1987

ARTO I

ARIO CAMP

Log Book

'An Evening Stroll to Ano'
or
"Dot to Dot."

Having spent the last four days cooped up inside the van, Jonathan & I decided to go up the mountain on the evening of Day 1 Wednesday 8th July 17 rucksacks full of gear had already gone up so we loaded our packs with a few essentials like gas bottles, tents, medical kits & washing up bowls & set off for Ano in the mist at half nine.

We went reasonably quickly almost making the Moraine by eleven. I say almost because we never actually found it but left followed a line of cairns from the top of scree to. Soon there were no yellow dots to be seen, only green glowing glow worms.

We decided we'd only get hopelessly lost if we tried to retrace our steps back to the path and so carried on taking compass bearings, through the mist.

Just as I was about to suggest stopping for the night Jonathan exclaimed: "Beep Beep Beep Beep Beep Beep Beep.

'What the hell's that noise" (not realising it was J)

"A yellow dot"

'Oh... Good!'"

We followed the dots past a rusting old sign & to a small headland with a 20' drop on 3 sides. At the top was a yellow dot which I sat on while Jonathan went to look for the next. After much scrambling about, Jonathan returned saying he'd found a path but it had

no yellow dots on it.

"Shit. Well we could follow the path, or have another look or just stay here 'til morning."

"We could see what the sign said."

This proved to be an excellent sign as it pointed to the refugio in the opposite direction to that we'd been walking. We were fast approaching Trea!

We spent the rest of the walk following dots. I would sit on one while Jonathan searched for the next. Finally we saw the Refugio lights & went & asked where the english tents were. We were pointed in the right direction & finally made camp at half past midnight, three hours after we'd set off!

Ian

Thurs 9th July

Condition of store tent a disgrace - jam pots thrown amongst axes & loo rolls, more loo rolls in mud, clean & dirty crockery all mixed up. 9/10 ("Disgusted")

Neil & Mel & Muriel 9/7/87

Walk up to Jultayu looking for caves:-

We started off heading directly towards Jultayu & trying to keep away from the main path (& hence find previously undiscovered caves). To the right of the main path, not far from Aria looked fairly promising. The first 'decent' entrance we found has been marked OUCC '87 X. It goes down approx 15m - free-climbable but there is no way on. Next, perhaps 100m more towards J., we found a small rift about 20ft deep. Can be walked in from the bottom & doesn't appear to go. Marked SIE X. We then crossed the path and carried on up to the left of it. Neil found Wolfs-Head Cave - which consists of a 45° slope for c 15ft which was choked at the end with a wolf's skull sitting at the end. Further up on the side of the path is a fairly promising piece of pavement with a few stakeholes - nothing seems to go here though. Also on the left of the path, visible from further down the slope is a large cave with snow in the bottom. The level of this cave is slightly higher than the refugio (which is clearly visible) & seems to correspond to the description of 7/7. It goes nowhere. After this, the area gets fairly grassy & doesn't look very promising. We walked up to the top of

[7/7 is marked and is to the right of the path - GN.]

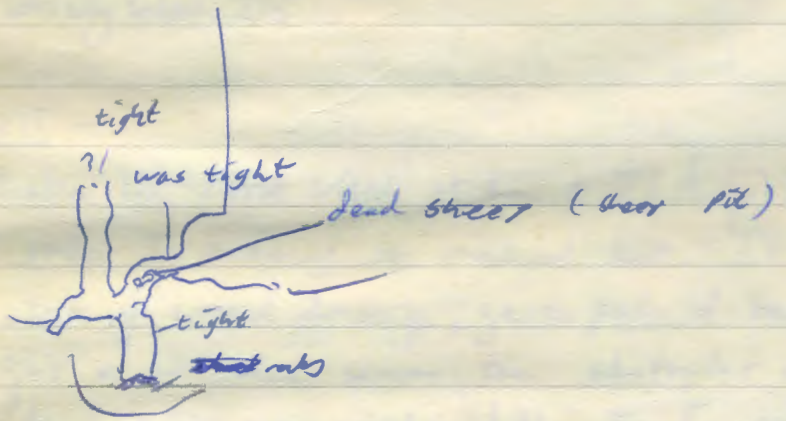
Tultayu just in case we would see anything, but all we spotted was the absolutely stupendous, magnificent view down toward the gorge. It's a ~~****~~ing high cliff dropping straight down for at least a Kilometre to a verdant valley. The peaks towards La Verdellueya are pretty impressive, as are the ones above the gorge. It looks like there are caves in the cliffs opposite, but they'd be impossible to reach!!!

N.B. For future short bashing in this area it is probably more efficient to just take one rope, a helmet & tape etc for belaying. Anything that looks like it goes can then be marked & suitable gear fetched from the cars.

Dan arrived, dumped down hundreds of metres of rope, ate a bit of scoff & then did a carry down of three ~~packs~~ bag-rolls. Apparently base has suffered from the over-enthusiasm of the carry-uppers to take the light bulky essentials from base to Aro!!!

Shaft bashing 10/7/87 (33/5)

found by Paul L. the previous day. Paul L J.C. and JT took rope and ladder to explore. Paul found a small squeeze so Jon and I hammered and dug till I got to the next chamber, two ways on, one led to a boulder floor ≈ 3m below the other to an aven digging in one corner showed nowy on and the roof was climbable for ≈ 7m before getting tight and seemed to be a higher entrance to the steep bit. Further hammering was needed so I could get out making the once tight entrance rather big.



