

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 419-5024 (Sydney).

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Victoria Stan. Tarczynski, 1946, Malvern Road, East Malvern, Victoria, 3145
South Australia Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, 5064,
West. Australia Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210,
Queensland: Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, 4121,
U.K. Sid. Thompson, 49, Amblecott Road, Grove Park, London, SE12 9TN England.

ARE YOU BOOKED FOR ADELAIDE?

Arrangements go well for the 20th All States Reunion of 458 Squadron to be held in and around Adelaide from October 9-12th 1981. Members received their brochures with the last issue of the News. We hope they remember to return the Registration Form by the end of June. Contact in S.A. is Flight Treasurer, 458 Squadron Association, 25, Taylor Terrace, Rosslyn Park, S.A., 5072. Members who have been to an All-States Reunion know how enjoyable they always are. Those who have not yet attended should do so. They have missed one of the best things life can bring a former airman and member of 458 Squadron. And it is, of course, always later than you think.

AND FOR BRITAIN?

Closer than you realise--the 2nd International Reunion of 458 Squadron in and around London and Holme-on-Spalding Moor, April, 1982. The chance we have--perhaps the last and only chance--to get together with our R.A.F. members of 458--35 years after. Members from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa this is the occasion to make that long planned trip to the U.K. on your retirement. U.K. Members, let Sid Thompson know that you will support U.K. Flight in this event--and enjoy a historic occasion reviving the important period of your lives when you joined with the men of the scattered British Commonwealth to fight against Hitler and Mussolini. Sid's address is shown above.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday.

Not much gossip about at the moment, but there'll be plenty at the Anzac Day Reunion. First of all, a correction; in the last News the new address of the Cuthbertsons on the Gold Coast was given with the incorrect street number. Correct is: 44 (not 41) Avanti Street, Mermaid Beach, Gold Coast.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Peg and Gordon are laying paving blocks at the moment. I nearly copped one.. Alan Atherton in far off Cairns has located Joe Elliott. Since retirement six years ago and after the sad loss of his wife, Joe has been living quietly at 76 Kenmore Road, Kenmore, Brisbane, 4069. His main enjoyment--and pride--grandchildren. After recovering from a broken arm, Eric Kelly, with wife Kath., spent some long service leave touring. Details of the itinerary have not been divulged yet, (they've just returned) but it wouldn't surprise if Ned Kelly country was visited. As the end drew near, quite possibly Ned serenaded Kath with "I must take you home, Kathleen".

The Brandons plan overseas visits shortly, but it's combined with business. One of these days Don will do it for pleasure only. Since retirement, the Garlands relax for a few days at the Gold Coast every now and then. Isla recharges her batteries with ozone, while Bert, with rod and reel, charges the fish. He catches a few, too, in his battery.

Bruce Buchanan is critically ill in Wesley Hospital. No visitors.

Our Memorial. Dedication of our Memorial Plaque will be in the Crypt, Anzac Square, at 9.30 a.m. on Anzac Day, April 25th.

SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Ted Jewell.

Here in the West we have made a good start to the year, for already we have had two social events, with plans for more to come. It is a great thing to get together with members, wives and friends for a few hours, for lunch, a barbeque, a few drinks, etc, enjoy the company and talk about old times. I certainly can't understand 458 members who say they haven't the time, or don't come along and meet old mates. Maybe in the future we shall see more new faces, who knows!

Members and their wives travelled down from Perth to our home at Mandurah for a barbeque during the long weekend in January. We had a great roll up, with everyone enjoying themselves--plenty of ice cold drinks and a good lunch. There were about 25 present, including a few friends of members. Certainly, a wonderful day. Kingston Nobbs and his wife Esme who live in Mandurah were here, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and said they were coming to future functions. Rang up Harold Manton, who also lives in Mandurah but he was unable to make it.

Had a call from Jack Cobb who had just arrived back from a holiday in Sydney; stayed with friends in Hornsby not far from Fred Strom. Jack said he saw him once or twice. Had a great time until on their way home Ethel had a fall and broke a bone in her leg and had to have the leg in plaster. To make it worse had another fall when back at their own home in Perth, hurting the other leg. So, while Ethel is laid up, Jack is chief cook and housemaid. Hope things are starting to get back to somewhere near normal by now.

