

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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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. (Sydney 419 5024).

FLIGHT CORRESPONDENTS.

N.S.W. Don. Bitmead, 11, Scarborough St., Monterey, N.S.W., 2217,
Victoria; Stan. Tarczynski, 1946, Malvern Road, East Melvern, 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 St., Holland Park, 4121,
U.K.; Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Road, Grove Park, London, SE12 9TN, England.

REUNIONS AHoy!

The 20th ALL-STATES REUNION of 458 Squadron gathers in Adelaide on Friday October 9th. There is a good gathering of 458ers from all States assured. But we remind members that their Registration Forms with deposits attached should be with the Flight Treasurer by the end of June. His address is 25 Taylor Terrace, Rosslyn Park, SA, 5072.

The 2nd INTERNATIONAL REUNION of 458 Squadron in London will be around Anzac time, 1982. Already we hear of several families in Perth who are going and equivalent numbers from Sydney. So that the UK Flight Committee can plan we ask Australian members to let us know (Squadron Secretary--London Reunion, GPO Box 5289, Sydney, NSW, 2001) by the beginning of October that they plan to attend. Canadians and New Zealanders--and South Africans, please contact Sid Thompsett at the address shown for him as UK Flight Correspondent. Provisionally, the UK Flight has booked the St. Ermins Hotel for a Dinner on April 24th, 1982. The Flight hopes to arrange for a wreath-laying at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on April 25th. There is a ceremony at Westminster Abbey in the afternoon. Christina McKenzie has expressed an intention to "be in it" and some part of the Reunion may be at Knowle in Surrey--Bruce's old English home, a quite historic place. We hope it may be possible to visit Holme-on-Spalding Moor. This International Reunion is the one great occasion for 458ers to make that overseas trip they have planned for so long. It is later than you think.

CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

from Don. Bitmead.

Anzac Day, 1981.

We were blessed with very good weather on Anzac Day. About 40 marched behind our fearless leader and President, Eric Munkman. We had canned music for most of the MARCH and this seemed much better than having bands, either out of time with each other or echoes from buildings appearing to do this. Our smorgasbord luncheon after the March was voted excellent.

Cornstalk Commentary (cont.)

It was most pleasing to have members attending from distant areas--"new" faces and of course the regulars. Those attending were:

Sam Barlow	Marshall Allan	Bert Thompson	Stan Longhurst	Fred Strom	George Unitt
Bruce Dean	Bob Millar	Don.Bitmead	Jack Bevan	Red Jack Baker	
Black Jack Baker		John Dunn	Eric Munkman	Cy.Irwin	Bob Bruce
Jock McGowen	Earl Hetherington	Peter Hagan	(Earl's son-in-law)	Noel Spurling	
Keith Cousins	Laurie Crowley	Eric Purcill	Tom Ridgway	Chas O'Leary	
Tom Sherwin	S.Ricketts	Rex Tyson.			

Visit to AFA State Headquarters.

The Flight Committee and wives, together with those of 454 and 457 Squadrons and Menly-Warringah branch of the AFA met the State President, Barry Brooke, and other members of the State Council of the AFA at the new HQ in an informal get-together, with refreshments, on Friday May 22nd. It was an enjoyable occasion (except for Squadron Secretary, Graeme Coombes who had a car accident on the Sydney Harbour Bridge when someone ran into the back of his (car). From the Reception, 458ers went on to the New Hellas Restaurant for some excellent Greek food, drunk with Retsina.

Members' News.

Peter Alexander, our world traveller, and champion for ex-servicemen and women, has returned from more overseas meetings with ex-service leaders, and no doubt will let us know about his visits in this issue. By the time this issue goes to press, Peter will have visited Perth on AFA business as well.

Alf. Hammond--"Slappy" has unfortunately had serious heart problems and has undergone open heart surgery at the Repat. Hospital, Concord. Some members have been to visit him and a recent report has indicated that he should be home when this goes to press. We wish you well, Alf. Incidentally, a card was signed by all members at the Reunion and despatched to him.

George (Curly) Brain.

Much to the surprise and pleasure of Jack Aitken, Curly appeared out of the blue at Jack's place on the 16th May, and they spent many hours in discussing the past. I understand Curly has been very, very, successful on the land

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VICTORIAN FLIGHT NEWS.

form Stan.Tarczynski.

Anzac Day--Melbourne.

