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TO ALL OUR READERS -- A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WHO GOES WEST ?

ALL STATES REUNION NEXT APRIL IN PERTH.

ALL STATES WEST.

from Tom Hicks, 71, Burren Gate, Willetton, 6155.

We have had a very encouraging response for the All-States Reunion for April, 1975. There have been a number of late replies and we are still happy to push over and make some more room. From the East there should be well in excess of 60 guests and this excludes the many good friends who have written to make enquiries.

All the organisation has been well and ably conducted by by our President, Bill Clues, with the able direction --and good tolerance--of Joan. W.A. Members are fortunate to have such good leaders in times when action is required.

The members of the Flight are now looking forward to a grand Reunion, but each and everyone in W.A. is required to put his shoulder to the wheel to give the necessary assistance and encouragement to ensure success. On Parade, W.A. Flight ! Volunteers (and that includes all, repeat all, W.A. Flight members) are requested to help NOW and DURING the Reunion period. Plans for the Reunion are well in hand and most bookings have been confirmed.

I regret that we have not been in a position to answer the many queries of our guests. Now, however, there is a very good indication of numbers, we hope to be writing you within the next month. If there is anyone having second thoughts, please, don't hesitate to write and stake your claim.

Ted and Elsie Jewell are arranging a Bar-B-Q on 14th. December when the last raffle prize will be drawn. Please return your raffle tickets by December 10th to Bill Clues. A big turnout is expected. Ted Jewell and Bill Clues have sold between 40 and 50 books of tickets so far. There are still some unsold so we hope for more sales. We are now awaiting the grand invasion of our guests.

The arrival and meeting of guests is expected for Wednesday 23rd. April. There will be a Reception Party on Thursday evening for the renewal of old acquaintance. Friday will commence with a Dawn Service and wreath-laying ceremony. After the March, a luncheon has been arranged for the Ladies, and gentlemen will retire for the Reunion and Refreshments. Assuming that everyone has had enough for one day, there will be no organised activities for the evening.

You will be expected to turn up shortly after the lark on Saturday for the Squadron Conference and Golf. ---10 holes or 19 depending on the mood of the day. In the evening, there will be the Reunion Dinner-Dance when everyone will be expected to take to the floor (on his feet) and make this an evening to remember. On Sunday there will be a leisurely bus tour along the coast to Mandurah with lunch at the Ravenswood Hotel. The afternoon return journey will be by the inland route via Pinjarra and Armadale. A Farewell party in the evening will end our Reunion.

--Tom Hicks.

JIM--IN HOLLIDAY MOOD.

(Welcome back to Jim Holliday, who has been overseas)

--Ed.

The major news is our Melbourne Cup Sweep. This year the response was not quite as good as last year despite our second offering of \$50;\$25, and \$12-50, for 20 cents. the winner was Mrs. Sheldon, of Beenleigh, sold by Don. Brandon; the second was Rolf Ravenscroft, son of Theo; and third, Vic. Russell, cobbler of Jack Lewis.

Since Len MacDonnell contributed the last news, Brisbane members held a special dinner at the United Service Club with wives, and most delightful it was, with the excellent cuisine for which the Club is most famous. However, the object of the gathering was to see some of the slides yours truly took on his overseas trip. Fortunately, much passing of the port helped the gathering to digest this direful dessert.

At Holme.

Of passing interest was that yours truly visited Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Saw Lock Simpson's name in the book in the "Guard" Room and like him was not admitted to the aerodrome. Its in the hands of Hawker-Siddeley, doing some ultra hush-hush experiments with aerial thermal photography. Real hot stuff, apparently. Saw the "Tree" though. From the closely guarded entrance it appeared that the the aerodrome is very much as it was in wartime. Keith Campbell's brother visited a few weeks prior to Lock and myself and was fortunate to be taken around by the Chief Test Pilot and allowed to take photographs. We showed these slides at our United Services Club Do.

