

Jamarske raziskave na Migovcu ali dvanajst bitk Monatipa

Raziskovanje brezna MONATIP na severni strani MIGOVCA je bilo že od začetka domena mlajših članov jamarske sekcije planinskega društva Tolmin. Po tem ko so Čadržni odkrili jamo za spodmolom je kmalu večini raziskovalcem postala neperspektivna. Največja zagovornika, da se jama konča ali se poveže z breznom Planika sta kasneje postala najbolj zagnana raziskovalca jame. Sam sem jamo raziskoval dvanajstkrat in prav dvanajstič se je zgodil največji uspeh, povezava s sistemom. Teh dvanajst akcij me je spominjalo na prav toliko soških bitk prve svetovne vojne.

Na prvo bitko me je povabil Kletnik mlajši leta 2007. Bila sva sama. Kletnik je bil takrat najbolj zagnan član. Škoda da le enkrat. Oba sva upala na veliko povezavo te jame z sistemom. Po zemljevidu ni manjkalo prav veliko do tega predvidevanja. Na koncu MONATIPA sta bile dve uganki, ki sva jih takrat razreševala. Prvo je bilo okno v kaminu. Preplezal sem do njega a zaman, nadaljevanje se je ustavilo. V drugo smer v globino se je odpiral meander v katerem že Fratnik ni dobil nadaljevanja. Kletnik se je z vso močjo stlačil v ožino. Nazaj se je vrnil s prebito ustnico in okrvavljen povedal, da boj še ni končan. Navdušen je povedal, da se jama nadaljuje. Že naslednjega dne se je Izi z Čadržni vrnil do tega mesta. Spustili so se še v neznano brezno in kmalu prišli v PRIMADONO.

Drugi poizkus se je zgodil šele leta 2009. Ker je bila povezava s Primadono že uspela je bila na vrsti povezava z glavnim sistemom jam na MIGOVCU. To bi bilo možno po neznanem in ogromnem kaminu na koncu jame, kjer se cepi pot za meander v PRIMADONO. Poklical sem še prijatelja Matjaža iz Kopra, zraven pa so bili še: Karin, Ana in Erik. Matjaž je preplezal polovico kamina. Ime smo mu dali PLANIKA.

Tretji poizkus in zopet sta minili dve dolgi leti. Na sestanku je bilo dogovorjeno, da jama zagotovo ne bo prišla v sistem in naj se jo razopremi. Nad to odločitvijo sem bil razočaran. Leta 2012 sem bil v jami z Rokom. V najbolj nemogočih razmerah po obilnem deževju sva se močila po jami. Ni bilo veliko upanja in tudi poizkus preplezati kamin do konca je še visel na nitki. Toda uspelo mi je priplezati na vrh kamina in z Rokom sva videla, da se jama še ne zapre. Izgledalo je še kar vzpodbudno in jamo nisva razopremljala.

Četrty poizkus istega leta sem z Tjašo in Nejcem podal v MONATIPA. Še vedno nismo bili prepričani ali gre jama naprej. V podoru na vrhu nekega novega kamina smo naleteli na močan prepih. Po sto metrih horizontalnega rova smo se oddahnili. Jama je šibala naprej.

Peti poizkus Ista ekipa okrepljena še z Maffijem je z velikim navdihom šla ponovno k skrivnostni jami. Nekje v mislih je še vedno oz-

nanjala velika povezava v celotni sistem jam na Migovcu in s tem tudi primat najdaljše jame v Sloveniji. Le ta se je zgodila poleti. MONATIP je nekako tudi bil vključen v to tekmo a zaenkrat še brez uspeha. Tako brez obremenitve smo se podali po ozkih rovih in prišli do neznanega brezna. Spustili smo se 40 m v globino. Sledil je še krajši rov ter kamin. Vse se je tu zaprlo. Po meritvah je od tu do sistema še okoli 100 m. Nov del z breznom smo poimenovali To ni naš problem.

Šesti poizkus 2013. Udeležili smo se ga: Čibej, Rile, Fratnik, Maffi in Tjaša. Treba je bilo poiskati novo pot. Tjaša je nad breznom To ni naš problem splezala 8m visoko do manjšega okna. Zopet se je odprla ozka horizontalna galerija, podobna tisti iz katere smo prišli. Prepih je spet nakazoval pot naprej in kmalu je sledilo novo 30m brezno. Krstili smo jo za Luzerja. Pod njim se odpre več rofov. Nismo jih raziskali do konca. Brez dvoma pa je kazalo, da se bo jama povezala v nekaj večjega. Navdušenje je v trenutku še bolj naraslo, ko je Fratnik na tleh dobil fix. Hitro pa se je izkazalo, da ne smemo prehitovati misli. Na pasu sem preštel fixe in opazil, da mi je eden »odletel«...

Sedmi poizkus 2013 Tjaša, Maffi, Erik, Rile, fratnik, Zec in Jarc. Zadnja dva se nista mogla prebiti za ožine. Brez niju smo nadaljevali raziskave pod Luzerjem. Geološko novejši rov je vodil v notranjost MIGOVCA. Odprla se je pravcata galerija v kateri smo nabili prečko. Za njo smo prišli do globljega brezna nato še enega. Njuno globino smo ocenili na 50m. Po 30 m nam je zmanjkalo vrvi. Na polici kjer smo se ustavili so bili po stenah čudni izrastki. Te tvorbe so nas spominjale na telovadce in brezno je dobilo ime TELOVADCI.

