MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 2026

Season: Whit

Logbook pages collaboratively produced online using a shared *Google Doc*

Juan Corrin, June 2026

2026 Whit Logbook

LOGBOOK HELP

STARTED May 2026

23rd May #2414 Cueva Regolfo (Alto Torno area)

Diane Arthurs and Simon Cornhill (Di & Si)
A lunchtime arrival in Matienzo, after what seems like a prolonged wet period we were greeted by some scorching hot weather and it's only going to get hotter!
An afternoon's work down Regolfo which had a lovely warm inwards draught. After much effort, 2m ahead there seems to be a step or maybe a pitch is approaching …

We were very glad of an air conditioned cave today, and it's the coolest forecast day too!

24th May #2414 Cueva Regolfo

Di & Si

Yet another hard day's labour in Regolfo.

Finally, we reached a 5m pitch into a large boulder choke chamber *Sala de Embarque (Departure Lounge)*. The only solid wall here is along where we have come from and seems to be the continuation of the cliff above, the rest of this area comprises of levitating transit van sized boulders held up with crumbling piles of choss. There could be a couple of ways on, unfortunately it will be descending into the teetering choss keeping as close to the 'wall' as possible.





25th May #2414 Regolfo/Alto Torno

W3W: ///hermanas.volvía.pongas

Di & Si

Surveyed: 56m - new

We returned to gingerly explore the large choke armed with rope, rigging gear and joss sticks/smoke pellets.

Despite our efforts, we could not find a way on. Three short pitches down what felt like the top of a rift was starting to look good, unfortunately it choked, with the draught disappearing into the boulders in the floor.

There are a couple of places left to check, but it's not looking hopeful.

26th May #2414 Cueva Regolfo

Di & Si

Surveyed: 51m - new

Another trip to try and penetrate further into the boulder choke.

Traversing over the pitches descended yesterday entered a narrower and looser area. This was heading North East into the choke where several holes were pushed, until sense prevailed as the feeling of certain entombment was getting overpowering.

Back in *Sala de Embarque,* near the base of the second pitch the last lead in the floor was descended, and turned into the top of a too tight rift directly above a passage entered the previous day. Thinking we had finished, suddenly Di's eagle eye spotted a loose cobble bank, the closest we had got to getting under the 2nd pitch and the dribble of water going down it. After some work and much rearrangement, Si managed a necky wriggle over and down the other side of the bank into a much roomier and steeply descending area. A visual connection was located between the new lower level and Di in the bottom of *Sala de Embarque*. A plan is being hatched to force a route straight down this, bypassing several very sketchy steep,wet and loose squeezes which will likely be the focus of the next trip.

27th May #1377 #0511

Di and Si

El coche es con Pablito por que hay una estraño ruido. So a very hot walk up the hill behind Pablo's barn is in order.

#1377

This cave is as described and a short distance from the previous coordinates at: 30T 453501 4797477 alt:293m Surveyed.



#0511

This was found further down the hillside from the location at: 30T 453330 4797618 alt:280m
This site seems to fit the 1984 location and descriptions well, although I guess the bottom has filled up with rubble a bit over the 42 years since the last visit as there wasn't 'a crawl going off'and not much of a draught either, however after removing some of the rubble the crawl started to emerge. It would be an easy dig to carry on removing the infill, however a hauling bucket and a small team would be required.

Evidence of previous visits was a broken hammer handle and a cairn on the lower escarpment. Surveyed.



28th May #2414 Cueva Regolfo

Di & Si

Surveyed: 48m (total length of 2414 is currently = 182m, depth = 45m) pitches to access the lowest point are: 7m, 5m, 3m This puts the bottom around 40m above Torno

We managed to force a ‘safer’ route from the bottom of Sala de Embarque to the lower area entered on the previous trip, this is a snug 3m pitch. What seems to be a reoccurring theme with this cave, much gardening ensued whilst forging a route further down into this immense boulder choke. The lowest point we reached will require some more rearrangement to progress.

