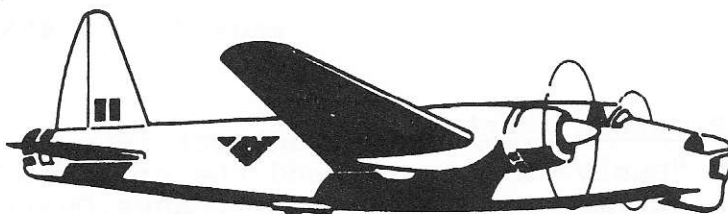


# 458

## 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 (Q.) Squadron Vice Presidents:  
Squadron Treasurer: Peter Alexander (NSW)-----Australia: Ted Jewell (W.A.),  
Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (ACT) John Carey (SA),  
Squadron Hon. Auditor: Bert Thompson (NSW) Canada: Bryan Quinlan (B.C.)  
U.K.: Norman Duke  
New Zealand: Ron Verity.

Editor: Peter Alexander

#### Flight Correspondents.

Sth. Australia	Ted Creighton, 33, Farr Terrace, Glenelg East, 5045, S.A.
Victoria	*Stan. Tarczynski, 68, Alice Street, Mt. Waverley, 3149, Vict.,
U.K.	Sid. Thompsett, 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.,
West: Australia	Ted Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210, W.A.

\*Note address.

#### PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT.

Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Fred Nieman reports that the Memorial is in hand and should be completed in June. Frank Robertson suggests that our next Reunion coincide with the reunion of 76 Squadron on September 17th 1989 to allow a greater gathering at the memorials--perhaps one or two Aussies could make the trip. Fred asks if it would be worth considering having the 458 battle locations placed on a plaque. He has observed that there are signs already of corrosion around the plinth of the 76 Squadron memorial on the metal facings carrying the script.... He adds that if any 458 members are coming over in the near future, he has room for a couple: two single beds and the usual pommie tucker provided.

In Australia, the Squadron Treasurer has continued to receive generous donations for the project. We thank warmly:

Mick Reid (for Canuck members); George Powell, Jack Dowling, Len, Teale, Eric Munkman, Stu. Ricketts, A.F. Jones, Ernie Henwood (yes, we well remember those games of Bridge); Harry Bishop (for U.K. Flight); Jim. Donaldson (in memory of Joe Elliott); Peter Eastcott.

Squadron Plaques. Have gone like hot cakes. We had trouble this time with the Australian Customs (the Plaques come from N.Z.) and have had to increase the price a little to \$35 each.

Squadron Pictures. Also very popular at \$15 each posted. We have had production delays but hope all who ordered have now received.

Projects Progress (cont.)

We sent out interim acknowledgements. We had to ask "Dusty" Miller to send the original painting to Sydney for correct colour matching, etc. Many thanks, Dusty!

The Wartime Crest. We are still awaiting further information from the R.A.A.F.. Maybe they are waiting to hear from the College of Arms in U.K. We have asked Bill Fordyce, who is knowledgeable in these matters, to play a card in the game.

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VALETE."LOFTY" CHALMERS.

The very many 458ers who knew Lofty either at war or in the long peacetime years, will be most sorry to hear of his passing on August 9th. Lofty (his name probably came from his actual christian name Loftus, not his--lack of--height) was an Observer and flew with Justin McCann's crew. In peacetime he was a schoolmaster. He was a considerable golfer. Our sympathy to Zelma, his dear wife;

GERRY YOUNG.

We have heard belatedly that Gerry Young died a year ago in South Australia. We don't have details of Gerry's career --but he was a 458er and we wish him Godspeed and send our sympathies to his family.

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BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid.Thompsett.

I now receive from time to time all the latest news from Frank Robertson about the paving around the Tree at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. It appears that Mr.Rotherham who is actually doing the paving will start the work very shortly and when work is completed (weather permitting) I plan to go up there and view it. General opinion is, from those members who have been in contact with me recently, is they are all in favor of next year's Reunion (1989) being held at Holme-on-Spalding Moor on Saturday September 16th and then to have the rededication of the Squadron Memorial Tree on Sunday September 17th. To help me with this, would members let me know fairly soon if they intend to attend the Reunion and Rededication ceremony. I am at present waiting to hear from Frank Robertson what costs might be.

Norman Duke has written to me saying that the Museum at Brooklands plans to be able to exhibit "R" for Robert--reconstructed as much as possible after its recovery from Loch Ness, in Spring 1990, if the volunteers are spared that long.

U.K.Flight members all donated towards the cost of the paving at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and sent (donations) to Harry Bishop for onward transmission to Aussie, so may I say thank you to all of you.

..so, Cheers for the present, Sid. P.S. Just to remind U.K.Flight members to let me know ASAP if they intend to go to H on.S.M. next year.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Ted.Jewell.