Osmi poizkus 2013. Fratnik, Izi, Nejc, Tetley in Oly. Na MIGOVCU je potekal raziskovalni tabor. Naval je bil velik. Prvič se nisem udeležil akcije v MONATIPA. Vesel sem bil, da jim še ni uspelo priti v sistem. Malo kasneje v juliju sem se pridružil Fratniku, Maffiju in Eriku iskati pravo nadaljevanje s prepihom. V galeriji pod Luzerjem smo se spustili v 50m brezno katerega dno je bilo zabasano s podornim skalovjem. Preizkovali smo tudi ta labirint a se vse konča s slepim breznom ali krajšim kaminom. Tedenski napadi v jami nepojenjajo. Še vedno v času angleško-tolminske odprave poteka nova akcija v sestavi: Fratnik, Clear, Tetly, Maffi, Nejc...poizkušajo na vsak način poizkati povezavo. Razdelili so se v dve skupini. Fratnikova je širila ožino v meandru na najgloblji točki v jami. Maffi in Nejc pa sta plezala prečko nad Luzerjem. Vse brez obetavnih nadaljevanj.

Deveti poizkus V jesenskem zatišju sva se z Žetkom in najinima familjema pojavila na KALU. Šla sva v MONATIPA plezat prečko, ki sta jo zadnjič začela Maffi in Nejc. Zabil sem tri fikse kot sta rekla. Toda po tem nisem bil iz prečke v rovu, temveč padel v praznino. Po šoku in odrgninah sem poizkušal še en krat, zabil še dva fiksa in le prišel do police. Od tu sem nadeljeval do novega kamina in brezna, ki se poveže z Luzerjem, torej nič novega.

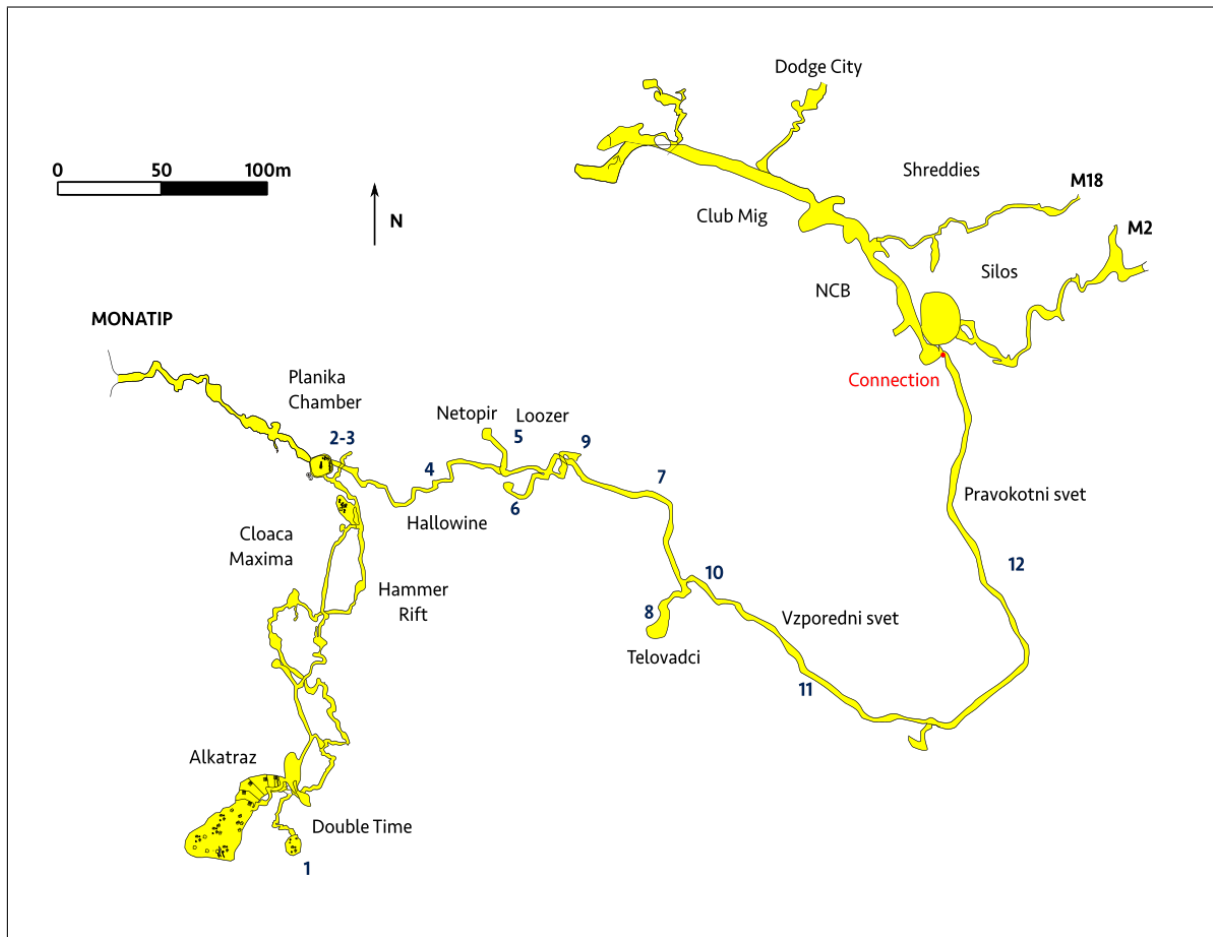


Figure 90: Tolminki MIGOVEC in Autumn, before a major October 'Super-Action' 📷 Jana Čarga

Deseti poizkus 2015. Vsa potencialna nadaljevanja so se končala. Kazalo je, da se jama zares ustavlja. Po drugi strani in teoriji to skoraj ni bilo mogoče, saj je MIGOVEC ves preluknjan. Zopet smo preizkusili srečo: Rile, Fratnik, Maffi in prvič Truš. Nekaj časa smo raziskovali v dvojicah pa nobeni ni uspelo narediti načrtovanega dela. Ponovno smo se združili in Fratnik nas je popeljal do brezna blizu Telovadcov, kjer naj bi na prejšnji akciji opazil neko okno. Malo se nam je mudilo zato smo se hitro spustili v brezno in skozi okno zanihali v ozko galerijo. Že sem mislil, da spet ne bo nič, ko se Maffi zasmije in pove, da gre jama ptav tu naprej.

