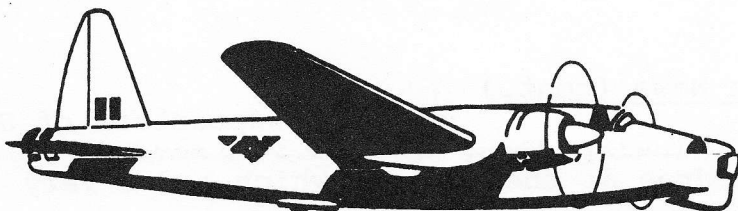


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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

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LAST CALL FOR PORT STEPHENS.

With this issue of the News,readers will receive further details of the forthcoming 25th All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron--held in the Nelson Bay,Port Stephens,area of N.S.W. The week has been planned with pains-taking care by the N.S.W.Flight and particularly by Jock McGowen and Bill Fiddes. Over 80 458ers,mostly with wives,are attending with overseas representation from U.K. and Canada. (The U.K.representation comes from Wales). It is not too late to join this flowering of 458 Squadron in its later years. There can hardly be a better one..

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VIC.FLIGHT NEWS. from Stan.Tarczynski.

The Flight Annual Meeting was held at the Air Force Club on Friday, May 29th. The usual good "old faithfuls" were in attendance: Ron and Joan Russell,Jack and Dot.Fleming,Ken and Beat.Morkham, David and Betty Evans,Elaine Timms,Bill Henry,Mick and Mavis Singe Bill Hurford,Ern and Helen Laming,Stan.Tarczynski,Harald Martin, Ben.Cormack from W.A.(Kath Martin was at home entertaining Ben's wife) and a new social member,Rupert Pearce. For the newsletter records, his address is 46,Mt.Pleasant Road,Nunawading,Vic.3131.

Within the hour the meeting was completed and then we adjourned to a very pleasant dinner. All office-bearers were re-elected.

Vale. After a very long illness,Nancy Clohesy,we report with deep regret,passed away at the end of July. Vin and Nancy have been

Vic.Flight News (cont.)

stalwart supporters of Squadron reunions. Jack and Dot.Fleming drove up from St.Leonards to Hamilton to represent the Squadron at the funeral which had a very large attendance.

Personal Pars. Mick and Mavis Singe have a second grandson to their tally--last July. Only son David who was Development Officer at Maryborough (Vic), has moved to a better job as Regional Development Co-ordinator at Northam (W.A.).

Tarz's only relative in Australia, apart from brother George and sister Halinka, is a Lech. Paszkowski, who was sponsored by his late father from Poland after the war. After several books he has written an English version of "Poles in Australia and Oceania 1790-1940". Included in the 37 portraits of well-known Poles in this period is a 2½ page articles on Stanislaw de Tarczynski--Violinist. On Sunday, August 9th, the Polish Society of Victoria inaugurated a reception for the Editor and families Woinarski and Tarczynski who featured in the book. Stan 's brother George and wife June brought all their family --eldest daughter Julie, who came from Albury with husband and married daughter Margaret, husband and daughter from Dalmore (near Kooweerup) married daughter Lucille from Brighton and son; Celia from Eltham, with two daughters. Members who were at Mildura will remember George's son Peter who flew down for the occasion and youngest son Donald who was on the Cenotaph on sentry duty on Anzac Day. He is now a corporal in the permanent Army, and he came from Puckapunyal. The amusing part of the evening came when the hostess asked all the members of the Tarczynski family to stand up. There were about two rows of them at the back. My brother George who was sitting in the front row with his wife, my sister and I commented later that there was one strange bloke standing who he did not know. Son Peter told him later that the fellow was standing all night because the poor b..... did not have a seat!

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS FROM Jim.Holliday.

