

But best of all was seeing the view @ El Xito. The soaring grey majesty of the Massivo Centrale, the clouds hanging low in the gorge, the green gentle folds of Ario. Oh bliss, here again + the sun is out. I see this view ~~now~~ very rarely but its difficult to forget it even across a year.
 Camp is quite tidy here

9-7-91

Parting to end of rifts:

Dave & AQB in 12:45, out 18:00

Sean, Pauline & Chris 13:00, out 20:00

We left 5 bags at the top of Perminists

9/7/91

11:20 pm

I have just eaten 3 Gummy Ann
 "straight through" hi-fiber - Liscaits:
 Wait for the explosion!

Ste

10/7/91

10ish am. There are some spectacular lenticular clouds that look like UFOs or something out of Thunderbirds. Its breezy but very nice.

Take Michelle to 2/7, to get carry kit up + "familiarise".

Packed 18-7-91

~~carbide~~ dinner time food } petzl bag
 50m ~~cousin~~ all the mailers & tapes }
 I could find & some of the wires }
 brew kit for Armageddon }

150m cousin yellow tall bag

carbide 1 large BDH blue bag
 sugar 1 mlf tin
 Symp 1 tin

8/7/91 Rigging trip Tony - Rigging person
 Dave B. }
 Dave L. } donkeys

Steady trip down to top of hundred. Then the rigging started. Tony disappeared. We got cold. Two rebelay's down the hundred the rope changes to brand new Edelrid 9mm constipation cure. Dave B rigged his "only moves if you feed the rope through" stop on it and thought he had rigged it wrongly; it didn't stop. So we carried on down rather faster. At the beginning of Kusano Gorge we could hear a low rumble from the waterfall. The rigging came to a premature end at the crash pad when Dave B. dropped a tackle bag. This bag contained all the rigging gear, one nicad drill battery, and one Bosch battery drill. What a plonker!
 Then we came out.

Dave

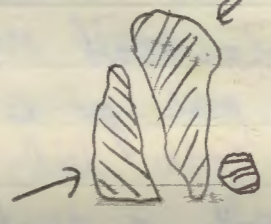
Dave Lacey to Pauline: "I haven't done anything horrible to you yet today"

5315

Garvin + Mark

Broke a bit ~~out~~ off the lowest rock. Current position:

this one moves quite a bit, but can't be moved past the lower one.



this one moves a bit. Undermine it & pull it out

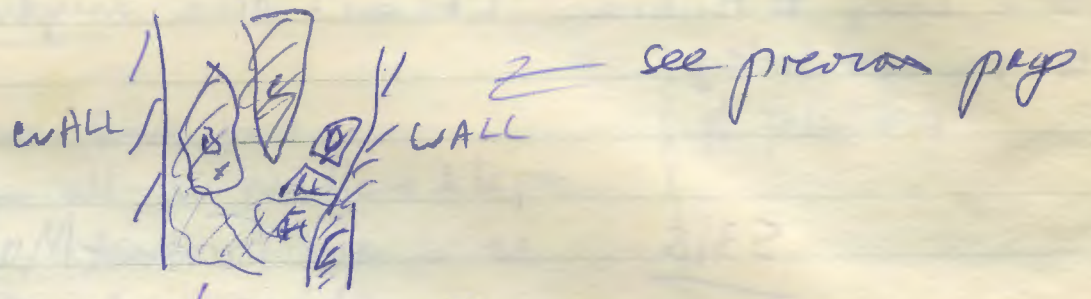
this one moves a lot and can be lifted out when the rest is removed

Next team should take a digging implement. Equipment currently at the cave - one small bent crowbar, one the maleable crowbar, hammer, 1 pr wellies.

Pah! I don't know what this expedition is coming to. There was a time when the members of the expedition used to support El Jefe. When I were a lad, is el jefe boughtt some wine, we would gladly volunteer to help him/her drink it. But what happened tonight? I bought some wine and Dave and Pauline then left me to drink the rest lot. What's more, they took advantage of my ~~eyes~~ ~~webree~~ pissed state to beat me at cards. Pah!

Shame on you Garvin/El deputy sub Jefe.

