

OUMCC

Boca del Joon

'95

Base Camp

Chartwell

Manuscript Book

Narrow feint and margin

Reference A4-629K

(1)
Oucc Boca Del Joon Expedition 1995

Expedition Members Include:

- ROB "Dances With Wolves" Garrett
ANITA "Sun Worshipper" Miličević
WILL "Grumpy Bastard" Jeremy
Sir James "Shoot to Kill" Hooper } The brave Knights
Sir John "Never Too Late" Pybus. } of the Water Table.
Mike "Base Camp" Coram
Iain "Is it really a volcano?" Clump
Alex " ~~Tafton~~ "Harding" "The Incredible Melting Man"
Oli "Hilton"
William "The Next Degeneration" Stead.
Wtodek "Didn't Drink Don't Drive" Szymanowski
Pauline "Random Bolter" Rigby
Martin "A dig" Lavery
Leik
Paul "Hot Bed" Mann.
Tim "Spar of the Moment" Guildford
Harvey "Where's my Prusik bag?" Smith
Chris "I haven't got time to go caving" Vernon
"Fashion Victim" Denham.
Anette "Nurse-maid" Becka
Bill "Gasepsa" Naylor
SNARET "Fast Recovery Service"
John "Grand old Man of the Pices" Wilcock - oldest of old legs.
Dave "El Jefe with the t-shirt to prove it"
Lacey.
Lesley "Shattered Cantalidge" Smith
Pete "Exposure fiend" P. Gardener
Tompa "Pivo" Károly "Ivo Pybus."
Pivo Paella Prince

A Human Time Bomb
- He must be
stopped before he
kills us all. . . .

(3)
28/06/95

James: Can you do a bit that I can see, Anita?

The van packed we set off for the limestone hills of the Picos. ... (17:34)

We need an expedition whip with lashings for misdemeanors. ...
crap navigation 5 lashes.

29/6/95 : 7.30.

Rescue Report : 2.30 am, just the time when you don't need a callout. You can't choose your rescues however, and when Will missed his callout James switched into rescue mode...

First wave were soon back, but there was no news. A more concerted effort was required.

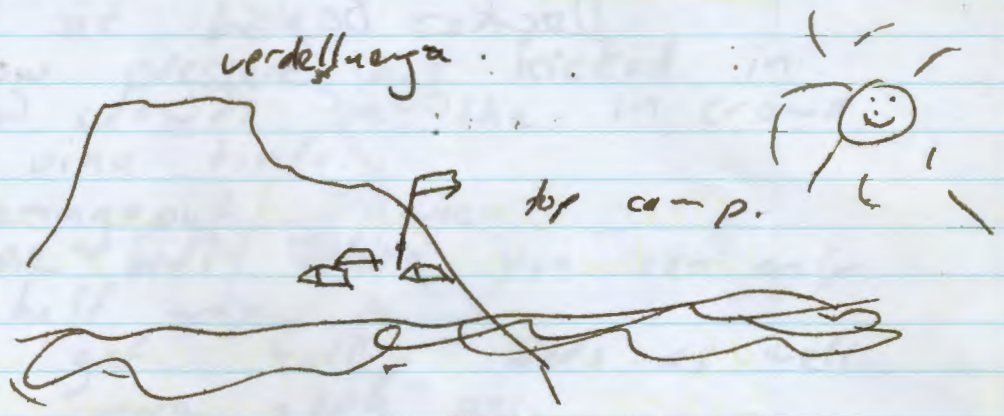
Search teams were despatched to cover all the decks, and even the inter-com was employed. And still Will Jeremy didn't "report" to the car deck.

Amid rumours that he'd had enough and jumped off the rear deck rather than face the drive through France, we launched one last attempt to locate the potential victim.

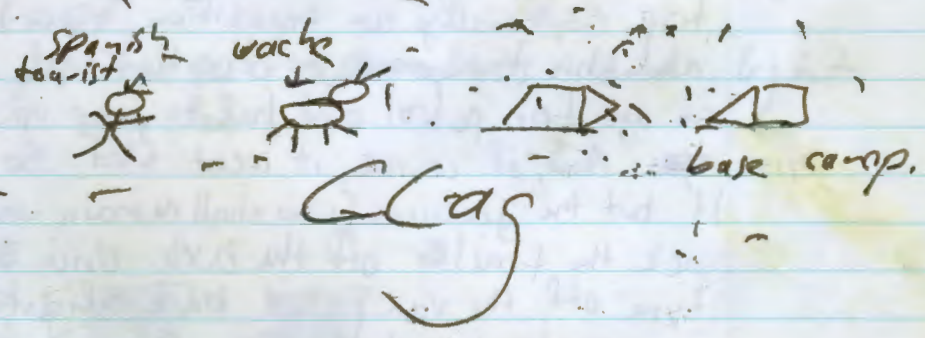
Meanwhile some the other drivers on the car deck weren't seeing the funny side.

It was van controller Rob, who finally saved the day and spotted Will + a met sleeping bag returning from a bench (?!). All that remained was the less than trivial task of collecting OJ from deck 9, Mike from goodness knows where and Anita from the pink staircase.
Not turning up to drive the van 100 lashes

7.32 a.m. Café au lait et du chocolate cloud...



