MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 1983

Season: Easter

Logbook pages scanned to jpg then combined into a pdf file using http://smallpdf.com/

Juan Corrin, January 2015

33 EASTER

Derek [illegible] ✓
Andy Quin ✓
John [illegible] (Big [illegible]) ✓
John Stott
[illegible] Thorp (Lugs) ✓
[illegible] Rayner ✓
[illegible] Turner ✓
[illegible] Martin (Big N) ✓
[illegible] Montgomery
[illegible]

all except Dave & John

4/1 After a [illegible] lazy [illegible] urge to go and do something. Sorted out tackle & up to Vega bar. Tugged up to Mega Hill Shaft, during the preceding three days of [illegible] Left Lugger, Big Nose, Ian Hobty, Alan and [illegible] arguing about safe belays, and Joe, Steve and Colin set off up hill. Up past fenced shafts, about [illegible] to north. When Colin found an enormous [illegible] phreatic maze, all about [illegible] set off down a passage about [illegible] high with heavy draught, linking back past Giant, [illegible] not [illegible] 30m to passage enlarged [illegible] explaining the draught. Come [illegible] hill, towards a beautiful [illegible] with a bare limestone lip on the downhill. The bottom was, as anticipated, of no interest, [illegible] were several interesting holes on E side. Steve [illegible] a shaft. The ladder [illegible] belay [illegible] belay [illegible] Water can [illegible] both opposite 30' [illegible] side [illegible] a look at [illegible] light [illegible] draught.

(Continued)

(4)

EGA MOLL SHAFT

Descended shaft with intention of pushing & surveying
ended new shaft to a depth of 18MTRS chocked with
ge blocks. A second short shaft nearer ent also
cked at -10MTRS. A climb across the top of the 18MTR
ft led to larger passage on fault, holes in
or have estimated depth of 30MTRS small stream
rs from aven near bowlder floored chamber some
sages not pushed and none of shafts were
cended 50MTRS of largish passage found all the
cave was surveyed including finding two
undercended shafts see sketch at back.
Loose pitch descended - difficult as
shaft 80' slope - Luggy, Andy, Kim, Brian

Near last pot,

(Continued from page 3) Colin found a large entrance 20 ft high × 40' wide with descending passage. Followed this until could see no further (no light). Joe inserted. Passage descends over boulders. Noticed strong inward draught. Descended to chamber with high arches and water dripping in. Continued along pebbly crawl until noticed climbing up again, passage becoming rift-like and becoming an obvious inlet. Noticed that the draught was lost, then faint bootprints — blast, not the first here! Back at the lowest point again, re-encountered the draught. A sort of chossy-hole in the floor was taking a fair draught; could be felt on the hand. Obviously needs digging.

Up hill again, to look for walled up cave found by Colin last year. Found it, but wasn't anything after all. Retraced steps down hill, looking at various holes, but found nothing not already known from subsequent conversation with Pedro.

(2)

4. Up road along La Vega, dropped off opposite Cañada Romano — ones off down Mega Hall. Joe, Pedro, John S and Colin up dry valley on N side of La Vega to look at shaft found by Pedro other day. First looked at rift entrance in dry valley, in tree. Joined up beside with bottom of small shaft, with inward draught. Dropped to fairly immature Dolce-like passage. Progress stopped by a pack-knife bend. Either a lump hammer or a dig in the (loose) floor would yield progress. Left for another day. Then, five minutes back down the dry valley to a clean shaft in rise, while limestone. CATRILLA. Shaft about 30' deep to descending rift with lot of loose boulders. Dropped into holding rift at right-angles and straight to the top of a pitch. Looked very Dolce-like, and seemed deep — 60', probably. Another rift next to it seemed deeper, perhaps 50' plus. Left this for another day, and retreated out.

Then, over hill slightly to large snakehole, again in trees. Steeply descending passage, notable by skeleton of animal perhaps a young goat — but otherwise very dry. Progress stopped by a choked area. Lot of very narrow rifts, but not really passable. Pedro noticed a choked way on into a possible chamber, but digging needed. No noticeable draught in this one. On way down hill

bank towards our, a small [illegible]
slope [illegible] but [illegible] side, with a very steep [illegible]
Face too small to descend without extreme difficulty. A
chief [illegible] was suspected to conceal, and the [illegible]
bat the shaft was choked 15' down. Several depressions
were [illegible] on way down, but nothing of any interest.

