

Las

Brujías



'88

Top

Camp Log

①
We were:

Sigrid "It's getting a bit shady here" Koneberg

Andi "Lirum larum, spoon and pot
geodesists eat a lot!!" Käab (Kiwi)

Ewald "Where is that meander cave?" Biersack*

Markus "It's got a hole in the bottom" Niklasch

Gerhard "~~****~~ this ~~****~~ wind - STOP IT!!!!" Niklasch

Sherry "This tent is a slightly funny shape now" Mayo
(correctly)
↳ also known as "It's not fucking, that's the problem" and "I am capable"

Special guests: (sorry we can't recall all of you - effects of the sun at altitude...)

Paul B, Roy T, Jonny T, Sara & Richard G, Lynn S,
Harry M, Włodet, Martin H, Martin L, Ditta N, Phil R,

and all those bl...ed sheep...

* Also known as E. "Where's this cheese spread tube 3/3" B.

Top Camp '88

After spurious investigations by V.A. Rious People
T.C. has finally been sort of established!

Thu. 14 July: Signé & Gerhard put up tents & cooking gear

Fri. 15 July: " " " carry up mega amounts of food
(at least as far as their weight is concerned), snow-melting
bowls, the medical kit & their logbook. Arrive 6¹⁵ pm.

Soon afterwards visit by Phil R, Otto, Martin H & Martin L
who announce that they're going to do no geology up here
at all - bebothered. The weather is ever so nice, the snow
dwindling rapidly (& even faster as we're starting to use ^{physics} chemical
persuasion in melting it...). Maybe one of the snowfields up there
could be tapped?

In the evening 2 hrs walk to the Jorcada Blanca pass & back. Found
a snowfield with potentially accessible drips in a doline just west of P2.
(The big snowfields all run off underneath, no easy way of getting at the
meltwater). Also found a few cave entrances:

- one W of the largest snowfield, in the edge of a scree gully
running up towards P^{co} la Jorcada. Bearings (in grades) to:

La Verdelluenga (top between two apparently highest points) 089° (80)

P^{co} la Jorcada 282° (254)

'Chimney' behind the large snowfield 168° (151)

- several around a (route?) cairn at bearings (to)

La Verdelluenga (as above) 093° (84)

'Chimney' 171° (154)

P^{co} la Jorcada 261° (235)

Top Camp 041° (37)

- there's a big snowplugged
shaft above (15) of the cairn,
and another entrance;
below (N) an obvious hole at the infra-
section of two rifts (which might be blocked
with boulders) and two snowplugged dolines
(with black sand around the sides).

3) Entrances are unmarked as yet, need at least helmet & light for investigation (some need ropes as well).

Mon. 16.07. another luggage bag down camp... (both of us)
snow-melting is going well, filtering sort of working, no danger of dying of thirst immediately. Still it's hot up here, phew.

Mon. 17.07. Brief visit to Ridge Cave on the third anniversary of its rediscovery: Hi old friend, how are you?

Also set up first 4th order triangulation station on Pico Conjuntao. Hope it'll stand the wind, the guy strings are not very strong. (G.)

Sherry arrives in the afternoon with ^{her own} tent & a large funnel & another water container, after a glass fight against all the socks... Returns to Arto to pick up her carving gear.

G. completes a solo walk down to Base Camp, bringing another large washing-bowl, the photogrammetric camera (tripods still to be fetched) some stronger cord for flagpole guy strings, & food. Millions of glow-worms in the Ten Los Cueros after nightfall, & 5 shooting stars later on. The day closes with (a ~~moderate~~ amount of) vino that to celebrate the above-mentioned anniversary & Sigrid's having been married for two months.

Mon. 18.07.

Sherry: shaft-bashing, see below!

Sigrid & Gerhard mark two baselines for photogrammetry (unwisely, with red chalk!).

Later on the latter staggers downhill to experience the following THUNDERSTORM ~~!!!~~
from the Base Camp perspective & fails to return uphill...

