

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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U.K.FLIGHT LAYS-UP ITS SQUADRON BANNER---at HOLME-on-SPALDING MOOR.

From Bill Carr.

I was invited, on behalf of the U.K. Flight of 458 Squadron to pass the Squadron Banner, via the Rev. David Cook, of All Saints Church, Holme-on-Spalding Moor, for safe-keeping in that House of God for evermore. I was delighted to be so honoured by the UK Flight.

The short ceremony was conducted this morning after General Service and Communion (458 Sqdn and the RAAF were mentioned several times in the Sermon). Our Squadron was represented by 19 members and their ladies. Frank Robertson and an Australian RAF Warrant Officer, in uniform were with us. The old (in part 12th century) Church was filled to bursting point with locals who had been informed of the service by the local press (York).

Following the presentation of the Banner all the 458 party and a fair percentage of the locals visited the war graves section of the churchyard where we paid our respects to the Squadron dead. These graves are in perfect order, lawns freshly cut and dark red roses growing beside the headstones were in full bloom.

Then followed a visit to the site of the airfield where we viewed the Squadron Tree and plaque. The Union Jack and the Australian flag were flying in a gentle breeze.

Lunch was then taken at the Old Red Lion Inn--much conversation and more drinks.

All the 458ers and their ladies arrived in the village late on Saturday evening. Final count was 19. There was much conversation, mostly dominated by the four members present of Justin McCann's crew. Justin remained in the R.A.F., served 28 years, was "mentioned" and awarded the A.F.C.

Credit must be given to Norm Duke, Harry Bishop and Frank Robertson for the arrangements which resulted in a glorious weekend. Those present at the events were: Betty Johnson, Leon and Doreen Armstrong, Harry Bishop, Bert and Nell Sleight, Norman and Joyce Duke, Eric and Sylvia Phillips, Peter and Eileen Leonard, Ken Morris, Charlie and Joyce Humbles, Jim and May Croft, Justin McCann, Bill Carr and Frank Robertson.

I have photographs of the standard taking pride of place beside the Altar and also of the Church, the assembled 458ers and of each of the 5 Australian graves--for the Squadron Album. Regards to all 458ers.

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CANUCK CAUCUS. from Jim Donaldson.

All is quiet on the Canadian 458 front. I have received a couple of notes from Bryan Quinlan keeping me up to date on information he receives from various sources. The latest from George Bird, who flew with 221 Squadron informing him of their 50th anniversary.

If it were only possible to put on a reunion of all those who have gone before, what a reunion that would be; maybe in the next world.

I am enclosing information on the 6th Aircrew Reunion, to be held June 18-31st 1992, here in Winnipeg. The Reunion Committee expect to publish their first newsletter in a few weeks. Anyone who is interested in receiving information may do so by dropping a line to Wartime Aircrew Association, Box 2639, Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada, R3C 4B3.

There will be an Air Show and if its anything like the one put on here on July 14-15 at the Canadian Forces Base, Portage la Prairie, we are in for a real show. They had the Andrew Mynarski V.C. rebuilt Lancaster, and although they had the latest in modern Fighters, Bombers and Transport aircraft, the Lancaster stole the show. Now, if they only had a Wimpy.

In order to get this away in time I had better knock it off. All the best to all of you wherever you may be, and thanks for the privilege of allowing us to serve with you--the Canucks.

All the best, Jim.

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VIC. FLIGHT NEWS. from Stan Tarczynski.

Annual General Meeting. This was held at the usual venue, the Air Force Club, Hawksburn, on Friday May 26th. It was followed by the Annual Dinner. The roll-call at pre-meeting drinks was: Dot and Jack Fleming, Helen and Ern Laming, Mavis and Mick Singe, Beat and Ken Morkham, Ann and Bill Hurford, Kath and Yank Martin, Betty and Dave Evans, Elaine Timms, Vivienne and Jack Morris, Margaret and Jack Ellis, June and Neil Dean, Bill Henry and Stan Tarczynski.

The highlight of the nominations for office was a first for Mick Singe in being elected Flight President--having modestly resisted in the past. Senior Vice President was Jack Fleming; Junior Vice President was Ern Laming. All other office-bearers were re-elected. Hopefully, through the good graces of Shorty Bradshaw's daughter the Squadron Banner will be refurbished, as its dark blue and gold lettering has become very faded. A novelty raffle at the extremely well presented dinner which followed the meeting was the drawing of two single bottles of wine (won by Bill Henry and Kath Martin), and a tin of biscuits (won by Jack Morris) --all from a free ticket issued to everyone present.

