

Overseas Bag

Editor: Richard Rowe (S65-74), PO Box 07264, Fort Myers, Florida 33919, USA; Tel: 239-415-8153; E-mail: overseasbag@oldframlinghamian.com

Another fascinating “Bag” with more new correspondents ranging from an exchange student in Japan to 80-year old ex-Police Officer in Greece. Please do take a few minutes to send me your news whether you have a particular story to tell or just news on “life since Fram” or other OFs that you have or would like to meet. I continue to get positive feedback from those who have appeared in the Bag of the contacts that they have re-kindled with lost friends. Enjoy the Bag. **One interesting statistic, although I realize not everyone is computer-savvy: we have 369 overseas OFs on the mag mailing list but only 146 registered with e-mail addresses. If you have e-mail but haven’t registered, please register on the website or contact me directly.**

RMR

Australia

Christopher Bartlett (K60-66) offered to help organize an OF dinner in Western Australia:

“Thanks for the list of OFs in WA. Apart from my brother, **Peter (K58-65)**, I know **Mark Creasy (G55-63)** is here, and in fact lives but a stone's throw from me. So I'll make contact with him to see if we can get the ball rolling for another WA OF get-together.”

Address: Producer/Director, Perspective Communications International, PO Box 118, MOSMAN PARK 6912 Western Australia; tel: (+618) 9286 2680; M: (+61) 401 170 914; E-mail: pci@globaldial.com; Web: www.anotherperspective.com.au

The following article is taken from “The Australian” dated 20 August 2003 from an interview with **Nick Carlton (G63-70)**, Captain on the 46,000 tonne PO Cruise Ship “Pacific Sky”:

“It was around 8pm, very dark with 25-knot winds and rough seas when a 52-year old Australian passenger hurdled a handrail and plunged into the Coral Sea off Noumea after an alcohol-fuelled argument with his wife. Fortunately my staff saw him jump so were able to raise the alarm immediately. In my 33-years career on cruise ships, I have never had a “man-over-board”. However, we notified the authorities and then executed a “Williamson turn” so as to steer back along our previous course. After 3-hours of searching on four passes, steaming at 5-knots with the air-conditioning turned off to reduce noise, and spotlights searching the water, an officer on the bow eventually heard a scream. It was a tremendous relief and a wonderful feeling as many people had already given him up. As soon as he hit the water, I reckon he changed his mind and realized it was a bad idea. Despite breaking a wrist, he had managed to remove his clothes and shoes to stay afloat. He is one lucky man.” *(For full article and photo, see the OF website, www.oldframlinghamian.com)*

Address: 45 Constitution Hill, Ipswich, IP1 3RL

James Harrison (M80-85) made contact just after England won the Rugby World Cup:

“Would I be sending England memorabilia if I were a supporting Aussie??!! Certainly not. *(RMR – you are about the only Aussie expat that I have met so far who has not switched allegiance to their new country)*. Yes, shame I missed the dinner, I was hit with gastro/flu for 5 days so stuck at home...but next time. *(RMR – I could have done with some support amongst all*

the Wallabies fans!)

“I have received latest mag, thank you. I did notice our engagement was listed again, but with Victoria rather than Vanessa, the OFs must think I have switched girl at the last minute! I will get around to putting a letter to you after the wedding, 9 Jan 2004. (*RMR – sorry about the error, I will contact the editor!!*)”.

Address: 12/16-18 Wolseley Road, Point Piper, Sydney 2027, NSW, Australia; E-mail: harrison@dot.com.au

Prof. Neville Marsh (S53-61) sent word in December of his promotion:

“I am taking over as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of The University of Adelaide as from 13 December and looking forward to running one of the top research-intensive Universities in Australia. Nothing else to report except that Alison and I had a great time in UK in June/August this year and once more made the London Supper with brother **Ian (S48-52)**. It was good, as always, to catch up with old faces especially **David Ballard (K55-62)**, **Nigel Burnip (S58-65)** and **Simon Tong (K54-62)**, none of whom I had seen since leaving Fram. As the average age of Supper participants was close to 60 years, we were left to ponder how younger OFs might be encouraged to attend. Since then we have had the Rugby World Cup to savour: a great competition and although the final was decided by a single drop-goal, it was an absorbing match. The Australian press and media were generous in their applause of England and now we await the New Year's Honours list to see who of the squad will make it to knighthood!”

Address: 33A Nile Street, Glenelg, SA5045, Australia; tel 08 8295 2074; E-mail: neville.marsh@adelaide.edu.au

Deepak Khurana (R85-88) made contact from Sydney having missed the Sydney Supper on 1 November:

“Unfortunately I had just returned from Belgium after a diamond conference and had to leave for Melbourne for the Spring racing carnival and ended up missing the Sydney supper. Not that I think it will be too long before the next one now that **Phil Bower (G65-74)** taken over the social responsibility.

(*RMR – I had mentioned that James Campbell (M74-82) also worked in diamonds – but for De Beers in South Africa*) “I will shortly be organising a trip to the Argyle diamond mines in Western Australia and will make sure I send an invite out to James Campbell. Apparently another OF works at the syndicate offices in Hatton Gardens. I unfortunately did not get to meet him or learn his name while I was last there but was made aware of him by another friend.”

Address: Excellence Impex International, 88 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000, AUSTRALIA; E-mail: deepak@jewelimpex.com

John Gates (S44-48) sent an update from Queensland:

“In early June I became one of a rare breed who was diagnosed as having Male breast Cancer. Operated on 24 June to remove infected area. Many problems evolved of fluid build up-then infection. In early September, I underwent 24 sessions of Radiation Therapy; finishing on 14 Oct. I am now extremely sore & uncomfortable.

“I will be seeing **Peter & Joy Bailey (K34-38)** on 7 Nov to celebrate my wife's (Ruth) birthday; first time we have met since May, so it will be good to catch up with them.

“Hoping to make a full recovery but in any case taking a P.O. Cruise (Adonia) from Brisbane on 22nd Feb 2004. We will be traveling around Australia, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur,

Seychelles, Madagascar, Port Elizabeth, CapeTown, Walvis Bay, Dakar, Madeira Isles and into Southampton on 15 April.

“Then cottage in Cornwall for 3 weeks followed by Cotswolds for 2 weeks; and back home about 20th June 04.” (*RMR – have a great trip; we look forward to hearing from you en route*).

