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SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Eric Munkman (N.S.W.). SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS: Ian Showell (S.A.)
Clive Wyman (Q.):

SQUADRON TREASURER: Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.) SQUADRON SECRETARY: Peter Alexander (Acting)

EDITOR of 458 SQUADRON NEWS: Peter Alexander.

Editor's Tel. Nos. 41 5024 (Home) 218 8251 (Work). Both in Sydney.

458 SQUADRON WELCOMES THOSE ATTENDING THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL REUNION!

The Squadron Council and 458 Squadron News, as its mouthpiece, welcome all 458 members, families and friends attending the 1st. International Reunion and 19th. All States Reunion of 458 Squadron. Squadron President, Eric Munkman, and his Committee have worked very hard and are looking forward to meeting travellers from overseas and interstate. Some international 458ers we are hoping will surface at the end of September are Norman Duke, Eric Phillips and Norman Gilbert (U.K.), Kevin George, Archy Fell, Ivan Green, and Ron Verity (N.Z.); and Bryan Quinlan, Charlie For (Canada). Details of the events of the Reunion remain much as previously printed and details will be handed to members on arrival in Sydney.

THIS ISSUE COMPLETES 30 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION OF THE NEWS.

It hardly seems many months since we commemorated the completion of 25 Years, but that was five years ago and this issue completes 30 years. It is a co-incidence that it coincides with our First International Reunion and that it also co-incides with the issue of the Second Edition of our History "We Find and "Destroy". But taken together and with plans for a Second International Reunion in the U.K. (in 1981), plans for new Squadron Ties, etc. it does suggest the continuing vigour of 458 Squadron R.A.A.F. The News thanks all those who have kept things going over the long post-war years.

CORNSTALKS NEWS.

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

By the time you read this, the International Reunion will be upon us, or even past. A great deal of work has been done by the Committee, as those who have been involved in organising Reunions will know only too well; but special thanks to Eric and Dorothy Munkman who have visited places, timed distances between points, and in general given of their time and effort to an extent far beyond what could be expected of them.

Eric and I have agreed to have a quiet ale and breathe a sigh of relief when all is done and, we hope, another very successful reunion achieved. Our thanks to interstate members who advised early on of their intentions and returned their questionnaires so

Cornstalk News (cont.) that we could make arrangements accordingly. To those closer home who couldn't be bothered--or sent their questionnaires at the last moment, it does nothing to encourage those who give their time and effort to continue doing things

News Items. We have been advised that Bob Smith, who was in Bob Drinnan's crew, is in Concord Repatriation Hospital, having undergone surgery. Eric Munkman visited him in Hospital and Bob hopes to be with^{us} on some of the functions. Best of luck, Bob.

Graeme Coombes has retired from his position of Administration Manager of the Australian Jockey Club. He had been with them over 40 years. On his retirement he was presented with some very beautiful crystal which we were able to admire at the luncheon at the Coombes--held in July to raise funds for the reunion. Graeme was also entertained to dinner by the whole Committee of the A.J.C. at Randwick Racecourse--a function at which Eric Munkman and Peter Alexander were present. Graeme and Dulcie have now gone abroad for 11 weeks--to U.K., Europe and back via the U.S.A. They have both helped 458 considerably, Graeme on the Committee and both in fund-raising. Graeme says he is NOT going to buy a racehorse; but will, no doubt, have a shufti at some of the racecourses wherever he goes. We hear a rumour that the A.J.C. has not finished with Graeme's services.

The function at the Coombes was a very pleasant occasion and we had the pleasure of the company of Sandy McKenzie who was on a visit to "case the Joint" with a view to settling in Australia---probably Queensland or country N.S.W. She is very like her father but prettier. We hope she decides to become one of us.

I was interested to learn that the Coombes family have a long association with the A.J.C., as Graeme's father was a stipendary steward for many years.

