

8.8.92

Shaltbushing

Near Top Camp

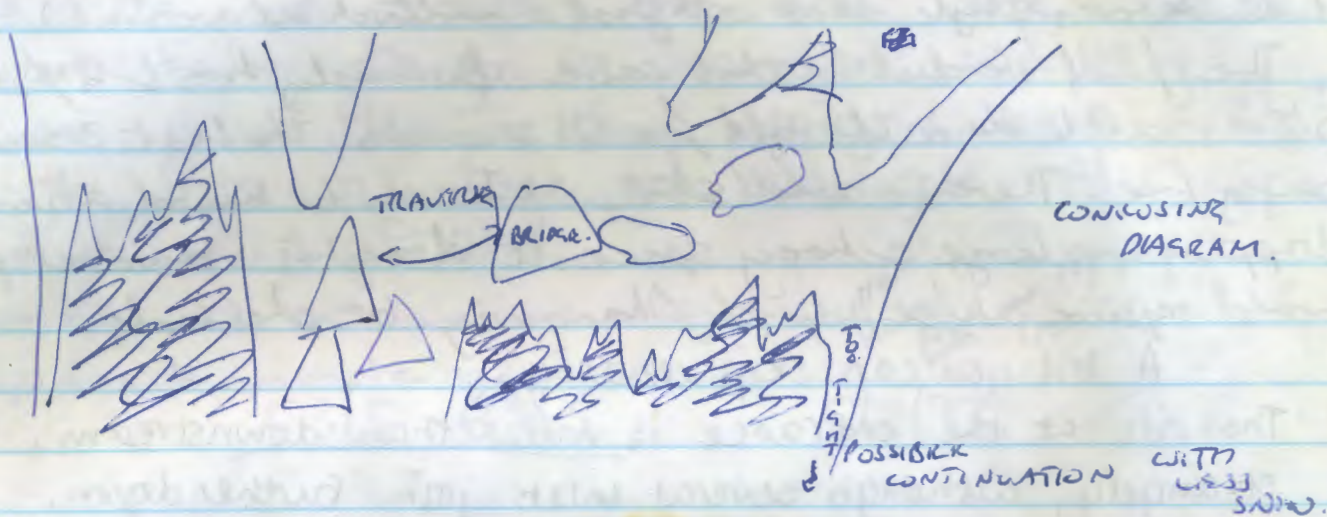
Chris Rankin

(21)

Mark Hills

Smalley

Chose the hottest day of the year to hang up  
 La Verdabwanga to visit Chris's big hole  $\approx 9$ . Situated  
 below the cut between La Verdabwanga and its subsidiary peak,  
 two snow checked shafts join with a number of  
 possible leads both down and into the mountain.



Snow was low allowing climb down into larger of two  
 shafts <sup>with 129 cables.</sup> into a rock bridge from which both shafts were  
 investigated. First toward all boulders between two shafts. No  
 obvious way down subsidiary shaft, two holes into mountain  
 both lead to higher advances.

Second climb up <sup>behind</sup> large detached flake and ~~back~~  
 to start from above the bridge. An ~~instead~~ further hole allows  
 by path to be rised to snow plug below. No way on.  
 Still snow plugged.

There was still time to check out Chris's drafty  
 dig in Vega Abisade. Have small depression at end of  
 Vega with snow plug, hammered through to next level to the  
 below. No way beyond iced up droche and well.

Smalley

(22)

49/S

DAVE L. & PAULINE

Following on from our previous trip we proceeded, wielding a hammer, to the end of the phreatic tube. While Pauline explored upstream, I hammered my way past the first constriction. This allowed me to wriggle forward about two feet. However the rock here proved less yielding, and, despite both of us hammering for over an hour, it proved impossible to pass, although I did attempt it "Dallinover style", (live with just a headtorch and overalls.)

The final verdict: this cave obviously has lots of potential. Stones rattle down the rift for 8 seconds, the last 2 seconds being free. There's a small stream. Water can be heard ahead dripping in a large echoey space. It draughts. However progress would require a huge amount of hammering, or chemicals.

