

27/7

Arrived at 3.30 after a 3 hour walk from base - the direct route is not very easy. Got some snow, and made a brew. Then pitched Richard's tent: I got it inside out at first, but eventually got it right.

Boiled up some water for the walk down. Fun and games changing the bluet whenever it ran out - I'm sure there must be some technique, but I haven't found it yet. Discovered that if you put ^{boiling} water in an Evian water bottle, it melts.

Ready to leave at 5.30, so should be back at Aris in time for supper

Gavin

28/7

Walked up from Aivo. I intend to walk up Brown Gully looking at F33, F27, F34, F25, and then back down F20 gully, looking at F24, F23 and F22

I found all of the above caves

- F33. Completely ridiculous. The squeeze is less than 15cm wide. Forget it
- F34 looks interesting. Well worth checking
- F27. Located just above car sized boulder in gully. Approx 10m pitch. Never really looked at?
- F24. This is higher than Top Camp (25m) despite what the shaft boring guide says. I think the shaft is only 10-15m, but worth checking now this!

- F25 spotted this, but didn't find the other entrances mentioned nearby ^{they're up & left (S) along the ridge}
 - I found an unmarked ^{crawl} on the west of F20 gully, near the top where the gully narrows
 - F22 There is possibly a way past the snow plug, but it's a bit near F20 to be very useful.
 - F23 Very interesting. Entrance C could probably be dug open in a day. Entrance B is impenetrable, but has a 6 second rattle. Entrance A should be fully checked out. ?
 - F25 a new cave, 20m down gully from F25 on (A) of gully in a shale hole with snow. 10m S of survey station. Walk into chamber, with two tight crawls continuing. Top one draughts well, but may just connect with NSE on surface above.
- I know this from '83 - worth checking if it's mentioned on The MAP y.

After supper I went looking for F19 and found it. It's somewhat higher than the shaft bashing guide suggests - it's on the top level of limestone overlooking the depression. Bearing 152° to F38.

(from), or it couldn't overlook F38!

I also found two other holes:

- bearing $\sim 150^\circ$ (to) camp, ~ 200 m away, overlooking route to F38.

Awkward scramble down gully to snowplug (not fully checked out) and small draughting hole on (R), passable possibly with a little digging.

- Roughly below F19, bearing 180° to F38 ~~shaft~~ w/ ice with snow at the bottom - may be passable.

29/7

Steve arrived at 9 this morning, and we set off to locate more caves

(that's from Top to F43) (see margin of the MAP)

- F43, Top Camp 155°, about 200m. Worth checking
- F5, From the col between F38 and F2, head up the gully to the south. F28 is on the first slot bit; F5 is on the second slot bit, to the west. 286° to F2.
- F13 Aught-like sunk. Well worth a good look
- F41 at least between scree slope running up to F13, and Verdillung thrust. About same height as F13, bearing 204° (to³) F13. Scramble down to snow, from where 15m pitch can be rigged from (needs 2 bolts) to hole where further pitch, estimated 15m, continues

- F55 To ~~A~~ B of Vertikanga throt, ~~on~~ near top, in small depression in area of karst, near base of cliff. Pitch of ~~rock~~ ~40m. Undersanded.

- F14. Impressive looking hole. Maybe worth checking as the snow levels are low.

I PISSED Down all afternoon, so I finished off Middlemarch, and we made tea. I fell asleep & woke up as my bike coasted off the road into the desert, clutching the sand with both hands.

Cravin now knows what a dolmen is.

Some good prospects.

30/7

It rained. We lay in the tent.

In the afternoon, it rained some more. We walked down to base and got wet.

31/7

Walked up from base with Richard. Steve arrived a bit later. Richard and I dropped F43. Checked at the bottom of the first pitch (P15).

Walked up this morning. Top Camp is an amazing place - just the anecdote for Lagos 'pissing down' blues.

Dropped F43 (see above) and then had excellent tea kindly made by Steve.

In the evening we decided to go for a 'Stroll' to look for entrance.

Made for the obvious entrance on a

bearing of 248° from Top Camp.
 Basically it's a snow plug significantly
 choked below.

Then followed fault line up towards
 ridge and found

- F57 - a huge arch leader with
 a snow plug leading straight
 into the mountain. Interesting crystals
 on the rocks around about.

Noted F11 + F12 and then headed
 up to the ridge (F11 - $68^\circ + 1^\circ$ from T.C.)

Followed ridge ~~along~~ which is a
 very enjoyable scramble.

Just before F20 Gully noted

- F58 - Scramble down gully from
 ridge (west side) and walk into
 a small shake hole. To the right
 is a shaft 5-10 m deep.

