

1992

OXFORD UNIVERSITY  
CAVE CLUB  
LIBRARY  
O U Cave Club  
1992 Expedn  
Anno Log

Richard Barnes

Steve Shipp

Dave L.

Pauline

~~Tommy~~ (scribble)

Martin J.

Pat

Samburgh

Jay

Sean

Chris

Chris

Flossies mark.



John

Ferella

Harvey Smith

Martin L.

Ilka  
Richard

I thought I would start this with something very dull:-

Note: Gavin asks that if you visit any cave marked in his shaft bashing kits then please record the fact in the shaft bashing kit that you use. Just put "see logbook", and the date, and write up your results in here.

(why upside down?)

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July - Rigging Trip Down 2/7 - Tony, Pauline, Richard.

After enlisting the help of Dave L. to carry tackle to the entrance we arrived there about 2.00 p.m. Snow in the shake-hole. During an enjoyable first trip down the cave, Tony and Pauline rigged to the bottom of Graham's Toggler Pitch. Interestingly snow was found at the bottom of the Flying Rebels.

Richard

Sunday 5/7 66/5 Gavin Dave L.

We rerigged the first pitch, after Gavin had spent several minutes enlarging the entrance by throwing rocks on me, then carried on down to the cornershop. Gavin took a couple of attempts to remember how to do it, then disappeared round the first bend. After a brief moment of speculation, in which Gavin contemplated the meaning of life and the ignominy of jacking, we struggled onwards with the tacklebag. At the end of the rift Gavin decided that an inlet might provide a nicer way in, so he started hammering. Meanwhile I found another side passage which, after a bit of crawling opened out at a pitch down with a boulder slope at the top. This slope contained a large boulder which looked attached. So I stepped on it. It wasn't. It collapsed under me taking most of the slope down a rather large drop, while I jumped back rapidly. So, satisfied that the water I could hear below was the

stream we had met, and would follow. I left this hospitable region to rejoin Gavin. This is the "wormhole" I think, etc.

Gavin had been having rather more success. He had hammered his way through one fairly constricting squeeze, and into a short section of walking passage. This ended at an interesting 12' climb and a crawl choked with boulders. I managed to pull out several small rocks but got stuck with one large one. So while Gavin went back for a tape I wrestled with the rock until I realised how exposed I was. The climb down was more interesting than the climb up.

After a nervey huff hour in which we managed to wedge the boulder even more firmly Gavin noticed the rather poor quality of the right hand wall. Twenty minutes hammering and we were through. The walls beyond the squeeze were slightly less stable than we would have liked. The first wall Gavin touched disintegrated into a pile of rubble. But, intrepidly, we pushed on. At least five feet to the next squeeze. Half an hour's hammering later, it was ready to push. But did we really want to push it? We both tried several times, one of which involved Gavin hammering a piece of rock titillatingly close to my posterior, but we both felt rather over-committed and left it for another day.

Another inlet that we found on the way back was pushed but ended at a tiny hole. We finished our trip by rigging two Misérables. This was so named because it was rather drippy and cold last year. It now has a stream flowing down it.

The trip out was rather easier, lacking a large ticklebug, and we exited to miserable weather and a rather spicy stew.

This inlet is called "Right Said Fred", or in Right Said Fred, Let's get a move on That there wall Is going to have to go

This song continues "Took the wall down Even with it all down We were getting nowhere"

A hint maybe?

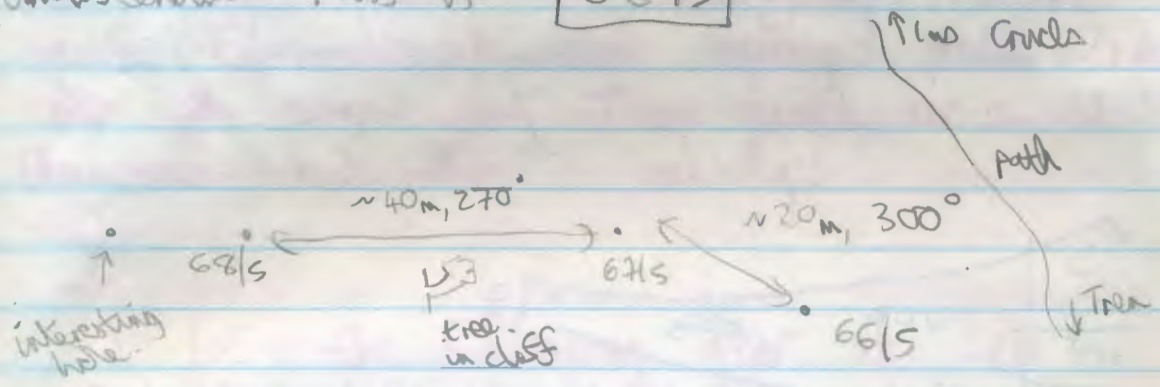
B. Gibbons, c1983

The song ends with the whole roof falling on his head. Definitely appropriate!!

# Shaft Bashing

The aim was to find something dropping into Right Said Fred. Found a shakelike directly above where I think it is, and started digging. An hour later I had a shaft with just one boulder blocking it. This is **67/5**.

Then carried on along the same line found a small stream sink and started digging. 30 mins later, another shaft, with lots of perched boulders at the top. Currently undescended. This is **68/5**.



A bit above 68/5 there is an interesting (but impenetrable) hole that I thought I could hear water through.

2/7 Richard, Dave, and Tony

6/7/92

Richard's generator degenerated so he turned back at Grupper. Dave, who had kindly accompanied us at the last minute, took the rigging gear to the head of Rivin's then followed to make sure he got out safe. Rigging reasonably efficient but for finding a good rig for Arragators - much [struggling] trial and error, but I think people will like this one. Shafts unusually wet, especially bottom of the Hundred. Stopped at this point due to light clipping out. Re-rigged main hang of the Bell on the way out, and placed patches on Personnel man today. Nice trip, if rather sleepy towards the end.

Shaft Bashing 7/7/92 Dave and Pauline with Sean.  
We located 16/4, 9/4, 7/4, 5/4, 15/4 and 10/4, 8/4 and 11/4 but not in that order. Many of these are undescended, according to the guide. We bottomed 15/4 - it chokes completely and left rope at 10/4, which looks most promising. Saw the 'Roca Naranya' on the back.

Shafting

Tony, Richard, Gavin

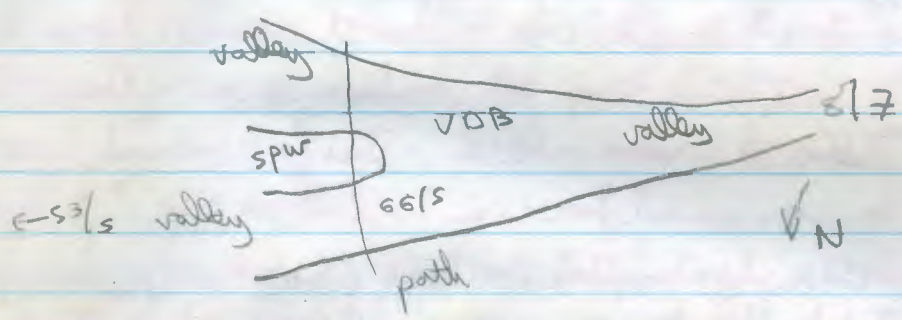
Pulled the last boulder out of 67/S, and climbed in while Tony held the boulder. The rift is too tight although it does continue.

Then went to 68/S, chokes.

Wondered around and ended up in Valley of Dry Bones.

Dug at 2 sites. Both going quite well, although there's no sign of any breakthrough. Lots of large boulders need to be pulled out yet.

Looked further up the valley, but found nothing except 8/7



There are a few interesting holes behind 66/S, but very little else in this area, except all the draughting holes round VDB.

I have put pepper and coriander into a hanging ladder in the upper entrance to the cheese cave

Dove and Pauline,

I have given you an area of land 5/10m x 15m rope, 1 ladder, rigging gear, bolt kit (shute driver), shafting guide, lubrication oil, and a small amount of food. The guide is for the shafting. The bolt kit is for the shute driver. The rope is for the ladder. The ladder is for the shafting. The rigging gear is for the shafting. The lubrication oil is for the shafting. The food is for the shafting.

# More Shafting

8/7/92 Gaim

**15/4** : this is the same as the unnumbered shaft by 7/4. Descends 8m to choke.

**11/4** : descends about 20m, free climbable with care, to snow plugs on boulder floor. Near the bottom, a slot on the L might be passable by a determined team with chisels, but doesn't look very promising.

**10/4** : 3m climb down to head of 15m pitch rigged from thread - lands on snow plug. At bottom, bolt gives 6m descent, with squeeze past 2nd snow plug, ~~over~~ 3rd snow plug. There might be a way on under the snow, but this is unlikely.

I left the following gear at 5/4 : 35m & 15m ropes, ladder, bolt kit (shit driver), rigging gear.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Rigging Trip 2/7

Paul

Steve Sean

Sam

Steve

Left late due to drizzly day, glad to get out of the weather into the cave at ~ 130m.

However, the cave is very wet.

Took Sam & Steve to Graham's Redger Pit. They seemed to have few problems. Took 200m of rope, that was a problem all the way through the rifts, requiring the usual jumping up, kicking & obligatory swearing, especially with Steve's back carrying loop gave way on the traverse line, and I had to climb down

30 feet to the bottom of the rift to rescue it.

Myself & Stan then continued to Deseronto, where we started our rigging - I continued until the rope ran out at an overhanging ledge, Stan wisely waiting at the Spitzberg ledge.

The journey at was fairly wearing, we eventually exited at ~ 1:45 am.

At the entrance we found Steve & Son bivouacked up for the night, having emerged at 11:30 am to find it dark & drizzly.

Myself & Stan decided that we were already very wet & cold, so we might as well bug out down to Arvo; we left the other two as we thought they'd probably be more comfortable staying where they were.

Our descent was a little interesting, we repeatedly lost the path on the way down, and were lucky to make it back to Arvo in 1 1/2 hours. We had tea, (a few mouthfuls of bixey stew) and a mug of red wine each before crashing out at ~ 4 am.

(Gavin heroically rescued the other two the following morning).



8<sup>th</sup> July '92

Shall looking in area R

Rob & Richard.

- Went looking for 8/17, but didn't find it, but found several smaller caves instead, before locating 8/17 on our way back.

These caves would not be:

13/17

Location: on first ridge ~ 600m on 310° from peak of Cumbre Juliana (?) S.E. face of ridge.

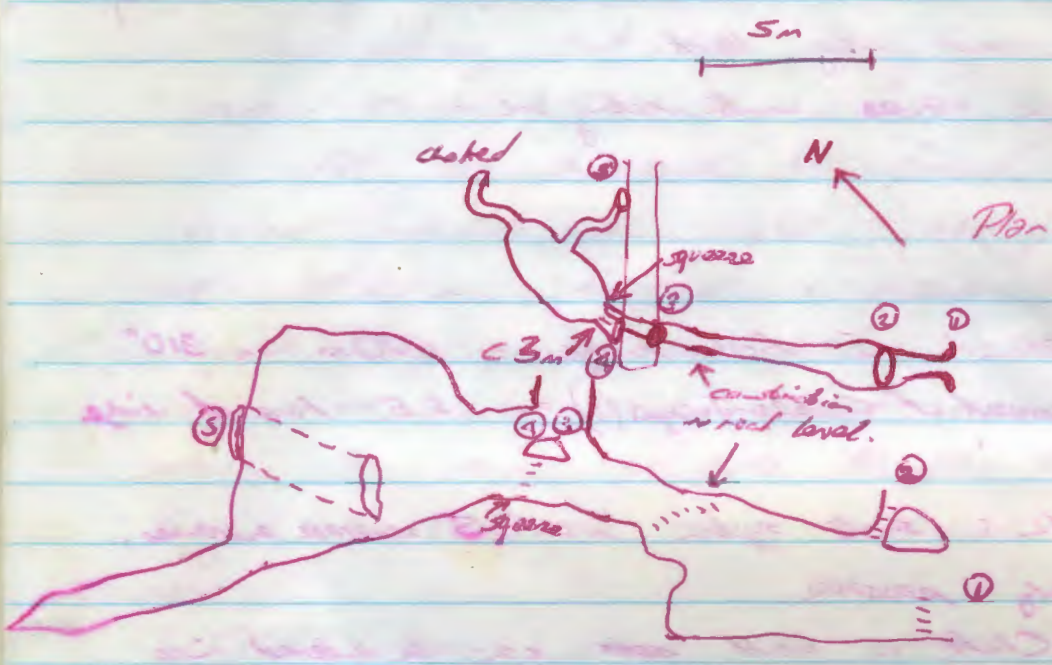
Description: small system with 5 separate entrances, 3 easily passable.

Cliff in cliff side can be entered into rift ~ 10m long, access at entrance is easier at higher level, rift widens out after ~ 2m, where small 'skylight' entrance can be seen above. closes again, may be just passable, ~ 7m into cave - daylight visible beyond constriction.

This comes from one of two entrances in large cliff near ridge top. This entrance gives access to the remaining 3m of rift beyond the above noted constriction. Doubling back under this entrance, the rift continues slightly to the right - this can be followed for about 2m to a easy squeeze into a rooey chamber. The other entrance comes in above this squeeze. The chamber is about 5m long, and slopes away from the entrance. Half way down the right hand wall a raked cave in, giving a light sunous rift through which the light

entrance can be seen, but is too tight.

At the bottom of the chamber, a rift leads off downwards, but is choked after about 4 metres by large boulders. No way in or draught is apparent.



Est. Elev. Section

14/11 Location in valley below 13/11, at bottom of stakehole

Description - bouldery stakehole, with 2 large rifts with trickling water draining into it.

Spent some time digging at boulders. Entrance now open, but boulders very unstable still so didn't enter. Looks like it gets to tight angle.

(Also had dig in stakehole ~50 yards up valley) 50m below summit

15/11 Location On N.W. face of Calozo Tray, just above one of the paths leading to this. 2 obvious entrances.

Description. Right hand entrance, short climb up, obviously blind. Left hand entrance, entering

traverse to reach a grade, 5200 entrance & vestibule ~ 4m  
log 62m deep 3 leads off, all appear to be silted  
up. Both strands soap water, and appear to be  
probably in range of entrance near the inlet areas.

Not particularly exciting but very difficult to do  
for the valley below.

I depend on the mail for the first time, and  
printing last night in the house, and it was  
Another (official) note from the treasurer.

Will everybody remember to read the official note  
from the treasurer in the base camp logbook as soon  
as possible, and note that it is serious, not a  
joke.

! put me I just because I discovered that I can't  
I left for level, but this was because I discovered that I can't

Please remember to record all bags in the back  
of this log book.

is the day after their trip down this cave

Thursday 9th July 66/5 Tony, Dave L., Pauline

66/5 is a very difficult cave. I did not like  
corner shop at much on the way in, nor did I  
like Yorkshire. It opened straight over a 15m  
pitch, rigged on chockstones, where both my lights  
failed. I hit my laser headset with both fists,  
and as twist had failed, hit the walls around me.  
Carried on in the dark. Halfway down my electric  
turned on. I silently thanked it for working at all.  
We started down Route 66. By now I felt

(10)

that I had seen enough of the place for my first proper trip, and at the first sign of danger - an exposed climb - I wanted to turn back. Dave rushed after Tony to break this news to him while I fiddled with my lights. Tony had other ideas: he was pushing a wet squeeze at the bottom of Route 66, and we could not desert him. He thought I should continue, and be involved in some real pushing (of which I have managed precious little), so I was persuaded.

The most exposed climb was right at the bottom of Route 66. About 20' high, it had too many footholds to be a pitch and too few to be an easy climb. Dave climbed down first to cushion my landing if I slipped, but this was unnecessary because I discovered that I can fly!

There was the most ominous, terrifying deep rumbling sound above us, as a boulder spontaneously fell out of the rift, ~~and started to fall~~. Dave and I left for cover, instinctively. From being in the middle of the climb, I rapidly found myself tucked into the corner at the same level, apparently on no footholds. I'm not sure whether the sounds of the boulder falling stopped before I got there or afterwards. Thank God (and I did, because I do believe in him) the boulder landed at the top of the climb; it did not quite reach us. I stayed where I was until Dave felt safe to come out of the rift below. We retrieved Tony and headed out straight away. When we saw what had actually fallen, a slab perhaps two foot by two three foot, our urgency increased. On the way out we felt happiest in Corner shop rift where nothing

could fall on us, and distinctly unhappy in boulder-stream passages. We will not be going back to 66/5 again. We are thankful that we are still alive.

P.S. The purpose of our trip was to finish rigging the cave which we did, should you wish to go down there.

Tony's little bit extra: at the end of the cave a tight squeeze was passed at floor level (no gear job), immediately following which a slight enlargement leads to a duck and further squeeze over slabs into an enlargement. A short length of sideways crawling in a above a small overhang leads into an enlargement. (Hint good turning space) and a deep water duck with small, maybe unusable over-space freediving possible (on electric) probably very short, certainly very cold. Ducks might be bailed.

Total passage length  $\approx$  10m, named ~~Heroin~~ Heroin from the Doors song containing the lines

"Heroin be the death of me ..."

Heroin is my life and it's my wife"

Only addition explains this sort of punning.

P.S. Pauline, why not believe in Her? The wicked sense of humour seems more feminine, and only that sort of sense of fun would create a look over a world like this.

Thursday 9 July

8/11

Paul, Steve

1991 limit is at the top of an undescended climb described at the time as being "about 10m deep". Paul belayed a ladder from a flake about 2m down into the rift. At the bottom of the ladder, the rift opened out to 2-3m wide with wide sloping ledges on each side. The rift could be seen to descend a further 10m to water. The rift is passable horizontally in both directions, the water appearing to drain to

\*the rift is narrow, but descendable.

⑬ the west.

A bolt was inserted at the head of the first pitch (my first bolt!) and the cave was rigged for SRT as far as the head of the second pitch, thus freeing the ladder from the first pitch to be used in the rift (see above). Attempts by Paul to bolt the 2nd pitch were unsuccessful (on his second attempt - the bolt split the rock) and hence the second ladder could not be used to descend to the bottom of the rift.

We hope to go back on Saturday, taking an electric drill to bolt the second pitch. We have left the cave rigged.

Promising, - not bad for my first day's shaft bashing!

Steve.

P.S. After this, the quality of my write-ups can only get better.

Thursday / Friday 9.10 July. 217

Timmy rigged from above at the base of the dam to the far side of the crack pad. Stopped from getting to big ledge by lack of mailboxes, but plenty of tape and knots. Down there is short rope on crack pad which needs deslugging and replacing with 90m which is also down there.

Reasonable trip, thanks to Sean and Richard for cave to end of rifts. I've just got back (16m 8.00)

and I think I might go to bed for a little while as this cave is tired.

Sean and Richard had carried a tubelbag full of rope to the end of the rifts a few

10/7/92

hours previously. Rich had "just" got here @ last. The day is kindly to walkers who hate the heat (the you hardly notice the distance since you cannot see it!) Steve + Sean kindly made tea with the last 2 Marmite's, honey and tea bags and went shaft-bashing.

11/7/92

13

So far David has packed for the campers:

3 sleeping sets

12 lbs of raven food

3 tubes Penicillin

28 club biscuits

2 bog rolls

1 treacle

all the chocolate Pauline gave me

3 lbs of stona bix

all the shit biscuits — " —

1 pkt mashed potato.

12 instant thoop.

plastic bags.

Friday 10 July

Shaft bashing

Sam, Steve

We went shaft bashing in the W of area 11, on the N slopes of Cabeza La Forma, an area that does not appear to have been shaft bashed before. At first we explored the area around the path to the Arco refugio (inbetween Cabeza La Forma and Cabeza Las Campanas) and then headed N along the valley lying to the E of the ridge joining these two mountains.

Our first and best find was by Sam. This is a vertical shaft lying 5m N of the path. The top is triangular and roughly 2.5m x 1.5m. The shaft is about 10m deep and a passage can be seen heading S at the bottom. A small snow plug several metres high lies at the bottom. Our first act upon its discovery was to inadvertently drop the relevant half of Gavin's

(14)  
map down it, this needs retriaring. This cave  
is designated 16/11. It remains undescended.

Our next discovery was also made by Sam. This is a surface rift  $0.75m \times 5m$  at the top, approximately 4m deep with a bouldery floor. The rift is orientated N-S. Climbing down into it, the floor can be seen to slope slightly to the S. At the bottom, a tight squeeze leads E. Removing one or two boulders would make it passable. Looking through it, a human-sized passage can be seen heading N. It may narrow or choke after a few metres.

A few minutes later, a tight vertical slit was discovered 10m to the North. It is almost certainly the end of the passage emerging from the above rift. 2 or 3 small holes in the rock lie along the line between this slit and the above rift.

Someone excessively bored or enthusiastic ought to explore this passage - who knows, there may be more passage leading off in the unexplored section. This cave is designated 17/11.

I next discovered a sizeable rift near the base of the steep W side of the valley. It is approximately 15m long and 5m deep, running N-S and inclined at approximately  $20^\circ$  to the N. The floor is very bouldery and there are numerous perched boulders along its length. We explored it - there are no leads.

My next discovery was further down the valley and lies at the bottom of a large, obvious



shakihole: approximately 8m in diameter and 6m deep. Passage, probably passable, can be seen through a boulder choke at the bottom. To enter only requires a boulder ~0.3m across to be removed

Salim's last discovery was a deep, windy rift higher up the N side of the valley than the first obvious sink. It is 10-15m long and 10m deep in the middle (shallower at the edges), with a small Shiger plug at the bottom. We explored it, there are no leads.

A bit later, Dand... needed... survey kit... FUEL

S3/S

Richard and Gowen 11/7/92

The aim of this trip was to locate the source of the drought, present at the entrance series, but lost further down the cause. We began by checking the rift at the top

of Pterodactyl Pitch, but this just dropped straight down into the main passage. We then climbed up into the top of the main passage, past many formations. A noticeable draught was present here. We ended up at the top of the pendule rope on Piranhas without spotting any side passages. There was little draught noticeable at the start of Big Biscuit Rift so we deduced that the source of the draught must be the far side of Piranhas. We penduled across [there is currently a single rope rigged: abseil part way down and prusik up the other side], and climbed up to the top. This area draughts quite a lot although there is no obvious source - I think that it's basically a big boulder choke with a wind blowing through it. Richard checked out a climb at the top, but nothing going. I then looked down. The Rift lead just led to a choke, but climbing down through boulders where the rope ends leads into a rift: in one direction it looks over Piranha chamber; in the other direction it gets a bit tight and goes round a corner. I didn't push it, but it looks promising - draughts quite well and carries a small stream. This is probably the best lead and should be followed up.

Saturday 11 July. Carrying through 2/7 rifts

David, Dave, Pauline, Sam, Steve

David Monaghan set off bright and early, followed later by myself, Steve, Dave and Pauline (carrying). After a hot walk up and a good look through the eye-hole (what a long way down!), we

(17)

followed an impatient David resplendent in nice shiny new gear down 2/7 all carrying tackle bags of camping gear. David and Steve reached the end of the rifts after 2 1/4 hours, myself and Dave taking 10 minutes longer after I got stuck in Paradise Rift trying to take a very narrow way down (I'm sure it's the way Steve and I come up unguided on our first trip). I also tried to fly the last several metres of Flying Rébelles. The trip out was far more straightforward, zipping through paradise in a few minutes with a bit of gardening. Journey out took 3 hours altogether and a chocky! Tony carrying 200 metres of rope passed by at Seventh Heaven.

All round, an enjoyable carry, out in daylight.

Sam

Shaft Boring - 5/4. 12/7/92 Sean Sam Steve

Went shaft boring in area 4 and started by looking at 5/4 (when we found it) because that was where Gavin had left the gear. First pitch to snow plug was rigged with the 15m rope, and descended by Sean and Steve. Steve demanded a traverse line over the 45° snow slope and I found a promising looking rift at an end of the chamber. Back out to don warmer carrying gear and re-rig the pitch properly with the 25m rope and a bolt. It would have been 2 but the rock was too loose, and the wire had to stay. This rope then served as a line over the snow, and a hand-line for the rift which leads down about 8 metres, and would benefit from having a ladder rigged on it. Steve did buy but he used a spreader round a stall, and the ladder was removed on the way out. Landing on a snow-filled rift wire reached a narrow pitch, and placed bolts for end of traverse line.

NO rd again out

1/2 of 7 hang. Using these two bolts, the pitch was descended 10 metres to where it opened out. A rift passage is visible leading off at the bottom, but more rope is needed.

### Shaft Bashing

13/7/92

Gavin

First visited area to west of Jultayn bowl. Found 46/7 (snow plugged, but worth a visit later in the expd). Then 43/7 on left (true right) hand side of limestone above 46/7 (apparently undescended). Also two new caves: 44/7 small hole 5m south of 46/7. 5m climb undescended. 45/7 30m WNW of 46/7. Rift with snow plug. Possible way on past the snow.

The area between here and area 9 is fairly blank. It contains lots of big dolines with some slopes all around. Not worth visiting.

Then went to area 9. Found 2 large shafts (40m?) above La Jayada. These may drop into La Jayada, but worth checking. The Wiggly one is also worth checking.

