



THE EDITOR.

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

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COLONEL MCKENZIE MAY VISIT AUSTRALIA SHORTLY.

Though there is no certainty in it until an official announcement is made, the News understands, while preparing for print, that negotiations are under way which, we hope, may result in Squadron President Bruce McKenzie visiting Australia as a guest of the Commonwealth Government. Bruce is, of course, Minister for Agriculture in the Government of Kenya.

The Squadron Council will make arrangements for 458 members and their families to meet Bruce as soon as the possibilities of his itinerary are known if the visit eventuates. He has occasion to travel overseas on behalf of Kenya frequently and circumstances could arise to change plans.

SQUADRON NOMINAL ROLL NEARS COMPLETION.

The Squadron History stated, in

Appendix 1,

"As far as a complete Nominal Roll of those who served with 458 Squadron is concerned, an adequate list of the many hundreds of names is not held.....but the names known will be published separately in due course and made available....."

After some years of occupation with other matters, the Historian has recently assembled lists of many names. These come, as principal sources, from the post-war addresses, from a wartime roll kept by the W.O.D., Ernie Eaming during his period with 458, and from the operational records used in writing the History. The Historian feels sure however that there are still quite a few names missing; particularly, R.A.F. groundstaff (e.g., the R.A.F. Regiment personnel), Holme-on-Spalding R.A.A.F. groundstaff who did not leave England with the Squadron, and aircrew other than pilots in most periods.

The Squadron Council doesn't want to go to print with the Nominal Roll without another attempt to make sure everyone is in. Would all members therefore fill in and return to the Squadron the form at the end of this News, giving not only their own names, but also, where applicable, names of fellow crewmembers—whose only chance of getting on the List this may be.

Council expects to announce in the next News how members, and next-of-kin, can get copies.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWSNOTES.

by Cy. Irwin, 17, Vincent Street,
Canterbury, N.S.W.

There is not a great deal of news to report from N.S.W. Flight, following the last issue of the News.

Members gathered for a Christmas drink at the Air Force Club on Friday, 17th December. Not a large roll-up but a few Xmas beers were pleasantly consumed and Xmas wishes exchanged.

New South Wales Newsnotes (cont.)Jack Lewis and Bernie in Sydney.

Two prominent Q.Flight members, with their wives, were in Sydney recently. We met Jack Lewis twice; firstly for a fairly quick drink in the Club shortly after his arrival on holidays; and secondly when we held an impromptu night at the Club in their honour. It was at the second occasion that we had Bernie, as a joint 'Guest of Honour' with us. He and his family had a holiday flat at Manly. Jack and Evelyn were staying with some of her relatives. Those who made it were:

Alf and Enid Hammond	Eric and Dorothy Munkman	Don and Bev. Bitmead
Sam and Maisie Barlow	Bob and Betty Bruce	Peter and Rita Alexander
Jack and Mrs. Preston	Cec. Nation	Kemp Beach

and the interstate members---Jack and Evelyn Lewis and Bernie McLoughlin.

Programme for 1966.

The Flight Committee held its first meeting for the year on January 28th., and discussed the programme for N.S.W. Flight for the year. This will be advised to members shortly. Preliminary arrangements for 1966 Anzac Day are as follows: there will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, at 8.0 p.m. on Anzac Eve. The Squadron Reunion Lunch will be at the Great Southern Hotel after the March. There is no Interstate Reunion this year, so a bigger than usual roll-up of Squadron members is expected.

Indoor Sports.

A new annual round of the Carpet Bowls and Darts Competition for Air Force Association branches has commenced, and 358 will be competing again. We reached the semi-finals last year. Coggee-Randwick were the winners for 1965. Our first opponents this year will be St. George branch on February 26th; followed by a match on 26th March against W.A.A.A.F. Wing. Members (and wives, who can also play) who have not yet played with 458 teams are cordially invited to join in. Give me a telephone call (UW 1981).

Peter Alexander in Hospital.

