

458 SQUADRON



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE



458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

2021 CALENDAR

+ CALENDAR OF 458 SQUADRON'S WAR YEARS



458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

2021 CALENDAR

+ CALENDAR OF 458 SQUADRON'S WAR YEARS

458 RAAF Squadron (among many) shaped the nation and left its mark on the world. These are back to back years of significant milestones for 458 Squadron and the Royal Australian Air Force. It is very fitting that we continue to reflect on the momentous achievement of Peace that was won 75 years ago. This Calendar's Commemorative pictures & photos of the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII (also displayed at our website) will remind us of that world changing accomplishment. This year we also celebrate 458's 80th anniversary in July, formed only 20 years after the RAAF was founded – which is reaching 100 years of operation in March.

“Remembering..... a great victory that changed the course of human history”

“You won a war, you secured the peace, and along with so many more, saved civilisation.”

“Your deeds will never be forgotten”

Quotes from Prime Minister, Scott Morrison at the Commemoration Ceremony, Australian War Memorial, 15th August, 2020

Completing this Calendar is an important historical snapshot of each of 458 Squadron's war years: 1941 through to 1945. The calendar snapshot presents an important overview for each year – although not comprehensive, the greater details of which can be found at our official publication, with the title of the Squadron's motto 'We Find and Destroy', Authored by Peter Alexander CMG, OBE, OAM and Peter Pettit; And also at our website.



458raafsquadron.org



COMMAND

COMMANDING OFFICERS

W/CDR. R. MULLHOLLAND 10-41 to 2-42 (MISSING)
 W/CDR. L.L. JOHNSTON D.S.O. 2-42 to 4-43
 LT. COL. B.R. MCKENZIE D.S.O. 4-43 to 10-43
 W/CDR. J. DOWLING 10-43 to 9-44
 W/CDR. R. MACKAY D.F.C. 9-44 to disbandment

ADJUTANTS

F/LT. W. SHIRD 10-41 to 10-43
 F/O. G.V.K. VALE 10-43 to 2-45
 F/LT. J.S. ISLIP 2-45 to disbandment

ENGINEERING OFFICERS

F/LT. R.C. CHESTRELL 10-41 to 2-45
 F/LT. I. SHOWELL 2-45 to disbandment

MEDICAL OFFICERS

F/LT. R.G. ANGOVE 7-41 to 10-43
 F/LT. J. WOODWORTH 10-43 to disbandment

DISCIPLINARY WARRANT OFFICERS

W/O. G.V.K. VALE 10-41 to 6-42
 SGT. J.H. SHARPE 5-42 to 11-43
 W/O. S. LAMING 11-43 to disbandment

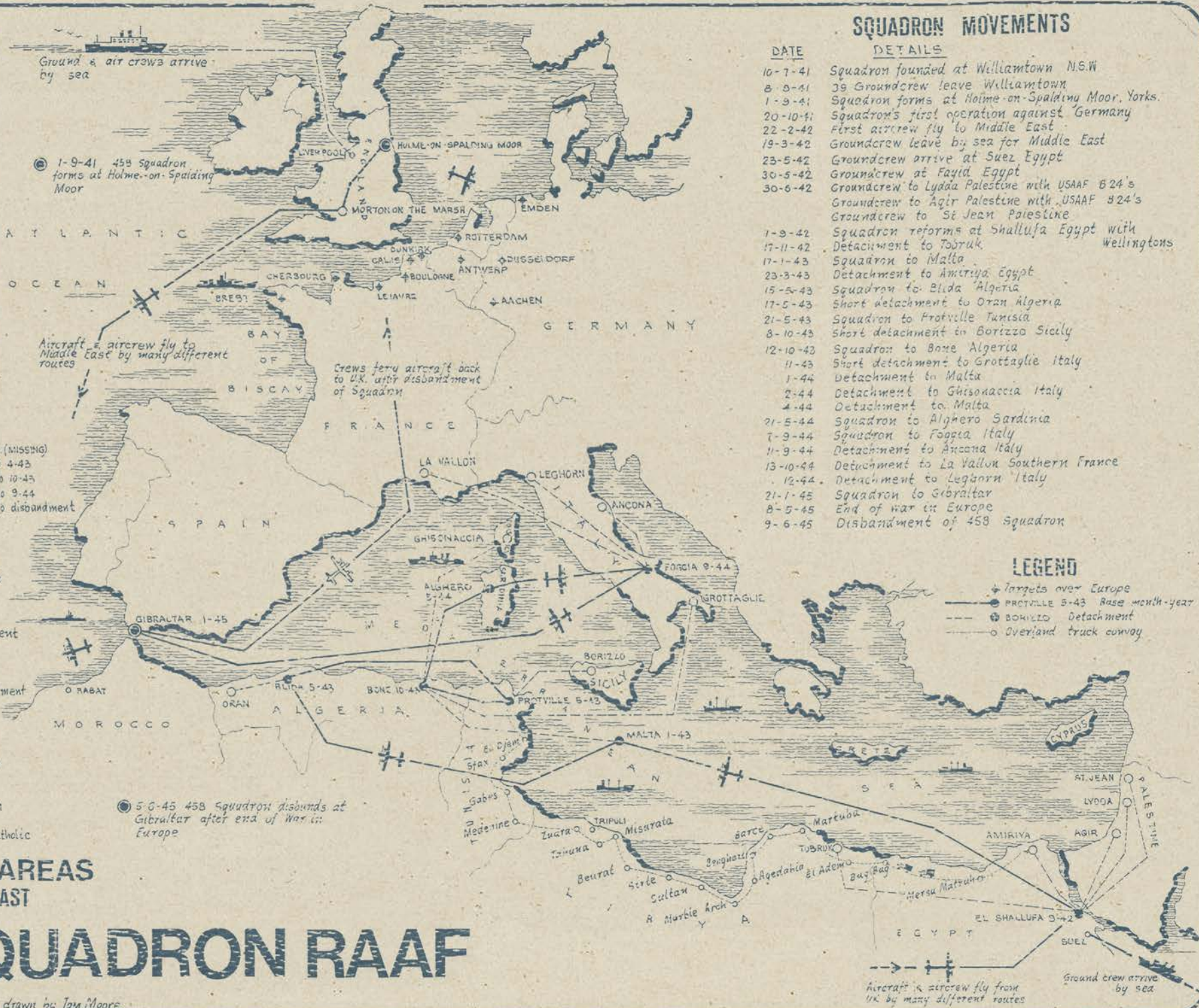
PADRES from 6-43 to disbandment

S/LDR. FRED MACKAY Presbyterian
 S/LDR. BOB DAVIES Anglican
 S/LDR. JOHN MCNAMARA Roman Catholic

OPERATIONAL AREAS EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST

458 SQUADRON RAAF

Prepared by Jack Mc Gowen and drawn by Tom Moore



SQUADRON MOVEMENTS

DATE	DETAILS
10-7-41	Squadron founded at Williamtown N.S.W.
8-8-41	39 Groundcrew leave Williamtown
1-9-41	Squadron forms at Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorks.
20-10-41	Squadron's first operation against Germany
22-2-42	First aircrew fly to Middle East
19-3-42	Groundcrew leave by sea for Middle East
23-5-42	Groundcrew arrive at Suez Egypt
30-5-42	Groundcrew at Fayid Egypt
30-6-42	Groundcrew to Lydda Palestine with USAAF B24's
	Groundcrew to Agir Palestine with USAAF B24's
	Groundcrew to St Jean Palestine
1-9-42	Squadron reforms at Shallufa Egypt with Wellingtons
17-11-42	Detachment to Tobruk
17-1-43	Squadron to Malta
23-3-43	Detachment to Amiriya Egypt
15-5-43	Squadron to Blida Algeria
17-5-43	Short detachment to Oran Algeria
21-5-43	Squadron to Protville Tunisia
8-10-43	Short detachment to Borizzo Sicily
12-10-43	Squadron to Bone Algeria
11-43	Short detachment to Grottaglie Italy
1-44	Detachment to Malta
2-44	Detachment to Gisonaccia Italy
4-44	Detachment to Malta
21-5-44	Squadron to Alghero Sardinia
7-9-44	Squadron to Foggia Italy
11-9-44	Detachment to Ancona Italy
13-10-44	Detachment to La Vallon Southern France
12-44	Detachment to Leghorn Italy
21-1-45	Squadron to Gibraltar
8-5-45	End of war in Europe
9-6-45	Disbandment of 458 Squadron

