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Underground Book 1991

This book has <sup>four</sup> three sections:

- Page 2 • A list of route descriptions, describing how to get to the parts of the cave beyond camp
- Page 9 • A list of going leads
- Page 15 • A list of permanent survey stations
- Page 18 • A log of underground camps

Please try to keep it up to date

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## Route Descriptions

### Camp to Postman Pat

From camp, a short pitch with an awkward top leads to a short low traverse. The way splits ahead. (6) leads to a series of muddy passages. The way on is (R) ~~where a series~~ with a series of roped traverses above the streamway. After a bit, the way splits. Down leads to Choke Drucilla. Up the way on is up, where a series of pitches leads to a small chamber with a cairn (survey station). Climbing up to the (L) enters Postman Pat, a large boulder chamber, sloping steeply up. The Pat way up on the (6), a hole in the floor is the start of Black and White Cat, a series of pitches leading to the start of Drucilla. The chamber slope splits in two: At the top of the (L) branch is a drop into a rift.

## Bood and Soup Dragon

About twenty yards up Postman Pat, on the (R), a passage leads off. This crosses a bold step, and opens out into Bood, a large boulder passage. The original route followed the (R) wall, to a muddy pitch down to Pimperell Streamway. The present route crosses to the (L) wall at the top of the first ridge. From here a descending traverse / sloping pitch reaches Soup Dragon - a large ledge above Bood. A canted route leads to a short pitch (clanger) back into Bood.

## Pimperell Streamway

From the base of Pimperell Pitch, clamber over boulders, following first the (R) wall, then the (L), down to a beach. The deep water ahead can be avoided by a tension traverse on the (L) wall. ~~At the~~ At the end of this, cross the right bank, at the foot of Colostomy Pitch. Returning to the (L) bank, our semi-tensioned traverse continues. At the end is a beach. From here a mud bank ascends ahead to a choke. The water cuts right into a phreatic passage, leading to Choke Egbert.

Colostomy Pitch: an unpleasant short pitch (re-rig needed) leads to a ledge, with a daunting choke ("Not Colostomy Choke"). Continuing up the pitch leads to a platform of boulders. Traversing round leads to a further climb up (doesn't go) or a diggable choke.

5-8 are blank

# Going Leads

p.m. 4  
5v.

1 Where the water sinks and splits at Choke Egbert, a flood overflow continues straight ahead. This runs for about 20m to a short drop which needs boulders removing from it. **WARNING!** Just before this is a chute which sometimes throws rocks onto unsuspecting caves. Do not enter the choke without some method of stabilising it.

p.m. 4  
5v.

2 At the start of the choke, it is possible to climb up into the choke in various places. Most have been looked at, but don't seem to go.

p.m. 4  
5v.

3 It may be possible to follow the water, possibly by removing boulders

4 Where the water cuts (R) into the phreatic section, a mud bank ascends steeply

ahead. At the top, an aid (bolt in (L) wall) enters a choke - lots of loose gravel, but may go.

5 Just before the start of the pinnac section, various muddy passages lead off on the left. Most seem to choke, but worth another look.

6 Climb up (L) wall, between Glastomy and start of pinnac section

7 At top of Glastomy pitch, the boulder platform ends at an easily diggable choke.

8 In Bod, the last pit before Pimperell: the bottom is blind, but half way down, penduling (R) reaches a ledge, and an area of large boulders. These may be the boulders above the streamway, upstream of Pimperell Pitch.



- 9 At the end of Soap Dragon, instead of ~~now~~ descending Clanger, carrying straight on, a pitch (Tyrolean line in place) reaches a ledge. Down leads to Bod. A climb continues up, past 2 bolts. ~~The~~ Supposedly very chossy, and doesn't seem to go.
- 10 Half way along S.D., two white coloured inlets run down the ① wall. A ledge is visible above these.
- 11 At the start of S.D., is a pit on the ①, undescended.
- 12 A window is visible above ①. ~~Described~~  
The climb is described as "Not easy but not difficult" by Wrodek. I think it looks horrendous.
- 13 In ~~the~~ ~~start~~ ~~of~~ ~~S.D.~~, maybe Bod, before the traverses into S.D. is an undescended pit

