



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

Year 31, No 124.

September, 1980.

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 Tel no. is (Sydney) 419 5024. Please note the change.

FLIGHT CORRESPONDENTS:

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

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday.

Thanks to Joan and Clive Wyman offering their gracious home at Corinda, metropolitan members enjoyed a delightful barbeque on 26th July. Naturally, Don Brandon took command of the cooking and, while Mine Host, Clive, presided behind the Bar, Joan ushered in the seemingly endless procession of the "goodies". A notable feature was the attendance of Kitty and Jack Baxter of the Gold Coast, by boat. The Wyman's residence is close to that wonderful waterway, the Brisbane River. The Baxters, to avoid the policeman-plagued Pacific Highway by car, opted to come by the more leisurely, scenic, and safe journey by their luxury cruiser. They moored within a couple of cable-lengths of the Wymans. Naturally, the bogey of the breathalizer was banished from their thoughts. Incidentally, Jack predicts that Kitty with a few more training trips around Moreton Bay, will soon ascend from the lowly status of deckhand to fully-qualified A.B.

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ALL-STATES REUNION, South Australia, October 1981.

2nd INTERNATIONAL REUNION, London, April, 1982

We remind Readers of these two most important functions. Keep planning, please. We hope you notified the S.A. Flight of your preliminary intention to attend the 20th All-States Reunion. It is frustrating for organisers, if not positively demoralising, not to get a response. If you did not, we are sure Geoff. Esau (address above) will be glad to hear from you.

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Q.Flight News (cont)

Two interstate members couldn't make the Barbeque. Lofty Trewartha on the Gold Coast for the Winter Bowls Carnival had trouble with transport. But he benefited next day at an important match with a clear head and steady hand. The Cuthbertsons, on the way to stay at the Foote's Gold Coast apartment were rammed a few miles from home by a most inconsiderate and incompetent motorist. No personal hurts, but hurts to their car took weeks to heal. Recently, Gordon telephoned from his son's residence in Brisbane, advising that, to get closer to the Sun and the Son, they

Q.Flight News (cont.) have purchased a canalside home at Mermaid Waters on the Gold Coast. Moving in October.

Other Interstate Members. Two other S.A. members, Dawn and Jack McGlasson, and Arn Scholar paid a winter visit to the Sunshine State. The McGlassons motored up the inland route and loafed their way back down the Coast. Arn flew into Cairns and bus toured his way back. Jack dropped in on Jack Dew at Tully, and both Jack and Arn contacted Bob Dangaard at Mareeba. Missed Erle Hetherington in Cairns. Erle was away in Sydney, helping son-in-law build that steel-hulled boat. Dawn and Jack commented on the rapid development of the Sunshine Coast, just north of Brisbane. Say there's more home building there than in all Adelaide currently. From Brisbane, Dawn and Jack were heading for the Coast via the Keith Austins, now domiciled at Loganholme on the outskirts of Brisbane. A note from Erle Hetherington states that he's briefly back in Cairns but resumes in Sydney in October. Erle remarked to Snowy Atherton that retirement is a time-consuming occupation.

At the Lewis' Evelyn Lewis recently staged a small Sunday lunch for recently retired workmates of Jack to celebrate not only Jack's birthday but also his retirement. At their new home at Victoria Point, on Moreton Bay, Jack has already established an embryo vegetable garden, outfitted a workshop and installed a freezer for the anticipated gargantuan hauls of fish. There's his boat on a trailer, ready to launch, and a hop, step and jump away on the beach is his dinghy for sneaking under the mangroves at high tide at night to catch the unwary bream. No time for wool-gathering now.

Chas. Warren. The last sighting of Chas. Warren was on his way with a West Queensland mate to Alice Springs. At the time he was pondering on the possibility of an air trip from Alice to Perth by private plane provided by a 458er from W.A. Trust the possibility was not a flight of imagination. Chas. wants it known that he offers his home to any member and his wife visiting Brisbane. Being a widower, with sons happily married, he has beds begging to be occupied. The provisos are that you make your own bed and cook your own meals. Chas. says he's not a dab at domestic duties. However, Chas. would welcome you. Write in advance to 53, Browns Dip Road, Enoggera, Brisbane, 4051.

Len MacDonnell on tour. Len MacDonnell recently toured the United States, to visit his late wife's relatives. Praises highly the Yank hospitality, but not their cigarettes. Praises, too, the courtesy and concessions of Aussie Customs officials.

