MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 1991

Season: summer

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

Juan Corrin, January 2015

Following the succesful 1990 "Keep one foot in daylight at all times" expedition, here begins the 1991 account of Matienzo exploits.

16/07/91

Pete and Stone (and Nick and Sarah) arrived Matienzo midday 16/07/91 and by 2.00pm were following up leads gained in 1990. On the col between the Matienzo depression and Rueva Valley is an area of limestone pavement. Poking around in 1990 revealed two shafts (861 and 862) located on an obvious fault line. These were descended to approx 30 ft on SRT but both were found to be blind, with no draught.

Just over the top of the col 10ft from the track is a large tree and bramble filled shakehole. Dig 858 (found 1990) is located in its base and was partially descended in 1990 to a small chamber composed of hanging death. A strong draught was noted 1991 - Partially blocked rift seen in 1990 was dug out to gain access. A tight but v. awkward contortion allows the caver to enter an easy boulder floored and steeply descending rift which was not fully pushed on this trip. Draught is v. strong. (See further write up)

17/07/91

Combined shopping trip to Ramales, parking and photo trip in Reinosa.
Pete, Stone, Sarah and Nick.

Aims were to have a poke around the rocky tubes in Mega Hall and look at the choked passage seen on the survey near Sump 1. The rocky tube on the SW side of Mega Hall was climbed up to using specialised mountaineering techniques ie belay below climbs with loads of slack and falling boulders. After all this effort it was found that the tube had been entered before. Hopes of glory dashed in an instant.
Next continued downstream to try to grid choke near Sump 1 and after getting a bit lost - no sorry - totally lost in a huge loop we decided that we couldn't really be bothered to grid the choke and so started out - taking pictures in - one of ... ours only ..... → Blood Alley and Ghost Lake

18/07/91 Pete and Steve + Nick and Sarah

While Nick and Sarah had a look round Emboscados Pete and Steve attempted to find Pete Smiths shaft apparently over Carcavero. (728). Location of this was obtained over the telephone and described as "on the edge of the hill contouring Emboscados". Obviously we didn't find the shaft but did find a couple of surface rifts on the 250m contour directly above Emboscados – no draught & no way on in both cases.
Having got bored of this we went down the Eastern end on the Emboscados hill to try & get into Carcavero. – oddly enough we couldn't find this either!!

19/07/91 Pete & Steve.

Still going through a burst of enthusiasm we went back to the Carcavero entrances and eventually found it after about 1hr of thrashing about through trees, brambles, nettles and horse flys. Once found we began to dig out the trees and dead logs from the entrance rift, this taking about 3/4 hr.
Our aim was to go to the sump in the Western Series to see if it was passable and to do this by climbing in, not using the ladder pitch. Do this by passing the base of the ladder pitch and doubling back into the rift up a ramp about 20m further down stream. An easy climb ends up at the beginning of the Western Series.
To continue – Sump was still at its usual level so impassable Next we looked at the right hand passage of the Inlet 2 (see survey) on the right on the route outwards. This is heading for Volvo and apparently emits water and a draught sometimes – at present it is dry and with no draught and ends with no visible way on.

20/07/91

Cueva del Rio de la Peña Forao.

Following last years discoveries Pete Smith organised a return trip with the Spaniards to carry on where we left off.
3 seperate parties. ① Downstream – Pete Eagar and Costas, Pete Smith, Steve O
② Upstream – Dave, Wingnut, Nick
③ Surface – Sarah, Andy + assorted Spaniards

This write-up covers the downstream party of Pete Smith, Pete Eagan and Steve Openshaw. The other groups write ups come later.

Downstream

3 English and 1 Spaniard carried on from the arch where we had stopped surveying in 1990. And yes we did let the Spaniard (Carlos) go first into virgin passage, that was until he started grovelling about in the mud catching bugs and crawly things in empty film canes whilst we looked on somewhat bemused.
To carry on - the passage carries on much the same as before ie varying from 1 - 4m wide and 2 - 5m high with deep pools on the floor. However after approx 500m mud began to dominate the boulder floor and going gets harder as you tend to leave your wellies behind. Numerous side passages and/or ox-bows were encountered but the main drain was always followed. Near the end of the cave some swimming became necessary but only for short lengths.
At the very end of the cave a climb up out of the main passage gains access to a huge avin chamber (in green and blue shale) which contains a deep lake-cum-sump (motor boat sized). This chamber is approx 20m across and 20m high with a steep sand ramp descending into the lake. A grog was found here - possibly indicating close proximity of the resurgence.
Just before this lake chamber is another similar chamber which is again reached by a short climb. These two shale chambers are not connected but are obviously part of the same thing.
See Survey - ① small inlet right draughting outwards entered but not pushed above the 20m calcite flow.
② Northward heading right just after climb up from main stream passage in 1990 cave entered and pushed for a considerable distance showing no signs of stopping - FOLLOW UP NEEDED.

Follow ups - 1 & 2 above
- lake at end of cave
- abandoned mine near entrance
- All side passages off main passage.

SJOpenshaw

② UPSTREAM

Call me Mr. Ungrateful if you like, but I don't think we were given the best lead in the cave.

Upstream (cont.)

our brief was "you can look upstream - we've pushed it for 400m and stopped at a chamber with 2 obvious ways on. You can push both of these."

We wacked through several pools and bypassed a boulder choke with signs of recent collapse and arrived at the "chamber". To the left was a crawl in water about 12 → 18" deep and to the right was a wade in waist deep water. For some reason we chose to push the left passage. Wingnut was on the scent of glory so he pushed on, oblivious of the crawls and water and more crawls. After exploring a few blind ends we located a moderately strong draught and followed this. While me and Dave waited in a relatively dry spot, Wingnut was sent ahead to cries of "this bedding plane is rather tight and in any case it's half full of water." We ignored his call to bring the surveying gear to where he was and started the survey from where we were instead. About 2hrs, 260m and 32 survey legs later, we were finished. To be honest, we didn't push everything to a conclusion - anything left unpushed will be marked on the survey. The general impression we got was of a small draughting inlet, still going but only just. Feel free to push it at your leisure. Having spent a lot of time and energy trying to keep our non-waterproof survey notes out of the mud and water, we weren't to keen to survey the right hand passage, so we pushed it for about 50m until we were stopped by a low duck and decided to call it a day. We set off downstream to meet the other party coming towards us with tales of huge stomping passage and about 800m of easy surveying. Well it was there once so I suppose

they were entitled to it. We decided to go back out with them as we weren't too sure on route finding. Well, that it - I can't spin this out anymore to try and fill the 1½ pages Steve has left blank for this write up so that it. Will standing.

22/07/91

Pete, Steve & Andy

After consultation with Pete Smith we found shaft 728 on the Enlozados hill. Basically a tight rift, needing 1 ladder for entry. Traverse over rift leads to left SRT hang point. Rift descends 70-80 ft into choked rift (both directions) with draught disappearing into boulder floor. Parallel shaft part way up deep rift also closes down. Two spits placed but really a no-hoper and full of shite. Good place for a bip as well.

23/07/91

Steve, Pete, Andy + Andy Quin who gave us a lift in the Land Rover

See previous description 16/07/91 Dig 858.

Pete pared through squeeze and followed rift to head of 30 ft? pitch. Steve couldn't get through squeeze ∴ not a cave for tall cavers or anyone whose knees don't bend forwards. Still wide open - pitch to be descended.

Bearing taken on rift = 355°. On surface bearing followed and immediately found series of small shafts/caves in small depression - don't go anywhere. ~~Also~~ Large shakehole on same bearing contains a dug out entrance and a bottle + Bivvi (empty and not ours!)

This entrance has a similar draught as 858 and since it is on the same bearing probably connect although this entrance descends into a boulder choked rift. Steve O.

24/7/91 JANE, TOBY, WINGNUT.

The intention was to visit some entrances on SE end of Muella which we had seen from Cuy Uyano at Easter. Easy(ish) going led to steep rock r we chickened out. Followed base of rocks around towards the Ogarrio side and located 60' shaft under prominent buttress with large block on top. This feature is visible from the road. Wingnut went down r found it choked. Several 10' deep
① choked shafts in same area. 100m further around and at the same level is 10' choked shaft with slight draught.
② Went over col r around the side of Muela to area of depressions - all choked. This seems to be where caves 416/420 are marked on the map. This is a large, flattish grassy area but 416/420 are supposed to be in exposed limestone. We are going back up at some point r will double check this area. 200m further on is another flat, grassy area with some very large depressions. At R. hand side is 30m (ish) shaft marked M 44. On left is massive shaft (100m ish) marked S.E.A.D. M. 45. Any ideas?

① Between Wingnuts shaft r last mentioned 10' shaft is 10' long choked cave.

② Above r to right of Wingnuts shaft is obvious walled up entrance at base of cliff. 20' steep leads to 60' shaft choked with goat skeletons. Choice of belays - thing of dubious antiquity probably put there by Spanish or rotting stal column with 4' deep slot cut by our wire tether. Wingnut seemed to think it was a chain saw!

25/7/91 JIM, HELEN, WILLIAM, BENJAMIN, SAMUEL. (7)

Went for a wander up the mushroom field to look at 603 and Sandstone. Then back contouring over caravanna entrance to look at holes which are visible from the bar. Found one small shaft (5m) on end of spur and another more interesting walk in sideways rift passage 5m high for approx 25m to calcite choke with small pot size hole and visible continuation. Shall return with wreking equipment. Then took at more solution holes, but cannot say we've done a conclusion search because Samuel decided he'd had enough of cliff climbing - (aged 4½!)

888

565

~~25/7/91~~

858 revisited

26-7-91 Steve, Peter, Toby

Returned to 858 to descend pitch, a dif going wider entrance squeeze.

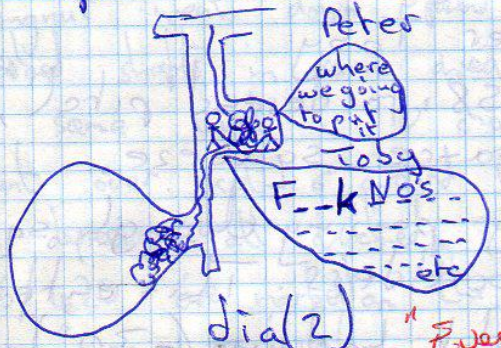
Pitch reached by passing through squeeze at bottom of entrance boulders. This enters a high rift (at top) and tight bedding (-30°). A squeeze to the right (facing in) and climb down is followed by narrow rift to head of pitch, a low ladder climb, which landed very close to the head of a further pitch.

At this point Toby began to put in Spits as I (Peter) returned to Steve at entrance desperately trying to sink, a boulder was moved enabling Steve to pass the first squeeze only to be stopped by the second. Glory calling I went back to Toby with my SRT kit Steves ? and a rope (Steve would not be there but in Gear would). A further bashing job at the bottom of the ladder pitch enabled my self to descend over 20m SRT rope to look into a large chamber (Ø40m)

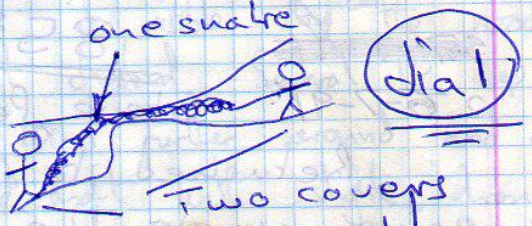
SP (MEANT)

The rope being too short meant we had to exith the cave and collect a rope intended for Alpine ~~use~~ though all 185m of it, and swop Steves SRT gear for Tobies.

Two small covers set of down the cave with a rope resembling an anocounder half a sleep (dia1), it did not want to go, but once there, it was so keen it unwraped itself (dia2)



dia(2)



Two covers + various other bits of tackle

survey file

"Eventually we descended the pitch" - COURTESY OF JILL STUDHOLME-PROOF READER

[Eventualy ~~we de~~ the pitch was descended part way, and during a silent pause (of silence) a very large block was left to fall another day. It was possible to avoid the bottom of the pitch and totally demolish a large ledge on the way into the chamber.

The chamber proved to be about 40m round and after much searching, didn't go anywhere (It was lonely down there) Toby at the top preventing the snake from having it throat cut did not descend, on inspecting of the bottom of the pitch it proved to be equally as exciting as the floor which was descovered to be suspended above another possible pitch.

snake in a bag and proceeded out of the cave derigging as we went. A second pitch was noted next to the main pitch, possibly entered by traversing over the head of the ladder pitch amongst large blocks. Steve still at entrance assisted us to remove tackle and leave cave at 9-40.

What happened to the snake?

MOSTADO So far

16/7/91

Nick Harding, Dave Saltman, "Wignut", Andy Wright rigged and descended entrance pitch and gobbler void in order to push the area discovered three years ago (by pete smith, "wignut", Nick etc).

17/7/91

Descended pitch (approx 60 ft) into Gobbler chamber. This connected with the area in which "Big Steve" got lost three years ago. This area has not been pushed fully as it is very complex and lower down has previously been connected with lower passage.

Traverses at the top of the pitch were explored, no leads. Another

Another 70 ft pitch was explored (main chamber after traverse) No leads were found.

23/7/91

Nick, Dave, wignut, Andy, Phil Endicat entered entrance series to take some photographs (for MUSC Trophies slide show, see Dave Saltman for slides)

Lots of Love Wignut

Yes 's rather than s'

CODE NAME: HDIQ [redacted] will be informed.

State Secret

do not reveal alias is Mike.

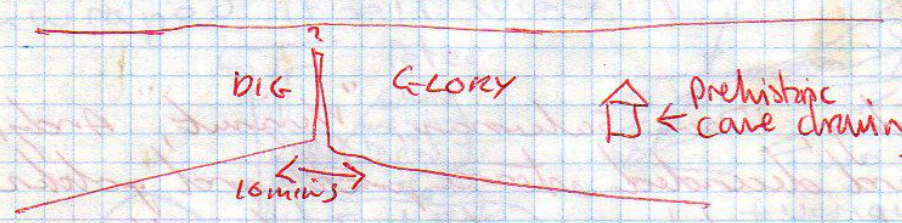
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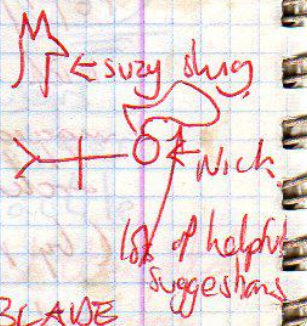
26th JULY 1991

EMBOSCADOS

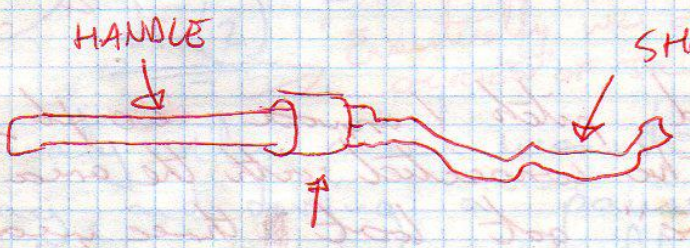
THE DIG IN EMBOSCADOS IS A DEAD CERT FOR GLORY. CURRENTLY, THE DISCREET, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DIG IS CONFINED ONLY BY A DEEP SINCERE DESIRE TO PRESERVE UNDAMAGED THE REMAINS OF A 50,000 YEAR OLD CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TONS OF BOULDERS. HOWEVER, 10 MINS EFFORT WITH A MODICUM OF DIGGING EQUIPMENT E.g. ONE BLOODY USELESS ENTRENCHING TOOL, IS LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY P.A. EFFECT. NEXT YEAR WE'LL GET THE MAN

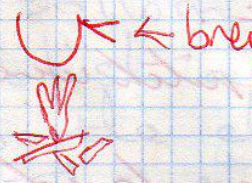
CURRENT SITUATION:





MATIENZO DIGGING TOOL:





25th July 91.

Went down Emboscados in shorts, tee shirts & sunglasses to take some artistic pictures. Unfortunately didn't take enough beer so had to plan a motorway instead.

Nick

③ Surface Party Santander. 20/7/91.

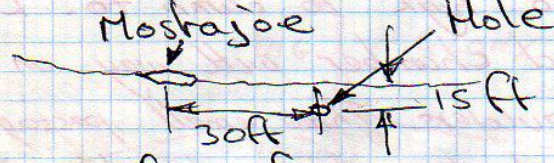
Sarah., Andy P + 2 halicinating Spaniacks.