(5)

↓ Sherry's page

What I did...

Arrived Monday 18th, walked up rocks south of Top camp past F17 & veered to left. Found a shakehole with 2 snowplugs + an entrance. Further up carried on up Gregoriana, left hand end found F28, FS (looks like there might be a way on past the snow). The unmarked cave I found is:

T.C. - 330°

Calveza Urosos 40°

Sphinx ~~to~~ ~~ward~~. 120°

Above FS I found another huge snowplug in a big shakehole, there might be a way on down on the south side but it looks like not much fun.

Retreated to tent due to storms.

Tues 19th July -

After horrible thunderstorms all night the sun came out for a while. Having used all the gear I ~~for~~ brought to tie the tent down I went to de-rig FS2 to get some more. Nearly died in the attempt to find it! Saw Martin H, JT & Lynn from the Cairn + de-rigged the cave. Walked back with all the gear (mean moan) to T.C. ~~It~~ in fog - the others had gone back down. Later I went back to the cave near F17 to 'bash' it. It bottomed - CHOKED (I was!) & the heavens opened just as I was at the bottom & the water came streaming in. Another thunderstorm, good nights sleep.

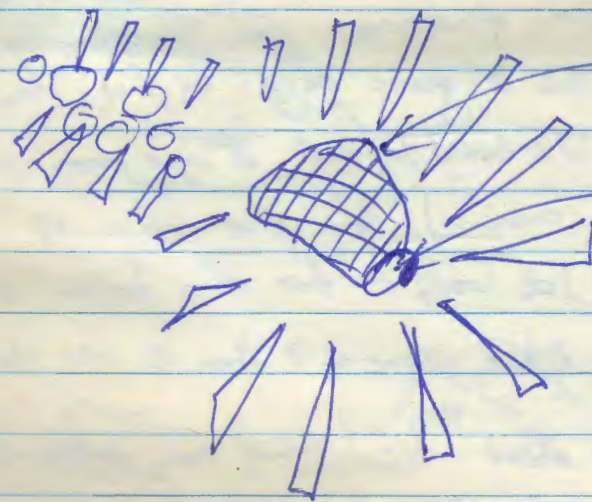
Wed 20th July

Paul arrives! We go shaftwashing...

20th July : Shaft bashing - Walked towards Verdelluenga. Didn't find much but visited big cave (doline) to right of gault, which JT and I had visited in '86. Sherry went down on my duff SRT system and got VERY COLD. It still appears to go. Marked this cave as F41 ϕ . Walked up Verdelluenga afterwards.

Cave position : La Verdelluenga 083°
 Top Camp 310°
 Sphinx 103°
 Ridge Cave 296°

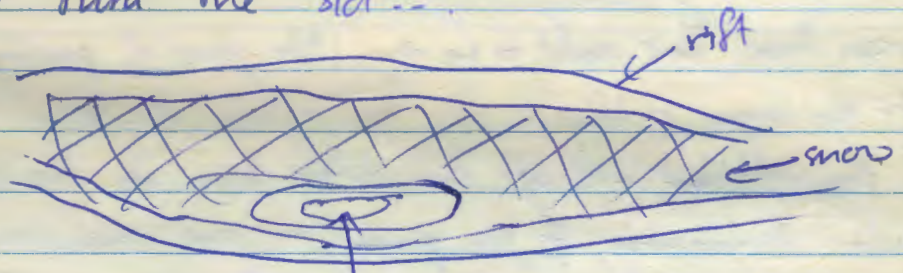
Gully with Boulders →



Snowplug in shake hole

ab down to ~~the~~ boulders + slot in floor with way on beyond

What I saw thru the slot...



hole down which boulders rattle.

This cave is COLD

r.s. don't forget your sit harness - you may end up using some crappy bit of tape!

