

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

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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 ofter 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 Raffles-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 $5\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

BISHOPS GOING SOUTH.

The Bishops' tour of S.E.Australia left Sydney by the Hume Highway for Goulburn and Camberra-seeing some southern highland towns en route. We had lunch on the shores of Łake Burley Griffin at Canberra and saw the Fountain on the Lake. Had a pamprama 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 Early into Beechworth in Victoria for the night--inspecting various National Trust buildings at this historia 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.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

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

---Pete Campbell.

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 indefatiguable 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 halfpage 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 attender at the Brisbane 458 functions. Ian Higlett reports enthusiastically on his recent rour 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.

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 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 fallin behind the banner on Anzac Day.

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

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 mada it were: Tim. and Poss 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.

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, Arn. Scholar, 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 Marchants 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 Batty 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 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.oart 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.

Croweaters' 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.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

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

Hello and greetings from U.K.Flight! As the year creeps on it won't be long before we get together here for our annual meal and chinwag.

I haven't been in touch with Harry Bishop since he arrived home from Australia; he, no doubt, will have quite a few stories to tell. This week I heard from Dickie Tombs; he tells me he suffered a coronary a short time ago but is pleased to report that he is feeling fine now. Hugh Hamlet has been in touch; he is longing for the warm sunny weather so that he can get out with his paints. He sends his regards to a ll his friends in Aussie.

Regarding your inquiry as to who might be coming out in 1979, to date the only known U.K.member will be Norm.Gilbert and his wife. We are all hoping, but it seems the main problem is money. But we keep on hoping for the Pools or Ernie. Bruce McKenzie's secretary, Mrs. Dunlap, gets in touch with me occasionally to let me know how Bruce is, etc. I am hoping he can make our reunion dinner in April. All for now, Sid.

THE HISTORY. Typing of first draft amendments and additions proceeding well. Applications for copies (\$10 ea) still coming in. We can still use some more!

ETHNIC DINNERS. N.S.W.Flight is having a series of Ethnic Dinners—to try in turn the different foods now available in Australia. N.S.W.Members have eaten French, Greek, Japanese, Lebanese and on April 19th will eat some good and genuine Italian food and drink some Italian wines. For details of this or future dinners, contact Eric Munkman (407 2061) or Peter Alexander (41 5024).

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Farquhar (Jock) McLeod, 4251, Arthur Drive, Delta, B.C., V4K 2XI, Canada.

Dear Peter, Thank you for your letter, received last month. It was truly wonderful to hear from you; but through all those silent years I have constantly recollected episodes associated with my spell on 458 Squadron...I always considered myself fortunate to have served with such a great bunch of fellows. Iy was good to have a resumer of the career....of so many of my former comrades. I have been much more of a rolling stone, something I would never have predicted.... You and I boarded the illustrious Polish ship "Batory" to Algiers to be tented at Fort de l'Eau, then to be posted at R.A.F.pleasure. Then the Andes which took us back to Italy. I then went to R.A.F., Pomigliano, on the other side of Mt. Vesuvius from Naples. On reaching the Orderly Room, I was immediately dispatched to one of their aircraft to be their lone Radar Mech on their detachment at Istres, in the very picturesque south of France. I guess I was there about two months, highlited by many games of cricket, as I am sorry to say the standard of serviceability of those Warwicks was very poor and in no way matched the quality of work we were so used to on 458. "Circuits and Bumps" were even rare occurences. Eventually I returned to Napoli, to be posted to 205 Group, stationed at our old stamping ground at Foggia. Pretty soon the whole outfit returned to Egypt, on the Bitter Lake, between Kasfareet and Fayid. That must have been in the autumn of 1945. It was a pleasant time for me as I was in charge of the Radar Section and, believe or not, became the established Centre Halfin the 205 Group soccer team that won the Suez Canal League. Then I got posted to Fayid to an R.A.F. Squadron to straighten out their scruffy Radar Section. They had Halifaxes. I derived a deal of satisfaction from my achievement on that outfit before getting posted to U.K. to be demobbed at Hednesford. During my leave, I got an appointment as junior electrical engineer with the Iraq Petrol Co. However I decided to stay in Britain, going back to 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. ...She is a legal secretary and like her husband, an all round athlete. To get back on the rails, a nurse friend of my wife's departed for Canada in 1949 and eventually, we decided to join her and arrived at Vancouver in 1951. There was no work around at that time, all trades were out on one of the typical B.C. strikes. There was one job however with the Ministry of Defence, in Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory, about 1,000 miles north of Vancouver,so,one week after arriving in the country, I became airborne again, courtesy of the Government and spent six months located in Whitehorse, but also travelling north and south on the Alaska Highway. Naturally this was the coldest time of the year and the mercury dropped as low as minus 56 F, for usually three weeks at a time. Strangely the cold didn't bother me than but it sure would now. Returning to Vancouver I soon located Tony Mauro who was a well-known softball player. Tony nearly flipped when I tapped his shoulder at a game one evening. Pretty soon I also met Ernie Ireland, but I have lost track of him. Tony still works with the C.P.Railway --has done very well and has a fine family.