Proceeded to first hole in battered old Beattle. Small depression in field revealed large undescended pitch at bottom. No belay points apart from large haystack so we made use of farmers metal stakes which we hammered in with handy boulder. Andy descended thro' open hole to bottom of pitch (30ft). Continued thro' small hole on right (LEFT) into spacious chamber (7m wide). Passage continued sloping down thro' collapsed boulders. Various passages off into roof too high to climb to. Large Passage ended in choked chamber with way on in floor under dodgy looking boulders. Three small passages off from standing sized chamber but exploration was halted at this point. Alix ventured down clasping a stinky in one hand and a dubious cigarette in the other, he refused my assist which considered I had removed all the slugs for him / thought rather rude.

Next hole was reached after traversing baying hounds and vicious chickens. This cave had been descended before. but water had been reached so a hasty retreat was organised. Exploration did not amount to much. Andy & Alix floated down free climbable entrance pitch. Scaler (ladder) was used for next pitch, in place of large chamber, At this point Spaniard on surface needed medical attention for severe giggling fit, a bar of chocolate sufficed. (Have to go now trip to fiesta). Epilogue - returned to bar. to meet variety of other Spaniards and discuss White Goddesses who robbed Graves'

Sarah Hall.

28-7-91 This is not the Moshajoe write up, Sue is going to do it later. After leaving cave quickly, (Peter) bodily function begining to operate some 12 hours after Reva festival, A hole was noted, slightly larger than a porcelain bus, but it would have done dejob, this may not have been entered before



will return soon, also a possible dig halfway back to the car has been noted with a cairn and Arrow.

Vicious Ramow the Anaconda will be on the Video (TY Mat Cave).

PTyn

Saturday 27th July.

Montejo.

Anne, Pedro, Pete, Steve..

Aim: Survey from Golden Void..

From a promised 8/9 strong team in the bar the night before we ended up being only four as a result of Pedro hassling people in the morning! Pete + Steve appeared rather the worse for wear from the Rica festival! It was the first time I'd been down Montejo and I was amazed from start to finish. Wonderful formations, pitches enjoyable and straightforward. We had a few route finding problems for the Golden Void but eventually made it to the Dwarf Chamber and Wonderland. We surveyed from the Golden Void (bottom of pitch) to P19. Then from Dwarf Chamber to our station (5).

27th July. May, Jane, Toby. TORCA XL's.

Holes in wall above 2nd pitch are no go. Draught (fairly strong + v. cold), comes up pitch. Running out of places to look for it! We will have 1 last look later but not too hopeful.

1/150 gt PHS

27-JUL-1991 PAUL, ADRIAN & ANDY P. ARENAZ

QUICK LOOK AT END CHOKES - DRAUGHT SEEMS TO COME FROM MULTIPLE CHOKES WITHIN CAVE & THEN CO-ALESCE AS IT FLOWS TOWARDS ENT. DRAUGHT ~~SEEMS~~ COMES FROM ABOVE IN MOST PLACES AT CHOKE. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A 15' SCAFF BAR SO THAT DIGGING MAY BE DONE WHEN YOUR NOWHERE NEAR THE CHOKE i.e. THE BAR! TU = 2½ HRS



1/150 pt PHS

28th July Andy Andy Grave Paul + Adrian Muela.

Went up back track to end + up hill to tree. Exit over to entrances marked 314 + 315 on the map. Don't really trust the descriptions

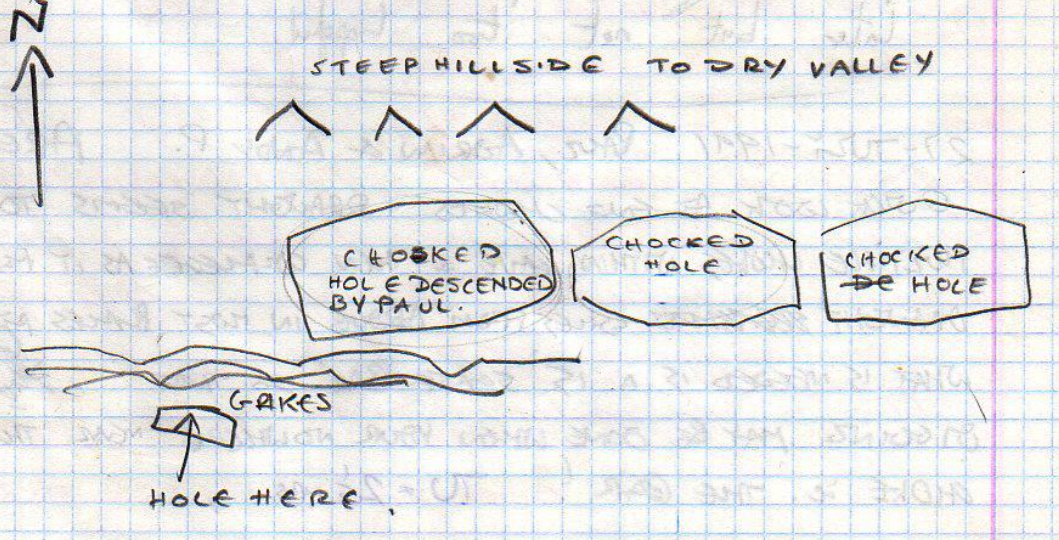
behind large split boulder ~~8~~ seemed to be 8-10m deep to a choked floor, by throwing rocks. The upper, which we take to have been 315 was covered over with rocks. Wriggled through hole to 10ft climb to false floor of jammed boulders. Hole through false floor at one corner led to a 50' pitch landing on scree cone at side of 15 x 25 m x 5m high chamber. Slot down at right hand end, (facing ladder from centre of chamber) led to 15 m of passage ending in squeeze through into small aven with no way out except up.

Went round the hill to the hole marked 233 on map. This was found to be a series of large shafts to grassy floors, along the floor of a small valley, with one sheer sided pot with entrance 3m square just to the side of the second open shaft down the valley. This was descended + found to be ~25 m deep. All other nearby holes were climbed down + nothing found.

2 HOLE NEAR 233 (SEE ABOVE)

DO ~~ROCKS ABOVE REMOVED TO~~

ROCKS THROWN AT BOTTOM OF GRIKEY RIFT DROP 160FT. ROCKS REMOVED TO REMOVE VERY TIGHT PITCH HEAD BLOCKED BY LARGE BOULDER. PAUL COULD NOT SQUEEZE AROUND IT. BOULDER WOULD PROPABLY REQUIRE REMOVAL TO GAIN ENTRANCE TO PITCH. APPROX. POSITION OF SITE ON MAP BELOW



28 7.91 Ann, Marion, Helen, Phil, Jane Reñada → Stuffed Monk, Sanatogen.
Surveying trip into Sanatogen for 2 reasons. ① tie up loose ends not drawn up on survey. ② surveying practice for relative novices ie. all of us. Unfortunately we mistook the passage to the west of Sanatogen for Sanatogen itself & couldn't understand why our compass bearings disagreed violently with those on survey. On consulting a clearer survey in the bar we realised we had been looking at the far end of Stuffed Monk instead! However this provoked interest in the strong draught in the terminal chamber as whilst underground we thought this was accounted for by Apilicueta & on finding where we really were we realised it must be something else. We intend to go back & look at the owens (about 25m) in this chamber.

28/7/91 T.V. MAST CAVE

Pitch dropped to −62 m where it cuts through horizontal passage. 160 (ish) m surveyed going W. Ends in stal blockage that a lump hammer would remove. Draught lost in chamber before end. Various passages still to push. Glory just around the corner – which corner time alone will tell.
Sarah, Pete, Andy + Juan videoing in TVMC down to head of main P.

29/7/91 Reñada. Andy Seton, Andy Pringle, Grovel, Jane.

Returned to draughting avens (see yesterday's account). Less draught as the day was much cooler, but it would be possible to climb up into a black hole about 40' up with judicious use of bolts. Guess who had left the survey we needed for everything else in her handbag?! Went into Sanatogen & saw a pitch in floor. This is marked in the survey but may be worth descending. Found an undescended pitch (approx 25') off Stuffed Monk & a crawl in a breakdown passage, also off Stuffed Monk that need revisiting.

29/7/91 TV MAST CAVE.

Went down with Peter, Steve and Jim. Pos went into passage found yesterday to drop pith with sound of water at the bottom. Jim climbed over main pitch from Marble Ledge (-60m) and got into stream way. Toby joined Pos who had just rigged 20' ladder. All 3 went down to chamber with water falling down an aven. Short downstream passage led to 25' pitch with Jim at the bottom. Started surveying out but Toby got bored & fell off a ledge instead, injuring himself just enough to make getting out painful. Paul Stacey, who had just arrived at the head of another pitch in the downstream passage, was the only person with a car so he had to forgo his glory for the day & take T. back to the bar where medicine was consumed. If you have to hurt yourself in a cave you could do worse than have these people with you. My heartfelt (arse felt?) thanks to them all.

565?

25/7/91

Above Carcaveuso

Benjamin et al

Found walking canyon blocked by Steal

Draughting holes needs digging.

30/7/91

Dug through to large chamber

Benjamin

29/7/91 TV Mark. Jim Davis, ADRIAN Andy BOWSTEAD

went with Toby, Paul, Peter, Steve, but plans changed when we found we had left the survey tape behind. Paul, Adrian & Andy returned to the bar to get a tape, because Andy and Adrian were needed to sit on the bonnet to get up the hill!

Managed to traverse by side of pitch to descending passage with stream entering chamber on right. This connected into Peter/Steve/Toby's passage. Left-hand down stream continued to 3m ladder pitch and then came changed direction onto strike to SE. 11m pitch rigged wet way down the pitch to continue in yorkshire style rift passage (0.3m wide) ending in cascades and big black pitch. 30m+. Surveyed out. At bottom of 11m pitch, entered oxbow on left which came out above mud climb. Further rigged climb leads to old passages - left there for tomorrow. Ropes needed for two 3m pitches - 80ft each. Watch out for pitch head disintegrating on 11m pitch. Traverse at top of 60m pitch needs ~~a~~ bolting and protecting and rub points on pitch need sorting.

30/7/91 TV Mark Cave, Peter, Steve,

Two parties left to push previous day's limits, ~~Peter~~ One party Steve Peter Toby + Jim of second party entered cave with required tackle while second party returned to Matzienzo to collect tape. All persons in first party reached bottom of previous limit and headed off to 50ft pitch while Jim waited at bottom of water fall. Steve Peter + Toby reached top of pitch where Jim was left waiting. A loop had now been found and Peter Steve + Toby gave up Glory to survey back to pitch

"I will have to look up Lee for the Geologist" mean while back at the bottom of the pitch Peter + Steve failed to catch Toby who was doing a drop test minus the rope. Hence toby had to be assisted out of the cave, by Steve + Peter to pitches and Paul Stacey to the entrance. (see previous entry)

Steve + Peter returned to tobies leap and completed survey out to bottom of pitch. Here we (~~Toby~~ Steve + Peter) decended the 1st of the main pitch a further 1km to find tight ~~meander~~ meandering high Yorkshire type cave this was pushed to a Rift 2m Wide 5m Long where it continued Tortuous, Peter + Steve surveyed out from Steves limit and left the cave with others pushing for glory.

P Eggington

30-7-91 / Had a look a Hole covered in logs in field near Carcaveso Sink, didn't go anywhere.

M Eggington

Jim, Marion, Anne, Nick (Psycho), Andy Seton

Afternoon Stroll, Red Column chamber and through Duck Passage. Continued all the way down to chamber with large boulders and stal and a holding plane off to the right where a draught had been noted (see survey). A short crawl leads to a small chamber where there is a definite draught emitting from a small hole too tight to enter. Coming back into the main passage, Jim and Anne continued down a short way to find an alternative way in towards the draught but were unsuccessful. On the way back out, before reaching Duck Passage, Jim and Anne surveyed the "Unsurveyed 110 m Oxbow" (see survey).

~150 pts PHS

30/7/91. Anne, Grovel, Andy Pringle. Red Dwarf Extension.

T.V Mast Cave. Our aim was to survey from the phreatic tube that Jim et al had got to yesterday. My first trip into the cave, the pitch is quite impressive although, despite some re-rigging by Paul there still seem to be a couple of rub points. We decided to survey in for the bottom of the 30ft rope pitch - very wet!! The phreatic tube soon breaks down to a rift with shingly loose rock in it, the beds seem to dip different ways on the two sides of the passage - reminiscent of middle section of Valline + Coteron. We quickly got to a chamber full of stals, looked at a few holes higher up but they all seem to connect with each other over the top. (Creiton Chamber). Continued on through narrow (.75m wide) rift lots of gypsum crystals on the walls, sandy crystally floor, some mud underneath which will no doubt become predominant! High passages with a second level above with a false floor much of which has collapsed. I climbed up to look at some sections but it all seemed to interconnect. Further on through the rift widened at the top and a strong draught went upwards. Grovel climbed up to investigate —

Coconut Passage →

Also found a skeleton of some sort of carnivorous small animal - very recently

To avoid falling debris I continued further on squeezed under a large fallen boulder where the passage widened out especially higher up, a quick explanation suggested that this would be a good area to explore further. A few metres further on the rift opens out into a 'Bloody ~~Big Black~~ "Vertical Hole"! where I could here Paul tapping away with the bolting hammer. It appears to be a wide rift with an extremely big boulder jammed in it. Stones dropped fell for 3-4 secs. then rattled for a short while. Went back to tell Andy + Grovel. Decided to continue surveying to Pitch Head then go out. Grovel's little exploration also seemed promising. Got out about 11pm after getting very cold waiting on ledge of pitch. Walked back to Herman's.

~~WED 29 JULY 1991 PAUL, ADRIAN, PHIL, ETV MAST (AGAIN)~~ ✓ 150 m

TUE 30-JULY-1991 PAUL, ADRIAN & PHIL. E T.V. MAST

RE-RIGGED: 1) PUT SHORT ROPE ON SLIPPY CLIMB AT TOP OF MAIN PITCH.

2) GOT TO MAST REGGIE ON MAIN & FOUND ROPE 5' BELOW BOLT THRU' TO CORE 95% ALL THE WAY AROUND! ABSELED DOWN TO TUBE BELOW TRAVERSE PULLED UP 15' OF SLACK THRU' TWO BOLTS (RE-RIGGING) UNTIL JUDGY BIT WAS OTHER SIDE OF REGGIE.

3) RIGGED TRAVERSE WITH BLACK DEATH.

4) TOOK END OF 55m ROPE OFF 30 FT PITCH & RE-RIGGED WITH TWO SHORT BITS & ONE LONG TETHER,

5) RE-RIGGED CLIMB UP INTO 'RED DWARF SERIES' & TOOK 55m ON TO END OF KNOWN CAVE TOWARDS "100 FT" DROP. RIGGED FIRST TWO DROPS 25 FT WITH ½-MANTA (NEVER SEEN ONE OUT HERE BEFORE) & THEN DROPPED 10 FT PITCH TO EDGE OF NEXT PITCH. THERE IS THE LARGEST JAMMED BOULDER I HAVE EVER SEEN, & COUPLED WITH THE 4 → 7s DRIP ALMOST MADE ME WET MYSELF LOOKING DOWN IT. DECIDED AS IT WAS TOO LATE & WE QUITE OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH ROPE OR BOTTLE TO DO IT WE'D GO OUT.



TU = 10 HRS

TUE 30TH JULY – FOUND SOME VERY LARGE AVENS ABOVE SMALL MEANDERING STREAM. PASSAGE BEFORE VERTICAL HOLD MEGA PITCH. IN I.V MAST CAVE. ↷ ADRIAN PANIWNYK.

CUEVA DE LOS TRES NIÑOS 31/7/91 Afternoon Stark.

Once upon a time, there were three little boys, William, Benjamin & Samuel who had a geriatric dad who insisted on going caving. They were forced through impossible squeezes, after fighting through the undergrowth on a cliff. Finally, the good witch of the south said "Click your heels three times and you will find caverns nameless to man." and "If you wish hard enough, it will come true". So they did. AND IT DID.