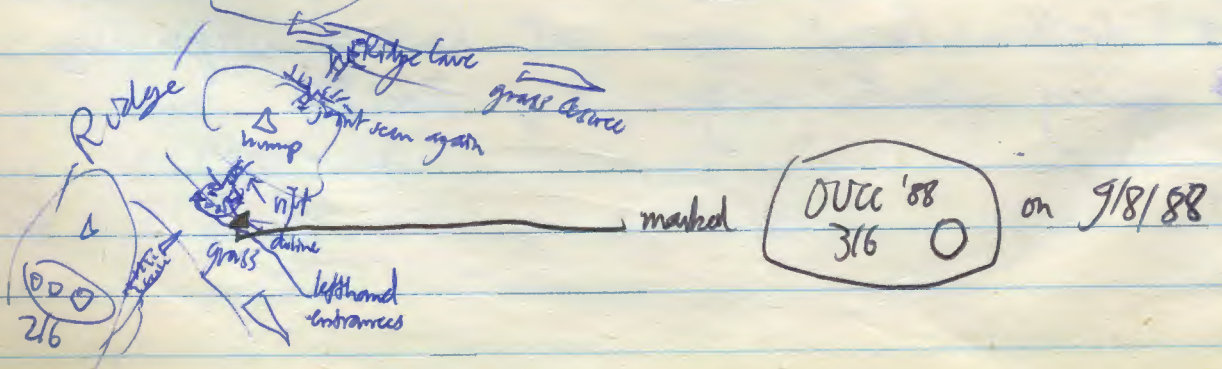
20/07. Sigrid & Gerhard mark three further baselines for photogrammetry & note that
① the signs of the first two seem to have been washed away...
Paul & Sherry return to Arvo in the evening.

21/07. Top Camp Survey Staff gets up at 6^{am} (!) only to find we have to wait
till 9-ish ~~before~~ before the clouds finally retreat and the sun illuminates
the slopes around F20. Then spend three hours taking one stereo pair (& doing
all the associated measurements) after which the clouds, rising & spilling over
the Ridge again, don't give us a chance at even starting to work on the next
baseline. Slow going...

Since nothing far can be seen in the mist, G. decides to have a general check
of one of his 'million' geological questions viz. tracking the Ridge Cave
entrance fault towards 2/6. This is quite easy! In fact, from the grass slope
at the NW foot of the 2/6 hillside (the next ~~large~~ large grassy patch south
of the one passing by Ridge C. entrance) there is a gaping rift with a rather
shattered doline underneath. (I'd looked at this once before, in '86 on ~~a~~
~~a~~ misguided search for F20; it had snow in it then & was drifting.)

