

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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Through the wonders of e-mail, I've kept in touch with all OFs living overseas, who have registered an e-mail address on the SOF website. I would strongly encourage everyone to ensure that they register their e-mail address on the website, so that we can keep in touch.

My thanks to everyone who has contributed, especially quite a number for the first time. It is great to hear from so many of you and I trust that my editing skills have done your messages proud. Through the wonders of the website I'm pleased to be able to include your messages and photos in full, whereas space constraints mean that the OF Newsletter and Yearbook have only a small section on the Overseas Bag.

Please keep your messages and news coming in, especially with your photos and don't be shy to let me know if you think you or someone else should be included in the Distinguished section of the SOF website.

AUSTRALIA

Peter Bailey (K34-38) got in touch to say that he had received the 2007 Yearbook and thoroughly enjoyed the contents. He often sees **John Gates (S44-48)** as he lives nearby and hopes to catch up with **Neville Marsh (S53-61)** soon.

John Bennett (G34-42) – his wife Dorothy got in touch to let me know that John had died on 1 November 2007, peacefully in the Canberra Hospital surrounded by his family. She went on to say “I think we told you early in the year that he had been diagnosed with lung cancer so we knew that time was probably limited. We were fortunate to have 10 happy and pain free months in which he enjoyed his family and friends and such activities as were within his strength. He wanted his thanksgiving service to be a time of celebration and left detailed suggestions to help us. The church was full with family and with friends from the four churches of which he had been minister while in Australia. John was keen that his early years in Framlingham should receive a mention as he had very happy memories of growing up there and of his time at Framlingham College. He maintained many friendships from those years. It was good that he could keep in touch with the OF society through emails and the internet in recent years. We are all feeling rather bereft but we know that he is still close to us in spirit. With warmest regards.”

John was a regular and consistent contributor to the Overseas Bag over many years and only last year he sent me a copy of a letter he received from one of my predecessors (Alfred Pretty) way back in 1946, while serving in the Far East. The Yearbook will contain a full obituary to John.

Phil Bower (G65-74) has been in regular contact, starting at Christmas when he reported that his festivities were somewhat muted on account of thoroughly English weather!

His day job as a roadie has recently involved working with Celine Dion, Ozzie Osbourne, Santana, Kiss, Zeta-Jones movie premier, KD Lang, Joe Cocker and Santana, but his biggest thrill has been working on a new Gladiators show – only joking Phil! He describes his job as a roadie as “I go into a big box with big wheels on it, remove little boxes with little wheels and put them on an elevated platform. Later I come back and take the little boxes with little wheels and put them back into the big boxes with big wheels.”

Perhaps one of the lesser-known parts of Phil's life is his love of flora and exotic plants. In an e-mail in early 2008 he mentioned that he managed to grow a cutting of the Wollemi Pine. For those of you, like me, who have never heard of the plant, it is officially described as "one of the world's oldest and rarest plants dating back to the time of the dinosaurs. With less than 100 adult trees known to exist in the wild, the Wollemi™ Pine is now the focus of extensive research to safeguard its survival." He says his love for flora comes from the exotic places he visited as a child, courtesy of his father's military career.

Finally, imagine my surprise when I attended the London Supper in February 2008, to hear the President mention in the middle of his speech that he had met Phil on a recent visit to Sydney. He paid Phil the complement of describing him as an unconventional OF! I also mentioned other contemporaries of Phil and I who were at the Supper. Phil commented, "I still recall Dave Carr scoring a certain soccer goal at Brandeston - he put the ball past Paddy Payne from outside the penalty box with a delightful chip. They were both excellent soccer players with skills way above everyone else."

He has kindly volunteered to try and organize another Sydney SOF Supper. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Phil on phil@shazbinkimages.com

Nick Carlton (G63-70) who is a Captain with Princess cruises, was at home in Australia over Christmas/New Year, but has now joined Grand Princess in Grand Cayman. He will stay with this ship most of this year with cruising in the Caribbean, Med, around Britain and Norway.

John Gates (S44-48) got in touch briefly to let me know that the flooding affecting parts of Australia had not been near them on the Sunshine coast, but South Brisbane and New South Wales had been badly affected.

Mike Garnett (R53-55) initially got in touch to thank me for pictures I sent him of the sundial donated a few years ago by Melbourne OFs. At the time he liased very closely with **Jim Macbride (S40-43)** and they wanted to do something, mainly because of their regard for **Tom Saul (R19-24)**. **Keith Dann (S48-50)** and **John Gates (S44-48)** organized the purchase in the UK and the brass plaque was sent out from Melbourne.



Mike got in touch again to donate a copy of his latest book to the College and to say that he had purchased a large book on Len Evans that he would also like to donate. Because of its weight he was planning to bring this across to the Essex Supper in April, that he attended with his brother **Gerald (R50-54)**. In return, he asked me to take some photos of a real/royal tennis court in Bath that was now a museum.

Nick Kennon (Z79-85), who is the son of Hugh Kennon who taught me Economics and was a most inspirational teacher, got in touch about registering on the website. He had received his 2007 Yearbook and thought it a great read. Nick is Acting Head of Special Education Services at Coombabah State High School in Queensland.

Neville Marsh (S53-61) said they had not been affected by the flooding, but just 50 kms south on the New South Wales border, many people were cut off by flooding. They were flying down to Adelaide in a few days time, but unfortunately didn't have time to try and get in touch with **Tom O'Donald (S51-57)**. They will be down in Adelaide later in the year and will redouble their efforts to contact Tom on that occasion.

Steve Miller (G63-66) – I contacted Steve after **Nick Carlton (G63-70)** had told **Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** that he had bumped into him in an Australian harbour and exchanged e-mail addresses. The Society had lost touch with Steve and I'm delighted he got back in touch so that we could update his records. Hopefully we'll get a piece from him for a future Overseas Bag.

