

Let's interrupt the story to make some points of potential interest L1

- 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 rocks: -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 breathing! 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 Jubbayca bowl?)

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

(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 Petal of the new variety, long 7mil nylon, and small thimble.) The pitch, from the 2nd bolt, is 34m (judging from rope length & number of prusik cycles) in a splendid

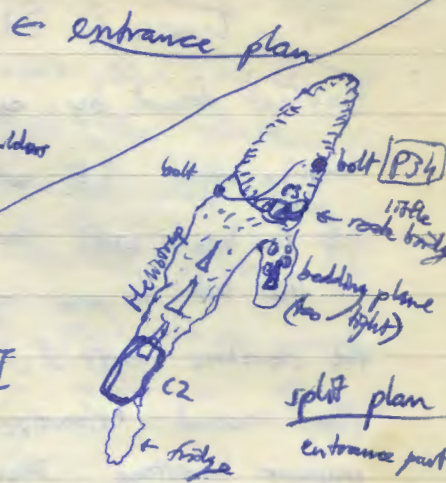
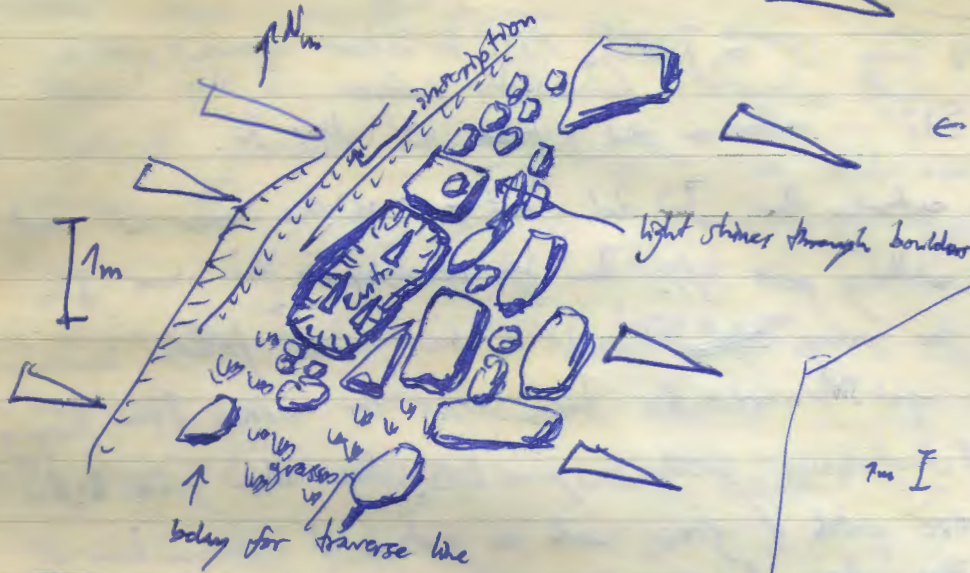
(122) Elliptical shaft of a few metres diameter, formed along the vertical entrance joint. Calcite crystals & flakes give relief to the walls, only ~~few~~ tiny nodules contain pebbles for dropping further down whilst you're stuck at the knotted-out rubs, the faintest fluting gives evidence of past water 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~~ some small unsightly remains of the former snowing. 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 view slot. 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.

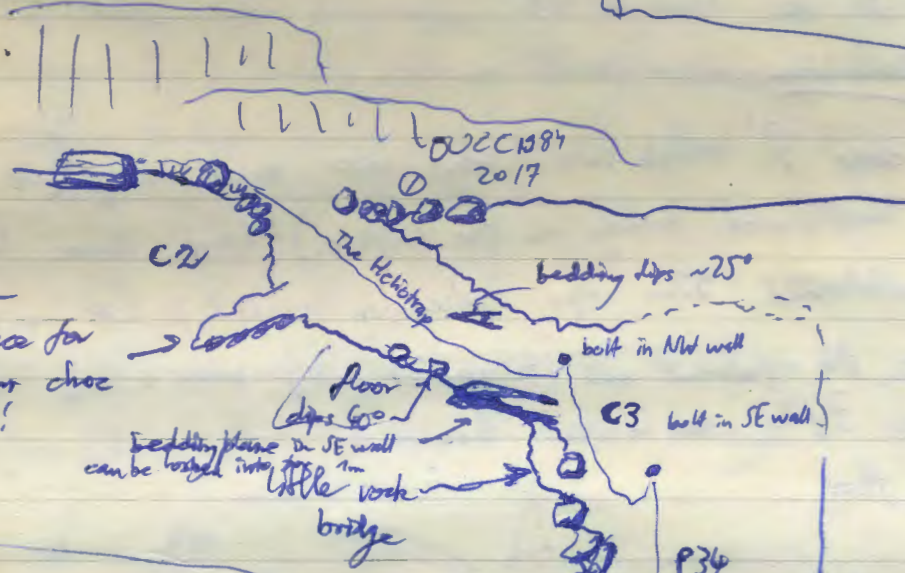
The enticing chamber seen 'Through the Looking-Glass' is to be known as JVAJ. (Why?)

