

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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

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SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Ian Showell (S.A.): SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS: Clive Wyman (Q.),
Mick Mason (U.K.),
SQUADRON TREASURER: Peter Alexander (N.S.W) SQUADRON SECRETARY: Graeme Coombes (N.S.W),
EDITOR of 458 Squadron News: Peter Alexander.
The Editor's telephone number is (Sydney) 41 5024.

FLIGHT CORRESPONDENTS:

N.S.W. Don Bitmead, 11, Scarborough St., Monterey, 2217;
Queensland. Jim. Holliday 43, Stella St., Holland Park, 4121;
Victoria: Ken. Morkham, 19, Terang Avenue, Burwood East, 3151;
Sth. Aust: Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Rd., Glen Osmond, 5064;
West. Aust. Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Rd., Mandurah, 6210;
U.K. Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Rd., Grove Park, London, S E 12.

ALL-STATES and INTERNATIONAL REUNIONS COMING.

As approved by the last Squadron Conference, further gatherings for 458 are being organised.

First will come the next ALL-STATES Reunion, which will be the 20th. It is to be held in South Australia around October 9th 1981 and the S.A. Flight is planning an interesting long weekend. Readers are asked to give a preliminary, non-commitment indication of intention to attend (a form is at the end of this issue).

Then, in April, 1982 will come a very important event, the 2nd INTERNATIONAL Reunion of 458 Squadron (it will also be the 21st All-States Reunion) will be held in Britain--in and around London and Holme-on-Spalding Moor. This is long range but that enables all Readers to plan that long desired journey to Europe to incorporate attendance at the Reunion in the U.K.

Start planning now.

CORNSTALK NEWS..... from Don.Bitmead.

Earlier this year Arthur Jollow asked to be replaced as Flight Secretary as he was taking an extended holiday overseas and his work commitments were increasing. Somehow the President asked me to volunteer so here I am in Arthur's hot seat. He was a tireless worker for the Squadron. Congratulations for your unstinting efforts, Arthur, and a job well done. I hope I can justify the position as I am still working with the Education Dept., and very involved with the Air Training Corps (24 years so far), being still on its HQ Staff as Admin. Officer.

Ethnic Nights.

Our Ethnic Nights are still being held, the next one being a THAI dinner at Bondi on Monday, 30th June. We hope to see a good gathering.

Anzac Day. This year the members who participated in the March were the largest number for many years. We were fortunate in the Sydney weather which was mild and therefore pleasant for marching. Unfortunately there were considerable delays in the March for unknown reasons and as a result we commenced marching about one hour later than usual. Our ever-popular President, Eric Munkman, again led our Squadron branch, which together with friends numbered about 60.

Cornstalk News (cont.)

After the March, we held our reunion at the Great Southern Hotel as usual. We, again, had a sit-down dinner, 27 in all attending that. It was very pleasant. Speaking from memory, it was the same old faces, with one exception-- that of Bill Chapman who came down from Newcastle. It was good to see him. At the conclusion of the dinner, the Annual Meeting was held, Eric being again elected, unopposed as Flight President; Stan Longhurst and myself as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. 'Bye for now, cheers, Don Bitmead.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid Thompsett.

Last Saturday quite a few members got together for our annual reunion and am pleased to say more members than usual came along. After a very enjoyable dinner the main topic was the International Reunion to be held in England. It was unanimously agreed that we all gather to hold the Reunion around Anzac Day (in 1982--Ed.). Until we know the feelings of all you in Aussie, Canada, etc we cannot make many arrangements but we are going ahead with tentative plans, so it would be helpful if you can let us know fairly soon.

It was nice to welcome Bert Sleight, Trev Walden and Bill Waitt, long time no see, together with Mick Mason, Harry Bishop, Leon Armstrong, Norman Gilbert, Fred Nieman, Norman Duke, Eric Phillips and myself with some Squadron wives.