Address: PO Box 476, Maroochydore, Queensland 4558, Australia; tel: 0754 796778; E-mail: johngates@aceconnect.com.au

Keith Dann (S48-50) sent news in December:

“Since I last sent you some information I haven’t been doing much out of the ordinary, We went back to Tasmania for another week in September last year mainly to see what the new Bass Strait ferries were like though I did not know **Robert Wallace (K50-58)** was one of the Masters. The last I had heard of him was that he was working for the Port of Launceston and also was connected with the Bell Bay Seafarers Centre. We spent the week on the West Coast, unfortunately the Rack Railway between Queenstown and Strahan was only open halfway so we missed the most spectacular scenery and as it was wet weather we kept to the more driveable roads and tracks with the car and the more gentle walks Nothing to do with increasing age of course!

“This year we joined the grey nomads and took the caravan and headed north for five weeks in June and July. Our eldest son is now a Marine Pilot at Mackay that is where his last ship worked from. Apart from the inner harbour they also pilot the ships at Darymple Bay and Hay Point that handle vessels loading coal. Whilst we were there I was able to go out with him on two ships with the transfers by helicopter rather than pilot launch. Beats climbing up big ships sides by a pilot ladder I can tell you.

“I also attended the Australian Apostleship of the Sea Conference in place of our Secretary who had to call off at the last minute for family reasons. Whilst from our point of view it was good to find out that Bell Bay and Hastings Seafarers Centres, which are ecumenical, both operate successfully, it was not so good to hear of other ports where there are problems.

“At the end of August I went to Townsville for a week to attend the Australian Conference of The Mission to Seafarers. At the end I took a taxi to the top of Castle Hill from where you get a very good view and then foolishly decided to walk back via what is called the Goat Track rather than the road. Whilst I made it, I started to feel a few aches and pains and after a plane trip back to Melbourne jammed up at the back of a very full plane, I was hobbling around like a cripple for two days, that definitely is a sign of old age!

“Since then we have been busy at the Seafarers Centre and had our long weekend at Lake Mokoan near Benalla with our grandchildren sailing which was the time that you were in Sydney at the OF function. We have been going there every Melbourne Cup weekend since 1976. In earlier years I took the racing seriously; nowadays we amble along at the back of the fleet with others of our age group though still making sure we don’t win any wooden spoons!”

Address: 2 Wright Street, Corinella, Victoria 3984, Australia; tel: 03 5678 0581; E-mail: knpdann@bigpond.com

Bermuda

Matthew Living (S80-87) sent another message from Bermuda in September:

“Thanks for your concern. Hurricane Fabian has passed with winds over 200 km/hr. Apparently the worst storm in 50 years. That was quite an incredible experience; the power of the wind was quite amazing. Particularly where the sea and wind combined, the damage is catastrophic. I had to evacuate my apartment as we live in a condo on the sea. This proved the right thing to do as the sea rose by 25 feet and washed out all the ground floor apartments. Fortunately we are on the first floor and sustained little damage. Outside the property, a tree hit the car and we lost bicycles. However I had my boat taken out of the water, which in hindsight was the right move, as there are hundreds of boats sunk, smashed on the rocks or not yet found.

“If the airport is open and accessible by Thursday I am due to fly to the UK so will miss much of the clean up. This I am quite pleased about as the prospect of living without power or running water for the next few weeks does not excite me.”

Forwarding Address: Greyfriars Lodge, Hitchin Hill, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 9AJ; e-mail: Matthew.Living@bankofbermuda.com

Canada

Both **David Lebell (K41-46)** and **Patrick Vincent (R47-51)** sent news and photos of an SOF gathering in Vancouver in August 2003. From David’s message:

“In August 2003, my long time friend Patrick Vincent and his wife spent a few days with us here on Vancouver Island. Patrick lives near Toronto. They were just completing a visit to their



l to r: **David Lebell, Tim Walwyn and Patrick Vincent**

daughter in the Yukon and had then taken the Alaskan and British Columbian ferries down the west coast to visit us – the ferries are more preferable to the cruise ships as they get a lot closer to the realities of life. Just before they flew home to Toronto, we had a mini-reunion of three almost-contemporary OFs when we were guests of Tim Walwyn (S45-53) and his wife Margie, at the Arbutus Club in Vancouver. Lots of reminiscing and laughter, of course, and the three wives wondered if our parents were aware of the breadth of education being provided by Fram!

“I was really interested to read of the return of the Flowerdew VC to the School. Earlier this year Faith and I saw a new play, Mary’s Wedding, written by Calgary playwright Stephen Massicote, and now having success all across Canada. Part love story, part history lesson and part a very moving memorial to the human cost of war. The play highlights experiences from Canadian military history as a backdrop to the love story of Mary and Charlie. Charlie, a farm boy, enlists with the Lord Strathcona’s Horse and Sgt. Flowerdew (“based on an actual historical figure”, it is explained) becomes his superior officer, mentor and friend. After reading Charlie’s letters Mary dreams she is that Sergeant and thus the play expresses Flowerdew’s war perspective and experience.

“Also within this past year one of our newspaper columnists wrote a warm story about

Flowerdew after coming across the account of his leadership and bravery and VC. He followed up on the details during a visit to the UK, and subsequently wrote a very touching story of the man who became such a hero.

“We now have 18-month old twin grandchildren (also living in British Columbia) to help keep us active and thinking young. We are healthy and happy living in Victoria and of course would be glad to welcome any OF coming to this western most part of Canada.”

In a later exchange of messages, RMR had just discovered another OF, **Michael Abbott (K34-41)**, living only about 15km from David, in Saanichton on Vancouver Island. David was able to report:

“I phoned and spoke to both Michael and his wife, Diana. Although he has had a stroke they both seem well. He left Fram the same year that I started in 1941”.

Addresses:

David Lebell, 3305, Argyle Place, Victoria, British Columbia, V8P 5R8; e-mail: lebell@islandnet.com

Patrick Vincent, 1915 Delaney Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5J 3L2; e-mail: patrick.vincent@sympatico.ca

Michael Abbott, 924 Mount Newton Crossroad, Saanichton, British Columbia, V8M 1S5; tel: (250) 652 1639; (I understand Michael is on e-mail but currently do not have his details).

