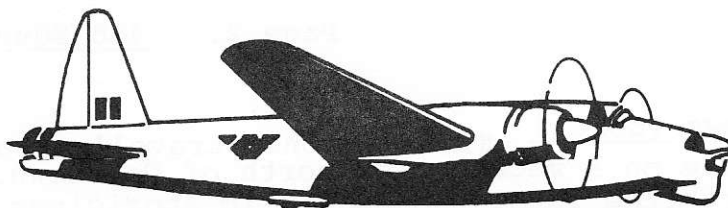


# 458

## SQUADRON NEWS



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JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, G.P.O. Box 5289, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 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 .

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### Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

From Jim. Holliday.

Our Melbourne Cup Sweep is an annual opportunity to bring us in touch with many members many miles from Brisbane. In returning their butts the boys forward news of recent activities. Fred O'Brien pleaded to draw him a horse this time. He wanted The Phantom. Against mathematical odds, he drew it. Unfortunately it came in second. The Hollidays came from oblivion to do well. Peg's sister drew Kingston Rule, and Peg herself, Mr. Brooker. After this success, we expect to slip back into oblivion.

And for some members' news. Keith Austin says he's had a few problems lately (we understand it's back problems). Harry Dorge appears to be dodging along well in retirement. Bob. Dangaard, on a visit from Mareeba to Cairns, looked up Erle Hetherington. Found Erle had, once again, pulled down the engine of his Jag. Parts everywhere. Erle reports that he intends to motor to the Barossa Valley Reunion. From South Mission Beach, Tully, George Reed writes that he's still journeying regularly to the Atherton Tableland to visit two sons and, naturally, grandchildren. But it must fit in with his fishing on the nearby reef. Enid and Dud. McKay seem to be ever hosting one or other of their daughters and their children who come down from Cairns. But they must fit in between Enid and Dud's trips to Norfolk Island to their holiday home. Recently renewed all plumbing and planted 45 palms 40 hibiscus, coffee trees and various fruits. Re-building Paradise on a tropical island?

Q.Flight News (cont.) That seasoned traveller, Ian Higlett, garnered a gruesome tale on a recent trek north of Cooktown. In the early settlement of the Far North, the local cannabalistic Aborigines fiercely fought the gold fossickers, particularly the Chinese who they used as an alternative to their possum diet. Tasted better after hanging for a few days from a tree limb.

Gordon Cuthbertson recently had a cornea transplant and now has good vision in both eyes Bernie McLoughlin sends congratulations to Yank Martin for Collingwood's win in the Grand Final. Jack Hobbs "batched" while Shiela visited the land of her Scottish ancestors. Shiela also "took in" the Continent and U.S.A. Jack meanwhile found the local fish friendly and they joined him often for breakfast. Alan Atherton is now touring Samoa and the Cook Islands with daughter Dianne. Alan reports that Fred. Kleckham has had an op. on his throat and that Alf. Peake hopes to make the next Reunion. Keith Campbell takes an occasional nostalgic trip to the U.K. at the Britannica Inn, an authentic English Pub built for Expo 88, now reconstructed on the Queen Street Mall. Samples genuine imported English ale. Will shout all 458ers who join him.

Next Friday Bernie McLoughlin and Jim. Holliday are attending the launching of Maisie McKenzie's biography of Fred. McKay. Both look forward to meeting Fred, again.

Next Sunday, Joan and Ron. Russell will be hosting our Xmas lunch at their home at Mermaid Waters. Acceptors: Joan and Clive Wyman, Kath and Eric Kelly, Evelyn and Jack Lewis, Isla and Bert Garland, Moyra and Tony Stone, Kitty and Jack Baxter, Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson, Joan and Sel. Foote, Don. Brandon, Joan Brandon, Bridie and Eric Lloyd, Hilda and Frank Wilks, Bernie McLoughlin, Chester Jones, Peg and Jim. Holliday, and staunch Associates, Bobby and Sel. Williams.

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CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY. from Ted. Creighton.

The 50th Anniversary Update. 1991 and the Barossa Valley loom closer. As a supplement to this News a Chateau Yaldara brochure is enclosed. The Yaldara Barossa Motel on the Chateau Yaldara Winery Estate near Lyndoch is the main venue of the Reunion. Lyndoch is the gateway to the Barossa Valley, with Tanunda, the very heart of the Barossa only 15 minutes away. The brochure colourfully depicts the delights of the venue and will whet your appetite to rush back the registration form which will be included with the February issue of the Newsletter. 'Nuff said!