LEGEND

- ✦ Targets over Europe
- PROTVILLE 5-43 Base month-year
- ⊕ BORIZZO Detachment
- Overland truck convoy

● 1-9-41 458 Squadron forms at Holme-on-Spalding Moor

Aircraft & aircrew fly to Middle East by many different routes

Crews ferry aircraft back to U.K. after disbandment of Squadron

● 5-6-45 458 Squadron disbands at Gibraltar after end of war in Europe

Aircraft & aircrew fly from UK by many different routes

Ground crew arrive by sea

JANUARY



458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS



Vice President Jim Browne 100th Birthday with sons Kenneth, Douglas and Arthur



Vice President Charles Humbles & his wife Joyce celebrate her 100th Birthday



Vice President Jack Christianson, 98th Birthday recently



Vice President Bob Springall, 98th Birthday



Squadron President Leon Armstrong, 100th Birthday recently



THANK YOU TO ALL
WHO SERVED & THE
FREEDOM YOU WON

Squadron Leader Leon Armstrong
of 'A' Flight, Gibraltar, 1945



2021



FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

REMEMBERING

75 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31					1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 <i>Australia Day</i>	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY



A. Anderson, C. Brain, J. Aitken, E. Jewell, G. Connors & T. James



AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS
REACH FOR THE STARS

THE ERIC J. JEWELL AWARD FOR AAFC YOUTH

Through the generosity of Eric and his family, we have dedicated the Eric J. Jewell Award for Youth to be a take-off point for telling the 458 story, his story and offering financial support to Australian youth, and specifically the Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) www.458raafsquadron.org/eric-j-jewell-award

2021



MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

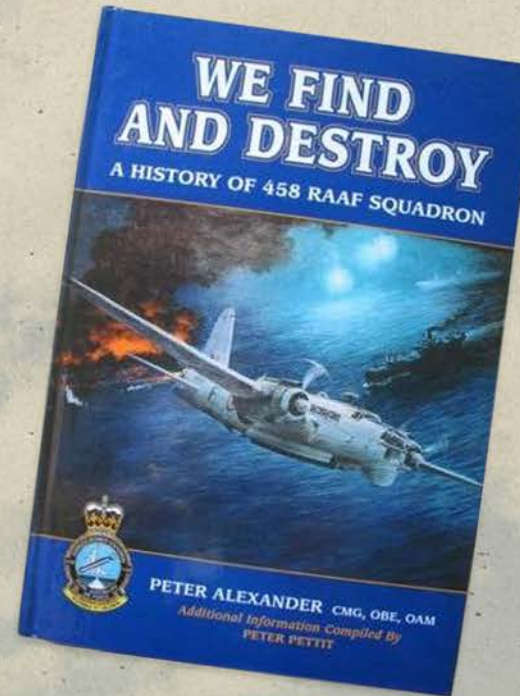
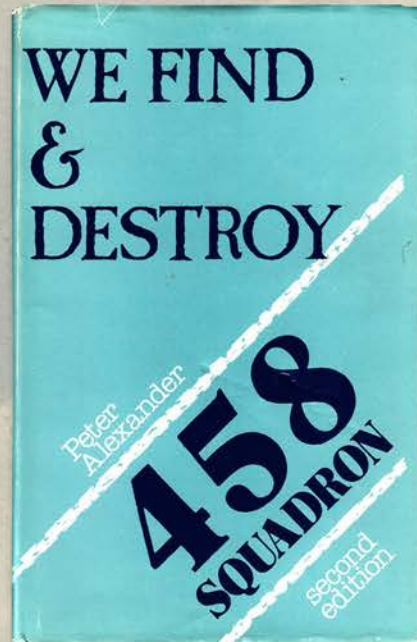
REMEMBERING

75 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <i>Royal Hobart Regatta (TAS)</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH



THE EPIC STORY OF 458 RAAF SQUADRON

The Wellington Bomber was the mainstay of Bomber Command 1939 – 1942. Moving to the Middle East & Mediterranean it played a major part in strangling the movement of enemy shipping and U-boats 1942 – 1945.



On 31st of March 2021, the Royal Australian Air Force will mark 100 years of service to Australia. Pictured: the F-35A is at the forefront of air combat technology. 458 Squadron's legacy lives on in many ways: Squadron Leader Chris 'Bakes' Baker, grandson of 458 Squadron Veteran John (Jack) Baker, is a Flying Instructor of the F-35A at Luke US Air Force Base in Arizona, USA

2021



APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

REMEMBERING

75 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>Labour Day (WA)</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <i>Labour Day (VIC) Eight Hours Day (TAS) Adelaide Cup Day (SA)</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>RAAF 100 years of Service 1921 – 2021</i>			

APRIL

458 HONOUR ROLL

ANZAC DAY

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

401756	W/O	D. A. Anderson	Staglieno General Cemetery, Genoa, Italy	415777	F/Sgt	R. T. A. Freeman	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria
405168	F/Sgt	R. D. Armour	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy	404332	P/O	R. J. Furey	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK
18762	LAC	I. W. Batton	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	409686	F/Sgt	G. J. Gebbie	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
402028	Sgt	T. L. Brown	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, UK	402440	P/O	A. T. Gell	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
407524	F/Sgt	R. J. Burns	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	400403	P/O	W. Goldman	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK
412335	F/Sgt	S. N. Campbell	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	401507	F/O	L. Y. Hazeldine	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
403040	P/O	D. N. Carmichael	Holme-on-Spalding Moor (All Saints) Churchyard, Yorkshire UK	402353	Sgt	A. L. Hewish	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, UK
428070	F/Sgt	L. R. Conolan	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	404431	P/O	B. R. Hickey	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France
400460	Sgt	A. L. Cox	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	405312	F/O	D. G. Howie	Massicault War Cemetery, near Tunis, Tunisia
416043	F/O	J. I. Craig	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	410488	F/Sgt	A. J. Huntley	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
400410	Sgt	P. G. Crittenden	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium	400414	Sqn Ldr	G. F. Jackson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
404207	Sgt	G.W.S. Crompton	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	400716	Sgt	V. W. Johnstone	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France
405591	W/O	C. C. Dacey	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	9352	Cpl	K. Keniry	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
407414	W/O	C. K. Dickson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	414537	W/O	M. T. F. Knox	Staglieno General Cemetery, Genoa, Italy
403915	W/O	W. J. Doude	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	400228	W/O	L. C. Laver	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
425286	W/O	G. W. Duncan	Cagliari (St. Michele) Communal Cemetery, Sardinia, Italy	409466	F/O	B. F. Lawler	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
427457	W/O	R. Ellis	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy	410933	W/O	M. T. Lee	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
402736	F/Sgt	H. D. Everingham	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	419785	F/Sgt	K. J. Leslie	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy
427504	W/O	P. J. Farrell	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy	421740	F/Sgt	W. M. M. Lipscombe	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
403865	P/O	J. M. Fischer	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	403429	F/O	J. R. Markey	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
402920	F/Sgt	J. E. Flecknoe	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	404346	P/O	E. J. N. MacDonald	Holme-on-Spalding Moor (All Saints) Churchyard, Yorkshire UK
407639	Sgt	W. W. Forgan	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France	420032	F/Sgt	A. E. McGee	Mazargues Cemetery Extension, Marseilles, France
428682	F/Sgt	W. J. Fox	Gibraltar Memorial West of Gibraltar North Front Cemetery	407903	P/O	L. McKay	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
				404252	F/Sgt	C. T. McLoughlin	Tel-el-Kebir war Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

409574	F/O	H. R. McMillan	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta	416107	Sgt	J. Shierlaw	1939-1945 War Cemetery, Berlin
410909	F/Sgt	L. J. Muschialli	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	416895	F/Sgt	J. C. Shipard	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
407800	F/Lt	K. H. Neill	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	420068	W/O	H. S. Shying	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy
425201	W/O	J. B. O'Connell	Cagliari (St. Michele) Communal Cemetery, Sardinia, Italy	416371	W/O	G. G. Simons	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy
400354	Sgt	A. L. Opas	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	404414	F/Sgt	D. A. Smith	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
416227	F/O	M. G. Parker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	407209	Sgt	P. H. Smith	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, UK
10158	LAC	G. G. Parkin	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	402262	F/Sgt	R. G. Spencer	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
407801	P/O	J. Paroissien	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	402471	Sgt	D. G. Taylor	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, UK
401049	W/O	L. A. Pearce	Salerno War Cemetery, Italy	410397	F/Sgt	L. C. Taylor	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
422702	F/Sgt	G. K. Reid	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	406268	F/Sgt	C. R. Thurstan	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
409851	F/Sgt	J. Richards	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	425388	W/O	J. H. Watson	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy
425372	F/Sgt	T. R. Rogers	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	402425	F/Sgt	D. M. Watts	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
404425	F/Sgt	E. F. Sagggers	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy	429839	W/O	K. H. Watts	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
407255	Sgt	B. W. Shearer	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy	402430	Sgt	A. R. Wills	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE

NZ			Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France	NZ			Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
403773	P/O	R. Birnie		41186	F/O	I. D. Prebble	
NZ			Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	NZ			Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt
413429	F/Sgt	I. Kippenberger		415362	F/O	J. Reid	



AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND
IN THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.
LEST WE FORGET.