plans & elevations, grade $\frac{1}{2}$:

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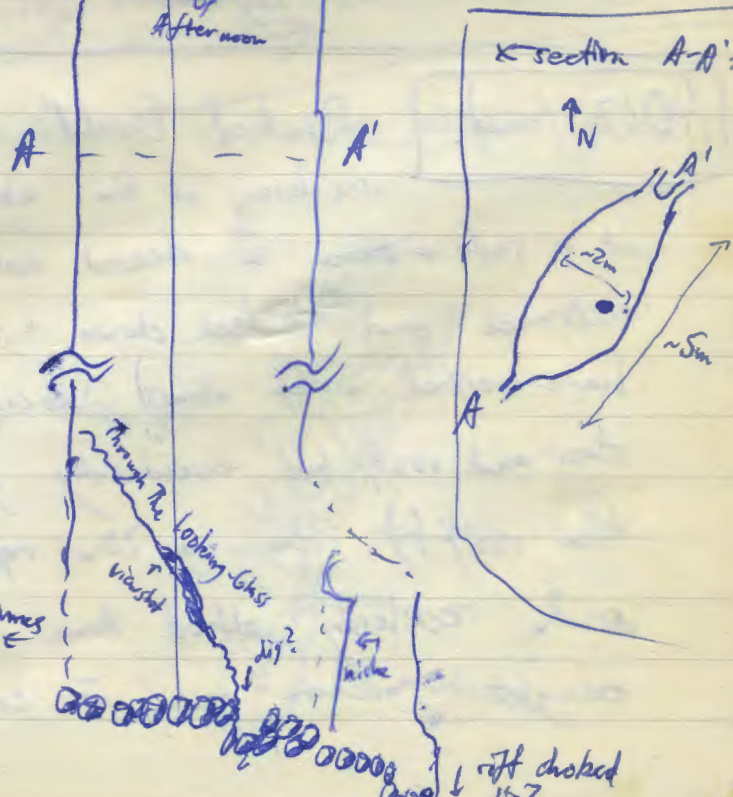
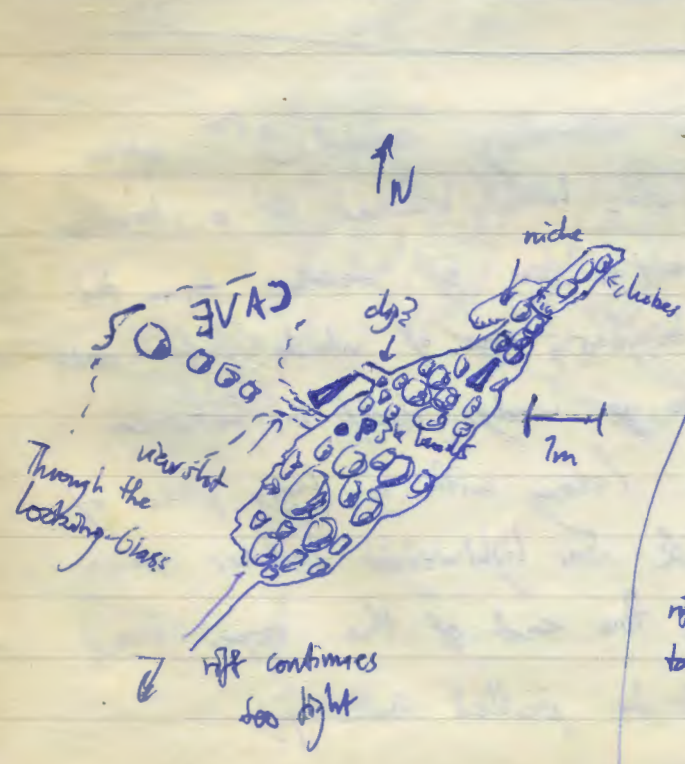
elevation projected onto 45°
 SW \longleftrightarrow NE



'Fridge' - good place for keeping your choc cool!

depth ~ 4 meters

split plan floor level



Summary of location:

Bearings to 2819 gully 53° ; to Juktayu 125° , to highest apparent point on

Curicante 233° ; entrance joint strikes 45° dips 9° .

