

Sunday - Oct. 19, 2003

RSW - 11:35 AM

We're checked in and waiting to board to Pittsburgh. Still no word as to whether we'll get upgraded to First Class.

Don called last night to say they had a problem with their electronic visas. We checked with United this morning at the Counter; Ours are OK!!

More interesting was the call from George at about 6:30 AM - Oh my God - mechanical problems with the door of their 747. Ken said she sounds so tired. Could not believe they had to sit on the tarmac for four hours & then brought

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get them back in to an hotel
and have at least a
6 hour lay-over. They
were going to get some
rest at a hotel.
What a way to start!

Jammy & Angie brought
us to the airport. Saw
Megan & Ty & Don before
we left. Just called
Steph to say good-bye to
her & Sydney. I was
mess them... Jammy cried
me too!

Tomorrow is
Angie's birthday. Feels
strange not to be home
for her birthday -
30 minutes till
Boarding!

To Pittsburgh - No Problem.
It's now 9:25 PST - Still
don't know if we've made
an up-grade - Due to
toward in less than an hour!

10:10
PST
We made
it!

Monday - 10/20/03
Actually Tues - 10/21/03

We have crossed the
date line -

We still have about
2 hours 49 minutes -

It has been a comfort
flight - or so comfortable
having 14 hours come
in one sleep.

Ken Skipped dinner!
Not me!! Very good -
We are facing a
96 mph head wind.

Tues - 10/21/03 -
AUS time

Here we are on
Quantas flight 1700 -
Our flight landed
on time & we
saw Doug & Ginger's
beautiful faces as
we cleared customs -

Off & running -
to Townsville -

Doug & Ginger had every
thing perfectly lined up
& ready to go -
We should be
landing in about an hour.

Wed. - 10/22/03

- Tina Died Today -

Thursday - 10/23/03

Yesterday was one of the saddest days I have ever experienced.

There is so much I need to remember -

Tina and Gabe Watson Newlyweds - Married in Alabama on Oct. 11th -

The first dive of the day.

The world famous wreck dive -

The Yongala. Christina Mae

Thomas Watson died. He was 26 years old.

Gabe could not save her.

The wonderful ER doctor,

John Downey, could not save her.

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Sat. 10/25/03

See how life goes on -

On deck as Tina was hopelessly trying to be revived - we were oblivious for a brief time. It did not take long for the word to spread - there is a problem with Tina, the wife of Gabe, the newlyweds. Ken approached Gabe to let him to John would be doing all he could. possibly do to save her. I asked Gabe what could I do to help him and he just wanted a hug. As the minutes passed by gloves was settling in quickly.

Orders were being received
from the boat on
which Tina had been
brought to on to our
boat. Ken asked
where Gabe was at
that time. It had been
19 minutes and everyone
listening to the conversation
between boats knew
Tina would not survive.
I found Gabe in the
lower deck hall
outside his room - crying.
I did my best to
comfort him while he
replayed the tragedy over
and over in his
head. She passed
going down and
I too heavily
she knocked off
masked. tried to
his regulator. He

tried to get her
to inflate the BC
shortly before she
panicked. Singer and
I tried to comfort him.
We already knew Tina
had not made it -
Gabe had not heard
the conversations.
John came into the
lower deck and Gabe
begged John for good
news. John had to
let Gabe know he
had done everything
possible, but could
not save her.
It was so horrible.
Gabe asked John if
he was kidding and
John started sobbing
along with Gabe
Singer and myself.
We were holding each
other so tightly. I

seemed to be a night mare. Sab wanted to see her and John made the arrangements to take him to the other boat.