2021



MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

REMEMBERING

75 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 <i>Good Friday</i>	3 <i>Easter Saturday</i>
4 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	5 <i>Easter Monday</i>	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>Anzac Day</i>	26 <i>Anzac Day Holiday (ACT) (QLD) (WA) (SA) (NT)</i>	27	28	29	30	

MAY

Victory in Europe:
8th of May, 1945!

The Last Patrol in Gibraltar



The Last Parade in Gibraltar



458 SQN at War's End in Europe: 'A' Flight and 'B' Flight in Gibraltar



2021



JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

REMEMBERING

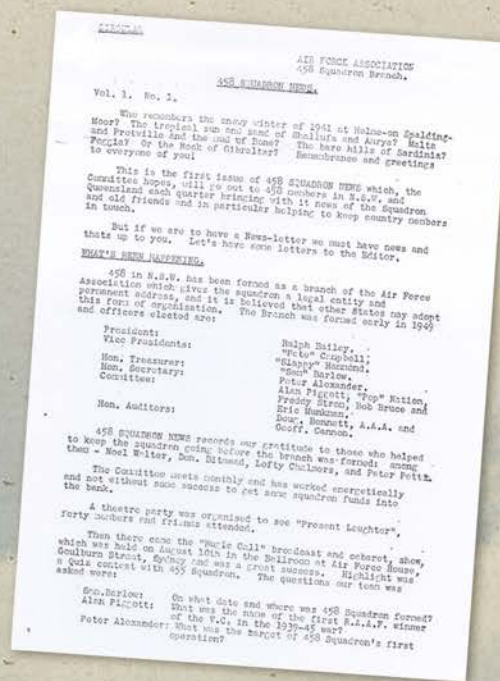
75 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31 <i>Reconciliation Day (ACT)</i>					1
2	3 <i>Labour Day (QLD) May Day (NT)</i>	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Victory in Europe 1945</i>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

JUNE

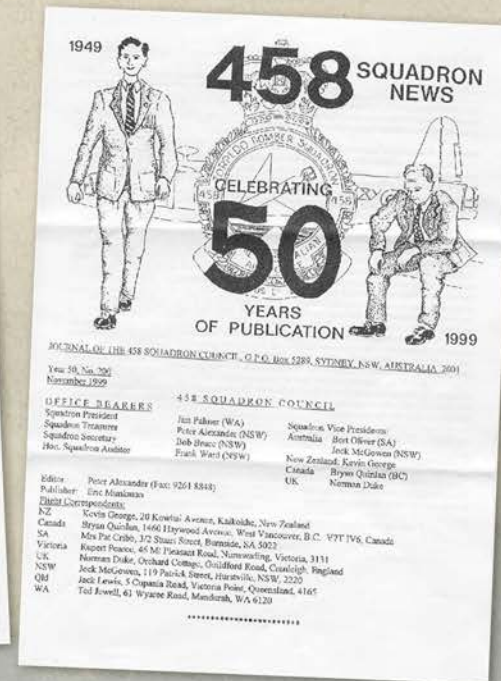
458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION'S NEWSLETTERS TELL THE STORY OF THEIR POST WAR LIFE



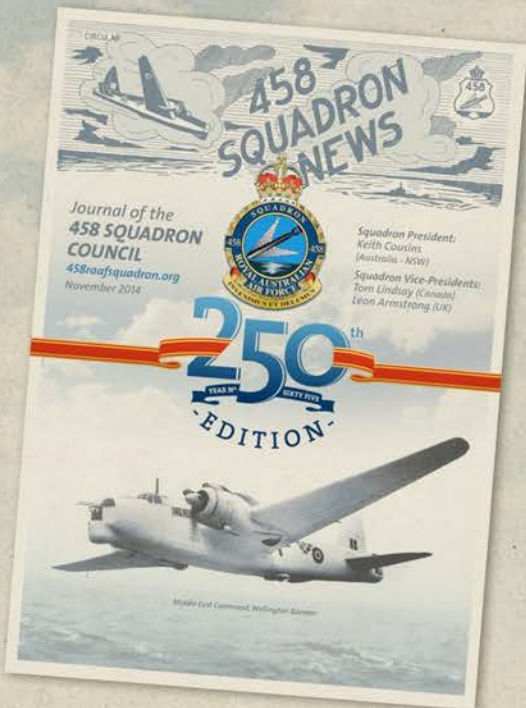
Squadron News Year 1, #1, 1949



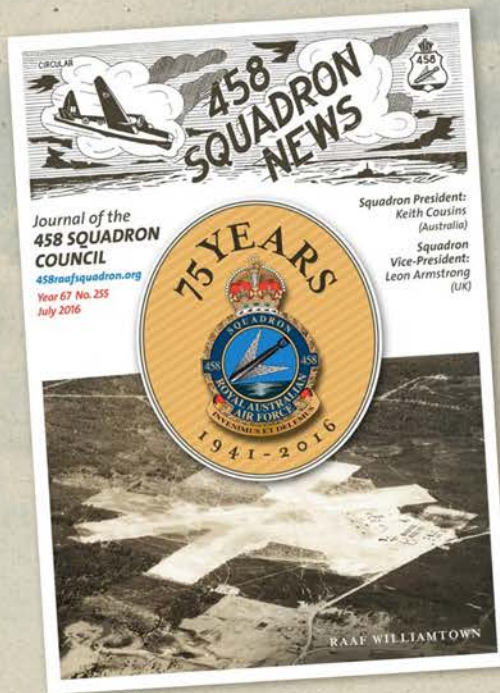
Squadron News Year 25, #100, 1974



Squadron News Year 50, #200, 1999



Squadron News, Year 65, #250, 2014



Squadron News Year 67, #255, 2016



Squadron News Year 71, #266, 2020: 75 years since the end of WWII

The longest continuously published ex-service Association Newsletter in Australia from 1949, available at our website:

www.458raafsquadron.org

2021



JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

REMEMBERING

75 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <i>Western Australia Day (WA)</i>	8	9 <i>458 Squadron disbands 1945</i>	10	11	12
13	14 <i>Queen's Birthday (National except QLD, WA)</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

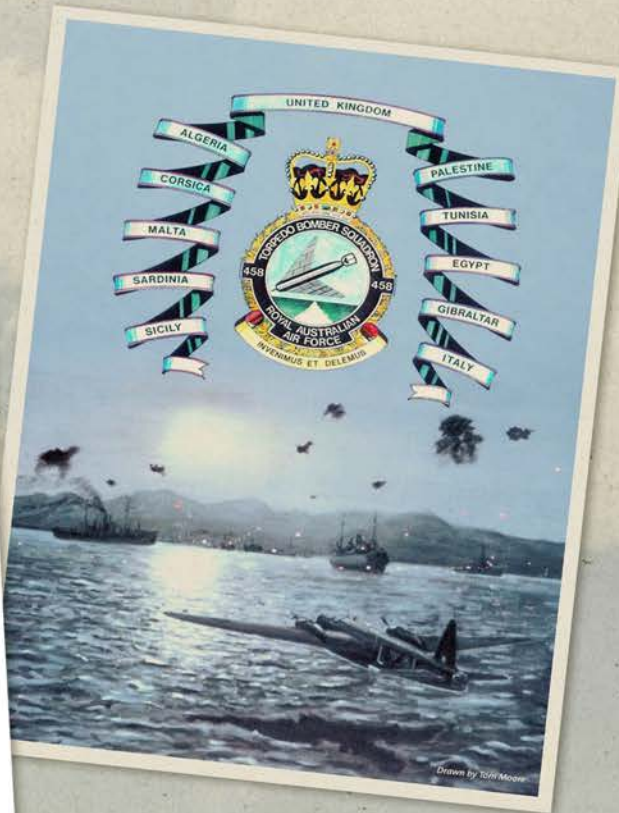
458 ORIGINALS

THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF 458 SQUADRON R.A.A.F.
 FORMED AT WILLIAMTOWN R.A.A.F. BASE N.S.W. ON 8TH JULY 1941.
 DEPARTED WILLIAMTOWN 6-30 A.M. BY BUS AND TRAIN BTH, AUGUST 1941.
 DEPARTED SYDNEY BY R.M.S. AVATAR AT 4-00 P.M. THE SAME DAY FOR
 AUKLAND, FIJI, VANCOUVER, HALIFAX AND LIVERPOOL, U.K.
 THEN BY VARIOUS R.A.F. STATIONS TO HOLME ON SPALDING MOOR YORKSHIRE.
 WHERE THE SQUADRON BECAME OPERATIONAL UNDER W.Cdr McHOLLAND D.F.C.
 OUR FIRST OPERATION WAS AGAINST GERMAN TARGETS ON THE NIGHT OF 20TH OCTOBER 1941.

