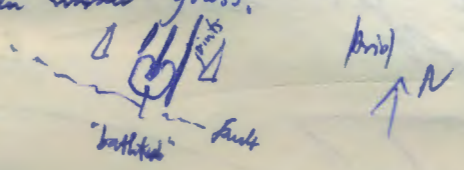


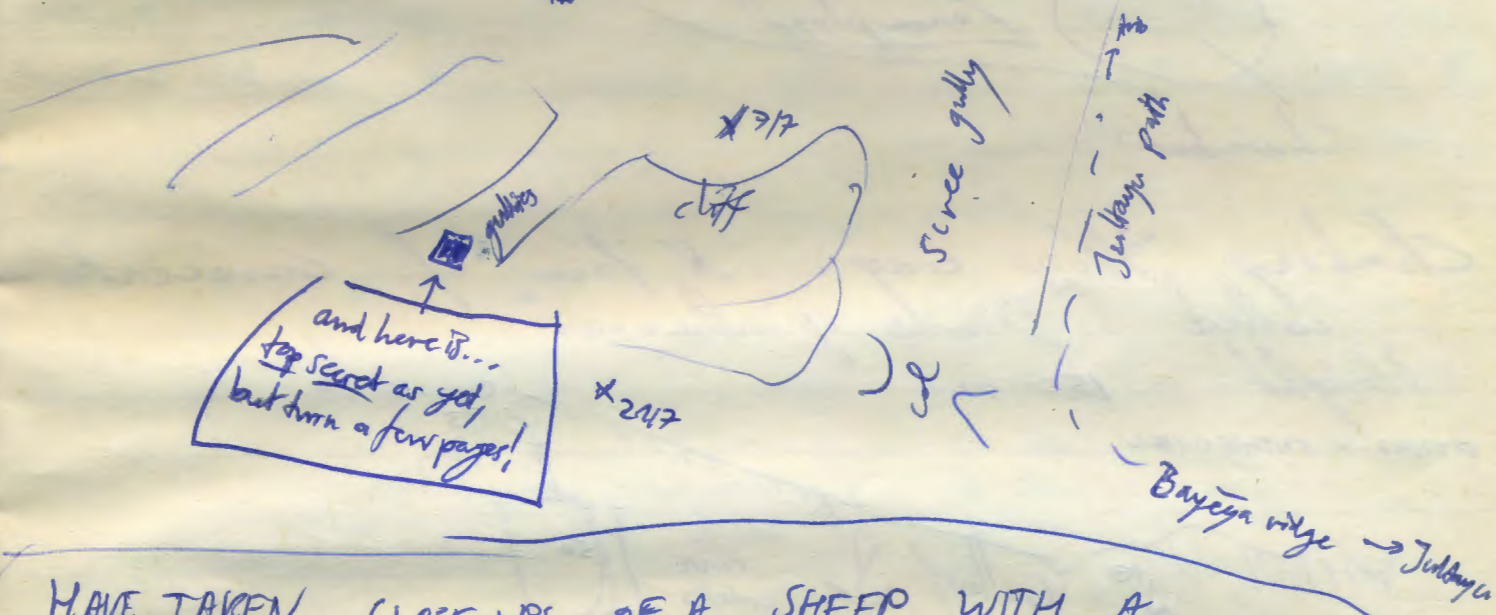
Don't worry this will all be surveyed one day and I reckon we'll get hold of all these holes. For the moment, the second 24/7 will be remembered as 29/7, so further numbers to be assigned from 40/7 onwards.

20th August – Ewald & Gerhard, 217

Went down to the first squeeze (two hours after Team Deep Detackling: Dan, Dave & JC), took a whole film's worth of stereo pieces and brought out all these BL..Y heavy digging tools. Good stuff to chase cows with, though. Also picked up two ladders, one 115m PMI and assorted rusty rigging gear from the entrance.

On the walk down, made a detour to 717 and thence to the strange "bathtub" feature visible downslope and to the left from there. Three parallel joints, very conspicuous but scree-filled everywhere, and uphill at what appears to be a big fault hidden under grass.





HAVE TAKEN CLOSE-UPS OF A SHEEP WITH A

RED BOLT

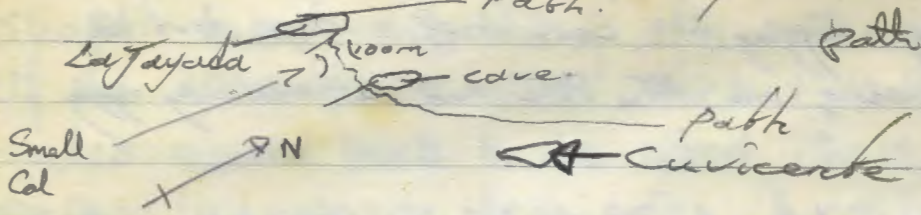
IN ITS RIGHT EAR. HAS DAVE E. BEEN HERE RECENTLY? I'LL BRING THE PICTURES TO THE BCRA...

Gerhard

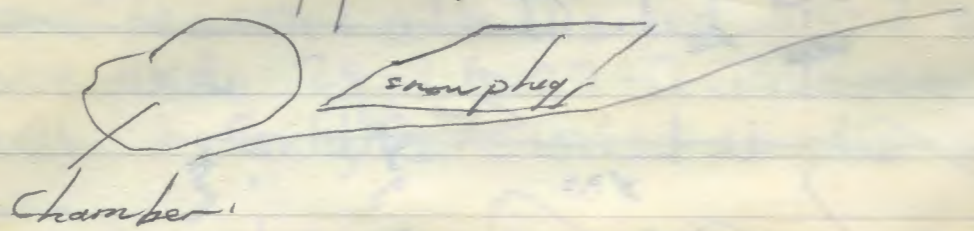
(22)

Harry M / Paul C

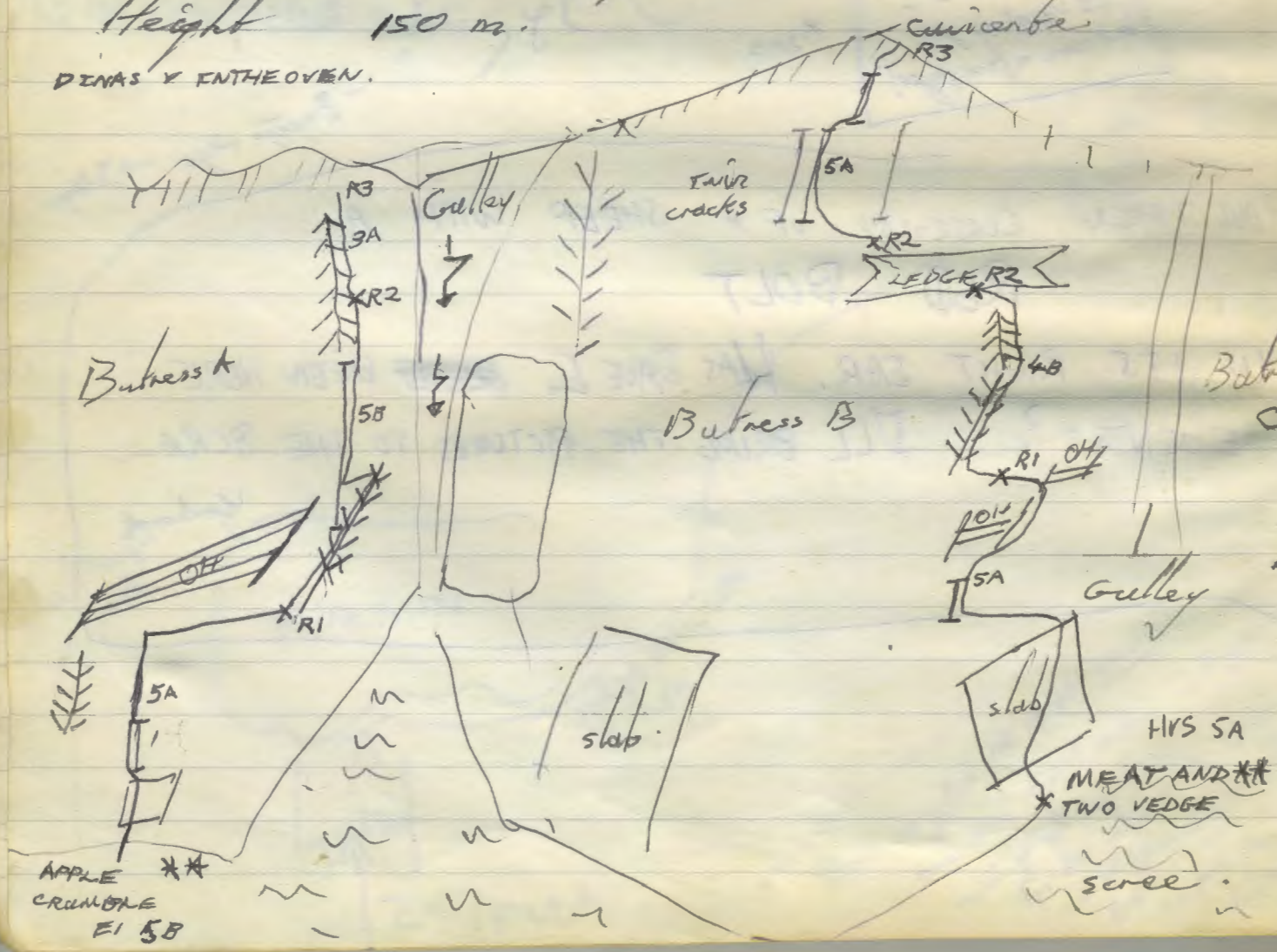
11/8/87. NOTE. Location of large cave entrance.
Area 9. 100 m from La Tayada; follow path over small col



Snow plug in base, though able to scramble down between rock and neve. Chamber at base seemed choked at bottom. Worth another look. But no torch with us.



Climbing New crag. N face of Cuvicente called "Dinds y intheoven".
Height 150 m.



Apple Crumble. Un Jeu de coincers et 50m à corde. « Friend » 2 et 3.

Head and 2 wedge. pour toute directions

piton « angles » petit.

(94)

2/2 Detachable Pack I Dan, Dave H + Tom C.

