TOP CAMP 1994

OUCC

1994 Expln.

Top Camp Log

OUCC

(1)

Vercle Hivenga 1994

GOING DOWN

LEN

(2) 5th July 1994.

16.30 Tim, Snaffled, Real Bill, Michelle, Virtual Bill, Annette, Chris D., Vlodek(?), Rob, Alex + Ben arrived to emerge into sunshine from the Abyss
17.25 Annette + Tim left to go flower arranging at Xitu. The Athens are eating much of the food we just brought up.....

6th July 1994.

Nasty wet carry up to foggy top camp. Expanded camp, fed, then five went caving. – Gavin stayed at camp (mainly)
F41 Cairned route via old top camp. Entrance snow filled, but between us Snaffled, Tim and Annette negged down ~~the~~ an avalanche chute for about 25ft. Unfortunately it fills up with snow as we go. Cold. Bagging needed. Visited F13. Found another shaft South of F41.
Richard B. arrived.
Now there are stars

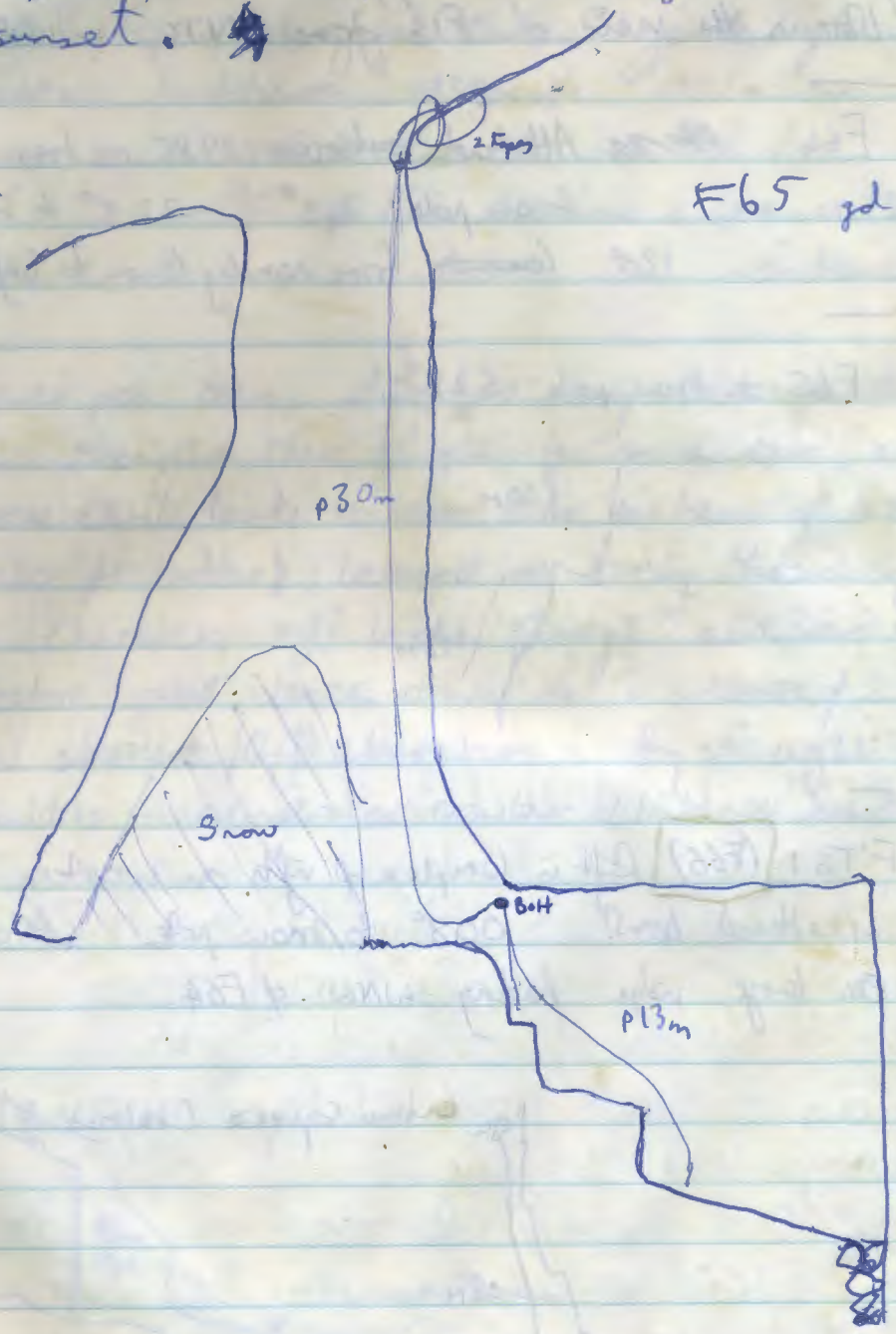
Tim

6th July

New! F65 James, Chris D. Location: Top left Vardellwang ~~[illegible]~~ to snow pole 326° ~10 m below ridge

As above for walk up in clag from Lagos.. Went with F41 team to their entrance, then Rob & Gavin tried to find F64 in clag. Instead they found a superbly located shaft reached by a bold traverse across a cliff face. We were surprised by the sudden appearance of Paul Mann equipped with a plastic plate and a small item of cutlery. Our

guides deported, Paul & Rob to head back to Lagos in day. Rigged shaft Descended at 9 pm. 20m to snow plug, choked at one end, small pitch appeared from beneath a pile of boulders at other end. 10-15 m sloping pitch, boulder slope met wall. A few minutes to rummage in boulders & for James to reflect on his first pushing trip. We emerged ~ 11-30 pm, looking out over a beautiful sea of cloud tinged with the afterglow of the sunset.



Chris

Kodek says "Nothing is disgusting"

(4)

7th July 1994.

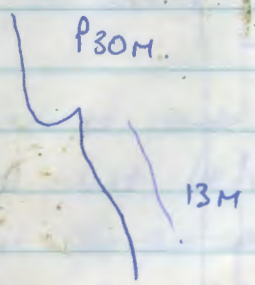
Found F64, and Annette + Chris went to get ropes from F65, then back to rig F64. Checked various holes + potential holes on the face uscan from F64. ~~Eventually dropped down~~ the Dug into a 4m chimney at edge of deep hole, but no good. Eventually dropped 3 holes on the shoulder that forms the new of F13 from NTC.

F64. ~~Alt~~ Altitude entrance 1985 metres.

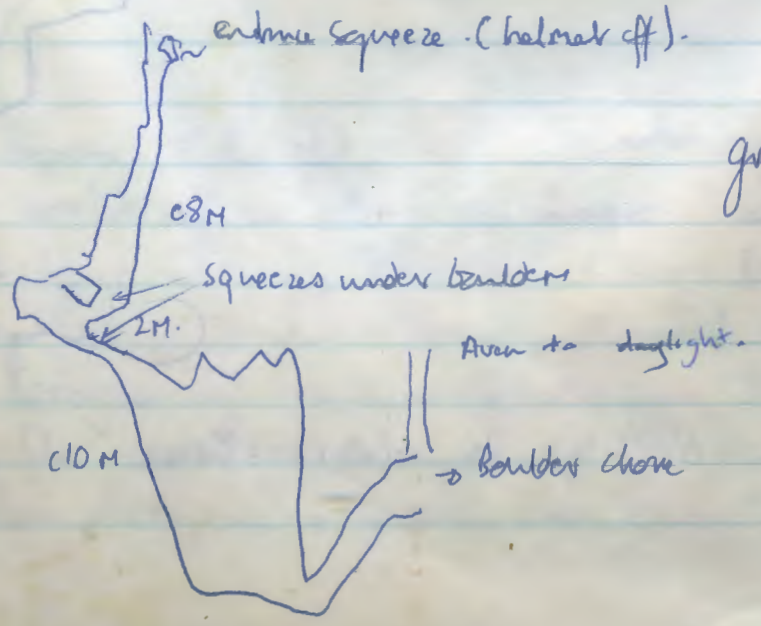
Snow pole 343° ; -22.5° to snow pole base

130° ~~Lowish~~ from nearly lowin to left peak of Verdelluenga.

F65 to snow pole 326°



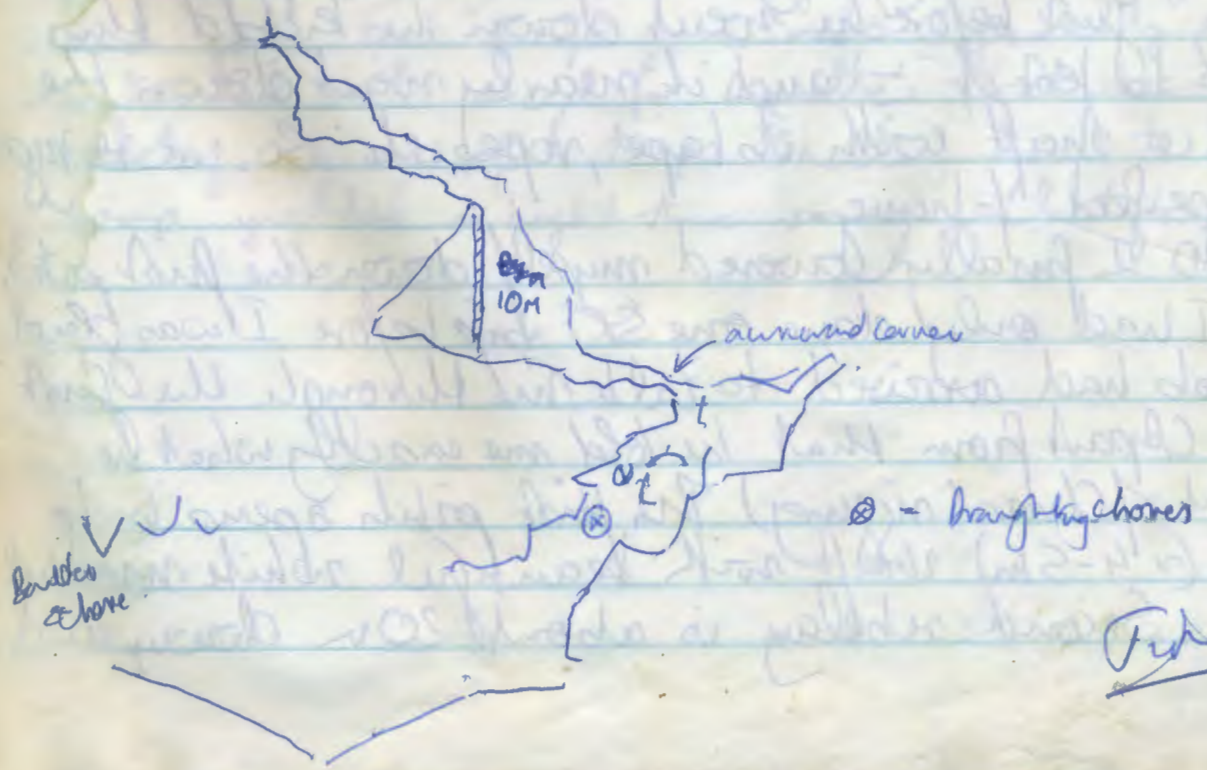
FTS1 (F66) Left in complex of rifts on western edge of large shattered bowl. 008° to snow pole. Altitude c1895 m. On large ridge heading WNW of F64.



~~FTS2~~ [F67] 018° to snow pole Altitude c 1895 M.
256° to OTC.
lozenge shaped shaft 30 M west of FTS1. Drop 15-18 M to choke.

FTS 3 [F68] Dug out in top of scree filled shallow hoge to Rightward wave ~~not~~ shoulder Altitude c 1930 M;
277° to OTC Cairn.
190° to F13 entrance (not visible from entrance..).

Real Bill, the Gower pot man, dug his way through the scree "where I thought there ought to be a cave", and there was 5 M loose climb leads to loose tube to head of loose pitch (25-30 ft ladder), belayed to lovely thread up the tube). Nice chamber, right leads through awkward corner to low chamber and back down to a series of 2 large boulder chokes/Right chambers. Big draught goes into boulders - needs a crowbar (but not hard digging).



FJM

7th July FRB1 F70

Location: about 150m from snow pole on bearing about 200°
Can be found by following cairned path to old top camp - a short climb up to the left.

Description: 3m by 1m shaft drops for about 25m into a rift. Rift runs approx. NW-SE. The SE end closes down the NW end opens into a possible shaft - snow plugged. You can see ~3m down on new side; the far side is inaccessible without further safety equipment - probably requires digging the snow a bit to see further.

Rob

7th July Chris & Arette F64

Beautiful sunny day - just right for an alpine start to go exploring. At 1:30 p.m. we raced off to find F64. Having got there a small (2 hour) delay was caused by having to collect the ropes which were left at F65 the night before. At about 4:00 pm I started putting the first bolt of my life into the rock at the front of the rift, where combined with some tape hanging off a nice pointed boulder opposite, Chris was going to construct the perfect Y-hang. Just before he went down he kicked this boulder to test it - and it nearly went down the entrance shaft with its tape, ropes etc. So we re-rigged a less perfect Y-hang...

At 5:30 I finally lowered myself down the first pitch. Given I had only done one SRT trip before I was glad that Rob had arrived to talk me through the first rebelay. (Apart from that he told me exactly what he thought of Chris' rigging). The first pitch opens into a wide (~4-5m) shaft with beautiful white marbled walls. Second rebelay is about 20m down and

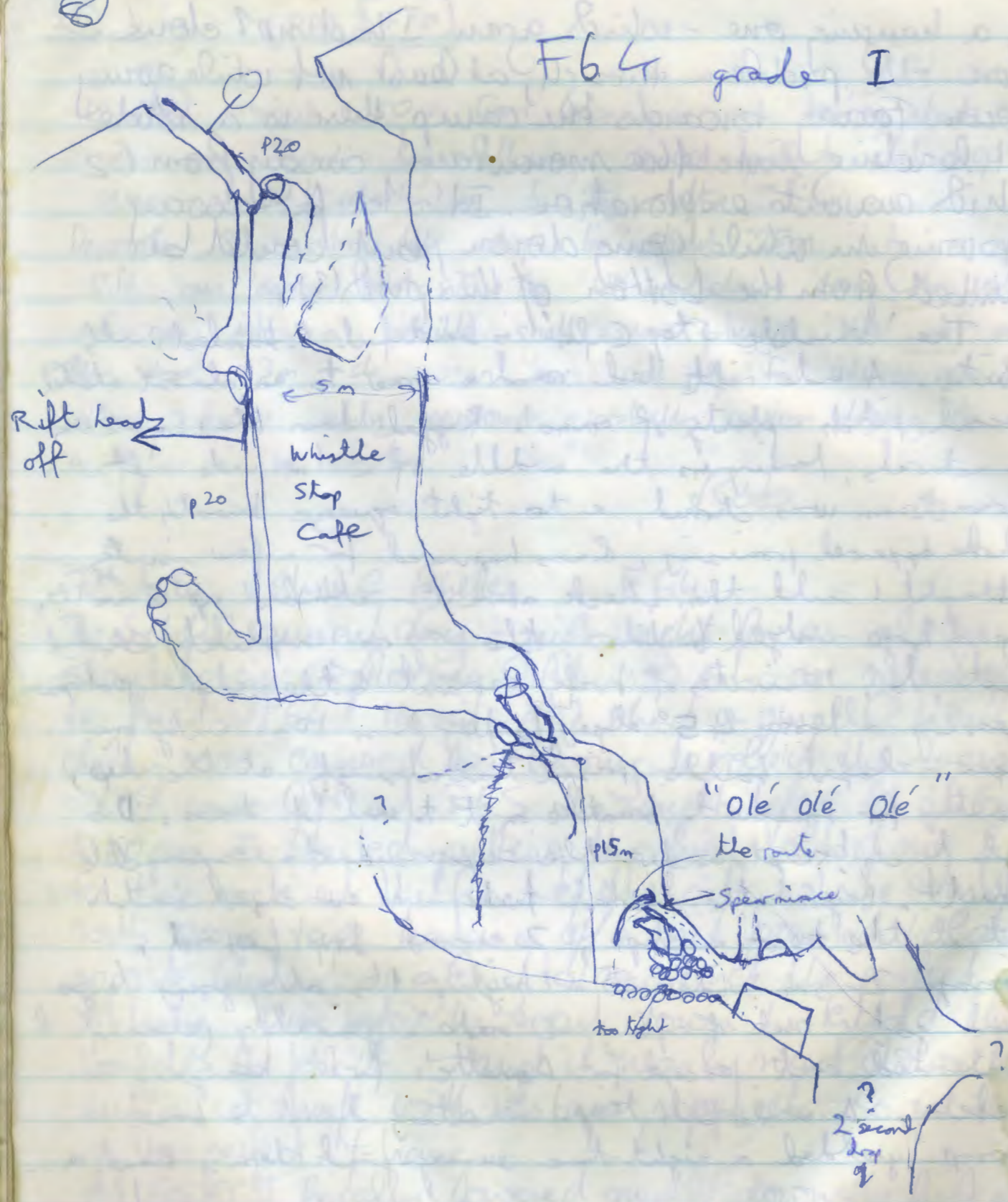
it is a hanging one - which again I had not done before. - No problem though, at least not while going down. Facing towards the camp, there is a wide rift leading into the mountain away from E2 which awaits exploration. It's too far away to swing in while going down, but could be climbed from the bottom of this pitch(?).

The 'Whistle Stop Cafe' is beautiful & banded with white. A wide rift led round a corner to an almost choked second pitch - plenty of ammo. Rigged down the 15m-20m on naturals, landing in the middle of a 1m wide rift. Downstream was choked, a too-tight squeeze beneath the choke ~~appeared~~ promising, & was hammered for a few minutes. I thought I would then check above it - climbed up & over the top of large wedged boulders, the way on completely choked. But, lo, 10 minutes of rock removal & the choke prolapsed, leaving a loose 45° slope, tube leading down 10m. Only one spear-shaped boulder poised tantalisingly at the lip, waiting for someone to breathe on it to send it down. Do not touch, except under the supervision of a responsible adult. Beyond the choked tube - a car sized boulder sat at the top of a slope, 2 second drop beyond, passage 2-3m wide 5m high. It's all going to go and go! Out of rope, we made a generally relaxed & contented exit, except for Annette's first hanging rebelay. A wonderful trip. Shouting down to base camp yielded a night-time survey-push team. Read on...

Chris

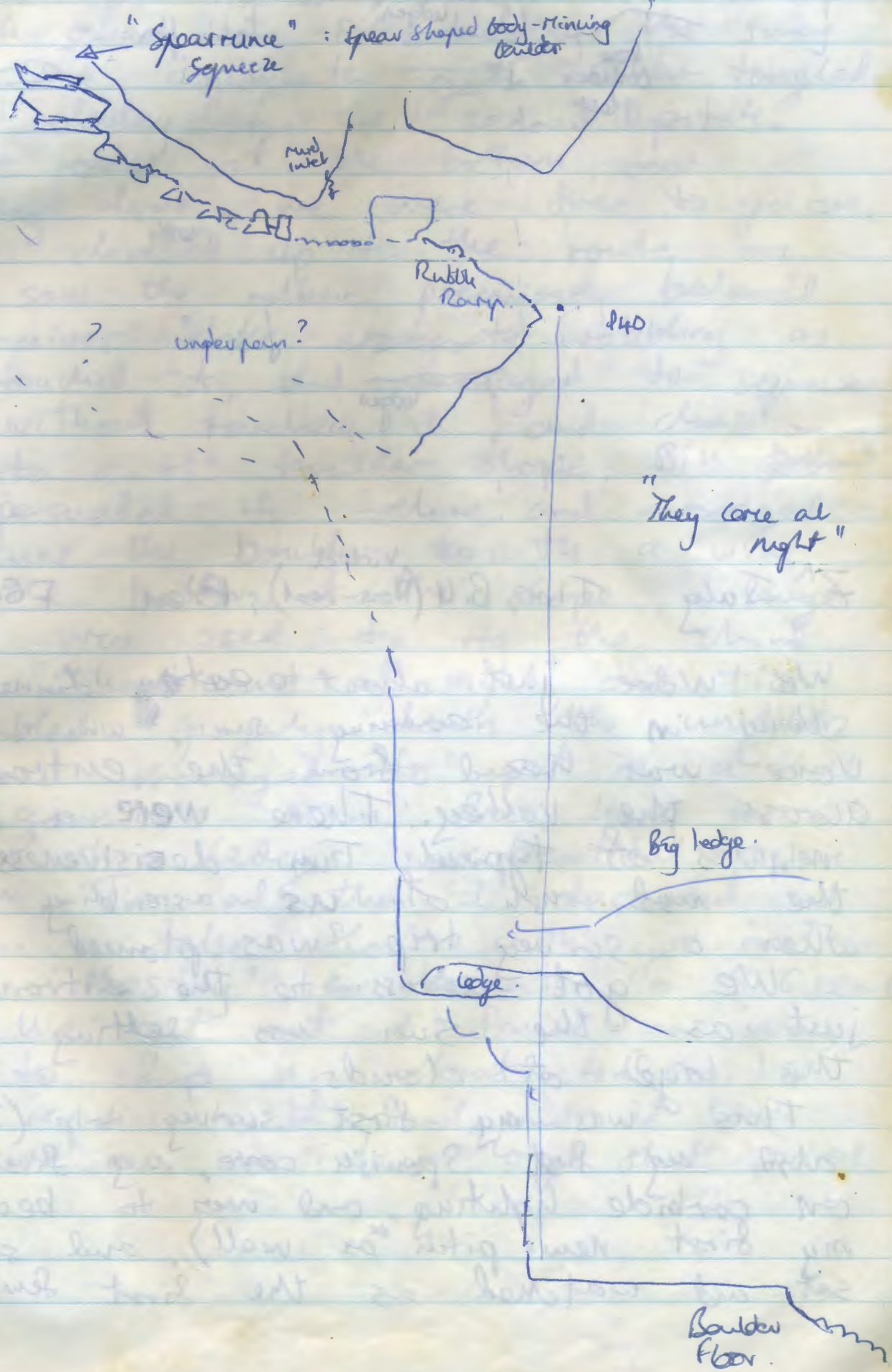
8

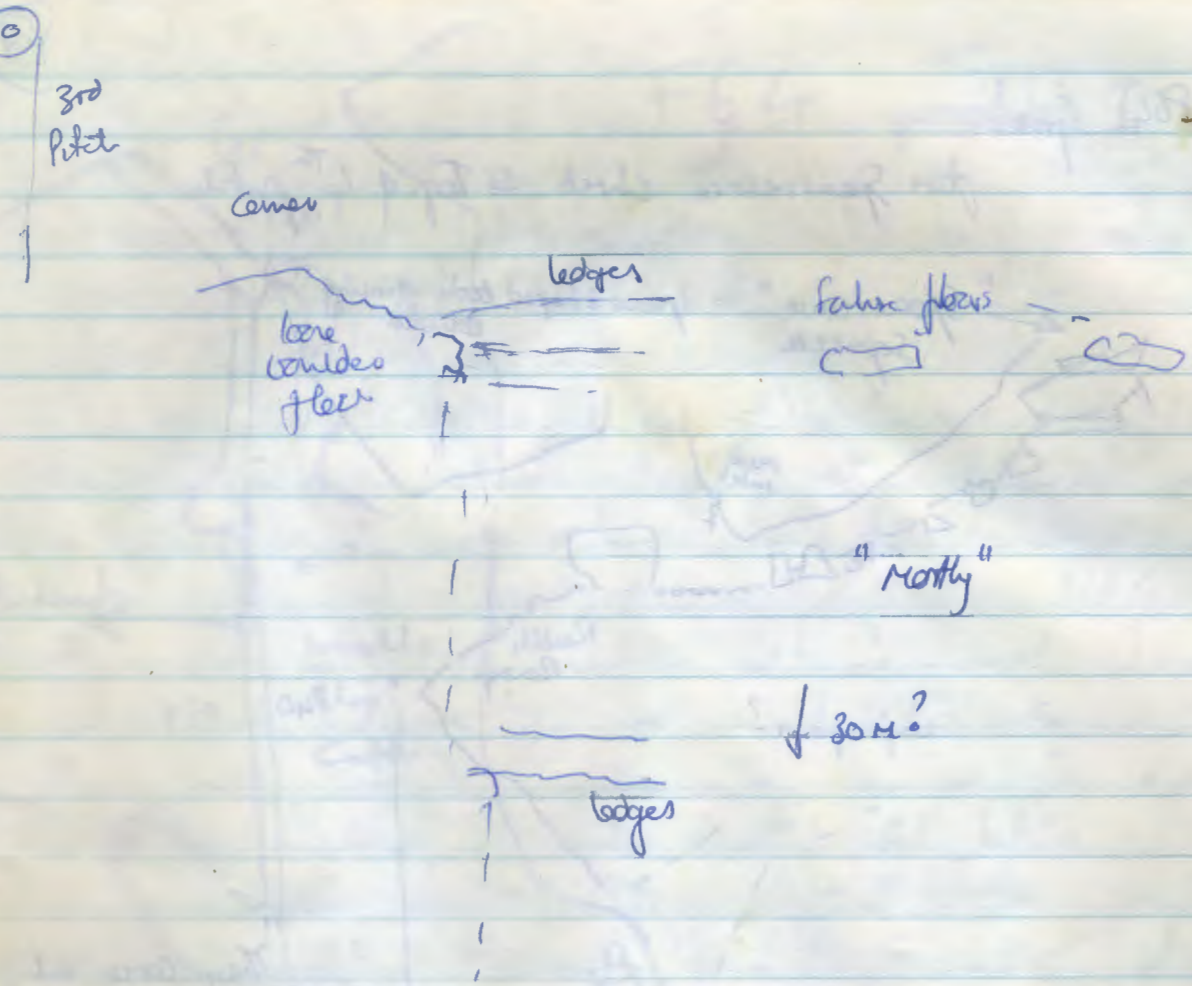
F64 grade I


p20
5m
Rift leads off
Whistle Stop Cafe
p20
?
p15m
"Olé olé Olé"
the route
Spewnace
too tight
?
2 second drop off
?

P64 Grade I

Pass Spearmince climb to Top of 4th pitch.





7th July, Tim, Bill (Virtual Non-real), Ben F64

We were just about to eat dinner & were sitting in the evening sun, when Chris's voice was heard from the entrance across the valley. There were a few minutes of typical Tim decisiveness, before the mad rush of us assembling gear, when a survey trip was planned.

We got across to the entrance just as the sun was setting across the layer of clouds.

This was my first survey trip (It was also my first Spanish cave, my first trip on carbide lighting, and was to become my first new pitch as well), and so I sat and watched as the first few survey

stations were logged, until I heard a shout of "come on down!". The first pitch was quite impressive, and at the bottom, I took over from Bill, holding the survey tape, and consequently got rather tangled in the belaying on the second pitch. However once at the bottom, our surveying done, we were free to go on.

Tim climbed up to the route on, and saw the rather precariously balanced "spearmince" flake ~~ready to~~ wobbling as you touched it, and managed to squeeze by without touching it, and climb on down to a 45° boulder slope. Bill ~~bottom~~ was persuaded to follow, and managed to secure the boulder ~~to~~ with a wire.

At the bottom of the slope, a huge boulder was used to rig the third pitch "They come at night" and Tim scrambled gingerly down the unstable ramp, and managed to put in a bolt which gave a 40 m free hang ~~to~~ past two ledges in a beautiful open chamber. Tim and then I decended and found... a false floor with yet another pitch "Mostly", ~~to~~ ~~be~~ with a 5-6 second rattle. We got out & found our way back to camp by about 4.15 am, but more remains to be found, and it looks like we are now into a large shaft series.

Ben

8th July Paul, Rob, Michelle, Richard F64.

After letting Paul & Rob set off early to do a bit of rerigging on the first couple of pitches, Michelle and I set off to survey.

We met Paul & Rob at the bottom of the second pitch. By an ingenious system of pulleys we managed to pull the huge, spiked boulders down into the rift, and then Paul 'gardened' the slope sufficiently so that it doesn't provide much ish now.

Paul rerigged the 3rd pitch and Michelle and I surveyed from the bottom of the second pitch to the top of the 3rd. We then headed out, leaving Paul and Rob to rig the 4th pitch.

[Depth of "They come at night" - 35.5m] flick

~~8th Friday~~

8th July Bill (Real) (Gower Pot Man), Alex, Snablet.

At about 12.00 midday, Alex, Snablet & me set off for a bit of tagging & to do some caves. We started off tagging F66 & E67, then leaving our packs we shot over to F41 to pick up some gear & descend a shaft that Tim had mentioned, we couldn't find this shaft but noted some other snow plugs & allready numbered shafts, then headed off to F68. I went off to rig the ladder & do some digging. A few hours of juggling rocks gave the impression of a fairly long term dig. So I gave up, just as Alex & Snablet approached. They carried on & I headed into the roof. Juggling more rocks & another squeeze entered a comfortable sized aven ≃ 25 feet. I thought about climbing it then dodit from death phobia. Instead I widened the squeeze & went to tell the others. They came up to survey it & I dug a collapsing boulder choke which

didn't go. We thought A passage appears to lead off the top of the aven, but the rock is dodgy, so I ~~thought~~ thought Tim or Wodek might enjoy it. F41 was next on the ajenda. Alex went down first, but the hauling sack got stuck so only 1 bag was done, I went down intending to dig a runway for the bag, but it didn't work, & I did the same, so home for food & news of F64. (& Vodka!)

Gower Pot Men.

(new tactics for F41; dig a wide shaft at entrance - avoid smelting)

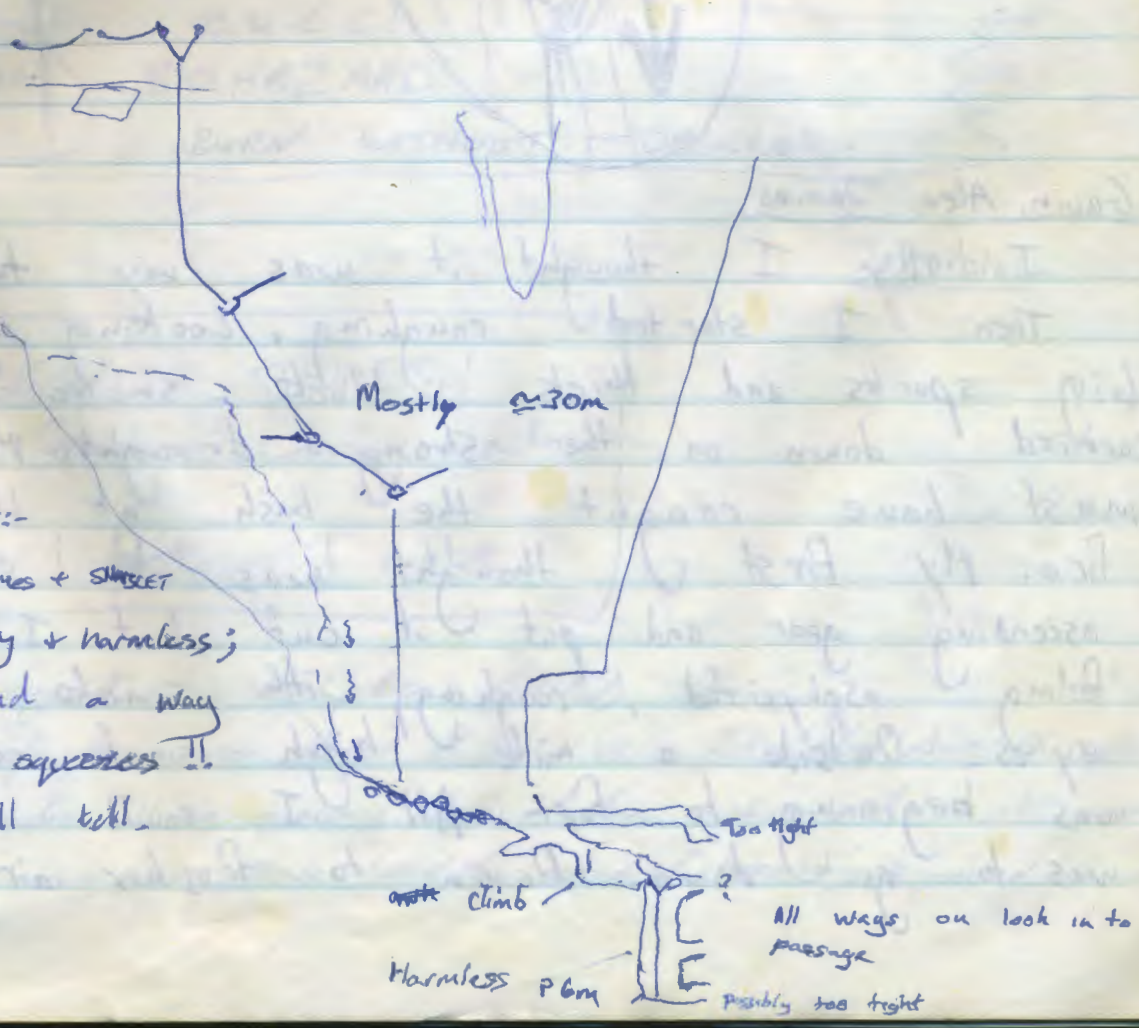
Did you know that ladybirds like powdered milk?
They like syrup too!

9th July Bill Rob, Michelle, Richard.

Left about Midday, I went to the bottom of F70, it appears to carry on down, but has a snow plug, so it could be dug. We then headed off to F41 for a quite bit of snow bashing.

Bill.

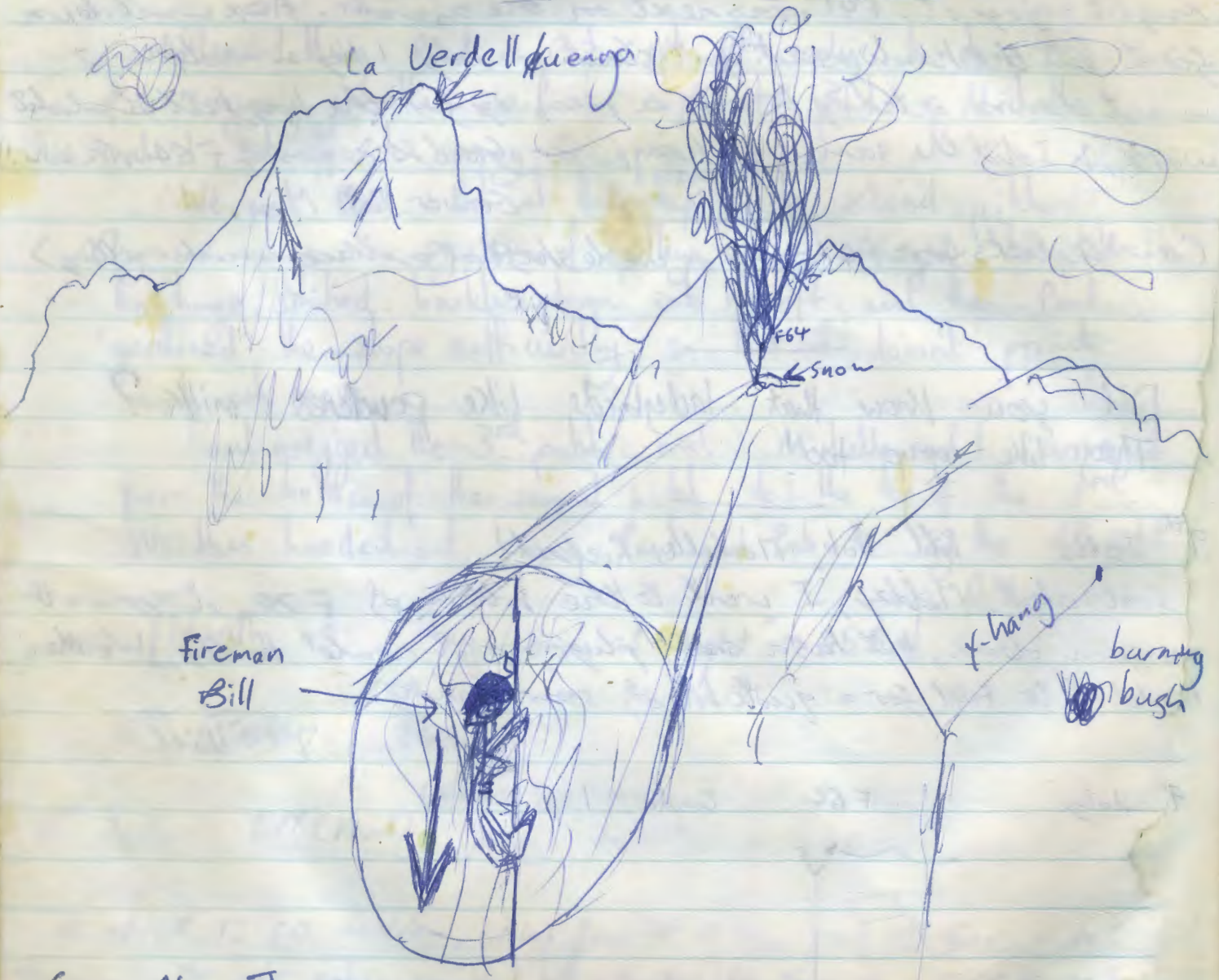
9 July F64 Grade 1



The team!: were :-
Tim + John + James + Simeet
Rigged Mostly + harmless;
tried to find a way through the squeezes !!
Time will tell.

(14) 10th July

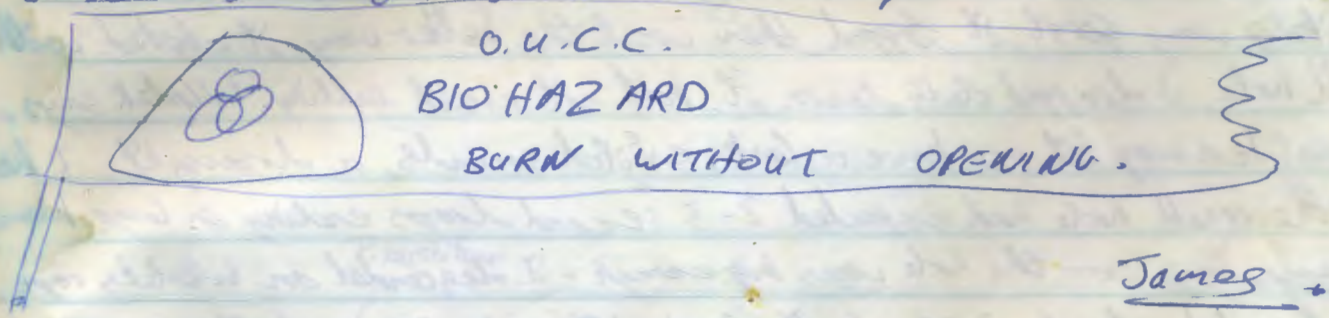
F 64 THE CAVE OF FIRE



Gavin, Alex, James

Initially I thought it was my tuba. Then I started coughing. Looking up I saw big sparks and thick black smoke being carried down on the strong draught. My carbide must have caught the bush at the top on fire. My first thought was to swop to ascending gear and put it out but I started feeling asphyxiated, coughing with smoke in my eyes. Outside a mile high smoke column was beginning to form. All I could think of was to go down. Down to fresher air. Down to

the rebelay. (The bush was under the y-hang.) Suddenly the theme tune to "London's Burning" streamed through a small fissure in the rock and Alex appeared from the smoke a bare four foot away.
"Come on, let's keep going down."
We met Gavin at the bottom of harmless. 150m down the smoke smell was still noticeable.
After two hours of hammering I squeezed through the start of the rift that had eluded me the day before. Gavin's "the fierce ladies of Cannock".
After much enlarging we decided to leave the rift for a Dash party.
On the way out Gavin climbed up 4m to a ledge from the bottom of "mostly". There he found another draughting rift. Mmmm. There must be a way on. Out for another sunset and dreams of more pitch.



James.

It's CAVING WITH JAMES!
Lesson 1 : Common caving units

1 inch = 1 foot = 1 metre

10/7 764 - Survey team - Mich, Ben & Bill (Red)
First check the rope after James' arson attempt. It looked OK so Bill lobbed down the pitch. I followed, wondering how dim all was - arriving at the bottom to discover it was still nearly shades. Speedily down & down till we heard the sound of hammering & peered into the

"Fierce Ladies of Cannock" - very nasty. Surveyed from the top of 'Mostly' to the bottom of "Hamden" 159 m down. On the way back out seaward we had to bring out tapes crabs etc to hang onto the rope when we left it to enter an inlet half way up the 1st pitch. So with a little ingenuity & half an SRT kit we made a human deviation for the squeeze hammers & pass on their way out. Began surveying up the inlet till lights began to fail & the survey paper ran out

11th June Wlodek, Bill (R)

left at about 11.00, went to a cave that Wlodek had stumbled upon on the mist, WB1, descended ≃ 10m to boulder floor then followed a passage for ≃ 20m till it stopped from there we sheared the hillside towards the gorsche of Verdeluga I found a shaft there - WB2 about 17m deep, but ending in a choke, I then found a hole with a horizontal entrance (!), but didn't feel like entering, though it did look spacious continuing clockwise around VL. Wlodek called me across to a snowdug - WB3 but no way in here - then more success. Wlodek said there's a cave tha over there, sure enough on approaching a cave entrance formed I went down a 2-3 m shaft, a 2 way passage. went the least likely way first, it stopped, then went the better way, it choked with a small hole, I dropped stuff down it, but not much falling. Wlodek says, their must be a way let me have a look, excited sounds, a draught, I had a look, the small hole had expanded 2-3 second drops ending in large booming sounds anyway soon the hole was big enough. I descended on Wlodeks rope, the rope ended about 3 ft short of the floor. - 30 m shaft, free hang. but on my little pseudo pitzle I only saw a very small squeeze as way on, scrunching myself in I saw space on the other side, booming noises suggested big. What had I missed? I stepped back into the shaft, of course a large passage about 2m up, using the rope, I ascended a bit and entered, yep it goes about 3 or 4 second rattle, but my light was going, & no gear, so up and out and back to camp, via the summit of VDL.