However, the refusal of entrance was compensated for by a visit to the Church on the Hill, and to the well-tended graves of twelve 458ers buried there. If anyone would like a photograph of these please write to yours truly. (Ed.--Yes, please, for the Squadron Albums, Jim)

Judgment in the North.

Bernie (Judge) McLoughlin reports on a recent visit to Cairns on District Court circuit. There he met up with Erle Hetherington who, Bernie reports, is very well. Erle reports on a strange tale. On a recent visit to Cooktown (Erle is on boats out of Cairns) he was placed for dinner at a table in one of the local hotels with none other than W/Cdr. John Carter, son of Jack Carter, a particular mate of Erle's. Neither Erle or W/C. John had met before. But both picked up each other's name. W/C. John has retired from the R.A.A.F. and was looking around Australia for a place to settle.

Next Bernie went to Mareeba and looked up Bob Dangaard who owns the local Cold Stores. Reports him well, but looking forward to retirement when his son is discharged from the Services.

The third strange happening was the meeting of Tim McQuaid's son, Brian.. As Bernie was leaving the Cairns Court House to fly home his aide informed him that a young fellow working in the Registry of the Court wanted to meet him. Brian's dad had told him of Bernie! How's that for coincidences? Jim..

(Editor: I might supplement the story of Cairns. It happened I too was in Cairns on business when Bernie was there--I am presuming it was the same visit of Bernie come to judgment--and met him, Erle, and Jim Plunkett. We had a meeting with the Cairns branch of the Air Force Association and not a few beers. J.J.J. Plunkett is the Mr. Air Force Association and the Mr. 458 of Cairns. He works with the City Engineers Dept. and despite some health problems holds his own in no uncertain way. I did not get to see Johnny Dew of Tully but may get back thataway next year.)

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FROM THE CROWEATERS.

S.A. Flight news from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California St.,  
Nailsworth, S.A.

First of all, I would like to say thank you to all of those old cobblers who contacted me and expressed sympathy during our recent trouble. I wish to acknowledge the invaluable assistance so readily proffered by Bill Taylor.

CRAIG, son of Loftus, is at the moment enjoying twelve months leave from the Repat. Dept and is employed by a travel firm in London. Fringe benefits appear to include the ability to jet out of London each weekend with a flat supplied on arrival. His address is 465 High Road, Wood Green, N22, London. I would very much like him to have a drink with some of the old gang if it is possible.

SHERRI, is holidaying in Thailand and will not be home for some weeks so the old bloke is going it solo. Lunches being a prohibitive price I decided to economise the other day. I bought a length of fritz and sat down and made 20 fritz and gherkin sandwiches. Brother, will I be glad when those sandwiches are finished!

Croweater News (cont.)

VERNA RISELEY held an Exhibition of oil paintings at their lovely Beaumont home recently. The number of "Sold" tags attached must have been gratifying, and a tribute to Verna, who is fast establishing herself in the traditional art style. JOHN (JUNIOR) DAVIES down from Port Pirie for a few days was enquiring about prospective starters for the W.A. Trek next year. John and Gloria intend making the trip and will be happy to hear from anyone contemplating going by train. Junior asked to be remembered to all his old coppers and said that his address is now 2, Butterick Street, Port Pirie, 5540.

At the TIVOLI. The Tivoli Hotel was the venue for a reunion of 458ers on Sat. August 24th, where we enjoyed a good meal, good entertainment and above all, good companionship. Those present were--Syd and Pat Bartram, Bill and Madge Taylor, Bruce and Maisie Thomas, Malcolm and Megan Senn, Ted and Freda Creighton, Jack Riseley, Norm. Trewartha, and Barbara Ringwood.

Would S.A. Members PLEASE help make my lot a little easier by dropping me a note and telling me the latest griff. --Lofty.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

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

Well, back to normal after the 100th Issue--which was a credit to Peter and all who contributed to its preparation. It was an outstanding production.

The Melbourne Cup Sweep has been run and a complete list of those who drew horses is in this issue. All those who had a goer were advised either by mail or by telephone. As postal charges are now prohibitive we felt this was the best we could do. The draw took place at the Air Force Club on Friday night, with Stan and Jean Longhurst, Allan (Paddy) Walker, Noel Spurling, Tess and myself. Congratulations to those who won and our thanks to all who participated.

