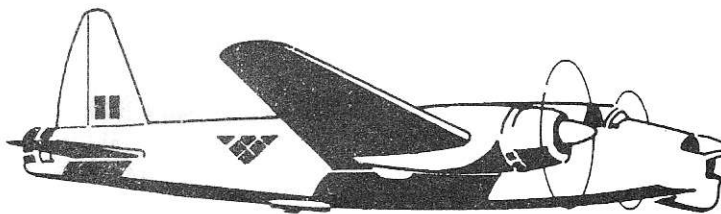


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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4 5 8 S Q U A D R O N C O U N C I L O F F I C E - B E A R E R S .

Squadron President: Col. Fereday (A.C.T.) Squadron Vice Presidents:

Squadron Treasurer: Peter Alexander (NSW) Ted. Jewell (W.A.).

Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (NSW) Ron. Russell (Vict.).

Squadron Hon. Auditor: Bert Thompson, AASA (NSW) Editor: Peter Alexander.

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REPORT FROM THE TWIN TOWNS:---Q. Flight News from Jim. Holliday

We Queenslanders were overwhelmed by the number who came to the Coolangatta Reunion and, above all, by the enthusiasm with which everyone participated in each function. We deliberately planned a programme to maximise socialising. It was grand to see such nattering. At times the level of communication rose in height to deafening decibels.

No one function stood out above another. They were all good in their separate ways. The accommodation and facilities at the Greenmount Resort were most comfortable. Perhaps the best remembered were the delicious smorgasbord at the Reception; the Chicken Wellington (chicken and avocado in pastry) at the Reunion dinner; the roadside refreshment on the bus trip; the wise-cracking skipper on the river cruise; and, as a tasty side salad, jackpots of \$600 and \$500 won by wives of two members on the pokies as well as several individual one hundreds.

But an outstanding feature of the Reunion was the generous gestures by four members. Jock McGowen donated a rare book he found in England to raise funds for Squadron Council. It was "Wellington Special", recording every model of Wellington from prototype to final issue and it mentioned 458 Squadron. Dusty Miller won the book and \$545 was raised. (Ed--the Squadron Treasurer has banked it, and acknowledges 458ers generous support for 458 with gratitude). Al. Wheat, concerned that most photographs of the Wellington shew its exterior, considered there should be a record of its interior where many of us spent many hours. So, while at the R.A.F. Museum

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at Hendon, Al. took photographs of the one surviving Wellington. These Al. collated into an album which he presented to Squadron Council. His appeal at the Reunion dinner for funds to help restore the Hendon Wellington yielded \$75. This with other amounts received will be sent by Al. to the Hendon Museum.

Another fine gesture was a fine one by Ian Giles. At the Mildura Reunion when Ian lost his wallet a whip around raised \$115. Ian desired this money to go towards the function at Coolangatta. So, an afternoon tea was staged at Greenmount Resort, hosted by ladies of our Queensland Flight.

And finally---and what a fitting finale---Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson declared Open House at their gracious house all day Friday for those staying on at the Gold Coast. Fifty two came---proof of the popularity of the Cuthbertsons. Gordon barbequed an outsize jewfish caught off his water frontage, while Peg, ably assisted by Lucy and Jim. Palmer (house guests of the Cuthbertsons) produced an astonishing array of cakes, cookies and cheese cakes to follow the ales and the salads. Glorious, open-hearted, hospitality to end a memorable reunion.

The Squadron Photo albums prove the most popular memorabilia the Squadron possesses. Everywhere they are displayed they are poured over by everyone. (Ed. The Albums were originally donated by Sam. Barlow and are filled with photos given by many 458ers).

Hearty thanks to Eric Munkman for toting these heavy records around. Thanks, too, to Jock McGowen for bringing and displaying his model collection of Wellingtons and a model of what appeared to be a Wellington being "serviced" on Squadron.

Stan. Longhurst brought and displayed an "exploded" diagram of a Wellington beautifully framed and glazed. Another member---in the confusion I did not record who it was, for which I apologise---also brought and displayed a framed photograph of a Wellington.

