

07-05-2018 Thailand - Saman Gunan PSD – Seal – Cave Rescue Attempt –Updated 10-22-2018

## Makhan Malai Diver Dies In Thailand Cave Rescue Strive

<https://makhanmalai.co/makhan-malai-diver-dies-in-thailand-cave-rescue-strive/>

July 6, 2018 Makhan Malai



**Saman Gunan, pictured right here in the cave, misplaced consciousness in a passageway Image copyright Poom Pui**

A outdated skool Thai navy diver has died while taking phase in efforts to rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach trapped in a flooded give intention Thailand. Petty Officer Saman Gunan misplaced consciousness on his components out of the Tham Luang cave complex, where he had been handing over air tanks.

The boys have been trapped for nearly two weeks in a chamber in the cave. They ventured in while the cave turned into once dry but were caught out by a surprising deluge of rain, which flooded the draw.

The neighborhood turned into once chanced on by British rescue divers after 10 days in the cave, perched on a rock shelf in a small chamber about 4km (2.5 miles) from the cave mouth.

Teams of Thai and world divers have since provided them with food, oxygen and scientific attention, but there are mounting concerns in regards to the oxygen stage in the chamber, which officials said had fallen to fifteen%. The same outdated stage is 21%.

Even for skilled divers, the cave is unhealthy

On the skin, a broad military and civilian rescue operation is racing against the clock to raise the boys to safety. Heavy monsoon rains are expected on Sunday, threatening further flooding.

Officers had first and most predominant in point of fact apt leaving the boys in the chamber to wait out the rainy season – which could perchance perhaps even have viewed them trapped there for up to four months.

But Thailand's Navy Seal commander instructed on Thursday that the divers could perhaps also now have exiguous want but to strive a plucky emergency rescue – fraught with hazard for the boys, who're broken-down 11 to 16 and some of whom cannot swim.

"To delivery out with, we notion the younger people could perhaps also be pleased for a extremely long time... but now things have changed, we have got a minute time," Rear Admiral Apakorn Yookongkaew said.

### **A loss of life in the cave**

The loss of life of Saman – a highly educated diver – on Thursday underscored the hazard of piquant from the chamber to mouth of the cave, and raised excessive doubts in regards to the safety of bringing the boys out by the diminutive, flooded passageways.

The diver died after dropping consciousness in without a doubt one of the most passageways, said Passakorn Boonyaluck, deputy governor of the Chiang Rai set up of living, where the cave is positioned.

"His job turned into once to raise oxygen. He did no longer have ample on his components back," Mr Passakorn said.

He said that Saman's dive partner tried to revive him but could perhaps also no longer, and his physique turned into once brought out of the cave.

Saman, who turned into once reportedly 38, had left the navy but returned to support in the rescue operation. Said to be an avid runner and bike owner, he turned into once phase of the broad rescue operation launched after the neighborhood became stranded in the Tham Luang cave.

Officers said his funeral would be subsidized by the Thai king.

The search operation would lope on, said Rear Adm Arpakorn. "I'm able to guarantee that we is never any longer going to scare, we is never any longer going to halt our mission, we is never any longer going to let the sacrifice of our buddy lope to waste," he said.

About 1,000 persons are inquisitive in regards to the rescue operation, at the side of navy divers, military personnel and civilian volunteers.

### **A scarcity of oxygen**

Authorities speak there are concerns about falling oxygen levels in the chamber where the boys and their coach are trapped.

Oxygen turned into once being depleted by the mountainous number of oldsters working within the cave network, said the Chiang Rai Governor, Narongsak Osotthanakorn.

Authorities are now working to acquire a 5km (3 mile) cable into the cave to make the neighborhood with air. They are additionally looking to feed a fibre optic cable by to the neighborhood, to connect them to their families for the first time in nearly two weeks.

### **What are the rescue alternate choices?**

The boys are being repeatedly provided with food and scientific care, but there are grave concerns over heavy rainfall forecast for Sunday.

Authorities are attempting to work out how handiest to raise the neighborhood to safety, with officials stressing they construct no longer intend to pick out any dangers with the boys' safety.

The military has been pumping water out of the cave but if it will't withhold the water stage down, this would possibly occasionally perchance perhaps also be left a stark actuality: teaching the boys to utilize diving gear and bringing them by a route which has already trace one educated diver his existence.

