



BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT BUGLE

News from our Airport at Biggin Hill - established 2005



CLUB AND AIRPORT NEWS

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CROSSING THE EQUATOR



Part II of Bugle 148 / 149

MANY SPECTATORS CAME



JB and Tom Tanner (King Neptune) initiating the innocent of this religious ceremony.



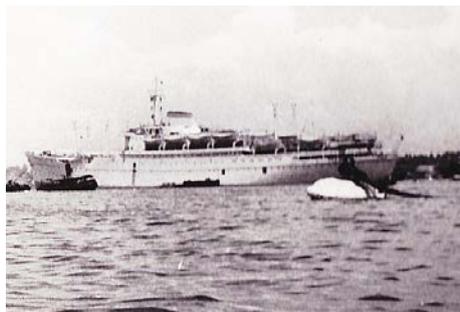
JB arrives by Rickshaw outside the Colombo Hotel for a cool beer.



The crossing of the Equator near Jakarta 1956. This was King Neptunes Ceremony, JB has a grass skirt on, with his back to camera. It was another hot day.



Helen Crane, JB and two Aussies
This event took some time as we searched the ship for prisoners.



Our ship m.v. Australia anchored near Jakarta, Indonesia before moving on tomorrow.



We moved on from here to a Temple to see Bhudda standing up, Bhudda lying down

When you enter all Temples it is respectful to remove your shoes, this is not too difficult for us, because our shoes are unique and easily found on exit. Indians wear flip-flops, that all look alike and they just walk out of them without hesitation, not taking any notice, where they have abandoned these sweaty bits of leather.

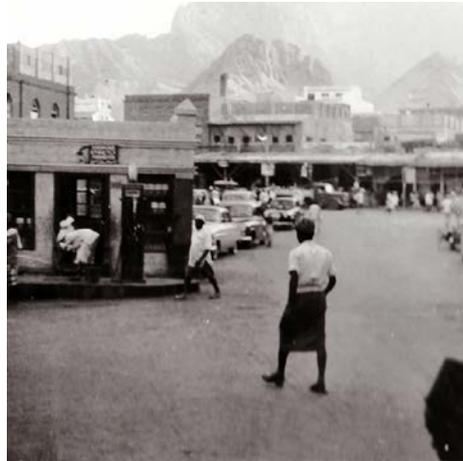


If you travel by sea you will be pestered by souvenir salesman.

ARRIVAL AT GULF OF ADEN



This is a barren land. We board a small vessel for a trip into Aden itself with the Ozzie girls.



Jean / Ann Quinn / Anne / Helen Crane., including JB who bought a proper camera, with colour film.



RUMOURS OF SUEZ CRISIS

Started on board ship indicating we may have a longer sea voyage than we had anticipated which may be quite exciting, they couldn't charge us anymore for such a journey, as we, were all paid up.

Having visited a few Temples I we managed not to lose any shoes.



I climbed up to the 'Crows Nest' and came down as we passed the Swing Bridge that had blocked the, Suez Canal during 1956 crisis of Gamel Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt. There was some talk aboard that we may have to go around the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa as an alternative route

DAILY COLOURFUL MENUS



They had some lovely menu covers depicting many places in Italy.



STROMBOLI VOLCANO

Beautiful dramatic colouring of blue and ash grey.

Late afternoon we pass the active volcano of Stromboli, situated on one of eight small islands off Southern Italy.

EARLY MORNING GENOA

This is where we all leave this wonderful vessel. Life on board was good, crew were efficient and friendly. I even managed to get a trip down to the engine room, very interesting.

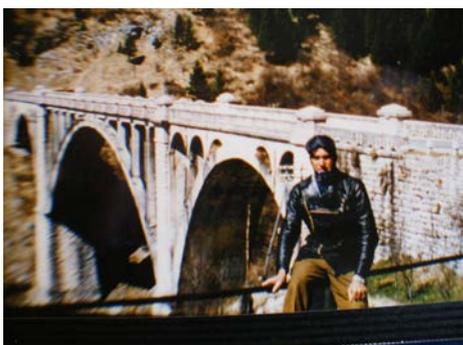


We arrived here early in the morning. I met the Pesavento famiglia. From the Port we went by bus to Asiago around the winding mountain roads of Vicenza which was very colourful.

ASIAGO, VICENZA



A very colourful place set in the hills in North East province of Vicenza, close to Milano.



I was given the loan of a Vespa Scooter and shown around the area by a couple of Italians.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING



Bruno Fraccaro takes me to the shooting range at Asiago, it was a bit foggy this day, so we all retired to his Bar.

Next thing is we are off to Milano to a 'Trade Show' where I had my first ride in a Helicopter (Sikorsky 55) off the roof of a large building.

IL DUOMO MILANO



This huge Cathedral was still spattered with bullet holes from WW II, also it is adorned with 1,200 Spires on its roof – I don't know how high the ceiling is, but it is a long way up from the floor.

