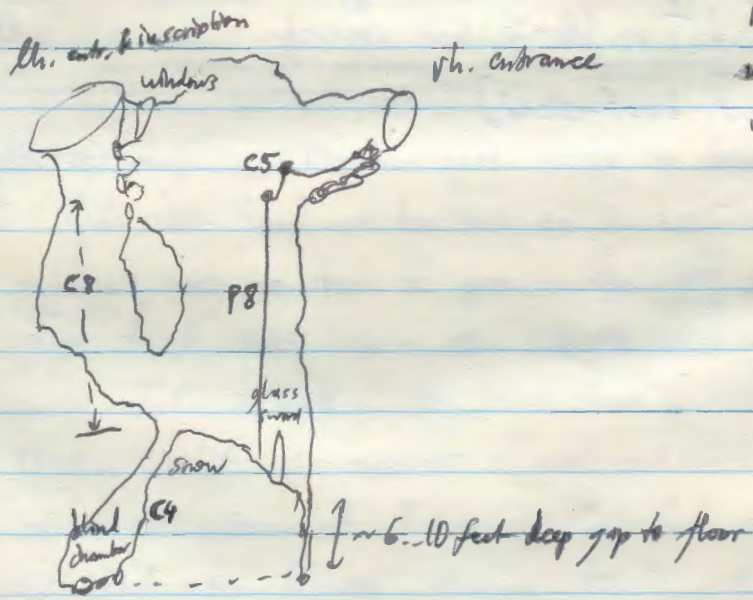


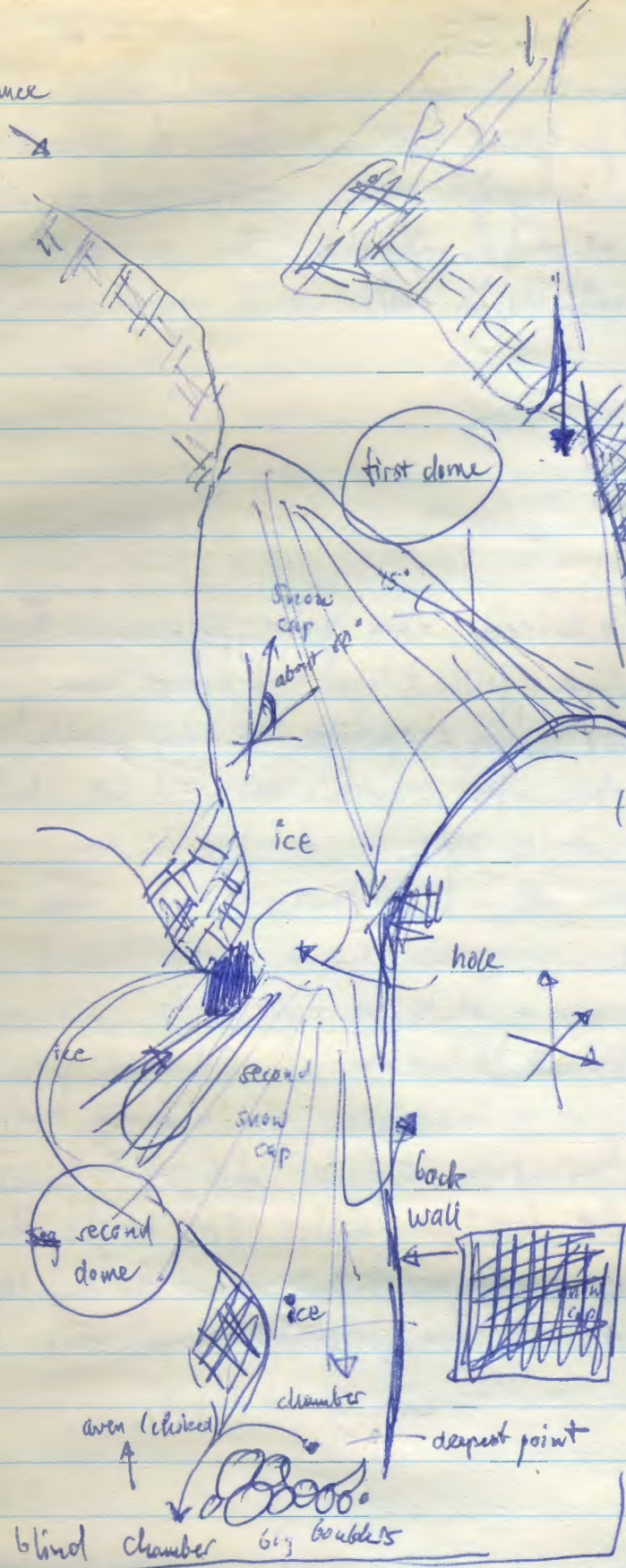
Having carried the shaft-bashing kit across from F15, we enter the cave via the righthand entrance leading via a ramp to a shaft well inside the hillside, & establish voice connection to the lefthand entrance which gives onto a pitch immediately. Descend from a natural backup & two bolts in dubious rock (lefthand wall) to the snowing. A 'glass sword' of ice is sitting in a corner. Otherwise, a long walk around the edges only confirms that the snow is resting only on a solid floor of pebbles. Such draught as occasionally becomes noticeable just goes in at one entrance & out at the other. The lefthand entrance pitch is accessed from below by a bold step from the snow onto loose scree & is almost free-climbable to the top (with great care & a certain amount of madness). The whole thing is in an unusually white variety of Barcaliente limestone - (leporites? or maybe a 1st. bed that belongs even below Barcaliente?).