SATURDAY 20TH JULY – PETE SMITH & ANDY QUIN

TORCA del CERRO MANUEL No. 783

Return to shaft first descended in October 89. by P.S. & AQ. Shaft chokes after further 10m. No draught no obvious continuation. Final depth 30m. Manuel? then showed us another cave 10m with a way to the West, across the head of the Mast Valley. Entrance is in the trees [illegible] obvious cabana. Cave was entered [illegible] down a slope to head of an estimated 25m pitch.

Marshalls beside the above three

THURSDAY 25TH JULY PETE SMITH, ANDY QUIN, JANE SARAH & ANDY?

N° 889.

RETURN TO CAVE FOUND AT BOSMARTIN (ABOVE) 25M PITCH DROPS INTO PASSAGE LEADING OFF IN TWO DIRECTIONS BOTH VERY QUICKLY CLOSING DOWN WITH NO DRAUGHT. PASSAGE TO THE EAST IS 20M LONG & AT ENDING WHERE AN AVEN INTERSECTS THE PASSAGE. THE AVEN CLOSES DOWN UPWARDS & SMALL HOLE IN THE FLOOR DESCENDED FOR 8M TO CONTINUE

A SECOND CAVE VERY CLOSE TO THIS ONE WAS NOTED. IT HAS A SMALL DRAUGHT ACHIEVABLE BY [illegible] INTO SLIGHT DRAUGHT

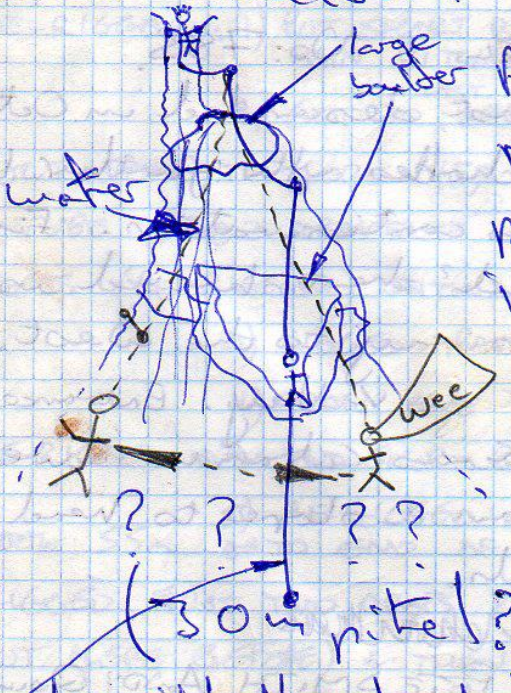
TO THIS LEADS DOWN A SMALL SLOPE TO AN ENDING ABOUT 15M LONG

IV Last Cave 1/8/91

Steve, Peter, Paul,

After rerigging the first large pitch (placing one new spit) we headed straight on to the head of the 30m Undescended pitch.

After placing one spit on the left, it was possible to descend, with the aid of a deviation, to what looked like the floor this turned out to be a very large boulder, over the edge of which the floor still couldn't be seen (30m?)



After prusiking back up removing deviation and pendulouring across shaft it was possible to descend further until the water became much. It was decided a further bolt on the RH wall would have seen better. 100m of rope appears not to reach the bottom. (Further attempts may require diving equipment as the pitch should be below the water table.)

A quick look at other passages was

made on the way out and further attempts at the last pitch may be made from the opposite side of the shaft.

Note if care is taken on the top pitches further rope rub should not occur.

PT Eyre.

STOP PRESS

DALESWEAR OVERSUITS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN LACE UP STYLE. 1st VIEWING tomorrow in/on TV MAST CAVE.

565 Cueva de los tres niños ~~BUA~~ 31/7/9 ~150pt PHS

Sarah, Marion, Jim + Helen, + 3. Johnathon. Jane. Toby. Paul. + Supporting Cast.

Revisit to cave on hillside overlooking bar, previous visit by Marian and Paul had succeeding in digging and enlarging small hole at end of entrance ~~rift~~. Our party had returned en force to squeeze through hole which was drafting quite well. A chamber was entered through awkward squeeze (since been enlarged). The chamber had three ways on. one ended shortly in choked rift. 2) steep awkward climb up led to. 50-70m pitch which was bolted but became too tight at the bottom. 3) small hole in floor proved to be the way on. Jim & Marion squeezed through to seemingly extension of entrance rift. this led to steeply descending contorted rift, from top of which could be seen large passage. A hand line was needed for this part and which point it was discovered no-one had brought any rope (mix-up over cenaza the night before). We retreated to the entrance to sunbath and wait for the rope

The trip recommenced 1hr later once the hand line was in place (Toby & Johnathon bolted and descended 50m pitch). The roped climb led to a large passage (10m×10m) continuing left & Right. The right passage was explored quickly and revealed various pretties, bones, very large boulders and shattered roof. There was no obvious way on so we backtracked to bottom of climb and headed left over very large collapsed boulders, some are still waiting to come down & look very dodgy. The passage became larger, the whole floor being covered in huge fallen blocks and boulders. making progress quite awkward. Marion was almost in war dance mode. but she kept falling off the boulders. The passage continued in the same style getting bigger as we went. (25×25m). We eventually reached the largest part of the known cave. which had a large mud floor with various scallops and potentiation. We avoided disturbing this and skirted around the outside. Leading off from the right hand wall was a steeply ascending sandy slope leading to a 7m pitch which was left undescended at this point. The passage tapered down to two chokes over very large collapsed boulder area. There was no obvious way through the chokes. We surveyed at from this point discovering small side passages as we went, to be explored at a later date.
N.B. Bloody Awkward place to survey for you first time!!!
Sarah.H.

1/8/91 TRES NIÑOS PEDRO TOBY

Dropped pitch up slope from large chamber with mud floor. 25' sloping pitch to avon chamber formed on heading right. Pedro climbed right at far side of chamber to a ledge about the same level as the ~~Base~~ pitch head. Sandy crawl on some bearing (ish) gets low with larger continuation visible. Passage to left

in choked rift with digable hole in floor. Bolt traverse started towards an eye-hole in the leading wall from the top of the climb should be completed on 3rd August.

On the way out Pedro climbed into a passage in the last joint before you reach the rope climb out. One end choked / possible dig (Mario!) the other way led to pitch back into the chamber with a 20' bolt traverse needed to follow possible continuation. Today.

1.8.91 Jane. Walk from Cuz Uzano to Codesira. Grovel, Andy Sweetman, Anne

Went for a walk to help Anne familiarise herself with the area - a good excuse on a nice afternoon to study flowers, birds etc. Looked into Codesira. On return looked into an obvious hole in the same bay wall as Codesira & at same height but about 200m further S. Although this is very obvious, it does not appear to be numbered in the book, so needs tagging & numbering. Grovel went in about 10m to where it became a flat out crawl, no obvious draught. needs finishing & writing up however.



✓ 150 pts PHS

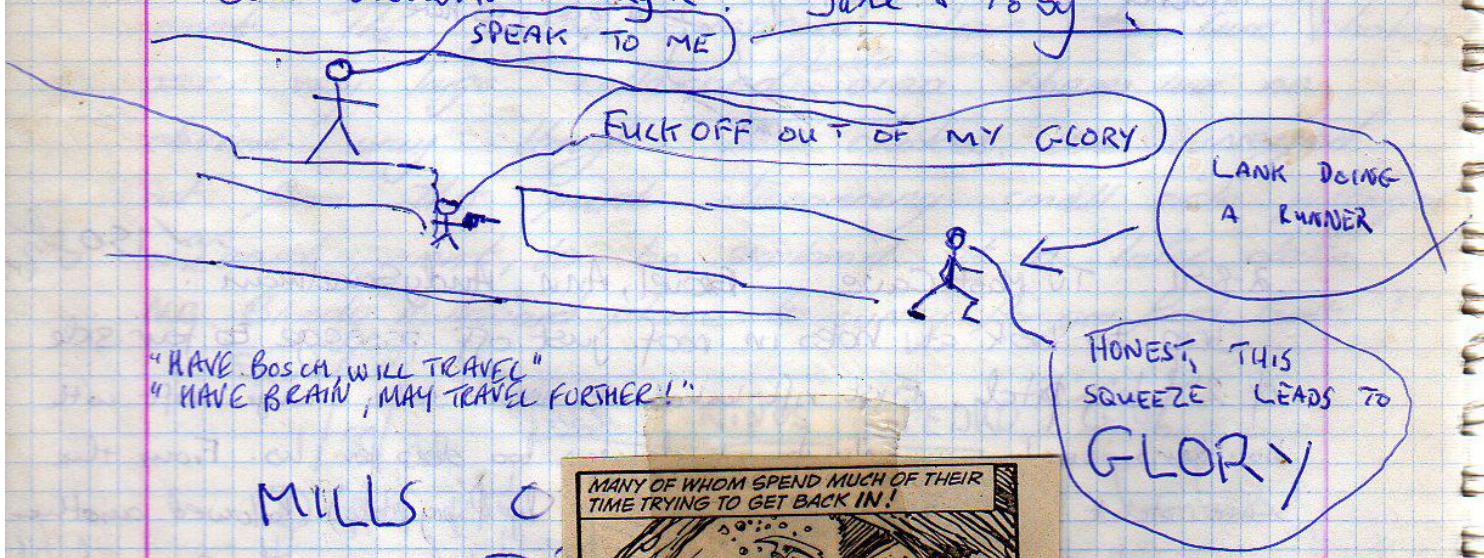
2-8-91 TV Mast Cave Grovel, Ann, Andy Sweetman.

Trip to look at holes in roof just off passage to far side of 2nd big pitch. First rift looked at went into large rift with boulders over hanging a climb which was too steep for us. From the same start point (on right 15m back from top of big pitch) followed another passage climbing back above way in - also accessible from further back along the ~~main~~ way to the big pitch. At the top, there is a small sandy crawl leading through an old (dry) sump with thin calcite false floor. This leads to a hole in the wall of a large rift with falling water audible to the right. Grovel could hear us talking from the first rift. This really needs a rope for the climb down into the rift.

2.8.91 Ozeka Lank, Patrick, Andy Pringle, Adrian, Toby, Jane.

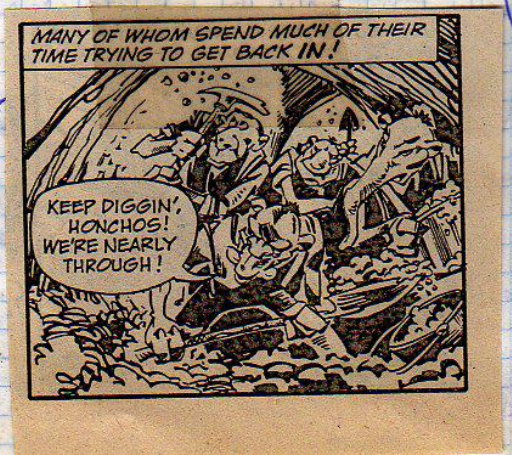
Lank wanted the Bosch technology to get into some high level tubes in quadrophenia & just before flashbulb hall. Everyone watched Toby climb up a very dubious wall about 5m into the roof tube in Quadrophenia. This is in the orbitelena bed & so is very loose. The passage was surveyed for around 300 m to where it got too tight. There is some draught here, but nothing very worth a re visit. Most of the passage is hands & knees crawling with loose boulders poised above some parts of the passage. ENDS 4" WIDE!

After this, Lank eagerly led Toby to a hole in the roof about 100' from Flashbulb hall. Large passage visible at top. One bolt placed just below roof & obvious glory 20' up shitty, loose, muddy climb THEN Jane appeared at top of climb having walked up to it from flashbulb hall. Lank went and found horrible squeeze for Toby to do to keep him happy. An unhappy dwarf got through minus helmet to find footprints in draughting passage. Only 1 set of prints so has this been surveyed! Good outward draught. Jane & Toby.



"HAVE BOSCH, WILL TRAVEL"
"HAVE BRAIN, MAY TRAVEL FURTHER!"

MILLS C
BEE



O.K. I ADMIT DEFEAT

QUINN WINS FREEFALL COMP.

Not only has Phil dropped Andy - he's also dropped his beer!

3rd August. TRES NIÑOS JANE, TOBY, BOBBY, ANDY, PAUL.

Some complex manouvers with 300' of rope, a piece of string, 1 Bolt hammer, +1 2 ladders and 1 ton of krabs led to the eyehole mentioned in last account (1/8/91) There isnt a passage there. Only way on seems to be 60' above last bolt where blackness carries on upwards. No return has been planned.* Paul Stacey looked at a roof tube just back from the top of hand line climb up to the entrance passage. Ended too tight.

The continuation of the entrance passage seems to enter a roof tube opposite the hand line climb. Needs bolting.* TUBE NR. BOLT CLIMB BLOCKS COMPLETELY NEEDS MORE DIGGING

2ND AUGUST 91 T.V. MAST CAVE - PAUL, PETE & STEVE ✓150gk PHS
TU = 11 3/4 HRS
& PHIL+ANDY FOR A WHILE (BUT THATS ANOTHER STORY)

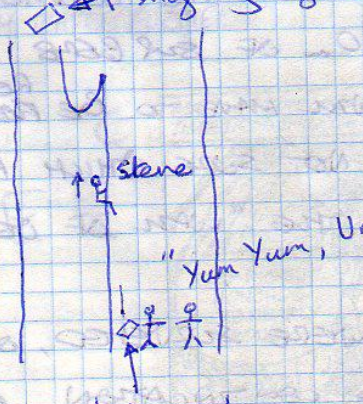
RE-BOLTED 35FT PITCH AT BOTTOM OF CAVE & PROCEEDED TO TOP OF BIG PITCH. PETE BOLTED DOWN PITCH, MEASURED TO BE 53m (NOT 80m, 100 OR EVEN 120m AS CLAIMED); 4-MAN AT TOP, TWO RE-BELAYS & A DEVIATION. AT BOTTOM (& ON WAY DOWN) THERE ARE HUGE BOULDERS WITH INLET DOWN ONE SIDE & SEVERAL PASSAGES LEADING OFF. BEST BET WAS FOLLOWED & ±250m OF SUPERB BREATHE STREAMWAY WAS FOUND, SEVERAL LEADS WILL HAVE TO BE RE-VISITED. AT THE END IS A SUMP OR DUCK, WERE NOT SURE WHICH AS ONLY PETER WAS MAN ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT THE "WALL OF DEATH" - SEE PETER FOR TUITION!

TWO OTHER PASSAGES WERE SURVEYED, ONE BELOW THE WATER! BOTH END WITH NO CONTINUATION. EXITED IN DISORGANISED ORDER WITH LIGHTS FAILING. IN FACT BACK AT THE PETE'S LIGHT WAS OUT, MINE WAS DIM & FLICKERING & STEVE'S

3/08/91 TV Mark Cave Pete, SteveO, Paul.

Aimed to repush leads at base of large (53m) pitch.
1) Visited 'sump' - it is a sump after all - possibly passable if water table drops even further! (Roll on Greenhouse Effect)
2) Look at holes up in rear along sandy passage in order to get into supposed higher levels, and get into inlet which is inaccessable from Waterfall Chamber because climb from here too dodgy (slippery muddy calcite) - needs rope. ~20'
3) Poke around even more at base of pitch in the vague hope of finding caverns nearwhere - obviously doomed to failure and indeed it was.
4) All prussiked back up big pitch to derig so as to survey into passage seen part way up pitch. Paul banged in a few pegs as deviations and succeeded. Passage just leads to aven (probably part of pitch complex).
5) Derigged 53m pitch and made like ~~shepherds~~ sheph! (ie get the fuck out of there).

After suggestions of continuing with meandering, tight pas. at base of 1st big pitch Steve said 'I'm going out' so ~~the~~ Pete and Paul got their own back by eating all the expensive chocolate with cries of "Oooh lovely", "Yum Yum" etc, whilst Steve was part way up the pitch... Bastards. Still the cheap choccy I had at the top of the pitch was jolly nice - but the expensive chocolate would of been better hey lads!!



p.s. Don't go caving with Paul - he has a magnetic tackle

3/8/91 LANK, JIM, PATRICK, ANDY P & ADRIAN.
SURFACE WALK TO MUSHROOM FIELD & BEYOND.