Olga and Gordon Jones arranged for members of W.A. Flight to go to the South Perth Yacht Club. This was for lunch last Sunday. We had a good roll-up once again, with about 24 members and wives, with several friends making up the numbers. Wonderful Perth weather, perfect meal with ice-cold beer, and wine to go with lunch. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There has been another arranged for later this year.

Once again our thanks to Olga and Gordon. Those present were:

Olga and Gordon Jones: Bill and Joan Clues: Ted and Elsie Jewell: Tom and Phyl Foster: Tim and Posa Dale: Ray and Marg Turley: Charlie and Bette Davis: Mavis Mayne: Tom and Betty Howard: Henry and Vera Etherton: Peter and Doreen McCarthy.

Bob and Kath Shearman could not make it as they were going to Busselton in the south of the State for a few weeks holiday. Hope the fish were biting.

The brochure on the All States Reunion in S.A. looks great; we are all looking forward to going from the West. Should be about 9 couples.

Regards to all from W.A. Flight.

CROWEATERS COMMENTARY.

from Geoff Esau.

Response to the Brochure for the Ade laide Reunion has been quite gratifying and John McGlasson, our Flight Treasurer, tells me that deposit cheques are arriving with acceptances, both from within and without S.A. in a very commendable manner.

Croweaters' Commentary (cont.)

As this is the last Newsletter before all deposits should be paid (i.e. by June 30th) I remind those still to accept that the deposit which it is hoped will cover the major part of the cost of functions, is \$50 per person, with an additional deposit of \$50 per person requiring accommodation at the Haven Motel.

On Saturday night, the 31st Jan'y, the Air Force Association held a fund-raising Cabaret at Brighton R.S.L. 458ers present included Bill and Madge Taylor, Brian and Joan Woodhead, Bert and Mrs. Oliver, Joan Priest, Arn. Scholar, Jan Napier, Ron. Badger, Reg Priest, Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft, and John and Pat Carey. Reg. Priest, whose wife was interstate, took along as supper contribution a tin of smoked oysters and biscuits. Unfortunately, neither tin opener nor bayonet were to be found, but I understand Biscuits and beer were beaut.!

On Sunday 1st. February a well attended Service was held at the Airport to dedicate commemorative plaques honouring those who served in 452/457 Squadrons and 453 Squadron. W/Cdr. R.H. Gibbes, and Sqdn/Ldr. K.M. Barclay officiated at the unveiling and the Rev. Ben. Williams conducted the Service. Air Marshal Sir Neville McNamara, Chief of Air Staff, gave the address. Other notables attending were Air Commdr R.N. Law, - A.O.C., Edinburgh Air Base, G/Capt. D.M. Jorgensen, State President of the Air Force Association, and Mr. J.R. Neil, State President of the R.S.L. A number of 458 Squadron members were noticed in the large crowd present, noteworthy being Ron. Badger, unofficial guardian angel of these Air Force Memorials.

Personal Pars. Bill Cribb tells me he and Pat are off to Europe in April, via Hong Kong where their daughter and son-in-law are living at present. Returning by the same route in early July. I think the recently acquired grandchild is an added attraction in Hong Kong to Bill and Pat. Best wishes for a wonderful trip to you both. John McGlasson, very recently retired from General Motors Holden, after many years with the company. He says he has never been busier and appears ready for all contingencies. His and Dawn's daughter, Michelle, has just completed an Ag. Science degree at Waite Institute and Adelaide University, and is spending a year at Mainoru Cattle Station, on the border of Arnhemland, via Katherine. Quite an experience and one which many of us would envy. Until July--and looking forward to October. Best wishes and kind regards.

VIC. FLIGHT NEWS

from Stan. Tarczynski.

PARS FROM TARZ.

Of the 56 Questionnaire letters sent to Vic. Flight members, only 19 have replied so far. Kev. Guiney's letter, sent to Mornington was returned to sender, so if anyone knows his whereabouts--please advise me.

