

Wednesday - Saturday 26th - 29th July Camping Trip William, Phil R., Dave H.

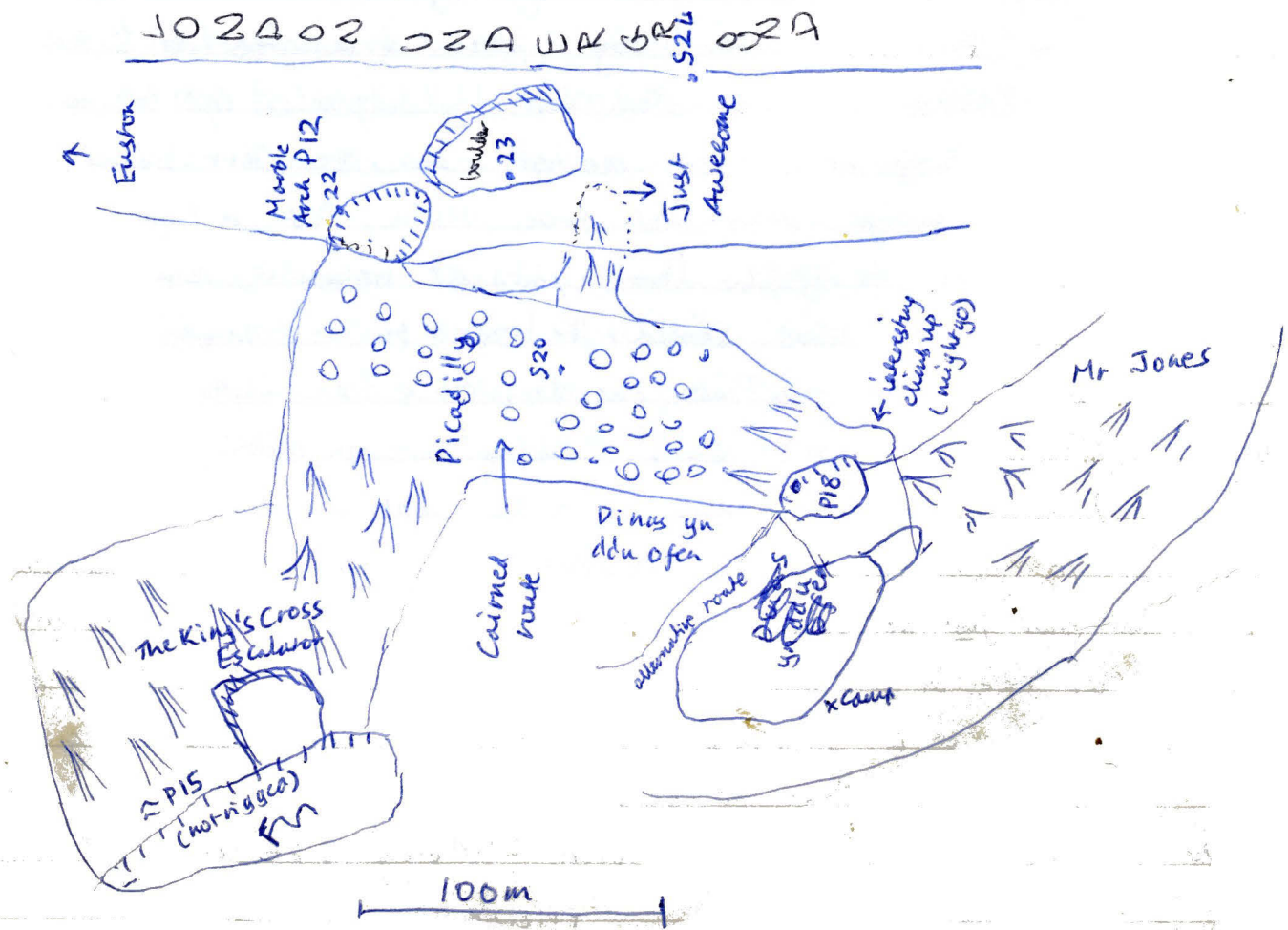
26th Sweated up the hill, managing to get underground at 12:30 pm - not too bad by my standards, but apparently rivy by those of this year. Met Paul Cooper & Su Young at coming out at the end of the rifts - the only time I'm going to see these two this year. Picked up the tackle bags of rope kindly carried through the last rift by Iestyn & our troubles began. The rigs down the shaft, while much safer than last year were unfamiliar to Phil & me & doing changeovers with 200m of 9mm rope, while ~~straightforward~~ dangling in a bag under me, while straightforward at first, got distinctly trying after the sixth mid-air rebelay with my harness cutting into me. Left tackle at Just Awesome & reached camp relatively smoothly at 8:30 pm. The place which I'd last seen on the Mr Jones push / survey trip last yr.

