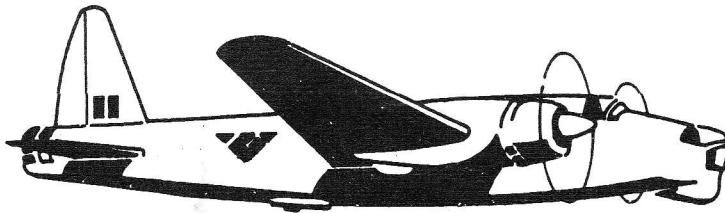


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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

Year 37, No. 147.

August, 1986.

Registered by Australia Post--Publication No. NAS 6056.

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) Australia-Ted. Jewell (W.A.)
Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (NSW) -Ron. Russell (Vict)
Squadron Hon. Auditor: Bert Thompson (NSW) Canada- Bryan Quinlan
Editor: Peter Alexander.
Flight Correspondents:

Queensland Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, 4121, Queensland;
Western Australia Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210, W.A.;
South Australia Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, 5064, S.A.;
Victoria Stan. Tarczynski, 36, Winmalee Drive, Glen Waverley, 3150, Victoria;
U.K. Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecote Road, Grove Park, SE 12 9TN, England;
N.S.W. Cy. Irwin, 3/23 Cecil Street, Ashfield, 2131, N.S.W.

RETURN FROM CANADA.

The Squadron News welcomes the 458ers returning--in separate parties at different times--from the Squadron International Reunion in Canada. We hope, later in this Issue, to publish a first account of the journey from Stan. Longhurst, who represented the Squadron Secretary and Treasurer on the journey. Later, no doubt, the Squadron President, Col. Fereday, when he returns, will want to comment also.

Our congratulations to Bryan Quinlan, appointed by the Squadron Conference at its meeting in Vancouver, to the new position of Squadron Vice President in Canada. He will keep the scattered 458ers of Canada together and, we hope, act as a correspondent for the News.

* * * * *

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

From Stan. Tarczynski.

The Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting, followed by dinner, was held at the Air Force Club on Friday, May 23rd. All outgoing office-bearers were re-elected unanimously. In attendance at the meeting were:--Jack and Dot. Fleming, Bill Henry, Harald and Kath. Martin, Ken and Beat Morkham, Mick and Mavis Singe, David and Betty Evans, Ern. Laming and Helen Arnel, Bill Hurford, Stan Tarczynski and Keith Clymo. John and Betty Jenkins came for the dinner.

R.A.A.F. Europe. RAAF Europe have sponsored Air Marshal Sir Ronald Lees, KCB, CB, CBE, DFC, as Guest Speaker at its annual dinner on Friday, Sept. 26th., 6-30 p.m., to midnight, at "Merrimu", cnr. Princes Highway and Poath Rd., Chadstone, opposite the Chadstone Shopping Centre. Tickets are \$33, all inclusive. RSVP is to Ken. Morkham who is on the General Committee.

Victorian Views (cont.)

He is the only representative member of 458 who takes any interest, so we may be cut off the mailing list.

Five days before his expected departure for the Canadian Reunion Ted Kennedy visited his dentist with a tooth problem. He was advised to see his doctor. The result was a brain tumour operation at Ballarat Base Hospital where he has been satisfactorily recuperating for the past three weeks. Mick and Mavis Singe drove Ern Laming and myself to see Ted on August 11th. He was extremely happy to see Mick but at present he is still a very sick lad.

Whilst in Ballarat we looked up Lisle "Woozle" Wurr and George Riddoch. The former is practically unrecognisable with a dark grey bushy beard. George and Thelma are in their new home at Alfredton where George has a thriving vegetable garden.

Frank "Shorty" Wilson suddenly fronted at the East Malvern R.S.L. last Friday with the news that he is looking for a house in the Scoresby--Fern Tree Gully area, to be nearer his family. We may have his new address by next News issue.

Ern Laming attended the packed St. Patrick's Cathedral funeral service for the late Rev. Father John McNamara, and met Bishop Bob Davies who flew specially from Tasmania.

Our funeral notice, published in the Sun and the Age read:

McNamara, Rev. Father John--all members of 458 (RAAF) Squadron and Squadron Council express deepest sympathy in the passing of popular Father John.

A very nice floral tribute was arranged. A very appreciative letter was received recently from his sister who apparently wrote to Canberra to trace the 458 Vic. Flight Secretary.

Ern Laming has received a letter from Mona Matthews with a reminder that it is now over three years since Bill passed away. She also expressed a desire to Ern that she would prefer groceries to beer although she feels awful getting them and in her words "when I don't do anything for them". Ern has also had a letter from Marie Rocke, widow of Harry who was a 458 pilot. Her address--18, Loch Crescent, Strathmore, 3041.