29th May #2414 Cueva Regolfo

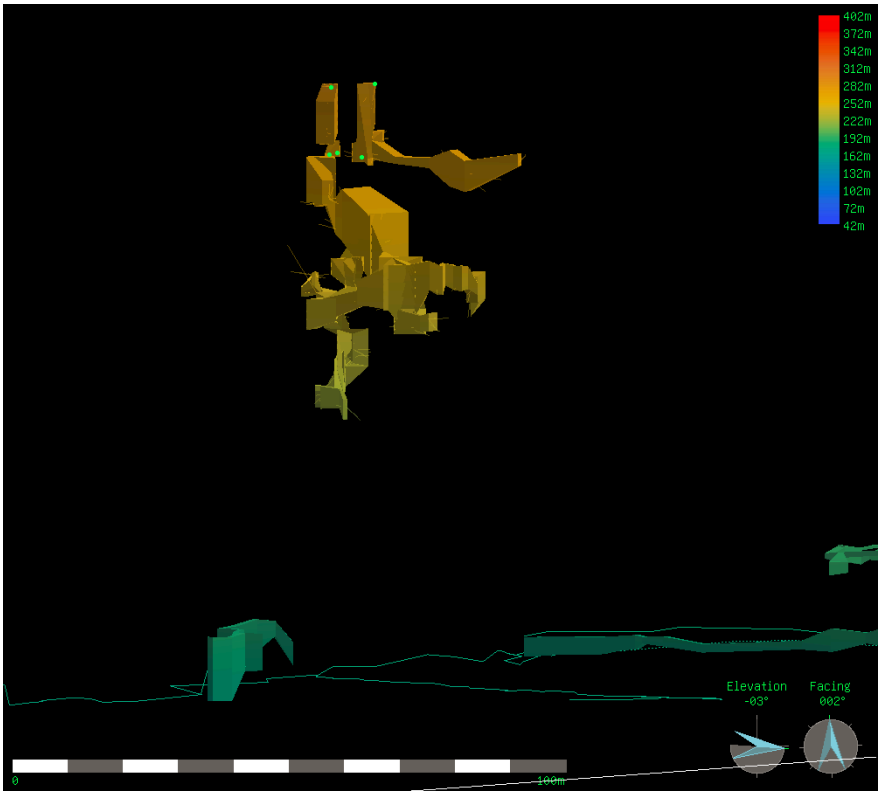
Di & Si

Surveyed 14m (total length of 2414 = 195m (169m new), depth = 50m)

After a slap up lunch at BT's we went off to Regolfo to push the final lead at the lowest point of the massive boulder choke.

This was forced down a very loose climb which after much gardening and rearranging of the teetering blocks, split into two further climbs which were even tighter and looser. If any further progress could be made, it would be digging in a confined and highly unstable areas and would require more than removing infill. It has been very dry during the exploration of this cave, which can take a lot of water, so it is expected that sections where we have been exploring are likely to move after the next flood.

As has been regularly mentioned, the stability of the whole ‘cave’ is not to be underestimated, as many seemingly settled blocks up to 1m cube+ have substantially moved. Although we have only added 169m to this cave it has been hard going, as pretty much every metre of this has had to be gardened, stabilised, rearranged or dug out. It’s hard to actually call this a cave, as the new extensions have only ever had one wall, the rest is the chaos of an enormous boulder choke.



About 40m above Torno

30th May #4732 Torca la Decepción

Di & Si

After the distraction of Regolfo, it's time to resume normal business with a trip to revisit leads we have left in Decepción/Uzueka.

A nice steady day ferrying gear up to Decepción and rigging the Slams.

