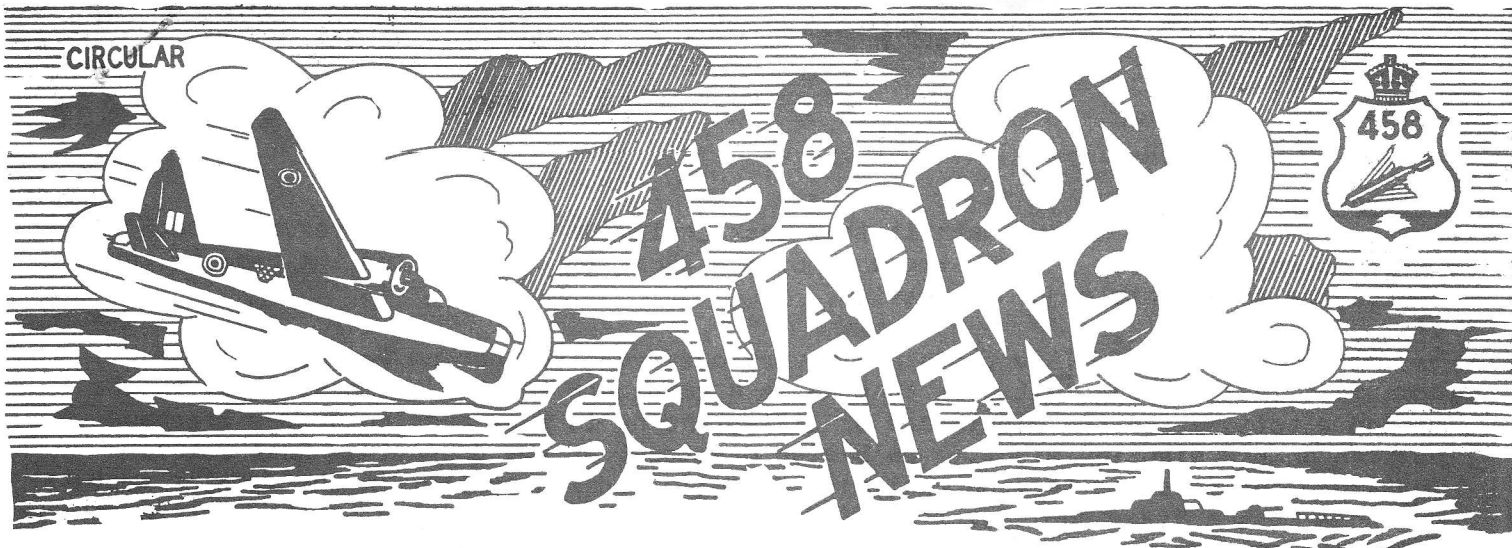


CIRCULAR



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458 SQUADRON COUNCIL--OFFICE - BEARERS.

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

JUBILEE ISSUE NEXT.

Observant Readers will already have noticed that this is the 99th Issue of the 458 Squadron News. Accordingly, the next issue will complete 25 Years of continuous publication of the News. No issue has been missed. This seems to the Squadron Council something not to pass without celebration and some special features are planned for the next--the 100th--issue. Another 25 years of publication may or may not happen. But certainly not too many other ex-Service Units have published a paper for 25 years; we are sure no other R.A.A.F. unit has done so. We rather doubt if any other Air Force Unit has done so. So, it will be quite an occasion.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Len MacDonnell, 49, Tennyson St., Norman Park, 4170, Q.

Anzac Day March. Because of a slightly changed starting point, 458 finished up with 17 458ers, including two Associates, plus some 5 chaps who couldn't find their own particular groups with whom to march. The March itself was one of the best in Queensland for some time, and the on-looking crowd exceeded all expectations. We were lucky, too, to strike the only fine day in an otherwise very wet week.

The Reunion which followed at the Army Depot in Water Street, was very well attended and followed the normal pattern of Q.Flight Anzac Day Reunion. It was good to see Chas. Warren back in Brisbane for the March, after spending some weeks in West Queensland seeing his cobbles.

Elections. At the Annual Election of Officers during the afternoon, Don. Brandon, after serving some 3 years as President, and following a change in his business career, with a subsequent move to Beenleigh, indicated that he would be happy to step down if someone else would take on the job. After much "chi-laking" and expressions of appreciation for the job which Don. and his wife had done, Clive Wyman was elected his successor. Clive, as most Sydneysiders and Melbourneites will know, from his many trips to the South, is a most enthusiastic member of Q.Flight, and we are all happy to have him as our new President.

