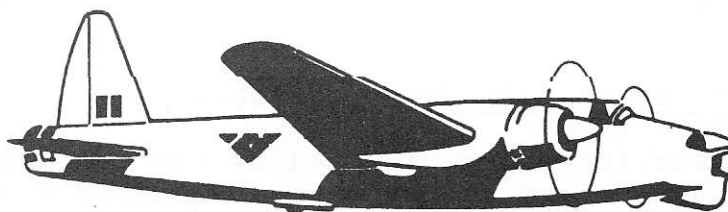


# 458

## SQUADRON NEWS



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL---G.P.O.Box 5289, SYDNEY, 2001, 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 (S.A.)  
Squadron Hon. Auditor: Bert Thompson (NSW)   Canada: Jim. Donaldson (Manitoba);  
U.K.   Norman Duke,  
New Zealand: Ron. Verity.

Editor: Peter Alexander.

#### Flight Correspondents.

Victoria   Stan Tarczynski, 68, Alice Street, Mt. Waverley, 3149, Victoria;  
U.K.   Sid. Thompsett, 6, Asheridge, Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1NR, England  
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.  
Sth. Australia   Ted. Creighton, 33, Farr Terrace, Glenelg East, 5045, S.A.

#### COLLEGE OF ARMS SAYS "NO" AGAIN.   But it might not be the last word.

Our renewed approach to the College of Arms in England to register formally the wartime 458 Squadron Crest, has been rejected. We got much further this time in that we were wholeheartedly supported by the present-day R.A.A.F (unlike the RAAF Command when we first applied in the 1950s). But this time we were rejected in England.

Our rejection by the College of Arms was conveyed by the RAAF in a letter which makes clear the attitude of the RAAF. It read:

To the Squadron Secretary.

I refer to your request that No.458 Squadron's unit badge, as used during World War II, be officially recognised and formally registered.

All official RAAF badges are processed through the Inspector of RAAF badges at the U.K. College of Arms in London and then personally approved and signed by the Sovereign. Your request to have 458 Squadron's wartime badge recognised was referred to the Inspector of RAAF Badges. He has recently replied that formal recognition cannot be given, stating that no clear precedent could be determined and the College of Arms would not support a precedent of this nature being set.

Regrettably, therefore, while sympathetic with the intentions of the Squadron Council, I am unable to action your request that the No.458 Squadron badge be officially approved.

"No!" to the 458 Crest. (cont.)

However, the stance adopted by the College of Arms should not be construed as a slight on the Squadron's history or traditions, nor as a brake on the continued usage of the insignia.

In conclusion, let me assure you that, while the insignia may not be officially approved and registered with the UK College of Arms, it is recognised by the RAAF as the wartime badge of No.458 Squadron.

yours faithfully, J.A.Paule  
Air Vice Marshal.

Squadron members will appreciate and thank Air Mshl Paule for the gracious terms of the refusal he had to convey. His letter indeed does carry us a large part of the way we wished to go. But not quite far enough, as a later item in this News may illustrate. Squadron Council will consider the matter at its next meeting. In the meantime, a Squadron member with connections at the College of Arms is discussing the matter further with them.

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AT HOLME-on-SPALDING MOOR.

The project generously supported by 458 members to pave the area around the Holme-on-Spalding Moor Memorial Tree is progressing well though we await advice of its finalisation.

We acknowledge, on behalf of Squadron Council, further generous donations for the purpose from the following:

Bert Thompson, John Hamilton, John Bilney, Peter Pettit, Tom Moore, George McLeod, Wilf Baynton.

Members will have noted the warm support from Canadian Flight members. It may be that when we know the final cost of the work at Holme-on-Spalding Moor there will be a balance left. This would be likely to be used on the St.Clement Danes Project (see below), if Members agree.

AT THE ROYAL AIR FORCE CHURCH--St.CLEMENT DANES in the Strand.