Just below the Curiente - Verdillengre ridge (100m to col on bearing 160°) is are several 30m shafts with snow in them. 16/9

A bit lower, on (L) side of valley in an area of karst with lots of blind shafts is a 10-15m pitch with my sunglasses at the bottom. 106° Curiente, 122° second summit of Curiente: C5  
This might be C4

To (R) (time (5)) of La Jayada is a green area with an obvious diked shakehole. Uphill to the (R), over a little ridge is ~~rather~~ a shallow valley with snow plug. In (true) (R) side is cliff, clamber down and double back under boulders. Not pushed further, at 17/9

I haven't numbered these last 3 as I need a map to work out which area they're in. I've now found a map and numbered them, although I'm still not sure where area C is

5/4 + 9/4. Sean, Sam, Steve. 13/7/92.

- Returned to 5/4 and rigged 2nd pitch. This descends through the rift into a larger shaft, which stops abruptly. From here a couple of shafts connect, with snow in them. These may connect to caves in the region of 7/4. A stream (of snow melt) flows out in a WNW direction after a slight left-right bend. This is very light but it appears to widen out a little towards the bottom (harder rock?).  
 Derigged cave and looked at 16/4 (in the cliff). This was too hard to rig, so we headed down 9/4, placing a bolt for the first (18m) pitch. From here, two shafts lead off. The right hand is ~5m deep and partly climbable. It appears to connect with the left-hand shaft which gives a 3-4 second drop, possibly a rattle following. This looks like a wide rift, 20-30 m deep.

Sean.

The evening of Monday 13/7/92

Trodged up slowly in quite a deal of heat to beautiful sights of the gradually sinking sun. Arrived @ base to find the Geshbats at home, Sean just on his way down (which reminds me - we left out this evening on top of Sed 4 to speak to base. I stopped for a desperately needed orange) and Richard and Gavin sharing a box of wine @ the newly reopened, but scarcely changed, Refugio.

(20) Then the best bit of the evening started with the moon switching on like a search light as it rose above the central massif. We watched its huge bright battery dome slowly rising above the mountains, then leapt to see the sun sinking into a sea of soft clouds with mountain islands dotted through it. Lisa exclaimed that this was the beauty of Arie. She's right. So we stopped for more wine + Jiska gave us some bread + cheese + sausage while Paul finished off taking photos. Then it was back to camp by the light of the moon to drink a little more + munch some bread. Tony + Dave B turned up around midnight. Altogether a nice evening.

Tuesday 14/7

The mass ranks of Spanish walkers are once again flooding through Arie. I'm quite tired of indicating the route. Perhaps we should have a little signpost.

~~Wednesday~~ Sean, Pauline, shaft bashing

[9/4] We put the 25m rope on the entrance pitch leaving us the longer rope to rig on the pitch below, on the left. The pitch below was very difficult to rig as the top of it was mostly calcite. Sean had put a bolt in earlier and with this and 2 wires we achieved a triple hang which didn't quite rub on all 3 places. I went down first. It required a deviation halfway down since there were ledges projecting near the bottom. My deviation did not fall off! I poked around by the light of my glowworm. Sean joined me. Just as I realised that I could see virtually nothing my battery died completely, so we had to Fandem up the rope. (I had left my spare duracell on the surface, Sean had given his to Tony. Moral ...). The pitch is ~ 25m, possibly less and completely choked at the bottom.

Shafting in area 12 - Gavin 15/7/92

Went over Julagwa ridge and found cave 5 minutes down the Culienbro path, 27/14, just to the R of the path, a shaft with a beach tree in, marked SIE ⊗. Looks to be 10-15m to a snow plug.

Continued to Oston. I don't think I saw 1/12 (at least I didn't see anything meeting its description). Continued down the Culienbro path and found two caves in the left hand cliff:

6/12 obvious large entrance in cliff at altitude of about 800m. Chokes immediately. This might be 3/12

7/12 A bit below 6/12, another large entrance. This has an artificial rock stair case leading up to it, and a wooden fence across the entrance. <sup>This also might be 3/12</sup> This also chokes immediately.

I then spotted an entrance above me, and so climbed up to it - hard work with tufts of grass for hand holds and a wade through nettles at the top. Chokes immediately.

This is 8/12. Followed a goat path off, and got back to the top of the Culienbro path, where I had been 1/2 hour previously. [Directions for finding 8/12: Follow the Culienbro path from Oston (I think there are 2 of these; you want the higher one) where it starts zig-zagging down the valley, go straight on at the first bend and follow a goat track round onto the ribs. Climb down and continue travelling downwards to meet a narrow and exposed goat track round the edge of the ribs to suddenly arrive at the cave.]

Decided I couldn't be bothered to go back down, so went back to Oston. Checked out two caves visible from here:

9/12 triangular entrance 3m high, 1-5m wide at same height as Oston. Bearing ~50° to Oston. Chokes immediately

10/12 About 40m above 9/12. Large entrance under

(22)

overhang with fir tree in entrance. Large chamber with artificial walls at back. Crawl at back chokes immediately. Climb to (R) leads to 2nd chamber with 10cm wide continuation.

Nearly a **RESCUE** but not quite

Sean & Pauline's call out time 21.00  
Time now 21.01

The plan: Gavin to go and try to find out what the problem is, taking rescue kit (SRT bag)

If no contact is made within 20 minutes then Dave will phone base, and follow bringing baby bouncer and splints from the stretcher, ~~and~~ any bandages he can find, and anything useful from the rescue kit (Daren Drum)

Anyone else should follow as soon as possible

They are either in 9/4 or a new cave located over the ridge and follow the Culembro path for 5 minutes - cave on RHS of path with beech tree growing in it.

21.05 Joan arrives, situation explained to her

21.06 Gavin leaves camp

Decision made not to phone base as there's only



one person there

21.15 no sign of them at new cave

21.21 Sean and Pauline spotted near 9/4. No apparent problems so Gavin returns to stand down rescue

21.30 Joan and Dave notified

21.37 Rescuers return to base

21.38 Tea put on

21.58 Sean and Pauline arrive back, saying their callout time was midnight

Points arising:

- 1) THERE SHOULD BE A FIRST AID KIT IN AN AMMO CAN AT ARIO FOR USE IN RESCUES
- 2) Occasional false alarms are a good thing as they make everyone learn the rescue procedure and highlight any short falls in rescue arrangements. (see point 1)
- 3) If we had another radio then it would be a good thing if the first person to go to look for them took a radio, and another radio was taken to a suitable place (in this case the Cabeza Julagua ridge).
- 4) Call out times should be written in the book.

If you have any comments about the above rescue procedure, please write them overleaf.

(24)

El Jese has not written a call out time in the book, so I hope he doesn't want rescuing tonight.

9/4 15/16/7/92 Sean + Pauline Shaft Bashing

The ~~left~~<sup>right</sup> hand shaft at the bottom of the first pitch was rigged on a ladder, which only just reached with a 25' ladder. A 45° sloping floor covered with snow leads on for 30m, with several possible leads off up some of the walls. The end chokes, but we found a drafting hole on the right and spent a few hours digging a person sized opening in the floor. There seem to be no shivers rap on, but 9/4 could be worth another look later on. Derrigged the cave and brought all the gear back to Ario.

Sean

9/7 15/7/92

- ① Chris, Sam & David walk to 2/7, short of carbide
- ② David finds he left his furry suit at Ario
- ③ Chris & Sam go caving, David goes to Ario
- ④ David eats lunch (fried onion rings) & drinks tea.
- ⑤ David goes back to 2/7 with some carbide
- ⑥ David goes down 2/7 & meets Sam hanging on a deviation @ Armageddon.
- ⑦ David, Sam & Chris leave 2/7, get back at 00:35 ps. We carried 90m of rope to Armageddon (well, they did)

David

### Rigging guide for 9/4

Entrance pitch	P18	25m rope	bolt on left, wire on right, back up to boulder
2nd pitch	P9	9m ladder, 20m lifeline	wire round spike at floor level

I include this rather brief guide because it may be worth going back to 9/4, although we have derigged it. Our dig definitely drafts ~~it~~. Also there is a lead we have not followed up. The chamber at the bottom of the ladder zig zags, first left, then right, then left, then right, and stops. On the outside of the 2nd L.H. bend is a climb ~4m with an uninvestigated hole at the top.

\* and because it pleased me to ~~rig~~ write it. However keep in mind that most things in Area 4 are chucked before too long.

While I was digging Sean went off to change his battery, by then rather dim. At the bottom of the ladder it ran out. So he climbed the ladder and changed his battery in the dark. What else would a sensible person do in the circumstances?

← Sean of the battery? Both I think.

17/7/92

David has written a message in the Base Camp logbook. Please read it. The main points are:

- ① Bring the big tent to Ario
- ② Move ALL the other tents at Ario & Base Camp. (See under Davenport's tent for an explanation.)
- ③ Point ① at Base has been done (more or less). Well done Guy.

(26) I want to make a few points about the organisation of the Arvo camp.

- 1) The food tent has been getting overcrowded, so I've moved a lot of stuff into the shelter. Don't put food that is going to be damaged if it is rained on in the shelter. Also there isn't really room in the food tent for personal gear.
- 2) There are 5 loo rolls at 15/5: please don't take any more.
- 3) There are some coffee filters that fit inside the funnel for filtering water through so as to remove tadpoles. They do their job but only allow water through slowly so the funnel overflows. Using a filter it probably takes an hour to fill a large container.
- 4) The spring is getting slower and Arvo is getting busier so we should be careful to ensure that we always have an adequate <sup>reserve</sup> supply of water.
- 5) If you are guarding a camp, it is your duty to make sure it is tidy and all the washing up is done. Having a day off caring is not an excuse to be a lazy slop.

17/7/92 2<sup>nd</sup> Camping trip started underground at ~1:00 pm with Sean laying wire for the radio-telephone and Sam, Dave & David following. Paul was taking people & entrance pictures and Chris was remaining to work surface radio. Radio worked at bottom of first pitches and again at 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven but their voice was quite faint, while they could hear me very loudly. So Sean put his radio in some water and asked if "that makes my transmission any louder?". It did in fact, but

It was the last thing I heard from him. Later I picked up a Spanish radio station (classical music). Waited til 4:45 pm to see if they could sort out the problem - but no response. Walked back down by contouring up and around Curicenter and down the western ridge of the Jon del Jutayu bowl. Passed by 4/7 whose location description should be changed (see back pages) and then passed 20/4, 25/4 + 24/4 low down near to Bayeya Col. Found small shaft apparently un-noticed, 40m from Bayeya Col reached by following sheep path to SW. Looked to be ~20m deep with bouldery bottom with undercut bottom which stones bounced into. Continued down trail finishing off cairn repairs so trail up to 2/7 is now well cairned the whole way.

Chris

Sunday 18/7/92

Notes on the Ario Base radio - The Ario unit is dickie.

I found that I could get :-

- ① Quiet noises
- ② Loud crackley noises

With ① you get very very faint + clear base reception

With ② you get loud slightly fuzzy reception.

You get ① all the time unless

You wiggle the aerial and then with the box tilted aerial end upwards @  $\approx 10^\circ$  and then you quite obviously get ②.

Therefore appeared to be a bad connection either in the end of the aerial or in the transmitter itself, but not with the batteries or battery swap over switch.

John

(23)  
8/11 - The Story Goes On...

Poul  
Steve

3 hr trip.

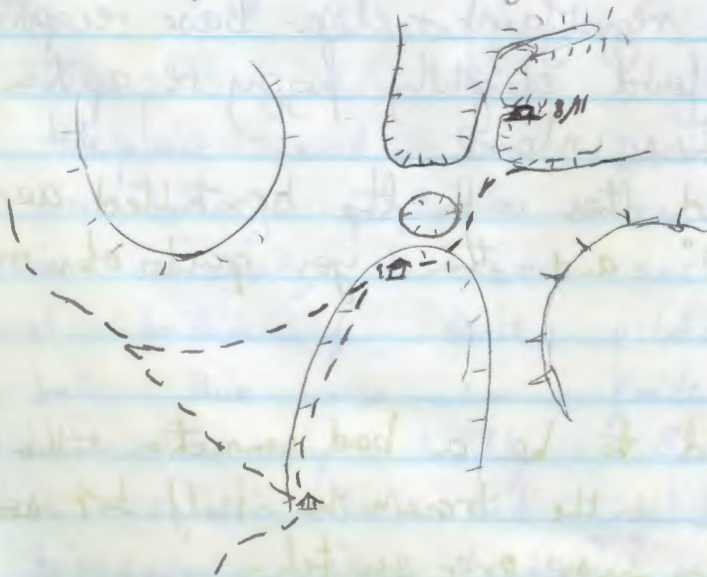
8/11 is now over 60m deep, with a further 8m undescended pitch - well worth scrambling.

However - if you want to go down, you'll have to rig it - I suggest for S.R.T., using the drill. Surveying also ought to be done - including the inlets.

Cave description & trip description.

We found the cave, a good start; this is how to do it :-

- i) Walk to refuge
- ii) Walk over ridge to right - following cairned path
- iii) Strike to right of depression, and over ridge behind
- iv) Drop down ridge, off the path, to gravelly striking into valley, cave caverns tree.



We got changed (I'll spare you the details)  
We went down the coule,

I free climbed the first pitch, which has  
a rope rigged on it for S.R.T.  
(Natural baches above the coule entrance, to bolt  
~~at~~ below. Wide deviation half way down pitch,  
deviation at base of pitch to allow use of rope  
as lead line - Pitch ~ 5m)

I descended the short boulder slope to the head  
of the second pitch, then climbed down the  
boulder, rigged from a perched boulder.  
(Pitch left unrigged, but with sufficient rope at base  
end of lead line for it to be rigged - on the  
last trip we tried bolting, but the rock cracked,  
leaving a bare naked anchor, which was hammered  
to be unusable - Pitch ~ 6m, with further 2m  
climb at base into boulder floored chamber.)

On arriving at the base of the entrance pitches,  
I waited for Steve. We then carried one of the  
ladders into the rift leading off, and added it  
to the end of the ladder already rigged on the  
previous trip.

(From chamber, rift leads off, follow wide  
part of typical Picas ramp to ceiling, after ~  
10m. Here a trivial squeeze, requiring the  
manoeuvring of bums upwards through the wider part  
of the rift leads to the lead of the pitch.)

I climbed down through the English pitch lead,  
snagging my alpenes repeatedly, and then descended  
to the bottom of the ladder, where I clanked off, onto  
a suitable ledge. My initial estimate that the pitch could  
need two ladders appeared to be grossly erroneous, I

(23)  
was still 8 m above the floor. Steve did the honors of flaking  
our final ladder, and adding it to the pitch, this time  
it reached the bottom, just.

(The pitch is about 27 m from top to bottom,  
we rigged using 3 ladders belayed ~~from~~ with a wire around  
a flake about 2 m down the rift. A 30 m rope should  
be used instead, as a handline through the top part  
of the rift which is constricted, the rebelayed below  
the constriction for a main long, probably needing  
variations and possibly further rebelaying further down.)

Steve joined me - we climbed the inevitable ramp  
to the next pit, the water trickling down the bright  
rift bench. It looked unclimbable, so we traversed over  
it to an unstable boulder floor - description being the  
better part of valor. We then decided the pit might  
be free climbable, and it was. We re-entered boulders, and  
made several descents down into the stream, seeing several  
other similar sized inlets coming in. We eventually found  
the stream outlet passage, a small crawling/wiggly  
passage, which was ~~rather~~ muddy, and needed a  
few steps moving; the passage had a moderately  
good amount of water in it, with a strong in-  
draught also. At the end of this section of crawl  
we came to a pitfall trap we could not descend.

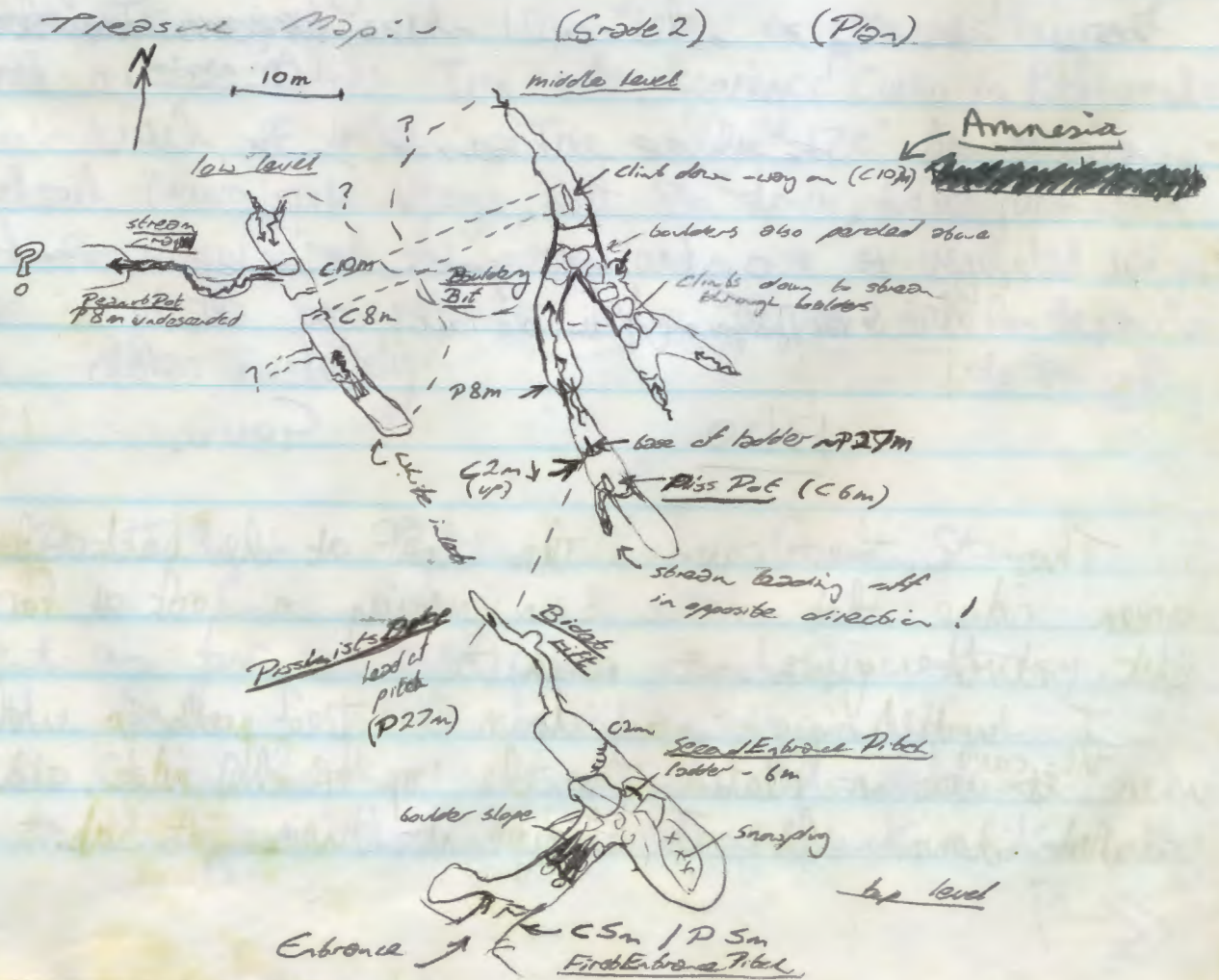
(From the base of the main 30 m pitch, climb  
along the rift for about 10 m to a pit in the floor.  
Suggest continue rope above as handline to the pit,  
then rig for S.R.T., probably needing variation or  
'Y' long - pitch ~ 8 m. At base, carry on along rift,  
climbing up rift to point where another inlet met.  
Way on is over boulder to left, then climb down 10 m  
through rift & boulders to small chamber (- Adjacent chamber  
may be accurately climbed into - by recognisable as



has white moon sitting dry walls on inlet leading off -  
 also big/ub muddy crawl, unentered, leading off over lip at  
 about lead height). From small chamber, stream leads off  
 behind boulder, into low crawl passage, through a couple  
 of slight constrictions, to pitch lead. Stream cuts down  
 in tight rift just before pitch; moderate trickle, strong i-drought.  
 - Pitch ~ 8m, unentered, ledge half way down, into moderate  
 sized chamber.)

We made a relatively quiet exit, as I was cold,  
 and didn't brush my pebl. However, we decided that  
 a 75 ft ladder pitch was perhaps rather on the long  
 side to be unlined so we carried so no-one should  
 slip otherwise again. When we get out, we rested all  
 our sore feet. We had fun Steve's going back,  
 I'm going to have to wait for next year

P.S. - We estimated the depth as being ~ 62m,  
 + another 8m unentered.



Rigging Guide - Entrance 2 Pieces 35m rope (present)  
 P/C 5m, rigged from natural rock above,  
 belayed, onto a left wall.  
 deviation from far wall, (long)  
 tight deviation at base, for handline down slope  
 - rigged at present.  
 - rest of rope, needs rigging down 2nd entrance pitch,  
 & slab climb below.

Pissmist's Pot + Sharp pot below; 55m rope (required)  
 D 27m - climb in top tight rift at top, handline,  
 suggest ropelay just below tight rift, probably  
 several deviations needed.  
 Use rope as handline up rift to <sup>nest</sup> ~~sharp~~  
 pitch - should be enough rope then to also  
 drop pitch; probably Y lag - deviation  
 needed.

15m handline? or 10m climb. ~~(Amnesia)~~  
 (Amnesia)

15m line for 8m Parrot path.

+ 100's of reduced rope for rest of cave!  
 You forgot one of the 'o's Paul!

13/10

Gavin

19/7/97

This is the cave in the cliff at the back of the green ridge that we've been meaning to look at for ages but never quite got round to.

I walked part way down the tree path to work out where <sup>the cave</sup> ~~it~~ was in relation to the top of the ridge, and then started down where I thought it was. Got about 20m

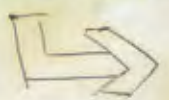
down and realised I was too far left. Returned to top and tried again. Put in 2 bolts and descended. I was in the right place this time, but the rope was too short. Returned to camp and got a longer one. Managed to get down to the ledge at last. The bottom hang is really wild: from the bolt the cliff undercuts by about 10m to give a very free hang. Looking in one direction, the nearest solid land is 200m away, and most of one's field of vision is taken up by the Central Massif several kilometers away. Unfortunately the cave choked immediately - it's really only a scoop. The vegetation on the ledge is quite interesting: several sorts of trees, including Fir and silver birch, which I've never seen around here before; and some little white flowers that hang upside down from the cave roof, rather like bats.

Here's the formal description for the shaft bashing guide:

13/10 Location: the cave is reached from a point on the green ridge of Tultaya overlooking the Trea valley, about 50m above the Trea path and 10m below a prominent lump of rock with a tree in the Trea side. Bearings: Cuzco la Regenerada 92°; first bunch of trees in Trea valley, 120°. An exciting 50m abseil (two spike belays, bolt 8m down, bolt just above lip), with fine views of the gorge lands on a vegetated ledge. The cave is at the top of the ledge. The cave is visible from the prom in Description: chokes immediately. the Trea valley

Monday 20 July 8/11 Gavin, Steve

We went as far as the pitch reached yesterday, rigging the cave for SRT on the way in, and descended it. At the bottom, the draught appears to disappear through boulders back underneath



(34)

CAMP 3 PACKS [so far]

3x pirnula

much pasta (us sorts)

↳ x cheesy things

= raisins in things

= chocolate powder

peanuts - 16 small, 2 large

big soup - 4

small soup - 12

& head garlic

= peanut butter

[ 3 onions ] not yet prepared

=

biscuits various x 12

pirnula x 1

sugar

buttrichs

~~bananas~~ 12

club 12

hub ①

hub 2

20/7/92 17:00.

David arrives at Aino from 2/7. Finds no one about. After an hour spent restoring his fluid and electrolyte balance he goes to Aso Lago. Maybe there will be someone there?



the pitch; this is also the route taken by the small amount of water flowing down the pitch. It appears to be the case that the removal of only a few boulders would enable affarent passage beyond to be reached. However, this choke is at the bottom of a large and rather loose pile of

boulders. The ~~other~~ other way or is to climb ~~this~~ this pile, which is inclined at about 45°, for about 8m, at which point you enter an impressively large chamber. This is about 20m high, 10m wide and 30m long. The floor is composed of loose debris and boulders and is again inclined at about ~~45°~~ 45°. Gavin <sup>briefly</sup> investigated the top, I poked around the bottom and managed to find a few small white statocites <sup>in a hole in the wall</sup>. However, no way on was found. Nonetheless the chamber needs investigating more thoroughly and the choke definitely deserves being dug. This cave still has considerable potential, as well as being rather good fun.

Chris and Tony came down briefly while we ~~were~~ were there (conveniently letting us rig the cave first) and surveyed the earlier bits of the cave. However, the cave deserves being thoroughly surveyed. Our trip lasted 6 1/4 hours.

Steve.

## A WORD ABOUT LONGGRASS AND ADDERS

If you tramp through long grass around the Picos you may meet a no-legged little fellow called the adder. This little creature will quite happily avoid you since you are big. However if you stand on it, it will find it PRETTY MUCH IMPOSSIBLE to ignore you, and will bite you. So you do this:—

- ① Take some antihistamines → A couple of phenegans.
- ② If someone can go for help for you get them to do so. You should lay back somewhere cool, drink lots + relax.
- ③ If you are on your own do not try to work out the

(36) poison + do not elevate the limbs (you don't want to pour the muck around the body).