Sketch elevation, looking NE:



(In years with much higher snow levels it may be possible to enter without tools)

Entrance



* G.B. & M.N., 3-5-88
 - extremely difficult to be rigged -
 no piece of solid rock around the
 entrance. - Rigged with 45m rope
 and 50' ladders for safety,
 could be done without.

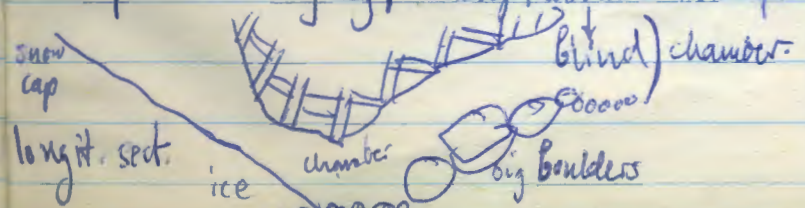
Opposite to the entrance
 there is a solid wall.
 - To the left, \approx 5m beneath
 the top of the snow cap, at
 the corner of the first dome,
 a very small pitch leads down.
 M.N. tried to climb down,
 gave up: too narrow, no footholds,
 risk of being stuck. ^{would require an}
^{other rope, might}
^{continue!}

- To the right, still ^{deep} ^{point} ~~bottom~~ ^{of}
 the back wall, the ^{of}
 snow cap (about 12m beneath its top)
 becomes icy. A hole leads
 further to a second dome with a
 second snow cap. The left wall
 of this dome is still the
 same 'back wall'.

- It is possible to go around the top
 of the second snow cap. A corridor
 leads under the 'hole' and under the
 boulders that seem to ^{bar} ~~be~~ ^{see} the first

snow caps. No way on: after \approx 2m everything is blocked with ice.

- Obvious (and only) way ^{on} ~~out~~ ^{from} the second dome: still along the 'back wall'. Snow
 cap becomes very icy. See longitudinal section for looking towards back wall. Any possible



way on is choked: the addition to
 the description from 4-8-84.

(23)

22

5/18/88 Markus at T.C. ~~lays~~ half asleep on the grass in the sun, keeping the sheep away, waiting for Gerhard who comes up in the afternoon and then goes to T8 to continue surveying. Markus on T1 with the other Theo, trying to get some information about the refraction.
 Sigrid and (later) Ewald turn up as well.

6/18/88 Sigrid & Markus down to Base Camp with her luggage including tent, photogrammetric camera and tripods. Markus goes up in the evening, but no further than to Ario. Gerhard descends to Ario with his box of stereo slides for a viewing session at night.

