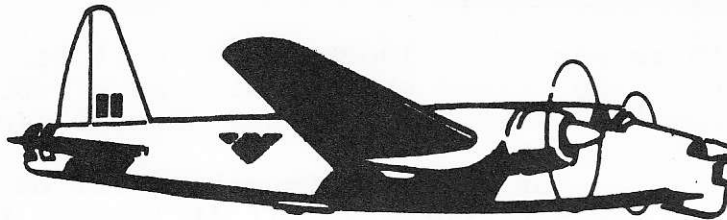


458

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.

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N.S.W.	Cy. Irwin, 3/23 Cecil Street, Ashfield, 2131, N.S.W.,
Queensland	Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, 4121, Q.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....News from the West--by Ted. Jewell.

We had our usual W.A. Flight Xmas Dinner in December at the Freeway Hotel in South Perth, and I would say that it was one of the most enjoyable functions we have had. The food was absolutely delicious and I am sure that everyone that was there did surely overeat. With good food, a few drinks and good company it was a day to remember. The ladies each received a present arranged by Joan Clues and Vera Etherton. We must thank our Flight President, Bill Clues, for all the organising. It was such a great success we have made a booking for our next Xmas function.

About 45 members, wives, and associate members came along, so we had quite a crowd. Squadron members there were: Syd. Baker, Bill Clues, Poss Dale, Charlie Davis, Henry Etherton, Ron. Gannaway, Stan. Hopewell, Ted. Jewell, Gordon Jones, Peter McCarthy, Kath. Shearman, Len. Stewart, Ray Turley, Col. Corten, Skeeta Staveley, Len. Waldock.

Bill Clues had arranged for Skeeta Staveley to move into the R.S.L. Homes in Mt. Lawley some months ago, and Bill picked him up at the Home and brought him along to the dinner. Skeeta had a stroke several years ago but is managing quite well now.

Sandgropers Say...(cont.)

A new face there was Len.Waldock, who made it for the first time to one of our functions. Len joined the Squadron as a reo.at Foggia in Italy, was in transport. I hope we shall see more of him in the future.

Our Next Gathering.

Our next get-together will be a Bar B.Q. at our home in Mandurah on the 4th. February. If it like it Has been other times everyone should have a great day.

I would like to say hullo to Junior Davies and Stan "Slim" Smith. I have never had the opportunity to meet up with them since the war years.

Regards, Ted.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTS. N.S.W. Flight Report--from Cy.Irwin.

Firstly, a comment on the response from Flight contributors in all States to our Editor's wish for a run down on highlights of Squadron activities during the 40 years of Squadron News publication. The published reports from the States must have brought pleasure to members to look back on and remember the good times and associations over the long period of time.

Not a great deal to report on Flight functions since the last News issue. The Flight Committee met in November and arrangements were made for an early Xmas Get-together. This was held at the Ryde T.A.F.E. College Catering Section on 21st. November. Members who attended with their good ladies were: Don and Peter Bitmead, Frank Ward, Stuart Ricketts, Stan. Longhurst, Bob. Smith, Bob Millar, Sam Barlow, Harry Baines, Bert Thompson, Wal Mobbs, Bob Bruce, Bill Hull, Peter Alexander.

Eric and Dorothy Munkman and Jack Baker, together with interstate members, Bernie McLoughlin and Al. Wheat made the trip to the U.K. to attend the official dedication of the 458 Memorial at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and returned with full praise for arrangements made for the ceremony and the hospitality extended during their stay. Eric Munkman has commented on the attentive and enthralled reception, during the gathering in York, given to the Tape made by wartime padres, Fred. McKay and Bob. Davies, which added much to the occasion.

Welcome Back. A welcome back to the fold is extended to George Unitt who has written to advise his new address. Good to hear from George who has indicated that he will be with us during 1990 and renew old acquaintances.

On the Sick List. Further news on Arthur Jollow who has left the Lady Davidson Hospital after treatment for a stroke and is now hospitalised nearer home at Belrose. Arthur is still not well and our thoughts are with Tess and him with wishes for his improvement.

Wal. Archbold has undergone a heart by-pass operation recently and we hope to advise good progress in future reports.

