

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



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

Year 32, No. 125.

December, 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 Telephone number is 419 5024 (Sydney).

## FLIGHT CORRESPONDENTS:

N.S.W. Don. Bitmead, 11, Scarborough St., Monterey, 2217  
Victoria Stan. Tarczynski, 1946, Malvern Road, East Malvern, Victoria, 3145.  
South Aust. Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, 5064,  
Western Aust. Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210,  
Queensland Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella St., Holland Park, 4121,  
U.K. Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Road, Grove Park, London, SE12 9TN, England.

## ALL-STATES REUNION; South Australia, October, 1981.

With this issue of the Squadron News, members will receive their copy of the special brochure published by the S.A. Flight about the All-States Reunion. This will be the 20th. All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron. There is a fine programme, of great interest and enjoyment. Also there is Ian Showell's offer of free berths on one of his Murray River cruisers--allotted by ballot.

We ask members to send in their registration forms promptly.

## 2nd INTERNATIONAL REUNION London, April, 1982.

U.K. Flight is continuing its planning for this unique occasion. Since the journey is a major one, we hope members are already planning--and saving.

## CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY.

from Geoff. Esau.

It is with very great regret that I report the deaths of two Squadron identities in recent weeks. M.R. (Mel) Priest on November 5th and N.W. (Lofty) Trewartha on November 23rd. We are all the poorer for their passing. Members of the Squadron attended both funerals, and our deepest sympathy is extended to their next of kin. (For a tribute--see below)

The Reunion Brochure. It is anticipated that with this edition of the News the brochure of the 1981 All-States Reunion will have been received.---it is hoped with pleasure---by intending participants. The Committee, realising through personal experience that none of us are getting younger has soft-pedalled on filling each day with official functions, and quite some time is available for informal activities, or simply recovering!

A suggestion received since printing the brochure is for a conducted tour of

Croweaters' Commentary (cont.) - Edinburgh Airbase to be included. The possibility of this will be looked into. In the meantime it would be helpful if intending attenders of the Reunion indicate with their return of brochure whether inclusion of a visit to Edinburgh would be welcomed.

Personal PARS. Brian and Joan Woodhead mention having spent a few days with Joan Priest on her property near Robe in the South East. Joan is very grateful for the many kind expressions of sympathy and said she would like the opportunity of keeping in touch with Squadron members and their families. There is surplus accommodation on the farm which could be available for visitors. A 'phone call to Joan on 087 68 2149 would provide details.

Pat Enright has recently had a stint in Daws Road Repat. Hospital but I understand he is home again.

Season's Greetings to all members and their families, wherever they may be, from S.A. Flight.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Ted Jewell.

Where, we sometimes ask, has 1980 gone? Christmas with us once again and the New Year only round the corner. But, when we look back, 458 in the West has had a rather busy year in the way of get-togethers. A lot more this year than any other time I can remember, which is a good thing for the Flight. We see mostly old faces but now and then a few new faces, which is pleasing indeed.

For the last few years we have tried to make out Xmas dinner party something different each time. One year, it was Italian, then Scottish and now this year on December 19th, we all went to the 1001 Nights Lebanese Restaurant in Perth. Twenty turned up for the occasion and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We were served a ten course dinner, Lebanese-style, and it was the first time I have seen 458 stopped with the amount of food they brought out. The Turkish Delight and sweet cakes were hardly touched. We all tried to remember some bits of arabic but I'm afraid it was too long ago.

The Manager asked Bill Clues and me who would make a good sheikh to help the belly dancer in her act on the stage. So, we nominated Bob Shearman, who did a good job. They supplied the clothes and all. Bob insisted that when the belly dancer did her act in close to him he missed all the good parts because his glasses kept steaming up. She was very nice though, wasn't she Bob? Those who attended were:

Bill and Joan Clues Mavis Mayne Ted and Elsie Jewell Ron and Alice Gannaway  
Peter and Doreen McCarthy Margaret Gannaway Tom and Phyl Foster Bob and Kath  
Shearman Ray and Marge Turley Charlie and Bet Davis Henry and Vera Etherton

Olga and Gordon Jones were to have come but unfortunately Olga became sick at the last moment and had to miss out on a nice night.

