

## Recent Caving Expeditions

South Wales Tony Knibbs and I spent a most successful week in South Wales caving between ~~the~~ 18th and 25th September. The weather was good and enabled us to go out everyday. We made with various members of the South Wales Caving Club, one of whom should be caving with us soon. Our camping site was at Ffynon Ddu Glyntowe where the waters of ~~the~~from Ogof Ffynnon Ddu reach daylight.

New discovery in Tunnel Cave The Cross Joint climbed On Sunday we were invited into Tunnel Cave, the greatest recent discovery in the district; the work of Survey and Exploration is not yet complete. A long low solution passage bricked in at the entrance to form a reservoir for Dan yr Ogof farm was the way in. After about 150 feet the previous end of the cave was reached. It was explained to us that interest had been taken in a strong air current and that work of blasting had produced an upward passage. The first persons through were amazed to find themselves in a dense fog where they could not find the walls. After the blasting fumes had cleared they realised they were in an immense hall (Davy Prices Hall) which continued for over 600 feet. They found a number of branch passages leading off and explored them.

When we went in the party intended to make an exhaustive search in one branch up to the Cross Joint, a high rift with a cascade at one end. We dived into various recesses for sometime and eventually reached the Cross Joint which had a small Cascade. We were told it had not been climbed. In an attempt to find a possible way on I backed up to the top of the narrow section until it closed down. I next climbed close to the waterfall which came down in three pitches: the first two were easy but the third proved smooth and well over twelve feet high. I made an effort but came down. By this time Tony was up and able to make an effort. The greatest difficulty was the last foot above which there was a hold. Tony was just about to come down when he decided on a last effort and just strained ~~to~~ to reach the hold. With some more pulling and grunting he reached a horizontal passage where he was able to fasten my sling to make the last bit easier.

We then started to follow a narrow passage avoiding straws and wondering how far it would lead us. We passed a beautifully festooned chimney and were then abruptly forced to a halt. A boulder had fallen across the passage and blocked the way. One's head could be put through at the top to see a small but high chamber.

Tony took a slab of rock in his hand and started to batter the large rock while I went back to the festooned chimney. I climbed it hoping that it would lead to an upper passage by an alternative route. At an approximate height of 45 feet by body measurement it completely closed down with a flat roof.

/ I then.....

I then decided to measure the passage approximately and to call some of the others. It turned out to be 150 feet. There was nobody around below the pitch so I gave a few blasts on the whistle. Tony's determination with the boulder could be heard by a steady boom each second.

Eventually Dai arrived at the foot of the pitch and joined Tony's waist rope to mine before coming up. When we reached Tony he informed us the great boulder had moved a little. He then completely stripped and forded his way through with care as the rock was dangerously poised. His clothing was handed over and he commenced an inspection, which I tried to follow without success. After some nail scratching we were informed that there was no way on. Tony moved some boulders from his side and threw a rock at the blockage which moved sufficiently for us to get in. The other side was an aven with fine straws hanging from one side.

Before we left Dai Hunt battered the blockage with a boulder until it collapsed, making a safe and easy way into the chamber.

We returned, again walking through the stream ~~xxxxxxx~~ in Davy Prices Hall to avoid some interesting mud floor.

The entrance passage was half flooded to our annoyance as a bung had been placed in the entrance reservoir.

On Saturday 18th when we got off the train we were greeted by a small cave on the roadside-Ogof Pen-Pant. On Monday 20th we surveyed Downies Cave with Noel Dilly S.W.C.C. now M.C.G. as well. Length was 500 feet. Tuesday 21st a short tour through Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. stream passage, Lows passage to the Crawl and out via the escape route. approximately 1 mile. Thursday 23rd we completely explored Craig y nos quarry cave.

Saturday 25th we were taken to Pant Maor Pot an open pot-hole on the moors. It is mainly a great stream passage with room in most parts of the way for at least three trolley-buses abreast. It contains a beautiful grotto called the Cathedral which probably has the largest and most prolific display of helectites in the British Isles.

### Scotland.

A week was spent in Durness, Scotland by Derrick Holmes, Ken Wastie and Malcolm Cotter between 18th and 16th October. The object of the trip was to search for new cave systems, in the unexplored Cambrian Limestone of Durness around Loch Erribol.

One cave called Smoo has been known for years and visited by cavers in the past. It is situated at the head of a narrow sea Loch almost certainly formed by Cave collapse. Its entrance forms a great arch with a torrent pouring out (Alt. Smoo). Just outside are some great squares of rock almost as large as an average house which have fallen from the roof.

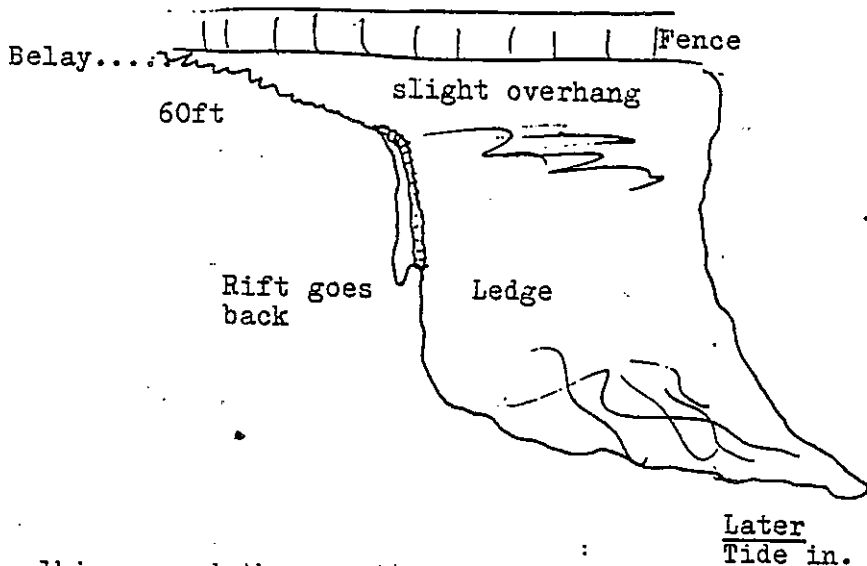
Inside another stream meets the main torrent. We drained a pool near where it came out and squeezed into a small cavity where the stream came from a murky syphon, which needless to say we did not dive! Close by and a little above was a mud choked passage which could make a promising dig. The main torrent could be heard roaring down a 60ft. waterfall from the surface into a lake-let. The locals told us a tale of three miles of cave manageable in a boat, possible some years back!!! (Note: We were told the usual tale of a dog coming out without hair).

Poloop Pot We did get some information about an open fenced off shaft called Poloop a mile or so beyond the cemetery. As far as we knew the only investigation was by a man on the end of a rope. We could not find out if he had been down the shaft or just down the steep slope.

When we set off some of the locals were most surprised and advised us against it thinking it too deep and dangerous. We eventually found the entrance an open pot about 100 yds from the sea. The ladder was belayed to a post and I made the descent. The cave running at the bottom was tidal and water was churning the bottom about 15ft from the end of the ladder. (27ft electron

on 60ft nylon belay.) Next derrick went down to have a look and then Ken.

CROSS SECTION POLOOP



In walking round the coast some small grottos were found just above tide level, one of which had some stalagmites.

On Thursday 14th a 24 mile inland walk was made with an ascent of Bein. Spionaide carrying 50ft of ladder and 100ft of rope. Although a lookout was kept for caves none could be found. In a few places streams gurgled behind boulders only to reappear the other side.

As far as breaking new ground was concerned the trip was a disappointment.