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# SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 31

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MARCH 1960.

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## 1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1960.

The Annual General Meeting of the South Wales Caving Club will be held in the Gwyn Arms at 7.30 p.m. on Easter Sunday, 17th April 1960. Notice of any proposed changes to the constitution should be sent to the Hon. Sec. before Sunday, 3rd April 1960 together with the names of proposer and seconder.

D. W. Jenkins, (Hon. Sec. )

## 2. CLUB NEWS.

### PROGRESS AT PENWYLLT.

With the plumbing all but completed and most of the major outside work done, attention is being concentrated on the inside of the New H.Q. The main tasks have been divided up among a number of members who will be organising their own working weekends and the Committee hopes that all Club members will give them the maximum support. The biggest job remaining will be plastering and decoration which cannot very well be tackled until last, but this problem is to be assaulted "en masse" by as many members (and non-

members) as we can muster on the day. Personally the Hon. Ed. is looking forward to the day when the showers are "on" as he lacks a bath in his own establishment now!

Members may be interested to hear that 68 of their member have contributed £225.7.6 to date. There's still time for the others to get their stake in the new H.Q.

DIVING OPERATION O.F.D. EASTER SUNDAY.

Conditions permitting, it is proposed to hold an all-S.W.C.C. diving operation in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu on Easter Sunday in order to look again at the sumps on the far side of Boulder Chamber. Subject to the usual maladies attendant on divers and their equipment, it is hoped to enter the cave at 11 a.m. and be out in good time for the A.G.M. All offers of help will be greatly welcomed. Diving base this time will be Boulder Chamber from where (if the support allows) two divers will enter Hush Sump en route for Wells' and Buxtons original dive in Pot Sump and beyond. (Of course, if Cwmdwr Quarry dig gets there first we just shan't bother!)

M.R.O. RESCUE APPARATUS RESEARCH FUND.

All contributions to the above fund should be forwarded to the Hon. Cave Rescue Organiser of the S.W.C.C. Gordon Clissold, The Meend, Staunton, Nr. Coleford, Gloucestershire.

NEW MEMBERS.

We welcome the following new members to the club.

- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| D.R. James.    | Miss. B. Morris Davies.    |
| D.H. Lloyd.    | Miss. Diana Wynne Harries. |
| J.M. Bement.   | Miss. Gillian Davies.      |
| P. Williams.   | Miss. Delyth Evans.        |
| A.J. Paradise. |                            |

O.F.D. LEADERS.

The following members have been elected to the O.F.D. Leaders List.

I Holmes and L. Galpin.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

J.K.Platt, 35, Hunton Road, Erdington, Birmingham 23.

CONGRATULATIONS.

- To Mr. and Mrs. Bill Basham on the birth of a daughter.
- To Ruth Barrows and Bill Toye on their engagement.
- To Jean Austin and Brian Fenn on their engagement
- To Mr. and Mrs. J. Hartwel on their recent marriage.

LAPSED MEMBERSHIP.

K. Gower; J. Robinson; D.L. Thomas; D.I.W. Turner.

3. CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION MEETING AT SETTLE.

Following an invitation of the C.R.O. of Yorkshire to attend a meeting Gordon Clissold and I set off for Settle on September 19th. 1959. The meeting which was attended by some 35-40 people was held at the Ashfield Hotel. Amongst those present were representatives from the C.R.O's of Yorkshire, Mendip and South Wales, representatives from the Yorkshire and Derbyshire police and the West Riding Ambulance Service, the Mountain rescue Organisation and firms supplying diving and air resuscitation equipment. At the meeting we were joined by John Parkes and Roddie Pearce.

The meeting opened with the appointment of Graham Watson as Chairman and R. Hainsworth as Secretary, after which each person present introduced himself. Representatives from each C.R.O. gave an account of their own system of rescue organisation and then the meeting discussed the two following major points:-

1. How should one C.R.O. call out another?
2. Whose responsibility is it to make an outside call for help.

Both questions were thoroughly argued over and on the advice of the police the following important decisions were reached:-

1. Call-out from one C.R.O. to another to be made ONLY through the police.
2. The responsibility for the call-out of another C.R.O. should be made by the police on the advice of the rescue warden in charge of the rescue.

It was added that after the police had made the initial call-out then the warden of one C.R.O. could speak to the warden of another C.R.O. to discuss any special equipment or other arrangements that may be needed.

Following this a discussion took place on the availability of specialists and although the matter was left open it was felt desirable that a list should be available under the following headings:-

1. Doctors.
2. First-Aid personnel.
3. Divers.
4. Explosive licence holders.

After dinner the equipment which had been assembled was examined. This included diving and air apparatus from Yorkshire and Mendip together with drilling equipment from Yorkshire

On Sunday after a pleasant nights camping on the banks of the Ribble we assembled at Turn Dubs for a demonstration of diving equipment. Proceedings were not hampered by the Rover which kept on wandering up and down the lane

before finally coming to a halt and thus adding our Chairman Edward Aslett to our party.