Eric Munkman has successfully undergone important surgery on a knee. Is not yet dancing but is driving his car already.

Into the 1990s. We shall kick off into the 90s with a Flight Committee meeting in February. First on the agenda will be the arrangements for Anzac Day. Members are advised that, as in past years, the Squadron will assemble in Elizabeth Street, near Queens Square at 10 a.m. Lunch will be at 1 p.m. at the Great Southern Hotel, George Street, near Central Station. We look forward to a good attendance.

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CROWEATERS CAUCUS. Brief News from Ted. Creighton --about S.A. Members.

The news is short, sharp and shiny this quarter ! But a Happy New Year. Our Annual pre-Christmas get-together at the Adelaide Airport on November 12th was well supported by some 34 "Old Faithfuls". Apologies were recorded from Fin. Mitchell, Kath Bax and Bill and MADge Taylor.

Croweaters' Caucus (cont.)

The S.A. Flight's Squadron Banner and a centrepiece of an electrically-powered scale model of a Wimpy gave atmosphere to the gathering. The Wellington is a fine example of the craftsmanship of John Excell. Thanks, John, for bringing it along.

After lunch, Squad'n. President John Carey briefed the meeting. Naturally, the main topic was the 1991 50th Anniversary All-States Reunion. The October 20-24 dateline was verified and preliminary plans outlined. Strong support for attendance at the Reunion was forthcoming from those present. PLEASE, both LOCAL and INTERSTATE members, if you are thinking about attending in 1991--signal your intentions by completing and returning NOW the form accompanying this issue of the News.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS

from Jim. Holliday.

Our traditional Christmas Barbecue lunch was once again held in the Garden City of the Darling Downs, Toowoomba. Hilda and Frank Wilks were our gracious and cordial hosts. In keeping with Toowoomba's being Queensland's most floral city, so, too, is the Wilks' residence set in landscape of flowers, trees and lawns. Most of us bussed--by the R.S.L Joint Ventures bus, from Brisbane. No hassle, no worries, but "Yes" to a little more alcohol than usual. Unfortunately, the attendance was'n't up to normal, but it is comforting that those who didn't come did communicate their excuses, all of them genuine!

Undisputably acknowledged the Queen of all Salad caterers, Hilda provided bounteous bowls of colourful concoctions to supplement the succulent steaks. And then capped her cooking with a dessert delightful both to eye and palate. Frank chipped in with well-trimmed lawns, seats strewn about under the shady trees, and stubbies and cans chilled to liking. A day truly to be savoured and remembered. Present in support were: Enid and Dud McKay, Kath and Eric Kelly, Joan and Ron. Russell, Joan and Clive Wyman, Helen and Bernie McLoughlin, Charlotte and Chester Jones, Joan and Sel Foote, Thelma and Don Brandon, Evelyn and Jack Lewis, Pat and Harry Dorge, Peg and Jim Holliday. Apologies were received from the Stones, Dangaards, Hetheringtons, O'Briens, Hobbs, Garlands, Cuthbertsons, Baxters, Dalrymples and Joyce and Jim. McKay.

Life Membership. (Ed. our correspondent, for obvious reasons, found it difficult to write about his Life Membership. But his Flight President--and the Editor, have, equally obviously, insisted)

The opportunity was taken of the Christmas gathering to present Jim Holliday with his award and badge of Life Membership. Flight President, Jack Lewis, remarked that Jim had been Queensland's only Secretary since the Flight was formed in 1951. It was his unbroken years of office that had enabled Q. Flight to flourish without any hiccoughs all of those years. Jack pointed out that Jim had suggested that Interstate Reunions should be held and this has helped to maintain unity and foster wartime comradeship among members throughout Australia. Queensland has hosted some memorable Interstate Reunions for which Jim was principal organiser. Ron. Russell, Past Squadron President, presented Jim with a most handsome and artistic calligraphed Award, beautifully framed, and the special Life Members badge, a Jewellers masterpiece!

