

Overseas Bag

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Another interesting bag especially with several new correspondents – of whom some are recent leavers and some who have been out of touch for many years! But all your correspondence is well received whether by letter or e-mail.

The SOF website (www.oldframlinghamian.com) continues to be a major success in improving communication amongst OFs. I am aware of many OFs who have got back in touch with contemporaries as a result of finding them on the e-mail list. I also know of several OFs who have renewed contact after many years absence. If you haven't registered your e-mail address or are just changing postal address or haven't seen a Mag for a while (in which case you are probably not seeing this!) then log on to the website and submit an Address Feedback form. And if you are wondering where the form goes after you click the "send" button – well, a copy comes to me in Florida so I can follow up on any issues; it goes to **Bob Craig (R63-70)** in New Zealand who will add you to the e-mail address list; and a third copy goes to **John Whipp (Hon. OF)** in Framlingham who amends the Register / Address list details. Both John Whipp and Bob Craig are doing magnificent voluntary work in keeping all your details up to date for which the SOF is truly indebted.

Despite retiring from the editorship of the Overseas Bag in 1988, the late **Tom Saul (R19-24)** had continued to correspond with several OFs overseas and to submit extracts from his letters to RMR & JGR. Tom's son, **John Saul (R49-56)**, writes that he had found some rough drafts amongst his father's papers, and from these and from letters which he himself received after Tom's death, he has prepared several items for inclusion as Tom's final contribution to the Overseas Bag.

Australia

Bob Munro (R54-60) wrote to **Chris Bellamy (G54-64)** in December 1999 and just missed the last bag:

Our main event for the year has been our move from Greensborough to Rosanna, a move which we have enjoyed in every sense of the word. We settled in quickly enough and have spent the time since trying to get it all just right and can at last relax a bit. Although we will of course miss the swimming pool on the anticipated very hot days. We have had a mild winter; spring has been cool and wet but we are still in dire need of significant rain. This is now the third year of below average rainfall – so we may still get water rationing.

Australia has done well at sports with apparently 55 World Championships or World Records in sports as diverse as Rugby League and Rugby Union, swimming, netball, cricket and others. I don't understand how a country of around 20 million can dominate in so many sports.

In Aussie Rules Football, my team, the North Melbourne Kangaroos, won the Grand Final, helping to erase the awful memory of last year's thrashing.

Australia has taken in a large number of refugees from the mess in Kosovo. Most were grateful for the hand of friendship and have returned home but a few are demanding to stay (can you believe it). The problem of Australia taking refugees has become a big cause of controversy here. Since the Kosovo crisis, we have also had the East Timorese crisis. Our troops and other

NATO forces are now clearing up the mess with the whole exercise, Timor and Kosovo, costing billions of dollars. This has already attracted an extra “once-off” tax on the “wealthy” but it has been ill thought out and is proving very un-popular. This is on top of the recent Goods and Services Tax which recently became law after a rough ride through the Senate. No wonder, nobody trusts the politicians.

To top it all, the State elections didn't go as planned to the Liberal / Nationals. It was a close contest but we now have a minority Labour government with the balance of power held by 3 Independents!

Address: 2 Gordon Court, Rosanna East, Victoria 3084, Australia; tel: (+61) 3 9455 0006

Amongst **Tom Saul's** Christmas mail was a letter and card from **Mike Garnett (R53-58)**. Mike was enthusiastic over Australian success in the sporting world during the past year: World cricket champions, World Rugby champions and Davis Cup winners. It made him proud to be Australian! (But do you not have some slight feeling for the old country, Mike? - TGS.)

A few days before he wrote, Mike had been to a small gathering of OFs to drink the health of their old school for the last time in the 20th century. **Keith Dann (S48-50)** and his wife had driven about 120 km from their home, and **John Fitzherbert (39-40)** had come from not too far away by taxi. The latter was not too fit, but he had brought his old school cap, circa 1939, and wore this for the photograph taken of the event. It had been a most enjoyable occasion; the 3 of them had encompassed the 30s, the 40s and the 50s.

Mike's eldest son was still real tennis professional at Petworth House in Sussex, and his second son was at University. Mike still enjoyed playing his favourite game of real tennis - his Christmas card depicted the new court recently opened in Romsey.

Mike later wrote to **John Saul** in response to the news of Tom's death. He recalled many years of correspondence with Tom (and previously with General Inskip) while he was in all sorts of outlandish places - Malaya during National Service, lonely tea plantations in Assam, amongst the coconuts and snakes in the wilds of Papua New Guinea, and finally Australia; and it was the kind and interested letters which Tom had written that had led Mike to call on him and Ethel when they were living in Bishops Stortford. He was sad that his long-distance relationship with a true gentleman had now come to an end.

Address: The Chase, RMB 1175, Main Road, Romsey 3434, Victoria, Australia

John Saul (R49-56) also wrote to another of Tom's correspondents, **Jim Macbride (S40-43)**. In his reply, Jim recalled that he had corresponded with Tom for 28 years but had never met; and now they never would.

Address: 15/319 Macquarie Street, South Hobart, Tasmania 7004

Andrew Birt (S53-58) sent in a brief request with his address feedback form in February: Must be getting old(er). Keep remembering people, wondering what they are up to and where they are. Wouldn't mind hearing from a few long-not-seen bodies - **Bill Collard (S55-58)**, **Murray Phillips (52-58)**, **Tony Rumsey (S54-59)**, **Colin Micklewright (S55-59)** - to name a few.

Address: 57 Glenrock Parade, Koolewong, NSW 2256, Australia; tel: (+61) 2 4341 2882; fax:

(+61) 2 4341 2882; e-mail: andybirt@acay.com.au

PETER RISK (R55-60) sent an e-mail to RMR in June:

Good to hear that your young son, James, is mobile. This is the time when you must take lots of videos so that when he brings his girlfriends home in later years you can embarrass him!!! That seems to be a universal trait in parents. (*RMR – I think my wife, Denise, is amassing a collection*).

Farmers here are having a very worrying time, there has been no rains for a few month. So putting the crop in has been delayed, making it too late for some crops to be planted. To make matters worse it is quite windy and the topsoil is blowing away. Also the winter grasses either haven't shot or did shoot and have been burnt off in the heat – so there are all the lambs and ewes with no feed.

My wife, Lynda, had surgery for a pituitary tumour in November and is nearly back to normal though may face radiotherapy later in the year, she is not looking forward to that!!!

I have heard from **Paul Bonner (G61-64)** down in Walpole who very kindly passed on his brother's e-mail address to me.

I haven't heard from any of the local OFs for quite a while, have been pretty busy learning about our new tax the GST, the government keep changing various bits and pieces regarding it just to make it more difficult!!

We have recently ventured into Internet share trading, not doing too badly for a beginner; I have even got my own laptop just to do the trading. Quite something for a chap like me who is not really inclined toward this new technology! It just goes to prove that you can teach an old dog new tricks.