The Editor has very recently received the following letter:

Dear Peter, When in London recently I visited the official Air Force Church, St.Clement Danes in the Strand, London.

The enclosed brochure will tell you all about it, but when you read that nearly 800 unit and Squadron badges are embedded in the floor, it does not necessarily mean 458 Squadron badge is amongst these.

I looked in vain for 458 and when I enquired I was told that evidently 458 "had not got their act together and subscribed the "necessary cash". The cost is between \$400 and \$500.

My immediate reaction was to give the money myself in memory of my late husband Bill, but then I realised that many members of 458 Squadron would also want to be involved in raising the money for their badge to be displayed proudly among the others.

I do not know if there has already been a subscription for above, or if one is intended, but I enclose \$50 towards any appeal, and would be happy to donate more if necessary.

yours sincerely, Mary Wilkinson (wife of the late Bill Wilkinson of 458).

The problem with the St.Clement Danes situation has been the same one--registration of the badge. Years ago we were told that as the 458 badge was unregistered we "were represented by the R.A.F crest". However, the Squadron Secretary, Graeme Coombes, is again approaching the Church as it seems a little improbable that nearly 800 units have achieved recognition by the College of Arms.

The News will report progress.

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SANDGROPPERS NEWS.

from Ted.Jewell.

W.A.Flight has not been very active since the last newsletter. We have had two B.B.Qs over this period. One of them at the home of Ray and Mary Turley to meet Arnold Ashton who was over to the West for a short holiday. Arnold stayed with Ray for this time. There was a Reunion, with Ray Turley, Bill Clues, Henry Etherton, Arnold Ashton, and Jack Miles. This was the first time they have been together since the Squadron and they say they are probably the only tentmates who are still complete as a group. I wonder if this is so.

Mick Singe was over in the West staying with his son in Northam, which is about 100 km north of Perth. Mick rang me to say goodbay but was in too much of a hurry to be able to drop in when passing through Mandurah on a sight-seeing tour through the south west. Said he called in to see Jim.Palmer when in Kojanup.

Had a ring one night from Pat and Joyce Enright who were also on holidays in our State. They had been staying with Joan Priest who was their neighbour in South Australia. Joan has remarried since the death of husband Mel. Joan and husband lent Pat a landrover to so their touring of the State. While in Mandurah we visited Nobby Nobbs and

Esme for the evening, had a good talk about Squadron days and sampled one or two of Nobby's homebrew. It is surprising how much you forget of the war years on 458 until you start to discuss those times. It was lucky that on the next day, Sunday, 458 was having a BBQ at the home of one of our Associate members, with Ken and Dixie Rex. Ken was in the RAAF in England during the war years. Pat Enright was able to meet once again Squadron members he had not seen since the war years. Pat and Joyce stayed with Ray and Marg.Turley for a few days, then went with Bill and Joan Clues before returned to landrover and then home.

Death of Associate Member. Tom.Foster was an Associate member of W.A. Flight for a good many years and was in the RAAF in England during the war. He was a real gentleman and will be sadly missed.

For Christmas. We have a Christmas lunch planned for Sunday December 11th.at the Windsor Hotel in South Perth at midday. Hoping to have about 40 members and wives to be there. Should be a good day. All members welcome.

As this will be the last News before Christmas, on behalf of W.A.Flight I would like to wish all members everywhere a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim.Holliday.

Regrettably, we must record the passing of Alick (Hank) Ewens, on 28th September. Margo and Alick retired from Mt.Gambier, S.A. to Redland Bay some four years ago. Unfortunately Hank was plagued with leukaemia. Repeated treatments with chemotherapy seemed at last to have cured the trouble. Unexpectedly, while progressing to recovery, he collapsed. Several 458 mates attended the sincere church service. Our deepest sympathy to Margo and the Ewens family.

