
military rucksack hideousness of modern walking gear

Posted by Iain Jones - 2008/09/14 07:06

road, but I dont go round feeling nervous, not even pushing it a bit on a scramble, although as with driving etc. I have had my doubts afterwards! Yes, I've sometimes looked back and thought Did I really do that? Sometimes I scare myself in hindsight, but I had no doubts at the time. I think there's a lot to be said for confidence (but not over-confidence). Aren't scared people more likely to fall off? Don't know if more scared people fall off but getting a bit of fear does (a) get the adrenaline coursing and (b) makes me a bit wobbly. I get through it by exhaling very hard during what I perceive to be difficult bits and/or swearing (hopefully out of earshot of all but those with me). lack of concentration might be a bigger killer. Being scared might help you avoid those moments of mind drift! Striding Edge on an almost windless day in sunshine was just on the right side of excitement for me, with only 2/3 points when my brain kicked-in saying Get down from here. Fortunately I didn't get down to the path and got through it. I've just been up Tryfan, and except for the times when I noticed my wallet pocket was wide open and I discovered that the bit I was going up was running out of foot and hand holds fast, I didn't have many get away feelings. Of course I chickened out of Adam & Eve.

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Posted by Trevor Dennis - 2008/09/14 07:06

He's welcome to that one! It's the getting down bit that gets me worried. Salisbury Cathedral would be my climbing nightmare.....Helicopter pleeeeeeeese! Man made structures never seem to be down-climbed in my, limited, experience. On climbing walls there's always someone waiting - if only your belayer - so you tend to get lowered the moment you reach the top. In examples like above the protection was pre-placed, so they'll either lower him or he'll use the lift. ;) Of course that doesn't apply to those loonies who free climb prominent buildings, but they get arrested as soon as they get to the top anyway.

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Posted by Dr Aidan Rankin - 2008/09/14 07:06

I would not wish to travel in a country where society is so narrow minded as to not allow individuals to behave as they like in ways that do not effect others. These are BTW often the very same countries that have poor civil rights records and appalling attitudes to women. This is a classic example, with respect, of 'liberal imperialism'. But unlike the imperialists of old, there is no questioning at all, just certainty that that western secular liberalism is a universal solution to all human problems. But it hasn't worked in the West - look at the effects of community and family breakdown, especially on the poorest people. And despite (or because of) decades of feminism, there are more women living below the poverty line and more bringing up children on their own. In the Berber villages, which I mentioned, I expected there to be a strong patriarchal society, but in fact women have a great deal of power, both at community level and within the family. Old people, men and women, are revered, too. And so the balance between the sexes, which has evolved organically, is better than in the West. You mention 'civil rights' records.. I am very sceptical about codified rights - responsibilities are much more important. But I think the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a reasonably good document, because it is compatible with a wide range of cultures and legal/political systems. I don't take the same view of the European Convention, which we do not need in UK law (but then I'm against European unification anyway - I was too young to vote in 1975!). One last point, re. traditional societies. I suspect your preconceptions about the Berber villages arose from the fact that they are Muslim. That implies that you are judging Islam by Islamic fundamentalism, which is like judging Christianity by Ian Paisley or Pat Robertson! Best Wishes. Aidan

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Posted by gordon.riddell - 2008/09/14 07:06

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This is a classic example, with respect, of 'liberal imperialism'. But unlike the imperialists of old, there is no questioning at all, just certainty that that western secular liberalism is a universal solution to all human problems. I think you're rather blowing the wish to wear a bright jacket not so much out of all proportion, but several orders of magnitude further than that. I still haven't seen any compelling argument that it's Perfectly All Right for a chap in tweeds and a Barbour to put a damn bright chunk of bright yellow over several acres of countryside growing oil seed, but the height of bad manners for me to walk in the same area wearing a coat the same colour. Or if we get beyond the farmed areas, a coat the same colour as substantail areas of flowering gorse or heather. Pete.