All Squadron members will be sorry to learn that Peter Alexander has recently had a spell in hospital (2 weeks). After a further two weeks recuperation Peter can be reported at last sight to be hale and hearty.

Peter's absence from "call" for a month makes one realise the amount of support he gives to our Squadron, the Air Force Association, and R.A.A.F. matters generally. Squadron members would, I know, like me to wish Peter a complete recovery and continued good health.

CROWEATER NEWS.

from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California Street,
Nailsworth, South Australia.

Things may have been crook in old Tobruk, but news is b...y scarce down here in the Deep South.

Christmas Dinner having been partaken of, and a tall glass by my elbow, my thoughts wandered back to Holme-on-Spalding Moor of 1941 vintage. Seated next to a blonde from the Waafery, who talked non-stop about boost, revs, and constant speed (I don't know if we were talking about the same thing), and waited on by Johnno and the rest of the flying personnel, friendships were begun which have withstood the passage of time, and are very much in evidence in the spirit of 458 to-day. How many remember that quotation at the foot of the Xmas menu?

"Wingco Shot It---Cope Cooked It---Angus Told The Staff To Stuff It."

Scholarly News.

Arn Scholar can still be contacted at the G.P.O. where he is Charge boss in the Engineering Section. Arn and Nance wish to be remembered to all their old friends, particularly Cuthy.

Ron McRae and his charming wife Jacky spent Christmas Eve with Glad Kelly, widow of our old comrade Ned of the Electrical Section.

Allen Tidswell, ex-President of the Air Force Association was describing the many amenities available at their H.Q. in North Adelaide to me, when he challenged 458 to a sports evening (to be arranged). Allen stated that billiards, bowls, table tennis, and elbow bending are available, and we should be able to have a most enjoyable evening. I understand that they also have an admirable dance floor and are prepared to reserve several tables for 458 members and their ladies. Who knows, 458 Sqdn. might even become operational again in South Australia.

Cordially,

Lofty.

458's WARTIME POSTMASTER DIES:-DAVE THOMPSON'S PASSING.

The News regrets to announce to the Squadron that Dave Thompson, who will be well remembered as the man who looked after its mail, died in England in July last year.

Dave devoted himself to the job he did for the Squadron and will have left with us all a mental picture of his efficiency and his obliging personality and friendliness. In his job with 458 he worked with Stan Parker, and Stan remained his link with 458ers in post-war years. So it was to Stan that Dave's daughter wrote when he died. Stan, we think, will feel that she wrote to him as representing 458 and indeed has let us see the letter, which we publish for the 458 family, in part.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Parker,

I don't quite know how to start this letter because it is the most difficult I have written in my life ..I know this will come as a shock to you, as it did to me and everyone who knew my father, when he died, but perhaps I had better start at the beginning.

As you probably knew my father had been bothered with his heart for three years but until lately it hadn't been serious enough for him to worry. He had of course been told to take it easy in the shop but I am afraid he ignored this advice because his whole heart was in the shop. Finally in the summer the firm decided to make the shop into a self-service store. This meant extra work and longer hours until it was completed, which was, of course, too much for him but he insisted on carrying on, until Mum called in the doctor, who said he would have to rest for at least three months.

Dad said he would rest for a bit, and this lasted for two weeks, during which he felt like a caged tiger trying to find a way out. He had a marvellous appetite and he used to say to me when we finished a meal, "There is nothing wrong with a man when he can eat like that, is there?".....

After two weeks, he went back to the doctor and came back laughing and happy because the doctor had said he could start back if he promised to take things easy.

He had only been back two days when he got up in the morning very ill and could hardly breathe.....When the doctor came he had died.

The doctor said later there was nothing he could have done for him and he had let him go to work because he was happiest there and would only have worried about the shop at home...

I will close now and wish you all the best in the coming New Year yours,

Margaret Thompson.

458's SINCEREST SYMPATHY IN THEIR LOSS TO MRS. THOMPSON AND HER FAMILY.

KEN McLELLAN KILLED IN CANADA.

