

(21)

F20?

scale as J.T.H. The cave took a few minutes longer; on this side, by a snowfield (the entrance only visible from one side of this) below a nice grassy bit. Up to the limit of daylight it looked great: arched, large, descending.

The two Drs are there now. These caves are a lot further round from FUSG than F20: the possibility that they are hydrologically independent or ~~that they bypass the sump~~ that they bypass the sump must be a lot greater.

From the ridge the view of Peña Santa de Enol is superb. And the area between it and the ridge - never looked at by caves - looks studded with entrances. The next five years' work for O.U.C.C.?



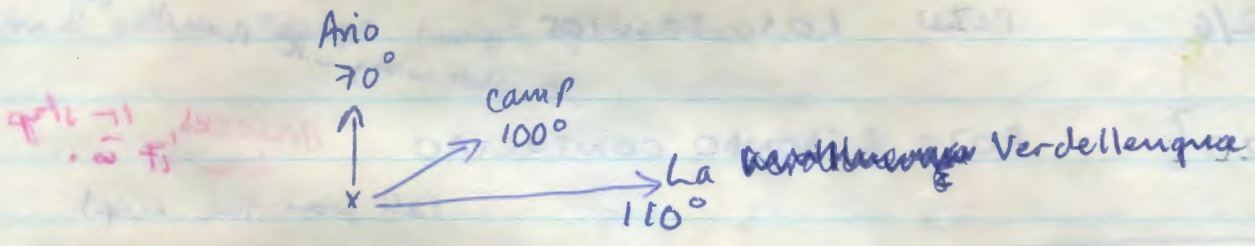
See Aug 3rd for sketch.

Wednesday. Richard & Sara in Ridge Cave.

Sorry? Oh yes, er (nervous cough), well er actually we never found f20 initially, as the burning sun prevented us looking up & seeing your cairns stone. Actually we just got lost. Serendipity though... we found Ridge Cave. 1/6 & 2/6 both AI prospects.

Sara & I went down 1/6; Ridge Cave.

Entrance

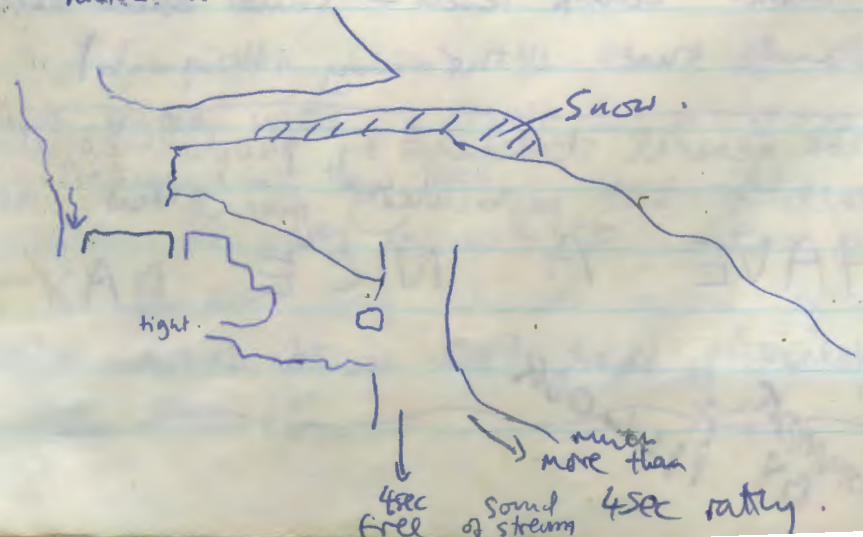


The entrance is a squeeze past a snow plug (well not much of a squeeze, you don't need to take off your pack). This leads rather surprisingly into a large horizontal passage some 7m in diameter, and heading into the hill for over 50m.

Then you descend, a 10m ladder pitch (rigged with a rope) into a vadou canyon. (R) leads to a pit with the sound of a stream. (L) leads over a drop to the second pitch - a climb down past the belay to a ledge, then 15m to a small chamber. This chamber issues as an argonauts-rift-sized rift into a shaft of 4sec free drop.