It has been a quiet time for W.A.members since the last News report. We have had some very wet and cold weather, but, with the days starting to warm up we hope to have several functions coming up. We had a great day out on 19th June when we enjoyed a Sunday lunch at Danny's Restaurant. We had hoped to have around 45 to come along, but sickness and other reasons stopped a few from enjoying a wonderful lunch and reunion.

Alice Gannaway has been in hospital again to have an operation on her other knee. She had a similar operation last year. Hope you are getting around now, Alice; we are all thinking of you.

Had a 'phone call from Al.Wheat and he has suggested we may be able to organise a W.A. 458 Squadron Week at the Air Force Museum in Bull Creek. Sounds like a good idea. Al recently had a slight heart attack but is O.K. Must take things easy.

Sandgropers Say (cont.)

Curly O'Connor phoned some time ago and said that Skeeta Staveley had a minor stroke and was left with a slight affliction. We all hope that he is managing alright. Unable to contact him as he has moved.

458 Members are always welcome in W.A. as Bob Lyndon found out during the week: he had several days free in Perth after a tour of our North. He contacted our President Bill Clues who arranged a get together of members who were available. They went to a tavern in the town for a good chinwag and a few beers. A little too far for me to be there: a drive of 160 Km. But those that turned up were Bill Clues, Ron Gannaway, Ben Cormack, Ray Turley, Lock Simpson. Charlie Davis had hoped to be there but has been confined to bed with bronchitis.

Our Flight President Bill Clues has recently moved from his old address in Rivervale and now lives at 408, High Road, Furndale, W.A. 6155, Tel: 457 7402.

I received a letter from Henzell Hemy's widow, Lil, recently. She has now moved from Mandurah and now lives in the Swan Homes at Midland, just outside the Perth area. Best wishes to all, Ted Jewell.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS

from Jim. Holliday.

Regrettably, inclement weather, illness and holidaying, reduced numbers at our Winter B.B.Q. Amanda Withers, petite daughter of Norm. (Shorty) Taylor was our gracious hostess at her home on Marine Parade, Southport. Amanda has unusual interests. She owns an opal mine at Lightning Ridge. Her separated husband flew that famous Vulcan bomber from Britain some 11,000 miles to the Falklands in that recent conflict. Fortunately for us she has an interest in gourmet food. Her salads that complimented the barbeques pork chops and sausages were very imaginative and were introduced by entrees of chicken wings and pork and prawn kebabs. Fabulous food.

Moira and Tony Stone were there. Tony's in splendid health after yet another by-pass op. Attending too were Squadron President Ron. Russell and Joan Russell. They recently occupied their new home at 39 Avanti Avenue, Mermaid Waters, opposite the Cuthbertsons.

Apologies before leaving for overseas came from the Dalrymples and the Garlands, off to the Continent, and from the Eric Lloyds, destination Mexico. The Hobbs went to the Gulf to fish. Chas. Warren (after a niggling illness) and Pat trekked north following the sun. The Wilks were holidaying at Biloela. Elizabeth Rosenberg had business in Melbourne. Chester Jones and Enid McKay were full of 'flu. Helen McLoughlin was hospitalised with severe asthma. Clive Wyman making progress after his collapse. Hank Ewens now on a regimen of short walks. Don. Brandon recuperating after an age-induced operation. Joyce and Jim. McKay were hosting their daughter and her family visiting EXPO. The Ac. Taylors both well recovered after serious ops, but there's still a query with Ac.

Harry Godfrey forwarded to me a letter from crewmate (W.Op) Doug. Jennings of Hull. Doug was prompted to write after reading of Len. MacDonnell's (Navigator) death. Doug reports that their skipper, Phil. Mather, spent a few days with him in the 50s but has lost contact. Doug advises that after his tour with 458 (and 108) he was posted to a Radio School in South Wales and then to a T.T.C. Flight ferrying bodies into France and Belgium. Next posted to 644 Halifaxes towing gliders. After discharge, Doug returned to British Rail, retiring 10 years ago. A news item about 76 Squadron's Memorial at HOSM prompted a visit and his name was passed to U.K. Secretary. Doug proposes to attend the dedication of the 458 Memorial at HOSM.

In his letter to me, Harry Godfrey refers to page 77 of "We find and Destroy" quoting..... "the aircraft caught fire the following morning, the cause remaining unknown to this day...". Harry offers a possible solution. While on 108 Squadron at Kabrit, several aircraft caught fire without reason. One day, about lunchtime, Harry had cause to visit his kite, and saw smoke coming from the front turret. After some hesitation Harry



Q.Flight News (conc'd)

dashed on board, found the ammo. smoking and flung it outside. Apparently the sun had heated the phosphorus in the incendiaries above the ignition level. Harry reported the incident at briefing. Regrettably, the acting C.O. took no action other than to advise gunners to place ammo in the shade! Could this be the explanation of the spontaneous combustion reported on page 77 ? (1st Edition).

