

CIRCULAR



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

Year 24; No. 98.

February, 1974.

75c. per Ann.

458 SQUADRON COUNCIL---OFFICE-BEARERS.

Squadron President	Sid Bartram (S.A.)	Squadron Vice Presidents: Sam Barlow (N.S.
Squadron Treasurer	Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.)	Bill Clues (W.A.)
Squadron Secretary:	Allan Walker (N.S.W.)	Editor of 458 Sqdn. News: Peter Alexander.

THE WEST PREPARES.

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

We will start with an apology for the lack of news from W.A. in the Xmas. issue, but these things happen occasionally, and hope that all members spent a Happy Xmas and are moving into a bright and prosperous New Year.

Our Xmas function this year took the form of a Barbeque at Ted and Elsie Jewell's home; this was very well attended and special thanks must go to our host and his good wife for the hard work that went into arranging same. Weather was perfect, food was excellent and all the old regulars attended plus one or two we don't see very often. Nevertheless, they are most welcome when they can find the time to join us.

Owing to ill-health, Henry Etherton asked to be relieved of his position as Flight Secretary, a position he has held for a good number of years. This job has now been taken on by Tom Hicks who joined us in the West after migrating from the U.K. There is no doubt a good secretary can make a President's job a piece of cake and Henry, ably assisted by his good wife, Vera, was just that. I realise perhaps better than most what a difficult time Henry has had over the past year or so, but I know that as soon as health permits he will be back doing whatever he can to assist W.A. Flight. Thanks, Henry.

A phone call from Arn. Scholar who was holidaying in the West over Xmas started the wires buzzing and those members who could be contacted met for a few drinks and a bit of an ear-bash in the Lounge of the Paddington Pub. Drinking was held in check, I feel, to some degree by fear of that little bag the local constabulary carry, but not so the yarns, for they came thick and fast, always prefixed with "You remember...?" Closing time came all too soon and we wended our ways home realising how good it is to meet old mates for a few cold beers and relive for a short timesome of the pleasant escapades of our youth.

The All-States Reunion.

We in the West are looking forward to entertaining as many members as can possibly make it for Anzac Day, 1975. If you have ever remotely thought of coming West in past years, think positive and make '75 the Year to look Alive, visit us over the Anzac period and you will all have an experience to look back on. Subject to confirmation, we hope to follow the pattern set in previous W.A. Reunions and I am sure all who attended our last Reunion in W.A. will agree it could not be faulted. Accommodation can be arranged either privately (most members have rooms to spare) or we can arrange to make bookings at a Motel for those who prefer it. We hope to have further details of our plans in the next issue of the Squadron News.

For W.A.Members. Now a word for W.A.members. April, 1975 is only a little over 14 months away and an all out effort is needed to make our Reunion a success. By the time this goes to print you will have received a book of tickets in our Raffle. The prizes are good! First...9 cubic foot Deep Freeze; Second...Sanyo cassette Tape Recorder and Radio; Third...Cassette Tape Recorder. I want a complete sell-out, so when you have sold the books I send you, please contact me for more.

Norm.Cugley. It was with deep regret we heard of the passing of Norm.Cugley, one of the old originals, and it makes one stop and realise that time passes all too quickly: this illustrates the beautiful extract from the Anzac Ode "Age Shall Not Weary them, Nor the Years Condemn." Our heartfelt sympathy to Nancy and family.

Personal Pars.

Ray and Marge Turley are off to New Zealand for the wedding of their daughter. Peter Power has had a spell in Hollywood Hospital followed by a trip to Singapore. Lock Simpson has had a trip to the U.K. and Malta and tells me he would like to retire to Malta. Bill Clues.

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NEW SOUTH NOTES.

from Arthur Jollow, 40, Nicholson Street, Chatswood, 2067.

Christmas and Visitors. The pre-Xmas Get-together, despite inclement weather, was most successful. The West Pennant Hills Bowling Club, which allowed use of its facilities, received sincere thanks from all present for generous hospitality. Special thanks to Frank Ward, who made it all possible. Had the weather been kinder, the roll-up would have been greater, of course. I was unable to be there, being host to a couple of friends from California. We met them in Greece some years ago. It was miserable weather all the time--so much for our boasting of sunny and beautiful Sydney.