Above, the pitch head can be climbed to where it can obviously be rigged from natural.

XS.



(23)

OK. ES EL COMERCIO! THIS IS THE BUSINESS!!!

AND THESE ARE THE NAMES OF THE CAVES:

1/6 POZU PICU CONJURTAO

2/6 POZU LOS DESVIOS

→ which wrong with Pozo de Caballeros?

¿ F20? POZU REDONDO CONJURTAO

Balllocks, it's stop how it is.

(all from the map)

MESSAGE

Today (18/7) Dave + Steve ~~just~~ going down 1/6; Richard + Sara following after getting 80m rope from JTH. TLJ?

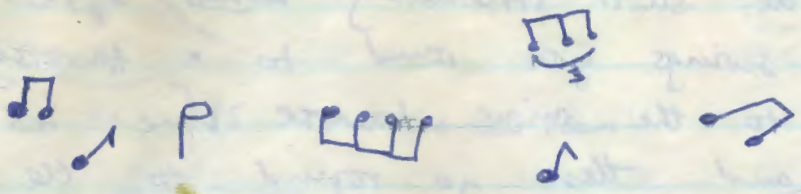
A SUGGESTION: after 3/5 is surveyed + derigged Aris should be run down ^(not dismantled) there are 3 going caves here now. We ought to have more tents, a double burner, big pots, and a bigger operation generally up here. And more water containers - nice stream to fill them at 1/6. All these caves could be part of giant hydrological network re-emerging at Hoyo La Madre - in which case depth potential is about 1400m ^{what? M.M. is at avg 800m!} forget the general theories about bump levels - some caves bump and some don't and that's the way it is...!

Forget the general statements by people who don't know what they're talking about, particularly given their view, held only 6

HAVE A NICE DAY-Y !!!

pages previously, that F20 would reach a maximum depth of 190 m

COMMENT BY PILLLOCK



Dancing in the Dark

(please fill in the gaps and add more)

I go down in the morning
 I don't got nothing to eat
 Except a tin of ~~the~~ tuna
 And some ~~lumps~~ lumps of cabbage

Can't light a lamp without a spark
 I'm looking for a Gelay
 So I can go dancing in the dark

YES VERY POSITIVE — 1/6 has gone
 2b or not 2b
 That is the system.

I fetched the rope from TLT & then Sara + I joined
 Dave + Steve inside ^{all time} Ridge Cave. The pushing trip which
 ensued is one of the Picos classics - best left to tales
 in the bar.

What happened was this.
 After 1st + 2nd pitches (10m) the head of the
 bigger pitile was rigged with a bolt — a 50m superb
 shaft called 'Dancing in the Dark'.
 At the foot, the way on with the water was ignored
 and through a window and down to a squeeze
 which reminded Dave not a little of... well we
 called it 'The Axolottl'.

A 5m pitch follows the short streamway ~~stream~~ after the Axolotl, which swings you round to a traverse passage - climb up to the obvious traverse line. as soon as you can, and then go round to the pitch head - a brilliant Y belay for a 20m pitch.

This pitch could actually be 40m but stop abseiling at the obvious place.

The way on now is complicated.

This word has now been forbidden. P2204

The stream vanishes downwards, but you go up an inlet straight ahead - except that it isn't an inlet but an abandoned outlet. There seems to be no way on ... until you see the rope dangling down a slit at floor level. Go down here using the handline on the last section.

