

TOP CAMP 1994

DUCC

1994 Expln.

Top Camp Log

DUCC

Verde Mierga 1994

OXFORD UNIVERSITY
CAVE CLUB
LIBRARY

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1st floor - Ladies
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(2) 5th July 1994.

16 30 Tim, Snadot, Real Bill, Michelle, Virtual Bill, Annette, Chris D., Vlodek(?), Rob, Alex + Ben arrived to emerge into sunshine from the abayer

17 25 Annette + Tim left to go flower arranging at Xita. The others are eating much of the food we just brought up.....

6th July 1994.

Nearly wet carry up to foggy top camp. Expanded camp, fed, then fire went wrong. - Gavin stayed at camp (roughly)

F41 Caisned route via Old top camp. Entrance now filled, but between us Snadot, Tim and Annette rigged down ~~to~~ an aramouche chute for about 25ft. Unfortunately it fills up with snow as we go. Cold Digging needed. Visited F13. Found another shaft south of F41.

Richard B. arrived.
Now there are stars

Tim

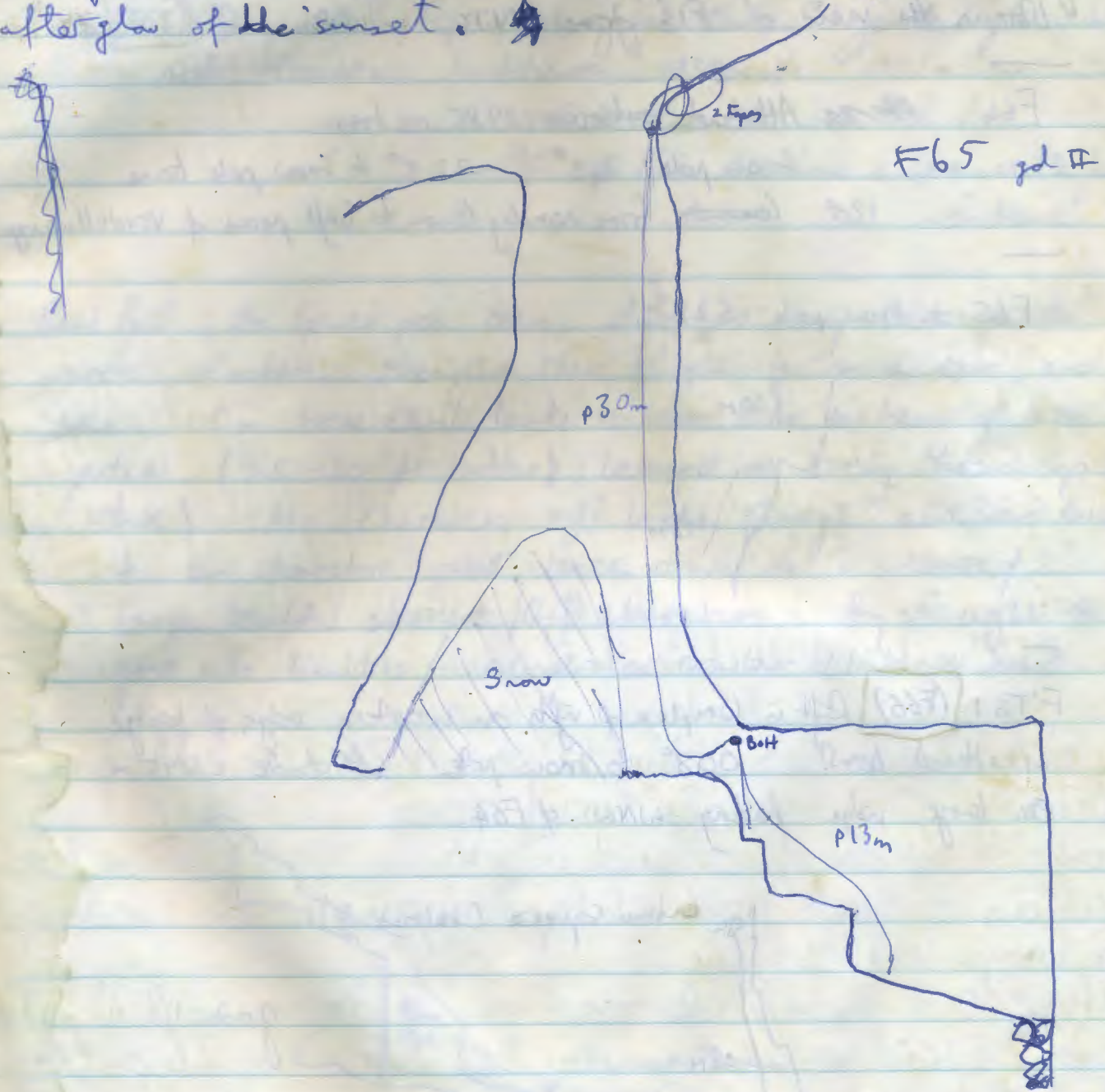
6th July

New! F65 James, Chris D.

Location: Top left Verdellung to snow pole 326 ~10m below ridge