Ipswich Grammar School, Queensland's first grammar and secondary school has accorded Clive Wyman a most signal honour. It has named its new \$2 million Library, "The Clive Wyman Building" This recognises Clive's long association with and service to the School. He is a distinguished "old boy" having won a scholarship to Queensland University in 1939. He has served on the Board of Trustees since 1967 and has been Chairman since 1980. Ardent supporter of the School's sports teams, Clive is known to both scholars and parents as "the kindly old gentleman in the blue towelling hat". Even old boy fast bowler Craig McDermott knows him.

Bernie McLoughlin wishes, through Squadron News, to thank W.A. Flight members for their open-hearted welcome and hospitality to himself and to his wife Helen, and to their son. To Lock Simpson, Bernie forwards his greatest thanks. Bernie attended a Judges' Conference in Perth. When the last sentence had been pronounced, Lock bundled the McLoughlins into his Air Queen and flew them first to Kalgoorlie, and then to Albany. The W.A. contingent, marshalled by Ted. Jewell, staged a mini-reunion at a hostelry distinguished not only for its cuisine, but also for brewing its own beer. Bernie says he gave the brew a fair trial. His verdict: "a good drop".

It was inevitable that toil without rest would catch up with Sel.Foote. A heart attack landed him in hospital. It was right in the middle of preparations for the Ipswich Annual Show, of which Sel. is President. He recovered well and is now out of hospital, but with strict orders to rest for 3 months. But, knowing Sel, to stop him ranging far, he'll have to be hobbled.

It's astonishing what skills some 458ers have, or develop. Jim. McKay's suburban home borders on a small creek and a pocket of bush. Wild life pay home visits to Jim and his neighbours. Unfortunately some reptilian types enter without knocking. So Jim, of necessity, has become the neighbourhood snake dispatcher. One recent visitor wore a black suit with a red vest.

Gordon Postle is becoming quite a T.V. personality. Twice recently he

Q.Flight News (cont.).has been seen and heard on T.V. News, performing on his rostrum, auctioning multi-million dollar hotels.

Pres. Jack Lewis advises that Hank Ewens has been back in Greenslopes Hospital with a relapse of his old complaint, and not very well at all. Also, Jack has had several contacts lately with Charlie Ruthven who's now living close by. Circumstances have prevented Charlie from being active in Squadron matters recently. He would like it known he's still around and sends his best regards to all.

Congratulations to N.S.W. Flight Reunion Committee. Attendance at Nelson Bay may make it the biggest Reunion yet. The enthusiasm and drive of Jock McGowen is clearly evident.

Stop Press. Gordon Postle needs a copy of either a photograph or a drawing of a "White Wimpy". Some memorabilia-minded burglar pinched his much-prized copy. It was to be the centre-piece of his about-to-be-launched boat, which he proposes to christen "White Wimpy". Please send info to G. Postle, 29, Chermide St., Hendra, 4011.

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VALETE: Passing of 458 Squadron Members.

Charlie Green.

Charlie was a W.A.G. and a well-known member of 458 in his time. He flew with Gordon Orchard and was socially noted in 458 wartime affairs. In post-war years he worked with the Post Office and lived in Deewhy. For health reasons he was a quiet member in the later years and was not greatly seen. But we shall remember and miss him. Our sympathy to his family.

Bill Wilkinson.

Bill was a Tasmanian. In the war years a W.A.G. who flew with Jim. Whitem. He was a very successful official in the Insurance industry (Bankers and Traders) and played a senior role with the Tasmanian Division of the Air Force Association. For some years recently he had had ill health, including we believe, heart problems. Our sympathy to his widow. We shall remember him.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTARY. FROM Cy. Irwin.

Firstly, a report on a very enjoyable Evening spent by Squadron members and wives at the Pitt Club on Tuesday 14th July. Termed a "Christmas in July" dinner, the party of 30 sat down to roast turkey, and the trimmings, in Xmas style. Our thanks to Bob. Bruce who supplied the idea and made all arrangements with the Club for the night.

The R.A.A.F. Association Annual Assembly, 1987.