Enajsti poizkus Čez en mesec smo bili spet na MIGOVCU. V akciji so sodelovali: Zec, Fratnik, Truš, Rile, ki pa sem se zaradi bolezni obležal na KALU. Novice iz jame so bile zelo spodbudne in ekipa zadovoljna. Naleteli so na precej prostorno galerijo, sledili so ji vsaj sto metrov do velikega brezna. Nova galerija poteka vzporedno z galerijo HOTLINE v sistemu. Povezava je res že zelo blizu.

Dvanajsta bitka Po vojaško, zadetek v polno se je zgodil: 24. Oktobra 2015. Zgodovinski dan se je pričel tako, da sem z Izijem in Fratnikom prišel do vhoda MONATIPA in se po desetih urah jame pojavil na vzhodni strani Migovca pred jamo M-16. Povezali smo vse jame v celotni sistem, ki je bil takrat dolg že več kot 35 kilometrov.



Speleological exploration on Migovec — two months of assaults

In the beginning, the exploration of MONATIP cave on the slopes of TOLMINSKI MIGOVEC was the onus of the younger members of the JSPDT. After the original discoverers explored the cave to its deepest point, expeditions soon became sporadic. The main advocate for the cave's potential connection with PLANIKA JAMA later became one of the most active explorers; I explored this cave myself twelve times, and the twelfth round was the most successful, ending with a connection to SISTEM MIGOVEC. These twelve assaults reminded me of the equally many battles of the First World War.

The first assault On the first assault I was invited by Kletnik (Samo Rutar). At that time, the most active member. We were alone. We both hoped for the big connection of this cave with the main system. The map did show it was not far. At the end of MONATIP there were two puzzles that we resolved at the time. First there was a window in the aven which I climbed up, but did not go anywhere. In the other direction, there was a meander going down, in which Fratnik

Survey 23: Survey of the twelve assaults on Monatip / ICCC and JSPDT

...These twelve assaults reminded me of the equally many battles of the First World War...

had already failed to find the way on. Kletnik forced himself through the narrow bit and returned with pierced and bloody lips. He said: 'the fight is not over yet'. The passage continued. The very next day Izi and the Čadrg cavers returned to this place. They went down the undescended pitch and soon came to PRIMADONA.

The second assault It did not take place until 2009. Since the cave had been successfully connected to PRIMADONA, the purported link to the SYSTEM was, in turn, investigated. There was a possibility that it could start from a huge, unclimbed aven, towards the end of the cave, where the rift to PRIMADONA peeled off. I also invited my friend Matjaž from Koper, along with Karin, Ana, and Erik. Matjaž climbed halfway up the aven. We named it PLANIKA.

The third assault Two years had passed. At a club regular meeting it was discussed that the cave most likely will not connect to the rest of the Sistem so it should be derigged. I was disappointed with this decision. In 2012, I was in the cave with Rok. In the most impossible conditions, after heavy rain we crawled through MONATIP. There was little hope, and even trying to climb the aven hung in the balance, but I did manage to climb up to the top of the aven and we saw that the cave was not yet dead. It looked very encouraging so the cave was not derigged.

The fourth assault I went to MONATIP with Tjaša and Nejc in that same year. We were still unsure whether the pitch would continue. In the alcove at the top of the new aven, we found a howling draught, and after a hundred metres of horizontal passage we relaxed: the cave goes on.

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The fifth assault The same team, reinforced by Maffi, went back to the mysterious passage. At the back of our minds, we pictured the great connection of the entire cave system under MIGOVEC, cementing its primacy as the longest cave in Slovenia. It happened during that summer. MONATIP was also involved in the effort, but remained resolutely separate. Without much effort we passage through tight crawls to an undescended pitch, and abseiled down 40 m. There was a short gallery and an aven. All dead around there. After the surveying, we measured about 100 m distance from here to the system. We named the new passage and the pitch 'This is not our problem'¹⁶

¹⁶ To ni naš problem

The sixth assault 2013. The following were in attendance: Čibej, Rile, Fratnik, Maffi and Tjaša. It was necessary to find a new way on. Tjaša climbed 8m above the TO NI NAŠ PROBLEM pitch to a small window. Again, there was a horizontal gallery, very similar to the one we had come from. Tjaša indicated the way on and soon, we came to a 30 m pitch. We christened it 'LOOZER' for her. There were several rifts leading off at the bottom, which we did not all investigate to the bitter end. It appeared certain that the cave would soon connect into

something bigger. Fratnik found a spitz on the floor ' and got very excited. But when I counted the spitz in our rigging bag, I noticed we were missing one

The seventh assault 2013. The team: Tjaša, Maffi, Erik, Rile, fratnik, Zec and Jarc. The last two could not fit through the squeezes, so we continued exploration underneath LOOZER without them. This newer (geologically speaking) gallery led towards the heart of MIGOVEC and opened up at a junction with another gallery to the right. We descended a pitch and then another. Their depth was estimated at 50 m. After 30 m, we ran out of ropes, and stopping on the shelf we noticed strange protrusions on the walls. These reminded us of gymnasts and the pitch was named 'TELOVADCI'.