Some local teams are browsing in the hills for unknown entrances to the cave draw, but none has yet been chanced on.

If a rescue strive fails, leaving the boys to wait out the rain brings with it one other hazard: that the sinkholes and streams in the hills above could perhaps also flood the chamber utterly.

### **Diver's loss of life a blow to morale**

Rescue operation leaders right here speak most of those alive to have been educated to work in excessive risk environments, and to take care of eventualities enjoy this.

They speak the loss of life of Saman received impact on their mission. But there would possibly be a diversified atmosphere right this moment time in the makeshift village that's developed at the cave's entrance, and the loss of life of a outdated skool navy Seal highlights titillating how unhealthy the route out of the cave remains.

It's no longer probably the boys will win out in regards to the loss of life. One amongst the high concerns right here is to preserve them no longer titillating physically but mentally strong.

This day, the priority is to connect the fibre optic cable that will enable the boys to instruct to their families. It's miles hoped this would possibly occasionally perchance

perhaps also be a crucial enhance for the younger boys, after two long weeks underground.

A relative of without a doubt one of the most 12 boys listens to a files conference asserting the diver's loss of life

## Diver Dies During Rescue Efforts for Cave-Trapped Thai Boys

<https://www.livescience.com/63001-thai-navy-diver-dies-cave-rescue.html>

July 6, 2018 By Mindy Weisberger, Senior Writer



**The body of Saman Gunan, a former Thai navy SEAL who died during an overnight mission, is carried during a repatriation and religious rites ceremony at Chiang Rai Airport in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai province, in northern Thailand.**

***Credit: AP/REX/Shutterstock***

Rescue efforts for a Thai soccer team trapped in a cave complex recently took a tragic turn: A former Thai navy diver died after running out of air while delivering oxygen tanks to the 12 boys and their coach underground.

Retired Petty Officer Saman Gunan (also reported as "Kunan") was delivering air tanks to the stranded boys and their coach, who are in a subterranean chamber with oxygen levels running low, the BBC [reported](#).

To reach the boys, Gunan and other divers had to navigate recently flooded passageways in the Tham Luang cave complex, where the children have [already been trapped](#) for close to two weeks. But Gunan ran out of air on the way back to the

surface. He was found unresponsive at 1 a.m. local time today (July 6) and was transported to a nearby hospital, where he died without regaining consciousness, according to the [Bangkok Post](#). [[The 7 Longest Caves in the World](#)].

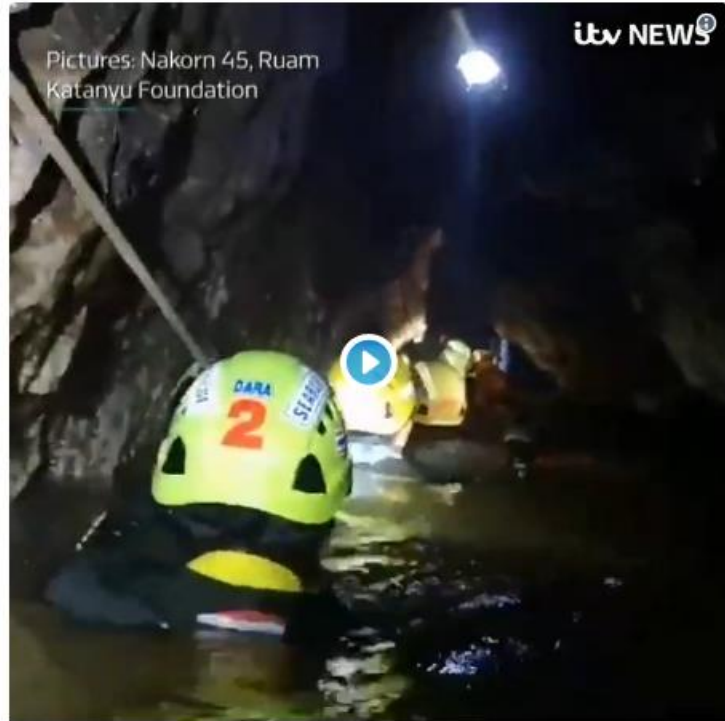
Though Gunan had retired from navy service and was currently employed as an airport security officer, he volunteered to help rescue the boys and their coach, and he was one of 28 navy officers on the scene who are trained as specialists on sea, air and land (SEAL), the [Bangkok Post](#) reported. Gunan, an experienced diver, was placing oxygen tanks along a proposed exit route for the team, but his oxygen supply ran out as he navigated back to safety, according to [The Washington Post](#).

