

# Cave rescue heroes

On June 23, 12 schoolboys and their football coach vanished into a winding, dangerous cave near the Thai-Myanmar border. They would not emerge until 17 days later, saved by a tenacious team of international divers, soldiers, medics and volunteers as the world watched, transfixed. Here's a recap of the extraordinary saga.

## THE HEROES

They came from all walks of life, volunteering their services in the hope that the trapped Thai youth soccer team would be rescued alive. Here's a look at some of the heroes that made the miraculous rescue possible.

**Thai navy Seals**  
 They never gave up searching. A team of four Seals, including a medic, stayed with the boys and assistant coach until they were all evacuated.



**The fallen hero**  
 Saman Kunan was the only fatality. He died when he ran out of oxygen while returning from the chamber where the boys were trapped. He had been tasked with delivering oxygen tanks to the cave and passed out while returning rescuers' used air tanks to the rescue base camp set up inside the cave.



**The medics**  
 They not only attended to the boys and coach in the cave, but also looked after the divers and the many volunteers involved in the rescue. Dr Richard Harris (left) assessed the health of the boys and their coach, determining who needed to get out of the cave quickest and who could wait longer.

## Foreign divers

Expert cave divers flew in from around the globe, including Britain, the United States and Australia, and foreign experts based in Thailand chipped in. They include:

- British divers Richard Stanton (below centre) and John Volanthen (below right) who found the boys.



Mr Ben Reyments, a Belgian who runs a dive shop in Phuket and is thought to have been part of the group that first found the boys.



Mr Ivan Karadzic, a Dane based on the Thai island of Koh Tao, where he co-runs a diving centre.



## The volunteers

Thousands of volunteers facilitated everything from rides up to the cave site to meals for divers. Thai villagers also set up coffee stalls and massage stations while international experts set up rescue communications and pumping systems to drain the flooded cave.



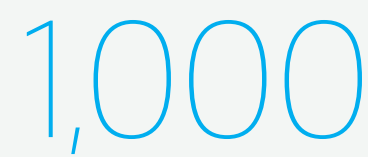
## The farmers

More than a dozen high-powered pumps flooded local farms but farmers said they didn't mind. It was all for a good cause. Mr Lek Lapdaungpoin said he was proud of his small contribution. "With the farming, we can make money again. But 13 lives are not something we can create," he said.

## BY THE NUMBERS



How long the 12 boys and their coach were trapped



Estimated number of people involved in the rescue, including experts from the US, Australia, Britain, Japan, China, Myanmar and Laos



Number of pumps used to suck water out of the cave



Average time taken for divers to lead the boys out over three trips



The level of oxygen in the space where the boys were trapped

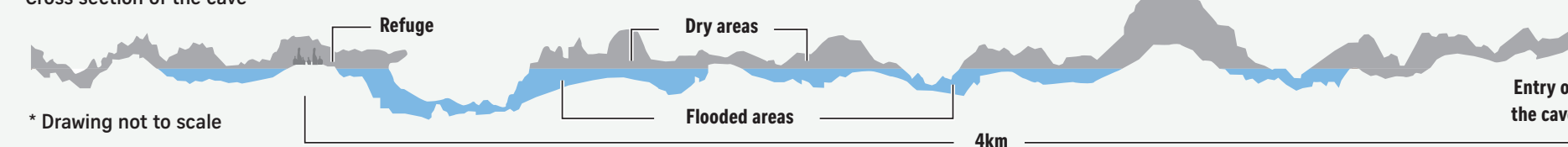


The number of oxygen tanks delivered to the cave

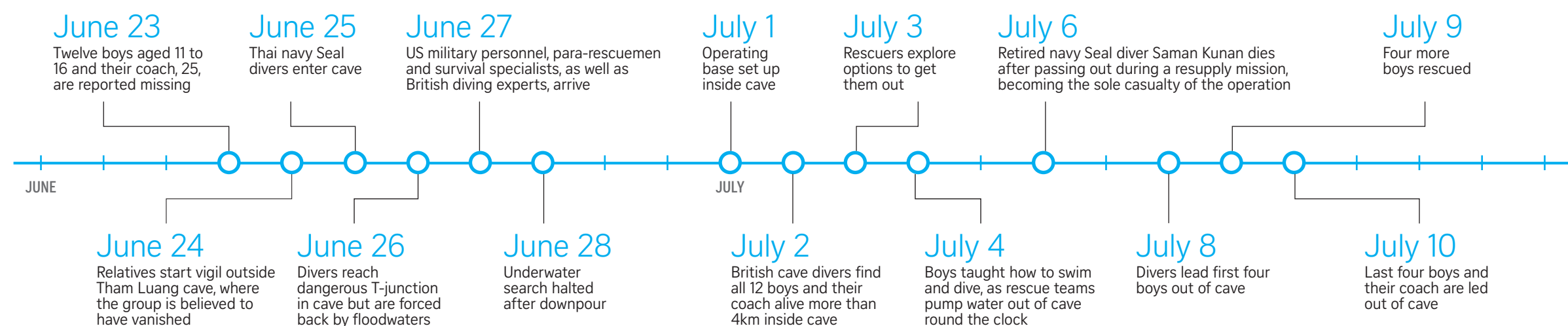


How far inside the cave the group was stuck

## Cross section of the cave\*

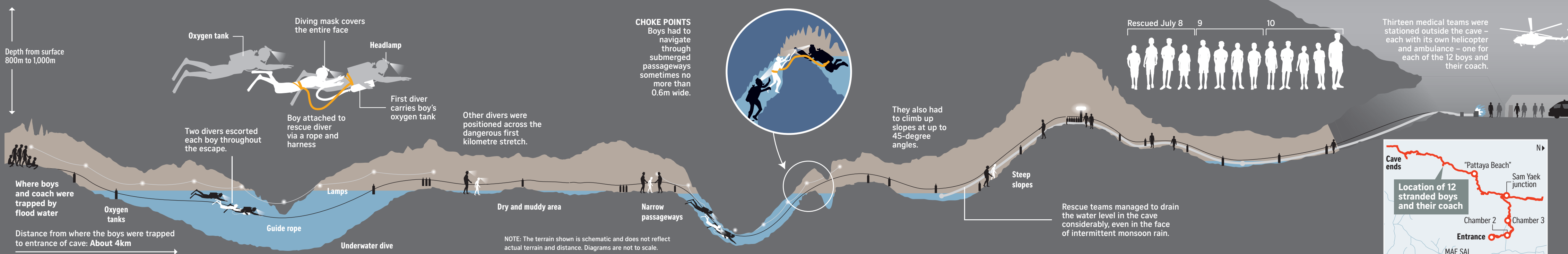


## TIMELINE



## RISKY ROUTE

How the 12 boys and their coach, who had no diving experience, were guided through a labyrinth of submerged passages, steep slopes and choke points by teams of international divers.



## LUCKY 13

The Wild Boars soccer team were saved by an international effort. The boys, aged 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old assistant coach emerged from their ordeal in remarkably good health.



Ekkapol Chantawong, a coach of the Wild Boars soccer team.



Adul Sam-on, 14



Chanin Vibulrungruang, 11



Duganpet Promtep, 13



Ekarat Wongsukchan, 14



Mongkol Booneiam, 12 or 13



Nattawat Takamrong, 14



Panumas Sangdee, 13



Peerapat Sompiangjai, 17



Pipat Pho, 15



Pornchai Kamluang, 16



Prajak Sutham, 15



Somepong Jaiwong, 13