Easiest found by entering the Jau del Juktayu 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 ~~slows~~ towards the Juraco col for another 80m, keeping the obvious rift & 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 mantle among boulders, with the inscription on the righthand wall.

Summary of description:

Mantle 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 3m free-hanging to boulder floor. FVAs 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 \odot .

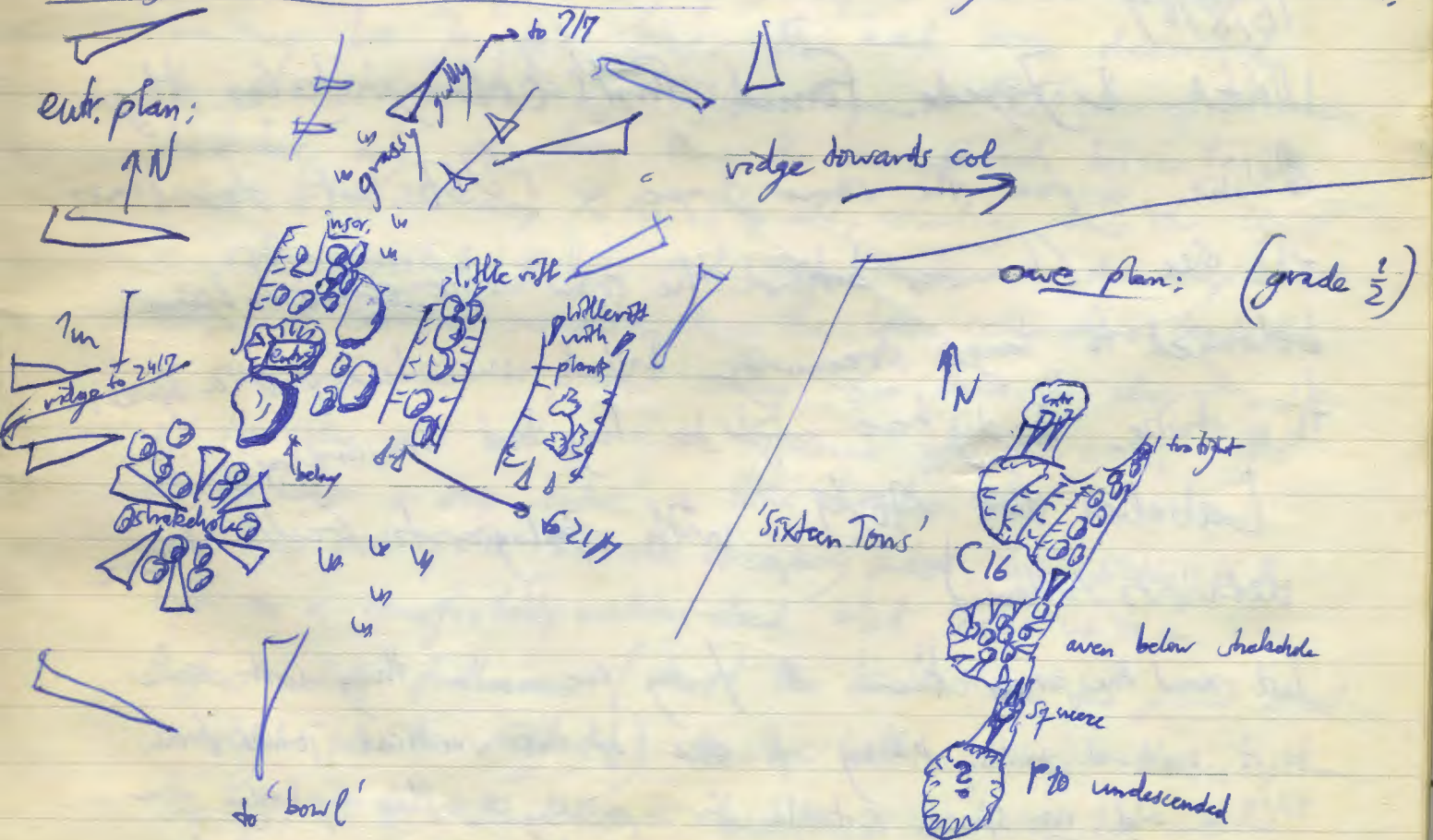
40/7 (new).