The eighth assault Fratnik, Izi, Nejc, Tetly and Oly¹⁷. The summer expedition on MIGOVEC was up and running. The endeavour was substantial and for the first time I was not in the thick of it in MONATIP, but I was glad that they did not manage to find the way into the system without me. A little later in July, I joined Fratnik, Maffi and Erik to look for a continuation, using the cave draft. In the gallery below the LOOZER we descended into a 50 m pitch, at the bottom of which there was scree-filled boulder choke. We also tried to break through this labyrinth, but it all ended with a blind pit or small aven. The weekly assaults on this part of the cave did not relent. At the time of the English exodus from Tolmin, a new action was planned, with the following team: Fratnik, Clare, Tetley, Maffi, Nejc... try to make a connection in any way. They were divided into two groups. Fratnik spread the strait in the meander at the deepest point in the cave. Maffi and Nejc climbed to traverse over Loozer. All ended without promising leads.


¹⁷ Oliver Myerscough

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The ninth assault In the autumn silence, Žetko and I appeared on KAL with our families. We went to MONATIP climbing a new pitch, an initiative launched by Maffi and Nejc. Maffi and Nejc suggested to me to put in 3 bolts on the climb. I did so, but still managed to fall down back down. After the shock and some abrasions I tried my luck another time, drilled in two more bolts and only came to a shelf. From this position, I could see an aven and a pitch that connected back with LOOZER, so nothing gained.

The tenth assault 2015. All potential leads have ended. It seemed that the cave really stopped. Of course, we knew this is practically impossible, since MIGOVEC is entirely hollow! Again, we tried our luck: Rile, Fratnik, Maffi and Truš for the first time. We pushed for a couple of times in pairs but nobody managed to find the connection. We reunited again and Fratnik led us to the abyss near TELOVADCI, where he had noticed a window on the previous campaign. We were a rush, so quickly abseiled down and thorough the window into a



Figure 91: Inside the Sheperd's Hut at KAL  Rhys Tyers



Monatip

- Andrej Fratnik
- Iztok Možir
- Dejan Ristić

gallery. I thought that there would be nothing again, but I found Maffi laughing and pointing out the ongoing leads.

The eleventh assault One month later, we were again on MIGOVEC. The campaign included: Zec, Fratnik, Truš, Rile, who, however, had to wait on KAL due to illness. News from the cave were very encouraging and the team satisfied. They encountered a rather spacious gallery, which they followed for at least a hundred meters to a large abyss. The new gallery runs parallel to the Hot Line gallery in the system. The connection is really very close.

Dvanajsta bitka - The Twelfth Battle

Zadetek v polno se je zgodil 24. oktobra 2015 Čudež pod Migovcem, skoraj po vojaško. Okoli 17.00 popoldne se je zgodil zgodovinski dan. Skupaj z Fratnikom in Izijem smo iz MONATIPA skozi ožino prišli v poznane dele, galerijo v jami M18 in povezali vse tri sisteme na Migovcu. Nov sistem je tako dolg več kot 35 km. Moj dvanajsti obisk te jame je kot 12 soških bitk. Sicer so se zgodile točno pred sto leti, zanimivo je pa da se je zadnja imenovana »čudežna« bitka dogajala ravno oktobra isti mesec kot naša v jamo.

Vse se je dogajalo tako: V četrtek 22. oktobra me je poklical Izi, če grem v MONATIPA in na KAL kjer bodo praznovali rojstni dan. Skromno pove, da je brez opreme in naj mu jo bo priskrbel Fratnik. Med drugim doda, da povezave ne bo in da če imam delo naj raje ostanem doma. Še bo čas, me tolaži. Hudiča, zopet se vse križa. Delo z novo hišo, Sandrina operacija, zopet in otroci počitnice. Pa še jama. Sem mislil, da gremo kasneje, zdaj pa mi od vsega kar gori glava. Neznansko me vleče gor. Čutim, da bo povezava glede na pretekle dogodke vsak čas padla in zato sem kot na trnih. Prespim še eno noč in poizkušam uskladiti vse zadeve. Naporni petek se začne zjutraj s službo, popoldne z gradnjo, zvečer še nabava gradbenega materiala za hišo in nato končno pakiranje za v jamo. Sandri povem še tisto zarečeno trditev, da če bo povezava sem končal z jamami. Ob desetih zvečer zapustim dom in se sam odpravim skozi gozd. Zopet ista pesem. Sam z vsemogočimi skrivnostnimi mislimi. Kot velikokrat tiste o življenju in smrti. Tišina in redki šumi so moji spremljevalci. Da mi v tej temačni samoti ne bi bilo tesno si nekaj naglas pojem. Lepo je pa gledati v skoraj okroglo Luno, ki me ves čas spremlja ravno nad obronki gozda. Na trenutke je tako svetlo, da ugasnem luč in že vstopim v polno koč na KALU.

Sobotno jutro se prikaže v najlepši jesenski varianti. Širina obzorja plane v mojo dušo. Sončni žarki obsijejo ves prostor, razen meglenih dolin. Dan se je začel z neko posebno energijo. To se občuti tudi med planinci, ki hodijo mimo. Presenečen zagledam svojega bivšega motorističnega prijatelja. Spremenjen je v žensko z imenom Saša. Skupaj popijemo štamprle žganice, predsodki izginejo in vsak gre s svojo zgodbo k svojemu cilju naproti.

