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JOURNAL
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# LONDON UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUBS



### THE JOURNAL of the LONDON UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUBS

## CHELSEA COLLEGE CAVING CLUB IMPERIAL COLLEGE CAVING CLUB QUEEN MARY COLLEGE CAVING SOCIETY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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#### Editor.

J.R.Hallam, Institute of Geological Sciences, Exhibition Road, London, S.W.7

#### EDITORIAL

This journal has now reached its tenth edition and is still coming off the presses three or four times a year. When it was started three years ago, I had some doubts as to how long it would last. Now, though, it is going better than it ever has before, and it is reasonable to say that it compares very favourably with the majority of club journals in circulation today. Many people have helped to make this possible, but there can be no doubt that the lion's share of any credit due must go to Dr. Tony Waltham, its first editor and certainly its most prolific contributor. Onee again we have to thank him for several very topical articles in this journal. I should also like to thank Rog Bowser for his two items on Yorkshire.

A fourth editor has now taken over the journal and hopes that he may be able to keep up the excellent standard of his three predecessors.

One small change has taken place. In view of the present move to use International Paper Sizes, we have decided to opt for the B5 size, which I think will be a noticeable improvement.

Jon Hallam

#### THE EXPLORATION OF THE EPOS CHASM

The Epos Chasm in N.W. Greece was discovered in 1968 by Peter Livesey, who led the 1969 expedition to complete the exploration. The expedition consisted of an assault team of Pete and nine other cavers -John Greene (B.P.C.), John Russom (N.C.C.), John Sheppard, John (Oxfam) Farnworth, Dave Cobley, Tony Waltham (all H.W.C.P,C.), Shaun O'Neill, Jim Eyre (N.P.C.) and Tom Wigley - together with a three man film team, six sherpas and five girls. Equipment for the expedition was mostly borrowed and about the ladder was kindly loaned by the London University clubs; in part acknowledgement for this, this article is appearing in the L.U.C.C. journal before the publication of the official report. The following is simply the personal diary of one member's descent of the Epos, but the Expedition Report, due on sale this autumn, contains full descriptions and surveys of the caves of the Astraka plateau in N.W. Greece (including Epos and Provetina), accounts of expeditions to the area and geological reports, etc.

Having been fortunate enough to be invited on Pete's expedition, I suffered three days hard driving across most of Europe to find myself in the incredible limestone scenery of N.W. Greece. Twenty four bodies and nine donkeys then walked for a whole day with vast amounts of gear over 10 miles of wild mountain scenery to a thistle-covered campsite. walked over a slight hill and there below was the very impressive entrance to the Epos Chasm - five dry stream beds (obviously wet in spring) passed over some shales and converged on a series of the huge rifts - each one looking like an oversized Juniper Gulf entrance. This looked really promising and I returned to camp as other members of the expedition walked over for a quick look, including Dave Cobley who promptly fell down the first pitch (fortunately only 15 ft. deep)

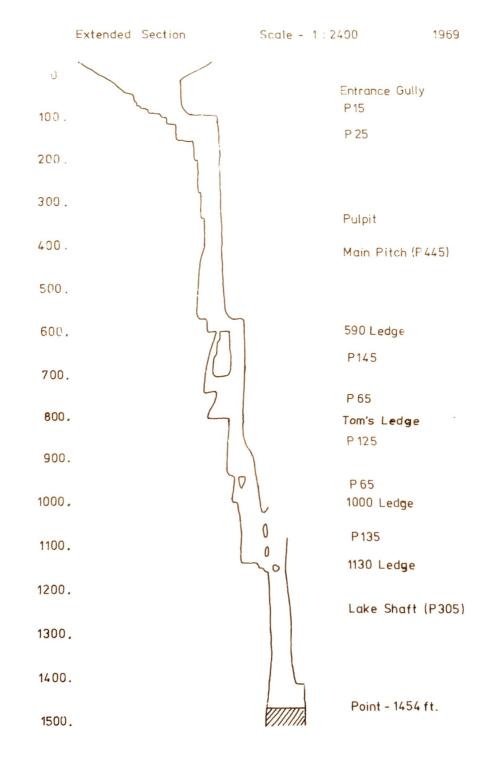
The next day was spent sorting out the gear and looking around the area. Half a mile from the cave was the sharp lip of the Vicos gorge with a huge resurgenge visible thousands of feet below. The caving started the day after with Pete leading a team to ladder to -900 ft., just below the point he had

reached in 1968. Meanwhile Tom, Oxfam and I surveyed and found the rising to be just 3000 ft. below the entrance.