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Posted by Osman - 2008/09/14 07:06

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Posted by Dr Aidan Rankin - 2008/09/14 07:06

of modern lack of clarity I doubt very much that you could sustain that view across the board about what goes on in British universities today; new, red-brick, or ancient. This is moving away from the thread, but I shall send you an email explaining what I mean. Best Wishes. Aidan

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Posted by The Reids - 2008/09/14 07:06

One last point, re. traditional societies. I suspect your preconceptions about the Berber villages arose from the fact that they are Muslim. That implies that you are judging Islam by Islamic fundamentalism, which is like judging Christianity by Ian Paisley or Pat Robertson! I dont dislike the fundamentalists of Islam any more than of other religions.Catholicism does as much harm with its attitude to birth control as the repression of women in say, Iran. Anywhy, this is wandering away from walking, so I will shut up. Mike Reid Looking north-west towards the Ben & the Houses of Parliament, Hill shareware, quiz, books at <http://www.fellwalker.mcmail.com>

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Posted by Paul Saunders - 2008/09/14 07:06

It's a six part series. Next week he climbs the outside of Salisbury Cathedral. Climbs? I do more climbing when I go for a stroll up Pen y Fan. All I saw was some bloke pulling himself up a rope. Maybe someone should explain to him what climbing means and what the rope is for. Paul Saunders

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Posted by Dr Aidan Rankin - 2008/09/14 07:06

In article <usRV4.453\$6T1.74...@news.dircon.co.uk, Dr Aidan Rankin <aid...@dircon.co.uk waffled rather dreamily that: It's a shame that you can't be similarly tolerant even if you're clearly a shameless stirrer having a laugh at the expense of others. Jon You sound like the chaps I go walking with. Not a completely shamless stirrer, but a stirrer

with a conscience. Best Wishes. Aidan

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Posted by Phil Cook - 2008/09/14 07:06

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Posted by James Hart - 2008/09/14 07:06

Paul Saunders wrote megasnip But somehow I can't imagine that I'm ever going to mistake a yellow waterproof jacket for a gorse bush... Come to Lincolnshire where vivid yellow waterproofs seem dull next to the rape fields! Not sure if this is a good thing or not, but you get a nice patchwork effect from up (...a Lincolnshire 'up') on the Wolds.

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Posted by James Hart - 2008/09/14 07:06

If I went and hung a yellow jacket on a random gorse bush in the Sidlaws right now within half a mile of your start point, you would need a good pair of binoculars to spot which one. Thus disallowing it use as a safety colour except for sailors. Orange disappears in dead braken so is red the only bright colour that can be justified on safety grounds? It is after all MRT colour. Mike Reid We were once told that red is a bad colour to use in safety situations as the majority of people who are colour-blind have the most trouble with red. James...

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Posted by Graeme Cogger - 2008/09/14 07:06

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Posted by Surfer! - 2008/09/14 07:06

Function, not fashion, is all that concerns me, and I totally refuse to wear anything that doesn't blend in with nature's colours. Surely function is: o Does it keep the rain out? o Is it comfortable? o Are the pockets etc. in the correct place? o Is the hood well cut? o Does it dry quickly? o Is it light? o Does it pack down well? o Is

robust? o Can I get it repaired if necessary? Not o Does it blend in? I have a cheap wax cotton jacket which I don't wear as it's heavy, doesn't keep real rain out and doesn't have a hood. I would describe it as a fashion statement. I would describe my M&S cagoule as a functional bit of kit which happens to have a little bit of bright yellow trim.

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Posted by Richard Webb - 2008/09/14 07:06

No connection. But I have been told in the past that the easiest colour for a helicopter S+R to spot is green. Strange but true.

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Posted by Paul Saunders - 2008/09/14 07:06

Surely a contradiction here? If function is all that concerns you, you wouldn't refuse to wear anything that doesn't blend in with nature's colours. Sorry - in a bit of a pedantic mood ;-)

Not at all, I enjoy a bit of pedantism. What makes you think that colour isn't functional? Bright clothing serves the function of attracting attention, useful if you need to be rescued. Drab colours have the opposite effect, they serve the function of making you less visible, which is useful for avoiding bulls, farmers etc. and for discreet wild camping. Colour also affects mood. Bright garish colours are displeasing to my eye, I find them visually offensive in conjunction with the muted pastel shades of nature (please don't mention gorse bushes again). I like to look at colours which please me. I get pleasure from colours which blend in with my environment rather than those that contrast with it. Finally, another function of colour is to differentiate. In my early camping days I used to wrap everything up in plastic bags. It used to drive me nuts trying to find any particular thing since all the bags looked the same. Then I discovered Field & Trek colour coded stuff sacs (or whatever they're called). I bought one dark blue, one green, two red, two blue and two orange stuff sacs and have been using them ever since. I never have trouble finding anything anymore because each stuff sac has particular items allocated to it so I always know what's in each. Of course, these horrible garish colours are usually hidden away in my rucksack or tent so that they don't visually disturb the drab pastel environment. Paul Saunders