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 ^(Sixteen Tons) ~~short~~ pitch (best treated as a US 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 shakohole 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 prussik on the rope either unless you're prepared to attach 5 or 6 tectors along the way. Ab 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.



Summary of location.

(46) Bearings: to C^{2a} Julagva 18°, to C^{2a} Verde 30.5°, to Jultayn 142°;
entrance rift strikes 36° dips ~ 80° SE.

Leave the sorce gully leading up to the Jultayn bowl entrance col
~~to~~ 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 O.

Yezhand

16/8/87

Visited La Jayada Found Paul's & Harry's hole. Huge
choline, in fact the same shape as FV56 but four times
the size. Chamber behind the snow once seems to have
belonged to large streamway. Rushed 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. X has seen it too.

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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
187 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

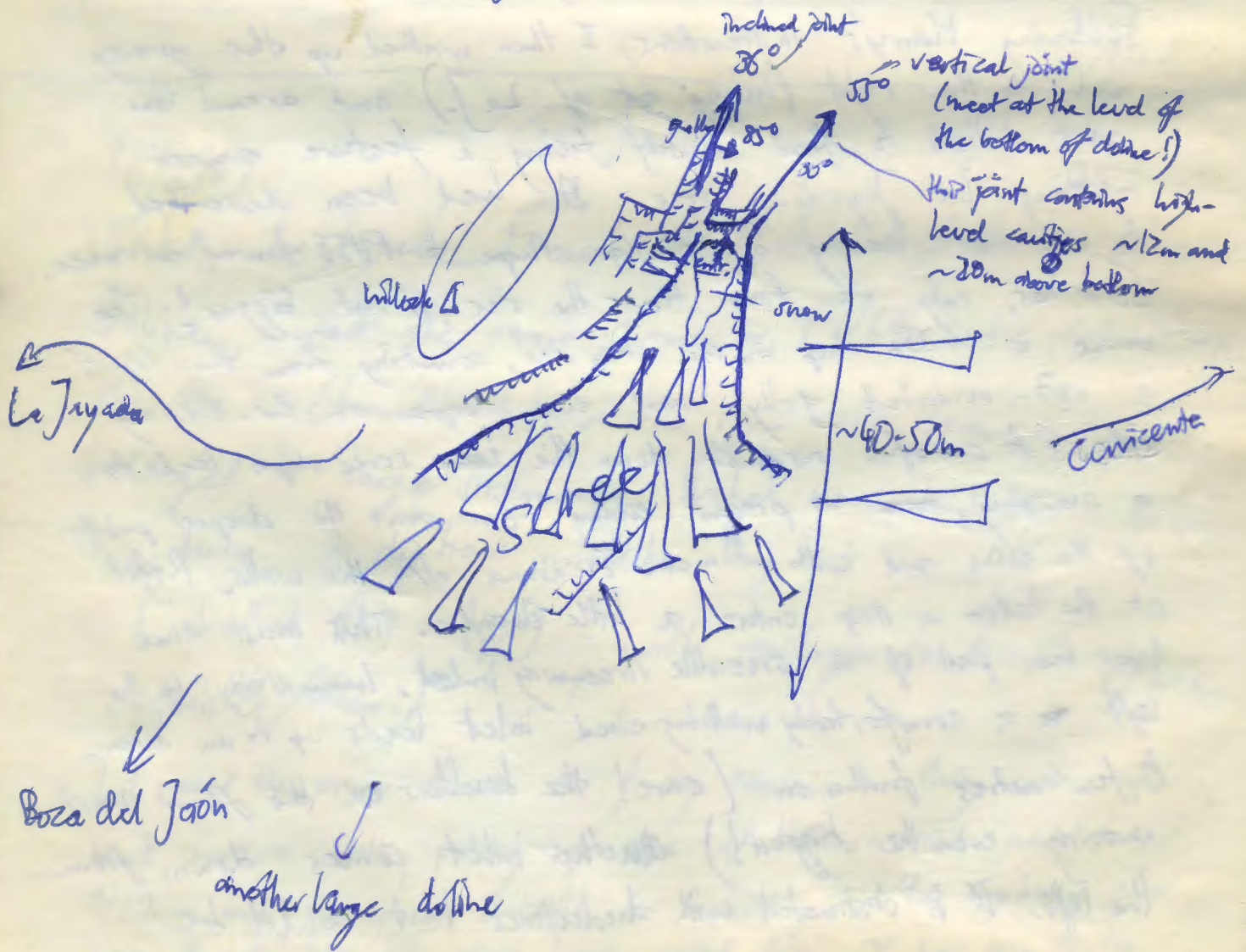
OK so here's the rest (written up 17/8/87).

