

'EL JOHN'
'82 EXPEDITION
LOG.

Task Force

Oxford University Cave Club Expedition — Joon '82

Personnel:

Post

Graham Naylor	(Resident) & Leader
Richard Gregson	Secretary
Tom Houghton	(pron: Hawtun) Treasurer.
Andrew Riley	Tackle master
Ian Tuning	Masseneur
Helen Kay	Cook.
Paul Cooper	Medical Officer & paediatrician.
Dave Rose	Hawk
Mark Godden	Expedition Nuclear Power Station Designer & Cave Fielder
Martin Lavery	Head Hunter
Martin Kiess	Photographer
George Hostford	Photographer and model for life class.
Penny Hostford Williams	other model for life class
William Stead	Gannet.
John Singleton	squeeze enlarger. + stinkie pisser-in
plus Damikitch	Killer (to make sure the photos are Argentinian-free)

(1)

Friday 9th July 1982

In the beginning was the word, and the word was Naylor and the word was "with um um even um um um um grun ... (cont'd p 94)"

On the morning of Friday 9th July 1982, our leader arrived early to begin the monumental task of filling the mini bus. Other aids were Jan and Richard ("massure" and "sec"). By the time I arrived they were as busy as bees, rolling ladders and bagging rope. Our leader "gave me the yucky task of cleaning the cooker, (the last exhibition must have comprised of a bunch of animals), I thus spent all afternoon up to my arms in soap scuds. Andy Riley arrived just after tea", and we began packing the bus. This was finished by about 6.30pm and we dashed to the Rose and Crown, for a well earned pint or two or three. By x million pints people began to worry about Richard, who was the first driver.

Later Tom and Penny arrived, and we urgent to ~~crossing~~ ^{Nose.} Heslop's for chips and things. Richard, Penny, Jan and I returned to Bear Road to wait for Graham and Andy, who was making an compliment for keeping the exhaust pipe on. By ten o'clock everyone was getting worried about the where-a-banks of one Paul Cooper, but with a flatshot car he annuted and was bundled in to the mini bus. Not being fond of Goodbyes, Jan, Andy and I rapidly returned to the Pub for a few more!!!

I spent an uncomfortable night on Andy Riley's floor (as we all know he's no Gentleman), together with Mr Heslop. The alarm went at 3.30am we had breakfast and got up about from 4.30am, about the hour and the middeleious disappearance of his pillow (which I didn't have). Jan and I left for Clapham Junction coach station, we got a bus easily for London, Victoria we boarded on other coach for the coast. We arrived at the port and boarded the boat at 10.00am English time, and arrived in France at 2.00pm French time. Then caught a train for Paris. We arrived at Paris, St Lazare at 6.00pm, and got the metro to the other side of Paris. We had some bread and cheese for supper and got the train at 10.00pm. After a few arguments with some erasors we got our seats. At 7.00am we got off the train, had coffee, and walked across the border. The bus to Arandes left at 9.30am, and we arrived at 11.30pm. We then got a taxi to Los Hargas, and finally arrived at 7.30pm on Sunday evening - had a meal at A ~~resturant~~ Helen -

② Monday 12th July

Tuesday

Wank is not allowed in log or on ex

Went to cangas got pissed Ferret shop shut got more pissed, did a carry up to Aris again.

Wednesday 13th July

went to Oviedo to get permission to camp
walk, walk etc from The big wheels of I.C.O.N.A.
the 5 did a carry to Aris

Wednesday 14 July

Akaro

Did carry to Aris. ~~Alvaro~~ (Hut warden) guided us to EL Joon and back, laying a trail of cairns ^{on bearing 210°}. Stayed at Aris. Helen guarded camp at Lagos.

Thursday 15th July

Spent ages preparing to go to el Joon taking lightweight rope and ladders, stoves, tent, caving gear. Put tent just to right of the eyehole just below the boca del Joon and cooked meal and drank tea from melted snow out of the eyehole (big feature).

Found a cave with large entrance nearly to with flat entrance chamber covered in sheep shit. several bedding place! crawls lead off but choke. We called it Poen Kara Shigni



B1

Key:-



slope



crawl

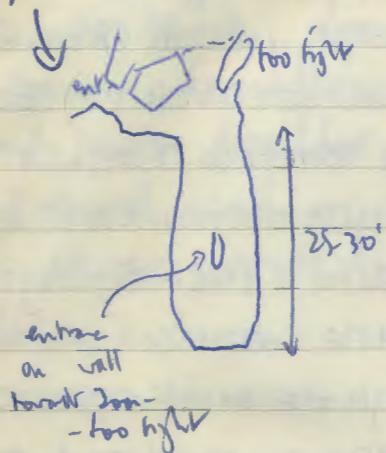


Sheep shit

(3)

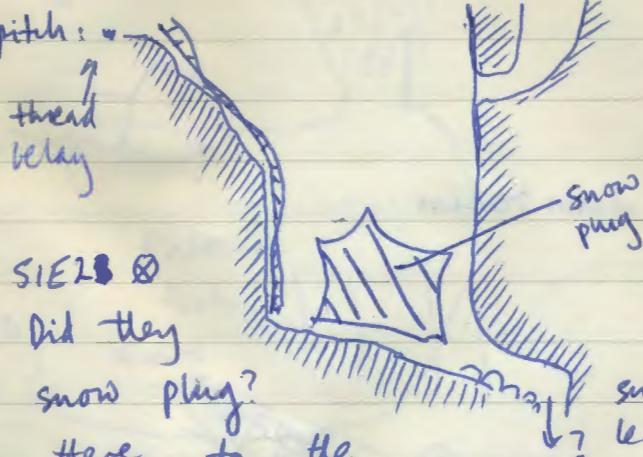
Pedition female members present!!!

Reddition walked back losing cairns now and again. A hole was found about 200 yds from tent, which went to 30' pitch and chokez. (resides in bottom of boulder filled valley)



B2.

Penny & Richard set off for the cave we thought yesterday to be Optimista but wasn't. It lies behind Cabeja Form & is a 20m entrance pitch:



We found the SIE 20 mark afterwards. Did they get past the snow plug? Walking from there to the

Lagos path we found a very inviting entrance which was marked SIE 20. The altitude is a little less than xitn. It would be fun to push. "Walk in" entrance!

Richard.



Tom H. 15.7.82.

⑧

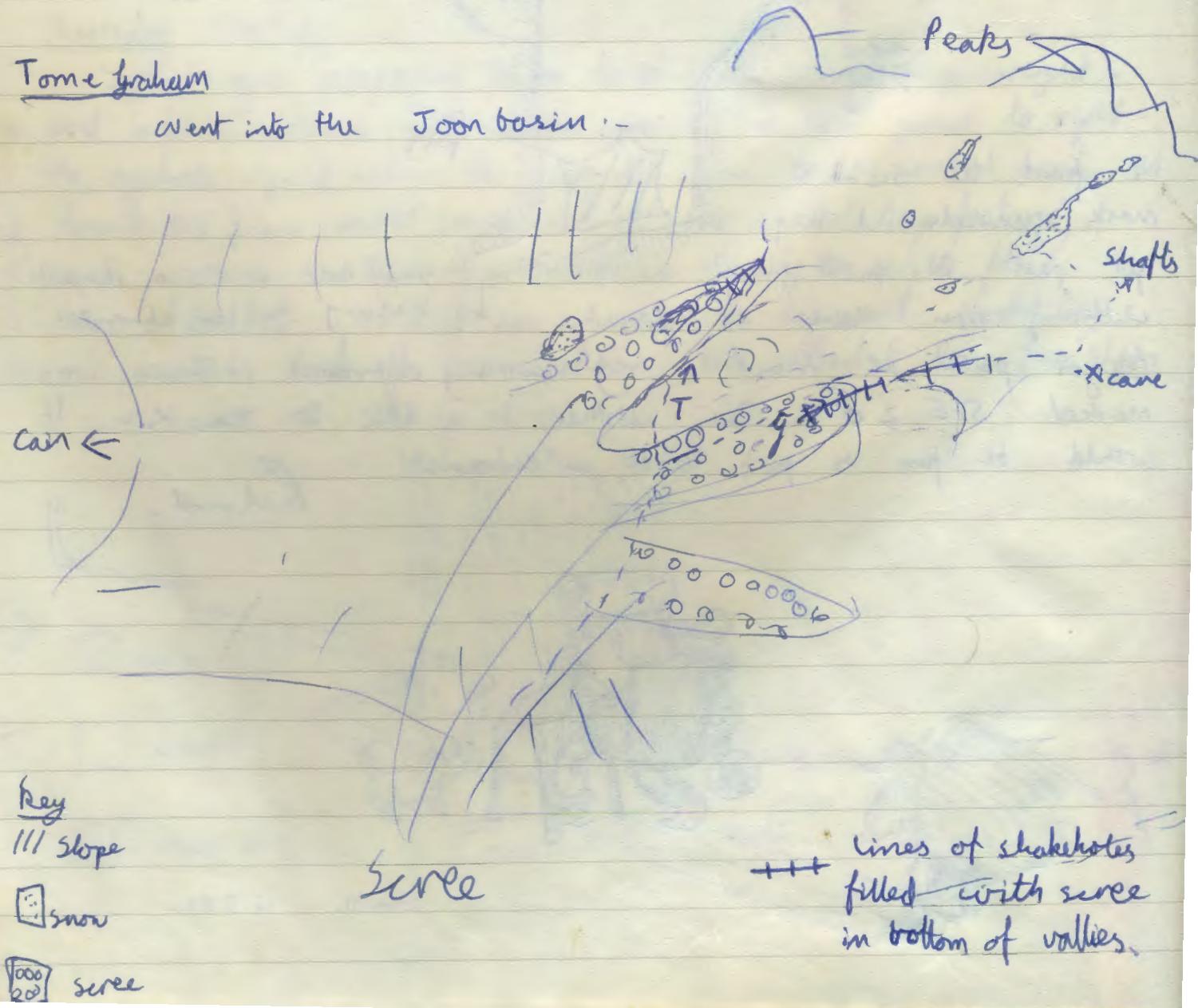
? ? God, we'd have been down t' hole
seven hours by then!"

Friday 16th July 1985.

Got up early - 9.30am - and had breakfast - mornflakes, harvest crunch, milk, followed by crumbled eggs, and tea. Richard, Tom and Paul went to Joon, Penny and I walk over to the edge of the valley, whilst Graham did the washing up. When we returned to the hut, Graham sent for Joon to catch the others up. Penny returned to los largos to relieve Jan, with a manic siesta explosion. I stayed at the hut, which was open until Alvaro returned from the lakes. The weather at Arlo is beautiful this morning. The sky is very clear, quite a different story from the weather which has been experienced at los largos recently. Although the mist appears to be rising from out of the valley. The hut is surprisingly civilized as compared with the yorkshire huts. Richard and co, hope to have recip around the Joon area for any suitable lakes to begin pushing.

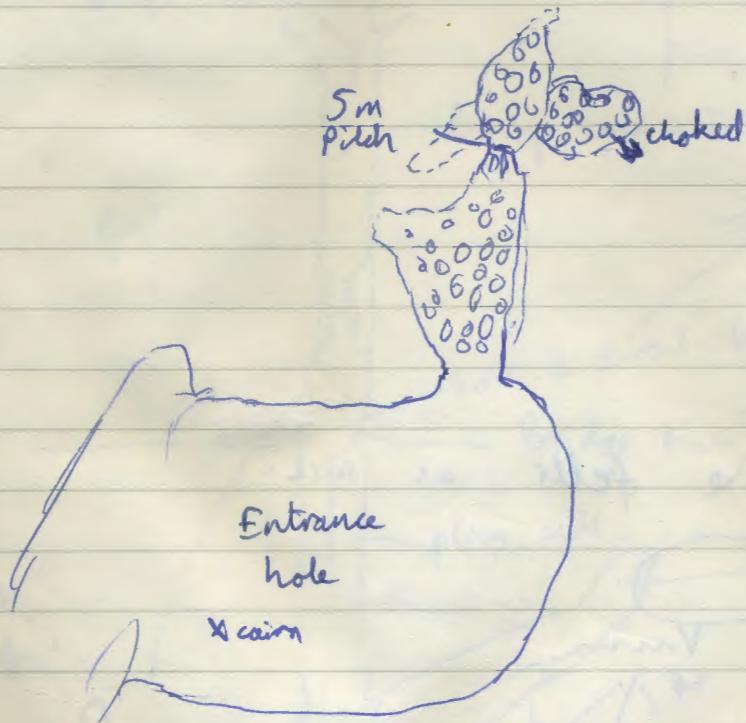
Tom & Graham

went into the Joon basin :-



The Graham story

Found a cave just over half way up the middle of the back ridge of mountains of El Joon. Large depression going down to black 'doorway'; entrance at passage slopes down over loose boulders. A pitch (5m) follows shortly - belay to least loose boulder. Small chamber at bottom, boulders from right hand wall one pushed out of the way exposed crawl into a lower chamber with apparent way on filled with boulders.



I marked ~~the~~ it with a cairn in the depression

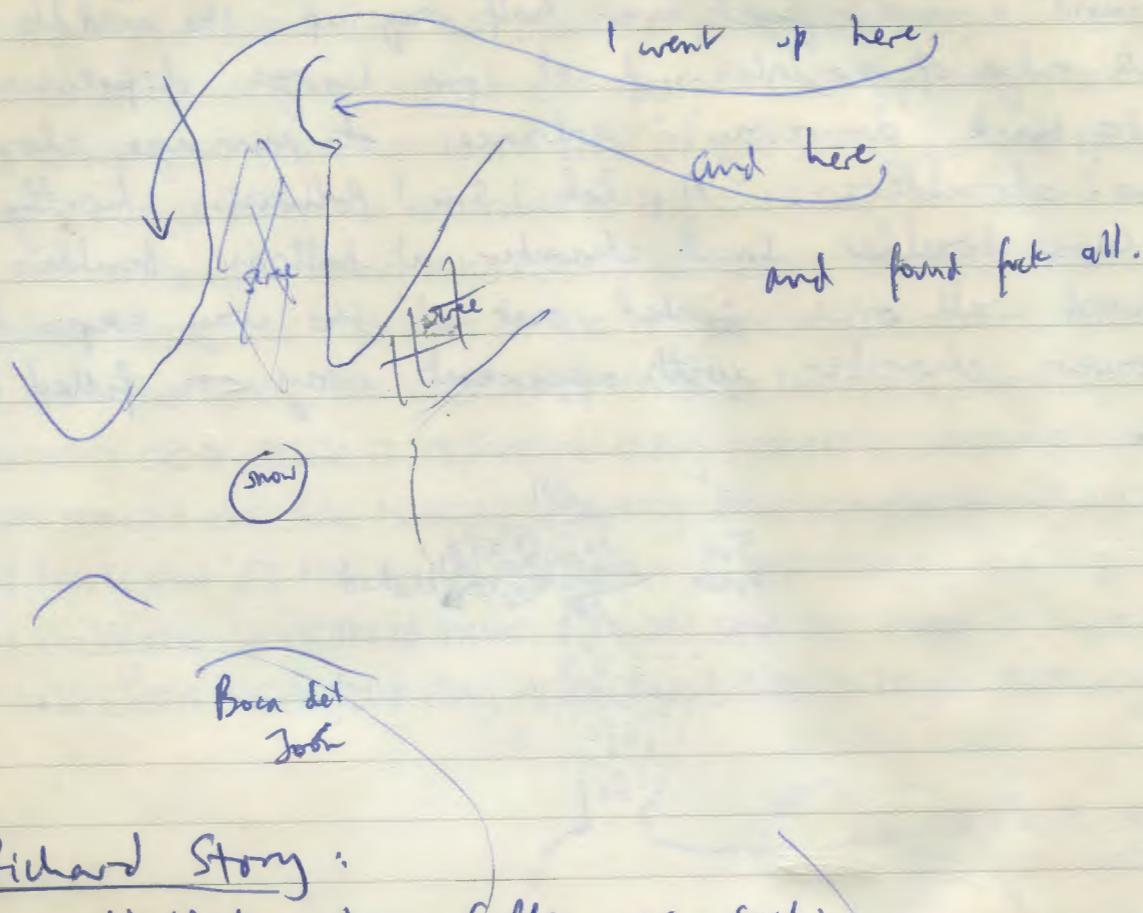
Further up to the left well above the scree were some small shafts 30' or more one with a snow plug (suggest lobbing some ladders down) higher up and to the right also looked promising

PD

no
pines

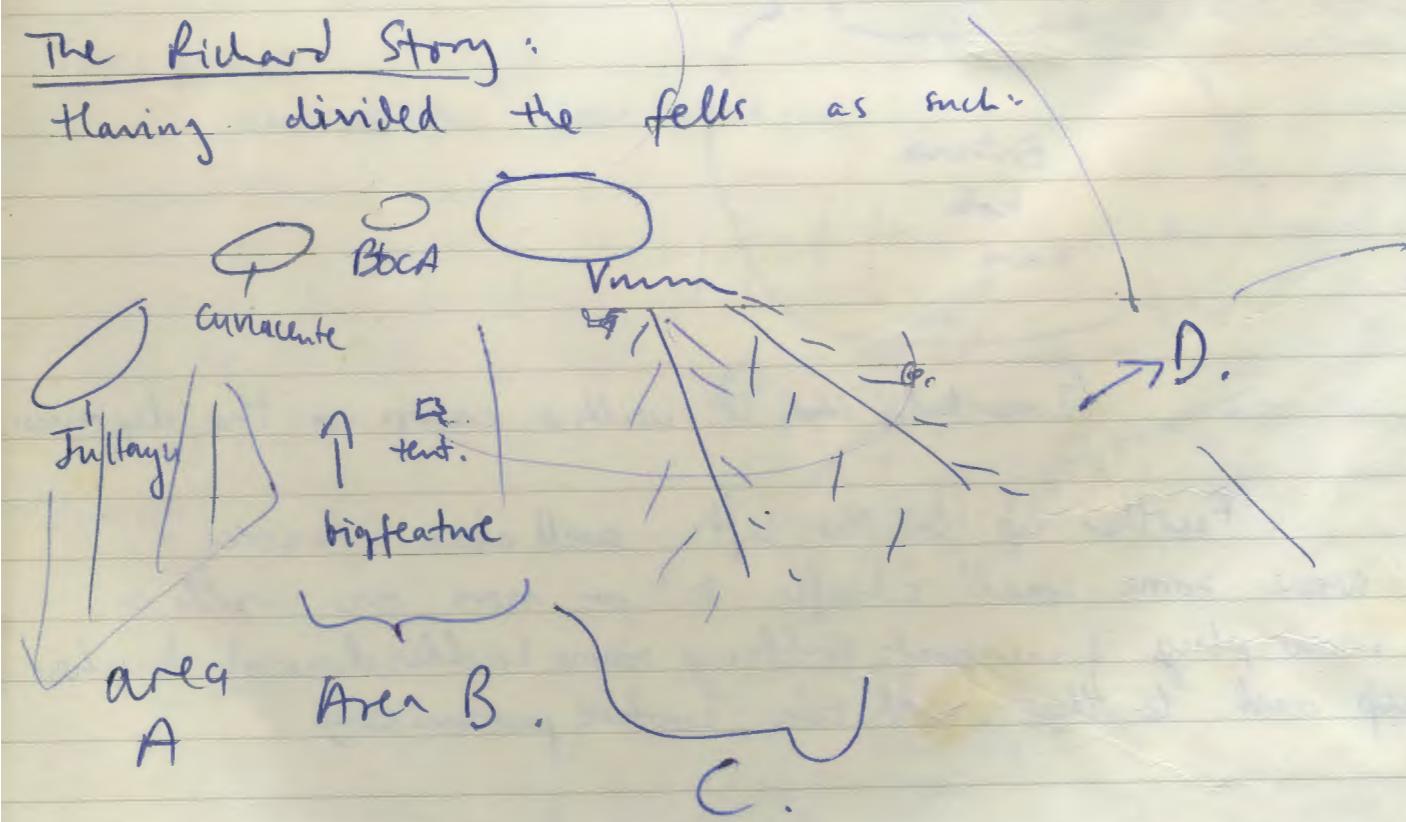
6

The Tom Story



The Richard Story:

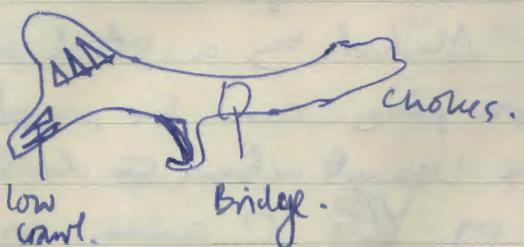
Having divided the fells as such:-



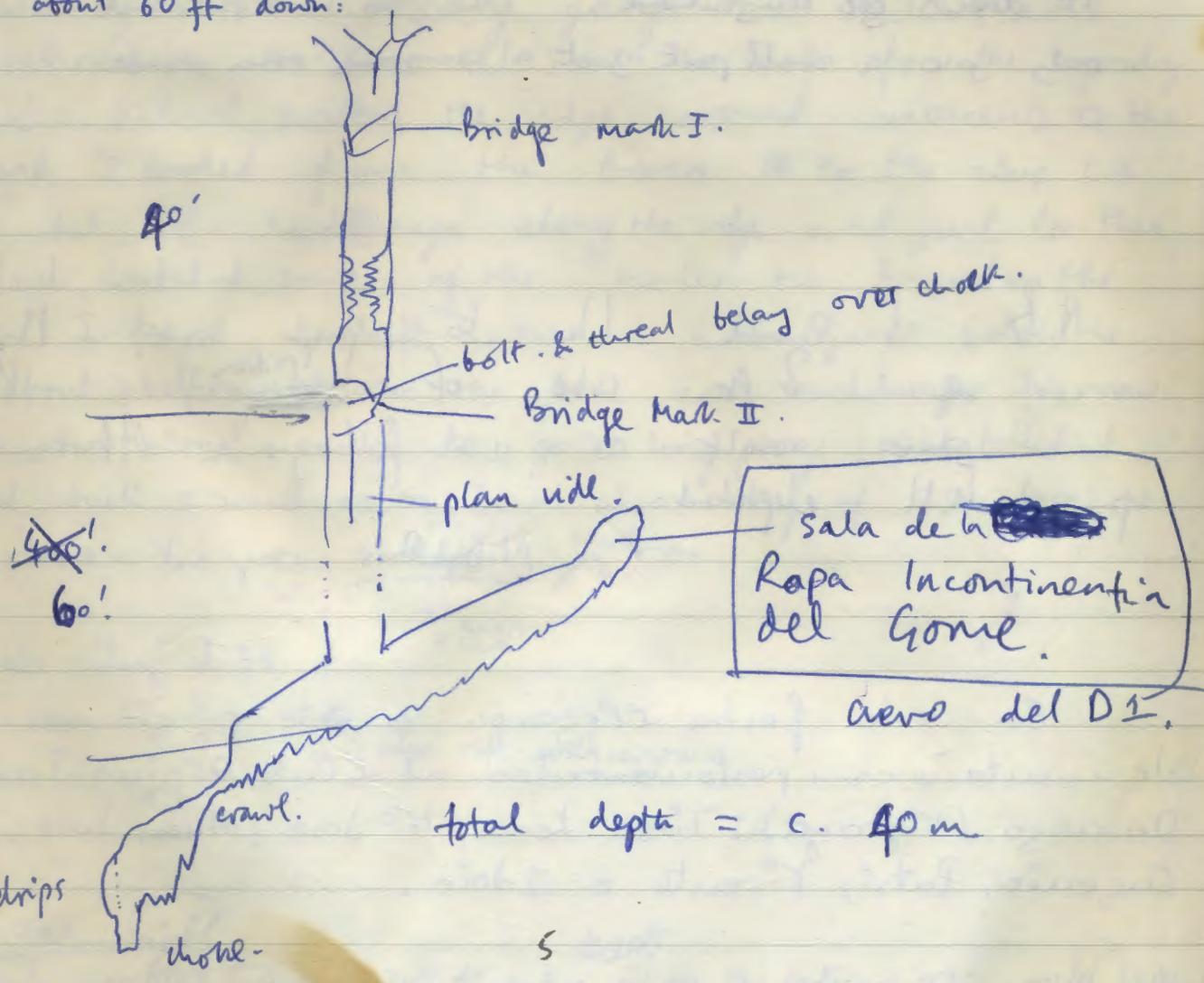
I went to area D, having lost Paul. There I found 1/1 - a cave down which stones fall for a long while. It is situated over the second ridge, on the far side, beneath a hilltop marked with a snappy cairn. A good track on back bearing c. 130 leads from

At tent. Grade I survey.