Joan and Sel. Foote Now in a new home on the outskirts of Ipswich, overlooking the Flinders Ranges. We suspect also there's a view of a rugby union field, if not one at the bottom of the garden. Sel has been an ardent worker for junior Rugby Union, helping to take teams interstate and to New Zealand.

Changes and retirements. There have been changes of address associated with retirement for three other Q.Flight members. Snowy Atherton has sold his property at Oorindi near Cloncurry, temporarily staying with son Ian, at Malanda, prior to settling permanently on the Far North Coast. Jack Taylor has transferred from the Gap, Brisbane, for Coral Gardens Waterways, Gold Coast. The Don Hoppers have sold "Allamand Brook", Kuranda, Atherton Tablelands, and moved to the Gold Coast. Touring overseas from December to April.

Lost! Besides Chester Jones, apparently lost in the Bush near Toogoolawah, now we've lost Bob Cock formerly of Jambin. Rumoured he's retired to Noosa Heads.

Not lost. Kel Kellam, despite several visits to the Repat. Hospital at Greenslopes, still hearty and still able to write with a shaky hand. Helen McLoughlin, assisting Bernie with fund raising for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation. Latest Project, jumble stall at the local school on election day.

Vale! A notice published in the Brisbane Courier-Mail advises that Bill Ernst was privately cremated on 14th August. Q.Flight extends deepest sympathy to Mrs. Joyce Ernst and family.

Q.Flight has commissioned a Memorial Plaque to be placed at the Air Force Memorial in the Crypt at Anzac Square, Brisbane, to honour the memory of the 129 Airmen who did not return. An official dedication will be arranged shortly. Response to a request for donations towards the cost has been most satisfactory.

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VICTORIAN NEWS.

from Ken.Morkham.

Nor much to report in this issue.

Flt.Sergeant Leo C.Taylor.

We have had correspondence from Leo C.Taylor's niece, who lives at 2/2A, Wyuna Avenue, Hawthorn, Victoria. Her name is Linn Taylor. Linn wants to hear from any of the Squadron members who knew Leo well. Leo came from Hopetoun, Victoria and joined the R.A.A.F. at the end of 1941. His mustering was Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (No.1 W.A.C.s Course 42, Ballarat). He also did courses at Somers, Sale, and joined 458 at Bone, North Africa. His usual pilot at Bone was W/O Markey but he also flew with F/S Anderson and F/S Archie Fell. Linn, his niece, wishes to know more of him, his likes and dislikes, etc during his service with 458. If any Squadron member knows, I should be grateful if they will communicate with Linn.

R.A.A.F. Europe Dinner, 1980.

Date: Friday September 26th. Venue Palais Ballroom, St.Kilda Guest Speaker Air Vice Marshal J.(Ray) Adams, C.B.E. 458 members were aware of this function and we believe some attended. Next year's Guest Speaker will be Gp/Captain G.L.Cheshire, V.C.

Vic.Flight Members.

It appears that the Vic.boys are in recess for the winter. I have not heard from anybody. What about it, chaps?

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Ted.Jewell.

I am sure that 458 members everywhere will be looking forward to the coming All-States Reunion in South Australia next year. With more members here in the West retiring, or already retired, we reckon we shall have a good roll up from W.A. If all goes according to plan we could have 9 or 10 couples going over. As I mentioned in the last News, members of W.A.Flight, hosted by Gordon and Olga Jones, were going to Sunday lunch at the South Perth Yacht Club. It turned out to be a great success. There were nine members with their wives for pre-luncheon drinks, followed by an excellent meal. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much they did not want to leave. It was decided we would have another just the same and the date was made for the following month. That day has come and gone with us having a greater roll up than the time before. Once again, drinks in the lounge, then adjourning to the Dining Room which overlooks the Swan River, for an excellent meal with wines and beer to help the chicken and steaks, etc down. When you are on a good thing, stick to it, seems to be the motto. So, we meet again on October 26th. Any member wishing to come, who has not been notified, could ring Bill Clues, our Flight President.

Vale.

Two Flight members have passed on. Rupert Chessell, our Engineering Officer. Charlie (Mum) Geddes. Both are well remembered as Squadron identities. We mourn their passing, and send our sympathy to their next Of kin. Both funerals were well attended by members of 458 Squadron, W.A.Flight. It was good to see such a big roll up to pay last respects.

