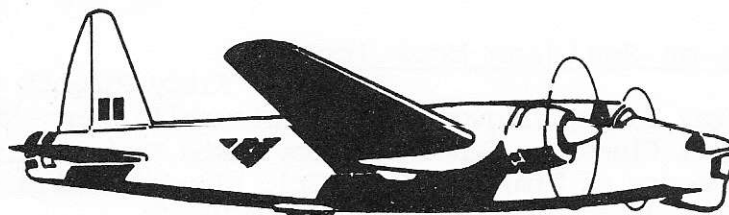


458

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.

Flight Correspondents.

West. Australia	Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210, W.A.,
Sth. Australia	*Ted Creighton, 33, Farr Terrace, Glenelg East, 5045, S.A.,
Victoria	Stan. Tarczynski, 36, Winmalee Drive, Glen Waverley, 3150, Vic,
U.K.	Sid. Thompson, 6, Asheridge, Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1NR, U.K.,
N.S.W.	Cy. Irwin, 3/23, Cecil Street, Ashfield, 2131, N.S.W.
Queensland	Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, 4121, Q.

*Note: new correspondent and new address.

HOLME-on-SPALDING MOOR PROJECT PROGRESSING WELL.

The proposal, approved by Squadron Council and all Flights to pave the area around the 458 Memorial Tree at Holme-on-Spalding Moor has gone ahead energetically since it was announced in the last issue of the News. The necessary funds have been remitted to U.K. (\$2180) and reports received by the Squadron Secretary, Graeme Coombes, indicate that the work is about to commence, following detailed discussions there involving the U.K. Flight. We have seen photographs of the area (the Tree is in good condition) as well as of the local small Museum which, inter alia, features 458. It is in the old Guard Room.

The Appeal for financial support from 458 Members has received a quick and generous response from the Squadron. Members, many very generously, have so far subscribed \$1,568. This, with the Flight contributions, received or promised will cover costs. If there is a surplus it will be earmarked for possible costs of registering the Squadron Crest with the College of Heralds. Latest tidings on that are that the R.A.A.F. in Canberra has approached the College of Heralds to inquire into possibilities.

The Squadron Council acknowledges with warm thanks, donations from:

Norm. Peachey, Charlie Davis, Gordon Postle, M. Littlehales, Les. Russell, Bill Flentje, C. Percy, George Riddoch, Stan. Cartledge, Mick Singe, Ern. Laming, Bill Hurford, Yank Martin, Ern. Bradshaw, R. Pearce, Ron. Eggers, Barry Menser, Bert Garland, Ron. Russell, Vin. Clohesy, Amy Power (in memory of Peter), Gordon Cuthbertson, John MacKellar, Heather Tonkin (in memory of Ron), Ken. Crago, Bill Fiddes, Neil McPhee, Gordon Vale, Graeme Coombes, Eric Munkman, Peter Alexander, Bill McFadden, Keith Campbell, J. Dawes, Lock Simpson,

At Holme-on-Spalding Moor (cont.)

Kitty Piggott (in memory of Alan), Wal. Clarke, Cyril Murray, Johnny Ringwood, Bernie McLoughlin, Henry Etherton, Ted. Jewell, Doug. Holland, Bill Clues, Ron Gannaway, Nobby Nobbs, Kath Shearman (in memory of Bob), Poss Dale (in memory of Tim), Tom. Foster, Eric Lloyd, J. Holliday, C. Warren, J. McKay. The Canadian Flights.

(Ed. We hope there are no omissions. If there should be, please forgive!)

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CORNSTALK COMMENTS.

from Cy. Irwin.

A quiet time for N.S.W. members since the last News report. Anzac Day in Sydney brought together our largest assembly of members since the Port Stephens reunion. A fine day, and 30 + members attended the March and reunion afterwards at the Great Southern Hotel in George Street. A few regular faces were missing but were more than compensated for by the good roll-up of country and out-of-town members. These included long-distance travellers Pat McCullough (Dubbo), Eric Purcell (Orange), Ron. Miller (Griffith), and Dick Cattenach. A good luncheon plus a few beers and yarn-swapping made for a very enjoyable reunion.