Plan.



3x natural belays with a bolt & a thread (my rucksack belt)
belay about 60 ft down:



Pre Paul Elson

Egon managed to shake off Richard, & headed up into area C. Behind Pozo Bonachozuri is a large prominent knoll. This forms the boundary between B & C. Area lies up and behind it. Almost immediately is Ch. - A large shaft filled with snow, with on one wall a small chossy entrance - rather like

④

Quatiny Grill. Didn't go down due to lack of ascent but will return. Marked by a cairn high about oblique further up into C is C2. Marked by a stick in a prominent cairn. The snow plug can be passed on the down hill side - again must return to do so. On the far limit to R of ~~R~~ Cancer is an amazing Y shaped bridge over a vast cañon. It doesn't go anywhere! C has vast potential - I only gave a small part of it a cursory once over.

N.B. I should like to point out that a 2 ft. cube of ~~ice~~ ^{solid} is the same weight as a full-grown African male pregnant bull elephant.

N.B. This may not actually be rare.

17 de julio de 1983

En esta fecha llegaron a este refugio un grupo de montañeros, pertenecientes al Club Alpino Tavira de Deba (Vizcaya): Tirso Losa, M^a Jose, Aua, Jose, Ixamia, Eugenio, Patxi, Vicente e Idoia.



Hace un dia nublado, y enregida salimos dirección a Cain.



II GORA MENDIZALEAK !!

Me gusta mucho el refugio y espero volver pronto. Hemos comido muy bien y esto nos ha animado muchisimo para seguir la marcha.

Hasta pronto!

dos vasos

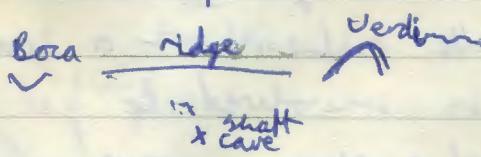
TIRSO LOSA

Lure of the Area

↑ The spanish thought this was the hut book!

Saturday 17th

We had to return to Lagos since the bedrooms were being used by Alvaro's ~~cooking~~ ^{visiting mountain} gang. Paul Richard and Graham returned via the Boca del Torn to look for the legendary 'ridge' cave. Richard walked the ridge around curviente to the Boca and I looked from the Boca to the steep (ie vertical) bit of Verdeluenga along the ridge and just to this side. Paul looked at some of the holes he found in the C area. I found a shaft in the C area just below the ridge about halfway between the Boca and verdeluenga. Narrow entrance, but stones seem to go a long way. We labelled it C3 and built a small cairn; It is at a bearing of 260 from the tent.



y

Plan:-



tent

also rift with crown
bottom here

Sat

Tom & Jan

Went searching for optimists to put a rig on the entrance. This would have been difficult even if we had found it as some * * t * ? had taken the bolting hammer. But we couldn't find it anyway, just ended up circling round in the mist getting further & further from the refugio, occasionally ~~not~~ being able to see ~~each other~~ as far as 20m (wow!).

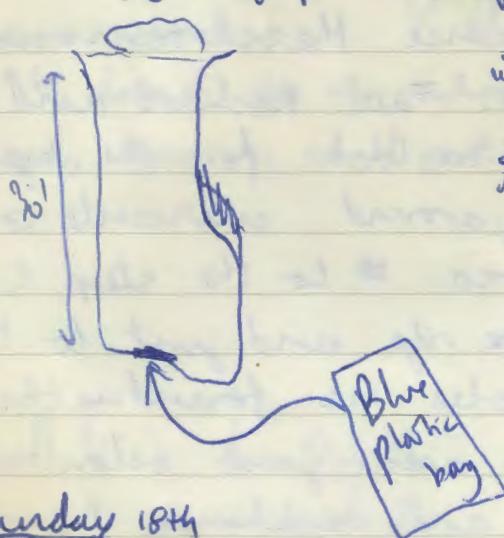
We did find two other caves though. The first gets cosy with more than three people in it (plus salamander & many flies & choss). The second is a shaft of ~30ft (sorry, 10m), which choke at the bottom. It is just off a path which

⑩

leads, according to a shepherd we met, to Arjo. But Jack knows where the path is. Tom will now describe the exciting descent of this amazing shaft complete with blue plastic bag at the bottom.

Help - we round big outcrop at top of hole, back up to boulder behind it. Awkward takeoff. Hard rock outcrop for laying of rope.

30' deep shaft. Most prominent feature at bottom is blue plastic bag "Lay on shaker". Small hole at top of 10' climb turns out to be blind. Pretty boring really.



Now at "Blue Plastic Bag".

Sunday 18th

All went round to the gorge via canyons to put detectors in the possible resurgences. Tom and me took wetsuits to have a look at grotte culiembra - a truly beautiful cave. Wading and swimming is involved to get to a chamber from which a maze of passages run, some down to one a short length of culiembra streamway sumped at each end. Other passages lead to a complex series of high levels (phreatic tubes & flowstone climbs) - I could almost smell the burst plastic bags! Definitely worth further exploration, photographing & possibly surveying if there's time - probably requires camping at camp. Or carmen?

P.S. Had to drive back in thick mist having consumed a full bottle of the local cider - Ribera Gilster!! P.W.C.

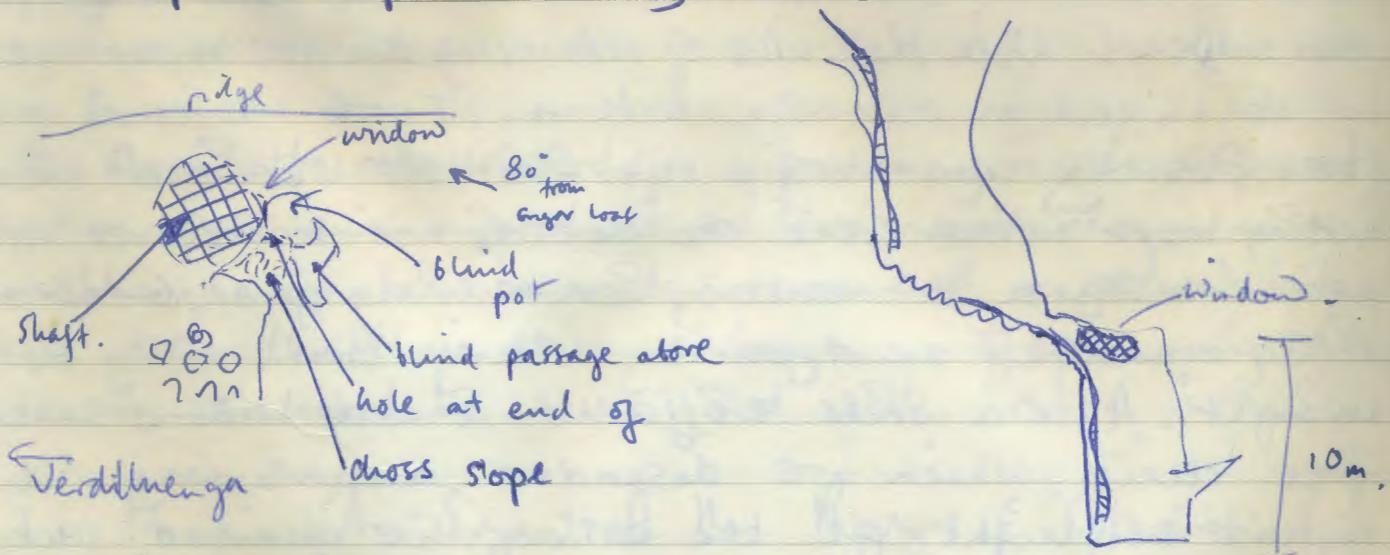
P.P.S. Everyone else crashed out except those who could see the way we were going.

or rather were trying but couldn't see

Mon 19th

Paul & Richards story.

Spent the morning in camp @ los Lagos. Walked to Aris in the late afternoon & then up to area C to return to CG, descended & marked on Saturday. Entrance pitch of 10m, face climbed with aid of 5m ladder. Leads to a chossy slope, far side of which is a low crag leading to a 10m pitch down to a blind pot. 3-5m down this pitch on its R wall was a window leading through to a large shaft, \approx 7x10m across and a 3sec stone. To drop - Our 5m remaining ladder was not quite up to it! We named the pitch Thunderstorm pot - due to preceding weather and the pot cave provisionally as Pozo del Relájero.



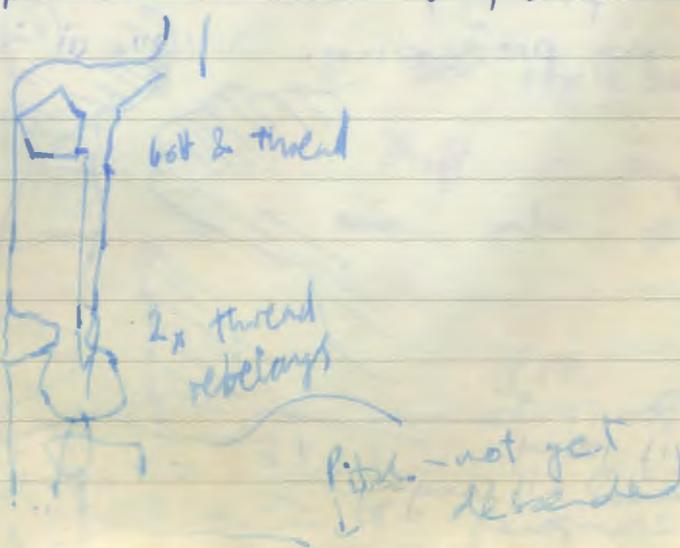
Plan.

Cave depth = 25m + 3sec shaft.

Tues Paul, Richard & Tom

Through the window:

diagram courtesy of RG



(12)

Tuesday 20th.

The Penny and Helly expedition into the unknown!!!

After telling Richard, Paul and Tom to venture into their "cave". With strict instructions to go high. We ventured up into the "mountains" of somewhere to look for a "mega" cave — the deepest in the world — ha, ha!! After climbing hours and hours we reached a good! area. No really interested in the idea of finding caves and feeling decidedly hungry we found a cave, "it looks a good", I said unknowingly. There were a few natural ledges, but, we decided not to rig it owing to the fact that we were to stay, and it was a bit narrow, we didn't want to damage ourselves! With the idea of returning tomorrow on our minds we continued on our way. Like in 10 yds we found another possible cave along a rift. Also there were good ledges. Getting more ^(un) enthusiastic we decide not to descend and again return to-morrow, with caving gear. (and enthusiasm)

We continued our journey looking down every hole in sight. After a while we found a cave with a small free climb, which we descended a short way, only to find sunlight at the bottom. We climbed out, and went in a the bottom entrance. There was a large snow plug, and a number of possible routes. One looking promising.



Now feeling very good having done something constructive
we went back for late dinner.

P.S. we got a lovely sun tan / (burn)

Stand by for Part of this thrilling adventure with
the intrepid explorers.

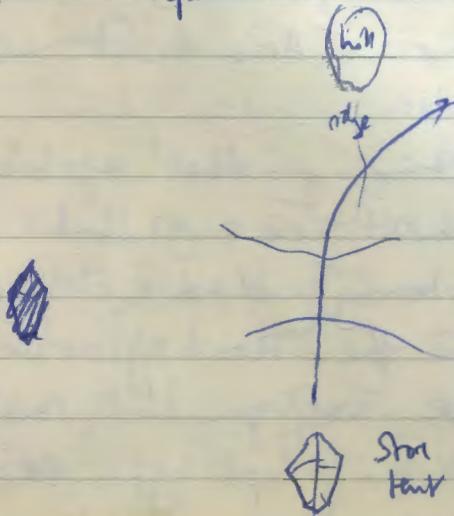
Kelly. 20/7/92.

and (incidentally) because we had no waders + my boots had holes
in, no trousers or padded suit, and only one helmet with
a light. am (P.S.)

P.S. Overall the area looked very promising, - the collapsed
system which we entered at a lower level may indicate
something even better beneath - we had a general look
around but there were a large no. of promising signs.
all those we looked at were filled with chas. Pen

Tom + Penny The Saga of the Rigging of Optimus

To get to Optimus - hit hit



Over ridge & bar (R).

Shift is easy to
miss unless you're Penny.

PTD

(14)

Rig is by bolts - on rock on side of shaft towards Refugio (i.e. RHS to look uphill).
2 bolts + terrain threat delay which sets as traverse line - was tied to its before clifftop or to wall rope. c. 70' feet long & no cut points.
N.b. This rig is the first two bolts I have ever put in. daugh!!

Wednesday 21st

Graham & Jan went to rig Grahams shaft (c 3) with 100m of lightweight rope. But the rope wasn't where it should have been when we arrived there (in the tent by the big feature). So we cursed and ate some savory rice & beef stroganoff with Richard & Tom who arrived just after us. Then we took our climbing gear to shaft, lobbed some rocks down and went after Helen, Penny & Alvaro to get rope from them. But they didn't have it either. ~~Bollocks!~~ Continued wandering around in mist till we found Richard and Tom about to descend C4. They had no bright ideas so went up to C3 to hang a bolt in and decide how to rig first pitch.

Looked in big hole with snowplough on way back but it didn't go anywhere. Wandered back to Refugio collecting herbal tea on way.

The Bedtime Story! (Not very heroic or epic at all)

Penny, Helen, Alvaro (Ariu hut warden)

With a view to continuing the 'epic' (epic?) saga of area E (which we almost managed to ~~not~~ engage upon yesterday) H, A + P took the notoriously long & hard route up to the two tijos we intended to explore. At entrance one we paused, rigged up + looked at each other. Helen left for the SRT rope.

Alvaro exclaimed "you go?", "Of course" said Helen in a butch voice, ~~the 2 octaves~~ (lower than normal) with a dismissive wave of the hand. 3 seconds (about) later she'd wisked up & down the shaft & proclaimed it 'no go' (her words). So on to the next. Alvaro + I studied the very exciting bedding planes at the top of the pitch while Helen left down the 15m, bounded back up (scouring the ladder) and explored a lower entrance. - Again - "No Go":

The mist came down. — We go to the top of the 'Hill' (Verdillaenga). (typical Spanish logic). Helen + I sat down. "we go up" - Alvaro (more persuasive) - "but you can't see anything!"
"only 10 minutes."
— All the Spanish lie

Having gone all the way to the top we ~~would~~ came all the way down again

[After this fucking megs epic to the top of Verdillaenga a very pissed off Helen was spaded on by us though off coffee and cigs at Arto. Apart from the fact that I hate heights and ~~can stand exposed heights~~ ^{climbs} I had climbed to the top amidst much "I am not going any further", "Ten minutes at 50 mph!", "Bloody fucking Dagos" and "I am hungry".

We then walked further towards Arto until I found a cave!!!?!! — shitty nasty hole. — Helen.

--- and when we'd got lower than it was possibly worth looking for caves Alvaro's eye caught site of a small gap in the grass — "Cave" he cried He's got to be joking I muttered --- "Cave" he insisted and started kicking shit out the poor thing to + Bernardo after an hour of constant application of various parts of the body the gap had

become a "hole" of about 12" diameter

"You go -- the finger pointed at intrepid Helen
"what me?" Said intrepid Helen -(not very intrepidly)

"No Go" Said Helen 15 minutes + a lot of dirt
later.

"No, No, No" Said Alvaro + disappeared head first.

"is very good - is very very good" - is just
one more big rock" - Alvaro was pulled
out by his feet. "Helen go --"

Helen went --- and kicked the rock
irreparably into the passage, blocking it
completely - is good, No! - very good.

[It wouldn't have been the deepest hole
in the world anyway]

(Inside the hole, for that is all one could call it; it
was dirty, muddy to a point. It was merely a through
a through to end off throughs. it was about 10ft long
at most and aptly name the scroff hole. Alvaro was
not impressed by our lack of enthusiasm. Holly.

So once again we set off home for lunch

- "we look for Spring. no" said Alvaro

"is here, - or here" - here - was not
a Spring - ~~except~~ it was another cave

- this time rather more possibly epic with a large
gaping entrance under ~~an~~ overhanging rock 10m
above the SIE path

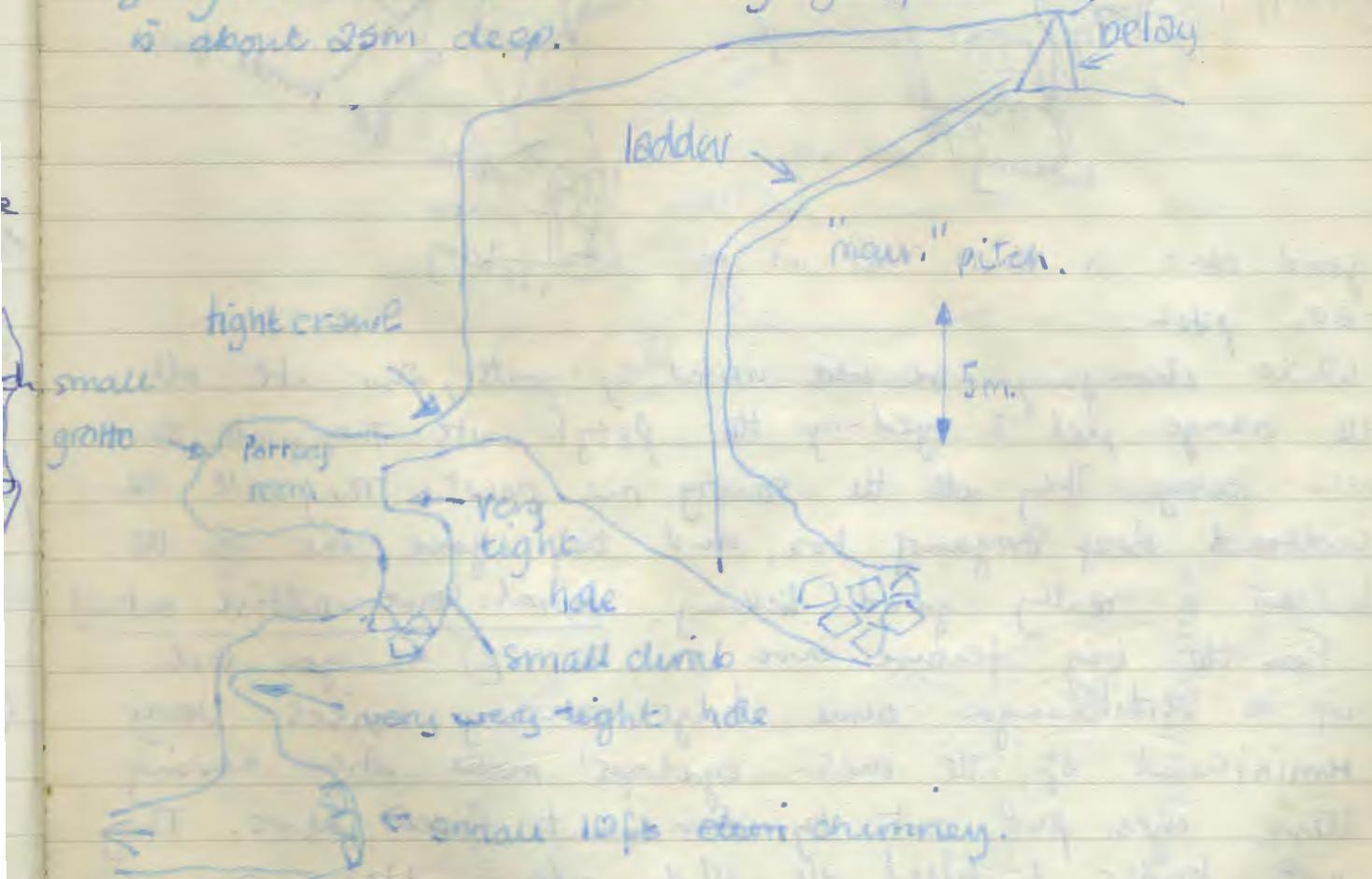
"is good, no"

Oh Shit - -

- but it won't be the deepest cave in
the world I muttered - in vain - Helen
was already down the bottoming a 13m pitch
into a large chossy cave. His large roomy

Kenly.

Hole leads via short tight crawl into ~~the~~ a small grotto - "the pottery room" + thense. We continued down a small climb, and removing a few boulders were able to continued down through an extremely small hole down to a ten foot ~~etage~~ chimney. Alvaro continued on slightly further with the now only operating light. He said that the passage choked again but he could fell a draft of air coming up wards. We assume that by removing a few more boulders it may go further. At the moment it is about 25m deep.



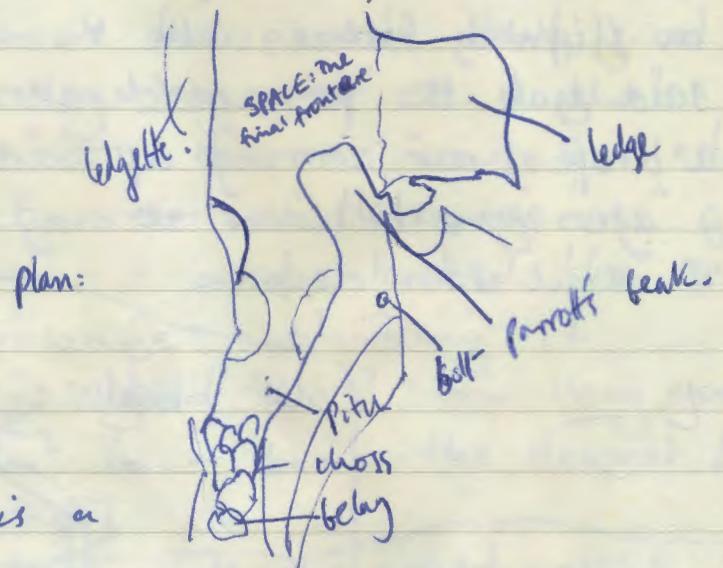
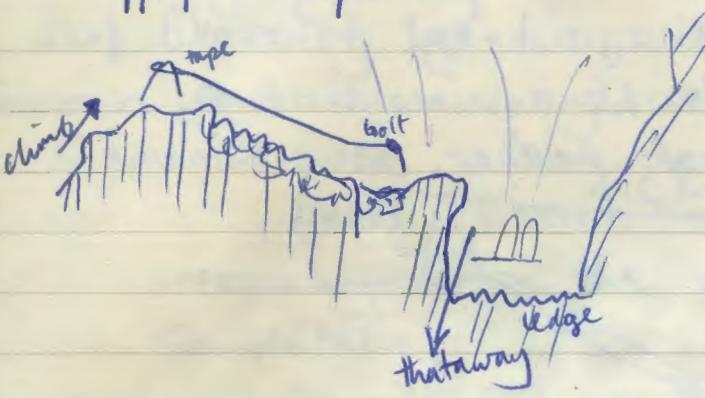
Possible continuation:

This can was the most promising of the day, and after descending so far as we dare (owing to having only one functioning light between the three of us). We returned to the surface and I derigged theaverse pitch. We then return to area and arrived at about 7:30 pm after an amazing day.

Kelby

(18) Tom & Richard down the real cave: C4 Play School Lt.