Julian Bayley (S50-53) sent a message in October:

“I started to write something for the next mag but then lucked out and had a story published in Forbes Magazine (“The Small Chill” October 13 2003 issue) which says it all - for the last 15 years, anyway. Before that I started an off-premise catering company that is still operating. This involved catering big events - up to 30,000 people. I sold out to my partner before venturing into the hospitality ice business full time. And from 1969 until 1977 I had a specialist advertising agency with my brother Adrian (Brighton College). This focused on the agricultural market. I guess this covers my history since arriving in Canada in October, 1969.”

(RMR – unfortunately due to copyright restrictions, we are not allowed to publish the Forbes article – however, it is available on the internet at: www.forbes.com. There is also a link on the SOF website under the Ice Sculptor news item. You may also visit Julian’s website at www.iceculture.com. It is a fascinating business involving hi-tech equipment providing for many national, international, corporate and private clients such as providing 450 individual ice trays for an Elton John charity function in UK).

Address: PO Box 232, Hensall, Ontario, Canada; e-mail: julian@iceculture.com

France

Brian Rosen (S 40 - 46, BH 78 - 93) sent a message in December:

“It has been another good year for us in France and like most others here we have learnt to cope with the continuous rounds of strikes. There is some indication that at last the government realises that some tough action is required and this has got through to the unions.

“We were fortunate in Vienne that our Jazz Festival 'was allowed' to continue whereas others such as those in Aix en Provence were cancelled due to strike action. We sometimes found our streets blocked by protesting teachers and then soon after by cycle racers. However an attempt by the teachers to interfere with an important cycle race was thwarted by a few coachloads of CRS (anti-riot police) - after all there is a limit!

“The exceptionally warm weather was, at least for us, a bonus as our cars are air-conditioned, as are most workplaces and supermarkets etc. Our main worry was the temperature of the swimming pool but it stayed for a long period around 30°C which was very pleasant.

“My various activities, including the editorship of the newsletter of the Lyon branches of the RAFA and RBL keep me fairly busy but I have managed a couple of visits to the UK.

“In October I was able to spend a day in Suffolk and was delighted to have a conducted tour of Brandeston by the Master, a very proud Steve Player. There has been a continual programme of improvements there since I left - 10 years ago and I was not surprised to hear that the number of pupils were right up to target - somewhere around 300. It was good to meet old friends on the staff and as always on my visits I wished that I could somehow have continued to work there. However I suppose that an age difference of about 70 years between myself and the youngest pupils does rule that out! I was also able to meet my old boss in the Science lab, Shirley Robinson and had lunch with Bob Williams, both enjoying their retirements despite unsuccessful attempts to land correctly after leaping from ladders.

“I watched most of the Rugby World Cup in France and assured everyone, right from the start, that we would win. When we beat France I kept a fairly low profile - the French are often not good losers. The final I watched in a Sports Club in Chester - what a relief to be on the same side as the other spectators! Roll on the six nations!

“It is becoming increasingly interesting to read of the progress of other OFs, including former pupils at BH on the web-site and the Newsletter goes from strength to strength. I hope that I will be able to manage a regional supper somewhere in 2004.”

Address: 15 Chemin des Murieux, 38200, Vienne, FRANCE; e-mail: brosen@club-internet.fr

Daniel Erith (S91-96) sent news from Paris:

“I've been working in Paris for two years and am thoroughly enjoying myself. The other day I bumped into two contemporaries of mine who asked me to pass on the following news:

“**Diarmid Hurrell (R92-97)** (Diarmid35@hotmail.com) lives in the Marais and is still working in the cheese industry near Paris having recently won an award for 'Best new departmental soft cheese by a non-French citizen using the traditional and well known (apparently!) 'méthode fouet opposé' (or reversed whipping method)”. He sends his best regards to **Hugh Williams (R92-97)** who he would like to meet up with "because I still have his set-socks from the Lower 6th"!!!

“**Daniel Williams (S91-94/Z94-96)** has acquired two of the best-known English Pubs in Paris - The Bowler (13 Rue D'Artois, 75008 Paris) and The Cricketer (41 Rue De Mathurins, 75008 Paris) - both in the 8th arrondissement and within walking distance of the Champs D'Elysses, which are going very well. Any OFs finding themselves in Paris please do look them up and drop by.”

Address: e-mail: danielerith@hotmail.com

Germany

Felix Zawadzky (R99-01) made contact when checking on his SOF membership:

“I am currently in Cuzco, Peru, because I have just returned from climbing up to Macchu Picchu, the old Inca city. I am impressed by your Spanish skills, you have remembered the most important phrase “una cerveza por favor” (*RMR – actually my limited linguistics skills came*

from the similar Portuguese phrase when I had a few weeks stay in Rio in Brazil – but it proved successful on many occasions).

Address: Email: felix_zawadzky@hotmail.com

Greece

W Ivor J Webb (K37-42) made contact from Greece:

“Since Fram I had four years in the army, then 25 years in the Police, Worcestershire & West Mercia, retiring to Greece about 30 years ago where I had a place waiting for me to live in. I found life a bit difficult at first but soon got in with the locals at a Taverna, and got to helping them with mechanical problems with water pumps in the fields and boats. Nowadays I am not so active having back troubles and a gammy leg, so I have got an electric carriage so I can get about the village and do my shopping. There are a few other ex-pats round and about, so I am afraid my Greek is not as good as it ought to be. I can get around, and there is a very good bus service to town (Salonika) and I have an invalid's bus pass. You are right about my location, exactly 17 nautical miles south of Salonika across the bay. We have a good beach here, until the North wind blows all the farming rubbish from the other side. The village has been given the E.U. Blue flag for well-kept beaches, for whatever it is worth. I live here on my own all the time.

“I was ATC 41-44 Sgt; Home Guard 44 to RAFVR 44 - transferred to Army Dec 44. Served in various Regiments, finally RASC Sgt with 4th Inf Div and BMMG until discharged Jan 49. Joined the Worcestershire Police Force Dec 48. West Mercia on amalgamation until retired in June 74. Whilst serving I obtained the St. John's Ambulance Medal, Royal Life Saving Society's Award of Merit, National small bore rifle association's Silver Medal, and was awarded several commendations, one on the last day of my service. Sporting, I played Hockey for Redditch and Stourport on Severn, and was an Umpire for the last four years, until I retired. I was also the President of the Kidderminster Photograph Society and gave some of my equipment including "Dark Room" enlarger and a Linhof camera to Framlingham College Photograph Club's unit (hope this is being made use of by the unit). I am a life member of the International Police Association.