7/18/88 Gerhard, Markus spend the night at Ario Refugio. Andi "Kiwi" guides Markus to T.C., while Gerhard goes to Base C. first* - Found T.C. as Gerhard had left it the day before. Andi goes surveying. Markus spends the day lying in the grass in front of the tent and reading. Wlodek comes along. Gerhard turns up at sunset. *to drive Sigrid to Arriadas

8/8/88 - Another beautiful day. Ge & Ma have a look at the ~~possible~~ cave entrances now unmasked 416 and 516, the latter being the more promising: there is much draught. See below!

In the afternoon both surveying from 5A, 5B and T7, where they get cold (T7 being already in the shadow of the Picos).

9/8/88 ^{Gerhard} ~~Gerhard~~ considers it to be more efficient not to go surveying together: while ~~Gerhard~~ ^{he is looking} ~~looks~~ through ^(not really) his ^{theodolite}, Markus descends 516 - just to find the bottom of the pitch in daylight!!! See below. Takes him some time to find the lower 516 entrance from outside.

After a picnic lunch a 516 photo tour takes place, Gerhard entering from the upper entrance, Markus from the lower.

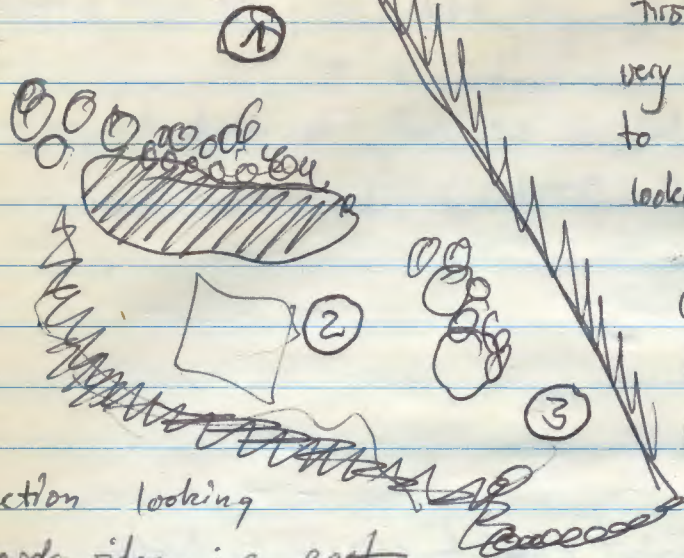
Then Gerhard returns to his surveying, Markus begins to drill another bolt in 516 since there might be a way on - see below. Interrupts himself when his light fails, creeps out of the rift ~~to~~ with the remaining daylight, finds that ~~it~~ it is late enough not to descend once more but to return to T.C and to prepare dinner for Ge and himself:

Carols fried in oil with garlic. - Meat balls (spanish tin) and peas heated, using the meat ball sauce, some additional water, some wine, Oregano and spices. Served with rice.

416 ~~X~~ (818/88) (23)

24

6



First entrance to be seen was a black hole, very narrow, leading from the shale hole ① to the chamber ③ which, from outside, looked like the head of a pitch.

Gerhard succeeds in widening the entrance by kitzing down some boulders (of remarkable size...)

finds a way on: to chamber ②

section looking towards ridge, i.e. east

All the boulders of the ~~ground~~^{floor} of this part of the shale hole rest on one megabig boulder that is chocked between the rocks. Beneath this, there is a chamber ② which gets some daylight also at its far end where the super boulder does not ~~more~~ touch the rock any more. From the chamber ② one can go on to ③ to find it all chocked with boulders and gravel. X