Went down, replacing Tom Edlenid with Bluerwater III. Tom put in a bolt @ head of 3rd pitch but we didn't use it! The boulder in the roof seems to be attached on one side? We didn't manage to rig pitch 5 however: we graded the slope but found it impossible to put in but one bolt, & that in an inappropriate place:

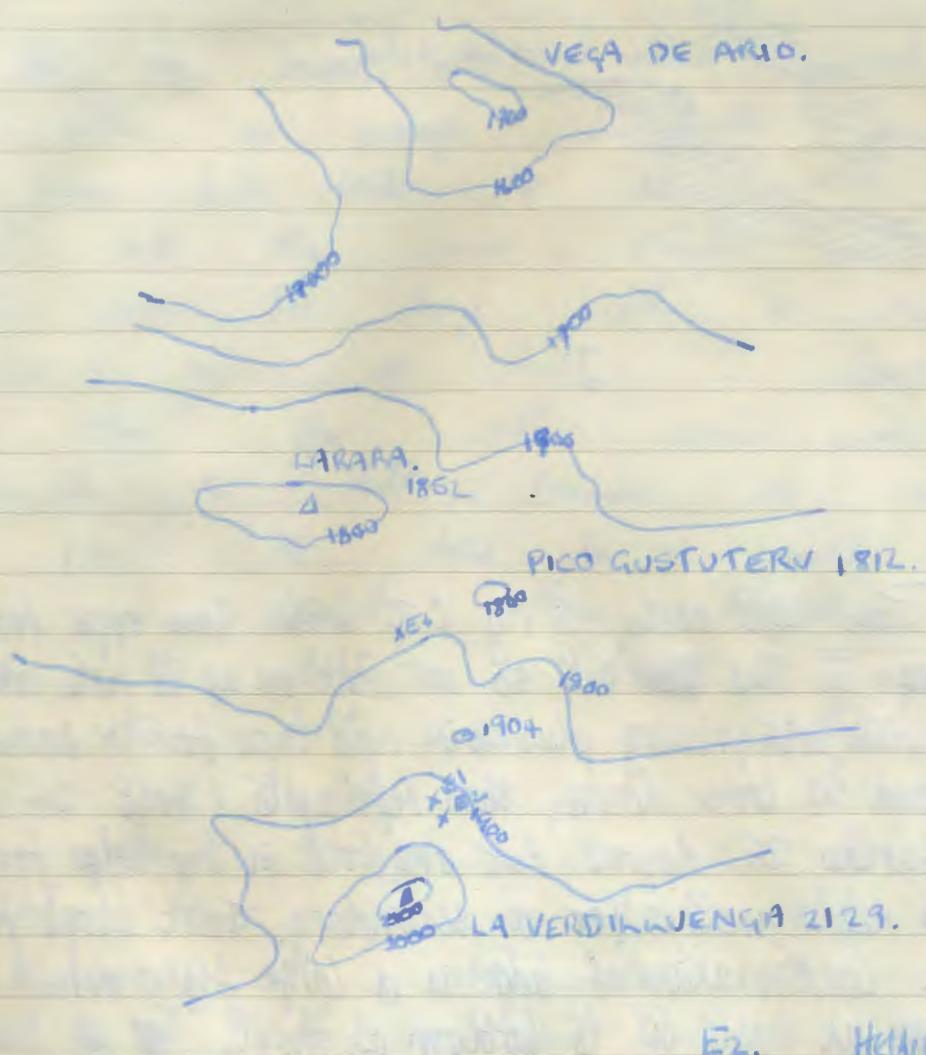


The good news is that this is a 50-60m pitch.

p.s. While changing we were visited by goats, who ate all the orange peel & eyed-up the petzl suits. They ate the used tentay. They ate the savory rice paket. They ate the cardboard Beef Stroganoff box, and they gave one of the ladders a really good licking. Moral: leave rubbish outside

p.p.s. From the big feature cave on the Ø as you look up to Verdikkengen came huge roaring noises very reminiscent of the ones cyclops' make when having their eyes put out by itinerant Greek Leos. They got louder, & filled the whole valley. We ran on past. Moral: Let sleeping dragons lie.

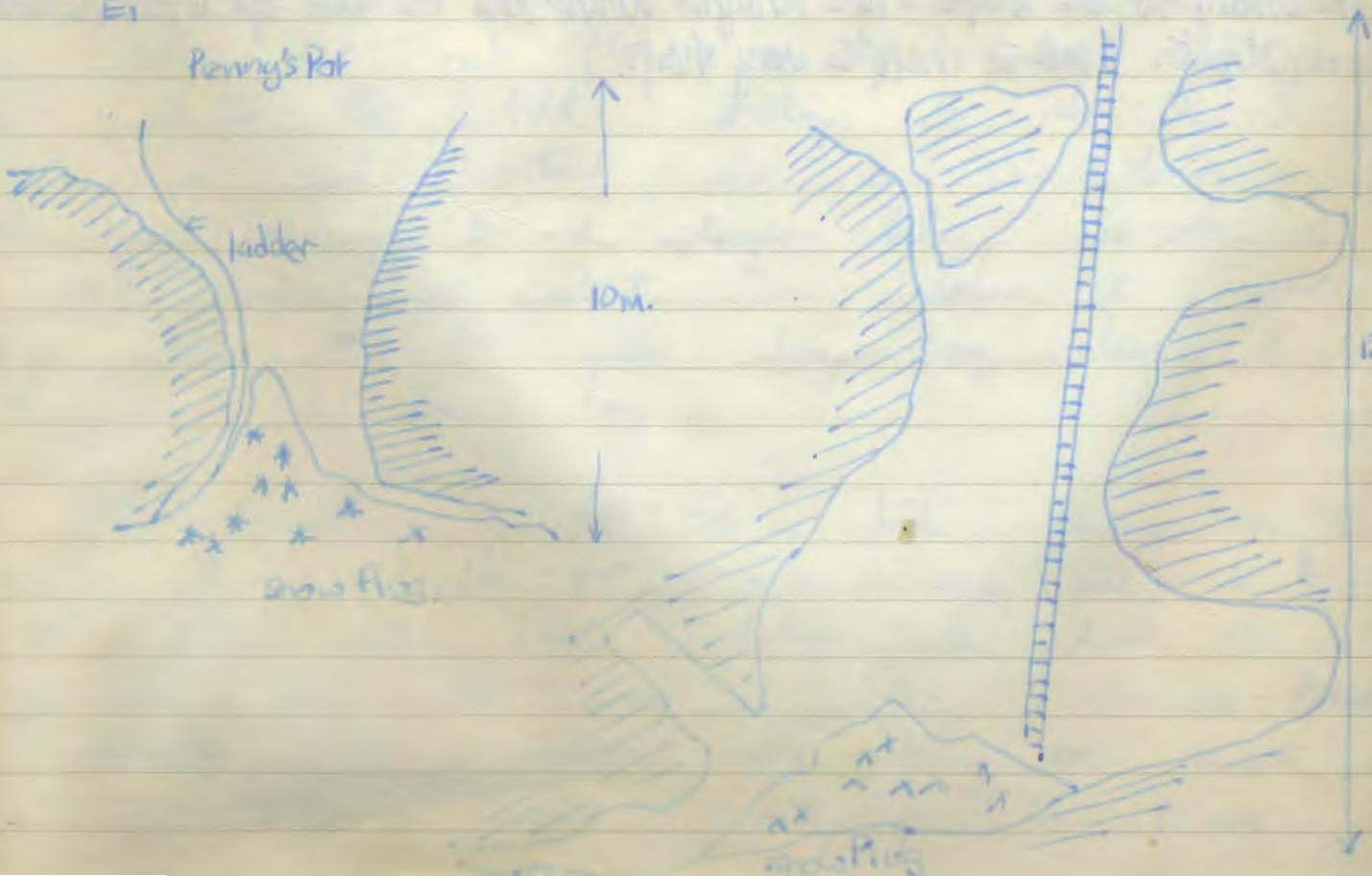
continued - "The penny, Helly, alvaro mega epic."



E2. Helly's Hdg.

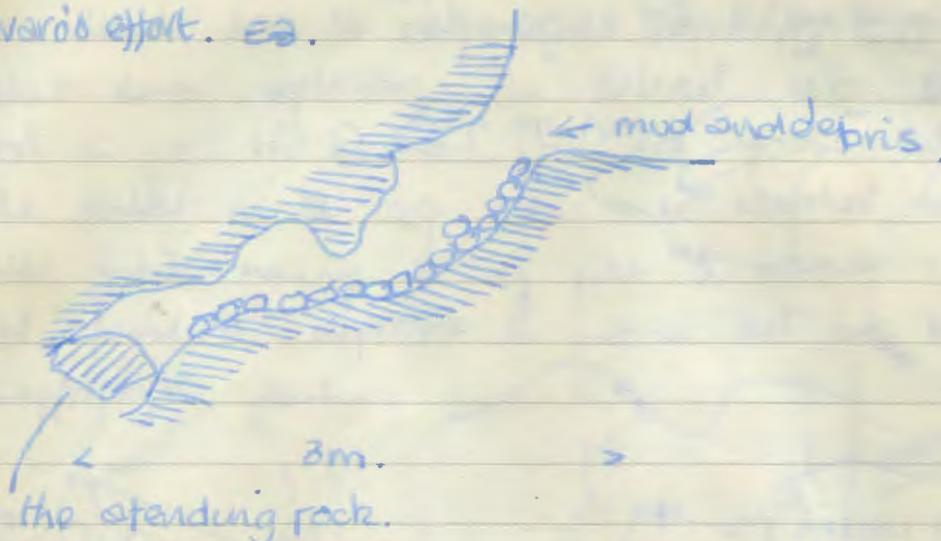
E1

Penny's Pat



20

Alvaro's effort. E2.



Thursday 22nd

Graham & Jan left early to rig C3 with 9mm rope from C4. This time the rope was in the ~~new~~ tent so we went on up to hole with rope. Rigged ~~first~~ first pitch with bolt primary plus wire and tape for X backup. Rebelayed to two bolts about 50' lower down, then repelayed to 1 bolt 25' lower, then land on ledge further 25' down. Put one bolt in by ledge for fourth pitch but still needs another for a secondary. Just about room for 2 people on ledge. Continuation of ledge is a large flake which splits rift in two. Still ~~at~~ at least 60' to bottom of shaft. All these rebelay's are necessary as the shaft is not straight down and the 9mm rope is not abrasion resistant. Rock in shaft is very sharp.

Thurs. 22nd. Playschool Pot (cont'd) ((4)). Paul & Tom.

(2)

Returned to my large pitch. Rock around side of led & pitch up passage inappropriate for bolting - v. hard & flaky, hole tends to turn into funnel if you don't hit the draw straight on.

Walk down to ledge with a view to rigging from for site of shaft. I banged a bolt in on the far wall - some sort of rock but possible to bolt because at easy portion it was possible to stand in - could hold four straight & go carefully. Rock blunted a couple of teeth of the bolt - v. hard & crystalline. Nasty!

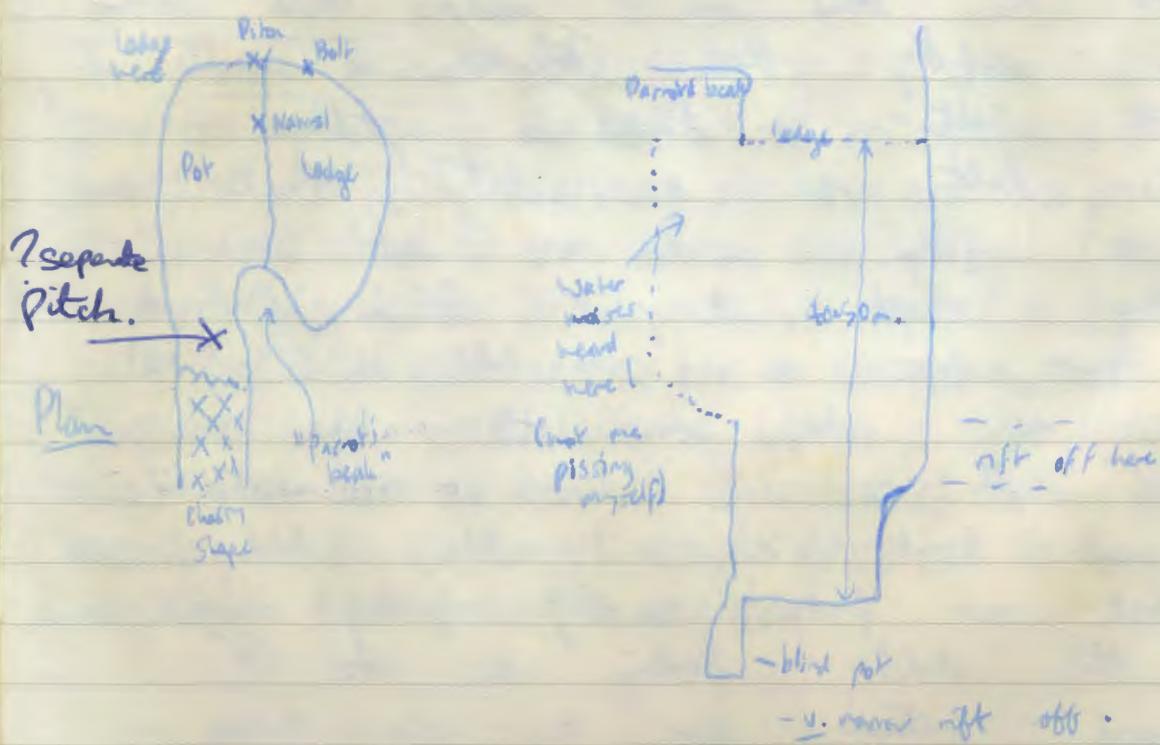
Using this bolt as a safety, Paul then put in a piton in a rock over the pit. I then rigged it c. 86 m. Maltese (in tributary) - piton as 1°, bolt as 2°, tail end of rope to rope down to ledge as 3° because 1°, 2° bolt a bit dubious. I absailed off the piton - rock about c. 3 m. down which I tried to bolt but rock flaked horribly fucking awful and also blunted the bolt. Looking to the (R) I found a good natural for a nose belay - had to run rig & a large belay, as there is a rock ridge for about 3 m. below it against which rope on runs with long belay clear it. It gave a few hang.

Pit probably c. 40-50 m. high, landing on sharp floor. Small pit under ledge side is c. 1 m. deep and blind. What up leads to open narrow rift with chasm in which I cannot - 2 pitchable. No water visible down the shaft a fair depth - water seems to be present

(2)

in slot in up-passage wall of pitch which doesn't seem to go all the way to the bottom - marks looking at pitch from up-passage near to choss.

N.B. Advisable on future visits to replace being from pitch, or at least protect it, as it rubs like buggly - also Paul went gay when I abseiled off the pitch.

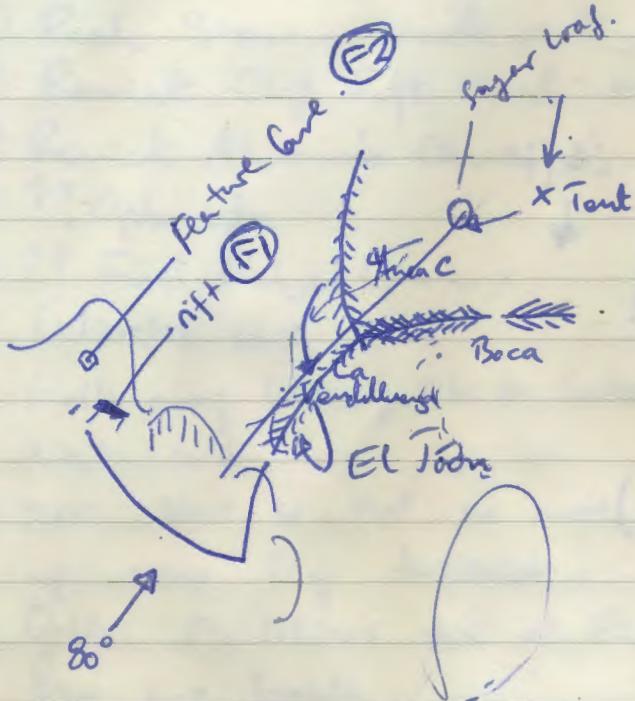


Technical Note: Piton referred to is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " knifeblade in a planed crack - probably just about capable of holding the weight of the rope!

23/7/82.

(23)

Today is my birthday! To celebrate the occasion we went on a hike over most of the local scenery:-

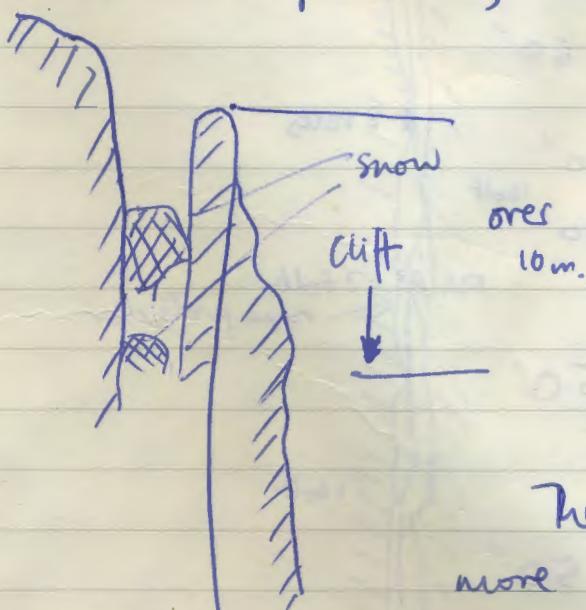


Passed Helen's & Penny's cave.

Found two promising ones:

Cliff - Rift - Hard.

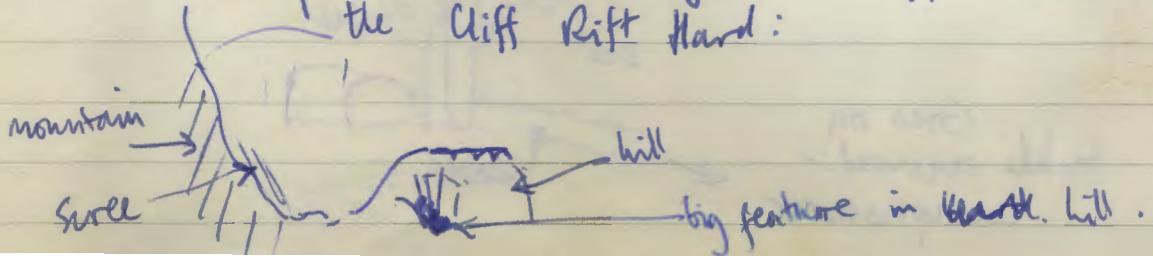
~~Rift - Cliff - Hard.~~



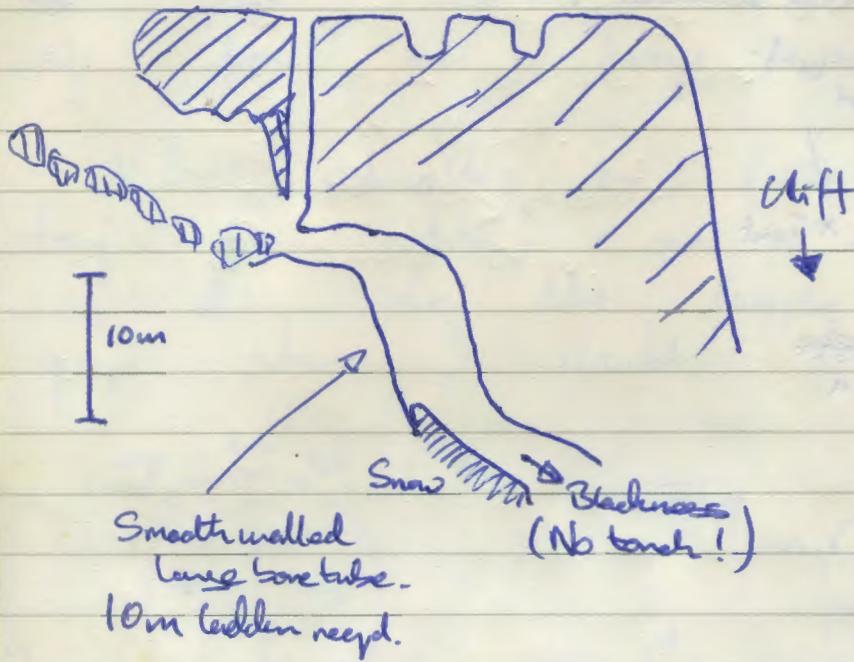
couldn't get down to the
2nd snow plug. Must return
with more ladder.

The other cave is much
more exciting but isn't in the
side of a cliff. You can see it from

the Cliff Rift Hard:



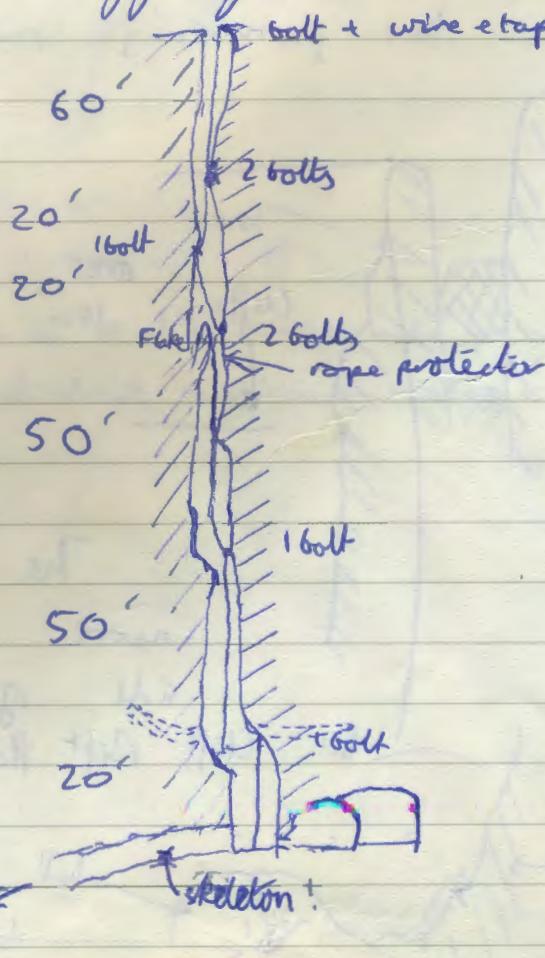
(21) The big feature cave, called FU - 56 is in fact cave F2 (Clift Rift Hard = F1)



Fri 23

Jan & Graham to continue rigging Shaven crack pot (C3) complete rig now looks:-

80m



Goes on
tackle required:-
Lump hammer.

(23)

Things to be done next week:

- ① Push or runny Playschool Pat.
- ② Push Shavers creek pat. ✓
- ③ Revisit Cliff Rift Head & F4-56. ✓
- ④ Revisit Almenas Cave ✓
- ⑤ ?? Optimists. ✓
- ⑥ ?? Find Ridge Caves. x
- ⑦ Culiembro cave
- ⑧ Walk along line of Xita to Culiembro & look into holes along Xita's line.
- ⑨ Move tent so that no more 100m lengths get nicked, ?set up camp. Rig tarpaulin x
- ⑩ Cheer on Helen's race at Eñol on Sunday — no race.
- ⑪ Buy more brandy. ✓
- ⑫ Mark path.

(nb)

- 24/7/82
- ① Walked down from Ario → Cangas.
 - ② Ate enormous meal
 - ③ Met Dave, George, Bill & Mark
 - ④ Return to Los Lagos
 - ⑤ Got Pissed.
 - ⑥ Got very pissed.
 - ⑦ Wrote this.

24/7/82 2X Martin left Cardiff 9.30

Met John & Andy in Ox 12 & got to Dover 4 minutes after the ferry left thanks to navigator extraordinaire Singleton - 'I've only forgotten one thing' - Singleton who, on this occasion, had lost his compass, sense of direction, sense of time & A219(3) sometime before somewhere near Hammersmith. Had something approximating to a meal while John tried washing the floor with our tea & then ensconced ourselves in the bar on the 6pm ferry until about 8pm.

25/7 Escaped from France in about 16 hrs and arrived at Cangas as most of the crowds from the Shepherd's Fiesta had joined the queue to Arinadas & beyond. Ate at Rio Grande & met Jan @ 9 pm.

