

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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

YEAR 26; NO. 103.

May, 1975.

\$1.00 per annum.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT	Peter Power (W.A.)	SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS	Sam Barlow (N.S.W.) Bill Clues (W.A.)
SQUADRON TREASURER	Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.)	SQUADRON SECRETARY	Allan Walker (N.S.W.)
EDITOR OF 458 SQUADRON NEWS		Peter Alexander.	

THE WEST A WINNER !

THE 17th. ALL-STATES REUNION IN PERTH.

Notes from Bill Clues, 179, Kooyong Rd.,
Rivervale, W.A.

Most months I'm battling to find something to write about: to-day, it's just the opposite and I can't think where to begin. From the beginning, I guess.

This goes back 18 months to when we held our first meeting to decide whether we could cope with the 17th. All-States Reunion in W.A. A good many people present believed the task was beyond us, but some felt that with a little effort it could be done: and to all those who gave their assistance, and, where this was not possible, their money, I extend my personal thanks. For, without this help we would have found the going much harder.

The week leading up to Anzac Day was hectic for yours truly. I found myself meeting the train on the 19th. A Sunday, mind you, at 7 a.m. and the boys had only left Sydney that day. So you can see how mixed up I was. They finally arrived on Tuesday. Anyway, Thursday evening arrived at last and went off very well. Possibly too well for some; I believe the Manageress of the Motel had to ask 458 to tone it down about 1.30 a.m. Early in the evening I saw our D.W.O., Ernie Laming, slipping away to his cot. I thought Old Father Time was catching up with him, but the reason was apparent next morning for he was out bright and early mustering our members for the Dawn Service Rollcall. The wreath was laid in memory of Fallen Comrades by Squadron President Syd. Bartram. Then back to the Motel for breakfast and on parade for the March at 10 O'clock where we had about 60 marching behind our Banner. Bob Shearman did the honours and stood in for Sister Anna. Our good ladies turned out in force and helped us along with some hearty "cheering and jeering" -- I'm not sure which. After the March the ladies embussed for lunch at Kings Park, whilst those members who could not get a lift in the few cars available wended their way to the Hall where after an excellent lunch and plenty of liquid refreshment, the stage was set for a good reunion. Lock Simpson, accompanied by Butch Power on the piano gave us his rendition of Lagos Lagoon. This set the tempo for the afternoon. I noticed during the afternoon how little groups seemed to gather talking and re-living old times; to me this indicates that no matter what our station in life may now be, we still have a lot in common. All too soon, it was 5.30 and the kegs were empty. Not unusual for 458, everyone agreed. It was a damn good reunion.

Saturday saw quite a number on the Golf Course at 7.45 a.m., where Stan. Tarczynski was able to retain the Anzac Cup for Golf. During the morning the

17th.All-States Reunion (cont.)

Squadron Conference took place in the Board Room at the Air Force Association H.Q. at Bateman. Here by unanimous vote Peter Power was elected as Squadron President for the ensuing term. "Congratulation, Peter !" The Squadron Council donated a 458 Squadron plaque, to be placed on the Club wall with other Squadron plaques. After the meeting (reported elsewhere) we had a conducted tour around the Club and Country Estate and I feel everyone was impressed with what they saw, and the proposed additions.

Saturday evening saw everyone in their best bib and tucker for the Dinner-Dance which was held at Tawarri Lodge on the banks of our Swan River. At this stage I must thank all those who were responsible for arranging the gifts and flowers which were presented to Ted and Elsie Jewell and Joan and myself. They came as a complete surprise and were greatly appreciated; although, at one stage, when Butch Power said I couldn't use the mike, I thought I might have to give the (other) flowers I had ordered for our wives to the restaurant staff. But all went well and the girls looked charming standing there with two bouquets of flowers. All who attended saw and admired the cake on display decorated with the Squadron emblem. This was arranged for us by Tom and Phil. Foster. In the excitement of the evening, I forgot to mention this and I hope Tom and Phil will accept my belated thanks. The cake added just that final touch and was greatly appreciated.

