

I walked down from Top Camp this funny way but it was misty and I had lost my compass and then I lost my map... No problems route finding however, because I have this natural inclination to walk downwards

Now I'm fairly sure that although I was heading for the Rio Resaca what I in fact did was walk down ~~past~~ the obvious valley which is marked on "Luzie" ~~as~~ at its head by "~~Campes de Jesus~~" "Jous de Carabanal" then "Campes de Jesus"

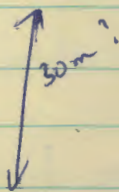
This is a very direct route and, once you find the path ~~is~~ quite easy going, all downhill. Without the path it's a bit of a maze at the top.

On the way up I tried to find Jous del Agua. I think I ~~probably~~ failed, because of the inaccuracies in the ~~route~~ ~~the~~ Editorial Alpina map. That is I knew it was because up that but I'm not sure whether I failed. Actually perhaps I am sure I failed. However, what I did find was 10 m of meandering streamway with water in it, not moving though, somewhere at the foot of the hills below the ~~point~~ marked "Cruce de la" Big deal.

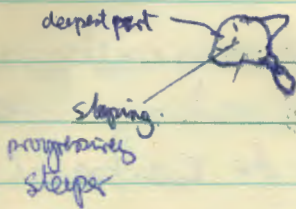
Between here ~~and~~ and the Ariv path going almost due North, at the base of a largeish closed depression was a pit 75 feet deep. ~~The~~ It looks quite impressive especially

(62)

as another part nearly connects up with it.



20ft deep pot - free climbable - at base can look through a narrow slit 45° down to the base of other pot



free climbable for 20ft. - handline might well be v. useful at top.

The rock round the top is the ~~the~~ most friable I've seen here. There is a tree nicely ~~providing~~ providing a free hand but it would have had to have lived another 100 years to be any good. I suggest free climbing down the pot soft and trying again there.

Pot was unmarked, apparently.

Camp guards log star date Fri 10th Aug.

To Mcap - Hilary & Steve G disappeared on a carry to top camp yesterday (in the mist & the dark, the not-warm) Andy cooked a spotless curry (his words here!) of which Sean also partook. Others went to Cangas for meal, driven by the intrepid Hutch, Martin H. looking distinctly queasy rescuing the board at the back of the van with a broom several times on

route. Good sock (Rose Bros. braised lamb = epic dish)
alt round marred only by the lack of rice
pudding + by the misleadingly optimistic Sp.
weather forecast

... & so to today, Phil D. & Phil R. zapped off
with supplies up mountainside. ^{Jan + Jan → T.C. Jan to rig £20} Uke, Steve, Dawel
went to get money, supplies & paddle their boats
at Ribadesella. Sean sat dozing over a book
on hyperstasis while Martin & Andy threw various
sticks, apple cores + tennis balls at cows + each
other. Hutch labouriously planned his "I have lost
/ had stolen a camera with a 816 lens" maiden
speech in Asturian + then let Andy rope his
rucksack alongside the other 2 on Martin's car roof.
This supreme act of generosity was followed by the
awful realisation that he (i.e Hutch) had
inadvertently left his passport in the great
yellow wonder, already careering madly to
Ribadesella or somewhere..... A cruel twist (and)

of fate. Hence Martin, Sean, Andy + John left for
?? → Fr → UK on the great passport/camera
trail (well, after tortillas at Cangas) still trying to
work out the connection between helicopter blades
+ onions....

And finally, the Waldo plan (B.C. → Ario → T.C.)^{??} was put into

(64)

Greenwich generous Time (got on to extra)

action ~ 2:00 pm GGT leaving the ~~camp~~ Gysalis to finish washing up (no the tho' not a shame) & contemplate many happy hrs. at top camp (yet to come) chasing hoverflies down 80 metre shafts (slight exaggeration, well, 75m). Another dome tent has landed overnight, but only one little green man is sitting outside it at this moment in time (got to fill the logbook somehow - there's only TWO WEEKS to go.....) Demigging of 12/5 to start probably tomorrow, + then all being well centre of operations (new surgical theatre - now that would be interesting) will shift to T.C. Here endeth the latest lesson. cm.

Fed returned from his after 17hr trip - surveying of 12/5 should be finished today.

11. Aug. 84

Janet Roe.

A fine day in Lagos & sand at the beach yesterday with Ethic + Steve, culminating with a meal at Fuente Romano.

