

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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VIC. FLIGHT NEWS

from Ken Morkham.

This dispatch covers a longer period than normal as we missed out on the last News issue.

Social Events.

Members were invited to a barbeque at Dot and Jack Fleming's holiday home in St. Leonards early in December. Thanks, Dot and Jack. We were pleased to see the following members there: Roger and Jean Rodwell, Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson, Woozel and Pat Wurr, Jack and Dot. Fleming, Joan and Ron. Russell, Nance Cugley, Elaine Timms, Nance and Vin. Clohesy, Beat and Ken. Morkham. We were all very pleased to see Ron. Russell again after his severe heart attack. We all wish him the best of health.

The Vic. ladies took the opportunity to have a meeting and plan functions for 1980.

No. 2 Flight--A.T.C.

Jack Fleming, assisted by Ken. Morkham, presented the 458 History and Shield on behalf of Vic. Flight to the winning cadets. The presentation was made at the Raglan Street Drill Hall and a barbeque was held prior to the ceremony. Beat, Dot, and Ern and Jean Fleming joined us at the ceremony.

R.A.A.F. Europe Dinner.

Ken. Morkham represented Vic. Flight at the 9th. R.A.A.F. Europe Dinner, which was held at the Palais Ball Room, St. Kilda, on the 28th September. The Guest speaker was Air Vice Marshal D. Bennett, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., R.A.F. (Retd) who was the Founder and A.O.C. of 8 Group--the Pathfinder Force.

Our A.G.M.

This is being held on 19th March at 7.p.m. at the Air Force Club, Cromwell Road, South Yarra and will be followed by a dinner with our ladyfolk.

Tractor Drivers' Progress.

Gordon Cuthbertson advises the following, which will be of interest to those members who attended the barbeques at Cuthy's place at Burrum Beest, and who remember the tractor drivers on those occasions. You will be interested to know that at a recent graduation ceremony at the Wilson Hall, University of Melbourne, two of those tractor drivers graduated. Allan, Cuthy's third son, received his Ph.D. in physics; and Russ, the youngest son, his B.Sc (hons). Allan is now doing computer research with B.P., in Melbourne, and Russ is a Seismologist in the Queensland Mines Dept. Cuthy also advises a recent contact with Billy Browne (Tassy).

Vale.

We were all sorry to hear of Ted. Littlehales death on Sept. 10th., after a long illness. Ted was well-liked and respected in his many walks of life. Our condolences go to his dear wife and family.

Vic.Flt News (concl'd)

Victorian members will remember Jill Dawe (Jill McKinna), the loved daughter of Beat and Bob (deceased). Jill died of cancer on the 7th. February, after a long illness. She leaves her husband Mike and Andrew, 14 months. 458 salutes her memory and sends deep sympathy to her family, brother and sister--and to Beat and Ken.

Bill Mathews at Holme.

A Xmas parcel was sent to Bill this year as usual. Bill looks after the R.A.A.F. war graves.

Anzac Day, 1980.

We are looking forward to seeing Vic. Flight members and their visitors at the March and Reunion. The venue for the Reunion will be the same. Remember your annual dues, please, chaps.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Ted Jewell.

It is said that the older you get, the faster time flies and I am sure there is something to it. '79 has come and gone with us already well into the New Year. Plans have been arranged for this year's Anzac Day which is fast approaching. We are hoping that this year there will be another great roll-up as has been the case for the last few years. After the March and Service all those attending will go on to the home of Ray and Marg. Turley for a B.B.Q. lunch and a few cold refreshments. It is a great thing for Ray and Marg. to invite the members, and is appreciated by all.

Xmas Get-together. W.A. Flight had their usual get-together for Xmas last year, with a night out at Scotties Restaurant, which was a very enjoyable evening for everyone, with good music, food, drinks, and most of all good company. We were more than pleased with the great roll-up and hope we have many more outings, such as this, in the future. What made the night that little extra was the fact that with us having about half the restaurant space, the other half was filled with girls from an Insurance office having a night out before Xmas. Champagne flowed and there was much merriment.

To Mandurah. Quite a few members drove down from Perth to our home at Mandurah for a B B Q lunch. The weather on the day was perfect and after a good lunch with plenty of cold drinks, everyone relaxed in their chairs to enjoy the rest of the day before making their way back on the overcrowded roads. We sadly missed the company of some of our members at the functions owing to sickness and hope that they are all now well, or well on the road to recovery.

