

JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001, AUSTRALIA.

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# VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT.

# from "Shorty" Wilson, 26, Taylor Avenue, Burwood East, Victoria, 3151.

This Flight is steadily finding itself organised into social functions organised by our Ladies Auxiliary as a means of acquiring funds for entertainment during the All-States Reunion to be held in this State during the Easter/mzac Day weekend, 1973. The Ladies are doing a very efficient job, and rightly deserve the praise they are getting.

# R. A. A. F. Europe Dinner.

A dinner for all personnel who served in the European or Middle East Theatres was held at the Chevron Hotel on the 10th September. Among the 250 who attended was a large number from this Flight who really enjoyed themselves. The function was so successful that it appears that it will be an annual event, and it is proposed to hold the 1972 Dinner in March.

## Battle of Britain Ball.

Fourteen members and their wives represented the Squadron at the Air Force Association ball which was held at the San Remo Ballroom on September 17th. An excellent dance band helped to make the evening most enjoyable.

### Smorgasbord Luncheon.

Sunday 18th.October saw a large number of members and friends gather at the Dorset Gardens Hotel-Motel, situated in the foothills of the Dandenongs, for a smorgasbord luncheon. The surroundings and appointments were superb, the meal was delicious; and the company was relaxing and very friendly.

## Progressive Dinner.

This was held on Saturday 20th.November. Sherry and savouries were served at the home of Flight President Jim Timms; the main course at Ron Russell's; and sweets, coffee and dancing at Don Johnston's. An attendance of 42 enjoyed a variety of fine food and all the ladies concerned are to be congratulated on their efforts. These Ladies Auxiliary functions are developing a most favourable reputation. It was nice to enjoy the company of Gordon and Peg.Cuthbertson, who travelled a round trip of 200 miles just to attend.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS from the SQUADRON COUNCIL.

# Victorian Viewpoint (cont.)

### Christmas Get-together.

A Barbeque get-together is to be held at the home of Roger and Jean Rodwell on 5th.December before members and friends break up for the Xmas holidays. This annual event is a popular means of launching into the festive season. Roger's address is 120, High Street, Ashwood—phone 25-1575 and members and friends will be made very welcome.

### All-States Reunion, 1973,

The pleasure, and responsibility, of organising the 1973 All-States Reunion has been given to this Flight and we feel honoured by the privilege. The Committee has already started planning and trusts that it will receive the same encouragement and support from Victorian Flight members as was given the last time the honour fell due to us. The best way the Victorians can help us at present is to attend the functions organised and in doing so give us their ideas as to how we can raise the necessary funds. April 25th, 1973, falls on the Wednesday immediately following Easter Monday. This means that the All-States Reunion extends from Good Friday to Easter Monday, then work for some people on the Tuesday—then Anzac Day on the Wednesday. Be prepared and save a days leave for the tuesday and so get a six days break from work.

### Topical Tips.

Jack Fleming, who is one of Ansett's senior Flight Engineers, has retired from that job for medical reasons, due to eyesight.

N.S.W.members can expect to receive a visit from Jim and Elaine Timms, and Bob

and Beatrice McKinna, at Christmaso

John and Betty Jenkins are fit and well after their recent holiday in New

Zealand.

Roger Rodwell has settled into the way of city life and is playing cricket with the East Malvern R.S.L. team. Pet hates are city drivers and the smog.

Ian Alison has recovered from his heart attack and is now working full time. I myself have also recovered from my heart attack.

Nice to hear that <u>Bob McKinna</u> obtained 2nd prize at the Melbourne Show for a woven cane shopping basket. Bob has only learned this work since the amputation of his leg and it was a fine achievement as he was against competitors with long experience.

Christmas Greetings and best wishes for 1972 to all members and their families.

Shorty.



### THREE 458 SQUADRON MEMBERS PASS ON.

### CEC (POP) NATION .

Cec.died, in his early 70s, last month after a long and distressing illness. 458 members, on whose N.S.W.Committee he had served since 1949, visited him in hospital and attended his funeral. Our sympathy to his daughter, grandchildren and sister. By origin, Cec.was a Queenslander, from Toowoomba. He joined the Australian Flying Corps in W.W.I but was too young to have very long service before the armistice. But with the coming of the 2nd.War he joined the R.A.A.F. as an armourer—and for him the R.A.A.F. meant 458 Squadron with which he served through its overseas tour until his time came for repatriation. Many 458ers will recall him well—including his photographic and other ventures.

He gave 458 continued devoted service in a quiet self-effacing way after the waryears. His dry humour and fund of stories were well-known. Many indeed of the envelopes containing 458 Squadron News received by our Readers were addressed by Cec.

Cec.was married three times, and three times a widower.