5. 4 A
Load
0
1
5
1
4
1
10 1RE

(8)

(TORCA DE LA LASTRILLA)

[illegible] Pedro, Joe, Colin, John S, Ian Nancy up La Vega. [illegible]pped off again. Up to second shaft investigated [illegible] today. The '60' shaft turned out to be '35' [illegible]ich was descended after two bolts had been put in [illegible] top. (Rock very shattered on one side of fault, and [illegible] natural belays). Next was 20' pitch rigged as continuation [illegible] first, then steeply-sloping boulder filled rift, to another rift, needing a short ladder, descending further. [illegible]an of this gained the top of a estimated 100' pitch. [illegible]k of tackle halted progress at this point. On way [illegible] Joe noticed passage up above 100' pitch, with dark [illegible] at end. Pedro climbed up, the climb being up [illegible]shal cascade, and exclaimed that he couldn't see [illegible]thing — his carbide lamp wouldn't light up the walls. [illegible]e followed, and a very large chamber was seen, [illegible] the entrance fairly near the [illegible] stones [illegible] called a deep hole in front of the edge of the [illegible]der slope on which they were sitting*, a boulder [illegible] further into the chamber, then, across the other [illegible]e, a further shaft down to unknown depths. After [illegible]ing in awe at this spectacle for at least 20 minutes, [illegible] party retreated, leaving the place rigged for further [illegible]stigation. Pedro discovered the area was called [illegible]strilla, hence the name for the place — Torca de la Lastrilla.

[illegible]led this point "Minstrel's Gallery"

6

14 Mega Mole Finished at last.

Big un, Alan, Lugger, Andy & Big Bob

Lugger & Alan finished the survey

Several shafts descended on 50' -

none of them doing anything also

Steve used up his 6th life by

falling off a ladder above an

80' pitch, without a line.

Unfortunately he got jammed

and fell no further than 10'

Three undescended shafts requires a further trip in the

summer

April/83

A big town, Colin, Lee, Kelvin; Alex, Andy, Roger, Ian and Big Alex went back to Toca de la Lastrilla, work down the mentioned shaft – 170' – leads to a series of rifts descending a further 80' but getting too tight. Back in the big chamber a ladder was dropped from the ledge to the floor about 60' in all. The first bit steep. One started off down a ramp about 30' square which got a bit deep. Seems very promising.

8/4/1983 Cueva Lastrilla

Joe, Colin, Lugger, Alan, Pete, Steve, Andy, Alan, Alforemanhave ramp was descended ending up a pitch to a muddy floored chamber with no ~~obvious~~ way on. Draught seems to be coming down an area and going up the ramp. This is strange as at the top of the ramp draught is going down. A good look round a couple of heavy traverses proved no signs of where the draught goes. There are still a couple of possibilities in the minstrels gallery bolts & a lack of main cells are needed here. Detailed

