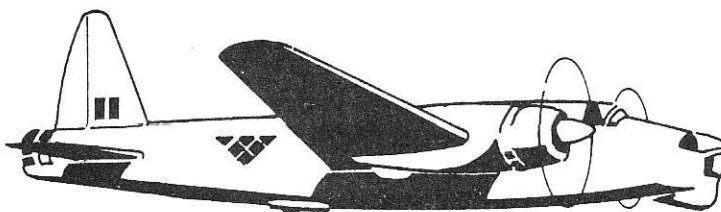


# 458

## SQUADRON NEWS



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL: Box 5289, SYDNEY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA, 2001.

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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 (N.S.W.)      Ted. Jewell (W.A.)  
Ron. Russell (Vict);

Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (N.S.W.)

Squadron Hon. Auditor; Bert Thompson (N.S.W.); Editor: Peter Alexander.

#### Flight Correspondents.

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South Australia	Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, 5064, S.A. .,
Victoria	Stan. Tarczynski, 36, Winmalee Drive, Glen Waverley, 3150, Vic .

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#### CANADA-WE'LL BE THERE!      The 4th. International Reunion arrangements.

Black-Jack Baker of the Reunion sub-Committee advises all interested 458ers that the Itinerary proposed is as follows:

Thur. 17 July	1400	Depart Sydney on Air New Zealand Flight TE6
	0850	Arrive Honolulu, Transfer to Sheraton Surfrider H'l
17-20		In Honolulu
Sun 20 July	1020	Depart Honolulu on Air New Zealand Flight TE10,
		transfer in Vancouver for Calgary;
	2115	Arrive Calgary. Transfer to Hotel;
Mon. 21 July		Commence coach tour of the Rockies including
		Banff, Jasper, Kamloops and Vancouver;
Fri. 25 July		End tour in Vancouver. transfer to Hotel
Sat. 26th July		Sightseeing;
Sun. 27th July		Squadron Conference;
Mon. 28th July		Full day excursion to Victoria and Bchart Gdns
		(inc in costs);
Tues 29th July		Day at leisure:
Wed. 30 July	1345	Depart Vancouver on CP Air Flight CP 43, transfer
		in Los Angeles for Sydney;
Thu. 31st July		In flight;

Veterans Travel, 215, Clarence Street, Sydney 2000 the organising

To Canada (cont.)

Travel Agent (215, Clarence Street, Sydney, 2000---Telex Astrid AA 21910) will forward shortly to those members who have already nominated a Questionnaire for further details and information of any extended tours or other travel arrangements contemplated. Squadron members in other countries who are interested in the Reunion are requested to contact Veterans Travel direct.

The Tour which includes Bed and Breakfast (only) plus an experienced Tour Manager to accompany will cost \$2995-00 per person.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTS. from Cy.Irwin.

Christmas Get-Together for 458.

Highlight of this news report from Cornstalk country is the Xmas Get-together at the Pitt Club on Monday 16th December. Approximately 60 Squadron members and wives and friends attended and enjoyed a first-class dinner, natter and exchange of Xmas good wishes. A very special guest for the evening was Fred McKay, with wife, Meg. Squadron members, of course, remember Fred as one of the three RAAF Padres in the Middle East. (the other two were Bob Davies and Johnny MacNamara). Fred has retired and now lives at Hawkesbury. This Dinner enabled 458 to congratulate Fred on reaching the 50th Anniversary of his ordination. To say that Fred and the other Padres were liked and appreciated by members of the Squadron is an understatement. Fred. was warmly congratulated on reaching this great anniversary. Members attending were:

Jack and Dorothy Aitken	Arthur and Tess Jollow	Harry and Nita Baines
Bob and Pat. Lyndon	Sam and Maisie Barlow	Bob and Pat Millar
Stan and Jean Longhurst	Bob and Betty Bruce	John and Moira Dunn
Don, Bev and Peter Bitmead	Eric and Dorothy Munkman	Kevin & Marie Barlow
Pete and Barbara Campbell	Alan and Kitty Piggott	Wal and Betty Mobbs
Graeme and Dulcie Coombes	Peter and Rita Alexander	Stuart & Iris Ricketts
Bruce and David Dean	Lloyd and Betty Johnson	Bob and Dot Smith
Bert and Kitty Thompson	Frank and Thelma Ward	Fred Strom and partner
Bob and Marg. Pearson	Cy. Irwin	

Where the Committee meets now.