12

14 It may be possible to continue climbing at top right of Postman Pat

15 Various undescended holes in Stoor near top of PP, probably lead down to streamway near Drucilla, but worth a look

16 At top ① of PP is a drop into a parallel rft.

17 Paddington choke - continue climb

18 Lost Paul's Rft.

The best leads are 1, 4, 16, 18, 3, 6, 8, 7, 10, 11, 17, 13, 15  
2, 5

21<sup>st</sup> July - just putting lamp

① ruddy passage on left above pool before ebbent ~~flow~~ drops into a squeeze, now quite well cleared, leads to ~~climber~~ - cemented strongly daughting Chove with dangerous

roof. Hammered sufficiently to use as  
shot-term lead. Very abundant work <sup>"The</sup> G. 22nd

- (2) Up steep mud bank on right at extent  
pool (barren here now rigged) overflow  
channel lead via short rubble exposures  
to into new section. Brille leads are

(A) [Best lead probably], up immediately on  
left (Carbide arrow) into boulder chute,  
then mud slope to a 'pioneer rig'  
(well - line) up into airy boulder chow.

Several numbered leads are marked -  
the best is (31) since it leads on up into  
extent (well away from the fluvial grot  
you're used to). However, the chert is very  
muddy, and will need a bolt above a  
perch (cleared with hammer) to row up.

(B) brassy low plastic overflow passages  
continue, but close down outflow is  
a tiny drizzling tube that could perhaps  
be increased by a tunnel - but other  
tubes up on left have been traced and  
don't seem to go

(C) Early on in the crevasse is an ascending crack that might be climbable in certain sections. Draught

- (3) The crevasse tube of left branch of river ends in draughting chow, with a penelle digalle (rope landing) way on a bit earlier on the right. This is far more promising than the Gorrack.

= CAMP #4: lead.

finished

Looked at Tim's leads 1, 3, and 4 - none go.

Looked at 'rift' in Tim's extensions - closes down

Looked at choke where streamway turns right -

possibilities

this might go. Where there is bolt on left of boulder, perhaps by bolting the 'boulder direct' - there seem to be black spaces

Also to be looked at in Tim's extensions; where the rope goes up by the cairn on the left (the 'dodgy bolt' fell out!) there is a rope attached to a bolt on the left, below a hole in the roof. This draughts and can be seen to continue. A small person could place another bolt, fix a ladder\* to it (\*from camp) and give the squeeze a go while lined (climbing rope) <sup>is</sup> at top of slope).

## Permanent Survey Stations

Cairn marked '40' at Paddington

Point at eye level,  $\sim 0.4\text{m}$  to left of edge of rock at downstream end of camp. "Primula Point"

Cairn in small chamber just before P.P.

Various marked cairns in Bod, S.D.

Cairn on largest rock at bottom of Pimpernell Pitch.

16

16577 are blank

# Log of Underground Camps

(Tim, Steve, Michelle, Sean)

19/7/91 The third camp is the first to use the log book, after a 14 hour trip involving severe abuse of backbags by Tim and Steve.  
(verbal, that is)

19/7/91 we waken at 1:30 in the afternoon, having gone to sleep at 5am. We plan to try to bring ourselves back to 'normal' time gradually. A lie breakfast of mornflakes & syrup served in bed by Tim, our major dome.

Odd how everyone puts off speaking till the last moment, this being a semi-formal declaration of "morning". Farting, belching & clanking is OK. Thoyl. G/

It fits bands clasped to head  
but not the one between the  
section so well

20<sup>th</sup> July 1991

Returned from Chove Egbert at 5 am, failing singularly to return ourselves to "normal time". My first time down the staircase (Trot) - a very fine place. As water thundered down the chove (Steve estimates 1000cc) we entered the chove's "best lead" for last year - a crawl up on the left before the big pool. Muddy crawl led to squeeze at flow level, which ceasing time dug feet far side to make passage for the jetties. Passage was roofed by loosely concreted fluvial deposit - a lump of which fell on my genitals whilst I huddled in the chove. "The Gizzard" now looks like this:

It is clearly concreted  
Boulder in roof



Drainage comes up the gravel and away through the chove up to the left. The chove is cut into on the bottom and loose on the roof. I left my deranged thoughts to



get my head in to look up - there is no  
 obvious opening out  $\leftarrow$  1 meter above,  
 and so it needs very serious work  
 (crusts + arbolantes + 1 wocuss worm).  
 Since the stream you can hear is  
 probably the best of white water you  
 can reach via the stream anyway,  
 I think it's a low priority lead.  
 Anyway, we found a much better  
 place.

DAMN DENSTHAM'S

PUNKING DEVIATION!