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AUGUST VICTORIA FLIGHT NEWS. from Stan.Tarczynski.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Friday May 27th at the Air Force Club, Hawksburn with an average-sized rollcall of 23, with no apologies. Jack Fleming was elected Flight President with Ern.Laming as Vice President and Ken.Morkham as Junior Vice President. All other officers remained the same; namely, Bill Hurford Treasurer and Stan Tarczynski as Secretary---and with a new ADDRESS--68, Alice Street, Mt.Waverley, 3149 (Tel.807 5379).

A vote of thanks was passed to Joan and Ron.Russell on their departure to Queensland for their many years as hosts at their home and garden for various functions.

After the one hour meeting, all in attendance presented themselves for a very enjoyable dinner. They were: Dot and Jack Fleming, Helen and Ern. Laming, Beat and Ken.Morkham, Anne and Bill Hurford, Betty and Dave Evans, Mavis and Mick Singe, Kath and Yank Martin, June and Neil Dean, Bill Henry, Elaine Timms, Joan and Ron.Russell, and Stan.Tarczynski.

Vale. It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Frank "Shorty" Wilson, who had been ill for some considerable time. In his earlier days he served 458 in various duties with distinction.

1989 ALL-STATES REUNION. Planning is well under way for the 1989 Reunion in Melbourne and the "Intent to Register" Forms should be returned as soon as possible--if not already done. So far only 43 have been received. This needs to be trebled or more.

One of the commemorative plaques prepared by Bill Clues of W.A.Flight has been donated by Ron.Russell on behalf of Vic Flt. for presentation to the RAAF Museum at Point Cook. The C.O., Sqdn Leader P.A.Allen writes: The RAAF Museum is currently planning the re-development of the WWII Gallery, and only after construction is completed will the 458 Sqdn.plaque be displayed. If your Association maintains other memorabilia which you may consider to be appropriately displayed in the upgraded Gallery, the RAAF Museum would be interested access to that material for display purposes. (Editor: Will members please note. The War Memorial in Canberra and the RAAFA Museum in Perth also seek such memorabilia--but it would be good to see 458 well represented in Point Cook, the foundation place of the R.A.A.F.).

Welcome! To new/old member--Bill Fordyce, an ex-POW who hopefully will be seen at future functions. The next one is a BBQ-BYO on Melbourne Cup day and will be down at St.Leonards at Jack and Dot Fleming's place. This is the day we start before the first race which is usually around 11.30 a.m., and have sweeps on all events. The other function after that is our Christmas BBQ and BYO which will be held on the last Sunday in November--the 27th--at Ken and Beat, Morkham's--19 Terang Avenue, E.Burwood. This starts around noon and each one brings about a \$2 gift wrapped, to go in the Ladies and Mens' baskets.

Dont't Forget to forward your "Intent top Register" Form and if you have any queries, please get in touch with Rupert Pearce--Reunion Secretary, 46 Mount Pleasant Rd., Nunawading, 3131 (Tel 03-878 2932)

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CORNSTALK COMMENTS.

from Cy.Irwin.

A most enjoyable dining out evening was celebrated in Sydney on 30th.May last. The venue was the catering section of the Sydney Technical College at Darlinghurst. The service of the meal and the

and refreshments was high standard, prepared, under supervision, by students of catering at the College. The capacity booking number of 36 Squadron members and wives, and friends, attended and they awarded top marks to our hosts.

Squadron Awards. The evening gave us the opportunity to make formal presentation of two important Squadron awards on behalf of the Squadron Council and the N.S.W.Flight. First of these was the award of Life Membership Certificates of the Squadron Association to Peter Alexander and Eric Munkman, following the decision of the Squadron Conference at Nelson Bay. Presentations were made by Sam Barlow as representative of Squadron Council and a past Squadron President.

Travelling Members and Others.

Travelling Members and Others. Iris and Stuart Ricketts are back on deck after a visit to U.K. and parts of Europe. Main object was to visit their daughter Anne and her husband in England. Flight President Eric Munkman and Dorothy visited Expo in June and holidayed at Ballina on the return trip.

We hear that Morgan (Lofty) Bracker, who suffered a stroke, is improving in hospital. All the best to you, Lofty!

Events, past and coming. The annual RAAFA bowls day was held this year at West Pymble Bowling Club on August 14th and 458 fielded two teams. We came near to a prize! Stuart Ricketts (817-2414) asks potential players for future events to contact him.

The 1988 Annual State Assembly of the RAAF Association was held at the Sydney Leagues Club on the weekend 18/19th June. Stan Longhurst who is a member of the State Council attended as Squadron delegate. Peter Alexander attending as Life Vice President of the NSW Division also represented the Squadron branch.

