

CIRCULAR



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

YEAR 31, No. 121.

December, 1979.

Price \$5-00 per annum.

SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Ian Showell (S.A.) SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS: Clive Wyman (Q.)
Pick Mason (U.K.)

SQUADRON TREASURER: Cy. Irwin (Acting) SQUADRON SECRETARY: Graeme Coombes (N.S.W.)

EDITOR of 458 Squadron News: Peter Alexander.

Editor's Telephone Number 41-5024 (Home).

GREAT SUCCESS OF THE 1st. INTERNATIONAL REUNION. The story from Arthur Jollow.

Where to start, that is the question! From the reception the atmosphere was set, and success assured. The nostalgic trip was on and running, and it never faltered. Nothing went wrong, and the Committee were delighted;--and relieved. The international contingent was a little sparse but in the great pleasure of meeting those who did come, this was soon forgotten. Overseas members were: Arch. Fell (N.Z.), Ivan and Irene Green, Ron and Mary Verity, Kevin and Dawn George.--all from New Zealand. From the U.K., Norm Duke and Eric Phillips. It appears that until the Reunion some of our Kiwi mates did not know that the 458 Association existed;--and now look forward to future meetings. So do we. Eric Phillips, who stayed with us, visited some relatives of mine on his return to Manchester--thank you, Eric. The programme went this way: on Friday, the 28th September there was the reception for visiting members. On Saturday the 29th the Squadron Conference met, followed by a luncheon cruise on Sydney Harbour, and after disembarking, a conducted tour of the Sydney Opera House complex. Back to the Ramada Inn and then at night the Dinner-Dance at the Red Baron. This is part of the Ramada Inn and its decor is based on the exploits of von Richthoven. The evening was a real swinger, good food and wine and fine company. The Manager remarked that we were a lively lot and certainly knew how to enjoy ourselves. Sunday saw two coachloads go on a bus tour of the Blue Mountains. They went via the Hawkesbury Lookout and the Norman Lindsay Galleries, where we lunched. On to Katoomba and an afternoon sight-seeing, including riding on the Scenic Railway, followed by dinner at the Katoomba Golf Club. Thanks to Cy and Elaine Irwin for their assistance in arranging this. Monday commenced with golf at Asquith--for the Anzac Cup, once again won by Wal. Archbold. Arrangements were made by Bob Bruce. A lovely course and most enjoyable. For the non-golfers, two coaches went first to North Head--from where there was a grand panorama of the Harbour, city and coastline. Thence to Mona Vale where morning tea had been arranged by Eric and Dorothy Munkman's son and daughter, Ron and Cheryl. It is very nice to have the company and assistance of the "follow-up" generation. Our thanks to them. From there to West Head, overlooking Broken Bay. This is one of the finest views around Sydney. Leaving here, the coaches proceeded to West Pennant Hills Recreation and Bowling Club where 458 member Frank Ward is Secretary. Thanks to Frank we were allowed the use of their very fine facilities. Committee members who hadn't gone on the Coach trip had made things ready so that when the coaches arrived the barbeque could commence. The ladies of the Committee were indispensable, preparing salads, etc. After good food wine and conviviality, back to the Ramada Inn.

Tuesday was R and R. Day. No arrangements, so do your own thing was the order.

Ist. International Reunion (cont.)

Wednesday saw one coach leave for Canberra--many of the locals had to forego the pleasure due to the exigences of the service--we had to work. Those who went rested or explored on arrival, and on Thursday those who chose did a full day's coach tour of the Snowy Mountains, while the other did tours of Canberra. On Friday, visits to places of interest, such as the National Library and War Memorial. In the evening, 458 went to the Gundaroo Hotel, an old place full of pioneering atmosphere, where singalong, drinkalong and eatalong were the order of the evening. As Samuel Pepys said, "and so to bed in good content". Saturday--back to Sydney by coach. Lunch at Mittagong about half way, and a visit to the tulip gardens, arriving back in Sydney about 5 p.m. I think all will agree quite a week. I won't list those who attended--might forget someone--and there were so many there. To you all the Committee say "Thank you for making our efforts so well worthwhile.

President Eric Munkman particularly wishes to thank all those who worked so well and so hard--and says "A merry Christmas to you all".