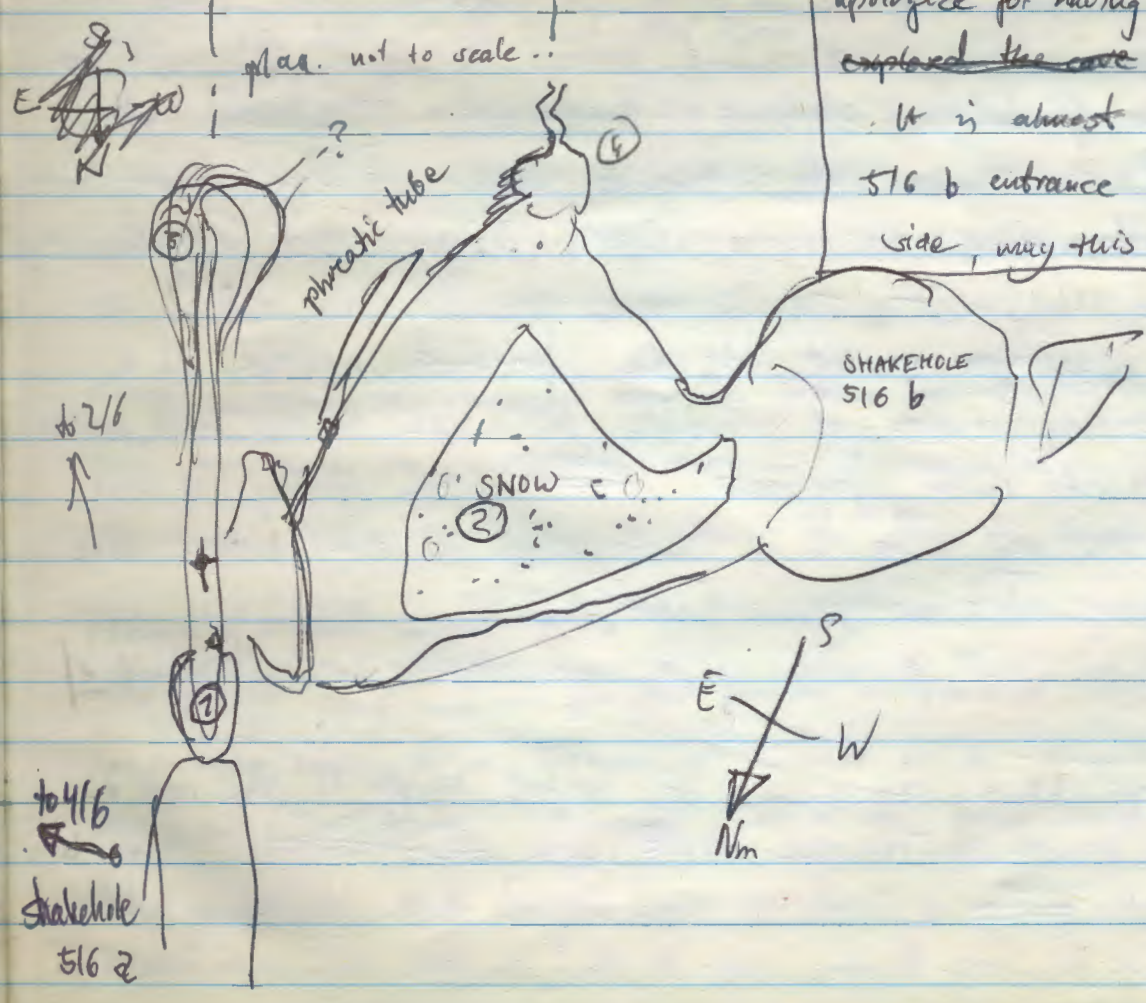
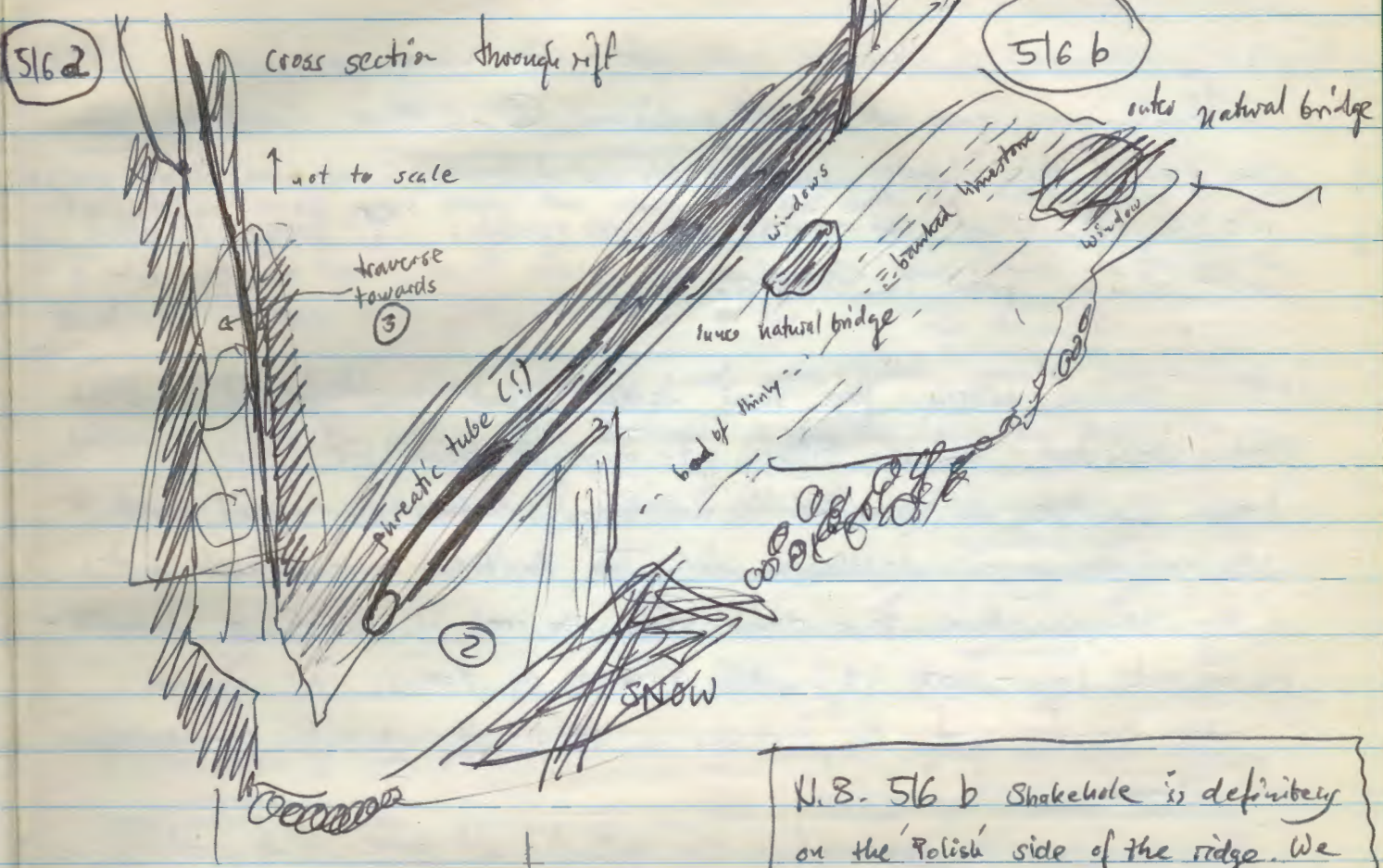
③ being an impressive former stream canyon with clean-washed, fluted walls, almost a metre wide - but very definitely filled up with boulders, & it doesn't draught. - The whole thing is now free-climbable, depth $\approx 10m$.