*** You are now in a small cranny, with an obvious way on ahead.

GO UP WAY ON

*** Above your head is a traverse line in the roof.

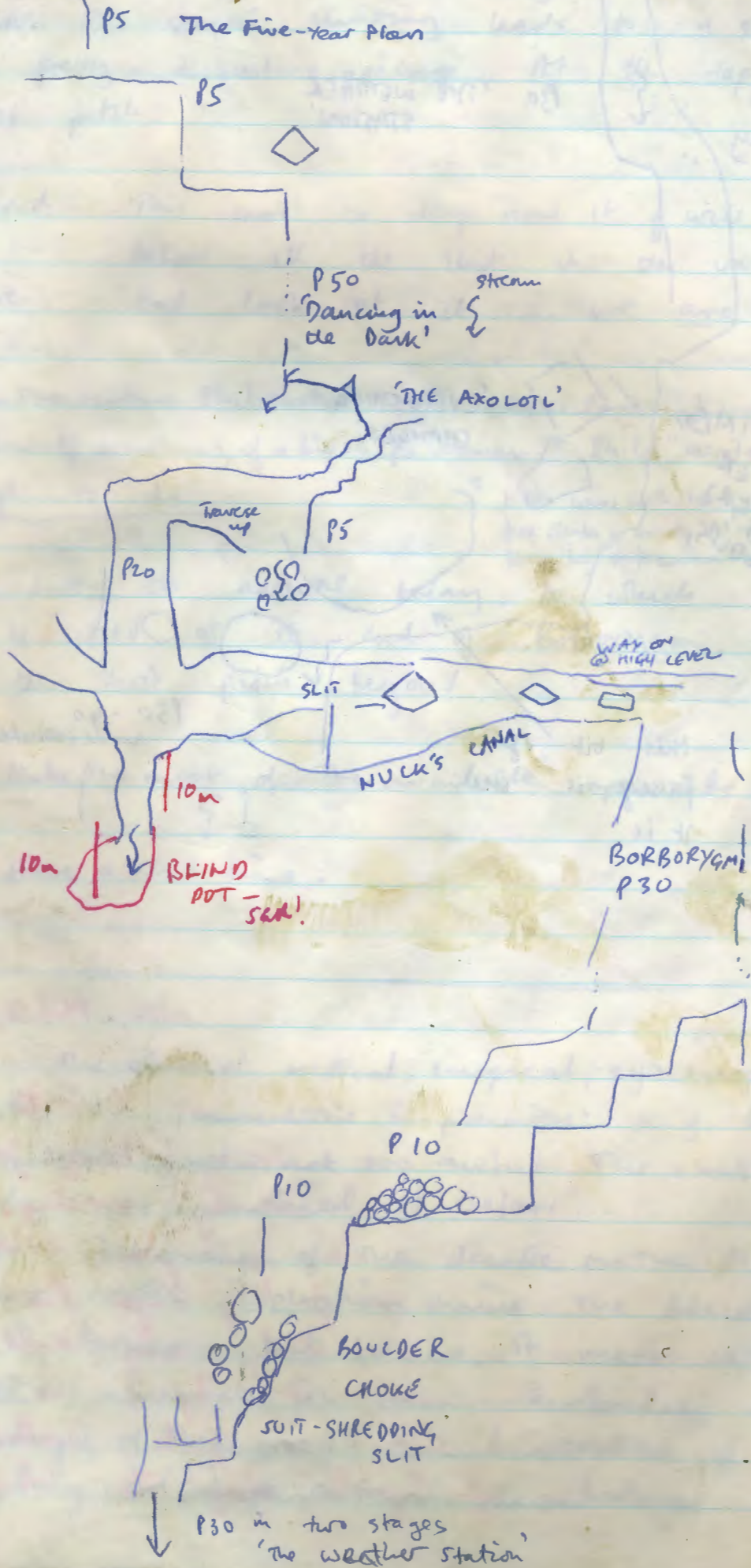
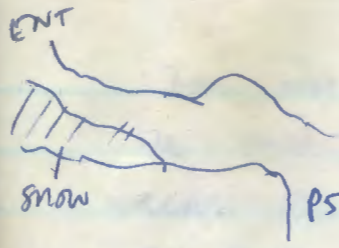
CLIMB UP TO TRAVERSE LINE & CLIP ON

*** The only way on is feet first down a foul chute to a pitch head.

GO DOWN THIS AND, CLIPPED ON TO THE TRAVERSE LINE, CROSS OVER THE DROP TO THE SRT PITCH.

