



SQUADRON **NEWS**



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LARGE ENROLMENT FOR THE BAROSSA ALL-STATES REUNION.

CROWEATERS 'COMMENTARY. from Ted. Creighton.

We have forwarded for publication in this News the names of all those that have registered as at 4/5/91. 120 expressions of interest have exploded to 161 registrations. This was a bit of a shock to the accomodation register, but fear not: all has now been finalised. Yaldara filled very quickly and we have spilled over to two Motels and the Pub in Tanunda. Accomodation at the Main venue was allocated as near as possible to a first come first served basis but preference was given to our Overseas visitors. Consideration has been given to all special requests and sometimes this could only be achieved by going to Tanunda. Our thanks to a number of SA Flight who agreed to go on detachment, or to commute from Adelaide. Further information to all registered will be forthcoming by mail as soon as possible.

Peter Alexander in Adelaide. Some 14 Flight members and their ladies welcomed the opportunity to chat with Peter over a quiet drink or two at the Talbot when Peter was in Adelaide recently. Apologies from President John Carey (absent in Sydney), Reg. Priest and Kevin Tait. It was good to see Jack Riseley out and about again.

Anzac Day in Adelaide, 1991. As usual it managed to rain on Anzac Day. Attendances at the Adelaide Airport the MArch and the Talbot were down

on last year. We were pleased that a Croweaters Commentary (cont) number of Flight family members joined us at the Talbot.

Moving Times. Tim O'Reilly has moved from Aldgate to Crafers and enclosed a generous donation to Flight funds and the Reunion with his change of address. Arn Scholar is in Room 109 of the War Veterans Home, Myrtle Bank. Eric Baker is now at Plympton and Joyce Enright is with her The mailing department has been advised of all changes. sister at Belair.

Had gremlins not clobbered Croweaters Commentary copy, the following item would have appeared in the Februarty issue: --

VALE, Pat Enright. With sadness we record the death of S A Flight to time stalwart, Pat Enright. Pat had been on the Sick List for quite With sadness we record the death of S A Flight longsome time and proudly and gamely battled on. He died on 26/11/90. The funeral was held privately with a Memorial Service taking place at the Daw Park Repat Hospital Chapel the following Saturday. Along with friends and family, this was strongly attended by SA Flight members and their wives.

Special Request. Syd and Pat Bartram have been loaded with the job of arranging a Squadron Memorabilia Display at the Barossa reunion. If ANYBODY ANYWHERE CAN CONTRIBUTE ITEMS OF INTEREST PLEASE DROP A NOTE TO Syd and Pat at Unit 65 Hillsview, McHarg Road, Happy Valley, 5159. If you bring it with you, please make sure your ownership is clearly and easily identified.

List of Reunion attenders later in this Issue of the News.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION. from Jock McGowen.

It is with regret that we advise the passing of another 458er. Tom. Mitchell who passed away on 13th March, 1991. We all send sympathy to Val., Tom and Peter.

The event of the period was, of course, Anzac Day. Whereas Anzac Day. they started the March but did not complete it, two faces, not seen for many years, were there--Len Teale and Gordon Vale; how nice to see you At the Reunion we had Bert Thompson, Red-Jack Baker, Black-Jack Baker, Stan. Longhurst, Cy. Irwin, Jim. Whittem, Peter Alexander, Eric Munkman, Arnold Ashton, Jack Bevin, Reg. Hansell, Fred. Strom, Bob. Smith, Bob.Lyndon, Wal Archbold, Sam Barlow, Kevin Barlow, Harry Baines, Bill Turier, Wal Mobbs, Bob Bruce, John Dunn, Marshall Allen, Merv. Hargraves, Stuart Ricketts, Bob Low, Bob. Millar, Norm. Peachey, Frank Ward, John Preston, Ken. Rosen, Ralph Bailey and Jock McGowen. A good roll-up, and a good day we had.

*Our 1991-2 Flight Committee was elected and remains the same as last year with the addition of Ken. Rosen -- welcome, Ken.

