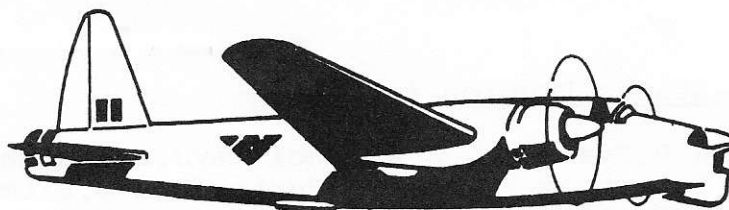


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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

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26th ALL-STATES REUNION OF 458 SQUADRON. COME TO MELBOURNE !

Organiser Rupert Pearce reports that all is in hand for the events of the Melbourne All-States Reunion,commencing on Sunday, April 9th at the Victoria Hotel. Flight correspondent Stan. Tarczynski lists,below,the names of acceptors to date. More can be accomodated--particularly from Home State,Victoria. Unfortunately, some regular attenders will be overseas or elsewhere caught up. But a most enjoyable Squadron occasion is assured.

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VIC.FLIGHT NEWS from Stan.Tarczynski.

All-States Reunion.

In addition to the published syllabus, arrangements have been made for a visit to R.A.A.F.,Point Cook and the Museum there,lunch available,on Thursday,April 13th. The following have paid deposits:

W.and B.Archbold	D.and M.Singe	D.and J.Anderson
W.and A.Chapman	A. and C.Smith	S.J.Longhurst
W.and P.Cribb	G.and J.de Tarczynski	F.Strom
G.and P.Cuthbertson	F.and H.Wilks	E.and G.Purcell
N and J.Dean	W.and S.Williams	J.and R.Excell
C.and J.Wyman	C.Fereday	R.and B.Pearce
D.Firth	R.and J.Russell	Jand D.Fleming

All-States Reunion (cont.)

D.and B.Evans	J & P Holliday	J.and E.Hamilton	J.andA.McGowen
S.& P.Bartram	B & A.Hurford	D & B.Bitmead	E & H.Laming
G & B.Brain	P.& E.Leonard	J & P.Carey	R & E.Miller
G.& D.Coombes	L.Netherway	H.Godfrey	R.Maxwell
I and I Green	J & L.Palmer	E & K.Kelly	C.Percy
J & E.Lewis	B & L.Ravenscroft	E.Timms	E.& D.Munkman
I & F.Showell	F. & T.Ward.		

Inte nders to Register.

Bill Taylor	B.Garland	V.Clohesy	J.Baker	W.Laughlin
E.Lloyd	J.Whittem	S.Foote	B.Fiddes	J.Baxter
E.Baker	H.Oliver	N.Carpenter	K.George.	

The Organisers, Atkinsons Conference Services Pty Ltd. 43, Agnes St., East Melbourne, 3002 require all balance of payments, over and above deposits, to be received by them by February 28th. We have to pay hotel accomodation bookings one month before the Reunion starts.

Reunion Secretary, Rupert Pearce, is doing a magnificent job, especially as he is not a Squadron member. He can be contacted for any enquiries at 46 Mount Pleasant Road, Nunawading 3131--- Tel.(03) 878 2932. See you at the Reunion !

For Victorian members who are interested ,we would be delighted to see a few more at the March on Anzac Day. You will see the Banner in Swanston Street, somewhere between Little Bourke and Bourke Streets. Our Annual Meeting and Dinner is to be held at the Air Force Club, Cromwell Road, Hawksburn at 6.30 p.m., Friday May 23rd. The meeting takes about an hour, followed by dinner at 7.30 p.m.

Farewell to George Riddoch.

It is with very deep regret that we have the sad news of the death of George Riddoch late last year at Alfredton, near Ballarat. George was a pilot at Bone and Alghero. As is the Victorian custom, we sent a donation to the National Heart Foundation. Ern.Laming and Rupert Pearce represented the Squadron at the funeral which was attended by a very large group of mourners.

