

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August (1989)

SHAFTEBASHING (no, not Dirks' "Gonads in Paradise")

or

THE LOWER ENTRANCE TO 2/F

or

NOW I'M OUT OF THE CAVE I'VE GOT TO WALK UP THIS FUCKING PATH. AARRRRR GH

Abstract

Today's heroes find the position of several holes spotted earlier.

After scrumptious lunch of cold soup (no water reqd. (!)) & spanish bread concrete croustons (they existed) & after the helicopter crew refused my plea of insanity based on the sawing of 2 slots 90% the way through my rack bars, it was off shaftbashing with a compass (~~new~~ new concept) and Rodger Moss (another new concept (or ~~new~~ conception if you're his parents (or even one of them))).

A new sentence, a new paragraph.

Cave 1

An 'obvious' 8m dark vertical slit on the south facing slope, looking down into the Valle Extremero. Awkward climb to the entrance from all sides so not easy to just come upon the entrance. Not visible from nearby either (try the opposite side of the valley).

After awkward 3m climb, entrance is visible (beware of flying Rebeccos, breaking the sound barrier & crossing the 80° blank wall. My yelp of surprise was enough to get Rodger scuttling out of the way 'cos he thought I was falling off. Cheers Roger). 40° entrance slope, down, on mud leads to very ancient chamber, lots of old flow stone. Doesn't go. Not marked.

From entrance:

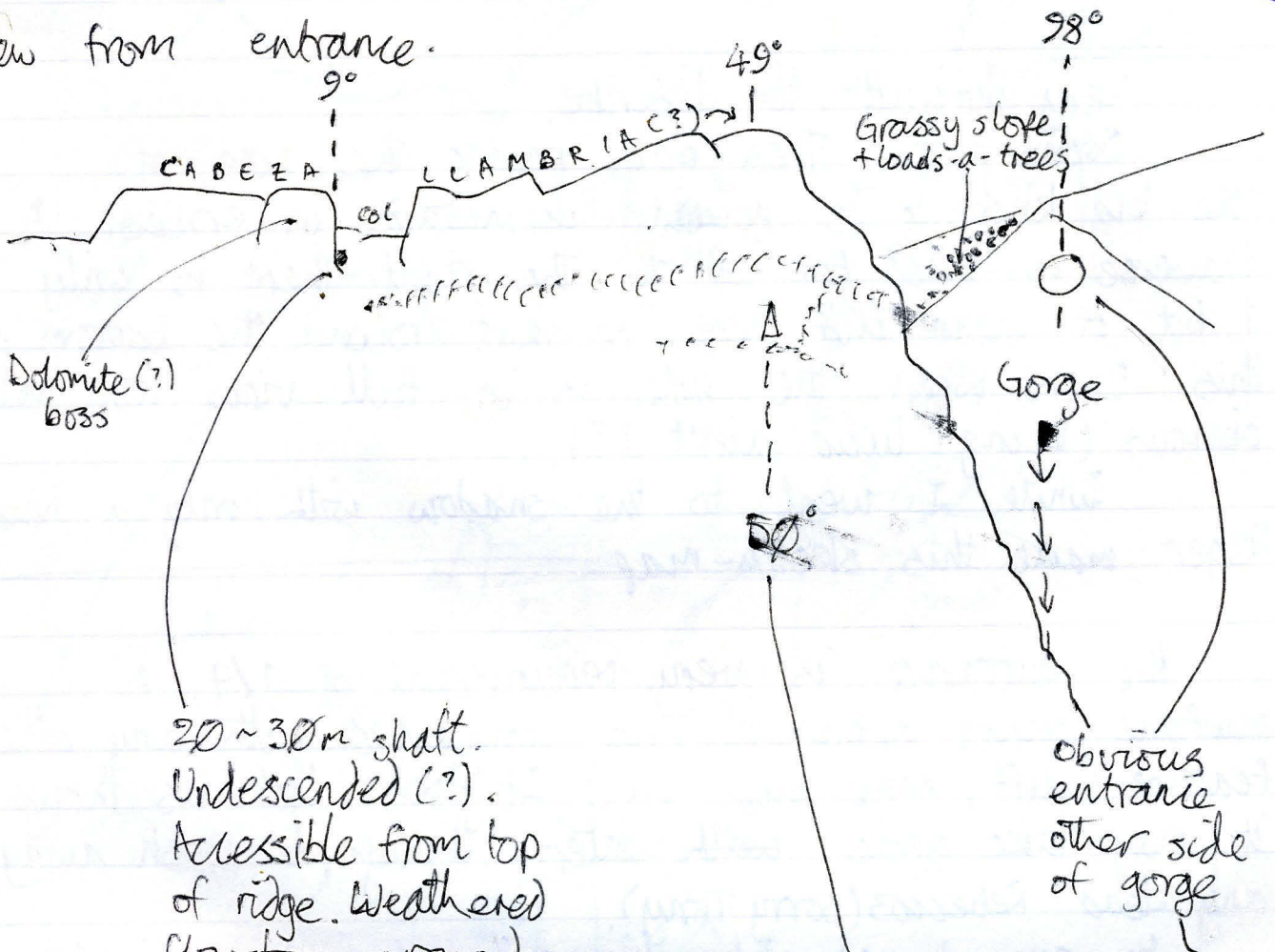
o	Jultayu	199°	magnetic
	53/5	124°	
		93°	