Bob Munro (R56-60) got in touch for some help with the SOF website. I therefore asked him if he had starred in any more films [*see earlier Overseas Bag*], but although he hadn't he, he did promise to write a piece on his recent motorcycle trips to outback of New South Wales and South Australia, which may be of some interest to a few people. Here's his report in full, including some photos :-

Some reminiscences of recent trips on my motorbike.

November 2007.

It was a great idea! Ride up to Temora in southern New South Wales from Melbourne to experience the Flying Day and Aviation Museum there. The airfield at Temora was where basic flying training took place during WWII for Australian pilots. The trainer aircraft were Tiger Moths, lots of them! After the war the airfield reverted back to being a normal type aerodrome, and I believe fell into disrepair. However, it was saved by the imagination, passion (and money, lots of it) of a few people who set up the current museum as a living memorial to airplanes (in particular old warbirds), and an army of volunteers. Consequently, on several weekends during the year one can see and hear these old machines flying more or less as intended.



The museum has two Spitfires, it has Tiger Moths, Mustangs, a Boomerang, Wirraway, Hudson, Canberra (my favourite), Vampire, Meteor, Dragonfly, Huey helicopter and a whole lot more. And all these planes and others actually fly! The Spitfires sounded magnificent, raw V12 engines at full bore! Brilliant!

But this is a tale about a motorcycle trip, not a day out watching old aeroplanes! There were six of us in total, all members of the Ulysses Club (motto: Grow Old Disgracefully), and after the air show we had planned to head further up north and then back home by a circuitous route, taking a week to do so. However, it was very hot, with temperatures in the high twenties to mid thirties Celsius (75 to 90 Fahrenheit), so we decided to head west instead. From our hotel in Junee NSW we set off early (7.30am) to spend the next night at Hay, an easy 350 kilometres (217 miles) away. It was hot, so frequent drink stops were necessary to rehydrate. We passed through pretty flat country, very dry, and townships few and far between. Many places marked on maps are simply 'localities' there is nothing there, so fuel stops and food breaks have to be carefully planned. The only major town we passed through on the way to Hay was Griffith, renowned for fine wines. A veritable oasis in the dryness of the surrounding countryside, it was good to see green instead of the brown and sun burnt country!

My 'bike for this trip was an Aprilia Pegaso, an Italian built single cylinder 650cc machine which performed well and was very comfortable to ride. The maximum speed permitted on roads in NSW, Victoria and South Australia is 110 kph (68mph), however away from towns one normally travels a bit quicker than that, and we found that travelling at 120 – 130 kph max. was more comfortable. Have to



watch out for Mr. Plod though! Between Hay and Balranald, part of the next day's run, the road was dead straight, absolutely flat, almost no traffic (just the occasional car and truck {lorry}) and even hotter than previously. The countryside was devoid of trees, just miles and miles of stubble, supporting sheep mainly. On one stretch I could see for 5 kilometres (3 miles) ahead, which makes overtaking dead easy! On this day we stopped overnight in Renmark, South Australia. When we arrived there in the early afternoon, the temperature was up to 43 degrees Celsius (108 deg F), and it was quite uncomfortable. When we stopped to find accommodation, I took off my riding jacket and tossed it over the seat on my 'bike. And was astonished to see water pouring out of the sleeves! Water? No, it was sweat! And my 'T' shirt was absolutely sodden! Fortunately we found a comfortable Motel that had good air-conditioning and a pool. We spent the next two hours or so in the pool, until it was time to find somewhere to eat.

The next morning we got up really early and left at 6.30am in order to beat the anticipated heat and get some kays under our wheels. It was also to be our longest riding day, as we had some 600 kilometres to cover (approx. 375 miles). The riding was brilliant, so different to the NSW roads we had travelled. Narrower roads, but plenty of twists and turns, and lots to look at as the miles unwound to our destination, Mt. Gambier. We rode over 100 klms before finding somewhere for breakfast (nothing was open in Renmark when we left and there were no facilities anywhere until we got to Tailem Bend). It got a bit cooler as we rode south, thankfully, and indeed when we were close to Mt. Gambier it actually rained for a bit, but not enough to spoil the ride. Mt. Gambier is famous for its Blue Lake, a body of water in a long extinct volcano, which really does turn blue in late November to February, when it starts to lose its blue colour. Quite fascinating actually. The area is riddled with limestone caves, many of which are open to the public. Some of you, if you are interested in SCUBA diving, may have heard of the Piccaninny Ponds, or Ewans ponds, which are in the area.

And after Mt. G. it was back home via Victoria's famous Great Ocean Road, a road that really does follow the ocean for nearly 250 kilometres, twisting and turning through the trees, and up and down through the valleys, with many lovely views of the ocean along the way. A fine end to a memorable trip, during which we covered just under 3,000 kilometres (almost 1,900 miles) during the week we were away.

December 2007 – January 2008.

All that was just before Christmas, and after the festivities I went away on another trip, with three other friends (also Ulyssians). This trip, coincidentally, covered some of the same ground I had ridden in November. However, this time we were 'following' the first three rounds of the Australian Solo Speedway Championship.

There was one major difference for me on this trip, as I had sold my Aprilia Pegaso and bought a pre-owned Honda Pan European ST1100 motorcycle. A vastly different machine to the Pegaso!

I won't go into detail of the roads travelled, but suffice it to say that the weather was even hotter than the previous trip, indeed at Mildura in northern Victoria for our first Speedway event, the temperature was in the mid 40's (over 110 degrees F), and at midnight it was still 38 degrees (100 F). Diabolical actually. When it is that hot during the day it is quite possible to get burnt from touching any exposed metal on the 'bike (or car for that matter)!