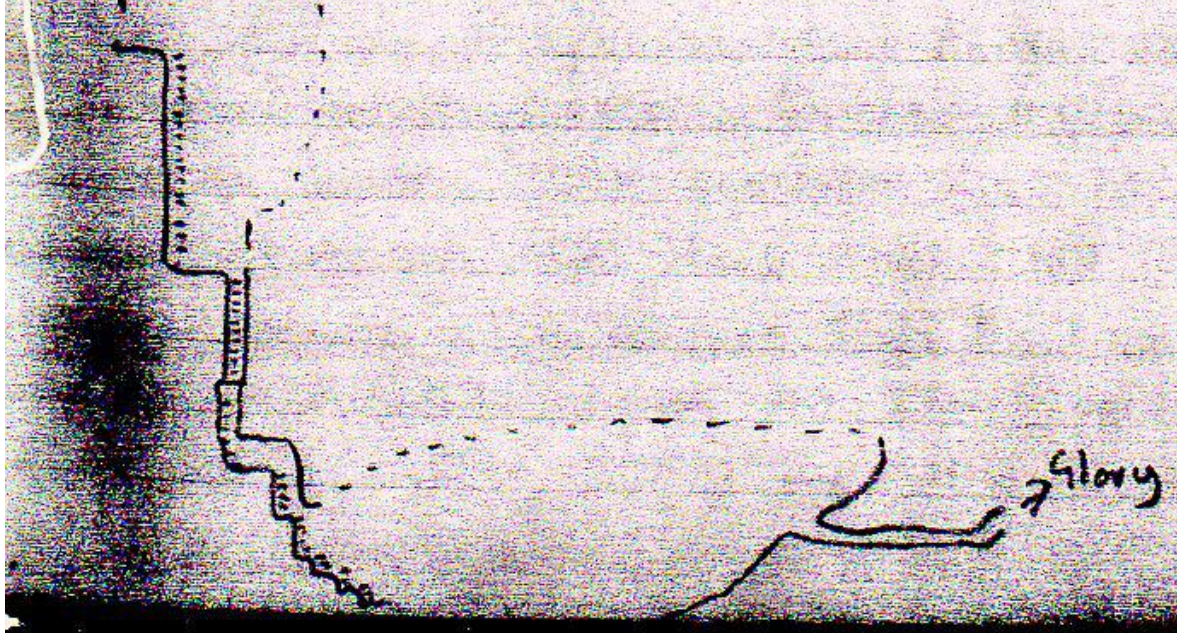
TRAVERSE ROUND LEFT WALL OF MINSTRELS GALLERY BRINGS ONE TO PASS WITH FLOOR OF LOOSE BLOCKS WHICH QUICKLY CHOKE UNDESCENDED PITCH REQUIRES CROW BAR CONTINUEING TRAVERSE REQUIRES PROTECTION COULD REACH A FURTHER PROMISING LOOKING PASSAGE.

4.83 Dead Horse. Steve Carter — Perry [illegible] for Vega

e intention was for Steve to dive the sump supposedly 100' the cave. Dean went in first for 7' and decided that carry would be a bit hard so Steve went up to sump a quick recce. At the sump which was near 300' in Steve decided that the vis was poor and he only had a single lamp he baffled out. Water could be heard through small stal. ream so it could be only a short dive & would ith a mini bottle only could be needed. A quick return d de-kit was made and a swift beer was had at a Hemar

4/83 - Steve, andy + I to the end of the passage in cotevor. Descended 60' pitch followed by 40' sharp rift. Further 25' pitch follows after a squeeze. Another ladder dive leads to a large chamber. ~~[illegible]~~ draught is coming up a low passage which needed a bit of digging. This terminates where a ramp leads to 2 small holes into larger passage. These draught in like buggery but are very awkward - so far impossible to pass.

There is also an unexplored at inlet the new chamber and possibility of passage above the 60' pitch. Acrobatic climbing aids needed here. Left ropes pass tackled up for a further trip tomorrow.



After some festering & buggering about, team sort
vega bar and took tackle for Coleron up hill. Most
n continued up hill, looking for possible further entrance
Coleron / Lenada. Ian found a large-ish phreatic
trance about 200 ft above Coleron, with a possible
ought out, but with no lights, could not be looked at.
up hill towards a barn. Looked at a few holes but
thing remarkable. In a large shakehole found a rift
trance strongly draughting out. Further on, in an area
pinnacle karst, found total of 5 shafts, all about
drop. On way down, found a strange small hole
hich although emitting no noticeable draught, had a
arge faint roaring noise inside. Colin rediscovered
shaft mentioned in Quadernos, Joe rediscovered
Defrades. On cutting down the hillside towards the
ar, Joe discovered a small resurgence with a hands-
nd-knees crawl. At the bottom of the hill a small
esurgence was noticed and near it a crawl with no
oticeable draught.