SPANISH WEATHER



29/6/95 130 pm

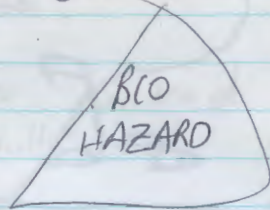
The Sun is hotter than in Africa. We've just had some lunch + icecream (chocolate) by an oily and slimy river somewhere north of Poitiers and walked back about 20 m to the steaming hot van. Can't wait to start moving and create some drought. Ever helpful Anita^(me) assisted with the food boxes which have to be thrown in immediately before shutting the back door... I pushed the door "gently" but obviously too gently, as it derailed during the operation. Our skillful mechanics Mike, James and Will took turns in trying to lever the door back into place. They used different metal rods, a spoon and finally and successfully a big screwdriver. Great! Let's go! I've earned 15 lashes anyway but I can't beat ^{still} will... Shall I just shut the back door and we can take off. Slaaaaam! Oh, NO... It happened again. However, thanks to the previous practice it took will only 2 min. to fix it. Our van is an invalid now, poor thing. Handle carefully! Total score: 15 + 30 lashes.

5

Duck Boys.

0acc . 94

Cast Years. Play.



29

26 June 95 8:40pm

Just pulling out of a garage in Bordeaux. No once trip, especially an expedition, can be w/o van problems, and this trip proved no exception. We stopped an hour or so ago for petrol and had to pump up one of the trailer ~~tyres~~ ^{tyres}. And, of course, it went flat. So we stopped to change it, but the geniuses (who shall remain unnamed) tried to jack the trailer off the axle. Once we got the bugged tyre off, the van rolled back slightly making it impossible to put the new one on - even flat. So, with a little caring ingenuity, made up of an ammo can a tent pole, and a lot of people standing around taking photos we propped the ~~van~~ ^{trailer} & moved the jacks. The precarious task (it was under the trailer) was accomplished w/ ease. The tyre was changed quickly, and, after a few smiles of the checkout girl we were on our way. After we refilled the radiator, that is. But that van breakdown story remains untold as of yet... & remembrance? Will it become worse making an earlier write up ~~super to~~ superfluous? Stay tuned ~~to this channel~~. Same bat time... Same bat channel

Mike

30/6/95

A surprisingly decent nights kip on the near side of S. Sebastian. We wake up to light slugs.

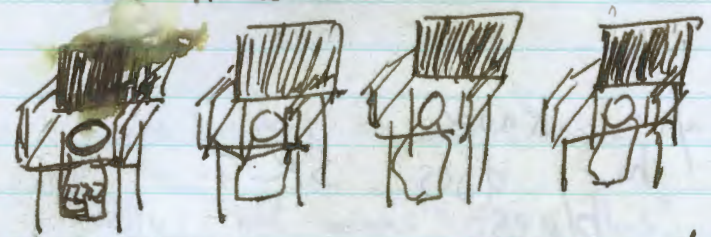
1st night at base camp -
Ollie's low pressure has kicked in.
How many crowds in the in crowd.
mas vino tinto.....

Who's coming out --- when ---
An apple pie bodi' where you can only
get half way in.
And you get holly bods as well.
We need more apple pies.
Rob didn't know (in his minute wisdom)

PEDANTRY
They'll put history in the middle of your
name if you're not careful.
woof woof.

We need profilactz spaceballs and light
sabros ... oh dear.

SPANISH ROULETTE :



Hey babe toast my codger.
12:15 am ... It's a bit chillier here in
the sun.

Not ~~was~~ his beard or his lip. ...
It's in his pocket. ...
It'll be so funny if it comes out.

1/7/95

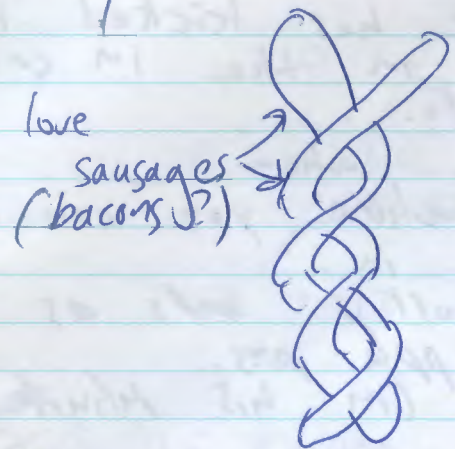
After a successful day of carries
and sorting out base camp we've
swopped from lastings to fingers.



cidre

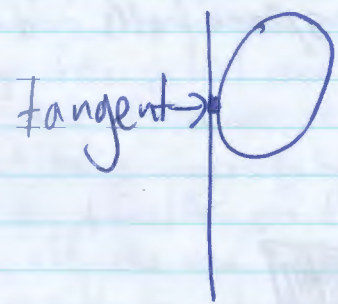
110% → 90%

They think they know.....



Boys boys boys-

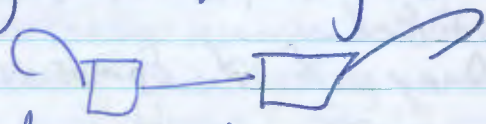
It's all rumours. too complicated.



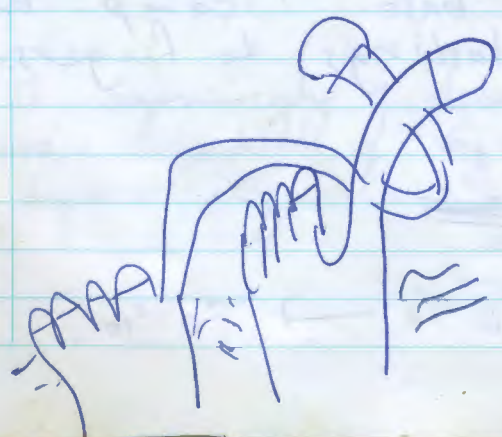
A bigger tangent than a tangent.

