

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 Lagos. However I was forced to shelter in the bus as every five minutes my asshole starting blinking at me. and I had to cusp under the bridge to ~~deliver~~ 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 ~~ended~~ 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 ailments have something to do with some food we ate



Andy.



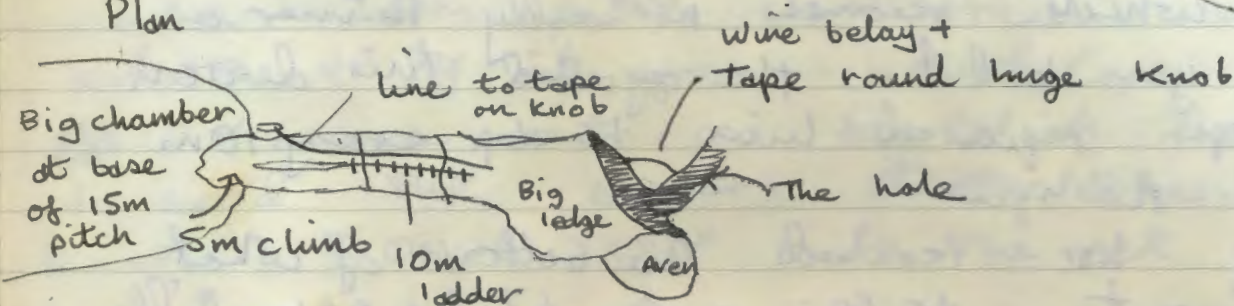
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08/08/82. John + Graham. Surveying FU 56.
Not a good day for me: - Helen's carbide generator detached itself from me halfway down Chair II and broke in half. The rest of the trip was performed on Mallory power (luckily I had a spare one on me) and 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.

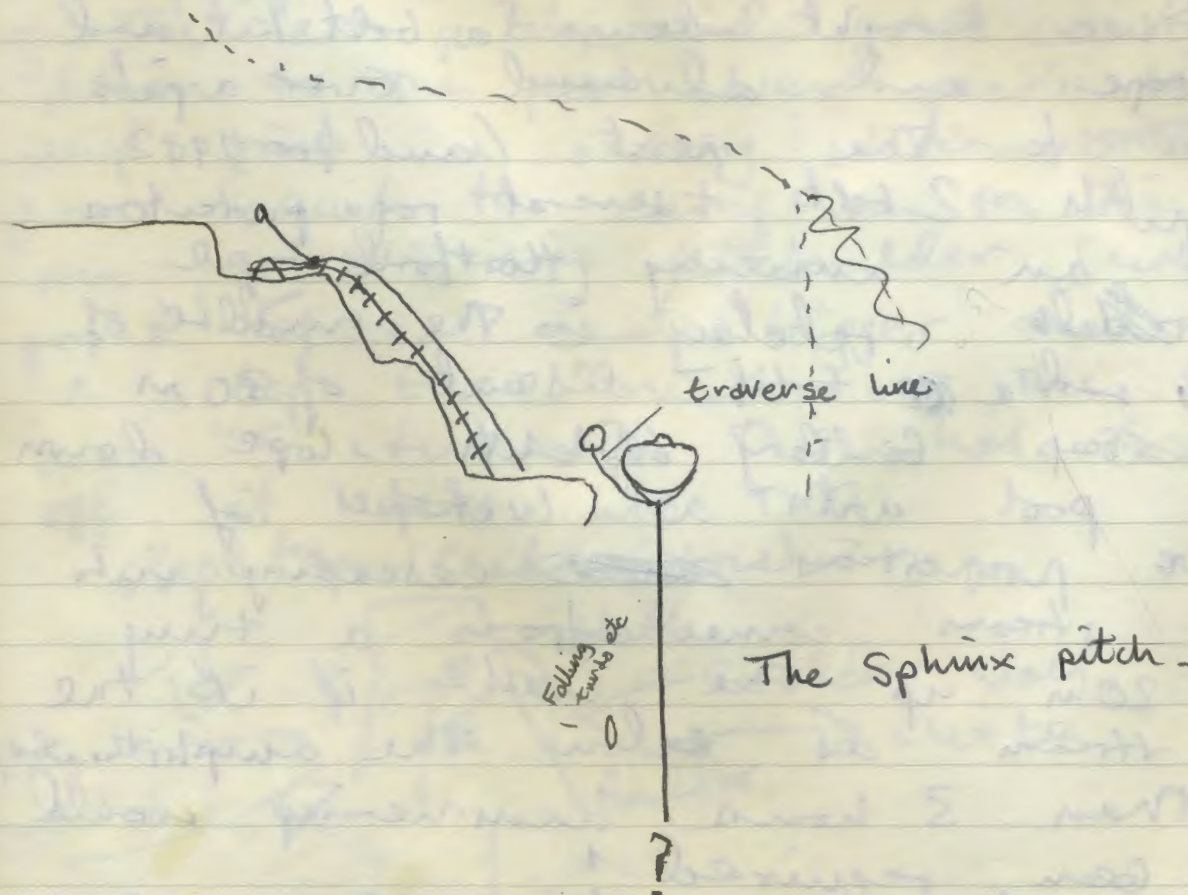
09/08/82 John + Paul Pushing FU 56.
Got down about mid day and made a fairly rapid descent with one Mule Bag to head of 55m pitch. There Paul replaced the tape belay, which was frayed by another hump of tape. Spent quite a bit of time rerigging the three pitches in the "Hammered Hole" Bypass (Should 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 wodge 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 but ^{what a pain in the dong} all I thought was
 "Fuck, another long bastard". We rigged it
 from a massive knob on a wall opposite
 the ledge ^{with the 100m Edelrid} but neither of us felt inspired
 enough to go down. A fairly efficient exit
 followed and we both got out at ~ 2-30am.

