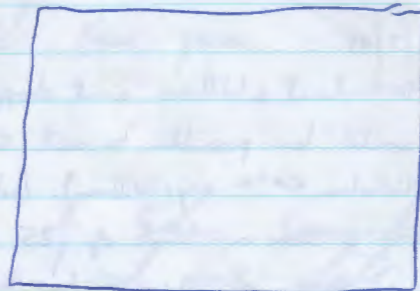


14/7/95

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.

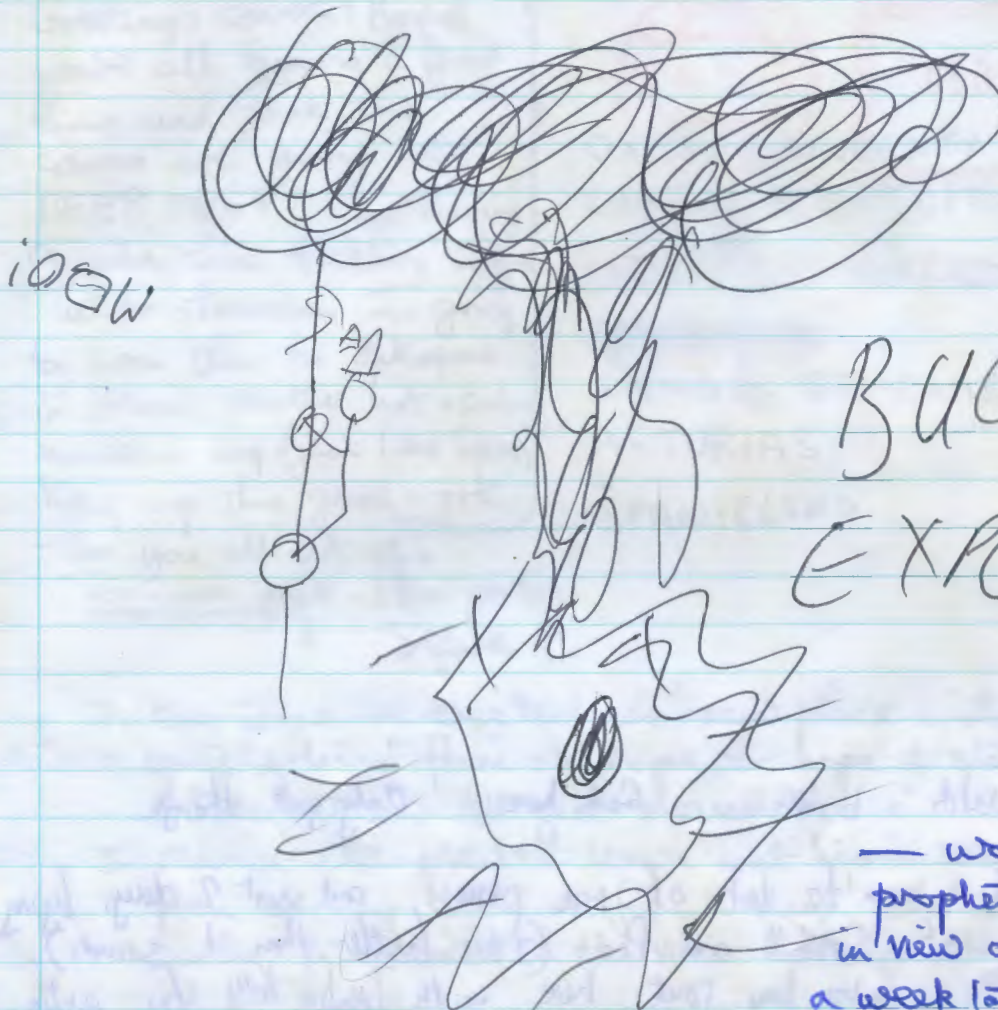
Paul

20/7 (as)

# FIESTA

Iain, 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.

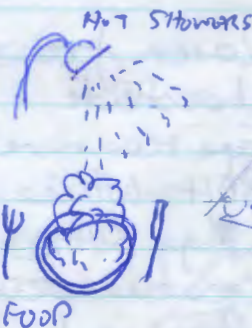
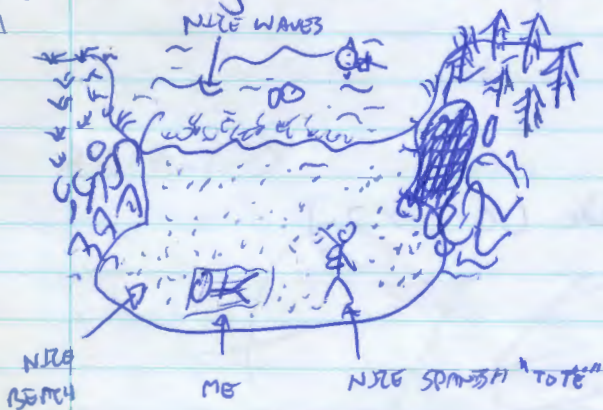
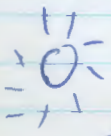
- Raven food (x10).
- Chocolate (x10)
- Tape Measure.
- BDH Alties (for outside UG. x2)
- Sling Bottle
- Created Coconut.
- Peaches tin. (x1).
- Squid tin (x1).
- Tim's tent



Tysoké 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

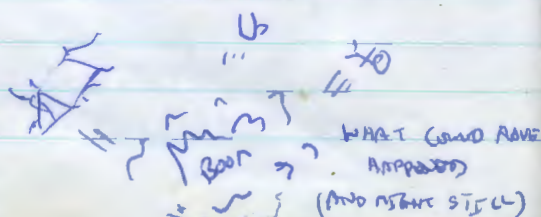
Too much pleasure means more carrying is needed. Oh no! What have I done to deserve this?

Maybe I'll need the gas stove instead.

... find much later.

It's done

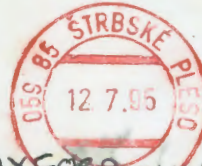
C.V.



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

post - 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 (GOM 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 1/2 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 Wilton 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 OUEC-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 (<sup>Mark</sup> 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 Toca

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