Personal Pars.

I called on Harold Manton at his home here in Mandurah and had a good yarn about old times. Harold wishes to be remembered to all. Had a visit from Jack and Ethel Cobb while they were down this way. Jack hasn't changed much over the years; he also wishes to say hullo to everyone. Tim.Dale has been off work with a bad back, but is otherwise O.K. Gordon Jones is still working in his painting business. Tom Foster is still looking fit and well and is busy with the RSL. Bill Clues, with Australia Post, is looking forward to when he can retire. Was on holidays when last seen. Bob Shearman, just back from Exmouth Gulf, stayed with son Andrew, who is in the Navy there. Caught plenty of fish. Charlie Davis is enjoying retirement and playing lots of bowls. Henry Etherton is looking fit and well. Ray Turley is looking forward to retirement in October. Len.Stewart is retired and doing a lot of boating and fishing. Peter McCarthy, retired early this year, enjoys gardening, among other things. Hensell Hemy, looking well. Says he has remarried again. Stan.Long, now retired, says it is the best thing he ever did. Elsie and I are looking forward to going on a short holiday in a weeks time to the south of the State. Cheerio for now, and best regards to all from W.A.Flight.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid.Thompsett.

I was sorry to miss Peter Alexander when he was in London--but was glad to talk with him on the 'phone. I have recently heard from Norman Duke that he did meet up with him for a couple of hours on the way to the airport. I have heard from Graeme Coombes, the Squadron Secretary, informing me of the agreement of the Sqdn.Council to our invitation to hold the 2nd.International Reunion in the U.K. in April, 1982. We are hoping to start arrangements later this year, just hoping that the few of us who keep the U.K.members together will get some sort of help from other members. Bill Wilkinson from Tasmania got in touch about his proposed visit to the U.K. early in September; am hoping at least a few of us can meet up with him for a jar or so. At our last Get-together we missed Charlie Humbles, one of our regular members, and I have heard from him that he hasn't been at all well, but is on the up now. He says it's due to getting older. Not a lot of other news to tell this time--will hope for more next time.

To U.K.Members. It becomes increasingly difficult for me to give any really up-to-date news for our insert in the Squadron News, unless I am fed news from you. How about it, lads?

CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY.

from Geoff.Esau.

There has been a pleasing interstate response per the acceptance slip in the last News for the S.A.Reunion in October, 1981. So far we have received notice of honourable intentions from, by States, N.S.W. Peter Alexander, Eric Munkman, Stuart Ricketts, R.(Dusty) Miller, Don.Bitmead; Queensland Bert Garland, Massa Foote, Clive Wyman, Jim Holliday; Victoria. Ernie Laming, and Gordon Cuthbertson; W.A. Henry Etherton, Ted.Jewell, and Al.Wheat; New Zealand Kevin George.

I point out that the S.A.response, no less important as far as planning goes, leaves much to be desired. So, "Stand Up, that man, and be Counted!"

Planning goes on. There have been several meetings regarding programmes and the compilation of the brochure which is expected to be sent out to all members with the January Squadron News. It will contain details of a bonus available to quite a number of lucky people. Wait for it!

Personal Pats. Our Flight President, Jack Riseley, retires from News Ltd on the 3rd. October, 1980. An ex-Sandgroper, he has adapted to a diet of crow, with distinction. He has been a mainstay of the Flight for many years. No doubt in anticipation of idle hands, Jack and Verna are building a new house. Best of good luck to you both, from all members. Jack and Dawn McGlasson have recently returned from a trip by car to North Queensland. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed catching up with old friends along the way. Bill and Madge Taylor are off to Hong Kong, where son Brett is stationed. Robbie and Rachel Robertson are presently overseas on another holiday. (Must be something in this retirement) Saw Lofty Trewartha recently after a spell in hospital for an operation on both eyes for glaucoma. He looks (and sees) remarkably well, and, happily, the op. was very successful.

Best wishes to all from S.A.Flight.

CORNSTALK NEWS.

from Don.Bitmead.

Ethnic Nights. On June 30th, a group of twenty met at Bondi and enjoyed an excellent Thai meal. Those attending were: Merv. and Rousha Hargreaves; Peter and Rita Alexander, John and Moya Dunn, Eric and Dorothy Munkman, Bruce and Linda Dean, Jack and Dorothy Aitken, Lloyd and Betty Johnson, Stan and Jean Longhurst, Graeme and Dulcie Coombes, Don and Bev.Bitmead.

