

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



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SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Bill Clues (W.A.) SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENT: Sam Barlow (N.S.W.)

SQUADRON TREASURER: Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.) SQUADRON SECRETARY: Allan Walker (N.S.W.)

EDITOR of 458 SQUADRON NEWS: Peter Alexander.

## SQUADRON PRESIDENT DIES IN OFFICE. Passing of Peter Power.

All members of 458 Squadron will have heard with great regret of the death of A.R. (Peter) Power, the Squadron President. He passed on, following a stroke, in Perth Hospital a couple of months after his election at the Anzac All-States Squadron Conference. He was, and knew himself to be, mortally ill at the time of his election, but accepted his position as the honour he knew the Squadron intended it to be. He took his usual energetic part in the events of the Perth Reunion and contributed, at the piano and elsewhere, much to the success and enjoyment of those attending the Reunion.

"Butch"--another of his Squadron names--was the first 458 Senior N.C.O, and led the formation party at and from Williamstown on its overseas journey to become the operational 458 Squadron at Holme-on-Spalding Moor where he took charge of 458's Equipment Stores. He stayed with the Squadron in its subsequent Middle East journeyings. As 458ers know, the stories of his personality and exploits are legion and legendary. It may at this point perhaps suffice to say that he was unforgettable and unforgettably a friend to all 458ers during and after the war. After posting to other duties he returned to Australia to be commissioned.

After the war he worked as Accountant to the Royal Perth Hospital and was for long the strength behind 458's organisation in the West. He is irreplaceable.

Our continuing sympathy to Amy, and his three daughters.

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## TWO OTHER SQUADRON IDENTITIES PASS ON.

### BOB McKINNA of Victoria.

Bob, who came to 458 as a Fitter from Victoria, was one of the many Squadron members who spent the important part of their war service with the Squadron, whose personalities contributed to make the Squadron, and who remained immensely devoted to it in its long post-war years. He served on its Committee in Victoria and as Flight President, giving great strength and loyalty. With his devoted wife Beatrice he was extremely well-known in all Flights--making the many journeys to All-States Reunions, despite in recent years much ill-health and pain which were associated with a leg amputation. His children and their families, through him, became known to and friends of 458.

We shall remember him for his kindness and loyalty. Our affection to Bea and her family and sympathy in their great loss.

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Passing of Friends.CHARLIE (OTTO) MANN of N.S.W.

Though Charlie held no peacetime office in 458, due to his living and working away from the metropolitan area, there was no more devoted member of 458. Throughout a very hard working life (bull-dozing with the Sulphide Corporation) he came regularly to reunions; and after his recent retirement built, as far as was possible, a part of his life around 458. On his regular visits to Sydney he always looked up the 458 Secretary and other members.

A Fitter N.C.O. on 458 his good-humoured and devoted work for the aircraft were a great factor in its success and serviceability.

He was always a keen motorcyclist and even after retirement, went on long solitary rides--including one from Newcastle to Cairns. He was planning further excursions including one to Europe when ill-health overtook him.

458's sympathy to his widow. We shall miss Otto. And remember him.

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Q. FLIGHT ON THE LINE.

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

Jack Baxter, our old seadog prawner skipper of the Gold Coast has been brought to bed at the Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital for old injuries to the knees. Bearing up bravely to the unaccustomed indoor confinement and the lack of salt in the air;

"It's nothing," says Jack, "That a good haul and diet of King Prawns will not soon put to rights."

Plans for the 1977 All-States Reunion are proceeding steadily. The locale is practically decided upon. Finality depends on negotiations with owners of accommodation and tour operators. If our plans can be achieved with moderate personal expenditures then, we believe, we will be able to stage a very pleasurable week-end. We hope for an outline for the next issue of the Squadron News.

Already we've news of a number of intended participants for the Ian Showell memorable.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS.

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

Vale--Bob. McKinna. Members of 458 everywhere will be saddened by the passing of Bob. on 25th. August. Bob. was an original member of 458 Squadron and served the Squadron to his utmost in both war and peace. He was a foundation committee member of Vic. Flight and served continuously as a committee member; he was Victorian President in 1973, Victoria's All-States Reunion year. Although not enjoying the best of health for a number of years, Bob with Beatrice, was always a regular attender at all Squadron functions.

Squadron members formed a guard of honour after the service at the Presbyterian Church, Burwood. To Beatrice, Dal, Jill and David--our thoughts are with you.

