

overhanging by a tree and ignoring the obvious ~~the~~ path leading off to the right towards 7/7. At the head of the valley you are faced with a choice of four routes. The leftmost one leads down into the Jau. The rightmost goes up a grassy col and leads to 297 and 5/7, or alternatively up the ridge to 247 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, warning to the tourists on the Jittayu path, but don't step too far since you're standing on a perched soil choke in the entrance rift. (21)

~~Report~~
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 Covicente 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 ruckle ledge. Still heading in general direction Covicente, climb down 4m over boulders to where the rift narrows. Here you'll find a ~~second~~ third bolt

(17)

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 Ario anyway. So you've brought up the ladder for nothing.

Thrust down the second ^{and subsequent climb} pitch 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 Ario). This leads to a hammered squeeze (not yet) and to a choke. Going upslope, you find a rift continuing down in the farthest corner (so close to the righthand wall).

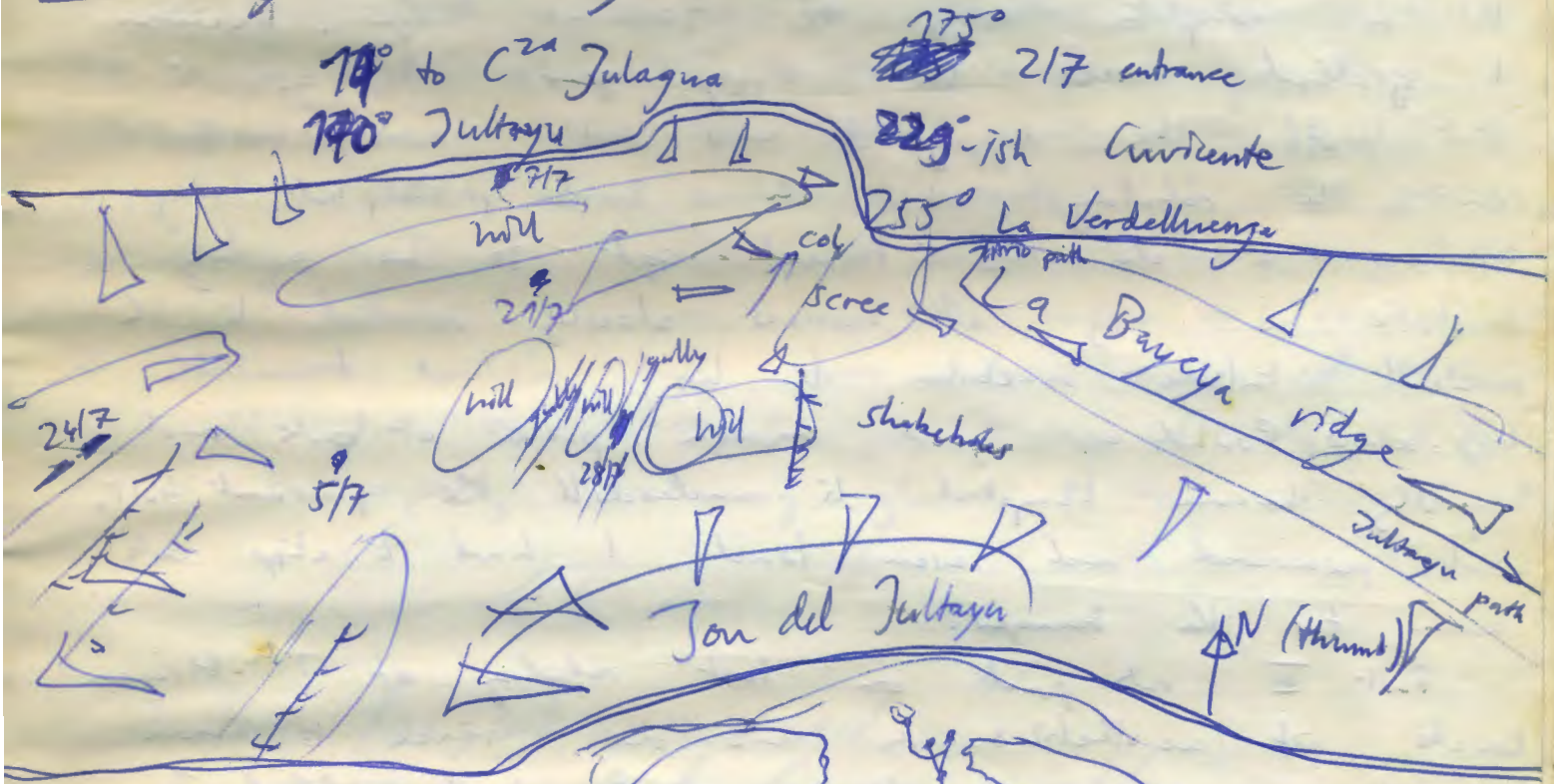
If you're not carrying a trained salamander, you could gain access to another 5-10 horrible metres by chiselling away a flake and a chockstone. This would also remove the only two sensible natural belays encountered so far. The rift can be seen to continue and seems to get narrower again. Stones dropped hit a boulder floor after 35.