Cave 2

Further down the Valle Extremero. From 53/5 walk down the valley, with the 53/5 ridge going up from left to right, follow this ridge up at an angle of ~30°. Inevitably your heading turns to the left. Eventually, you will see in the ridge in front of you a likely looking line of holes. The leftmost of these is a fine 4m. high triangular entrance, with hidden eyehole above. ~ ~~40m~~ 40m below top of ridge.

||||||| = very dodgy looking grass, (73)

View from entrance.



20 ~ 30m shaft.  
Undescended (?).  
Accessible from top  
of ridge. Weathered  
flowstone around  
its lip. Not marked.  
Not described elsewhere.

Interesting ~~shaped~~  $\Lambda$  shaped  
entrance  $\lambda$ -cave or, as  
I prefer, The 'A' hole.  
More about this anon.  
(unless I fall off)


10m 30° mud slope downwards. r/h turn  
leads to small chamber via flat floor climb  
down to left before chamber leads to interesting  
passage. ~~10m~~ 15m before this conclusively chokes  
with flowstone.

Obvious climb up to left of climb down is  
almost easy walking, 15m up to small chamber.  
Further 5m climb, over undescended hole in floor to  
undescended 10m pitch. Needs a ladder.

Cave 3

Very difficult to describe.

Soon after Trea path passes the nose of the big knob & 's going downwards in earnest. A traverse is called for of to the right. There is only 1 bit of clean cliff here, so skirt round the bottom of this. Even when the hole is in full view its not obvious (being lucid ain't I?).

While I went to the shadow with only a headtorch Roger made this sketch-map: 

The entrance is very reminiscent of 1/7. A surface shaft apparently not connected with any other feature (cliff, scree slope etc.) It does look as though it may take some ~~with~~ water through, to wash away any dead Rebeccos (sorry Tony).

An eye-shaped slit, 4m x 2m gives a good 10s rattle, sometimes with a few 2s gaps ~~in the~~ of silence. At least 50m rope + bolt kit reqd. for initial bash. I doubt, if it goes, that Xitu would be the destination. I'll get the coordinates sometime.

Cave 4

On the way back I stumbled across a 10m wide slit with a tree in it & a consistent 4s drop. Marked "SIE 86 &" (???) . Couldn't see the OOC mark. Seen by Martin Lawerty last year. It is just below, & 20m to the right of 32/5. Worth a look? (looking downhill)



As seen from grassy ridge to right of Tria path.

- End of Cabeza Uambria 81°
- Trig point\* on top of flat, highest peak of central massif 134°
- Jultayuab 192°

\* Use a pair of binoculars. if you don't believe me

Camping Trip 27/7/59 -> 2/8/59 Gawn + Paul Mann

27/7 West down. Met Phil + Bill at top of Passinert. Picked up the tackle they had removed from the streamway at Jf. Very tiring along LHS with 2 TBs but much more than streamway

30/7 Pushed hole - on (A) of Paddington. <sup>with Whodet</sup> Through a fine notch overcut by rippin squeezed into a series of short pitches leading on towards Zaksatzka Way. Surveyed back out. We were expecting this to lead beyond Drucilla so there may be an error in the survey somewhere

31/7 Photo of Big Ledge from LHS with Martin Whodet. Fred. Returned to Euston. Whodet started putting up a climb, ~~was~~ digging holds in the mud with a spoon. Decided he needed a bolt so went to dig Zaksatzka Way + pick up bolt kit. I removed bottom rope + left Martin + Fred to dig rest. Went back to Euston with 70m of rope. No sign of w+f. Dropped ropes and returned to Paddington. They had climbed up.