We were all called to the salon and briefed as to what happened and what would be happening. We all had to stay in the salon when Tina's body was taken back to the boat. We were informed we would be going to shore (at the cruise) and have the continuing stay. As we began dock we were again called together in the

salon. The police boarded as did the people responsible for removing the body. Sab had to go to the police station to make a statement. While waiting in the salon, Wade asked me if I could be Sab's support person. I did not realize at that moment that I would be spending every moment with them until we left out for sea. He was so frightened, he just wanted to wake up from what seemed to be a horrible nightmare. While we sitting in the police lobby waiting for someone to take his statement he shared the

many thoughts going through his mind with me. He was clearly in shock. He talked about their wedding; he talked about them being in Sydney for the first week and how happy he was because the week in Sydney was her half of the honeymoon and the week of diving was his half of the honeymoon. They went to see "A Midsummers Night Dream" at the Opera House. They went to the zoo when she was so excited about having her picture taken with a Kola Bear. He was terrified of telling their families about the accident. Tina's father travels Monday through Friday so he was trying to find a

a possible way to break it to her so she wouldn't be alone. He did not call his parents until 9:30^{pm} a.m. time. he didn't want to wake his parents out of a sound sleep to give them such horrible news.

Kevin, the Townsville Police Detective took Gabie's statement and recorded the entire conversation as well - Oh my God it was so hard to listen to this sad young man describe the days prior to boarding the Spail Sport till the time of death and then ask the additional questions regarding equipment, training of both of them. The Safety Officer of Townsville at one

Joan had come to us and said Mike Bell Expedition would not be handling anything other than removing his and Tina's luggage and bring it to the Blue station. We could not believe this could be happening. He had made the phone call to his parents (his Mom would be coming), his Dad would talk to Tina's parents. Gabe wanted to stay on the boat until it left out to sea. I mentioned this to Wade (I already figured that wasn't going to happen), but I told Wade Gabe could not be left alone, he needed counseling and help with accommodations and info as to when the American

Consul would be coming. We were shocked by the announcement from Andrew regarding Mike Bell - Shaded

So, I don't know how they came to change their minds about giving Gabe all the help he needed - I just know it happened - and even though the smudges had been retracted it was too late - The damage had been done -

Everyone was interviewed except me and they said at the Police Station they would obtain my statement at a later date - Parking from Gabe was hard - I felt as

though I was leaving
a helpless child.

Stan and Craig from
the Executive offices of
Mike Ball came into the
Police Station. The gathering
of Gabe & Tina's personal
belongings was sad -

There was an issue
as to what was being held
in the evidence room -

We was dropped off at
the Holiday Inn and
I was taken back to
the boat with (Stella, our
Chef) it was close to
- 1 Am -

So much
happened in those hours -

Gabe had Tina's
Auburn (Colored) hair
band around his wrist
I can't stop thinking
about them (Sat. 10/26/10)

Sunday - 10/26/10

Well, the dive portion of
this trip is thankfully
coming to an end - Two
more days (or 1 1/2 really).
I know Fen and Fenger
and Ed are ready to leave
the boat. I suspect

Douge will want it to
continue on - On Wednes-
day, I dove - it was
miserable. Thur/Fri/Sat were
somewhat better. Very pretty -
not much fun! Today's
dive, especially the second
one, Mike Co - whatever -
was stunning and mostly
comfortable. Fenger did
not dive at all today -
I wish she would have
been at the second one -
Finally - Very Very Pretty - Fen?
It's still hard to think
about fun.

We had another huge
meal tonight - Jim sick
of eating - Ken and I
are in bed - their pulling
up anchor and heading
to the Yongala

Monday - Oct - 21 -

Diving today at the Yongala -
Ken and Ray went for
several dives - the dives
in the AM were a brick
current - Ken and I
gassed - don't believe either
one of us could have made
the dive without feeling
anxious -

Tonight after dinner,
we watched the video of
our group - Wall-a -
just like that - Gab & Sue
have disappeared. It was
nice to watch the footage of
the Yongala. Nothing was

shown from the first
dive - There is beautiful
footage of Ken diving with
Ray this afternoon. The
choice of music was "Enya"
very good.

I will be glad to get
to shore. Wish I could
say this was the dive trip
of a life time - But I
can say so I'm glad to
have had the experience.
But - I will really be
glad when we are back to
shore - Two dives tomorrow
morning & finally finished!