The demonstration was most effective but not so the drilling demonstration at Calf Holes although this was no fault of the demonstrators. At the same time as these demonstrations were taking place the ambulance service was staging a communication exercise with their portable transmitters.

The tangible results of this very worthwhile meeting have already been stated but I feel that we gained a great deal more by seeing the enthusiasm not only on the part of the cavers, but by the police, ambulance service and local residents. For the want of a better word it was an "eye-opener" and we who cave in South Wales would do well to profit by it.

D.W. Jenkins.

#### 4. REFLECTIONS ON EXHAUSTION.

Due to the increase of incidents concerning speleologists suffering from exhaustion, it has become apparent that reflection on this subject is long overdue. In South Wales it has not been necessary to call out the Cave Rescue Organisation to effect a rescue, as in some areas, but there have been one or two minor incidents which stress the need to outline some of the causes of these incidents. Many accidents are caused by unfortunate circumstances beyond our control but an accident from exhaustion need never occur, if previous steps are taken. Below I have attempted to list the causes and suggested means of prevention which are probably by no means complete but provide a standard by which the number of incidents may be decreased.

##### CAUSES OF INCIDENTS.

1. Lack of experience.
2. Insufficient nourishment.
3. Inadequate equipment and clothing.
4. Concealment of inexperience to leader.
5. Attempting too arduous an expedition.
6. Concealment of fatigue.
7. Mental fatigue and infection
8. Lack of leadership.

##### SUGGESTED PREVENTION.

1. Self explanatory.
2. Never cave on an empty stomach or go long without food.
3. Never rush the preparations for an expedition, and make sure you have emergency equipment
4. Inform your leader of your capabilities so he may determine which trip to choose. Do not create a false impression of your experiences.
5. Do not join a party who are attempting an arduous expedition unless it is well within your capabilities.

6. If you begin to tire inform your leader so he may take the necessary action to ensure your safe exit.

7. Do not join an expedition if you have little interest in its purpose, as lack of interest, long waiting about, dismal surroundings etc., will lead to mental distress and finally exhaustion. This in its turn can affect the morale of the rest of the party and there maybe further cases of exhaustion.

8. Leadership.

a. Do not overtax the strength of inexperienced cavers. What may be an easy trip to you now, would take twice as much energy for a novice, due to the fact that experience has taught you the various easy ways of movement in a cave and familiarity with the route.

b. Ensure that your party have fed, as a misguided member will sometimes miss a meal so as not to miss a trip.

c. Even if you are in a hurry to get started, do not rush your party in their preparations and see they are adequately equipped. Too often a party is taken underground with insufficient equipment, and this practice should stop.

d. Try to assess the strength of your party, set the standard of the trip by the least experienced member and keep him to the front so that you may give him the best possible assistance.

e. Do not take inexperienced cavers on arduous trips.

f. Instil confidence with your party, so that if a member does feel tired he will not be embarrassed to inform you.

g. Try to keep the numbers of members in an expedition manageable.

Large party means long waits at squeezes and pitches and soon morale drops if the party is waiting in a draught or a confined space. If a long wait is anticipated, it is far better to halt the party in as comfortable a position as possible and filter a few at a time through from that position.

h. If a member of your party shows any sign of fatigue try to get him out right away, as the effects of exhaustion are quite swift. If it is not possible to make an exit remove the casualty to somewhere comfortable where he will require warmth, rest and food. Unfortunately the surroundings do not help but a good supply of sucrose and pep pills should enable the casualty to get out under his own steam. This state of affairs should never arise if prior precautions are taken.

REQUEST TO O.F.D. LEADERS.

Leaders are requested to remove the rubbish gradually collecting in O.F.D. Some sections are a disgrace to the club and no party goes in without a leader! So lets make an effort and try to keep the cave as rubbish free as it was found.

G.L. Clissold.

THE CALCITE TOADSTOOL : LLYGAD LLWCHWR

On the rare occasions when water conditions permit, it is possible to wade upstream from the entrance slope of the second river chamber and by shuffling along an underwater ledge on the left-hand side to gain access to a sloping ledge in a bay some five or six feet above stream level. The floor of the ledge is comprised of coarse loose sandy silt, presumably deposited by flood waters of the main stream, and on the ledge about two feet from the point where the roof meets the ledge is the formation I call "The Calcite Toadstool".



Fig.1.