Our next adventure is to be a visit to Venice, which has canals instead of roads, look forward to seeing this city on water.

CHIESA SAN MARCO



This church faces the Piazza which is like an open air restaurant. The outside is covered in coloured tiles and glass, it has to be seen to be believed for its artwork. The interior is equally decorative.

I bumped into fellow passenger on the Australia, Tom Tanner who played 'King Neptune' when we crossed the Equator.

He suggested it would be advantageous to be wheel around on an operating trolley to view the ceiling art work, fantastic.

TWO BRONZE HORSES



Stand guard from the balcony of the Chiesa San Marco.

IL PONTE RIALTO



The Ponte Rialto is like a museum inside as well as a canal crossing leading to a Palace of some kind. A Gondola ride is a good way to see Venice down to the water line.

WE RETURN TO ASIAGO



This place had hills which ever direction you choose to go. From here I will go to Rome by train.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE



A self portrait as I walk back to my camera, which I thought hadn't worked. It is hard to imagine this place was once the centre of the world, all built by hand. Most of these monuments were free to enter, and tourists were a rare thing in these days.

MONUMENT EMMANUEL II

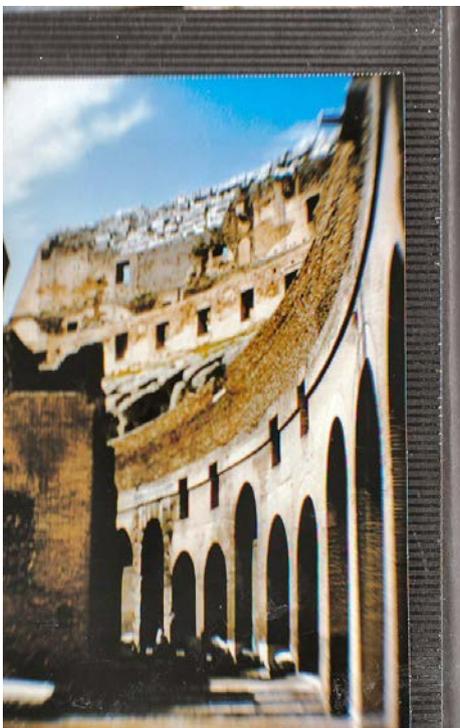


This location was used for the making of the film 'QUO VADIS' in 1951. Starring, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

INTERIOR COLOSSEO



It is amazing that they were able to flood this arena with water quite quickly for Sea Battles without modern hydraulics or breeze blocks for a speedy build.



The detail in the brick laying is incredible, so neat, perfect. The builders thought of crowd control judging by the amount of the many entrances to the many levels of class and ranking. Truly amazing.

THE MOST FAMOUS VIEW



Rome has many sights most of which are within walking distance, depending on how far you feel you want to walk or catch a bus.

HEADING FOR NAPLES



To meet up with my Dutch girl friend, Cornie Rekers, trailing me by three weeks, on another ship, arriving at Naples tomorrow.

THE OLD FORT OF NAPOLI



Not sure when this was built, but its presence dominates the port area where all sea going vessels arrive and depart on a regular basis.



This is where I boarded Sitmars m.v. 'FAIRSEA' vessel. We stay aboard this vessel for 24 hours before departing, which gives us time for a visit to Pompeii, buried for over 2,000 years following a fatal eruption of ash which preserved everything in detail.

A PRESERVED POMPEII



Cornie amongst the ruins of Pompeii. It is quite interesting how the Ash Cloud suffocated all the locals.

FINALLY TOGETHER AGAIN



Evening meal on the Fairsea, as we sail out of Naples.



More Dutch revellers aboard ship, whilst we make our way along the Mediterranean Sea toward Gibraltar and into the Bay of Biscay.

THE BAY OF BISCAY



The most memorable last two days aboard for me, because I leave this ship at Southampton and head for London by train. I will meet up with Cornie later on in Enschede, Holland after she has found out if I am welcome by her Grand Parents.

WATERLOO STATION

I suppose you could say I hit the ground running, because as I left the train at Waterloo I suddenly realised that my travelling companions for the past few weeks had friends waiting outside the station for them. Nice meeting you, take care, cheers, **goodbye !!**

WHAT HAS JUST HAPPENED

You have become an orphan with a couple of suit cases at Waterloo Station which I dumped at the left luggage department. I then went into the News Reel Theatre which had a cycle of 30 mins - I sat through two sessions and went to the front of the station and looked outside.

Opposite was the office of B.O.A.C, perfect, they also had regular bus services to Heathrow every 30 mins, I am on my way to a job in aviation.

I got a job, BUT, I didn't have a local address, which was a kind of local requirement, whereas in Australia, you applied for a job no matter where, and THEN, you moved to be near the work place. Strikes me as being quite simple, but then, Australia was a lot bigger.