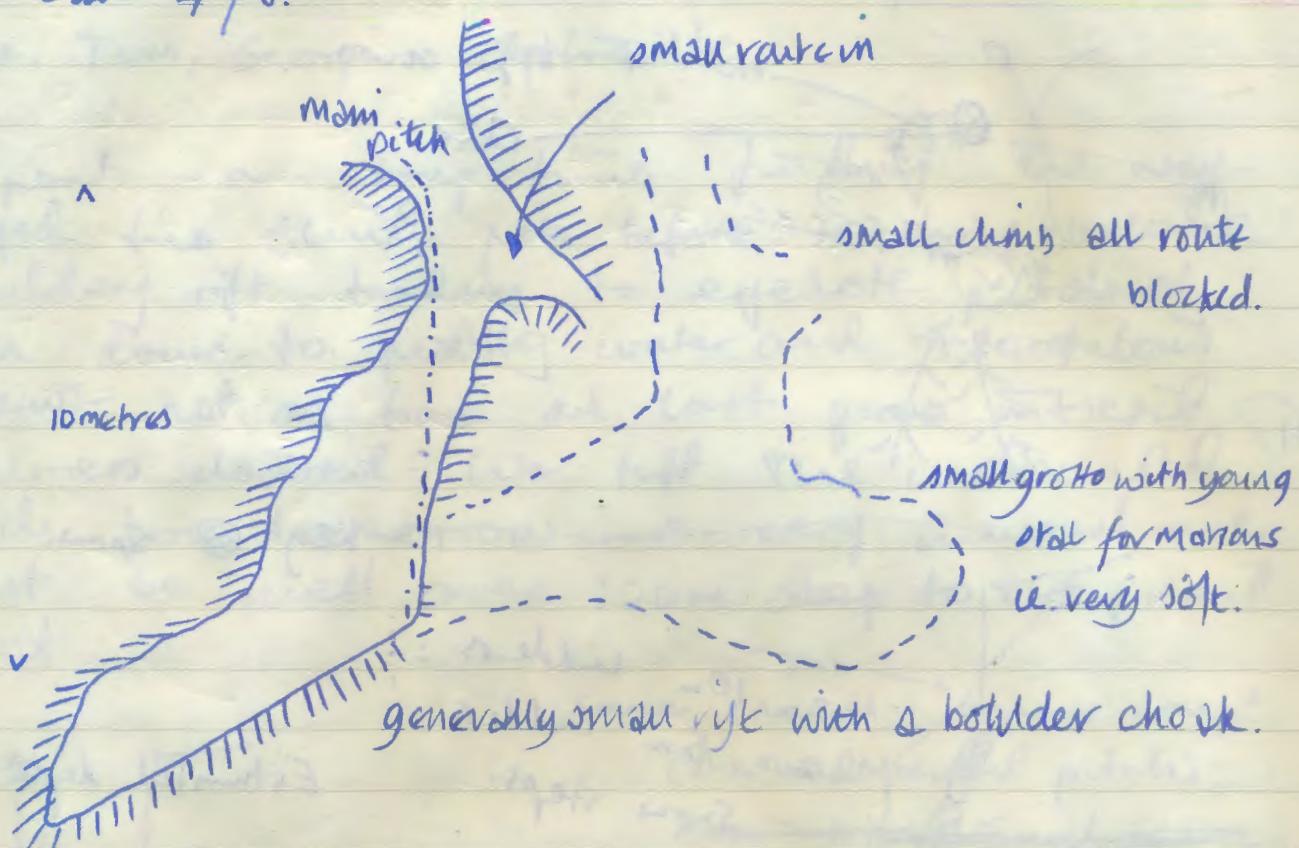
26/7 N Pushing 4/8 Helios William

Walked up from Ario in $\frac{1}{2}$ hr & rigged unexplored hole with 10m ladder & wire belay. At bottom of pitch, a wide rift opens out which is full of bloss & chokes it out. Walked back via a hole bottomed by the S.I.E. (ahes) or the summit of Pico Gustavo. Extreme shakehole of 4/8 Bearings: - Justayor 134° Peña Santa 198°

26/7/82 Jan placed two dye detectors in Tira resurgence. See Little Blue book for where they are.

27/08

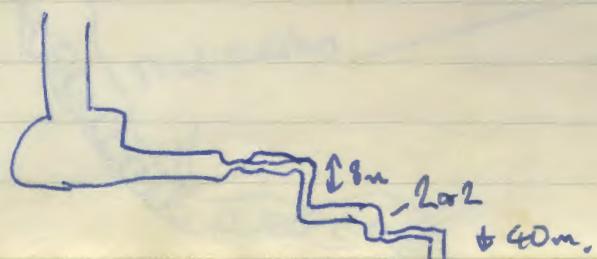
Cave 4/8.



Graham - went to rig the 40m pitch in C3.
Took a 35 m rope. Wasn't long enough.
Came back.

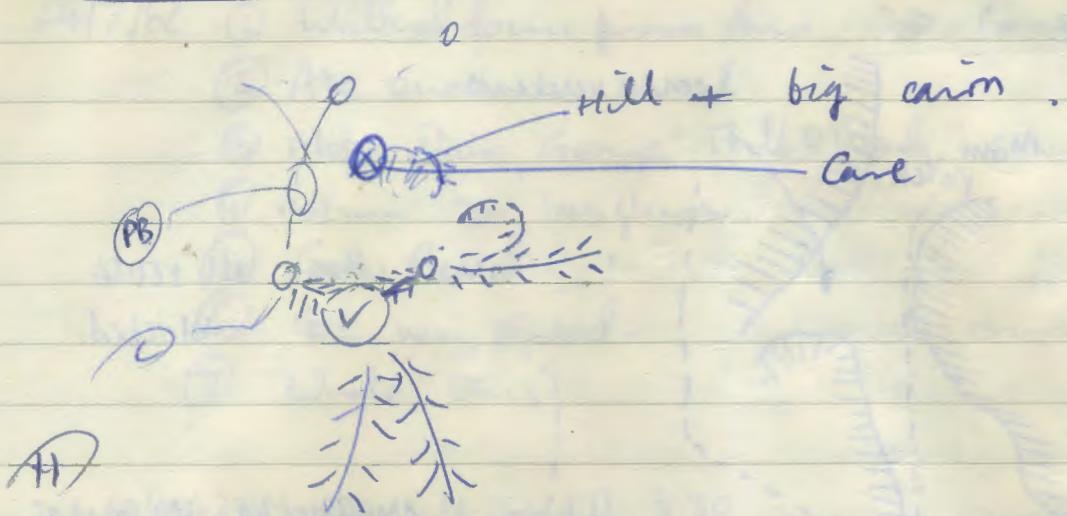
25/08/82 - Below alone!

Paul & Richard: Watch Helen not moving at junction! Walked up to this, then to C3. Attacked rift in lemmas 25m of rift to oppose. Named Manx Manoeuvre. Beyond squeeze 8m ladder pitch, 2m free climb followed by another 2m climb then a 40m pitch. Richard had great trouble with squeeze, hence late back



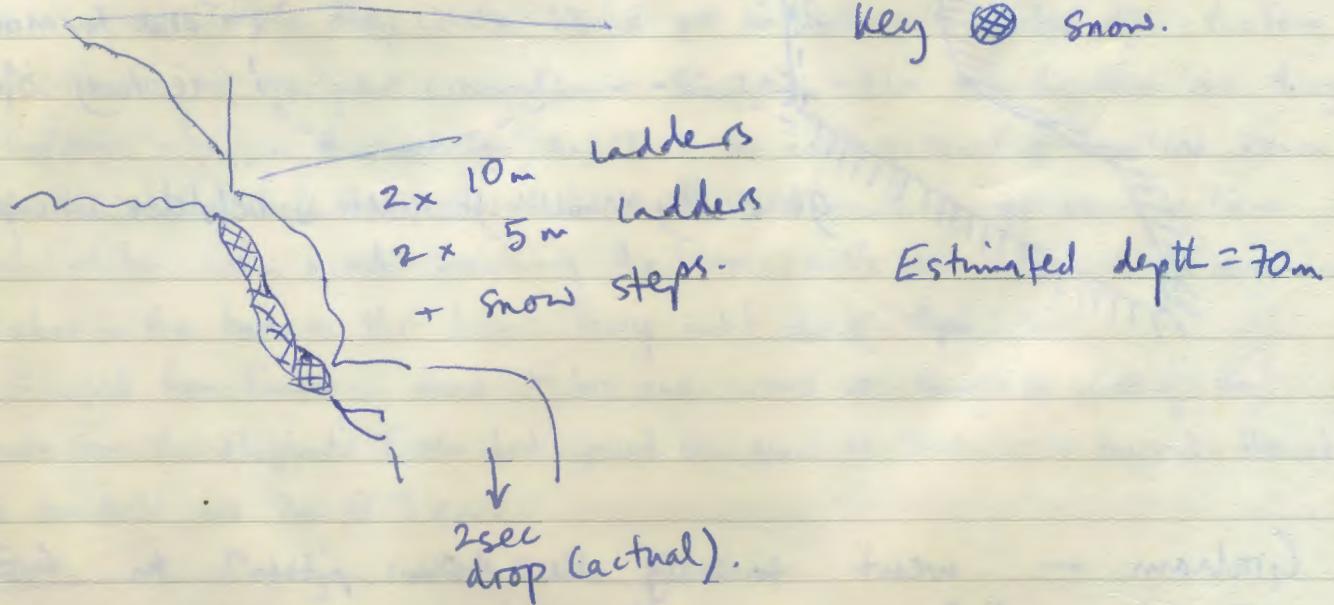
28

Cave FV-56.



AD

Key Snow.

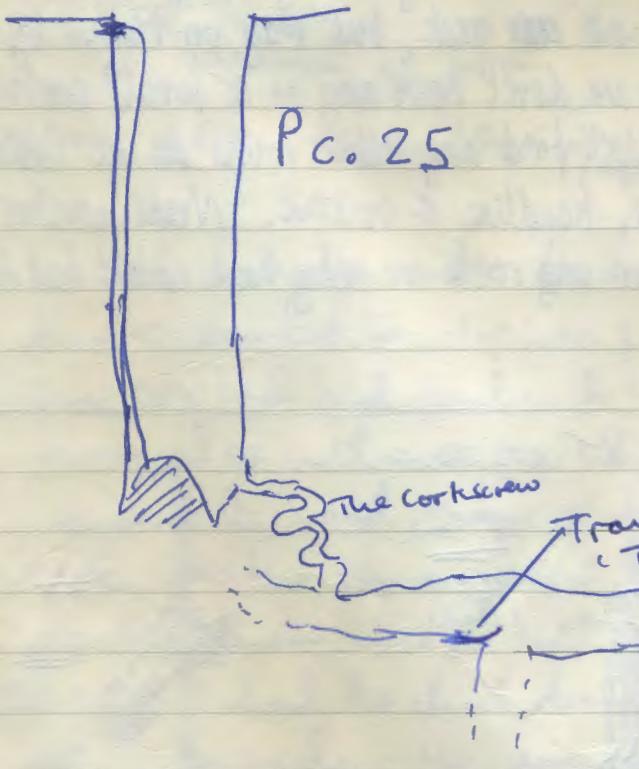


(29)

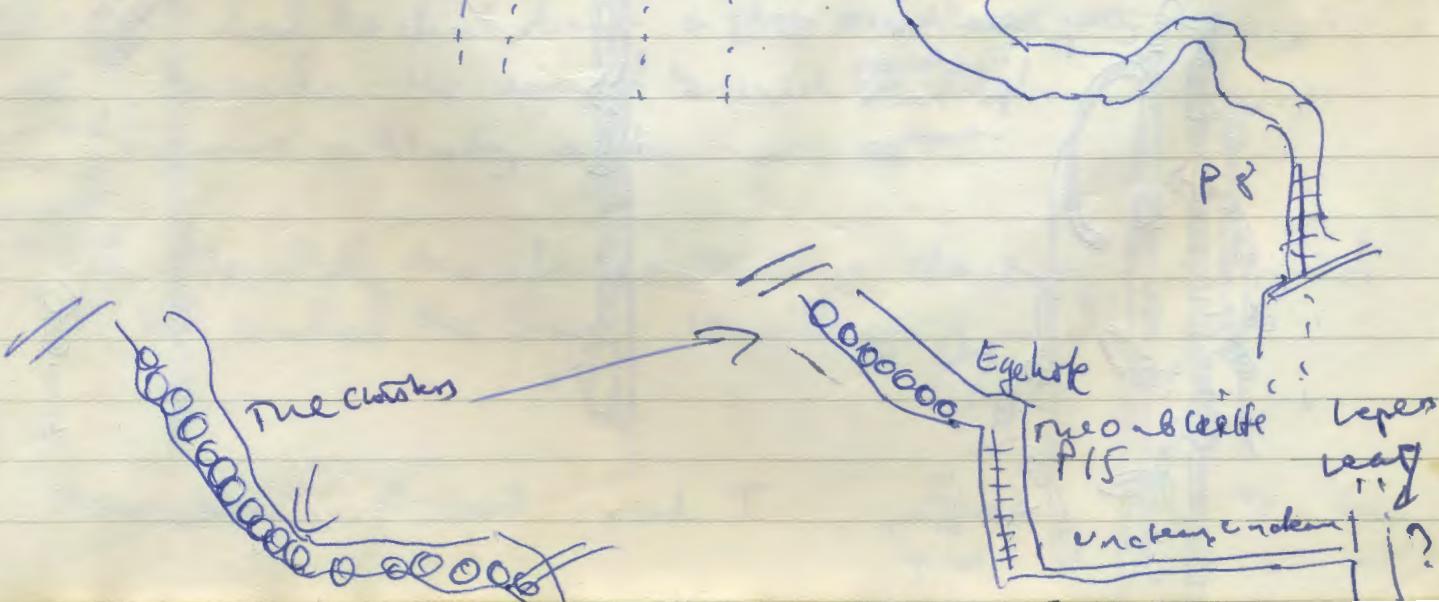
26/2/82

Dave, Tom, George - Opturists.

Spent a long time finding the way-rigged two fluid pots before reaching u-wore bouldery soft leading to eyehole pitch at 15m down to muddy water and scrotulous crawl not as bad as last year's intrepid explorers claimed. We left the undescended pitch for tomorrow. A very unusual cave must be well over 100m deep to the present limit.



Some names - 'Lepers' Leap'
(The undescended pitch);
~~The King's Jamb~~ (The
scrotulous crawl)
'Unclean, Unclean' - (The
crawl); 'Theoublette'
(The pitch before it)

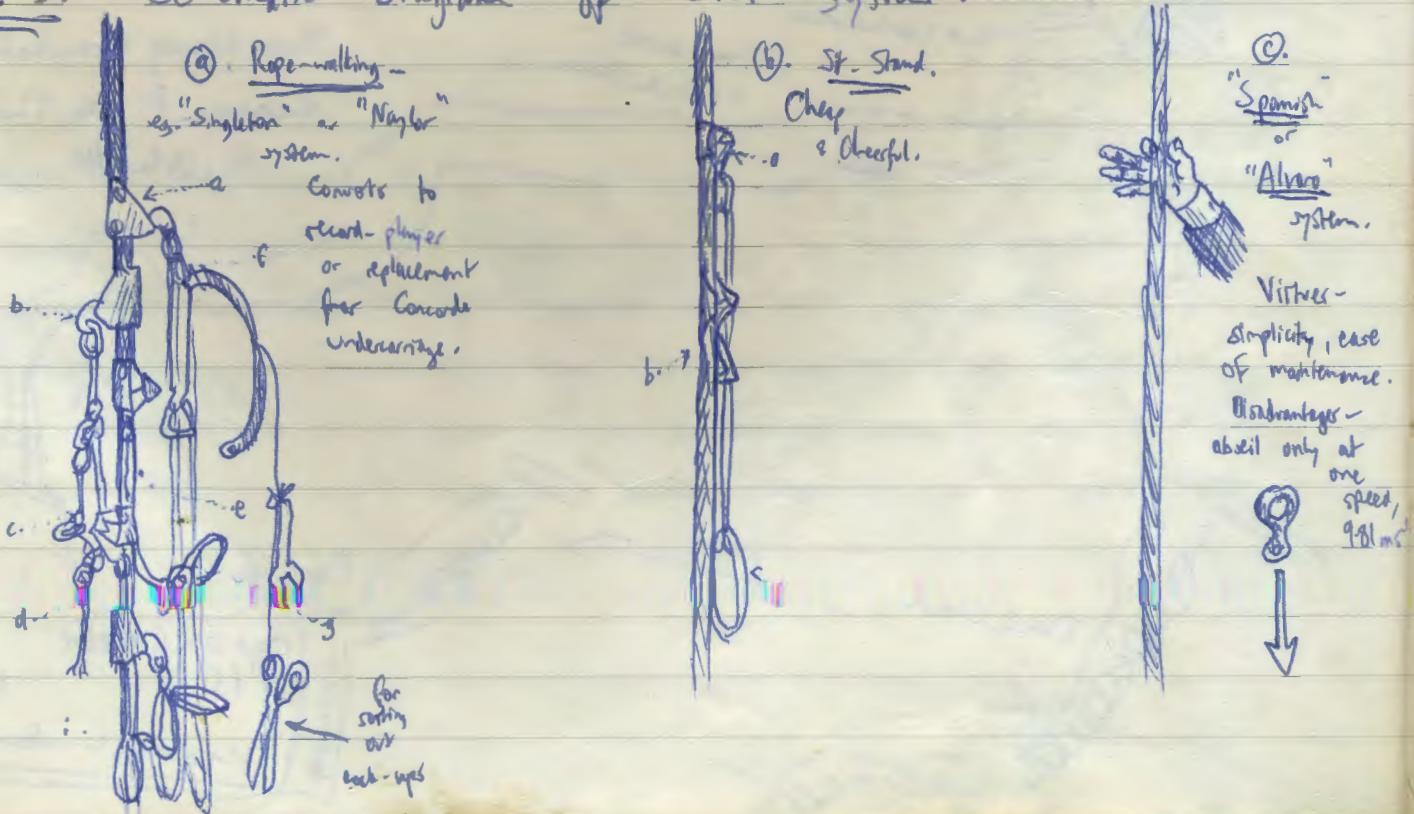


27/7/82 Graham, William & Jan Pushing (Finishing?) Shawin Creek Pot/cd

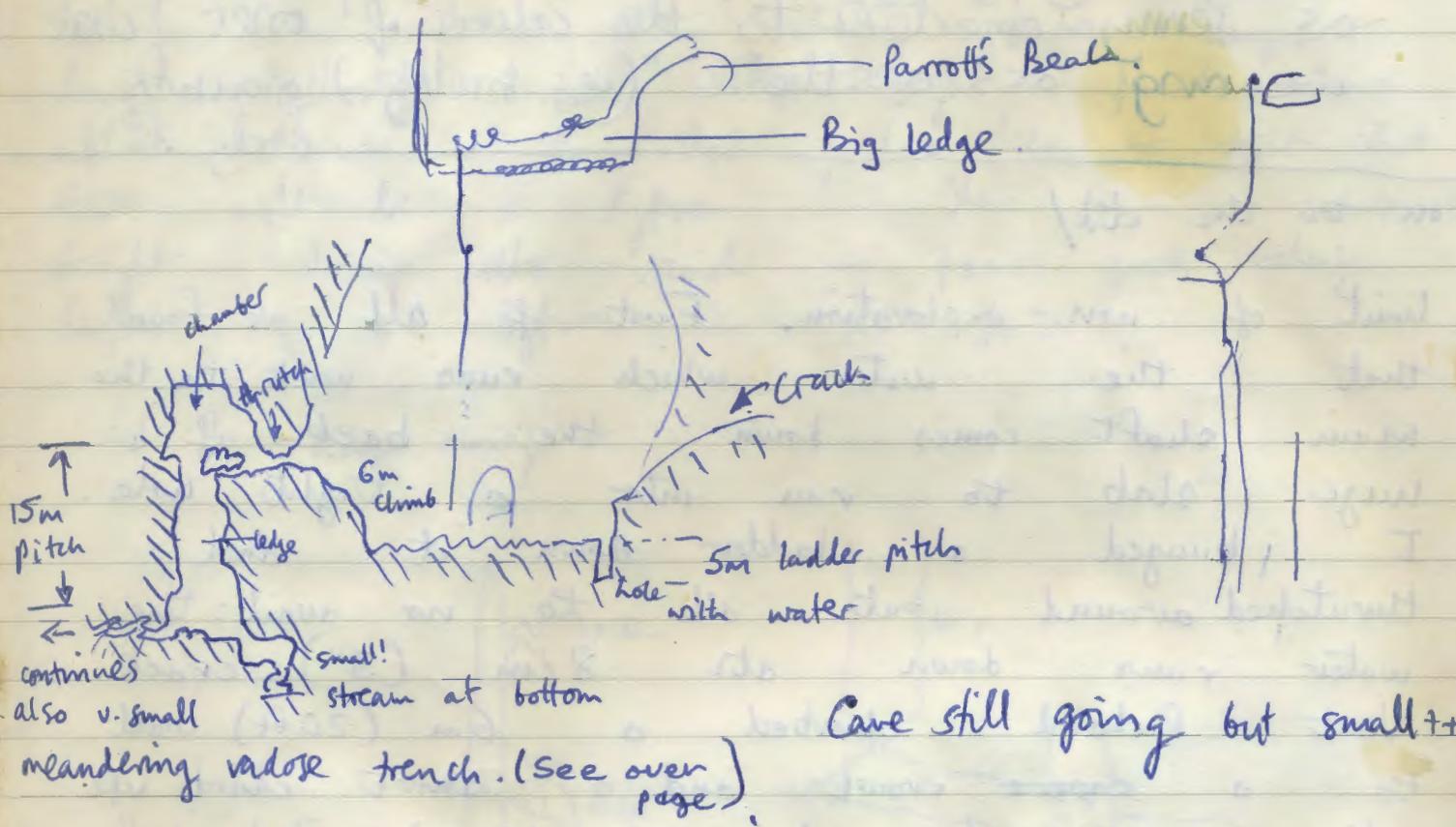
Got to where Graham and Mark had put a bolt in to rig next pitch on their previous trip, and looked at the flake ~~in~~ in the roof that was meant to be the primary. Continued to look at this flake, with long (too long) wire belay wrapped around it, and with a too short wire belay wrapped around it. Still looked at flake. Then decided it wasn't very safe anyway as it was only held by one side which had a crack in it, so we put a ladder further back to get down to the big ledge ~15' below. This provided a decent rig - the rope was tied directly to a large knob of rock for primary with a bolt backup to provide a ~35m free hang down an impressive pitch. Quite interesting starting abseil from a foot below the ledge.

Looked as though there was another pitch just around the corner but a 15' climb down leads to a fucking big boulder choke. Some possible leads through holes between large unstable looking boulders but Graham says they don't go anywhere. Only other exit is a narrow crack with choss in it and a very strong draught. Graham removed a lot of choss and oversuit to get into ~~into~~ crack, but way on blocked by large flake. Needs belaying, but fortunately ~~we~~ we don't have any as it would probably bring everything else down as well. Couldn't find any other routes on at bottom so pissed off out with spare 35m Marlow, handline & boltkit. Needs another 3 m trip to survey, photograph([?]), ~~check~~ look for any routes we may have missed and doig it none.

Fig. 5. Schematic Diagram of SRT system.



Richard, John, Paul & Alvaro down C4 : Playschool.
Pushed on at bottom of 40m pitch



Whilst descending with Alvaro at changover on 2nd SRT pitch Alvaro omitted to clip into his figure of eight, unclipped his cowtail and bent back! Not a good idea! We managed to hold onto the rope with his arms wrapped around it, and then clipped every conceivable cowtail etc into his figure of eight. Unfortunately he couldn't manage the changover since he had nothing left to clip in as a cowtail! Hence I had to climb down & pass on ~~the figure of eight~~ one of my cowtails. He managed to finish the pitch.

Banana! Asrely is dangerous!!!

We attempted the climb into the large chamber. Didn't finish it but cracked the arm. It will go if required.

(?NC)

Meanwhile Richard and I pushed on to the

27/contd

Mark + I gayed off to the Lakes for provisions. Actually I was only going for a change of undies as Penny objected to the colour of ones I was weaning as "aesthetic" (ie: smelly) grounds.

