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458 SQUADRON HONOURS BRUCE McKENZIE:--Memorial Services in Australia and U.K.

Memories, abiding admiration, as well as the horror and shock of his sudden and violent passing, brought 458 Squadron members and many others to Churches in Australia and the U.K. to commemorate him and his life and work.

In N.S.W. The Squadron in Sydney arranged a Service at the Air Force Memorial Church, West Lindfield on 9th July. Two of the wartime R.A.A.F. Chaplains were able to take part in the Service. The Very Rev. Fred McKay (Uniting Church--and a former Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia) lives in Sydney; the Rev. Father Johnny McNamara (Catholic Church) flew specially from Melbourne to officiate. They were joined in the Service by Bishop Neville Langford-Smith, formerly Bishop of Nakuru--Bruce's home area of Kenya--and the Rector of All Saints Church. Bishop Bob Davies, Bishop of Tasmania was to his regret unable to come, being overseas attending the Lambeth Conference.

458 was very much moved by the action of Bruce's widow, Mrs. Christina McKenzie, who flew specially from London to be present--arriving on Saturday and flying out again on Monday to continue to cope with the multiplicity of business arising in Kenya and Britain following Bruce's death.

Squadron President Eric Munkman read the Lesson; the two Padres spoke of McKenzie the Airman; Peter Alexander spoke (in his capacity of Chairman of the Kenya-Australia Society) on McKenzie the Kenyan; Judge Bernie McLoughlin recited the Ode, on behalf of 458ers interstate and overseas. 458 members came from nearly all Australian States to attend. Members of the Kenya-Australia Society also attended.

In South Australia In South Australia Memorial Service to pay tribute to Bruce McKenzie was held at West Beach Airport on the same day, July 9th, and was attended there by some 30 members and their wives. The Service was conducted by Padre Ben. Williams, Repatriation Hospital Chaplain. The occasion was doubly moving (reports Geoff. Esau) in knowing that Bruce had served as ably in war and in race and war-torn Africa as he had at war in earlier times. A great and unnecessary tragedy.

At St. Clement Danes, London. 458 Squadron News has received a cassette recording of the beautiful and choral service held at the R.A.F.'s Church in London. It commenced with a Piper playing a Lament. Lessons were read by Mr. Charles Njonjo (Attorney General of Kenya), and Air Marshal Sir Geofferey Tuttle gave Tribute--this being particularly appropriate as he, as Group Captain Tuttle, at

Protville, first coined the name of "McKenzie's
"Air Force" for 458 Squadron. In his Tribute he described Bruce as the most
unforgettable man we have ever met. He, said Sir Geoffrey, made 458 "one of the
"happiest and most efficient units I have ever Known." His activities expanded
into world wide interests to an extent that he became an internationally well-known
and well-liked figure. In these activities he remained the unspoiled friend of
thousands.

Many notables of British life (including two dukes) attended the London Service and 458 Squadron was represented by U.K.Flight members, by 458ers who came specially from Canada and by Squadron Vice President Ian Showell and Squadron Past-President Bill Taylor.

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Since last newsletter, we have had an ethnic dinner beyond compare. Each one we have had previously has been most enjoyable, as much for the company as for the food, but this will be a very hard one to follow. Graeme and Dulcie Coombes most graciously gave the use of their home at West Pymble for a Scandinavian Dinner. All of the preparation and cooking of the food was done by Dulcie Coombes, Rita Alexander, and Barbara Campbell. It was scrumptious; you've never tasted 'Munga' like we had there. We'll talk of this night for a long time to come. Over 30 458ers came. Graeme as usual was a most gracious host--and on behalf of all who were present--Thank you, Graeme, Dulcie, Rita and Barbara, very much.

The Service for Bruce McKenzie was a very moving experience. It was a great satisfaction to us that Christina was able to fly out to be with us, for as well as being Bruce's wife, she has also become part of 458 over the years.

It was a great pleasure for Tess and I to meet Father Johnny and to have him to our home for lunch. His recollections of 458 persons are clear and sharp and I get the impression he knew more of what went on than we thought. The Rev. Fred looks about half his age and I can only assume he lives right!

Among the Messages read from the pulpit was one from President Jomo Kenyatta, who held Bruce in the highest regard. After the Service we were given a delightful tea by the Church. Our thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and to the Rector, Norman Gelding. After the Service Christina told me that Bruce, in his less reverent moments used to say that when he passed on, he would pop down to listen to what was being said about him. If he did, he must surely have been happy at what he heard.