Sunday morning--all out again; but in some cases not too bright, for a bus tour of the city, a look over the historic mill in South Perth, through Fremantle and down to Mandurah, a seaside resort about 50 miles from Perth where we all stacked on quite a few inches over an excellent lunch and quite a few beers. The bus ride was enlivened by some able raconteurs: to name a couple, Yank Martin and Stan. Tarczynski, assisted by two very witty bus drivers. Sunday evening, wound up the Reunion with a Farewell Dinner in the Swan Room of the Parmelia Hotel. As the evening drew to an end and mates farewelled each other, many were heard to say, we'll see you in Brisbane in 1977. To all those interstate members who have written since returning home, I'd like to say thank you for all the nice things you've said. Just to know you enjoyed yourselves whilst here has been ample reward for all who took part in the organising.

Those who attended: From the West. Doug. Anderson, Ben. Barnett, Alec. Barras, Nundy Carpenter, Ches. Chessell, Bill Clues, Jack Cobb, Ben. Cormack, Tim. Dale, Don. Daniels, Charlie Davis, Henry Etherton, Ron. Gannaway, Charlie Geddes, Tom. Hicks, Sonja Hemy, Ted. Jewell, Gordon Jones, Les. Lockhardt, Stan. Long, Peter McCarthy, Ken. McLeod, Jim. Palmer, Jack Parkin, Butch Power, Bob. Shearman, Lock Simpson, Len. Stewart, Al. Wheat, Ray Turley, Hughie Crocker, Bob. Ellis, Ted. Ellis, Tom. Foster;

From the East. Syd. Bartram, Ian Showell, Arnold Ashton, Stan. Longhurst, Eric Munkman, Peter Alexander, Fred. Strom, Noel Spurling, Bob. Millar, Len MacDonnell, Charlie Warren, Laurie Crowley, Jim. Timms, Lloyd Simpson, Ted. Kennedy, Arthur Green, Stan. Tarczynski, Jack Fleming, Yank. Martin, Harry Ashworth, Ernie Laming, Gordon Cuthbertson, Ken. Markham, Bob. Grenville.

Regards, Bill Clues.

PARS FROM TARZ.THE GOLF CUP, 1975.

Thanks to Bill Clues brother Len., arrangements were made to play at the Lakes Golf Course, on Saturday April 26th. In perfect weather, probably one of the smallest fields participated but, as Squadron Conference was held at the same time, this depleted the numbers somewhat. However, a close contest developed in the closing stages, when finally on the last green Lock Simpson needed a three metre putt to tie with Stan. Tarczynski for 34 Stapleford points--unfortunately, he missed; so Lock became runner-up to Tarz who has now won it three times.

GERALDTON.

Sunday, April 21st, ex Perth, a la Lock Simpson and his twin-engined Beachcraft Baron. Passenger list was; Peter Alexander, Yank Martin, Stan. Tarczynski, and the two Air Hostesses, Margaret

Pars from Tarz (cont.)

Simpson and Jean Mitchell. Lock took us in his Mercedes to Jandakot Airport in perfect weather, and that is how it stayed!

Without fuss or bother we took off, and followed the coastline at 5,000', cruising between 180/200 knots.

During the 70 odd minutes trip Air Hostie Margaret provided coffee and bikkies and a cigar for Lock. Upon landing we were met by Al. Wheat and son Geoff. and regaled ourselves in the deserted passenger terminal with some cool amber fluid. Al. provided a new "demo." mercedes for our tour of the town. After lunch at the luxurious Batavia Motel we went to Al's home to meet his charming wife Joy and other son Jim, daughter-in-law, and grandson--and more ales. All this time pilot Lock had rationed himself to two drinks only---preparing himself for the return journey: this despite George, automatic groundspeed indicator and other computerised devices.

Upon perfect touchdown at Jandakot amid handclaps of applause from Tarz., and the crew, Lock admitted it was the first time he had ever received such applause. However the grand finale was touched off when Lock produced from the boot of his car, as is his custom after flying, numerous cold articles to be consumed on the spot. It was a wonderful trip made all the more enjoyable by flying.

458 SQUADRON CONFERENCE MEETS.

The Conference, consisting of the Squadron Officers and a pair of delegates from each Flight, met during the Reunion period. Squadron President Syd. Bartram presided. As is usual Conference heard reports from each Flight, noting which had had active and successful years since the last Conference and which were a bit less successful. There was some frank debate over the activity and inactivity of a proportion of 458 membership and what office-bearers could do to galvanise the inactive.

Decisions. The next All-States Reunion to be in Queensland in 1977. Conference hoped some part of that event could be held outside the metropolitan area--as was done in 1973.