Andy R

on to the cd/

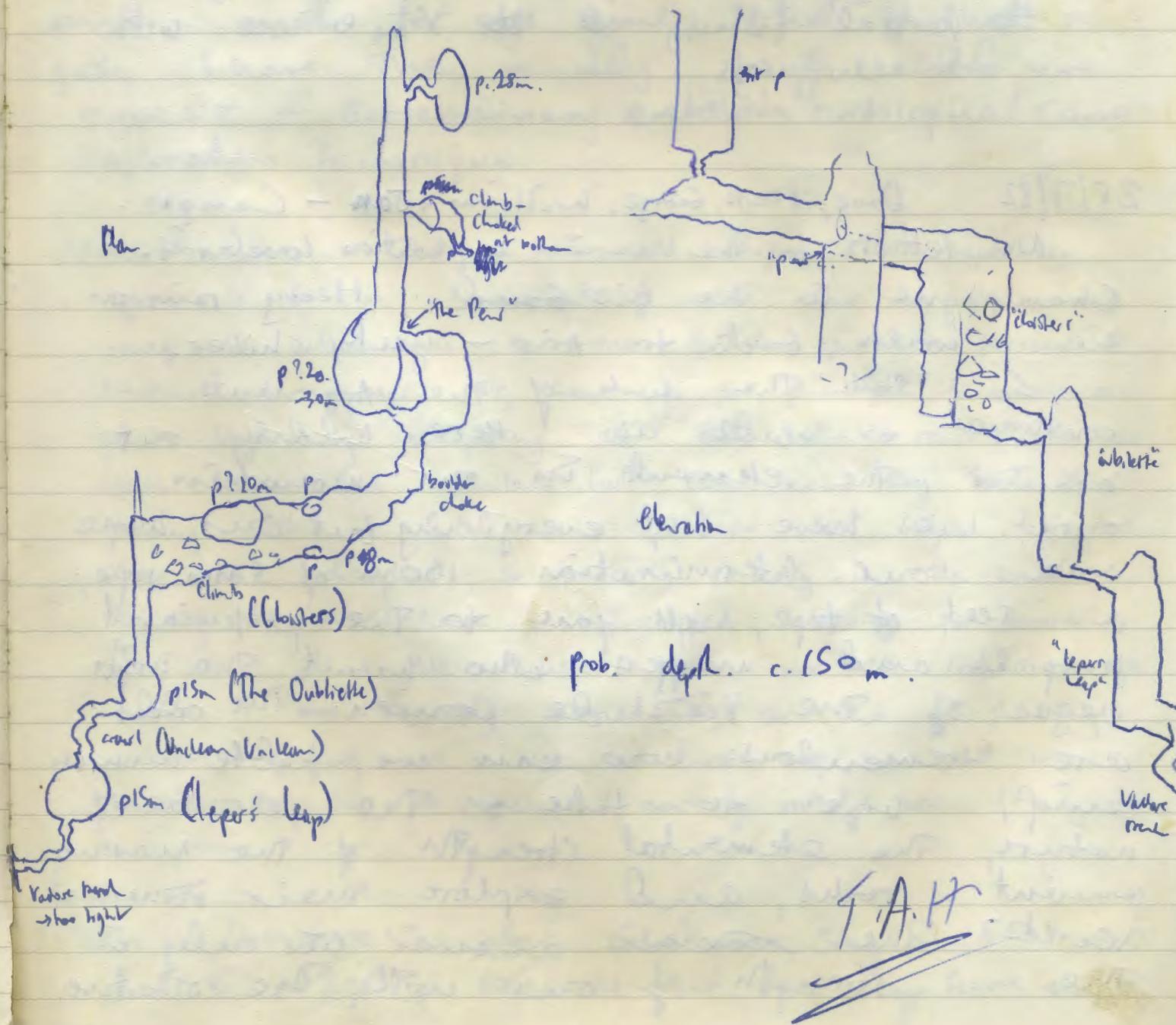
limit of non-exploration. First of all we found that the water which runs next to the main shaft comes down the back of a huge slab to run into a tight hole. I bunged a ladder down it and thrashed around but all to no avail: the water runs down a 8cm (3") crack. Next Richard climbed a 6m (20ft) wall to a ~~squeez~~ crawl. and a short climb up into a chamber. A 15m (50ft) pitch drops into tight vadose trench: as we didn't have enough ladders, Richard went down to a ledge and I lowered the ladder down to him on the mega belay. (the first attempt left Richard hanging from the bottom rung about 2m (6'6") from the ground grunting and groaning) the vadose trench now needs a little man with a large hammer to hit it several times. Many thanks to Paul for putting a bolt in next to the nasty peg!

JS.

2/1/82. Dave, George, Tom down Optimists

Descended unexplored fold - c. 15m. - static pool at bottom & entrance to winding vadose canyon. Canyon ultimately becomes too tight: prehistoric robins explored also seen to beat rocks (be too tight but there might be a bypass...? There is a substantial straight down the trend - poss. greater things beyond if a bypass so be found?).

Col. I ~~pass~~ survey -



otherwise known in medical circles
as "Michelangelo's thumb"

28/7/82

The reason I'm not writing very ~~legibly~~ legibly is that my thumb is $\approx 2 \times$ normal size! Graham Tom + I spent many 'happy' hours today powdering limestone preparing a site for teeth plaque. If we were all stonemasons around 1000 AD, Westminster Abbey probably wouldn't have been finished till the year 3000. To cut a short story shorter, we haven't finished it yet, despite vast quantities of information (?) from ~~et Cetera~~ Big G. and loads of muscular effort from the 'Butcher'.

PS. The only good thing to come out of today's work is the partial filling of the Xits entrance with our rock chippings.

28/7/82 Dave, Mark, George, William + Tom - Canyons.

No letters for the various expedition lovebirds. Champagne in the Rio Grande. Heavy rain on the walk back to Ajo - yuk, shiver.

So. still, The luck of the Argonaut continues to elude us. Here, holding out against the elements in our mountain lair, we have lost everything but our hope and our determination. 160m of 9mm rope; a reel of tape; all gone to the professional footpads and ~~muggers~~ who haunt the high vegas of the Pinos de Comon. The odds are tremendous: how can we, feeble human beings, hope to take on the colosses of nature, the elemental strength of the massive ~~mountain~~ rocks, and explore their ~~innermost~~ secrets? The answer comes in only in the strength of our wills, the collective

expression of our dedication and overwhelming
 unity which even the snowdrifts, icy mowters
 guarding the depths we long to plumb,
 cannot but yield. Around the corner, lie
 horrors and perils which even we can only
 imagine. But so long as our lamp of
 hope continues to burn, ~~they~~ Their natural
 sentinels of rock and snow ~~are~~ living on
 borrowed time. William, boldest of us all,
 has bought some fertiliser. All we need
 now is a detonator, with which to blow
 under the roots of these mountains
 once and for all time. And if that
 fails, I have the remedy. It is called
 EXOCET - Extraordinary Extolata Ontological Care
 Exploration Technique.

29/7/82. Here we sit in our cold refugio. The expedition
 appears to be in a moment of crisis. Have we the moral
 courage, the determination the true British spirit to succeed?
 Sometimes I wonder. We have, so far, managed to ~~keep~~ our
 spirits high by relegating the ~~the~~ other ranks to the
 tents below this mountain hut. Until now they had been
 sleeping with us, but this separation has helped to restore
 order and discipline; so obviously lacking in the locals.
 Some of the men have even stopped dressing for dinner —
 we cannot allow the enlisted men nor the locals to see
 this. I am seriously worried by the lack of shaving
 cream — if we are to let standards drop, how shall we
 succeed? Long live the Queen. I must go outside now I may be
 some time.

29/7/82 I endorse the above. Good man, Gregson. What we
 need is a bit of Falklands spirit. We may have to

48

make an example of one of the enlisted men to encourage the others - a flagging alive or something. The tower officers need something to take ^{out} face or frontboards - if that board has to be sacrificed, it will be in a good cause, and as ~~an~~ owner of a large muesli supply he can expect no better.

28/7/82

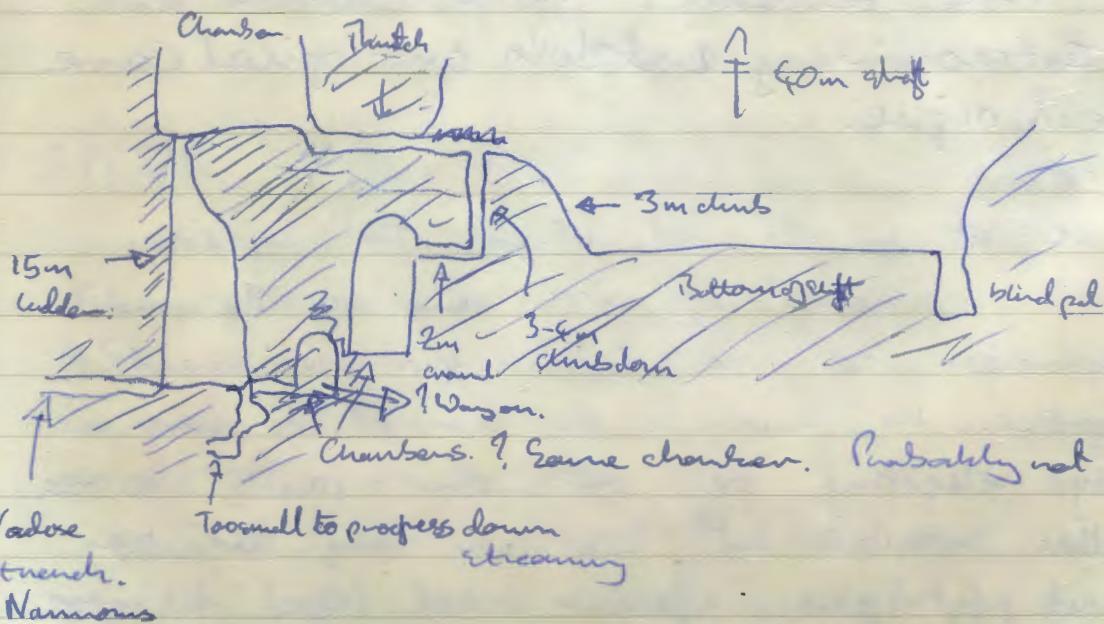
Pushing Photography C4

Park & Martin.

Surveying C4

John + Richard.

Bottom of Cane now looks like

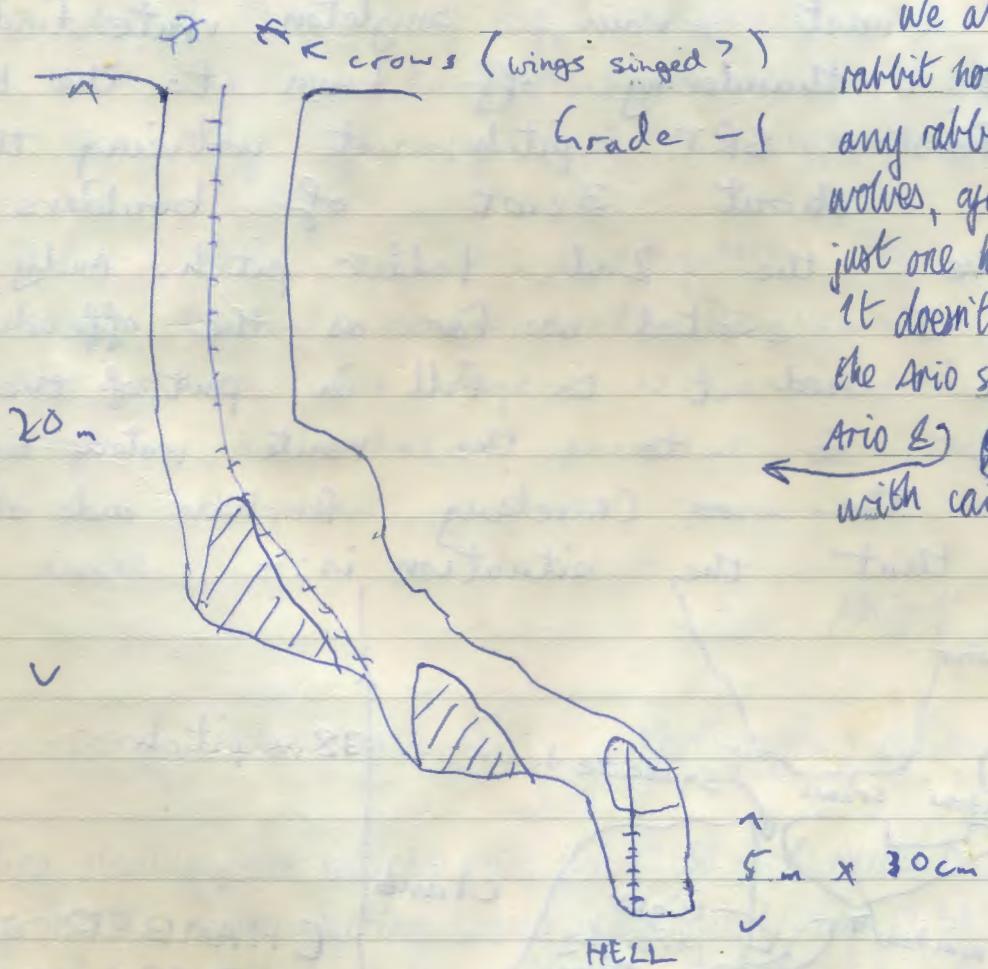


Survey completed in spite of loss of pencil!

J.S.

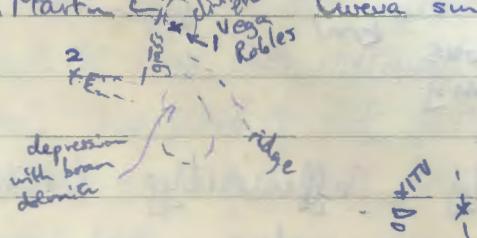
29.7.82 Mark, Jan, Paul (Spectator)

'Alvaro's Cave' - a reasonable-looking shaft with steps on path to Culicero, 150 m past west of ridge joining 'Cabeza Talagra' and 'Cabeza del Corvo'. 20 m ladder, 6 m natural belay. Slimey, smelly smooth-walled shaft to small sump. skirt round plug, climb down past second plug to top of narrow rift. Natural belay for 5 m ladder down rift. Chokes. Total depth \approx 30 m



We also found a large rabbit hole. It didn't have any rabbits, foxes, badgers, sheep, wolves, gallops or dianas in it, just one human for about 5 min. It doesn't go anywhere. It is on the Arro side of the ridge between Arro & on the path marked with cairns by Alvaro.

Dave, Martin, John, Vega, Robles Cueva sin Nombre 1 + 2. (Not marked)



be diggable - we lowered the floor about a foot & increased the draught. A shard would be useful.

2. Crook at foot of vertical backwall to depression with prominent vertical fault leads into pleasant chamber with bouldery floor & rising rifts above. Nice place for a bivouac.

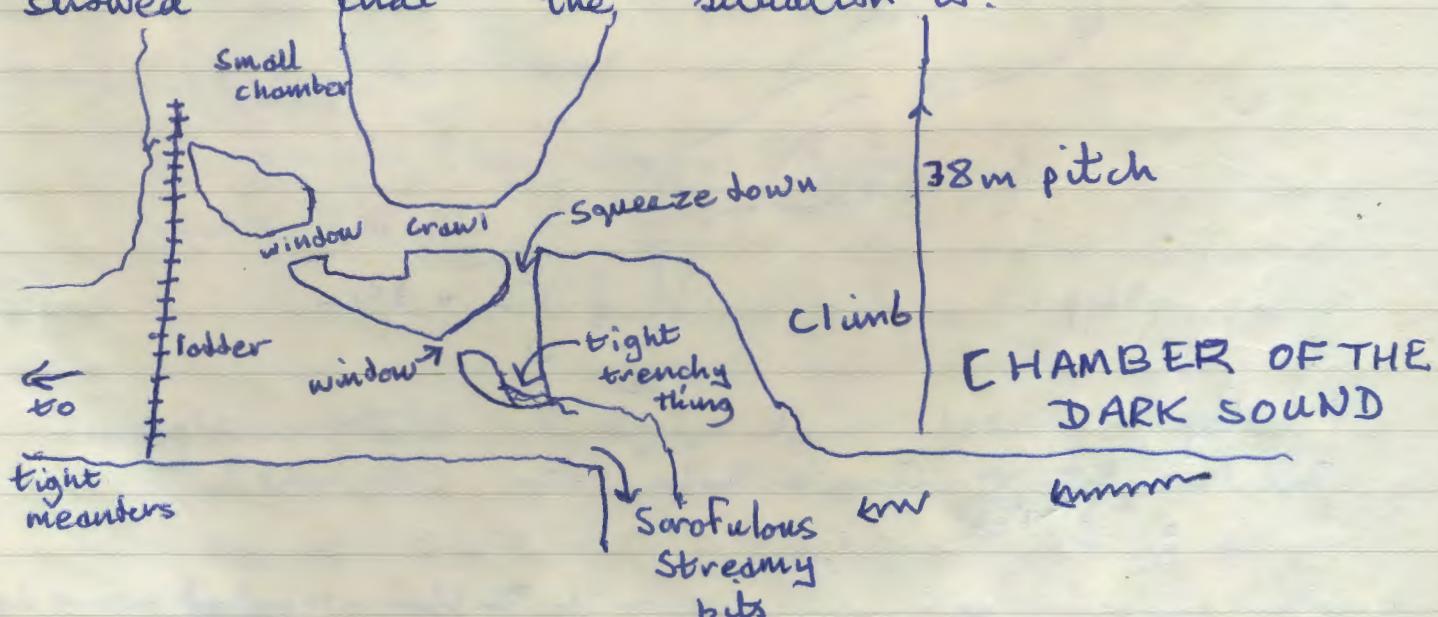
1. Climb in to enclosed entrance sloping down to 7 m shaft. Further 3 m drops to lowest point where choke draughts & might

29/7/82 Quote of the day (by Jan Thuring):

'Where do the Alps end and the Pyrenees begin?' 'There's France in the middle' (Martin.)

29/7/82 Graham Andy John:- Devising C4.

Usual 11ish start meant that we were all at the cave by about 12-30ish, notwithstanding Graham making a detour to C3 and the mist, rain, Singleton route finding etc. I went thundering off down to the bottom of the first SRT pitch, not noticing that there was about 3cwt of boulders balanced loosely above the 2nd ladder pitch. Andy informed me of this and I exited as far as the offending choss and used it to fill in part of the blind pot. And so to the route noted by Paul yesterday. The - Chucking Rocks and shouting showed that the situation is:-



Detocking followed fairly efficiently (what English) and three bags of gear plus us came out at about 6pm.

P.S. Graham had to have a slash eight times during the day (?)

PPS. The cave must be radioactive as we've smelt ozone on coming out for the past few days.

J.S.

And Now!

The Beer fest!



30/7/82 (Clam)

Quote of the day by William:

'Is this the window Andy or am I being sick over the edge of my bed?' (After some drinks.)

31.7.82. After intensive investigation by your fearless detective, I can now reveal the name of the phantom snorer of the Aro refuge: he is interested in cycling, half-german, and has a penchant for rucksack packing. Yes, the half-german, jackbooted Hunning it was that kept us awake.

Maigret.

31/7/82 George, Helen, Mark, Jan Photographing optimista

Starting abseiling down entrance pitch by 12.30 with rucksacks and heaps of ammo tins, tripods etc. George starting taking photographs by 12.31 and carried on until we reached the bottom of the last pitch. Slight problem just after moonmilk crawl with Helens light but only required two of us to sort it out. Helen waited at the outbliete while the other three continued on down the pitch and ~~one~~ through "unclean and to "lepers leap". Then pissed off out fairly rapidly, cursing failing lights and avoiding large ~~an~~ boulders trying to slide down steep slopes. George took 40 (forty) pictures during trip.

One or two other gem's from William!

"Hunghhey! Can the doctor do anything for me

"Somebody help me!"

"Why is the room spinning!"

10

30th July: - John, Tom + Paul: - Surveying C3

Hangovers etc. meant that it was 2pm
we got down 't' hole.
by the time since this was Tom and Paul's

First surveying trip and we had to
measure the entrance shaft ("rigging like a
spastics shoe laces"?") it was quite late by
the time we got to the head of the
last pitch. Confronted by the spectre of the
Huning/Naylor rig, we decided to retire, not
having any bolt hammer etc. Everyone emerged
to the usual clag at 9pm.

31st July ~~Last~~ Playa: - Eat your hearts out Penny et al!

1st August: - John Tom Andy. Finishing the job
awoke to thick clag and crashing of thunder
in the peaks. As we departed for C3 the
clouds descended and the banging got worse - by the
time we got to the entrance there were some
exciting pyrotechnics going on around us. Riley's helpful
comments like "lightning strikes round caves a lot"
and Tom's revelation that someone got vapourised
on Whitby beach by lightning made me quite glad
to get underground. At the Huning/Naylor
aboution, Tom banged in an extra bolt and the
loop of rope was replaced by a tape.

Andy declined to descend and Tom and I completed
the survey fairly quickly. Derrigging followed: At
first Andy tried to derig the entrance series
rope before the rest of us got out by getting
it tangled round his tackle bag. Tom and I had
time for a quick discussion on the futility of
prosing gear without a rope before he
noticed: Emerged to more bang, Primula
and hailstones. However, it did stop by the
time we got to the tent. Was this a result of
Andy's offering of a piece of chocolate to the Gods?

What are they doing?
things "old man's yell who am I?"

30th July

FV-56

BULLSHIT ↓

Before we went down Dave & I thought to ourselves that the whole expedition depended on this cave - we'd no other going caves. With no going cave at all no-one would be keen enough to look for another. No cave - no 83 expedition. We were desperate. Fortunately the cave responds to desperate measures.

The 35m rope wasn't long enough to bottom the 3rd pitch so we came back with a 56m rope. At the bottom of this ~~one~~ pitch we rigged the rope as a traverse line over a blind pot to the 4th pitch, requiring 2 bolts.

After the 4th pitch we rigged the next, the 5th, which is up a climb. This leads to a large chamber which has a meander exit - about 4cm wide at most. Dave lay in the meander and hammered at a flake. It had to go. I took the 10m Edlerid back up the 5th pitch and was interested in a hole in the wall half way up the 4th pitch. I climbed up about 12 ft before it became ^{too} desperate. So instead I prised up about 8m (leaving 8m of pitch above) and pendulated into the passage. Quite a desperate pendule. This leads to a passage - son of Ming type, which is abandoned but leads above the meander to a pitch down which I could shout to Dave! He came up & pendulated too so we rigged the pitch - the Chair - which has an excessively tight take off. Desperate almost. Dave & I hit it with lammers and just about dinked its size!

The Chair & so named because of the gamble of courage it took to reach it and because before you force yourself through the slot you ~~set~~ ^{feel} the clay in a rock

chair.

The pitch cells out onto a big ledge with another drop of c. 17 m below. At the bottom... desperation returned. There seemed to be no way out. The wall ahead was flat; a bouldery climb to a vindictive slit flanked by a flake. Otherwise, only one short passage leading to an aven.

Once more, Deontology took over. While I banged at the flake, Richard dug away at the rocks below it to expose a man sized hole! The Beander of the Argonauts lay open and waiting.

A few squeezes round the tends to get to a wider, lower level and I was once again looking at a booming black space with considerable water at the bottom. Richard shivered and I bolted and 'naturalised' a Y belay to descend on the 9mm Edelrid.

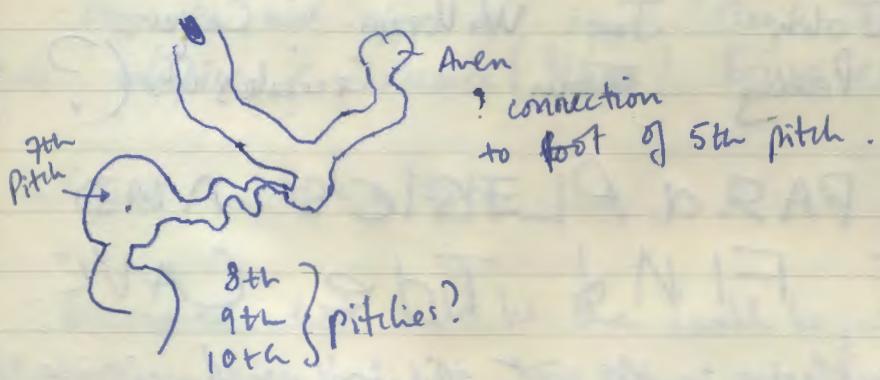
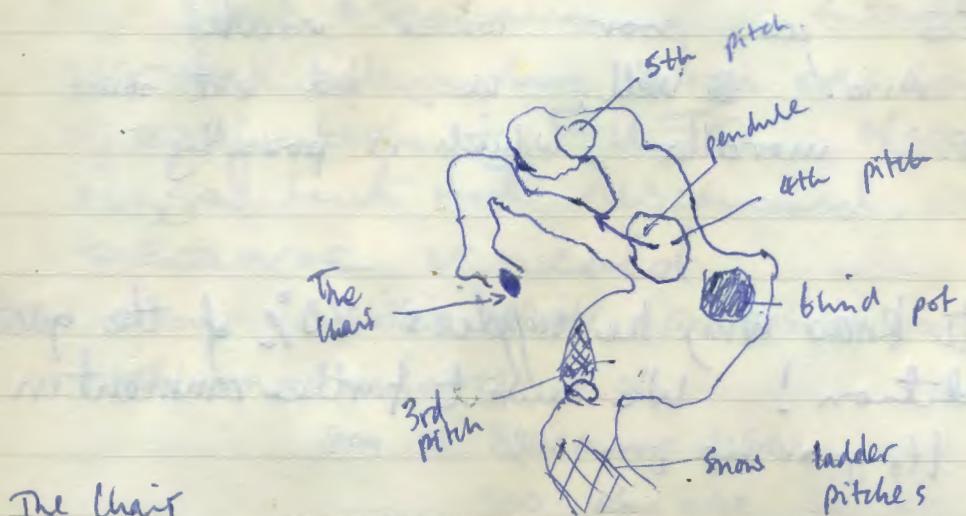
Finally, Orgasm chasm. 23m below the takeoff, a ~~big~~ wide vadoze climb. And another pitch. And another, and another, beyond it, all in clean, hard, beautiful rock, soaring straight upwards and plunging down to depths where a big rock tipped off the edge tumbled down for many terrifying seconds.