Several members were kind enough to send notes giving information on their doings. Charlie (Otto) Mann tells me he is now 71 years young. He often pops in to see me when in Sydney and drags me off kicking and screaming to the local. I always forgive him. He looks remarkably well.

Fred Ayres writes to say he is well and sends best wishes to all. Don. Bitmead has completed 18 years with the A.T.C. and is to retire next year. Nice to hear from you, Don.

Tom. Ridgeway writes that he has just returned from 3 months overseas but gives no details.

Curly Hoskings sends regards to all the gang and seasons greetings. Snowy Fennell writes to thank all the members who work for the old Squadron. His two eldest sons are at present in the Tennants Creek area after a stint at Groote Eylandt and hope to proceed overseas in the near future. We are glad that all goes well with the Fennell family.

My own son, Michael, is in West Berlin. He writes that he recently attended a wedding in a German village. The mate he has travelled the world with married a very lovely fraulein. Mike says the wedding party walked from the Bride's home to the church; first, bride and groom, closely followed by the bride's parents then the grooms' parents. He reckons the bride's parents are in position in case the groom makes a break for it. They have some very interesting customs, dating back centuries. Firstly, they saw through a log of wood left in a trestle in front of the church, to signify they must work together. They also partake of bread, salt and water, for of those things one may live.

I have recently joined the grandfathers. Simon--per favour of daughter, Maureen, and son-in-law Roy Hessey. They are at Coolah, where Roy is Accountant at the Wales. Elder daughter Margaret is a journalist/broadcaster with Radio Australia in Melbourne. Only Peter, the youngest is at home, building up his strength for next year's rugby season. I have just bought a boat--18', half cabin, and hope to spend many happy hours cruising and fishing the beautiful Hawkesbury River with good companions, a full Esky (to start with), let's hope we have a real summer this year.

To all my mates of many, many, years, a happy and peaceful festive season and may it continue all through the years.

--Arthur Jollow.

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MELBOURNE CUP G/C RESULTS--N.S.W. Flight.

<u>HORSE</u>	<u>DRAWN BY</u>	<u>TICKET</u>	<u>HORSE</u>	<u>DRAWN BY</u>	<u>TICKET</u>	<u>HORSE</u>	<u>DRAWN BY</u>	<u>TICKET.</u>
Corroboree	J.Hancock	1203	Air Voyager	M.Mears	627	Passetreul	H.Coffill	319
Stop Music	H.Whiteman	1906	Quick Answer	A.Walker	1470	Leilani	J.Kenyon	679
Sequester	W.Chapman	408	Mon Vin	C.Tillack	1421	Taras Bulba	G.Coffill	320
Deep Desire	M.F.Bryant	256	Gala Red	L.Reynolds	1230	Bellota	G.Hawke	618
Chelsea Tower	J.Coffill	315	Think Big	V.Wisby	1426	Citadel	M.Cocker	1999
Our Pocket	R.Tyson	1394	Battle Heights	R.Hockey	D22	Turf Cutter	L.Barlow	1986
Top Order	A.Piggott	963	Wirramirra	S.Simpson	1384	Piping Lane	E.Bruce	223
Gay Master	D.McGuigan	732	Special Test	D.Bitmead	E200	Gala Supreme	K.Crago	327
Lord Metric	V.Bitmead	191	Gallant Charger	P.Alexander	E7	Herminia	C.Irwin	1309
Marborough	A.Piggott	966	Igloo	C.Irwin	1306	High Sail	B.Bruce	227
Big Angel	P.Baines	118	Capt.Peri	Wilson	1275	Mahal	W.Wood	2000
Trojan Bronze	V.Fennell	483	His Bestone	G.Coffill	312	Comrade Caviar	S.Barlow	1989
Aberfoyle	G.Saggers	1283	Grand Scale	R.Millar	926	Pilfer	E.Purcill	1182

Thank you, all.