The first item of interest is that a 458 Squadron team (Ian Alison, Arthur (Green), Mick Singe, and Harry Ashworth) has nominated to play in the inaugural \$3000 Carlton and United Breweries--T.A.A. Bowls Tournament, to be held at the Melbourne Bowling Club, of which Harry is a past President and Club champion. All the top Australian bowlers will compete in this event, commencing March 10th. The top prize is a fortnight's holiday in July during the Gold Coast Carnival. All the best, chaps!

Ern. Laming who retired three years ago sends news of Ray Hill, of Poole, Dorset, England--thanking him for his gift of Aussie Lager. And Bill and Mona Matthews at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. The latter received their 458 Squadron Hamper on the 19th January--indicating delivery problems. They are very appreciative of the annual gift and have asked Ern. to pass on their grateful thanks to the Squadron.

Col. Hutchinson, who lives in Murrumbidgee and has an original sandstone house in the Adelaide Hills (Ashton) and a farm, may retire this year as Senior Investigation Officer of the Victorian National Parks Service. He still flies occasionally and is really souped-up on the Squadron obtaining an old Wimpy. Recently he met a chap in the Snow country who has a clue where there may be one available, and is following it up. Notably the biggest drawback, apart from cost, would be the jealousy between States as to where it could be put on show. Of course, if it were made operational transportation problems for the All-States Reunions would be a push-over! Maybe other members may have some clues on the whereabouts of a Wimpy and pass on such information to the Editor of the Squadron News.

A letter received from Les. Russell (his nickname is censored). Although retired three years he occupies himself as a private investor and loan underwriter.

Pars from Jarz (cont.)

And he travels extensively. In fact, he and Phyllis have been travelling regularly for 20 years and now visit the South East Asian circuit annually--where he has business interests in Hong Kong, and where he plays golf at Singapore, Penang and Deep Water Bay. While your health still lasts, Les., you had better have a go for the Golf Cup at the Adelaide Reunion. Our deepest sympathy to Phyllis on the loss of her mother who died at the ripe old age of 99 on January 30th this year.

We thank Mick Singe, Harry Ashworth and Woosle Wurr for helping us to trace Gerry Abraham, Keith Clymo, and George Riddoch respectively.

General Meeting.

The Vic. Flight Annual General Meeting will be held at the Air Force Club, Melbourne on Friday May 15th at 7.p.m. This is to be followed by a dinner with our ladyfolk at the same venue. Cost will be approx. \$10-\$12, with drinks extra. Contact--Ken Morkham to confirm your Attendance at the dinner.

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CORNSTALK CHAT.

from Don Bitmead.

Ethnic Night.

Another very pleasant evening was held for members, families and friends on Tuesday 24th March. This time we sampled Portuguese food at the Alfama Restaurant. All agreed that the food was good and the company, as usual, most enjoyable. Those attending were: Eric and Dorothy Munkman Bruce and Linda Dean, Peter and Rita Alexander Harry and Nita Baines Sam and Maisie Barlow Lloyd and Betty Johnson Jack and Dorothy Aitken and friend Florence; Tom and Val Moore Arthur and Tess Jollow Merv and Rousha Hargraves Stan and Jean Longhurst Pet and Barbara Campbell Graeme and Dulcie Coombes Don and Bev. Bitmead.

We extended congratulations most warmly to Graeme and Dulcie on the recent arrival of the first grandchild--a girl.

Anzac Day March and Reunion.

Members marching are requested to read the newspapers during the preceding week of the March to ascertain the starting point. The Reunion will again be held at the Great Southern Hotel, near Central Station. However there will be two changes. Firstly, we will assemble in the Henry Lawson Bar of the hotel and secondly we will be reverting to a buffet-style luncheon downstairs as in bye-gone years--by popular request. Members not marching please remember these changes. Squadron badges and histories will be on sale at the Reunion, so please bring your money.

Squadron Celebrations.

Members wishing to attend the Interstate Reunion who have not yet advised South Australia are asked to do so now to help the organisers.

As most of you are aware our Reunion planned for the U.K. for April, 1982 is fast approaching. Cornstalks thinking of going are asked to contact me as soon as possible so that the Committee can check around for group bookings and concessions. Perhaps someone may have a good contact?

Air Show, Schofield.

