



Cover: Juniper Gulf, big pitch by Alan Brook
Copy typed by Mary Bates, John Mendum, Nod Rowan
Stencils typed by Dave Adamson
Duplication by Tony Salmon
Offset lithographs by Leeds University Union

PRICE: TWO SHILLINGS

Recent Explorations in Goyden Pot

October Passage

On October 1 Al Milner, Raymond Gemmell and Dave Brook visited Goyden and a Grade 5 survey was carried out from the entrance, via Gaskell's Passage to the Lower River Passage. In the latter Ray noticed a small passage on the same joint as the Turf but on the other side of the river. While the others surveyed on he climbed up the joint and followed a rocky, tubular crawl for 50' to a T-junction. Right, a small stream emerged from a choked passage and ran left into a canal with low airspace. He returned to the survey team and the crawl was surveyed to the canal. It seems likely that thus far the passage had been explored previously since its entrance is obvious to anyone who looks around yet the passage is short enough not to merit comment.

As Dave Brook was suitably clad he entered the canal and noted the slight inward draught which indicated that it didn't sump. It was followed for 60' of wet crawling with low airspace to another rocky tube, the stream sinking to the right and 100' on the stream was again met in a 3' high trench passage. Downstream led to a small cascade and a narrow rift with a traverse on chert nodules to a narrow 7' drop into a canal where the airspace rapidly became very narrow.

Upstream, a sharp crawl was relieved by a high muddy rift, which can be climbed for 15' to the base of a narrow aven. Further upstream the water emerged from a ridiculous fissure, but digging at a mass of driftwood to one side revealed a way back to the crawl after the canal. On November 13 Alan and Dave Brook surveyed the passage which is 450' long.

Chapel Roof Passage

On October 1 the climb up to this was investigated and on November 13 it was found to be quite easy to reach across to the overhanging mouth of this passage and hang a ladder from it. Initially a crawl, the passage soon gains height to form a 5' high rift passage which ends when shingle in the floor rises to meet the roof at a choke of gritstone boulders. (Total length, 80')

Pillar Crawl

At Pillar Pot a low series of crawls can be entered and these were followed for 300'. The series consists of two branches and one of these runs back under Pillar Pot Passage. No definite end was reached but the passages are running down dip towards the Cap Left Crawl, which is in the same bedding plane.

Lesser Stream Passage

On December 10 the system was again visited under very wet conditions due to melting snow. A long survey trip was clearly out but a quick trip was made to Sump 1. After some surveying and a look at the Limley inlet all returned to the Cascades below the Main Chamber, where Andy Chater and Dave Brook located the Lesser Stream Passage. It was followed past a shattered section to a point where the stream emerged from a

flooded bedding plane with a fissured roof. On the right a muddy tube was found under a boulder ruckle and at the end removal of some mud gave access to the stream again. Downstream was a large sump and upstream a fine passage led to a massive choke with the water descending through it. A little digging gave access to a very unstable upper chamber with the stream coming in at roof level. Back down below a large side passage with mud on the walls was investigated but after 100' it ended in a fissure with no obvious way on. (Total length, 300')

Dave Brook

Maypoling in the Kingsdale Master Cave

On a somewhat miserable Sunday afternoon in February, a party consisting of Dave Adamsn, Chris Gilboy, Nod Rowan, (all fo ULSA) and Colin Vickers (BPC) descended Simpson's, intending to rendezvous with a party of divers at the Rowten Sump and collect extra maypole. The Master Cave was quickly reached via Slit Pot and the cavers plunged into the melt water which goes under the misleading name of "the Rowten Inlet". Needless to say, neither the divers nor the extra pole was there so the party returned to the first aven of the Rowten Inlet.

Poles left behind after the previous epic were still there and the party proceeded to slot them together. After considerable effort the aven was ready to be scaled. Owing to the large cluster of seemingly unstable boulders about 20' up, Dave Adamson was nominated to be first up. Nod and Chris stood well back while Colin steadied the 'fishing rod'. Dave descended and Colin had a look: both agreed that a passage was visible about 10' above the boulders, but it could not be reached without a longer pole.

The pole was dismantled and transported to the downstream sump and thence to the beginning of the Milky Way. This being one of the 'grottier' passages of the system, Nod was encouraged to hear from Dave that the chosen aven was "...only 150' in." 1200' (!- Ed.) later and after a few choice words they again began piecing together the jigsaw puzzle the club calls a maypole. Fortunately a hammer and chisel were available to make this task possible.

The aven where these operations were taking place is above the Cascade Inlet, which supplies the stream found in the Milky Way. The passage above the Casade is too tight at floor level but the roof 20' above seemed to hold possibilities. This time Nod was nominated to entrust his life to the pole. He climbed up and entered a narrow rift passage which soon became an awkward crawl. After following it for 20' the passage opened out and Nod was able to climb down through a gap in the false fflow to the stream 15' below. A crawl under a boulder bridge suddenly belled out into a fantastic chamber 60' in diameter and 25' high. The chamber was decorated throughout with long straws, big stalactites, bosses and cascades. Whilst the

rest of the party scumbled along to join Nod in 'Toyland' (as the chamber was named later) nod climbed up the dark red flowstone cascade at the far end of the chamber, down which the stream flowed. Unfortunately, after a short distance gour pools reduced the passage to a bedding plane 6" high and 10' wide. Thus, the gasps of incredulity from the rest of the party as they entered the chamber soon changed to blasphemies of disappointment.

After pushing a side passage for a short distance to another flowstone choke the downhearted trogs proceeded to survey and then began the long trek out.

Two of the lamps flaked on the way, but the party was making very good progress when suddenly, at the top of Stake Pot, all were intoxicated by a very strong smell of beer. The source of this miraculous odour was sought and found 500' further along the passage. It proved to be six rather "slated" Wanderers who had come to 'rescue' the Leeds party. "You've - hic! - been underground fo' 13 hoursh!"* After a brief (and muddled !) conversation the Wanderers relined the Leeds party of the tackle and took a trip down themselves while the 'rescued' made their way out (over the body of John Southworth), reaching the surface soon after 3 a.m.

Nod Rowan

Postscript

It may be worthwhile to attempt to dig through the gourpools which block the passage beyond Toyland. The passage was once an important streamway and it should be possible to follow the passage up for a considerable distance. Moreover the source of the stream which now uses the passage is unknown.