Jim. thanked Q. Flight for proposing him for the Award and expressed his thanks to the delegates at the Melbourne Conference who, on behalf of their members, voted in favour of the proposal. Jim related that he never knew who put him up for secretaryship. (Ed. Chas. Richardson for sure and, we think, Lock Simpson). Having left the Squadron early for POWship he had a limited acquaintance with members. At the inaugural meeting he knew one member. Now secretaryship had become an ingrained habit. He resigned regularly at each Annual General Meeting but resignation was not accepted. Jim thanked those members of N.S.W. Flight for having such a beautiful Award and Badge produced. (Ed.--again--we happen to know that Jim is not enjoying good health in retirement, with the continuous pressures of diabetes. That makes his continuing contribution all the more magnificent)

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Two changes of address. Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson have moved to 15, Seagull Avenue, Mermaid Beach (Cuthy could be a lot better in health), and Joyce and Jim McKay are now at Lot 302, Kalana Road, Dicky Beach, Caloundra.

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VICTORIAN FLIGHT NEWS.

From Stan Tarczynski.

With the excitement of nostalgia and congratulating Squadron News in achieving the distinction of 40 years of continuous publication, a report on our usual Melbourne Cup Day BBQ was overlooked in the last issue. This traditional event was held at St. Leonards, some 30ks past Geelong on the Bellarive Peninsula at Dot and Jack Fleming's place. Being so far from Melbourne we were depleted in numbers. Those who participated in the 20c sweeps on all Melbourne races (except the Cup, which went to 50c) were:

our hosts, Dot and Jack Fleming, Betty and Dave Evans, Elaine Timms, Beat Morkham, Jean and Neil Dean, Beth and Rupe Pearce, Helen and Ern. Laming, Mavis and Mick Singe, Bill Hurford and Stan Tarczynski.

It was decided at the meeting to cancel the Christmas BBQ, and transfer it to March 25th. Hopefully this may enhance the attendance. Our hosts will be Beat and Ken Morkham at 19, Terang Avenue, East Burwood, from noon.

With the Air Training Corps.

On Friday evening, December 8th, Mavis and Mick Singe, Stan Tarczynski and Ern. Laming journeyed to the Preston Drill Hall on the occasion of the Annual Awards of No. 2 A.T.C.. Apparently their recruiting has been very good as their establishment number of trainees, including a number of females, appears to have increased to 40 in each Flight. Parents, relatives and friends were seated on three sides of the Parade Ground and prior to the commencement it was interesting to see all personnel crossing the Parade Ground marching at all times, with the familiar high swinging arms to the horizontal. The foot action on the halt is a lot higher and completed with the left foot.. The Squadron book was presented to the leading cadet, Nick Howden, as the "Best Trier" of the Year, and he was a worthy recipient. This was the 25th year of the presentation.

Ern. Lamings's two photo albums, which he produced at the All States Reunion at the Victoria Hotel in Melbourne are still missing, and it is presumed that they have been carefully stored with Council's memorabilia back in Sydney. (Ed. Sorry, no. No local knowledge). If anyone knows their whereabouts Ern would be pleased to be contacted at 35 Manton Street, Heidelberg, Vic., 3084: or on 03-459 2167. Incidentally, Ern., cheers on your 80th birthday--January 27th !

After the disastrous earthquake, Mick Singe contacted several members with the resultant news that Wal. Archbold, recovering from heart surgery, described the earthquake's effect at Bateau Bay that it felt as if his home was on ball-bearings. No damage was done. However George Brain, at Denilquin, had a triple go at getting four trotting horses out of his stables, two of which were his and were saved in the nick of time from the bushfires. He described the sight of the burning trees as like New York at night.

Mick Singe had a pleasant surprise at 10-30 a.m. on New Year's morning when the telephone rang all the way from Brecon in Wales, from Peter Leonard and wife Eileen. A very thoughtful gesture !

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MAP OF 458 SQUADRON MOVEMENTS FROM 1941 TO 1945.

First released at the Nelson Bay Reunion, this MAP has proved to be very popular. There are copies available just in time for Anzac Day discussions. Every Flight should have one. These copies are now fully laminated (beer proof), and are coloured for easy identification. Size is 32 inches by 22 inches, and they are loaded with lots of interesting Squadron information. There is a full list of Squadron movements from Williamstown to Gibraltar. Listed also are all the Squadron Commanding Officers, the Adjutants, Engineering officers, medical officers, Disciplinary Warrant Officers, and those three popular padres. All with the dates they served on 458.