“The day after I retired, I left for Greece by car and boat trailer, and I have lived here ever since. The early years here were a bit frustrating but I soon got on with the locals. The language is a bit difficult, but the Latin at school was a great advantage to learning. I still don't speak all that well, but I get by. The village where I live is or was made up of people, from the same village in Turkey on the exchange of population 1922. A lot of the older ones spoke Turkish as well as Greek, so I was a bit put off at first, but gradually managed to understand what was being said. One night I was missing from the usual cafe and at 10 pm I had a few of the locals knocking on my door to see if I was all right, and so we finished up having a bit of a party at home for a change. My time was occupied by repairing motor pumps in the fields where water was necessary for the crops, also boat engines of the fishermen. Also having a boat, I did quite a lot of fishing with fair results. When I caught a lot, I took them to the cafe and everyone had fish for supper. I have a place where I can repair bits and pieces for the locals. Those days are going fast with the influx of Albanians and Russians, most of whom are good fellows. Most of the flats round here are occupied by them. Today I am not as active as I was owing to an old injury where my leg is not as good as it was, and I have got an electric cart to get around.

“I saw the name of **Lorna Stimson (M92-94)** in the last Mag and sent her an email and had a reply, but I don't suppose I shall meet her as she lives down South, the other side of

Athens.

“I still find living here is reasonable, even with the change to the Euro, and I am sure it will be the same in UK if ever they change to the Euro, same as when they went decimalisation. A good time to put the prices up. I am new at this computer game and still making many mistakes, but getting by somehow. Hoping this gets through to you.”

Address: Aristotelous 5, Nei Epivate, GR 570.19, Salonika, Greece, tel: (+30) 239 202 4655; e-mail: ivorwebb@hol.gr

Japan

Robin Campbell (K93-00) sent in a copy of his fascinating report of his IAESTE (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) trainee experience in Japan for which he was a finalist for “Trainee of the year” (*RMR - unfortunately a bit long to publish here but I will try to put on the website*):

“I am in my third year of studying civil engineering at Cardiff University. I was fortunate to obtain an IAESTE internship (run through the British Council in UK) to train with Nishimatsu Construction in Japan from July-September 2003 in the face of strong competition. Whilst in Japan, Nishimatsu paid me a salary to covers living costs; and I had to cover the travel costs (that luckily came from another academic award!).

“It was a tremendous experience and proved a fantastic opportunity to gain real practical experience with one of the world's leading Civil Engineering Contractors. It was a unique chance to see from the inside, a country subject to more mistaken preconceptions than any. I will strive to develop the skills I learnt and treasure the memories of the places I visited, and the warmth of the friendships made. I have only one regret - I managed to sleep through all the earthquakes!

“I am an advocator of the huge personal benefits one can get from living and working in different cultures. I really encourage anyone thinking about doing something similar. Working allows you to meet many people at many levels that tourists often miss out on! Good luck.

“Finally, as the IAESTE member countries organize placements on a reciprocal basis, they are continually looking for places in UK companies to host top foreign undergraduates, indirectly allowing UK students to study overseas. Typically places are for summer vocational employment in companies in the fields of science, technology & engineering. If any OF knows of potential UK host companies, I would be very grateful if they would contact me asap!”

Address: Sandacre, Sandy Lane, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4DW; robincampbell@yahoo.com

Malaysia

Bob Holland (R57-65) sent details of his change of address in Penang:

“Our new pad is a flat on one level, as the four floors at our current place at Cangkat Ria are playing havoc with my knees. The new flat is literally just down the road and is right on the beach next to the Swimming Club where we are also members, so most convenient, as I hope to show you when you next visit Penang (*RMR – I look forward to it*). We are actually still staying at Cangkat Ria while renovating our new flat, and expect to move after Chinese New Year 2004. I will pass on your regards to Derek Seagrove (G39-44) when we next meet.”

Address: 509-10-01, Jalan Tanjung Bunga, Sri Golden Bay, 11200 Penang, Malaysia;

dutchpn@pc.jaring.my

I have included another e-mail from **Peter Stewart (K48-53)**; although now retired from the RAF and living in UK, his description in the last Overseas Bag of East Malaysia in the mid-60's was fascinating (*Peter says "At least my two OF sons enjoyed it as they were only 4 & 6 at the time"*):

"Peter!" my boss said. "You and I are off to Borneo tomorrow morning. We were scheduled on the 0630 CHALK (Changi, Labuan, Kutching) Hastings flight - but instead we are taking 2 aircraft to Labuan via HMS Albion. Do you have any questions?" "No Boss", I said - "Except, how do you land on an aircraft carrier?"

So Sqn Ldr Ces Crook, the legendary borrower of the train in Germany resulting in CM (court martial), the low flying CM in Germany and one further CM - all three of which he gracefully side-stepped, just said, "follow me!" I was a newish pilot on No 209 (Hong Kong) Sqn, based at Seletar in Singapore. We were to fly the Scottish Aviation Single Engined Pioneer. A truly magnificent machine, one pilot and 4 passengers, designed to land on Malay strips of less than 200 yds. The brief had said that HMS Albion, a straight-decked helicopter aircraft carrier would be 50 nms off the coast of Malaya heading east at 10.00 tomorrow. Tomorrow came and we took off. Ces with a ground crew passenger, me on my tod. Good weather, could see miles - and after 30 nms there was nothing but the South China Sea in view anywhere. So I followed Ces. "Close up!", he said. We eventually found the Albion and Ces went in first, telling me to follow him but overshoot and go-round-again. I did. I landed on the deck only to have my aircraft invaded by an 8-foot matelot shouting, "you're on fire, you're on fire, get out, get out!!" I had just been through what was for me a very traumatic 5 minutes. So I said to this enormous matelot, "Go away, this is MY aircraft, the engine is still running, and it's my responsibility to shut it down". He just released my seat harness and pulled me manually out of the seat/cockpit, sat me down on the deck and someone else gave me a drink.

Within minutes, my Boss, Ces, arrived and said, "Peter, that was just a fire drill. Get back in that aircraft, take-off, do 2 rollers (land, then put on power immediately and take-off again) and then a final landing". And I did. Magic! Doing rollers on a carrier in the middle of the South China Sea!