We were exited!

Imaginary Cave MK3 (?)

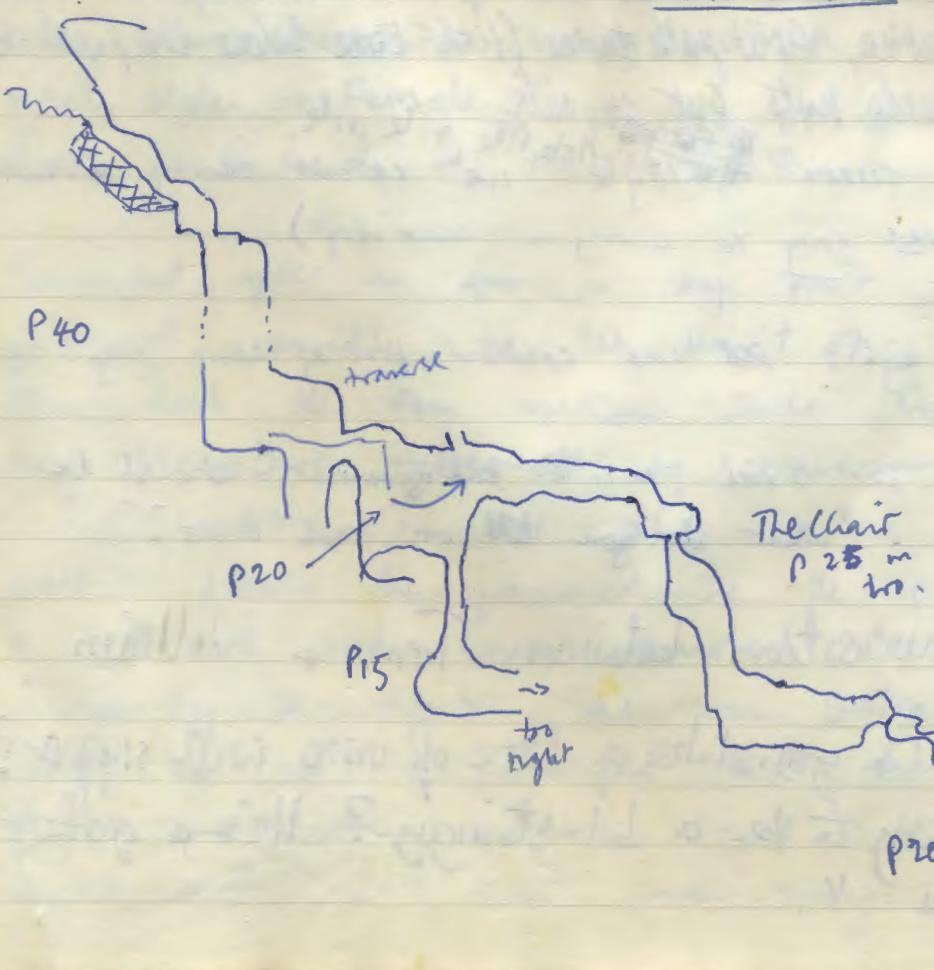
43

Plan. FBU



This cave pushed entirely because Penny, Martin & Martin carried a large amount of gear to FU 56.
Quel Hombres y Mujeres

Elevation



continues ↴

2nd July Arrrughh! - - - No breakfast.
Whilst the committee dined in splendour
up at FLSG we poor lower ranks
starved at Ario! Well, we did eat some
fabada and fried morcilla, which is possibly
worse!

William wants to know why he supplies 30% of the quotes
on each expedition! We await further comment on
these pages! It's gone up from 20%

2nd July John Jan William Cavers
Penny Tom Guides (?) (?)

WE ARE PARAPLEGICS AND COULDN'T FIND THE CAVE

We spent many a happy hour in the mist, rain, fog, wind, circling the mountains behind Ario in search of the elusive Optimista. We passed the store tent 4 times, refugio twice, Ario path twice (first time below the final slope up towards Xitu), shepherds huts but no cave.

¿ Dónde está la cueva? ~~It may be~~ ^{Mata rite, rite, rite,} we should sooner or later to the entrance. (we were going to cover the ~~cave~~ itself)

Q What's one foot high, red and splattered over a snow plug?

A An Irish abseiler.

Q How can you tell an Irish man? Bad grammar - should be
A (Replies invited) "What do you tell an Irish caver?"

A true+accurate conversation between Tom + William

William. "How would you like a litre of wine with supper?"
Tom. "He's going to be a bit stingy? He's a gofer
isn't he."

2nd August

Paul & Graham. 2 tackle bags containing assorted belays plus 86m Marlow to limit of exploration of FU-56. Next pitch rigged but not descended. Came out because v. cold.

Later Tom & William decided to fix opinions for once & for all, since no mist had cleared. Walked from rocks up slope 280 to col from col 330 to edge of slope 300 along ridge

Then the mist closed in again. (Maybe we should offer the weather gods sacrifices of Zumiix (Now! Give 'em a Lee Trevino).)

3 August. Mark & Martin

Discovered what could be the (will be when Danny has dug it.) 7th deepest cave in the world. Ex Cueva del Hielo (Cueva del Queso) actually seems - with one dodgy torch - to go

- A) "Hear young Hostford's living with A Salamander"
 - B) "What, Male or Female?"
- Dave & Richard in A) "Female, of course. Nothing wrong with Young Hostford." FU-56 3.8.

Descended, after an epic on my part when my ascender jammed, rapidly to the limit of exploration. I descended the 8m marrow while Dave tried to find an alternative take-off by traversing high.

The bottom of this pitch is a chess ledge, where massive flakes lie jammed in the pitch. We put in a bolt each and Dave vanished down the drop; the silence of the chamber was soon broken. Whoops of delight came up as he realized that he was at the edge of an enormous, circular shaft. It is about 20m across and well over 40m long. What a place. At

the bottom - no choss! This cave is choss-free, and carries a large stream. We were delighted. Another pitch of 16m follows, then the stream disappears down two small holes. These we easily by-passed by climbing up to the R and then down, where a massive stone erection makes a useful and friendly hand-hold. The next pitch is a ladder pitch. 10m to a ledge, then 5m in the ~~pushing~~ style we rigged the 15m ladder pitch with our 10m ladder - putting a tape at the top to climb onto it, and a tape at the bottom. It's not that bad actually, but the next 5m pitch posed a problem. The only rope we had left was the 100m Edlerid, which struck us as rather excessive, for a 5m pitch. Furthermore, we wouldn't have anything to rig any other pitch: answer - abseil on the 10m polypropylene. This we now did. Dave went down and gave the gloomy news: the cave ended. The stream vanished down a tiny gap, which, if we weren't Englishmen, we would call a meandro.

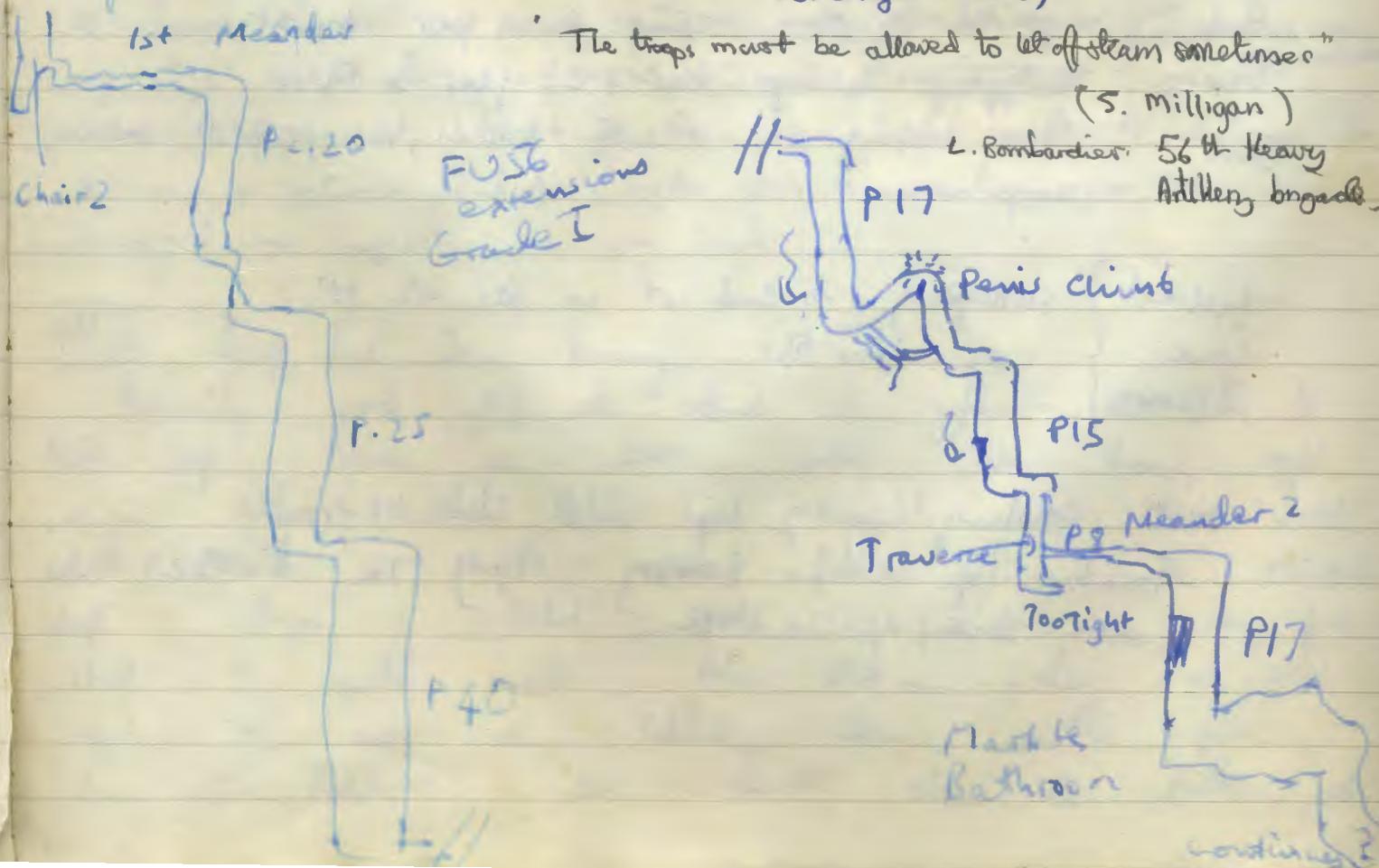
However, being an Englishman, before I had even climbed back up on the polyprop Richard was off traversing airy across the drop to what looked the way on. It was, although we did not establish this until several overcautious manoeuvres with the polyprop and Richard trembling had been completed. I then followed and trembled too.

Thus into the second meandro, or rather Second Rift - not as bad as the first, though the route through is quite complicated. At the end, more whoops of delight - a pitch! 2 nationals down about 3m ~~into~~ to a ~~wide~~ rebelay. Then 15m... to a 4m square marble splash platform - The Marble Bathroom. The start of a

such wide, lovely Valore streamway. After an easy pitch bypassed by a traverse and climb, we reached the present limit at the head of a 25' ladder pitch with the water flowing away under a broad arch below, at an estimated depth of -280m.

Our exit was knocking, and we emerged about midnight after a trip of almost 13 hours. FUS6 is going and going and going!!

Next day, we walked down to And before breakfast to find puke decoratively the side of the hut and the bedroom - stenches wine and Dani had arrived together to produce an orgy of decadence. The Mug Gen. and I were scandalised - we cannot have breakdowns of discipline of this nature. Hear, Hear! (J. Singleton N.C.O.)



3/VIII/82

Everyone got very pissed
'cept John, Jan & William who surveyed & derived ~~some fairly stable~~
Optimistic! & Paul, George, Tom, Martin, Richard, Dave at FU56

Numerous tigers were parked in the environs of the
refugio. Graham died but got better (very slowly)
Martin discovered that it is preferable to open a window
before calling for Ralph through it.

4. 8. 82. Tom, Paul & George } pushing FU56.
Rest recovering. Plan for tomorrow:

John } Pushing FU56.
Martin H.S.

Graham } going to Oriedo to get more tape. (+ food.)
Mark }

Andy } - guided by Penny taking personal gear tonight
Danny } ~~dealing~~ taking that + C3 gear → FU56.
Jan } Also looking at Encante Aliseda, re prospects moving
camp

Richard } surveying to end or as far as pos.
Dave } of FU56.
William }

Next pushing / survey trips will then be from
Graham (if well) Danny Andy Jan & others who
have their gear there.

(44)

3/4/82 John, Ian & William Surveying or Dredging Opinisto 4:12:30

Weather sunny at last, so we managed to locate the entrance, William having taken the precaution of locating base on compass bearing with Nock earlier that morning. Took the John & William took bearings of entrance while Ian ascended down. A laborious survey down to the bottom via moonmilk, squeeze and mud. John's large backside nearly stopped him getting through the oubliette. Uncleon, Uncleon bird up to its name and covered the engineer's log and the compass & inclinometer in mud, John licking the wet latter so he could read it. Eventually reached the bottom & poked off out dredging as we went. John (superhero!) forcing the tacklebag through the squeezes. Much light trouble with Ian having an whimsical electric & carbide & John's ~~Aladdin lamp~~ carbide being far & non-operational. ~~thirsty~~ In spite of this, the superheroes exited at 10:45pm, dredged the entrance. Stars, that's ~~the~~ goodness. Reached Rio & met by Andy Riley who ran up to us, staggered around & described how ^{Also Penny greeted us by shouting "Ralph" several times from the window. Who's Ralph?} much more sober he was than anyone else. ^{For April} No-one else need ever go down that hole again!!!! ~~Andy~~ ANDY "Everyone's Absolutely Shit-faced" RILEY

(It seems to be the only thing he says after 9pm) ^{Also} MARTIN "Jolly Good, Jolly Good" RILEY

5.4.82 Mark, Jonathan, Ian, Penny

Went to Oviedo to buy 50 m of 1" flat tape. Ended up with 30 m of 25 mm tubular, after $\pi \times 4$ hrs searching for the shop. Shopped in Infiesto on way back.

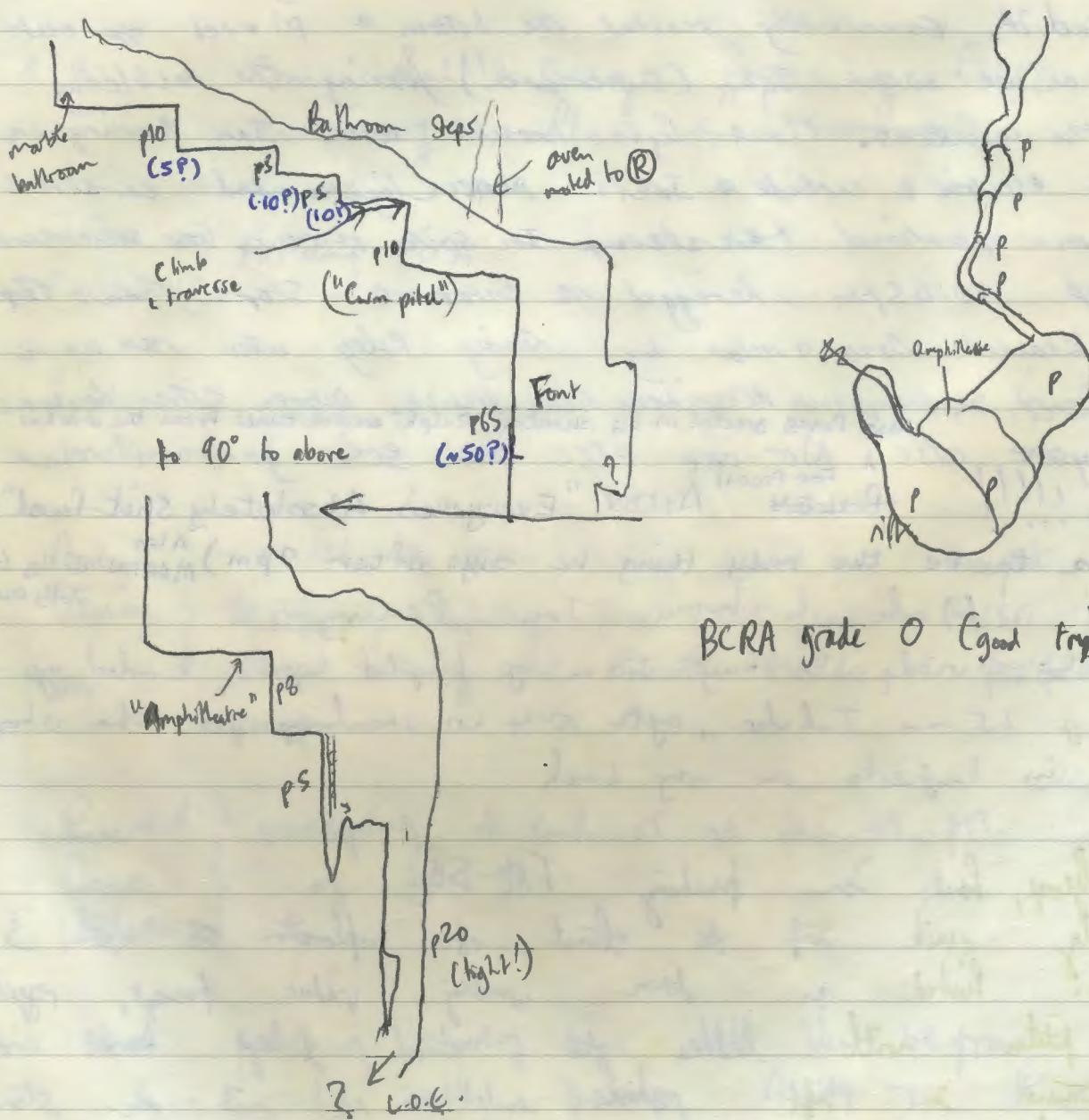
4/4/82. George, Paul, Ian pushing FU-S6.

Reasonably quick trip to almost of exploration to with 3 tackle-bags. Pushed in down winding valve passage, rappel several pitches with ladder to natural belay. Series ended with traverse in rift which ended in 3-m. stonefill shaft. Rappelled down, descended prob. 6m., very fine shaft & marbled walls. Blos that - further shot pitch rappelled to end of belay, then smooth pitch done & ladder - too short, step off bottom of

5

ladder on to flake. Then you're in a chancy rift - widest point is about 20m or so aged to + 15m + an 18m bivouac tied together. Below this is a tight rift which is current limit of exploration.

then 5/8/82 to push back the known frontiers of human sleep.



Dave & Richard.

John Bill & Martin went pushing. Dave & I eventually got rigged and went to survey with M. He, however, had bad vibes, and, rightly, was concerned about the entrance ladder pitch not being lined. He eventually decided to jacked at the head of the pitch, which turned out to be 38.9 m. We got v. cold but started to joke at. This is coming with a difference - die of hypothermia with a smile!

first we surveyed to the nut of the bolt of the ~~last~~ pitch after the rift. 30 stations.

The next day, no-one appeared to push. It was v. wet. We got into the cave to find a lot of water. My fishing kept going out because of the drips: the water container filled to the brim in the time it took me to ~~get~~ put on my sit harness. Faced with bad light, being wet & cold and having had no real food for four days we jacked after getting the 86m section through to the Mistral shaft.

We walked from Fu56 to Lagos direct, in the mist. Got lost. Cursed. Fell over. Wiped off mind. Fell over again. Heard cow bells. Made for them. Found ourselves at Bobia's! Went to Amadores & had:

soup

*
menestra

*

Truchas

#

Temera

*

Flan

*

Flan

*

(left x2)

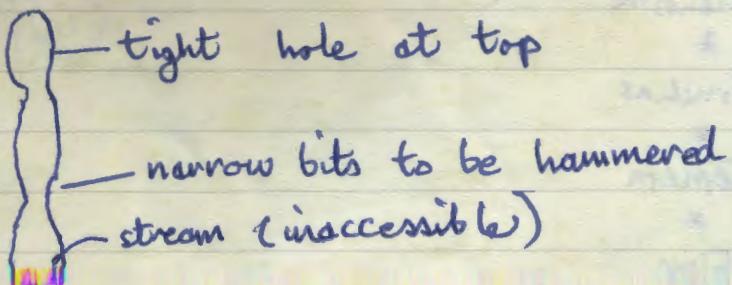
*

Cognac.

5/08/82

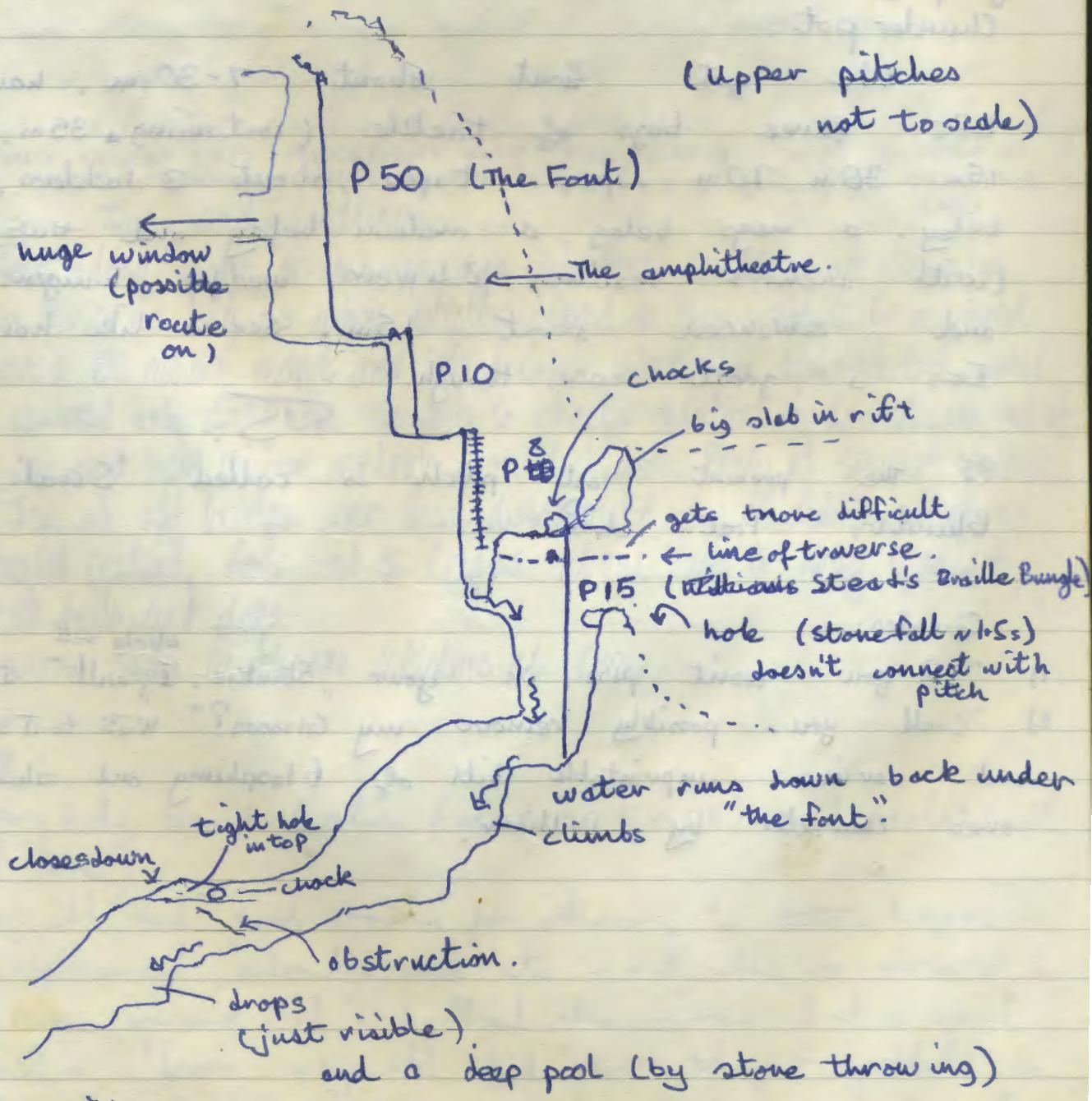
FU56 (Sima de la Jorada Blanca) John, Martin H, William.