Opreme za v jamo nimamo veliko. Fratnik ima malo mašino, štrik

pa je v jami. Merilni komplet je pri meni. V koči za vsak slučaj vzamem še nekaj ploščic in karabinov. Večina ostalega moštva se raje odloči za užitke na površju. Čez vhod zopet prileti kamenje. Izi je »full« žejen in mi popije skoraj vso pijačo. Posledica pretekle noči ga bo spremljala skoraj celotno akcijo. Po jami se premikam zelo preudarno. Potrpežljivo čakam, da bi videl kraj kjer so zadnjič odnehali. Prijatelja sta hitrejša od mene in komaj jima sledim. Ne veseli me tako hitri tempo. Po samo dobrih stvareh želim danes zares uživati v jami in biti del nje. Vanjo smo vstopili ob 10 zjutraj in po dveh urah smo že pred velikim nepoznanim breznom v galeriji VZPOREDNI SVET. Opazujem po breznu navzdol. Vidim prav do dna tega okrog 60 m brezna. Iz moje ptičje perspektive se pogled ustavi na peščenem ravnem dnu. Bog ve kaj vse je še spodaj. Na nasprotni strani opazujem po odprtini o kateri je govoril Maffi, da je možno nadaljevanje. Tu v rovu sredi brezna opazujemo situacijo in Fratnik se prvi odloči za spust v neznano. Trideset metrov pod nami se vidi na desno ogromno razširitev v katero bo čez nekaj časa Fratnik zanihal. Z Izijem razrešujeva zavozlani štrik in ga dodajava v globino. Minute minevajo in Fratnik porabi zares veliko časa da zabije tri svedrovce. Zelo mi je mraz v prste. Iz rova se potegnem v sredino brezna in spet čakam. Zaradi mirovanja so moji prsti otrpli in boleči. Končno se Fratnik le zavihti v stransko razširitev in zabije svedrovec na najbolj neugodno mesto. To je ogromna skala stoječa prav na robu brezna. Giljotina. Fratnik jo krsti za Pojočo skalo.

Če bi se premaknila in zgrmela bi nas potegnila v globino. Raje ne razmišljam o tem in se poizkušam čim prej skobacati iz brezna na začetek ogromnega novega sveta, ki ga ni videl še nihče pred nami. Naše razpoloženje je prav zaradi dimenzij tega prostora drugačno kot prej celo jamo in celo mesece prej. Odprlo se je zares nekaj velikega in zdi se kot bi bili na nekem križišču ali pa otoku brodolomcev. Neznansko nas vleče naprej. Ne vem kako bi to stanje zadovoljstva sploh opisal. Hodimo po ogromnem horizontalnem hodniku, kot bi se zmagovalci sprehajali na paradi. Opazujemo galerijo in padajo besede: »Lej to, lej to, uf, mater...« Naše poglede pritegnejo čudne tvorbe kapnikov in kamnov. Eni izmed kamnov so temnordeči, drugi pa že vlečejo na zeleno. Vsak vzame kakšen košček. Fratnik poda hipotezo, ki jo je nekje slišal, da so na teh kamnih bakterije, ki jejo to kamenje. In res so bile na teh skalah neke črne kolobarjaste tvorbe. Prikladno ime rov postane Kamnožer. Sproščena pot se ne konča. Le kam vodi? Pomerim s kompasom smer. Galerija nas vodi še preveč po pravi smeri. Namesto v smeri 60 stopinj, ki bi nas pripeljala do brezna MIG COUNTRY hodimo sedaj že skoraj proti severu. Pot poteka rahlo navzgor in prehodili smo že vsaj 200m. Vsi smo iz sebe. Po tolikih akcijah je to darilo. Kaj nas še čaka? Kako bo izgledala povezava se sprašujemo? Naposled se ustavimo pred podorom. Kupi oglatega kamenja so z leve strani zasuli skoraj ves rov.

Med kamenjem in steno je ozek precej zasut prehod, skozi katerega se vidi temo. Povrhu pa še močno piha. Lotimo se odmetavanja kamenja. Menjujemo se v ožini. Delo postaja po določenem času vedno

