



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

Year 33, No. 131

May, 1982.

SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS, 1982.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Clive Wyman (Q.) SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS: Stan. Tarczynski (Vic)
(Vacancy)
SQUADRON TREASURER: Peter Alexander (NSW) SQUADRON SECRETARY: Graeme Coombes (NSW)
SQUADRON HON. AUDITOR: Bert Thompson (NSW); EDITOR of 458 Squadron News: Peter Alexander.
(Tel. Sydney 419 5024)

FLIGHT CORRESPONDENTS

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

MAGNIFICENT RETURN. 458's 2nd INTERNATIONAL REUNION TRIUMPHS IN U.K.

Long planned, the culmination of many long-held hopes of many 458ers and their wives, the 2nd International Reunion, in London and York, was successful from beginning to end. Most of the Australians arrived together, via Thai Airways and Bangkok, on April 20th, and booked in at the St. Ermins Hotel, Westminster, near the Abbey. During the following week they had an interesting series of tours: the Tower of London, the City, St. Pauls's Cathedral and local shopping.

The Party journeyed by 'bus to the RAF Museum and the Battle of Britain Museum, both at Hendon. A very thorough collection of aircraft, uniforms, medals and the tokens of Air Force history. Highlight was certainly the Wellington. Of over 13,000 Wellingtons made, we were told this is the only survivor in existence. What monumental vandalism! The Wellington, near which 458ers were photographed in groups, was being dismantled to be taken to a new Bomber Command Museum nearby. Lunch was taken at a lovely country mansion, which was once the home of Sir William Gilbert (of Gilbert and Sullivan), and greatly enjoyed.

That evening there was an informal Reception at the St. Ermins Hotel and the Australians got together with the UK Flight members. It was a wonderful event. UK Members, generally, came to the Reunion in good numbers. This seems a good place to enumerate the 458 names that came to the events of the International Reunion:

<u>Australians.</u>	Eric Munkman (Party Leader)	Mick Singe	Bob Millar	Jack Lewis
Fred. Strom	Bruce Dean	Bob Scholes	Don. Bitmead	Don. Anderson
Jack Bevan	Dave Firth	Jim. Wren	Stan Longhurst	
Bill Clues	Ray Turley	Ted. Jewell	Ted. Kennedy	Arn. Scholar
Ian Showell	Bob. Bruce	Wal. Mobbs	Peter Alexander	
			Barry Menser	Frank Wilson
			Ron. Miller	

Canadian. Tony Mauro

Magnificent Return. (cont.)

U.K. Mick Mason	Leo Armstrong	Harry Bishop	Sid. Thompson	Dewi Davies
Norm. Duke	Hugh Hamlet	C. Humbles	Hal. Lee	Bill Waitt
Ken. Mercer	Fred. Nieman	Eric Phillips	Ben. Robinson	Bert Sleight
Bill Swann	Jim. Croft	Jock Pattison	Christina McKenzie	

In nearly all cases, the 458ers were accompanied by their ladies (who are very much part of the present-day Squadron) and in Peter Alexander's case by his daughter, Debby, son-in-law, Ray, and grandson, James.

Saturday the 24th saw a meeting of the 458 Squadron Council, under the chairmanship of Squadron President Mick Mason, its first meeting outside Australia. It reviewed quite thoroughly the progress and future plans of 458 Squadron, its finances, its history its newspaper: and renewed the previous decision to hold the 3rd International Reunion of the Squadron in New Zealand in 1984. It even foreshadowed a possible 4th Reunion in Canada in 1986.

The previous day there had been a Theatre Party where the Squadron and its ladies saw the play "Underneath the Arches".

On the evening of the Conference there was the formal dinner, organised by UK Flight, where Mick Mason presided over a quite glittering gathering and where Christina McKenzie was Guest of Honour. There were some speeches: Peter Alexander replied to the Toast of the Squadron, proposed by Squadron President Mick Mason. Christina McKenzie replied to the Toast of the Ladies, moved by Norman Duke.