We were told to report for briefing next morning prior to our launch for the transit to Borneo. On arrival at the brief the ship's navigator gave us a latitude and longitude for our departure. We both unfolded our Borneo maps only to find that the top of the map did not extend to the position from which were to be launched. "Simple", said Ces. "Stick a piece of A4 onto the top of the map and extend some lats and longs from the map. Then plot the position of our launch and plan our route from there". And it worked!

Address: 4, The Green, Frieston, Grantham, Lincs, NG32 3BZ; tel: 01400-272141;
peterstewart@btopenworld.com

Saudi Arabia

Graham Walsh (R72-78) sent further news from Saudi in December:

"Saudia has certainly been in the news with the two bombings of expat compounds in May and November 2003. The second bombing appeared to target a compound with a high proportion of Muslim expats. As a result, the security on expat compounds has tightened, with

armed guards, tanks, machine gun nests, and an entry system so tight you wonder sometimes if you will ever get home. Still it is reassuring to see efforts being made to keep us safe.

“I work for a telecomms management consultancy. We are currently extending the gsm network in Saudia by another 2 million lines that will give Saudia a subscriber base of about 9 million lines.

“I have been in touch with some OFs from my year 72-78. **Shaun and Penny Stern (G73-78 & P76-78)** are in London. There must be a story there as Penny was the first girl student at Fram that was where they met in 76. **Simon “Tommy” Tucker (K72-79)** is a Finance director, has two children and lives in London; **Don Frazer (K74-78)** works in insurance, also in London.

“I was also saddened by the news that **Mark Salter (G73-76)** had died in a car accident; he was one of life’s nicest people. Being an overseas college boy, I stayed 2 half-terms with him and his family, and although we lost touch in adult life, my belated condolences to his family.

“I have been in touch with **Jonathan Standbrook (G73-78)** by e-mail who lives near Auckland, NZ; **Des Bishop (R72-77)** who was near the 9/11 tragedy in New York and works for American Express; **Andy Rosenburg (G71-78)** who is a lawyer and former marine is now an American citizen and lives in the USA; **Philip Vessey (Z76-78)** teaches and paints and lives in the west country. (*RMR – I will have to chase you for contact details as Shaun Stern, Simon “Tommy” Tucker – there were 4 Tuckers around 72-78, Don Frazer and Philip Vessey are all listed as Gone Away on the Register*)”

“I don’t know any OFs in the Middle East but I would be keen to get a dinner going in the Gulf States.” (*RMR – our records show 4 OFs in Saudi and 1 in Oman; I will send you details.*)

In a later e-mail, just before Christmas, Graham reported:

“I have made contact with **Sqn Ldr (Retd) David Hodgson (M74-81)** who is working for BAE as a pilot trainer. We hope to meet up in 2004.”

Address: PO Box 2026, Riyadh 11451 Saudia Arabia; tel: (+966) 1478 2024 extn 389; e-mail: gwa@norconsult.com.sa

South Africa

Mike Bullock (R55-59) sent a long note in December:

“Since moving to Johannesburg in 1991 I had lost touch with the School as for some reason my change of address was not processed and the new owners of our house soon became tired of forwarding mail to us. However when I went on to the website recently I saw that the records were even more out of date so I will go back much further.

“I left school in July 1959 and emigrated to the then Rhodesia with a bursary to study forestry at Bangor University. That did not materialise as after a few days practical experience at watching trees grow I decided that that was not to be my career. I then took up a position on a tobacco farm for 12 months before going to Gwebi Agricultural College where I achieved a First Class Diploma in Agriculture with several distinctions.

“Together with 4 other diplomats I headed for Hippo Valley Estates to plant sugar cane and to then manage the sections. Somehow I got diverted into other crops and citrus especially, where I set up a pilot processing plant. A government bursary saw me studying in Spain, Greece and Israel. Morocco was on the programme until the Israelis stamped my passport, which

prevented entry.

“As the pilot operation did not go into full-scale production I left and went to Metal Box Company where I studied plastics achieving a National Diploma from the University of North London, done by correspondence through the Salisbury Polytechnic. I lead Metal Box into plastics manufacturing in Rhodesia in 1974 much against the judgement of the South African operation, which was having a torrid time then. Our venture was very successful becoming the second largest in just 3 years. I was appointed MD in 1976.

“I married Wray in 1967 and we have 2 sons Allan and Stephen. In 1982 we had to make the decision whether to stay on in the now Zimbabwe or leave as Allan was going into high school. We decided to leave and settle in Durban as Metal Box had an opportunity for me as MD of a wholly owned subsidiary. Judging by the events in Zimbabwe now and the success that the 2 boys are making of their careers in South Africa, it was undoubtedly the best decision although we had to take a change in life style and Wray had to work full time as we had to “catch up”

“After 3 years, Metal Box merged with Nampak Limited, which was a polite way of advising us of a take-over. As there were 5 of us with 108 years service at the top, I decided to leave the corporate world and went into a partnership with state-of-the art technology for mouldings for the electrical industry. During 8 months I had increased turnover 4 times and profitability by 8 so we were right for plucking which is what happened. For a few years I was consulting to the plastics and electrical industries during which time we moved to Johannesburg where I had some large contracts with City which ran out in 1992. I then became chief executive of the Plastics Industry Training Board. That was very successful and was a rewarding time for me until March 2000 when legislation closed down the Training Boards and replaced them with other structures. The Plastics board was the only one headed up by a person from business in preference to a recycled trainer, and it showed. I am a director of the new structure and Chairman of the Plastics Chamber.

“Immediately after that I was employed by the Plastics Industry to run an employer body for the sector to advise on labour, commercial, training and legal matters. At the time membership was dwindling and had reached 89 but has since risen to 280, which is 100% improvement on the heyday figures of 136. So that’s where I am to-day, able to put back into the sector so much that I have taken out and enjoyed.

“My interests have been family activities including sailing and participating in school activities including refereeing rugby and umpiring cricket. The refereeing extended to a provincial level in the 2nd leagues although I did referee at Kings Park, the local equivalent of Twickenham. I was also a very keen member of Round Table and achieved national president of the Association of Round Tables of Central Africa status.

