

came at steadily - lobed ~~the~~ pressing the entrance - did all out for 1:30 am. Olly walked ahead - me & Ju case the 'scene' way, only getting lost twice - once immediately we left Carlizes, the other shortly after finding ourselves at DF. Home by 3:30.

Paul

Helpful photo tip :-

When using a whistle code system to take those big shots - don't drop the whistle down the rift below.

To - "They were aggravated by the sand in my knickers."

1/8/97 Thank you everyone for making this expedition such a fantastic one. Special thanks to El Arbol, for his hard work and managing not to lose his sense of humour.

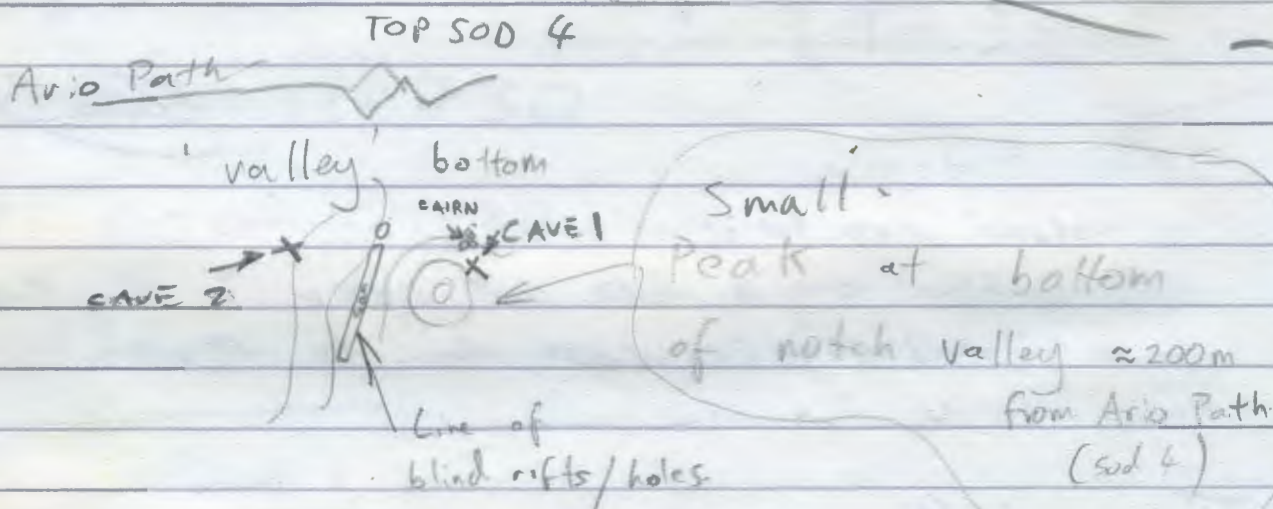
Sorry to be a pain, but I've left a bag with some of my caving gear in the gear tent. Please could someone take it down the hill for me? If you could dump it in the club hut when the van gets back to Oxford, I would appreciate it. Cheers, Jo

PS. Nobby - please make sure JC or I has the log books on return to England: it will make writing the talk easier.

(82)

How to find Tim

1/08/77 6pm



C4 Derrigging

Team (in order of appearance): Gann, Ali, Rob, Ben, Rod, Andy, Huw, Lou, Nobby, Fleur, Alison

Superb trip! I went down early, meeting the photographers on their way out. Derrigged from There Be Dragons back to Free and Easy. Ali, Rob and Ben arrived; Rob and Ben took bags back to the Monster while Ali and I continued up. We started getting a bit weighed down by gear, and there's nowhere to stow gear for a while around the Cruciform Pitches, but eventually we got all the gear

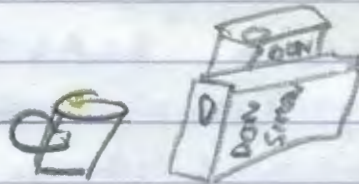
back to the Monitor.

Efficient pulla up the Monitor, helped by the arrival of Rod and Andy. Then everyone headed out with a tacklebag. Finished the detackle within daylight. The perfect end to an excellent expedition.

D

11:30 pm

where to find Tim



11/2/97

Tim Research visited the SIE Cave "no 1" near Xante, below xiku. It had been renamed 13-8, and, a new discovery, was explored last year. I added nothing to the report in the ~~Exp report~~, except that the terminal chamber draughts downwards through a choked, but digible, rift.

Xante - hammered through the rift described by the SIE as unpenetrable with 20m drop below, in two places. Convinced myself that there is nothing but a 3inch rift below. no draught

well, at least I ruined the G4 being.....