Barbeque. The usual Christmas BBQ was held on the last Sunday in November at Ken and Bea Morkhams', attended by only a few. They were: our hosts, Mick and Mavis Singe, Harald and Kath.Martin, Bill Hurford, Ern and Helen Laming, Stan.Tarczynski, and, late in the day, Neil and June Dean. There are many commitments at Christmas time---but:our numbers are dwindling.

Preston Presentation. Ern Laming attended the Annual Presentation Night of the City of Preston No.2 Flight, Air Training Corps, and, for the first time, the prize book "We Find and Destroy" was won by an A.C.W. Another first was the selection of a Sergeant (female) to do a Cadet Officer's Course.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim.Holliday.

Charlie Warren.

Charlie Warren passed away on January 10th. Emphysema plagued him for some years. Unfortunately his heart developed valve trouble a few months ago. Charlie declared that if he could pull the head off and do a re-grind, he'd be good for another 73 years. Though shockingly thin and weak, Charlie made the Christmas function at the Cuthbertsons on the Gold Coast. A few days before his heart finally gave out Charlie remarked to son Tony "It was great to be among 458 "mates again. I had a happy day." Like Johnno, Chalie came from Winton, where QANTAS was born. He was a district legend as a mechanic, and for his wet weather driving. Immediately war broke out, he joined the R.A.A.F., wanting to be a pilot. Unfortunately, a deformity of his left fingers from a childhood accident saw him remustered as a Fitter. He was

Q.Flight News (cont.)

in the Blue Draft that went early to Britain and was serving on an R.A.F.Squadron before 458 was formed. However on learning that the Squadron was posted to the M.E., he posted himself to 458. Charlie became a legend on 458. Bob Dangaard of Mareeba perhaps sums up the opinions of members in a letter he wrote on learning of Charlie's death. "Most of us learned a lot from Charlie. He was so careful and methodical in his work that he greatly improved our maintenance record and consequently our war record. I always enjoyed his company, as all of us did." Bob Helyar said: "I deliberately visited the Sergeants Mess to tap Charlie's mechanical knowledge."

Charlie was Q.Flight's first President, and always a member of the Committee. Fourteen members and eight wives attended the Service. Eight apologies were received from those too ill or too far away. Vale, Charlie! 458 has lost one of its stalwarts, and his close friends, a true mate.

A few days before Charlie's death, Jean Atherton passed away. Alan (Snow) had brought Jean to Brisbane from Mackay for a delicate but almost routine operation. Unfortunately the tumour behind the eye was inextricably embedded. After fighting for some 21 days, the odds for Jean proved too great. Our profound sympathies to Alan and his family.

Christmas at Cuthy's. Our Xmas function was hosted by Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson at their Mermaid Waters home. It was a damp day, but, under the capable guidance of Peg and Gordon, the festivities coasted along smoothly and successfully, despite the confining elements. It was a "cheerful-chatter" day that enabled good friends to enjoy one another. Attendance included Joan and Ron. Russell, Bridie and Eric Lloyd, Isla and Bert Garland, Joan and Sel. Foote, Chester Jones and son, Peter, Pet Williams and Chas. Warren, Evelyn and Jack Lewis, Joan and Clive Wyman, Helen and Bernie McLoughlin, Kath and Eric Kelly, Norm. Taylor and Jackie, Bobbie and Sel Williams, Ron and Mrs. Rigby, Peg and Jim. Holliday. Apologies from the Stones, the Wilks, the Baxters, the Jim. McKays, and the Dud. McKays.

Crew Reunion. After 43 years, Clive Wyman and Don. Brandon had their first reunion with second dickie, Bob Low. With other crew members, Cy. Irwin, Frank Ward and Stan Simpson, all hope to have a first-ever crew reunion at the Melbourne Reunion. They believe that Clive Wymans crew is the only 458 crew still intact to-day. (Ed. Comments, please. Is that so?).

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N.S.W. FLIGHT REPORT--CORNSTALK COMMENTARY. from Cy. Irwin.

