

1992

BASE CAMP

Phone No. for garage in France (Dave Bell) 07 33 49 05 54 14

HUERTA DEL REY '92 - the roll of dishonour:

At the top of the list - in spirit - THE VAN

Jean XX

~~Harvey~~

David

Dave

Tommy

Pauline XX

Steve

Sean

Dave L.

Jonathan :)

Chris

Dave

Tina

Ferella

Rockyvan (the "flying banana")

John

Martin L

Martin H

Ilka

Gerhard

7/3 5-00 am. Arrive at Lagos with car + trailer, Sean, Dave L and Gavin.

7-20 Paul staggers over from the bar.

29/6 Left Oxford for Carshalton with Trailer, Red Van, car, Dave B, David, Sam, Richard, Sean, Tony, Dave L + Pauline. Arrive at Carshalton and buy a stabiliser for the trailer.

30/6 Wash at Carshalton for Dave B to return from Warwick with Steve. Drive to Nembaven, and ferry to Dieppe.

31/6 Car drives off the ferry into Dieppe, without the Van. Using the radios we eventually meet up again. Sleep and drive on. At about 7 pm on the motorway the van overheats. Turn off the motorway, and stay at a campsite.

2/7. Since the van needs a new head gasket, which will take until tomorrow evening, we formulate a plan. Dave B + David stay in France with a broken van full of junk, Sean + Dave L drive to Lagos with all the light gear, and the trailer. Everyone else takes two heavy rucksacks by train/coach to Arriondas, courtesy of the RAC. Gavin is picked up on the road to Courdange by the car at 4-30.

4/7 No one else has used the log-book, and I am sitting here all on my own, so I will put down a few hints for those new to camping (and those who have forgotten!).

It is important to keep the camp as hygienic as possible. Read the notes on this subject and especially remember to do the washing-up whenever you have some free time, and to keep the food supplies safe from ants, flies etc. The rubbish-bucket shouldn't be used without a bin-bag inside it, otherwise it will fester horribly.

Since we have only one set of keys to the car and trailer, it is important that these are always kept accessible, preferably somewhere in the main tent.

The car should be kept locked all the time as should the trailer. Finally, if you are expecting people to arrive back at the camp late make sure there is some food for them.

IOUS MUD! - NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT FOR COOLING THE BLOOD - SO FOLLOW ME, FOLLOW -

What we did yesterday after arriving at 5:00 am.

(2) Gavin and Paul went shopping, then Sean went to Cangas to try and get 'el permiso' without much success. Come back on Monday.

Then I drove to Arriandras to intercept Richard, Steve, Sam, Pauline and Tony with their 11 rucksacks. Two further trips up the hill to collect the trailer (it's very heavy) and phone el Jefe in France. The news is that the van needs a new engine (£1400) which may be fitted by Friday. Phone on Monday at 6:00 pm to find out what they are doing.

Everyone except Sam and Steve carried up to Arrio, Richard, Dave and Pauline stayed at Arrio.

The plan, on the 4th, Richard, Pauline + Tony rig into 2/7 as far as possible. On the 5th, Sean, Paul, Sam + Steve ~~is hope~~ continue, hoping to reach Pessimisi, while Gavin + Dave + rig 6/5.

Steve - I need the receipt for your coach journey so we can claim it back from the RAC.

Sean.

Sunday - The fog seems to be closing in. I don't think we can hold out much longer; unless the momflakes arrive soon, then it's all up with us. Natives appear restless so we have pitched the tents in a circle; they look in, we look out. God, Camethen, a man can only stand so much!

Small thoughts - perhaps we should paint the ~~the~~ van a sort of lemon colour.

We Josh left home @ 7^{am} on Saturday + got to Lagos @ about 11 am Sunday.

Trip to Heathrow was made at exceptional speed (well over 70 mph) + then lots of hanging around to get on plane, then sitting on run ways then getting to Bibo + waiting waiting waiting for rucksacks to be unloaded. Then race to taxi, speed to Tins trans + relax for some hours (about 5) until arrived in Arriandras. Ask about buses to Coradonga - told no more tonight, so start to walk - only to be passed

