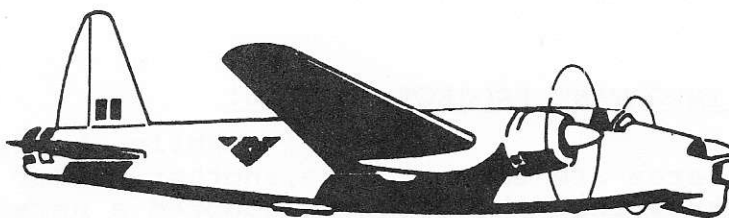


# 458

## SQUADRON NEWS



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

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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 .

Squadron President: Ron Russell (Vic): Squadron Vice Presidents:  
Squadron Treasurer; Peter Alexander (NSW) --Australia: Ted Jewell (W.A.),  
Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (ACT) John Carey (S.A.);  
Squadron Hon. Auditor; Bert Thompson (NSW) Canada: Bryan Quinlan (B.C.),  
U.K. Norman Duke;  
New Zealand; To be appointed.

Editor: Peter Alexander.

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### SQUADRON DECIDES TO PAVE AREA AROUND 458 TREE at HOLME-on-SPALDING MOOR.

Many 458 members, visiting Britain, have seen the 458 Squadron Memorial Tree at Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire---where 458 first operated 47 years ago. The Tree has withstood the years, the winters of snow, the closure of the Aerodrome, the commercialisation of the area and has indeed been something of a rallying point for 458 in the long postwar years.

Quite recently, an R.A.F. Squadron which operated from Holme after 458 left for Africa, has erected a memorial monument there. It has now been decided to pave with flagstones, the area surrounding both memorials, which are side by side. Frank Robertson, a locally-living 458er has been the intermediary, with U.K. Flight approval, and it has been decided to pave the area before handing it over to a Trust and thereafter to a local Council which will undertake maintenance of the Memorial site in perpetuity.

This will cost 458 about \$2,000 which is being remitted to the U.K. from Squadron Council reserve funds. However, since those funds are for the maintenance of 458 activities in times to come, in members later years--and there is also another project in mind (see Below), there is to be a fund-raising Appeal to you all. Squadron Council will subscribe \$600; each Flight is asked to provide \$140 (from fund-raising functions, raffles, etc); and individual members are asked to donate also to the Appeal Fund. There is a Form below. Please help! We are sure you will agree this is something we should do.

\* \* \* \* \*

ANOTHER IMPORTANT PROJECT PENDING!

While the arrangements for the Holme Memorial area are taking place, another matter has surfaced. Squadron Members know that the Squadron adopted a heraldic badge while in the field in the Middle East--the Winged Torpedo design in heraldic form. For some administrative reason it was not formally registered with the Inspector of Air Force Badges (the Chester Herald of the English College of Heraldry). After the war the N.S.W. Flight, of which Pete Campbell was then Flight President, took the matter up again, the formalities going as far as a Petition to the Queen. This was rejected on the advice of the R.A.A.F.

At that time the R.A.A.F. was led by senior officers, apparently affected by the well-known "Two Air Forces" syndrome, who advised the Government that they did not wish to perpetuate the service divisions created through the E.A.T.S. Squadrons in the European theatre. So our Petition was rejected.

At the recent Squadron Conference, at Port Stephens, the Squadron decided to revive the matter. Peter Alexander raised the matter verbally with the current R.A.A.F. leadership--which is of a younger generation and interested in R.A.A.F. traditions--of which 458 is part. They were encouraging and the Squadron Secretary (Graeme Coombes) has formally asked the R.A.A.F. to seek registration of the 458 Badge. We await results. If this occurs there will be expense (maybe another \$2000) which someone will have to bear.

So, while excited by prospects we are also conscious of the need to cover the expenditure involved in the Holme Memorial Tree project.

We shall, of course, keep readers informed.

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PASSING OF A 458er.