It is with regret I have to tell you that Guy Johnson (Lock Simpson's crew) passed away last month. Dick Tombs lost his wife after suffering for the last 6/7 years with cancer. On a happier note am pleased that Hugh Hamlet who has been in hospital for a hernia op. is now back in circulation again. He sends his regards to all. I am pleased to tell you that John Dandy has been nominated as High Sheriff of Bedfordshire. (Congratulations, John, from 458-Ed.) One other 458er George Pigg, better known as Darky, sends regards to anyone who remembers him from Protville and Bone.

I close now hoping to hear from you fairly soon. Cheers, Sid.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Ted Jewell.

As is usual in Perth the weather for Anzac Day was warm and sunny and was thoroughly enjoyed by the large crowd who turned out for the March. At the Dawn Service, a wreath was laid at the War Memorial by our President, Bill Clues. We had a very good roll-up for the March and afterwards for the Reunion luncheon. The Roll Call.

Nundi Carpenter	Jim Palmer	Tom Foster	Peter McCarthy	Tim Dale	Stan Hopewell
Bill Clues	Vic Grenville	Fred Howe	Ted Jewell	Ron Cannaway	Bob Ellis
Gordon Jones	Chas Davis	Ray Turley	Col Corten	Len Stewart	C McCracken
Stan Long	H. Etherton	R. Chessell			

We were pleased to see Col Corten again, over on holidays with the family, from N.S.W.

The Reunion.

This was held at Ray and Marg Turley's home, where all present enjoyed a barbeque lunch with plenty to drink, and a good afternoon tea later on. Thanks to Ray and Marge for having us at their home. This will be the last time there, as they have sold their home now and have shifted into a new Unit.

Luncheon.

Gordon and Olga Jones arranged for a few of the members to have lunch at the South Perth Yacht Club one Sunday (Gordon is a member) to decide on arranging a further luncheon for any members who wish to come--wives included. All members will be notified in due course. We had a most enjoyable lunch and feel sure that the drinks food and company will be just as good next time. We shall hope for a good roll up then. At this luncheon were: Gordon and Olga Jones, Tom and Phyl Foster, Ted and Elsie Jewell, Mavis Mayne. Bill and Joan Clues were to have been there but could not make it.

Interstate Items.

Ian and Fee Showell were in Perth for a flying visit to their son, Howard, and family on their way through to Darwin. Ian hired a car in Perth and, with his son and grand-daughters motored down to Mandurah to visit Elsie and me for a short time. Fee was not able to come with them as she had a virus. Very pleased to see you again, Ian. We are hoping to see you next year in Adelaide. Bill and Joan went around later that night to see Ian and Fee at the hotel where they were staying, and had a few drinks.

Had a letter from Wal Archbold that he was coming over to the West for a holiday with his wife, Dora. After he had arrived and settled in Charlie Davis

Sandgroppers Say.....(cont.)

contacted Wal and arranged for a few of the members to go to Bayswater Bowling Club to meet him and have a drink or two and talk over old times. Later, on his way down to visit Albany in the south west of the State, Wal, Dora, and his sister-in-law Merle called in to see Elsie and me at our home in Mandurah where, after greetings, I drove Wal and the others around to see some 458 members who live in Mandurah--Nobby Nobbs and Curly O'Connor: after a few beers and a yarn at each place, we were not able to look up Harold Manton as it was getting late, and they had to be on their way. Nobby was getting ready to go on a caravan holiday through to Darwin: will be on his way by now. Curly O'Connor is organised down here buying and selling fish, etc. He is living in the caravan park at present. Good to see them all again: a little older maybe, but still the same.

Ray Turley retires in October and is looking forward to doing plenty of travelling around the country. Ray told me he has bought two gold detectors, one for himself and one for Marge. So, who knows? in their travels they might find a nugget or two. All for now--best wishes to all. Ted Jewell.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday.