There and told me to bring the ropes. Returned to Euston picked up ropes, back to Paddington. Up Paddington. Met the other, Whodet saying the way was up, Paul saying it was down. I was knackered so decided it was supper time. Went down to the base of Paddington. Whodet shouted down that Paul couldn't find the way out and told me to climb back up. Eventually all got out.

1/8 Gawn, Phil + Nikki. looked at climb on (2) of Postman Pat - too hard for me and doesn't look very promising. Found an ullt and followed it down a series of pitches to emerge at Drucilla. Derigged and surveyed to grade 2

Paul, Paul, Whodet:

2/8 Came out with Phil.

3/8/89

Dave H. arrives at Rio to find that several people have gone on a jolly little trip down the gorge. HOWEVER THEY LEFT THEIR FUCKING BRAINS BEHIND AS THEY WEREN'T CHANGING THE DYE DETECTORS. It would have been a sensible use of manpower\* if they had done so. Detectors are already made up in the survey kits so they didn't have to do a lot.

However, none of them were psychic so they didn't know this ~~note~~

✓ or Useless Buggers

Dave

\* Paul Manpower?

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August (1989, still).

The 'A' Hole ~ A for attempt

Team. Ieslyn — attendant festerer  
Tony — chief psycho

Tried to get into the A Hole (go back 5 pages) by traversing around the front of Cabeza Nambria. Way continually blocked by cliffs, forced to go ~~west~~ East. Some interesting scrambles (eek!). By the look of it you need to go most of the way down the Culiembro path, & then back up a different valley to have a chance.

Just missed by a lightening strike on the way back<sup>†</sup>. Ya boo!

† Someone must have said the "f" word - f\*6\*d\* shhh!

3/8/89

Dave H went for a walk down to 53/5 & back via the tree path - took loads of rock samples on the way

- + brought back to Arco from 53/5 the following
- 2 tapes
- 1 mailon
- 1 lg hammer
- 1 osc bar
- 1 chisel

Hope that's everything.

I'm now about to leave for England can you do the following please:



① Collect some rock samples for me. Don

- i) near 2/7 entrance
- ii) near 11/7 entrance
- iii) near the 10sec ratchet.

② Remember dye detectors.

- i) in tree resurgence
- see (ii) above, below & at Colombo
- lyn (iii) in Colombo cave

location of these.

remember to note clearly where each core was  
a time & date removed.

Cheers

Dave

Oh just watched Ewerd pour all our water  
away. He's gone to get some more, which  
with the drip flowing at its present speed could  
be hours.

- Camping Meals (+ 4 MO)
- Potato
- Bag Roll
- Carbide
- Thermals
- H/warmer

31<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Aug. Dave Hetherington, Lynn, Steve Thomas

Hotbedding is brill! 3 sleeping bags each a night, or was it day? Sunday evening we visited the refugio, to ease the pain of the walk up to the entrance at 2 am in a semi pissed/hungover state. Arrived in time to enjoy waking everyone up in camp.

1<sup>st</sup> day! Looked in Aberfan:- ~~initially the second part the~~ initially went exploring as far 'downstream' as possible in the chamber. At the end it dropped back down <sup>a pitch</sup> to the route to 'pimpernel'. Climbed rift near inlet - closed down. Having explored every reasonable lead in this area, gave up in disgust & looked in previous chamber. Looking up slope, theres an inlet up to the left. Climbed several tens of metres up ~~this~~ rift to the left of the inlet.

2<sup>nd</sup> day Looked up 'Paddington' climbs but got 'Wlodeked'. Went looking for a 'window' that he said was 1.5 x 0.7m wide. This was boulders in a rift that Steve could just get his body through. Dave & Steve then went into rutter mode & climbed up the muddy wall to try & get round outside of Paddington. Ran out of something or other near the top so headed back to camp.

3<sup>rd</sup> day. The day we had been putting off for as long of possible - the prospect of getting wet did not appeal & Steve nearly ran out immediately to avoid getting his toes wet. Went downstream to the limit, Steve went as far along at streamlevel as possible for a lunatic & declared it no go. All holes were systematically eliminated further back in the 'phreatic' part of streamway. Then went & redid Stuarts climb that is upstream of the 'canal' wading (- which of course they rigged to avoid getting bums wet). Dave climbed a muddy 30m into a chamber with various leads off, Steve climbed a further 30m. ~~but didn't find~~