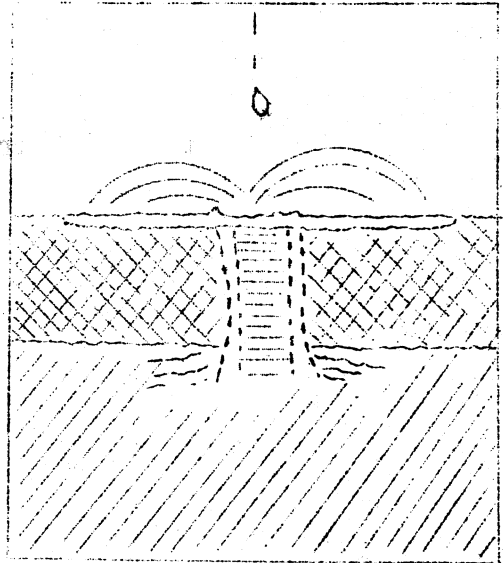


Fig.2.

Fig.1.above is a black-and-white reproduction of a colour transparency and Fig.2. is a sketch illustrating the method of formation. The view that the Toadstool exhibits features associating it with the "rim build-up" at surface level of a pool does not influence my own views on how this 'creature' came about. To my mind it is clear that the stem - which is hollow - is a remnant driphole. The silt surrounding the hole has absorbed the calcium loaded dripwater and has itself calcified to form the stem. The flat top represents the splash area around the driphole which formed during the early stages of the deepening of the driphole. At a very much later date, an extremely high flood or series of high floods has washed away the top couple of inches of silt from the ledge leaving the calcited tube and splash ring high and dry. The force of the stream may have tilted the Toadstool from vertical or this present state-of-affairs may simply be due to subsequent settling of the silt following floods.

I could find no traces of similar dripholes on the ledge nor evidence of the origin of the drip on the roof. Similarly, the walls showed no sign of the existence of a pool in earlier days. It is unlikely that this was an isolated driphole: others have presumably been eradicated by the floods.

Les.Hawes. December, 1959.

## 6. FRANCE 1958 (Part 2)

We then decided to make for Les Eyzies, 'the capital of pre-history', about 12 miles lower down the Vezere. Avoiding the tourist route down the valley, we followed the left bank to Sorgeac, then climbed up a picturesque road winding through pinewoods (an unsurfaced, unsignposted road), along the top of a ridge, and down an even steeper and more delightful road into another valley, a tributary of the Vesere. We were now getting into real cave-looking country with limestone cliffs on either side of the valley, with holes in. Our final descent into this valley was down a steep double hairpin bend in a gap in a cliff, so we stopped at the foot of the cliff and went for a short walk to look at some interesting-looking holes. They didn't 'go', of course, but at least they were genuine caves.

We were intrigued by a notice board at the edge of a wood saying 'Defense de chasser ou truffer' (Hunting and truffling forbidden). Perigord is famous, not only for caves, but also for truffles and foie-gras, or, as some people might say 'Perigord is famous for Truffles and foie-gras (also for caves). Truffles are a form of fungus which grow completely underground, and are dug up with the help of pigs who can smell them and root them up. The season for truffling is from November to January. We later kept on seeing 'Defense de Truffer' notices.

Our first stop in the Les Eyzies area was Les Combarelles. This was one of the caves advised by the Speleo Club, one of the few they picked out for us out of the hundreds of 'grottes' marked on the map.

A high cliff by the roadside, with a cottage built into it, a car park, and signposts marked the site. After paying a very modest sum (compared with Lascaux) we were allowed to wander in on our own. We followed a narrow water-worn passage in places enlarged slightly, artificially, lit by only an occasional light, for about 200 ft. until we met a guide, and the rest of our 'party'. The attractions of Combarelles is its engravings. Most of these are very indistinct, and if it had not been for the guide shining a light at just the right angle and tracing the outlines with a stick, we would probably have missed them altogether. Bison were much in evidence, also mammoths, stags and a giraffe. It was explained to us how the artists used the natural bumps in the rock to emphasise the various parts of the animals. For example the head would be drawn round a projection in the rock, so that the effect was to make a low-relief carving. There were no paintings, except a few outlines in black of a very indistinct nature. Much imagination was needed to make 'head or tail' of them. In the end, we felt we were quite well up in our vocabulary of parts of the body; as the guide pointed out the pictures he gave a running commentary, which went something like this: 'Voici un bison; voici la tete, le dos, la queue, les pates arrieres, le ventre, les pates avant, le cou, la bouche, le nez, les yeux, les oreilles et les cornes. Voici un autre bison,' etc...

There were no large chambers in this cave; the average size of the single meandering passage was about 5 ft. wide by 10 ft. high, containing several attractive dried up formations. The engravings were discovered about 1900.

Back at the entrance, there was another passage beside the one we had entered, but we were told that this was worth another entrance fee. We managed to find out that the chief attractions in there were formations, so we kept our money.