Flight Committee has for some time been considering the possibility of a 4-day party holiday trip to the south coast once the warmer weather is with us. Would members please consider this and if the idea appeals, contact either Eric Munkman (451-0824) or Cy.Irwin (798-3585) and details can be considered.

All for now; regards from NSW to members in other States.

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CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.

from Ted.Creighton.

## A Single Visit from Singleton in 43 Years.

Bert Oliver is still recovering from the shock of a recent visit to the Oliver Homestead at McLaren Vale. After receiving an anonymous 'phone call seeking directions to the house he was confronted by one George Morgan. They crewed together in Italy and Gibraltar and had not met since 1945. News of George over all these years has been scarc. All who recall rough and ready George will be pleased to know that after many years of the life of a lover, George is married to a lass from the Philippines. George now seems a bit more interested in getting out and about but unfortunately is not enjoying the best of health. Stick to it, George ( Ed. And we remember George as a member of the Squadron cricket team at Rathmines years ago, when he made a lot of runs for us).

Enough towakenthe Dead?

Enough to wake the Dead? Whilst writing of Bert Oliver, who was missing at the last Anzac Day S.A. line-up, having travelled to Perth for the Empire Air Training Scheme reunion, the following is a short extract from an article in the Adelaide "Advertiser" concerning the Olivers of McLaren Vale.

of McLaren Vale. "The Oliver family of McLaren Vale and lots of relatives held a wake at the family's private crypt yesterday.

It was long overdue. Exactly 100 years!. The graveside party was a very belated send-off for the family's pioneer ancestor, William Oliver who arrived in the colony in 1839 and departed, full of toil and achievement, on May 17th, 1888, aged 76.

Three generations of Olivers are still farming the original 500 acres.

Croweaters Caucus (cont.)

As 1989 will see the 150th Anniversary of William's arrival in S.A. everyone agreed it would be a good enough reason for another vintage tombstone toast next year. The family honour at the wake was upheld by Marjorie--Bert was busy playing bowls."

Personal Par.

A phone call in search of news revealed that Syd and Pat Bartram are just back from a trip to Singapore and Hong Kong. Syd says it was a business trip and not just to avoid the Adelaide winter. In any case, Syd reckons they were wet all the time--either under the shower or covered in perspiration.

# # # # #

COMPENSATION, HOSPITALS AND DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES.

The Australian Veterans legislation has been under continuing pressure for some years now. The Veterans Entitlements Act, reviewed by the VEA Monitoring Committee, is widely (and correctly) seen as having cut back on what Australia does for its ex-service people.

The magnificent Defence Service Homes Scheme is to be "privatised" --probably to Westpac. The (rumoured) terms of privatisation seem likely to preserve and in some respects improve the scheme--at least for future borrowers. But this is something which the ex-Service community (AVADSC and the RSL) will need to watch very closely.

As to the Repatriation Hospitals. It is now announced that the Government intends that they be "integrated" into State Hospitals "by July 1st 1995". The Minister claims benefits for veterans will be carefully guarded in the terms of hand-over and that there will be a National Committee of ex-service people to monitor what happens, as well as State-level Committees.

It may please S.A. readers (who we know, are most concerned about Daw Park Hospital) to know that, according to our information, that may well be the last to go over to State control.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Mick Reid, British Heritage Institute of Canada, to Graeme Coombes.

Dear Graeme,

Here is another contribution ..... from 458 Squadron Canada East. The international bank draft comes, for \$50, from Peter Eastcott of 531 Homewood Avenue, Peterborough, Ontario. I am sure you will have received my note with an IBD for \$25 from George Powell, 24, Birch Avenue, Elliott Lake, Ontario. Peter and George, as you will recall, flew with Bruce McKenzie. Their contributions and one sent direct by Ernie Henwood fulfil our commitment in East Canada. Ernie fondly recalls his bridge encounters with Peter Alexander and Tony Mauro while serving in Italy. (Ed. So do we--plus Jock McLeod and Ray Muldoon). We are happy to learn of the enthusiastic and universal response to the Memorial project...

All the very best, Mick Reid.

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From Jim Donaldson, 72 Amarynth Crescent, Winnipeg, M.B., Canada.

Dear Graeme, please forward the enclosed donation to the Squadron Council, in memory of the late Joe Elliott. I believe that in every service person's life one individual stands out more than all others. For me that was Joe Elliott. I joined 458 RAAF Squadron at Shallufa as a member of F/Sgt Johnston's crew and (later) was assigned to Joe Elliott's crew and we flew 25 trips together..... Hope to make Australia some day, Jim. (Ed. This letter deserves more space than we are going to have and will be carried forward for the next issue.)

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