Pers 1 Pars. Reg. Priest's Northern Safari sort of bogged down at Lake Argyle. After fixing a flat tyre, Reg went arm over tip into a culvert and spent three weeks in the Darwin Hospital with a busted leg. Glad to report that he is now just about ready for bowls again.

Ian Sorell has advised a change of address to 6/198. Morphett Rd., Glengowrie, 5044, whilst Kevin Tait has recently enjoyed a sojourn in Scotland, visiting his son. SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL FROM S.A. FLIGHT.

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VIC. FLIGHT NEWS. from Stan. Tarczinski.

Welfare Item. We are seeking support for an application by Lofty Chalmers widow for a War Widows Pension. If anyone can confirm that Lofty was a heavy smoker during the Bone/Alghero period would they please contact Mr. J.D Macansh, Newcastle Legacy, P.O.Box 271C Newcastle 2300, N.S.W. Tel. 29-1005 or 29 1782.

During the course of my local investigation in reference to the above Keith Clymo informed me that he had spent three weeks in Heidleberg Hospital for an ulcer on his foot. Then Jack Guthrie reported having been accosted by a young lady at Doncaster Shopping Town, who referred to his 458 lapel badge. She turned out to be the daughter of the late Jim and of Elaine Timms.

Vic.Flight News (cont.)The Melbourne Cup B.B.Q.

At the home of Jack and Dot.Fleming. There were a few apologies: Bill Henry, the Martins, the Morkhams, Elaine Timms, and Farmer Giles, who lives at Belmont, Geelong, but had to travel up to Melbourne to mind his grand kids. Ann Hurford (who has not been well for a long time) didn't know that Bill put her in the Sweep for the last race which was run after we all departed. Her horse won! Ann, collect from Jack when you see him! Last, but not least Rupe and Beth Pearce. Beth is recovering from an antrum operation--battered and bruised. To our dismay we learn she has just had a stroke and is back in hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We numbered 17 in all and put in our 20 and 50 cents for sweeps throughout the full race programme. The rollcall was: Dave and Betty Evans, Neil and June Dean, Ern and Helen Laming, Mick and Mavis Singe, Bill Hurford, Stan.Tarczyński, Jack and Vin.Morris, and for the first time for many years Jack "Tich" Ramsay, and wife Betty, and Eric Johnston who is completing a book on the Yellow Draft.

Rupert Pearce was a member of one of the organised tours for the 75th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign. Referring to the Dawn Service at Ari Burnu Cemetery, with a presence of about 7,000 he tells how impressive and moving it was--there were very few dry eyes. Then there was the International Ceremony at the Turkish Memorial at Cape Helles. All the Public personages were there; wreaths were laid and naval units sailed past in the Aegean Sea. He then attended the moving wreath-laying ceremony at the Lone Pine Memorial at which Australian Prime Minister Mr.Hawke and Opposition Leader Dr.Hewson spoke. Remains of the trenches can still be seen-- fragments of bone, old barbed wire --etc. are still visible.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION.

from Jock McGowen.

At the outset, let me thank Cy.Irwin for helping out with the last "Communication". Unfortunately, I was spending a few days in hospital for a check-up mission. Nothing found as yet but, be assured, they will keep looking. I will keep you informed when they strike oil.

The Melbourne Cup has come and gone, as usual no luck here. At least I got a horse; I think it started at 400-1. The winner was Ken.Crago and second horse went to Wal.Archbold. The third was to June Pettit --better luck next time and many thanks for your help to Flight funds. Every little bit helps these days.

Eric Munkman had word that Bill "Chappie" Chapman is currently in the Lady Davidson Hospital in Sydney receiving treatment. Get well, Chappie! We want to see your smiling face at the Barossa Valley Reunion. Bill Fiddes has had a bit of surgery and we are happy to know he is O.K. again, even mowing lawns and silly things like that. The Whittem's from Port Macquarie have been somewhere at sea on the way home from a sailing trip up north. During the trip they called in and stayed with crew member Ray MacDougall.

Eric has had a letter from Wal.Archbold. Wal and Dora visited Cuthie and Peg a while ago. They had a get-together--Bert and Isla Garland Ted.Love, Massa Foote and Joan, along with Ron.and Joan Russell. All seem to be in good drinking form but they all had to refrain as they were doing the driving. Wal has promised to correct that state of affairs at Barossa.