RIGHT DOWN TO THE HOLLOW AND THERE WE SHALL WALLOW IN GLOOOORIOUS MUD! →

by the last bus-balls. Feel like being 'home' walking through Cdgas, but do not stop, + continue to hitch - no luck. Decide that the fields with hay are too dangerous x snakes to sleep in + whilst daydreaming of the same an adder wriggles across my path just 2 yds ahead. Where am I going to sleep? Too tired to get up the hill now. Luckily the 1st souvenir shop was equipped with very clean tiled floor, with walls (2' high) and veranda - an ideal dosing spot - and quiet - as well thought. Then every Tom, Dick and Harry turned up in their noisy cars to have a little cramped sex in the car park. Eventually they went away + sleep was enjoyed. Then up early to walk to Caradanga, then on to the new Los Lagos road. Then try to hitch + get picked up by the ICONA who were reading about ENCAENIA! They wondered if jaguars did really walk around in such silly clothes - yes, sadly. Came over the pass to Lago Encina to the stream of romantic Enje. Wawwee! Arrived to find a shunk + greased brown tent + NO RED VAN Aaaaggh! And no pc (personal computer) - postman's computer. Only Tony to tell the tales of dead vans + big bags + heat the stew + make the tea. Not an auspicious start! A mirror has also been brokeno dem dem dem dem (dramatic music). Apparently Inspector Gadget and Captain Chaos are living it up in La Belle France. Let's face it the red van out-escargoted the frogs.

It is passing it down - still. A Spanish camper has exclaimed - 'Los Lagos, todo Lagos,' she ^{slipped} ~~stumbled~~ away adjusting her snorkel.

Nature Notes. I been + seen lots of them creatures. They was:-
fire flies, adders (nearly got run over), red squirrel, owl, tree creepers

Joan

The weather at Ario is completely horrible - it is raining and winding with gusto - so I tried to escape it by coming down to Base, but I cannot, for it is everywhere. The path is ^{like} a mud bath.

For the moment I can forget that very soon I have to go back to Ario. Joan has fed me til I am Flap. Thankyou
while I concentrate on food

P.

6/7/92

(u) Got up Monday Morning.

O.K. - so you think that this is a pretty cap write up for Monday.
Not so. Examine it once again - it infers a number of possibilities :-

- ① Despite the weather the world a) still exists
b) has not been washed away.
- ② Despite the rain a) I did not drown in the night
b) The ground was still firm enough to stand on.
- ③ Despite the wind I did not find myself unable to get up due to being wrapped up in a tent which had wandered into the gully.
- ④ Despite the squall there still seems to be a reason for getting up.

* Washed knickers, shorts + somebody else's socks whilst the cloud rilled in @ ground level.
OK HAPPY DAY.

The only other people - have just left.

4:00 am Slagger down to Arrio in the rain after rigging 2/7 to armageddon ledge with paul. Sit around drinking vino tinto and eating bread dipped in a rather hot curry stew which we found.

9:30 am Woken up by gavin calling for a mug of tea before he walked up to the entrance to guide Sam and Steve down to Arrio.

10:10 Set off for Arrio to escape from the squall conditions of a camp being rapidly washed away.

12:30 Arrive at Lagos to find Joan ankle deep in mud cooking lunch.

The weather at Arrio is worse than completely horrible, no one has any dry clothes, all the tents seem to let in the rain and the proper working of Tony's petrol stove remains a mystery.

Sitting at base I wonder how long the food at Arrio will last.

If no one walks down soon they will probably starve, since neither Joan nor I intend to walk up into the swamp. Their only hope is if J.C. arrives and manages to follow the path without getting lost.

(5)

High Drana. its 19.42 Where are the best covers of Arco?

Steve + Joan worried over a 3 course meal... (TO BE CONTINUED)
(But only after the after dinner mints).

I want to say something about the D.O.E x Fred group. Fred said not to take water as they'd be a Bobias in 40 minutes. So if someone had fallen over in the snow + rocks, there'd have been no way of quickly clearing a wound. So 10% to the boys and a little less to Fred.

Sorry Fred Joan.

Thursday

Another gloomy gloopy day with some prospect of improving weather → the odd glimpse of sol etc. Many down @ Base go out with a late trip to the bar which turned into a huge meat-out with over one vegetarian standing by their principles. Much bocadillo-de-tenera was sunk. An early start was suggested.

Weds

An early start was slept through.

By the way yesterday evening provided the wonderful sight of a very pretty light-tailed fox darting around in the gloom.

It nearly had the guts to come right over to us, but eventually straggled over to the quarry + went off home with something, just after that a bat flew past. Weds morning a Egyptian weather showed up.

Groups of folks trailing back up the hill. The red van not yet here but reappears with boys who are doing well. They go for a day in Cangas de Ons.

Sean + Joan + last have a sock-out down at the O.K. Washing up Bowl. Which was followed by about 15 rinses. USE THE ARIEL AMANO VERY SPARINGLY! even on really desperate clobber!

1st TENT RENT as the green gear tent finally peels apart. Expedition don't expedition without a broken vehicle + a broken tent.

BUT HE'S BASKING ALLOVER - IN MUD COVERED CLOVER, ~~ONCE AGAIN HE WILL UTTER THIS SOUND~~ ONCE AGAIN HE WILL UTTER THIS SOUND →

(6)

An official note from the treasurer :-

The kitty will no longer buy drinks in bulk to be sold at camp. Feel free to buy wine yourself and sell it to people but I am not going to continue to buy and account for it. At least 4 cartons of wine and four bottles have been taken i.e. ~500 pt worth, and I found 382 D6 in the pot. This is obviously chaos. Can everyone who has taken any of the kitty wine please put their name in the notebook, so I can work out how much has been taken without being passed for.

