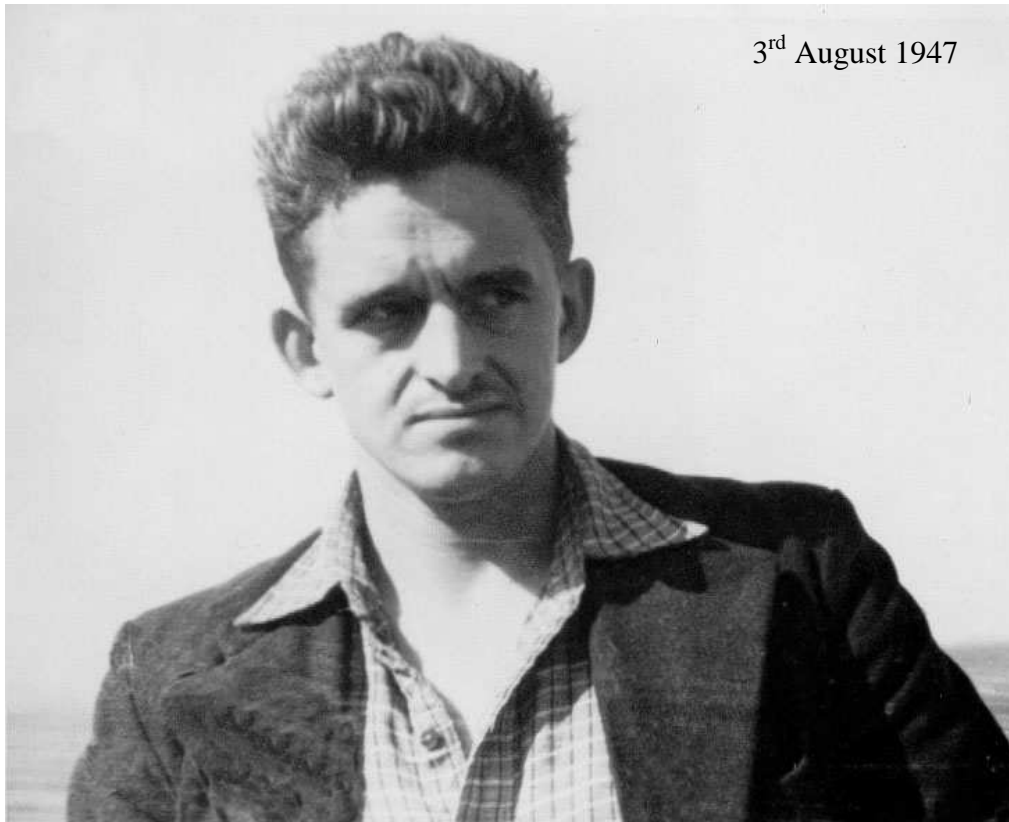


THE CAVING DIARY OF LUKE DEVENISH

Vol. I: 1947 – 1949

Transcribed and Edited by P.G. Hendy



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DIARY OF L.W.E. DEVENISH

1947 – 1949

Transcribed and Edited by P.G. Hendy

Notes etc. in italics are by the Editor

This diary has pages 1 and 2 missing. It was hand written in ink in a ruled 10" x 8" hard-back exercise book. I have used the original spelling and punctuation wherever possible. Original diary page numbers shown on the right in the text.

Blue three-figure numbers in the left-hand column were printed using a printing set. They refer to Film No. and are cross-referenced to photographs at back of diary. The original photographs were inserted starting at the back of the diary and working forward. For ease of reference, the photographs in this transcription are placed in chronological order. Most photographs were 4" x 3" glossy, with a white border. Luke did not process his photographs; they were all printed professionally. Most of them are reproduced exactly (apart from some re-sizing to fit an A4 page). Some, however, had the contrast and brightness altered, using Adobe Photoshop. The numbers at the top of the pages of photographs refer to Luke's diary page numeration. This transcription is numbered at the bottom of each page.

A.D. = All Day

A.M.= Morning

P.M. = Afternoon

FULL = Full exploration (ie. bottoming) of cave

At the time that this diary was written, Swildon's Hole was known only as far as Sump II. All of the Upper Series, including part of the Oxbows (Triburarys) had been explored, but further exploration was blocked by Balch's ban on pushing beyond the grotto at the back of Tratman's Temple. Side passages in Two, which would lead to the Black Hole Series and up through the Landing to Vicarage Passage, had yet to be explored. A trip to Sump II was therefore known as a "full Swildon's", and was not to be undertaken lightly.

There is some confusion about "Brown's dig" on eastern Mendip. Pat Brown was digging in the Stoke Lane Slocker valley, and found the cave which bears his name. He was also digging in Wityhbrook Slocker, and Devenish is sometimes vague as to which dig he was referring to. The text should be read in conjunction with the photographs.

Thanks must go to Brian Prewer, for cleaning up the diagrams and maps by removing the ruled lines from the original notebook, and extraneous marks.

Date and Party

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and does not appear to be leaking. We came up the Wet way, on the whole ~~way~~^{was} very dry (relatively speaking)

Thursday 20 June

Museum

A.M. & P.M.

Reconstructing bone (cannon?)

Fri 21st June P.A.M.

Museum

Collected tackle – 2 tethers 2 ladders for Swildons

Sat 22 June A.M.

Museum

Returned tackle unused. Reconstructing bone (cannon?)

Sat 22 June P.M.

Badgers Hole

Balch, Mrs Bird, Bürger
Hucker, H&R Kenny
Miller & school children

I spent the afternoon sorting, as I did not feel at all wel.
There were few finds, save for many Mammoth Tusk frags,
which were collected (hopeless task to reconstruct them)
Half the tusk was brought to the museum in the jeep with
much photography by Dr. Bürger.

Sat 22 June Late P.M.

Museum

Further bone reconstruction (cannon?)

Sun 23 June A.M.

Mendip

H&R Kenny Mrs Bird.

Hokerstone well was inspected by H&R & Mr Evendell but
seems a hopeless proposition. My ladders reached bottom.

Used ~~xxxx~~^{Old rope} ladder

Found & inspected Nedge Hole it seems interesting.

Tether 122

N^{os} 1A, 2A, 3A. See p 222

PM Sun 23 June

Museum

Cannon? Bone reconstruction finished.

Tues 1 July P.M.

Museum

Reconstructed L RH lower jaw of Giant Deer. Commenced
Mammoth tooth – very friable and

4

encrusted with Breccia.

Wed 2 July A.M.

Museum

Finished mammoth tooth reconstruction,

P.M.

Started Hippopotamus canines “

Thurs P.M.

Hillgrove Swallet

July 3

Removed earth using new tackle – scoop excellent. Boat
satisfactory, but requires enormous strength to pull it full,
and also does not empty cleanly – propose block & tackle
for pulling it.

Solo

Fri 4 July AM

Stoke Lane Swallet

Alf Collins
Mr. Montgomery

Descended rapidly to commencement of new passage. New
passage exceptionally awkward of entrance – passed short
way down new passages returned after first small grotto –
Montgomery's light cable having broken & Collins' light
being low. Passage entrance caused much difficulty to
Montgomery. Out safely.

P.M.

Museum

Continued repairing Hippo teeth – little progress.

Sat 5 July A.M.

Mendip

Frank Frost

Walked Hillgrove swallets with Frank Frost. he has dug the
one we started. – I told him we would withdraw. We

inspected entrance to Cuckoo Cleaves – very interesting shake hole having exposed rock sides (sandstone).

P.M.

Balch, Bürger, Bird,
Hazel Hucker, Miller
HC & R. Kenny

Badgers

Sorting – found many small bones, mostly modern including jaw bone of lamb. Also one large bone (highly decayed) removed and taken museum & one scapula found, - partly exposed and left – pending plaster reinforcement prior to removal.

Late P.M.

HC & R Kenny

Hillgrove Area

Richard removed tackle from cave whilst Howard and I inspected area. Decided to dig adjacent swallet (if undug) otherwise Frosts old shake hole drain.

Sun 6 July 47 A.M.

H.C. & R. Kenny

123

Film end was cut off
incl. this exposure

Swildons

Went down wet way with Richard & baby. Set up and took photo in water chamber f6.3 – two flashes only worked doubtful if shutter opened. Came out wet way with Richard and baby. Howard went down middle way – taking photos, & came out same way. Decided to drop system of electrical photography on grounds that it is useless because it was designed for solo work, and baby is too heavy to handle alone.

Mon 7 July 47 PM

Solo.

Late P.M.

Mr & Mrs Murrel
Frank Frost

Badgers

Preparing plaster case for bone removal – Pelvis or Scapula.

Mendip

Visited sundry holes at Red Quar which they propose digging.

6

Frost says they have dug the adjacent one to ours. Used 90' line ✕

Tues 8 July A.M.

Badgers

Finished plaster cast and removed bone successfully. Taken to museum & put to dry in Workroom.

P.M.

Museum

Restoring Hippo tooth.

Wed 9 July A.M.

Museum

Restoring ~~h~~ Hippo tooth

P.M

“ “ “

Thurs 10 July PM

Museum

Started on Hippo teeth, but sent to Bristol Water Works for ~~h~~ stethoscope.

Fri 11 July PM

Eastern Mendip

Solo All Day.

* Permission sought
& granted.

Walked much of Eastern Mendip Between Stoke Lane Quarry – Moons hill farm, St Dunstans well – Hyatts Hill. St Dunstans well – the left wall is obviously built up, * There are two interesting holes one 20' above & one on the right. Went up Coombe Wood occasional outcrops of rock – to Hyatts quarry. Two doubtful sights for digging. Near Stoke Lane quarry on line Stoke Lane Quarry – Moons Hill farm is depression filled with trees – in a field 60' diam 20'

Fri 11th July 47 PM

deep. On road Moons Hill farm – Coombe Wood are a row of five depressions. One of which collapsed 12' 20 yrs ago.

Museum

Finished Hippo tooth.

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All day Sat 12 July.

H.C. & R. Kenny

Eastern Mendip

Inspected Swallet – Oakhill – Stoke Lane Rd very interesting. & ideally situated hydrologically. Inspected other sites did not particularly impress the others.

Investigated lower hole at St Dunstons well. 6' Man made culvert followed by vertical drop into water, (deep & clear). Started digging the upper hole – sufficient progress made to indicate the necessity for blasting. Used s^coop & both handles.

Early

Sun 13 July A.M.

H.C. & R. Kenny
C. Vowles

Stoke Lane

Having unbuilt the wall beside the grating entered & descended rapidly to the new series. Entered and passed to the sump – the way is not particularly unpleasant. Howard, Colin & I passed the sump Richard staying in reserve – it was not unpleasant. Passed upstream towards the chambers, but got hurt (slightly) and shocked (more) when a boulder ruckle bridge collapsed under my weight decided to return in view of possibility of collapse following shock. Repassed sump easily & came out from sump to entrance in 50 mins. Re-built wall.

FIRST SUMP

8

Mon 14 July P.M.

Museum.

Commenced 2nd Hippo Canine to be “created” almost entirely. Made a date for ~~HH~~ Haydon Grange for tomorrow at 18.00 hrs. to inspect sink holes.

Tues 15 July P.M.

Museum

Continued tooth, working on two additional pieces of tooth. Went to Wookey Hole Museum to look for frags of teeth. Only one small bit there, not worth the trouble it would cause. Kept date but other party did not appear.

A.D. Wed 16 July.

Museum.

Returned stethoscope to B.W.W. confessed everything to Hazel who already knew. Had row with H.E.B. on return from Bristol. Continued tooth

A.D. Thur 17 July

Museum

Made apologies to H.E.B. Continued tooth found shape was wrong (too curved) alterations mean new ridge & grooves and replacing of one section of original. Nattered with Coase.

A.D. Fri 18 July

Museum.

Continued ~~bone~~ tooth reconstruction. joining ends eventually. The Poiⁿt was successfully stuck to the plaster with tile cement. Took Coase up Mendip & had drink with him.

AM. Sat 19 July
Coase & R. Kenny.

Eastern Mendip

We motored to Stoke Lane & met Stanbury Coase & Treasure & Mrs. Brown & son. Permission to enter the cave was refused by farmer Scott or Stott

P.M.

Pointed out digging site possible to Coase & investigated St D's Well. Did Fairy Cave fully. revisited St D's well in caving clothes reached an agreement with Coase to continue our dig there in co-operation with B.E.C. permission to blast must be sought. Attended drunken orgy with B.E.C. at Waggon & Horses – brought two incapables home in Jeep with "Dizzy" & Richard as guardians.

Sun 20 July PM

G.B.

R. Kenny C. Vowles
Dr. Bürger

Collected Key from U.B.S.S. hut at Burrington. Changed and entered cave – water for lamps was not available at normal places. Decended by ladder & drop – exit by gallery. Devil's elbow seemed looser than before. Met party from U.B.S.S. in main chamber, and party from B.E.C. just below Devil's elbow. Moving very easily rapidly & well. Three hour trip.

10

AD Mon 21 July

Museum

Continued Hippo canine fitted piece at butt end & removed same as out of line. Broke tooth in two (accidental) stuck together with tile cement. getting fed up with it.

A.D. Tues 22 July

Mendip

Obtained from Hipsleys, permission to dig on condition that we write a letter to the public trustee stating that we will fill in any fruitless holes, fence them round, and notify him. of any archaeological finds and obtain the tenants permission (granted at a personal visit.)

Went to see Mr. Walters to seek permission to blast ~~refused~~. Mrs Walters refuses permission to us to either blast or work the dig.

Inspected a reported hole on Mr Huntley's land near Cranmore tower a horizontal shaft. 3'6" x 4' in. the limestone shales. It extends for 60' and was possibly made in search of water.

Returned to museum met two zoological studnts, & took them to their camp at Burrington Coombe head. Dined with them. I inspected ~~farm~~ hole* on land. – 8' deep small entrance overhanging earth & rock sides – verdict not given. The position of another was shown in a barley field, consequently it could not be visited.

A number of spiders and cacoons were noticed.

11

and one cacoon was collected.

Tues
PM. Wed 29 July

Swildons

Drove to Swildons to admire Richards work at entrance.

Wed
~~Thur~~ 31 July P.M.
Richard

Hillgrove
Shaft sunk to 15' depth at same sight, using derrick ~~and~~ pulleys & jeep – very efficient system. Derreck was buckled when boulder jammed whilst jeep was pulling.
Access was gained to a chamber on the South of the shaft, and one on the North side. We have decided to consult Frost as to where to dig.

Fri 1 Aug A.D.
R. Kenny

Swildons
Completed work at entrances by buiding a wall 2' high round the plug hole, and backing it with earth. – the floor inside being covered with a limestone. flag. The holes of escape through the other wall were cleared to enable them to take more water. The idea being that in flood the water will rise till nearly at the grating level when it will pass over the wall and down the plug hole.

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Sat 2 Aug P.M.
Balch, H.C. & R Kenny
Arthur Southorn
Miller, Bürger, Stanton

Badgers
A number of small frags were found and what is thought to be a bear skull* (only partially exposed). I was sorting
* No 2.

Sat 2 Aug late P.M.
H.C. & R Kenny
& Various members
of Wessex

Hillgrove
Introduced bros Kenny to F. Frost & Glennie. Took Kenneys, Frost, Glennie & to see our shaft
Frost decended and advised us to work the Northern passage, having first made ourselves **elbow** room.

Mon 4 Aug AM.
A. Hill, H.C. & R Kenny
A.N. Other

Dan-Yr-Ogof.
Inspected show-cave and went to lakes to look at water levels. OK. Interesting cave but not many formations very extensive passages.

Mon 4 Aug. P.M.
A. Hill, H.C. & R. Kenny
others (2 women)
Own 90' rope
taken not used

Dan-Yr-Ogof
Entered and went rapidly to lakes. Crossed lakes. Arthur 6 laying a line for 2nd & 4th. The boat got punctured between 2nd & 4th. & was not used. I enjoyed myself swimming.
Having left the river $\frac{1}{2}$ we got into an extensive upper dry series and saw some very fine formations. In the boulder chamber Arthur told us of an intermittent flow which occurs there. We looked at the ~~the~~ final sump – unpleasant looking. We came out via the show cave and took a small passage/^{from it} down to the river passage and out via that. I led this pitch.

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Tues 5 Aug P.M.
H.C. & R. Kenny
Own 90' taken
not used but wetted

Ffynon Ddu.
By far the most interesting cave that I have done yet. Having entered we missed the way **on** and had to find our own way to the river, in the course of which I found an enormous bedding chamber. Followed the river to the upper sump and followed another passege into a large chamber

closed at one end by a fall of rock. Came downstream ~~in~~ during which Richard fell into a deep pot. Tried going downstream past our point of entry – the roof rapidly closed down and a sump was formed. Went upstream again and investigated a side passage which yielded into a large system of passages (mostly small), in which we found a pair of spectacles and two magnifying glasses (later identified as belonging to E.A. Glennies. Came out by a different passage ~~we~~ in which we could walk erect, passing on the way some lovely stalagmite pools, some of which were quite deep.

Tues 5 Aug Late PM.

H.C.Kenny

Pant Ganol.

On emergence from Ff. D. we were told we could swim in a lake in the above cave, having investigated a number of dud holes – very tight we gave up the search.

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Wed 6 Aug. P.M.

H.C. & R.Kenny

Rope taken

wetted not used.

123

6-26.

pages 222 & 221

Porth Yr Ogof

We entered by the upper river arch and explored a 90° passage on the right from this a number of passages led off to the right which were all interconnecting and had a double floor of 4' of limestone. These led us back to our starting point. We then followed the main right hand See passage and passing beneath the "Devils chimney" reached the right bank of a lake. I entered, passing a passage leading in on the left bank, I swam upstream amidst overhanging banks until I reached another stream coming in on the Left bank. Halting there I looked up towards the continuation of the lakes, in view of the fact that the entrance chamber was just round the corner, I continued swimming, crossing the ~~incom~~ current from the incoming stream which was very swift, and landed on a pebbly beach at the inner end of the entrance chamber. Then I explored the incoming stream passage, which I followed up a round passage 5' high till the water became 4' deep and the roof was 1' foot above water. Retreated and tried another passage which R. had found - this gave onto the stream at a higher point. Followed stream down to a point whence I could recognise my former position. Followed stream till a point was found where we could regain the surface. Went down to the point of entry into the lake by the dry way. Walked down the ~~to~~ R.H. side of the lake till the roof closed down to give a

15

bedding chamber 3' high with a boulder pebble floor, this after much ~~wriggling~~ straining closed down to 18" high the whole covered intermittently with ~~wh~~ water. Eventually this yielded – the floor dropping ~~and~~ the ceiling rising and the sides closing in. This gave us a lake to swim out of the cave in. On emerging ~~an~~ a number of photos were taken. We

then inspected another hole above the exit, which descended to the bedding chamber. The cave was by far the most amusing which we have done to date, and showed signs of violent flooding – tree trunks right inside and six feet above existing water level

Thus 7 Aug. P.M.

Ffynon Ddu

H.C. & R.Kenny

123

N^{os} 27,28,29

30, 31

See pages 220
& 219

We entered by our new large passage (the normal route). We photographed the large stalagmite cascade, the toast rack and a fine stalactite pillar (with ribbon only). We then went upstream – taking one or two photos on the way, and finally one of the sump. We also investigated some side passages on the way. On our return the visibility was about six feet owing to the smoke. This made the going extremely awkward.

16

8 Aug P.M.

Mendip & Wells.

Returned tackle dry & unused to Museum. Went Hunters Lodge found Platten, & was later joined by Lawder & a Frenchman, Jim McEwan and a friend nattered hard.

Sat 9 Aug P.M.

Badgers.

Balch, H.C. & R Kenny

Mrs Kenny Miller

Prof Tratman

Mr Clark

Was working in the rabbit hole with Howard. Have decided to raise the ceiling and drop the floor. Brought tools for Hillgrove. Was using the Sauce Boat – seems very effective.

Sun 10 Aug AD.

Swildons FULL

HC & R Kenny

W Stanton.

& Miss Clarke

Joyce Bird

MNRC Own.

2 ladders 1

2 Tethers 0

0 Lifelines * 2

0 Slings 2

0 Packs 2

100' climbing Rope

90' Hemp Line

Howard, William & I descended to the 40' with 2 ladders. ~~in~~ & a tether we had fixed the tackle 25 mins after entry. Mr Came back to Jacobs Ladder to help the other ~~w~~ party with the remainder of the tackle, Howard & William first down the 40', then the tackle which they took down to and set up on the 20'. I went next followed by the others – Richard last. The sling system ~~wh~~ was used – it worked excellently. At the 20' the l/line was found to be snarled, ~~probably~~ due to the wet making the rope take up. Passed successfully.

Went through Barnes' loop into the Upper or New Grottoes – very lovely. Inspected new passage of Howards passing through a lovely Grotto which has been desecrated. Went on to the sump. Fed and changed carbide came out. Leaving

17

tackle for a B.E.C. party. Had the usual mess at the 40' with ~~rop~~ l./Lines. Came out middle way.

NB ①. Ropes must be soaked before coiling to eliminate take up snarls.

②. A string must be provided at the 40' to pull the life line down.

Mon 11 Aug ~~AD~~ P.M.

Hillgrove

Howard Kenny.

123

We opened the way in to the Northern chamber and removed many rocks including some very large ones. A

N^{os} 32, 33, 34
See pages 218 & 217

Tues 12 Aug A.D.

Howard Kenny

124

N^{os} 2, 34

See pages 217.

flash bulb photo was taken before work commenced at f6.3 & afterwards ~~one~~ ~~wa~~ a ~~pow~~ flash powder photo was taken at f12.5.

Hillgrove.

The first part of the day was spent in fixing the new rope up, and generally preparing slings etc. Howard feeling ill I spent most of my time underground. The ~~con~~ passage was opened up, and a small subsidiary hole in the side was opened and investigated but was thought to be nothing. The new tripod feet (3/6 each) were very satisfactory, as was the chain 9' or 10 lbs at 1/4d per lb. The 90' rope cost 18/-. A photo was taken at close of work, to show the days progress.

18

Wed 13 Aug A.D.

H.C.Kenny.

W Stanton

Vincent.

Ralph Clark.

MNRC . Own

1 Ladders 1

2 Tethers 0

0 L/Lines* 2.

0 Slings 2

0 Packs 2

100' Climbing Rope

90' Hemp Line.

Wed 13 Aug Late PM.

Howard, William

Vincent, Ralph.

Eastwater FULL.

A straightforward decent was made without any hitches, save that there was little water for our lamps. Some was found in the 'S' bend, at the top of the first vertical, and a ~~heavy~~ steady trickle at the top of the '11 Pots'. On arriving at the bottom, we explored a number of passages above "Jack Browns" passage, which all petered out in chokes of or impassable ~~chim~~ chimneys. The general trend, was to a vertical rift, sloping longitudinally and choked a varying levels.

One interesting sloping bedding chamber was seen.

We came out without difficulty. The packs with ladders in * were again invaluable. One fill of carbide sufficed for me.

Hillgrove.

We went to inspect our dig at the request of William & Vincent.

Sat 16 Aug P.M.

Balch Bürger

Hucker Miller

R.Kenny

C. Vowles Mrs Bird

Mr Mason

& 3 Hikers

Sat 16 Aug Late P.M.

H.C. & R Kenny

C. Vowles

R. Clerk

124

N^{os} 5,6,8,9

pages

213 & ~~216~~

Badgers Hole.

I was working in the rabbit hole, generally enlarging raising the roof & clearing the left side. Mason & Richard were working on the skull.

Stoke Lane Swallet.

We descended easily & rapidly to the sump, which we passed without difficulty. We followed the stream down, over a bolder ruckle at the bottom of the main chamber until it passed under another mass of unstable boulders which we failed to pass. We returned to the stream, See photographing a lovely grotto

19

on the way. Just upstream of the main chamber I found a small awkward chimney which I climbed, it was very

muddy and virgin. It gave to a lovely orange stalagmite cascade with some lovely orange stalactites at the top. There was a passage at the top of this which we did not ~~pass~~ explore. The others arrived by the main chamber. We then went via the main chamber into C.B. chamber which was very lovely, and took another photo there, having already photographed the cascade. Whilst I was photographing the others had found a way into the ~~upstre~~ stream upstream of the sump. On the way we stopped to admire & photograph some cave pearls, which were in a nest, which had been ~~laid~~ ~~on~~ deposited on sand which had been subsequently washed away. In view of the fact that we were all cold and Howards ankle was hurting, we came out. We were unable to relight our lamps this side of the sump, so continued by electric light. In future a lighted candle must be left this side of the sump. All photographs were taken with Mg ribbon.

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Sat 23 Aug A.D.

Ralph Clerk
& David

N^{os} 124

12 & 13

See pages 216.

Sun 24 Aug AD

HC & R Kenny.

124

N^{os} 17 & 18.

pages 216

216&

Tues 26 Aug A.D.

~~H. Kenny~~

removed from

Badgers.

8 July 47.

Wed 27 Aug A.D.

H. Kenny

Ball bros.

124

N^{os} 19, 20, 21.

See pages:- 215

& 212

Hillgrove

The passage to the basin at the bottom was opened up, and a number of rocks removed. Two photos were taken, ~~one of~~ ~~the~~ of the lower shaft, before and after work. The chain hooks worked splendidly.

Hillgrove.

For the first time we advanced about 4' ~~along the~~ horizontally from the bottom in the continuation of the line of the slope. There is much evidence of water action, and a further line of progress can be seen. Difficulty was experienced in removing one large boulder from the bottom. A slide of some sort and a shorter crow bar are needed. A photo was taken of the days progress, and one looking up the shaft.

Museum.

Continued Hippo Canine. ~~Work~~ Started cleaning the "scapula" *. it must be hardened in the plaster case by degrees. - propose trying Celluloid in Acetone – painted on – the bone is "VERY" fragile. The process seems to be harden an area, then ~~uncover~~ deplaster another.

Hillgrove.

On decending we found that the large boulder on the Southern edge of the shaft had shifted. It was moved to the bottom of the entrance shaft with difficulty, having jammed at the entrance to the chamber. Considerable

21

coaxing with a sledge was needed. We tried lifting it on the derreck by hand, but wer^en't strong enough (all 4 of us) on hitching to the jeep the derreck collapsed several times. In the end we used the 9' pipe on its own tethered to two

stakes, with the pulleys from the top. On heaving, this buckled, so we used the 6' pipe - the boulder came up, we rested it on two angle irons and reset the pulleys to shift it horizontal - it came out of the way easily - when the Jeep pulled. We then continued working our previous line, and an open passage was seen, entrance was barred by three small boulders, on endeavouring to remove one of them two more large boulders came down from the roof. To remove this blockage the passage ~~wh~~ will have to be enlarged by the removal of some outsticking points. The short crow bar and slide composed of three angle irons all worked splendidly.

Thursday 28 Aug. P.M.

Museum

Succeeded in fitting butt section of Hippo canine at my second attempt.

Friday 29 Aug P.M.

Stoke Lane Swallet (EXPLORATORY)

H.C. Kenny
P. Browne
Tackle see
over.

We~~the~~ descended to the sump without difficulty via the muddy oxbow. We left a night light at the sump in a tin with a little water in the

22

Stoke Lane Swallet (contd.)

<u>Tackle</u>	
<u>Own</u>	<u>B.E.C.</u>
3	Packs -
4	L/Lines -
1	Ladders / Dural
2	H.Lines -
4	Carab -
0	Tethers -

bottom. Having passed the sump easily we descended to the sand bank below where we relit our lamps. Then descending to the main chamber we climbed up it into the passage leading to the throne room. This involved an exposed climb which Pat led - roped. He then brought us up roped. We passed by the Throne room, which is lovely into Princess Elizabeth grotto which is also lovely. Thence we were involved in an awkward scramble up a slope of fairly smooth stalagmite, rendered possible by the nearness of the roof. We were then at the top of the 35' ladder pitch. At my insistence Pat used a lifeline, got halfway down and found that the Steel wire & duraluminium ladder, which was in place ~~wh~~ was half chafed through. He remounted, the ladder $\frac{1}{2}$ was pulled and repaired with 2 carabiners. ~~Th~~We all descended then, I going second and Howard coming last unprotected. We were then in the bottom of a largish chamber or pot*. Then making one end of a line fast to a large stalagmite we laid out ~~also~~ about 75' of tether for the ladder, which had to be passed through a small mudhole. A discussion then ensued as to who should lead order was Pat, Me, Howard. It was an exceptionally awkward place. One emerged feet first on your back, to engage the ladder. On descending we arrived in the stream, a short distance below the main chamber, and above the first boulder choke.

*Suggested
name

DISAPPOINTMENT
POT

23

Thence we descended via the two boulder chokes to the bone chamber, here we climbed a large slope of loose boulders into a vast chamber, at one end of which was a steep rubble

slope covered with bones. The whole floor of the chamber was covered with large boulders in an unstable state, and heavily covered with a deposit of calcite. From here Pat explored a small passage, in which he got stuck. Howard went to his rescue. Pat and Howard returned via the Throne room to the head of the 35' ladder pitch. I went up the stream until I reached our point of ~~ent~~ decent. Howard descended the 35' ladder which Pat lowered to him. and then joined me. Howard passed this to me, together with my own ladder. He then came through the mud hole & climbed down via my shoulders. We then packed the tackle & went out. The packs were excellent and the handling lines proved their value. On emerging from the sump, the night light saved us much trouble. We emerged a ~~8.55hrs~~ 2055 hrs after 7.55 hrs underground. We changed and came home, leaving a note at Mr Treasures farm en route.

Sat 30 Aug' P.M.

Balch Bürger Miller
Hucker, HC & R Kenny
Mrs Kenny Bird
& Browne!
Mr & Miss Samson

~~Sat~~ Badgers.

I was carrying buckets out from the table. A few small fragments were found. I also photographed the skull. f4.5 @ 1' ribbon & 2 of f4.5 at 4' ribbon stwisted. On the way down I told the Belfry we had done ~~the trip — removed the ladder~~

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the trip and removed the ladder which was badly frayed and in an unsafe condition. Also I washed the ropes & ladder in the Northernmost of the leads works pools.

Sun 31 Aug A.D.

H,C, & R Kenny
C. Vowles
Bürger

124

Nº 22

See page 215

Hillgrove.

We started opening a side passage just before the fall/^en boulders, having spent half the day at this and made some progress we decided that we should have to remove the boulders, as no open way was in sight. We started by pulling a water wo/^rn boulder on the right, which refused to yield owing to its shape & the fact that it was heavily pinned from above, we did ~~however~~ dislodge a boulder on the left, which we subsequently pulled, ~~but one~~ although it came out of position easily it jammed in the passage, where we left /^{it} until our next attack.

Mon 1 Sept. P..M.

Museum.

Finished Hippo Canine. Plaster work was left smo/^oth unlined and finished with glass paper.

Wrote to Stride for G.B. key.

Late P.M.

Tues 2 Sept AM

Museum

Put Hippo Cannine in case & rearranged contents after returning mastodon (? Ed.) model.

Commenced skull of cave bear – very delicate reinforced with plaster.

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Wed 3 Sept.

Swildons

Mr Leach &
4 friends (Presumably)

We went down the Middle way, inspected the 40' – quite a lot of water passing, and came up the wet way. One

brothers & Sister

member of the party dropped his lamp down the waterfall on the way down – we recovered it later. The lady of the party required much helping, and was very nervous – apparently I instilled confidence in her. Two members (both boys) wore shorts without ill effects. All enjoyed themselves and were interested in the odd side passages. On emerging I closed the grate (newly cemented). The party were embarrassed as to whether to give me a tip. On my saying that it was one of the Museum's services, they gave a 5/- contribution.

Thurs 4 Sept AD

Museum

Continued cave bear skull – little progress, but made a surprising junction with the canines. There is no end in sight – it might be necessary to inspect & photograph the Taunton museum specimen.

Friday 5 Sept AD

Museum & Mendip

H.E. Balch

Succeeded in establishing a point of contact between the canines and the rest of the skull, ~~no~~ junction was made, owing to its uncertainty of line & weakness. Also made some progress with the eye sockets, and the frontal bone. In the p.m. H.E.B. drove me over Mendip and inspected ~~the~~ our

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dig – he was impressed but slightly baffled by the Geology. He told me Coase had opened the shaft by Green Ore. He also pointed out ~~the~~ a swallet on the road Miners Arms – Hunters Lodge which the miners opened – it is nearly opposite the buddles, and very close to the road. He says that the depressions opposite corner to Miners arms are old swallets ~~depress~~ although I have always understood them to be shafts.

The field S.W of Green Ore crossroads was apparently very intensively mined.

Later p.m. I met Mr & Mrs Browne – he wants me to go & remove a large rock from his dig - it might be cheaper if he used a plaster as he originally intended.

Sat 6 Sept AD

Hillgrove

Solo

124

~~N^o 23~~

I ~~finally~~ removed the b^oulder which had jammed, the previous Sunday, in the bottom tunnel. I first knocked a small piece off it, then dragged it out. I ~~also~~ then removed the water ~~won~~^{worn} boulder which we had tried pulling in vain. After this I removed another boulder which had dropped ~~furth~~ behind the large one on the floor – this looks ~~as~~ as though it will have to be blown. The new 6lb sledge.hammer was used. Mr Ball gave me a hand on the rope, lifting the first boulder which was heavy.

Sun 7 Sept. AD

R. Kenny

124

N^o 23, 24,

See Pages 215 & 214

Hillgrove

I photographed the previous days work. Then Richard removed some mud from round the large boulder. We decided that this was too big to remove in one, so we ~~defini~~ definitely decided to blast it. We drill/^ed a 4" deep hole in it, in which a 1/4lb of Polar Ammon Gelignite B was inserted & then an electric detonator – the whole being well sealed with mud. It was fired from the surface, the flashgun providing sufficient current. When the air was clear, helped by a fire to increase the draught. We inspected the damage. The rock ~~was~~ was completely shattered, & the roof for which we had felt much anxiety, was undamaged. I photographed the day's progress. We think it may be worth blowing another large boulder half way along the bottom passage.

Mon 8 Sept AD.

Museum.

Continued the bear skull made some useful contacts giving R.H side of the nazel . Also made a contact for the ~~skull to~~ frontal to the L.H. Suborbital ridge. Discussed differentiation of Spealeus, Ar^ctos & Horribilis with H.E.B. Reynolds says virtually impossible to distinguish. Tomorrow I must photograph the skull at Badgers. Started hardening the bone

which I previously thought to be scapula or pelvis, but now think to be a femur (or humerus) and which I removed from Badgers in plaster. I tried a rubber solution of H.E.B.'s which seems very satisfactory but which leaves a very shiny surface – it remains to be seen whether it hardens the bone or just hold the frags in place.

Tues 9 Sept AM.

Plates 40 & 41

See Page 211

Badgers

I took two photographs of the bear skull one from LH rear above usin 11" lens on Soha Reflex & exposure f11 & 2' ribbon & one from nearly vertically above on RH, to show L.H. suborbital ridge & canine (RH) using 6" lens at f22 & 4' ribbon. All plates were taken in holders to Vowles for extra rapid processing.

Tues 9 Sept PM.

Museum.

Continued skull. Made contact LH side of nazel to frontal & two sides of nazel, these joints were not made. Also a piece more ~~an~~ on L.H. side sub orbital ridge front end.

Removed some plaster from the femur and treated the exposed portion. It seems to be holding together well, but not penetrating the bone. H.E.B. says cave bear, I ~~having~~ ^{having} said bear first.

Wed 10 Sept PM

Museum.

Borrowed new book Pennine Underground – Platten

bequest.

Continued bear ~~hite~~ no contacts, but

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some joints made – notably RH of nazel, also plaster matrix for locating L.H of nazel. Great difficulty was experienced with the L.H. Suborb. ridge bereaking in the middle.

Continued the femur. I don't like the rubber solation – it is too thick & does not penetrate.

Thur 11 Sept. PM.

Museum

Continued the bear skull, ~~fig on~~ fixing the LH of Nazel, which broke in the process. Also made a number of small disconnected contacts, whose importance is not yet apparent. I did not touch the femur.

Friday 12 Sept AD

Museum.

Continued skull making a fair number of small contacts, including two important ones, one from the Left socket and the other from the right nazel. The RH. Suborbital ridge, is lacking some pieces and will not join up. Left the femur alone. Examined the plates of the bear skull in situ two are alright and sufficient record.

Sat 13 Sept P.M.

Badgers

Balch, Bürger R.R Kenny
C. Vowles Miller.
Also 2 others

I was sorting, ~~and~~ we found a few small frags, chiefly from the sandy layer which was found. They were digging on the left of the entrance.

Balch suggested postponement of skull removal, till

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Badgers (contd.)

next Saturday, to enable a party of Archaeological students to view it in situ.

I also showed Colin & Bürger the other hole which Richard and I examined in the valley – they were very interested.

I arranged with Bürger to visit explore & survey a cave in the Quantocks – Quaking House Cave – Near Milverton. Whilst there we may inspect Holywell cave and another rumoured one at Greenham 'twixt Milverton & Wellington.

If possible I shall also endeavour to obtain photos of the Taunton Bear skulls.

Sun 14 Sept. PM.

Stoke Lane.