A magnificent offer from Ian Showell to make available at no charge his fleet of river houseboats at Renmark for a week in July, 1976 to 458ers and families was accepted with enthusiasm, and Squadron Council will liaise with S.A. Flight and Ian about details. (Members should start planning now). This is a fine tourist attraction on the River Murray.

A motion from S.A. Flight on Australian Defence was referred to the Air Force Association.

Elections. A.R. (Peter) Power was elected, being the first W.A. member to achieve the office, as 458 Squadron President, to the great satisfaction of all delegates. The other Squadron officers were all re-elected. Conference resolved to record its thanks to Honorary Auditor, Bert Thompson, for his work.

CROWEATERS' CAUCUS..... from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California St., Nailsworth, S.A.

Reunion. Members from 3 Squadron, 450 and 458 Sqdns gathered at the Hotel Richmond on the evening of the 24th in line with the new policy of getting members of the old Middle East Squadrons together at one Reunion. Basically, the idea is sound. We are all aware that as our numbers decrease each year we cannot afford the luxury of separate reunions. After an hour of pleasant boozing and reminiscing in the saloon bar we all adjourned to the Dining Room, where a separate part of the room had been set aside for our use. I was most happy to see Bill Taylor and Reg. Priest present to help swell the ranks of 458. I hope that next year we might have enough troops present to fill one complete table.

New Flight President. An extraordinary meeting was called to elect a new Flight President as Bill Taylor had indicated that he was prepared to retire. When I say that it was an extraordinary meeting I mean just that as it was held in the centre of Flinders Street, just prior to moving off on the March. The incoming Flight President is Bert Ravenscroft. I am sure that all the boys join me in wishing you all the best in your year of office, Bert.

Croweaters' Caucus (cont.)

The March. Everything went without a hitch. We had 20 members and the usual number of stalwarts who help out by keeping up the quorum. It was good to see Paul Hinsley (Angastown), Blue Firth (Robinvale), and Ron Badger who certainly has his hands full at this time of year, and is the power behind the many Squadrons that are represented at the Adelaide Airport ceremony. Haven't seen Jack Bax for a few years but Jack, who doesn't enjoy the best of health always sends his best wishes to the boys in the March. All the best to you, Jack and Kath.

The Reunion. Was a great success and was celebrated, as usual, at the Talbot Hotel after the March (Earls Bar). John McGlasson and I had decided to shoot through early and have lunch at the cafe next door before departing to our respective bowling clubs. This was not to be as the most we could manage was a couple of pasties supplied by the licensee--we enjoyed ourselves so much.

The Marchers were:

Bert Ravenscroft	Bill Taylor	Eric Baker	Bill Cribb
Bert Oliver	Bruce Thomas	Paul Hinsley	Pat Enright
Ron Badger	John Fisher	Ted Creighton	Geoff Esau
Kevin Tait	John McGlasson	Reg. Priest	Jack Riseley
			Len Gardner

Pat and Syd Bartram remembered that it is newstime and I am very grateful for the beaut. newsy letter which I received from them, even if they are both speechless with a throat infection. Pat reminded me that I have been barking up the wrong tree as far as S.A. having the next All-States Reunion is concerned. Evidently it was resolved at the Perth Reunion that Queensland should be the next host State. Pat and Syd were loud in praise of the magnificent way in which W.A. Flight entertained the Squadron and made the Reunion such an enjoyable one.

In Reminiscent Mood. Flying home from Maison Blanche in the rear turret with the Colonel at the helm at about 20', I suddenly decided to turn the turret around. For a few minutes I was sure my Father and Mother had never married;-- and the Boss never repeated himself. All the best to you, Bruce.

Regards, Lofty.

CORNSTALKS COMMENTING. Notes from Cy. Irwin and Arthur Jollow.

<u>The Rollcall</u>	at the March in Sydney was:	J. Aitken	Bert Thompson
Tom Ridgeway	Stuart Ricketts	Jack Baker	Jack Bevan
Jack Preston	Cy. Irwin	Sam Barlow	Henry Bryant
Bob Bruce	Bill McBride	Don. Bitmead	C. O'Leary.

A U.K. Flight member, watching the March joined the Squadron party and completed the March with the Squadron. Norm Gilbert was not able, because of time, to attend the Reunion as he was returning to U.K. that night with his family. Norm has been in Melbourne for some little time and Ern Laming tried to put him in contact with us in Sydney but unfortunately Ern's telegram arrived at the G.P.O. Box after the addressee had left for Perth. We chatted a while with him at the March break-off point. Norm joined the Squadron at Shallufa, then to Protville. He was a Flight Sergeant in the Orderly Room.