For those who can make it, our usual Melbourne Cup Day BYO will be at Ron and Joan Russell's place, 25, Harcourt Street, West Doncaster--11.30 a.m. onwards. Xmas barbeque will be at Ken and Beat Morkham's on the first Sunday in December--the 7th at 19, Kerang Avenue, East Burwood.

* * * * *

CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.

from Geoff Esau.

I am sure I speak for not only all Squadron members but all South Australians in expressing concern and sympathy to the people of N.S.W. affected by the recent appalling flooding in Sydney and surrounding areas. It must have been terrifying beyond imagination.

Since the last News, S.A. Flight has been pretty quiet, so I will detail such individual items as are known.

I rang our President, John Carey, for his contribution to this newsletter. He told me he and Pat are visiting their daughter in Hong Kong. We hope to hear about their trip on their return. Meanwhile--happy tripping.

Bill Clues rang in the middle of July to say that Gordon Cuthbertson had been in town, unfortunately too briefly to enable a proper get-together. I believe a 40th. Wedding anniversary was pending in Victoria.

Bill and Madge Taylor enjoyed their trip to Queensland and arrived home safe and sound.

My thanks to Peter A. and Eric Munkman for dealing efficiently

Croweaters' Caucus (cont.) with a request on behalf of Joan Dickson of Warradale recently.

Veterans Affairs. I had a letter enclosing several pamphlets explaining recent amendments to Acts concerning widows, veterans, dependents, and the Defence Forces. Information is obtainable on these and all other matters from the Dept., at Waymouth Street, Adelaide, or Tel: 08 2132611.

Until next time, good wishes.

* * * * *

THE REPATRIATION SITUATION. from The Editor.

One must, I suppose, admire the slick and polished job that the Department of Veterans Affairs, Canberra, is doing through its State Offices to "sell" the Government's new Veterans Entitlements Act.

But the brutal fact is that Australian ex-servicemen and women and their families are considerably worse off than they were under the old Repatriation Act. Very few W.W.II men or women will now get a T.P.I. granted. Total Disability is now equated with the top of the General Rate (attracting \$72 per week): it used to attract the Special (T.P.I.) Rate or at least the Intermediate Rate. (The T.P.I. is \$190 per week). Advocates are warning those contemplating claiming for additional disabilities who already have a pension to think carefully as they could get that pension reduced. Success rates have fallen from over 80% to 60%.

The Backlog before the Veterans Review Board now is nearly 20,000 cases. And that is the system the Federal Government introduced (over our protest) to cure a backlog of 12,000 !

We are still battling with the politicians in Canberra over this. But the general financial environment is bad.

The Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (AVADSC) through which we are fighting this battle is now to set up Councils at the State level in, Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane. P.C.A.

* * * * *

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

From Jim.Holliday.

It has been a period of getting up and going places by Q.Flight. The travel bug has bitten many members. Chas.Warren travelled some 4,000 kilometres on a camping holiday to North Queensland. Looked up George Reed, Erle Hetherington and Bob.Dangaard but others he dropped in to visit he found not at home. One was Jack Hobbs with his wife Sheila of Burrum Heads, away on an 11,000 kilometre caravan tour around Australia. A funny thing happened to Jack at Geraldton, W.A. He was seeking a replacement bulb for his car and, behind the efficient and courteous gentleman serving him, he noticed a calendar featuring the name "A.V.Postle, "Hotel Brokers, Brisbane." You've guessed it. The man serving him was none other than Al.Wheat. A curious way to meet after 40 years.

Joe Elliott enjoyed his stay in the West over last Anzac Day period. And thanks the boys of that big State for their hearty hospitality. Joe wanted to go to the Vancouver Reunion, particularly to renew the acquaintance of Bryan Quinlan and Jim.Donaldson. Regretfully, he says his old bones wouldn't let him. Len.Goode made it to Canada, particularly to Calgary where he was stationed for a considerable period. He proposed to attend the Reunion. At the time of writing he is still holidaying in Canada.

Also still away are the Garlands, visiting son Ross in Britain and touring extensively on the Continent. Pres.Jack Lewis and Evelyn are back after visiting relatives in Scotland and poking around Britain by car. As reported in the last News, they made a pilgrimage to Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Though the Tree looks forelorn, obviously

Q.Flight News (cont.)

measures are being taken to preserve it. After a most enjoyable tour of Europe, Jack and Evelyn flew over the Pole to Edmonton in Canada. They spent a few days in Vancouver, visiting the Expo and Vancouver Island. But the highlight was dinner with Bryan Quinlan and his wife, after which Bryan toured the heights of Vancouver to show them the city by night and particularly a ride over the Lion's Gate Bridge that spans the Fraser river. Jack and Evelyn cannot speak too highly of the hospitality of Bryan and his wife.