From Mildura we duplicated the Renmark to Tailem Bend route of November, with me enjoying it even more on the Honda with its awesome power. Along this road there are a number of 'localities', which are in fact just railway stops for the grain. The 'station' is merely a large silo where the farmers can drop off their grain, and the grain is then in turn put on the railway system for transport to the processing plants. Some places do actually have a few people living there, but they are pretty isolated, and I guess it wouldn't suit most people. We went from Tailem Bend to Cape Jervis on the Fleurieu Peninsular (magnificent riding, brilliant scenery), where we caught the ferry across to Kangaroo Island. Owing to a ferry breakdown, we were late leaving Cape Jervis, arriving at Penneshaw on K.I. at dusk after a smooth 45 minute crossing. Now, riding a motorcycle at night on narrow, unlit and unknown roads is hazardous enough at the best of times, but add to the mix a place called Kangaroo Island (for a very good reason!), and the stress levels shoot up! But we all made it in one piece, with none of the local wildlife trying to commit suicide, with us at least. So we spent three nights and a couple of day's r. and r. (New Year's Eve and New Year's Day) in this delightful place, and yes we saw dozens of 'roos and wallabies whilst there, including a number, sadly, killed on the road. The island is fairly large, and to ride around it on the main road covers the best part of 300 kilometres. Many of the best sights, however, are off the one main road, accessed by gravel roads, some pretty rough. So we limited ourselves to the sights we could easily get to on the 'bikes.

The ferry crossing back to the mainland was quite rough, but luckily we got there about five minutes before I threw up! I was not feeling the best, I can tell you! Back on the 'bike and the wind was very strong and gusty, so it was quite hard to hold the 'bike on the correct side of the road. But once we got away from the coast a bit the wind eased off. We were heading for the Adelaide hills, and once again the riding was just stunning! And eventually we rode into Adelaide itself, to find our Motel, and to enjoy the second round of the Speedway later that evening.

After Adelaide it was an easy run via some back roads to Mount Gambier (but still very hot), where the third round of the Speedway championship was to take place. This part of our journey took us through the wine grape growing region of South Australia, with such places and names as Coonawarra, Padthaway, Penola and Naracoorte adding interest to the ride. Some of the estates are quite vast, with vines stretching to the horizon in just about all directions. It is mind blowing to think of all the (delicious!) wines that are produced from this region alone. Stirring stuff.

And so, after Mt. Gambier (again), we headed for home, although we did take to some back roads for a while, as they are more fun than the major highways. This trip again covered some 3,000 kilometres, and was very hot pretty much all the way. The ST1100 performed well, and was so very easy to ride with power at hand to burn, but also surprisingly economical. I have more trips planned, including some, which will involve travelling significant distances.

I can't wait to get back on the 'bike for another adventure!

If you are at all interested, you can find out more about Temora and the aircraft that fly there, by visiting www.aviationmuseum.com.au.

Tom O'Donald (S51-57) wrote near Christmas to say that he had just spent the last two weeks in his "city apartment" (hospital) and hence had been unable to personally get in touch with people to wish them all the very best wishes. He got home from his "city apartment" just in time for Christmas and apart from the fact that he was forcibly prevented from having his heart medication (red wine), he had a great time over the Christmas period and even woke in the morning without the vestige of a hangover!

He next reported that he'd kept his brain active by at last purchasing a new laptop equipped with Vista and Office 2007 and hoped that it wouldn't take too long to master. The really good news was that Tom had finally got off the oxygen machine he'd been tethered to for some time (some 40 feet of lead) which would do its best to get caught around any obstacle in its path! He goes on to say that "apart from that my only source of real interest is ramming my gopher [electric wheelchair] into people who will insist in leaving their shopping trolleys in the middle of shop aisles or who steam out of shops, trolley first with no thought to looking if anyone is coming. Life has to have some consolations doesn't it!"

Hugh Richardson (S43-48) got in touch via his daughter to give us an e-mail address. I took the opportunity to ask him for an update on what he'd been up to :-

"After leaving school I went to London to study architecture. I qualified and at the end of my National Service I returned to Hampstead and the wonderful sixties. During this period I spent a year in Boston and Chicago. I married Julia, an Australian and accepted a position in the NSW Government Architects branch, heading design teams on schools and in hospitals. Living on Sydney harbour and going to the city by ferry was just too wonderful. Julia and I love travelling, particularly in the UK and Italy. I also have a life long obsession with tennis, bridge and painting in oils.

In recent years I have met **Ian Channel (G42-45)** (the Wizard of New Zealand) and sailed with P&O with Captain **Nick Carlton (G63-70)**. It would be wonderful to hear of or from OFs in Australia, particularly if any remember such legends as BertieM, Bruno, Pop, Harry, Toffee, Winnie, Percy, Auentin, Cuckoo or Rubert. My regards to Norman Porter, my brother **Alan Richardson (S34-40)**(vice president) in South Africa has promised to make contact."

I replied to Hugh letting him know of the following contemporaries in Australia :-

Richard Perryman (R45-47) - lives in Fisher, ACT

John Gates (S44-48) - lives in Maroochydore in Queensland

David Scarff (R46-49) - also lives in Queensland at Boradbeach Waters

Keith Dann (S48-50) - lives in Corinella in Victoria

Peter Newcombe (S43-50) - lives in Forest Hill, Victoria

Unfortunately none of his contemporaries live near Sydney, although there are 9 other OFs in the Sydney area.

Alex Shaw (V86-93) registered on the SOF website and gave a brief update. She has been based in Sydney, Australia since 1995 and works for PWC on the tax side. She's expecting her 2nd child in April and has promised a fuller update when time permits.