Following his transfer to Queensland, Ian Higlett has now joined the Q.Flight Committee, and we are looking forward to his company at all future meetings.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Rumour hath it that Jack Lewis, our Flight Treasurer, has concocted a very potent home-brew. From the word of one 458er who has sampled the brew, he may possibly be going into major production.

Postle for Parliament ?

It's certainly a very busy year for Gordon Postle. It was announced in the Press last week that he is a candidate for the National Party in the coming elections, for the electorate of Lilley, and he is busy rushing around Brisbane putting up his election signs. He's also President of the Queensland Real Estate Institute, for a second term, so that, with a family wedding earlier in the Year, he must now know that a "free and easy life" (if he ever had it) is a thing of the past, for the time being, at any rate.

Holliday Overseas.

We saw Peg Holliday a week before she and Jim left for their overseas trip. Said she hadn't had time to get excited about their own trip as daughter Jill was arriving home from overseas about two days before they were leaving, so things were in a bit of a whirl. Their son went overseas last year, is working in London, and has bought a car which he is putting at their disposal, so it sounds as if the Hollidays had really organised themselves a good trip. Jim, I guess that Jill will post this on to you, so wherever you are when you read it, we hope the holiday is going just fine; all the troops, plus wives, send their best wishes to you both.

Trippers All.

Keith and Mabe Campbell are back from a lovely trip in the South--their only complaint, not long enough. They teamed up with friends who had spent their honeymoon in Katoomba 25 years ago, and the four had a luxurious four days over Easter at the same hotel. The Campbells then moved on to Canberra, then to Forbes, where they contacted Biddy Campbell. Biddy was the widow of 458er, Norm Kobelke, who was killed in an accident at Amberley after the War; she is now married to a dentist at Forbes. When the Campbells phoned Biddy, she asked which Motel they were at, and practically straight away she and her husband were knocking at their door--it turned out they lived exactly opposite said motel!

The Len MacDonnells have just returned from 3 weeks at Queensland's Sunshine Coast, and saw a lot of Eric Lloyd up at Coolumb. He is in a big way in Real Estate now, and his two sons are now in business with him, with wife Bridie also helping quite a lot in the office work. Bridie complains that she works too hard, but she certainly looks well--so, obviously thrives on it. Both of them are very keen on bowls, and in fact Bridie is President of the Ladies Club at Peregrine. They are just about to move into a lovely two-storied home they are building at Peregrine Beach--back to back with the local bowling club, so that's handy, isn't it ?

Western Wishes.

Q.Flight hopes that things go extremely well for Western Australia next year with the All-States Reunion, and whilst we have at least two certain starters, with their wives, we are confident that this number will increase. So, think about it, chaps !

CORNSTALK COMMENTS.

FROM Arthur Jollow, 40, Nicholson St., Chatswood,
2067, N.S.W.

This month of May sees the 250th. Meeting of the N.S.W. Flight Committee. Each year ten meetings are held and the sequence is unbroken. Who would have prophesied at the meeting at Alghero in 1944, when it was arranged for a post-war Reunion, that 458 would have blossomed so !

To celebrate the occasion, Graeme and Dulcie Coombes have invited the Committee and their wives, together with Past Presidents, to their home where the meeting will be held. A Buffet Dinner will be served and I believe there will be some Coca-cola too. We of the Committee are most appreciative of this hospitality from Graeme and Dulcie and thank them most sincerely. I wonder how many ex-service units can match this record ?

458 Squadron News' Century.

The August issue of the News will be the one hundredth edition. This also is in unbroken sequence, which is surely a record for a publication of this type. It is intended that it be something special and with indefatigable Peter C. Alexander, my bet is it will be. He has been guide, mentor, strength, and driving force since its inception, and without him I believe it would not have survived. Good on you, Peter !

Cornstalk Comments (cont.)

To make this edition the success it should be, we need NEWS. All about you and your families, what has happened to you. Any incidents not too libelous (that'll curb you)--in fact anything you feel would be of interest to your old mates. Remember--crystal balls cost money and are hard to come by, so if you don't tell us we won't know, and no one else will either. Everyone is interested, so it's up to you.