31st May #4732 Torca la Decepción

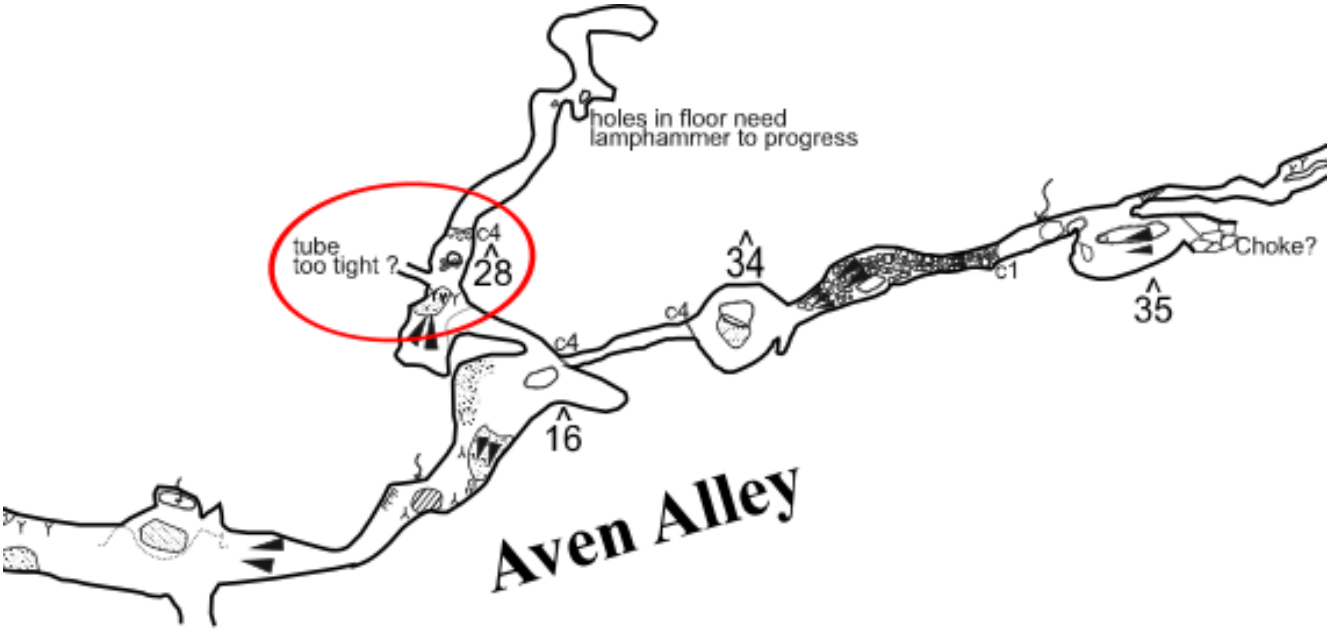
Di & Si

A return to Aven Alley in upstream BTM, tooled up and ready to start climbing the many avens.

The 28m aven by the too tight tube which looked really good from the bottom, was climbed to a ledge at around 15m up to where it could be seen to be too narrow at the top and where a trickle of water was showering out of.

Si was then inserted into the neck height too tight tube, which for the return at least, proved to be too tight and awkward to re-enter. The next hour or so saw a variety of techniques employed and deployed to attempt to retrieve the temporarily incarcerated caver. Finally, like a cork being forced through two cheese graters he popped out.
(Pro tip: luckily we always carry a plug 'n' feather in our bolting kit!)

P.S. This short bit of passage *Rallador de Maíz* landed in a small blind 4m aven with an inlet coming out of a very small slot in the roof, which sank under the wall back into the main aven. Totally worth getting royally beaten up for as well as trashing my oversuit.





1st June # #4732 Torca la Decepción

Di & Si

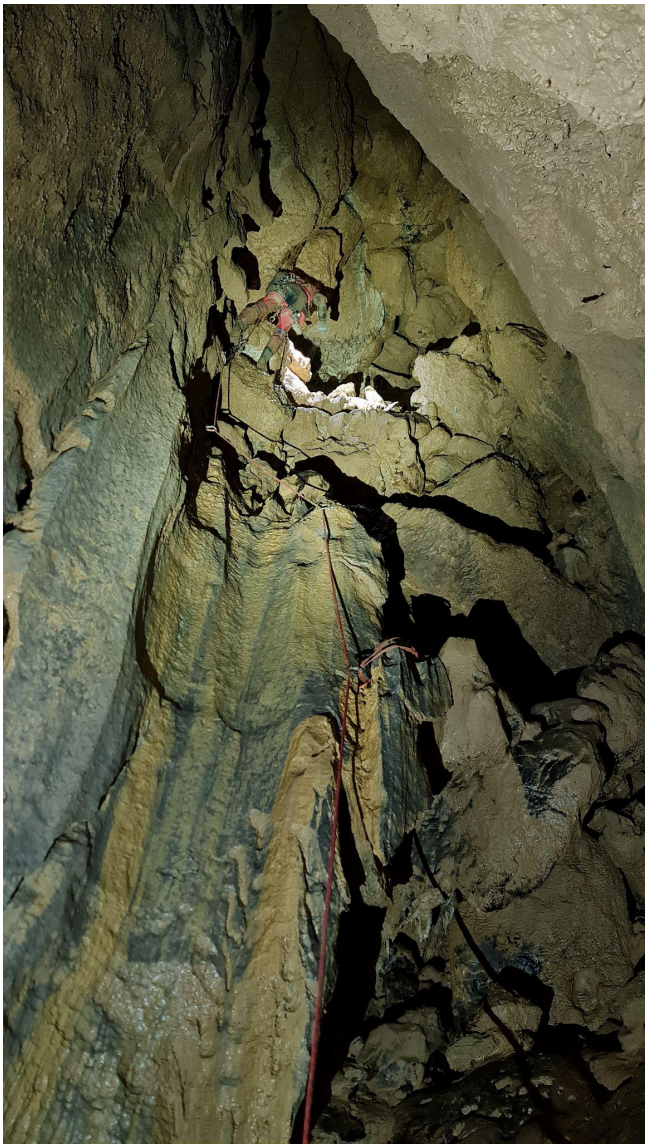
Another trip to upstream BTM to the end of Aven Alley and to carry on climbing the many avens.