The next grotte along the road was Font de Gaume, another 'must' for prehistoric tourists. But when we got there it was shut for the night; it was now about 6.0 p.m., so we had to give up that idea. Instead, we went up the dry valley below the cave in search of the Grotte de la Mouthe, and also to take photos of the wonderful smooth curves of the waterworn formations of the 200 ft. cliffs above Font de Gaume.... and so into the village of Les Eyzies itself - a large village full of hotels, with a lot of the houses built into the cliffs. The back rooms having solid rock walls and the front rooms projecting from the cliff face.

Having now at last reached Les Eyzies itself, we drove through without stopping - we thought it worth making straight for the Grotte de la Mouthe in the hope that it might still be open. The road passed under the Rocher de la Peine, an extraordinary thin rock shelf jutting out from the cliff immediately above the road, and then turned up a steep, winding hill through pinewoods for about a mile, finishing in a farmyard. Not a soul in sight, not a car nor even a car park and no sign of a grotte, except a little notice saying enquire within for the guide. So we knocked her up, and she seemed pleased to take our money, and led the way along a woodland path, complete with carbide lamps and torches. Evidently electric light was not one of the amenities of this cave. She expounded at length on the attractions of the cave, which made us a little apprehensive; we had heard tales of some of the less desirable French cavés - parties of tourists being led for miles through fields and woods to see 'the most marvellous cave in France' only to be shown a single small chamber by the light of one carbide lamp.

However, in 200 yards we were there. The cave entrance is a large rock shelter with a flat arch roof, but a few feet back from the cliff face this has been walled up, and a door was unlocked for us. Immediately inside is a large room with a dry mud floor, where archaeological excavations have been carried out. The cave was lived in at one time and stone implements and pots have been found; we were shown a stone oil lamp, and also a fine set of fossilised teeth and part of the jawbone of a stag. The way on from the entrance hall into the cave itself had been completely dug through the dry mud in the lowest corner of the chamber. We were then led through a series of small chambers connected by low passages most of which had been heightened by digging a path in the floor, so that it was possible to walk more or less erect all the way. Some of these chambers were very well decorated with large stalactities, stalagmites, and columns.

The final chamber, larger than the rest, contained the paintings. These we were informed, were the first paintings to be found in that area (if not in France), in about 1890. This seems strange in view of the fact that they are such a long way in, and that a lot of digging must have been done to reach them. But, on the other hand, the cave entrance had been an archaeological dig for some time. The chief masterpiece is the drawing of a house, the only drawing of a prehistoric dwelling known. It is merely a steeply-pitched roof and no walls, like a low ridge tent, and striped vertically with various colours; presumably made of branches covered with mud. There are no people in the drawing, but plenty of the usual animals; bison, mammoths, cows etc., and these also appear in other parts of the same chamber. Most of the drawings are not very clear.

I enquired whether I might take photographs (this being a rather more informal cave than most) and was told that I could, subject to conditions. As these turned out to be the payment of more money and a ban on photos of the drawings, I thought better of it.

(To be continued)

Seaton Phillips



YUGOSLAVIA 1959.

With conversion work at the Penwyllt HQ being No.1 priority last year and caving "just not done old boy" we decided to get our caving in undetected by Big Brother beyond the Welsh border. 'We' being Lewis RAILTON, Les & Jan Hawes (travelling in Lewis's Austin Cambridge) and Bill Birchenough, David Hunt, Clive & Arnold Jones (travelling in Bill's Morris 1000 Van). Needless to say, the packing and seating arrangements in this latter vehicle gave rise to varied reactions such as amusement, consternation, horror and disbelief, at sundry Frontier Posts.

We made the Channel crossing by air from Lydd to Calais and motored through France, Switzerland and Italy, to arrive at Opatija on the Northern Adriatic coast three-and-a-bit days later. Our caving programme was not due to start until July 5th so we spent these first few days at this very pleasant coastal resort relaxing in the sun, swimming, and skin-diving. Opatija itself is in the limestone area and we looked at many fair-sized risings at beach level along the coast, not to mention one very large one coming from under our hotel !! The resurgence water was 52° - 56° F compared with the sea temperature of 64° - 68° F which made thermometers superfluous as the remarks and reactions of the swimmer on passing from sea water to cave water were quite adequate indication of the whereabouts of risings. One excursion along the coast to the Roman Amphitheatre at Pula took us through a magnificent area of bare limestone platforms which abounded with vertical solution holes.

Lewis, David and I, having been in Yugoslavia in 1955, had contacted our guide and friend of the previous trip, Ivan Gams, and we were again fortunate enough to have his services and companionship for the rest of our holiday. On July 4th we picked him up at Rijeka and set off down the coastal road into Croatia. With the long Adriatic island of Krk in the background we stopped to see the main risings in the sea just off the coast and found these to be fantastic affairs with turbulent circles of water varying from five to fifteen feet in diameter breaking the surface of the Adriatic. Later in the holiday, Bill swam round these risings but could not get down to the sea bed because of the tremendous force of the rising water. We left the coastal road by Karlobag and wound up a rough mountain road with fine views of the Adriatic Islands scattered along the coast and we arrived at Gospic - our caving centre for this area - in the evening.