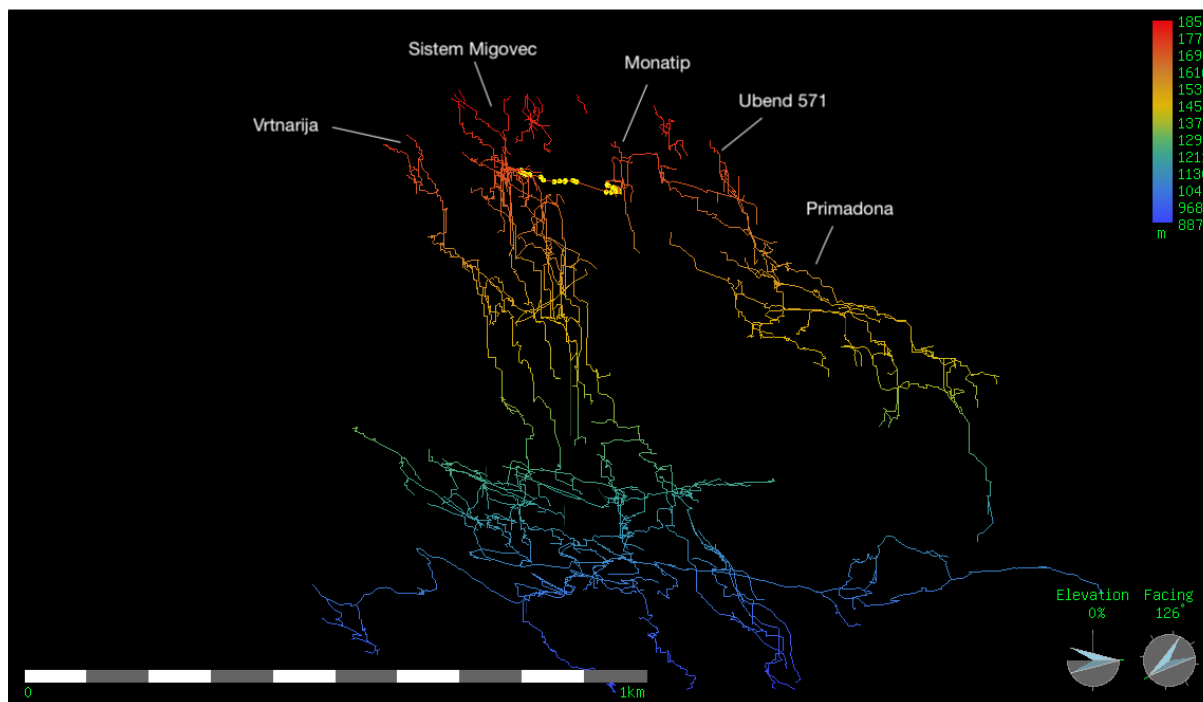


Figure 92: A highlight of the connection passages between SISTEM MIGOVEC and MONATIP-PRIMADONA-UBEND571. — produced on *Aven*

bolj neuspešno. Na Izija se kruši material in postaja že nevarno. Fratnik predlaga, da pridemo drugič z stvarmi za miniranje. Nič, čaka nas pripravlanje za povratek in merjenje. Čakam pred ožino. Nekaj mi ne da miru. Poizkušam še zadnjič odgrebsti nekaj kamenja. Zviz v ožino in kopljem. Nekaj časa kopljem in zazdi se mi, da pa bi najbolj suhi Izi že mogel skozi najožji del. Izi proba in uspeh je tu. Je že na drugi strani v majhni razširitvi. Sledi mu še Fratnik. Vprašam kako je? »Nova ožina« reče Fratnik. Nekaj časa prekladata kamenje in sliši se rušenje skal. Naposled še sam slečem pas in jima sledim. Medtem Fratnik že izgine po drugi dolgi ožini. Malo pred tem sta na steni te razširitve opazila piko podobno tisti, ki jo naredi karbidovka. Čakava in neko čudno vzburjenje narašča. Kmalu zaslišiva Fratnikove besede: »Pobje dans bo veselje, dans bomo odprli šampanc.« Na moment se mi vse oddahne. Preprosto, povezava! Leta pričakovanj so zdaj prinesla darilo. Ampak še vedno sem malo zmeden in ne verjamem sto procentno. Zopet Fratnik: »Tu je po tleh karbid in več pik po steni.« Ironično dodam »Nismo še zmagal« in Fratniku odgovorim, da je zame dokaz samo fiksiran štrik, saj karbid lahko prinese voda iz višjih mest. Potem pa se Fratnika ne sliši več.

Po trebuhu mu sledim še deset metrov in iz oklepa ožine prihajam v pokončno lego do tistih črni, sajastih pik. Resnično nekdo je tu že bil. Sledim vse bolj širokemu delu do prave galerije. Zasliši se Izija: »Tu je štrik. In tu je še eden. Rile, tu je tolk štrika kolkr ga hočeš.« Zares to je povezava. Sprva je še vse uganka v katerem delu jame smo. Pričakovali smo galerijo Hot line, pa ji to ni podobno. Očitno smo jo »preskočili«, šli nekje nad njo in prišli v manjšo galerijo, ki bi lahko



bil NCB tunel. Ko pridemo k ostankom angleškega tabora dvomi izginejo. Zagotovo smo prišli v brezno M18. Opazujemo okolico in se s spomini vračamo v leta, ko so tu raziskovali Angleži. Tudi Fratnik in Izi prepoznata te dele, ker sta tu že nekoč bila. Kakšen fantastičen občutek je tu sredi rova opazovat in z mislimi tavat po tem labirintu. Cilj je dosežen in neka velika sprostitvev napolnjuje telo. Čeprav nismo na nobenem vrhu je ta točka vrhunec neke poti, podzemske poti. Spomnim se tudi na leto 1995, ko so tu Angleži dosegli višek svojih raziskav. Citirali so N. Castereta. »Do velikih stvari prideš po ozki poti.« Kar je M18 tudi bila. Jama ožin in strganih kombinezonov. Toda Angleži na koncu galerije niso prekopali vsega. Če bi jim uspelo, bi našli še večjo galerijo po kateri smo prišli danes mi. Sklenemo vrniti se po plezalno opremo za ožine nato pa se po drugi strani in drugih jamah vrniti proti izhodu.

Naredili bomo krog pod zemljo. Merjenje opustimo za drugič, zmanjkalo nam bo časa. Ura je okoli 17.00 popoldne. Vse je OK. Le mene je strah, da zadnja brezna v M-16 niso opremljena. Vrnemo se nekaj deset metrov po galeriji nazaj in splezamo v ožino ter po trebuhu eden za drugim rijemo in se spuščamo do »Level 2« v sistemu Mig. Kot bi gledal iz avtobusa že znane postaje prihajajo iz noči: TITANIK, MIG COUNTRY, GLADIATORSKA prečka... V teh ogromnih

Figure 93: Jonathon Hardman trudging along with a heavy bag across the lunar landscape of the MIGOVEC Plateau
 📷 *Jana Čarga*