The Maps (cont.)

At \$30 each, securely packed in an Australia Post tube, they are great value. After existing stocks are sold, delivery will be about 8 weeks. Send your cheque, made out to 458 Squadron GPO Box 5289, Sydney, 2001, N.S.W.

Overseas orders are subject to a special price: Specify Air or Surface Mail, please.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Bill Carr, 36, Harbury Street, Reservoir, Victoria, 3079

Dear Peter.I am planning to visit U.K. and Europe/North America for 8 months as from May 1990.....I am in good health, retired, of sound financial means with family now each grown up. Also recently re-married. When in the U.K. I will spend time with Harry Bishop and Bert Sleight, and also, hopefully, with Justin McCann.....Trust you are in good health. Regards to NSW 458ers.

Bill Carr.

* * * * *

From Roy Chappell, 4, Devon Walk, Taroom, Tasmania, 7053.

Dear Peter, Perhaps you remember that I purchased a copy of your valuable history of 458 Squadron in 1985 and made inquiries through the Squadron News for information about W/Cdr. Donald Saville. Your book has been most helpful in compiling Chapter 12 (of my biography of W/Cdr. Saville) dealing with 458 Squadron and the ferry flights to Egypt. I have paid tribute to "We Find and Destroy" in the text but would appreciate your written permission to quote.....some stories are drawn from your book--e.g. the shooting down of W/Cdr Mulholland's Wellington off Malta and the survival of the rear gunner F/O Willis-Richards--and the incident of S/Ldr. Saville's flying hours with the C.O. of Moreton in the Marsh and S/Ldr. Sargeant as go-between.

F/Lt. Eric Lloyd from Peregrine Beach--former Navigator in Saville's crew--was a wonderful find through your newssheet. He was able to give me excellent details of several important flights.

Well, the manuscript is now complete and has been handed to the Australian War Memorial. It is not clear as yet how publication will be arranged..

The chapters on 458 and 104 Squadrons would contain much of interest to 458 Squadron members, and my research has revealed more information about some of the incidents referred to in your own book--e.g. the landing and take-off by Saville with a Wellington fully loaded with petrol and 4,000 lb bomb with one engine highly suspect. I have Don. Saville's log books on loan from the family.

On another matter--in your Appendix 1 I was puzzled not to find the name of W/Cdr N.G. Mulholland recorded among the wardead of 458. I suppose you could not include W/Cdr. Saville's name as he was no longer with you when killed over Hamburg, but C.O. of 218 Stirling Bomber Squadron. Any comments ?

(Comment: We took the Official Lists supplied by the R.A.F. and the R.A.A.F. at the time. Presumably Norman Mulholland was technically on detachment when killed. Hopefully, however, the text of W.F. and D. does indicate some part of his great contribution to the Air Force and to 458-Ed)

I was disturbed to find that W/Cdr. Saville's name is not on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Their reply was that Australians in the RAF were not eligible unless they were members of the RAAF on transfer to the RAF. I argued this, pointing out that W/Cdr Mulholland's name was on the Roll of Honour but in a smaller list looking like an After-thought. The matter is a serious one in my view and I believe that scores or even hundreds of Australians serving in the RAF or British Army have been ruled ineligible.....I wonder who made the

Correspondence (cont.)

original decision not to honour Australians serving in the Royal Air Force ? They were in the same war and often like you joined the RAF as they happened to be in the U.K. at the outbreak of war. Don Saville was in that position also, although he had been trained in the RAAF and in their reserve for some years... I think they should revise their whole system. Do you feel I am right ? I should like the RAAF or the RSL to take up this matter.....

(Ed. This issue of the News is notable, at least to the Editor, for the number of editorial comments it contains--more than in 40 years of previous publication perhaps. Here is one more. Yes, the matter has been raised with and is being discussed by the National Executive of the RAAF Association. As to the RSL, we cannot speak).

He (Don Saville) is on the Manly War Memorial, the Portland N.S.W. Memorial, Sydney Grammar School Roll of Honour--and of course is properly remembered in St. Clement Danes Church in the Strand, at Ely Cathedral in the 3 Group Roll of Honour and at The Friends School, Great Ayton, Yorkshire where the Old Scholars inscribed a Memorial Chair in the Meeting House in Don Saville's name.....