Our programme was due to start on the following day with visits to two caves at Cerovacke - the Donja (lower) and Gorna (upper) caves. With clouds of white dust swirling in our wake we bumped along country roads to Gracec where the keys of the lower cave were to be collected. Many minutes (and slivovitches) elapsed before Lewis and Ivan returned, accompanied by the local Bank Manager (who no doubt closed the Bank) and we were told of a nearby unexplored pot of unknown depth. The visit to the Cerovacke Pecine was unanimously postponed and we got the cars over a few fields to within about twenty yards of the pot. It was at the end of a dried-up watercourse which obviously drained the whole of the valley in wet times. The first pitch was laddered and a boulder-strewn floor reached at approx. 71 feet. A small rift passage led out and down to the restricted entrance of a second pitch. A further descent was made and the head of a third pitch was established some 110 feet below the head of the second pitch. To tackle this third shaft we were forced to use the ladder from the entrance pitch, and with this, a further 80 feet was descended, still leaving an estimated 100 feet between the last rung and the bottom of the pitch.

By this time our tackle and manpower resources were getting rather stretched and to continue downwards we were faced with removing the ladder from the second pitch and with the assault party getting smaller and smaller all the time as people were left at the various belay points. So we called exploration to a halt and withdrew to the surface. Ivan Gams carried out a rough Survey on his way up and with our grateful thanks to him this is reproduced on the next page. The immense proportions of the second and third pitches with their walls thick with calcite flow made a great impression on those who made the full descent and at the time of writing this article arrangements are well in hand for a return visit - with much more tackle and more bods - in 1961.

Next day we visited the National Park at Plitvice. This is a magnificent area. The Park contains sixteen or seventeen lakes of a creamy light blue colour all flowing over and round tufa barriers. The levels between each lake formed waterfalls of heights ranging from several feet to several hundreds of feet. The whole area is roughly pathed and bridged and abounds in shrubs and trees. Limestone cliffs tower on both sides of the valley and cave entrances are in evidence at frequent intervals.

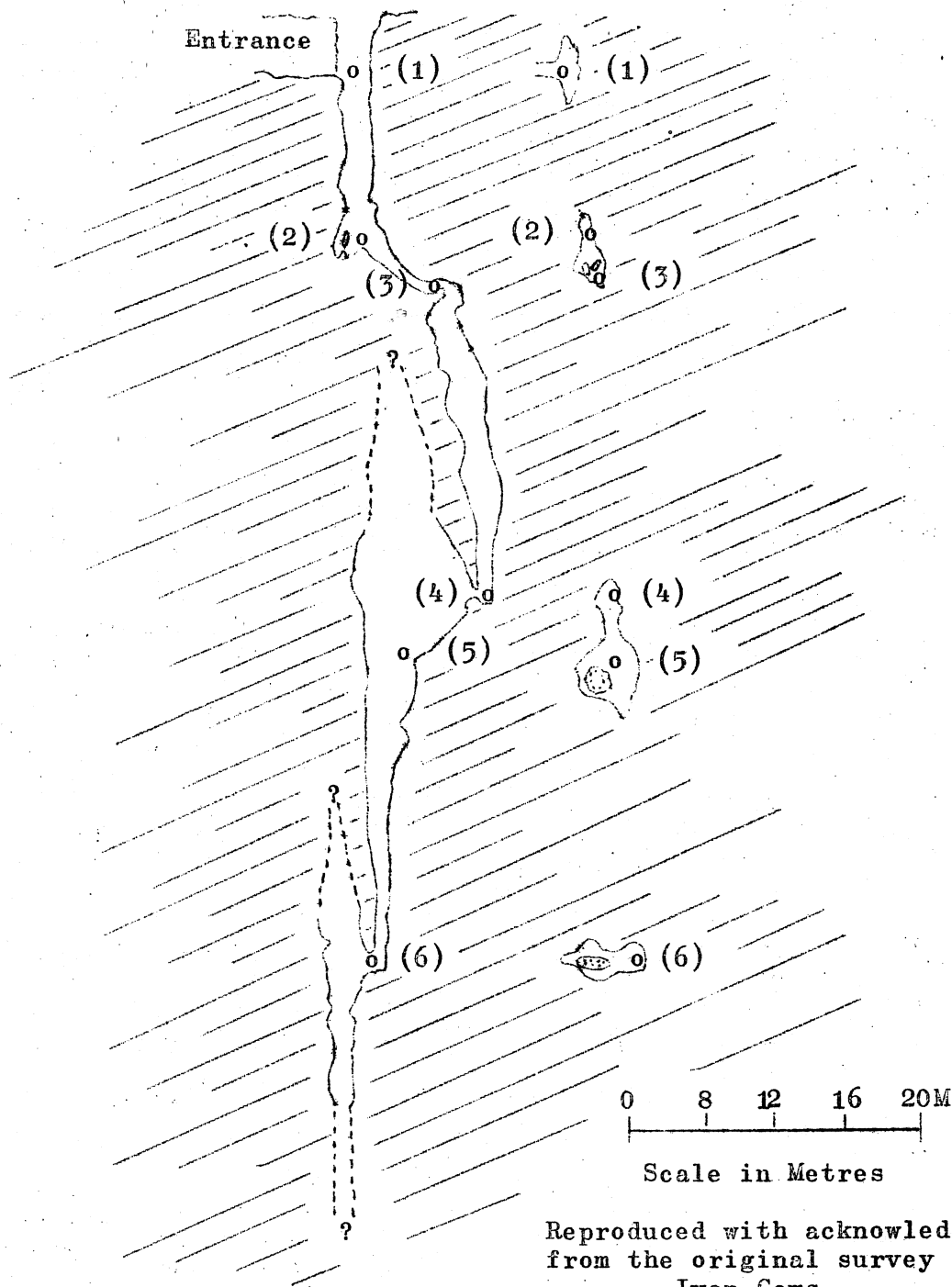
On the following day we returned to Gracec and made an early start into the lower Cerovacke cave. Throughout, the cave was finely decorated with stal. flows, huge stalagmites and columns, and little time elapsed before the photographers were jostling for position. The chambers and passages grew larger as we went deeper and at one point we had a forty foot descent to make on the remains of a stout wooden ladder. The cave ended with the large passage dropping steeply with row after row of rimstone barriers stretching from wall to wall. The bottom picture on the following page gives an idea of the impressive sight they presented. Returning to daylight, our party split into two groups - Lewis, Ivan and I, setting off up the wooded hillside for the upper cave whilst the rest of the party went back down to see the sinks of the polje nearby. The upper cave was a larger reproduction of the lower cave with equally fine adornment. The masterpiece was an array of huge white stalagmites and columns in the final chamber which the top picture illustrates.