Like all mad Englishmen, we dutifully followed Lank in the noonday sun to a dig just before the first bend in the road to Fuente las Varas. Hole 868 draughted well, but needs bang to do it justice. Onwards round the back of Embarcados on new track led us to the back of the mushroom field where we found a hole now numbered 873 which could be 252. A climb down through boulders for (5m) landed in a chamber with some large bones and a phreatic filled passage 2m wide with draught issuing through 4" wide gap above. Worth a dig its sand. Then on to 870, 871 872, 869, 874 & 880. 880 is walk in ~~right~~ descending N/E for 15m to sand choke. Does not draught, but is in a good spot and worth digging. All the holes are roughly in a line with 603/513 and Trident may not be far away.

2/8/91 Pedro Steve (Brij) & Jim. Rio Tuerto, Agua. Push to end of very strongly draughting inlet led to oremit shielding extension of 50ft to main inlet which is a definite no-goer and too tight to enter. Halfway down to impenetrably tight & sharp right with leading draught. Also looked in roof all the way. Didn't find anything.

REWARD OFFERED (i.e. a bottle of beer)

Anyone returning to the deepest dead-end depths of Mostajo, please bring back to my nearly-new water-bottle, which slipped from my hand after we had re-ascended the final shaft!

4th Aug. Mostajo - Andy Seton, Phil Endicot, Pedro

Went into do undescended pitch at end of eastern series first explored 1988 with MUSS. Pitch was about 12 m. chambers with riffs and boulders. Andy climbed down through boulders but no way on.

Chambers reached another pitch, which Andy by-passed by free-climbing another shaft which connected, and ended with more riffs and boulders. Some very sharp clean-washed rock. About 50 m. surveyed

Cave didn't go, but a successful trip,

Andy also traversed across top of pitch but no obvious way on.

2ND AUGUST. T.V. MAST CAVE. PHIL & ANDY R.

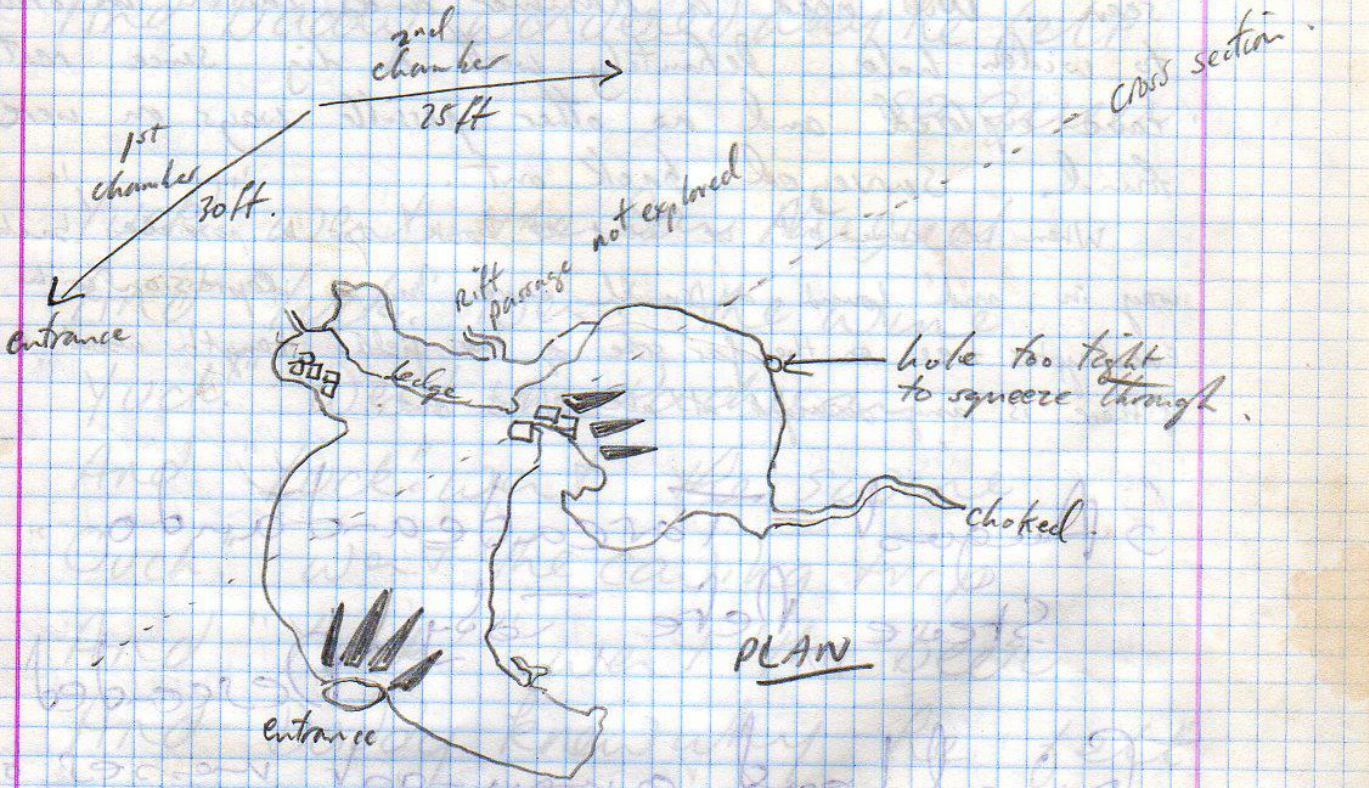
RERIGGED BOTTOM OF 60M PITCH USING SOME OF PHIL'S EASTER BOLTS. WE LEFT PAUL, PETE & STEVE TO DROP THE PITCH AT THE END OF THE DOWNSTREAM SECTION. THEN RETURNED TO PASSAGE FIRST ENTERED ON 28/7/91. BOULDER SLOPE (CLIMB) NOTED B-L PETE, STEVE & TOBY ENTERS KNOWN CHAMBER CLOSE TO STATION #66. THEN LOOKED AT LEADS IN THE CHAMBER CLOSE TO THE END OF THE CALCITE MEANDERS. 10M CLIMB OVER PHIL ENDS WITH 5' HOLE CRAWL TERMINATING AT LERADO.

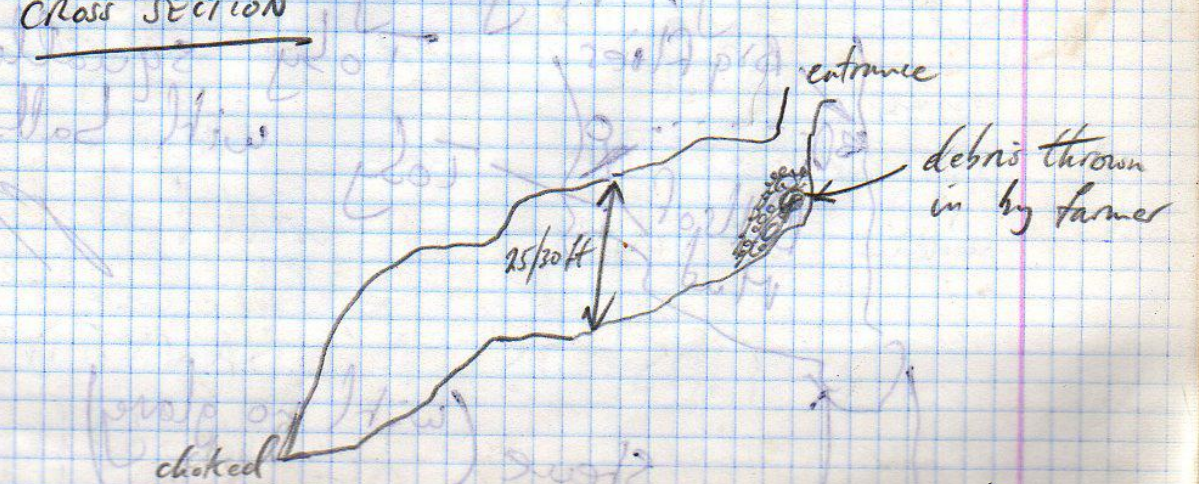
5th August - 222 - TORCA DEL HIGUERA
Andy Seton, Jane, Toby and Pedro.

Whilst Jane, Toby and Pedro lay around on the surface helping the ozone layer soak up a few U.V.'s, Andy went down the cave and poked around. A thick tangle of undergrowth now surrounds the entrance pitch and in the past the local farmer has tipped a lot of rubbish down the entrance making it particularly smelly and revolting. What used to be a 5m pitch is now somewhat smaller due to the build-up of crap at the base. The entrance

is easily free climable. The entrance opens into a large rift chamber inclining steeply downwards at about 45°. Chamber is about 25 – 30 ft high at most. At the bottom, off to the left is a short passage that chokes after 30 ft although there are cracks in the floor indicating possible passage 40 ft below. Too small to descend. To the right the rift chamber continues down for another 25 ft or so ending in a choke. No strong draughts detected.

Advice to any future explorer. Take a nose-peg!!!





5 August – 841 Cueva de Fresnedo II

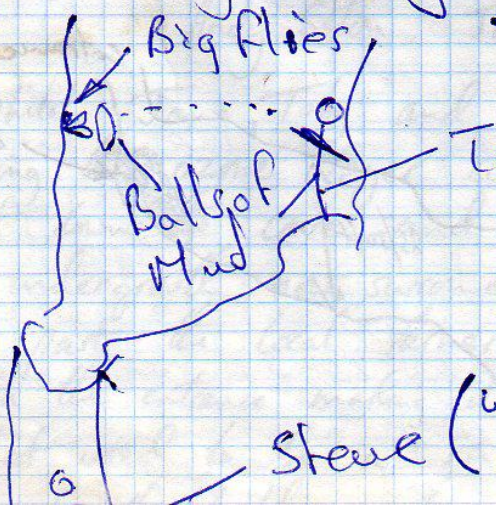
Pedro, Jane, Toby, Andy Seton

Very strong draught emmitting from entrance. Horizontal, low entrance passage about 150 ft to a 30 ft pitch. Pitch descended but does not lead anywhere. Traverse round on left hand side above pitch also explored – boulder choke yielding no further access although draught still detected. To the right of the pitch is a small hole presently too tight but through which more passage can be seen. Will need a hammer and chisel in order to widen hole. Definitely worth a dig since rest of cave explored and no other possible ways on were found. Surveyed back out.

When we came out we went to look for a possible back way in, and found a small cave in a depression with Eucalyptus trees on the far side of the field. Length about 4 m. If there is any draught at all it is out.

3 August Tarcadeandando

Steve, Pete, Toby. Descended final lead amongst masses of flies only to find lots of nothing. Highlight of the day Toby squatting with balls of mud.



Yuck

Daddy had some San Miguel
And Daddy had some wine
Daddy had a pacheran
And barbecued a swine
Daddy had a cawing trip
And then he had some beer
And Daddy wondered why he felt
so queer.

"Yuck!" went the San Miguel
And "Yuck!" went the wine
"Yuck!" went the Pacheran
And "Yuck!" went the swine
"Ouch!" went the cawing trip
And "Yuck!" went the beer
And Daddy knew why he felt
so queer.

Anon.

Tuesday, 6th Aug. Paul Lamb Hdran.

Went to Cobadal. — The Rubbish tip was considerably larger than two years ago. There were less sanitary towels but more nappies. — is this a reflection of changes in the local social structure? Considerably the locals had put more of the effluent into plastic bags so it was reasonably easy to reorganise. After an hour or so got back to where we were two years ago. Removed two blocks then stacked on final one. Broke the hammer just as it was about to 'give'. No other tools so hard to give up. When this rock has gone we are in. Good draught even on a cold day. Then went to main sink. Paul pushed the tube at end but reported 'very tight' but good draught. Came back to 'lower' holes. Very strong draught into low chamber on right to top right to small crawl looked at some years ago. Paul dug for some time but ended in tight hole upwards. This area must go and when it does it will!

THIS IS A BANNED CAVE

AS OF 7/8/91

signed Cowin



Car boot: 10 kms of passage probably connecting with Uzueka ? more likely going to San Antonio.

REVIEW OF LOG SO FAR.

Too much Bullshit

Not enough fucking swear words !

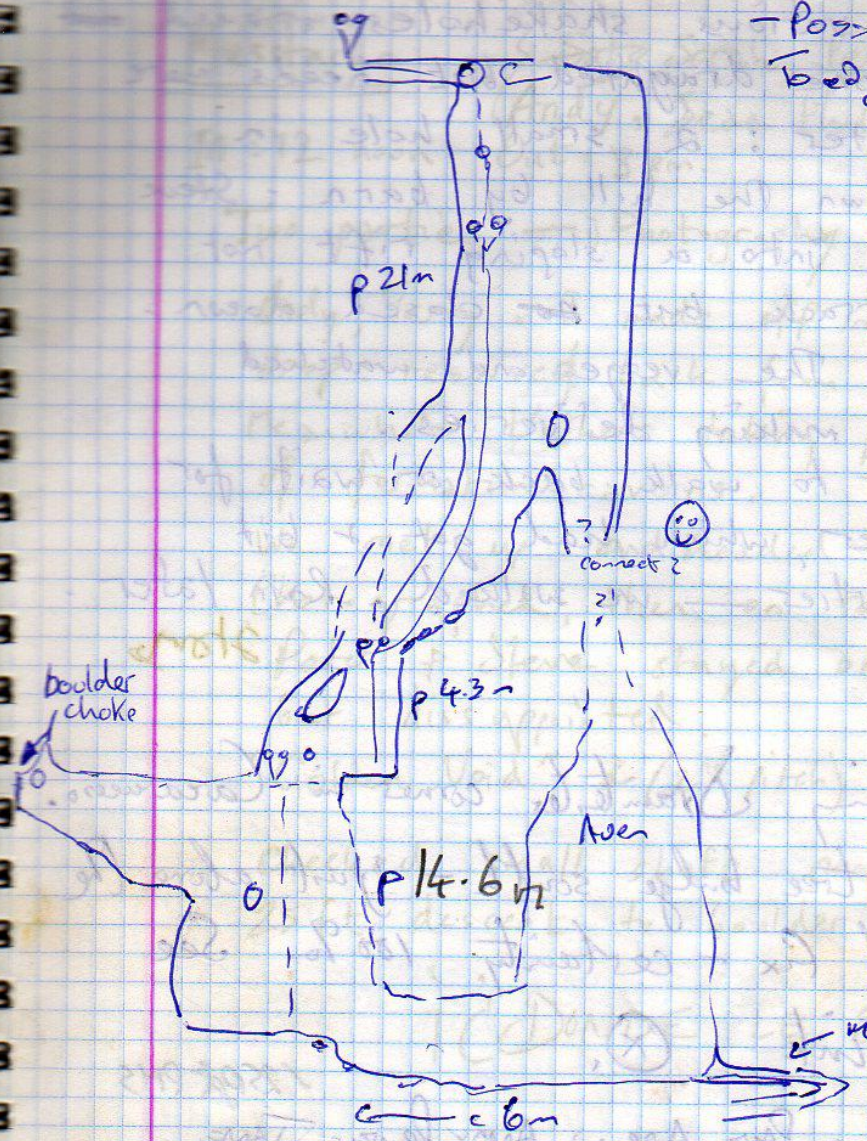
You Bastards

SIGN ? - WOT SIGN ?


GUESS
WHO?

7-8-91 Ali Graham Jeremy 693

- Possibly a way into far end of bed, over high avens.



WEDNESDAY 83? PETER, SARAH, ~~PETER~~ STEVE, JOHN BECKLEY, ALAN JENNINGS. (C.M.W.C.C.)

"HORSE SKULL" HORSES HEAD CAVE

Descended first pitch and on to final survey point — Peter + Steve drilled in bolts whilst John + I investigated leads off the chamber at head of pitch: all close down. Meanwhile, Peter finding it hard to remove drill bit with a flat battery! He decided not to bother with rebelay after finding (unfortunately) no way on from bottom of pitch (70 ft vertical, lots of calcite flow).

Investigated most leads on returning — fine

Back on surface, in the cloud & the mist, we looked at various shakeholes around ~~out~~ the "quarry": one draughted but needs more chiseling to enter; a small hole in undergrowth down the hill by barn; Steve + Pete dropped into a sloping rift not far from the track but ~~no~~ closed down. So we sat on the verge and watched the beer lorry making deliveries. Debated whether to walk back or wait for Andy's Landrover, which had got a bit overheated earlier — we walked. Rain later. strong

6/8/91

Molephoning Drainteks corner in Carcavueso. Location is next tree bulge south - just above the trees. Very good fix - certainty 100%. See main map for link (X).