As reported in the last issue of the "News", the "something pending at the Gold Coast" eventuated: a Sunday barbeque at the Baxters. With it, Q.Flight awoke from its summer siesta and Q for Quiet to quaff quenching quarts in quantity. The canalside mansion of Kitty and Jack Baxter (9, Andrea Avenue, New Florida Gardens) is not only attractive and capacious but also designed for fun and frolic. Naturally it is built round a huge swimming pool, part of which is portioned off for a frothy bubble bath. From the pool there's easy access to a most functional bar with padded elbow rests and traditional brass rail. The bar did even better business than the pool. Adjacent to the pool, too, is the barbeque--commandeered by Don Brandon to deliver delicious yearling rib fillets, tender, juicy and brown. But down at the bottom of the garden is the star Baxter attraction: a brand new 40' pleasure cruiser. While its luxury is highlighted by being carpeted not only on the floor but also on the ceiling, the centre of attention was the immaculate engine room, powered by two huge Cummins diesels with two enormous Universals. Kitty and Jack plan a leisurely trip North, threading their way through the Islands, with the ultimate destination New Guinea.

While attendance was large, some "regulars" regretfully apologised. John Rosenberg was in Melbourne where he is now transferred; Evelyn and Jack Lewis were moving to their new house at Redland Bay. Executives from Melbourne descended on Mabel and Keith Campbell. Eric Kelly was unexpectedly recalled to work; Len Macdonnell had family responsibilities. Tony Stone developed a severe stomach upset overnight.

It was a most delightful day in a most delightful setting, ending with Jack Baxter taking on all comers at snooker. Thanks, Kitty. Thanks, Jack.

Anzac Day.

On Anzac Day the largest contingent for some years marched behind the Banner. One happy and healthy member, pleased to be back was Gordon Postle. An operation kept him away in 1978 and a broken ankle last year. Bob Helyar joined us as did Bernie Hughes. One regular, Bernie McLoughlin, was away in Adelaide, doing his duty as Queensland President of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation. Bill Snowden ruefully regrets he is now too old to march. As usual, Jack Lewis resumed his wartime role of Mess Providore to set out the traditional tasty lunch. I still think we should have had the cheese and onions before the March because they seem to keep marching on. Pres. Bert Garland convened the Annual Meeting and reviewed a most successful year. Yours truly reported a satisfactory financial position. For our diligent efforts we were awarded the penance--we were re-elected unopposed to continue to labour in these respective positions for a further twelve months.

Chas. Warren reports a call from Mrs. McQuaid from Barcaldine seeking permission (readily granted) to have Tim's Squadron plaque formally dedicated and placed on his grave at the Anzac Service held in the ex-servicemens' section of the Barcaldine Cemetary. Mrs. McQuaid said that although distance did not permit Tim to attend many Squadron Reunions, he was very proud of his service with 458 and cherished the deep friendships he had made.

Clive Wyman is elated over his recent appointment as Chairman of the Board of Ipswich Grammar School. Not only is Clive an old boy of this, the first Public School in Queensland but he has also served many years as a Board member. With taking up residence at Redland Bay, Jack Lewis commenced pre-retirement leave.

Q.Flight News (conc'd)

Jack leaves an indelible mark on the wool industry in Queensland. Like his father before him, Jack has been for many years Head of the Wool Dept. of the Queensland College of Technical and Further Education, and directly responsible for the training of wool classers and other specialists in the Wool Industry. Jack is a most able angler, a hobby to which he can now devote his entire attention. Following the lead of Bob Helyar, Bernie Hughes after many years in the Central West of Queensland, has sought the cool breezes of Moreton Bay. He's settled, after his retirement at 12A Klinger Ave., Redcliffe, within a stone's throw of the beach.