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

Ascent: The same as descent but in reverse. In view of the 13 terrible rubr 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.

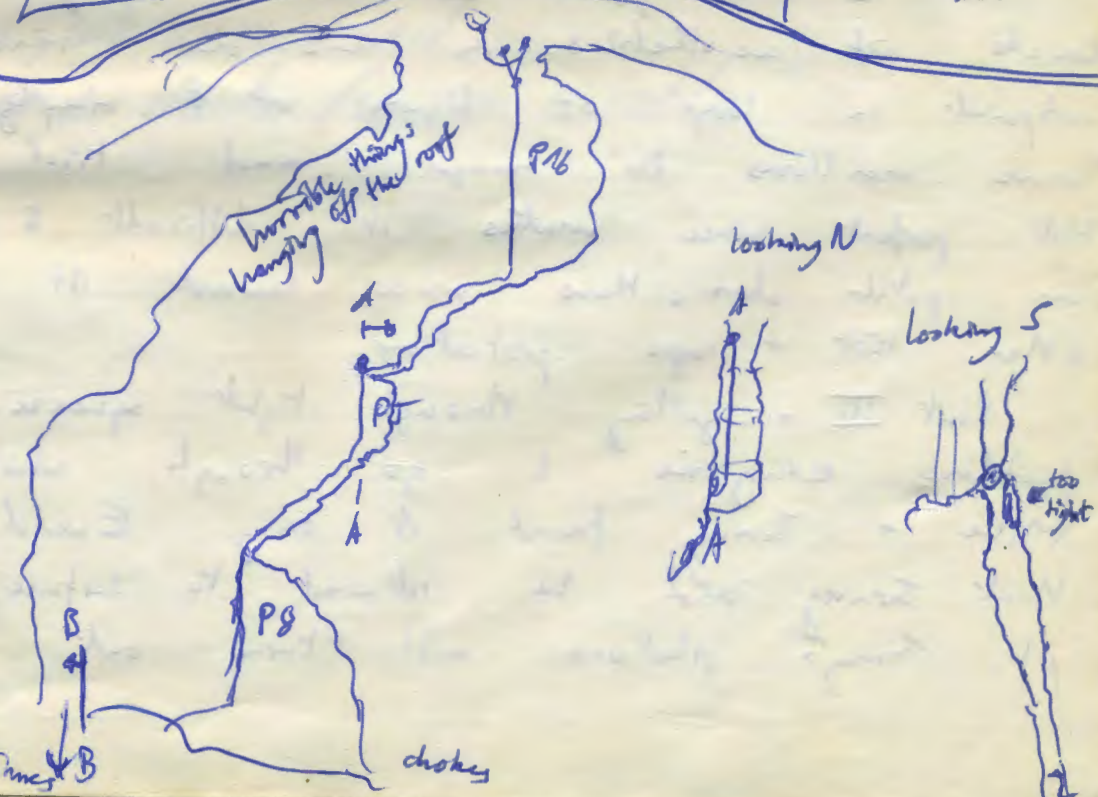
References: none,

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



Proj. View
Looking West

total depth ~35m



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Rerigging / Tourist / Photography Trip.

Me (Jonathan C.), Mike B-L, Sonny T. + Ewald Beersac

A taken trip so the crew does not forget what a cover and his Troll suit tastes like. We had been warned of sub-points, bolts underdrilled and other serious dangers of SRT which at least a dozen people had stabbed, pricked, etc. on, with little knowledge which were spread evenly throughout the ritzly but of 2/7, from the 2nd "Unnamed" pitch to a complete rerig of Graham's Fodge. Because I grabbed all the rigging gear I got to start off the rigging. A new bolt was needed on the rebelay 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 rebelay of 7th Heaven. Lack of aesthetics in this one since to remove subpoint in loop of figure of 8 simply added 3 more millers to hanger and tied a new knot. Not perfect since makes it difficult to get into/bottom on pitch above. Have since learned it's OK to remove other knot + rope protection.

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, such that Sonny and he returned to surface. Hopefully lots of Sonny's photos will turn out OK.