Water sports you know. That's why he does SR.T. Funding blues.

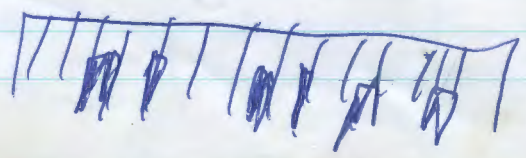
Varsity O.U.C.C. vs. C.U.C.C. Squeezing match. It's got Spanish lisp. rectangular glasses



He'll deny it in the morning.



piano practicing.



I've heard many rumours.
Interfering

Iain: I prefer Chris D to Paul Mann!
And also said "She looks gorgeous in the light of
Rob's job?"

3/7/95

Monday Morning at Base

Monday morning at 9 a.m. as the day begins
Quietly leaving the BASE CAMP TENT
Carrying the 100 roll with eager intent
She's leaving base.....
She

We gave her most of our stew.
What ^{teaching} is she going to do.
~~Why~~ ^{we} didn't know it was ~~so~~ good

oh dear
it can
only
get
worse

James, handing a 1000pt note to the bartender: "Cambio"
Olly: That means "Have this".

6 July A ~~the~~ small thought:

ARROZ

Most British rice is long grain rice, but most Spanish rice is pudding
rice which tends to stick together. If you want rice like at home, buy
GRANO LARGO (Long grain), which is available in most Supermarkets. Falco
think it's a lot nicer.

Wilkinson

9
200
180
935
7/7/95

Panline has been down to Mirador de la Reina to collect the "autobus rioja" (or is it rioja autobus?)

William has been washing and making sensible suggestions. He thinks that if we were to use transparent polythene sheet instead of black then the grass could still photosynthesise and might survive. I cannot see why this wouldn't work. ~~don't~~ ^{do} mased potatoes grow in a clear bag?

The food at base camp is a bit limited at present. I am about to dig in to my sweet in rows tentlets with ~~with~~ cauliflower and apple. Yum yum.

8/7/95

I wake up to find a line of twelve Spaniards sleeping outside Big Jane. They got up, and one starts trying to imitate Eric Clapton on the guitar, with little success. The tourists are yawning and I'm listening to Pink Floyd. Storm's a comic.

olly

11/7/95

The flood

A shopping trip to Cangas has just left me guarding the base camp. Weather is a little claggy and it is sunning with tourists. Suddenly it starts to rain heavier by the minute. I put water canisters at the Jane's entrance to stop the flow of water underneath the flaps. Cat's fed, I chose a chair to sit on and wait until the rain stops. It can't go long at this rate. After 2 min. I look down and ~~the~~ notice that my chair is in about 2" of water, the rest of the tent floor ~~&~~ invisible from a newly formed indoors lake. Panic. If it goes on I will have to put two chairs on top of each other to 'escape' drowning. Locality absorbing power of the ground was greater than the ^{rate} ~~amount~~ of water influx. Epilogue: only two small paddle and soaped rucksacs. Shopping trip is back, ~~unaware~~ having had becadillos at Rio Grande while the Big Jane was sinking.

Leave this space empty

Martin & Lenik arrived as James set off into the mist. Wladek & William regaled them with news, plied them with leftover wine from the Kable Ball and found that the new arrivals had been investigating the park and old buildings & 'chocolate can churos' of St Vicente de la Barquera; the park, beach & cliffs of Hanes; and the complex (now levelled off and built over); bar (now with a stuffed brains head & color TV & much higher prices (60pts vino can gas) against 10pts); and cave at the village of Rakes where Martin started caving in Spain more years ago than many of his expedition have had birthdays.

12/7/95

Martin, Lenik & William went shopping. Then went to the village of Cardas to see if it would be possible to visit the Cueva del Buxu with its prehistoric engravings (Michelin ~~xxx~~?* says William). Advertized times are 10:30-12:30 & 16:00-18:30, but there is also a limit of 25 people per day so you really need to organise this ~~with~~ in advance at the guide's house in the village. The local architecture & agriculture is worth a look for its own sake, and you can walk up the path to the cave entrance past a little resurgence which seems to be ~~the~~ ^{used for} ~~the~~ water supply. The cave has a locked metal door.

Will & Anita came down.

13/7/95

Martin carried some food & a sleeping bag for underground camp up to Top Camp in mist until about the turn off from the Arco path. Eventually reached the well hidden camp & was refreshed & relaxed until time to return. This was by something approximating to the 'direct route' passing a couple of promising looking entrances near another definite patch N of Conjurao. There were signs near each entrance so I guess someone else has noted them too although there are no obvious marks of exploration. First is a sloping somewhat elliptical tube ~3m x 2m with snow in floor after a climb down. Can see down about 15m at 45°. Nearby is another obvious entrance to a choked chamber. Second entrance, a few hundred m NW is a 3m drop into hole with impressive narrow slit with an arch & blackness beyond...



Will & Anita went back up to Top Camp after a trip to Cargas.

