

## Die Meldungen über den Unfall an der Source du Doubs

(28. September 2008)

PONTARLIER, Doubs - lundi 29 septembre 2008 à 11h58

### Un plongeur spéléo britannique se noie dans la source du Doubs

<http://web.ibelgique.com/actu/france/235644>

Un plongeur spéléo britannique de 32 ans s'est noyé dimanche après-midi alors qu'il explorait avec deux collègues les profondeurs de la source du **Doubs** près de Mouthe (**Doubs**), a-t-on appris lundi auprès de la gendarmerie.

Le corps de John Maneely, un habitant de Shoreham dans le West Sussex (sud-est), a été retrouvé à 26 mètres de profondeur, alors que tous ses appareils de plongée très sophistiqués se trouvaient à 52m de profondeur.

Ses amis qui opéraient en autonome comme lui, l'ont remonté mais les pompiers n'ont pas pu le ranimer. Selon la gendarmerie, ses deux camarades ne comprennent pas pourquoi il s'est débarrassé de son recycleur qui permet de rester plusieurs heures sous l'eau. L'endroit où s'est déroulé l'accident n'est pas très difficile, sauf au palier 52 où existe une "étroiture". Une enquête a été ouverte par la gendarmerie. L'autopsie se déroulera dans les prochains jours.

AP

xbez/jba/mw

## ....und Nachmeldungen über Hintergründe und Analysen

### Unfall in der Source du Doubs / May 2009

#### Inquest: Cave diving death in France

by LUTHER MONROE @ CDNN - CYBER DIVER News Network

<http://www.cdnn.info/news/safety/s090501a.html>

#### WORTHING, UK (1 May 2009)

— Coroner Penelope Schofield recorded a verdict of accidental death by drowning in the death of scuba diver John Maneely.

Maneely, 32, died while scuba diving with a rebreather in a deep cave at Source du Doubs in France near the Swiss border.

Other divers who also entered the cave system with Maneely started searching when he failed



John Maneely, 32, died while  
cave diving in France

to resurface and found his body trapped under a ledge 26 meters down the main shaft of the cave.

***According to a report by French investigators, which was admitted as evidence in the hearing, the large size of Maneely's rebreather may have caused his death.***

***Other divers had warned him the night before the dive that his equipment was too big to pass through narrower parts of the cave.***

***Maneely ignored the warning and apparently encountered problems at a narrow gap.***

According to the report, which was read out at the inquest, French investigators said they could not be sure what happened but speculated that Maneely took off his rebreather and managed to squeeze through the gap breathing from another bottle.

He then may have tried to put his rebreather back on but failed and attempted to resurface holding the bottle under his arm.

Maneely's father, David, said his son broke his back ten years ago in a motorcycle accident and suffered long-term injuries that may have prevented him from putting the rebreather back on.

# The Argus

## News

### Shoreham cave diver dies in mystery accident

3:00pm Friday 1st May 2009

[http://www.theargus.co.uk/news/4334258.Shoreham\\_cave\\_diver\\_dies\\_in\\_mystery\\_accident/](http://www.theargus.co.uk/news/4334258.Shoreham_cave_diver_dies_in_mystery_accident/)

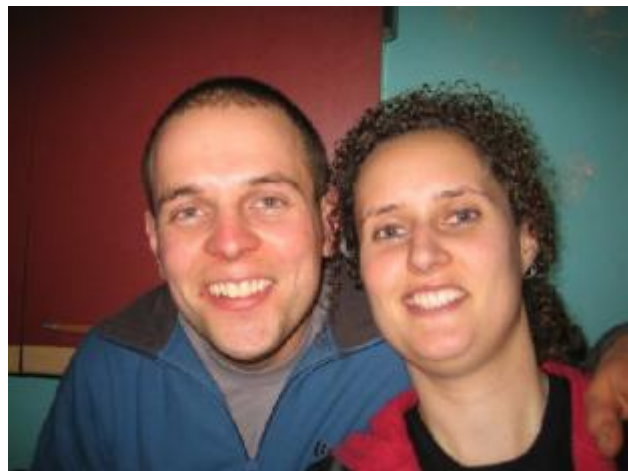
By Nigel Freedman »

An experienced cave diver died after a mystery accident on an expedition in France.

John Maneely got into trouble on a dive in a deep cave in Source du Doubs, near the Swiss border.

The 32-year-old, of Eastern Avenue, Shoreham, was wearing a large air recycler when he began exploring the cave.

**Other divers had warned him the night before that it would be too big to get through some of the narrower parts of the cave system.**



John Maneely

John Volanthen and Charles Reid-Henry, who also made the dive, returned safely.

They searched for Mr Maneely when he failed to surface. His body was found trapped under a ledge 26 metres down the main shaft to the cave.

French investigators say they have no way of knowing how he died during the September 28 accident.

A report from them read out at the inquest in Worthing said: **“It seems that he could not make the return passage through the first rockfall in the cave.**

**“This may be because his recycler pack was too large and the other three divers had smaller recyclers.**

**“He may then have taken his off and started breathing with another bottle and managed to get through the narrow gap.**

**“The possibility is that after getting through he tried to put the recycler back on but could not do so.**

**“He may have tried to continue the ascent holding the air bottle under his arm.**

**“Matters then got out of his control and he made a very rapid ascent to where he was found.”**

His father David Maneely, from Worthing, said his son “loved diving” and was a qualified instructor.

He added: “He broke his back in a motorcycle accident in 1999 and may have had problems getting the recycler back on as a result.”

West Sussex Coroner Penelope Schofield recorded a **verdict of accidental death by drowning.**