10/4 Joe, Colin, Ian and John S up to dig[illegible] cave found yesterday. Dismayed to find the draught non-existent today. A wide rift sloped down, leading to a climb down into a chamber with a high area, and a crawl under into a lower chamber again a high area. In the upper chamber some crawls were followed ~~[illegible]~~ which drought ~~which was found to come from a~~ but the crawls became too tight. In the lower chamber the draught was found to disappear down a 6" wide rift which looked tantalising and might go with a lump hammer. A 5" diameter pleistocene hole in the wall of the chamber also took a strong draught. Colin found a climb down a hading rift which led out onto a balcony part way up the wall of the chamber and also broke out about 20' to the floor. Surveyed the cave, provisionally called Bat Shit Cave (BSC) Noticed on the way out that the cave was drawing inwards, but very dependent on the wind outside. Then looked at shafts in the pinnacle karst. Ian descended one under a beech tree which was 15m deep and choked. Joe [illegible] one which dropped from the back corner of [illegible] shakehole, which was 18m deep (to surface) [illegible] blind. Ian SRT'd one (after Joe dropped a

dder down it was that another ~~[illegible]~~ story). with a
at tree across it, which turned out to be 70' long
m) on a fine rift, with about 40' of rift passage
the bottom. Then ran out of time to look at others.

5/4/83 Luggar + Than went to Betson World
age Cave. 200m unsurveyed passage was surveyed
rift passage opposite also surveyed. Left passage
2 draughting pitches requiring a ladder there
ally joins to a lower level. Other passage then
ascending ramps requiring a rope to get to top
of descending rapids can hear water and a
echo - possibly v. near Edge of Universe.
1st ramp (ascending) rift type passage left
unlocked. First major right hand branch in Betson
lots passage looked at ends in two draughting
pitches about 80' underscended.

200 MTRS SURVEYED

or passage near entrance half way down slope on left a 8mtr
imp up loose calcite only ended in a phreatic pocket
chind a large boss.

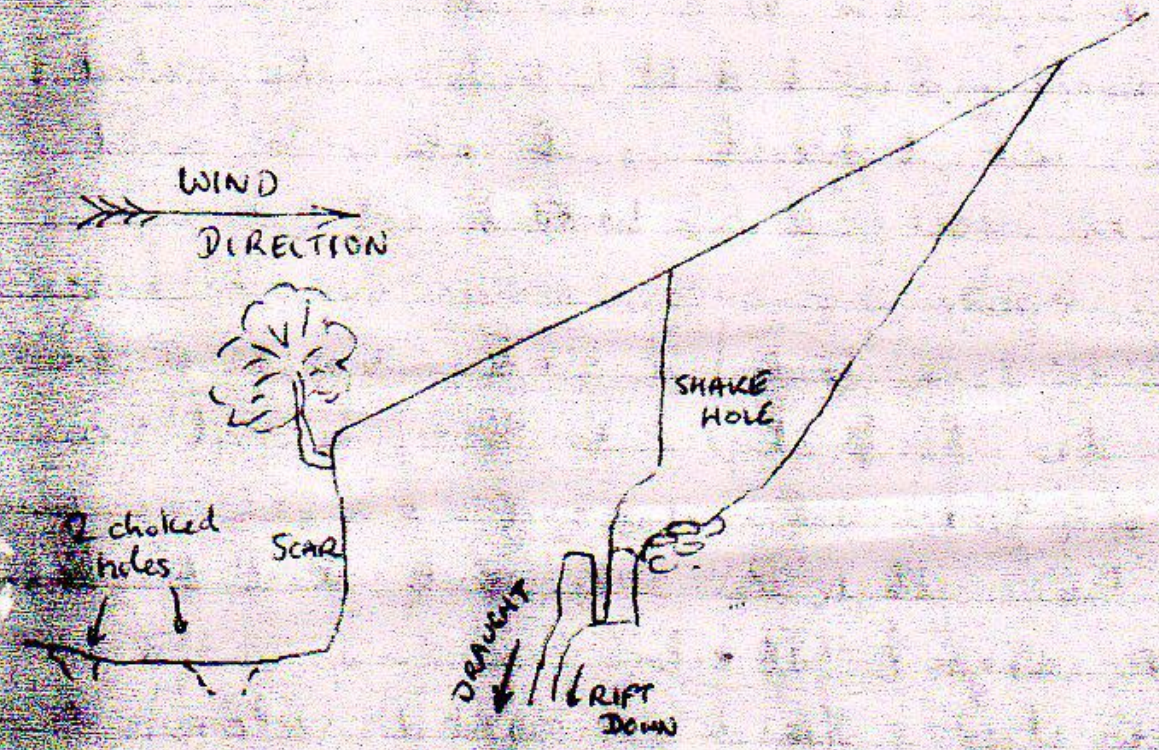
(1) Descended?