Bill-

CAVES:

→ WB1 in area E

125° ~~Jorcada Blanca~~ Pico la Jorcada (no ~~future~~ 8 finished)

180° Verdelluenga

—— * ——

Other in area 9

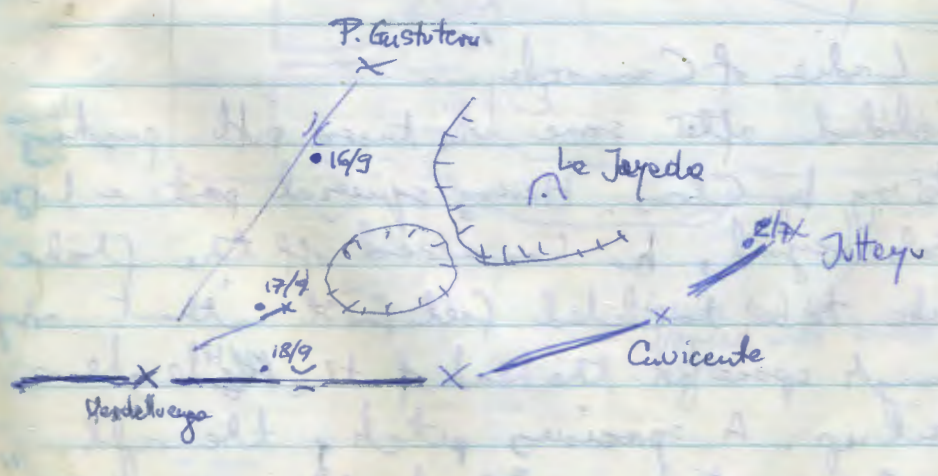
23 ~~16~~/9 [C6] 328 Pico Gustutero (digging in N direction!)
(WB2) 263 Julteya
173 Robtize

—— * ——

24 ~~17~~/9 [C7] 286 Julteyu (good entrance, good place for deep cave)
(WB3) 352 Pico Gustutero
118 Verdelluenga - snow digging or waiting for less snow

—— * ——

25 ~~18~~/9 [C8] 268 Cuvicente / -5° (~ 1950 asl ~~2000~~ asl)
10 m below ridge



I don't know where are caves 1/9 - 13/9 ?

old B1 - 14/9

old B2 - 15/9

(18)

18/9

C8

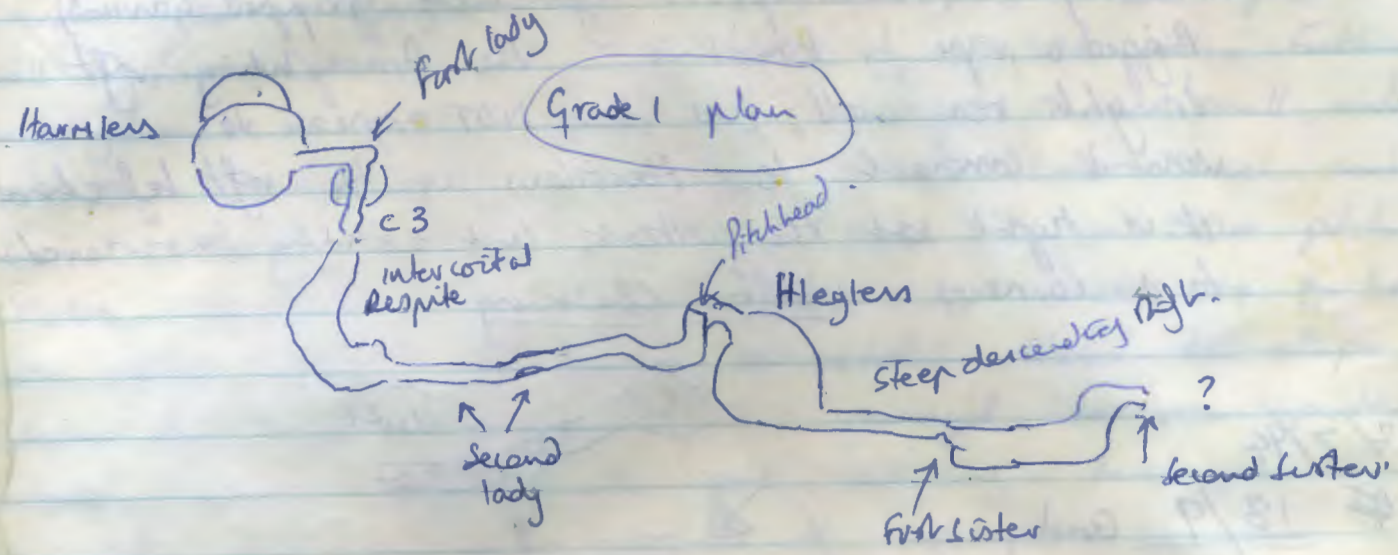
11th July F64 Tim, Chris D

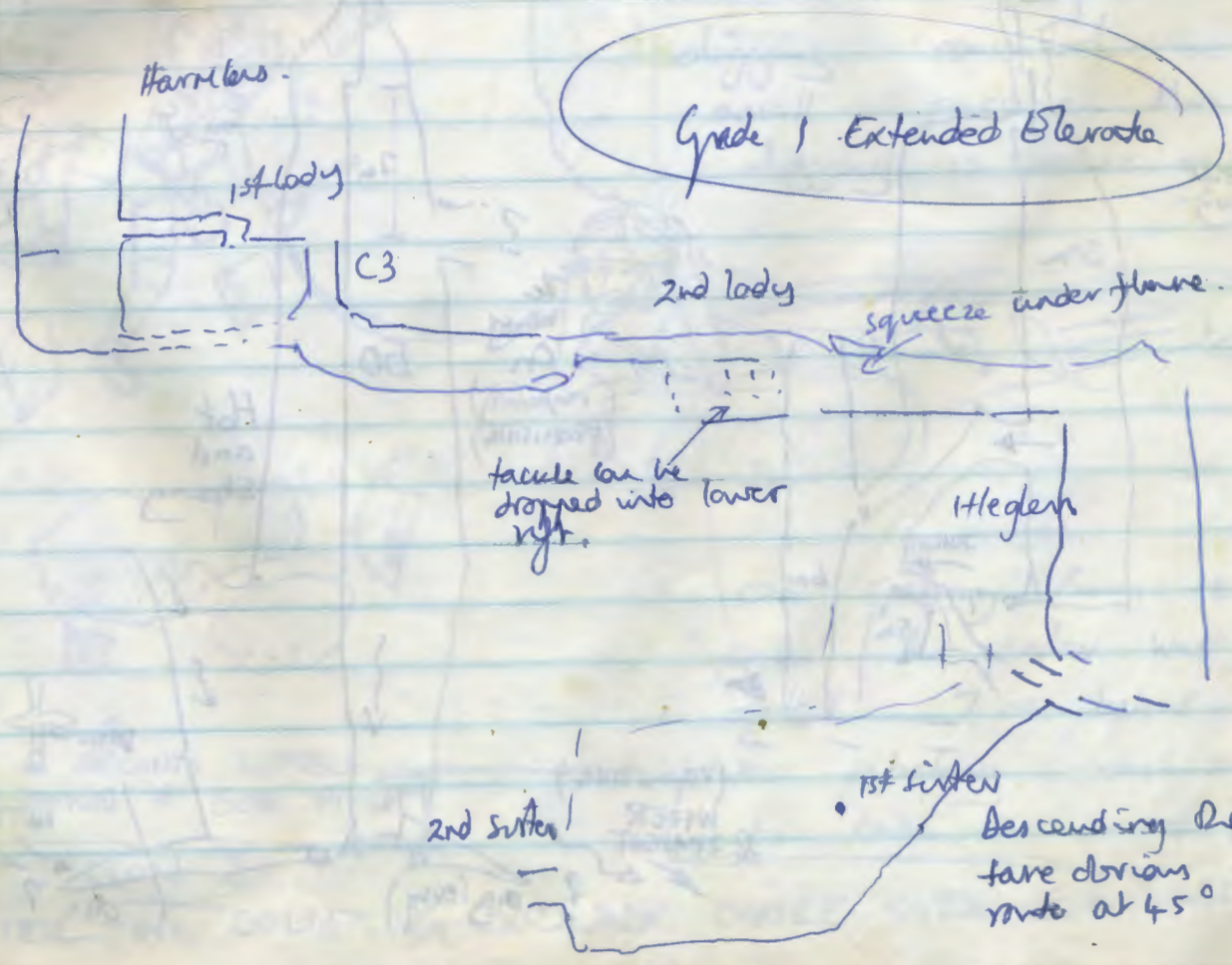
Navigating "the Fierce Ladies of Cannock"...
The second lady yielded after some virtuoso rift pushing by Tim. Support portering by Chris. Having squeezed past a large flake & reached a pitch beyond, he hammered off the flake, making a ~6m long tube to be tackled feet first without any gear on. There is enough space at the head of the ~~[illegible]~~ legless pitch (~10m) to kit up. A spacious pitch, the rift continues for several metres until .... "And their sisters" are met. The first one is an easy (already hammered) squeeze. Another 6-8m of wider rift reaches the second sister which I got my bum through - just needs a small spike to be carved to make it passable. The

ift carries on under beyond, still draughting...
Time to head out to meet Rob & Arette. But no, the way out was blocked by a gangling bearded object with a school tie round its head, getting some particularly poor service from the first "fierce lady of Cannock".

Chris

To be continued...





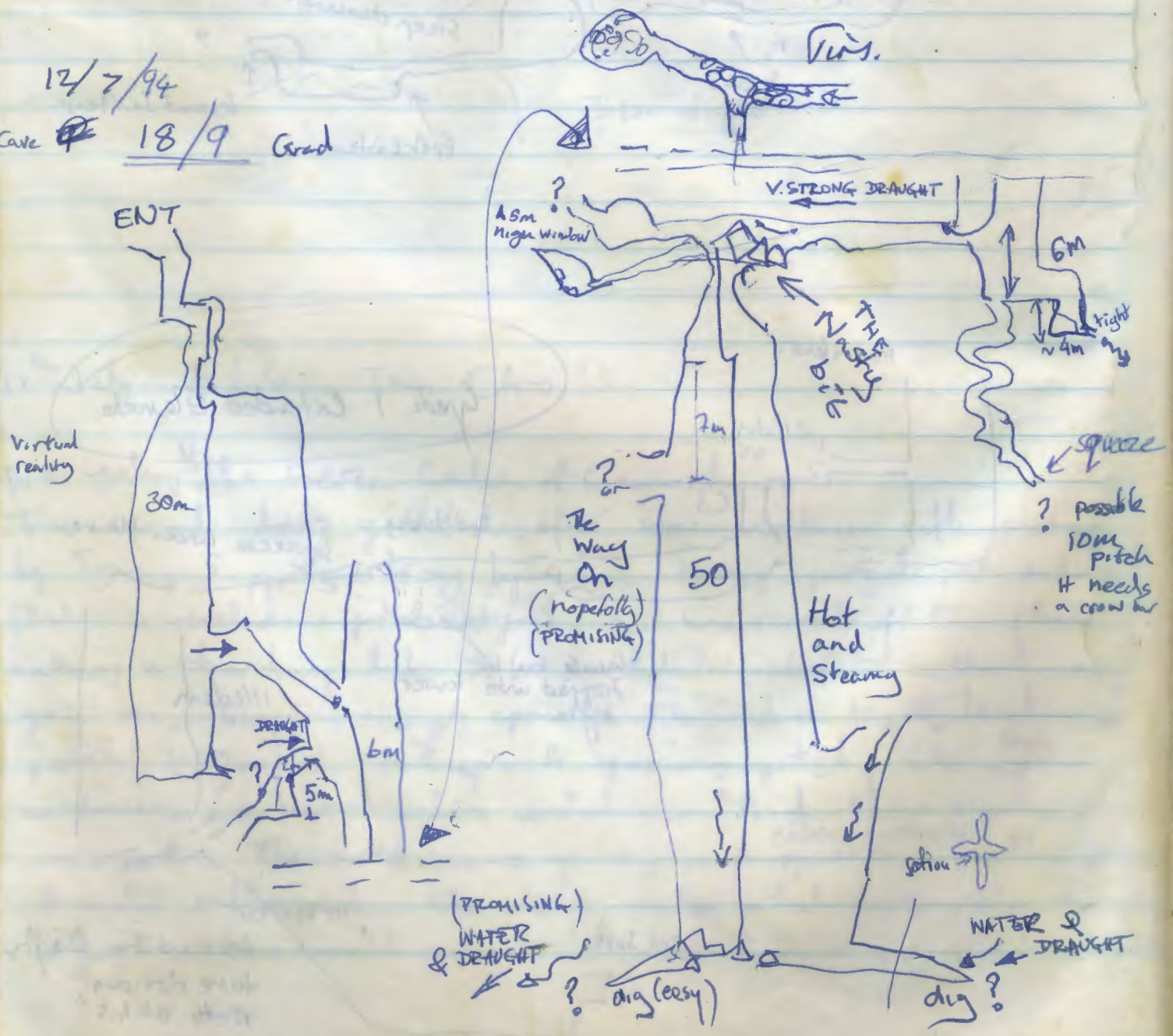
Notes on F64.

1). I looked at the hole on the right wall 1/3 way down "They come at night" - it goes nowhere.

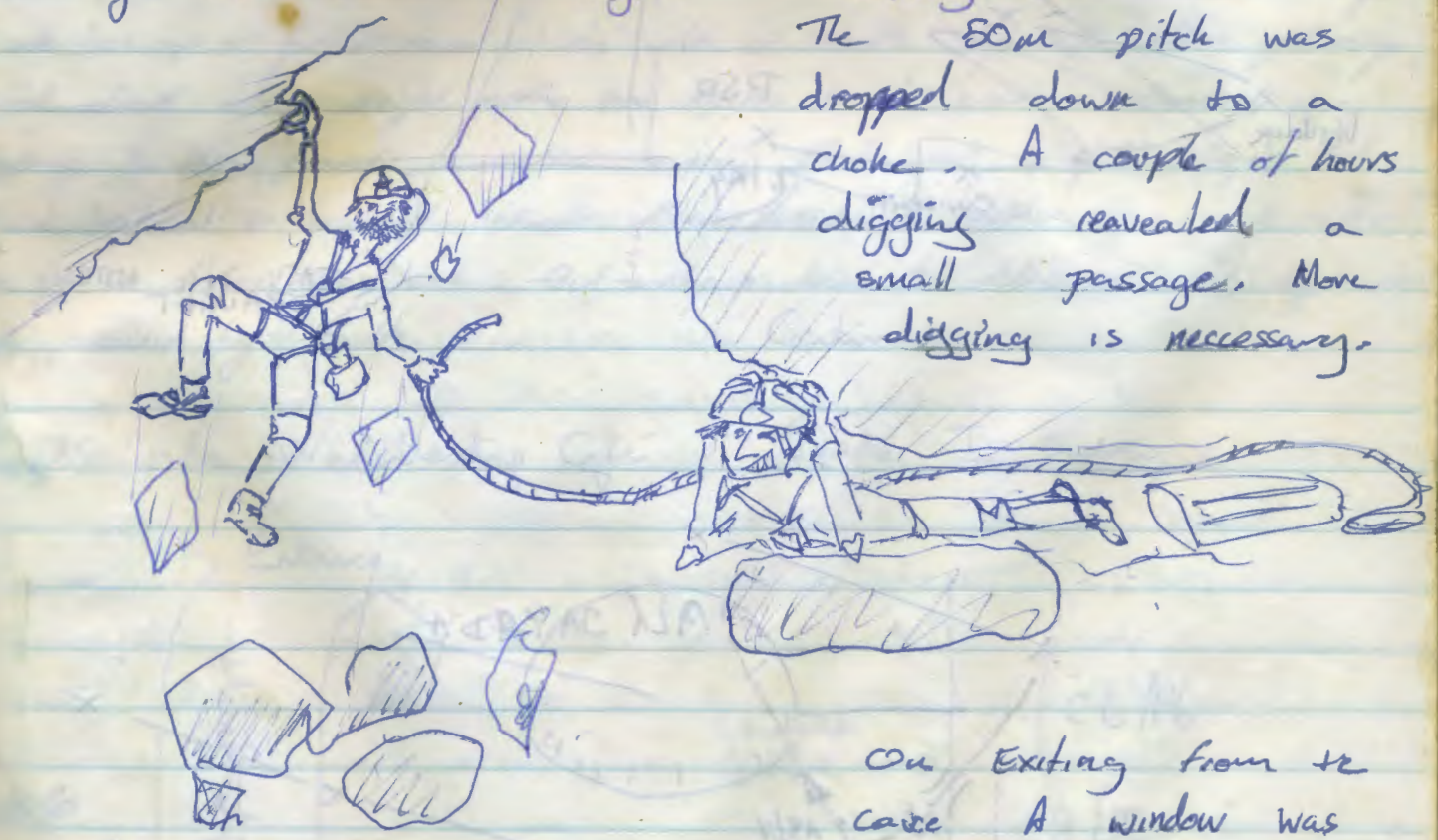
2). I climbed up onto the ledge at the bottom of "mostly" (not surprised you were gripped Gavin!). Rigged a rope for handline. The draughting rift draughts very well, and does NOT appear to round connect to Harriers or the rift beforehand. It is tight at the start, but easily traversed to a corner. Worth checking.

12/7/94

Cave 18/9 Grad



Continued exploration from the previous day. We followed a tiny stream down a ≃ 10m pitch and into a very tight rift, then promtly looked for another way on. A small spiraling tube was followed down a couple of climbs to a squeeze. Considerable time was spent enlargeing the squeeze but to no avail. The squeeze needs some proper tools for the job. Once past it will form the head of an approx 10m pitch. Further investigation of the 2nd pitch revealed a small window so far unentered, and a phreatic tube which lead to a small choke at the head of a 50m pitch. Wlodek attempted to climb over the choke to gardeen the pitch head, unfortunatly the choke decided to collapse down the 50m pitch, Wlodek managed to run up the choke whilst dodging the roof collapsing to get to a ledge and to some degree of safety.



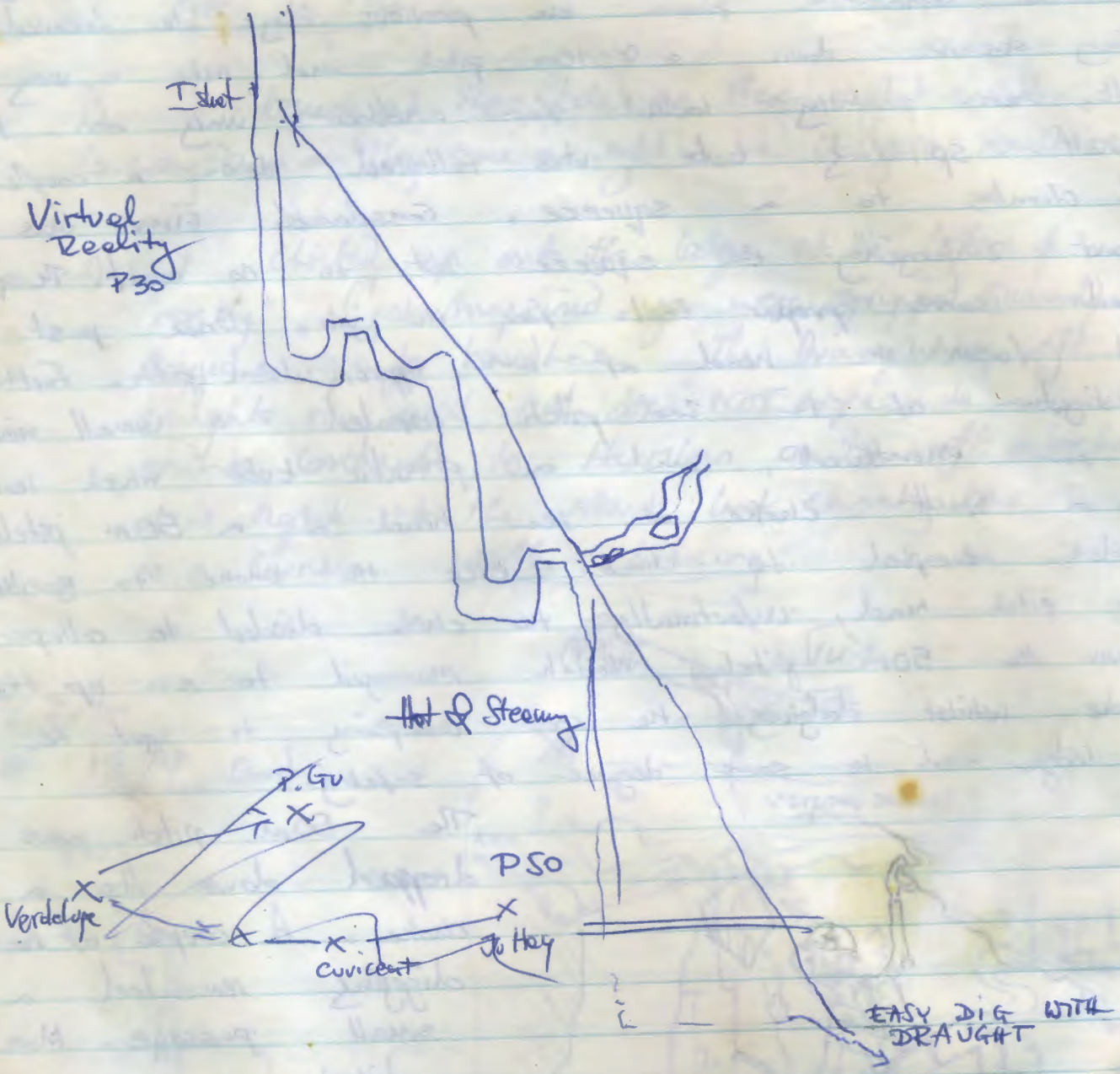
The 50m pitch was dropped down to a choke. A couple of hours diggging reavealed a small passage. More diggging is neccessary.

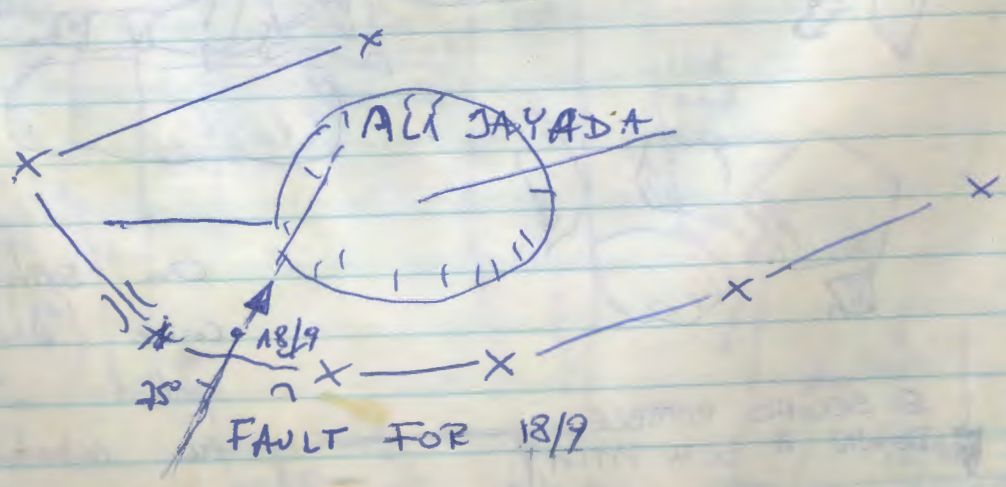
On Exiting from the cave A window was spotted 7m below the rebelay which seems to take the draught.

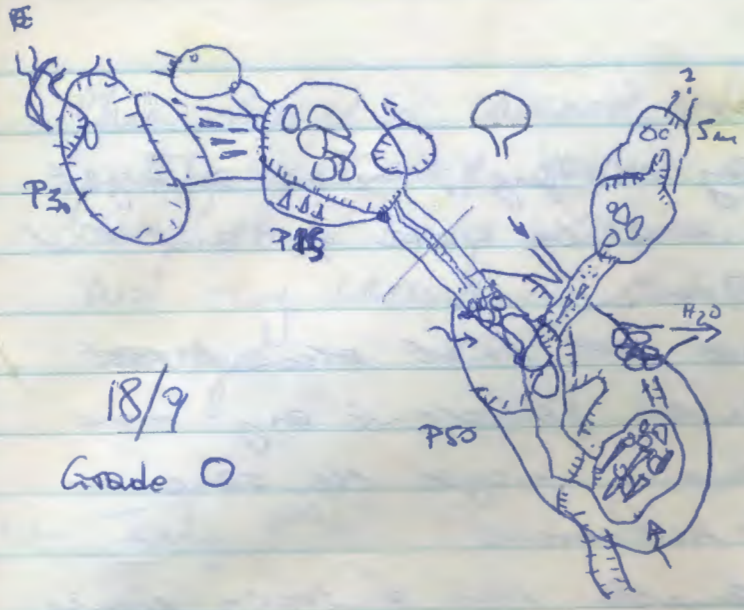
5 SECONDS RUMBLE DOWN A 50M PITCH

CAVING LESSON 2:
BE FASTER THAN COLLAPSING BOOLDER CHORE OVER 50m SHAFT

18/9


T shot
Virtual Reality P30
Hot & Steamy
P.Gu
P50
Verdelope
Cuvicent
To Hay
EASY DIG WITH DRAUGHT


ALI JAYADA
18/9
25°
FAULT FOR 18/9



18/9
Grade O

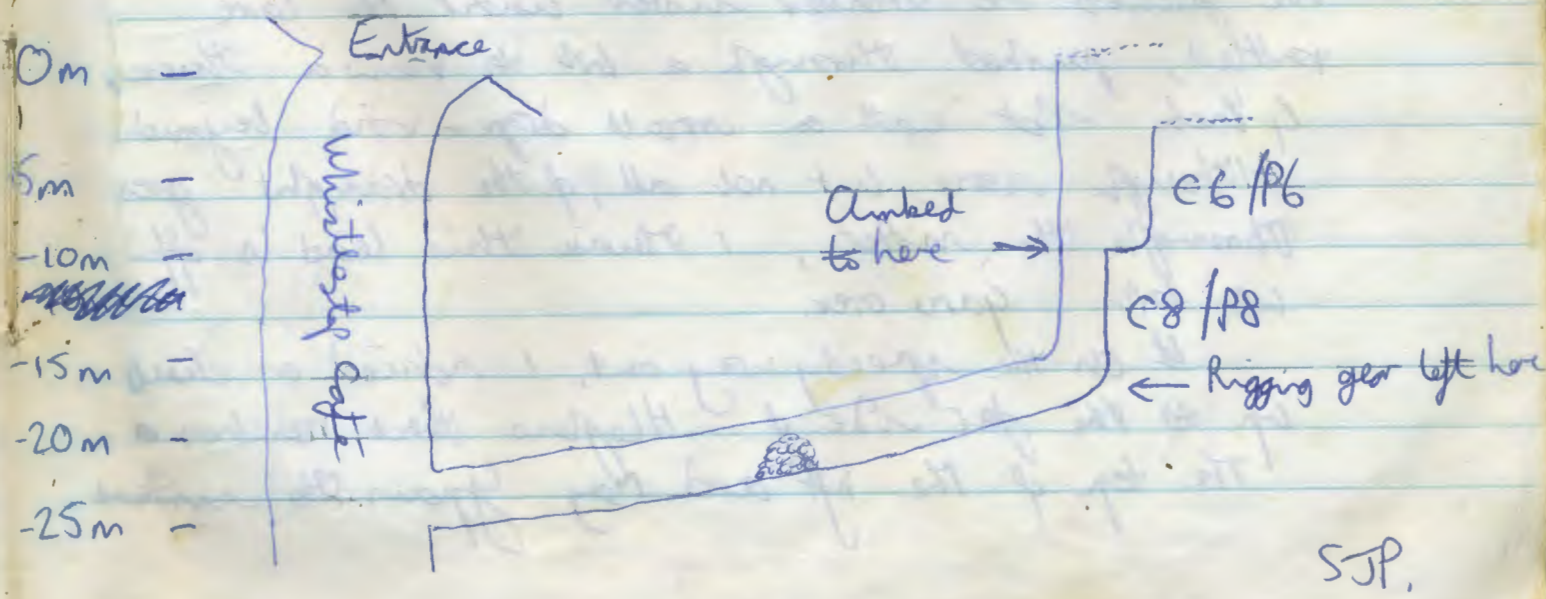
Milk will tend to Curdle – Quote No 2

11.7.92 764 Steve P. & Mick

Jean not very acc went to look at Pedant's folly - traverse above Mostly. Jean not very acc had one hangover (still, in the middle of the afternoon) and one light that wouldn't work. In spite of these handicaps we reached the folly, peered around it and decided it was a Pointless Pedant's Folly so went back up & fitted round in the inlet on Whistle Stop Café. Steve got very excited about adding height rather than depth to the cave & climbed up something he then feared he couldn't reverse. Mick went to fetch a rope but without bolt kit or rawlplug materials Steve decided to slither down rock rather than try an Indian rope trick. Out early & down to delicious not vege stop meal provided by Anette.

Continued....

Inlet into Whistlestop Café Grade I survey



SJP.

(2)

Happy Day!

Babies & nappy changing, what a nightmare. It was so nice to wake up and find myself still in the Picas.

Perhaps it was all that alcohol last night. I don't think I'll drink any more alcohol at Top Camp... maybe the same or a little less, but not more.

Thanks to Annette for a tasty evening.

Dab

13th July 1994 — F64 got screwed by their younger sister.

Chris, Tim and Alex trundled down to the terminal survey point at the bottom of Harriers, and surveyed 14 miserable legs to the second sister. With just an hour left to work, there was a minor clusterfuck. I burnt the survey tape, and Alex dropped the bolting hammer into an impenetrable rift. However, a bit of careful fishing with the tape measure retrieved the hammer enough for Alex to reach it. We fucked the smaller sister until the bare rattled, pushed through a bit to reveal a thick, 4 inch slot with a small drop + void beyond. Although some, but not all, of the draught goes through the sister, I think this lead is off. We lost. Game over.

On the speedy way out, I noticed a climb up to the far side of Hieglers that reaches the top of the rift and may bypass the sisters.

This should be checked and a decision made before pulling gear out of Hegglers etc. Sped out to reassure Carys that things were ok, then had lots of vodka and they weren't. Much cave was found and surveyed .....

Tim

11th July 1994 F64 Steve + Mick continued

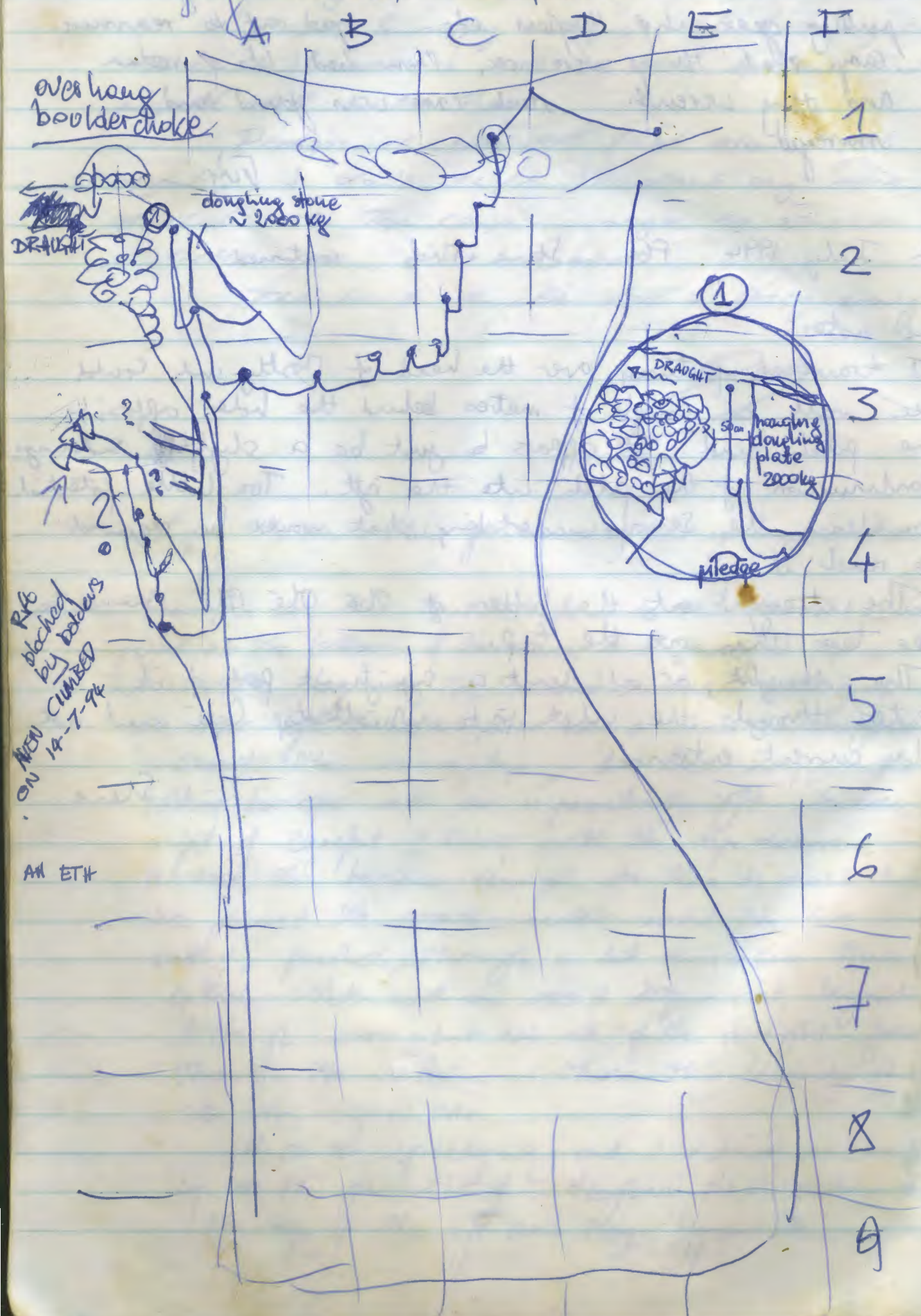
Some notes :-

1. I traversed partway over the head of Mostly and could see wall a couple of metres behind the holes opposite the pitch head. It appears to just be a slightly sideways continuation of the pitch into the rift. Too little potential considering the serious undertaking that would be required to reach it
2. The draught at the bottom of Olé Olé Olé seems to be less than at the top.
3. The draught, or at least a significant part of it, enters through the inlet into Whistlestop Café and not the current entrance

Steve

(26)

13th July Wodek, Snoddet, Anette & Tim

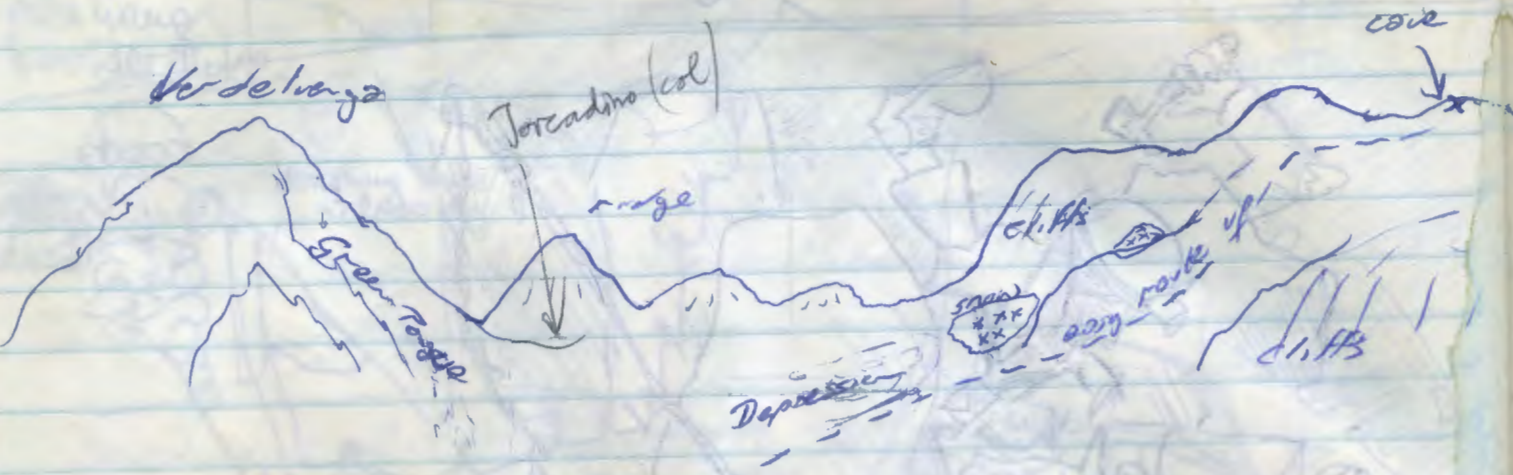


Today we was bolting in area A3 ÷ C3
Tomorrow we plan bolting in area A3 ÷ A5

THE WAY ON !!
THROUGH THE SQUARE
WINDOW !!

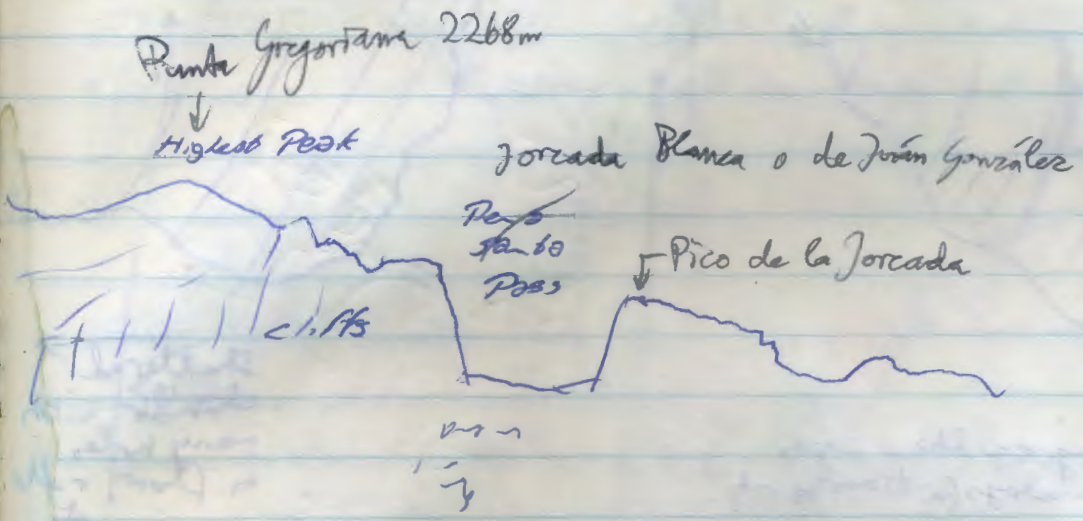
(26) The Tap

View from old top camp

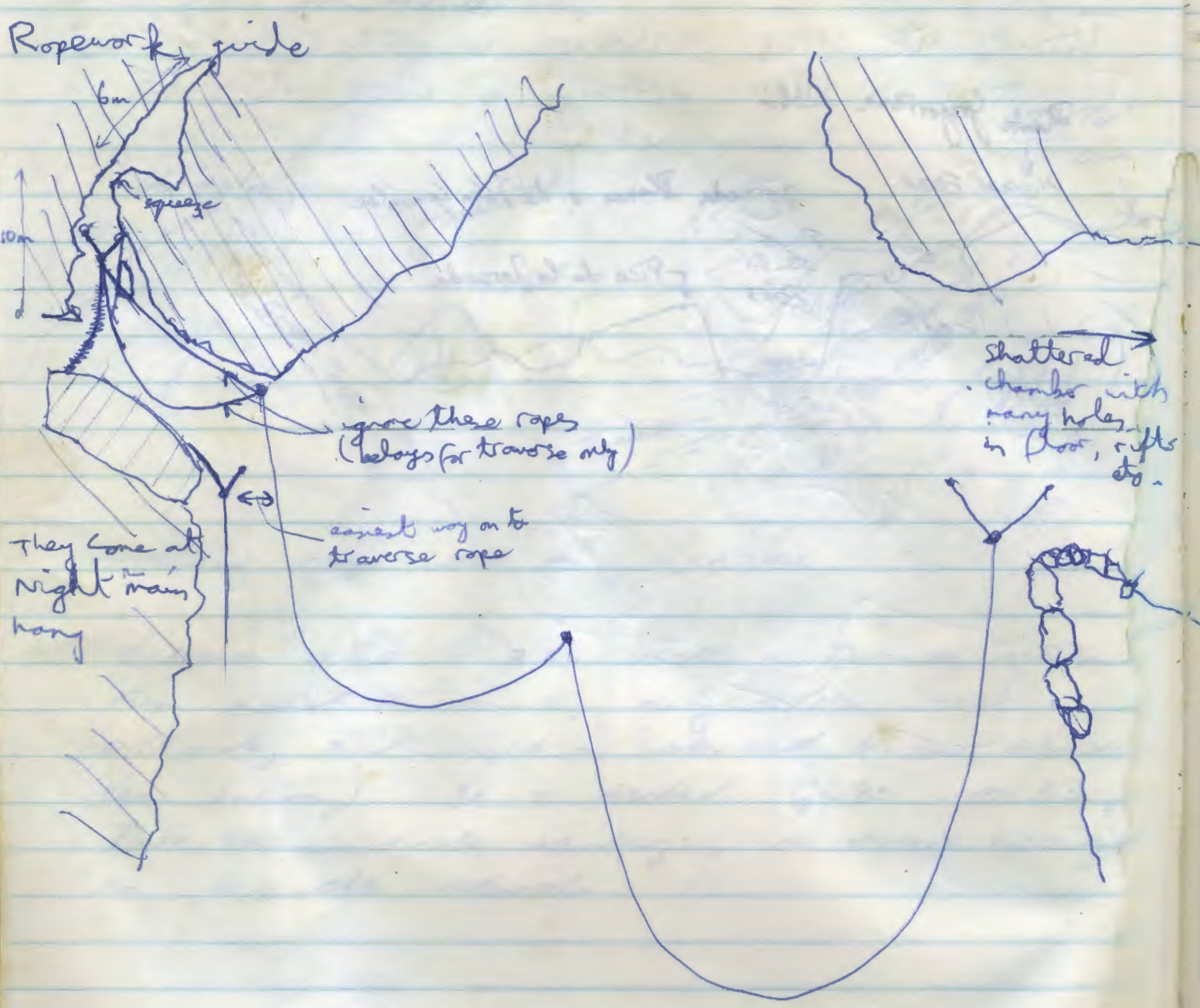


Following ridge walk on 11/07/94

Entrance is a ~ 25m shaft in Dolomite ~ 50m from one of the summits, only ~ 10m lower in altitude, and right on watershed (& hence Asturias-Leon boundary). It is marked GL 85 MS 63. There are no circle marking, no obvious bolts and no dependable reburials.