Traverse traversed on R/H side of pool before Eglint  
 LEAD: #1

- L.H. branch of stream  
 strikes into rocky bed. Passage  
 continues as an easy crawl  
 for ~100' into a choke.

Plenty of places to dig up to  
 the R.H. wall - get back  
 down to stream.

LEAD #12

A series of big events + squooses along an overflow channel on the left right - has yielded some new passage and possible routes up into Egbert we're going back today.

20/7/94

The water chuckled and swears of guffins marched in time to the steps; the water guffled and swears pattered along the passage on flat, flapping feet; the water snorted and the well-known Pica subterranean waterlily dragged across the mud toward my hand feet, the water beamed and the songers dash-disgraced among the boulders groaned slowly forward; the water chuckled as the rocks ground down; the doorkens leaved and leaved as the water guffled and chuckled lapping up the mud banks flooding toward the ledge...

My dodgy arm and I spent a day stint of white alone in the underground camp.

LOAD #12

A series of dig events + squeezes along an overflow channel on the left - has yielded some new passage and possible routes up into Eglon - we're going back today.

20/7/91

the water churched and armies of gophers marched in time to the drops; the water gurgled and events padded along the passage on flat, flapping feet; the water churched and the well-known Picos subterranean carabidite dragged across the mud toward my board feet; the water boomed and the noxious dark-disgraced among the boulders grooved slowly forward; the water churched as the rocks ground down; the darkness boomed and leered as the water gurgled and churched tapping up the mud banks flooding toward the ledge...

My dodgy arm and I spent a day short of candle above in the underground camp.

21 July 1999

11:30 AM. Trials raising lead, trying to log  
- back against heading parallel, raising lead  
before the long haul out. We plan to leave  
for the drill in the Aren' chinks behind the  
Big ledge lamp.

Yesterday's pushing went well, with a  
~~we~~ new passage and a new lead up  
into Egbert - Follow it. It can't too  
low at the top (run curved), but will  
need some cold chiseling and/or safety  
bolting. (See "lead" section for  
details). There's a belt kit with a  
loosey slipping black handle at the  
pool before Egbert starts to mine. [Take  
the handle off, and wrap the wrist  
- strap around the prong - then it works!]  
There are some (a few) anchors + wedges,  
and Marillon + hangers - (but take care  
for a determined look). There's also a  
short rope (6m?) numerous tapes and  
a wire or two. You can rearrange the

about 20m from  
(or out of it).

23

Currently almost never rigged rope  
to get some extra length, but otherwise (and  
anyway) you should take another. There  
is a tackle bag full of rope (are they  
one?) and a belt with screws half left  
part way down the route to perimeter (in S.A.)  
Good luck!

Tom

Camp #4 - Tony, Dave and Pauline & David

We have rigged & amp; permed to remove  
the dangerous route left by camp #2. This  
route to be called 'Frankenstein's Monster'

We have rigged Dennis's Dunking  
Demon<sup>\*</sup> at Colostomy Climb to give a  
relatively easy, dry, river crossing. Using  
only the tight line across the river  
clip a short constant and put loop on the  
rope to cross 'downstream', and a pulley  
on a short constant to give a death slide  
when crossing 'upstream'. Be careful with  
this traverse line - it is under a lot of

\* to give "David's Dennis Deathslide"

strain, so don't jump on it!

Colossalium climb has been partly rigged safely, see below for more details.

Going Leads (see leads section)

We think the pitfall is worth investigating in Tim's Bit

- ① Dig at the end, particularly the lead marked '5'. This is very muddy.
- ② Higher on choke is climb with bolt at top which needs a ladder.
- ③ ~~Climb before stream turns right~~  
The bit at the end is all worth investigating. Ray suggests dismantling the boulder slope.

Elsewhere

- ③ Where stream goes (2), climb up mud slope.

Bolt kits at end of 1st traverse and are at bottom of Colostony. Climbing rope, ~~with~~ crabs and tapes at top of rope in Tim's Bit.

We had a look for the drill. There is a large slot in the Big Ledge below the point whence the drill was dropped. Here I found a jammer dropped from the same place in 1935. Below the slot in 3.5 is a boulder pile, but there is no evidence of the bag or it, we looked all around it. It may be caught in a cleft somewhere in-between.

David  
Colostony climb has been partially rerigged and now leads on the left hand side of the stream (looking downstream). To complete the rig it needs a deviation immediately above the rebelay to take the rope to the rhs of the ridge (obvious when you see it). This will

BSH kits at end of 1st traverse and are at bottom of Colostony. Climbing rope, ~~and~~ crabs and tapes at top of rope in Tim's Bit.