The speakers dwelt a little on the spirit and the achievements of 458 in war and peace. Tribute was paid, as illustrating that spirit, to the presence of Frank "Shorty" Wilson who had made the journey from Melbourne, despite health problems and problems with his doctor.

On Sunday the Squadron, with other Australians, assembled at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Mick Mason, escorted by Eric Munkman and Peter Alexander, placed a wreath. After the ceremony, we walked down to Westminster Abbey for the annual Anzac Day Service, the day being April 25th. This was most impressive--the magnificent Abbey with its mediaeval colours restored; with the great organ and trumpeter.

From the Abbey we drove by coach or by our own cars down to Cranleigh, as the guests of Christina McKenzie at Bruce's old home Knowle. This was certainly a highlight of the Reunion. The hospitality was immense--champagne on arrival, fresh-run salmon, among many other dishes, for lunch. And above that the company of Christina and her sons: Jamie and Kim--Jamie wearing his father's 458 tie. Sandy McKenzie, who we met in Australia, was there with her husband, Keith Yeomans. We finished the day with an informal cricket match on the lawn--England v. Australia. It was drawn!

The next day we left, by coach, along the M1, for York. An afternoon's sightseeing in York (the Editor, disregarding a notice to the effect that this was not for the elderly, (climbed the 275 winding spiral stairs (no handrail) to the Tower to photograph the view.) An informal evening, discussing the next day's trip back to Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

Into coaches and cars and back to Holme (now called Holme-upon-Spalding Moor) and the RAF Station--now an experimental Station. There we were warmly welcomed and taken over the Station in parties with guides. Those of us who were there were asked to identify the wartime use of certain buildings (without much success). We were treated to overflying by present day service aircraft as well as stunting by a most ancient biplane. We were photographed by the 458 Memorial Tree, particularly the 13 members who served with 458 at the Station. A great experience.

Then to Holme and lunch at the Blacksmith's Arms. We met 81 year old Liz Smart who was Barmaid there when the Squadron was there. We also met a 458er who lives at Holme--Jock Pattison. We did not see the Goats Head. Arthur Jollow tells us that its owner migrated to the USA and took the Goat with him--a much travelled Goat. We would like to know where it is. We might want to pinch it again!

We met Bill Mathews, former postman, who looks after the wartime graves. We were received by the local Mayor, a lady wearing her robes of office with her Mace-carrier in attendance. We attended a brief and moving service at the Church and Ian Showell placed a wreath on the Squadron graves. Then back to York for a Farewell Dinner. There we welcomed not only Bill Mathews, but also John Scott's son--now in his later 30s and living with his family in Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

And so it was over. It was particularly good to welcome Tony Mauro who joined us at York, representing Canada. His hair is a different colour and he wears glasses but there was no mistaking Tony. We hope to see him in New Zealand.

This Reunion will never quite come again, but there is much fellowship still ahead of us--In Australia, Britain, New Zealand and Canada. We should be in it.

* * * * *

POST SCRIPTS TO THE REUNION.

1. The Squadron Conference recorded its thanks to the U.K. Flight for all the arrangements made in U.K.

2. Members who travelled on the European trip after the Reunion will be glad to hear that Jimmy Wren, who was taken ill in Vienne and hospitalised there for some time, is now back in Australia. Currently in St. Vincents, with kidney trouble, he hopes to be discharged shortly. We wish him rapid recovery.

VICTORIAN VIEWS

from Stan. Tarczynski.

We are delighted to announce that the National Council of the Regular Defence Forces Welfare Association at its meeting in November 1981 unanimously awarded Ern. Laming an honorary Life Membership.

From Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Bill and Mona Mathews have written to confirm receipt of the Squadron Hamper and beer which arrived early in the New Year.

Members who knew John Kewley will be sad to learn of his passing at the MacLeod Repatriation Hospital on December 17th.