Put on a brave face when we got to the bottom, but it does look very terminal, with all leads below false boulder floor seeming to lead to same place. Will anyone bother rigging 600 m+ just to check, next year? Went in one, ish reached bottom 7.15 ish (1st Picos came bottomed) footballed around for about an hour then started derigging where upon we got to Armageddon Ledge (i.e. large proportion of shaft system) by 4 ish. Fairly knacked by out of cave by 10 having eaten much of cave food. 9 tackle bags on the ledge with about 7½ main bags of gear.

T.C.

12/8/87 Ewald & Gerhard

After finishing surface surveying above around 217 admiring an eagle (3-it was not a vulture and very big indeed) soaring around the cliffs facing the gorge, saving two Spaniards from a horrible death of thirst on the Jultayu ridge and trying to coax a little inhabitant of 217 entrance out of its hole by offering it pieces of Yorkie bar (which it declined) ... we finally started our walk back to Ario. But first we wanted to have a look at the large vertical slot somewhere down in the bowl which is very conspicuous once you reach the Bayeya ridge (the Arion-side rim of the Jou del Jultayu). We found it... we found it was choked and was labelled 38/7 in red. So we ended up doing a grand tour of Silvia's entrances, visiting all but two of them, adjusting the numbers in two cases, and... but that will be for Ewald to tell. Here's the story; map to follow on the next couple of pages.

PS: we also saw 8 REBECOS on the walk down at dusk.

(in order of visit, more or less) (all caves crossed thus ⊕ by Silvia unless stated otherwise)

25

38/7 obvious 7m tall vertical slot opening towards Arrio side of bowl at head of long 'rift'-controlled shakehole. The controlling joint strikes 36°. Complex subordinate joints/faults. Bedding strikes N, dips 30° E. The main joint can be followed above the slot for a few metres as grassy gully. The slot itself leads nowhere, rapidly narrowing to a soil & pebbles choke.

To the left, looking towards the slot (i.e. on the Jultayu-side wall of the shakehole) is an obvious round entrance which gives access to a human-sized cave ascending ~5m to a (thin!) roof of boulders.

~~Bearings from [illegible] on the [illegible] the shakehole~~

Bearings from bottom end of shakehole, opposite the slot:
Curricente: 247°, 217: 177°, Bayeya col (see sketch map) 13,5°.

37/7 Following the joint (or whatever it is) just encountered ~~down~~ towards the col, 37/7 is a short choked shaft in the next shakehole.

36/7 A few metres down the ravine, now bending to the left, 36/7 is a scrofulous tight hole in the loose boulder choke at the bottom of another shakehole. No draught noticeable. Diggable?

35/7 In the next shakehole: a choked 3m rift shaft with a <1sec drop down a too tight rift in its western corner.

34/7 Still following the obvious ravine down, which now bends again towards the col: big shakehole (i.e. you can't touch both walls) with sandy alcove in northwestern wall; the 'entrance' marked is a collapsed sink at the opposite wall. Pebbles dropped into the gaps left by the larger boulders hit a gravel floor 1m below. Climbing up the southeastern wall, you'll find a parallel rift which drops 6m to a boulder floor.

By now you've covered about half the distance from 38/7 to the col.

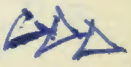
33/7 Shakehole immediately down the ravine from 34/7.

The next elongated shakehole towards the col remains unmarked and is followed immediately by

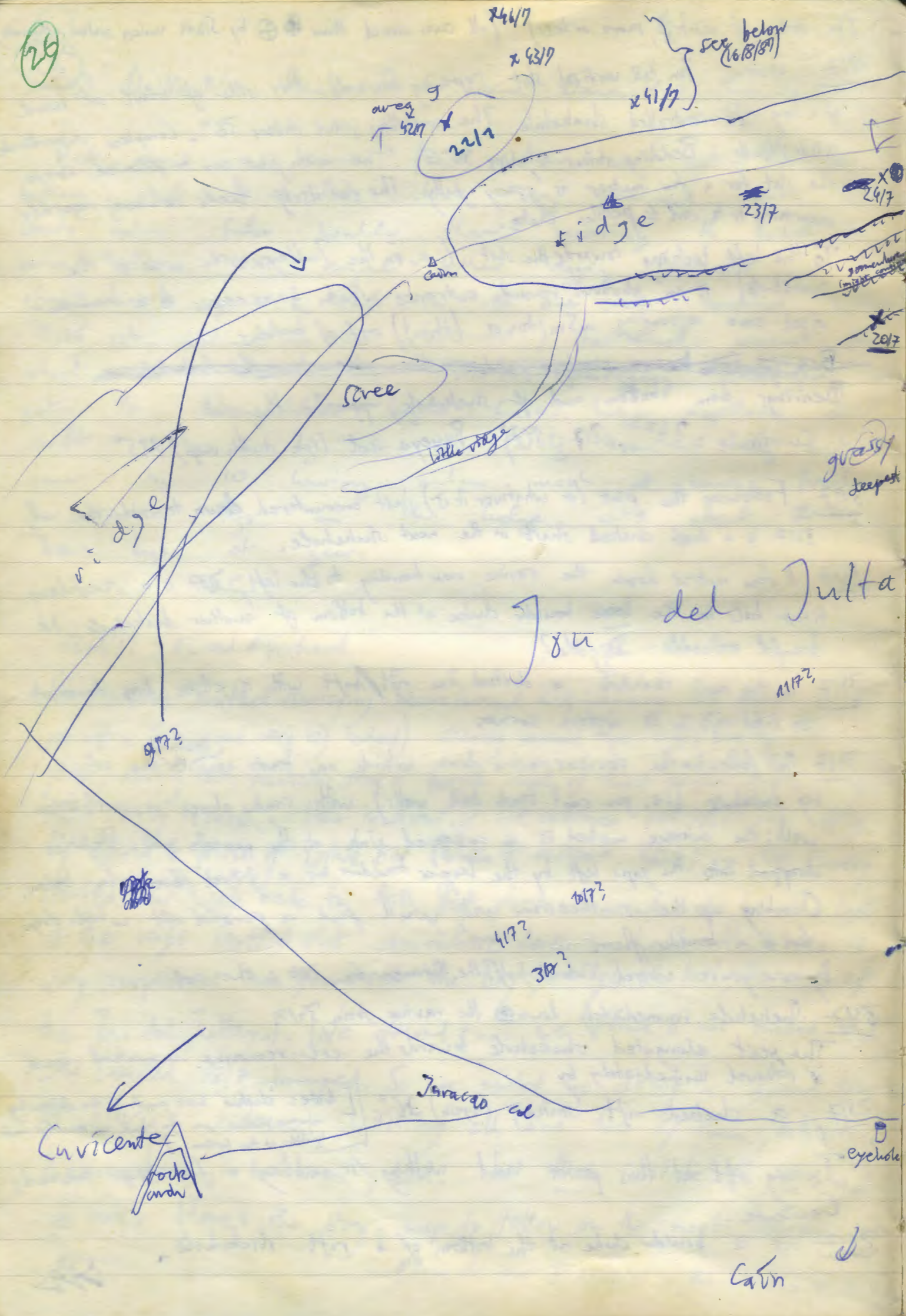
25/7, a choked rift striking (again) 36°. [Note: 'choked' here and in the following always means you can stand on boulders and/or pebbles at the bottom.]

Turning left at this point and walking/scrambling a few steps towards Curricente:

26/7 is a boulder choke at the bottom of a rift shakehole.



26


x 44/7
x 43/7
scree below (16/8/87)
x 41/7
away 9
42/7
22/7
ridge
23/7
x 24/7
Cairn
somewhere (might be cairn)
20/7
scree
little ridge
grassy deepest
ridge
Jujuy del Julta
11/7?
9/7?
10/7?
4/7?
3/7?
Jujuy cal
Cuvicente
rocky cirque
cyclole
Cairn

caves going or unexplored underlined (40/7)

never visited ~~and~~ therefore missing on this sketch:

3/7
4/7
9/7
10/7
11/7
22/7

all numbers up to & including 40/7 now used except 12/7,

(28) The conspicuous string of rifty shakeholes beginning at 38/7 has ended at its deepest point with 25/7. We now approach the 'exit' col keeping close to the steep flank of a fallish hill to our left.

29/7 (changed from Silvia's 24/7 to avoid a number clash) is a 3m-deep choked shaft easily freeclimbed if you avoid the large loose boulders. In one corner a too-tight rift chokes after a few cm.

18/7 Closer to the walls of the hill on the lefthand side of the depression we've now entered is a 6m deep rift with a boulder floor.

39/7 (changed from Silvia's 20/7 for reasons that will become apparent soon) is in the same line, back towards Cuvicente. This is a 1m deep leg-wide hole between cliff (of the hill) and boulders. The inscription is on a boulder on the side facing the cliff so you can't see it from any distance. (One intuition point for Ewald.)

17/7 Towards the col from 18/7 and to the right of its line. Hole in choke at bottom of shakehole.

19/7 To the right (down the hill) from 18/7 etc. at the deepest point of the small depression is an enormous boulder chaos. Marked by Silvia as going thus Ø. Very convincing-looking, though, and no good rattler among the various inter-boulder gaps. Towards the hill, an entrance can be followed upward as a crawl and ends where daylight peeps in among boulders.

Cave – some very large things here start moving when you look at them.

16/7 Going over the edge into the next depression east (away from the hill and towards the Bayeya ridge): a choked shakehole.

14/7 sink (?) in very large doline immediately below this. Potential dig?

An obvious 2.5m deep rift between 14/7 and 16/7 remains

unmarked. We've been unable to find a '15/7' mark anywhere near so this might be it. (The inscription is either too well hidden, or was on something loose which has since then dropped down, or was omitted.)

Climbing up towards Jultayu from this, you encounter...

30/7, a large doline at the intersection of two rifts, with a boulderfloor.

(6/7 is a little further towards the Bayeya ridge, i.e. east, from this, just beyond the next little ridge. It also strikes 36°. Neither the descriptions of its location nor the point marked in the 'areas 7,8,9' map in the draft bashing kit bear any resemblance to the truth. The same applies to 5/7, by the way.)

31/7 is reached by following one of the rifts out of 30/7 and going up & south past the next shakehole.
This is one part of a twisting rift with alternating grass and boulder floors.