1.	ANDRE R.C.	"DOC"	MEDICAL OFFICER
2.	POWER A.H.	"BUTCH"	STORES CLERK
3.	HAMILTON BILL		DAY CLERK
4.	BAX JOHN	"CRUTCHIE"	PHOTOGRAPHER
5.	ALTON BRIAN	"BUSTER"	PHOTOGRAPHER
6.	BALMER GORDON	"DARRE"	ELECTRICIAN
7.	RAY FRED	"MOOT"	ELECTRICIAN
8.	LATT TOM	"MED"	ELECTRICIAN
9.	DESSON A.W.		ELECTRICIAN
10.	KELLY	"RED"	ELECTRICIAN
11.	KESSLER DAVE	"SILVER"	ELECTRICIAN
12.	MORAE D.W.	"BALD"	ELECTRICIAN
13.	SILBEREISER LOU		ELECTRICIAN
14.	PALMER ZIP	"ACE"	ELECTRICIAN
15.	GRUBB GEOFF		ELECTRICIAN
16.	TILLOCK CLIFF	"BOUCEY"	ELECTRICIAN
17.	O'LEARY TED	"DOLLY"	ELECTRICIAN
18.	DATTANACK DECK	"LOFTY"	FITTER IIC
19.	HIGGINS P.	"WHITEY"	FITTER IIC
20.	POLLOCK BOB	"MURPHY"	FITTER IIC
21.	TREWATHA N.	"TONY"	FITTER IIC
22.	WHITE MURRAY	"JOCK"	INSTRUMENT MAKER
23.	WILSON	"BINGI"	INSTRUMENT MAKER
24.	SIRK FREDDIE	"QUICK"	INSTRUMENT MAKER
25.	STONE A.L.	"OHAYS"	INSTRUMENT MAKER
26.	MCGOWEN ATHOL	"RICH"	INSTRUMENT MAKER
27.	STEWART LEN		PAY CLERK
28.	QUIGLEY JACK	"JUNTOR"	STORES CLERK
29.	BRANSEY COLIN	"BOSSIE"	MOTOR TRANSPORT
30.	WYLES GEOFF	"MED"	
31.	GRIFFITHS NOEL		
32.	McKENZIE JACK		
33.	USHER RON		
34.	DAVIES		
35.	OSBEISTON N.		
36.	MELLOR H.W.		
37.	WILSON JACK		
38.	STARTON G. ROBINSON		
39.	MURKMAN ERIC		

(left draft in Canada with war problems.)
 JACK MCGOWEN, 9th October 1994.

MANY OF THESE ORIGINAL MEMBERS STAYED WITH 458
 RIGHT THROUGH TILL THE SQUADRON DISBANDED IN GIBRALTAR IN 1945.
 FREDDIE STROM WENT ON TO GO TO GERMANY WITH THE OCCUPATION FORCES.
 NO DOUBT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO HAVE PASSED ON, THEIR NAMES ARE NOT KNOWN AT THIS PRINTING.



1941-2021
 80 YEARS!
 SINCE
 FORMATION OF
 458 SQUADRON AT
 WILLIAMTOWN



Visit to Williamtown NSW, 1961. 20 years after Squadron formation



The Originals at the 1982 UK Reunion, Holme-on-Spalding Moor



All States Reunion, Geelong, 2000, 55 years after WW2

2021



AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

REMEMBERING

75 Years after WWII

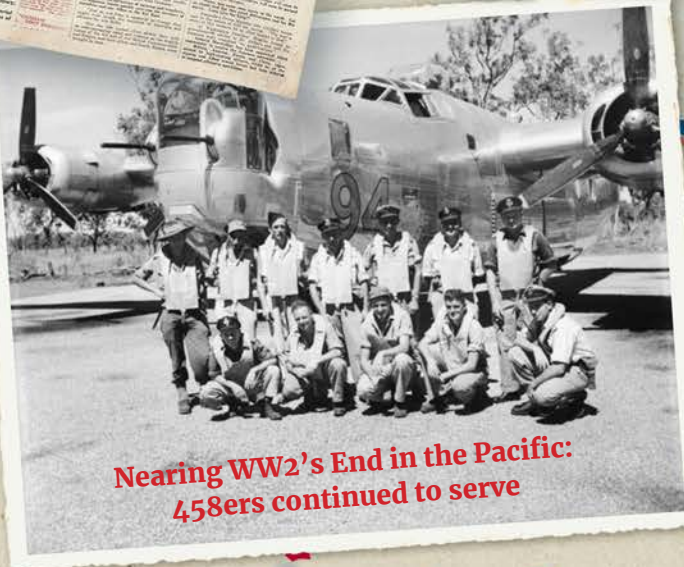


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 <small>458 Squadron Formed 1941</small>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

15TH OF AUGUST, 1945! END OF WORLD WAR 2 AFTER 5 YEARS,
11MONTHS AND 11 DAYS! PEACE AT LAST! WE REMEMBER!

**VP DAY: VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC HEADLINE; RAAF IN THE VICTORY
PACIFIC DAY MARCH 16/8/45, SYDNEY AND CROWDS IN SYDNEY ON VP DAY**



**Nearing WW2's End in the Pacific:
458ers continued to serve**

Having served their tour of operations in the European theatre of WW2, a good number of 458ers returned to Australia to answer the call in the Pacific theatre. We commend those who, having returned from their duty in Europe, continued the fight until the enemy surrendered and peace was finally achieved



B-24 Liberator Squadron Leader Ray Cupper and crew, No. 23 RAAF Squadron, Northern Territory, Australia, prior to a sortie north of Timor, c. May 1945, including Flight Lieutenant Ken Cupper (front row on the right), who served with 458 RAAF Squadron

2021



SEPTEMBER

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REMEMBERING

76 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 <i>Picnic Day (NT)</i>	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <i>Royal Queensland Show (Brisbane area only)</i>	12	13	14
15 <i>Victory in Pacific, WWII Ends, 1945</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

A TRIBUTE TO THE GROUNDCREW OF 458 RAAF SQUADRON, THE UNSUNG HEROES



Groundcrew armourers loading depth charges for U-boat hunt, 1943, Middle East



Group photo of the Maintenance section: Alghero, Sardinia 1944



Group photo of the Fitters: Protville, Tunisia 1943



From the 458 collection: group photo of Ground crew: Egypt 1942:
Bill Chapman, Alf Bullock, Peter Bailie, 'Curly' Hosking, 'Goldie' Bartlett,
George Morris, Harold Manton, Front row: 'Porridge' McLaren, Toosey
Taylor, Nundy Carpenter

From Commanding Officer Lt Col Bruce McKenzie: "Its strength, its great character, its fierce loyalty, its throbbing life, its success came from its ground crew. Not from its OCs, its aircrew, its senior officers, it's NCOs, its aircraft, its luck, but simply and purely from its ground crew. I know because I was there."