I was in 104 Squadron for much of the war and we had perhaps 15 to 20 % of Australians in our aircrews. It was serving with such fine examples of their countrymen that influenced me to emigrate with my family in 1949.....with kind regards and thanks for your previous help,

yours sincerely, Roy Chappell.

* * * * *

From Susan Golding, 66, Sterling Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1SL, England.

Dear Mr. Alexander, I believe Mr. Hopley of the RAF Association, contacted you to let you know I wanted to trace you. After literally going to the other side of the world, I've found you.

Hello--I will introduce myself. My name is Susan Golding and my Father-in-law is George William Golding, who is now 68 yrs. I have enclosed a photograph taken approx in 1951, do you remember him? Well, he has been saying he should have written to you years ago requesting "We Find and Destroy" I thought it would be a nice surprise for him for Christmas to locate the book. This I have done after several inquiries (a second edition), I would be very grateful if you could sign the cover for us and return it with the photo. I know he will be thrilled by it.

To help you remember him, he joined 458 Squadron in Foggia and I believe disbanded in Gibraltar. He mentioned to me that his good friend was Bill Chapman (I don't know if he was English or Australian). I do hope you can help me. Thanking you, yours sincerely, S. Golding.

* * * * *

(Ed. Yes)

BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid. Thompsett.

Here we are again at the start of a New Year: rather late, but a Happy New Year ! Not a lot has happened since I last wrote, but I am pleased to report that a part of the Wimpy that was brought out of a Scottish loch and was being patiently put together by a dedicated team of chaps is now in a Museum in Perth. I was able to put Norman Duke, who is one of the team restoring the Wimpy in touch with my own daughter-in-law who is now Qantas Freight Sales Manager, and with the generosity of Qantas getting the Wimpy section airfreighted free of charge.

I myself had to go into the local hospital recently for a small operation but am pleased to say I am now all well again.

We are enjoying a fairly mild winter but had some snow this morning...

* * * * *

LATE ITEMS.

We are sorry to report that Eric Munkman is back in hospital (the Royal North Shore) with a blood clot following his surgery. All our very best to you, Ec.

Found. By Stan Longhurst after the Xmas lunch, a 458 lapel badge. Phone him on 809 4902.

BOUND FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION 50th.ANNIVERSARY ALL-STATES REUNION 1991.

BAROSSA VALLEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

1991.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT and "I MAY BE THERE" FORM

ACCOMODATION.

— A Hotel/Motel in TANUNDA will accomodate 100 people.

COACH TRANSPORT Adelaide to Tanunda.

Coach transport linking with interstate air/rail/coach will be arranged.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME.

Sunday October 20th 1991	6.30 pm Welcoming Reception
Monday October 21st	Tour of RAAF Base Edinburgh and BBQ lunch.
Tuesday October 22nd	Full day coach tour of Barossa Valley with lunch at the renowned Seppeltsfield winery.
Wednesday October 23rd	Day visit by coach to Jane Eliza River Estate Renmark for lunch and unveiling of commemorative 458 Cairn. All arrangements for this day by courtesy of Ian Showell.
Thursday October 24th	<u>Morning-Squadron Conference</u> .Otherwise free for local sightseeing--Golf--Bowls <u>Evening Squadron Dinner</u>
Friday October 25th	Coach transport for late morning return to Adelaide.

WE DO NEED TO KNOW THE POSSIBLE STRENGTH OF THE REUNION MUSTER AND WHETHER WE NEED TO CONSIDER GOLF AND/OR BOWLS. FURTHER DETAILS WILL FOLLOW LATER. IF YOU ARE AT ALL INTERESTED PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW.

"I MAY BE THERE" FORM.

I have preliminary interest in attending the 1991 458 Squadron 50th Anniversary All-States Reunion and wish to be placed on your further contact list.

SURNAME.....GIVEN NAME.....

ADDRESS.....POST CODE.....

I MAY BE ACCOMPANIED BY.....

GOLF ? Yes/No

BOWLS? Yes/No

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO

Ted Creighton, S.A. Flight Secretary,
458 Squadron Association
33, Farr Terrace, GLENELG EAST, 5045
AUSTRALIA.