Ahead are two passages which
 seemed to choke

Continued along ridge to 2/6
 and on the way down noted F31
 which still has a reasonable snow plug.

F57 - Cueva del Arco

1/8/93

Rigged down to the snow plug, and then followed down to the end of the ~~my~~ 50m rope along a 45° descending tunnel with a snow floor. Returned to the surface to get a 25m rope, and added this to get to the top of a short pitch. Richard shouted across to Steve and Sam at camp, and they brought the rest of the rope across. Steve and I continued and rigged down a number of short pitches, with the cave basically continuing as a 45° descending ramp. At the bottom, a small passage continued straight ahead to a choke, and the main passage turned right, past some beautiful ice columns, to a couple of short climbs up to a balcony from where another

pitch descended, We headed out
as we'd run out of rope.

F57 Cueva del Arco
Richardo San

2/8/93

San and I had a late afternoon
trip down F57 to do some minor
rerigging.

Added derivatives to a couple of the
itches.

I put a bolt in at the top of the
second climb up - much needed I
think as I could see the original
belays gradually falling off as I
pushed up the pitch.

F57 Cueva del Arco
Gavin, Richardo San

3/8/93

Gavin had an early start to re-
rig the entrance snow slope on a 200m
rope.

We followed a couple of hours later

ready to survey and then push.

We surveyed the cave down to the bottom of the dinks up. Gavin then bolted and rigged the undescended pitch down.

The pitch is approximately 15m to a ledge and a further 5m to a rubble floor. The cave appears to end in a solid wall.

As Gavin desperately started to dig away at the floor Sam noted a hole half way up the pitch which he climbed up to. It is 2m by 1.5m sloping at approximately 60° downwards. Sam put a bolt in to rig a deviation which would allow us to pull ourselves across to the hole. However as Gavin discovered while trying to pass the deviation in mid-space this is actually an impossible manoeuvre. As darkness was setting in we headed out of the cave.

4/8/93Wednesday 11am.

Gavin + Richard to rig F54,
to see if it might drop in to
F57.

Steve + Sam to have a look
at Sam's hole + other possible
leads at end of F57.

Steve, for one, feels utterly
drained of energy, despite
having 'slept' for 10hrs after
walking up from h.l. via Ario.

We have moved the Wild Cat
but so now it might be
sleepable in, rather than having a
floor like a cobbled street with
 $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cobbles missing.

F54 Richard + Gavin

4/8/83.

Gavin wanted to have a look at F54 a promising shaft found last year. After rigging down to the snow plug and then through the snow plug a large chamber was found with a rift leading off.

As it was now well & truly 'going' I put my caring gear on and joined Gavin at the chamber.

We followed the rift, every now and again having to climb high over boulders - the rift being v. tall.

One large choke was passed by climbing very high up and squeezing through boulders which led to more open rift.

However another similar choke was soon reached. Gavin succeeded in climbing up to a small hole which led into a chamber - the only lead being a difficult

overhanging climb which was not attempted. The rift was checked. A disappointing end to what had seemed a promising cave. Lick.

F57 Cuevo del Arco
Sam'n' Steve

4/5/13 ?

We decided to return to the bottom of F57 to investigate the possible leads. (and to rescue 'Jurassic Park' from the hole I climbed up the day before) Got down reasonably straightforwardly with only a little crepulence (Steve's generator acting up) and the gradual onset of Feeling Crap after days up here).

First we had a look at the dig down to snow hole to the left of the fork before the mammoth ice tower. This slopes down into an icy floored chamber with a vertical rock choke at the end. This had already been engineered

to a small body-sized hole by Gavis.
Steve now checked out a few more
boulders and I furtled up to see
what I could see - sweet FA. There
was just a large ($\sim 4\text{--}5$ m tall)
aren with an ice-up post on a shelf
and a much too tight rift ahead (which
was also checked).

We then returned to the main leads
after the climbs. Steve descended the
final pitch while I decided to try
and look at Gavis's high-level route
above and to the right of the final
pitch. After a chuggy climb which involved
Steve rapidly retreating from the boulder
lead to the blind wall at the bottom
of the end chamber, I reached an
even chussier looking overhanging roof of
fracturing looking proto-boulders. To the
front right, past a butttable traverse,
could be seen a wide (3.4 m)
shelf which seemed to be part of the

wet inlet dripping into the chamber below. This may continue backwards.