On Saturday night before the Xmas Ding, I received a phone call from Gordon Cuthbertson, on his way home from Queensland. It was late, Cuthy was heading home next day after giving the Opera House the once over and we were unable to get together due to time; but it was great to chat awhile with you, Cuthy, and to hear that you were well.

Bob and Beattie McKinna were in Sydney recently, staying with daughter Del. We were unable to get-together but hope to be lucky next time. Before Xmas I had a phone call from Charlie Mann to tell me he was going into Concord Hospital for an operation. Said he would call me and let me know when he was going in, but have had no word since. I was in dock myself for a few days and made inquiries but couldn't find anything out. What happened, Otto?

I am sure all N.S.W.members will learn with regret of the passing of Norm.Cugley--no doubt Peter will have an official announcement but I should like to express my personal sorrow to his family. I knew him well and he was a great mate: one can't say more than that.

Promotions and Visits. On a happier note, congratulations to Dick Healey, 458 member, well known Sports Broadcaster and for some years a member of the N.S.W. Parliament. Dick has been appointed Minister for Youth and Community Services. He is now the Hon.R.O.Healey, M.L.A., but I am sure he will always be Dick to 458 bods.

You will be relieved to know that Peter Alexander is safely back from the World Veterans Assembly in Paris. Of course, he was never in any danger, armed as he was with the good (and otherwise) advice he received about the dangers to a young man in Paris and how to enjoy them.

We had a letter from Bruce McKenzie's secretary requesting names and addresses of 458ers in Canada. Bruce was heading there and wanted to renew old acquaintanceships. Cy.Irwin supplied the information. This desire by Bruce to meet old friends typifies the spirit which has kept 458 together.

Eric Munkman reports that he and Cy.Irwin visited Stuart (Trapper) Currington in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, as later did Peter Alexander. Trapper is not the best but has benefited from his treatment and expects shortly to return to Peak Hill with Margaret. Best of luck, Mate.

I remind you all that W.A.Flight will be host at the 1975 All-States Reunion. Time will pass quickly, so start planning--and let W.A.Flight know, to assist their plans.

N.S.W. Notes (cont.)

The Polish branch of the Air Force Association celebrates its silver Jubilee this year and is publishing a booklet setting out its history. Should be very interesting. Good luck to all 458ers. A.J.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

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

We have sad news. Joyce Warren passed away on Friday, 15th. February after only a few days in hospital. It seems that Joyce was not well when she and Chas. attended the All-States Reunion in Victoria last year. It was a well-kept secret. No one knew until she entered hospital a few days before her death that Joyce was so ill. The regard with which she was held was attested by the extraordinary large gathering that attended her cremation the following day. The local 458ers were there to every man and wife. Joyce was most popular and respected. She will be missed at our local gatherings. She will be missed, too, by all wives and members of 458 who knew her. Q flight knows that it is joined by every member in expressing our deepest feelings of sympathy to Chas., his three sons and to Joyce's relatives.

Concerning the Queensland floods, Q.Flight wants to say thanks to those many individual persons in other States who contributed to the relief of those who suffered. Q.Flight in particular thanks VictoriaFlight for its offer of financial help to any 458 member who may have suffered. As far as we of the Committee know, no member was involved in the city and nearby districts. It cannot ascertain about every member further afield. At this moment of writing we have yet to hear from anyone in distress.

Yours truly, as usual, is never around when there's trouble. During the floods he was in Tasmania holidaying and could not return until a week after the trouble. He read about the floods in southern newspapers and what they reported was not exaggerated. Ipswich suffered worse than Brisbane, with Maryborough and Rockhampton not far behind. The Gulf country will take about 4/5 years to restock with cattle.

To pleasanter thoughts: the local boys and their wives had a most pleasant pre-Xmas get-together at the Sherwood Services Club and one nearer to Xmas at the Holliday home. It wasn't stockings hanging from the mantelpiece that got full.

Sel. Foote and wife Joan have just returned from a visit to England. Had a grand time and report that the fuel crisis has dimmed the lights but hasn't doused them. The situation is not as bad as reported.

