

Gustutera
1996

—
Base camp log



Jason James Pitman (WOT DABNEY)	
Ollie	Get up and slash Hitler
Alex	Hard but stupid - Harding
Michael	Happy happy joy joy - Playford
Anita	The Way Forward (!) - Millic
John	Surface Controller - Pybus
Pauline	D'yer wanna be in my gang? - Rigby
Nobby	Mumford
Andy	Crash the van - King
Tim	Gulferns
Martin	Laverty
Lenik	Symo
Jo	'He tried to eat my shorts' Whistler
Martin	'caving is The Principle' Smith
Geoff	'Gooseberry?' Newton
Bill	'Rex the Ferocious' Naylor
God	Mumford
Andy	Scott
Nick	'Small Spanish Boys' Burcham
Paul	'Melons for ecstasy' Mann
Bob	Kinnistan
Tim	Barton
Fumpa	

OXFORD UNIVERSITY
CAVE CLUB
LIBRARY

And brief cameos by:

Fred Wickham

Jim Sheppard

5.7.96

Some things work out, some things don't.

We had to leave without the Green Card.

We would have missed the ferry

but it was delayed.

We had to leave Nobby behind (no passport)

We bought a road atlas and ~~beam~~ headlight converters on the ferry, and we were making good time ...

but...

the brake pads wore through and we had to stop and get them replaced.

That's what is happening now. The others are in the town (Le Mans) and I am about to go to sleep so that when the van gets fixed later this afternoon I will be awake enough to drive. It is pouring with rain - good weather for driving for the hot engine - and the roof leaks. A stream of water just came gushing down from the interior light fitting.

Pauline

7/7/96 Los Lagos

"The Rain in Spain falls mainly on Los Lagos - Camp site of the many lakes"

Camp was set up yesterday, after arriving here at about 1 pm. We spent the evening sorting out shatt-basking info; criticising Alex's cooking; playing cards in the bar; or walking around Evina.

(3)

We are now huddled in 'Big Jane's' replacement waiting for the rain to ease off, and the thunder to stop.

Jpmp

The rain didn't ease off but we wandered up to top camp anyway. Soon after we left the Arico path it began snowing, which made it slippery. Alex couldn't maintain his trajectory around the hill near camp, so overshoot, then fell over, lost his sense of direction completely and wandered past the snow pole for a second time without realising. It was so cold we put up a tent very quickly, threw our stuff in it and legged it. This has to be the worst weather the Picos has ever thrown at us.

It is still raining, but Oley thinks it will be sunny tomorrow. Funny, that was yesterday's forecast too.

Alex is still warming up in his sleeping bag. Thank you for not losing your way until within sight of the snow pole (I know my way from there!)

P.

Stuff gone to top camp

in

with Pauline:

- gas canister
- stove
- trauma kit
- radios
- wooden pegs.
- 2 biting hammers
- metal pegs.

Alex:

- 2 small tents
- Tent spores
- water filtering gauze.

Michael: Top camp tent

Andy:

- Radio antenna
- Med kit - Black Tool Box
- " - Underground
- rigging bits

Anita:

- food (2 loaves bread, few pieces sausages, margarine, jam, fruit)
- 25m rope
- 15m rope

John:

- ladder
- underground rescue kit (daren drum)
- ropes (40m; longer than 40m)
- pegs (metal), hammer

Monday,
8 July 96

(5)

Second carry

Arita: reel of tape (25mm), raincoat, sunglasses
2 surveying tapes
tamper
1 packet sea salt
2 bolting kits (w/o hammers)

John: zip lock bags
sugar
sterile 1st aid kit
emergency kit (underground)
2 tackle bags
10m rope
ladder.

You can buy: from the expedition
(if you need them / if)

flat pack batteries	£2.25
thin rope	£1.00 per m.
wide rope	£1.50 per m
10mm ^{dynamic} rope kg	£1.50 per m
11 mm dynamic rope	£1.80 per m.

expedition T-shirt (size L) £7.50

Please write it in the kitty book

- Oly: New Stretcher
- How Old Hangers & Nails (x lots)
- Water purification stuff
- Aluminium Taps
- 20m Rope

8/7

Woke up to glorious sunshine. Not that this was a surprise, of course, since I had confidently predicted it the day before. The day descended slightly on the way up to top camp, making for a pleasant walk. Most of the stuff was moved to top camp, although there is still some plastic sheeting and a bottle of Vodka to be moved. The radio was tested and seems to work perfectly. It was used to good effect to order pancakes for the evening meal.

