

You know you've been on Expedition too long when :

- i) you can't tell your ~~own~~ <sup>DAVE'S</sup> own shovels from your ordinary ones
- ii) the best thing you can fantasize about is an orange. ETC  
(some fruits we have thought of ...)
- iii) you spend the afternoon thinking of important civic buildings throughout the world which have mezzanine floors.
- iv) you intermittently throw an old cauliflower at people, for pedantry, for hours on end

Valley of dry bones

original steep sloped dig ->

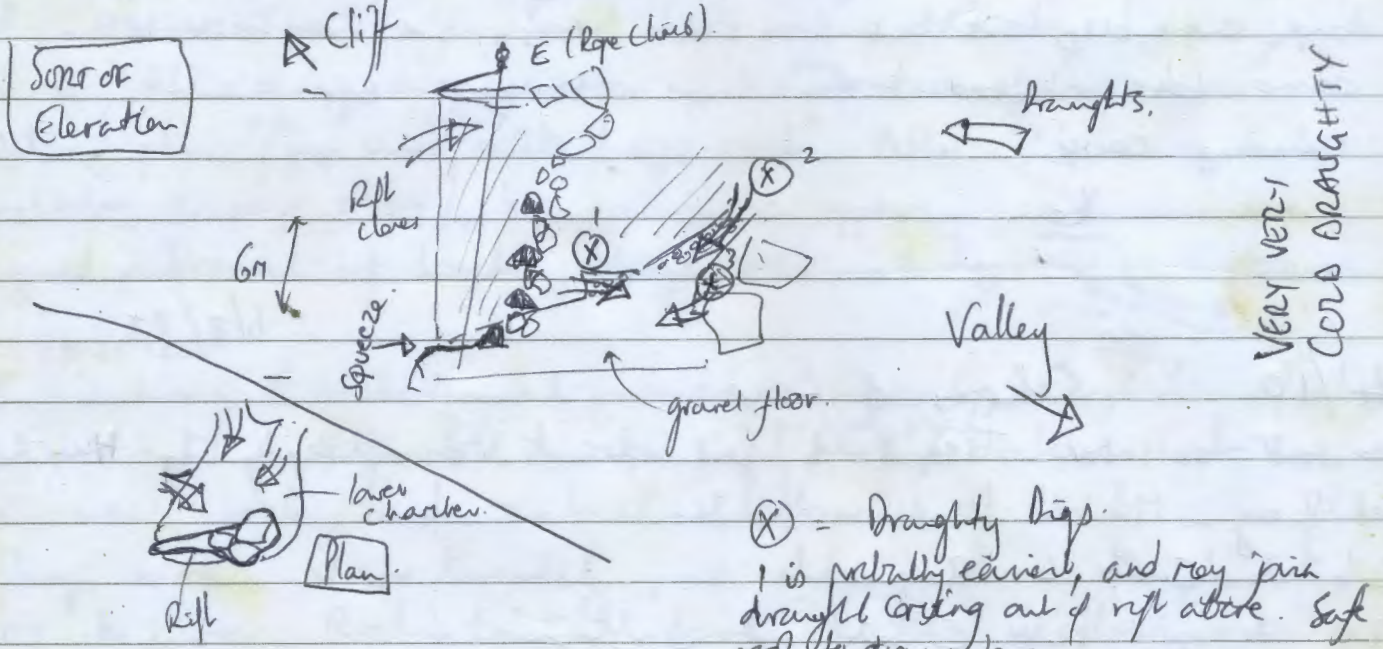
Rob, Ian, Tim + Lou made considerably more space beyond the previous breakthrough. On the left at the end is a lip with a slightly drifting gravel floor dig heading diagonally back up the west side of the valley. The main drift comes from the choke on the right ~~side~~ which looks very difficult to dig. However at the end it is possible to carefully go up through the boulders and see a small rift crossroads with possible ways on but currently no way of reaching through the choke. This could be dug from below beneath the safety of the roof.