Len MacDonnell passed away on 2nd February. For some months he had suffered from pulmonary fibrosis. His lungs couldn't cope with pneumonia and he died after a few days illness. A Foundation member of the Squadron at Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Len was a navigator, attaining the rank of Squadron Leader.

Jim Holliday comments: This is particularly sad day for some of us. Eric Lloyd, Keith Campbell, Bert Garland, Len MacDonnell and myself enlisted together at Brisbane on 16th August, 1940. We trained together in Canada and were posted to H.O.S.M. Len is the first of the group to pass away. Ruth his wife died some years ago from cancer. They had no children, the nearest and only relative is a nephew. It's sad.

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VIC. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Stan Tarczynski.

Our Christmas Get-together and barbeque was held at Ken and Bea Morkhams' on Sunday December 6th. It turned out a pleasant day and in attendance were John and Dot Fleming, Elaine Timms, Harald and Kath Martin, Dave and Betty Evans, Rup and Beth Pearce, Beat's daughter and son-in-law Dal and June Hope, Tarz and belatedly "Shorty" Frank Wilson, and later still, Mick and Mavis Singe and grandson. The Russells were in Queensland selecting their land, and the news is they are building directly opposite the Cuthbertsons.

Two of our members confronted each other recently in Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital--Tom Primrose and Ken Morkham. Tom has vascular trouble in his legs and Ken was all wired up for sound, to use his expression. He is having heart tests.

Later in December we attended an informal gathering at Ron Russell's temporary abode for an inaugural discussion on the 1989 All-States Reunion. Those involved were: the Russells, Martins, Pearces, Singes, and Elaine Timms, Beat Morkham, Bill Hurford, and Tarz. A further meeting

Vic. News (cont.) took place on February 2nd, and a definite date has now been set for the 1989 Reunion--Sunday April 9th., 1989 to Thursday April 13th inclusive, in Melbourne and, right in the heart of the city, accommodation will be at the Victoria in Little Collins Street, behind the Melbourne Town Hall. The Victoria is being refurbished right now. There will be a choice of three price ranges with plenty of parking facilities. Some of the projected thoughts are a trip to Ballarat to the up-dated Sovereign Hill, a tour of the Dandenong Hills, with a trip on the famous "Puffing Billy"--a narrow gauge railway line; a conducted tour of the city, a dinner/theatre night, and a final wind-up dinner at the Air Force Club. There will also be freetime for shopping and viewing.

A brochure will be included with the following newsletter (with the kind permission of the Editor, etc) and a tear-off slip for a reply to indicate who is interested so that we can commence direct mailing.

At the December meeting, Beat Morkham presented the Russells with a Guzzini Vase with servers to match, on behalf of the Ladies. As Beat said, in appreciation, it was very difficult to select anything for them as they have everything!

Ian Alison informs us of his move to the country, giving his postal address as R.M.B. R745, Ballarat, Vic. 3352.

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SANDGROPPERS' NEWS. from Ted. Jewell.

Whenever 458 members get together it is always a good excuse for a few drinks and lots of reminiscing of days gone by. The last occasion here was a B.B.Q. at our home in Mandurah two weeks ago. We had a really good roll-up of around 30 members, wives and friends who thoroughly enjoyed the day. We are about 80 kilometers from Perth on the south coast, but everyone enjoyed the drive down..

Coming Events. We have another B.B.Q. arranged by Phil and Shirley Hicks, Associate members, at their home 54, Durack Way, Padbury, for 20th March. All members welcome. Just come along for lunch. Bring your own food and drinks.

Anzac Day as usual, same time, fall in place, in town. We have quite a few members who, in the last few years, have had a "No Marching" chit. But we hope to see as many as possible filling the ranks. Our President, Bill Clues, will be laying a wreath at the Dawn Service in Kings Park

Passing of Henzell Hemy. 458 members will learn with sorrow of the passing of Henzell on November 22nd at Hollywood Hospital. He was Navigator in Joe Elliott's crew, which nearly flattened the camp at Shallufa when they crashed on take-off with a full bombload (but nobody was hurt). Henzell lived in Mandurah for several years and was a very keen lawn bowler.