T.A.A. has transferred John Rosenberg to Melbourne. John, after serving T.A.A. in New Guinea, was appointed Senior Regional Captain in Queensland. His transfer caught us by surprise, and we were unable to give him the customary farewell. However, there was a fine photograph of Elizabeth Rosenberg in the local paper, being farewelled by the wives of pilots and Flight Engineers of T.A.A. We'll miss Elizabeth and John, but our loss is Victoria's gain.

Addresses. Recently, with Graeme Coombes and Peter Alexander, we've reviewed names and addresses of 458ers resident in Queensland. We've turned up some names the "News" had and vice versa. Mostly they are members from other States who have transferred. To these we say "Welcome". However, two Queenslanders have gone "missing". One is Kevin Byrne, and the other Chester Jones. On retirement, Chester went bush somewhere near Toogoolawah, and is apparently unable to purchase pen and paper.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Ken Morkham.

Anzac Day, 1980.

The day was sunny and fine and there was a reasonable turn-up of Vic.Flight members, though we would have liked to see a larger number. The Reunion was at the Melbourne Bowling Club with a larger number in attendance. Harry Ashworth and Ian Allison were the Chefs and what a meal they turned on! Our thanks to them. Vic Flight gives its hearty thanks to the Melbourne Bowling Club for allowing us once again to hold the reunion in their Clubrooms.

Personal Pars.

We are sorry to hear that Tom Burgess has a bad leg and trust he will be on the mend soon. Harold (Yank) Martin is in the Prince Henry Hospital and has had a kidney stone removed. Yank reckoned he was going to be on the balcony to see the March Past on Anzac Day but we did not see him. The nurses must have leg-roped him. The nurses must have had a real ear-bashing. Bill Cribb (S.A.) Very pleased to see Bill at the March. Bill reckons that if Mick Singe goes to Adelaide, he will leave town. Gerry Abrahams: we were very pleased to see Gerry again after all this time. Gerry has been retired about 4 years. Mick Singe; Mick tells us that he is going to retire this year. His son is in Adelaide and has got his Master's degree in Town and Regional Planning. Ron Russell says he has two Pay Days to go before retiring. He and Joan intend to travel for two years overseas. We trust they will have many pleasant days during their trip. Ted Kennedy came down from Ballarat for the March and tells us that George Riddoch is well settled as a retired farmer, also in Ballarat. "Farmer" Giles: have not heard from Farmer for some time and have heard on the grapevine that he has left Portland and is teaching in Geelong. Harry Ashworth's crew Ian Allison tells us that Harry, John Bilney and self attend each other's homes for a dinner once a month to keep up old acquaintance.

What a good idea!

From 460 Squadron. We were all pleased to welcome two guests---Dusty Mason, and Claude Turner at the Reunion.

The Annual General Meeting.

Vic.Flight members met at the Air Force Club, Melbourne, on Wednesday 19th March and the meeting was followed by a dinner for members and their wives. This was an innovation, because your Committee considered that the Anzac Day reunion should be a time for reunion only.

Ladies Auxiliary; Vic.Flight.

The Ladies Auxiliary had planned to hold its first fund-raising activity in preparation for the next Victorian All-States Reunion. The function, in the form of a Pioneer Dinner, was to have been held in Ron and Joan Russell's home in Doncaster. Letters advising of the function were sent to all interested members. The response was so poor only a few replied. With regret, the Ladies had to cancel the dinner. The Ladies feel that with such lack of co-operation they cannot go ahead as planned.

Flight Secretary/Treasurer's Comments.

At this point I would like to make the following comments. Ladies of Vic.Flight do a wonderful job with functions and one cannot give higher praise than that their efforts keep us going. CHAPS, PLEASE LEND THEM YOUR SUPPORT IN FUTURE. IT COSTS LITTLE TIME TO, AT LEAST, ANSWER THE NOTICES SENT TO YOU.

I am afraid this is a common picture with many of Vic.Flight members in that they do not answer notices for functions and meetings. Do you want the Vic.Flight to keep going? Regards, Ken Morkham.