The following day was our turn, and the second the following day was half of the assault team went down with more ladder. The entrance rift was a series of short climbs down to a depth of 140 ft., dry except forthe compliments of the numerous birds which nested on the ledges. soon I was at the top of the first large pitch, still just in daylight. Shep had gone down and I was next, which was convenient as the last men were due to be left lifelining on ledges. I tied on and set off down 40ft. in a rift to a small ledge, and then over the edge and down a further 80 ft. From here I could really see the size of the shaft, about 30 ft. in diameter, with beautiful clean walls showing magnificent rock structures. Another small ledge and then 60 ft. of ladder to the Pulpit, a narrow ledge very like its namesake in Lost Johns'. From here the ladder hung free for about 200 ft. and climbing down the centre of this immense shaft was an unforgetable experience. Soon I could see Shep's light almost hidden in a corner and after 445 ft. of ladder I landed on a wide floor with a shallow pool. I untied and walked over to Shep, who said "I think it's over there; it must be a climb down to the next ladder". pointing at a huge black hole. I didn't like the look of this, so I lobbed down a rock, which fell free for 400 ft.!

I tried the other side of the shaft and found a ladder hanging down a long wide slot. We quickly clinbed down an easy pitch of 145 ft. and then down Breccia Pitch, 65ft. deep with walls entirely of coarse limestone breccia. Here we found a comfortable ledge, later named Tom's ledge when he was left on it for two hours. From the far end we could see that we were part way down another immense shaft. followed Shep down the next pitch, 125 ft, deep and unfortunately laddered with the worst of the tackle, alternate 10 in. and 12 in, ladders, with five slipped rungs. Ten feet down the ladder hung free and I could vaguely pick out Shep's light, on a miserable ledge overlooking another black hole . Looking upwards I could sometimes see people's lights at the foot of the main pitch, some 200 feet above. This, I decided, was an exposed pitch. Soon I was down, more tackle was lowered to us, and we laddered the next pitch and so got to a much safer ledge.

#### EPOS CHASM



Simplified from grade 4 survey by British Expedition to Epos Chasm

Another big pitch followed, so Oxfam came down to the nasty ledge and after more tackle relaying Shep climbed down this new pitch. Soon the words floated up to OXfam and myself, "Another . . pitch . . two . hundred . . feet." Where were these huge horizontal passages we all hoped for ?

We decided this was enough for the day, as our team was strung out on various ledges. I climbed back up the 65 ft., and then with one man per pitch we lowered 500 ft. of ladder and rope to Shep and then beat a retreat. The climb out was surprisingly easy, as the only effort required was on the lower half of the 445 ft. pitch and here Jim's nylon harnesses and the team of sherpas gave a magnificent pull. Certainly the sherpas' work at the top of the main pitch, lifelining and pulling, was a marvellous boost to the caving team.

The weather let us down the next day as numerous thunder clouds gathered over the mountain. The cave obviously flooded catastrophically, and we wondered what the effect would be of one of the very heavy thunderstorms to which the area was prone. We therefore had a short day just sending more tackle and telephone line down to -590 ft. In the end the rain was not really heavy, and as no water flowed down the cave, it seems likely that the cave only floods during the spring snow melting.

The next day we had fine weather and all the assault team went down to see what lay ahead. I found myself near the front and this time surveyed the cave as I went down - a fairly easy process of counting ladder rungs and making a few short horizontal sights. It didn't seem long before I was down at the 1000 ft, ledge and Shaun was lining me down an easy sloping pitch of 135 ft. At the bottom. a large chamber with a shallow pool in the middle, and leading out, a genuine cave passage, clean washed. and formed in a band of beautiful white limestone. Only 20 ft. on I met the others at the head of the next pitch. Pete and Shep had been down, - "300 ft. to a lake", they said, so I set off down the pitch. counting rungs again to finish the sacred survey. went down the wall for about 200 ft., and the ladder then hung free. Soon I was hanging a few feet above the water taking some bearings. Below me the ladder disappeared into very deep, still water, disturbed by a light spray falling from above. The nearest wall

was 10 ft. away, and the lake measured about 40 x 90

surrounded by vertical walls.