Stan Longhurst and Jean travelled to Wagga in mid June where Stan represented the Squadron branch as delegate to the Assembly. We have been advised by the N.S.W. division of the R.A.A.F.A. that a written history of the Association including such branches as 458. The Flight committee has resolved to support the project.

The Annual R.A.A.F.A. Bowls Day.

This will be history by the time this News is received, being held on Sunday 16th August at Lindfield Bowling Club. We plan to have one or more teams participating. Squadron member Dick Healey is one of the organisers of this event.

Pleased to report how well bookings are coming in for the Williamtown/Shoal Bay reunion. Should be a great show.

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SHORT NOTE FROM THE SOUTH. from Geoff. Esau.

I'm afraid S.A. Flight has been hibernating since the last communication.

The only newsworthy item I have is of a visit by Keith and Esther Austin to Adelaide, on their way by car round Australia. They were entertained at the Casino by Jack and Verna Riseley.

From S.A.Flight.(cont.)

Unfortunately, time didn't permit a wider meeting. Keith will be remembered as a Fitter IIE on 458 who was later commissioned as an Engineering Officer. (He subsequently had a distinguished career in the Australian Public Service). Our thanks to Jack and Verna for promoting interstate hospitality.

May I send cheers across the Tasman to Kev. George and to Arch. Fell, my old skipper (who said old!). Kind regards.

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FROM THE SANDGROPPERS. and from Ted. Jewell.

We have been fairly quiet here in the West over the winter months as we have had our share of cold and wet weather, but we have had two visitors. Firstly there was Bernie McLoughlin from Queensland, who was here for several functions. Lock Simpson organised an evening for Bernie and Squadron members at a hotel in Fremantle called the Sail and Anchor, one of the old pubs which had been done up for the America's Cup. Lock sent notices out to members and there was a good response with 16 coming along to sample some of the hotel's home brew, which was pretty good; also a few titbits to munch on. All were pleased to see Bernie and everyone certainly did their share of talking. I had to leave early to go back to Mandurah, but most were still hard at it when I left. Members who were present were:

Lock Simpson Ron. Gannaway Syd Baker Bill Clues Henry Etherton
Stan Hopewell Ted. Jewell Col. Corten Pete Riseley Al. Wheat
Ray Turley Chas. Davis Gordon Jones Shorty Long Nundi Carpenter.

Sunday Lunch.

Our next function was a Sunday lunch at Danny's Restaurant in Manning Road, Cannington on 19th. July, which was a huge success. We had around 40 members and wives, which filled up a fair space in the restaurant. We had the pleasure of the company of Gordon and Peg. Cuthbertson, their son and family also. Gordon and Peg. were here in the West visiting for a short while. It was good to see them once again. Elsie and I spent a lovely few hours at their home on the Gold Coast after the last Reunion. Good to see John Lilly back here again. He said it is for good this time, so we should see a lot more of him in the future. Jim and Lucy Palmer were up from Kojonup for the day and they are always very welcome when they come up to Perth. Best wishes and regards to all.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

As members know from the last News, we have re-established contact with another 458er, from Wales, after many years--T. Meredith (he hasn't yet reminded us of his first name). He has written again and we are delighted to print his second letter.

From T. Meredith, 1, Green Meadow, Water Loo, Machen, NP1 8PB, S. Wales.

Dear Sir,

I was delighted that you had received my letter and pleased to receive today, your reply. The use of my native language is limited (Ed. We had asked), and it would be safer to say No, I do not speak Welsh, and have a singing voice like a frog. I was an A.C.H./G.D. and my experience with 458 was much the same as anyone else in this category. Guard duties, firewatching, cookhouse, Sgts Mess, Officers Mess, digging pits, filling holes, getting rations and ammunition, any duty required. At least it was a greater variety of jobs than most had. I learned early in my R.A.F. days that it didn't pay to quarrel with the system. Joining the Voluntary Reserve in October 1939 I tried a number of times and only ended up doing jankers. By the time I joined 458 I was a good boy, and had learned not to make trouble. Having no claim to a squadron personality I doubt if anyone remembers me. I have snaps of my different mates, but having not kept in contact, remember only a few of their names. In February, 1942 I was posted from No. 14 Balloon Centre where I had been acting Corporal i/c Stores. With two Jocks and another Taffy, Bernard Woods. We were in trouble right away, as we went to Holme in Hants, got a rollicking and arrived at

Correspondence (cont.)