* A subsequent trip lasted just over 24 hours !

Diving in the Kingsdale Master Cave (concluded)

on the previous trip. Passage totals are given below:

Sump 1 - 200'

Yordas II - 600'

Sump 2 - 150'

based on a verbal report by John Ogden, NCDG

Diving in the Kingsdale Master Cave

Since the last issue of the "News Sheet" members of the Northern Cave Diving group, assisted by members of the HWCPC and the ULSA, have made a series of dives upstream in the KMC system and discovered a substantial length of major passage.

The Rowten Streamway

Some years ago the passage upstream of the terminal sump in Rowten was forced from 150 - 200' through 3 ducks to a sump proper. In December, 1966, Bill Frakes and John Ogden dived the sump. A large air-bell was found 60' in and after a total dive of 150 - 200' in a bedding plane 3 - 5' high and of unknown width the divers reached an air-free stream passage. Initially this passage was only 3' high, but at least 40' wide. The roof gradually lifted and after crawling for 200' the divers walked up a passage 5 - 10' high and 15 - 20' wide. The stream flowed knee deep between banks of mud, and the passage itself was extremely well decorated with stalactites and straws. The only 'obstacles' were the frequent small cascades along the streamway.

One inlet passage was found, on the right. This carries a fairly substantial stream and began as a comfortable hands and knees crawl through silt, degenerated into a flat-out crawl and ended after 100'.

The main passage continued as a 20' wide, chest deep canal for a further 300', then the airspace became minimal. At this point the divers returned to base.

In January 1967 John Ogden, Bill Frakes and Pete Livesey paid a further visit to Rowten II. Pete Livesey dived 230' beyond the previous limit of exploration, reaching a depth of 10 - 15'. The underwater passage was very big throughout but no significant airspace was found. Rowten II was surveyed on the way out and totalled some 600 - 800' of air-free passage.

Yordas Passage Streamway

In January, 1967, Sump 1 (first passed by John Ogden the previous summer) was dived by Mike Boon, Bill Frakes and John Ogden, and an attempt was made to pass Sump II. A 15' wide air-bell was found 10' in, and the underwater passage then continued as a bedding plane, 10 - 15' wide and 3 - 4' high. The divers swam over undulating banks of silt for 80 - 100', met an apparently blank wall and returned to base.

Bill and John dived again after the water had cleared a little and followed a slope down to the left of the 'blank' wall until they reached a cross-rift. The water was extremely clear here and the rift was followed down for 20 - 30', after which there was still no sign of the bottom of the rift or any horizontal passage. The divers returned to base, having insufficient air to attempt a further deep exploration dive.

Yordas Passage II was surveyed on the way out and Mike Boon explored a side passage for 20' past the boulder blockage reached by John Ogden.

(Continued Page 4)

A Fourth Way Down Notts Pot

In early March the club had a meet to Notts Pot. As none of the party had been down Notts before, inquisitive noses were poked into any and every 'promising' cranny. This curiosity was soon rewarded. At the bottom of the Centre Route Dave Adamson noticed an inlet passage high up in the North wall. Forcing this passage necessitated combined tactics, for anyone small enough to penetrate the passage was too small to negotiate the 15' climb up to the passage! The passage proved to be too tight for Dave Adamson, but after a sling had been put on the climb Dave Brook was able to reach and pass the tight section of the passage itself. The passage soon opened out and after 30' Dave entered a roomy aven. Ahead, and 17' above, he could see a passage of walking size. He attempted the climb but was defeated by slippery flowstone only a few feet from the top.

Nothing else was found until the very end of the trip. On the way out Dave Brook and Dave Adamson investigated the passage at the north end of Three Ways Chamber. This proved to be a very high rift - obviously an old inlet - and after a little more than 100' was choked to the roof with boulders. Returning, Dave Adamson noticed a passage at roof level and climbed up to investigate while Dave Brook continued down the rift looking for anything else "interesting". The roof passage was a flat-out crawl and had obviously been covered before. After 50' or so it entered the roof of an unstable boulder chamber above the main rift. A descent over muddy scree led to a boulder bridge of massive proportions and unstable design. A passage could be seen beyond but Dave paused until Dave Brook had climbed up to the chamber and inspected the bridge from below.

Once over the bridge it was clear that the continuing passage had been traversed before, for one set of footprints crossed the chock-stones which constituted the floor. 20' forward Dave Adamson saw a lower, wider passage with a solid floor: clearly this was *not* part of the rift leading back to Three Ways Chamber.

Dave Adamson climbed down into the 'new' passage and was joined by Dave Brook. The passage ended after 40' at the head of a wide shaft; a ledge was visible 20' down and stones dropped down the pitch rolled and bounced much deeper. It was clear from the 'ungardened' state of the pitch that it had not been descended.

The rift continued beyond the pitch as a traverse with an occasional floor of mud and jammed boulders. Stones dislodged from the false floor rattled down a good 100'. After 40' the passage acquired a solid floor again and soon ended at a 15' pitch. Below lay a floor of unknown stability, with a second pitch apparent beyond. No further progress could be made without a ladder so the party returned, meeting a slightly anxious John Childs in the main passage below the boulder bridge.

It seemed clear from an examination of Gemmell and Myers survey of Notts Pot that the 'new' passage was beyond the perimeter of the known

system heading into the Great Unknown. Although the passage itself had been traversed before by one other person it was obvious that the two pitches had not been descended

.....A few days later Chris Gilboy, Alan Brook, Nod Rowan and Daves Adamson, Brook, Howitt and Weston returned to Notts Pot. The 'big pitch' beyond the boulder bridge was tackled first. There was no obvious belay point but eventually a slab jammed in the floor 20' back from the pitch was used. After 'gardening' the head of the shaft 60' of ladder was lowered and Dave Adamson was given the 'privilege' of first descent.

The ladder was against a clean wall for most of the way. Dave passed a ledge at 40' and stopped at a second ledge 10' below. To speed operations it was decided to ladder the next stage of the shaft independently, so Dave Weston climbed down to the ledge, followed by Dave Brook and Nod Rowan with more tackle.