Stan Longhurst has been elected to the State Council of the Air Force Association in N.S.W. He has represented 458 at the Annual Assembly of Delegates many times and has been very active in Association affairs. Those of us who have worked with him on the N.S.W. Flight Committee over the years are witnesses to the work that Stan has done, and congratulate him on his appointment.

Sid Bartram has generously donated two opal pendants for disposal as an aid to the Reunion funds. Sid, many thanks for your gift. We look forward to thanking you in person as you will be at the Reunion.

John Preston has retired from the Federal Department of Administrative Services, and with Esther, is doing a tour round Singapore, etc.

Jock McGowen has also retired, and when last heard of was pulling out walls and rebuilding his house. Everybody who retires seems to find so much to do that they wonder how they ever found time to go to work. Could it be due to years of "putting it off"?

Frank Ward has been added to the Reunion Committee to give us the benefit of his skill as an Accountant in costing, etc. He also has arranged for the use of the Recreation and Bowling Club of which he is Secretary for a BBQ during the Reunion. We feel lucky to have him.

We are all looking forward to meeting old friends, and to those who aren't coming ---we shall miss you. Best wishes, Arthur Jollow.

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CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY. from Geoff Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, S.A., 5064.

Firstly, congratulations and thank you from all members of S.A. Flight on having guided 458 Squadron News through its first 30 years of uninterrupted publication--with on the side publication of an extremely readable Squadron History--an updated 2nd edition of which I understand is in the offing. A truly remarkable achievement and one I am sure that is greatly appreciated by members world-wide. Well done!

Ideas for inclusion in the Agenda for the Squadron Conference have been canvassed as widely as possible and one has been hatched---that is a proposal to offer a shield to annual competition by serving units of the R.A.A.F. in some suitable facet of training. It was suggested that a suitable Shield be purchased to be held for 12 months by the winning unit suitably inscribed, with a duplicate miniature to be retained permanently. If ten miniatures were obtained in the first place then after ten years the unit with the highest aggregate score to retain permanently. Just a thought.

There appear to be four possibles from S.A. for the Reunion but I have no definite

Croweaters' Commentary (cont.)

Information on this. Best wishes to all who do go. Probable starters are Syd. Bartram, Ian Showell, Arn. Scholar and Lofty Trewartha. Personal Pars.

Bill and Pat. Cribb recently toured Tasmania in company with Gordon and Peg. Cuthbertson. Bill was full of enthusiasm for the Apple Isle as a holiday resort. So compact and so much history and scenery to enjoy. They met up with Bill Brown in Devonport.

Ray Warwick of Cradock in the mid North is reported as enjoying an overseas holiday somewhat further afield in Europe, and Jim Perry of Port Augusta is staying with his married daughter, resident in London.

A note from Mal Goers of Tanunda indicates that his recent absence from reunions is caused by pressure of work and not disinterest. Hope to see him before too long.

Buck Pederson has retired after 33 years with the same firm. Best of health and happiness, Buck. Ron. Badger is out of hospital but on light duties for a while.

Spent a couple of days recuperating at Renmark where, he says, Ian Showell in his usual way gave him and Mrs. Ron. a fantastic time.

I had a letter from my skipper, Archie Fell, in N.Z. after a silence of 28 years and he hopes to go to Sydney and tour about afterwards, taking in Adelaide. No Blida crosswinds here, Arch., so give it a go!

Finally, from all Croweaters unable to attend in Sydney our very best wishes for the success and enjoyment of their notable journey down Memory Lane to all members fortunate enough to be participating. Regards, Geoff. Esau.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.... W.A. News from Bill Clues, 179, Kooyong Rd., Rivervale, 6103.

Ted and Elsie Jewell are in the process of moving to Mandurah, so he asked if I would do the honours and fill in for him. It wasn't until I said "Yes", and sat down to write that I realised we had just passed through a winter, and I believe everyone in the West hibernates during that period. I haven't seen a soul for months and can't think of anything to write about.