350 Meetings On.

The N.S.W.Flight Committee will be celebrating its 350th monthly meeting in December. Of that original Committee (of the 458 Squadron branch of the RAAFA Association) we still have five active. They are Peter Alexander, Eric Munkman, Fred.Strom, Sam Barlow and Bob.Bruce. Not bad really. The first meeting was in 1949 after Anzac Day annual meeting. The first issue of the Squadron News came out in October, 1949, a good record in anyone's terms.



Cornstalk Talk (cont.)

At Williamtown. The N.S.W. Flight will be holding a small gathering at the Williamtown Air Base on 10th July, 1991 to commemorate the actual founding date, 50 years on, of 458 Squadron. More details in the next News. All are invited and we should like to see as many as possible of the original members there. We do realise that with the All States Reunion in October it will be a little difficult and, of course, it will be a one day affair which will mean an overnight stay at Nelson Bay.

Finally we do still have some of the 458 Maps in stock. Send in your \$30 for a great present, full of history and memories.

To all of you, out there, a Happy and Safe Christmas and a Prosperous New Year from N.S.W. FLIGHT--and we look forward to October 1991 in the Barossa Valley.

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ANNIVERSARIES AND INSTALLATIONS.

Congratulations to Graeme and Dulcie Coombes! The Squadron Secretary and his lady celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Canberra recently. Their family organised some celebrations and, for 458, Peter and Rita Alexander and Col. Fereday joined in the rejoicings.

Squadron Treasurer Peter Alexander, who, among other activities, is Deputy Chairman of the Scottish Heritage Council in Australia (the body that organises Scottish Week each year), was formally installed as a Warden of the Scottish memorial Cairn in Mosman during the Highland Games there. Sash of office, parchment warrant of appointment, special banner.

Obliging 14 year old grandson carried the banner, wearing a kilt.

SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Bill Clues.

Well, as you see from the heading, I am writing this news instead of Ted Jewell.

Ted did a most despicable thing and took a couple of weeks holiday just when the news was due. I trust he and Elsie have enjoyed their trip thoroughly. I believe he said it was Bali they were going to.

Congratulations to Henry Etherton and Ray Turley who have both celebrated their 70th birthdays since the last news issue.

Weather in the West is improving and we have begun our summer social round. Firstly, with a Casserole Lunch at the home of Associate members Brian and Margaret Hicks--well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks, Brian and Margaret!

Approximately 35 members and friends enjoyed a barbeque on the 28th October at the home of Ray and Marge Turley. Ray's daughter, Pat, prepared large quantities of savouries, cakes and sweets. Not good for the cholesterol or the figure, but enjoyed by everyone. Thanks, Pat!

Poss Dale was very unlucky on the day of the BBQ. On her way to the local shop she tripped on the pavement and cracked her kneecap. Instead of attending the BBQ she spent some time in hospital--is now home and on the way to recovery.

Our next function will be our Xmas Luncheon at the Freeway Hotel on December 9th.

On a sad note I advise of the passing of Clarrie Eagle on November 17th at Hollywood Hospital. Our sincere sympathy to wife Joan and son Michael.

A merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New year to all members.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN. from Sid.Thompsett.

There is not much news to report this time, except for the very sad news of the death of Harry Bishop. He died quite suddenly whilst on holiday in the West Country. Leon and Doreen Armstrong went to the funeral as they live quite close and they were able to give our condolences to the family. He will be greatly missed, especially by myself and those who regularly attended reunions, etc, as he was an active member of the U.K.Flight. I also have to report, with regret the death of Eric Fendick who died earlier this year but we were only informed recently by his son.

I circulated all U.K. members about the appeal of the Vicar of HOSM for donations towards the repairs to the Church. If any member still wishes to contribute it will be very welcome. All the best.

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LOCATED ! We located Jack Withecombe whose address was sought by Canadian member Glen Hoosier. Jack is at Anakie, Victoria. Our thanks to Ron Eggars and other members. It occurs to us that we could run a pretty fair Lost and Wanted service for 458ers. Have you a long-lost old mate?

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From the Rev.David Cook, The Vicarage, Holme-on-Spalding Moor, York, YO4 4AG.