Jock McGowen has supplied news of his meeting up with Geoff. Hyles recently. Jock, Jim. Whitem and wives, Anne and Dorothy visited Canberra for the Castrol International Veteran and Vintage Car Rally and were able to meet up with Geoff. and Joan Hyles after a span of some 40 years. They enjoyed a drink and reminiscences and report that the Hyles couple are very well and send good wishes to all old Squadron friends.

We in N.S.W. are happy to know that the Squadron Memorial Tree at Holme-on-Spalding Moor is to be incorporated in a permanent and dedicated Memorial in the U.K. and congratulate Squadron Council on the initiative to follow this through. Further on the U.K. scene--Stuart and Iris Ricketts left Sydney just prior to Anzac Day for a 2 months visit to England and part of Europe. They will spend some time with daughter Anne and husband and hope to bring some news of progress at the Holme Memorial.

Finally, there is to be a Dinner and social evening on Monday 30th. May. The venue is to be the Catering section of the East Sydney Technical College (the old Darlinghurst Gaol) and is timed to start at 6.30 for drinks with dinner to follow. Attendance is limited to 36. (Contact me --798 3585 or Eric Munkman 451 0824). Cost \$15 per head. The College is in Forbes Street, Darlinghurst and next to the Taylor Square law courts.

Squadron Honours. At the dinner it is planned to make presentations to honour 4 stalwarts of 458 Squadron---Bert. Thompson and Stan Longhurst will receive Honour Plaques from N.S.W. Flight; then Peter Alexander and Eric Munkman will receive the Life Membership certificates awarded to them at the last Squadron Conference at Nelson Bay.

All for now---Greetings from N.S.W. to members in other States.

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SANDGROPPERS' NEWS.

From Ted. Jewell.

Anzac Day in Perth. Our President Bill Clues as usual represented W.A. Flight of 458 Squadron at the Dawn Service at the State War Memorial laying a wreath in memory of fallen mates.

I must on behalf of all members thank Vera Etherton for the making of the wreath every year for this service. It is very much appreciated, Vera. As usual, Perth turned on a perfect sunny day for the March and Service in the City. Our members seemed to be a little fewer this year for the Fall In, as a number cannot march these days. After the Service we all met at the Windsor Hotel in South Perth for lunch and drinks. We managed about 40 members, wives and friends, including some members we don't see very often--Len. Stewart, Nundy Carpenter, Bruno Anderson, Syd Baker: good to see them. Plenty to talk about over a beer or two. Other 458 identities there were Ray Turley, Peter McCarthy, Bill Clues, Ron. Gannaway, Stan. Long, Charlie Davis, John Lilly, Henry Etherton Stan. Hopewell, Al. Wheat, Ted. Jewell. Stan. Hopewell's sister Marsi was there with her husband Des, who were over from America on holidays. Des. was in the Navy Station in Perth during the War years.

Death of Ted. Wheeler.

With the greatest regret we advise that Ted. Wheeler passed away on the 20th April at Albany. Trike, as he was so commonly known, was well liked on the Squadron.

Sangropers Say....(concl'd)

Our next function is to be a Sunday lunch at Danny's Restaurant, Manning, on 19th June. Very popular with all members. All members welcome.

All for now and all the best.

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THE BEST OF BRITISH. U.K. Flight news.

The Annual Reunion dinner of the U.K. Flight took place on 23rd April at the Lancaster Hall Hotel, London. Present were our President Mick Mason with his companion Amalia, Leon and Doreen Armstrong, Harry Bishop, Norman and Joyce Duke, Peter and Eileen Leonard, Eric Phillips, and attending for the first time, Tom and Jean Meredith. Tom joined 458 at Holme-on-Spalding Moor on general ground and guard duties and was with the Squadron in the Middle East. Sid Thompson, who moved just before Christmas to Lincolnshire, was, unfortunately, unable to attend as he was on light duties following a suspected mild heart attack.

Although numbers have steadily diminished over the years the small dinner party had plenty to talk about from the time we met up at 6.30 p.m. to closing time at 11.00 p.m. A note of apology was received from Harry Filley who was moving house.