Top camp cooking tent wasn't put up due to the large amount of water still in the ground. A quick top-camp feast was followed by a pleasant walk down and a meal which may be favourably compared to my *caulil bolonaise*. The competition for expedition masterchef is hotting up.

Oli

11th July 1996

Tim had a fant trip to Lages after being out at Ulares. Good to be back. Can't wait to get away from Lages though...

7

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COVADONGA



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AL MEJOR

PRECIO

215 ptas



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VERANO '96

COVADONGA

HORARIOS

Del 1 de Julio al 8 de Septiembre
SUBIDAS DESDE COVADONGA
 Mañanas desde 10.30 hasta 14.00
 Tardes desde 15.30 hasta 17.30
BAJADAS DE LAGOS
 Mañanas de 11.30 hasta 14.00
 Tardes de 15.30 hasta 18.30

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 LLANES. Tel. 540 23 22

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 VIACA LLANES. Tel. 540 20 42



7

SERVICIOS *ALSA* ECONOMICOS REGULARES

RUTA DEL CARES



PICOS DE EUROPA



ACTIVIDADES
TURISMO ACTIVO
ORGANIZA



VERANO '96

PONCEBOS

HORARIOS

Del 1 de Julio al 8 de Septiembre

- SALIDAS DE OVIEDO: 8.00**
- SALIDAS DE LLANES: 8.30**
- SALIDAS DE RIBADESELLA: 9.10**
- SALIDAS DE ARRIONDAS: 9.30**
- SALIDAS DE CANGAS DE ONÍS: 9.45**
- REGRESO DE PONCEBOS: 19.30**

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SOBRE
EXCURSIONES Y
VIAJES
PARA
GRUPOS !**

INFORMACION

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SERVICIOS

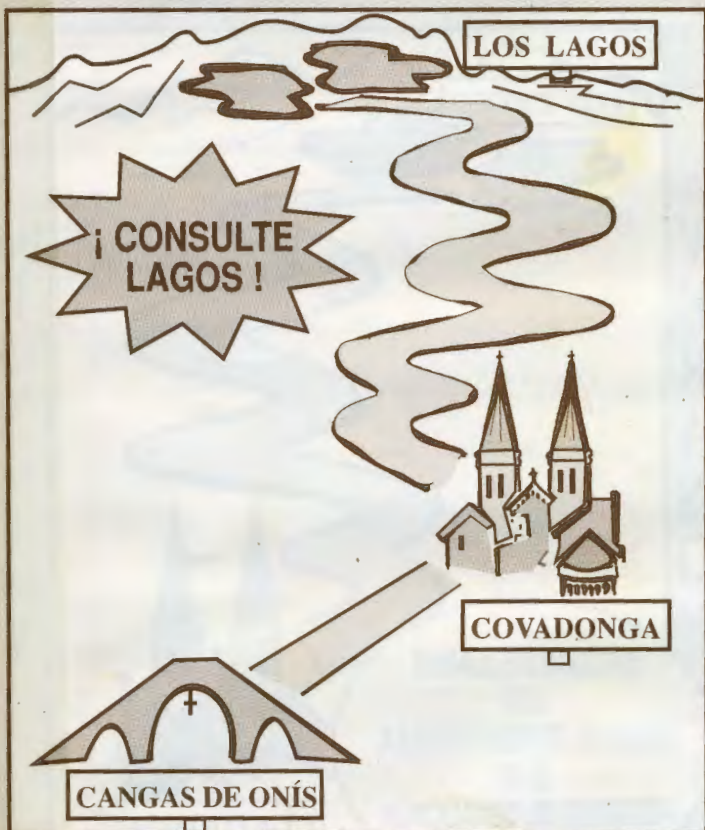


REGULARES

CANGAS DE ONIS



COVADONGA



SERVICIOS DIARIOS

SALIDAS DE CANGAS DE ONÍS

8.30(*)-9.45-10.15-11.00-13.00(*)-13.45-16.00(*)-16.45-19.45(*)

SALIDAS DE COVADONGA

8.50(*)-10.30-13.30-14.30(*)-16.30-17.30-18.00-19.30-20.00(*)

