

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



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## SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

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

SQUADRON SECRETARY: L.J. (Sam) Barlow (N.S.W.)

EDITOR of 458 SQUADRON NEWS: Peter Alexander.

CORNSTALKS LEAD OFF. N.S.W. News from Arthur Jollow, 40, Nicholson St., Chatswood, 2067.

I met John McKellar recently. He retired last April, after a long and very distinguished flying career with T.A.A.--for many years as a Check Captain. He told me he was on a self-imposed period on the wagon to lose weight, but he hopes to break out on Anzac Day. John was with the Squadron at Holme on Spalding Moor.

### Irwins on the Move ?

I hear a rumour that Cy. and Elaine Irwin are considering changing their address. Don't know the details but believe the rumour to be more reliable than the ones Billy Brown used to disseminate. Speaking of Billy--How are you, Killer? We often talk of your various exploits. Good luck to you!

### Visit of the Bishops.

We had the great pleasure of entertaining Harry and Ethel Bishop at dinner during February at the Air Force Club, and we had a great attendance. Harry was a Gunner with Mac McCann's crew. He and Ethel stayed with crew member, Lofty Chalmers and his lady at Nelson Bay. Harry would have a big job in getting into a Wellington turret these days, believe me. Crewmember Peter Campbell later drove them to Adelaide, where Harry has a sister. (See special article below). It was great to have the Bishops, particularly as Harry is one of the U.K. Flight members who always joins in entertaining 458 members visiting London.

### Reunions and Raffles.

Preparations for the 1st International Reunion in 1979 are proceeding. Members have sent in money for the special Raffle--for an oil painting by Mary Barlow. Tickets are still available for anyone interested--\$1 each, or 6 for \$5--from me at the above address.

### Remember Jack Nichols ?

We have heard from Mrs. Nichols recently. Jack was a Sergeant IIE whom all old hands will remember with affection. He suffered a severe stroke 5½ years ago and has been incapacitated since. He is to undergo surgery at Lidcombe Hospital to correct a damaged hip. Jack enjoys our newsletters which are relayed to him by his wife. Another 458er who has been ill is Slappy Hammond. However he is planning to go overseas with Enid soon. We heard about his hospitalisation from Noel Walter. It is very good to be in touch with Noel who, incidentally, sent us a generous cheque to cover subs.

### Anzac Day.

Arrangements are in hand. I shall be in Mt. Isa at that time, visiting my family there. But all the best to you all.

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BISHOPS GOING SOUTH.

The Bishops' tour of S.E. Australia left Sydney by the Hume Highway for Goulburn and Canberra--seeing some southern highland towns en route. We had lunch on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin at Canberra and saw the Fountain on the Lake. Had a panorama view of Canberra from Mount Ainsley. Drove past the War Museum, Houses of Parliament--and inspected the National Library. So on to Thredbo in the Snowy Mountains for the night. The next day we took the chairlift to the top of Crackenback. Too early for Alpine flowers. Into Victoria by the Alpine Way inspecting the Murray Irrigation Scheme power house, and studying the layout of the Snowy Mountains scheme. Early into Beechworth in Victoria for the night--inspecting various National Trust buildings at this historic old goldfields town. Next day we called at the Morris and the Campbell vineyards and looked (!) at some pleasant wines. On to Echuca to look at the Murray river installations, etc. Along the river to Swan Hill. The next day, along the Murray Valley seeing some fine farms and orchards, including fruit drying. Then by the Ouyen Highway into South Australia--and through Murray Bridge on to Adelaide. ---Pete Campbell.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

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

The Cairns Mini-Reunion. Response to the Cairns Mini-Reunion--26/27/28/29 May has been most encouraging. A fair force, led by Dorothy and Squadron President Eric Munkman is coming from N.S.W., while the Brisbane contingent is being led by Q.Flight President Clive Wyman. For those who wish to travel together group air travel has been arranged with T.A.A. between Brisbane and Cairns on Flt. 414, leaving Brisbane 1.30 p.m. Friday 26th May. For information, contact organiser Jim Holliday--FAST.

Bernie presiding. Bernie (Judge) McLoughlin, now President of the Queensland Ryder-Cheshire Foundation for lepers, backward and unwanted children and T.B. sufferers of India is busy arranging a Golf Day for fund-raising at Nudgee Golf Club, 17th. May.