Anzac Eve. A wreath was laid by Eric Munkman as N.S.W. Flight President, in the Air Force Memorial Chapel at the Air Force Club in Sydney. Roll up was good and included some wives, who are always most welcome to join with us in Squadron activities.

Anzac Day. Cool and a bit overcast at first, but fined up to a pleasant day. Quite a good attendance at the March which went off very well. Old Squadron stalwart Fred Strom was Sister Anna and said if his helpers hadn't held on to him, he would have taken off in the wind. The marchers were joined at the Great Southern by the halt and the lame and the lazy (including me) for luncheon and a most pleasant afternoon followed. There is always a great atmosphere at 458 Squadron get-togethers--never a discordant note. It was great to see among those present Bill McBride. Bill has been "proper poorly" for some time but looked quite well on this occasion. Sends his regards to all his mates. Bob Lyndon was there too. He hadn't been sighted for some time but has now returned to Sydney as Bus Operations Manager, Government Transport. Henry Bryant was there and Bob Millar. It was good to see Fred Ayres who will be retiring soon we understand from the Post Office. Bob Bruce, another in attendance is now very active with Legacy. Has some ideas of moving to Canberra.

All in all, a very happy reunion, and I think we all went away happier for having met old friends once more.

Best wishes to old friends, wherever you are---Arthur Jollow.

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid. Thompson, 49, Amblescott Rd., Grove Park,
London, SE 12 9TN.

Squadron News.

I have been in touch with Harry Bishop quite recently; he is quite well and sends his best to all his Aussie friends. Fred Nieman is just getting over having all his teeth out; he is quite well apart from that and doing quite well business-wise.

Bill Anton--now aged 71 is keeping fit and well but feeling the pinch now he is living on his pension. But he manages to get in a holiday now and then.

I was talking to Charlie Humbles on the telephone earlier this evening. He is still growing his roses and doing well at golf (his wife was Club woman (Champion last year)). Charlie wishes to be remembered to Shorty Wilson.

Myself, I am off on a week's leave to Ibiza on Saturday with my wife (it's our 23rd wedding anniversary to-day)--2nd honeymoon!

That's about all my news--oh, one of my friends in the office has gone to Canberra (BRDSS) for a couple of years. I tried to go but he has more service than me. Never mind, another chance may come one day. All for now, cheers, Sid.

CROWEATER NEWS.

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

Desert Air Force.

On Friday night, the 24th April, I whizzed along to the Richmond Hotel, where 3 Squadron were to have their dinner. As I entered the Saloon Bar, I was confronted by a gang of blokes from various Squadrons, all having the qualification that they had served in the Middle East. We batted on for about an hour and then retired to the 1st Floor where we enjoyed an excellent dinner.

One of the subjects discussed was the renaming of the occasion to the Desert Air Force Dinner. The motion was carried on a show of hands and it is intended that the dinner be held each year on the eve of Anzac Day. I trust we shall have a representative group from 458 Squadron at the next dinner.

Anzac Day.

I am afraid I was unable to make it to the Airport for the service this year but Ron Badger informed me that a very large crowd was in attendance and Padre

Croweater News (cont.)

Shepherd conducted the service. A plaque commemorating the Desert Air Force Squadrons, i.e., 3 Sqdn., 450 and 451 Sqdns. was unveiled. There are now 10 plaques representing 16 Squadrons at the Airport. A letter from Padre Fred. McKay was read to those assembled.

The March.

Although over a shorter route this year, the March proceeded without incident (no streakers). In brilliant sunshine the 22 strong 458 Flight, with two junior standard bearers headed down King William Street to where the Guv., Sir Mark, took the salute. The usual reunion was to take place at the Hotel Cougar but I opted out as I had an engagement on the bowling green. Those marching were:

Bill Taylor	Eric Baker	Bruce Thomas	Bert Ravenscroft	Jack McGlasson
John Carey	Ron Badger	Geoff. Esau	Jack Riseley	Mel. Priest
Keith Foreman	Len Gardner	Norm. Trewartha	Reg. Priest	Sid Bartram
Geoff. Briggs	Fred. Kelly	Jack Fisher	Norm. Hallam	Paul Hallam
Harry Bartram	Chas. Cunningham.			

Ding Conway.