We shall miss him and we will remember him. Farewell, Cec. !

# Three 458 Squadron Members Pass On (cont.)

### JACK CARTER.

Our highly respected Jack Carter died on 30th August. Jack was very well known on the West Coast of South Australia and honoured for his appreciation of the people and their way of life.

He came to Australia from the U.K. at the end of World War I and entered an apprenticeship at the Port Adelaide Shipyards. He went to the West Coast in 1922 as the representative of Caterpillar Tractors. Later he joined the Vacuum Oil Co., and his job took him to some of the sparsely populated areas of the Coast. He spent some working years in Darwin and became prominent in industrial matters there.

As a Fitter N.C.O. he was prominent and immensely well-liked in his years with 458. He went through with 458 in its U.K. and Mediterranean years until his return to Australia where he had some further R.A.A.F. experience.

In later, postwar years he owned a pineapple farm in Queensland and became prominent in R.S.L. affairs. He came to nearly all the All-States Reunions wherever they were held and was on one occasion nominated for election as Squadron President, but declined appointment.

He was always keenly involved in community affairs and was a councillor of the Maroochy Shire Council, a member of the Streaky Bay Hall committee, and it is said that without his help the Hall would never have been completed. He found wide acclaim through broadcasts about his epic trip in a small car (a mini-moke) around Australia at an age over 70. He subsequently also made his way by small boat through the network of rivers from Queensland to the Murray in South Australia.

In recent years Jack was a regular freelance writer and photographer for the Streaky Bay Sentinel and he wrote the main text in the Apex tourist brochure published by the Apex Club, at the Bay last year.

Jack's funeral was attended by his son, Wing Commander John Carter, who made the trip specially from New Guinea to see his father during his illness. Also by Mel Priest and Bruce (Flash) Thomas as reps.of the S.A.Flight.

From Jack Riseley.

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### BRIAN LORD.

Brian Lord, who was a Wireless/Air Gunner with 458, flew as a crew-member with Barry Menser. He died suddenly on 18th.October, leaving a widow and four children. Brian was in his later 40s.

After the war years Brian worked as an Accountant with Vanderfield and Reid, the Sydney timber merchants and then with British Paints. Latterly he was Secretary of a mining company.

Sydneyside 458ers will remember Brian particularly as a member and one of the wicket-keepers of the 458 Squadron cricket team in the immediate postwar years. All those who played in the team in those years will remember the close friendship and camaradie which inspired the team in its relatively few years of existence.

458 was represented at the funeral and Barry Menser was among those attending. Our sincerest sympathy to Dot and the children.

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### NEW SOUTH NOTES.

# from Cy.Irwin, 32, Rose Street, Ashfield, N.S.W., 2131.

The N.S.W. Flight Cup Sweep was again successfully held on this year's Melbourne Cup. The winners were John Hosking, with Silver Knight: D. Smith, with Igloo: and Maisie Barlow, with Tails. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to the many Squadron members who took books. Just over 100 books were returned for the draw.

## Clive Wyman in Sydney.

Clive Wyman (Q.Flight) had a working weekend in Sydney in mid-November. He was able to meet up with old crewmembers Frank Ward and Cy.Irwin and was heralded on a quick Sunday afternoon trip by his old "Oppo." Barry Menser.

# Other Items .

We had a family picnic day at Wiseman's Ferry and planned but had to cancel

# New South Notes (concluded)

a social evening at Chatswood R.S.L.Club under Arthur Jollow's

l'eadership.

Sadly, we record the passing of Flight members Cec. Nation and Brian Lord. Our deepest sympathy goes to their families—we will remember them.

### CROWEATER CALL.

from Jack Riseley, 38 A, Cooper Place, Beaumont, S. A., 5066.

I had a phone call from Lofty Trewartha (our usual Flight Correspondent) yesterday and he is not in the best of health. Apparently he is having some stomach trouble which is causing a great deal of discomfort and he is visiting a specialist to obtain some relief. As a consequence, he has asked me to drop a few lines.

Apart from the sad news of Jack Carter's death (reported elsewhere in this issue), there is a dearth of other news from S.A. To my knowledge, we have not had any visitors since Peter Alexander dropped in a few months ago; and every other member seems to have hibernated.

Verna and I did see Joyce and Pat. Enright a few weeks ago when we spent a long weekend at Beechport in the south east. They both looked fine and we received the usual Enright welcome and looked at some of the fine Murray Greys he is breeding. Mel Priest saw them last weekend and mentioned how well they both looked

Must close now with a very hearty cheer from all of us in Croweater territory.

### SANDGROPERS SAY ....

# from Bill Clues, 179 Kooyong Road Rivervale, 6103. W.A.

Newsletter time again. The reminder arrived a couple of days ago. Up went my hands in despair and how I wished I'd listened to my wife, Joan, over the last few weeks when she said "H ave you prepared your contribution for the Squadron News yet? You've guessed it right. I hadn't.