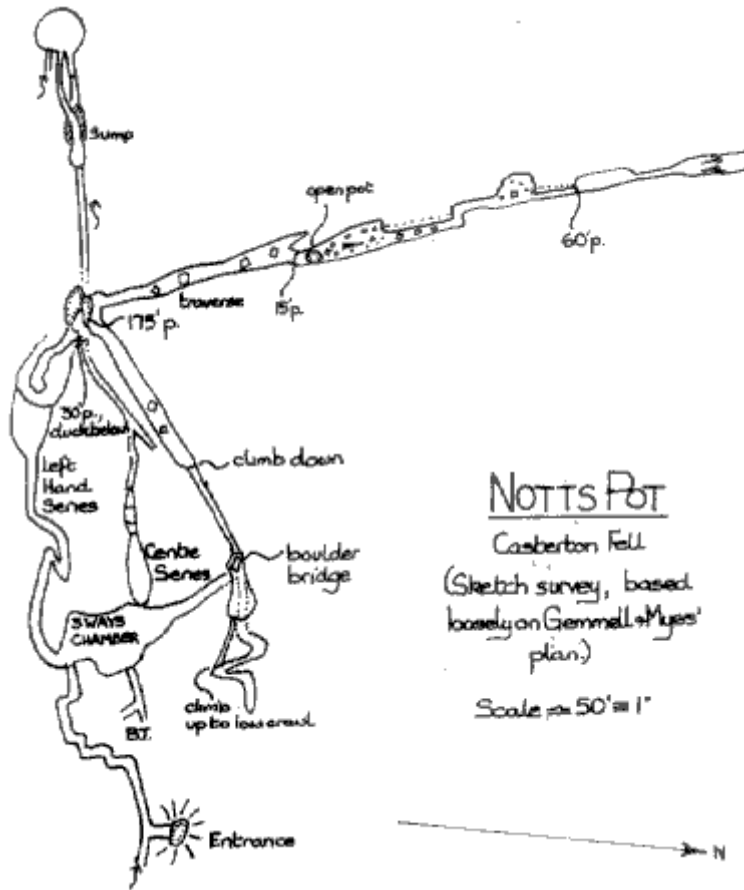
The bottom of the shaft could be seen dimly over 90' below; stones thrown into the shaft bounced down a further pitch. The faint noise of water heard at the head of the shaft was now a muffled roar. 120' of ladder was rigged and Dave Adamson descended; within 15' the near wall curved away and the ladder hung free. The shaft increased in size, becoming 20' x 15' wide and approximately lenticular in plan. Halfway down a prominent shale band was passed*; a passage could be seen above this band, at the east end of the shaft. Below, only occasional stalactites and flowstone cascades relieved the sombre grey.

After 110' Dave Adamson grounded on a boulder slope leading to three separate 'windows'; from each of these a big passage could be seen 15-20' below. The roar of water was no longer muffled, but the stream itself remained invisible. After Dave Brook had descended the tail of the ladder was threaded through one of the windows. It was too short to reach the bottom but the last 6' of the pitch proved to be climbable. Beyond, a further 30' pitch led down to the streamway.

For a few brief seconds the pair had visions of a route march down a new master cave until they saw the sweet papers, U2 batteries and innumerable nail marks at the head of the pitch. After a few baffled moments the pitch was recognised: it was the 30' pitch of the Left-Hand Route, leading down to the duck which marks the end of the Centre Route and BT Passage. Thus, all four routes down Notts reunite at the same point!

Naturally, all were disappointed by this unexpected re-entry into the known cave, but, if nothing else, the point of re-entry was conveniently within 50' of the inlet passage forced on the first trip. So while the rest of the party descended the big pitch, Dave Weston climbed up to the inlet and tried to fix a piton belay in the bedding

* Presumably the shale band seen at the foot of the 73'p., Centre R.



NOTTS POT

Casserton Fell
 (Sketch survey, based
 loosely on Gemmell & Myes'
 plan.)

Scale ≈ 50' = 1"



plane roof. After ten minutes he retired with a cut mouth (caused by a too accurately thrown electron ladder) and Dave Brook took his place. The resulting aerobatics were horrifying to watch, relying as they did on faith, hope and friction with a little assistance from a ladder belayed manually below!

With the piton fixed and the pitch laddered it was now possible to climb into the wider, bedding plane roof of the inlet. The aven beyond was quickly reached by Alan and Dave Brook and Dave Adamson. A textbook exercise in combined tactics followed and Dave Brook was able to reach the passage above the 17' climb. The efforts of the past hour did not have a just reward: Dave walked into the passage and immediately entered another aven, 40' high this time. The party retired.

As there hadn't been sufficient time to double-lifeline the 110' section of the big pitch, Dave Howitt and Chris Gilboy had spent a cold two hours on the ledge. To give them a well-earned chance of bottoming the shaft, the rest of the party started to make their way out, leaving Brook Bros. to de-ladder the inlet. (Dave Howitt reached the bottom just in time to release an empurpled Dave Brook, who was jammed fast in the squeeze at the beginning of the inlet!) The big pitch was finally de-laddered and the party split; one group traversed further along the rift to the unexplored 15' pitch and a second group returned to the surface with the bulk of the tackle.

The 15' pitch was straightforward, though care had to be taken because of the shattered state of the walls. Immediately in front lay an open pot in the boulder floor, overhung with mud-cemented breccia. A northward bound passage could be seen beyond, but to reach it involved traversing the open pot (estimated to be 50' deep) along a sloping ledge of mud and scree. Dave Adamson, followed by Dave Brook, made a *very* cautious crossing. Ahead lay a flat roofed passage, initially 15' wide, though it narrowed down to roomy walking size at the bottom of a boulder slope. Progress was extremely easy, but still cautious for it was obvious that much of the floor was false. 100' or so beyond the open pot the passage entered the roof of a wide rift and exploration was temporarily stopped by a pitch estimated to be 50 - 60' deep.

Meanwhile, Nod and Alan had arrived at the open pot with tackle. Nod's light was 'on the blink' so he remained at the near side of the traverse; Alan ferried the tackle over and the rift was laddered. The take-off proved to be extremely awkward and must be one of the worst in Yorkshire. The pitch itself was straightforward, being free for most of its 60'. At first there seemed to be no way on from the bottom of the pitch, but after a few minutes Dave Adamson discovered a relatively constricted passage beyond the boulder slope at the far end of the rift.