R. Clarke
Browne
G. Powell

Passed easily & rapidly to the sump. I did the lower P. opening of the Nutmeg Grater, and found it extremely tight. We left a candle this side of the sump. We passed through the sump easily and decend to the main chamber – thence we went to C.B. & the sand chamber. We were unable to climb to the traverse into The Throne room owing to Powell have un-nailed boots. We then decended to the sump chamber, ~~W~~ finding an insect at the foot of the second boulder ruckle. This insect (~~a moth of sorts?~~) a flying type

was captured and brought out. It seemed to be afraid of the light, and was about 1000 or 900 ft from the entrance.

I inspected the second sump, but could find no certain indication of an arch. For the most part the

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Stoke Lane (contd).

overhanging wall ~~goes~~^{continues} straight down until it reaches the muddy bottom. The most probable place seems to be at the foot of a fault line in the centre. Nothing certain could be felt, owing to the very erratic surface which this showed above the water level, and even more so below it.

Underwater swimming would seem to be needed here. We then went straight past the sump into a very muddy rift passage. ~~If~~ From here a small rift from the side gave us another sump, in which we located an arch about 18" wide, which appeared to lead downwards. Above us was a lofty sloping ~~chimney~~ chimney /^{of} which two sides were composed of mud – this might be climbed with well nailed boots, providing someone were present outside to remove any mud which might fall in sufficient ~~an~~ quantity to block the entrance. The sump itself ~~is~~ appears to be a resurgence.

We then inspected the bone chamber, from which we passed into the Throne room and Princess Elizabeth chambers. Then on to the main chamber. We returned the same way. At the end of the passage from the main chamber to the Throne room, ~~where~~ at the top of the drop into it we noticed a row of helictites growing upward from a Stalagmite boss. We came out easily, relighting our lamps from the candle.

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Sun 14 Sept AD.
NOT PRESENT
C. Vowles
R. Kenny

Hillgrove Dig.

Richard & Colin working alone with all tackle removed the rubble /^{left} following the shot firing. They then pulled the remnants of the boulder which were still in the mud. They, finding this too large to remove, rapidly smashed it with a hammer. Then they reported being able to see an open passage about 3' wide & 5' high running towards the South, which had a loose roof and side – they did not enter it, neither did they drill the rock half way along the shaft.

Mon 15 Sept. PM.

Museum

Continued the skull, having spent the morning ~~I~~ organising tackle. Established connections between the rear ends of the sub-orbital ridges & the skull. Also fitted two pieces above the eye sockets. The skull broke about half an inch forward of the bifurcation of the ~~ear~~ cranial ridge.

Tues 16 Sept PM.

Taunton Museum

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Nos 1-12

NOT IN ILLUSTRATIONS

Obtained permission to photograph various aspects of the bear skulls. This was done using Telyt 20 on 21mm ext tube & fine focussing by barrel. For apertures see records.

Tues 16 Sept PM.

Greenham & Quaking Hse

Asked a number of people a Greenham about the cave. None ~~knew~~ had even heard of it. Obtained accomodation in Taunton – the publican had heard of it. Found the quaker cemetry but could find no trace of the

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cave – yet a butcher in Milverton had heard of it. Nothing is known about either at the Taunton Museum.

Wed 17 Sept PM.

Quaking House Cave – Milverton

Dr. Bürger
For Location & Plan
of cave see Page 210

Enquired of Mr Harding of Farthing's Farm Map Ref: ~~470~~
35401471 for the location of the entrance. We were directed to some nearby Woods, wherein lay the caves. These were not the same as the one described to Dr Bürger, in which a man entered crossed a knee deep pool and then walked on for half an hour – in clean clothes; estimated depth 1000 metres.

O.S. Sheet 120.
M/Ref:- Mil Grid
35401471

The caves were in a mass of conglomerate, intersected by ~~hor~~ nearly horizontal bands of sandstone. The pebbles of the conglomerate have been used for lime burning. The caves at one point intersect a layer of sandstone, which shows every evidence of having been either water or wind worn.

The passages, forming a labyrinth, seem to be large ~~open~~ cracks or /^{sloping} faults which have separated through ~~vertil~~ vertical movement. ~~In~~ many places the roof is quite flat and horizontal. Everywhere it is covered with a mass of stalactites under an inch in length. In many places there are some quite good dripstone cascades, and in one place a pool. The ~~basse~~ bases of a number of broken stalagmites ~~show~~ are wonderfully translucent, and quite colourless. On one wall there are the sectionised remains of a small stalagmite pool

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Quaking House Cave (contd).

not more than 1" deep. Stalagmite seems to form fairly rapidly in this cave as in one spot a rock drill grove (for blasting) ~~had~~ had one end concealed ~~in~~ by it.

The passages are on the whole small with earth floors (showing evidence of Badgers or Foxes) and the longest passage probably does not exceed 200ft --it is very tight towards its end.

Although we started surveying we decided that the system was not sufficiently important to merit the huge amount of work required to do it.

We also saw a bat and some growth which Dr Bürger identified as "Algae".

Thur 18 Sept. P.M.

Museum

Reported above to Balch, referred to Geology books then continued skull. No new contacts made, after much trouble left the two portions of skull setting together having used

“Durofix” also stuck R.H. Suborbital ridge (rear end) in place. (can still not find contacts for front ends of S.O. ridges.

Frid PM 19 Sept

Museum

Fixed front end R.H.S.O. ridge having found ~~an single~~ a contact. – it is at a very odd angle, and consequently I am getting the Taunton photos rushed to check it. Also a small piece on L.H. of cranium. the R.H. rear end S.O. ridge separated and was refixed. Also repaired the L.H. Upper canine of the new skull.

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Sat 20 Sept AM.

R. Kenny

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Nº 20.

page 209

Badgers.

Started preparing the new skull for lifting. It is very decayed, especially the nazel. The L.H.S.O. ridge – though still in place is badly fractured. The R.H.S.O. ridge has See completely collapsed, but all the pieces are present. The L.H. rear of the cranium is also very weak, and one large piece has fallen off. A large portion of the R.H. nazel is detached and loose. I am thinking of removing portions piece by piece cleaning them in water, allowing them to dry then hardening them, and endeavouring to reconstruct the skull as I proceed. The use of cardbord covered with plaster (soft) and paper seems very satisfactory, as does a sausage of plaster filled paper.

P.M.

Bürger, Balch, Miller
Hucker, R. Kenny
& a Street schoolboy

Sun 21 Sept AD.

R. Kenney

Bürger

Badgers

Continued the skull – in all we have used about 14 lbs of plaster. The others were working the passage toward the rabbit hole.

Hillgrove

We removed some boulders from the end chamber, one of which had fallen on its own accord. I then inspected the “passage” about 6” x 18” high with solid conglomerate on each side. After 3’ it terminates in a small chamber or passage, which appears to slope down to the east. We then carried out a thorough inspection of the chamber to the South of the shaft. the terminal passage here, which is heading

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Eastwards, has a small opening on its Northern side which might ~~be~~ yield to very extensive blasting operations. But this would seem to be a last alternative ~~meth~~ route.

I then removed some of the overlying stones and clay from the final passage on the other side. We also decided to ~~be~~ pull a small boulder underpinning a larger one in the final chamber – they both were precarious and held by mud. They both came down. The large boulder in the horizontal shaft was inspected again ~~£~~ by probing with a crowbar, it was found ~~the~~ to be in two pieces, the smaller of which was removed, and the other moved two inches – it will have to be blown however, as will the rock on the eastern side of

the passage from the final chamber. the short crowbar was damaged, by using a sledgehammer to try to drive it into a fault line in a rock.

Mon 22 Sept A.M.

Solo

Badgers.

Completed plaster cradle for skull 2, and lifted it out. The canine stumps and the whole extreme front seem in a very decayed state. It is extremely heavy about 30 lbs. I brought it back alone in the jeep. It was pillowed on the barrage balloon, and speed did not exceed 10 M.P.H. Not a fragt was displaced. It was taken to the Museum.

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Mon 22 Sept Late P.M.

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N^{os} 21 – 26

(All U.S.)

Museum & Wells

I photographed the Halliday model shop, using natural shop lighting and 2.8 Helitor & Telyt 20 lenses. – see records. I met Prof Gregary, and later went round to discuss & arrange for a caving trip for his party of Geologists. I ended up by almost giving them a lecture, they all seemed very interested. I have arranged to collect them from Priddy turning at 1.30 P.M. on Friday 26th.

Tues 23 Sept P.M.

Museum.

Cleaned and tidied workroom & bench. Washed a bone from Badgers probably Fib or ~~Fib~~.^{Rad.} of species unidentified removed on 5 July 47. The bone did not disintegrate in the water as I had rather feared would happen, but Mr Pinks informs me that they become extra fragile on ~~dry~~ drying. I propose experimenting on this bone prior to attempting Bear skull 2.

Wed 24 Sept P.A.M.

Hillgrove.

Went Bristol to collect Gelignite & bought a tripod. Fired a stick of 2ozs on one ~~edge~~^{side} of the rock in the passage, - this was applied in a slight crack, and heavily covered with clay. I ~~s~~inspected the damage immediately afterwards. It appears to have cracked the rock extensively. ~~The~~ No falls had occurred in the end chamber before the blast. No ill effects were felt from the fumes.

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Wed 24 Sept PM

Museum

Was unable to continue ~~worked~~ skull owing to lack of photos. The ~~lack of~~ Rad or Fib appears to be drying satisfactorily, although very decayed. It has a large mass of breccia on it which I am afraid to move owing to the weak state of the bone. Spent the remainder of the afternoon trying to identify the bone – a hopeless task in its shattered state.

Thur 25 Sept AD.

T. Pink

G.B.

Took Mr Pink at H.E.B.s request down G.B. He was very interested, though he found the initial passages very tight. It is the first time I have led this cave, and I missed the way once or twice, once going down & once coming out - it was soon remedied in each case. On way back to farm

owner of farm adjacent to cave mentioned that about 20 acres of his land was slowly subsiding.

Fri 26 Sept P.M.
Party of 6 London
University Geology
Students under
Gregory

Swildons

I took the party down the Pretty way into the water chamber, pointing out and exploring some of the side passages. They collected some stalactites which were already broken. We also found a petrol lighter. We then went up the entrance of the lower oxbow into the terminal choked passage, which I explained, then following the wet way we went ~~up to th~~ up the passage connecting the two oxbows, thence up the wet ~~way~~ way

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and out. They were on the whole very interested, and want copies of the survey. Later in the p.m. I met E.A.G. & Mary Hazelton – they were interested in the “bone bug”. I saw in Badgers.

Sat 27 Sept P.M.
W.C.C. Meeting.

Museum

Made a contact ~~in the area of socket~~ of the ridge for the rear of the L.H. socket of the ridge for the rear of the L.H. socket, and removed the falsely positioned R.H.S.O. ridge front end. Both skulls & the tusk were laid out for inspection at the meeting. A portion of the plaster was removed from skull 2.

At the meeting I undertook to fence Cuckoo Cleeves.

I also put forward Collin & Ralph as new members. Later we went ~~round~~ round Wookey Hole Cave.

Sun 28 Sept PM.

Cuckoo Cleeves

I paced out the perimeter of the depression. – it is about 65 yards, and additional protection will ~~bee~~ needed against sheep – probably four bedsteads would suffice for this.

Mon 29 Sept AD.

Cuckoo Cleeves

Spent the A.M. hunting suitable fencing materials. I fixed these in the p.m. comprising four lengths of vertical bar railings about 3’6” high and 8’ long. An angle iron was placed at each corner and the whole heavily laced with wire. Total cost £2-8-0. To be met by the W.C.C.

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Tues 30 Sept AD.
MNRC Own
2 Ladders 1
2 Tethers 0
0 L/Lines 1 100’ line
0 Slings 1
2 Carabiners 4
0 Packs 2
Wed 1 Oct. AD.

Museum.

The morning was spent in arranging books, and telling Miss Voysey about Quaking House Cave.

The P.M. I worked on skull 1. a few small contacts were made.

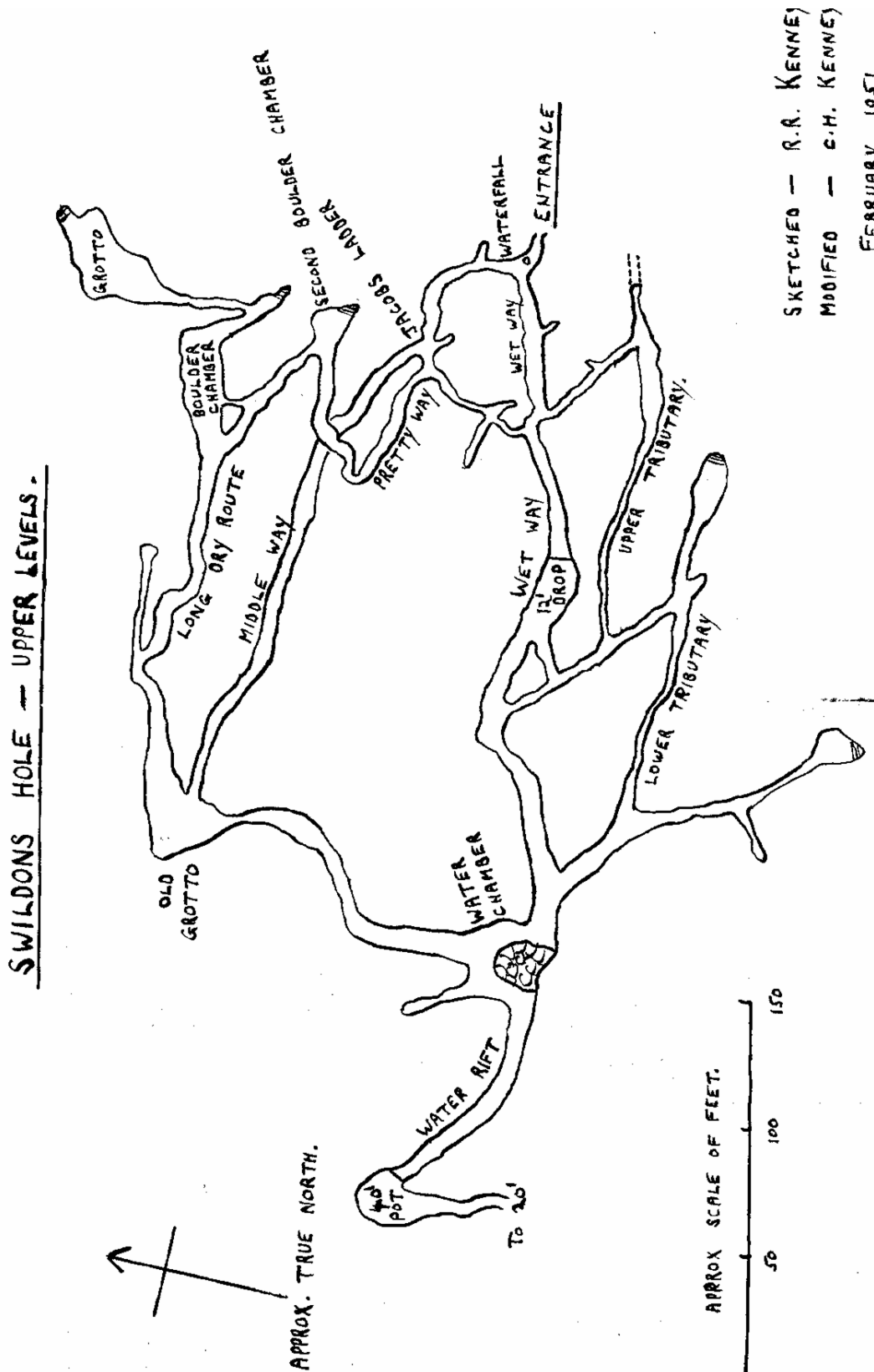
The tackle which Richard had used on Sunday was hung out to dry – he has lost 3 of my carabiners, It seems quite possible that E.A.G. did not bring them out.

Museum.

Letter report on Quaking House Cave posted to Mr Gray. Discussion with H.E.B. re subjects for his forthcoming lectures – recent cave ~~de~~ developments. I am

P.M.

going to photograph Cuckoo Cleaves, Hillgrove dig Stoke Lane swallet entrance, Browns dig, Withybrook.
Continued skull 1. Made a the contact of front end RHO to cranium - this time it looks convincing. Also prepared the show stand for same. It comprises a plaster covered wooden strut, to be mounted on a plaster pedestal.



Obtained permission from Guy Hodgkinson to blast Badgers on Saturday, and made an appointment to see the "WinCo" at 1030 hrs Fri re same thing. Guy wa^{nts} informing of blasting time.

Thurs 2 Oct 47 A.D.

~~125~~

125

N^{os} 27 – 36

See pages 206 – 209

Mendip

Went to take photographs for H.E.B.s lecture Entrances of Cuckoo Cleaves, Main Hillgrove, Hillgrove dig, Withybrook, Stoke Lane and Browns' dig at Stoke Lane. Brown's dig is one of the most promising that I have seen.

Mendip (contd)

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~~126~~

126

N^{os} 45a – 17a

See pages

Owing to a cassette lid coming off w^hen changing them at Stoke Lane I had to use the cave as a darkroom. Called in at Emborough quarry on the way back. Saw what I thought to be the boulder pile, but later found out that it was not when I had photographed it. Found something which resembles fossil wood ? Before leaving in the A.M. I took in and stowed all the tackle – it was dry.

Fri 3 Oct. A.D.

A.M.

~~B~~ P.M.

Late P.M.

Museum etc

Gained permission from WinCo to blast before 0930 hrs. He cross examined me re badgers progress. Dumped tackle in museum. Continued skull 1. ~~D~~ Mounted skull on pedestal & fitted L.H. mandible – looks very nice. H.E.B. ~~sofa~~ so far has not identified the specimen which I brought him. Went Badgers to clear scene for ~~act~~ action. Could only find one hole. So had to use chisel to bore two more. Phoned Frost re arrangements. I shall meet him at Chewton ~~M~~ Mendip at 0855 hrs tomorrow.

Sat 4 Oct A.M.

F. Frost R. Kenny

Badgers

Collected Frost took him to Badgers. Fired shots. 3 sticks in each hole. Much noise – no flying debris – considerable damage. Richard had previously warned Guy Hodgkinson. Frost said the holes were too shallow.

Took F.F. back to Wells Museum and showed him the skull. Met and introduced Mr. Dobson. who was a friend of Dr Bakers, and who has done some caving

Badgers (contd)

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at Godstone & in Kent generally. Promised to take him at least as far as Swildon 20' tomorrow. Where we must go to ~~e~~ collect Carabiners which were left there last Sunday.

P.M./H.E.B. Miller
Hicks Bürger R.Kenny
J.Bird Burman

We spent nearly the whole time clearing the debris from the blast. It has not deepened the floor sufficiently, but had done a great deal. The floor would yield to a pick, but it would ~~mea~~ mean much hard work. A few buckets were brought out to appease H.E.B. who was becoming impatient at the delay. Collected ~~tal~~ tackle for full Swildons in case Dr Bürger comes without Dobson.

Sun 5 Oct AD.

R.R. Kenny

Dobson

Swildons

Passed rapidly via the Wet way – to the 40'. Just inside the entrance were two moths. We passed the 40' without difficulty – there was little water but much ~~splash~~ drip. We went to the 20' drop w^here we found the carabiners. We came back, Richard leading the 40' I came last unroped, the lifeline being fixed to the end of the ladders. I stopped in the grotto to inspect the pipe leakage. Much of it was ~~due~~ due to drips having ~~caused~~ formed ~~on~~ by the lower edge of the pipe – a file might ease this. There was a considerable leakage under the upper end. The ladders came up very easily & swiftly, but caused some difficulty with their stowage. We returned via the Wet Way.

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Sun 5 Oct. P.M.

Wells

Hung tackle to dry at Vicarage, having found some equipment, probably belonging to Glennie at the entrance to Swildons.

Collected films from Hagan (? *Ed.*)– they are very poor, he also gave me some slides. Mr Pangbourne recommended Mr Hodge a friend of his as being likely to enlarge the negs onto the ~~Plates~~ slides. He is ~~game~~ game to do so although he has never tried it. We returned a ladder tether and Glennies' bag to the Museum as they were dry and unused.

Mon 6 Oct. AM.

Vicarage.

~~Colle~~ Took all tackle, save the tether, indoors. It was slightly damp.

Sat 11 Oct PM.

Museum.

Attended meeting of Wells Arch & Nat Hist Soc. Proposed E.J.Mason, Richard seconded him. Le^cture by H.E.B. on recent cave developments he used some of my new slides – they were very poor.

Sun 12 Oct A.D.

C. Vowles

Hillgrove Dig.

I walked a field to the East of hundred acres with Mr Thorner, he pointed out one subsidence & told me that there was ~~on~~ another in the same field.

~~We~~ Colin & I then started work, ~~We~~ used the winch, mo^ored to the big crowbar. We started by smashing the remnants of the ~~ero~~ rock that I

Hillgrove Dig (contd.)

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had previously blasted. ~~We~~ I then in view of its being **lunch time** put a single stick of Gelignite on the large rock in the sloping shaft & blew a large piece off this. This gave us far more room to work in. Then we removed the rock fragments which were nearby and then pulled a large rock which was in the final chamber. With ~~thick~~ this out of the way ~~we~~ we could commence clearing the clay and stones

of out of the final chamber. By the time we finished I had exposed the way on, which will need much blasting

Mon 13 Oct ~~A.D.~~
AM.

Museum

P.M.

Sorted tackle after yesterday.
Started repairing the L.H.S.O. ridge of skull 1. another piece came off, ~~and in view of the~~ an I left this setting. The scalpels do not seem up to the work, the point of one has already broken.

Tues 14 Oct AD

Museum.

I inspected slides of Badgers & Eastwater trap door, which I had not seen before. I gave these last Christmas – they were Leica photos.

I joined the L.H.S.O. ridge, and left it to set whilst I worked at Gunnings.

In the evening I reinforced the L.H.S.O. ridge with plaster, and mounted it on the skull – two attempts were needed as the first time it was falsely positioned.

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Wed 15 Oct. A.M.
126

Museum.

Took a number of photos of the Halliday shop – see records for details .

N^{os} 24 - 38

P.M.

Took bear 1. Completed onto back lawn to photograph it – it looked nice. Whilst fetching notebook & exposure meter the blackboard background fell on the skull and crushed it. Packed up tackle & took skull into lecture room. I was too upset to continue work. I had spent 16 days or portions working at it.

Thurs 16 Oct AD

Museum

Inspected the damage – the Cranium broken into four pieces – the L.H.S.O. ~~th~~ broken – the pedestal shattered as was a portion of the mandible also the two ends of the R.H.S.O.R, the front of which was broken in itself. The RL canine was separated from its mounting, a portion of which had come adrift. Numerous other small fragments have come adrift.

Owing ~~th~~ to the plaster, damage was curtailed and repairs facilitated by having a ~~er~~ frame on which to work. I made considerable progress, repairing the pedestal & mandible – remounting the ~~R~~ L canine, and joining much of the cranium, and also the LHSOR. & the front end of the R.H.S.O.

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Fri 17 Oct. P.M.

Museum

Showed P. Brown slides of Witherbybrook & [?] his fathers hole. He doesn't think the B.E.C. will survey Stoke Lane swallet.

Continued the skull, the cranium was assembled, the rear end R.H.S.O.R. was mounted on it – the whole being mounted on the pedestal. The mandible had to be removed

and reset in the base. It is now more accurate than originally. The L.H.S.O.R. was assembled, but does not appear to be going to fit, nor will the front end R.H.S.O.R. without some adjusting. The scalpels have proved invaluable for their purpose --ie. working in inaccessible spots.

The acetone has arrived ~~a~~, I took Vowles one gallon.

Fri 24 Oct. 47. PM

Museum

Collected photos of Halliday shop from Vowles & showed them to H.E.B. He approves strongly. Undertook to rush skull 1 to try to get him slides for his lecture /^{on} Monday evening.

Sat 25 Oct. ~~AD~~ PM.

Museum

Continued skull 1. Much progress was made. Returned a ladder & ~~the~~ tether to the museum.

Sun 26 Oct AD

Museum.

Continued skull 1, joining front end R.H.S.O.R. & fixing arm for L.H.S.O.R. – the L canine parted last thing in the evening. The L.H.S.O.R. had to be broken to enable a tighter curve to be obtained as it was too long. Was introduced to Prof Haldane who had been diving at Wookey last night. They found another skull.

47

Mon 27 Oct. A.D.

Museum.

Plates:-

42, 43, 44

See page 205

Mounted L.H.S.O.R. & L canine. Photographed the skull in front of the Halliday shop. H.E.B. then developed the plates and rushed slides from them – O.K. he is very pleased. I spent the P.M. ~~the~~ titivating the skull and cleaning up.

Tues 28 Oct P.M.

Museum.

Worked up a mammoth molar which was removed from Badgers on Saturday – ~~It was~~ It's condition was not improved by a blow from a pick. Sent letter (up to date) to Howard 5/- postage (air mail.).

Wed 24 Oct. P.M.

Museum.

Started work on the Rad or Fib. Hardened this with a solution of celluloid in Acetone ide/^{al}, it needs about three applications. A pair of rubber gloves seems to be needed for protection. The fumes are not particularly unpleasant. Stuck the pieces together with ~~du~~ Durofix diluted with Acetone. Propose erecting another table in the inner room, together with a light. This ~~should~~ will be used for storing bones awaiting treatment or display.

Thur 30 Oct AD

Museum

In the AM. I organised the inner room, fixing lighting and tables.

P.M.

Finished the Rad or fib.? It seems a very satisfactory job. ~~Stu~~ Continued the Femur. ~~Sever~~ I tried washing

48

Museum (contd).

some of the loose fragments. They ~~collapsed~~ disintegrated under the influence of the water. Started on the main

portion, it is by far the most fragile bone which I have ~~ge~~ yet attempted. The knuckle broke off on removing some of the plaster. More hardening of all portions seems essential. I have removed it from its plaster. It is possible & seems fairly simple to harden the bone then scrape off the earth. H.E.B. wants me to try the Tusk next, using celluloid in acetone.

Have arranged to ~~st~~ collect some people from Beechbarrow at 2.30 on Saturday 1 Nov. to take them to ~~lon~~ Longwood and return them.

PM Fri 31 Oct

Museum.

Continued femur – little can be done with it, it is very badly shattered and rotten. Started on three fragments of another bone – it might just ~~be~~ become identifiable when reconstructed – if this is possible.

AM. 1 Nov 47.

Museum.

Joined two fragments of the three, it appears as if it might be the pair to the rad or fib. Hardened some frags which I washed on 28 Oct some of them look as though they had been sawn.

P.M. 1 Nov

August Hole. (Longwood extension).

~~Frank~~ Frost
& Wessex party

Decended via the entrance shaft and ten foot drop to the new series, which leads off to the right at the bottom of the second stage of the first drop.

August hole (cont)

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Tackle

Wessex

3 Ropes

A steeply sloping boulder strewn ~~passage~~ ^{rift} gives onto the second vertical which is if possible ~~some~~ ^{more} unpleasant than the entrance shaft. It is very narrow and jagged. The landing is in a shallow pool ~~for~~ from here a passage comparable to the Devils elbow in G.B. leads to another drop. This drop is overhanging and can be done on a ~~4~~ rope (preferably knotted). But a ladder /¹²' would be better. On a rope it involves a nasty swing to the left over the 60' pitch. This pitch is a steeply inclined slope of about 50°, for the most part it is ~~ve va~~ fairly solid rock, with plenty of holds. The bottom of this pitch is in the "master cave" which is the active stream course. Here you follow the cave upstre/^am which starts by a ~~prog~~ passage 6' wide & 10' high and soon opens into a miniature G.B. gorge, of which the roof is not ~~hi~~ nearly so high – the whole floor is a mass of loose rubble, precariously perched just below its critical angle – it slides easily. The gorge rises over *100' throughout its length.

* Very rough
£ estimate

Downstream from the 60' pi/^tch, The passage varies between 50' and 18" in height, and is not unlike parts of Swildons. There are some very fine helectites. Some of these would be worthy of sectionising, as many of them had water born vegetable debris on them. They might substantiate W. Stantons theory of

* It was here that I found and removed a small detached portion of stalagmite

~~sil debris~~ such debris becoming coated with dripstone, giving rise to such erratics. There are two noteworthy potholes in this lower series. One of them is waist deep and can be stepped over. The other is rather deeper and ~~a n~~ has a black hole yawning in~~t~~ the bottom. This has to be crossed by chimneying over ~~the~~ it. The way on is quite straightforward, passing a genuine sump through which most of ^{the} water soaks, any surplus passing ~~down the passage on one~~ onwards down the streamway, which we followed to a choke, which looks as if it might "go" with a little digging*. Thinking this was the end we turned back. A small uninviting passage leading backwards at an angle should have been followed, as it led to the real end of the cave. This involves another 30' pitch. On the way back I picked up a piece of broken stalagmite – this was rather interesting consisting of a core comprised of a hollow straw stalactite, this was covered with a thick splash deposit. It was broken in such a way as to show the spaces between. ~~the~~ Difficulty was experienced by one member of the party on the overhang at the top of the 60' ~~climb~~. He ended up by using my ~~s~~back & shoulders – he was desperately tired. The return journey was otherwise straight^lghtforward, though marked by long waits. (15mins at the bottom of the second shaft). Frost removed some loose boulders from the ~~first stage and~~

Mon 3 Nov. P.M.

Museum.

middle of the 10' pitch. The whole trip took us 6 hours. The ropes were snaked up the final shaft.

Inspected some books from Mr Savory, amongst which were some plans of Holywell cave in the Quantocks. I then cleaned a tooth ~~of~~ which was found in Badgers on Saturday - This was subsequently identified as ^{ant} M of Wolf. Also cleaned a small portion of stalagmite which I had found down August Hole. ~~This appears to be composed of~~ H.E.B. was very interested in this, and wants a photo of it. I then reported on August Hole to H.E.B. ~~Starte~~ Examined the bone I had left setting on Friday – it is beautifully strong – could not make a contact for the remaining piece. Started assembling the "sawn"? bone frags – got four pieces together – left them setting whilst continuing the Femur. I successfully removed the shiny rubber glaze by prising & cutting it off with a sharp scalpel. Also cleaned and hardened a number of loose frags – those very badly shattered and bound with mud, collapsed under the softening of mud caused by the Aceton celluloid solution. I also hardened the bone where I had removed the rubber skin. Made a contact for the head which had come

off in deplastering. Left this setting. H.E.B. wants copies of the latest batch of photos.

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Tues 4 Nov PM.

Museum.

Made ~~an~~ a few small contacts on the ~~feru~~ femur. Little more can be done until the remaining large piece is hardened – this is still drying, although it was washed on 30 Oct. Started on the coccyx – it is very decayed and ~~covered~~ partially covered in a soft breccia – this can be removed with a knife, but would yie^lde better to a dentists burr. I tried washing a portion – it couldn't stand the water.

Wed 5 Nov. P.M.

Museum.

Washed a number of frags – in fairly sound condition – recently broken, and also the knuckle, head of a large bone – rather weak. This collection was labelled misc 1. Started ~~has~~ work on the mammoth tusk. Brushing with a hard dry toothbrush removes some of the mud, ~~by~~ but much of it will have to remain. Started by hardening one end and a portion of the surface which had already been cleaned,

Put the Rad or Fib and its “pair”, together with the latest mammoth tooth into the “Badger Hole” case. I suggested removing three of the mammoth teeth, making the collection representative instead of complete – I was promptly squashed.

Thur 6 Nov. P.M.

Museum.

Continued ~~mane~~ mammoth tusk. A very slow process, owing to the neccessity of using a large amount of Acetone, the fumes of which have a noticeable effect – feverish headache.

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Collected bangers for use tomorrow.

Fri 7 Nov. PM.

Hillgrove dig .

Started drilling the rock on the East side of the “way on”. After 45 mins work, I had progressed 1^{1/2} inches. I ~~am~~ abandoned this, and using the shallow hole I had made, and another adjacent to it (natural) I fired four sticks of P.A.G. (B) with two dets. This did a considerable amount of work, though not as much as I had hoped. I found the fumes immediately after the bang extremely unpleasant, and had to retire for 15 mins. The sauce boat will be needed next time we work there.

Sat 8 Nov AM.

Mendip Museum etc.

Bought ½ Gallon paraffin from Mullets for 8^d took this to Eastwater hut.

Tried to obtain permission from Beecham to dig Barrow Rake – he is unwilling. App-~~ap~~arently the last people who dug there left a hole into which one of his cows fell.

Sat 8 Nov. P.M.

Badgers.

Balch, Hucker

I was sorting – a few frags were found.

R. Kenny Miller

Including one ~~lamb~~^{tooth} – Provisionally classified as lamb. Also some tufa of unusually soft consistency.

Told Batton etc that Barrow Rake was off. Collected some bangers. 7 sticks ~~B~~ P.A G. & 4 dets.

Sun

54

9 Nov. 47 A.D.

Hillgrove Dig

R. Kenny
Metson) school
Smalley) boys
Joyce Bird (watching.

Started by throwing all debris from the first chamber to the bottom of the shaft. ~~I~~ We then ~~se~~ cleaned an area on top of the first chamber. We were proposing to sink another shaft to eliminate the horizontal traverse. I decided that the rocks were too unstable to risk it. We then started clearing the final chamber, using the sauce boat. One rope to ~~pl~~ pull it down & the pulley blocks to haul it up. This system worked well. The scoop was used to clear the way on, but as usually ~~prov~~ proved too bulky. Having cleared the way on we ~~fir~~ I fired two plaster charges ~~on~~ One of two & one of one stick ~~I~~ P.A.G (B) two dets. It was 75 mins before we could descend safely. ~~At~~ On clearing the way ~~out~~ on it ~~was~~ became evident that there was no hole in that direction. At Richards instigation ~~it became app~~ we started clearing the floor of the final chamber. I think some small single rope form of winch would be useful for hauling the sauce boat.

MON 10 Nov. A.M

.Museum etc.

Cleaning and stowing tackle – the pulley blocks were left in soak.

P.M.

Continued the mammoth tusk – it seems to be hardening very well. Whilst it was drying out I inspected the frags which had been left to dry. The femur

55

frag is ready for treatment. Returned ~~H.E.~~ the M.N.R.C. channel drill which is to be reground. ~~Also~~ Also returned the bangers. Met Wyn^dham Harris. My star drill was left at Hillgrove dig.

~~Tues~~ Wed

12 Nov. P.M.

Museum

Continued mammoth tusk – one end € (paper bound for removal) is extremely friable. I started on this.

~~Wed~~ Thurs

13 Nov. P.M.

Museum.

* This only represents the larger & sound portion

I Finished the mammoth tusk*. I ~~painte~~^{fresh} brushed over the areas showing a white celluloid deposit with Acetone - this removed most of them.

Inspected Misc 1. – still damp. I joined up some frags which yielded a socket which ~~might~~ be scapula, and another small bone probably foot. I must search ~~the~~ for the missing portions in the other drying room as there are ~~new~~^{fresh} fractures visible. Hardened the piece of femur which I washed on 30 Oct, it is quite dry.

Frid. 14 Nov. A.M.

Museum. etc. of paraffin

Delivered four of the five ~~g~~^a ~~ell~~ gallons / which I ~~we~~ ordered on Tuesday, from Mullets.

~~Started by fitting~~^{ed} the piece of femur which I hardened yesterday. H.E.B. & I then stowed the piece of stalactite from August Hole, and following this we put Bear Skull 1 in the same case, together with its unattached frags. I started off by searching for the remaining frags of the two bones which I

Museum etc (contd) 56

partially worked up yesterday – we could find no trace of the remainder. After installing the bear I continued the femur, making one or two small contacts. Whilst doing this I noticed the ~~blade of s~~^capula which I had worked up as much as possible and I had left as finished on 19 June 47. It suddenly occurred to me that this might join with the scapula socket which I worked up yesterday – it did – much to my surprise. I made the joint & left it setting. Continued the femur without success.

H.E.B. & I then rearranged the wall case containing the Chelms Combe Neolithic skulls, thus making space for the mammoth tusk, the completed portion being installed in the bottom ceⁿtre position, - the remaining piece will be install^d above it in the same shelf.

Sat 15 Nov. P.M.

Balch, Hucker
Miller Mason &
friend.
Metson & two B.E.C.
Tyler & ~~D~~ Burme

Badgers.

Started by sorting, then did ~~the~~ some bucket carrying & filling. There were no finds of ~~interest~~ importance. Coase then appeared and asked if we would care to ~~inspect the~~
~~floor~~ watch the diving; C.D.G. ~~cave~~ were working upstream from the Axe resurgence. We all watched – it appears very interesting work and was beautiful to watch in the dusk. Unfortunately I had to leave b^efore the termination of ops. The first pair of divers – Coase and Stanbury had reported the location and shape of the way on. An arch 2'6" high & ten feet broad, sloping steeply downwards.

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Sun 16 Nov A.D.

R. Everdell
See p 206

Mendip .