CROWEATERS COLUMN.

from Geoff, Esau,

Anzac Day in Adelaide. This was blessed with glorious autumn weather and was noteworthy for the greatly increased number of spectators at the March, the Air Force Contingent of which was led by Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C. and other veterans of 617 Squadron who were in Adelaide for a World Reunion. Squadron-wise we were privileged to have Peter Alexander and Bernie McLoughlin marching with us.

Bernie laid a wreath on behalf of the Squadron at the Dawn Service which was very well attended as also was the 9 a.m. Memorial Service at the Airport. Keeping step with Bernie and Peter were Ian Showell (who led the Squadron) Jack Riseley, Bill Taylor, Brian Woodhead, Tom Phillis, Arn. Scholar, Ray Whitrod, Peter Thom (nice to see him after a long absence), Syd. Bartram, John McGlasson, John Carey, Reg. Priest, Keith Grimshaw, Bert Ravenscroft, Paul Hallem, Paul Hinsley, Bert Oliver, Ron. Badger, Jack Fisher, Lofty Trewartha, and Geoff. Esau. The Talbot Hotel was again the venue for a very pleasant few hours for Squadron members after the March.

617 Squadron. On April 27th a very moving service was conducted at West Beach Airport by the Rev. Ben. Williams, Repatriation Hospital Padre, to dedicate a plaque to the memory of Fallen Comrades of 617 Squadron, R.A.F., at which Group Captain Cheshire gave the address against a backdrop of jets operating on the runway. 35 years were spanned in a moment! The Padre made special mention during proceedings of the invaluable assistance and dedication over the years of Ron. Badger regarding the whole concept of the Squadron and Service Memorial plaques of which there are now 18.

Personal Pars. Jack Thregold of Kingston S.E. 5275, writes that he and his wife have left Kingston and moved to 9, Melrose Street, Eden, N.S.W., 2551 to be near their married daughter. I understand that with a perfect climate and a wife whose name is near enough to Eve, the only discomfort is the thought of snakes! Jack is particularly interested in Bert Ravenscroft having taken up painting and would dearly love a picture (of Bert in his smock) Good wishes, Jack and Evie from S.A. Flight. We have word from Archie Fell of Auckland that he has recently retired and is leaving on a trip to U.K., and homeward via America, for three months, on June 2nd. Hopes to contact U.K. members while there.

The All-States Reunion. Members would know that South Australia has been honoured by being host for the 1981 All-States Reunion. A Working Committee has held a couple of meetings and a decision has been reached regarding the date---which is fixed for the weekend of 9th to 12th October 1981 (Monday a holiday in S.A.). A Reception will be held on Friday evening 9th; and wind-up dinner on Monday evening 12th. We hope to provide an interesting and not too strenuous programme in the intervening period. Golf Clubs and Bowls could be helpful. A difficulty soon apparent for forward organising is uncertainty of numbers. A brochure will be prepared and, with the kind co-operation of the Editor, sent to members with the December issue. This will be as comprehensive as possible but in the meantime a tentative indication of approximate numbers to be involved would be appreciated. A tear-off return slip is at the end of this News. This applies equally to S.A. members too. While non-committal it will serve as a guide. As this will probably be the Croweaters final fling we hope to add a little turkey to the menu, so please remember the date and be in it. S.A. Flight is updating its rollicall and would be pleased to exchange lists with other States.

Regards to all and hoping to see as many as possible in Adelaide in '81. Geoff. Esau.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Miss Anne Taylor, 2/2A Wyuna Avenue, Hawthorn, Victoria, 3122.

Dear Sir, I am writing in request of some information regarding my uncle---410397 F. Sgt. Leo C. Taylor of 458 Squadron during the years in which he served with your Squadron until his death in January, 1944. I have a copy of "We Find and Destroy". My brother has visited Holme-on-Spalding Moor and my Father once attended a 458 Squadron Reunion..... My uncle came from Hopetoun in N.W. Victoria, and was one of four brothers who saw service in the War. He was missing, believed killed on January 23rd 1944. Two members of his crew, I believe, were later killed on operations---W.O. D Anderson and F/Sgt. J.C. Shipard.....