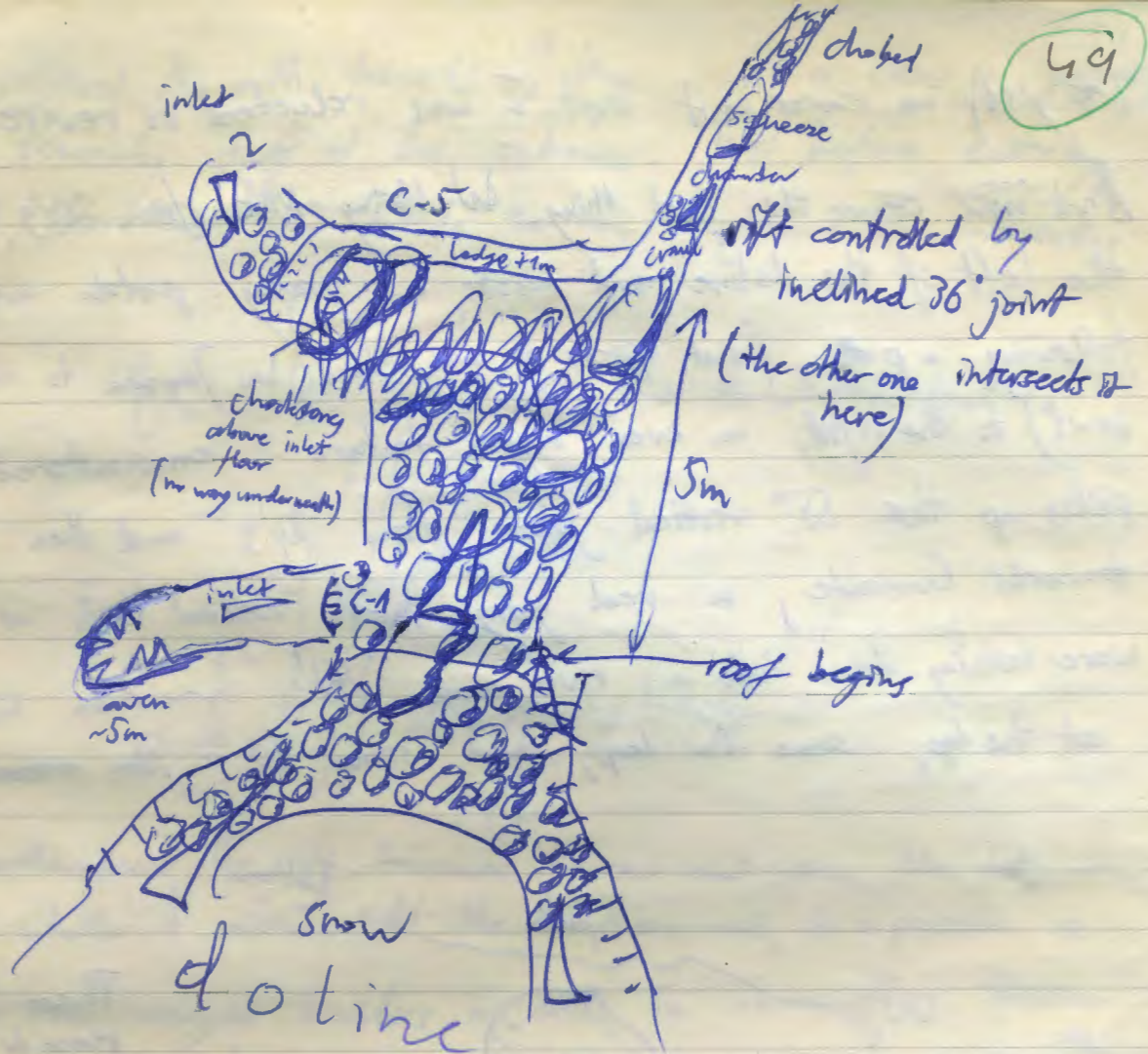
A day in Brobdignac. Walked up leisurely through area 9,
spotting TLJ and other SE holes on the way, until I stood for
the first time at the brink of La Jayada itself. I was awestruck,
clambered down to the snowfield, and spent half an hour wandering
through its vastness and relishing its coolness.