Will and I walked up to FU56 and met Martin there and we all got down the hole at about 12-10pm, each with a Mulu Bag of tackle. A fairly rapid descent followed to the ladder pitch before the traverse, where we added a 5m ladder, shortened the belay and removed the tapes. The traverse was found to be easier than it looks and we reached the font fairly quickly. The pitch below the font (c. 10m) was rigged with a tape back up over the same huge knob as the wire previously (if the knob falls, it'll probably fill in the rest of the cave) and the belay shortened and the ladder lengthened on the following pitch. After some cock ups as to who was carrying what, the final rope pitch was re-rigged using two tapes round chocks and two rope protectors. At the bottom a short series of climbs leads down to a tight rift where yours truly inserted himself and had trouble getting out again. When Martin got down he also went in and announced that it needed some adjustment with a hammer. This. About five hours of hammering and moving chocks followed. The rift in section is like this:-



The idea was that Martin knocked the ledges off to get down to the stream using

a ladder belayed to a chock wedged into the tight hole at the top. The problem was manipulating the chock into a suitable position: i.e. so that it was directly above the widest part where Martin was hammering. In the end we couldn't get the chock far enough into the tight hole and a rather more unsuitable bit had to be hammered. It probably requires about 3 hours more work. On the way out we had a look at possible alternative ways on: the situation is:-



So the possible routes on one:-

- 5X
- 1) continue hammering the obstruction
 - 2) Pendulum into large window on the Font to find parallel shaft which ^{maybe} hits (?) stream lower on. Martin went into ^{the base of} a similar parallel shaft next to one of the "Bathroom Steps".
 - 3) Continue traverse above last pitch away from stream to find an equivalent of the Teness Series.

One ominous note: the final squeeze emits glooping noises like a sump. However, so did Chunder pot.

We got out about 7-30am, having left three bags of tackle (containing 35m, 20m 15m 30m 20m ropes tapes, about 3 ladders, a short belay, a mega belay, a medium belay and two bolt kits (with anchors, millions, 2 drivers, wedges, hangers) and advanced about 15m. Seems like hard work. It's a great cave, though.

JS

P.S. the present last pitch is called "Stead's Bristle Blunder". Poetic, eh?

Quotes:

- 1) "If you won't piss in your Stinkie, I, will" JS to WJS
- 2) "Could you possibly remove my Glasses?" WJS to JS in Meinkind Argonaut

On Friday 06/08/82

Tom, Pening, Martin H - left the refugee assisted much teams mainly from me. They are left for England, home and Queen - lucky rods - we'll all soon be back in the old country, where life is civilized and you can get a good pint of best bitter. Not this wine stuff which makes so many people puke - or is it my food - Ahmughh - I've got to get rid of them some how, only those with strong stomach's will survive this expedition!!! Kelly

Say chaps dissecting you, you'll have to feed for your selfs. Going for a dirty mid-week to Ovada with Alvaro - Bye Bye much love Kelly - back Wednesday

DISGUSTING, NONE OF THIS MISCEGENY WITH THE NATIVES WAS ALLOWED IN MY DAY. GRUMPH, GRUMPH, MINE'S A BRANDY, WHAT? A Disgusting old MCC block (RWB)

7-8-82 Jan, Andy, William.

Went along gorge to change dye detectors. Resurgence at Culembro more than twice as big as when detectors placed, so they couldn't be retrieved. Found most of the others, except ones behind Cain. Detector in hydro-electric canal had been removed, only string left. Too dark to change detectors in downstream end of Rio Cares, so will have to use controls from last year. Plenty of Spanish spectators watching Jan ab. off bridge near Cain, disappointed when he didn't fall off so they applauded instead. Got back to Lagos about lam to noisy Spaniards, cows with bells, and dogs.

Someone needs to change detectors at Treia.

6. 8. 82

Every body except Graham (alone at FG56) and Helen (not alone at Aris)

We all had good reason for returning to ~~Aris~~ Lagos - detector replacement, umbrellas, cars etc - but when we arrived in pouring rain, someone had a brilliant idea - how about a meal at Aris' 'Coch' say all 'I'd never thought of that' so we did. Normal low-key 4-course meal, to celebrate

the impending departure of Martin, Martin, Tom & Penny. No thundering, but John fell over, spilt wine etc. William fell asleep in his Menesta several times.

7.8.82

before meal, just after
I'd changed into clean clothes
and into a cow turb.

Martin, Martin, Tom & Penny left today. Tears all round, mainly from everybody who didn't get in the car with them. Filthy fucking dogs weather. I want to go home.

Mark, Paul, George - bottle de Culicembro, photographing

Jan, Andy, William - replace dye detectors

Dani, Marika - Protect bus from Argentinians, test

suspension

Typical early start - left Rio Grande at 1 pm after saying goodbye to Martin, Martin, Tom & Penny again, and consuming 2200 pts worth of Tortilla etc. Entered cave at 4-20, and to amazement of tourists in George. Photo's start almost immediately inside entrance, so photos start straight away. Unfortunately (?) George is ill, so we spend only 3 hrs plitoring, then Paul and I visit streamway, and by pass upstream sump via complex copper ledges, only to find a further sump. Sumps are very deep, clear and fast-flowing. Very nice cave - clean, clear-free, formations, impressive stream. It may be possible to move upstream via upper tanks - but would be hard work. Back to ~~the~~ lake at 1 am

Mark

8-9/8/82 Richard + Dave

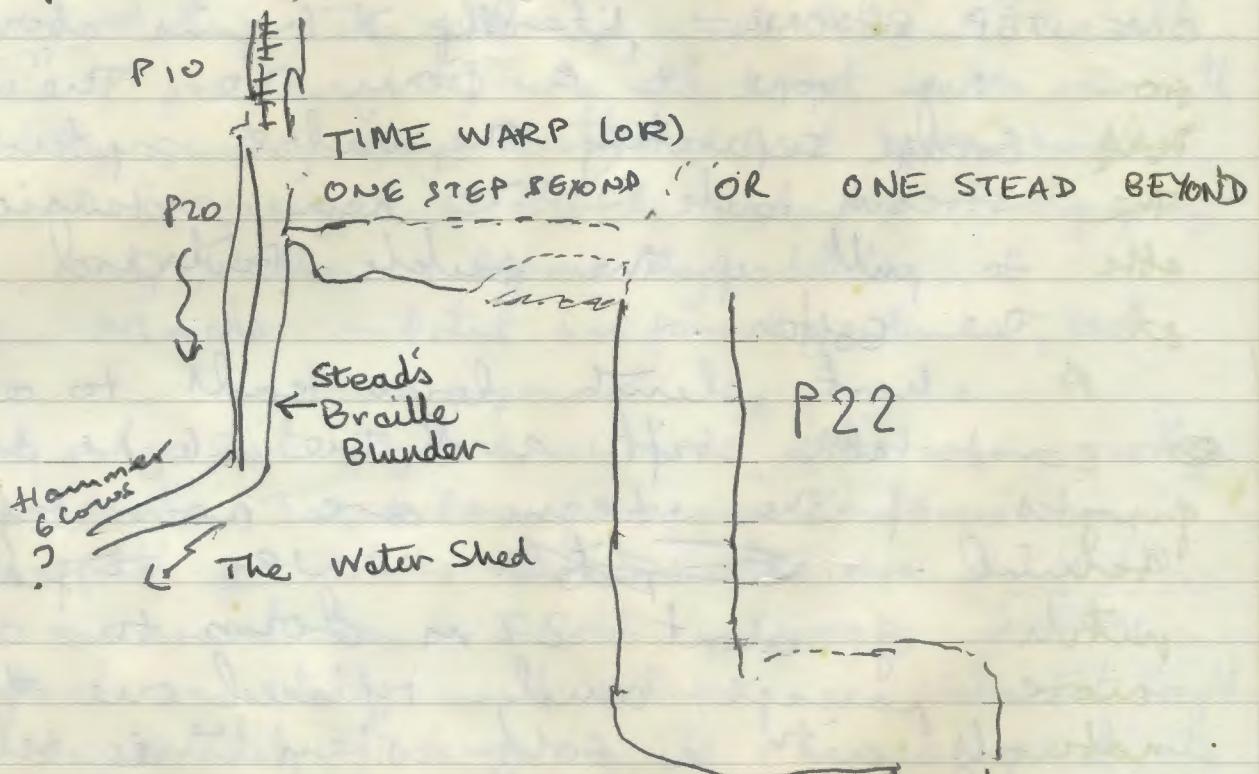
FUSG

descended rapidly to limit of exploration & decided not to bother with the hammering so Richard went down the last rope pitch while I found another way on in the rift above - ONE STEP BEYOND - literally, it begins about 3 feet from the rope & from the "watershed" ridge separating the vadose capture of the stream route & the new extension I was able to pull up the tackle Richard found at the bottom.

A short climb down took us to a 6 ft, comfortable rift and the loops and quoins of the stream are now left behind. ~~The pitch~~ we rapped a pitch of about 22 m down to a bit more passage, and replaced one of the naturals with a bolt when this belay moved to the bottom of the shaft as we climbed back ^{to get gear} up (having satisfied ourselves that this was the way out). 2 more short pitches of c. 15m lead to a very weird place - THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS - a wide, dry chamber almost totally dry chamber with 2 ways on!! Both were explored by down a ladder length. one was an old vadose passage leading to what seemed to be a forty metre pitch. The other - going in the opposite direction - took us into an extraordinary triangular passage with knee-deep moon milk, bizarre pyramids of (?) solutional rock standing out one wall in their

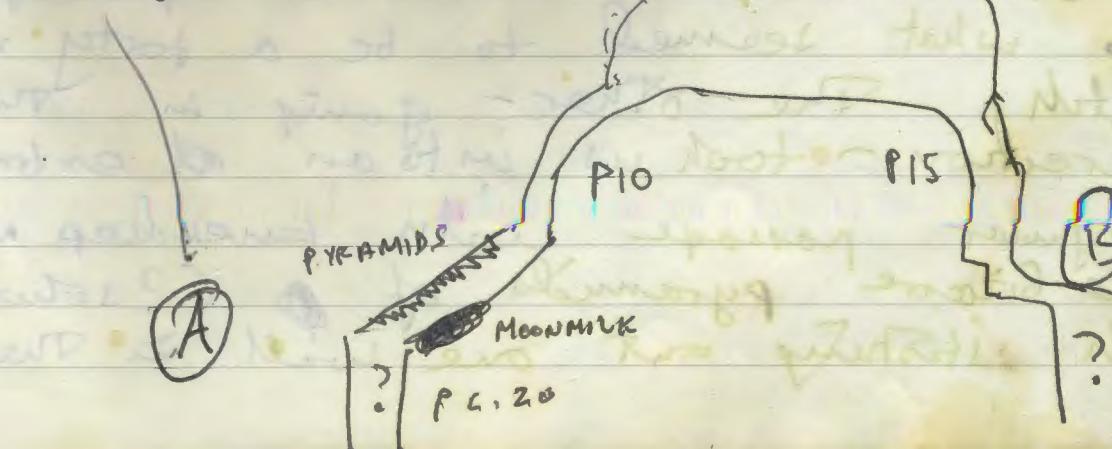
58

Thousands and a 20m pitch at the end.
 once again the cave goes!! From an
 estimated depth of over -400m we exited,
 reaching the surface at about 4am. A
 lot of pressuring.

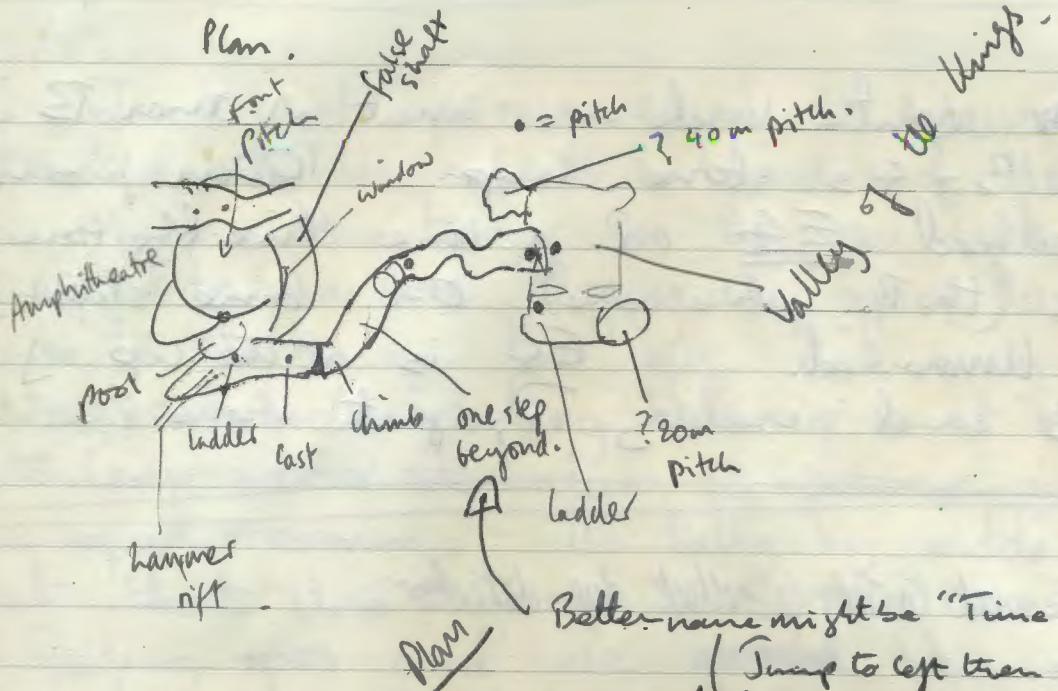


Bloody Anarchists
 Get everywhere

THE VALLEY OF
 THE KING



P>30



9-8-82 Andy, Mark, [REDACTED], Jan.

Supposedly surveying FV56 from where John & Graham left off, following Paul & John [REDACTED] (who were pushing) on way in. But they were somewhat quicker, the 3 of us not having been down the system before. So we also had to route find. Andy got pissed off by the time we were squeezing our way through the first Meander and decided to go out. Mark & Jan continued, & took rather a long time getting through the second rift (Meander?). At this point they decided that it was rather silly going down to survey without someone who knew the cave, and weren't sure how to continue ie whether it was safe to abseil down the rope at 45° (we didn't know how securely it was attached at the next belay point) or to free climb down the side, which neither of us was keen on. So we left, albeit rather slowly. Mark had problems with his SRT gear, like foot ascenders not working. Got out after $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours down the cave, & went back to Arid. Met William who was on his way up with Gar & food.

Paul & John. To limit of exploration FV56

2 ways out of Valley of the Kings One didn't look too ^A opposite pronouncing? Blind pot. Between other ways ^B opposite 5m free climb 10m ladder to large muddy ledge. Then 5m plus stone drop? 75m pitch ^{more} rigged but not descended Went, seeing places. Very very quiet. Called the pitch TMG SPHINX. Old, mysterious & covered in sand! The Cave is going!

B

NOTE.

On ~~10/8/82~~ route back - limit of area B is a shaft. B-4's stone drop. Our main cave marked E4 on a line directly towards Jayada (the Big jawne cave). On some slabby rocks. Unmarked. E4 is at the lip of valley B and valley D, just above Pinacatina.

10-8-82 Jan - went to Trea to collect dye detectors

10-8-82 Dave George & I woke up today with heavy hearts, knowing that we had to leave the sun behind and go deep underground to descend on 80m shaft on Goldend. What horrors lay waiting beneath the Sphinx? What secrets lay hidden below the limit of exploration? What lay in store for us in our strange journey deep in the bowels of the mountain? No-one of course could say.

Only one thing was for certain,

It was to be... no picnic!

(N. Casteret.)

10/8/82 Graham & William

Very late start after unsuccessfully trying to persuade anyone at Ario to do some more surveying with me. Went to Top camp where William was waiting fit & able after a few more hours of preparation. Lifted rope on 1st S.R. + pitch rerigged Marble bathroom surveyed the last three ledges of the "Marble steps" and down the 55m pitch. Put a line on the last ladder pitch. William fell down a climb and badly sprained his ankle, but didn't seem to make him any slower. Got out of the cave ~11-30pm into a beautifully starlit night with bright shooting stars.

(61)
11/8/82.

John + I got up mega early to deliver Paul, Danny + Manka into the safe (?) hands of the Spanish train + bus authorities. On the way back John + I attempted to do some shopping in Cangas. However I was forced to shelter in the bus as every five minutes my arsehole started blinking at me. and I had to leap under the bridge to ~~do~~ give birth to some liquid manure. The tally by midday was 15. Beat that then anyone! By this time John was also feeling grim and we ~~walked~~ laboured our way back to Lagos. The tale ends here as it is a long monotonous saga about my 'end'.

PS John and I reckon our bowel movements have something to do with some food we ate



Andy.



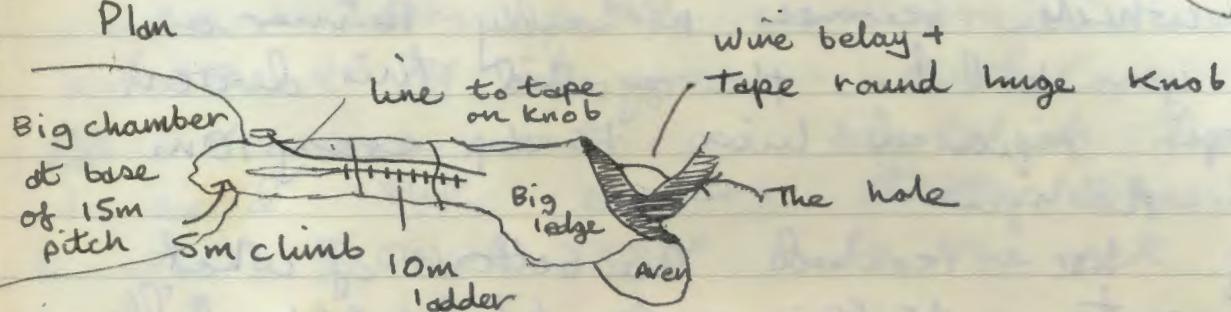
62

08/08/82 John + Graham Surveying FU 56.
Not a good day for me: - Helen's carbide generator detached itself from me halfway down Chair II and broke in half. The rest of the trip was performed on Mallory power (luckily I had a spare one on me) and banging my head against the wall every time the bulb went out. Did 28 stations, surveying from end of Rift 1 (Meander of the Argonauts) to just above Bathroom Step 2. Emerged at 9 pm.

09/08/82 John + Paul Pushing FU 56.
Got down about mid day and made a fairly rapid descent with one Muir Bag to head of 55m pitch. There Paul replaced the tape belay, which was frayed by another lump of tape. Spent quite a bit of time rerigging the three pitches in the "Hammered Hole" bypass (Should be called "Time Warp" as 1) It's astounding 2) It's just a jump to the left and a step to the right, and then arrived at the big chamber. Looked down valley of Kings, didn't like the belays and pulled up the ladder. Put a line down the other side and freeclimbed down 5m to a ledge. The same line was then used as a self line for a 10m ladder down to a huge ledge with a huge wedge of moonmilk on it (It's OK if you keep out from the wall.) I spent a bit of time sorting out tackle and arrived on the ledge to find Paul making funny whining noises

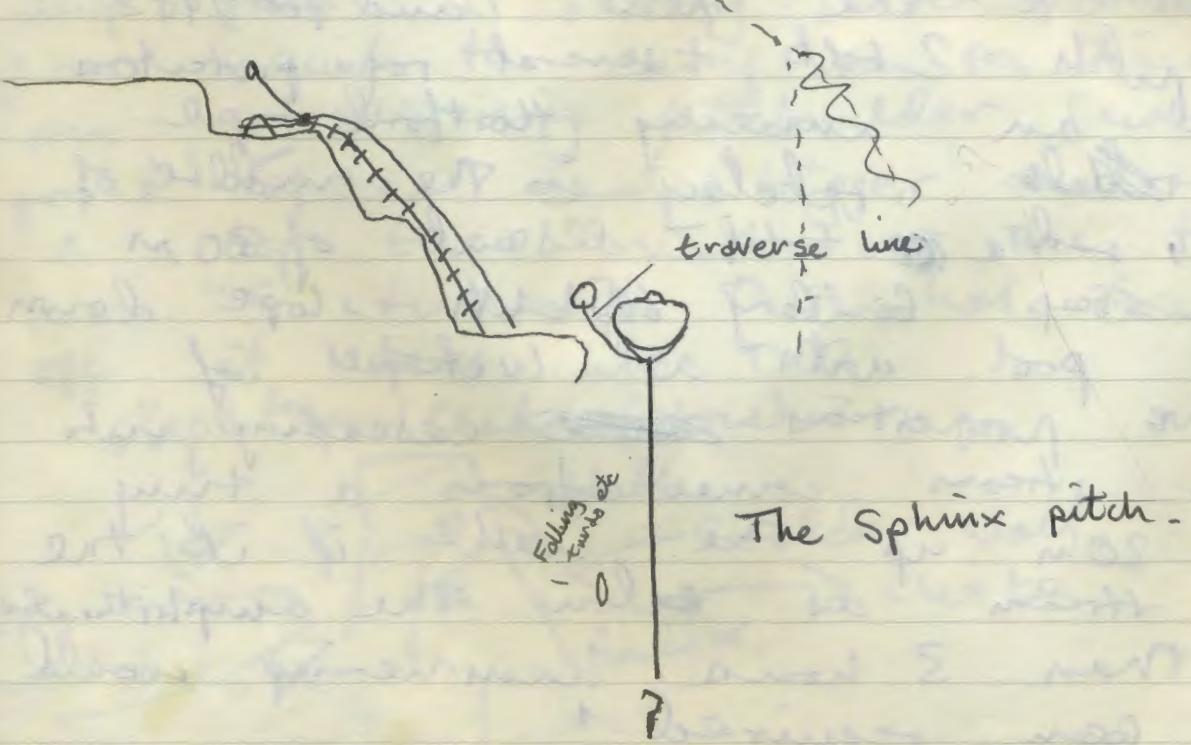
and saying things like "Mummy". The reason was —
 a FIVE SECOND STONEFALL. If I were Dave I'd
 no doubt philosophise or pontificate in the style
 of certain French Cavers ^{what a pain in the ass} but I thought was
 "Fuck, another long bastard." We rigged it
 from a massive ^{with the 100m Edelrid} knob on a wall opposite
 the ledge ~ but neither of us felt inspired
 enough to go down. A fairly efficient exit
 followed and we both got out at ~ 2-30 am.

Plan



JS.

B Elevation



P.S. Just noticed this trip's already been written up. Apologies for wasting space.

11-12th August (21 hours)

George, Dave, Richard - putting, surveying, photographing
and partly denigging FU56.

George and his big box made the descent noisier
than usual - Gang bang bang. We had shivers and
squeal with us so a long trip would be
humane! Thankfully the cave was still dry
so with balaclava we never got too cold.

Reaching the Valley of the Kings, Richard
volunteered to go down the Sphinx pit or the
escalade - which becomes noticeably thinner as
soon as you load it. He regretted this decision
as George required him to stop every 10m
to fire a flashtiger.

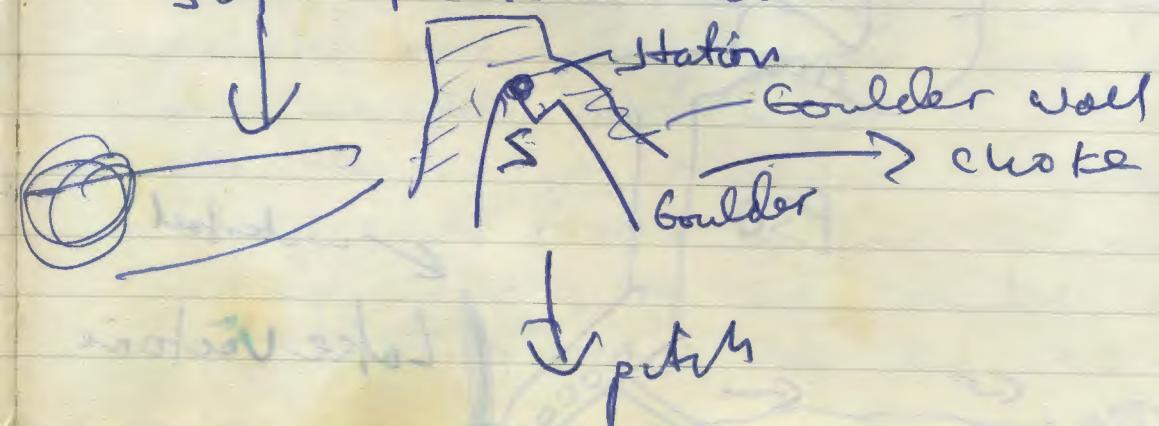
Finally he reached the bottom of what
turned out to be a beautiful, prettily
isolated in space tubular shaft of almost
exactly 60m, and shouted that he could hear
water. We brought down a bolt kit and
40m rope and advanced over a pile
of choss to the next (and for 1982,
~~final~~) pitch. 2 bolts + several rope protectors
led to an amazing flatford tape
abell ~~rebelly~~ nowhere, and a total descent of 30m
to ... a steep bouldery slope down
to a pool with a waterfall of
impressive proportions cascading into
it. The stream comes from a tiny
crack 20m up the wall - if it's the
same stream as below the amphitheatre
more than 5 hours hammering would
have been required!