Rift dig ->

2 1/2 days digging increased the depth by 5 metres with the help of a pulley system and a drill to pull out the largest boulders. The back wall <sup>(when facing the cliff)</sup> is very unstable and precarious (named Jenga or gravity crisis). It is possible to reach the bottom using the solid walls of the rift without touching this now vertical boulder slope. The breakthrough squeeze at the bottom passes ~~to~~ one of the keystones to the choke but again the squeeze is possible without touching this flake shaped boulder. Beneath is a small very drafty chamber. Heading on in the direction of the rift towards the roaring sound is a very easy very drafty dig. To the right of that is a gravel 'crawl' which also drafts strongly and is easy



to dig. At the end on the left there looked to be a small black space (very drafty) that could be dug fairly quickly. Unfortunately these very promising digs were not pushed further as some of the chocks above fell down spontaneously. But now it has stabilised the chock really is not that bad as long as care is taken and the digging is beneath a solid rock with plenty of stacking space in the chamber. You need a handline to get down the rift.



2/7 Tim + Lou

We passed Gavin + bags and take the photo team as we went down. I thought the shaft series was a lovely piece of cave - a bit like ~~canal~~ canals but three times as long. The cave definitely felt different at the crash pad though. As it opened out it didn't feel like any caving I had ever done before. There is, just so much space. I felt quite intimidated observing through it to the big ledge and I hadn't got used to the sound of the water either. It is probably the most spectacular thing I have ever seen and for about half an hour I felt as if we were in another world. A cup of tea and some food was fine enough to get used to - it and as there was no surveying kit to go upstream we decided to go to pinula point to get gear instead. I really enjoyed observing down just awesome and I loved the broken underground. I was very glad we decided to go to pinula point.



(113)

It was fun to see Flew + Chris - I think they were quite surprised to see us. We helped pack the camp for a bit + headed back with gear to the big ledge. We set back about one or two in the morning to find Te asleep.

Flew + Chris arrived at camp at 6 am having descended most of ~~the~~ Zasadzka way.

Tom + I left the following day bringing out some gear and eventually set out to find fog. We got back to camp late + tired but it was a brilliant trip and a skinning cave.

Lev.

6/8/98

14/10 Chris & Lev

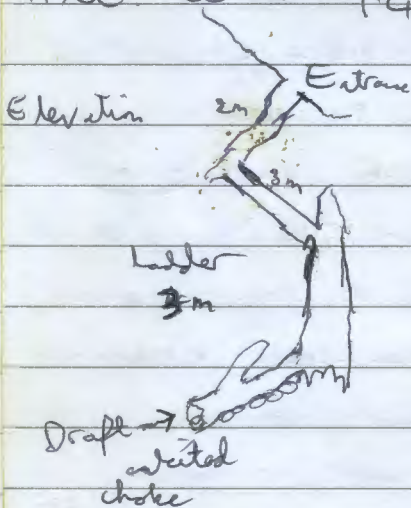
New entrance above Tree Path, just before it drops steeply to Huerta del Rey. Marked with sardine tins.

126° to Cuelo La Repexada

170° to spur betw. Cuelo and Jaltayui

52° to rightmost peak of Cabeza Llambrera.

Alt. circa 1470m.



Walk down Tree Path until it starts to head down towards Huerta del Rey and where continuing straight ahead would take you along the Cuelo La Repexada. Here, head up grassy bank towards a local peak. Entrance just beneath this, under small sloping overhang. Body sized rift drops down to body sized tube, which head down at 45° for 3m where it opens out at top of rift. Walls loose, best to rig

3m pitch as ladder from flake. Boulder slope down to chocked drafting chocked rift. Diggable.