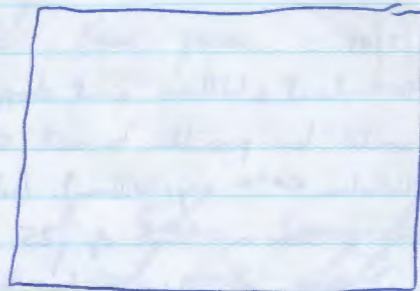
Mist cleared in evening.

14/7/95

Bright & clear morning, but no contact with Top Camp at 9am radio schedule. Gave up after 5 minutes. High cloud developing in a blanket at level of Pena Santa de Castilla by 11am. By 12:30, cloud had cleared from the N and sun came out again as 2 donkeys plus a puyhose left laden for Arip. Earlier, chatted to a Dutch couple at the bar who had followed one of Angrand's walks from S..... to Vega de Orandi & thence steeply down to Cavadanga. They saw a wild boar plus two young on route, plus some snakes. By 4 pm the wisps of cirrus to the N were again replaced by stratus & the cumulus over the peaks began to come down & envelop Top Camp in fog. As Iain & Ollie had arrived earlier now looked now a good time to set off up the hill--

18/7/95

Famous views of the Picos
#1 - Los Lagos



The traditional clog didn't fail to welcome me - relieved to see Big Jones figure appear out of the mist in front of me. Chris Verma was vaguely on the ferry - and may reach here, possibly with bicycle perhaps this week. I'm all fed up (as in leaving water, not leaving misery), and going to walk up to sunny top camp now.

And Iain: you bitch.

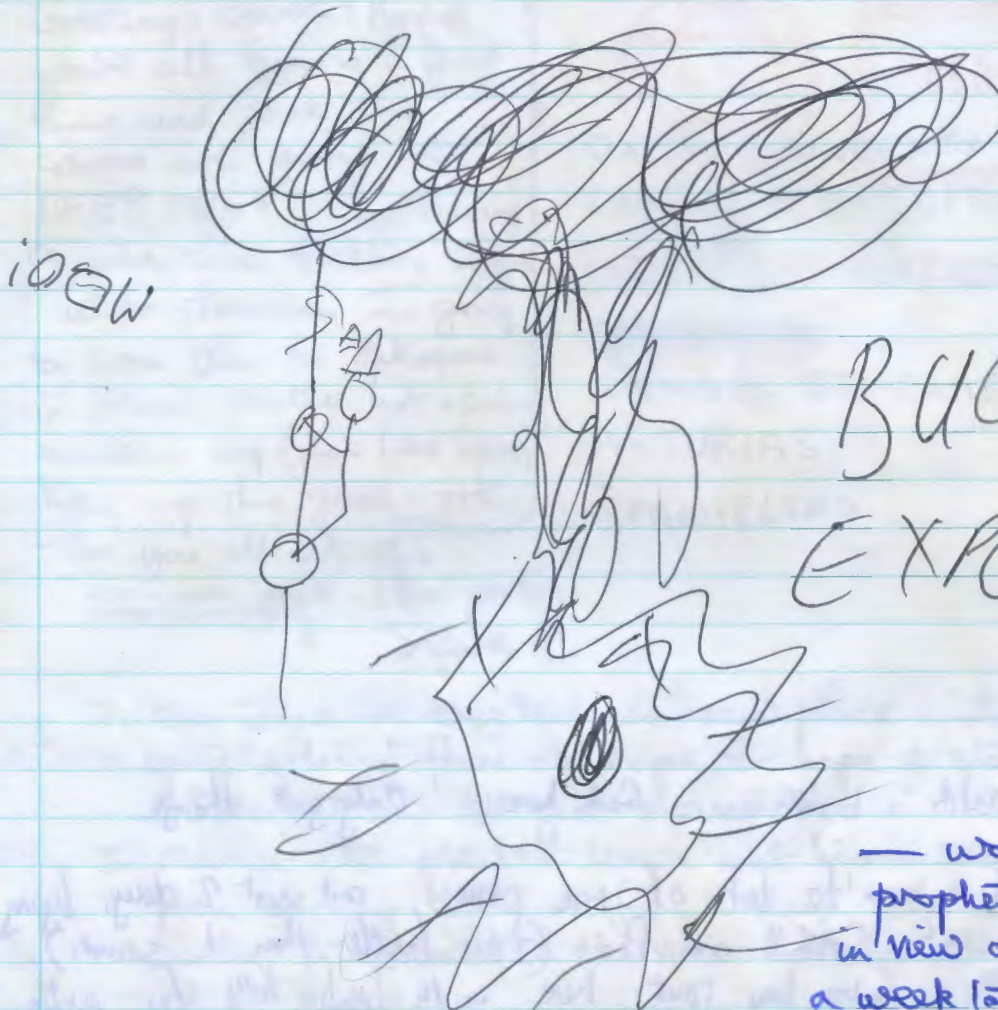
Paul

20/7 (95)

FIESTA

Tim, Paul + Harvey have arrived
2 too MAS (43) x bullshit.

Yes It's the missing system
(you can't last an hour without it!).



BULLSHIT
EXPLOSION.

— was this a prophetic statement, in view of what happened a week later? John.
(3 weeks later!)

~~Food~~ Panhine took upwards, 1800, 20/7/95.