Roy Rabone has notified us of his changed address--and how much he

Vic. Flight News (cont.) appreciates the Squadron News. The address is 20, Duke Avenue, Hamilton, Vic., 3300. (Sydney, please note).

We were very sad to learn, after such a long illness, of the passing of the much-loved Harry Jenkins at Nelson Bay, N.S.W. A reply to a condolence letter to his sister Bronyn Patterson, indicated that his ashes will be placed in the Jenkins family grave at Rochester in Victoria after a short graveside service. We made a contribution to the Alzheimer Society of Victoria.

Mick Singe has some overseas news in letters sent to him: Peter Leonard from Brecon, Powys, Wales has confirmed that, with wife Eileen, he will visit the All-States Reunion in South Australia. On Anzac Day, Jack and Elsie Hamilton called on them and stayed overnight, followed by another night's stay with "Chicko" Mercer and wife Peg. The Hamiltons were off to Scotland after that, and then on to Germany and Bavaria. Mick also received a "thank you" letter from Mick and Margaret Reid (Canada) whose visit was recorded in the previous News. Ron and Sue Eggars drove them around the Mornington Peninsula, and they were very impressed with the Melbourne Art Centre. Before Melbourne, the Reids were with Ted and Freda Creighton in Adelaide and made telephone contact with Col. Fereday in Canberra and Graeme Coombes, as well as Eric Munkman and Peter Alexander in Sydney.

The Melbourne Cup BBQ will be held on Tuesday, November 6th at Dot and Jack Fleming's, 25 Manning Street, St. Leonards--Tel. 052-571613--and will commence before the first race of the day.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS. from Jim. Holliday.

Every winter Queensland members seem to hibernate. Good reason this year. It's the coldest, wettest, and windiest winter on record. So, communication has been sparse: not even one carrier pigeon.

Of the news that filtered through, it seems there's a minor fitness fad. Erle Hetherington has spurned his car and taken to biking and hiking. Alan Atherton has slid off his office chair into sugar farming, which is not exactly a sweet job. Kitty and Jack Baxter have forsaken the foreshores of Burleigh Heads for a farm up Currumbin Valley. But the tending, mending and sending is more than a mere hobby. So we can safely predict that all are tauter, clearer of eye, and sleep more soundly.

However, Sel Foote, who has always toiled from pre-dawn to post-dark, is easing his foot off the accelerator. His best friend advises that Sel has joined the local Probus Club and is liking the relaxation.

With Jim McKay's relocating near the Dud. McKays, a new 458 cell has been founded at Caloundra. As yet activities are limited to the occasional Saturday night card game where apparently fortunes are not told or lost. Joan and Ron Russell liked their recent S.E. Asia tour so much that they've booked another safari for December. Evelyn Lewis is still shewing her younger colleagues how to play competitive golf. Did well recently in the Club Championship.

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

Things are very quiet here in the West at the moment as we are in the middle of our wet season. In fact the last few weeks here in Mandurah it seemed as if we were all going to be blown away.

I was told by Ben Cormack that Yank Martin rang him from Melbourne enquiring if his house was still standing. Things are a bit quieter now and will allow everyone to fix up their damages.

Congratulations to Poss Dale, wife of the late Tim Dale, for her award in the Order of Australia--O.A.M. (General Division)--for long service to the Royal Life Saving Society.

It is with regret that I advise of the passing of two of our 458 members wives. Syd Baker's wife, Ethel, passed away on 7th June. Doug Anderson's wife Pat passed away in July, after a long illness. Very sincere sympathy to both Syd and Doug.

Sandgropers Say...(cont.)

I have had some surgery on my face for removal of some skin cancers but should soon be alright after the stitches are out. When the weather becomes warmer we should be able to resume our W.A.Flight social functions once again--with a few BBQs, etc.

Best wishes to all 458 Squadron members--wherever you are. Ted.

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CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY. from Ted.Creighton.

Mick Reid Safely Back in Canada. Received a welcome letter from Mick Reid advising he and Marj survived the ravages of 'flu in Aussie. Mick passes his thanks to SA Flight and their ladies.

Personal Pars. To those of our members still on Sick Parade our very best wishes. Get well, blokes!

Reg.Priest has been out of sight for a few weeks on a 4WD walkabout to all points north. Bill and Madge Taylor have been visiting their son in Sydney.