At this stage of writing, prior to Anzac Day, Vic. Flight is unable to make any official announcement about the All-States Reunion in Melbourne for April 25th, 1983. The informal dinner which was to be held on February 16th to discuss this matter did not eventuate, through lack of numbers.

Personal Paragraphs (Continuing)

Les (Charlie) and Marie Boyer, 27, Yaldwin St., Kyneton, Vic. Les has his own Sand, Soil and Gravel Supply business, and expects to retire soon. Although his chief hobby appears to be fishing at Lake Eppaloch and other inland waters and northern rivers, he unashamedly claims an interest in women even "though other members may be past that". Despite all this, with two sons and two daughters married and two boys living at home, he proudly states that Marie, his wife, is still at home also!

Tom and Rita Primrose, 71 Reynard Street, Coburg, Vict. Tom retired at the end of 1976 from the Melbourne City Council Electric Supply, and continues to interest himself in stamp-collecting, repairing old clocks, pottering around in his workshop, working on anything that comes to hand. He is also active in Church charities and hospital visiting for his Lodge. And learning to play his electric organ. His pigeon pair has produced five boys and a girl. Last saw Harry Jenkins at Southern Memorial Hospital but doesn't know his address (Ed.--181, Galoola Drive, Nelson Bay, NSW, 2315).

Don. (Johnno) Johnson 39 Hector Street, Mildura, Vic., is now retired from managership of Motor Spares at Mildura and requests that his Squadron News be now addressed to his home as above. His health is good and he enjoys fishing, reading and gardening to keep him going. His 20 year-old daughter, Donna, who works at the State Savings Bank acquired a Great English Sheep dog, which has not pleased Dad very much. His back garden is ruined! Back to more gardening, Johnno!

Ron and Sue Eggers, 21 Kyora Parade, North Balwyn, Vic. Ron retired three and a half years ago and interests himself in gardening, travelling, Legacy and the Austins Hospital. His health is reasonable and their three married children have three children between them.

John Islip, 61, Karma Avenue, East Malvern, Vict. Before retiring some 12 years ago, John was Secretary of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. His family is widely separated, son David and Roslyn with three children live in Adelaide and daughter Margaret and Duncan with three children live in Vancouver. John was Squadron Adjutant at Gibraltar.

Anzac Day, 1982. Although the weather was not the best, only eight turned up to march. "Yank" Martin led; the others were Ken. Morkham, Roger Rodwell, Stan. Tarczynski, Ern. Bradshaw, Ken. Brown, Gordon Nash and Stan. Cartledge. Ern. Laming joined in with a late burst near the finish. A highlight was the slight injury to Stan. Cartledge, brought about by the lady "Drum Major" accidentally twirling her mace onto his bare head, and drawing blood. This was brought about by the following band getting too close and Stan. happened to turn round at the crucial moment. The impact broke off the ferrule.

Victorian members are reminded that \$6 is now due for Squadron fees and the Newsletter. Payable to Ken. Morkham, 19, Terang Avenue, East Bruwood, 3151.

CORRESPONDENCE. The Editor has received a number of letters which space does not permit to be published in this Issue. He thanks the writers and will try to get the letters into the next Issue.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid.Thompsett.

It is now some three weeks since we all met at the International Reunion but it still seems only yesterday when we all got together at the St.Ermins for the Friday evening Reception. What tales were talked over--and the faces which for years have only meant a name were once again a reality. For most of us who managed to get there it must have seemed like a dream as it is at least since 1945 when we broke up at Gibraltar, to be able to talk to old friends--quite a few years older but much wiser, I hope.

Saturday saw us gathering for the Squadron Conference which was very well attended. The evening dinner was for me one of the two most memorable things of the Reunion. And to be able to welcome our honoured guest, Christina McKenzie, was really delightful.