Because of the difficult take-off, Alan Brook remained at the top of the 60 as lifeliner. His brother descended and joined Dave Adamson, who had entered another section of high, wide rift passage. There

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The Sargill Sinks & West Side Pot

In 1959 the Northern Pennine Club dye tested a sink at the head of Sargill (SD 880 932) through to Cliff Force (SD 875 961) two miles to the North and 220' lower. The system revealed by this test lies in the Main limestone; this is the thickest limestone of the Yoredale series in Upper Wensleydale, attaining a maximum thickness of 124' at the head of Cragdale, but averaging 60' in the region of Sargill. Unfortunately, none of the Sargill sinks were penetrable by cavers so the NPC turned their attention elsewhere.

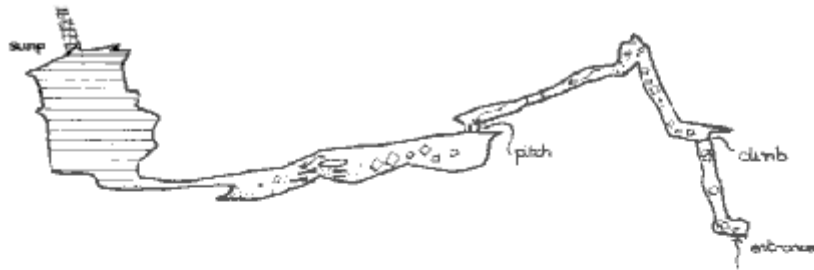
In January 1967, the ULSA had its Annual 'Dinner' - the President's Meet - in Askrigg. On the Sunday morning Alan Fincham persuaded a group of members to accompany him on a visit to the Sargill sinks. The party wasn't in the best of health when it set off: it was at least sober after it had crossed the hills, bogs and peat hags which lie between Sod Hole Gill and Sargill Head. Fortunately for Alan a new sink was found almost immediately and a few minutes digging revealed a tight 12' shaft. As none of the party had caving gear the shaft was not descended, though by the time the party had reached Askrigg again plans had been made for a subterranean hike to Cliff Force.

A fortnight later, on a gloriously fine Saturday, Sargill was invaded once more. Tony Slmon, Dave Chandler, Terry Whittaker and Jerry had re-opened the shaft and were busy diverting the stream when the second party - Alan Fincham, Daves Adamson and Brook - arrived. Dave Adamson squeezed down the shaft and saw a possible way on through the boulder floor at the point where the stream sank. After some unproductive work in a shower of cold water, he made an ignominious retreat to surface with the help of a foot stirrup. The stream was eventually diverted completely and Dave Brook descended. He grovelled on and down for the next hour but eventually the shaft became too tight.

Dave Adamson changed and went in search of drier, roomier holes. An hour's devious walk brought him to West Side, to the head of a hidden valley about 1/3 mile long and 1/4 mile wide, and 1/2 mile North-West of Sargill Head. Three streams flowed into the valley and it looked as if they might sink at the South end. They did.

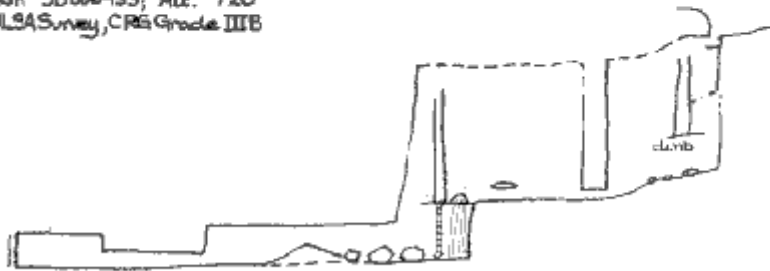
At first the sink didn't look too promising: it was blocked with gritstone boulders and there was no sign of limestone. A closer inspection revealed a shaft beyond the boulders and a limestone wall. Dave went back to Sargill for his gear, and returned a little later with Dave Brook and Terry Whittaker.

A few boulders were moved and a negotiable, though damp entrance revealed. As Dave Brook was already in caving gear, he descended. He returned a few minutes later, having climbed down 25' and gone a little way along an open stream passage. Encouraged by this news the party tried to enlarge and make stable the entrance - it promptly collapsed!



WEST SIDE POT

NGR SD086933; Alt. 720'
ULS Survey, CRS Grade III B



Jerry arrived at this moment with the news that he had found an open cave in the banks of the stream 1/4 mile South-East of West Side. Dave Adamson returned to Sargill for a boulder rope while the other three went to look at Jerry's cave. This proved to be a rough crawl which was blocked by boulders 70' in, so Dave Brook decided to leave it for the following day.

With the help of Alan, Tony and Dave Chandler a new entrance to West Side Pot was soon excavated and Terry Whittaker descended for a 'quick look'. Beyond the gritstone 'porch' lay a 6' drop down a roomy, cleanwashed shaft in solid limestone. A further 20' forward entered a short cross-rift; at the West end was the start of a crawl in the stream. This became a flat-out bedding plane for a few feet, after which it was possible to walk again. Only 15' or so beyond the point reached previously by Dave Brook, the party was stopped by a pitch. Although only 10'6" deep it was unclimbable without a ladder, so, after examining a well-marked band of *Productus* at the head of the pitch the Party returned to the surface.

The pitch was descended the following day and the party entered a roomy, flat-roofed passage. After 50' this abruptly changed to a low crawl in the stream which led, after 20', to an impressive sump chamber 25' long and 20' wide. A thorough investigation revealed that this sump was strictly for divers.

Jerry's cave was explored next and proved to be equally disappointing. Dave Brook cleared an obstruction but after only 90' the passage dwindled to a fissure. The stream was diverted into the cave and a few minutes later water spouted out of the hillside only 100 yards away! The limestone bench was followed East to the old mine but no open holes were found. While several of the party explored the mine level - driven through 'solid' shale - Terry de-laddered West Side Pot and the moor was abandoned.

A month later Andy Chater, Dave Stewart(NCDG) and Dave Adamson returned to West Side Pot with diving gear. Dave Stewart searched the perimeter of the sump and found a rift passage beyond the North wall. Unfortunately this, the only outlet from the sump, became too tight after 10 - 15'. After fiddling with his demand valve (which was delivering air bursts of 5 ats. !) Andy attempted the rift with no more success. A rather cold, dejected party made its way back to the surface. However, the pot was finally surveyed and found to be 37' deep and 175' long. (A Medium Landing Compass and a Fibron tape were used, but due to the difficulties encountered in surveying whilst portering diving gear, only Grade 3 is claimed.)