On December 21st Elsie and I had our 40th (Ruby) wedding anniversary and were going over to the daughter's home in Mandurah for lunch as it was one of our grandchildren's birthday the day before. But when we arrived we found it was really a surprise party for us, with about 60 or so friends there--also including any 458ers who wanted to come. All those at the dinner party were there plus Curly O'Connor and Nobby Nobbs, both of Mandurah. We had a wonderful time. Elsie and I were presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a lovely set of crystal glasses from members of 458. It will always be something to look back on and remember as a great moment in our lives.

To all 458 members, wives and families, wherever you are, a happy New Year and peace and good health in 1981.

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PARS FROM TARZ.

Victorian Flight News from Stan Tarczynski.

The fateful day of Sunday, December 7th, at Jean and John Rodwell's, saw one of the largest recent gatherings for the Xmas barbeque, at which a Special General Meeting had been called.

In attendance on this glorious summer's day were our hosts and daughter, Jan and her family. Unfortunately, your new correspondent, who took on this job later in the day was not able to catch up with all the wives names, for which he apologises, but this will be rectified. So, we had Bob and Mrs. Smith, Yank and Kathy Martin, Arthur Green, Stan Tarczynski and Jean Mitchell, Ken and Bea Morkham, Ian and Val. Alison, Col and Yvonne Hutchison, Shorty Wilson and Helen, John and Dot Fleming, Harry and Nell Ashworth, Ernie and Jean Laming, John Primrose, Mick Singe, Ron and Joan Russell. Apologies were received from Les Russell, Gordon Nash, Forbes Paulet, Mick Hunter, Neil McPhee, Roy Rabone, Don Johnston, and Vin. Clohesy.

The Special Meeting was chaired by John Fleming, and was called to determine

Pars from Tarz (cont.) the future of 458 Squadron, Vic. Flight, and to elect a new Hon. Sec/Treasurer and/or to carry on as an independent Flight. Ken Morkham, who has officiated as Hon. Sec/Treas. for five years intimated that due to present commitments, he was unable to continue.

After much discussion he agreed to act as Hon. Sec but would be assisted by other members of the Committee to whom work would be delegated. Due to lack of communications, he found it impossible to gather information for the Squadron News. Stan Tarczynski offered to relieve Ken of this duty and suggested he would formulate a Questionnaire to all Vic. Flight members in the very near future. If our members respond and keep feeding back information there will be no problems. We leave it up to you, Fellas!

Mick Singe retires at Christmas, 1980. Ron Russell and Joan are taking off overseas in January and will be away for several years.

Any personal news would be most acceptable immediately, addressed to me at the address at the head of this News.

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458's History in INTERCOM. The Air Force Association, South Australia, through its paper has published summaries of the histories of various Squadrons--including 458.

Geoff Esau was the writer. He produced an excellent summary of 458--both at war and in its peacetime role. Anyone reading Geoff's summary would obtain a picture that is accurate and fair. Congratulations to Geoff.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS. from Jim Holliday.

The winner of our Melbourne Cup Sweep, Bernie Hughes, didn't know he had drawn a horse. He was in Melbourne seeing the Melbourne Cup run in the flesh. Before he left Brisbane, indeed before we had distributed the sweep tickets for selling, Bernie forwarded his money for two books of tickets. His win, therefore, was well deserved. We hope he had a ball. Second prize went to Isla Garland, wife of Flight President Bert. She stoutly denies she was wearing blue denims at the time to encourage the horse. Third prize went to Len Collins, an ex-P.O.W. mate of your correspondent. Len's been a regular contributor to our Sweep for many years. The Committee thanks every contributor for his/her support. We made a modest profit this year because the printing was generously donated.