Punta Gregoriana 2268m
Highest Peak
Jorcada Blanca o de Juan González
Pico de la Jorcada
cliffs

F64 (30) 13th July Richard & Chris D



First I tried to find a way over to window by climbing small tube above sloping big boulder. Horrible squeeze with tacklesack – it opened out hopefully above, only to close down immediately. Dropped climbing rope back to Richard, then caved back down sacrificing tape + mallon.

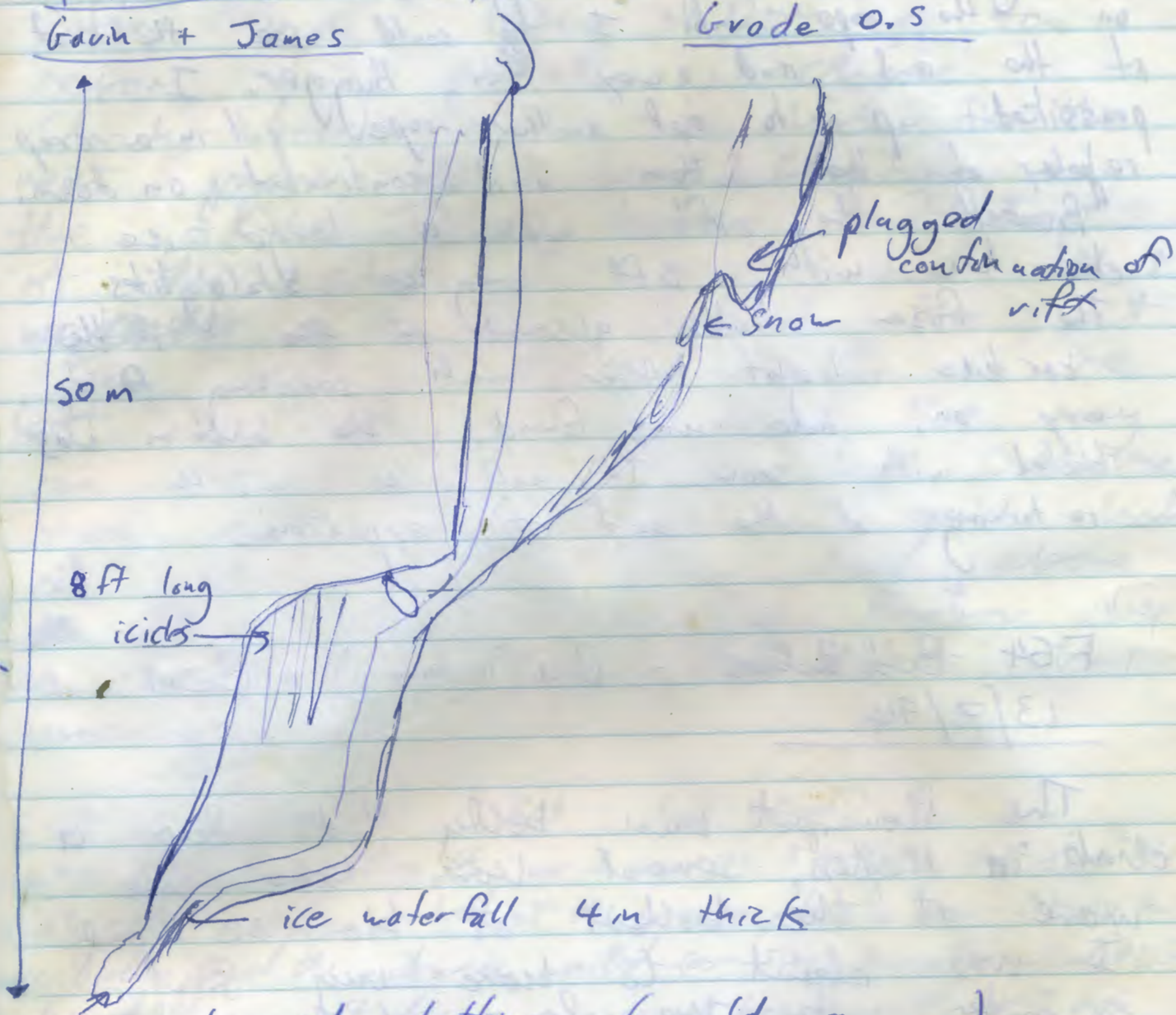
Then climbed, bolted, traversed, pendulled, hammered way across to window. Big shattered beyond – large boulders with various rifts & pitches heading off. Need gardening – didn't want to wake John & James somewhere below!

Chris

FS6 11th July

Gavin + James

Grade 0.5



After wacking in my first bolt I made the first descent of FS6, putting in a wire re belay on the way down. Gavin had been wanting to do this cave since last year so it was great that he stayed on the surface to let me go down. Snow levels were much higher this year however. When I reached the bottom of the wide entrance shaft I could see a hole through the snow floor.

Kicking it to make it bigger, I slid down on the rope until I could see the knot at the end and a way on. Bugger. I prussiked up to get another rope put in a crap repelay at the bottom and continued on down. Beneath the rift was a large ice chamber with 8 ft long ice stalagtites. The frozen walls glisened ~~on the~~ in the car bide light. After much searching for a way on, none was found, the bottom was blocked with snow. It will be worth returning at the end of expedition.

F64 - Bad Habits - Bill (imaginary) & Ben.
13/7/94.

The Stomerpot men boldly left for a climb in Hleglers, several hours later we were at the bottom of Hornlers, and I was about to have my first encounter with the fierce ladies of Connoch. The first squeeze soon went, but I had slightly more fun in the 2nd lady. Getting my helmet stuck. However once we were through ~~[illegible]~~ and down Hleglers. Jones got his first ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ look at the climb ahead. After half an hour of sorting out all the ropes & tapes that had been such fun to bring through the ladies, Bill decided to try the start

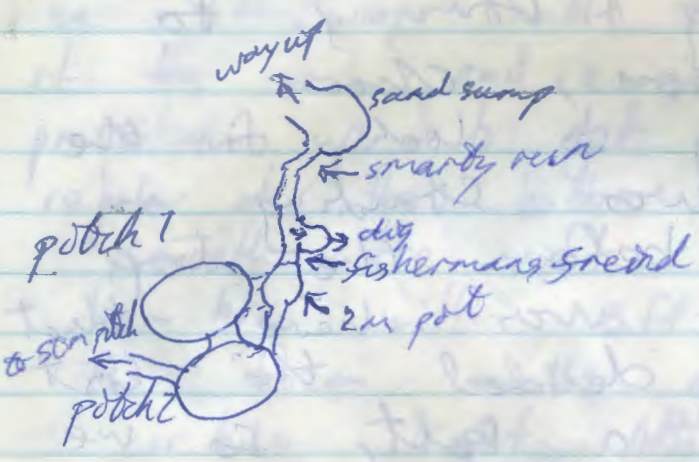
of the climb, it was over 3 hrs later after much Upping & Downing, to repair his protection, choose Chock-Stones & try to look for the next move, he was standing on the flake, just below the top of the pitch. It was here that ~~we decided~~ the Bill decided the last few feet needed a bolt, so we left it there, having seen the way on tantalising at the top. On the way out we had a quick look at the rift in the climb above the bottom of mostly. Another trip has left to finish "Bad Habits" this morning.

C-18-25-9-10-11-etc Rob, Bill (Real)

since Rob isn't writing this up I suppose I better. Set off in the mist after midday, arrived at the wrong place a few times, but eventually found the entrance, waited for Tim, Annette, Wladek & Sabbie to descend then went down, masses of hassle with light, but anyway went from little entrance of top of first pitch, into little pot 2m deep, then through squeeze - 'Fishermans Friend' with lots of ripped oversuits into a passage going 2 ways, one way down following a reasonable draught for about 10m to a squeeze with a 3-4 second rattle, up we go through the 'smarty run' (against the draught) to a large chamber with a climb from which the draught comes, hopefully to a higher entrance, & a sand sump (slight draught) next we checked out the 'wiggly bit' at the bottom of the second pitch, good drop, but squeeze too tight & not easy dig

(34)

Plan grade 1 survey.



Bill.

13th July 1994 25/9.

A gentle breeze bringing hints of tropical flowers and the smell of blue water ~~touched~~ brushed across my face, cooling, soothing, relaxing. ~~The~~ The sound of ~~the~~ waves breaking at the edge of the indian ocean; the smooth of palm leaves, the whispering flight of a tropic bird lazed across my peripheral vision. "~~A~~

"Is my Bacardi and ice ready yet?"

"Five minutes, came back the reply."

"Five minutes"

"Five minutes" Suddenly Wizodek's harsh voice woke me, ~~from~~ back to the hideous reality. A small sandy tube, a ~~few~~ strong, cold, carbide fury draught bringing hints of fear and the smell of rock fall brushing across my muddy face.

"Still five minutes?", I shouted, two hours after ~~[illegible]~~ Wizodek's first announcement.

"Fuck! Oh Fuck!" came the reply.

"What wrong?"

"No problem!"

Meanwhile, Snablet rested in the ante-chamber, tired from a serious bout of boulder ~~[illegible]~~ bolting and a long session of knot-tying practice, and Annette froze despite her "warm and furry" generator down her front. Snablet, surprisingly, was still alive, but that's another story. well, no it isn't really: its the same one. "Fuck! Oh Fuck!" Wizodek had said whilst wrestling with a restless boulder ~~directly~~ just itching to tumble Snablet towards hanging 25m below on a rope with only his ignorance of the situation to protect him.

"Whats wrong?"
"No problem"
~~Sta~~ I saw the boulder move. "Shall we warm smaller?"
"No problem".
Right. I scuttled back to the waiting room, and faze were more.
"So, what did you do ~~today~~, Tim?", on arrival back to camp. "Well, Annette and I spent five hours ~~peak~~ ~~we~~ looking at a climb beyond the 50 metre pitchhead." "It took 5 hours?" "Well, no, not quite that long. We spent some time sitting getting cold."
"So how long did it take"
"~~S~~ Five minutes". And it didn't go"

THE VIEWS OF VERDELLUGGA F64 IN EVERYONES CAMERA

— Can this go in expedition report?

A typical morning at Top Camp.

"We need to drop some pits", Gavin suggested.
"Where?"
Gavin pointed towards old top camp, now a shrouded in clag. Bill, the Gower pot man, always ready to try any new caving technique, threw his sleeping bag in a fierceand direction. There was a dull thump, and Bill started digging in the spot.
"Nice soft caving this.", Steve blurted ~~about~~ too fast for anyone to understand.
"What?"
"Nice soft caving this", Steve repeated, almost, ~~too~~ but not quite, too fast for anyone to understand.
"That", Rob interjected pedantically.
"Eh?"
"That. Nice soft caving that. not This, Steve. You aren't doing it; Bill is. So its that, not this!" explained Rob.
"Look at that", squeeled Annette, holding a strange ~~ca~~ millipede ~~with~~ in her hand, fascinated as ever.
"This, not that" Rob muttered.
"Its got a furry tummy", observed Tim.
"No it hasn't", said Annette. "its got hundreds of legs".
"Oh.", said Tim.
"Thousands", said Rob.
"Why, have you counted them" said Ben?
"Just because I haven't counted them, doesn't mean there aren't thousands", Rob replied with his usual remarkable insight for the vital.

~~[illegible]~~ Meanwhile, Bill had given up digging with his ~~[illegible]~~ sleeping bag and had found a ~~clean~~ clean, flat bit of rock. Flat, round, safe.

"What is it?"

"A rock, I think", said Bill (real Bill).

"Wow!", said James, and rushed off to melt snow ~~on~~ on top of the snow pole.

~~[illegible]~~ It was indeed a rock. That is, until Wzodek got involved. Then, within moments (well, five minutes), ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ and a frenzied bitting bonanza later, a hideous loose and dangerous boulder chute had appeared with Wzodek half way down it.

"Fuck! Oh Fuck!"

"Tea's up", Michelle cheerfully.

"Where? ~~[illegible]~~" said Rob.

"What?" said Michelle.

"Up where?", said Rob.

"Oh, up yours", retorted Michelle.

"So who's going caring?", Gavin cried again worriedly.

"Everyone", said everyone.

"Even Tim?"

"He haven't decided yet.", said everyone.

Tim

Paul says "Standing around naked is not the best way of advertising myself"

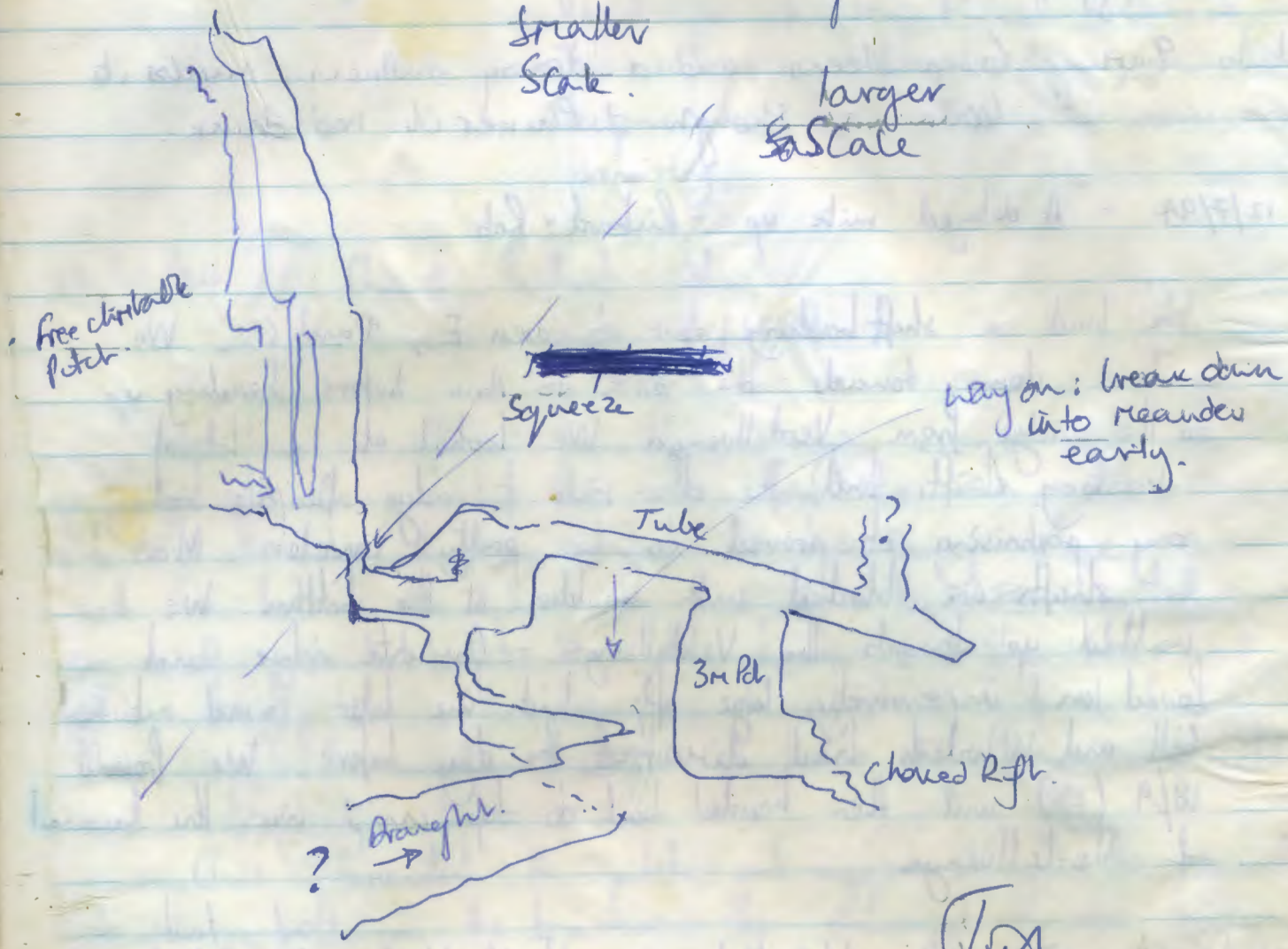
Nick says "I'll have a go at Tim's Planner".

(10)

14th July 1994 — F71 — Steve + Tim.

Finally, at 8pm, Steve managed to persuade Tim to go and accompany him on a rerigging trip in F71 (just 10 minutes from camp). "You can hammer the squeeze at the bottom", enticed Steve.
So, 15 metres down this old Polyfemo cave, started work on the squeeze - pulling boulders out of the bottom mainly - while Steve placed a bolt. Have a look: hmm - tight, I thought. "How are you doing Steve?" "Fine" "Just putting the wedge .... Oh, I forgot to bring any wedges" Luckily I had one in my pocket that Paul had sprayed into a boulder choke somewhere in F84. Soon Steve was down to join me, and hammer a bolt. The squeeze turned a bit awkward to push back into from below, so, took my overall off for extra space, and popped through. The meandering rift continued for a couple of metres to a choked corner, but a fossil tube above, and along the fault line, gave access to a small (3m) pot hole with a bit of work (hands good enough to break this rock). Below is choked but the tube continues over the top and a small-ish passage seems to drop in. The way on, however, and having a very good draught, is to break down further back up the tube into the new wider meander below. Going down.

Grade 1 ish



The draught makes it well worth pushing.

A bit late, we headed out. "Oh no" said Steve. "Where's my SRT kit?". Good job the pitch is freeclimbable.

(62) Friday 15th July

9am. Camp Steeps, and a drowsy dullness numbs its brain, as though of Planker it had drunk.

12/7/94 - A delayed mike up - Richard + Rob

We had a shaft bashing tour of area E, 9 and C. We wandered down towards the path to Ario before heading up to the ridge from Verdelluenga. We looked at a lot of interesting shafts and the other side of ridge. Despite looking very promising it proved to be pretty caveless. Most of the shafts are blocked with boulders at the bottom. We then walked up towards the Verdelluenga - Cuvicente ridge and found an impressively large rift, which we later found out that Bill and Wholeth had discovered the day before. We found 18/9 (C8) and then headed back to top camp via the summit of Verdelluenga.

In Area E - 1/ Draughting hole amongst boulders, needing digging. East of Path down to Ario
060° to Cuvicente, an obvious fault line.

2/ Up gully from E6. 10m shaft, snow plugged. May be worth looking at later there are lower snow levels.

In Area C 1/ Large impressive rift on spur off ridge from Verdelluenga to Cuvicente, not far from C8.
256° to Verdelluenga
20m to snow plug. On South side of rift there seems to be a blank space.

In Area K again - Rift down from ridge between Verdellvenga + summit with F64 on it. Two entrances. Inclined down, one which became too tight. The other seems more promising.

14/7/94 - Chris D, Richard, John.
Surveying down C8 (18/9)

We had an efficient trip down, surveying as we went. We went quickly down until the tube before the 50m pitch. At this point John decided to drop the tape casing twice. One down a hole in the tube and once down the 50m pitch! We all crawled into the little chamber and then Chris went down the pitch with tape as I reeled it out to him. This involved another couple of hours of sitting in a cold and draughty tube.

Chris descended the pitch and ingeed ~~the~~ managing off the second to lust both on the traverse. He managed then to swing into the window which proved to be an inlet, but worth having a proper look at.

Feeling rather cold we headed out of the cave to a beautiful new of area 9

Rich.

14/7/94 - Bill, Rivo, Judith.

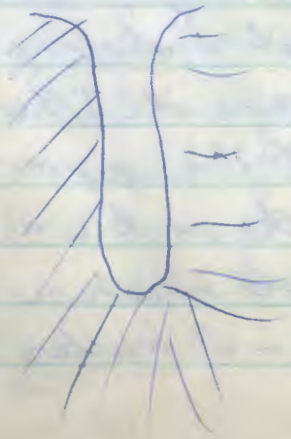
Left top camp intending to push the climb at the end of the snaky run down C8, we had a complete disaster of a trip, arriving at the cave eventually after taking the scenic route (ie getting lost) we started. The first problem involved dropping Judith's glove down a hole, from which we could not retrieve it. I then attempted the intended climb, however the top, about 10m up proved not to go, & I think needs another 5m of climbing, the rock was horrible & brakeable, so I gave up & descended, my last hold broke & me & Rivo tumbled 3 or 4 metres down a hole together with boulders, however I only

(4-4)
did in my back, & Pivo only hurt his finger, so not much problem. But we had big problems with Judith who had sunstroke from the extended walk over, so we headed out after an eventfull, but unsuccessfull trip. Conclusion - the climb could be done (it is easy), but with protection (bolts).

Bill.

15/7/94

A story entitled:
"Judit and Sharon go rock-throwing, armed with a Hungarian dictionary, and find a BIG cave entrance."
We went in a southwesterly direction from Top Camp, and immediately found two entrances on the start of the slope up to Vendelluenga, in the middle of the limestone pavement. One ① looked a little narrow but stones rattled down it for 4-5 secs, and further up the same rift, a wider entrance ② with a snow plug in it. Distracted by an interesting depression to the south, we missed completely the two ③+④ whopping (well, for a ~~[illegible]~~ rift) entrances in a parallel rift further up the slope ~~[illegible]~~ which Alex + Bill (real) were to discover later. We pottered on up the slope, having lots of fun chucking stones into small black holes which choked. Then we found a proper entrance. Only a ~~[illegible]~~ few metres up the slope from ①+②+③+④, behind a wall with a

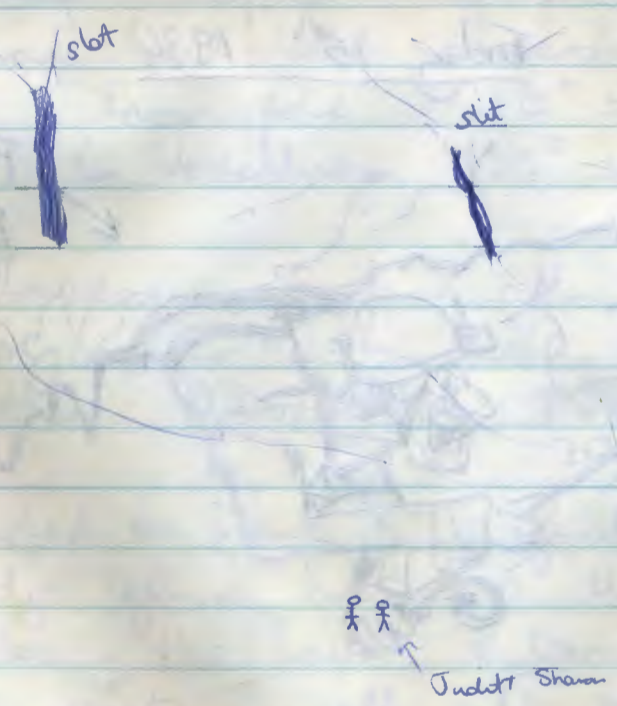


- shaped squeeze in it,

just behind the wall on the floor to the right, was a hole. ~~Drought~~ Drafting nicely, cave-swallowing, and then at that moment Alex + Bill came along. Alex descended the Alex-sized hole and informed us it was a small tube ≈ 3m long, at about 60°-70° to the horizontal, but unfortunately, despite the draft, it was choked. Alex didn't think the digging prospects were whoopee.

Then we watched while Bill and Alex investigated ② (worth looking at later when the snow plug has gone) and ③. ③ goes! But I'm sure they'll tell you about that themselves.

We pottered on up, and from the depression just up south of ①, ⑤, ⑥, looked up. Halfway up, we could see a slit and a slot. a bit like



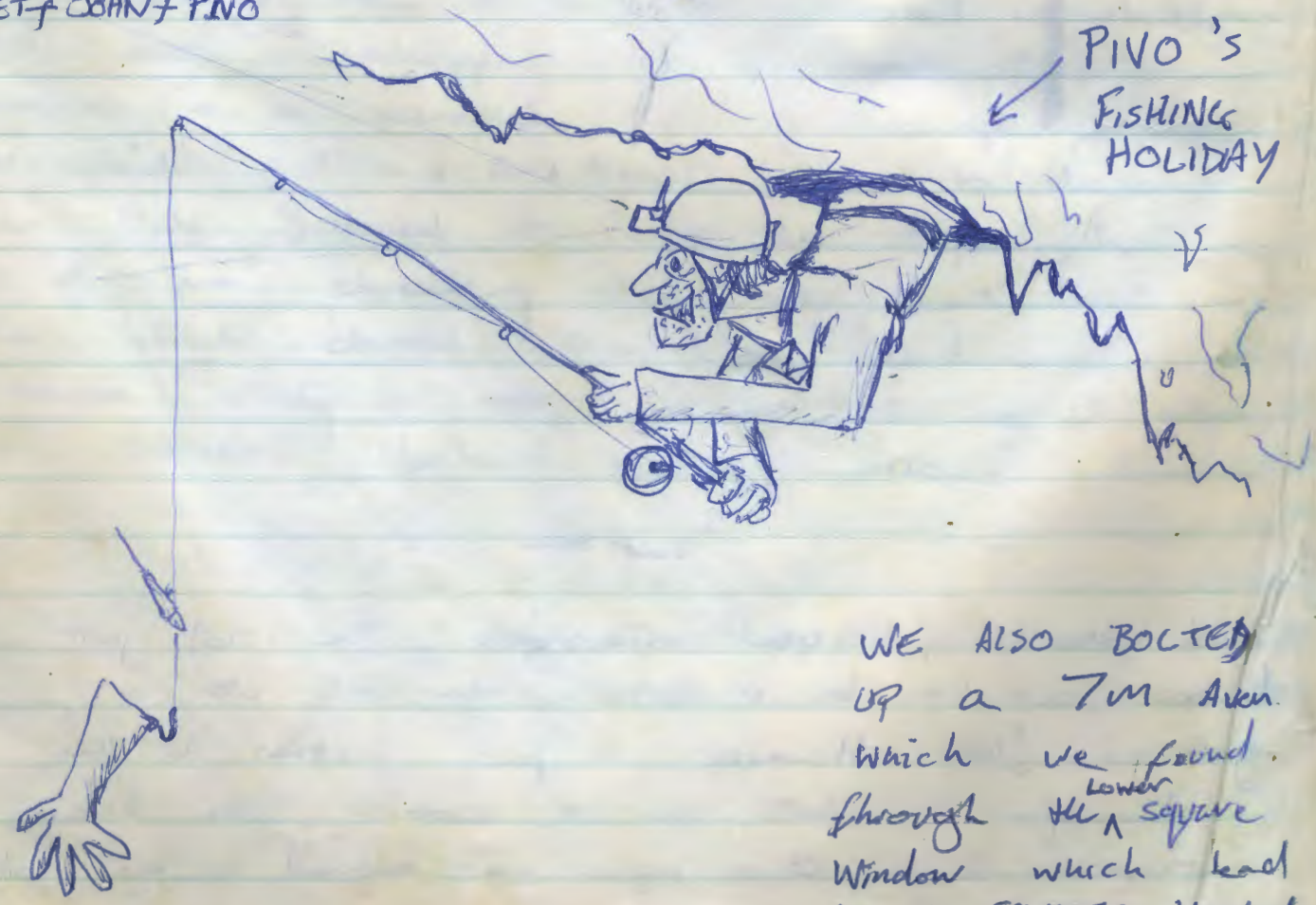
and we thought we'd investigate. The slot just turns out to be a slot in the rock with a grassy floor. However a few metres to the right of the slot, via a scramble are two entrances ⑤, ⑥. ⑤ is higher up behind a big rock

and stones rattle down a slope for ≈ 4-5 secs. Further down the same rift is ⑥, which has its entrance blocked by a stone partially. Next, investigating the slit, just to the right of there, there is a big rift⑦. We sat on the lip of rock and threw stones, which went ≈ 7-10 secs, NOT clink-clink-clink either, but chunk ... chunk ..... chunk ..... Wow! We were thirsty so we walked back to camp. Incidentally the cave⑦ is 5° W of S from Top Camp. (Discussion with Rob reveals this is highly likely to be F70 as discovered by Rob 7/7/94)

Quote by Rob "You're more likely to be hit by a raindrop than lightening."

18/9 C8 Friday 15th 1994

SNABLET + JOHN + PIVO



WE ALSO BOLTED UP a 7M AVEN which we found through the lower square window which lead to a squeeze blocked with boulders from the other side.

PS/ We also located another window on the way out.

17/7/94 Shaft-bashing Steve + Paul

Having decided not to visit Paul's especially high entrance owing to persistent clag, we decided to investigate some entrances much nearer to Top Camp that Richard had noted. We began by sweeping the northern slopes of La Verdelluenga, from the grass/limestone border to the east round as far as F70 to the west. Many very impressive collapses, but only two cave entrances were discovered, both marked "Polifemo 17-8-82" and which we numbered F71 and F72.

F71 Small entrance, located on grass/limestone border and at approximately the same altitude as Top Camp. Top of snow pole visible. Bearings (using hand-held compass):

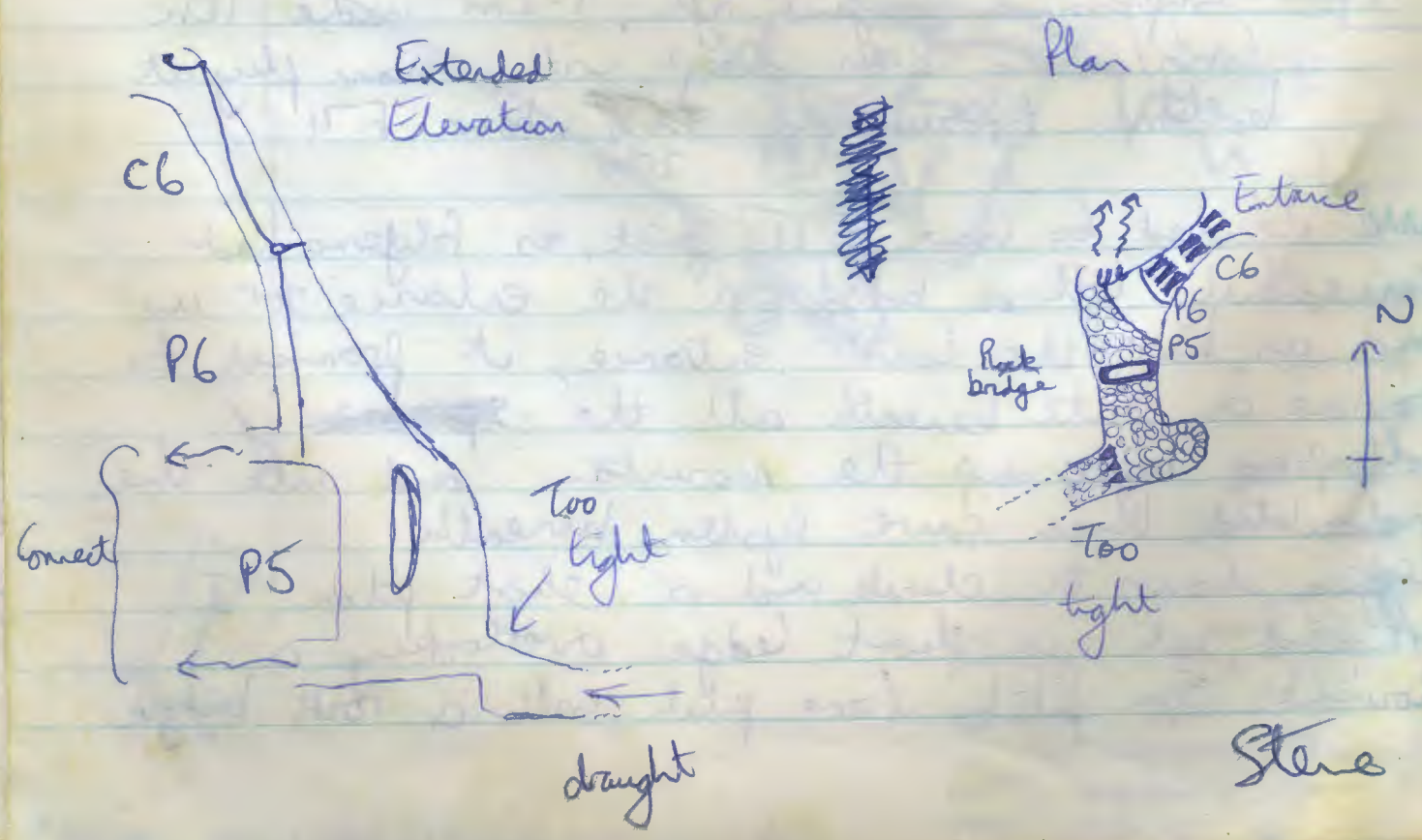
Snow pole 310° ± 10°
La Verdelluenga 155° ± 10°

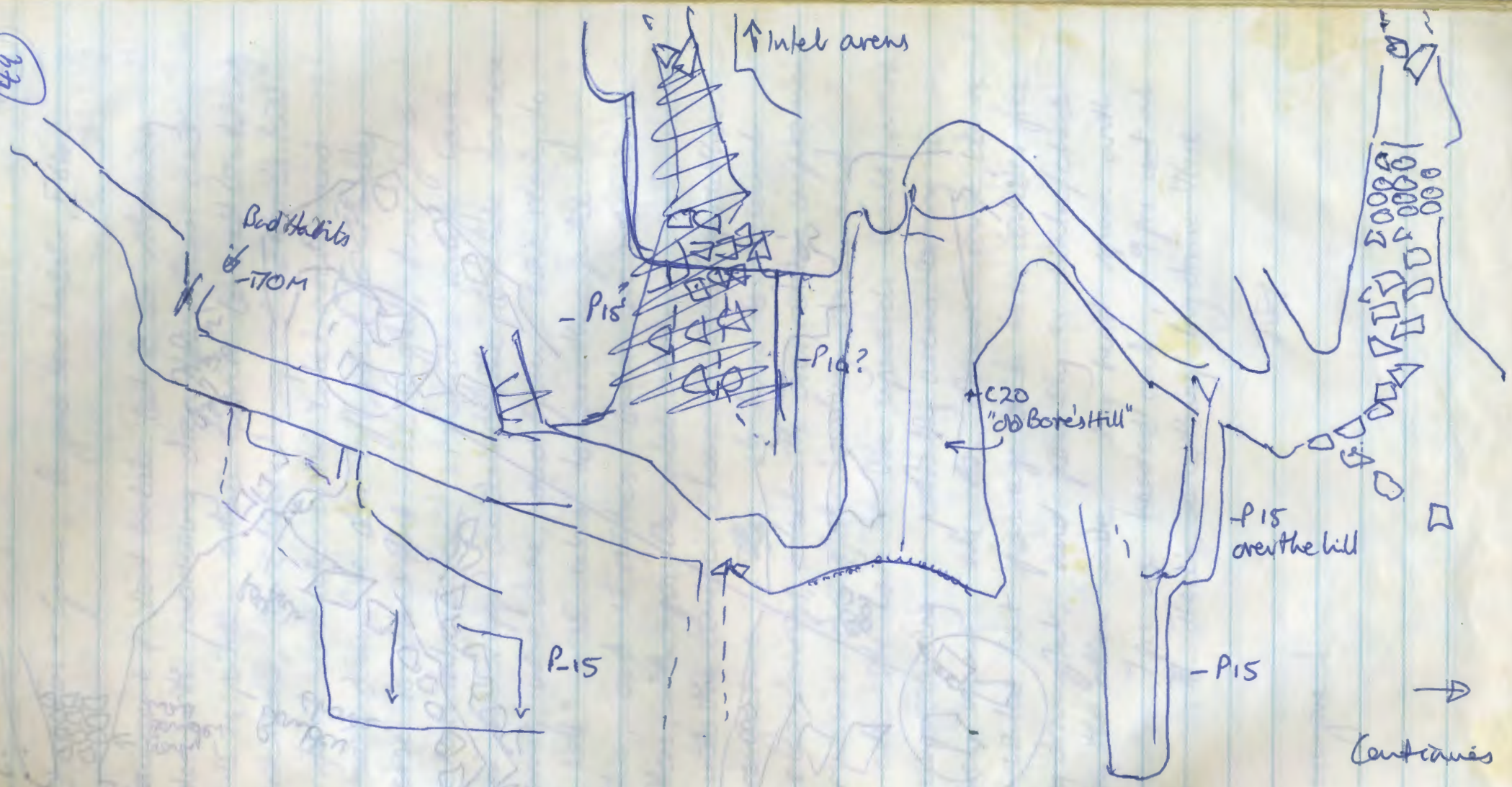
F72 Impressive surface rift, 1-2m wide 10m long. Some 20m deep, with snow plug at bottom. Approximately 20m above F71

We decided to visit F71 first, as Polifemo had conveniently left a bolt in the entrance for us and as, being the lower entrance, it promised to provide a route beneath all the collapses higher up the mountain and into the undoubted huge cave system beneath.
Rigging down a climb and a short pitch, I arrived at a short ledge overlooking a double 5m pitch (one pitch with a rock bridge

bisecting it). Stones thrown down a way to the right merely confirmed that this connected with the pitch. Paul followed with a ladder, which we dubiously belayed off a rather blunt flake in the absence of a better belay, and we headed on down. At the bottom, the rift continued, but was too tight to enter. Nonetheless, the rift could be seen to open out after a couple of metres and water could be heard drifting beyond. Most importantly, a considerable draft could be felt emerging. Me and Paul hammered determinedly for a couple of hours and widened it considerably, but we still could not pass through. Getting cold without our fleeces and with our call-out approaching, we headed out. I was determined to conquer this squeeze and knew I would be back soon...

F71 Grade I Survey




↑ Inlet arens
Bed Habits
-170M
- P15?
-P14?
+C20
"Old Bore's Hill"
-P15
over the hill
P-15
- P15
→
Continues

Rock Arch
Boulder Choke
Rock Boulder
N

15th July 1994 Tim + Gavin, Beyond Bad habits, F64

The entertainment of Bad habits led to a stonking fossil borehole with promising drop to stream and undescended 15 m pitch. While Gavin levered boulders out of a pitchead, I climbed up "old Bore's hill" to another fossil borehole with inlet avens and pitch (or two) down to the left, and a muddy ledge traverse to the right. Right, time for a rope. 2 naturals later, I rigged a rope for Gavin to follow, and we rigged on down the borehole traverse. Much gardening was done, and Gavin was ready to rig "over the hill" – 15 metres to another pitch. I rigged this, and 15 metres later we were in a choked bottom, with possible inlet above.

Now on into the boulder choke – one big mother. Hennys everywhere. It's hard to recount all the meanderings, but the overriding impression is of a massive draught heading down and forwards into the cave. The upwards leads seem a little unpromising – probably avens coming in – but you never know. An obscure route down led to a water but passage down to a boulder free pitch. Big draught, and possibly a walk/climb through on the other side. My head spun with exploration. 7pm we headed out, 9pm at the surface. There's something big down there.

Tim.

P.S. Bye everyone!