Chris Shaw (K50-56) let me know that up in Cairns they had not been affected by the flooding. He adds "I came to Australia in 1973 and built a house on the obligatory stumps, about 9 feet high. In 1978-79, a small cyclone, Peter, came across land from the Gulf of Carpentaria, sat off Cooktown (about 100 miles to our north) and dumped 57 inches in 5 days. Now that's a lot of rain! I got a lift in a helicopter to go into Cairns to work my pharmacy on one occasion, because the road was out. On another I walked through about 4 feet of water with my dry clothing in a garbage bag on my head, to change in the dispensary when I got there. I recall walking past a police sergeant sitting in his Ford Falcon police car with the water inside the car above his waist. This was in the days when it was obligatory for police sergeants to have neck, which was indistinguishable from their head, and a beer gut that stretched the

imagination. Needless to say I didn't give him a 'hail, fellow, well met' greeting - he would have most likely jailed me on the spot, in handcuffs, under water in the back of the police car! Am in touch with **Tom** and **Veronica O'Donald (S51-57)**, **Phil** and **Dee Bower (G65-74)** and **Peter** and **Janet Hughes (G52-56)**."

As a result of the news digest issued at the end of April, Chris commented on how he had enjoyed the piece about **Gordon Flowerdew VC (1894-9)** being involved in the last cavalry charge in history. He wrote the following "I've just had a bet with myself and lost, which in itself is not unique, but tells of the memory being a little less crisp and accurate these days. I read in the Digest about the cavalry charge in France being the last cavalry charge in history and wondered about the Battle of Beersheba, which was fought by several Australian Light Horse Brigades. I was wrong because the charge around Moreuil Wood was on 30/03/1918 whereas the Beersheeba charge was 13/10/1917. Wikipedia quotes Beersheeba as "often reported as being the last successful cavalry charge in history". This could, of course, be Australian one-upmanship in its best tradition. However, the story of the Battle of Beersheba from this end tells of the Chinese whisper that, at the end of the day there would be plenty of 'beer and sheilas.' No wonder the boys went so fast on that 4 mile charge - first in, best dressed, so to speak!"

CANADA

Julian Bayley (S50-53) like a number of other OFs in Canada contacted the Hon Sec about the forthcoming College tour to Canada. He said "I apologise for the late response but I have just returned from a business trip to Thailand and am still wading through countless e-mails in an effort to catch up. It seems our business is involving a great deal of travel overseas at the present time for which I am very thankful as the North American market has softened but exports have picked up the slack. It is very difficult for me to plan too far ahead - I seem to be spending more time out of the country than in it, but hopefully, things will ease up by summer. I would like to be kept up to date with the tour arrangements and if there is any chance I can participate in any way, I will do so."

John Oswell (G61-65) contacted us about registering on the SOF website, so as usual I took the opportunity to ask for an update and to comment on some of the internet sites that John appears to have set up. He has kindly provided the following update :-

"We left the UK under 2 pressures - my father, whose 2 brothers emigrated to Canada - the first fought initially in WW1 with Canadian forces (signed up in Victoria, BC, outside the Strathcona Hotel, yup Strathcona's Horse - the Flowerdew VC outfit) and then the second brother followed him after that war - went to South Africa in 1947 to see about getting the family out of the UK as a whole load of the family, after the Boer War, stayed there. I actually spent 6 months there, most in (now) Zimbabwe, right after Fram doing my "experience" that was necessary for people who wanted to study agriculture but weren't "farm people". He could see back then what would happen, in 1966 it was even more obvious and the whole thing was rotten - not an option - you can't live a 1930's colonial life in 1966 (probably not even then if you really thought about it!). I also didn't appreciate having to go around like a US GI on ops in Vietnam, just to do my job!

I left Zimbabwe just before I got drafted in 1972-3. We initially looked to buy a house in the UK - we were 2 people in the computer industry and were advised to get second jobs as bartenders by mortgage people, so we could qualify - simple result : charter flight to Toronto and threw away the return stubs! In Canada we had a 2 Bedroom apartment for the same price as the 2 room bed sit we had in N.London (including real appliances, all utilities, rates etc - all were extra in UK but we did get the privilege of

paying in guineas for our bed sit, if you can believe it!). I was offered a job right off the plane (from Hawker Siddeley, as I had supported them in the UK when I worked for ICL) at 3 times my UK salary - in 12 months we bought a house. Lifestyle is great although changing now in all the cities like it is everywhere else. Would never go back, every time we've been over to the UK we've been so happy to get back here, to home."

John has set up a website to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the Loyalist Landing at Shelburne, Nova Scotia – see www.loyalistsatshelburne.com There are some great photos on the website.

John went on to say "I went through the Directory for the year I left Fram - 1965 and was amazed at the number of deceased! Has me worried that they put something more than bromide in the tea! You may want to check **David Spencer (R60-65)** - he passed away. I was good friends with his brother **Simon (R60-65)** and read in one of the Fram Newsletter's he'd died, has to be 2-3 years ago anyway. I got hold of Simon through his elder brother **Michael (R51-58)**. I also saw **Neil Utting (G58-65)** passed away - another good friend who I'd lost touch with. Saw **Jim Tyrrell (G64-65)** in there - he was a US exchange - we had 2 when I was there, Jim who was my contemporary and **Chris Jenkins (G61-62)** who has also passed away (he's the feller in the front row of the 1961 Garrett House photo not dressed in school uniform, I sent in some time ago). I've been tracking Jim Tyrrell for some time - he was from New Jersey and I have a line on a James Warren Tyrrell still in NJ - I will pick up the phone! Jim bought a 1954 or so upright Ford Pop and the summer we left Fram we toured the UK - Land's End to Dunnet Head and everything in between - I vividly remember us willing the "car" to get from one service centre to the next on the M1 on the way home to get air in the tyres, oil in the engine and water for the rad! Prior to the car he had an illegal Lambretta that he had a farmer keep in a shed for him - he did not understand stupid English school rules!

