

3/18/07 Day 62 – At Sea - Sunday 18 March 2007: The day was hazy and the sea was glassy smooth. We were cruising up the west coast of India on the way from Cochin to Mormugao, India. Each day at 1pm the Captain gets on the public address system and fills us in on distance traveled, speed, weather conditions and the ocean depth that we have been traveling over. Today we have 200 to 300 feet of water under us most of the time. We have been surprised by the shallowness of the seas since we left Australia. It's pretty obvious that the ocean around Indonesia and off the west coast of India is shallow relative to the deep open ocean if you check a detailed map but we just never did it before.

Our big event of the day was celebration of the wedding anniversaries of our table mates, Bob and Esther, Roy and Gayle. For Bob and Esther they had their number fifty six yesterday while Roy and Gayle make it fifty two years tomorrow. We split the difference and celebrated today. We all gathered along with our AAA travel friends, Marvin and Marilyn Onstott, about 4pm in our stateroom for a Champaign toast of the happily married couples. We all squeezed together for this group photo to record the occasion. We had loads of fun going over things we have been doing the last two months as the cruise has unfolded.



Left to right Orlin, Roy, Gayle, Bob, Barbara, Marvin, Marilyn, Esther



After the anniversary celebration in our room we tramped down to dinner. Even though yesterday was St. Patrick's Day the festivities were postponed until this evening. The entrance to the dining room was decorated to the hilt with green garlands and curtains. Barbara posed in front of the center piece that stood in the entrance.

The dinner table was decorated with green flowers and balloons.



The head waiter, Zain, was dressed up in brilliant green sequined jacket and huge green bow tie.

Our waiters, Yudan and Denny, wore big badges with the request to "Kiss Me I'm Irish".

In spite of the fact that there is very little connection between Ireland and their Indonesian homeland, the dining room staff made the evening into a proper celebration of St. Patrick's Day.



At the end of the meal the wedding anniversary for Bob and Esther, Roy and Gayle was beautifully recognized by a cake with a candle for each of the two couples.

The waiters gathered around and sang happy anniversary. First they sang in English then they gave an enthusiastic Indonesian version of the good wishes. All the tables around us joined in the applause.

After this fine evening in the dining room the Amsterdam capped off the St. Patrick's Day celebration by featuring Mike Newman, an Irish comedian, in the Queen's Lounge. He gave us plenty of laughs with his Irish brogue and sly humor.