Our Flight Committee meetings, now held bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of the month take place at the Pitt Club, 49, Market Street, Sydney. After the sale of the RAAF Memorial Building in Clarence Street, the Air Force Club was homeless for some months. Arrangements were then made with the Pitt Club which had recently moved into newly decorated premises in the basement of the State Theatre in Market Street for Air Force Club members to have the use of these premises. We are relieved to have a central City meeting place available with an Air Force atmosphere available and the Pitt Club is recommended to our members.

Activities Planned.

When the weather cools down a little we shall have a Barbeque (on Sunday April 27th) in the Hawkesbury region. Will members please note the date and contact Eric Munkman (451 0824) for details. We should like to revive the spirit of the Barbeques we used to hold in the Lane Cove National Park in the 60 and 70s and to meet again with the now-grown up 458 children of those days--and their children.

Valete.

We report with great sorrow the passing of two 458 members. Ross Burgess, a Fitter IIA on the Squadron died of a heart attack in Newcastle quite recently. He and Pat were both very well known and attended most Squadron functions through the past war years. He will be greatly missed.

Dick Cook died late last year. We saw Dick and his lady at the 458 function held at the home of Stan and Jean Longhurst last year. He was with the Transport Section. Our sincere sympathy to Pat Burgess and Sylvia Cook and their families.

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CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.

From Geoff. Esau.

The Riseley home was the most attractive venue on December 8th. for a Christmas party, the first held by S.A. Flight for some years. It was so well attended and proved so enjoyable that it is likely to become an annual event. Those attending included (of course) Verna and Jack Riseley, Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft, Syd and Pat. Bartram, Roger and Margaret Angove, John and Ruth Excell, Joan Dickson, Laurel Nairn and Murray White, Madge and Bill Taylor, Rachel and Ken. Robertson, Joyce Austin, Peter and Monica Thom, Maisie Thomas, Bill and Pat Cribb, Dawn McGlasson, Yvonne and Colin Hutchinson, John and Pat Carey, Keith Grimshaw, and Heather and Geoff. Esau. Apologies were received from Pat Enright, Keith Foreman, Kevin Tait, Eric Baker, J. Wilson, Arn. Scholar and Ted. Creighton. Largely B.Y.O., the party went with a swing and everyone seemed to enjoy it. John Carey raffled a beautifully put-together Leigh Light Wellington which was very fittingly won by the Hostess. John Excell and Jack Riseley raffled wine, and Christmas puddings. Total ticket sales approaching \$50 to assist Flight funds. Many thanks to Verna and Jack for allowing the use of their lovely home. Incidentally, Verna tells me that a blue jacket was left behind by someone which I believe is still unclaimed.

Flight Funds. May I remind unfinancial members that someone is paying for their Squadron News, etc and that our Treasurer, Bert. Ravenscroft, is happy to receive subs at any time at 11, Thorn ton Street, Henley Beach, 5022 !

About the Airport Memorial. On Tuesday 4th. February a meeting of the Adelaide Airport Memorials Committee was held at the Angas Hotel. Some 45 representatives of 26 Squadrons were in attendance, John Carey, Bert Ravenscroft and I representing 458 Squadron. A number of topics were discussed at length, most of which were referred back to sub-committees for further information. A very real desire to establish a perpetual framework to service the Memorials was evident in the discussions. More anon.