I was away in New Zealand for last Anzac Day but Ted tells me the roll-up at Ray Turley's was one of the best we've had for a long time. This is terrific, chaps, keep it up! For this and Christmas is about the only time we get together these days.

Shortly, after this goes to press our reunion in N.S.W. will be well on the way. To the organisers I wish you well and hope everything goes according to plan. I believe two or three families from here are going. I know our Secretary, Ted Jewell and Elsie will be there, travelling by train so I believe. This is what happens when you retire, much easier to sit back and relax in the train than drive yourself. Cheerio and Best regards to all, Bill.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

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

The winter Social for the boys in the Brisbane area was held on Saturday, 28th. July at the residence of Joan and Clive Wyman. What a lovely evening! What a lovely setting! Joan and Clive were enthusiastically and very ably aided by their sons Richard and Anthony; daughter Louise; and daughter-in-law, Annette. We make special mention of them because they contributed so much and obviously were so very happy to help, and join in with the old fogies. Joan and Sel. Foote came down from Ipswich. However the surprise was the presence of Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson who travelled up from the Gold Coast where they are enjoying a winter vacation. It was a grand night and the Brisbane contingent express their enthusiastic thanks to all the Wymans.

Peg and I spent a few weeks on Safari to North and to South-West Queensland. The bus was one hour late at Mareeba and didn't stop so we missed seeing Bob. Dangaard as we had planned. George Reed, too, was away. But we had a few sessions with Erle Hetherington at Cairns, and caught up with Jack Dew at Tully. Bev and Erle had just returned from a visit to daughter and son-in-law in Sydney and are planning to return over the summer to help build a steel-hulled 40 footer boat. When we left Erle was pouring over plans and itching to get into the project. Jack Dew has virtually retired. He's given up his retail shop and is concentrating on T.V. repairs and two-way radio maintenance. He's looking forward to devoting himself to his two hobbies--gem stones and golf. Tully, he tells us, is the centre of rich gemstone deposits. As to golf, he's been let out to 7 handicap, but his main interest is coaching young players. Three of his proteges are now professionals

Q.Flight News (cont.)

and his latest, a 14 year old lad, was runner-up in the recent North Queensland Championship. Jack expects great things from this lad. Father John McNamara came up to Brisbane for a couple of weeks winter holiday. By pure coincidence the two weeks happened to be the Winter Racing Season in Brisbane. Bernie McLoughlin, Eric Kelly and Chas. Warren took sustenance with him a few times, once at dinner at the United Services Club.

Evelyn Lewis spent another busy school winter holiday hosting girls from country centres who come to Brisbane for the golf coaching Clinics sponsored by the Ladies Golf Union. This is an activity which Evelyn has been particularly interested in for many years.

Postscript. After this news was sent off the sad news was received of the sudden death of Ruth, wife of Len MacDonnell. Only nine days before her death, Ruth, in the height of health, suddenly collapsed. A serious development was diagnosed but, unfortunately, urgent and delicate surgery failed to arrest the complaint. She died without recovering consciousness on Thursday 29th. August. Ruth was a vivacious, popular and hard-working member of Q.Flight. She will be sadly missed from our gatherings. Particularly sad it is that Ruth and Len., having enjoyed a few months' rest after retirement, had planned to commence some touring holidays shortly. The deepest sympathy of every member of Q.Flight and of 458 Squadron is extended to Len and every relative. Jim. Holliday.

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VICVIEWS.

Vic.Flight news from Ken. Morkham, 19, Terang Ave, Burwood East.
(288 3116)

Not a great deal to report during this, our 30th year of uninterrupted publication of the News but may I, at this point say this:--it is a great credit to those tireless members and in particular to our Editor who has kept the News going during this period, and I trust that this valuable communication medium for members is not lost. The News does not produce itself and turn up in our letterboxes, there are dedicated people behind it, so let's help keep it going by paying our subscriptions promptly, to your State Secretaries. All things relating to the Squadron are team efforts, let's keep it that way. We did it during squadron days--why not now?