27/7 Leaving 30/7 towards Cuvicente, i.e. SW, you'll find a shaft 4m square and 6m deep at the bottom of a wide shakehole. Doesn't look an easy free-climb to me. In the southern corner a hole leads off into blackness (horizontally).
Needs to be looked at. Marked going thus ⊘.

We've been unable to locate 32/7. The number 12/7 has not been used yet. 28/7 has now been crossed out thus ⊠. 6/7, 7/7, 21/7 remain incompletely explored.

The story of 20/7 (1984!! Perhaps from the same trip that marked 21/7, but it never seems to have made the log – perhaps it was snow-choked then) and 40/7 (new) will be Ewald's to tell. Just a few bearings: — 10 intuition points for each.

from 20/7 to 28/7 gully: 53°, to Jultayu: 125°, to highest apparent point on Cuvicente (may not be the summit): 233°. Entrance rift strikes 45°.

From 40/7 to C^ta Julagua: 18°, to C^za Verde: 30.5°, to Jultayu: 142°. Entrance rift strikes 36° (yet again!).

And a warning 20/7 is loose and anything unattached (mind yourself!) rolls down and goes over the edge down the first pitch(es).
40/7 has been half dug which means that whatever you're standing on might start moving down without warning. Take extreme care when approaching the opening.

23/8/87 Gerhard

(30)

12/8/87 Gerhard & Ewald

With the following words I am referring to Gerhard's report.
"If you look down from the Multayer side to the Tom de Multayer, you can see the grassy dolines in the center of it. Going down connected from the Multayer towards them by the number of rifts where 38/7 to 33/7 lay in is searched. On the slope opposite there is also a number connected of rifts. I ~~[illegible]~~ had a look at them while Gerhard visited Silvias entrances. The generally direction of these rifts is about 55°. Most of them are filled with stones and not of interest to a caver's mind. But some are not, such as 20/7. It is marked with the fading date of 1984, till now nobody could explain to me why the number 20 was used. Position and description see one page before. In the same line of rifts lies 21/7, also 5/7. Walking from 21/7 to 24/7 at about the deepest point between the hills there was a hole, measuring about 30 cm to 35 cm from one end to another. Not expecting it was more than a little hole in a pile of stones, I threw a stone in it. And the stone was falling down about two seconds without any sound. Under a thin roof of loose stones there is a hollow of unknown extent. It would be easy to make the hole bigger, but ~~[illegible]~~ you are risking, that the stone you are ~~throwing~~ throwing falling into the hollow. Therefore be careful! The number of the hole is 40/7. Position: from 40/7 to Multayer 12°, to Tulagra 18°, see the page before.

13/8/87 Ewald

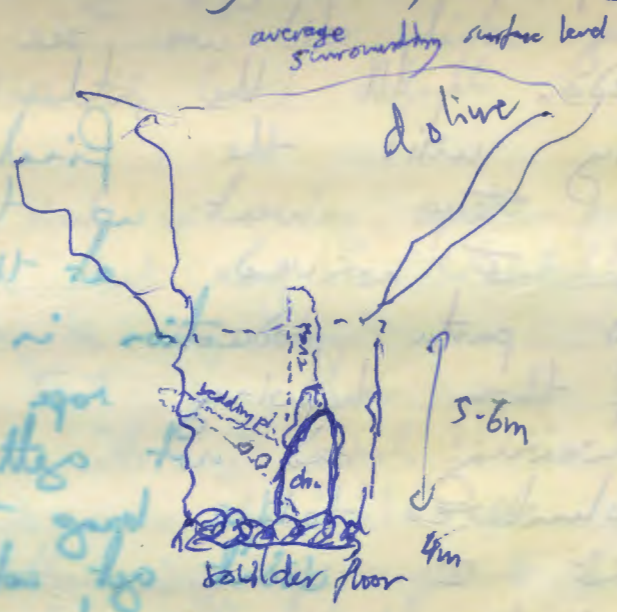
Addendum to the pre-previous page, 14/8/87.

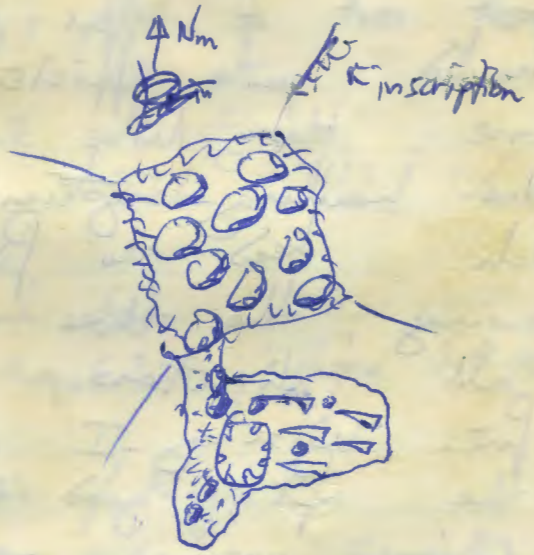
Investigated 27/7 today on the walk back from 2/7. The northern (which ?!) wall of the rectangular shaft can be free-climbed. (It's grade 1 facing the wall but grade 3 facing the shaft and you probably want to wear gloves since the rock is very sharp – I spilt blood.).

Walking into the obvious hole at the southern end, a cool little chamber with a floor of rust-coloured (!) sand is reached. Straight ahead, the roof meets the floor. Above a narrow aven could be climbed for 2m. To the left, a bedding plane slopes upward, rapidly closing down to 10cm height. Too bad, a no-go.

Elevation looking south, Grade ½.

plan, grade 0.





Since I didn't have any paint on me I couldn't cross it out.

Gerhard

The BIG D

Martin, Steve, Paul C. (BLUE TEAM)
Bill, Mike, Harry (RED TEAM)

Version No 1. by Martin

Having sweated up to the cave we were glad to be in the shade and get out of the Sun. Enthusiasm was boiling over at the thought of the oncoming jolly.

Just past 1 Blue was off with the reds to start the chase ½ hour later. By the top of the big pitches Harry caught us up but not for a long while did we see the ~~rest~~ rest of the Reds. All the pitches were hauled quite efficiently until the final big one. Harry, Mike & Steve went up to rig the hauling system. I arrived at the pitch head to find pasta production in full swing, the three of them heaving rope in all directions, sweating and not getting very far. Wisely I volunteered to take bags through the rift, good that I didn't get cold anyway. Endless sweating seemed to pass up and down the hauling system, over the head of the pitch and on down to William who was the unfortunate to be tieing the bags on (or not) at the bottom of the pitch.

It seemed endless but timeless down in the rifts, tackle bags took on characters but if you hit them hard enough they soon surrendered (even the Big "B").

Eventually we resurfaced at about 8.30, feeling totally naked & battered but it was a good trip. Steve suggested we walk to the Top of Sultanyu so foolishly Paul & I agreed. A great morning view with some birdie things soaring above. Just the way to finish a hard trip, maybe next time we'll pop down into the gorge for a drink at the bar before breakfast.

As a final note: ~~ted~~ beware of looking into carbide drums with your carbide still running. If you forget it results in light entertainment for the rest of the party and a strong smell of burning hair.

— How to (not) detackle a big pitch.

1) Haul up a long rope — prusik with it.
2) "Haul away!" "What!??!" "Take in!!!" "What??" a big bag.
3) Fast to throw rope back down "Does it reach???" "What??" "Rope BELOW!!!" "No!!!!" etc.
4) Haul up rope, generate 100m of tangle.
5) Successfully haul up rope, — and bag. Generate 100m tangle in mud.
6) Find some smart-arse has tied another rope on. Keep on hauling. Generate 200m of muddy tangle.
7) Untangle. Generate new tangle (takes 1 hr.)
8) Untangle. Throw down pitch. "Does it reach?!" "NOOO!!"
9) Pull in rope. Stuck. Try again. Stuck

(34)

Stunch.

10). Abseil down Pendulum over. Untie rope from big calcite crystal on other side of shaft. Pendulum Sash and smash into wall.

11). Rope to throw down. It lands all over your head as you swing about in the dark.

12). Rope to lower down. Does it reach?
"NOOOOOOO"

13) AB. down 70m. Free rope.

14). Tie into loop!! Tie on Bag!!
HAUL AWAY!!!

15). Bag carries up rope. Pendulum up 60m e free it.

16) Loop system works. "Pull on Mandy!!" "What!!" "Pull!!" "This one??" "NOOO!" "What!!" "This one??" "What??" "Yes?!" etc.

17) A certain person drops on end of the loop BACK DOWN THE PITCH. Returns from hunting Mite After it. A pulley falls down the pitch.

18) Give up and leave them to it, having swung about over Saggy all shouting instructions up and down 100 ft for 2 hours.

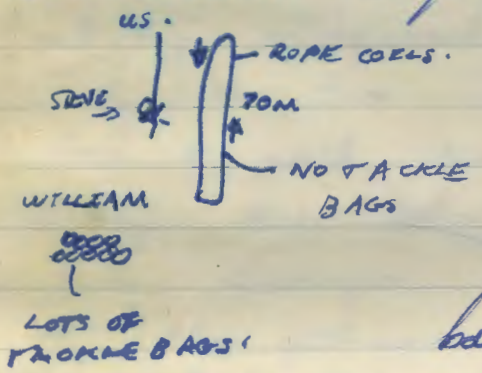
⋮

19) Energy utterly knackered 12 hours later.

Quote of day!

"FUCK OFF, WILLIAM WE'RE ON FIRE OVER HERE"

I feel it is necessary to develop some sort of telikineses between the haulers at the top of the pitch (us) and the loader on at the bottom. To insure that the rope coil set up to transfer from bottom to top is not endlessly pulled round and round in a large circle with no bags on.



The couple of bags we brought through were pigs. We belayed the monsters across endless, seemingly bottomless rift, which barked hungrily, snapping at our heels.

Trip time 24 hrs. WS/Steve/Harry/Mike

View from the bottom: of the 70m pitch

The first few pitches had been detackled relatively smoothly, so naively, I assumed that the 70m pitch would't be much harder, ~~being~~ Three hours or so later standing at the bottom of the pitch alone with not a single tacklebag at the top, I began to feel differently. I was aware that there were problems: the incomprehensible instructions & the subsequent swearing when I failed to follow them did indicate this, as did the occasional missiles followed by anxious enquiries after my state of health.