For everyone who has forgotten how the kitty works, you must record every transaction involving the kitty whether it is buying bread from the bar, with your money or kitty money or buying postcards from the kitty whether you put money in the box or not. Shopping trips should be recorded in the separate folder which is to be kept IN THE CAR, with the shopper and a pen. If you can manage to write things down properly it should be possible to keep track of the kitty money, but over the last shopping trip the books have gone out of balance from the cash by 78 pt. If this doesn't stop, the kitty will have to be kept under sb. else's control.

Sean,

BREAD → REMEMBER TO EAT THE OLDER STUFF 1st.
AND TOP-UP LAGOS from the bar so that Ano can be well stocked. Bread eating is 'in' this year.

MUD! MUD! GLORIOUS MUD - NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT FOR COOLING THE BLOOD, SO FOLLOW

(7)



Faint handwritten notes in blue ink, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



MUD! MUD! CLORIOUS MUD - NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT FOR COOLING THE BLOOD, SO FOLLOW

7

Mountain West Prints



Hope your having
and finding lots of
Mega-New stuff
Me? I'm just hanging
out doing nothing

Jim



OUCC
c/o LISTA DE CORREOS
CANGAS DE ONIS
ASTURIAS
SPAIN

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

This aerial view of downtown Salt Lake City shows the L.D.S. Church Office Building, the L.D.S. "Mormon" Temple, the oval-shaped Mormon Tabernacle and the many modern skyscrapers found in the downtown area. The magnificent snow-capped Wasatch Mountain Range in the background.

Photo: S.L. Con/Vis Bureau



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Cataratas do Iguaçu Brasil
Vista Aérea
Iguassu Falls Brazil
Aerial View

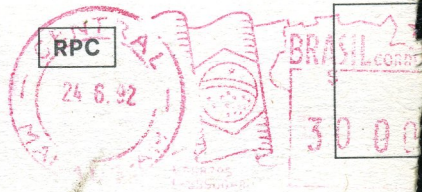
WED 24th JUNE 1992



I've been fairly zipping round this continent, six countries in 3 1/2 months already. I've gone from Ecuadorian beaches to Chilean deserts, Bolivian mountains to Brazilian plains. Only one cave so far and that wasn't very impressive.

but standing chest deep in water fishing for piranhas with raw red meat in alligator infested swampland was exciting! A quick boat trip up the Amazon has brought us to Manaus, a huge city on the banks of the river. Beer here is even cheaper than Spain + I've been thinking of the expedition I'm missing while quaffing cheap imported 43. Good luck with finding an effort saving lower entrance for (young) old lags like me for next year. Happy pushing, love to you all Andy QB.

PHOTO BY MANOEL AMARAL
EMPREENHIMENTOS CATARATAS S/A P.O. BOX 307 (85.890) FOZ DO IGUAÇU BRASIL
CODENR 107 M

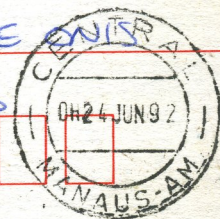


OXFORD UNIVERSITY CAVE CLUB

LISTA DE CORREOS

CANGAS DE ONIS

ASTURIAS



ESPANHIA

ME, FOLLOW! RIGHT DOWN TO THE HOLLOW, AND THERE WE SHALL WALLAW IN GLOOORIOUS

⑧ WEDNESDAY NIGHT 12-30

THE VAN ARRIVES with fresh French bread + ripe Goungola.
And Tony comes down @ 1:30 to carry up goodies next.

Thursday

Tent removals inc. get to work. A bright sun that soon turns to fog.
THE PIECE OF WIRE THAT'S BEEN COMING ON EXPEDITION SINCE BEFORE DAVE HORSELEY
HAS AT LAST BEEN USED! It fixed the cottery rack!

A WORD FROM THE EXPEDITION NURSE REGARDING
REHYDRAT

Rehydrat is for sick people only - those with heatstroke, vomits,
diarrhoea. There is so small a supply that it MUST be kept
for those occasions only.

If you have been belting around in the sun drink squash, or
water + eat sugar (or marshmalls or syrup) and salt.

You DO NOT NEED TO BE FEEBLE AT ~~ADDING~~ ADDING SALT TO
COOKING. ADD PLENTY.

Bot PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DON'T DRINK THE MEDICINE
AS A SPORTS-DRINK.

9/7/92

Thank-you!