Brandon and Others. The indefatigable Don Brandon has been for many years the driving force behind the Queensland Guide Dogs for the Blind, and the Society's solid development has Donny's brand on. The Sunday Mail, Queensland's largest newspaper paid tribute recently, in a half-page article, to the achievements of Chris., son of Elizabeth and John Rosenberg. Chris., a battling spastic, drives his own car, a tractor, manages and tends the family's extensive macadamia nut orchard and even catches and harnesses horses. Chris is a regular and respected attendee at the Brisbane 458 functions. Ian Higlett reports enthusiastically on his recent tour of the Caribbean, southern U.S.A., Puerto Rico, Caracas, and Mexico. A most unusual and picturesque tour. Chas. Warren is now fully recovered from the painful treatment for a lung ailment. Bob. Helyar is happily domiciled by the sea at Wynnum (suburb of Brisbane) after a lifetime in the West. He has become an authority on local spots for the big fish, as well as Sunday sessions. George Reed writes of retirement to Mission Beach, south of Cairns. Says the family has a flotilla of four boats. No wonder Jack Hobbs found the fish scarce when he spent a holiday recently at Mission Beach. Keith Austin is the most recent member to migrate to Sunny Queensland. He's to be found at 58 Pinelands Road, Loganlea.

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VICTORIAN VINTAGE.

from Ken Morkham, 19, Terang Ave, Burwood East, Vic. 3151.

Holme-on-Spalding Moor Graves. As most members are aware Vic. Flight each year sends an Xmas parcel to W. Mathews (Postman) at Holme, in appreciation for services rendered to the five Squadron graves there. Bill writes each year and looks forward to receiving the parcels.

Squadron News. In view of the number of Victorians not contributing financially to the Squadron News, we make a special appeal to those Victorian members to forward \$2 Annual Newsletter sub. to me. Costs have risen considerably hence the urgent request. A yearly sub. of \$3 would also be appreciated by Vic. Flight.

Anzac Day. We wish to see as many members as possible on this special day, so please roll up. A get together at the Melbourne Bowling Club after the March. We shall be pleased to see the Victorian Flight wives at the Bowling Club at about 2.15 p.m. Our A.G.M. will be held after the March.

Vic.Vintage (cont.)Personal Pars. Retiring Stan.

Stan.Tarczynski retires on 9th May this year. We all wish you many years of good health and happiness in your retirement, Stan. By golly, the golf clubs will get a hiding. Watch out, chaps, we may have a champion in our Squadron.

Kath Martin has not been well (cartilage trouble) Probably from sleeping with her feet out of the bed. All the best, Kath. Roger and Jean Rodwell have sold their house in Ashwood and have purchased a home at 5, Cronin Court Cheltenham, Vic. Beatrice and Ken Morkham are planning a trip to Ethica, N.Y., U.S.A. to visit Beat's son, David, in July this year and are planning to do the round trip through Europe.

Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson entertained the Morkhams and the Rodwells at their lovely home in Barwon Heads in January. A good time was had by all. Peg and Gordon both look well and send their regards. Ken and Gordon had a go at the T.V. (tennis) game and Gordon won hands down. Roger reckoned it was rigged. You should see Gordon's vegetable garden, the veges grow so fast you don't have to pick them--you catch them as they pop out of the ground.

Keep in touch, chaps, and fall in behind the banner on Anzac Day. Regards, Ken

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WESTERN WORDS.

from Ted Jewell, 65, Kirkham Hill Terrace, Maylands, W.A., 6051.

W.A. Flight has been rather quiet since the last issue of the News but I guess it could have been due to all our hot weather over the summer months, the hottest on record. Things are a lot cooler now, so perhaps we will see a little more movement about the place.

Our last function was a film night, put on by Ray and Marg Turley at their lovely home. All those members who were unable to come along certainly missed a great night. Some of the films covered the trip to Renmark and the Reunion on the Murray. There was plenty to drink and nibble during the showing and then a wonderful supper after. Those who made it were: Tim and Pats Dale, Bill and Joan Clues, Henry and Vera Etherton, Shorty Long, Ted and Elsie Jewell, Tom and Phil Foster, plus several friends of members. Once again, thanks--Ray and Marg.

The annual commemoration service, and wreath-laying by 458 Flight President Bill Clues will be held at A.F.A. Headquarters, Bateman, in April. All Welcome.

Bill Clues was at my place during the week to discuss and make arrangements for the coming Anzac Day service and luncheon. After the morning service we will all adjourn to the home of Bill and Joan Clues for a few drinks and luncheon. We have hopes of a really good roll-up this year, so all members here in the West, what about it? Bill Clues has been having a bad time of it lately, for he has a painful attack of gout and to try to relieve the pain has had his leg in plaster; so, at the moment is only hobbling around. Hope things are on the mend now. Regards to all members from W.A. Flight.

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CROWEATERS COMMENTARY.

from Geoff Esau, 24, Fowlers Rd., Glen Osmond, S.A.