Following Harry's instructions, I then walked up the grassy
col. to the right (looking out of La J.) and around the
next hillside to find myself facing a feature almost
matching Le Jayada's size. It had been described
to me as having a similar shape to FV56 (lower) entrance.
So it has, only it's four times the size, if not bigger! The
doline is ~25m deep on the steep side, counting 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 snowping, ~~and~~ at present ending 16m 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 aren.
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 nodules but could be

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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 fisthole 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 ESPELEOSTIE 27 (in the club library)!

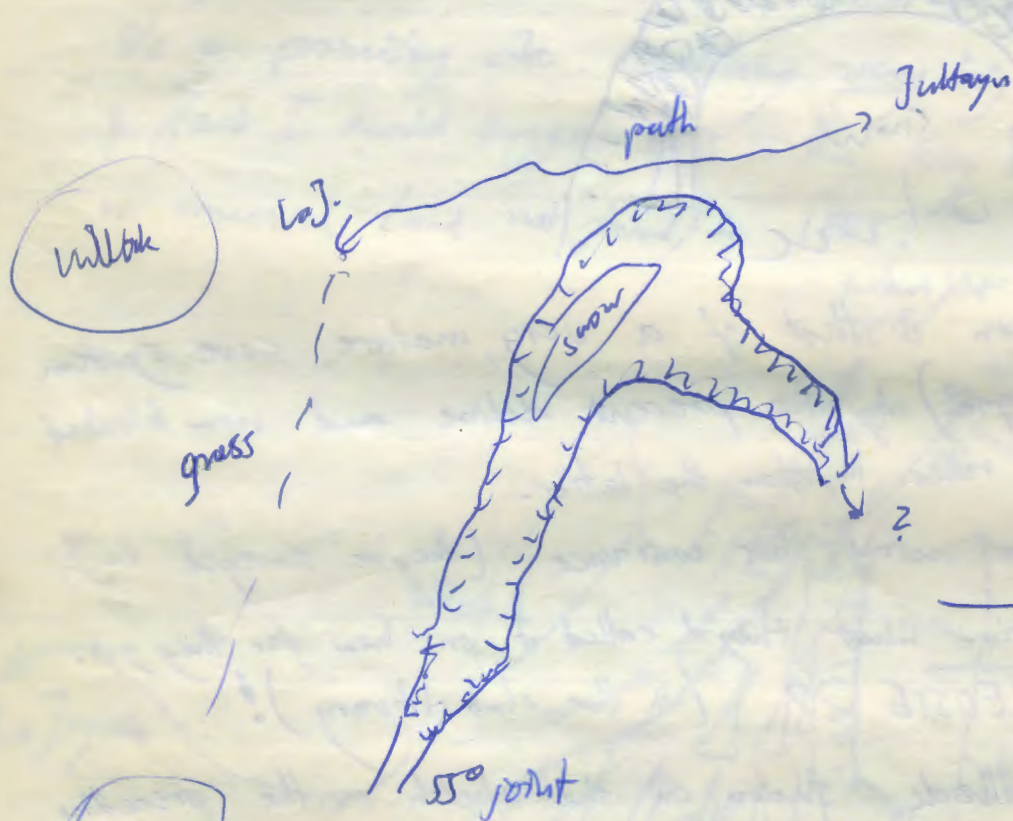
Bearings from the hillside shown on the sketch on the preceding page:

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Gustubru | 343° 359° | (left hand & right hand summit) |
| C ^{2a} Forma | 22° | Curvicente approx. 122° |
| C ^{2a} Julagua | 34° | La Verdellengoa 259° |
| C ^{2a} Coru | 50,5° | (visible through notch between hillsides!) |
| C ^{2a} Llambria | 64° | |

This thing is now labelled 10/g (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 Curicente, 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 STE.

Curicente It nearly matches [La] in size and outdresses it in impressiveness.

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