Started by walking an area betw^een Priddy Hill farm & Chancellors Farm which are about ½ mile North of Hokerstone & Townsend pool. There is a shallow vall^ey with a number of depressions therein, some of them are fairly deep. The area may have been mined. There are two openings accessible ① One of them comprised a ~~mud~~ clay shaft with overhanging edge and quickly ~~clo~~ closing in from 4' diam at the top, to a fissure 4' x 1' at about 12' depth beyond this nothing can be seen, but stones dropped continue to fall for a consurable distance. ② The other comprises a narrow opening 2' high by 1' wide sloping downwards at 45°. The rocks of the entrance are very heavily worn – either by weather ~~of~~ or water. Some of the other depressions look interesting notablyx3? From here I walked to Black Rock and there inspected the **Bone Hole**. It

comprises a ~~feature~~^{rift} starting at 3' wide and expanding to 8' it is steeply sloping and the first 20' are unroofed. After a total distance of 40' the roof abruptly closes down, and the floor begins to rise, forming an opening 3' high, beyond which the roof rises ~~&~~ again. I was unable to explore this cave thoroughly owing to lack of any lighting save matches. The floor is composed of loose rock, probably the result of excavating. I then walked down to cheddar on the N side of the

Mendip (Contd.)

58

gorge, descending just ~~above th~~ below Chelms Combe. I descended to cheddar, could get no food so remounted to the car park above Goughs cave, whence I climbed via Gt Oones hole to the top of the gorge. I then followed the S edge of the Mendips round to W^estbury hill, noting some in^{ter}esting depressions and the odd camp site. I then came home, investigating ~~th~~ two depressions in the field below the vcarage.

Mon 17 Nov A.D.

Museum .

/ & depressions

Looked at the Platten maps – the swallets / inspected yesterday are marked ~~out so~~ as Hollowfield swallet.

Hunted unsuccessfully for further portions of scapula. Tried the femur – it seems to have reached its limit.

Started work on the second portion of the tusk. One end of it has already absorbed 100 ml of solution. Also hardened two ~~very~~ isolated portions of it.

H.E.B. wants me to photograph the Wookey Hole Cave inscriptions ~~in~~ in the 1st, 2nd & 4th chambers.

Tues 18 Nov P.M.

Museum

Continued tusk, made considerable progress, because much of it was too fragile to clean. I used over 500 ml of solution. Obtained permission for Saturdays' photography.

Wed 19 Nov AD.

Museum.

Finished & acetone washed main portion of ~~skull~~ tusk. Tried the two detached masses – they did not fit. Cleaned and hardened a large number of frags – all the larger ones – they ~~can~~ have

59

come adrift whilst the tusk was drying. Perhaps with their help something may be done in the way of reconstruction.

Thurs 20 Nov AD

Museum.

Continued tusk – no progress. H.E.B. wants me to “bodge” it by plastering the larger frags into position. Spent most of the afternoon producing a lino cut for printing white titling edges for lantern slides – it appears quite satisfactory. Rev P.K. O'H wants me to quit in a fortnight.

Sat 22 Nov P..M

R. Kenny
Settingington
P.E. Powell
Dr. Hubert Savory.*
M&Mrs Mason.
WinCo Hodgkinson.
of Welsh Nat?
Museum

Wookey Hole Cave.

Took Richard to Cave – went to Entrance with photographic tackle – it was shut. went to Office. Met Miss P.E.P. on way – ~~he~~ went in to WinCo – he said that the labour was not forthcoming. Mr & Mrs Mason were late, their car having broken down. Saw Dr Bürger, he said it would take a week to organise his men for labour. We started work five strong. WinCo P.E.P. Sett, R.R. & self. We opened a trench in the third chamber. as shown in the photographs,. this runs from the water to the wall, crossing the path. It is north of the arch from the 2nd chamber. We found nothing save a fragt of clay pipe and an interesting black layer, presumed by Savory to be of vegetable origin. We left at 6.30 PM and went to Wells for a meal. On returning

127

N^{os} 14-25
Mostly
U.S.

Wookey Hole Cave (contd.) 60

afterwards we decided to close down for the night. I took some photos of the third chamber. On the way out we examined the inscriptions. The chalk is still unfixed, and will smudge: ~~On the way~~ we also met Mr & Mrs Mason. I arranged to collect them from Beechbarrow tomorrow morning. Taking also 1 ~~se~~ crowbar & spade.

Sun 23 Nov AD

E.J. & Mrs Mason
Hubert Savory
Miss P.E. Powell
R.R. Kenny

Wookey Hole Cave

Collected party from Beechbarrow. Went cave and entered, meeting Richard at entrance. Started opening a new trench at E.J's instigation. //1

to original & 2 yds to West. ~~At At~~ After much effort some frags of Romano Brit. pottery & ~~severa~~ some bone incl. a vertebra (human ?) sections cuts ?

Also opened a branch 3' starting a 18" ^{deep} but becoming waterlogged. This was cut on a E-W line on the N shore of the chamber. Inspected the passage of water between chambers 2 & 3. decided that it could be swum & that there is an immediate obvious visible contact – photographed this. We came out, bringing all equipment. WinCo's tools & wheelbarrow were left inside the cave, my tools & Badgers hole tools were taken in the jeep. My Bialladin lamp was hung from my tripod, -this gave a wonderful light in which to work. On checking Balchs book against our sight of the water passage between 2 & 3, he shows the

61

wall of 3 extending to the further edge of the pool in 2. This is correct.

Sun 30 Nov P.M.

Mendip.

Checked Eastwater Hut paraffin supply – OK. More meths needed. Hunted for my rock drill in vain at Hillgrove dig.

Mon 1 Dec A.D.

Museum

Photographed the stalactite from August hole

~~127~~
127
N^{os} 7 – 13

Tues 2 Dec. P.M.

Museum

Continued the tusk making some contacts and doing some bodging. H.E.B. showed me P. Browns account of ~~his~~ their dig at Stoke Lane. It opens into a small system with some good formations. He wants me to photograph it before it is desecrated.

Wed 3 Dec P.M.

Museum

~~127~~
127

Considerable progress made but the frags which were insufficiently fixed have come apart in masses. These are being reinforced with plaster. Also photographed a pot – early ~~chi~~ Chinese in silver.

N^{os} 1-44, 45

Sat 6 Dec P.M.

Badgers.

Balch, Miller, Hucker
Burman R. Kenny
McEwan A., ?

I Was sorting – some frags were found, including ~~the~~ a bone – presumed foot of horse. Collected tools ~~of~~ for

62

Wookey dig

Sat 6 Dec P.M.

Wookey Hole Cave

Mason P.E.P. Coase
Balcome & C.D.G.
WinCo

We started by carrying equipment to the cave mouth, we subsequently drove it there in the jeep. Which was left & outside the cave entrance. Richard & Ted opened a trench on Charon's beach, using my Bialladin.

128

N^{os} 7,8,9,10,11

12,13,14,15,
16,17,18.

P.E.P. & I attended the divers; I photographing them ~~th~~ They had many finds – mostly human, including a pot and a horse skull – all from between 1 & 3. I also watched them departe for 4. All kit was removed in two loads by the jeep.,The lamp being used for loading, unloading & reversing.

See pages
204,203,202
201.

Sun 7 Dec AM.

Wookey Hole Museum

E.J.M. P.E.P. F.G.B

I Photographed ~~the~~ a pot, bottle (Bristol glass) Femura & Tibia & 4 skulls. A^lso returning tools to Badgers as below-

128

N^{os} 1, 40

36,33

See pages
201 & 200.

M.N.R.C. Own

1 Crowbar 1

1 shovel 1

1 Pick 0

My film having been finished I took it to Hodges for processing.

Mon 8 Dec P.M.

Wells Museum.

Continued and completed tusk – using much plaster. cl^eaned workroom ready for skull 2. Reported to Balch Wookey Hole finds.

Tues 9. Dec. P.M.

Museum.

Sent copy British Caver to Howard – Air Mail 23/-
Started on Bear Skull 2. Washed all loose frags.

and put them to dry on a sheet of copper gauze. The sound portions of the skull can be cleaned with a damp toothbrush. The front portion of the skull seems to be in a very advanced state of decay.

Wed 10 Dec A.D.

Museum.

Continued skull 2. Bought a saucepan cleaner, and after trimming used it for cleaning – quite efficient. Removed cleaned and hardened the most of the ~~XXXX~~ L.S.O.R.

Arranged to meet P.E.P. and collect the horse (? Ed.) bones next Saturday or Sunday.

Thurs 11 Dec P.M.

Museum

Assembled L.S.O.R. Started cleaning & hardening the L side of skull behind the L.S.O.R. Tried to preserve the front junction L.S.O.R. to skull. The bone there is very shattered. I was asked to take an individual down Swildon's; Wednesday next.

Wed 17 Dec AM.

Museum.

Continued skull – hardened all loose frags joined two portions of R.S.O.R. No other contacts made.

Could not concentrate on skull walked to Beechbarrow Coal, Paraffine (8 galls) & meths needed. Walked to Eastwater hut – it was unlocked – meths needed. On enquiring at farm I was told that they had lost the key. They suggested that P. Harvey was bringing another key. I borrowed a lock & key from the farmer & fixed this. He holds one key & I the other.

Thurs 18 Dec A.M.

Museum.

Delivered 3cwt coal, 8 galls paraffin & 6 pints meths to the Wessex huts. coal charged 15 to W.C.C. remainder paid 15/11. Also returned Eastwater hut key.

P.M.

Continued skull. ~~Cleaned most of the~~ Uncovered most of the Left side. Re-organised work room. Filled the tusk spaces with P.O.P covered the surface with frags.

Fri 19 Dec. P.M.

Museum.

Continued cleaning left side – little progress it is very fragile in the eye socket. and will almost certainly have to be stripped and numbered & cleaned. The tusk seems quite satisfactory.

Sun 21 Dec AD

Mr Brown &
R. Kenny

129

N^{os} 1,5,19,15
pages
198, 197.

Browns Dig Stoke Lane

Entered and for proceeded directly to the newly opened portions. Photographed a small chamber with mud bank and having several small passages leading off from it. Following this I photographed a low fissure with good See formations at the end next I did the some rather fine 199, stalagmites on the way to the dairy. Then the dairy followed by a chamber containing a fine stalactite with helictite then & the terminal chamber. After this we retraced our steps

~~and~~ a short way and visited the pulpit chamber which I also photographed.

The entrance passage is a typical water worn tunnel filled with cave earth, which has yielded some archaeological finds including a Hyaeana tooth.

Browⁿ's dig (contd). 65

There are numerous tributaries & distributaries many of which leave & rejoin the main ~~pas~~ passage within a few yards. The passage eventually ~~fel~~ enters a vertical rift containing many very ~~beat~~ beautiful formations. ~~wit~~ It is difficult to say what /^{was} the original point of entry of the stream, ~~they~~ there are many possibilities, and if the cave was cleared of all the sediment many more passages would probably be found. There is apparently one passage ~~w~~ showing ~~for~~ four deposits of silt, each covered with a layer of stalagmite. The cave is noteworthy for its incredible dryness.

31 December AD

R.R. Kenny
100' Climbing
Rope (own) ^{not}_{used}

Dulcote Hill & Yeomans Quarry

Walked Dulcote Hill at H.E.B.'s request, he asked us to investigate a hole at the Northern end of the hill. Before we found this we found a number of holes on the Western side of the hill. Some of which look interesting. ☞ Comprises an arch concealed beneath a outcrop of rock & totally covered with bushes. It is completely filled with rubble. ☞ Is ~~an~~ rubble filled opening about 1' high and 4' wide this soon closes down, and small passages can be seen to continue for about 10'. This hole would be easy to clear. ③ Is a circular chamber about 4' in diameter and 2' high it has an earth floor which sounds slightly hollow. ④ Was a hole which has been partialy excavated by the Home Guard, consequently and finds of importance

Dulcote Hill & Yeomans Quarries (contd). 66

have probably been destroyed it is quite spacious. 4' high 20' long & 12' deep. There are small passages running off at each end, which are ~~quickly~~ soon choked with earth. ~~Verti~~ Directly above & behind this is another arch which looks as though it might be promising.

From here we walked the quarries. ~~We first visited~~ ~~quarry one~~ in which Noting holes as marked some of which were investigated, others were not. Little of interest was seen save ⁺one * hole (now filled up) and another small cave* which was ~~nothe~~ noteworthy for the profusion of dog tooth, much of which was coated with a drip deposit of calcite.

+ 1

* 2

1 Jan 48

Museum.

- 1948
- Museum
of Sussex Arch Soc
- 1 Jan AD Thur.
A.M. Showed Mr Blunt around, & had discussion with him on subject of bone binding and hardening.
P.M. Made report to H.E.B. re Dulcote hill.
Continued skull started removing & washing frags from palate & L side e.
- Sat 3 Jan P.M.
P.E. Powell Mendip.
Walked an area of Deer Leap. Investigated one small cave – noteworthy for its dryness. It shows ~~sign~~ signs of having been ~~quarried~~ blasted.
- Jun 4 Jan AD
W.C.C. meet.
ref Somerset
Sheet XXVII N.W.
Lat 51°16'30" Long 2°33'
I did not descend any the shafts owing to the aftermath of a cold.
- Buddles Wood Area.
- Collected tackle from Beechbarrow & drove to Ores Map Close Wood ? Here a shaft was investigated this was 110' deep with 12' of water and developed into a rift which was choked. A sample of tufa stalagmite was brought out. The jeep was used as a ~~pe~~ tethering point. Whilst this was being explored the remainder of the party of investigated another shaft about 200^x away. This descended for about 40' partially vertical and the remainder in a sloping rift. The water was seen about ~~40~~ 30' below the bottom of the ladder.
- From here we investigated another shaft about ½ mile away & North of Buddles Wood.
- Buddles Wood Area. (contd). 68
- This shaft proved to be a blank.
- From here we ~~again~~ to investigate a shaft East of Buddles wood. The jeep was used as a double tether point. for. the ladder and for the relay man standing on the edge of the shaft, at the bottom of the earth slope. This shaft which was very rough in character and was bridged by a fallen tree, proved to be about 60' deep. It gave into very extensive workings, of which none of us had ever heard. There was a secondary shaft (supported by very rotten timbers going to a lower level. This was not descended. Also another shaft was seen going towards the surface. The general state of the place was extremely unsafe. It was suggested that it might be surveyed. ~~#~~ Samples of rock were brought out. Some photographs were taken of personnel.
- 5 Jan Mon .P.M.
Museum
Proposed photographing Halliday shop. H.E.B. wants skull 2 finished first. Continued this cleaned interior of rear of cranium (superficially only) & detached it. Washed a number of frags some palate others LH of skull.
Gave account of yesterdays proceedings to H.E.B. he was very interested in the stalactites. He says there are maⁿy shafts which have workings.
- See pages:- 194 & 193
- 130
- N^{os} 19, 18, 17, 16
15, 14

He unable to account for "Tor" in Tor hole. He thinks it might be a corruption of "tower".

He indicated a swallet (active) ~~in~~ north of the third of the Bishops Ponds in Eaker Hill Wood.

Also found I 3 inside cranium deeply imbedded in earth.

69

Tues 6 Jan AD

Museum

Hardened rear end skull & joined rear end R.S.O.R. & made contacts for Left Remus ^{& SOR.}. The system of dampening the mud & then brushing with a wire brush seems very satisfactory.

Installed second portion of Mammoth tusk in case.

Wed 7 Jan AD

Museum.

Joined L SOR. in all considerable progress was made in joining isolated frags. A certain amount of success was obtained with the L orbit by removing a fragment cleaning & hardening it and then removing the next one & treating it, & then joining them, gradually building piece by piece.

Thur 8 Jan A.D.

Mendip.

Walked Mendip. Inspected entrance to Swildons. The wall seems satisfactory but the mud bank is leaking and needs reinforcing.

The new swallet in the lead works is taking quite a lot of water.

The entrance to Cuckoo Cleaves ~~is~~ needs further attention to render it safe, as the earth has collapsed from the sides of the shaft, passing below it. It would probably be better to salvage the timber and fencing and close the shaft.

Checked paraffin in Eastwater & Beechbarrow. Both are O.K.

70

Fri 9 Jan A.D.

Museum

Made sundry small contacts. The skull broke when it fell owing to the separation of a joint. The damage is already made good.

Sat 10 Jan PM

Badgers

Stanton

R. Kenney

Balch Hucker

Miller Burman

Vincent Stimson

Sun 11 Jan A.D.

Badgers.

R.R. Kenny

W. Stanton

about

We worked the rabbit hole, deepening the floor by 1' and widening the inner portion by 6" In all we progressed 10'.

A crowbar was jammed near the entrance to the rabbit hole and one end of the 50' winch rope was attached to it, the rope passing through the small sloping tunnel to the winch, which was tethered to the tree near the door to the

enclosure. The winch rope was tensioned and the sauce boat was suspended from it ~~w~~by two snap blocks. With a rope at each end this made a successful cableway.

~~As th~~ At the end of the day we had started finding some loose frags – as yet too inconclusive ~~for~~ to identify.

71

Mon 12 Jan PM.

Museum

Reported yesterdays activities to H.E.B. he is most insistent on the spoil being sorted.

Continued skull little progress ~~wa~~ but several ~~contae~~ frags were joined.

Tues 13 Jan AD

Badgers

‡ Dismantled tackle from Badgers.

~~Con~~ Spent day sorting – 6 buckets from main face sorted and carried out in A.M. ~~Eight~~ a few small frags were found. P.M. I sorted and carried out 8 buckets of Sunday's spoil. Some frags were found, b^elonging to the bones ^{still} in situ. The rabbit hole spoil is very dry and easy to sort.

Brought home all the day's finds – the Sunday finds which were removed, and a bone which R. Kenny had removed some weeks previously.

H.E.B. thinks it would be usefull to drill a hole in the floor of the inner chamber & fire a shot to obtain an idea of the floor composition.

Wed 14 Jan A.D.

Museum.

Searched in vain for memoirs of Academy of sciences of ameri^ca – re cave insects.

Continued skull some progress notably the tooth sockets outside ? only for ~~th left side~~ Right side. Am thinking of cleaning remaining portion of skull.

72

Thur 15 Jan A.D.

Badgers

W. Stanton

Sorted & carried out 50 buckets of Sunday's spoil. It was almost completely barren – only a few small frags were found, and they probably came from the far end.

Fri 16 Jan P.M.

Museum

Started cleaning front portion of skull. Removed front end L.S.O.R. & washed it. Found a tooth possibly L M2 ? Washed a large number of pieces from palate 2 and maxila of both sides – very broken but of fairly good texture.

Sat 17 Jan P.M.

Badgers.

Balch Hucker
Miller Burman
Stanton Matson

Was sorting – finds included bear incisor probably from Skull 2. All the remainder of of Sunday's spoil was sorted, and some of today's spoil which was very muddy and lumpy. I proposed that the rabbit hole be worked and the muddy portions left until dryer weather. C.D.G. meet postponed owing to dirty water.

Mon 19 Jan AD.

Museum.

Continued skull. Made considerable progress with palate. also joined frags of teeth. Washed ~~and~~ further frags of palate. Hardened & started repairing front end L.S.O.R.

Tues 20 Jan PM.

Museum

Cleared work room & store room. Stowed chairs to make room for WA&NHS. A.G. Meeting. Stowed femur & scapula in badger hole case. On examining

Museum (contd)

73

cannon bone finished Sun 23 June 47 it was found that a ~~piece~~ fragt washed of Misc 1 washed on Wed 5 Nov 47 fitted the distal knuckle. This bone formerly thought to be a giant deer now is believed to be bos. It conforms very closely in size with a similar one ("C" fig 18 Reynolds Vol 2.). The piece was joined and left setting.

Attended Dolphins cave diving lecture in the evening.

Wed 21 Jan PM.

Mendip.

Walked Mendip checked fuel in huts. Beechbarrow needs 2 cwt coal 3 galls paraffin. Eastwater – nil. Barrow Rake swallet was taking a large amount of water.

Thur 22 Jan P.M.

Mendip.

O.N. Oates

Delivered 2 cwt coal & 3 galls paraffine to Beechbarrow – cost 4/-.

Fri 23 Jan AD

Badgers

O.N. Oates

Removed bone from rabbit hole & left it at Badgers. Also drilled a hole 15" deep in floor for shot. This was speeded by using a small amount of water and the 6 lb sledge Ham^mer.

There had been a small fall of rock & earth at the entrance to the rabbit hole, which had uncovered a small fragt of bone – as yet unidentified. Returned rock drill to museum.

74

Sat 24 Jan AM.

Badgers

R. Kenny

Hobbs

O.N. Oates

Richard laid charge in hole drilled yesterday. 2 Sticks P. P.A.G (B) 1 det. I fired this from outside. It did a great deal of work. Some bone frags half uncovered which had been covered with sacking appeared to be untouched. The floor has been reached. There is a small amount of s crystalline calcite covering the conglomerate floor.

P. Hobbs & R. Kenny investigated the slot between ~~B~~ Hyaena den & Wookey they found interesting moths. Either Tissue or scarce Tissue spread throughout the length of the cave many were collected. Oates & I investigated Hyaena den.

P.A.G. & dets were returned.

Sun 25 Jan P.M.

Swildons

R. Kenny

P. Hobbs

Went down pretty way to 40'. Inspected Hensler's ~~pe~~ dig (he was present) on the way. No fauna were

O.N. Oates

noted on the way. In the water rift the upper hole was used in decending, and both the upper holes on the way back. The pipe at the 40' was taking all the water save some splash. We returned via the middle way. Wore my ~~hel~~ helmet for the first time – it slips a lot.

Mon 26. Jan PM.

Museum.

Plastered small faults in head of cannon bone where I had fixed the new piece to the knuckle.

Operated lantern to show Balch's ~~sh~~ slides for

75

forthcoming lecture, for purposes of checking them

Mendip.

Tues 27 Jan AD.

O.N. Oates

Walked Mendip, ending by decending gorge to Cheddar. Inspected Cox's & Goughs caves.

Excavations were being carried on near the entrance.

The guide stated that the ~~y~~ water in the shaft shows definite ~~di~~ signs of movement. Much water was issuing from cliffs – cave was not flooded.

~~Wed 28~~ Thur 29 Jan AM

Wookey Hole Cave

O.N. Oates

Photographed ~~W~~ Pot, reconstructed by Mason, outside Wookey Hole Museum.

~~131~~ 131

N^o 17

Photographed ~~p~~ inscriptions in cave using cave

P.M.

lighting supplemented by Bialladin lamp. Inspected 3 all trenches are full and some water was ~~full~~ flowing down the floodway

131

N^{os} 11,35,42

See pages 192 & 191

Sat 31 Jan PM.

Badgers

O.N. Oates Balch

Spent some time deepening the groves for drainage. ~~Cleaned~~ Partially cleaned the bone from the rabbit hole. It is unrecognisable. Some small frags & bones were found – including 1 badger canⁿine

Hucker Miller

A large portion of bone was ~~w~~ exposed, towards the end of the day's work, this is still partly buried and looks very rotten. H.E.B. wants me to go & repair the wall outside the gate with some cement from Mr Hodgkinson.

V. Stimson

76

⊕ Sun 1 Feb AD.

Browns' Stoke Lane Dig. & Mendip

R. Kenny

Showed Wessex people ~~F~~our dig – they said it looked more promising than their own. Also showed them the shake hole down which much water poured when F. Frost was working the area.

N. Oates

Drove to Stoke Lane – changed looked at swallet – wet.

Inspected Browns dig. A small stream was running. This appeared as a sump coming from a passage which they had opened, between the bottom of the Vertical and the pulpit chamber. This disappeared through a hole in the floor ~~the~~ just inside the constriction ~~in the ch-m~~ at the end of the main entrance passage, Where it appeared to be joined by another, coming from destination unknown. This secondary

stream may however have been a seepage from the other portion.

Richard inspected the swallet and said that there was a siphon there.

Inspected St Dunstons well – much water rising there. Also inspected shaft at Green Ore – appears deep.

Waldegrave swallet is taking plenty of water, and has a small hole appearing on the West side of the cover.

Otherwise it appears safe. The ~~lost~~ vanished swallet beside the road was taking very little water.

77

Thur 5 Feb PM.

Badgers & Museum

Installed cannon bone in Badger Hole Case. Went Badgers and lighted Bialaddin in preparation for Dre Wollis's party. Showed them inner chamber, H.E.B. lecturing. Came home and helped with ~~HE~~ his lecture to them in Cave Room.

Operated lantern in the evening for H.E.B. lecture to Toc H on The History of Wells.

Fri 6 Feb. A.D.

Museum

Continued skull 2. In the P.M. I bought some ~~zinc~~ perforated zinc ~~as a~~ for a second drying rack. I removed a large portion of plaster from the left side forward of front end of S.O.R. this allowed the side of the skull to collapse it ~~is~~ is very ~~dece~~ broken. I have washed much of it and will leave it drying ~~of~~ over the weekend. It also disclosed an incisor R3.

Sat 7 Feb PM

Balch, Hucker, Miller
R. Kenny Metson
Stimson

Badgers.

We drove two posts for recording for survey purposes, the first was driven 18' N of the gate & against the wall. The second was driv^en on a line between this one and the arrow inside.

I was sorting. Some finds were made and the piece of rib was removed. This is thought to be either Elephant or Rhino. My lamps proved very ~~su~~ successful.

78

Sat 8 Feb Late P.M.

C.D.G.
Balcombe & Coase

Diving

Mason & P.ep.

132

N^{os} 6, 33, 36
38, 39, 42

See pages:-

191, 190, 198, 188,
187

133

N^{os}. 10, 11, 12
14, 18, 19

Wookey Hole Cave

A single trip was made from 1 to 3 on which a Tibia and the remains of the horse skull were found.

Following this the divers went to 6, surfaced & examined it. It is a small vertical rift, still in the conglomerate. Th^ey then returned and departed again for 7, which is also a rift, but somewhat larger, though not as big as was originaly 37, suspected. This also^e is in the conglomerate. In both chambers the divers used rubber dinghies.

Mason & Powell investigated the site of the recent bone discoveries which is on a ~~b~~ boulder 2/3 way up Hells Ladder on the E side a few frags of pottery only were found.

I was photographing. In all nearly 50 pictures~~w~~ were taken.

Mon 10 Feb A.D.

Museum

Reported Saturday's work in Wookey to H.E.B.
Joined nearly ~~all~~ all frags which I had washed on Friday. Many of them contact with previous work. Also managed to build a large portion of L C, this will join with that portion still in the skull. Cleaned and hardened the portion of skull containing the stump of L C.

79

Tues 11 Feb A.D.

Museum. Museum.

By rebuilding L C I was able to join nazel to palate. Have found contact for front end L.S.O.R. but owing to distortion it will not fit. Contacts exist giving ^{connection} palate & L C to cranium ~~con~~.

Wed 12 Feb A.D.

Museum.

Hardened & cleaned a large portion of nazel including butt of R C, this was ~~of~~ very weak and had broken in many places despite care. I joined up R C. There is no R I³, that which originally appeared to be tooth ~~is~~ was earth. All the skull is now out of the plaster cradle.

Thur 13 Feb A.D.

Museum

Joined all sections to give full length of skull. L.S.O.R. will fit. Portions of the cranium are very badly distorted – this gives rise to bad joints. The distance between the canines is too great for the ~~with~~ width of palate. H.E.B. seems pleased. I started using my own adhesive – Acetone & Celluloid – this is very ~~q~~ quick drying.

80

~~22~~ Sun 22 Feb A.D.

Lamb Lair.

W.C.C. Meet-
R. Kenny

Collected tackle from H.Q. Drove to cave changed in hut in quarry. Decended and passed rapidly to main chamber, which we decended. Inspected Murrells dig, and also another at the lowest point which was about 9' deep. Murrells' was so dirty that we did not consider it worth investigating. We went on to the terminal chamber where I inspected the initials "B.W" 1894 ? There were no loose frags, but the initials were not covered with a calcite film as I had forseen. We returned without event save that I found the ladder very tiring and had to rest on it. A photograph was taken in the beehive chamber.

Thur 24 A.D. Feb.

Museum

Reorganised work room after H.E.B. & Richard had done the tackle. Put the ~~rem~~ remainder of the stalacite from Buddles wood mineshaft into the case of Mendip minerals in the Geology room.

Continued skull 2. Fixed canine, palate & L.S.O.R. ⁱⁿ ~~pl~~ position. H.E.B. remarked "You can almost hear it growl."

Fri 27 Feb A.D.

Museum.

Fixed some teeth having removed ~~I~~ M2 Left from Badger Hole case. I3 R – pm 4 R&L – m2L. Washed ~~and removed~~ the remainder of the filling material, and removed the bone frags from the sludge, by putting this

81

on gauze, & ~~gen~~ repeatedly immersing it in water. H.E.B. also wants me to incorporate a m1.L from another skull.

Sat 28 Feb A.M.

Museum.

~~Put~~ made a contact for lower L of nazel showing alv. for incisors. Examined the incisor from Badger Hole case found recently at Wh. The skull having been found at Wg. We were hoping to install this in the skull, but it proved to be a lower.

Sun 29 Feb A.D.

Badgers

R.R. Kenny

Did a ~~line &~~ compass traverse from N end of ~~wall~~ wall against cave to supposed side of shaft ~~above~~ on the surface. This works out to be 17' ft above floor level & 96' distant on a magnetic bearing of ~~of 17~~ 107°.

We started working the rabbit hole. After the first two buckets a bone was found. Richard removed this – it appears to be a portion of s^capula showing the socket. It ~~is~~ is in very bad condition. We continued digging – I was sorting and found a few small frags – unidentifiable. In all we removed ~~about~~ 16 buckets. Richard was widening the passage as well as deepening it. He reports that the floor is becoming extremely hard with boulders in it. No forward progress was made.

82

1 March Mon A.D.

Museum .

Continued skull 2 ~~General titivating &~~ Little progress general fixing of separate frags.

2 March Tues A.M.

Museum.

Fixed front end ~~RSOR~~ could make no further contacts. So Acetone washed the whole – it looks quite nice. H.E.B. then produced an incisor I think it is a lower so I put it in the Badger Hole case. He also produced a portion of cranium – supposedly bear – if ~~yo~~ so it is left rear of cranium of a ~~you~~ very young cub it is very light in section – the adult is massive. Also its ~~as~~ contours are closer. The skull as it is will rest on a plane surface using the canines and the remi.

Fri 13 Mar A.M.

Museum.

Mounted skull - the inside of the cranium was reinforced, ~~and a plate of~~ with P.O.P. Into this I was inserted one end of a bar of plate glass 2" x 8^{1/2}" x ^{5/16}". The other end of this was inserted into a mo^{ld} of liquid plaster, to act as a base – Little titivating was needed. Later I gave H.E.B. some help hanging some of Hassell's pictures.

Sat 13 Mar A.M.

R.R. Kenny

138

N^{os} 7, 10, 37, 4

Museum.

Photographed Skull 2 in front of Halliday shop. Five positions were ~~ma~~ taken.

‘ See pages 186 & 185 130 15A.

83

Sat 13 Mar P.M.

Balch, Miller, R. Kenny
Berman Savoury
Metson & Reporters
from Illustrated

Badgers.

I started digging the rabbit hole, but owing to lack of lights had to abandon this when I had exposed a portion of bone. Undertook to do the wall soon. Spent the rest of the time sorting earth from the entrance to the rabbit hole no finds here. Collected my spade & M.N.R.C. sledgehammer & crowbar.

Sat 13 Mar Late P.M.

C.D.G. + Reporters
from Illustrated.
E.J. Mason & P.E. Powell

139 – 11A, 10A

5A, 4A, 9A

3A, 2A

See pages 184,

183, 182

Wookey Hole Cave.

F.G. Balcombe made a single trip from 1 to 3, to check the survey. He was followed by divers Coase & Mackie, who were drawing sections of passage & who found a portion of human Tibia.

Then ~~Balcombe~~ divers went into 6 to examine it – they reported two air surfaces – not one on the W side & one air surface on the East.

Sun 14 Mon A.D.

R. Kenny & Metson

Hillgrove dig.

Richard & Metson started opening the new shaft, whilst I hunted some timbers for covering them and as a ~~derrick~~ derrick. On returning I found they had a whole 3’ square x 2’ deep. This was partially obstructed by a boulder, which they had loosened. I lifted this out. and started digging in earth again. This proved awkward & so we made a hole with a crowbar & electrically fired one stick of P.A.G.(b). This loosened the earth considerably & some more came out easily. By now another boulder was getting in the way, so we erected a new

Hillgrove dig (contd)

84

derrick, this was supported by three ropes, as it was nearly vertical. We then removed the offending boulder, which gave us more room to work. After we had cleared some more earth ~~we~~ we fired 2 more sticks P.A.G.(b) in a hole made by a crowbar. This made an opening into the chamber, which we rapidly enlarged. by dropping much of the debris into the chamber. We found that the sauce boat suspend by each end from the derrick, & held against the side of the shaft expedited the trimming with a pick of same. A further plaster of ½ stick P.A.G. provided an opening through which a bucket could be hauled. Richard & Metson went below & one filled & the other guided the buckets whilst I hauled from above. † The shaft seems to be very satisfactory. ‡ Two points of attachment for pulleys seem necessary on the derrick one at each end.

Mon 15 Mar PM.

Museum.

Hardened the bones which we found in the museum on Friday evening. They were found & cleaned by Eric Bird in Ebbor valley in 1939. They were a mixed collection of bones, containing both human & animal and two teeth – one human the other not yet identified.

85

Tues 16 Mar A.D.

Badgers .

* These were Mr Bird's finds from Savory's hole Upper Ebbor

Collected bucket of cement from from G. Hodg-kinson's workman, and repaired the wall.

Started removing Saturday's bone, after a little work another large fragment was exposed. In removing this I found another portion of bone, but this was decayed beyond all hope. I removed the other two bones – both very fragmentary. One appears to be a rib. I also sorted* some frags which appear to yield a hoof.

Wed 17 Mar A.D.

Mendip & Museum .

In the A.M. I delivered fuel to caving huts. In the p.m. I joined the bones (≠ supposedly hoof). H.E.B. now thinks they may be human.

Thur 18 Mar A.D.

Museum.

In the A.M. H.E.B. & I put the bear skull into the case with the witch relics. The finds by Bird from Savory's hole were put in the case work board with relics from the same hole. I also cleaned the workroom.

In the p.m. I hardened the rib & ~~cleaned some w~~ cleaned some bones which H.E.B. had put in the workroom mostly from H Wh. also Tuesday 16 March's bones from rabbit hole – I left all these drying.

86

Fri 19 Mar A.D.

Museum

In the A.M. I helped H.E.B. re-organise some trays in Geology room notably by putting the find Street museum finds on show. Also repaired a portion of ammonite for him & a portion of bone ? mammoth femur. Also ~~washed & partially~~ partially joined & washed the a bone from Badgers removed by Richard some time ago - this appears to be a portion of scapula. I inspected two other bones removed by him at the same time they are deeply embedded in Breccia - it is doubtful if much can be done with them. Started cleaning the scapula from the rabbit hole.

Sat 20 Mar A.M.

Museum.

Removed a considerable portion of the breccia – the bone itself is very fragile. (This is the ~~bi~~ scapula I started cleaning yesterday.

Sat 20 Mar P.M.

Badgers

R. Kenny, Balch
Miller, Berman
Stimson Metson
Neville

I was working the rabbit hole, little progress was made owing to delay caused by smashing rocks in the floor and removing bone. Today the first tooth came out – it was shattered, and another is in sight. At least four bones & a

tooth are exposed. The spoil is getting considerably stonier & two medium sized boulders were removed today.

87

Sun 21 Mar A.D.

R. Kenny
Stimson
Neville

Hillgrove dig

Richard & I started work clearing more debris from the bottom of the slope. Owing to lack of height, we decided to replace the derrick with a longer one – 20'. This was pulled into position with the winch and secured with four ropes, a ~~shackle~~ shackle was secured to the top with a chain, through this was passed a piece of S.W.R, - this enabled the pulley to be lifted into position at the top of the pole. The lower end was fixed to a hook also attached to the pole. With the other two ~~bi~~ now in action we started working ~~from~~ the terminal chamber. This started as a dig in very tenacious clay, and ended in gravel. ~~A~~ By the time we had finished they reported a trench ~~two~~ 2' deep running across the chamber. This was showing indications of a ~~rocky floor~~ rock in the floor. Photographs were taken of the surface equipment before & after work.

Tues 6 April A.D.

A.M.
P.M.

Museum.

I finished the scapula ^{socket} as far as possible & then commenced the rib which I had removed on 16 March. Then I worked up ~~the~~ a block of scapula which Richard had removed from approx Wh. C ~~Of the~~ After this I ~~started~~ helped H.E.B. prepare some teeth and bones for photography.

88

Then I worked on a Fib ? from Wh. which I washed on 18 March, following this I washed a bone which W. Stanton had removed from the rabbit hole whilst I was away – it is in fairly good condition.

Wed 7 April A.D.

46 A.M.
140
N^{os} 27, 28, 29, 30.
P.M.
See. P. 182

Museum.

Photographed the horse teeth. Using both the Sanderson & Leica. Washed three teeth (two of them deer Molars.) and a large bone – very fragmentary. Washed another large bone in same condition as the ~~former~~. ~~These~~ These bones though they appeared to fragile to wash stood the water remarkably well. All these were from the latest batch. Later I walked Mendip noting two swallets at. 39991691* ~~W~~
Checked Beechbarrow fuel – coal needed & paraffin.
*These two swallets appear unimportant owing to the proximity of a spring.

Thurs 8 April A.M.

C. Vowles

Mendip

Delivered fuel to W.C.C. huts.

Fri 9 April A.D.

C. Vowles

Hillgrove Dig.