Sixteen players joined in our initial bowls afternoon, playing with and against members of Twin Towns Service Clubs. Joyce McKay and Eric Lloyd won a pairs match against a "gun" team. Sixteen players also contested the biennial Squadron Golf Cup Trophy (Ed. that Cup was initially presented by Peter Campbell). The winner was Jack Bevan (hearty congratulations) and the runner up was Wal. Archbold.

And who attended the Reunion? In the vanguard we record Bruce Dean accompanied by son David, Don. Bitmead with his wife Beverley, and Frank (Shorty) Wilson with his wife Emmy---all of who had to obtain medical permission. All the others were:

Wal and Dora Archbold, Arnold and Jessie Ashton, Harry and Nita Baines, Sam and Maisie Barlow (with brother Kevin and Marie Barlow), Syd and Pat. Bartram, Jack and Lucy Bevan, Bill Chapman, Graeme and Dulcie Coombes, Laurie and Mrs. Crowley, Joe Elliott, Pat and Joyce Enright, David and Betty Evans, John and Ruth Excell, Arch and Glad Fell (from New Zealand), Colin Fereday, John and Dorothy Fleming, Sel and Joan Foo te, Bert and Isla Garland, Ian and Beryl Giles, John and Elsie Hamilton, Alf and Enid Hammond, Mollie Higgins (a friend of the Garlands), Jim and Peg. Holliday, Bernie Hughes, Bill Hurford, Ted and Elsie Jewell, Arthur Jones, Eric and Kathy Kelly, Ted. Kennedy, Ernie Laming, Jack and Evelyn Lewis, Eric and Bridie Lloyd, Stan and Jean Longhurst, Jock McGowan, Dud and Enid McKay, Bernie McLoughlin, Yank and Kath. Martin, Dusty and Enid Miller, Eric and Dorothy Munkman, Cyril and Hetty Murray, Jim and Lucy Palmer, Jim and Joy Perry, Eric and Gloria Purcill, Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft (and sister, Mrs. Green), Ian Higlett, John and Elizabeth Rosenberg, Ron and Joan Russell (with friends Ron. and Olive Rigby), Arn. Scholar, Roy and June Schoppe (with brother-in-law Ray and Marion Batt), Mick and Mavis Singe, Tony and Moyra Stone (with friends Bill and Joyce Mitchell), Kevin Tait, Norm. Taylor (with daughter Amanda) Bob and Vera Dangaard, (with daughter Mrs. Tucker and friend Mrs. Williams), Fred. Strom and Lil McGlynn, Charlie Warren, Sel and Bobby Williams (friends of the Footes), Frank and Hilda Wilks, Clive and Joan Wyman, Ted. Love.

Apologies were: Queensland Governor (Sir Walter and Lady Campbell)

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Mr and Mrs Winders (Pres., Twin Towns Services Club), Peter And Rita Alexander (Overseas), Vin. Clohesy, Jack and Kitty Baxter, Gordon and Marie Postle, Dick and Doreen Healey, Alan Atherton, Stuart and Iris Ricketts, Theo Ravenscroft, Cy. Irwin, Harry Ashworth, Don. Brandon, Len MacDonnell, Jack and Sheila Hobbs.

Lost Camera. The Cuthbertsons have become the custodians of a Ricoh 500GX camera left at their home, 44, Avanti Avenue, Mermaid Waters, during their Open House. The absent-minded owner should telephone the Cuthbertsons (075-551157).

The death of Bill Snowdon. Bill died suddenly of a heart attack on July 6th. Born at Newcastle-on-Tyne, he migrated to Australia and Queensland during the Depression, working as a cane-cutter, and fencer on Western properties. After the war Bill joined the Queensland State Migration Service where he became a senior officer. Retiring after 28 years service, Bill was rewarded with a rare and honourable award--the Imperial Service Order (I.S.O.), given only to those who have distinguished themselves in the Public Service. Always a gentleman, Bill was highly respected in a wide circle of friends. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Marjorie, and relatives.

Honour to Johnny McNamara Bernie McLoughlin reports that a few days before our Coolangatta Reunion, Johnny McNamara was given a dinner in Melbourne to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of his ordination as a priest. Congratulations from all 458 members, too. (Ed. Jim speaks for us all there. We too received a card on this great occasion)

Congratulations to the new Squadron President.