...I am about to launch an Appeal for 10,000 pounds to cover the cost of replacing the organ in the Church. Other jobs will include having the Squadron Standard properly fixed to the wall and covered. Would it be possible to circulate former members of the Squadron, inviting them to contribute to the Appeal should they wish ?

yours sincerely, David Cook

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From Frank Ward, 50 Castle Hill Road, W. Pennant Hills, 2125, N.S.W.

Dear Peter, We have just returned from a trip to Europe and Israel (away 7 weeks), including the Passion Play at Oberammergau, which was a wonderful experience. We were one week in Israel, in September, but I doubt if tours are on at the present with tensions so high in the Gulf.

For the lads who went through 78 O.T.U. at Ein Shemer, they would be interested to retrace their steps, and I found things so different. Nathanya, which was just a small village in those far off days, is now a big city, high-rise apartments all built close together, and Haifa, which we knew as just a small town and port is now a really big place. They have built on hillsides there you just wouldn't believe possible. Jerusalem too has extended out along the ridges and there is little vacant land in that city. The population of Israel is now over 5 million with the immigration programme stepping up. Went to the Golan Heights, certainly a strategic area from Israel's side, and for which they paid an enormous price in young lives when they stormed the Heights from Syria about 7 years ago. Bunkers are still there and fields all around are full of mines.

Stayed in a kibbutz at the Sea of Galilee overnight on the way to Capernaum. This was a kibbutz set up for tourists, hotel-motel type. However there are others, self-contained farms, orchards, vegetable gardens. With very low rainfall, their irrigation comes from the Jordan and Galilee, before it empties into the Dead Sea. They have done a marvellous job in developing this parched land.

Sincerely, Frank Ward.

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Correspondence (cont.)

From Lock Simpson, P.O.Box 24, Bassendean, Western Australia, 6054.

Dear Peter, This letter brings the sad news that my navigator, Gerry Ring died on 10/8/90. I enclose a note I received from Clare Ring.

I am afraid I write with sad news concerning my father, Gerry Ring. Dad died on 10th August--it was a heart attack--unexpected.

He had been down to visit my mother in Weybridge for a holiday, and was quietly sitting on the settee with Jake, his dog, by his side. It was very peaceful and painless.

I remember Dad often talking about his wartime days and the Aussies--running up and down the tents at night. It was a pity Dad didn't get to the Reunions.....

...I congratulate everyone who has been associated with the Council over the years and you in particular for the very fine effort that has gone into the maintenance of our very fine newsletter..Best regards,

Lock Simpson.

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ON THE EX-SERVICE FRONT.

The World Veterans Federation.

Stan and Jean Longhurst and Peter and Rita Alexander were among the Australians who attended the recent Council meeting of the W.V.F in Bangkok. The Council attended to various motions of international veterans interest and delegates were able to visit and make some helpful arrangements for the Thai Veterans Hospital to have some nurses trained in Concord. Lionel Woodward, head of Vet.Affairs in Australia was present in Bangkok.

Before and after the Council meeting, the 458ers did some touring. Stan and Jean visited the fascinating town of Chiang Mai. Peter and Rita went to Nepal and rode elephant back on the Indian Frontier, looking for, and finding, some rare (single-horned) rhinoceroses, and not finding (or really wanting to find) Bengal Tigers alleged to be in the jungle there.

In Australia, various campaigns continue. The future of the Veterans Hospitals--far from agreed yet. Budget proposals to "deem" receipt of 10% interest by Service Pensioners, etc. Use of medals to determine "Qualifying" service and "Operational" Service. Very controversially, the future of GARP Mk III--the Guide to the Assessment of Repatriation Pensions, which the Senate is likely to disallow. Peter Alexander was called to give evidence to the Senate about some of these matters.

We are concerned that the Department of Veterans Affairs spends a lot of effort in carrying out inquiries, and causing us to spend much energy and time in preparing submissions out of which not much comes except more inquiries.

Yes, we, like the R.S.L., want the GARP III disallowed and then properly reworked. Yes, we feel, that in some States anyway, private patient status in the area in which they live could be to the advantage of veterans we don't intend it to happen if there is any disadvantage to Veterans and spouses from integration of the Veterans Hospitals. We are opposing sale of Commonwealth land around the Lady Davidson Hospital which, we feel, should be used to create more facilities for chronic and long-term care cases.

The important Veterans Independence Programme continues along a drawn out investigation procedure without much more than promises.

It's all a long and complicated business. But we win a few!

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