

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



JOURNAL of THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, Box 5289, G.P.O., SYDNEY, N.S.W., 2001, AUSTRALIA.

YEAR 29, No.113.

December, 1977.

Price \$4 per annum.

SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Eric MUNKMAN (N.S.W.) SQUADRON VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Ian SHOWELL (S.A.),

Clive WYMAN (Q.)

SQUADRON TREASURER: Cy. IRWIN (N.S.W.)

SQUADRON SECRETARY: Sam BARLOW (N.S.W.)

EDITOR of 458 SQUADRON NEWS: Peter ALEXANDER.

PROGRESS ON THE SQUADRON HISTORY.

The author has commenced the work of preparing the 2nd. edition of "We Find and Destroy". Members have sent in a fair amount of further information and commentaries which will be included. A few amendments of fact, fortunately minor, will be made. Hopefully we shall publish during 1978. As to finance, 458 members have given good support by making advance payments for their copies. But we need some more so if you have yet to reserve your copy or copies, please use the form attached at the end of this issue of the News.

Q.FLIGHT TO HOLD MIDWINTER REUNION AT CAIRNS, North QUEENSLAND--26/28th MAY, 1978.

All 458 members are invited to a Midwinter Reunion at Cairns, North Queensland, during the last week-end in May, 1978. Q.Flight has arranged this function in accordance with the decision of the last Squadron Conference that Flights be encouraged to promote functions between the Biennial Interstate Reunions on dates other than Anzac Day. Apart from staging the Reunion to say "Thanks" to our stalwarts in the North, Q.Flight feels it needs to make an opportunity for members of all States to escape from the chill winter of the south to the pleasant warmth of the north.

The chosen weekend co-incides with the annual meeting of the Qld. Division of the A.F.A. at Cairns. The A.F.A. welcomes the joint approach to the tourist resources for group airtravel concessions, lower quotes for functions and tours, and hopefully for accommodation.

Negotiations and social programming are currently proceeding. Plans include a welcoming function for Friday night, a Dinner Dance, with the A.F.A., on Saturday night, all-day cruise to Green Island (with Erle Hetherington), tropical sight-seeing trip to the Atherton Tableland (guided by Bob Dangaard), rail trip to Barron Falls, and a 45 mile scenic coast crawl to Port Douglas.

Discount on fares of 10% is available for groups of 15 adults flying to North Queensland; this extends to groups of 7 flying from Melbourne with 8 from Adelaide. Stipulation is that groups fly to the destination by the same flight, but members may return independently. Interstate members can obtain group concessions from Brisbane to Cairns but must book through the local Group organiser. Alternative travel by road (800 miles Brisbane to Cairns) with many side attractions, rail by sunlander; or bus. Walking not recommended.

If you are coming, or want more information, contact Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q.4121., phone 397 5209. Reservations will be made for accommodation.

Christmas for Q.Flight.

Joan and Don. Brandon again hosted, for members in Brisbane and environs, the annual Xmas Get-together. Their gracious home and their

Q.Flight (cont.)

beautiful spacious grounds make the function a highlight of everyone's social calendar and an excellent prelude to the festive season. The function always goes so smoothly in the capable hands of Joan and Don. Good food, good cheer, and good company. Our thanks to Joan and Don for such a wonderful opportunity to socialise before the end of the year.

One couple who were missed was Jack Baxter and Kitty. It was Jack's 60th birthday that day (29th. November), and Kitty arranged a party for him--and he couldn't leave that, could he? Jack's still having trouble with his knees: the operation on one had to be repeated. The other is long past the time for attention. Though he can't get around much any more, Jack says, there's always a cold one in the fridge for the drop-ins at 9, Andna Ave, New Florida Gardens, Gold Coast. Two more members have retired down that way. Tony Stone, now at 1, Somerset Ave., Banora Point, and Bob Coles, at 18, Chainey Avenue, Miami. John Thorpe is a little further north but still in the Gold Coast, at 22, Park Drive, Helensvale.

Erle Hetherington, our man in Cairns, also retired in June. Built himself a large boat and spends most of his time on fishing trips.