The next pitch is 30m and the Marlow makes a growling noise as you go down - hence the name Borborygmi.

At the foot two short pitches lead to an area of massive collapse, and climbing down through this a cold draught is felt and then you say to yourself surely the way on can't be down here? But it is. Slide down the vertical slit and crawl to the pitch head.



P30 in two stages
'The weather station'

27

SLIT

rebelay

P30 'THE WEATHER STATION'

CLIMBS
GO UNDER
(OR OVER)
STAMMED
BOULDER

'EVERYTHING
CHANGES'

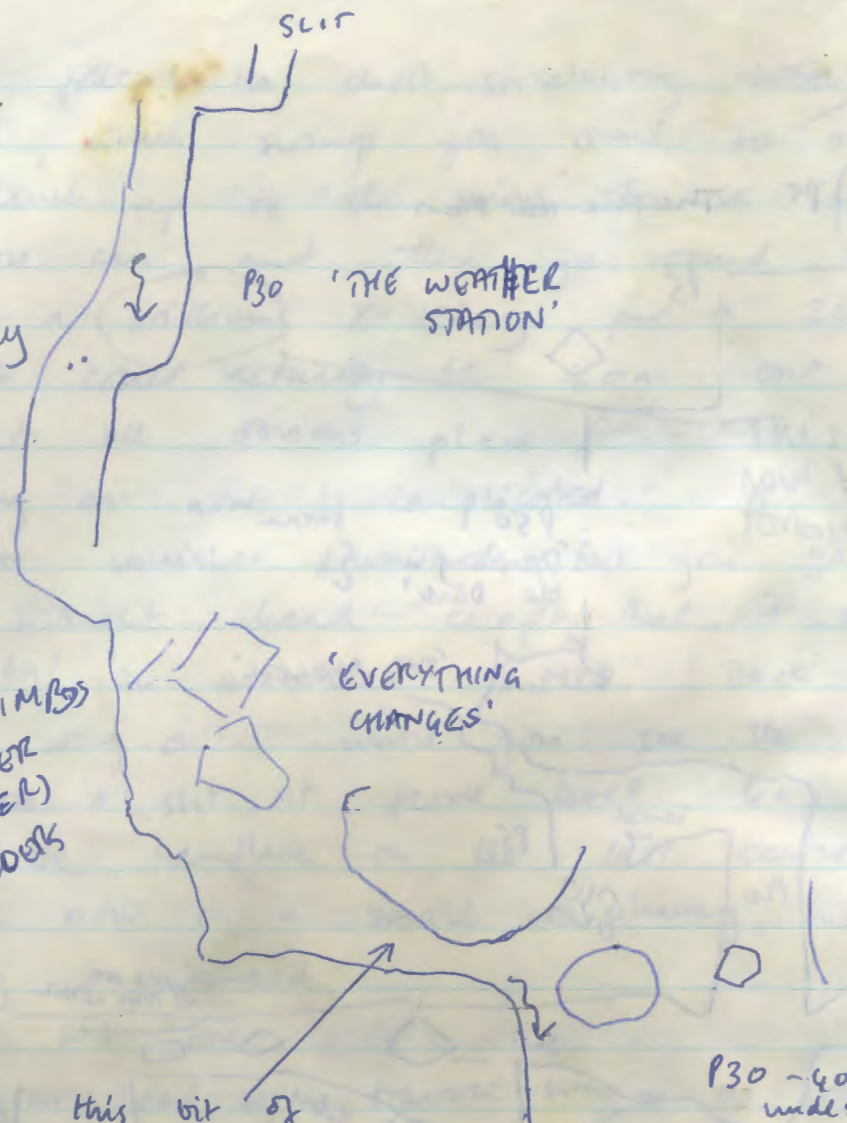
this bit of
passage is... well
it is.

P30-40
undescended.

!?



~01



The next pitch is the very nice, especially after all the shit above. Water is regained here, and a series of 'super' climbing leads to a short section of pretty disgusting passage. At the top of the next pitch

Richard 'This cave's so deep now it ~~of~~ will get well below all the shit in the valley'

Steve 'But look at it ... we are in the shit.'