S.A.Flight is warmed and heartened by the continued interest shown by many of the ladies of those of our members who have joined the ranks of those who "shall not grow old". Freda and I had a chat with one of them the other day when hand delivering some S.A.Flight information. From here on you must shut your eyes for I left Joan Dickson with the impression that in no way would I tell anyone that we found her in her Big Apple apron doing the local Council out of a job sweeping the footpaths around her home. "Snow" would be proud of you, Joan. Glad to see you well, and thanks for the mandarins.

50th Anniversary All-States Reunion Chateau Yaldara, Barossa Valley.

The moon is full. A fitful breeze stirs the leaves of the surrounding eucalypts. Sadly it sighs through the dried fronds of the palms. Deep in the bowels of the huddle of buildings a huge door creaks open. A light flickers on. Grotesque shadows are thrown against the walls. There is a hollow sound of echoes. A glimpse of long dark tunnels that lead to who knows where. Suddenly, a supernatural wailing filters through the stillness of the night.....

The start of a horror story? No way! It is the start of the Night Tour of the Yaldara Winery and Chateau:--with our own Colin Hutchinson in the vineyards practising a lament on his bagpipes. There'll be champagne and hors d'oeuvres to fortify you at the start and it will conclude with dinner (with or without ghosts) in the Garden Bistro on the banks of the small Para river. (In the driest of dry States we even call dry creeks (Rivers)). The S.A.Flight is up and running on organisational meetings and all is proceeding well. More suspenseful information in the next Issue which should include a colourful brochure on the main venue, and then in the February issue another pamphlet with full details and a registration form.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTS. from Cy.Irwin.

Jock McGowen, the newly appointed N.S.W.Flight Secretary, has asked that I write the News Report for this issue. He and Anne suffered a sad loss in the death of Anne's sister in mid June. Our sincere condolences.

A quiet time in N.S.W. since the last issue. Committee meetings have continued on the third wednesday of alternate months from February. we now meet at a new venue--the National office of the R.A.A.F.Association at 149 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. City members in town on these meeting days are invited to join the boys at 1.30.

In the pipeline are plans for a midday luncheon at the catering section of the T.A.F.E.College, Blaxland Road, Ryde. Members, wives and friends have thoroughly enjoyed past TAFE functions, arranged by Stan and Jean Longhurst.

Lawn Bowls. On 16th August lawn bowlers in our midst will join in the annual Air Force Bowls Day at the West Lindfield Club.

Cornstalk Comments (cont.) Stuart Ricketts is organising our bowling troops and we expect to field three teams. Visitors are welcomed.

R.A.A.F.A. State Assembly.

As briefly mentioned in the last News report, 458 Squadron, as a branch of the Air Force Association was represented at the recent Annual Assembly at Richmond. Eric Munkman, Stan Longhurst and Fred Strom represented 458 and Peter Alexander was present as a Life Vice President of the N.S.W. Division. AN agenda item submitted by 458 seeking increased activity by the Department of Veterans Affairs towards a Veterans Independence Programme, for aged veterans and their spouses, was carried and will appear on the agenda at the forthcoming biennial National Conference of the A.F.A..

Personal Pars. Jock McGowen reports that he has had word from Tony Stone in S.A. Jim and Dorothy Whitem have taken off (or set sail) on a yachting holiday to Cairns. And some news of members confined to Nursing Homes. Lofty Bracker is now a patient at Pulworth House, 73, Roslin Gardens, Elizabeth Bay. Jack Aitken has kept in touch with Lofty and his sister during the long illness. News from Tess Jollow is that Arthur is slightly improved but still an inmate of the Wesley Gardens Nursing Home, Forestway, Belrose.

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THE 458 SQUADRON MAP: Movments of the Squadron at war.

First released at the Nelson Bay Reunion, these maps have proved extremely popular. Some further copies have been obtained. They are fully laminated (beerproof) and are coloured for easy identification. Size is 32 inches by 22 inches and they contain a full list of Squadron movements from Williamtown to Gibraltar. Listed also are all the Commanding Officers, Adjutants, Engineering Officers, Medical Officers, Disciplinary Warrant Officers, and the three popular padres. All with the dates they served with 458. At \$30 each, securely packed in an Australia Post tube, they are great value. Send your cheque, made out to 458 Squadron to GPO Box 5289, Sydney, 2001, N.S.W. Overseas orders are subject to a special price. Specify sea or airmail, please.

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WHERE IS JACK WITHECOMBE ?

A 458er in Canada, Glen Hoosier, has sought the address of 458 Pilot Jack Withecombe. Jack was with us in the Med. and scored a probably sunk merchantman. He subsequently flew with A.N.A. out of Melbourne before retirement. Who can help ?

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PROGRESS ON THE 458 SQUADRON RESERVE AT RENMARK.

Ian Showell, in his very large development along the Murray at Renmark has reserved land for a 458 Squadron Reserve. It is progressing at a great pace. Ian has written to John Carey:

Dear John, as you can see (from a photo) I have made a start on the 458 Memorial land. The green at the bottom is lawn and the rose gardens will be on either slope half way up--approx 75 roses each side, making 150 in all as we lost about 150 lads during the whole war. I have kept this land as a reserve which will eventually be handed over to the Renmark Corporation for perpetual maintenance. I have spent \$5000 on automatic aprinklers so that watering is no problem.

The palm tree I transplanted. I have another palm the same size to put on the other bank and some cotton palms at the Lake end. I intend planting a couple of olive trees (Italy) and some English trees (Holme-on-Spalding Moor) The strip of water at the back is a large lake. We hope to have the roses in full bloom October twelve months.....

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MORE FROM THE U.K.FLIGHT.

We have welcomed two further accounts from the U.K.Flight. The first comes from Squadron Vice President Norman Duke.

A small group of diehards met at the St.Ermans Hotel in London on Sunday Evening April 29th which was the closest we could arrange to Anzac Day. Visitors to the 1982 International Reunion will remember the Hotel as the place where we held the Squadron Dinner. Members present were Harry Bishop, Eric Phillips, Peter and Eileen Leonard, Leon and Doreen Armstrong, Norman and Joyce Duke. A number of other far-flung members, although with us in spirit were not able to attend in person. Our octogenarian Flight President, Mick Mason, has had a recent back injury, and could not attend the parade. We drank to the continued good health of all members, and absent friends were remembered.

Arrangements have been made to attend Church service on July 22nd at Holme-on-Spalding Moor where the Rector has agreed to accept the Squadron Banner for safe keeping.

In view of the fact that 1991 will be the 50th anniversary of the Squadron's formation, we should like to commemorate the occasion with as many of the U.K. ex's as are willing and able, at a place and time to be advised later. Can all members be forewarned ?

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The second account comes from Harry Bishop.

Sid Thompsett has asked me to drop you a line to report on the gathering at Holme upon Spalding Moor to present the Squadron Banner to the local church for safekeeping. Unfortunately he was unable to attend as he has recently been in hospital and was unfit to travel. A pity because he had done a lot of the organising.

On the Saturday evening (21st) Leon and Doreen Armstrong, Bert and Nell Sleight, Bill Carr, Norman and Joyce Duke, Peter and Eileen Leonard, Justin McCann and myself met at the Old Red Lion for a few drinks and dinner. It was particularly enjoyable because it was the first time that Justin, Bill Carr, Bert Sleight and myself had been together since we parted on the Squadron. Our thoughts were with Pete Campbell and the late Lofty Chalmers, the other members of the crew.

Sunday morning we were joined by Ken Morris, Charles and Joyce Humbles, Jim and May Croft and drove off to the Church where we were joined by Betty Johnson and Frank Robertson. At the conclusion of the morning service Bill Carr paraded the Banner, inviting the Rev. Cook to receive it. Norman Duke had obtained a form of service for the laying up and the Rev. Cook conducted the proceedings with great dignity. We then visited the war graves in the churchyard, and in due course drove to the airfield to visit the Tree and plaque. We then returned to the Old Red Lion for refreshment and lunch.

Mid afternoon saw us driving off to our homes having spent a very pleasant and satisfying get together. I am sure it will be recalled with happy memories in the future. I know Bill Carr has written. It was nice meeting up with him and Jan on his arrival in the U.K. He seems to be enjoying his travelling but finds it rather tiring. I am still hopeful of attending the Adelaide Reunion next year and meeting up with you all once again.

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FROM SOUTH AFRICA. Brief Note from Alf Rubidge.

A Fax from Alf to Dusty Miller.

Thanks for your newsy letter and for your Fax which I did receive. Your kind offer to send a copy of "We Find and Destroy" by Peter Alexander is appreciated but Lock (Simpson) sent me a copy a year ago. Thanks for Peter's address--will write to him soon. I will be replying to your letter before the turn of the century. Regards, Alf.

Alf's address is 19 Bordon Street, Rondesbosch, Republic of South Africa,

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458 SQUADRON, N.S.W. FLIGHT, COMMITTEE.

1989/1990.

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