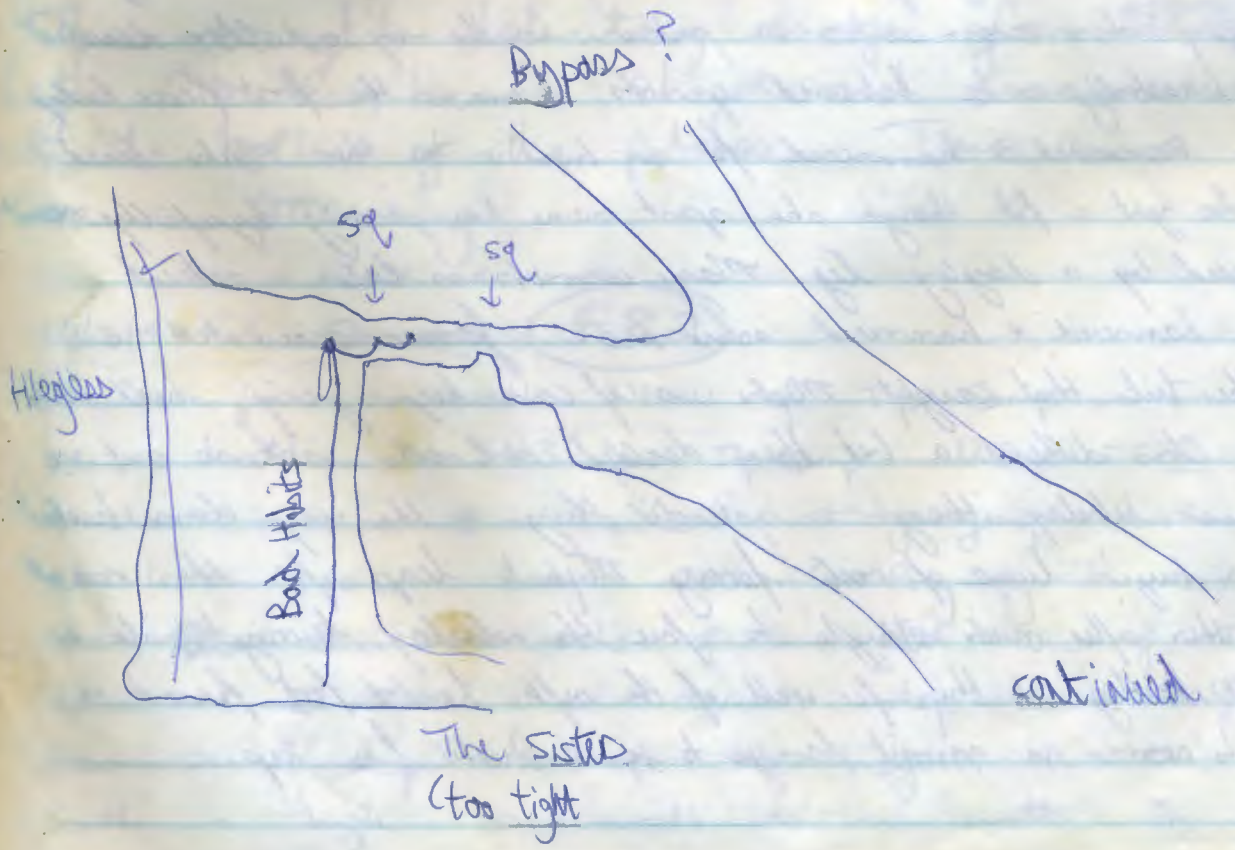
(52) 15/7/94 F71 Richard + Steve

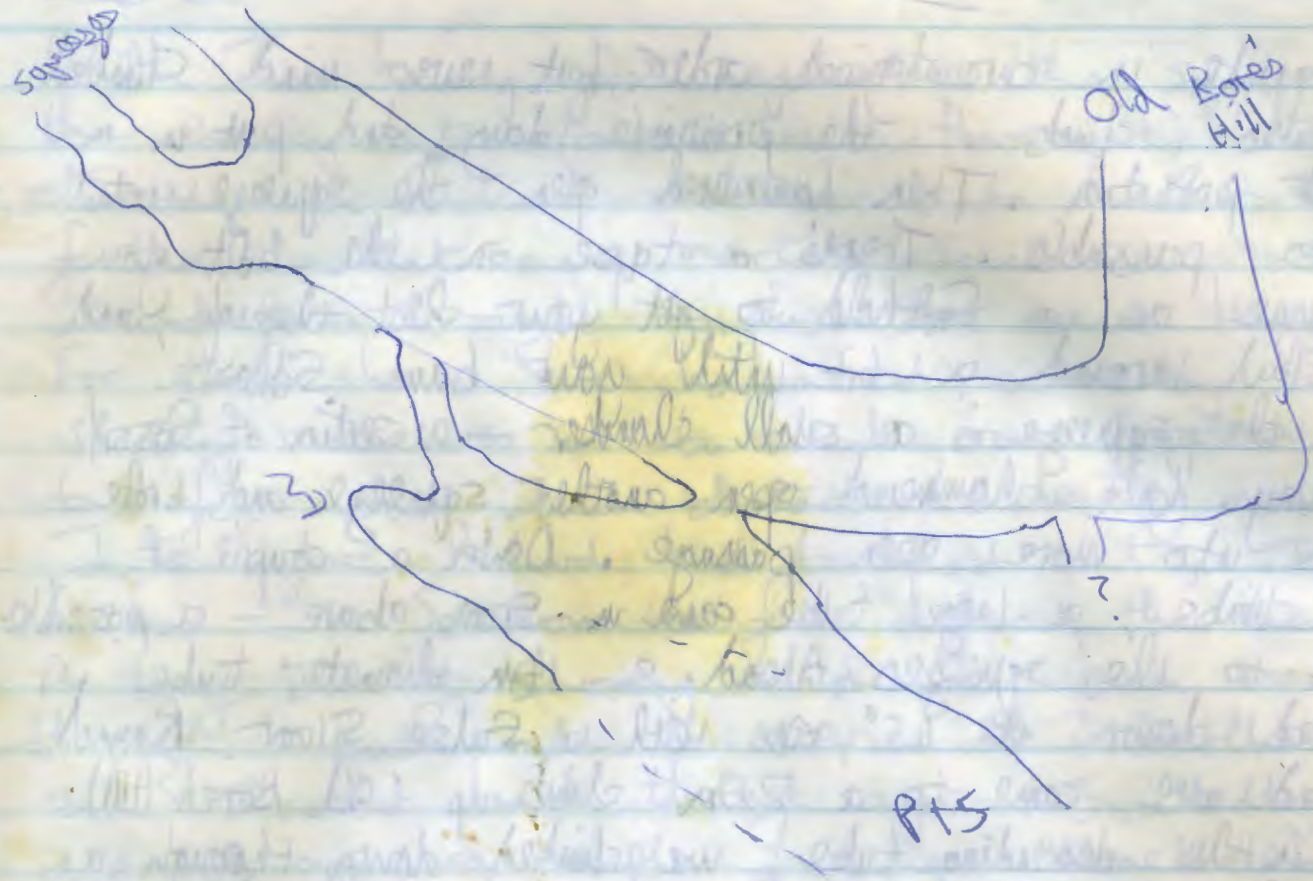
With Tim having just negotiated the squeeze the evening before (albeit minus oversuit), I returned with Richard, determined to hammer it further so that mere mortals such as ourselves could pass through to push the cave beyond. For three hours we hammered, constantly slotting ourselves in to check our progress and to find out which obstacle to destroy next. Just before Richard had to head out, I backed in. Somehow it felt different this time. A brief bit of shoving and my bum was through! But could I reverse it? Another shove and I was back through again. Excitedly, I did it again a couple of times. Nonetheless, I could only just make it and it was tight on my chest. I wasn't going to get through just yet. Richard tried and finally got his derriere through as well, but only after a lot of work. Much discussion ensued as to whether Richard had bigger buttocks, larger genitalia or whether mine were simply more flexible. We emerged to a gathering storm. I'll be through soon....

Steve (he of the malleable manhood)

14/7/94 F64 James & Gavin (53)

Not quite in chronological order, but never mind. Climbed up James's climb of the previous day and put in a bolt for protection. Then hammered open the squeeze until it was passable. There's a tape on the bolt you can use as a foothold to get your chest through, and then slail around a bit until your bum follows. Beyond the squeeze is a small chamber — a section of fossil streamway. We hammered open another squeeze and broke through into more open passage. Down a couple of short climbs, a large tube came in from above — a possible bypass to the squeezes. Ahead a 4m diameter tube continued down at 45°, now with a false floor. Round a bend we came to a 20m climb up (Old Bore's Hill). Back in the descending tube, we climbed down through a hole in the floor to meet the stream. We followed the rift down to the head of a 15m pitch. Then out.





15/7/84 Jean Demolition on Z68

James, Chris A.P & Mick went down to hammer the fierce ladies. Chris decided on the way down that he really doesn't like Spanish caves & wants to go back to Hungary where caves & sisters are prettier. On the way out Chris decided the pitches were extending as he laboured upwards. Down in the first fierce lady we hammered & hammered & hammered for an hour or so then Mick tried the squeeze. Too tight a fit though she spent some time peering hopefully round the corner trapped by a dangling leg. Many convulsions later & retreat completed we hammered & hammered some more. James concentrated on demolishing the bits that caught Mick so if cave keeps going she'll have to try again. Chris dithered a bit then decided he'd rather not so out we headed. Gamin's rebelay, though a splendid thing on the way down hooked itself round a huge lump of rock forcing Mick to leap for the rope at pitch bottom, then after much struggle to free the rebelay, turning he into a human catapult hurtling into the far wall of the rift. landed feet forward so damage only to nerves & no apparent damage to rope. Another fine trip.

16/7/94 F71 Judit, Rich, Steve

With three days' hammering behind me and two days after Tim had already been through, I was determined that this was to be the trip where I would get through the squeeze. As the day before, three hours was spent hammering and checking progress. I was getting further and further in. Judit then tried and, being a small person, got through wearing her oversuit and harness. I took my oversuit off and followed. Through at last! Unfortunately, a small knobble of rock at the bottom prevented Rich from getting all the way through, but this could soon be removed. Judit fretted while I got cold in my fleece. Stones dropped from the rift beneath the short phreatic tube that heads out to the 3m pot rattle for 5 seconds. The rift is too tight but looks easily hammerable. The draught definitely emerges from here. Left crowbar, hammer, chisel and some cave food at the bottom of the pitches. This cave remains promising.

16/7/94 Sharon F82

Went for a walk NNW of Top Camp. Found a hole. Location: 343° from Top Camp. Distance I haven't a clue because I'm hopeless at judging distances but at least 100 m, maybe 200 m? Anyway it's easy to find. Get the other side of the hill NW of TC, and look N. There's an obvious depression half way down the "slope" that is the biggest in the area, with a high back wall to the north. As you look at

it, it appears visually to the left of that funny green slope on the other side of the valley which has orange stones on and is visible from Top Camp. Investigating the depression, there are boulders at the bottom. Huge boulders. Bigger by volume than me. But there are various holes in between the boulders, in particular at the westward end of the depression. The boulders are securely wedged (well if I feel happy enough jumping on them, they must be secure). Shaft goes underneath where I can't see, and stones rattle for a few seconds. If I'm not mistaken, there's a draft (wind and shade were trying to confuse me but the draft definitely felt cooler). Paddled back before the storm arrived.

Another pearl of wisdom from Rob "Horsley" Garrett:

"Statistically speaking, you're as likely to die as be born"!

Mus - 'How'm I supposed to solicit with shoe-polish on my breasts?'

Steve & Chris 'How much pleasure can you handle. Depends how big it is'

On being eaten by a bear
James - 'Yes & its great'
John - on being asked if eaten "I'm not sure"
Annette - 'Is it warm & furry?'
Jim "I can't decide if I'd like to be eaten..."
Rob 'Depends what you mean by eaten or by bear & if you had an independent witness....'
Steve "Is this the way?"
Vladek "No problem."

During Chris Denham's and Bill's last evening at Los Lagos we decided to have a meal in the restaurant next to the bar.

After a couple of beers we persuaded Chris to ask the barman if we could move next door to eat.

Chris made Spanish sounding noises and pointed towards the ~~bar~~ restaurant. Straight away the barman shook his head, and after a short conference with the other people at the bar said:-

" Mañana, Mañana, ~~[illegible]~~ Alemania y Romania domingo, Italia y Bruzil"

" Ah!" said Chris, "I think he's trying to tell us that the restaurant ~~wasn't~~ isn't open because theyre watching the world cup"

We all agreed with this explanation and then pointed towards the menu board to see if we could eat in the bar.

To our complete amazement we were then led into the restaurant where there was no sign of any football.

It was then that the truth dawned on us. The barman ~~man~~ had ~~[illegible]~~ thought ~~[illegible]~~ Chris was asking him when the World Cup finals were on, despite the fact that Chris hadn't actually spoken a word.

Needless to say the ensuing meal and wine / beer / 43 drinking session was v. enjoyable.

17/7 C/8 (or not C/8) Rob, Alex, Mich & Steve

It had been cunningly decided to go caving down C/8 and have a nice easy trip where the only thing in danger of being broken was the rules of English grammar (with the odd spelling mistake too!) The plan had been to survey into the "Arch Window" near the ~~[illegible]~~ terminus of the second pitch through the

fun phreatic tubing to the end chamber; rounding off the trip by digging in the sand sump at the end of it. (We'd even acquired two empty snowflake tins as they would be useful - for building sand castles etc.).

Having eventually got everything organised we set off and found no difficulty in navigating our way to the entrance. Mich was ready first but declined the offer to set off down claiming she didn't know the way. Steve was ready next but similarly declined the offer to set off down. So it ended up with me heading down first... Conspiracy - Nearly at the bottom of virtual reality I sensed a discontinuity in the first derivative of the rope's equation of motion. This could only mean one thing - I was no longer able to describe the rope (between the knots, of course) using a polynomial. Moreover, I didn't know of any closed form equation which was likely to describe it. I hurried onto the ledge and considered my options: one - check my calculus; two - check the rope; three - go to sleep and wait for someone else to check the rope later.

Apathy battled bravely but in a rare fit of enthusiasm I finally checked the rope - nothing obviously wrong... strange - but stranger still was the ever rarer second wind of enthusiasm which enabled me to not only check the rope again but also to find the proof that my calculus had been correct and that the rope was indeed no polynomial. I shouted up: "Mich... the rope's broken."

"Say again." was the garbled reply.

"What was that?" I ventured

"SAY AGAIN!" was the clear loud response.

"I said... 'WHAT WAS THAT?'" - pedantic to the end.

"I can't hear you..." and so the conversation continued... for some time.

Eventually I started getting ready to come back - untying the rope on the way. Since the discontinuity was at only just over head height I stretched up to put my foot jammer as high above it as I could. Then step into the footloops and swing across the shaft - over the ~10m drop. A quick prussiek later I was back at the top of the pitch and out we went - taking the rope with us.

Rob

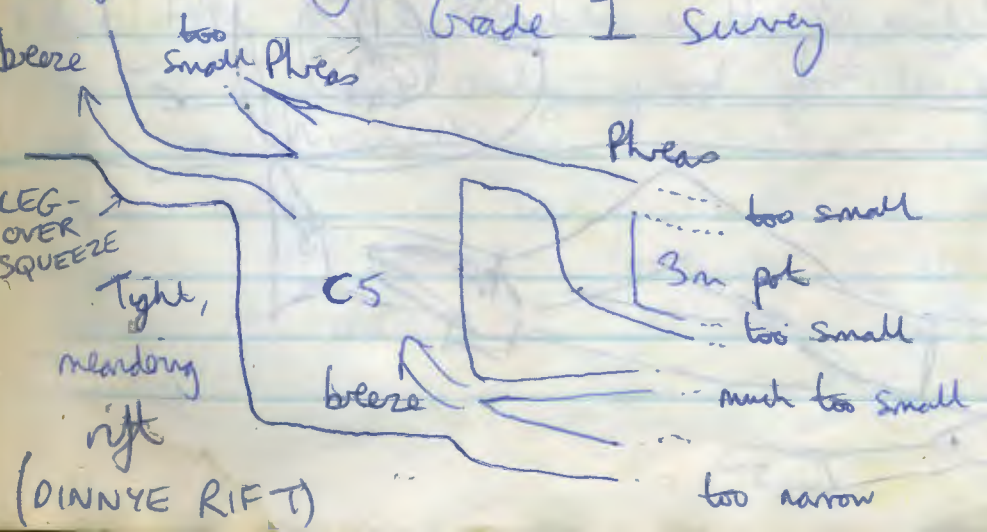
P.S. For anyone waiting for the continuation of Chris D's write-up from 11th July F64 - I'll get round to it eventually.. probably.

17/7 Steve & Mich & Richard & Ben (the small & weedy one) went to have another bash at the squeezy bit in F71. Steve & Mich arrived first & started bashing rock. Steve periodically inserted himself into the squeeze to see how roomy it was becoming. John & Richard arrived & the small, fluffy weedy one wriggled through the squeeze, complaining we'd tricked him into believing he had to take his harness off. Richard tried next. John offered helpful advice "Now's your chance to get a leg over ... do it now!" Mich suggested possibly it wasn't the right time or place. Richard reemerged from the squeeze - too broad & nearly across the chest - unlike a certain small & weedy creature. A bit more hammering then Mich had a go & to her immense surprise & jubilation she slithered straight through. Then Steve doffed his oversuit & followed. Mich began to have second thoughts & struggled back through the squeeze (with much pain) while Steve whooped & gibbered & raced off to make like a demolition squad in the next rift. The way is now open - all we need is a feather climber or a bolt & lifeline.

18/7 F71 ⊗ Judit, Steve

After yesterday's hammering in the rift, time to see what lay beyond. Judit, who apparently likes tight caves, went through first, the squeeze being only just big enough. She was thus acting as a 'squeeze poodle' - since she could only just fit through, I knew there was no way I would. She dropped into a small chamber, from which the continuation of the rift was much too tight. All our hammering had been for nothing.

Grade I survey



Steve


SAT 16th
Wlodek Tim Paul SNABC
SIDRA
DOC MARTINS
COBAN
THE LADS ON THE PULL ON THE SATURDAY NIGHT FIESTA AT GIJON
SAN MIGUEL
PORSHE
FANNY MAGNET

I shall record only the highlights of the hideous ~~extem~~ extemporaneous cacophony that greeted us on our late return from F64:

(81)

1) To the tune of "Yesterday":

Oh Captain Jim
He needs some discipline
And Sara's just the one to give it him.

2) A new round from Snallet:

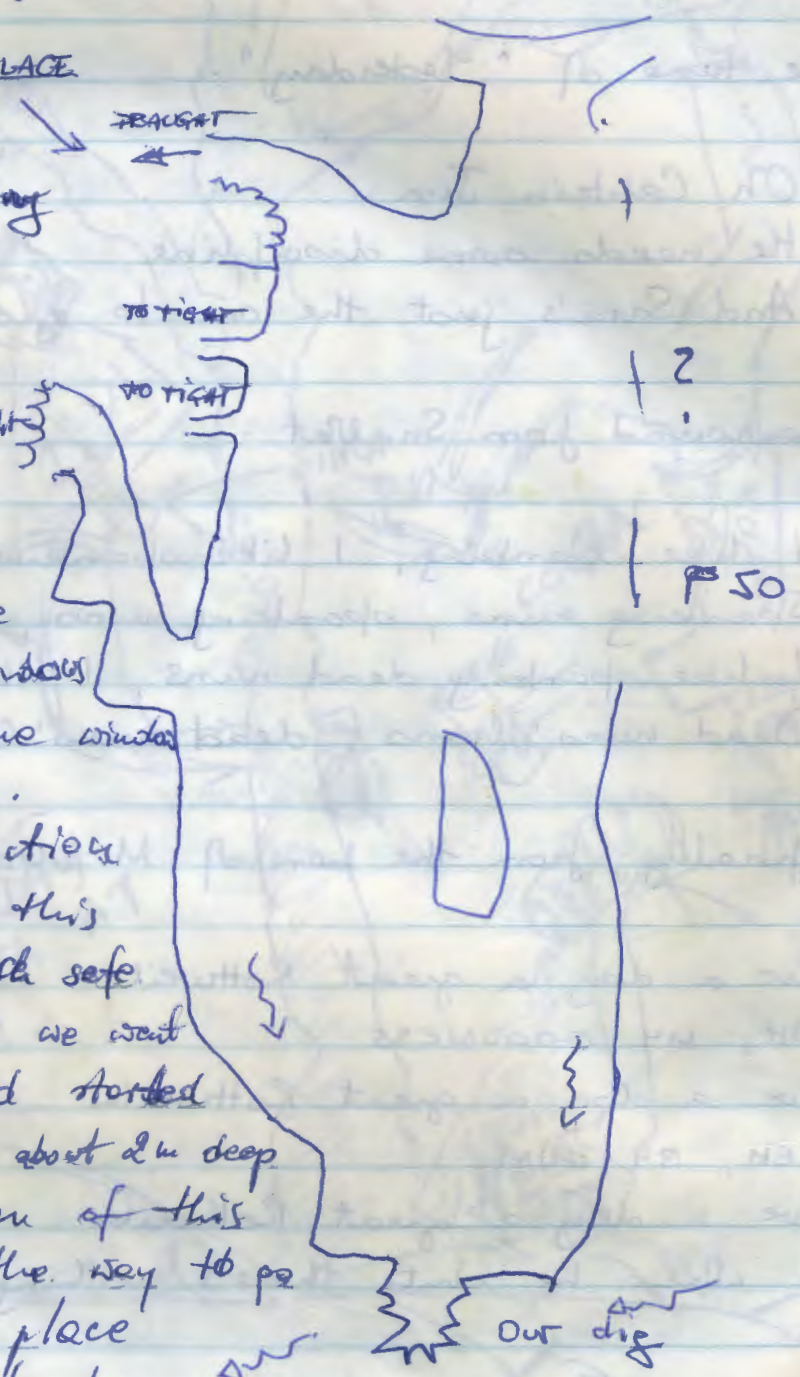
I like spanking, I like spanking,
Spanking nuns, spanking nuns,
I like spanking dead nuns, I like spanking dead nuns,
Dead nuns' bums, dead nuns' bums.

3) And finally, from the pen of Mr. Garnett:

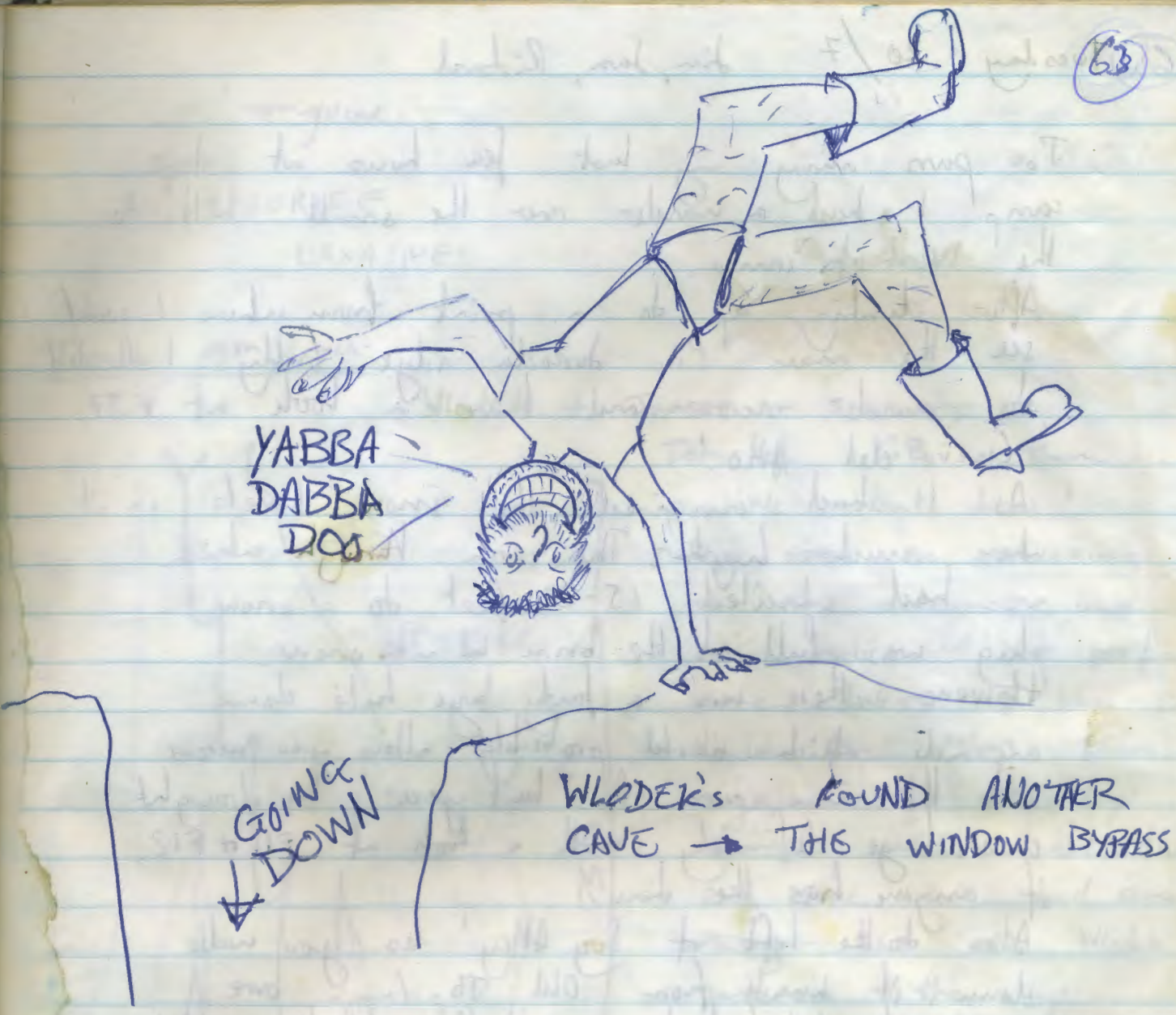
I've a dog a great Rottweiler
OH, MY GOODNESS
I've a dog a great Rottweiler
EEH, BY GUM
I've a dog a great Rottweiler
& when he shits there's nothing biler
etc.

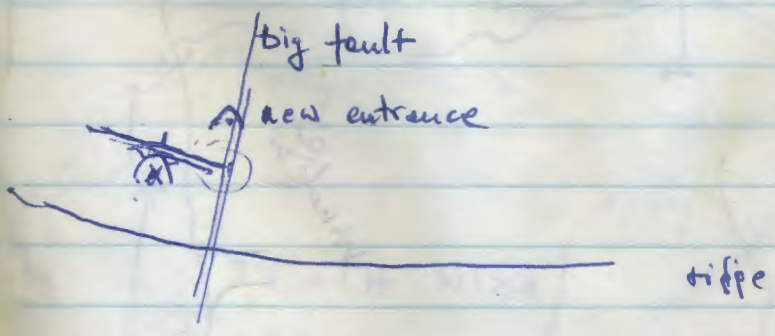
Chris A.P. "The trouble with Spanish bog paper is that it's only good for being used once"

(62) Monday 19/7
C8 Swoblet, James & Wodek



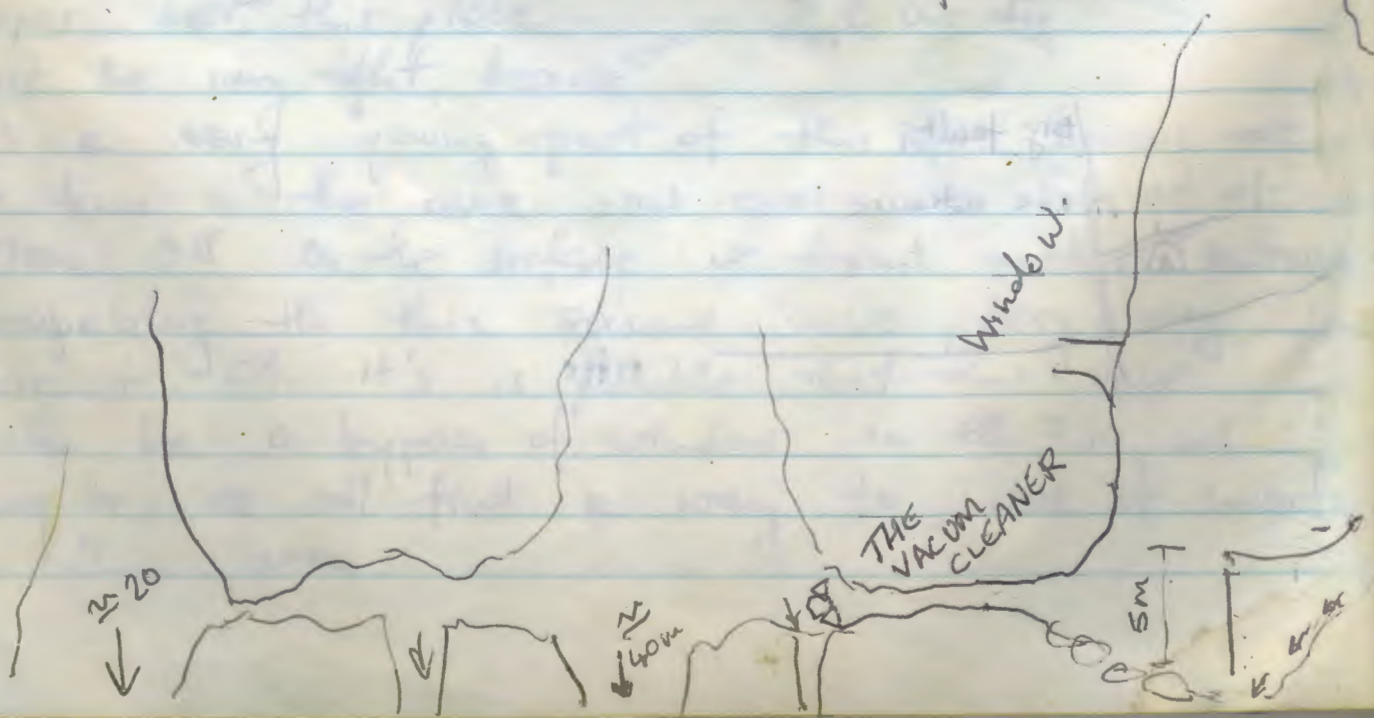
We spend a lot of time for looking in the windows in P50, The best one window is the highest one. We changed construction of boulder choke in this window. Now is much safe to go trought. After we went to the bottom, and started digging. We digged about 2m deep hole in the bottom of this shaft. Probably is the way to go deeper, but this place must be very tight, because it's a very young part of this rift. Becaus our time in the cave was over, we went out from C8. On the surface we found another entrance probably to this same cave, very, very close to C8. It's is possible that this cave will be a bypass of window in P50, and may be we will find a way to heart of massif in this area.


YABBA
DABBA
DOO
GOING
DOWN
WLODEK's FOUND ANOTHER
CAVE → THE WINDOW BYPASS


big fault
new entrance
ridge

(64) Tuesday 20/7 Jim, Sam, Richard

To pass away my last few hours at top camp I had a wander over the small hills to the West of camp.
After climbing up to a point from where I could see the main Pico Turquino ridge fully I decided to wander across and have a look at F57 'Cuevo del Arco'.
As I had imagined, the snow levels in it where much higher. The arch through which we had abseiled 15-20 feet to a snow plug was full to the brim with snow. However there was a fairly large hole down one side which would probably allow you access into the main cave. As last year, the drought was huge. Definitely worth a look at F11 & F12, if anyone has the time.
Also to the left of 'Boy Alley' as you walk down it away from Old Top Camp are some interesting looking shafts which might be worth a look.
Enjoy the rest of the expedition. See you,
Richard.



licorice

LICORICE

LAXATIVE

Tuesday 19th / 7th

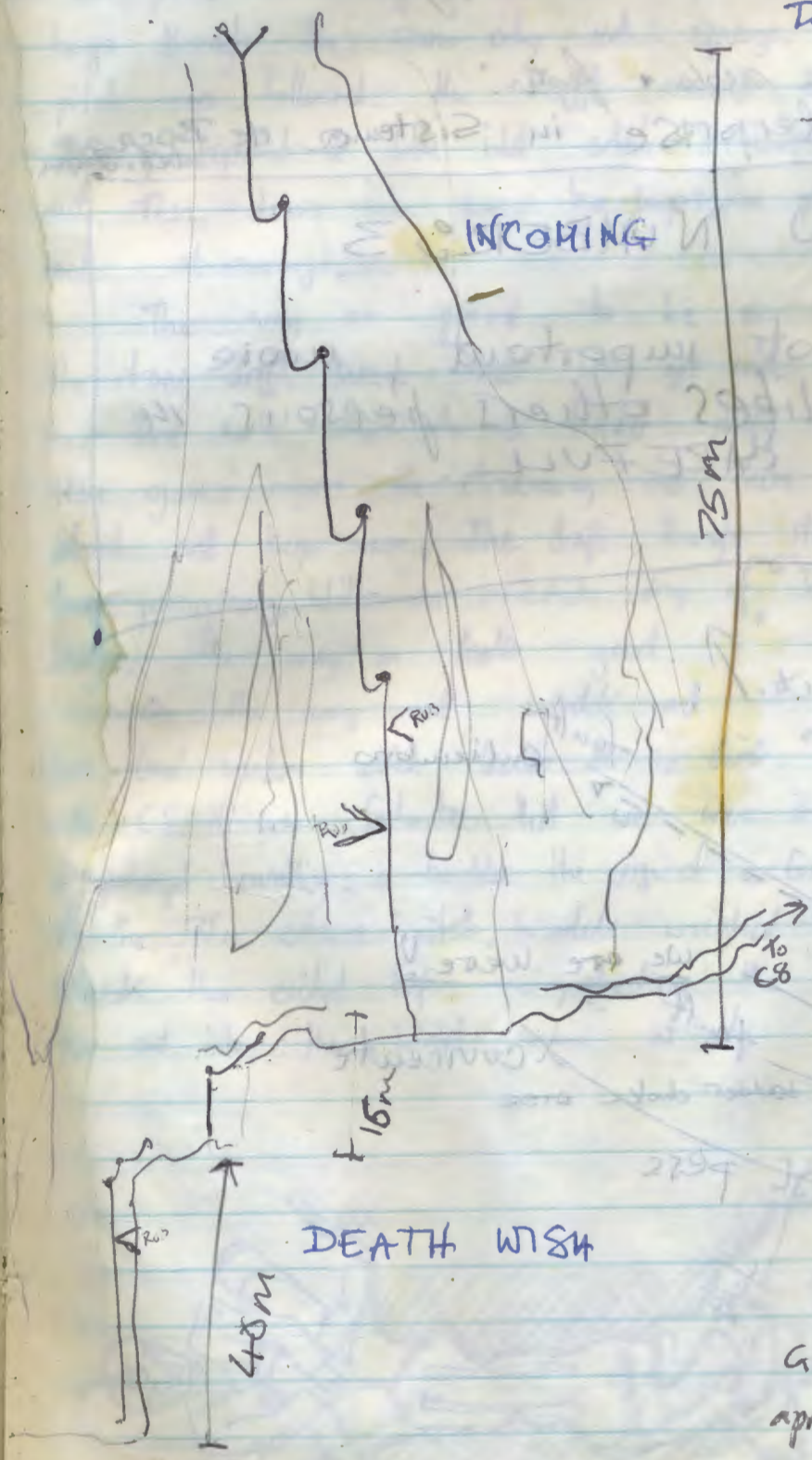
C9

Wlodek + James + SNABLET

Detached C8 then

We went down!

There was no marking at the entrance and no bolts. but we found some bolts half way down the 75m then again at the top of the 40m but with only one bolt and some nasty loose rock. Wlodek gardened the top approx 4 tonnes of boulders. After then the next pitch we hammer out a squeeze then dug through a boulder choke into a chamber, from which there is a couple of passages and 4 shafts. There is a stream at the bottom of ~ 40m shaft.



GRADE 1 C9

aprox depth = 160m

(66)

A word from a survivor of the 1984 Verdeluenga expedition:

"Woo! No Snow!"

The argument continues with Sharon's contribution.
"That's never the sea. It's too smooth & lumpy."

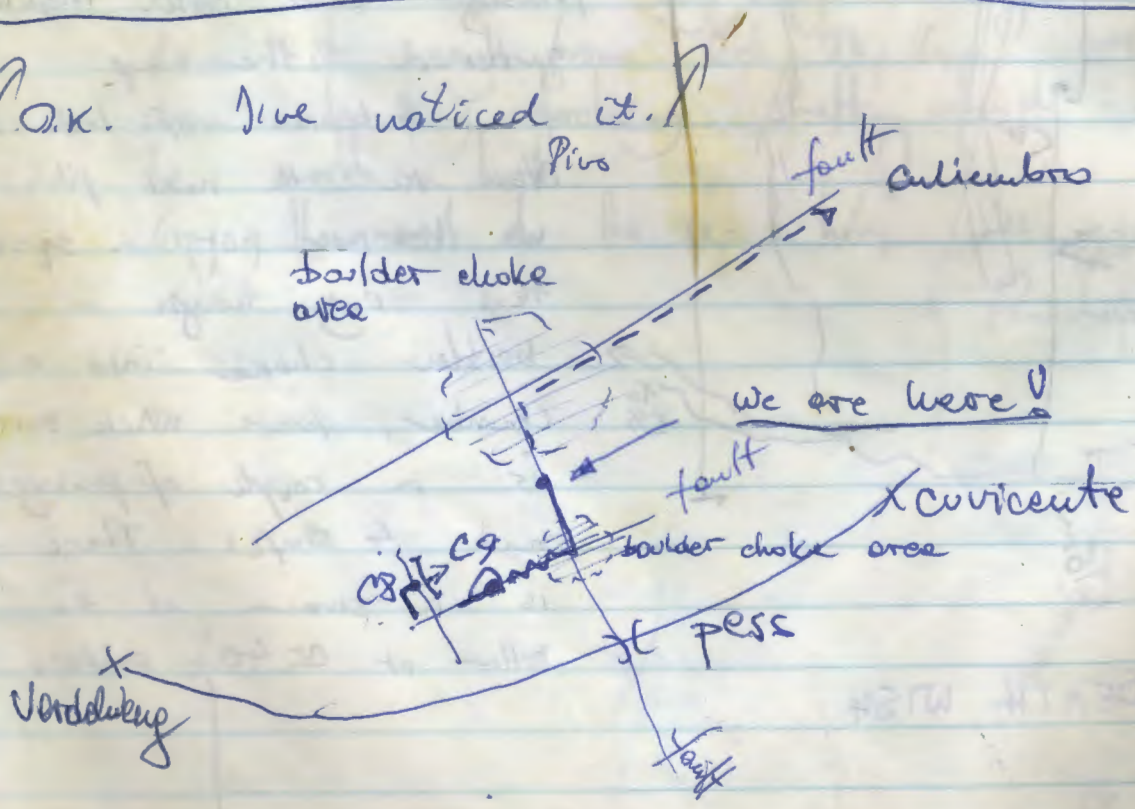
Gar "There's a difference between siesta & fiesta."

20/7/84 SS Enterprise in Sistema de Boca del Jon

CAVING LESSON NUMBER: 3

Your life is not important more important are lifes others persons in the cave. BE CAREFULL!

O.K. I've noticed it.



Rob, Snablet, Wlodek – C9 – 20.7.94

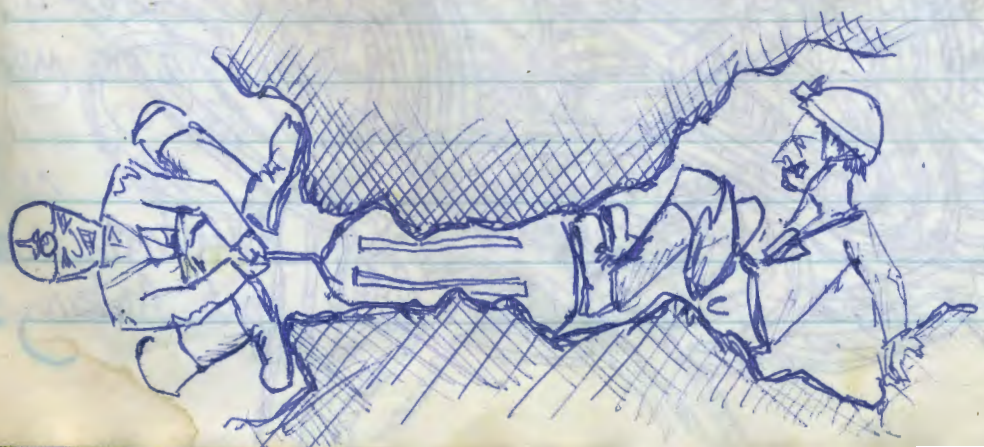
Up early for a comfortably cool walk over to the entrance – before the midday sun. Snablet went down first to add a few deviations to prevent the rub points. Meanwhile, Wlodek repaired his torn oversuit and furry. Quick progress then followed to the base of the last pitch which had hitherto been descended.

After a brief rest and food stop we began to wrestle the tackle bags through the cave's only real squeeze. Then, ignoring the obvious pitch we followed the draft around to a difficult pitch of about ~20m. I explored a little inlet which it was rigged but it soon choked out. Then down into some big impressive passages with multiple large inlets and streamways.

The way on proved to be a "narrow" meander – barely 1m across. The strong draft meant that we got cold whilst Wlodek hammered in three bolts – then into a bigger shaft of about 35m to a ledge. Here you rejoin the streamway and there is lots of room to walk about and keep warm. The draft though still detectable is distributed across large passageway. With an immediate drop of peer 35 and another pitch not far beyond the way on looks good.

On the way out Wlodek and I decided to look into the floor level window which leads to a dirt which almost certainly connects with C8. It was fortunate that we were in this side passage for, following a prolonged rumbling, a boulder the size of a football had arrived at the base of the 75m entrance pitch. Wlodek weighed it in his hands – about 5 kilos. Wlodek then exited before me, checking the rope for damage: it was fine. Then out into the bright sunshine at only 6.25 pm.