Christmas came. We thank Joan and Don Brandon for hosting our annual Xmas function at their home at Tanah Morah. As usual, it was a Sunday lunch barbeque. The girls even exceeded last year's efforts in salads and other 'goodies'. It's the repast of the year. Well attended, too, by 32 members wives and relatives. Chester and Charlotte Jones delayed a working visit to their Toogoolawah farm, sporting, in Chester's case, the badge of his new calling, a magnificent farmer's straw hat. Personally, I preferred the straw hat donned by Clive Wyman. It was a beauty, bashed into a comfortable shape like any pilot must do. We welcomed the first time attendance by Norm (Shorty) Taylor, wife Dorothy, and daughter, Amanda. Like the man in the song, when Shorty was an RAAF Catering Officer, they'd been everywhere; Amberley, Darwin, Malaya, Wagga, and a few other places that faulty memory can't recall. Since retirement to the Gold Coast, Dorothy Taylor renewed her interest in the Country Womens' Association and is now the local President. Also helps to teach handicrafts to the Aged and the Handicapped. Betty and Jack Baxter arrived a little late. They'd been burgled the night before--while asleep. Kitty awoke at a noise and accosted the thief. He took off with all motors at full bore and jumped through the window he'd opened without touching the sides. The cheeky blighter had ransacked their bedroom while they slept. Isla and Bert Garland broke a holiday on the Gold Coast to attend, bringing with them Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson, now installed at a lovely, canal-side, home at 41, Avanti Street, Mermaid Waters. The Cuthbertsons haven't slowed to the Queensland rhythm yet. They saw the walls of the living room that sweep to a height of 14' as a challenge to re-paper. After discarding flying trapezes, sky hooks and cherry pickers, they finally found some trestles that reached that dizzy height.

One upset absentee was Len MacDonnell who, on leaving the Woolloongabba Cricket Ground the previous day, was hit in the middle of the back by the flying head of a boy who tripped. The Campbells were coming until those pesky southern executives found other things for Keith to do. The Keith Austins also sent their apologies, but are planning twelve months ahead for the next one. Evelyn and Jack Lewis talked of their plans, for 1982, to attend the Reunion in Great Britain. Jack seems to have some deep-laid plans to trawl the oceans from the air, if Qantas permits. Don Brandon has been busy with business trips to other capitals and just made it home the previous day to the Xmas Party. Again our deep thanks to Donny and Joan for this party.



Q.Flight News (cont.)

Memorial Plaque. The Memorial Plaque at the Air Force Memorial at the crypt at Anzac Square has been commissioned, completed and installed. Though modest and simple, it looks very good. Dedication will be next year. Thanks to the generosity of members from all over Queensland, every penny of cost was met. Your Secretary/Treasurer expresses his sincere thanks.

Personal Pars. Alan Atherton advises that he's now domiciled at 4, Tanner Crescent Stratford, Cairns, North Queensland, enjoying retirement, rain, and sea breezes by contrast with the parched West where he spent his working life. George Reed writes from his retirement home at South Mission Beach, via Tully, that he's been busy planting and harvesting sugar cane (Retirement!) He's busy with the Warhaven Home for ex-Servicemen at Cairns. Alf Peake's latest letter was a hurried one between cane harvesting at Inkerman. Erle Hetherington passed through Brisbane recently on his way to Sydney to re-commence work on that boat. A little bird told us that Bob Male's new home at Noosa Heads commands a magnificent view of 180° of ocean. Dick Boydell writes from 34 See Street, Bargara, that it's great to receive copies of Squadron News again after some years living in the Islands. Reports his two sons in the RAAF--one in Melbourne and the other in Adelaide. Eric Lloyd, the bustling Estate Agent at Coolumb Beach writes that Johnny Pilcher has been holidaying at nearby Perogian Beach. John, so Eric reports, apart from a little thickening at the waist is the same, easy going, nice guy we knew of old. Jim McKay is having trouble with his back, that was injured in a crash on Gibraltar, went on a holiday fishing recently on Moreton Bay. Fishing wasn't good and he wasn't amused at the spot where dolphins were surfacing all around the boat shewing them the fish they were catching. Enid, wife of Dud. McKay of Marisa Court, Caloundra, writes that they returned recently from three months holiday overseas, spent mainly in Scandinavia. Ack Ack Taylor dropped in recently. Hopes to retire shortly and wants to move away from the sound of school bells which they have been living next to these many years. Eric Kelly off on compo. for six weeks with a broken arm. It wasn't from pushing pencils too hard but from getting out of the way of a runaway car. Ian Higlett, run down from overwork caused by delays in staff replacement says that if there is no relief soon, there'll be another replacement needed.