On a crisp but bright Sunday morning we all gathered at the Cenotaph in Whitehall for the wreath-laying ceremony, a very moving experience. This was followed by the Service un Westminster Abbey, another unforgettable time. We had reached 12 midday when we boarded our transport to travel down to Cranleigh for the luncheon at Knowle, so generously put on by Christina McKenzie. To me this was the second most memorable experience of the Reunion. It was absolutely beautiful, a delightful house and grounds and we were blessed with gorgeous sunny weather. I am sure that everyone who managed to get there was tremendously impressed with the atmosphere that was generated while we were at Knowle. I must here say another "Thank You" to Christina for the memorable day. It was fortunate to meet up again with Judy Dunlap once again, who in the days when Bruce was with us was always willing to help me. I for one will be talking about the Reunion for many years to come. All I hope is that I am able to get to the future Reunion in New Zealand or Canada. Space has beaten me so in closing may I say to all the Aussies who we met--"Thank you for coming." All the very best.

* * * * *

CORNSTALK COMMENTARY from Arthur Jollow.

The main news will of course be of the Reunion in the U.K., which will no doubt be fully covered.

Our main item is our Anzac Day March and the following luncheon. Due to so many being away on detachment our numbers were considerably thinner than usual but those who attended the March were very capably led by Stu.Ricketts. The day was magnificent--Sydney at its beautiful autumn best; and afterwards a gathering of old friends at the Great Southern Hotel for lunch and a few ales. We were delighted to have with us two from interstate: Earl Hetherington from Q.Flight and Harry Ashworth from Vic.Flight, who was in N S W chasing the fish, which, he said, were proving elusive.

It was good also to have the company of two younger servicemen--Peter, Erle Hetherington's son-in-law, and Bruce Atherton, son of Alan of that ilk, better known as Snowy. Bruce is a major in the regular army, at present stationed at Victoria Barracks, and soon to be posted to Papua and New Guinea. Snowy has sold his property Elizabeth Downs, and moved to the coast.

Unfortunately, there is also sad news. Joe Colclough died during April. He was a pilot in 458's Egyptian period. After a brief early involvement with ex-service affairs (he was for a while Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Club), he settled down to his work with Rothmans where he did well.

Also, from New Zealand, comes news that Bob Osborne, who was a Navigator in Maurie Crook's crew and also a Flight Committeemember of NSW Flight before going to New Zealand, has passed away. He was for long with J.Walter Thompson in Public Relations before suffering a series of disabling strokes.

We remember them both with affection. To Greta, Bob's wife and daughters, we send our sincere sympathy.

* * * * *

CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.

from Geoff.Esau.

Anzac Day was notable for heralding the break in the season. First official ceremony was the Dawn Service at the War Memorial which was also the first official function for our new Governor, Sir Donald Dunstan. 458's Flight President and Secretary laid a wreath on behalf of 458 amid substantial rain.

At 9 a.m. the usual service was conducted a West Beach in slightly drier circumstances and wreaths were placed at the commemorative plaques. As always, a very good attendance.

Croweaters' Caucus (cont.)

The March ranged from wet to very wet and the crowd was understandably down in numbers, but not in enthusiasm. Those marching behind the 458 Banner included Jack Riseley, Bill Cribb, Brian Woodhead, John Carey, John McGlasson, Peter Thom, Bert Ravenscroft, Kevin Tait, Syd Bartram, Ken Robertson, Jack Thredgold (on a short stay from NSW and very welcome), Paul Hallam, L. Skinner, Ray Whitrod, Jim Perry, Keith Grimshaw, and Geoff Esau. There were no favourites and the rain fell equally on all--perhaps less effectively on those equipped with common sense and raincoats!

I reneged on the Get-together at the Talbot in favour of a hot shower and taking Heather out to lunch (the first Anzac Day ever!). Heard it was, as always, a very pleasant couple of hours, with the toddlers pushing the steam skywards. Many thoughts were spared that day for the contingent at the UK Reunion in the belief that the trip would be eminently worthwhile. And so another year passes!