The only friend I'm missing now is **George Reason (S61-66)** not an OF member and short of calling every GA Reason in the UK - it'll be a problem! Anyway the sun's shining and I have a cold Keith's Amber Ale awaiting me."

As a footnote about his uncle who was in the Strathcona's, John adds "My uncle was lucky to have avoided the charge at Moreuil Wood - he had been transferred to Imperial forces before then. I have a recording (video, somewhere) of a limited recreation of the path of the charge done by Canadian military as part of one of the Remembrance programs."

David Lebell (K41-46) picked up on **James Ruddock-Broyd's (G46-52)** report of his recent train trip across Canada and the winter wedding in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He says "as he probably now knows, he unfortunately chose to visit Canada during one of the most severe winters in recent times (although it was pretty mild here on the west coast in sub Mediterranean Victoria.) Sorry we were away when he called.

My wife and I have just returned from a visit to the Costa Rica, where we met up with our son and his family. We all stayed in the tropical rain forest at an eco-lodge, one of the pioneers of the eco-tourism movement, which is a way for landowners to protect both habitat and rainforest. There are 300 plus bird species in this Sarapiquí region of Costa Rica and it is visited by bird watchers from all over the world. We Canadians were thrilled by sights and sounds of macaws, vultures, toucans etc. whilst our hikes and river trips introduced us to snakes, crocodiles, caimans, howler monkeys, iguanas et al.

I have been meaning to write since reading of the death of **Maurice Arthur Metcalf (R20-24)** (then the oldest OF). His brother, **Robert W. Metcalf (17-21)** was a chartered accountant practising in the City. In 1946 he asked headmaster Kirkman if any boy might be interested in becoming articled to him. At that time universities were giving priority to returning servicemen. So, aged 16 and armed only with

matric exemption, I became R.W.Metcalf's articled clerk. As many will know, RWM did a lot for Fram; he befriended me as well as giving me a first-class professional training. Today I suppose you would call him a workaholic and I wonder if that contributed to his premature death in the mid 50's when he was half Maurice's age.

As a Suffolk boy I was never in London during the war. However, I remember standing at night in the stack yard of my uncle's farm near Sudbury watching the red glow in the sky to the south as the City burned. Nevertheless the devastation in the East End and the City was initially a shock to me but soon we clerks were playing cricket in bombsite basements. Standing on London Wall looking over Moorgate Station (which then had a corrugated iron roof) there was an unimpeded view of the HAC grounds and barracks to the north. Dense black fogs were commonplace in winter and soot was everywhere. Quite a contrast to the City of today.

Here in naturally air-conditioned Victoria, Faith and I live on a quiet cul-de-sac four miles from downtown. We've just had to install 8' gates to keep the local deer from dining on our vegetables; this because Victoria is now becoming so built up and encroaching on the grazing grounds of the (legally protected) deer. Of course, we would welcome any OF's coming this way."

Thomas Wolever (R71-72) was in touch again to say that unfortunately he would be in the UK when the Girls Hockey side are visiting Canada. He and his son are cycling from Heathrow around the south-east (Dover) and then along the south coast over to Exmoor and down to Land's End. Quite a trip!

Various Canadian OFs – as mentioned above, James Ruddock-Broyd visited Canada in early 2008 and has given me the following report :-

"As I said before I went, it was amazing to discover that 6 of my vintage were in the places we visited. I had left it rather late but emailed them all and managed to speak to some when in Canada. However, I cannot report a Canadian supper or anything very positive but I thought you would like to know about the brief contacts I made.

The contacts in order of happening were:

- 1) **David McMillen (K54-58)** - at Fram after me - really wanted to meet up but had to go to Europe and so we missed him;
- 2) **Patrick Vincent (R47-51)** was doing cross-country skiing in North Ontario but managed to speak to him on the telephone just before we left Toronto;
- 3) **Brian Mayhew (R46-52)** said it was the worst winter in living memory and they were not going out unless they had to;
- 4) **David Lebbell (K41-46)** was not in and I left a message on his answerphone. I recall meeting him at a function at the college a few years ago.
- 5) I did not update my records before going, so unfortunately I rang asking for Tim Walwyn and was saddened to hear from his widow Margaret that "he had died last Fall". Had very nice chat with Margaret who wanted me to tell various OFs who might not know. Also she said that she was fascinated in reading the Magazine and could she continue to receive it?
- 6) **Patrick Wheatley (K47-55)** has lost interest in OFs and was not bothered with the mag but attended the wedding of **James Thurlow (K79-89)** son of John at Bury St. Edmunds last summer when **John Gooderham (K44-53)** was also present.
- 7) **Julian Bayley (S50-53)** emailed me while I was away but he could not have met me as he is extremely busy in his work especially with their current economic situation.

GERMANY

Tim Packard (G62-69) got in touch with us about contributing towards the magazine. As well as remembering **Peter Howard-Dobson (R65-69)** he also remembered **Chris Hall (G62-69)** who has spent most of his life in Hong Kong, but visits the UK occasionally and is now a world authority on Chinese textiles and clothing etc [see *Distinguished section of the SOF Website*]. He also remembered Rev VS Singh who became an honorary OF last year, in recognition of the extraordinary support he's given to **James (JEM) Carter (R61-71)** & his wife over the last 30 years or so.

He gave an update on his life "At the moment I am just finishing a Project in Hanover, where I travel to Krakow and Naples all the time and by chance happened across a fraud in Istanbul which has resulted in the Controller and General Manager both being forced to resign. It is very tiring at times, but at least I have some work due to overseas experience and language skills, when most other people I know are condemned to the scrapheap when they reach 50."