(Climbing back down to Steve we then went to investigate the tube in the wall (opposite the pitch). While Steve hammered a new bolt to replace my dodgy one, I dropped down the tube. It was several metres long, stopping at a floor in a sloping rift. In the continuing direction it immediately closed up, whilst in the double-back (toward the blind wall) direction it continued downwards into darkness, albeit via a too tight few metres. I optimistically suggested this might be hammerable - Steve pointed out that

'There is only one word for this. ... hopeless.'

After returning to the final chamber by ascending off the still-attached end of the rope (having decided any crawling pendules or swings were leg-breakers)

we chopped the rope (with rocks, flint, teeth and carbide flint - N.B. take a knife) and taking the rigging gear and 50 m (cut) and 25 m rope, we then headed for sunshine. (remembering to bring 'Jurassic Park' out)

- F60 -

Sam & Steve 4/8/93

We went after a splendid lunch of pasta - asparagus soup (together, of course) to find F14. Didn't find it but we did find another hole (labelled F60 - (F59, it now transpires, does not exist - F58 is a diggable slot (labelled) ~~above~~ in the sloping karra ~~at~~ above the F7 entrances.)

F60 is to the right, as you face uphill of the Verderynge Trench, roughly 50 m below the level of F41. It is a 2m x 4m hole surrounded by jagged loose rock. It doesn't go - I abseiled down the snow stunted ski-run to a depth of abt 30m, and checked all round the

snow - rock Sunday at the
 base - No way in. Not a nice
 place. On the way up I found
 my main Selay, the only 'sound'
 rock, was cracked all the way
 through.

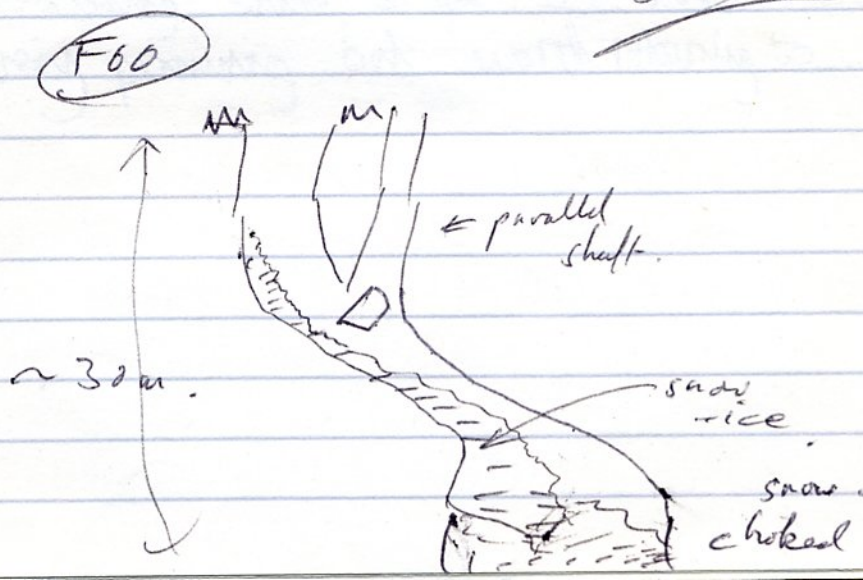
We didn't just file in
 the way down either.

Steve

5/8/93.

$\frac{1}{2}$ to 12. We all feel
 totally wasted & lie around.

Steve



F41 Gaining Richard 4/8/93

Rigged down the cave first pitch Y-hang of spike and bolt for descent down snow slope. Second pitch hung off large boulder (needs a bolt) for short descent to sloping floor, to top of a rift. There's a large jammed boulder above this rift, but I didn't trust it, so rigged off a spike with a bolt deviation. 20m down, I ran out of rope just as I hit a floor-descenting snow slope. It didn't look very promising, but worth returning to...

F41 Gami - Richur / 5/8/93

Continued from the point I'd reached yesterday. Put in a bolt to descend the snow slope - this was not fun, as the bolt kit is complete crap. Slithered down the snow slope with the rope rubbing everywhere, but I couldn't be bothered to rig it properly as it looked like it stopped just ahead. Crawled down through a small hole at the bottom, and suddenly it opened out into a large chamber, with the snow slope continuing down. Cursed not having brought more rope and a proper bolting kit. Headed out, adding a deviation to the third pitch on the way.

Rerigging still needed:

- Bolt at head of 2nd pitch
- Bolt deviation on (B) on snow slope.

5/8/93 17¹⁵ Ilka & Gerhard hit the Top after 6^{hr} walk from Lajos. Saw an eagle & several vultures (apart from 4-legged fauna). Everybody & his uncle has just left. Will be leaving too, back tomorrow.