PS: Digging by the method known by one of the names 'house of cards', 'Mirado', 'touch the keystone',... is recommended only for people with strong nerves and a lifeline^{*}. Everything underneath me started moving when I thought I'd just picked up a little thing lying on top of a boulder...

(* which I happened to have)

516 a & b (2-9-10 9.88)

E ← → W



N.B. 516 b Shakehole is definitely on the 'Polish' side of the ridge. We apologize for having discovered ~~it~~ ^{it from} explored the ~~cave~~ inside.

It is almost impossible to see 516 b entrance from anywhere outside, may this be our excuse

818/88: 516 - part of shakehole leads into a rift which goes north.

Entering it you come into a little chamber ①. About 1m higher than the floor of this chamber (mainly a big chocked boulder) one can climb further into the rift which then is just ~~wide~~ wide enough. Y-Belay installed about 1.5 m from the chamber.

918/88: Markus abseils from that belay. Finds that the rift/pitch becomes wider and that its bottom gets daylight from West.

Leaves the rope ≈ 10 m beneath the belay, climbs down some steps.

All probable ways into the mountain from the bottom are choked, but a big "door" leads to a dome ②, the roof of which is formed by a rock layer ^{bedding plane} at 45°; with snow on its floor.

At the far end the blue sky is seen through a big cave entrance and several small "windows".