A bit you can skip reading:

The rift at the entrance is wider than downstream, strangely, although several inlets join further down. At the level of the bottom of the pitch the rift choked round a corner. Further down it kept going, but was very difficult to follow. I also followed the phreatic upstream which lead to a small chamber in crap rock which fell off around me. From here a rift went into a sizeable inlet chamber with the water flowing away from me while the phreatic did something else. I could hear Dave hammering ahead of me, but the passage was too small to follow. The stream probably joins the main rift at the 3 way junction.

~~22~~

A few days ago Dave and I surveyed Somnabulists in 2/7. We got 25m out of it. The rift Dave pushed last year turned out to be an inlet, and we decided wasn't worth the effort in return for maybe 15m of passage.

Dave learned to say 'help' instead of 'shut up' when he scares himself.

A note about tea bags

We're running very short of tea bags, so don't waste them. If you have no preference between tea and coffee, then drink coffee. The tea bags are fairly strong so you don't need many and can reuse them - this morning I made a 2/2 cup brew from one bag and then got another cup out of it this afternoon.

\* fuckin' hell in the central we were making 4 cups from the spanish tea bags!

53/5, 6/15

Horrah!  
Horrah!  
lets hear it for Gavin!

6/8/92

Gavin

Derogged.

Thank you Gavin.

More on this subject and the scheme for the transport of gear from caves and Aris to Los Lagos and England.

- August 7 | derigging - buy cut bags, detackle shafts as much as possible
- 8 | camp (2/7) DEL, SB, SP, TETK, DJM
- 9 | ~~photos down 8/11~~ DJM, iGL?, --
- 10 | Paella 1 - haul ropes to top of Perimistr DJM, JC, DRB, TSK, TETK.
- 11 | detackle 8/11 & photograph it. GL, SP & DJM
- 12 | -- " -- 66/5?
- 13 | paella 2 - de-rope rifts in 2/7 - everyone -
- 14 | rope from 2/7 to Aris & Base.
- 15 | everything carried
- 16 | down to Los Lagos
- 17 | everything down by 17/8/92
- 18 | Beech Party followed by u.e.

6/8/92

(94) Dave found 70/5

location: in a green valley going west from the signpost on the Trea path to the ~~sign~~ site of the 1992 Flooded campsite. It is a bedding plane crawl in the ~~North~~<sup>South</sup> side of the valley at an obvious (!\*) overhang, now with a pile of muddy boulders outside.

description: the passage is T-shaped; a bedding plane with a rift in the floor. After  $\approx 15'$  it becomes flat out, and 2 moonmilk stalactites make getting one's shoulders round the bend a bit awkward. Boulders were removed from the next section to make it passable. A bit further on ~~there~~ the rift does a wiggle, ~~and~~ - the squeeze over the top is called 'the squish squish'. The R.H. bend next must be done on your R.H. side. The passage now has a little tunnel with trickling water in the floor, fed by a minute inlet or 2. ~~There is~~ The limit is at a left hand bend with a knob of rock which needs hammering off. The passage has been steadily increasing in size, and the bit around this corner looks big enough to turn around in.

I estimated that the passage was 14 body lengths long  $\sim$  about 25m.

It is a no helmet and headtorch instead place, ~~but~~<sup>although</sup> light is not necessary. Dave hammered until his light failed, and then backed out. I hate hammering, but got very enthusiastic about the digging. We could call this Daveunpaulines Grotty Grovel

7/8/92 Ilka & Gerhard: Stms from Base to Arid, abandoning a direct carry to Top due to unfavourable weather, general unfitness etc. Returning to Base tonight. Stashed our gear here, to be carried up tomorrow (hopefully).