27th It had been agreed that our objective should be the London Underground, so we made our way up the streamway to Just Awesome & picked up the Tackle, then up Bold lead by Wlodeck. Got lost in the entrance, then discovered way on up & to the left past the Cave pearls. This seems like a piece of passage transported from Mulu, past a large shaft in the floor, which I wanted to rig, but was persuaded otherwise, then on over Euston. The top of the climb seemed a bit exposed (or so I thought), so Dave H. put a handline on. There is a nice inlet at the top of the choke. On to Paddington, which we didn't fancy climbing without bolting. (Wlodeck has pre-climbed it.) While humming & hawing, I took a look in the boulders underneath & managed to climb down about 50 feet to an out draughting squeezes, where the stream could just be heard (This isn't the way on, but a near is worth noting). Back to the hole in the floor (Marble Arch), which we rigged, to discover not Mr Jones, but a similarly sized boulder chamber. This led to another short pitch, which did lead to Mr Jones. - Brilliant shoot out to camp. Waited in vain for others to come down. Still only 3 at camp.

(Picadilly Line)

28th Surveyed the new boulder chamber. Unfortunately, last yr's survey of Mr Jones was done almost entirely head to head, with no junction stations. (I was on instruments - Graham was hanging us on.) Fant de mieux, what to the '88 limit, just a few yards from Choke Cathbert. I now know why Graham

built the cabin hastily, looked at his watch & said "Right, 6:30. Time to stop" - he was merely following Lynn's instructions on no account to finish the love. Anyway, wasted a couple of hours surveying out from the '88 limit (interesting hole in wall on l.h. side of stream looking downstream - junction survey station opposite) then up the Picadilly Line. At this chamber is large enough to make it v. hard to see the walls, so the survey proved a slow job Stations 1-24 and 20A - 20N. The chamber also features a 45° slope down the bedding plane leading to a 50' pit into the stream (unrigged) which, continuing the Bad Taste theme, we decided to call The King's Cross Escalator. Steve couldn't be up survey in London Underground, station 22 is the lower bolt & station 24 is a cavern in LV on the l.h. wall looking towards Just Awesome.



After this we didn't feel like pushing Paddington again, so we went back to camp. Joined by Wlodek Steve, Fred & Marten Hicks, Sherry being too hung over to come. Steve was throwing wetsuits at Wlodek to stop him whistling.

↓ This happened on the 29th

29th Dave H. decided to stay ^{underground} for another couple of days to make a party of 5. Phil & I detackled the streamway (NB. Way to Camp now via London Underground) ~~climbing~~ Just Phil had insisted on a 6 am alarm, started caving at 8:30 am, Dave coming along with us for the first bit. Removed gear ropes from streamway, got lost in Choke Arousal, reassembled off up Just Awesome at 11:45, accompanied by Pootie Hick's flash bulbs from the London Underground. Reasonable progress up shaft - feeling hot & sweaty, which is better than cold & knackered. Met Gann & Paul Mann at the top of Bessinists & told them of the change of route. Slower through rifts - Phil trying to speed the trip out by a) dropping his Croll down the rift to Grahaen's Todger Pitch & b) prussiking up Flying Rebell's leaving his pa SRT bag at the bottom. (He had to borrow my rack to pick it up) Out at 7:25 pm, to find Mike, Urs, Nikki & some bread & jam provided by Delta. It's so nice not to have to fight your way through the rifts at 4 am. Good trip
W.