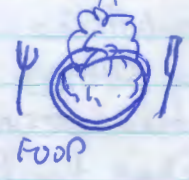
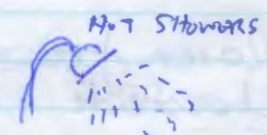
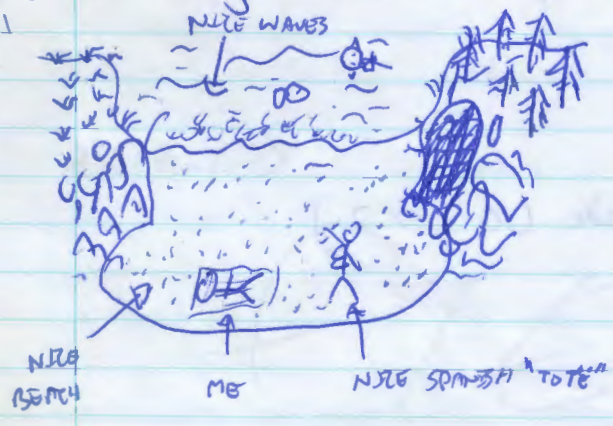
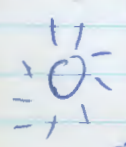
- Raven food (x10).
- Chocolate (x10)
- Tape Measure.
- BDH Alties (for outside UG. x2)
- Small Bottle
- Created Coconut.
- Peaches tin. (x1).
- Squid tin (x1).
- Tim's tent



Uysoké Tatry

Last night, watch is broken ... Got here. Only just though.

I've been to lots of nice places, and spent 2 days lying on the beaches of Santhia and Poo. (It's better than it sounds). I took the extra long route here with extra hills for extra interest and almost regret it. My bike is a bit crap; the wheels make crunchy noises so it's left at Cavadvegy. Serves it right!



= PLEASURE

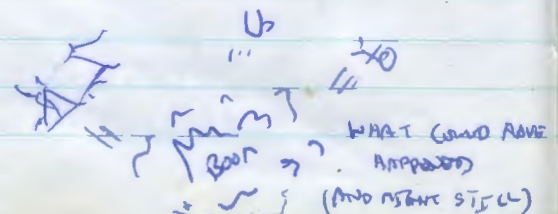
Too much pleasure means more carrying is needed. Oh no! What have I done to deserve this?

Maybe I'll need the gas stove instead.

... find much later.

It's done

C.V.



SLOVAKIA, 12.07.95

VYSOKÉ TATRY

Greetings cavers! Hope
 you're all having a good
 time and that the
 caves are going DEEP,
 DEEP, DEEP! I'm having
 a wild time trekking in the
 Tatras - tomorrow I'm going
 to cross them to Zakopane
 in Poland. Weather hot + sunny
 mountains big (just like Spain)
 Keep up the good work
 - See you all at the



OXFORD UNIVERSITY
 CAVE CLUB EXPEDITION
 LISTA DE CORREOS
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
 GANGLAS DE ONIS
 ASTURIAS
 ŠPANIELSKO

FOTO: A. Jiroušek
 EXPRINT Červený Kostelec

port - 1 km party!
 Steve P.

25/7/95

1330 John arrives after rough crossing in the Bay of Porsicay (same storm as ripped Big Jane?) and terrible trouble getting through the grottoes on the way up from Coradanga.

Having read the Base Camp Log my comment is — why not make it more informative about the goings on at Top Camp?
John (GOD of de Picias oldest of old lags)

25/7/95

1900 Well, certain intrepid tasks were undertaken.

1. Big Jane's rips repaired by sewing with nylon string. Patch made from old overcoat stuck with PVC adhesive over the gaping hole torn by the middle pole — hope Harvey gets reimbursed from the kitty! Rest of the long patch held over the severed area by elastoplast tape.
2. Big Jane re-erected over new place with several new guys spliced from old rope — hope it stands up to the winds better. All gear moved in.
3. Martin attempted to leave but his battery was flat from leaving lights on for 10 days! Eventually restarted using jump leads & the van's battery. Hope he makes it back OK.

Clag descended — at least it got rid of the tourists. Several arrivals from top camp & returns.
John

26/7/95

1015 Martin & Lenik left after breaking the record for the longest time attempting to leave base for home. The car had to be started again using jump leads & the van. Hope they struggle back through France. Harvey, Snablet & Anette leaving for top camp. Claggy today with occasional breaks.
John

ACCIDENT LOG - 28/7/95

8.45 am William & Chris arrive with first news of the Accident. ~6pm
 Incident last night down C9, just above the underground camp.
 Tacklebag of outside reacted, causing an explosion as Alex was descending a pitch. Force apparently sufficient to blow up Alex's possic bag, and knock off his helmet. Apparently slow moving, and trouble seeing due to burns. Paul & Dave down with medical kit, requested that we take up cave food & fuel/stoves.

[RADIO] 9.00 first degree burns to face & lost hair
 Harvey at C9 entrance, Whodek arrive 3am at top camp
 John - Top Camp controller
 Harvey - surface controller
 Chris - Base camp

Need food at top camp, [JAMES & WILL SENT FROM HERE]
 Also Epigas, that's sent up. (fuel sent up, stove to purchase).
 Harvey searching for helicopter sight if necessary
 Expecting information from underground ~ 18:00 hrs
 Second wave ~ 22:00 hrs if incident more serious and Alex needs assistance leaving.

Radio base left as permanently: expect transmissions on 1/4 hours.