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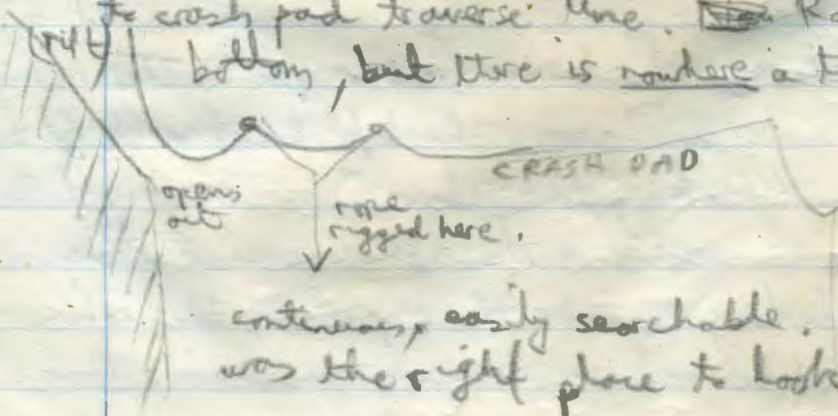


probably require a bolt. More important  
is a bolt device on the left hand wall  
immediately below the rebelay. To  
complete the ring there is a type already  
on the r/s from which a long device  
could be rigged to keep the rope off the  
wall for the bottom five feet.

as if your name is Paul Mann, you're  
rigging in CRAR.

Camp 5 Day 1 Paul Mann, Jenny Veram,  
Dick Vertigan, Chris Denzhan

Looked for drill by abseiling down rope attached  
to crash pad traverse line. ~~the~~ Rope didn't reach  
bottom, but there is nowhere a tackle sack could



be wedged.

Boulder floor

below looked

I hope this

Chris

## Camp #5

Put extra line on DeLorain's trap. All of us had  
 /epies - thank goodness the water levels dropped  
 12 inches.

Day 2 - Spot in Egbert Area

- ① - Dredge into Egbert - end of dig  
 has been filled in with small  
 pebbles - (by flood?) - no  
 obvious ways or signs P.M.J.V.
- ② - Climbs into ceiling near wall  
 water splits - wet, but don't  
 see logs. P.M.J.V.
- ③ - Following water - Highly Unlikely!  
 P.M.J.V.

Time, routes

## Camp 384

Muddy. Crawls to ~~left~~ right  
 No obvious routes, but 2 possible  
 digs, in shaded stream  
 channel at end of trail

- ② - Tongs no ⑤, muddy dig - looks  
 good, but v. hard on hands, needs  
 digging implements
- ① - 30m back, on left-facing in boulder  
 chute - can hear water roar. Staked

digging into soft, loose shales, this  
could be combined, as might meet  
water further into the cleft.

P.M., S.V., D.V., C

Elevation  
of ropes left  
by previous camp

squeeze  
800 ft

rope climb  
climbing  
rope left  
here

Same area - chals. interesting. (C)

- Next see not to go, particularly  
the wet shingly ones.

- Where 3 ropes of Tony's go up  
into cleft, L-Had one  
ascended, to squeeze, which was  
passed, but no way on after 10 feet.

None of the other route were looked at. C.D. & D.V.

Also reinstated (by similar sound) De-stan's Disobey  
Devotion on  
way home. P.M.

Day 3

- D.V. feeling bluey.

- P.M. feeling shabby.

● C.D. & S.V. go off pushing,

(13) Unsuccessful piles near beginning  
of Bad

- Outlet early at bottom, seems  
to go back into Drucilla.

2110

digging into small, loose shales, this  
could be combined, as might meet  
water further into the cleft.

P.M., D.V., D.V., C.V.

Elevation  
of ropes left  
by previous camp

squeeze  
O Box 1

rope climb  
climbing  
rope left  
here

Same area - climb in cleft. (C)

- Most seem not to go, particularly

the wet shingly ones.

- Where 3 ropes of Tony's go up  
into cleft, L-Had one

ascended, to squeeze, which was  
passed, but no way on after 10 feet.

None of the other route were looked at. C.D. & D.V.

Also reinstated (by popular demand) Destination Decision  
Decision on way home. P.M.

Day 3

- D.V. feeling fluey.