HONG KONG

Ian Howard (S57-62) – we're indebted to Ian for organizing another Hong Kong Supper, to tie in with the start of HK Rugby Sevens. See the SOF website for a full report and picture. It was attended by seven OFs - **Mike Cundy (K61-64)** and his sons **James (Z90-97)** and **Nick (Z90-97)**, **John Birt (S59-63)**, **Richard Dolan (G87-92)**, **Ed Marr (G85-92)** and **Ian**.



This photo shows the attendees prior to the Supper (see website for after!!). From left to right they are Richard Dolan, Ian Howard, Edward Marr, John Birt then James, Mike and Nick Cundy.

MALAYASIA

Derek Seagrove (G39-44) sent a Christmas card to **James Ruddock-Broyd**, which contained the following message "No real news Fram-wise - no one has contacted me or **Bob Holland (R57-65)** (who is still here) for years. They are still welcome - whatever age! Penang is cheap and I can put up any visitor in the Penang Club. Only Rm 120 a night or £17 including breakfast". James hoped to see him in the UK in March this year.

SOUTH AFRICA

After no correspondence from OFs in South Africa, I've been delighted to hear from a number over the last 6 months.

Michael Bullock (R55-59) was in touch with Norman about his change of address and I was delighted to meet him at the SOF Essex Supper in April 2008, during a visit to the UK. It would be good to get an update from Mike for a future Overseas Bag.

James Campbell (M74-82) got in touch at Christmas with a long newsletter and photos, which I've edited below.

“2007 could be likened to an endurance race and Ann in particular looks forward to rest and sleep. Is this a sign of “old age” creeping in?

As with past years, holiday times together enable us all to survive our extremely busy schedule. The fact that we have had less opportunities in this area in 2007 would explain why we feel exhausted at the end of the year. However, Ann is determined to rectify this situation for 2008. Ann and Emma were able to fly down to Cape Town in early April and stay at Seaside Cottages in Fishhoek. The family went on an ATKV train trip to Durban with two days in a hotel over the Easter Weekend. Ann and James managed a couple of days at the lovely game reserve called Sondela in May. July saw the family going to the Cavern in the Drakensburg for “Christmas” where the food was wonderful and the walks created the appropriate appetite. However, this year was definitely highlighted with our trip to China in August. We flew to Beijing where we saw the city sites and the Great Wall in perfect weather. From there to Xian for the Terra Cotta warriors and thereafter a cruise up the Yangtze River for 3 days and then we spent the last 2 days in Shanghai.



James has now completed his first year in the ‘real’ world running a couple of London AIM listed diamond companies. As the companies are small, James gets involved in everything from raising money in London and Botswana through to spending it on exploration and mining projects in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Botswana. He says it's lots of fun and he really enjoys working with such a dynamic and talented team. Travel is frequent and work hectic and therefore James has had fairly limited time for his ‘extramural’ activities at Common Purpose, the SABB Trust and as a Lay Minister at the local Anglican Church. A great spin-off from the travelling to the UK is that James has been able to frequently see his brother, Jonathan and sister-in-law, Tasia.

We will be spending Christmas with James' mum as well as Trudie's brother and sister-in-law, so it promises to be wonderful family occasion. We hope this letter finds you in good health and have a wonderful Christmas and 2008. “

Adam Phillips (G78-83) sent a brief message at Christmas.

Alan Richardson's (S34-40) son Iain sent an e-mail to the Hon Sec. His father Alan moved overseas in his early 20's and currently lives in South Africa. Iain was visiting his parents for two weeks at the end of April/May 2008. He says his father speaks very fondly of Framlingham and the society, of which he was an active member for many years and a Vice President. Iain contacted us to see whether he could purchase a subscription on his behalf [*not necessary as a life member*] or some memorabilia/information to take to South Africa that he may find of interest. Iain says his father suffers from failing eyesight, but otherwise of good health for someone in their 80s.

Charles Rossiter (S49-55) has recently been included in the list of distinguished OFs. He tells me that since 1989 he has been Emeritus Professor of Occupational Health at the University of London and Chairman of the Joint European Medical Research Board. At the age of 55, he largely gave up his academic career, maintaining just a few professional consultancies. He now enjoys the pleasures of South African sunshine, sporting facilities and wine. [*Charles is one of 6 OF Professors – see Distinguished Section*]

SPAIN

Michael Evans (S44-48) has provided regular help with distinguished OFs and in particular **Group Captain Percy Pickard (G26-32)**. At the end of April 2008 he contacted me to say that he had just finished reading Patrick Bishop's highly acclaimed new biography "Bomber Boy" which features Pickard. It covers both his part in the war time documentary "Target for tonight" and for the Amiens prison raid led by Pickard. *[We have obtained copies of both of these films from the Imperial War Museum with permission to stream on our website]*

Michael also says that he was delighted to catch up with **David Copeman (K42 48)** & his wife Ann when their cruise boat berthed in Palma for the day. They enjoyed a leisurely lunch together whilst catching up on the past 25 years since they had last been together at an OF Golf Meeting in Thorpeness. David is still playing golf at Mill Hill Golf Club, where in the past Michael has enjoyed being his guest.

He says he will be visiting the UK again at the end of May when he's looking forward to staying overnight with **John Waugh (K41-48)** in Newmarket. He also hopes to catch up with **Peter Golding (R45-49)**.

UGANDA

Brian Pretty (S52-56) lives in Devon but spends a lot of time in Uganda. He sent me the following update on his visit during August/September 2007, which really sets out the wonderful work they have doing there for many years :-

"Uganda is such a beautiful place, but beneath the surface of tranquillity, lie many problems we, as Europeans, cannot fully imagine without first hand experience. This recent visit was my tenth in the past seven years and probably the most fulfilling in terms of the work we try to do.