9-15 James + Will walk up with:
 via S spring
 1/2 box tinned
 7 Epigas cartridges
 6 bags sugar
 15 breads
 2 mag + saline
 1 goretex bag
 2 plastic survival bags
 lots AA batteries
 Another stove
 Más food

Pauline to go to Congo to buy:

Incident information:

[2-30 am] Whodek arrived at top camp at 2-30 am with news of accident. All 5 covers reported to be sleeping in 4 pits waiting for more fuel + set kit for Alex. (Both petrol stoves broken, his set kit exploded.)

What is not known: Is Alex seriously injured/incapacitated?
 Is a rescue necessary?

- 10-30 Whodet on radio with more information:
Alex made his own way from near bottom of cave back to camp so is presumably not too badly hurt but may be in shock.
- 11-00 Team VonRonge goes chipping.
- 12-00 Willy is reported as having arrived at Top Camp
- 14-00 Not so much as a hint of activity reported at either camp.
- 14-01 The start of a long hot fester.
- 18-00 News from Top Camp - Alex is out of the cave - exact knowledge of condition not as yet known.
- 19-00 Paula, Ian, John, Anita take up supplies
- 19-30 Alex at Top Camp, ~~on~~ on way back down. Singed voice hoarse, but feel OK. Will be taken to hospital as precaution. Incident closed.

Some quotes on the Star Trek theme 2.8.95
collected by John.

1. "Well, we've got 'Klingon', 'The Next Degeneration', and 'Well, Jim', but what other Star Trek names are there?"
2. "1701 is the accurate Star Trek number for the Enterprise, but OUC-1961 would be more historically accurate for the Picos Expeditionis"
3. (While discussing an old survey at Top Camp)
"It's a cave, Jim, but not as we know it."
4. "F64 is a real 'Beam me up, Scottie' cave".



(17)

2.8.95

Well, the time for my departure, early in the morning of 3.8.95, approaches. As usual, I've thoroughly enjoyed myself, but I hope I have also been useful in practical domestic matters, such as mending Big Jane and organising things at Top Camp. Thanks for putting up with the GOM yet again.

Of my four productive days at Top Camp, the following are my memories:

1. 28.7.95 The rescue - cooking mountains of stew - Marks I & II (^{Mark} I was more successful) and keeping half-hour radio watches. We're lucky to have got off with this rescue relatively lightly, and OCCC must learn from the mistakes (which as a previous underground cave rescue controller I can see).

2. 29.7.95 Dowsing the course of C3, and suggesting that it has the potential to by-pass Choke Egbert and produce many more km of passage in the Culimbros System (for full details see Top Camp log).

3. 30.7.95 Dowsing the course of F64, and suggesting that it joins C3 near Pico Guatutera (see Top Camp log).

4. 31.7.95 Combined shaft-bashing/dowsing trip. The new cave F85 found by Paul & Bill was tagged, and then dowsed while Bill & Pivo were carrying out initial explorations. Suggesting the course of the cave to aid further exploration, and suggesting that F85 joins F64 near the Xitu path (see Top Camp log).

It will be interesting to see whether these predictions come true. Well, perhaps that's enough potential discoveries for you to be getting on with for now.

John

FRIDAY

BACK 18:00 Sat

IAN B → CULIAMBRA via ARIO + Canal de Tera

Pass back via Cain if clear weather.

Should be here on top camp Sat evening.

* Callout Sunday 0:900

SPACE FOR
JOAN'S LETTER

19

#15/AS

The Knights of the Water Table Part the
First

After a long and perilous journey, Sir James and Sir John, ~~have~~ those brave Knights of the Water Table have returned to Lagos triumphantly having completed the quest for the Inflatable Boat given to them by the noble Sir Wlodek. Does peace still reign in the realm? Does Sir Snablet still hold the hand of the fair Lady Anette? Is Sir John's sacred thumb still blessed? ~~How~~ How can they carry on without William, the faithful Stead???

Dye detectors page

I've put 3 in the culiambos for you to pick up (#'s 2, 3, 4).

In addition, #1 (on gas bottle)

Spent 12 hours in the resurgence water whilst I was camping last night. It should be a measure of background in Culiambos resurgence, before fluorescin gets there.

Nice walk, love [unclear]

Culiambro Background.

Size of bag

Culiambro Dye Detectors.

When it went in

When it came out

#1 (small)

IN	20:00 hrs	04/08/95.
OUT	08:00 hrs	05/08/95

Place - Rope in Resurgence Pool.

In ziplock on gas bottle.

Where it was/is

Culiambro test 1

#2 (small) IN 08:00hrs 05/08/95.

Place - Rope in Resurgence pool.

Still in

Culiambro test 2

#3 (large) IN 08:00 hrs 05/08/95.