The RAAF celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on March 31st and among many other celebrations in N.S.W. supported an air show at Schofield. This is near Richmond Base. The normally quiet aerodrome was invaded by more than 400 aircraft of all types and ages--and by good crowds. Sir Douglas Bader, flying in a Piper Warrior lead a formation of aircraft over the aerodrome. Stan Longhurst of 458 worked long and hard over the weekend at the Show in the Air Force Association tent. Other functions in N.S.W. included many in Air Force units. The AFA held a formal dinner at Waverley at which the Federal President Air Vice Marshal W.E. Townsend proposed the Toast of the RAAF and the D.C.A.S., Air Vice Marshal F. Barnes replied. The Air Force Club also held a less formal but well-attended dinner at which also Air Vice Marshal Townsend was the main speaker. Peter Alexander was also a speaker at this dinner.

Members News.

Well, once again, Peter Alexander, our world traveller, is packing his bags to take off on April 20th for a World Veterans Federation Executive Board meeting in Canada. He intends also to visit Korea and Japan on the way, as these countries are in his sphere of interest as WVF Vice President for Asia and the Pacific, and he wishes to consult with ex-Service Association leaders there. In Canada amid some very intense days of discussions, the WVF Executive will be received by the Prime Minister (M. Trudeau) and in the House of Commons.

Jock McGowen has recently returned from a trip to Europe. Wonder if he has added

Cornstalk Chat (cont.)

another car to his collection? And speaking of travelling overseas John and Moira Dunn are doing this now--just travelling on a cruise ship around the Pacific--a wonderful way to relax and forget about the pharmacy.

Stan and Jean Longhurst have done it again. They have a grandson, called Kody Dylan.

Congratulations to all the granmas and granpas.

REPATRIATION PROBLEMS.

The Australian Repatriation system is generally accepted by Australian ex-service people as being magnificent, by world standards, and something to be protected and defended. The Public Servants who administer the system (now an involved one) are generally dedicated and helpful (though sometimes (one or two of the Medicos employed by the Department have attracted unfavourable (comment)). The various Australian ex-Service Associations, such as the Air Force Association, watch over the functioning of the system and continually try to improve it--or to defend it.

There is a problem in its operations at present. Delays in determining applications and also appeals (now called Reviews) at times extending over very many months. The Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (AVADSC) has identified the causes as substantially two. A fairly recent addition to the Repatriation Act requires any new evidence presented by a serviceman/women to the Repatriation Review Tribunal to be referred back to the Repatriation Commission. This has led to delays, adjournments and frustration. AVADSC considers it quite unnecessary as prior to the amendment of the Act, Appeal Tribunals had been dealing quite successfully with new evidence.

At the Repatriation Board level (where initial determinations are made) and indeed also at review level, the necessity of writing lengthy and detailed Reasons for Decisions is slowing Boards and Tribunals down considerably. AVADSC considers that reasons should be given but that fairly brief standard reasons should be used. However at present, following a decision given by Mr. Justice Fisher, the law seems to be that unless very detailed reasons are given in all cases, the decision is bad in law.

So, amendments to the Repatriation Act seem called for, and AVADSC through its Chairman (Rear Admiral Guy Giffiths, DSO DSC) and its Hon. Secretary (Peter Alexander) are currently engaged in making such representations to the Minister (Senator Tony Messner of South Australia). Peter Alexander has been having discussions with the President of the Repatriation Review Tribunal (Mr. Frank Mahoney) on these subjects. Curiously, one of the individual cases used to illustrate the delays occurring was found to be that of a 458 member, it being quite by chance that this case was taken.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Mrs. Betty Johnston, 9, Green Close, Rawcliffe Drive, Clifton, Yorkshire.

Dear Mr. Alexander, Would you please convey to the 458 member who so kindly asked you to send the squadron history, in memory of Guy, our very sincere thanks.

Your thoughts for us have meant so much. You did not mention the member's name, so I cannot write a letter to him personally, but my sons and I would like him to know the appreciation we feel for his kind remembrance of Guy.

If, at any time, members of 458 are in England and visiting York, they would be most welcome at our home. I help a friend with her philatelist shop in York and last week had a customer from Darwin. Thank you again and our good wishes to the Squadron Council.

yours sincerely,

Betty Johnston.

From Mrs. Margot Knight to members of Robin's crew, through Dusty Miller.