(*) Excepto sábados, domingos y festivos

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LLANES. Tel. 540 23 22

CANGAS DE ONÍS. Tel. 584 81 33
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Verano '96

del 1/7 al 8/9

OVIEDO-COVADONGA-OVIEDO

SALIDAS DESDE OVIEDO A COVADONGA:

6,45* - 8,00 - 9,30 - 11,30* - 12,30 - 15,30 - 18,30

SALIDAS DESDE COVADONGA A OVIEDO:

8,50* - 10,30 - 13,30 - 16,30 - 18,00 - 19,30

CANGAS-COVADONGA-CANGAS

SALIDAS DESDE CANGAS A COVADONGA

8,30* - 9,45 - 10,15 - 11,00 - 13,00* - 13,45 - 16,00* - 16,45 - 19,45*

SALIDAS DE COVADONGA A CANGAS

8,50* - 10,30 - 13,30 - 14,30* - 16,30 - 17,30 - 18,00 - 19,30 - 20,00

LLANES-COVADONGA-LLANES

SALIDA DE LLANES 8,30 REGRESO A LAS 17,30

COVADONGA-LAGOS

MAÑANAS DESDE 10,30 HASTA 14,00

TARDES DESDE 15,30 HASTA 17,30

LAGOS-COVADONGA

MAÑANAS DESDE 11,30 HASTA 14,00

TARDES DESDE 15,30 HASTA 18,30

* EXCEPTO SABADOS Y FESTIVOS
† ESPECIAL SÁBADOS Y FESTIVOS

INFORMACION

OVIEDO 5290039 LLANES 5402322
CANGAS 5848133



SERVICIOS **EAJA** REGULARES
ECONOMICOS



**OVIEDO
LLANES**



COVADONGA



LOS LAGOS

SALIDAS DE LLANES

8.30

SALIDAS DE RIBADESELLA

9.10

REGRESO DE COVADONGA

17.30

COVADONGA

Del 1 del 7 al 8 del 9

SALIDAS DESDE OVIEDO A COVADONGA

6.45(*)-8.00-9.30-11.30(*)-12.30-15.30-18.30

SALIDAS DESDE COVADONGA A OVIEDO

8.50(*)-10.30-13.30-16.30-18.00-19.30

(*) Excepto sábados, domingos y festivos

¡ CONSULTENOS SOBRE EXCURSIONES Y VIAJES PARA GRUPOS !

INFORMACION

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LLANES. Tel. 540 23 22

CANGAS DE ONÍS. Tel. 584 81 33
VIACA LLANES. Tel. 540 20 42



INFORMACION

529 00 39 CANGAS DE ONÍS. Tel. 584 81 33
540 23 22 VIACA LLANES. Tel. 540 20 42



Verano '96

del 1/7 al 8/9

¡PLAYA DE RIBADESELLA!

SALIDAS DE INFIESTO A LAS	11,10-12,25
SALIDAS DE ARRIONDAS A LAS	11,25-12,45
SALIDAS DE CANGAS	12,30*-14,00
REGRESOS DE RIBADESELLA :	
A CANGAS	15,00*-18,00-19,30
A INFIESTO Y ARRIONDAS	15,00-18,00-19,30

LLANES-MERE-ARENAS

SALIDAS DE LLANES	8,30 (1)-9,00*-13,00*-18,00
SALIDAS DE PONCEBOS	10,45-19,30*-19,30(1)
SALIDAS DE ARENAS	11,00-19,45

OVIEDO-ARENAS-OVIEDO

SALIDAS DE OVIEDO	8,00-9,30-13,00*-16,00*-18,00
SALIDAS DE ARENAS	7,25*-8,35-16,00*-17,50-19,45

RUTA DEL CARES

SALIDA DE OVIEDO	8,00
SALIDA DE LLANES	8,30
SALIDA DE RIBADESELLA	9,10
SALIDA DE CANGAS	9,45
REGRESO DE PONCEBOS A LAS	19,30

9

12/7/96

"Around the world in 80 days" (give or take a few)

It had never even occurred to me until John wandered into the yard late on Thursday afternoon and happened to mention it to Anita. It didn't even worry me too much on the drive down to Newhaven - there were other things to worry about, such as whether we would catch the ferry, what had happened to Tote and Lyle's delivery, and Alex's music collection.