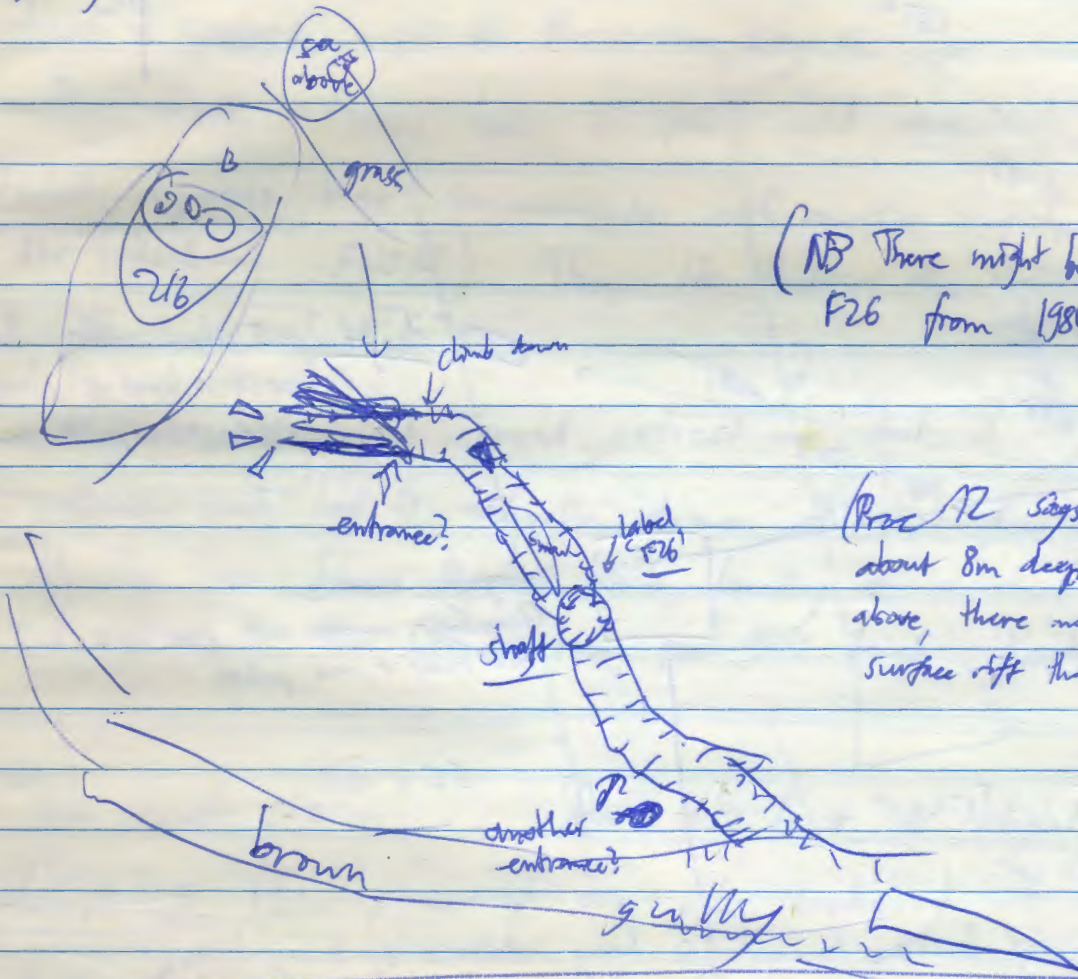
The rift itself is too narrow ahead (1-2 inches) and choked with large &
very sharp boulders downward but with a lot of black space underneath
between these. This ought to be dug. (Use gloves & possibly dings & ropes to
shift the larger pebbles.)

In the left-hand wall of the doline there are two openings (or one which
branches immediately, if you prefer) - one route seems to follow the funnel
and re-emerge at the deepest point of the doline, while the other is heading
down & away from the rift (i.e. towards 2/6). Wish my helmet were up
here...! This to be (3/6 2)



⑦ Downhill from there, in general direction Top Camp, I stumbled across ⑧

F26, marked as unexplored: A long twisting rift with sharp walls & a steep floor of similar boulders, with some snow just above a shaft & one or two other possible entrances, eventually ending as a tributary to the 'brown gully':



(NB There might be more than one F26 from 1984.)