*The return to Williamtown on July 10th is still on and we will have some limitations on the number toattend, about 25 couples in all. If you want to join us, please write to me ASAP and by mid June to advise who will be attending. The limitation is due to the fact that it will be a working day for the Base. You will be advised by mail what the day procedures will be. Hope to see as many of the old bunch there as possible.

- * We send our best wishes to Lofty Bracker and Arthur Jollow who have been hospitalised for some time. Get well soon, fellows, we miss you both.
- * A letter from Tom Meredith in Wales has been received. Tom sends his best wishes to all for the 50th anniversary Reunion. Tom is the first from the U.K. to order Place mats, and a big map for his boys. Thanks, Tom, it was great to hear from you. Tom joined 458 at Holme and spent those happy years in the Middle East with us.
- * Place mats are selling well, we are getting more stocks, so keep the orders coming in. Both the big maps and the place mats will be on sale at the Barossa reunion.

Cornstalk Communication (cont.)

- *A luncheon for those able to attend was held at Ryde TAFA College on May 22nd and was enjoyed greatly. Quite informal and simply a Get-together-for-a chat type.
- * The next big event is the Barossa, everyone is looking forward to that.

SANDGROPERS SAY..... FROM Ted.Jewell.

Anzac Day in Perth. As usual we celebrated Anzac Day in perfect, sunny, weather. Our Flight President Bill Clues attended the Dawn Service at the State War Memorial in Kings Park and after the Service laid a wreath for 458 Squadron, which was, once again, supplied by Vera Etherton. The marchers were said this year to be the most for many years, but our members were very few: we only had five members on parade. Bill Clues, Ted Jewell, Nundy Carpenter, Henry Etherton, plus the grandson of Alf. Bullock. Afterwards we joined up with some other members for lunch and drinks at Miss Maud's Restaurant in Perth, where we had about 35 members, wives and associate members.

Lunch at the RAAF Association. Peter Alexander rang from Sydney to find out if it could be arranged to meet a few members here in Perth as he was coming over with Rita toattend the Annual Assembly of the RAAF Association at Bull Creek. Bill Clues rang around to members to arrange lunch at the RAAFA H Q. at Bull Creek. So,on May 1st,20 members and wives had a very enjoyable lunch and get-together. We hadsome members we had not seen for some time:Lock and Margaret Simpson,Bill and Flip Kelliher, Al and Joy Wheat plus Bill and Joan Clues,Ted and Elsie Jewell,Henry and Vera Etherton,Ray and Marg.Turley,Charlie and Betty Davis,Ron and Alice Gannaway.

At Easter. Easter Sunday Elsie and I went with some of our family to the local hotel for lunch and while there we met Ben and Val.Cormack who were celebrating Ben's Birthday on that day. Ben told me that Dave Kessler had died during May of 1990.

* * * *

Editor. Many members will recall Davie Kessler of the Electrical Section who was one of the long-term 458 groundstaff. He spent many years in South Africa after the war so we had not seen a great deal of him. But we recall him in his 458 days with warm memories.

Apart from the pleasure I have recently had in meeting with 458ers in both S.A and the West, my short time at Bull Creek enabled me to pay a short visit to the 458 Exhibit at the important Air Force Museum there. There will be photo in the Squadron Album of this excellent exhibit for which Al.Wheat is substantially responsible. Congratulations!

VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Stan. Tarczynski.

The Xmas in March BBQ turned out to be a huge success and one of the best attended for some time. It was held in the Community Room of the Senior Citizens Stocks Village, Ashburton. This is a complete living unit, except that the wall between the bedroom and loungeroom is eliminated. The general agreement was that it was the ideal set-up for such an occasion. Those in attendance were:

Mick Singe, Dot and Jack Fleming, Elaine TImms, Bill Henry, Ann and Bill Hurford, Helen and Ern. Laming and Helen's cousin Glad Blackwood, Kath and Yank Martin, Beat and Ken. Morkham, June and George Tarczynski, Vivienne and Jack Morris, Betty and Dave Evans, Betty and John Ramsay, June and Neil Dean, Rupe Pearce and Stan. Tarczynski.

Victorian Views (cont.)

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Jack Guthrie's wife. As a result he has moved to smaller premises (Squadron News please note):J.Guthrie, Unit 6, Private Bag, Eltham, 3095.