The RAAF Group was the last off, and was scheduled to march about 11.15 a.m. Apparently, more marchers attended than anticipated as we didn't move until after midday, in fine weather. In all, we had 17, and Ernie Laming made 18 when he broke in at Princes Bridge. The following marched:

G.Nash	S.Cartledge	R.Eggers	W.Hurford	E.Bradshaw	J.Fleming	D.Singe
G.Abraham	R.Smith	C.Hutchinson	H.Martin	T.Primrose	S.Tarczynski	J.Rodwell
F.Wilson	T.Kennedy	E.Laming.				

The first four named above were unable to be present at the Reunion at the Melbourne Bowling Club, Windsor, following the March. However, they paid their annual dues beforehand. The Get-together at the Bowling Club was a quiet one, where we welcomed Shorty Taylor who wandered in for a short while. An excellent lunch was provided by the Club members, this time without the assistance of Ian Alison and Harry Ashworth who were in Adelaide.

Annual Meeting and Dinner--May 15th.

What is wrong with Vic.Flight? Only 9 members attended this meeting, with two apologies. Those present were: J.Fleming, I.Alison, K.Morkham, F.Wilson, J.Rodwell, H.Ashworth, W.Hurford, H.Martin, S.Tarczynski.

Harold Martin is our new Flight President and Harry Ashworth and Stan.Tarczynski Vice Presidents. With great reluctance Ken Morkham was enticed to continue as Flight Secretary and Treasurer. The Committee consists of F.Wilson, I.Alison, J.Fleming, C.Hutchinson and J.Rodwell.

Beatrice Morkham was very happy to have a long STD conversation with Rene Cupper (Robinvale) who has subscribed to the Squadron News regularly but has not yet received a single copy.

With the exception of W.Hurford and J.Rodwell who had no leave, the others joined their ladies at dinner in the private Dining Room a little after 8 p.m. It looked rather bare as the setting in a U shape was for 30, so we all sat around the outer part of the U to enable general conversation. Just as well we had "Yank" Martin, our new President, to entertain us.

Questionnaire.

35 copies have been returned, so there is ample news for future issues; but, the balance would still be appreciated.

Victorian Flight News (cont.)

Mick Singe Retired at the end of December 1980, and lives with his wife, Mavis, at 26 Liston Street, Burwood--and plays bowls. Mavis also retired at 34 years at Myers, Melbourne--Personnel Chief. Son, David, married, is living in Adelaide.

"Snowy" Moon and Gwen are at 230 Springvale Road, Nunawading. He retired prematurely about 2½ years ago from S.E.C.(Vic) when he was i/c Mechanical Services Engineer. As a result of service injuries, he has had a spine graft, and is a dependent-insulin diabetic. His interests, despite these difficulties, are gardening, home repairs, general mechanical and electric repairs, meals on wheels, and some golf. He would not beat Gwen who is a very keen golfer. They have two sons, 26 and 19, at home and a married daughter at Warragul--no grandchildren.

Harry "Indian" Ashworth and Nell live at 39 Andrew Street, Oakleigh. He is boss of Ashworth Bros., Master Plumbers. He looks like retiring very soon to pursue his favourite sport, bowls, and some fishing. "You will need to find more to do than that H." They have four daughters and six grandchildren (three of each).

Lisle "Woozle" Wurr and Pat are in retirement (Sept., 1980) at 37 Prefect St., Wendouree. His main interests are lawn and indoor bias bowls, reading, watching sport on TV and metal detecting. They have two married sons, one in Wendouree and the other in Ararat, and in Woozle's words "No grandchildren yet."

Gordon Nash who retired about 20 months ago is living at Unit 4,5, Rupert St., Mitcham. He is a keen gardener and stamp collector. Being in good health, he likes to buzz off each year for several holidays. He has a married daughter and a nine year old granddaughter.

John and Dorothy Fleming Their official residence is a 11, Hayward Street, Pascoe Vale South but from now on they are spending more and more time at the other place in St. Leonards. Dorothy is still an active member of the Pascoe Vale South branch of the Country Womens' Association. John is immediate past President of 458 Vic Flight and has served several years in this office. Unfortunately, his eyes are not the best due to cataracts and glaucoma which caused him to retire three years ago from Ansett Airlines of Australia. Their daughter is teaching at Gladstone Park High School and a couple of pigeon pair grandchildren have been sired by their two married sons.

New addresses. G.Orchard, 70, Gateshead Grove, Wantirna South 3152
G.Riddoch, 1, Cleveland Court, Alfredton, 3350.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

FROM Ted.Jewell.

Anzac Day, Perth.

