



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, 1982.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Clive Wyman (Q.) SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENT: Stan. Tarczynski (Vic)
SQUADRON TREASURER: Peter Alexander (NSW) SQUADRON SECRETARY: Graeme Coombes (NSW),
SQUADRON HON. AUDITOR: Bert Thompson (NSW) EDITOR of 458 Squadron News:
Peter Alexander (Syd. 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, S.A., 5064;
Western Australia: Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, W.A., 6210;
Queensland: Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q., 4121;
U.K. Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Road, Grove Park, London, SE 12 9TN, England.

AND SO TO MILDURA!

After the triumphant Return to Britain during the 2nd. International Reunion, 458's eyes are now turned towards the next All-States Reunion-- which will be the 21st--and that is to be at the Victorian country city of MILDURA.

Stan. Tarczynski reports: The Grand Hotel/Motel has been booked for the accommodation-- rated the best in Mildura. All bed tariffs include a hot breakfast. Daily single rates vary from \$19-90 to \$40-80; Daily twin or double vary from \$31-50 to \$52-50. The top rates are for front balcony, de luxe and executive suites. However we hope to negotiate a special rate in due course.

The date for the long Anzac weekend in 1983 is Friday April 22nd. to Monday April 25th inclusive. One of the features hopefully will be an exclusive Sunday trip in a large Murray River Paddle steamer. Details and bookings will open in the November issue of the Squadron News. ****

Members should start thinking now about coming to this Reunion in the attractive city on the great river Murray not far from its confluence with the other great river--the Darling. Attendance at these Reunions is part of the extraordinary boons that have come to 458ers over the years as a result of their Squadron service. And it is later than you may think.

VICTORIAN NEWS from Stan. Tarczynski.

Firstly, it is sad to relate the passing, in early May, of another member,--Bob. Smith, whose health had not been good for some time. He having been a Stipendary Magistrate the funeral service was well attended by the legal fraternity, his many friends and several 458ers, including Lisle and Pat Wurr, who came down from Ballarat. The RSL Service was given by Harold Martin.

Victorian News (cont.)

Also we extend our sincere sympathy to Ern Laming on the passing of his wife, Jean, after a long illness. She died on July 23rd. Tom and Rita Primrose and Stan Tarczynski attended the service at Regent Uniting Church. Floral tributes were sent from Vic. Flight and from the Ladies Social Committee.

The Annual Meeting. Eleven members attended the A.G.M. at the Air Force Club on May 28. Elected unopposed as Victorian Flight President was Stan Tarczynski, and John Fleming as Vice President. After several years as Hon. Sec/Treasurer Ken Morkham indicated that he could no longer continue. We, in Vic. Flight, are most grateful for the time, energy and enthusiasm Ken has given to this onerous task. In addition, he is still on the committee of R.A.A.F. Europe. Bill Hurford volunteered for the job of Hon. Treasurer. Stan Tarczynski is Hon. Secretary. Bill Hurford's address --members please note-- is 1/9 St. Johns Avenue, Frankston, Vic. 3199.

Personal Notes about members.

Jack and Audrey Cruttenden retired from their News-agency four years ago and you will find them at 3 Glengarwyn Avenue, Leopold, via Geelong. They have four children and two grandchildren;

George and Thelma Riddoch retired from their Burrum Beet farm six years ago and now live at 1, Cleveland Court, Alfredton, near Ballarat. Their son and daughter are there too. George contents himself with bowls, gardening and travel, and he assists with "Meals on Wheels" and the Red Cross;

Eric Jewell lives at 5 Derby Street, Blackburn, & he retired recently from the Commonwealth Department of Transport (Civil Aviation) as Inspector of Recruitment; Keith Clymo is a widower living in retirement at 2/10, Fitzroy St., Bentleigh and he spends a deal of his time at the Alma Bowling Club as Secretary. He has a married son with two boys;

Frank (Shorty) Wilson retired prematurely 10 years ago from D.C.A. Has had three heart attacks and a stroke and keeps going on as a T.P.I. with a brave smile despite many other ailments. He lives at 45 Melbourne Road, Rye and is currently President of Rye R.S.L. and is in RSL Welfare, Social, Appeals Officer, Convener Rye RSL Social Golf Club, and a member of Rosebud Country Club with a 32 handicap. He is a Freemason and has five grandchildren from a daughter and a son (Both, as he puts it, married).