Address: PO Box 135, Armadale, Western Australia 6992; tel: (61) 08 9399 3332, fax: 9497 3359; e-mail: bassrisk@ca.com.au

Ann Hogarth (V85-87) sent a letter to JGR in April:

We are here at last in Sydney! We managed to find a house in Balmain which is great. It is an old style terrace house next to Thames Street ferry wharf which is excellent for getting to the city in the morning. At the moment we have no furniture as it is on its way from UK and Singapore – so we have a mattress on the floor, a fish tank and a computer – and one chair for which we have a time-share agreement! The hire car goes back soon. So the task of buying our own will begin in earnest. We have two pushbikes but the hills are formidable.

Job-wise is looking good. We have both had several interviews and have pretty much sorted out what we want to do. I am setting up an office in Sydney for Go-Events (www.go-events.com) dealing with online event / conference registration.

Hope you are all keeping well. Now that you have our contact details let us know if you are coming over!!

Address: 11 Wells Street, Balmain, Sydney, NSW, 2041; tel: (+61) 2 9818 1652; e-mail: ahogarth@one.net.au

Max Kissick-Jones (R80-84) sent an e-mail when registering his address in May:

I've been living in Sydney Australia for the last 6 years working within the IT Industry; I

currently work for a Global Supply Chain company supplying the IT industry. I was married for 5 years and have a lovely 3 year old daughter Lucy. Many OFs will remember my father's pub in Snape, The Golden Key, a regular haunt for ex students and masters alike.

Now and then I return on business to the UK and to catch up with friends. I know have 2 brothers who are currently at Framlingham Oliver and Guy who both enjoy their sports as well as a little study.

I would like to catch up with any OFs in the region. (*RMR – I have passed your name on to Neville Marsh in Brisbane who keeps a register of Australian OFs*)

Address: 2 Wentworth St, Paddington, Sydney, 2021, Australia; tel: (+61) 2 9565 6000; e-mail: max_kissick-jones@modusmedia.com

Peter Hollins (K71-76) sent a brief message in May:

I hope that this email finds you well and that the family is growing. Here in Perth events move steadily along - well most of the time. You may have read that we managed to cut the Women's Triathlon Championships down to a much more manageable length by cutting out a lap!!!! Unfortunately WA were not the best cricket state this summer but did win the basketball.

Sally, Emma, Matthew and I had a good Christmas as M&D came out from the UK, leaving my brothers to cook their own dinner. It was a busy period as the company I work for moved into purpose built premises over that time. Moving over 80,000 different automotive and truck parts is a fair challenge, let alone the 170 employees, mainframe etc. Sal & I had 10 days in Maui and Auckland in November - very good for me as Sal was on a conference and I had to look after the golf clubs!

Address: 32 Camborne Avenue, City Beach WA 6015, Australia. Tel: (61) 089 2850002; Fax: 089 285 0006; E-mail: peter.hollins@amcap.com.au

Jeremy Francis (S78-83) sent a brief note with his address feedback form:

Just to confirm I am still in Melbourne Australia, but I have not received the OF mag for sometime! (*RMR – we will ensure that your address is updated*)

Address: francis_jerry@hotmail.com

After some confusion by RMR on the correct e-mail address for **Paul Bonner (G61-64)**, Paul sent his best wishes from Western Australia:

It took me a while but I am back in the OF Brigade again. Just to clarify the comments in the last magazine. Walpole is in the SW of Western Australia. We do have electricity, phones and running water. We are the proud users of a new deep sewerage system - imagine the excitement there! We have a beautiful inlet with fish a plenty and access to the ocean for the best deep sea fishing in the area. We are surrounded by forests and despite what you hear from the Greenies there are vast acreages with trees and native animals. In fact we do less harm to the environment than the mining consortiums (will that get a reaction from our mining magnate in Perth?)

As to the Perth dinner, please let me know the date and I will try to make it - but as you rightly put it the journey is a 10 hour round trip - not one we take lightly and I am not fond of big cities.

One question that needs an answer. What happened to the OFs from the 60's & 70's? The e-mail address list seems very sparse for those years.

Finally, the very best of luck to everybody for the centenary celebrations. I remember fondly the visit of Princess Alice, the huge BBQ pit on the front lawn and the general excitement at the time.

Address: c/o Post Office, Walpole 6398, Western Australia; e-mail: pioneerstore@wn.com.au

Mark Birrell (G79-84) sent in a note with his address feedback form in March:

Everytime I think of the old school and the years that I enjoyed there, it puts a smile on my face. Whilst at Fram I met a great bunch of people and we had some good times together. I have since been living in Australia for the past ten years and have only managed to get back to Fram once. The old place still looks good and I am proud to say that I went there.

My brother **Iain (G79-80)** lives here too. He married my wife's bridesmaid!!!

Will I ever receive my OF mag? (*RMR – by filling in the address feedback form on the SOF website – www.oldframlinghamian.com - your address information will automatically go to the right people to get you back on the address list. Hopefully we will also hear from your brother, Iain, to find out what he is up to and get him back on the mailing list too.*)

Address: Saxtead Cottage, 28 Bocking Avenue, Bradbury, NSW 2560, Australia; tel: (+62) 4 627 0992; e-mail: bizzainc@ozemail.com.au

Canada

Brian Mayhew (R46-52) sent a message in May:

This is the first time I have been in touch with the SOF. I have been in Ontario, Canada for more than 40 years and have had very little contact with OFs in that time. I occasionally see **Patrick Vincent (47-51)** and, before he moved to the West Coast of Canada, I met **David Lebbell (K41-46)** at Pat Vincent's house a few times. Other than that, little contact over the years. My time in Canada has been spent with the Canadian branch of Chubb, the Wolverhampton security equipment company. I will be retiring from there at the end of May 2000. I would very much like to get in touch with **Everett Joyce (46-53)** who was at Framlingham with me and who I lost touch with many years ago. If anyone knows how to contact him I would be grateful.

Address: 5 Greenpine Ave, R.R.# 3, Barrie, Ontario, Canada, L4M 4S5; email: mayhew@bconnex.net or brian@mayhew.net

Tim Walwyn (S45-53) sent a note in April to report the death of **Peter C D Powell (R39-43)**. Tim continued:

I read the OF magazine with interest. You do a fine job editing and producing it. My wife and I did visit Framlingham in 1998 (as some of your correspondents have noted!) and saw the school. The surrounding Suffolk countryside was as delightful as ever.

Since I retired in 1994, we have become grandparents (x3). We try to make at least one major trip each year which have included the Panama Canal, UK, Ireland and Alaska. I enjoy my retirement and having the time to do what I want to do! I still play men's' doubles tennis at the

club several times a week at 8.00 am – and am reconciled to the fact that I am not improving! I garden more, do more maintenance around the house, have more family time and follow the stock market more closely.

Address: 6857 Laburnum Street, Vancouver, BC, V6P 5M8; e-mail: twalwyn@telus.net

News from the daughter of the late **Frank Rowe (40)**:

My name is Debbie Brown. I am Frank & Lorie Rowe's daughter. My father, Frank Rowe, died in 1975. Over the years, Lorie has lost contact with my Dad's side of the family, and she was now hoping to find out where they might be so that she could write to them from time to time. We just thought to start with **Norman and Mullie Borrett** because we knew of the Framlingham College connection. Mullie was my Dad's sister. We are also interested to locate my Dad's brother, **W Noel Rowe (40)** as well. We would appreciate any news.