1250gt PHS

7 AUG 91 - RIAÑO - PAUL, ADRIAN, ANDY PRINGLE, JANE

LATE START BUT NO MORE PEOPLE JOINING THE MATIENZO FLYING CLUB (GROVER'S LEAP). ~200m OF PASSAGE SURVEYED TO A TIGHT ASCENDING RIFT & A PERCHED SUMP / INLET. WHILST ANDY WAS GROVELLING UP SIDE SHOOT ANOTHER * BREATH TUBE (VERY NICE) WITH LOADS OF STAR WAS FOUND ~100m IN AN ENDING IN BIG. PAUL (ME) WAS ABLE TO GET HEAD PAST SQUEEZE & SEE LEFT HAND BEND CONTINUING (NO DRAUGHT). OPPOSITE PASSAGE FROM THIS GOES TOWARDS ~20m OF MEANDER CALCITE PASSAGE, ONLY PAUL GOT TO END AT GROTTO SO AS TO SAVE SURFACE FALSE FLOOR. ON EXIT WE CLIMBED UP TO PASSAGE GOING OFF BUT AS IT WAS GETTING CLOSE TO BEER TIME WE'D LEAVE IT FOR ANOTHER DAY (SEE TOMORROW) EDITORS NOTE, IN BOTH GHOST SERIES & FIRST TUBE TWO HOLES (~10m) WERE FOUND (UN-CLIMBABLE) THAT HAD NOISES OF STREAMS COMING UP. WE ASSUME THAT THESE LEAD BACK TO MAIN STREAMWAY

* GHOST SERIES

Thursday 8th August.

Musstache (Mostaso) — ~~Sato~~ Sarah, Peter, Steve, Pedro, Terry (talking) (Andy, Sean Phillips (QMWCC). Alan -

In = 12 noon Out = 8 pm.

Two parties — i) Photography ii) ~~Su~~ Re-survey.

Andy, Terry & I made off into main passage after entrance drop: resurveyed back from station P 19 to pitch bottom. Meanwhile t'others taking pretty (hopefully) pictures of formation-caverns.

We met up and headed off to Dwarf chamber. Photographed, then on to Wonderland. MAGIC!

Peter + Steve stayed on to push Pedro's dig but disappointed.

"Golden Void" & (2nd pitch) derigged on ascent.

Checked small shaft near to entrance on hillside 25 ft descent to boulder floor — digging? (see Peter) (see 28-7-91)

¡¿DONDE LE SOL—?!

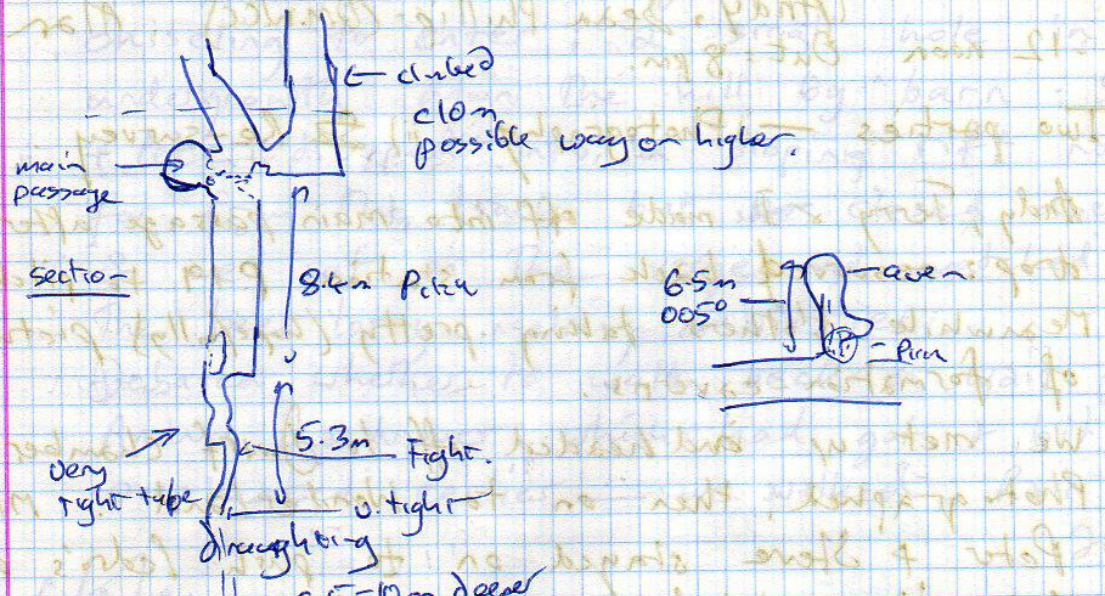
Weds. 7th Aug TU Mast Andy Sweetman, Toby, Pedro

Went to end of passage named Catwalk on 2/8/91 and entered rift at end using 1 ladder (15' handline would be ok). Left ~~&~~ leads over/under boulder to dead end with large holes in floor surveyed to be above rift entered from near top of far side of Vertical Hdl pitch. ~~as~~ was assumed - Drop would be ~ 60 ft in 2 ~~sec~~ section

Right was climb down * into 2m wide high rift to where stream entered from ~8m up. Rift narrowed to ~1m and continued downstream over cascade, 1 needing ladder as passage narrow at stream level, and through duck to head of 2nd drop needing 25'ish ladder/rope plus bolt for belay.

8th Aug. Ali, Cercheux, Jeremy. TOAD.

Hole on right(N) between Traverse and pitch down to Misty Series junction. 18.5m SE of Station 25.



8th August. Ian Hadley, Benj, Simon, Jim, Helen, Wilkie, Benjamin & Sandal.

TRANSPORT - JAPCRAP.

OBJECTIVE - To see if Ian would get stuck

CONCLUSION - TOTAL FAILURE

DESTINATION - The end of the Montaya Track up to the left towards Khusab. Track ended and there was no obvious way on to the Khusab track however, did find numerous holes which are worth a detailed investigation. Lovely view of Coloured, Sandstone etc.

DIVERSION: The Vega Bar.

6/8/91 Telephoning, Caravaning, Underground Salford Pitch, Jim, Jonathan, Andy S. Landlord rang up to Entrenchment Series. Got to Dominator, successful location. Then retreated to boulder choke 70m back to have a good look for Trident. Choke seems to be extension of Cold Run. good draught coming up hole with possible sound of water. Will need to upstream Candle Shop. Then

just above water and in stal covered rift just as you come up through boulders back above your head. Also possible passage on Right side of Swiack as you look at it from the Cock Run; This may connect with Eastern arm of Trident. There are also possible ways above both the Argument chamber and candy shop chokes.

5/8/91 Embsay Mobile Phone Test. Phil, Jim Jonathan Began Quick check to Test Mobiles. No problems Had a look a dig. Good draught.

Roy, Juan e Surface.

---

250 pts

7. 8/8/91 Rain ! Paul S, Adrian, Andy P. Caulk

Return trip to finish off survey of stuff found 7/8/91. Start at big stal flow and up to high level phreatic level back towards the 'last' cascade. Ended in roof above Side Shuffle Swicket close to cascade. Went off downstream to 'drop to water' discovered in bedding yesterday. Dropped pitch (8 m) and got back to water. This was unfamiliar passage and obviously beyond the Sump Adrian dispatched upstream to find the draughting sump and beat off the eels this he did though came back with only one arm. Downstream low and wet but after 20 m or so popped into a fine streamway 6 m high 3 m wide with stal and clean washed pothole floor. This continued for 100 m to a cascade which was free - climbed (5 m). The passage continued for approx 250 m from

entry. Stopped where there was an area of large block breakdown and the water was deep! Sump? In the boulder area a polluted stream of about the same size as the one we had come in with was met. Adrian followed this up to a boulder choke and through into a large elongated chamber he muttered something about two double decker buses. Could be very interesting if this is the passage connected to the depressions around Cueva Basura. We will see. Downstream can't be far from resurgence - still draughting towards it.

Lank

Julie "My hole is smaller than anyone elses"

/250 gb

JAN 91 PAUL, ADRIAN, ALLAN TURNER, KIRSTEN BULLOCK RIAÑO - BEYOND THE DRAUGHTING SUMP.

LATE START (AGAIN! CAN IT BE ANYTHING TO DO WITH DRINKING TILL 4:00 AM; MUST BE THE FOOD) INTRODUCED KIRSTEN TO THE DELIGHTS OF THE HARVEST MAN SPIDERS (≈ 6" DIAMETER) - MUCH SQUEALING! SENT ADRIAN TO MOVE LADDER BACK FROM PITCH TO EELY SUMP TO NEW HOLE THAT PROVIDES BY-PASS TO RIAÑO STREAMWAY. WE HAVE ALSO FIXED ROPE TO CLIMB AS TRAVERSE LINE ON LEDGE ABOVE AFORE MENTIONED PITCH. ALLAN & KIRSTEN GIVEN CRASH COURSE ON WRITING SURVEY NOTES & HOLDING TAPE & WE THEN RE-SURVEYED FROM T-JUNCTION (OZECKA TURN OFF) TO BOTTOM ~~TOP~~ OF PITCH TO CLEAR UP THE COCK-UP OVER THE OLD SURVEY. IN FACT YESTERDAY WE ACTUALLY LOST ≈ 80m OF RIAÑO WHEN BROKE THRU' - ~~BOOBY~~ IF ANYBODY KNOWS WHERE THIS CAVE IS OR HAS INFORMATION TO WHO HAS IT TELL JUAN IMMEDIATELY. ROMOURS THAT SOMEBODY IS TRYING TO USE IT AS A BBQ PIT ARE CIRCULATING!

WENT TO BOULDER CHOKE AT END & STARTED LOOKING FOR DOUBLE DECKER SIZED CHAMBERS - FOUND IT, NO REAL STOMPERS GOING OFF BUT IT DID CONTAIN

(NO DRAUGHT), ADRIAN GAVE UP BEFORE HE THREW UP.

RETURNED TO STATION Ø OF YESTERDAY & AFTER INITIAL CRAWLING ABOUT STUMPED (SURVEYED). OFF DOWN 150m OF BIG TUBE FOLLOWING STREAMWAY TO DARE I SAY IT A EEL INFESTED SUMP WITH NO DRAUGHT - THIS MAY ACTUALLY BE A SUMP THIS TIME. TELL LANK SURVEYED OF BIG PASSAGE JOINING THIS FOR ABOUT ~50m TO CONFUSED BOULDER AREA (DRAUGHTING?) OF BIG PIGS TROTTERS. "PIG TROTTER HALL" - THIS NEEDS A LOOK AS DOES FOLLOWING: TUBES ABOVE STREAMWAY FROM SUMP (EELS) TO NEW BIT, PIG TROTTER HALL, CLIMB UP STREAM INLET & THROUGH THRU' SLIME.

TU - 6¾ HRS.

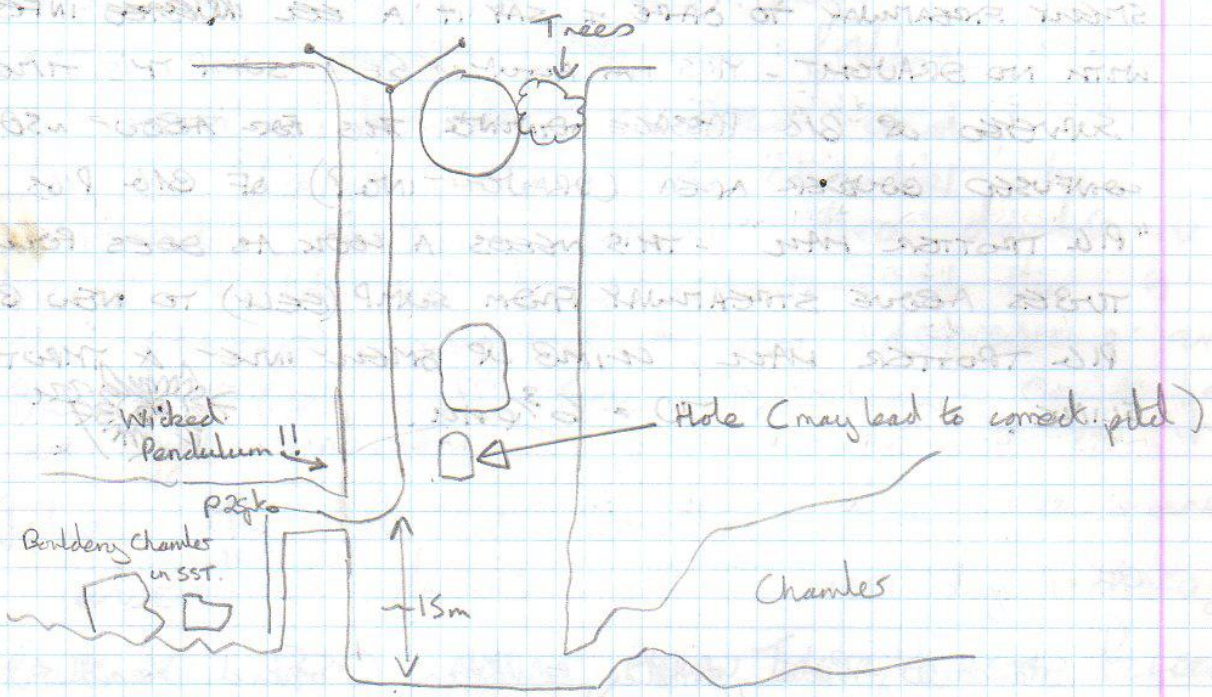


9th August 1991 Alpine Chough.

Steve O, Pete, Andy ± Pedro (Squad Leader)

At long last we finally made it to Alpine Chough. The aim of the trip was to descend the undescended shafts found in 1988. Therefore after Pedro drove us up the track to the col near 858 (who needs a LandRover - a small family Fiat 127 will do just as well) we began the ascent to the entrance. Pedro led us directly there, this is what leaders are supposed to do. Entrance rigged with patented Steve and Pete techniques - 20ft Y hang. which gave a direct 210 ft descent. According to the descriptions (Patterizo) we were supposed to find the undescended pitches by surveying into a passage 15m from the base of the shaft. Sure enough we ~~were~~ surveyed off 15m above the base of the shaft, found a pitch which led into a large collapse filled chamber - which I think is already on the survey. Even so it could do with resurveying as some leads were found to have been entered before but were not on the survey. Therefore, I think we were in the wrong place.

simply because of the poor descriptions given. There is another hole leading off the entrance pitch but ~~there~~ this is more than 15m up from the bottom - maybe this is where we should have been.



Exited cave at ~ 9.30pm and WALKED ALL THE WAY HOME Arrived home 11.20pm - late for Bar-B-Que
- late for Bar
- late to bed.

Worth another visit - just to sort it out - good draughts are abundant.

Steve O

8/9/91 BIG NOSE, JON, PAUL

Rigged 675 above Aspiciuela, down 20 ish m pitch descended last year by Toby to further pitch of ~ 100 m which is well broken & drops into Aspiciuela just above the 4th (60') pitch. Plenty of loose boulders to make life interesting

[illegible] P.T., JIM, TERRY, JON & BIG NOSE

Down into end of Reñada 3 via aspiri-cueva - Bits of shifting up about loose boulders on way in, then the by now traditional fall injuring Terrys arm.

Radiolocated from end chamber of Reñada 3 then proceeded to Fenet.

Nothing much to note about the chamber at the end except the rumbling of the water behind the left wall is as tantalising as ever. Also the boulder choke at the top of the chamber above the Radio location point is draughting in VERY strongly. The chokes dodgy at the moment but may go with a bit (lot) of work. (Better maybe to look for outward draughts on the surface)

Across lake Jim + Lo lowered level of ~~[illegible]~~ lake by butchering a natural dam. This may open the sump. Don't know yet - Aren't looked. In the mean time Jon got into some crawls heading Westish to a chamber looking up to BIG BLACK HOLES about 20 m above - lots of small leads here. Somebody called Neil had been in part of the crawls before:

End Result Reñada 3 looks as interesting as ever but needs more work before we get to the forbidden cave!

Lo V.P.C.C. 