To Col. Fereday, the new Squadron President, as well as to the new Squadron Vice Presidents, Teddy Jewell and Ron. Russell, our best wishes. Our thanks to Graeme Coombes and Peter Alexander for continuing in office. With these officers in charge, 458 will continue to have competent control.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS.

From Stan. Tarczynski.

The Annual General Meeting of Vic. Flight was held at the Air Force Association Club in South Yarra on Friday May 24th followed by a dinner at 7.30 p.m.

All present attended both functions; they were Mr and Mrs. M. Singe, Mr and Mrs K. Morkham, Mr and Mrs. R. Russell, Mr and Mrs. J. Fleming (and brother and sister in law, Mr and Mrs. D. Evans) Mr and Mrs. J. Rosenberg, Mr and Mrs C. Hutchinson, Bill Henry, Bill Hurford, Stan. Tarczynski, Ian Alison, E. Laming and Mrs. J. Anderson. Conspicuous by their absence and probably for the first time ever were Harald and Kath. Martin. They spent some time in W.A. and he has contributed a special article. The only alterations in office-bearers was the reshuffle of President and Vice President to Ron. Russell and Jack Fleming respectively. Our next function will be the usual BBQ & BYO on Melbourne Cup Day--first Tuesday in November at 25 Harcourt St., West Doncaster. If you have not been before and would like to attend please ring Ron and Joan Russell--848 3120--and be there before the first race.

There's not many of us left now--Ken. Morkham retired on July 12th. and was farewelled by 200 odd employees and others. He was at Ferguson Transformers--a division of Sir William Tyree (Tycon Group). He was also entertained and farewelled at a mixed dinner in Heidelberg.

The annual pilgrimage to Point Cook will be held on Sunday, commencing at 11 a.m. Following the ceremony luncheon will be served in the Officers Mess, costing \$10. Bookings must be made in advance. Also with money, as admission will be by Entree card only. Book at the R.A.A.F. Association, 4, Cromwell Rd., South Yarra. This is the last year the RAAF Academy will be at Pt. Cook.

Lost. Jack Cruttenden---last known address was in Leopold. Where are you, Jack?

From Harald (Yank) Martin.

I am writing to let you know about Kath. and I deciding to take a trip to W.A.(Perth) and see my mate and sparring partner Ben.Cormack and wife ,Val. We decid ed to take the Indian-Pacific from Sydney return,which turned out to be a wonderful trip Drove to N.S.W.,got rid of the car at Camden. The most amazing thing about being in 458 Sqdn.is,anywhere you go you run into someone who is member or a relation of one. To think that when we first went to Bradfield Park in '41 we could easily have been 454,455,456,457,or 459 at that time,but we struck the jackpot by being detailed to 458.

The first night in Camden,in the pub (one of four),a little early, waiting on my own for the town to finish work,in walks Laurie Crowley and mate,and we had a school. I rang Eric Munkman up and had a chat. Peter was in China. Arrived Perth and sure enough Ben and Val were waiting for us (7.a.m.). We found that the Unit that had been booked in Melbourne was very good,one minute from the heart of the city. Had a couple of days playing up and talking my head off---poor Ben! Anzac Day--saw Charlie Davis with his big grin. Ray Turley and all the mates I had not seen for 10 years.

The others all got a mention in the last Squadron News. One bloke who fooled me was the chap who carried the banner--Skeeta Staveley. Has put on a little weight but the old Skeet is just the same. The reunion was a noisy affair,staying till stumps just the same. Ben's son-in-law drove us home.

Ben took us down to Mandurah,which is a very lovely town (4 pubs) He has a lovely unit,100 yards from the beach--plenty of places to eat and drink. Ben drove us around and shewed us the place--had a bit of trouble passing the pubs. Then he had to go home for a check-up with Repat. Ted and Elsie Jewell took over and we saw a little of the outlying areas. He has the addresses of all Squadron members!! Binghi Stewart got a call,took me to golf. Brought home a winner--hits a nice ball. His mate Kitch Williams is Bert Ravenscroft's uncle. He took us fishing (Stewie caught the biggest). They entertained us very nicely, Took us visiting---saw Harold Manton --ex-armourer,very sick boy;Curly O'Connor and lady friend were next. Got served coffee in exquisite china cups by Curly (true!) Taken to golf again and brought the winner in again. (They are nice blokes ,Stewie). The reason Stewy didn't get a drink for fixing Ben's edging machine was I never had any light beer or soda.

