

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE - BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: E.T. (Eric) MUNKMAN (N.S.W.): SQDN. VICE PRESIDENTS:

IAN SHOWELL (S.A.);
CLIVE WYMAN (Q.)

SQUADRON TREASURER: C.P. (Cy.) IRWIN (N.S.W.): SQUADRON SECRETARY: L.J. (Sam) BARLOW (N.S.W.)

EDITOR of 458 SQUADRON NEWS: Peter Alexander

COLONEL BRUCE MCKENZIE with 458 in Australia.

Q. Flight hosted the 18th.

ALL-STATES REUNION of 458 Squadron in the 1977 Anzac period at the Surfair Hotel, Marcoola--and in the general area of the Queensland Sunshine Coast. Attendances of 458 members, listed below, were 25 from Queensland; 18 from N.S.W.; 14 from Victoria; 4 from S.A.; 6 from W.A.; and 2 from Tasmania--plus one from Overseas. Most of them were accompanied by their wives. In several cases by other family members.

The Events. Bruce and Christina McKenzie, and Bruce's daughter Margy, arrived in Sydney on April 20th, did some business and attended a Reception in their honour by N.S.W. Flight jointly with the Kenya-Australia Society, at the Air Force Club. They then flew north to join up with the Squadron at Marcoola.

There was a welcoming Barbeque at the Hotel where faces not seen in some cases for over a quarter of a century and other 458 faces seen regularly over the post-war decades identified each other. The following day brought a 458 trip by bus to the high country near the Glasshouse Mountains (steep cones of trachyte arising from the plains) for an open-air Barbeque. On the way the party visited a model exhibition of a miniature English village and other sights. The Barbeque took them through the small remains of Queensland coastal rain forest. Harry Ashworth took an accustomed role as cook at the Barbeque. In the evening was a highlight of the Reunion, with the formal Dinner. Squadron President Bill Clues, Flight President Clive Wyman spoke, both with great effect, and Bruce McKenzie replied talking of old 458 times as well as of the future.

The Squadron Conference. The governing body of 458 Squadron--its Conference--met on Sunday morning at the Hotel, with Bill Clues in the Chair and two representatives of each Flight--including the U.K. Flight. It dealt with some important matters.

A new Edition of the Squadron History. The Squadron went through two impressions of the Squadron History "We Find and Destroy" a decade ago and it is long out-of-print. The Conference decided on another edition. There will be heavy expense but several 458ers immediately offered gifts or loans--including one anonymous gift of \$1000--and "it is on". Members will be invited to advise suggested changes, additions, etc--and also to make an advance deposit to secure their copy and to help with publication.

An International 458 Reunion Conference decided that the next All States Reunion (the 19th.) will also be the 1st INTERNATIONAL REUNION. It will be in Sydney in

18th All-States Reunion (cont.)

October, 1979. Bruce McKenzie was appointed International Liaison Officer and will make contact with U.K., Canadian, and New Zealand 458 members to seek their attendance. Since the Reunion, the N.S.W. Flight is already making plans for the event. It will probably be partly in Canberra, the National Capital.

The 2nd. International Reunion

The Conference, looking still further ahead, envisaged a second international Reunion, in Britain, to which the antipodean party would travel via Africa, with stops in Kenya, as well possibly as parts of Egypt and Tunisia. That might be about 1981.

Future All-States Reunions not to be in April

On the motion of N.S.W. Flight Conference recognised the adverse effect on the Anzac events and attendances back in the other cities, where the biennial All-States Reunion is not being held--and decided to move to another month.

Elections.

Conference honoured N.S.W. Flight President Eric Munkman by electing him as 16th Squadron President. He was with 458 from Holme-on-Spalding Moor to Gibraltar and is a most active and prominent post-war 458 member. His wife, Dorothy, is equally well known and liked among 458ers. Vice Presidents chosen were Ian Showell of Renmark in South Australia, and Clive Wyman of Queensland. Treasurer remains Cyril Irwin. In view of the major events ahead, 458 elected a successful businessman, in Sam Barlow, as Secretary for the coming period.

Finance.

Conference was concerned at the losses experienced in supplying 458 Squadron News to members, many of whom do not pay. It was decided to appeal to 458 men to pay up. Next year charges to Flights will be doubled by Conference decision.

Continuing Events of the Reunion.

After the Conference--to which a sign made by "Snowy" Atherton announced "McKenzie's Air Force"--the Squadron left for a trip to the Coloured Sandysia Nambour, which brought a fascinating drive along many miles of broad sandy beaches. They also saw the wreck of the ship Cherry Venture, washed ashore by high seas some time ago. In the evening Eric Lloyd's bowls Club at Perigian, entertained 458.