How did I survive?

a) By making sure that the food went up last. I had intended not to eat any peanuts until a few bags were up, but later weakened.

b) By cowering in an alcove when the rocks showered down.

c) By being unable to understand most of the abuse hurled at me.

W.

(240)

8/11/87 (Casio watch!)

We go up to 2/7 to empty out the bags + to start bringing stuff down.

All the ropes pulled out of the bags are filthy + smell of MUD + PISS. In fact I should imagine the whole cave smells like that.

Doubtless in the future an odour that will instantly transport me back to those dreadful days. – Cord forbid!

On the digging trip, I noticed that the smell at the foot of Graham's Todgen pitch, which earlier had so offended Dan's sensibilities, had improved somewhat. This may, however, merely be due to the rest of the cave lowering itself to the same level ...

W.

almost
A(n) Somewhat Bigger D than "The Big D".
Dan, Silvia, Dave, Jon T, Jon C.

A not very well ordered account because I had spent midday and the early afternoon enjoying a leisurely stroll with a couple of mad dogs (and discussed the possible reason for a sheep dropping dead in the middle of the Ario path. I think the others were down by 1.30 but took some time getting to the pitch before Stimulated Emmission Squeeze. There they found 15 tackle bags, No grease & No pulleys so were suitably unimpressed.

By the time I got there (Dan 5.30 approx); delayed by i) long rest at Ario to avoid heat exhaustion, ii) very slow walk up + iii) getting down lost pitch and deciding to rearrange rack bars whereupon the rest disappeared. Rather than go for the pathuinous Lemming award I went out again + burrowed Martin's bobbin; they were prusicking up the pitch after Paradise rift and were at least on the surface much pleased to see me. This pitch should be named "The Flying Rebellé's" First of all because the take off was acrobatic, but also because during hauling the big natural which held the main hang fell off, as Dan stood on it. Miraculously the rock caught up in the tree around it instead of doing undue harm to Silvia who stood directly below.

No problems in the rift, but the next two pitches were very laborious until a pulley was brought from the surface. On both I managed to bag the prime spot of sitting above a rubbly to prevent ropes / tackle bags catching. This has probably resulted in a set of mis-shapen hips, and a higher threshold of pain around my backside. Having

(40)

~~We~~ to partially reach 7th Heaven, just as the unknown the rope did not help matters. All out by 5.30 pm.

We walk down to Trio / Los Lagos (Sonny) with the dawn, ~~the~~ heroes of the Rios.

S.C.

P.S I did not piss on any tackle bags.

You missed out that Silvia pissed onto her bunny at 1st Squeeze

→ I was just being tactful. - Well there was no need I would have recorded this momentous event myself it being the only thing of note I achieved on the ~~to~~ trip, besides getting the black marlow stuck on the ledge of the pitch below the said squeeze when trying to haul it up. Dan nobly went back down for it - before I had pissed down the pitch I hasten to add. The other thing of note I achieved was not to be split asunder by the belay crashing down the 3rd pitch. I survived to hear Dave H. being pessimistic about my chances of then jumaring up the pitch on the back-up. My only regret is that they seemed to think I was so heavy to be hauled up the pitch I missed my chance ~~the~~ to experience the vagaries of the life of a tackle bag.

Glad I went caving.

Midnight Feast !

Flap, Flap, Flap, the billowing tent awoke me. A strange glow was cast across the mountain highlighting the nearby mumified sleeping figures. A strange energy coursed through my veins, my hair tingled as I lay there, a large toothy grin upon my face. Synapses closed upon the thoughts of a milleria, all my pasts shouting for their freedom to roam the hillsides. Polish beef will quench their lust for real meat, the time was not yet right. My pasts receeded into me, waiting, waiting for when the moon would be full.

(40)

Latest News From Area 7

c/o Ewald & Gerhard
15/8/87

1) 2/7 and (after another inspection) 19/7 and 27/7 were crossed out ⊗. Sorry I started crossing out the 'O' of 'OUCC' at 2/7 before Ewald stopped me with his astonished shout. — Route cairns to 2/7 (or most of them) are destroyed.

2) 6/7 & 7/7 remain incompletely investigated beyond the snow — no time...

3) I'm told that 21/7 has ended. (Ask Dave H.) — 28/7 is crossed out ⊗. —

4) There remain the results of some 8 hours of frantic bashing / digging, and they're somewhat inconclusive — i.e. going, after a fashion:

20/7 (1984) Reach cave at the peak of early afternoon heat & watch a herd of rebecos chasing a herd of sheep on the Jultayu side of the bowl. Start gardening the entrance slope. Shower tons of rock and earth down the pitch, break some handholds out of the roof.. Tied a sling round a buried boulder next to the entrance and attached a 10m traverse line ('tector at the entrance lip!) to it for safety. This allowed us to reach the pitchhead without sliding down the 40° mud slope ourselves. Jointly bashed a backup bolt in (well-drilled in dubious rock...). Then hung myself on a piece of 50m 10mm Lyon (which William & I had gone over yesterday; it had looked alright then but had since mysteriously acquired two bad cuts/rubs one third from one end which we had to knot out — roman fig '8 came in handy!), and lying horizontally over the pitch some 3m below the lip, bashed in the main anchor. This might earn me the G.A.N. Mem. Award since the rock flaked badly when the hole was halfway in. Further exploration will require a second bolt here.

Note There's still some stuff at 2/7 entrance (tadelebags, CaC_2 containers, rubbish).

Let's interrupt the story to make some points of potential interest.

a) There are small (2mm) snail shells in the entrance passage.

b) It looks as if at one stage the whole shaft had been filled with ice and there had been a soil choke resting on this, completely blocking the entrance. There are three clearly distinguishable colours on the rock: -muddy brown where it had recently been covered with soil (or where it was hit by soil we kicked down), -yellow where the soil has long gone, -clean grey where the soil had never come. In the righthand corner of the pitchhead there's a "rock bridge" (good foothold) formed by a nice clean grey chockstone (derived from the roof?) wedged against brown boulders.

c) For half an hour during the afternoon, the entrance ramp catches the sunlight and directs it straight onto the pitch. You can see the beams "converging" (strange perspective) and your bolting dust floating in them, and then you notice...

d) that the cave is <u>breathing</u>! It responds within a minute or two to gusts of wind on the surface, resulting in gusts of draught in either direction. (Airway to somewhere outside the Juttaya bowl?)

Observation c) gives rise to some passage names: the entrance ramp is the HELIOTRAP and the pitch, AMBASSADORS OF AFTERNOON.

(Reference being to a couple of lines from Pink Floyd's 'Echoes':

Through the window in the wall
come streaming in one sunlight beam
A million white ambassadors of morning...)

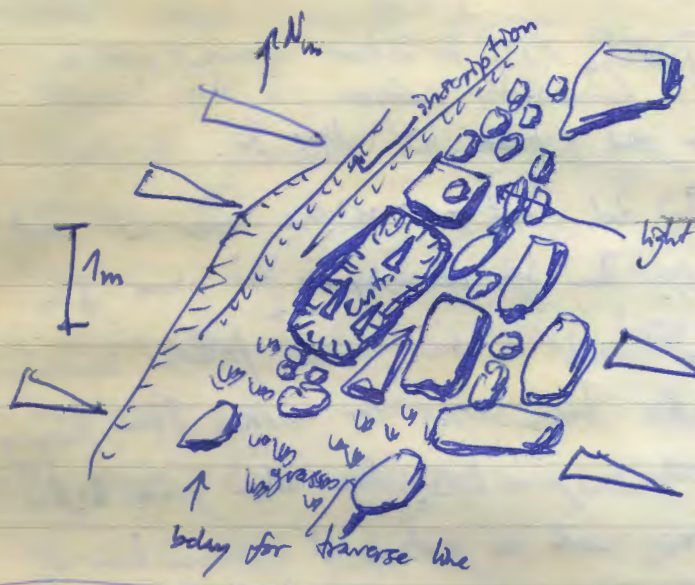
To my greatest surprise, the second bolt turned out to give a free hang all the way to the floor — not even the knot touches the rock! (Use twisted Petzl of the new variety, long 7mil maillon, and small thimble.) The pitch, from the 2nd bolt, is 34m (judging from rope length & number of prusik cycles) in a splendid

(42) elliptical shaft of a few metres diameter, formed along the vertical entrance joint. Calcite crystals & flakes give relief to the walls, only few tiny nooks contain pebbles for dropping further down whilst you're stuck at the knotted-out rubs, the faintest fluting gives evidence of past water action, in two or three places there's a little stal curtain. The pitch lands on a floor consisting mainly of the boulders we'd kicked down, plus some small unsightly remains of the former snowplug. Back towards the entrance, the joint controls a rift one to two inches wide into which you can peep for a few metres and which seems to emit a faint draught. On the opposite side, the floor drops a bit and you can look down a couple of feet into the continuation of the rift. Frantic digging did not reveal a way on there, but who knows - with patience...? Here there's also a niche offering shelter for one person whilst another is releasing missiles from the pitch head. Turn off your lamp and watch the reflections of daylight, mixing with your optical hallucinations, and listen to the sound of small things whizzing down the shaft... it's eerie.

And now comes the surprise. On the last 10m or so, an inclined joint intersects the NW wall of the shaft. Over most of its length it's completely closed, but 3-4m above the floor it opens to some 2½ inches. Dangling on the rope you can look through into... a chamber, larger than that at the foot of the pitch! It has a floor of boulders at the same level as on your side, but they're all clean grey: no soil has fallen down on the other side to choke any continuations. The draught goes through the viewslot. It is impossible to see what happens to the left or right. Passages might continue along a joint parallel to the entrance line. Anyone keen, take a large chisel & hammer down... At floor level, it is possible to clear away some boulders, but it's uncertain whether a dig might lead to a low-level route through the wall.

The enticing chamber seen "Through the Looking-Glass" is to be known as ∃VA). (Why?)