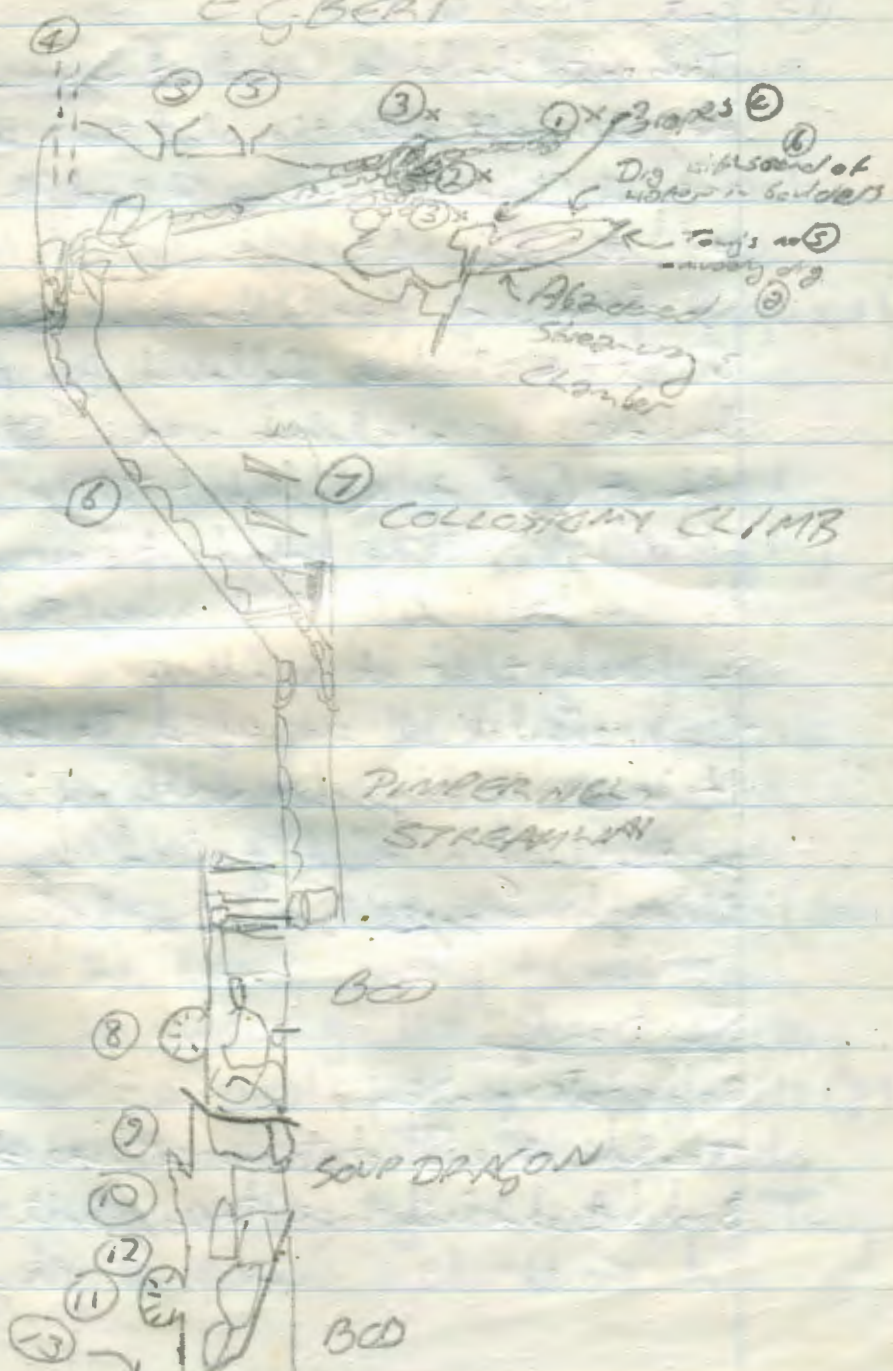
- P.M. feeling shifty.

● C.D. & D.V. go off pushing,

(13) Undersized pilot near beginning  
of Bod

- Outlet only at bottom, seems  
to go back into Drucilla.