The Gorge trip (Dave & Lynn 17-28 July).

Abandoned all the hard workers in 2/7 to do the Bulnes - Completely brilliant. Camped at Poncebos. Divers turned up. Got me too pissed to be able to pack & get a lift back with John Wilcock, so the loony divers persuaded me I wanted to carry bottles. This seemed to involve jumping off the bridge at the Culiembro resurgence or swimming through Culiembro cave in furry whilst divers complained that they were too hot in wetsuits. Ate mega huge quantities of food, drank even megera hugera quantities of alcohol & never got round to doing anything until the evening. Thoroughly enjoyable week even if Dam Mike Thomas & A. Waddington are all completely crazy. What else does one expect from Cambridge people & a soldier?

To Bottom of Flying Reclus Sunday 30th July

Dave M., John, Tony, Katya

Tramped up to camp 12:30, blazing sun, sweltering, the trip about to leave. Delayed them while I had a drink & repacked my gear. Then up the hill. Very hot. It is a cave to discover delights of using - stop on Black Marlow. Good introductory trip for me & John - met Urs and Nikki at the top of Flying Reclus on their way out. Hung around at the top waiting for the sun to go down so we could come down the hill in the dark, which we did. Brilliant 1st sunset for me.

To various places in Rifts Sunday 30th

Urs, Mike, Nikki, Mel.

Nikki + Urs turned back in popcorn rift, M + M continued to the end of the rifts, before turning round. Uneventful if tiring. Met Dave M at bottom of entrance pitches. Mel + Mike walked down in the dark with one light - slow, fortunately didn't get too lost. Were pleased to see Urs with gaslamp near camp. *

30/7/89

Phil & Dutta walked down to base to eat, drink and wash.

They roused the festerers from their lethargy. Steve Thomas, Stuart, Dutta & Phil walk-up. Steve suitably impressed by severity of walk-up. Dutta won her bet with Phil about where the clag would clear (it cleared at the top of sod 3). Met Bill acquiring "mega-hero" status by going down to Bobias to get water. Serious snow collecting at Aro to alleviate water shortage

* Mel lost her left lens and I lost my right. If we'd put our heads together we'd have had binocular vision. Urs.

1ST August (Tuesday)

Steve here, COMPLETELY SHATTERED today after emerging after 'only' 3 nights underground. We (Dave Willy Dillo) and I did walk back via the top of Jultagu, though (he was rather reluctant to do this for some reason) The views from the top were magnificent and utterly un-photographable, so its just as well I didn't have my camera. Clear in all directions except towards the sea; the wind was blowing clouds from that direction through the gap behind the refugio & spitting them out into the Caves gorge.

To get even the ~~tightest~~ lightest tackle bag through the rift in the 'Paradise' area. progressive steady cursing ... "fuck - bollocks ... sodding BASTARD ... FUCKER FUKER FUKER BOLLOCKS ... ARGGH" ending in a mindless scream of rage, repeated until exhausted, is all that is required.

One of the shit bags in my BDK had burst, making dumping the contents into 15/15 a gorge - elevating task. Moral - use the black BDK's for this purpose: the neck is no narrower than the body. Crap bags in the white BDK's have to be extracted by hand at severe risk to ones' supper (every time it was too). (The supper).

Caving

Lots of photography L.U.C. is really very impressive. However, efforts must now concentrate on Egbert, which has been the end of the cave for about two weeks! I could kick myself for missing the way on "TINA" (This is not 'Abeufen'), but there is now no excuse for not getting down & throttling Egbert. Pushing Paddington for dry ways on is all very well, but **EGBERT IS THE SHARP END.**

I kept getting lost & falling over in Piccadilly - luckily not on the occasion when the bomb'd were off & I had to get back to camp ~~fast~~ QUICKLY.

Steve

illegible as ever, but not as bad as Paul Mann.