Personal Pars.

Charlie Davis has had another operation on his knee recently. Was having trouble from a previous operation. Hope you are feeling a lot better now, Charlie.

Alice Gannaway was at our home for the B.B.Q. but later had to go into hospital for an operation on her knee. Ron rang to say she is coming along very well. Alice has to have the other knee done at a later date. Gordon Jones met an old Air Force man at the Yacht Club where he is a member and after some talk found out that he was a 458er--Bill Kelliher. So, maybe we shall see something of him at future functions.

The List. 458 members who regularly turn up at our functions in Perth are:

Bill Clues, Ted. Jewell, Peter McCarthy, John Lilky, Stan. Hopewell, Jim Palmer, Henry Etherton, Gordon Jones, Ron. Gannaway, Syd Baker, Stan. Long, Ray Turley, Ben. Cormack, Col. Corten, Charlie Davis, Nobby Nobbs, Al. Wheat, Ken Rex.

Associate Members. Tom Foster, Phil Hicks, Fred Howe, Tom Howard.

Elsie and I are off to-morrow for a three weeks holiday in Hong Kong and China, so send-- Best wishes from all here in the West.

\* \* \* \* \*

CORNSTALK COMMENTS.

from Cy. Irwin.

A quiet time for N.S.W. members since the All-States Reunion in October last.



Cornstalk Comments (cont.)

An Xmas get-together was held at the Air Force Club in Market Street. It was a 5.30 meeting with pre-dinner drinks and chatter before enjoying a help-yourself meal of savouries and goodies. The 34 in attendance voted the evening most enjoyable.

Flight Committee met on 17th February with many matters to discuss including forward planning of 1988 functions. The first of these is the Anzac Day march and reunion. Arrangements will be, as in past years, Assembly for march in the Air Force section at 10-30 a.m. After the March, Reunion and lunch at the Great Southern Hotel, George Street. We hope for a good roll-up in the Bicentennial year and urge our country members to make a special effort to be with us.

On behalf of the Squadron Council, we now hold the Certificates of Life Membership for presentation to Peter Alexander and Eric Munkman at a suitable future date. The Certificates were prepared by Tom Moore and are indeed a work of art. Tom has freely given great support to the Squadron in past years in the preparation of anything required in the art and graphics line. Thanks, Tom!

Stan in the West. Stan and Jean Longhurst, in November last, travelled by car to Perth to attend a wedding. The W.A. Flight entertained them at a lunch at the Freeway Hotel, South Perth. Those present included Bill and Joan Clues, Ray and Marge Turley, Henry and Vera Etherton, Charlie and Betty Davis, Shorty Long, John Lilley and Gordon and Olga Jones. A sad note was the passing of Hensell (Sonja) Hemy. A visit was made to the Air Force Museum, which has grown considerably since Stan last saw it. They were greatly impressed by the Retirement Village at Bullcreek (created and run by the Air Force Association). All the blocks of units are called after types of aircraft and Stan photographed the Wellington block. Stan says the journey by car (their second) was enjoyable and the reception by the West most appreciated.

All for now--and all the best.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim.Holliday.

Our Xmas B.B.Q.lunch was one of our best--thanks to Hilda and Frank Wilks who hosted it at their home in Toowoomba. Their immaculate home, set in beautiful gardens and spacious tree-shaded grounds, is ideal for an Al Fresco function. Both in food and facilities, Hilda and Frank provided all in profusion and excellence. And by a seemingly endless conveyor belt system. Sizzling steaks, succulent salads, irresistible sweets, leavened by sips of spiritous liquids. The jaded appetite was tempted and the ravenous satisfied. No better way to spend a Sunday before Xmas.