The Squadron Conference. This was held and for the first time we had both New Zealand and the U.K. directly represented:--Norman Duke and Eric Phillips from the U.K. Our new Squadron President is Ian Showell from South Australia. Graeme Coombes is the new Squadron Secretary and Mick Mason of the U.K. Flight is one of the two Squadron Vice Presidents. The next All-States Reunion will be in South Australia--and the Conference invited the U.K. Flight to consider organising the 2nd International Reunion in the U.K. in 1981 or 1982. Norman Duke and Eric Phillips took this idea on board--for discussion with Mick Mason and Sid Thompson.

Personal Pars.

The wedding of Wal. Archbold and Dora Fennell--Snowy's widow--has given much pleasure to their many friends. To both, many years of happiness and health.

Julie Alexander, second daughter of Peter and Rita was married to Bernard Beashel on November 17th. To the young couple the same good wishes. Fred. Strom attended the celebrations and took the photographs.

The Melbourne Cup Event.

The Cup has been run and won and we thank all who helped by participating in our Sweep. Winners were: 1st. R. Bailey (Hyperno); 2nd. J. Mather (Salamander); 3rd. E. Munkman (Red Nose). Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to those like me who missed out. Try again next year!

The World Veterans Federation.

Peter Alexander has been elected Vice President of the World Veterans Federation. To have been elected thus in a worldwide organisation of such importance is a great honour and I know that all 458 members who know how much Peter has contributed, will be delighted that he has been recognised, and proud that he is one of us.

Vale.

It is with sadness that we write that Bert Reynolds has passed on, after a long illness. To Marie and her sons our sincere sympathy. We shall miss him. Bert, who was a 458 pilot towards the end of the Squadron's story, worked mainly in the wholesale dairy trade in Sydney. Events did not allow him to play a very active post-war Squadron role but we saw him from time to time. He played cricket with 458.

A Presentation

As advised in our last news, Sid Bertram donated two very nice opal pendants to be raffled for Squadron funds. This was done but it was decided by delegates at the Squadron Reunion to use the proceeds to make a presentation to Peter Alexander in recognition of his untiring and unselfish efforts on behalf of the Squadron over the years. The gift was from all who attended the International Reunion, not just from N.S.W. Flight. So, on December 3rd a dinner was held at the Air Force Club in Sydney and at this function Peter was presented with an easy chair. One wonders when he will find time to sit in it, but we hope he can. As the gift was from all members, Graeme Coombes, as Federal Secretary, made the presentation. Peter responded in his usual modest manner. The opportunity was taken to express our appreciation to Rita Alexander for her help and forbearance. There must have been times when she wished 458 to the devil, but she has always been gracious and friendly, and to you, Rita, our warm appreciation.

The dinner was well attended and was a Christmas get-together as well. One who had been in hiding for a long time, George Catchlove, made an appearance and was most welcome.

Next Ethnic Dinner.

On Tuesday February 5th 458ers will have their next Ethnic dinner--this time German food. It will be at the Kuckuck Inn, 88, Willoughby Road, Crows Nest, commencing at 7.30. As those who have been to earlier ethnic dinners

1st. International Reunion (concl'd)

know-how enjoyable they have been. Why not join in? You will be glad you did.

Many who attended the Reunion have written to express their enjoyment and appreciation of the occasions and to thank Eric Munkman and his Committee. To reply to all would be a major undertaking so will you all please take this as a reply: Thank you for taking the time to write and your letters were most appreciated. We did have a Ball, didn't we?

Best wishes for a recovery go to Bill McBride who has been in Concord with a broken leg. Also to his lady, Emmy, who has had painful arthritic trouble with her hands. Both are improving steadily, we understand.

To you all, wherever you are---a very merry Christmas and peace and good health in 1980.

Arthur Jollow.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

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

Those of Q.Flight who attended the International Reunion in Sydney want to express their enthusiastic thanks to those members of N.S.W.Flight who were responsible. Consensus is that the organisation, in particular, was superb and spot on, the programme imaginative and most interesting and the feasting and fellowship most satisfying to body and soul. An A1 performance for which we wish to pay credit to the dedicated team ably directed---and we suspect amiably bullied and bludgeoned-by Dorothy and Eric Munkman. All can rest on their laurels if indeed the laurels can ever be wrested from them.

Our Sweep.

Again our Melbourne Cup Sweep met with an excellent response. First prize was won by a grandson of Cec. Bull, one of our long-term and enthusiastic associates. Second went to a mate of Jack Baxter's. Third prize was won by jovial Joan Foote (we apologise to Joan that her horse was not as fleet-a-foot as husband Sel.).

Christmas Function.

