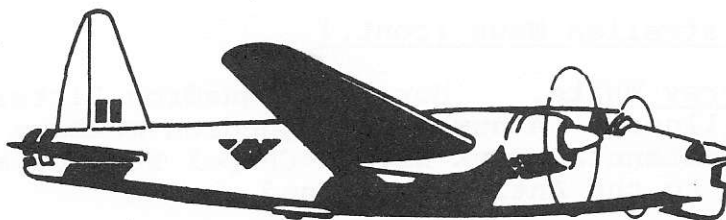


# 458

## 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 .

Squadron President: John Carey ( S.A.)    Squadron Vice Presidents:  
Squadron Treasurer: Peter Alexander (NSW)    --Australia: Jack Lewis (Q.)  
Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (ACT)    Stan. Longhurst (NSW)  
Squadron Hon. Auditor: Bert Thompson (NSW)    Canada: Jim. Donaldson (Manitoba)  
U.K. Norman Duke  
New Zealand: Ron. Verity

Editor: Peter Alexander.

#### Flight Correspondents.

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.
Victoria	Stan. Tarczynski, 68, Alice Street, Mt. Waverley, 3149, Vic.,
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.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FLIGHT PLANS AHEAD.    All-States Reunion, 1991.  
from Ted. Creighton.

50th. All-States Reunion. Preliminary planning is proceeding for the next All-States Reunion of the Squadron in S.A., in October 1991. This reunion will approximate to the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Squadron, and it will incorporate a visit to the Showell family's Jane Eliza Development at Renmark, on Wednesday October 23rd., 1991. Ian Showell is organising the unveiling of a 458 Squadron Commemorative Plaque at one of the recreation reserves of the development. A registration of interest form will be included in a future issue of th Squadron News.

Sleepers to waken in November. The winter months down south is hibernation time for the S.A. Flight and news items are few and far between. However, there will be a November pre-Christmas Get together. This always seems to attract a good attendance of the S.A. Flight and seems to double as an unofficial Flight A.G.M.. It will probably be at the same venue, at the Adelaide Airport Institute on a Sunday. Look forward to a ring-around before the event.

South Australian News (cont.)

Vale Murray White. Murray, a Squadron Fitter, died on 15th June, after a long illness. A number of Squadron members paid their last respects at the Centennial Park Heysen Chapel service, and a Flight donation was made to the Anti-Cancer Fund.

VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Stan.Tarczynski.

All members of Victoria Flight join with our President and Committee in congratulating Peter Alexander upon his Life Vice Presidency, granted by the World Veterans Federation. He is the first and only Australian to be made a Life Vice President of the Federation, and to have held office in the international Federation.

Flight A.G.M.. Our Annual General Meeting was held at the Air Force Club, Hawksburn, on Friday May 26th and was attended by the old Faithfuls--18 in all. There were apologies from the Lamings (overseas), Ann Hurford and Gordon Nash. Those present were: Dot and Jack Fleming, Betty and David Evans, Beat and Ken. Morkham, Mavis and Mick Singe, Beth and Rupe Pearce, Elaine Timms, Kath and Yank Martin, June and Neil Dean, Bill Hurford, Bill Henry, and Stan Tarczynski. All office-bearers were re-elected.

Thanks to Rupert Pearce. Before proceeding with the AGM, Jack Fleming made a presentation to Rupert Pearce in recognition of his outstanding contribution together with his family to the success of the All-States Reunion. The presentation was of two stamp Albums with re-fills for First Day Covers (which he wanted) together with a Squadron Tie from Squadron Council, which he also wanted. Beth Pearce received a beautiful box of hyacinths. It was very pleasing to learn that Interstate members wrote to several Melbourne members indicating their praise for an enjoyable Reunion. On account of the financial success, contributions were sent of \$50 to Pt. Cook for the RAAF Museum funds and \$100 for the St. Pauls Cathedral organ restoration fund. Thank you letters have been received from both organisations including two color photographs of the 458 plaque presentation at Pt. Cook. The donor of the plaque, Ron. Russell, was sent one copy and the other was sent for the Squadron Album.