Rob



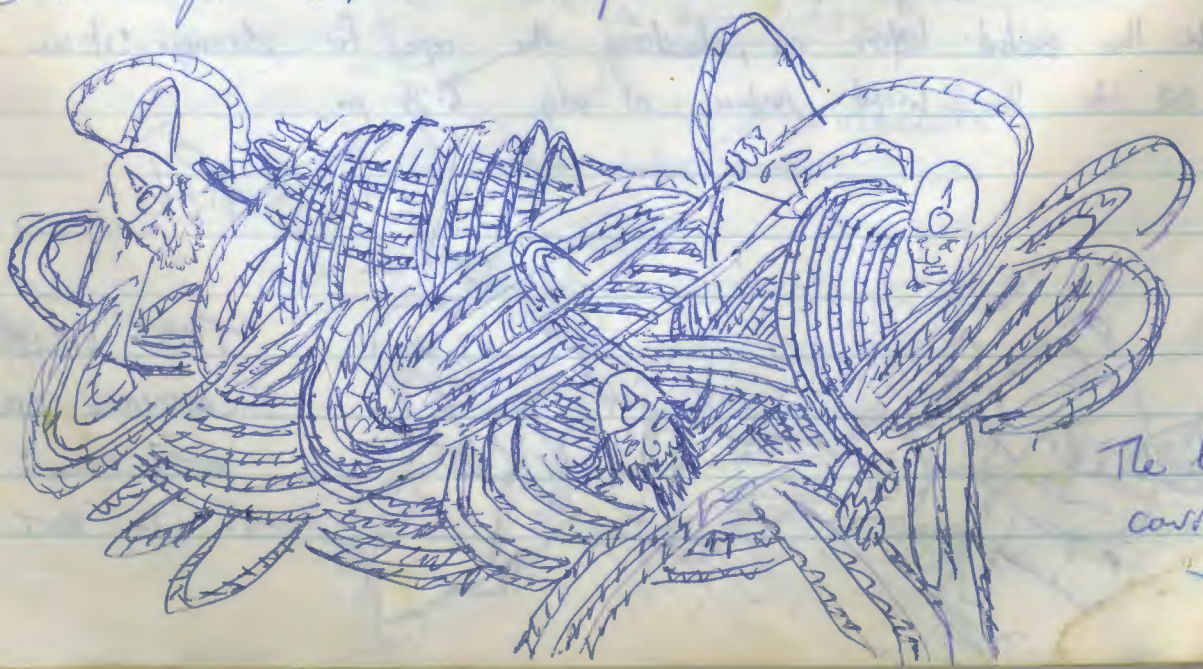
THE VACUM CLEANER – CARRYING TACKLE IS INTRESTING! BUT IT IS NOT A SQUEEZE

(66)

21/7/84 C9 "SPACE MONSTER"

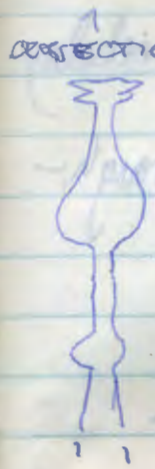
WLODEK + ROB + SNABLET

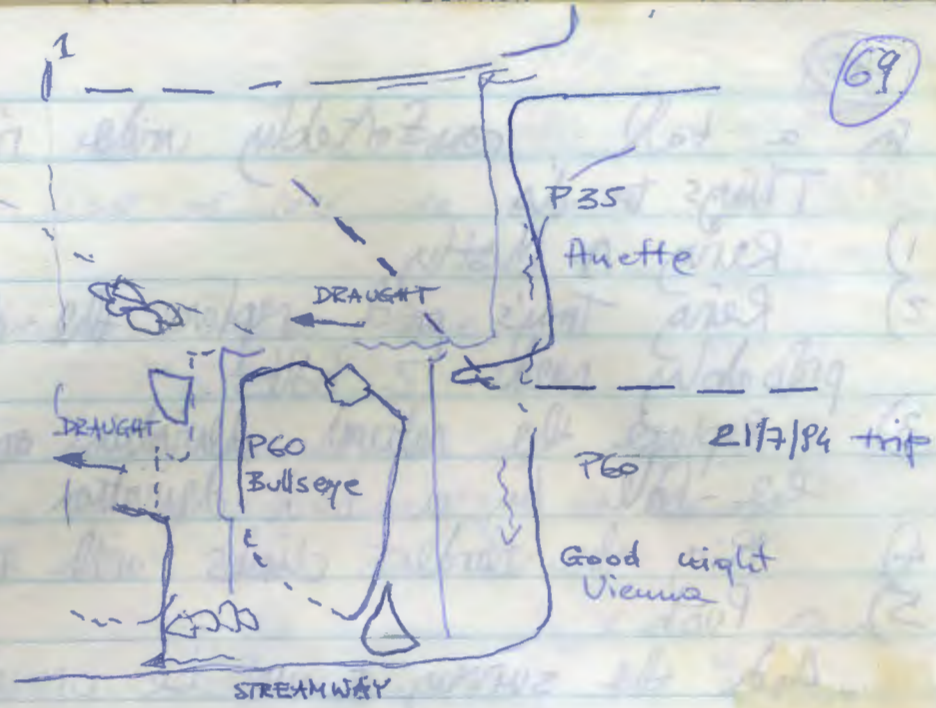
carried the 200m rope down for the next pitches. Rerigged the 4th pitch. We had endless fun wrestling with the 200m python. The exploration was continued down an impressive 70m pitch. A tight narrow popcorn covered rift continued off into the distance, unfortunately after 30m, it needs a hammer and ~ few hours work, so we went in search of windows. Rob rigged a nice traverse over the 70m pitch which Wlodek flew the last 6m. This lead in to the top of a 100m high rift. We dropped a pitch down 6m. SNABLET dropped the spits & luckily we found them again so we were able to drop the pitch (20m) down to the water, the rift continues which is also tight and nasty and covered in popcorn, which was followed for ~ 20m, but abandoned because there is another large window half way down the 60m pitch. ≈ depth ≈ 250m to 300m deep?



The tackle carry.

69





FOR 2nd PUSHING TEAM

1 TAKE 40 m & 20 m ropes. Change rope in the P35 shaft and traverse above 60 m shaft. P35 is the first big shaft behind tightest place in this cave. Put all 200 m rope (now is hanging in P35 & traverse) to yellow tackle bag. Yellow tackle bag is at the end of traverse.

2. Bring more ropes, bolting gear &

F64 22/7/84 Dave & Gavin

Continued from where Tony left off last time. Dropped a 30m pitch to land on a false floor. To the left, an inlet comes in. To the right, it's possible to tip-toe gently over the false floor to a shaft. The way on is down a hole where the previous pitch lands. A 10-15m pitch is followed by another short pitch and then some climbs to where we ran out of rope. Undaunted, we continued down some interesting climbs until we got to a short drop we didn't fancy free climbing. All this is

in a tall, comfortably wide rift.

Things to do

1) Rig Mottly
2) Rig Tony's pitch - replace the deviation by a rebelay - probably needs 2 bolts.
3) Replace the natural deviation on the pitch-through-the-hole by a bolt deviation
4) Rig the harder climbs with ropes
5) Push

And the survey must be brought up to date.

22/7/94 C9. Photography recce trip
John + Paul.

We left for a fairly bimbly trip through all the new discoveries in C9, at about 10 am. We rerigged several of the pitches to prevent rub points + free up ropes for further in, and carried some rope to far end for the pushing team of Vladik, Snoblet + Rob. We then ~~[illegible]~~ exited fairly slowly meeting the survey trip on the way, and the overnight pushing trip of Chris, Tony + Harvey at the entrance, the entrance pitch still needs rerigging, + this should be done in the morning.

John.

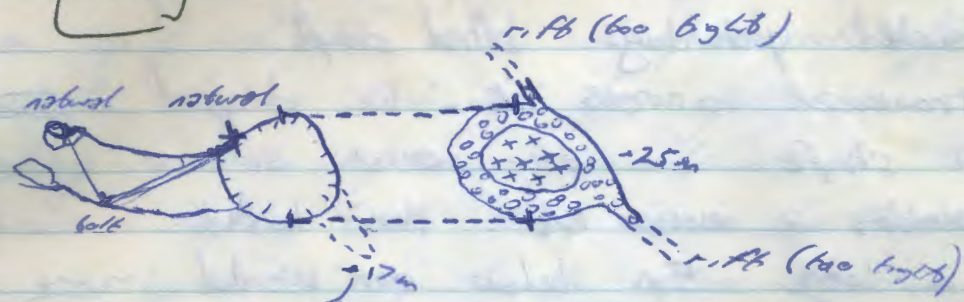
H1 F80 14/7 & 18/7

- The truth shall at last be told: -

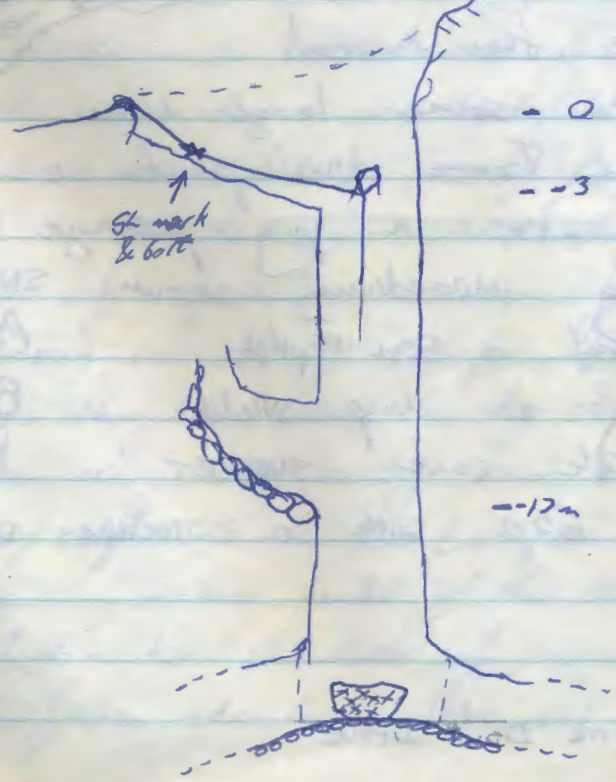
14/7/94 Pat, Wendy, Annette, Steve

A bashing trip to the top of the high ridge. First, 'H2', or GL85 Ms 63, as noticed on my ridge walk, was examined.
It descends ~25m to a snow plug & rocky floor; A rift runs off in either direction, but is too narrow (2" & 5"), [redacted] but does appear to descend slightly [redacted] (rubble floor).
A widening in the rift 8m from the floor is choked with boulders.

Plan H2 F81



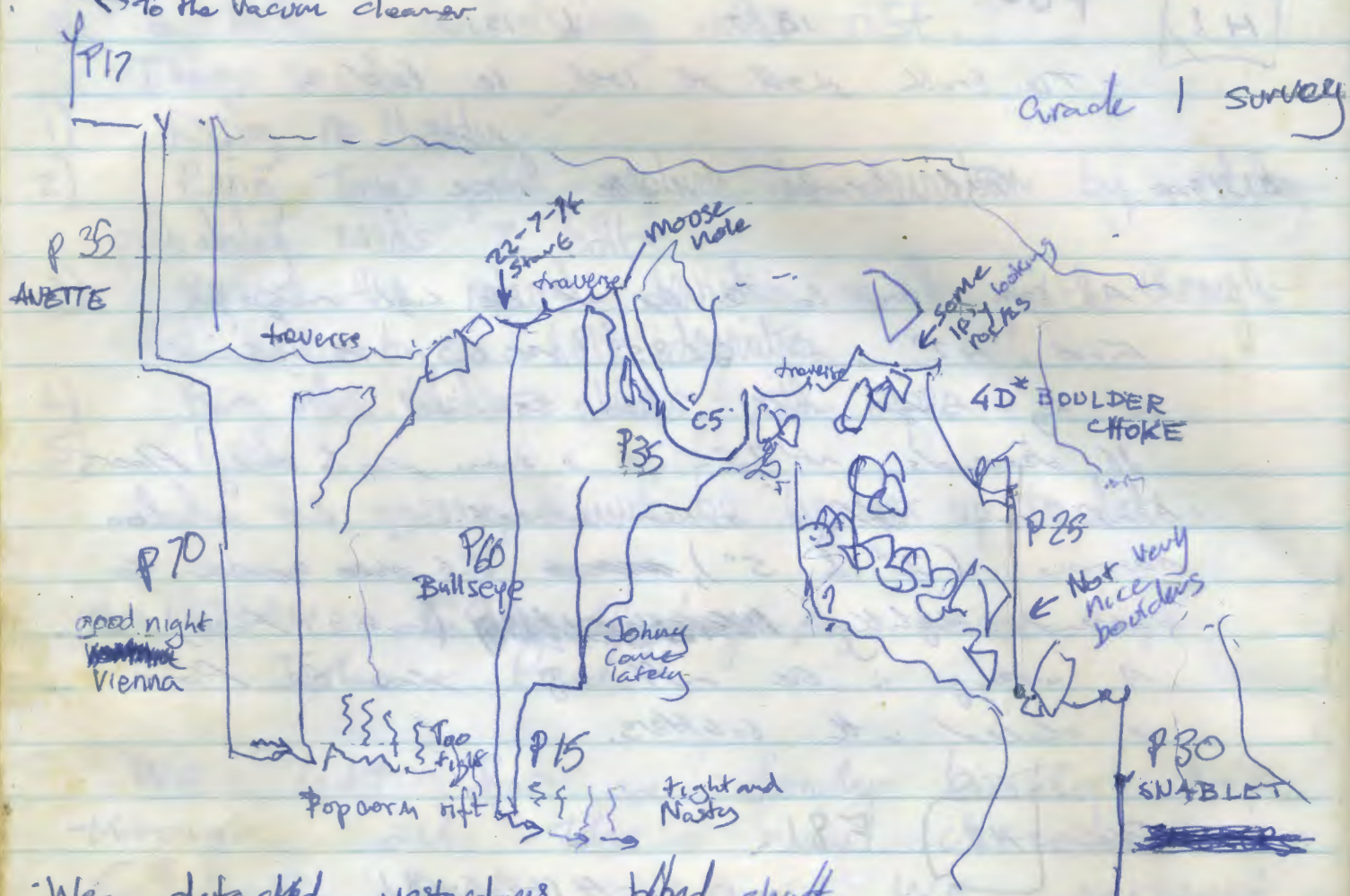
Ex-elev.



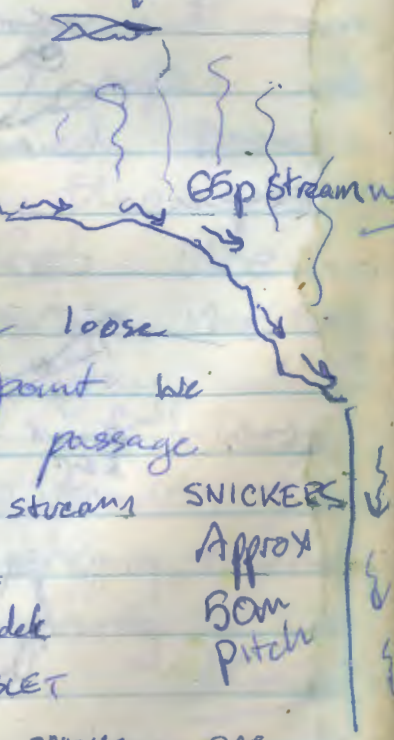
(72) 22-7-94 C9 WLODEK - ROB - SNABLET

To the vacum cleaner

Grade 1 survey



We detacked yesterdays blind shaft. Then traversed across it. We dropped a small shaft on the over side which resembles a moose hole. this landed us on a ledge 5m below our intended window. Wlodek climbed this, then traversed over another shaft passed some large loose rocks in a small chamber. From this point we drop 2 more pitches into a big passage. We then followed a steeply meandering stream passage to the head of a 50m ish pitch with a waterfall. During the trip Wlodek placed his 30cm bolt into cave. SNABLET won an ice cream or 65p with a SNICKERS BAR wrapper.



* 4D - DDDD Didn't Drink Don't Drive

9.02 Urs Tony Harvey underground overdue

Wlodek James down cave
Dave Runner

all clear 9.20
Tony having a bath

23.7.94 Tony Harvey Urs
We rerigged the pitch after the Vacuum Cleaner; we rerigged the traverse on rope not wire; we (Tony) took the 200m rope from the traverse to the end of the cave; we dropped the 50m pitch to find another loaming pitch immediately afterwards, but it was after turnaround time (2.30am) so we went out.

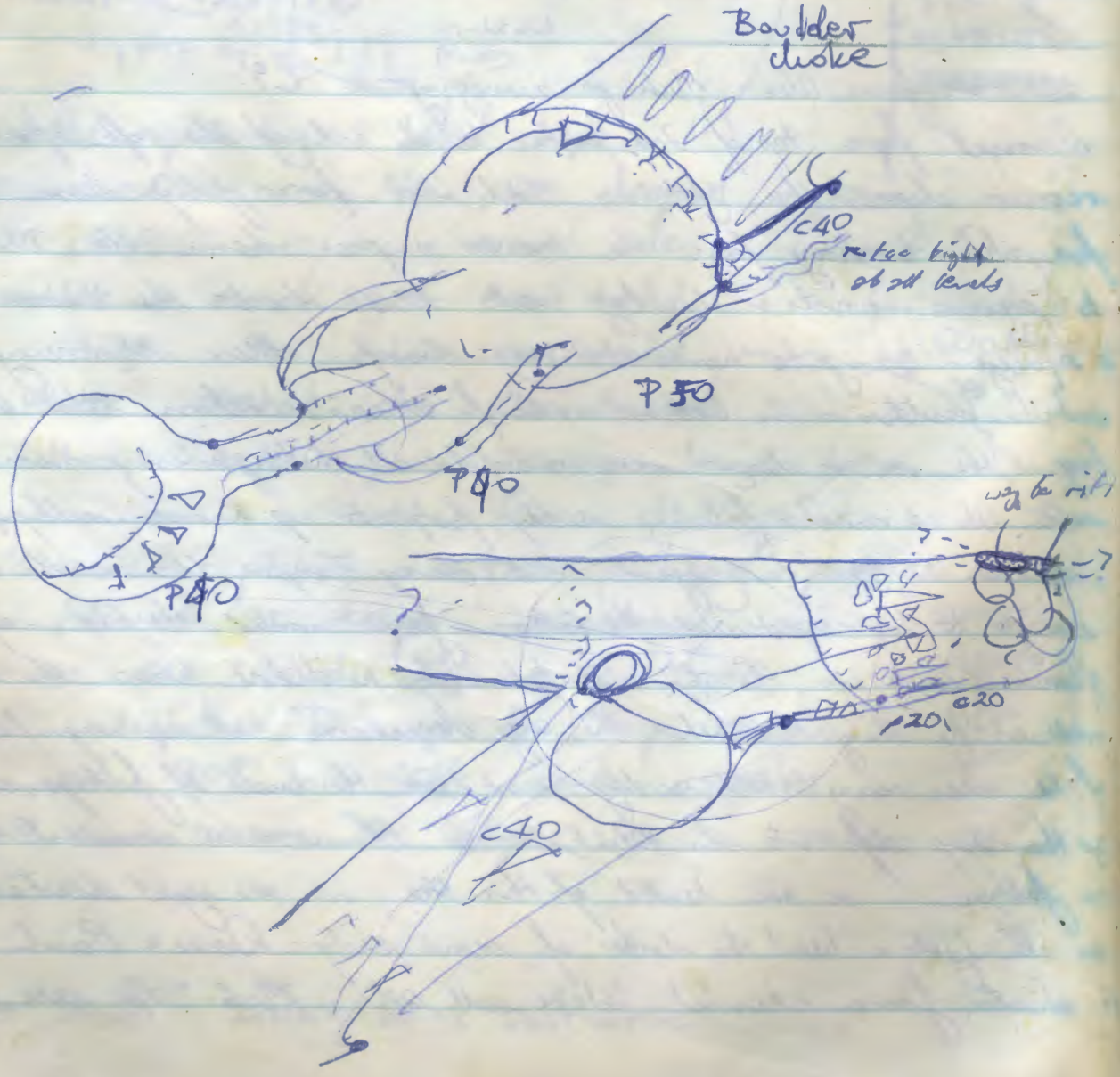
22.7.94 James, Alex & Mich go surveying in C9.
Surveyed from top of 2nd pitch to the end of the rift after the vacuum cleaner then James & Mich went for a jolly down the next few pitches to hang from the traverse & peer down the 70. Contrary to previous comments in the log book Mich thinks the Vacuum Cleaner is a squeeze - having to hammer her way through. More hammering & shifting out the boulders in the bottom made for an easier return. The bits we saw beyond the vacuum cleaner were wonderful - all that glistening moonmilk. Mich made like a vandal, following muddy footprints up a moon-milky passage to a deadend then back down again. Met Harvey, Tony & Urs on the way in & emerged to dag & spectacular thunderstorm. James insisted the best way back was Vladeks route over the top. Unfortunately he didn't know the way as well as he thought & when the dag cleared we had an magnificent view of the moon rising behind receding mist over the bulk of Julians, and lighting up the sharp cliffs into the Val Extenerna. Ahhm - we shouldn't be able to see Julians ... so we headed of this time in the right direction & soon saw the lights & heard the whistles of search party - Dave & Paul. Responding to shouts, James shouted "We're all OK" Mich - "No we're fucking not!"

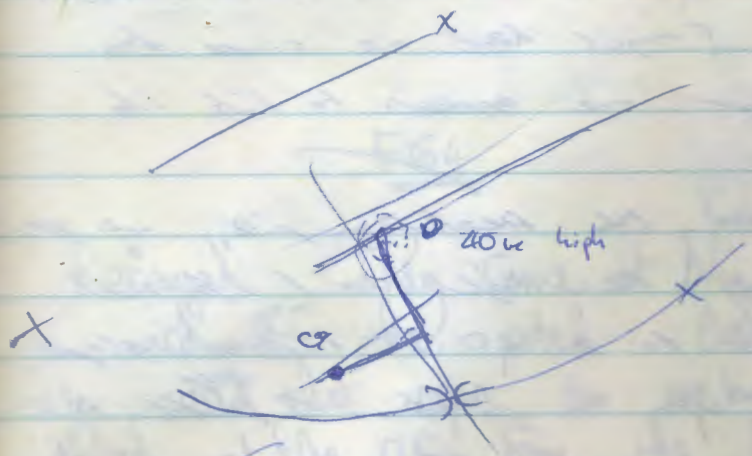
"We're lost!" Dave, the rescuer, carried Mick's rucksack back & then we all fell upon copious quantities of tasty vegie, venison stew. As James said "The rally in moonlight would be really great if we had any idea where we were!"

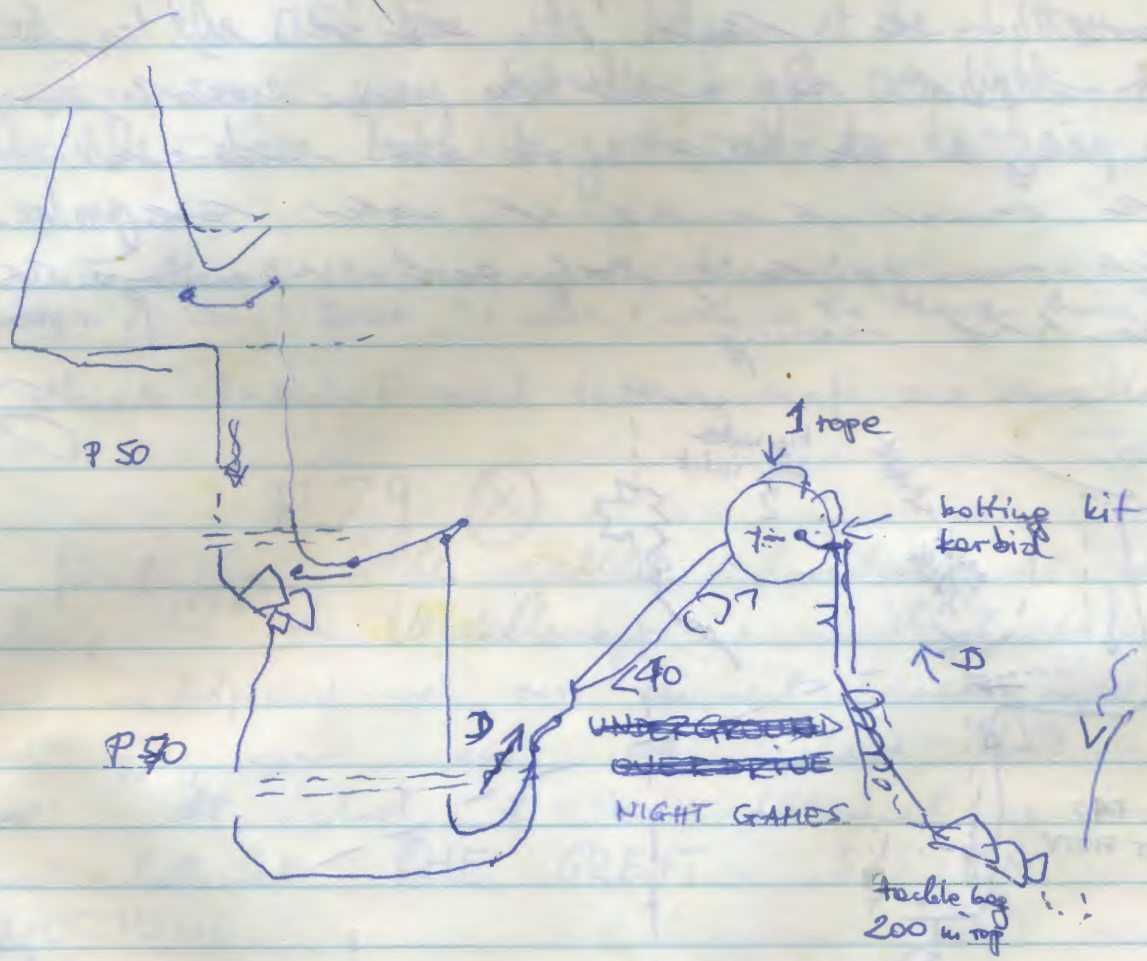
24.7.94

Tony - mini rescue kit, first aid kit - Wave 1
Wave 2 - Pivo & Harvey
Brew kit & sleeping bag.
Out before call-out.

24/7/84 NIGHT GAMES
Intrack, James, Pal,







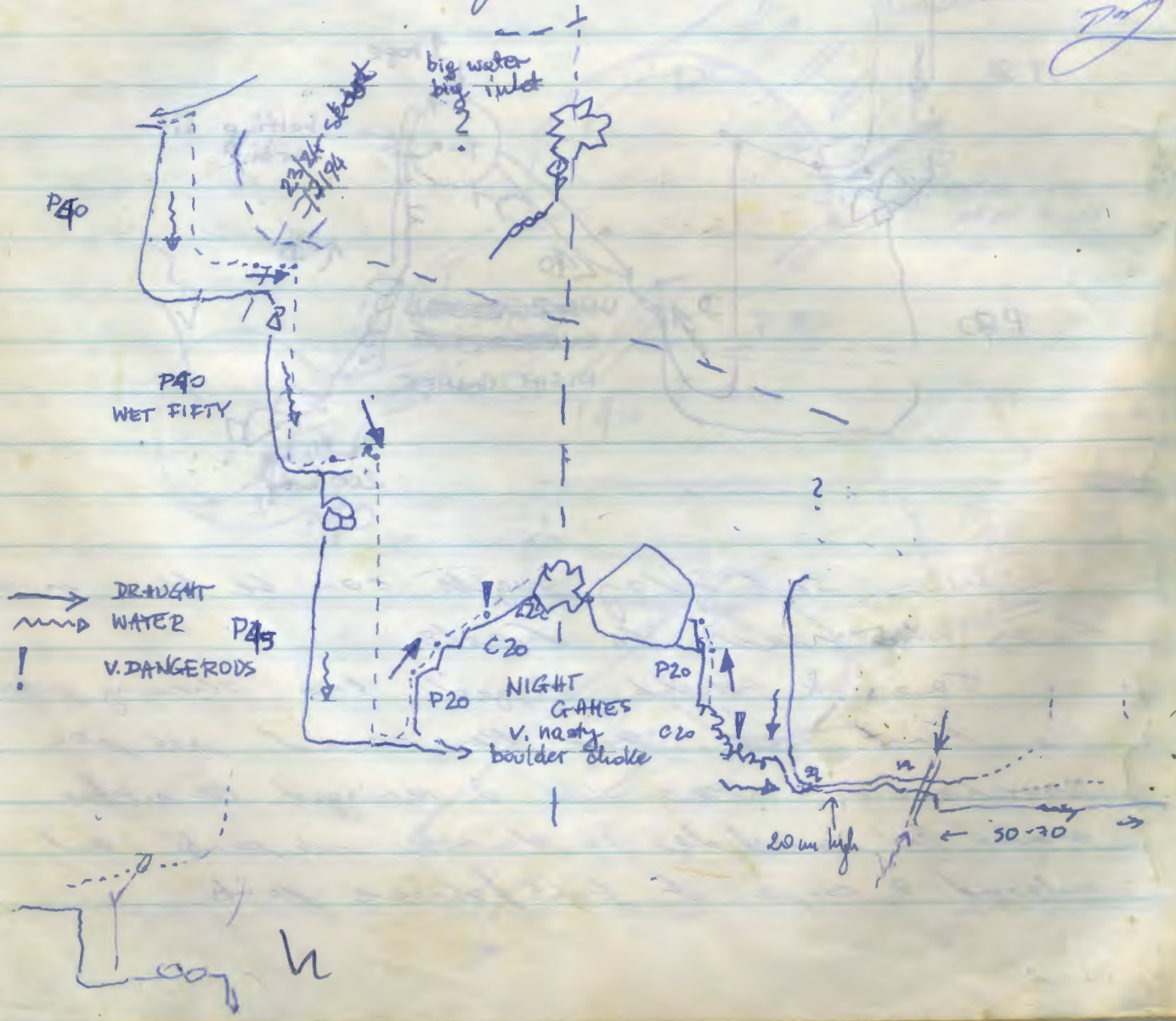
When Saturday nights can be this much fun, who needs to fiesta.

Joe & Wicket rigged two stunning pitches, the first wet, and the second just plain spectacular. Meanwhile I rerigged the pitches around the marshalls to eliminate rub points, and enlarged a couple of tight/abrasive points.

After rerouting, Nadeet worked on going over the boulder choke while I had a serious fumble in the mud rifts leading off. (right hand one closes down at all levels, left lower one appears to link into the cave)

Once we had scrambled the breakdown pile, we spent a short while investigating the right hand branch, dropping a ~20m pitch to a 20m boulder slope, which appears to end in an inlet. A deep rift is accessible in the floor (we didn't enter), appearing to undercut the end of the large shaft passageway. The way to the left was left unexplored! - there is the sound of a lot of water falling this way.

We now a fairly lengthy exit to emerge to a beautiful morning.



What is Anette?
S.L. A small furry animal.

~~F64~~ Mich & Gavin 25/7/94

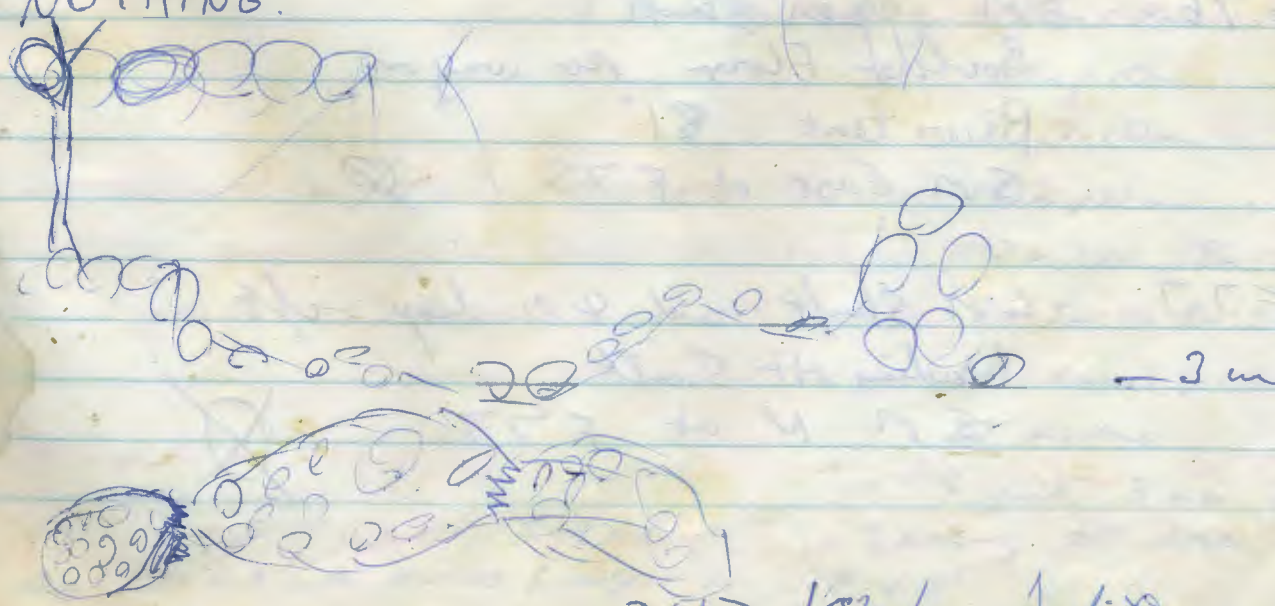
Reigged. They come at Night so you now just step on and off the pitch. Reigged Chris's tagliatelle and then used that rope to replace the 80m on Mostly. Looked at the rift from the ledge at the bottom of Mostly: I got in some way but then it got too tight. Also looked at the hole above but it just seems to be going up rather than along.

25.7. Dave Alex & Us survey the Moosehole to bottom of Don't Drive. "I wish I was in the Marten Arms." 26.7.94

" I think bullshit and talking crap are excellent ".
James.

F79 (X)

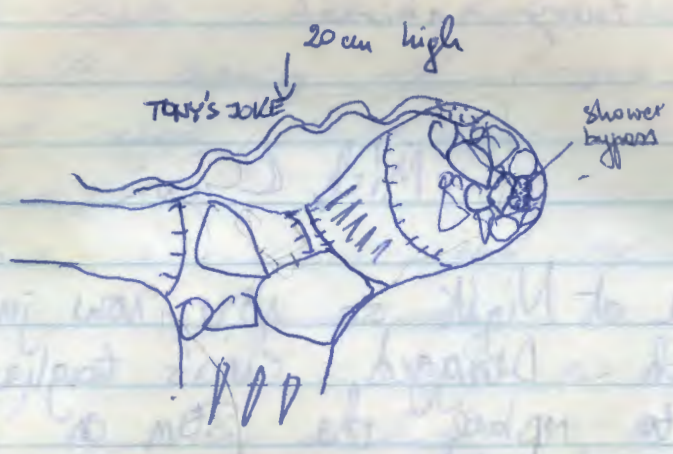
We found a little pitch. Location: 25° orange rocks, 126° La Vendellamyon, about 65° Top Camp and we hadpicked up our equipment and some rope and rigging gear and we went back. ~~After~~ ~~And~~ And ~~t~~ we discovered, descended and bottomed THE GREAT SYSTEM OF NOTHING.



26/7/94 Judith and Poro

No documentation without exploration

Gavin



26/7/94

Jim and Sara go shaft Bashing phrear-phrear Set out with lots of tackle and string and Tinnels Bars to clear up a few questions about some shaft located a few days ago

F75 Inigo Jones Major Landscape Gardening after the removal of a couple of tonnes of loose Boulders, Down the shaft
7m shaft Blocked at bottom by boulders still nicely loose
Pivo's tent 81.5
Verdelloenya 135
tagged 75 1994

F76 6M open shaft
Boulder Floor no way on
Pivos tent 81
5M East of F75

F77 4M shaft and 4M deep rift leading off South
5M N of F77

F78 Thrift Rift

10m deep narrow fissure in rock about 1m-1½m wide at NW end a small chamber in view but not entirable no much draft but quite damp

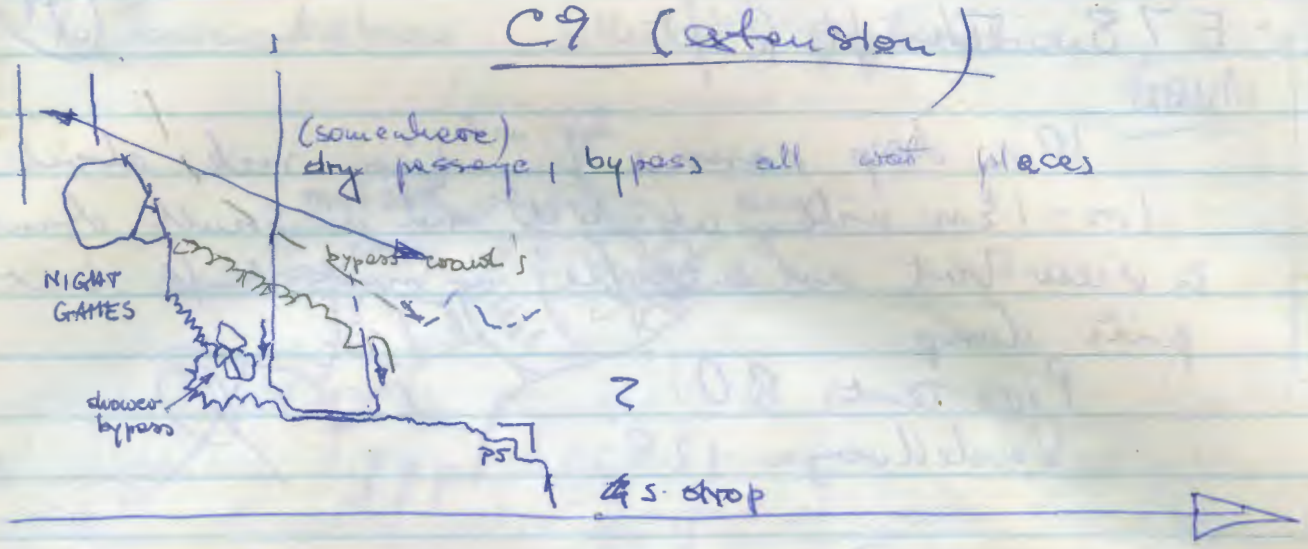
Pivo tent 80'
Vardellvenya 128'

26/7 - Gear in C9

Entrance - tackle bag with ~~old rotted~~ 75m rope
Near side vacuum cleaner - 3 lamps carbide
Dirik drink / dirik drive - re-routed ~~[illegible]~~ pitch has 35m rope, only needs 15-20m.
Bottom of Smoke Me A Kipper - 3 lamps carbide
- Tackle bag of: solid fuel stove & fuel
tea milk sugar (no spoons)
2 mountaineers tins
2 survival bags
- Survey tape
Top of Nights Gones - 2 tackle bags containing 200 nylon rope
1 tackle bag containing 28m / 9mm rope
15m / 10mm "
10m / 10mm "
10m / 11mm "
2m, 1m, 8m wires
2m, 5m, 1m, 8m, 1.5m tape
18 hangers (+1 belayed)
27 maillons
1 lock, 3 snap crabs
Bolt kit - 2 anchors, 20 wedges
Also bolt kit with anchors & wedges in wet bits!

26.07.84

C9 (extension)



"This is hell, nor are we out of it"
Steve Philpps - "I'm fairly out of it".

Jim wonders around in some one else' area
Wombled off to Area B across the way
to have a look round and take a few pics.

F82

On the way I had a look at a hole that Sharon
had found earlier. It might go
Climb down amongst 1 tonne boulders leads
to a shaft at ~ 6.8m with a (too?) tight
take off. It's down the hill from Shit creek
~~Year~~ Head a little to the ~~Right~~ left down
close to the bottom of Vega Alhazada opposite
from the orange socks.

Area B
not a lot of action lots of breakdown
on the surface a few entrable shafts ~~not~~ will
probably not go. Had a look at the big
shaft over toward X dir. very big.

10 Minutes later and Vs is still wetting herself
about the Marlowe/Philpps Joke.

26/7 Paul, James & Włodek

Trip to C9

We spend a couple of hours (~18) veripping cave and ~~make~~ surveying. We changed ripping in Bullseye shaft make bypass of 4D choke, change ropes in Night Games. Tony's way to the bottom it is very nasty crawl in the water in ~ 20 cm high passage. Probably exist a bypass of this crawl because all draught is going diffrent way. actual depth of cave after last ~~[illegible]~~ survey, is ~ 380 m. For extension look for a previous page.

Tony's crawl is a typical „zasadzka" for cavers, who don't like crawling in the 4°C water. Probably after bigger rain this place (~50m) is under water.

I was disgusted by this place.

James, whilst pewing Marcin's Bank-Buster":
"This is terrible, what a thing to live up to, poor Marcin!"

F52 Gavin 26/7/94

I had a look at this cave because it's quite close to the line of F64 and so I hoped it would bypass the Force Ladies. The rigging was interesting as I didn't have any bolts. At the bottom was a boulder slope with no way on. On the way back up, I noticed a rift leading off to the right. I pendulled in and followed the rift to another pitch. More interesting rigging (rope tied direct to spike, two rope protectors, knot changeover) down to another boulder slope, with no way on.

F80 New designation for H1: "Sima de Los Cabrones"

F81 New designation for H2

F82 See earlier

The word 'sima' (abyss) should not be used in this part of Spain; the local equivalent is 'Torca', with Tras la Jayada being a prototype. 27/7/94 YW

In which Jones and Sara go down C9

We set off at a leisurely pace up the mountain shortly after lunch, Jones suffering from stomach ache and sleep deprivation and Sara from a roaring cave hunger which could be assuaged only by a trip down the soon-to-be deepest cave in the world. Glorious views on the way up of the central massif rising from the clag and of Jones' less than adequate underwear, with plenty of stops for chocolate and water on the way. The tempting coolness of the cave overcame my slight

apprehension and I went down first. The big pitch at the top has a delightful symmetry as the rebelays and deviations switch from ~~side~~ wall to wall and the depth is less intimidating than it might be because of the frequent ledges. We carried on past the next two pitches and ladders and into the big chamber which has no name, stopping off to look at the very beautiful aven which has no name, through the vacuum cleaner to the very beautiful passage which has no name - I conclude that hard caves have only squeezes and pitches. We turned back reluctantly at the head of the second pitch past the vacuum cleaner because of lack of time. En route we met Tony and later Dave and Harvey all downward bound. The prusiking up was much better than expected and on the last pitch James decided to teach me to sing to cheer me on. We emerged to a delicate pinkish sunset and changed as darkness fell. We came back along Tony's thoughtfully carried route and after quarter of an hour stopped to lie on our backs and gaze at the stars. We were awakened from pleasant dreams by the whistles and lights of friends and comrades across the valley, and emerged at camp having narrowly escaped a humble death at the hands of the Picos pick-axe murderer, to devouring food and welcome tea.