THE BLACK 5L CONTAINER CONTAINS WATER FROM BOBIAS. PLEASE USE SPARINGLY. It is sterilized too. My bowls can be used for snow processing -

6/8/93 Gerhard hits Top c. 14¹⁰, followed by William, Steve Phipps & Paul M. c. 14⁴⁵ and Ilka c. 17¹⁵. Thanks Paul & Co for having carried up one empty Bleuet. (~~Apology~~ - Gumi told me that Bleuet had been thrown out of the kitchen ring earlier.)

7.8.93. Gerhard stood up at 6 a.m. to go to Lajos. Half an hour later, some words I'd better not write in a Log Book woke me up, semantically saying the following: not only the Bleuet was empty, but it was also broken and emptied a full gas cartridge we'd found yesterday evening in several seconds, letting out liquid gas that

cooled down everything in his proximity, including G.'s hands. G left at 7 a.m. finally

P.S: Went to get some snow yesterday

evening. Sorry, when the stove started

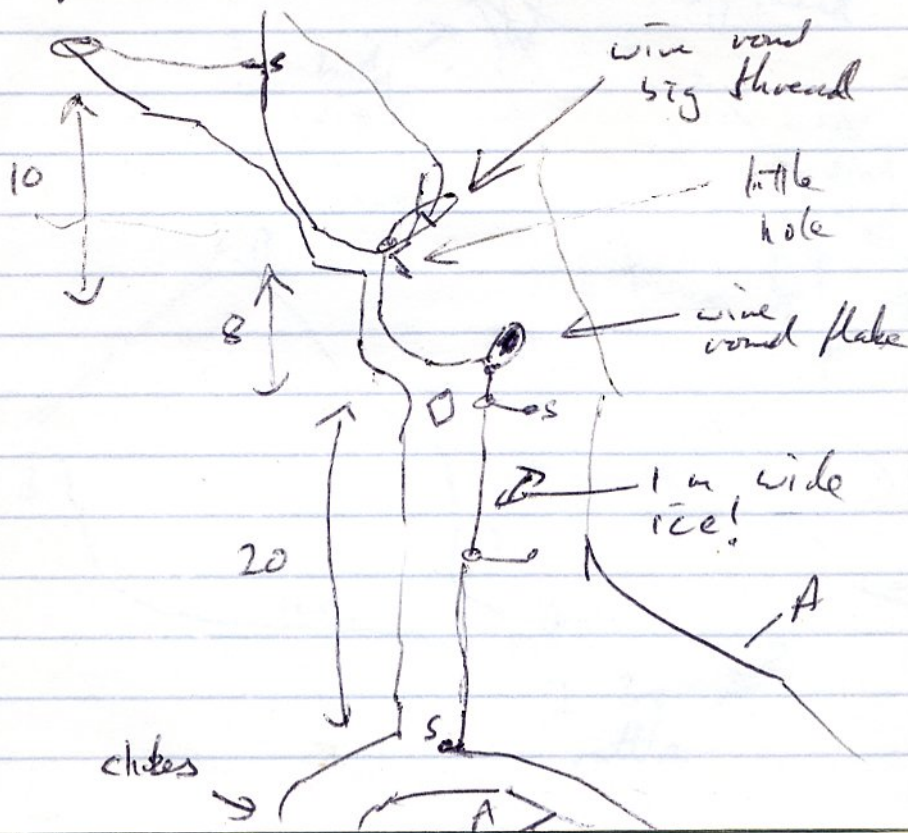
belching gas out at us, we just sort of threw it away from us.