Bill Honan has been forced to retire with a most serious complaint. Bernie McLoughlin who sees him occasionally says Bill enjoys a Saturday afternoon, profitably anticipating the order of horses passing posts.

Chester Jones announces that he too is planning to retire on his next birthday. He says it's a pressing necessity. He's got three vintage cars to work on. That, plus building a boat a year and an aeroplane!

One of the pleasures of Len MacDonnell in his retirement is watching cricket, an addiction to which he has introduced yours truly in his retirement. One phenomenon we have discovered is that the bottoms of beer glasses have magnification; so we leave our binoculars at home!

The weeds have suffered since Charlie Warren retired. We believe he is turning his holiday home at Kiwana Waters into a weedfree Zone.

Sheila and Jack Hobbs spent a fishing holiday at Mission Beach but we've yet to hear if the fish were missin' Jack has developed a new habit of collecting cars. It's an interesting story how he collected three at the one time.

Bernie McLoughlin arranged a get together for Snowy Atherton who was on his way through Brisbane in early October--back to the blackened North.

Jack Plunkett before he died, was given Life Membership of the A.F.A. for his work with the Cairns branch.

Lock Simpson recently flew back to Brisbane on a golfing holiday with fellow members of his Cotteslow Club. Planned to play golf all the way back to Perth. Uses the aircraft to spot lost balls.

Heard on the Geraldton grapevine that Al. Wheat on his return to Geraldton from Surfair and his trip to the East that he'd won the Mercedes Benz dealership prize. A trip to Germany.

From Jim. Holliday.

VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Ken. Morkham, 19, Tarang Avenue, Burwood East, 3151, Vic.

A General Meeting and Dinner were held at the Air Force Club, South Yarra, on the 30th. September. A good time was had by all present. Our new Flight President, Col. Hutchinson, welcomed members and wives. It was a pleasure to see so many at the dinner--including Roger and Jean Rodwell, John and Dot. Fleming, Beat and Ken. Morkham, Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson, Emmy and Frank Wilson, so nice to see them again, June and Ken. Brown, Jean and Ern. Laming, Jean and Stan. Tarczynski, Col. Hutchinson and his good lady, Nell and Harry Ashworth, Nance Cugley--we were all pleased to have you with us, Nance--Kath and Harold Martin; Val and Ian Alison. Some members brought friends and relatives along with them--all were very welcome. Apologies from Mick Singe, Ron. Russell, Gordon Nash, and Elaine Timms.

Melbourne Cup Day. Members were very pleased to accept the invitation of Harry and Nell Ashworth to attend a Bar B.Q. at their home in Oakleigh. The usual activities took place and we had a very good time. We thank Stan. Tarczynski and Jean Rodwell for their help in running the "usual Activities" which take place on Cup Day. Harry barbequed a large fish which he fitted into the oven with a few thou. to spare at each end. We thank Nell and Harry for their hospitality.

Xmas Do. We plan this at Roger and Jean Rodwell's for 4th. December. Idea will be for ladies to bring a present for the men and the men to bring a present for the ladies. (Under \$1).

Victorian Views (cont.)

Harry Ashworth has been selected to join the R.S.L. State side playing in Sydney starting on Boxing Day.

Changes of Address and Interstate trips. Vic. Flight members who have changed their address, please advise your Flight Hon. Secretary. We will be pleased to see more members and wives at our functions. It's worth while, chaps. Members going interstate or leaving your own State, let us know, as there are many 458ers who will be pleased to see you during your trips.

Vic. Flight President and Committee wish all 458ers the very best for the New Year.

NOTE FROM SOUTH AUS.

from Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Rd., Glen Osmond, 5064.

Members may have read in the news of the death of Harry Bartram, a brother of Syd. Bartram of 458 Squadron. Harry, ex-R.A.A.F., has been an Associate member of 458 Squadron Club virtually since it started and was very well known and liked by all members.

Before and since the war he had been an opal dealer, and on Friday, 16th. December, he was shot in the back of the head by intruders to facilitate theft of opals. It has shocked the Public and particularly our members, who extend their sincere sympathy to his widow and family and brothers.