The attendance was our biggest. Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson, Joan and Ron.Russell (on vacation from Victoria), Merle and Keith Scott, Bobbie and Sel Williams (associate members), Sheila and Jack Hobbs (all the way from Burrum Heads), Kath and Eric Kelly, Evelyn and Jack Lewis, Helen and Bernie McLoughlin, Charlie Warren with Pet Williams, Isla and Bert Garland, Joan and Clive Wyman, Kittie and Jack Baxter, Joan and Sel.Foote, Charlotte and Chester Jones (Mt.Beppo), Pat and Harry Dorge, Enid and Dud.McKay (Caloundra), and Peg and Jim.Holliday.

To beat the boys in blue, we travelled from Brisbane by bus, hired from the R.S.L. A prudent precaution; most of the males were somnolent for the two hours home run. It was a cheerful, successful, get together--and there's loud clamour for an encore.

Members may be interested to learn that Gordon Postle's late Dad was a champion sprinter, competing in Australia, Britain and South Africa. A recent news article states his records over 50, 60, 75 and 200 yards still stand.

Address Wanted. Eric Lloyd is seeking the address of Mrs.Jimmy Clark. Please forward advice to Jim.Holliday.

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CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.

from Geoff.Esau.

On Tuesday 9th Feb. a meeting of the Adelaide Airport Air Force Memorials Committee was held to consider Incorporation. The Rules were approved and the Secretary asked to take the necessary action.

Croweaters' Caucus (cont.)

It was agreed that when present organisation members become unable to conduct the affairs of the Memorial, an offer by the Air Training Corps to shoulder the task will be taken advantage of.

On February 14th, 1988, the 1987 pre-Christmas get together was held--only slightly late, but no less enjoyably--at the Airport Aviation Institute. Those enjoying lunch on a perfect day in very pleasant surroundings included Bill and Madge Taylor, Bette Burnard and Reg. Priest, John and Ruth Excell, Syd and Pat Bartram, John and Pat Carey, Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft, Peter and Monica Thom, John and Kath. Bax, Dawn McGlasson, Joan Dickson, Kevin Tait, Keith Foreman, Arn. Scholar, Bert and Marjorie Oliver, with daughter Robyn and her husband Colin Rayment with children, Corrina and Ben; Jack and Verna Riseley, Colin and Yvonne Hutchinson, Eric and Mattie Baker, Geoff and Heather Esau. Apologies were received from Brian and Joan Woodhead, Robbie and Rachel Robertson, Ian and Fee Showell, and Bill and Pat Cribb. In his welcome to those present, President John Carey mentioned the Holme-on-Spalding Moor Memorial work and the cost to the Squadron. It was agreed that S.A. Flight would endeavour to assist funding on a pro rata base, bearing in mind the Flight's contribution to the Adelaide Airport Memorials. Altogether it was a very enjoyable occasion. The venue has already been booked for Nov. 6th, 1988, so this year we will be able to enjoy a pre-Christmas party pre-Christmas!

Death of Paul Hinsley.

It is with great regret that I advise of the death of Ted (Paul) Hinsley, late of Angaston in the Barossa Valley. Very sincere sympathy to his wife and family in their sad loss. (Ed. Ted was one of the many long-time-with-458 ground staff, being a Fitter. His pleasant good humoured personality was greatly liked and, though we did not see very much of him in post-war years, he is well remembered and will be much missed).

Personal Pars.

Peter Thom has mislaid the address of his Navigator, Roy Gilkes, recently removed from N.S.W. to Queensland and would be pleased to be told.

Jack Riseley tells me I made a mistake in the last News by reversing the addresses of Al. Wheat's sisters and that in fact Jean Tonkin lives in Perth and Isla Shepherd lives in Elizabeth, S.A. My apologies all round.

Anzac Day. Anzac Day is subscription time. Would all those members not attending but who receive the Squadron News, please post \$10 to our Treasurer, Bert Ravenscroft, at 11, Thornton St. Henley Beach, 5022.

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BRITISH BULLETIN. from Sid. Thompson.