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Posted by Paul Saunders - 2008/09/14 07:06

I would describe my M&S cagoule as a functional bit of kit which happens to have a little bit of bright yellow trim. I would describe my new black Craghoppers Pakka as ideal for keeping out the rain and blending in with the SAS on a night training exercise in the hills (provided I smear my face with boot polish of course). Paul Saunders

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Posted by Paul Saunders - 2008/09/14 07:06

On a similar theme, what colour is your car or even your house? Does it have a negative effect on the locale? The colour of my car is a luxury I can't afford. As mentioned elsewhere, I buy rubbishy second-hand cars. Issues like Does it start? , Does it go? and Will it stop again? take precedence over How pretty is it? . Besides, I think cars look horrible anyway, disgusting blots on the landscape. They blend in well with cities, which are also disgusting blots on the landscape. I think all cars and most houses have a negative effect on the locale. I have to say that most of the products of civilisation don't conform to my aesthetic sensibilities. Paul Saunders

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Posted by Paul Saunders - 2008/09/14 07:06

At the weekend I was lucky enough to be up the remote hill of Stob an Aonaich Mhoir on Loch Ericht. I could see, opposite, the path under Beinn Bheoil, along the loch and there were two obvious blobs - in fluorescent green (helicopter pilots green?) With the bins I could see that they were in a large party - mostly traditionally dressed and hard to spot, some in bright reds and yellow, more visible, but still quite unobtrusive. They could not be seen without the glasses. The lime 'viva' green.... really stood out. Yes green is a wonderfully flexible colour, it can look bright or drab, really cool or make you want to puke. Emerald Green is my favourite but you don't get many things in that particular shade. Anyway, what I really wanted to ask about is Military Green. With all this talk about green being a highly visible colour (to helicopter pilots) I find myself wondering if it has any special properties. We all know that police helicopters use infra-red sighting equipment to track criminals from the air, and I'm sure there must be other kinds of sighting equipment that the military use, so... Does ordinary green clothing (if there is such a thing) possess any properties that makes it easy to spot using special equipment? The corollary to this is whether Military Green possesses a different property that specifically can't be spotted by such sighting equipment. Does anyone know what I'm getting at or am I talking complete rubbish here? The reason I ask is because of my rucksack, a Berghaus Cyclops Roc, which just happens to be a nice shade of Military Green. The odd thing is that whenever I take a photograph of it it always comes out looking brown (take a look at my photo in uk.rec.walkers if you wish to observe this phenomenon). All the other colours in my photographs are true to life, but the rucksack consistently records as brown every time, I've never been able to understand this. Has anyone else witnessed this effect? Obviously the rays of light reflecting off the rucksack into the camera's lens are somehow being recorded differently on film. But how? Before suggesting that the film is to blame I'd like to stress that I've observed exactly the same effect with many different types of film, and it's only (and always) the rucksack that is affected, everything else is true to life. Could this particular shade of green have been somehow developed by the military to minimise the chance of being spotted by high-tech sighting equipment? Could I be wearing a Stealth Rucksack? Paul Saunders

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Posted by Rob Devereux - 2008/09/14 07:06

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Posted by Gordon Harris - 2008/09/14 07:06

Could I be wearing a Stealth Rucksack? Paul Saunders Is it vaguely pyramid shaped, and does it show up on radar? Try a walk around those domes near Pately Bridge Yorkshire, but don't tell them I suggested it.

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Posted by Richard Webb - 2008/09/14 07:06

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Posted by Richard Webb - 2008/09/14 07:06

Bright clothing serves the function of attracting attention, useful if you need to be rescued. Remember Hamish's Mountain Walk (aka the Old Testament, before he got on to Corbetts) A bright (viva green?) coloured thing can be pulled out of your pack in case of trouble. Good idea if, like me you are a dull greenie Richard Webb

<http://www.crux.u-net.com>

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