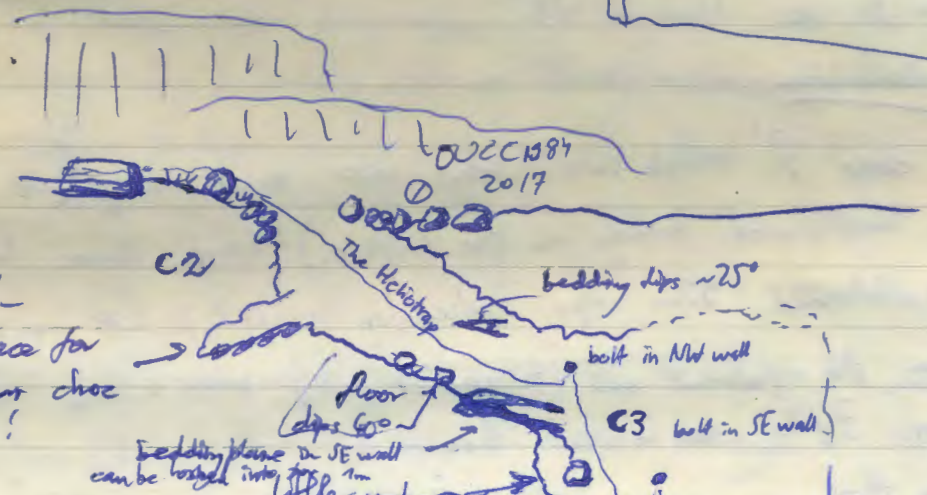
plans & elevations, grade 1/2 :



← entrance plan

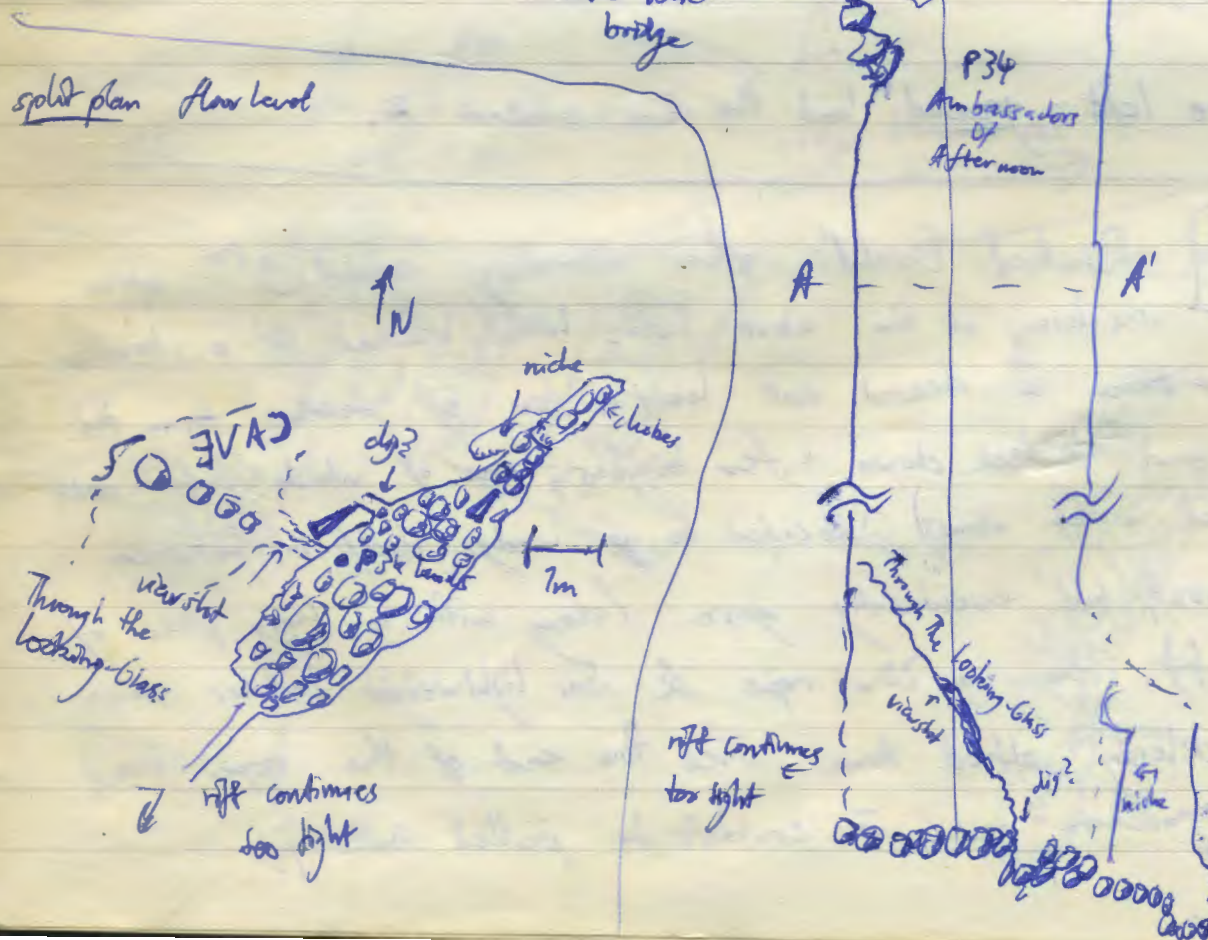
split plan
entrance part

elevation projected onto 45°
SW ⟷ NE

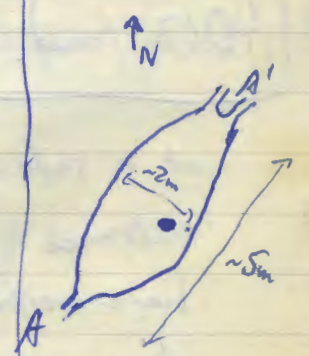


depth ~ 64m

split plan floor level



x section A-A':



(44)

Summary of location:

Bearings to 28/7 gully 53°; to Jultayu 125°, to highest apparent point on Curicente 233°; entrance joint strikes 45° dips 90°.

Easiest found by entering the Jou del Jultayu at the scree col and turning right i.e. walking past 21/7. Then go downslope for about 50m into the bowl until the valley begins to open towards the bowl, and follow contours of the hill to your right towards the Juratao col for another 80m, keeping the obvious rifts & shakeholes well to your left. Stop when you're before the second extensive patch of grass, with an outcrop of inclined beds of impure limestone 10m above & to the right and a (choked) rift 10m down & to the left. Entrance is manhole among boulders, with the inscription on the righthand wall.

Summary of description:

Manhole is easy 7' climb onto steep loose mud ramp. (Use 10m traverse line tied to half-buried boulder on the surface.) Ramp slopes down NE for some 8m to pitch head. 50m rope backed up to bolt in left-hand wall protects 3m climb down the righthand wall to second bolt; pitch is then 34m free-hanging to boulder (& snow) floor. JVAD can be seen through the Looking-Glass as you're dangling 3-4m above the floor.

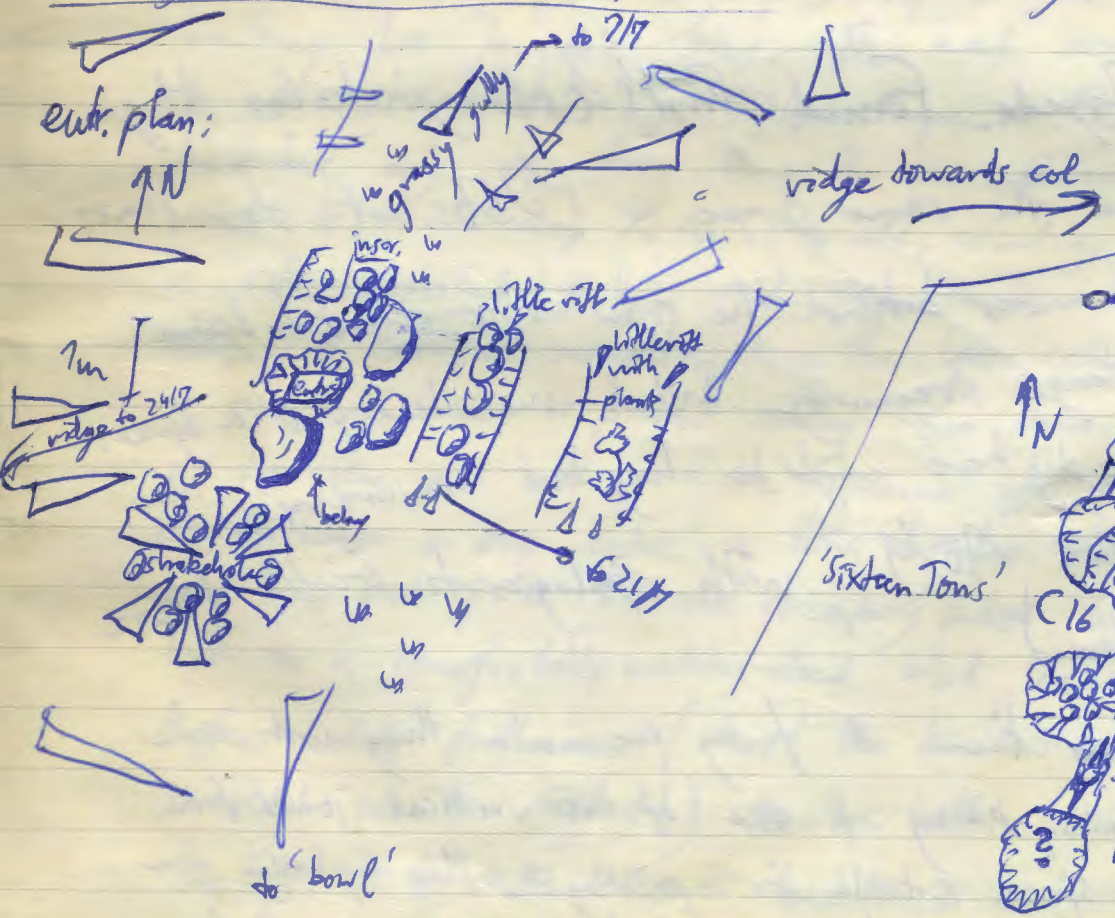
The bolts were left greased and the cave marked ⊙.

40/7 (new). Reached Ewald's other discovery around 9pm after six hours at the above hole. Whilst attached to a boulder at a safe distance I cleared out half a ton of pebbles from the entrance and kicked down a few biggies, one of which (which must have weighed a ton alone) decided to wedge itself in between floor and roof, but eventually gave (along with a large piece of the roof!). Hung a 20m rope & 5m lightweight ladder down and recklessly abbed down since the end of the rope had caught somewhere and it couldn't be pulled back up.