Personal Pars. Clive Wyman has recovered remarkably from his mysterious collapse. He's in full voice and attending his office most days of the week. Wintering in the North has fleshed out Chas.Warren to some extent but there may be a delay before his doctors declare his weight alright. Dick Boydell admits his open heart surgery was long overdue. With two by-passes and one valve repair, he says he's very much the better. After some neuro-surgical "acupuncture" Tony Stone's back troubles seem behind him. With age-induced troubles restricting physical activity, Keith Austin has given up his acreage for a suburban lot.

"Snow" Atherton reports sighting Alf.Peake occasionally. Says he seems very fit, from farming, plays plenty of bowls, catches a few fish and suspects he enjoys the odd noggin. Snow is still in Real Estate but trying to dodge Mr.Keating's treadmill. Spent Xmas laid back in Tonga.

Expo 88 flushed out the Theo Ravenscrofts from Longreach into a Willy-Willy of activity around Brisbane. For Jim. McKay, Expo 88



Q.Flight News (cont.)

turned his home into a motel for his relatives and friends. Highlight was crew captain Graeme Coombes--though jaws suffered R.S.I. Vin.Clohesy dropped in to yours truly during his Expo.visit and also to the Gold Coast contingent. Vin's account of his motorcade from Robinvale to the "Walls of China" disorganised by days of rain, is hilarious.

Harry Godfrey has forwarded photocopies of published notices in "Flight" and Cairns Post of his being "killed-in-Action" at Kabrit in September, 1942. Apparently it was an R.A.F.pilot--same name, same initials. Harry refrained from claiming compensation for the trauma caused to his Mother and relatives.

Those within driving distance are licking their lips in anticipation of the Xmas function scheduled for the Cuthbertsons at the Gold Coast on Sunday, 27th November.

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N.S.W.NOTES.

from Cy.Irwin.

Apart from two regular meetings of the Flight Committee, a quiet time for N.S.W.members since our last News issue. A future function of interest is the Xmas Get-together organised for the evening of November 21st. The venue will be the T.A.F.E.College catering section at the Ryde College, 250 Blaxland Road, Ryde. Members who attended an earlier similar dinner evening at the Darlinghurst College will remember and once again be keen for a repeat performance by catering students.

Response to the Flight's regular Melbourne Cup sweep this year was good. Winners, who were promptly notified, were:

1st. Empire Rose	Dave Westgarth
2nd Natski	Jack Baker (Black Jack)
3rd Na Botta	Henry Bryant.

Our thanks to all who assisted by returning tickets.

News from Vic.Flight organisers of the 1989 All-States Reunion indicates that numbers are steadily rising. We urge N.S.W.members to endeavour to attend and forward their registrations early.

New Clubs and Meeting Places.

Since the closure of the Air Force/Pitt Club in Market Street, Flight Committee meetings have been held at the British Ex-service Club, York and Market Streets. Facilities there are not entirely to our liking and we are on the look-out for a more suitable meeting place.

Personalities. Eric and Dorothy Munkman will head off for a holiday break at Ballina in mid November and will not be with us at the Xmas get together. We wish them a happy holiday.

Lofty Bracker is still in South Sydney Hospital. His recovery from a severe stroke some months ago has been slow. We send him our wishes and hopes for future news of improvement.

As this is the last News before Xmas, N.S.W.Flight wishes members in all States the very best of Xmas wishes--and may 1989 be a good year for all.

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VICTORIAN FLIGHT NEWS

from Stan.Tarczynski.

First of all, I have to apologise for beating the gun by publicising my new 'phone number which in fact did not eventuate--there is no 'phone. The 1989 All-States Reunion, Melbourne, April 9th-14th.

There have been 58 Intent to Register Forms returned. With accompanying wives this makes a total of 88, a number well down on the last and most successful Port Stephens Reunion. The early return of the Registration Form, which also covers the accomodation selection, plus the deposit, before November 30th. will help with the planning. It is not too late to register, and if the Intent to Register Form has been mislaid, then write to Rupert Pearce, 46 Mt.Pleasant Rd., Nunawading, Vic.3131 (Tel: 878 2932). Rupert is the Reunion Secretary and a friend of Ern.Laming.