We have arrived (David)

A mexican phrase: (~~because~~ ^{because} I have destroyed the original)

"Este recipiente de agua pertenece a la expedición
espeleológica de la universidad de Oaxpd. Si
necesita agua, por favor no la tome de nuestro
recipiente, tómela de la fuente. Después de llenar
su botella, le rogamos que ponga nuestro recipiente
donde se encontraba, así continuará llenándose.
¡Muchas gracias!

Later

I have lent two of my lightweight tents to the expedition, one of which was brand new I was somewhat annoyed to find that they have both been badly damaged in the week in which I have been away (remember, one was brand new). Remember:

Lightweight tents are very fragile and very expensive, so treat them with respect, especially if they are not yours. Be careful with zips, don't force them and don't try to squeeze through a narrow gap without undoing the zip properly. Be careful with the fabric as well, because this too is fragile, even when brand new.

David

ps Thank you for mending them, Joan.

The standard reply to anyone who complains about the expense of this expedition will be:

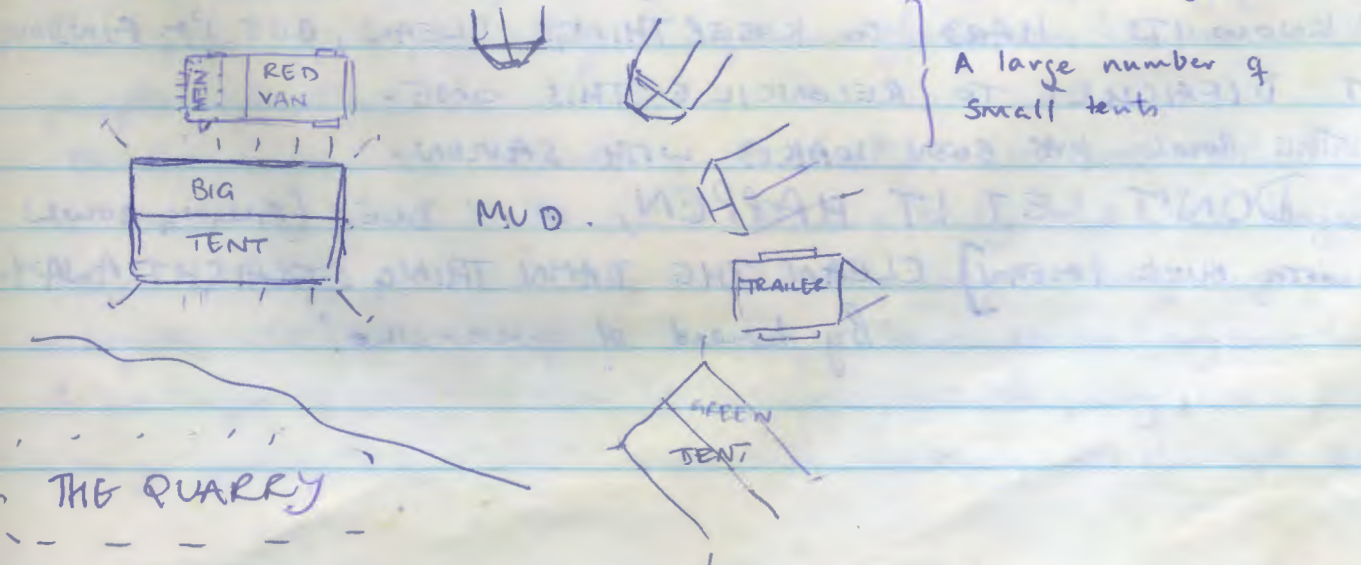
"L.U.T.B" - Look Under The Bonnet.

BY ORDER

EL JEFE

Even Later

Inspector Gadget, Joan and Garin descend on Base Camp and move and reorganize it in its entirety.



for those who are interested and don't get bored by obvious notices:

- ① BIG TENT: Living in. NO PERSONAL KIT
NO CAVING KIT
- ② GREEN TENT: Caving kit NO PERSONAL KIT
- ③ TRAILER: Personal kit. This is where you will find anything you left in 12 ~~and~~ above.
- ④ VAN: Expedition gear. NO PERSONAL KIT.

David

11/7

Back @ Base + its a pit. Hoped it was about 3 o'clock but it was about 6! Luckily caught Dave + Sean about to go up so got final shopping list for up camp gone. Spend hrs clearing + tidying down here + giving hard Paddington Bear like stories to the Spaniards who are stood right in the middle of our little camp + are getting in my way (and one is puffing a DISGUSTING cigar). Clag moves in a bit.

NOTE KEEPING CLEAN

ONE OF THE WASHING UP BOWLS WAS FULL OF DIRT. I KNOW ITS HARD TO KEEP THINGS CLEAN, BUT I'M FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE THIS ONE.

THE BOWL HAS BEEN SOAKED WITH SAVLON.

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN, IF IT DOES (FILLING BOWLS WITH MUCK I MEAN) CLEAN THE DAMN THING STRAIGHT AWAY.

By demand of gress-who?