Squadron members welcomed Harry Bishop, out from the U.K. at a session at the Talbot Hotel on Feb. 22nd. Harry was an A.G. in McCann's crew at Bone and thereafter. Bert Ravenscroft, Brian Woodhead, Ann Scholer, Bruce Thomas, Ron Badger, Bill Taylor, John Carey, Lofty Trewartha, Ken Robertson, and I were on hand to shoot old lines and think up a few new ones while staving off the pangs of thirst. Harry appeared to be enjoying his trip and sent, per kind favour the editor, his regards to all his friends. He has a very congenial job with E.J. Rose and Co, Wine and Spirit Merchants in London. Ah well, you've got to have a win sometimes.

Another pleasant evening was spent at the Brighton R.S.L. Club on the 4th March where Bruce and Maisie Thomas, Syd and Pat Bartram, Lofty Trewartha and Joy Pender, Jack and Verna Riseley, Ron and Betty Badger, Brian and Joan Woodhead, and Bill and Madge Taylor enjoyed a cabaret-style entertainment.

S.A. members have been advised that dedication of a commemorative R.A.A.F. tree will take place at West Beach airport on Sunday April 2nd at 9.30 a.m. Anzac Day is just round the corner again and it is hoped to see a good roll call. It seems such a short time since last time that I fear I must be getting old.

Pers. Pars.

Jack Riseley has been promoted to proud grandfather for the second time. Congratulations, Jack. John Ringwood mentions having seen an ex 458 Wellington being restored for preservation at Hendon, London, part of which has become an R.A.F. Museum. I lost favour by remarking that if it could survive the rigors of our pilots treatment it will probably last forever! Nonsense aside, quite a thing for the Squadron--believed the only one out of 11,000 built.



Groweaters' Commentary (cont.) Ron Badger, for years a tireless worker for Squadron and Air Force affairs reports permission has been granted to fly the Air Force flag at West Beach Airport on appropriate occasions. Bill and Madge Taylor are off to the U.K. for six months in May. Their son, studying in London, could be part of the incentive to itchy feet. Happy holiday to you both.

from Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Rd., Grove Park,  
S.E.12 9TN, London, England.

All for now, Sid.

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the Clyde Valley Power company. I also received a letter from you, Peter, with the wonderful opportunity of a job in Sydney but I guess I just wasn't prepared to leave U.K. again, the way I had things at that particular time..... Pretty soon, I got re-united with my pre-war sweetheart, Margaret, we got married, and couldn't have been

Correspondence (cont.) Happier...  
We lost a boy at birth, then had a daughter, now married.

yours very sincerely, Farquhar McLeod better known as Jock.

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From Charlie Foman, (to Bruce McKenzie), from Noranda Mines Ltd., Granisle, B.C., Canada;

Dear Mac, This no doubt will be another voice out of the past,your old tailend Charlie,Foreman. Remember Powell and Foreman ,the terrible pair ? I have been in touch with Peter Eastcott lately. I saw a picture of him in a mining journal and dropped him a line to see how he was making out. He sent me a copy of the book he sent to you and also the letter he received back from you. Its rather interesting to know that a few of the boys from good ol' 458 are interested in getting together. Some years ago I saw a picture of you in Life;you were Minister for Agriculture at the time and were standing beside a prize bull. I intended to write to you but just did not get round to it. I was interested when you mentioned that you travel quite a bit and just recently returned from Hong Kong. My oldest son,Robert,is an Inspector in the Hong Kong Police,at a little place called Fantang.....He is the son born a few months before I went to North Africa in 1942.

Correspondence (cont) I have been following the mining game since I got out of the service. I went back to the gold mines, then, in '57 I went to the uranium mines in Elliot Lake; in '61 I went to the Potash industry in Esterhazy, Sask. The boom there went bust in '69 so I moved to the copper mines in B.C. and am now Services Foreman at Bell Copper, Granisle, about 500 miles as the crow flies N.E. of Vancouver and half way between Prince George and Prince Rupert. I served about 15 years in Municipal politics but did not get interested in anything higher, too much of a rat race. Four more years and I can retire; I was the old one on the crew, 27 years old when I met you young fellows. I'm still in touch with Powell as he is my Brother-in-law. I have not run into any of the other chaps I knew on the Squadron. I think that Sid Winchester is living in Vancouver but haven't had a chance to look him up. But will do so when I go on vacation this summer.

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Dear Mac,

Trusting to see you again in the near future.....

George Powell.

(EDITOR: Seems to us that these Canadian 458ers should look at having a Canadian Flight--or at very least a British Columbian Detachment. How about it, Jock? An annual get-together?)

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

I enclose an advance of \$.....(being at \$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 known.

Address .....

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

(6 for \$5).

Name ..... Address .....