After my stint in the Yukon, I worked around Vancouver for a while, before going to the Aluminium Company of Carada's big, I mean massive, power project at Kemano, B.C. in the There two years then with a company in Vancouver which sent me on occasion to Fort McMurray in Alberta and even as far as Norman Wells in the Mackenzie River Delta, almost up in the Arctic. Later I studied for and gotmy B.C. Real Estate licence and worked as an insurance agent before returning to my real line of work. be my 19th year with the B.C. Hydro and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them. I retire...about the end of May.

We have our own 3 bedroom, two storey home in Dalta, which is a little fishing, farming community on the southern fringe of Vancouver, just south of the International Airport. Close to the City, the Sea, the United States, where we also own a nice bit of property by the sea..... To go back to 458 days.....

I was posted to a Squadron from Almaza; we got to Aboukir, then to Alexandria where we got on a boat and set sail West. After a few exciting days encircled by naval escorts, we sailed into Valletta andfound we were on the strength of 458 Squadron at Luga..... I had a time at Siggeive, the little Spitfire field where George Beurling (the Canadian We worked on some troublesome ASV units before we rejoined our buddies at Protville. I have landed in a let of interesting situations in my service and working life without reaching any lofty positions, but in all I have been very fortunate.

My wife and I were really interested to hearof the International Reunion in Australia next year, 1979. Besides all my 458 buddies, we have a good many relatives in Aussie and New Zealand. As I retire soon I shall have to decide our retirement plans. Provided we are fit and well we have it in mind to travel.....

My wife, daughter, son-in-law are heading south to-morrow to spend a week on the Oregon Coast...

I now bid you adieu, Peter, with our kindest regards....it was tremendous hearing from you....meanwhile all the best and as ever.

yours very sincerely, Farquhar McLeod better known as Jock.

FOLLOWING BRUCE McKENZIE'S APPROACH TO U.K. & CANADIAN MEMBERS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL REUNION in 1979 HE RECEIVED MANY LETTERS. HE HAS SENT US SOME AND WE SHALL REPRODUCE SOME OF THESE IN THIS AND FUTURE ISSUES.

From Charlie Forman, (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, Forman . Remember Powell and Forman , 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 Fantanq..... He is theson 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 bustin '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.

Regards, C. Forman, P.O. Box 247 GranisleB.C., Canada.

FromGeorge Powell, 24, Birch Road, Elliot Lake, Ontario, Canada (to Bruce McKenzie);

Dear Mac.,

Mick Reid sent me a copy of the letter he received from you re 458 Squadron which I was very pleased to get. I have forwarded a copy to Charlie Forman and Merv.Kinsey.

Things are booming again in Elliot Lake as both mining companies are expanding now and Rio Algom, the one I work for, are going to re-open three of the closed down mines in the next few years.

They expect the population of Elliot Lake to triple by 1980 Every available lot is being built on in this area and a new townsite is going up. The plans call for another town to be built about a half mile from this one.

The price of property has gone skyhigh now. A house like mine that cost \$12,000 in 1957,is now selling for \$45,000 to 60,000 depending on the improvements. We had a quiet vacation this year,my sister and her husband came down from Sask so we took them around this part of the country and played golf. I didn't get down to Toronto so did not see Mick this year.

I am employed as Mill Labour Foreman.

I dount if we can make it to Sydney next year but we will be hoping for the next Reunion in the U.K. as that would be possible, God Willing.
Trusting to see you again in the near future......

yours sincerely.

George Powell.

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

SQUADRON HISTORY RESERVATION.

To the Squadron Secretary (History Fund), 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.

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SQUADRON 1st. INTERNATIONAL REUNION 1979 RAFFLE.

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

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