2021



OCTOBER

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REMEMBERING

76 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>WWII Starts 1939</i>	2	3	4
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26	27 <i>Queen's Birthday (WA)</i>	28	29	30		

OCTOBER



A TRIBUTE TO THE AIRCREW OF 458 RAAF SQUADRON



1941 Holme-on-Spalding Moor, UK



1942 Shallufa, Egypt



1943 Protville, Tunisia



1944 Alghero, Sardinia, Italy



1945 Gibraltar

Aircrews: UK: Fred Hinton, Bob Birnie, Captain Peter Hickey, Albert Austin, Vic Johnstone, Wally Forgan; **Shallufa:** Sgt. Alec Barras' crew; **Protville:** Tony Cotton, Bill Eden, Captain Ken Cupper, Jock Watson, 'Ginger' Ingelson, Johnny Fowles; **Alghero:** John Bilney, Ian Beer, Captain Arthur Lehdey, Ralph Bailey, Harry Ashworth, Tony Glassford; **Gibraltar:** back row Bill Flentje, Bill McDonald, Tony Harris, front row Bob Bruce, Dud McKay, Geoff Burgess

2021



NOVEMBER

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REMEMBERING

76 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31					1	2
3	4 <i>Queen's Birthday (QLD) Labour Day (NSW) (SA) (ACT)</i>	5	6	7	8	9
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NOVEMBER



458 HONOUR ROLL

REMEMBRANCE DAY

ROYAL AIR FORCE

1531154	Sgt	T. Adair	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	912835	Sgt	P. J. M. Hamilton	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium
1063543	F/Sgt	B. E. Adams	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1332496	Sgt	L. S. Hill	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
619953	Sgt	J. E. Andrews	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	127301	F/O	J. Hillen	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1007177	Sgt	E. Anstee	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy	752964	Sgt	F. Hinton	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France
1133860	Sgt	M. V. Auniger	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	645979	Sgt	R. J. Hobbs	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey UK
1159702	Sgt	A. S. Austin	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France	120970	F/O	G. Holt	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1295239	Sgt	F. E. Baker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1019209	Sgt	J. S. Hornsby	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
960943	Sgt	J. G. Barlow	Tel-el-Kebir war Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	1020873	Sgt	J. R. Hunter	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
946569	Sgt	K. T. Bates	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	995859	Sgt	T. Jackson	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium
987758	Sgt	D. E. Bottomley	Tel-el-Kebir war Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	1333888	Sgt	L. H. Johnson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
657621	Sgt	E. B. Bottomley	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	1384540	Sgt	F. C. Kingston	Biguglia War Cemetery, near Bastia, Corsica, France
88216	F/Lt	L. A. Brain	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	1135628	Sgt	G. W. Knox	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt
1388140	F/Sgt	H. W. Brandon	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1020882	Sgt	W. S. Lees	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
658144	Sgt	A. W. Brighurst	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1022822	Sgt	G. Lyle	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1289528	Sgt	A. E. Brown	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta	1388415	Sgt	J. McIlhatton	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1315187	F/Sgt	H. F. Bryson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	657704	F/Sgt	W. H. Milne	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1245327	Sgt	R. E. Burrows	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1069843	Sgt	H. Milner	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1189409	Sgt	R. E. Clark	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1290297	Sgt	M. J. Morgan	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
968155	Sgt	A. Y. Condie	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium	34098	Wg Cdr	N. G. Mulholland	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
1269264	Sgt	J. R. Cousins	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	1025192	Sgt	R. Musgrove	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1192315	F/Sgt	F. G. Crocker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1316142	Sgt	T. E. Musto	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1270898	Sgt	E. J. Cuming	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1218227	Sgt	C. A. Neal	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
1213637	Sgt	W. E. Dixon	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	102132	F/O	D. B. Neale	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt
122475	P/O	P. R. Driver	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1029630	Sgt	T. A. Oliver	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
745531	F/Sgt	H. W. Duffield	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	119810	F/O	J. Outerbridge	Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy
1266506	Sgt	D. Dunnett	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	127187	F/O	W. Paton	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
1001432	Sgt	C. Ebbage	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	496888	Sgt	D. B. Pepper	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK
12969	P/O	D. K. Fawkes	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium				
83117	F/Lt	J. Francombe	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy				

1425553	Sgt	B. L. Pottage	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	118487	F/Lt	J. L. Taylor	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1270949	Sgt	G. R. Potter	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1334816	Sgt	J. Tindall	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1117324	F/Sgt	W. B. Ralph	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	137297	F/O	M. Tuckwell	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
1286457	Sgt	E. L. Rayner	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	942702	Sgt	S. G. Vials	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1165671	F/Sgt	J. D. Reynolds	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	1219231	W/O	J. M. Wagstaffe	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
1050936	Sgt	E. Rowlands	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	1315073	Sgt	J. Whittaker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1365035	Sgt	E. Stanfield	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1239994	Sgt	R. Wilkinson	Biguglia War Cemetery, near Bastia, Corsica, France
1111507	F/Sgt	A. Sutherland	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1252008	F/Sgt	R. H. Williamson	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
144087	F/O	E. E. Tatt	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1316300	F/Sgt	E. L. Wilson	Florence War Cemetery, Italy
				1212913	Sgt	M. E. Windsor	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

R.93115	WOI	A. Aikman	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	J.9516	F/O	M. M. Kempton	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
R.84883	WOII	G. J. Banks	Naples War Cemetery, Naples, Italy	R.101976	WOI	H. E. Kontzie	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
J.20378	F/O	G. L. Barker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.9691	F/O	G. H. Lawson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
R.119875	WOII	H. E. Bradley	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.98941	WOII	D.H. McConechy	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.20439	F/O	M. L. Brechin	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.11132	F/O	E. A. McCorkell	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
R.92308	WOII	P. E. E. Brown	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta	J.11125	F/O	A. R. Pagan	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
R.11309	Sgt	G. A. D. Cameron	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.13982	F/O	A. Renton	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.12745	F/O	J. A. Diggins	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.102787	Sgt	T. P. Scandiffio	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
J.17063	P/O	L. H. Gleason	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta	J.20438	F/O	R. C. Scott	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.10409	F/O	B. W. Glickman	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	J.10666	F/O	S. C. Shusterove	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.5999	F/Lt	D. D. Graham	Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, near Tunis, Tunisia	R.91441	WOII	H. E. Stanley	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
R.86232	WOII	J. R. Grasley	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.105554	WOII	N. A. Stelter	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
R.98819	WOII	T. E. Griggs	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.11225	F/O	M. H. Tarrison	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.10642	F/O	W. C. Hailstone	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.20570	F/O	F. K. Verhaest	Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, near Tunis, Tunisia
J.17587	P/O	R. W. J. Hudson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.101306	WOII	R. M. Westman	Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
R.90509	WOI	A. L. Keith	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.87392	WOII	W. W. Wright	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta

2021



DECEMBER

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REMEMBERING

76 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>Recreation Day (TAS)</i>	2 <i>Melbourne Cup (VIC)</i>	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 <i>Remembrance Day</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

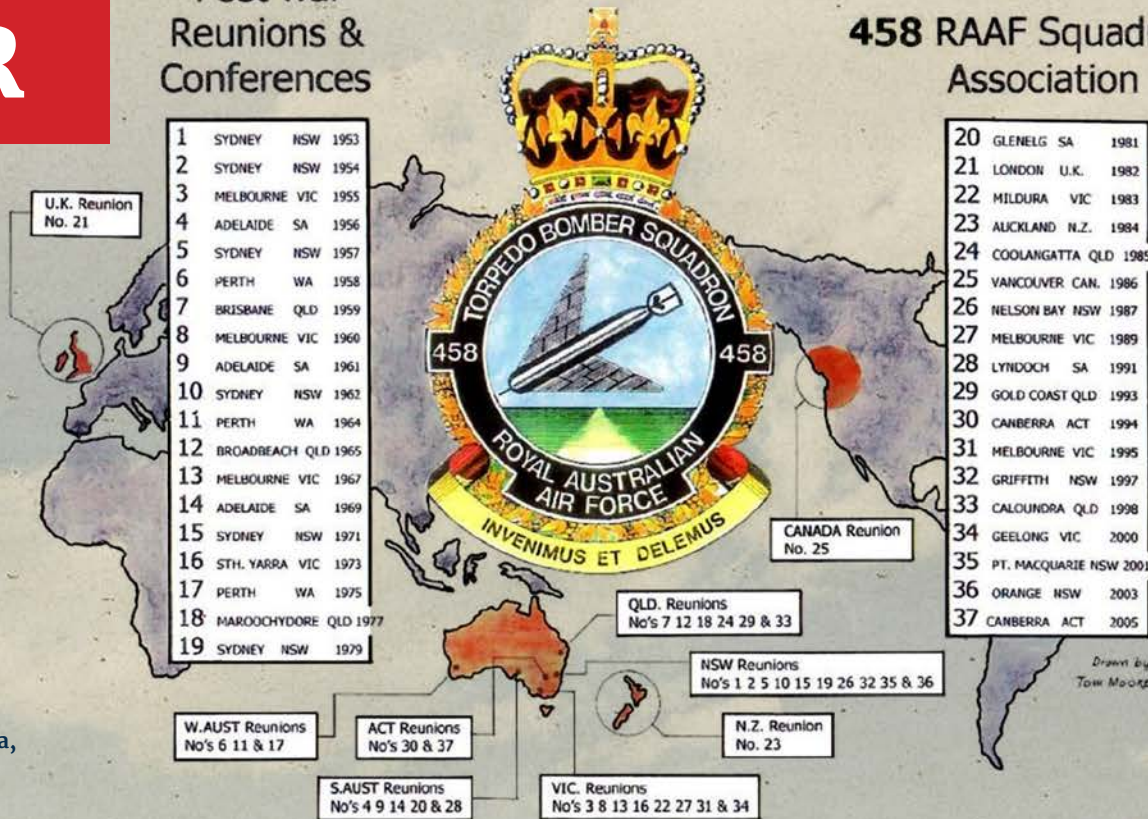
DECEMBER

Post war Reunions & Conferences

458 RAAF Squadron Association



Christmas Locations of 458 Squadron:
1941: Holme-on-Spalding Moor, UK; 1942: Shallufa, Egypt; 1943: Bone, Algeria; 1944: Foggia, Italy