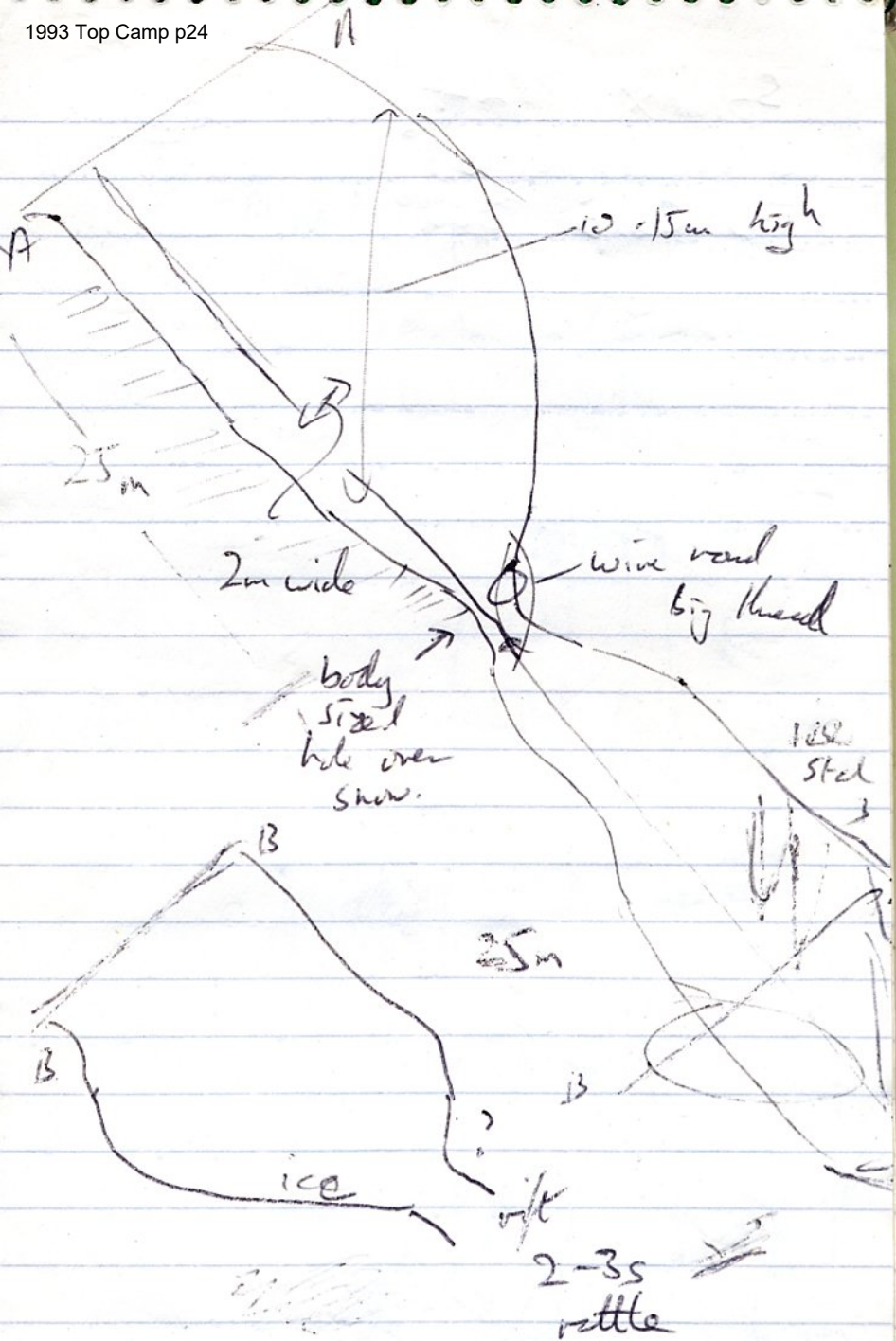
F41

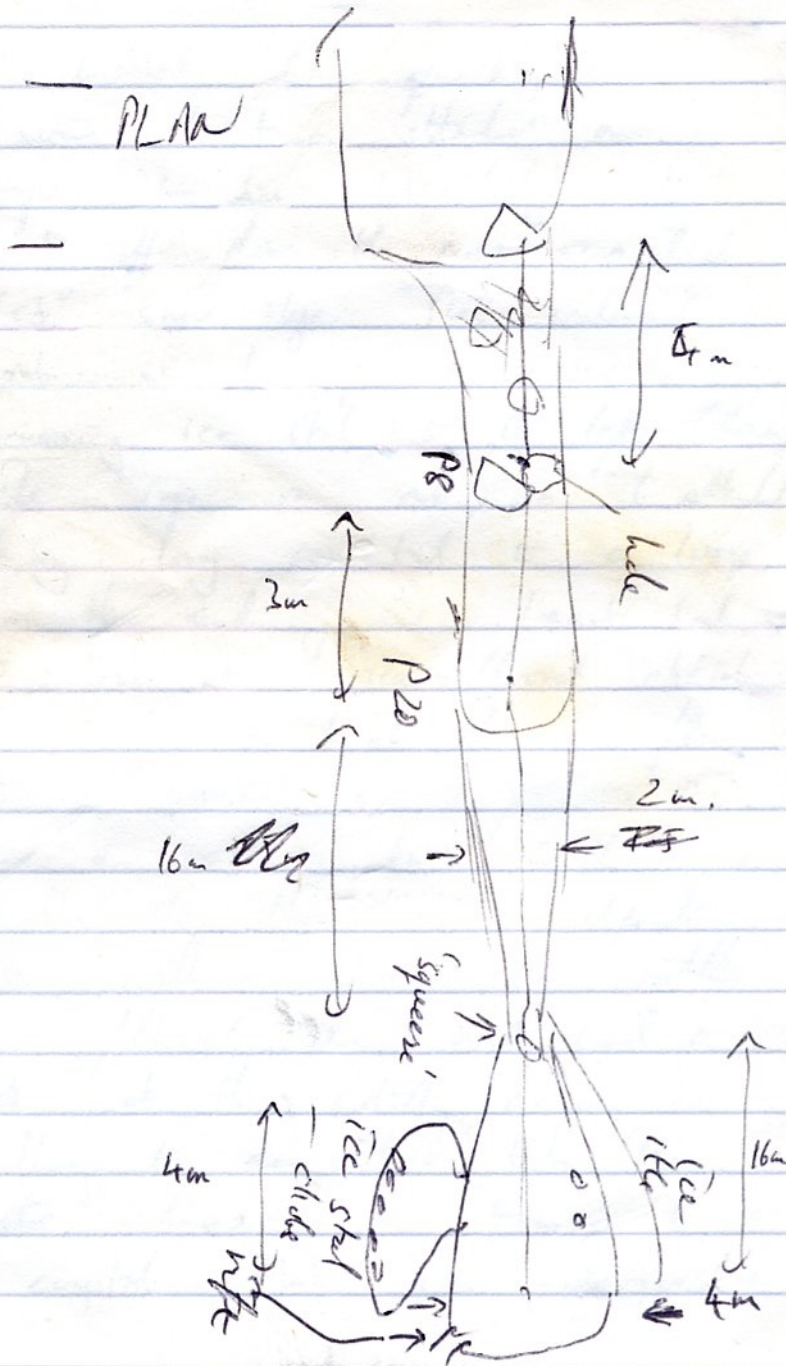
Stove in Sam

Still goes! We took a 25m rope, as G+I needed the 80m

F48







- F41 cut -

Tumbled down quickly to
 Lianna's limit - attached our
 rope to his last belay & I
 went off down the now expected
 45° snow slope. This indeed
 was as I passed some
 amazing ice stal to the left. (down)
 The rope ran out, so I attached
 to my long cows but to a loop
 in the end, and least had
 to look at the ice-floored chamber.
 There was a hint of a rift
 in one corner, so I ~~put~~
 found a rock or two in the snow
 & called them through - a definite
 rift, with a 2-3 sec. rattle
 Sam filled down, and had a
 look at the totally amazing ice
 gallery to one side - like 'the
~~the~~ columns' in transparent
 crystal. Then we derigged -

Sam had a look down a hole at the base of the 20m pitch (I was back to work the entrance) but it choked.

Back to camp, woke Richard up. Visibility still white but it might clear. Maybe.

It has now...

8/8/93 (Jeki's birthday trip) J & G

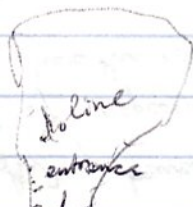