Dear 'all Robin's crew, This comes to wish you a very happy Christmas. I'm sorry to type a copy but have got very behind this time with my Christmas mail. I am now

Correspondence (cont.)

I am now living in Abingdon in the little house that Roland, Jean and I bought 2½ years ago. I had three wonderful months in Africa in Feb., March and April seeing my sister and her family in Cape Town and others, then to Kenya where I had six weeks with Robin's brother, Alan, and his wife, and a lot of other friends. It has all changed a lot. There was a serious drought while I was there so it was very sad to see the shortage of the basic maize and water, long queues for both. It was very nice to escape the cold weather and enjoy all the lovely sunshine, but very sad to come back to find my sister in hospital. I was able to be near her and to visit her daily but she died at the end of May, and I miss her very much.

Oliver has been promoted to Wing Commander and is to go to Prague as Air Attache. He and Anne came back from Germany in March and they have been at Stowe on the Wold, Oliver commuting to London to learn Czech, and to go on various courses. Their two daughters will stay at school in Kent and fly out for their holidays. I have been able to see them fairly often as it is not too far away.....

Roland, Jean and Peter are in Dodoma. They were not able to get permission to fly into Kenya to see me from the Tanzanian Government, nor was I able to fly in to see them. I was able to send letters on the MAF planes and messages on their radio while I was in Nairobi. They did get permission later to go to a language course and while out had 3 weeks leave with Jean's brothers in South Africa. Peter is now a year old and walking. Rosemary and Bernard have had to move to Brighton for a year to a house provided by the Hospital. I went by train and spent a few days with them.....

I hope you are flourishing. All the very best of wishes from Margot.

458 Squadron Addresses in Victoria (cont.) Many of these addresses are not on the Flight list of Financial members. But for contact purposes they are valid as far as we know.

R.N. McPhee	Point Leo Road, Red Hill South, Vic. 3937,
H.J. Martin	12, Wolai Avenue, South Oakleigh, Vic. 3167,
K. Morkham	19, Terang Avenue, E. Burwood, Vic., 3151,
G. Nash	14/5 Rupert Street, Mitcham, Vic, 3132,
G.S. Orchard	70, Gateshead Grove, Blackburn, Vic, 3130,
R. Pritchard	32, Holland Road, Blackburn, Vic, 3130,
T. Primrose	71, Reynard Street, Coburg, Vic., 3058,
R. Rabone	14, Hewett Cct., Hamilton, Vic, 300,
R. Redpath	35, South Valley, Highton, Vic., 3216,
G. Riddoch	Burru Beet, Vic, 3343,
J.K. Rodwell	5, Cronin Court, Cheltenham, Vic, 3192,
R. Russell	25, Harcourt Street, Doncaster West, Vic, 3108,
J. Rosenberg	c/o T.A.A.F., Tullamarine, Vic., 3043,
C.D. Singe	26, Liston Street, Burwood, Vic., 3125,
R. Smith	7, Boulton Street, Beaumaris, Vic., 3193,
B.F. Moon	230 Springvale Road, Nunawading, Vic., 3131,
F.J. Morris	89, Larch Street, Syndal, Vic, 3149,
L. Netherway	3, Francis Street, Horsham, Vic. 3400,
D. Parkinson	Parkinsons Bus Service, Beechworth, Vic, 3747,
R. Pollock	Box 13, Cobram, Vic., 3644,
B. Raftis	88, South Parade, Blackburn, Vic., 3130,
J.R. Ramsay	2, James Street, Mordialloc, Vic. 3195,
F. Randall	Hedingley Road, Mount Waverley, Vic., 3149,
L. Russell	60, Reynolds Parade, Pascoe Vale South, Vic, 3044,
A.W. Smith	20, Sycamore Road, Frankston, Vic., 3199,
L.C. Taylor	60, Andrew Street, Windsor, Vic, 3181,
T. Weir	149, Eastbourne Road, Rosebud, Vic, 3939,
S. Tarczynski	1946, Malvern Road, East Malvern, Vic., 3145,
S.F. Varcoe	8, Parkland Crescent, East Brighton Vic, 3187,

(to be continued)

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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 Squadron History "We Find and Destroy" @ \$10-00 each.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose the amount of \$.....