“Both sons are married and live in South Africa, which is a real blessing as so many parents of our generation have their children and grand children in far away places. Allan and Catharine live just 2 kms away and they have two sons, James and David. Allan is marketing Director for Ingwe coal, a division of BHP Billiton. Stephen and Fiona live in Rustenburg, about 125kms NW of Johannesburg, where Stephen is Environmental Manager for Anglo Platinum. They have a son, Daniel and a child on the way, which we are told is likely to be a daughter.”

Address: P O Box 70, Gallo Manor, 2052 South Africa; e-mail: thebullocks@netactive.co.za

USA

Andy Twite (R84-92) sent a letter in August 2003 having made contact through registering on the website:

“I thought it was about time I put fingers to keyboard and filed an update on the eleven years of my life since leaving Framlingham, concentrating mostly on 2003 – which has seen some major changes to my life.

“After leaving Fram in July 1992 I went on to the University of Portsmouth to study Biological Sciences. I was still heavily leaning towards joining the RAF as a pilot, however it was not to be due to being a hay fever sufferer and I had to rethink my options. I settled on joining the Police Force.

“I graduated in July 1995 and was accepted by Essex Police. After two years as a probationer I successfully moved into a Neighbourhood Beat Officer position giving me responsibility over a set area. I was also married in July 1998 – unfortunately the marriage ended in 2000, but that’s another story!

“I again changed positions within the force in 1999, becoming one of the first members of the new Youth Offending Teams (YOT’s). These were multi-agency teams developed after the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and were tasked with reducing the high rate of Youth Crime. I enjoyed this line of work very much as it was challenging, provided me with opportunities to learn new skills and had a high level of job satisfaction. It was while working on one of these Youth Offending Teams that I met Anja, who is now my wife. She hails from Germany, having come to the UK some four years prior to our meeting.

“It had always been in the back of my mind to emigrate to the USA, both my brother, **Dr Mark Twite (R79-87)**, and I were born there and have dual citizenship. He had successfully made the leap some 3 years earlier; and Anja and I decided we were definitely interested. The process was given a head start when I had four weeks off work in January 2003 with a torn back muscle (some would say a twist of fate - no pun intended). The time off gave me the perfect opportunity to start searching the Internet for some job opportunities. I knew I wanted to stay in the same line of work, but I wasn’t too bothered about being a police officer in the USA. I had already sent about 25 applications to various pre-court intervention / justice agencies before receiving a reply from Chittenden County Court Diversion in Vermont. Several phone calls and one trip to Vermont for an interview later, I had myself a new job.

“I arrived in Vermont in March to sub-zero temperatures and snow, having left an unseasonably warm stretch in the UK. It’s like starting out in life all over again, having to open bank accounts, find somewhere to call home and get a car all sound like simple things, but when you haven’t lived in a country since you were three years old and have no credit history it can be quite a challenge!

“I’m working for a small place called Chittenden County Court Diversion in Burlington, Vermont (www.chit-courtdiversion.org). It’s very similar to working on the YOT in the UK, except we deal with adults as well. The people I work with are great and now I’ve got to grips with a different system, things are moving along nicely. I’m also giving serious consideration to doing a masters degree in Criminal Psychology so I can move further into this field of work.

“Anja joined me in April 2003. The most pressing thing on the agenda was the fact Anja and I needed to get married within 90 days of her entering the USA, a requirement of her fiancée visa. It ended up being a small affair with immediate family and a few UK and US friends present. We were married just before sunset on July 12th, 2003 aboard a boat on the fabulous Lake Champlain with the mountains in the background, very nice indeed!

“Vermont is part of New England, situated in the Northeast corner of the USA just below

the Canadian border and by American standards is an extremely small state. The population is about 250,000 and Burlington is the largest town (no cities here!) with about 50,000. The biggest draw back to this part of the world is that winters are COLD! Temperatures of -20degF / -29degC are not uncommon. Skiing or snowboarding is almost mandatory here. Vermont is a popular ski destination for many Americans after Colorado (incidentally where my brother lives). The winters here are also long, typically from late October until early April.

“The snow all melts in mid-April giving those few weeks until May the apt nickname “mud season” while the landscape slowly dries out. Then everything that can produce leaves goes into overdrive and within 2-3 weeks everything is in full bloom and covered in leaves. The summers are sunny and warm interspersed with rain, not unlike the UK The average temperature is probably in the high 70’s to low 80’s although it can sometimes be quite humid. Autumn is just sublime when the leaves turn. New England is known the world over for the “leaf peeping” season, which draws in huge amounts of tourists. The mountains and hills are awash with shades of gold, red and orange as the trees all get ready to drop their leaves.

“Burlington itself is situated in the beautiful Champlain Valley and is right on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain. The valley is nestled between the Green Mountains of Vermont and the Adirondack Mountains of upper New York State on the other side of the lake. The lake is not very wide but very long; in fact it’s only about 12 miles wide at Burlington so you can see New York State quite clearly. Further to the East in New Hampshire are the White Mountains. This all makes for an extremely scenic backdrop to everyday life and sure beats living next to Basildon, Essex!

“Five months after touching down we are now very settled and looking forward to what the future holds for us. Anja secured a great job after just a few weeks and we were soon coasting along happily enjoying a new life on the other side of the big pond. It’s a different pace of life over here and we are certainly glad to be out of the South East of England, it was just too busy and crowded. People are generally far more relaxed over here and seem to enjoy life a bit more.

“It really doesn’t seem that long ago that I was at Framlingham, eleven years has flown by far too quickly. I have fond memories of my time there and there will always be a part of me that holds it dear. I’m sure I’ll visit the college again, a good reunion is always tempting and we will undoubtedly be back to visit family so I’ll try and drop in to see what’s changed since I was last in the neighbourhood.

“For those of you that remember me and would like to get in touch then please drop me a line via snail mail or e-mail, it’s always good to hear a voice from the past and catch up on what everybody is doing.”

Address: 231c West Street, Winooski, Vermont 05404, USA; e-mail: andytwite@adelphia.net

Dr Mark Twite (R79-87) replied to my e-mail in December, my having received his address from brother, Andy:

“Thank you for your e-mail and for making contact! I have just registered at the OF website - it is excellent! I am a physician and live in Denver, Colorado. I moved here just over three years ago. After medical school (Cambridge), I moved to Edinburgh where I began my training in pediatrics. After five years in Edinburgh I worked in Kosovo for a year. I returned to the UK for a few months and then decided to move to the USA. I have just completed a three-year residency in pediatric critical care medicine and I am currently training in pediatric anesthesiology. I will finish in two more years! Training has been, and still is, a long road but it

will be worth it in the end. I love what I do!