53/5 Steve + Michelle



- 1) Dag was rock **A** supporting rock **B**. Smashed it up + back to out.
- 2) After much effort, lifted out rock **D** ("Michelle's rock") which was about 2x as large + 10x as awkward than it appeared.
- 3) Dag out **F**. No more go as **E** in the way.

Then Dave H. agreed with a chisel.

- a) Smashed **E** off the wall.
- b) Dag out more of **F**.
- c) Dave smashed **B+C** off the wall. Eric got **B** out + I dropped it on Dave's leg. **C** needs to be removed.

Until Stage **G**, a small rift was visible below + a passage with shifted rocks was visible beyond the current limit.

The doughnut is strong! Pitd soon! (please)

⇒ Take a bolt hit, tyes + pulley gear to time to shift of rocks on E + D.

Some or for [unclear]

Skull Cave, etc 11/7

Erwin

Went down to the Est. Didn't fancy it solo, so attacked it with a hammer + chisel. Did some rerigging. Found a stronger belay for the deviation on the second pitch. I'm not sure if it gives such a good hang; next party check. The first pitch needs a deviation where it goes vertical, off either a large block or a big thread. Oh yes. Missed the entrance on the way up and ended up on the summit.

After tea, wandered round above the Valle Extremero. I'd spotted one cave from Jultayu, a bit past 2915, but it was only ~2m long. Further round found another cave, 5m climb into chamber. No way on. On the way back dug at a draughting shakehole in the middle of the valley coming down from Jultayu. Revealed a narrow shaft, dropping ~5m. Still needs more clearing but it draughts strongly.

After supper, went back to the draughting shakehole with Dave + H. Dug down ~2m. It seems to open out a bit lower down, but the whole lot is very unstable. BEWARE! This is 64/5

Joan, Dave, Paul, Dave (Dr), Chris + El Jefe Go to the Refugio.

El Jefe insists at point blank range that we properly assist in the drinking of vino Tinto Monteblo tonight. Being willing slaves + vassals we sally forth to bother fetch water + drink wine. Oh why are these travails visited upon us? It used to be for drinking vino Tinto Monteblo; the challenge was on to see how resilient your taste buds had become from the gallons of anonymous vegetable stew swilled down across the weeks in years past. But now the vino is quite pleasant and the challenge gone, and the sheer dodgery of a nice evening takes over, oh well, life is hard...

12th July 1991.

I got here. Tim.
(I brought some tape to every gain).

12th July 1991

Dore & Dave Bell went to 53/5 - large boulder failed to be moved by rope - put in bolt which split the rock & pulled out. 3 hrs of hardware had little effect. / my old take some tapes next time.

On way back got lost & had a 4 SEC drop.

53/5 Tim eventually found 53/5 in the log, and dug a bit.

12th JulySkull Cave

Paul & Chris went to Skull with instructions to 'do something' about the first pitch. It needs a rebelay probably on side opposite to present hang. Unfortunately we couldn't do it 'cos the rope was barely long enough to reach the head of the 2nd pitch as it is. Next party take a longer rope (forgot to look at existing length) stepped over Rebecca's amassed skulls. 3 pots of Denston wine kept the cobwebs going in this dry cave. Paul started hammering 'E.F.T.' or whatever it's called. Chris passed through the squeeze, ending in a narrow rift above a sizeable pitch. Evidence of previous hammering (by Tony last year) was noted, and

was continued by Chris with hammer & chisel for a couple of hours. Paul enlarged left neocortex. ~~The~~ The head of the pitch beyond left was hammered until only one point squeeze (or 2) was left with minimum ~~of~~ dimensions:

The pitch was bolted and the squeeze at the head of it was tried for size by Chris, but it obviously still needs a fair bit of hammering to become possible downwards without gear, let alone upwards with gear. Left is now significantly larger ~~to~~ due to Paul's battering, making the return journey from the tight rift/pitch beyond considerably easier.

Return to Aris amid surging day - it wandered up & down the valley all day. Pink ~~massiff~~ & cloudy welcomed people escaping the day down at Los Lagos.