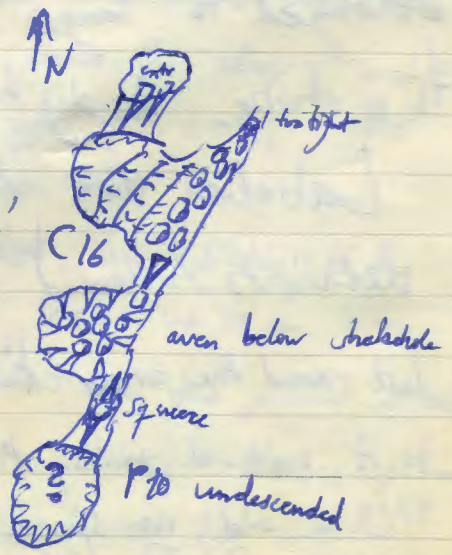
What we found was a 16m ~~[illegible]~~ ('Sixteen Tons') pitch (best treated as a protected climb as it twists round some sharp corners on its way down) into a narrow chamber. Stepping through a narrow rift you reach a parallel aven offering a nice view onto the inside of a shakehole 15m above your head. Squeezing through the continuation of the rift (not a nice job without an oversuit) you can look down the next pitch. It's ~10m to a boulder floor. No continuation visible at this angle but it might go back underneath itself. Faint draught – which needn't say much as the air outside was dead calm then.

Advised tackle: 3m wire & long sling around boulder immediately above entrance as belay for 20m rope. Put a bolt into the far wall some 3m down. Don't use a ladder, it's a bloody nuisance. Don't prusik on the rope either unless you're prepared to attach 5 or 6 'tectors along the way. Abb down trying to keep the rope away from the walls and climb back up self-lining. Tackle likely to be required for next pitch: 15m rope, 2 bolts or 1 bolt and natural backup; I'm not sure whether any of the flakes in the squeeze is stable enough to serve as the latter.

entr. plan:



over plan: (grade ½)



Summary of location.

(46) Bearings: to C^za Julagua 18°, to C^za Verde 305°, to Jultayu 142°; entrance rift strikes 36° dips ~80° SE.

Leave the scree gully leading up to the Jultayu bowl entrance col to the right just opposite the cliff with the tree. This takes you to 7/7. Pass this and take the next obvious valley up onto the ridge. It narrows to a grassy gully with the dug-up entrance gaping as soon as you reach the top.

Summary of description. 16m protected climb, initially through loose earth, then down jagged & muddy rift leading down left (as seen from the entrance). Follow rift straight ahead past aven through squeeze to head of 2nd pitch.

No bolts in place hence none greased as yet. Cave marked ∅.

Yeoland

16/8/87

Visited La Jayada. Found Paul's & Harry's hole. Huge doline, in fact the same shape as FUST but four times the size. Chamber behind the snow once seems to have belonged to large streamway. Pushed main lead past a squeeze to a choke. A dig here might be long but rewarding.

Labelled this 10/9, with apologies to Geoff. (More details to follow.)

Just round the corner there's a f...ing enormous thing with snow in it, vertical walls, picking up one of the vertical joints from 10/9... and no space suitable for painting it. Has anybody ever been down? The SIE must have noted this. JC has seen it, too.

Later on, on the way into the Jultaya bowl, marked new caves 41/17 – 43/17, the first and last of which need looking at, and relabelled the '87 "6/17" as 46/17 as there is an '87 6/17 inside the bowl. Further details to follow. Sorry I'm in a hurry. Apologies to JC who got to hear rather a lot of my temporary ill temper... Gerhard

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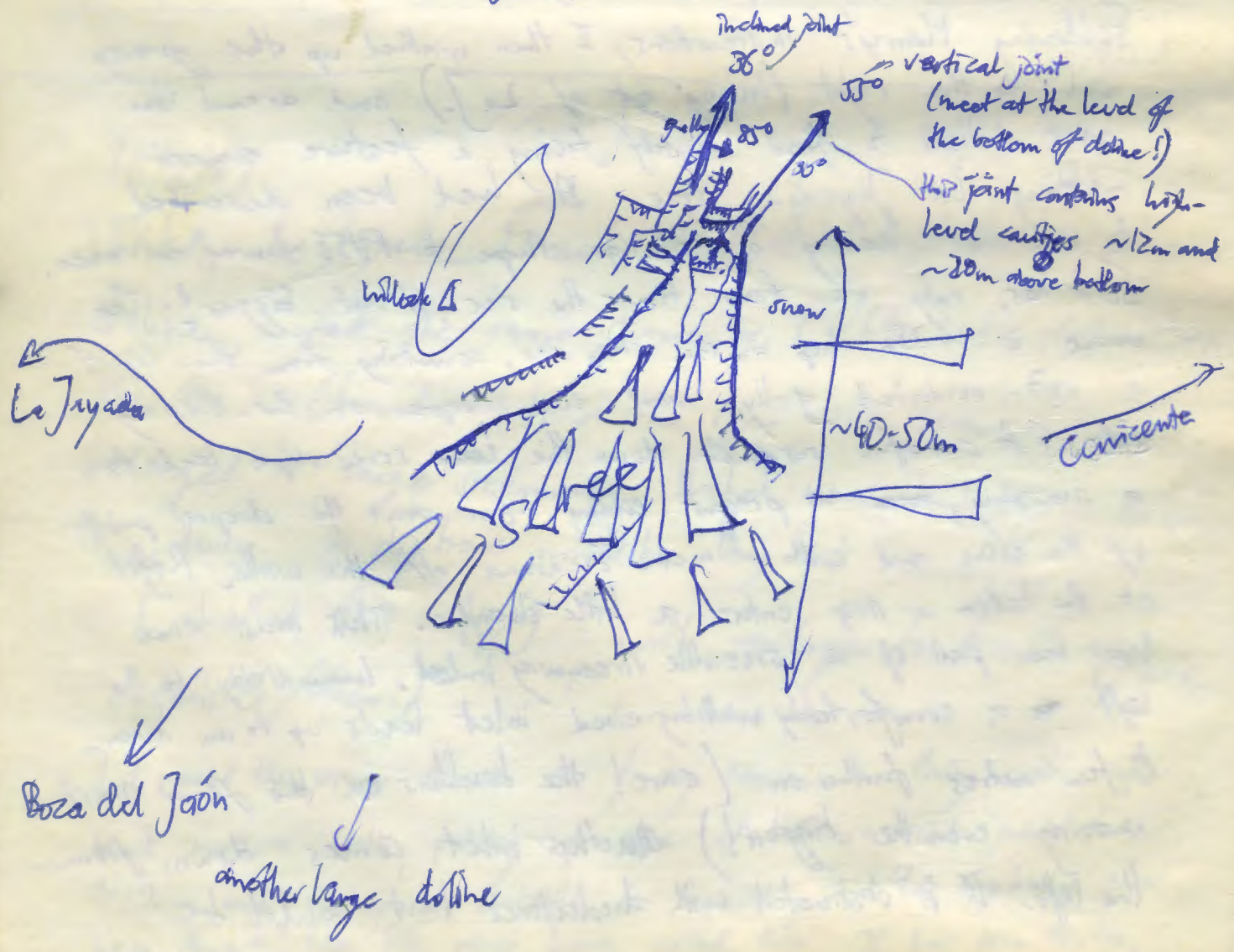
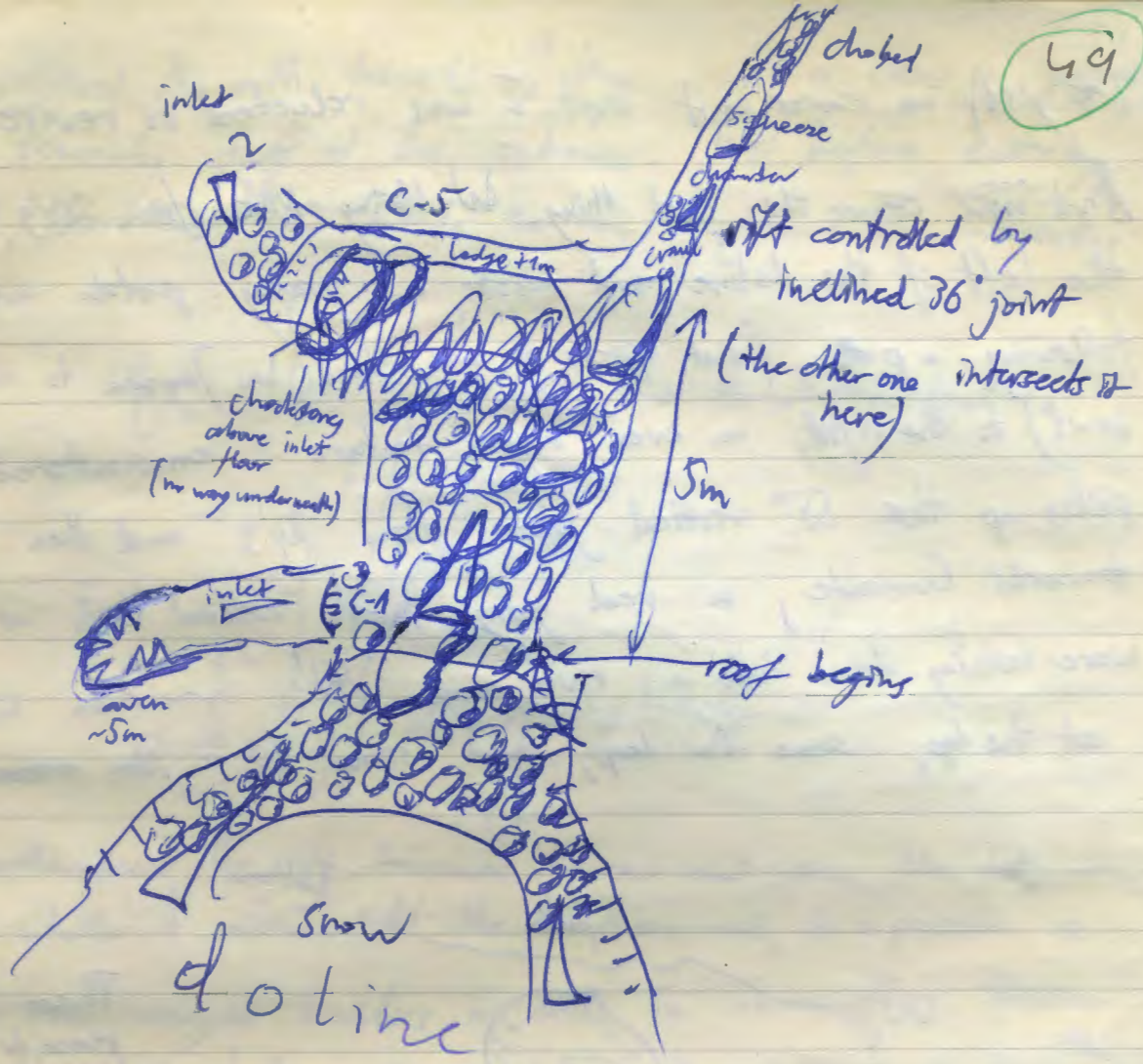
OK so here's the rest (written up 17/8/87).