Chris

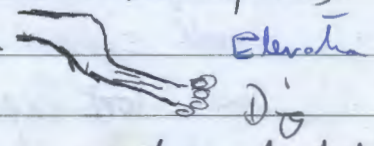


Edited highlights of Chris' week, 2/17 7<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Aug

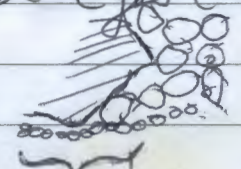
Days 1-3 with PM, JW, RL. Days 4-7 Flew. Day 6 with JC

Spent the first 3 days popping off big flashbulbs for Paul's photography trip, then left to spend a couple of days digging close the Egbert with Flew, swapping places with Nobby when I met in Zasadska way. Primate Point for dinner, Flew had just gone to bed.

Day 4: Flew & I set off early & enthusiastically set to on the Egbert flood overflow. Spent a couple of hours making the dig big enough to work in, then easy digging loose soil <sup>from</sup> the sloping down "bedding plane" / gap underneath large rock. After 7 1/2 hours work (including 2 soap stops), big rocks were appearing, and some spaces beyond. Dreamt of breaking through the next day.



Day 5: <sup>CD + Flew</sup> 2 hours of rock removal produced a space big enough to comfortably turn your head. Beyond ... was full of <sup>head sized</sup> ~~big~~ rocks. Had some soap, went back, and realised this was at least a couple of days work. Unfortunately, we only had a couple of hours to spare. Reluctantly realised that Egbert was not going this expedition. Cross section of dig:



Draft had increased a lot (poss. due to storm?) and streamway beyond was much louder.

Dig down here

Leaving Egbert at 4pm, decided to use spare time to de-rig. De-rigged for a Primate Point, then were astonished and delighted to meet Tim & Lou as they came down Zasadska way. Made them some tea, they loaded them up with gear to take to Big Ledge. Packed up Primate Point and departed 12-30, weighed down with emotion and a considerable quantity of gear. De-rigged Zasadska way, by the time we reached traverse level we had the equivalent of 9 tackleboxes of gear, one of which I could not lift with one hand. It was 3-30, so we just took the pits and food to Big Ledge at 5-30/6am. Grateful for Tim & Lou helping to carry! By the way, stuffing pits into tackleboxes was a nightmare.

Day 6 PTO



10/9 6 27/9 Pushing Lev & Dave

27/9: Interesting trip in as Dave was using Paul's 'Rapide' rack  
6 I'd stolen Mum's SRT kit. Had a look at the right at the  
bottom 2 possibilities: 1) Crawl into right 1/2 way up - s-bend impass.  
About 15ft of ~~rock~~ <sup>capping/</sup>blasting to widening directed below.  
2) Bottom of right: choked, too much work.

10/9: I hammered & pushed a stupid squeeze into about 20m of  
right sloping july steeply downhill. Shotty joined by Dave extra  
he found an easier way in. Last few metres (through terrible  
rock entry at almost passable squeeze. Needs a few hours hammering  
or ~~10~~ caps. Right visibly widens ahead; rocks can be thrown  
into deep pool ahead; extra suggests ~~very~~ large chamber/shaft;  
perhaps some draft but nothing much. With returning to (especially  
with bolting hammer among side of squeeze).

Lev

Chris "Whats that burning smell?"

Dave "Don't worry, its just my leg hairs"