It was disappointing that Epos didn't go deeper and back up and or on any It was disappointing the but this was certainly a very impressive end to but this was certainly a very impressive end to but this was certainly a very impressive and deeper to bothole. I climbed back up and oxfar an but this was certainly a very impressive pothole. I climbed back up and oxfam went only to have his light go out at the bottom. impressive pothore. I climb out at the bottom, only to have his light go out at the bottom, down, only to have his item out. Oxfam and I then chamber while Jim went down to 200 hen giving him a difficult class giving him a difficult class giving him a difficult class given while Jim went down to 200 then surveyed the chamber while Jim went down to 200 ft. surveyed the champer will to look at the lake. Then we all departed rapidly, to look at the lake. Then we all departed rapidly, to look at the take. Then a drifted down the shaft, as reports of thunderstorms drifted down the shaft. we regained the surface just eight hours after enter

With the end of Epos Chasm reached, the expedit. ion began to slow down. I spent the next day film. ing on Tom's ledge and the little pitches above it, and sitting on the Pulpit relaying tackle.

Another impressive journey down the mountain followed, and finally we had a protracted journey home via the coast and caves of Jugoslavia. Altogether, a fine expedition.

Tony Waltham

#### A DIVE IN NOTTS POT

On an incredibly cold March Saturday, Notts Pot was descended by a small party intent on surveying and diving .... These cavers were Phil Collett and Tony Waltham (I.C.), and Rog Scott and Rog Bowser (U.C.), together with two Nottingham University C.C. members.

Notts has undergone some distinct changes in the last twelve months. A new shakehole has appeared immediately behind the stake used as a belay for the entrance pitch. Bare limestone can be seen in it, and, though it did once open into a passage, it is now completely blocked. The shakehole is now very different, as it has partly run in. Where there used to be a 45 ft. pitch, there is now one of only 25 ft. The diving party found a pitch of only 15 ft. due to a 10 ft. bank of snow which they landed on and had to dig through. Then there is a very short crawl into a narrow rift passage. It is still further in that the stream appears through a boulder choke in the floor, this material having collapsed

into here from the shakeholes. The passage is then as it has always been, but further changes were found in "Three Ways Chamber", this should now be called "Four Ways Chamber, as the new U.L.S.A. route down the pot also leaves from here. The stream used to sink in a rift in the chamber at the foot of the 18 ft. pitch, but now this rift is partially choked with mud etc. washed in from the recent shakehole collapses. Consequently there is now a pool here and the water overflows down the Left Hand Series, making the two pitches rather wet. However it is now a very diminished flow which passes the blockage in the rift pool and then flows down the Centre Series. The Centre Series is now by far the easiest and driest way down. On the second pitch of the Centre Series some very nice looking belays on the right hand wall should not be used as they are very likely to break off, being fault breccia fragments, there is instead a dubious looking, but safe chockstone higher in the rift.

With huge piles of tackle and diving gear to carry, progress down the pitches was very slow, particularly as the route was also being surveyed. On arrival at the 70 ft. penultimate pitch, it was found to be very wet and the two Nottingham boys left for the surface. Phil and Tony descended with the diving gear and the two Rogers settled down to a very cold hour and a half sitting at the top hold-ing the string. At the foot of this pitch there are 3 sumps. Upstream in a rift is the inlet sump carrying the water from Ireby Cavern, and this is about 400-500 ft. long, having been dived about 200 ft. from each end. Downstream is a very wet 18 ft. pitch leading straight into the terminal sump pool. This has been dived to a tight bedding plane on the left at a depth of 12 ft., but as the sump ebbs and flows, it is very unlikely that a passable outlet will be found. A short passage on the left of the sump pool leads round a corner to the third sump in a static pool which it was Phil's intention to dive. as so far it had never been looked by a diver.

Phil took a seeming age kitting up as he had to tie the bottle to himself with a sling as his nylon harness had broken at the entrance of the pot, due to brittle fracture in the intense cold. Eventually he leaped into the water and swam for about 10 ft. under water, under a low arch, to meet a cross rift, almost below the main chamber at the foot of the 70

ft. pitch. The rift was about 30 ft. long, mostly to the right and a few feet along it Phil dived to a depth of 20 ft. in one of the few places wide enough to get down. Any further diving may well be dangerous due to the possibility of the line pulling prospects are fairly hopeless.

