

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR.

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001,  
Australia.

Year 19, No. 74.

February, 1968.

## Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street,  
Holland Park, Brisbane, 4121.

### So Christmas Came.

Christmas has come and gone. Q.Flight committee was very pleased indeed to receive so many Christmas cards from members. So we can report to the rest of the members of the Squadron that the vocal members of Q.Flight are happy and healthy and predicted a merry festive season for themselves. Christmas meant holidays for many of us, but-----

### Bernie McLoughlin made a Judge.

-----for Bernie McLoughlin they were not only holidays but a big Xmas present as well. Just prior to leaving on holidays he received word of his appointment as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland. This is indeed a well-deserved honour and a just reward for industry. After the war Bernie returned to London where he spent some time at the office of the Queensland Government's Agent-General. When he rejoined the staff of the Attorney-General on his return to Queensland, Bernie studied law at night and became a Barrister. His appointment to the Bench is the culmination of a successful and respected career at the Bar. Talking of bars, Bernie held court at the Miami Hotel over the holidays to celebrate his ascension, and it was pleasing to note that many distinguished barristers and solicitors and three judges (including Judge Campbell, brother of Keith Campbell) attended. Yours truly was the only layman among this illustrious gathering and naturally drowned his embarrassment at the prima facie cases and the torts. 458 has many distinguished members and it is pleasing to know that we can now number a Judge among our members.

Judge McLoughlin has been hard at his job since the holidays. Both his first two cases received good press coverage and Bernie also received a good press and plaudits from laymen and professionals alike. Bernie also had the honour to preside in a case where for the first time in Queensland women were admitted as members of a jury and from this arose the first McLoughlinism: "When is a lady not a lady? When she is a gentleman of 'the Jury!'"

### Southern Sortey of the Lewises.

Evelyn and Jack Lewis made their usual pilgrimage to Sydney to have Xmas with Evelyn's family. Jack as usual was hospitably entertained by the Sydney members in the persons of Peter Alexander, Sam Barlow, Fred Strom, Cy Irwin, Elaine Irwin and Frank Ward. Jack was most grateful for this very warm gesture and sincerely thanks everyone concerned for their courtesy.

### Reunion at Torquay.

Once again Bert Garland and wife Isla during their annual holidays at Torquay, found themselves flatting next to Os. Helyar and family. Everything well with Os. and Tara.

### No Christmas Social.

Q.Flight Committee was unable to hold the customary Xmas. Social. But such respites are enabling them to gather strength and to

Q.Flight News (cont.)

concentrate on plotting a course for the Jubilee Reunion (25 years after the disbandment of the Squadron at Gibraltar), for Tuesday 9th. June, 1970. This is a long weekend in Queensland. Festivities start Friday 5th. June and continue until everyone is tired which we hope will be one week later.

Personal Items

Jack Plunkett advises that Len (Tich) Thick, of Jimmy Sargeant's crew is now domiciled at 47, Lowther Road, Bournemouth, Hants., England.

CROWEATER NEWS.

from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California St.,  
Nailsworth, S.A., 5083.

A Search for Clues

Bill Clues was in Adelaide recently with his wife and daughter en route to the Eastern States from West Aussie. Towing a caravan behind his car, Bill spent several fruitless hours searching around Port Pirie for Jim Perry who unknowingly must have almost seen Bill's little cavalcade pass by the Perry Joinery Works at Port Augusta. Bill will be back in Adelaide soon and it is hoped that we can all get together for a few jugs.

Jack Carter made one of his brief visits to Adelaide at Xmas and was entertained by Bill and Madge Taylor.

Jack Riseley with the charming assistance of Verna conducted the usual Xmas Appeal at Victoria Square on behalf of the "News" for needy families not going like winners. A brilliantly-lit Christmas Tree provided a festive setting for the receipt of some 17,000 presents.

Bill Taylor was seen by my spy cavorting in Jack Riseley's new swim pool. Should like to be on hand to see Jack execute a one and a half gainer. I reckon he would do the locals a good turn and water half the gardens in Beaumont.

The Anzac Day March, and afterwards at the Talbot Hotel in Gouger Street---where a couple of dollars will make you financial and entitle you to tell some poor....how many you shot down.

CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

from Cy. Irwin, 61, Park Avenue, Ashfield, N.S.W., 2131.

Since the last News issue in November there is not a great deal to report from N.S.W. Flight.

Christmas Party.

A Squadron Christmas Party was held at the Air Force Club on Friday 15th. December; about 25 attended---members, wives and friends, and they voted the night a good one. A very good buffet dinner was served in the newly decorated 3rd. floor Functions Room.