Address: jdffbrown@sprint.ca

China (incl. Hong Kong SAR)

Ian Howard (S57-62) sent message in May:

Perhaps I could use a bit of space in the Bag to say that I am now back in Hong Kong and consulting on a freelance basis - mostly in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing. My consulting is hard to pigeonhole but it involves strategy and politics in 'Greater China' and IndoChina. I'm also working on projects for the Business & Professionals Federation of Hong Kong, a new investment fund 'Yangtze Ventures Ltd.' (a private VC fund for projects along the Yangtze) and a project for the HK government involving re-writing of some of their promotional literature. Quite busy!

I am in frequent contact with my old chum, **John Birt (59-63)** in Bangkok. Between us, we are hoping to re-start the OF Hong Kong / Far East dinners. I actually organized the first SOF HK dinner of the modern era: **Birt, Simpson, Richard Sayer** (visiting) were among the attendees!

Address: 6C, 75 Blue Pool Rd, Happy Valley, Hong Kong; tel: (+852) 2574 5280; fax (+852) 2574 6280; e-mail: ihoward@bigfoot.com

France

Andrew Emms (R48-52) sent a message in May:

What a boon a computer is - no unreadable handwriting, nasty splodges or crossings out.

I am the son of **A.G. Emms (10-13)** who died on 9 August 1975 and the father of **Neville S.A. Emms (R75-78)** who died on 23 July 1988, and **Charles D.A. Emms (R75-84)**. I myself am **R.A.A. Emms (R48-52)**.

After leaving Fram I spent three very good years in the Suffolk Regiment at Bury St. Edmunds and at Wuppertal in Germany. Lots of memories and some of life's needful lessons learnt.

In 1956 I went out to Kenya to plant tea, traveling by boat, to Mombasa and then made my way to Kericho some 40 miles south-east of Kisumu which is on Lake Victoria. The main

road in Kisumu was designed to be wide enough for wagon drawn by sixteen oxen to make a "U" turn!

Tea was first planted in Kericho in about 1926 and before that some of the land was used by an organisation called B.E.A.D.O.C. which positioned European Farmers on small plots of land along the boundaries between two different African tribes in an effort to reduce cattle rustling and friction generally. Luckily this was well before the advent of handheld SAM missiles.

I was married in 1961 to Annette and we had four children Neville, Sally, Matthew and Charles.

Between 1957 and Independence in 1963 I was a member of the local T.A. - The Kenya Regiment which meant some weekends and a fortnight's annual camp - one week of which was in the desert- like Northern Frontier Province and one week in the forests of Mount Kenya. This was all good fun but somewhat different to soldiering in Europe!

In 1977 I and three other Europeans in the Company lost our Work Permits as a result of the Kenya Governments policy of Africanisation and we had to leave the country. We - Annette and the four children came to England to look for a home and a job.

I worked in Great Yarmouth as part of a team trying to turn around ships and ferries. In 1989 Mrs Thatcher wielded her handbag and abolished the National Dock Labour Scheme and the Company, who held the license to employ dockers, and for whom I worked went into voluntary liquidation.

We then moved to France where we already had a holiday home - it is strange how things work out in life - in 1977 we had to move to England which was just the right time as regards our children's education and in 1989 we had to start a new life and what better place than here in southwest France where the sun is a little too hot and the wine in the local cooperative starts at 36 pence a litre.

I don't know if this is any good for the ' bag ' but if I ever see any of it in print I shall try to write some more. (*RMR – I hope you are now reading yourself in print. I look forward to some more fascinating correspondence in the future*)

My best wishes to you both and Vive les Fram, Rendlesham and Stradbroke. You can see that my French is worse than my English.

Address: Au Village, 32290, Lupiac, France; tel: (+33) 5 62 09 20 38; e-mail: asemms@aol.com

Hawaii

BRYAN PEARSON (S45-47) sent two more fascinating excerpts on his life and times:

I am so sorry to have left you in midstream as it were. I had fully intended to get this fourth installment off to you in time for the last magazine. Anyway, here it is almost the end of February, mea culpa:

Since there were four weeks of rehearsals and then a four week out of town tryout, I had to get to London and arrange accommodations which I was lucky enough to find at the home of Anna and Hugh Burden, both being actors and he somewhat of a "big name" in the theatre. They were friends of one of the cast members of Charley's Aunt who played Brassett, the butler.

Other members of the cast included Frank Tilton who was a "name", not only as an actor but as an opera singer and Leslie Phillips who played Frank Tilton's son, Lord Fancourt Baberley and dressed up as the "Aunt". Leslie, of course, went on to bigger and better things, going to

Hollywood for "Les Girls" and "Daddy Longlegs" amongst other films, and is still acting on TV in England, also recently did a play in the West End.

We rehearsed at the Duke of York's Theatre, which was a dream come true for me to be on such a famous and practically sacred spot as a professional actor, little thinking that I would appear there in a play myself one day. Then, off we went to try out the production before opening in London and, frankly, I cannot remember which cities we played in as we also did a tour after the West End.

One episode during rehearsals, however, is firmly and indelibly imprinted on my memory as it turned out to have a far reaching effect on my whole life.

The young actress hired to play Amy, one of the two ingénues, was Susan Dudley whose mother was an actress and whose father was Ernest Dudley, the "Armchair Detective" on the BBC, a very successful show in those days. Well, on the read through, which is the preamble to blocking and then actually rehearsing a play, poor Susan was having a dreadful time as it transpired that she had a very bad stutter and she could not get out the very first words that she had to say, which were "Oh, Mr Wickham" (me). She got as far as "Oh, Mr W...." and then started to stutter which caused no end of consternation and, in fact, when we broke for lunch, the producer/director, Jevan Brandon Thomas, took me aside and said that, even though Jane, Susan's mother, was a friend and had in fact been in the play in a prior year, he was going to have to let Susan go and find a replacement.

the night King George VI died

Well, I had known a chronic stutterer before. In fact, he was so bad that he had to carry a small notepad with him at all times and used it to "converse" with people, but there was something incredible about him and that was that if he memorised something he could repeat it clearly and distinctly without a trace of stutter. I told Jevan this and told him that I was sure that Susan would be better once she knew her lines and he told me that he had great misgivings but, if I was willing to take the risk and also work closely with her, he would let her continue rehearsing until we got to the walk through without scripts.

At this point I should add that Susan was an extremely beautiful young lady and the idea of working closely with her, doing after hours rehearsals, etc., presented no hardship at all!

Fast forwarding at this point, Susan justified everyone's faith in her, learned her lines forwards and backwards and the stutter disappeared. Then came opening night, at Bradford, or Swindon or somewhere and, amidst great excitement the curtain went up and we were off. The first act went smoothly and then, after the intermission, I saw Susan looking very worried and nervous so I asked her what was wrong and she told me to look out in the audience through the curtain and she pointed out her parents sitting about half way back. One can guess the rest.....as I entered, Susan (Amy) looked up at me with huge pleading eyes and said "Oh, Mr W...W....W.!" It transpired that she was deathly afraid of her father and that was the cause of her whole problem, which was promptly resolved when I told Jevan and he asked Mr Dudley to please not come again.