A rapid retreat was then made and the surface reached a few hours later. Extra fun was then had by all as the ropes and boiler-suits froze solid during the walk to the vehicles, and the ladders could not be touched with bare hands as they were so cold the skin stuck to them.

The survey of the pot to C.R.G. grade 4 reached only the top of the last 70 ft. pitch and was then left due to lack of time. As far as it progressed it did show some very significant errors in the original survey by Gemmel. An estimate of the remaining depth also suggests that P.U. is a little out and the total depth from moor level to sump is about 460 ft.

Tony Waltham

#### QUAKING POT

July 2nd. found Tony Reynolds and Rog Bowser of U.C. climbing up Raven Scar from the old quarry on the Ingleton to Hawes road. Our destination was Quaking Pot. Visibility was down to 50 ft. due to mist, we took the wrong way over the clints and ended up at Crina Bottom cottage.

After much cursing we set off up the track to Quaking Pot, passing Greenwood Pot which was taking a stream.

Possibly the wettest part of the trip was the entrance which someone had thoughtfully placed behind a large waterfall. Entering feet first, I slithered down a short scree slope into a small chamber and shouted to Tony to throw the tackle in. The passage from here is an awkward and twisting rift best done as upright as possible, especially

at the double Z bend, where crawling is almost impossible unless one is stunted.

The rift continues to the top of the first pitch of 28 ft. The ladder must be rigged from the head of the pitch. The belay point, a piton, is reached by traversing over the head of the pitch. The belay was passed through a small crack and the ladder fixed. The ladder hangs just forward of the water and a dry descent can be made.

The passage continues on at the same level leaving the stream. It is fairly straight and a squeeze leads down to a traverse over two holes in the floor. This gives way to a window and a short climb down to a wet platform above the main pitch. This was done in three seperate sections. The belay is a superb column of rock, one of the best I have seen. The first section of the pitch is 12 ft. down to a dry ledge and from there 20 ft. to another ledge, overlooking a large chamber, with room for two people to sit out of the water. The ladder was rebelayed to a large but doubtful projection on the right. There is some danger of the belay slipping off but it keeps the ladder out of the water; even so the last 15 feet of this climb was very wet. double lifeline was rigged here but the ladder was the only suitable belay. The only way to ladder the pitch completely dry would be to use a seperate 50 ft. ladder and traverse out from this ledge; this looked rather dodgy.

The stream is followed from the far side of the chamber through a short crawl to a 'Giant's crabwalk' type of passage which can be done standing up. The Last part of this passage was rather tight and was done carrying our helmets. A short crawl led to a wet 15 ft. pitch. To our cost we laddered it straight down the water using a longish belay to a flake back in the passage. The first part of the pitch was a very tight squeeze but then the chamber belled out.

The stream was followed for a short distance and then we traversed up into the roof. The passage was very well decorated with a profusion of straws and curiously shaped glistening white stal. About 150 ft from the last pitch the passage became too narrow to follow although water could be heard falling down another pitch. (According to N.P.C. Newsletter 27, it is possible to follow the passage from the last

pitch for 200 ft. to a 25 ft. pitch. It does not

The return journey was uneventful except for the last pitch where it was found almost impossible to get through the squeeze at the top of the ladder, due to lack of holds. I finally managed it by removing my helmet and lamp, and using Tony on the ladder below me as a foothold. At the top of the pitch I discovered that the correct way to ladder it was to traverse over the pitch round a bend to the right and there was a nice easy dry climb and a good belay.

Eventually after some six hours underground we emerged to be soaked once more in the entrance waterfall. The trip was done in dry grots and is in my opinion well worthy of its SS grading. It is certainly more difficult than Car Pot.

#### Tackle List

1st. pitch 25ft. ladder 5 ft. belay 2nd. pitch 80ft. ladder 10ft. belay plus 5 ft. belay to rebelay ladder 100 ft. rope + pulley 20 ft. ladder 5 ft. belay

