

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

YEAR 30;No.118. March,1979. Price \$4-00 per annum.

SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

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SQUADRON. SECRETARY

EDITOR of 458 Squadron News:Peter Alexander. Editor's Tel.Nos 41 5024 (Home);211 2070 (Work). Both in Sydney.

THE CLAN PREPARES TO GATHER FOR THE Ist.INTERNATIONAL REUNION.

Early indications are that we shall have a very good gathering in Sydney this coming Sept 27th—October 5th. For your information, the following have filled in Notification Forms indicating that they hope to be with us. (Many others are still to come in).

Overseas	Vic	S.A.	W.A.	NJS.W.	Queensland
E.Fendick (U.K.) R.Verity (N.Z.)	S.Tarczynski V.Clohesy	N.Trewartha S.Bartram	J.Palmer	D.Bitmead B.Bruce	B.Hughes J.Baxter
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N.Gilbert (U.K.)	D.Firth	I.Dillos .	R.Turley	Bob.Millar	B.McLoughlin B.Garland
				W.Perkins	J.Holliday
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plus, of course, many "Local" members. Nearly all the above members have indicated that they will be accompanied by one or more family or friends.

Will members who have not yet sent in their Form, to indicate (without commitment) an intention to attend the Reunion, please now do so. Another form is at the end of this issue of the News.

Forms received to date heavily support the proposed visit to Canberra to follow the Sydney events and the Reunion Committee is arranging this accordingly.

Andrew State of the Springer

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

Things have been a little dull since Xmas apart from Cyclone Kerry and Joh's banana bender bonnet. Perhaps its the summer sloth or perhaps the girding of loins for the onslaught of the Anzac Day Reunion.

However,a delightful function was held at the Greek Club on Wednesday 21st. February,attended,regrettably by a small number. However the apologies were many and ernest. Hilda and Frank Wilks had commitments that prevented their commuting from Toowoomba. Jack Lewis was laid low with a severe recurrence of back trouble. Sel.Foote was a last minute withdrawal with a passing but virulent virus. Joan Brandon was recuperating from an operation,at Mount

Q.Flight News (cont.) Tamborine. Bernie McLoughlin was tied up with arrangements to welcome Group Captain Cheshire, V.C., and Lady Ryder, visiting Australia during this Year of the Child.

A welcome visitor to our function was Kel.Kellam and wife Anne. Kel's been in and out of Repat.Hospital with 5 heart attacks,most of which required treatment in the Intensive Care Unit. At 77,Kel looks well despite the need to use a walking stick.

Joyce and Jim.MacKay were there too, freshly returned from a tour of our North, following Jim's retirement. Jim says he's happy that he can now devote time to his hobby—lapidary.

President Bert Garland was more than happy that he has now completed his pre-retirement leave and now commences his official retirement.

But the two happiest people there were Joyce MacKay and Eric Kelly. Both were celebrating birthdays.

To Chas. Warren, another grandchild.

If ever you see Len MacDonnell and Jim.Holliday absorbed in a tête-à-tête, you can bet the topic is the theme nearest their hearts; the cruel income tax imposed on the aged.

The October issue of "Blues on Parade", the A.F.A.Queensland paper had a most comprehensive article on the late Bruce McKenzie. (We wrote it—Ed. !)

VICTORIAN NEWS.

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

Not much to report for this Issue.

Anzac Day Melbourne. Your Committee expects as many members as possible to attend the March and later the Reunion at the Melbourne Bowling Club. Be in it, chaps! Meet your mates again. The entrance fee for the Reunion will be \$2-00;\$3 subs;and;2-00 News.

New addresses. Please advise your Secretary of any change in your address. We like to keep in touch and so do your mates. Your committee can only function to your satisfaction if you, as members of the Vic.Flight support it. So, if you have not paid your sub. \$3-00 and News-letter dues \$2-00 for 1979, please forward them to your Hon.Secretary/Treasurer.

458 Squadron News. The News is a wonderful medium for us all to keep in touch. So please support it. The Vic.Flight strongly opposes financing of the News for unfinancial Vic.Flight members. So please forward your News sub. at least. \$2 to be financial. Vic.Flight record 92 members with only 31 having paid their dues for 1978.

Bowls. Harry Ashworth and Ian Alison won the recent Diggers Day Bowling Tournament. . Congratulations:

<u>Clobe Trotters.</u> The grape vine tells us that another two members are leaving shortly for overseas. Harry and Nell Ashworth—John Bilney and his lady. We wish them bon voyage, and trust they meet up with other 458ers overseas.