"I'M NOT GOING DOWN RIAÑO ! EVER AGAIN BECAUSE EACH TIME I FIND NEW PASSAGE THE CAVE GETS SHORTER !" PAUL

9/8/91 2½ FAT LADIES (880): Julie Ratprick & Joe. Shifted spoil heap from RH side of chamber and excavated a trench, hoping to find arch through into another side rift, as continuation. Broke through boulder floor under approx 0,5 m of hill of calcite. Can see down between boulders into stal floors sloping down about 2 m. No draught.

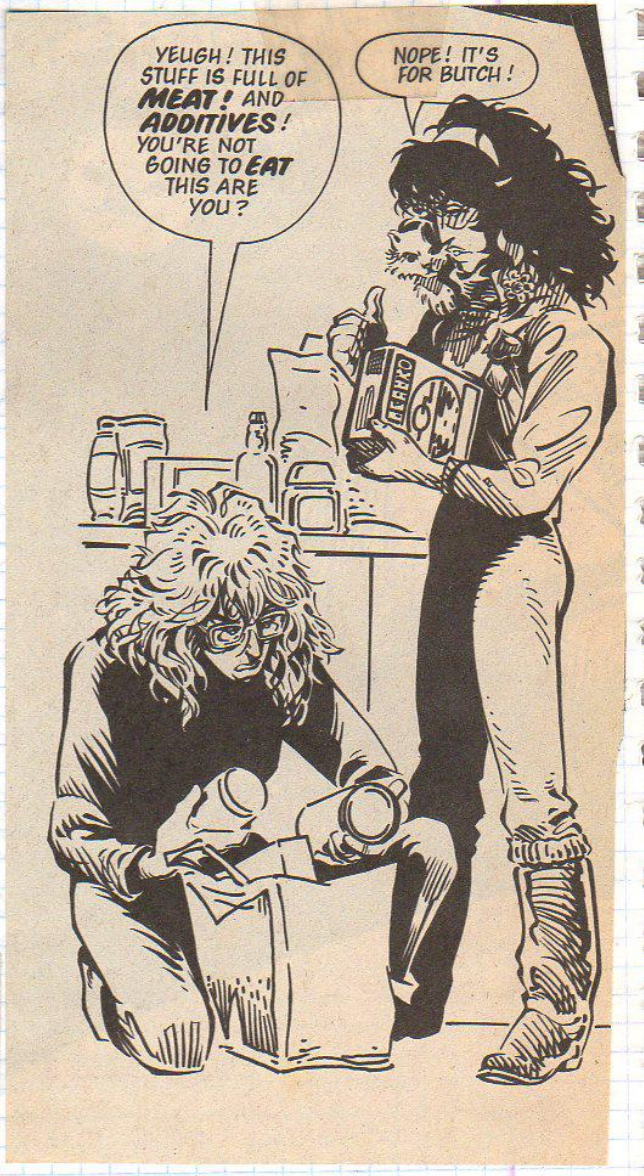
10th August 1991

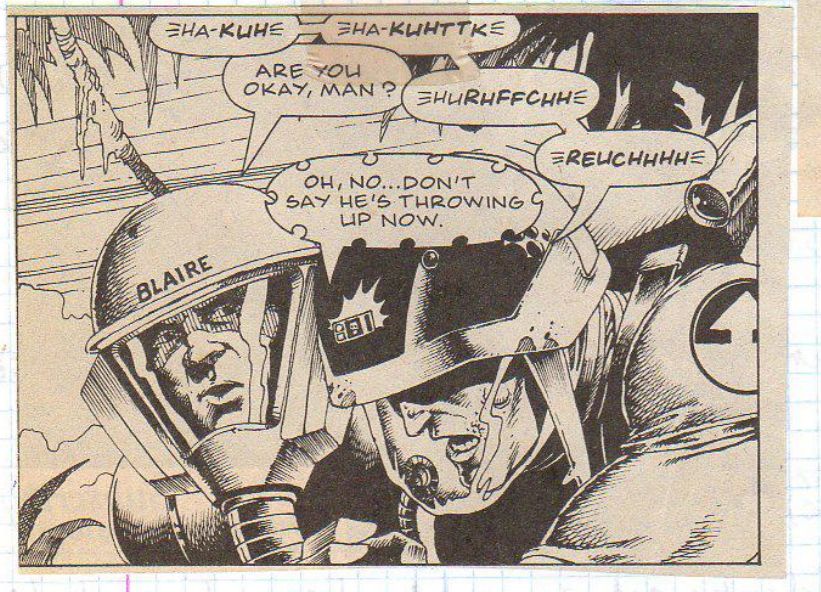
Presentation of silver plaque.

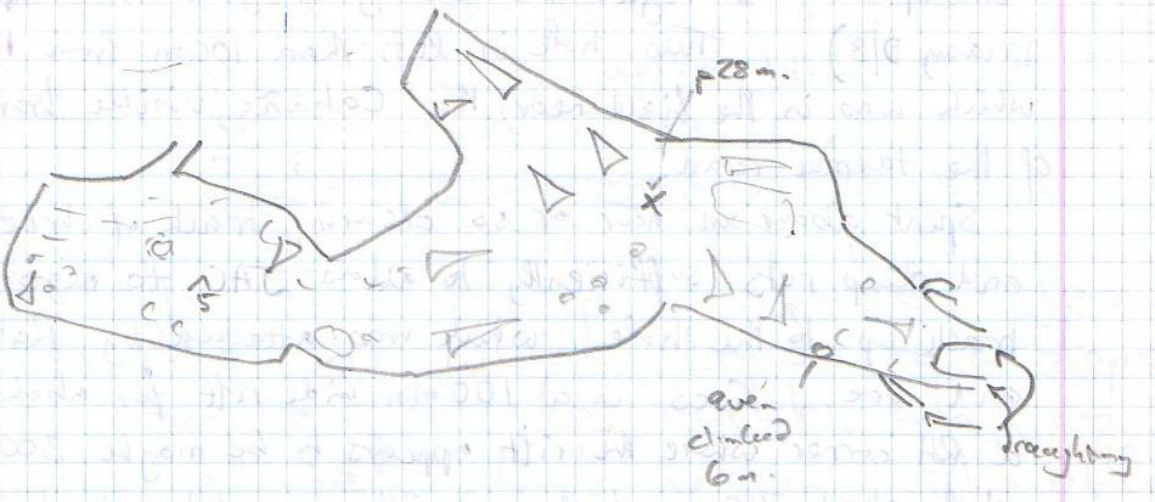
¡FIESTA!

——— MANY HAPPY RETURNS. ———









See file.

Entrance blocked by boulders — removed by rope / throwing large rocks at them! Nice formations. Choke draughting out.

Also found a 10m log through cave ~~[illegible]~~ 250 m NW of 875. 1879?

11.8.91 Monte Bajo area. (See Map for locations).

Cave 3m to 3m even. About 100m WSW of "T" junction 450 m SW of Germans Bar. Minor resurgence/spring at hillside 200 m SSW of this.

near 150 – also cave ~~[illegible]~~ 50 m, to SE, 4m climb down to ~~[illegible]~~ low cave — unexplored.

80 m. E of 139 – 2 shafts, 5-10m, unexplored, need a bar to get in. Small cave 30 m further E.

40 m NE of 145 – a shaft, c10m, undescended. Fenced.

Cave 180 m SSE of 151 – roomy passage, several entrances, wall in main one, c20 m long. Needs checking out with a decent light.

Ali

10/8. Arenal. JI Snabbet Alaudair looked at various chokes. ~~JI~~.

Agua – tourist trip 2/3 of way down to water off.

11/8 3 FAT MEN :- (Draughting hole by bend in track above end of road in Vega, noticed by everyone on Molephone lix on Friday 9/8.) This hole is less than 100m from the lix point which was in the field near the Cabaña, visible from the end of the tarmac road.

Spent about an hour or so clearing track of trees, boulders and deep ruts sufficiently to allow JAC to negociate the track up to the hole, which was attacked by Ratprick, Ray and Joe. Goes in a 100 mm wide rift for about 1m to a RH corner where the rift appears to be maybe 300 mm wide. whole about 750 mm high. RH side solid rock, but LH side well shattered and yielded to hammer & chisel. After about an hour had progressed about half way to the corner, albeit not to full size for working. Quite an easy dig. Strong cold draught blows all dust into your eyes.

Nearby, up stream bed (dry), is another draughting hole, noticed by Ray previously. Draught slightly less than 3 FAT MEN. Only about 25 mm wide by 1m high. Needs looking at.

Terry :- "Blah Blah Blah --- I got a 1000ft passage --- blah blah blah"
Ratprick :- "The trouble is your passage is linked directly to your mouth"

11/8 COTERON BigNose, Andy Pringle, Toby, Jane.

It seemed like a good idea at the time to have an evening detackling trip of the big pitch as an aftermath to the feesta. Despite setting off in the 'cool' of the evening it was still like an oven & several hung over & dehydrated cavers staggered to the entrance. For the weaker members of the party who had been testing themselves & the fundstand to destruction hill down it was downhill from there on Toby saw the edge of the universe, shat himself & the smell made him sick. Detackling was undertaken by John & Andy whilst undertakers would have been useful for Toby & Jane. Scratchy walk down the hill at midnight.

6m side of valley (left looking down) Three ways into collapsed bedding upto 10m in blocked by boulders in each entrance.



877 Dig Two obvious stake holes the smaller of which leads to a slope with way on to the right. Way on requires chisel, but very little effort to get in. Very warm inside?

878

12/8 Cave 40m SSE of 86 La Cueva. Hard dig into chamber containing many dead cows etc, & a fireplace (?). Dug std block - ~~long~~ passage to choke draughting in, dug for a while. Draught coming through rocks on the left.

Jim Helen Samuel Alasdair Pete.

12/8/91 E Cueva de los 3 Ninos

Dig at (74,111) Squeeze down through boulders enters a small rift (15ft long 3ft wide) a ~~two~~ small arch in left hand wall enters second Hading rift (25ft long 4ft wide) & climbs up in the left end enters (via a squeeze) a easy crawling phreatic passage. The RH branch enters Hading rift. 30ft above dig and the LH branch enters, after 40ft plus another rift with two pitches in the floor (parallel) the largest a possible climb 7m down (undescended) & climb above pitches rises 20ft plus (unclimbed)

A short section of passage was entered by Patrick + Peter and a 5m Pitch descended choked at two levels.

PMorgan.

11th Aug. 1991 Aspit in the Crates (Azpdicueta)

Phil, Steve O, Pete

Hardman trip of the century - after the Matienzo Fiesta still very much none for wear. After getting a lift from Andy Q in the LandRovers we began the walk up at approx 11.30 am arriving, sweating like pigs, just under an hour later. Main aim to reg the old entrance up the to the 150m pitch where old & new routes unite. Phils second objective was to look at a passage on the right just before Cave Chamber. This passage has the same elevation as Wooden Hill in Reñada. We soon realised that the passage depicted on the survey was nothing like the reality, the passage being approx 3-4m wide with areas of phreatic nare. The passage terminates at a collapse that fills the bottom 25ft of the passage. A climb up the left hand passage wall allows the caver to see over the blockage but the traverse over the top of it required a traverse line to boost confidence. This was obtained from Cuga Hall (it is as well!) ie the rope that was going to reg the traverse at the top of the Hall.

Once the rope was placed we entered a large 10m dia collapse chamber in shale on the S and 1st on the N with an excellent fault visible in the roof. Ways pushed from here would need digging but due to the estimated proximity of Wooden Hill and world it.

Time passing on we decided to leave the cave and eventually get out at about 9.15, Phil leaving by the new entrance and ~~myself~~ myself and Pete leaving by the old entrance.

Psychology Corner

Steve. "Phil why is this 150ft pitch rigged with 9mm Bail?"

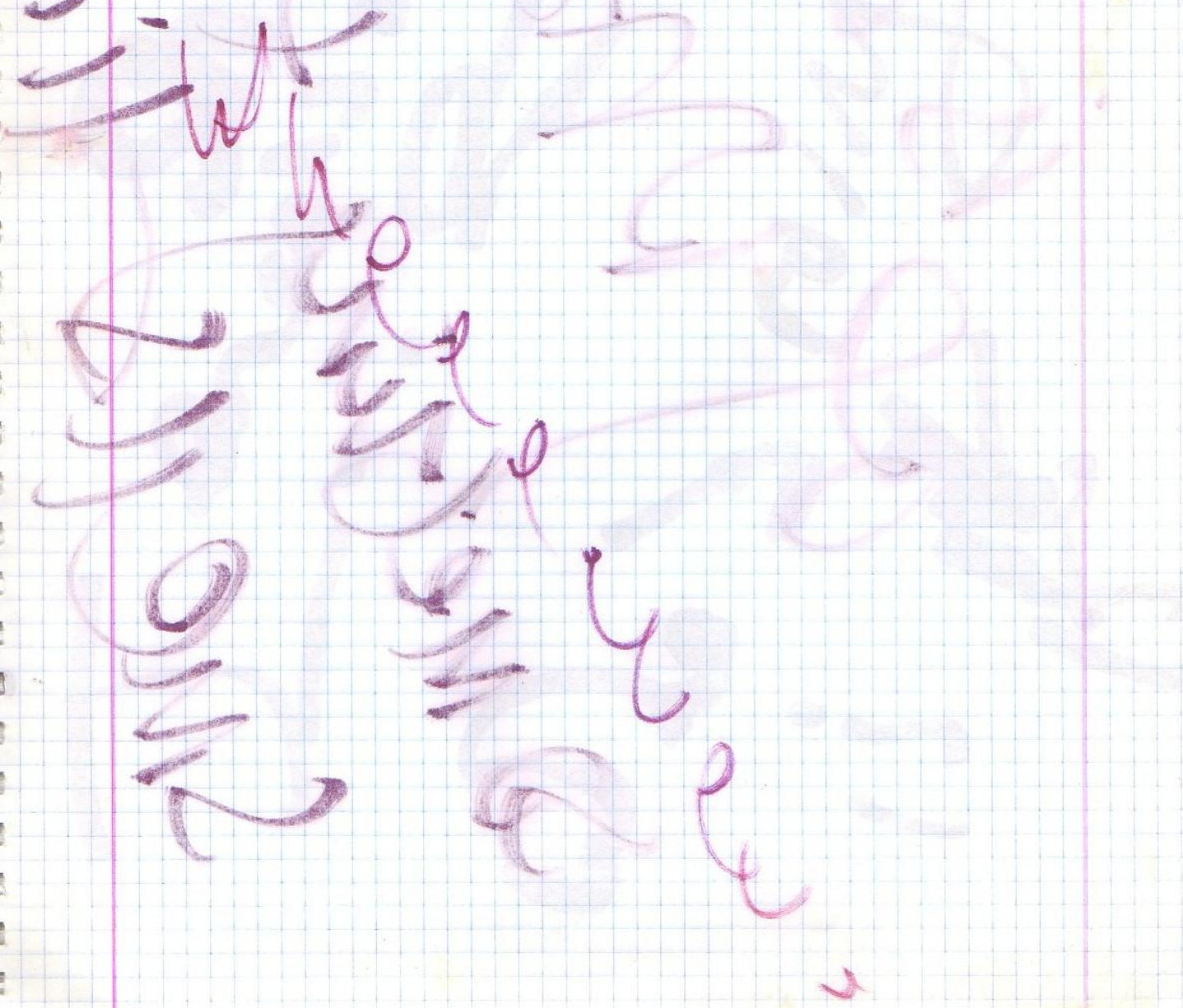
Steve - "Thanks Phil for that reassuring comment"

Phil Pappard - your resident pilot psychologist

When do companies pass their 'sell by date'! Discuss

11/8/91 Having said goodbye to Paul Stacey and his car load they were observed in Rio two hours later ruminating over the wreck of a Spanish Ford Escort. Paul played his "get out of jail free" card (Terry) and departed to France 4 hours later.

Jon Jon Jon & Snakelet went down R3.