To explain in detail our hopes and aspirations is impossible in this short update but we want all local people to know how much their interest and individual contributions have been appreciated by the people we meet and assist in our travels throughout Uganda.

Our main objective this time was to be present at the Consecration of our dear friend and Brother, Rev Cranmer who visited our village many years ago and was instrumental in creating the wonderful relationship we now have with Kisoro and its people. It was a magnificent occasion and we, as visitors, were feted as V.I.P.'s to a degree we will never forget. I became very adept at sudden "off the cuff" speeches to huge audiences!!!!

We were also able to participate in an International Youth Sports Conference and because I was the only person to know the local mountain and hill paths, I became the leader in Hill Climbing. A wonderful experience with much laughter over the fact that at nearly 70, I was able to keep up with and out walk most of the youngsters who ventured into the mountains with me.

However, our main purpose was, and always will be, to assist as best we can those invisible souls who get forgotten or left behind.

Our journey this time has been both harrowing and so rewarding. The seeds we have sown over the years have begun to mature in ways we could never have hoped for:-

- *Joyful - a quiet country girl shattered by her Father's premature death was, we were told, not worth bothering with as she was not particularly clever. We disagreed. She is now a beautiful young lady with firm Christian beliefs and has graduated with a diploma in Social Studies, AND A FUTURE.*
- *Jane - dying of AIDS through no fault of her own, and with 5 young children is now receiving drugs to extend her life and we have provided food via a kind donor to keep the family going for the coming 12 months.*
- *Pius - 18 years old and struggling to provide for younger siblings due to his Mother being in prison on trumped up charges related to witchcraft, now has a bike and will be able to earn a living from it. Small things provided by all of you through ourselves.*
- *I think it can be summed up by a young man who approached me and said, "Uncle Brian, you will not recognise me, but 7 years ago you helped me to return to school by buying me the text books I could not afford. You saved my life as I am now on my way to University to study medicine and I can never thank you enough for what you did".*

Small things can mean so much and I thank so much, those of you who give us encouragement every time we travel. If anybody wants to know more of our work, we are always happy to give talks.

We have come back once more with a project. It involves young girls who are HIV positive but are kept within their own society, which normally shuns them as unclean. We met a Kenyan lady of truly visionary abilities and we want to raise £800 to help buy land to sustain these lovely children in food. This project is based in Gulu, Northern Uganda. An area that has been torn apart by the brutal war that over 20 years has forced children to become killing machines and has now dumped them on the streets with nowhere to go. We have returned with a DVD about this war that is almost beyond belief. I am not very good at raising money so if anybody is interested to know more or is good at fund raising, I would love to hear from them.

We love Uganda and its people, many of whom suffer in silence but always with a smile of welcome. We hope to return again and again to help in any practical way we can. Our Ugandan daughter, Miriam, is now a fully qualified midwife and sends a big smile, a huge hug and all her love to all who remember her when she visited us some time ago

Thanks again to all of you who help us to help these lovely people. We can always be contacted on 01823 680471. Brian and Sheila Pretty”

USA

Nick Allan (R59-63) – Nick and most of his brothers went to the College and then Nick went to America in 1972 with **Nick Arthur (K57-64)** to sell London buses!! He ended up staying, living in Virginia Beach, Tampa, San Antonio, Los Angeles, Georgia, Milton Keynes, Los Angeles, Raleigh, and San Antonio. He has 4 acres to take care of which is time consuming and he loves to watch a lot of sport on TV - Football, Golf, Tennis and NASCAR. He describes himself as a middle class Redneck, and proud of it.

His boat is a small hint and he drives a hot rod pick up truck and believes Hank Williams Jr should be President!! He says he also spends more on his lawn tractor than his wife's car – don't we all!

He then sent me a picture under the caption "I hate winter", which seems to sum Nick up. You can see some great additional pictures and footage of his boat by going here <http://video.google.com:80/videoplay?docid=-8357821561870281682&pr=goog-sl> Looks like a great lifestyle.



Bryan Ivory (K48-52) sent warm Christmas Greetings from the coast of North Carolina. He provided the following update :-

*"We were pleased and interested to receive your news and to learn that you had been over this side of the water. Charleston, South Carolina is only a couple of hours drive south of us here in Shallotte. I'm glad that you enjoyed the city, it has a lot of character and history and is one of our favourite spots to visit. We made a brief three week trip over to the "Old Country" to see family and friends in October. Time goes by very quickly and is far too short to do all that you would like. One time hopefully we'll make it back to "Fram" again. I'm still in touch with a few O.F's... **Mike Brown (K53-59)**, **Barry Wilson (G48-52)** and **Rev David Pitcher (R44-51)**. All are keeping well, but again time did not permit us to see them.*

It has been a very dry summer here in the south east of the US. Our rainfall is 50% below normal for the year and there has been a devastating loss of crops by the farmers both in this State and South Carolina and Georgia. The city of Atlanta is fast running out of it's supply of water. The wife and I continue to enjoy our retirement years down here on the coast and certainly don't miss the cold and snow of Massachusetts! Next year will be our 50th anniversary, so we are hoping to get back to Canada and do a cross country train ride. It has always been something that we wanted to do, from the time we used to see the CP train come down the track, when fishing in Ontario.....a long time ago!!!

A little loss of vision this year in my right eye has caused me to give up my hobby of painting historical military miniatures. As a consequence I have returned to building model ships. They take a lot more time than figures..... I still have about 12 months to go before I will complete the 36" - 54 gun British Man-of-War, that presently sits on my work bench. One good thing about retirement, you don't have deadlines to meet!!!!