Everything went without a hitch here in the West, on Anzac Day. At the Dawn Service a wreath was laid at the War Memorial by our President Bill Clues. Later on in the morning we had a good turn out for the March in the city, with about 25 members and others who usually fall in with us. Ernie "Skeeta" Staveley dropped in to say good day for a few minutes but didn't march. First time he has been sighted for years. After the ceremony on the Esplanade we all joined up with our wives and adjourned to the Hyde Park Hotel for the usual celebrations. A wonderful lunch and plenty to drink. We had Charlie Davis to thank for organising the afternoon as he is a friend of the Manager. We had 44 turn up for the luncheon. Certainly a great day.

Reception. The Flight turned out on the evening of May 27th at the Freeway Motel, South Perth to welcome Peter Alexander, Graeme Coombes and Air Vice Marshal Bill Townsend, who were over in Perth attending a Federal Executive meeting of the Air Force Association. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, with a light supper and plenty to drink. We had a great turnout considering it was such a cold wet and windy night. Those who attended were:

Ted and Elsie Jewell	Tom and Betty Howard	Bill and Joan Clues	Charlie and
Betty Davis	Tom and Phyl Foster	Stan and Joyce Hopewell	Gordon and Olga Jones
Lock Simpson	Col and Mel Corten	Ray and Marge Turley	Stan Long
Al Wheat	Bob and Kath Shearman	Jim and Lucy Palmer.	Vera Etherton

Luncheon. Our next outing is to be held at the South of Perth Yacht Club on June 21st. for Sunday lunch, which previously has been popular with everyone.

From interstate. We have had the company again this year of Col and Mel Corten, who are over from Sydney. They were here for Anzac Day and the Reception for Peter and Graeme. Also they came down to Mandurah for a few days, staying at the Peninsula Hotel. I picked them up one night and brought them home where Elsie and I had a most enjoyable time with them. Col. said he called on Curly O'Connor and introduced himself, with a

Sandgroppers Say.....(cont.)

letter from Charlie Davis. Col and Mel said that if they ever come to live in the West, Mandurah is where they would like to settle. Certainly a great place to retire.

Reunion in England.

So far, in the West, we have three couples very interested in going to England next year. Elsie and myself, Bill and Joan Clues, Ray and Marge Turley. If there are any others who could be starters, give Bill Clues or myself a ring.

Personal Pars.

Bill and Joan Clues' daughter Vicky and new son-in-law Allan were with us on Anzac Day after just returning from their honeymoon in Singapore. They were married on April 4th and are now living in Melbourne.

Stan Long has just left Perth with a mate for a 12 month tour around Australia.

Hopes to do a lot of bowling while away; so, 458 members, don't be surprised if one day you are confronted with a beaming Shorty on your doorstep, as he said he hopes to see as many old mates as he can.

Harold Manton--had a call from Harold during the week; still enjoying life down here in Mandurah, with some bowling and fishing.

All the best.

CROWEATER CHAT

from Geoff. Esau

Honour for Ron. Badger.

Members will all be delighted at the honour awarded to Ron. Badger in the last New Years Honours. He received the medal of the Order of Australia--for services in connection with the establishment of the Air Force Memorials at West Beach Airport. Also his wife Betty has returned home after a two month trip to hospital. Congratulations and Best Wishes to them both.

Anzac Day. It was perfect weatherwise and resulted in an above average turnout of marchers and spectators. The former are without doubt increasing in age but surprisingly the crowd seems to be getting younger. Perhaps all is relative.

HRH Prince Charles attended the Dawn Service, at which a wreath was laid by Charlie Cunningham and Jack Riseley on behalf of 458 Squadron. Perhaps understandably, there was a very large gathering present.

An airport service at 9.30 conducted by Padre Ben Williams was also well attended and a number of 458 identities were noticed in the crowd. Ben Williams has a very happy ability to impart a very personal involvement and depth of sincerity to participants in services he conducts--too rare in this changing world.

Marching behind the 458 Banner were some 20 members led by Jack Riseley, who navigated with his customary expertise.

Seen at the airport, the March and/or subsequently at the Talbot Hotel for yarns, drinks and lunch were Victorian members of 458, Harry and Nell Ashworth, Bert Oliver, Reg. Priest, Jack Riseley, John Carey (who laid the wreath at the Airport Service), Ted and Freda Creighton, Ray Whitrod, Charlie Cunningham, Eric Baker, Ron Badger, Bill and Madge Taylor, Pat Enright, Keith Foreman, John McGlasson, Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft, Arn. Scholar, Peter Thom, Brian Woodhead,--and me. My sincere apologies for anyone overlooked. I say this because in retrospect it seemed more. All in all, it was a good day.

Personal Pars.

In the last News I mentioned a dedication service at the Airport in connection with the plaques commemorating those killed on service with 452/457 Squadrons. I overlooked mentioning the presence there of Lady Smith, widow of Keith Smith--an historic link with Australian Aviation in its infancy!