Jack Lewis--the Q.Flight Treasurer was a visitor to Sydney over the Christmas and New Year period. Some of the boys were able to meet Jack just prior to New Year weekend. It was nice to see him again and we hope he and Evelyn enjoyed their holiday on the far north N.S.W. coast.

Ken Crago, our ever-generous member, was fortunate (?) enough to draw the horse to finish last in the Flight Melbourne Cup Sweep. A special prize was involved but Ken donated the prize back to funds. Ken is domiciled in Sydney now, and is very busy business-wise. Sydney members hope he will soon shew his face.

Trout-Fishing Party to Oberon.

A party of intrepid Squadron members will depart for the wild bush country round Oberon (Bathurst way) on the weekend of 24th/25th. February. The week-end will be spent under canvas, with huntin', fishin' and the like. Sam Barlow is the Maestro and Arranger. It should be a good weekend. A report on the big ones caught will be given in the next News.

Annual Meeting.

It is not too early to remind members that the Annual Meeting of N.S.W. Flight will be held this year in conjunction with our Anzac Day Reunion. We hope to have a good roll-up for the March and Reunion. Members will, of course, receive notification of this meeting and of Anzac Day arrangements.

THE PRANGERS. (or--Come to N.S.W. and be stopped in your tracks).

- (i) Frank Ward: someone ran into the back of his car which is possibly a write off. Wife, Thelma, and small daughter riding in the back considerably shaken;
- (ii) Stuart Ricketts: similarly run into;
- (iii) Peter Alexander: skidded off a damp road near Goulburn in brand-new Morris 1100 S. Somersaulted and rolled; family--wife and three girls and self--all knocked cold. Apart from wife's broken ribs, only abrasions and cuts. Car a write-off--everything stove-in but windscreen undamaged. On the whole lucky--but not funny;
- (iv) Cy. Irwin: late for the last Flight Committee--involved in a three car collision. His boot damaged but the car driveable.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

458 Squadron ties were recently presented to Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Lloyd and Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Tuttle in commemoration of their command of N.W.A.C.A.F. and the Wing in which 458 served at Protville respectively:--and to mark their joint attendance at the recent 458 London Reunion. We have received these letters from them.

From A.C.M. Sir Hugh Lloyd, Peterley, Great Missenden, Bucks, England.

Dear Peter,

It is most generous of you to send me a tie of the gallant and most efficient '458'. It is much appreciated and I am wearing it at this instant.

I wish I had more notice of your arrival and party. I heard quite by chance and by chance too Sir Geoffrey and I had to go on to the self-same party. We wanted longer with all of you.

The 18th was a bad day here. Sir Geoffrey and I went to Westminster Abbey for the Memorial Service to your late P.M. Everyone in Australia should have been there. Our folk are not too good at doing a job of work nowadays but when it came to the Memorial at Westminster it was a world beater. Strange how that intense and deep feeling of sympathy for Australia swept over this country. And such a wonderful tribute at Westminster.

Whenever you come this way again do please let us know.

I haven't forgotten the parchment relative to Bone. You'll have it one day.

All the best to you good people--it was a joy to see you and be reminded of gallant 458.

yours ever,

Hugh Lloyd.

From Air Mshl. Sir Geoffrey Tuttle, British Aircraft Corporation, Weybridge, England.

My dear Alexander,

Very many thanks indeed for the tie which I greatly appreciate having and for the Newsletter.

I am greatly honoured to be given such a tie as I did not actually belong to the Squadron. I do hope I shall get to Australia again one day and, if so, will make a point of contacting you.

yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Tuttle.

Squadron News Readers will remember Jack Carter's most interesting account in the last issue of the beginning of his voyage down the Darling River system. Here is the next episode.

From Jack Carter, Renmark, Sth. Australia.

Dear Peter,

I hope the enclosures will be of interest. Ian was slightly burned about the face but not seriously. I, as usual, came out of the incident suffering nothing but a thirst.

Regards,

Jack Carter.

Enclosed were clippings from a S.A. paper, presumably the Adelaide Advertiser, shewing a burnt-out catamaran. Extracts from the newspaper report tell:--

Correspondence (cont.)