Vale John Fennell. We heard with very deep sorrow that John Fennell was accidentally killed on August 12th. John who lived near The Entrance, N.S.W was hit by a cable which snapped under strain and whipped through the air. His funeral service was very well attended and 458 was represented by Flight President Eric Munkman, Stan. Longhurst, Henry Bryant, Laurie Crowley, Fred. Strom and Wal Archbold. To Dora and to the family on behalf of all 458ers who knew John, and most of us did, we extend deep and sincere sympathy. We share your loss.

travellers. Don and Bev.Bitmead are on a months tour to Japan. They should have a most interesting trip--and we are holding the next ethnic dinner till they return! Frank Ward also has had a most interesting and varied trip to Hong Kong, Japan and Taipei. Tells us he got arrested in in Tokyo, being on the wrong jetty minus passports. Says nevertheless Tokyo is a magnificent city, very clean with magnificent boulevards--the one in front of his hotel having eleven lanes. Food is prohibitive--\$32 for a steak! Freeways, overpasses and underpasses have to be seen to be believed. Every item of space is utilised--you can't buy a car unless you can prove you have a parking spot. Frank claims to have seen more Buddhas, temples and shrines than any other 458er--he saw 1,000 Buddhas in one Hall. He is less keen on Hong Kong.

Raffle for Maisie's Painting. This Raffle was drawn and won. A ticket was written for each purchaser of a \$1 of tickets. Names were placed in a special barrel which was spun and a name drawn. This procedure saved postage cost. The winner was Mrs. Wilson, a neighbour of Eric Munkman. It was a delightful prize. Our thanks to all who contributed. As a matter of interest, the barrel used is the one used to draw post positions at all A.J.C. races, so our names were in the good company of Phar Lap, Tulloch, and Gunsyndie to mention a few.

COMING EVENTS.

The Squadron History. Should go to the Printer in a few days.

The 1st International Reunion, 1979. Being steadily planned. Soon we shall be asking for preliminary indications of names attending.

The next N.S.W. Ethnic Dinner. Vietnamese food, October 10th. Those interested contact Eric Munkman or Peter Alexander.

Annual Subs. for 1979. Soon due-- please keep us and yourselves financial.

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BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Rd., Grove Park, London.

As one of the most awful summers draws to a close, I send greetings to all our friends down under. Quite a lot has happened. In May we had an extremely happy reunion, when we not only had the pleasure of meeting up again (last time 1945) with Ernie Laming and his wife but also had the great pleasure of welcoming Bruce and Christina McKenzie. Then on May 25th we had this absolutely stunning and tragic news of Bruce's death.

St. Clement Danes Church was full with a good attendance of UK Flight members and we were pleased to welcome Peter Eastcott and Micky Reid from Canada and Bill Taylor and Ian Showell with their wives. After the Service quite a few of us enjoyed a quiet noggin at the Pathfinders Club. We are hoping to meet up again with Bill Taylor before he leaves some time in October. Another very welcome visitor was Bob Bruce. Harry Bishop and I met Bob and enjoyed a couple of drinks with him--which Harry extended with his firm's very generous sherry at Harry's office.

Last Friday I had yet another very welcome call--from Ken. Morkham who is only over here for a very short time since he went to the States before coming here.

Dickie Tombs, the Sqdn. photographer sends special greetings. He has had a rough time in health over recent years, with his heart, but is looking pretty good now.

Another sight for sore eyes was Hugh Hamlet--the older he gets, the younger he looks. Others who send greetings include Bill Anton, Fred Nieman, Norman Gilbert, Trev. Walden, Bill Waite and Leon Armstrong.

With regret I record the death of John Dandy's wife, Mary, after a long illness. Our condolences to John.

Please, when anyone comes from Aussie, get in touch with me, even if it's only to have a drink together. (T/No 217-4677 (H) 857 0946 (W)).

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

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

It's sad news in part from Queensland. We've a letter from "Dickie" Watson's sister-in-law that "Dickie" passed away in hospital at his hometown of St. George, having been in ill-health for some time, unable to work and receiving repatriation benefits and care. He died 4 days before his 52nd birthday.

To-day, Sept. 17th) Charlie Warren received news of the death of Tim McQuaid at his home town of Barcaldine. It was only three months after it was discovered that he had a serious illness. So, inevitably, as the years roll by, our ranks are thinning.

Fortunately for most of us there is the happiness of retirement. In Q. Flight, the number of the retired has been swelled by another, Bert Garland. Since the war years, Bert has been with air traffic control. He and his wife Isla and son spent many years in New Guinea airports before returning to Archerfield and Eagle Farm in Brisbane. Fishing is Bert's recreation. So the denizens of the deep have had their numbers dented but not decimated since Bert has had more leisure.

After so many years of association with the North Queensland Tourist Industry at sea, Erle Hetherington seems to have taken a vacation in the Bush. He and three mates have taken a 4-wheel drive to the less frequented parts of Cape York Peninsula.

Don Brandon is building bi in Beenleigh. If you hear an unidentified boom within the next few months, that will be a shockwave from the launching of Donny's great expansion.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Ken. Morkham, 19, Terang Avenue, Burwood East, 3151, Vict..

Personal Pars.

Beatrice and Ken. Morkham have returned from their World trip. Both had a wonderful trip to Canada, U.S.A., the Continent, England and Home, via Bahrain and Singapore.

They stayed a while with David and Joy McKinna at their beautiful home in the area of Ithica, New York State, and had a wonderful time there. David has obtained his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics and Marketing at Cornell University. Congratulations, David.

Ken has taken many sound movies of the trip and whilst in England Beatrice and Ken met Sid. Thompsett and had a very enjoyable lunch hour with him

Victorian Views (cont.)

on the old Caledonia ship on the Thames river. Much ear-bashing went on and we were very pleased to hear of U.K. Members. We also had a chat with Norm. Gilbert while in London and later visited St. Clement Danes Church where Bruce McKenzie's Memorial Service was held.

Mick Hunter. Mick is in Hospital with heart trouble and diabetes. His daughter is expecting her third child--their seventh grandchild. Mick and Frances send their best wishes to Mick Singe, Reg and Grace Hansell, Wal and Bet. Archbold and to all 458ers. Mick's address is:--34, Rundell St., Ararat, Vic 3377.

Ted Littlehales Ted has advised that he has been in hospital for a couple of months and has had two operations but is home again. Best of luck, Ted, and a speedy recovery. Ted's address is: 1168 Norman Street, Wendouree, Vic. 3355.

Les and Marce Boyer. are celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary and have a family of six, plus grandchildren. Les asks to hear from Smiler Ravenscroft and Mick Singe and also wants a list of Squadron addresses published in the News. Les' address is:-- 27 Goldwin Street, Kyneton, Vic, 3444.--for those who wish to contact him.

Stan Tarczynski passes his wishes to all members, and is enjoying retirement.

News from Members. It is very pleasing to hear from members, and we suggest that more of them avail themselves of the media of the News. Once again we ask that if you have changed your address, you contact your Flight Secretary and if you are not receiving the News, advise also.

Snowy Fennell. We have been advised of the accidental death of Snowy Fennell, and pass on to his good lady and family our condolences.

Kindest regards to all, Ken. Morkham.

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SQUADRON ADDRESSES. Noting the request, which has been made before, for listing of 458 addresses again, we shall do that as space and time allow, as part of, or supplementary to the News. Space being at a premium, in this issue we start with the smallest list we have--the Tasmanian, ~~and the New Zealand (which shall follow).~~

Tasmania.

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|----------------------|---|
| T.H. Browne | 74, James Street, West Devonport, Tas, 7310 |
| L.D. Cameron | Deloraine, Tas, 7304 |
| Rt. Rev. R.E. Davies | Bishop of Tasmania, 125, Macquarie St, Hobart, 7000 |
| Geoff, Hayes | 105 Nelson Road, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005 |
| R.M. Jacklyn | 74, Derwent Avenue, Lindisfarne, Tas, 7015 |
| J. Kelly | 43, Leonard Avenue, Moonah, Hobart, Tas, 7009 |
| A.A. Peace | Nubeena Tasmania, 7184 |
| Harold Stevens | 194, Alanvale Rd., Newnham, Tas, 7250 |
| J.S. Thorpe | 33, Gatehouse St., Moonah, Hobart, Tas, 7009 |
| W. Wilkinson | 20A Ormond St., Bellerive, Tas., 7018. |

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FOR N.S.W. MEMBERS .

Can we please give you details of annual subs for 1979 and ask you to remit at your early convenience.

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| Air Force Association--458 Sqdn Branch | \$6-00 |
| 458 Squadron News (for members) | 2-50 |
| 458 Squadron Association | 2-50 |

Please use the form below for your convenience.

I.....of.....
forward herewith the amount of.....in payment of my subscriptions
for the year 1979.

Signed.....