Lost Members. Where are some of the chaps who frequented our Do's in the early days? Some who come to mind are: John Bilney, Gerry Abraham, Bill Carr, Russ. Connolly, Keith Clymo, Arthur Green, Ted. Love, L. Wurr, ---there must be many more. What about it, chaps?

Communication through State Secretaries. It has been suggested that the names and addresses of Flight Secretaries be published in the News on a permanent basis. This I believe is a good idea. What do other Flight Secretaries think?

U.K. Member on a visit. Had a visit from Fred. Briggs of Moat House, Westanley Park, Wigan WN3 6BG, England., the other day. Fred joined the Squadron at Bone, and was a member of Christianson's crew. Fred was unable to stay for the Reunion as he had to return home as planned. He obtained a lapel badge from Ken. Morkham and wishes to obtain a pocket badge when available.

List of the Office-Bearers.Vic.Flight's Presidents and Secretaries

<u>Year</u>	<u>President.</u>	<u>Secretary.</u>
1951	S. Tarczynski	Bill Carr
1952	Jock McGowen	Bill Carr
1953	Jim. Munday*	Bill Carr
1954	Gordon Orchard	Bill Carr
1955	Bruce Dean	Arthur Green
1956	"	Arthur Green
1957		Arthur Green
1958		Arthur Green
1959	L. Wurr	Bill Carr
1960	N. Cugley*	John Jenkins
1961	J. Jenkins	F. Wilson
1962	"	F. Wilson
1963	Ian Alison	F. Wilson
1964	Ern. Laming	F. Wilson
1965	G. Cuthbertson	F. Wilson
1966	Harry Ashworth	Bill Carr

<u>Year</u>	<u>President.</u>	<u>Secretary.</u>
1967	Harold Martin	Bill Carr
1968	Ron. Russell	Bill Carr
1969	Frank Wilson	Bill Carr
1970	Don Johnston	Bill Carr
1971	Jim. Timms*	Frank Wilson
1972	Bob McKinnon*	Jim Timms*
1973	John Fleming	Jim Timms*
1974	Ken. Morkham	Jim Timms*
1975	John Rodwell	Jim Timms*
1976	Russ. Connolly	Jim Timms*
1977	Col. Hutchinson	Ken. Morkham
1978	Stan. Tarczynski	Ken. Morkham
1979	John Fleming	Ken. Morkham

*Deceased member.

Vic. Flight General Meeting.

The General Meeting usually held on Anzac Day will be changed to another date to be notified. This will enable members to spend more time together on Anzac Day during the reunion.

R.A.A.F. Europe Reunion.

Members wishing to attend this Reunion on the 28th September at the Palais Ballroom, St. Kilda (time 6.30 p.m. to 12 p.m.)--cost per head inclusive \$19, can contact Ken. Morkham.

Flight News. Members can make the news more interesting by contacting the Flight Secretary with their latest news, doings since "active" days, members we meet on holidays, etc. How often have we heard the question--"Where has so and so got to?" "What's he doing these days?"

Your subs. Well, chaps, that's it. Sorry Beat and I cannot be with you at the Reunion--circumstances will not permit. Kindest regards from the Vics.
Ken. Morkham.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

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

No one is more sorry than we are that we cannot make it to the forthcoming International Reunion: it is the old story, I'm afraid, cost; but I will be with you all in thought. You mention a proposal for a 2nd International Reunion in U.K. during 1981. To me that sounds great. The number of active U.K. members has declined over the years but I do believe (fingers crossed) that if a real all-out effort is made some of them could be persuaded to turn up. Arranging a place to hold the reunion with a separate Conference room should not prove too demanding--but that can be thought about later.

Not much news to pass on. Fred Neiman is in the process of moving house and letting his son take over the garage he owns in Barnetby. Hugh Hamlet told me last week he is off for a 2 week holiday to the Cotswolds, hoping to get in quite a lot of painting.