PLEASE could people ~~restrain~~ themselves and NOO CARRY DOWN every bit of ladder, rope, & rigging gear immediately. I will want to take a moderate amount up to Top from here (rather than having it carried down to Base & drag it up all the way again), during the next 3 days or so. After this <sup>time</sup> you may indulge in your lust & drag everything down to Base. Thanks.  
Gerhard

10/8/92 Ilka & Gerhard leaving at noon for Top Camp (Area F), expecting to return to Arid at nightfall. Aims - finding Ewald, bashing a few shafts. Taking a bolding belt, a 3mm rope, a 11' w/ ladder & some tape & rigging gear.  
HAVE A NICE DAY-Y!

NB Stirred up a partridge (!) in the Vgl. seen & met 20-odd chamois further on

- reporting back 21:00 Met Ewald 200m below Top Camp on his way down to Lajos, he'll be moving down from Top to Arid in a couple of days to get on some detackling trips.

Scenery at Top less than exciting with 20-50m vis in the clouds. Bashed F44, leaving a definite lead (for somebody with an overcure), Generally more snow in the entrances than Sh '89; some of them are no longer open.

description to follow

(86)

# 8/11 Rigging Guide (cont)

Climb into Wet  
Cheeks Rift

Wire and chockstone

ladder

Bold step ①

2 bolts (?)

5m rope

Tension traverse ②  
over pit

2 bolts; 2 threads

10m rope

Fewer Pitch (P30)

2 bolts; wedged knot  
deviation at -4m. Better to  
traverse further out for free hang

55m rope

The Unwell (P10)

2 spikes for traverse; spike  
below. Better to put 2 bolts  
in back wall (high up) and have  
spike deviation

Pitch out of \*  
Codine phosphate (P14)

Spike backup; 2 bolts for Y-hang;  
spike deviation at -8m  
? further Backup round <sup>outside</sup> in rth.

20m rope

Climb in Big Wind

Thread belay

10m rope

\* Pitch = "OCTOBER" cos I like the name

+ Not rigged this year

① This is easiest if you climb up ~1.5m, then the  
bold step is very easy. Maybe protect with a tape round  
a large boss

② Better to rig this as a pitch from the top of the rift  
with a pendule over to the far side

Also the bold step across the sump pool would be made easier  
by a tape through a thread for a hand hold.

Events since last and 1 last did well.

8. 8. 92 Surveying New stuff in 8.11 J.C  
Gavin.

First a trip to calibrate up the survey and a chance for Gavin to see where the canal is really going (= Cadena Mora). The intention was to survey to the limit and drop the next patch "October", but plans changed when it was pointed out that the rigging gear was plentiful in all but one aspect; an absolute lack of bolting kit. No kit no patch, since the networks are sparse in "Cadena Phosphata", the answer to the "Unwell". In fact no big pattern as surveying took long time, 23 stations to take 8.11 by the way. On way out checked out the cross rift pathway down "River Patch", both up and down stream seem to be part of rift system extremely encountered. Down rift is multi levelled. We stopped at head of patch that we drop into Area between Unwell + Cadena Phosphata; Needs to be checked. See Survey (M) + Over.

Sanctus  
xxii

9. 8. 92 Patch "Cadena Mora" streamway in 8.11. J.C  
Gavin

This time we took a bolting kit and the surveying gear. Both ~~at~~ "October", Gavin bang! bang! bang! J.C shiver, shiver!, to find a chinky wee streamway, very pretty, nice width, excellent stuff for 50m to a swamp, "Deep and Blue". Traverse round swamp to an inlet, allows a short climb to gain access to a dry passageway which shoots straight over the swamps. This takes a howling gale "Big Wind". The passageway is very complicated, with possible leads down at numerous locations. <sup>Optimism was high</sup> ~~Spits~~ ~~fore~~ at the sound of running water down one side. This only dropped down into a sloping channel with an inlet disappearing in the ground. Back at high level passageway continues with

wind, limit was a small chamber with way on snalls,  
(88) hnt. leads to left and right. Approx 20m of passing  
found. Took only 10 minutes to get back to survey gear,  
Surveyed well into the "Big Wind" before turning back  
very dilly about 60m short of limit. Lost survey stake  
marked with S shortly after a stake did up in  
passing. See Survey (N)