Jon. T

Thursday 9th July 18:00 → 20:00

Philip Sargant solo aven 5 stroll. Identified (& ticked in the shaft kit 5 book) lots of entrances. Found 13/5 which is down and to the LEFT of 12/5, not right as in the book. Found an SIE'86 shaft which needs looking at (labelled SIE 86 ⊗) down below 12/5 & a long way further over left - away from Jaltayne. Also found two crawling entrances. Tentatively labelled the crawls ~~30/5~~ 34/5 & 32/5, the SIE shaft can be ~~31/5~~ 33/5. Entrance to Cistna 12/5 has a nest with 6 eggs in it.

FRIDAY 10th July

Philip & Lynn shaft bashing aven 5. Labelled 32/5 with paint - a very tight T shaped passage which needs a smaller & more dedicated caver than I. I got in & looked round the ~~bend~~ bend to the right - it goes but doesn't get any bigger. Still got a draft.

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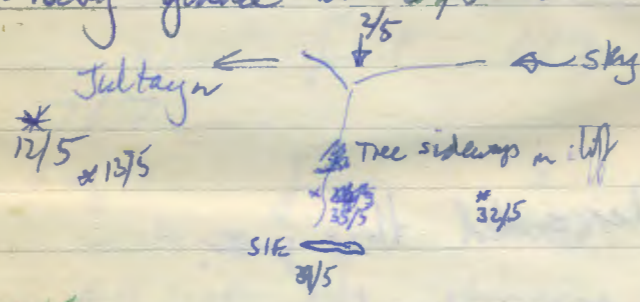
Rigged a 35m rope on ~~31/5~~ 39/5 (SIE hole) but did not paint any new labels. Lynn went down to the end of the rope & said it was 20m deeper than the rope; a small plug may mean that there is a way on this year... Needs going back to with a longer rope. SIE bolt sticks out a bit but could be used as ½ a Y hang – take lots of tape.

Cursory glance at ~~39/5~~ 35/5 on the way back



side of the hillside in the gorge looking uphill

35/5 is a dig under a cliff.

~~31/5~~ 39/5 is vertically below 2/5.

MEDICAL KIT –

After Johnathan had a rock lobbed at him & I (Philip) tripped and lacerated myself on several rocks, I examined the medical kit. It has dozens of △ bandages but NO stock of wound dressings, gauze pads & bandages: the things you need for cuts just a bit more serious than elastoplast will cope with. Were we supposed to bring our own supplies of these? In the meantime I have sacrificed one of the triangular bandages for body-patching.

Shit it's hot. Graham arrived having carried a mega-pack up just after the heat of the day. After gasping a lot and expressing mild surprise at the concept of "choco-orange" he settled down to organising food for an estimated 10 people: Paul, Philip, Graham, Johnny, with Shelly + Margot + Dan expected from Lagos, & Mel, Johnathan & Neil still hooking 7/7 on ladder. (missed a line here through incompetence)

20:00 Still no return of 7/7 team or team from Lagos, looks as if we get a lot to eat.

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note added 16/8/87

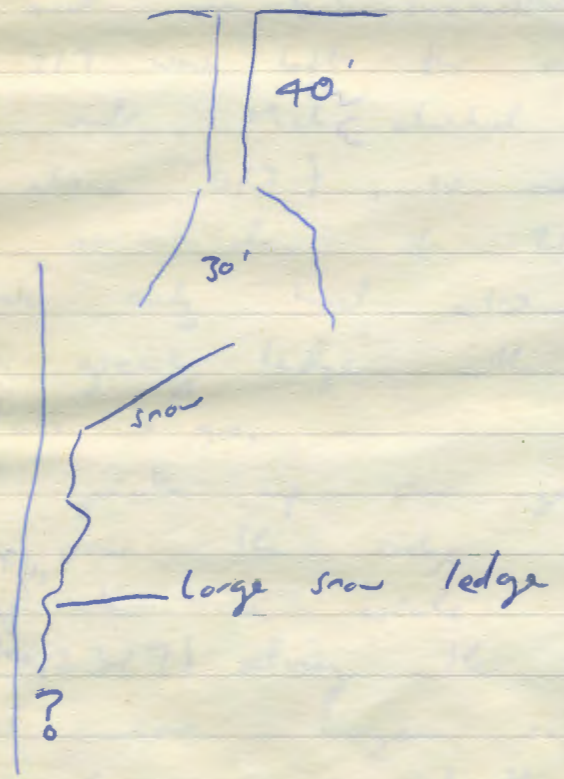
6/7 has never been descended this year.
In fact, never since it was noted and clearly marked with green paint back in '81.
The cave labelled "6/7" this year has nothing to do with it, is miles away, in fact not in area 7 (probably in '82-style area A) though area 7 has now been extended in this direction approaching area 9. It has been renumbered

46/7.

Gerhard.

Friday
Neil & Mel in Area 7
Found 7/7
descended shaft for 4 ladders, came back in afternoon for more gear & returned with Jonathan C.
Also found 6/7 and worked up 22/7 23/7 24/

7/7
Rig in from S. side of cross rifts others are blind.
40 feet ~~of~~ chimney to a 30' free hang onto snow slope, descended snow slope at left hand side and laddered down between plug and wall for a further 3 ladders - no sign of bottom, many snow ledges, overhangs etc, quite unpleasant!
Lifelining impossible past here.



Possibilities of other // shaft?

Neil

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Why are we writing on alternate pages.

11/7/87 pm S

bottomed, small parallel slyt 6' deep.

Blocked with rubble.