Installed the ~~sun~~ windlass. It was held down by a large quantity of rock. The rope was passed through a pulley at the top of the derrick. After sundry adjustments, it was found that we could pull a bucket from the terminal

141
N^{os} 18, 17, 16, 15

chamber to the surface & return it without either of us moving. The windlass needs grease. a rope on the hook for a bucket enabled the man below ground to pull the bucket down without difficulty

89

Colin who was below ground the whole time was generally lowering the floor of the terminal chamber. It seems to be mostly gravel. He reports finding a large boulder which he was uncovering when we left off work. A different type hook seems needed for the windlass rope, as the existing one seems to jam with the mud, although it does so less than the usual hooks.

Sat 10 April P.M.
Balch Hucker Miller
Colin Vowles
Donovan &
Friend

Badgers.

I was sorting. Colin was digging the Rabbit hole. & turned out many frags – none important, he also found 1 tooth – probably deer molar. Hucker & Miller were working the old face. Donovan & his friend – a Dutch soil scientist were collecting samples of soil for analysis.

Sat 10 April. P.M.
Balcombe Coase
Macke Mason
P.E.P.

Wookey Hole Cave.

Coase made a trip from 1 toward the entrance – he reported finding a skull. F.G.B. & he then went to collect it. I photographed them with it. Divers ~~ba~~ then examined 4, 5 & 6 to see the outcome of all the small passages they all proved to be nothing. An attempt to surface in 7 was defeated by the dirty water. I was logging F.G.B. & 41, 40, helping undress him.

141
N^{os} 5, 3, 2, 1
45, 44, 43, 42
39, 37,
36, 35, 434, 33,
PE See Pages

90

Sun 11 April A.D.
C. Vowles. V. Stimson
R.R. Kenny

Hillgrove Dig.

I was operating the windlass. It was found that another man on the surface made bucket emptying easier. Although ~~this was he~~ it seems to be ~~as m~~ more than some people can do to swing it to the far side of the dump. The new square fire bucket proved excellent in use. The excavation was devoted to deepening the terminal chamber, which seems to comprise layers of ~~san~~ clay & gravel. A large boulder has been disclosed there, which apparently needs blasting.

141
N^{os} 32, 31, 30,

The windlass having been lubricated was fitted with a hand brake, built of pipe, rope & wire – it is extremely efficient. Photographed the party.

Sun 18 April A.D.
C. Vowles. Stimson
R.R. Kenny W. Stanton

Hillgrove Dig

We were digging in the terminal chamber. It was found that with one man digging, one ~~of~~ man changing the buckets below, ~~an~~ one man operating the windlass and two men ~~operating the~~ emptying bucket ~~g~~ guiding the rope & changing buckets we could work continuously. At the surface having experiment with a second derrick & pulley for ~~hauling~~ swinging the buckets to the edge of the dump we ~~de~~ decided that it was best to

142
28, 29
See p214

remove the full bucket, re-attach an empty one and send it down meanwhile the full one was being emptied. Underground the digger would fill one bucket, pass it to the bucket handler who would send it to the surface

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Hillgrove dig. (contd)

whilst the digger was filling another bucket.

The windlass shaft was slightly bent and the handle more so when ~~th~~ a boulder of 150-200 lbs ~~ree~~ broke a hook on the subsidiary pulley system whilst it was being ~~f~~ pulled to the side of the dump. The ensuing swing^{ing} boulder (still held by the main windlass rope & brake) but the windlass, which prevented it from hitting C. Vowles' head, who was ascending the shaft. The boulder which was disclosed last week was destroyed with a plaster of 1 1/2 sticks ~~#~~ P.A.G.(b). A second boulder beneath this was removed from its position with the windlass and then smashed by W. Stanton with the sledge hammer. A small pool of water collected in the socket left by the removal of this boulder. In all four major boulders were removed. The ~~g~~ nature of the material is still gravel & clay. A small passage three feet nearer the entrance & slightly lower than the old one* is beginning to appear on the South side of the chamber. The floor is getting ~~we~~ very wet. William did some good work with the hammer to open the horizontal passage a bit more. At the end of the days work we fired one stick P.A.G. (b). ~~on~~ as a plaster on the rock on the N.E. side of the entrance shaft. This should make bucket hauling much easier.

See page 32
(passage 3' x 5')

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Mon 19 April A.D.

Museum

Hardened the two ~~big~~ large fragmentary bones which I had washed on 7 April. I then started joining them up, and found that they were both portions of the same bone – it is the socket end of a huge bone ~~pl~~ probably Rhinoceros. I also cleaned and joined one small tooth which H.E.B. had left out for me, and also joined ~~an~~ one of the deer molars washed on 7 April. Started joining the bone washed on 6 April although in good condition much of it is missing.

Tues 20 April P.M.

Museum

Finished rhino? bone and all sundry frags & bones. Tidied workroom. There were many frags of rhino left over.

Sat 22 May. PM.

H.E.B. Miller Hucker
Stimson Mr & Mrs
Brown

Badge^rs

Went Badge^rs and announced my return to H.E.B. carried two buckets. He showed me the latest plan of Wookey, including the new /^{chambers} above ~~water-chamber~~. three.

Sun 23 May A.D.

R.R.Kenny

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Hillgrove dig

Inspected ^{& photographed} the progress made during my absence. they have lowered the floor of the terminal

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See page
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chamber by about 6'. There was a large boulder in the floor. It is taking the form of a rift narrow about 18" wide, which appears to be a continuation of the rift above. We removed the boulder from the floor. This was broken loose with a crowbar & chain, & lifted out

Hillgrove dig. (contd) 93

by means of pulleys fixed to the upper end of a pipe, the lower end ~~be~~ being placed on a convenient rock. The pulley rope was fixed to the windlass rope, and the windlass was used to pull it. Having lifted ^{it} as far as possible it was supported by the crowbar, whilst we removed the windlass rope & pulley, I installed the pulleys on the derrick. The pulley rope going to the windlass. Another rope was taken from the lower block of the pulleys to the rock, and it was thus dragged and lifted out. We then used the ~~pe~~ normal windlass rope. We continued digging the floor of the terminal chamber, This was best done with a crowbar & american trenching tool set at right angles. In all we lower^d the ~~g~~ floor about 2'.

We then removed a boulder from the side of the rift, this promptly brought down a quantity of clay, which we left in the rift. A large boulder over hanging the rift appears to be in need of shoring.

Mon 24 May. P.M.

Museum

~~A~~ Started washing bones removed in my absence. washed two lots – one of which was mandible possibly wolf. Also started a second mandible.

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Tues 25 May P.M.

Museum etc.

In the A.M. I delivered fuel to caving huts 3 gall paraffin to B.B. nil Eastwater.

p.m.

I finished washing the jaw I started yesterday. Also washed a large rib and some more jaw. Then started dry cleaning another bone. I first scraped this, then ~~clean~~ damp^mped the surface & used a tooth brush on it. I could then start hardening it.

Sat.29. May A.M.

Museum

Hardened and repaired the three mandibles washed on Mon & Tuesday – they are not very complete.

Sat 29 May P.M.

Badgers.

Balch Hucker Miller
Richard.

I was working the rabbit hole – no finds there. W. Stanton has widened it considerably, where the wall on the left has dropped back, it is about 3'6" wide at the end. A small very fragmentary bone was found near the site of skull 2.

Sun 30 May A.D.

Orr's Close.

W.C.C. meet.
Richard & Colin

We descended the shaft, ~~whil~~ ~~which~~ ~~wich~~ which proved to be 40' deep instead of the 55' stated by Weaver. On reaching the bottom We went Eastwards, which was ^{along} a natural horizontal rift dipping to the South. A few small

formations were seen and two moths. These were about 1' long very thin – brown and had long feelers. We then returned and entered the old workings. which were in

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the form of a rift dipping to the North. Those are situated West of the entrance shaft. There were several ~~of~~ levels, which seem to be separated ~~by~~ by jammed boulders. A sample of clay was brought out.

Mon 31 May AD

Museum

Checked the mandibles no further progress – put them out for H.E.B. Continued the bone I left half finished on 25 May – it is very fragile and will probably be ~~risea~~ unidentifiable owing to its being incomplete.

Sat 5 June PM.

Badgers.

Balch Hucker Miller
Stimson

I was sorting. Miller & Hucker were working inside clearing a way along the right hand wall. They found a very nice Hyaena canine also ~~and~~ some more fragmentary bones ~~Star~~ Sorting we found a **Badger** mandible – young – half only. Also two footbones. H.E.B. wants another photo of Badgers.

Sun 6 June A.D.

Stoke Lane Swallet.

~~Frost-Withey?~~
Malcombe Wilkins

We descended easily to the sump. Water was flowing in the entrance, and along the low passage with windowed wall just before the start of browⁿ's passage, halfway along which it disappeared to the right --a small quantity continued, and made its way into Browns passage. Just before the Nutmeg Grater was a pool nearly 1' deep, which was fed by the ~~above~~ aforementioned stream, this

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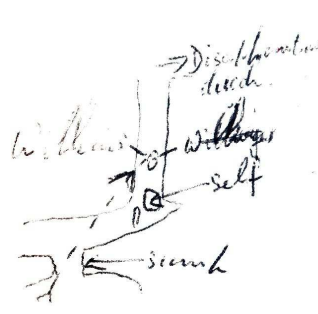
Stoke Lane swallet (contd).

overflowed through the Nutmeg grater, beyond which it was joined by another much larger stream flowing in from the right, This came from a passage in which can be seen a quantity of stationary water, - under normal conditions. ~~All this way~~ The sump, though higher than usual was passable, although it was difficult to pass disappointment duck with^{out} immersing one's face. Frost & Malcome stayed above the sump. Withey & I passing it & descending the stream. We looked at the main cha^mber, where the B.E.C. tackle still remains. Then we passed on to the bone & sump chambers. We were unable to find the upper series & owing to the fact of the other two waiting we ~~passe~~ returned. I passed the sump easily, & was clear of it when Withey passed under the rock at my side & came up beyond me. We returned rapidly & easily. It was noticed that when we left the main stream to come out of the entrance the stre^am flowing from the entrance was warmer.

Mon 7 June P.M.

Museum.

Worked up ~~the~~^a molar and rib which I had washed on 25 May. Also finished washing the bone I left on 31 May.



Tues 8 June AD.

Museum.

Gave rib to H.E.B. it was put into the case. The molar † is too incomplete to show. He gave me Saturdays badger hole finds, less the sounder bones & Hyaena

Museum (contd.).

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tooth which he had already washed. He gave me some bones – including † two ribs set † side by side in breccia. I finished most of these, and washed the remainder together with Saturdays' bones. All † were left drying. He has promised to lend me the Museums Journal for April., May or June, It contains an article † on the removal by solution of † breccia & limestone using acetic † acid.

Sat 12 June .P.M.

Balch Hucker Miller
Stimson Metson
R.Kenny
C.Vowles. Neville

Badgers.

I started by digging the rabbit hole – a few frags were found, but were too far † decayed for identification – one of them might be tooth (Elephant). Colin then dug for a period. Meanwhile Miller working at the right hand wall reported a draught – this is correct. I located the Hyeane tooth site it is 23' E of the arrow & 3' North of the line from the stake to the † arrow. Also located our terminal point in the rabbit hole. It is

Hillgrove dig

~~Sun 13 June A.D.~~

~~C. Vowles V. Stimson~~

~~Colin & Vincent started † baling the water out, without much success, whilst I was prepar~~

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Sun 13 June A.D.

Stimson & Vowles

Hillgrove dig.

I collected & prepared a shoring timber 4" diameter oak. We then started baling the water out without much success. A lot of it was spilt on the way & the buckets leaked. We abandoned this occupation, & whilst I fixed the shoring Colin & Vincent re-set the mangle wurzle which had shifted. I then laid & fired a plaster of 1 stick PAG(G) on the rock on the N side of the pit in the terminal chamber. We then started digging out the pit. This was very messy, but we made good progress. Colin at the surface was overworked, I was digging, and standing in 18" of mud & water. We removed the boulder which we had pulled out the previous time. A slight advantage of digging in water was that the tools kept relative_{ly} free from clay. A pump is needed for draining the water from the terminal chamber.

Sat 19 June P.M.

Balch Miller
Stimson Neville
Sat 19 June P.M.

C.D.G. +
Pathé News

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173 & 167

Badgers

I called in to announce my arrival & carried two buckets. I then walked an area above the cave.

Wookey Hole Cave. (Operation Nitrate)

Carried 3 loads of C.D.G. kit & 2 or 3 loads of Pathé kit. Carried kit into Cave much fiddling & posing. Fixed my S.W.R. from Charons beach to this side of river, from which the underwater lights were

suspended. Eventually divers went downstream toward resurgence, & reappeared with a skull & ~~the~~ Bristol glass bottle. Then after more fiddling – the divers. Started for 2. They presently re-emerged in 1 bearing another skull. Then they departed for ~~2~~, where they presently appeared with a ~~a~~ portion of Mandible and humerus. We cleared up and emerged all kit carried down in the jeep. N.B. A ~~h~~ skull was carried into the cave, to ensure that a skull could be produced from the river for the benefit of the Pathé news. Many photographs were taken.

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Wed 23 June A.D.

Museum.

Hardened a started repairing a large bone which ~~H.F.~~ I had washed on 8 June.

Thurs 24 June A.D.

Museum.

Looked at yesterdays bone – could make no further progress. Repaired Elephant tibia ? which had been slightly damaged by the lid of the case. Checked Bear Skull 2. which is showing a crack on the left side of its nazel –it seems perfectly solid nevertheless. Repaired the baby bear skull from Hyaena Den. It was very dusty.

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Wed 30 June PM

Museum.

Washed two bones removed from Badgers on Saturday last.

Thur 1 July A.M.

Museum.

Hardened and started reconstructing some frags of rib etc which I had wased on 8 June.

Thur 1 July P.M.

Priors Hill.

Walked over Priors hill and onto Pen Hill noticed two further sites on Priors hill took a number of photographs.

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N^{os} 30, 31
32, 34,

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167, 166

Fri 2 July A.M.

Museum.

Worked all 8 Junes' frags to their limit. Nothing ~~for~~ very interesting came of it. Inspected Wed 30 June bones – still damp. Cleaned up workroom.

Sat 3 July P.M.

Badgers.

Balch Hucker
Richard Stimson
Matson Miller.

I was sorting. We found three teeth – supposedly deer – all from the ~~h~~ Right wall. – it was nice stuff to work.

Sun 4 July A.M.

Hillgrove Dig.

R. Kenny

Collected wire & staples from Beechbarrow. We then fenced the hole with barbed wire. We put poles on supports for the East & North sides of the dump, to allow easy access for working. Returned the remainder of the wire to B.B.

Thur 8 July A.D.

Museum.

Repaired bones washed 30 June – ~~is~~ one of them is probably bear humerus – incomplete. The

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other is little more than a knuckle Worked up Saturdays teeth – Red deer ?

Sat 10 July PM.

Badgers.

Balch Miller Hucker
Matson & Friend
2 Boys from Weston

Working the right hand wall. I was sorting. Two teeth were found – one horse & one wolf. Also other fragmentary bones. There is much breccia. H.E.B.wants Richard & I to remove this to-morrow by blasting.

Sun 10 July PM.

Badgers.

R.Kenny

We first removed the loose earth from the floor ~~was~~ over the breccia. We then drilled a hole on the ~~right hand~~ South side of the path they had made this was 8” deep and slightly sloping under the wall. Drilling was slow owing to our drilling through calcite crystals – these kept coming detached and ~~getting~~ jamming the drill. We put six sticks of PAG(G) into this hole & 1 det & fired them electrically from the dump. ~~We~~ had a look at the damage which seemed quite ~~of~~ satisfactory, but owing to a mass of calcite having become loosened on the roof we could not probe it. We removed the calcite from the roof and carted most of it out. - there must have been nearly a ton of it.

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Sat 17. July P.M.

~~Sat~~ Badgers

Balch Miller
Burman Stimson
R.R. Kenny

I was sorting. We were working the right hand face ~~to~~ where we had blasted. The shot had ~~removed~~ ^{loosened} much debris – this proved to be completely barren, but showed a nice layer of sand, characteristic of the sand layer deep in the outer vestibule, this layer appears to have been deposited over the earth infilling, and at the same angle. Richard attacked the floor ~~to~~ where we had blasted, this proved to be crystalline calcite which came out easily.

~~H.E.B.~~

H.E.B. favours our deepening the floor of the whole rabbit hole & approves some form of carting for the spoil. He also says we can fill in the hole. ~~At~~ under the arch – providing this is done with rock, so as not to interfere with the drainage.

Sun 18 July A.D.

Lamb Leer.

Wessex Party
+ Vincent & Richard
Tacle

Own	WCC
100 nylon	2 ladders
Sling	1 Tether
Carabiners	

We descended easily & rapidly. I was holding life line for most of the party. Colin Low & G. Button were repairing the iron ladders. The ladders which were 60’ were 18” short of the floor when top rung was level with the platform. The nylon rope was very pleasant to use. Richard & I investigated the chamber between the great chamber and the terminal chamber – it is very interesting, and shows great signs

of water actcon. We also looked at but did not enter a deep shaft ~~at~~ against the wall on the S.W. wall of the great chamber. We came out without event. I did the ladder climb without stopping. Having come out, another party arrived who wanted to go down, so we let them, and I went to the top of the drop to give a hand with the rope.

Sat 24 July P.M.

Balch, Miller
Tackle. Own
Sauce boat

Badgers.

We were working the rabbit hole – deepening the floor by 15”-18” for ~~an~~ the entrance step. The sauce boat, mounted on four wheelbarrow wheels proved very efficient. on wheels. In all we ~~a~~ deepened the floor over a distance of ab 3’6”.

H.E.B. wants some form of apparatus for emptying buckets ~~on~~ onto the tip.

Sun 25 July. A.D.

W.C.C. party

Tackle-Own

Own	Wessex
Nylon 100’	3 ladders 3 tethers 1 lifeline.

Eastwater.

We split into two parties one of which went down Dolphin pot ~~into~~ and the drop into the second vertical, and then down to the bottom, where we met the other party which had come down the old route. We came out via the old route and the others via dolphin pot.

The ~~Do~~ Dolphin pot route turns left

Eastwater (contd)

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just before the S bend, and mounts slowly. It then drops slightly ~~bef~~ before going down Dolphin pot. This is a vertical chimney which starts fairly tight and opens up slightly it is about 30’ deep. From the bottom of this the passage slopes down slightly before coming to the drop which is overhanging and also about 30’. The landing of this is on boulders through which one ~~on~~ makes ones’ way to Harris’ passage which comes out on ~~the~~ ^a ledge level with the bottom of the normal ledge in the second vertical.

Tues 27 July P.M.

Tackle Own

80’ SWR

2 x 9’ Chains
lengths

2 x 1” Cordage

1 fire bucket

1 Snatch Block

1 Block & Tacle

2 small sha^ckles

2 “ pulleys

1 ~~Rope~~ Bollard

Badgers

I started erecting the aerial ropeway which H.E.B. had asked for. I fixed a length of chain over a bough to one of the trees overhanging the dump. To this I fixed one end of the ~~s~~ S.W.R. on which I had shackled a small pulley. Through this pulley I passed ~~and~~ a length of ~~€~~ 1” Cord^age. The ~~Wire~~ S.W.R. and cord were then passed ~~up~~ over the iron fence. I then fixed the lower tether point. This comprised a baulk of timber the upper end jammed against a niche in the wall, and the lower end resting on a rock sunk in a hole the whole sloping at 45°. To the top of this I ~~f~~ tied one end of the block & tacle the other end was fixed to the bollard, onto

Badgers (contd)

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which I fixed the wire. The block & tackle were then used for straining the wire.

The snatch block was then hung on the wire and the bucket suspended from it. A small pulley was also suspended from a snatch block through this a line was passed to the bottom of the bucket. This providing a means of tipping the bucket. The 1" cordage was fixed at one end to the snatch block, enabling it to be pulled up the wire.

On testing it was found that the bucket fouled the fence, but tipped satisfactorily.

Wed 28 July A.M.
Tackle Removed
1 Chain x 9'

Badgers.

I slacked off the wire and put the chain further up the tree and then re-tensioned the wire – this provided the extra height necessary to enable the bucket to cross the fence. On testing it was found that it was difficult to tip the bucket and hold it in position. So an iron stake was driven in to allow the hauling rope to be tied whilst the bucket was emptied this proved satisfactory. Some branches need trimming out of the way.

Whilst digging earth from the pit, to test the hoist I found a foot bone of little horse – this was taken

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to the museum – it was in excellent condition.

31 July PM Sat
Bird, Hucker
Miller Balch
T. Smalley
Tackle Own
(2 ropes
(2 small shackles
for sauce
boat handles

Badgers

Took Smalley & Bird to Badgers in jeep, showed all there how the rope way worked. Chief criticisms – the loading point is too high, and it takes too much strength to pull the bucket up the wire.

Swildons

Sat 31 July P.M.
Mr Robson &
Party 9 I all.

Swildons.

We went down the long dry way and out up the wet way. The party was too large for comfort. Contact was lost between head & tail. I had to go back to find the "tail" which had got lost twice. Difficulty was experienced at the rift drop & just before the grotto – in future I must keep the party down here. It can be done by descending through the false floor in the passage leading to it. Heavy weather was made coming up the 20' pot in Wet way – people were tiring. When I got home I found I had kept the key. This was posted to Main. We were overtaken by a party of scouts in the grotto – they were 15 strong. We were unable to go to the top of the 40' as there were one or more parties mixed up there. Much appreciation was expressed and I collected 4^s/6^d tip

CONGRES INTERNATIONAL DE SPELEOLOGIE.
VALENCE.
15 - 21 Aout 1948

PROGRAMME DES JOURNEES INTERNATIONALES
DE SPELEOLOGIE.

- Samedi 14 : Arrivée des Spéléologues Suisse.
Dimanche 15: Arrivée des Spéléologues Anglais:
Réception - Prise de contact.
Lundi 16: Départ 6 heures Valence - Romans - St Jean - Les Goulets - La
Chapelle - Grotte de la Luire - Col du Rousset - Vassieux - grotte
du Brudour - Route de Combe Laval - St Jean - Chorenche.
Mardi 17 : Chorenche - Grotte de Bournillon et grotte Favot - Chorenche -
coucher à Chorenche.
Mercredi 18: Chorenche - Valence: Réception officielle: Musée - Crussol.
Jeudi 19: Départ 6 heures - Valence - Montélimar - Pont St Esprit - Orgnac
et Aven d' Orgnac.
Vendredi 20: Orgnac - Aàs - St Hippolète le Fort - St Bauzille - grotte des
Demoiselles - Col de la Sereyrede - Grotte de Bramabiau - cou-
cher à Meyruels.
Samedi 21 : Meyruels - Aven Armand - Retour à Valence.

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International Speleological Congress

Sun 15 Aug 48. Arrived at Valence after straightforward journey marred
1ST Film by sickness on the train from Paris. Were met by numbers
Journey out. of C.A.F. and brought to lodgings – local ~~ch~~ religious
2nd Film. school – pupils on holiday. Washed and had breakfast –
Seminaire & Had long dis^cussion with Swiss speleo. went walk with him.
groups on steps Came home overslept and was late for lunch. After lunch I
~~was to~~ we had group phot taken and then went on roof to
look at surrounding country. Slept had supper &
instructions for to-morrow ~~The~~ get up 5.30 ~~breakfast~~ depart
6.00.

Mon 16 Aug 48

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Motored ~~via~~ to Chorenche * breakfasted there then went
to Grotte de la Luire took mang photo's of entrance. Then
entered there is a very large main chamber from which the
way on waS down a drop of 35' vertical down which I did
not descend. I then retraced my steps to the ~~out~~ outer
vestibule and explored some passages near the entrance, in
which I found a deep deposit of "Moon milk. From the
bottom of the 35' pitch it is reported that there are two
drops of 300' each. We lunched on emerging and then
motored over the Vaucluse back *
to Charence
/where we dined and ~~ch~~ slept.

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(* Choranche – Ed.)

Tues 19 Aug 48.

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Drove to Bourmillon power station & changed walked up to Bourmillon cave this is one entrance which is 115 metres high with a fully fledged river in it. We entered via a side entrance and climbed a vast slope of fallen boulders, from which we traversed by an exposed ledge to the main chamber. From here the way on was a large open passage, but filled with fast flowing deep water. This was owing to a flood state. We tried to get out via the river but were defeated by fast flowing deep water and lack of a rope. We ~~ear~~ came out the way we went in.

Next we visited the cave just outside the main cave. One again climbs a boulder strewn slope through a large entrance into a chamber 80 metres high over 200 or 300 metres long. In this we saw some fine stalagmites some possibly 15' or 20' high on a lesser one was a fine nest of cave pearls. Some of which were removed by members of the party. From this continues a passage reputed ~~for its~~ to continue for 2 or 3 km. Passing through another chamber even larger than the entrance chamber.

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P.M.

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We visited the grotte Favot. this necessitated a very impressive drive. We then changed and climbed to the cave. A large entrance quickly closed down and then we crawled for a short distance before emerging into a large water worn passage, one end of which was exposed to daylight – this sloped down at an angle of 30° and was so uniform in section as to resemble an escalator tunnel it was 15' or 20' high and nearly 200' long. Hence the cave continued contin^ued downwards through a series of high chambers.

In one of which was a stalagmite 15 metres diameter and 20 or 30 metres high. On this mass of stalagmite was a smaller one built up as a result of a number of terraces filling up level & overflowing and then others being built on them. This portion of the cave ended in a vertical drop. Further ramifications of small passages near the bottom of the entrance slope led us to a grotto where there were bones (presumably cave bear) buried in calcite. some members of the party endeavoured to remove these.

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Wed 18 Aug. 48

The day has been marked by a surfeit of drinking and in activity. In the p.m. we went for a motor drive & subsequently attended a reception at the local museum – much talking & applauding. We then walked around the museum and admired some pots – Gallo-Roman at least 8' high. Possibly for liquid storage. Ended up after excellent dinner by photographing the last supper in Seminaire dining room.

Thur 19 Aug AM.

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Left Seminaire at 0600 hrs drove to Orgnac & Visited Aven d'Orgnac under supervision of Robert de Joly. The

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4A, 5A, 6A, 7,9,8A
9A, 10A, 11A, 12A, 13A
14A, 15A, 16A, 17A
18A, 19A, 20A, 21A,

cave is fantastic it is enormous and filled with stalagmites of which must be nearly 50' high it is impossible to describe the profusion of formations many of them having been fallen in an earthquake & subsequent formations occurring upon them. R. de J. put a strip of metal – suitable engraved - on a stalactite in process of formation. He also advanced the theory that active stalagmites are white & dead turn red. We then descended below the commercialised cave to lower chambers. Chiefly remarkable for stalagmitic pillars of unbelievable dimensions.

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Two flares (sawn off incendiary bombs) were lighted – they gave a good light.

In the p.M. I went photographing with P. Harvey. I took twenty photos.

Fri 20 Aug A.M.

We visited the Grotte des Demoiselles. We had to walk up the entrance shaft owing to the railway coaches having been destroyed in a crash. The cave itself is incredible in for the number and size of its formations many of which including a truly gigantic curtain having been destroyed in an earthquake. All the formations appear to be dead and dusty – this appears to be the result of lack of water. The cave was rather spoilt by bad lighting, which included something resembling a batch of railway light signals. There was one noteworthy stalactite from curtain which must have been approaching 100' in length. The certain portions of the cave definitely tended to bear out H.E.B.'s theory of caves filling up with their own formations. The original entrance to this cave as with Orgnac was with a for vertical shaft from the surface.

In the p.m. we visited ~~Brow~~ Brammabiau which is an underground stream

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stream 700 metres long. The entrance consists of a ~~chim~~ pas large passage which soon opens to the surface prior to ~~dra~~ continuing underground. ~~The Ex~~

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15, 19, 23,

The exit of the stream is a narrow of lofty rift with a ledge running in along the side. This was certainly the most inter tempting of all the caves which we have seen in France. And was more like an English cave. It was noticed by the amount of slipping that the limestone was very hard. The water was extremely cold.

~~Fri~~ Sat 21 Aug

The Aven Armand was another cave, similar in many respects to Orgnac. A vertical shaft leading from the surface to the main chamber. It was noteworthy for some fine stalagmites which were tall and slender. These according to the French theory had died & then started growing again. There was a truly staggering profusion of

formations. Unfortunately the cave bears a resemblance to a cinema organ crossed with a transformer station. It is a maze of electrical wiring and a lighting system which fades the lights ~~leads~~ through White green and red alternatively. R. de Joly placed another band on a stalagmite to mark the end of the conference.

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28 Aug Sat PM.

Balch, Hucker
Miller C. Vowles
Howard Kenny.
Duck & son
Lucy Settingington
Dwyer

Badgers.

I dropped my new metal ^{No. 1} ladder over the cliff & descended it. It was then generally tried and strongly approved by all present. J. Duck was surveying. I disentangled the remains of the aerial ropeway which had collapsed when rain taughtened the ropes. It is to be & reconstructed.

Miller digging the right hand wall disclosed a small passage running due South. it appears to be a small rift of some sort.- the roof there appears to be a bit shaky. H.E.B. asked to me to blast the mass of rock which is blocking the base line of our ~~sevre~~ survey. I pointed out to him that it ~~ai~~ involved blowing at least 4' of solid wall & I would not undertake. He said it was larger than he realised.

Settingington showed H.E.B. some bones from Stoke Lane II including a very nice mandible of a woman ? It is suggested that I make a trip or two to see what can be done about the bones before anybody ~~gett~~ gets in from the surface and destroys them.

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9 Sept 48 Thur P.M.

Badgers.

Drilled wall & inserted raw Rawlboallt. Re-erected ropeway & trimmed overhanging branches. Tested – it works. ~~Pa~~ Examined derrecke remains, it can be adapted without much difficulty to provide us with a windlass. It may be necessary to ~~remount~~ ^{refix} the cable at a lower level. – ~~le~~ it appears possible to do this.

10 Sept Fri 48 PM.

Badgers.

Erected the windlass. I removed the drum and wheel and brought this down separately. I cut the ~~derrick~~ ^{jib} ~~someho~~ off 4' from base – it was rotten further up. ~~Ith~~ The lower end of the upright was set in the ground, the jib remains being buried in a trench to maintain the correct direction. It was tethered back to the rock wall ~~wby~~ by a wire onto an iron stake. The main running wire was lowered by 2' - this does not appear to have made much difference to the the fence clearance which still remains at 2'. This is possibly due to a tighter cable or discrepancies between test loads.

11 Sept Sat 48 P.M.

Balch, Hucker
Miller R. Kenny
W. Stanton &
others. Chatterly

Badgers.

Digging the right hand wall. I was sorting until a large bone was found which I removed. – it ^{had been} ~~was~~ badly shattered by a falling boulder – ~~before we removed it.~~ The windlass &

ropeway proved quite efficient in service, And proved capable of carrying boulders of 1cwt. Few finds were made. W. Stanton wand me to give him a hand with his dig at Piney Sleight farm. It was found possible to tip the buckets by hauling with the windlass whilst the tipping rope was tied to a stake.

Mon 13 Sept 48 A.D.
R. Kenny W. Stanton
Loation app.
Long 20° 45' 20"
Lat 51° 17' 25"N

Nods Pot.

This is a Sidcot school dig on the Ws boundary of a large field. There a two swallet depressions – the S of the two being the one dug. On arrival we found that the entrance had collapsed to a large extent. Eight feet of the shaft being blocked. We started digging hauling & carrying buckets, but found it very heavy work, so we tried loading the trailer & ~~carry on~~ hauling in that - it was unsuccessful. So we erected a wire ropeway right ~~ag~~ across the dump & depression & shaft. On this we put a running pulley from which we suspended a block & tackle. This was used to lift the bucket of spoil which was then pulled along the wire to the tip by a lanyard. If the man lifting the buckets pulled at right angles to the wire, by walking away, it was found that there was no difficulty in hauling

the buckets along the wire. The buckets could be returned of over the shaft by a push. The shaft itself was very muddy and had a small inflow of water. ~~The~~ My metal ladder^{No. 1} was used for the shaft.

Wed 15 Sept 48 AD
Chatterly
Buchanan

Badgers.

~~Sortied~~ a heap of spoil left from Saturday – a number of frags were found including what appears to be the dentine cap of a tooth (young) this has a ridge reminiscent of cave lion. H.E.B. whilst agreeing about similarity in this respect thinks it is too curved and blunt.

In the p.m. we started working the rabbit hole – deepening the floor. no finds were made & 3' or 4' of progress were made.

The ropeway worked well save that the tipping rope broke when hauling the bucket back.

Thur 16 Sept 48 PM.
Balch Miller
Hucker Chatterly
Buchanan

Draycott.

Inspected field betwe^en Old or Upper Cheddar road and Carscliff farm.

This~~e~~ used to be an ancient village site comprising:- working from the bottom up. A guard house, hut sites, ~~e~~ a cattle enclosure ? and ~~an~~ more hut sites. All the hut sites had doors facing S or W & were situated so that they did not ~~op~~ obstruct the view of neighbouring huts.

The site has been practically destroyed by ploughing. The site of the guard house ? was a heap of stones with a depressn in the middle in which was a hut circle.

Fri 17 Sept 48 P.M.

C. Vowles

Tackle on loan

1 Sling

1 Hemp & Wood ladder

1 Metal ladder

2 Packs ^{No. 1}

4 Carabiners

1 Hemp & Wood ladder

(By C. Vowles)

Marine Party:-

Sgt. F. Moorhouse

Mw J. Cotterill

Mw F. Rhodes

P.G. Davis

From:-

Small Raids Wing

Amphibious Wing R.M.

Fort ~~C~~ Cumberland

~~R~~ Portsmouth

Swildons (Full)

Decended rapidly to 40' & picked up a line there ‡ left by the previous party who had laddered it. Went on to the 20' and laddered that using a ladder belonging to C. Vowles. Returned rapidly to the surface. Later in the p.m. we went down to the 40' where we found ~~m~~ Chatterly waiting. Went down and ~~f~~ caught main party just below 20' we escorted Colin & Buchanan back to the 40' – they went up & out. I considered it was too much for B & Colin was feeling ill. Went down ~~to 40~~ 20' & picked up two R. packages left by party - went on down. I had to ferry these separately through the passage below Barnes' loop. Caught up party & gave them 1 package came back & collected the other & went down after them catching them some way Lt above the sump. Stopped at the sump and organised the B.A.^s the officer donned one & ferried all the necessary tackle through.

Whilst he waited the other side I went

Swildons (full) (contd)

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through & joined him. ~~I~~ The other side is not unlike the other side of Stoke Lane sump. I had slight difficulty finding the hole this side of the sump, & banged my head (I was wearing a helmet fortunately) I located the hole with my hand and went through, my helmet scraping the roof. The sergeant this side and the presence of a man wearing B.A. the other side gave me the neccessary confidence. The return trip is straightforward & without snags. It was not as bad as I had expected. We then returned – the party the progressing very slowly the officer wearing a half flooded frog suit and another man being very tired. The officer who insisted on doing the 40' without lifeline found great difficulty in doing same and the other tired man practicaly had to be hauled up. On the way up I stopped in the grotto to examine a peculiar leak which seems to ~~appear~~ occur in the floor of the basin of the 40'. This allows a large quantity of water to flow through which successfully wets anybody on the ladder.

We removed
tether from
the 20' to use
as a lifeline on
the 40'

Sat 18 Sept PM 48.

Balch Miller

H. Kenney

C. Vowles Stanton

Badgers.

We were working the rabbit hole – considerable Stimson progress was made with the floor

deepening. A number of small frags were found and one large one which separated from a large mass ~~a~~^{of bone} which was left for my subsequent removal during the week. All ~~de~~ spoil was dumped with the ropeway which worked well and made the work easier I was mostly operating ^{it}. It was found that the bucket could be hauled, tipped & returned in 30 secs when hurrying. Normally it took 1 1/4 mins.

H.E.B. wants me to examine some cliffs in the ^{right of the} track running up from Draycott. He think that fissures there might be interesting.

Sun 19 Sept 48 A.D.

C. Vowles.

W. Stanton

& R.M. Party (3 only)

Swildons. I & II

Decended rapidly to the sump. The R.M.^s having ~~rethe~~ retethered the ladder on the 20' yesterday. We looked for a lost watch on the way down without success. Went through the sump. The tackle we had brought was hauled through in my army packs. Soup was heated the other side on army cookers. Difficulty was experienced in lightin the solid fuel until a blast of Oxygen was used. The fumes from this were unpleasant. Difficulty was also experienced in keeping a candle alight – it appeared that the air was bad – we felt no ill effects. The R.M.s

Swildons. I&II (contd)

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prepared their B.A.^{'s} whilst Stanton & I started a centre line survey using prismatic compass and steel tape. We covered about 400' of passage. The others passed us and went on to sump 2.