Spalding Moor late and got another. Must have been from W/O Vale.

On the first ship, Mataroa, there must have been about 200 of us in one hold. I remember a Jock having a wind-up gramophone, but, to my knowledge, only one record, "My bonny lies over the ocean". He made us all feel homesick and we got a bit cheesed off. An Australian airman told him to belt up or he and his bloody record would end up in the ocean. I seem to remember that his record and gramophone actually did find their way through the porthole.

The route march at Clairwood, Durban, was quite a chore. After some miles the order came to halt and fall out for a smoke. We flaked out where we stopped, and I spread out on a small hill. Tired as I was I was up again in a flash. I had sat on an ant hill and they had taken an instant dislike to me. A spell at Fayid included guard duties in the P.O.W. camp. It was here that I almost ended up in real trouble. One Italian P.O.W. got stropopy, and wouldn't get to work. His English was good enough to call me "English Bastard". He was wrong on both counts. I was Welsh and my father and mother were back home in Cardiff. I poked him in the ribs with my rifle whereat he complained to the Australian Sgt or Flt/Sgt on duty. He read me the riot act on the Geneva Conventions and told me to cool it.

In September, 1942 I received a letter from home to say my father had died. He had been ill for some time and my mother was dependent on me, and from the very beginning of my service, $\frac{1}{2}$ my pay had gone to her, which didn't leave me much. This is one reason why I remember the Adjutant, Caesar Baird. On compassionate grounds I tried to get home to see if she was being taken care of. He tried his best, as, I am sure, did W/Cdr. Johnston, but this was a difficult time with transport, and the approaching offensive at El Alamein. I always remember Fl/Lt. Baird's help and compassion.

It is a pity that we couldn't have operated as a complete Unit early. There may have been much more to write about, but having read your book I didn't think there is much anyone can add to it. One Australian airman saved me from being bitten by a scorpion, near my head in bed. It would be nice to be able to buy him a beer now.

Along with four of my R.A.F. mates we were posted to 201 Group HQ for the beginning of 1943. This was at Stanley Bay in Alexandria. Although I had changes of Units I never seemed to be far away from 458 and came to the conclusion we were in the same Group. I was with 210 Group HQ the end of March, 1943. 458 arrived at Amiriya at this time. I was posted to 243 Fighter Wing in Tripoli on 30th March, following the same route as 458 did later on at the end of May, 1943. My next posting was to 295 A.M.E.S. in May, 1943 between Tripoli and Sfax until October, 1943. 458 was in Bone. The end of October 1943, 295 were posted to Corsica. We had continued our road to Algiers by road, and were shipped to Corsica in November. From November 1943, to February 1944, 295 A.M.E.S. operated on the coast near Ghisonaccia, Corsica. A detachment of 458 operated from Ghisonaccia from February 1944. From Feb. to Oct 1944, 295 A.M.E.S. operated from Paduella on the east coast of Corsica, 17 miles from Bastia. Then 295 A.M.E.S. was shipped to 3 B.P.D. and disbanded. 458 had just gone through 3 B.P.D. on their way to Foggia. I was posted to the staff of 3 B.P.D. where I managed the Naafi until June, 1945. From Feb to March 1945 I was sent on a course for N.C.O.s in Sulmona in the Appenines above Rome. Then back to 3 B.P.D. Then to Capua where I managed the Naafi. The R.A.F. contingent of 458 were in Capua at this time. After 14 days leave in the U.K. I spent some time in hospital in Naples and was demobbed in Jan. 1946.....