TIM

(24)

30/7 → 1/8/97 Paul, Jo, JC, Rhys

→ PHOTOTRIP DOWN CU
 DOWN 1.00 OUT 9-30/1100
 LAST TRIP BEFORE THE DERIC. LAST CHANCE
 TO PADDLE IN THE LAKE AND ONLY CHANCE
 TO GET SOME ACE/CHEEST PHOTOS FOR
 POSTERITY. SWIFTLY DOWN TO THE MONSTER
 PAUL DOWN FIRST, HAVING EXPLAINED THE WHISTLE
 SYSTEM AND SETS UP HIS CAMERA. ME, JO
 KLEN RHYD COME DOWN FLASHING ON COMMAND,
 WITH ONLY PAUL DRIPPING HIS WHISTLE DOWN
 A BIT AND THE INDIFFERENCE OF 3 SHORT
 AND ONE LONG BLAST CAUSING AFT MITCHUPS.
 BARR-STOP THEN ON TO THE BOTTOM.
 RIFTS INTO STREAM A BIT OF A SHOCK,
 NECESSITATING MID-SQUEEZE DE-HARRISING,
 THEN STRONGER THE STREAM WAS ONLY REALLY
 PHOTOGENIC TOWARDS THE END, WITH 5
 SHOTS AT THE CAMP (NO PEOPLE, JO IN BIKINI,
 MAN IN BOAT, ANOTHER MAN IN BOAT, AND
 PEACHES) AND FINALLY A COUPLE OF SHOTS
 OF THE MEANORS. FINISHED BY MIDNIGHT
 AND TO MARIE CHLASTE BY 1. JO + PAUL
 COLLAPSED ON OUT WHILST RHYD⁺ DERRICK
 LADDER. HALLER ALL TACKLE TO TOP OF
 "DRAGONS" AND LADGES TO LOT OF 9 T&S.
 PAIN OUR TO SAND IN RUBY BEGINNING TO
 SET IN, TOO BUT LAUGHED JO + PAUL AT
 MONSTER. THE OTHERS CONTINUED OUT UNAST
 I SEEMED TO BE GOING BACKWARDS, HARRIES
 RIBS, BENT DELTA AND GENERAL KNACKERS
 NURS CONTINUED TO RHYD EXIT BEINGLY
 WAS IN, ISIT DULL ON WAY OUT. 2nd PREPIT FOR
 MR. DERRICK + LUNARST (THAT FOR RHYD)
 SC

Things to do on the Verdole, you ridge

- Admire the view
- Skout at top camp
- Watch the culture

Things not to do:

- Descend Torre de Blanca above a 4m drop wedged only with one foot and ^{lowering} your ruck sack on your other foot.
- Ascend Punta Gregoriana by the direct route ~~with~~ with ruck sack so that you end up hanging on with one hand to the only decent hold and your ruck sack

GPI reading of main pole 2/8/

- 1868 m its just gone down, no its 1830 now
 N - 043° 13.754'
 W - 004° 56.789'

Name: 97-5

2/8/97 F13 Hues e Fleur

A dig, a dig, a drafting dig!
 But very unstable with large amounts of hanging death. Huge draft though, especially at top of a dodgy climb up.
 So we moved the rift on the surface - climbing the scree and loose rock faces was almost as dangerous as the dig itself. We didn't find a shaft dropping down the other side of the chock, so returned and pulled a few boulders