For
Unto us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All



Christmas 1943: Bone, Algeria



Christmas 1944: Foggia, Italy



All States Reunion, 1995, 50 years after WW2, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

2021



JANUARY

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REMEMBERING

76 Years after WWII



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Boxing Day	Public holiday for Christmas Day	Public holiday for Boxing Day			New Year's Eve (NT, SA)	

1941 CALENDAR

- **July 10th, 1941:** 458 Royal Australian Air Force Squadron formed in Williamstown, New South Wales, Australia
- **August 8th:** 39 Groundcrew leave Williamstown for the U.K.
- **September 1st:** Squadron forms at airbase Station Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, United Kingdom
 - Assigned to Bomber Command with Vickers Wellington Mk. IV Aircraft. Attached to No. 1 Group Royal Air Force.
 - The Wellington is the mainstay of Bomber Command from 1939 to 1942. Maximum range from the manufacturer: 2250 miles at 180 miles/hr at 15,000 feet. Crew of 6: Pilot, 2nd Pilot, Wireless Operator, Navigator, Front gunner and Rear gunner
 - The Empire Air Training Scheme and similar Schemes had formed in late 1939 (war declared on Germany on 3rd Sept, 1939) and started training Air Force personnel soon after. Squadron examples: Flight Sergeant Mechanic/Fitter Cecil Percy enlisted/commenced training in November 1939; Squadron Leader Gordon Orchard enlisted/commenced training in October 1940 and Flight Lieutenant Ken Cupper enlisted/commenced training in February 1941
 - Commanding Officer: Wing Commander Norman Mulholland DFC (pictured) - an Australian who had joined the RAF in 1933
- **October 20th:** With 10 aircraft, the Squadron's first bombing operation against Germany: Emden + German occupied Antwerp & Rotterdam; ~6 hrs flying time
- Other night ops targets in **October:** German occupied France: Le Havre, Cherbourg, Dunkirk and German battleships at Brest.
- Other night ops targets in **November / December** were Mannheim, Boulogne, and German battleships at Dunkirk / December: Aachen, Calais, Koln, Ostend, Dusseldorf, Boulogne
- The base had a WAAF Women's Auxiliary Air Force contingent and there were 3 pubs at the village of Holme-on-Spalding Moor three miles away
- **December 8th:** The Allies declare war upon Japan following Japan's attacks on Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Pearl Harbour, Hawaii
- **December 11th:** the United States declares war upon Germany
- **December 25th:** A special Christmas dinner was held in the messes



CO: Wing Commander Mulholland



1941: RAAF Williamstown and Wellington



Mk. IV flying over snow covered Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, UK



R.I.P Crew lost in the North Sea returning from a raid on Emden, Germany 16 Nov 1941: (L-R) W. Goldman, Alex Cox, Captain Ron Furey, H. Duffield, E. Rowland, D. Pepper



458 Squadron: Bomber Command Operations in 1941/1942

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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- 1 Jan New Year's Day
- 26 Jan Australia Day
- 11 Apr Good Friday
- 12 Apr Holy Saturday
- 13 Apr Easter Sunday
- 14 Apr Easter Monday
- 26 Apr ANZAC Day
- 1 May Labour Day (ACT, NSW)
- 2 Jun Foundation Day (WA)
- 11 Nov Remembrance Day
- 25 Dec Christmas Day
- 26 Dec Boxing Day (Most regions)
- 31 Dec New Year's Eve

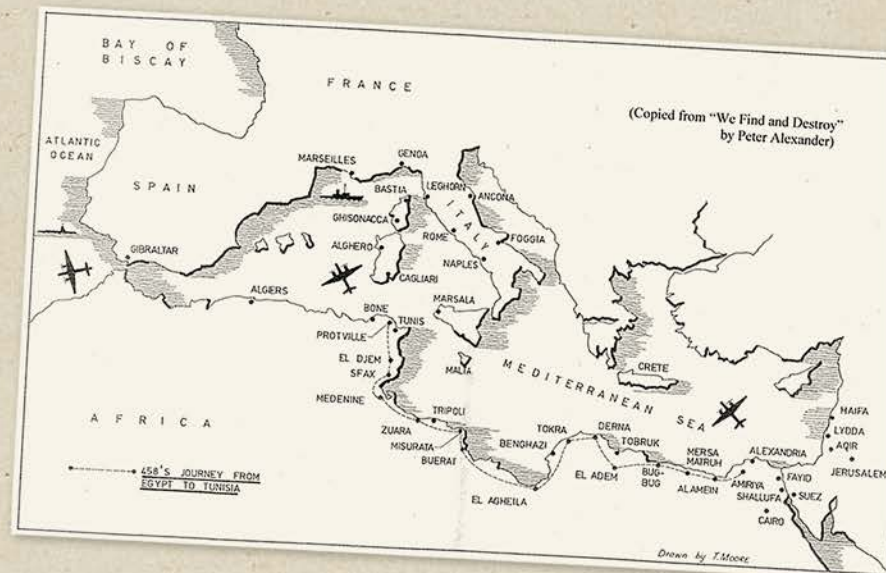
1942 CALENDAR

- **January: 6th, 8th 1942: Holme, UK:** The first nights of ops in the new year, the targets were German battleships Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, in the port of Brest
- **January: 9th and 28th:** Bombing of Cherbourg (a potential launching point for Hitler to invade Britain) and Boulogne. The events of the heroic loss of Captain F/O Hickey's crew (targeting Cherbourg) is described at: www.458raafsquadron.org/education/lest-we-forget 'R-1785 A Ring Cycle'
- In the winter RAAF personnel had the opportunity of meeting their senior RAAF Officer in Europe: Air Marshal Richard Williams who visited the base. He was one of the first four Australian military men to fly a military aircraft, a Bristol Box Kite in 1914
- **February 14th:** orders received for the Squadron to be posted to Middle East Command to reinforce the Suez area. At this time many RAAF men made applications to transfer back home to Australia due to the impending threat of the Japanese forces
- **Feb 22nd:** first aircrew fly to Egypt via Gibraltar & Malta (besieged by the *Luftwaffe*). CO W/Cdr Mulholland's aircraft shot down by enemy fighters in the Mediterranean. Only the rear gunner survived. S/Ldr "Johnno" Johnston became the Squadron's second CO. Ferrying of 32 aircraft was a time consuming job.
- **March 19th:** groundcrew boarding trains leave Holme-on-Spalding Moor for the Middle East (then by ship via the southern tip of Africa)
- **Anzac Day:** all personnel transiting between the UK & the Middle East. Aircrews made the journey a few times (from Egypt to Sudan to Nigeria to the UK)
- **May 23rd; May 30th:** groundcrew arrive at Suez, Egypt (after 69 days); then move to Fayid, Egypt, the Canal Zone Air Force Station, servicing B24's
- **June:** Sections of the groundcrew: detachments to Lydda, St Jean and Aqir, Palestine, with servicing of USAAF B24's at Lydda. 458er Laurie Crowley's name was on 6 of the first bombs dropped in Europe by the USAAF on the Ploesti oil complex in Romania, main source of fuel for the German army in Nth Africa.
- **September 1st:** After 5-6 months in transit, all personnel now present in the Middle East. The Squadron reformed at Shallufa, Egypt (2 miles from the Suez Canal) with Mk. VIII Wellington aircraft (some aircrew had temporarily been assigned to 37, 70, 104, 108, 148 RAF Squadrons, in July/August)
- **September/October:** training in low flying and torpedo dropping operations
- **November 1st – 11th:** Bombing of enemy shipping targets located NW of Tobruk and north of Benghazi, in support of the Battle of El Alamein (preventing the reinforcement of German forces by sea from Europe). **13th & 17th:** Berca detachment & torpedo strike detachment sent to Tobruk in search of the Italian fleet
- **November 29th, 30th:** anti-submarine patrols in the Mediterranean and mine laying in locations such as the gulf of Sirte (off Libya)
- **December:** From the 4th to the 25th, Ops consisted of anti-shipping strikes off Tripoli with torpedos and mine laying
- **December 25th:** At Shallufa, the Squadron had its first desert Christmas dinner; there was plenty of beer on early issue that day