Tom Meredith, who had got in touch with us less than a year ago after having written to Peter Alexander, and Mick got on like a house on fire as they were both in at the start in 1941, but strangely had not known each other on the Squadron. Photographs more than 45 years old came out to the accompaniment of "Ohs" and "Ahs" and "Who's..." "That's old so and so!". Mick now over 80 and going strong had his usual fund of stories, many oft repeated.

During the dinner a toast was drunk to "The Parent Unit" and a report from Sid was read as follows: Fred Nieman invited Vi and me to his place at Brigg and together with Pip Nieman we all went to Holme-on-Spalding Moor. We had a pub lunch at the Red Lion and then went to view the Tree and its surroundings which are looking good. The 76 Squadron Memorial is sited alongside our Tree and it looks very good. When our own is completed it should look very impressive. Donations have been collected for the Memorial, a further whip round at the Dinner, together with a £50 prize from our Premium Bond and anyone else who has not yet donated should enable us to raise quite a considerable amount to the U.K. Flight's contribution.

Norman Duke was able to say that he is continuing to work with a team at Weybridge, Surrey to restore the Wellington aircraft that was fished up out of Loch Ness in Scotland. A great deal of work still has to be done to complete the restoration. There is only one other Wellington known to exist--at the R.A.F. Museum at Hendon. We dispersed after a most enjoyable reunion with promises to meet up again next year. Last weekend Sid again went to Holme-on-Spalding Moor with Fred Nieman and their wives as Fred had managed to make contact with Frank Robertson and we talked at length (in the Red Lion) about the opening ceremony round the Squadron tree. We are hoping all work will be completed by early July. 76 Squadron only meet every two years, but Frank Robertson suggested that we have a rededication service on September 17th 1989 and then we could have a large turn-out (more about this next time). If we do have this I have suggested to the U.K. Flight officers that we make it a Reunion weekend as well. Reunion Dinner at the Red Lion?

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday.

Brisbane had its longest Anzac March ever and its biggest crowds. Against the trend the Air Force numbers were down but 458 boosted by the boys from the Gold Coast had its largest representation for some years. Rollcall at the post-march reunion recorded the following:

Jack Lewis, Jim Holliday, Bert Garland, Gordon Postle, Jack Baxter, Don Brandon, Bernie Hughes, Chester Jones, Eric Kelly, Bernie McLoughlin, Ian Higlett, Gordon Cuthbertson, Ron Russell (currently building at 39, Avanti Avenue, Mermaid Waters, Gold Coast), Bob Helyar, and Associate members Cec Bull, Sel Williams, and Mick Suley.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Two notable absentees were Clive Wyman (hospitalised with a complete collapse), and Chas. Warren (incapacitated with faulty valves). Other apologies: Tony Stone (perky after further multiple by-pass), Jim McKay (99% fit after another heart hiccup), Norm. Taylor (visiting interstate), and Gordon Dalrymple (overseas).

Elections. Predictably, the Annual Meeting again elected Jack Lewis as President, and yours truly, threatened with permanent expulsion, reluctantly re-assumed the Secretary/Treasurership.

Farewell! Sadly we report three deaths within three weeks: Joe Elliott Phil Bennett and Gary Stephenson. Surgery failed to arrest Joe's internal cancer, diagnosed 2 years ago. Some 250 crowded into the Church Service. Phil Bennett's sister advised that Phil went to New Guinea as an aircraft engineer after discharge. Loss of sight in one eye and feeble vision in the other forced his retirement to Brisbane. Gary Stephenson died suddenly. About 150 attended his service at St. John's Cathedral, including the Anglican Archbishop.

Personal Pars. Jack Lewis reports that Hank Ewens has responded well to chemotherapy. Mrs. Ruthven advises that Charlie has severe respiratory problems.

Thanks to Squadron News, Doug. West's crewmember, Harry Filley (29 Ifield Way, Gravesend, Kent.) (But, see U.K. Flight news--Ed.) has written. While Dorothy Whitem and Keith Campbell were able to advise Eric Lloyd that Cherie, widow of Jimmy Clark, lives at 15 Mollison Street, Scullin, Canberra.