Our most photographed member, Gordon Postle, was last seen in the local newspapers standing in a 4-poster bed auctioning the fittings and furnishings from one of Brisbane's famous old pubs. A few days earlier his daughter, Sue, graced the pages as a beautiful bride (a former Miss Queensland).

Maureen Cahill has returned to her old profession of nursing at the Nambour Hospital. New address 2, Elizabeth Way, Nambour.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Jim Timms, 39, Frank Street, Vermont, 3133.

Vale, Norm. Cugley !

No doubt this is the saddest news letter I have had to write because 458 in general and this Flight in particular, together with his wife, Nance, and family Don and Gail, have suffered the sudden passing of Norm. Cugley on 21st. January. "Cug", as we all knew him, served the Squadron to his utmost in both war and peace. He was a foundation committee member of Vic. Flight and a Past President. Although not enjoying the best of health for some time, his organising and assistance together with the attendance of his family and friends at all fund-raising events for the last All-States Reunion together with their attendance at various All-States functions went a long way to making that week such an outstanding success.

While 458 was Norm's main interest, he devoted a lot of time and energy to the Boy Scout movement. When time permitted his main hobby was fishing with his family and friends at St. Leonards. It was evident from the large attendance at both the service and the interment (at which members of 458 formed a Guard of Honour) just how popular our Norm was. Many 458ers travelled from far afield to attend,

Victorian Views (cont.)

showing in what esteem Norm. was held by all who knew him. To Nance, Don. and Gail--our thoughts are with you.

Personal Pars.

Our Xmas Get-together was held on 9th. December again at the home of Roger and Jean Rodwell. Quite a number of Squadron members, wives and friends attended for a barbecue lunch and a few drinks. Now, here is one for the records. Jean Rodwell has for the past three years made a Xmas cake to be raffled to aid the Ladies funds--it was won by Johnny Fleming--the third year in succession it had gone to the Flemings. Another high-light of the day was that Roger lost his footing at one stage while collecting five cents for a game of housie, sat on a plastic ice box belonging to one of Stan. Tarczynski's friends and wrecked it. Stan hopefully put the handle--the only intact part--up to sale--but no takers. However, a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all who attended. Thanks, Roger and Jean.

Elaine and I went to Broken Hill for a week over the Xmas period. After making a few inquiries found Howard Prout, who looks well for his 72 years. He wishes to be remembered to any of the boys who served with him. Overnight stop at Mildura on the way home, so phoned Don. Johnson, which led to a few beers at the Working Man's Club. Mildura must agree with Don, he looks very fit and well.

Bob and Betty Ellis phoned me recently, they are here on a visit from Perth. Bob, ex 459, has apparently been adopted by our 458 boys. Invited a few 458 boys who live nearby over to meet them on 30th. January. An enjoyable evening and Bob informs us that W.A. are on the job for our next A.S.R.

Roger and Jean Rodwell were hosts to interstate members "Twozey" and Jess Taylor last week. Seems to me that nickname should be changed.

Ern. Laming has been to New Guinea--when speaking to Jean, she was not sure of his whereabouts. Ern. ??

Had a note from Harold (Curly) Young a few weeks ago. He suffered three heart attacks last year. Has sold his business and home and is retiring to live in Red Hill South on the Peninsula. Look after yourself, Curly.

Yank Martin very disappointed with Roger Rodwell. One hot day recently he was passing Roger's home, decided to call in for a cold beer, only iced water on tap. Do you good, Yank.

Dot and John Fleming, Vic. Flight President, are holidaying at St. Leonards. Have just settled daughter Jennifer to a teaching post at Puckapunyal, and preparing for Rhonda to enter Latrobe University. Good luck, Rhonda. Regards to all.

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TO WEST AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS.

458 Squadron is looking forward to being with you for the 1975 All-States Reunion around Anzac Day. We know Bill Clues, as Flight President and also as a Squadron Vice President, is working extremely hard in making plans and arrangements. Believe, however, he could do with a hand--not just for assistance with cash, important though that is--but in planning and arranging details and in sharing responsibilities. Give him a call.

