**Michael Thomas (47-48)**

**Obituary compiled from several email sources**

Michael Thomas attended "*Conway*" '47 - '48.

Joined P&O.

He was known as Michael Thomas until it seems he was aboard P&O’s "*Perim*" and in viewing his family tree that he spied that a distant relative had "de Meaune" attached to their name.  He liked it and subsequently changed his name then, I guess around 1955.

He migrated to Australia travelling as an A.B. (although 'ticketed') aboard a brand new delivery voyage of a ship called "*Macedon*" in 1957. So it may well be he left P & O around this time and migrated to Oz.

He subsequently married a woman called Elizabeth, an accomplished artist although most reclusive who seldom accompanied Michael socially. They lived in Double Bay, an exclusive harbourside suburb in eastern Sydney.  Both were devoted Catholics, high church, for even at the end of his life he has donated three very high worth properties to the church.  Elizabeth it seems pre-deceased Michael and it would seem they had no children.

After arriving in Australia he continued his maritime career joining B.H.P. rising through the ranks and gaining his first Command in 1972.  Soon afterward, the vessel was scrapped and thereafter he was assigned in Command to "*Iron Monarch*" (another B.H.P. vessel) which, in similar manner, was scrapped soon after his second Command.  It was at this stage he gave away the sea and became a Surveyor with the Department of Trade as it was called at the time. He also became a Compass Adjuster. At some time thereafter and perhaps whilst earning a good salary as a surveyor, he started the Sydney Nautical School but no one could set a date for this venture.

Not only was he a surveyor but became an examiner of Masters and Mates.  A compatriot examiner of Masters and Mates was at lunch today and remembering him well commented "he was a lovely chap, a man of his time, often nicknamed "The Toff" for his immaculate outfits and the manner in which he kept himself groomed" !. Another of his accomplishments was his position of Lieutenant-Commander with the Royal Australian Navy Reserve.

He crossed the bar on Tuesday 29th August 2017 at Lulworth House, a care home in Elizabeth Bay, where he had been a resident for a number of years with dementia.