After a successful tour, we brought the show in to the West End, at the Saville Theatre which is no longer in existence, where we enjoyed a four week run before heading out to do another road show. This was a very exciting time for me as not only did I meet a lot of interesting people but, as you may have guessed, I fell deeply in love with Susan and she with me.

This is going to need a lot of editing I am sure, it seems to ramble on a lot but a ton of memories are flooding back after nearly 49 years. I think this is as good a time as any to take a break and I promise to continue in the very near future with the 5th installment.

And then in May, just in time for this mag:

Here beginneth the 5th lesson.

The tour of the provinces of "Charley's Aunt" took us all over the country, Nottingham, Blackpool etc., and even to Scotland where we were set to open at the Theatre Royal in Edinburgh the night that King George V1 died and the theatre was closed. Being February, Edinburgh was cold and wet and my memory of the city was of a miserable week, compounded by the period of mourning.

On our return to London, Susan and I resumed our respective searches for work. She had several film tests to which I accompanied her at Pinewood Studios, but nothing came of them. In the meantime I worked at the Arts Theatre with, among others, Jack Allen and Denholm Elliot, and did some repertory work. One play I remember quite vividly was called "Larger Than Life" in which I played Jessie Mathews' son. She was very funny at the first rehearsal as she told the director that she would much rather have me play the role of her lover! It was after a performance of this play that I had the nicest compliment I ever received when A.E.Mathews, a venerable old character actor, came up to me and said that he thought I had given a "splendid performance". Coming from him it was something akin to being praised by Laurence Olivier and was most encouraging.

In the meantime, Susan's parents were making her (and my) life miserable. She had taken a small apartment in order to assert her independence but couldn't really afford it and they persuaded her to move back in with them. We really didn't stand a chance after that although we were unofficially engaged.

This was now 1952 and television was beginning to make an impression although the number of sets was minimal compared to today. A good friend of mine, Anthony Oliver, was playing in a show called Kaleidoscope and he called me one day to ask if I would be interested in working with him on it. He played a detective who would investigate a crime and solve it, then there was an intermission and he would return with the solution. I was hired to play a police constable (PC Hale) who was his field assistant.

became Head of ITV

Things were very different in those days, no strict rules to protect the actors as there are now. I actually played two roles on the show, the other was a bartender in a skit with Jack train (Colonel Chinstrap of ITMA fame), and was also the assistant to the director, Brian Sears, for the princely sum of 12 guineas per show. Since Kaleidoscope was a fortnightly show, this meant having to live on 6 guineas a week!

Who knows where I could have gone with the BBC if I had stayed with Kaleidoscope. Suffice to say that the floor manager, whom I had to order about sometimes, was Dickie Leeman, who eventually became head of ITV !!

In any event, the grass always being greener on the other side of the fence, and needing to make more money, I took a job with Stephen Mitchell who was producing a West End play called "First Person Singular" with Felix Aylmer and Athene Seyler, two major stage stars of the time who had never been in a play that ran less than a year. Needless to say, I wasn't about to ask to read the script before I signed the contract. If it was good enough for those legendary stars, it

must be a winner. What a mistake that was! The play was so bad that it only ran one week at the Duke of York's Theatre and I was out of work again.

The disappointment of that failure, plus the fact that my job at the BBC had been snapped up by someone else, and Susan finally deciding that she would leave the theatre and work for her father, brought me to a very low point. Not long after, Susan told me that she couldn't bear to see me any more as there was no hope for us, and that really did it. I was virtually suicidal and it was only through the wonderful friendship of Howard Lamb, who had played Brassett the butler in Charley's Aunt, and his wife Doreen, that I was able to cope.

Of course, I was still very young and had had some amazing success in a short period of time, but I decided that the only way I could cope with everything was to make a complete change in my life so I went to the Holland America Line and booked passage for New York! Needless to say, my parents and all my friends were horrified and it was much more of an undertaking then than it would be today. For a start, I had to find a sponsor who would agree to be responsible for me financially for the first three years I was in the United States and I shall always be grateful to a Master Sgt. Dittman and his wife who agreed to take on the responsibility. They had a home near Los Angeles and I was able to visit them in later years.

I went to see my agent in London and told him what I was planning. He gave me the numbers of some of his counterparts in New York and said he would notify them that I would be going to see them regarding Broadway work, he thought it would be quite easy for a trained English actor with good credits to find work. What he didn't realise was that I would be arriving in October when all the shows were cast and in rehearsal and that I would find myself in a tiny room in Brooklyn with just \$300 to my name, which was the maximum one could take out of England per year at that time.

I arrived in New York on the S.S.Maasdam on October 28th 1952 and was told by the immigration officer not to bother unpacking my suitcase as I would be polishing tanks in the army in a few weeks! I had completely overlooked the fact that the draft was very much in effect and that every able-bodied male was liable for military service.

To be continued.....

Address: 45-501 Apiki Street, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-1919, USA. E-mail: bpear26848@aol.com

Japan

Tausi "Mizzie" Mfaume (M87-92) sent what is certainly my first message from Japan in order to register her address:

Thank you for registering my name in the OF email list; unfortunately you have got my name wrong – Tausi is my first name and Mfaume is my surname – but everyone knows me as Mizzie. You aren't the first one to get confused. My father is Tanzanian, and my mother is Japanese -- this is why I have two surnames, but that's a different story.

I would also like to suggest more security for the email database, because, as it is right now, it is easy for any company to gain access to a large number of email addresses -- something that market research companies would pay a lot of money for. Perhaps it would be a good idea if OFs who register their name receive an ID number which they can use to get to the email database so that the list can not be abused by scrupulous business people. The ID registry would be a simple thing to programme especially if you have your own server (which I presume that you do). I would hate to hear that you have discontinued this valuable mode of getting in touch

with old friends, simply because there were so many complaints about spam and other unwanted solicitation. (*RMR – Thanks for the suggestion. We are currently working on additional security now that the list has grown beyond 200 names. One of our problems is that the few volunteers who manage the SOF website are not computer experts, so it takes time for us to learn what is possible and how to do it. We welcome any assistance to improve the website.*)

In a later e-mail, Mizzie continues:

I have been back in Japan since 1997, and I am now working as a management consultant for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. Although my work takes me to many places, I am based here in Tokyo. (In fact I was in Miami for two weeks in the beginning of June) I've also been running a joke mailing list called the House of Badinage -- unfortunately I have to build a new server to cope with the large email volumes (plus my work schedule doesn't leave me much time these days) so it is off line for a few more months. Eventually I'll have web-based subscription interface; I'll keep you updated on that one.

My brother, **Kaoru (S90-93)**, another OF, is also in Tokyo. He is the director of Manga Entertainment, a company that exports Japanese animation to Europe and the U.S., during the weekdays, and on weekends is a musician. He has released his first album, Numero Uno, with his group, Jazztronik, and is now working with a French record label to produce his solo work for the music scene. Kaoru also DJs in Tokyo on a regular basis.