Part IV
 Grahams Todge 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***** little w***** leave my s***** ~~back~~ constraints alone, you b*****ed,") though some bits of aff. than led over the recragging reins to Mike who spent an age finding somewhere to put a rope round + a further age to get the rope/wire / longer rope around a piece of snow. In mean time a prussick found its way down to the bottom of the pitch and a further ~~rather~~ rubber bit of rope ^{discovered} & Mike had to go down, whereupon we found the bottles & pint's bottle had departed all our anchors + wedges in the previous passage way, so we could not have a see primary hole in snow choss to go a tree hang. So ~~careless~~ the pitch as it had been before and ~~set~~ Mike set off for the absolute prussick bag. Efficiently out by 9.45 to rapidly darkening gloom, & how after descent

S.L.

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

(16)

August 1987.

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

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

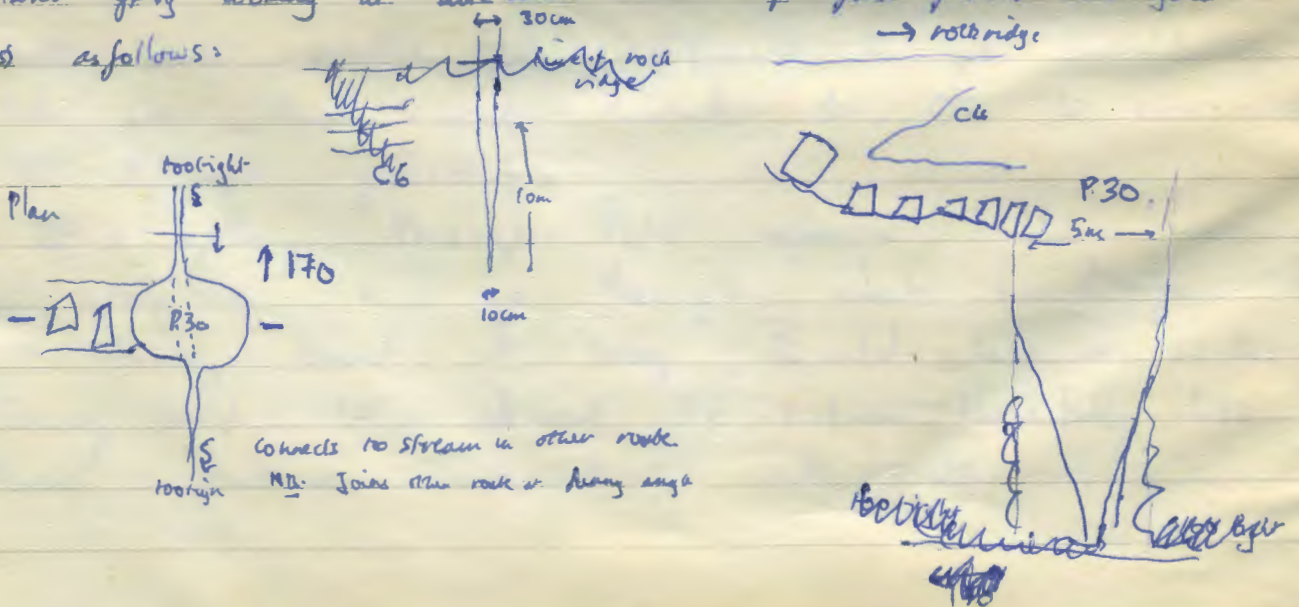
Took Paul down 2/7 for first time. Went thro Paradise Ok, apart from me who got my legs ~~hopelessly~~ hopelessly stuck. Rerigged long hand and put in new bolts below "Supper Time". Paul topped at 5 second warning by Harry & I, rerigged down to the 1st false floor. Put ladder on pitch below that I came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

9/10 August

CAVE BOTTLING TRIP

William, M.B.L Harry + Steve.

What started off by looking at hole under 1st bit of false floor. This goes
Cie. stops as follows:



How they brought the BAD NEWS

From Juracao to Ario

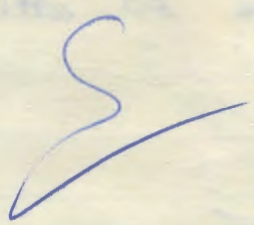
I strapped on my harness, with Mike Berners-Lee
And William & Harry, we provided all four (4?)
And provided, he provided, we provided some more
And provided and provided till we felt at death door

We provided like demons - like demons? Nay, MEN!
And provided and provided & provided again
Mike provided, Bill provided and Harry as well
And I provided and provided in the vertical hall

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

The providing's over! The news is brought down
to the cavern who wait in our small tented town
But when campfires are lit, tall tales of those four
who provided like fuck to bring news to Dan's ~~door~~ door

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



four?