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FAREWELL TO MEL AND LOFTY.

Mel Priest, who died in South Australia during November was one of the Pilots who contributed with distinction to 458's operational record. The Tanker in the Adriatic and a submarine were most substantial achievements. He served for a long time with the wartime 458, as a Second Pilot with Hutton Armstrong, and later with his own crew. After the war, he worked in the Insurance industry on the management side--including a stint in Kenya. He became on his return to Australia a prominent and always important member of the S.A. Flight. He was in fact one of the many to whom 458 was a large part of a lifetime. He retired to farm at Robe, S.A. He wrote some time ago offering his DFC to the Squadron for preservation as he felt, he said, it was the Squadron's. We shall miss him. Lofty Trewartha was one of the many who served for long years, both at war and in peace with 458 Squadron--one of those to whom the Squadron owes its remarkable unity and survival power. He travelled widely in Australia always contacting 458ers wherever he went. As just one memory of his tall, white haired deep voiced figure, the Editor of 458 Squadron News has always remembered, with some emotion, arriving at the first South Australian All-States Reunion (being then Squadron Secretary) to attend the Dance--where Lofty's three-piece band was providing the music. As he entered the Band, under Lofty, played the old tune, Alexander's Ragtime Band.

We shall miss Lofty--and hope to meet again.

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CORNSTALK NEWS

from Don.Bitmead.

Well, Melbourne Cup day has once again come and gone. In our sweep the lucky winners were Tom Ridgway, Jack Aitken, and Frank Storey-Wilson, in that order. Congratulations, chaps, and commiserations to the losers. Many thanks to all who contributed to this raffle. As you all know, the proceeds help to keep the branch afloat. Also many thanks to the members and their wives who gave another evening to meet in the city, to prepare, list, and dispatch the books of tickets, as well as, later on, to make the draw, advise and pay those lucky enough to win something. It is a time-consuming job.

Christmas Dinner.

Another enjoyable Christmas dinner was celebrated at the Air Force Club on Tuesday 16th December. Those present were:

Peter Alexander Yvonne and Trish Crompton Stuart and Iris Ricketts  
Jack and Dorothy Aitken Colin and Emelda Corten Fred. Strom Sam and Maisie Barlow  
Bruce and Linda Dean Lillian McGlynn Don and Bev. Bitmead Cy and Elaine Irwin  
Bert and Kitty Thompson Bob and Betty Bruce Arthur and Tess Jollow  
Frank and Thalma Ward Peter and Barbara Campbell Stan and Jean Longhurst  
George and Elaine Catchlove Tom and Val. Moore Graeme and Dulcie Coombes and  
Eric and Dorothy Munkman.

Cornstalk News (cont.)

I hear Jim.Whittem was over from the States to see his son graduate in Vet.Science from Sydney University.