A day in Brodignac. Walked up leisurely through area 9, spotting TLJ and other SE holes on the way, until I stood for the first time at the brink of La Jayada itself. I was awestruck, clambered down to the snowfield, and spent half an hour wandering through its vastness and relishing its coolness.

Following Harry's instructions, I then walked up the grassy col to the right (looking out of La J.) and around the next hillock to find myself facing a feature almost matching La Jayada's size. It had been described to me as having a similar shape to FU50 (lower) entrance. So it has, only it's four times the size, if not bigger! The doline is ~25m deep on the steep side, commencing from the lip of a rift-controlled gully, and even deeper on the sloping side. A careful scramble down the loose scree slope leads to a snowpatch, at present ending 10m above the deepest point of the doline and with a metre clearance off the walls. Right at the bottom a stoop enters a little chamber. This must once have been part of a sizeable streamway indeed. Immediately to the left a comfortably walking-sized inlet leads up to an aven. A few metres further on (care! the boulders on the floor start moving – even the biggest!) another inlet comes down from the left. It is obstructed with choakstones but could be

entered via a tricky 5m climb over the top of these which I abandoned after the first 2m. — In the righthand corner, a rift leads on downwards. Crawling over a boulder underneath a dubious-looking piece of roof a narrow chamber is gained. The way on is a squeeze along the rift which I found unpleasant enough to take my helmet off on the way back. (I wasn't wearing an oversuit...) This gets you to a tiny rift chamber with just enough space to turn. A fissure in the pebbles floor allows you to drop things another couple of feet down or so. A large-scale dig would be needed to go on here. I don't know whether it's feasible but I think it's a promising site. Something very big is buried here — in fact I should suggest this is the key to the Third System as conceived (and not found) in 1985.





The general impression is that of a very mature cave system cut into (collapse?) by the present doline and now blocked with things that have rolled in from the latter.

The SIE must have noted this entrance (they've surveyed to J, too) although I'm not sure what they'd called it or how far they got. Check this in ESPELEOSIE 27 (in the club library)!

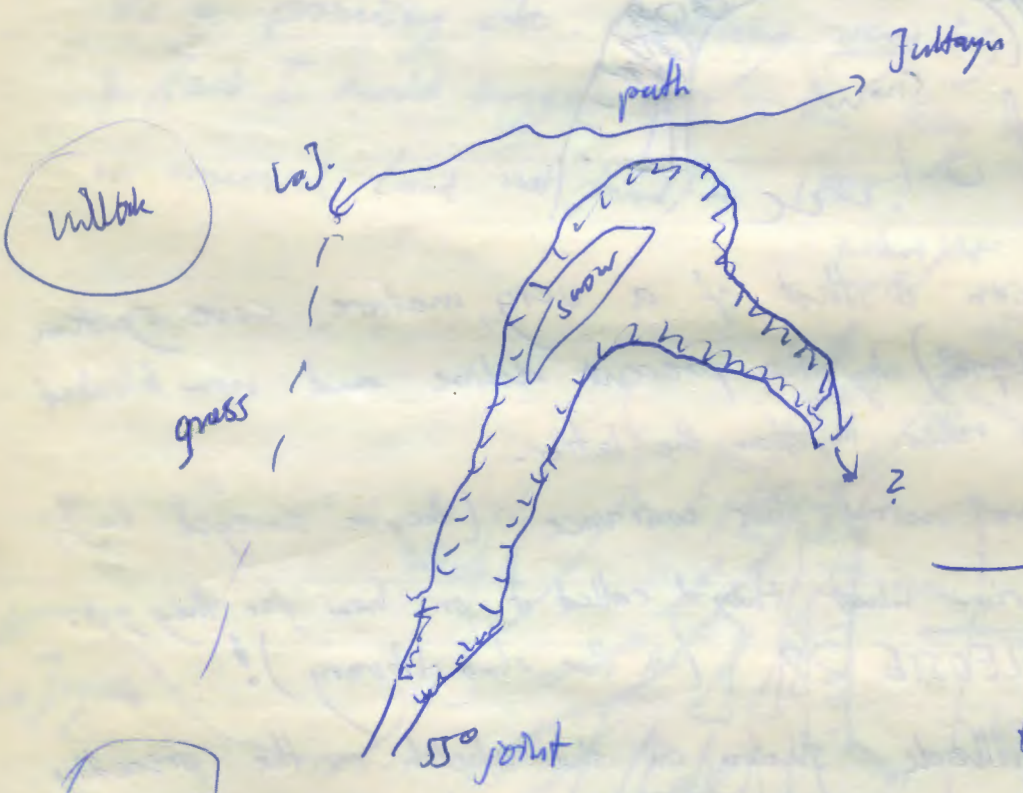
Bearings from the hillside shown on the sketch on the preceding page:

Gustutera	343° & 359° (lefthand & righthand summit)	
C^za Forma	22°	Curicente approx. 122°
C^za Julagua	34°	La Verdellueng 259°
C^za Covu	50,5°	(visible through notch (nearer hilltops!)
C^za Llambria	64°	

This thing is now labelled 10/9 (with apologies to Geoff). - Properly speaking this is the '82-style area A with

(50) (as yet) no caves in it but I was reluctant to revive this. —

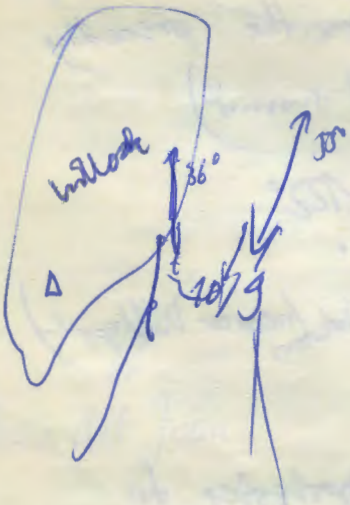
And now comes the real thing. Walking NNE from 10/9, around the left of the doline and across a grassy patch and then following a path (that appears to lead from La Jayada to the Jultayn bowl) to the right, an even bigger feature is encountered. It picks up the 55° vertical joint from 10/9 and then bends towards Cuicente, a real gorge with vertical walls as if you were looking down into a river canyon. It's more than 10m wide at the top, some 30m deep, and some 60 or 70m across:



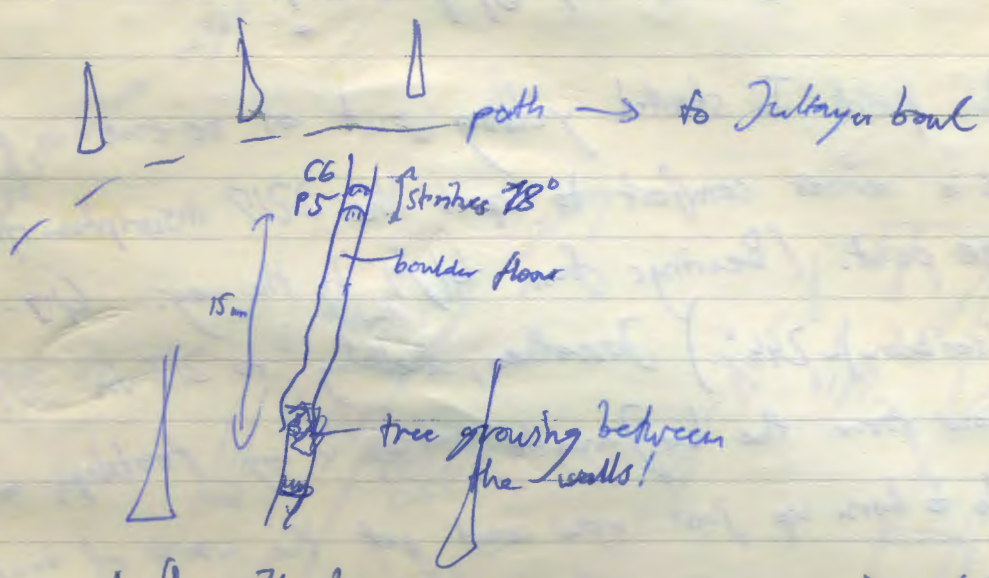
There is no good place to look down to the bottom of this, nor to place an inscription, so I left it unlabelled. This, too, should have been noted by the SIE, It nearly matches LaJ in size and outdasses it in impressiveness. —

Cuicente

Jonathan C came past these holes, too – not long after me.



I then followed the path towards Jultayu with a view on picking up the remaining stuff at the entrance. Just before entering the bowl, less than 100m outside the rim I found an interesting little rift,



At the northern end, the rift becomes narrow and some 20m tall; it's hard to say whether it continues. At the southern end, it is possible to climb down over wedged boulders to some 5m above floor. There's a black hole between this point and floor but again I couldn't see how far it went. A ladder would have been needed to reach the bottom. I labelled this 91/17.

Bearings: Gustiteru 295° & 307°; Ario Ref. 12°; C^ra Coru 42°; C^ra Llandria 63°, Curicente 221°.

The clouds were now closing in on me and it took me quite some time to get these bearings. I knew I was not far from 23/17 and 24/17 so I went to look for 22/17 which I hadn't seen before. It had always puzzled me how JC could have discovered 22/17 out here whilst his team-mates were exploring 6/17 which I knew (from sight!) to be inside the Jultayu bowl, close to the entrance col, and in fact on the Jultayu (SE) side from there. I was to find an entirely unexpected solution.