As no dye test has yet been made the resurgence for West Side Pot is unknown. The general trend of the pot is North and West, towards the line Sargill Head - Cliff Force (it is, of course, a long way from either). West Side Pot and Sargill Head are approximately equidistant from Cliff Force

and lie in the same block of the Main Limestone; there is a North - South fault to the West of Sargill and a parallel fault to the East of West Side but no known discontinuity or disturbance between the two.

Unfortunately, all of the Sargill sinks have proved impenetrable and the only (slim) chance of extending West Side is in conditions of extreme drought. As the minimum length of passage to be found is two miles the area justifies further work. However, it should be pointed out that West Side Pot is the only active 'system' which has so far been entered in the several miles of Main Limestone exposed between Sod Hole Gill and Oxnop Beck Head.

Dave Adamson

A Fourth Way Down Notts Pot

were two possible ways on: ahead lay a very steep and unstable 'cliff' of rubble and boulders; immediately below a passage could be seen through a gap in the boulder floor. A few boulders were moved and the lower passage entered. This led to a small, but complex series of rifts and crawls which soon choked.

It was now 8.45 a.m. and the effects of a sleepless night were beginning to be felt, so exploration was halted. The top of the 60' pitch proved to be interesting and the firm lifeline support given by Alan was very welcome. The surface was reached without further incident at 9.15 a.m. and with the help of Nod and Chris the tackle was soon carried down to the road. The drivers - Daves Howitt and Weston - were rudely awakened and by 10.30 a.m. a late breakfast was being enjoyed in the Ingleton 'tranny'.

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Unfortunately there was neither the time nor the opportunity to survey any of the new passages, but a bearing taken along the last rift explored showed that the dominant trend is roughly NNW, which would take any extension found beyond the perimeter of the known system.

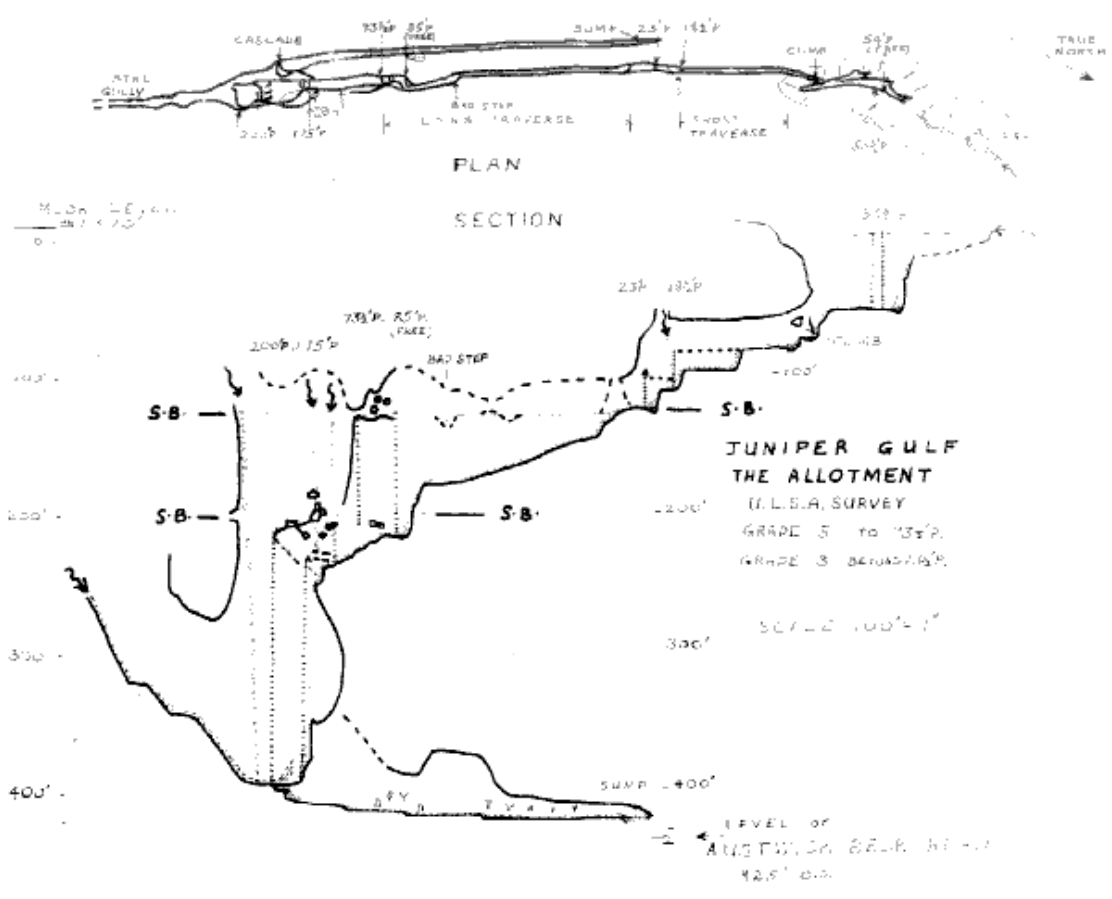
Pitch lengths were not taped but measured by known lengths of electron ladder.

Tackle required for the 175' shaft

(Although one shaft, it is more convenient to ladder it in two steps.)

First Step : 50' ladder 30' belay 70' rope

Second Step : 125' ladder 4' belay 230' rope



Juniper Gulf

The Two Most Impressive Pitches in Britain

Recent descents of Juniper Gulf, in company with the Eccles Caving Club and the Imperial College Caving Club have renewed our acquaintance with the pot and confirmed the impression that the last pitch is the most impressive in Britain.

On the meet with the Eccles the last pitch was rather damp and was not fully descended because the ladder was found to be too short. The pitch is 155' to a large ledge and is free after the first 5'. In dry weather the water is met 30' from the bottom; in wetter weather it is met 50' down. A small spike, reached by a traverse over the drop, is the belay for the normal, wet descent of the pitch. (If you want to know more about the pitch ask 'Scruff' - "Ladder above, ladder below!" - Riley.) The belayer has a fine situation under a constant shower. From the large ledge a cascade is descended to reach the final rift so 175' of ladder is used for the pitch.