“I am engaged to a fine Canadian lady - Monique. She is a pediatric critical care nurse. We will be getting married here in Colorado, August 2004.

“In my spare time I enjoy the outdoors - Colorado is a big playground! I spend my time mountain biking when I am not working. I will endeavour to keep in touch with you and look forward to using the OF website.”

Address: Denver, Colorado, USA; e-mail: marktwite@hotmail.com

Peter Ballard (S57-66) writes from Virginia:

“We left Fort Lauderdale, in South Florida just over 2 years ago to move up here to Fairfax City in Northern Virginia (just outside DC). I was offered and accepted a job with Rolls-Royce to promote aircraft engine sales to the airlines. I joined RR in August 2001 only for the 9-11 disaster to happen 2 months later, and we all know what that did to the airlines business. I survived 2 layoffs, and have been seconded to the Corporate Division for this last year selling the engine maintenance service to private operators.

“My wife found a position with a small local law firm as a paralegal/office manager and is enjoying her work. Our youngest son graduated last year from Edinburgh University with a degree in Microbiological Sciences honours in Zoology. He came to the US to live with us and has found work with local environmental consultants and is currently at the Pentagon.

“Our eldest graduated this year from Imperial in London as a medical Doctor, and we enjoyed attending his graduation ceremony in the Royal Albert Hall. He is currently at Frimley and will move to Ascot before he does 5 years with the Army.

“I have traveled heavily this last 6 months and look forward to a break over Christmas.

“I wish you and yours a peaceful holiday season and hope the New Year brings prosperity.”

Address: 3486 Barristers Keepe Circle, Fairfax, Virginia, VA 22031; e-mail: AU45@cox.net



Peter Ballard and son in front of Albert

Peter sent another message at New Year to say that he had met **Michael Blake (K72-76)** on a golf course. Michael is the son of **John Blake (37-39)** who lives in Spain, and the nephew of the late **Elisha Blake (37-39)** who died in the Korean War.

Address: Michael M Blake, 3355 South 5th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204; e-mail: Jaguarmmb@cs.com

Richard Rowe (S65-74) writes from Florida:

“Another busy year if only due to the birth of son no. 3, Jack, at a healthy 9lbs 1oz in August. If someone had told me 6-years ago that I would be spending Christmas 2003 as a married man with 3 sons, I might not have believed them – but I wouldn’t change it for the world. I have to take my hat off to my wife, Denise, as 6-weeks after the birth, I shot off on 5-weeks business travel through 8 countries leaving her to look after our young and active brood.

“As a small part of my work, I do some human rights auditing, mostly for a US shoe manufacturer. This usually means I travel once or twice in the year for a couple of weeks looking at factories. This year was an exception, as I had to squeeze in all the factory visits before Ramadan plus coincide with a friend’s wedding in Sydney. My travels took me through Turkey, UAE, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and then to Australia for the wedding and the Sydney OF Dinner. Quite an experience through various cultures and with an occasional chance to see more than the grim industrial backwaters of developing countries! The economic realities of the world are very apparent when you realize that your \$15 hotel dinner would be more than one-month’s wages for most workers. But my job is not to balance the world’s economies but to ensure the workers are not abused and to encourage good safety and management practice (which can often be achieved at zero cost).

“In Sydney, I stayed a couple of nights with my contemporary, **Phil Bower (G65-74)** and his wife, Dee. We had not seen each other since Fram but I think I recognized him at the airport even before I saw his sign with my name on it. Somehow, Phil had a got a copy of the “Classmates” video, so I was at last able to see the production that I had assisted in a small way by researching lots of names and addresses for the Channel Four team. I was very impressed and thought the video showed the school in good light. It was interesting to talk later that week to **Ann Hogarth (V85-87)** who had been flown to UK at Channel Fours expense to take part in the production but then, like many others, had been completely edited out of the final version.”

Address: Richard Rowe, 804 Cape View Drive, Fort Myers, Florida 33919, USA; tel: 239-415-8153; Richard88@aol.com; www.isotec1.com

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) continues his life story having missed a couple of Mags:

“At the company Christmas party in New York in 1955, having no plans for the holidays, I was probably looking a bit glum at the prospect of spending two weeks in an hotel somewhere, when one of the other sales people asked me what my plans were. I told her that an invitation to visit a friend had been cancelled at the last minute and she suggested that I borrow her apartment and car at Ponte Vedra near Jacksonville, Florida, for two weeks, the only stipulation being that I had to replace anything I consumed! I couldn’t believe my luck and, the next morning I booked a flight to Jacksonville.

“On arriving, I discovered that the apartment was actually a small house, set in the grounds of Ponte Vedra Beach, one of the most famous golf courses in the country. Not being a golfer it didn’t register at first that this was a really wonderful location, complete with Club House, fabulous restaurant etc., but I was delighted to have a place to stay in a lovely, warm, setting.

“Checking in, I found that the manager was an Englishman and we hit it off right away, ending up with my being invited to a staff party that night. Little did I know that fate was pushing me along and that I would meet, and fall in love with, a girl who became my wife just seven months later!

“Of course I had to return to my job in the mid West after New Years and my fiancée stayed in Florida with her mother until June, when I resigned from Prince Matchabelli and the three of us drove to California from Kansas City. By this time my sponsors had returned from duty in England and helped us to find an apartment in San Bernardino, where we were joined by my parents for the wedding in July 1956.

“At this point my new wife, in arranging my traveling trunk, came across a lot of programmes, posters, pictures etc., from my days in the theatre in London and she was stunned, I

had never told her about that part of my life and as far as I was concerned it was over.

“She would have none of it! I suppose visions of movie start, premieres etc., were dancing in her head and she insisted on our moving to Hollywood my getting an agent and attacking the studios.

