



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

Year 34; No.136.

October, 1983.

SQUADRON OFFICE-BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Clive Wyman (Q.) SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS: Archie Fell (N.Z.),
Cal. 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.

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

GREAT INTEREST IN COMING 458 TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND.

Details of the March, 1984 visit of 458 to New Zealand have been met with considerable response by members. Our Travel Agent, Vic. Williams of Veterans Travel, has received Notification Forms from well over 50 members in all States (except Tasmania). There is interest in the U.K., too. A further Brochure is in with this issue of the News. What is now essential is that interested members send in their deposits of \$100 per person to reserve their participation. As buses hold limited numbers there is a cut-off point and it could be that a member might 'miss-out'. On the other hand it is difficult for the organisers to 'go firm' on details which involve reduced 'party' fares until they have received at least the \$100 deposits.

Incidentally, given a minimum participation of 10 from each capital city, participants in Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, will travel direct from there to N.Z., thus avoiding the costs of travel to Sydney and perhaps overnight costs. So, please send in your forms and deposits.

CROWEATERS ON PARADE.

from Geoff. Esau.

Welcome home to the Editor--and I hope his overseas trip included Rhode Island!

Squadron-wise, S.A. has not been a State of Excitement since the last newsletter. Most members seem to have hibernated during the long wet winter (in itself, a pleasant change from last year.)

Officially, the only noteworthy occasion was the triennial meeting of the Air Force Memorial Adelaide Airport Committee, which was attended, from 458, by Ron. Badger (Secretary and original instigator), Arn. Scholar, and John Carey. As I believe has been previously mentioned, the Committee has been successful in having the Memorial preserved in perpetuity despite plans otherwise when the Airport went International.. Currently some 23 Units are represented and another (Radar and Signals) is imminent.

Croweaters on Parade (cont.)

Personal Pars. Bill and Madge Taylor recently spent some time in W.A. and returned full of enthusiasm for the State and its people. Bill enjoyed lunching with Lock Simpson and mutual friends while there. Sorry to hear that Betty Badger has been poorly and in hospital. Our very best wishes to her and to Ron, with the hope that she may soon be restored to health and hearth. Arn.Scholar is having problems with a heart condition and has to take things quietly. Also complains of having lost his memory for names. Lucky fellow---I went through that phase years ago! As the man said "I always forget a face and remember a name!" My grandson, Tom., continues to do well at tennis. He was included in a team of 6 boys and 6 girls representing S.A. in a 12 and under tournament in Brisbane recently contested by Q'ld NSW, ACT, and S.A. S.A. was runner-up to Queensland overall by one set. The kids had a wonderful time including a tour of the Gold Coast. It is hoped to give details of a proposed B.B.Q. for S.A. members in the next newsletter ----to be held in late Jan/Feb. So all may not be completely moribund here! Congratulations to W.A. for winning THE CUP in a magnificent series. Fabulous! Must share a definition I heard of 'Mixed feelings'----watching your mother-in-law drive your new Mercedes over a cliff.

Good luck and good health to readers everywhere.

VIC. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Stan.Tarczynski

Our Annual General Meeting on Friday June 3rd. was held at East Malvern R.S.L. in the Ladies Bowls Room, and upon completion at 7.30 we returned for dinner at the R.S.L. Bistro. Those in attendance were: Mr. and Mrs. D. & B. Evans, J. and D. Fleming, J. & B. Jenkins, H. & K. Martin, K. & B. Markham, J. & J. Redwell, R. & J. Russell, D. & M. Singe, W. Hurford and S. Tarczynski. The 1983-4 office-bearers are: Pres. J. Fleming, Senior V.P., R. Russell, Jr. V.P., H. Ashworth, Hon. Sec. S. Tarczynski, Hon. Treasurer, W. Hurford. The Committee is made up of all those in attendance with the exception of J. Jenkins and J. Redwell.

The most important item emanating from this meeting was that the ladies were admitted to the meeting and a discussion on their admittance as members with voting rights was well received.

The reason for J. Redwell not accepting a seat on the Committee for the year, having been a permanent committeeman previously is that he has retired from work. Consequently he and Jean have already sold up in Cheltenham and returned to their favourite haunt, Merbein, near Mildura.

To show their esteem for Jean and John, the ladies, through the courtesy of Jean and Ron Russell, organised a barbeque at their home in West Doncaster on July 3rd. The ladies presented them with a beautiful Murray River scene in watercolour. Those present were: Jean and Ron Russell, daughter and son-in-law Jillian and Joe Somers and grandchildren, Georgina and Andrew, Dot and John Fleming, Betty and Dave Evans, Jean and John Redwell, June and George de Tarczynski, Mavis and Mick Singe, Kath and Harald Martin, Beatrice Markham, Nancy Cugley, and her friend Jean Williams, Elaine Timms, Ern. Laming and Stan. Tarczynski.

On the Sick List. We have a few sickies! Ern. Laming is in and out of P.A.N.C.H. (Preston and Northcote Community Hospital) for a double hip operation---the second one is about due. All the best for a quick recovery, Ern. Ron Russell is home and well again, having also put on a bit of weight, following a double open-heart operation. Don Johnston, who worked so tirelessly prior to and during the All-States Mildura Reunion is confined to the Mildura Base Hospital where he has been for some time. Ernie and Don have received "Get well" cards from the Committee.

Ann and Bill Hurford had an experience not to be forgotten for some time. Several months back they were escenced at Yamba on a caravan trip when the heavens opened up for eight days. Ann got a chill in her shoulder and having endured the pain for a week went to Taree Hospital. She was found to have a virus and acute arthritis, resulting in Bill motoring her to Sydney, during a transport strike, where she flew home alone---Bill had to go back for the caravan. After a lot of treatment, Ann is nearly back to her old self.

Membership. The last committee meeting, held on September 23rd at the Air Forces Club resolved that the wives of members become full voting members of Vic. Flight. It is to be hoped that this move will entice some of our metropolitan members in particular to consider frenting up and bringing their wives. They will all be most welcome at the two following functions: Melbourne Cup Day, Nov. 1st., B.B.Q at Jean and Ron Russell's place, 25 Harcourt Street, West Doncaster, Tel. 848 3120. BYO and BBQ Eats and preferably chairs. The same applies to the Xmas BBQ on Sunday December 4th. This is chez John and Dot Fleming, 25 Manning Street, St. Leonards (near Geelong). We should love to see the re-appearance of some 'old' faces.

CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

from Don.Bitmead.

Ethnic Dinner. Italian-style, at St. Leonards. This was another enjoyable occasion attended by the largest number (40) of members and friends to date. They were: Peter and Rita Alexander, Melanie Alexander and friend, Jack and Dorothy Aitken, Harry and Nita Baines, Sam and Maisie Barlow, Don and Bev. Bitmead, Pete and Barbara Campbell, Graeme and Dulcie Coombes, Bruce and Linda Dean, John and Moira Dunn, Yvonne and Patricia Crompton, Lloyd and Betty Johnson, Arthur and Tess Jollow, Les and Jean King, Stan and Jean Longhurst, Bob and Patricia Lyndon, Tom and Val. Moore, Eric and Dorothy Munkman, Bob and Dot. Smith, Frank and Thelma Ward.

Plaques. As a number of members have shown interest in purchasing a Squadron wall plaque, the Squadron Council (our Federal Council) has placed a further order-- with a New Zealand firm. These plaques should be ready in November. As Father Time is catching up with us this order may well be our last one. So, I suggest, that any member requiring one send a request to the Squadron Secretary (Graeme Coombes) at our Box ---GPO Box 5289, Sydney, 2001---accompanied by the amount of \$3-00 each.

Sick Members. Stu. Ricketts and Arthur Jollow have both had a brief spell in hospital with heart problems and are now back home. Doug. McGuigan who joined the Squadron in Foggia, has been ill at home for some time. I am sure Doug. would appreciate a visit at his home in St. Ives by members. We wish him and any others who have been ill recovery and say "Take it easy!"

Movement Orders. Junior Hawke has written to say that he has moved from Orange to Joh's country. We hope you have settled in and contact Jim. Holliday, the Q. Flight Secretary. Junior's new address is Lot 75, Edelson Court, Boonaroo Parks, Queensland.

How the Squadron News is published. The procedure adopted over the years by the Publications Committee has been as follows: the Editor advises the Flight Correspondents every three months of the date by which he wants their contributions. A Publications date is agreed by the Publications Committee. The Editor, on receipt of the news items personally types them for the offset printer. Meanwhile Publications Committee members address envelopes. The Committee together with wives meet at the Air Force Club on Publications Night to collate and staple the pages and fold and insert the News in the addressed envelopes. This issue has been delayed due to the Editor (Peter) being overseas attending Veterans talks with the World Veterans Federation.

Postal Rates. Peter has at last (after a number of attempts over the years) succeeded in gaining reduced rates for the News---provided we only use the specially printed envelopes this News arrives in---and post them from the same post office.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim. Holliday.

Recently, Squadron President Clive Wyman fulfilled an ambition to see the Law Johnston Memorial Honour Board at Point Cook. Accompanied by his brother, an official of the Port Melbourne Authority, Clive spent a rewarding few hours at Point Cook. Clive returned proud of the quality of the Honour Board, pleased with its most prominent location and profusely appreciative of the courtesy and hospitality of the C.O. of No.1 F.T.S.. Clive was also deeply impressed with the R.A.A.F. Museum at Point Cook and urges every 458er to visit it. It was a nostalgic visit to Point Cook by Clive's brother. He received his wings there 40 years ago.

The Wymans. The Wyman family are part of the early history of South East Queensland. George and Ruth Wyman were the founders of a General Store in 1883 at Laidley, a town near Ipswich. The Store is still flourishing a century later under 3rd and 4th generation Wymans. Clive is the company's solicitor. Brisbane's evening daily paper published an half page story on the Wymans store centenary, leavened with interesting historic photographs. Such were the hazards of early pioneer days that a panicky bull blundered into the Store one day--which had customers screaming on top of counters and swinging from the shelves. Apparently some china was broken too!

Personal News items. In June, Jack Hobbs retired. Immediately, he bought a caravan and, with wife Sheila, set off to see Australia first. Time allocation: six months. Side entertainment: look up 458ers.

After a considerable amount of "Yes, we will---No, we won't" Alan Atherton and wife finally took off on a trip to Europe on 31st. August with a stopover on the way back in Singapore. Alan is restless in retirement and has often contemplated "turning inland again" and acquiring another "property". However, he says, it may be only the spirit of youth hasn't given in easily.

Chas. Warren has returned from a sentimental journey--by train--to the land of his birth, Winton, where Qantas was born. At Longreach he was met on the platform by Theo. Ravenscroft. Chas. returned invigorated by renewed old friendships.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Ted.Jewell.

Once again News time is on us, and news at the moment is very scarce. We have had a very wet cold and windy winter with very little happening here in the West. In July we had another great day at the South Perth Yacht Club as guests of Gordon and Olga Jones. There were about 30 members and wives present for a first-class lunch and plenty to drink. No one seemed to want to go home and we were there for about 4 hours. Good to see all the crowd enjoying themselves so much. On Sunday 25th. September we arranged an outing to the Serpentine Dam, which is situated about 30 miles from Perth. It was one of the nicest days weather we have had since the winter finished. The sun came out quite hot, and with the water, the big trees and the wildflowers which were in abundance, the day could not have been nicer. We had a good roll up which with children would have been in the 40 mark. After a B.B.Q. lunch which was washed down with a lager or two, members and wives had a wander around seeing the sights. While we were there we all celebrated our Flight President, Bill Clues', retirement. Bill had only just finished work on the Friday. He was with Australia Post for many years. Joan made a cake for the occasion and after a short speech, Bill cut the cake which was sampled by all---and was very nice indeed. In November, Bill and Joan intend to head East with a caravan to spend some time with son Gary and daughter Vicky. Happy retirement, Bill!

Christmas is fast approaching and we are already organising a venue for our usual Get-together dinner. As Bill will be away, it is in the good hands of Charlie Davis to find a suitable place. At the moment we could be at the restaurant in Kings Park. Members will be notified at a later date.

Members who come regularly to our functions and help make them a success are as follows:

Bill and Joan Clues Ted and Elsie Jewell Ray and Marg. Turley
 Peter and Doreen McCarthy Bob and Betty Grenville Henry and Vera Etherton
 Gordon and Olga Jones Tom and Betty Howard Tom and Phyl. Foster
 Fred and Dot. Howe Ron and Alice Gannaway Ken and Dixie Rex
 Kath Shearman Phil and Shirley Hicks Charlie and Betty Davis. Poss Dale.

Tim. Dale is not able to make it at present as he is still in hospital---but hope to see you later on, Tim. Shorty Long and Jim and Lucy Palmer turn up whenever they can,

I have been told that Jim and Lucy Palmer and Nundi Carpenter are starters for the New Zealand trip next year. Should be a great trip and reunion. All the best for now.

NOTE FOR NEW SOUTH MEMBERS.

The annual Christmas dinner will be held this year, at the Air Force Club, 213 Clarence Street, Sydney, on November 29th. Details from Eric Munkman (451 0824) or Don. Bitmead (587 2007).

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From the Air Attache, Australian Embassy, 4, Rue Jean Rey, Paris, France. (received through Jim. Holliday).

Dear Sir, Recently I received a letter from Monsieur Pierre Mahe, Bourg de Lassy, 35590, Guichen, France, who is in the process of writing a book about the adventures of airmen shot down over France during W.W.II. M. Mahe is trying to locate relatives or friends of Flying Officer Kenneth William GALE, D.F.C., R.A.A.F., 404 241. Flying Officer GALE, the son of William James Gale and Margaret Frances Gale of Surfers Paradise, Queensland, was the navigator of a Mosquito aircraft which was shot down over Rennes on 9th. June 1944 and crashed ten kilometres away near the village of Orgere. Both he and the pilot of the aircraft, F/Lt. Harry STEERE were killed in the crash and were buried in the cemetery of St. Erblon. F/O Gale was 24 years old at the time of his death. M. Mahe has been able to locate the family of F/Lt. Steere but all his efforts to locate relatives or friends of F/O Gale in the Surfers Paradise area have failed. Can you help M. Mahe to establish contact? If so, please write to W/Cdr. K.J. Cairns at the above address.....

(Note: "Windy" Gale was a well-known 458er from Holme-on-Spalding Moor, with Len. Laver, to the Middle East. Can any reader help?)

Correspondence (cont.)

To the Editor of "Wings" from Miss M.E.Gell, P.O.Box 299, Matraville, N.S.W., 2036.

Dear Sir, I would like to hear from anyone who knew my brother, P/O Thomas Gell (his commission from F/Sgt was posthumously awarded) who was shot down while serving as an observer with a Wellington Squadron operating from Malta on a raid to Sicily on the 8th. January 1943.

(Note: Allan Gell --his initials were A.T.--was a well-known 458er from Holme-on-Spalding Moor on---and a noted 458 cricketer.

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From F/Lt. I.J. Murray, 69, River Street, Cundletown, 2430 to Don. Bitmead.

Dear Don, Would you please convey to the President and Committee of your Association the sincere thanks of the officers and cadets of 17 Flight NSW AIRTC, for the very generous gift of a copy of "We Find and Destroy" by Peter Alexander.

We are establishing a library of aviation publications at this Flight as we feel this is the best method by which we can make a number of volumes of aviation books available to the largest number of interested individuals. Your gift will be most appreciated. Thank you again.

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From Henry Etherton, 15, Chaffers Street, Morley, W.A., 6062

Dear Peter, A few lines, hoping you are well. Our son, Dudley, who is in the Air Force would like to become an Associate member of 458. He has always been a keen follower of what we did, and do, and while we realise he isn't a returned serviceman, he has been in the service for the past ten years. He is always asking so decided to write to you and see if it is possible or not.....

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From Sandy Yeomans, (Bruce McKenzie's elder daughter), 1, Lichfield Crescent, Hobwas Tamworth, Staffs, B78 3 AS, England.

Dear Mr and Mrs. Alexander,How are you all? We went to Canada--Calgary and the Rocky Mountains this summer. Enjoyed back-packing into the wilds to camp. Saw many animals and took 28 rolls of 36 film, mostly of mountains. We did luxuriate in a Lodge occasionally. One, we went to three times. It had good views food and service, and log cabins with open hearth fires. The weather was wet for their summer but 90° was gained on some days. Calgary boom has bust and houses are selling at 40% below purchase price of 1978. A lot of office space vacant. People say at least its back to a realistic price.

I am converting my Kenya Pilot's licence to a British one. I am starting a course on acupuncture. I have already done a basic course on Kinesiology (combines acupuncture chiropractic, osteopath with muscle testing and homeopathy). I want to do Silva mind control too.....Perhaps U.K. is crowded but there are many things one can learn at short distances apart. A friend suggests I also go to be U.S.A. to see other people doing similar things.....Take care--enjoy summer!

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From Bill Scott, P.O.Box 183, Wapenamanda, Enga, Papua New Guinea.

Enclosed \$30 for a Squadron badge, extra for postage and Squadron News. Good to hear of 458 exploits--and wish Squadron members all the best for 1984 visit to Godzone. I don't think I'll be in N.Z. for this---at the moment I'm running a school in the Highlands of PNG.

I've had a good run physically up to this time but have had to come back to NZ for a prostate gland operation. Heading back to PNG to-day.

As I've said, glad to hear of doings of Squadron members but would be pleased to hear of whereabouts of Ron. Gould, my goldfish mate--and also Dick Hatton and Snow Horton. Best wishes to all.

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JUST ONE MORE WELLINGTON ?

458ers who went on the U.K. Visit last year visited the Hendon Air Force Museum where they saw the last Wellington on display. We commented at the time on the monumental vandalism of postwar Government departments which had led to this situation---only one left out of over 11,000 manufactured.

Now, it appears there is one more. At the bottom of Loch Ness. Some Wellingtons were described by their crews as monsters, but no jokes please. It appears that on December 31st 1940 a Squadron Leader Marwood-Elton, his co-pilot P/O Slater, took off from Lossiemouth with a crew of six young trainee navigators. The starboard

One More Wimpy (cont.) engine failed in snow squalls. The six young trainees were ordered to bail out. Five landed safely. The pilots caught sight of a long body of water and decided to ditch. This they did successfully, climbing out onto the starboard wing, released the dinghy and paddled ashore. The aircraft sank in 90 seconds. There it lay for 36 years.

The News has the story of its discovery from Tom Moore who saw it in the August "New Scientist" in an account of some experiments in underwater surveying carried out by a team of young scientists from Heriot-Watt University at Edinburgh. The need for underwater activity in relation to the search for oil and its processing were the motivating forces. They lowered a camera frame down onto what was at first believed to be a Catalina they were surprised to see the outline of a Wimpy appear on their television screen. (They had it seems "scrounged" parts from wellingtons awaiting cannibalisation during the war years, as schoolboys---strange story).

The aircraft was in excellent condition, as to preservation.

Several years later and after many further experiments in underwater survey and navigation they have another look at the Wimpy in 1981 and were shocked. A well-preserved aircraft had the fuselage aft of the wing torn apart. The main strength members were broken and bent outwards. The astrodome hatch had disappeared.

The scientists have, they say, no idea how the damage was caused but surmise that as many people knew the location of the 'plane, souvenir hunters had been at it (in 70 metres of water). (Or has "Nessie" been trying its strength on the aluminium?)

Possibilities of raising the aircraft are being considered but now present considerable problems.

This aircraft had some operational flying (it was a very early Mk.1A --No.N2980) unlike the Hendon kite which was only used as a trainer. N 2980 was, the article reports, the second Wellington out of the 11,462 produced.

Let's hope it proves to have a future.

THE FUTURE OF REPATRIATION.

As the News has previously reported the Minister of Veterans Affairs has an Advisory Committee, which sits in Canberra, commenting on Departmental proposals for "Up-dating" the Repatriation Act. The R.S.L., A.V.A.D.S.C., Legacy and the War Widows Guild are represented. Peter Alexander attends as an advisor from A.V.A.D.S.C. It has covered much of the Act and energetically debated proposals put forward. Some, at least, of its members view the exercise with apprehension. It would be so easy to alter, unwittingly, a system that, at present, is operating quite favourably for the ex-serviceman and woman. The Committee has not yet finished its work and is promised, by the Prime Minister, an opportunity to see the draft Bill before it goes to Parliament.

Its members are: Sir William Keys (R.S.L.--Chairman), Mr. Bruce Ruxton (R.S.L.), Admiral G. Griffiths (A.V.A.D.S.C.), Mrs. Hughes (War Widows National President) and Mr. A. Robertson (Legacy). Advisors present are Peter Alexander (A.V.A.D.S.C.), Mr. L. Mason (A.V.A.D.S.C.), Mr. Wal Newington (R.S.L.) and Mrs. Marjorie Brown (War Widows National Secretary). Representatives of Veterans Affairs and Defence as well as the Minister's young Legal Advisor (Neil Williams) attend. The Departmental Liaison Officer is Dr. Brendan Godfrey of Canberra. Department of Defence sometimes sits in.

THE WORLD SCENE FOR VETERANS.

The Executive Board of the World Veterans Federation met recently in Algiers to consider the present state of things for veterans. Peter Alexander, who is the WVF Vice President from Asia and the Pacific was one of the six in attendance. (He was interested to see again Maison Blanche--you wouldn't recognise it--and Blida---you would).

One of the great problems and opportunities, on the world scene, relates to the hundreds of thousands, if the right word is not millions, of new veterans and their families---in Africa (Angola, Mozambique, Zaire, Zimbabwe, et), and Asia (Bangla Desh, Vietnam, Kampuchea)---for whom little or nothing is done. Their Governments have no money: often the Veterans have no Association to look after their interests.

A great problem for those with a conscience and there is much struggle and work ahead--which we have hardly commenced yet. They must go back to their villages minus legs and arms to struggle as they may.

To Mr. V. Williams, Veterans Travel, 215, Clarence Street, Sydney, 2000.

I am interested in details of the forthcoming 458 Squadron Reunion tour of New Zealand. Please send details

Name.....

Address.....