Have members any news for our future copies of the Squadron News? We would welcome it for publication.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

The World Veterans Federation recently held a Council meeting in Munich. There is a Council member for each of approx 50 member countries. Australia on this occasion was represented by Tom.Marsh, an AFA member who has had a long interest in the WVF. He was substituting for L/General Sir Mervyn Brogan who was unable to make the journey. The Council considered an agenda divided between items relating to rehabilitation and those relating to support for UNO in its peace-keeping activities. The Council also of course considered a detailed report of activities, submitted by the WVF Secretary General, Mr.Serge Wourgaft of Paris. Peter Alexander, who is WVF Vice President from the Asia and Pacific Zone, was also present as an Executive Board member--the E.B. also spent much time intensively discussing Federation activities.

The events of the week were excellently organised by the German Host Associations and there was a programme of social events for Councillors and their ladies. Rita Alexander joined Peter in Munich.

An Australian agenda item calling for international research into the earlier onset of cataracts in ex-service people was carried and referred to a committee of investigation manned by the British member Associations.

During informal meetings with other countries' representatives the Australians found that the British and some other Pensions Authorities take a more generous attitude to accepting as war-caused coronary disabilities suffered by amputees. The relevant, very detailed, papers have been sent to the Australian associations who are analysing them and discussing the situation with the Australian Veterans Affairs Dept.

Australia also obtained copies of an excellent Norwegian publication (in English) on the Delayed Effects of wartime stress.

After the meeting, WVF President van Lanschot, who was imprisoned in the war years at Dachau, near Munich, revisited the site, accompanied by about 20 of his Council (including Peter and Rita Alexander). It was rather a traumatic experience. The site is preserved as an example. Some of the huts, where three (emaciated, no doubt) men shared a bunk (three tier). The incinerators, converted now into Chapels. The oven where inmates were gassed (slowly to save gas). The Museum shewing details of the appalling medical experiments carried out on selected inmates--or where some were beaten to death. All were there--plus a Memorial, in cast iron, representing emaciated bodies caught up on barbed wire. M. van Lanschot, who was once an inmate, preserved his self control. Some of the others found it hard to do so, including our very well-esteemed German WVF Councillor, who found it impossible.

On his way to the Council, Peter Alexander was able to have discussions with the Veterans leaders in Malaysia and Yugoslavia, where he met many veterans in the country areas.

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DON IN RETIREMENT.

Don Bitmead advises that, like Lofty Chalmers and Tom Ridgeway, he is now in the happy and contented ranks of retired teachers. Also, due to age requirements, he has had to retire from the Air Training Corps--but has agreed to stay on with the honorary rank of Squadron Leader.

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458 SQUADRON ADDRESSES---South Australia (cont).

M.Goers	Old Mill, Murray Street, Tanunda, S.A. 5352.
T.Hinsley	10, Gramp Avenue, Angaston, S.A., 5353,
K.Kappler	44, Moore Street, Somerton Park, S.A., 5044,
L.Letcher	Unit 7A, 13/14, North Esplanade, Glenelg North, S.A., 5045,
J.McGlasson	25, Taylor Terrace, Rosslyn Park, S.A., 5072,
R.McCrae	26, Swanwick Street, Kirkaldy, S.A.,
H.J.Oliver	Box 10, McLarenvale, S.A., 5171,
T.O'Riley	598, Mylor Road, Aldgate, S.A. 5154,

458 Squadron Addresses(Cont.) South Australia.

C.J. Phillis P.O. Culburra, S.A., 5261,  
 J. Perry 15, Margaret St., Port Augusta, S.A. 5700,  
 F.J. Pedersen 11, Redin Street, Richmond, S.A., 5033  
 H.B. Ravenscroft 11, Thornton Street, Henley South, S.A., 5022,  
 J. Ringwood 640 Glynburn Road, Beaumont, S.A. 5066  
 J. Riseley 38A Cooper Place, Beaumont, S.A. 5066,  
 K. Russell c/o Adelaide Steamship Co. Ltd., G.P.O. Box 394A, Adelaide, S.A., 5001,  
 A. Scholar 74, Corunna Avenue, Edwardstown, S.A. 5039,  
 M.A. Senn 23 Hardy Avenue, East Glenelg, S.A. 5045,  
 J. Sheerlock 14, Jeanie Street, Plympton, S.A. 5038,  
 I. Showell Box 392D Renmark, S.A., 5341,  
 I. Sorrell 8, Styles Avenue, St. Marys S.A., 5042,  
 G.E. Taylor 6, Vansittart Place, Beaumont, S.A., 5066,  
 R. Warwick Holowiliena Station, Cradock, S.A., 5432,  
 M. White 6, Barr Smith Avenue, Tusmore, S.A., 5065,  
 J.C.S. Wilson 1, Downing Street, Hove, S.A., 5048,  
 B. Woodhead 90, Observation Drive, Highbury, S.A., 5089,  
 G. Young 126, Hanson Road, Woodville Gardens, S.A., 5012.