I do hope you can help me fill in some of the gaps.....

yours in anticipation,

Anne Taylor. (Ed. Will anyone who recalls Leo Taylor please write to his niece)

AVADSC AND WVF. The Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (AVADSC) is the Crest organisation for Australian ex-Service Associations (13 belong) and has its H.Q. in Sydney. It has recently chosen a new Chairman in the person of Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths, D.S.O., D.S.C. who succeeds Lieut. General Sir Mervyn Brogan. Some of the Council's main interests lately have related to Agent Orange and to a proposed working party to simplify the Repatriation system.

The World Veterans Federation (WVF) is the international organisation for ex-service Associations. Peter Alexander recently went to Paris to sit at the WVF's Executive Board meeting, which among other things considered the rather serious effects on Veterans affairs of the Afghan crisis.

Peter Alexander was awarded the C.M.G. in the recent Honours List.

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By request, we commence in this issue to print addresses of 458 members in the various States. The Lists will continue in future issues.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

D. Anderson	4, Allan Street, South Perth, 6151
Sid Baker	180, Lockhart Street, Como, 6152
Fred. Barnett	154, Victoria Avenue, Nedlands, 6009
A. Barras	c/o Thorold Harper and Co. Pty Ltd, 7, Neil St., Osborne Park, 6017,
N. Carpenter	102, Ravenswood Drive, Nollamara, 6061
B. Clues	179, Kooyong Road, Rivervale, 6103
R. Chessell	14, Rea Street, South Perth, 6151,
J. Cobb	52, Calais Road, Scarborough, 6019,
Tim Dale	253, Stock Road, Palmyra, 6157
D. Daniels	338, The Strand, Dianella, 6062;
C. Davis	30, Milne Street, Bayswater, 6053
L. Dickerson	46, Melville Street, Albany, 6330;
H. Etherton	15, Chaffers Street, Morley, 6062;
R. Featherby	295, Oceanic Drive, City Beach, 6015
R. Gannaway	27, Duncan Street, Victoria Park, 6100;
A. Glassford	78 3rd Avenue, Mt. Lawley, 6050;
R. A. Hatton	133, Wilson Street, Kalgoorlie, 6430;
H. Hemy	4, Melvin Avenue, Thornlie, 6108;
T. Hicks	71, Burren Gate, Willetton, 6155;
S. Hopewell	40 Wickman Street, Attadale, 6156;
F. Howe	30 Mayfair Street, Mt. Claremont, 6010
T. Jewell	61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210;
W. Kelliher	31, Baldwin Street, Como, 6152;
Gordon Jones	5, Birdwood Street, Melville, 6156;
L. Lockhardt	30, Currong Way, Nollamara, 6061;
S. Long	1, Edward Street, Cottesloe, 6011;
A. G. Lyons	59, Canning Road, Kalamunda, 6076;
C. McCarthy	48, Wrexham Street, Bicton, 6157;
A. C. Main	48, Wakefield Crescent, Albany, 6330;
H. Manton	Mandurah, 6210;
P. McCarthy	20, Hendon Way, East Hamersley, 6061;
K. McLeod	7, Hume Street, Thornlie, 6108;
J. R. Miles	22, Highfield Street, Manjimup, 6258;
A. Naylor	12, Celebration Street, Cannington, 6107;
K. L. Nobbs	56 Tuckay Street, Mandurah, 6210;

To be continued.

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

Please send me.....copies of the Squadron History @ \$10 each. I enclose \$.....

Name.....Address.....

To Mr. Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Rd., Glenosmond, S.A., 5064.

I plan to attend the All-States Reunion in S.A. in October, 1981 accompanied by.....

Name.....Address.....