Arthur Jollow writes: I have been absent for over a month, missing our Anzac Day get-together in Sydney as well as the Perth All-States, so I am short of news. But--to start on a sad note, Reg. Taylor's wife died recently after a prolonged illness. I am sure all who knew Reg.,--and who among the old brigade didn't--will join in offering our very sincere sympathy to him in his loss.

The reason for my absence was a visit to the U.S.A., part business but largely pleasure. We visited Honolulu, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, San Francisco, then back to Hawaii, where we spent some days on each of the Islands of Maui and Kauai, each about 20 minutes flying time from Honolulu. I had the pleasure of meeting a distant cousin, Robert Jollow, stemming from a common great great grandfather back in Devon. Bob is from Canada and Manager of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, a fact which did nothing to detract from our enjoyable stay there.....I anticipated some excellent colour slides of the Grand Canyon but some lousy creep pinched my camera. I had taken 35 shots, impossible to replace.....

Q.FLIGHT CALL.

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

Congratulations from Q.Flight to Butch Power on assuming National Presidency of the Squadron. Many individual members--and so many that naming them would take up half this bulletin--have asked that special mention be made of Q.Flight's pleasure at the appointment and of its assurance of whole-hearted support. And Q.Flight sends its best wishes to the tinkling of ivories of vivid and never-to-be forgotten memories.

Q.Flight sends congratulations also to W.A.Flight on a mighty well-done job on the 1975 All-States Reunion. Chas.Warren,Ruth and Len MacDonnell who made the long journey send special thanks for the splendid organisation and the warm hospitality of the West.

In Brisbane. The numbers were a little down on the Anzac Day March but we were joined by a number of RAAF looking for a banner behind which to march. We were ably & smartly led by Flight President Clive Wyman. His "Eyes Right!" and "Eyes Front!" as we passed the saluting base must have gladdened the heart of Colin Hannah, formerly Chief of Air Staff.R.A.A.F.,and now Governor of Queensland. But we had a good roll-up at the Reunion at No.2 Casualty Clearing Station at Water Street. A total of 20 gathered to have a pint or two and a sandwich.

Clive Wyman was again elected Q. Flight President and after fighting off a great deal of keen competition, Jack Lewis and yours truly just managed to win the posts of Treasurer and Secretary. Very special mention is made of John Bryson, now settled in Queensland at 22, Hawthorne Street, Woody Point, after being around the country areas of N.S.W. as branch manager of one of our well-known Banks, decided he wanted to have a home of his won and in the one spot. He's now with one of Australia's largest building societies, managing one of their branches and has adopted Queensland as his permanent home. John joined us in the march and reunion, and wants everyone to come along and see--and use--his swimming pool.

Our youngest grandparents--Joan and Don.Brandon--are shortly on the way to the good old U.S.A. following official business going home eastwards through Blighty and the Greek Islands, etc. Don has the grand honour to be chosen to go to U.S.A. by the group of Mitre stores as one of the Australian representatives looking into the hardware business. We understand that "hardware" is not a concealable weapon.

Fred.Kleckham (Box 73, Lae, Papua and New Guinea), sends us a news-cutting from the Post-Courier dated 8th.May about Phil.Bennett who has hand-built a single-engined plane--the first amateur-built plane to be given an airworthiness certificate in Papua. Our congratulations to Phil., who will be remembered by many 458ers.

And about the All-States Reunion in 1977!! We're working on it: already preliminary talks have been held. The first official meeting will be on May 30th. We thank everyone for awarding it to Q.Flight. We hope to have an idea or two about it to report in the next Squadron News.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Jim Timms, 39, Frank St., Vermont, Vic., 3133.

17th.All-States Reunion,W.A.

Congrats.from this Flight on an excellent Reunion--especially as the number of enthusiasts is not nearly as large as in some other Flights. A wonderful time was had by all I have spoken with; and particularly for me, as after nearly 30 years I have at last caught up with Gordon Jones: thank you, Gordon and Olive, for the day trip on the tuesday and for transporting us to the airport on Wednesday night at such a late hour.

o o o o o o o o o o o

Back at home.

John (Roger) Rodwell led Vic.Flight at the Anzac Day March--only 9 in attendance but as we had 10 away in the West, not a bad rollcall at the Melbourne Bowling Club for the Reunion.