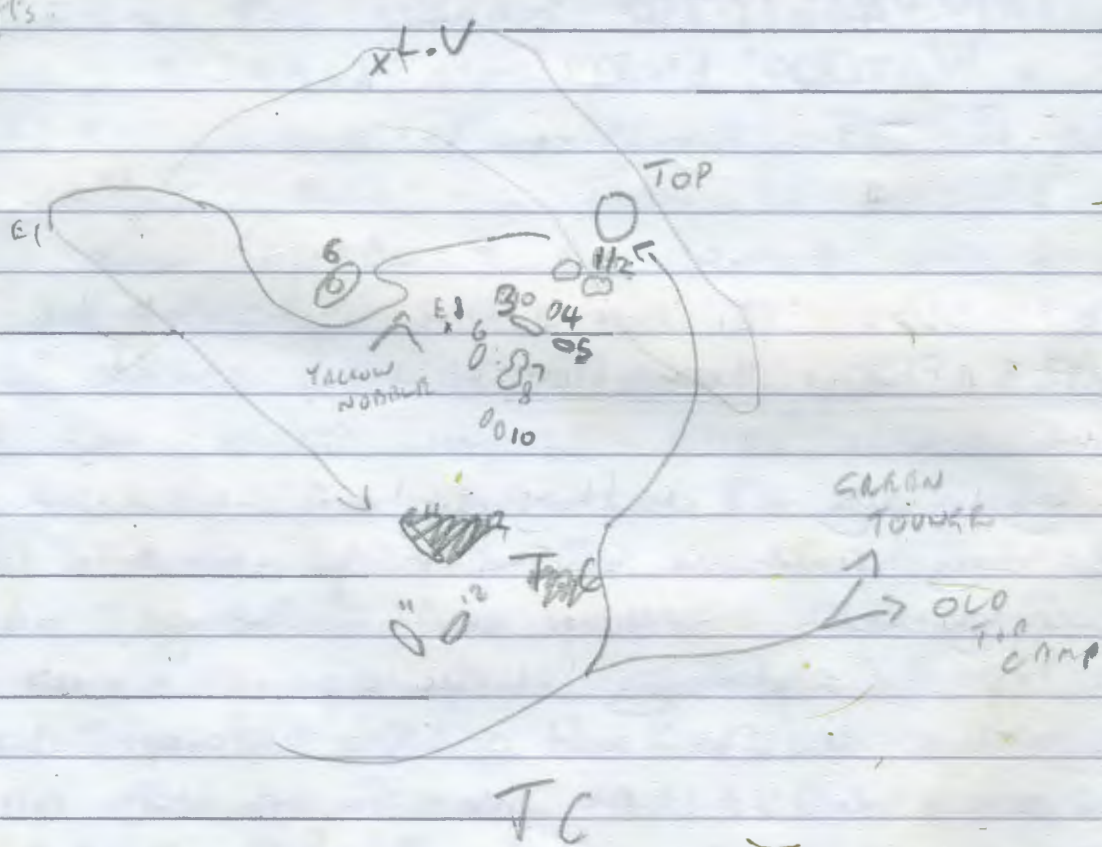
(86)

not anyway. Still no obvious dig site so returned to camp.

Note - don't approach this cave from the scree slope below.

Shuttle bashing in Area E J.C.

Walked up the ridge from Top Camp to La Verling, which marks boundary between areas E + F. Passed F66 + F52 then on to base of last outcrop on ridge before LV itself. Found (retound) large snow checked shaft marked over 89 0, which I had been down in 87. Two rocks in separation by rock bridge. Walk another bit may be E9. Downslope ^{21m} looked at a series of snow/rock filled rifts.



Hole 1/2 (E9?) C.V. 132, Pin 50500 Once 89 0

- 2-5 3 Holes in Riffle 2m downslope of Hole #2
- 3 10m deep rift 2 wgs in the snow ? E 10
- 4 5m To S of 3 Rattle for 3s
- 5 11m To W of 3 in same rift - 2s deep.

6 On far side of same slope from 1/2. Hole between rocks + wall of small depression. Drop down to 3x4m cluster with snow + sky lights. NO WAY ON

7-9 Level with yellow/cream rubble 50m down slope of 1/2

7, 8 Two snow checked holes

9 Riffle 3m W of lat 718 5m deep with window very down.

10 Boulder rubble with snow etc. Latt on end of 71804

NB. 7-9 are about 20m west of E8 at 30m West of Nibble.

Then walked ^E across grassy slope to bottom of cliffs on E/C boundary. No obvious holes except snow filled rift with ice near C. If E1 + E2 are what they are claimed to be then they are likely to be on side C. Retreated to Top Camp in direct line from ridge. Crossed line to cliff side level as T.C. Found Holes 9+10 Towards bottom of line.

11 Snow filled rift (10m deep) same position towards T.C

12 X rift with 11 3s deep

T.C 340, C.V. 140. These are about 100m away from T.C at same height.

98

Shafting area F 2/8/97 NTM, Rod

Traversed across face of labrines / Punta h to the obvious 'gaping maw' above F96 snowfield. This proved to be a v exposed traverse for which we ended up having to use a rope.

3 shafts here are either snowplugged or drop down into what may be F98, but we couldn't get down to check Garris caves. What I conceive as F100 (about 100m left of F1 at same height as you look at the face - obvious entrance) is inaccessible w/o proper climbing gear from below or by abseiling from above. I've now had to get to from both above & below, & its very scary.