As above for walk up in chag from Lagos. Went with F41 team to their entrance, then Rob & Gavin tried to find F64 in chag. ^{Instead,} they found a superbly located shaft reached by a bold traverse across a cliff face. We were surprised by the sudden appearance of Paul Mann equipped with a plastic plate and a small item of cutlery. One

guides departed ^{Paul &} Rob to head back to Lagos in day. Rigged ⁽³⁾ zhat
 Descended at 9 pm. 20m to snow plug, choked at one
 end, small pitch appeared from beneath a pile of boulders at
 other end. 10-15 m sloping pitch, boulder slope not wall.
 A few minutes to rummage in boulders & for James to
 reflect on his first pushing trip. We emerged ~ 11-30 pm,
 looking out over a beautiful sea of cloud tinged with the
 afterglow of the sunset.



Chris

Kodek says "Nothing is disturbing"

(4)

7th July 1994.

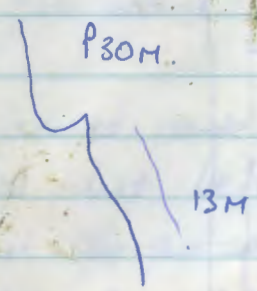
Found F64, and Annette + Chris went to get ropes from F65. Then back to rig F64. Checked various holes + potential holes on the face across from F64. ~~Eventually~~ dropped down the long into a fir or chise at edge of deep bay, but so good. Eventually dropped 3 holes on the ~~to~~ shoulder that shows the head of F13 from NTC.

F64. ~~At~~ Altitude entrance 1985 metres.

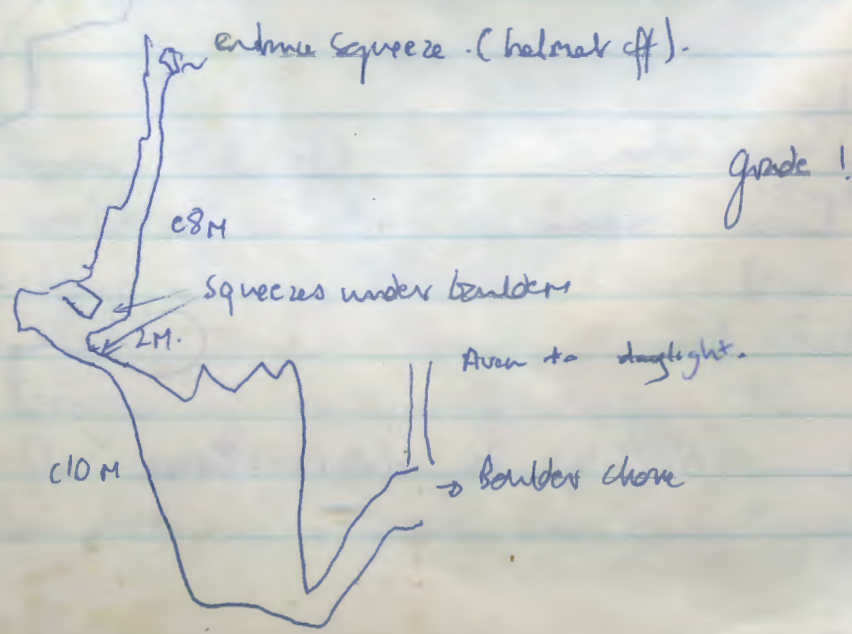
Snow pole 343°; -22.5° to snow pole base

130° ~~Consider~~ from nearly level to left peak of Verdellungpa.