Next day we went across country to the largest polje in the area, that of the Lipovo. The River Licka was at low summer level and practically all the valley floor was dry and under cultivation for the summer. The lower end of the valley contained many deep watercourses which had been artificially floored and walled to speed the flood water into its subterranean route so that cultivation of the surrounding land could start as early as possible. Several of the watercourses led into vertical shafts of considerable depth and the River Licka was itself dropping with great force into a small fissure in the valley.

July 9th and we packed and set off for Slovenia via the Adriatic coast road. We can now look back with detached amusement on the terrors of night driving in Croatia with its clouds of white dust on roads which "disappeared" and the hazards presented by the huge hay-laden bullock carts trundling along narrow tracks without lights. En route to Postojna we paid a visit to Skocjanska Jama and once again we wondered at the feats of the visitors of earlier days on the old "tourist route" which looked to us, despite the iron pegs and few bits of cable, a 'super severe' at the best of times. They must certainly have been so busy hanging on for dear life that they can't have had much time or opportunity for seeing the cave.

T U Č I Ć P O N O R

Gračac, Croatia.



Reproduced with acknowledgements  
from the original survey by  
Ivan Gams.

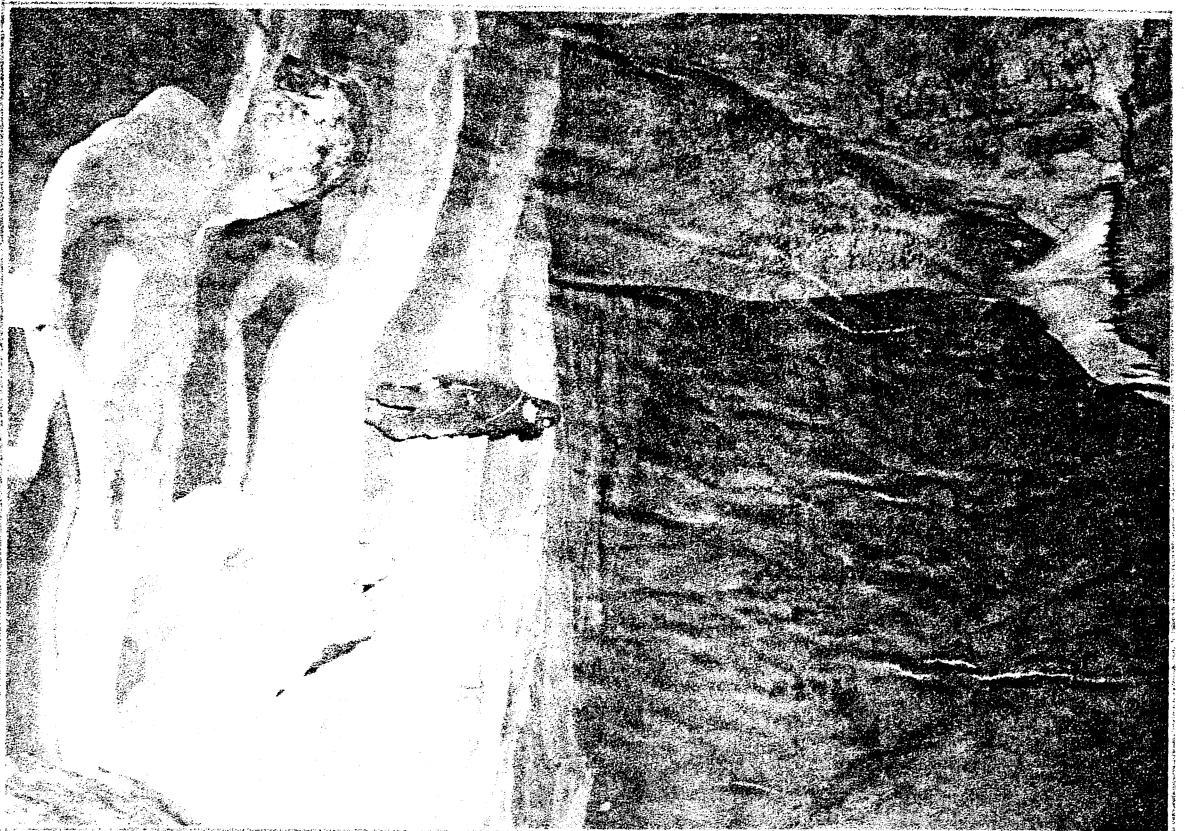
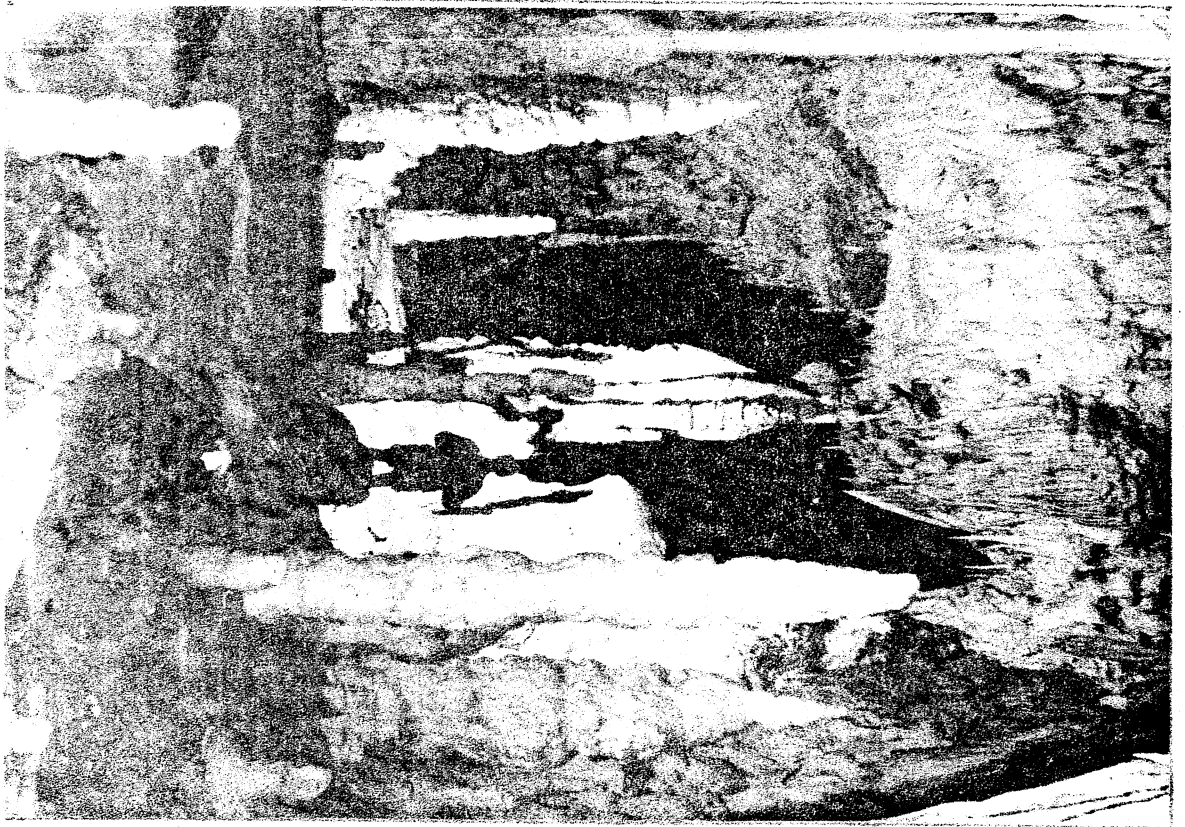
On Friday we went into Malograjska Jama - a cave with two large rivers, the Pivka and the Rak, meeting in its equally large passages. The upstream trip in our three K-type dinghies was a struggle against fast-flowing water and the dinghies had to be ported round an 18ft. waterfall and on the rocky banks whenever footholds were available. It was nearly a wet return journey as two dinghies were badly holed and only Lewis's prompt and resourceful action saved the third from disaster. A wonderful cave with its huge river passages and the roar of the river but a cave that calls for more robust forms of water transport than our ex-RAF dinghies. In one of the lakes we saw our first cave crayfish.