After all, aren't these the days of no barriers in Europe? You would think they would be glad to let us out of the country, anyway. Apparently not...

'Can I see your passport, please?' said the nice man at the barrier. Some people don't watch the news, obviously.

'Mumble, mumble'

Several embarrassing moments later...

Nice man: (incredulously) 'Are you really going to leave him here?'

Pauline: (nodding eagerly) 'Yeah'

Exit van rouge stage right.

Thus I was marooned in Newhaven with a sleeping bag, 49,000 pesetas and 65 pence, without a passport, anywhere to sleep (10pm) and any idea what to do.

I ring Steve, looking for inspiration. Sharon answers and says he's down the Berger. Chris as well. Don't have Tim's number. Arse. (by now I'm down to 45 pence)

Then I remember Fleur lives in Brighton, just down the road

'Ern. Laveridge - something Villas, somewhere in Brighton?'

'OK' (come on, come on, I really need this...)

PAUSE

'The no. you require is ...' (YEAH!!!)
(expedition sponsorship sec dances around phone box like nutter)

Me
Directory Eng.

(Phone rings)

Me
Flew's mum

Can you help me I've no passport and stuck in Newhaven and I've only got 35 pence and the van's gone to France rattle rattle etc.
'Flew's not in, sorry. Who are you? Shall I phone you back?'

The upshot of all this is that I'm generously offered somewhere to stay and to send my passport, although I still have to find somewhere to stay Thursday night.

As I wander down the main street I pass the time of day with a bloke on his way to the pub

'You come off the ferry, then?'

I tell him about the passport fiasco.

'Do you want to come back to my place?'

I make my excuses and spend the night on the quay.

Next day I ~~am~~ shopping in Brighton. before arriving ~~at~~ chez Loveridge in time for tea. Flew bins up and laughs uncontrollably at me before going camping for the weekend. Flew's mum and dad are going out, so I spend a thoroughly enjoyable evening with them and their friends playing Trivial Pursuit and having beer and crisps poured down my neck. I've never been looked after better all my life.

Next morning my passport has arrived, so between breakfast and lunch we hold a council of war around the table, ~~with~~ a huge pile of ferry timetables and the 'phone.

When I've finally decided on the Plymouth - Santander sailing on Monday morning, Flew's mum and dad (Maagie and John) make me up what amounts to a complete ^{continental} hitch-hikers survival kit:

A map of southern England, a map of France and N. Spain, lots of card to write hitching destinations on, a black marker, a list of youth hostels, the pile of ferry timetables,

(1)

HUGE!!!

and a ~~large~~ packed lunch! Really nice people.

After that it was all plain, er, sailing ...

I hitched from Brighton to Arundel, Bournemouth, Dorchester, and spent Saturday night in the park in Bridport. Sunday I hitched to Kington, Tolnes and arrived in Plymouth Sunday afternoon. Slept under a van on the ferry car park and caught the ferry which reached Santander on Tuesday morning. ~~Four~~ buses saw me to Lagos by late afternoon, where I learnt I'd missed all the horrible weather, and most of the horrible coasts.

Nobby!

ps. Its true, Dorset IS beautiful.

PLEASE CHECK IN AT PORT OF DEPARTURE NO LATER THAN 45 MINUTES BEFORE SAILING



To be presented when you check in at port of departure,
and on arrival at any accommodation which has been booked.
Please carry this with you at all times on board the ferry.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION DOCUMENT

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The contract is made between BAI (SA) Brittany Ferries ("the Carrier") and "the Passenger" which term includes everyone included in the booking form and/or the travel documentation.

We would advise you that carriage is subject to: (i) The Carrier's Conditions of Carriage and (ii) the Athens Convention Relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea 1974 ("the Athens Convention"). Copies of both are available on request from our offices and/or on board our ships.

The Athens Convention in most cases limits the Carrier's liability for death or personal injury or loss or damage to luggage (including a vehicle) and makes special provision for valuables.

The Athens Convention presumes that luggage has been delivered undamaged unless written notice is given to us:

1. In the case of apparent damage, before or at the time of disembarkation or redelivery, or
2. In the case of damage which is not apparent or of loss, within 15 days from the date of disembarkation or redelivery or from the time when such redelivery should have taken place.