Last saturday night our Ladies Committee had a progressive dinner; sherries at the Timms, main course at the Morkhams, and sweets at the McKinnas'. Harry Ashworth shewed some films he took in W.A. and all agreed they were very good. Quite a nice profit for the Ladies Fund.

Had a postcard from Ron and Joan Russell last week from Germany--they recommend the beer, and certainly recommend travel to all. We are particularly proud to congratulate Joan on being awarded the Meritorious Service Award by the Australian Red Cross Society for outstanding service to evacuees of the Darwin cyclone Tracy disaster.

Victorian Views (cont.) Great work, Joan.

Another 'gong' to Ernie Laming:--Ernie has been awarded the Corps of Commissionaires Award of Merit, 1st. Class, for 15 years service.

Sorry to have to report that Bob McKinna is doing another stint in Heidelberg Repat. Hospital. Hopelyou'll soon be feeling better, Bob.

* * * * *

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Rd., Grove Park, London.

As always many thanks for the latest edition of the Squadron News. I was very shocked at the news of Robbie Knight. I made quite a few flights with him at Foggia; a nicer chap you couldn't wish to meet and work with.

A few of us; Harry Bishop, his wife; F. Nieman and wife; Charlie Humbles and wife; Leo Armstrong and wife; Mick Mason, myself and my wife had a get-together on April 19th.-- (the nearest we could get to Anzac Day)--to talk over old times. This time we met at the "Anchor" Bankside right on the Thames, and we all had a very enjoyable evening. I very much regret that our numbers are getting smaller; as time goes by more of our friends seem to be slipping; sad really, but that is life. Do you find this?

I am off at the end of this month to Malta, looking forward to this holiday as usual. Did you manage to meet up with Norman Gilbert whilst he was out in Aussie visiting his son in Melbourne. I had a card from him and he says he was having a very enjoyable time.

All of us who got together would like to send our best wishes to all their Aussie friends.....All the very best.

** ** *

PERSONAL PARS,---from the WEST.

Hensell (Sonja) Hemy retired now for two years; has his won War Service Home. Bowling. 3 sons in the R.A.A.F., of whom two are now teaching and one a Sergeant Radio Operator. Chas. (Mum) Geddes--retired; says he is "Pottering".

Jack Cobb has retired--from the Post Office, living at Scarborough. wishes to be remembered to "Massa" Foote, Bill Cribb, Ross Burgess, Mick Singe;

Ken McLeod still with the G.P.O. as a Supervising Technician;

Alec Barras now a Director of a firm making floor coverings--Thorold Harper;

Ray Turley still working with the West Australian newspaper;

Nundi Carpenter living at Esperance; working with a fertiliser company. Wishes to be remembered to Cy. Irwin, Sam Barlow, Goldy Bartlett;

Tim Dale maintenance fitter with C.B.H.--bulk-handling--co-operative, in the wheat trade. Happy to see everyone again;

P.W. Wells is, Tom Hicks tells us, farming in East Anglia;

B. Barnett is a cartographer with W.A. Petroleum;

Les Lockhardt is a builder. His hobby fishing; his best to Junior Davies;

Don Daniels on maintenance work with the State Housing Commission;

Bruno Anderson --Sales Manager with Brownbuilt. There is noticeably more of Bruno than when we saw him last;

Jack Parkin a sales manager, with International Harvester. His son a research officer. His daughter teaching P.E.;

Tom Hicks has a nearly complete collection of all issues of the Squadron News. Who else can say this? Wonders if we could reprint missing copies;

Fred Copley now resident in Perth; has a service station with his son and happy with life;

Ross Wood still around in Perth; bowling with the Bedford Club;

x x x x x x x

Other 458ers seen in Perth.

Arnold Ashton has a seed business in N.S.W. Interested in greyhounds;

Len MacDonnell a prosecuting officer with Queensland Motor Vehicle Registration office;

Chas. Warren describes himself as travelling and housekeeping;

Len Stewart looking forward to retirement;

Lock Simpson prospering in his plumbing suppliers business. Flying his twin-engined aircraft over to the East regularly. Tells us about Reg Bullen now retired as an R.A.F. Air Vice Marshal and Senior Bursar at A Cambridge College. Retirement this year.

*** ** *

FOOTNOTE: Squadron wall plaques were much in demand in Perth and sold out. More on order. If you haven't got an order in and want one, let's know. Present price, \$10-00 each. Write to Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001..