Colin came / ^{back} _~ and called us to go down to the others who were about to enter sump 2. On arrivel we found that they were at the second duck. The floor at the entrance to which was deep mud. ~~¶~~ We went through the duck which had a small airspace into the final passage. The Marines then came into action Sgt Moorhouse donning a B.A. & no suit – the other B.A. having been left at the other side of duck 2. & the third being at sump 1. ~~Here~~ He entered the water on a line, and after being submerged ~~ab~~ for 1 minute he returned and said that ~~he~~ we had pulled him back which we denied. He found a small air surface about 4' away. He then said he had no more Oxygen & ~~an~~ as time was short ~~¶~~ we packed up and returned to sump 1 ~~wea~~ where more packing was done & tins of Safnol buried. We ate soup (hot) chocolate & glucose ~~in~~ honey mixture. The passage ~~the~~ between sumps 1 & 2 is very waterworn and in places high. It is reminiscent of the ~~charre~~ character of Ffynon Ddu. We also noticed some insect cases left by an insects' emergences. On returning through the sump I damaged my headlamp reflector by

hitting a rock ~~£~~ very hard with my head. The upward journey was without event though very tedious owing to our heavy loads. The journey from sump 1 to surface took 2 hrs 20 mins. A photo was taken of me by P. Harvey in the water chamber on the way down. He did not accompany us furt^her

Mon 20 Sept P.M.'48

C. Vowles

Swildons.

Went to 20' ~~took~~ removed ladder & tether I came up ~~to~~ the 40' first carrying one end of tether to which Colin fixed the ladder which I pulled up. We then dismantled the tackle from the 40', * and made it up. The two hemp ladders were stowed in packs & the metal one in a haversack. ~~£~~ We brought the two packs up the wet way & then went down for the tethers and haversack, which came up the same way. No hauling line was needed at the 20' pot.

*Colin had to help up the ladder on the tether, and also the two standing ladders of the 40', all done from the grotto.

Tues 21 Sept PM'48

Badgers.

Went to rabbit hole to remove the bone exposed on Saturday. This comprised ~~two~~ a few small frags – worthless ? Also found ~~a~~ some more frags – possibly rib. They were removed & put on the sorting table. Started smashing the

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rock on the LH side of the passage some progress was made. It might be worth a banger.

Badgers.

Installed & tested new bucket & dumping system for aerial ropeway it is satisfactory but almost too sensitive. Fitted new handles to windlass. Lubricated running pulley and cable this results in the bucket returning of its own accord. Hence no return hauling rope is needed and the tipping rope can be made fast to the fence. Sorted ~~the~~ two buckets of spoil from rabbit hole two small frags were found.

Sat 25 Sept 48 AD.

F. Frost

G. Williams

L.S. Wright

Ffynon Ddu

Went up to the first pot and crossed collected pipe and took it back to ~~the~~ the pot. The others crossed and we took the pipe up to the second pot, crossed this and took the pipe on to the next pot. Looked at the sump then went on to the final chamber climbed the boulder slope and inspected a passage through the boulders. We did not go through this as the ~~place~~ place was rather loose. Returned and inspected the lower dry series on the way. Also inspected a passage near the entrance which leads down to a sump.

We looked at the main sump and decided that a few ~~set~~ ~~set~~ correctly placed shots might

lower the water level considerably. Also inspected a passage just below and parallel to the sump. This is sand choked, but is being dug.

Sun 26 Sept 48 A.M.

Frost, Williams

Dingle Wood?

Tackle

Own	Dingles'
1 Metal ladder N ^o 1.	1 x 100' lines

Wills Hole.

This hole is situated in the Dinas Rock, the entrance being underneath the railway ramp.

A short sloping narrow rift, which doubles back on itself gives access to a drop of about 30'.

The lower series comprises two main passages roughly parallel. One is fairly low and ~~is~~ very ~~muddy~~ muddy and wet. The other is higher and has a large number of smooth rounded slimy boulders of Old red Sandstone on the floor; they are very slippery. This passage which is mostly sloping ends in a sump. Every piece of limestone in the lower part of the cave, ~~whether~~ shows much faulting. The cave is noteworthy for the amount of coal dust present. This is due to a large quantity of the water coming from a mine some distance away, after it has been pumped to the surface.

Sun 26 Sept 48 PM.

Frost Williams

Dingle Wood?

Norma (entrance only)

Porth Yr Ogof

I swam down the lake whilst the others went round the side, looking for a stalactite grotto on the way.

I inspected the passage previously noted on the left side of the lake – this soon

Porth Yr Ogof (contd).

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becomes a broad low gravel floored passage with a stream running down it. Did not follow this up.

We then went on & tried to find the other entrances. These involved wading through 4' of water so Frost & Wood went out. We went past these entrances and found the roof getting uncomfortably near the floor & water, so suspecting a terminal sump I went out to the resurgence, swam in scattering much driftwood, and crawled back to where I had left the others – they had meanwhile gone out, returned to resurgence and swam out. Then swam in & out again with Williams who did not like the idea of doing it alone. The inside channels through the gravel floor had changed considerably since last year.

1 Sep Oct 48 Fri AD

C.Vowles

R.R. Kenny.

Tackle

Own	Colin's
1 Lines	~
1 Nylon	
1 Ladder	
(not used)	
N ^o 2.	

August Hole

Left 1 line down entrance shaft – went down, finding it very tight. Went through the tight squeeze – it was very unpleasant. I funk'd it first time, but succeeded second time. Went on down without event. Went part way up the master cave. Went down it – very painfully – my right knee was hurting. Noted an interesting looking hole on the right side, but did not explore it. Went on down to our original terminal point. There was water flowing down the passage forward. Doubled back to the right.

A small bank of gravel contained a large number of seedlings. The passage ~~s~~ which starts as bro^d & low soon becomes narrow and then the floor drops away, down which one goes – it is very awkward, owing to its narrowness, this leads into a small rift chamber ~~from~~ from which a passage leads to the left ~~with~~ (the general direction of the cave). This ~~same~~ passage which is a crack ~~is~~ is narrow and high and has jagged walls of rotten shale. I went in a short while before retreating. It was too unpleasant & daⁿgerous in view of the fact that ~~I did not~~ the others were some way behind. Colin did this passage later, but did not reach the end. We then came out – very tired. I carried but did not use my new ladder N^o 2 – it was fairly easy to carry.

Sat 2 Oct 48 PM

Balch Miller Hucker
Colin Richard Howard
W. Stanton Berman
& others.

Badgers

Tried to take some flash photos, but the synchroniser would not work. Took some photos of the outer vestibule. Then went down to the resurgence to see the divers in operation.

Sat 2 Oct 48 PM.

C.D.G. & Mr & Mrs
Mason

Resurgence of the Axe at Wookey Hole.

The divers went upstre^am and recovered a skull. Then three went upstream ~~he~~ one of them emerging in 1 and the others returning

Resurgence of the Axe at Wookey Hole (contd)126

Coase & Settington were experimenting with Telephonic communication from diver to surface – with some success. They had difficulty with a leaking wrist joint as a result of passing the wire through a cuff. F.G.B. swam about the vestibule using flippers, inspecting the floor. Finds – no success. Pieces of a barrel were brought out by divers – these were thought to belong to one put in by H.E.B. to see if it would come through.

Wed 6 Oct 48 A.M.

Mendip

Walked an area of Nine Barrows hill, on the South side – Examined our proposed digging site. It looks interesting if not promising. Collected some rock samples – three from the deapression and one from elsewhere.

Thur 7 Oct 48 PM

Badgers.

Removed the old rope way and started installing the new, got the cable into position & taughtened with the winch. I used the new metal ladder 3, tethered by a 100' climbing line, and fixed myself at the summit with carabiners and slings.

Fri 8 Oct 48 AD

Badgers

Fixed the ~~rope~~ cable with bulldogs & coiled up 15' of spare. ~~Fixed~~ Mounted the bucket on the new carriage & the whole on the cable. Fixed the pulley

on the tree for hauling. I had to increase the length of the hauling rope. The bucket now empties close to the tree. Tidied up.

Looked at bone on right wall dig – left it as I was too tired – went into rabbit hole & ~~removed~~ drilled a hole into a rock which was some what in the way Fired ½ stick P.A.G.(G) this accomplished what was intended, but did not disturb the roof.

Sat 9 Oct 48 P.M.
F.Rost, Howard

Hillgrove dig

Went to dig and inspected it. There was a 2' puddle at the end. We then put 4 ½ sticks of P.A.G.(G) in the mud at the bottom of the pool & fired. We lit a fire to expedite ventilation meanwhile we inspected the other side of the shaft. According to Frost this has changed considerably. Went down to our dig – the shot has splashed much mud & water and removed the shoring. Otherwise nothing. We have decided to fill it in. We began doing so.

Sun 10 Oct 48 A.D.
Howard Kenny

Hillgrove dig

Continued filling in. This proved to be very hard work – the tip was well compacted. The winch proved useful to remove some very

Hillgrove dig (contd)

heavy boulders deeply embedded in the dump. The wire fence was removed, coiled & brought home – the angle irons being left for further attention. The ~~Manglew~~ Manglewurzle was brought home & the derrick lowered but not stripped. One shaft was filled, the other nearly. Further levelling is needed. Two buckets & other accessories were brought home. We have decided to open another site in the next field.

Fri 15 Oct 48 PM.

Museum

Washed the atlas vertebra which I had been removed from Badgers on Saturday – it is in very good condition but needs some repairing.

Had discussion with H.E.B. re the caving display at Bristol museum. I recommended to him that we display a representative selection of animals as found in the Mendip caves, starting from the beginning and going through to Wookey Hole. He agreed but queried the amount of space available.

Sat 16 Oct 48 P.M.
W.C.C.

Wessex Cave Club A.G.M.

Attended 10th A.G.M. I was elected to committee. I proposed that :- ① The meeting be held later, to reduce the interval between meeting and supper. ② A roster be formed to provide leaders for club trips ③ That beginners should, whenever possible, be

allowed into a simple cave on their own. It is better fun for them and less trouble to others. They are unlikely to come to any harm. ~~These~~ These were generally approved.

I was also asked to take a party of OUMC down a cave on Sunday next. Howard will help with this.

Sun 17 Oct 48 AD

- H.Kenny
- V. Stimson
- Goldie
- Dingle?
- Wood?
- Another
- Glennie
- Launder & Son
- Hensler
- Tackle

<u>Own</u>	<u>Wessex</u>
3 ladders	2 Tethers
N _{os} 1, 2, 3,	1 Pully
5 Carabiners	1 Lifeline
1 Pack.	of 200 '
	150'

Lamb Leer

We went down to the platform. We threw the ladders down the entrance shaft – they stick half way, I kicked them free and they went nearly to the beehive chamber. At the platform we hauled up the existing ladders & relaid the metal ones. The others were ~~coiled~~ rolled up. We then descended to the main chamber, using the counterbalance system for the ~~£~~ lifeline. This means that the last down & first up are secured from below. The lifeline passing from the climber through a pulley lashed at the head of the ladder pitch down to the people belaying from below, who operate the lifeline. The system works well, but care must be taken to ensure that the two ends of ~~lifef~~ lifeline & the ladder do not get ~~snarled~~ entangled.

From the main chamber we went on to the terminal chamber & climbed down to the

Lamb Leer (contd)

bottom. We then inspected the initials & date. The date appears to be completely covered with a thin layer of stalagmite. It is still perfectly legible & deeply indented. We came out without difficulty bringing the ladders with us. My ladders ~~beh~~ behaved themselves, and were very easy to climb, except where they hang against the rock. Glennie ~~&~~, Launder & son ? have started a new dig directly beneath the ladder – to the extension.

Sat 23 Oct 48 PM.

- Balch Miller Hucker
- Howard

Badgers

I was sorting & operating the ropeway. The others were working the right hand wall, which is turning to the left. Some bones were found – rather broken and a tooth. Some form of guide is needed over the fence to stop the bucket ropes catching. Also a new cover for the carriage. The old one having been lost.

Sat 23 Oct 48 PM.

- C.D.G. & EJ Mason
- Div^oRes from
- Naval School
- Diving

Wookey Hole Cave.

Owing to the failure of the flash gun ~~the~~ I could not take any photos. Mason & some friends of his were working a passage just inside the entrance on the right. They found of some small bones, including a ~~ea~~ vertebra.

The divers were in two groups. Lucy & Settering-ton spending some time in the river in 1 experim-enting with a ^{power} pump & hose trying to cut the

banks with a view to submarine archaeological excavation. The remainder of the party went to 6 (ii) with a ladder, which they intended to erect as a temporary landing stage in case of emergency. They failed to erect it owing to its weight.

Sun 24 Oct 48 PM.
Oxford University
Mountaineering Club
arranged by
G. Francis
Oriel College
H. Kenny

G.B.

Went down the normal way without much difficulty. There was a bit of water, but not much. We went down the main chamber & up by the gallery. We came up the new way, this involves a turning off the main chamber the same side as, but lower down as the ~~on~~ normal entry. It is very much shorted but involves a very nasty squeeze ~~thru~~ up a slope, the floor being soft loose mud which yields when you ~~tr~~ try to push with the feet. I had to be helped through by a pull from above. This was diffic^ult to administer as the floor of mud slides down under the weight of the person pulling. This tends to block the hole. The passage comes into the first grotto.

Sun 24 Oct 48 P.M.
A portion of above
Party ^{7 of them}
& Howerd

Swildons

We went down the middle way & up the wet way – they had a look at the 40’ & suicides leap. One of them came up the fall at the top of

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the wet way. He said it was good fun.

Tues 26 Oct 48 PM.

Museum

Washed the deer Tibia ? It seems to be in fairly good condition. Started washing the antler – it is very rotten.

Wed 27 Oct 48 A.D.
Mr & Mrs Dixon
Tackle (Own)
Ladders 1, 2, 3
1x100’ Nylon rope
1 Sling with Carab
& shackle
2 Tethers 20’ & 24’
Packs & H.sack

Swildons

Went down the middle way. Fixed the tackle at the 40’ using ladders 2 & 3. Mrs D was decending when a rung broke beneath her. ~~She came up (she~~ She still had on foot on the sill of the drop. I decided to cancel the trip pending further investigation & testing of the ladder. We could not find the sling, carabiners & shackle on arrival at the 40’. We came up the wet way, left the tackle at the end of Kennys’ 2 passage, went through it down the ~~wet~~ Pretty way to the Old Grott~ up the middle way to Jacobs Ladder through Kennys’ passage to the wet way & out, bringing the tackle with us.

Thur 28 Oct 48 P.M

Museum

Started assembling the atlas – it is d’y enough to repair but not to harden – There seems to be some small frags missing

Fri 29 Oct 48 PM

Museum

Worked the Atlas to its limit – there are still some pieces missing – I hunted through

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three tins for them but could not find them.

Looked through some Hyaena den stuff with a view to producing a lions tooth for the forthcoming exhibition we could not find enough. The pieces in the case do not join up. Repaired a stalagmite from Badgers. I was also given a broken ~~scapula~~ scapula of Irish ~~Elk~~ Elk from Hyaena den to repair.

Sat 30 Oct 48 PM

Museum.

Cleaned surplus celluloid from stalagmite join. started repairing the scapula. The old adhesive is very difficult to remove, it is insoluble in petrol or water & scarcely in acetone. I am soaking it off.

Sat 30 Oct 48 PM

Badgers.

Balch Miller
Hucker Richard
Howard & Two
others

Howard & I were working the rabbit hole I gave up when I allowed a heavy boulder to fall on my foot. We were widening the ~~entrance~~ passage. Hucker & Miller were working straight on. They found a very fragmentary scapula. The small passage on the right has proved to be quite large and looks very promising. It is really a fault~~y~~ in the roof. & the earth was nearly filling it. We also found some balls of rolled mud – animal products. Teeth & portions of mandible of Badger were found.

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Mon 1 Nov 48 AD.

Museum

Washed the badger teeth & jaw frags – they will not join up. Repaired the scapulae from Hyaena den. I tried to cement over the old adhesive without success – the acetone softened it. I cleaned it off with a wire brush & acetone. Washed the scapula from Badgers removed Sat 30 Oct – It is very fragmentary. Put out the Hya^ena den scapula & the deer atlas.

Tues 2 Nov 48 A.D.

Museum.

Had long discussion with H.E.B. re the caving exhibition. We decided on the arrangement & what to send. I will provide packing cases. Collected C.D.G. Tackle to take in to Bristol.

Wed 3 Nov 48 PM

Bristol.

Took tackle as per separ^t accounts to Bristol museum for caving exhibition. Attended committee meeting of W.C.C. Undertook to open cow hole & start Barrow Rake which is to be a club dig.

Thurs 4 Nov 48 A.D.

~~Thurs~~ Museum.

Went to start packing. HE.B. wants me to delay sending exhibits. phoned Dr Wallis he wants them in by Monday at latest. Left two small & one large packing case at museum. The ~~bear~~ bear skull 2 was packed with the Atlas vertebra of Giant deer. Paper ^{& sacking} only ~~was~~ were used.

Fri 5 Nov. 48 A.D.

Museum.

Continued packing exhibits for Bristol. H.E.B. had packed Hyaena den finds. Also packed ~~Ne~~ Neolithic skull & bowl from Chelms Combe. We packed all the remaining Badger Hole finds. Some of these necessitated slight repairs.

Sat 6 Nov 48 AD

Museum

Continued packing. A roll of toilet paper provided an exceptionally efficient means of packing small articles.

Sun 7 Nov 48 AD.

Museum

Finished packing ! !!! after 3 days full.

Mon 8 Nov 48 AD.

Bristol Museum.

H.E.Balch

Drove into Bristol taking ~~alle~~ the cases & some repair materials ~~were~~. Everything was unpacked and put on show save a portion of the ~~the~~ tusk. The only things that had suffered in transit were a wolf skull from Wolfs den a wolf jaw from Badgers and the iron Bill Hook from ~~nm~~ Wookey. These were all successfully repaired. There was insufficient space for all finds to be displayed properly hence the omission of the ~~portion~~ of tusk. Some labels are needed etc. notably location, sequence in order. & individual labels of finds.

Tues 9 Nov 48 PM.

Mendip

Walked an area of Mendip NNW of Harptree lodge & ½ Mile distant.

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Noted ~~de~~ many depressions in area.

Sat 13 Nov 48 PM

Badgers

Balch Miller
Hucker & 3 others
Burman

I was sorting – the others working the right wall and subsidiary passage. Many small finds were made – mostly fairly recent.

Hopkins

Sun 14 Nov 48 AM

Hillgrove dig.

H.C. Kenny

We finished filling in the dig & generally tidied up, removing the L irons & taking the timber to the propose digging site.

Sun 14 Nov 48 PM.

Barrow Rake

Howard Kenny

Started clearing the depression. 4 Sticks P.A.G (G) were fixed against the tree to be removed little effect save cratering. The tree was felled by axe & hauled out of the way with the jeep on the pullies. As was an embedded roll of wire netting. we started removing some of the surface rocks & miscellaneous bits of wire.

Sat 20 Nov 48 PM.

Badgers.

Balch Hucker
Miller Hopkins
Howard

I was sorting – no important finds were made

Sun 21 Nov 48 AD.

H. Kenny
P. Dolphing

Barrow Rake

Erected the crane on the W side of the depression the original rope in the jib supporting pulleys broke. This was replaced with ~~another~~ the lifting tackle. The rope & windlass were fitted. The automatic bucket tipper failed to work. Most of ~~a~~ it was removed

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to provide hand tipping. After 3 bucketfuls the jib buckled we brought it home & called it a day.

Tues 23 Nov 48 M.

Museum.

Cleaned workroom & subsequently attended Wessex committee meeting. I was asked to act as an M.R.O. warden – I agreed. I proposed some shelves for BB tackle room & undertook to photographically extract any useful information from the Murrall diaries

~~Wed 24 Nov 4~~

Thursday Bristol Museum.

Thurs 25 Nov 48 PM.

Took some labels in for our ~~displays~~ cases had to write one out there. Had long discussion with Mrs May on casting & modelling.

~~Sat 27 Nov 48 P.M.~~

Badgers

Fri 26 Nov 48 A.D.

G.B.

Sgt Maj Tom Brooks
Colin Hill

Went down the ~~w~~ new short way. ~~s~~ It is very easy & ~~a~~ delightful mud slide. Went down the main chamber but found the ladder missing. Went via the oxbow to the bottom & returned via it, ~~com~~ inspecting an extensive & interesting side passage on the way. Came out the normal way.

Sat 27 Nov 48 A.M.

Swildons.

Gwen Brooks
Colin Hill_

Went down the ~~m~~ pretty way & up the middle way. Took Colin to the top of the 40'.

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Sat 27 Nov 48 PM.

Badgers

Balch Hucker
Miller Berman
Hopkins Howard

I was so^rting. Howard was working the rabbit Hole. The others were working the right wall & passage.

Sun 28 Nov 48 AD.

Swildons.

T. Brooks
Colin Hill

Went down the middle way down the 40' on the W.C.C. ladder down the 20' on my ladder we lifelined this going down owing to doubt as to its strength. We went up to the upper grotto. We decided to return as Colin had to catch a bus. We came up without event.

<u>Tackle</u>	
Own	WCC
Metal Ladder	
N ^o 2	1.
1 Tethers	1
1 L. Line	

Sat 4 Dec 48 PM.

Badgers.

Balch Hucker Miller
Berman

I was sorting. The others were working the right wall. There seems to be no immediate need for blasting. There were no finds of interest.

Sun 5 Dec 48 AD
W.C.C. trip.

Lamb Leer.

We went down without difficulty although the process seemed endless owing to numbers. Frost laid the charges in the lower dig about 11lb in all mixed gelignite & T.N.T. it was fired from the top of the ladder pitch. The noise was ~~colossal~~ great. We then decided the cable was unsafe. So we tried to blow this. A scissor charge of 4ozs TNT & 2 small sticks P.A.G.(G) were fired without much success they frayed the wire which appeared to be in good condition after the removal of rust. Another charge was fired two 4ozs sticks T.N.T. ~~scissor b plaster~~ clay covered & staggered on opposite sides of the wire. This achieved the object. It was fired from the

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beehive chamber – the noise was terrible.

Mon 6 Dec 48 AD.
H.E. Balch
Mays

Bristol Museum

Packed all the bone from Bristol. & brought it home. Mr The /vast saving in time was caused by a failure to wrap each article individually. It all travelled safely save for the iron bill hook which gave trouble on the way in & the bear skull which I slightly damaged by heavy handed handling whilst unpacking it. A small piece of collander was lost in transit.

Sat 11 Dec 48 P.M.
Balch Miller Hucker
Hopkins Howar

Badgers.

I was working the hoist. On arrival Howard had already put a large heap on the table from the rabbit hole, he managed to keep a steady supply going all afternoon it was barren save for many small frags. The others were working the right hand wall.

Sun 12 Dec 48 AM
Howard Vincent

Dallymores' Hole

We chimneyed down the entrance shaft and had to remove a boulder blocking the way on. Howard meanwhile explored a small passage leading into the bottom of the slope.

The cave is noteworthy for a number

Dallymores' Hole (contd)

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of features notably the rottenness & jaggedness of the rock & the awkwardness & tightness of the passages & the mud. It is difficult to specify any mode of formation. The cave terminates in ^a rift, choked at its bottom with clay & mud. Here ~~we~~ ^{Howard} could hear traffic passing on the main road, and we could all hear the sound of dripping water. We came out safely – not without some frightening moments in the bedding plane at the top of the rift – it is altogether too tight for my liking. On emerging we found Dallymore who thought the entrance needed further protection.

Sat 1 Jan 49

~~Badgers.~~

1949

Sat 1 Jan 49 PM.
Balch Hucker Miller
Berman

Badgers.

I was operating the hoist, the others were working the right hand wall. They^{re} were a few small ~~lands~~ finds, but nothing noteworthy.

Sun 2 Jan 48 AD.
Vowles Stanton
Askins Howard
See p 453

Nods Pot.

Walked to Nods Pot as was feeling unwell – gave a hand with ~~&~~ much extension of the digging.

169

39A

Mon 3 Jan 48 AD.
Stanton Vowles
Askins

Nods Pot.

Having bought & cut ~~ten~~ barrels in Wells took them to the site. Burnt the tar etc out of them stacking them in chimney fashion – much smoke & flame – very spectacular. Placed them in shaft supported on iron bars, filled in shaft – Bangers forbidden by William. 3 ~~stages~~^{Barrels} of shaft were correctly installed.

See p 453

170

6&7

Sat 8 Jan 48 AD.
Stanton Vowles
Tackle
Own
Ladder 3.

Nods Pot.

Colin & William were working at the chamber they made some progress. I was hauling buckets on the surface. It was very heavy work, but after 40 buckets had to give in owing to the cold wind.

142

Sun 9 Jan AD
Howard.

Beechbarrow.

Sorting ~~ba~~ tackle with Howard. We could not complete the operation because advice was needed from Dolphin & Frost.

Wed 12 Jan PM.

Museum.

Repaired bone of Giant Deer ^{*See p 148} & started the scapula which I washed some time ago. Found there were two of them. Progress was slow. I neglected to harden them I thought that they were in too good condition to merit it. They needed it !!

Sat 15 ~~July~~^{Jan} 49 PM.

Balch Miller
Hucker Vincent
Howard Goldie
See pages
452 & 453

Badgers.

Howard ~~&~~, Vincent & ~~Dereck~~^{Derek} were working the ~~R~~ rabbit hole. ~~The~~ other two were working the right hand wall. I sorted for a bit, finding a large ~~cannine~~ canine probably of Badger. Took some flash photos of the work & the main chamber also H.E.B.outside.

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16 & 18

Sat 15 Jan PM.
C.D.G. Divers
Balcombe. Coase
Grosvenor Mack
Shepherd

Wookey Hole Cave.

Divers were working upstream from 3. Mack was working on the emergency staging in 6ii Telephonic communication was established between 6ii & Base, ~~&~~ & Base & 9. Grosvenor was incapacitated by a violent

See p 452

170

31 & 32

headache. Coase & Balcombe gave a telephonic report on 9. They said it was 30' wide 150 long & 100' high (drip Takes 2 ½ secs to fall.). It is a rift chamber coase tried climbing it and made some progress at the narrow end, until he came to an 8' step which he could not climb in

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diving kit. They reported some formations including a stalagmite curtain. Also a mud version of the grand canyon on a very small scale, complete with pinnacles – this formation also exists in the Aven d'Orgnac. They ~~es~~ started their advanced base. They failed to take all the supplies in, ~~by~~ but did succeed with the laying of a lifeline. Shephard put in a training dive in safe water in 3. Setterington holding him on a line – he looked rather like a fisherman.

Mon 17 ~~June~~ Jan 48 AD.

Mendip.

See p 451

171

13

Walked an area of Mendip. Found a very interesting blind valley ½ mile ? long 200^x wide 50' deep. Situated between Draycott & Middle Down droves, & ~~we~~ West of Bristol Plain Farm. One side of this ~~f~~ valley is composed of an outcrop of rock. Found many interesting depressions in the area, including a row of four or five.

Then investigated a site ~~SW~~ S.E. of the end ~~on~~ end of Middle Down drove. This comprises a small cliff (20' high 30^x long) in a very commanding position. Beneath this there are a number of heaps of stone. There are two traces of stone wall. One looks as though it might have been part of a hut wall, the other is a semi-circular ^{dry} wall. about 6' diam & 18" high. in this there is a built in

Mendip (contd)

144

recess. Photos were taken of all these finds. Walked toward Cheddar then crossed to the ~~wes~~ gorge on a bearing of 55° Mag. Decended the gorge and inspected the swallet near the Met station in Velvet bottom. It looks interesting. Walked home in dense cloud (visibility 100^x) on a bearing of 140° Mag. Found an interesting depression about ~~a~~ half mile from the swallet. It has a small sunken area in the bottom. Ended up at Priddy Hill Farm. Spoke to Squire Tiarks. He gave me permission to go anywhere on his land. Asked him about the Well, Balch mentioned on Saturday. He says that it fills up in wet weather & dries up in a drought. Permission to decend was granted cordialy. Told him I was prepared to decend mine shafts to rescue ~~dogs~~ hounds.

Thur 20 Jan 48 AD

Mendip

Walked from end of Draycott drove on bearing of 310° Mag to Cheddar gorge followed this down till above Great Oones hole. From here followed edge of hill ~~in~~ back to Middle Down Drove. Located Depressions & arch site on 6" map.

Sat 22 Jan 48 P.M.
Balch Miller

Badgers.

Started by bucket carrying and dumping. Miller was digging the right hand wall. Mr Hodgkinson agreed with our removing the tree stump. from the wall. This was successfully done using Jeep, wire rope pulleys & chains. It was left on the dump. A fine tooth of bos was found by Miller inside the cave.

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Sun 23 Jan PM. 48
Howard

Mendip

Examined the system I found on Monday. We decided that the last of the depressions toward the edge of mendip be opened. From this field we started walking toward Cheddar on the way we found two of the most interesting, stone floored depressions. ‡ that I have seen for a very long time.

Mon 24 Jan AM 48.

Velvet Bottom & Cheddar Gorge.

Investigated the swallet at the bottom of Velvet Bottom. A rift (probably artificial) closes down from 18" to 4" at a depth of 9'. This crack can be seen to extend downwards for a distance of 8' - 10'. The length of this crack is difficult to determine owing to its partial infilling with loose debris.

Visited a cave in a quarry on the right ~~left~~ of the gorge ~~su~~ on the way home. This ~~is in a quarry~~ cave is about 40' above the road. ~~on~~ . Although it is very full of earth I could penetrate for 12' It shows strong signs of water ~~we~~action, though now completely inactive.

Wed 26 Jan AD 48.

Mendip.

Obtained permission from ~~M~~ Mr E.A. Knee of 16 Temple St, Bristol 1. Phone Bristol 26611 to open one of the swallet Depressions in the field on the N.W. of Middle Down Drove. He consented

Mendip (contd.)

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and was very particular about fencing. He contemplates putting yearling cattle and possibly sheep in the field. I assured him the place would be suitably fenced.

Drove to the site and measured for fencing. 66 yards round the depression. I think however that a fence running through the depression would be satisfactory, this would only need 46 yards of fence.

Sun 30 Jan 49 AD.
See p 541

Middle Down Drove Dig.

171
24 & 26

Fenced the site. The wire needs tightening. I put short length wire in the bottom of the depression to enable it to be moved for adjustment of level for tipping & also for access. ‡ The posts average length 7'6" were driven in to a depth of 3'6" with the aid of a post driver.

I started digging the sunken portion of the depression at a depth of about 15" I found the skull of an animal. I think the depression may easily be due to subsidence followin the interment of a corpse. The digging is all earth

with a very few ~~small~~ limestone stones. Photographed the depression before I started work.

Thurs 3 Feb 49 PM

Thurs Museum

Continued scapulae & other bones.

Fri 4 Feb 49 PM.

Museum.

Continued scaps they are at their limits ~~in~~. Identified one of the scaps - bos. One of the other bones appears ~~to~~ to be the head of a radio-ulna (possibly bear?)

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Sat 5 Feb 49 P.M.

Badgers

Balch Hucker
Miller 2 boys
E.J. Mason &
Party of Arch
Students from
Bath.

I started by sorting the others were working the right hand wall. Finds included a very nice roe deer antler. When the visitors arrived I showed **them** round. The Bialkaddins were used for light – they were excellent.

Tested carrying rates. I carried & tipped 6 buckets in 2 ¼ mins – I was beat at the end. Previously using the ropeway I ~~€~~ loaded & dumped 12 buckets in 5 mins. I could have kept it up much longer.

Sun 6 Feb 49 AD

Barrow Rake.

Howard Kenny.

Erected the new jib – it was hard work. The rope for the jib tethering pullies broke again. It was replaced by a different system of pullies. The jib under a slight load took up ~~e~~ an “S” curve, this could not be eliminated and increased with the load. It was dismantled and brought home.

Mon 7 Feb 49 PM.

Museum.

Washed **some** bone frags removed on 6 Oct 48. Gave Balch some bones which had been left in the workroom. ~~€~~ He suggest plaster filling the missing bits of the ^{bos} scapula & the other long bone still unidentified. I will not do the radio-ulna ~~yet~~ as I still have hopes of finding more of it.

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Wed 9 Feb 49 P.M.

Museum.

Plastered and shaped the bos scapula and the long bone.

Thur 10 Feb 49 PM.

Museum.

Tidied up yesterdays plastering. Started repairing the bone I washed on Monday 7 Feb. It does not need hardening.

Fri 11 Feb 49 PM

Museum.

See p 142.

Finished the bone I started yesterday. Tried to identify it. I think it may be humerus of Alus.* The long bone I identified as left ~~hi~~ tibia of U.Arctos.

Sat 12 Feb 49 PM.

Badgers.

Mr Balch was
unable to attend
owing to illness
Hucker Miller

I was sorting, the others were working the right hand wall. Finds were:- 1 Cannine (Fox?) 1 knuckle bone and some other very fragmentary bones. Mr. Hodgkinson, Mr & Mrs Berman & children visited us but did not work. Also found was what appears to be a portion of mandible including ^{Garnius}. ~~can~~ clage. This might be bos? Also ~~€~~ a stone with a fragt of bone fixed to it.

Mon 14 Feb 49 PM.

Museum.

Washed the mandible – it joins with a portion of bone removed last Saturday. It appears more likely to be deer than bos. Also started washing the knuckle bone. There is some breccia on this.

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Wed 16 Feb 49 PM.

Museum.

Finished washing the knuc^kle then washed a miscellaneous collection of frags & the tooth, followed by two ^{very} fragmentary bones.

I had a look at the fragment of bone, which was removed on the stone. It may be possible to dry clean the sides of this in situ – then harden it, remove it & then clean the hidden face ~~w~~ washing the earth off with Acetone. Alternatively I may ~~se~~ remove it in a wax cradle having ~~ee~~ cleaned round it, then clean the other face and harden it then removing the wax.

Sat 19 Feb 49 P.M.

Museum Badgers.

Balch absent.

Howard L. Aplin

M.Aplin. P Duck

T. Taylor

Hodgkinson ~~a~~ Hickson
of Sidcot visited us.

Howard & I sorting. Birman Hucker Miller working the right hand wall. T. Taylor working the right hand passage. Aplin snr & jnr & P Duck were working the rabbit hole – from which came one very small bone fragt. The right hand wall produced some small bones – many frags and one tooth. which was rather fragmentary and probably a ~~no~~ molar. The right hand passage produced the ~~e~~ usual crop of modern bone and a fragt of jaw.

Mon 21 Feb 49 P.M.

Museum.

Joined up the portions of the mandible. it appears to be the left side and shows the rearmost alveola. Also started working

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up the remaining frags. They ~~showe~~ apparently represent at least two bones, one of which may be scapula. Also did a few minutes work on the fragt attached to the stone. I had to do some hardening of it, ~~with~~ as some frags were lose.

Wed 23 Feb 49 PM.

Museum.

Worked out the fragt of bone on the stone. I had to harden it. It is ~~a~~ rather incomplete ~~end to~~ knuckle to a bone, but can yield to reconstruction with plaster.

Continued but made little progress with the scap?
Acetone washed the portion of mandible.

Fri 25 Feb 49 PM.

Middle Down Drove Dig.

Continued deepening the hole. It is now about 3'6" deep and the same across. Found few stones. The bones **mostly** belong to a horse. Progress is through clay. Finished digging owing to the difficulty of ~~throu~~ throwing the spoil onto the tip. Some form of tipping gear is needed.

Sat 26 Feb 49 PM.

Badgers

Hucker

Miller

I was sorting the others were working the right hand wall. They produced a fragt of mandible - Wolf or Hyaena ?

probably the ~~latter~~-former. Also frags of ~~two~~ two bones – very fragmentary. Left early to transport C.D.G. tackle to the cave. Found a peculiar rounded yellow stone. Is it water worn lias or coprolite.

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Sun 27 Feb 49 AD.

Howard Kenny.

Cheddar Gorge

Went down the Gorge. Inspected the hole I previously noticed in the quarry. ~~Is it~~ Is this Flint Jacks cave – ~~it~~ it is quite interesting and ~~un~~ would be worth digging, if not archaeologically then to get into a system. Continued down examining Sows & Pigs hole. Bone Hole ~~an~~ which is more extensive than I previously thought and the ~~ear~~ swallet in Velvet Bottom. Howard thought that he could hear running water here.

Next we looked at White Spot cave. The walls of this are covered with a ~~thick~~ layer of moonmilk. In the ~~Ca~~ bottom there is a huge slab on the wall – pure white without blemish save at the bottom. The slope can be negotiated with a rope.

Honey Hole was then visited, this was done by ~~an~~ ~~awkward~~ a steep scramble up from a car park just above Coopers Hole, followed by a traverse along a ledge behind a Yew tree. Further along this ledge is another hole, which Howard tried to reach, but could not owing to the ~~ste~~ outward slope of the ledge.

Oones Hole was then done, there were some bats ~~singly~~ hanging singly. These were probably lesser Horseshoe. Bodies about 1 1/2”

Cheddar Gorge (contd)

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long when folded. The air at the bottom seemed very hot and we felt very sleepy there.

We then traversed along to Long Hole which is above & behind Goughs cave restaurant. The way there though not dangerous ~~is~~ to one self involves risk of displacing stone onto the cave entrance below.

Soldiers Hole is reached by a steep walk diagonally left and up from the upper end of Gough main car park. The entrance is behind a bush and difficult to see from the road. We did not explore this owing to lack of time.

Entrance could not be gained to Say's hole owing to the absence of Mr Say with the key.

Mon 28 Feb 49 PM.

Museum.

Started by making a number of drying trays out of scrap perforated zinc sheet. Then washed the bone belonging to the cap fixed to the stone removed on 12 Feb 49. Generally tidied up ~~and~~

Thur 3 March 49 PM.

~~FR~~ F.Frost

Cow Hole

Went to Cow hole examined the depression. One side is slipping – it is difficult to decide on the best was to enter dig the main depression or a subsi-diary one with a view to

gaining direct access to the main chamber. The depression seems to be in a very unstable state.