The Athens Convention applies to all persons travelling on our vessels and to their luggage and vehicles. In addition to the above the Brittany Ferries Conditions of Booking apply to your ferry travel and if you are travelling as part of an inclusive holiday with our company then the provisions of our Fair Trading Policy also apply. This information is detailed in full in our holiday brochures.

VIA NAME 0001



TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ITINERARY

NAME MR N MUMFORD	BOOKING REFERENCE DB6460101	AGENT Y0005	T 4	AGENTS REFERENCE	ISSUED: 08JUL96 I: 1
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OUTWARD:08JUL96 PLYMOUTH TO SANTANDER DEPARTURE:08.30 ARRIVAL:09.00
 PASSENGERS: 1 ADULT
 CABINS/SEATS: RS:9306

MR N MUMFORD
 XXXXXXXXXXXX

~~XXXXXXXX~~

TARIFF:FOOT SINGLE

CHARGES	OUTWARD	74.00
	INWARD	
	EXTRAS	
	TOTAL	74.00

PLEASE CHECK IN AT PORT OF DEPARTURE NO LATER THAN 45 MINUTES BEFORE SAILING

172 SC 0001

✓ oil
fuel
water bottle

(12)

"Shopping" list

13/7 9pm radio call

Crowbar (buy from Cavys)

up hill:

✓ Bread (Pan)

~~Chorizo~~ Chorizo

✓ Jason's spaxer - Trouble bag in trailer
returned to blue string

✓ Chocolate

Rice

Vegetables

✓ Eggs

14/7 9am radio call

✓ need of tape

✓ Gas bottle

17th July 1996. Successful 9am radio contact with top camp. no requests. Andy went up 8.30am. Martin coming down tonight. Jo arrived this morning (after spending the night in the shower block of the new camp site).

13

17th July 1996.

To Buy

Things needed (for Top)

- Coca Cola ✓
- Milk ✓
- Pepe
- veg ✓
- Bread ✓
- Golden Syrup ✓
- Rice ✓
- Margarine ✗
- Pastry ✓
- Salami ✓
- Sugar ✓
- Wine ✓
- Sprouts ✓

Fhi's letter



(B)

17th July 1996.

To Buy

Things needed (for Trip)

- Cocoa Bar ✓
- Milk ✓
- Rice ✓
- Veg. ✓
- Bread ✓
- Golden Syrup ✓
- Rice ✓
- Margarine ✗
- Pasta ✓
- Salami ✓
- Sugar ✓
- Wine ✓
- Sprints ✓

John's letter

AMSTERDAM

HAS IT 1/7/96

Dear All, Hope you got to Lagos alright. I arrived in Amsterdam this morning but am settling in to hard pre-expedition training staying in Bob's Youth Hostel and frequenting "brown cafe's." Pretty good really. Throat hurts. Oh well. Good explanation, James.



Oxford University Cave Club
(bustuteru '96)

LISTA DE CORREOS

CANGAS DE ONIS

ASTURIAS

SPAIN / ESPAGNE / (E)

right 1990. © Fox Productions Amsterdam "Funny CARDS"

17th July 1996.

Yesterday, I heard from Martin the shocking news of Nicda's death in the Berger last week. Nicda was one of the first hand woman carers in the club, although most of the current members will remember her for good company on caring weekends recently in the Dales. Even for those of us who didn't know her well, this is a very very sad moment John

The full details - and repercussions - of the Berger flood and its aftermath will emerge in due course but several points seem to be clear even now:

never underestimate the flooding potential of a cave or try to rig appropriately;

try to get and understand weather forecasts;

be aware that while you can't accidentally fall off while ascending using SRT there is a downside that you may be trapped on a rope - unable to go up due to water pressure and unable to release your jammer or possibly unable to free yourself from a descender going down;

on the positive side, you can sit out a flood for a considerable time in adverse conditions with little more than a few pieces of plastic for shelter (but better to carry your own survival bag and food) William and Pivo were in pretty good shape after 3 days;

and if there is trouble the rescuers should be prepared to re-rig pitches damaged by floods (ropes cut, bolts sheared...) as well as attend to the trapped with shelter, food and encouragement, and be prepared to call out additional help before it is too late.