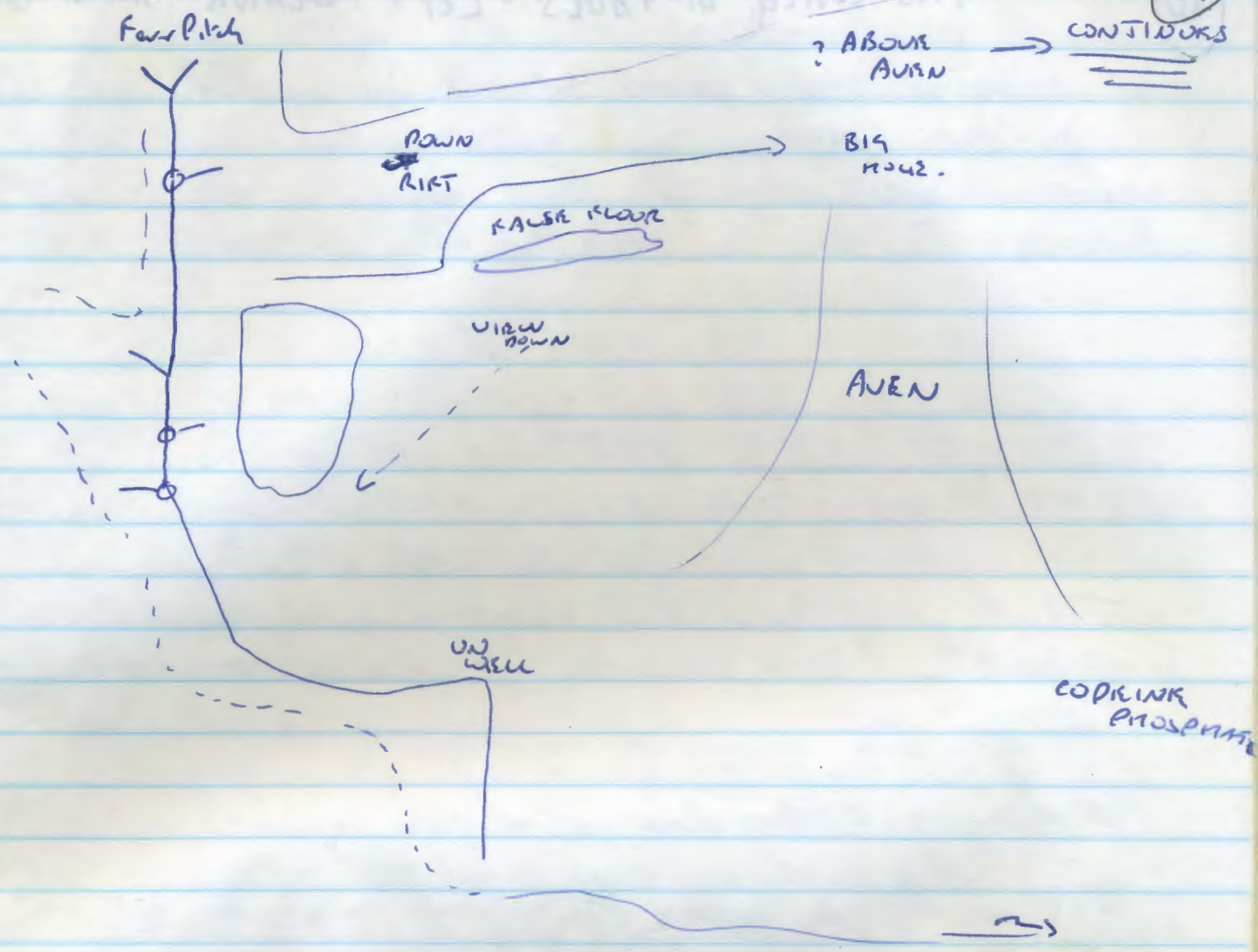
Smather.