I started this letter before we moved on 25th June. It is now 6th July and the move is now complete. For the past 12 days I've been in jankers with my present C.O. (my wife) issuing orders left, right and centre. We are now reasonably straight and on reflection there is something to be said for living in a tent, and despite the hazards and the difficulties it was much easier to move by slinging your kitbag and self on the back of a gharry. We hope to get it all sorted out completely in record time as in August I celebrate my 70th birthday and in Sept. our 40th wedding anniversary. We have ample room here to offer our hospitality to any Australian members on holiday in this area, and would be pleased to entertain any visitors to Wales. Hope you are still keeping well, and wishing you all the best. T. Meredith.

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REPATRIATION: THE STATE OF THE AUSTRALIAN VETERANS.

Readers of the News know, and may themselves in some cases have experienced the fact, that since the passage of the Veterans Entitlements Act, their repatriation entitlements have been diminished in several ways.

Firstly, there was the introduction of the need to establish a "reasonable hypothesis" in the early stage of application. Sounds simple perhaps but it is not. Interpretations by various Boards of the Veterans Review Board; by tribunals of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and latterly by the Federal Court, have left the definition of reasonable hypothesis all over the place. In practice applicants are being driven to the considerable expense of specialist medical opinion (often delayed) to stand a chance.

Then the position of the totally disabled. Current departmental practice, since the Act was passed, has introduced a loss of earning capacity due to the war disability ONLY. So the applicant of 65 or more, who has reached general retirement age has scant chance of being accepted for T.P.I. Now, a Federal Court judgment (case of Maxwell Smith) has indicated that in the present state of the law ALL T.P.I.s should cease at age 65. This appalling proposition has caused great alarm among those aware of it and Peter Alexander flew urgently to Canberra to see the new Minister for Veterans Affairs (Ben Humphreys of Queensland) to urge the Government not to apply the judgment. The matter, as we type, rests with the full Cabinet. What is being overlooked is that total, war-caused, disability has prevented these people in most cases from accumulating capital to look after themselves in old age.

Then, thirdly, the so-called GARP (Guide to the Assessment of Repatriation Pensions) applied by regulation, is much tougher than previous practice and there is distinct risk that applying for a higher rate of pension may lead to a reduction of existing rates.

These matters are being examined by a Monitoring Committee, set up, under pressure, by the previous Minister (Senator Gietzelt), chaired by retired Justice Toose. Peter Alexander is one of the five members. It will need written submissions from all interested parties--P.O. Box C129, Clarence Street, Sydney, 2000. You have till November 30th.

How, you may ask, did we get into this position? Well, the Government and the Department wanted, and want, to save money and decided that repatriation pensions were too easy to get and too generous and the Veterans Entitlements Bill resulted. It was strenuously opposed, particularly by the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (AVADSC) to which 18 organisations belong. Some opposition also came from the RSL. Some improvements were obtained. But in the end the Bill with the rest of its imperfections still in it, went through the Parliament. It must be noted that while AVADSC continued opposition, the R.S.L. at National level plus, extraordinarily, the T.P.I. Association, urged that the Bill be passed. So here we now are.

On the International level.

Under the auspices of the World Veterans Federation a Conference on Comparative Veterans legislation is to be held in Austria next year (April). Certainly an important gathering. It is possible that the Dept. of Veterans Affairs may send a representative but it is unlikely that finance will be available to ex-service reps to attend from Australia.

Future of the Air Force Association.

This historic Association to which many 458ers belong (and there is a 458 Squadron branch in N.S.W.) is looking at its future, and the future of its traditions, influence and assets (in some States very considerable). Present membership remains largely World War II. So there have been top-level discussions with the Chief of Air Staff. The R.A.A.F. sees a clear need for the Association to continue and is now itself planning a campaign to persuade serving people to join. The D.C.A.S. is to sit as a member of the Association's Federal Executive.

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