On the local front, it seems that Sel. Foote will at last have to retire or at least slow down. Doctor's orders.

* * * * *

SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Ted Jewell.

Since Anzac Day things have been fairly quiet here in the West. Perhaps because we have had a very cold and wet winter. But with the coming of warmer weather we should have some more outings arranged. Bill and Joan Clues have been away since April travelling around parts of Australia and seeing son, Gary, who is stationed in Queensland, but should be back home by the time this goes to press.

As many members already know, Al. Wheat has been preparing photos of the Wellington he took some time ago for presentation to the Air Force Museum at Bull Creek, W.A. Arrangements were made to hold this special occasion on the 8th. August. When we were together outside the Museum prior to going in, we were informed by Jim. Palmer that it was the anniversary of the occasion, 45 years before when the first group posted to 458 Squadron left Australia, Jim. himself being one of the members. Inside the Museum, Al. made the presentation of the photos which were very informative enlarged photos of inside the aircraft layout. Also a blown-up photo of the Squadron members all grouped on and around a Wellington A/C, originally taken at Protville and supplied by Joe Elliott of Queensland. Also there was a condensed version of the Squadron's history during the full phase of operations. We also presented to the Air Force Club a Squadron plaque to be displayed with the other Units at the Club rooms, and for their library, we donated the Squadron History "We Find and Destroy", and they were very happy indeed to have these articles to display.

We had 40 people turn up for this great occasion. 458 Squadron members included Al. and Joy Wheat, Ted and Elsie Jewell, Syd Baker, Henry and Vera Etherton, Charlie and Betty Davis, Lock and Margaret Simpson, Ray and Marg. Turley, Stan. and Joyce Hopewell, Ben. and Val. Cormack, Jim and Lucy Palmer, Ron and Alice Gannaway, Gordon and Olga Jones, Poss. Dale. Associate Members were Bob. Ellis, Tom. and Phyl. Foster, Bob and Betty Grenville, Tom and Betty Howard, Phil and Shirley Hicks, Ken and Dixie Rex, plus several guests.

After the presentation and tour of the Museum which is "well worth Seeing", we all adjourned to the Air Force Club for drinks and lunch. All the members went away with the feeling of a day well spent, and to be remembered. It was good to catch up with Lock Simpson again after several years.

Several days later, Al and Joy Wheat were off to Singapore for seven days holidays---well-earned holidays according to Al., when they can get away together.

Elsie and I visited Colin and Imelda Corten during the week. They were unable to attend the presentation because Colin has been in hospital for a spell. They are now living in Western Australia permanently--previously in Sydney.

Arnold and Jess Ashton were here in Mandurah a little while back. Stayed with Nobby and Esme Nobbs for a few nights, so we all got together one afternoon and had a few of Nobby's home brew and had a good yarn of old times. Kind regards and best wishes to all.

* * * * *

THE PASSING OF ALEC BARRAS.

The News has heard with great regret, which all 458ers will share, of the passing of Alec Barras, in Western Australia. A noted cricketer in his youth, he became very well known as a participant in a famous Walk. The crew of which he was second pilot came down in the desert near Tobruk. Of the six crew members, four (Alec Barras, Ray Warwick of Australia, and Les Jones and Jim Shirra of the R.A.F.) decided to walk back to Allied lines then 400 miles away. Travelling by night and sheltering by day they travelled unobserved by the enemy for 22 days. They were at the end of their tether when they reached British Lines. Alec was then 29, and was awarded the Military Medal.

After the War he worked as a journalist in Perth until his retirement. Our sympathy to his family.

* * * * *

CORNSTALK CONTRIBUTION. From Cy.Irwin.

A quiet time for N.S.W. members since the last News. As things have come, events have been as follow:

As a branch of the R.A.A.F. Association we were represented at the Annual Association Assembly at Orange in June. President Eric Munkman were our delegates. Peter Alexander was also there as a Life Vice President of the N.S.W. Division of the Association. While they were in Orange they met with Tom and Val Moore and with Eric Purcill and Col. Fereday. Eric and Col were involved also with the Assembly as reps of Orange and Canberra branches respectively. Eric and his lady entertained the Squadron delegation to dinner; Tom and Val had them to lunch at their new home nearby.

The Flight Committee met on July 16th (at the Pitt Club, where the Air Force Club now shares the premises) and discussed early proposals for the 1987 All-States Reunion.

The Annual Bowls Day was held on Sunday July 16th, organised by Dick Healey. Stuart Ricketts who skipped one 458 team (Dick Healey the other) says it could not have been a better day. Other 458ers participating were Arthur Jollow and Col Campbell.