11/4 Hill to Los Vega Bar. Lugar, Andy & Jo to Cotero Darck, John S, Big N and Colin started looking at the crawl at the bottom of the hill (page 14). Joe and Ian up hill to Simaeda to Cobrakilln – the short from Cuadernos (again, page 14) (No. 37) Due to lack of ladder all down Coterons – the pitch rigged for SRT, 2 being put in at the top, which resembles the battlement of a castle. The pitch is 25m deep (supposedly) and rather impressive. Ian went down and explored all passage at bottom. This pot was full of fine formations and gour pools. One interesting find was a skeleton of a dog or goat in one of the passages with RIP inscribed on the wall above with a carbide flame. Following passage on ~~left~~ right from entrance pitch led to a calcite barrier which was smashed with a hammer and led to about 60m. of unsurveyed phreatic passage. A small hole in mud against the wall had a howling draught and was dug by hand a possible dig. A return to entrance pitch was made and using SRT. met Joe on surface and back to Vega Bar.

Cobrakilla needs surveying in the Lunapati.

Whilst Ian was underground Joe looked at a few holes nearby and had a general look round. On the way back to no 37 he noticed a hole nearby which is only visible from above. A short choked shaft was visible, just behind a small scar which is a prominent feature of the "cam" here, thinking it was merely a remnant of a cave through into the scar, Joe nearly didn't bother with it. However it was descended, and a short bit of passage noticed at the bottom. A roaring noise could be heard, and to his surprise Joe realised it was a draught, and inwards at that. The passage, about 1.5m x 0.5m, went about 3m then doubled back on itself, then closed down to a vertical rift. Stones dropped down some distance to drop with a dull thud into the floor of a large-ish rounding chamber. The draught was roaring down there, but it looked too tight. Once Ian had come back up Cabratilla, he had a look at the new find. He managed to squeeze down the rift "a bit like Pippikin" and into a large rift passage beneath. He stopped at a large chockstone about 5m above the floor of the passage, progress being halted by lack

of the means of getting back up. He successfully managed to get up the squeeze and it was noticed that the draught fluctuated with the wind outside. At its strongest it was like being in a wind tunnel but the direction of the draught was against the wind it would be expected if induced by the wind outside.



Called it Hidden Cave

576

Cueva Llena

Derek Westwood, John Stott, Big Steve and Colin looked at the small cave near the resurgence at the foot of the slope up to Esteron noted the previous day (see p. 14).

The cave entrance faced directly into the hillside but the passage then bent immediately to the left (east) after approximately 2 m it doubled back on itself, started to descend and tightened up. A continuation could be seen to the left (into the hillside) but was impassably tight.

DEREK our team leader took the trenching tool and did the first shift at the face. After a good stint, John took over and continued downward by the time these two stalwarts had finished there was a good 100 kilos of mud and stones stockpiled at the head of the tight section.