Melbourne Cup BBQ--Amende honorable.

In the May News, I erroneously stated the wrong venue for the Melb. Cup Day BBQ--which will be at Dot and Jack Flemings'--25 Manning Street, St. Leonards, via Geelong. However, Beat and Ken. Morkham will be our hosts at 19, Terang Avenue, East Burwood for the Xmas BBQ on Sunday November 25th. For the festive occasion one should bring a small wrapped gift under \$2 for HIS and HERS basket. Both occasions are BYO. Bring chairs and a card table.

Ernie's Accident. Back in May, when Ern and Helen Laming were on their way to Heathrow Airport, London, for return to Melbourne, Ern. had the misfortune to have a fall, tearing ligaments in his leg. The 'bus driver very thoughtfully advised him to proceed home immediately in a wheel chair rather than be delayed in London for treatment. Upon return he was admitted to Heidelberg Repat. Hospital and has only just recovered by walking for the first time on July 22nd. Welcome home, Ern and Helen !

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SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Ted. Jewell.

W.A. Flight has run out of fresh news for this time, as there has been very little activity for some time. We had a luncheon arranged for Sunday lunch at associate members' home, with Brian and Margaret Hicks, but Elsie and I were both down with the 'flu. I was told that the ones who were there had a great day even though the weather was very cold and wet.

I rang Flight President Bill Clues to day and Bill had to get out of bed to talk as Joan and he have severe colds--it is very common over here at the moment.

October BBQ. There is a Bar B.Q. arranged for Sunday 1st. October for lunch at the home of Ray and Marj, Turley. We are hoping for a

Sandgropers Say..(cont.) good roll up.

I was talking to Curly O'Connor on the 'phone recently and he told me Skeeta Staveley is now in a Nursing Home after having a stroke some time ago. The address is Tuckfield House, Tuckfield St., Fremantle. Some may have the time to say hello.

Having just received a mailing list for W.A. members for the Squadron News, I must stress that we have a good many members who are well behind in their subs, so I would appeal to such members to come up to date on this account.

Hoping for a lot more news next time..

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CORNSTALK COMMENTS. FROM Cy.Irwin.

Dinner at Ryde. A most enjoyable Dine-out was held at the Ryde T.A.F.E. Catering College on the evening of 13th June. Attendance of Squadron members and wives/friends reached the maximum of 30. Stan and Jean Longhurst are thanked for arranging the booking and preliminary details for this night. These "College" functions are most popular and it is intended to continue with two or three of such functions throughout the year, either at Ryde or East Sydney.

RAAFA State Assembly. The Air Force Association of which 458 in NSW is a branch held its Annual Assembly at Taree on 17/18th June. We were represented by Stan Longhurst as well as by Peter Alexander, who is a Life Vice President of the NSW Division of the AFA.

Annual Air Force Bowls Day. Also, the Annual Air Force Bowls Day will be held this year at Lindfield Bowling Club on a mid-week day, Thursday 17th August. Now that our cricket and golfing days are running out, many of our members have turned to bowls and they are asked to keep this annual function in mind, either as player or spectator. Stuart Ricketts is teams organiser and, for the first time, a Ladies Team is to represent the Squadron.

In Contact again after So Long. Recently, a very pleasing contact was made with Cec Ryan, Squadron member and Sydney resident, who served on 458 as a Wireless Operator in a mixed crew captained by Fl/Lt Douglas - in operations off the Sardinian and Corsican coasts. Their aircraft was lost in an attack and ditching, but the whole crew, magically, survived and were taken prisoners. The episode is fully reported by Peter Alexander in "We Find and Destroy" at pages 121/123. After so many years, we look forward to seeing more of Cec.

Vale, Henry Bryant ! Henry Bryant who has passed on was one of the group of 458 Squadron longterm members who made the Squadron the strongly united body it has remained. An Airframe Fitter at war in peacetime he worked in the newspaper world, living in Sydney with his wife and children. He will be much missed. His memorial service was attended by old friends in Eric Munkman, Stan Longhurst, Fred Ridge, Laurie Crowley and Peter Alexander.

