

NOCHEBUENA

LATITUDE 18° 17.2' N. (ESTIMATED)

LONGITUDE 89° 23.1' W. (ESTIMATED)

Nochebuena lies about 20 km. by trail to the north of Placeres (see chap. 4), whence it was reached in 1933. The site was passed in 1934, when the Third Campeche Expedition was proceeding southward from Rio Desempeño. From this latter station it is 58 km. via Pasadita and Rio Bec to the ruins. The aguada at Nochebuena is ample, covered with lechuga, and surrounded with high timber. The 1933 expedition stayed only three days (March 27-29), making a casual reconnaissance and a Brunton compass survey. The city, lying 280 m. south of the aguada, seems to have been laid out in a number of well-defined units having little relation to each other.

Of particular interest are two low platforms, one in Group IV and one in Group V (pl. 63; the platforms are not shown in the plan of the city). The former, approximately in the center of the court, measures 7.75 m. east and west by 13 m. north and south and is only 50 cm. high. On the east side, 6.08 m. from its southeast corner, is a recessed stairway. It has a width of 94 cm. and is made up of two treads, 36 cm. and 38 cm., and three risers, 15 cm., 15 cm., and 20 cm. (pl. 5a).

The second platform, approximately in the center of Group V, is 3.60 m. east and west by 4.50 m. north and south, and is 90 cm. high. On its west side, 1.87 m.

from the northwest corner, is a recessed stairway 75 cm. wide. The risers measure 23 cm., 23 cm., 22 cm., and 22 cm. respectively; each of the three treads is 19 cm. wide.

The building in the southwest corner of Group IV shows only an occasional exposed wall, but is interesting in that its plan, even though it can only vaguely be made out by the contour of the debris, suggests the presence of lateral chambers. Compare Calakmul, Structure III; Rio Bec, Group III, Structure I and Group V, Structure V; La Honradez; Nakum, Structure E; Tikal, Structure 18.

The groups west of the trail (I, II, and III) include more structures than those to the east. Group II contained a mound 3 m. high supporting a building, which contained two parallel chambers and had a probable over-all length of 21 m.; the medial and west walls are 1.35 m. and 1.15 m. thick respectively (pl. 5b). The masonry is very uneven; some of the component stones are veneer-like, others have long tenons. On either side of the medial wall, sections of the vault are *in situ*. The stones are beveled but not otherwise specialized, and there is no offset at the spring line.