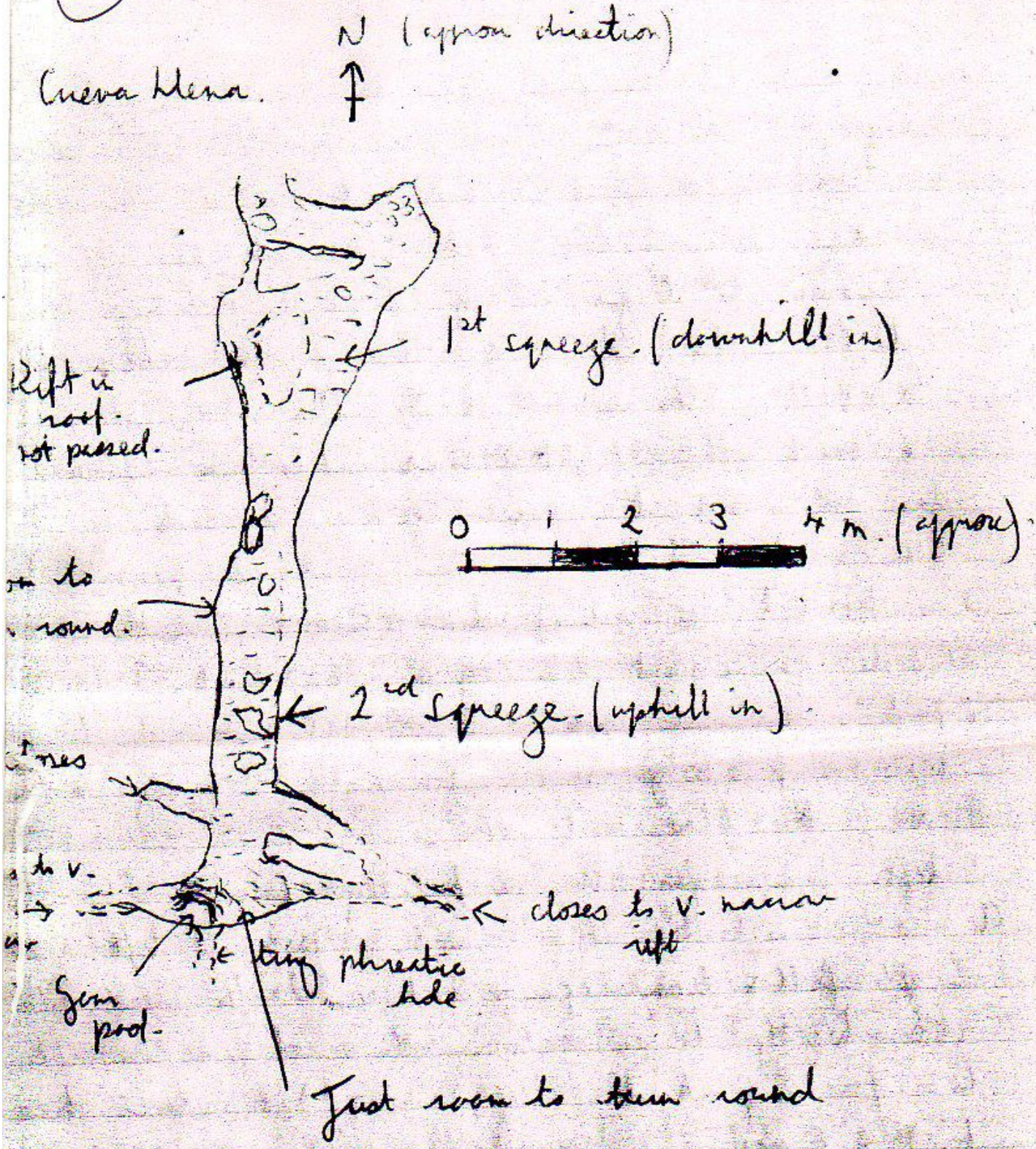
Big Steve then took over and was able to look around a corner along a section with a higher section (rift in the roof) to a small boulder set in mud and blocking the way to continuing passage. The mud around was loosened and the boulder found to be readily movable. Colin then took over and felt that the boulder could be

moved with the feet more easily than the hands, went in again feet first and past the boulder and a second into more spacious passage beyond. Colin felt that it would be easier to dig floor of low bedding to left of the start of the tight section to follow the section with the higher roof around the tight corner. This was quickly dug out and the first squeeze passed.

After a short interlude during which Comediante was visited (see overleaf) Colin returned to attack a second squeeze about 2 m beyond the first. This was part mud and part solid rock/stal ~~covered~~ floored squeeze of full body (~ appx 2 m) length. Digging mud out of the floor made the squeeze more roomy but left lumps of rock uncomfortably close to the roof. A short cross rift about 0.5 m wide, closing to left and right followed and squeeze continued with mud floor to slightly larger section where it was possible to do a form of tumble turn so as to return head first. Beyond this point the passage split into minute holes with no prospects for extension. Mud floor thoroughly wet & shitty beyond 1st enlargement. Altogether an f--- ing c---. The return trip of 15 met. took a good 10-15 minutes.

(22)

Cueva Llena.



Comediante.

Between digging 1st & 2nd squeezes in Cueva Llena, Derek Brig Steve & Colin visited Comediante. Looked at all three entrances and visited the sump pool (using which looked beautifully clear. Then looked at the remainder of the cave) and eventually got bored and came out. Dereks carbide light exploded, and he was then seen looking for somewhere to evacuate his bowels, which he duly did.