Victorian News (cont.) The Reunion Programme.

Sunday, April 9th. Welcome Reception Drinks, savouries, in the Function Room, in the Victoria Hotel. Cost \$18.

Monday, April 10th. Morning--Free. 1.30 to 5.0 p.m. Coach tour of City sights--Capt. Cook's Cottage, Shrine of Remembrance, Botanical Gardens, Como House, West Gate Bridge, etc. Cost \$10. 6 to 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral by arrangement with the Victoria College of Art, a brass and organ recital. No transport required.

Tuesday April 11th. Full day tour by coach to Sovereign Hill, Ballarat. Lunch at Ballarat R.S.L. Club. Drinks available at bar prices. As time permits, see Begonia Festival, Lake Wendouree, Gold Museum. Cost \$27.

Wednesday April 12th. 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Full day tour of the Dandenong Ranges by coach, with a trip on Puffing Billy. Picnic lunch and billy tea at Badger Creek. Then on to Sir Colin McKenzie Wildlife Park. Cost \$30.

Thursday April 13th. Morning Squadron Conference. For others--Golf and bowls, to be arranged at nominal cost. Payable later.

Afternoon free for shopping and sightseeing. Some suggestions:-- Melbourne Zoo, Museum, Vic. Arts Centre, Flinders Park Tennis Centre, Craft Centre, National Gallery, China Town, Sports Museum Hall of Fame.

Evening. Squadron Dinner at Air Force Association, South Yarra. Guest Speaker, Bill Fordyce. Coaches will depart from Victoria Hotel at 6 p.m. and return at approx. 11 p.m. Cost \$33.

Friday April 14th. Stand down and farewells.

Don't Forget! Contact Rupert Pearce.

Personal Par . John Bilney has offered to make up sets of four photographs, approx. 8 x 5 inches of Wellington aircraft out of Gibraltar, to be sold at \$10 per set. These will be on view, and orders taken, during the Reunion.

Melbourne Cup Day. We journeyed to St. Leonards on the Bellarine Peninsula, past Geelong, to Jack and Dot Fleming's place for the usual B.B.Q. and race raffles. The lucky "Big Winner" was Mick Singe, who drew Empire Rose in two sweeps. A number of our regulars were otherwise engaged but our hosts welcomed Mick and Mavis Singe, Dave and Betty Evans, Ern and Helen Laming, Stan. Tarczynski, Harry and Nell Ashworth, Ian and Val Alison, and Eric Johnston. The last named, from Pt. Lonsdale, is compiling a history of the Yellow Draft (see below). He was in the M.E. but not on 458. Tarz.

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CROWEATERS' CAUCUS. from Ted. Creighton.

The Airport Memorials. The Adelaide Airport Committee is now an Incorporated Association. This should further strengthen the future of our "Plaques of Enduring Metal and Growing Trees". Since the 458 Plaque and Tree was first placed there in 1958, the number of Memorials has grown to 32. There is also a central Cairn explaining their purpose and paying tribute to the late Ron. Badger of 458 who conceived the idea. It is interesting to note that the dedications now include a USAAF tree and plaque. The three most recent additions are 18 NEI Squadron, B24 Liberator Squadrons, and the 30th Bombardment Group, USAAF.

Red Terror in Adelaide. On September 23rd Adelaide was stunned by the arrival of a shocking red 1935 Ford V8 Tourer. It was accompanied by none other than Jock McGowan. Along with a couple of mates, Jock blew into seaside Glenelg for the Bay to Birdwood Vintage Car Rally. Unfortunately, that particular weekend, Flight President John Carey was in the throes of trying to flog off the Old Bark Hut at Sprod Avenue, Toorak Gardens, and your local Flight Correspondent was struggling to avoid Sick Parade. Consequently Jock did not exactly receive red-carpet treatment. However the Flight ring-around worked very well and Monday afternoon saw some 14/15 S.A. 458ers (including Pat Bartam and Monica Thom) gather at the Talbot Hotel to have a beer with Jock. In true 458 tradition, after a salute to the late Jack Bax, the show went on and a

Croweaters' Caucus (cont.)

pleasant afternoon was the order of the day, particularly as it was left to guest Jock to pour most of the beer. John Excell managed a cross-country trip from Murray Bridge to catch up with Jock at Birdwood on the Sunday. Possibly Jock will have more to write on his trip, but one thing I do know--the Red Terror was on strike when it first hit Adelaide.