17 ws.

66 hours is a fuck of a long
time in a sit harness!

This may be my deepest ever trip, beating my 1980 Xibu Sunny epic by ~ 5 miles.

(18)

We descended to end of the main route. The rigging approximately to Lethal: Mud concealed a 25% clog in gun eye above 40m!

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

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

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

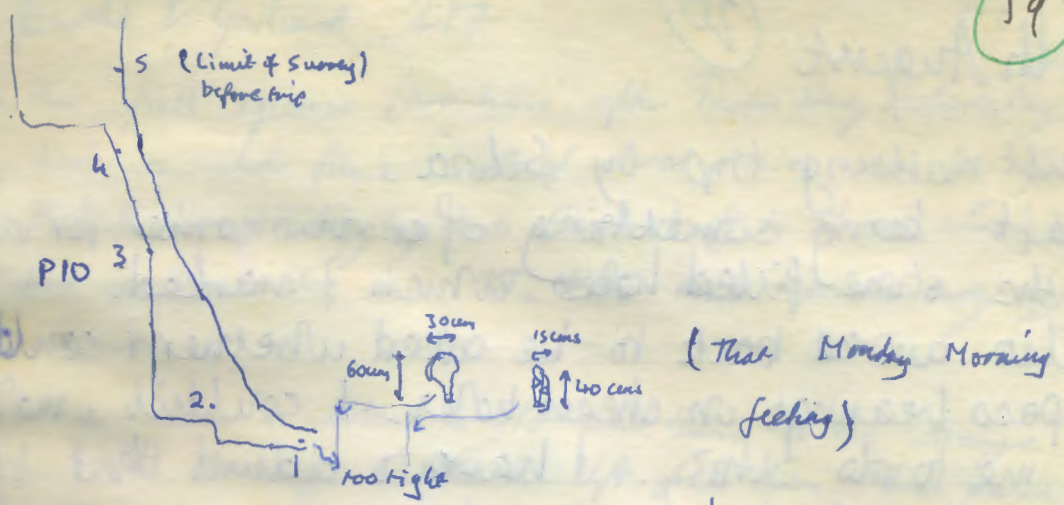
Mind you, that shaft system is unbelievable even when you see it.

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

In fact I was sitting in your haven and 3 scuffling through these shitty rifts.

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

Steve



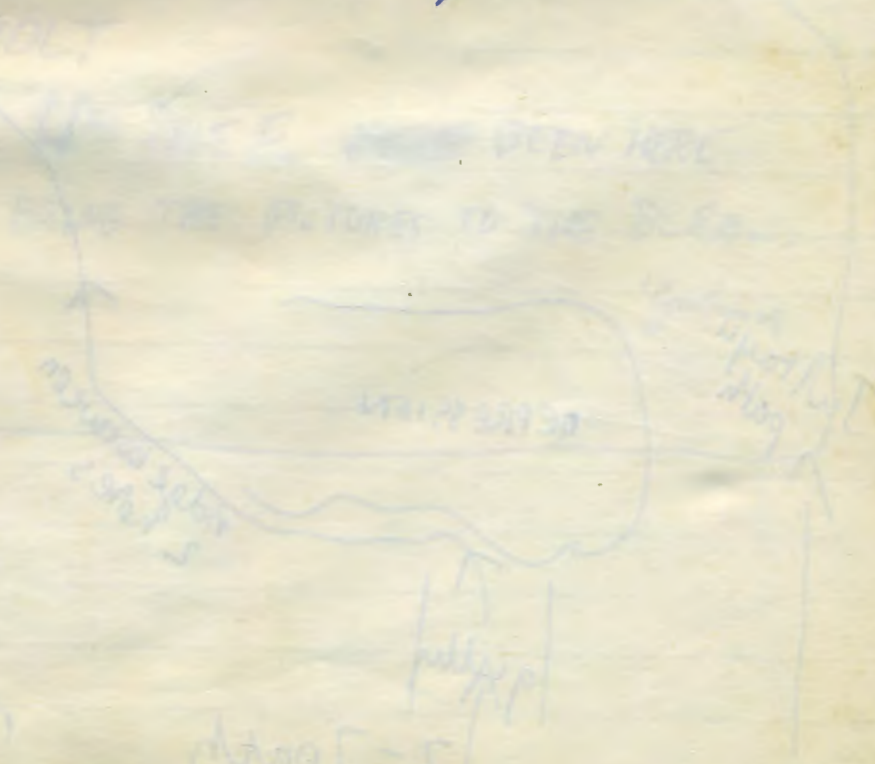
This is a rough guide to the amount of care surveyed!

