



CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.....

from Geoff. Esau.

Arn. Scholar, John Carey and I represented 458 Squadron at a meeting of reps of all Air Force Units represented by Commemorative plaques/trees. About 40 attended. A letter of resignation as President was received from Bill Taylor who on that day had entered hospital for surgery.

The acting Secretary, one Ron. Smith, is blessed with a very quiet voice which, coupled with my lack of hearing proved a handicap to reporting.

However, a letter was received from the A.O.C. Edinburgh RAAF Base, apparently complaining at past use at the Air Port Ceremonies of the anthem God Save the Queen. This understandably caused considerable discussion, mostly unfavourable, but with riders of not being too hot-headed. The later-elected Committee was empowered to enter into negotiations with the RAAF to put our point of view--more later.

There was discussion of a suitable memorial to Ron. Badger, the prime mover of the Memorial concept. It was suggested that this could have difficulties as others may have claims to fame in that regard. Again, left for future consideration after inquiry. A further suggestion was for the setting up of a trust fund to finance various expenses in connection in perpetuity. Again, more later.

Election of officers saw David Lester (nephew of Ron. Badger) as President, Ron. Smith confirmed as Secretary, R. Wheaton and P. O'Connor as committeemen.

Personal Pars. pleased to report that Bill Taylor is convalescing at home and doing well. Says he's most comfortable, for the time being, when chair-borne.

John Islip, late of Melbourne and successor to Gordon Vale as Adjutant of 458 Sqdn. has come to Adelaide to be near his family. Unhappily his health is poor and he is in Mitcham Nursing Home. Best wishes for improvement.

Had a call from John Excell of Murray Bridge about the Two Cities Reunion. He is keen to go. Unfortunately, at this stage I could not reassure him about Party bookings. I am as much in the dark as he is at the moment.

Cheers to Jack Thredgold, now of Eden, N.S.W. The Scarborough Lilies (ex Kingston S.E.) are looking very well at the moment, Jack---and I hope you are the same.

Regards and best wishes. Why the new (Daylight) Squadron logo? --as my grandson would say "Yuk".

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CORNSTALK COMMENTARY

from Don. Bitmead.

Xmas Greetings from Overseas. We were very pleased to receive greetings from Gwen and Bill Waite, Glad and Archie Fell, and Eileen and Peter Leonard. Very many thanks for your kindness.

Illnesses. Bruce Dean, one of our regular attenders at Squadron functions, unfortunately suffered a stroke on the 3rd. February, and was admitted to the Royal North Shore Hospital. He has had many visitors and has told them all he is determined to get his leg and arm functioning normally so that he can make the Coolangatta Reunion. All the best to you, Bruce.

To Maisie Barlow who has had an illness, also our best wishes for rapid recovery.

Vale. Geoffrey Hayes of Sandy Bay, Tasmania. We have received a letter from his wife to say he was drowned in an accident when on holidays on the West Coast, last Easter. He had only retired 9 months. To Dorothy and son, Stephen, we offer our sincere condolences.

The Interstate Reunion. If we have enough members to fill a coach our Travel Agent can arrange one which will go direct without the usual stops and pick-ups and so save much time. If members are interested will they please ring Eric Munkman, or write as soon as possible.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. Readers will be distressed to learn that shortly after doing the above News contribution, Don. Bitmead was knocked down by a car while shopping with his wife and suffered a severely fractured skull for which he is receiving hospital treatment at this time. Our very best to him.

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ANZAC DAY IN SYDNEY. Will members please assemble for the March by 9.30 and attend the Annual Reunion and General Meeting thereafter at the Great Southern

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Bill Clues.

No, we haven't sacked our scribe. Ted is having a rest this issue. And now I sit me down to write, I understand why. What's to write about?

Fiestly, the BBQ held at Ted and Elsie's home in Mandurah. Usually we hold this function on the Sunday of the Australia Day weekend, but we decided on Ted's suggestion, to depart from the usual and make it the following Sunday. Good thinking, Ted.

Sandgroppers Say (cont.)

Mandurah was crowded for the long week end and traffic took up to an hour to travel about 3 kilom. through the town. Our week end was delightful --W.A. weather at its best---not that it isn't always that way.

A very good roll-up of 33 attended. It was good to see Syd. Baker and Hensell Hemy, both looking well and enjoying a beer or two with Kingston Nobbs and his wife, Esme. Nobby tells me he is off up the North again as soon as the weather cools down a bit. He and Esme do a little prospecting on the Murchison Goldfields. Charlie Davis, Henry Etherton and their wives, Betty and Vera, were enjoying lunch together. Charlie has shed a bit of weight lately, been dieting, tells me he feels great. Keep up the good work, Betty, you can't diet without a helpful wife behind you. I know, I've tried. Ray Turley has had a little heart trouble recently. Ballooning of the arteries I believe. Says he feels fine and is doing quite a bit of walking for exercise. Once again, good company, good food, and a good day was had by all. Our thanks to Ted and Elsie for the use of your home once again.

Anzac Day.

This is our next function for W.A. Flight. I will be laying the wreath at the Dawn Service, the wreath will be made by Vera Etherton, who has been doing it for the last few years and a very good job she does. Thanks very much for your assistance, Vera. All members who are feeling fit to march are asked to fall in behind our banner, in Irwin Street. Please make the effort and let's have a good roll up of 458 members. As the years go by we see fewer members behind the Banner. I realise that age and ill health is catching up with a few of us, but there must be a lot who, with just a little effort, could join us on this day of Remembrance. But whether you march or not, members and their wives are welcome to join us at the Hyde Park Hotel for lunch. There, tables to seat approx 40 people have been reserved from 12-30 onwards.

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BARBEQUE WITH STAN AND JEAN LONGHURST.

N.S.W. members and wives are notified that there will be a 458 lunchtime barbeque (12.00 onwards) at the Longhurst residence---29, Beattie Avenue, Ryde---on Sunday March 31st. If you are coming to join us, please ring Stan (80 4902) or Eric Munkman (451 0824). Bring your own wine and meat please. Be in this for another great 458 occasion.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS from Stan Tarczynski.

The Annual Prize giving Parade of No.2 Air Training Corps was held at the Preston Drill Hall on Friday November 30th, 1984. 458 ranks were slightly depleted as only Jack Fleming and Ern. Laming were available. Unfortunately, the cadet who won the 458 award of a copy of "We Find and Destroy" had already been awarded a copy in a previous year but with a bit of swapping around it came to a happy ending.

Because of the distance to St. Leonards (the other side of Geelong) from Melbourne, the Xmas B.B.Q. was held (on Sunday December 2nd) at Ken and Beat. Morkham's place at East Burwood. Besides, we are all scared of .05! Thank goodness there is a new brew out by Abbots---cans with .09 content. Also in attendance were Col and Yvonne Hutchinson, Mick and Mavis Singe, and it being the day after the Federal Elections, we had a happy Yank and Kath. Martin, a dejected Ron and Joan Russell, a golfing mate of Tarz's, Peter McDonald, and Elaine Timms.

Vale Bill Mathews. The stalwart from Holme-on-Spalding Moor died suddenly on July 27th. from a heart attack---although he had had a chest problem for several months. Ern. Laming received a letter from Mona which she wrote on November 9th. indicating that she would not be writing to anyone else. For the information of all members, the usual Xmas hamper was forwarded in the normal manner. Several weeks back Mick Singe rang me to report that he had heard from Mick Hunter who was at 34 Rundell Street, Ararat, with a request that he send a cheerio in the next News to Tex Hansell and Wal. Archbold. Sad to relate, Mick Hunter passed away on February 1st---he was 66 years of age. (Members will recall Mick who was a Fitter on 458, and one of the men who through their long service with 458 made the Squadron what it was then and what it has since remained---in Shakespearean terms, a Band of Brothers--Ed.

Anzac Day. To all members around Melbourne, this is a message that we should like to see you on Anzac Day. If you can march, the R.A.A.F. will congregate in Swanston Street, past Bourke Street to Little Bourke Street, where you will see our Banner. The Annual Reunion takes place immediately after the March, at the Melbourne Bowling Club in Union Street, Windsor.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Fred McKay, Unit 40 Hawkesbury Village, Chapel Street, Richmond, 2753, N.S.W.

Dear Peter, I read the Squadron News from cover to cover and congratulate you on the results of your own assiduous work. It is clear to me where the continuing

Correspondence (cont.)

collation work, etc, is done. I also think our new Masthead is good. When you get the chance please give my regards to Stan, Tarczynski, Eric Munkman--and the whole mob. So many memories are revived as I read the names in each Flight---but there are so many names I could not now give faces to!

Cheers to you all, aye, Fred McKay.

(Editor. The Very Rev. Fred McKay, formerly Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Moderator of N.S.W., Outback Padre and for us particularly, RAAF Padre in the Mediterranean, now lives with Meg, his wife, at Hawkesbury Village near historic Richmond, 60 miles west of Sydney where early immigrants grew crops along the Hawkesbury River. It is a new red-brick village in the old colonial style. Fred and Meg look west to the Blue Mountains and keep up their connections with the Church and Flying Doctor. They are ardent train travellers. Fred says "we rejoice in the "goodness of God which follows us all our days!")

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From Mrs. Patricia Taubert (nee Pedersen), 6, River St. Murray Bridge, S.A., 5253.

Dear Sir, .....we wish to order 2 458 Sqdn plaques and 2 lapel badges.....My father, Snow Pedersen, was with your Squadron in the Middle East and Gibraltar. In November it will be the Anniversary of his home-coming and my husband and I wish to give him the plaque and badge as a gift. We also want a plaque and badge for our home too. I am very proud of my father and he often shares his memories of his Squadron with us. Bill Hurford, from Victoria, was my Father's Navigator. My sisters and I know him as Uncle Bill as we have met him several times over the years and he has become a good family friend although visits are few and far between. Dad always passes on the Squadron News for us to read and we always enjoy reading about his old friends and acquaintances.

Please keep up the good work! It is important to remember the past---our future depends so much on it. To all your members I say "Thank You". My life to-day would not be what it is, if it were not for people like you.

Sincere and warmest regards. Patricia Taubert.

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

Dear Peter, .....I am looking forward to the All-States Reunion at Coolangatta/Tweed Heads.....A few days ago Jim Whitem rang to say that Len Teale was in Canberra with his show "The Quiet Achievers" at the Playhouse. He suggested that we three should have lunch together which we did. It was a good meeting Len whose face I knew very well from the long-running T.V. show HOMICIDE in which he was, of course, the detective sergeant. We enjoyed the meal. Len mentioned that he was very sorry his contact with 458 had fallen away as his work took him to all parts of Australia but he was very keen indeed to keep in touch. I enclose his card as he would greatly appreciate receiving the Squadron News. I went to Len's Show last night and greatly appreciated Len's sincere presentation of works and speeches of great Australians.

I was most interested in reading Al Wheat's account of a Wellington re-visited. As Al mentioned things we took for granted in our heyday---like climbing over the Main spar ---now clearly present problems. I would be most embarrassed to try to cross the Main spar now and find myself stuck halfway!

My trip to the Commonwealth Wartime Aircrew Reunion in Winnipeg during September 1984, went very well indeed and it was made all the better by meeting fellow Squadron members, particularly Joe Elliott, and Canadians Bryan Quinlan and Mick Reid who I spent a lot of time with. A group of 88 Canadians will be visiting N.Z. and Australia in March on a tour and they will be in Canberra. The local RAAF Association branch --in which I am involved is presenting the Group with a plaque to commemorate the visit and will be inviting the Group to a general Get-together at the RSL Club, Canberra City. After leaving Winnipeg I had a brief stay in Britain where I met up with Jim Croft, for the first time since the war, and his wife. Jim looks just the same and is now retired from the Customs service. They have a lovely home in Southport, near Liverpool. Then I went on through France and Italy, to stay for a few days at Alghero, Sardinia.

The hotel there--the Las Troncas---was the castle-like building we knew so well at Alghero. There are now many hotels in Alghero to take advantage of the clear water and unspoiled beaches. Near the Bombarde beach and close to where the Squadron camped is a huge hotel under construction.....Leaving aside developments, Sardinia seems much the same as we knew it---quiet, out of the mainstream, but pleasant and a good place for a holiday.....

yours sincerely, Colin Fereday.

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