Plan



B Elevation



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

UK

11-12th August (21 hours)

George, Dave, Richard - pushing, surveying, photographing and partly derigging FUS6.

George and his tip box made the descent noisier than usual - bang being bang. We had shives and squid with us so a long trip would be humanised - thankfully the cave was still dry so with balaclavas we never got too cold.

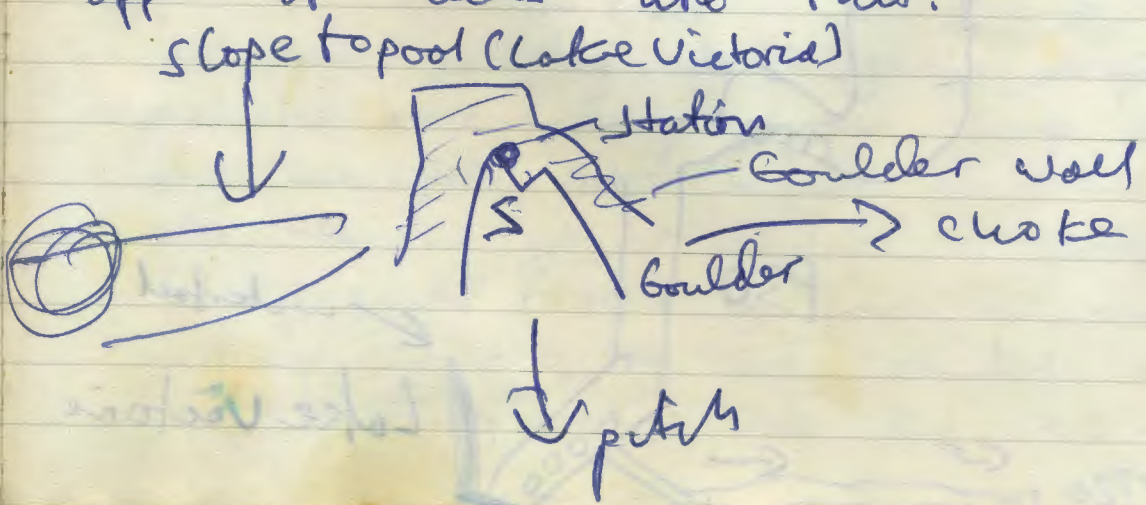
Reaching the Valley of the Knip, Richard volunteered to go down the Sphinx pit on the edeloid - which becomes noticeably thinner as soon as you load it. He regretted this decision as George required him to stop every 10m to fire a flashlight.