Apologies to Rob whom we unwittingly lured away from camp to a cold night under the stars.

Many thanks to Chris V ~~Pen~~ without whose gear all this would not have been possible and especially to James for a trip which made my holiday.

8B

H1 - Pat & Steve - 28/7/96

The day's only caving trip.

A leisurely start saw us at the entrance at around 5pm. The entrance snow plug was lower, but as weak & firm as ever, forcing us to clamber over snow and pendule daringly.

I spent a long while rigging the big shaft, with Steve waiting patiently at the top. Eventually I reached the end of the 42m rope, next to a good/essential belay point, so put in yet another bolt and beckoned Steve to join me. After several minutes of 'bait', Steve reached the belay above, and delivered the next rope to me. Supposedly 25m, it was very close to 30m. However, it wasn't enough, I was still 8m above a snow plug at the base of the pitch. However I could see the passage ongoing at the base of the pitch, the shaft closing down to a 5m x 5m archway leading N.E. (obviously one of the caves tighter bits!, there probably exists a higher window of Wadeth Hunts this is to small.) To the W.W. the passage supposedly goes on (having been closed down all the way down the pitch), appearing to pass the base of the snow plug (ice wall on right side).

We reached -100 m, the snow plug was measured -106m beneath us, although it slopes down towards the arch way - 'Industrial Vacuum Cleaner' perhaps.

We ascended, surveying to grade 3b and derigging as we went. We reached the pitch top

to see/hear lightning & thunder. Figuring it to be distant, we continued our surveying/derigging, until I spotted within 1½ miles caused us concern. Steve made one of his fastest cave exits, dashing to find a place of safety (not a cave entrance full of ionic air was as good as the centre of). Meanwhile, I waited in bivvy bag for the storm to pass whilst sitting comfortably at the big pitch head. After ~45 minutes, Steve gave the all clear, and so I continued out, leaving the last of the derigging/surveying for the morning.

Thanks to the storm, we were 10 minutes past our call out, although our lights had been seen ½ hour previously on the mountain top, so panic hadn't set in when we reached base (in fact, most people, especially Jim, were soundly drunk!)

Does the cave draught?

Well, sitting at the pitch head, where the cave is a 2m x 5m squeeze, the draught outwards was phenomenal, possibly 5m/s at times. This draught seems clearly related to the meteorology at the time, (dropping pressure with the storm), but still indicates large cave volume:

eg Average 1m/s over 2x5m passage = 10 m³/s

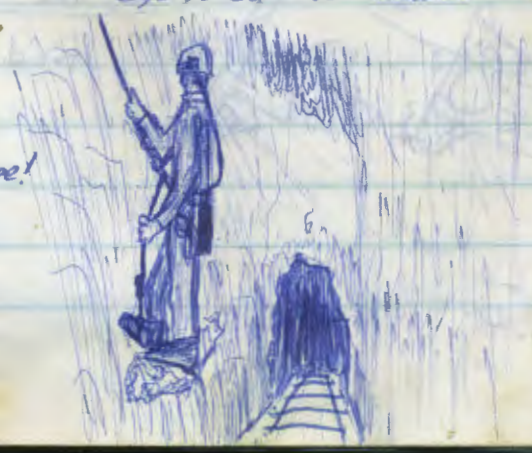
For 30 minutes or 2,000 seconds = 20,000 m³

If pressure change of 20 mBars, ~2%,

total volume = 1,000,000 m³

or equivalent to larger underground ~~[illegible]~~ in 2/7!

-100m, and no more rope!



Paul

Paul has taken all survey data for drawing up back in the UK.

30/7/94 1:00pm

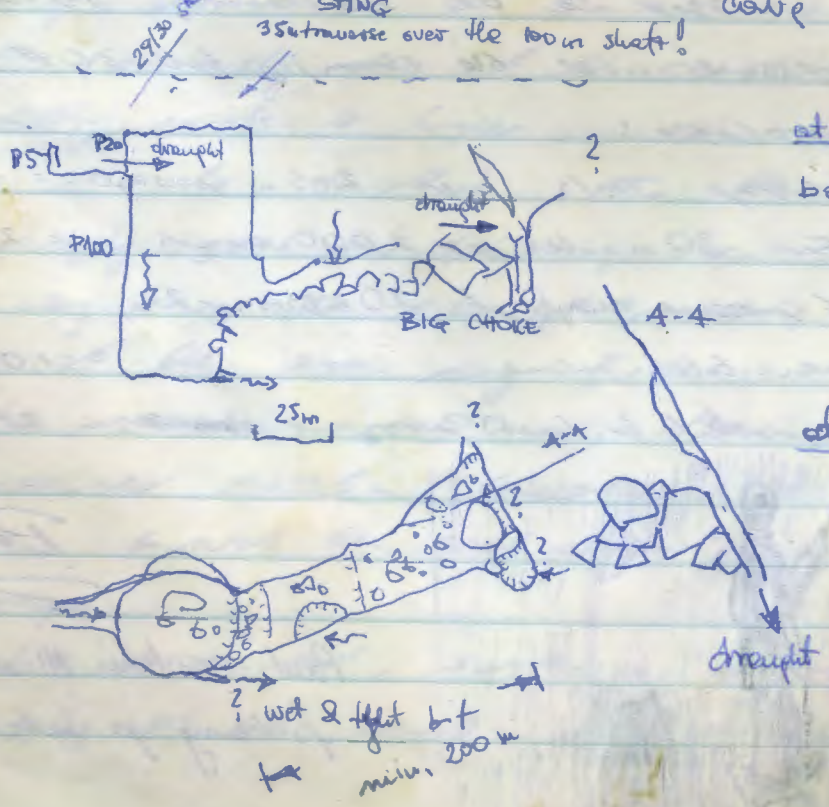
Instrument Calibration

- Sighting Top of Snow Pole → Summit of Vierkluwgat

Inst Set	②		③		Paul's ⓪	
Inst #	319123	226529		406556	[315461]	
Inst	Comp	Clino	Comp	Clino	Comp	Clino
Paul	150½°	+26⅓°	149¾°	+26½°	150.5°	+28°
Harry	153°	+27°	150.5°	+29°	153°	+29°
Steve P.	149°	+26°	149.5°	+27°	149°	+28°
Alex H.	155°	+27°	149°	+26.5°	153.5°	+27°
John P	149.5°	+27°	151°	+27°	151°	+29°
Alex H.	147°		- Re-reading (not sure if read compass back to front first time.			

29/30/7/94 C9 (Whodeh & James)

25 hours caving trip. Our ~~the~~ ~~boot~~ trip, We ~~rigged~~ ~~boot~~ cave ~~and~~ pushed



at the bottom:

bolting kit: ropes
hangers 35m
maillons 60m
steel wires
tapes
no bolts!

at the top P100
food & stove

tapes: 10m
15m
50m

30/7/94 Paul & Steve Sima Verdelluenga

(87)

Another virtual photography trip!

It was meant to be real; I packed the gear, checking it all worked - Flashes - OK, Slaves - OK, Camera - OK; then we set off. It was a good pico's start, 3pm, planning an overnight trip, out to see the dawn perhaps. Down the first pitch, past the 3 rebelays, and into the rift. First step, the first small chamber in the rift, with its pretty walls. Out with camera, want out lighting, set up flash, check slave still working - FLASH - yes. Set up model, let's use Tannoch Bar for effect. All ready, f16, press button, CLUNK! Camera seizes. Won't wind on, won't release shutter again - so rewind film, & start investigating problem - shutter jammed, nothing to do. Pack up camera, up rift then prussik, prussik, prussik; and back out in just over an hour. We'll try again tomorrow, with Jim's camera!

Is a rose by any other name just as sweet?

2/7 - ~~Pozu 30m below the eyehole~~ - ~~Pozu [illegible] Ojo del Brujo~~
- Pozu Jultayu

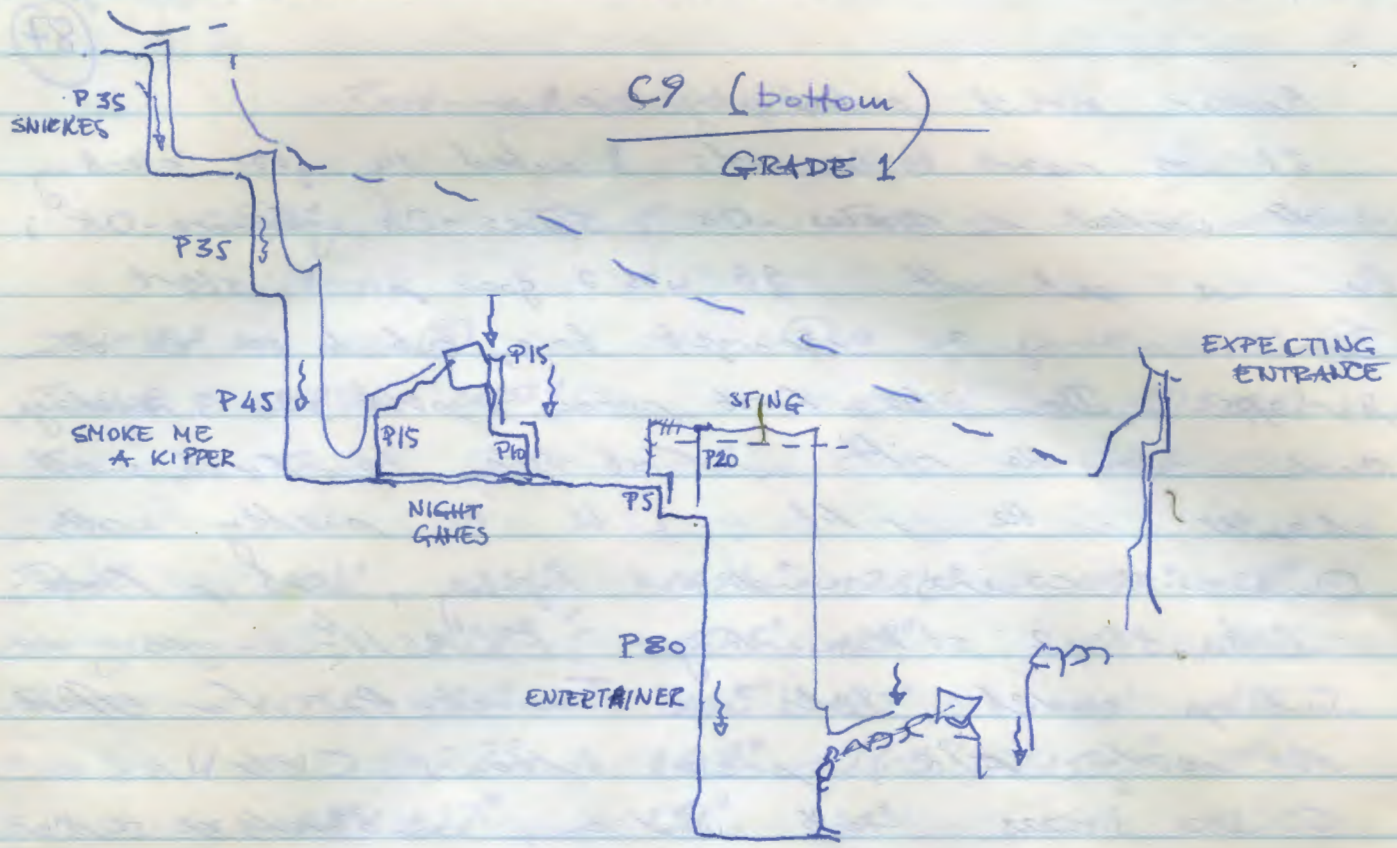
8/11 - ~~Pozu Cabra~~ Julagua - Pozu Sierra Fercada

~~T8/12~~ - C8

~~S12~~ - C3 Sima Verdelluenga

~~H2~~ - F81

~~H1~~ - F80



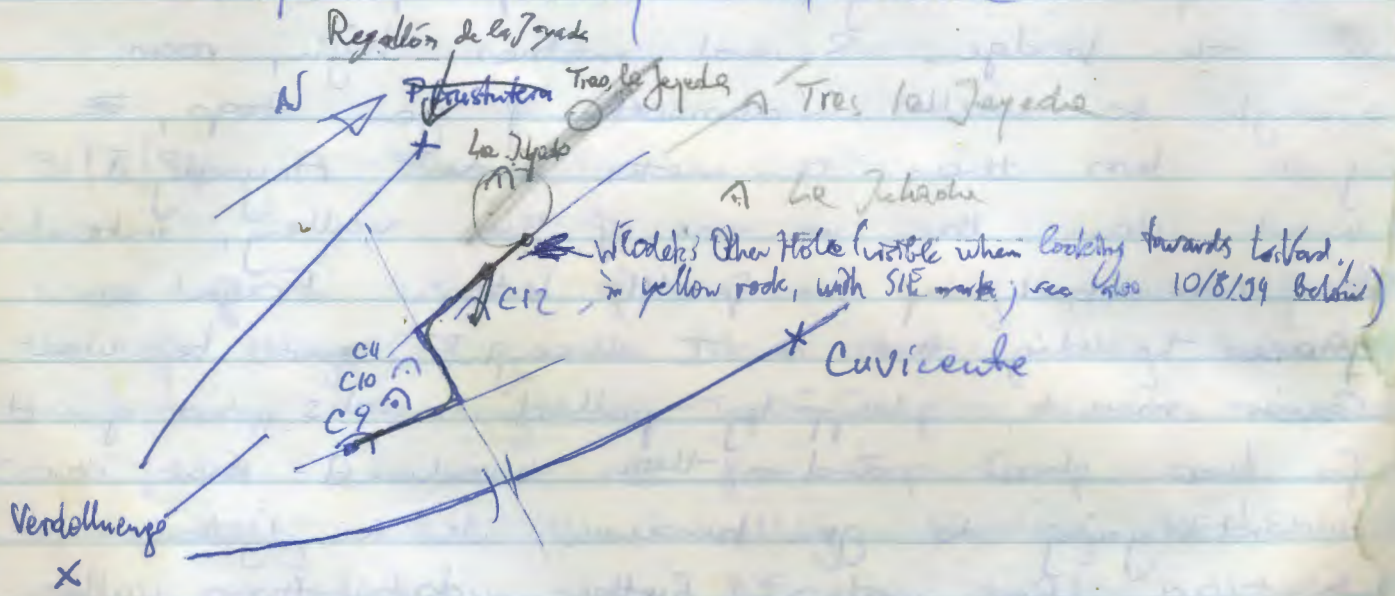
31/7/94 Sharon

Went off in search of Gavin's dig, and found lots of things. I went down the valley behind the ridge leading to Top Camp on the caimed route, ie I went SE from Top Camp and immediately hit the valley running NE-SW, and proceeded in a NE-erly direction along it, looking at snakeholes as I went. Had a peek inside the hole Gavin found a few days ago (F83) (which I don't think was written up). It's in about the 5th-6th bump along the valley floor, with lots of loose stones in the bottom of the bump, which makes it a bit dangerous in case of collapse. Gingerly peering through the hole that Gavin made obvious, you can see down several

metres in a roomy sort of rift with some snow in, but because it goes away to the right, you can't see if it continues or not. Anyway. On down the valley, over the horizon, keep going down the valley and the valley now veers slightly to the right, with a rock face like a cliff to your right. Now you're about level with the other end of the aforementioned ridge, ie where you turn off from the valley up ~~to~~ onto the ridge to get to Top Camp. Looking down the valley, to the left there's a sort of parallel valley looking like a cave ran along there and collapsed. Halfway down the parallel-valley-to-the-left (pvttl) there is a rock bridge. Several metres high, room enough to walk underneath if you stoop, ~~to~~ just less than a metre wide. Anyway I went down the ~~rs~~ rhs of the valley, intending to come back up the pvttl later. Found a place to dig that ~~a~~ I thought must be what Gavin meant, happily pulled rocks out of it for an hour and then realised that it wasn't going to go because its too tight. Went a few metres further down the valley, past a rock pile that's unusual because it looks like someone tried to glue little rocks together to form big rocks, and behind this pile there's an entrance (with tarp outside it) that needs looking at. Horizontal-ish and went round a corner that I couldn't see round, so I don't know if it goes. Anyway, ~~g~~ coming back up ~~the~~ the pvttl (now the pvttr :)) just near the rock bridge is interesting. One shaft

directly under the rock bridge with a small snow-plug in it (so I can't see if it does anything), and one shaft either side of the bridge (1m/2m). The entrance is gapingly derisive and cute. I can see a rocky floor but it needs someone to check what the bit round the corner does. Other side of rock bridge 2m away again needs checking to see if it goes anywhere. Toddled back to camp before it rained too heavily.

31/07/84 Whatch
shaft bashing in area C or other



C10 new cave, ~30m lower than entrance of C9, draughty, few seconds drop, probably joins with C9

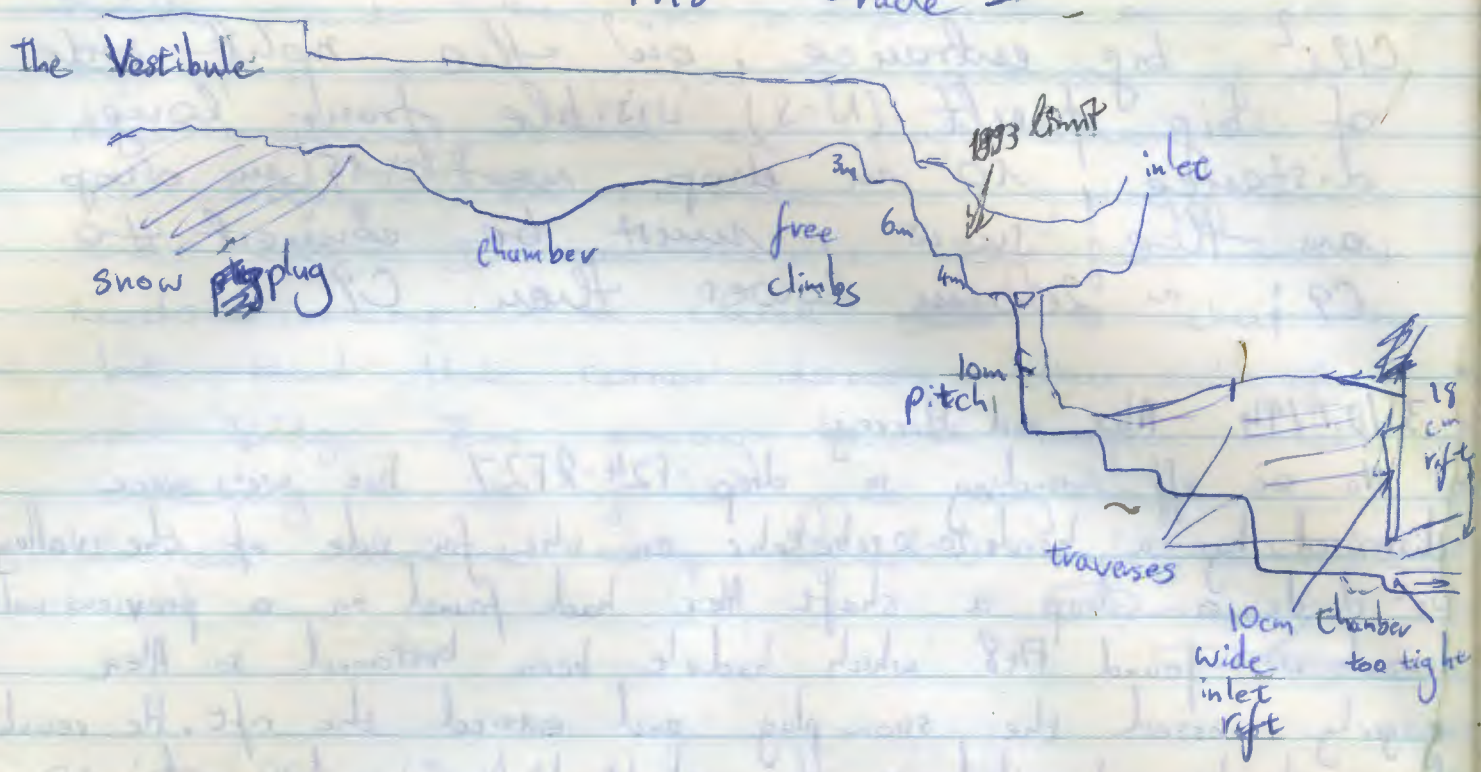
C11 new cave,
Regallón ~~Rio Gustutem~~ 28°
Cuvicente 268° (this is the 'hump' on the ridge/spur going down NE from La V.)

C12? big entrance, on the right side of big fault (N-S) visible from long distance, 10 m drop, next 15 m drop on the snow, must be connect to C9; ~ 200 m lower than C9

31/07/94 Alex and Harvey

We set off intending to drop F24 & F27 but we were distracted by a herde 20-30 rebekahs on the far side of the valley we decide to drop a shaft Alex had found on a previous walk. Instead we found F48 which hadn't been bottomed so Alex gingerly crossed the snow plug and entered the rift. He reached the chamber described in the shaft bashing guide and came back for an oversuit, rope and SRT kit. Fully equipped he plunged back into the cave and followed the rift to a series of climbs down to a pitch head. This is probably what is refered to by 'the team ran out of rope'. The pitch was rigged off a boulder and a flake with a take off so low that it would turn Tim green with envy. The pitch is 10-12m deep. The rift descends down a series of free climbs. The rift closes down after 10 minutes. There is a possible way on slightly higher in the rift but this closes down to an 18cm wide slot which could be hammered open as the rift widens slightly beyond, the streamway below looks quite wide if it were possible to drop down. Beyond the squeeze, however without a hammer and a call out to make I turned around and started the free climbs back up to the pitch, detackled and lugged the equipment out, arriving at 5 seconds to five (Harvey was allowed to get worried at five) and walked back to camp.

Pl48 Grade 1



F64 John & Gavin 1/8/94

Continued rigging from the previous limit. Bolt Y-hang for 5m drop followed by bolt deviation for further 5m descent. Immediately there was yet another 5m drop, rigged off 2 bolts. It's possible to climb down the rift at this point, but we traversed forward to a short drop into a chamber, where the passage suddenly changes direction, heading roughly NE (previously it's been going NNW). Also the draught changes direction, blowing out of the cave whereas previously it has been blowing down. This suggests that another cave drops in here which takes the draught out. Descended a 25m pitch (which needs some re-rigging) to the top of a pitch of about 20m.

After sharing a bed with James Dave says - 'I'm not geriatric, just prematurely hungover.'

31/7/94 - 1/8/94

Mich & Dave go on a 'jolly' to the bottom of C9 to check if Mich can get there & back - she can. Brilliant, wonderful, amazing trip. We did the mining survey legs on Doit Drive, Dave re-rigged the hanging rebelay (a place ~~which~~ where Mich spent quite some time trying to reach a foot loop jammer to unclip the wretched thing, spinning gently in space) & we even furtled about at the end looking for leads - found nothing - a loop below the final rope - at the night Dave climbed up. Mich grovelled through boulders, & met a white mud-slope in the middle. Possible dig on the left didn't look promising. Dave climbed into holes half-way up the rope, found a place to hammer but it just goes into the big boulder chamber. One potential lead - a climb after short traverse up left hand side of boulder chamber. Dave didn't like the climb & Mich wasn't even keen on the traverse & sat on "stable" floor which turned out to be a thin layer of chon. Energy at 5am, Mich can no longer criticise the lunatics doing overnight trips. Then a pair of geriatrics ate dinner/breakfast walking the down from the hill above Top Camp.

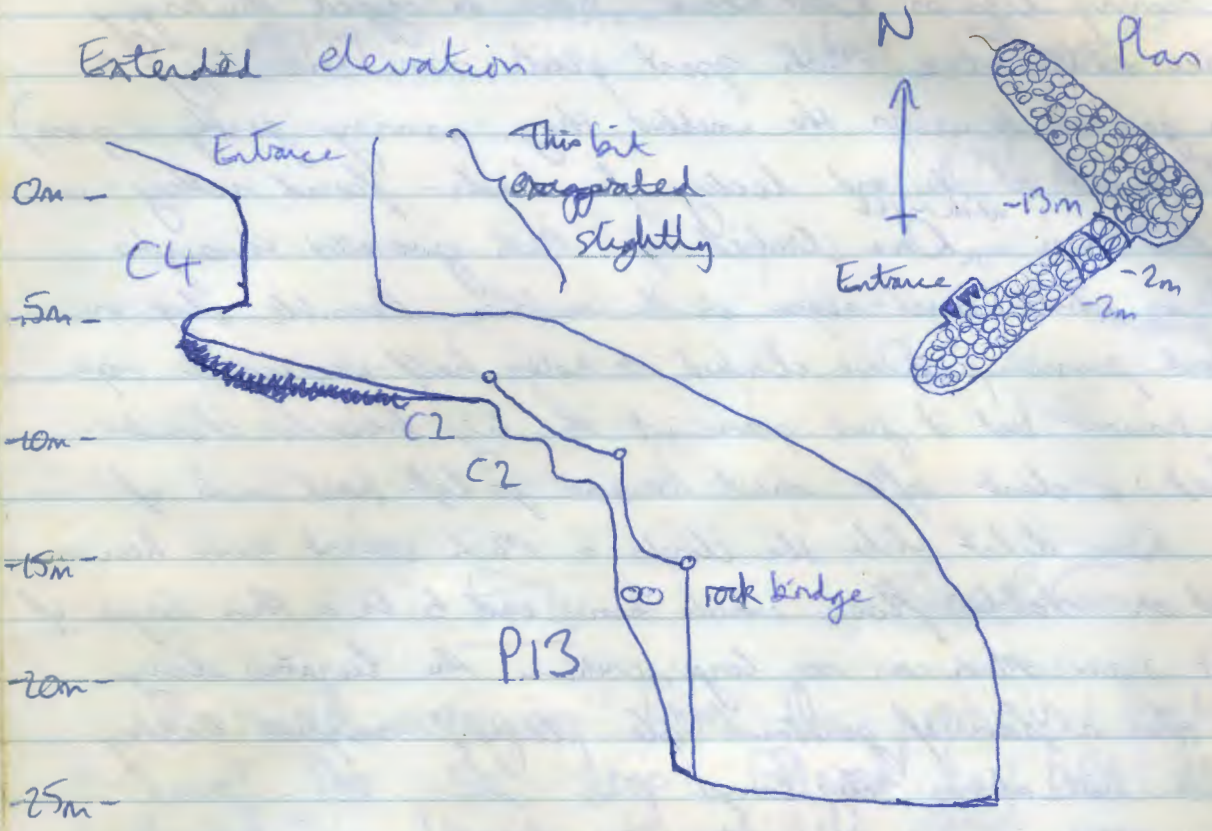
One final thing - Mich has finally discovered something she hates more than water in caves - Rhodes hideous water-avoiding rope loops, designed for gorillas who specialise in one armed pull-ups.

ONE MINOR POINT - Team 769 - Gav & John did NOT kick themselves off for their midnight callout on 31/7 so team geriatric-after-C9, not knowing anyone had walked up - till James' quivering text spoke - & believing Sharon to be the only person in camp were reluctantly contemplating a slow motion rescue. Don't scare us like that - the idea of SRT going was terrifying.

a4

2/8/94 Alex, Steve C10 ⊗

Grade 2 survey:-

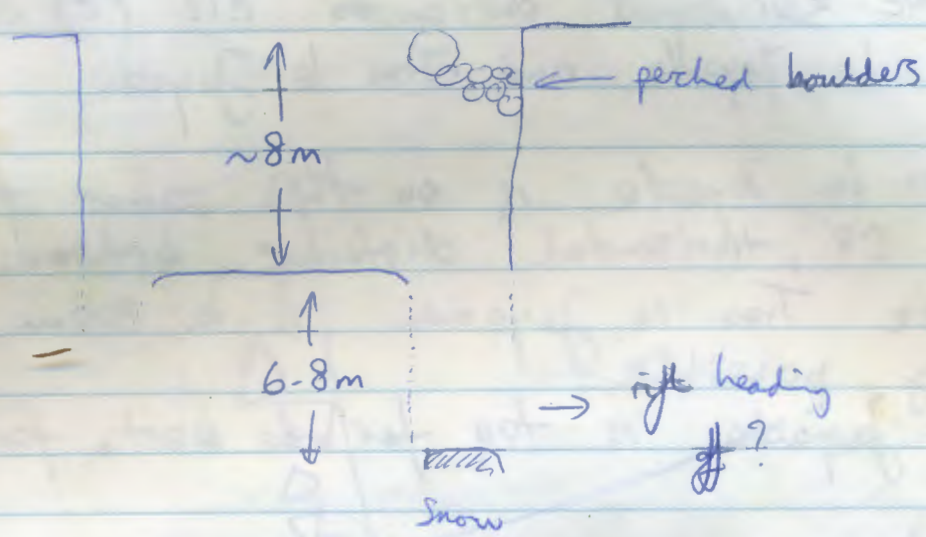


Description: Small slit in surface rift, 2m x 0.75m, leads after 4m climb down to small chamber with loose, bouldery floor. Heading left, two 2m climbs down lead to head of 13m pitch. Bolt in left-hand wall at top of first climb is start of traverse to pitch head. Descending pitch (bolts on left-hand wall at 0m and -5m) leads to well-decorated aven (moonmilk, popcorn) with bouldery floor but no way on. No discernible draught, but some air movement could be felt due to gusts of wind on the surface.

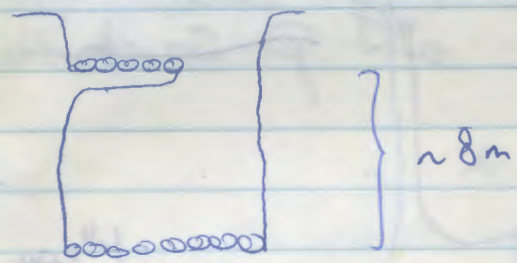
The first trip to find a bottom entrance to C9; unfortunately this was not to be it.

2/8/94 Steve Shaft bashing

F72 ⊘



F69 ⊗



8m climb down through 1m wide rift to boulder floor. No way on.

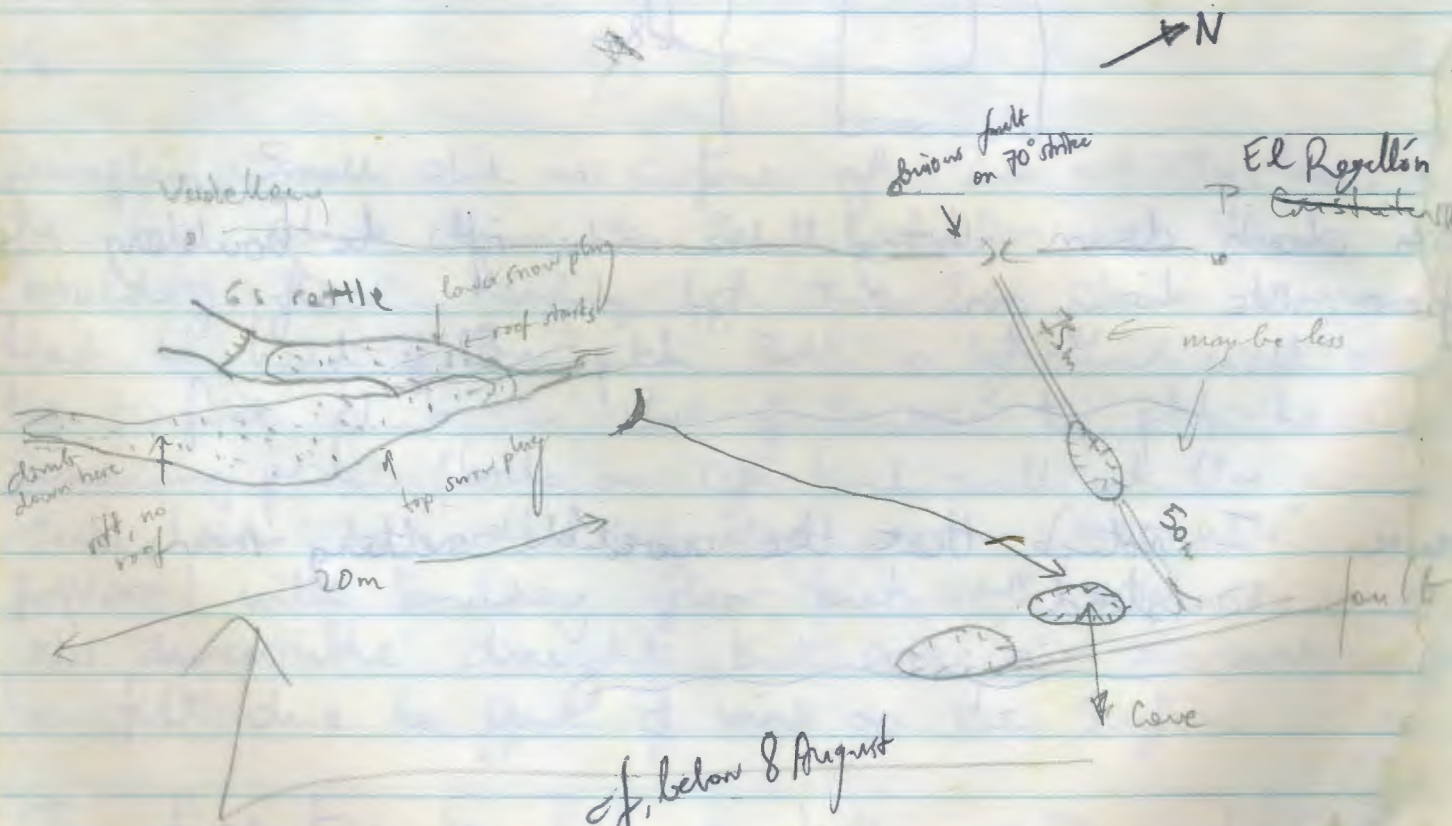
Dave: "I notice that the incredible melting man vanished"

4/08/94 Martin & Wodek

1. We surveyed entrances C12 (C7, C8, C9, C10, C11) and Le Jayade and Tres le Jayete

Tres le Jayade is on this same fault as C9, Horizontal distance between end of C9 and Tres le Jayede is ≈ 300m, Connecting is very possible
Le Jayede is too far to east, for connection

2. On the way back to Top Camp we found very interesting cave without merits, on the slope of ~~P Gustatery~~ the Regellón



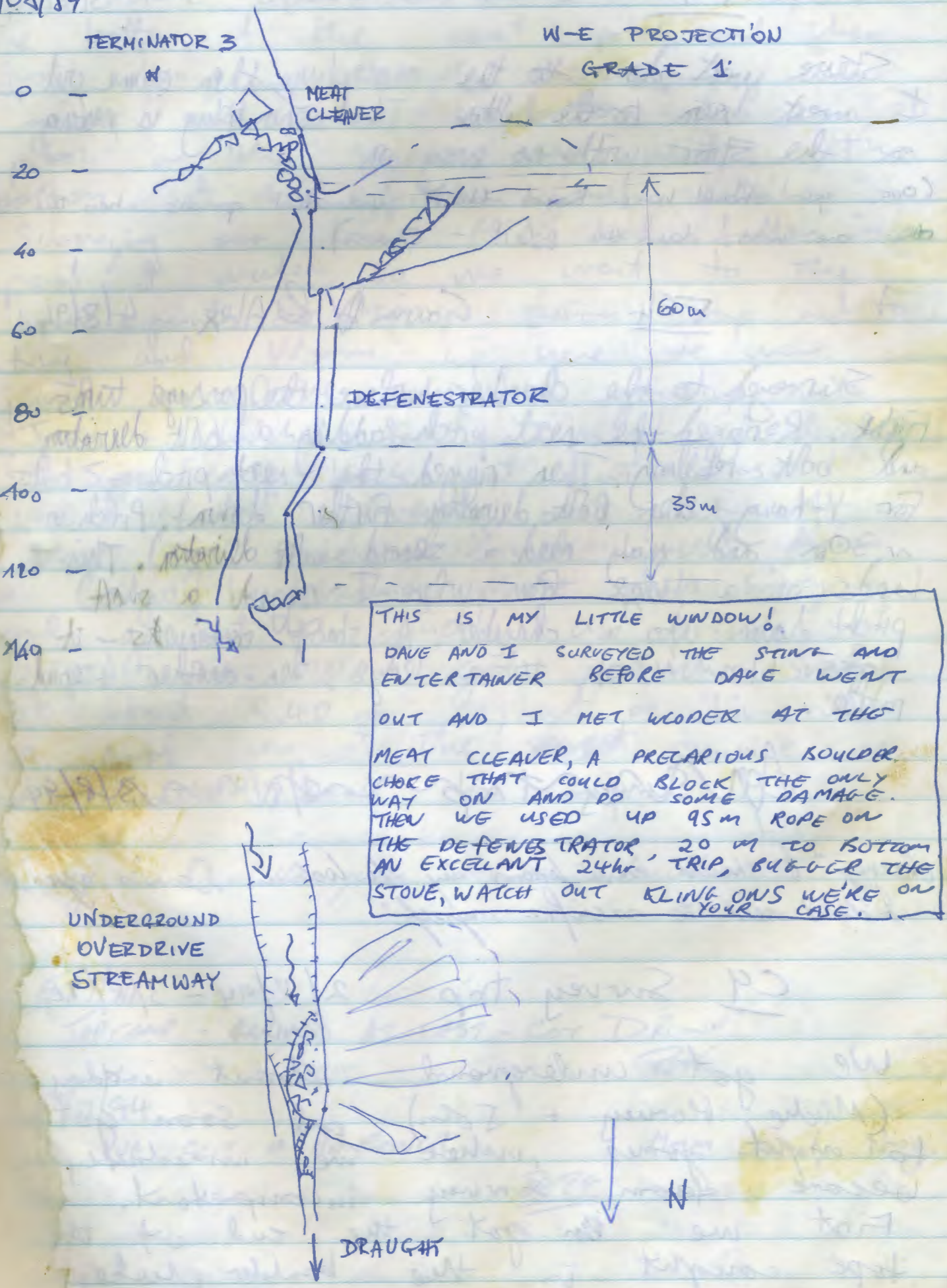
cf. below 8 August

2/08/94 C9 „Spiderman's Return"

fold along the creases to make your own helictite.

WLODEK & JAMES , SPIDERMAN'S RETURN

2/08/84



F70 (Steves Gavin, Sharon) 3/8/94

Steve went down to the showplug, then came out. I went down to the bottom. The showplug is resting on the floor with no way on.
(Ooo, you should have heard their individual opinions when the other one was down the hole! - Sharon)

F64 Gavin & Alex 4/8/94

Surveyed to the chamber where the passage turns right. Rerigged the next pitch, adding a bolt deviation and bolt rebelay. Then rigged the next pitch - 2 bolts for Y-hang, then bolt deviation further down. Pitch is ~30m, and may need a second bolt deviation. This lands on a ledge from where I rigged a short pitch down into a chamber. A stash continues - it looks like ~20m to a ledge, then another 4 second rattle.

~~Dan Survey trip 2/8/94 - 3/8/94~~

Harvey "I should have known by the look in Dan's eyes, I didn't need to sacrifice myself."

C9 Survey trip 2/8/94 - 3/8/94

We got underground about midday (Mike Harvey & John) and soon got to right gomes, where we immediately become team survey incompetant. First we ~~for~~ got the end of the tape caught in the boulder choke,

then Mike lost the end of the tape at the bottom of the next pitch, and then just when we thought the survey was going well, at the bottom of Tony's pitch in the bypass, we met ... the bottom of the pitch again! While surveying our loop, Mike had fallen in a pool of water, so we went to the brew point for some onion soup, and to try and warm up. Here we were joined by Dave, who had given up with James & Vladek for company, and decided to come back out with us. We started surveying out, but after a few legs Dave earned himself dinner in Congo, by making Mike stop surveying and go out as quickly as possible to keep warm. We got to the surface at about 5.40 am just in time for a good view of the sunrise as we walked back to camp.

John

Harney "who's the queer, dis me" Smith.

6/7/94
TOP CAMP - ARRIVED AT LAST - GOT DRUNK
PETE

6/7/94
I'VE GOT A HANGOVER Mmm crunchy frog.
PETE

Shafting near Brown Gulley

Gavin & Sharon
6/8/94

F83 ⊗ New cave 10m (true) right and above Brown Gulley, opposite the F34 rift. Bearing 350° to lump on route to Ridge Cave. 8m shaft then 4m climb down rift with fossils.

F24 ⊗ See shaft backing guide for location. 10m shaft to boulder floor.

F27 ⊗ 8m ladder down to rock bridge. Continuing ahead leads to further 5m descent to passage floor leading after a few metres to a choke. Alternatively, doubling back under pitch leads to show (also reachable by doubling back from rock bridge) and choke.

Today is the tenth anniversary of caves F20-F27 being discovered by Andy Ritchy, so it is appropriate that two of them have finally been descended!

Alternative version: Gavin zipped up and down lots of shafts. Sharon carried gear around and kept falling over.

S.S. ENTERPRISE THE JOURNEY CONTINES.

EPISODE 10 WLOPEK + JAMES — TIME WINDOW
STAR DATE 5/8/94.