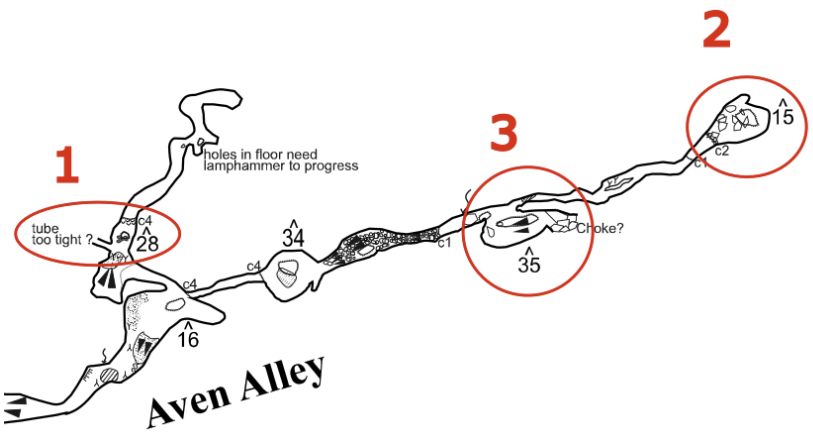
Aven 1 with *Rallador de Maíz* - stn 288 (climbed yesterday - too tight at the top)

Aven 2 - stn 318 (choked with boulders and calcite at the top)

Aven 3 - stn 309 (7m climb to a large ledge and a second 10m climb to another larger ledge. The aven continues upwards…

Photo is aven no.2





2nd June #4732 Torca la Decepción

Di & Si

A return to finish our no.3 aven climb in BTM/Aven Alley.

The 3rd pitch in aven no.3 was scaled, despite it looking really good from lower down, unfortunately was also choked with boulders at the very top. The ledge at the base of this final climb had two crawls, the left hand ended in a choke with a small hole looking down into aven no.2. While the other, after an enlargement just big enough to turn round in, was far too tight for at least 3m, ahead echoed well and drips of water could be heard.

Photo is looking up from the base of our no.3 aven climb, Si is at the top of the 2nd pitch.

Pottery was found in aven 3. At the highest point reached. stn:0252-26-03.16

Photo at end of log.