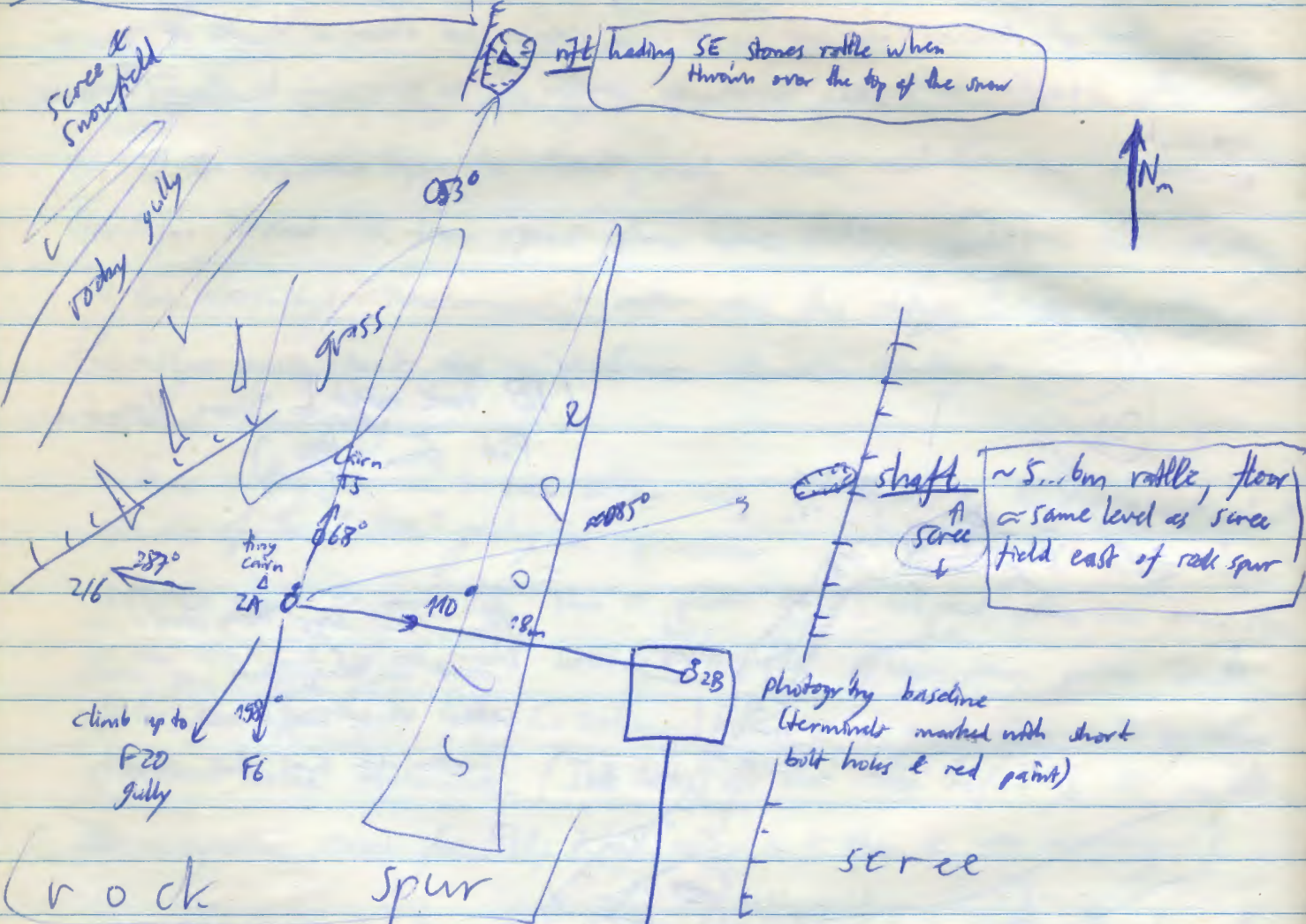
(Proc 12 says the shaft is about 8m deep but, as stated above, there may be more to the surface rift than that shaft.)

The fridge doesn't work too well - all the snow gone. Why does it melt during the night? Still it's a cooler place to store food in than the tents. 22/07/88