A third OF in Japan is **Yasu Ikeuchi (S86-90)** - the last time I heard from him he was starting his own business in Tokyo; I haven't been very good at keeping in touch with him, but I'm sure that I'll catch up with him one of these days.

I have also managed to keep in regular contact with other OFs – **Genevieve Le Creff (M87-92)** who is happily married and working in London; **Emma Whitfield (V88-92)** working for an investment bank; **Kate Whitfield (M88-92)** working in France; **Rebecca Day (V87-92)** back in London after traveling abroad; **Sharon Gemmill (M90-92)** travelling the world; **Catherine Squires (V90-92)** happily married and living in Saudi Arabia; **Yasu Ikeuchi (S86-90)**; **Andrew Brightman (S87-92)** living in London after finishing a degree at St. Martins; and **Toby Harris (S87-93)** also living in London. I would also like to hear from other OFs who graduated in '92 to see how they're doing.

Address: 905, Sekiguchicho Jyutaku, 1-24-2, Sekiguchi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan 112-0014;
tel: (+81) 3 5225 4948; e-mail: mizzie_ikeda@msn.com or mizuho.ikeda@tad.tohmatsu.co.jp

New Zealand

Lloyd Kenyon (26-29) wrote to RMR in February:

The Autumn 1999 mag arrived a few weeks ago and there was obviously such a wealth of news in it that I wondered whenever I would get it all read. However a sore leg put me out of commission for a while and that fixed that problem. Congratulations on all the contacts that you have already built up. As a habitual nitpicker the only fault that I found in the whole issue, and not in the Overseas Bag, was on p.34 where it said that Inskip was Head from 1887 to 1930. Should that have been 1920?

I must admit that it strange to be reading news sent in before Christmas 1998 but in some cases, where people have sent news of all their time since leaving school, they make my life seem very humdrum. It will be even more so as far this letter goes as I have made use of enforced laziness.

Our main interest at the moment is the America's Cup challenge. I must say that I am glad that Italy beat America, mainly so that if they do win the Cup from NZ the next challenge will be off Italy, an entirely new location. On top of that is the fact that America is still suffering from the unsporting behaviour of Dennis Connor when America beat us the time before last of Australia. At the subsequent news session, he ordered our skipper off the stage as a "loser". He has been back here for this series and has been quite a different chap but his old reputation still sticks.

Our new government has already made a good impression by questioning the ridiculous golden handshakes paid to senior government officials who had been sacked or retired early. One newsreader resigned from one channel and then was employed by the other at NZ\$750,000. After 4 weeks, he was sacked as incompetent but received \$5.6 million compensation. He was just a newsreader – now the salaries of others are being questioned.

A letter from Lloyd Kenyon (S26-29) reached **Tom Saul** a few days before Tom died. Lloyd had been suffering from an infected leg; it had been really painful but he was now much better. At least the enforced immobility had allowed him time to catch up on his correspondence, and to read the latest bumper issue of the mag in full. He was finding the history of the SOF most interesting. The weather in the South Island had been cool and fairly wet, and they were still (written 3rd February) 'waiting for summer'. However his garden had thrived. He was thrilled with the New Zealand cricketers' whitewash of the Windies, and with the work-up to the Americas Cup.

In a later letter to **John Saul**, Lloyd too said how much he would miss Tom's letters. He was very glad to have met him and Ethel when he was in the UK 15 years ago.
Address: 15 Oxford Street, Waimate, New Zealand

John Saul had also had a letter from Sheila Lee, daughter of the late **Ken Bossert (S27-31)**, who with his wife had been Tom and Ethel's main hosts during their visit to Rhodesia in the 1970s. Tom had continued to write to Ken, and subsequently to his daughter and family after Ken's death. The family had all moved from South Africa to New Zealand in 1995, and had quickly settled down in their new home.
Address: 1 Theodora Place, Maitangi Bay, North Shore, Auckland 1310.

RMR has had lots of communication with **Bob Craig (R63-70)**. The SOF are very indebted to Bob's enormous efforts of taking on the mantle of managing the SOF E-mail register. I attach a few extracts from these messages:

Sorry to hear that James (RMR's 9-month old son) is keeping you up - I'm glad to say that we're past all that. Not that we don't ever get kept awake - now it's phonecalls from the States. One daughter is at university in Ames, Iowa.

I've been in to the office this last couple of days constructing a Robot soccer pitch. We (the Uni) take part in World Cup robotic soccer (www.fira.net) 3 Robots-a-side on a wooden pitch. Maybe I'll send some pictures when it's up and running. Last year the finals were in Brasil, this year it's Australia.

Glad you like your new house.....the new one we are building will be much grander than our own, but with less land. Unfortunately the plan is to sell the new one and renovate our own.

I say "unfortunately" because I rather like what we are creating.....but "she who must be obeyed" likes wooden joinery and old houses! I mustn't complain, Jane is happy to help out when a bit of maintenance is required.

I bought a "doner" morris 8 yesterday. My one needs a couple of bits to get it on the road....an indicator, some of the inside etc. Now I have them, so a couple of months should see everything put together. Now I'm off to rub down my Morris, ready for a respray. I painted the fenders etc myself, but I'm commandeering a mate to spray the bodywork. Again, more pictures once I've put it all back together.....at the moment it's stripped apart....and I never did like jigsaws!!



I enclose a picture of the Junior Colts 1967 (Back row: Ian Thomson, Tich(TCH) Grace, Edgar Watts, Martin Hogg, Kevin Kerry, and Bernie Rose; Front row: Jon Davies, David Brierly, Bob Fox, Bob Craig, Mike Linwood). We only lost one match, against B'ps Stortford....Bill Bailey disallowed our first two goals!! As a result of the e-mail address list, Bob Fox (Australia), Martin Hogg (UK) and myself (NZ) are back in regular contact – 33 years on!!!

Address: 563 Ridge Rd, Albany RD3, Coatesville, Auckland, NZ; e-mail: bobcraig@xtra.co.nz or r.g.craig@massey.ac.nz

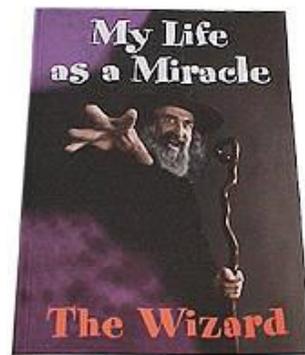
Richard Warner (Z92-96) wrote to RMR in April:

I have recently come to work in the Land of the Long White Cloud – New Zealand. I arrived in October 1999 after gaining a diploma in agriculture and farm management from the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. I started work here for a relief farming company but after 6 weeks went down with glandular fever. After 10 weeks recovery, I worked for a few weeks as a waiter. I am now working as Assistant Farm Manager milking 400 dairy cattle. My intention is to stay in New Zealand until March 2001.