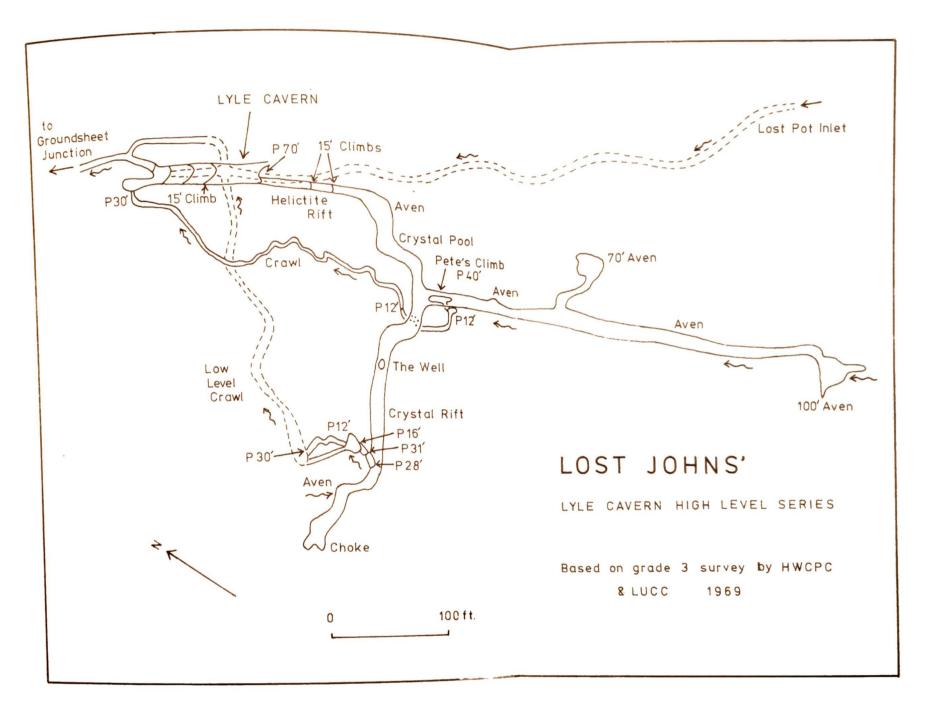
Rog Bowser

#### DISCOVERY OF LYLE CAVERN HIGH LEVEL SERIES

On Saturday July 5th. a trip down Lost Johns' was organised by H.W.C.P.C. to maypole in Lyle Cavern. The party consisted of Ken Taylor, Jim Farnworth, and Dave Cobley of the Happy Wanders, and Tony Waltham, Neil Smith, Phil Collet and Rog Bowser of L.U.C.C.

The descent was rapid as we only had maypole to carry, the pot having been laddered by LUCC the day before.

After some discussion it was decided to maypole first up a small aven off Lyle Cavern into a small passage about 30 ft. up. Ken and Dave were the



first to enter; they followed a 400 ft. hands and knees crawl to a 12 ft. pitch. This was climbed by Ken, the passage leading to another 12 ft. pitch which Ken was again the first to climb. Progress was then halted by a 40 ft. pitch. While Ken and Dave attemted to overcome this obstacle, the rest of the party made their way to the 40 ft. pitch, laddering the smaller climbs as they went.

On arriving at the pitch we found Ken and Dave halfway up. They decided though that they needed pitons to climb the top part. The party retreated to the surface, surveying the crawl on the way out. The trip out was uneventful apart from a successful conspiracy to dampen Tony's spiits on Wet Pitch.

The same party returned the following day together with Pete Livesey who by an incredible feat climbed the 37 ft. pitch. This was then laddered and the party made its way to the top. The passage here divided into three ways, and the party split up into three to explore. The surveying party of Tony, Neil and Rog took the right hand passage; this was some 250 ft. long containing a beautiful crystal pool, curtains and fantastic helectites. It ended with an 80 ft. pitch.

We made our way back to the T junction, surveying on the way. Here we met the other parties, who told us of huge passages, incredible formations and lofty avens. We hurried down the left hand passage admiring formations on the way, and passing over several holes in the floor. The passage ended with a boulder choke just part a beautiful grotto. The third passage, about 400 ft. long, led to a 100 ft. aven, obviously a pitch in a main stream passage. There was also a 70 ft. aven in a side passage which Ken managed to climb partway.

Attention was now focussed on the 80 ft. pitch at the end of Helectite Rift as it was thought to lead to Lyle Cavern. To confirm this, two of the party made their way back to Lyle Cavern, while all the ladder was removed from the maypole and the climbs. After some time the two appeared at the bottom of the pitch. It was laddered and we made a comfortable exit to the surface.

