

TECHNIQUES, TRAINING & GEAR REVIEWS.

Chris Curtis. SSS Training Officer (training@sss.org.au).

Minikit Personal Bag.

Last year, I bought this great little bag that hangs from a harness or a waist belt.

It is perfect for those small caves where only a few basic items are needed; such as a small first aid kit, something to eat and drink, and spare batteries. It is also good for bolting kits.

They are available in different sizes, and the bag shown in Photo 1, is about 2.5 litres, and is an orange colour. The bag includes an interior pocket with a Velcro closure.

I personally like to have a haul line attached to the bag. This can make getting it through tight squeezes easier because it can be dragged behind you, instead of being pushed in front of you. This also means that it won't drop over an edge be lost down a hole, if it is taken off my waist line.

If you hate dragging a larger than necessary pack through a cave, then these are definitely worth looking at.

Cost: From \$20

Available from: MTDE, Matériel Technique de Spéléologie - MTDE - Toulouse, France.

Photo 1: Mini-kit personal bag with haul line and carabiner attached. **Photo:** Chris Curtis. -->



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THE LATEST SSS OCCASIONAL PAPER IS NOW AVAILABLE.

KING SOLOMON'S CAVES, Nggela Island, Solomon Islands,

by Brett Hilder.

SSS Occasional Paper No. 17 (Published February 2014).

This is a limited edition of only 25 black x white copies.

Paperback, A4 format, 52 pages, 42 b x w photographs, 10 sketches, 6 maps, several reprint items, and a 59 item references/bibliography.

Brett Hilder describes in great detail the various trips into King Solomon's Caves, how it was explored, the equipment used, how they were photographed and then surveyed, exciting accounts about encounters with the animals in the cave, and the eventual passage right through the cave to its exit in an unknown canyon in the jungle.

This is a fascinating account of cave exploration, in its infancy, written about 60 years ago, and throwing an insight into how cave exploration, cave surveying, cave lighting, and cave photography were conducted in those days,

and evidencing how far the techniques have advanced since then. Brett Hilder was an early member of the Sydney Speleological Society, and gained support and instruction from its members at the time.

Brett would have made Norbert Casteret proud of his achievements, even if the waters he swam into weren't as cold as those in France.

The book is priced at A\$15.00, post free in Australia, when ordered from Ross Ellis -11 Arkana Street, Telopea, NSW, 2117, but check for overseas post cost.

Phone: (02) 9630 5384. Email: cel19110@bigpond.net.au

Cheques or Money Orders payable to The Sydney Speleological Society Inc.

The publication is also available from

The Sydney Speleological Society, P O Box 198, BROADWAY, NSW., Australia, 2007, or the SSS Website <www.sss.org.au> PayPal can be used when ordering through our website.

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