I would be pleased to hear from any of my contemporaries or any other OFs in NZ.
Address: c/o R & N Jackson, Purangi Rd, Whenuakite, R.D.I, Whitianga, North Island, NZ; e-mail: richardwarner5@hotmail.com

The Wizard of New Zealand as he is officially known (aka **Ian Brackenbury Channell 42-45**) sent message that he has just released his autobiography. Available through the Wizz's website at www.wizard.gen.nz or Canterbury University Press at www.cup.canterbury.ac.nz

"My Life as a Miracle" by the The Wizard of New Zealand; 168pp; limpbound NZ\$29.95; 0-908812-73-6 Canterbury University



Press (or £15 airmail direct from the Wizz) The resume says "The Wizard's autobiography provides a fascinating insight into life as 'a living work of art'. It is surely one of the most astounding autobiography's ever written and has been told in an easy to read and profusely illustrated book."

Address: 116 McFaddens Rd, Christchurch, NZ; tel/fax: (+64) 3 355 5545; e-mail: wizard@wizard.gen.nz

Norway

Julian Stapleton (G58-63) sent word in March:

Greetings from Norway! I've just returned from a week in UK so now catching up with over 100 messages!

Having been a rather 'distant' OF, I have always felt close to the old school through the OF mag - a truly powerful magnet provided by the dedication of some remarkable people. Thank you. I moved to Norway in late 1999, and am now resident near Tonsberg, about an hour south of Oslo (on the west side of Oslofjord) for any OFs passing this way.

I lived at Denham Hall for 10 years before renting a farmhouse nearby for 18 months whilst preparing for our move to Norway last November. Having married a Norwegian 26 years ago, and having had a Norwegian mother myself, this is very much a second home and it's great living next to nature in a country with real seasons - ideal for skiing in the winter and water sports in the summer. I'm a windsurf addict! We move into our new house at Easter 2000.

I used to be a regular subscriber to General Pat's Forces postbag, but have not been a very good OF since taking early retirement from the RAF in 1988, despite living in Suffolk for the past 11 years. That was a whole career ago, and I am now on my third, and working independently, with my wife, in the dynamic world of network marketing. I've never had so much fun and time and freedom. Our business was given an unexpected boost when President Clinton made an unscheduled stop to have a cup coffee with us when he was in Oslo last November for Middle East Peace Talks. The resultant publicity from the live TV coverage and in the Norwegian press from our 20 minute meeting with Clinton took our marketing profile to new heights! One headline read "What's good enough for Hillary" "

I don't use my rank any more, except when going to the occasional Service reunion, and on my badge for my annual appearance at Royal Ascot, where an OF even recognised me there a few years ago, top hat and all!

The OF magazine is certainly a source of continuing interest, not least for the names one recognises from one's time there. Apart from my old RAF chums who I trained at Cranwell with - **Jon Ford (S58-62)**, **Richard Johnson (S57-62)**, **Peter Gooding (K53-62)** and **Mike Allport (R54-62)**, I have had very little contact with other OFs. I do remember going to an OF lunch at the Hong Kong Club during my time in the Colony in the late '60s/early '70s and I think I met another **Stapleton** there - no relation (*RMR – probably C.I. "Punchy" Stapleton 12-15 who was a long term resident of Hong Kong and died there in 1989*). Intermittent meetings with another 'ex-colonial', **Ian Howard (S57-62)**, and more recent contact with my 'head boy', **Mike McGuire (K54-63)**, just about completes my OF inventory.

If my travels should ever take me to western Australia, then I would certainly look up my contemporary **Mark Creasy (G55-63)**. In the meantime, apart from regular trips to the UK and occasionally to the US, my business focus and recreational playground is Scandinavia, so I would be pleased to hear from any other OFs in the Nordic region.

Address: Grytestien 8, 3160 Stokke, Norway; tel: (+47) 33 36 65 15; mobile: (+47) 975 33 686
fax: (+47) 33 36 63 96; e-mail: staple@online.no

Philippines

Jeremy Simpson (56-64) sent message in May:

It's been another "Phew what a scorcher!" today in Sunny Subic Bay. It's hotter'n hell right now and brooding for a very rainy season. Its sunset and everything is bright pink outside the window. As usual, everyone else has gone home!

Our factory is bursting at the seams with people since we hired about 20 more and then didn't make the move to a bigger place. To cut a short story long, we, Cambium International Inc. as was, were bought into by a Dutch Company called Picus, based in Eindhoven NL. They are box makers to the cigar industry and have been for over 100 years, but now under new and young management. They have a big factory in the belly of the cigar industry in Dominican Republic and are now a majority shareholder of our company which (arguably) makes the best cigar humidors and other boxes, in the world.

The three principal investors got cold feet generally (one terminally) when the cigar industry in Dominican suffered a heart murmur; but now that everything has stabilised they are looking to go ahead with the promised investment that was the whole point of the exercise. In fact it was only 10 minutes ago that I heard from the principal Dutch partner that the investment is now going ahead. At last we can start the renovations of the building that we signed the lease on 2 months ago. We are moving from our crowded 435 m2 to a 2,500 m2 space with the expectation of increasing turnover and capacity etc. by about 8 times, (while increasing staff by only 2 times if we are smart).

Recent enquiries from the two big names in the European cigar business (both beginning with D but no-names-no-pack-drill at this point) make it look as if we are doing the right thing. We shall see. We have to jump from being a neat cosy workshop making no more than 50 boxes a month to a real factory making up to 1,000 a month. If the big enquiries turn into big orders, they will fall right in the thick of the development of and the move to the new factory. It will be more than a trifle potty around here if that happens.

I have flitted through Hong Kong twice in the last few months - now that I have reasons to fly to Europe, but unfortunately haven't had much time to stop over. I still have a daughter there, so I have plenty of reason to go, but finding the time may be a bit of a challenge in the next few months. Who knows, maybe I will NEED to go just to stop my head from exploding!

If you make a date for an SOF Hong Kong dinner, let me know and for sure I will try to find a way to make it possible.

News of my son, **Ben Simpson (BH-80?)**, is that I spent Christmas and New Year with him in Kenya, where he managed to steal some leave from flying food-aid into the Sudan from the North of Kenya. He has graduated to a turbo-prop Cessna Caravan and has been getting some serious hours under the belt.

riddled with bullets

We were met there after Christmas by my daughter and together with their respective boy and girl friends we took two big off-road bikes and a Landrover up to Samburu and camped in a

bush camp for the Millennium. Total of 7 people in the camp and 7 bottles of cold Champagne, bazillions of stars and not much else. Pretty cool.

I managed to dislocate a shoulder on the way back on New Years Day, (Ben put it back!) and finished up visiting the Professor of Orthopedics in Nairobi Hospital. The good Professor was visited a month or so later by Ben, who, on his way to Mombasa for a final weekend before setting out for Europe via Ethiopia, Eritrea, Yemen, Egypt, Israel, Jordan etc.. (add or subtract countries according to the latest news) was hit (twice) by a car and suffered a broken ankle and dislocated foot. He has shed his plaster cast I understand and is mending fast. Departure date is about three weeks away I understand. No - I don't really understand, but the boy loves the desert. He will be traveling with a friend on another KTM 640 Enduro.