After the wet descent with the Eccles the possibility of a dry, but longer last pitch was discussed and a party of four from Leeds and two ICCC members descended the hole with the object of laddering such a pitch from two belay points seen in the rift above the last pitch. The ICCC blokes accompanied us to the last pitch and then left because one of them did not have an exposure suit. Their help enabled us survey most of the pot.

From the foot of the 73' pitch a traverse forward through a shower led to a wall of boulders and passing through a hole led to a descent to a boulder floor. Ahead was a 'gert oyl'. This 'oyl' had a small stream descending on the far side and went up for at least 100' (i.e. the range of a specular reflector). 270' of ladder was fed down the hole but only 200' of it was needed.

The pitch is extremely impressive. At 5' down the walls depart and the nearest wall remains at a distance of 20-40' for most of the way down. About 40' away the main water plunges down; a spectacular sight, particularly when surging with flood water. The large ledge is reached at 180'.

This pitch makes it possible to reach the bottom of Juniper Gulf in any weather conditions. Pitches can usually be laddered either free or against walls. The traverses are generally straightforward, apart from the one 'bad step' just before the 73' and 85' pitches. Here a rope is advisable for tackle and people since a slip on the grassy rock would mean a fall of 45'. Ladderers for the last pitches are advised to be on lines since a free fall of 150' or 175' is usually fatal.

by Alan Brook

Survey Instruments used:

Ex- WD Prismatic Marching Compass

Abney Level

Fibron Tape

A Foreigner Caving in France

The trip to France was with the help of Roy Smart and his van, which almost got us home. While over there I realised why most French people are, or become well-built. The big, very big, meal of the day is eaten at 9 p.m. This may produce big lads for big ladder pitches but not slim bods for small places. I returned home very much out of condition despite refusing (n+1) second helpings.

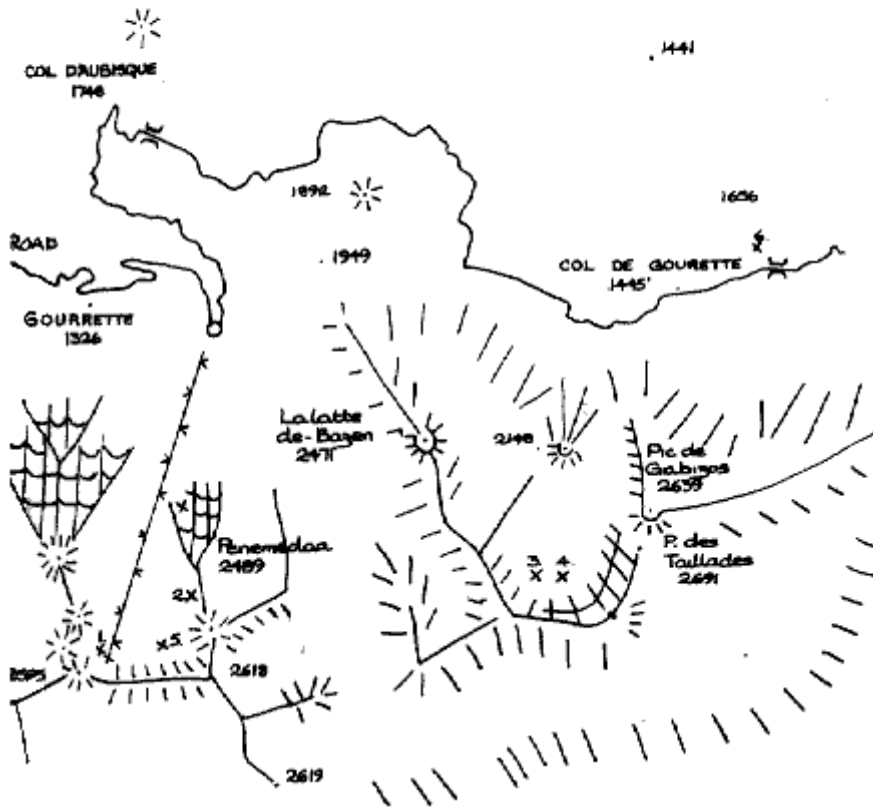
The caves visited can be divided into two areas: first, those in the lower country of the Lot, and then those in the Pyrenees.. Grotte de Rouffignac was the first visited. Entry is gained on payment of 4 francs and a battery driven train transports tourists past paintings of horses, mammoths, bears and deer. At the end everyone wanders round a chamber gazing up at the roof, unless they happen to have just tripped over a bear pit. Another cave of the Lot is Peche Merle, near Cahors. In this region there are impressive river gorges with high limestone cliffs. The Grotte is on the plateau above the cliffs. In the cave is a fantastic cramming of big formations. The cave lacks long straws and large helictites; it has everything else. Drawings and hand prints are found on the few pieces of calcite free rock.

Recently the cavers of the Angouleme district have found a new cave, the Grotte de Sauniere, which we descended after returning from the Pyrenees. A climb down leads to the first pitch of 30'. Climbing down again leads to a 25' pitch to a muddy balcony and a further climb down. In the muddy chamber below, the usual dinner of thick bread and sardines was consumed. Beyond the chamber muddy climbs through a phreatic network led to passages with a profusion of hair-like crystals and helictites. At the lowest point of the system there is a lake which is reached by a 70' pitch.

In the Pyrenees we joined a party of French trogs camped near the Col de Soulor. When we arrived, Roy told me that they had found several holes, the deepest being 250', but the only promising one was 150' deep ending in a choke with a draught over it. The following day I went up to the hole with the French trogs. However, the climb up was about 1200 metres but no more difficult than Scafell with a loaded rucksack. Due to the mist we spent some time searching across snow fields for the hole. Before the descent a snow overhang had to be cleared from the hole. A 45' pitch was followed by a few short drops and a 30' pitch. One wall was snow for parts of this descent. A steeply descending passage led to the dig. This was quickly dug and a second dig reached. After passing this a 30' passage led to a squeeze. Beyond, the passage continued and then curved out of sight. However, to safely pass the squeeze a bulge of rock needed hammering off or companions with whom I could communicate were needed. A French trog then looked at the squeeze but must not have reached it because he did not see the passage beyond. On the way out Paul, the leader of the French trogs, climbed into an upper passage which choked after a short distance.

AREA SOUTH OF PAU BETWEEN
LARUNS AND ARGELES GAZOST.