Graeme and Dulcie Coombes are to leave Sydney and live in Canberra where their daughter and her family already live. Sydney members will miss them very much and wish them every happiness in the National Capital.

Best wishes for a quick recovery to Pete Campbell who is in hospital after a heart attack. He is progressing well, we understand.

* * * * *

1st. REPORT FROM CANADA ON THE 4th. INTERNATIONAL REUNION OF 458 SQDN.

from Stan. Longhurst.

Just a brief report on the Canadian Reunion which I consider was quite successful. I must, by necessity, be brief as Col. Fereday has the Minutes of the Squadron Conference, and is still cavourting around Canada (I think).

The Australian Contingent comprised:--Col. Fereday, Stan and Jean Longhurst, Jack and Elsie Hamilton, Mick and Mavis Singe, Fred. Strom and Lil McGlinn, Wal and Dora Archbold, Don and Bev. Bitmead, Bob and Pat. Millar, Sid and Pat Bartram, Ern. Laming, and George (Curly) and Bea Brain, Chester and Marjory Martin.

The Canadians were:---George and Nell Powell, Bryan and Joan Quinlan, Bert and Gladys Markland, Marg and Mick Reid, Jock McLeod, Tony and Jan Mauro, Fred and Marg. Marsh (297 Sqdn) and Charlie Foreman.

The British (Pommy Aussies):---Peter and Eileen Leonard, Norman and Joyce Duke.

After a two day stopover in Honolulu sightseeing--and a visit

by Jean and myself to some local friends, we flew to Vancouver, with an early morning transfer of flight on to Calgary where we were met by Peter and Eileen Leonard and Charlie Foreman for the coach tour west back to Vancouver. On arrival at Kamloops we were greeted by Tony and Jean Mauro. We were all staying in the one hotel and a few lines were shot and quite a few grogs were downed--and then on to Victoria Island.

Up to this point accomodation had been adequate but because of EXPO in Vancouver, accomodation was somewhat limited and necessitated an extra night's stay on Victoria Island which wrecked our Dinner and Conference date. However we managed to get together in a rather small room for a meeting.

Bryan Quinlan was elected a Squadron Vice President (for Canada) and co-chaired the meeting with Col. Fereday. Bryan, on behalf of Canada Flight, presented Col. Fereday (for the 458 Squadron Council) with a beautifully hand-carved "Talking Stick" in commemoration of the Canadian Reunion. (Mick Reid has kindly offered to send an explanation of the meanings of the characters on the Talking Stick).

I am unable to elaborate further because, as I wrote previously, Col. has the Minutes and is still roaming around Canada. The minutes were ably complied by Fred. Strom, as Minute Secretary. Thanks, Fred!

The day after the Conference found everyone doing their own thing, going their own way, some heading home, some on additional tours, like Jean and myself. We really had a fantastic time but are glad to be home again. I guess I'm getting too long in the tooth for so much travel.

Kind regards to all from Jean and myself.

* * * * *

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Sandy (Bruce McKenzie's daughter).

Dear Peter and Rita, Just a quick note--I have informed Bryan Quinlan that it looks like I will not be in Vancouver. Finances ! and domestic side is "coming to a head" so I feel I should remain here just now. I hope the Reunion all goes well. I shall keep in touch.

Roy us saying he is still interested in going to Australia after graduating with his Ph.D (in Agro-business, semi-arable, forestry and fisheries, early next year. He intends to get married this Oct/Nov. Date is not yet set. Margy is still in Kenya.

Christina, Kim and Jamie will be going out in August to Kenya.

Very best wishes. Love, Sandy.

* * * * *

From Bill Swann, 5, Oak Road, Fareham, Hants, PO 15 5 EY, England.

Dear Peter, I was particularly interested in the paragraph in the Squadron News No.146 about the recovery of the Wellington from Loch Ness. I don't know whether you heard that the T.V. people made a film about it? When we were watching a repeat recently we thought it possible that you would not have the opportunity to see it. We therefore recorded it and if you would like to see the considerable progress that has been made we will gladly let you have it. I must point out that it is a Beta and not VHS.

One other item may be of some interest to members. Because of the ditching into the North Sea in a Walrus in 1938, I was recently accepted into the Goldfish Club. As it is certain that other members of 458 will have ditched during the war, I enclose the address of the Membership Secretary for possible applications. There are only about 400 members, and there appears to be only one member who ditched prior to my ditching. The address is:

Mr. D. Taylor,

Goldfish Club, 189, Burnt Ash Hill, London, SE12 0 QF.

Best wishes to all, Bill Swann.

* * * * *