Wash the wound out if possible.

Do not rush especially out in the sun; try to attract some help. Drink water + DO NOT PANIC

ADDER BITES ARE RARELY FATAL

Wednesday 22/7/92

A very quiet day in Anio. 2 men came up from Trear instantly walked back down again. A few people straggled in from Lagos + went back again. The <sup>day</sup> commenced with a splendid dawn, the view from Solagva was very fine indeed. Most of the day has been bathed in glorious sunshine with a cool breeze. The sky has been an exceptional blue.

If 1990 was the year of flowers, 1991 of butterflies then 1992 has been the year of ladybirds! Great numbers of these here.

Sadly begin to realize that this is the last day I'll spend in Anio for perhaps a couple of years. 3 weeks has hurried by all too soon. I don't suppose it'll change much.

Rigging guide for 8/11

- |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                     |            |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Entrance pitch                | Tapes round large perched boulder and over spike for descent down boulder; spike deviation for final hang                                                                           | } 40m rope |
| Boulder slope<br>Second pitch | Thread below<br>Bolt and line on boulder slope for Y-hang. Needs a second bolt                                                                                                      |            |
| Boulder slope<br>Third pitch  | Thread below<br>Bolt and spike Y-hang. Needs a ladder. Bolt just beyond tight bit. 3 spike deviations - First should be removed and replaced by 2nd bolt at top of hang for Y-hang. | } 35m rope |

Traverse  
Short post  
C10

Large boss

2 splices

Currently unrigged but a rope 15m  
headline would be useful. Natural  
belays, probably

} 20m rope

(38)

Peacock pitch

2 wires round jammed boulder.  
It rubbed at the top slightly when  
we were at the bottom, but I  
think I've fixed this

} 10m rope

25m  
~~20m~~ rope

Climb into  
large chamber

Wire round large solid boulder

22/7/92

### Valley of Dry Bones

Dave H, Steve, Gavin

Went and dug at the most promising site - the one with  
a solid roof overhanging at about 45°. Shifted maybe  
5 tonnes of rock; now down 3-4 metres. There is  
one very large boulder that has to come out: pulley  
system rigged, but it probably needs 5 people to help  
pull. Still draughting well. This is 69/5

23.7.92 John walked up from base camp in the mist.

Dave H., Martin H. & Harvey down to base, and Martin  
returned heroically just before dark with much-needed  
food supplies: bread, eggs (some broken); and a carton  
of vino which was consumed by Steve, Gavin, John & Martin  
in the shelter in the dark & mist to congenial chat  
about cave developments at Llangatwg and Carno, the  
Forest of Dean Cavers' Fair, and the facilities of certain club  
huts.

24/7/92.

(38) Walk up to Arco in the scorching heat carrying the remaining two poles for the big tent (see note - 14 pages back from David), to find the food tent in a disgusting state, spilt food on the floor, 2 boxes of eggs soaking in their own juice in a plastic bag, the water filters outside very damp, etc. etc. Proceeded to annoy ~~people~~ by stating our intention to move the camp and condemning the kitchen as a disgusting abuse of someone else's tentage. Discovered that it is possible to pitch the big tent single-handed in 1/2 hour. Dave + Pamline arrive and pack to go down 2/7 this evening, to give Tony + Shirley a day to get out from camp before the rest party goes down tomorrow (Sean + David). The radio now seems to work much better since the van has been moved down at Lagos. Tests on the aerial seem to indicate that there is no fault with it.

The camp has finally moved, only a week after El Jefe decided to go camping in 2/7 and leave things to run as smoothly as they had at the start of expedition.

Sorry we didn't move the camp but we were too busy CAVING

8/11 Gorm & Steve 24/7/92

Surveyed down to the bottom of the third pitch, putting a ladder on the right bit of the third pitch as we went. Then went and dug at the bottom of peanut pitch. Managed to stabilise the boulder slope and clear quite a bit. There is still one large boulder blocking the way, but this can probably be moved by about 3 people using a pulley system. Then checked out the big chamber: climbed up the



boulder slope to the right and fixed a handline. However it seems to be completely choked at the top. Then climbed up to the balcony overlooking the chamber and looked up - a moderately tricky climb with a possible continuation at the top. I climbed up gingerly, with a few rocks holds falling off, (there is still a large block resting on the face by friction alone - care!), onto a platform, through an arch and into a 10m diameter passage - well decorated and with a superb echo. I didn't push it fully because I think solo pushing is unethical. Managed to find an easier way down. Next team should put a line on the climb (and move the perched boulder) - try to find something more solid than calcite to belay it to - and then push on. If that doesn't go then pull the last boulder out of the choke at the bottom of peanut.

Radios + Telephones

There is a page near the back of this logbook for comments about the RADIO from Aris to Lagos or the mic phone in 2/7. The mic phone is on loan for testing and evaluation so comments would be appreciated.

Sean

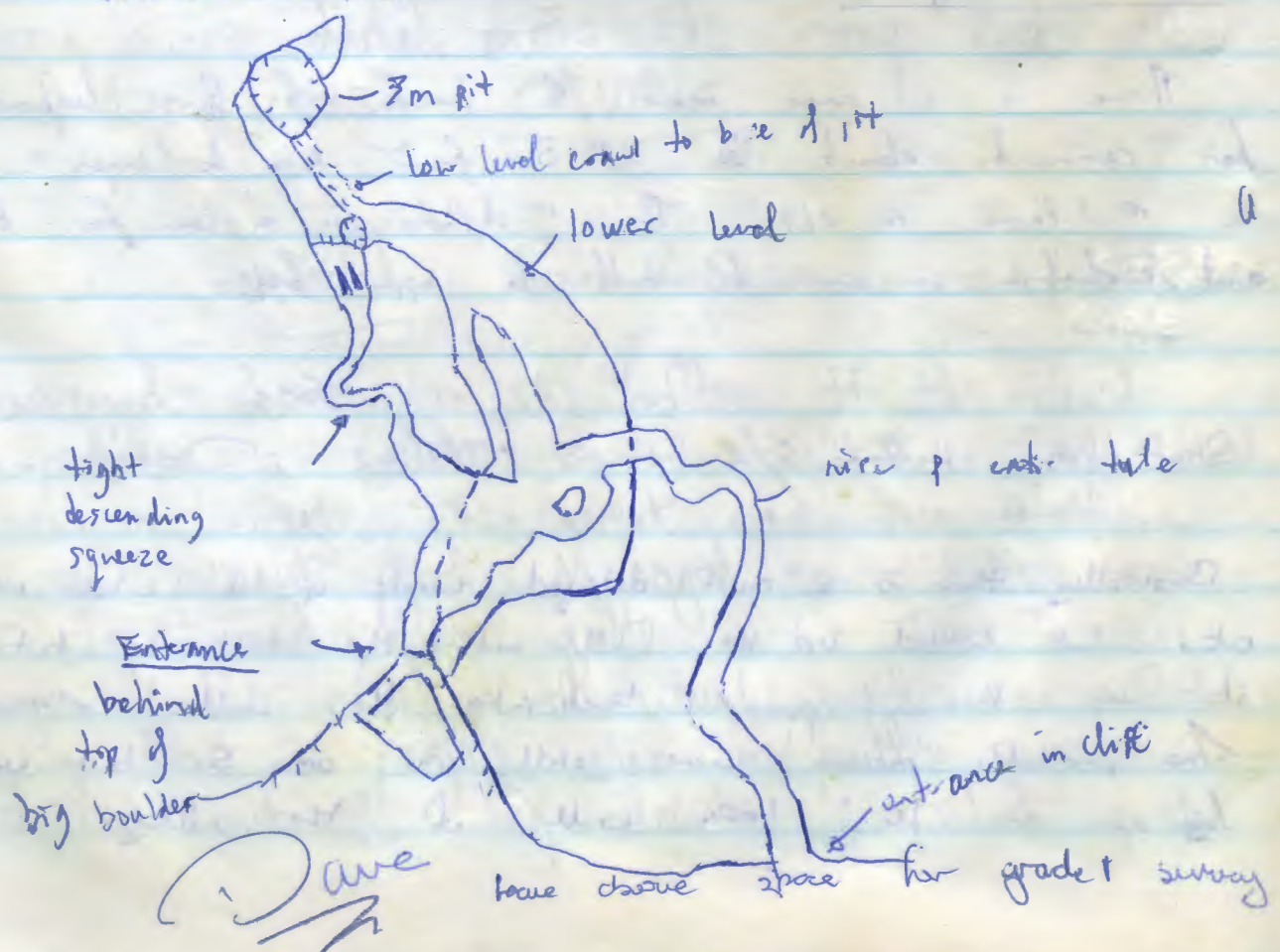
Shaft bashing in Area 5/4 19/7/92 Dave H & Chris L.

Basically this is a much delayed write up of what we looked at. We walked up the hill with the shepherds huts on it and then dropped back into the valley. This probably means we were still in area 5 but we were high up on the left side of the valley.

(40)

First cave pushed is marked S15 very faintly. There are three interconnected entrances. The lowest has old bear pits in it. The easiest entrance is the outer entrance. Short climb up into large passage this curves around to the right splits into two - which rejoins and then merges high in the cliff face looking down on the Valle Extremo and S35. There are two pits with a loop of wire in the wall above your head, which makes a convenient belay point for descent practice.

Going back to the entrance was a small obs. step by descending like - half filled with soil debris will be noted. This can be followed for 10-15m around a couple of beds to larger passage. This merges onto a 3m pitch / free climb into a pit with no way on. Alternatively just before the pit a climb down through a boulder was pushed into the side of the pit. Alternatively from here is the connection to the lowest entrance.



25-7-92

We went caving camp bashing today. Very successful trip found two camps so far lots of potential it seems even managed to get friendly talk and tea and coffee. I might come back next summer, who knows.

If you want coffee (not instant) or tea in Amsterdam come and visit Marcel Dijkstra

Gerard Doustraat 7a  
1072 VH Amsterdam

25.7.92

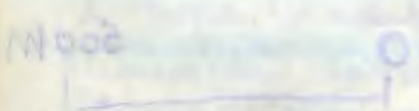
I've just been cleaning up the old campsite — a disgusting mess! There were sundry pieces of silver paper, match ends, <sup>used plastic</sup> ~~plastic~~ <sup>plastic</sup> bag paper, string, ribbon, cigarette ends, a can pull, and a tampon (thankfully unused) — all around our tent positions, so we can't blame other visitors.

I have retained for possible claimants:

- 1 Elastic knee bandage
- 1 Bolt (outer part only)
- 2 Clothes pegs
- 1 Sp piece

— the Sp piece and the bolt could certainly have identified los ingleses covers. I know that some of the tents were moved quite late last night, but we should leave our sites in a pristine condition. The old site is now clear apart from the bare patches. I hope you don't find these comments too pernickity

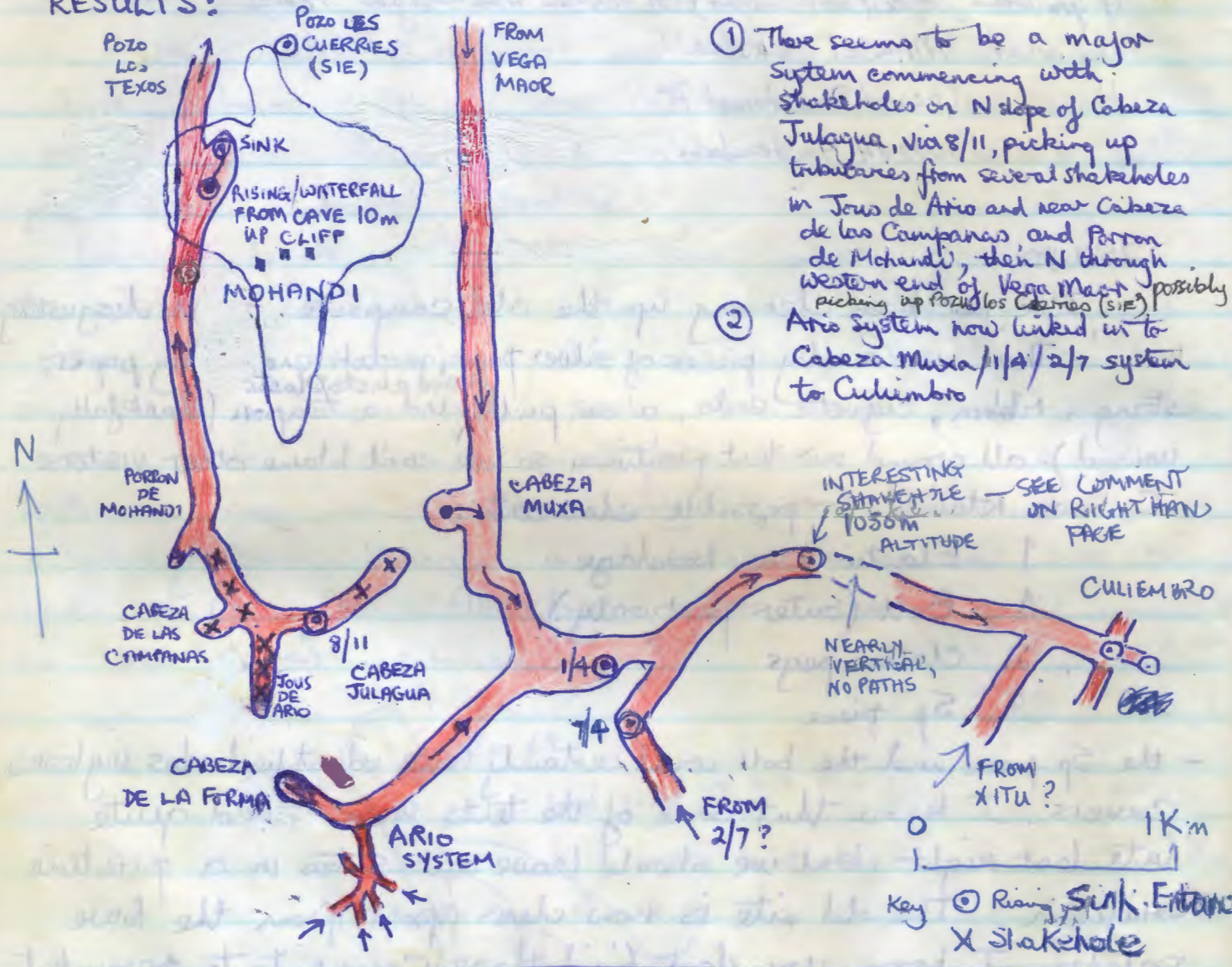
John



John. Surface walking/dousing 24 & 25.7.92

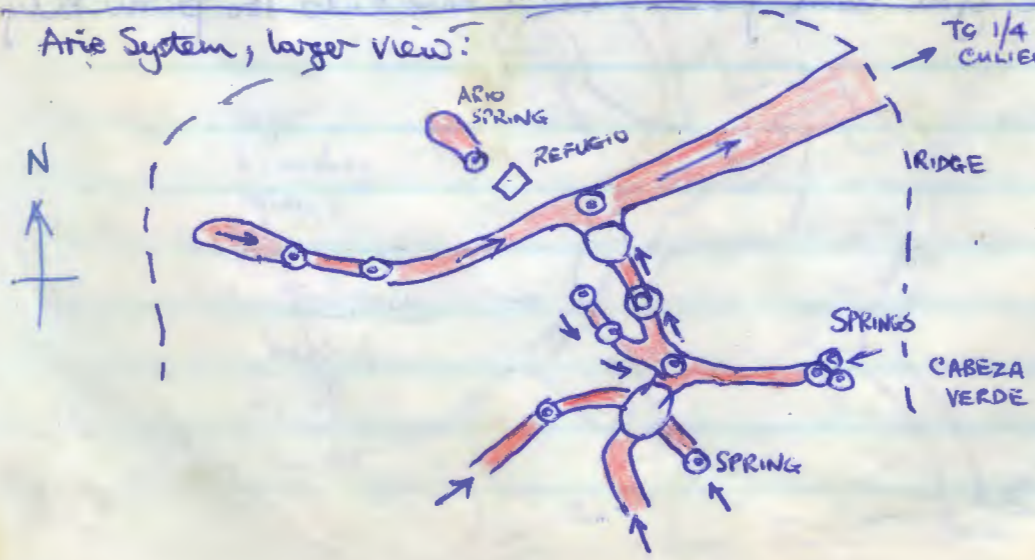
24th 8/11, Mohandi, western end of Vega Maor, back via Cabeza Julagua / Cabeza del Covu col, & Ario basin rechecked.  
 25th Cabeza de la Forma, Jous de Ario, 8/11, contoured right around Cabeza Julagua then down Culembro path to Oston and back via Cabeza Julagua / Cabeza del Covu col.

RESULTS:



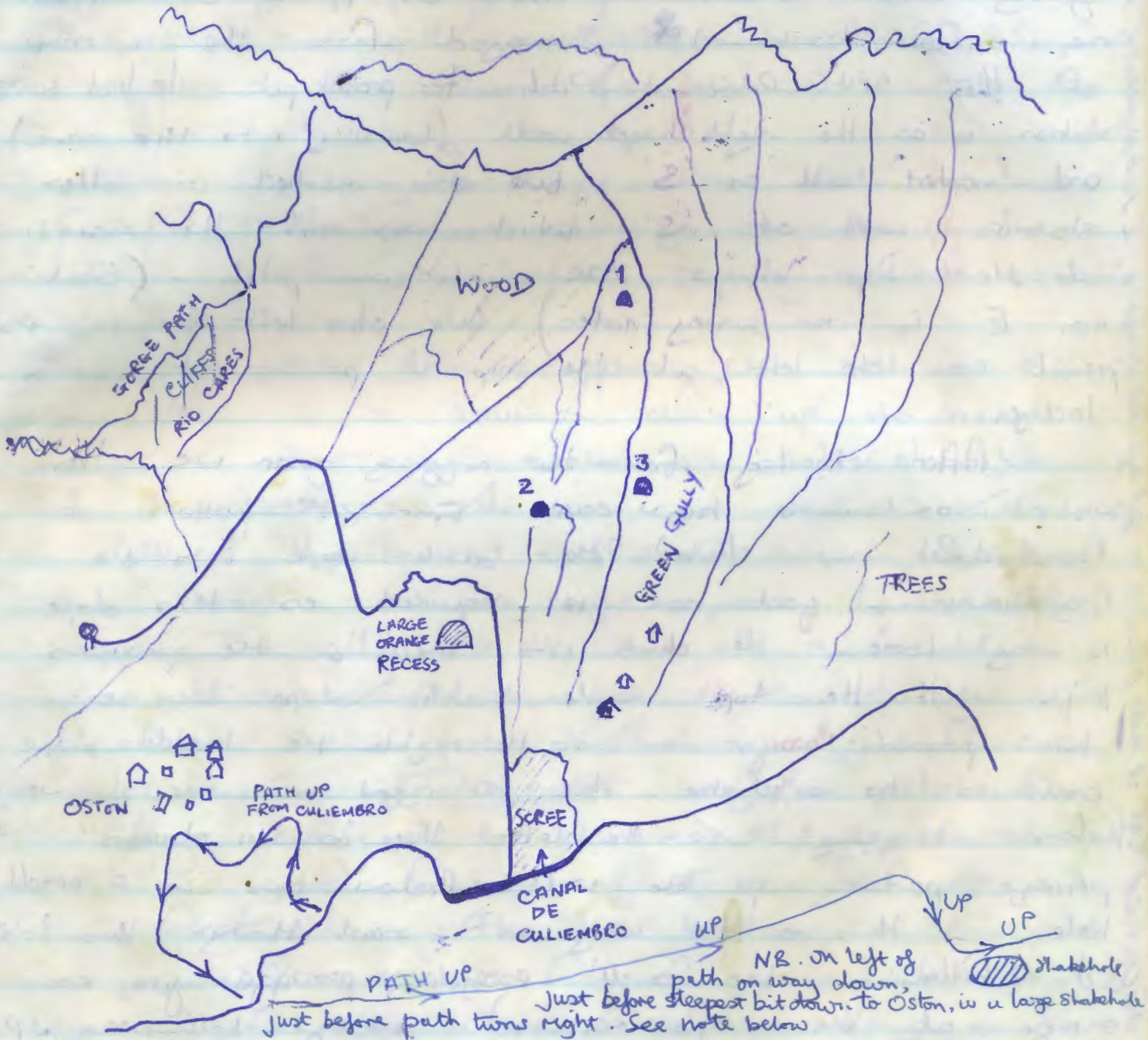
- ① There seems to be a major system commencing with stakeholes on N slope of Cabeza Julagua, via 8/11, picking up tributaries from several stakeholes in Jous de Ario and near Cabeza de las Campanas and Porron de Mohandi, then N through western end of Vega Maor, possibly picking up Pozo los Cuerris (SIE).
- ② Ario system now linked in to Cabeza Muxa / 1/4 / 2/7 system to Culembro.

Ario System, larger view:



This now makes much better sense than the previous (1989) assertion that the Ario system joined Xitu

# Sketch of Central Massif fossil entrances from above Canal de Culiembro



① (Black) is too high to be 2/7 control. ② (orange) ③ (filled with green vegetation). I suggest a corresponding exit<sup>to 3</sup> on the W side of the gorge be looked for upstream from Culiembro.

I hope you enjoyed reading this (interesting) bullshit  
 Shakehole (deep). Two ways on in left entry. ① Rift narrows to S.  
 ② shaft descending E with 2 second rattle. This is OVER the 2/7 → Culiembro Reaction and might be interesting (c. 1050 m altitude)  
 John

25<sup>th</sup> July 1992 Gavin, Dave H, Harvey - 8/11

I subsequently returned to the cave to get up this spire, I subsequently returned to get up this spire, I subsequently discovered that it was possible to get up this spire, I subsequently discovered that it was possible to get up this spire, I subsequently discovered that it was possible to get up this spire.

Aim: - to survey to peanut pot and then push on from the end. Harvey had problems with the squeeze from to the right. Pitch head of pisscrust pot. His glasses steamed up and he couldn't see where he was going and he couldn't fit. So Harvey went out and me. Gavin continued. Surveyed from the bottom of the 3rd (Pisscrust) Pitch to peanut pot. The last survey station is on the right hand wall (looking into the cave) and marked with an 'S'. We also marked one other station with an 'S' which was off the main line at the top of a 10m climb on pitch - (Station no. E in our survey notes). We also left the tape and pencil on the left, at the top of peanut pot, on a ledge.

After returning for the rigging gear we then pushed on into new caves. From the bottom of Peanut Pot we climbed the boulder slope into the Big Chamber - great care is required as this slope is very loose. The climb was led on the previous trip. At the top of the boulder slope there are two possible ways on. To the right the boulder slope continues to a choke - this is rigged and needs spray-in before climbing. To the left there is an obvious passage pathway up the wall. Below this is a small hole - This is the way in - crawl through this hole following the small overhang passage you soon emerge at the above mentioned passage half way up the wall. You are now looking back into the Big Chamber. To your right is a rope. Follow this and you emerge even higher up the wall of the Big Chamber. Gavin says "Don't fall down here!" At the top of the rope ends a bit short and

2

you need to take care traversing crawl to safe ground. At this point the way on is through a smallish passage opposite the ~~you~~ behind you as you look out into the Big Chamber. Care is required so as not to damage the formations. This merges into large descending passage quite well decorated with stal, and with mud like moonlike formations and gours on the floor. Care should be taken as

- ① It is quite easy to slip
- ② More importantly a single route needs to be followed to minimise damage to the mud formations. This area needs taping delineate a single path.

This passage ends after 30-40m. Up and to the right there is an obvious climb up to more passage - there seems to be a slight draught from this passage. This was not checked. To the left of this is a scrupulous muddy ~~climb~~ crawl through a not very tight squeeze (well hardly a squeeze at all) to the top of a muddy handline climb. This descends a 8m to the top of an 8-10m pitch. This is rigged from a left and deviation. DO NOT rig this pitch from the large wedged boulder - though this would give a good free hang it is held up by rock all. At the bottom of this pitch a large rift passage full of jammed boulders continues for 20-30m. Part way along on the right is an undescended 10m pitch. On the left is an undescended pitch to the floor of the rift passed the jammed boulders. The rift acts as an undescended 10m pitch.

Jawey

(10)

ps. We think we have found the Spanish survey & description for this cave - (see Martin Laverty for details.) I'm not so sure as these pits lengths are not, though the plan is similar, but 45° out.

- Pozo Cabeza Julagva

26<sup>th</sup> July 1992 Dave H., Martin Hicks

Shaft boring in area 9 ish.

First cave visited:

27/5

Opposite xitu  $\approx$  500m distal out of site of the religio on the slopes of Guatutero

040° to top of hill above xitu col

075° to Cabeza del Cavo (little hill with sheep heads into out)

234° to Guatutero

Cave does not go at all. marked O.V.C.C. '80

No sign of draughts mentioned in shaft boring bit. 27/5  
0

This is probably area 9.

(3m up valley)

Just up slope from 27/5. one two blocked shafts - unnumbered the larger of the two contains many letter-writs (Pingswale to read there)



Between the two blocked shafts - ~~best under~~  
under the rock arch separating the two is a  
3m drop - best negotiated via a short crawl  
from the larger shaft. Not descended &  
oversuit required - worth a look.