CO W/Cdr Johnston



R.I.P Crew lost over Cherbourg, France 8/1/1942, L-R: Fred Hinton, Bob Birnie, Peter Hickey, Albert Austin, Vic Johnstone, Wally Forgan



JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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JUNE

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JULY

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- 1 Jan New Year's Day
- 26 Jan Australia Day
- 3 Apr Good Friday
- 4 Apr Holy Saturday
- 5 Apr Easter Sunday
- 6 Apr Easter Monday
- 26 Apr ANZAC Day
- 1 May Labour Day (ACT, NSW)
- 1 Jun Foundation Day (WA)
- 11 Nov Remembrance Day
- 25 Dec Christmas Day
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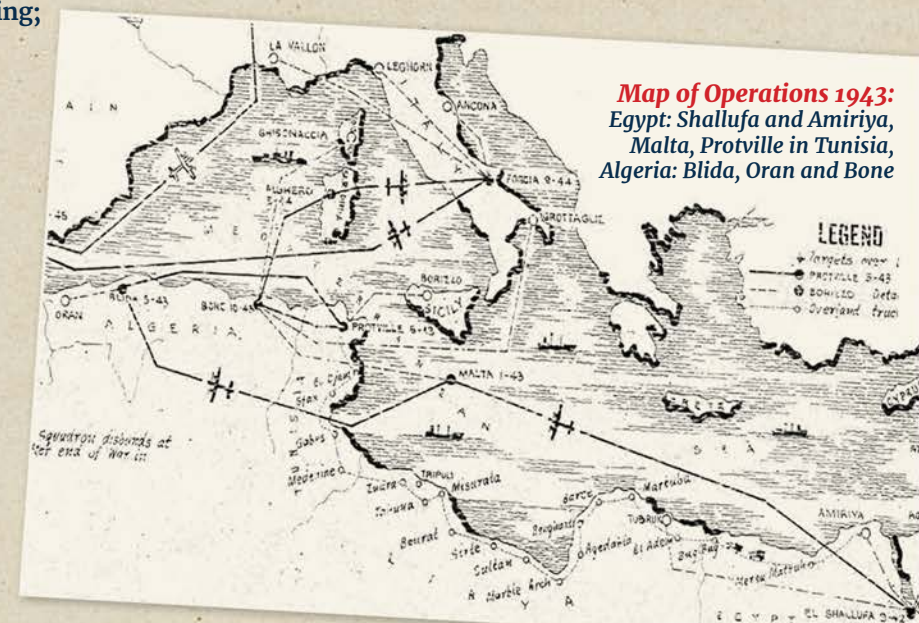
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1943 CALENDAR

- **January 2nd/7th 1943:** Squadron at Shallufa, bombed targets on German occupied Crete (Greece): Candia and Heraklion
- **January 17th:** Large section of Squadron to Malta: 12 aircrews & 32 ground-staff, joining the vital ops to prevent the reinforcement of Axis armies in Tunisia
- **February:** 630 operational Squadron hours flown (similarly in March) mostly at night in search of enemy shipping/convoys to torpedo strike
- **March 13th/20th:** convoys sighted and attacked with torpedoes – flying at 50 feet above the sea to also avoid enemy fighter attack; The Squadron section remaining at Shallufa continued bombing ops with targets on Crete (including mine laying). Then on the **23rd**: they moved to Amiriya, Egypt
- **April:** the casualty rate was high in the first 4 months of the year but some crews survived and were taken prisoner. Many operational hours during this time were also given to escorting British convoys, known by code names such as ‘Victor’, ‘Heavy’, ‘Novel’. CO W/Cdr Johnson became tour expired. The new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Bruce McKenzie from the South African Air Force commenced
- **Anzac Day:** Commemorated in Malta by a service at the War Memorial, Floriana. Convoy escort ops ‘Jumbo’ and ‘Pewitt’
- **May 6,8/9th:** From Malta, Wellingtons bombed an enemy seaplane base and railway at Marsala, Sicily and an enemy aerodrome at Gela
- **May 15th:** From Malta the Squadron moved to Blida, Algeria, part of Coastal Command; **May 17th:** Short detachment to Oran, Algeria
- **May 21st:** From Amiriya the Squadron moved to Protville (Tunisia) westwards via its own truck transport through war torn Egypt e.g. El Alamein, Libya & Tunisia (arriving 2nd wk of June). *See the map below for the route, roughly adjacent to the coastline of North Africa*
- **June:** the Squadron section from Malta/Blida re-joined the Squadron at Protville. Anti-shipping patrols in the Tyrrhenian Sea and off Corsica increased intensity. In 35 days from the 18th, 174 sorties were flown with 7 enemy ships confirmed sunk; sadly by end of August, seven aircrews lost.
- **July/August:** the Allied invasion of Sicily (9/7 to 17/8). Squadron torpedo attacks on enemy shipping continued. One Wellington probably hit by flak and ditching had 2 aircrew taken prisoner, but they escaped and returned to Allied lines. During August four to five aircraft flew ops on most nights.
- **September:** Italy surrenders (on the **8th**). Bombing ops on Corsica (retreating Germans), U-boat hunts north of Sicily, anti-shipping ops, air-sea rescue ops
- **October:** bombing ops on Corsica; multiple U-boat ops including to Borizzo, Sicily (on the 8th). Letters from home arrived regularly, a morale boost.
- **Oct 12th:** Squadron moved to Bone, Algeria. U-boat hunts intensified to protect Allied shipping; New CO W/Cdr Jack Dowling (the **22nd**); 3 Squadron chaplains visited.
- **November:** Anti-sub ops including Convoy escorts for ‘Taunton’ 70 ships, ‘Wasting’ 75 ships, ‘Horatius’ 52 ships; “Top-secret” detachment to Grottaglie, Italy
- **December/Christmas 25th:** convoy escorts continued with another U-boat surrendering after “swamp” ops used. Patrols continued on Christmas day but so did festivities with liquid cheer and sporting matches including rugby and Australian rules football at Bone, Algeria



CO: Wing Commander J. Dowling



CO Bruce McKenzie's crew
 (L-R): Dick Boydell,
 George Powell,
 George Dunmore,
 Charlie Green,
 Peter Eastcott,
 Bruce McK