Personal Pars. Nance Cugley is at present enjoying a trip to England and the Continent. Peg. and Gordon Cuthbertson are also overseas and plan to meet up with Nance in London.

Al. Wheat (W.A. Flight) was in Melbourne for a week during August on business. Nine members and their wives entertained Al. at the Air Force Club for dinner on Saturday 16th. A good time was had by all.

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CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.

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

Mystery Car Rally-Barbecue. On Sunday, October 26th, 1975, we are going to hold a mystery Car Rally--there are prizes to be won and it will cost members \$2 per car to enter. Starting time 10 a.m. from Memorial Drive, near Benjamins Restaurant, and the Golf course. The drive will be over a distance of (say) 20/25 miles on good

Croweaters Caucus (cont.)

roads and the route and destination will be made known at the start. Prizes will be awarded for observation ability of the passengers---not for SPEED.

Bring your family, friends, food and barbecue, if you have one.

Ian Showell, as you know, has very generously, made available his houseboats at Renmark for a week from Monday, July 12th., 1976, for 458ers, their wives. If you are interested notify the Squadron Secretary, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney--deposit \$20 (returnable).

Personal. Lofty Trewartha has just returned from a quiet holiday at the Gold Coast. He just wanted to be quiet and hence did not look up any of the members:--simply lazed in the sun and played bowls. We all hope it did him the world of good and he will return to his usual bright self in the very near future.

Bert Ravenscroft, our new S.A. Flight President, is anxious to get things moving--let's have your support.

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THE VOICE OF THE WEST. from Tom Hicks, 71, Burren Gate, Willeton, 6155.

The characteristic voice and laughter of Peter (Butch) Power died with him on August 1st. last. Peter, Past President of W.A. Flight, and elected as Squadron President on Anzac Day, died after a long illness. At our A.G.M. held on August 12th last, we stood in silence in tribute to one of the best known and best loved members of the Squadron. The Flight has sent its condolences to Amy and sent her flowers.

Our Flight President has attended the 16th Annual Air Force Commemoration Dinner at Bateman as the Squadron representative. One hundred and ten attended the dinner. Members will be pleased to know the Squadron plaque now hangs in a prominent position behind the bar.

W.A. Flight has been most heartened by letters and messages of appreciation from Members and wives who graced us with their company for the All-States Reunion for 1975.

We think of those who had planned to come and were prevented because of illness, family and business problems. The Members here join me in wishing well all those who have suffered. We think of Ben Barnett who has been in Charles Gairdner Hospital and is due to retire early because of illness. Ben is now recuperating and we hope he will soon be given a good health report. Ron Gannaway has been particularly unwell and has been ordered complete rest for six weeks. We understand Ron is on the mend and we wish him a full recovery soon.

I take this opportunity of reminding W.A. Flight members of Ian Showell's very kind offer for the week of 12--19th July 1975. Places allocated to W.A. Flight are limited in number. If you want another reunion soon--action is needed to make your booking-----SOON.

Best wishes to all.

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NEW SQUADRON PRESIDENT.

Following the passing of Peter Power, the 458 Squadron Council has elected as his successor as Squadron President, H.G. (Bill) Clues also of Perth. Bill another of 458's longterm wartime and peacetime members (albeit one of the youngest) works with the Post Office. He, Joan, and family, are well liked indeed and all 458ers and families wish them well in Bill's term of office and send Bill congratulations and assurance of support.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

Australian ex-servicemen (the term now used is Veterans) belong through their

On the International Scene (cont.) various Associations to the international Veterans organisation--the World Veterans Federation. The W.V.F., which has its H.Q. in Paris, held its Council meeting, during this August, for the first time in its history, in the Southern Hemisphere--in Sydney. Each of over 30 countries sent a Council Member to attend. The Executive Board (President, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary) met in Sydney (the meeting was at the Wentworth Hotel) on August 4th/5th. and the Council met on the ensuing three days. The official opening was attended by diplomats and Ministers; the keynote speech being given by G/Capt. Richard Kingsland (Chairman of the Australian Repat. Commission) and special addresses were given on subsequent days by the Canadian Minister for Veterans Affairs and by the Australian Asst. Minister for Repatriation. The WVF has senior status with UNO and its Agenda reflected its objectives.