We look forward to a big turn-up at the Anzac Day March and to enjoying your company at the Reunion.

Regards, Ken.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA. from Geoff.Esau,24,Fowlers Road,Glen Osmond,5064.

We regret postal delays caused us to miss the last News.

VALE Bruce Thomas. It is with regret I have to report the passing of Bruce Thomas in November after some weeks in hospital. The large gathering that attended the Service in St.Michael's Church, Mitcham, and his funeral at Centennial Park, was evidence of the respect and regard in which Bruce was held by the Community. John Ringwood, Jack Riseley and Bill Taylor represented the Squadron as pallbearers, together with members of Legacy, which had long been a service interest of Bruce. Our sincerest sympathy has gone to his widow, Maisie.

Welcome to Charlie Davis.

A visit from Charlie Davis and his wife, from W.A., was reason enough for a reunion at the Talbot Hotel on Nov.15th. Lofty Trewartha

News from S.A. (cont.) entertained them both after. It is always pleasant to catch up with interstate members.

Haven't had much chance to catch up with Bill Taylor's story of his travels but understand he met a number of U.K.members (and local ones on their travels, notably Ian Showell) Hope we can share highlights of their trips through Squadron News before too long. They and their wives attended the Memorial Service for Bruce McKenzie in London. Bill tells me his ex-Navigator, Tom Phillis, has also returned from a low key Hitch hike round the World and is talking of going again soon.

On Sunday Feb.18th. a service was held at the Airport dedicating plaques to sister squadrons 462,466 and 5 A.C.S.. 458 was represented by Ron.Badger as Secretary of the Air Force Memorial Adelaide Airport Committee. Ted. Creighton, Bill Taylor and Jack Riseley with their wives also represented us.

A plaque will be unveiled and dedicated on Sunday March 18th. at 11 a.m., to commemorate the W.A.A.A.F. participation during the War. Miss Claire Stevenson, wartime Director of the W.A.A.A.F., will fly from Sydney for the occasion.

A Flight Committee meeting, held at Jack Riseley's home on Feb.20th., elected Jack McGlasson, of 25 Taylor Terrace, Rosslyn Park, 5072 (phone 31-7627) as Flight Treasurer.

Members are reminded of the Anzac Service at the Airport on April 25th.

Assembly 9 a.m. with a service, conducted by Rev.Ben.Williams, commencing at 9.15.

Assembly for the March will be announced in the Press and it is hoped as many as possible thereafter will come to the Talbot Hotel in Gouger Street.

Regards and best wishes to all members from South Australia.

CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

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

It was with deep sorrow that we heard that Betty Archbold had passed away after a long illness. Betty was Wal's wife. Wal was one of the original members of 458, having sailed on the Aorangi on Sept.5th,1941,as a member of 458 Squadron. I know that all who knew him will join in extending their sympathy in his loss.

The International Reunion. Preparations are well in hand, and we have received notice of intent from quite a few members—and we expect many more. If you haven't thought about it, please do so NOW and decide to join us all on this occasion. Remember it is LATER THAN YOU THINK:

The Flight Dines again.

A Spanish Ethnic Dinner was held at the Valencia Restaurant, George Street, (in Sydney's Spanish Quarter) on Feb.6th—and was a most enjoyable occasion I am told (I was in Melbourne on that day). About 5 of these dinners are held each year at various national style places and are very popular. Why not join us at the next one?

Anzac Day,1979. After the March there is a rendez-vous for a sit-down dinner at the Great Southern Hotel which has been our haunt for many years. Will those who are going to attend please advise me on 238 0266 (work),419 3538 (Home) or Eric Munkman on 407 2061 (Home).

Art Exhibition A most enjoyable luncheon with many wines was held at the lovely home of Sam and Maisie Barlow on Sunday 25th. Feb. to help raise funds for the International Reunion at the end of September. Anyone who has experienced Sam's hospitality will know how good it was--a delightful occasion attended by 34 members, It was the occasion of an Exhibition of porcelain art work by wives and friends Maureen Hessey, a leader in this form of art. To the uninitiated, this is hand painting on porcelain or glass which is done in stages and kiln fired after each application. This can be done on articles as small as thimbles and spoons, brooches, pendents, jewel boxes, etc to large plates, vases, and wall plagues in colours from the softest pastels to vividly coloured flowers, scenes, etc. To those who participated in the Raffle for the beautiful porcelain plate and stand which Maureen had donated--it was won by Iris Ricketts, wife of Stuart of that Ilk. Iris was present when the raffle was drawn and was highly delighted. To those who participated, like me, with no success, thank you for your support.

To Sam and Maisie, thank you for your wonderful hospitality, and, Sam, did you count the empty spaces in your cellar after we had all gone? I saw some contemplative glances

there.

Cornstalk Commentary (cont.)

To Maureen Hessey, our thanks for providing us with something beautiful, or should I say some beautiful things to look at and admire.

In conclusion.don't forget the Reunion. I hate to harp on it, but we wouldn't want you to miss it—and we do look forward to greeting old friends.

Talking of old friends, can any Sandgroper tell me where Jack Mitchell is. I haven't heard from or about him since Foggia 1944. Does he remember the day the petrol tanker caught fire? All for now--best wishes to you all.

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

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

How time flies! It only seems like last week when I was welcoming in 1979, and here we are into February. Never mind, the sooner we lose this winter the happier I shall be. Only last week, during our severe weather, my wife fell down and broke her wrist.

Barras for Britain. I received a letter from Alex.Barras requesting the address of Bob.Newton, who served on the Squadron up to Malta, but have had to inform him that Bob passed away last October.

Alex.informs me he and his good wife will be coming over here in March--we look forward to meeting them.

Someone for Sydney Eric Phillips, from Manchester, is going to Sydney and several others are planning. Will keep you informed.

Otherwise not a great deal to report unless I burden you with all our strikes,etc except that I have been in touch with a few of the boys by 'phone. Hugh Hamlet Norman Gilbert,Fred.Nieman,and Bill Anton,who send their regards.

That about wraps it up for this time, Peter.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Dave Firth, Box 46, Robinvale, Victoria, 3549.

Dear Peter, You have probably already heard of the sudden death of Ken.Cupper but I have sent the enclosed newspapers cuttings for information. Unfortunately Glad and I were away at Port Augusta, staying with Jim.and Joy Perry and we did not have time to get back for the funeral. Ken.and I were allocated adjacent fruit blocks in 1947 under Soldier Settlement and were good friends and neighbours ever since, although since my retirement 4 years ago I have been living in the town of Robinvale. Ken had been in poor health for some time but still carried on and worked his fruit block. Nevertheless his sudden death was a shock for allof us here in Robinvale.

(Editor: We all join in sympathetic sorrow with Ken's family. He was a Pilot

liked)

Dave Firth continues. Glad and I are enjoying our retired life and still find plenty of activity to keep us occupied. Any 458ers passing through Robinvale are most welcome to call in at 81, George Street. Next month I will be back at grape picking on my son's fruit block, but will be finished in time to come over for the next reunion.

in the middle-period of 458's history in North Africa and flew under Bruce McKenzie's command. He came to several All-States Reunions and was universally

Looking forward to seeing you all then, yours sincerely, Dave Firth.

From Ron. Verity, 80 Gayhurst Road, Dallington, Christchurch, 6, New Zealand.

Dear Peter, Let me begin by saying how much I appreciate the work being done in connection with the activities of 458 Squadron. Over the years you have done a marvellous job......

My apologies for not having replied to the Notice in the last Newsletter before now; but our intentions have been somewhat governed by our son's activities; but now that he has taken a position with Comalco at Weipa, we are better able to plan the future.

Yes, my wife and I are definitely going to make the effort to be present at the functions in Sydney in September; and as you may expect we hope to make a trip to Weipa before the reunion. Unfortunately, it is most unlikely that we will be able

Correspondence (cont.).

to make the visit to Camberra, but we are looking forward to seeing Sydney for the first time, and meeting some who may remember those days at Protville and Bone.

I have reason to believe that Kevin George is also giving serious thought to making the Reunion, but of others I have nothing to report as we seem to be out on a limb here in Christchurch.

Molly and I managed to squeeze in a visit of three months to the U.K. in 1978, where we had a marvellous time, Stayed with Eric Fendick (crew member) Leicester, and discovered he has much to recall and still has a ready wit.

best wishes for all success, sincerely, J.Ron. Verity.

From Bryan Quinlan, 1460, Haywood Avenue, West Vancouver, B.C., V7T 1V6, Canada. Dear Peter,

.....I am enclosing a bank draft to take care of my commitments hopefully. I have been trying to find out if the few other ex-458 Canadians are planning to attend the Reunion. Bruce's death knocked a big hole in many things including his drive and leadership in organising the widely spread ex-squadron member's in Canada and the U.K. Would really like to attend, so please put us in the "possibles".

I'll keep chasing the others who I think plan to attend. Very best wishes to all ex-458ers Keep up the good work.

> Sincerely, Bryan.

From Bill Wilkinson, 20A Ormond Street, Bellerive, Tasmania, 7018.

Dear Peter,

I am very grateful to you for continuing to send the 458 Squadron News and whilst I have been very involved with a merger in the company over the last few years I am sorry I have had very little time to follow up the activities of the old Squadron. You will no doubt be interested to learn I am taking an early retirement as Manager in this State of QBE Insurance from 31st. January. After that date I shall have more time at my disposal and perhaps will be a better correspondent.

In the near future I do have plans to revisit England and my purpose in writing is to ascertain whether you have the addresses of Jock Anderson who was a spare Nav, with our crew and Tony Cotton, likewise a spare Nav. These are two names I would like to trace should I visit the old country and perhaps if you have other addresses of old Squadron team mates in England I should be glad to have them.

Please let me have details of the reunion in Sydney in September....All being well I hope to be there.

Kindest regards, yours sincerely,

Bill Wilkinson.

From Cec.Percy,c/o P.O.,Glenmaggie,Vic.3858.

Dear Peter, Enclosed is a cheque for the Journal. (Ed:Credited to Vic.Fl.) Please note the new address. I have had to retire owing to health, and old age catches up to us all. Louise and I are very happy up here. We have two acres near the Lake Glenmaggie. I have plenty to do. Finishing house,helping Louise with the garden and lots of nice places in the area to go swimming, boating and

I would like to extend a welcome to any 458ers who would like to visit us--and would like to wish all members "The very best" for the coming year. year for the Squadron with the loss of Bruce McKenzie especially.

Well Peter Regards to you and your family, yours sincerely, Cec.Percy.

PROGRESS OF THE 2 nd. EDITION OF THE HISTORY

We have received from the Printer the second proof, incorporating the new material. We have laid out the new photos of the post-war period and returned it to the printers. When we get the final proof we have to do the work on an Index. We shall also have to settle the matter of the Dust Cover. Then the history will be ours for distribution and sale. We are still looking for advance orders (Form below).

CHURCH NOTES.
This item was received some little while ago and held over for space. It comes from Ken.Robertson,through our S.A.Flight Correspondent,Geoff Esau.

First=hand news of two of our three Middle East padres comes from W.K. (Robbie the Scribe) Robertson of Toorak Gardens, S.A. He writes:

My wife Rachel and I did a three week VW Campervan tour of Tasmania last March. Well up in our treasury of highlights of this "Meals on Wheels" circuit of the Apple Isle was a call on Bishop Bob.Davies and his warm, friendly wife Helen.in Hobart.

As you would expect, he's the same old padre Bob who we all knew and loved. (Indeed, he has little hope of stamping the sand of the Desert off his shoes even if he wished to do so for he's living now in the house where the 8th Army's Monty spent part of his boyhood when his father was Bishop of Tasmania). The present incumbent of that exalted office has an excellent opportunity to keep an eye on the moral activities of the community he serves for the huge bay windows of his drawing room command a magnificent view of the casino. Bob and Helen this year go to England where he will attend the Lambeth Conference and then lead a party to the Holy Land. Godspeed to them both. Back in Melbourne Laurie Le Guay and I called on Padre John McNamara. You can imagine the earbashing that went on and I assure you Johnnie Mac was well able to hold his own. We were happy to find him looking so well--and mobile-after his serious illness last year. He has a cosy self-contained unit in Moran House, Kew, in the spacious grounds of the Archbishop's House, and his irrepressible sense of fun has obviously won the hearts of the Sisters who look after Moran House.

THE SQUADRON CREST IN St.CLEMENT DANES ?

The Squadron Council is engaged in negotiations, through the Federal Office of the Air Force Association, for the incorporation of the Squadron's wartime Crest, designed by Hugh Hamlet, used in the Field, but never registered with the College of Heralds. Approval having been recently given for the incorporation of another E.A.T.S.Squadron's crest in the Church—which crestitoowas not registered by the College of Heralds, we have some hope of having ours likewise accepted. If this occurs we shall take up with the Flights the details of the operation.

SQUADRON HISTORY RESERVATION.

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

I enclose the amount of \$...... forcopies of the Squadron History @ \$10 each. I regard this as a deposit and accept that the Squadron Council will adjust this amount with me if necessary, when the final price is settled.

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If you haven't yet filled in the following form please help by doing so. It is not a binding commitment but willgreatly help planning for the International Reunion in Sydney this year.

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

I advise that I expect to attend the 1st.International Reunion of 458 Squadron in Sydney/Canberra commencing at the end of September 1979. I hope to be accompanied by........... persons.

I am /not interested in going on the Canberra part of the Reunion.

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