(F48) - rigged the 80m down the largest skylight from naturals (long & short tether), found another natural in the W wall of the Vestibule to drop part the snow into the rift, and now had 50m of rope left. Followed meander S/SE/S/SW/S... along the obvious traverse level, gradually losing (a) depth (b) sight of the pebble floor; the meander narrows drastically at all lower levels after 3 bends or so. Eventually got out of rope's reach without finding a pitch or anything else definite; traversing was made less pleasant by the onset of popcorn; so turned round to find some place where the rope could be more useful.

Continues.

~~Diagrams~~ Draughts.

see over for plan sketch

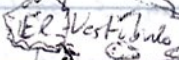
F48
plan
sketch



C3, at this year's snow levels

fault from F7A

belay here



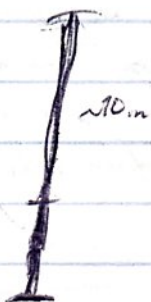
chic south
ramp

C4

pile of snow

skylights in the roof of
the Vestibule

end of snow



SIEETE ANOS

boulder ramp ascent

chalkstones at two levels

transverse level begins

floor drops again

MEABRO DE LOS

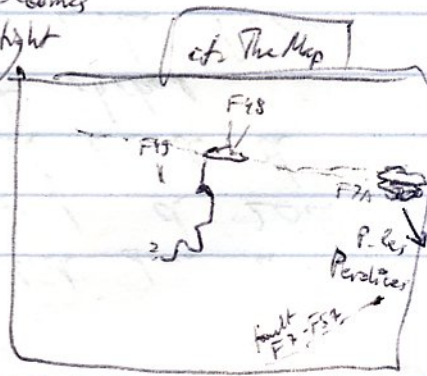
probably on line
1350 mag

floor level becomes
too tight

?