Agenda items dealt with the international portability of veterans rights to medical treatment (moved by Australia and carried); rehabilitation and development; peace keeping. The debates, with simultaneous translation facilities, were of high standard. The attendance of both Syria and Israel brought a reflection of the Middle East problems which preoccupied the Council for some hours of debate.

There was, of course, much associated hospitality. The Australian organisers, mainly from the Air Force Association, had much preliminary work, over many months, but were pleased with the results which they felt went well and were well up to overseas standards. Peter Alexander, as the Australian member of the WVF Council, represented Australian veterans in the debates; and prior organisational work.

In the following week, an associated major event, the World Assembly of War Veterans, hosted by the RSL and supported by the other Associations, took place in Sydney. there was a week long programme of events, discussions, hospitality, and a visit to Canberra where the Governor General and the Prime Minister entertained senior delegates. Several hundreds of overseas and local veterans attended.

There were some controversial events--one on the part of the Prime Minister in opening the Assembly, of which readers will have heard through the press, in which he criticised some Australian veterans leaders for allegedly living in the atmosphere of the Cold War and the 1950s (though he also said some generous things about their benevolent work): another, about which less was reported, in which a New Zealand delegate publicly criticised the leader of the Russian delegation. However, one must expect some controversy on these occasions, and the Assembly certainly contributed overall to the improvement of international knowledge and the hope of peace.

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NEW SOUTH NOTES. from Arthur Jallow, 40, Nicholson St., Chatswood, 2067.

WVF Week Dinner. Honour for Eric Munkman.

We had a dinner for members and wives at the Air Force Club on Monday August 11th with nearly 40 present. The World Assembly week was on at the time and we had two overseas guests of distinction: Mr. W.O. (Bill) Cooper--the Secretary General of the WVF, from Paris; and "Johnny" Johnson--the U.K. Council member of the WVF and the recently retired Deputy General Secretary of the R.A.F. Association, England. Pleasant people who briefly talked to us about international veterans affairs. A delightful evening, good companions all ---and some members we had not seen for some time, including Col. Corten and also Dick Healey who is now Minister for Health in the N.S.W. State Government.

Feature of the evening, and most pleasant, was the presentation of a suitably inscribed silver salver, in appreciation of his work for 458, to Flight President Eric Munkman. Eric responded in typically modest fashion.

Otto Pases; and Bob too. Both were original members of 458 and were as older brothers to us young colts; a wonderful influence. Bob and I shared a tent over a long period and I grew to know him like a brother. He had a dry laconic sense of humour and a chuckle was never far beneath the surface. Charlie was a big man in every way. To the last he was an adventurer, ready for anything. I shall miss hearing "Good Day, Joll." and looking up to see him filling the doorway. We would swap news of friends and then go out to lunch and a couple of ales.

To Beatty and Win., our deepest sympathy. Be assured we share your sorrow.

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458 SQUADRON ON THE MURRAY.

REUNION AT RENMARK.

By very generous offer of 458 Member Ian Showell, 458ers, their wives and unmarried children have had made available to them Ian's fleet of Paddle Steamers for the week, July 12th/19th, 1976. The steamers are based at Renmark on the River Murray. They have electric lighting; hot water service, a modern galley, bedding, deck chairs, a dinghy, cooking utensils, room heater, maps, etc--as well as maps shewing where the fish are. They vary in accomodation from 5 to 9 berths. No charge for the steamers is being made--those attending will be "up for" food and travel costs to get there. Details of the weeks accomodation and bookings are being arranged by the Squadron Council in conjunction with the various Flights. Members wishing to attend this great occasion should send in their names, with a deposit of \$20 per head (returnable on attendance) to the Squadron Secretary through their Flight Secretary, using the Form below. While there is, for organisational reasons a preliminary allotment of berths to each Flight, this may be adjustable in relation to demand. If accomodation permits it may be possible to accept bookings from married children of members later.

Bookings are already being received, including some in relation to entire 458 crews and wives. Members should have their applications in with the Squadron Secretary by December 31st, 1975.

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To the Flight Secretary,

.....Flight,

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Please inform the SQUADRON SECRETARY that  
I apply to join the 458 Reunion at Renmark for the week commencing July 12th., 1976.  
I shall/shall not be accompanied by my wife; and by the following of my children.....  
.....

I enclose \$.....deposit @ \$20 per head (returnable in due course). Please transmit this to the Squadron Secretary.

If accomodation permits the following of my married children and wife/husband and grandchildren.....  
would also like to come. (No deposit yet required for these).

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....