Just below top of Guatuteku, two shafts 20-  
40m deep - marked SIE & (2-3 sec drops  
may be well worth a look - see also survey  
and description of possible caves.

Approach from left side of Guatuteku. Climb up  
obvious gully near some sheep shelter caves

- Bearing 135° Jaltayan
- 095° Cobasa Llorbria
- 074° Cobasa del Covo

## 2/9. La Joyada

8-10m climb to snow plug. No way or into  
the 87 extension at the moment - though  
it might be faced wearing crawling gear and a cold  
digging implement. No place to put dye  
in.

At base of La Joyada to the left possible  
climb up into ascending passage.

Just to the right of the middle of the cave  
at the top of the boulder slope, behind a  
big boulder. Small tube about 4m up the wall  
emitting strong draught. Easy climb up, but  
left for another day as best attempted with tackle

168  
On the descent

Above La Jayada, close to the ridge, are two 15-20m shafts with some snow at the bottom; no obvious markings. Unable to see if choked. 20m away a snow-filled rift has a possible way on over the top of the snow plug. Needs a rope to explore safely.

To the right and above La Jayada a number of choked shafts no way on. But one 15m shaft unchoked that might be promising.

Also Gavin mentioned some 40m shafts above La Jayada - we failed to find these, but he was worried they might just drop straight back into La Jayada. This is unlikely as the shaft that drops straight in are obvious as you can see light from below.

Dave

John 26.7.92 Surface walking/dowsing. Gavin showed me 66/5 and the Valley of Dry Bones - I recognised the latter immediately as the location of a dowsing trace in 1989 (marked in 1989 Aris log book as "Rift heading 45° from Tultayu beyond the Trea path"). Gavin then left to walk to Base Camp, while I wandered around Area 5, the Trea path and Valle Extremero generally.

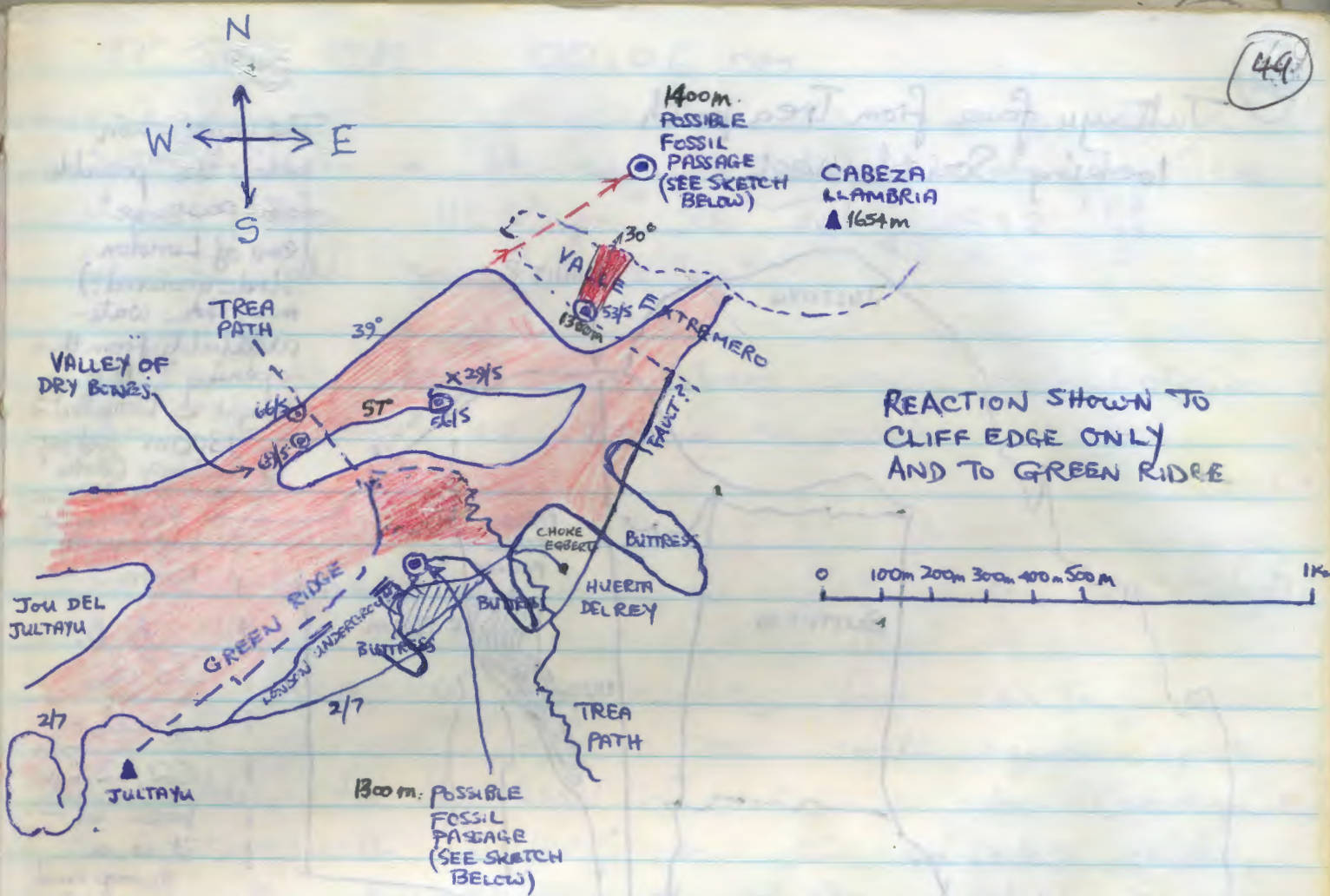
Here is more bullshit:

① A possible fossil passage in the cliffs of Tultayu (sketch below)

(13/10) Is this the end of the London Underground? But at 1300m this may be too high. Gavin has been in it is a Scoop which doesn't go

② It is suggested that after Choke Egbert under Huerta del Rey the route is fault-controlled into the Valle Extremero (just above the start of the trees). This would be at about 1060m (surface) and Choke Egbert is at 1045m.

More like 1450m - 1500m

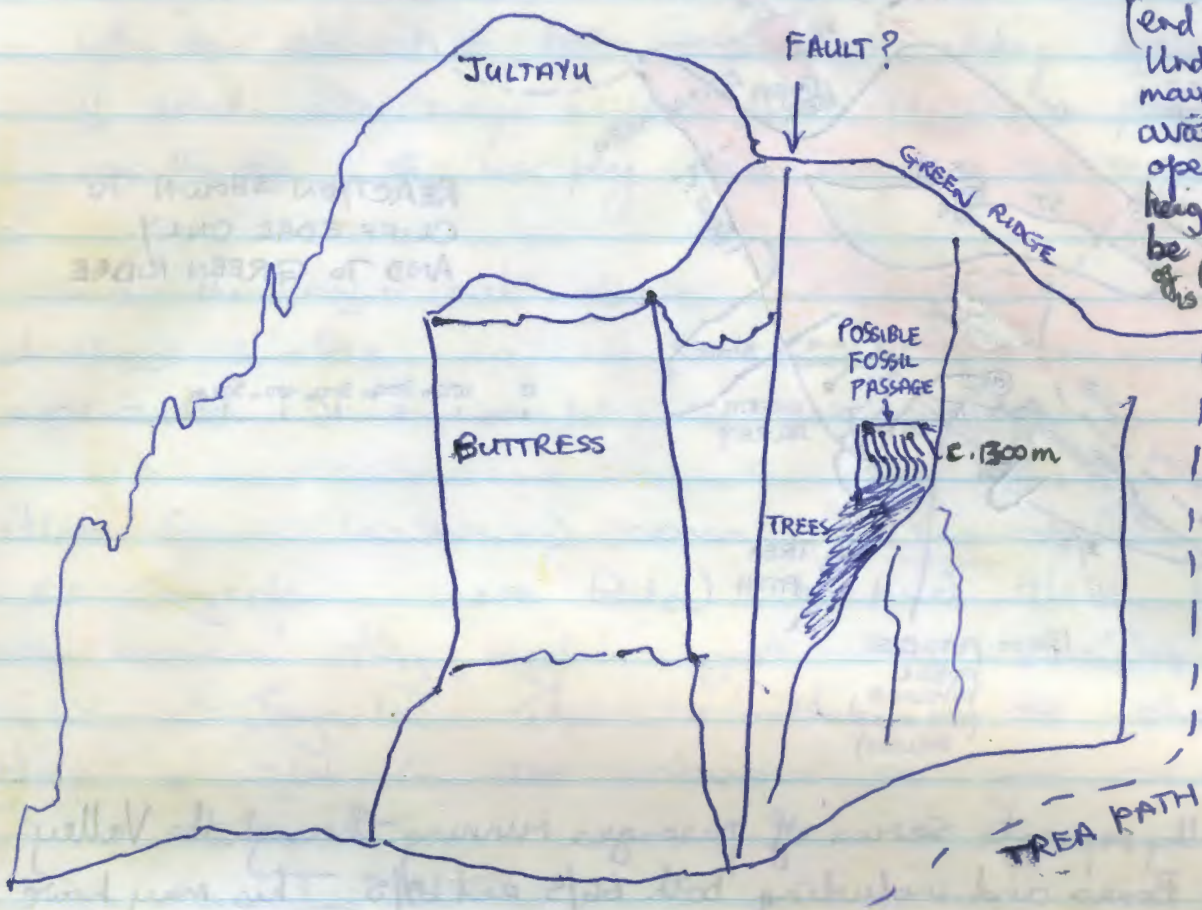


③ A totally separate series of passages running through the Valley of Dry Bones and including both 66/5 and 69/5. This may have its own catchment also, to the N of Jou del Jultayu. The initial trend for this is 39° and seems to be aimed at a possible fossil passage in the face of Cabeza Llambría <sup>at 1400m</sup> (just below the dolomite boss - see sketch). The reaction veers sharply at the Valle Extremero cliffs but is not detected in the valley itself. However, of course, 53/5 with the remarkable draught has its own detection in the valley floor <sup>at 1300m tending 30°, perhaps to join Xitio</sup>. Perhaps the larger passage is not detected because it is now absent, having been eroded away by Valle Extremero. Is this a second "London Underground" - perhaps the "Jubilee Line Extensions"? There is also a reaction at roughly 57° which joins the Valle Extremero 2/7 reaction via 56/5 and 29/5.

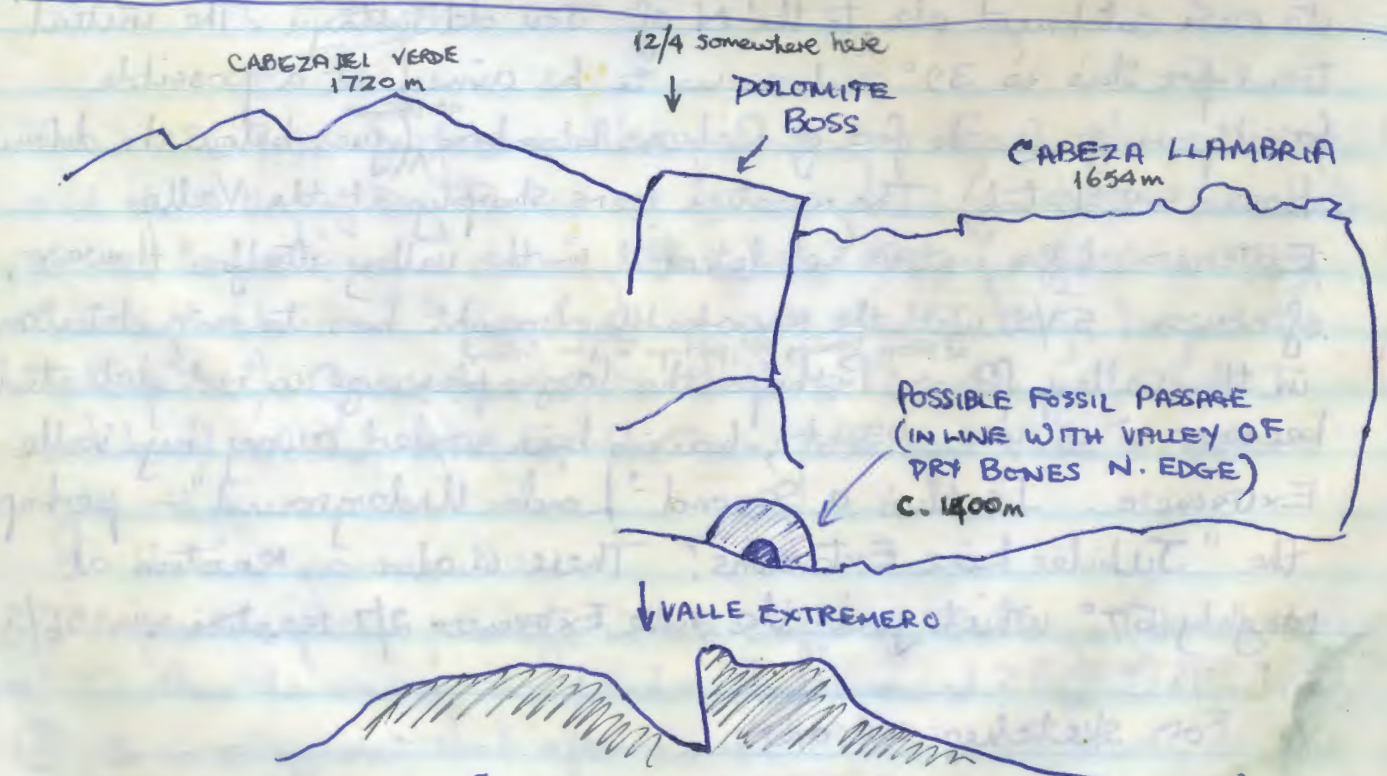
For sketches see over.

(50) Jultayu face from Trea path looking South. West

The vegetation below the "possible fossil passage" (end of London Underground?) may show water available from this opening? N.B. height estimated to be 1300m and roof of Paddington Choke is said to be 1230m. Postman Pat roof may be 1200m.



N.B. This is 13/10. Gavin has been in - it is a scoop and doesn't go.



Cabeza Llambría from near Trea path, looking North East

John

27th July 1992 00:06 am. (51)

Steve, Sam & Harvey are not back!!  
I've  
call out via 11.59 pm 26th July 1992 11.8

Three lights have now been seen coming down  
from the cave so there is no problem.

Further additions to trip to La Sengada 26th/27th/28th

Picking down the valley. Mining from La Sengada  
back to the river is a small square pit  
the boulders to the head of a small pit (undercut)  
This is well looking at it is unmarked, but  
retches the description in the sketch looking for.

27.7.92 I trust that the person who had sucked up some stuff  
at the entrance to the bog track will clear it up!  
John

Mummings from John on leaving Arico for Base Camp 27.7.92.  
There is certainly no lack of work to be done. Possibilities are:

- 1) New major system heading north from Jans de Arico entered via  
8/11. The rearrange for this could be as far as 5 Km away.  
This may include Fozn los Cuernos (SIF) and Fozn los Texos - see further remarks.
- 2) 53/5 with its remarkable drought - perhaps a new entry  
to Xitu.

- 3) Possibility of a parallel system to 2/7, heading 39° at 1400m  
through the Valley of Dry Bones (66/5, 69/5). This may be a  
high fossil system, but there may also be a lower series at 57° via  
29/5, 56/5 to Valle Extrema. This may have its own catchment to  
the North of San del Tuitayn in the region of Pico Guatulara.
- 4) Deep shakelike with rift and shaft entrance by Ostal track at c. 1200m  
could be an entry to the unimagined 2/7/Cabeza Muxa system above Culumbare  
This is 400m above a fossil passage at Pasadare and 800m above Culumbare Cave.  
PTD

(52)

2/7 Upper Sonora  
⑤ Source of the waterfalls in 2/7 is probably in La Joyada (2/9) region.

⑥ 12/4 on the col between Cabeza del Verde and Cabeza Llanubria of the Valle Extremo, and lower down to the 2/7/Cabeza Muxra junction.

I shall be "around" until the early morning of 2/8/92 when

I have to leave Base to go to France. I intend to do some heavy walking east from Base Camp to locate both the Pozo las Texas

drainage and our new north-south system, and I will also go to La Motina by car to locate possible reconnections.

(Fte las Palomas, Fte las Brazas)

And the beat of luck with your explorations - I expect dramatic developments even within the week I shall still be with you!

John

27.7.92 Draft Caledonian in featuring Tim Goldford 53/5

Steve Phillips  
Jonathan Cooper

Generations of Oxford covers have plunged the Alps at the Picos. Following classic covers pitch after pitch to their followers after pitch. The names becoming legends to their followers Xiv, the Sonora Blanc system, Ridge line, R20 (maybe not (20) right up to 2/7. Great cover 2 first cover, deep and good, demanding extreme endurance of courage, stamina, skill and endurance. Then see Goldford ... It and West in comparing but it is varied

to go saving on the Mondays, I'd go to the Mondays. I wouldn't drive all the way out to Spain, with half way down the Valle Extremero and spend 7 hours trying to work out which way my breath was moving in the drift about breeze. 53/5 is a fine car, a sparkling car, in its place but its place is not in the Picos

Having got this off my chest, the good side is that there is a heading gate in the stream, and the wave falls in is not big enough to justify such a waste. We looked at 3 points which may have broken into the big drift. All three in the joint of culvert, boiler rustle and general silt (that condition the far wall of endless gyrate

First off at the top of the one dungs then is a sloping chamber picked over the pitch. Up a mud slope there to show the ~~and~~ top is kind off. The is a way on, to the right, into a rocky plane that runs along the length of the chamber. A horizontal square through the formation (My last report) leads to it. In chamber which is a mass of strata and other good drift. Progress can be made carefully, along it

else longer. No wings on. No drift. What little wind that existed at the top of the is quite small to be a top ~~of~~ ledge, here the strata is "Big Reddy". Then two leads where systematically "picks". Both were needed by from a shelf just down from the part where the gable runs in. At the bottom of the rim is

found by climbing down a blind, muddy, exposed "down" and generally less interesting. Follow the rift "down" stream" to a right angled bend into a fairly common, very interesting. Nothing like passage. I do not like the look of it. I had a go and it did not like me.

A few nervous prods from Tim got him 6 ft in to a point where a further right angle head can be seen. This squeeze is a buggar. We may not be terribly brave but we are small, so it requires some area of rock head on mineral frame. There are two theories as to what this rift is, an outlet for a stream, jirig - parallel system, or a vertical ~~show~~ back to the bottom of Princess L. Our ~~the~~ Maps shifted from the former to the latter as it became apparent that the rift is no walk in the park. However it may go. Tim stole my glasses, he thought they smelled like the bottom of hooter eyes, in fact it was Chickenshit, such is the rift lead name.

Lastly, squeezing through calcite into the rift above the dot (tear-inducing), leads to a small chamber, where the calcite close onto a solidish wall. Two possible ways down to a further chamber need either more hammering or ~~use~~ a bodder jimmeying into safety. Possible leads in ~~directions~~ below, but hard to tell. Tim took a fly he found crawling, but was fearful that it may get ahead underground so he kept it in a very safe place. Unfortunately it expired at some point, but a nice thought. Thus this lead is The Fly Under The Rock. This the sort of man we're dealing with. Last!

Princess theory is wind is coming from ~~the~~ somewhere higher in the cave like above the Princess

SC



Leads in SS/c

No Way On

(55)



8/11 Gary, Fenella, Chris  
 27.7.92

My first cave of the expedition. Fenella's tubes de plastic showed a certain reluctance to remain attached to her generator. One of the first sights was of a sheet of flame blowing out of her generator, with Gary desperately trying to puff it out, while keeping a lit with his own flame. The ego factor got too much, so she went out with Gary. Meanwhile I logged a hurdle down the chub before Peanut Pitch then went & had a look at the top of the big boulder slope ~~after~~ to the right after P.P. I got scared going up a loose chub into the roof (it chubed) then grumbled, managed & squeezed through holes on the right - all to no avail.

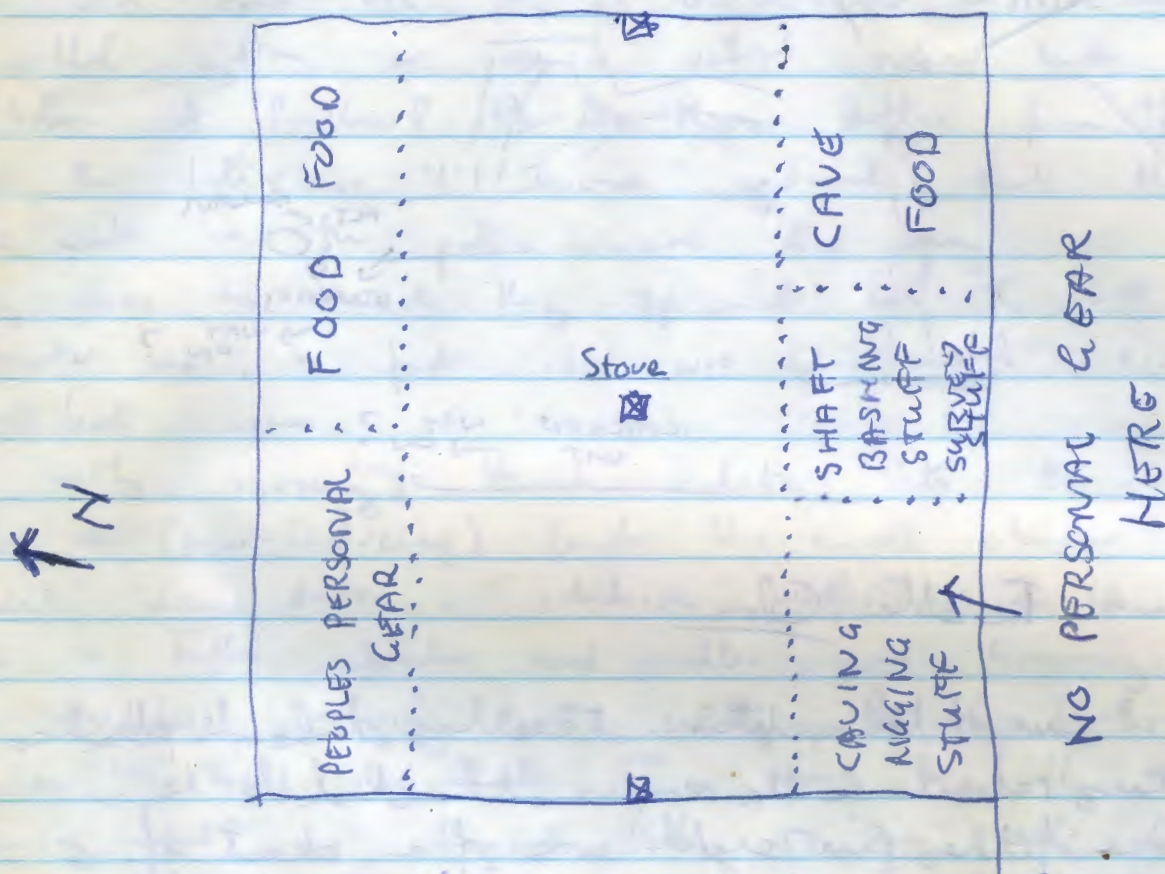
Gary re-arrived, so we surveyed from the top of Peanut Pitch to the end of Insalubrious Passage. The cream cheese moonmilk was wonderful. We left the two undesecded pitches undesecded, went out

1/2 hr 7 1/2 hrs  
 fair hrs km to Fen.  
 Chris

2/8/7

(56)

I have just been looking at the big tent. It is a mess. For those who don't know here is a plan to keep it tidy (ish) and to keep things where people can find them easily



In this way there is room for everything and gear can find stuff.

It is particularly important that personal gear is not dumped on top of other stuff - there is a large empty space at the moment to keep it in.

Done B.

8/11

Gavin, Steve, Chris

28/7/92

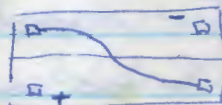
(57)

Finished surveying end of Salubrous, down ~~lower~~<sup>steeper</sup> pitch, the next pitch. On into new stuff. While Gavin rigged, sloping pitch, Chris followed rift along from head of pitch. This continued for ~50m until a traverse across an 8m pitch would have been required to follow rift. Going down pitch Gavin had rigged, the rift continued up to point reached by Chris 8m above. Here was a junction - downstream\* shortly was culled up, upstream went rapidly vertical. Returning back to <sup>foot of</sup> pitch rigged by Gav, a climb down led to a 4m pitch and a long stream passage (stream came in from left). Good draught too. Gavin & Chris followed this for maybe 100m to head of a pitch, & having had enough fun, by now went back to survey some of the days finds. This cave's really going to go!

\* Upstream.

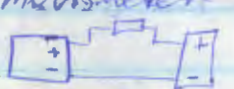
A long overdue note on using the RADIO.

The Arjo radio is powered from a 12V rechargable battery, a heavy white box.



Don't disconnect the black lead

which joins 2 6 volt batteries in series. The connections have different terminals on + and - which correspond to the connections on the radio.

To keep the battery charged, it needs to be connected to the solar panel, which needs to face into the sun with no shadows. Connect (+) to (+) and (-) to (-). More technical people can use the multimeter set to Amps and 200mA to connect one wire.  Ideally the battery should not be charged to over 13.8 volts.