I returned to Waterloo, hired a Taxi and went to the YMCA for the night. Surprise, I met a chap from my home town of Evandale. I had no idea of his trip to England, he returned to Tasmania and sadly, he died quite young some time later. Next day I found accommodation in Ebury Street, Victoria. (£7 per week) this was expensive in those days, the voluptuous madam lead me up the stairs and kept leaning back against me. I left my luggage, paid my dues and departed seeking cheaper digs and a job. Within a couple of hours I found a simple job cleaning and polishing cars behind Victoria Station, (with Luncheon Vouchers) At Nightingale Lane close to Clapham South, I found dig's for just £2.12p - a huge saving. I made a quick return to Ebury Street sacrificing my previous deposit and further advances of my voluptuous host and the Tube Train was only 2p one way to Victoria Station.

FOCUSING ON LONDON



I intend to see one or two sights around London each weekend as travel by the Tube is so cheap and quick from one place to another.

PICADILLY CIRCUS



The best way to study London is by an A to Z map book which has a diary of things to see and how to get there, and this alone will take a long time.

NEWS FROM HOLLAND

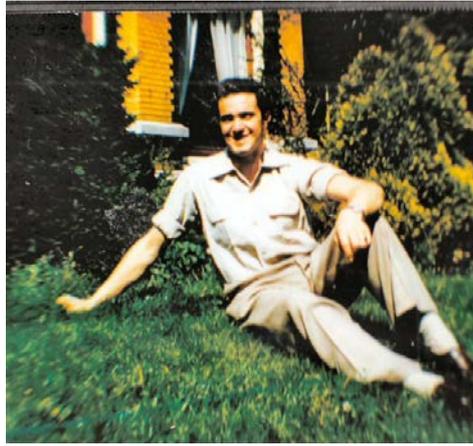


Cornie sends a message saying I am welcome in Holland.

I am on the train to Harwich where I catch the ferry to Hoek van Holland and then a train to Rotterdam. A brief look around the new centre of Rotterdam which was completely destroyed by the Germans during WW II.

My first impressions of the Netherlands were how neat and tidy everything was, not one piece of litter anywhere, whereas London still had war damage, air raid

shelters, derelict builds, propped up for safety with large wooden struts.



I am established at Enschede with my girl friends Grand Parents who were very understanding of our relationship which started in Mansfield, Australia.

NEAR GRONINGEN

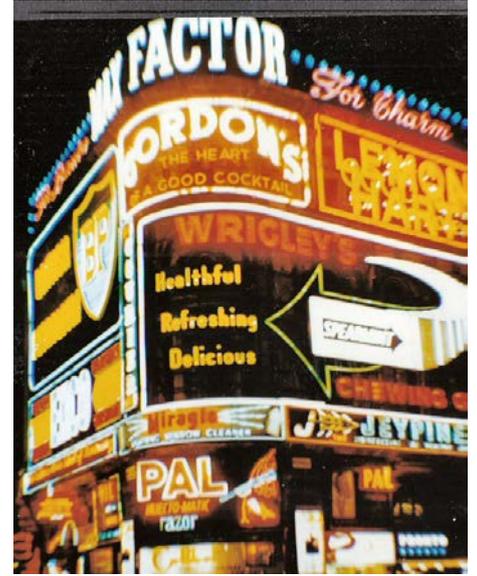


Holland is always windy as it is very flat, the highest point being Haarlem where there is a lookout tower 60ft in height on the only hill in Holland.

We managed to spend a couple of weeks together before I had to return to England as my intention at this time was to return to Australia, I did return to Holland to see Cornie departing back to Australia from Rotterdam.

On return to England I picked up my A to Z once again.

LONDON BY NIGHT

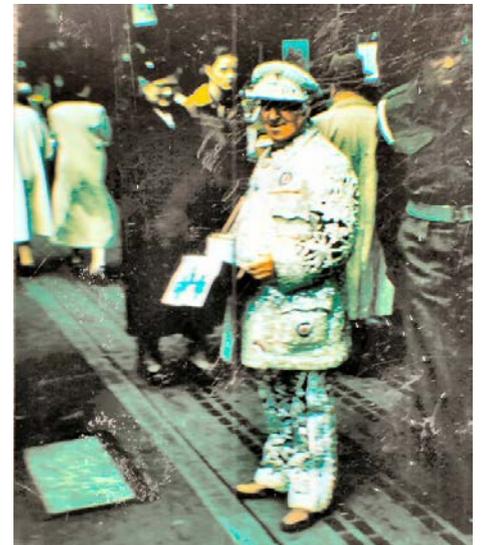


The most central part of London and a short walk to Leicester Square equally well decorated with neon lights and many theatres.

LODON STREET BUSKERS



These chaps were well rehearsed routine along with the man on drum and accordion and a couple of lookouts for police, because they would block the traffic whilst they performed their routine



One of the original 'Pearly Kings' with their suits of pearl buttons.