A few of the boys were there to farewell our old cobbler "Ding" Conway at the Railway Station recently where he was on his way to W.A. to take up permanent residence. All the best, Pal, and we hope to see you at the Reunion next year.

Frank Barnett.

Over from W.A. and a former member of the Big Dig.'s crew, was entertained by Bill Taylor, Flash Thomas, and Jack Riseley.

Laurie Le Guay.

--who will no doubt be remembered by many for his contributions to Man Magazine as well as his official duties as war photographer appeared in Adelaide a few weeks ago. A barbecue, prepared by well-known scribe Robbie Robinson, was well-attended to welcome Laurie.

Jack and Verna Riseley.

Have been at it again. Back from a holiday in New Zealand, Jack is looking as fit as the proverbial bull and informed me he is twice as dangerous.

Wedding Bells.

Recently pealed for Brett (son of Bill and Madge Taylor); Tony and Peter (sons of Sid and Pat Bartram), and Margaret (daughter of Brian and Joan (Woodhead)).

Sympathy.

Deepest sympathy to Brian and Joan Woodhead on the recent loss of their Beverley, who passed away on 11th. March. All the best, Lofty.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

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

Anzac Day.

After all the bad weather we have been having down here it was a warm sunny day. Naturally, not as big a roll-up as last year, the total number 26.

The Roll Call--

Jack Fleming (Flt. Pres.)	G. Cuthbertson	Ron. Russell,
Ken Morkham	Mick Singe	Tom. Primrose
Ted. Kennedy	Tom. Burgess	Ern. Laming
Russ. Connolly	Arthur Green	H. Young
Ron Redpath	Ian Alison	Stan Tarczynski
H. Martin	M. Hurford	Stan Cartledge
Jim Timms.		

Two interstate members we were very pleased to see at the Reunion were Lock Simpson (W.A. Flight), and Bill Wilkinson (Tasmania)

Our Reunion was held at the Melbourne Bowling Club, and Victoria Flight sincerely thank the Club, also Harry Ashworth and Ian Alison for the part they played in organising the Reunion. Harry was in Mildura at a big bowls tournament but handled all the ground work and Ian followed it through--a very good lunch. afternoon tea and plenty to drink--a very good reunion.

Ken Morkham is our new President;

Roger Rodwell--Senior Vice;

Russ. Connolly--Junior Vice

Yours truly--Secretary/Treasurer; and 9 committee who have served this Flight for a long time:--hence another successful year is ahead, I'm sure.

Who Goes West ?

Before we finally finished the meeting I went round the tables and asked who would be almost definite starters for the W.A.Reunion and am sure W.A.Flight will be pleased with the number of starters; the Lamings, Flemings, Connollys, Martins, McKinnas, Greens, Ashworths, Tarczynskis, Morkhams, L.Simpson, T.Kennedy, and, possibly, Youngs and Cuthbertsons.

Personals:

Gordon and Peg Cuthbertson organised a social B.B.Q. get-together on 3rd. March for all those interested--some journeyed down and stayed the night with Peg and Gordon at Ocean Grove while others stayed with Dot and John Fleming at St. Leonards. Elaine and I, Bob and Beat, McKinna, and Nance Cugley went down Sunday morning--a most enjoyable week end. On Sunday 24th. March, John and Marj. Bilney held another B.B.Q. and Wine Bottling Day at their property at Kangaroo Ground. There is no doubt in my mind that these days cannot be anything but a huge success. Thanks again, John, Marj and family. Incidentally, eldest son Roger announced his engagement the previous day. Congratulations to the happy couple. Stephen (only son of Yank and Kath) Martin was married the day after Anzac Day so was Don Cugley--all 458 wish these two couples a happy future. Ken Morkham phoned whilst writing this news to inform me that Bluey Firth's mother passed away on 26th. April. Deepest sympathy, Dave, from 458 Squadron.

Regards to all, Jim.

PASSING OF 458 ers.HOWARD PROUT.

A most well-known 458 Groundstaff member, who had lived his post war years in Broken Hill, N.S.W., has passed on. We received this letter from his widow, Mrs. Marjory Prout, during March.

