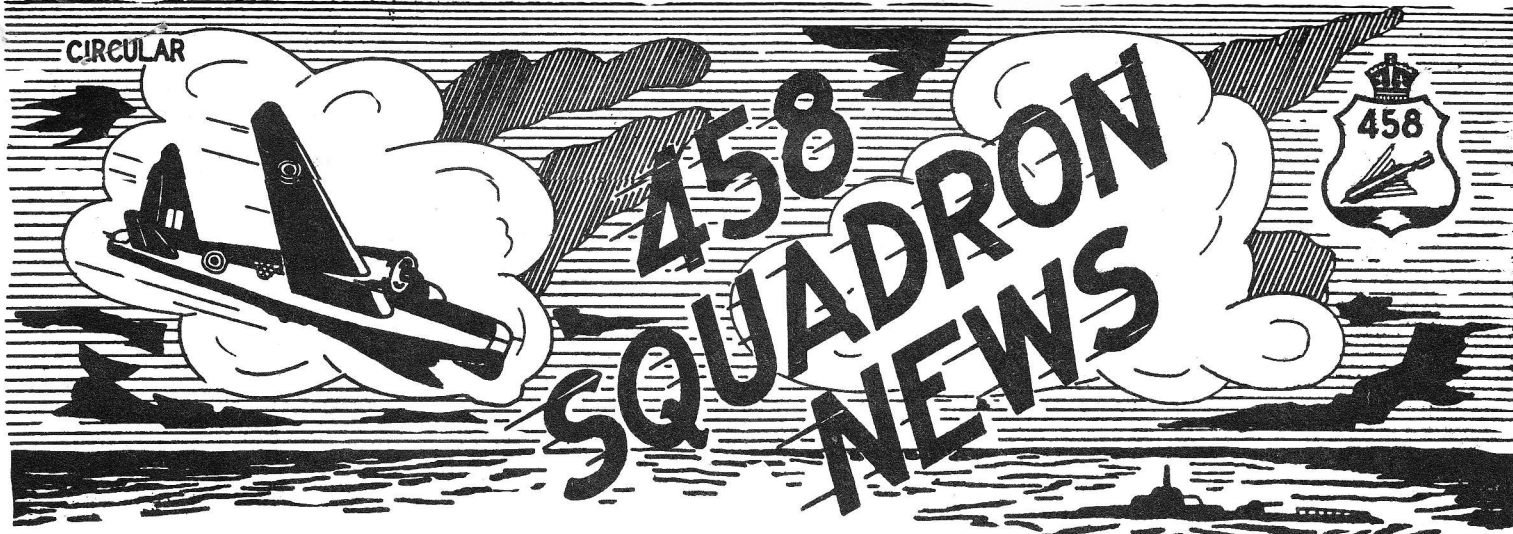


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#### COLONEL MAC. TO ATTEND ALL-STATES REUNION.

McKENZIE, of McKenzie's Air Force, is to attend the 458 Squadron All-States Reunion next April.

\*\*\*\*\* The All-States Reunion--458's 18th interstate Reunion--will commence on APRIL 22nd., 1977, at The SURFAIR INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, MARCOOLA BEACH, 80 miles north of Brisbane, on the SUNSHINE COAST.

\*\*\*\*\* The Colonel told Editor Peter Alexander, who visited him recently in Nairobi, that he had booked his airtickets and looked forward immensely to meeting his Squadron mates again after, in many cases, so many years. It is possible he may have some members of his family with him in Queensland. He particularly hopes to meet those who served with him in Malta, Portville, Bone, etc.

\* \* \* \* \* Bruce McKenzie in the long post-war years has been extremely active and successful. Leaving South Africa for Kenya, he had a successful Cattle Stud Farm at Nakuru, became President of the Kenyan Agricultural Society, and Minister for Agriculture both in the Colony and later of the Republic. Though retired from politics he remains one of the most prominent and well-known citizens of Kenya. He leads various companies--car sales, cement, cut-flower export (in a very big way) and commutes between Africa and Europe, frequently. He is a Director of East African Airways.

\*\* \*\* \* Though he seems to speak little about his own war activities, it is striking to note how many prominent people in Kenya have heard of 458 Squadron, and will tell one episodes of its history.

458 Squadron Council hopes members will make every determined effort to attend this Reunion which in some ways will be a one-and-only opportunity.

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#### CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

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

We received an interesting letter from Stewart Kent, from England, requesting news from anyone who knew his father, who was in N. Africa, serving with 458 Sqdn. We have so far been unable to find anyone who did--and anyone who can help us to supply information to his son, please write to me, and I will pass it on. Someone suggested that Ches. over in the West may well be the source of the knowledge we seek. What about it, Ches?

During my inquiries I contacted Gordon Vale. He was unable to assist but we did have a long and interesting chat. He spent 16 years in South Africa before coming back home. He sends his best wishes to all old 458 bods but was unable to join us for drinks as invited as Mrs. Vale does not enjoy good health. It was nice to talk to you, Gordon.

I go into hospital at Concord in January for surgery on my feet. They are going amputate a couple of toes. The things we do to lose weight!

Tess and I have had some pleasant and profitable days recently on the Hawkesbury fishing (with good catches) and also catching some sun. Life is good! We

Cornstalk Commentary (cont.)

We wouldn't change places with Howard Hughes!  
 Son Michael, last heard of in Kathmandu. He has to sell his camper van there, and should be home before Xmas. We haven't seen him since May, 1973, so he will have been away about the time we were--41-45. A welcome shindig will be on, believe me, when we all get together again.

I wasn't able to attend the last N.S.W. Committee meeting; which I am told was very well attended. Peter gave an interesting and amusing account of his recent trip overseas but didn't mention Paris. I understand Bruce McKenzie intends to join us at the All-States in 1977. This will be a great pleasure to all of us able to meet him.

A joyous Xmas to you all--and keep laughing on 1977. Arthur Jollow.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

BY Ted Jewell, 65, Kirkham Hill Terrace, Maylands, W.A.

I am sorry to say W.A. Flight has very little to report for this News: news is scarce. Our coming Xmas get-together this year is at our home (Ted and Elsie Jewell's). With the response so far we should have a great night. Several weeks ago we had a brewery strike here in the West. No beer and things looked a bit grim. It looked like going back to drinking vino at our Reunion. But, happy to say, everything is now back to normal.

As this will be the last issue of Squadron News for 1976, I wish all 458ers and their families a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ted Jewell.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS

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

Best news we have received for the 1977 Reunion on the Sunshine Coast is from Peter Alexander: Bruce McKenzie is coming. This is indeed an honour for which we must all be very proud. Well, there has been a steady stream of bookings. Squadron President Bill and Joan Clues have booked. But it would seem that many intended participants want to get Xmas off their minds first. However, might we suggest you give yourself a New Year present. Before New Year. Book now and pay later. At the moment there is plenty of accommodation, but who can look into the future. Let Holliday look after your 1977 holiday.

Bernard Elsey has recently purchased the Surfair Hotel where we plan to centre the Reunion. Elsey was one of the post-war tourist kings of the Gold Coast. He made the name of Surfers Paradise synonymous with pyjama parties. Whether Bernard Elsey will initiate pyjama parties at Surfair--well, let's book up and see.

Joan and Donny Brandon again hosted the Xmas Get-together for the Brisbane and District members. And what a delightful venue! Two or three acres on the side of a hill, two or three miles east of the Logan River towards Brisbane. A beautiful garden setting with a huge ancient Mango Tree, in the shade of which we lolled and lapped up the goodies. And the breeze never stopped zephyring. Indeed, we all contributed to a ticket in the \$1 million Casket (lottery to you) to build a 458 Retirement Village on this very site. Hosting it all was competent Joan Brandon, quietly marshalling the goodies to be presented in endless procession--with Donny beaming despite a persistent pain in the neck (from over-work, we think). Donny and Clive Wyman reminisced over their recent annual fishing trip (the thirtieth!) to Fraser Island. Chester Jones was taking off that night for a fishing trip somewhere north of the Sunshine Coast to get away from it all--caring for the engineering needs of small planes at Archerfield. Looking forward on his return to his first parachute jump--he's nearing sixty!

We got Jack Rosenberg to talk about his flight to the U.S.A. and back, flying T.A.A.'s oldest Boeing 727 to Miami via Pago Pago, Honolulu, and San Diego, returning with a new, stretched, version of the 727 from Seattle. Says the old bus got a severe attack of the yaws on the way into Honolulu. I have a feeling Bert Garland was disappointed that he wasn't on duty at Brisbane Airport Flight Control Tower to talk Jack down on return to Brisbane. Jack and Elizabeth Rosenberg brought son Chris with them--an expert on the family's Queensland nut farm. Kath and Eric Kelly took off for the Gold Coast after the Do to start their holidays. Up from the Gold Coast came Jack Baxter on crutches. He's had his right knee reconstructed and due back at Repat.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Hospital for further improvement. Jack and Betty brought sand crabs--the most delicious dish of the day--even better than Jack's famous king prawns.

Keith Campbell and wife busy with weddings. Ruth and Len MacDonnell busy contemplating early retirement on 21st April next year. Joan and Sel Foote contemplating a New Zealand holiday next month.

Joan and Jim Mackay happy about the settlement of the petrol strike. Jim's Mine Host at the Shell Petrol Station, Kessell's Road, Mt. Gravatt, 200 yards off the Pacific Highway at the Garden City Shopping Centre on the southern approach to Brisbane, Chas. Warren sent an apology. He's expecting a grandchild.

Evelyn and Jack Lewis also couldn't be there. They spent their weekend at South Molle Island, as a reward for Evelyn's tireless efforts for the Queensland Ladies Golf Union, particularly for hosting young golfers from the country. Sheila and Jack Hobbs also sent an apology. They are touring Queensland's Deep North.

Jack mentions "catching a few yellow belly in the western rivers"; "the Tablelands"; and at the moment of writing Jack was on his way to the top of Castle Hill at Townsville to watch the local RAAF at bombing practice. Jack attempted to visit Snowy Atherton at Dorindi (outside Julia Creek) but found him away on a visit to Britain and other distant parts.

Snowy in a recent letter advising his intention to attend the 1977 Reunion is in a quandary about his mode of travel. He had proposed to use his private plane but unfortunately wife Jean has developed a complaint that is aggravated by flying above 3,000'.

Ron Russell on one of his many business trips to Brisbane was recently entertained by some of his old Brisbane mates. George Reed now moved from Gordonvale to Arill Reserve, Tully. Still in the Sugar Milling business.

Jim Holliday.

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458 SQUADRON--and OTHER VETERANS--OVERSEAS.

A recent journey of some weeks took me, on international ex-servicemens business, to Europe, to Asia and to Africa. In this time I got together with members of the U.K. Flight, in London, and with 458's C.O., Bruce McKenzie, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The U.K. Flight entertained me to Dinner in London--at the Sesame Club which now serves the purpose that the Path Finders Club in Mount St. used to serve. It was a happy and heart-warming occasion. Mick Mason, Sid Thompson, Harry Bishop, Norm. Gilbert, Ken Mercer came, in most cases with their wives. They invited my married daughter, Debby, and her husband who are living in London, to come. We exchanged news and recalled the past as old airmen do. They regret losing touch with many U.K. 458ers. But that is likely to change in the course of the activity of the next year or two. Because--they are going to visit Australia. During the dinner the idea of a Group Party of 458ers and families coming together to Australia for a 458 Reunion was raised and taken up. They are thinking of September 1979 which will give everyone time to organise their plans and finances. Sid Thompson will be writing to everyone on the U.K. Mailing List about this. Some 458ers may be in Australia before then too.

In Nairobi--and he is in London about as much--Bruce McKenzie is still the driving force of old. Now retired from active politics he is one of the most prominent business men in Kenya--in car sales, in the Cut flower-export business in a very big way, in cement and other things, he is airborne longer than most civilian aircrew. He is still a Director of East African Airways. His 458 loyalty is as keen and powerful as ever too. At his bungalow at Diani Beach south of Mombassa, there is a fine picture of a Wellington in flight placed prominently. He is always keen on news of other 458ers.

Apart from his own visit to the 1977 All-States Reunion, we touched on the idea of a 458 group visit from Australia to London, via East Africa where the party might pause for a local Reunion as well as some sight-seeing in that lovely, peaceful and wholly beautiful country of Kenya. But that's one Squadron Conference will be asked to look into. Things are stirring. Sleepers will be awakened.

On the international Scene

My cause for this journey was to attend the General Assembly, Council meeting, etc of the World Veterans Federation, at Maastricht in Southern Holland, as leader of the Australian delegation. This lasted for a week, with much debate, much hospitality and some politicking. I was one of the two nominees for the WVF Secretary Generalship and was the unsuccessful one. These gatherings, of ex-servicemens leaders at which one sees one's opposite numbers from many lands, both sides of the various wars, and finds how much we have in common are



highly motivating. I have now finished my second three year term as WVF Australian Council Member, and have been succeeded by Sir William Hall of the RSL, who will hold the position for three years. From Maastricht the Asian and Pacific Area delegates travelled back to Kathmandu for a meeting of the Standing Committee for the Area. This looked at our priorities--which are more slanted to Aid and Development than those the European and American majority seem to have. They concentrate on more sophisticated research into access, prosthetics, etc. We were warmly hosted by the Nepal Veterans, met the King, flew along the Himalayas, etc. After some time in India, concerned with one of G/Capt. Leonard Cheshire, V.C.'s Homes for Incurables (in this case lepers and T.B. sufferers and sub-normal children), I went on to Kenya.

Generally, I believe veterans on the international scene can offer much towards the world's peace. I was re-elected as Liaison Officer for WVF in Asia and the Pacific.

P.C.A.

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CROWEATERS SAY-SO.from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California St. Nailsworth S.A.

Now I have joined that selectband of retired blokes who play bowls 4 days a week I must confess I am enjoying life. That extra hour in bed each morning is not hard to take either. So, if you are eligible, "Be in it, Mate."

Len (Binghi) Stewart dropped in to see me a few weeks ago. Len was on his way to Sydney on a rapid business trip, so we sat up till late and reminisced about the old Squadron days. It was good to see him again.

Roger (Doc) Angove informed me on the blower that he and his wife had recently enjoyed a holiday cruising around the Seychelles and Mauritius in a schooner.

Pat Enright, according to Doc., is a member of the Council at Robe, and is still running his stud property in that district.

Bruce (Flash) Thomas, now retired, is playing bowls and still works enthusiastically for Legacy. Jack Riseley is still working for News Ltd and although he did not say so, will undoubtedly be working again this Xmas raising money for the kids. Jack also is a keen worker for Legacy. He says Verna is keeping fit.

Jim Perry recently sent Jack down a parcel of razor fish which Jack said were terrific. All the best, Jim.

Ron (Omo) Badger, convalescing after an op. on his leg, danced his legs off at son Ian's wedding last October and finished back in hospital. Back at work now and enjoying playing bowls. Jack Bax, I understand, has had his share of troubles connected with hospitals but I believe he is going like a winner now--and also enjoying bowls. Kevin Yates, the old happy man, dropped in to see the Badgers recently and is fit. Flight President Bert Ravenscroft was reported to be looking as fit as a mallee bull by someone who saw him in the street a week ago.

Mel Priest, I believe also retired, living on his property at Oakbank.

Bill Taylor, also a hard worker for Legacy, is looking remarkably fit. He and Madge would like to say Merry Christmas to all the mob and particularly Sam and Maisie Barlow. I, too, wish all Squadron members, wives and families a Happy Xmas and a beaut. New Year. Lofty.

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BRITISH BULLETIN.from Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Road, Grove Park, London, SE 12 9 TN, England.

How very nice to see you (the Editor) again: those of us who did manage to meet up with you, along with your daughter and son-in-law at the Path Finders Club were very pleased. It was also enjoyable to meet Chico Mercer and his wife; it must be about 15 years since I last met Chico. Others who did manage to get there were Mick Mason, Harry Bishop and his wife, Norm Gilbert, and myself and my wife. Apologies from Bill Anton, and Leon Armstrong both enjoying a late holiday. During the evening the subject of reunions came up and Peter mentioned that September could be a good month and so it was proposed by all that a very determined effort will be made for a U.K. Party to go to Aussie in September 1979, so all it will need is about 15 persons (friends can come if they so desire), so what about it lads! your ideas, please.

I keep getting requests for news from our members from their friends down under: too numerous to itemise. Please keep in touch!

A very happy Christmas to all and a happy New Year. Thanks for looking us up--and any 458 member visiting our shores---look us up!

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ALL GOOD CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WISHES TO OUR READERS EVERY ONE.....