CDD & JC

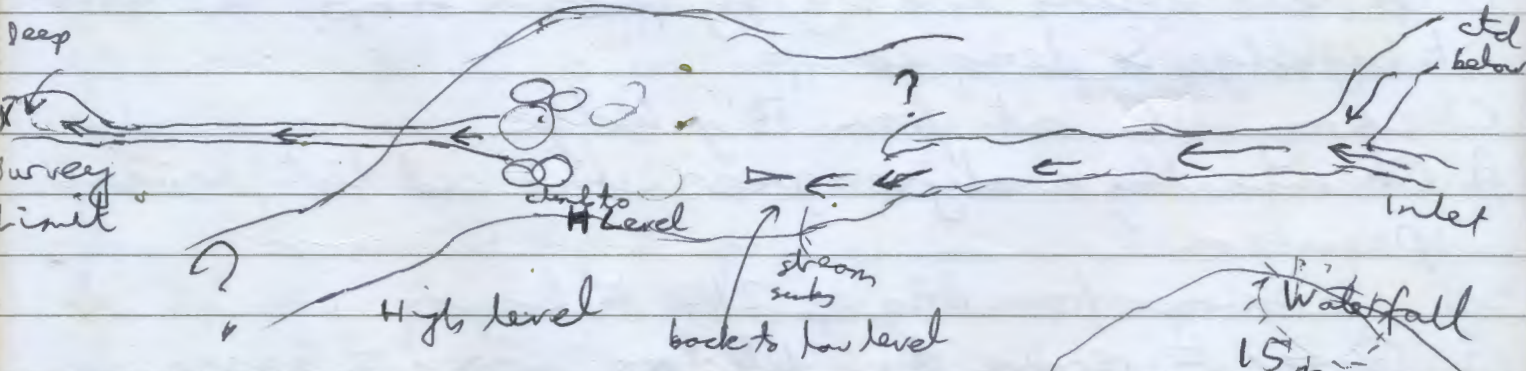
Day 6 J.C. had come on a solo trip, and when Tim & Lou  
headed out, he was short of an Upstream partner. Flew selflessly  
chose to spend the day in bed, so that was decided. JC & I  
surveyed the passage he & Tony had walked into weeks before.  
~~Upstream~~ Upstream 2/7 is THE MOST BEAUTIFUL stream passage  
I have ever seen. The new esterase's sculpts it's way through  
muddled rock to reach a pool, the limit of exploration. JC coded  
in, I followed, only waist deep, and into a narrow canyon.  
200 metres with occasional traversing ended in a large



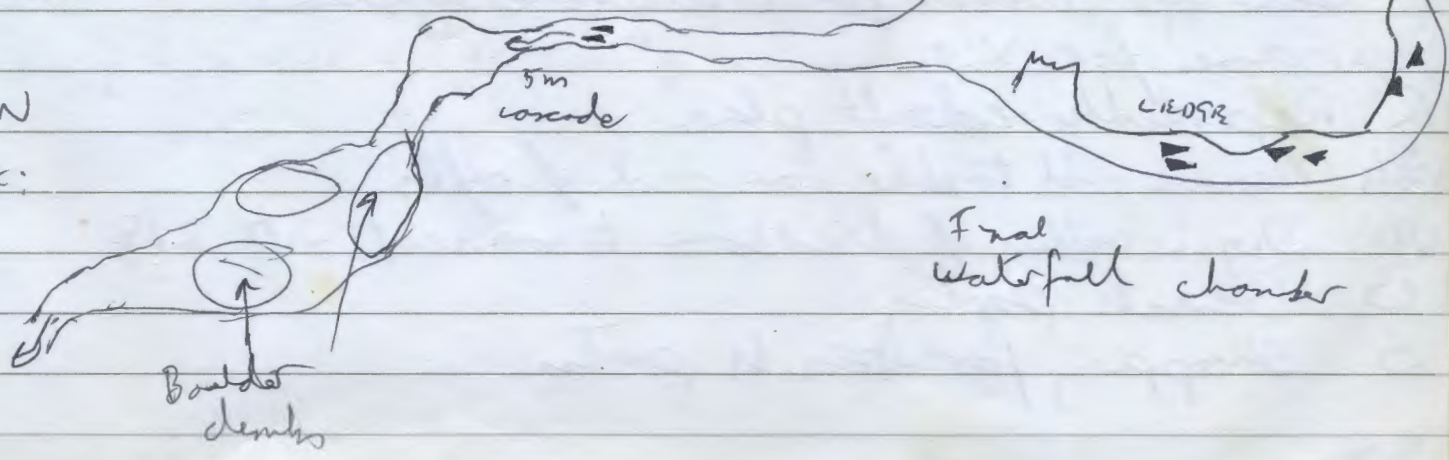
boulder choke, I climbed up left, no good, J.C. climbed up right, and called me up. We were in a ~22 metre wide passage, big black spaces overhead. Whoopee! we walked down to regain the stream, with traversing around and climbing over large boulders which blocked the stream over the next 100-200m. Entered a chamber with a roar of water, round the corner was a lovely 5m cascade, easily climbable. (Before this, a significant inlet came in from the right, ending at the foot of a short pitch). More lovely streamway then a big chamber with a 15 metre high waterfall dropping straight on. Walked up to a viewing platform complete with balustrade directly opposite, and admired the splendid waterfall, with black space heading off above it. Estimated 2 days hard bolting would reach the top. Fantastic trip, surreal counterpart to 2 days digging to achieve a mere 2 body lengths the previous 2 days in Egbert. Estimated 500 metres passage:

### g.d.o PLAN

WAY IN:



PLAN cont:





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Day 7

CD + Flew

Excited, carrying 4 fat juicy tacklebags, leaving 2 at end of rifts. Left JC on his own to bring gear from Zasadika way. Met Dave, Nobby & Lev on their way in to assist.

Chris

	Fri 14	Sat 15	Sun 16	Mon 17	Tues 18	Weds 19	Thurs 20
Paul	WALK	WALK	WALK	73C	73C	73C	73C
Jo	WALK	WALK	WALK	73C	73C	73C	73C
Huw	rest	Big ledge porter 2 carry + 5	S	B	B	B	B
Nobby	rest	collect gear from Egbert	O	B	B	B	B
Flew	rest	car C	GSP	B	B	B	B
Chris	rest	collect gear from Egbert	GSP	B	B	B	B
Rob	Derig	A	G	B	B	B	B
Lev	rest	P	X	B	B	B	B
Pete	Derig	73C	73C	B	B	B	B
Becka	Derig	VDB	VDB	B	B	B	B
Dave	rest	Rifts	73C				
J.C.	BL	submit to being carried	R	B	B	B	B

o go down Oliseda. Find dry by-pass to sump. Get through to big ledge & derig camp.

C carry JC out from Big ledge.

A Chemically analyse green slime and distil universal Paraceta.

3C 3 carries from Airo or 2/7 to Lagos.

G George to remove dye detectors + carry to base.

P Set up Primula Point telephone system.

X Same for Xitu.

R Repeatedly redraft plan.

Rifts Remove all tackle from end of rifts.

VDB Dig in valley of dried bone to connect with 2/7.

B Beach party.

S Shopping for beach party.



A belated write-up of shafting non-existent caves last Thursday (?)

Nobby & Flew intended to go to the Luicase - Lav ridge to find 21/9, an undescended 20m pitch near the western col on the ridge, wherever that is. There are 3 features which could be described as cols including the Boca del Tor; but more of that later.

Firstly though, we were distracted by 14/9, which Flew had been digging. Hauled along, ripped Flew's top, squashed my finger & went down a slot on the 1/2h wall to a crawl to an over & continuing vertical bedding, but no obvious draught.

Following the bearings in SBL was all very well, but we ended up, tho' near something which could plausibly have been the 'western col', in area C rather than 9. C21, an undescended 10m shaft close to C3, became a descended & bolted 10m shaft, after which we climbed down a rift to the head of an exciting pitch nearby. Suddenly a bolt materialised on the 1/2h wall, & the cave tunnel into C10, whose cow tag had fallen off.

No luck. A quick dash over the Boca brought us to some large shafts which might, in the company of a ~~mediocre~~ mediocre orienteer, be stretched to fit our bearings. But no. In a shalehole lay - 70m of OUCC rope, the caves were tagged 25/9 a, b, c etc, but turned out to be 16/9 instead. Confused? - so were we. But in any case, 21/9 was nowhere to be seen, & the shaft we went down is still socked with snow. By this time we were too tired & hot to care, & headed back, only to be distracted by 2 squarish entrances in a doline straight down the dry waddy from these 16/9 shafts, about 150 yards away. The one on the true right is kind, that on the left has a pot skylight, which I climbed up & out of, down the hill & back to An, happy to be back in the Picos if unsuccessful in cave-hunting. NJM



Thumper! Thumper!! Thumper!!!