Figure 94: The MIGOVEC face, as seen from the switchback trail under PLANINA KAL, the Shepherd's Hut 📷 Jana Čarga

sobanah preluknjanih z globokimi brezni smo le tema in mi. Ves čas se ob tem sprašujem, do kdaj bom še gledal to podzemlje? Še bolj kot to me znova mori paranoična misel, kaj, če je kdo v resnici pobral štrike iz vhoda Šestnajstke. To bi pomenilo, da se moramo ponovno vrniti skozi celo jamo... Ko sem končno pod vhodnim delom in zagledam štrik sem presrečen. Rešeni smo, prihaja drugi lahko rečem vhod ali izhod. Zdaj pa res med plezanjem sanjam in se spominjam čas predavnimi 35. leti, ko sem kot mulc z Iliado in Zoranom tu nabiral prve jamarske izkušnje. Okoli 20 ure smo vsi trije pred vhomom. Zunaj je tema, nekaj snega in Luna. Zazremo se v zvezde. Kaj vse je nad nami? Po površju Migovca iz zahodne strani prečimo proti zahodni, do prehoda med Migovcem in Kukom kjer se moramo po ovčji stezi spustiti do vhoda MONATIPA. Tam nas čakajo ruksaki in iz svojega nam Fratnik ponudi pivo. Odrinemo na izhodišče na KAL. Po juhi in pašti odrinem ponosno v dolino. Zraven pa me spet spremlja Luna. Zgodil se je zgodovinski dan in z jamarstvom lahko odneham.

Dejan Ristić

The Twelfth Assault

The miracle that took place underneath MIGOVEC on the 24th of October 2015 had almost a military feel. This was achieved at 17.00 in the afternoon on a historic day. Together with Andrej Fratnik and Izi, we went straight from MONATIP entrance to the galleries of M18 and connected the three systems of MIGOVEC making the new combined system more than 35 km long. My twelfth visit to this cave echoed the Twelfth battle of the SOČA. The latter happened exactly a century ago, but it is interesting to note that the aforementioned miracle 'battle' occurred this same month of October underneath MIGOVEC.

Everything started like this: on Thursday 22th October I received a call from Izi, asking whether I'd like to go to MONATIP from KAL, where they were celebrating his birthday. He adds modestly that Fratnik will provide the equipment. He also said that there probably wouldn't be a connection, that since I had a job, I might prefer to stay home. I had earned my comfort. Hell, once again my heart was conflicted. Working with a the new house, Sandra's operation and children on vacation. Plus caving on top! I had to go, the connection was on my mind and I had a feeling we just might find it. I spent one night trying to coordinate everything. Since I am very busy, Friday started with a job in the morning, construction in the afternoon, ordering building supplies for the house in the evening, and finally the packing of caving equipment. Sandra will tell you of a heated argument: should I find the connection, I'd have to stop caving! At 10'o clock in the evening, I left the house and entered the forest. You know that song: lost in mysterious thoughts with the Almighty, often thoughts of life and death. Silence or soft murmurs are my only companions. This dark solitude could not quell my anxiety though. The moon was almost full, watching me above the forested foothills. It was so light at times that I turned off my torch, until I reached a packed cottage at KAL.

Saturday morning began coated in the most beautiful shades of Autumn. The width of the horizon engulfed my soul. The sun's rays painted the entire landscape in bright colours, except for the misty valleys. The day started with a unique energy, which was felt by some hikers walking past. I was surprised to see my old friend - a biker. He has changed sex and "she" is now called Saša. We drank some Žganje, the prejudices disappeared and we both continued our separate ways.

We do not take much equipment. Fratnik takes a small drill, rope is in the cave. The rest of the surveying kit is with me. I steal a few carabiners and bolts from the hut, just in case. The others prefer the surficial pleasures. We approach the cave entrance across the scree slope. Izi felt very thirsty and drank almost all our drinks. The consequences of the previous night would hound us throughout the entire campaign. My friends are faster than me. I do not want to rush - not today. Today I want to enjoy and be one with the cave. We entered MONATIP at 10.00 am, and after two hours, we reach the 'PARALLEL GALLERY', facing a big unfathomed abyss.



Monatip

- Andrej Fratnik
- Iztok Možir
- Dejan Ristić

...You know that song: lost in mysterious thoughts with the Almighty, often thoughts of life and death. Silence or soft murmurs are my only companions. This dark solitude could not quell my anxiety though....

...My light reaches all the way to the bottom of this 60m shaft...

...Fratnik names it - Pojoča skala - a singing rock. If it moved it would thunder down, pulling us into the depths...

...We walk along the vast gallery as champions on a parade ground. We observe the gallery, sometimes breaking silence with 'look at this, look at this', 'mother...'

...'What will the connection look like?' we wonder...

I peer down it. My light reaches all the way to the bottom of this 60m shaft. From my vantage point, I can see sandy ledges on the bottom section. God knows what lies below. I can also see an opening the Maffi had talked about, which was likely to 'go'. From the middle of the shaft I observed the situation while Fratnik decided to descend first into the unknown. About thirty feet below, we can see an enormous window into which Fratnik swings after some time gaining momentum. During this time Izi and I are untangling the rope and passing it down slowly to Fratnik. Minutes pass, Fratnik taking a really long time to put only three bolts in. My fingers go very cold. One bolt across the shaft and again wait. I stretch a bit and then wait again. Because of resting too much, my fingers are numb and painful. Finally Fratnik swings into the window after hammering in a bolt in the most precarious position. Instead of wall, it's a huge rock on the lip of the shaft. A guillotine. Fratnik names it - Pojoča skala - a singing rock. If it moved it would thunder down, pulling us into the depths. I tried not to think about it, trying to get off the rope and away from the shaft as soon as possible: in front of us started a huge new world that nobody had seen before us.