3rd June #4732 Torca la Decepción

Di & Si

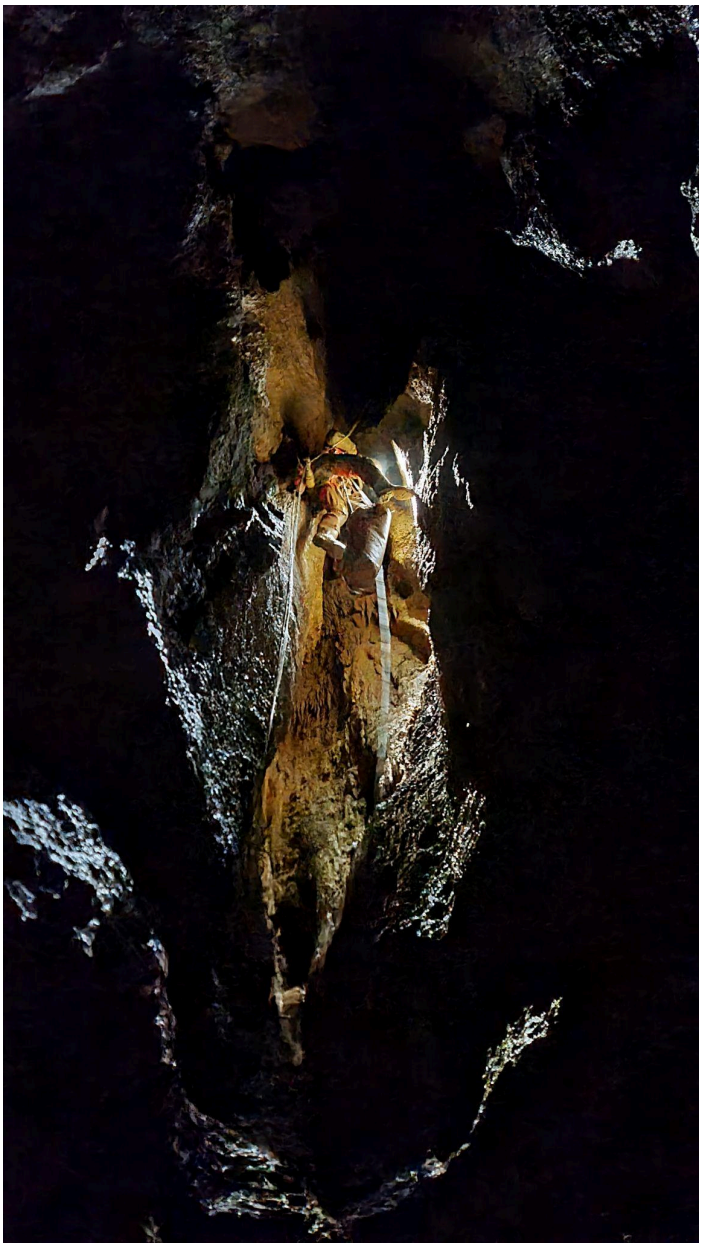
Back to Aven Alley again and to climb our aven no.4 in this area and push nearby leads. Today for efficiency, the team split into two;

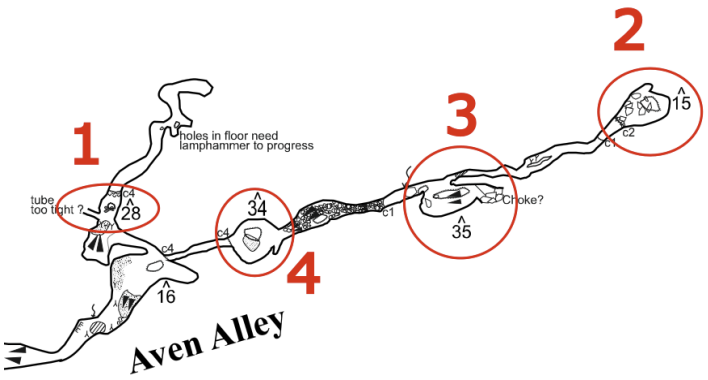
1) Si self belayed and climbed the aven to nearly 30m in two sections, 17m to a convenient alcove for a rebelay and exactly where the reusable bolts were used up, and a 12m to a large ledge with the aven continuing upwards and a short small horizontal passage.

2) Di scampering the lower passages, checking if question marks are actual leads or too tight continuations and annotating the survey. Everything looked at eventually got too tight!

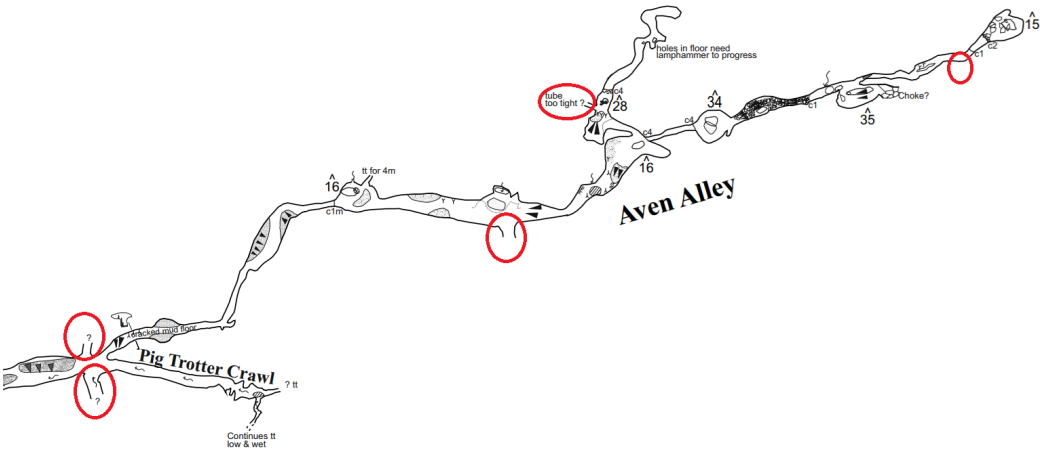
The team reconvened and surveyed the climb to the top.