To Next Derigging Team.

Rope has been parcelled to Armageddon Ledge.

You will also find 3 tackle bags. One heavy, 1 medium, 1 light,

A.N.D. 1 Rescue dump (which you may need for foal).

1 Bag of Fat

1 1/2 full size cotainer or cubicle

Also 6 tacklebags, 1 ladder + 1 Diver down at top of Reservoir.

You should take in tackle bags for the jettie etc + to redistribute the gear in the heavy bag.

J.C.

P.S. The knots are still in the rope off Armageddon.

Pete, Rob + Becka. (+ J.C. Too)

14/8/98

Up 7am, set off 8:30 or so, in cave before 10, 2 hrs 10 min down to Big Ledge for noon to meet J.C. packing up camp. Parked out on path then set off with out 5 tacklebags.

Rob + I started pulling immediately with rope from Big ledge, whilst Pete derigged. Met with large amount of rope above Gozamo Grotto which the photo trip had got to there. Fairly slow gang (lots of catching) <sup>also discovered an additional really heavy Tackle of rigging gear which Pete got</sup> at false floor pulled <sup>inward</sup> into shafts.

got into a fairly efficient system, last person derigging + WD40ing, rest of us spread out pulling. Got to whole pile (huge! Worst deep in the stuff) up to Armageddon ledge - 5 pulls from 66 to Armageddon. 9 pm by then + felt we'd done our stint. Left the heaviest 3 rods at Armageddon & went off with a sack each. Pete + I got out just before 1, I & Rob 3/4 an hour or so later tottered down. We had feeling of bust after 15 hours effort.



Hi!  
Paul & Ken passing by,  
stopped for some tea.  
Have eaten 2 karrimabs &  
a survival bag, + ladder  
& muchos rope

Have a nice trip out -  
(you might pass Richard  
& Martin on the way) -  
we're off to summit  
now

~~PL~~  
Sunday 8:00

Dave

BIG LEDGE  
LOS BOOK

MOST BOATS ARE MODERN  
NONE ARE ASKED.  
ISA III BOATS WITH  
BUT NOT ASKED  
OLD 2-WAY ROPES LEFT AT  
CAMP BEYOND ENTRANCE  
TO 2-WAY



Big Ledge Logbook

Saturday

Dear Paul etc,

Tim - Lou not coming. Met  
 Pete & Huw - they gave us 1 set of  
 thermats to compensate for the rubbish  
 S/bag - they're with the pits. see you  
 tomorrow night (N). Nobby / Flew

Hi!

Paul & Leo passing by,  
 stopped for some tea.  
 Have taken 2 karrimabs &  
 a survival bag, + ladder  
 & much rope

Have a nice trip at -  
 (you might pass Richard  
 & Martin on the way) -  
 we're off to primary  
 point now

PLL

Sunday, 8.00 pm

JC + Rob etc + M / I

Tuesday 11/7/85

Tim & Lou have gone to  
 Primary to dig up  
 some gear and the  
 survey kit. Back  
 about midnight

Tim + Lou etc + M / I

ONLY J & M  
 it.  
 at exp. of old primary  
 Fancy. coming  
 Primary to dig up  
 some gear and the  
 survey kit. Back  
 about midnight



JC GONE TO DERK  
 2-WAY 13.00  
 NEED HELP  
 PLEASE JOIN ME  
 BACK BY 22.00

Taken 2 bags  
 of pits but no  
 room for the  
 3 bins.  
 See you at  
 Aris  
Dave

Page B  
 2-WAY DERIS  
 MOST BOLTS REMOVED  
 NONE GREASED.  
 J A III BOLTS LEFT  
 BUT NOT GREASED  
 OLD 2-WAY ROPES LEFT AT  
 CAIRN BEYOND ENTRANCE  
 TO 2-WAY