Standing on the corner of Barrack and Hay Sts.,Ben and I recognise a bloke who saw us at the same time---Jim Palmer down from the bush. Rang Al.Wheat,he snarled because I hadn't rung earlier. Eventually arriving back in Sydney rang Sam and Maisie;Peter,back from China; Dorothy and Eric got a call. Visited Slappy and Enid;and also called on Dick Whiteman and met his wife. He is also a sick boy. Eventually got home to face the start of a Melbourne winter.

Father MacNamara has celebrated his 50th years as a priest. He has had 9 or 11 heart attacks,he is not sure. He looked quite well when I called. The date was July 21st. Father Mac is at Caritas Christi Hospice,104 Studley Park Road,Kew,Victoria. yours, Yank.

(Ed.As another Editorial comment--we think that Yank's article represents the real heart of 458--all quite irreplaceable when it ends).

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WHAT THE SQUADRON CONFERENCE DID.

The central body of 458 Squadron,its biennial Squadron Conference, met during the Twin Towns Reunion. Opened by Squadron President Clive Wyman it reviewed continuing progress in all Flights. It decided to seek members views on the propsed Canadian International Reunion in 1986;it discussed with anger and concern proposed Federal Government attacks on the Repatriation system and asked all Squadron members to write to their Federal M.P. and Senators. It agreed that while current enthusiasm continues there was no question of ceasing All-States Reunions (and the next in 1987 is to be within N.S.W. (Squadron Council is to meet soon to discuss arrangements). It agreed to present our model Wellington to the

Australian War Memorial for permanent display. It chose the Office-bearers who will lead the Squadron Council for the next two years. Their names are shown at the top of Page 1 of this News. The new Squadron President, Col. Fereday was a 458 pilot in North Africa and Sardinia and was in post-war life a senior Public Servant in Canberra. He has visited Canada recently to attend an Air Force Reunion. The two Squadron Vice Presidents were both of the groundstaff. As a matter of interest, of the 20 men who have been Squadron Presidents of 458 Squadron, ten were groundstaff and ten were aircrew and of the latter ten, six were pilots. But this of course merely illustrates the wide range of loyalty to 458 of those who served with it.

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CROWEATERS CONDUIT.....

from Geoff. Esau.

Again, S.A. Flight has not been active over the past three months and I must perforce concentrate on personal items. My thanks to Don. Bitmead for referring to S.A. an inquiry from Brad. Reynolds of S.A. regarding his great uncle, Bob. Ellis, killed in a crash at Falconara. John Carey has been able to assist Brad with a first-hand account and photographs of the events concerned.

Joan Priest advised having sold her property at Robe with the intention of moving to Western Australia. It was hoped that she could meet Squadron members in Adelaide on her way through but unfortunately it could not be arranged. Every good wish from S.A. Flight, Joan, for your new life in the West.

Bill Taylor reports the arrival of Martin James Taylor on 13th. August, being Bill and Madge's second grandson. A big welcome to Martin and congratulations to Mum and Dad, not forgetting Granny and Grandpa!

Syd and Pat. Bartram returned home on Wednesday after a leisurely trip from the Reunion which they thoroughly enjoyed despite being poorly for a few days. They came home via Renmark and caught up with Ian and Fee Showell who had just returned from a World trip embracing Europe and North America. Sounds terrific!

Best wishes to members everywhere.

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NEW SOUTH NOTES

from Cy. Irwin.

Members, with wives and friends, dined out on 8th July at a super fish restaurant in Chatswood. About 24 participants enjoyed the excellent meal and good company.

The Flight Committee met on 17th July. Committee meetings are now held bi-monthly and at midday. Since the closure of the Air Force Club meetings have been held at the Combined Services Club in Barrack Street. It is good to have Dick Healey back in attendance at our meetings.