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BRITISH BULLETIN.from Mick Mason, 74, Dalston Lane, Hackney, England.

The years have rolled by but our memories, assisted by the Squadron News, remain undimmed. Until last year the Pommie Section met regularly at the Pathfinders Club, in Mount Street, London.; but what used to be a fairly healthy gathering has now thinned sadly to a few stalwarts consisting of Harry Bishop (Treasurer), Sid Thompsett (Secretary), Leo Armstrong, Pop Angers, Charlie Humbles and myself (President). These offices we have held for many years as we have no one else to accept them. We have been assisted all these years by the long-suffering wives to whom I pay high tribute and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for supporting us for so long and for patiently listening to tales and exploits told and retold so often that I am sure they could relate them more accurately than the tellers. We have clung to the Brotherhood revived so long ago by Pete Pettit and Johnno Johnston at the Feathers Hotel in Westminster. Those meetings were at first 'Stag' and for 4/-. We had a barrel of beer, sausage rolls, various sandwiches and, most important, a chance to say "Do you remember when....?"--assisted by treasured photographs.

We also used to be able to welcome visiting Aussies who had returned on a visit, among whom were Kel Kellam, the Major, Pete Pettit, Lofty Chalmers, many others whose names I have forgotten, and, of course, Peter Alexander. We all treasure the memory of seeing Johnno and Mary sail off from Tilbury where we sank a few duty free drinks before the bell sounded "All Ashore who are going ashore".

For many years we were able to place a wreath, emblazoned with the 458 badge, at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Anzac Day. Unfortunately now, since Anzac Day is not a public holiday, our depleted numbers are unable to attend.

We have a dream that "Ernie", our treasured premium bond, held by our Treasurer, Harry Bishop, may one day oblige and will transport us few remaining stalwarts to an Anzac Day reunion in Australia.....

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THE VICTORIAN VIEW.from Jim Timms, 39, Frank Street, Vermont, Vict.

On 12th. October, Nance Cugley held a bingo night to aid the Ladies funds--quite a good roll-up and a very enjoyable evening.

Ron and Joan Russell's home was the venue for Melbourne Cup day, a Bar-B-Q lunch and sweeps on various races--again to aid the Ladies funds. Our Melbourne Cup Guessing Competition was drawn by President Ken Morkham: first prize of \$150 was won by N. Boulton, 394 Gaffney Street, Pascoe Vale; ticket sold by John Fleming; Second, \$75 was won by Ron Russell, sold to himself; third, \$25 won by P. Thoonen, sold by Cec. Percy.

Personal Pars. Harold (Curly) Young had another heart attack in May and was a patient in the Alfred Hospital for 10 days; he tells me that was the fourth in 15 months. He also informs me they are due to his blood clotting and they have taken the necessary steps to avoid any more--and so do we all, Curly. He sends his best wishes to Tom Moore and family.

Bob and Beatrice McKinnac celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on 22nd. September; daughter, Dal, together with husband Jim and children came from Sydney, and daughter Jill with husband Mike travelled from Perth to attend the occasion.

Victorian Views (cont.)

Congrats. from 458.

Lloyd Simpson underwent a serious operation on 29th. October and is still in hospital--we all wish you a speedy recovery, Lloyd.

John Bilney's wife Marj. has also undergone surgery recently: John tells us she has made a good recovery.

Norman Gilbert, who served with 458 in North Africa arrives in Melbourne from U.K. on 9th. December to stay with his son, David Gilbert, 12, Lawrence Court, Bundooora, 3083, business phone 328 2441. He is anxious to meet any who served with him during his time on the Squadron.

"Woozle" Wurr and wife Pat leave Tullamarine (on Flight 458 would you believe) on 20th December for six weeks in the United States, visiting Pat's sister in Seattle, and generally sightseeing. Safe and happy trip to you both.