Keeping up with the programme of a cave a day, next day we did a leisurely trip into Predjama. Squelching over the massive mud banks in the lower series we found the water level favourable and were able to get into the final chamber and down into the small twisting stream passage, the dimensions of which made us feel at home for once. Out early despite the photographers, we went to the Skocjan Valley where the River Rak reappears after its journey underground from the Lake of Cerknica and flows in a deep gorge through natural limestone bridges and the remnants of huge river caves, flanked by 150ft. high limestone walls. At the lower end, the river leaves the valley to disappear into Skocjanska and finally to reappear in Malograjska.

Krizna Jama .... THE CAVE as far as I am concerned. A second ten-hour trip across its lakes and barriers reaffirmed everything I thought about the cave in 1955. It has an abundance of all those things a good river cave should have - a river flowing gently in lofty river passages, still lakes of crystal clear light green water deepening with depth through dark green to black, wonderful formations in and alongside the river, and the fine displays at The Calvary and in the Mayjazev Hall. The most strenuous part of the trip, if one overlooks the effort of propelling heavy wooden boats (without a sharp end too !!) with bits of plank, was the portage of the boats over Krizna Gora. How well-named is this forty feet high jumble of fallen blocks between two lakes - the Mountain of Trouble !!

On our last day in Yugoslavia we enjoyed a tourist trip into Postojna Jama, that wonder of all commercial caves, and then we set off for the Austrian Frontier calling at Ljubljana and Bled on the way. Next day we went up into the Gross Glockner Pass and stayed up there most of the day in changeable but generally glorio weather with fine views of the twin peaks and the surrounding snow-capped mountains. Our visit included a scramble down to the main glacier of the area.

Following our arrival in Salzburg next day we were entertained to lunch by Dr. Fritz Oedl and his wife before setting off to Werfen to the Eisriesenwelt ice caves. The drive up the mountain road was adventurous and the ascent by cable car in dense cloud was most enjoyable. We climbed the steep rocky path from the cable car platform to the entrance of the cave some 3,280 feet above the Salzach Valley. The cloud obscured views of the 7,480ft. peaks of the Tennengebirge Range on the way up but when we came out of the cave some hours later although the daylight had gone we could see lights in the valley below and some of the surrounding scenery showed up against the light sky. Time, unfortunately, only permitted a visit to the tourist "ice section" and a short way beyond (some fiftieth of the thirty miles of cave passage in the system !!). The ice columns and towers were magnificent sights and the draught in the more restricted parts of the cave made the OFD draught at its fiercest seem like a gentle summer breeze. It took two of us to open the outside door to the cave.



Bill's Morris and occupants left us next day to race homewards for the Ferry, competing, so we learnt later, for the available space on the Autobahn with sundry German lorries. Lewis, Jan and I finished off our last day in the non-stop Salzburg rain with a visit to the Hallein Salt Mines nearby. A highly interesting if somewhat disillusioning experience but nevertheless memorable for the novel and efficient way of losing many hundreds of feet in height underground without the aid of ladders or lifts. It's well worth a visit but one small piece of advice - wear one if not two pairs of thick trousers !

We made the French coast comfortably in two days travel and crossed the Channel to our native soil on the 19th July. Three wonderful weeks crammed with far too many incidents to relate in four pages.

L.A.Hawes. January, 1960.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

President.

Dr. F.J. North, O.B.E., D.Sc., F.G.S., F.M.A.,  
19, Chargoat Road, Cardiff.

Vice-Presidents.

Brigadier E.A. Glennie, C.I.E., D.S.O.,  
Seaton House, Shrublands Road, Berkhamstead, Herts.

A.H. Hill Esq.,  
32<sup>nd</sup> Marine Road, Oreston, Plymouth.

Honorary Members.

T. Ashwell Morgan, Westbrook, St. James' Gardens, Swansea.  
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