10.8.92 Tackle bag party in 2.7. J.C  
David  
Harry.

Centurion dounded. The paxella was postponed because  
3's a crowd, but one stork at end to pull ropes  
up shafts. Compromise was to shift the tackle bags  
from the head of Aramageddon as these would screw  
up the system. David and me went all the way,  
Harry went to the head of Pessimist's at his  
own speed. Running repairs to my gear included  
bending the cable on the bobbin back into shape, and  
improving a chest harness from a mutton and loop of  
tape. This may or may not have contributed to my  
sad loss of passing form. I was hunched. Harry  
and David had their own little party whilst I  
went for the slowest ascent of peak Pessimist in  
recorded history. Each got one bag then the other.  
David spotted off before something strange happened to him  
in the night. Me and Harry took our time, Harry so  
he could keep his gear in immaculate condition (How  
does he do that?). Me 'cos I was carrying by  
bridle for much of the time. Walk down was a  
mistaken mistake. Miracle no-one was cracked. This is what  
carry in Spain is all about.

Adrian  
Smather



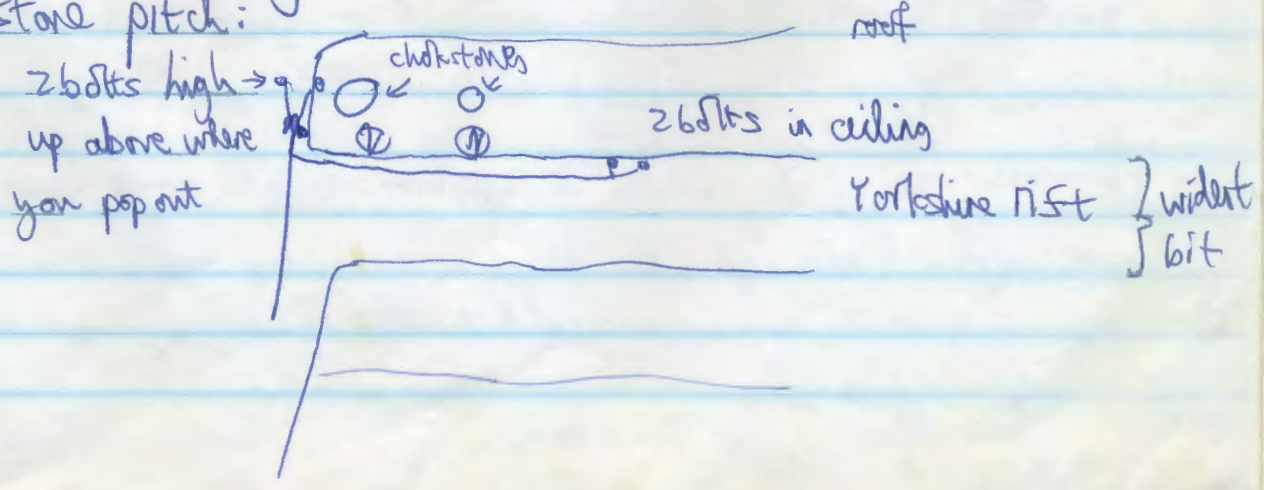


SURMISED VIEW OR RIFT PARTWAY DOWN  
 REVERSE PITCH IN RELATION TO

66/5

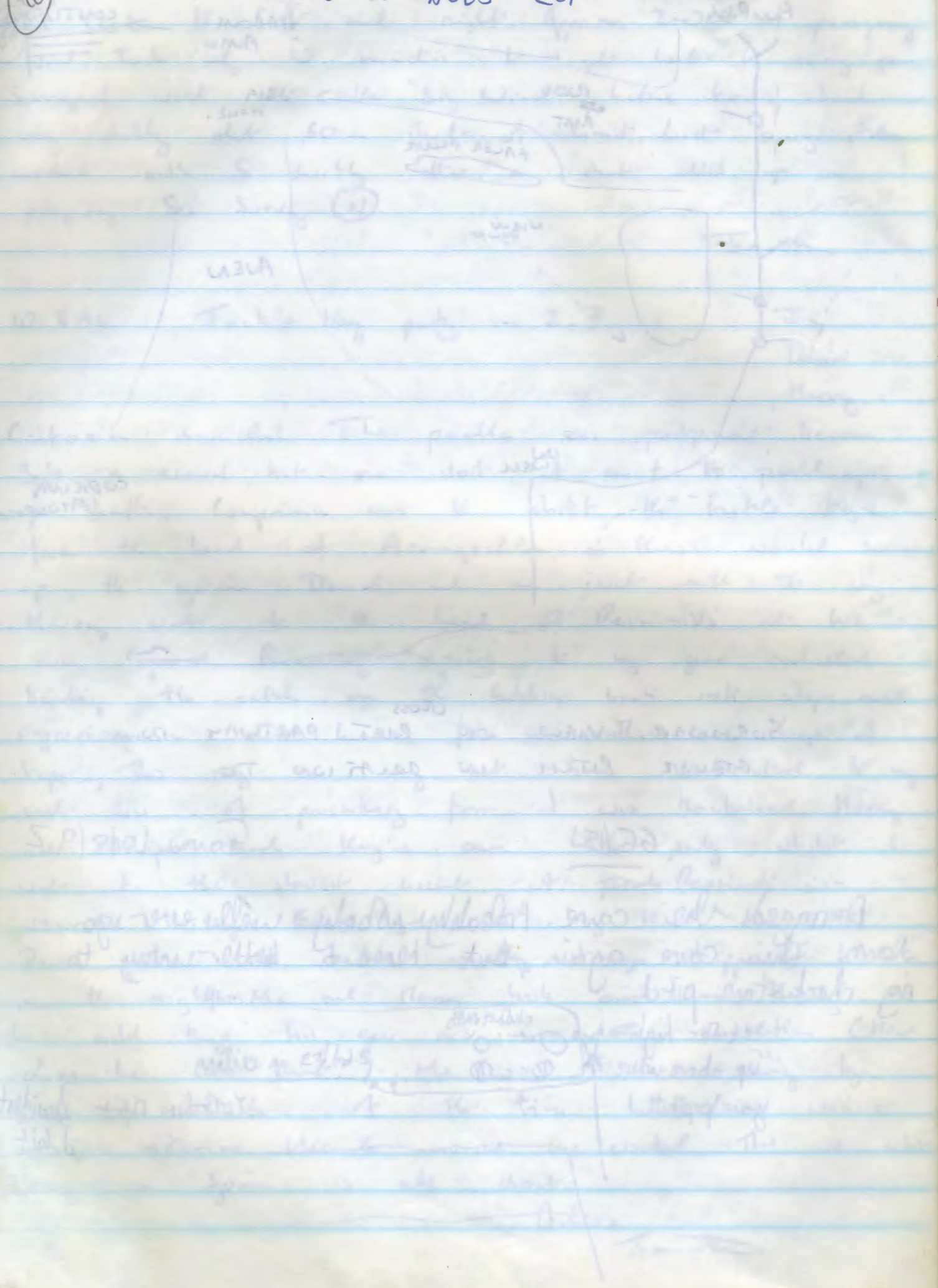
Gamm, 10/8/92

Demerged the cave. Probably nobody will ever go down this cave again, but here's a better way to rig chockstone pitch:



(10)

THIS COUPLE OF PAGES LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



(TO PROVOKE SILLY QUESTIONS...)

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and

(92)

A couple of the climbs down Route 66 really should have hand lines on them: they're short of holds, vertical and chossy. Pulled back through the Cornershop, which didn't really work as the rope kept getting stuck: I had to do the hardest bit 3 times in total (in each direction).

12/8/92 Ilke & Gerhard (FEwald at F.C.) going shaft bashing in area F again, Equipment as on 10/8/92. Expecting to be back at nightfall or shortly after dark if the weather remains clear.

Back 21<sup>20</sup>. Results, in short: **F47** is a definite "maybe" but needs a definite amount of chiselling to remove a flake obstructing a bedding plane with a pebble beyond.