We woke up at 8:00. We left at 8:00. We got back at ? 8:00. After a knackering 12 hr festering and a "quick" 24hr

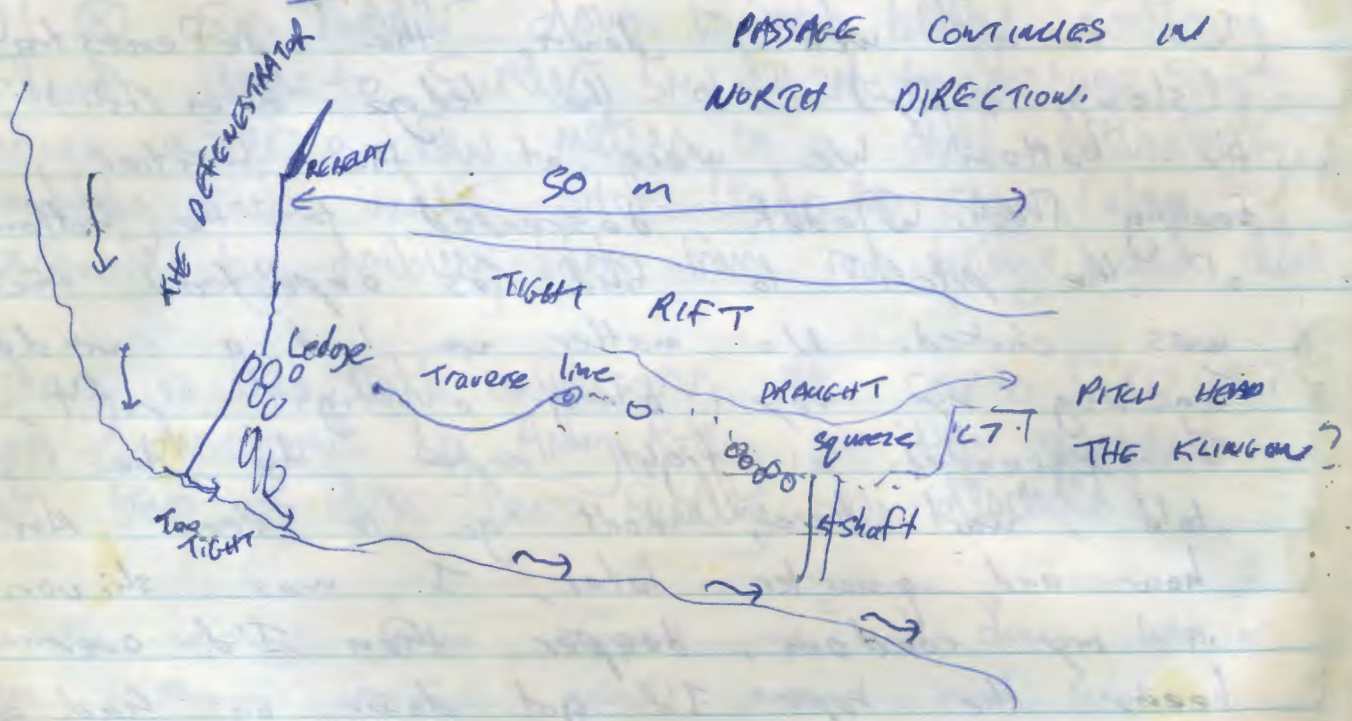
trip.

It was ~~mine~~ my turn to carry Bertie. Switching controls to automatic I met Wlodek at the Entertainer. Tea and brandy we needed. Tea and brandy we got. Fortunately the Primus was coaxed back into action. We made a little room out of tape and survival bags and I arranged things, coiled rope and cooked some Chilli while Wlodek hung the meat cleaver, a precariously perched loose bolder, using bolts, wires and tape.

We then went down the defenestrator (slowly, slowly) to the ledge 20m (ish) above the bottom. We were at the frontier. Feeling fresh, Wlodek descended to the bottom of the pitch to find (as expected) that it was choked. No matter we had a window! Inching my way along a tight rift, I descended a tight rope to be told, "wait here, don't go to sleep." An hour and quarter later, I was shivering in my condom, deeper than I'd ever been, the rope I'd got down on had gone. Free climbing out I refound Wlodek who had found a tight way on through about 50m of rift (horizontal). We found a shaft but it wasn't draughting so Wlodek tried a draughting squeeze. We had left our hammer a while back and Wlodek couldn't get through without it. I had a go and in five minutes was through. Ahead the rift closed down again but after moving balanced boulders from above me

I climbed up 3meters to find ? another squeeze. Are you still reading this? I hope so. Any way through the squeeze 3m horizontal the rift opens up and a 7m climb leads to a pitch. THE KLINGON. 6 second rattle with the sound of water at the bottom and draught. After looking for windows I rejoined Vlodek. We surveyed 29 stations back to the meat cleaver had a brew and then went out, meeting Steve P, John and Pete in a Snoblet oversuit at the bottom of death wish.

GRADE 4



Dave: 'I've been asleep all day & I'm still tired. It's James' fault for not letting me sleep all last night.'

CAVING LESSON N°4

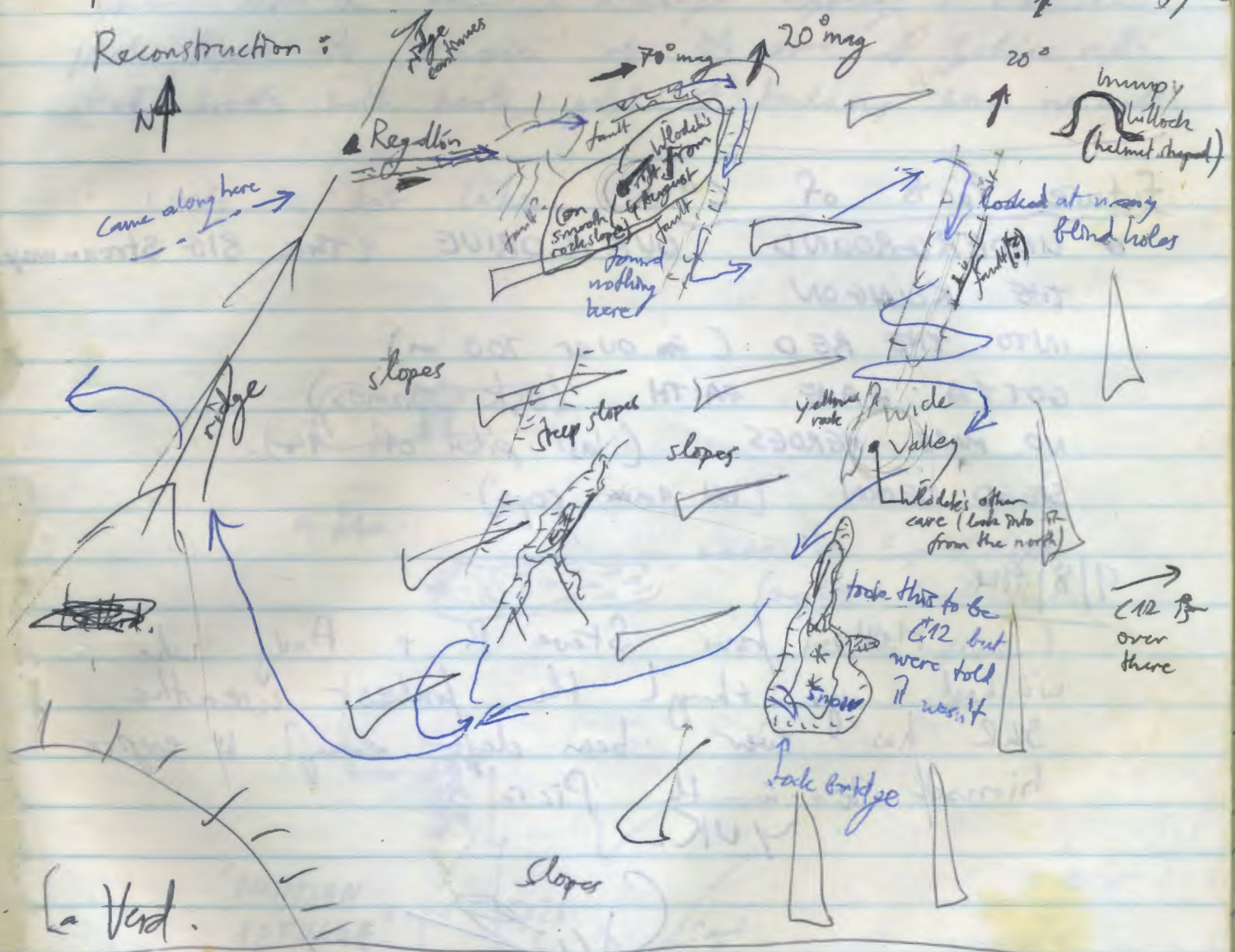
Always cave at the speed of the slowest person

7/8/94. Xitu

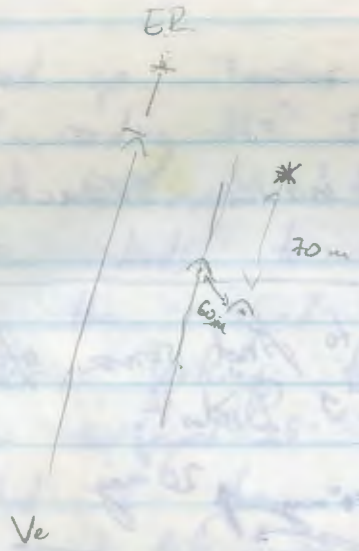
Anglo - Spanish relations have reached a peak.
James.

8/8/94 Ilka & Gerhard trying to find some of Wheelek's potential lower entrances to C9. Didn't.

Reconstruction:



Assuming that C9 = C3, the name should be 'Torca de la Verde = Llueva' rather than 'Sima Verd'. The word 'sima' (abyss) is not normally used in this part of Spain, it belongs further south. 'Torca' is the local equivalent.
Gerhard



Future Parts of C9

- UNDERGROUND OVERDRIVE (The BIG Streamway)
  THE KLINGON
  INTO THE RED (over 700 m)
  GOTTA HAVE FAITH (ask James)
  NO MORE HEROES. (last pitch of '94).
  SPEED DEMON. (ON 9mm rope).

9/8/94

Hello from Steve R. + Andy who walked up through the foulest weather SUR has ever been daft enough to expose himself to in the Pico.

YUK.

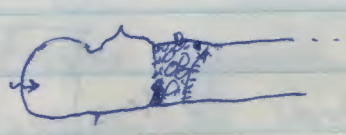
Steve

1984-08-09-10. Wookey & Ben 14 hrs.

The end of F64.

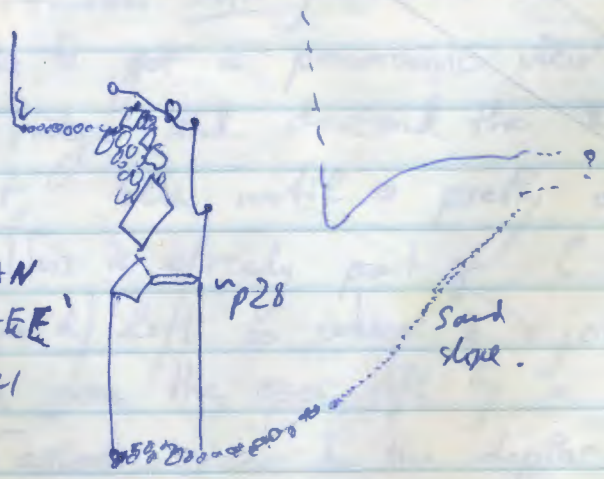
Boogied on down, amazing wookey with the usefulness of the small bits. Lots of star pitches, And miles of rift got us to the surveying spot. A cold hour or so had us at the end of the cave. Spent short on how & a half rigging a 25-30m pitch beyond the 'moraine' at the end of Zodiac rift. Had trouble with nasty pile of boulders down one wall.

Looks a bit like this:

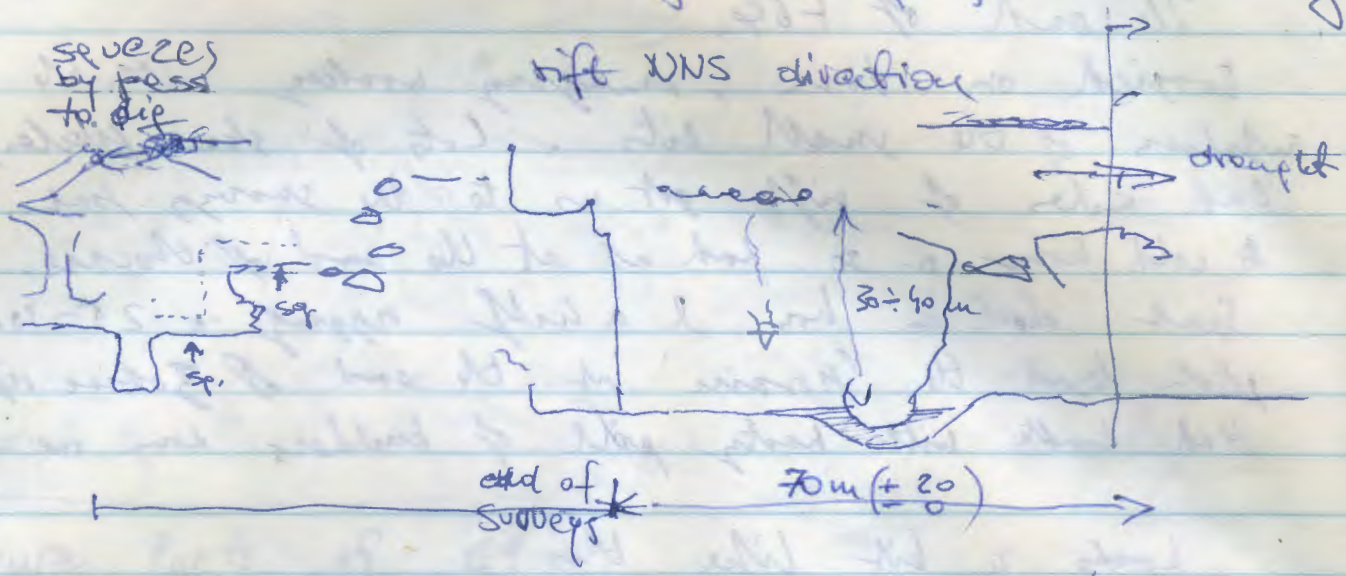


at bottom:

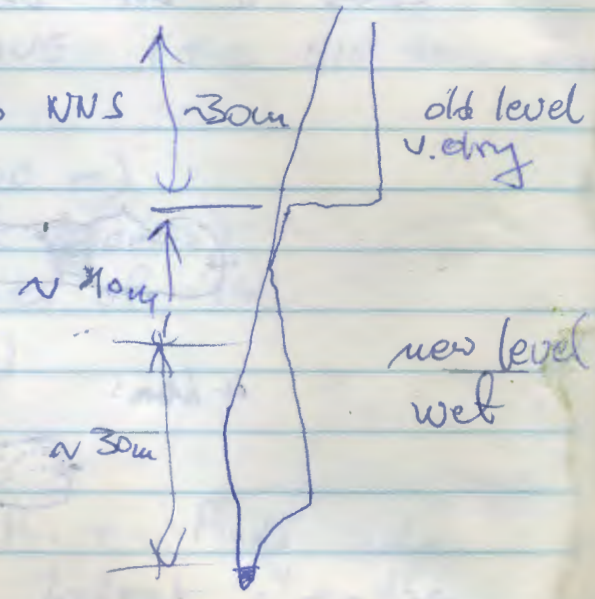
window at top of slope (worth a look but needs gear)

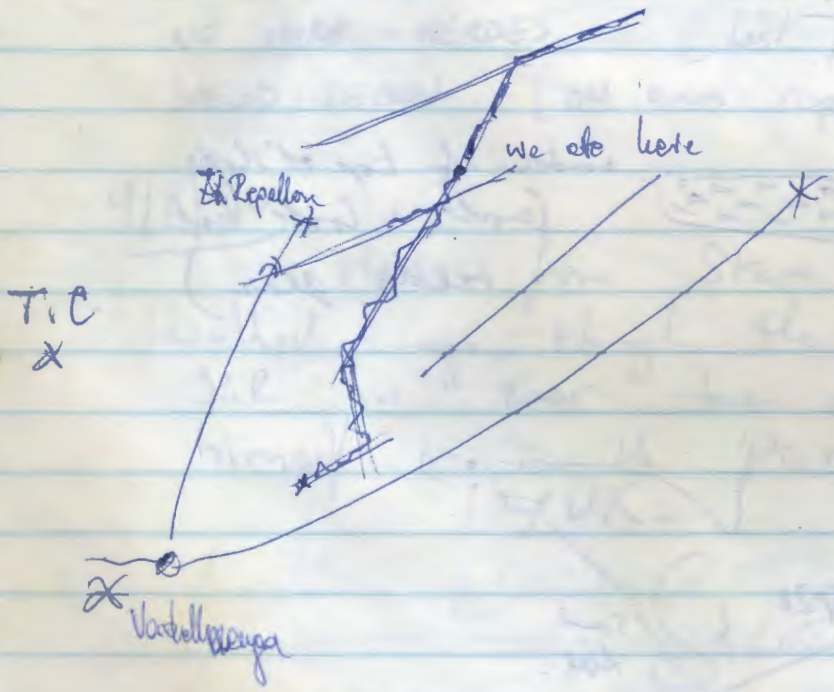


8/9-08-94 C9 pushing + surveying + detailing



The cave is still going to NNS





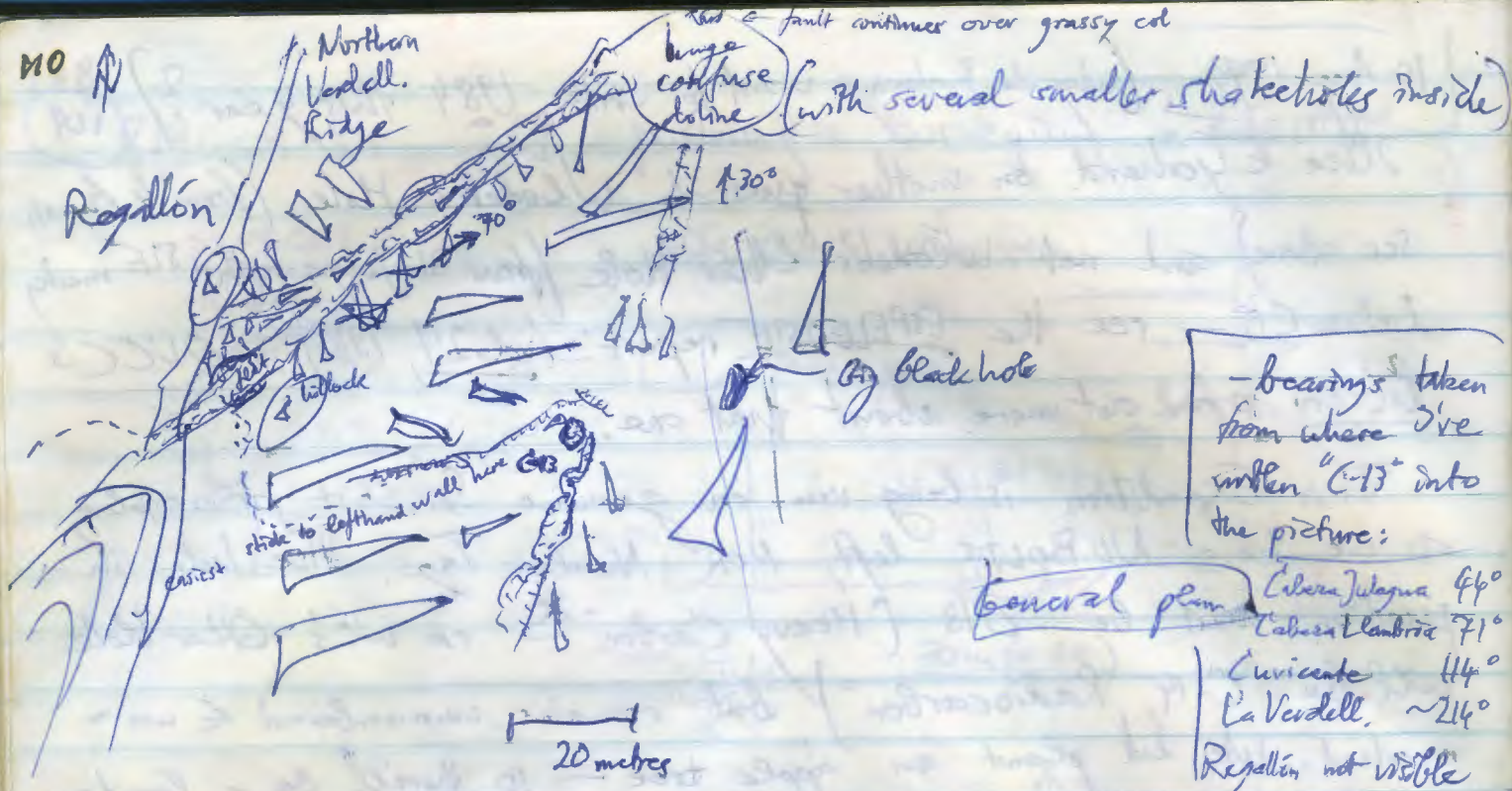
10 Aug 1994 (why do I always want to write 1984 this year?) (109)

Ilka & Gerhard on another quest to Wlodek's Hole (from 4 August, see above) and not Wlodek's Other Hole (from 31 July, with SLE mark, below C12 — see the ESPELEOSIE report (vol. 27, 1984) in OUCC's library to find out more about that one.

This Expedition is being run on genuine Socialist principles, so we have NO BOLTS left, NOR Number Tags. The hole in question must be C13 ("Heavy Carbon"* — so Wl's Other Hole will be C-14, "Radiocarbon") but remains unnumbered & unmarked. We did plant an apple tree — so there'll be a landmark in years to come, unless the large black Mouse living near the entrance devours it first...

Location. Easiest approach is by walking across & up to the Regallón (the hump on the Verdelluenga → NNE ridge), or more precisely to the flat little col just up the ridge. Two fault-controlled scree gullies on bearings about 70° may leave the ridge at an acute angle on the far side, uniting ~20m downhill from the Regallón. Cross both gullies to the south, climb up the next little hillock to get a panoramic view of the Jaltayu — Cuvicente — Verd. ridge, and descend the 30° slope towards Cuvicente for about 60m until a pretty obvious NNE-SSW rift bars your way. This is already part of C-13 but it is best to follow it (down & left) to where it is joined by a 4m by 2m shaft, separated from the open rift by a 0.5m wide, 1m high rock bridge. Easiest access to the depths is down the near end of this shaft. Joining it from a 230° direction are the eroded remains of an inlet, at present surface/hillside level, with a fossil shaft bottom discernible c. 8m away; in one wall of this, a phreatic tube starts out 30cm high by 15cm wide, closing down to 10cm diameter. (The Mouse lives among the boulders there.)

* seriously, it should be 'GRIETA DEL REGALLÓN', 'grieta' meaning 'rift'.


Red ← fault continues over grassy col
Northern Verdell. Ridge
huge confuse doline
(with several smaller shakeholes inside)
Regallón
30°
70°
big black hole
hillock
slide to lefthand wall here
easiest
20 metres
- bearings taken from where I've written "C-13" into the picture:
General plan
Cabera Julagua 66°
Cabera Cambria 71°
Curicante 114°
La Verdell. ~214°
Regallón not visible

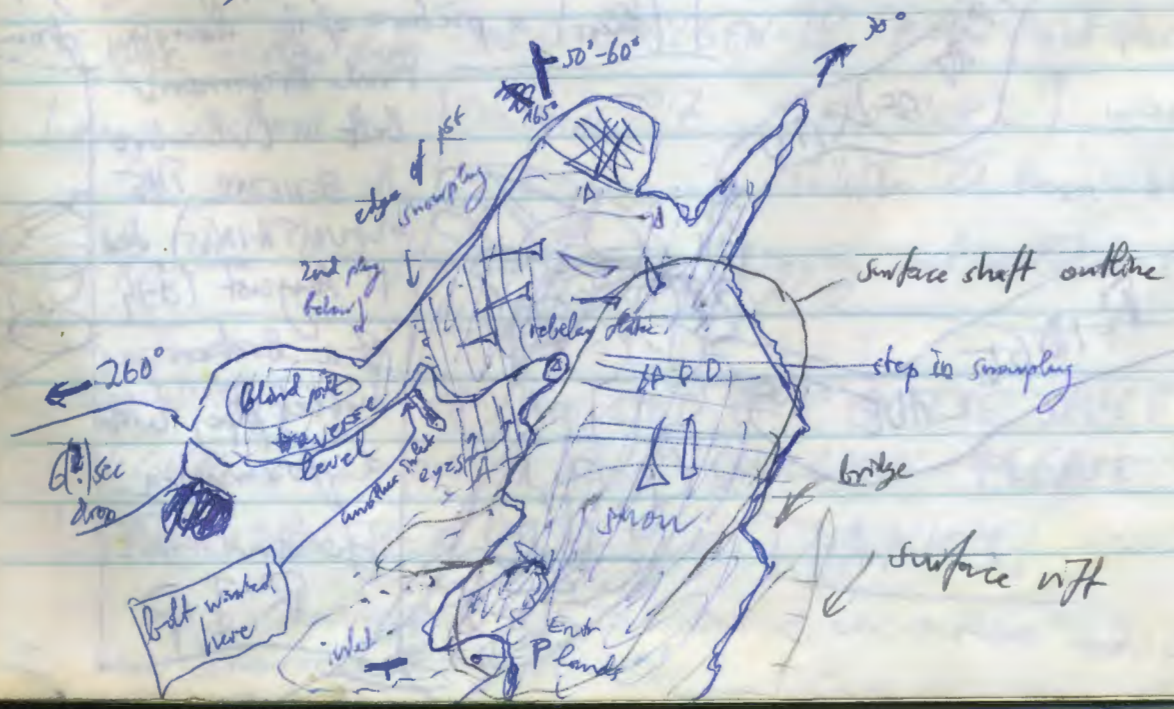

Enlarged view (surface features)
(identity confirmed by WE oldek)
phos. tube
fossil shaft bottom
blind shakehole shaft
bridge
eastern wall cuts under bridge
Pio entrance
Ilka's alcy
snow floor
30° mag
about 80cm wide here
almost climbable here (5m)
boulder floor
rift about 5m wide here
climbable here with care (8m)
shakehole
snow
rift continues uphill

It remains a riddle to us how Wodak got to where he got without a rope, without a light, and without leaving footprints. (Probably the snow was still a couple of feet higher a week ago.)

Description. Entrance pitch rigged from the only two marginally stable flakes drops ~9m to rock spur. Pendule out onto the snowplug & descend about 5m more to snow at bottom of shaft. On the way down, ~3m below surface, an inlet on the W side was passed, in the intersection of various inclined bedding & fault planes; one of these has two ~30cm diameter 'eyholes' in it, illuminating an aven which can be seen from where you're now standing.

The continuation of the surface rift along 30° strike closes down after 3 metres. Further to the left a small fault plane on strike 165° heading E by 50°-60° forms the roof of a snow-floored incline which you can look down about 5m before snow meets roof.

The way on is underneath the aven illuminated by the inlet 'eyes'. The rope can be rebelayed on an obvious flake in the ~~south~~ SW corner for a snowy descent to a 2nd snowplug, ~8m down from foot of entrance shaft. This is in a blind pit however. A bolt high on the lefthand wall (which hasn't been placed yet) should enable a tension traverse over the 2m wide pit to hit the lip of a several-seconds drop (sounds like 20m pitch to a ledge or ramp and another 15m or so to boulder floor.) Walls are smooth here, no naturals in sight.

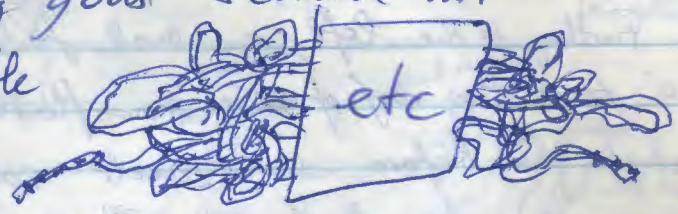


(Gabrand.

Dave reckons it's unpleasant being eaten by a cave whilst falling down a pitch! & who else would say "Yell creature" or being eaten by a marauding cave.

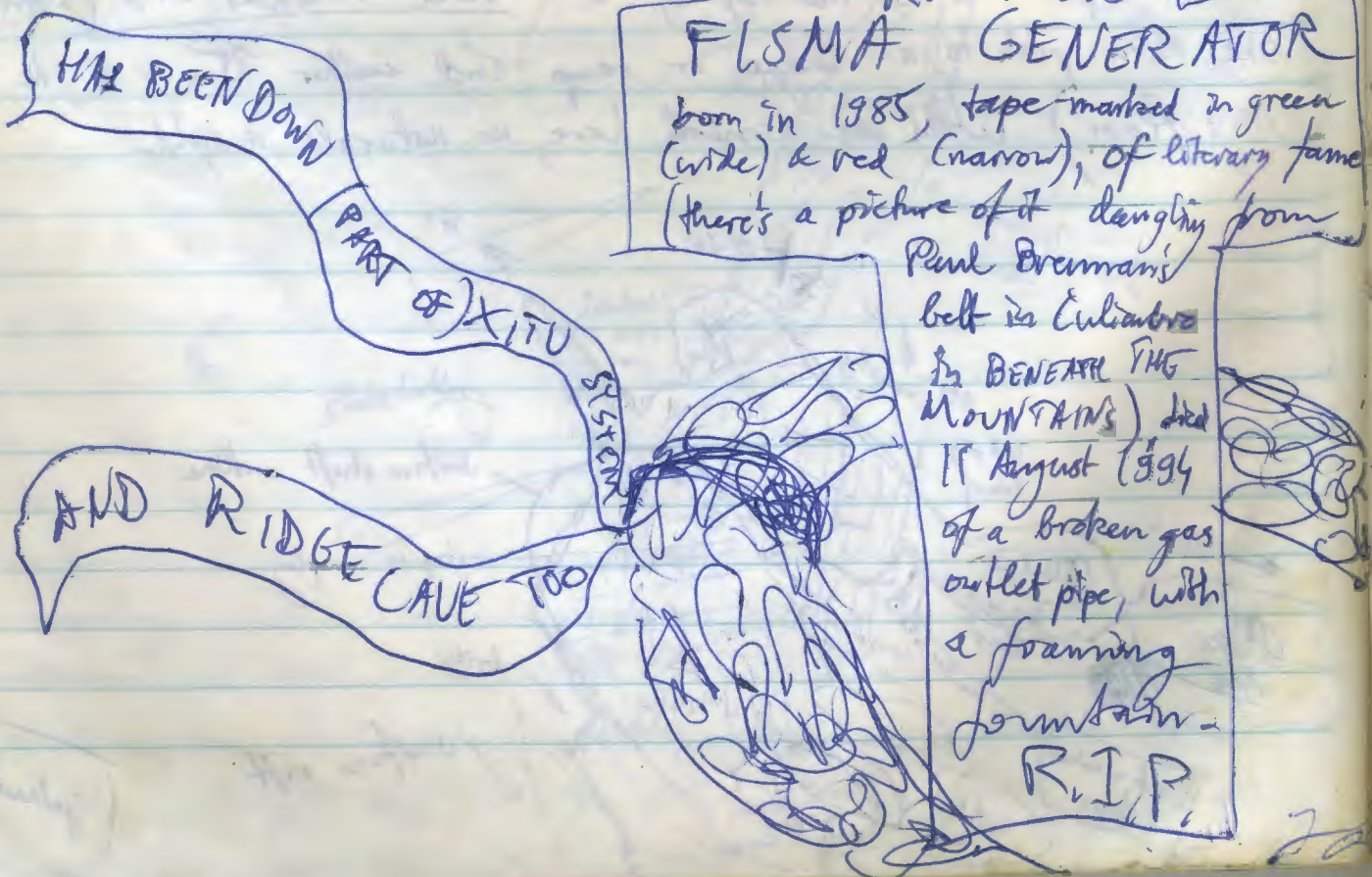
---

11 August: Two Ferries rigging down C-13...

Well Gavin had released 5 bolts from his secret treasury so I carried an optimistic 155m rope across to the entrance (miraculously some BIOHAZARD on the way back) Then we set out one last time... the caving gods seemed not amused. It started by a horrible 

the result of unbraiding the severely twisted rope. Rebraided ~ 3/5 of it & rigged the first 2/5 down the entrance pitch (HEAVY CARBON). Then the next ill omen hit us:

IN MEMORIAM
MY TRUSTY
RUSTY OLD
FLSMA GENERATOR
born in 1985, tape-marked in green (wide) & red (narrow), of literary fame (there's a picture of it dangling from Paul Brennan's belt in Culiandro & BENEATH THE MOUNTAINS) died 11 August 1994 of a broken gas outlet pipe, with a foaming fountain.
R.I.P.



Oh well. Half past four, if not later, I stepped onto the snow plug and started fighting my way across the three braids. (113)
One hour later I'd decided not to go for the Graham Naylor Award — the ideal place for a bolt, high on the lefthand wall round the corner at the start of DEUTERIUM TRAVERSE would have been surrounded by cracks on four sides (like my famous rebelay on the Bladerunner in 216), so I settled for a position lower down & less cracky. Another hour later — ('LANDING GEAR ALERT: HYDRAULIC OIL FROZEN STRANGE VIBRATIONS', 'STRUCTURE ALERT: TRUNK BEAM SUPPORTERS (LEFT) CRAMPING') the bolt went home with a bang and I fell back onto the snow-plug, panting. Ilka came down to have a looke at it and, maybe, place her first bolt. I started out on the traverse but chickened back (old OFD fears taking over); Ilka however made it to the pitchhead and lobbed a lot of pebbles down. No floor in sight; pebbles hit a ledge about 20m down & go on bouncing & rattling. — Near the far end of the traverse, a perched boulder not attached to anything much looks inviting as a foothold. DON'T. It's Dangerous, though we failed to move it enough to topple it over.
It was getting late so OXYGEN-18 pot (get the drift? stable heavy isotopes — CHLORINE-37, LEAD-208...) was left for a luckier team next year. — While I'd been hammering away, Ilka had frenzied away digging out a little rift a few

---

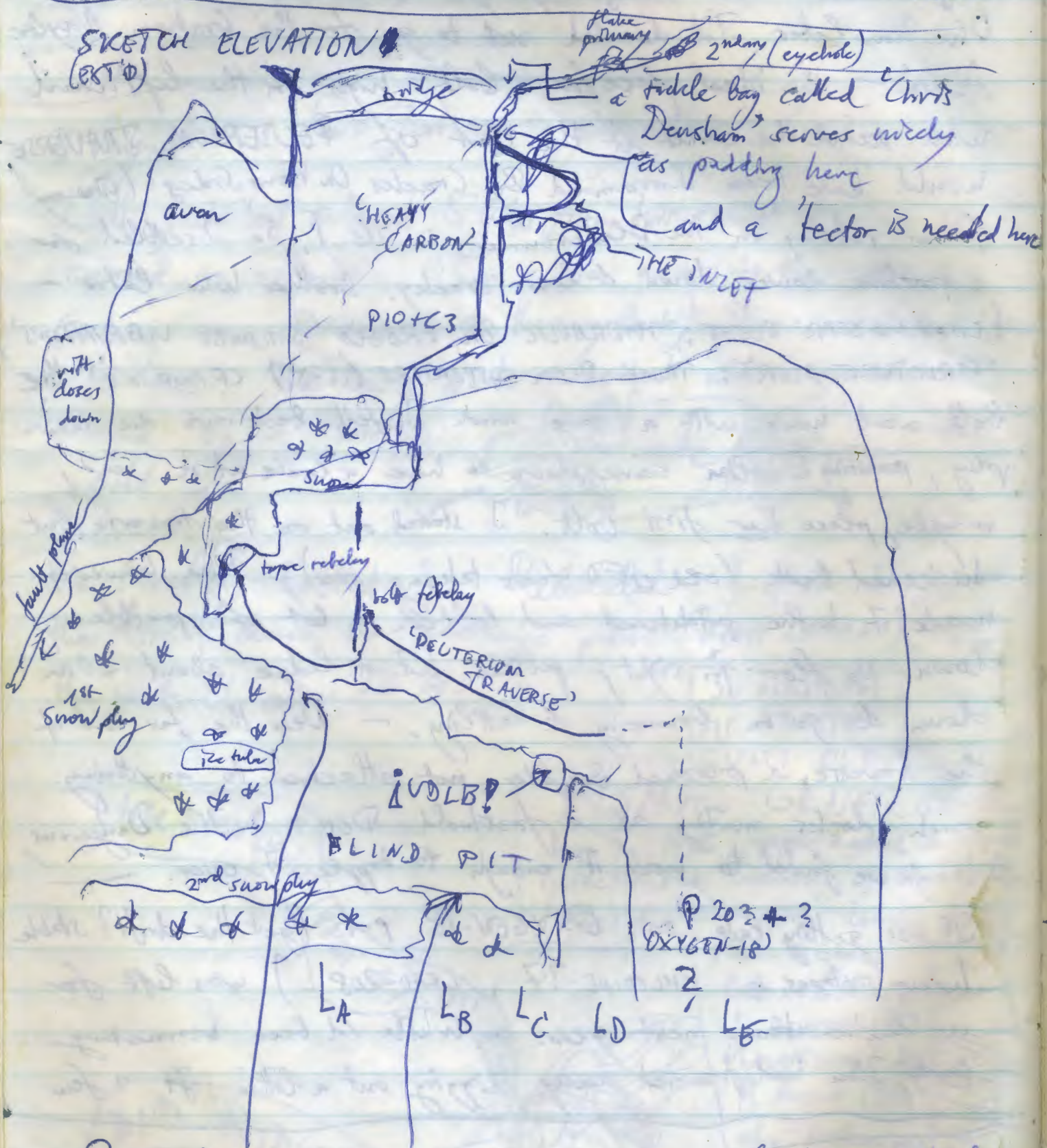
WOULD THE B....S WHO LET THE CHEESE SAUCE SET & CONGEAL IN THE LARGE SAUCEPAN PLEASE WASH THE LATTER UP THEMSELVES. THANKS.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SOUP, LEFT FOR ANYONE WHO WANTED TO EAT IT!

G

114 yards off sideways. This one, while still blocked by a large boulder, has rather more of a draught than the Abyss...

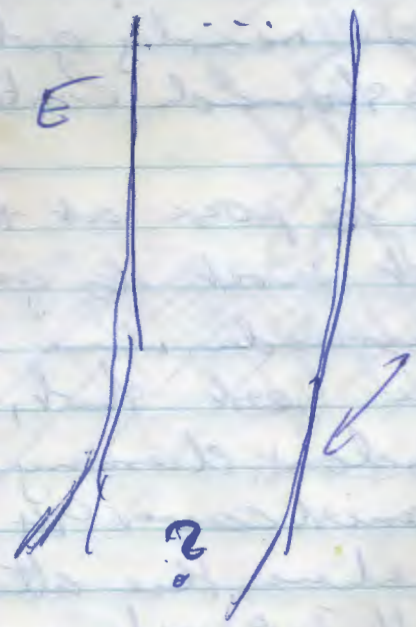
SKETCH ELEVATION (EST'D)



Point to ponder — with very low snow levels, it might become a problem even to reach the bolt & the start of the traverse; with much higher snow, one could just walk forward to the pitch head...

Cross sections: (looking into the cave)

(not quite to scale)



Gerhard

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(1) Notice for next years cavers looking for the bolt:
Go put it on standing on $A_1 - A_2$, it is behind a very characteristic „nose" (stacking in the room ca 5 cm) on the left side.