He quit the flying job about a month ago partly to keep the flying thing interesting because he was getting bored working too hard at the same old route like a bus driver. He wants to keep it fun! He told me on the phone a week or so ago (such a simple statement, but actually a rare miracle - think of the implication of "on the phone " Philippines to Kenya!) that the plane he used to fly had returned from a trip riddled with bullets and now they had stopped the food drops to that area. Apparently no-one was hurt but he felt he had stopped at the right time! Keep it fun? And now he wants to ride a bike through Ethiopia! He will probably not be making the HK OF Dinner.

Incidentally I was in Framlingham recently. My Father, **John Simpson (32-36)** now lives in Pembroke Road. Since I have no abode in UK, I have been back to Fram more times in the last four months than I had in the previous twenty years. In mid-April, when I was there I got in touch with **Tom Fleming** (ex-Woodwork master), who taught me woodwork from the age of 10. I have yet to meet up with him and show him what we do, but I thought he might be tickled to see where all his efforts went!

Address: c/o Picus Philippines Inc., Subic Bay, Philippines; e-mail: js@jeremysimpson.com

South Africa

Tom Saul reported that he had heard from **Alan Richardson (34-40)** just before Christmas. Alan regretted that time passed so quickly that he could rarely find time to get anything done! He had recently had a good trip to Cape Town but he had been unsuccessful in contacting **Guy Brooke Smith (41-44)**. Alan's brother **Hugh (43-48)** was now back in Sydney after a visit to the UK where he had been working as a film extra! Alan kept in contact by phone with **Tom Adnams (S28-37)**.

Alan later sent his condolences to **John Saul**. Tom seemed to be one of those people who went on forever. He would be very much missed by the SOF and the cricketing world, and he and his wife would miss Tom's interesting letters which kept them up to date.

Address: 5 Alexandra Drive, Winston Park, Gillitts 3610, Natal; tel: (031) 7673010

Thailand

JOHN BIRT (59-63) has corresponded a few times since January:

Well done -- sterling effort for getting me back on the address list at long last. I now await my first OF mag for years. **Andrew Birt (S55-58)** is indeed my brother (eldest) resident in

NSW, Oz. He used to share a flat with **Ian Howard (S57-62)** about 35 years ago!!

I tried to call **Simon Turner (R73-82)** to make contact with a fellow Thailand OF but the number given, which is a cell phone, stated that there was no acknowledgement so I will try again later. His address is about 90 minutes SE of Bangkok so I suspect he is something to do with the new container terminal down there, a suspicion corroborated by his email address simon@mermaid-maritime.com which sounds a bit nautical to me.

I also just had **Richard Vaughan-Griffith (K59-64)** on the phone. I used to play rugby & hockey with him all those years ago.

I will also help to restart the Hong Kong / Far East Dinners if I receive enough response from OFs in the region. I have e-mailed all the OFs listed in the Far East to find out whether they would attend an OF dinner in Hong Kong if I asked Ian Howard (who beat me when he was a prefect and who has returned to live in HK recently!) to arrange a dinner in somewhere like the FCC!! Those of you who live in S'pore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Phils must surely visit HK from time to time.

Address: 152 Sukhumvit Soi 20, Bangkok 10110; tel: (66) 2 663 4094/5; fax: (66) 2 663 4096; e-mail: jgbirt@hotmail.com

USA

Geoff Hyde (R52-58) sent an e-mail to the Head, Gwen Randall, in March:

It is over 40 years since I last visited the College and it looks as if a lot has changed for the better. Mr Porter was head when I left. Before him was someone always referred to as "the Goon". The shadow of WWII still hung over the place in the 50's, although we were too young to appreciate it at the time.

I went to R.A.F. College Cranwell in 1958. Three years later I was flying V Bombers. In 1964 I decided to quit and go to Medical School instead. The next 6 years were happy times as a student in London at Barts. In 1970, with a bunch of degrees in my pockets, I took a one-way trip to Canada and worked as a GP in Saskatchewan for about a year before starting a four-year psychiatry residency at the University of Ottawa. I met my wife there. She had just graduated top of the class at the medical school and got a residency at the Mayo clinic. So off we went to the USA and have been there ever since.

I spent a while at the State Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota while she did her thing at the Mayo. Then we went to work for real in Portland, Oregon. She settled for blood and guts as an ER physician and I did more cerebral stuff as a private psychiatrist.

We used to come to Bend, a ski town near the Cascade mountains, whenever we had time off. We liked it so much that we moved there in 1987. Still in the same line of work and now there are four children (ages 14 to 6) to feed. It is a quiet but healthy life. If any of my old friends read this, you are welcome to visit if you can make it this far.

Address: Geoff Hyde, MD, 1302 NE Third, Bend, OR 97701, USA; e-mail: geoffhyde@transport.com

I have had several telephone conversations and e-mail messages from **Alfred Molson (38-43)** but although he has some interesting reminiscences of Fram, nothing that he will let me put in print. Alfred did send this message in May:

On March 30th I was required to appear at the Law Offices of Dewey, Cheetem & Howe

to be deposed, (I am a main witness in a civil case). After about half an hour of giving my deposition I was overcome with the worst case of heartburn, at least that is what I thought it to be, after some coffee and antacid tablets I resumed my deposition. Since it did not get any better I realized I was having a heart attack. I immediately drove to the hospital. While my wife was parking the car I entered the E.R Upon announcing my symptoms I was given an EKG and one minute later was given two Aspirin to chew-up and swallow while being placed in a wheel chair and whisked off to an operating room and placed upon the table!! As soon as the machine was turned on the Dr. pointed out to me that my heart was 100% blocked on the left side and 95% blocked on the right - I had to have an immediate quadruple by-pass!!. He called for a heart Surgeon and seven responded, however all were occupied operating on others and could not get free for two to four hours. I was still wearing my street clothes, only my shirt and shoes had been removed. At that point the Dr. said "I can't wait I will open you up and get the blood flowing immediately, since it has been only 70 minutes since that attack started we must work quickly. Under a local anesthetic he performed angioplasty in four places and opened the arteries, he then placed four stents in the right places, all the while I was able to watch the procedure on the TV screen while asking questions of the Dr. The whole procedure lasted about an hour and I was off to the ICU for four days. It took about two minutes to set up the IV and a soon as they injected the first drug all pain was gone.

After two weeks at home I went for a Nuclear stress test, another four hours of very interesting wonders of modern medicine. Again I was able to monitor it all on the TV screen, however the result was not what I needed. It appears that I have lost 54% of my heart (left rear) and 7% of that is not getting any blood flow, the remaining 46% is working fine!

What is the future? If the Arteries do not deteriorate, the stents do not collapse, they don't get clogged with cholesterol - some have lived up to five years, the lucky ones longer? even up to ten years.

I accept the fact that I can never go backpacking in the Rockies, or white water canoeing again, but I will still get out, but at half speed. My long time friend remarked 'I guess you will do things half-heartedly from now on'

Address: PO Box 721253, Houston, Texas 77272-1253, USA; tel / fax: 1-713 776-1766; e-mail: abmolson@texas.net

Bryan Ivory (K48-52) wrote to JGR in March:

The days have been quite busy since moving into our new house. We have managed to find a home for most of our furniture and we are at last looking a bit more presentable. Outside is another matter. It took us 4 months to get a mason to finish our steps and build a couple of entrance walls. All trades are just too busy and not interested in small jobs.