Bernie McLoughlin on holiday in Tasmania, contacted Bob Davies. He's retired and plays bowls twice weekly. Recently, Bob met the widow of Bill Wilkinson, who died last year.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Stan. Tarczynski.

The February Squadron News, which I did not receive, made an Appeal for contributions to update the Squadron Memorial at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. The response so far has brought in a total of \$167 from Victorians but there may be more forwarded to Sydney. We would like to thank donors (see list on page 1) including Marie Littlehales, daughter of the late Ted and Josie Littlehales. She has received her first copy of Squadron News and remembers "how much pleasure the "News brought to my dear late parents". Enclosed was a cutting of an article in the local Ballarat free press the News. It relates to 460 Squadron and is being forwarded to Peter Alexander who may wish to reproduce all or part of it as it makes interesting reading. (Ed. Perhaps next time). It was passed round at the Reunion.

Ern. Laming has received a letter from Mona Matthews at Holme-on-Spalding moor to acknowledge with thanks the Xmas hamper. "It was a "nice surprise. I didn't really expect it after so long, but I did "appreciate it."

Anzac Day, Melbourne. Our magnificent Melbourne weather held up for the March but, due to some shoddy timing after leaving my car at Glen Waverley station, a further 20 minute wait for a train, caused me to miss out on the March and then a lonely fast walk to try to catch up at the Shrine. Three quarters of an hour later and two trams, I arrived at the Melbourne Bowling Club, Windsor. Members of the 2 A.T.C. bore the Squadron banner, with Jack Fleming leading the Flight, attended by Ken. Morkham, Mick Singe, Rupe Pearce, Stan. Cartledge, Bill Henry, Vin Clohesy (all the way from Hamilton), Ian Giles (from Belmont, Geelong), Jack Ellis (Dromana), Gordon Nash, Shorty Bradshaw, and Ern. Laming (who had a fall, injuring his temple and receiving First Air but turned up to the Reunion with a small bandage on his temple. He said he felt O.K.) A new member marched and came to the Reunion--the late Bruce Dean's brother, Neil. His daughter and son-in-law are at Cherrybank, N.S.W., and he has attended 458 functions in N.S.W. He was attached to H.Q., Signals in Darwin. Neil will be pleased to be on the Squadron News Mailing list--his address is 6, Margate Crescent, Glen Waverley, 3150.--Tel. 232 3550.

The late Ted Kennedy's son, and Ted's brother also visited us for a few beers. Long before all this "Old Faithful" turned up, hobbling on his

Victorian Views (concl'd). walking stick--Yank Martin.

Last but not least, when we were about to finish up, a telephone call revealed that Lock Simpson had landed with his son, Peter, at Essendon airport and were about to catch a taxi from the Melbourne Motor Inn. So that took up some more jugs and much more natter.

Tom Primrose has not been too good for some time, Since February he has been several times to Epworth, the Royal Melbourne, and Heidelberg Repat. Hospital. It all started with two stomach ulcers, complications, loss of memory for about a week, eight days solitude in one hospital. Finally he has a lot of pain. Otherwise he's alright.

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CROWEATERS' CAUCUS. from Ted. Creighton.

(Editor: With this issue of the News we welcome a new South Australian Flight correspondent and thank him for undertaking this important job for the Squadron. To Geoff. Esau who retires from the job after several years of unfailing performance, the thanks of 458 Squadron generally, and of the News in particular, for his work.)

Anzac Day. Anzac Day dawned a fine mild day and S.A. Flight President John Carey, accompanied by Bert Ravenscroft and Jack Riseley represented the Flight at the War Memorial Dawn Service. Then, Adelaide decided to turn on a Melbourne "Four Seasons a day" act. Showers, lightning and thunder rolled in prior to the Adelaide Airport Service, and huddling for shelter from the elements became the order of the day. Sporting a variety of wet weather gear were Joyce Austin, Ted and Freda Creighton, Geoff. Esau, Reg. Priest, Bert Ravenscroft, Jack Riseley, Kevin Tait, Bill and Madge Taylor, and Peter Thom. The semi-circle of growing trees and enduring metal plaques is steadily increasing: John Carey placed a wreath at the foot of the 458 Tree and Plaque as part of this moving and appropriately located ceremony. We will remember them!