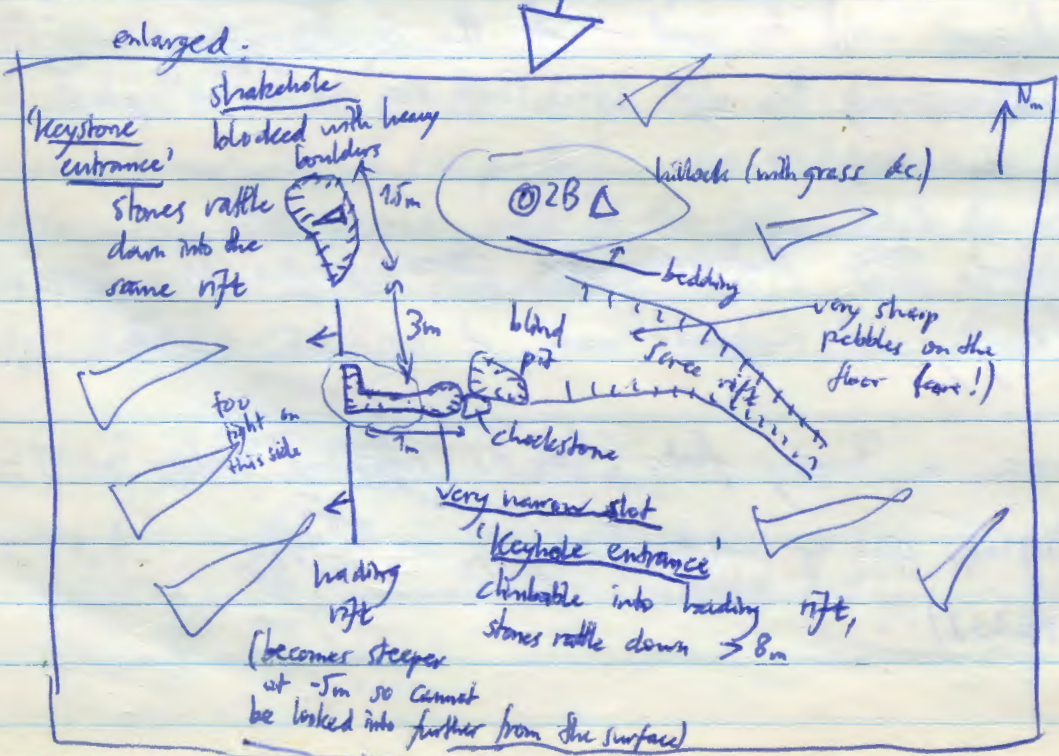
Sigrid & Gerhard take photogrammetric stereo pictures from three further baselines (camping 3 rockcaches' worth of equipment between us).

G. discovers a 'tuning fork' (on the righthand (looking uphill) bypass of the directissima climb up into the F20 gully, on the lefthand wall, giving a B flat when touched).

On the rocky spur straight below F6 there's a number of unexplored entrances:



NB precise location of baseline terminals is being established by triangulation.



I spent ~80 minutes clearing pebbles half my own weight each out of the 'keystone' entrance ('keyhole' wants a helmet & an overcoat unless you want to be shredded to bits). The second largest boulder in the shakehole is loose - don't trap your feet. Needs either a pulley or a chisel (to chop it in half) to remove. Entrance now almost negotiable. Still, 'keyhole' though almost a squeeze might be the easier way in.

Both these entrances have a faint cold outward draught (which suggests they communicate with another entrance higher up the hillside - F20??). They lie below the distinctive dolomite band containing F6.

(Maybe a geologist could correct me, but I believe that yellowish rock bed is actually former dolomite from which all the MgCO₃ has been leached away, leaving a mixture of calcite & silicates - the German term for this being 'Rauhwaacke', 'rough waacke'.)

The next storm... Dave H's tent is slightly demolished. (One piece of one pole broken.) It is re-erected but has now a somewhat funny shape...

23/07/88

Night temperature drops below the freezing point.

Andi 'Kivi' Kieb, geodesist, and Ewald have arrived, and reach Top Camp in the early afternoon (led by Gerhard who again had preferred to walk the announced 200 km/h gale from below yesterday). Ewald reconstructs Dave H's tent, it is now a slightly less funny shape and serves as food & baggage store & spare sleeping tent. Andi's bright blue dome tent adds colour to the site. Siegfried & Gerhard deal with the fifth & hopefully last photogrammetry baseline. The broken signal flagpole on Conjectura from a week ago is replaced.

24/07/88