Vale Jack Bax.

Jack Bax died at the Repat. Hospital Daw Park, on September 25th. Jack, well known 458 identity in wartime years, at the Squadron Store, had, in recent years, resided in suburban North Adelaide. He was buried back at his old township of Mt. Pleasant in the Adelaide Hills. John Carey, Bert Ravenscroft and Peter Thom attended the funeral. The Squadron Banner was prominently displayed near the coffin and a large crowd was there to pay their last respects. Our deepest sympathy to Kath and family.

Personal Pars.

Bert and Lorna (nee Bennie) Ravenscroft have just returned from a 300 strong family reunion at Hawker in S.A.'s Mid-North. Whilst they were there they made several excursions to enjoy the beauty of the Flinders Range in springtime. Ever the Treasurer, Bert Ravenscroft reminds S.A. Flight members that subs this year were raised to \$10 and any outstandings can be posted to him at 11, Thornton St., Henley Beach, 5022.

No Jumping for Jack.

Jack Riseley has developed a heart condition and is resting for a short time in Daw Park Repat. Hospital. Best wishes, and take it easy, Jack!

Give us a break!

Ted Creighton's no. 2 grandson, Paul, immediately after having plaster removed from a broken wrist, is now hopping around on crutches, with broken bones in the foot. No. 4 grandson, Lachlan McEntee, not to be outdone, is sporting a sling with a broken arm just above the elbow... Odd numbers 1 and 3, are getting about with their fingers crossed.

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STARTERS FOR THE MELBOURNE ALL-STATES REUNION, 1989.

Rupert Pearce advises that the latest list of Intenders to Register are:

Bill Taylor, Mick Singe, George Riddoch, Rupert Pearce, Jim Palmer, Bernard McLoughlin, Eric Munkman, Ken. Morkham, Ron. Miller, Bill Hurford, Jim. Holliday, Bert Garland, John Excell, Neil Dean, Bill Cribb, Ben Cormack, Graeme Coombes, Vin. Clohesy, Bill Chapman, John Carey, Syd. Bartram, Red-Jack Baker, Wal. Archbold, Peter Alexander, Bill Laughlin, Ron. Russell, Frank Wilks, Bert Ravenscroft, Jock McGowen, Eric Lloyd, Peter Leonard, Dr. and Mrs. Williams, Jim Whitem, Elaine Timms, Ron. Verity, Gordon Cuthbertson, Jack Lewis, Sel. Foote, Dave Firth, Jack Fleming, Ern. Laming, Cec. Percy, Frank Ward, Ivan Green, Bill Fiddes, Jack Baxter, Harald Martin, Ian Showell, Bert Smith, Eric Baker, Bert Oliver, Norm Carpenter, Eric Kelly, Laurie Crowley, Col. Fereday, Jack Hamilton, Stan. Longhurst, Clive Wyman, Len. Netherway, Don. Bitmead.

If your name isn't there, please be in it!.

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458er IN CANADA.

While we are supplying names, we think members everywhere will be glad to have an up-dated list of Canadian 458 Addresses.