It will be disappointing to miss all the celebration at Fram on 1 July and not be able to meet everyone. I hope someone will take a lot of pictures as they will be special to look at in years to come.

We had a mild winter last year – certainly much less severe than the ones we were used to in Massachusetts. One advantage is that all the dogwood trees and azaleas are in bloom so much earlier.

Since I last wrote, we have added a grandson. My son and daughter-in-law named him Colton Wyatt Ivory. Sounds mighty western to me! I had never heard of Colton before but I now see there are three towns in England with that name.

We are now enjoying tv programmes by satellite. We are able to get some BBC news, English soccer on Sundays and rugby on Wednesdays. We have seen some wonderful international games recently – particularly England v Wales at Twickenham. Great stuff You can tell I prefer the “old country” sports to all this baseball, basketball business! *(RMR – couldn't agree with you more but I will have to find out what system you are using as I have upset most of the cable companies in Florida in my failed attempts to see the Rugby World Cup. Nobody in the US seems to understand the importance of it all. As a commentator once said about a Test match – “It is not a matter of life and death – it is worse than that!”)*

Give my best wishes to all the Fram guys, especially **Neville Bromage (G47-54)**, **John Gooderham (K44-53)**, **Alan Bewick (K47-53)** and **Barry (Wilson G48-52 or Weedon 49-54 – RMR)**

Address: PO Box 1786, Shallotte, NC 28459, USA; tel: (+1) 910 754 5692

Jules Arthur (K75-84) made contact from San Diego in February:

My address/e mail address will be changing in the next couple of months – so I will keep you informed. I am going back to England in a couple of weeks for a holiday and playing golf with 10 or so Old Framlinghamians and so should have some gossip for you. As I mentioned to you before there are three OFs in San Diego and we get together regularly. I will fill you in on what they are up to!

(RMR – I look forward to your news from UK & San Diego and your new address details)

Address: e-mail: mrarthur@earthlink.net

Richard Rowe (S65-74) writes from Florida:

It has so far been a busy year – with work, looking after our young son, James, and moving house. The new house is only 5 miles from our previous abode but we have loads more space, our own pool (solar heated to about 95 deg F) and a place to moor a boat (when we eventually decide on what sort of sailing boat will suit us and the shallow waters along this coast).

Work is going well (www.isotec1.com) but unfortunately a business trip (Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Mongolia) will prevent us from attending the Centenary celebrations. But we did make the London Supper in January which was great fun meeting up with a lot of old friends. Most of our work is from home which gives us plenty of opportunity to watch young James growing up. At 9 months, he is not quite walking but has just passed his first swimming exam. He has had several weeks of lessons teaching him how to survive if he fell in the pool - “swim” to the surface, roll on to his back and float in a relaxed and stable manner. Sounds easy but the exam was fully clothed and for one part he had his arms pinned beneath his shirt – and he still got himself the right way up. Not bad for a 9 months old. We keep the pool fenced, so I hope he never has to try it out for real.

If any OFs are ever over in our area, please give us a call.

Address: As for OverseasBag communication.

Desmond Bishop (72-77) sent in a late message from New York:

I recently visited Fram after leaving those 'gates' back in 1977. Since then, I have only been in touch with one OF from my era. After Fram, I returned to my home in Sierra Leone until coming to the States in 1979/80 to attend William Paterson College in Wayne, NJ. The rest is history I guess, I have been with American Express Travel Management Services since 1984 after completing a college internship. I am now residing in the New York area.

At Fram. I played on the first teams especially Rugby from approximately my second year. I was under the supervision of Mr Rimmer (as Headmaster) and Mr Waterson for Rugby 1st XV (who I long to see again).

I made a note your email address after reading an OF Magazine and realized what I had been missing. I would like to get in touch with some of my old school mates. Can you help? (*RMR – a letter to the OF Mag is a good start – plus submitting your address details on the address feedback form on the SOF website, www.oldframlinghamian.com , will ensure that you are on the Mag mailing list and on the OF e-mail address list; I an also get you some space on the website “noticeboard”*)

Address: 1141 E.86th St, Brooklyn NY 11236, USA; tel: (+1) 718-209-6773-home, (+1) 212-640-5522-work; e-mail: LactonB@email.com or Desmond.L.Bishop@aexp.com

Zimbabwe

Michael Thomson (K55-59) sent in more news of Zimbabwe in May:

Greetings from Murambinda. Sadly I did not receive my copy of the last magazine. I am not sure whether you can do anything about that? (*RMR – I have sent message to Neville Bromage to see if he has a spare copy to send to you – otherwise I will send you my copy*)

Zimbabwe has again made the international headlines for all the wrong reasons. I suppose it is inevitable that newspapers will highlight the sensations particularly the bad events which makes it very difficult to assess the true situation. Undoubtedly the white owners of farms are having a difficult time but it is probably worse for their workers who are being intimidated. To demonstrate even peacefully in Harare carries considerable risk but having excluded those two problem areas the rest of the country seems quiet. There is much covert intimidation and surveillance and the current leaders make inflammatory speeches but is this just to impress their supporters? The ruling party is aware that support amongst the new black, urban living, middle class is low. This is why they are concentrating on the rural areas where the majority of Zimbabwe's population still lives. There are good arguments on both sides of the land issue and covertly a wish to resolve the differences but all is currently hampered by the impending election the date for which has just been announced for the 24th and 25th June. Certainly the current level of invective and animosity is not helping the real problems in Zimbabwe which are the economy and the AIDS pandemic.

Foreign aid donors are understandably holding off their contributions until after the election. NGOs are marking time and instructing their personnel to keep a low profile. As expats we too are keeping our heads down and avoiding any political discussion. In my poor rural area 150K south of Harare all is quiet but the locals are very confused not least because the sources of reliable information are few. Newspapers here are rare and television a luxury for a minority. Both mediums are heavily influenced by Government thought.

Many people say they will not vote which is sad for a country that desperately needs a committed and united population to tackle the enormous problems. At the hospital drug supplies

and resources continue to dwindle whilst the needs rise. Much ingenuity is exercised in conserving and adapting the meager supplies that we do get. Drugs are now bartered between hospitals to try and bridge gaps. Many rural clinics where the real problems are to be found lack even basic dressings. Thankfully because the rains were good this year and unusually prolonged no one should starve. However we still see malnourished children mainly for economic reasons but also because of infection with the HI virus.

I visited England two weeks ago and the quantity and quality of goods in the supermarkets bordered on the vulgar in comparison with Zimbabwe and, I suspect, most of the world. The disparity between the minority (First) and majority (Second) worlds is ever more apparent and will surely lead to tears in the future unless capitalism makes sacrifices to alleviate world poverty.

On a personal note I leave this post in February 2001 to return to England to the wedding of my youngest daughter in May. Even though I shall be 60 that month I can not see myself laying down my stethoscope just yet so my contributions to the Bag may well continue for some time yet but who knows where from!

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