The Flight Xmas get-together and dinner evening, publicised in the last News issue, was held at the T.A.F.E. Catering College, Ryde, on 21st November. Numbers were a little down on previous Xmas Do s, but those in attendance enjoyed the well prepared dinner and were able to exchange early Xmas and New Year Greetings. As Eric and Dorothy Munkman were away on holidays Vice President Stuart Ricketts conducted the formalities of the evening. Also Peter Alexander brought us up to date on various Squadron Council and Federal R.A.A.F. matters.

Albums to the West. Our Squadron Albums have had an air-lift to the West, per favour of Lock Simpson. On return from Sydney on a recent flying visit he delivered the Albums to Al. Wheat. They will form part of a 458 Exhibition at the Air Force Museum.

Meetings. Since the closure of the Air Force Club in Market Street the Flight Committee has met at two monthly intervals at the British Ex-Services Club, Sydney, during 1988. We have now changed the place to the Combined Services Club, Barrack Street, Sydney. Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each alternate month from February 1989 at 1.30 p.m. An invitation is extended to any of our members wishing to join us at these meetings.

Anzac Day. It will be business as usual, roll up for the March commencement at the Air Force Assembly point, St. James. Reunion and lunch afterwards at the Great Southern Hotel, George Street, from 12.30.

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BRITISH BULLETIN. from Sid.Thompsett. (Tel.0522 794208)

I recently received news that the Squadron Memorial at Holme-on-Spalding Moor is now completed, and Frank Robertson, who has been conducting all admin. work for us sent a photograph to you (not yet received--Ed.) showing it in all its glory. In the very near future I am hoping to pop up to HOSM, meet Frank Robertson and make the necessary arrangements for the dedication service on Sunday 17th. September, which will be conducted by the Vicar of the Church on the hill. In the first instance we did consider having the reunion at the Red Lion, HOSM, on Saturday 16th but it seems more likely now that we will hold the reunion at the Viking Hotel in York on Sat. 16th and then go out to HOSM on Sunday 17th for the Dedication Service. But this has not yet been finalised. I am hoping that between 20 and 30 will get to HOSM and with a few of 76 Sqdn whose memorial is sited next to ours it should make for a decent gathering. Both Eric Munkman and Al. Wheat say they might be over here about that time, so here's hoping we see them.

At this time I'm usually complaining about the weather we are having but for once I can say we are still experiencing fairly mild weather; lets hope it continues. All the very best for 1989 to all of you in Aussie.

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CROWEATERS CAUCUS. from Ted.Creighton.

November Get-together. The Adelaide Airport Aviation Institute was again the lunchtime venue for this happy occasion. It seems to double as an informal A.G.M. of the S.A.Flight. In attendance were:

Brian and Joan Woodhead	Maisie Thomas	Peter and Monica Thom
Bill and Madge Taylor	Kevin Tait	Arn.Scholar
Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft	Reg.Priest with	Robin Priest and Bet.Burnard
Col and Yvonne Hutchinson	Keith Grimshaw	John and Ruth Excell
Geoff and Heather Esau	Joan Dickson	Ted and Freda Creighton
Bill and Pat Cribb	John and Pat Carey	Syd and Pat.Bartram
Joyce Austin with Esther Marsh.	There were apologies from	
Eric and Matti Baker	Pat and Joyce Enright (Pat hospitalised)	
Jack and Verna Riseley	(Jack very much under Doctor's orders). E and O.E	

Briefing took place after lunch and President John Carey tried to get the feelings of members on the number of social gatherings we should attempt annually. It was conceded generally that in our maturing years, needs presently were well met by the odd ring-around to greet visiting 458ers at the Talbot; one get-together such as this; and, of course, Anzac Day. It was expressed that we might see an increase in the number of ladies present at the Talbot after the March to strengthen the "catch as catch can" lunch gathering that occurs presently either at the Talbot or at the restaurant across the road.

During the briefing-time, John also presented a 458 wall plaque to Bill Taylor. S.A.Flight felt that some small recognition should be made of the outstanding work over the years by former President Bill Taylor, not only in relation to 458, but also in many associated service areas. Bill responded in his usual inimitable way. The plaque, depicting crest and operational areas was one of four Geoff. Esau inherited, I think from Bill Clues, some time ago.

Solvency and Raffles. Flight Treasurer Bert Ravenscroft informed us that the Flight still was at least solvent and then raffled off the three remaining plaques to add \$56 to Flight funds. Now you know what happened to those plaques, Bill--our thanks to you!

Personal Items. Sick Parade apologies from November Pat Enright and Jack Riseley are out and about but both are in the slow lane. Keep putt-putting along, you blokes. Best wishes from all.

Anzac Day. Usual arrangements. let's have a good turn out. Hope to see more ladies after the March. If Treasurer Bert Ravenscroft misses you, please post \$10 sub for 1989 to him at 11, Thornton St., Henley Beach, 5022.

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SANDGROPPERS NEWS.

from Ted.Jewell.

W.A.Flight is gearing up for its 458 Squadron Week at the Air Force Museum, Bull Creek, from February 13th to 19th. We have sent out notices to all known members in this State, those that we have addresses for, and Al.Wheat is hoping to have an article run in the local newspapers to advertise the coming event. We are hoping to bring together members who, for some reason or other, have never shown up at our functions. Al.Wheat has organised the Squadron Albums to be here for all to see, plus quite a few articles connected with the Squadron. On Wednesday, 15th., we shall be having lunch at the Air Force Club and we are hoping for a good roll up. There must be a lot of members in the West who have never had the opportunity to see the Albums, so I guess this will be last opportunity.

Barbeque in a sunny land. Elsie and I invited 458 members and wives down to our home in Mandurah for a Bar-B-Q lunch just recently but when the weather turns out to be over 40c (104 fahrenheit) some find it too hot for the drive down to Mandurah. But those that came had a good day. A few cold beers helped us to forget the heat a little. We have had quite a spell of summer weather lately, all around the 40c mark. It was good to see Shorty Long here, first time he's been down; Len. Stewart who lives not far away rang to say he couldn't make it, but we had Bill Clues, Jim., Ray Turley, Nobby Nobbs, Ron. Gannaway, John Lilley, Shorty Long, Ted.Jewell and wives.

All the best.

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SOME PERSONAL NEWS ITEMS.

Ian Showell and Family. The Murray Area near and at Renmark has been greatly enthused by an investment development, worth up to \$100 million, for a Marina on the river, with 175 houseboat berths and 457 (one too few?) residential allotments with international standard accommodation and various other recreational facilities. The developers are Ian Showell, described in the Adelaide Press as the "Grand Old Man of the Murray River" and his son Hague Showell. Titles are being finalised currently. 27,000 native trees are to be planted, including red river gum, swamp mallee, salt river gum, bullock and paper gum. The site is the Jane Eliza River Estate. 458's admiring congratulations to Ian and family!
Bob.Shearman's Son.

Recent Honours List included the name of Lieutenant Andrew Wesley Shearman, of Jervis Bay, as the recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia (Military Division) for service to the R.A.N. as a member of the Personnel Liaison Team. Our congratulations!

Ray Davies' Daughter. Located in Geraldton (by Al.Wheat) the daughter of Ray Davies who was a Gunner with Dick Watson--well remembered in N.S.W.Squadron circles.

Valete ! We note with regret news of the passing of two 458ers. They were Bill Packer, from the West; and J.R.Lane of Derrinallum, who died in June 1986. Our sympathy to Leila, his widow.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

Most Australian ex-Service organisations, including the RAAFA and the RSL, belong to the World Veterans Federation, the international body which includes Veterans Associations from 50 countries, and both sides of various wars. USA and Russia belong.