Something orange (spray-paint) caught the corner of my eye. I

(52) couldn't read it at this distance, it was some 200m downhill. I ~~[illegible]~~ unpacked my binoculars and read...

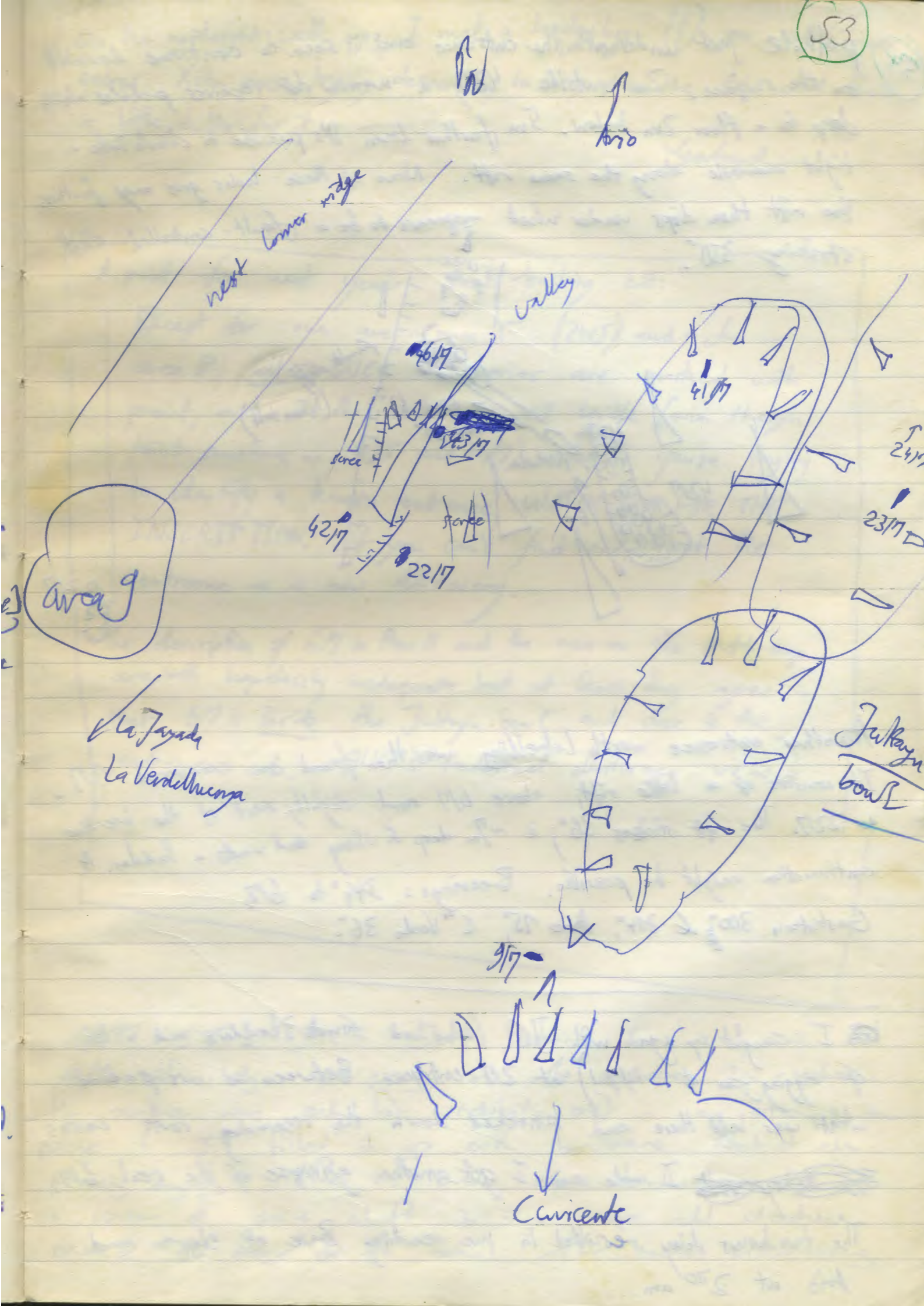
'OUCC '87 6/7' !

At this point I started yelling out at no-one in particular. It was a minor comfort to spot the 22/7 inscription from the same vantage point. (Bearings from 4/7, by the way: 6/7 - 273°, 22/7 - 236°; 42/7 (see below) - 244°.) Jonathan, walking to 2/7 via 10/7 and coming just now from the La Jayada area in my footsteps, was unfortunate enough to turn up just now and get the worst of my temper. Sorry, Jon. It took me nearly two hours to sort things out. Still reluctant to revive area A (and relabel all the holes outside the Jultayu bowl) I settled on extending area 7 towards area 9, the invisible borderline being the low ridge that separates the Cuvicente side from the Gustutera side of the large valley running down from the Boca del Jaón to the Jou de la Cistra.

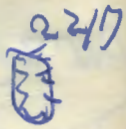
For the sake of simplicity, "6/7" was relabelled 46/7. 22/7 could stay what it was. JC had the spray paint on him and crossed out 22/7 and 9/7.

Bearings from 22/7: Gustutera 301.5° & 316°; Arib 14.5°; C^za Cova 44°. (JC took bearings from 9/7 as well.)

The obvious slot just to the right (NW) of 22/7 was now declared 42/7 (⊗). See over for a sketch. Requires a handline or short ladder for a full descent. Appears to be choked everywhere. A (choked) rift leaves the open


N
Norte
next lower ridge
valley
46/7
41/7
43/7
scree
24/7
42/7
scree
23/7
22/7
area 9
La Jayada
La Verdelhuerga
Julkaya bowl
9/7
Cuvicente

(54) pothole just underneath the entrance and is seen to continue downhill on the surface. 2m outside 42/7, a narrow slot receives pebbles which drop to a floor 2m below. 5m further down it's possible to climb into a tight manhole along the same rift. None of these holes goes any further. The rift then dips under what appears to be a fault-controlled cliff striking 350°.



Another entrance worth labelling was then found an numbered 43/7. It consists of a little rift, above 6/7 and slightly east of the bee-line to 22/7. The rift strikes 36°; is ~7m deep & slimy and wants a ladder. A continuation might be possible. Bearings: 364° to 6/7, Gastutera 300° & 314°; Arió 15°; C^a Verde 36°.

I caught up again with JC (who had found 3 ladders and a lot of rigging gear 10/7!) at 2/7 entrance. Between us we packed what was left there and knocked down the remaining route cairns. ~~The delay cost~~ I made sure I got another glimpse of the real 6/7.

The two hours delay resulted in me reaching Base at eleven and Arió at 2^30 am...

On the midnight walk up, I met a hedgehog (!) on sod 55 just below Xitu pass, trying desperately to hide from the cold wind. Built a little shelter for it. ——

Gerhard

A print for next year's shaft-bashing kit:

Except for one cave in area 5 (24/5) and a few in area 8, all OUCC discoveries are marked with paint, and all the marks are still legible (even though faint sometimes as 4/5 and 21/7). So if you're trying to identify a known entrance, WATCH OUT FOR THE INSCRIPTION. If you can't find one, treat the entrance as a new discovery.

The description of 6/7 in Proc II and the cross on the sketch-map are both hopelessly inadequate but at least they agree in that 6/7 is inside the Jultayu bowl and close to the entrance col. OUCC's traditional illiteracy virus?

16/8/87 J.T. & D.H Shaft bashing in area 4. 4/2 definitely no way on. The squeeze 2m below the surface was only for rabbits and in an attempt to enlarge it J.T filled it up with boulders. Not at all promising anyway. While we were there looked at a a number of short shaft 3-7m deep all dotted around the edge of the bowl. The most interesting

(56)

find was the large entrance to the North of the bowl. A massive doline and entrance. Climb up choked boulders in a rift to the right. Free climb down 10-15- m in the rift. All ways on choked.

However area A is definitly worth a good look next year, both in the direction of the Vd. Extremo or to the North West? of the bowl containing 1/4 & 2/4. The latter may well be on S/E area - best to check with Juan Gonzalez Suarez.

B1

S = centre of 7.9

Surface Survey 12/5 → 2/7

Stations	Distance (m)	Bearing	Inclination
S → 1	5.83	258	+43
2 → 1	27.04	042	-4
2 → 3	3.15	292	+28
4 → 3	25.49	029	-6
4 → 5	18.21	247	+3
6 → 5	29.14	040	0
6 → 7	30.10	201	+11
8 → 7	19.40	023	+10
8 → 9	29.70	183	+6
10 → 9	26.25	030.5	-14
10 → 11	26.10	191	+12
12 → 11	29.85	050	-24
12 → 13	27.00	207	+18
14 → 13	28.90	030	-3
14 → 15	28.90	191	+3
16 → 15	29.70	030.5	-2
16 → 17	29.50	220	+29
18 → 17	29.15	026	-24.5
18 → 19	29.40	224	+15
20 → 19	29.70	024	-22
20 → 21	29.05	223	+20
22 → 21	30.30	043	-14
22 → 23	24.65	210	+28
24 → 23	29.50	048.5	-19
24 → 25	29.10	219	+21.5
26 → 25	28.90	020	-26
26 → 27	28.45	205.5	+15
28 → 27	30.20	029.5	-25
28 → 29	29.95	166.5	+9
30 → 29	23.65	338	-3.5

S is cairn near Frea-Tultayne junc.

21 is last station on Tultayn path

27 is at top of valley

B2

Stations	Distance	Bearing	Inclination
30 → 31	21.60	179	+2
32 → 31	30.50	358.5	-6
32 → 33	28.95	201	+13
34 → 33	30.35	010	-20
34 → 35	29.75	190	+10.5
36 → 35	27.35	042	-9
36 → 37	29.50	216	+18
38 → 37	30.45	000	-29
38 → 39	27.05	165	+32
40 → 39	29.45	346	-30.5
40 → 41	28.05	190	+23
41 ← station	11.85	340	-25

Unmarked shaft between 31 and 32

2 of initial 2/7 survey. Boulder at top of cat.

Bearing from 2/7 (top of doline) to top of stony valley = 010 +17 incl.

+286.12m above 12/5

2/7