Finally he reached the bottom of what turned out to be a beautiful, splendidly 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) pit, 2 bolts + several rope protectors led to an amazing flatford tape ~~rebel~~ rebelay in the middle of 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 were the same stream as below the amphitheatre, more than 5 hours hammering would have been required +
At first sight this is the end of



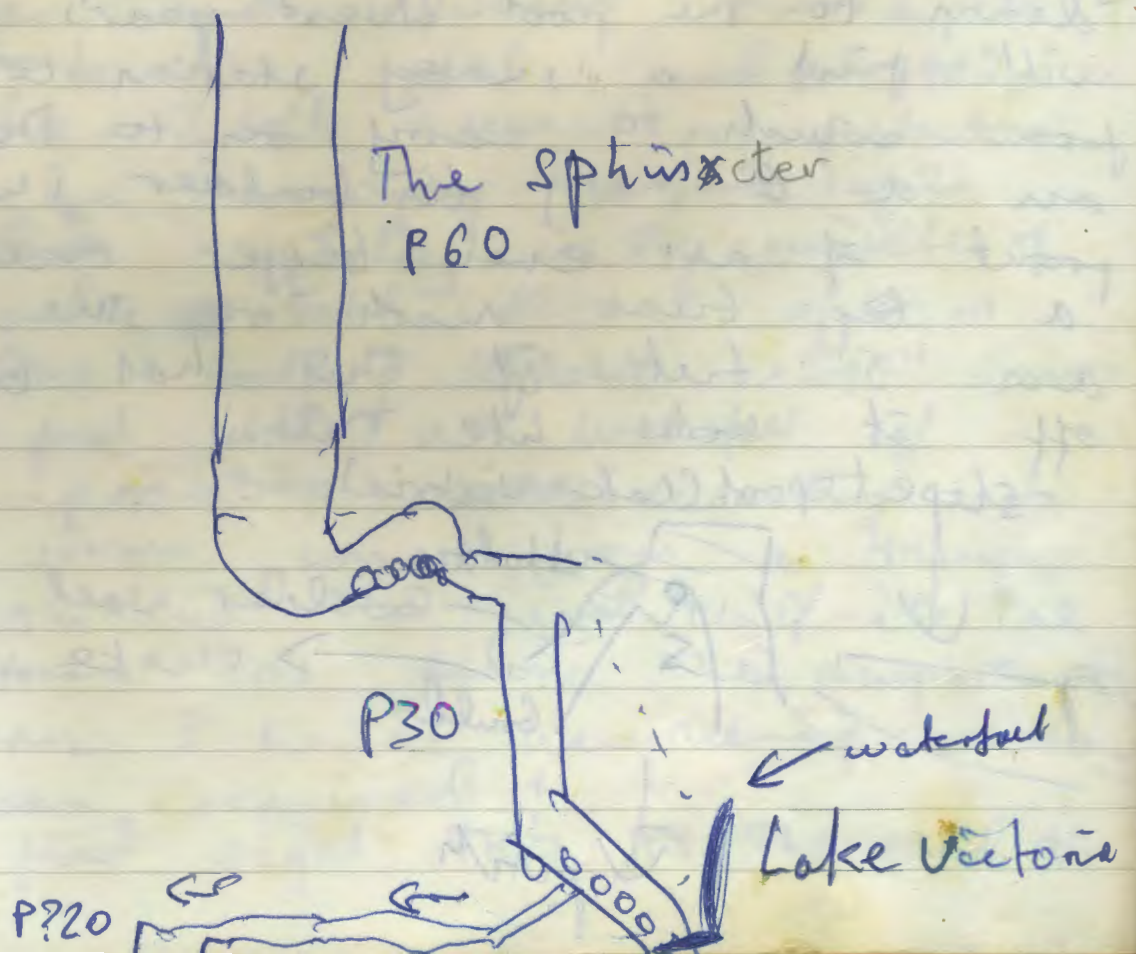
The cave - the water sinks under a pile of impenetrable boulders. Pat George found the way on - through a short but horrible (v. loose sharp flakes wedged in the roof by ~~the~~ little more than hope) choke. A short climb and ... a superb, clean washed, 1m wide streamway, probably the longest horizontal passage in the cave so far. Found a few bends of very fast-flowing water was a 20m pitch, very reminiscent of Xitu - to rig it you would (we will) ~~traverse~~ traverse out on big calcite flakes to avoid the water. ~~Pausing to~~ Pausing to burn "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 a~~ 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 burn mark on the top and an "S" but if this has been washed off it looks like this:



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 ~~did~~ achieved the ~~pitch~~ except for the ~~to~~ ~~pitch~~ beyond the beginning of the bypass. We also completed the survey, joining Graham + William's 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 ~~entrance~~ ~~was~~ entrance shaft was lovely. A very successful trip - the way on was open. (O.K. yes - George found some big boulder chambers above the pit & streamways. a possible camp?)



13.8.82. 9 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 Irish 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.

Jan did a quick & dirty calculation on Mark's calculator:
: Depth = -520 m!! (not including undescended pitch).

Wait until it's worked out on the computer: Xite in 80
Checked again, and it's still -520.05m!!!
910m → 859m!

6-12 August.

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 FUS6. 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 FUS6 is fault controlled and if the section is anything to go by has a possible depth of 1500m+ and is in mountain limestone, Helly.

Pozo de las Perdices - FUS6

(14.8.82)

Demigged yesterday double quick, despite the science graduates' tackle handling system. George & Dave & I (RG) took some v. posed photos in the rift, inlet, chair, pendule etc. When we got out - a bottle of Cordonium Spanish bubblegum kindly provided by Dave, but alas the Spanish corkage was of the same standard as their sex-mags i.e. rotten to the core. Why did we come back to Arrol

instead of staying at Las Perdices? We raced through
the night to get here & ... no wine.

Wags start at Calais, if you want my opinion.

—Dichie

(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 John + I still having the shits + gut ache.
George was intending to photograph us as we denigged
but as it turned out he played a major role in
denigging (possibly due to the lack of enthusiasm for photography
in the west). Stated from where Jan, Graham + William
stopped the previous day is 2nd ladder pitch below
Marble Bathroom. De-rigged 2 ladder pitches, as well as
bathroom, 2nd rgt, traverse, 40' ladder, Mistral 4, 3 & 2.
I bagged at this point and John jacking had completed
12 hr trip - George was glad of an easy trip!!

12/8/82 Jan, Graham, William

derigged FUS6 from 2nd pitch on "one step beyond" (20m) - bottom
of 2nd Marble Bathroom ladder. Only problem ^(difficulty?) was on pitch above 'one step beyond' -
it was difficult enough with 3 people, with it would have been a real workout.
Emerging 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 Ario in 1 trip

Carry to Las Lagos. Meal at Andors. No meat, so menu

4 *spg or *spg + wine + Ponche

*
Tortilla

*
Fabada

*
Fabada

*
Tortilla

*

*

Queso

Queso

*

*

Cafe

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 Arrindale early. Everybody else does nothing - awful weather as usual. 5 people did carry in afternoon, then we went to see 'Flash Gordon' at the Cine - Colon, Cangas. 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 - is bad.



Survey of FU 56 (Poyn ~~de~~ las Perdices)

