

Frozen in Time - Julius Ladwig M.Sc

Graduating in 1984 with a B.Sc Hon (Physics) I had an opportunity to accompany the 1985 26th South African National Antarctic Expedition. As a young man of 22 I couldn't resist this prospect. Adventure, excitement and a new world all wrapped into one! I applied for a place and after I had been screened for the usual mental ability health checks. I had the opportunity to go.



I am adventurous. Even at this stage I was seeking after a variety of challenges and thrills. My interests were extreme. I loved skydiving, scuba diving, rock climbing, hiking and wind surfing. The Antarctic was a perfect opportunity to continue this adventure. The isolation of such an extreme place was going to push my boundaries. My love for photography gave me an opportunity to record my experience.

The adventure began with a 10 day voyage aboard the S.A Aghulus. After passing through the various storm latitudes which tested the sea legs of many on board (even the hardened seafarers) we suddenly broke through into the ice-berg strewn, glass-like waters of the Antarctic circle.

Here the journey was chronicled in pictures as I was overwhelmed by the sheer beauty of the sights we encountered during the next 14 months. These pictures form part of my unique private photographic collection. Little did I know years later, my computer skills would be needed to learn how to design a [website](#) logging all this vital information. Most of the pictures capturing majestic views will have changed now and can never be repeated. I find some solace knowing it was recorded and others may wish to see it. Currently available in conjunction with [OncePrint](#).

I settled into the UK in 1997 whilst working for one of the biggest Consumer Products Companies, Unilever. In Unilever Research in Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire I was doing research into consumer behaviour. On a fateful day in June 2002 I was seriously injured whilst in Neuringburg, Germany and flown to Koblenz, close to death. After 2 months in coma and another month in intensive care I was transferred back to the UK. After 18 months in Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury, now as a severely disabled man, I settled into Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. From my new home I went about rebuilding my life and supporting myself.



Julius working at his desk with adapted PC

My physical abilities are severely impaired. My injuries damaged: my breathing, speech, eyesight and all movement below the neck. Thankfully, my mental ability and sense of humour remained. I needed to adjust to my new body and work out how to progress my independence. I now require 24hr care but I have never received unemployment benefits.

My career in Unilever terminated in 2006 and I started my own business (LCI Ltd) providing marketing consultancy and market research. LCI Ltd has now moved into marketing and printing. Producing high quality copy and advertising for customers. We have developed [OncePrint](#) a high quality photographic reproduction business. We produce canvas prints with an 80 year life without fading or yellowing. I furthermore market my Antarctic Photographic Collection through [OncePrint](#).

Last year I was part of the founding group for a new charity called [Open Roads](#). Our aim is to change the perception of disability through enabling and empowering people to recognise their different abilities.