Personal Pars. I regret having to advise the passing of John Islip at the Mitcham Nursing Home on December 28th. I was away in the country over the holiday period but received a letter on my return from John's son, David, advising of his father's death. Our sympathy to David and his family in their sad loss. Kind regards to all News readers.

\* \* \* \* \*

John Islip whose death Geoff Esau reports, was Squadron Adjutant at Gibraltar, and among other matters responsible for overseeing the arrangements for the Keys Ceremony. Living in the city of Melbourne after the war, he retained a keen interest in 458 and kept all the correspondence, etc that 458 issued.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sandgroppers Say..... from Ted. Jewell.

W.A. Flight had a great night out for their usual Xmas Get-together, with dinner and drinks, at the Village Inn Restaurant at Canning Bridge. As always we had a good response to the notice sent out to members and wives with 28 coming along. We all had a wonderful night. 458 members don't seem to drink much these days but they can certainly put the food away. It was very nice that Joan Priest could manage to come along to meet all our members, as Joan has only recently moved over to W.A. Hope we see a lot more of you, Joan.

We had two absent this year from our dinner in the way of Bill and Joan Clues, who were really missed by all. But Joan had entered a competition run by a local radio station and was lucky enough to win a trip to London for two, all expenses paid, and in the bargain 1000 pounds to spend on a Xmas Shopping spree. They were only there a week but thoroughly enjoyed their stay, arriving home on Xmas Eve with stacks of presents



Sandgroppers Say...(cont.)

for all the family, who were all together for Xmas.

Barbeque at Mandurah. 458 had their usual barbeque at our home in Mandurah several weeks ago, with about 25 members driving down from Perth for the day; everyone looks forward to the outing. Nobby Nobbs and his wife, Esme, were here, also Hensell Hemy and his wife, Lil: both couples live at Mandurah. It was great to see Ben and Val. Cormack turn up to enjoy the day. Ron and Alice Gannaway could not come this year as Ron was convalescing after an operation for gallstones. Alice phoned and said Ron was coming along very well. Some others who were present were: Bill and Joan Clues, Charlie and Betty Davis, Henry and Vera Etherton, Pete and Doreen McCarthy, Ray and Marg. Turley, Tom. & Phyl Foster, Fred and Dot. Howe.

Anzac Day next.

Our next meeting will be on Anzac Day in April, so I hope we'll have a good roll up for the March and Service; after which we will retire to the Hyde Park Hotel for lunch and drinks. Any member who won't be coming to the March--why not go to the Hotel and enjoy a drink or two with your old 458 mates? Cheerio for now.

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ANZAC DAY IN SYDNEY.

N.S.W. Members are advised that they should assemble in Elizabeth Street, opposite St. James Station by 10 a.m. on Anzac Day for the March--to be followed by the Reunion at the Great Southern Hotel, George Street.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Stan. Tarczynski.

Victorian Christmas.

Our Xmas barbeque was held at Beat and Ken. Morkhams' place early in December on Sunday---probably the hottest day in the month---we did not have many in December. For the few bods who made it this year the Ladies Auxiliary raffle realised \$35 for the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. In attendance, apart from our hosts, were: Ern Laming and friends Helen Arnel and May Simmons, Mavis and Mick Singe, Betty and David Evans, Joan and Ron. Russell, Elaine Timms, Stan Tarczynski and friend Peter McDonald. Beat's Cumquat wine, home-made, was a great success which everyone tasted. Joan and Ron. Russell are journeying overseas again for six months after Easter to Europe and will be visiting their daughter and son-in-law in Turkey.