1. Hole with 150'+700' pitches.
2. Trois Dents.
3. 150' deep hole.
4. 70' deep hole.
5. Liverpool camp.
6. French camp.



The following day was much clearer and was spent searching around in the same area. Nothing very deep was found. A trip to a nearby hole, where a lake sinks, was arranged. La Pic Midi de Ossan dominates the valley in which the lake lies. La Perte du Lac d'Ayons began with a 15' climb down and 100' passage to a 40' pitch. A traverse on loose ledges was used to avoid the large amount of water on the pitch. Continuing downstream led to a rapids and blackness. The shaft was laddered and Roy and I went a short distance down the pitch. It was wet and continued down beyond the beam of the torch so a return was made to the surface.

On the following day we visited the Liverpool and Perigueux Clubs at their camp at the top end of the Gourrette Televoie. They told us about an accident in the Trois Dents in which a French trog had been killed. After the installing of a plaque the tackle had been removed. A hole was found under the televoi in which a tight 150' pitch was followed by a big pitch estimated at 700'. A French trog had been 450' down the pitch and then run out of ladder. Our fortnight in France was now at an end.

We rounded off the visit with a walk up a nearby peak and admired the cliff and snow scenery, then started on a long drive back to England.

Alan Brook

Algerian Expedition, 1966

The University expedition truck, a three-ton Bedford, left Leeds as term ended, and the months of planning became reality. The destination was Tijkda, a mountain resort in the Kabyllie mountains about 60 miles ESE of Algiers. A week later, after four days of driving and three days waiting for the truck in Algieres, we arrived.

The Kabyllie mountains are composed of massive mountain limestone of Jurassic age. Usually this limestone is horizontally bedded, but here and there, there has been great distortion. The caves are generally inactive now due to the region's very slight rainfall. The caves we studied were old resurgence caves, formed phreatically but showing vadose modification. There were some old, rotten formations in parts.

The only information published on the area around Tihkda that we could find was written by a Frenchman who visited most of the caves on his own. He reported finding two large avens in one of the caves, and we did hope to climb these. Norbert Casteret had also visited the area, and nearby had found the Ahou Bousil, 1600' deep, the deepest pot in Algeria.

The main set of caves are situated in or at the foot of a limestone cliff about 500' high and 1/4 mile long, situated 1500' above and

2 miles from the camp site. The most noticeable entrance in the Oeil du Boeuf (Bull's Eye) situated 170' up the cliff above an overhanging wall. Below this are two cave entrances. Our most enjoyable day was spent climbing up to the Bull's Eye and laddering the cliff. The route reached the cave by traversing in from the left, and was quite hard with three moves of Welsh V.S. standard. The pitch was laddered on one day and de-laddered two days later, after our cameraman, Peter Jackson had taken some film. In order to get film shots of Don Robinson and Tony Salmon going up the ladder from two different viewpoints, some cheating had to take place and they had to climb back up short lengths of ladder during their descent. Unfortunately the weather changed when they were ready to come down and for the next half hour the cliff rang to the merry tones of,

"Stop"
"Take up"
"Stop"
"Pay out"
"Just hang on there a minute, Don, while the sun comes out"
"Just go back up another 10"
"Tight line"
etc., etc.

As he was first up the climb, Al Milner was honoured (?) with the last descent and found the 170' abseil rather spectacular. The cave itself was only about 200' long, but the pitch made the effort worthwhile.

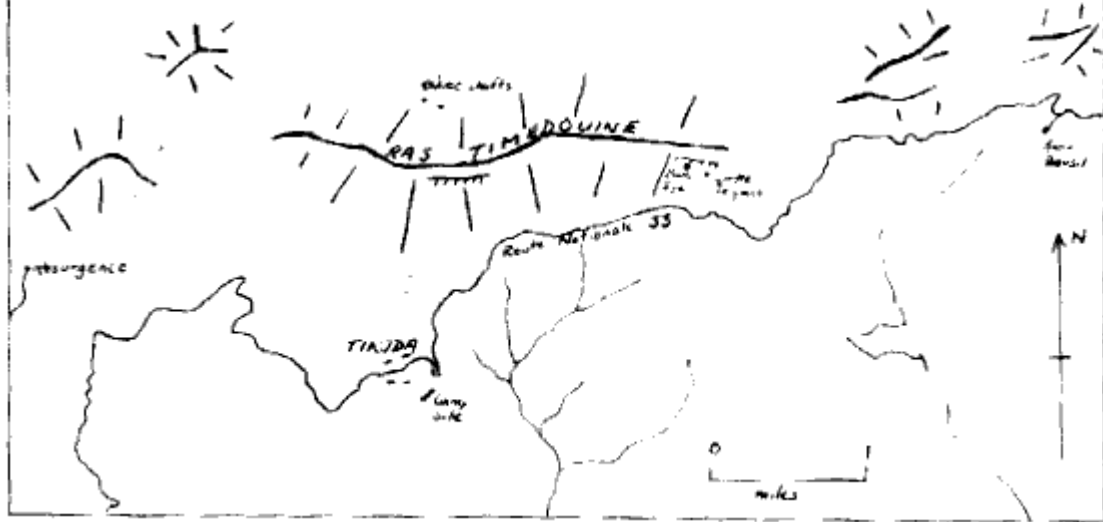
Two hundred yards to the east of the Bull's Eye is a large, wide cavemouth leading upwards at 45° - 50° to a little hole where we could emerge.

One hundred yards east again was the Grotte de Glace. An ice cold draught emerges from a "railway tunnel", and the way passes a hole in the floor, up a slope to a large chamber. Two large avens occupy the roof and a large shaft is the floor! After closely examining the walls of these avens we decided that it would be extremely dangerous to ascend. The hole in the floor was 120' deep, and here two members of the expedition who had never been potholing before, Richard (Yakida) Reeves and Randall (Ram) Bullock, were shown how to climb a ladder. This shaft has been formed after the rest of the cave, the passages below all being vadose. A 2 1/2' wide rift leads down past a squeeze to an 80' high aven. Straight on chokes after about 30', but the main passage continues down under itself to a muddy pool and choke. The large hole near the entrance was descended (15' climb, then a boulder slope) and a narrow slit at the far end led to a 25' pitch into a large chamber, with the only obvious way on a rift 4" wide emitting a mighty gale. A rift on the left (looking in) near the entrance was followed for about 200'. It was necessary to chimney up most of the way till we were about 70' up. We never found the roof, but were turned back by a widening of the rift.