Wilf. Baynton	17-40 Judge Avenue, North Bay, Ontario, P1A 1B4,
Jim. Donaldson	72, Amarynth Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2Y 0C1,
Peter Eastcott	531 Homewood Avenue, Peterborough, Ontario, K9H 2N4,
Cam. Evans	2404, 7th Street, N.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2E 4C9,
Lawrence Glenn	Ste. 106, 33369 Old Yale Road, Abbotsford, B.C., V2S,
Ben. Gruenwald	4911, Collingwood Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6N 1S7,
Ernie Henwood	9, Hutton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4C 3L2,
Lorne Holtzman	634, Williams Crescent, Regina, Sask, S4T 6B2,
Ernie Ireland	1691, RR#1 Blaylocks, Box 13, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5P4,
Frank Laughlin	3874, Gordon Head Road, Victoria, B.C., V8P 4X2,
Tom. Lindsay	1492, W. 47th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2M1,



A.M. HALLANQUIST 33 QUINPAAL CRESC. OTTAWA ONT. K2H 6A9  
 MARSH FRED 2831 34 ST. CALGARY ALTA. T3E 2W8  
 Canadian Addresses (cont.)  
 G.V. MUNRO (BILL) 1205 RUNNINGBROOK DAIVE MISSISSAUGA ONTARIO L4Y2T5  
 George McLeod To be advised.  
 Bert Markland Box 227, Christina Lake, B.C. V0H 1T0,  
 Bill Markowsky Candle Lake, Sask., S0J 3E0,  
 D. Matthews To be advised,  
 Tony Mauro RR#3 Oliver, B.C. V0H 1T0,  
 Jock McLeod 4251, Arthur Drive, Delta, B.C. V4K 2X1,  
 Ray Muldoon 165, Wright Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6R 1L1,  
 George Powell 24, Birch Road, Elliott Lake, Ontario, P5A 2E2,  
 Bryan Quinlan 1460, Haywood Avenue, West Vancouver, B.C., V7T 1V6  
 Mickey Reid 1539 Glenwatson Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5E 2W1,  
 H.E. CATHER "BUCKEY" 68 GLENGROVE AVE WEST TORONTO M4R 1N7

Ed. All comes to those who wait. We welcome with the greatest warmth Canucks whose names appear above for the first time for (say) 40 years--as well as those with who we have been in touch and whose work to bring the Canadian Flight into activity has been so great. Now we are again in touch, how about a letter from YOU telling us how you have spent some of the 40 years that have gone. It would be good to know how you have fared before you and we move into an ultimate and lasting silence.

Canada Flight still seeks news of Claude Bourke, Peter Hemingway, Jerry Landry, Bill Munro, Alan Ruggles and E (Sleepy) Winters. Any clues appreciated.

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#### THE STORY OF THE YELLOW DRAFT.

Eric Johnston, of 19 Qu'Appelle Street, Pt. Lonsdale, Vict., 3225 is writing the History of the Yellow Draft. The 458 and other groundstaff who left Australia together to man the Middle East Squadrons, and did so with great efficiency, are asked to write to Eric, A.S.A.P with any memories, anecdotes of their own story and that of their mates--some of whom may have since died. This is the one chance for your work to be fully recorded. Eric writes (in part)

In April-May 1941, as groundstaff you volunteered for overseas service under the Infiltration Scheme.....The time you were posted to Embarkation Depot, the friends who were with when, at No1 E.D., Ascot Vale, you were divided between the Yellow and Blue Drafts. Which boat were you on? Incidents aboard? Foreign soil, posted to an R.A.F. or perhaps R.A.A.F. Squadron. Now at war. Your first Xmas away. Mail from home. 450, 451, 454, 458, 459, 462, Air Ambulance. The winning of the North African Campaign, over to Italy, some to U.K.

There'd be other tales to tell. It's time they were told for history. Your names will be listed in the back of the book so families should be able to say "Look, there's Dad. Or, there's Granddad".

Don't you agree? It's time to Remember!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and Others.

From Jim. Donaldson, 72, Amarynth Cresc., Winnipeg, Canada.

Please forward the enclose donation to 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, the individual was Joe Elliott.