Well, Henry Etherton is out and about again but I am sorry to say his wife Vera has just spent a couple of weeks in R.P.H. but tells me she is fighting fit again.

How's this for dedication ? Stan.Long was told he had to go into hospital for an operation, but found that plus convalescence would cut into the bowls season, so he said "No Dice". He is now fit again and back playing bowls.

Members will remember Harold Manton of Yealering and Jack Parkin of North Dandalup. I see they both won championships in the sheep section of the Perth Royal Show:—Harold with Border Leicesters and Jack with Cheviot. Congratulations, chaps.

Joan and I represented the Squadron at the Official Opening of the Air Force Memorial Estate at Bateman on 19th. September by the Minister for Air, Tom Drake-Brockman.

This Estate consists of 25 acres of land, seven miles from the city. Sixteen acres on which is the Air Force Association H.Q. and the Country Club. Nine acres on which have been constructed thirty two flats for veterans and their widows. This has cost \$600,000. Stage 2 of thie project will start in 1972. From my observation, an ideal place to plan on retiring to, with the Veterans flats sufficiently far not to be inconvenienced by the Country Club but near enough to stroll over of an evening for a quiet beer and chat.

The very best for Christmas and the New Year to all members and their families.

# NEWS OF BRUCE McKENZIE,

458ers will be happy indeed to hear that not only has Bruce made an excellent recovery from his illness but that he and Christina are now the parents of a new son, Kim. Our heartiest congratulations, indeed:

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

# from Jim. Holliday, 43. Stella Street, Holland Park, Q., 4121.

The Cup Sweep.

Me of the Committee have resolved to continue this annual event if only for the reason of prodding our rural members to putting pen to paper once in the twelve months. Our regular correspondents—and I do hope we don't leave anyone out—include Harry Dorge (no at 98, Atherley St., Toowoomba), Theo.Ravenscroft, Sel. Foote, Erle Hetherington, Jack Hobbs, Bernie Hughes, Jack Baxter (is the Gold Coast rural? At least, its the land of milk and Honeys), Lew Johnston (also of the gilded surf—lapped pastures), Tim McQuaid (the boy at Barcaldine), Alf. Peake (now of Inkerman), Frank Wilks (the man behind the best of motorcars in Toowoomba), Bob Coles (also of the capital of the Downs), Bob Dangaard (still up Mareeba way), Cliff. Mannion of Maleny, and in this list we mustn't forget Bill Snowden who's returned to Brisbane Town after a long visit to the Homeland.

By the way, Mrs. Len Collins, wife of a school and P.O.W.

mate of mine, drew Silver Knight; Muriel Baxter, better half of Jack, the King-Prawner, was the Iglood-picker; and Bob Coles came home on the locally bred, owned and trained Tails. Congratulations to the winners, condolences to us, the unsuccessful and thanks to all who supported the effort.

Our effervescent President, Don. Brandon (our youngest grandfather), regaled us with his enthusiasm for paddle-wheel boats on the Murray, and Mrs. and Ian Showell at Renmark. Happy memories of hospitality. Happy memories of hospitality have engendered ponderings on new uses for Brandon's timbers.

### End of an Era.

The passing of this year will see the passing of an era. Chas. Warren's Garage, the Mecca of the Q.Flight members after the March on Anzac Day. Chas.for the past many years has hosted tired airmen not only on Anzac Day but also once monthly at meeting nights. Chas.has given the motor repair game away, as of 28th. December, 1971. Charles Garage has been a rallying point for Q.Flight and for our interstate members. He has had an offer he couldn't knock back. "Thank Heavens:" says he. But—who could imagine Chas.without honest car grease on his fingers? How is the automobile population of Australia going to glide to a graceful old age without the car doctor? And Charlie himself, now that he's knocked off cigarettes is younger than he ever was. Wouldn't be surprised to see him visiting a few Southern and Northern friends in the New Year.

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### Stan Parker Diese

I had very sad news to-day (Nov.17th.). Mrs.Beryl Parker writes from 22 Magnetic Street, Picnic Bay, Magnetic Island that STAN.passed away on 7th. October. Mrs.Parker writes that Stan.had trouble shortly after his retirement (in fact, he didn't tell us that he was in the Repat.Hospital in Brisbane). Stan. contracted Parkinson's Disease. Our sincere sympathy to Mrs.Parker. Stan was always well regarded by us locals. Always the same cheerful, hospitable Stan.