You mention about visiting Holme-on-Spalding Moor during the 2nd International Reunion, this I must investigate when I know for certain when it might take place as it is a secret aeroplane testing station at present.

To conclude I would like to wish all of you a marvellous reunion and ask you to drink to the absent members knowing that if it was possible we would all be there. Cheerio and all the very best. Sid. Thompsett.

THE HISTORY.

The printers assure us delivery will be made before the Sydney Reunion. For those who have yet to reserve their copy a form is overleaf.

THE SQUADRON CONFERENCE.

The Squadron Conference will meet during the Sydney International Reunion. This is the top governing body of the postwar 458 Squadron. It has two delegates from each Flight --and we expect to have representatives from New Zealand as well as possibly Canada at this one. The Squadron President (Eric Munkman) presides and Conference considers an agenda raised by the Flights or the officers of the Council. It will elect the incoming Squadron officers, determine where the next All-States or International Reunion will be held and when. In its hands rests the future of 458 Squadron.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.From Ernie Ireland, 616, Nelson Avenue, Nelson, B.C., Canada, V1L 2N5.

Dear Peter,

A surprise letter; my name is Ernest Ireland--served with 458 Squadron for seven months in 1944. I arrived from the Radar School at Maison Blanche at Bone and left in late October or early November for repatriation to Canada. There are two reasons for this letter. One purely personal. I have been having considerable trouble with my right leg finally diagnosed as related to my back. It has been suggested that an old injury could be cause of the trouble. The only injury I can recall to my back was in late 1944. I was on a detachment from Foggia to Istres in Southern France. The Squadron sent 4 or 5 aircraft in September or October. We just took a small number of groundcrew and if I remember correctly it would be just a short stay to light up a Harbour with flares--no bombs, just flares. We were away about a week or ten days. My accident occurred on the day we got to Istres. We went from the strip to an RAF or whatever (not American) unit in an old Chateau or house for billet. While unloading kit I was knocked off the tail gate of the truck. We didn't think I was hurt badly (I was taken inside by one of the aircrew and taped up and returned to duty. The chap was an A.G. and a W.O. Dark hair and moustache. Can't remember his name. Doc Jenkins replaced the tape on my ankle and ribs when we got back to Foggia. I have X ray proof of a broken ankle but this is not the problem. I went on leave after return to Foggia with Tom Lindsay--Naples and Rome and was then posted to U.K. and home. I have not been in touch with any of the old 458ers but did bump into Jock McLeod about 30 years ago in the bus depot in Vancouver and I did remember where he worked that is how I have found out about the 458 Squadron Council.

I am not living in poverty and if my leg continues to be serviceable I will be O.K. in retirement in about 6 years time. However the Doctor was not too encouraging. It will take nearly two years to get a settlement through the Canadian Dept of Veterans Affairs. I will have to face a Board of Doctors to again prove that the injury to my back is responsible for my leg injury. I will also be faced by a battery of lawyers who look after the interests of the Crown. Therefore if anyone can remember my fall and would give an affidavit to that effect it would be of assistance to me. Maybe Doc Jenkins has a note in an old logbook on replacing the tape or someone on the Detachment remembers?

Now to more pleasant subjects, can I become a member of the 458 Squadron Association? Jock has mentioned that there is a Squadron News and a second edition of a Squadron History, please advise how I could obtain copies. My kids were out to Australia this past Christmas for holidays--wish I'd known about this then. They were up the Great Barrier Reef.

Is there any word of Arthur Packham or Bill Lyon? Talking to Jock McLeod turned the clock back 30 years.

Thank you for any information you can obtain re my back injury.

My best personal regards,

Ernie Ireland.

Editor---Can anyone help?

To the Squadron Secretary (History)

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

Please reserve for me.....copies of the 2nd Edition of the Squadron History.
I enclose \$.....(at \$10 per copy).

Name.....

Address.....

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