Our mood reflected precisely the dimensions of the passage, it was so different from the morning or even months before. A window is really something great and it feels like a being at a cross-roads or, being ship-wrecked, seeing an island. This spurred us on. I do not know how whether this pleasure can be described, if at all. We walk along the vast gallery as champions on a parade ground. We observe the gallery, sometimes breaking silence with 'look at this, look at this', 'mother...'. Our gaze is drawn towards strange stalactite formations and crystals. Some are a dark red, others nearer green. Why? Fratnik heard somewhere a hypothesis that some are the result of bacterial action. Indeed some exhibit a black annular feature. We call this gallery KAMNOŽER.

The easy caving continued and we started wondering where this way led on to. Direction check with the compass... the gallery trends too far east. We had walked towards 60° from the pitch, bringing Mig country almost due north. The way on was slightly uphill and we had walked another 200m. All on our own. After some many hard pushing trips, this is a gift. What awaits us? 'What will the connection look like?' we wonder. We are then stopped by a bolder choke. Between the rock and the boulders a tiny passage is visible and we can see the darkens behind it. It is drafting a lot!

Let's dig the rocks out! Order in the squeeze! The work organisation becomes increasingly ineffective. Loose material from the roof crumbles on Izi. This place is dangerous! Fratnik proposes to come back another day with mining explosives to clear the place. We prepare for the return journey and gather the surveying kit.


Ahead, the squeeze awaits. Some doubt gnaws at us. One last attempt at clearing some rocks. Through the squeeze and push at the rocks. After some time spent digging it seems to me that Izi, the most slender would be able to squeeze through the narrowest part. Izi tries



and succeeds, getting to a small extension on the other side. He's followed by Fratnik. 'How is it?' I ask. 'Another squeeze' answers Fratnik. I hear rocks being moved and crushed. Eventually, I take off my belt and follow through. Fratnik then disappears into another squeeze, until he reports marks on the far wall similar to those made by carbide. We wait, some strange excitement building up. Soon, we hear Fratnik's words: 'My friends, you will be pleased, the champagne will flow!'. That moment brings relief. This was simply the connection! After the expectation, this was a gift, but I was still a little bit confused, not a hundred-percent sure. Fratnik shouts back 'Here is the carbide, and there are more splodges further on'. I add ironically 'we have not yet won', as carbide can be deposited from percolating water. I couldn't hear Fratnik anymore.

After ten metres of crawl on my belly I emerge right in front of those marks, black as soot. Indeed, someone's been here already. To my right, I follow an increasingly wider gallery. Izi speaks 'There is a mark, and here's another one!. Rile, here is all the proof you could possibly want. In truth, this is the connection.'

Initially, the part of the cave was mystery to us. We had expected to break out into *HOTLINE* gallery, but this didn't look like it. We had therefore 'skipped' it, going above and joined with a smaller gallery, which could well be *NCB*. When we found the remnants of the old English 'CLUB MIG' camp, all doubts dissipated. We had come into *M18 (TORN T-SHIRT cave)*. Looking around us, memories came rushing back, when the English cavers used to explore these parts. Fratnik and Izi recognise these parts as they have been here before. What a fantastic feeling it was, to look around and let

Figure 95: The *MIGOVEC* surface, seen from *TOLMINSKI KUK*, pockmarked with a series of doline, short blind valleys and bare limestone benches
 *Tanguy Racine*

...Soon, we hear Fratnik's words: 'My friends, you will be pleased, the champagne will flow!...'

thoughts wander in this labyrinth, in the middle of the cave. With the goal achieved, our bodies relaxed. Although this was no conquered summit, it was the culmination of subterranean routes. I remember when, back in 1995, the English cavers found this passage. As Nobert Casteret pointed out 'Great things come from small openings'. This was especially true of M18 with its tight squeezes and torn oversuits. But the British hadn't dug it all at the end. If they had, they would have found the gallery from which we arrived that day. After recovering our climbing gear from the other side of the squeezes, the others returned to the pitch, towards the exit.

We decided to do a through trip. We left the surveying for other time as time was running out and we had to start exiting the cave. Time check: 17.00 in the afternoon. Everything's fine, the only worry is that the last pitch in M16 might not be rigged. We turn around to go back to NCB gallery, climbing back through the squeeze and the crawl and descend to LEVEL 2, the artery of MIGOVEC. This was like coming to a known bus station in the night: TITANIC, MIG COUNTRY, GLADIATOR'S TRAVERSE... In these huge passages pierced by deep shafts, there is only darkness and us. All the time, I wonder. Even worse, the paranoid thoughts kill me 'What if someone actually picked up the ropes of the entrance series? This would mean that we have to backtrack all the way through the cave... When finally below the entrance I spot a rope, I'm overcome with joy. At that moment, we emerged from the entrance (or exit?). Memories took me back 35 yrs ago, when just a fresher I was gaining my first caving experiences with Iliada and Zoran. After 20 hours of caving, all three of us were by the entrance.

Outside there was darkness, the moon and a little snow. We look to the stars. What is above us? On the western edge of the MIGOVEC plateau, the steep slopes fall sharply to the west, all the way to the saddle between KUK and MIGOVEC, where a small track leads down to MONATIP. There, our rucksacks wait for us, from which Fratnik produces beers. We then leave for KAL. After soup and pasta, I set sail for the valleys with pride. The moon is my faithful companion. This was a historic day, and I can give up caving.

Dejan Ristić

... This was like coming to a known bus station in the night: TITANIC, MIG COUNTRY, GLADIATOR'S TRAVERSE... In these huge passages pierced by deep shafts, there is only darkness and us....