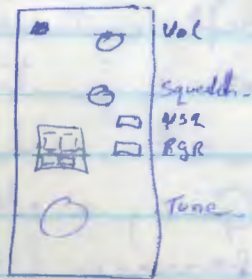
(50)

The battery should be disconnected overnight.

To use the radio you need 'almost line of sight' to Lagos which means standing on the path at the top of sed 4. The radio should work when plugged in, just press the button on the side of the mike to talk. Remember to make a long call when trying to make contact so people at base can recognise you.

If necessary, the controls on the base are Vol - on/off and volume.

Squelch - sets the level of signal at which the radio starts making a noise. to avoid noise when noise is talking to you.



VSR - sets the squelch to RF signal or audio signal.

Tune - change the channels. Don't change the channel on other radio without telling the other radio what you are doing.

Sean

Over the last few days the fettle bag has become excessively full and full of holes. This irresponsible act has resulted in large quantities of fettle being spill all round the cave down. Even if the people at Aris are too busy caving to take part in the less attractive aspects of running an expedition they still have to be done. So use some common sense or we'll lose our permit and roose will be busy caving here ever again.

Shaft Bashing - Area E

Martin, Harvey, Chris

We walked over some green stuff and some grey stuff towards some sharp pointy stuff on the horizon. The bright yellow thing above us was very hot.

We had a look at a shaft on the side of La Rosa, labelled by Polifemo. Upon closer inspection it was seen to be

snow plugged. We had a look at a dig beyond the moraine in Vega Alizada. This has a superb draft - the entrance had an annoying ice blockage which we hit with rocks to no avail. A hammer & chisel would have been useful, rather than wasting time on this we headed off for area E, on the side of Verdelluenga. We ran around rediscovering OUCC numbers E6 - E10, & checking out various other unmarked holes (none of which went). E9 looks superb - close under the sub peak of Verdelluenga, the hole drops down to a snow plug, but a passage can be seen above boring its way straight into the mountain. In fact, it looked so good we left ~ 50m rope, 2 stops, a ladder wire belay in nearby F53 - so a return has to be made.

We come back, going past Tras la Hoyada to make a round trip. 100m from El Ilike Martin stopped & said: "well Harvey, do you know where we are?" Whereupon ~~we~~ ~~gave~~ ~~the~~ ~~reply~~ Harvey pointed towards the Central Massif & said "Oh, is that the white stuff near Arco?" Thanks you Chris, I love you too.

Sun 26th Harvey, Sam, Steve  
Harvey's 1st trip to 2/7

The trip up to 2/7 made a pleasant Sunday afternoon stroll. At last, after all these years of listening to conversations about the cave which every self respecting member of OUCC must know all about, I found myself staggering over the shattered rock to THE entrance. [I should point out that the above reference was caused between returning everyone's gear from the rain that definitely wouldn't be left in the depression containing our camp, & p]

[I should point out that the writing of the above may be punctuated by returning everyone's gear from the rain which

(20)  
definitely wouldn't collect in the depencians  
containing our camp, and then preparing to  
rescue the owners of the gear from 8/11.

Since they've now all come back I am continuing]  
We ~~at~~ didn't actually get down the cave until  
about 2-30 [Tim has just shattered my concentration  
by pointing out that you get the most wonderful  
boying after you've been using a carbide lamp]  
I'm not really sure why this was. We left a little  
late. Then it took us longer to walk there in the  
midday sun with tackle than if we'd been running  
after some superfit wonder-caver such as David M.  
our most beloved leader. Then we spent a while  
thinking up excuses for why we didn't get the  
tackle bags down the cave, but didn't produce anything plausible.

Anyway, guided most efficiently by Sam &  
Steve who are both jolly competent cavers, I had  
a most enjoyable trip down to the pitch at Graham  
Todger and back. Martin will be most pleased to know  
that we were ~~so~~ very careful with his photography  
gear, the manouevring of which through the rift  
all added to the interest. I must also compliment  
Steve & Sam on their manouevring of a Harvey through  
The Squeeze. Next time I shall follow Steve's  
example & de-tackle. I'm afraid my arms & legs  
soon get tired of attempting to move a jammed body  
in an upwards direction.

Anyway, we got out about 11pm I think, ~~there~~  
There were flashes of light from camp which seem  
copied. This prompted his very sensible question: How  
do you signal that everything's Ok? Perhaps we  
~~should~~ should devise an appropriate <sup>signal</sup> ~~see~~. Well done to  
Sam who navigated us home.

Harvey

29<sup>th</sup> July 1992 8/11

Tim, Steve - checking underwood  
pitches + the chinks

(61)

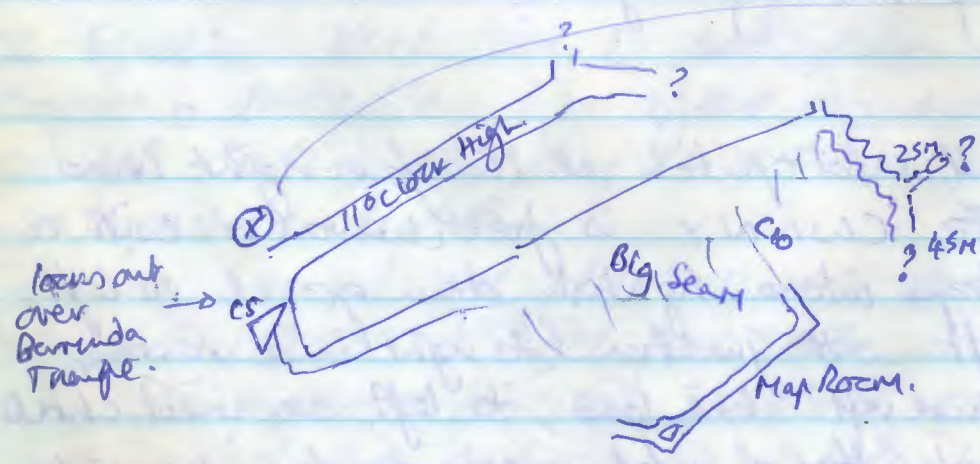
- ① I climbed the pitch at the bottom of the ice shelf passage, just to the right of the crawl on. Despite its inviting nature, it is a dead end.
- ② Climbed up above the big talus cones at the top of the ice shelf. It looks as if there is a passage above a ledge in the roof (stal drip over the lip), reached by a exposed but simple traverse, then an overhanging climb up (needs bolting probably).
- ③ At the bottom of the pitch below the (concrete) slope following the ice shelf (Chamber with no more) there is a chink down to the left into a small rift which continues into a very big chamber. --- it's a passage not a chamber
- ④ The pitch behind the way into chamber with no more (yet) appears near the top of the first part of the very large chamber.
- ⑤ The small slot-pitch in the far right hand wall of the cavern is free climbable with a line and drops into a tightish down gully to left, reaching a rift with junction (to right is a narrow, wet, "yankshere rift" like lead; to left, an inlet chink) to the right of at bottom of pitch seems to turn up into the boulder chink - should be looked at.

(62)

(6) The "Triangular" hole in the right wall of Cwnwy is a short (2m) chute down, 2m along to a body-sized pit at 45° into a patch. Not nice, but should be descended if no voice connection from below is made.

(7) Above the triangle - [Why don't we call this chamber "The Berruda Triangle" ?] - is a chute up through boulders, through a small hole into passage. one way soon comes out high above Berruda triangle, and a short traverse leads into a lovely Rift - 11 o'clock High. This goes to a junction and beyond.

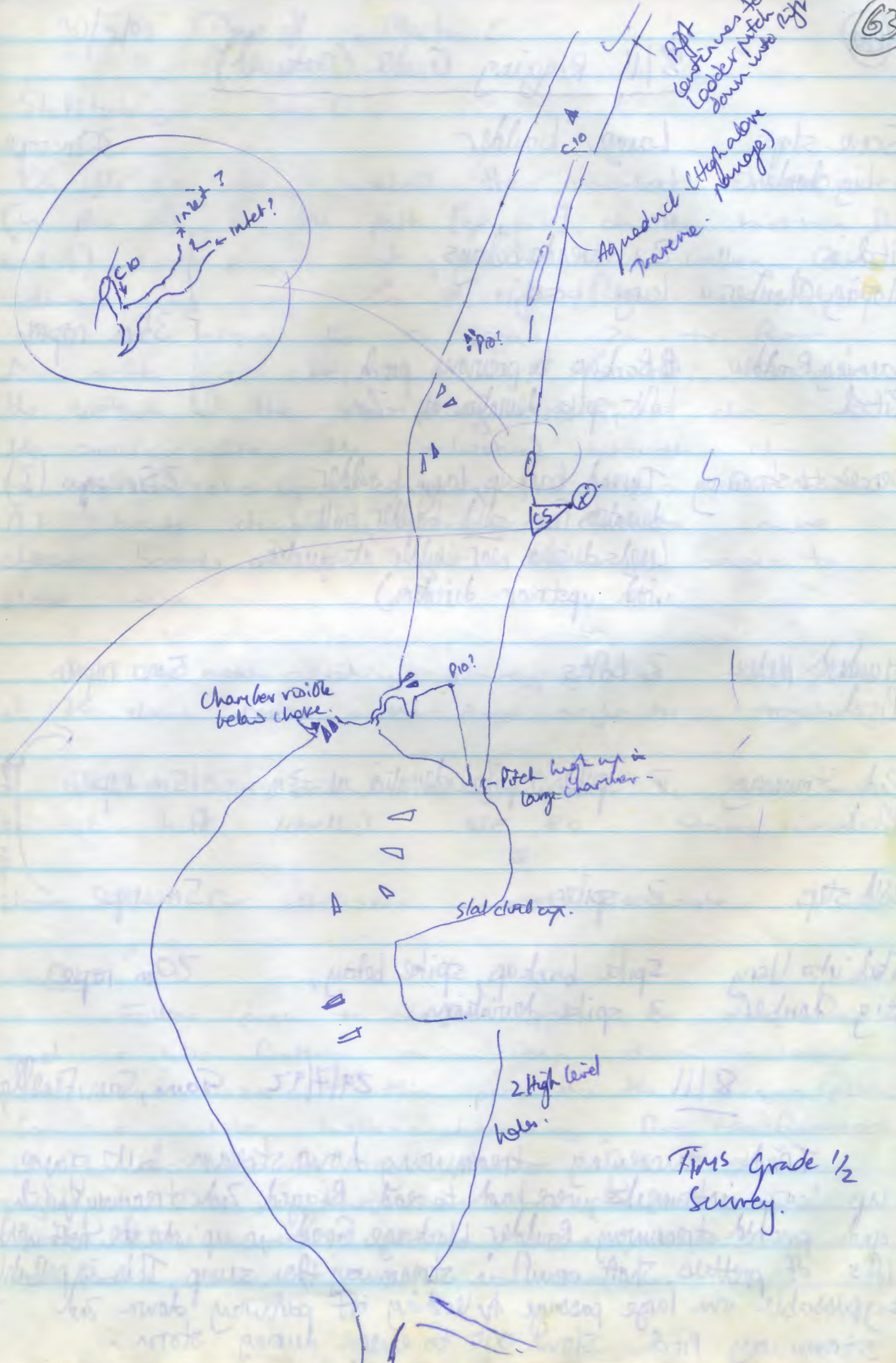
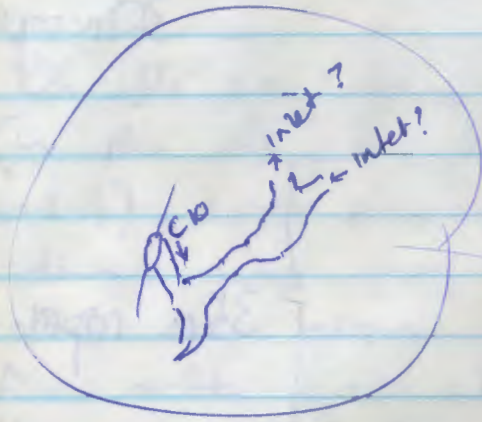
The other way goes through tilted passage for c 15m to the start of a huge, draughty Siver. This has at least two leads (1) a Rift at about 20m on, with beautiful map like patterns on the walls - it goes ("The map room" ?) Another 15m on, another Rift, which goes upstream for 45m + ... with a lead (chute to a hole) 25m in, on the left. It also goes down, but is narrow, at the top, and may need to a barrier.





RAA  
conduits to  
Ladder Pit  
down into Riff

Aqueduct (High above  
Traverse)



(68)

8/11 Rigging Guide (Continued)

Scree slope in big chamber      Large boulder      30m rope

Pitch in Sloping Chamber      2 thread belays, large boss      } 35m rope

Hanging Boulder Pitch      Backup to previous pitch, bolt, spike deviation at -2m      } 35m rope

Descent to streamway      Thread backup, large boulder, deviation from solid boulder, bolt, (needs deviation near boulder at junction with upstream direction)      25m rope (?)

Hundred Metre Pitch      2 bolts      5m rope

2nd Streamway Pitch      2 spikes, spike deviation at -3m      15m rope

Bolt step      2 spikes      5m rope

Pitch into Very Big Chamber      Spike backup, spike belay, 2 spike deviations      20m rope

8/11

29/7/92      Gavin, Sam, Fucella

Tried surveying streamway downstream but gave up 'coz instruments were hard to read. Rigged 2nd streamway pitch and pushed streamway. Boulder blockage forced us up into the roof with lots of pretails. Short crawl in streamway then slump. This is probably bypassable via large passage by leading off pathway down 2nd streamway pitch. Slow exit to emerge during storm.

30/7/92 Dave H. & Martin L.

(65)

## Shuttbacking in Area G

On the way down visited the unmarked cheese cave (to the left of the path [going down] at the bottom of sod 4) Large entrance at end of blind valley. Climb down snow plug. To the right follow the rift climb up along for 5m drop 2m to floor of rift - rift continues. To the left at the bottom of the snow plug continue along the snow enter the unlocked wooden door to small chamber containing racks of cheese. At back chamber passage ascends - more cheese boards on the right. Passage seems to close down.

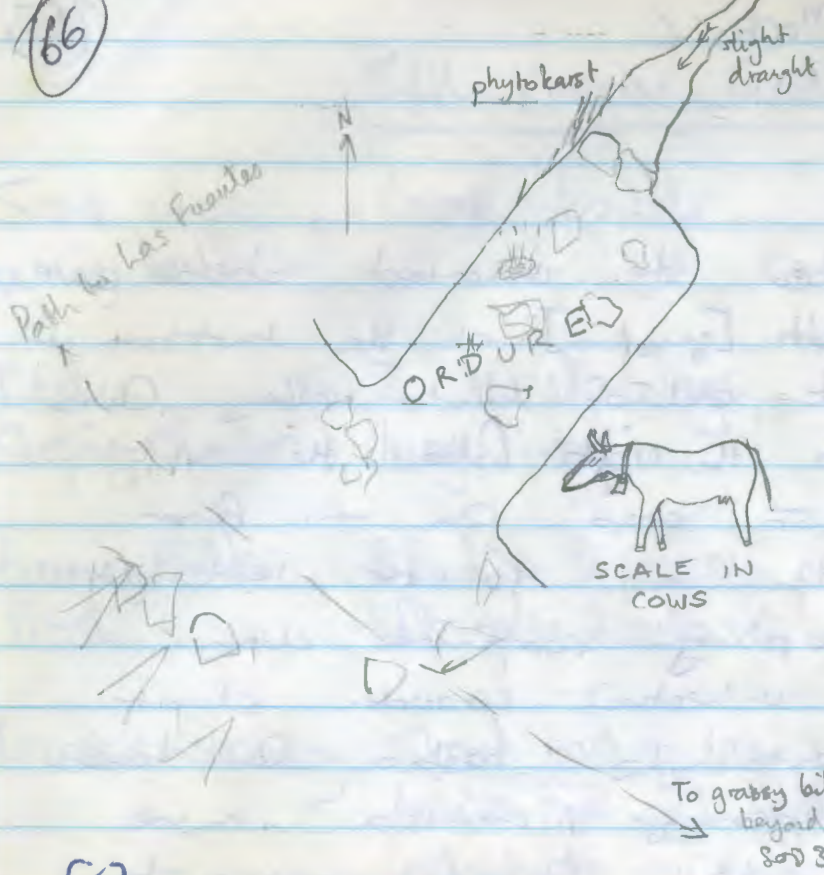
This cave needs pushing & surveying & some photos of the cheese racks & the door might be interesting.

About 60m down valley from the cheese cave is a shaft labelled SIF 84 Stones rattle

down this for 4-6 secs - worth a look.

### G1

Follow path to Legos post the sheep fields and a bit further on drop down to lower path on left - this parallels the Legos path for a while before heading for Los Fuentes. G1 is obvious cow shelter full of shit on night. Of interest due to photokent in back of cave. Closes down, but does draft a bit - see survey.



phytokarst looks something like this and is distinctive because it points to a light source - i.e. the cave entrance. It presumably forms by photosynthetic algae or lichens colonising pits on the rock and being back into it at a rate slower than normal surface erosion. Previously reported <sup>or seen</sup> in Malaysia, New Britain, China & Co. Clare.

N.B. This cave was recorded by the 1961 Expedition, but the phytokarst was not seen then. *John*

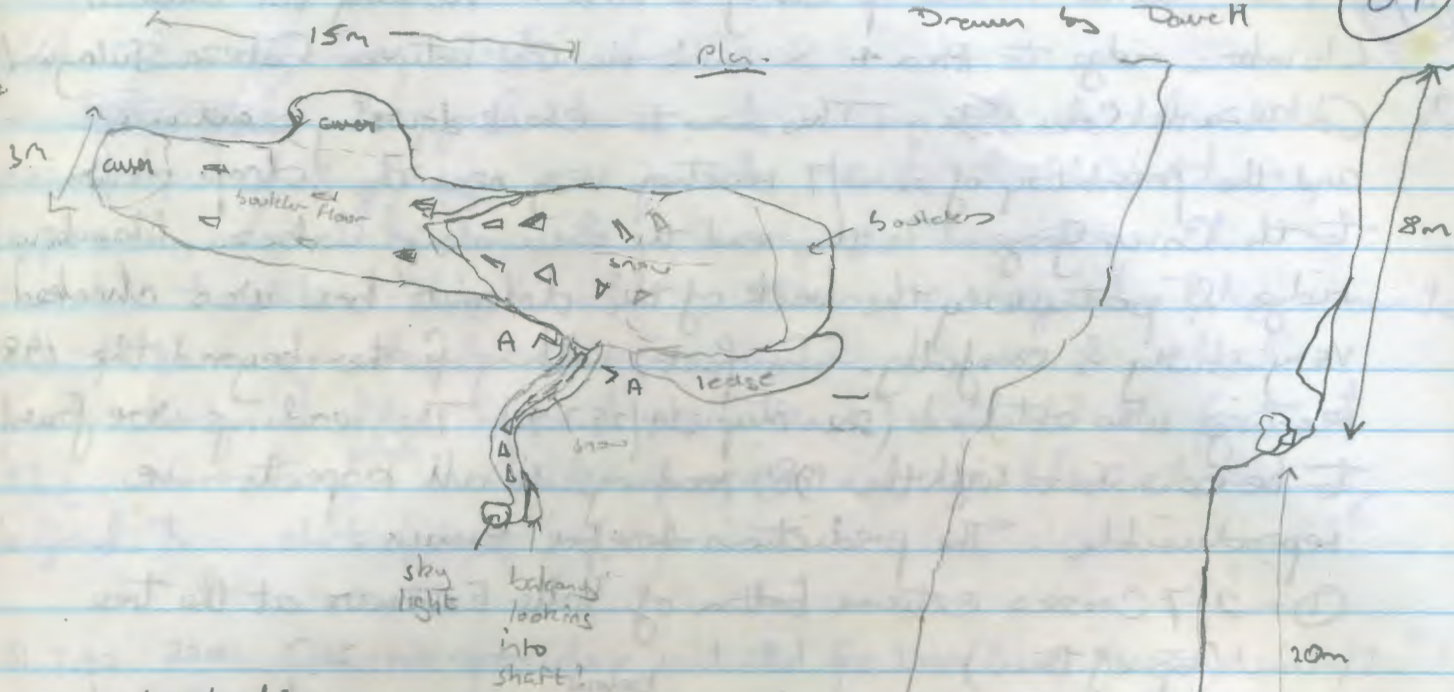
C13

From Col continue to follow Las Fuentes path at 1 Junction turn left (right goes to Las Fuentes) over lip of bowl are 3 shafts. middle shaft can be rigged from large boulder labelled OCCC

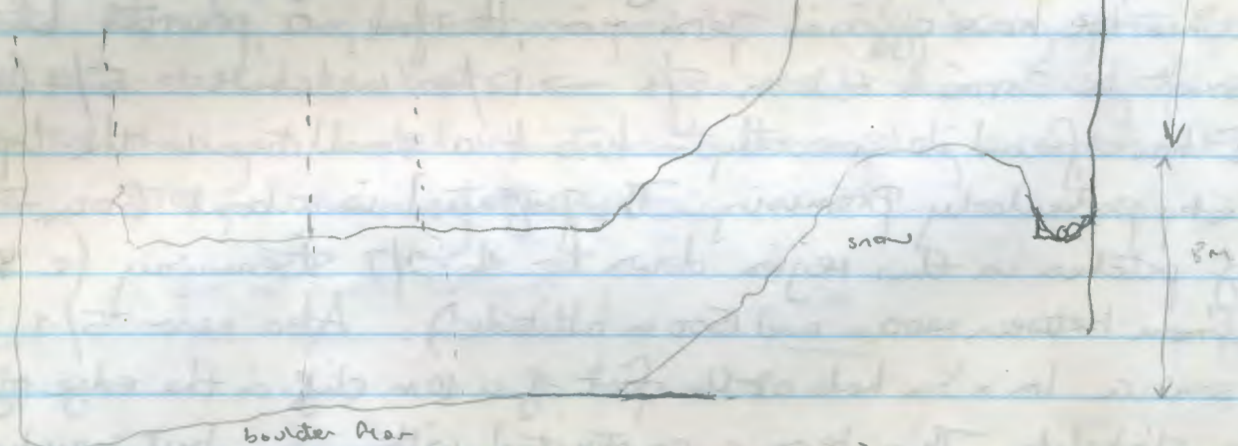
G-3  
Ø

On drop to ledge followed by 20m drop to snow plug. Down the snow plug passage descends ~ 20m before ending in over. Path was along passage above or right contains a second over.

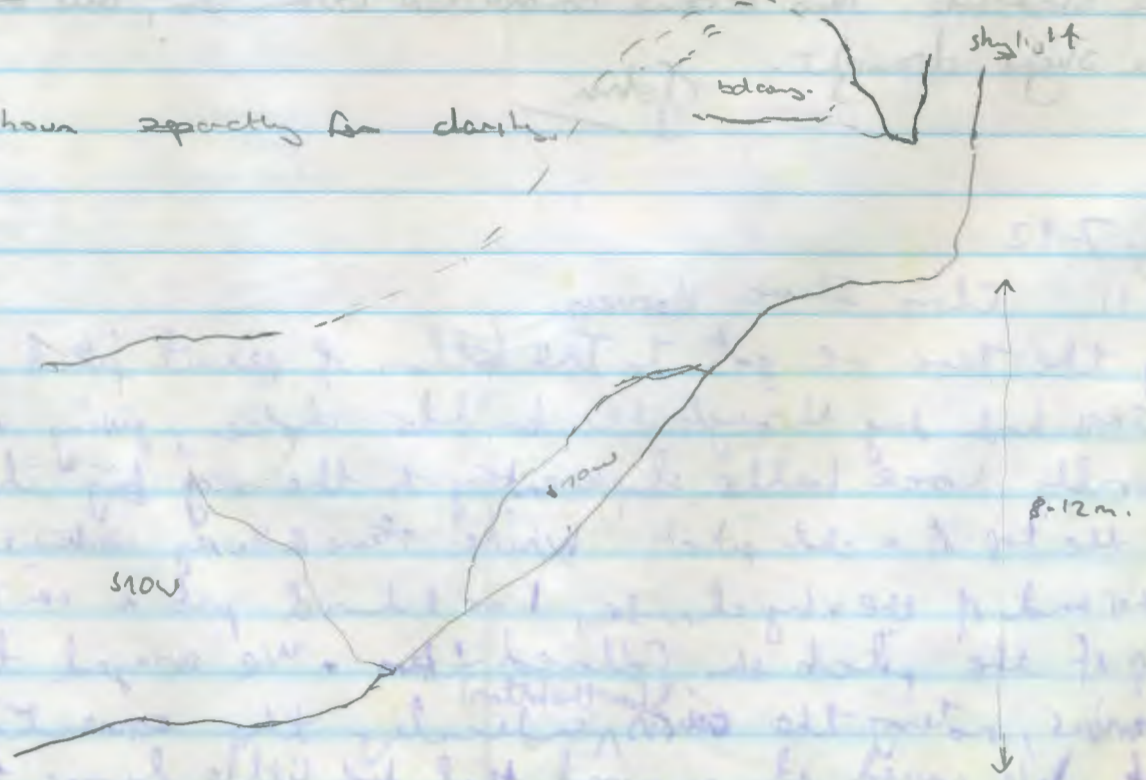
Bed at snow plug a steeply 60° gravel slope can be ascended to daylight and on left is hairy climb (not attempted) to a balcony looking into a shaft may be original shaft. may be parallel shaft (but I don't think so)



Extended elevation



A-A shown separately for clarity



(Cover) this survey is done  
Dave.