The pot was left laddered until the next Saturday when the new series was photographed. The

maypole was carried up and both avens in the main passage were scaled with no success. A hole in the floor of Crystal Rift was investigated. This was found to connect back to Lyle Cavern via some pitches and a crawl, giving a total length of new passage of about 1600 ft. The pot was deladdered that day.

Two weeks later an LUCC party returned and maypoled up to a ledge in the 100 ft. aven but  $\rm n_0$  negotiable passage was found.

A good survey together with a section and full description will appear in the Happy Wanderers journal this autumn, as the trip was arranged by HWCPC and not by ICCC as was recently misquoted.

Rog Bowser

#### SOME CAVE DIMENSIONS

In the last few years speleologists have made great progress, both in Britain and abroad, in increasing the extent of known caves. This article is intended to summarize the present situation in terms of the longest and deepest caves.

#### TABLE 1 Longest caves in Great Britain

1.	Ogof Ffynnon Ddu	approx.	16	miles
2.	Ogof Agen Allwedd	• •	12	• •
3.	Lancaster - Easegill		10	
4.	Gaping Gill		6	
5.	Dan yr Ogof	0 0	6	0 0
6.	Mossdale Caverns		6	0 0
7.	Swildons Hole		4	0 0
8.	West Kingsdale System	0 0	3	
9.	Langliffe Pot		3	
10.	Meregill Hole		3	0 0
11.	St. Cuthbert's Swallet		3	

Table 1 lists the eleven caves in Great Mritain which are longer than 3 miles. The magnificent extensions to O.F.D. now give it pride of place in Britain and it is interesting to note that Wales possesses three of the five longest caves. Gaping Gill and Langliffe Pot are the two caves which have

"moved furthest up the chart" in the last year, both helped considerably by members of U.L.S.A. It is impossible to forecast cave discoveries, but the list will undoubtedly be out of date inside a year and in O.F.D. and Dan yr Ogof minor extensions are still being made. Ireby Cavern can be little short of 3 miles with all its recent discoveries beyond the sump, and it will certainly exceed this figure if connected to Notts Pot by someone diving the sump, about 500 ft. long. Also Lost Johns' with its new extensions possibly exceeds 3 miles. Ireland has not been included in table 1, but the Pollnagollum and Doolin - St. Catherines systems in Co. Clare both exceed 5 miles in length.

Many caves abroad are much longer than those in Britain but O.F.D. is now probably sixth longest in the world.

#### TABLE 2 Longest caves in the world

1.	Flint Ridge System	approx.	72	miles
2.	Holloch	• •	51	
3.	Mammoth Hole	0 0	46	0 0
4.	Eisreisenwelt		26	

The only four caves in the world longer than 20 miles are noted in table 2, and this list may soon change as the Flint Ridge and Mammoth caves are now only a few hundred feet apart. At last Mammoth Hole will begin to approach the figure of 150 miles so often misquoted in the literature, if these two systems can be connected.

Until recently cavers of Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Mendip were continually argueing over who had the deepest cave, but now they have all been robbed of the prize by the efforts of the South Wales cavers. Table 3 lists the nine caves over 500 ft. deep now known in Britain.

#### TABLE 3 Deepest caves in Great Britain

1.	Ogof Ffynn <b>o</b> n Ddu	930	feet
2.	Oxlow Cavern - Giants Hole	660	
3.	Meregill Hole	570	
4.	Gingling Hole	553	
5.	Swildons Hole	540	
6.	Penyghent Pot	527	
7.	Lost Johns' System	524	0 0

8. Nettle Pot (Derbyshire)

9. Black Shiver Pot

520 feet

The depth of Oxlow - Giants may be disputed as it includes the 60 ft. of mined entrance shaft as Oxlow, but there is still 600 ft. of natural cave to descend; the trip down from Maskill Mine is even deeper, about 720 ft, but this includes much more mined passage. The 540 ft. depth of Swildons includes the depth of sump 12, and this seems perfectly valid as it has been explored by divers.

For many years the deepest cave in England was said to be Penyghent Pot; it now appears that it never was, as Meregill was explored long before. The list may soon include Dan yr Ogof, but unfortunately the writer does not know the the present depth of the cave as shown by the new survey; it is probably very close to 500 feet.

Britain will never have any of the world's deepest caves because there is not enough depth of limestone, and the mountains are not high enough anyway. There are about 100 caves in the world deeper than the deepest in Britain, and of these, four exceed 2600 ft. in depth.