Some of the N.S.W. members and wives planning to go West for the Reunion are: Eric Munkman, Arnold Ashton, Sam Barlow, Fred Strom (no wife), Stan Longhurst, Allan Walker (ditto to Fred), Peter Alexander, Cy. Irwin, Noel Spurling (ditto). Eric Munkman wants to know if Stan and Babe Smith are going?

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FROM BOB McKINNA. To the Editor.

Dear Peter,

I would like to write a few lines on the passing of Norm. Cugley, and what that sad event means to us. I do this because along with a number of Victorian 458 members, we formed up on the same day in 1940 and were together throughout our service career. The passing of Norm. came as a big shock and created a big loss to us in our lives. To find out what this loss means to all past members of 458 takes a bit of thought and I think the best way to explain this is to tell of our days together and what we all gained by knowing him.

From Bob McKinna (cont.)

First of all, I must say that he was posted to 458 from Australia in mid 1941 and remained with it until disbandment in 1945. For over four years he was a very conscientious member, always friendly with a ready smile. Someone to lean on when down in spirits, a prop when the going was tough, and was always about when needed. All these qualities combined with the right amount of sadness and compassion for others made him the man he was.

One of his many attributes was shown when he was detached from 458 in Egypt from April, 1943 until Xmas 1943. Four aircraft with approx. 20 ground crews & aircrews under Mick Moran had the honour of obtaining the highest number of hours flown with four aircraft--370 hours for May and subsequent months. Cug had the job of carting and arranging fuel and oil supplies from Amiriya fuel dump from 4 gallon cans--a hell of a lot of cans as you can imagine. The job was carried out with the minimum of fuss. 458 was a lucky unit for we had many members like Norman Cugley and through their efforts both during the war years and since have helped 458 to become the unit it was and still is.

For Victorians, I'd like to mention that Norm was the longest serving member of the Vic. Flight Committee and one of the original members of the Vic. Flight, helping, with Shorty Wilson, Ken Brown, and myself to organise our first reunion in 1946 and since that time he has not been off the committee and hardly missing a meeting.

Excuse my being carried away but I wanted to tell you what we have gained by knowing him and what a loss his passing means to us. On behalf of all Vic. Flight members, and Squadron members generally, in conveying to Nancy, Don and Gail our deepest sympathy at this sad time, I would like to say this in the memory of Norm (Cug) one of nature's gentlemen and a true friend.

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HOWARD GAVIN RETIRES FROM R.A.A.F.

Howard Gavin, O.B.E., D.F.C. has recently retired, as a Group Captain, from the R.A.A.F. He joined the R.A.A.F. in March 1941 and trained in Rhodesia with the E.A.T.S. He was then sent to the Middle East where he did a tour with 458 Squadron before going on to England where he subsequently joined 617 Squadron (the Dambusters) and took part in the sinking of the Tirpitz.

Since the war, Howard has held senior administrative positions in the R.A.A.F. and other Squadron members encountered him from time to time. His final posting was as C.O. Base Squadron, Wagga.

We wish him well in his retirement and hope to keep in touch.

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CORRESPONDANCE: Letters to Squadron Members.To Ern. Laming from Bill Matthews (Postman at Holme-on-Spalding Moor.)

Dear Mr. Laming,

Just to let you know we received the boomerang safely and in good order which we appreciated and you so kindly sent to us.

We had already received one from Bill Taylor for the little boy, but we have two grandsons, 10 & 12, who have great fun with it when they come. You are all so very kind in Australia.

We are enclosing a clipping out of one of our local newspapers which includes a photo of our little cottage and the comment about the Australian war graves will no doubt reassure you they are being kept in good order. Thank you once again for your kindness, yours faithfully, Bill Matthews (Postman).

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The clipping enclosed with the letter shows a summer view of the centre of Holme including the attractive Matthews cottage. The article says, in part, "The sprawling village of Holme-on-Spalding Moor once marked the last outpost before a trackless swamp. Centuries ago monks lived in a special cell in the area and their job was the guide travellers across the morass. To-day Holme (pop. 1,712) is rapidly expanding with new housing developments. Nevertheless, it still manages to retain much of its character....the churchyard and burial grounds, including a well-maintained section for allied airmen, greatly impressed.... The well-known sandstone hill on which is built All Saints Church, according to one old book, is an island in a plain--the Danish word Holm meant an island."