We have received a letter from Sailor Wheatley, in Saigon, which included the following

"Just a short note with the enclosed (cutting from the Vancouver Times) which gave me a great shock when I read it; Kennie McLellan was on the Squadron at Amyriah and was very well known as a good crap player in the Sergeants' Mess and as a general good bloke. He went to Protville with us and finished up Wop AG on Dougie's crew with me, when we hit the drink that was the third time Mac had enjoyed an unsought swim. He escaped with me and returned to Canada via the U.K., where he was married. He was a really good type and a good bloke to cross the river with, may he rest in peace."

The Vancouver Times report says:

'A missed airplane turned into tragedy yesterday for well-known B.C.

'Advertising executive, Kenneth McLellan, 49.

'Mr. McLellan, advertising manager of the Prince George Citizen was to fly to

'Toronto on business Saturday night.

'But his car was detoured on the airport hill in Prince George and he missed the plane. He and two companions decided to drive to Vancouver and catch the plane here.

'According to police, their car ran off the road one mile north of Cache Creek and overturned. Mr. McLellan died four hours later. The others are in satis-

Ken McLellan Killed (cont.)

factory condition in hospital. Mr. McLellan was
 Born in New Westminster. His father, Robert, was a former editor of the British
 Columbian. He served in the R.C.A.F. and was a prisoner of war in Italy.
 He was treasurer of the Western Canada Advertising Managers Association.
 He is survived by his wife Gwen, and three daughters, Carol, Jan and Leslie and by
 his parents.....

The Squadron Council sent 458's sympathy to Mrs. McLellan
 and has had this letter from her:

"Thank you all for your kind and thoughtful letter. It is
 truly a great morale booster to know that Ken was so well thought of,
 he was indeed a wonderful man. My daughters and I realise that we
 were rich in having known him rather than poor in having lost him....."

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Les Cook, 4, St. David's Road, Newall Carr, Otley, Yorkshire, England.

Dear Peter,

I have just read the August issue of the News, and I wonder if I can
 time this right to send you all my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.
 I see from your last letter I sent my 1964 greetings in Feb of that year. I hope
 my timing is better this year! (Just missed--Ed.)

Well, at last I have a new address--after waiting for about three
 years for some promotion it came at last, and as far as Margaret and I are con-
 cerned it has been worth the wait. Otley suits us down to the ground--we both
 have widowed mothers living about 30 miles away. As we are both only children
 and have to be within striking distance. They are both quite independent and
 won't come to live with us until it is absolutely necessary. We were rather
 afraid I might have been posted to Northumberland or Durham--which would not
 have been very convenient. I suppose 30 miles is no journey at all to you and
 130 miles wouldn't cause you to think twice. Well, in this part of the world
 it can be really bad in winter, and right now some of the roads out of Otley are
 blocked by snow. It seems to have been a short summer, as we had snow in late
 April. On that occasion Margaret and I and our two boys got stuck returning to
 Pateley Bridge after visiting our parents, and we had to seek shelter for the
 night at the nearest farm.

Naturally, my move is a promotion; I am still Second Officer in the
 Midland Bank, but we have a staff of 16 here--and there were only four of us at
 Pateley Bridge. The business is still mainly hill farming with a certain
 amount of industry in the way of Paper Mills and Woollen Mills. Otley is an
 old market town and is very handy for Leeds and Bradford. I have a new
 bungalow on the edge of the town and in two minutes we can be in the fields.

I had a letter from Harry Wise last Christmas. He was to have returned
 from Cyprus to U.K. in April but since then I have not heard from him so I am not
 sure of his whereabouts. I was most sorry to hear of the death of Digger Watts
 --I travelled from Bone to Sardinia with him and he was one of the real
 characters of 458 I shall never forget. I see our Squadron President has been
 hitting the headlines with his speech in Geneva!

Kindest regards, Les. Cook (ex Compass basher).

From Stan Parker, Box 446, Ayr, North Queensland.