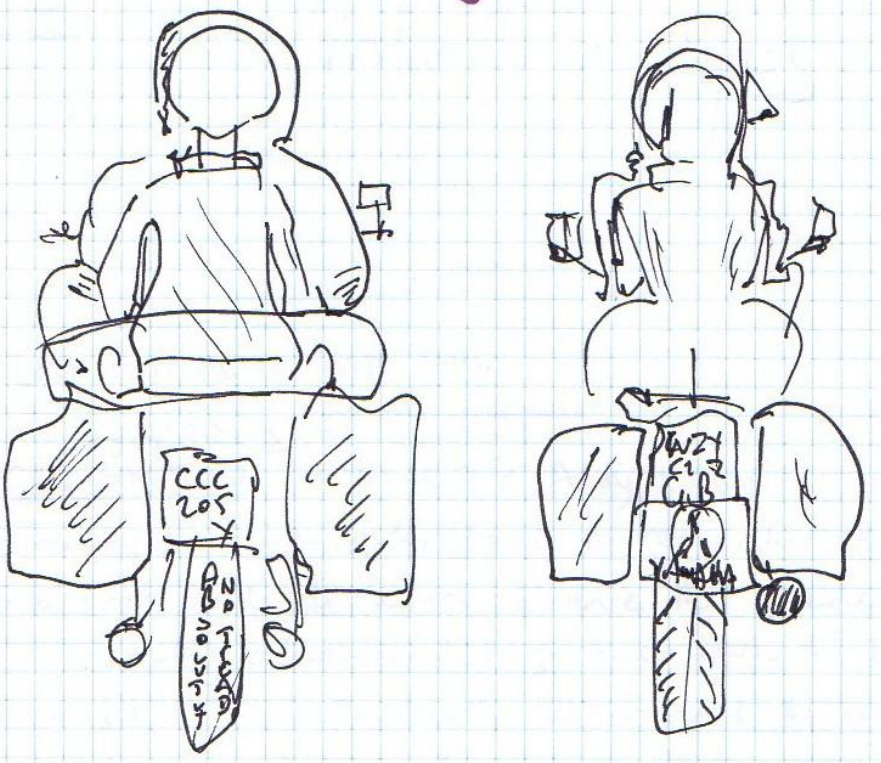
Is there
anything
that
smells like

Exit from
トイレから
出ます。
Wash your
hands.

14/8/91.

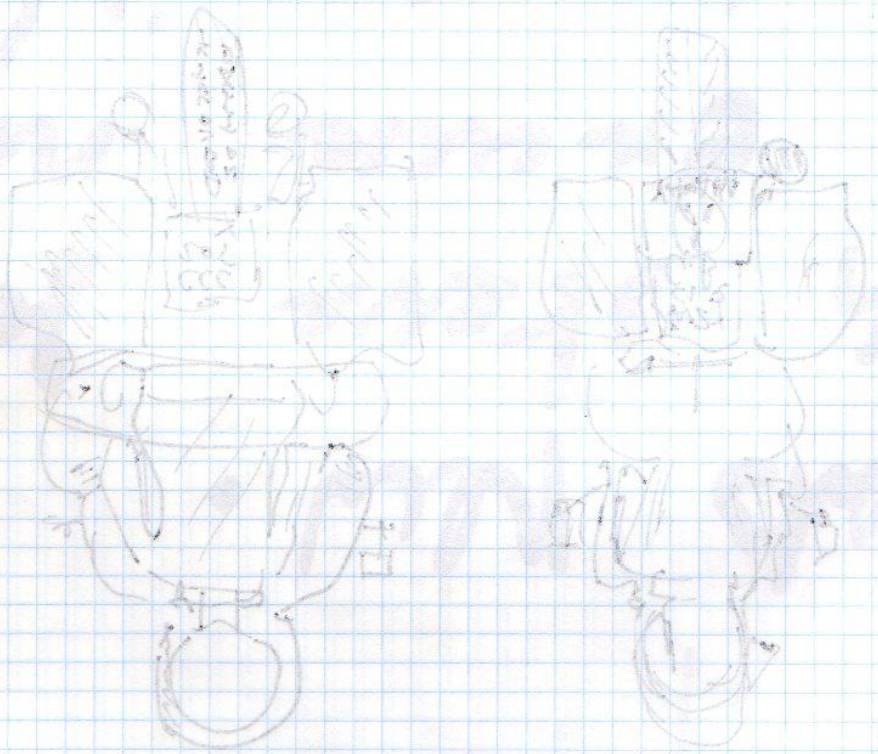
Whats new.
Big steve found
an excuse not
to go carving!!
-So did Paul.
IF SUZIE WOULD
GOT PISTOLE WOULD
DTIVY LIKELY hal
he Beer si shoulder

Witchcraft!!



SO WHAT WE HAVE TO GO HOME

FUK U
-BSTURDS
who ar
STILL
HERE



Michael

LANK - Can I feel your Breasts please

LTB = (Profoundly) YES

(57)

P.S.

LANK TOLD ME TO WRITE THIS.

12/8 ~~DOFFADES~~ COBRANTES. Sorry my error Joe

Lank, Joe, Andy, Kirsty & Alan

Hot walk up to entrance for Lank to remember that there was a traverse just inside the lower entrance that needed a rope.

Alan nobly volunteered to go back down the hillside to the car and get it. Eventually all crossed the very slippery stal slope and proceeded to the squeeze which had to be enlarged for Joe. Continuing down the main passage it quickly became obvious that the survey does little justice to the reality.

THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN HAPPY BUT AT LEAST THEY WERE CLEAN! (story of Lanks life)?

Oh remember.

Continued — was a bit hung over when I wrote the above! Pushed on past the bottom of the pitches from the upper entrance — passage has a lot of false floor. Came to a phreatic maze of parallel tubes, stopped by stal grille — could be passed by thin person. Strange noise hereabouts — could be water, could be a draught — not located (a parallel tilt?) Back from here an obvious shaft down, investigated by Joe. In sharp dark limestone, free-climbable, got down about 40'-50'. Looked into a rift passage about 10' below, needed a rope to safely descend. Meanwhile Lank had noticed a chamber off the central chamber — a dig through a low arch yielded another very well decorated series of chambers with an inwardly-draughting inlet plus footprints!

11/8/91 Aqua - Ian Hopley + Simon Benyon, Tim, Helen, William Benjamin + Samuel.

Ian's Compulsory caving trip of the year. Donned wetsuit, carbide cobbler + wetsuited 3 frog. David's in usual crap gear with Samuel in dinghy. All went well till Hopley, inspired by passages meanders to man, temporarily forgot that where he could wade, children sank. Rapid David withdrawal to surface and sunshine.

12/8/91 Tres Ninos. Jim Davis

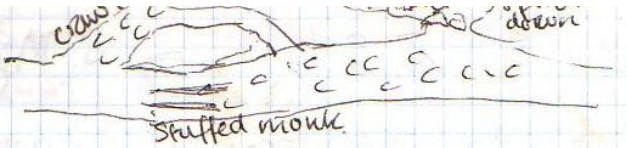
Had way round passage nearest entrance found other tortuous crawls below + big blocks with flat one (Jonathan) crawl on top, but nothing doing. Dan joined Pete Eggs + patrick at pitch dig. Maybe pumbites Lore.

13/8/91 Man from Tarbosa turns up to ask for 1kg Fluorescein. Philippe tells of extensions in Vallee ~~and~~ (see map). Discussed the possibility of video filming as a seperate team through the top entrance. He will discuss it with his friends. Possibly Saturday.

13/8/91 Reñada. Jane, Pete the Feet, Mike, Shawn, Brian, Jason, Ben.

To Stuffed Monk a) to show the way through entrance series to QMC.
b) to look at a crawl + pitch seen 29/7/91 off Stuffed Monk gallery.

Jason + Jane looked at crawl whilst others had a tour round with Pete Robinson. Crawl went about 20m to an aven. Jane thought this looked suspiciously like the pitch found in previous trip from below + so nipped round to the top of the pitch whilst Jason waited in the bottom of the aven. Sure enough it was! This is a very small loop of Stuffed Monk + doesn't seem to go anywhere else. It would be possible to climb further up the aven from the top of the 'pitch' but it looked



The two parties became separated for longer than expected & Jane & Jason went out to see if the others had gone out. They hadn't & after going to the campsite to tell Juan they were going to return to do a quick search of Stuffed Monk area & have a quick shufty at the survey J & J went back in, fortunately seeing the others near the entrance. Moral - don't go off for longer than you've said if your separating into 2 parties in a big cave.

'It gives you a funny feeling to see half your genes going round kissing blokes, especially Toby'. - Juan on seeing Jenny bid goodnight to assorted expedition members.

P.S. Further moral — don't get in a panic if a party is less than 30 minutes late on a 4hr trip, when the objective is to show novices some cave passages! LEARN TO CAVE BEFORE YOU TAKE NOVICES, NOT WITH THEM. (IE. NOT STICKING TO ARRANGEMENTS HAS LED TO MORE RESCUES THAN YOU'VE HOT CAVES)

13 August 12→7pm IRUEKA. (Riaño)

LANK, SARAH, ANDY PRINGLE, JOHN BECKLEY, ALAN JENNINGS -

Investigating some of Lanks hunches off Pigs Trotters hall. Surveyed <50m higher-level passage over deep rifts which we assumed lead to P.T. hall - maybe not?

Also descended ~~same~~ two shafts in the passage floor just beyond Flashbulb Hall — both blind.

Wandered on to start of Punk in the Gutter then out. (Wet crawl getting better but bypass would be nice!)

Riaño bar was buzzing - with flies ... & broken spanish ...

Fiesta there this thursday & Friday. Lastras on Sabado.

SEE YA THERE ——

Last word to Lank: "BOO!"

Oh, he also spotted an 36-legged albino millipede —

M.C.C. m.b.d.

MAD, BAD & DANGEROUS

13/8/91 Joe & Pat & Josie & Andy & Liz → S Miguel

Joe & Pat walk up to photograph cave found by Joe & Pedro last year. Can't find the cave! New tracks bulldozed through the jungle for a pylon line — easy drive for a Land Rover but we walked in the 31° afternoon. This track will give easier access into this area but it's still thick jungle two yards off the track.

On the way back stopped at a large depression on the way up the Lluera hairpins.

Draughting (ouk - quite strong) hole in the base of a collapsed shaft. Needs digging.

Has been a big shaft (30' ~~dam~~ across & 40' high with sheer walls. Now acts as a drain for the hillside.

Map ref: 454,500 x 4,798,515

11TH AUGUST 91 FRESNADO II & DIG ~~AD~~ 840

PETE SMITH & ANDY QUIN.

VISITED THE DIG NOTED LAST YEAR. (#840)
THE ENTRANCE WAS SOON ENLARGED ENOUGH TO ENTER THE CAVE FOR APPROX 5M. MORE DIGGING LED TO A BLOW HOLE WHICH NEEDS BODY SIZED. ENLARGING (ENTRENCHING TOOL) - A PASSAGE CAN BE SEEN BEYOND.

WE THEN DECIDED TO VISIT THE END OF

A SMALL CHAMBER WAS ENTERED WITH 3 WAYS ON.
(1) STRAIGHT AHEAD IS SHORT CRAWL INTO A BOULDER CHOKE SOON CLOSES DOWN (2) DROP DOWN IN CHAMBER LEADS BACK TO PITCH AT THE END OF THE MAIN PASSAGE. (3) CLIMB DIRECTLY ABOVE LEADS UP THE FRONT OF THE BOULDER CHOKE WHERE THE STRONG DRAUGHT IS SOON MET. WAY ON IS CLIMB UP OVER A BOULDER INTO A BLACK HOLE. BAD BACK PREVENTED PROGRESS.

14th Aug. RANDOM

DICK + CHRIS. — IN AT LOWER ENTRY — TOOK WRONG TURN + WERE STOPPED AT A SCREE INFILL FORGOTTEN MUD SLOPE BACK TO LOWER ENTRY BUT FOUND OURSELVES AT UPPER ENTRY BACKTRACKED TO BLOW HOLE + ON UNTIL TIRED, RETURNED + EXITED UPPER ENTRY WITH ONLY TWO FALSE TURNS.

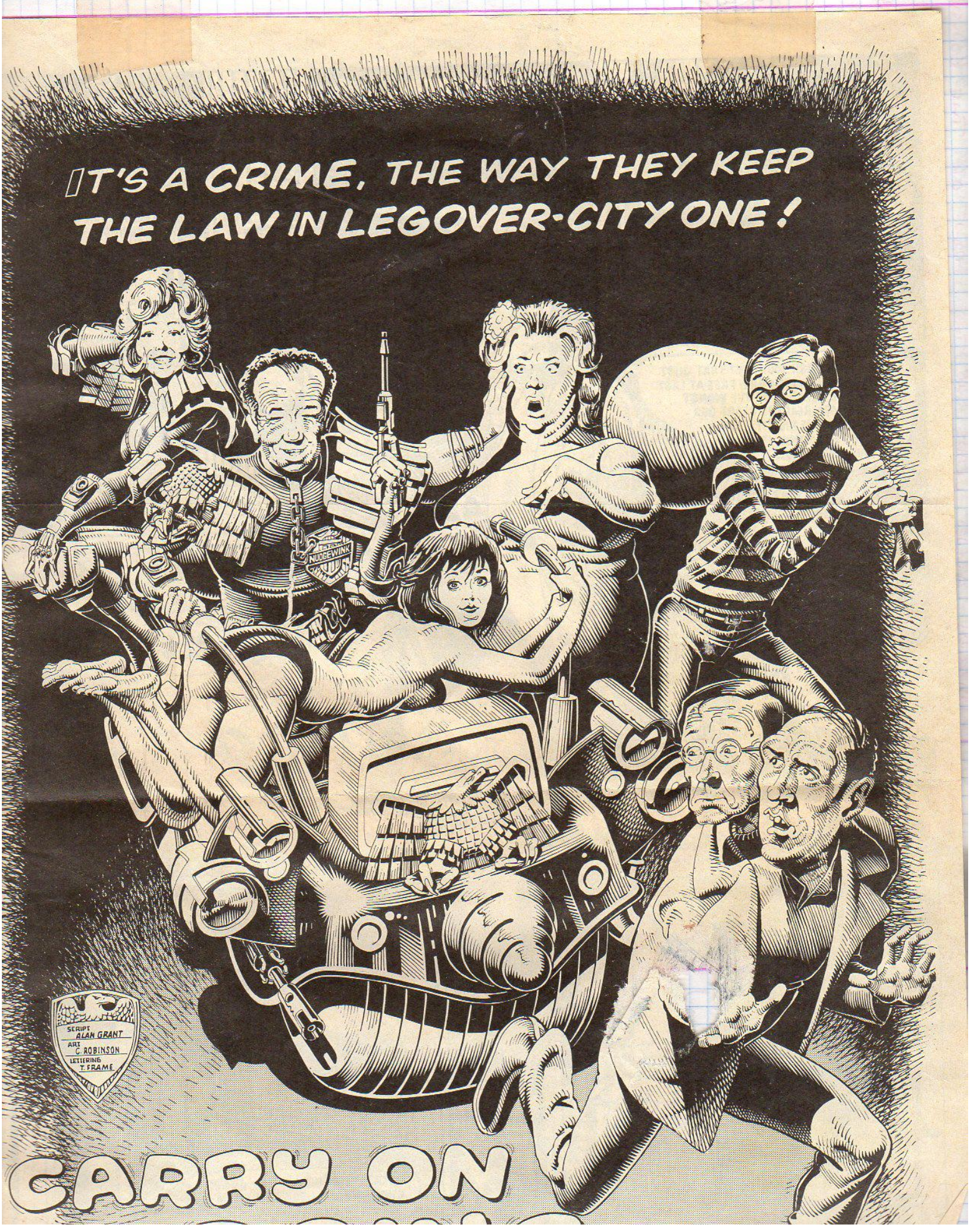
Tues 13th Pedro Toby Terry.

FRESNADO II Terry walked around the area while P & T went to end. Pedro up the chose & found the way on. Lost the draught in chamber left 4 ways on. Passage to L. surveyed for about 200M. (including side passages), to complete chose. Small slightly draughting did left for later. On way out found main draught & followed it to T junction LORADO JUNCTION. Left glory for later dab when Andy Quinn can come along. Cave now over 300M & main way on open.

CONGRATS. TO SNABLET. 4th MEMBER OF FLYING CLUB. IMPRESIVE SPOT TO FALL IN (TRIDENT) BUT YOU ONLY GET A PRIZE FOR COMING 4th IF YOURE IN THE GRAND NATIONAL.