LOST PROPERTY!

Steve has lost

- (a) a pair of blue Nike Running Shorts
- (b) a pair of brown corduroy-type ^{sex.}
- (c) one purple (!) cord-type ^{sex.}

Please report a Steve's tent if found.



10th August

(20)

13 24
14 25
15 26
16 27
17
18
19
20

Shaft marking trip by Silva.

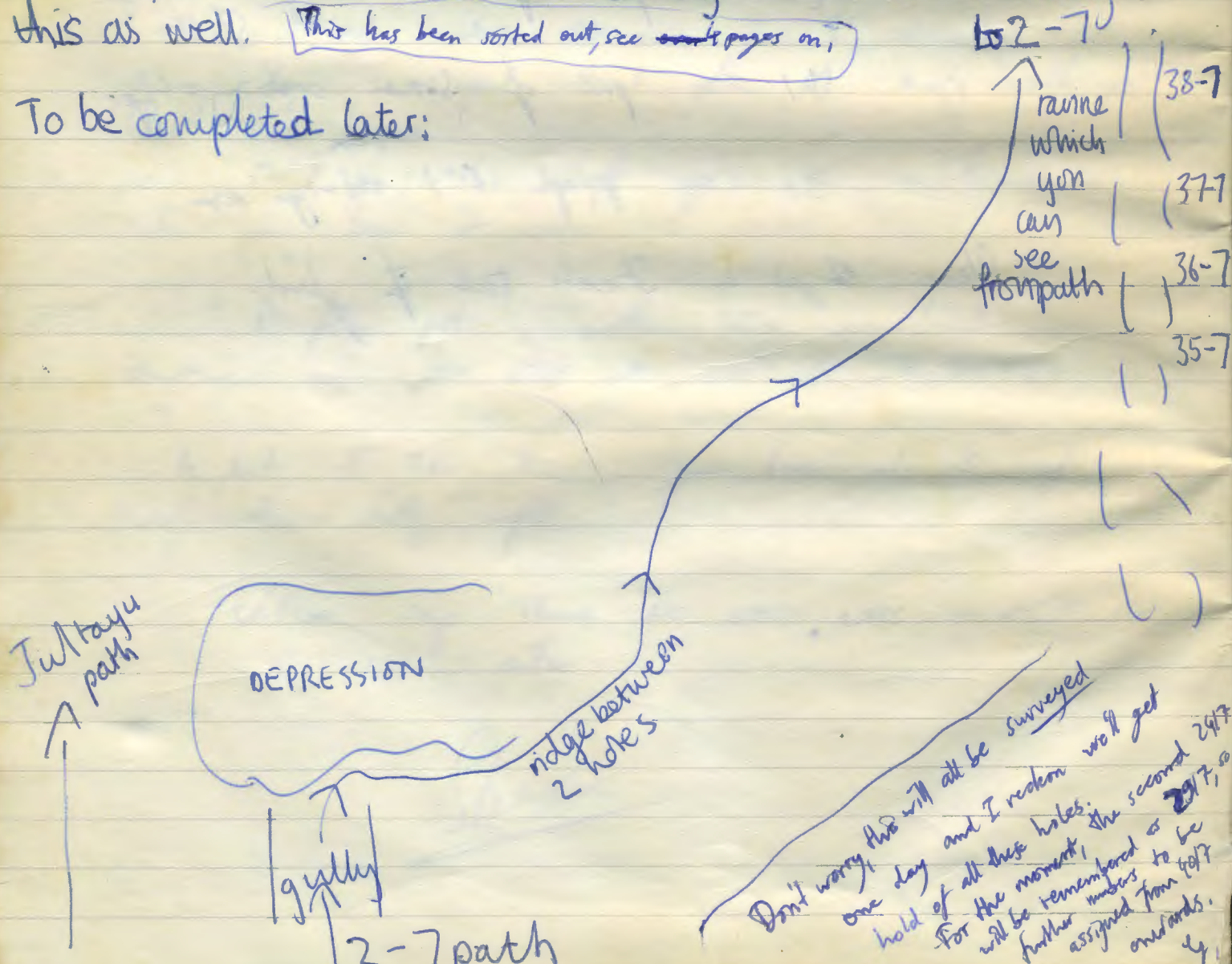
"Shaft" being something of a misnomer for most of the stone filled holes which I marked.

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 that. 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. I should have looked at the bashing guide first as~~

Yes I know there already is a 24-7 somewhat this as well. This has been sorted out, see ~~over~~ pages on,

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 19-7 onwards.