Personal Pars. John and Dawn McGlasson invited a number of people for 5 p.m. drinks on April 25th. Several 458 couples were present, including Heather and me. A very pleasant evening with lots of chatter warmed by a genuine mallee root open fire. I must say that being plied with all kinds of good things to eat and drink by a very charming host and hostess has my strongest recommendation! I was most impressed with some of John's wood carving. It was truly professional.

Jack Riseley has asked me to include a reminder that subs are again due. Treasurer John McGlasson at 25 Taylor Terrace, Roslyn Park, will be happy to receive \$4 from unfinancial members.

Jack has retired as Flight President and wishes to thank all those that supported the Flight during his term of office. I feel that he did a pretty good job himself and is well deserving of the thanks of all members. Our new Flight President is Arn. Scholar, and we look forward to having him at the helm awhile.

Ron. Badger rang to say he has just returned from a few weeks in Canberra. He was there for Anzac Day. His legs will not let him march so he watched Col. Fereday do the Squadron honours. Had a fantastic reunion at the RAAF Club afterwards. Mal must have pulled rank, because the weather was perfect!

Bert Ravenscroft reports the acquisition in the last 12 months of 2 new grandchildren, making 5 in all--so far. He says he's keeping the rust off the golf Cup and it's looking so nice he might just keep it! All depends if you've got the drive, my boy.

My apologies to Dusty and Enid Miller whose names were left off the roll attending the Adelaide Reunion. No, it was not punishment for leaving early. Pure inefficiency on my part.

Kevin George from New Zealand in a letter received many months ago and embarrassingly mislaid mentioned having a holiday house at Opua on the Bay of Islands. He suggested an exchange of holiday homes with Australian Squadron members may be mutually useful. Times not necessarily to coincide. His address to anyone seeking further information is 20 Kowhai Avenue, Kaikohe, N Z.

Am hoping for screeds about the U.K. reunion in this edition, so better leave room for it. By the way, were there any volunteers for a tour on jump jets in the Falklands?

Best of luck to you all.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Charlie Davis.

Owing to our President and Secretary attending the International Reunion in the U.K., I am filling in until Ted returns.

On the 5th April a party of 24 gathered at the Kings Park Restaurant for a 'Bon Voyage' lunch to farewell Ted and Elsie Jewell, Bill and Joan Clues, and Ray and Marge Turley, and Kingston and Esme Nobbs prior to their departure to attend the International Reunion--and a tour of the Continent. It was a lovely get-together and enjoyed by all present.

My wife and I represented the Squadron at an Anzac Eve service at the War Veterans Home at Mt. Lawley on the 24th April, and it was a truly impressive service. I represented the Squadron at the Dawn Service--Anzac Day-- at the State War Memorial at Kings Park, and laid a beautifully arranged bouquet of flowers made and donated by Vera Etherton.

The March was attended by 28. Al Wheat flew his own aircraft down from Geraldton to lead the March. It was pleasing to see Lock Simpson in attendance (still piloting his own aircraft around Australia) and also Dave Lofts. Due to the wind we almost lost our Banner man--Ken Rex: at one stage he looked like taking off but was ably saved by Bob Grenville and Henry Etherton.

After the March, members and their wives and friends (thirty four in all) had this year's usual get together--at John McCarthy's home in Duncraig (John is a son of Peter and Doreen). The McCarthy families had everything ready when we arrived---

Sandgroppers Say (cont.)

including a sheep on the spit, the beer on tap chilled to the right temperature, food in abundance plus wines kindly donated by Bob, Grenville from his winery. I must thank the McCarthy clan once again as we had an excellent time. Thanks to John Lillee for sending "Good wishes" to members. After accounts were finalised \$10 was left over, which was donated to Appealathon.

Sorry that we missed seeing Reg. Priest while he was visiting his son in the West. Bob. Sheerman met our ex-padre, Bob Davies in Tasmania whilst on holidays. Bob is now retired as a Bishop and lives in Hobart and would like any 458er to visit him, should they be in Hobart.

Regards and good health to all

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim. Holliday.