Many of our members made the trip north to attend the All-States Reunion hosted by Q. Flight. Those spoken to since their return have loudly praised the smooth running of the Reunion and the hospitality extended. Congratulations to Q. Flight.

The Annual Bowls Day has been arranged for 18th. August at Lindfield Bowling Club and will be past history when this issue is received. Two Squadron teams are expected to be fielded and we hope to snare a scalp or two.

We have plans for a special picnic for local members in the near future. All for now and regards from N.S.W. to members elsewhere.

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THE BATTLE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN REPATRIATION SYSTEM.

Members know from previous reports of the very serious attack being made (in its Veterans Entitlements Bill) by the Australian Government on the historic repatriation system. We believe many 458ers have written to their Federal politicians about it. This has helped (and if you will, please write or write again). Politicians have been made uneasy. But mostly they just wish the problem would go away.

Repatriation (cont.) Negotiations are continuing with the Government, with AVADSC representatives several times visiting Canberra. Peter Alexander was invited to address the Opposition M.P.'s Repat. Committee at Parliament House, and did so. There have been conferences with the RSL and a degree of agreement reached. This agreed view is being pressed on the Government. Mr. Justice Toose has been authorised to discuss with the Departmental officers in Canberra an "onus of Proof" clause which would be more acceptable than the Government's proposal. We are only mild about the result. The new system requiring an applicant to have a "Reasonable hypothesis" that has not been "dispelled" is being applied by the determining bodies--- which seem to be finding it only too easy to dispel hypotheses. The situation is still not good and continued pressure on our politicians is needed. A representative of AVADSC is to address the ALP Caucus Committee shortly.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

(ED. There has been much interesting correspondence lately and unfortunately much of it will have to be deferred to future issues)

From Leon Armstrong, 47, Rutland Rd., Wanstead, London, E11 2DY, England.

Dear Peter, My copy of the February issue of 458 Squadron News has now been delivered and I have been moved to get off my sit-me-down to write to you because of a few names that I saw in the News. I can't remember if I've ever written before but I must re-assure all your readers---members of 458-- that the little U.K. Flight is still going and meets up every now and again. We met last month on the Saturday after Anzac Day at the R.A.F. Club in London's Piccadilly. There weren't many of us but on the stroke of 9 p.m. we lifted our glasses and drank to "Absent friends". No doubt Sid Thompsett has written about this. (See below). I read an interesting letter from Col. Fereday who I remember well at Alghero. He rolled a live bomb off the runway as Duty Officer after a Wimpy had dropped it there on landing. Then, next night, Col himself had a hang-up but when he landed it dropped off and blew up the aircraft. I bet he thought of that when he re-visited Alghero last year..... Peter, I hear rumours that the Squadron will visit Vancouver for its next International Reunion. If this is so, I might join you there..... So many names in the News that I remember..... Best wishes, Leon Armstrong.

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BRITISH BULLETIN from Sid. Thompsett.

I am pleased to report that we were able to arrange a small but very happy reunion on 27th April. Those attending were Norm Duke, and his wife, Leon Armstrong and his wife, Peter Leonard and wife, Mick Mason and friend, Sid. Thompsett and wife, Harry Bishop, Norm Gilbert, and Eric Phillips. We enjoyed the photos that Peter Leonard showed us of his visit to Aussie and New Zealand...he couldn't thank everyone of you enough for your hospitality---his words were "a Trip of a Lifetime". It seems that next year's International Reunion is in some minds---perhaps Peter Leonard, Leon Armstrong and Hal Lee..... I received a very nice letter from Betty Johnson saying she has planted some bulbs around the Tree at Holme-on-Spalding Moor: also she met Frank Robertson who looks after the area by the tree. It was all so neat and tidy. I have just received a few photos from Al. Wheat from his visit to the Hendon Museum during his visit last year... At the Reunion we had best regards from several who were unable to be there. i.e. Fred Nieman, Bill Waite, Dickie Downer (formerly Tombs), Bert Sleight, George Pigg, Justin McCann, and others.

I guess that sums it up for this time. It's nice to be able to pass on a little news for once! Cheers, Sid. Thompsett.