The response for changes of address has revealed that George Riddoch is now at 21, Elaine Avenue, Alfredton, 3350 (and a cheque), and Ted. Love has moved to 52, Carlsberg Rd, Heidelberg, 3084. A letter from Betty Flentje, Bill's wife, which also included a cheque, indicated that Bill is spending a lot of time photographing birds and taping their calls (trust that they are only the feathered ones, Bill). Ern. Laming received a letter from Ray Hill in the U.K. with the news that his son-in-law, Richard Hart, has accepted an exchange teaching post at Camberwell Grammar School, which includes a house, car and pets!! Harald Martin blows in fairly regularly of a Tuesday afternoon to see Tarz. at the East Malvern R.S.L. after golf with the retirees of the Scotsman's Creek Golf Club (130 members). He recalled that at the last Anzac March in Perth he had to walk with the aid of a stick and still has a limp. He is now going through extensive research at the Heidelberg Repat. Hospital relating to his back. If there is no improvement it might mean surgery to the knuckles of his toes. Yank also wants to know if Ben. Cormack is finally receiving his Squadron News.

I received a 'phone call from Lock Simpson---he has moved to 19, Pindari Road, City Beach, 6015.

Back in November, Ern Laming with a party of friends attended the Annual Parade of the No.2.A.T.C. at the Preston Drill Hall. It has been the practice of 458 Vict. Flight to present the Squadron History for over 25 years each year to the best trier, and, for the first time, it was won by a girl.

\* \* \* \* \*

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

From Jim.Holliday.

Again we had our usual Christmas Sunday Barbeque, and again it was held at the home of Joyce and Jim.McKay at Mount Gravaat. It's the ideal "partying" home. The huge patio, with built-in BBQ at its end, overlooks a quiet bushland vista. We're fortunate that Joyce and Jim so generously allow us to hold our function in this delightful setting. Proof that it's popular is that 32 members, wives and friends attended. The Baxters and the Cuthbertsons came up from the Gold Coast, the Footes from Ipswich, the Lewis' from Victoria Point, Chester Jones, Mt. Beppo, the Dud.McKays from Caloundra, and the Wilks from Toowoomba. Chas. Warren was there too with the McLoughlins, the Wymans, the Garlands, and the Hollidays. Again Sel.Foote supplied the tooth-tingling steaks, and the salads seemed to happen out of nowhere. As always it was a good day and after partaking fully of the goodies and talking our heads off, we went home satisfied and purring with contentment.

Personal Pars. Kitty and Jack Baxter had a fabulous winter trip in their new boat to the Barrier Reef, Cairns and Cooktown. Jack said he wanted to do it while he is still young. It was so successful that Jack was planning to steam his boat to Sydney. Enid and Dud.McKay have just returned from a tour to Britain and Europe. They visited the Jim.McKays son when in Austria. Their video tapes are spectacular, especially of Austria. Evelyn and Jack Lewis are planning a trip also to Britain and Europe, and aim to drop into Vancouver on the way. Heading for New Zealand are Dulcie and Theo.Ravenscroft. As they have requested the names and addresses of our N.Z.members, they have plans to do some visiting as well as touring. Our latest reports indicate that all Q.Flight members are well though many are carrying the injuries expected from long hard lives. You meet 458ers when you least expect them. Jack Lewis met on the bowling green the other day Charlie (Chicca) Ruthven; for the first time since Squadron days. Charlie has now retired to Victoria Point, not far from the Lewis'. From the many enquiries received about the Canadian Reunion Q.Flight should be fielding a fair side. But--they all need details quickly to make arrangements.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

From Sid.Thompsett.

This being our coldest February for three years, I envy you all Down Under enjoying the sunshine--but never mind, our turn will come hopefully in a couple of months time. I recently received a letter from Ken.(Chico) Mercer that he is hoping to visit Aussie sometime next year. His sister has been living in Aussie for the past 25 years and will be coming over here in August.

The time is approaching once again for our Annual Reunion. We have made arrangements to meet this year at the R.A.F.Club in Piccadilly. Both Leon Armstrong and myself have been in hospital lately but are both pleased to say we are recovering well.

When I last spoke to Fred.Nieman, who also had been in hospital, he promised to send some photos of our Tree at Holme-on Spalding Moor both to Eric and myself. I hope when you get them it will reassure you on the state of our tree.

Best wishes to all of you.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PASSAGE OF WINIFRED.