WVF recently held its triennial General Assembly in Manila which passed various resolutions on rehabilitation matters and some "political"--these including a condemnation of the testing of nuclear devices in the Pacific. The latter involved the French and Australasian delegates in keen debate.

The sizeable Australian delegation included Peter Alexander who completed his third term as WVF Vice President for Asia and the Pacific. He was made a Life Vice President by the WVF Council.

International Scene (cont.)

He has been the only Australian to hold Executive office in the WVF; the only Vice President to serve three terms, and now the only Australian Life Vice President. It will give him access to all papers and meetings if he chooses--with somewhat less need for overseas travel. He will however be in Scotland during April --in connection with another great interest of his--the culture of Scotland and the Celts.

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CORRESPONDENCE:LETTERS to the Editor and Others.

From Peter Eastcott, 531, Homewood Avenue, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Graeme, I have just received a copy of We Find and Destroy..It would be a fair assumption that this book was mailed on the prompting of Colin Fereday, 458's Ambassador of Goodwill. We had a tremendous Squadron Reunion in Winnipeg this September, and Colin did a fantastic job of representing the Squadron proper from its home down under. He creates just the right presence....I enclose a photo of Bishop Fereday giving me his blessing at the final dinner from which we staggered onto Church Parade next day.

As Canadians we are but a small minority that were privileged to serve in 458. I was recruited out of 38 and 221 Squadrons at Shallufa by Captain Bruce McKenzie after he joined 458 and navigated for him for a full tour. I shared a tent with "Caesar" Baird, the "Old Adj." who finally persuaded McKenzie that my excessive hours were going to get him court-martialled--so they sent me back to U.K. for a hair-raising "rest". Norman Duke replaced me and finished the tour. I assume the Squadron is well aware that McKenzie's death was caused by a US CIA man who went sour..what is not generally known is that permission for Operation Thunderbolt (the Entebbe Raid) to land, refuel and put off wounded on the way back from Entebbe (if they could not scrounge fuel in Entebbe, which they could not) was all arranged by Bruce McKenzie. He was actively involved in the decision making processes of Kenya.... Idi Amin never forgot....Bruce was in Canada getting quotations on de Havilland aircraft to sell to Amin and stayed in my house for the weekend. When he flew into Uganda, had lunch and a hell of an argument with Amin the latter sent him a trapped trophy which they put into the luggage compartment of the light aircraft just before take off for Kenya. When time and pressure altitude were right, she blew! McKenzie was absolutely fearless and was blessed with a charmed life. I could write a book on that subject. What a pity his luck ran out--or was it his stubborn refusal to listen to the intuition of his wife Christina not to make the trip personally. Amin took the opportunity to get even; 458 and the world lost a truly great man. And that, cobber, is for dinkum.

(Editor: I had flown from Nairobi to Entebbe a short while before, with Bruce and the same crew in the same aircraft but was fortunately spared the meeting with Amin and returned with the crew safely. Bruce was to die with the crew some months later. Kampala and Entebbe were truly beautiful places haunted by a fearful population).....I wonder if Sgt. Carter is still with us ? (Ed. Alas, No) L's engines were washed down every day by fuel pumped from a brass pyrene fire extinguisher which washed out sand and oil but was something of a fire hazard if the engines were started too soon thereafter. Duke's footnotes on p.135 (of the history) are, I am sure, more officially acceptable.....Thanks again for the book, Pete.

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From the Rev. Michael Stokes, St. Clement Danes, Strand, London.

Dear Mr. Combes, I am sorry you were offended by the mark of my Head Verger (that 458 had not got its act together) which was...not intended to offend...one reason why Squadron badges are not found in the floor of St. Clement Danes is that...they were not approved by the College of Arms--only badges with the approval of the College are allowed in the floor This is to prevent strange and unworthy designs. I am sure 458s badge is neither but the rule cannot be relaxed..and open floodgates. I am sorry I cannot be more helpful but hope you will understand...Michael Stokes. (Ed. We do not accept this piece of beurocratic rigidity--or is it theocratic rigidity ?)