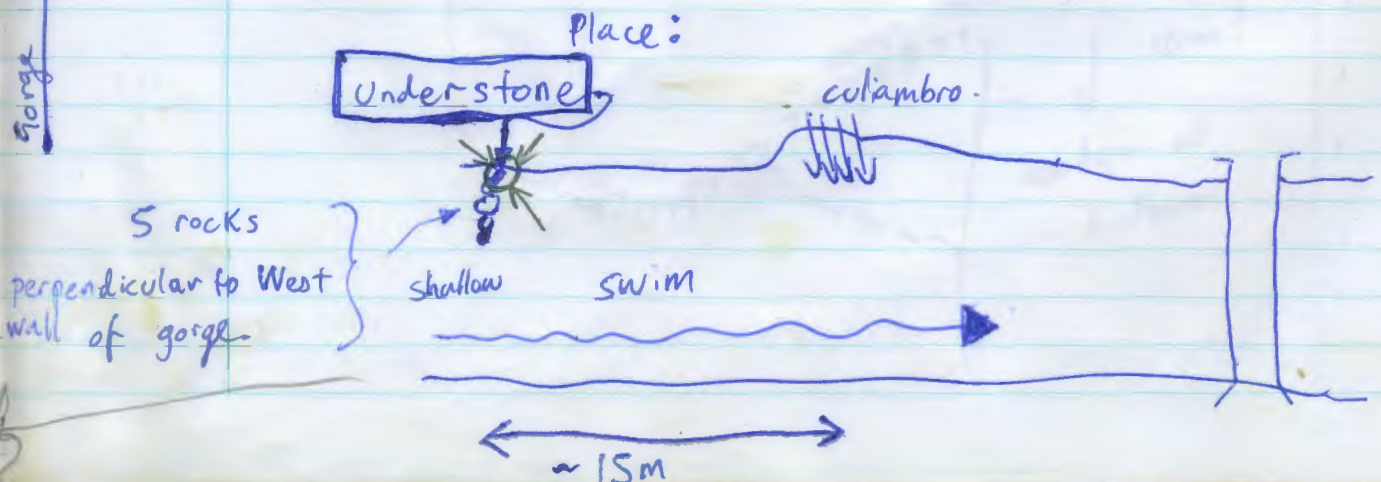
Place - Jammed tent peg in Rh side of resurgence crack.

Still in

Gorge Control

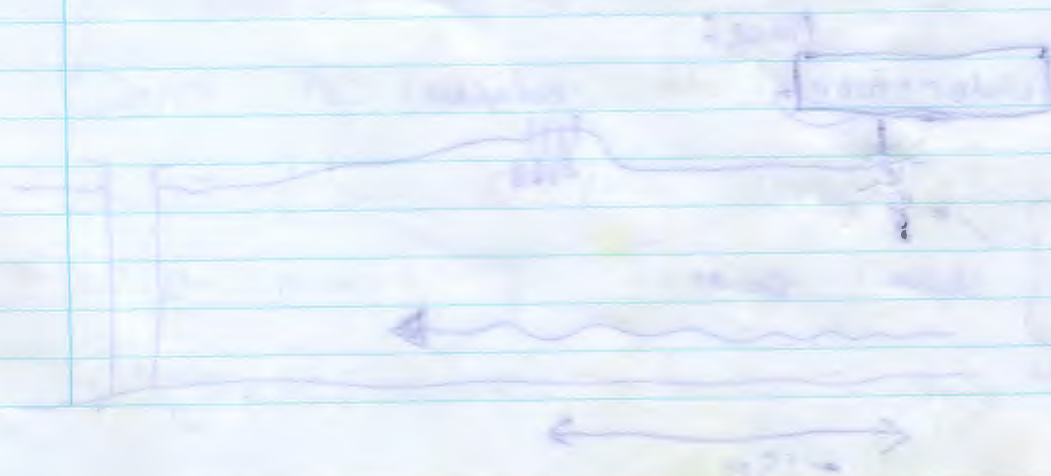
#4 (large) IN 09:00 hrs 05/08/95.

Still in



The Knights of the Water Table Part the Second

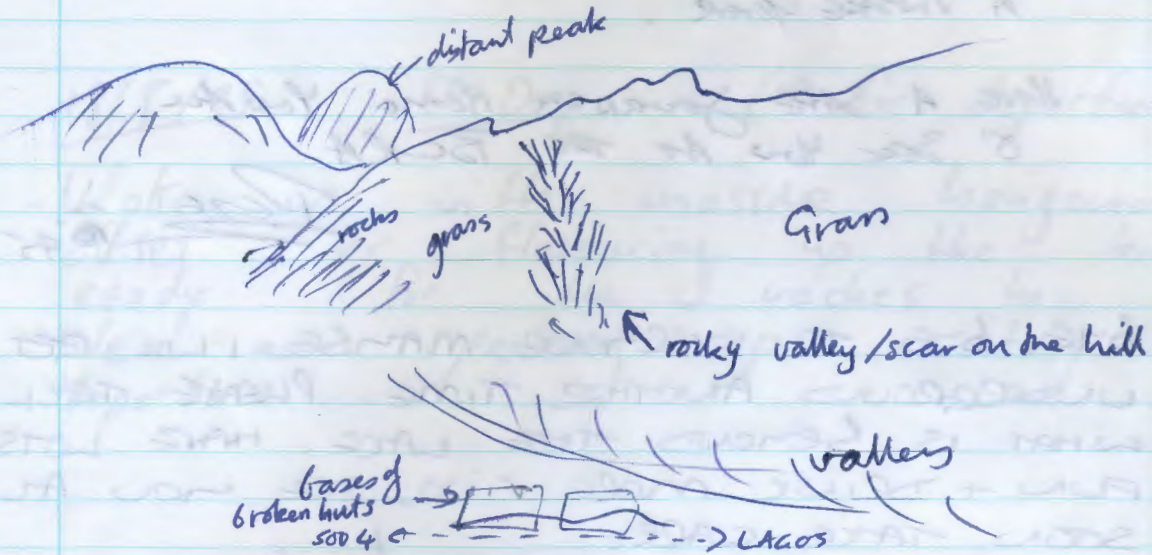
And so with these questions in mind Sir John and Sir James decided to set off once again in search of Harding — no one knew his first name nor where he came from but he turned up from time to time giving sound advice and sold a few fireworks on the side. Sir John ~~bold~~ marched off with the Inflatable boat while Sir James paused to speak to the lovely Maria Rosa. This was, of course, pure because to Sir James all things in life must be pure. It rained and then the clouds cleared and the sun shone upon the land. Neither of the brave knights saw him arrive but suddenly Harding appeared between them and walked with them over a few ridges to a cleft in the rock with ropes going down it. "There," said Harding, "take the Inflatable Boat in his infinite wisdom, take the Inflatable Boat and follow the Cord in the ~~Stone~~ Stone."