Unfortunately, our time in the Happy Valley is running out, so this is the only climb left rigged and will have to be pushed on our next expedition when the ropes and bolts will be recovered if it doesn't go to anything significant.





These are the locations of the lower level crawls in BTM which were pushed and surveyed to too tight conclusions.



3rd June #2414 Regolfo

Regolfo notes:
As you have probably noticed we are leaning towards an aeronautical theme due to the entrance being directly under a flightpath. So, from the entrance:
Entrance crawl = Trayectoria de Vuelo (Flight Path)
1st pitch (Stn:5) = Puerta uno (Gate one)
1st chamber (Stn:6) = Sala de Sónica (Sonic boom chamber)
Capped out crawl to 2nd pitch = La Pista (The Runway)
2nd pitch (Stn:31) = Puerta dos (Gate two)
2nd chamber = Salón de Embarque (Departure Lounge)
3rd pitch bypassing cobble slope/squeezes to lower level (stn:61) = Puerta tres (Gate three)
Lower chambers = Algo que Declarar (Something to Declare)
Digs at the lowest point reached (Stns:79 to 84) = Canal Rojo (Red Channel)

Traverse and pitches off Salón de Embarque (Stns:34 to 54) = Vuelo con turbulencias (Bumpy Flight)

Claude knows all about 2414. 🤓🤣 Ain't Going Down ….

3rd June #5533 #5545

See Sam's observations / corrections on WhatsApp.

4th June #4732 Torca la Decepción

Di & Si

Our final trip to this great cave for this season, to de-rig the slams and remove the rest of the climbing gear.

We had some time to spare, so we went and surveyed the un-surveyed bouldery section above Rectifying The Count. Then onto The Bermuda Bowl and surveyed up the incredibly greasy and steep moon milk rift heading NE, which ended in a climb up to calcited grotto and an ascending boulder choke.

The Torca la Decepción entrance pitches are derigged, apart from the fixed hangers.

Length surveyed 325m so the 4VS length is 80031m

6th June #4732 Torca la Decepción

Photo of (Iron Age) pottery found in aven 3, the top of which seems to be at ~190m altitude; surface at 250m; base of #0260 @ 246m. Could be worthwhile poking in sink 3706.



Survey totals for Whitsun 2026

Cave	Name	Surveyed	Previous	New
0252	Deception	325		325
2414	Cueva Regolfo	169	26	169
0511		8	0	8
1377		5	5	0
	Totals	**508**		**503**

11th June #4732 Torca la Decepción

Here are our totals for Deception

Cave	Name	Batch No:	Area in cave	Surveyed	Previous	New
0252	Deception	0252-26-01	Aven Alley climb:1	16.68		16.68
0252	Deception	0252-26-02	Aven Alley climb:2	13.85		13.85
0252	Deception	0252-26-03	Aven Alley climb:3	67.84		67.84
0252	Deception	0252-26-04	Aven Alley climb:4	40.38		40.38
0252	Deception	0252-26-05	passages before Pigs' trotter crawl	3.39		3.39
0252	Deception	0252-26-06	Small inlet on right just before final aven in Aven Alley	19.28		19.28
0252	Deception	0252-26-07	Parallel passage above Rectifying the Count	113.29		113.29
0252	Deception	0252-26-08	Bermuda bowl slippy climb	33.56		33.56
0252	Deception	0252-26-09		16.69		16.69
						324.96

https://youtu.be/mqOsuQUX_rU Regolfo Blues

Logbook closed 20th June 2026

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