Even as Gunan's tragic death is mourned, rescue efforts for the trapped boys continue. Early this morning, ITV News in the U.K. [tweeted a video](#) of the rescue team in the tunnels, captured by a helmet camera. In the harrowing footage, rescuers progressed slowly in single file through low-ceilinged and flooded passageways where water in some places reached above their shoulders, gripping a lifeline attached to the cave wall overhead.

Getting the boys out of the flooded cave system will require outfitting them with diving gear, but some of the children trapped in the cave are as young as 11, and none can swim, [Live Science previously reported](#). (For the diving part of the escape, the kids will be assisted by adult divers and won't need to swim in the traditional sense.)

Estimates from officials in Thailand had previously suggested that transporting everyone safely out of the cave complex could mean waiting as long as four months until the rainy season ended, according to the [BBC](#). But with heavy monsoon rains expected on Sunday, waiting may no longer be an option, Rear Adm. Apakorn Yookongkaew, Thailand's navy SEAL commander, told the [BBC](#).

"At first, we thought the children could stay for a long time," Yookongkaew said. "But now things have changed; we have a limited time." [Original article on Live Science](#).



Headcam footage from Thailand shows the tough conditions facing dive teams working to rescue 12 boys and their coach from a cave.

It comes after officials confirmed former Thai navy SEAL Saman Kunan had died while assisting with the operation

[bit.ly/2KNaYbH](https://bit.ly/2KNaYbH)

5:33 AM - Jul 6, 2018

## Thailand cave rescue: Diver dies trying to save trapped boys and football coach

<https://news.sky.com/story/navy-diver-dies-trying-to-rescue-boys-trapped-in-thai-cave-11427716>

06 July 2018

Authorities are racing to pump out water from the flooded cave where the boys and their coach have been trapped since 23 June.

**A former Navy Seal diver has died while taking part in the rescue mission for 12 boys and a football coach who have been trapped in a Thai cave for two weeks.**

The death of Saman Gunan has highlighted the dangers of the tense rescue operation, with the boys trapped 2.5 miles (4km) within the complex network of waterlogged caves.

One of the options to free the boys is teaching them to dive, [but even experienced divers have found its currents and tight passages extremely challenging.](#)

Thai diver Mr Gunan had been working as a volunteer during an overnight mission in which he had been delivering oxygen canisters in the Tham Luang cave system, according to authorities.

"On his way back he lost consciousness," Thai Seal commander Apakorn Yookongkaew said, adding that a diving partner had tried to help bring him out.



**An honour guard carries the coffin of diver Saman Gunan**



**Saman Gunan was an ex Thai Navy diver**

"But even though we have lost one man, we still have faith to carry out our work."

Rescue teams are now battling against the clock to beat monsoon rains expected on Saturday, [having reduced water levels in the cave by 40%.](#)

The boys, aged 11 to 16, and their coach were found on Monday, after they went missing following a football game on 23 June.

[The moment a British diver encountered the boys and their 25-year-old coach after 10 days in the cave](#) was captured on film, with one of the youngsters asking the rescuers what day of the week it was.

Parts of the passageway leading to where the group were found are still flooded all the way to the ceiling - leaving diving out of the cave the only option for survival.