### Editor's Note.

458ers at Protville will remember Stan, then a Flight Sergeant, as being in charge of the very important Post Office through which came news from home. He and Dave Thomson of the R.A.F. became most important and well known in this capacity. Both have now passed on, Dave dying back in Cumberland a year or two ago. Stan of course had a full and distinguished operational career as a W.A.G. In postwar years he lived at Ayr, Queensland and kept in touch with 458. We recall that it was he who wrote and suggested we put the addresses of the Flight Secretaries at the head of the Flight news in each issue of 458 Squadron News, thus facilitating members' writing to their Secretary. This we still do.

We're sorry indeed to hear of his passing. P.C.A.

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# NEWS ON THE GENERAL EX-SERVICE FRONT. from Peter Alexander.

I guess readers will be interested from time to time in an account of the happenings, as we get to hear of them, on the general field of ex-servicemen and their Associations.

# On the Ex-Service Front (cont.)

As you will realise, the various ex-Service Associations in Australia have for some time been very concerned over the way Servicemens pension rates have been failing to keep up with the rising cost-of-living. The General rate pension has not risen since 1964. We all know what has happened to costs and indeed wages in that time. But we have not got the Federal Government to act. To try to be more effective in representing ex-servicemen, eight Associations have now decided to form a joint Council—the Australian Services Council—to speak with one voice.

The eight are our own Air Force Association, the Australian Legion, the T.B.Soldiers Assoc., the Partially Blinded, the Ex P.O.W.Assoc., the Korea and South-East Asian Forces Assn., the Limbless Soldiers and the Armoured Corps Assoc. Additionally, the Naval Association has indicated support. To our regret, the R.S.L. prefers to remain apart.

Office will rotate between the Associations but the officers elected, protemp, for the Council are Sir John McCauley (Federal Pres. of the Air Force Association) as

Chairman and myself as Secretary pro tem.

The Open Inquiry.

Which brings me to the next item. The Government has decided to set up an Open, non-parliamentary, inquiry into the Repat. system, under the N.S.W.Judge, Mr. Justice Toose. The various Associations will be asked to give evidence and I think the new Australian Services Council as such will be able to speak for all its member Associations. I hope we can achieve something. It has been a fact that ex-servicemen and particularly those with war-caused disabilities, have been operating in an increasingly unfavourable atmosphere as years pass. A larger part of the voting population has come from those with no wartime experience—their good fortune perhaps— and they require to be convinced that repatriation is not just a big ramp and that there is indeed a fair claim for pensions, etc for men who were involved in the long-ago events of 1914-18 and 1939-45. We aim to shew the inquiry the present-day needs of the wholly or partially disabled digger and that those who with disabilities because they served their country do have a fair claim—even 25 or 50 years after.

The Senate Inquiry:

A Standing Committee of the Senate is also inquiring into Repat.

This seems to me to be a bit of a fishing expedition. They have started in Adelaide—the base of the ex-Repat (and also ex-Air Force) doctor who wrote the book "Be in it,"

"Mate" to try to demonstrate that few repatopensions granted are really due to war service.

But we shall, I hope, have our chance to rebut that.

The Air Force Association.

We have been looking with clear eyes at our own role, as the Air Force Association, in the 1970s. To decide what we should be doing, in this day and age, —for whom—and how best. Our feeling is that every organisation should review its role periodically—just as, for example, B.H.P. also did recently. We started the review at an internal Symposium for Federal State and Branch office bearers, in Sydney. On successive nights, we heard talks from

John Waddy, M.L.A., N.S.W.Minister for Social Welfare and a past State President of the A.F.A. on "The Air Force Association1943-71" (1943 being the date of the last review)

Prof.S.Encel, Professor of Sociology at the Univ. of N.S.W. on "The Role of an"
"Ex-Serviceman's Association in the 70s"

Mr.Kevin Perkins, News-Editor of the Sydney Daily Telegraph—on "The Air Force "Association and the Public"—dealing with our image, or lack of it. And, usefully, how to improve it.

Mr.Dick Morris, of Legacy, on "The Welfare Needs of the 70s"—a scholarly and sincere address.

W/Cdr.Bill Richardson, a young serving officer, on "The Association and the R.A.A.F." and Mr.Arthur Doubleday, N.S.W.Regional Director of Civil Aviation, on "The Association and Civil Aviation".

All very valuable. I myself told the speakers, when organising the Symposium, that the only thing which would offend us would be platitudes, so we got their views right from the shoulder—as we wanted them. We are now reviewing what we heard and what our role should be. But the opening parts of this article rather demonstrate that we still have a normal repatriation role to fulfill.

Incidentally, one thing we think is, that we should substitute the words "Veterans Compensation" for "Repatriation Pension" as being better descriptions. A pension is indeed a compensation for health lost on active service. The word repatriation is not very meaningful to younger generations and veteran is the word used elsewhere in the world.