The Anzac March

As is done everywhere in Australia, ex-servicemen marched together on Anzac Day. 458 joined, and greatly enlarged, the march at Caloundra. The brief March was along the cliff face overlooking the Pacific Ocean with a Service at the Memorial in these beautiful and dramatic surroundings. Bruce McKenzie was asked to address the gathering. Afterwards the local Returned Servicemen's Club entertained us all to a superb seafood lunch, through the rest of the day. Next day, home.

The List.

Queensland

A. Atherton	Don. Brandon	Bob Dangaard	Harry Dorge	"Massa" Foote	Bob Helyar
Erle Hetherington		Ian Higlett	Jack Hobbs	Jim. Holliday	Bernie Hughes
"Ned" Kelly	Jack Lewis	Eric Lloyd	Len. McDonnell	Dud. McKay	Jim McKay
Bernie McLoughlin		Bob Male	Dick Osbourne	John Rosenberg	Chas Warren
Cec. Bull	Clive Wyman	"Judy" Garland			

New South Wales.

Peter Alexander		Wal. Archbold	Harry Baines	Black Jack Baker	Sam Barlow
Ross Burgess	Bill Chapman	"Snowy" Fennell	Alf. Hammond	Cy. Irwin	Arthur Jollow
Stan. Longhurst		Bob Lyndon	Eric Munkman	Stu. Ricketts	Bob. Smith
Fred. Strom	Fred. Penton				

Victoria.

Harry Ashworth	Vin. Clohesy	Russ. Connolly	Dave Firth	Jack Fleming	Arthur Green
Don. Johnston	Ted. Kennedy	Ern. Laming	"Yank" Martin	Roger Rodwell	Tony Stone
Stan. Tarczynski		Ken. Brown			

South Australia

Sid Bartram	Arn. Scholar	Bill Taylor	Ian Showell
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Western Australia.

"Nundy" Carpe nter	Bill Clues	Henry Etherton	Ted. Jewell	Lock Simpson
Al. Wheat.				

Tasmania and Overseas

Aris. Peace	Jack Kelly	Bruce McKenzie.
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There were many apologies--we particularly mention Lew Johnston and Jack Dowling--ill.

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

To Vic.Flight Members. Please keep your Flight Secretary up to date with changes of address---and we appeal to unfinancial members to at least help with the cost of the News.

CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY.from Jack Riseley, 38A, Cooper Place, Beaumont, 5066.

Those I have spoken to were very high in their praise given to Queensland for their organisation of this year's Reunion. Certainly the presence of Colonel Mac. apparently induced many more to attend and his contribution was by no means small. It is certainly predictable that the next, possibly World, Reunion in N.S.W. in 1979 could be the greatest ever.

Lofty Trewartha was discharged the other day from the Repat. Hospital after having an operation on his leg; and this is the reason that I am the scribe this time round. We all wish him a speedy recovery and certainly hope it will not affect his prowess on the bowling green.

Anzac Day. We had the following members marching in Adelaide. Bruce Thomas

Bert Ravenscroft	Mel Priest	Reg. Priest	Col. Bowley
Eric Baker	John Carey	Ted. Creighton	Bert Oliver
Brian Woodhead	Kevin Tate	Harry Bartram	Len. Gardiner
Jack Bishop	"Diver" Dunn	Colin Cunningham	Jack Riseley.

They all send their best wishes.

Our congratulations must go to Eric Munkman on his election as Squadron President, and to Ian Showell (our local boy) as one of the Vice Presidents.

More Doing ? Some S.A. members are complaining about the fact that we are not arranging functions through the year other than our Anzac Day get-together. This, it is hoped, will be resolved at a meeting of the members on June 1st at Bert Ravenscroft's home. At the moment we are seeking a new President. Any takers ?

Finance. Bruce Thomas, our Flight Treasurer, has advised me that about 70 members in S.A. receive the News but there are about 40 who are unfinancial. This means that the remainder are supporting them with the provision of funds to keep the Airport Memorial Service going, the provision of wreaths, and the Squadron News.

Advice has been received from Squadron Council that funds are very low and without the support of all members some pruning will have to be done.

In Canada. Bert Oliver attended a get-together of Air Force blokes in Canada recently, and met Bill Markowsky who is very interested in Squadron happenings and would like to receive a newsletter--should anyone like to write to him, his address is 617, 21st. Street, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada (INTERNATIONAL (LIAISON OFFICER--Please Note.)

Col. Bowley is now living at 74, Ridgway Drive, Flagstaff Hill, S.A., 5159.