P.S. Try the Pics - you can fall

Mills


IT'S A CRIME, THE WAY THEY KEEP THE LAW IN LEGOVER-CITY ONE!
NUDGEWINK
SCRIPT ALAN GRANT
ART C. ROBINSON
LETTERING T. FRAME
CARRY ON

Matienzo
flying
Club
Initiation
Procedure !





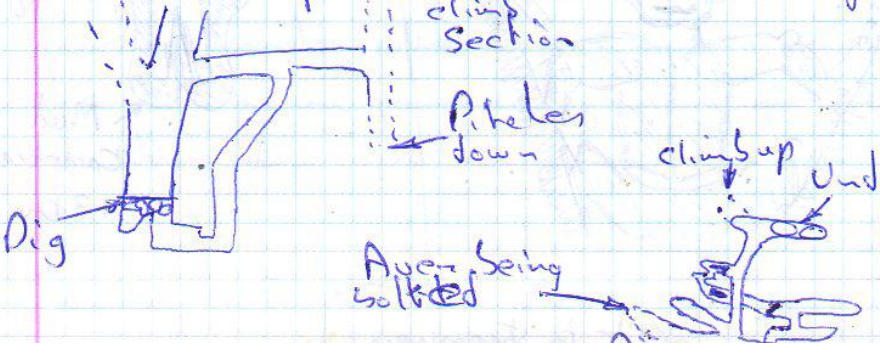
15/08/91

SELFISH
BASTARD
WUZĒKA TEAM
HAVE MADĒ ME
GET PISSĒD &
ITS YOUR FAULT
NOT MINE.
SUZY WOOZEY.

17/8/91 Peter Logan Patric Adrian? Jim
Tres Niños Entered cave to look at dig started a week earlier and possible side passage. (All drawn on survey in dashed lines)
Patrick + Peter pushed side passage to 15ft plus pitch.



Pitch choked at bottom and halfway down small way down also choked, draught lost in roof.
Collected spare cover on way to dig took about 30min to remove rock with crowbar and chisel.
A tight squeeze down between blocks (8ft at most) leads to 15-20ft choked rift. Small Arch to left was dug out to enter larger loading rift at an end, climbs up steeply into the roof (Flying club possibilities) becomes a slant crawl which enters small easy crawling phreatic tube. To the right gains a window 30ft above dig (once rigged safeway in) to the left easy crawling leads to two possible pitches down (25-30ft) sandy floor at bottom above pitch a further climb up was not attempted.



13th Aug 1991

Steve O & Pete Eagan.

Carcanuero.

Just the two of us got off to a fairly late start (11.30am!!) with the aim to push the rifts near the Ladder pitch, and then carry on to the Boulder choke at the end of the Haymarket Series. As it happens we only got around to doing the first objective for reasons that will become clear.

First downstream from the base of the Ladder pitch it's possible to double back into the rifts and chimney up to the large sloping shelf thus by-passing the Ladder pitch. There are several rifts in this area so we decided to look at the rifts heading downstream (towards the sump). First we climbed up the canal rift and doubled back to enter an area of more development. Draughts, although weak, are apparent but unfortunately any way on is choked with a mixture of 10% sand : 90% mud. So after turning ourselves into chocolate sponges we tried gutter down the rifts, chimneying above the streamway in order to try to avoid a sump by-pass. After moving a few wedged boulders we squeezed through into an area where several rifts merge. The gutterest part downstream went nowhere, apart from back to the streamway, instead of joining a high level route. A ladder was used to drop through holes in the between boulders to make more of this. The problem with this area is that it is even more muddy than the first area we tried. I imagine trying to chimney in a tunnel with oiled sides and I'm sure you'll get the picture.



Anyway it didn't go anywhere so we headed up the right towards the climb ~~to~~ up to ~~the~~ ~~Hagen~~ Cobsmacker. Just before the climb is reached a parallel rift on the left is met with copious quantities of aqua. The climb up is to the right but I followed the wet rift. This comes on for approx 20m in water and then gradually rises in a series of steps whilst climbing steadily to a boulder filled rift. After another 15m the cave meets the roof and a hole between boulders. Climbing up through this hole allows you to enter the beginning of Cobsmacker near the start, just before the boulder choke. Not a particularly appealing climb by-pass but most of the water can be avoided if you are careful.

Next we went to poke about in the boulder choke top, but with no success.

After getting somewhat pissed off with being covered with 3 layers of mud and, we decided to march out ~~enermite~~ enermite in the streamway and leave the cave. SteveO

Peña Joaao (Santander) Pedro, Sarah & SteveO. 14th Aug 1991

Not a lot to be said really - we found another 640m of passage. all in a days work etc etc.

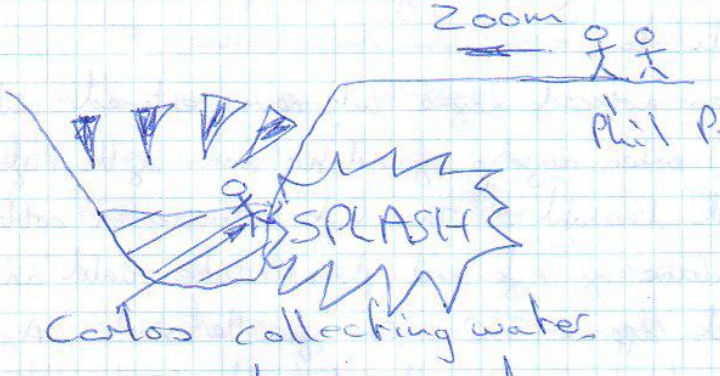
This passage had been noticed before but never entered until the last trip (20th July 91) when myself found no signs of the rift stopping and noticed an outward draught. The rift continues on cobbles or scalloped floor in a mixture of rift and phreatic tube until an area of boulder collapse is met approx 350-400m from the start. A route over/under/along the boulders/slabs follows the draught to the continuation of the rift which is now much smaller than before - 1-1.5 wide; 2-3m high. The rift finally ends where large boulders block the way - draught continues through them. ~~Ex~~ Another passage, similar to the entrance rift, exists the area of boulder collapse but this was not pushed. Other passages also head off the passage before and after the boulder collapse area but likewise these were not pushed.

Blah Blah..... Oh and on the way out, in the entrance series, passage heading North which were entered and found to lead to a parallel streamway not seen in the entrance passages. SteveO.

Penao Jocao 14 Aug 91

Peter Eagan, Phil Pappard, Carlos (the bug man of Santander).

See previous report. Left Steve 'O' party at climb up and continued to the end of the cave via the boulder choke, removing yet another boulder. On the way entered parallel passage near sandy oxbow, as Carlos collected many many mucho importanta Bugs' spotted two eels before eventually reaching two swirl chambers. Photographed both as Phil tested a fish bulb to see if would work. Entered small tubes above sump and packed away equipment to the sound of splashing water.



On leaving the cave we climbed and surveyed above streamway stopped at Pitch looking down into streamway (different one?) climbed out of oxbow to survey passage entered on the way in. This turned out to be different passage so climbed down into yet another parallel passage and surveyed back to station 8 (?) left cave with 10,000 Bugs, 10 gallons of water and one totally

Friday 16th August — Pete Robinson —

Small obscure rift found, but not descended, some 80 metres north of 'Tres Niños', & about 4 metres higher. This rift is up a grass slope between lime-stone scars at the corner of the hill between '880' cave, & 'Tres Niños'; a rather obvious clump of trees nearby are over another rift, which seems blind.

The first rift leads down through a narrow slit (about 12" wide, but probably passable) & down round a corner to the left. Stones appear to be rumbling down about a 10 metre ramp. Had no light gear, so cave not descended. This was the only cave found during a fairly extensive search of the lower slopes of the hillside from the 'Mushroom Field' round to 'Tres Niños'.

WEDNESDAY 14th AUGUST — MZUEKA - JJ - JONATHON - SNABLIT - PAUL - ALAN.

Entered Cave at 10-15 hrs via the new entrance after about 15 minuits in the Cave there was a nice Crawl through liquified Shit with low airspaces this lasted for a good hundred metres. (very nice)!!! After this epic we got into the main Cave with out to many problems. Had a few minor route finding problems in armeggedon as the piece of String through the choke had dissapeared. Found Duckams Sump fairly easily and proceeded to trident passages. Went into the right hand fork of trident to push any leads also had a Very Succesful molefone link at the end. Pushed Various leads but found no Significant passage. Snablit & Alan went up the left hand part of trident to push any leads, found lots of draughts leading into rocks but Could not find any open leads (needs looking

After passing the right hand [illegible]
We proceeded to the Centre arm of trident.
We found a fairly nasty climb which
We rigged permanantly with a piece of old
S.R.T Rope.
Stopped for a molefone link whilst waiting
for Snablit and Johnathon.
At this point Snablit entered the
Matienzo flying club after falling 25 feet
out of the roof and did not look to
well after. He took roughly 45 mins to
recover and we also gave him hot drinks
and food.
We decided to return to the Surface
at this point and informed the Surface
of our intentions via the molefone link.
Took us around 6 hours to exit
Cave finally emerging at 03-30 hrs,
Got changed into dry kit and loaded
Car for Journey back to the bar.
This is where we had another epic,
the Car wouldn't start, tryed to bump
it but it didn't want to know. We
decided two people would walk back
to Matienzo. JJ & Paul Set of
at 04-00 hrs and Sleptwalked all
the 17 kms to matienzo. Got in at
around 07-00 and woke up Juan
who collected the rest of the team in
Riano.

Length of Caving trip 17½ hrs.
Length of Caving trip & Walk - 20½ hrs.

Hilary "Who wants to be behind the Duke of Edinburgh. As a woman I'd rather be in front of him."

14/8/91 Riaño downstream. Toby, Jane, John Alan Jason (QMC)

De rigging trip + surveying. Went to downstream junction with polluted inlet indicated by Lanc as a good place to start pushing. However we hadn't had access to survey notes before the trip & seeing lots of footmarks in this passage we left it. Apparently it hasn't been surveyed or fully pushed. Once the survey is drawn up next year I expect it will be more apparent what needs doing. Toby & John pushed about 50m of passage down a short tight pitch from survey station 141 in Ghost series. A bit of a frustrating trip - partly through our not having looked into all the prospects & getting a survey like off Juan the night before. We erased some graffiti put in the cave by an earlier party - calcited stones are a nice smooth surface for drawing on but it's not necessary to scratch pictures on them. An enjoyable trip was had & all tackle removed.

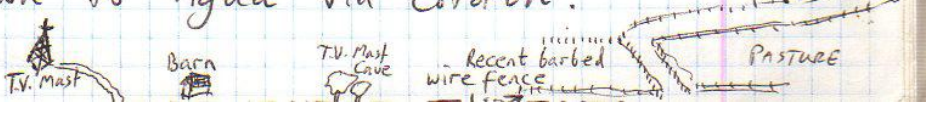
15/8/91 Fresnedo II. Andy Q, Julie, Jane, Pedro & Toby

Jane found 2nd ~~sq~~ squeeze too tight & had to exit cave, could be made bigger with a hammer but looks far too dangerous to attempt! Rest of party followed draught for 620M (ish) ignoring side passages. Stopped at too tight constriction (over mud) with a howling draught (THE HOWLING) surveyed out, got pissed & smiled a lot. 1/3 of the way to Solviejo. MANYANA!

Sunday 18th August. Jane, JJ., Sean, Bryan, Alan ~~CMW~~ CC.

Stroll up towards Arpilleuezza to wall off a shaft entrance that Lanc + others had cleared to push.

~~De~~ Walked down to Agua via Cotoron.



~~Sunday 18th~~

Saturday 17th Tres Nios.

Peter Eagar Steven Openshaw

Returned to dig squeezed through and managed to rig pitch from 25ft up removed boulder 2ft by 3ft which partially blocked exit from dig.

Returned to the top of pitch previously visited but not descended. 25ft ladder did not quite reach the bottom but it was possible to reach a sandy floor a sandy crawl led quickly into a fairly large chamber with a climb up into further rift (50m long) a further climb was not attempted but halfway along 50m rift a large area could be seen above with possible way on. 109 metres surveyed; dig still to be surveyed and a few good leads to get at.

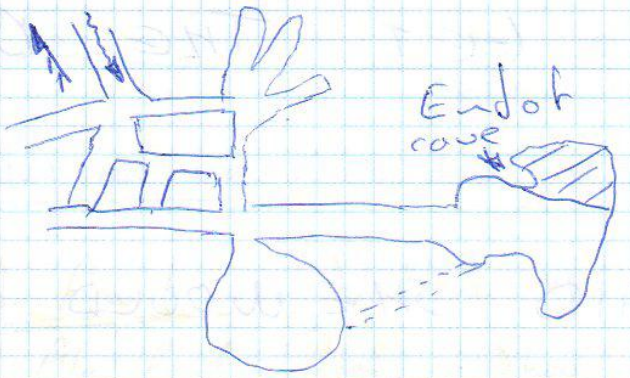
PME

Sunday 18th Pena Jorcao

Peter Phil Alan

Made straight for end of cave checking start of new passage on the way, this proved to be drawn in wrong place. Spent an hour Moleplaying at the end of cave which was surveyed, but the entrance will have to be surveyed to get an accurate position.

Just back from end of cave opposite Pinch Swirl chamber a series of tubes were entered, one coming a small



inlet, passage was followed to a good rift still going climbing steeply upwards with draught.

left cave in 1hr 15min, a bit quicker than usual.

On Canyon side of boulder choke yet another passage was found at left still going mainly parallel with main stream but with side branch heading back toward entrance.

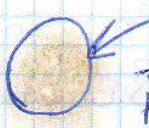
Exited cave via SZ in Jack. Four people have now been through.

19-8-91

HILARY ENTERTAINED A LOT OF DIRTY CAVERS, AND SHE ENJOYED IT, TOBY WAS THE DIRTIEST OF THEM ALL.

19-8-91

PHIL SAID HE HAD FOUND 500 km!!! OF PASSAGE.



19-8-91

SHOCK HORROR JUAN SAID HE WOULD GET THE BEERS IN.!!!

19-8-91

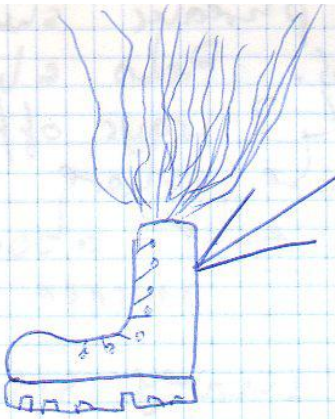
HILARY SAID SHE WOULD HAVE A SNIFF.

19-8-91

PEDRO SAID HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW ROCKY USES THE LADIES!!!

19-8-91

ASK TODY WHO THREW ALL THE SURVEY NOTES AND COMPASS/CLINO DOWN a 30 ft pitch, whilst existing Fresnados. FOUND THE PASSAGE/(NEARLY) SH PEAK ME IM PISSED





The X-ray Laredo Hospital wouldn't let us take home.

Monday morning : Oh dear! Everybody's dead ...

17th August Vallbie video top level. Jane, Kirsten, Alan, Paul, Juan. Show video to Torbec group at Bristoblade on 19th and look at their survey. Possibilities of more video next year and a joint diving trip.

18th August Juan molephoned surface position at lower end of Peña Jorao. Steve O and Kirsten into resurgence passage.

19/8/91. PEDRO, PAUL, TOBY, FRESDEDO II

Through to the HOWLING dug 30'. Revolting, sticky mud makes progress hard but a large digging team could crack this dig in a day.
On the way out we climbed the inlet at the cascades and pushed the streamway (shitty streamway) to where 2 small boulders stopped us with a

did a climb into some old phreatic stuff which led to a BLACKNESS. Pedro climbed down into a chamber with 3 ways off. Went to the boulder choke where draught splits & found a large chamber above with possible climb into passage. (PAUL climbs) Came out, printed survey, creamed my pants, got pissed, fell asleep & got concussion from T'WIFE. (& I thought it was a hangover).

Tuesday

Adios amigos

Q.M.W.C.C. — Muchas gracias

22/8/91 Andrew Davison + Judy + Penny + Jenny + Juan + Pete + Carlos + Emilio + others to archeological cave near Peñajorao to do more video.

25/8/91 Vzveka – Pete, Juan + Faye Photograph Quadruplenis + shit to provide evidence for environmental health people — see Trident Temps

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT