



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

Year 34; No. 135.

May, 1983.

SQUADRON OFFICE-BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Clive Wyman (Q.) SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS: Archie Fell (N.Z.)
Col. Fereday (A.C.T.);
SQUADRON TREASURER: Peter Alexander (NSW) SQUADRON SECRETARY: Graeme Coombes (NSW);
SQUADRON HON. AUDITOR: Bert Thompson (NSW) EDITOR of 458 Squadron News: Peter Alexander.

FLIGHT CORRESPONDENTS:

Western Australia: Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, W.A., 6210;
South Australia: Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, S.A., 5064;
Victoria: Stan. Tarczynski, 22, Highgate Grove, Ashburton, Vic. 3147;
N.S.W. Don. Bitmead, 11, Scarborough Street, Monterey, NSW, 2217;
U.K. Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Road, Grove Park, London, SE 12 9TN, England;
Queensland. Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q., 4121.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ALL -STATES REUNION.

The 21st. All States Reunion of 458 Squadron was held, most successfully, in the Victorian city, on the Murray River, of Mildura. Members from all Mainland States, except on this occasion Western Australia, began to arrive around Friday April 22nd, staying at the Grand Hotel, a very large and well-equipped hotel, or in caravans or the caravan park. Local 458er, Don. Johnson met many of them as they arrived. Being the local member, Don had been kept very busy with preparations. Over 100 members, wives and families or friends attended. On the first evening there was a Reception at the Hotel, attended by local parliamentarians and addressed also by the Mayor. A pleasant, exciting occasion, with members renewing old friendships or making new ones. Jock McGowan brought a number of 458 mementoes and pictures to decorate the walls. Travelling in his company was member Jim. Whitem recently returned from the United States and now living with members of his family in Canberra. Next morning brought the formal meeting of the Squadron Conference. It received reports from the Squadron officers and made plans for the future. Among other matters discussed was the outcome of the Squadron History project (financial gain to the Squadron to date being \$1753), modest profits on the Plaque and blazer pocket projects were reported. The finances of the Squadron News almost broke even. For the future the Conference approved plans for the next International Reunion of 458 --to be held in New Zealand early in 1984.

It elected Clive Wyman as Squadron President and two well-known 458 pilots-- Archie Fell and Col. Fereday as Vice Presidents. Other Squadron officers were re-elected for a further term. That day the Anzac Golf Cup was competed for--- and the winner was Bert Ravenscroft from S.A. In the evening the Squadron took to the boats--or at least to a boat for a cruise up the river Murray for a Dinner/ Dance. This was a very enjoyable time. We returned to the hotel, etc around 11.p.m.

458 in Mildura (cont.) On Sunday morning, the 24th the Squadron party set off by buses for a barbeque, beside a billabong of the Murray where in beautiful bush surroundings, they were entertained by a local group--the Witchetty Tribe, near Merbein. This is in fact a group of local business and professional men. They gave the Party an excellent bush barbeque lunch, with wine and beer aplenty. High light was the provision of witchetty grubs--this being for most of the 458 party their first such experience. We have to report that the grubs have a nutty taste. From there back to the town of Wentworth where we dined at the magnificent local R.S.L. Club (Wentworth being in poker-machine country). On the way there the bus took us to see the junction of two great rivers--the Murray and the Darling, a memorable sight, though they come together peacefully enough. Monday, Anzac Day, after a Dawn Service which a few robust characters attended, came the Anzac March, which 458 led. W.O.D. Ern. Leming, in uniform, put the Squadron through some manoeuvres which most of the ranks found rather difficult. But the March went well, there not being a single change of step. The Service at the War Memorial was memorably done. Light rain fell through most of the morning. After the March we went to the local RSL Club for the traditional few beers. Indeed we were given generous hospitality by the local clubs--Workers and RSL.

In the evening came the farewell dinner at the hotel. An excellent meal and a few Farewell speeches--from Don Johnson, Stan. Tarczynski, Peter Alexander and Squadron President Clive Wyman. Stan., Bill Hurford, the hard-working Victorian Treasurer and, earlier, Don Johnson, were invested (or re-invested) with the badges of the Peanut Club, which Peter Alexander had among his long-time souvenirs, in light-hearted recognition of their hard work to organise the Reunion. (Members who were not with 458 at Bone in North Africa may not recall it but (at that place the Squadron at the urging of Gus Charlwood contributed through Aunt Agatha of the Peanut Club towards the East Grinstead Hospital for the treatment of burns). And so the 21st All-States Reunion closed.

VICTORIAN NEWS

From Stan. Tarczynski.

After many question marks and much nail-biting, the attendance list for Mildura was respectable in numbers. The names are listed below.

Much to my delight I received recently a newsy letter from the Very Reverend Fred McKay, CMC, OBE, MA, BD, stating that he would have loved to have come to Mildura but this was impossible. As one of our Middle East Padres he still communicates regularly with our two other good friends, Padres Johnny McNamara and Bob Davies. A big cheerio to the trio from all of us! In Fred's own words, "I hold the Padres' record with 10 grand-children, all lusty and well. My "special greetings to the whole mob."

One of our Victorian Hon. Secretaries who has been on the Lost List for many years bobbed up recently, walking his dog along the banks of Gardeners Creek adjacent to one of my golf clubs--East Malvern--none other than John Jenkins. He bought a house overlooking the golf links and lives there with Betty and son Tony--at 10 Thornbury Crescent, 3145. Needless to say I have spent some hours with him and having a few drinks at the Golf Club and the RSL. John and Betty are now semi-retired from the Motel business and only do some relieving at Mildura Country Club and Rich River at Echuca..... Another long lost has appeared as an entry for Mildura--Tony Weir. Members will recall Tony as a Polish Air Force fighter-pilot who joined us when we were both living at Mont Albert many years ago. He has now retired early due to ill-health and lives with Lilian and son Adam at Rosebud. He has met up with Shorty Wilson who lives nearby at Rye.

It would be fair to say that probably one of the best known characters on 458 was and still is Harold "Yank" Martin. Although his enthusiasm as a raconteur or teller of dubious stories has not diminished, as is his interest in golf, he has like so many of us recently and because of age decided to retire. It is quite possible there will be more to relate on this in the next issue.

Annual Meeting. Vic. Flight members are reminded that our Annual General Meeting will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Friday June 3rd at the East Malvern RSL in Stanley Grose Drive off Wanton Road. Ladies are invited to attend and dinner has been booked in the Bistro for 7.30 p.m. However it is essential that the RSVP is made by May 26th at my address (see above) or to Bill Hurford (1/9, St. Johns Avenue, Frankston, 3199--Tel. 783 9181). Annual fees are now due--\$6 -- half for Club and half for News.

Postscript to Mildura. I should mention that some of the fella's wives marched--Joan Russell (Wren), Beryl Giles (AANS), Kath Martin, Peg Cuthbertson and Dot Fleming (all WAAAF). I overlooked (and feel ashamed over it) thanking Jock McGowan who brought many interesting exhibits with him. Thanks, Jock.

Who was There? Those members attending the Mildura All-States Reunion, in most cases accompanied by their ladies, were:

G.Cuthbertson	S.Foote	B.Garland	J.Holliday	B.Hughes	J.Lewis
N.Taylor	C.Wyman	C.Fereday	J.Whitem	P.C.Alexander	W.Archbold
D.Anderson	J.Revan	D.Bitmead	R.Burgess	G.Coombes	J.McGowan
R.Miller	J.McGlynn	E.Hetherington	E.Purcill	R.Scholes	A.Silvester
G.Unitt	F.Strom	L.Crowley	S.Bartram	J.Carey	B.Ravenscroft
A.Scholar	I.Showell	I.Alison	H.Ashworth	V.Clohesy	A.Cupper
R.Cupper	R.Derman	D.Evans	D.Firth	J.Fleming	I.Giles
W.Hurford	C.Hutchinson	E.Laming	E.Kennedy	H.Martin	K.Morkham
J.Rodwell	R.Russell	M.Singe	R.Raybone	D.de Tarczynski	G.de Tarczynski
P.de Tarczynski	S.Tarczynski	T.Weir	F.Wilson	D.Johnson	Mrs.E.Timms.

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CROWEATERS COMMENTARY. from Geoff.Esau.

Anzac Day. A large crowd attended the 9.a.m. Air Force Memorial Service at Adelaide Airport. The weather was kind and the Service was again conducted by Padre Ben.Williams. As always he gave a very relevant and moving address to those present. Nice to see Ron.Badger there again in an official capacity. He looks fit in spite of the legs which preclude his joining the Anzac March.

Numbers were down overall for the March for which the weather remained fine. 458 managed to produce a round dozen, namely Bert Oliver, Keith Grimshaw, Bill Cribb, Bill Taylor, Brian Woodhead, Jack Riseley, Eric Baker, Ted.Creighton, Reg.Priest, Ray Whitrod, Kevin Tate and myself. Most managed to report to the Talbot after for a few jugs and chat.

I heard briefly from Arn.Scholar that the S.A.contingent to Mildura thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Arn.is likely to be spotted in future searching the woodheap with a tomahawk for witchetty grubs.

I am temporarily back at work assessing applications for bushfire relief. Must say I enjoyed retirement better--less depressing.

It is with regret that I advise the death in March of John McGlasson after a long illness. Sympathy is extended to Dawn and family who were magnificent--as was John.

I append a note from Jack Riseley he would like printed:----

South Australian delegates to the biennial Conference of the Partially Blinded Soldiers Association of Australia, held in Hobart recently---Verna and I had a wonderful time and during the course of events I mentioned 458 Squadron. This brought an immediate response from Lloyd Johnson who said he and his wife Bet often go to the Squadron's ethnic dinners in N.S.W. Ragul Shepherd and Bill Davison also knew Peter Alexander and Eric Munkman, Dizzy Dean and a few others. Of course, the initial introduction could have been through the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (Peter is, I think, Secretary). That organisation is held in high regard by the Partially Blinded not only here in S.A. but, for the most part, throughout Australia.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Ted.Jewell.

Congratulations to all W.A.Flight members for their good roll up to all our functions so far this year. We have been very active indeed.

We had a very enjoyable Bar B.Q. at our home in Mandurah in February. At the function it was arranged to all meet at Phil and Shirley Hicks home for a further Bar B.Q. luncheon. Phil and Shirley are new Associate members, and made all very welcome who turned up for the get-together. There were about 30 members and wives, and they enjoyed a good lunch and plenty of cold drinks which were very much appreciated by all.

A Film night was arranged to be held at the Rivervale RSL Hall to give Ray Turley the opportunity to show all those interested his collection of slides taken on his overseas trip last year--many were of the reunion in England. We arranged to arrive early in the evening and bring our tea with us. After everyone had eaten and all was cleaned up, Ray put on the slides, which were very interesting. After a break for supper the show continued on till about eleven o'clock. A most enjoyable evening though Elsie and myself had a long drive home to Mandurah. But it was well worth while.

It has also been arranged by Gordon and Olga Jones for about thirty members and wives to go to lunch at the South Perth Yacht Club where Gordon is a member. We have been there several times before and it has always been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We are booked to go on Sunday 12th.June.

Sandgroppers Say.....(cont.)Anzac Day in Perth.

The March was once again well attended by 458 members plus a few others from other Air Force Units. We were ably and smartly led by Flight President Bill Clues, with Ray Turley carrying the Banner. After the March and Service we all gathered at the Hyde Park Hotel for lunch and drinks, which was arranged by Charlie Davis. About 50 turned up for the luncheon, where the drinks flowed freely.

It was good to see Tim Dale there, in his wheel chair, looking as though he was enjoying every minute of the afternoon. I am sure I speak for everyone, Tim, when I say I hope you have a speedy recovery. After some years, we had Ernie "Skeeta" Staveley back with us again on Anzac Day--joined in the March and afterwards at the hotel. Put on a lot of weight but still the same. Hope we see more of you, Skeet.

Another new identity to Mandurah is Len Stewart who just recently moved down here from Perth. That makes five 458 members here now.

On the Anzac Day weekend our thoughts were with the All-States Reunion being held in Mildura. Hope all those present had a great time--sorry I couldn't make it.

Cheerio to all.

AND NOW FOR NEW ZEALAND!

458 SQUADRON is to have its 3rd. International Reunion in March, 1984----in New Zealand. The dates (altered a little, recently, to suit the bowlers!) will be

Leave Sydney Monday March 26th

Tour both North and South Islands extensively--

including a Squadron Conference in Auckland and----

Return to Sydney on Friday April 13th with

onward connections to other cities.

Members at the All-States Reunion were very enthusiastic about this venture and we believe many will come. We also hope strongly that U.K. members will make the connecting journey to arrive in Sydney about a week before March 26th--to meet local members here and to recover from their jet lag.

Members will find enclosed with this News, full details of the itinerary--and a special note for U.K. members. Estimated price at this date \$1500 per person all in fares, accommodation and many meals. Contact is Vic Williams of Veterans Travel, 215 Clarence Street, Sydney, NSW--Tel. no. 02--290 1170. For U.K. Members London contact is G. Democritou, Global of London, 200 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0JP, London.

Will interested members please send in the form, indicating interest, at the end of this News?

This venture is another of those great benefits and rich experiences that have come to us from our connection with 458. They are unrepeatable and should not be missed. It is later than we think.

CORNSTALK NEWS.

from Don.Bitmead.

Ethnic Dinner Again. Once again a very enjoyable night out was held in Sydney--starting the cycle again, we ate French food, the original food with which we began these very successful ethnic evenings. We chose Le Pot de Terre in Surry Hills and had a good company. It was Dizzy Dean's celebration and also the Chef's birthday. There will be more such dinners--will members interested in being informed please let Eric Munkman or myself know.

At Mildura. This occasion was a big success and a great credit to the Victorian Committee and in particular to Stan Tarczynski. The welcome evening, the dinner-dance on the paddle-wheeler, the visit to the Wicheitty Tribe and the final dinner were all well organised and I am sure everyone of the 100 plus enjoyed themselves. The accommodation and meals at the Grand Hotel were also very good. Whereas the weather was great for those occasions, light rain fell during the Anzac March and Service. 458 was represented by 52 members ably led by Clive Wyman our new Squadron President.

Anzac in Sydney. Eric Munkman led the Squadron stalwarts in fine weather on Anzac Day with thousands of onlookers cheering the marchers. They were fortunate this year in having a band leading them to keep step whereas in previous years members have had to try to keep step (generally very difficult) with several echoes of bands along the streets. After the march 25 attended a good luncheon at the Great Southern. At the conclusion of lunch the brief Annual Meeting was held and 5 "new" members volunteered to join the committee.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS. from Jim.Holliday.

For the first time since its formation Q.Flight (1) failed to march behind its banner on Anzac Day, (2) failed to have its customary Anzac Day reunion, and (3) failed to hold its annual meeting; the reason? A large contingent of Queenslanders

Q.Flight News (cont.)

attended the Mildura Reunion. Contact with those who, because of illness or commitments remained, reveal that most attended local ceremonies and adjourned to district R.S.L.Clubs for a quiet chin-wag and a jug or two with mates.

The Queensland contingent is loud in its praises for the Victorian Flight and its organisers. Queenslanders name it the "Friendly" reunion which ran on well-lubricated wheels that stopped only for 'par excellence' cuisine. Our contingent voted the witchetty grub function the highlight and winner of the best novelty event yet at any reunion. Indeed, a small few inspired members, since their return have been espied purchasing tomahawks and seeking grub-infested trees. We others pardon them, believing them nutty to favour the witchetty nutty flavour.

Also, our contingent were pleased to meet up with temporary ex-patriate Queenslander Erle Hetherington who says that like an industrious termite he's now working his way through the interior of that boat and hopes to return permanently to Queensland and its sunny North next year. Erle has thrived on his three-year boat-building project and it's taken years off his age.

Messages of goodwill from Mildura:--for George Reed from Ted Kennedy, for Len. MacDonnell from Erle Hetherington and from George Unitt to Bernie McLoughlin. The non-attendance of Bernie was, in his capacity of Queensland President of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, hosting the Foundation's Indian President over Anzac Day.

Personal Pars. Charlie Warren reports he's hale and hearty but, in mechanics parlance, while he goes well over the flat parts, he falls back a bit on the hills. Eric Kelly is contemplating retirement but says he's still too young to be labelled a has-been. Don Hopper, after a most interesting overseas trip, writes he's now acquired a beautiful home on the hills overlooking the Gold Coast, at Canyon Parade, Springbrook.

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ON THE EX-SERVICE SCENE.

A new Minister for Veterans Affairs (Senator Arthur Gietzelt) has been taking a fresh look at Repat. problems. Among the difficult knots he has successfully untied have been problems relating to prescribing of pharmaceuticals (previously restricted, now returned by him to the old situation), provision of artificial limbs by Repat. Limb Factories--and the long and difficult (seemingly) campaign of the Vietnam Veterans for a Judicial Inquiry into the use of Chemical Sprays in Vietnam. They have claimed a higher than normal incidence of cancer, deformed children and nervous disorders. While the previous Government, with RSL support, opposed the Inquiry this Government has agreed to it and Justice Evatt will soon commence hearings. It will attract much overseas interest from the USA Government, Chemical companies and, possibly, from Vietnam. Peter Alexander, who has supported the Viet Vets in their campaign, was present and addressed their National Congress recently--at which the Minister announced his decision on the Inquiry. Peter talked about the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (AVADSC) of which he is Secretary (the V.V. Assn has joined the Council), about the World Veterans Federation--and about the current inquiry being quietly conducted in Canberra into the Repat. legislation. Peter and other ex-service reps attending its meeting are very conscious of the need to protect all the existing rights of ex-service people. It could be so easy to change a word of the Act and find one's self back before the High Court. Members of this Inquiry are the RSL, AVADSC, Legacy and the War Widows.

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SQUADRON ADDRESSES Here follow some more addresses:New South Wales P.-- Z.

Preston, J.	69, Sunnyside Crescent, Castlecove NSW, 2060
Punch, T.C.	Alanas Avenue, Dundas, 2117,
Purcill, E.	5, Hillcrest Avenue, Orange, 2800,
Rackham, A.	1, Moorong Place, Cooma North, 2629,
Ricketts, S.	3, Milling Street, Gladesville, 2111,
Ridge, F.	192, Auburn Road, Yagoona, 2199,
Ridgeway, T.	Unit 13, Freshwater Towers, 69, Evans Street, Harbord, 2096,
Rosen, K.G.	69 Cobalt Street, Broken Hill, 2880
Rowell, R.W.	c/o M.L.C. Assurance, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600,
Saggers, G.	Narrandera Road, Lockhart, 2656,
Scholes, R.G.	Goonoo Goonoo Station, Tamworth, 2340,
Simpson, S.E.	74, New England Highway, Scone, 2337,
Smith, A.F.	20, Duneba Avenue, West Pymble, 2073,
Smith R.	"Woodburn", North Richmond River, 2754,
Smith R.G.	191, Wangee Road, Greenacre, 2190,
Spurling, N.	20, Wallis Street, Lawson, 2783.

N.S.W. Addresses (canc'd)

Storey-Wilson, F.	P.O.Box 507, Manly, N.S.W., 2095,
Strom, F.J.	48, Galston Road, Hornsby, 2077,
Taylor, R.T.	140, Port Hacking Road, Sylvania, 2224,
Thompson, A.H.	8/54, Tranmere Street, Drummoyne, 2047,
Thredgold, J.	9, Melrose Street, Eden, 2551,
Tillack, C.	53 Scylla Road, Oyster Bay, 2225,
Tonkin, R.K.J.	7, Nautilus Crescent, St. Huberts Island, 2256,
Turier, W.	103, Gordon Avenue, Hamilton Sth., 2303,
Tyson, R.G.	30 Telopia Street, Mt. Colah, 2079,
Unitt, G.R.	2/18 Byron Street, Bellambi, 2518,
Vale, G.V.K.	14, Blenheim Street, Randwick, 2031,
Vance, N.	195, Sydney Road, Fairlight, 2094,
Wadsworth, J.R.	1, Fairfax Road, Bellevue Hill, 2023,
Walker, A.J.	42, Snowden Avenue, Carlingford, 2118,
Walter, N.	9, Wollie Street, Kingsgrove, 2208,
Ward, F.H.	50, Castle Hill Road, Pennant Hills, 2120,
Westgarth, D.	"Burnora", Turondale Road, Duromana, 2795,
Wharton, A.	c/o Repatriation Review Tribunal, 68, Alfred Street, Milsons Pt, 2061,
Whiteman, R.	1/26 Simpson Street, Bondi, 2026,
Whittem, J.	10, Vest Place, Weetangera, 2614,
Wren, J.	92, Roscoe Street, Bondi, 2026,
Wright, G.	843, Pittwater Road, Collaroy, N.S.W.
Yuille A.B.	345 Barrenjoey Road, Newport Beach, 2106.

POSTSCRIPT.ALL-STATES REUNION, 1985.

It has now been determined that, on the invitation of Q.Flight, the next Australian All-States Reunion will be held in the Twin Cities area of the south Gold Coast in the second half of 1985.

The Squadron Council obtained a number of excellent silk-thread embroidered Squadron Pocket Badges for wear with Bermuda-Jacket/Blazers. They are really first-class. A small number is still available from the Squadron Secretary at \$10-00 each. First come, first served! Herewith an Application Form.

The Squadron Secretary,
GPO Box 5289, Sydney
NSW, 2001.

Please send me a 458 Squadron Pocket badge. I enclose \$10-00

Name.....

Address.....

.....

NEW ZEALAND JOURNEY.

To Mr. Vic Williams,
Veterans Travel,
215, Clarence Street, Sydney, N.S.W., 2000.

I am interested in the 458 SQUADRON party going to New Zealand in March, 1984. Would you please put my name on the list of those interested and send me further and final details. I should be accompanied by.....

Name.....

Address.....