Back to the city for the March and at the assembly point our aforementioned strength was increased with Eric Baker, Bill Cribb, Keith Grimshaw, Col. Hutchinson, Arn. Scholar, and Brian Woodhead. Unfortunately indisposition forced Bill Taylor to trot to Sick Parade for the rest of the day. Several others of our regular marching members were absent on interstate leave. Adding three supernumeraries in Alec McKinnon of 459 Sqdn. Paul Hallum and Lyne Skinner, our final muster for the March was 17. It was now threatening to rain mud from a dust storm in the northern suburbs but as 458 Sqdn, S.A. Flight, led by John Carey and shepherded from the rear by a bright and breezy Jack Riseley swung into King William Street, the sun broke through and the March proceeded in bright sunshine. But then came the wind and it took a lot of helpful advice from spectators and all of Geoff. Esau's sailing experience to keep the Flight banner intact to the end of the March. Arn. Scholar needed a bit of a lift from those around him to complete the distance but rallied at the thought of a beer to be with eight other diehards who managed to make it back to the Talbot for the usual after-the March-lubrication. Note--before next year you must see the Talbot about a bit of embrocation as well!

Reminder. Flight Treasurer Bert Ravenscroft was busy on Anzac Day rounding up subs to enable the Flight to meet its commitments. He adds this plea to those that have yet to pay up. Do so, please! Ten dollars to Bert at 11, Thornton St., Henley Beach, 5022, will get you off the hook.

45 Years later;--A Visitor from the U.K.

Jack Riseley writes: Had

a 'phone call the other day from Norm. Gilbert who with his wife Glenis is visiting Australia mainly to see son David and daughter-in-law Pam. Norman was with the Squadron in Fayid-Shallufa days and we had not seen each other for 45 years. As a result of the call they came out and we had a very pleasant couple of hours chewing the fat and filling in some of the blanks since that time. Son David is located in Melbourne as Sales Manager, A.E.G. Power Tools. Norman spent most of his life in the R.A.F. and upon retirement obtained a job with a Government organisation involved in laying down rules for civil aviation. Nice seeing you, Norman--hope you'll call again!

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ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCENES.

458ers have been kept generally informed about the position of the Australian Repatriation system--long referred to as the most generous in the world, which really is not true (though it wasn't at all bad) .

Wasn't, that is, until the Veterans Entitlements Act, 1986 made various holes in the system. Since then the situation of the severely disabled (from war causes) veteran who reaches 65 (most of the WWII folk) and who after that age cannot (except in special circumstances) get the T.P.I. pension has obviously been greatly disadvantaged. The complexities of the new law (the "Reasonable hypothesis"); the pile up of cases on review at the Veterans Review Board (around 14,000 !) the severity of the new system of determining pension rates (G.A.R.P.), have all caused further difficulties to ageing veterans.

The Federal Government was obliged to set up a Monitoring Committee to report to the Minister for Veterans Affairs on certain, restricted aspects of the new system. That Committee is now about to report. The draft report was shown to representatives of the ex-Service Associations (AVADSC, RSL, TPI, Legacy, etc, etc) and unanimously applauded. The Report is plainspoken and constructive, according to those who in a position to know (including this writer who is a joint author of it).

It will next remain to see what the Government does with it. We have indications that the Minister of Finance isn't likely to approve. We shall report further.