"It is with sad and deep regret I have to tell you of the sudden death of my late husband, Howard Prout, on 29th. January, 1974. He was his usual self when he went to bed. I happened to wake up and noticed his light on, so went into his room and found him dead. You can just imagine the shock I got. A bit too much for me; if I was a younger woman one would probably stand up to it better but 74 years will take getting over. I would have written before but didn't have the address and your journal only arrived this morning. I know Howard always looked forward to getting them. The last few months I could see him slipping but he would never say anything and I never dreamed there was anything wrong with his heart. I will just have to wait and see if the Repatriation accepts that it was due to war injuries, they said it would take a long time." M. Prout.

We have sent and now renew our expressions of 458's sympathy and anxiety to be of any assistance desired.

BILL GUNNER.

Mrs. Sheila Gunner writes, to Jim Timms as Victorian Flight Secretary: "458 Squadron News has been sent to my husband for many years. I am not sure who dispatches the News but, as you write for the Victorian Flight perhaps you can arrange for my husband's name to be removed from the mailing list. After an operation in November 1972, my husband, Bill, learned that he had cancer. He was given chemo-therapy and was able to carry on his business until the end of July when his condition began to deteriorate more rapidly, and he died last October. Thank you for the many issues of 458 Squadron News which were sent to him, and wishing the Squadron all the best for the W.A.Reunion. Yours sincerely "Sheila Gunner".

To Mrs. Gunner 458's sincere sympathy from Bill's 458 mates.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Bill Matthews, The Cottage, Old Road, Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorks, to Ern Laming

Dear Mr. Laming, Just to let you know that we received the food parcel which was most welcome for, as you know, prices for tinned food are so expensive: it was so

Correspondence (cont.)

From Bill Matthews. I have been busy cutting the big rhododendron hedge down round the graves and planting new rose trees on all the Australian graves which will help to repay you for your kindness. They look so much better now they are more in the open.
Have the floods avoided you in Australia that we have heard about on T.V. ? Hope you are all keeping well and thanking you once again, Kind regards from Bill and Mona Matthews.

* * * * *

From Lock Simpson, P.O. Box 81, Mt. Hawthorn, 6016, Western Australia.

Dear Peter, Ever since my overseas trip I have been intending to send to you a group of photographs which will surely be interesting to most 458 Chaps. During my visit to England I was able to call on Reg. Bullen, who is now an Air Vice Marshal, and he took Margaret and me up to Cranwell for the R.A.F. sponsored Service Horse Championships. It was rather a wonderful day and included in the photographs are two showing Reg and his wife Kristianne.
I was also able to look up Guy Johnston who was a Wireless Operator. He is living in York and has a very lovely cottage just outside of the city. He is well except that he had some problem with his hip and a joint in the hip has been replaced with a plastic joint. He hobbles along a bit but otherwise is quite fit. When I called on him he met me wearing a '458' Squadron Association blazer. He sends his best wishes to everyone in Australia. I tried very hard to locate my Navigator, Gerry Ring, but Gerry seems to have disappeared somehow. The last we heard of him he had a parish near Bristol. Guy Johnston is continuing his search for Gerry....
During my visit to Guy we drove down to the Aerodrome at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. I signed the Visitors Book there and had a look at the Acacia tree which Johnno Johnston planted there many years ago. You can assure Johnno when you see him that the tree is growing quite soundly and quite a few people notice it and comment on it, according to the guards at the entrance to the Aerodrome.
After my visit to the United Kingdom I took the opportunity of doing a sentimental journey back to Malta where of course my very dear friend, Russ. McMillan, was killed. Enclosed are photographs of Russ' grave and also the grave of Arthur Huntley who was a gunner who died in the same crew. You will remember that Reg. Bullen was the Navigator in Russ. McMillan's crew. You will also see several photographs which shew the way the cemetery in Malta has been kept. Another photograph which will be of interest to the chaps is one of the Meadowbank Hotel in Sliema. Those who were on the Malta Detachment from Bone will remember Meadowbank as the Hotel which billeted the officers. I had a meal at this Hotel and spoke with the proprietor who shewed me over the building and I was able to go into the room that Russ. McMillan, Reg. Bullen and I occupied during our stay in Malta.
Another set of photographs shew the R.A.F. Memorial which stands at the entrance to the City of Valetta. It is a very attractive Monument indeed.
With best wishes, yours sincerely, Lock.

ARE YOU GOING TO PERTH NEXT APRIL ?

IF SO PLAN NOW.