All the best to all from the Croweaters.

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AFTER THE PARTY--In Queensland.from Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella St., Holland Park.

Summed up--it was some affair at Surfair--thanks to those who came. We of Queensland are still a little stunned at the response. To those many who came so far, in particular from W.A. and Tasmania (and North Queensland !) we can only tender our humble thanks. To those many sincere congratulations we received, we can only say: we provided the framework, you who came built the rest and decorated it. It did our hearts good to see how everyone enjoyed doing it.

Some of the things we remember are: bowling along the beach to Tehweh Coloured Sands; barbequed steaks al fresco at Hi Tor Rain Forest; the Anzac Day ceremony at the Centaur Memorial at Caloundra, 63 members marched; and the words that Bruce McKenzie said there in that lovely setting; the Dawn Service at Coolum and the rum and break-fast provided for the 27 who marched; and, finally, Bruce McKenzie coming so far to attend.

Special. A special vote of thanks goes to Pres. Clive Wyman for his many hours of work in the ultimate organisation and to his son Richard and delightful daughter-in-law, Annette, for assisting the aged at Surfair.

Maureen Cahill (widow of Kenny) wishes to thank all who greeted her at Caloundra. Maureen still lives at Landsbrough and has resumed her profession of nursing sister.

Q.Flight (cont.)VALE--Jack Plunkett.

From Erle Hetherington comes sad news--of Jack Plunkett's death. Jack was front gunner of Jimmy Sargeant's crew, which walked in the desert and into the arms of Ities, a few days before the Allied push at El Alamein. Jack worked with the City Engineers Dept. of Cairns Council and became an important figure in both the Air Force Association and the R.S.L.--being a Life Member of both. He was also active in the Cairns Services Club. Committeemember, Treasurer and Secretary for long periods. Any 458er who came to Cairns always looked for Jack. Before coming to 458 Jack was gunner on a night-fighter Bolton Paul Defiant Squadron on Anglesey. He won his B.E.M. for rescuing a crew shot down in the Straits of Messina--in true life saver style.

A life of service--we shall remember him.

Extracts from a letter from Snowy Atherton, Ernestine Plains, Dorinda, N.W. Queensland:

.....a first rate reunion or, in my case, a lost weekend, having attempted to fit in to two days what others did in five. The final act proves that even now I cannot escape the misdeeds of "Danny" Dangaard, for whom I was often mistaken. On Tuesday morning while managing to remain balanced with great effort in the foyer of Surfair (the morning following the party on the 5th floor at which our trumpeting hero of long standing had performed with distinction) someone appeared before me out of the haze caused by bright morning light and said in definite tones: "I hope you blew the "guts right out of that trumpet last night" and moved on before I could focus on him. Well, its said we live in times of change. I can only comment, I haven't noticed! I do hope whoever that cheery soul was, we meet at the next Reunion.

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TO THE GREAT UNFINANCIAL.

This is addressed to all our readers, wherever they are, who have not paid an annual sub.--in some cases for years. You, having read this far, will have read the Victorian Secretary's appeal for support. The South Australian Treasurer has likewise asked us to ask you to decide whether you, if a South Australian, wish to retain contact with the Squadron. Inflation is such that the News lost over \$ 200 in the last two years. Squadron Conference has always taken the far sighted view that the purpose of the 458 Squadron News is to keep 458ers in touch whether or not they are currently financial. The Flights have managed to finance this situation hitherto but next year their commitment, in dollar terms, will be doubled. Please therefore, if you are not financial for this year, send a remittance to your Flight. If for some reason, you do not wish to do so, then, Squadron Conference asks that you send at least \$4 to the Squadron Treasurer. He will adjust with the Flights.

Addresses are:

N.S.W. Treasurer

G.P.O. Box 5289,
Sydney, 2001

Q. Treasurer

c/o 43, Stella St.,
Holland Park, 4121

Vic. Secretary

c/o 19, Terang Ave,
Burwood East, 3151

S.A. Treasurer

545, Fullarton Road,
Netherby, 5062

W.A. Secretary

65, Kirkham Hill Terrace,
Maylands, 6051

Squadron Treasurer.

G.P.O. Box 5289,
Sydney, 2001.

Thank you!

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

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

The U.K. Flight celebrated Anzac Day on April 23rd., with our usual get-together at the Pathfinder Club. Mick Mason and lady friend, Harry Bishop and wife, Norman Gilbert and wife, Bill Anton and wife, Fred Niemann, Chico Mercer and wife, Charlie Humbles and wife, and myself and wife. It was a very enjoyable evening, a hearty meal with the odd drink or so, and inevitably the Squadron days, the tales are nearly always the same, just told in a different way. A few members wish to send their regards; Eric Fendick, Harry Eastwood, Bill Waite (just out of hospital after a colostomy operation) Guy Johneton, John Dandy, Leon Armstrong, and lastly Hugh Hamlet.