During April, the World Veterans Federation, the (only) international body for all interested ex-service Associations, organised a Conference on Comparative legislation affecting Veterans--where the differences between countries can be compared and overall policy guides can be agreed. The Conference met at Bad Ischl in Austria and was attended by both ex-service and Government representatives from 28 countries. It carried a number of resolutions, substantially relating to a) the ageing veteran (noting that the effects of war disabilities generally worsen and become more expensive to treat with age (may sound simple enough but look at what Australia does now to its over 65 totally disabled) and b) to the situation of war widows. In most respects Australia is reasonably up with the world field but we obviously need to fight to maintain what we have had. Australia was represented at the Conference by Peter Alexander (ex-service), Major General A. Morrison of the Repatriation Commission (Government), and Mrs. Una Boyce (War Widows). After the Conference there was a meeting of the World Veterans Federation Executive Board (of which Peter Alexander is a Vice President). Among many matters it looked at the future and the position of the many many thousands, perhaps millions, of new veterans in Africa, Asia and America for whom nothing much is done and who have to be helped to help themselves.

So much to do and so little to do it with !

There is a deal of stirring among Australian veterans, including a number of RSL sub branches over the local situation. The Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (A Council of 20 organisations at Federal level) is very active. It hopes to be able, perhaps next year, after various new factors have occurred, to initiate closer co-operation among Australian ex-servicemen and particularly with the R.S.L.

The R.A.A.F. Association (of which there is a 458 Sqdn branch in N.S.W.) will hold its biennial Federal Conference in August. For the first time it appears that the serving R.A.A.F. will attend at senior levels. The future of this historic and influential body depends, obviously, on the future membership of now serving young men and women. The R.A.A.F. has recognised this, and its own interest in the matter, in the last year or so. So, we shall see what comes of this. The Conference will be held at RAAF Base, Richmond. (These days one talks of Bases not Stations!).

SO much for the present position.

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FURTHER MERCHANDISE VENTURES FOR 458.

A further small supply of 458 Squadron ties has been obtained. They are in the existing dark blue with the crest embroidered. Available for \$15.

Further Merchandise.

On the initiative of "Dusty" Miller, who won the chief prize at the Port Stephens All-States Reunion--a beautiful painting by Squadron Artist Tom Moore, of a white Wellington in flight above the Rock at Gibraltar--some coloured reproductions are being printed for sale to interested members (only 10 in the first order). They will be 12" x 18". Available for \$15-00 ea. posted.

Thirdly, there being a continuing demand for Squadron wall plaques, the Squadron officers have placed a further small order. These will come, like the previous consignment, from New Zealand, and will cost \$30 ea (plus postage).

If you want to obtain some or all of these Squadron mementi, write to the Squadron Secretary, GPO Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W., 2001, marking the outside of your envelope MERCHANDISE. (So our system will work efficiently! Yes, we have one)

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and Others.

From Frank Robertson, 28, Chapel Fields, Holme-upon-Spalding Moor, Yorks.

Dear Graeme, On 26th March, Mr. Rotherham and I made some further checks and adjustments of the lay-out and I duly authorised him to being work as soon as he can.. He assures me that by mid April he will be able to commence "digging-out" for the foundations, even if he has to do it himself. I should be pleased to send you the negatives of the photos I have sent you, should any of your members like copies... I would be pleased if you could tell me when Anzac Day is, or any other date which is kind of special to the history of the Squadron. It would give alternatives to choose from if we can arrange a gathering for re-dedication of the Memorial. (Ed. But see Page 3). ...You may be able to help us to broadcast in Australia that No.4 Group Committee is still alive and well and preparing for the 5th. Great Reunion in September 1989 Many Australians served with the 9 squadrons of which No.4 Group was composed (Ed. 458 was in No.1 Group). Every two years since 1981 a great reunion has been held in functions around York. We were amazed and delighted each time by the number of chaps and their wives who arrived from Australia, America, Norway, Canada, and many other parts of the world. I will contact you as the work progresses. I have sent copies of our recent correspondence to Fred and Sid and also to F.D. Jennings who lives in Hull and served with 458 from Sept. '41 to Jul '42. His address is 50 Southfield Road, Bricknell Avenue, Hull, HU5 4ES. He, like me, would like to receive the Squadron News, which I regret I have not seen, so we can perhaps contact old pals. The T.V. coverage of the Centennial Celebrations was very good and was very well received here. Received during winter, the shots of your sunshine helped to shorten it for us. The Immigration Office at Australia House has been besieged by calls from would-be immigrants! Best wishes to you all, Frank.