Fewer marched at this years Anzac Parade. But the reason was not lack of interest or zeal but principally age aggravating ailments and injuries, for we had a good roll up at the Reunion. Apologies were received from "Regulars" unavoidably absent: President Jack Lewis, with the overseas Detachment, Len MacDonnell, repairs to legs; Gordon Cuthbertson, awaiting operation, and therefore unable to chauffeur Jack Baxter from the Gold Coast; Gordon Postle on a business assignment to Mackay; Dud McKay held by inclement weather at Cairns; and Don. Brandon, doing dual instruction at an Arts Festival. Some news garnered at the Reunion: Bob Helyar fully occupied in retirement, golfing three days and fishing four days each week; Bert Garland relieves his crippled feet in the surf, fishing; a fit Clive Wyman climbed off the water wagon after 3 months ride and losing 1½ stone; Chester Jones now house-building at his country hide-away; Bernie Hughes already planning his next assault for the Melbourne Cup; Chas. Warren wants more baby-sitting for grandchildren; Joe Elliott now a qualified adviser on Real Estate; without rugby union life wouldn't be worth living for Bernie McLoughlin; Eric (Digger) Kelly hates to see an empty vessel unless its tied up at a wharf; and, for the record, Jack Lewis was re-elected President, and yours truly found no one to relieve him of the secretaryship.

P.O.R.s Early in February, Joyce and Jim. McKay kindly hosted a post-Xmas barbeque at their home on Mimosa Creek at Upper Mount Gravatt. It was a really enjoyable get-together in a delightful bushland retreat. Enid and Dud. McKay came down from Caloundra. Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson and Kitty and Jack Baxter came up from the Gold Coast. Len Goode, our newly found 458er, was there; Sel (Massa) Foote and wife Joan brought his best bull (cut up of course). Then there were the Lewises, the Kellys, the Chester Jones, the Garlands, Clive Wyman, Bernie McLoughlin and the Hollidays. Full marks to Joyce McKay and Peg. Holliday for organising the delicious eats. Both Joyce Dew and George Reed have forwarded a cutting from the local newspaper--a 15" x 2 columns tribute to the memory of Jackie Dew. Jack was highly regarded in Tully--the sugar town where he was born, lived and died. The article reports his service career, his contribution to the district as a radio technician and his skill in sport. In his youth Jack excelled in tennis and cricket. Taking up Golf he was Club champion 11 times. Though a right-hander he played golf left handed. He held the FNQ left-handers championship for four years in succession. Active in Freemasonry he reached the rank of P.G.D.C. To his memory, George Reed presented two copies and Joyce one copy of the Squadron History to local schools, at Anzac ceremonies.

Joe Elliott and Bill Honan get together once a week for a game of golf. Bill's retired now, lost a lot of weight on doctor's orders; Gordon Cuthbertson out of hospital after having his carotid artery scraped to remove a blood clot. Gordon Postle attending the World Federation of Real Estate Conference in Toronto and returning through America and Honolulu; Jack Baxter back in hospital for further attention to his knees.

Yours truly visited Amberley RAAF Station recently in a party including Len. Goode and Keith Scott. We were allowed to touch the aircraft! Greatest thrill close inspection of F 111 pull down in maintenance hangar. Tree planted in 1959 still flourishing. The Dedication of the Honour Board at Pt. Cook has been delayed. When Jim. Killen, as Minister for Defence, learned from Clive Wyman about it, he desired to officiate. Jim. Killen, ex-RAAF Rear Gunner, knew and respected Lew. Johnston. But when P.M. Fraser reshuffled the cabinet and moved Jim from Defence, Jim reluctantly relinquished the proposal. A new date has yet to be decided by Pt. Cook.

Thanks to Bob Lyndon for his message to Q. Flight. His friend from 450 sought us out on Anzac Parade to pass it on.

RALPH DUFFY PASSES.

The News reports with regret receiving a telegram from Lock Simpson advising of the death of Ralph Duffy after an illness courageously born.

458's sympathy to Olga, his widow in Johannesburg..