Colin Hutchinson, formerly of Victoria, is now living at Ashford in the Adelaide Hills and can be contacted on 08-390 1571. He still has his pilot's licence together with plenty of enthusiasm and would like to pilot interested friends (max. 3 passengers) on local flights on a cost sharing basis.

Still looking forward--but not too far--to October, 1981.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS

from Jim Holliday.

Before the Anzac Parade and immediately preceding the Wreath Laying Ceremony in Anzac Square, Q. Flight's Memorial Plaque was dedicated within the Crypt. Beneath the Squadron Crest it says simply "Dedicated to the Memory of 129 airmen who did not return." Padre McLoughlin in the dedication hoped that the plaque would "inspire those that come to this place and be a continued source of strength as were the life and deeds of the men it commemorates."

Q.Flight News (cont.)

The ranks of the 458ers who marched behind the banner on Anzac Day weren't so thin this year. However their flanks seemed thinner. Either my eyes are dim or the boys are working harder in retirement. We were joined by Don.Frey of 450 Squadron from Adelaide, stranded by the Hosties' strike. At the reunion our ranks were increased by Eric Bird and Joe Elliott. So, the Rollicall read:

Bert Garland Bernie McLoughlin Bob Helyar Eric Bird Eric Kelly
 Joe Elliott Chas.Warren Jack Lewis Chester Jones Clive Wyman Bernie Hughes
 Jim.Holliday Cec.Bull Merv McClurg.
 Apologies from Bill Snowden ("a bit past marching"), Don.Brandon (holidays),
 Len.MacDonnell (dislocated disc), Jack Baxter, Gordon Cuthbertson, and Keith Campbell.

Despite two heart attacks, and operations to both eyes for cataracts, Dickie Bird looks remarkably well. Travelled all the way from Tewantin to attend. Also very fit was Joe Elliott, and he hasn't changed a bit. Jack Lewis again provided the cheese, biscuits, pickled onions and ample other foods.

Annual Election.

Bert Garland stood down, after two years in the Chair: Jack Lewis was unanimously elected in his stead. Those present said they would suffer yours truly for a further term as Secretary/Treasurer.

There was much comment about the Air Force contingent marching without the blare of trumpets. It appears the allocated band was pinched by the W.A.A.A.F. who, to commemorate their jubilee, headed the Parade. The consensus was that there should be a retaliatory pinching of W.A.A.A.F. bottoms.

Personal Pars.

Probably Chas.Warren could have thought that Anzac Day came again last Sunday (30th) when he was wakened by martial music outside. No, it wasn't the Salvos: it was a full turn-out of the Northern Command Band which marched in full uniform to the home of their retired Band Commander to honour his birthday. Roofs have finally settled down again. Alan Atherton's feet have not stopped itching yet. He's made another move. From Cairns he's now at 5, Darling Court, Mackay. Says the masculinity of the place will now be reinforced by his presence. Complains of the complexity of moving camp. Gone are the days, he says, when all he had to do was throw a kitbag on a truck or plane. He's trying to save a bit to attend the London Reunion. Bruce Buchanan was privately cremated on 9th April after a serious illness. Bruce spent his life in the marketing of wool. Though not one to join in the affairs of the Squadron as his widow Ailsa remarks, Bruce had a great affection and loyalty for the Squadron.

A BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid.Thompsett.

A reunion was held last Saturday at the St.Ermin's Hotel, Westminster though only ten of us attended. We discussed the 1982 Reunion at great length and it was agreed that we provisionally book a room at the St.Ermins Hotel for a dinner on April 24th, with perhaps a Conference in the morning/afternoon. We are looking into the possibilities of laying a wreath on the Cenotaph on Sunday April 25th. There is usually a service in Westminster Abbey in the afternoon. Norman Duke has been in touch with Christina MacKenzie (who is at present in Kenya) and it may be possible to use Knowle for a function, probably a Buffet and drinks, at which we hope you will be our guests.. It won't of course be possible to hold a function outside in April as the weather would be too unreliable (at present we have blizzards in many parts). This function will probably have to be the weekend before or after the 24/25th April. We do need to know numbers and dates of arrival. With regards to Holme-on-Spalding Moor, at present it is a secret aircraft establishment of Hawker Aerospace, but Fred Nieman has one or two contacts who may be able to help us when we know more of your requirements. Unfortunately we get less support each year but we are hoping some more may be interested next year. We are going to advertise it in Airmail.

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Other Comments from the U.K.

Norman Duke writes: I shall be writing to old chums in Canada--I feel sure they will want to join us next April and, of course, we hope to locate a few more old warriors in UK.