The snow can be bypassed on the left hand side (at least this year!) still close to the bottom of the pitch a phreatic tube comes down into the dome, ~~and~~ a tube which follows the same 45° angle ~~at~~ as the dome roof. [It doesn't actually but it is developed along a bedding plane.]

In the left corner some steps down to another rift ③ which can't be crawled into since its average width is 3 inches. But it's draughting and there is an echo in it.

Be aware when you go out into the forecourt, i.e. the 516 b shakehole: its floor consists of unstable fist-size boulders and pebbles and these roll off under your feet. ~~So~~ ^{Next to} the opening of this shakehole to the sky there is a "window" on its ^{West} ~~west~~ side since there is still one more natural rock bridge.

This shakehole could be used as a cave entrance with the help of a ladder.

There might be a way on: At \approx half length of the rope in the rift it is possible to traverse above some ~~choked~~ ^{chokestones} material towards a chamber ④, the ~~floor~~ ^{floor} of which is a bit higher than the place where one would leave the free hanging rope. The chamber seems to lead to

another rift (direction S-W.)

27

28

10/8/88

5/6 yet again: Pozu Paseo Nevado (the snowy promenade)

The weather once more being too nasty to work with the thud (gusts of force 8 just lift the tripod from its stand, not to mention the clouds spilling into the bowl time & again) G. embarks on a 4 hrs solo trip down the cave.

First looked at the short pitch (3) which was rigged from a chondstone (dispensing with the half-drilled bolt-hole) & ~~from~~ from the bottom is seen to be an easy free-climb (!) (follow the crack of the entrance rift).

Around the corner to the left there is an ascending rift passage nearly blocked by an enormous & several less enormous boulders, trending up towards 4/6 (but must still be below it). On the opposite side, the boulder floor of the pit emits a...

draught. Spent an hour digging there until I was approaching another phase of cards' situation.

Two or three large things would have to be shifted using a pulley system. My battery also went flat here - the pit is going to be called Las Pilas (can mean 'batteries' or 'piles' (of boulders)).

Returned to the main hang & had another look down at rift (4) another typical Picos canyon just a bit less than Graham-sized. This place doesn't yield its secrets easily. Looking at the floor I began to suspect that the gravel wasn't resting on a solid rock, but maybe on more chondstones. 90 minutes digging (following a top-down strategy) managed to lower the floor by nearly three feet (shovel & bucket might have been useful) at which point my suspicions were finally confirmed - the first pebbles disappeared downward through black holes, rattling for a couple of seconds or so. Then the unstable scree slope I'd been sitting on slumped a bit & the holes were no longer visible.

It is possible, with a lot of luck, to throw a pebble ahead in the existing rift so that it drops down to the same depth, rather than landing on one of the

(24)

10/8/88

Big clouds creep over the ridge between Redondo del C. and Conjurao, bringing with them cold air and wind. All the area beneath T.C. is covered with them, sometimes they reach around it and rise towards la Verdellanca ...

Markus, ^{although} willing to continue SL6, stays at T.C. because of ~~his~~ being ill ("Duo-difall", i.e. shits). Gerhard sets out for the last surveying, but it will take him long at these weather conditions!!!

In the evening Ewald & Kivi come up for a visit & to carry down some gear, & it clears up just long enough to finish the triangulations.

* A narrow pitch is not a loo, after all !!!

→ the numerous ledges or chodestones. — The place wants a determined dig & a proper survey (a very detailed one so that you know which end goes where — sorry I couldn't do this on my own). I've a pretty good notion of where it's going to emerge, probably parallel to Prime Time in 2/6 (I'd that pitch would have to be called 'Dancing on a High Wire' for reasons obvious to anyone who knows Ammonia Avenue by APP).

The cave is in the beautiful, bluish-grey, fossiliferous (!!!) limestone of the upper member of the Picas formation, the entrance pitch (Vista Sorpresa) is in a spotlessly clean-washed off — what an enjoyable place, compared to the Barcaliente stuff on the other side of the thrust ...

29
30
- total depth ~ 15m plus

- tackle: lower entrance - ^{S/66} free-climb through cyclole (loose boulders abound, beware!) or ladder & long wire from large boulder.