We'll look forward to receiving the next School Yearbook. They do such a great job of putting it together and it's wonderful to read all the latest news about the school and all the accomplishments of the younger folk. They certainly uphold the good name of the school."

In early 2008, Bryan sent me a copy of a wonderful print/engraving he had bought of the College. It included some detailed background information on the building of the school. I will pass on to the Hon Sec.

Noel Hume (37-39) reports that his year has been much involved with Virginia's celebrations surrounding the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Landing and the visit of the Queen and Prince Philip. He was at a luncheon for the Queen and wrote the text for her official gift. He also wrote a play about John Smith "Smith! Being the life and death of Cap'n John" which ran there from April to September. He also published another novel titled *Civilized Men*, which looked at the year 1610 and asked whether it was the English or the Indians who were civilized men? He tells me he is now working on a play about Samuel Pepys and says, "Even 80-year-olds have to find something to do!"

He's also finished another book called *The Bicyclist, which is finished*, and seeking a publisher. He says his agent was not enthusiastic -- too dark, she said. The book controversially chronicles the collapse of the United States in the not too distant future!

Alfred Molson (K38-43) regular keeps in touch by phone from near Houston. He's a great advocate of using Skype, which I keep meaning to get set up. Every phone call contains a wealth of snippets about his rich and varied life. I'll have to try and get him to put down in writing an autobiography. At the end of 2007 he met up with **Andy Roberts (G73-79)** near Houston, after a number of previous arrangements had failed to materialise due to Andy's travels around the world. In early 2008 he has suffered medically but still keeps in regular touch.

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) has been in touch a number of times from Hawaii over the last 6 months. He first got in touch to give me contact details for **Steve Miller (G63-66)** – see report under Australia. He also wrote to say how much he enjoyed the Colditz story featuring Bill Goldfinch (26-32) and his glider. Like the rest of us Bryan says we had no idea that an OF was the brains behind this remarkable achievement.

He's also come across a 1947 Bisley shooting team photo and is going to scan it and e-mail it across. It includes all the names.

Recently he's been in touch to say that he and his wife are coming to England for a few days between 17th and 25th July. He wanted to know if any OF events were on during this time, but sadly there aren't. They will be in London for a couple of days before visiting his brother in Suffolk. The College will have broken up by then, but I'm sure someone would be around to give him a guided tour if would like one. He last visited the College in 2000.

Simon Percival (K72-77) made contact with the website team after being out of touch with the Society for many years. He remembers that up to 5th form he used to hang around with **Tony Knight (K70-75)** and **John Goldsmith (xx)**. They left at the end of 5th form and he then shared a study with **Andy Claiborne (K72-77)**, **Geoff McClure (K72-77)** and **Richard Jenkinson (K69-76)**. He says "I have been shockingly bad at keeping in touch, though I did hook up with Tony Knight last year, but thought it might be an idea to rectify that."

He now lives in New York and would love to meet up with any OFs in the area. I'm hoping that Simon will provide an update for the next Overseas Bag. **Edward Peter Frey (S72-73)** appears to be the only other OF currently living in New York.

Richard Rowe (S65-74), my predecessor as Overseas Bag Editor, continues to live in Florida with his family. After a spell of a lot of travelling abroad, he is currently engaged in a very different family project. His wife's family are all entrepreneurs and her brother runs a manufacturing business that is booming despite the poor economic situation.

He says, "They buy in a lot of sheet metal product to support their own production. The current supplier is a great designer but poor at customer satisfaction; so my brother-in-law was forever getting late deliveries and frequent errors. So the family decided to "vertically integrate" and start their own sheet metal operation. So I became a part owner of the new business and because I have a technical / mathematical background and a little time on my hands between consulting jobs, I got "volunteered" into running the business. It was a nightmare of problems to start with, especially as we had zero sheet metal

experience, and no one wanted to be my friend to assist. Now we are rolling forward. Every day is a learning experience but we are producing good product and picking up the pace. We should be ahead of budget forecast by end of May. So we are looking good, but I am still working long 14-hour days producing product by day and designing new product at night. I have a team of welders but currently I am the only one who knows how to operate the design software and run the big machines; so I am busy "employing myself as my own management consultant" by writing lots of process notes and product specifications. I hope to have us ISO 9001 certified within 2-3 months. Makes a change swapping business clothes for greasy overalls. Look us up at www.floridacncmetal.com. And I am still doing some international consulting work. I have had one trip to Italy in March, and am off to Spain and Italy for 10-days in May."

Ian Seeley (S58-65) who lives in Connecticut responded to my Christmas message saying "We are receiving an eight inch snowfall as I write, although I am still at work and just itching to have a crack at the snow in my old pickup truck. I was fascinated to learn of Mr. Goldfinch's involvement in the Colditz story. I think perhaps he must have had such a plan in mind for escaping the dorm at Fram, although the rest of us preferred the more usual fire-escape method!

I don't have much to contribute I'm afraid. My son and I have recently sold our company to a large Californian outfit. We make carbon fiber and Kevlar parts for aircraft such as the Blackhawk helicopter and so on. Interesting work, and I am so grateful to Framlingham and particularly Mr Maulden for giving me a love of science.

Ian signs off his e-mails with "Proud Parent of a United States Marine"

ZIMBABWE

Chris Seddon (S43-50), who still manages to live in Zimbabwe despite all the current problems, got in touch with me to say that he was going to be in the UK around the time of the London Supper in January 2008 and would very much like to attend. I put him in touch with the organizer and I was delighted to meet Chris at the Supper, which he attended with his daughter. This was the first Supper he had attended since leaving England in 1950 and the one question he didn't ask me beforehand was the dress code. Chris outshone the rest of us in full DJ! He has promised to write a few pages on what its been like to live in Zimbabwe during recent times and 100,000% inflation. It should be a fascinating read.