This was the first time we have met up with Merv. for many years and we were so pleased to see him and Rousha. Also it was John and Moya's initiation into the Ethnic Nights. It was really wonderful to have their company. Incidentally, the four are pharmacists.

Our next Ethnic Night is planned for Tuesday October 14th at the Topola Inn, Crows Nest, where Balkan food is served. What about it, fellers, it would be great to have more starters. I am sure our Preso is getting tired of looking at the same old faces (the Ladies excepted, of course)

Annual Bowls Day. Two teams represented 456 at the annual Air Force Bowls Day, commenced by Dick Healey, who is its Patron. One team was Dick Healey, George Catchlove, Pete Campbell, and Stu.Ricketts; and Graeme Coombes, John Dunn, Les.King

Cornstalk News (c nt.)

(an ex-Army friend) and a local substitute for me made the other team. The teams went to battle, fought bravely, but, alas, were beaten. Never mind, there's next year. I was to play but suffered the indignity of a broken arm.

Other News.

We have received news from John Hosking to say that he has retired. Other members who have joined the retired list this year include Peter Alexander, Jack Baker, John Preston, and Jock McGowen. Our editor, Peter Alexander, will soon be globe-trotting again. I like many others would like to know where he gets his energy--and pass on the secret. Cheers for now.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Bill Waitt, 7, Woodstock Road, Harlow Green, Low Fell, Gateshead, England.

Dear Peter, I am pleased to let you know that the copy of the History has reached me safely. I am hoping I shall be able to have my copy autographed by you if you come to Blighty for the U.K. Reunion. I have just checked the first edition copy and it shook me a trifle to note the date when we last met, I.E. 21.10.67. No doubt Sid will have given you details of the London Reunion this year. I attended with Gwen and Ian, our son; Trevor Walden was also there from J.A.F. McKay's crew and we all had a very enjoyable evening; in fact, it was 11.40 when the Waitt family were trying to find their way through the deserted corridors of the Great Eastern Hotel. Mick and Norman Duke had very kindly and thoughtfully brought along their copies of the History so we were all able to have a preview of things to come. Ian was impressed; he was a historian and spent a lot of time in the British Museum in London when he was doing his research for an Ph.D. He wonders if the Squadron has offered a copy to the British Museum and feels certain that if this were done it would certainly be accepted. Just a thought.

I have raced through the new edition but must now sit back and read it more thoroughly. It is a wonderful book, Peter, and it is very easy to relax in a comfortable chair and relive those days long ago when we were young and also remember some of the wonderful people we lived with from Protville to Alghero. Congratulations again and many thanks. Just a small point: I was Radar/Radio Operator in McKay's crew. Hal Lee was the Air Gunner. Charlie Green was Gunner on that trip to Durrazzo; Hal was down with jaundice.

I read the News avidly when it arrives and some names still remain fresh; it is grand to remember people like Don Bitmead and Geoff Esau who, I note, are doing a splendid and active job for 458. Do you hear of Charlie Ruthven and Dougie Colquhoun, Terry McGuire of Transport, Herbie O'Brien of Brian Woodhead's crew, Wal Clarke, who survived with Reg Bullen that horrific crash at Malta. I did correspond with Roy Simpson, W.Op. in Don Anderson's crew, for some years, but unfortunately I think we both moved around a bit after the war and addresses got mislaid. Last I heard of him, he was farming in West Australia.

Once again many thanks, and here's hoping to see lots of old friends in London and Holme. All good wishes, yours aye, Bill.

From Mrs. Betty Johnston, 9, Green Close, Rawcliffe Drive, Clifton, York, England. to Graeme Coombes.

Dear Mr. Coombes, My husband, Guy Johnston, (of Lock Simpson's crew), died tragically last April. This happened due to the doctor not admitting Guy to hospital on the tuesday of his first visit. Again on the thursday, I called the doctor, only to be told that Guy had an infection and I was worrying unduly. When finally on the saturday, I insisted that the doctor called, Guy was admitted to hospital, but it was too late and he died on the Monday. It was found that the wrong tablets had been given. These he had taken for a fortnight which resulted in internal bleeding. It has been so distressing for my sons and I, it has left us so stunned and shocked. Guy had talked so much of the coming 1982 reunion after it was first mentioned in the Sqdn News, especially as we live close to Holme-on-Spalding Moor. He was one of the members who helped to plant the Tree there. I believe he sent photographs showing the progress of the Tree.