**F48** an old red herring (discovered back in '85 but not numbered until '89) is a definite going concern — a careful descent down the edge of the snowfield in the vestibule (which is resting on a car-sized airspace...)

leads into a well-developed meander, 40-80m wide, followed at floor level to no conclusion and at an obvious traverse level to where the same opens out.

General trend is south, away from F20 (which passes ~300m right underneath) towards Forcada Blanca passages (parallel to F7, which is slightly uphill and ~~is~~ a bit east of F48; cf. the Map).

(93)

The Plan for 12/8/92 - "Paella 2" to those involved:

Paellaers: Gerhard, Uka, Ewald?, Steve, Sam, Dave, David, Harvey

Guards: Gavin & Tristan.

- Paellaers get up early, get their acts together fast, and go caving.  
End of Plan.

Some comments about the environment:

- ① I went up to 2/7 in daylight and when not preoccupied for the first time this year today. It is an absolute mess, with food wrappers, empty tins and bags of fettle everywhere. I tidied it up, but remember; all cave entrances are in the open and in a National Park, and some semblance of order and cleanliness is desirable. Take your litter home.  
"Si hay basura, no hay paisaje".
- ② Don't urinate in dry cave passage - it stinks for ages.
- ③ Keep Anio camp as tidy as you can - don't leave piles of mess everywhere, and try to make necessary piles of mess tidy so they look as if they are meant to be there and are not just mess. This is particularly important while detackling

Carrying stuff down the hill...

- ① First take down the bags of rubbish so that they don't smell.
- ② Try to maximise the load you carry in terms of both weight AND volume, this will minimise the number of loads (e.g. 50malls).
- ③ Go careful: You are more use to the expedition if you carry six loads down in three days than if you twist your ankle while running down with your second load and can manage no more.
- ④ When you dump stuff at Base, try to put it with similar things. (If you have carried down some mauls, look for some mauls at Base and add yours to the pile)
- ⑤ Think of others when planning your carries, you may not want to walk up now, but the person at Anio may want to walk down...

David

~~David~~ (UK)

12/8/92

David has done some stats:

- He has spent over 260 hours underground so far.
- This is about 5-7 hours for each day he has been here
- He has personally pushed 1 metre of passage for each hour spent underground.
- He has spent about ~~100~~<sup>80</sup> of those 260 hours asleep...

David

16 Peel Place  
Oxford  
OX4 0UT

Dear David & Co.,

Help! My mother's postcard didn't get to her + I'm IN IT!  
Please could you send a postcard to:-

Mrs I. Arthur  
15 Dyer Road  
Tunstall  
Nr. Barnsley  
South Yorkshire

I'll TRUST you lot to write something appropriate. To  
EVER SO MUCH!

Hope you are all well including Fixer. Hopefully  
a trip down a cool damp cave made his sore throat better.

Especial regards to the hardest Expedition workers, Gairn  
+ Tony. Mumsie Has all the shaft bashing paid off?  
Did anyone find Richard's '9/6', hope so.

Back here the weather is now hot + sultry, but not a  
lot else is going on. I've been busy socializing  
+ mowing the back garden, harvesting ridiculous

95

amount of courgettes + beans (+ slugs!) from the garden after a LOT of work @ JR2. The persons office never gets quieter, still its nice feeling fresh enough to face it.

I heard that Tony was going to be swapped for 50 millions in Congo (sounds like an East/West spy exchange - I can just see it across the Puente Romana).

Ian B is getting used to the frustration of fatherhood. He called round @ Horley Rd to ask for his 'big hammer' and wittered about scaring babies which rather alarmed Melissa. It seems, however, that hammering nails in loudly was good therapy for quizzing over little Fiona's tears which were still belted out despite feedings, burpings, nappy changings etc.

Hope the newly arrived octo are keeping you all going.

With love

Juan ~~ox~~



Preston, 1/8/92.

Dear Everyone,

Just thought I'd drop you a line to tell you what I'm doing next year.

I had a good journey home and on the Friday had an interview at Leeds. They gave me a place which I accepted. I'm pleased its all been sorted out now.

Hope everything's going O.K and that upstream 2/7 is still going strong.

See you soon,

Richard