#### TABLE 4 Deepest caves in the world

1. Gouffre de la Tete Sauvage (France) 3780 ft.

2. Gouffre Berger (France) 3450 .
3. Reseau Trombe (France) 2930 .

4. Spluge de la Preta (Italy) 2820

The Gouffre de la Tete Sauvage, the "back door" higher entrance to the Pierre St. Martin system, is now comfortably the deepest cave though it is not certain that anyone has yet descended from the highest entrance to the lowest point and returned. The Gouffre Berger is still with only one entrance and its quoted depth of 3450 ft. is only an intelligent estimate as the survey is known to be considerably in error (see LUCC Journal no. 5). Published figures for the Reseau Trombe also vary considerably and the Italians may well have the third deepest cave with the Spluge.

To put the rather miserable depths of British caves into true perspective it is interesting to look at some of the larger single shafts in the

world. There are four known shafts deeper than 1000 ft. and of these only Pierre St. Martin was explored before 1966 so one wonders what the future willbring.

#### TABLE 5 Deepest single shafts in the world

Provetina (Greece)
 Sotona de Las Golandrinas (Mexico)
 1326 ft.
 1306 .

3. Gouffre de Pierre St. Martin 1115

4. Gouffre Engins (France) 1100 .

The last named in table 5 may be slightly different in depth and indeed the cave may have another name; only some conflicting reports have come from the French, who did however find a shaft of about this depth very near to the Berger in 1968. All these shafts descend from the surface and, except for the Pierre St, Martin, are choked at their foot. There is however one other known shaft of even more incredible dimensions. This is the Crveno Jezero in Yugoslavia which has a diameter of 600 ft. and a claimed depth of 1900 ft.! However doubt may be cast on this as it has never been descended, mainly because it contains a pool of water 1600 ft. deep, and plumbing such deep shafts has so often given wrong results. The claim for the deepest underground shaft is debateable. The honour may fall to the last chamber of the Spluge de la Preta which is over 800 ft. high (and is descended in just two pitches). In Austria's Gruberhornerholer, though, there are four pitches almost vertically above each other, which descend a full 1200 ft.

In closing, the author hopes that the above tables are correct at present, and would be interested to hear of any corrections or additions.

Tony Waltham

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

Green Laids Pot, Kingsdale. This stream sink between Jingling and Bull Pots has been dug for many years, but the H.W.C.P.C. recently blasted a rift to a 25 ft. pitch with no feasible way on.

Hangman's Hole. This pot was recently discovered by the Brook Bros., close to Nick Pot, and apparently developed in the same fault. It is tight, especially at the entrance, and has been explored for 600 ft., to a depth of 300 ft., in the direction of Sulber Pot.

Pierre St Martin. This years expedition went very well. The through trip from the Tete Sauvage to the tunnel was done in eight hours, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of new inlet passage was found.

Krisna Jana, Yugoslavia. This fabulous cave with its 22 lakes has become very popular, but now has a disadvantage - the boats needed for crossing the lakes all sink very rapidly, and future visitors are advised to take their own dinghies. (see L.U.C.C. Journal No. 4)

Gavel Pot. The N.P.C. dig has at last been success—ful. The main passage is about 900 ft. long, with some 500 ft. of side passages, reaching a depth of about 290 ft. It is entirely active stream passage (the Short Drop water ), developed for the most part in well decorated large phreatic passage. It ends with a vadose canyon leading to two very wet pitches of 85 ft. and 50 ft. down to a deep sump.

Rowten Pot. The HWCPC successfully maypoled the inlet, which enters the pot opposite the lower end of the bupass to the waterfall pitch. Three wet pitches led up to a decorated chamber and some tight avens, the water probably coming from the bed of the stream at the Gulley.

Grey Wife Hole. The K.C.C. discovered this 2000 ft. long system last winter on Newby Moss. It is mostly tight and wet, but well decorated. It leads to a sump at a depth of 200 ft. with a long inlet series leading off.

Hunt Pot. On a recent trip, a party of old L.U.C.C.

lags found an alternative to the second pitch, which is normally a very wet descent. From the ledge 95ft down the first pitch, a bedding plane runs around the side, behind the waterfall, to the far side of the rift. Rog Bowser cleared a good deal of debris from this crawl. The second pitch of 55 ft. is belayed to, and hung on the far side of, a rock bridge at the end of the crawl. This manoevre allows a completely dry descent.