(15)

19/7/96

Have had a useful day at base camp. 'Little Jane' has been emptied and aired; some of the collecting wrap thrown out; and cleaned things returned. It even had a sweep out due to some passing Spanish with a broom.

Likewise the trailer has been emptied and cleaned. It has been propped up to help lighten the load for the tyres ~~and~~ (There had to be a use for some of the 105 tires at moments we found inside). This was rather a useful thing to do since not only can the people find their rucksacks now, but we even unearthed 3 boxes of tinned beans (one of which is now put aside for denigging El Jete)

If you want a work, some of the plumbing is now on in the new camp site. The showers could be climbed into but it might be handy to take a ladder/hardline to climb back up the 10 ft, smooth tiled, walls. Otherwise you can work in the handbasins but be careful not to be caught out by passing Spanish tourists...

John & Anita

20/7/96

The ~~door~~ ~~some~~ Kitchen tent, and stone tent have now both been waterproofed. Anita and I feel like an afternoon off so are going to try and catch the bus to conedanga which was just arrived.

We should be back by the time ~~we~~ ^{you} arrive Nobby, but it isn't that's where we are.

The kitty is in the trailer, at the back on the left.

for

John and Anita eating their tea ...

John: 'Ah, this is really quite tasty, Anita.'

Anita (aside): 'Says he, unable to conceal his surprise ...'

John: 'Anita, this is almost EDIBLE!'

Anita: 'Say another word, and its going straight down your throat!'

shopping list 22.7

- sugar
- brandy x 2
- razors for Nobby.
- flat pack batteries.
- ~~xxx~~

(17)

20.7. buying gas

The gas shop in Cangas is shut on Mondays, but

there is a gas shop in Arriوندas, the first shop on the left, over the bridge.

Pauline.

25/7

Arrived bottom camp 15:40 to find that there wasn't exactly a lot left of it. Olly was sitting in the middle of 3 collapsed tents getting a brew together after rescuing all the gear that had blown down the hill during the storm earlier in the day. Seems that TC had the best deal.

Re-erected main mess tent & stuffed gear from gear tent into trailer. Made tea & said goodbye to Olly at 19:30. Tried Radio contact at 21:00 → 21:15 could hear Pauline but obviously no firm contact. This partly due to severe electrical storm & rain down here, fortunately No wind! Am worried about Olly as I suspect the storm is at TC also.

Packed kit for walk up in morning but can't be bothered with washing up. Martin Smith.

21/7

Sea Cave exploration. The new branch of caving for people for whom ordinary caving is just not dangerous enough... its - ~~cave~~ caving in sea caves with no lights, ropes, ladders, proper clothing etc. And, just to add that little something extra, do it when the tide is coming in!

After a sumptuous picnic of bread, sardines, mussels, asparagus tips, cheese, peaches and plenty of fine(?) wine, Tim, Pauline and I stepped across the piece of wire meant to keep us out of the caves. Reaching a pitch of unknown depth, Pauline threw a stone and estimated 1s = 10m. Further exploration revealed that it was in fact a whopping 2m. Tim was stopped short by a puddle and scruples about getting salt water in his shoes. Undeterred, as ever, by such things as scruples / morals etc, I waded through the shin deep pool (risking life & limb in the process), followed eventually by Tim & Pauline. Off to the left was one way on, while a passage to the right led to a secret cove. We were completely surrounded by cliffs, while at our feet lay a perfect beach, completely with scuttling crabs (not Krabs) - sorry, bad pun! The sea was also there, but accessed the beach via a tidal sump. We explored a little further and then returned by the same route where a crab decided that grabbing my finger was a good idea. We got some rather funny looks as we emerged from the cave by the more normal tourists, and I got even stranger looks when I went and stood under the freshwater shower fully clothed, in order to wash the salt from my clothes (I had been swimming fully clothed, too). So.

29/30.7

Arrived mid-afternoon to find Rod, Andy and family had arrived in foul weather. Spent afternoon apologising for lack of facilities and persistent drizzle. Inupa left about 6pm with plenty noodles, rice and even fresh bread.

(14)

Made radio contact at 9pm with Geoff, but failed to make contact at 9am this morning. I have used all the expedition postcards (sorry) cos no-one else seemed to be using them, and they all have stamps on except 1. Pauline's postcard to Juan Jose also needs a stamp.