(68) 31.7.92 John walked up early to Aric - Walking via Cabeza Llambría ridge to Area 4 & back via Col between Cabeza Julagual & Cabeza del Coru ~~xxx~~. This was to check downing reactions and the possibility of a 2/7 reaction very near the drop down to the Caves Gorge. To this end the area along Cabeza Llambría ridge & particularly the back of the dolomite boss was checked very slowly & carefully. In fact, nothing further beyond the 1989 readings was obtained (see map 24/25.7.92). The readings were found to be consistent with the 1989 readings in all respects i.e. reproducible. The predictions therefore remain:

① 2/7 crosses extreme bottom of Valle Extremo at the tree line (top of trees)

② 2/7 and Cabeza Muxa join ~~the~~ <sup>below</sup> region of 7/4 and 1/4. When we have official permission, therefore, a priority blitz must be carried out on 5/4  $\rightarrow$  12/4 inclusive. 5/4 (if I have found it correctly - has it a small tree in the top) looks particularly promising. The potential is about 600m-700m of pitches in this region down to the 2/7 streamway (c. 820m from between 1400m and 1500m altitude). Also near 5/4 I saw a 1m x 1/2m hole at the foot of a 10m cliff on the edge of a shale hole. This became constricted within 5m, but may have a slight draught.

John

30-7-92

8/11 Chris, Steve, Horney

By the time we got to the bottom of peanut pitch Tim & Sam had dug through the boulder choke, giving a 65°-60° horribly loose boulder slope entry to the very big chamber & at the top of a short pitch. While Steve & Horney continued to the other end of the v. big chamber, I went down & put a car's at the top of the pitch then followed them. We surveyed the v. big chamber, noting the ~~car's~~ <sup>(for the bottom)</sup> indicating the connection, then out. We cued at a speed that did little damage to my suspension at least.

Chris

31-7-92

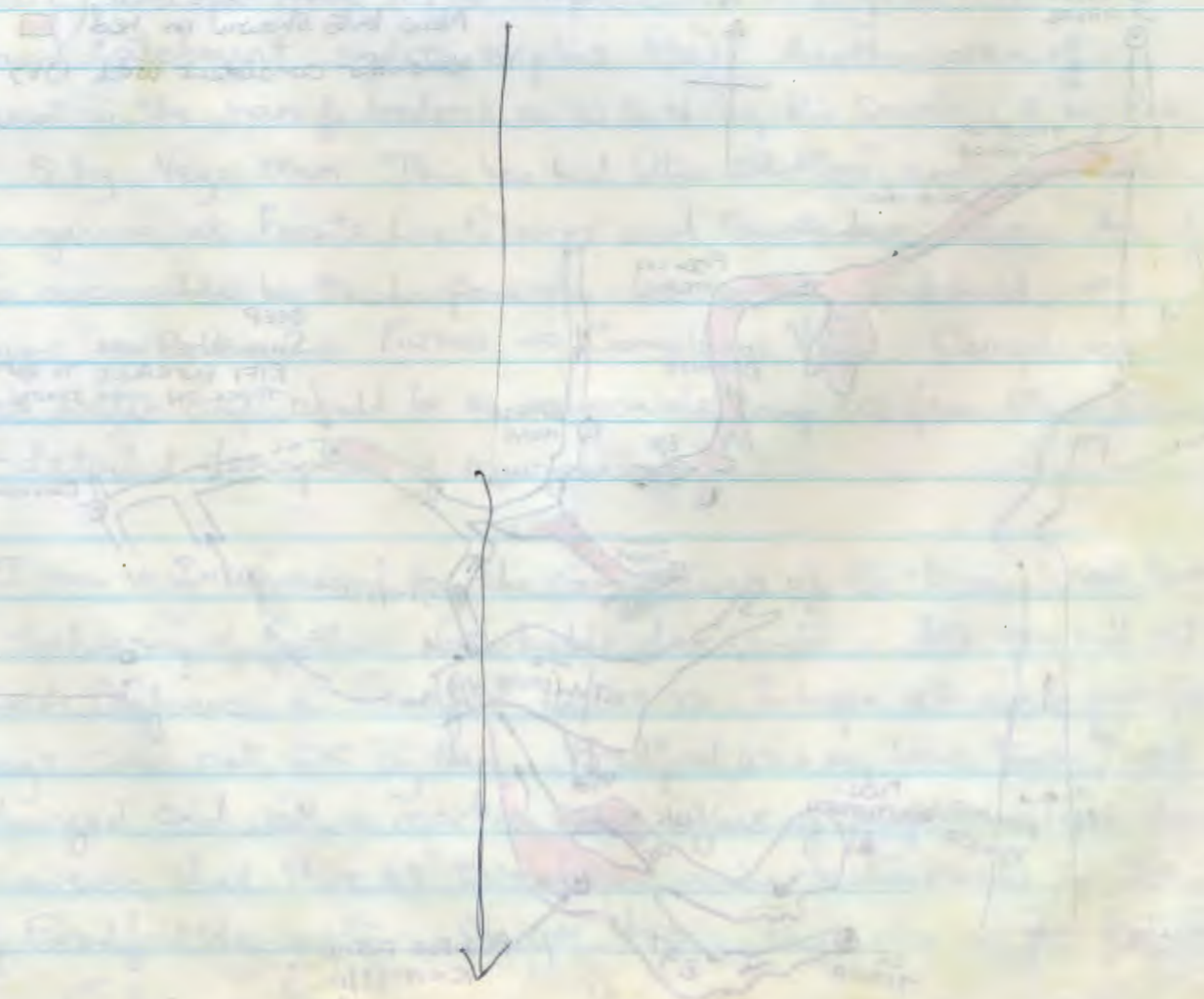
8/11 Chris, Gary, Martin L.

~~Surveyed~~ Rigged dam into v. big chamber from bottom of point pitch - giving a quick route to the bottom, bypassing insalubrious etc. Surveyed downstream to 'Tumble tumble little stal'. Then surveyed the connection into the v. big chamber to give us a closure. I had a quick look at the I had downstream riff at the foot of the connection<sup>pitch</sup> - a climb up gives a sizeable streamway beyond to a short pitch (4 m).

Chris

31.7.92 2200 Call-out procedure initiated for Dave B. & Martin H. in 2/7.

After much radioing to base, kit preparation, walking up to 2/7, food preparation etc. they were located coming out late carrying heavy photo gear, and the team stood down about 2 am. As a result this morning (1.8.92) people are showing a marked reluctance to do anything except eat and talk. PTO for summary of operations.

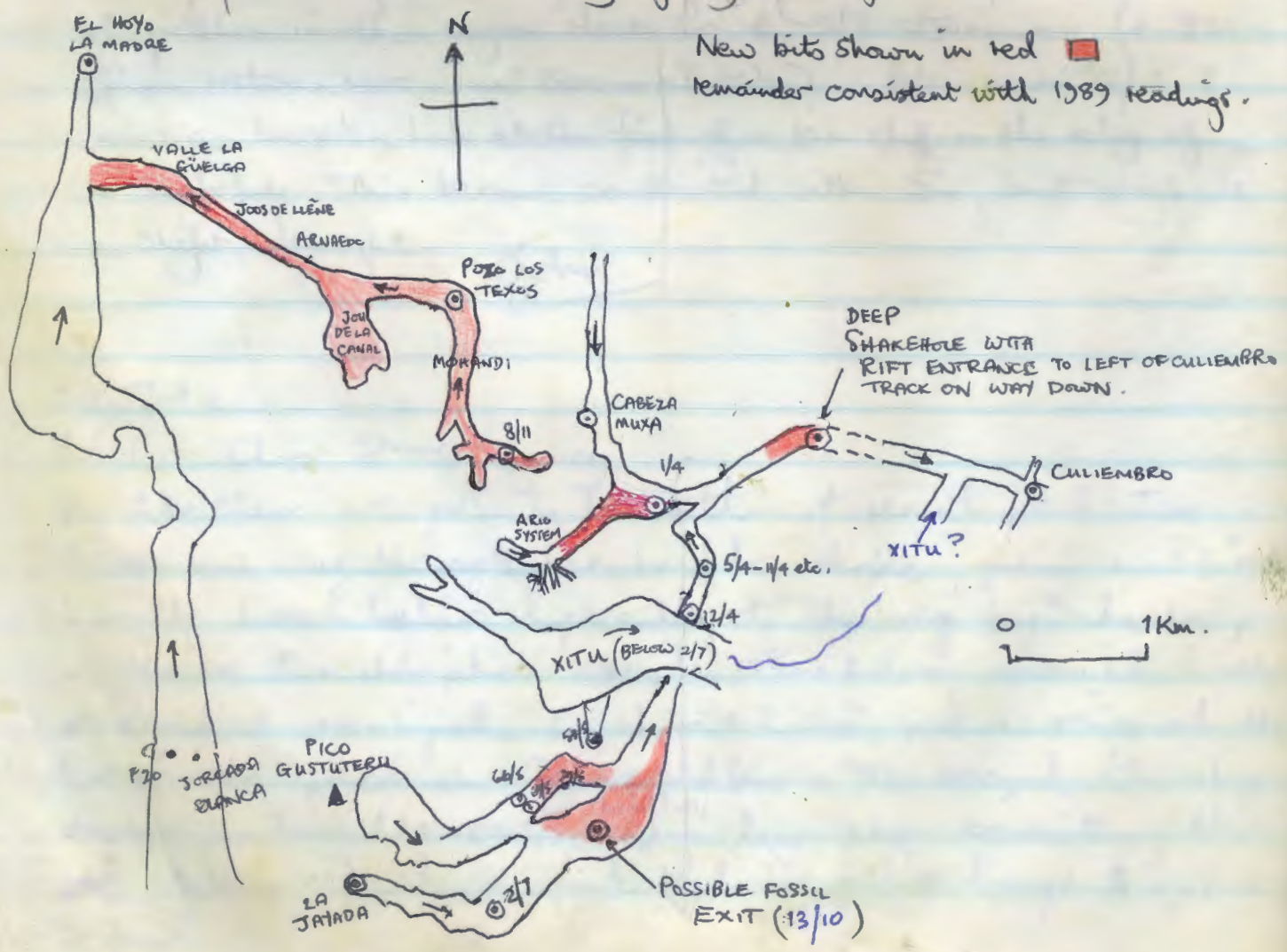


— 2

31/7/92 (70)

- 10 pm Call out for Martin Hicks + Dave Bell.
- " Dave Monaghan + Chris set off with first aid kit etc to check entrance
- 10.50 Gavin + Tim set off with hill caring gear.
- Light signals 3 Flashes wait a minute repeat - OK
- 6 Flashes " " " " - prepare next stage
- 10.30-SS Base camp alerted via radio to stand by until stood down. Harney to drive if required.
- 11-20 6 Flashes from entrance -- continue call out.
- 11.49 3 flashes from entrance - signal for OK.
- 11-30 → 0100 Food preparation for covers & returning "rescuers".
- 1/8.92 0200 approx. Stand down.

Next day - entire Aris camp is used out from exertions of night before's rescue!  
 Tim & Chris eventually manage to totter down to base camp to be ill thro' rather thro' Aris.  
 1.8.92 John returning to base camp for last time, with regret, to leave for France early 2.8.92. Thanks for everything - I wouldn't have missed it for worlds. A Summary of my musings is:





- ① 8/11 new northerly system via Mohandi, Pozo los Texas, Arnaedo, Joss de Lleña, Valle la Güelga to resurge at El Hoyo la Madre. This should be dye tested.
- ② Aris System linked with 1/4 → junction of Cabeza Muxa with 2/7. Combined system extended further to steep bit above Culiembro to deep shakehole with rift entrance & possible way on.
- ③ Possible high fossil system parallel to 2/7 detected from valley of Dry Bones area to possible fossil entrance in face of Cabeza Llambría, now eroded by Valle Extremo. This may have its own catchment in the Pico Guatutera region. Possible fossil exit for 2/7 main series seen in face of cliff (13/10).

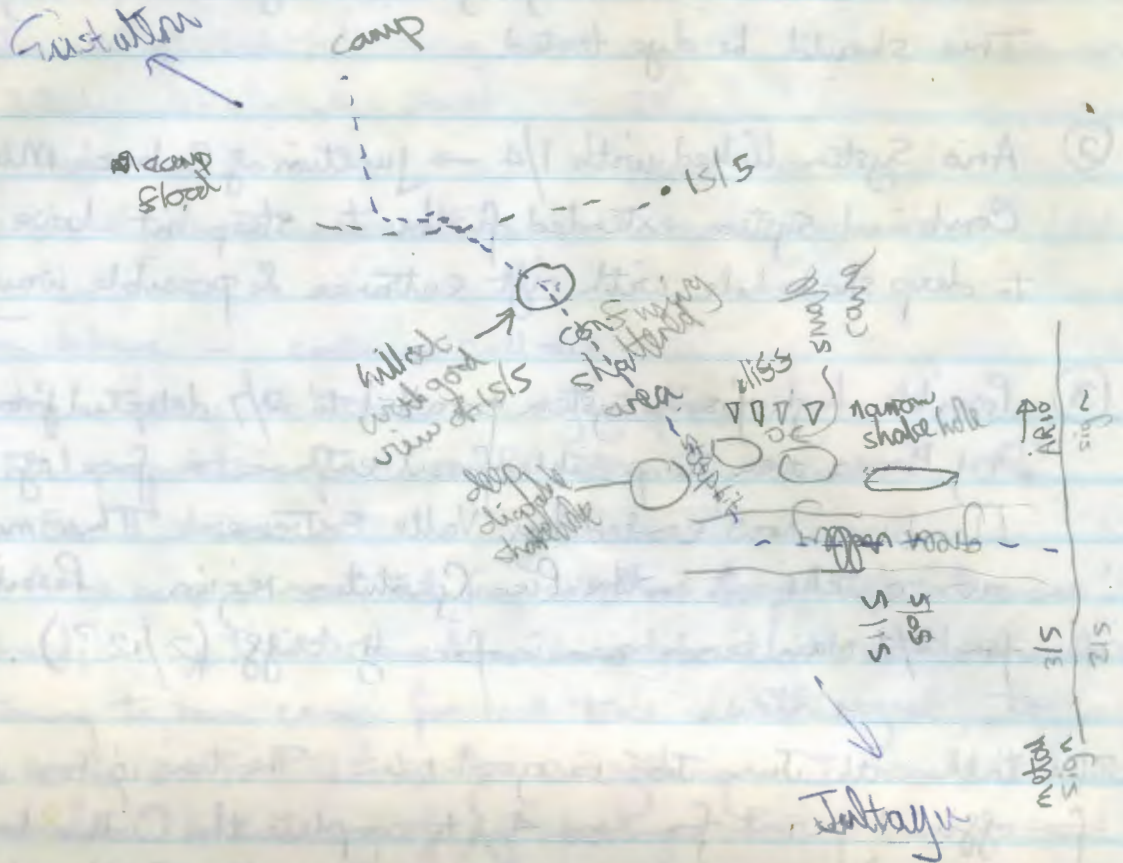
The talk with Juan José is good news. The time is now ripe to ask for official permit for Area 4 (to complete the Culiembro underground catchment) and for Area 11 (to complete the El Hoyo la Madre underground catchment, and to exploit 8/11). Another area of some interest is the massif bordered on W & N by Rio Casañó, E by Rio Caves & S by Vega Maor. This has had little attention and has two major resurgences at Fuente Los Palvoras and Fuente Los Brazos. The area is accessible by tracks from the La Molina road head, or from Lagos → Belbain → Parros → Complengo Viejo. Complengo Viejo has water and could be a reasonable camp site (see Base Camp Log for detailed description of resurgences).

Well, I am very impressed by the competence of the team, and look forward to hearing of further remarkable discoveries. See you all at the BCRA Conference in Bradford 12/13.9.92. I hope all your photos & surveys come out OK by then. Bradford was my home town, now much changed and with a marked asian influx of peoples. This does mean, however, that there are several good asian restaurants in the area of Bradford University. See you there. Best wishes for future work.

John

(22)

# Sketch Cut to Trea Path



30/7/92

Tina + Sam 8/11

- ① Dug through boulder chock at bottom of beam pitch to make connection down boulder slope and chiseled to very big character
- ② Surveyed 11 o'clock high, as far as high sloping character - which Sam had a look up.
- ③ Pushed through at right at junction up ramp at bottom of 3<sup>rd</sup> pitch - large patch pit probably connects to aren above 3-ways?

31/7/92. Tim + Dave H. 8/11

(73)

- ① Surveyed 11' o'clock high as far as draughting boulder chere (Draughting ~~into~~ our faces). Found a rodent (?) skeleton. Followed ~~up~~ down back under itself to pitch road probably a connecting inlet to the Dry Sump passage below. Chirbed above terrariums, but no lead. barely stat.
- ② Moved down low boulder chere in very big chamber - well decorated boulder slope leads to small stream flowing under low arch with nice terrariums + mud banks - don't spend it because it probably connects to nowhere novel.
- ③ Chirbed down "other way" at chirb above the crawl above front. Small chamber, with only exit to right, a too tight low draughting connection joining the crawl dead-end.

There's an undescended SIEO about 50m below 8/11.

NO draught. Slightly further down the valley on the W (left going down) side is a draughting entrance partially choked by boulders. In the bottom of the valley is a boulder pile possibly concealing something else (M 2/8/92)

### F54

68° to top camp, ~ 50° M above, 30m to left (true right) of dolomite (?) band, ~ 150m left (true right) of F20 gully, at highest comfortable traverse level. 10m pitch to snow from where 2 20m shafts continue.

27.7.92  
→ 31.7.92/  
1.8.92

(74)

# The Award Winning Photobrip

+ Pushing the wrong way in the right place.

Martin H  
Dave B  
Tony  
Jonathan.

I was not looking forward to this one. I'd had a hard time in 1980. I was knackered and shagged and needed a rest. A long camp in 212 was not on the face the ideal way to achieve this. Not true. One year there you're knee, eat, sleep, sit, chat and do a little bit of carving, none of this long walks in followed by nasty surface clutter. As many factors, the trip down doesn't seem that bad; Poles, Pencils, Ruffs, Ribbles, Crank, Big Chamber, Sleep.

The first two days involved all four of us reaching for the stars and photographing Just Avenue in all its glory. A full extent of modern technology was ranged at the chamber to overcome such tricky problems as the inability to have anyone move this 10ft away. Short range radio and high powered flashlights were to be used, the one still held the day, but a couple of half decent jobs might have come out of it.

Martin and Dave took a while to get out prompting a rescue scene. Tony took me on a tourist trip to the Lincoln Underground, in exchange for letting him see himself on a hairy climb. Sort of worthwhile in that we found an <sup>injected</sup> ~~needle~~ <sup>over</sup> ~~the~~ which was dated for about 100m, with a dating record. Unfortunately a very good lead was ignored down the vein. This is one of the most bygone places to bypass by lead. Location top of ~~Drax~~ Postman Pat. Well with a assist. Rope up is descending it, unexplained beyond the dirty rope.  
B.C.

3-8-92

Chris &amp; Tim

(78)

8/11

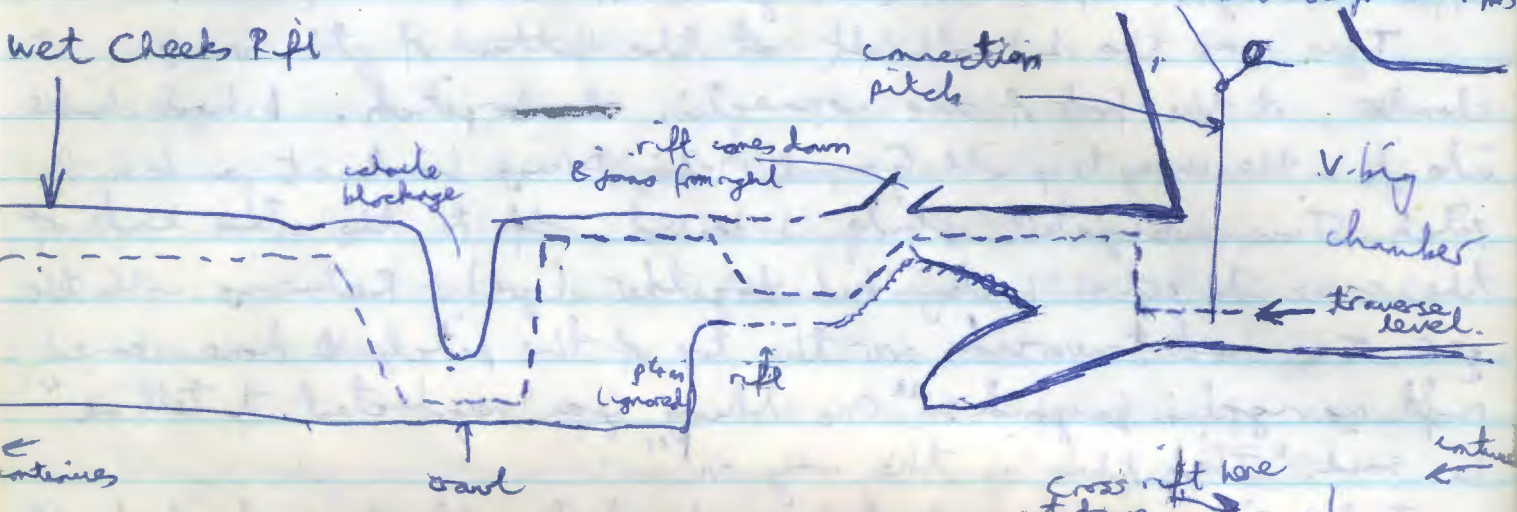
We had struggled up from the Lajos the night before. Neither of us had recovered from the illness that had started spontaneously after the false alarm rescue 2 nights before - but we were restless. The walk up was a continuous battle against nausea. Next day we pronounced ourselves fit & went off to survey / push / find the way on in 8/11.

This was the lateral rift at the bottom of the v-bay chamber, at the foot of the connection ~~pitch~~ pitch. I had climbed into it on the survey trip with Gavin & Martin, turning back at a 4m pitch. Tim investigated while I dashed off to the other end of the cave to get a botling kit together (gr). Returning with the gear, Tim had traversed over the top of the pitch & done some rift navigation beyond. "One thing you neglected to tell us" he said. "That this is the way on!"

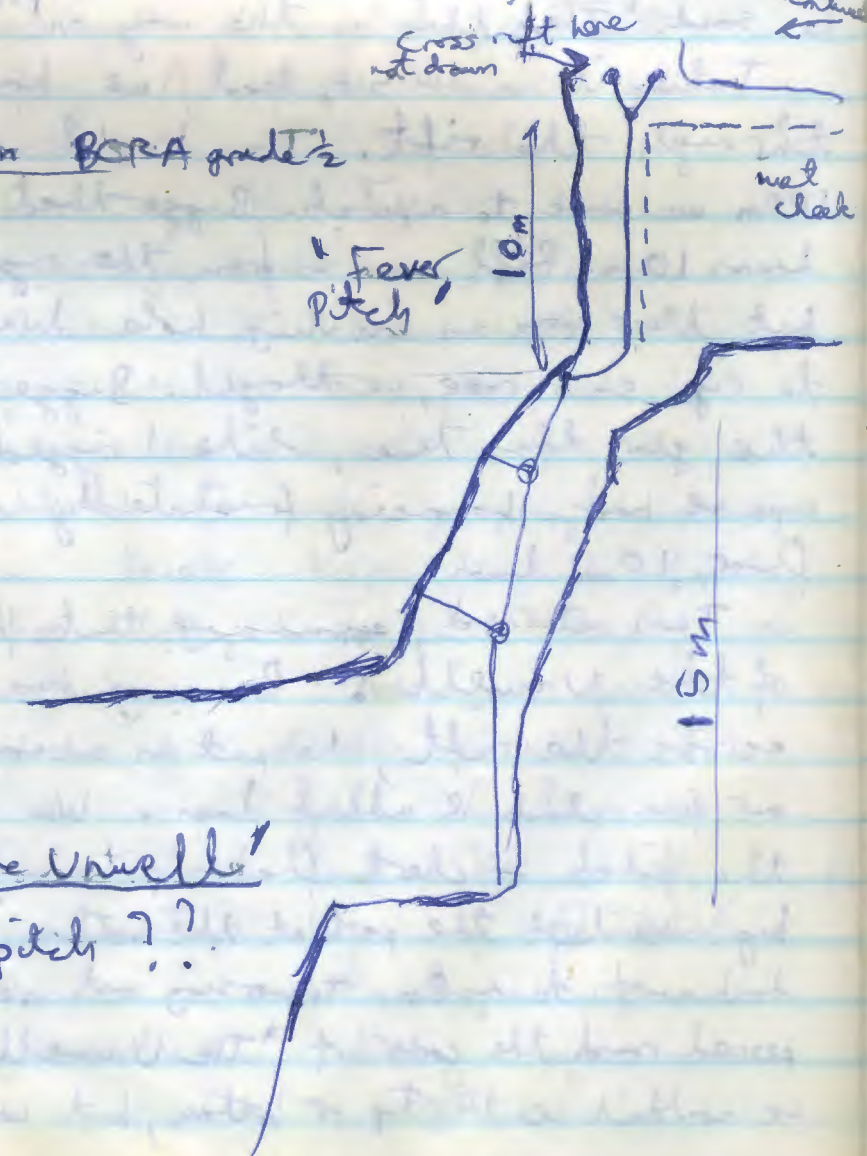
Taking it in turns to lead, we hocked off at a high level through the rift. The draught was oh so strong. After 50-100m we came to a pitch. Bigger than we thought, & free-climbed down 10m. Rift came in from the right, curved on to the left, but there was an inviting hole directly beneath us. Time to rig some rope, we thought. Bigger. Tim went back to fetch the gear this time, while I rigged the pitch with the poxy rope we had, bouncing frantically on the end 5m above the floor, 10m down.