26th July -> 31st July Camping trip

26th - 29th Dune Horsley, Phil Rose - William For more details see Bill's write up earlier

Day One Down to camp

Day two Headed for London Underground. Got a bit lost in the start of L.U. due to the immense size of the passage. The use of a compass bearing soon put us on the right track. We soon passed a pit in the floor but eventually Phil's will prevailed & it was decided to proceed onto the end of L.U. & explore here bearing the shaft to be rigged on the way back.

The climb up at Puddington choke looked deceptively exposed so after a few half hearted attempts this was abandoned. Bill then explored a hole in the floor at the base of Puddington choke which was draughting well this was left at a squeeze which both me and Bill thought a bit tight for comfort.

We then headed back to the ~~first~~ pitch below chutte Arnold we had with us 3 ropes 2x 10m, 20m + missing gear. The first drop was missed on the tuck a large passage, the "Piccadilly Line" explored to a another drop of 15-20m max leading down to the stream this looked awkward to rise so as the Piccadilly line continued in the opposite direction we decided to look here first.

Another pitch was found dropping into a large chamber. This was also so the two 10m ropes were tied together rigged quickly + chucked over the edge. Phil abseiled over the edge protecting about 40m sub points. We told him to get a move on, see where it went + then get back here so we could start the long trip back to camp. Shoots of Jay from below - "I've found a cairn its near explored passage".

I us quickly down the pitch to see where exactly we had landed whilst Bill re-rigged the pitch. We were within 5m of camp so dinner was started whilst the pitch was re-rigged hence "Dinos yn deli den" for the pitch name.

Day 2

Survey '88 link to C/O + along Piccadilly Line

This proved unpopular with Phil as it was not a quick task. This was about all we got done this day

Day 3

Photography party arrived. They Decided I would

stay and help photograph Phil & Bill would go out today
ing the streamway. They decided that this would be too
much so I wait as far as just short of Dan's Bald step
& descended back to camp whilst Phil & Bill continued & descended
to J.A.

Arrived back at camp just as the others were
heading for ~~to~~ London Underground. SGR complained
the driver was missing for the bolt hits so I headed
back to camp to search for this. Found the driver - guess
where - the staff but returned to do lots of photo's

Gavin & Co arrive

6:00 PM

Day 4

More photos including went deep in the streamway
prior to Egbert. SGR jumps the contents of his pocket
bag in the stream & doesn't notice - thinks he kicks
a rock into the stream. Very late back to camp.

Gavin Wade & Paul Man push the hole below Puddington
into streamway near Colthbert

Day 5

Water has arrived at Dave Hedderly's Lynn & Steve
Anon - me & SGR head out - take 8 1/2 hrs in
out at six pm - completely knackered. Steve persuades me
to walk up to Toltagu - impressive view
in Dave's 125 hrs underground.

D.K.

TUES 4pm

Made Zabaglioni + ate it. YUM.

Steve

Tuesday 1.8.89 Shaftbashing with Ditta Stuart & Dave M.
 We wandered around the Trea ^{& the Tullayn one} path & came to the following conclusions.

The people who investigated 8/7 didn't do so very thoroughly. It has a second entrance over the cliff from the marked one. Inade this entrance is a wishy rift (dug out by Stuart) A short climb down leads to a pitch (~8m) into a roomy chamber. The only apparent way on (a narrow ~~shot~~ crack with a chamber visible through it) can be proved by a Wrodek style free climb to lead no where.

Points of interest - the top of the pitch is a classic water worn meander

- there is one formation (a 10cm stream) in the whole place

- there is a flat roofed region with boulders beneath ('bedding plane' is, I believe, the official term)

- nowhere at the 'bottom' of the cave is the floor solid rock.

I therefore draw the following conclusions. - the cave is new, big and ought to go somewhere good like 2/7 Only it wait because the floor is choked solid.

Result 8/7 is an interesting cave but not worthy of more investigation.

We didn't find anything else, but decided that the best place to look is the karst north of the Trea path on the green ridge down from Tullayn

David

I'm sorry about the writing implement - it's all there was.

I wish people would stop say 'I wish people would...'
 The pedant.