↗ I've never said that at all.

Later on the surface Phil cooked yummy supper. Dave: "I suppose Nicola thinks herself something of a big shaft woman." Phil: "write that down, someone."

Things to do

↑ I like caves with lots of streamways and waterfalls, free climbs + variety - I've never tried to pretend to be a big shaft woman - not in the caving sense at least!

① Use the natural belay, to which the rope is tied at the end of Bortorygmi, to back up the short pitch beyond.

② Make the most of the available ropes etc.

③ Have a nice time.

222, 0.229, actual

After the clinical, medical, surgical, eye surgeon's account, the jamaletic impressions: v. g. trip.

The squeezes just not too awful. The shafts interesting. If only I'd noticed it before...

So... Discovery of the decade on the Picu Conjuradas? The most notable exploration since the discovery of Antarctica? Perhaps. But for us, it marks above all a new ~~an~~ advance in our understanding of the hydrogeology of the area; a culmination of endeavour and ~~ambition~~ (why not?) ~~in~~ a certain ~~pl~~ geontology.

19/7/85 Friday 13pm Sean (call on his lonesome)

Hi chaps

Just popped up with 115m rope + few kins etc

Nicola bringing lots of food later. I would like to ~~say~~ second the proposal by DK that we run down Ario and concentrate efforts up here - never did like Ario.

Toodle pip.

19/7/85 Nicola (call on her lonesome)

Popped up with more goodies including lemon juice, coffee + milk - all of which I heard you were pining for. Pretty thick fog down at Ario for much of morning - much nice having climbed up through clouds.

About to cook food.

Hopes the caves are all going well (dumb statement really having read the log)

Nicola,

Just deanked, deumbed + sorted food tent. Can people please make sure the food tent is done up securely at all times cos otherwise lots of ants get in and munch all that nice open bread and anything else they can get their chompers into.

Thanks

19/7 Friday

"A Night on the Bare Mountain"

Martin, Phil O, SGR.

Sony lads, we screwed it up a bit. I write this with approx 1/2 a brain functioning, having just got up at 1/4 to one on Saturday morning. The reason for this is that we spent from 1:30 to 6am looking somewhere N of Top Camp (as it turned out) for a vilely misty night. After emerging from the cave at 1pm, we walked down to the bottom valley, as per usual, walked around it + set off uphill along the 'obvious'

green valley. 20 mins later we was completely lost
 We wanted to go down & across
 shingles like very tall & slowing weather for all
 weight was worth it to no avail. A sudden
 lifting of the mist revealed Torcades Blanca pass -
 400m away. Then it clagged in again. Much
 walking later we found a 'cairn'. Didn't help
 at all. Eventually we decided to sit it out till dawn.

This is a peculiar form of self-torture. Basically
 it was cold. Not so cold that you immediately
 grab a 'car', shake a light, give it a 'set packing',
 but the sort that if you know that there is no
 prospect in moving till 6am, jump into your
 brass & starts you shivering. My watch progressed
 slowly through the hour as I hunked up on my
 mattress & shivered. A damp funny suit is overcast but
 keep cold & damp (it rained a lot too) out.

The darkest & coldest hour really was before the
 dawn. Martin managed to sleep somehow, after relating
 tales of much worse 'Sierras I have known'. At
 first signs of light we wandered round stamping feet
 & filling up over small boulders, and made our way
 back down hill, and up the right ~~hand~~ grass slope
 (looking to the left when we were) to Top Camp & Nicolas
 crissat, up Tuou Stue. Crash-out city.

5. with Ambrose now - the caving trip. (1/8)

Some of the local didn't do a good job on the
 re-organizing. From behind & Dave's excited description,
 and the long way to the south survey, we mistook
 the 5m deep for the 'get off 1/2 way', and
 the possible squaring segments for Nucki Canal. Consequently,
 it was being used to use the 90m rope