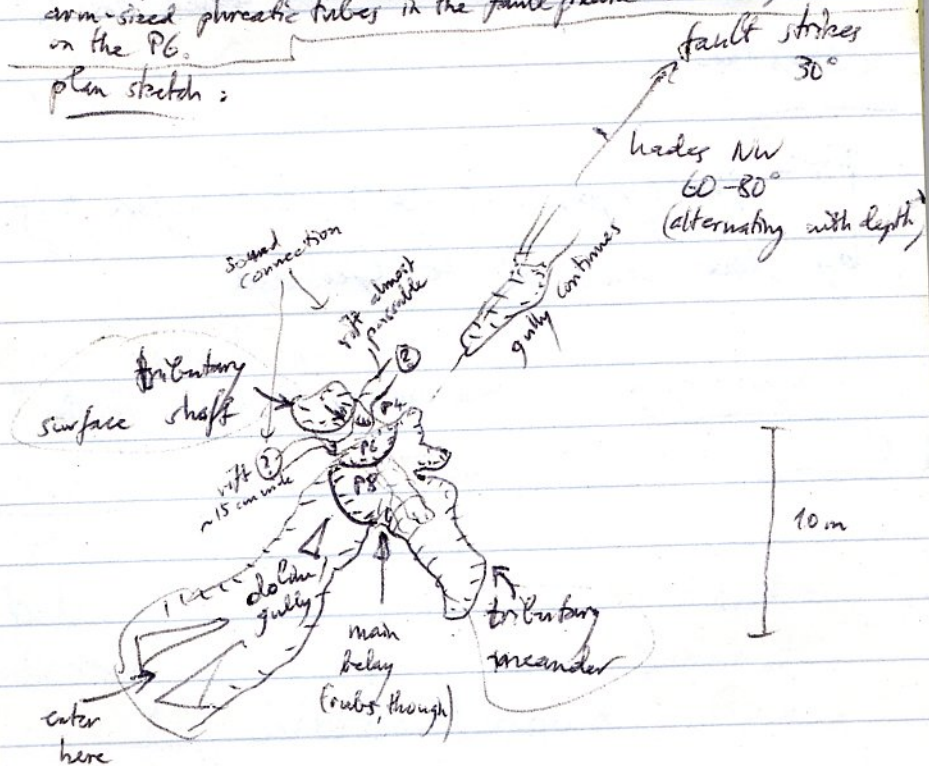
these are

of The Map



(F46) Rigged 80m rope from top end of gully (small tether) - where a mouse lives - to top of entrance pitch (another short tether), P8 landing on snow, then from tiny flake (tape) down continuation P6 in the NW wall, landing on snow-covered false floor in intersection of ~4 rifts, two of which come down from the entrance while the other two continue downward but are very narrow. Pebbles hit more snow after 3-4 m. Chisel would be needed to make this passable. (Ikea might fit "as is" ...); a short pitch would follow immediately. - Rift initiation from arm-sized phreatic tubes in the fault plane is clearly visible on the P6.

plan sketch:



9/8/93

Updated inscriptions to match the present state of exploration

F44	○	→	⊗
F46	○	→	⊗
F47	○	→	⊗
F48	○	→	⊗

Didn't cross out F57 as I couldn't be bothered to re-rij the 200 and absent on a cow's tail...

Gehard

F57 photographed & detailed^{*} before this^{kk}
by Jehu, Steve R & Gehard

^{kk} mostly by G.

^{kk} mostly by Steve "Jim Fine"

Team F14^{*} carrying one pot of paint have found another new shaft and labelled it F59. Team F5^{my tick} have also found another shaft and labelled it F59. Moral - keep all the paint in one place....

9 August 93

* Rob, Sam, Steve &

~~John~~ Gerhard, Steve R

10 August 93

The "F53" below F57 will be relabelled (F42) in honour to Douglas Adams' law and in view of the fact that that number has remained unused for 4 years.

Gerhard

9/8/93Rob, Sam, Steve

Our aim was to push F14 (despite being described as ⊗ in the shaft bashing guide) and then shaft bash the area behind the ridge that heads down NW from the Summit of La Verdallergua. Finding

F14 was distinctively a case of easier said than done, involving in part navigating relative to an outcrop of limestone that looks ~~like~~ like a Crocodile to everyone else here and an outcrop of limestone to me. In the process, I rediscovered F60 and Sam discovered a double shaft which we soon bottomed and decided to designate F59. Using the old paint, we labelled the twin shafts of F60 as 'F60A' and 'F60B' and similarly for F59. While we were doing this, Rob had a fettle and found F50 and F51. F50 is described in the shaft bashing guide as being close to F14 and so by splitting up

and combing the immediate vicinity, we soon found ~~the~~ our destination. While Rod and I dived on the surface, Sam spent $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours attempting but failing to find any way on. I remarked the Entrance as the old paint marking was almost invisible.