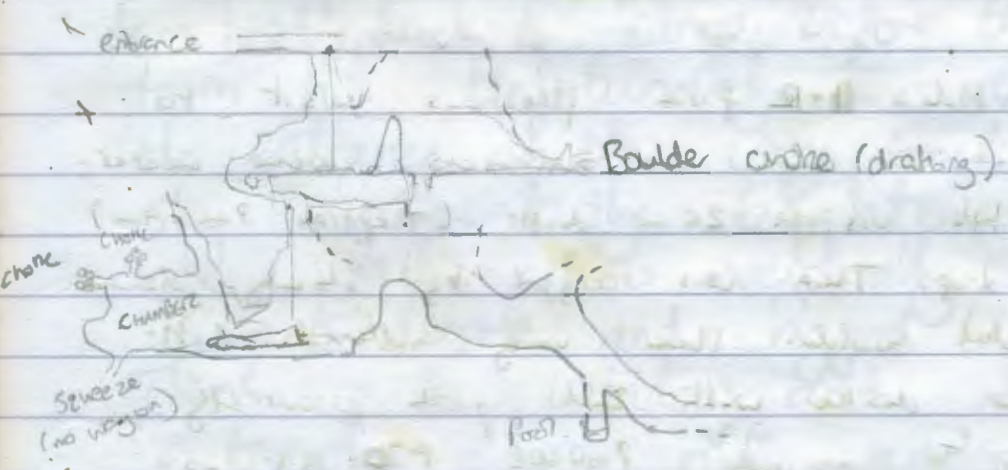
On the way back checked F32, but ladder too short - needs 20m rope or 2 ladders. Though the bottom doesn't look promising. A small person could squeeze through the visual connection to the larger unmarked entrance next door. NTM

2/8/97 TIM, Ben, Lau D20 cued ~~at~~ Wra Lecce.

A blindingly early start in the late afternoon on the way down the hill left 3 fairly unenthusiastic cavers. Having eventually reached the cave carrying lots of caver enthusiasm returned. A very efficient if slightly longer than expected trip followed. Ben took photos of the prey rats of the cave. We hammered the squeeze at the far chamber which proved entertaining if completely unsuccessful. Having abandoned the rather suicidal climb up to the window in the second pitch a game of incoming ensued. Amongst the rocks that bounced off the wall straight back to us there were some that reached the window and seemed to fall the other side. About the 3rd second pitch a crawl through the floor of the main passage led to the same place. Having successfully dug this & it was possible to

climb a few metres down a rift. New passage again! Momentary excitement soon ended as not surprisingly the passage ended after 10-20m in a rift that could only be explored by the cave predicting better. Still, a good haul trip all round and it can be said with no doubt that the moonmilk cave is finished. Nevertheless I won't forget it as it was my first foreign cave and is certainly the prettiest (and longest) cave passage I've ever found.

Low.



A crawl from the entrance leads to a small-rift. Round a few boulders it becomes bigger and there is a way down rigged ^{with} a ladder from a rock chonked on the left wall (rift continues beyond pitch to a window overlooking the chone breaks). The ladder ends on a false boulder floor. To the left a pretty 7m high passage goes low to a chone. A way through the boulders from the main passage leads to a rift going down that ends becoming too tight. Turning right at the bottom of the 1st pitch a way through the boulders leads to a second ~~pitch~~ pitch down a rift (2 ladders from a boulder). From the chamber at the bottom it is possible to see a window high up in the wall that is the passage received from above. Turning right at the bottom of the 2nd pitch there is a boulder filled chamber with no way on. A squeeze was lowered but there was no way on.

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other routes through the boulders were looked at but there is absolutely no way on.

'Will it work if I put it under my armpit?'

'Well, I'd rather you put it in your mouth...'

Smug "I told you so" shaft-bashing in Area E (13?)
J.C. + ALi 4/18/97

Could not locate Holes ~~11~~ + ~~12~~ from previous visit to Area E but did find a couple more entrances even nearer to Top Camp. First hole was a 25m shaft (~ approx 8m x 4m) down to a snow drop. This was rigged by climbing down about 5m on shocked boulders then using adrids. Riff leads off from snow choke with 2nd pitch, currently too full of snow to proceed. Probably F70 but no way seen. (Should be named E13)

2nd hole (E14) was entered first. 10m long rift about 1m wide running roughly SE-NW. About 20m above F71 and 10m off grassy slope. Climb down rift for 8m. Pit at S end is 10m deep but blind, and but almost rocks rattle down N end for ages. Rocks would clunk, clunk, rumble, rumble, RUMBLE! (Last rumble was thunder) for about 10s. Rig rope from adrids at N end, then rebelay below hammered hole about 3m down. 47m rope did not reach the bottom of the shaft. Could see only 10m to top sloping ledge. The rocks went much further. Sounds promising! Could be F72 but should be E14.