The Squadron was represented at the funeral.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

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

Hello to all old friends around the world at Xmas and the New Year.

Our last social function for this year was a Bar.B.Q. at my home in Maylands, where we had a really great roll up; the weather was nice and warm all night, plenty of good food and ample cold lager to ease dry throats and loosen the tongue. Those who attended were Henry and Vera Etherton, Ray and Marge. Turley, Charlie and Al. Geddes, Bob and Betty Ellis, Tom and Phyl. Foster, Bob and Kath. Shearman, Peter and Doreen McCarthy, Nundy and Beryl Carpenter, Tim and Poss Dale, Bill and Joan Clues, Laurie and Dot Grigsby, plus a large number of relatives and friends of members.

Film Night. In the New Year we are hoping to arrange a film evening at Ray Turley's home--films Ray took when at Renmark last year, also quite a range of others of interest. It will be held on 21st. January. Ring Ray Turley on 332-1661.

Passing of Ken McLeod. It is with great regret I report the sudden passing of Ken. McLeod, who was always a staunch and generous member of the Squadron. He will be greatly missed. August 29th, 1977.

Fred Strom here. We had a visit from Fred. Strom in September. He came over on one of the Wild Flower Tours. Had a few beers with Fred., and Charlie Davis and Nundy Carpenter took time off to show Fred some of the sights of Perth.

Billy Chapman too. Also had a quick visit from Billy Chapman who was passing through Perth on a Round-Australia tour. Bill Clues and I looked him up where he was staying for the night, sank a few beers and talked about old times. Bill was hoping to catch up with Sharky Edwards while in Albany.

World Travellers. Bob. and Kath. Shearman are heading overseas in March '78 for a six months holiday in Britain and Europe and are hoping to visit Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Laurie and Dot. Grigsby are also leaving some time in March for Britain and Europe. Should be away about two months.

Ron Cannaway was not able to attend our Xmas party because he has to take things easy due to his heart condition and not being able to drive his car any more.

Gordon Jones has just had a spell in hospital because of a heart attack but is now at home. I am sure all Squadron members will wish them both the very best.

CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

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

Bowling at Christmas.

Our Christmas get together this year was held at West Pennant Hills Bowling Club where Squadron Member Frank Ward is Secretary. It was also a fund-raising occasion for the costs of the 1st. International Reunion in 1979. Sam Barlow who is i/c fund-raising and doing an excellent job points out he will need all the help he can get for this very ambitious undertaking. So, please remember, when

Cornstalk Commentary (cont.)

we approach you, as we most surely will in due course, help us to make it an occasion worthy of 458.

A great opportunity.

Maisie Barlow (wife of Sam of that ilk), who is a well-known artist has donated a landscape of "Ardglen" in the Liverpool Range, near Murrumbidgee. This is being raffled in aid of the International Reunion funds.. It is an excellent painting and the winner will be most fortunate. Maisie's works are most sought after. She formerly studied under Julian Ashton for some years. Raffle tickets are \$1-00 each (6 for \$5) from the N.S.W. Secretary. Draw will be around Anzac Day, 1978. Be in it.

Back to the Gathering.

The W. Pennant Hills Club has a large area of ground with good barbeque facilities. Bowlers attending played. We had full use of the Club. There was a very good roll up.

Harry Bishop in Australia.

Many of you will remember Harry, who flew with "Mac" McCann on 458. He and wife, Ethel, are visiting us in February, '78, from London--spending some time with Lofty Chalmers at Nelson Bay before coming to Sydney--then on to Adelaide where they are to drive with Pete Campbell. There is to be a dinner in Harry and Ethel's honour at the Air Force Club on February 8th (a Wednesday), at 7.30 for 8. We meet on the 1st floor for a few drinks first. Harry and Ethel have always been present when 458ers have been welcomed in London and we ask for a good roll up to make their evening one to remember.

The Longhursts Away.