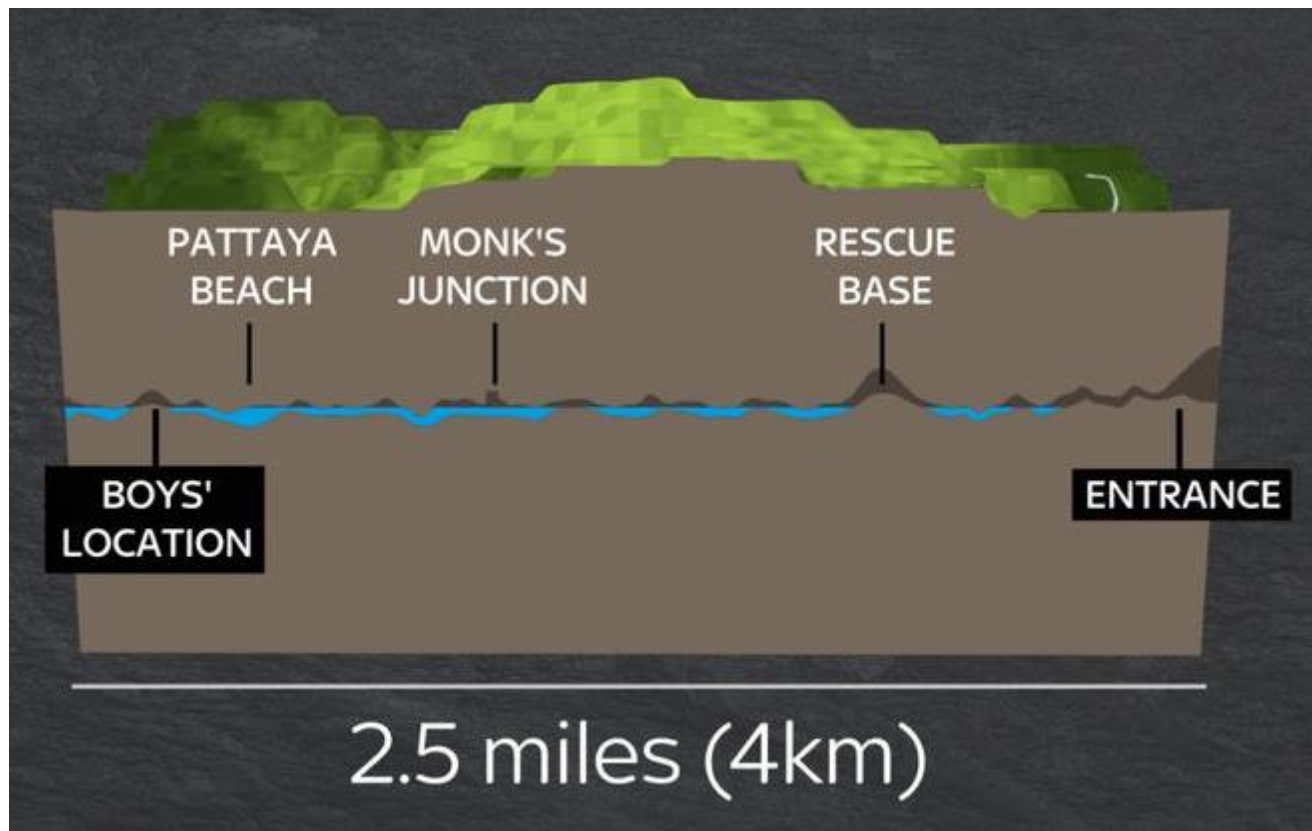
Officials have said not all 13 of those trapped may be extracted at the same time depending on their condition, and the boys have been practising wearing diving masks and breathing.

They are not thought to have attempted any practice dives.

The Thai Navy Seals are in charge of extraction plans, with the help of dive teams from Britain, America, Australia and Asia.



**Rescuers are racing against time to rescue the boys and their coach**



**Image: A graphic showing the boys' predicament**

## Desperation Levels Reached In Thai Cave Rescue Mission

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/world/2018/07/desperation-levels-reached-in-thai-cave-rescue-mission.html>

07/07/2018 Newshub staff

A lack of oxygen is as deadly a threat as the imminent monsoon rains, which could further flood the caves.

The question is, can rescuers keep them alive long enough to save them. The monsoon rains grow ever closer but a rescue attempt that's already proved deadly remains frustratingly far away.

The local Governor says the boys are not ready, and so they wait in the dark below. "No, not today because the boys are not suitable - they cannot dive at this time." Oxygen levels in Tham Luang cave pose the latest grave concern.

If the 12 boys and their coach stay where they are, they risk either running out of air or drowning. But the only way out - to dive through the labyrinth - is fraught with danger too.

Former Thai Navy SEAL Saman Gunan lost his life in the plight to save theirs. While re-supplying air tanks along the escape route, he lost consciousness underwater and died. Filming himself just days earlier, before he embarked on his volunteer mission, he said "we will get those kids home".

His sacrifice makes him a national hero and he will receive one of Thailand's highest honours - a funeral sponsored by the Royal family. His colleagues vow his death will not be in vain.