A catamaran valued at \$9,000 was gutted by fire in a spectacular blaze at Renmark. The four occupants on board the catamaran which was in midstream at the time, escaped serious injury. They were the owners Mr. and Mrs. Ian Showell, Mr. J. Carter of Victoria and Miss Caroline Sturt, great-great-granddaughter of Captain Charles Sturt, who has been touring Australia.... Mr. Showell said he was obliged to undertake an emergency refuelling when the engine cut out due to a petrol blockage. Normally this would not have been necessary, he said, but the strong wind was forcing the craft into the bank (of the Murray river) and he wanted to avoid running into some sawn-off stumps in the shallow water. He pumped about two gallons into the tank but the wind must have sprayed petrol over the motor. When Mr. Carter attempted to start the motor there was a flash and flames began to spread very quickly fanned by the strong wind.... There was soon no hope of controlling the blaze..... Several small boats converged on the scene to help the passengers leave the catamaran. Mr. Showell said that forward passenger bookings would be reshuffled and he did not anticipate any passengers would be disappointed.. a new catamaran was to be launched next month and another six-berth catamaran was planned to replace the burnt-out one.

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From Alan (Snowy) Atherton, Ernestina Plains, Oorindi, N.W. Queensland to Jack Carter.

Dear Jack,

The parcel you sent for Ian (Snowy's son) has arrived safe and sound, thank you very much..... The week-end before last we went to Cairns to celebrate Diane's 21st. Right to the last we thought that there may have been a chance of hearing that you were somewhere handy and could come along too, in fact we had an empty seat on the plane all ready. We had quite an enjoyable time, leaving here on Thursday and returning on Tuesday. The trip took 3 hrs 40 minutes each way, through Huhgenden and then direct to Cairns over the Tableland. While there I ran into Laurie Crowley on the 'drome; he was taking a new helicopter up to Lae, either his fifth or sixth. He took Diane and Bruce for a ride before we went off to the tavern for a little while as things worked out. I had made arrangements to meet Earl (Hetherington) in the Masonic Club that afternoon so Laurie and I both met him; and just to complete the double Earl had Don Brandon with him. My eldest brother is in Cairns now, he had met Earl before in that Club, so he was also there. It was almost a Reunion and perhaps could have developed into something, but not having made prior arrangements we were all tied to other appointments. Laurie told me that 'Bowyang' Bennett is now in Rockhampton with Howard Aircraft.

On the ferry flight of the 'copter to Cairns, Laurie ran out of daylight towards Ayr; he was making for there to look up Alf. Peake, but had to land at Inkerman, right beside the little township. From there he got a car into Ayr to search unsuccessfully for Alf., who in fact now lives on his farm about three miles from Inkerman township--this seems to be in keeping with the old Crowley form.

Things up here are much the same as when I last wrote, it hasn't rained so far but we still have a good body of dry feed and all stock are looking very well. Of course it is drying off much quicker now that the hot weather is starting, although we have yet to get the real hot blasts which come in January and February. But by then it should have rained; in fact during the past few days we have had indications of stormy weather so perhaps it will work up into a good season for all.

..... I am sure you won't forget that we will be pleased to see you any time you have the urge to come this way,

With best wishes,

Alan.

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From Peter Piggford, 7, Hookey Street, Swanbourne, W.A.

Dear Editor,

For a number of years now I have been receiving the "458 Squadron News" addressed c/o The W.A. Fire Brigade. This is to let you know I no longer work there and am now working for the Overseas Telecommunications Commission.

Being as I am very busy these days and tied up with other organisations and really my past activities during the war I prefer to forget. So I don't think I will be joining the Club and of course I would not expect to keep receiving the 458 Squadron News free, although I have enjoyed reading it.

Wishing you all the success you deserve,

yours sincerely,

A.V. Piggford.

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Correspondence (cont.)From Les Cook, 4, St. Davids Road, Otley, England.

Dear Peter,

I realise I am on the late side as usual but the receipt yesterday of the August Newsletter reminded me that I had intended dropping a line or two to say how sorry I was not to see you on your recent visit to U.K.....How sorry I was to read of Sailor Wheatley's death. I never knew him but he was obviously quite a character and his letters to you made such interesting reading. I suppose we must accept the fact similar notices in the "News" will become a regular feature as the years roll by. Some of the names are just names to me naturally;--but there are some I can put faces to!

I have nothing much to report from this neck of the woods. I am still 'Second Man' at the local branch of the Midland Bank--hoping for my own branch, of course. Perhaps next year may bring it.

All the best...Sincerely,

Les (Compass Basher) Cook.

From John Thorpe, Flat 3, 20, Tait Street, Kelvin Grove, Brisbane, Q., 4059.

Dear Peter,

Just a short note to let you know my change of address to the above.

I notice in the Squadron News the passing of Bob Drinnan: he was a nice chap, Bob. I haven't seen him since the war but nearly every news I read there is somebody I have known passed on.