⊗ F59 A-B. On left-hand side of outcrop of limestone, halfway up green valley from T.C. to La Verdellergera, level with overhanging bluff.

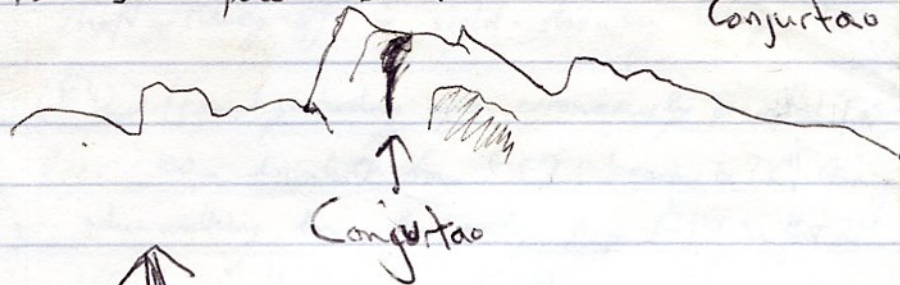
A is a 7m deep shaft leading to bouldery floor with no way on. B is an immediately adjacent 5m deep shaft with a bouldery floor. Hole at bottom gives aural and visual connection with bottom of A, but is much too

tight to fit through
 Bearing of 302° to T.C.

⊗ F14

OF64, up to 8 second rattle with
 hidden impression entrance high up on
 Verdellengen on steep slope. Just up
 and west a bit from E9 (also with
 298° look) and other entrances too.

~~highest~~ highest peak is about 100m below?
 342° snow pole $\leftarrow 298^\circ$ \nwarrow Conjurtao



10/8

Sharp bashing Sunny Steve, Rob



Steve, Rob, Sam10/8/93Shaft-bashing

F62 - Obvious surface rift choked in places. ~ 8 m climb down, sharp in places, to choked floor.

Verdellage = 111° , Spine = 129°

Behind and to left (looking at Verd.) of climb over cliff; E of camp

(↓ Andy and Pivo)

Ilka & Gerhard + 2 Hungarians 10 Aug '93

shaft-tiding-off & sight-showing W of T.C.

(F42) (found yesterday and erroneously printed "F55")

loc: 100 m downhill from F57, bearing to T.C. 66° mag when walking down the gully from F57, in the 2nd hillback on the righthand side.

descr.: Open shaft rigged as a P7 from natural leads in choked cobble-floored chamber; all ways on lead back up to the surface. Crossed out ~~⊗~~.

(F31) One red herring... passing the snow, got to 11 m depth on rope hung from obvious flake. Way on is obstructed by large but removable

boulder. Beyond is boulder pile descending for 2.5m until it meets the roof. It is difficult to say whether a continuation to either side exists, though this seems unlikely. Left it crossed out.

Unmarked rift 25m SW from F31 (uphill):

C3+P3 in S-trending rift land on cobbles + snow. Tiny hole in S end gives view of floor 6m down. Alternatively climb back up 2m above hole and thrust forward in tight rift to look down an oval $80\text{cm} \times 48\text{cm}$ "shaft" ending at a similar level. Just below the -7m level, the calcite suddenly becomes encrusted with a dense layer of quartz crystals on all sides.

Unmarked entrance up ridge of top of ~~the~~ Brown Gully (the middle one mentioned a propos F25 in the Shuff Bashby Guide):
Ends ~5m down on pebble floor.

The last two remain unmarked. (gear)
Got a look into Ridge Cave (no rope) y.
for tourism.

Stashed for '96 in cave

10m ENE of T. C. Cave (the "usual" place of earlier years, next to Jan Houghton's drum of Mark VI F20 route-marking wire...)

2 tins of tomatoes ('97), 2 tins of milk powder ('97)

2 containers of carbide inside black plastic bag

6 wellington boots 2 fuel

2 red washing-bowls

2 large watercontainers (rectangular)

1 hooley saddle-bag (snow container)

2 saucepans (large & small)

Unstashed & thrown away one pair of completely rotten gloves left over from '86.

End of this
Top Camp

12 Aug '93
Lyons