A small cav 200' east was the subject of an archeological dig performed by Mike Nieman. He unearthed a large number of calcite-



Based on a map published by "Ministère des Travaux Publics et des Transports," Paris, without their permission



covered bones and a huge cave-dwelling toad, whose body measured 6" by 4" by 3"! One of the bones has been identified as a bear's jaw-bone and we are very hopeful that the others will prove as interesting.

All these caves were surveyed to CRG grade 4-5B using a Recta compass read to 1°, Fibron tapes, and an Abney level read to 10 minutes. This was the main speleological work done in the area, except for measuring the hardness of some local springs.

Mike Nieman and Al Milner visited a large resurgence to the west of the campsite, but it closed down after 8' in boulders. They also found two shafts, both about 100' deep, at the far side of a large cliff above the camp.

We also had a day down the Anou Bousil after persuading the local chauffer to carry us and 500' of ladder and rope 3 miles up the main road of the area - a dirt covered goat track. The pot entrance is in a fertile depression where a small stream rises and sinks at the entrance. This is a rift about 10' wide and 90' deep, leading to a large chamber. From this chamber a large passage leads downstream for about 500' to a 40' sloping pitch into a thigh-deep pool. Then two rope pitches of 20' and 10' lead to a round chamber with a 65' pitch following immediately. This pitch drops straight down the centre of an impressive chamber. Another 20' pitch later a very large sloping pitch is reached. A telephone wire led off into the gloom, and a hasty conference meant we surfaced. A larger team is required for a complete descent.

We spent two weeks in Kabylie, and then drove south for 100 miles to Bou Saada, where our cameraman filmed various Arab scenes. We stayed there for three days and then returned to Algiers. Two days later we arrived in Marseilles, and then drove back to Leeds (43 hours). Despite this epic, most expedition members said it had been a "Wonderful experience"

A. J. Milner

Meets List

February 5 Kingsdale
February 12 Marble Steps; Ireby Fell Cavern
February 19 Askrigg area
February 26 Lancaster Hole; Easegill Caverns
March 12 Notts Pot
Easter Mendip Camp; the Alston Block

The Discovery of Parkinson Aven, Gaping Gill

Passing up the Main Drain towards Lofty Aven on a sight-seeing trip through G.G. from Bar Pot on to Disappointment Pot, Ann Tyas, Alan Brook, Dave Brook and myself noted a small inlet to our right. On returning from the aven I was sent up through the thick mud of this disgusting passage; Dave waited while the rest went elsewhere. By crawling flat-out on my side I found that the passage "went". Its dimensions did not alter much from the 2'6" vertically by 1'6" at its entrance, so after about 80' I shouted for D.B. to follow. Another 40' of crawl led to a rounded space where thruning would be possible for the first time. This was opposite a tight letterbox thrutch with a groove in its floor. Through this, a few feet away, could be seen a horizontal widening into which water dripped. Dave joined me here and persuaded me to try the thrutch. Much effort with one leg in the groove and in danger of injury to certain parts of my anatomy, saw me through into a glistening aven, oval in section, with black walls. At the bottom of the walls was an 18" band of pure creamy white prcellanous limestone. Dave joined me and our lights penetrated more than 70' up the aven with no sign of the roof. The long axis of the aven is about 20 - 25' and to the left of the point of entry is a fissure in some spongework.

We climbed up a slope of deep loam to this rift, our feet sinking up to 6" in its unbroken surface. By traversing along the fissure over a drop of 8' blocked with rubble and loam, we came to a steeply sloping shoot. Before I went down feet first I noted scratch marks reaching almost halfway up. I slid down and popped out from the fissure at the side of Lofty Aven. This hadn't seemed to go anywhere previously.

We decided to call the aven 'Parkinson' and unable to think of a name for the crawl, D.B. suggested it be dubbed 'Whittacker's Crawl'. Unfortunately, the name seems to be sticking.

Parkinson Aven may prove to be a more comfortable place for scaling than Lofty Aven as very little water comes down it.

Terry Whittacker

REVIEW:

Journal of the Happy Wanderers Cave and Pothole Club, 1966

Quarto, duplicated, 50 pp. 4 sides of surveys, soft covers, 5/- (plus 6d. postage) from the Editor, Braida Garth Farm, Westhouse, via Carnforth, Lancashire.

* * * * *

This is the first issue of a journal by this small (16 members) but very active club and contains articles dealing with new explorations as well as club'trips' extending over the last six years or so.

New explorations dealt with are; Aygill Caverns, Skirwith Cave extensions, Dale Barn Cave (Survey), Cote Gill Pot, Canal Cave Nidderdale, Malham Cove Rising, Ogof Agen Allwedd, Turbary Pot (survey), King Pot (surveys) and diving in Lancaster Hole and the Kingsdale Master Cave. Interesting accounts of trips down Hammer Pot, Spectacle Pot, the Kingsdale Master Cave, diving in Langstrothdale and an expedition to the Central Pyrenees complete the contents of the journal. These articles are all well written, in a lively style that makes interesting reading and is informative of details.

Three aspects of the activities recounted in the journal interested your reviewer particularly: the very strong accent on diving; the club has some six to ten proficient divers and must be the strongest in the North in this respect. That this approach is yielding valuable results is clear from the several items which describe diving exploits. Second; the exploration which has resulted from the club having its H.Q. in Kingsdale shows the value of concerted efforts on a single area. Third, and most encouraging of all, one is impressed by the manner in which members of the Wanderers have been happy to cooperate in explorations with members of several other clubs. While this type of inter-club exploration is common in the South it has been all too rare in the North, where inter-club rivalry has been the rule, and it is a pleasure to read accounts where the combined efforts of the "tigers" of several clubs are rewarded with new cave. In this respect, ULSA also owes much to the Wanderers for their expert diving assistance in the exploration of the Kingsdale Master Cave and it seems likely that increasing technical standards in cave exploration will require yet greater inter-club co-operation.

If a critical note is to be added, it must be that difficulties in duplication of the text have produced an unevenness of quality unworthy of the content.

A. G. Fincham

Note A copy of the HWCPC "Journal" has recently been added to the club Records.