10/8/94 C9 PHOTO TRIP - PERE + STEVE + ANDY (NGARLEY)

My 1st trip down C9 last week, was also my 1st cave outside the UK, & I must admit was just a little daunting (It scared me silly) so a quick tourist trip with Mick as far as the fierce ladies in FG4, helped me to find my feet. (despite getting in a hopless tangle above the spear mincer... "Put your feet this side of the traverse line when you come down" "OK! - er - guess what I've done")

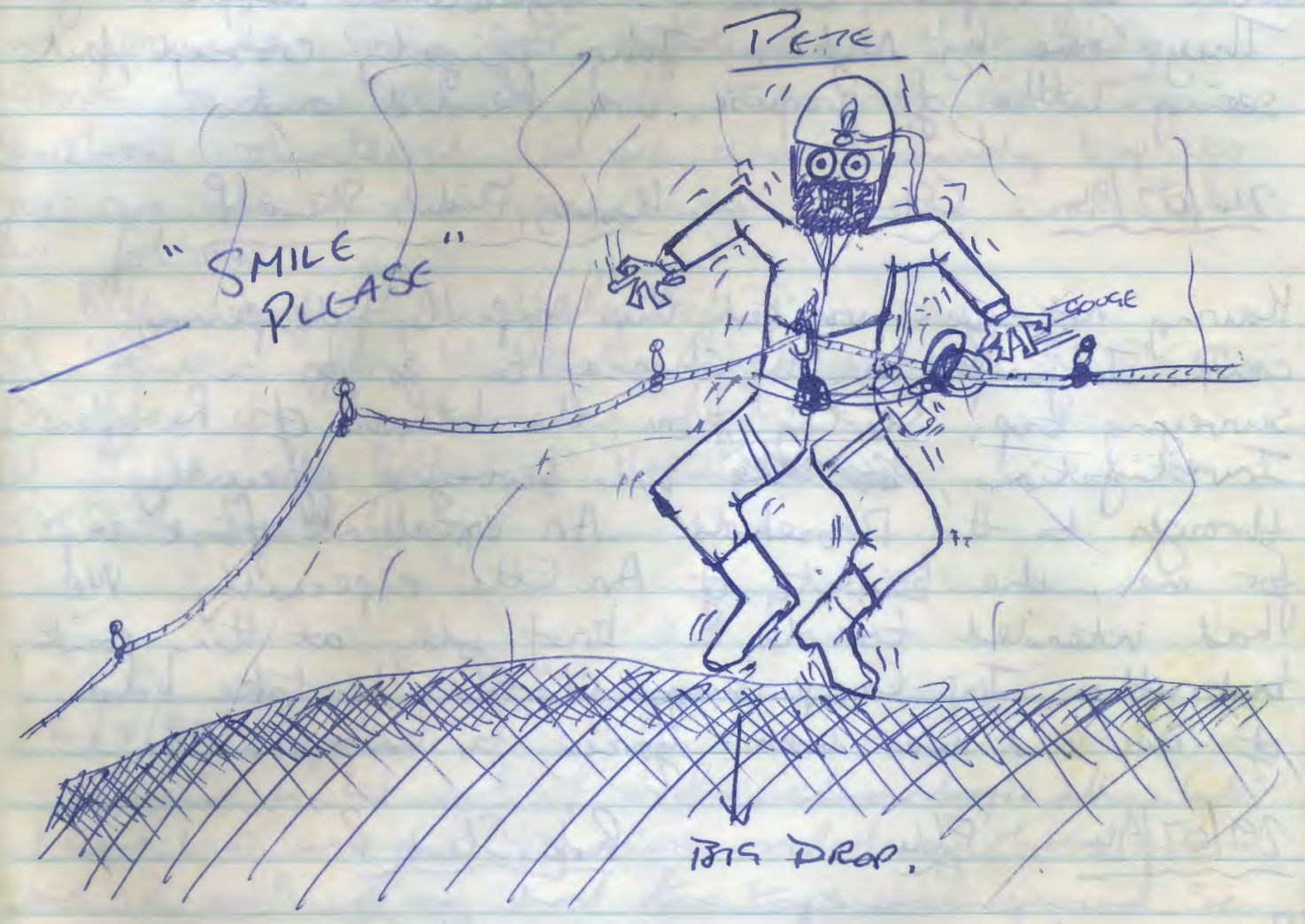
So this time I was raring to go. - Straight down the entrance pitch, followed by Steve, just as I reached the bottom, I heard bits of the gorblead conversation above me, to the effect that Andy was going back out - not having been too well for a few days - Steve nearly got decorated from above by Andy's stomach contents. So then there were two.

A quick stop to pose at the Vacuum cleaner shuffling in feet first to get the ideal pose & off to Pina Colonnade, where time was spent trying to find the best shot, with me feeling like a shop window dummy, attempting to pose as MR Hard Spanish caver 94 (Snoer. Suffan).

On to ANET, where the attempt was to set off the flash at 15ft intervals on the way down. Thus - abs down, switch off my light, & blind myself with the flash, by the time I reached the floor all I could see was big red squares.

Finally - the traverse, if I have I look of tension in my face, if the photo comes out, thats because I'm trying to pose, on a traverse line, with an 80m drop beneath me. - I know, the distance is academic after 20m, but with an 80m fall you have longer to think about it.

So with lots of piccies taken & getting cold from all the standing around it was time for out - good fun trip - everyone does the hard work & I get to stand in the photos - is there no justice?



Some trips, the details of which shall at last see the light of day (better late than never)....

23/7/94 F64 John, Nick, Steve P

We headed down the cave to push and survey the inlet off Whistlestop Café. We pushed the climb at the end of the inlet another 15m or so higher, running out of rope with another 10m above us.

Inspired by the waffs of thyme from the empty spice bottle we were carrying anchors and wedges in, we named the climb 'Out of Thyme'. After surveying, Nick headed out while John and I went to inspect Chris D's tagliatelle above They Come by Night. John gingerly crossed, but seeing little of promise, we headed out.

24/07/94 C9 Harvey, Nick, Steve P

Having not yet visited this rapidly-deepening cave, I jumped at the chance to go on a surveying trip. Starting from the bottom of Re-open Investigations, we surveyed efficiently through to the Moosehole. An excellent first trip for me, the beauty of An Ette especially. We had intended to do a brief jolly at this point, but the Top Camp bugs started to take hold of me and we were forced to leave.

29/07/94 F64 Rob, Steve P

Returning to the inlet with more rope, we pushed the last climb of Out of Thyme, but unfortunately there was no way on at the top. Unless you fancy digging a boulder choke from beneath, that is. Surveying what we had found, we de-rigged the inlet and headed back to camp. We later calculated that we had pushed the inlet to a height of +17m; 'depth', but at the wrong end of the cave!

04/08/94 F64 James, Steve P

With a peculiar quirk of fate having left all the expedition's underground photos in my hands (and very inexperienced ones, at that), time for me to persuade some poor unfortunate that they want to come on a photo trip with me. James somehow volunteered, so we did a bimbly trip as far as the first Fierce Lady. Photos were taken as follows:-

(1) Bottom half of Whistlestop Café
(2) 'Squeeze' from Whistlestop Café through to Olé Olé Olé
(3) Head of They Come by Night
(4) Inlet at bottom of Mostly
(5) ~~Fest~~ Fierce Lady

6/8/94

This is a bit out of order, chronologically, but I have been cashed - nag - commanded by those around me to write up my first two trips underground. So here commences a sorry tale of quivering knees & inaptitude.

C9 - Steve P. & John. - photo trip
- My first spanish cave, oh wow!
"How deep is this entrance pitch"
"70"
"70 foot, that's ok!"
"no - 70 meters"
"oh sxxt!"
with much anticipation I lower myself into the chasm, "oh my God, oh my God I'm going to die!"

one very slow descent later, leaving poor John waiting around at each rebelay above me, I reach near tourist down, where there is Steve with camera set up trying to get an action shot of me abseiling in.

Finally we set off a two yards, & pause for another photo, John as Captain Hornocks Thrust Monx manoeuver, where due to ill advice I had not put on my knee pads, I sustained a large number of bruises, these were magnified as I again cracked my knees - in the same place, isn't it always? - coming down the 8m pitch following.

At the bottom of this I made a grievious error & being fed up of all my SRT gear catching on everything - I took it off - No body told me that the next pitch was only thirty seconds away, & so I found myself at the top of death wish, rather exposed, & no way of clipping in to the safety line. Never have I put on my harness so fast before. At this point I was almost onto brown adrenaline, only for the fact to be magnified when the maillion for the main hung chinked into position & I dropped - only 2 inches - but enough to have me wishing I'd been kinder to my cat.

Past the rebelay & I found I had my abseiling krab twisted & all my weight was on the gate. A swift use of my top jammer & I was back on target to meet Wlodek & Jones emerging outwards.

After this, a couple more photo's & time for out. Suffice to say, the next trip down Cq (see above) was a little more pleasurable

7/8/94

The Second trip - Mick took me on a tourist trip into FGH as far as the Fierce Ladies.

Suffice to say I became badly tangled above the Spearmincer & only by judicious use of various items of SRT gear was I able to free myself.

Down "Thug Cone at night" & "Mostly", both magnificent pitches & finally to the Fierce Ladies good fun, helping me find my Caving legs for Spain, - cheers Mick!

PETE

 1994.08.12 Dave, Work, Harey, Nick 17 hrs.

C-9 De-rig - Terri 'Crap, crumbly & disorientated'
Woot's chance to see most of C9 whilst making himself useful. Having decided we were going caving we fettered a bit, had some tea, pottled carside, had some lunch, (and a bit more tea). All very relaxing - got going by 2.30-odd (1st trace - Dave & Work). Underground by 4.00. 2 immed down to bear spot below 'the string' in 2 hours.
Went on to Meat Cleaver & Dave de-rigged
De-Fenestration while Work rolled composite.
Then pootled back up 'The entertainer' & down the string. Put sensible-sized rope on the string. Had a long beer stop (now about 10.30pm). Then pootled back up a couple of little pitches & down amazing windy rift & up to top of nightgames. This took till about 3am so we left it at that - moving beer bottles to bottom of nightgames/smoke we a kipper. Started the long slog out with 3 bulkbags of assorted shit. Enormous amounts of pussyfooting & grimness ensued through the early hours until we escaped at about 9am.
Then there was the mini-epic of the walk back with utterly overloaded sacks.
Very impressive cave - good trip except we were all shagged out on the way out.

12/08/94

Wkodch

Thank you for v nice expedition.
See you in 'Britain'.

Steve : Hm oil, we'll have to get through a lot of buggery to use this up.

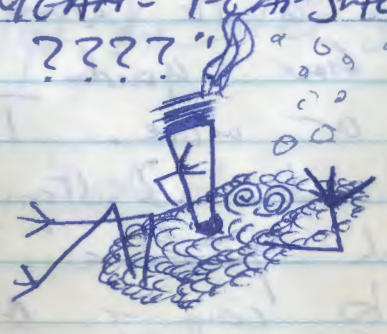
James : That reminds me I have to see to my maillons.

ALEX - " I BROUGHT UP TWO TINS OF MORNFLAKES "
STEVE R." I'D LIKE TO HAVE HAD A PHOTO OF THAT."

(During a discussion on the relative merits & demerits of converting to Judaism)
JAMES " THEY COULD TOUCH MY WILLY, BUT I COULD NEVER LIVE WITHOUT THE BACON."

SHALOM! [illegible]

STEVE R. " MMM - MELLOW"
JAMES " YEAH - FLAPJACK"
GUERYONG " ????"



This is to remind me to write up the trip down F64 in which I get through the fierce ludic by taking most of my kit off.

ooer!

The fierce ladys & a fatty

by Steve. | Lavin SCR

WOW! Good pitches! Good cave. Now — THE FIERCE LADIES OF LANMATE. Awkward in the cwy a. Can I do it? Well, why? At last I am forced to confess — "Guys sorry, I just didn't get through here, I'm TOO BIG." Try again. And again. My bollocks get jammed. My bum is too big. Finally. Can I go out now? No way. Get my oversuit off. Head first. Lavin "You do know there's a 3m drop on the other side!". "It's ok I'll just fall on you" — No posts. Breathe out. Ease forward. We are there. Crack on & get to the bottom & lying & sit.

Knackered I am. I'm warm OK. Can I get out? No question — has to be done. Strip down to undersuit. Easy easy. Breathe out, push, wriggle. Yes, it can be done.

The last one is the worst. Cramping panic fright down as Lavin guides my feet out. Tight, breathe or move. Then up the pitches. Worm out. 3 steps, pause, and so on. Each pitch a real achievement. At last, to camp & NO ALCOHOL. Beans. Sleep. Sleep.

Steve

James — re "Spain" when I scored with white hair blonde was down & with"
— "I was only ~~halfway up~~ half way up —"

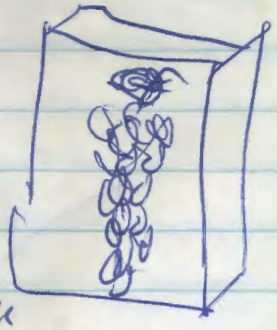
Yay by James!

PLEASE NOTE: —

WE HAVE A VERBAL CONFESSION FROM JAMES AS TO HIS DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT WITH A CERTAIN YOUNG INNOCENT (?) FEMALE SPANISH CANOR.

— APPARENTLY HER BOYFRIEND WAS HALF WAY DOWN JITO AT THE TIME!!

>> IN VINO VERITAS. <<



James: — "I got the Pee Shirt. Ha!"

JAMES - AGAIN - "oh dear it's all gone wrong"

STEVE R. " ITS ALRIGHT. BECAUSE THE ONLY TIME I SCORED ON EXPEDITION I WAS OLDER THAN HER MOTHER"
BAAAAA!

PLEASE NOTE.
THIS PAGE AND THAT FACING, WERE MISSED INADVERTANTLY, THEREFORE, HERE ARE TWO WHOLE PAGES FOR JAMES TO JUSTIFY HIS BASE, CARNAL, URGES!

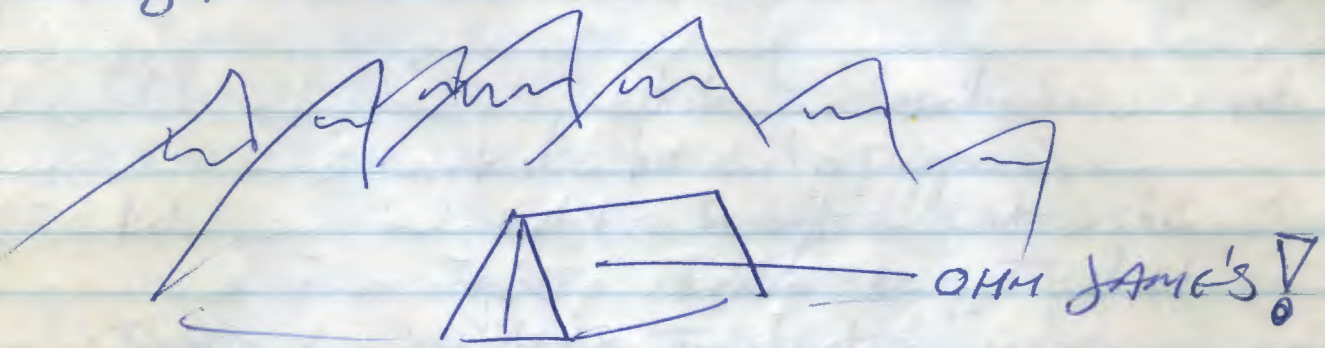
⟹

The continuing saga of "Sex for Tshirts" scandal

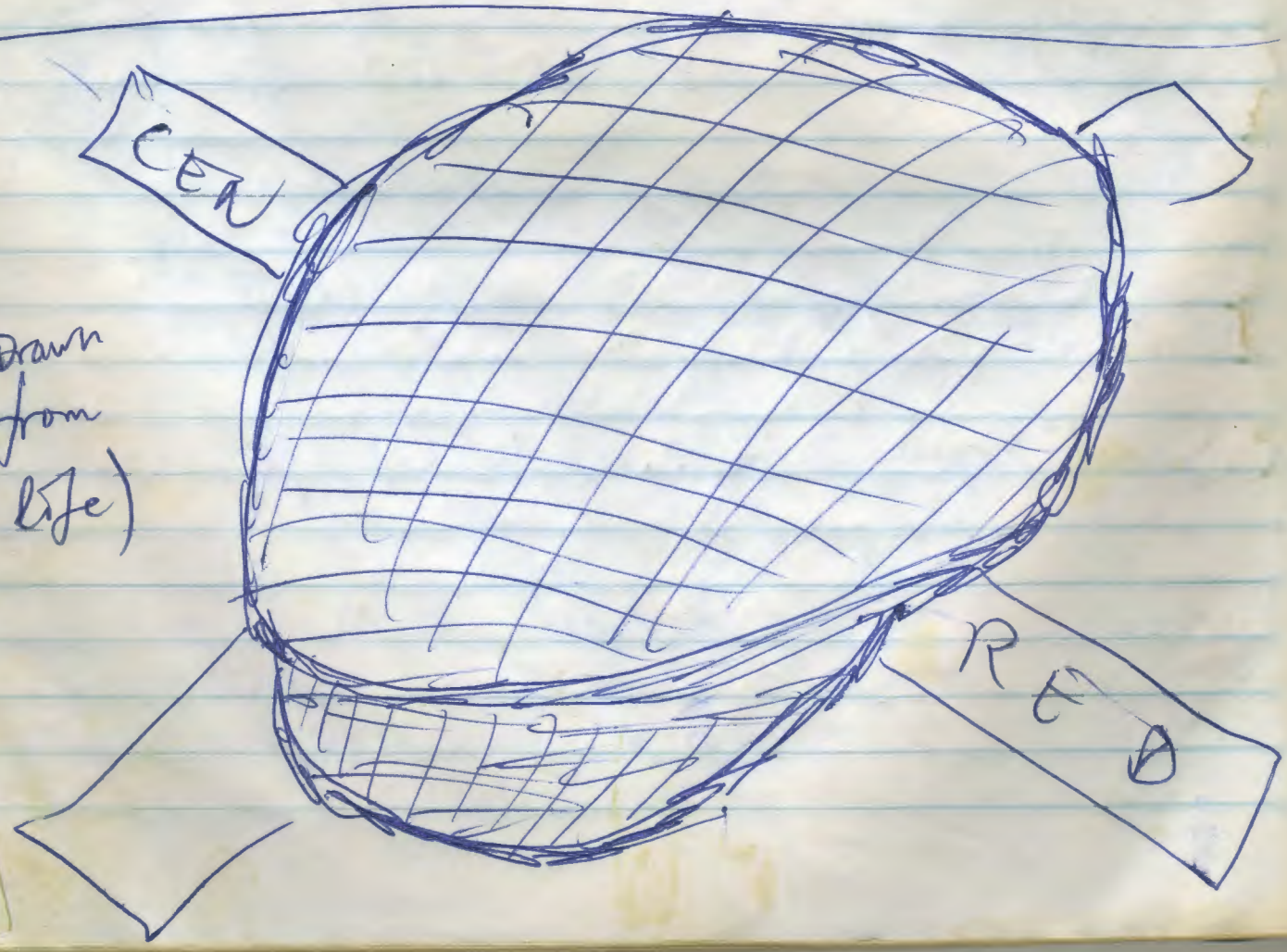
Sally "Well, what he doesn't know won't hurt him I suppose"
Pete "... until he finds out she's given James her T-shirt"
James "no, HIS T-shirt!"

JAMES "Actually I don't mind. It was such a good evening.
The more you talk about it, the more I remember of it..."

JAMES USING THE CAP.

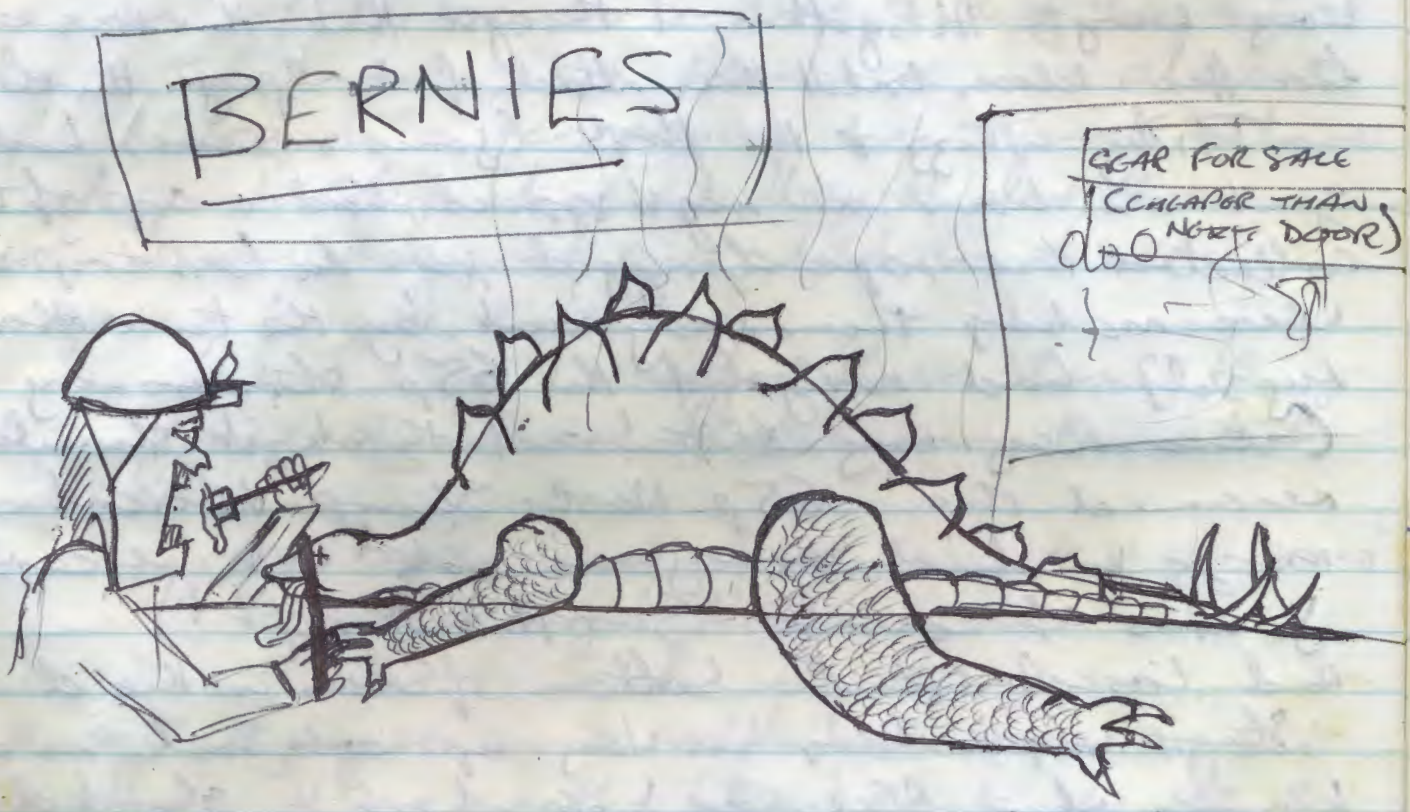


SORRY - TOO MUCH OF AN INJOKE!



(Drawn from life)

JAMES - "I WAS GONNA HANG MY GRANNY DOWN SWILDONS ONCE"



STEG + CHIPS £2·75

Dave "If its a big one you'll need both hands" Lacey...

(hmmm... referring to John holding his plate while second helpings were being piled on it)

And also "I've done my share of throwing up on this Expedition" (Brandy next year, instead of White Wine?)

C9 - DGRIG - NIGHT GAMES TO ANNETTE.

ALEX
JAMES
PETE
STEVE

When I was told that PAELLA MEANT a full ~~Ar~~ Extremely Long Length, Altogether, I thought that this was a terrific Idea, untill the attack of the Spaghetti Monster.

Billy Whizz & the flash (James & Steve) had spent an hour at night games, had a cup of tea collected the rope dirigged from the last trip & were making their way out, by the time Alex & myself had navigated the 65p streamway (streamway my ARSE! - I think it should be renamed the 65p Nasty Sharp, Vertical maze in which everyone gets lost - except James of course! = Scrofulus rift!)
And tangled at the bottom of Snab in the dark.

Steve was making his way up ~~Night~~ Snab me a kipper, when Alex was just about to shoot down.

Some how he managed to get the message up 90m of Vertical free Space & Alex made a hasty change over & we sat around waiting for the arrival of Mr Roberts & the end of the Rope. With Steve attached to the top of the pitch, Alex at the pitch head & myself piling up the rope ~~to~~ in as neat a pile as I could manage, - This neat pile consisted of me disappearing under a large pile of rope, from which I spent a long time trying to disentangle myself, without getting everything in a tangle.

Taking the rope up Snab, was easier as there was less distance to haul - this time Alex disappeared

beneath the Spaghetti monster

The 65p Nasty, sharp, vertical rage in which everyone gets lost - except James of course - horrible Scrofulous rift, was dealt with in three stages

The first stage was very short, because in his Infinite Wisdom, Steve sent me on with the free end of the rope, suffice to say I was lost within two bends, but found a nice alcove in which to pile & reorganise the string creature

A quick stop at the bottom of dont drive involved an argument over which tin of peaches was going to get eaten

"You mean I dragged these bloody things all the way down here, just to bring them out again!!"

"Well mine went all the way to Night gone"

"Look who's got the tin opener"

etc, etc, etc.

I eventually gave in & watched James opening the tin with my cheap & rather blunt penknife. By the time he had finished the top of the tin looked like a murder weapon from a Friday the thirteenth Movie.

Next stage - I took the rope (end of) to the top of Didn't Drink. By this time it was getting stupidly long, And I was getting Badly Swamped by piling rope.

As A great Sacrifice (NOT!) I let Alex do the next leg up the Moose hole.

Unfortunately, neither of us knew how to go up the Tyrolean traverse, so a call down to Steve, who was rapidly joining us, & the answer was to ignore the traverse line &

pendulum across. One sickening third later there was an Alex shaped indentation on the wall opposite.

"ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!"

"I NOARLY LOST MY GLOVE"

"??!"

- Note.

The sound of a corpse body, hitting a large solid wall in a 70m deep rift makes a wonderful resonating sound, that the ORB are going to sample for their next album - if they can find Alex -

With Alex at the entrance to the pendulum above the moose hole, myself at the pitch head, Steve at the top of the Moose hole & James following clewgging as he goes, A merry sing song ensued, with a long & sustained version of SPANKING NONS & A long strong Black pudding, this helped to forget the fact that I was sitting on a cold rock & thus I am going to get piles as a souvenir of the trip.

All went well after that, except the way off the pitch head was blocked by a fucking great big pile of rope -

The rope is currently at the bottom of Annette, for some lucky people to retrieve the rest of the way.

P.S. JAMES is off to finish the job

PETE.

TECHNICAL NOTE FOR NEXT YEAR:

We have left rigged:

- Night Games climb up
- Tyrolean tape below moose hole
- Short sideways pitch to Moose hole *
- Traverse at bottom of Annette

* Bolt hangers & maillon removed, but enough left in place to get across.

- 'Smoke me a kipper' + 'Annette' are excellent pitches. CY is a fine cave. Go it!

A-A-A-A-A-A long strong black pudding up my sister's cat's arsehole sideways vigorously NIGHTLY!

Steve

(by Pete)

Mmm anthrax ripple...

'We had joy, we had fun,
toasted brickies in the sun...' (SGR)

C9 Final derigging: 14 Aug 94, 12:00 — 19:00

Wave One (Dave & James) were incredibly efficient hoovering everything below the Vacuum cleaner, within which Wave Two led by Harvey & trailed by John with Ilka & Gerhard in the middle met up with them. PAELLA No Minus Three went through there & up the ladder. PAELLA No Minus Two all the way up the 2nd pitch (argh me arms) and into the nitty bit. PAELLA No Minus One was a short one to the foot of Incoming. Then we spread over the height of the shaft, John & James taking turns at the top, Dave derigging the bottom as he went, and before the clock struck seven SPAGHETTI MONSTER CLONE saw the light of day, to the last end of sticky tape Ace trip. Sunny outside with clag floating past. Nobody at Camp but Steve-Stew prepared: TATA! And a cloud of garlic drifted slowly out of the kitchen area...

P.S. In best Fred tradition, Dave free-climbed the upper quarter of Incoming.

Postscript. No one expected that during the de-rigging the cave would be bottomed. Some nicely decorated passage has now been added. This verse of the newly created moonflakes song written in Dave's honour comes thump up.

"I was de-rigging one evening near the top of C9
Bottling up moonflakes where the sun doesn't shine
I accepted some bog roll & pulled off my kit
Men plastered the crawl in liquid brown shit"

Alan

I have just been to visit the Snow plug, & it says that, regretably, it won't be able to hang around until the end of expedition. If anyone wishes to go & see it before its departure they're very welcome, but they'll have to hurry.

2/8/94.

In which Pooh & Piglet go hunting a woozle

At least I think it was a woozle - someone had better check my literary reference. Nothing wrong with my lack of chronological order though. This trip (Michelle, John, Harvey) began life as one to survey from the top of Wight Cairn to the bivvy area at the end of the lift. All went efficiently to start with except for suicide attempts by the tape measure. Then, having passed the pitch in the lift about an hour ago, Mick announced that she simply had to pop off & strain her greens. No problem, though, the sound of water from the stream way was quite close near. Frantic rustlings punctuated by moans of "it goes on & on!!" eventually led to "There's a fork in the lift which I don't recognize & I've no idea which is the way on". Then she was gone.

A ~~couple of~~ nice pair of legs later, John & I saw Michelle's light below us. She said "We've gone the wrong way, I'm much lower down & I've no idea how to get back up". Some searching later "I've found some arrows - one points up & forwards, the other points down & backwards". Bugger!! Much distress, despondency etc. Michelle decides to have one more try at finding the way on. "Oh shit!!" We wait with bated breath. Long pause. Finally, Mick admits "I've found the rope". "Oh good", says I "It has to be the way on!" However, the rope turned out to be the one we'd abseiled down an hour ago. At this point Pooh & Piglet decided that they had found the trail of two woozles, because they were following two sets of

foot pitch. Meanwhile your intrepid surveyors realized they had gone round in a circle. Michelle, having decided to go for a swim in the pool she'd spent her pennies in (fan mail, not the shower way), was now very cold, so we decided to push on to the brew point & survey the rest on the way out. (We'd gone wrong by following the big open rift from the bottom of the pitch, instead of turning right into the small black crack.)

The brew site was a very jolly place, but despite warm soup by the time we left I was very cold, & Rich turned out to be approaching a state of hypothermia, so following Dave's suggestion (he had abandoned Vicki & James in order to come & drink our soup) we gave up on our surveying & headed out.

A shame Michelle got wet & cold, but John & I enjoyed the trip. Now, I must draw up the survey.....

Harvey

P.S. Bugger - I've just discovered that John has already written up this trip ~12 pages ago.

F64 Rigging Guide

Pitch	Rope	Rigging
Whistle Stop Café	45m	2 bolt Y-hang; spike deviation at -4m; spike belaying at -20m
Olé Olé Olé	20m	spike backup; spike & bolt Y hang; traverse on 2 bolts & thread at bottom
They Come at Night	40m	Huge boulder back up (needs rigging further back); spike & bolt Y hang; spike deviation at -20m
Mostly	45m	3 bolt traverse; 2 bolt Y-hang; thread deviation at -8m; spike deviation at -11m; spike deviation at -20m

Pitch	Rope	Rigging
Rift climb	4m ladder	Shaft wire on chockstone
Harmless	15m	Thread backup; spike & bolt Y-hang
Hleagles	15m	Thread backup; spike & bolt Y-hang. Needs ladder
Bad Habits	15m	Spike backup; thread; bolt for ladder (rope left rigged)
Old Bore's Hill ascent	20m	2 spikes (left rigged)
Traverse and descent	20m	Belays for ascent; bolt; optional bolt deviation
Slit through dike	5m	Bolt
C3	40m	Chock Boulder (needs better boulder or bolt)
Eton Rifles	↓	2 bolt Y-hang; spike rebelay (needs bolts); spike deviation (needs moving further out); large boulder on ledge
Cool for Cats	35m	2 bolts with rope protector; bolt & spike rebelay with 2 short rope protectors; 2 spike rebelay at -5m
Aines (P8)	25m	Bolt; bolt deviation at -1m
(P6, C4)	↓	2 bolt Y-hang
(P4)	35m	Bolt
(P6)		Bolt
(P5)		2 bolts
(C5, P2)	↓	spike
(P4)	80m	spike & bolt Y-hang. Needs bolt for traverse line
(P?)		Needs bolt for traverse; chockstone for traverse; 2 bolts (needs bolt on right wall); chock stone rebelay at -4m
(P10)		Bolt needed for traverse; 2 bolts; bolt deviation
(P5)		2 bolt Y-hang
Traverse		Needs bolt
Descent to chamber	↓	Spike; spike
(P?)	75m	Needs bolt; spike; main hang off thread; chock stone deviation at -6m; bolt deviation

Pitch	Rope	Rigging
(cont)		at -9m ; needs another bolt deviation ; bolt nbelay at -21m
(P?)		2 bolt Y-hang ; bolt deviation ; needs another bolt deviation
(P?)		2 spike Y-hang
~~[illegible]~~ (~~[illegible]~~) Little Allen (P?)	65m	2 bolt Y-hang, spike deviation (needs bolt deviation to avoid chute *important*) ; bolt nbelay ; thread nbelay
~~[illegible]~~ (P?)		2 bolt Y-hang ; may need deviation
~~[illegible]~~ (P?) Mixamatosis (P2?)	42m	Spike backup ; spike ; bolt for hang ; bolt nbelay ; natural deviation (needs improving)

15/8/94

PLEASE NOTE:-

THE SNOW PLUG IS NO MORE
IT HAS CEASED TO BE
IT HAS SHUFFLED OFF THIS MORTAL COIL
& GONE TO JOIN THE CHOIR INVISIBLE
IT IS A NON
BERFT OF LIFE
IT IS A DEAD SNOW PLUG.

IN SHORT:-

PLEASE CONSERVE THE WATER WE HAVE LEFT.

RIP SNOW PLUG.

Some Things to be Looked At Again In Years To Come

(In no particular order — off the top of Gerhard's mind)

Area 7: 2017 (near bottom of Jultayu bowl), either chisel Through The Looking Glass, or try the rift entrance ~25m further NNE

2817 (near entrance to Jultayu bowl / La Bayeya col) Would need hammering

4117 (on N rim of Jultayu bowl, beyond 2417 etc) Never looked at properly

Area 9: "The Wiggly One" (E of La Jayada) should be looked at again. Might warrant a major digging effort if no Hole Among Boulders is found. I looked at this last year. No way on at the end of expedition. Still snow plugged despite 4 or 5 short levels

Area 6: A high-level airway seems to exist, linking the rift below the Bladerunner in 2/6 with that containing the first two pitches in Ridge Cave (1/6). Entrance 3/6 is situated above the connecting line, about one third of the way from 1/6 to 2/6, and will be accessible after shifting one boulder. This should afford a negotiable connection at least into 2/6, possibly also a (very shallow!) through-trip route to Ridge Cave.

It is unknown whether the 'Magic Mirror' below Three Ways Chamber in 2/6 are blind, connect to the Seventy, or lead on independently.

Area F: F44 through 49 (above F20 more or less) would require various degrees of determination to pass various obstacles. There was a rumour that F74 (lowest Perdices entrance, in the same area) contains a

shaft concealed by snow (in 1983 – a year of exceptionally high snow levels!). This has never been checked.

- F23 remains tantalising... (and F40 is a glaring red herring)
- There is an unmarked (but obvious) entrance near the top of the F20 gully ('Arguayo Cortado') on the NW (true left) side, leading into a chamber with some fossil steel and a downward continuation. I didn't look into this when I was there since I was under the wrong impression that it had been explored conclusively. This one was originally found by Paul Brennan in '86.
- And there's the "Shaft Right On Top Of All Ridges", near Punta Gregoriana (the highest elevation of OUCC's assigned area) on the Verdelluenga side. Originally found by Dan Mace in '86, it still awaits someone to carry some tackle that far up... Is this F80 or F81, NE H1, H2?

- The Elusive Hoyo la Madre catchment.

If John Wilcock is right, water sinking in the Vega de Alfredo should rise eventually at Madre. Now the sinks in the Vega all appear substantially blocked by glacial debris, but the area uphill (towards Top Camp & the Ridge) should be thoroughly searched for potential entrances – in particular the wedge of massive grey limestone (Valdetija formation), pointing out towards Conjurtao in the west, which seems more favourable to supporting entrances than the shattered laminated limestone of the Barcaliente formation. See note (1)

Only one underground stream feeding Madre is known with any degree of likelihood, and not even this has been confirmed by a definite trace – that of Cueva del Osu. And it is much smaller than the amount of water rising

at Madre. The whence of the Osu stream is also unknown. The upstream sump is close to L. Ercina at a similar level; could it be that the lake drains east as well? (It is known to leak westwards from its southern end) Obviously, a tracing experiment is out of the question, but detailed analysis of water samples from Ercina & Osu might provide clues.

[Incidentally – while the Adrados map gives an impression of great accuracy, it suffers in many instances from errors copied in from its sources. (like F20, 1/6 and 2/6 drawn miles out of position – blame ourselves for this). In particular Hoyo la Madre is drawn way north of its actual location – probably an error copied over from the Luejo map. You wouldn't be able to find it by following the Adrados map... (2)

The toponymy is also not very good (the Jorcadino col, for instance, between La Verd. and Punta Gorg. is labelled 'Los Tiros', a name which ought to go with a different col further east). The Luejo map is better in this respect, although not entirely satisfactory, and despite its other shortcomings (like rivers drawn flowing uphill...).]

There also remains the interesting question where the Bobias water comes from. I've heard various opinions... still, the steady flow independent of short-term weather conditions argues against near-surface runoff from Cantu Cenal, unless there is a large artificial reservoir.

— Watch out for the vague possibility that C9 (aka C3) might pick up the waters from the Jorcada Blanca system at some stage. (3)

---

(1) F64 currently seems to be heading directly for the Vega de Aliseda. It would be worth doing a dye trace from here next year, with detectors at Hoyo La Madre, Culiembro and the Ostra. If F64 resurges at Hoyo La Madre then it would seem very unlikely that F2/F7, F20 and 1/6-2/6 resurge at Culiembro. (*)
A dye trace from C9 would seem less likely since it's almost certainly going to Culiembro, probably via 2/7.
(2) La Jayada is also marked in the wrong place.
(3) It's more likely to join with F64 first (true)

Here are some (wild) predictions for next year:

1) C9 will meet a larger stream at a depth of about 600m, and will then go into 2/7. The drainage area for 2/7 is roughly areas C and 9 (and el Jaón, behind the Cuizente-Vendelluenga ridge!!).
2) A way on is found by traversing from Right Turn Chamber, although I'm not going to predict where it's going.

3) The cave on the other side of the ridge, Sima de Aliseda (3) is also connected to 2/7.

The Top Camp Area to Hoyo La Madre suggested drainage has always struck me as unlikely, because this

would give HLM a very large drainage area when I believe it's not that large a resurgence. I suspect HLM only drains an area further north, while the Top Camp Area is split between Culiembro (via 2/7) and the Dobra. (Agreed, I'm willing to believe though that HLM catchment includes the hillsides between the Top Camp thrust and the Vd. Alicia.)

Gavin

(*) 1/6 & 2/6 (Topographic Ocean), as well as F20, must be going towards the río Dobra IMHO ... G.

(And I still believe in the 'Brown Gully System', sistema del Arroyo Pardo, between F20 and Ridge Cave – which will eventually unite with both. Unfortunately there's not a single known entrance left going along that gully. One rather wild possibility would be following the rift containing the Seventy in 2/6, sideways in the direction away from Ridge Cave. [Not easy.] Or F23.)

G. again

('Pages and pages of illegible Gerhard' ... says Steve R)

Steve 'its so short, 2 spits & a lick & you're done with it' Roberts.

16/8/94 A pleasant evening at Top Camp.

Now mostly dismantled – all group having gear down, just a couple of carries each to do. Dave, Steve, Nicolle Ilka & Gerhard at Lots, finishing with Queso (Cabrales & Las Bárcas

special That G. got stacks of pr 20m dd rope), washed down with two bottles of rather nice Rioja.
Unfortunately very cold + claggy, but next morning dawns nice + clear.

Steve

Gear Stashing

I have stashed some stuff in the entrance of a small cave at the far end of the ledge 5m up the cliff on the far side of the dolomitic valley with lots of draughting shakeholes. This is near F7 and where we used to get snow from. I have stashed:

- 1 BDH carbide —
- 1 tub mallos —
- 1 packet beans —
- 1 jar jam —
- 10 loo rolls. —

Please stash:

- Plates
- Mugs
- Pans except large cauldron
- Snow melt containers (except broken one)
- Washing up bowls (——"——)
- Snow shovel
- Unopened things of food with best-before dates before next expd
- Anything else that seems sensible
- carbide smashing hammer
- Kitchen tent ground sheet

Please take down

- Water carriers (they need sterilizing)
- Cutlery (it will rust)
- Cauldron (we need it in Britain)
- Wellies (we need them for novices)

And don't forget the Slag!

Also stashed

3 pairs of washing up gloves
2 jars of tomato puree
3 tins of moruflakes
~220 1 litre sterilising tablets
~20 Milton tablets
some black bin bags

2½ greenies
3 tins of tomato
6 zip lock bags
20 100 litre sterilising sachets
9 1 litre sachets of Rehydrat

"Dave, there was much speculation when you + Pauline first met as to how she coped with your shoulders"
"Oh, she had some to match"

JAMES "That was the night I forgot to pick my nose before I went to bed, wasn't it?"

Pete to Dave "How old are you?"
"23"
"Why do you look so old?"

17th AUGUST 94

TOP CAMPS LAST NIGHT.

ALEX - WHO WAS ~~[illegible]~~ TOO BLOODY FAST.
DAVE - WHO WAS ALMOST "THE LATE"
JAMES - WHO WAS LATE.
JOHN - WHO'S ALWAYS LATE.
MICH - WHO'S NEVER LATE (BLOODY UNIQUE WOMAN)
PETE - Who's bladders never late.
STEVE - WHO'S LATER THAN HE THINKS.

LA VERDELLUENGA, THE TOP, SUNSET, -
WOW!, WOW!, OH JESUS!, OH CHRIST!, OH WOW!
WOW!, AMAZING!, WOW!, INCREDIBLE!, WOW!
- IT WAS VERY NICE INDEED.
~~[illegible]~~. THE TOP WAS ACHIVED WITH LITTLE PROBLEM, - I TRUSTED STEVE TO FIND THE ROUTE - After getting lost on the Downstairs Route the other day - was this this worse?
- ASIDE -
THE MYTHICAL CLEAR MOUNTAIN OF THE PICOS - AS FREQUENTLY FOUND BY
ALEX, MICH & DAVE, STEVE & PETE ETC.
When the clag falls on the High PICOS DE EUROPA, PICO DE BRIGADOON appears from the "other world" to fool errant OUCC campers walking down to Lagos in the clag. The mountain does have a top, in which is a hole with a 28 second drop. But this is rarely found

Finally stashed 18 plates 13 mugs
2 ice containers plate rack colander
pressure cooker frying pan 2 saucepans
large funnel small funnel snow shovel

& Ground sheet, washing up bowl x 3, scourers ; various containers. &

1:45 pm 18th August: Top Camp is all packed up; the flag is removed from the snow pole; and all that remains are a few yellow patches where the large 10's used to be.

But for now, the sun is shining and Lake Eval and the Bar Maria Rosa calls,.... Till next year Top Camp.