Stan and Jean have been visiting the Shaky Isles. From all accounts they have had a most enjoyable time as most visitors to New Zealand do. A friendly crowd, the Kiwis, with a lovely country. Go and take a look yourselves. Incidentally, Peter Alexander accompanied by youngest daughter Melanie did that in October. Peter was part of an official A.F.A. Federal Executive party to visit the N.Z. ex-Servicemens Associations.

The Melbourne Cup.

Our sweep was drawn at the home of Eric and Dorothy Munkman, with Fred Strom and myself assisting. Prize winners were:
1st...John Dunn (Gold and Black); 2nd. Pat Millar (Reckless); 3rd. Iris Ricketts (Hyperno). Those who drew a horse were informed. It is not possible to advise all ticket holders, due to the cost of postage. To the winners, congratulations. To those who missed out, better luck next time and thank you for your most important help.

To all members, may 1978 bring peace, happiness and very good health. Don't forget the 1979 International Reunion.

PERSONAL PARS. To Linda Dean, wife of Dizzy, our very best wishes for better health. Linda is having a bad time with multiple surgery.

To 458 Members Bev. Wallace and Keith Austin, congratulations on their receipt of the O.B.E., in the recent Honours List.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Bill Waitt, 7, Woodstock Road, Harlow Green, Low Fell, Gateshead, England. (This is part of a lengthy letter containing information for the Squadron History)

Dear Sam, I received the Squadron News via Colonel McKenzie's secretary and learned that a reprint of the Squadron History is being considered. If so I know that Eric Fendick, Trevor Walden, Ken Trevena and myself would like copies. The following may be of interest.....

The news about international reunions is very exciting. Gwen and I would dearly love to visit Aussie, so here's hoping Freddy Laker can manage some special fares in 1979. I am now retired, but as you may have learned, fell ill after only six months. However after two operations resulting in a full colostomy, I am happy to tell you I have made a full and complete recovery. I have not yet managed to get a good snapshot of Gwen and I, nor of Ian our only son but will send one when I do. Just looked at the date. It is nearly 34 years since we did that job at Durazzo.

Please give my regards to..... yours aye, Bill.

From Mrs. Mercy Darling (wife of Roy), 165, New Brighton Rd., Christchurch, N. Zealand.
(to Stuart Ricketts)

Dear Stuart, Roy is very well but seldom writes letters. He enjoys reading the Squadron News---thank you for sending them. Roy is not yet retired but has an early morning cleaning job, spends the rest of the time in the garden and really leads a very quiet life. We have four sons and one daughter. Murray is 31, married with two wee daughters and is with the M.O.W. at Greymouth; John is 29,

Correspondence (cont.)

married with two wee sons. He assembles tractors. Graeme is 27, married and awaiting the birth of their first. Ian is 22, lives at home and is a butcher. Susan is 19, and shortly to be married. I went to Australia in 1966--thoroughly enjoyed it, went as far as Mackay... Everything is so different. Cheerio to you all, Mercy.

PLEASE SEND IN WHICHEVER OF THESE FORMS MEETS YOUR PURPOSE.

SQUADRON HISTORY RESERVATION.

To the Squadron Secretary (History),
G.P.O.Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W., 2001.

I enclose an advance of \$..... (being \$10 per copy) for copies of the forthcoming Edition of the Squadron History. I forward this as requested to augment the working capital for the publication and realise that, if necessary, the Squadron Council will adjust with me, up or down as required, when the book is ready for publication, and the final price is determined.

Name.....

Address.....

SQUADRON HISTORY DUSTCOVER COMPETITION.

To the Squadron Secretary (History Dustcover),
G.P.O.Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W., 2001.

I enclose an entry for the Dustcover Design Competition. I accept that the decision of the Judges will be final and that the Squadron Council will be at liberty to use the design, without charge, if it so decides.

Name.....

Address.....

SQUADRON 1st. INTERNATIONAL REUNION 1979 RAFFLE.

To Mr. Arthur Jollow,
Reunion Secretary,
G.P.O.Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W., 2001.

Please send me..... tickets in this Raffle, at \$1 -00 per ticket (6 for \$5-00)

Name.....

Address.....