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Sat 5 March 49 P.M.

Divers:- Lucy
Mason
SS of S.D.G.

~~I.W~~ Wookey Hole Cave etc

Having put in a short session at Badgers with Messers Hucker Miller & H. Kenny I went to the great Cave. The B.B.C. were proposing to make a recording for Broadcasting. They became very fed up and left without a word of thanks. Lucy examined the stalagmite in the river he reports that it is solid with the floor but has broken at the top. He tried to climb Charons bank, but failed owing to its stickiness and slipperiness. He then went under the arch upstream and re-appeared with a small fragt of bone. Mason meanwhile was having difficulty with a leaking suit and his B.A. When completely ready they tried sand-blasting – without success – the pump would not work. I took a number of photos. Some with & others without flash.

Mon 7 March 49 PM.

Museum.

Repaired the bone associated with the stone, removed 12 Feb 49. Then washed a number of ~~of~~ bones removed on 19 Feb 49. One of these includes fragts of what appears to be mandible.

Tues 8 March 49 PM.

Museum

Gave H.E.B. report on Badger Hole activities ~~A~~ during his absence. ~~Dec~~ Decided that I has worked yesterday's repaired bone to its limit.

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Wed 9 March 49 PM

See pages.
450 449 448

Cheddar Gorge.

Walked to ~~M.M~~ M.D.D. dig and inspected it – all shipshape – no falls of earth. Then walked and photographed the cave in the upper quarry, Soldiers and Honey Holes and the site on the ledge which interested Howard. Through a telescope this can be seen to have a heap of debris outside.

Also photographed Bone Hole. All photographs were taken to show the location of the cave entrances.

Sat 12 March 49 PM.

Hucker Miller
Howard* Goldie*
Mr Hodgkinson
* They arrived
as we were leaving

Badgers.

Working the right hand wall. I was sorting. Some very fragmentary bones were found. Also 1 ~~b~~ tooth Incisor ? ~~and~~ ~~the~~ this was firmly attached to some ~~stalagmite~~ breccia and was broken whilst I tried to remove it. We also found another fragt of tooth possibly the top of a small canine.

Sat 12 March 49 Later PM.

W.C.C. trip.

Wookey Hole Cave.

Having obtained the key from WinCo we entered and changed. Then went our various ways. I first went down the right hand passage – Which presently became uncomfortably small – I retreated.

We all then made our way out of the back door. It is uncomfortably tight at one spot. **Somebody** went back to ^{open} the main entrance where we all reentered.

Wookey Hole Cave (contd) 155

We all then made our various ways through the upper series. One party unfortunately owing to my oversight in ~~was~~ not warning them against it went into the West series – they did no damage. ~~Locked up~~ I checked up to see that all was locked after them. A large number of bats were seen – both Great & Small Horseshoe ~~bats~~. The upper series were very dry and provided some good climbing – They are a veritable maze. We could not find any way over the first chamber.

Tues 15 March 49 P.M.

Museum

Brought Saturdays bones into the workroom. Started working on the tooth we found on Saturday Some progress was made ~~we~~ by scraping with the back of a scalpel. Showed this tooth to H.E.B. he ~~s~~ says it is bear – the root looks like it, but the top is not altogether similar.

Sun 20 March 49 AD.

Swildons Full.

Howard Kenny.
V. Stimson & Cousin
D. Goldie. P.Brown

Tackle

Own.
100' Nylon Line
~~3' F~~ 20' Tether
1 x 20' Nylon Tether
1 Sling
2 Carabiners
1 V. Sling
1 Sling
70' Digging rope.

Went ahead with Brown & Howard, Laddered the 40' tying the ladders ^{3&4} back with sash cord. & Tethering with 20' ~~the~~ tether I went straight down. ~~we~~ Passed on and laddered the 20' using ladder 5 & 20' Nylon tether. Came back to 40' picked up the party and went down again. Went down the 20' on lifeline & sling. ~~we~~ The tether is too 1 elastic

Swildons full (contd) 156

for my liking. ~~Went d.~~ On the way down I experienced difficulty in engaging the ladder rungs & one rung slipped, so I came up; another rung slipping on the way. We decided that the ladder was unreliable, so Howard volunteered to fetch another ladder ~~from my h~~ & tether from my house. Vincent ~~was~~ was to see him up the 40' & stay in reserve between the two drops. The two of them saw us down the 20' on ladder 5 protecting us with a lifeline. We went on down going through Barnes' loop, which is getting very dirty & bespattered with torch batteries. We visited the upper grotto & Trats temple. We went on down to the sump where we waited for the other two. They arrived after about five minutes. I led & Howard followed through the sump. We went down to the first duck which was ~~at~~ passable and then returned. We refilled lamps & stomachs this side of the sump and then came out – I led. At the 20' I found Howard

had substituted ladder 1 for 5 and the 70' digging line for the tether. I took the Nylon line & sling and went to the 40' with Brown & Goldie. I led up this taking one end of the lifeline. As I approached the top, the tie to the keyhole broke, with the result that the ladder hung hard in by the pipe. I had a nasty struggle to get by, helped! by a foot going through the ladder and getting caught. I came up ladder & all. ~~Packed up and came~~ out. Brought the others up

Swildons full (cont) 157

on the lifeline – it was very awkward and the lifeline got caught several times. ~~It~~ The ~~new~~^{metal} ladders seem awkward on the 40'. I ~~ried~~ retied the ladders to the keyhole with one end of the lifeline. We packed up and came out. I felt rather tired and had tinges of cramp in my forearms. I slipped and fell about 4' or 5' whilst coming up the middle way.

Barrow Rake.

Drove to Barrow Rake & erected the ~~j~~ modified Jib with lengthened transverse struts – it has the same faults as the earlier model. It was dismantled. The flexible saw worked well. ~~It~~ It might be possible to use the ropeway until the crane is erected.

East Mendip.

Met Mr Green at Oakhill. He showed me some depressions and active swallets ~~one~~ on the line of Depressions running parallel to & South of the Oakhill ~~to~~ Withybrook road. They were all marked on Plattens maps. ~~W~~. There were three very interesting active swallets – two in Blakes Farm Wood, one of which appeared to have been opened, and one in a wood S.W. of Fosse Farm. This goes down beneath the roots of a large tree, and is quite interesting.

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Fri 25 March 49 PM.

Goughs.

K.M.~~I~~ D.

Walked to Cheddar & took Ken ~~show~~ trip through the show cave.

Sat 26 March 49 PM.

Badgers.

Hucker Miller

I was sorting Howard & ~~D~~ Goldie & William also.

Howard W. Stanton

The others were digging the right hand wall.

Goldie / Visited by.

Finds included a very much broken jaw, possibly Wolf,

Balch Duck Hodgkinson

Also a knuckle of bone of very peculiar shape, and the

Mr & Mrs Berman & family

usual crop of fragments with a modern knuckle bone.

Mr Neilson of Wookey.

Sun 29 March 49 AM.

Middle Down Drove Dig.

O.N. Devenish

Delivered 8 x 8' & 10 x 4' of corrugated iron to the dig, covered the hole with them.

Sun 27 March 49 PM.

Swildons

Colin, Howard

Colin & I and one member of Unwins party Went down the Pretty way & came up the wet way. Our third member was too tired to continue our original plan of going down

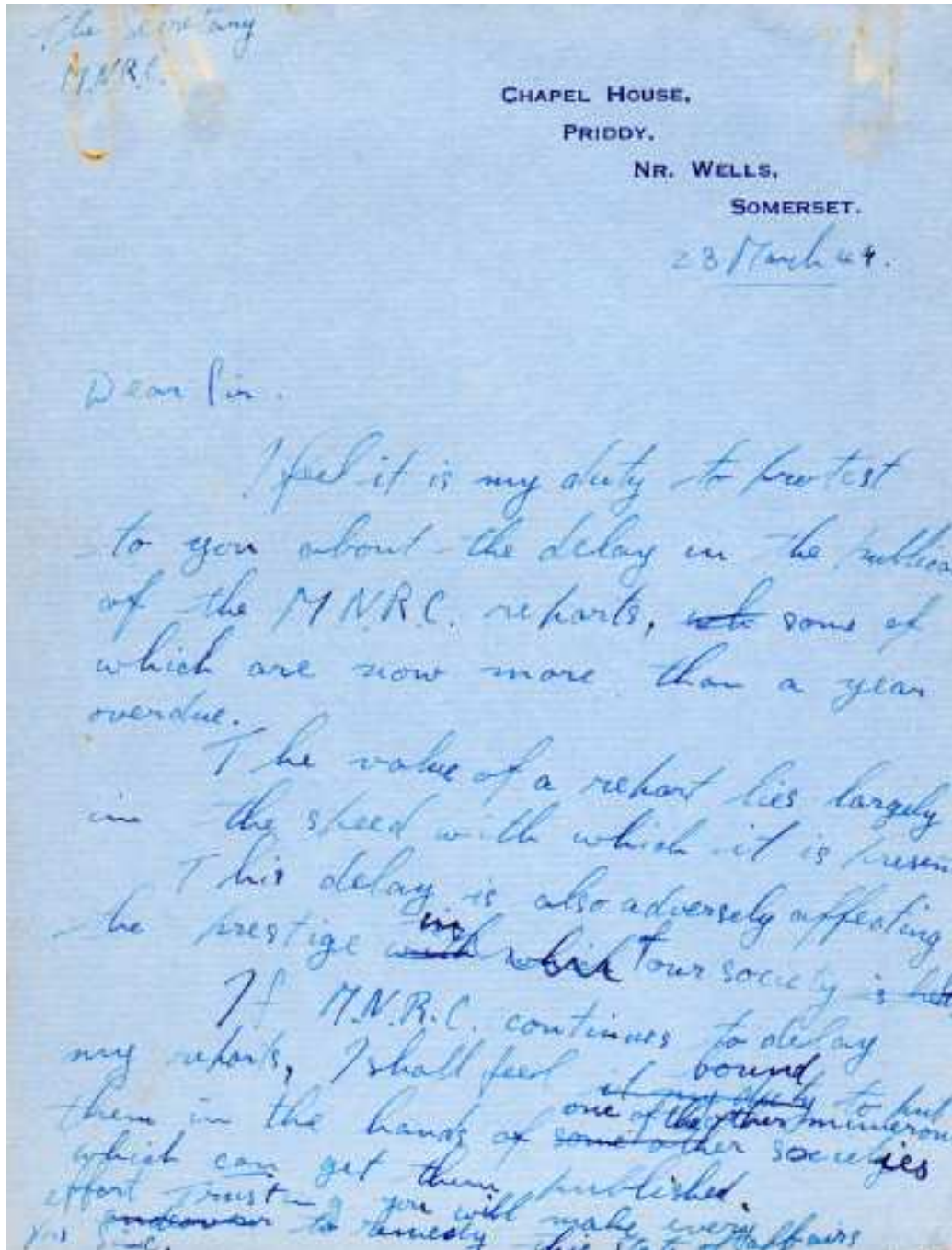
Max Unwin & Party.

the middle & up the oxbows. Which Howard and the remainder of the party did. Colin and I went back and ~~th~~ did the waterfall at the top of the wet way.

28 March 49. AM Mon

Home

Sent ~~an~~ accompanying letter to Howard.



Tues 29 March 49 AD

Swildons full.

Colin William
Askings Hickson

Went down normally carrying copious supplies of equipment. William & Hickson went through Barnes' loop, we went below, On arriving at the tributary

<u>Tackle.</u>		from Priddy Green we started work. First we broke a way
<u>Own</u>	<u>Setantons</u>	through the cemented boulders which were lying on the
Sling	3 Metal Ladders	came apart fairly easily, and many of them were lying on
Tether	2 Liffines	clay & gravel. We could see no signs of the stalagmites
4 Packs	1 Handling line	mentioned by H.E.B. We had to remove some large
5 lbs	1 Pack	boulders from the clay, both in the ^{outer} end
Gelignite	1 Tether	of the passage and under the bank. The passage itself
9 Dets	1 Geological	proved to be filled with a mass of clay & gravel with small
Electric	Hammer	pebbles in it – it was easy to dig. ‡ We made about
Wire	1 cold Chisel.	15' progress lowering the floor of the
Drill		passage by about 18". When we ceased work it appeared
2lb hamer		that the floor of the passage ahead deepened, so we scooped
Crowbar 3'		a shallow way to drain the further passage. In all we could
US Pick		see about 20' further than we could get. The floor appeared
& Spade		to be rising at the end.
Waterproof		I called a halt after 1 hours work, because I considered
Box.		that we might pollute the Cheddar rising. I was overcome
		in my arguments and agreed to continue for a further hour:
		I prevailed in my arguments against smashing the
		stalagmite in the passage beyond Trats temple. We came
		out without difficulty – though very tired.

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Wed 30 March 49 PM.Museum

Told H.E.B. of yesterday's activities. He was slightly disapproving. Continued the incisor embedded in the breccia. H.E.B. does not want it totally removed, so left it as presentable as possible.

Thur
31 March 49 AM.

House

Received the accompanying letter from Hon Sec M.N.R.C. [see p. 84. Ed.]

~~Fri 1 Apr~~ Thurs 31 Mar 49 PMMuseum

Unable to organise bones owing to lack of information contained in diary

. Fri 1 Apr 49 PMMuseum.

Marked a number of ^{washed} bones with date & location. A fine paint brush & Indian ink were very successful.

Thur 7 Apr 49 PM.Museum.

Sorted & repaired ~~an~~ yesterdays bones. Dated and sorted further ~~£~~ batches.

Sat 9 Apr 49 AM.Barrow Rake.

C. Vowles

Erected the new jib at the dig. 24' of jib is sufficient & seems strong enough. 32' of jib bends badly. On trying to use the rope it was found that ~~the~~ it twisted so badly as to render it virtually useless. I think that steel could be advantageously substituted.

Embossed
letterhead →

C.H. KENNEY,
5 VICARS' CLOSE,
WELLS, SOMT.
TEL. WELLS 3211

29th March 1949.

Mendip Nature Research Committee.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of the 28th March 1949, the contents of which I have noted.

I am in full agreement with your remarks, and I am sure that you are not the only member who has expressed such sentiments. The fault does not lie with the committee and every step has been taken to get our reports published. The M.N.R.C. report is usually incorporated in that of the parent society - the Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society. The latter reports have been in the hands of the printers for a considerable time, but still no progress seems to have been made. You will appreciate that I cannot go over the head of the Secretary of the parent Society. However, it happens that

I am at the present moment deputising as Secretary of the Society and therefore am in a position to take action. During the next day or two I will visit the printers and see if any progress can be made. If not, the M.N.R.C. reports must be distributed independently of the parent Society.

Hoping that this has made the position clear, and also convinced you that the delay is not intentional.

Yours sincerely,
C. H. Kenney
Secretary.

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Sat 9 April 49 PM.

C.D.G. Balcombe
Coase Lucy Marriot.
Grosvenor Davies

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Wookey Hole Cave.

Two divers swam from 1 to 3 having been a short way down stream from 1 to examine something in the passage. Marriot & Coase then went to 6 to recover a lamp left there from pre war ops. They then returned, bringing the lamp. Coase Balcombe Marriot & Davis then went to 10 & 11. ☞ Coase & Balcombe returned and were giving their reports w^hen Davie returned & inquired where Marriot was. On being told that he had not returned he said that he had not passed him. Whereupon he returned to search for him closely followed by Coase & Balcombe. After 40 mins Coase reappeared to say that he had been found dead and was on the emergency platform in 6(ii) where ~~resp~~ artificial respiration was being performed on him. I then went to the village to collect supplies of Oxygen & soda lime & notify the WinCo.

When I returned Lucy had left for 6(ii) and had been gone some time. When Grosvenor was sent in to see what progress was being made and whether any supplies were needed. He returned and said no progress ^{made} nor supplies needed.

Some time later Davis appeared and collapsed on surfacing in 3. He was dragged out and recoved on ~~been~~ having his mask removed.

Coase subsequently went in and Lucy ? returned leaving the other two to bring out ~~the Co Coa~~ Marriot. When he was brought out I photographed ^{which was a failure} and then pulled him out of the water. He was then undressed, pronounced dead by ~~the~~ Dr Melrose and carried out. He was taken to the car park by jeep.

Sun 10 Apr '49 PM.

Middle Down Drove Dig.

Went to the dig and erected the tackle. The lower end of the static cable was fixed to a bush. This had previously been tested by pulling against it with the jeep. The upper end was secured to ~~tw~~ three tethered stakes. The windlass was put in position ~~and tethered~~ and all bolts tightened. The wire was stretched tight by ~~pulling~~ ^{hanging} on it an then tightened with a prop to hold it clear of the windlass. I was then called away to see about some photos for the Daily Mail.

Mon 11 Aprl '49 AD.,

Museum.

Started washing some bone removed on 26 Feb '49 gave account of Saturdays doing to H.E.B. Little work was done owing to activities in relation to photos.

Tues
12 Apr Wed. PM.

Museum.

Washed a number of bones removed on 26 Feb & 26 March 49. The so called modern ^(found 26 March 49) knuckle has breccia adhering to it.

Thurs 14 Apr 49 PM.

Barrow Rake.

Went to Barrow rake & installed & greased wire & bucket. It works well. Temporarily left a snatch block on the bottom of the derrick post, as I had forgotten to bring the correct pulley.

Fri 15 Apr 49 A.D.
Howard Colin
Vincent Goldie

Middle Down Drove Dig

Installed the wires for the new system & greased them. Moored the windlass with rocks piled onto corrugated iron. The system works very well indeed. We dropped the shaft about 6' ~~an~~ or 8' feet. The bottom of it looks very promising. It appears to be coming into the solid. Two sticks of P.A.G. (G) were fired as two separate plasters at the same time – they were very effective.

Sat 16 Apr 49 A.D.
Howard Vincent
Goldie

Middle Down Drove Dig.

Continued working downwards. Mostly in rock. ~~Fired~~ ~~the~~ Laid three sticks PAG(G) as three separate charges wired in parallel. Only two went off. The smoke took some time to clear. Also fired two sticks of PAG(G) on a large rock in the next field. It cut this off cleanly at ground level. Some progress was made. We had to stop and trim one side of the shaft which showed signs of collapsing. Took some photos.

Tackle.
Ladder 1
1 V. Sling

Sun 17 Apr 49 A.D.

Colin Vincent
Howard Goldie

Middle Down Drove Dig.

Continued working downwards. We fired three sticks PAG(G) as four charges ^{wired in //} 2 x 1 & 2 x ½. 1 ½ sticks failed to go off. They were undisturbed ~~and~~ save for 1 det coming out. This was replaced and they were then wired in series & fired. The smoke which was hanging about badly was dispersed by swinging the bucket in it. We ~~ha~~ were considerably delayed by having to trim large quantities of loose material from the sides. Considerable progress was made, and at one **period** we could see a cavity below a rock, but on removing it we fouⁿd it was still choked. W appear to be in a rift in the solid which is filled ~~fu~~ with boulders & ~~Ca~~ clay. The total depth of the shaft is now about 16'.

Tues 19 Apr 49 P.M.

Museum.

Repaired the frags of wolf jaw removed on 26 March. I could not get the main portions to join owing to a quantity of breccia. Dated them and put them in the Badger Hole Case. They are Lower Left. Dated the knuckle bone removed on the same date & put it in the case. It is probably bos. H.E.B. ~~are~~ agrees to clea^ring out some of the stuff from the Badger Hole Case.

Fri 22 Apr 49 P.M.

Museum.

Started work on bones removed 26 Feb 49 – they are not /^{all} dry yet. Made some progress with those that

165

were dry. Had long natter with caver from Yorkshire – he is independent of clubs. They will not accept new members as they are overcrowded.

He asked if any of the locals would object if they tried doing virgin work here. I said they would not but ~~wer~~ that it was unlikely that they would find anything of interest owing to the intensity with which we work here.

Sat 23 Apr 49 PM.

Balch Hucker Miller
2 Scouts from
Wells.

Museum. Badgers.

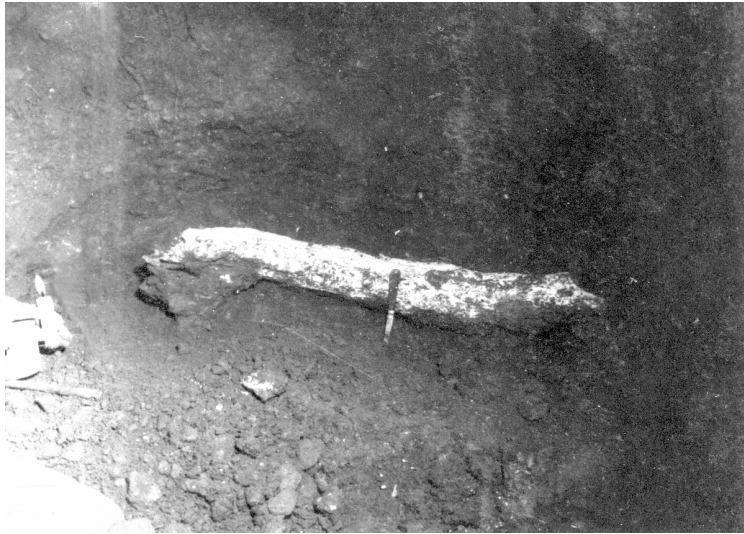
I produced two new sorting irons. I was sorting Howard & Howard was levelling the dump & the others digging & carrying. Finds included a portion of mandible of wolf with the ~~supercarnassial~~ large molar broken recently. We searched hard but could find no trace of it. What is thought to be a portion of mam^moth tusk has been disclosed. The hauling ropes on the ropeway need replacing~~fw~~

Mon 26 Apr 49 PM.

J. & G Leach
Claudia & Basil Case
Esther

Swildons.

Went down the pretty way, looked at the 40' & then came up the wet way. We came out via the waterfall near the entrance. This made us all very wet, and gave the others some thing to think about. Esther did very well for a first trip. Claudia was not quite so good.



The cause
of the trouble.
-A tusk

See page 2
The Mammoth
Tusk.

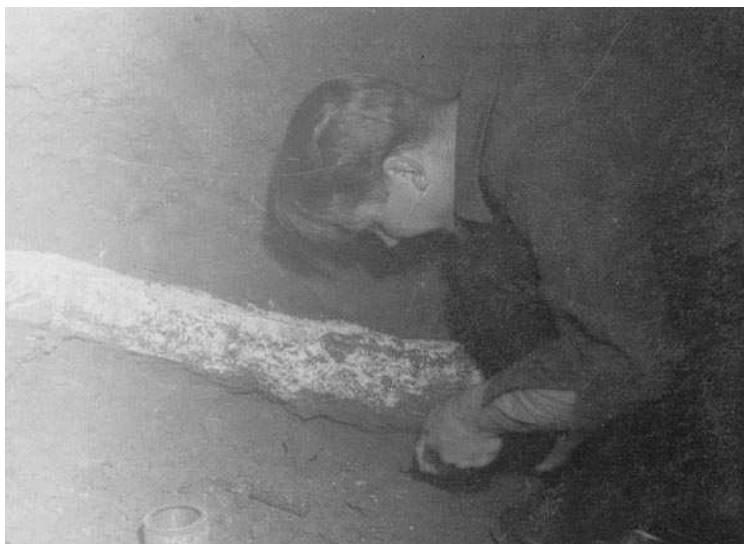
122 27A JUN 1947



Richard points
out a weakness

L to R.
Balch Hucker R. Kenny
See page 2

122 29A JUN 1947



And the
Doctor
probes.

Dr. Bürger
See page 2

122 24A JUN 1947



and probes again.

L. to R.
Hucker R. Kenny Bürger

See page 2

122 26A JUN 1947



More discussion

Burger Balch Hucker
R. Kenny

See page 2

122 29A JUN 1947



And the
Doctor
probes.

Dr. Bürger

See page 2

122 24A JUN 1947



Many hands
or
Too many cooks ?

It is finally lifted
out.

Bürger See page 2
 Hucker

R. Kenny.

122 30A JUN 1947



And receives
first aid
on reaching
daylight.

Bürger

H.E.B.

See page 2

122 33A JUN 1947



Despite care it has
broken,
And one half is
put in a box
to be brought
home.

See pag 2

122 36A JUN 1947



Inscrutable thoughts !

Balch
See page
2

122 35A JUN 1947



Baby brother with an armful
of mammoth.

R. Kenny
See page2

122 37A JUN 1947



R. Kenny
See page 2

122 42A JUN



The Triumphal
procession loads
it into the
Jeep.

L. to R. Miller Hucker Balch
C.H. Kenny, Devenish, R.Kenny

See page 2

122 38A JUN 1947



Which moves off
with great
strain

R. Kenny

See page 2

Dev.

122 41A JUN 1947



and arrives
safely at the
Museum.

R. Kenney Dev.

See page 2

122 44A JUN 1947



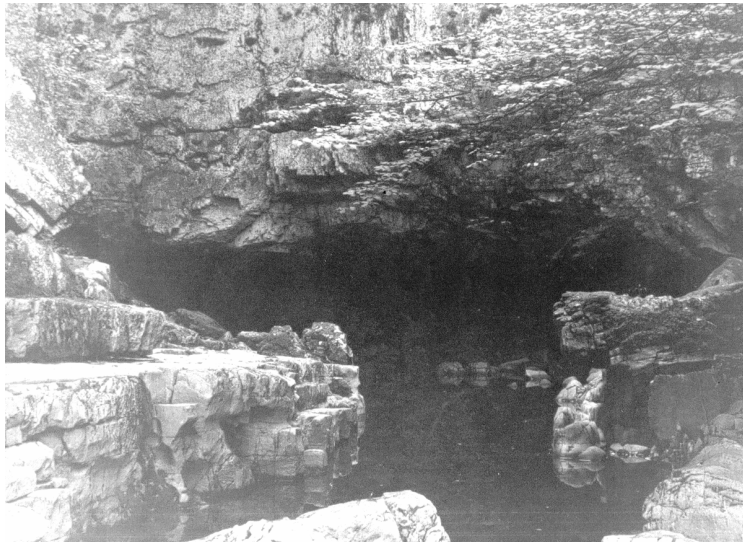
Nedge Hole.
Richard Howard
& a carcase

R.R. Kenny

See page 3.

C.H. Kenny

122 3A JUN 1947



Porth Yr Ogof
Upper entrance
looking in

See pages 14 & 15.

123 8 AUG 1947



and out.

C.H. Kenny
See pages 14 & 15.

123 6 AUG 1947



Porth Yr Ogof
Active river
course

See pages
14 & 15

123 15 AUG 1947



Normal exit

See pages 14 & 15

123 18 AUG 1947

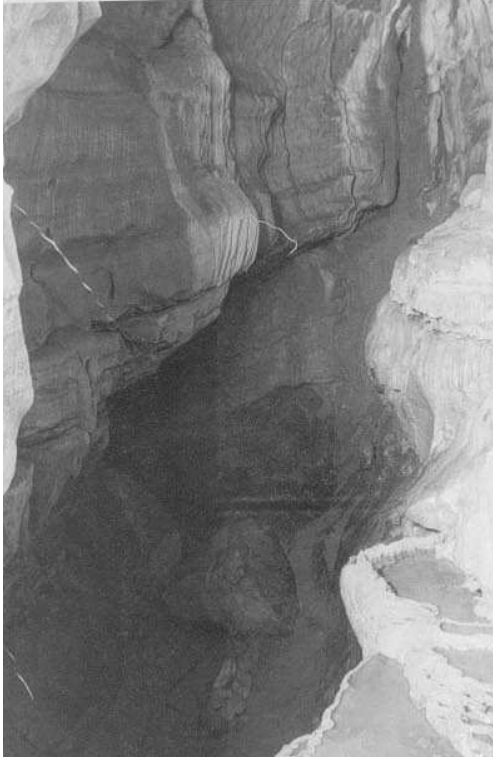


& method.

H.C. Kenny
See pages 14 & 15

123 25 AUG 1947

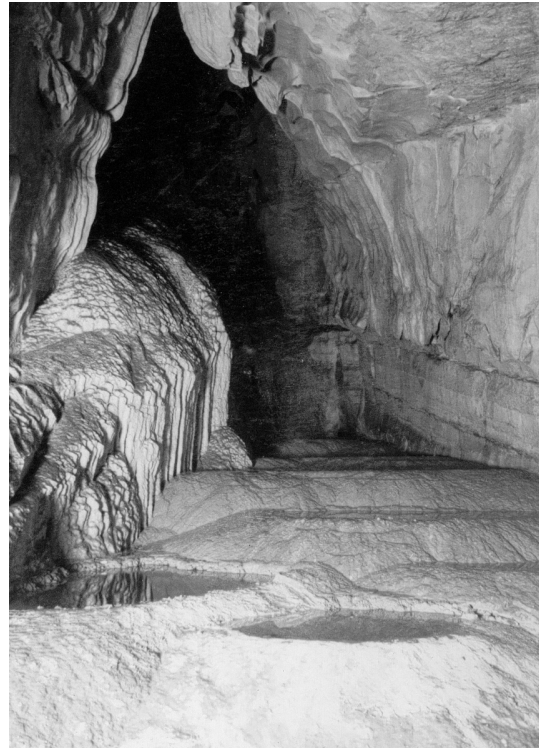
FFYNON DDU



Stalagmite bank. Note pools in foreground.

See page 15

123 27 AUG 1947



The Toast Rack

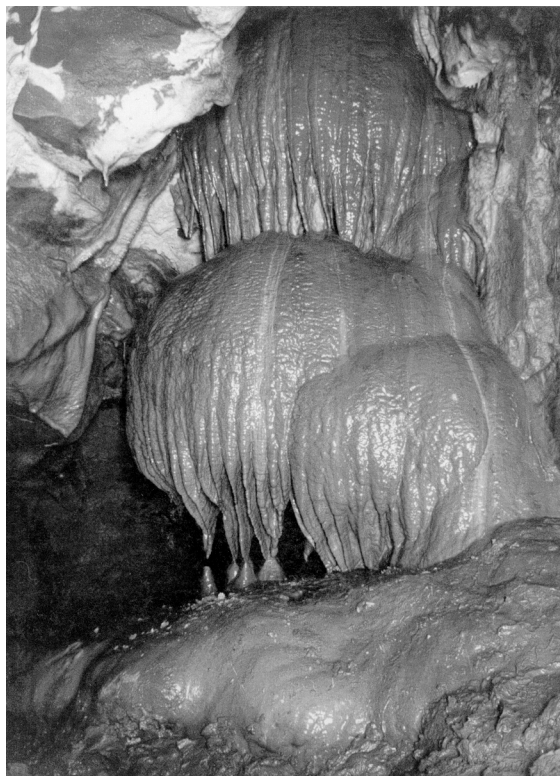
See page 15

123 29 AUG 1947

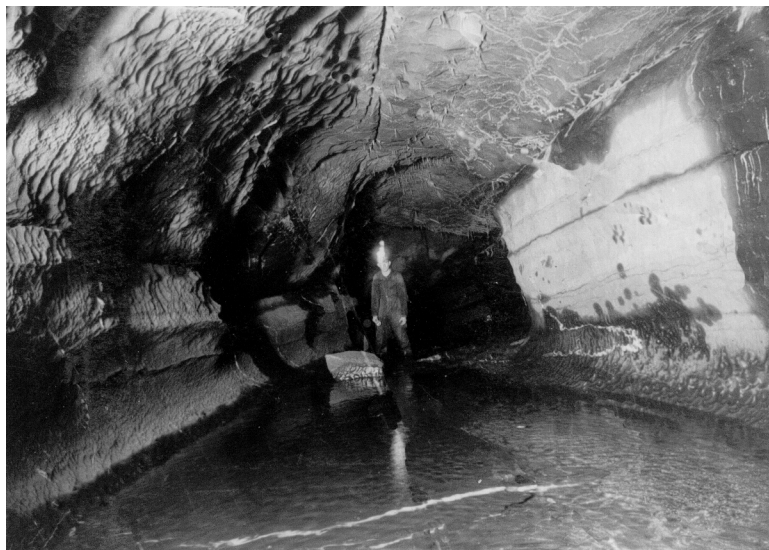
Stalagmite or Stalactite?

See page 15

123 28 AUG 1947



FFYNON DDU



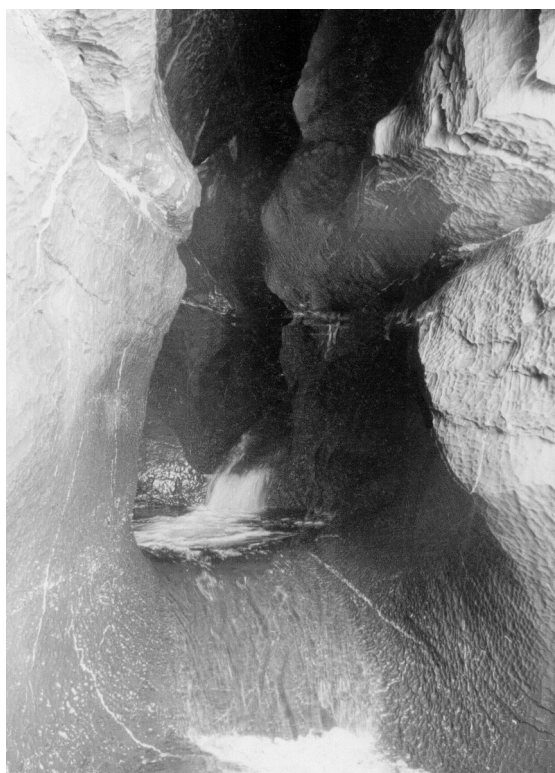
River Passage

See page 15

123 31 AUG 1947

See page 15

123 30 AUG 1947



“Operation Stuff”
or all set for Wales



C.H. Kenny

R.R. Kenny

123 45 AUG 1947



Hillgrove
Dig

C.H. Kenny
See Page 17

123 33 AUG 1947



Howard tries to
look busy.

C.H. Kenny.
See page 17

123 36 AUG 1947



Hillgrove Dig.
11 Aug 47
Before work in
the morning

See page 17

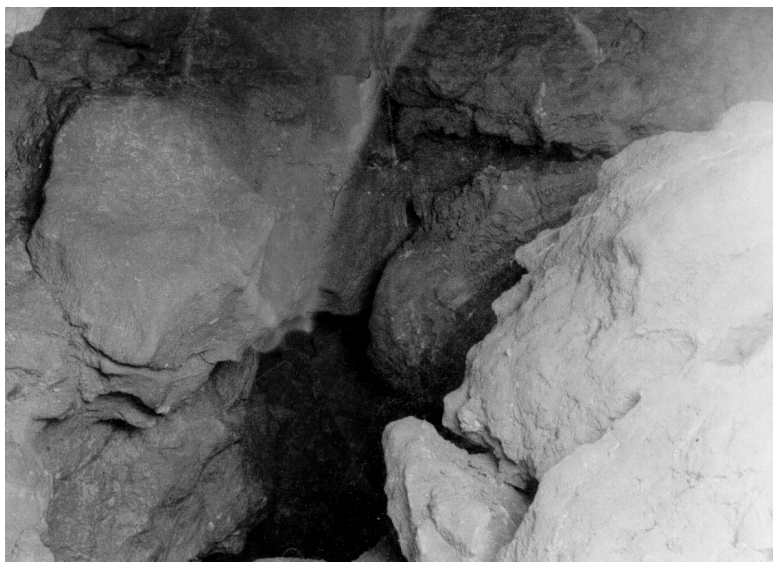
123 39 11 AUG 1947
See records



& when we
knocked off.

See page 17

123 37 11 AUG 1947



2 Aug 47.
Finished for
the day.

See page 17.

124 2 AUG 1947



23 Aug.
Beforew

See page 20

124 12 AUG 1947



& After ?

See page 20

124 13 AUG 1947



24 Aug

Virgin Passage

124 17 AUG 1947



27 Aug
was opened
by hard work

See page 20.

124 24 AUG 1947



31 Aug.
A boulder
jammed

See page 24

124 22 AUG 1947



7 Sept
I had
removed
it the previous
day so we
started like
this

See page 27.

124 23 AUG 1947



7 Sept
and finished like
this.

See page 27

124 24 AUG 1947



The terminal chamber

See page 90

142 28 AUG 1948

is getting larger.

See page 90

R. Kenny

142 27 18 APR 1948





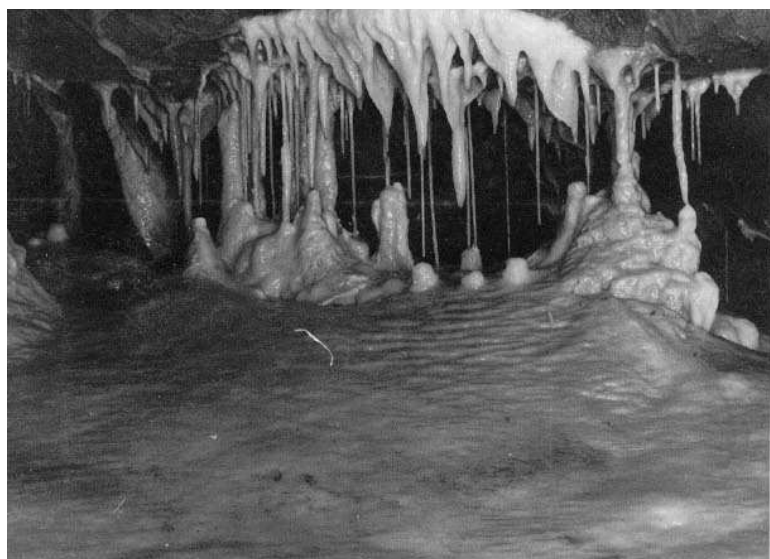
Stoke Lane Swallet.