I wrote to Sid Thompsett to ask if I may still pay the subscription so that we may still receive the Newsletter, so many of the names seem like old friends now; our two sons have always been interested too. The reason for this letter is to ask if I may have a copy of the Squadron History. Guy did have a first Edition, I would like very much to have the new one. Enclosed please find a cheque.

yours sincerely, Betty Johnston.

Correspondence (cont.)From Mick Mather, Lakeside Terrace, Medourie, N.S.W., 2301.

Dear Peter, Hope this note finds you--enclosed is my cheque re 458 Squadron Branch A.F.A. Please note that as Patron of the Newcastle branch of the A.F.A., they send me honorary membership each year. I appreciate this and don't wish to offend them or 458, so please credit my subs to suit the situation.

Life goes on much as normal since I last saw you at the RAAF Williamstown day that American Nostalgia visit. I've heard from Col. Corten (used to be Navigator in my crew and a damned good one too)--and from Jeff. Hayes from Hobart by 'phone a few years ago--also some correspondence from Norm. Skinner (now retired I believe round the St. Marys area)--all of these blokes suffered the indignity of flying with me--Great blokes--I hope we don't lose touch, and for this I congratulate you and 458 Sqdn. Association for helping to avoid.

Still have my horses--breeding and showing-- plus competing in sporting jumping and other horse sport events--a good life, even if I'm getting a bit slow in the reflexes and thicker in the head. All the very best to all 458 ers, Sincerely Mick Mather.

458 SQUADRON ADDRESSES--Western Australia (cont.)

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| W.O'Connor | Mandurah, W.A. 6210 | |
| J.L. Palmer | "Cranham", Kojanup, W.A., 6395 | |
| A.V. Piggford | 7. Hooley Street, Swanbourne, W.A., 6010, | |
| E.K. Screigh | Avon Terrace, York, W.A., 6302, | |
| R. Shearman | 33, Arkweld Street, Willagee, W.A. 6156 | |
| L. Simpson | P.O. Box 81, Mount Hawthorn, W.A. 6016, | |
| Roy Simpson | Dale Farm, Metricup, via Busselton, W.A., 6282, | (Bill Waitt refert) |
| L. Stewart | 344, Crawford Road, Inglewood, Perth, W.A., 6052, | |
| D.J. Tunney | "Rainscourt", Kojanup, W.A., 6395, | |
| R. Turley | 7/219, Marmion Street, Palmyra, W.A. 6157, | |
| L.J. Waldock | 207, Vincent Street, North Perth, W.A., 6006, | |
| B.A. Watson | 8, McCoy Street, Melville, W.A., 6156, | |
| A.G. Wheat | P.O. Box 97, Geraldton, W.A., 6530, | |
| E. Wheeler | 119, Grand Promenade, Bedford, W.A., 6052, | |
| R.G. Willis | c/o AMP Society, Geraldton, W.A., 6530, | |
| R.G. Wood | 16, Leedes Street, Dianella, W.A. W.A. 6062. | |

South Australia

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|---------------|--|
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| G. Bartram | 33, Parker Road, Torrens Park, S.A., 5062, |
| J. Bax | 1, Olive Street, Brighton, S.A. 5048, |
| L.A. Fisher | 13, Claughton Avenue, Largs Bay, S.A., 5016, |
| C.L. Bowley | 74, Ridgway Drive, Flagstaff Hill, S.A., 5159, |
| J. Carey | 20, Sprod Avenue, Toorak Gardens, S.A., 5065, |
| E. Creighton | 33, Farr Terrace, East Glenelg, S.A., 5045, |
| W. Cribb | 13, John Cleland Drive, Beaumont, S.A. 5066, |
| C. Cunningham | 286, Railway Terrace, Taperoo, 5017, S.A. |
| J. Davies | 2, Butterick Street, Port Pirie, S.A., 5540, |
| C. Draysey | 13, Sewell Avenue, Payneham, S.A. 5070, |
| D. Dunn | 40, Lindsay Avenue, Edwardstown, S.A. 5039, |
| P. Enright | The Hermitage, Robe, S.A., 5276, |
| G. Esau | 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, S.A., 5064, |
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To be continued.

To the Squadron Secretary (History)
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