I joined 458 RAAF Squadron at Shallufa, as a member of F. Sgt Johnston's crew along with Sgt. Davies (RAF), 2nd Dickie, Sgt Dave Welsh (RAF, Obs.), Sgt Jack Ball (RAF, W/Op) and myself as Rear Gunner. During my tour with the above, I managed to fly one or more trips with the following captains--F/Sgt. Munday, W/O Cock, W/Cdr. L.L. Johnston, F/O Douglas, F/O Lawson. F/Sgt Johnston's crew were tour-expired July 27th 1943 and were posted from Protville back to M.E. I was held over as we were short of gunners. I was assigned to W/O Joe Elliott's crew and between test flights, transport, and operational flights, we flew 25 trips together. Over this period I came to respect Joe, not only as an outstanding captain and pilot, but also as a person you knew was just a little different than the ordinary person. Just what it was unfortunately I did not have time to find out as I was posted back to the U.K. I became a Gunnery

1988.

Correspondence (cont.)

Instructor at Advanced Gunnery at Stormy Downs, Wales, and was later posted to 667 Squadron at Gosport where we worked with the Army and Navy in preparation for the invasion of Europe. Two months later I was posted to Canada on leave and returned to the U.K. in August of '44.

I was posted to 120 RAF Squadron at Ballykelly, Northern Ireland and finished the war out flying with F/O Paddy Martin, an Irishman who was flying out of Malta the same time I was there with 458. We then flew Liberators over the North Atlantic.

I returned to Canada, August, 1945. I never met anyone I was in the Service with until the wartime Aircrew Reunion in Winnipeg in 1984 although I have attended all four Reunions. Finally, Joe and I got together again, here in Wpg, along with Mickey Reid and Bryan Quinlan. The same feeling I had for Joe in the M.E. was still there, and my only regret was not living closer than we did.

While Joe was here I showed him a Squadron picture taken at Protville. It was L/Col. McKenzie's aircraft Henrietta with a cannon mounted in the nose. Joe had never seen it. I had an enlargement made and sent it to Joe. When assembled it would be about 4' wide. I don't know if Joe turned it over to the Squadron. It was not in the book We find and Destroy. If the Squadron would like another copy I would be glad to forward it to one of you.

This was meant just to be a note. I guess you might say I got carried away.

Hope to make Australia one day. Regards to all ex-458ers,

Sincere regards, Jim.

(Ed. Jim has been nominated by his fellow Canadian 458ers as Canadian Vice President. We welcome him).

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

Once again I have to report that my actions have not matched my words. For some months I had been failing medically but eventually my doctor sent me to see a surgeon whose advice I followed. On 5th September I entered St. George's Hospital where with something of the haste of the Space Age, I was processed, put to sleep, carved up and released three days later, a sore and bewildered image of my former self. But the undertaking to have me fit and well for duty in the Rose House by the beginning of October materialised. Fit for digging or golf and an optimistic outlook for the next 75 years.

I have received correspondence concerning the Re-union in Melbourne but our attendance is unlikely. For more than 12 months we have been contemplating a trip to see our three married daughters and ten grandchildren resident in the North Island, a trip long postponed. As soon as we are able to organise the ongoing work connected with our glasshouses we hope to get away but maybe not till next year.

We were sad indeed to read of the death of "Lofty" Chalmers. Both Lofty and his wife, Zelma showered us with marvellous hospitality when we were in Nelson Bay.

Congratulations, Peter, on receiving the Life Membership award...we always look forward to reading the Squadron News and send our grateful thanks to all involved.

Cheers till next time Ron. Verity.

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ON THE AUSTRALIAN SCENE.

Latest crisis has been the Press Beat-up about alleged war crimes by Australian airmen strafing Japanese soldiers off sunken ships. Media personalities eager for ratings choose to ignore and Academics, mainly female, just don't know, it seems, that war is not fun and games but a bloody business. It was not Australians who beheaded Prisoners of War. RAAF Association views are, in respect of the proposed War Crimes legislation, that that should be confined to monstrous mass murderers-not applied to soldiers under orders.