Joe Colin and Ian went up to have a second look at Hidden Cave, armed with some tackle and Derek's brand new lump hammer and chisel. Joe walked up to the small scar, and on a sudden impulse looked to see if Hidden Cave came out on the face of the scar. He could have kicked himself when he saw a narrow slot, slap-bang in the middle of the scar, at head height, concealed behind a rib of rock. The slot had a big black hole behind it and on being given the usual BOO! gave back a lordly big echo. Ian and Colin went down Hidden Cave whilst Joe banged at the entrance of the slot but couldn't hear him, so the conclusion was that there was no direct connection. At Hidden Cave a belay and ladder was hung down the pitch rib of limestone just above the chockstone and descended into passage about 15 ft long with a pitch which when dropped seemed at least 30 m. deep. with howling wind. Fortunately the head of pitch is to tight and needs some hammer to pass it. An old phreatic passage on left of pitch was descended down to a boulder choke with no connection

to pitch noticed. On climbing ladder out again an alcove was found in wall with a dripping roof and pitch of about 10 ft with a pool of water at bottom which sounded deep so was not descended. Continued up pitch and passed ladder to Colin and struggled up through squeeze and out.

A faint tapping of Derek's hammer could just be heard inside.

It was decided to have a proper go at enlarging the slot in the scar, using Dereks hammer and chisel. The rib of rock was very satisfyingly removed after which the work got more tedious and slow. Colin and Ian decided to go down Cabratilla and have a dig, whilst I continued hammering at the slot. The work was very awkward the rock hard and there was the constant danger of dropping either or both the hammer and chisel down the shaft beneath. We gave up as it was going dark, concluding that it was a long-term project for someone in the summer. However, the hole draughts strongly at times, and stones drop an estimated 30 m down it in two stages.

Colin and Ian walked up to Labyrinthe
Ian rigged pitch up with ladders (which
turned out to be about 90') so Colin could
descend, while Ian SRT'd we made our way
to the dig which was not straightening
as much as before, and took it in turns to
dig, after about 30 mins it was decided to
abandon the dig upon hitting calcite.
Colin pushed a small side passage but
it just led to a closed phreatic pocket. We
then made our way out back to the Vega
Cave.

It was decided to call the slot in the scat
Ammered 'Ole" — what else could it be called?

13/4 Everyone feeling slothful. Baker's bar got in the way, watching electric company men SRT'ing up the concrete poles in the sun. Eventually to Vega bar. Joe, Ian and Colin up to 'Ammerd'cle whereupon Colin continued hammering at the offending slot, whilst Ian detackled Cabrahilla Joe collected his gear and walked over to Coteron After a while some figures emerged from the Vega bar and eventually Big Nose, Lugger, Steve and Alan appeared up the hill. Alan stayed at the top to lifeline, the rest descended, Joe not finding it a too pleasant experience, after years of not climbing big pitches. Joe and Big Nose did a quick tourist trip round the areas accessible above the 2nd pitch. Lugger looked at pitch 8MTR deep just below the entrance climb choked with debris slight draught out of small hole. A awkward climb into hoped for passage was completed on left hand wall of passage with gours leading from entrance opposite major passage ending in choke. This just led to a series of phreatic pockets after 20MTR 70° ramp.

Coterran C°, Lugger, Andy. Went to
y and get someone through the hole
the end of Franks pass found on
/4. Were diverted by the discovery &
urveying of 250 m of passage leading
Franks pass about 70 m before the
pitch. This new stuff "Matutano
ssage" is mainly low but draughty
ll. Ends in a pitch ~~into~~ which looks
e big stuff.
After this minor disruption we
ntinued to the end of Franks and
urveyed the stuff found yesterday
gger had a quick go at the
ueezing hole but couldn't get thro'.
was too late to start a sustained
ummer and diesel job (but will be
ll worth it in the summer)
etackled Franks passage on way out

2/4. ~~Sto~~ Coteron ;- Steve, Jugger, Alan to Renada arm surveying — SURVEYED 130ft of passage in Renada arm just begore edge of the ~~[illegible]~~ ontrance to of two passages one on either side of main drag right branch ends in low choke no draught although small upward tube 20/0mins in draughts strong other passage proved to be an oxbow joining with passage already partly surveyed rejoined the rest in Matutano passage where a handkerchief was used for aid.