Personal Pars. Tim Dale has been in hospital with back trouble. Henry Etherton has had a heart attack. Olga Jones also has had a bout in hospital. Ron Gannaway last year went into hospital for heart surgery to correct his heart condition and I am pleased to say that it has made a new man of him. Alice says she can hardly keep up with him now. We are looking forward to seeing more of him. Shorty Long retires during the year and is looking forward to seeing more of Australia. Peter McCarthy retired at Christmas and is enjoying life in retirement--gardening, etc. Bill and Joan Clues' younger daughter, Vicky, has become engaged. Elsie and I have been presented with our 11th grandchild, a girl, by our eldest daughter, Hazel. Kingston (Nobby) Nobbs is living here in Mandurah and dropped in when we had the BBQ here: still the same old Nobby. Wishes to be remembered to all. Best wishes and good health to all.

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AWARD FOR PETER EASTCOTT.

Ron Eggers, Vic. Flight member, has sent us a cutting from a Canadian paper, published in Peterborough, Ontario. It announced the award of the 1979 Steinmetz Award to Peter de H. Eastcott, Mining and Materials Handling Systems Engineering Manager of Canadian General Electric. These awards are given biennially to GE men or women who have distinguished themselves through unusual technical achievement. Peter Eastcott, an RCAF member of 458 years ago, was selected for his imaginative contributions in his field. He is considered an outstandingly creative engineer whose work has had major impact on his company's business. In 1950 after graduation in Electrical Engineering at McGill University he joined CGE. He has continued with the company with great and growing achievements. He holds 38 patents with 2 more pending and has received other awards for his achievements. He is regarded as one of the elite band of engineers on whom the success of CGE's high technology business depends. Congratulations to Peter Eastcott from 458 Squadron!

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PROGRESS OF THE SQUADRON HISTORY.

Since our last report the Squadron History "We Find and Destroy" has continued its steady sales, mainly to 458 Squadron members but also to the Public.

The Squadron History (cont.)

The Author has received many kind comments from members, for which he is deeply appreciative. He also acknowledges with warm thanks a resolution of congratulations from Vic. Flight Committee. He also must report the omission of two names from the list of R.A.F. Casualties, contained in Appendix 1. Would those who have the book like to add these names to 458's War Dead--R.A.F. Section: Harry BRANDON; and Tom ADAIR. It is not known why the names were not supplied on the R.A.F.'s list.

CORNSTALK COMMENTS.

from Arthur Jollow.

Alan and Jean Atherton went for a sea cruise and on their return we arranged to take them to dinner at the Air Force Club. This was on Tuesday and about 20 of us were ready and eager to meet them, especially as they had been unable to attend the International Reunion. On Monday morning we were advised that Snowy had a bad attack of bronchitis and there was doubt that he would be well enough to attend. We kept our fingers crossed and 'phoned on Tuesday morning for a bulletin. Snowy was much better--but! Jean had been rushed to hospital where she underwent fairly extensive surgery and was proper poorly for quite some time. Am happy to report that the wheel of fortune turned and all is O.K. again. But we didn't see them. Better luck next time, Alan and Jean, and the dinner will be on again.

Speaking of dinners, we had another ethnic dinner on February 5th; this time a German one at the Kuckuck Restaurant at Crows Nest. Over 40 turned up. Not only 458ers but some of their friends came along, which is very good. So, spread the word and come! It was good to see Linda Dean looking so well. She and Bruce are regular attenders at our functions.

Peter Alexander has retired from the Public Service and is settling into the bliss of doing his own thing. Probably has things mapped out and in strict order of precedence each day. I have mine for when the time comes. Do nothing in the morning, and then slow down in the afternoon--at least for the first three months.

Lock Simpson and his son paid a fleeting visit to Sydney recently and stayed at Harry Baines' "High Flyer" Motel. Unfortunately Harry was away. Lock and son had shot through before we could greet them. Better luck next time!

Eric Munkman's mother recently suffered a severe stroke and is hospitalised. She was 12 days short of her 92nd birthday and as bright as a button. She and Tess, my wife, visit the same hairdresser and I believe it was quite a sight to see this very "with it" elderly lady come in for her shampoo and set. Quite a lady, Eric's Mum, and we all wish her well.

Farewell!