16 Aug 47.

Chamber above
the first boulder
ruckle.

See pages 18 & 19

124 5 AUG 1947



Orange snow
cascade in main
chamber.

See pages 18 & 19

124 6 AUG 1947



Cave pearls in
the Sand chamber

See pages 18 & 19

124 8 AUG 1947



212

Hillgrove dig
27 Aug 47.
The Jeep
pulls

See page 20

124 19 AUG 1947

and Howard
pushes a big
one.

See page 20

124 20 AUG 1947





Badgers Hole.

The second skull from
the side

See page 28

40 9 SEP 1947

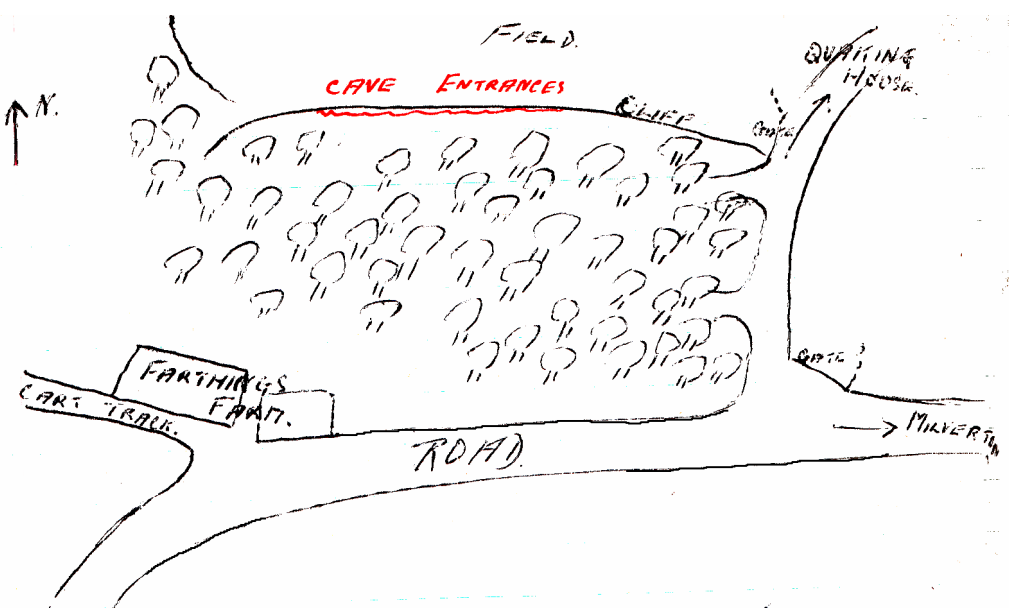
and behind.

See page. 28

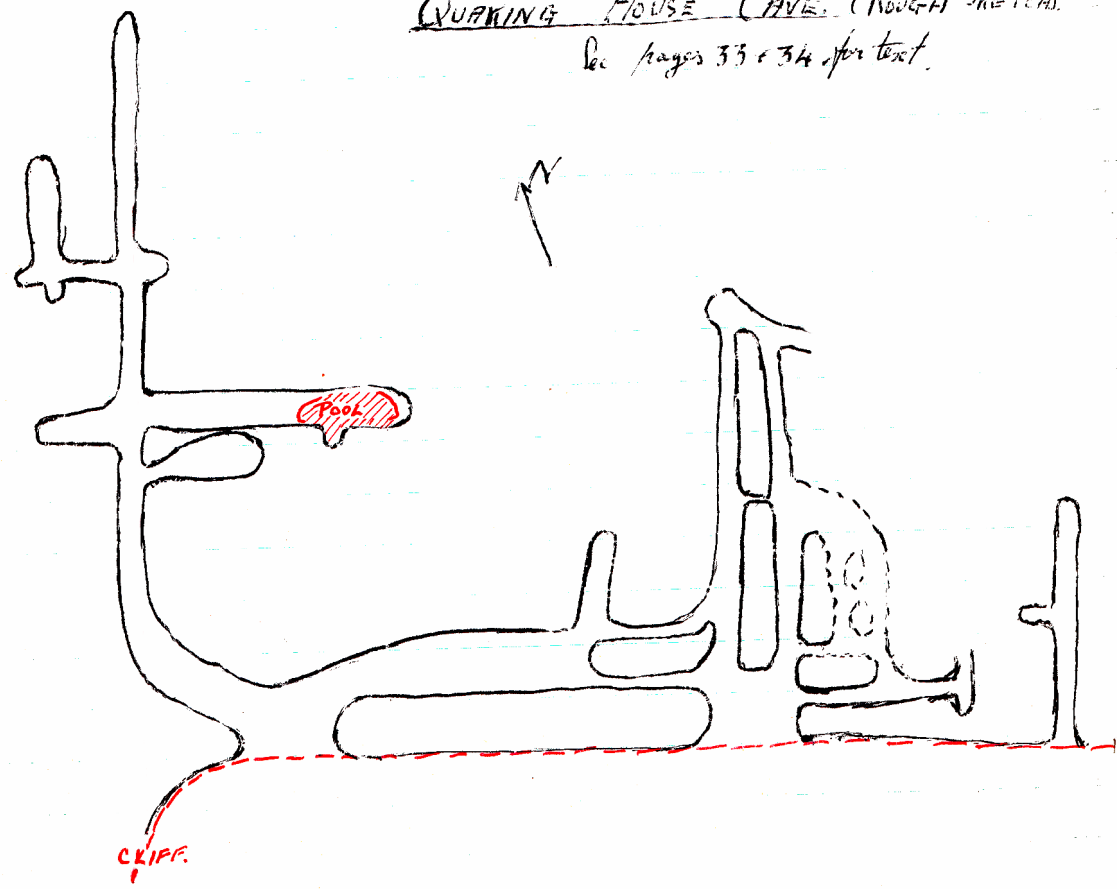
41 9 SEP 1947



210
SHEET 120
M/Map: The Grid
35401471



QUAKING HOUSE CAVE. (ROUGH SKETCH).
See pages 33 & 34 for text.





A man & a
bear skull
in Badgers.

Dev.

See page 35

125 20 SEP 1947



Hillgrove dig

See pages 40 & 41

125 32 OCT 1947



Strata in Emborough
quarry tilted
beyond the
vertical.

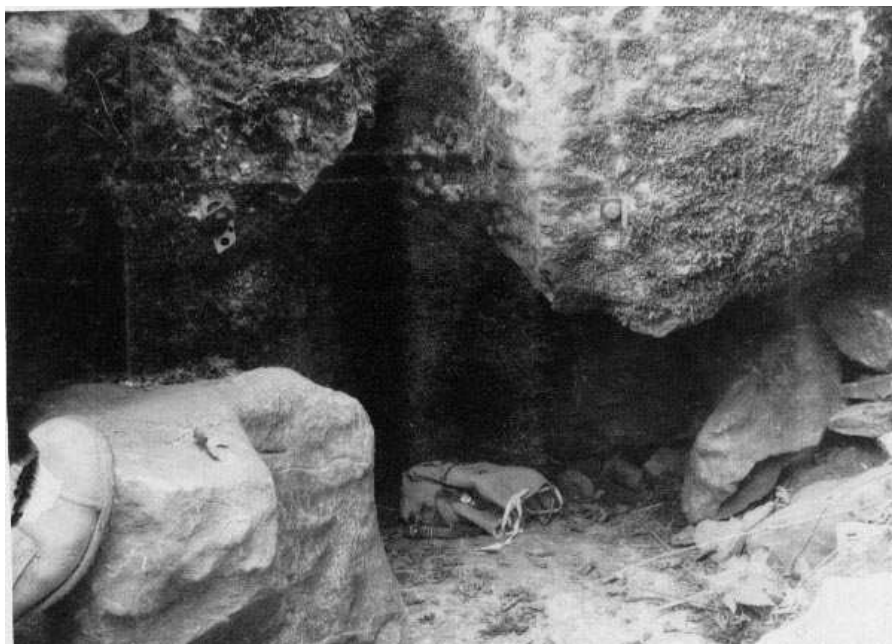
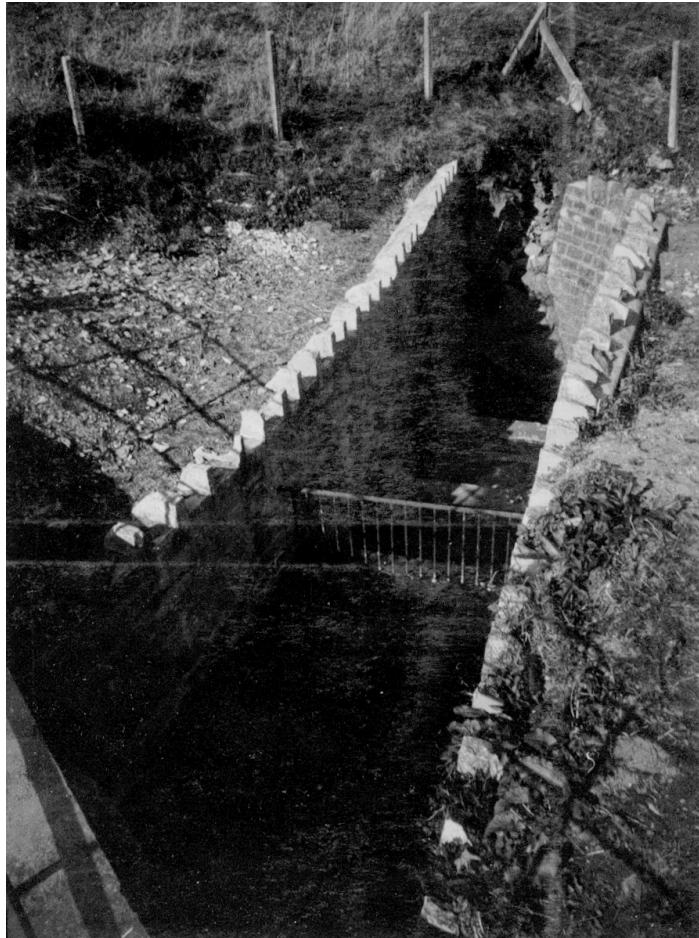
See pages 40 & 41.

126 14A SEP 1947

Browns dig in
Withybrook swallet.

See pages 40 & 41

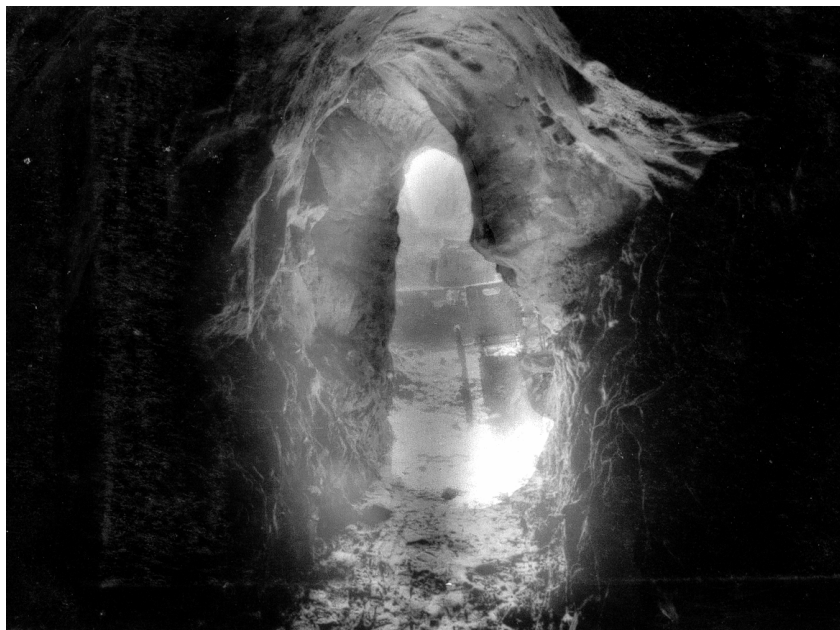
125 34 SEP 1947



Entrance to
Stoke Lane
Swallet.

See pages 40 & 41

126 45A OCT 1947



Brown's Stoke
Lane Archaeological
dig

From the inside
looking out.
(note the trolleys).

See pages 40 & 41

126 12A OCT

& from the outside
looking in.

See pages 40 & 41

126 7A OCT 1947

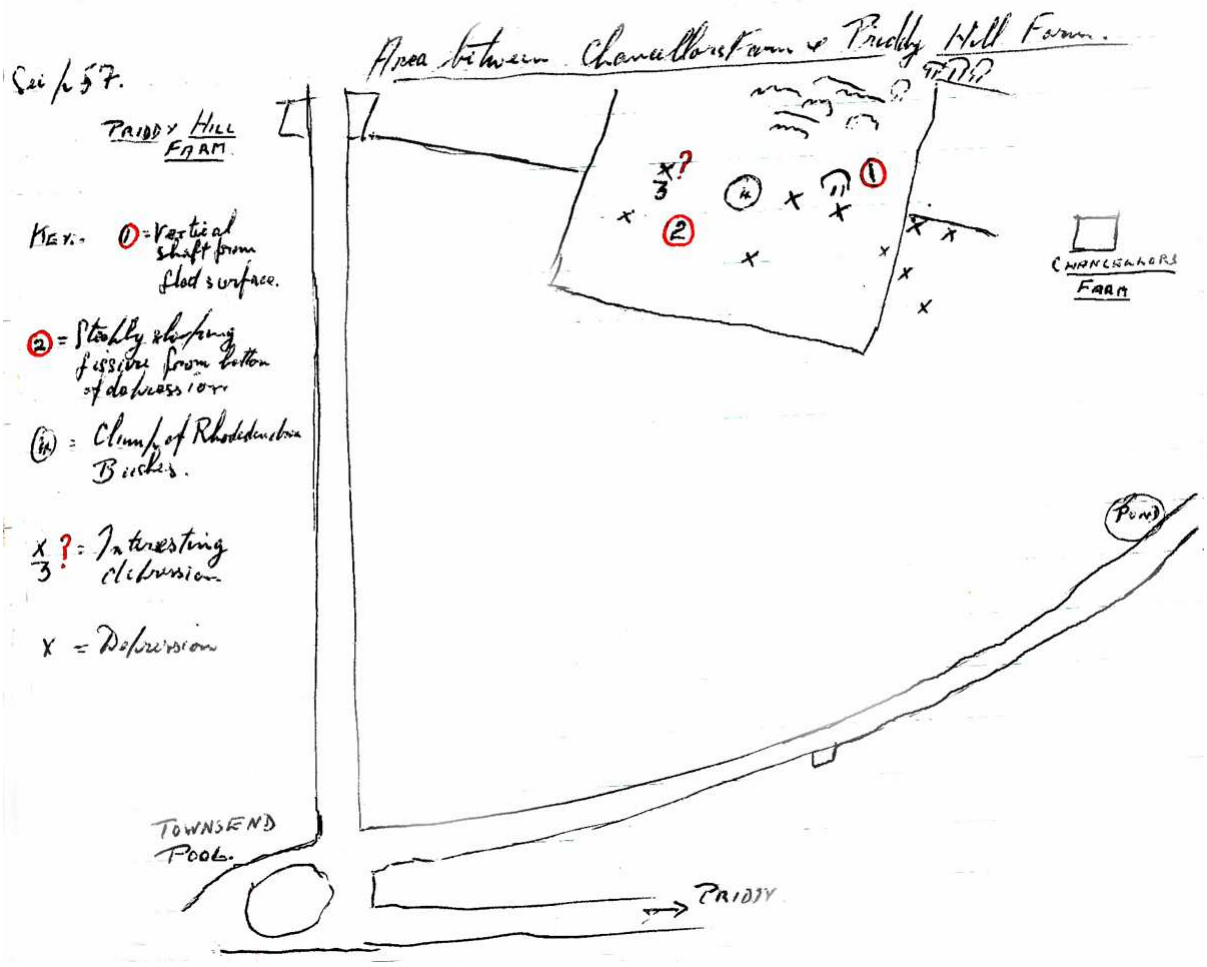


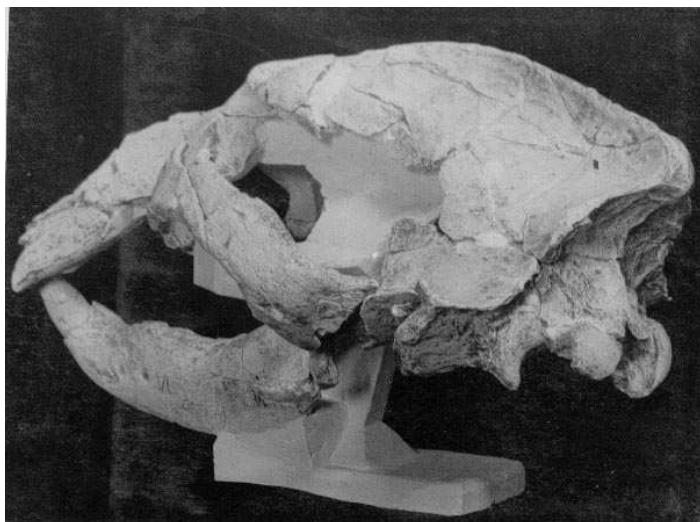


General view of the undertaking

See pages 40 & 41

126 5A OCT 1947





Bear Skull 1.
Reconstruction
finished
27 Oct.
from left

← Rear

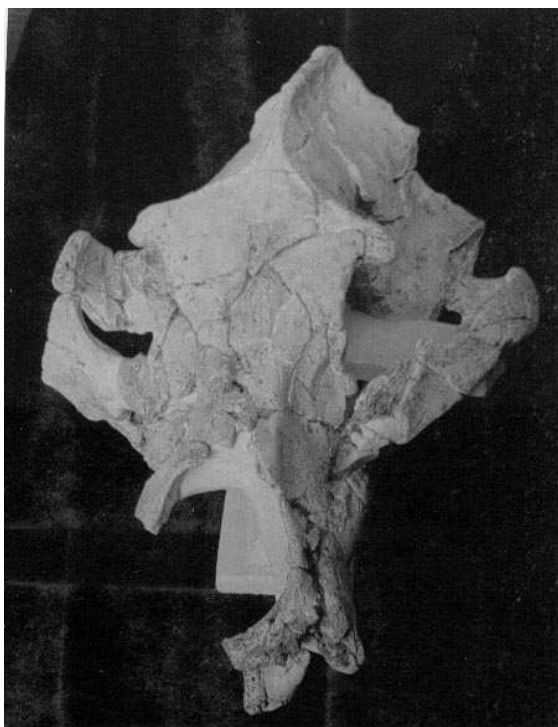
See page 47

43 27 OCT 1947

from front above →

See page 47

44 27 OCT 1947



& from Left quarter

See page 47

42 27 OCT 1947





C.D.G in operation
in Wookey hole Caves
Sat 6 Dec 47.

Graham brings
out a ~~her~~ an
horses mandible

Balcombe.
See p 62

128 16 6 DEC 1947



Then both divers
surface while Graham
re writes his report

See p 62
Balcombe & Coase.

128 15 6 DEC 1947



And the attendants keep the log.

See p 62
G. Lucy J. Dwyer

128 17 6 DEC 1947



Meanwhile the
chief archaeological
adviser departs for
his dig

See p 62

R.R. Kenny

E.J. Mason

128 14 6 DEC 1947



After another fruitful
plunge the divers
come out for a break.

See p 62

D.A. Coase

128 18 6 DEC 1947



Gas pressures are
checked

See p 62

Settingington

Coase.

128 11 6 DEC 1947



Oxo is imbibed

See p 62
Graham
drinking

128 10



Operations are
discussed

See p 62
Setterington Balcombe
Coase

128 13 6 DEC 1947



and they
generally
“chew the rag”

See p 62

128 12 6 DEC 1947



201

whilst the
assistant Archaeologist
looks 'neath
the wit^h

See p 62

Miss P.E. Pow^{er}ll

128 8 6 DEC 1947



The attendants
check the log.
Two heads
better than
one

See p 62

Lucy

Dwyer

128 7 6 DEC 1947



But too many
cooks

See p 62

Skulls

128 33 6 DEC 1947



Relics from the
subterranean Axe

spoil

See p 62

Femura &
othoetes

128 36 6 DEC 1947

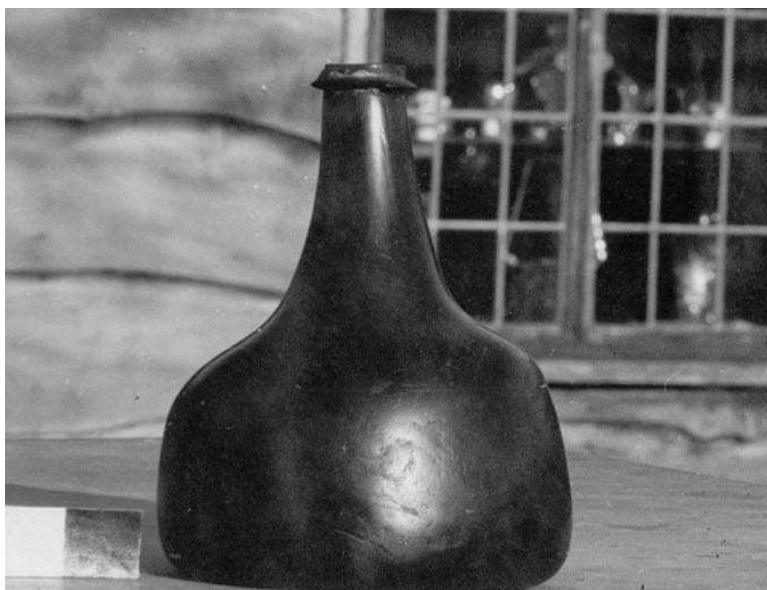


the broth.

See. p 62

R.B. Pot

128 1 7 DEC 1947



Relic of a bygone
orgy

See p. 62

Bristol Glass Bottle

128 40 7 DEC 1947

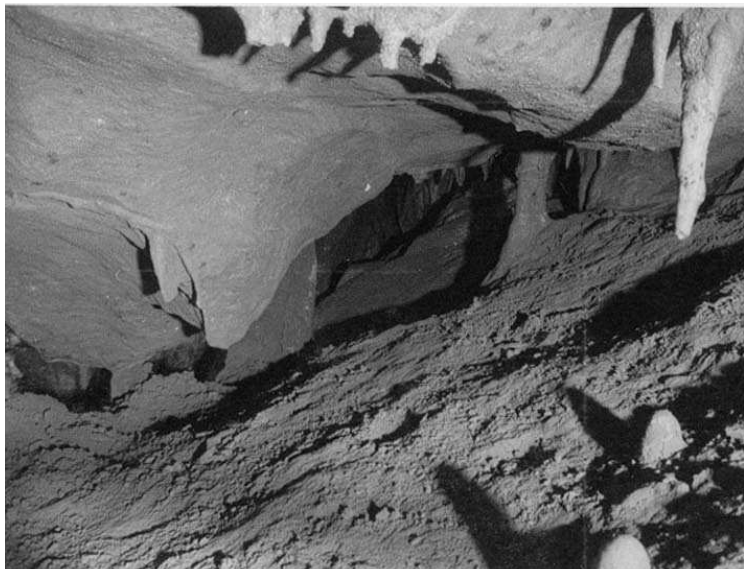


Browns Dig
Stoke Lane

Water worn
entrance
passage

See page 64.

129 23 21 DEC 1947



Closes down
prior to

See page 64.

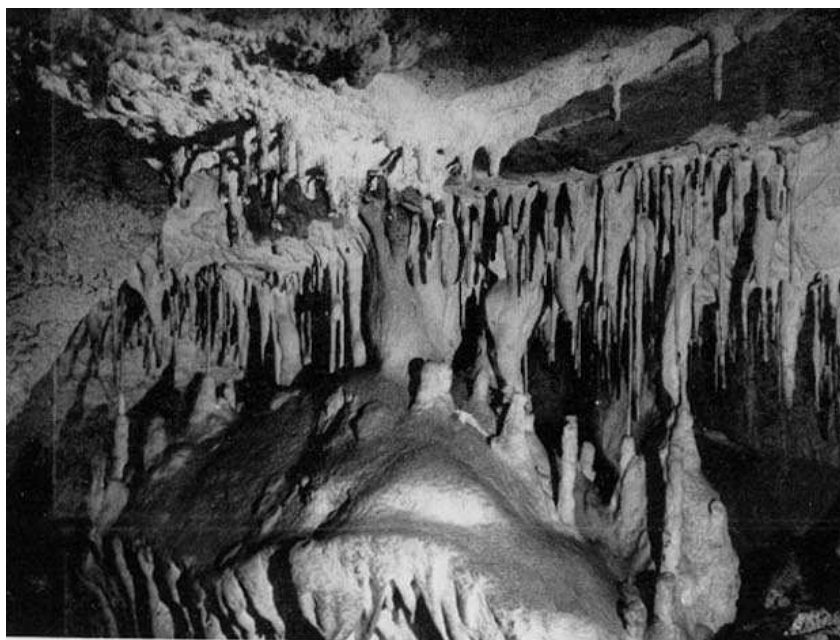
130 19 21 DEC 1947



climbing to the

See page 64.

129 15 21 DEC 1947



dairy

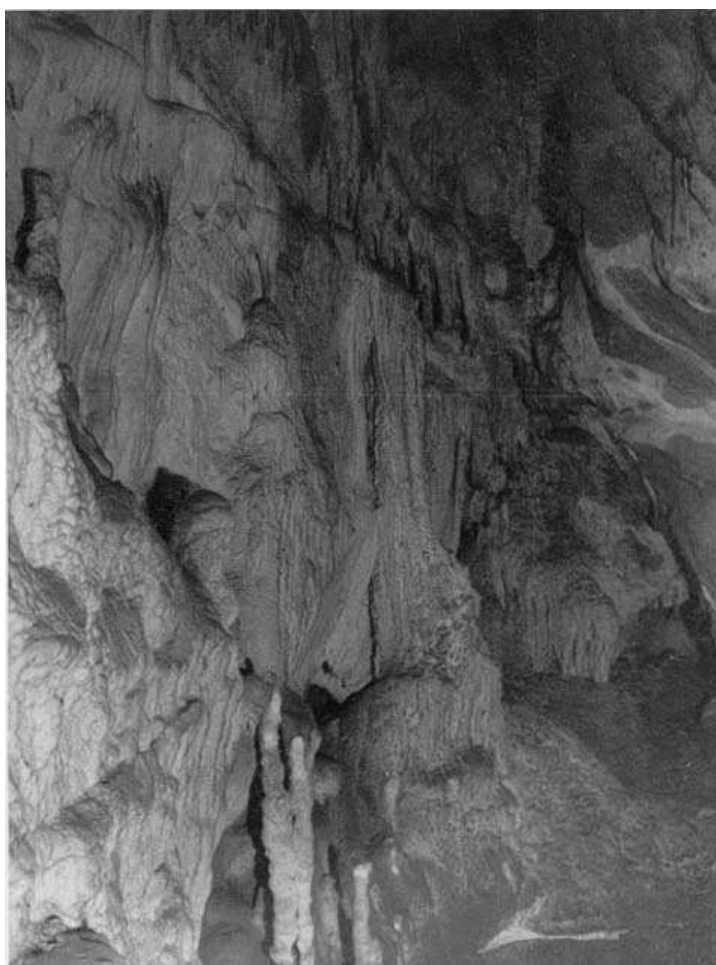
See page 64

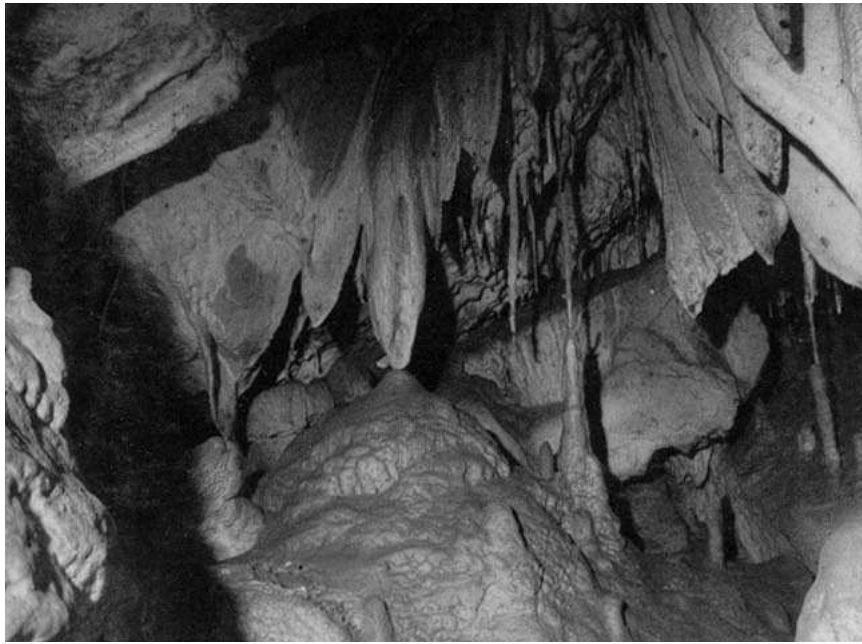
129 9 21 DEC 1947

and the upper series

See page 64.

129 1 21 DEC 1947

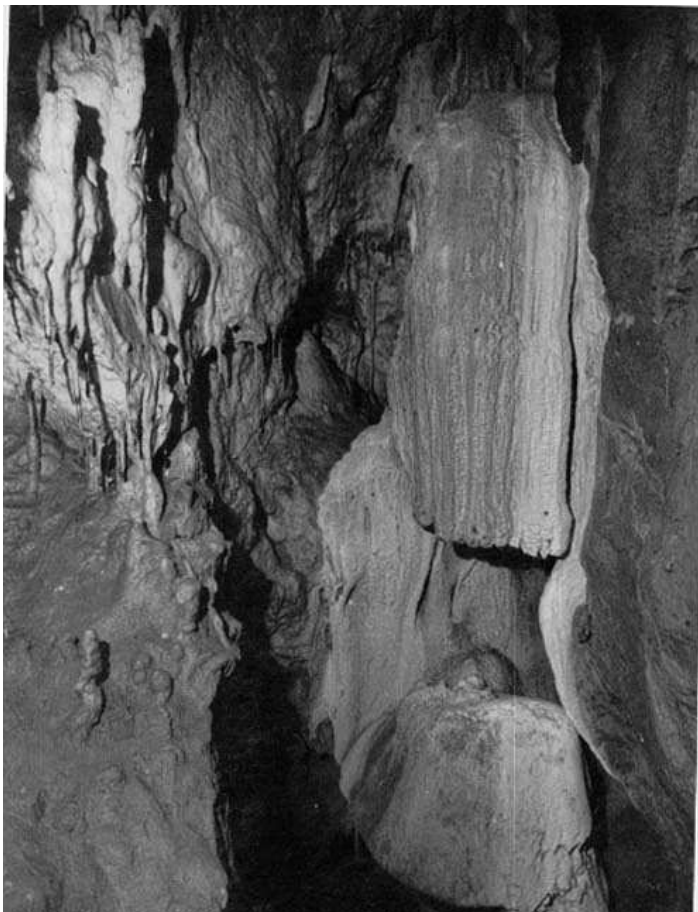




and helictite
chamber

see page 64.

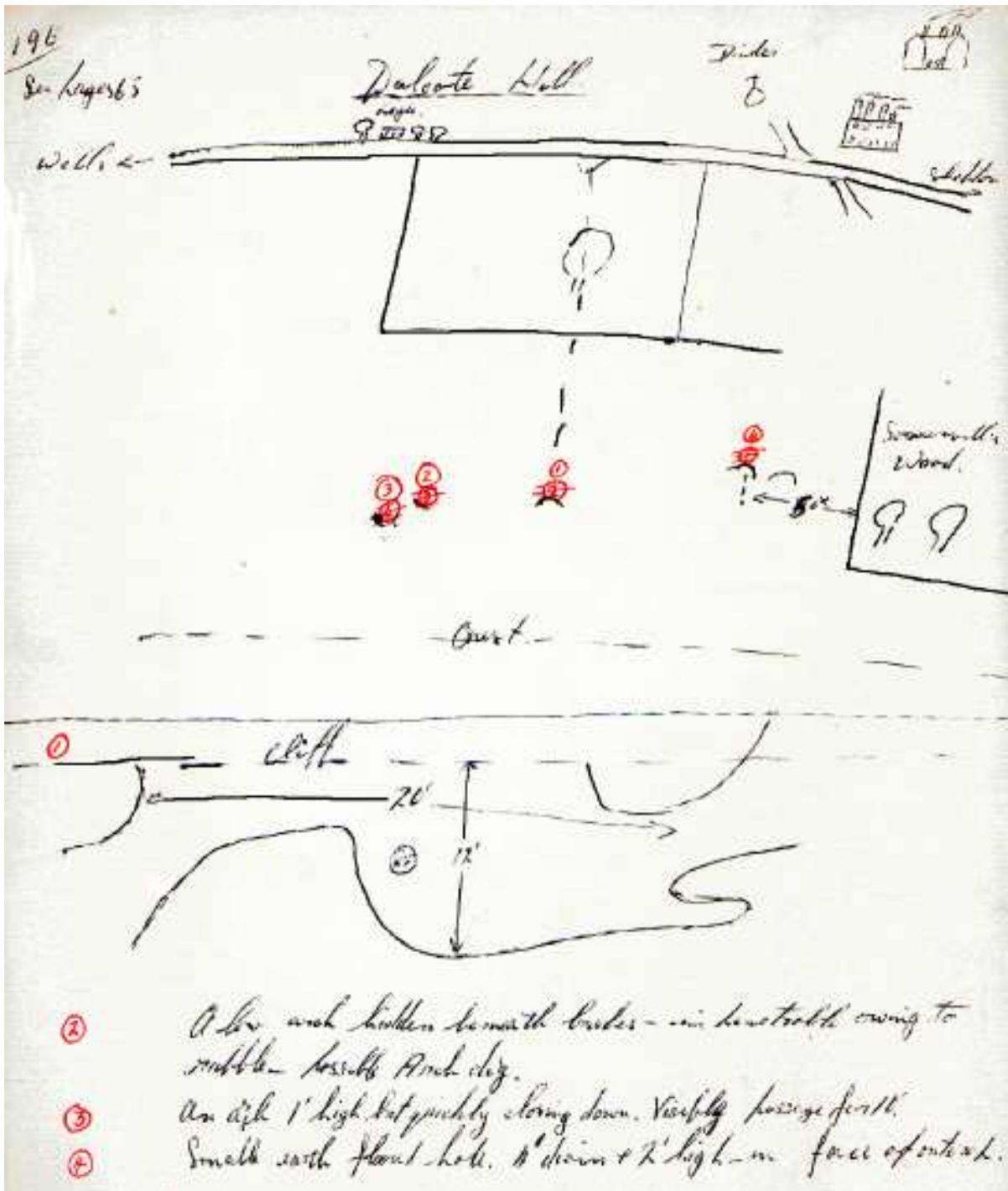
129 5 21 DEC 1947



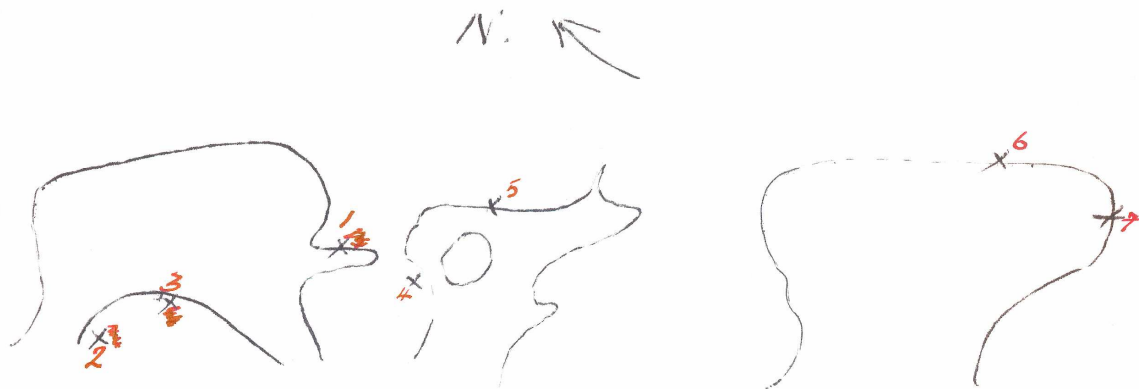
The pulpit.

See page 64.

129 41 21 DEC 1947



Yeoman Quarries Dulcote Hill.



Small holes N^{os} 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Were either not investigated or proved to be nothing.

Yeoman Quarries Dulcote Hill

Small holes N^{os} 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Were either not investigated or proved to be nothing



194

Buddles Wood
Area Mineshafts.

Don't go down
the mine daddy.

See page 67
Dolphin Powell.

130 19 4 JAN 1948



“Concentration”

See pag 67
Colin Low.

130 18 4 JAN 1948



“Alice in Wonderland”

see page 67
Powell.

130 17 4 JAN 1948



Whats going on
over there

See page 67

Frost Button Malcom

Ken Stafford

130 16 4 JAN 1948



Lighthearted
decent.