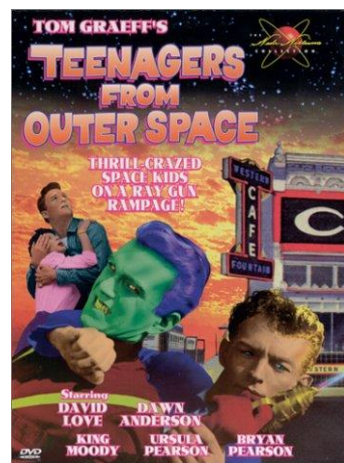
“Having some money in the bank from my years at PM, it seemed like a reasonable idea and we moved to two apartments in a not very choice, but cheap, part of Hollywood and the fun began. At first it was exciting, getting new pictures made, signing with an agent etc., but getting work was difficult although I did many TV films, including Perry Mason, Matinee Theatre, CBS Playhouse etc. and I did work with several interesting actors including James Donald (Wings of the Dove), James MacArthur (Hawaii 50), Torin Thatcher and Henry Daniell among others. To make ends meet I also got into real estate and found that 90% of the agents were also "in the business".

“In 1957 I invested in a science fiction film, in which I also played the lead character of an evil alien. It was a really dreadful film and was released by Warner Bros. The funny thing is that it has since become a cult film and the fans actually have an annual meeting where they sell memorabilia. Every year I have been asked to attend, but it is on the mainland and I have never bothered. The film was originally called "Out of the World" but, due to the craze at the time for anything with teenagers in the title, it was released as "Teenagers from Outer Space".

“In the early sixties I opened my own real estate office and did very well buying and selling homes. In those days a fairly expensive home was in the \$45,000 to \$50,000 price range, today those same pieces of property are close to a million dollars.

“In 1966, my wife and I took a three week vacation to Tahiti which completely changed our lives and that will be a good place to start the next of the four remaining installments covering my sailing experiences, loss of my yacht, managing hotels in Tahiti and then up here to Hawaii.”

Address: 45-501 Apiki Street, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-1919, USA; BPear26848@aol.com



World Traveler

Bill Ryder-Davies (Z87-89) e-mailed a snapshot of his travels in November:

“After leaving Fram in 1989, I spent a short time at the University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff. Presumably lacking any commitment having got in through clearing, or being ‘down in the mouth’ from being in the dental school, I left after completing the 1st Year. Two years at Willis Faber in Ipswich rushed past, followed by a move to Scotland to read Accountancy at the University of Dundee. With a degree successfully completed this time, this temporary move stretched out for over 6 years when a role in the Glasgow based accountancy recruitment consultancy Search was



accidentally acquired.

“After completing a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education at Cambridge University in 1999, I greatly enjoyed 3 years at Halesworth Middle School in Suffolk, teaching mainly maths, science and computing.

“At Homerton College in Cambridge I met, and successfully brought to Suffolk, Emma Oxnam of North Devon. Discovering a desire to travel, we visited a school in Uganda. A couple of years later, we jointly founded the Suffolk based children's charity Softpower Education with Hannah Small (of Bury St Edmunds and now Jinja, Uganda). Everything about the charity's aims, activities and achievements can be found on the new website at www.softpowerededucation.com. We are continually looking for adventurous volunteers or donors.

“Following a 'rather fortunate' or 'rather foolish' Southwold area house renovation sale (depending on your long-term views!), Emma and I set off on a ferry from Harwich for an extensive period of travel overseas with the excuse of looking at schools around the world. We are, of course, rather more concerned with enjoying ourselves before settling down into teaching jobs (again) back in Suffolk - unless we land any lucrative overseas posts with the BBC or Foreign Office in the meantime! Being permanently surrounded by children, we have no current intentions of adding any of our own!

“We have regular contact with several Old Framlinghamian characters, particularly **Miles Anstes (Z82-89)** who is doing very well for himself as a chef in Suffolk. (*RMR – we would be grateful for Miles' contact details as he is an OF listed as “Gone Away”*)

“We are now in Iran and moving on to Pakistan. We have information of our rough whereabouts on the website www.hms123.com.”

Address: WillandEmma@hms123.com

Sydney Supper

Phil Bower organized a Sydney Supper for Saturday 1 November so as to coincide with Richard Rowe's visit to Sydney. After an initial response from about ten OFs, we eventually sat down with five OFs and four guests. I know that tickets to a World Cup rugby match accounted for at least one absentee; but we had a great evening at The Coast Restaurant overlooking Darling Harbour. Phil has already written his version of the evening and provided a lot of photos through the SOF website.

Attendees included **Ann Hogarth (V85-87)** and husband, Campbell Smyth; **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** and his wife, Rebecca; **Phil Bower (G65-74)** and wife, Dee; **Cliff Avery (Z81-86)** and wife, Melissa; and **Richard Rowe (S65-74)**



l to r: **Chris, Ann, Richard, Phil and Cliff**

It was a very pleasant evening. At that stage of the Rugby tournament, Australia were turning in some confident results, so I was admonished

by ardent OF Wallabies supporters for daring to suggest England would win – and even presented with a Wallabies jersey and obliged to wear it for the rest of the evening!

Cliff Avery wasn't on our original list of OFs as he was not an SOF member but has since joined. However, by chance he had bumped into **James Harrison (M80-85)** who had told him about the dinner - so came along. Cliff is an osteopath and been here for 5 years. His wife, Melissa is into serious fitness (and I believe entered the national championship before realizing everyone else was on steroids, so pulled out in disgust)

Anne Hogarth is expecting their first child at end of Feb 2004. She and her husband work from home in the finance sector assisting companies raise capital.

Phil is a "jobbing" debt manager; and is building up a photography business (www.shazbinkimages.com) and might have landed a few clients during the evening!

Chris Shaw arrived wearing a 50-year old shooting colours tie that I would never have recognised as a Fram tie. He also brought a bag full of memorabilia - quite amazing as he readily admits that he never enjoyed Fram and had been out of contact for 50 years until his chance meeting with **Peter Hughes (G52-56)** about 2 years ago (reported in a previous Overseasbag). He had team photos, old school roll of names, ccf badges, etc. Apparently he has copied all the items electronically onto a cd and mailed to the SOF President; so maybe some of this will get on to the website eventually. Chris had several letters including one that he had written to Les Gillett and had arrived only days before LG's death - part of the letter was read out at LG's funeral service. Also a reply from LG's nephew in Durham. Also a letter from **Clive Simpson (K49-53)** - a contemporary who had seen Chris's name in the mag and had written a long letter on life since Fram; plus Chris' reply detailing his life since Fram.

All in all a very entertaining evening with lots of stories and laughter. **RMR**