With very deep regret, we heard that Bill Astley had passed away. He practiced as a Solicitor at St. Mary's, an outer suburb of Sydney, for many years and was extremely active in various Associations working for the good of the district and his fellowmen. Eric and Dorothy Munkman represented 458 at the funeral and Eric tells us the Church, although quite large, was unable to hold the large number of people wishing to pay their respects. To Monica and family, we grieve with you.

To Eric and Dorothy, thank you for representing us. As all the Committee know, and many others, Eric and Dorothy are always ready to go 'just that little bit further' to cement the Squadron together.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Noel (Tich) Griffiths in March. Tich was one of the early arrivals on 458, in the Instrument Section, and stayed with 458 for the great bulk of its time overseas. His cheerful personality was an unvarying contribution to 458's happiness as a Squadron. He worked with the Income Tax Dept in Sydney after the war years and lived in the Caringbah area. Our most sincere sympathy to his widow and children.

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Donna Bryant, daughter of Henry and Magne, in a bus accident while holidaying in Bali. All old hands of 458 will remember Henry and he and Magne frequently attended Squadron functions. Donna was 21 and it always seems harder to accept when one so young and full of life passes on. I am sure all the Squadron feels very deeply for the Bryant family in their sadness.

Dues.

Members will notice a little slip attached to their (N.S.W.) News, setting out details of Dues. There is a difference this year in that instead of Flight dues and the News sub being separate, they are now combined and now total \$6-00. With printing, postage and general expenses rising continually we feel members still

Cornstalk Comments (cont.) get good value for money.

Anzac Day. Once again our Reunion venue will be the Great Southern Hotel in George Street, Sydney. Arrangements are for a sit down luncheon and should be a pleasant afternoon. I shall be away (again) and Eric Munkman will be in charge of arrangements. PLEASE let him know, in good time, if you are coming. Organisation needs time and effort and Eric supplies both. His 'phone number is 407 2061.

Last Bow. This is my last contribution to the newsletter as someone else will be taking over the job of N.S.W. Flight Secretary. I believe Don. Sitmead is the likely new Secretary. He was our Secretary in the very early days, so the Flight will lose nothing in the change. I first met Don in the hospital when we were at Bone.

Tess and I intend going to Canada and U.S.A. for eight weeks in April and May and may visit Mexico. Don't know if we will be able to call on any Canucks as we have a fairly full itinerary. But we'll collect a few addresses and may 'pop in'.

ALL RATHER QUIET ON THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FRONTS.

Jim Holliday (Q.Flight) reports no news--Q.Flight in a state of euphoria--the hottest summer on record in Brisbane so perhaps members too busy quenching thirsts.

No news good news. But something pending on the Gold Coast.

Geoff. Esau in very similar hope that no news is good news says a meeting is about to be held to discuss arrangements for the 1981 All-States Reunion. Suggestions for best ways of entertaining members from interstate next year will receive an interested hearing --especially if in writing. S.A. send their best wishes.

CORRESPONDENCE: LETTERS TO THE Editor.

From Len "Binghi" Stewart, 344 Crawford Road, Inglewood, W.A., 6052

Dear Peter, Enclosing herewith a cheque to cover cost plus postage for a copy of the 2nd edition of the Squadron History which I am very much looking forward to receiving.

Although not involved of late in the activities of our State branch, I always keep in touch and appreciate receipt of the Squadron News. Having now joined the ranks of the retired, and enjoying the release of pressures from the ever-demanding world of business, most of my time now is either spent golfing--fishing or in short visits with my wife Valencia to the many holiday resorts both north and south of Perth. Saw Charlie Davis the other day who gave me a good run-down of his visit to the Eastern States, particularly his stay over in Adelaide with my old mate, Lofty Trewartha. I also visited Charlie "Mum" Geddes last week, who is now in the Hollywood Repat. Hospital. Although Chas is not at all well he still managed a hearty laugh when we talked about old times.

Val and I will be visiting Sydney again sometime this year; will keep you posted with details of dates, as we would very much like to meet up with Squadron members who could be available at the time of our visit.

Until then--happy living to you and yours and all who may read these few lines.

yours---Len 'Binghi' Stewart.

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We shall be delighted to see Len and Val again. (Ed.)

THE SQUADRON HISTORY=2nd Edition.

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

Please send me.....copies of "We Find and Destroy" at the special 458 price of \$10-00 per copy.

Name.....

Address.....

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