JANUARY

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1944 CALENDAR

- **January 1944:** Based at Bone, Algeria, intense anti-submarine warfare continued; on the 8th (via Blida) described as the 'biggest swamp yet' along with 36 Sqd & 500 Squadron, involving 13 Wellingtons & 16 crews led by CO W/Cdr Dowling: 36 mostly night sorties, 4 sightings, 2 attacks on U-boats. The Squadron commenced using the Mark XIV Wellington, nicknamed the 'Leigh Light' carrying special radar gear & a retractable searchlight. Convoy escort work continued. **23rd:** Detachment to Malta with 6 aircraft for anti-submarine ops
- **February:** Detachments to Grottaglie, Italy (with 6 aircraft) and to Ghisonaccia, Corsica, France (this time with 17 groundcrew) for U-boat swamp ops; On route to Corsica one aircraft ditched due to ice build-up on the wings with 6 of the 9 on-board losing their lives. Anti-sub & anti-shipping night patrols continued. Natural hot springs in the mountains near Ghis. provided washing facilities, a unique situation. Convoy escorts and U-boat hunt ops continued out of Bone with some 2nd pilots returning for a second tour as crew Captain (1st pilot). RNZAF Pilot Officer Kevin George & crew escorted a British battleship carrying PM Winston Churchill
- **March:** Out of Ghis. another aircraft ditched when both engines cut out. Quite a few problems with water in fuel and tyres bursting on gravel runway during this period. Bone ops continued despite heavy rain & poor runway conditions with bombing of shipping, U-boat hunts with depth charges & convoy escorts 'Neighbour' etc.
- **April:** Out of Ghis. another aircraft ditched due to engine cut out, very icy severe weather/seas only 2 survivors. Ghis. detachment returned to Bone the second week of April. The Squadron chaplain S/Ldr Bob Davies visited and stayed for Easter. Detachment to Luqa, Malta with 8 aircrews to do anti-submarine sweeps
- **Anzac Day:** Ground-staff and aircrew laid a wreath during the ceremony at the War Memorial in Valletta, Malta
- **May:** From Bone, S/Ldr Knight's crew made successful attack and sank U-731. Returning at dusk to Luqa from a patrol, in 100% cloud, F/O McMillan's aircraft crashed off the end of the runway. F/O Bullen, the navigator, heroically rescued the only other survivor of the crash. **May 21st:** Squadron to Alghero, Sardinia, Italy
- **June:** D-Day landings at Normandy on the **6th** ; After completing the move to Alghero, first ops on the night of the 13th with 10 aircraft on U-boat hunts
- **July:** anti-shipping patrols continued; training in cooperation with Beaufighters of 272 Sqd; aircraft had much improved bomb sights & very high frequency radios installed. Ops included bombing raids on enemy shipping, land targets such as: oil refinery (at Imperia, Italy), railway, mills, industry (at Vado Ligure, Italy)
- **August:** RAAF statistics for 458 since Oct '42: 1,765 sorties = 141,020 hours flown. Malaria was a big health issue while at Alghero. The **15th:** the Squadron participated in **Operation 'Dragon', the second D-Day landings** as the Allies invaded southern France. Squadron ops included anti-submarine, bombing raids: set fire to oil storage at St Louis du Rhone and attacks on enemy E- and R-boats moving to interfere with Allied convoys & landings. Bombing ops on ports.
- **September 2nd:** Logistics tested (700km journey by air/sea/land), Squadron moves to Foggia, Italy to exert pressure on the enemy's other flank; **Sept 11th:** detachment to Ancona, Italy at the nearby aerodrome at Falconara. Ops commenced (the 14th) on enemy shipping but deteriorating weather rain/mud impeded flying. On the 24th & 27th enemy shipping bombed and hit. The second occasion assisted by rocket armed Beaufighters from 272 Sqd. New Commanding Officer: W/Cdr R. Mackay DFC
- **October:** ops resumed after poor weather, on the **20th/21st** bombing of enemy shipping/E-boats with 272 Sqd **13th** :Detachment to La Vallon, southern France
- **November:** night ops targets continued (shipping, E-boats, barges) and several Air-Sea Rescue sorties flown
- **December:** the Falconara detachment returned to Foggia. Cold and rain set in with heavy snowfalls and flying largely diminished. Detachment to Leghorn, Italy; **25th:** hearty celebrations in a northern hemisphere white Christmas included a message of gratitude & season's greetings from the Australian Prime Minister.



*A.Anderson, C.Brain,
Captain J.Aitken,
E.Jewell, G.Connors,
J.James took part in
Operation Dragon*



*R.I.P H. McMillan & crew
J. Wagstaffe, R. Williamson and A. Huntley*



*New CO: Wing Commander
Rodney Mackay, Sept '44*



Anzac Day 1944, Malta

JANUARY

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1945 CALENDAR

- **January** at Foggia, Italy: repatriation of 'old hands' of the Squadron began to occur on a large scale, many had served for over 3 years. Replacements from Australia were arriving in substantial numbers, such as flight mechanics, armourers, fitters and ancillary tradesmen
- **January 3rd:** night ops with 4 Wellingtons and 6 Beaufighters (from 272 Squadron). Bombed a German 2000-ton tanker etc
- **January 21st:** orders received, an advance contingent to move to RAF Station, Gibraltar (the Navy requested 458 to hunt U-boats in the Bay of Biscay)
- **February 13th:** the main party arrived at Gibraltar 'The Rock' by sea. Without delay there was considerable 'training' flying and operations alongside Spanish territorial waters in search of U-boats; such as patrols between Cape St. Vincent and Lisbon. Ops included the important job of escorting Allied convoys in addition to targeting U-boats with depth charges. Wellingtons were fitted with the Leigh Light searchlight to effectively hunt U-boats
- To counter the stresses of war, recreational activity included sightseeing in the nearby Spanish towns of La Linea (including a bullring) & Algeciras, swimming and canoeing at the Gibraltar beach, stage performances such as 'French Without Tears' by lead role F/O Len Thiele (who was to become an actor of note after the war: Leonard Teale), a literary & debating society, athletic tournaments, soccer, rugby, hockey, tennis, rifle shooting and billiards
- **Anzac Day, 25th of April:** the Squadron marched in flights to King's Chapel. The Commanding Officer (CO), W/Cdr Mackay read the Act of Commemoration: "Hallowed in Christ be the memory of brave men and women who in this and past wars died for the freedom of the world. They shall yet stand before the Throne, an exceeding great array, and in the last muster there shall be found these our own well beloved....."
- **VE-Day: May 8th,** the great Orator Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced by radio the consummation of victory – Germany had surrendered unconditionally. Celebrations lasted two days. A Victory March was held which including aircraft flying in formation overhead. Post-war operations continued (including escorting a surrendering U-boat U541)
- **June 9th,** disbandment: the Squadron paraded in full strength behind its CO. Air Vice-Marshal Stevens addressed them: "Gentlemen, I have come here to perform an undertaking which for once gives me no pleasure whatsoever. I come to take the final salute from you officers and men who form one of the best units I have had the pleasure to have under my command....." After many more words, he gave the last command to be received, "458 Squadron, to the right, dismiss!" Close to 1,750 personnel served with the Squadron throughout its 4 years of operation (July 1941 to June 1945). Forever remembered; Honour Roll, our fallen: www.458raafsquadron.org/honour-roll
- **VP-Day: August 15th:** Having served their tour of operations in the European theatre of World War II, a good number of 458ers returned to Australia to answer the call in the Pacific theatre. They were determined to serve until the war was won. Men such as F/Lt Ken Cupper and S/Ldr Gordon Orchard



Gibraltar The Rock: anti U-boat operations



CO: Wing Commander R. Mackay leading Anzac Day march



458er F/Lt Ken Cupper (front row right) B24 in Pacific theatre operations

PEACE
declared
15/8/45



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2022 CALENDAR

458 MEMORABILIA

See our Memorabilia Page
www.458raafsquadron.org/memorabilia-shop



458 Squadron Badge

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Cap with 458 Squadron Badge



Men's and Women's Polo Shirt
with 458 Squadron Badge

JULY

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						30
						31

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
					2	3
					4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
					2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



75th Anniversary Cup
1941 - 2016

Holidays

1 Jan New Year's Day	18 Apr Easter Monday	26 Dec Boxing Day
26 Jan Australia Day	25 Apr ANZAC Day	(Most regions)
15 Apr Good Friday	25 Dec Christmas Day	

Each State, Territory, Region has their own holidays in addition to this list e.g. 14 March is Labour Day in VIC, Canberra Day in ACT and 8 hours Day in TAS, etc

The End of World War II after 5 years, 11 months and 11 days! Peace at last! We Remember!

Remembrance

Read gratefully, a prayer within your heart,
 Thanksgiving that your homeland flowers you see,
 That out of dangers hazards, small in part,
 Destruction quite complete, still you are free,
 Spared bodily with honour still intact
 So to return; though Death with phantom face
 Hath touched your arm, o'er war's scorched barren tract;
 Then, thankfully remembering the grace
 With which those comrades, daring all, were left
 Behind, the debt we owe to those thus gone,
 The waters of the future's fount benefit,
 For we are quite alone to carry on;
 So pause just once each day, through gloom & toil,
 In happiness, despair, burn sacred oil.



Peace..

And then came peace, soft like a dove on wing,
 Pale, floating in the smoke-grimed sky and grey
 Torn battle's evening; like the fragrances spring
 Doth follow winter's dire distress, or day
 Doth come clean over night's dark muted rim:
 Peace filtered like a shaft of silver light
 In iridescent splendour, to the dim
 Hushed cloisters midst some dark cathedral's might—
 Peace sighing slightly, catching at the breath,
 While Fury wept, her sovereignty dismayed,
 War was no more, nor Guile, nor Vice, and Death,
 Her roving claim gave o'er the field—was paid;
 But stay, a thought—what sacrifice for peace
 Are we content to make to hold the lease?

458 SQUADRON



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

458raafsquadron.org

Poems by Flying Officer Eric J Jewell of 458 Squadron