Again we had a most cheerful Xmas function. Again, it was at the gracious home and spacious grounds of Joan and Don. Brandon. It was probably the biggest attendance; a tribute of appreciation to the hosting of the competent and popular Brandons. Full credit must go to Joan. Donny returned only the previous day, from hospital where he had been rushed for urgent but fortunately minor surgery. It was a memorable picture to see Donny receiving and entertaining guests from a chaise sunlounge under a cheerful sunshade, looking like a genial Roman Emperor. Welcome newcomers were the Tony Stones, now retired to Banora Point, south of the Gold Coast. Regretful apologies were received from Kitty and Jack Baxter (Jack developed a virus), and from Elizabeth Rosenberg who again was busy at the Brisbane City Hall, engaged in organising the Lady Mayoress' Childrens' Xmas story book party. Apologies also from the Wilks---Hilda is recuperating head injuries from a severe motor accident which entailed 62 stitches. We trust that Hilda soon returns to her cheery self. Three 460 Squadron members and their wives joined us. Two local mates of Donny's, and Pat and Keith Walker. We specially welcomed Keith to honour his work for many years as organiser of the annual Air-Europe Function, and as Secretary to the 460 branch of the Queensland A.F.A.

Personal Pars.

Evelyn and Jack Lewis are moving one step nearer to retirement. Over Xmas they are transferring residence to Victoria Point, jumping off point to the islands at the southern end of Moreton Bay. The move will save Jack the miles that he has had to drag his boat for the fishing that has been his primary recreation.

Another keen fisherman President Bert Garland recently spent two weeks fishing for the big ones at Sweyn's Reef on the outer reaches of the Great Barrier Reef. He caught two whoppers as well as a couple of car loads of slightly smaller fry.

George Reed also retired to fish at South Mission Beach near Tully but found luck in a different way. His hunk of dirt is now worth (in two years) six times the price he paid for it, both dirt and home. So, in his retirement, he hasn't "Missioned" out.

Chester Jones also has a property or two but when he talks of rencyng, it's about his passtime. And it seems he's not yet past his time in this field.

It's good to learn of the prominent parts that have been played by members of 458 in ex-servicemens organisations. Jack Hobbs, we learn, has been

Q.Flight News (cont)

for seven years President of the Cooroy R.S.L. Services Association. Now he's been elected President of the new R.S.L. Services and Citizens Club at Cooroy. Built at a cost of \$270,000 (that's a lot of money for the small town of Cooroy to raise), it's believed to be the first of its kind in Queensland.

Ann Kellam writes that Kel has been in Repat. Hospital again for another heart attack. At home again, gradually recuperating. Keith Campbell finally off to touring the Old Dart with wife Mabel. The foot break which caused postponement on the eve of his original trip is now able to stand up to the anticipated sight-seeing. Bob Dangaard recently in Brisbane for the wedding of his daughter --now back at his cool spot at Mareeba.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY..... W.A. Flight news from Ted Jewell, 61, Wyeree Road, Mandurah, W.A.

The first International Reunion held in N.S.W. was a beauty. Congratulations must go to all the Committee connected with the organising of all functions. There was a great turn-up of members--especially good to see those from the U.K. and New Zealand. It was certainly great to have met old mates again and remembered old times. When you go to such a turn-out as that, I always say how hard it is for the State following with the next Reunion to keep up to the high standard. The members from W.A. were Jim and Lucy Palmer, Ray and Marge Turley, Ted and Elsie Jewell, with Lock Simpson flying over from Melbourne for the reception on the first night.

Elsie and I stayed on in Sydney for several weeks after the reunion to take in the sights. We were really impressed with the Harbour, taking several boat trips along the waterways. We were looking forward to the train trip home but due to a train strike at the time had eventually to fly home.

Our next Function. This will be a dinner party for W.A. Flight members at Scotties Restaurant, in December 14th and we are expecting a good roll-up. We are also hoping to get enough starters to come down to our new home at Mandurah early in the New Year, for a day out, barbeque.

Visitor to W.A. We have recently had a visit to W.A. by that very well-known airman, Sir Douglas Bader. Our Flight President Bill Clues was invited to represent 458 Squadron at a function in Sir Douglas' honour at Council House, Perth. Bill says it was most enjoyable.

Bill Clues and I would like to wish all Squadron members and families a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Henry Etherton writes (to Ted Jewell) about an Air Force occasion at Geraldton, W.A.