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EX-SERVICE AFFAIRS IN AUSTRALIA and OVERSEAS.The Future of Repatriation.

There have been two public inquiries in the past year into the Repatriation system--one by the Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, then chaired by Senator Nancy Buttfield of South Australia--the other by Mr. Justice Toose of the N.S.W. Supreme Court who functioned as the Independent Inquiry into the Repatriation System. Most ex-Service associations gave evidence to both inquiries--carefully and at length. I myself appeared twice before the Judge--on behalf of the Air Force Association and then of the Australian Services Council; and before the Senate Committee. We now have the Report of the Senate Committee. Those who appeared before that Committee felt at the time that many of its members had little knowledge of or sympathy for repatriation and possessed hefty pre-conceptions of their own. For example, the Chairman produced such gems of philosophy as "We don't want two classes in Australia; you ex-servicemen with all your privileges; and the rest of the Community." Our reply, of course, was that we don't want two classes either--ex-Servicemen with uncompensated service-caused disabilities; and the rest of the Community. The Senate report though generally 'light-weight' shows every sign that the Committee, as a whole, learned little and forgot none of its prejudices. To name a few recommendations: absorption of the Repat. Hospitals in a General Hospital Service; patients to be directed to rehabilitation with penalties for failure to comply i.e. rehabilitation with penalty clauses; abolition of special provisions for T.B. sufferers; and a remarkable proposal to make patients use public transport.

The Australian Services Council called on the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Bishop) very recently to tell him that the ex-Service community rejects the report and ask the Government to await the Toose Report, which we hope will be balanced and sympathetic. Though, if it is not, as we told the Minister, we will fight like hell against that too.

The World Veterans Federation.

As Arthur Jollow has told you, I visited Paris to attend the triennial Assembly of the Federation late last year. I guess I escaped the dangers he feared. A slipped disc played up just before I arrived and no doubt served as a restraining factor. The Federation is the international body for ex-servicemen (veterans). It doesn't interfere on the national level but deals with such things as international research into prosthetics; the protection of the rights of prisoners of war; constructive aid for war-ravaged areas. We proposed a motion, which was carried, to seek to aid veterans in Vietnam. It is most worth-while to meet the ex-service leaders from other lands and leads to considerable international friendship. The R.S.L. applied for membership of W.V.F. at this meeting and National Secretary Bill Keys joined us in Paris, for part of the Assembly. I was appointed as W.V.F. Council member for Australia for three years--a second term of office, the earlier one having been from 1967-70.

Australia was asked to set up in Sydney a Liaison Office for Veterans Affairs in Asia and the Pacific. This has been done and we are currently handling a request for aid from Saigon--they seek supply of auto-electrician's and auto-mechanic's tool kits for soldiers being discharged into the ravaged community of Vietnam. We are seeking funds from the various ex-service bodies. We also publish a quarterly newsletter which circulates in the Area.

World Assembly of Veterans.

The R.S.L. is planning a general get-together of war veterans and their families in Sydney in August 1975, co-inciding, we hope, with a meeting on Sydney of the Council of the W.V.F. All veterans, of either side of the wars or the iron and other curtains will be invited to come. There will be a week-long programme to include an outdoor Australian Day, a variety concert, a Tattoo visits to repat centres, a youth display, etc. Official opening perhaps by the Secretary General of U.N.O.. The other W.V.F. member Association are supporting the idea and the Australian Services Council is recommending it to its member bodies.

The Air Force Association.

Our own Association currently has, among many other activities, a campaign about to begin, in conjunction with the R.A.A.F., to encourage serving men and women to join the Association in larger numbers. We realise that the imagination and energy of younger men and women is essential to the continuing efficiency and indeed existence of the Association. Special action will be taken on R.A.A.F. Stations to contact personnel and a reduced Annual Sub of \$2-00 will be offered to serving men and women. Here's hoping!

Peter Alexander.