Rear Admiral Arpakorn Yookongkaew, Commander Royal Thai Navy Seals, says time is up for the rescue and they must act now.

"We can no longer wait for all the conditions to be right because circumstances are pressuring us. We originally thought the boys could stay safe inside the cave for quite some time, but circumstances have changed. We have a limited amount of time."

Thai government diver Songkran Yodpunkham says they have no other option and should be taking them out by diving.

Rescue mission in Thailand becomes desperate. Credits: Photo & Video - Newshub. A lack of oxygen is as deadly a threat as the imminent monsoon rains, which could further flood the caves.

The question is, can rescuers keep them alive long enough to save them. The monsoon rains grow ever closer but a rescue attempt that's already proved deadly remains frustratingly far away.

The local Governor says the boys are not ready, and so they wait in the dark below.





**His wife Waleporn Gunan says she is devastated but proud.**

***Source:Supplied***

he lost consciousness underwater and died. Filming himself just days earlier, before he embarked on his volunteer mission, he said "we will get those kids home".

His sacrifice makes him a national hero and he will receive one of Thailand's highest honours - a funeral sponsored by the Royal family. His colleagues vow his death will not be in vain.

Rear Admiral Arpakorn Yookongkaew, Commander Royal Thai Navy Seals, says time is up for the rescue and they must act now.

"We can no longer wait for all the conditions to be right because circumstances are pressuring us. We originally thought the boys could stay safe inside the cave for quite some time, but circumstances have changed. We have a limited amount of time." Thai government diver Songkran Yodpunkham says they have no other option and should be taking them out by diving.

"This could make them panic or cause them to choke and that would use up a lot of air. It could be terrible - they could start hyperventilating. It's also zero visibility." Eighteen shafts have been drilled from above, but so far none has reached the chamber, while other teams scour the dense Thai jungle for possible holes to the caverns below.

## **Saman Gunan tragedy: 'You are the hero in my heart'**

<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/news-life/saman-gunan-tragedy-you-are-the-hero-in-my-heart/news-story/fef684306c15114ced519feb862fe261>

JULY 11, 2018

**AS THE world rejoices over the cave rescue mission, thoughts have turned to the one person who did not make it out alive.**

THE wife of former Navy Seal Saman Gunan — the only person not to survive the cave drama — has paid an emotional tribute to the man she calls "the hero in my heart".

"No, not today because the boys are not suitable - they cannot dive at this time."

Oxygen levels in Tham Luang cave pose the latest grave concern.

If the 12 boys and their coach stay where they are, they risk either running out of air or drowning. But the only way out - to dive through the labyrinth - is fraught with danger too.

Former Thai Navy SEAL Saman Gunan lost his life in the plight to save theirs. While re-supplying air tanks along the escape route,

The 38-year-old was working as a volunteer when he lost consciousness underwater during the rescue mission late last week as he placed extra air tanks inside the cave. His death sparked fears there was no way the 12 boys and their soccer coach would make it out of the northern Thailand cave system alive.

They did though, [late last night](#), and the whole world appears to be celebrating some rare good news.

But Mr Gunan's family are preparing for life without him. In an emotional BBC interview, his wife Waleeporn Gunan and father Wichai Gunan spoke about their loss.

"Every day before we left for work, we said we loved each other," Mrs Gunan said. "At midday, we would text to see if the other had lunch."

She said she had discussed death with the man she "loved so much".

"Saman once said we never knew when we would die ... We can't control that so we need to cherish each day."

Now he was gone, it was as if she too had died. "If you ask me if I'm sad, it's like I have died but am still alive, [but I] use my pride to repress my sadness."

Mrs Gunan told the BBC her husband loved charity work and helping others. "He has been praised as a hero for who he was ... I want to tell you honey, you are the hero in my heart, you always were and always will be."

Wichai Gunan said he was sad but proud. "My beloved son, may you rest in peace."

Early today, rescue mission chief and Chiang Rai governor Narongsak Osottanakorn said Mr Gunan was the "hero of the Tham Luang cave", which was met with a huge cheer.

"He was a very capable SEAL and a triathlete who liked adventure sports." the Thai Navy SEALs wrote in a Facebook post Friday, after Mr Gunan's death had been announced.