The occasion was a Back-to-Geraldton for all R.A.A.F. and W.A.A.A.F. who had been trained or served on 4 S.F.T.S.--and to attend the opening of the new Sir Norman Brearley airport terminal. On October 6th we, wives or husbands included, went to a special luncheon at the Sunseeker Hotel; in the evening we all went back for a smorgasbord followed by a concert by the Air Force Association Band. 458 was represented by Al Wheat, Vera and myself and in the evening we were joined by Aub. and Molly Naylor.

Next day Al picked us up at 7.30 to do a D.I. on his 'plane, as Al and I were going to fly in the Air Trials--briefing at 9, take off at 10. No briefing officer could be found. This was common over the weekend due to disorganised organisation by the W.A.Y. 79 officials. However at 9.40 with pilots and crews wandering around the aircraft waiting for something to happen, we decided to call it off as did many others. We pushed the Beechcraft back, closed the hangar doors and headed for the nearest "waterhole". About 20 aircraft out of 70/80 took off. The afternoon Air Show was taken over by Air Commodore Dave Hitchens and that was a credit to him. Everything "spot on". There was formation flying by light aircraft, aerobatics by the Pitts Specials and the Macchis from Pearce, stunts by Tiger Moth, spraying by the crop dusters, hang gliding with and without power, a good display by home made aircraft. R.A.A.F. helicopters, old DC3s put through their paces. After two attempts to get the hot air balloon up that was abandoned because of strong winds..... Both Al and I were asked to be in the Guard of Honour for the State Governor, Sir Wallace Kyle, and Lady Kyle. I gave them both a run down on 458. We had a great day and Vera took Al's car keys from him for the trip home.

.....a beaut. week back in Geraldton.....

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CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY.

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

Have heard on the best authority, i.e. those present from S.A. that the Sydney Reunion was fantastic and the planning excellent. A mighty undertaking, and deserving considerable credit.

Congratulations also to local boy, Ian Showell, on his election to the position of Squadron President. It will fall to his lot to be responsible for substantial planning for the next All-States Reunion to be held in S.A. in 1981; and I believe he will receive the same support as has been apparent in other States at other times.

Archie Fell continued on to Adelaide from Canberra after the Sydney Do, passing through on his way to Arnhemland to visit his daughter and son-in-law, who teach at an aboriginal reserve. Sorry to say we could only provide bleak weather for him, not conducive to outside enjoyment. Plans for a get-together were brought to nought by yours truly falling by the wayside but Bill and Madge Taylor at the shortest notice took over on my behalf for which I am most grateful. Archie has worn extremely well and it was beaut to see him after a span of 35 years.

On Sunday 4th. November Syd and Pat. Bartram had open house at their lovely "beach shack" at Christie's Beach, for a Squadron barbeque. Some 40 souls attended including children and grandchildren. The weather, the company, food and refreshments combined perfectly and warmest thanks to Syd and Pat, son Peter, and his wife Robyn and small grandchild for their hospitality.

Those present included Jack and Verna Riseley, Ian and Fee Showell, and daughter Lydia, Joyce Austin and friend Joan Neville, Bill and Madge Taylor, Kevin Tait, John and Dawn McGlasson, Ivy Smart, "Robbie" and Rachel Robertson, Ron. Badger (claiming elevation to the aristocracy as Sir Circumference, presumably after his lunch) Brian and Joan Woodhead, John and Ruth Excell, daughter Margaret and her husband Peter Harden and granddaughter Michelle, Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft, Reg and Jan Priest, and their daughter Robin, Geoff and Heather Esau. Last but by no means least, the Showell alsatian, a snapping snarling brute that provided pony rides on a pillow for the smaller kids.

Passing the hat as a curtain raiser for future funding requirements raised \$176 including a most generous \$100 from the Bartrams.

Personal Pars. Bert Ravenscroft has taken up painting. I'm not sure whether he's paying his models or charging his clients at the moment but he's enjoying it. Johnny Excell has a bike shop at 63 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge and makes scale T Model Fords and miniature rifles as a hobby. I don't think the T Ford made the journey but the rifle is a work of art! Sorry to hear Ron Badger's wife Betty has been poorly and we hope she is fit again now.

Season's greetings and best wishes to all, from S.A. Flight. Regards, Geoff. Esau.

THE SQUADRON HISTORY.