Tim returned, announcing that he was still in 'the Area of the Unwell'. Bracing his lubricated buttocks across the rift, he put in a couple of bolts at the top of our free-climb & abbed down. We continued on to the bottom of the pitch - chert flakes protruding everywhere. It was getting big. We left the pool at the bottom, going to another pitch slope downwards to ~ 8m. Traversing out over the top of the pitch, we peered round the corner of 'The Unwell'. Ahead it was 3-4m wide, we couldn't see the top or bottom, but could still feel the draught.

(76) Time to do some surveying, we thought. Returning up 'Fever Pitches' & negotiating 'Wet Cheeks Rift' it became clear that we were no longer a competent party. Escal for Tim was slow & deliberate. But with an extreme effort, he managed to just about remember how to get out of the cave. Sounds of unwellbeing came down to me, but, surprisingly, that's what they remained - just sounds. The liquids came out later.



Extended elevation BORA grade 1/2



4/8/92

Dave L. and Pauline

(77)

## 49/5 'My little rabbit hole'

On one of our more festerous days we went for a short stroll from camp and I rediscovered 49/5. The main attraction in pushing it was its proximity to camp, lucky for me 'cause I forgot a sock and had to go back for it.

The Cave - a nasty mud slope leads to a pitch in a rift. This is the rift which you follow, gaining a couple of inlets. It is completely infuriating place, being ~~wide~~ relatively large in places then completely closing down round the corner.

From the bottom of the pitch you go along a few metres to where you can climb down in the rift. Two squeezes, one head first then one feet first go into a fault chamber where you meet the phreatic tube. ~~Then~~ Following it downhill to a chamber with <sup>two</sup> 3-way junctions we found that it was possible to slide down along a ramp in the rift on the (L) to a small inlet chamber and then climb down further to a streamway. Hope ran high at this point. A squeeze gave us another 5m of small streamway, but stopped at an aven which I reckon (?) is the one mentioned in the shafting guide. Here it completely closed down: the water went through a small (10cm) hole ~~and~~ and an equally small rift stretched up to the roof 5m up. <sup>There was also</sup> A squeeze back into another inlet which can probably also be reached from above.

The phreatic tube slopes upwards from the chamber as the rift beneath it gets deeper and deeper.

(78)

It becomes sub-human size after 20-30m, and at this point the rift enlarges slightly, but is still narrow further down. We may be mad enough to hammer it.

In the passage before there is a climb down in the rift, which has a bolt for a handline at the top. We noticed the bolt after free climbing it. Dave pushed a squeeze when I told him that I could see big spaces by looking down ~~from above~~ <sup>on</sup> the next section or rift. The squeeze, 'Send Lawyers' squeeze, was both tight and awkward. I followed Dave. In many squeezes it is just a question of finding the right place to go through, but here I got really squashed. Amid cries of 'I ~~can't~~ can't do it, I don't fit' I did fit, but only just. We climbed down a hairpin bend to a corner, round which it became too constricted again. So we went out.

Dave liked this cave once he had found some really tight and awkward bits. I enjoyed finding the viles, and many albino snail shells.

It is a really epic place, and must go somewhere, because it draughts and echoes, and water can be heard flowing ahead.

5/8/92

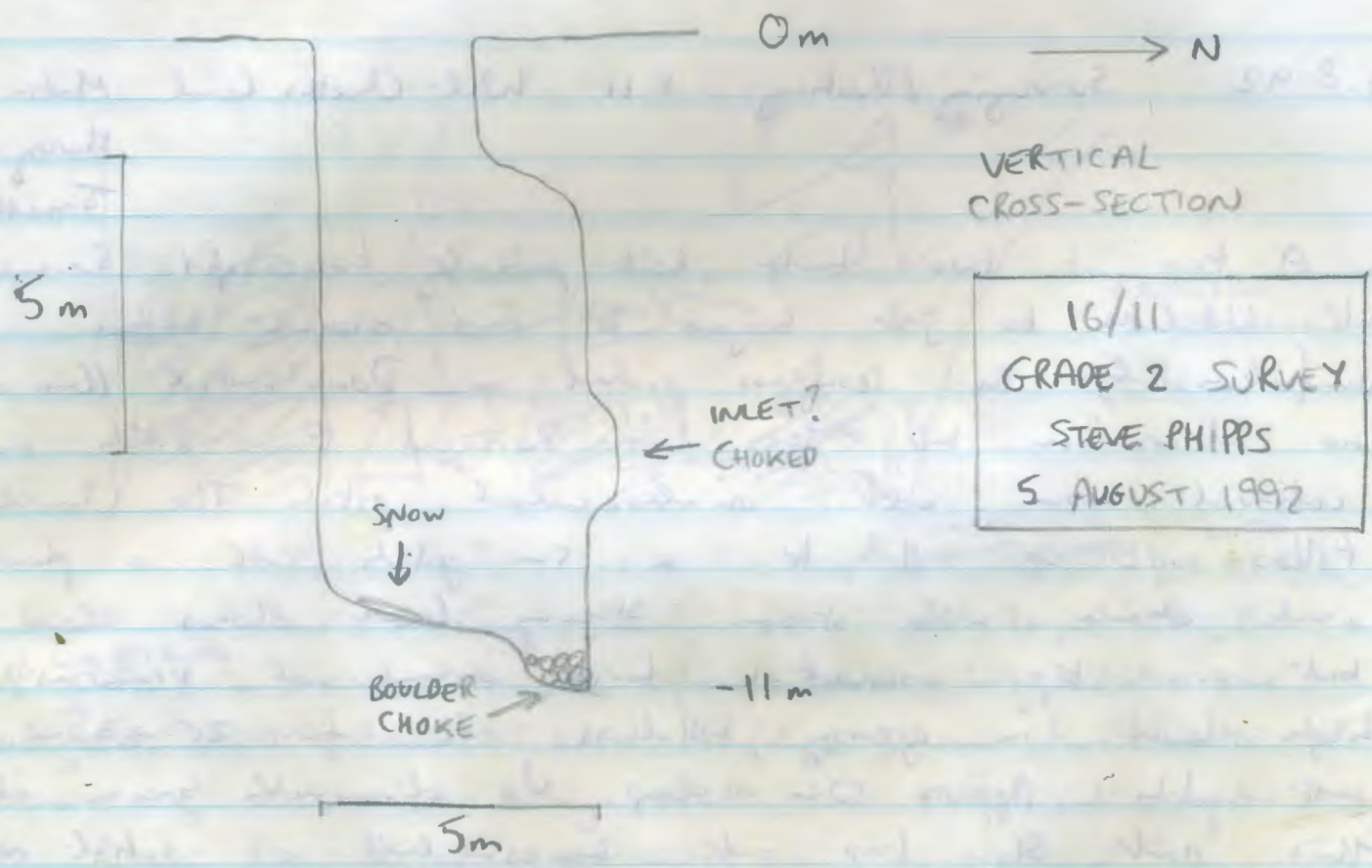
Sam, Steve

16/11

Feeling lethargic in the unfeasible heat of the afternoon, we decided to go for a short walk and check out this shaft which we noticed when shaft-bashing a few weeks earlier. Rigging two ladders off a hardy natural, we



descended optimistically, dreaming of discovering huge, stomping steamway. Needless to say, psychospelogenesis let us down and we discovered that the shaft chokes at the bottom, in a very definite and non-diggable fashion. It does not draught.



An improved description of the location of this cave is 'On the NE side of Cabeza la Forma, 5m N of the path leading to the Aris Refugio and on top of a small spur. The entrance is an obvious hole in the ground, approximately 2.5m x 1.5m. Bearings = Cabeza Indigua 101°, Cabeza la Forma 193°, Cabeza las Carfanas 345°.'

Our trip did at least accomplish 3 important things:  
(1) We retrieved Gavin's map from our first visit

- (2) We brought some of the snow plug back with this for the benefit of those festering at camp.
- (3) We retrieved a water bottle from the spring on the way back.

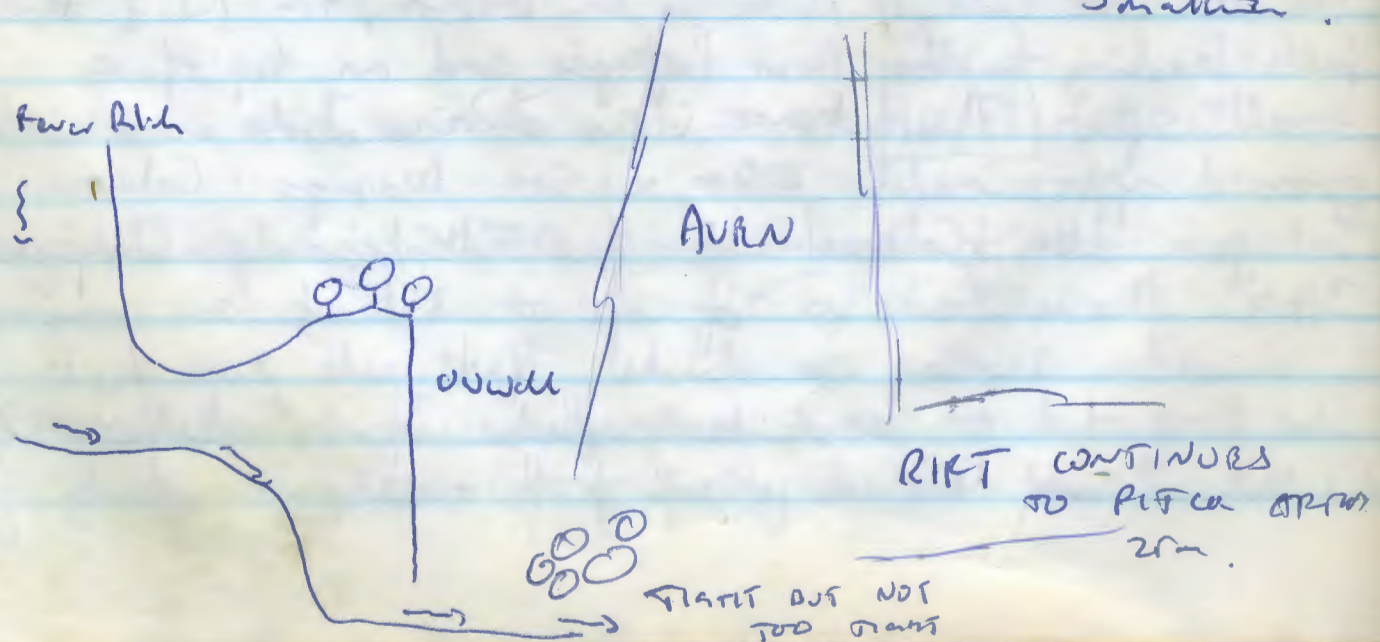
By the way, this cave is not labelled in any way.

Steve

4.8.92 Surveying / Pushing 8.11 W/L Ueber's Cave. Mark H  
 Harry  
 Jonathan.

A trip of two half, both partially successful. Surveyed into W/L Ueber's to job beyond to start crawl, before unfortunately the compass packed in. Doubtful there was no alternative but to push. Reached River Pitch and continued down with unobscured pitch The Uwell. Follow rope up off, to a run pitch into a pleasantly good chamber with stream. Stream level closes down but over top encounters high over and traverses at high level in grassy, holdless rift for 20-30m to next pitch. Approx 10m deep. No discernible breeze at this point. Slow trip out necessitated a pitch rescue at surface. In very much too Chris + Tim.

Jonathan.



8.8.92

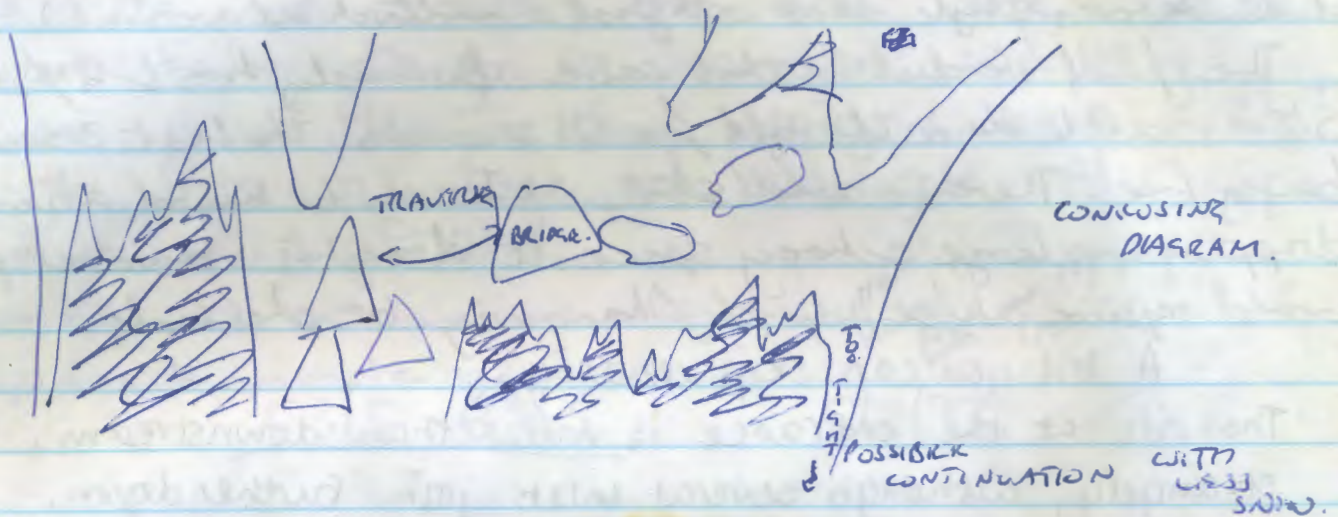
Shaltbushing Near Top Camp

Chris Rankin (21)

Mark Hills

Smalton

Chose the hottest day of the year to hang up  
 La Verdabwanga to visit Chris's big lake  $\approx 9$ . Situated  
 below the col between La Verdabwanga and its subsidiary peak,  
 two snow choked shafts join with a number of  
 possible leads both down and into the mountain.



Snow was low allowing climb down into larger of two  
 shafts <sup>with 129 cables.</sup> into a rock bridge from which both shafts were  
 investigated. First toward all boulders between two shafts. No  
 obvious way down subsidiary shaft, two holes into mountain  
 both lead to higher altitudes.

Second climb up <sup>behind</sup> large detached flake and ~~back~~  
 to start from above the bridge. An ~~inlet~~ further inlet allows  
 by path to be rised to snow plug below. No way on.  
 Still snow plugged.

Then was still time to check out Chris's drafty  
 dig in Vega Atitude. Have small depression at end of  
 Vega with snow plug, hammered through to next level to the  
 below. No way beyond iced up droche and well.

Smalton

(22)

49/S

DAVE L. & PAULINE

Following on from our previous trip we proceeded, wielding a hammer, to the end of the phreatic tube. While Pauline explored upstream, I hammered my way past the first constriction. This allowed me to wriggle forward about two feet. However the rock here proved less yielding, and, despite both of us hammering for over an hour, it proved impossible to pass, although I did attempt it "Dallinover style", live with just a headtorch and overalls.

The final verdict: this cave obviously has lots of potential. Stones rattle down the rift for 8 seconds, the last 2 seconds being free. There's a small stream. Water can be heard ahead dripping in a large echoey space. It draughts. However progress would require a huge amount of hammering, or chemicals.

A bit you can skip reading:

The rift at the entrance is wider than downstream, strangely, although several inlets join further down. At the level of the bottom of the pitch the rift choked round a corner. Further down it kept going, but was very difficult to follow. I also followed the phreatic upstream which lead to a small chamber in crap rock which fell off around me. From here a rift went into a sizeable inlet chamber with the water flowing away from me while the phreatic did something else. I could hear Dave hammering ahead of me, but the passage was too small to follow. The stream probably joins the main rift at the 3 way junction.

~~22~~

A few days ago Dave and I surveyed Somnabulists in 2/7. We got 25m out of it. The rift Dave pushed last year turned out to be an inlet, and we decided wasn't worth the effort in return for maybe 15m of passage.

Dave learned to say 'help' instead of 'shut up' when he scares himself.

A note about tea bags

We're running very short of tea bags, so don't waste them. If you have no preference between tea and coffee, then drink coffee. The tea bags are fairly strong so you don't need many and can reuse them - this morning I made a 2/3 cup brew from one bag and then got another cup out of it this afternoon.

\* fuckin' hell in the central we were making 4 cups from the spanish tea bags!

53/5, 6/15

Hurrah!  
Hurrah!  
lets hear it for Gavin!

6/8/92

Gavin

Derigged.

Thank you Gavin.  
More on this subject and the scheme for the transport of gear from caves and Arco to Los Lagos and England.

- August 7 | derigging - buy cut bags, detackle shafts as much as possible
- 8 | camp (2/7) DEL, SB, SP, TETK, DJM
- 9 | ~~photos down 8/11~~ DJM, iGL?, --
- 10 | Paella 1 - haul ropes to top of Perimistr DJM, JC, DRB, TSK, TETK.
- 11 | detackle 8/11 & photograph it. GL, SP & DJM
- 12 | -- " -- 66/5?
- 13 | paella 2 - de-rope rifts in 2/7 - everyone -
- 14 | rope from 2/7 to Arco & Base.
- 15 | everything carried
- 16 | down to Los Lagos
- 17 | ← everything down by 17/8/92
- 18 | Beech Party followed by u.e.

6/8/92

(94) Dave found 70/5

location: in a green valley going west from the signpost on the Trea path to the ~~sign~~ site of the 1992 Flooded campsite. It is a bedding plane crawl in the ~~North~~<sup>South</sup> side of the valley at an obvious (!\*) overhang, now with a pile of muddy boulders outside.

description: the passage is T-shaped; a bedding plane with a rift in the floor. After  $\approx 15'$  it becomes flat out, and 2 moonmilk stalactites make getting one's shoulders round the bend a bit awkward. Boulders were removed from the next section to make it passable. A bit further on ~~there~~ the rift does a wiggle, ~~and~~ - the squeeze over the top is called 'the squish squish'. The R.H. bend next must be done on your R.H. side. The passage now has a little tunnel with trickling water in the floor, fed by a minute inlet or 2. ~~There is~~ The limit is at a left hand bend with a knob of rock which needs hammering off. The passage has been steadily increasing in size, and the bit around this corner looks big enough to turn around in.

I estimated that the passage was 14 body lengths long  $\sim$  about 25m.

It is a no helmet and headtorch instead place, ~~but~~ <sup>although</sup> light is not necessary. Dave hammered until his light failed, and then backed out. I hate hammering, but got very enthusiastic about the digging. We could call this Daveunpaulines Grotty Grovel

7/8/92 Ilka & Gerhard: Stms from Base to Arid, abandoning a direct carry to Top due to unfavourable weather, general unfitness etc. Returning to Base tonight. Stashed our gear here, to be carried up tomorrow (hopefully).

PLEASE could people ~~restrain~~ themselves and NOO CARRY DOWN every bit of ladder, rope, & rigging gear immediately. I will want to take a moderate amount up to Top from here (rather than having it carried down to Base & drag it up all the way again), during the next 3 days or so. After this <sup>time</sup> you may indulge in your lust & drag everything down to Base. Thanks.  
Gerhard

10/8/92 Ilka & Gerhard leaving at noon for Top Camp (Area F), expecting to return to Arid at nightfall. Aims - finding Ewald, bashing a few shafts. Taking a bolding belt, a 3mm rope, a 12' w/ ladder & some tape & rigging gear.  
HAVE A NICE DAY-Y!

NB Stirred up a partridge (!) in the Vglg seen & met 20-odd chamois further on

- reporting back 21:00 Met Ewald 200m below Top Camp on his way down to Lajos, he'll be moving down from Top to Arid in a couple of days to get on some detackling trips.

Scenery at Top less than exciting with 20-50m vis in the clouds. Bashed F44, leaving a definite lead (for somebody with an overcure), Generally more snow in the entrances than Sh '89; some of them are no longer open.

description to follow

(86)

# 8/11 Rigging Guide (cont)

Climb into Wet  
Cheeks Rift

Wire and chockstone

ladder

Bold step ①

2 bolts (?)

5m rope

Tension traverse ②  
over pit

2 bolts; 2 threads

10m rope

Fewer Pitch (P30)

2 bolts; wedged knot  
deviation at -4m. Better to  
traverse further out for free hang

55m rope

The Unwell (P10)

2 spikes for traverse; spike  
below. Better to put 2 bolts  
in back wall (high up) and have  
spike deviation

Pitch out of \*  
Codine phosphate (P14)

Spike backup; 2 bolts for Y-hang;  
spike deviation at -8m  
? further Backup round <sup>outside</sup> in rth.

20m rope

Climb in Big Wind

Thread belay

10m rope

\* Pitch = "OCTOBER" cos I like the name

+ Not rigged this year

① This is easiest if you climb up ~1.5m, then the  
bold step is very easy. Maybe protect with a tape round  
a large boss

② Better to rig this as a pitch from the top of the rift  
with a pendule over to the far side

Also the bold step across the sump pool would be made easier  
by a tape through a thread for a hand hold.



Events since last and 1 last did well.

8. 8. 92 Surveying New stuff in 8.11 J.C  
Gavin.

First a trip to calibrate up the survey and a chance for Gavin to see where the canal is really going (= Cadena Mora). The intention was to survey to the limit and drop the next patch "October", but plans changed when it was pointed out that the rigging gear was plentiful in all but one aspect; an absolute lack of bolting kit. No kit no patch, since the networks are sparse in "Cadena Phosphata", the answer to the "Unwell". In fact no big problem as surveying took long time, 23 stations to take 8.11 by the way. On way out checked out the cross rift pathway down "Kewer Patch", both up and down stream seem to be part of rift system extremely encountered. Down rift is multi levelled. We stopped at head of patch that way drop into Area between Unwell + Cadena Phosphata; Needs to be checked. See Survey (M) + Over.

Sanctuary

9. 8. 92 Patch "Cadena Mora" streamway in 8.11. J.C  
Gavin

This time we took a bolting kit and the surveying gear. Both ~~at~~ "October", Gavin bang! bang! bang! J.C shiver, shiver!, to find a chinky wee streamway, very pretty, nice width, excellent stuff for 50m to a swamp, "Deep and Blue". Traverse round swamp to an inlet, allows a short climb to gain access to a dry passageway which shoots straight over the swamps. This takes a howling gale "Bang what". The passageway is very complicated, with possible leads down at numerous locations. <sup>Optimism was high</sup> ~~Spits~~ ~~fore~~ at the sound of running water down one side. This only dropped down into a sloping channel with an inlet disappearing in the ground. Back at high level passageway continues with

wind, limit was a small chamber with way on snalls,  
(88) hnt. leads to left and right. Approx 20m of passing  
found. Took only 10 minutes to get back to sunny gear,  
Surveyed well into the "Big Wind" before turning back  
very dilly about 60m short of limit. Lost sunny side  
marked with S shortly after a stake did up in  
passing. See Survey (N)

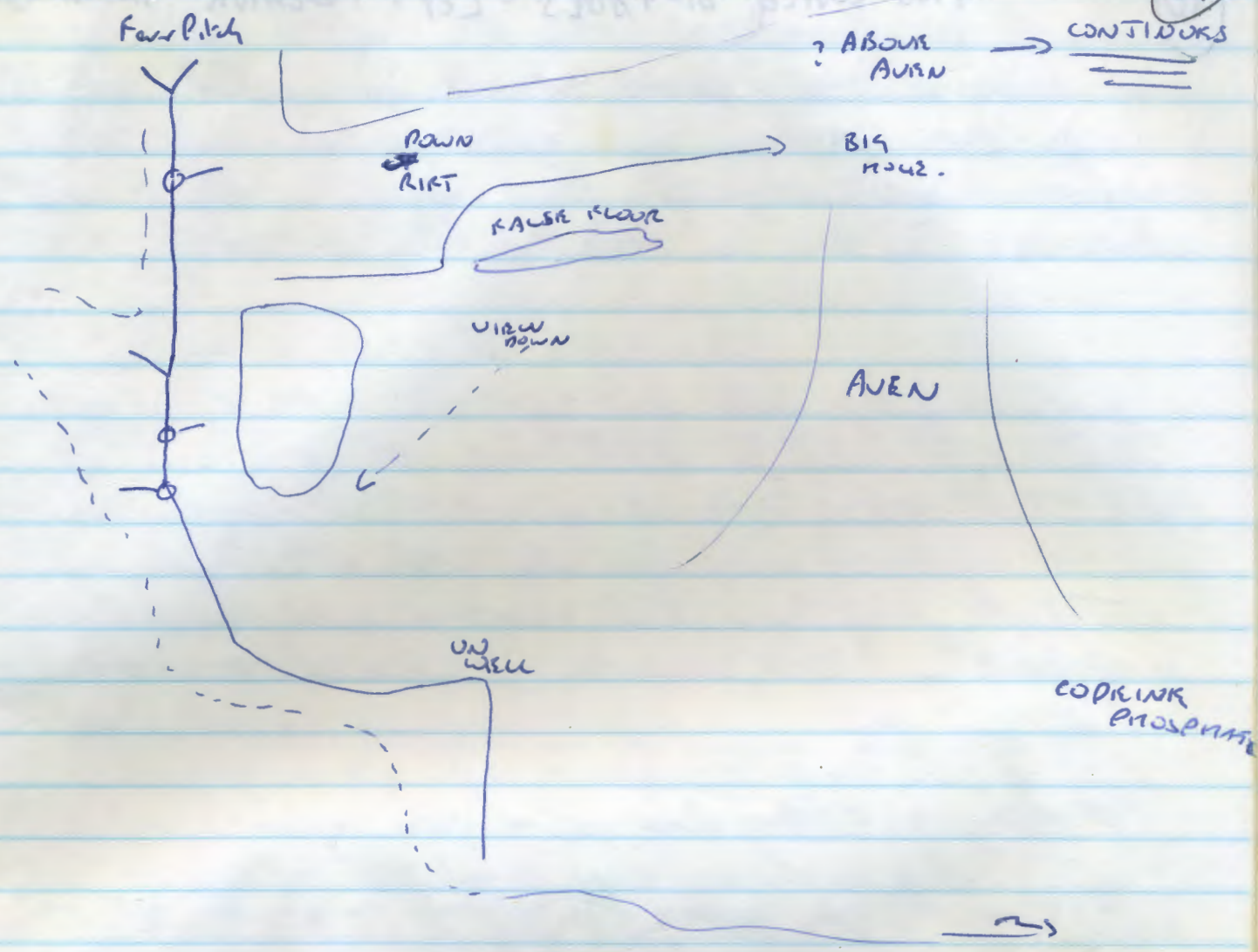
Smatter.