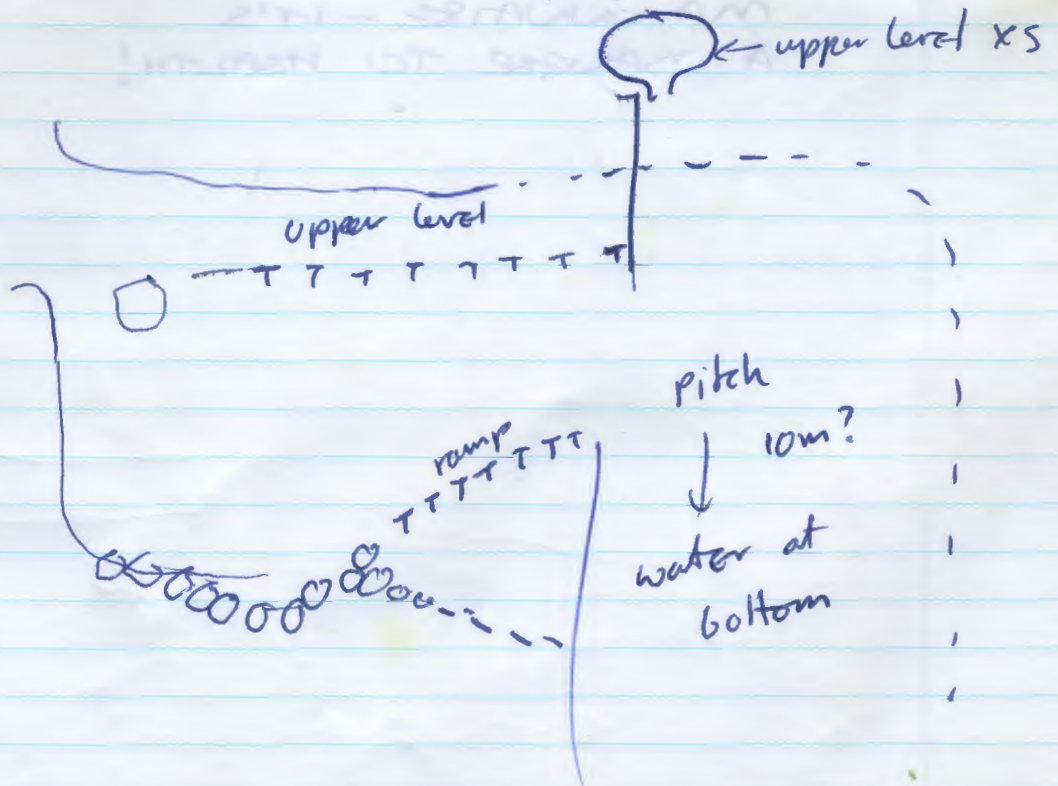
Stormshelter Cave

We found this on the way down from top camp and sheltered in it during the thunder.

To get to it, turn off the Aris path 100-200m before sad 4 (on the way up). You'll see 2 broken down shepherds huts. Look up the ridge & you'll see:



go up ~~at~~ rocky valley, past one or 2 entrances marked SIG. When it becomes grassy there is a round entrance in the rocks on the right with a cairn.



11.8.95

DAVE

MICHE'S TENT IS IN YOUR BOOT.
PLEASE AIR + REPACK IT IN OXFORD, IT WAS PUT AWAY
DRY SO IT SHOULD BE OK.

TA. PEZ.

FARE THIS WILL SPAIN & BACK DEC JUNE 95
A VINTAGE YEAR.

HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY HOME YOU ALL
& SEE YOU AT THE BCRA

PEZ 95.

BYE BYE TO EVERYONE, MAMBE I'LL GET
UNDERGROUND ANOTHER TIME. PLEASE TELL US
WHAT IS BEYOND THE LAKE. HAVE LOTS OF
FUN + DRINK MORE WINE. SEE YOU ALL
SOON. TAKE CARE.

helen

PS. DON'T TRUST THE
MAYONNAISE - IT'S
A DANGER TO HEALTH!

17/8/95

On the way down from the Geustertere Col I saw one of the most incredible sights that I have ever seen - the Picos. To start with I saw five vultures circling over Xitu. Then a few more came and joined them. There were about 12 at this point. Then they started flying in from all directions. By the end I counted 29 although I'm fairly sure there were more than this. Finally they decided as a group to fly off down the valley towards Lagos.

Dave

18/8/95

D-Day

(D for departure).

Woke up with massive hangover
 off set by flavouring up the bins
 ready for the caches ha.....
 We're now packing up awaiting
 departure.

(23) end

the gear Things to do before 1996
expedition

fix and waterproof Big Jane and top camp tent