Meanwhile L° + Andy went back to pitch at the end of Matutano passage expecting nothing less than a couple of k of stomper and mucho glory. Descended the pitch in blind fuckin' chamber. Others caught up at this stage. L° Andy + Alan got out of the cave Steve + Jugger went looking at boulder choke at the end of the Renada ... made good time to end of Renada and found surveyed passage leading round past the choke ending in the 80 pitches all left

and wall and floor is composed of large blocks
o Arens were climbed ~~the~~ on the left in this
ction the first for 12 MTRS one wall composed of
ocks short passage led of on right ended in sand
the second aren nearer pitch ascended for 20 MTRS
cross rift again with with one wall composed of
cks aren continues so does blocks gets too
ngerouse boulder choke must have a vertical
tent of at least 40 MTRS? ON way back to first
ction of choke Steve looked at maze of passages
floor footprints noted but passages not surveyed
t pushed to any conclusion requires more attention
same time Iggy looked at some roof passages.
surveyed ended up looking down through roof ☆
main passage with tube passage 3 MTR □ continuing
other side requires a rope to enter as traverse
nd is loose. This section of cave require a high
le survey plan and elevation from ST 72. to find
t promising route through choke.

B/4 (Contd) After virtually hauling Joe out of Cotero the party was informed by Colin that his efforts on 'Ammered 'Ole had yielded a slot big enough to get through. Accordingly, Big Nose and Joe accompanied him over to the entrance. Just before it, Joe stumbled across yet another ~~one~~ previously un-noticed shaft, at the same contour as 'Ammered 'Ole, ~~but~~ and directly downhill from Cabrahilla. The entrance was fairly small, and concealed by a big lump of limestone. Anyway, attention was focussed on 'Ammered 'Ole. Big Nose had a go at getting through, but it still didn't look very big, and was just getting stuck when Lugger appeared on the horizon, over from Cateron. ~~the ttsu started~~ Lugger started shouting about a great big open shaft he'd seen, and eventually came across just as Big Nose had extricated himself from the slot. The shaft was about 40 ft deep and belled out inside into a chamber. Anyway, Lugger then had a go at getting through 'Ammered 'Ole — without a lifeline — and proceeded to get very stuck. He actually appeared to be getting worried, and only got out by dropping his pants which were jamming him in. Again, 'Ammered 'Ole

as left for another time, though everyone
greed it looked very promising and was still
raughting on, even though it was very still outside
he shaft previously found by Joe was then
rompptly rediscovered by Lugger on the way
ack across towards Coteron. The limestone
ump was rolled away and Lugger went down
shaft about 30 ft deep.

TORCA DE LIMESTONE LUMP

MTR deep ladder pitch to floor of ~~[illegible]~~
block wedged in rift further 5MTR ladder drop
ver wedged block to small chamber a couple of
loose blocks at to of short downward squeeze
overed 4MTRS hands and knees passage to sharp
ow section leading into small aven chamber with
rips coming in from roof, 3MTR climb down
calcited rift to impassable slot short passage
pposite entry to chamber gets too low after 6MTRS
nly other possible way ~~of~~ out is continuation of
pt in aven chamber but would require a 3MTR
imb up slippy moonmilk covered rock this was
t attempted the cave was draughting out so it could
e worth a look. Total depth 20 METRES 15METRES LONG

397

JOHN & Lugger

(33)

Found shaft later thought to be 397 which had previously been descended by pedro? 12 MTR shaft with tree growing from side lands in short section of large passage with calcited slopes at either end. imediatly below ladder at far side of ~~steps~~ passage through small hole in calcite false floor a chamber can be seen this was not entred but would require very little effort especially with a lump hammer the hole was draughting out ~~[illegible]~~ slightly a few feet up slope to left faceing ladder a second shaft was descended 8 MTRS to false floor with further shaft below not descended requires lump hammer and possibly a bar to open up, pitch will probably be a further 8 MTRS. Below second pitch left can be followed for 5 MTRS under calcite grills to section too tight to get through large chamber can be seen in front requires bar & lump hammer to enter.

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