F65 to snow pole 326°



F T S 1 (F66) Rift in complex of rifts on western edge of large shattered tent. 008° to snow pole. Altitude c1895m. On large ridge facing WNW of F64.



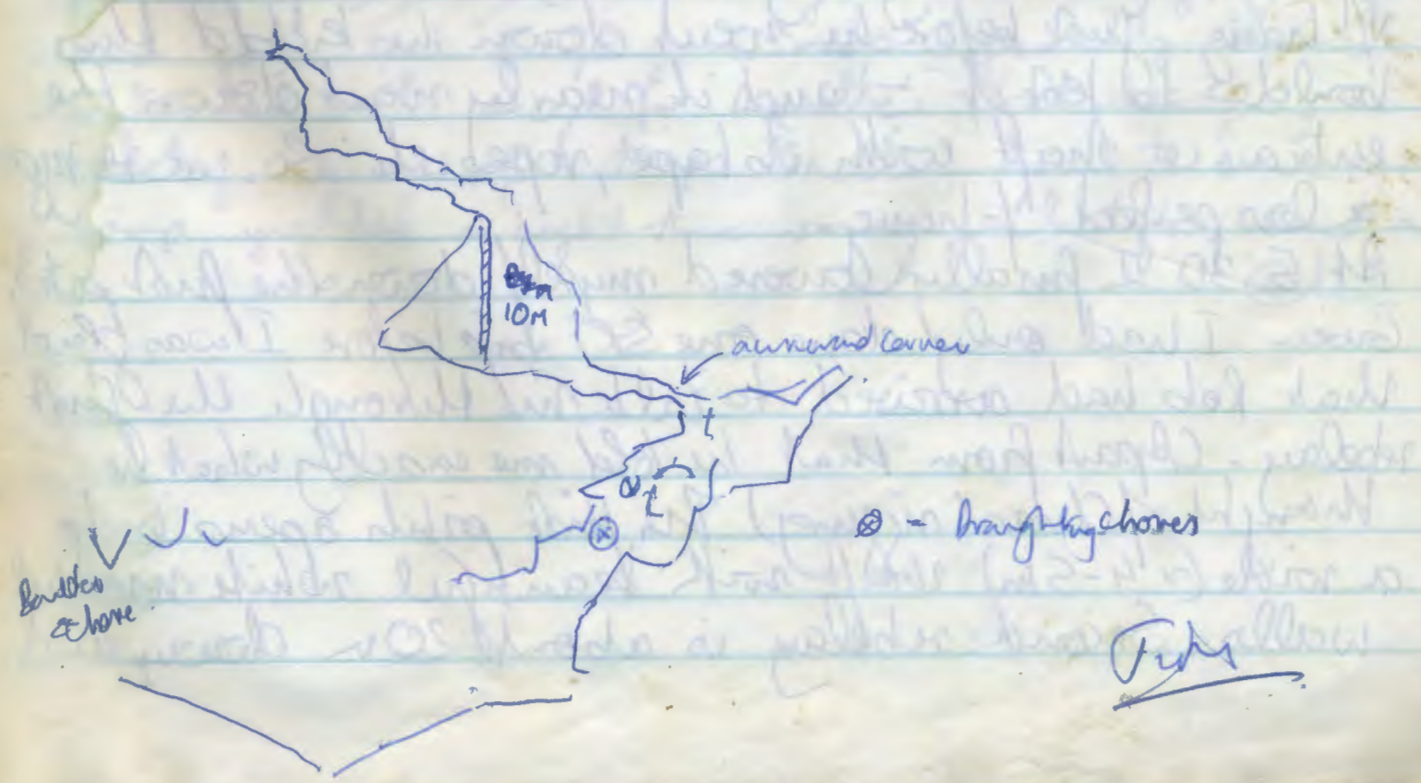
FTS2. **F67** 018° to snow pole
256° to OTC

Altitude c 1351895 M.

lozenge shaped shaft 30 M west of FTS1. Drop 15-18 M to
chase.