Victoria Flight. Note: Many of these addresses are not on the Flight list of Financial members. However, for contact purposes, they are valid, as far as we know.

I. Allison 10A Black Street, Mont Albert, Vic, 3127,  
 H. Ashworth 39, Andrew Street, Oakleigh, Vic. 3166  
 G.W. Abraham 8, Debrah Avenue, East Bentleigh, Vic., 3165,  
 J.F. Bilney 18 Duncan Street, Box Hill, Vic, 3128,  
 L. Boyer 27, Yaldwin Street, Kyneton, Vic, 3444,  
 A.W. Brown Clifford Street, Hamilton, Vic, 3300,  
 T. Burgess 62, Darian Road, Torquay, Vic., 3228,  
 W. Carr 36, Harbury Street, Reservoir, Vic., 3073,  
 S. Cartledge 58, Sanderson Street, Yarraville, Vic., 3013,  
 V. Clohesy 72, George Street, Hamilton, Vic., 3300,  
 R. Connolly 32, Simpson Drive, Dandenong, Vic., 3175,  
 G. Cowan 12, Kent Court, Toorak, Vic., 3142,  
 J. Cruttenden Glengarwyn Road, Leopold, Vict., 3221,  
 J. Dowling 39, Marianne Way, Mt. Waverley, Vic., 3149,  
 R. Eggars 21, Kyora Parade, North Balwyn, Vic., 3104,  
 J. Ellis 5, Heales Street, Dromana, Vic., 3936,  
 D. Firth Box 46, Robinvale, Vic., 3549,  
 J. Fleming 1, Hayward Street, Pascoe Vale South, Vic., 3044,  
 R. Gammon Woorinen, via Swan Hill, Vic., 3589,  
 I. Giles 17, Hill Street, Belmont, Vic, 3216  
 H.E. Godfrey 10, Donaldson Street, Ivanhoe, Vict., 3079,  
 A. Green 57, Woodlands Avenue, Pascoe Vale South, Vic., 3044,  
 J.V. Griggs 78, Hennessy St., Moe, Vic, 3825,  
 J. Guthrie 14, Balfour St., Doncaster, Vic., 3108  
 F.P. (Mick) Hunter 34, Rundle Street, Ararat, Vic., 3377,  
 C.F. Hutchison 6, Daisy Street, Murrumbidgee, Vic., 3163,  
 J.W. Irwin 38, Chaleyer St., Reservoir, Vic., 3073,  
 J.B. Islip 61, Karnia Avenue, East Malvern, Vic., 3145,  
 E. Jewell 5, Derby Street, Blackburn, Vic., 3130,  
 D.K. Johnston c/o Motor Spare Parts Pty Ltd., 61, Longtree Ave, Mildura, Vic, 3500,  
 E. Kennedy 53, Mair Street, Ballarat, Vic., 3350,  
 E. Laming 28, Barwon Avenue, Reservoir, Vic., 3073,  
 E.J. Love 8, Scotts Parade, Ivanhoe, Vic., 3079.

To be continued.

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

Please send me.....copies of the Squadron History "We Find and Destroy" at the special 458 price of \$10. per copy. I enclose \$.....

Name.....

Address.....