65/5 Previous Tim, Dave H., Dave B. SIE @ 1986. Rough directions, c 400m julatay = ends of the Extracero valley at ~~1540m~~ about 1540m. A large, well vegetated rift entrance is bolted free-hanging (there is a large natural up above as well) to a large snow plug, part a chough's nest. A mild sub-point should really be re-belayed if the cave is to have much activity. Down slope is a snow-cliff, and continue pitch to landing bottom. Follow plug round leads to bottom (at about 40m) where a small flat draughts (a bit), and should be easy to dig, at least initially. Further round a climb down into a chimney leads nowhere, nor up, but before entering climb a climb up on right might be worth looking at. Further round to left is another 2 kind chimneys, and route back up onto main snow plug. Tit missed his first bolt, while Dave H and Dave B watched the munch [see 13/7].

The Plan:

2nd camp: Dave B, Paul, Chris, Pauline

3rd camp: Tim, Steve, Michelle, Sean

today: 53/5: Dave H, Andy, ~~Chris~~, Joan

to base: Paul, Dave B

65/5: Tim, ~~Steve~~ ~~Dave H~~ Chris, then to 53/5

skull: Sean, Pauline

13-7-91 Tony, Dave Lacey, Mark, David

The camping team returns (a day earlier than expected)

We went to the Big Ledge on the first day. Tony and me rigged the first bit of Dead or Alive.

Next day we moved camp to Primula point. On the way Tony and I finished rigging Dead or Alive. The time we spent on this meant that there wasn't time to rig Zasadka way in the new improved Jeffe method. On the way along London Underground Dave & Mark marked the way with string, and this means it is easier to find the route. On the way Tony found a passage leading off Heathrow on the

Dave 'you had it & I'll give the post in'
Horsley.

Why has my write up been interrupted by a Horsley note.

Anyway, to continue,

right hand side when facing down L.U. G. In this passage there is an inlet, and at the bottom of the inlet is a hanging boulder floor in which ~~is~~ is a draughting slot over a 3 second rattle. This passage, according to the survey, is not over the streamway.

We got to camp to find that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the camping gear was all that remained from last year. The whole campsite had been washed clear of footprints, including the ledge $\approx 5m$ above the camping ledge. Can this have been due to floodwater? A lot of the gear had vanished, but some odd things (e.g. an empty marmalade tin) remained, and surely these would have been swept away in a flood. The anchors and wedges have a film of mud on them, but are not buried. The kitchen area still has some bits of ash left on it, so doesn't seem to have been flooded.

I am confused. Where is the camping gear? Where are the footprints? What removed them?

Next day we came out

P.S. Mark did very well.

→ well perhaps the cleaner went in after us to clear up the mess, one quick swill with a bucket + mop

David.

Skull Cave

Sean and Pauline spent several hours hammering the left, which is now fairly easily passable, and the pitch head, which is now accessible, but still too tight to get through. There is not much headroom in the rift while you're hammering at the pitch so a zoom might be useful. The pitch seems to be quite big, and there appears to be a ledge about 10 metres down.

Sunday's plan:

To base	Mark, Dave H, David, Dave L
Skull	Tony, Sean
53/5	Michelle, Tim
To camp	Dave B, Paul, Pauline, Chris

13th July 1991.

Chris O, Tim G. 6S/5. Spent 2 hours digging draughting hole at base, which yielded 1m down into boulder chove brought cool and constant, and has clearly melted snow plug behind, but the chove is a long-term project: abandoned for a day when there's nothing else left to look for (even Chris' brain). This chove is at South ^{side} edge of rift, but a squeeze round the snow plug to the north from the touch-down leads eventually down to a small chamber, several upward chimneys (all ~~now~~ closing down), and a small pool. We also looked at a chove beyond the dig on the north side, but it went nowhere. We also looked at the Western ~~end~~ end of the rift higher up - but it went nowhere.

Uses for buttocks:

- 1. Sitting on while feasting.
- 2. Grasping while shuffling. ♀ N
- 3. For piling spoil on when you are head first down a dig.



Rough details:

Approx Altitude 1515m.
 080° to Cabeza Ilambria
 196° to Julatayan.
 Depth approx 40m.

Best route, contour west from point 1525m down the Extrerero valley.

53/5 13th July 1991. Dave H, Joan A, Andy G. Day abandoned unsuccessfully to reverse the "2 day boulder" from the rift. Chris and Tim tuned up eventually to release them, and with Dave H, three of us managed to "Cradle" the boulder

Actually Joan just felt sick.