"Although he resigned from the unit, he still loved and had a good connection with all the SEALs.



**Former Navy Seal Saman Gunan died while trying to rescue the boys trapped in a cave in Chiang Rai. Source: Supplied**

“Even the last part of his life, 1st Petty Officer Saman left us and this world while working with the SEAL brothers who are also trying to go forward and complete the mission as planned.

“His determination and good intention will always be in the heart of all SEAL brothers. Today, you get some good rest. We will complete the mission for you.”

He was a former member of the Royal Thai Navy’s Underwater Demolition Assault Unit, which is known as the Thai Navy SEALs. After quitting from the unit, he worked as a patrol officer at Bangkok’s international airport.



**A Royal Thai Navy soldier carries a portrait of Mr Gunan as his coffin is taken to a plane. Source:AFP**



**Members of the armed forces stand a salute as Mr Gunan’s body is flown back to his home town. Source:Getty Images**

He recorded a video of himself just before he left for northern Chiang Rai province to join the rescue effort. In the video he said he wanted to help "bring the boys back home".

"Loaded all my stuff on to the plane. I'm ready to fly to Chiang Rai," Mr Gunan said in Thai on the self-shot video, reported the Associated Press.

"See you at Tham Luang in Chiang Rai. May good luck be on our side to bring the boys back home."

## Ashes of ex-Seal Saman scattered on Mekong River

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1512210/ashes-of-ex-seal-saman-scattered-on-mekong-river>

29 Jul 2018 WRITER: PATTANAPONG SRIPIACHAI



**Eleven young Wild Boar Academy footballers and the coach who have been ordained as novices and monk attend a ceremony to scatter the ashes of Lt Cdr Saman Gunan in Muang district of Nakhon Phanom province...**

NAKHON PHANOM: The ashes of ex-Seal Saman Gunan, who died in the operation to rescue the 12 Wild Boar Academy football players and their coach from Tham Luang cave in Chiang Rai province, were scattered in the Mekong River in a ceremony on Sunday morning.

The ceremony was held in the middle of the Mekong River in front of the Indochina Market in Nakhon Phanom Municipality, and was chaired by Nakhon Phanom governor

Somchai Witdamrong. Eleven young Moo Paa Academy footballers and the coach, who were all ordained into the monkhood last week in Chiang Rai's Mae Sai district, were present at the ceremony.

Mrs Waleeporn, wife of the late ex-Seal member Saman, and her relatives were also at the ceremony.

The 11 Wild Boars, their coach, Mrs Waleeporn and her relatives were all taken in a Mekong Riverine Unit boat to the middle of the Mekong River, where Lt Cdr Saman's ashes were scattered according to local tradition. Mrs Waleeporn said she chose the Mekong River as the site for scattering the ashes because her late husband loved the river and she herself is a native of Nakhon Phanom. Moreover, the town is where she and Lt Cdr Saman first met 15 years ago, she said. The ceremony was watched from the bank by a large number of people. Lt Cdr Saman passed out and died while diving as part of the part of the rescue operation in the cave on June 6.

## Thai soccer team rescued, from caves – former SEAL dies attempting to save boys

<http://nwasianweekly.com/2018/08/the-layup-drill-mannys-return-a-tribute-to-fallen-thai-navy-seal-and-chloe-kims-trifecta/>

August 10, 2018



In late June, members of the "Wild Boars" Thailand Boys' soccer team and their coach became trapped in a cave in northern Thailand. It was nearly two weeks before they were discovered.

The path to the team required a five-hour trip to deliver oxygen to the cave. Narrow channels and jagged rocks encompassed the pathway to the boys, who admitted that they were not strong swimmers, making the rescue that much more difficult.

A retired Thai Navy SEAL lost his life aiding in the effort. Sgt. Major Saman Gunan was volunteering during an overnight mission to place extra air tanks inside the cave.

He passed out underwater and could not be revived. He was 38 years old and survived by his wife.

Gunan was an accomplished triathlete (a sport requiring one to swim, bike, and run) and champion trail runner. He was one of the top triathletes in Thailand and was part of The North Face Adventure Team. His team posted a message on its Facebook page remembering the former Navy SEAL. "We will never forget your enthusiasm (sic), power, passion and kindness. You died helping others, the ultimate sacrifice." After weeks within the cave, the boys and their coach were eventually rescued.