I have uncrushed another ~~an~~ epigae stove to bring to TC, and am about to have a WASH!

Nbs.

31/7/96

Unable to stand the stench emanating from my body ~~and~~ any longer, I planned a daring mission to salvage my personal hygiene. Equipped with only a bar of soap, ~~and~~ a clean pair of knickers and a carving ladder, I ventured into the unknown ~~area~~ ~~territory~~ territory that is the shower block on the NEW CAMPSITE. I pulled myself up onto the wall adjacent to the showers and gasped as I glimpsed the unspoilt beauty of this largely unvisited chamber. Tying my ladder to a handy beam (I think that counts as "rigging off naturals") I descended into the sparkling whiteness. After regaining a degree of cleanliness I retraced ~~my~~ my steps and escaped unscathed to the food tent. Jo.

There are two I-shirts in the bag with the lighters (on the left in the trailer). One small white, 1 L blue. Please give them to the bar people on the last night.
 Ta, P.

1-8-96 Bob, Tim and Pumpa owe the Kitty for Mon-Thurs this week, so they have paid £1,000 between them and can settle the difference in England.

I think I owe the Kitty another 4000. I have put this money ⁱⁿ £11,000 in the carrier bag on the left ~~in~~ the trailer, since the Kitty box is in Cangas.
 P.

My glasses, sunglasses and calculator are in the glove box of the van. Please give them back to me in England (Glasses quite important!).
 P.

Bye

John, comment on C4 diary.
 - "I've never been there but it's not vertical cut."

(21)

4.8.96

A couple of SIE members came round last night; they said they know James and have written to John P. on e-mail. I think their names were Josef & Francesco. Anyway, they just wanted to say hello and find out how we are doing. I gave them a progress report and then they left, saying ~~some~~ something about some people from Madrid who hadn't yet turned up. Jo.

6/8/96

Hi, I've just turned up after 5 days of disastrous hobbing, going up at Bordeaux, followed by training & basing here (much easier). Am now going to attempt to mend my seat & make my way to top camp.

Bill.

7/8/96

I am now feeling a lot better than when I arrived here last night. It's stopped raining and the news from the last 15 mins is that the lake is now visible.

Nick & Jo have left back up the hill, while Bill & I spent the morning in the bar drinking coffee and beer and eating Becabitos.

I arrived last night at ~~12.00~~ 11.50 having set off from T.C., with my overloaded package containing all the stuff I'd managed to collect there in 5 weeks, at 9.25.

I had 35 mins of light left and fortunately made it to path in less than 40 mins. Only other problem was straying off path in mist and

J

total dark after Bobias and ending up turning night round and meeting Shepards - but at Bobias 25 mins later. Pastore put me back on the trail, but I'd been worried at making it 2 out of 3 nights spent on the hillside in the rain. Serves me right for going out after dark!
for

Nick
Alex

'There are some spoons over there'
'No, those are all forks, actually'

9.8.96

I forget to mention that last Wednesday (I think), ie 31.7.96, Jim Sheppard arrived with his family on a flying social call, as they were staying somewhere nearby on the coast. They had a wander around the lake and then came back for a brew. They couldn't, unfortunately, stay long, but it was long enough for Jim to tell Jo and I tales of the legendary days of '81 and Xihu, and of how much worse 'Oxford regime' was in those days than now...
Noting

(93)

21-8-96
(3.30pm)

Top Camp was finally struck about 4pm yesterday in some of the most horrible weather so far encountered. We couldn't be arsed to stash in EB because it was bloody cold, so we lobbed all the stuff down a hole next to F71 and piled rocks on it all (the same place as was used in '94).

Bill did his stuff with the locals, old rope and some expedition t-shirts, and we got a big wedge of cheese in return. Nick guarded the trailer in Carigno, and we eventually left as it got dark, picking out on luxuries like such as crisps, humourous and buns.

Nick : 'Anybody want a bun?'

Alex : 'What sort of bun?'

Nick : (reads packer) 'Er... "Mildred", huchurhur'

Alex : (~~seems~~ persuaded) 'Oh alright then'

Last night we slept in a carpark nr Bilbao. Today the idea was to spend some time on a beach somewhere, but given the persistently horrible weather we have been forced to hunker to the 'best of Rainbow' whilst trying to mingle with the locals in petrol stations - then despite the equally persistent and horrible stench emanating from the van range. The current aggregate of unwashed bodies = 4 1/2 months and counting. We're in western France and considering making a dash for an earlier ferry.