* * * * *

From Bryan Quinlan, 1460 Haywood Avenue, West Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Dear Graeme,

We here are fully supportive of the Holme-upon-Spalding Moor project and would like to pledge a minimum contribution of \$400 and maybe more after the Sept 1988 Aircrew Reunion in Winnipeg. It appears that there will be a good turn out of 458ers there, including Mick Reid, Peter Eastcott, Bill Markowsky, Norm. Duke, Jim Donaldson, George Powell, and hopefully some from "Down Under", Col. Fereday for one. It promises to be an enjoyable mini reunion of the old Protville types from the McKenzie era,

(Enclosed-- \$75 first instalment, from Western Canadian 458 Group)

Very best wishes to all Aussie 458ers, Bryan Quinlan.

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From Mick Reid, 1539, Glenwatson Dr., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, L5E 2W1,

Dear Graeme, Congratulations to 458 Squadron Council on your decision

Correspondence (cont.)

to upgrade the Squadron's Memorial in the UK. Thanks are due to 76 Squadron for their initiative in this worthwhile undertaking. The amount enclosed is consistent with that sent you by Bryan Quinlan. This represents the original \$50 set aside on behalf of 458 Squadron Canada East plus my personal contribution of \$50. I have passed the essential information you sent to Bryan about the need to upgrade the Memorial to the three former squadron members with whom I have maintained contact here in Eastern Canada. Back in '84 Peter Alexander sent me a list with the names of 458 Canadians---only five including myself here in the east.

.....Good Luck and best wishes to you and all our old Aussie mates.
Mick.

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From Ron. Verity, 80 Gayhurst Road, Christchurch 6, New Zealand.

Dear Peter,

.....the second matter which is exercising my mind and my conscience is the business of paying for the News. Although I have raised this before no one seems to know how much or when one should pay. With this letter therefore I am sending one hundred dollars Australian and know you will see it is passed on to those who do the good work with my appreciation.

Although we have been trying to sell our business here to date there have not been any offers. As each season closes we feel that we could do with a change; and if we finally sell hope to have time to keep in touch with members in Aussie. Much else looms on the horizon. I am frequently ashamed that I have not seen Mt. Cook at close quarters, or been to Milford Sound!.....with regards and best wishes, Ron.

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From Amy Power, 145, Gildercliffe Street, Scarborough, W.A., 6019.

Dear Peter, I am enclosing my donation of \$100 as a contribution to the cost of improvements at the Squadron Memorial Tree at Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire. Holme-on-Spalding Moor was very dear to Peter's heart and this donation is in memory of him.

I do thank you for continuing to send me the 458 Squadron News. I do enjoy reading of all your activities and keeping up to date with all the news. With best wishes to all, yours sincerely, A. Power.

* * * * *

From Bill McFadden, P.O. Box 217, Double Bay, N.S.W., 2028.

Dear Editor, Enclosed please find cheque for the Memorial Tree... Please tell Peter Alexander and Graeme Coombes there is another similar one awaiting the successful outcome of their most laudable efforts to legitimise the Squadron Crest.

It has always riled me that while other Squadrons have had their crests registered we have been frustrated. My own personal experiences with some of that "Other" Air Force in Melbourne, immediately after the war were unhappy then, but funny now in hindsight.

I well recall being told by a certain Group Captain that "you blokes who were lucky enough to miss the war by being overseas had far better chances of promotion than those who did the real fighting because the R.A.F. was so much bigger". I am still puzzling over his rationale. Sorry I shall be overseas on Anzac Day again this year, this time in Anaheim--not to see the fantasy world of Disney but the real fantasies of the Congress on Lasers and Optics, CLEO for short..

Regards, yours sincerely, Bill McFadden.

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From Bill Fordyce, G.P.O. Box 1851 Q., Melbourne, Vic, 3001.

Dear Graeme, For the second time in forty-six years I have had contact with the Squadron, I received a copy of 458 Squadron News!

The man in charge of the College of Arms (not of Heralds)... is Garter King of Arms. As I am the Vice President of the Heraldry Society of Australia I would like to suggest an approach.....

How do I join the Association? yours sincerely, Bill Fordyce.

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