FTS3 **F68** Dig not in top of scree filled shallow bays to right of narrow
not shoulder Altitude c 1930 M;
277° to OTC (win).
190° to F13 entrance (look visible from
entrance...).

Real Bill, the Gower pit man, dug his way through the
scree "where I thought there ought to be a cave", and there
was 5m loose climb leads to loose tube to head of loose
pitch (25-30 ft ladder), belayed to (lovely thread up the
tube). Mic chamber, rft leads through awkward corner
to low chamber and back down to a series of 2
large boulder chokes / Rft chambers. Big draught in
goes into boulders - needs a crowbar (but not heard
digging).



7th July

FRB1

F70

Location: about 150m from snow pole on bearing about 200°
Can be found by following cairned path to old top
camp - a short climb up to the left. -

Description: 3m by 1m shaft drops for about 25m into a rift.
Rift runs approx. NW-SE. The SE end closes down the NW
end opens into a possible shaft - snow plugged. You can see
~~down~~ ~3m down on near side; the far side is inaccessible
without further safety equipment - probably requires digging the snow
a bit to see further.

Rob

7th July Chris & Anette F64

Beautiful sunny day - just right for an alpine
start to go exploring. At 1:30 pm. we raced off
to find F64. Having got there a small (2 hour)
delay was caused by having to collect the ropes
which were left at F65 the night before. At about
4:00 pm I started putting the first bolt of my life
into the rock at the front of the rift, where combined
with some tape hanging off a nice pointed boulder
opposite, Chris was going to construct the perfect
Y-hang. Just before he went down he kicked this
boulder to leech - and it nearly went down the
entrance shaft with its tape, ropes etc. So we re-rigged
a less perfect Y-hang...

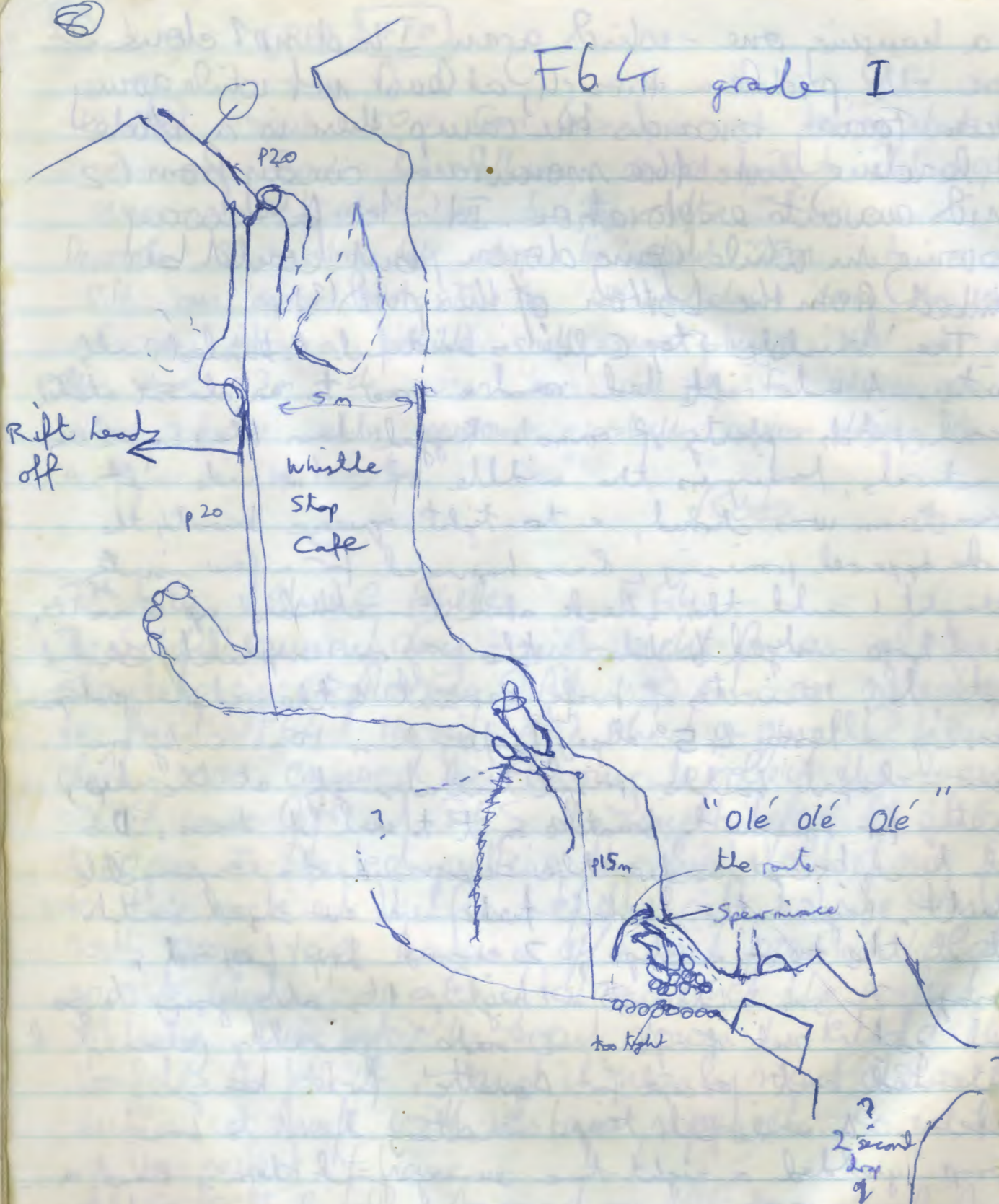
At 5:30 I finally lowered myself down the first pitch.
Given I had only done one SRT trip before I was glad
that Rob had arrived to talk me through the first
rebelay. Apart from that he told me exactly what he
thought of Chris' rigging. The first pitch opens into
a wide (~4-5m) shaft with beautiful white marked
walls. Second rebelay is about 20m down and