With near hurricane winds battering us, I send greetings to you basking in that warm sunshine which we have been seeing this past couple of weeks on the T.V. for the Bicentennial celebrations.... It is now four months since I retired, what with moving up to Lincoln, etc. I don't seem to have many moments to spare but am enjoying every moment of it.

Another old 458er has emerged after all this long time--Bob Spencer, and he is in touch with another of the Squadron, Bert Alford. So our numbers may increase.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letter to Eric Munkman.

From Bob Spencer, 52, Park Lane, Fareham, PO16 7LB, Hants, England.

(Ed. We saw a notice in the Sydney Morning Herald inquiring after 458 and this has led to our reunion with Bob--who was in the W.T. Section).

Dear Eric, .... May I thank you most warmly for providing me with some information on 458 and its history. At the age of 66 I have to admit that many names of friends I made on the Squadron have now escaped. .... After service on 38 Sqdn and service in various parts of the Middle East, I transferred to 458 at L.G. 91, west of Alexandria.

Correspondence (cont.) My only contact with 458 has been with Mark Noble, of Castle Hill, NSW.....When I was with 458 I was a Corporal in the Signals Section and among the RAF pals I had were Bert Allford, Frank Baggott, George Garside, and Bill Baxter. But I understand there is a book on 458 Squadron by Peter Alexander and I can recall a comrade of that name--I wonder if it could be the same ? (Ed.Yes)

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Second letter. How can I adequately thank you for the Squadron History and the Newsletter and details of the 1987 All-States Reunion....I have read the book from cover to cover and it has recalled many memories. Sadly I find that many of my colleagues were either killed in action or have died subsequently---such as "Pop" Nation, "Snow"Kenny, George Parkin.....I have many photographs depicting some of our old colleagues; F/Sgt Smith of the Wireless Section, with Sgt Snowy Martyn, and 23 other groundcrew mates. Onetaken at Alexandria includes Curly O'Connor, Len Stewart and others whose names have slipped.....another has members of the Signals Section--George Garside (from Battersea), Frank Baggott (from Ilkeston, Derbyshire), Billy Baxter (from Dalton-le-Dale), Dai Davies (Swansea), Ken Tory, Ron Triffett, also Bert Allford from Enfield. ...I have found the history absolutely captivating and although I was posted away from 458 to Air Ministry after the Western Desert campaign, there are so many things which I remember vividly. For instance, I witnessed thehorrifying crash of the S.A.A.F.Baltimore at L.G.91. ...on page 238 there is a photograph of "Binghi"Stewart who closely resembles the Sgt L.Stewart with whom I got on so well when with 458 so I am wondering if it is the same chap featured in some of my own photographs.....There are, of course, many names I can recall, having read the Squadron History---e.g.W/O Vale, A.C. Piggott, P.O.Crooke, S/Ldr.Mick Moran... Once again, very sincere thanks; I find it hard to express the joy I have gained from reading all the material you have sent me. My wife, Phyl.joins me in warmest wishes to any ex-members of our beloved 458.. Kindest regards, Bob. (ED. After over 45 years, is this letter not another illustration of the quite extraordinary nature and strength of 458? But we knew that!)

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VETERANS AFFAIRS IN AUSTRALIA. Just byway of an interim report on events, the Veterans Entitlements Act Monitoring Committee which is reviewing the outcome of that Act, is continuing its work. Peter Alexander believes, being one of its six members, that it is doing a conscientious job. It will report in May (to the Minister). What then happens to its recommendations will rest with the Government. Maybe we shall need another campaign of letter-writing to politicians.

The Government has called for tenders to privatise the Defence Service Homes Scheme. We are monitoring that carefully too.

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To the Squadron Treasurer,  
458 Squadron Council,  
G.P.O.Box 5289, Sydney,  
N.S.W., 2001, Australia.

I wish to contribute to the cost of improvements at the Squadron Memorial Tree at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and am pleased to forward herewith my donation of .....

AND/OR I have donated to the project through my Flight.

From.....

Address.....

.....

Signature.....