The 458 Story illustrated. Members are advised that they can purchase copies of the coloured and laminated print of the Squadron's sphere of operations in both U.K. and the Mediterranean. It is a reproduction of the detail that appears on the front and back pages of the Squadron History. The print was very favourably commented upon and sought when on view at the All-States Reunion at Nelson Bay. So, further copies have been produced. Cost is \$30 per copy posted. Orders from GPO Box 5289, Sydney, 2001.

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FORMAL REDEDICATION OF THE SQUADRON MEMORIAL AT HOLME-ON SPALDING MOOR.

Squadron members, particularly those who generously supported the Appeal for the necessary funds will be glad to know that the extensions have been fully completed and will be formally rededicated by the local Holme Church Minister in September. Past Squadron President Eric Munkman and other Australian 458ers will attend. A Fuller report follows.



THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid.Thompsett.

The Memorial.

Just over a couple of weeks ago I went up to HOSM to meet Frank Robertson and finalise the arrangements for the rededication ceremony on 17th September. Apart from the odd last minute details everything is as perfect as it can be, so all we ask for now is for the weather to be kind. I have seen the Memorial Tree in all its glory and it really does look good with all the surrounding marble. The Reunion weekend will start with the get-together at the Viking Hotel in York on the Saturday evening and then we all go out to HOSM on the Sunday morning, meeting at the Red Lion for lunch and then going out to the Memorial for the service to commence at 1445. I have already spoken to Bernie McLoughlin on the 'phone and have heard from Eric Munkman and Jack Baker. It will be very nice to meet up. If any more are coming please let me know so that we can notify the Hotel. I know from Graeme Coombes that AL.Wheat and Jock McGowen and their wives are coming over. A full report in the next News....

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim.Holliday.

With zero temperature and piercing winds over two months--most uncharacteristic for the sunshine State-- members have hibernated. Frank and Hilda Wilks had plans to visit the Red Centre but perhaps they are still iced-up. So rough has it been on Moreton Bay that Pres.Jack Lewis hasn't been able to take his boat out fishing for three weeks !

On the bright side, Ron.Russell declares he's fully recovered from his open-heart surgery--and plans a jaunt to S.E.Asia in October.

Fourteen requests were received for copies of the Padres" Tape. In writing, Dick Boydell recalls how that when 458 left Protville the Padres cared for his gear and delivered it safely months later at Bone. Mrs Wilkinson knew the Padres when a WAAAF at Laverton before they went to the M.E.

Keith Grimshaw (ex 38 Sqdn, RAF) has a photograph of the Padres and 26 bods taken in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Mrs.France Hunter, widow of Mick, wanted the tape because Mick so often spoke of the Padres and she had an aerogram from them from the M.E. After Mick's passing she found a diary he kept of the voyage from Britain to M.E. and Gibraltar.....

(Copies of the Tape \$4 posted from Jim.Holliday)

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MORE SQUADRON MEMBERS PASS ON.

The News has heard, with great regret and sympathy for their families of the passing of the following.

Fred (Pappy) Ray. Jim Palmer advises that Fred--one of the Williamtown pioneers died in February this year after five years of poor health--heart and several strokes. A longterm valued member of 458, in the Electrical Section.

Arthur Green. Arthur died in July. Another of the men who made 458 what is was and is, he was Victorian Flight Secretary for an important period of postwar history. Arthur was a Fitter throughout our North African and Italian operations. Our deep sympathy to Elsie.

Ken.Robertson. Ted.Creighton advises us that Ken Robertson, who though not a wartime 458er, had his wartime career in parallel with 458 and, after the war became one of those valuable Associate members who have contributed so much to 458 in the various States, has passed on.

We shall miss them all.

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OUR COMING ANNIVERSARY. Next issue of the News will complete 40 years of uninterrupted quarterly publication. We ask Flight Correspondents to recall, in their contributions, some of their Flight's highlights in those years. And we invite appropriate contributions from Readers generally.

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