Thought for the day!

- Women for duty
- Lemons for need
- Small boys for pleasure
- Melons for ecstasy

We're missing that feminine influence...

MADON LILARD REFUS COLLECT DE-RIG

On arrive à Tours
La dernière chose que j'ai
à dire est que Bill
smells

Pense
Pense
Pense
Pense
chamber à air
equipment machine
conditionnement
jeunes filles
et bon spots

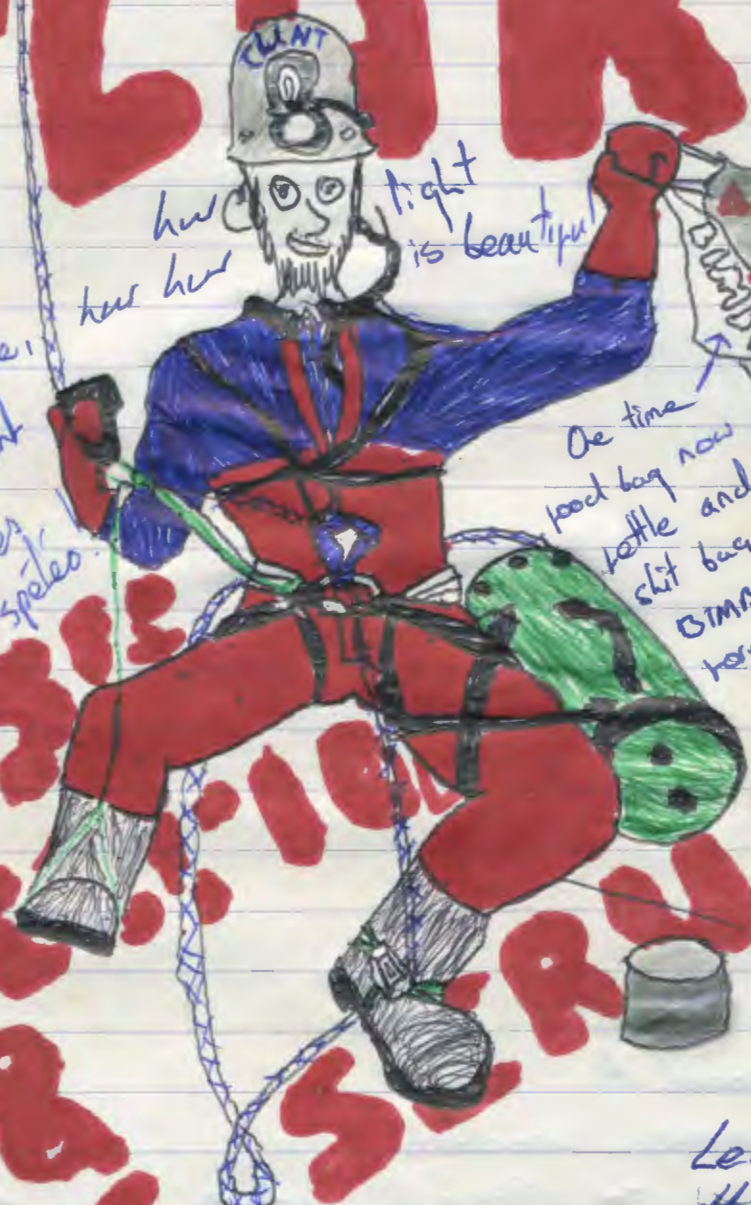
how
how
light
is beautiful

Pense
LIGHT
et

NE
VOUS
FAITES

De time
food bag now
bottle and
slit bag
BMSO
brevets

PAS
TROP
DE MALL
unjos



Adieu
Nico

Leave at
the bottom

WILL SEND A COMPLETE
GOON/CUNT TO DO AN
EQUALLY SHI'ITE JOB
OF BOTH COLLECTING
RUBBISH AND DE-RIGGING.
WILL INSIST ON EATING
AND SHITTING UNDERGROUND.

(AT THIS POINT ANDY CRASHES THE VAN) 17:20, 21st August
1996, N10 JUST OUTSIDE POITIER'S AND WILL PISS
EVERYBODY OFF.