• Upper entrance S/6a: 25m rope as handline from flake at rim of doline (tape), then main hang from flake in rift (tape) as backup & Y-hang from 2 bolts, P10 to chamber at bottom.

Alternative: pendule forward in rift after having descended 6m & walk ahead on chockstones carrying the end of the rope along until rift meets cross-rift & opens to a shaft. Las Pitas (P5) is rigged from a chockstone opposite (wire & tape) or free-climbed. Tugging the crack underneath your feet.

Markus & Gerhard. complete a carry down/up (with lunch at the Puente Romano) well after midnight. Markus isn't feeling too well. 11/8/88

Late start... Markus & Gerhard carry down again, with two LARGE rubbish bags in their hands. In the evening G. returns with William & Ewald for a three courses dinner involving mejillones, olives, 'stuffed burst peppers' & chocolate. 12/8/88

Gerhard, having accompanied Markus to Cangas, returns yet again 13/8/88 with the small theodolite since the fair weather just permits tying up a loose end ~~of~~ from the '86 triangulations. Takes down everything and his tent (into which the sheep have torn a hole more than a foot long) as far as the Refugio in the evening. Still two flagpoles in place (on Verdelluenga & Conjurtao); the Poles will look after those on Traviesas de Jorcada.

(27) Another entrance I forgot to log the day I looked at it — in fact I'd noticed it as early as '85.

— Location: From the lowest Peridices entrance (F7A), go slightly down & contour left (W) until you encounter deep holes in the floor (not far, ~40 metres), then go down the rim of an obvious large elongated shakelike which can be entered by climbing down at various points but easiest at the bottom end. Walking back along the floor ^{of the sh/b} (while outside the slope rises) you end up looking past a huge boulder into a snow-floored chamber, with light streaming down three or four holes in the roof and with a chill draught emerging.

— description, as far as looked at:

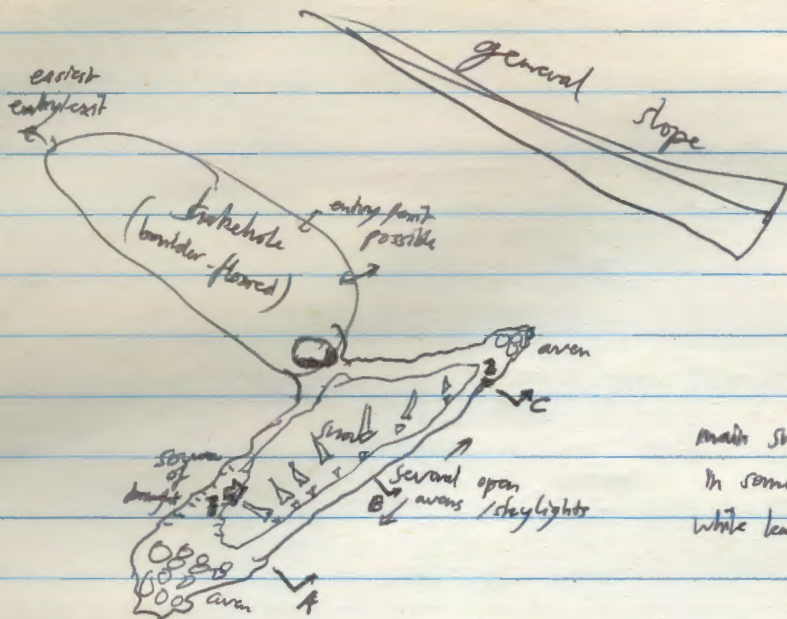
(Don't follow this without protection!)

Squeeze past the above-mentioned boulder on its righthand side until you stand on the snowplug. This must have been resting on ~12 feet of thin air. This year so for God's sake take care.

Walking left, a slot is seen on the far wall down which pebbles drop to land on a second snowplug stem down. Walking right from the point of entry, you are facing the draught emerging from a similar but wider slot which I didn't dare approaching without a line. This might be a short cut to the F20 campsite.

There's no paint left at Top so I couldn't mark it. It's quite unmistakable though.

plan sketch 5



→ b F7A

main snowing touches walls
in some places (not drawn)
while leaving a gap in others.

Sections:

