

CIRCULAR



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INTERNATIONAL REUNION ARRANGEMENTS ALL MADE.

Following several meetings of the Reunion Committee and much detailed work by Squadron President Eric Munkman, with Dorothy--entailing exploratory trips to Canberra and to the Blue Mountains--all systems are "Go". But will those planning to attend who want to stay with the Mob in Crows Nest, please send in their forms together with their deposit for accommodation of \$30 per head. No bookings--no accommodation.

PROGRESS OF THE HISTORY--2nd. EDITION.

The Third Proof has been read and the final task--preparation of an Index (there was no index in the 1st Edition) has been done. A party of 14 Squadron members and wives came in one evening to start the work of preparing an Index and took the work home where they finished it during following days. It is now being typed. With due luck the press will roll in the next few weeks. Advance Subs (\$10 per copy) are still being received.

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

The March.

Anzac Day has come and gone and though I was away sunning myself at Dunk Island at the time, the grapevine tells me everything went off well. The March in which 458 was led by Eric Munkman was well representative of 458, and I am told many friends not seen for years turned up. Post-march proceedings were at our usual Oasis, the Great Southern Hotel and 36 took part in the Sit-Down luncheon and sipping of ale. General opinion--Munga was quaise Kateer, and the get-together a great occasion.

Vale Johnno.

We are sad indeed to report that Lew "Johnno" Johnston passed away at Southport after surgery. Johnno was the second C.O. of 458 Squadron. He joined the R.A.A.F. before the War and was one of a number of young officers who were sent to join the R.A.F. (Hughie Edwards, V.C. was another of this group) He came to 458 still equipped with his R.A.A.F. dark blue uniform, as a Flight Lieutenant almost immediately becoming a Squadron Leader and Flight Commander at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Following the posting of Sqdn. Leader Mellor, Johnno succeeded Wing Commander Norman Mulholland when the latter was shot down by enemy fighters off Malta.

After the long splitting of 458's aircrew from its groundstaff--the aircrew flew Wellingtons to the Middle East, twice, while the groundstaff slowly

travelled by sea, on the S.S. Mataroa and Mendoza, around the Cape of Good Hope to Suez.

While the groundstaff travelled the aircrew were attached to operating squadrons, some becoming tour-expired. On the arrival of the groundstaff, there were immediate demands for their skills from many local R.A.F. units. It took a monumental effort by the C.O., Lew Johnston, the only person who could do anything, to revive 458. He approached every senior officer in the area, pressing for the recall of his Australian Squadron, 458. Against the odds he succeeded and it due to him that 458 lived again to have the rich and successful life it led as a group with major operational success.

Those who travelled by train from Rehovoth to Kantara, when 458 was reassembled will always remember Johnno's smiling face as he strode along the platform to welcome them back.

After completing his tour he became Wing Commander--Flying, with the Wing to which 458 was attached--following a fine operating record--following which he was awarded the D.S.O.

He of course remained with the R.A.F. after the war but for him as for many of the rest of us, the War meant 458 Squadron. He married, had a daughter, lost his wife by illness and after retiring from the R.A.F. returned to Australia to live on the Gold Coast in the Insurance business. He remarried and he and Molly his second lady, had a son, Nigel. He was the 1st Squadron President of 458 but thereafter, to use his own words, resisted office-holding. But he was always seen on important 458 occasions thereafter.

We shall remember him. Our sympathy to Molly and the children.

The International Reunion. Acceptances are coming in steadily. Latest from overseas are Charlie Forman from Canada and Kevin George from New Zealand. Keep them coming in, you 458 bods, and as soon as possible, please, to assist us in our arrangements for your comfort and pleasure. Eric and Dorothy Munkman at their own expense and in their own time have visited Canberra and the Blue Mountains to arrange accommodation, venues and in general got things going.

Personal Points. I have heard from Wal Archbold recently. Now semi-retired, he spends a lot of time golfing and fishing. Probably practicing hard to defend the Anzac Cup which he won last year. He looks forward to meeting old friends, particularly mentioning "Tex" Hansell. What about it, Reg?

Finally, will all Sydney (and environs) members please let us know if you are coming to the Reunion. Apart from accommodation there are functions and outings which require planning and we must have some idea of the numbers involved. Ring me on 238 0266 (office) or 419 3538; or Eric Munkman on 407 2061 (Home).

I personally look forward to seeing many old friends. One of our old discussions with Cuthy. How about you, Cribby? Also Tommy Burgess, Charlie Harding, to mention just a few. Also John Keddington Rodwell and Roy Rabone.

* * * * *

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

Congratulations to members on the great turnout on Anzac Day, the best for several years. Most ably led by Al Wheat who was down from Geraldton for a short spell. We had a few members from outside the State and one from overseas--Ireland. After the March in the morning, through Perth, and the Service on the Esplanade, everyone proceeded to Ray and Marge Turley's home for a wonderful barbeque lunch, with Ray as the chief cook. There was plenty of ice-cold cheer and quite a few sampled it pretty well. I would like again to thank Ray and Marge for having us at their place, a lovely home, and putting on such a great afternoon. We did not have the company of our Flight President, Bill Clues, because Bill and Joan were holidaying in New Zealand. Bill expected to be away about six weeks in all. Hope they both had a good time.

One of our visitors was a 458 member from Ireland. Sam (Paddy) Ellison who was here on holidays, visiting his son who lives in Safety Bay a few miles out of Perth. Sam was in the R.A.F. and joined us at Protville, and left the Squadron at Gibraltar. A lot of his time was in the Spark Bay. Sam wishes to be remembered to all who remember him. Other members present were:

Charlie Davis, Peter McCarthy, Bob Ellis, Shorty Long, Henry and Vera Ebertson, Al Wheat, Nundy Carpenter, Tom and Phil Foster, Ted and Elsie Jewell, Ray and Marge Turley, Tim and Ross Dale, Gordon and Olga Jones, Vic Grenville, Colin McCracken, Fred and Dot Howe, Sam Ellison, Jack Thredgold, Joe McTeare, Col. Corten, Rupert Chessell, and Bob Shearman.

Sandgroppers Say... (cont.)

Passing of Jack Parkin and Don Daniels. On a very sad note, I announce the passing of two well-known Squadron identities--both groundstaff and well remembered. We mourn their passing and send our sympathy to their kin.

The Reunion in Sydney. We appear to have four starters so far--Tim and Pass Dale; Ray and Marg. Turley; Nundy Carpenter; and Ted and Elsie Jewell. Tim wasn't sure how he was travelling but Ray and Nundy are both driving over; Elsie and I are booked on the Indian Pacific and looking forward to the trip.

Personal Pars. Elsie and I will soon have a new address as we have sold our home in Maylands and have bought a house in Mandurah, which is approximately 80 kilos from Perth. We will not be moving until the first week in July. Hoping to do a lot more fishing and boating.

Shorty Long is looking forward to retirement soon--now down at Cottesloe. Peter McCarthy hasn't long to go to retirement. Al Wheat when down for the Anzac Day Reunion in Perth, said he had sold his 'plane and was hoping to buy another soon. Rupert Chessell: I had a long talk with Ches. on the 'phone a little while back. Still keeping fairly well, his legs are not too good, especially for marching.

Had a note from Jim Palmer. He had some trouble down on the farm some time ago; had a fire go through part of his property; had an accident with one of his fingers being injured--but otherwise fairly well.

That's all, but would like to ask all W.A. Flight members who have news of members, which they think will interest other members to send it on to me. Also any change of address. Best regards to all.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS. from Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella St., Holland Park, Q., 4127.

The March. Fewer marched behind the Banner in Brisbane this year. Bad backs, and other chronic ailments are now taking toll. Nevertheless, at the Reunion enthusiasm seems to be increasing. Refreshments freely flowed, the din was in the high decibels and the losses at poker light. Bert Garland was unanimously re-elected President and yours truly again protestingly placed in the positions of Secretary/Treasurer.

A welcome face was Bernie Hughes', visiting from his home town of Springsure. Bernie advised of his retirement within a few days, and his intention to make Yeppoon his future home, to box on with the fish and to keep his cool in the seaside zephyrs.

Johnno. One thing marred the spirit of the Reunion. The recent death of Lew Johnston. Johnno died of septicaemia, on the 20th. March where he had been transferred following an operation for cancer at a private hospital. Johnno was 64 and had been retired about 12 months. His private cremation at Allambie Gardens, Nerang, was at his own request. Floral tributes were arranged by Squadron Council and Q. Flight.

On his retirement from the R.A.F., Johnno settled at Southport becoming the District representative of the Prudential Insurance Co.. So successfully did he apply himself that he twice sold a million dollarsworth of insurance in one year. He was a member of Rotary and Legacy, as well as actively interested in other public organisations. He was not only well-known but popular and respected on the Gold Coast. The greatest tribute that can be paid by us to Johnno was that as the Squadron's second C.O. he was responsible for its re-formation in the Middle East, and moreover for placing the Squadron on a solid foundation from which its subsequent high standard of achievement was attained. A few days before his death I spent the best part of a day with him. He was his usual cheerful self, enthusiastic and full of plans. But in some ways he was not the Johnno of old. He did not mention his illness. It is now believed that his non-attendance at the Surfair Reunion in 1977 was due to his physical condition. So passes Wing Commander Lewis Lea Johnston, D.S.O., D.F.C., R.A.F.--most favourably known to those of us privileged to serve under him. And for their sad loss, our deepest sympathy to Mollie, Lea, and Nigel.

Personal Pars. There's something afoot with accidents. First was Keith Campbell on the eve of departing for Britain and Europe on holiday when gallantly giving way to a woman rushing home to some housewifely duties, slipped on the base of a No Parking sign and did a mischief to the bones of his foot. Regrettably he also slipped up on his long-awaited overseas holiday. Then there was Joan Brandon's unfortunately broken foot arising out of a head-on car collision while on a visit to her daughter in Adelaide. She is now forced to put both

Q.Flight News (concl)

feet up at home while Don does the domestic chores. Joan is full of praise for the care of T.A.A. in her transport from Adelaide. We have accepted with caution Don's report that a crane was used to lower Joan in a wheel chair from the aircraft on arrival at Brisbane. We'll settle for a forklift.

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CROWEATERS CHAT. from Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, S.A., 5064 (79 1533).

Anzac Day. The day started on a distinctly damp note but Jack Riseley and Bill Taylor braved the elements and laid a wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice at the Dawn Service.

Among the considerable crowd at the Air Force Memorial Service at West Beach were noted Sid Bartram, Ted. Creighton, Keith Foreman, Robbie Robertson, Joyce Austin, Jack Riseley, Bert Ravenscroft, Arn. Scholar, Bill Taylor, and Ron. Badger, several of whom escorted their wives and families.

The weather cleared for the March in the city and rain held off until late afternoon. Those marching included Eric Baker, Sid Bartram, J. Fisher, John Carey, Ted. Creighton, Charlie Cunningham, Keith Grimshaw, Keith Foreman, John McGlasson, Bert Oliver, Mel. Priest, Reg. Priest, Bert Ravenscroft, Kevin Tait, Norm. Trewartha, Bill Taylor and Geoff. Esau. We were ably led by Flight President Jack Riseley. Considering the weather and the effluxion of time, the number marching and the crowd lining the route was, to my mind, quite remarkable and reflects the still-felt importance of the occasion.

Yarns, interspersed with the odd noggin and lunch, at the Talbot Hotel rounded off the afternoon very happily for quite a number, although golf, etc claimed some devotees. The Treasurer, John McGlasson collected subs on the spot but will be posting reminders to all unfinancial members in the near future. (Would anyone knowing of a financial member not in receipt of the News please advise me).

Memorials. I enclose for publication a list of the Air Force Memorials at the Adelaide Airport with dates of Dedication. It will be seen that, as in the past, 458 Squadron is No.1. That initiation of the idea and most of the work in implementation thereof was carried out by Ron. Badger. It is a very great credit to him and worthy of our gratitude. Unhappily Ron is no longer able to march but still retains a keen interest in Squadron doings. At present he is not quite up to scratch and is anticipating a spell in hospital for a 500 hour inspection, which we hope will put him on the top line again.

Personal Pars. Saw Jack Thredgold in town a few weeks ago, just returned from the West and looking very fit. Had a wonderful holiday and marched with W.A. Flight on Anzac Day.

My spies tell me John Carey is in business on his own and is off overseas some time this year. Bill Cribb has retired and intends giving Jack Nicklaus a nudge. Presently trying out the greens (and no doubt the cheese and beer) in New Zealand.

Next ? S.A. Flight Committee are anxious to organise a night out to dinner, but, all growing older, will defer serious consideration for the Spring quarter. All ideas welcome. Hope to advise members in the next issue. Finally, regards to members everywhere, and to you, Peter.

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THE ADELAIDE MEMORIALS.

<u>UNIT.</u>	<u>DEDICATED.</u>
458 Squadron	4.9.58.
460 Squadron	30.5.59.
455 Squadron	29.9.59.
86 Squadron	4.10.59.
1-8-21-453 Squadrons	6.12.59.
R.A.F. Association	14.5.60.
10 and 461 Squadrons	15.4.62.
Pathfinders	4.11.62.
456 Squadron	4.11.62.
454 Squadron	26.4.71.
3-450-451 (Desert Air Force)	25.4.75.
24 Squadron (City of Adelaide)	22.6.75.
463/467 Squadrons	8.5.77.
R.A.A.F., Edinburgh and the A.F.C.	2.4.78.
5 ACS Squadron	18.2.79.

Air Force Memorials--Adelaide (cont.)

<u>UNIT.</u>	<u>DEDICATED.</u>
462/466 Squadrons	18.2.79.
W.A.A.A.F.	18.3.79.
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VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Ken Morkham, 19, Terang Ave, Burwood, 3151.

Firstly, best wishes to all Squadron members.

Anzac Day. A good day was had by all who attended the March (much shorter this year). The weather was kind. Members seen at the March were:

Col. Hutchinson, Ted Kennedy, Ron. Russell, John Fleming, Ern. Laming, Mick Singe, Gordon Cuthbertson, Bob Smith, Harold Martin, Stan. Tarczynski, Ken. Morkham, Ian Alison, Jack Ellis, Ed. Bradshaw, Gordon Nash, Stan. Cartledge, George Cowan, Bill Hurford, Ron. Eggers, Tom Primrose.

It was encouraging to your Committee to see you all at the March. Apologies were received from Don. Johnson, Roger Rodwell, Vin. Clohesy.

The Reunion and Annual General Meeting was held after the March at the Melbourne Bowling Club. During this time of enjoyment many tales were told and members met old friends. The meal was excellent, thanks to the Club facilities and the efforts of Ian Alison. Thanks, Ian. We all thank the Club for the use of its facilities. A Service was held during the afternoon.

Globe Trotters. Harry and Nell Ashworth and John Bilney are still globe-trotting, and apologised through Harold Martin for their absence. We all expect an ear-bashing soon.

Vic. Flight Office-bearers for 1979. As elected: ---

President John Fleming;
Sen. Vice Pres. Ian Alison,
Jnr. Vice Pres. Harold Martin;

On the advice of Ken Morkham, the election of Hon. Sec/Treasurer will be held over until the next Committee meeting on the 8th. August.

Committee: Stan. Tarczynski, H. Ashworth, Col. Hutchinson, Ern. Laming, R. Rodwell.

That's about all the news at present, chaps.

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ISRAEL REMEMBERS BRUCE MCKENZIE.

The Government of Israel recently dedicated a Forest in memory of Bruce McKenzie. The Organisation behind the dedication of The Bruce McKenzie Forest was undertaken by the Jewish National Fund and the Committee for the Perpetuation of the Memory of Bruce McKenzie.

The Forest is located between Tiberias and Nazareth, an area which Bruce visited many times.

The dedication ceremony was attended by Mrs. Christina McKenzie, Miss Sandy McKenzie, his eldest daughter, many friends and 458 was invited. We have heard details of what was an impressive and moving occasion from Norman Duke, who was Bruce McKenzie's Navigator on 458 and who attended.

Norman writes to us: Just a few thoughts I would like to pass on after a memorable visit to Israel on May 5th. We drove north from Tel Aviv for 100 kilometres in a small rattling bus, along a coastal road bordered by sand dunes and with the sea in the distance to the west. The comparison was inescapable with similar bus journeys in Malta in 1943--from Sliema to Luqa; and around the Protville/Bone areas with 458.

The everpresent signs of widespread planned building are in evidence on all sides. Tel Aviv is a large and thriving city spreading steadily and dynamically outwards with new housing and factory developments everywhere. As we finally turned inland after about 25 km, the landscape changed dramatically to intensely cultivated farmland. Orchards of oranges, lemons and almonds stretched almost unendingly, followed by vast areas of cultivated sunflowers, and fields of ripened wheat and barley and in the distance tree covered hills. A revelation in this formerly barren land.

Wherever one travels in Israel the formerly bare, scrub covered hills are gradual-

The Bruce McKenzie Forest.(cont.)

ly becoming transformed by the nationwide afforestation scheme sponsored by the Jewish National Fund, already responsible for planting nearly 2 million trees throughout the country.

The 'Bruce McKenzie Forest' lies on a rock strewn hillside facing to the north-east and rising gently on the southern side of the road leading eastward from Nazareth towards Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee. In the spring the ground is carpeted with anemones and desert flowers. Twenty thousand young fir trees, established over 15 years and now covered with giant cones, flourish on what was once a barren hillside. A roughly constructed log lectern had been set up close by the Commemoration stone, in a clearing facing the afternoon sun, and the attending guests were seated on wooden benches under the trees. A steady breeze blew gently from the Mediterranean as the simple but moving ceremony proceeded.

Most beautiful and sadly expressive unaccompanied Hebrew choral music, sung by a group of twelve men and women singers from the famous Ribat Israel National Choir, interspersed the solemn tributes--first by Mr. Rabin, former Israel Prime Minister, and followed by Mr. Charles Njonjo, Attorney-General of Kenya. Christina McKenzie made a most moving speech in reply. Hearing from Mr. Rabin of Bruce's close involvement in and commitment to Israel's development was a tribute to our friend and comrade. After the unveiling of the Stone a number of cypress saplings were planted by Christina McKenzie, her two young sons, and by Bruce's daughter, Sandy.

What more suitable site could there be for such a memorial; in a place where the beginnings of Christian thought and civilisation were conceived--in a country whose progress and development in peace meant so much to Mac--and so close to the Mediterranean which was his early proving ground, and which saw the development of his gifts of leadership.

It was a rare privilege for me to be able to visit Israel with my wife, Joyce, and to be present at this memorable event.

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We heard of this event from another and unexpected source. The Editor had written an Article on "The Legend of McKenzie's Air Force" for Wings, the Australian Air Force paper. This was copied by various other papers, one of which came into the hands of Mrs Norma Handmer, who wrote to the Queensland A.F.A. Secretary, who wrote to Jim Holliday, who wrote to us. She said:

"The October 1978 issue of your Magazine has just arrived. It took some time to come, being addressed to me in Nairobi which post we have now left. What prompts me to write just now is the Article "McKenzie's Air Force". In common with most expatriates who lived in Kenya, we found Bruce to be something of a living legend--and beyond the living he is still a legend.

Yesterday, my husband (Walter Handmer, ex A.C.2.R.A.A.F., and now Australian Ambassador to Israel) and I attended a dedication ceremony of a forest area in honour of Bruce McKenzie. He was a good friend to this country and is remembered with love and respect. The area is a Pine forest in the Hills between Nazareth and Galilee. A very beautiful spot; it was enhanced by the cool sunny day, and the simple moving ceremony."

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OTHER, LATE ITEMS.

458 is currently welcoming Miss Sandy McKenzie, Bruce's eldest daughter on a visit to Australia. She is at present in Sydney and will be visiting Queensland later. She has some thoughts of living permanently in Australia, as an Australian. She has a pilot's licence and has been closely connected with the flying world.

(Black) Jack Baker has given us some information about the forthcoming World Veterans Championships (for Athletics), being held in Hannover, Germany from July 27th-August 2nd. this year. He himself is going there and has entered for a number of events. We shall look forward to hearing more when he returns.

Talking of World Veterans, Peter Alexander plans to attend the 16th General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation in Florence during October, proceeding afterwards to Sri Lanka for the meeting of the WVF Committee of Asian and Pacific Nations, of which he is Rapporteur.

Stan. Longhurst, who with Fred. Strom, represented 458 at the N.S.W. State Assembly of the A.F.A. recently, at Wagga Wagga, was delighted to accept for the Squadron the Vice President's Trophy for the branch with the biggest %age increase of membership in 1978. Stan himself has been largely responsible for this increase in Branch membership.

*Infocentral Post 6/2.8 30 Ramada Inn Sat: Dinner/Dance 7.30 Sun. Tour 9.30-10.00
Alan: BBQ West Point Hill, BC
Ayd. H. Vets. Assoc. Comm 12.30/8.15
C/W Picnic*