Dear Peter,

This morning I received a Christmas card from Dick Prior and his wife,
 Joan. On the bottom of the card was a note telling me they were married last
 July. Enclosed herewith please find a cheque for 25/- for which please send
 a 458 Tie to Dick. His address is:

R.H. Prior,

April Cottage,

Winborough,

Oxfordshire, England.

(U.K. Flight, please note
 address--Ed.)

sincerely yours,

Stan Parker.

From Jim Perry, 13, Margaret Street, Port Augusta, South Australia.

Dear Peter,

We are always very pleased to receive the Squadron News but never

Correspondence (cont.)

seem to get around to sending our thanks. This we do now.

Joy and I send you and yours a very happy Christmas and would like you to extend our greetings to any 458ers you meet during the festive season.

For the first time, I had made up my mind that nothing would prevent me from attending the next All-States Reunion, only to find that it is not being held in 1966. Perhaps I will make it to Adelaide. We are hoping that Henry and Vera Etherton will be spending a week or two with us early in the New Year, on their way home to W.A. from Melbourne. A letter from Dave Firth says he and Glad hope to stay with us on their way through to Wilpena Pound next May but this depends upon harvesting circumstances.

If at any time Squadron members are travelling through Port Augusta, we shall be very happy to see them. Call in at Willsdon Joinery on the mainroad into town (from Adelaide direction) or (after 5.30 p.m.) at the Saloon Bar in the Pastoral Hotel.

Our oldest, Kath., begins teaching after the Christmas holidays and John will be entering his third year of apprenticeship as an electrical fitter. Our youngest, Michael, enters High School in 1967.

We sent our thanks through Dave Firth to the Squadron Council for the kindness they shewed to John while in Sydney for the cycling championships. Unfortunately, shortly after, he had an accident at work incurring the loss of the sight of one eye and he had to give up competitive cycling.

Have enclosed a cheque (long overdue) for the News.

yours sincerely,

Jim Perry.

From Mrs. Maureen Cahill, Landsborough, Queensland.

Dear Peter,

I did very much appreciate your kind letter.

I only wish I could express my feelings adequately: the wonderful friendship extended to me by so many of Ken's friends and especially the boys of the 458 Squadron many of whom I have never met has been such a great consolation to me.

Would you on my behalf express my thanks in your next News-letter; and Peter if possible could I continue to receive this copy of the Sqdn News—over the years I've enjoyed reading it and would like to continue to take an interest in the activities of the Squadron.

Again, my sincere thanks

Maureen Cahill.

(Yes, of course you shall = Ed.)

From the Squadron President (Bruce McKenzie, Nairobi, Kenya) to the Sqdn. Secretary.

Dear Mr. Bruce,

I was very pleased to get your letter to-day conveying the 458 Squadron Council's good wishes. This was an extremely kind thought and I greatly appreciate it.

I am still hoping that Henriette and I might be able to visit Australia some time in 1967. It would be simply marvellous being able to meet all the old 458 Squadron people again. My only worry is that as age creeps on I do not know whether my party abilities are still as they were many years ago. I find that lately I seem to be suffering from hangovers quite easily.

We are moving in a most interesting and exciting time here in Africa. At the present time the Rhodesian crisis is causing us a lot of worry and concern, but I feel sure that if we could get all those concerned into one room and round one table, then a lot of fears and suspicions would disappear, and in time there would be respect and good feeling towards one another. We are tremendously fortunate here in Kenya to have our President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, with foresight, integrity and ability in welding so many people of different tribes, races and creeds together.

Please convey my good wishes and that of my family to all members of 458 and may 1966 be a peaceful, happy and prosperous year.

yours sincerely,

Bruce McKenzie.

P.S. You might be interested to know that out of the blue I received a Christmas card from Micky Reid, whose address is as follows:

M.D. Reid, 1539 Glenwatson Drive, Port Credit, Ontario, Canada.

He had picked up an article with a picture of myself and our President. I quote from his letter and hope you would be able to put this in