10.8.92 Tackle bag party in 2.7.

J.C  
David  
Harry.

Centurion dounded. The paxella was postponed because  
3's a crowd, but one stork at end to pull ropes  
up shafts. Compromise was to shift the tackle bags  
from the head of Armaageddon as these would screw  
up the system. David and me went all the way,  
Harry went to the head of Pessimist's at his  
own speed. Running repairs to my gear included  
bending the cable on the bobbin back into shape, and  
improving a chest harness from a mutton and loop of  
tape. This may or may not have contributed to my  
sore loss of passing form. I was hunched. Harry  
and David had their own little party whilst I  
went for the slowest ascent of peak Pessimist in  
recorded history. Each got one bag then the other.  
David spotted off before something strange happened to him  
in the night. Me and Harry took our time, Harry so  
he could keep his gear in immaculate condition (How  
does he do that?). Me 'cos I was carrying by  
bridle for much of the time. Walk down was a  
mistaken. Miracle no-one was cracked. This is what  
carry in Spain is all about.

Adrian  
Smatter

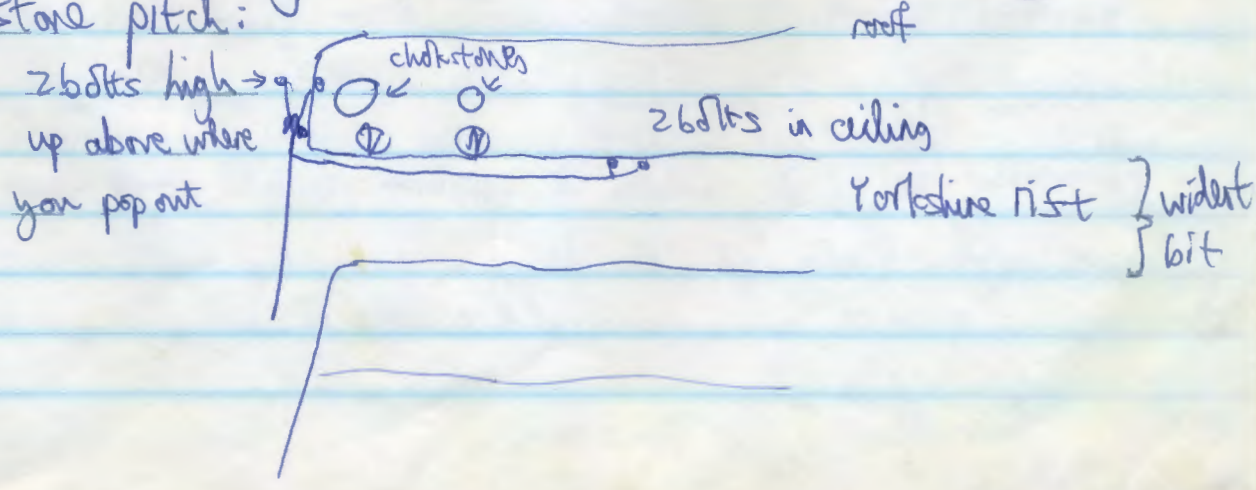


SURMISED VIEW OR RIFT PARTWAY DOWN  
 REVERSE PITCH IN RELATION TO

66/5

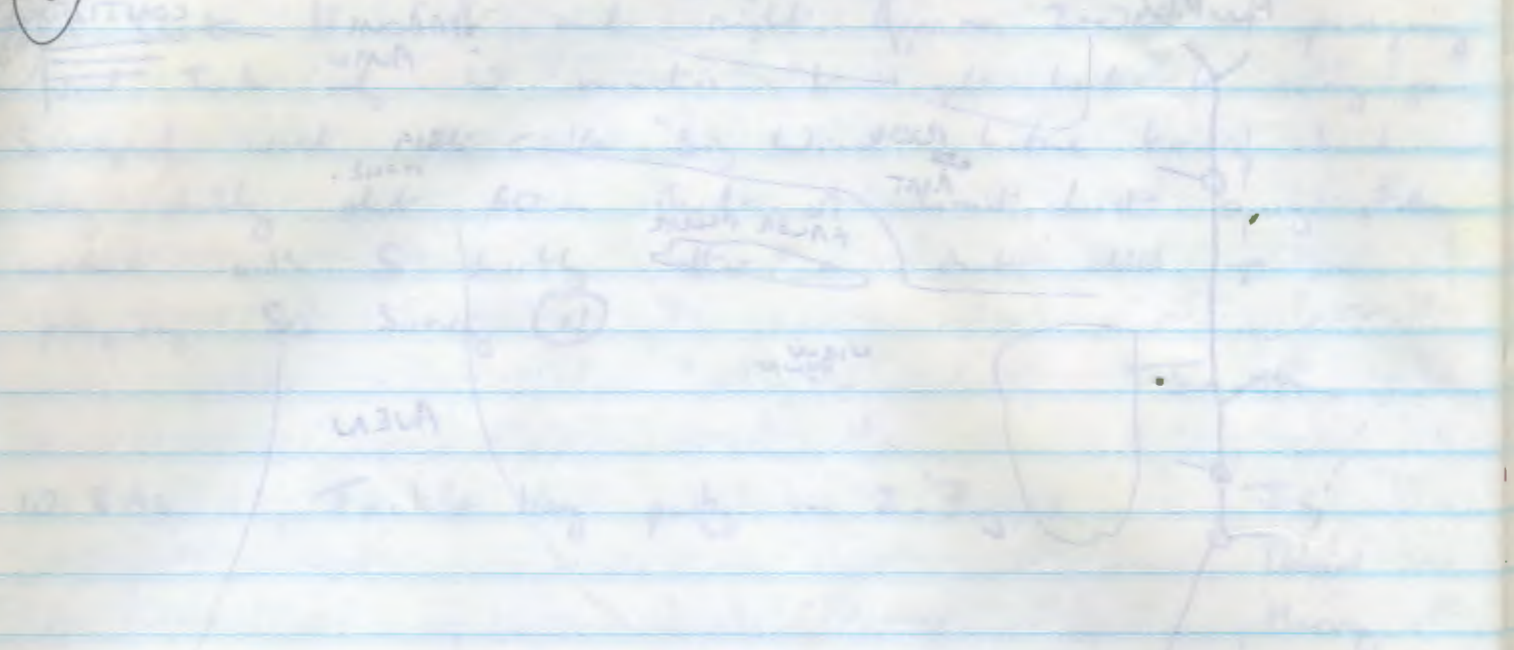
Gamm, 10/8/92

Demerged the cave. Probably nobody will ever go down this cave again, but here's a better way to rig chockstone pitch:



(10)

THIS COUPLE OF PAGES LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



The page contains several paragraphs of handwritten text, which is extremely faint and mostly illegible. The text appears to be a mix of notes and possibly a list or series of points. Some words are difficult to discern but seem to include 'The', 'part', 'of', 'the', 'system', 'is', 'designed', 'to', 'provide', 'a', 'means', 'of', 'measuring', 'the', 'performance', 'of', 'the', 'system'. There are also some mathematical symbols or notations scattered throughout, such as  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$ . The handwriting is very light and somewhat shaky.

(TO PROVOKE SILLY QUESTIONS...)

...the ... ..  
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... ..  
... ..

and

(92)

A couple of the climbs down Route 66 really should have hand lines on them: they're short of holds, vertical and chossy. Pulled back through the Cornershop, which didn't really work as the rope kept getting stuck: I had to do the hardest bit 3 times in total (in each direction).

12/8/92 Ilke & Gerhard (FEwald at F.C.) going shaft bashing in area F again, Equipment as on 10/8/92. Expecting to be back at nightfall or shortly after dark if the weather remains clear.

Back 21<sup>20</sup>. Results, in short: **F47** is a definite "maybe" but needs a definite amount of chiselling to remove a flake obstructing a bedding plane with a pebble beyond.

**F48** an old red herring (discovered back in '85 but not numbered until '89) is a definite going concern — a careful descent down the edge of the snowfield in the vestibule (which is resting on a car-sized airspace...)

leads into a well-developed meander, 40-80m wide, followed at floor level to no conclusion and at an obvious traverse level to where the same opens out.

General trend is south, away from F20 (which passes ~300m right underneath) towards Forcada Blanca passages (parallel to F7, which is slightly uphill and ~~is~~ a bit east of F48; cf. the Map).

(93)

The plan for 12/8/92 - "Paella 2" to those involved:

Paellaers: Gerhard, Uka, Ewald?, Steve, Sam, Dave, David, Harvey

Guards: Gavin & Tristan.

- Paellaers get up early, get their acts together fast, and go caving.  
End of Plan.

Some comments about the environment:

- ① I went up to 2/7 in daylight and when not preoccupied for the first time this year today. It is an absolute mess, with food wrappers, empty tins and bags of fettle everywhere. I tidied it up, but remember; all cave entrances are in the open and in a National Park, and some semblance of order and cleanliness is desirable. Take your litter home.  
"Si hay basura, no hay paisaje".
- ② Don't urinate in dry cave passage - it stinks for ages.
- ③ Keep Anio camp as tidy as you can - don't leave piles of mess everywhere, and try to make necessary piles of mess tidy so they look as if they are meant to be there and are not just mess. This is particularly important while detackling

Carrying stuff down the hill...

- ① First take down the bags of rubbish so that they don't smell.
- ② Try to maximise the load you carry in terms of both weight AND volume, this will minimise the number of loads (elit & 50malkus).
- ③ Go careful: You are more use to the expedition if you carry six loads down in three days than if you twist your ankle while running down with your second load and can manage no more.
- ④ When you dump stuff at Base, try to put it with similar things. (If you have carried down some maillans, look for some maillans at Base and add yours to the pile)
- ⑤ Think of others when planning your carries, you may not want to walk up now, but the person at Anio may want to walk down...

David

~~David~~ (UK)

12/8/92

David has done some stats:

- He has spent over 260 hours underground so far.
- This is about 5-7 hours for each day he has been here
- He has personally pushed 1 metre of passage for each hour spent underground.
- He has spent about ~~100~~<sup>80</sup> of those 260 hours asleep...

David



16 Peel Place  
Oxford  
OX4 0UT

Dear David & Co.,

Help! My mother's postcard didn't get to her + I'm IN IT!

Please could you send a postcard to:-

Mrs I. Arthur  
15 Dyer Road  
Tunstall  
Nr. Barnsley  
South Yorkshire

I'll TRUST you lot to write something appropriate. To  
EVER SO MUCH!

Hope you are all well including Fixer. Hopefully  
a trip down a cool damp cave made his sore throat better.

Especial regards to the hardest Expedition workers, Gairn  
+ Tony. Mumsie Has all the shaft bashing paid off?

Did anyone find Richard's '9/6', hope so.

Back here the weather is now hot + sultry, but not a  
lot else is going on. I've been busy socializing  
+ mowing the back garden, harvesting ridiculous

95

amount of courgettes + beans (+ slugs!) from the garden after a LOT of work @ JR2. The persons office never gets quieter, still its nice feeling fresh enough to face it.

I heard that Tony was going to be swapped for 50 millions in Congo (sounds like an East/West spy exchange - I can just see it across the Puente Romana).

Ian B is getting used to the frustration of fatherhood. He called round @ Horley Rd to ask for his 'big hammer' and wittered about scaring babies which rather alarmed Melissa. It seems, however, that hammering nails in loudly was good therapy for quizzing over little Fiona's tears which were still belted out despite feedings, burpings, nappy changings etc.

Hope the newly arrived octo are keeping you all going.

With love

Juan ~~ox~~

Preston, 1/8/92.

Dear Everyone,

Just thought I'd drop you a line to tell you what I'm doing next year.

I had a good journey home and on the Friday had an interview at Leeds. They gave me a place which I accepted. I'm pleased its all been sorted out now.

Hope everything's going O.K and that upstream 2/7 is still going strong.

See you soon,

Richard

mmmm  
llllllllll

# Shopping List

Large washing up gloves

35m rope



(19)

# PLANS FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS

WEDNESDAY - DOWN 66/5 - VARIOUS

THURSDAY - (A) RIGGING TO BIG LEDGE - PAUL, TONY

(B) TO ARMAGEDDON - RICHARD, [CAVER X4]

(C) TO END OF LIFTS - SAM, STEVE, [CAVER X4]

FRIDAY - CANGAS

SATURDAY - CAMP #1

~~TUESDAY~~

Notes - (1) TONY TO BASE WEDNESDAY, UP THURSDAY MORNING

(2) CAMPING GEAR UP THURSDAY MORNING } if van arrives.

(3) THURSDAY TRIP (C) takes camping bags

6  
 7  
 8  
 9  
 10  
 11 } doing 8/11  
 12 }  
 13 carry down  
 14 leave

(B3)

Caving Trips + Call-outs

People	where-to	down	expected out	Call-out
Sean + Richard	Armageddon ledge	9/7/92 12:30	10:30	8:00 on 10/7/92
Paul + Steve	8/11	9/7/92 12:00	500	8:00 on 1/7/92
Tony	2/7 (big ledge)	afternoon	morning	afternoon
Sam + Steve	Area 11 behind Cabeza La Formu	10/7 16:30	19:30	22:00
Gavin + Richard	S3/S - 180	S3/S a.m.	18:00	20:00
David, Sam, Steve	2/7	2pm	~ 10pm	tomorrow
Dave L	portering	11/7/92		morning
(later) Tony	to end of rifts			12/7/92
Dave L, Pauline, Richard, Tony	First camping trip down 2/7	2pm 12/7/92	6pm 15/7/92	8am 16/7/92
David M	Re-rigging 7th Heaven with above trip	" 12/7/92	6pm 12/7/92	9pm 12/7/92
Sean, Sam, Steve	S1/4 9/4/11/4/16/4 + Area 4	1pm 12/7	6pm 12/7	9pm 12/7
Sean, Sam, Steve	S/4	12 noon 13/7	6pm 13/7	9pm 13/7
Richard	Juktaya, Curicote	12 noon 13/7	by 11 pm 13/7	14/7 morning
Dave B + Gavin	La Jayada + variants	12 noon 14/7	by 8 pm 14/7	Midnight
Sean + Pauline	9/4	13:00 14/7	by 8 pm 14/7	Midnight
Paul, Tony, Richard + Dave L	2/7	13:00 14/7	8pm 17/7	8pm 17/7

2006.03.17 T, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20

OUT

YES

YES

YES

Yes

Yes

Yes

Try, Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

BS

People	Where	Down	Expected Out	Call Out
Sean Pauline	9/4	16:00 15/7	8pm 15/7	9pm or Midnight
David Chris Sam	2/7 Armaggeddon	15:00 15/7	00:00 16/7	Morning 16/7
Gavin Pauline	53/S Pyramids	16/7 11:00	16/7 18:00	16/7 21:00
Dave, David Sean, Sam	2/7 camp	17/7 12:00	20/7 15:00	21/7 01:00
Gavin, Dave H, Steve	Valley of Dry Bones	18/7, 11:00	18/7, 18:00	18/7, 21:00
Gavin	Cave in back of Green Ridge	19/7 10:00	19/7 14:00	19/7 18:00
Paul Steve	8/11	19/7 12:00	19/7 16:00	19/7 18:00
Dave H, Chris	Area 4	19/7 12:00	19/7 18:00	19/7 20:00
Gavin	Cave in back of Green Ridge	19/7 14:30	19/7 18:00	19/7 20:00
Gavin, Steve	8/11	20/7 12:30	20/7 20:30	20/7 24:00
Chris, Tony	2/7 Camp	21/7 1730	sometime	26/7 <del>2359</del>
Pauline, Dave L.	2/7 Camp	24/7 18.30	28/7 18.00	29/7 Mid- night ↓ 2400 or 0000 ?



Out

Chris J. Lloyd

2 Avery Ave

Etobicoke, Ontario

M9C 1K1 - CANADA

416 - 622-7553

Yes

Yes

insured under Trans-care International

Yes

193-195 High St.

Acton, London

W3 9DD

Yes

tel.

081-993-6151

policy #

5 72 41 82

Yes

period of cover

8 July 92 -> 01 Sept 92

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Remember to put the date on call-outs.

People	Where	Down	Expected Out	Call Out
David	2/7	25/7/92	28/7/92	29/7/92
Sean	Camp	12:00	20:00	01:00

Gavin, Dave H	8/11	25/7/92	25/7/92	25/7/92
Harvey		10.30	19.00	21.00

John	Area 4/12 to Oston	leave 25/7/92 1030	25/7/92 1900	25/7/92 2200
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John	Area 5 / Extramero	26/7/92 1000	26/7/92 1700	26/7/92 2100
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Harvey, Sam, Steve	Portering thru rifts in 2/7	26/7/92 1200	26/7/92 2100	26/7/92 2359
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Gavin, Chris Fenella	8/11	27/7 11 00	27/7 20.00	27/7 23.00
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Tim, Steve, Gemma	53/5	27/7 11.30	27/7 21.00.	27/7 24.00.
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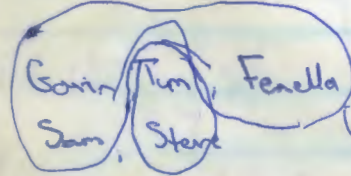
Gavin, Chris D Steve	8/11	28/7 11.15	28/7 20.00	28/7 23.00
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Tim, Chris, Harvey, Martin L	89/5	28/7 12.00.	28/7 21.00.	28/7 23.00
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Tony, JC	2/7 Camp	28/7 14:00	1/8 15:00	1/8 22:00
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Dave B, Martach H	2/7 Camp	28/7 14:00	31/7 16:00	31/7 22:00
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Martin, Chris, Hargy	Verdelbuanga vage Akisada	29/7 11-00	20:00	22:00
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	8-11	11.00	20:00	23:00
			29/7	29/7

Tim & Sam	2-11	11.15	Today 21.00	Today 24.00
	2-11	14.10	22.00	24.00

Out

Yes

Yes

Back 1730

Back 1730

Yes  
(almost a  
call out!)

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Callout - 22:00. Radio to base. Food prepared. Harvey can drive Van.

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

People	Where	Date	Time Down	Expected out	Call out	Out	
Chris, Steve Harvey		8/11	30-7	2-15	21-00	24-00	out
Martin	Area G	30-7	2-30	18-00	23-59	✓	
Dave H	(G3)			10-30	22-00	✓	
Tim	8/11	30/7	2:15	22:00	24:00	out	
Sam	"			1:00	18:00	21:00	Yes
Gavin							
Chris		8/11	Fri 31/7	11-15	20-00	22-00	Yes
Martin				17:00	19:00	21:00	Yes
John	Cabeza Lambrey Area 4 to 27/Cabeza Muxa Junction	Fri 31/7	1230	1700	2100	Back 1600	
Tim + Dave	8/11 (11 o'clock high)	31/7	13:00	2100	(Today) 31/7 24:00 ie. 2359 31/7	Yes	
Sean, Sam.	2/7 5 day Camp	31/7	15:00	4/8/92 20:00	5/8/92 1:00	Yes	
Sean, Sam, David	2/7 camp	1/8	1600	4/8/92 2000	5/8/92 0100	Yes	
Dave L.	2/7 rifts	1/8	1600	1/8/92 2200	2/8/92 0000	Yes	
Pauline	Cuivante	1/8	1500	1/8 1900	1/8 2100	Yes -	
Gavin, Dave H, Martin H	8/11 lower streamway	2/8	11:00	2/8 20:00	2/8 23:00	Yes	
Dave L Pauline	2/7 Sambata	3/8	12:00	3/8 2000	3/8 2300	Yes	
Tim + Chris	8/11	3/8	11-15	2100	2400	Yes	
Pauline Dave L.	4/9/5	4/8	12.45	18.00	21.00	Yes	
Mahn Mene 3c	8/11	4/8	1.00	2200	2400	Yes	

# Shaft-bashing descriptions.

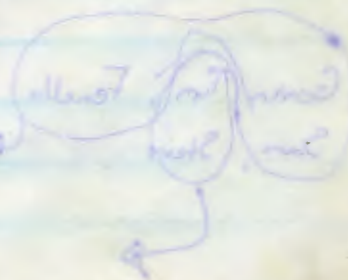
(B10)

5/4. Location as in guide, head down valley from the tree, past 7/4, for about 40m.

Large shakehole with a wedged boulder (small rocks can be dislodged from behind this, onto the pitch) 15m pitch lands on a snow-dry with a steeply sloping rift heading NW. A climb & ladder leads to more rift, with a perched lump of snow. Pitch drops 20m. To NNE a small stream passage leads off, too small to follow. Digging here would be very time-consuming. To NW, three more shafts connect from above, presumably 7/4.

4/7 - Location: contour south from 2/7 to low point of ridge line between Tultayu and Cavicate. Continue to contour SW, slightly uphill for ~40m to hidden depression of 4/7. Entrance is a crawl over boulders in base of short cliff on E side of 5m x 8m depression.

- other caves of on N rim near Bayega Col could be better located as well. A surface survey covering the same circle I did could tie in many (some) of the caves and be the basis for a map of the bowl. If a few numbered cairns were left, other caves could be surveyed in at a later date.



<u>People</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Down</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Call out</u>	<u>Out?</u>
Steve	In+around Vega de Aris	4/8	1700	1900	2100	Yes
Chris Markus J.C.	E9 Verdelhuega	5/8	10-30	20-00	24-00	✓
Pauline		49/5	5/8	1.00	18-30	21.00
Dave L.	'Rabbit Hole'	1/8	13:30	21:00	24:00	Yes
Sam Steve	16/11	5/8	1700	1900	2100	Yes
Chris	Derigging	12/8	10:50	20:00	23:59	Yes
Steve Harvey	8/11	6/8	11-30	1800	2100	Yes
Gavin	derig 53/5	6/8	13.30	16.00	17.00	Yes
Pauline, Dave L.	derig 69/5	6/8	1.00	—	21.00	Yes.
Dave L.	derig	7/8	14.00	21.00	8.00	Yes
Sam	derigging	8/8	8/8	8/8	9/8	
Steve	camp					
Tristan						
David & Harvey	2/7 top 7 Revivists	8/8	14:00	21:00	Midnight 8/8/92	Yes
Gavin, Jonathan	8/11	8/8	12-00	20.00	23.00	Yes
Gavin, Jonathan	8/11	9/8	12.00	21.00	23.00	Yes
David, Jonathan Harvey	2/7 Armageddon	10/8	14.30	21.00	24:00	Yes
Gavin	66/5	10/8	14.00	19.00	21.00	Yes
Gerhard Ilka	Area F	10/8	1200	nightfall	11/8 Sunrise	Yes

(82)

<u>People</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time In</u>	<u>Expected out</u>	<u>Call Out</u>	<u>Out</u>
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Gavin		8/11	11/8	10:30	20:00	22:00	✓
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Enald  
Survey main lock  
Deng other streamway

David Sean		2/7					
Dave Tinda			11/8	13:30	21:00	24:00	Yes

Harvey  
Armageddon

Gavin		8/11	12/8	10:30	20:00	23:59	Yes
Steve				11:00			

Dengging

Comments on Radio and Mic Phones.

B13

Any criticisms or suggested modifications welcome.

RF pickup on base station while ~~playing~~ cable to 7<sup>th</sup> beam.