Squadron Vice President Mick Mason writes: We had a very happy evening at our usual Reunion Dinner and Norman Duke gave us a very interesting account of his visit to Australia, and we discussed the proposed Aussie visit next April.....We are anxious to rope in as many 458ers to make your visit a success. As we, unfortunately, have lost touch with most of the original members Pete Pettit and dear old Johnno gathered together at the Feathers Pub, Westminster, way back in the dim past,

British Bulletins (cont.) So, we have hit on an idea to garner in the lost sheep and perhaps others by using a Sunday radio programme--chaired by Cheerful Charley Chester, it specialises in tracing old comrades, etc. We are all looking forward to next Anzac Day and seeing old faces again, and noting how the 35 years have altered our shapes and sizes and drinking capacity---so all good wishes and success.....

Ken "Chico" Mercer writes: Peter, I am determined to appear at the 1982 Reunion, come fire or high water..... Jim Perry looked me up last year with his wife; it was so exciting it was like having a birthday, to think he went to all the trouble of looking me up in the 'phone book..... Jim Palmer also paid me a visit about 2 years ago, he was staying in a hotel about ½ a mile away from us. I feel I owe them both a visit.

ON THE WORLD VETERANS SCENE.

Peter Alexander who is the Vice President for Asia and the Pacific of the World Veterans Federation had occasion in April to attend a meeting of the WVF Executive Board in Canada. He travelled through Korea, a member country of the WVF, to have discussions with the Presidents of the two Korean ex-service organisations---Admiral Lee of the Korean Veterans Association, with 2.5 million members, and General Sun of the Korean Disabled Veterans Association, with 500,000 members. Korea looks after its veterans well by world standards and its Associations bear constantly in mind the need to cultivate national discipline in view of the perceived threat from the Communist North. An Australian party of ex-servicemen who Peter joined were taken to the demilitarized zone and saw one of the tunnels dug under the zone by the North; and such places as the Bridge of No Return. The Koreans are prospering and treated the Australians with great hospitality. Peter was made an honorary member of both Associations. He then went briefly to Tokyo and dined with General Asioka, the Japan Veterans leader. Thence to Ottawa for the WVF meeting. Three days of intense examination of the state of veterans around the world. There are hundreds of thousands, if the word should not be millions, of new veterans in Asia and Africa (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique) with great needs for whom little is done. This seems, to the Asian viewpoint, to be intensely important. European and American veterans of course, feeling themselves potential targets for another war, place high priority on peace through the United Nations and Disarmament. An important discussion with no quick solutions. The Royal Canadian Legion and Amputees of Canada were hosts for the meeting and warm-hearted and generous hosts they were. Meetings with Ministers and Public Servants and then back to Australia.

Incidentally, Peter records his joining with other 458ers who have a car number plate incorporating his initials and the figures 458 (i.e. PCA 458). Others include Eric Munkman, Jock McGowen, Don Bitmead--and no doubt others. Peter's pleasure in the new car was dampened when, after about 1000 kilos, while stopped at an intersection, someone ran heavily into the back of the car. However, panelbeaters will do their expensive best, no doubt.

458 Squadron addresses in Victoria (cont.) Many of these addresses are not on the Flight list of financial members. But for contact purposes they may be valid.

F.G. Wilson	45, Melbourne Road, Rye, 3941,
L. Wurr	37, Prefect Street, Wendourie, 3355,
H. Young	Lot 7 RSD, Beauford Road, Redhill South, 3937
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K.L. Brown	29, Gloucester Drive, Banyuite Estate, Heidelberg, 3084,
R. Coghlan	Box 196, Leongatha, 3953,
K. Farrer	18, Strathearn Avenue, Murrumbena, 3163,
W. Flentje	No 15, Lot 20, Pilcher Street, Bendigo, 3550,
K.F. Graham	83, Kerferd Street, East Malvern, 3145,
C. Harding	Private Bag, Mortlake, 3272,
R.M.H. Hearn	10, Stratton Court, Echuca, 3625,
W.G. Henry	2, Tyne Street, Box Hill, 3128
W.T. Hurford	20/18 Golden Avenue, Chelsea, 3196,
M.H. Kernot	22, Grosvenor Street, Abbotsford, 3067,
J.B. Lane	Box 15, Derrinallam, 3325,
W. Lyons	"Wonominta", Darlington, 3271,
Rev. J. MacNamara	Moran House, 100, Studley Park Road, Kew, 3101,
J. Wythcombe	c/o Ansett Airlines, Essendon, 3040,
R.N. McPhee	84, Locksley Road, Ivanhoe, 3079.