At first sight this is the end of

The cove - the water sinks under a pile of impenetrable boulders. Rat George found the way on - through a short but horrible (v. loose sharp flakes wedged in the roof by ~~the~~ little more than hope) choke. A short climb and... a superb, clean washed, low wide streamway, probably the longest horizontal passage in the cove so far. Found a few bands of very fast-flowing water was a 20m pitch, very reminiscent of Xite - to go if you would (we will) ~~cross~~ traverse out on big calcite flakes to avoid the water. ~~cross~~ Pounding to turn "OUCC 1982" onto the rock we turned back.

We had already surveyed from the Valley of the Kings to the ~~the~~ bottom of the last pitch, and we carried on down to the pool. Next year's team will find a survey station ~~with~~ from which to carry on to the choke on a ~~the~~ very big boulder just in front of an even bigger one - I left a ^{big} bun mark on the top and an "S" tut if that has been washed off it looks like this:

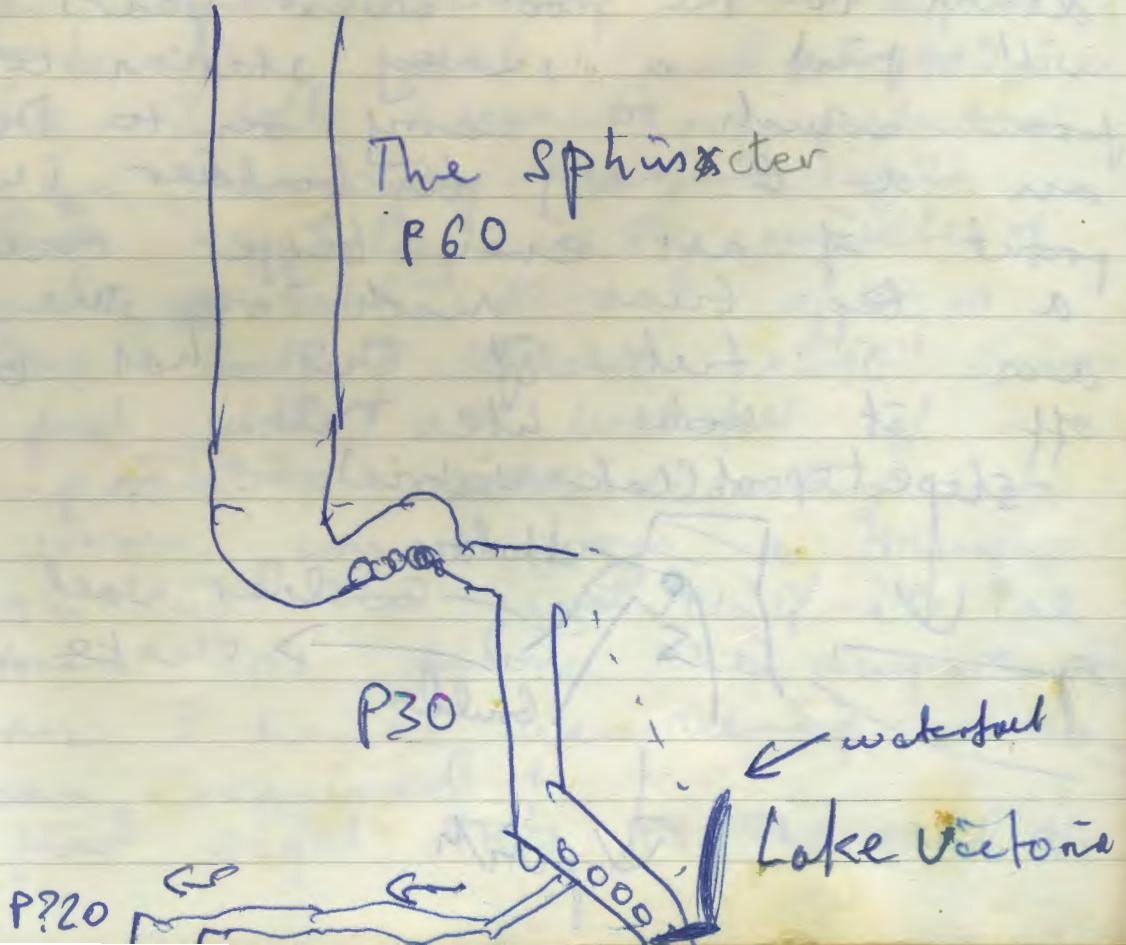
slope to pool (Lake Victoria)



As we began the slow ascent, we decided to bring as far as One-step beyond. Pausing for dinner in the Valley of the Kings we ~~also~~ achieved just as except for the top pitch beyond the beginning of the bypass. We also completed the survey, joining Graham + Williams' effort at the bottom of the Font, which we also photographed.

Exit - totally ~~the~~ knackered - was made about 10 am. The smell of wild herbs coming down the ~~steps~~ entrance & shaft was lovely. A very successful trip the way on was open. (Oh yes - George found some big boulder chambers above the final streamway - a possible camp?)

The Sphincter
P60



13.8.82. G Naylor on syringes of grease:

'I was coming back eager to ejaculate in all these holes, but there were hardly any'.

14.8.82 Went to Cangas yesterday to find Northern Lish hitch-hiker. Also picked up 3 spaniards, one of whom had been down PSM. They had to listen to Dr Feelgood at 90 dB as we came up the hill.

Sam did a quick & dirty calculation on Max's calculator:
 $\text{Depth} = -520 \text{ m}!!$ (not including undescended pitch).

Wait until it's worked out on the computer: $x_{\text{true}} = 80$
 6-12 August. Checked again, and it's still $-520.05 \text{ m}!!$ $910 \text{ m} \rightarrow 859 \text{ m}!$

When to Oviedo to the University, where I did some work on the geology of the Picos. Have managed to get papers on the central and this massif. Complete with a geological section which goes through FUSG. Also a geological map of this massif. All in all could prove very useful. Have started the translation of this massif from Spanish to English, not too difficult.

P.S. It looks like FUSG is fault controlled and if the section is anything to go by has a possible depth of 1500 m+ and is in mountain limestone, Helly.

Pozo de las Perdices - FUSG

(14.8.82)

Demolished yesterday double quick, despite the science graduate's tackle banking system. George & Dave & I (RG) took some v. posed photos in the rift, inlet, chair, pendule etc. When we got out - a bottle of Cordoniu Spanish bubbly! kindly provided by Dave, but alas the Spanish corkage was of the same standard as their sex-mags i.e. rather to the cork. Why did we come back to Andal-

68

Instead of staying at Los Perdices? We raced through
the night to get here & ~~have some wine~~.

Wags start at Calais, if you want my opinion.

- Dickie

(After being told to wipe
the table!)

13/8/82

John, Andy, Mark + George got an early start ~10:00
(earliest start of the expedition?) This was mainly
due to Tom + I still having the shits + gut ache.
George was intending to photograph us as we descended
but as it turned out he played a major role in
de-rigging (possibly due to the lack of enthusiasm for photography
as the rest). Started from where Tom Graham + William
stopped the previous day in 2nd ladder pitch below
Marble Bathroom. De-rigged 2 ladder pitches, an abseil
balloon, 2nd right traverse, 40' ladder, Mistral 4, 3 &
shagged at this point, and then feeling bad emerged
12 hr trip - George was glad of an easy trip!!

12/8/82 Jan, Graham, William

De-rigged FUS6 from 2nd pitch on "one step beyond" (20m) :- bottom
of 2nd Marble Bathroom ladder. Only problem ^(literally?) was on pitch above 'one step beyond'
it was difficult enough with 3 people, with 4 it would have been a real bastard.
Emerged at ~12:30 am after 12 hours. Bill had light problems so was held up somewhat
on way out.

15. 8. 82 Everybody

Cleared camp + gear at FUS6 back to Arco in 1 trip

Carry to Los Lagos. Meal at Andersons. No meat, so menu

9 ~~spaghetti~~ or ~~spaghetti~~ + wine + Paella

+
Tortilla

Fabada

*

Queso

*

Cafe

~~spaghetti~~

Fabada

*

Tortilla

*

Queso

*

Cafe

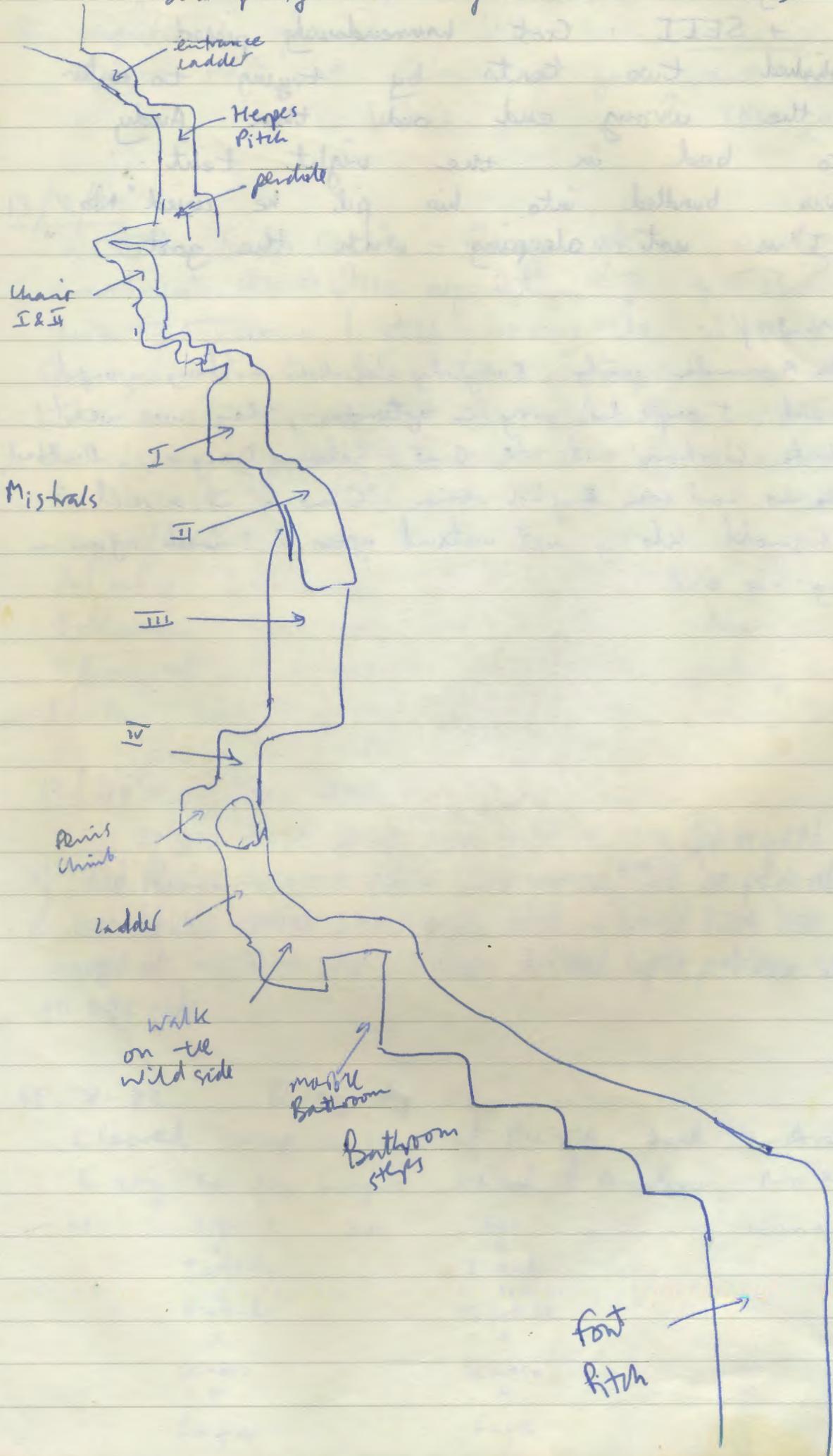
15-8-82 Evening

Met LUSS + SEII. Got horrendously pissed.
 George demolished two tents by trying to enter them at the wrong end and then Andy put him to bed in the right tent. As he was bundled into his pit he cried 'No, No, No, I'm not sleeping with the goat...'

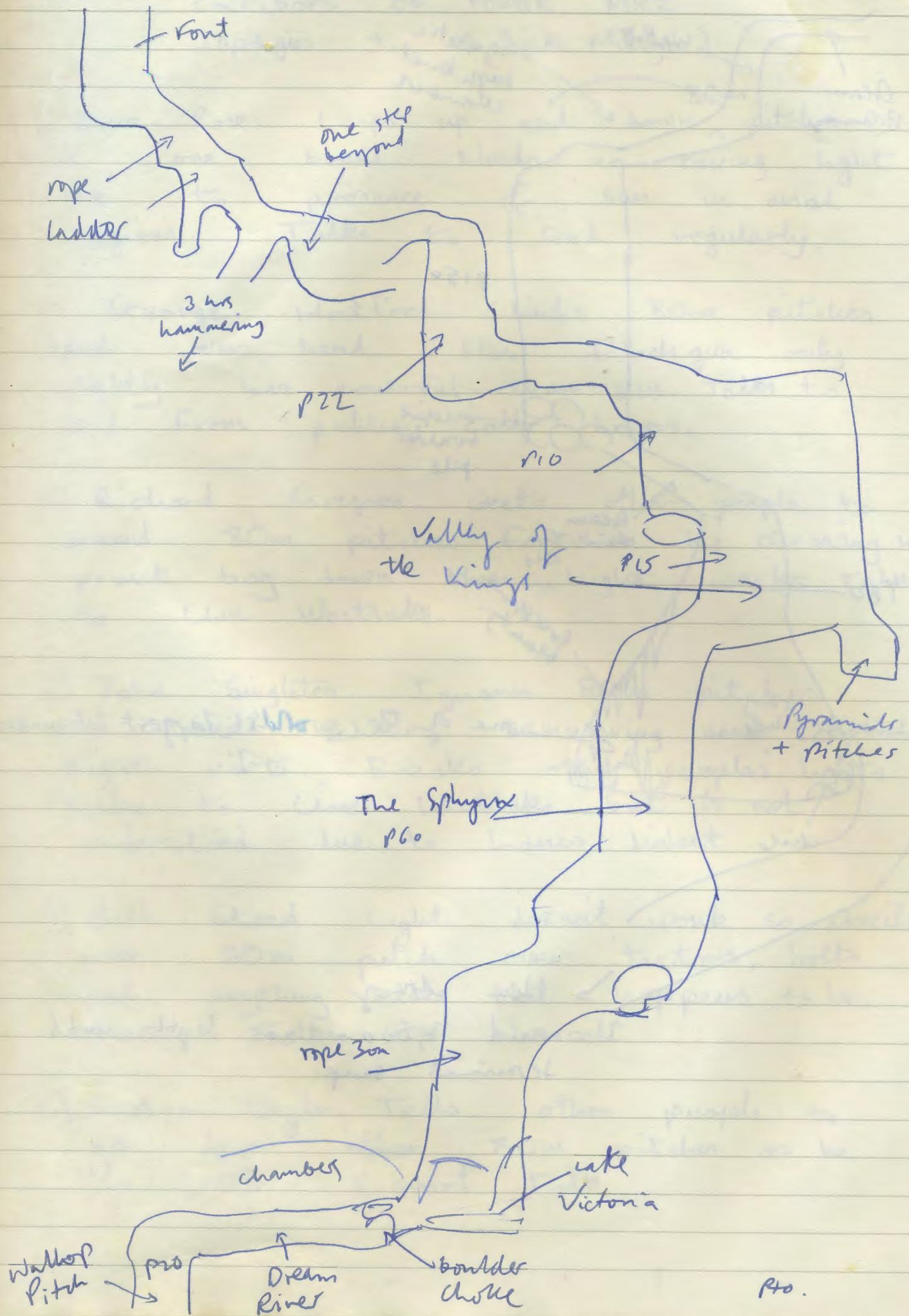
16.8.82 Monday

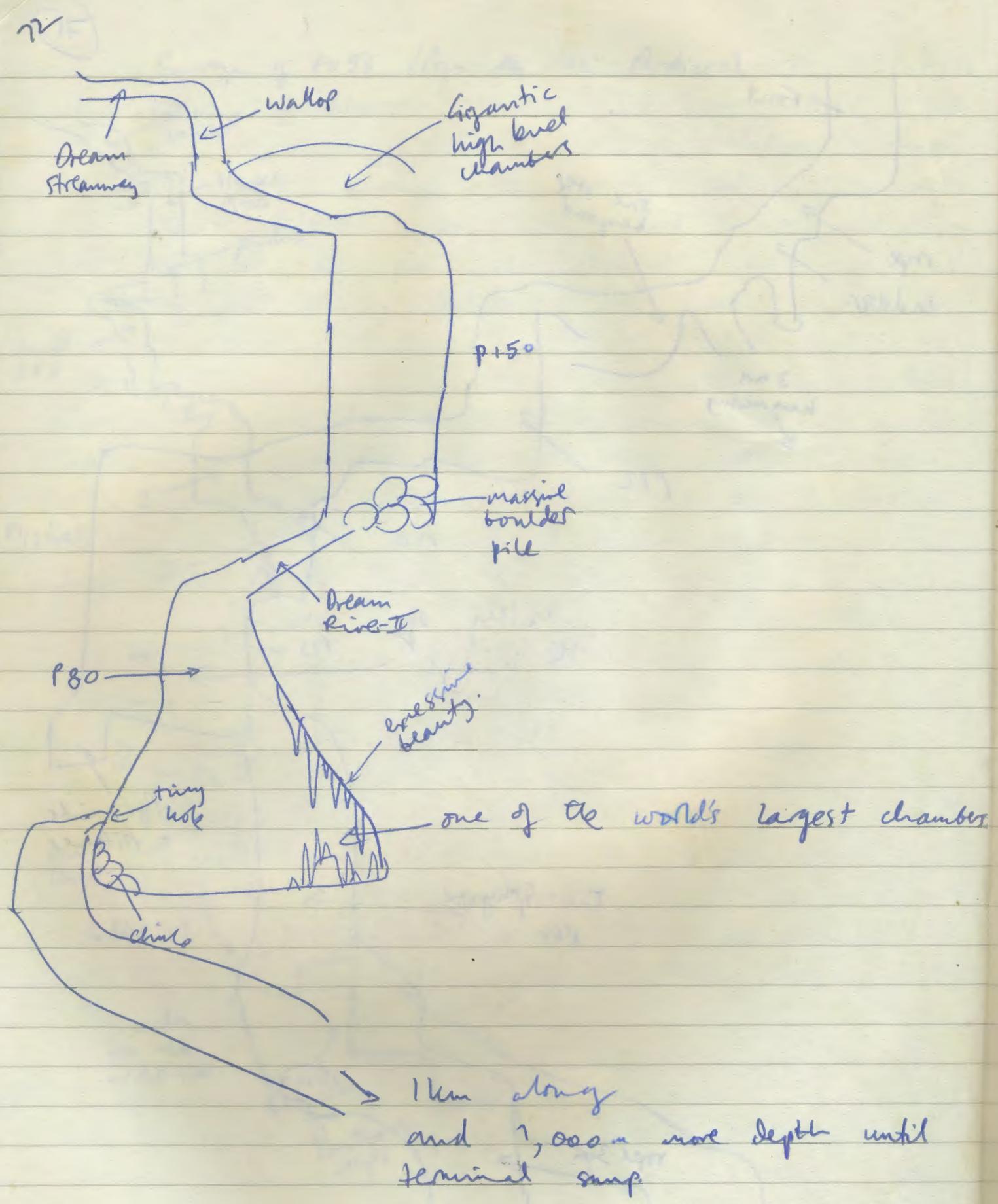
Dave taken to 4 months early. Everybody else does nothing - awful weather as usual. 5 people did carry in afternoon, then we went to see 'Flash Gordon' at the Ciné-Color, Gangas. Dubbed, but most of us had seen English version. Cinema is a real flea-pit. It smelt like a wet wetsuit after a 2-week sojourn in a plastic bag - ie bad.

Survey of PV56 (Pgm ~~m~~ las Perdices)



(71)





CORRIDORS OF POWER MK2

(Apologies to Spike Milligan)

- 1) Dave Rose. Leaps up and down ^{80m} pitches in one bound. Needs no caving light due to presence of sun in arid regions. Talks to God regularly.
- 2) George Hostford. Climbs 80m pitches hand over hand. Has flashlight only slightly less powerful than sun. Talks to God from public call boxes.
- 3) Richard Gregson. Gets other people to descend 80m pitches for him by throwing his prusik bag down them. ^{This} Light works. Talks to Clive Westlake.
- 4) John Singleton. Ignores 80m pitches and spends 3 hours hammering down scrupulous tight rifts. Breaks other people's lights. Talks to Clive Westlake but is not understood due to Lancs dialect.
- 5) Bill Stead. Light doesn't work so abseils down 80m pitch over tectons, bolts and anything else that happens to be there. Talks to himself.
- 6) Graham Naylor. Tells other people to go down ~~other~~ 80m pitches as he is GOD. Cannot talk.

C-in-C
Los Lagos

29.7.82

Major Rose
Refugio, Ario

Dear Dave,

I have been mulling over your idea of setting an example to the chaps by flaying alive Young Hostford. While I agree that we need an example to set the men I rather think that this is not such a good plan. The fellow has deserved tough skin and would probably blunt the only sharp knife, and how would we then cut up the pemmican?

I rather think it would be better to use the method of the Froggie Legionaries which is to bury the chap up to his neck in sand and then ride a cavalry charge over him. Or was it the arabs? The only problems that I can envisage are that the ground is too hard and we have no horses. True British ingenuity should win through though. We could tie the fellow down to

the rocks and drive a herd of goats
over the damned fellow. In order to make
the goats more interested in the scraberry private,
we had this beast bring you a tub of
m, ^{with} which I suggest you literally smear
him.

On the other hand, if you feel that food
shortages require that we might have to
eat Hostford, feed him the jam beforehand.

I leave this to your discretion.

Trust Margaret and the children are well

Yours ever

Rickie.

Maj Gen. R.M.C. GREGSON D.S.O. V.C.

N	-	D	o	-		850
-	D	D	N	-		800
N	-	N	N	-		1000

$$\begin{array}{r}
 145 \\
 \times 64 \\
 \hline
 580 \\
 + 870 \\
 \hline
 9380
 \end{array}$$

17675

— 42 —

= 16,000

10,000 from Katty
6,000 from Epi

4857

1891
S. C. G.
25/10/1891

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Sat
Graham	-	-	-	N	-	N	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	D	D	-	N	-	N	D	D	N	D	-	N	-	Y	-	Y			
Richard	-	-	-	N	-	N	-	-	N	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	-	N	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tom	-	-	-	N	-	N	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Jay	-	-	-	N	-	N	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Paul	-	-	-	N	-	N	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Helen	-	-	-	N	-	N	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Penny	-	-	-	N	-	N	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Mark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	D	-	N	D	D	D	-	N	D	D	-	N	-	D	-	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
George	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	D	-	N	N	N	-	D	-	-	D	-	D	-	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
Dave	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
William	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Martin L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	D	-	N	D	D	-	N	D	D	-	N	-	D	-	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
Martin H.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Andy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	D	D	N	-	D	N	N	-	D	N	N	-	D	-	N	-	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
John	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	D	D	D	-	D	D	D	-	D	D	D	-	D	-	D	-	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
Dani	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	D	D	D	-	D	D	D	-	D	D	D	-	D	-	D	-	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
Marika	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	-	N	-	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	

25
25
25
25