It is a hanging one - which again I had not done (7) before. - No problem though, at least not while going down. Facing towards the camp, there is a wide rift leading into the mountain, away from E2 which awaits exploration. It's too far away to swing in while going down, but could be climbed from the bottom of this pit (?).

The 'Whistle Stop Cafe' is beautiful & banked with white. A wide rift led round a corner to an almost choked second pitch - plenty of ooze. Rigged down the 15m-20m on naturals, landing in the middle of a 1m wide rift. Downstream was choked, a too-tight squeeze beneath the choke appeared promising, & was hammered for a few minutes. I thought I would then check above it - climbed up & over the top of large wedged boulders, the way on completely choked. But, so, 10 minutes of rock removal & the choke progressed, leaving a loose 45° slope ^{the} leading down 10m. Only one spear-shaped boulder poised tantalizingly at the lip, waiting for someone to breathe on it to send it down. Do not touch, except under the supervision of a responsible adult. Beyond the choked tube - a car sized boulder sat at the top of a slope, 2 second drop beyond, passage 2-3m wide 5m high. It's all going to go and go! Out of rope we made a generally relaxed & contented exit, except for Annette's first hanging rebelay. A wonderful trip. Shorting down to base camp yielded a right-time survey-push team. Read on...

Chi

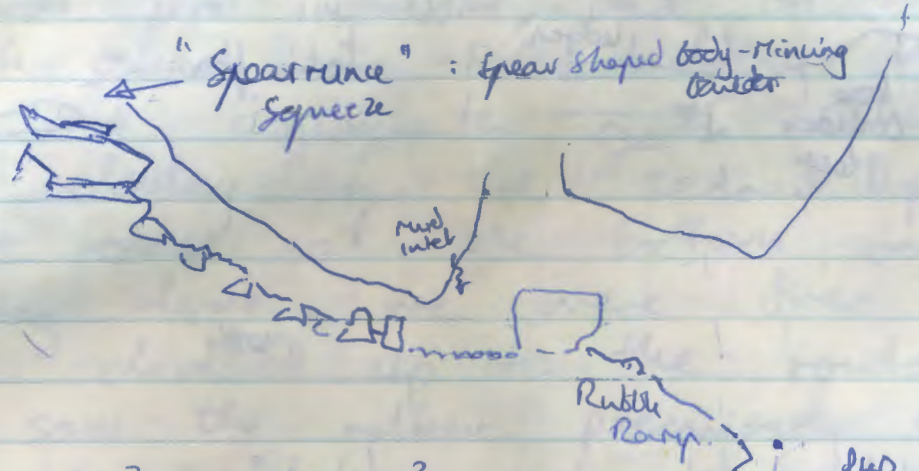
F64 grade I



P64 Grade I

from Spearmince climb to Top of 4th pitch.

"Spearmince" : spear shaped body-mining
Squeeze



under pass?

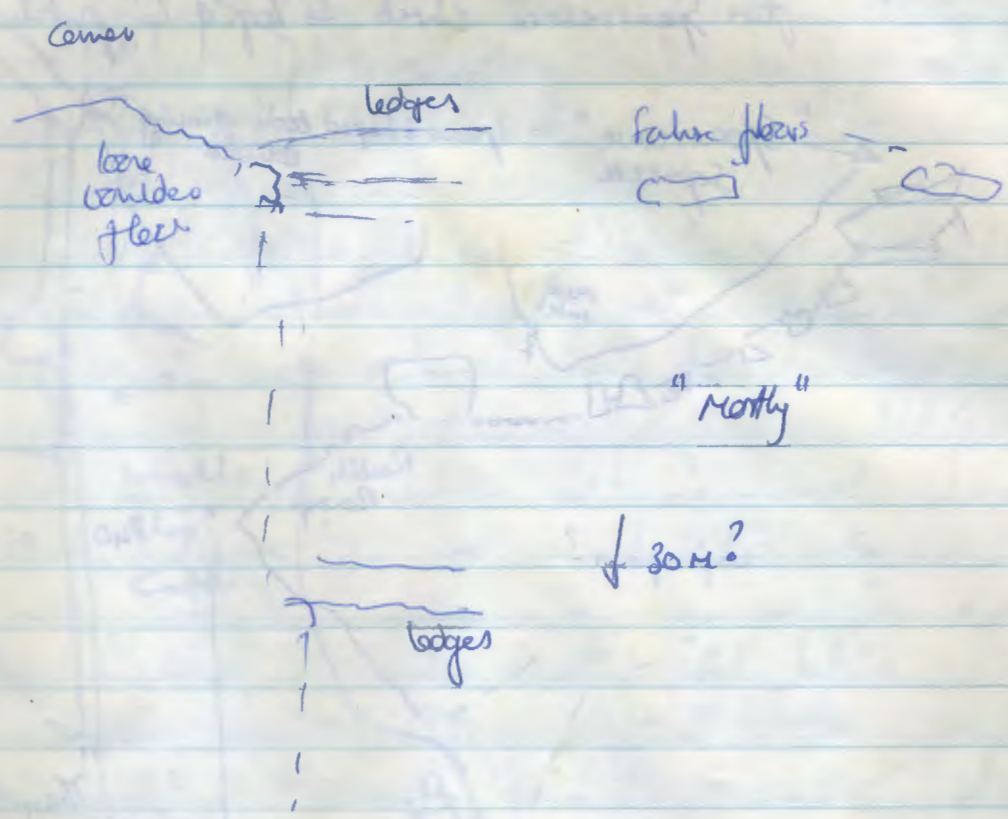
"They come at right"

Big ledge.

ledge.

Boulder Floor

3rd
Pitch



7th July, Tim, Bill (Non-reat), ^{Virtual} Ben F64

We were just about to eat dinner & were sitting in the evening sun, when ~~we~~ ^{the} voice was heard from the entrance across the valley. There were a few minutes of typical Tim decisiveness, before the mad rush of us assembling gear, when a survey trip was planned.

We got across to the entrance just as the sun was setting across the layer of clouds.

This was my first survey trip (It was also my first Spanish cave, my first trip on carbide lighting, and was to become my first new pitch "as well"), and so I sat and watched as the first few survey