The second edition of "We Find and Destroy" was published just and only just in time for the 1st. International Reunion of 458 Squadron in October. It was distributed to those at the Dinner at the Ramada Inn for the estimated price of \$10-00. Some will now be sold through the booksellers and since the booksellers want a good margin, the public will pay \$18-00. But the book is still available to 458ers at \$10. Comments have been kind on the book, which, of course, has been revised, expanded, and had added a post-war chapter, a list of known personnel to serve on 458, and many more photographs. Press reviews are expected shortly. Despatch to those not at the Reunion has been undertaken by Eric Munkman to whose work in this as in so many other ways, 458 is indebted. We believe 458 is the first Squadron whose History has run to a 2nd Edition--20 years after the 1st. If so, this is another 458 1st. An Application Form for copies is at the end of this News--at the 458 price of \$10.

At the WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION ASSEMBLY.

The W.V.F. is the international organisation for ex-service Associations, to which six Australian Associations belong--these including the Air Force Association (the first to join), the R.S.L., the Australian Legion... It looks after the international interests of Veterans--research, the situation of prisoners of war, peace through the U.N., disarmament. If ex-servicemen are to have a voice in international matters it is through W.V.F. The W.V.F. held its triennial General Assembly during October in Florence, Italy. A quite large Australian delegation (the third largest there) attended. As delegates pay their own way this is remarkably good and indicates the interest WVF has aroused. They included among them Sir William Hall of the R.S.L., the outgoing WVF Council member for Australia; Sir Mervyn Brogan, Chairman of the Australian

W.V.F. Assembly. (cont). Veterans and Defence Services Council the incoming Australian Council member; Peter Alexander, and others totalling nearly a dozen. The Assembly, under its very impressive President, W. van Lanschot of Holland, considered for a week such matters as the longterm effects of wartime imprisonment; geriatric care of ageing veterans; the peaceful use of armed forces, the refugee problem, etc etc. The resolutions carried go either to U.N.O., to Governments, or Member Associations for action. The Assembly elected Peter Alexander as one of the Federation's Vice Presidents for the next three years. After leaving Florence delegates attended a very large Conference on Peace through Disarmament in Rome--in support of U.N.O. Delegates were received by the Pope. A long Resolution was carried after much debate, some of it constructive. After Rome there was a Regional WVF meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, which some of the Australians attended. In Italy Peter Alexander was accompanied by his daughter Debby and her husband who live in Jordan.

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THE 458 SQUADRON CONFERENCE. 458's governing body, the Conference, which is attended by the Squadron officers and two delegates from each Flight, meets during each All-States Reunion and makes decisions, accepted by all Flights and members about policy for the next period. In Sydney, under Eric Munkman's presidency, the Conference heard reports from Flights, about the History and the News; it approved installation of a Memorial Plaque for Bruce McKenzie in the Air Force Memorial Church, West Lindfield (this will be installed early in 1980), elected the new Officers (shown at the beginning of this Issue), agreed to accept S.A. Flight's invitation to hold the 1981 All-States Reunion in that State and invited the U.K. Flight to study holding the 2nd. International Reunion in U.K. in 1981 or 1982. U.K. was directly represented by Norman Duke and Eric Phillips, and N.Z. also had two representatives present. We missed Canada. The New Squadron President, Ian Showell, who lives in Renmark where he has an Engineering business and runs River boats on the Murray, is extremely well known and liked. He was 458's engineering officer towards the end of its history, in succession to Rupert Chessell. The News congratulates "Tong" Showell and wishes him the very best in his term of office.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor. The News has received much correspondence, all of interest, but most of which is excluded by space considerations. We may be able to publish some more in the next issue. But we include one here. A sad one from Mrs Josie Littlehales to Ken Morkham,

Dear Ken, It is with sadness that I write to inform you that my dear husband, Ted, passed away on 10th September. In December 1977 he had his operations on the pancreas--he made a remarkable recovery until July this year when his health started to deteriorate. I was able to look after him at home--he was a very wonderful patient, he died 16 days before his 70th birthday. He was an excellent husband and father to Marie and Peter.....How very sad he was to read in the Squadron News of the death of W/Cdr. Johnston.

yours sincerely, Josie Littlehales.

Ted was a well-known sportsman in his youth--football cricket, boxing and billiards. After his discharge he became a bus proprietor in Warragul and Benalla. After his retirement he bred thoroughbred horses at Dunstons, Victoria, later moving to Wendouree.

458 salutes his memory and sends deep sympathy to his family.

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

Please send me.....copies of the 2nd Edition of "We Find and Destroy" at the special 458 price of \$10 per copy; I enclose

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Name.....

Address.....

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