This account, received through Jim.Holliday, is from George Reed---over whose property at Mission Beach Cyclone Winifred recently raged---the most destructive cyclone in many years.

To-day is the 44th Anniversary of the bombing of Darwin when so many lives were lost---but not officially cited. That is what the Beach is like but fortunately there were no lives lost.

The Passage of Winifred.(cont.)

Two houses on each side of me were very badly damaged, one a write-off, but I lost only guttering, a post, and a hand rail on the patio, in all about \$200. As well as Secretary of the R.S.L., I am Repat. Officer, and Defence Service Homes are flying an assessor up from Brisbane and he and I are going to visit all Defence Service Homes in the area, and see what we can do, especially for war widows. We really appreciated your timely letter, it was very kind of you and your good wife to think of us.

We were not home when the cyclone hit. We went to Mareeba on the Friday for two days Annual Congress of the Far Northern District of the R.S.L. The big guns of the RSL, Vets Affairs, and Defence Service Homes were up from Brisbane and Canberra and it was a top Conference. I presented eleven motions from Tully, lost 2, withdrew 1, and won 8 so I had a good conference. After the Conference finished on Sunday we could not get home until Monday afternoon after a "hairy" trip down the Palmerston Highway from the Tablelands to Innisfail. I had a talk to Bob Dangaard in Mareeba. He played the bugle at the wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph. He looks well and enjoyed the last 458 Conference.

Coming home on Monday you had to see the damage to believe it, especially in the rain forests, but the sugar cane, being young, is not as bad as farmers are trying to make out. The cane after two or three days of sun is already starting to stand up again. I would say Tully's cane crop will drop from 1 million tons down to 800,000 tons. This drop will be only over peak cane which is in No.2 Sugar pool and worth nothing. The banana growers are a different "kettle of fish". Every plantation has been completely wiped out and there won't be a banana on the market for seven months. Last year cane brought in \$15 million dollars to Tully, bananas \$18 million dollars. On Monday 900 banana workers were paid off while 250 sugarmill workers still have their jobs.

During the cyclone the winds peaked at 240 Km per hour and the barometer went down to 960m-bars. I wouldn't have liked to be in an old Wimpy flying into that--you would be going backwards! The wind picked the sea up and dumped it on my garden, killing every plant I had. Some householders who had rainwater tanks had them filled up with salt water.....However it is never too late to start again.

We were very worried about Peter Lee and my new grandson, Nathan James, three months old but they went up to Stan's big home which has a cyclone-proof room downstairs. Stan had a bit of damage, a branch from a tree took out a large glass door, ruined the bedroom and carpet, blew the main door off its hinges and blew it downstairs. Peter, James and Paul had no damage to their houses and the boats were all chained down and suffered no damage. We won't get any power before next Monday or Tuesday but I have a gas stove and gas lights. Peter and Paul and about 50 other young volunteers helped the Electricity Commission to get an emergency line to our water supply pumps and we got Council water last night. I had two rainwater tanks connected on a by-pass to the kitchen and septic before that. But we are coping very well, no complaints, plenty of camping gear and used to roughing it up in the Gulf country on fishing trips. Once again, James, thanks a million for thinking of us... regards and best wishes to all the boys. Sincerely, George Reed.

(Editor: As with the article sent in from Yank Martin, this letter, we believe, is the "real thing of 458". Good luck to George who before his retirement was Chief Engineer of Tully Sugar Mills).

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor. (Not room for much this time!)

Note: During his recent visit to Holland for the World Veterans Federation General Assembly, the Editor was received by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who subsequently accepted a copy of the Squadron History and then wrote himself as follows:

Dear Mr. Alexander, Thank you very much indeed for sending me a copy of the book "We Find and Destroy", and for your kind dedication.

As you were a member of 458 Squadron yourself you were able to record the story of 458 Squadron....and the way you describe scenes and atmospheres make it much more than a historical record. With all best wishes,  
Sincerely, Bernhard, Prince of the Netherlands.