OUR APOLOGIES.

We have had our attention drawn, forcibly, to the omission of four names of U.K. Flight members who were seen during the U.K. International Reunion. They were: Norman Gilbert, Harry Eastwood, Peter Leonard, and Reg. Windett--and their wives. Our apologies to them for this wholly accidental omission.. Fact is that none of us, in Australia, had a list of attenders so had to rely on our recollection. That is notoriously unsafe. But we really had to have a go at reporting who came.

CORNSTALK COMMENT.

from Don Bitmead.

As was mentioned in the last News, 16 of us did a 19 day coach tour of Europe after the International Reunion. It was most interesting to see so many places of which we had only read, or seen on the screen. In the course of our travelling we met Bob and Mary Scholes, who were on a different tour, on two different occasions. What a small world it is!

After returning to the U.K., "Dusty" Miller and I together with our wives toured the U.K. We called on Margot Knight, Robin's widow. She was most disappointed to have missed the Reunion activities but was most delighted to see us. Margot was looking well and sent her best wishes to Mal Goers who occasionally visits her.

Amongst letters recently received was one from Reg and Betty Windett from Buckingham, England, to say how much they enjoyed the Reunion. Closer to home we had mail from one of our former and popular Padres, Bishop R.E. (Bob) Davies to say he "will welcome any former members of 458 who may happen to visit the Holiday Isle." Bob has retired and his address is 12 Elboden St., Hobart, Tasmania. Our Padres did magnificent work during those trying days. Another well-known Squadron identity, "Caesar" Baird has written and says he has eye problems. He still lives at Phale Beach. We hope the problem is soon rectified, Caesar.

Next Ethnic Dinner.

Another ethnic dinner has been arranged. The date and place are: Tuesday September 21st. At the Amsterdam Restaurant, 153, Old Canterbury Road, Dulwich Hill. It is licensed and will, of course, serve Dutch food to us. Will those members and friends who are interested (and all are most welcome) please contact Eric Munkman (451 0824) or myself (587 2007).

Vale Bill McBride.

Bill has passed on, after a long period of ill health. Eric Munkman and other committee members attended the funeral service. Bill was a Fitter on 458, and worked for the postwar 458 in many ways at many times in both Queensland and in N.S.W.. We shall remember his pleasant and cheerful personality. To Emmy and his family, our sympathy.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS

from Jim Holliday.

Another delightful Sunday lunch barbeque was held at Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson's home on Tullebudgera Creek at Mermaid Waters on the Gold Coast. The improvements the Cuthbertsons have made to their already attractive home are really stupendous. Peg has proved herself a bricklayer of real merit; while Gordon is no slouch as a carpenter, tiler, painter, but, above all, as an artist in ironwork. Their front gate in a street of superb designs puts all the others to shame. Gordon looks ten years younger after his carotid op. As to the barbeque--good company, good food, in delightful relaxing surroundings. Evelyn and Jack Lewis, just back from the U.K. Reunion, were bubbling with news. Tony Stone was prevailed on to display the scars from his open heart surgery. His torso looks like the Australian Flag, including the Southern Cross. Jack Baxter, limping a little from surgery to reconstruct the knee of his other leg, but still the old jovial Jack. Joyce and Jim MacKay, just returned from a visit to their daughter in Adelaide. And, of course, Sel. Foote brought steaks from his most contented bull.

Chas. Warren says he was most delighted to have a 'phone call from Ernie Laming about the elevation due to him on the 18th. August. Despite the difficulty Ernie now has with walking, Chas was quite sure he would have no difficulty in ascending the Chair he was due to sit in. And, of course, he will now be as wise as Solomon.

Johnno's Memorial Board. Bernie McLoughlin was Queensland's only representative at the dedication of the W/Cdr. L.L. Johnston Honour Board at Point Cook on 18th. August. Clive Wyman cancelled at the last moment due to urgent business; yours truly was forcibly restrained by his doctor who refused to let him travel. Queensland sends its thanks to Victoria for attending in goodly numbers. Bernie McLoughlin reports that Pt. Cook staged a good show and that Tarz gave a good eulogy for Johnno, whose memory will be noted for many years to come by the future R.A.A.F. pilots who train at Point Cook.

SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Ted Jewell

It is now two weeks since we returned from our trip to Britain and the Continent, plus the International Reunion, which was a wonderful success, and it must have been very pleasing for the organisers to have such a big turn-up from Australian members, and the U.K. Flight.

I must say that the Dinners, Reception and Outings were extra good and very much enjoyed, but what impressed me most and will always be remembered was Anzac Day, with the Squadron parading at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Members wives were present and saw the laying of a wreath by our Squadron President Mick Mason. Then we all walked down to Westminster Abbey for the Anzac Day Service. A very magnificent Abbey, and most impressive.

After the Service we, of course, all went down by coach to Cranleigh as guests of Christina McKenzie at Bruce's old home, Knowle. Champagne on arrival, with such a wonderful lunch which was all prepared, we were told by Christina herself! We finished the day with an informal cricket match--very much enjoyed by Christina and her two sons, Jamie and Kim. But all good things have to come to an end, so after many farewells we all returned to London to get ready for our trip to York in the morning. A day to be remembered!

We had another great day with our trip to Holme-on-Spalding Moor aerodrome where we were so warmly welcomed. After a break for morning tea we were shown over the Station in small groups with a guide to explain everything. We were treated to some low flying and stunting by some of the aircraft. We then went to the village, where we had drinks and lunch at the Blacksmiths Arms. It hadn't changed a bit over the years. The old Barmaid, Liz, now 81, who was there during the war years, turned up to meet the Australians again. After the lunch break we attended a brief Service at the Church and Ian Showell placed a wreath on the Squadron graves. We all then returned to York for a farewell dinner.

After the Reunion, six of us, Ray and Marge Turley, Bill and Joan Clues, Elsie and myself, went back to London for a few days before going down to Seaford to stay with Bill and Joan's son-in-law's parents who live near Newhaven where we caught the boat for our trip across to France. We spent six weeks on the Continent, touring through eight countries from Spain to Greece and enjoyed every minute of it. Had a hassle with the language sometimes, but we overcame that. Bill, Joan, Elsie and I returned to England but Ray and Marge stayed behind, wanting to see more of Europe. Back in England we hired a Combivan for a month and then continued our travels, seeing England, Scotland and Wales. A month was far too short--one could spend months and still see only a portion of it all. The weather was very good, the people very friendly everywhere. But we had a 'plane to catch so couldn't stop any longer. Had three days at Singapore, then on to Perth and home.

Sandropers Say....(cont.)

While in Singapore we met Fred and Dot Howe who are Associate members; they were over there on a short holiday.

Back Home. I must thank Charlie Davis for filling in for the last News. Maybe I can get him to do it more often. Sounds as though everyone enjoyed themselves at the Anzac Day function and the luncheon at the South Perth Yacht Club. Charlie rang me to say he had been to Geraldton and had seen Al. Wheat who was recovering from a heart attack. Sorry to hear about it, Al., we all hope you are feeling much better, and well on the way to recovery.

I would like to send our best wishes to Bob. Shearman. I hear he hasn't been too good lately. Sorry to hear it, Bob; hope you are feeling much better at the moment and I am sure everyone sends their best wishes.

Had a visit from Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft down here at Mandurah. Bert rang me up to say they are staying with relatives of Lorna's, and invited me and Elsie over for a few drinks. Went over in the afternoon and all had a very enjoyable time--stayed till 11 or so. Bert and Lorna are now on their way down to the south of the State and intend to visit Jim and Lucy Palmer at their farm on the way through.

Well, I guess that's all the news for the present. Hope I'm in time. Best regards to all.

CROWEATERS CAUCUS.

from Geoff. Esau.

A small gathering at the Talbot Hotel spent a pleasant couple of hours on 14th July chatting to Earl Hetherington of Queensland over here for a few days with his son-in-law from Sydney where they are building a 50' cruiser for future charter out from Cairns. In Earl's case another example of retirement leading to a busier life! Present, from S.A. Flight, were Bert Ravenscroft, Arn. Scholar, Sid. Bartram, Peter Thom, Jack Riseley, Bill Taylor and me.

Apart from this, S.A. members appear to have shown their innate good sense by hibernating for the winter. We have, I understand, set two records for that season, cold and dry. With the budget blues news, the latter condition is likely to remain!

Personal Pars. Ian Showell was presented with a Legacy Certificate of Merit at a dinner in his honour at Renmark. 458 members have not been the only beneficiaries of his generosity, and boats have been made available to Legacy wards on occasions. Congratulations, Ian, on a very fine service.

Syd and Pat. Bartram have been presented with a second grandchild. I haven't been told whether Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft's five, mentioned in the last News was inspirational.

Sorry to hear that Ron. Badger has had another spell in hospital, and hope that he is out and about again by now.

I retired from the Department of Agriculture at the end of last financial year and am enjoying trying to find enough hours in the day. Must say I'm looking forward to the warmer weather and some sailing.

Regards and best wishes to all members.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid. Thompsett.

.....Since the Reunion, I have heard from about three or four chaps praising all those who made the whole event such a success, but apart from that no further news is available. Eric Phillips has sent me a copy of the local paper which carried the story of the northern part of the Reunion. He tells me a copy is on the way to you.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Mrs. Hilda Swann, 5, Oak Road, Fareham, Hants, PO 15 5EY, England.

Dear Peter,

I must write to thank you and all the other people who made the Reunion so wonderful. I am sorry I can't remember all the names of the folk I spoke with--there were so many, but particularly I remember Stan and Jean Longhurst, Bill and Joan Clues, who were with me at lunch on the Sunday; Ray and Marge Turley, who we sat with at dinner, Bruce and Linda Dean, Don and Bev. Bitmead, and, of course, Eric and Dorothy. Eric was with Bill, as was Stan., and Dave Firth, so I was very pleased to meet them after hearing about them all over the years. I should like to say that if any 458 member manages to make the journey to England again we should like to see them and give them lunch.

Correspondence (cont.)

There was also Ted and Elsie Jewell who I met on Friday evening. Bill and I were really very pleased to have the opportunity of meeting you, Peter. Having read both editions of your book I was looking forward to seeing you..... Your Squadron News will mean so much more to me now that I can put faces to names..... Bill sends his regards to all

yours very sincerely, Hilda Swann.

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From Harry (Matron) Jenkins, 36, Saloola Dr., Nelson Bay, NSW.

Dear Peter,I would love to be able to come to Sydney at times, but am afraid the poor old legs have had it, caused from a lot of surgery I hadall originated from a dicky appendix that had been disregarded when I was in the Middle East.... Have been to reunions of 450 Squadron at Williamstown. Always a big roll up. Cobbers of mine always take me there and bring me back. Have settled well and truly into Nelson Bay, lovely house and huge garden which makes a great difference to an elderly person; one forgets his ills and ails. Also I feed the birds--you name them and they are here Cheers for now Harry Jenkins.

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From Colin Fereday, 49, Coranderrk Street, Reid, A.C.T., 2601.

Dear Peter, Congratulations on your homecoming from a highly successful International Reunion. I read, with very great interest, the carefully prepared report in the Squadron News and could easily see that you had a most enjoyable and rewarding time together. I am certainly sorry I was not with you. I have some sad news..... Whilst I was attending the 1980 Commonwealth Air Force Reunion in Canada I met Merv Kinsey--an early 458 member. He was delighted to make contact with a fellow Squadron member and time seemed all too short to have more than a short chat and we parted, promising to get really together at the 1984 Reunion.. Mrs Lee Kinsey--Merv's wife--wrote to me recently to tell me the sad news of Merv's sudden and unexpected passing on 14th March 1981.... Merv was only 59 when he died from a heart attack. He went for a ride on his snow machine and when he was late in returning his wife went to look for him. Lee found him lying on the snow beside the machine. Mrs Kinsey is hoping to come to Australia and New Zealand with her son, Steven, (She also has a married daughter, Anne) in November/December this year. I shall keep you in touch. yours sincerely, Colin G Fereday.

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From Al. Wheat, P.O. Box 160, Geraldton, Western Australia, 6530.

Dear Peter,

It is a long time since I wrote to you--if I ever have. I have really meant to get around to it since the release of the second issue of the History because--

Just after I received the book, Joy and I went on an overseas trip during which time I did some reading--yes, the second edition, plus the "Grey Fight" which is a history of the 8th. Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, which served in Malaya and Vietnam. Our eldest boy, Gary, was with 8 R.A.R. and obviously it was most interesting to read of the exploits of his Unit--for which it received an American Citation-- followed by our own record. Frankly, it was a most unique experience and I wonder if many 458ers have a record of their boys' unit history, as, no doubt, many of them were involved in overseas service during their National Service days. I meant to mention this when we last met, but it slipped my mind.

Sid and Pat Bartram from Adelaide visited the West a few weeks ago and journeyed to Geraldton to spend some time--it sure was great to see them as the last time we met was at "Surfair", Queensland. Unfortunately, I could not spend as much time as I would have liked with them as I have been recuperating from a double by-pass heart operation a month or two ago. However, we wine and dined to our best ability whilst they were here. I am well on the way to recovery and hope to get a final clearance from the cardiologist in September. Then--I hope--it's back to work.

We sold the motor business 4½ years ago and can now make some money from the Motor trade by collecting rent from the people who leased our premises too, having bought the business--I think it was the best deal I ever did in the motor trade over a long period of thirty years.

We did however keep our caravan sales yard and camping gear store which is operated by son Gary, myself and Joy. Have no staff now--which is a change from employing 37. Business is just fair here but we are surviving which is the main thing.

Second son, Geoff., has his own Dental practice in Geraldton so we have been lucky in that

Correspondence (conc'd)

the whole family is here in town with us--incidentally,"the "whole family" includes 3 grandsons and 2 granddaughters--plus a dog for each family. Tim Dale 'phoned me when he heard of my "time off" as did Charlie Davis who incidentally is due here with Bet. shortly. They are staying overnight as a stop over on the 'bus tour. We are certain to see them--knowing Charlie.

As you know from the Flight report, I led the Squadron on Anzac Day, always a privilege I believe, but this year it was something special in that the next day was the 40th anniversary of my entering the service. 21st. September is my 60th birthday, which will also be the 40th anniversary of my posting to 9 EFTS. My first flight was 22nd. Sept. Still have our own aircraft--which incidentally was laid up in a service bay with fuel pump trouble the same time I was in hospital with my pump trouble.

Had a visit in March from John Briers, who was a W.Op (Air) with John Carey ? and joined us in Sardinia. He has lived in London for 26 years--7, Beninck St., London, W.1.-- I had not seen him since leaving Gib.. I sold him a Squadron History and loaned him some News to read. Says he had not had any interest in 458 since the War. Could Sid Thompson please include him in the distribution list for the "News". He will be back here next year. He comes from Geraldton as it happens.

Regards to all 458ers Sincerely, Al Wheat.

P.S. Will guarantee to write again within the next 30 years.

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From Peter Leonard, Sinoia House, Dorlanogoch, Brecon, Powys LD3 7RH, Wales.

Dear Peter, As one of the group of 458ers who was privileged to attend the reunion last April I would like to congratulate the organisers of this very successful and memorable event. Although there are other service reunions I think this one was unique and I trust it will be written into the annals of the Royal Australian Air Force. You will notice that my name is not on the list of persons attending the Reunion. The reason for this is simple. I did not know that the organisation existed until two weeks before you arrived in the United Kingdom and I have Bill Clues to thank for this. Bill was kind enough to write to me after a friend of mine had made inquiries in Australia earlier in the year about the Squadron. I attended the reunion with my wife and was thrilled with the atmosphere when at the St. Ermins Hotel. After all when you realise it happened 40 years ago, your memories are not exactly perfect, but were kindled by the occasion.

When you announced that there was every chance of another reunion in 1984 my mind was made up immediately. I shall, God willing, be there.

Many thanks for a most memorable two days. I shall not forget them for a long time. My regards to all of you who made the journey. May we meet again.

yours sincerely, Peter Leonard.

P.S. For the record I joined the Squadron at Holme and was posted back to the R.A.F. in 1943.

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EDITORIAL.

We seem, as 458ers, now to be in a period when most members have retired quite recently, are in reasonably good health and are enjoying, with their ladies, the fruits of retirement. Sport, travel, grandchildren, even the garden are to be enjoyed in what the late Sir Robert Menzies called a time of "Evening Light"

458 has always been an energetic Squadron and it is providing its members still with opportunities and occasions that few others can enjoy. After two International Reunions, both very successful--and they were preceded by 18 Interstate Reunions, as well as innumerable State Reunions, sport and social events--we now have ahead the planned 3rd International Reunion, in New Zealand in 1984 and probable later gatherings--in Canada in 1986 and, who knows, Sydney in 1988 to coincide with Australia's 200th Anniversary.

We should plan to be there. While it is true that it is later than we want to think it is, nevertheless there are going to be a lot of us around for quite a few years (there are still active former members of the WW 1 Flying Corps around). It is just up to us to keep things going and make the most of the great privilege we have--of belonging to 458 Squadron.