See page 67

Low.

Powel.

130 15 4 JAN 1948



“The telephone
exchange”

See page 67.

Dev.

130 14 4 JAN 1948



Cranch & Co
178(?)

Inscriptions in
Wookey Hole Cave.

See page 75

131 11 29 JAN 1948

Pot reconstructed by E.J. Mason

See p 75

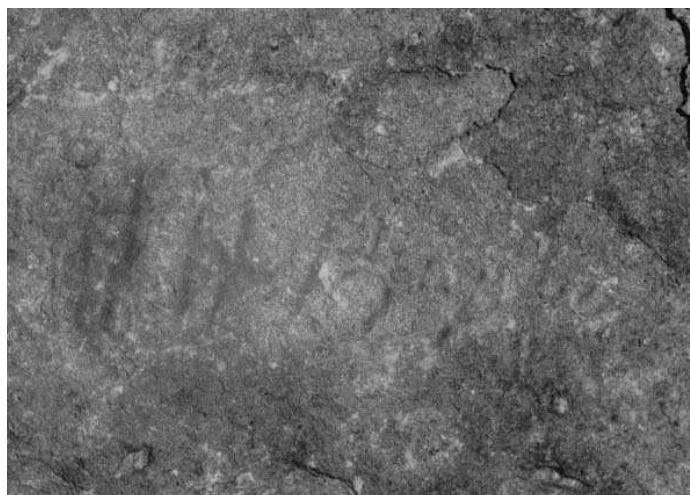
131 17 29 JAN 1948



H.H. (B(I))

See p 75

131 42 29 JAN 1948





Wookey Hole
Cave.
Vandalism

See p 95
On the way in to 1.

131 43 29 JAN 1948



or valuable records ?

See p 75.
Between 2 & 3.

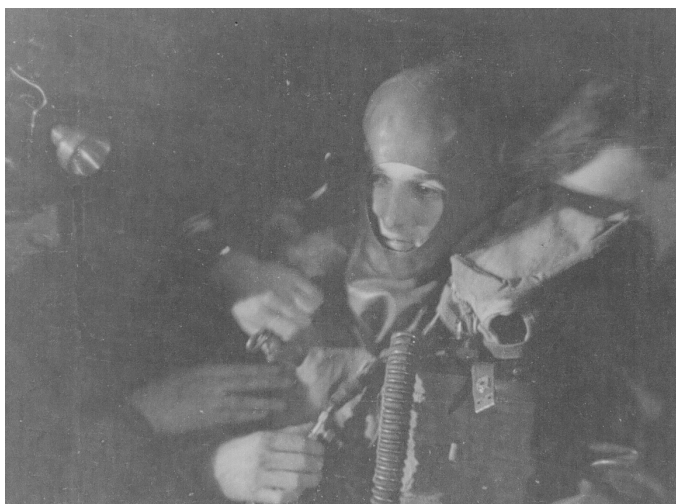
131 35 29 JAN 1948



Assistant
Archaeological
Adviser.

See p 78.
P.E. Powell.

132 6 8 FEB 1948



Don is dressed

See p 78
D.A. Coase

132 39 8 FEB 1948



Pep brews Oxo

See p 78
P.E. Powell

132 37 8 FEB 1948

& Half pint keeps the score

See p 78.
Dwyer

132 33 8 FEB 1948





Balcombe
adjusts

See p 78

F.G . Balcombe

132 36 8 FEB 1948

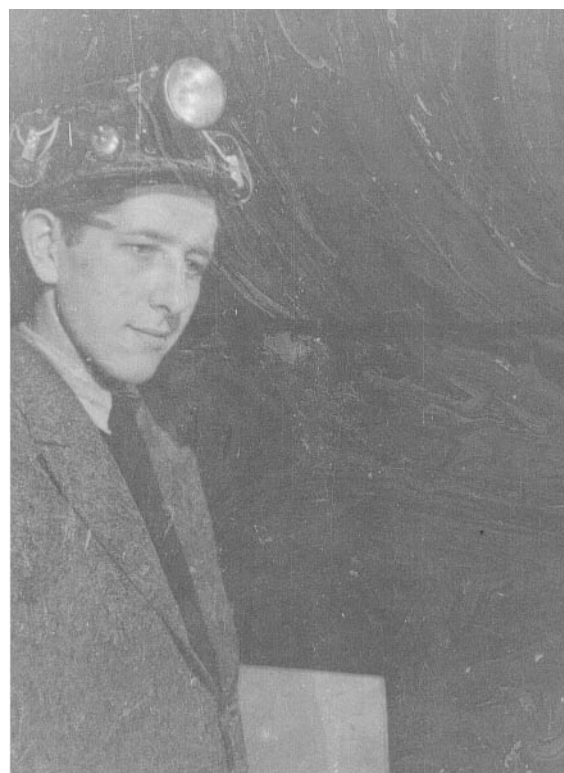


And ar^ranges

See p 78

F.G. Balcombe

132 36 8 FEB 1948



While the controller looks on.

See p 78

G. Lucy.

132 42 8 FEB 1948



Divers Emerging
after surfacing in 7

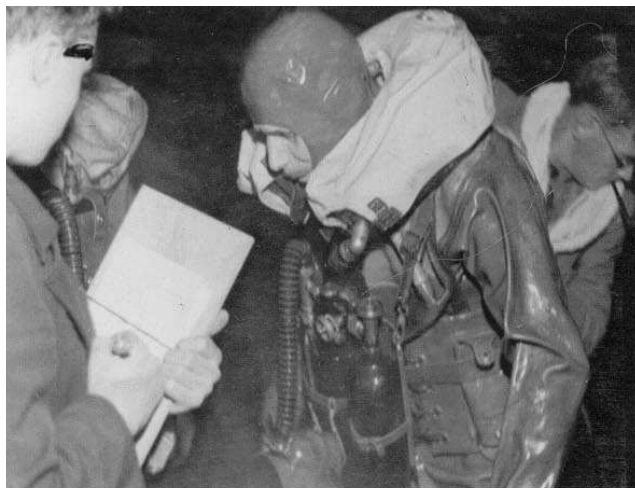
Coase
See p 78
Balcombe

133 36 FEB 1948

Balcombe reports

Balcombe
See p 78

133 12 FEB 1948



Whilst Don is glad its over.

Coase
See p 78

133 11 FEB 1948



“The sickly grin”

Coase See p 78

Setterington

133 14 FEB 1948

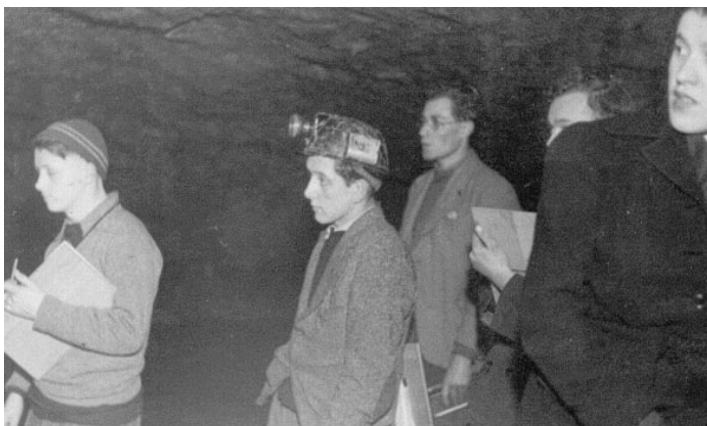


Ted hunting
for bones at the
scene of the
recent find.

See p 78

E.J. Mason

133 10 FEB 1948



Supporting party
awaiting the
return of the divers
from 7.

See p 78

Dwyer Lucy Setterington
P. Brown

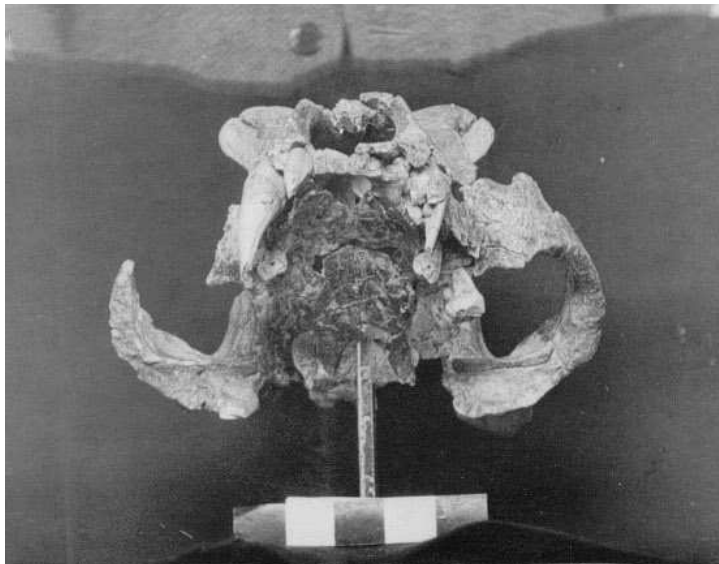
133 18 FEB 1948



Bear Skull 2
♀ After repair
from L side.

See p. 82.

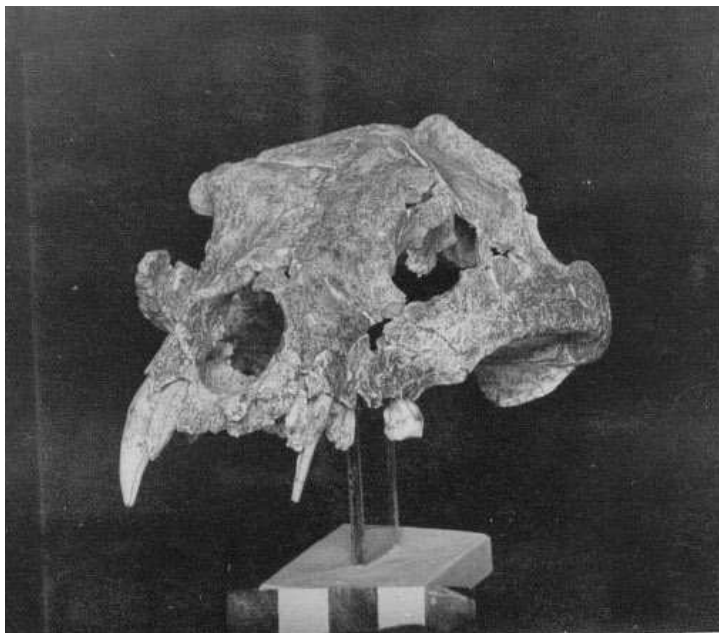
138 10 13 MAR 1948



Front below.

See page 82

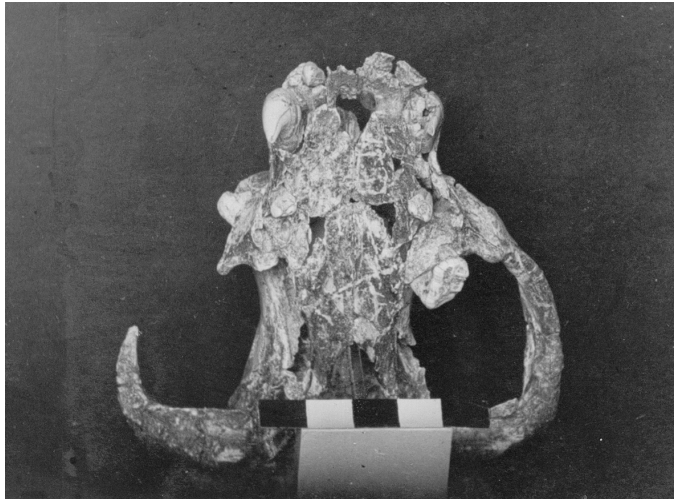
138 7 13 MAR 1948



Left Quarter
above

See p 82.

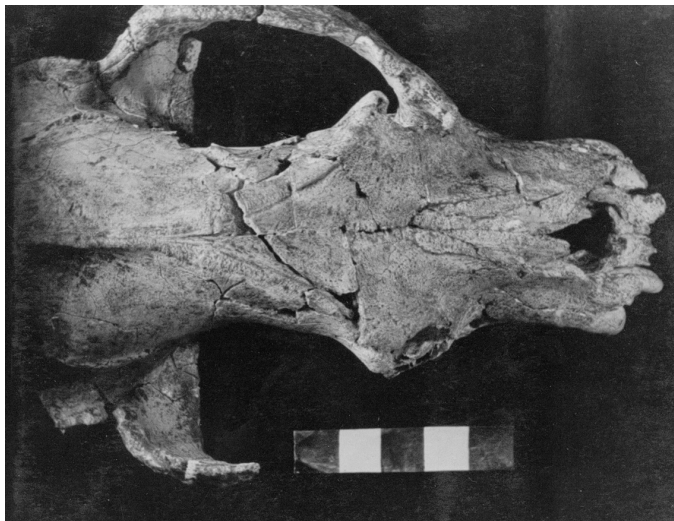
138 37 12 MAR 1948



B^aere Skull 2.
Looking up
at the Palate

See p 82

139 15A 13 MAR 1948



& downed on
the front.

See p 82.

138 44 13 MAR 1948



Inspection
of log sheets.

See p 83
Dan
Hasel.

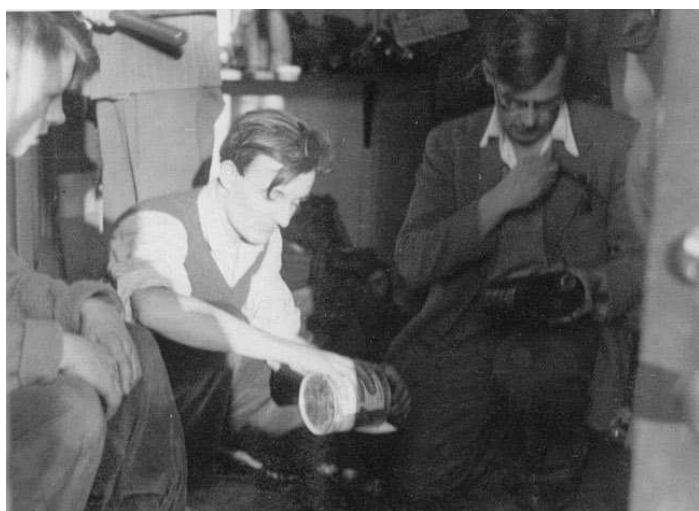
139 11A 13 MAR 1948



Calculation of
absorber life.

See P. 83
Settingington
Balcombe

139 4A 13 MAR 1948



Filling a canister

Dwyer . See p 83
Coase
Mackie

139 10A 13 MAR 1948



I shall be
wearing my “winter
woolies”

See p 83
Mackie Lucy.

139 5A 13 MAR 1948



'Its' not big enough

See p 83

Hazel
Balcombe

Lucy.

139 9A 13 MAR 1948

Off loading the jeep.

See p 83

Lucy.
Balcombe.

130 3A 13MAR 1948

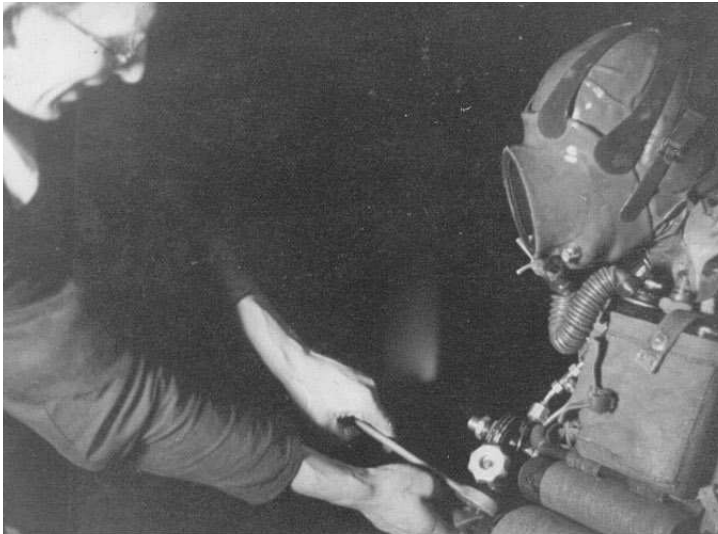


See p 83

Lucy Balcombe
Dwyer

139 2A 13MAR 1948





A leak was reported

See p 83
Hasel.
Coase.

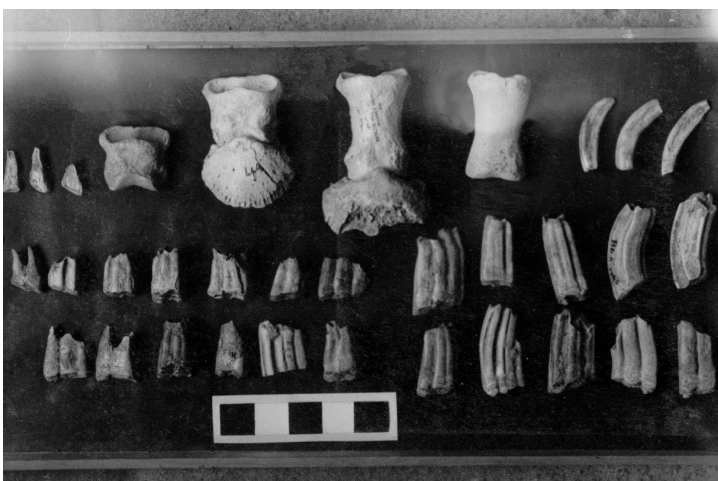
139 28A 13 MAR 1948



and another will occur.

See. p 83
Hasel
Mackie
Lucy.

139 34A 13 MAR 1948



Comparison of hoof bones
& teeth
~~of small horse~~
& "little horse"
& "forsest" horse
(Litle horse on Left.

see p

46 6 APR 1948

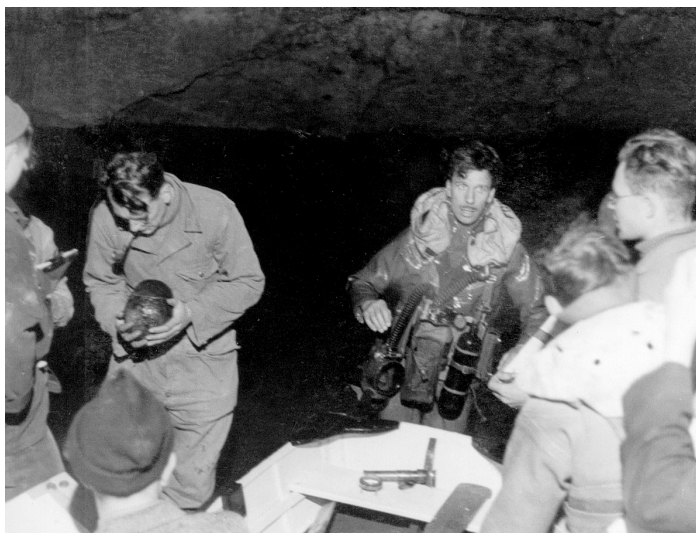
CDG Wookey
10 April Hole Cave
48



A "skull"
is brought
out.

See p 89.
F.G. Balcombe
D.A. Coase.

141 43 10 APR 1948



Which is
~~gh~~ given to
the archaeologist

See p. 89.
Mason
Balcombe
Settingington

141 41 10 APR 1948



Who then
ge questions
- the finder.

See p. 89
Coase
Mason
Lucy.

141 45 10 APR 1948



examines the
skull

See p. 89.

P.E.P.

Mason

Dwyer

141 42 10 APR 1948



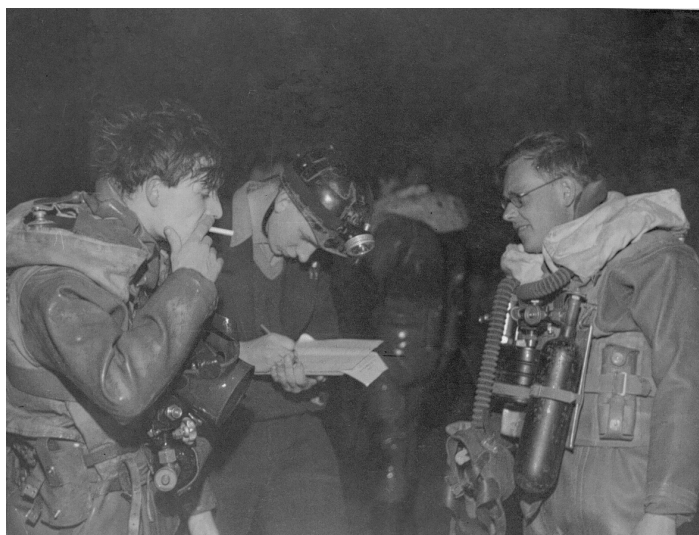
and makes his report
to his assistant.

See p. 89.

Powel

Mason

141 40 10 APR 1948



Meanwhile the
finder makes
his report,

See p 89

Coase

Mackie.

141 39 10 APR 1948

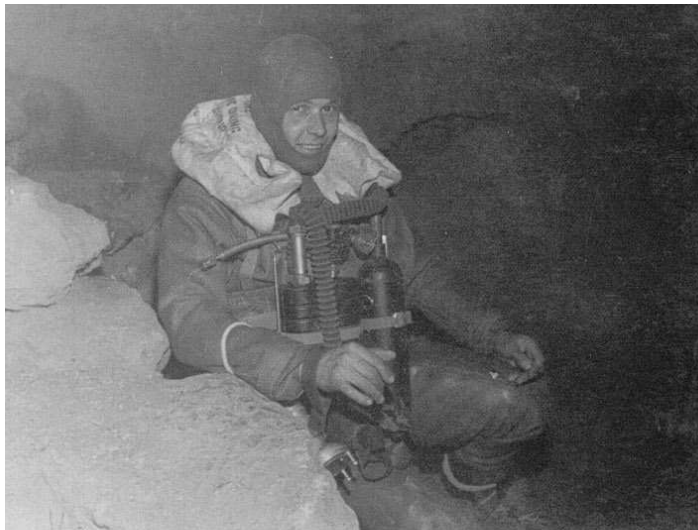


179

& then examines
his finds

See p 89.
Coase
Mackie

141 38 10 APR 1948



“Joyful expectations”

see p 89.
Mackie

141 3 10 APR 1948



“Minor adjustments”

See p. 89.
Mackie Dwyer

141 36 10 APR 1948



“Preparation
for departure”

See p 89.

Mackie Dwyer
Coase.

141 37 10 APR 1948



“Cleaning the
glass”

See p 89

Lucy. Coase Mackie.

141 33 10 APR 1948

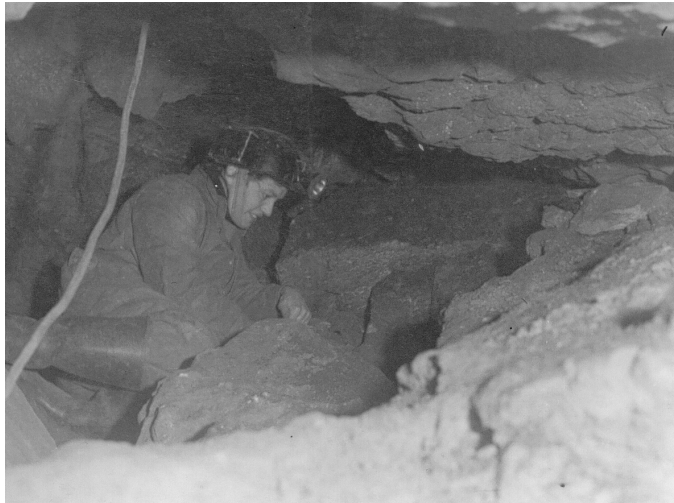


“All set to
go”

See p 89.

Settingington
Mason.
Divers in Hidden.

141 44 10 APR 1948



Pep digs

See p 89.

Powel.

141 1 10 APR 1948



whilst Mason
sorts.

See p 89.

Lucy Mason.

141 2 10 APR 1948



Hillgrove dig
12' derrick.

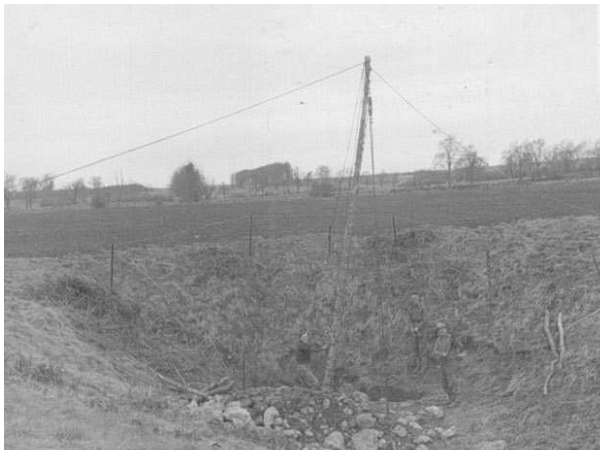
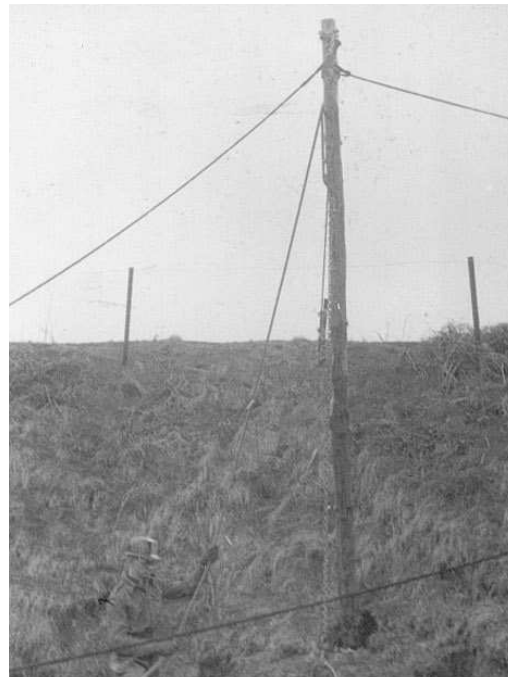
See p 83 & 84

140 2 MAR 1948

Hillgrove dig
the 12' derrick

See p 83 & 84

140 45 MAR 1948



which was replaced by
the 20' derrick.

See p 87 &
Neville
~~Vowles~~ Kenny
Stimson.

140 43 MAR 1948



“End of Work”

Kenny Stimson
SEE PAGE 90 Vowles

141 31 APR 1948



Colin & the
“Manglewurzle”

See p 88.

141 15 APR 1948



Out of the
“horrid hole”

Vowles

SEE PAGE 88

141 16 APR 1948

Hillgrove dig

Terminal chamber 23 May '48 from the end of the "horizontal" passage.

See page 92.

R. Kenny

149 20 MAY 1948



Orrs Close Mineshafts
30 May.

SEE PAGE 94

149 32 MAY 1948



SEE PAGE 94

149 31 MAY 1948



“OPERATION
NITRATE”

The photographer
sets his lights

SEE PAGE 98 & 99

151 6 19 JUN 1948



which the
divers promptly
criticize

SEE PAGE 98 & 99

151 19 19 JUN 1948



while
Then / the
divers

SEE PAGE 98 & 99

151 31 19 JUN 1948



172

are being
dressed

SEE PAGE 98 & 99

152 7 19 JUN 1948



others fiddle with Aflo.

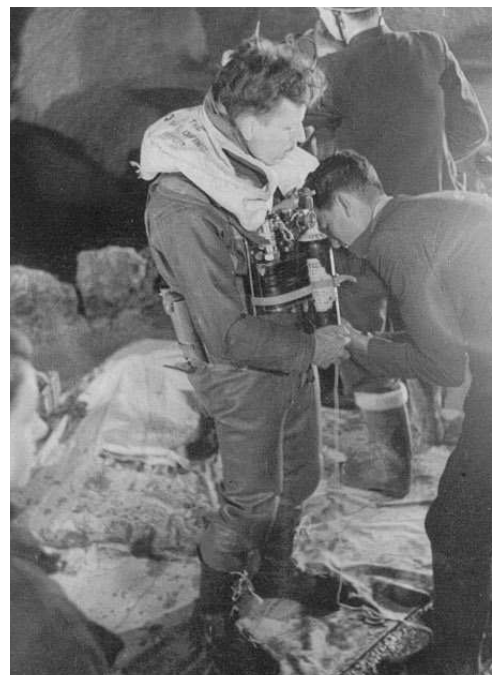
SEE PAGE
98 & 99

151 32 19 JUN 1948

Weights are
added

SEE PAGE
98 & 99

152 6 19 JUN 1948





then the diver
is muzzled.

[SEE PAGE 99](#)

152 12 19 JUN 1948



Meanwhile the
camera sees
it all

[SEE PAGE 99](#)

152 35 19 JUN 1948



A leak is
reported

[SEE PAGE 99](#)

152 26 19 JUN 1948



and remedied.

SEE PAGE 99

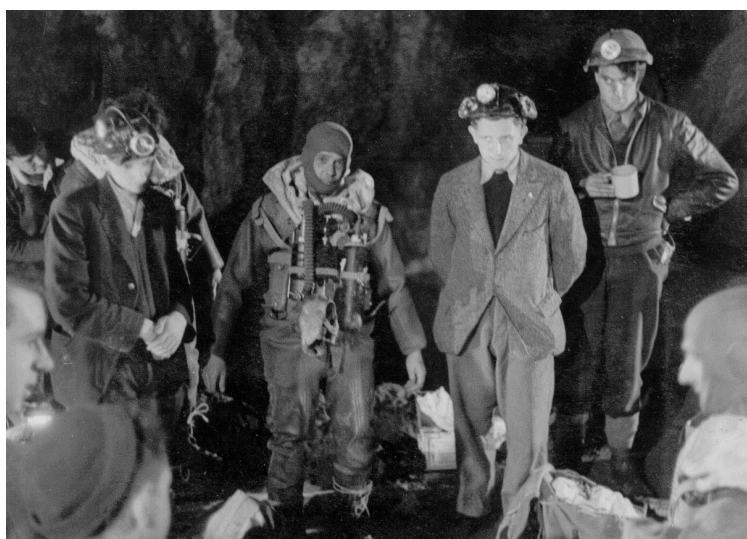
152 18 19 JUN 1948



Then off
they go.

SEE PAGE 99

151 22 19 JUN 1948



“Watch the
Dickey Bird”

SEE PAGE 99

152 11 19 JUN 1948



The divers
return with
two finds

SEE PAGE 99

152 23 19 JUN 1948



which are handed over

SEE PAGE 99

152 27 19 JUN 1948

and examined

SEE PAGE 99

152 35 19 JUN 1948





Reports are

SEE PAGE

99

152 34 19 JUN 1948

made

SEE PAGE 99

152 33 19 JUN 1948



then the
divers look
at their
finds

SEE PAGE 99

152 30 19 JUN 1948





“Oh you
darling”

Dwyer

Powell

[SEE PAGE 99](#)

152 29 19 JUN 1948



Earthworks on

[SEE PAGE 100](#)

153 31 JUN 1948



Priors Hill

[SEE PAGE 100](#)

153 34 JUN 1948



Are they Ancient

[SEE PAGE](#)
100

[153 32 JUN 1948](#)

or Modern.

[SEE PAGE 100](#)

[153 30 JUN 1948](#)



L. to R.
Dev. Bürger Smalley Mrs Bird
R. Kenny
Photo taken by H.C. Kenny
After Swildons trip

Ref P.1.

417



Swildon's Hole

Old Grotto

L. to R. Dev, Smalley, Bürger
R. Kenny, Mrs Bird

Photo by H.C. Kenny

Ref P.1.

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NOTES ON PHOTOGRAPHS

The original photographs are 4" x 3" glossy, hinged in the diary with brown sticky paper. The captions are as shown. 'See page...' and most of the subjects' names are written underneath the photographs. This information is shown in boxes.

The back of each photograph is printed, eg. :

139 9A 13 MAR 1948

(ie. = *Film No. Neg No. Date*)

Detail in blue was printed on with a rubber stamp, giving film number and date.

The detail in black is a hand-written negative number.

Most photographs have deleted numbers, eg. '~~28~~ ~~23~~' on the back.

Some prints are stamped 'L.D.' in 3/8" blue; some are printed:

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AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2

1	Swildons. Hillgrove Badgers. Badger.
2	Badgers, Stoke Lane, Badgers, Museum, Museum, Swildons.
3	Museum, Museum Museum Badgers Museum Mendip Museum Museum.
4	Museum Hillgrove, Stoke Lane Museum Mendip.
5	Badgers Hillgrove Swildons Badgers Mendip.
6	Badgers, Museum Museum Museum Eastern Mendip Museum.
7	Eastern Mendip. (St D'Well) Stoke Lane.
8	Museum (5. times)
9	Easte'n Mendip . G.B. (.FULL)
10	Museum, Mendip.
11	Swildon. Hillgrove Hillgrove, Swildons.
12	Badgers, Hillgrove Dan Yr Ogof. Dan Yr Ogof.
13	Ffynon Ddu, Pant Ganol
14	Porth Yr Ogof
15	Porth Yr Ogof (contd) Fff Ffynon Ddu..
16	Mendip & Wells. Badgers Swildons (FULL)
17	Swildons (contd) Hillgrove Hillgrove
18	Eastwater (FULL) Hillgrove, Badgers, Stoke Lane.
19	Stoke Land (contd)
20	Hillgrove, Hillgrove, Museum. Hillgrove
21	Hillgrove (contd). Museum, Stoke Lane (Exploratory).
22	Stoke Lane (exploratory)
23	“ “ “ “ Badgers.
24	Hillgrove. Museum Museum.
25	Swildons. Museum Museum & Mendip.
26	Museum & Mendip (contd.) Hillgrove.
27	Hillgrove Museum
28	Museum (contd) Museum & Badgers, & Museum Museum.
29	Museum (contd) Museum, Museum, Badgers.
30	Badgers (contd). Stoke Lane
31	Stoke Lane (contd)
32	Museum. Hillgrove dig. Museum., Taunton Museum. Greenham & Quaking House.
33	Quaking House Cave – Milverton,
34	“ “ “ “ (contd). Museum. Museum..
35	Badgers Badgers. Hillgrove.
36	Hillgrove (contd), Badgers.
37	Museum & Wells, Museum. Hillgrove
38	Museum, G.B. Swildons.
39	Museum & W.C.C. Meeting. Cuckoo Cleaves, Cuckoo Cleaves.
40	Museum, Museum, Mendip
41	Mendip (contd.) Museum etc Badgers
42	Badgers (contd.) Swildons.
43	Wells. Vicarage. Museum Hillgrove Dig
44	Hillgrove dig (contd.) Museum Museum
45	Museum. Museum.
46	Museum (four times).
47	Museum (four times).
48	Me Museum (contd) Museum Museum. August Hole.
49	August hole (contd)
50	August hole (contd)
51	August Hole (contd). Museum

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54	Hillgrove Dig, Museum etc.	230
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60	Wookey Hole Cave (Contd). Wookey Hole Cave	
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63	Museum, Museum, Museum,	
64	Museum. Museum. Browns dig Stoke Lane.	
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66	“ “ “ “ (contd).	1948
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68	Buddles Wood Area (contd). Museum	
69	Museum Museum Mendip	
70	Museum Badgers, Badgers.	
71	Museum, Badgers, Museum	
72	Badgers Museum Badgers Museum Museum	
73	Museum (contd) Mendip. Mendip, Badgers.	
74	Badgers, Swildons, Museum	
75	Mendip, Wookey Hole Cave, Badgers.	
76	Browns Stoke Lane dig & Ba Mendip.	
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84	Hillgrove dig (contd) Museum	
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87	Hillgrove dig, Museum.	
88	Museum, Mendip, Hillgrove dig,	
89	Badgers, Wookey Hole cave,	
90	Hillgrove dig, Hillgrove dig.	
91	Hillgrove dig (contd)	
92	Museum, Museum, Badgers, Hillgrove dig.	
93	Hillgrove dig (contd) Museum.	
94	Museum etc, Museum, Badgers, Orr's Close	
95	Museum Badgers Stoke Lane swallet.	
96	Stoke Lane swallet (contd) Museum Museum.	
97	Museum (contd) Badgers.	
98	Hillgrove dig, Badgers, Wookey Hole Cave (Operation Nitrate)	
99	Museum, M Wookey Hole cave (contd) Museum Museum.	
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102	Badgers, Lamb Leer,	
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104	Eastwater (contd) Badgers.	
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113	Badgers.	
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115	Nods Pot (Piney Sleight)	
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117	Swildons (Full)	
118	Swildon (Full) (contd.) Badgers	
119	Badgers (contd) Swildons I & II	
120	Swildons I & II (contd)	
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*171 “ “ “ “ “ “
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*177 Pep digging a Wookey Ted sorting. Hillgrove dig 12’ derricks
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*180 “ “ “ “ “ Skull removal & examination
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*182 C.D.G. Meet at Wookey Hole Cave Comparison Little horse & Forest Horse
*183 “ “ “ “ “ “
*184 “ “ “ “ “ “
*185 Bear Skull 2 & ~~CDG~~ Dan Hasel.
*186 “ “ 2
*187 CDG & E.J. Mason in Wookey Hole Cave.
*188 CDG in Wookey Hole Cave
*189 C.D.G. Meet in Wookey Hole Cave
*190 “ “ “ “ “ “
*191 Wookey hole cave inscriptions & P.E. Powel at CDG Meet.
*192 “ “ “ “ “ & Pot.
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*194 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “
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204 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “
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