# EGBERT



Dig with sand of water in boulders

Tomb's no 5

Abandoned Sleeping Chamber

COLLOSSAL CLIMB

PUMPERNICKEL STREAM

BED

SOUP DRAGON

BED

## (13) cont. Pitch in Bod.

This route should be looked at again. To get to it turn left after the short traverse line over hole in floor at beginning of Bod & follow left wall to pitch. At bottom of pitch a silted up streamway leads down. ~~It is~~ 8 ft climb, 30 ft 45° climb followed by pitch <sup>(10m)</sup> between boulders in a choked area. Streamway leads off at foot of pitch but this is silted up after 15 m. The sound of roaring water can be heard beyond & it drenches well. It is likely that it leads to Douvillea but this should be surveyed to find out.

It is easily diggable with an implement, particularly a rift gained by climbing up through a species c=3 m before final climb.

Next party

Bolt factory at camp

Tackle at end of traverse line at beginning of Bod 1 shortish rope, tapes, bolt kits.

Chris

6th Camp Dave B, Andy, Tony & Dana.

This camp would like to point out that Dana's Denim Deathhole is only a death trap for (self confessed) Dickheads. We all managed it fine Day 1

We all arrived safely. Dana and Tony arrived first without paraffin, candles or light. On the way we surveyed and pushed the passage off Heathrow "Tony's Back Passage". It ends in a choke which carries a sulfate-rich stream like the one responsible for the cone pearls (same stream?). Lots of pretty formations result, including the "secret cactus garden" a pool full of arragonite(?) crystals. There are still several leads, most attainable by climbing. Tony wants to point out that his

passage is up to 5m wide. There are two drops, one under the first inlet [20+ m into <sup>40m</sup>], one under a mud slope [10m<sup>2</sup>].

## 2nd Day

Dave & David

Sunny 30m shaft rigged off 1 bolt and wobbly back up - "Dennis' Dangerous Dangle". Nice shaft! We confirm draught, roaring water, and absence of way on. I'm not sure it is diggable.

Dave dropped pit off soup dragon and found it opened out into a big space. He went down 25m, didn't reach

Tony & AQB

How

chimed into choice E where stream goes right. They left this rigged because it goes, sort of. More light needed. This chub is "Reach for the skyhook"



3rd day

We all went into Tim's Bit. Tony & Dave surveyed it. AQB and David removed Tim's rope, since nothing at the top of it goes.

We went back to the pit in soup drapes. Tony and David bottled it properly, using the rope from Tim's bit. This goes 5m below Dave's rope of yesterday and is ~20m above floor [i.e. BIG PIT!]. Pit to be called "Tantalus" because we still can't get to the ~~fixing~~ bottom! It needs a rebelay above 2nd denotation to give a very free hang. Take a 100m rope to this shaft next time.

Pitch left rigged as the ultimate rigging guide. Also there is 30m and 5m ropes, no use for this pitch. Pitch rope has horrendous rub on it, knotted out. It was there before we started!

Bt

Marches de

2 packs crumbled High fibre biscuits

1+10 Primula - found another

7 large chocolate bars - various states of decay

7 pkts Doritos

11 biscuits / caramel etc

6 Fudge

Many peanuts

1 pkt Sultanas

6 small + 2 large

assorted biscuit packet

1 small unidentifiable

tin - tuna??

1 1/2 pkts macaroni

ten bags - many

12 ~~6~~ 6x Raver type things

4 potato mixes

3 soups + 21 indie instant soups

Salt (x2) pepper (- plenty) assorted <sup>spices</sup>

2 lemon things

garlic & onion

3/4 tin manflakes

1 Tulipan - near full

1 1/2 tin golden syrup - (1 heating)

2 sugar - (1/4 manflakes tin)

mollica - (1/3 manflakes tin) or plastic container full

50 oranges

1/2 nutchello m

Camp inventory 20/7.

B2

Assorted clean & dirty plastic bags

\*

1 bag roll

4 useless gas canisters

upg. first aid kit

assorted clean & dirty plastic bags

(approx. 2 dozen clean)

extremely useless foam!

\*

small splash mats

3/4 pint firelighters

1 bottle paraffin

\*

Not enough carbide

Undertyped blue stream behind stoves

2 minute candle sticks.

B3

Gavin, Jenny, Oave, Pauline

5 Aug 91

Left at PRIMULA POINT

1 45m climbing rope

9 short tapes

1 rope protector

2 very long wires

10 eyes

5 hangers

13 mions

anchors + wedges

choke stabilizing foam

water carrier

2 goon suits

1 survival bag

5 ravers

12 soups

2 bags pasta

5 small pasta

4 small rice

1 potatoe

marmite

black pepper

2 tins mornflakes