OK. Mr Riley. I take the above as essentially a sustained personal attack on myself. Therefore I intend to exercise a right of reply, which we practitioners of gibberish + the spoken word (written, actually, Andy) are often too slow to allow to others.

In 12/5. I don't believe what AR has written here can be isolated from his general purpose of criticising myself: the argument is dragged in willy-nilly without the (admittedly drunk) author having properly been able to examine it on its own merits.

12/5 makes Xibe the only deep system in the Picos with 2 entrances. It is a valuable addition to our knowledge of the Ario caves, + demonstrates the importance of the Xibe collector. It is a fine trip. Ethics? In cave exploration? Well, yes, up to a point, Lord Copper. Maybe not 60ft guns or blasting of lengthy sections.

(66)

But one squeeze? With a hammer, by hand?
AR frequently cites climbing ~~with respect to~~
a in this ~~context~~ matter. It seems to
me that climbing ethics, while allowing
artificial aids only as a last resort, do
not object to their use when progress is
otherwise quite impossible. It is not as if
someone, one day, might have got into
125 without hammering — it was out of
the question. Or does AR really mean
that once a few could get through,
it was wrong to enlarge the gap
further so that 1 could get in?
If so, he might have a point. I
can envisage ethical objections here;
personally, I would overcome them on
the grounds that a) actually "sport" is
NOT our primary purpose + b) enlarging
the squeeze further was justified for safety
reasons. But Andy himself, talking to
me, specifically said that once a hammer
had been used, he saw no reason why
it should not continue so to be until
all expedition members could get through.

2. Those fine shafts at top camp will not go away. We are about to explore some more: + as AR says, there should be no season 00cc expeditions here for a long time.

3. Science. Of course, if one makes a violent statement having lost one's temper, one can only expect a violent reaction. Andy, I presume, refers to a simmering argument which broke out here + at Avio several days ago centered on the weather stations + the retention of top camp.

I lost my temper: I'm sorry about that, and I don't intend to defend it. I was annoyed ~~with~~ for a variety of mostly internal reasons, and it is hard now to trace the origin of my outbursts. But:

a) The remarks about expeditions or weather stations made down here were A JOKE. Part of a series of jokes, in fact: There may have been a serious element to it but Richard + I WERE TRYING TO BE FUNNY.

b) I got gradually more angry because

my questions about weather stations were ignored or justified purely because "it was decided at the expedition meeting" - of which I had less than 48 hours notice + could not thus attend.

Later, when tempers - well, mired at least, for others were still accusing me of talking gibberish - ^{had cooked} I was finally told what the purpose of the W.S.s is. OK. Fine.

Only one last point here: even ~~science~~ has subsidized the expedition but I express some - mild - reservations about scientific projects (Hubb's) which have little relevance to speleology.

2. yes. It is the best run OCCC expedition I have seen. Its achievements are almost literally incredible. The new members have done magnificently, + S. Gabe has been an outstanding leader - in fact, the best.

Does that make me a pound down a worthy of 4 pages of public attack by Andy because one night

I was feeling rough + balanced like
 an asshole? Maybe it does, maybe
 it doesn't. ~~Myself + still like~~
~~to be~~ well, I'm ~~still~~ almost over the
 shock of having turned 25 now. Things
 can only ~~get~~ get better, at least till
 I'm 30.
 ↑ Things actually get better after 30 too! or even 32

11 August 1984 Fred Wickham

Well now I'm sitting by myself guarding
 base camp, so I might as well write down
 what I think.

1) Bashing 12/5.

I think that the first point is that we
 would have had to have bashed a bit even for
 just Sean and Martin to get in. It was not
 a case ~~of~~ ^{that} enlarging it for the larger members
 of the party was the only hammering that
 went on.

12/5 is the most enjoyable, sporting and
 spectacular game that I have been down, as

(70)

well as leading to an important second entrance to Xiku, and I really feel that we are justified in hammering a couple of feet of it to gain access. After all, as Dave says, it's not as if there is a chance of anyone ever getting in there if we didn't, ~~and~~ I haven't yet noticed that anyone on this expedition has any qualms about knocking the chas or belays, or testing them with a hammer before trusting their life on them, or even putting bolts in, all of which is just as vandalistic as widening a couple of feet of unspectacular rift. As for making it wider so that larger members of the expedition could get through, as I have said before we had to hammer it a bit for anyone to get through, and I really cannot see that say Sean and Martin could have pushed and surmounted 12/5 on their own.

OK there are some great new areas to be explored at Top Camp. That's wonderful. Lang and Leish were up