British Bulletin (cont.)

I was in contact with Bruce McKenzie's Secretary before the Reunion, and last Sunday week had a call from Bruce who had just got back from Aussie. I had a quick rundown on the Reunion and what was discussed about the proposed International Reunion in 1979. It sounds marvellous but costly. But who knows we may yet make it.

You will be having Harry Bishop and his wife with you next February. Will let you know more when the actual date has been fixed.

Best wishes to everyone in Aussie--All the very best---Sid.

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PERSONAL PARS.

DICK OSBORN --a 458 Observer, who flew with Johnny Pilcher, is a chemist with Moreton Sugar Mill, in Nambour;

JACK KELLY is a Secondary School Teacher with the Tasmanian Education Dept. Flew originally with Alec Barras;

ARIS PEACE has recently retired from farming in Tasmania;--apples, chickens;

JIM McKAY has a Service Station at the David Jones Garden City Complex at Upper Mount Gravatt, Queensland;

FRED JAMES settled and in business at Lake Tabourie, N.S.W.;

BERT GARLAND is with Aerodrome Control at Eagle Farm, Brisbane;

BOB HELYAR at Wynnum West, Queensland. With a Garage;

DUD. McKAY Now living in semi-retirement at Caloundra, Queensland. His family of girls is doing well. Enid has been ill but is recovering and it was wonderful to see her again at the All-States Reunion;

BOB LYNDON is Associate Commissioner with the N.S.W. Department of Government Transport, and the man in charge of the State Bus Services;

DON JOHNSTON during the All-States Reunion, presented the Squadron with a large number of photographs for the Squadron wartime Album.

NUNDY CARPENTER is now living at Nollamara in Western Australia. Attended the A-S Reunion;

KEN. BROWN is with the Soil Conservation Authority of Victoria and working at Numurkah;

ERN. LAMING works with the Melbourne firm, McIlwraith Industries;

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EATING ETHNIC. Nearly 30 N.S.W. Members recently attended their Second Ethnic Dinner--this time Greek. They had some lovely authentic Greek food and wines. The 3rd Ethnic Dinner will be at the end of July.

BARBEQUE AT THE COOMBES.

Just prior to the All-States Reunion, N.S.W. members and their ladies were invited to the Graeme Coombes' lovely home in West Pymble for a Sunday Barbeque. Among those attending were Ern and Jean Laming--en route to Queensland, and Cyril and Elaine Irwin who journeyed down from Wentworth Falls. It was a happy day among old friends.

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THE KEYNOTE.

It seems the right thing in this Reunion issue to give the closing words to Bruce McKenzie, who has written to the Squadron Secretary (Sam Barlow);

My dear Sam, I would like to express through you as the Squadron Secretary both Christina and my very deep appreciation and gratitude for the fantastic hospitality kindness and the friendliness which was shown to us during our stay with you all at Surfair. We had a marvelously happy time and some unforgettable moments whilst meeting old comrades and reviving old memories.

And attending the Service in that beautiful setting at Caloundra. So emotional. There IS just something special about 458.

We are already planning for 1979 and I hope we can make it a truly International Re-Union.

Again ever so many thanks and best wishes to everyone from us both.

Please remember that if any 458er or members of their family come either to Africa or UK let us know, especially if they run into any problems.....

yours aye, Bruce.

Knowle, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8JL, England.

RETURNABLE QUESTIONNAIRE.

THE HISTORY OF 458 SQUADRON.

It has been decided that there shall be another Edition of the Squadron History.

This will enable us to meet the wishes of members and others who have missed out or lost their copies of the first Edition. It will also be an opportunity to make alterations--to insert what was omitted and to correct what was in correct. But we shall need to be told. This Questionnaire is for that purpose. Will each member fill it in, as he sees the need, and send it back to

SQUADRON HISTORY, G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney, 2001, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.

The following was incorrect in the first Edition of We Find and Destroy
(give the Page number please)

The following episodes were omitted (please give dates if possible and
certainly places)

PLEASE TURN OVER.

History Questionnaire.

Knowing that working capital will be needed to bring out another edition, I shall, if asked, be prepared to make an advance payment for.....copies.
(Note: at this stage we are thinking of an advance of \$10 per copy. This might be the full price but we don't know yet)

My NAME.....

My address.....

My Squadron details were: Mustering, Crew, Number, etc.