

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

F23 remains tantalizing... (and F40 is a glaring red heaving)

There is an unmarked (but obvious) entrance near the top of the F20 gully ('Argayo Cortado') on the NW (true left) side, leading into a chamber with some fossil steel and a downward continuation. I didn't look into that 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 OUEC's assigned area) on the Verdellucaya side. Originally found by Dan Mace in '86, it still awaits someone to carry some fackel 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 Alred should rise eventually at Madre. Now the sink 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), peeling out towards Conjurao in the west, which seems more favourable to supporting entrances than the shattered laminated limestone of the Barcalante formation. See note ①

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

at Madra. The whence of the Osu stream is also unknown. The upstream sump is close to L. Eraina 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 Eraina & 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, 116 and 216 drawn miles out of position - blame ourselves for this). In particular, Lago de Madra is drawn way north of its actual location - probably an error copied over from the Luján map. You wouldn't be able to find it by following the Adrados map... (2)

The toponymy is also not very good (the Zorcadino col, for instance, between La Vieda and Punta Goya, is labelled 'Los Tiros', a name which ought to go with a different col further east). The Luján 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 Cerro 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 Jorcade 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, Culiebro and the Osbra. If F64 resurges at Hoyo La Madre then it would seem very unlikely that F2/F7, F20 and 1/5-2/6 resurge at Culiebro. *

A dye trace from C9 would seem less likely since it's almost certainly going to Culiebro, probably via 2/7.

② La Jorjada 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 largish 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 Curiente-Verdeluenga 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, Sina de Aliseda (?) is also connected to 2/7.

The Top Camp Area to Hoyo La Madre as 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 recharge. I suspect HLM only drains an area further north, while the Top Camp Area is split between Culienbro (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 V. d. Alameda.)
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 'Brain 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 'do so short, 2 spits & a lick & you're done with it' robots.

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

Now mostly dismantled - all group
caving gear down just a couple of
carries each to 'do. Dave, Steve, Nicolle
Ihu + Gerhard at lot, finishing
with Quero (Cáboles + Ihu B. 200)

special that G. get stacks of for 20m dd
 (wage) washed down with two bottles
 of rather nice Rioja.
 Unfortunately very cold - claggy, but
 next morning dawn nice & clear.

Stee

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 shakholes. This is near F7M and where we used to get snow from. I have stashed:

- 1 BDH carbide —
- 1 tub milk —
- 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 noises)

And don't forget the Slag!

Also stashed

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 pairs of washing up gloves | 2½ greenies |
| 2 jars of tomato puree | 3 tins of tomato |
| 3 tins of morafakes | 6 ziplock bags |
| ~20 Iliere sterilising tablets | 20 100liere sterilising sachets |
| ~20 Milton tablets | 9 Iliere sachets of Rehydrate |
| some black bin bags | |

"Dave, there was much speculation when you + Pauline first met us to how she aged 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 ~~TOO~~ TOO BLOODY PAST.

DAVE - WHO WAS ALMOST "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 CHRISTY!, OH WOW!
WOW!, AMAZING!, WOW!, INCREDIBLE!, WOW!

- IT WAS VERY NICE INDEED.

~~THE~~ THE TOP WAS ACHIEVED WITH LITTLE PROBLEM, - I TRUSTED
STOVE TO FIND THE ROUTE - AFTER GETTING LOST ON THE
DOWN STAIRS ROUTE THE OTHER DAY - WAS THIS THIS WISE?

- ASIDE -

THE MYTHICAL CLAG MOUNTAIN OF THE
PICOS - AS FREQUENTLY FOUND BY

ALEX, MICH & DAVE, STEVE & PENE ETC.

When the clag falls on the High Picos de
Europa, PICO DE BRIGADON appears from
the "other world" as foot evant OCC comes
Walking down to Lages 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
2 ice containers
pressure cooker
large funnel

18 plates
plate rack
frying pan
small funnel

13 mugs
colander
2 saucepans
snow shovel

Grand sheet, washing up bowl x 3, sponges
; various containers.

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

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