I have been in the Real Estate business for a few years now so when the Main Roads Dept. bought my property at Kangaroo Point I bought a property at Kelvin Grove handy to the city.

It is good to read the Squadron News to see where everybody is these days. When I go to Sydney I must look some of the old Squadron boys up, also call on Dave Westgarth at Bathurst and have a few short snorts....

All the best from John Thorpe.

From Mrs. Isabel Wilson, Box 14, Collarenebri, N.S.W. to Cy. Irwin.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a cheque for Association and Squadron News. We both love to read it from cover to cover.

Jack had about three strokes going on five years ago but still manages to get round a little. He is very afflicted in his speech but I guess it could have been worse. He misses you all and not being able to go to any of the do's.

All the very best for 1968,

yours sincerely,

Isabel Wilson.

From Air Commodore J. Dowling, C.B.E., A.F.C., R.A.A.F., Canberra, A.C.T.

Dear Peter,

I would be very grateful if you would convey....my sincerest thanks for your kind letter of congratulations on the recent honour conferred upon me by Her Majesty.

With my very best wishes for 1968,

yours sincerely,

Jack Dowling.

From Mrs. Patricia Drinnan, 121, Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, S.A. to Cy. Irwin.

Dear Mr. Irwin,

Both the children and I were very proud to read Bob's obituary notice in the 458 Newssheet.

We miss him terribly and thank you for your kind words and thoughts.

The children and I are going up to Brisbane to stay with my married daughter and I would be grateful if we could have Jack Taylor's address as I want to try and look them up.

I would consider it a privilege to receive the Squadron News, and, once again, thank you. yours sincerely, Patricia Drinnan.

Correspondence (cont.)

From Les. (Snowy) Piggott, Tarana Post Office, Tarana, N.S.W., 2740.

Dear Peter,

By the above address you will see that I am no longer living in Sydney. I have taken over the residence and post office here at Tarana, from 11th. January, 1968. I am now the official postmaster and Edna is the postmistress. I am sorry that I haven't written sooner but I have been very busy getting the run of the place and what with moving and all that I haven't had very much time to do anything.

It is a nice little spot sitting amongst the hills; the people are very friendly and, of course, it is very quiet after the city life although I am glad to get away from the rat race. The town consists of a local store, garage, hotel, post office, public school and three churches, plus, of course, a railway station which is fairly large for the size of the town.

The wife and I have made quite a few friends since we have been here and the kids like the place very much. I noticed in the Squadron News that the boys are coming up to Oberon on a fishing trip. I would like them to call in and see me if they could as we are not that far from Oberon. I might slip over on the Saturday afternoon and see the boys....

Give my regards to all 458ers and we would be pleased to see them any time.

yours faithfully,  
Snowy Piggott.

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The Squadron recently supported an Air Force Association move to help the Airmens Memorial School near Rabaul in New Guinea. The N.S.W. Flight Secretary, Cyril Irwin has had a letter from the man doing the work on the spot.  
From M.F. King, Biella Plantation, P.M.B., P.O., Rabaul, T.N.G. to Cy. Irwin.

Dear Mr. Irwin,

...There has been a complete reorganisation of the Trust governing the School and its plans have been extended to include a lot of other civic work for the local natives. I enclose a Progress report for last year. Most of the money comes from the States... Should any of your members be coming to Rabaul would be very happy to see them. The Hospital project did not get off the ground in 1967 but we have now let a tender and will now be starting. We are helping to establish the Nakanai Local Government Council and the airstrip we have worked on for two years is just about ready for operations....

Our programme for next year, apart from finishing what we have already started is to:

- (i) Replace a native-material classroom with permanent material,
- (ii) Build a Library,
- (iii) Replace five native-material married teachers houses with permanent material, and (iv) Ensure that the Hospital is built and ourselves build the accommodation for the staff who will operate it.

Please do not think this rather fulsome reply to your letter and donation is designed to extract additional funds from your branch; bluntly I am tickled pink to have heard from you and received your encouragement. Since I have been in the area and working in my spare time on the Project, all the funds and inquiries have come from the States... Now I won't feel as if I am constructing something donated by a foreign power—that's possibly a stupid feeling to have—but I am personally very grateful...

yours faithfully,  
M.F. King.

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ILLNESS OF SQUADRON AUDITOR.

Bert Thompson, who is both Squadron Auditor and N.S.W. Flight Auditor, has recently had a coronary occlusion and also some kidney trouble. We have seen him in hospital where he is making a good recovery. Bert's very many Squadron friends wish him the very best and most complete recovery.