Victoria Flight wishes all 458ers and their families a merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

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GRAEME COOMBES HONOURED

The recent bi-ennial Federal Conference of the Air Force Association, held in Canberra, made its Federal Treasurer, Graeme Coombes, a Life Member of the Association. This was in recognition of many years of service in that capacity, as well as service to the A.F.A. through the 458 Squadron branch of the A.F.A. and the N.S.W. State Committee.

The Federal President, Air Vice Marshal Bill Townsend, presented Graeme with his Life Member's badge at a special dinner held in the Air Force Club, Sydney in December. Federal Executive members and members of the Squadron Committee attended with their wives to honour Graeme; Flight President Eric Munkman, as Graeme's branch President, invited the Federal President to present the Life badge which he then did, speaking of the work Graeme and Dulcie Coombes had for so long done.

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IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.Article by the Editor.

I was able--and fortunate--during late November to visit Thailand and South Vietnam, and see something of the work of ex-service organisations there. The occasion came to me arising out of the World Assembly of War Veterans being held in Sydney, on the invitation of the R.S.L., next year. I went to discuss this Assembly with Veterans leaders and took the chance of having wider talks on rehabilitation and co-operation, being concerned in this as the Liaison Officer for Asia and the Pacific for the World Veterans Federation. I flew direct to Bangkok arriving late at night. Qantas, I regretted to find, had mislaid my baggage (it arrived two days later). I was hospitably garlanded with flowers, which was nice though I should have preferred to have my baggage, the tropics being no place to be reduced to what you stand up in. However, one copes.

The Thais are having a big and continuing flow of casualties from the warfare they are having to conduct on their borders, which, however little reported in the Press, is serious. I was taken to see their rehabilitation centres and met many of their executives. Thailand is handling its casualties with efficiency and compassion.

Flying across to Saigon (by Air France, in a Jumbo that was four-fifths empty), I found that unhappy city in better condition and heart than, frankly, I had expected. In a very intensive short period I met Ministers and Veterans leaders, saw their work, or something of it, for their casualties and talked to children at their Orphans Schools. There are a few things I shall always remember. For instance: the South Vietnamese have had nearly ten times as many casualties since the Paris Peace was signed than they had before that non-event. They have over a million men in their Army--well equipped and disciplined though perhaps short of munitions. This monumental effort enables them to hold their own but not a great deal more than that against the Viet Cong guerrillas. I was shown their War Cemetery on the road to Vungtau. There is on the peak of a small hill a shrine where one can see the tens of thousands of graves of young Vietnamese--and indeed coffins awaiting burial by which the families grieve. A most moving thing. I was taken, by courtesy of the Australian Ambassador, to see the Memorial the Vietnamese have erected at Phuoc Li, to the 50,000 Australians who served in Vietnam and especially the 500 who died. It is a fine Memorial.

At my request I met some of the Veterans who were chosen to receive the gift toolkits (auto-electricians and auto-mechanics) which Australian ex-servicemen

In S.E.Asia(cont.)

had raised and sent the money. All this impressed me and I felt assured that what little we here have done and may be able to do is useful. Incidentally I have some hope some of the better-off branches and sub-branches of Australian ex-Service Associations might decide to help some of the Orphans Schools--which are well-run but could do with furniture books etc.

In writing of help sent, I should mention particularly the generosity of the R.S.L., the Air Force Association and, in New Zealand, the R.S.A.

The South Vietnamese are concerned that they may be suffering adverse publicity in Australia and losing the sympathies of old allies. I said I felt this was not so among the Australian veterans I knew. Indeed I hope I may have helped them to feel not entirely forgotten nor wholly deserted. They deserve sympathetic understanding. P.C.A.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

N.S.W. Members are reminded that annual subs are now due. Please send to the Hon. Secretary, 458 Squadron, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, 2001.

A.F.A. 458 Sqdn branch	\$4-00
Wings	1-00
458 Sqdn Association	1-00
458 Squadron News	1-00---according to your choice.

The Hon. Secretary,  
Box 5289, G.P.O.,  
Sydney, N.S.W., 2001.

I enclose\$.....as my annual subscription for 1975.

Name;.....

Address.....

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