The Cathedral Organ. Members attending the All-States Melbourne Reunion will recall a visit to St.Paul's Cathedral. We donated \$100 towards the Lewis Organ Restoration Appeal. A special invitation was received for attendance on Sunday March 17th, on the occasion of Recommissioning of the Organ. The direct cost of restoration was \$739,000.

A shorter March? The latest Gen from RSL HQ indicates that the distance of the Anzac Day March may have to be curtailed for obvious reasons and could be reviewed to commence from Flinders St. Station with more use being made of Flinders Street and St.Kilda Road for assembly points.

Our numbers were reduced for the March: one notable absentee was Jack Fleming who was unable to attend because his chauffeur Dot Fleming had the misfortune to break her arm in the shower. St.Leonards, where helives, is about 100 ks from Melbourne.

The No2.Air Training Corps Preston team acted as usual as carriers of the refurbished banner, with Mick Singe in the lead. A comical remark was made by one of the marshalls as we were marching off in two ranks of five and six. He yelled "March in line ten abreast!".

The group was made up of: Gordon Nash, Bill Hurford, Neil Dean, Jack Morris, Stan Cartledge with granddaughter Karen, Shorty Bradshaw, Stan. Tarczynski, Murray Weaver from 459, Ern. Laming who joined en route, and a new 458er who we have not met before. Unfortunately, we lost him at the end of the March--(Sqdn News please copy)

Peter O'Bryan 1/39 Mary Street, Hawthorn, 3122.

Back at the Melbourne Bowling Club, Windsor, we were welcomed by Ian Alison who, as a bowling club member is indefatiguable in working, with many others and who was producing a repast for over 100 odd bods. Joining us there also were: Tom Primrose, Jack Ellis, Bill Henry, and Yank Martin.

The day before Anzac Day a telephone call was received from the daughter of Russ Connolly with the information that her father had died last September. At her request we drank a silent toast to his memory.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

Anzac Day in Brisbane. Brisbane's March was the longest ever. Though the numbers of WW II vetrans had contracted, many contingents of ex-servicemen who served in their own countries chose to march. WAAAFs led the March to honour their 50th anniversary. Thousands lined the streets. It was the biggest support ever.

Regrettably, lack of mobility, illness and dispersal of members to areas beyond Brisbane has reduced our marching numbers to the regular eight.

But staunch associate members, "odd bods" looking for a banner, and the grandchildren of Chester Jones and Clive Wyman swelled our numbers to 29.

But, our contingent marched disgracefully. Replaying the video shewed the shambles. Even the TV Commentator said "Here comes 458, all out of step!"

Not all our fault! The Air Force is allotted the part time bands. Our nearest band rushed along at 160 beats to the minute! And then stopped at the saluting base. We're protesting. Our pride is hurt!

Our reunion was again held at Yale Inn. Delightfully bright, handy to both March and transport. And the conviviality though low key was cheerful and constant. At the General Meeting, predictably, Jack Lewis was re-elected as President, and Jim Holliday as Secretary/Treasurer. Memebers present were: Jack Lewis, Bernie McLoughlin, Bob Helyar, Clive Wyman, Don. Brandon, Eric Kelly, Chester Jones, and Jim Holliday. Our stalwart associates Sel Williams and Cec. Bull. Two aircrew mates of Don. Brandon, Eric McLerle and Geoff. Scott.

Q.Flight News(Cont). Two other Vets were there, Ron. Bate and Graham McCullum. Apologies came from Eric Bird, Theo Ravenscroft, Jack Hobbs, Tony Stone, Bernie Hughes, Bert Garland, Gordon Cuthbertson, Ron. Russell, and Fred. Kleckham.

It was encouraging to learn at the Reunion that eleven Queensland members have already booked for Barossa. Here, Queensland members would like to record their thanks to Ted. Creighton for his advice and instant reply to their queries.

458er Diving. In tendering his apology, Fred. Kleckham advised that he had returned from Vanuatu where he spent some 4 months with his son in Santo, and daughter in Port Villa. Prime reason, to celebrate the Fred Kleckhams 50th wedding anniversary with family. Fred writes: "While on "Santo, I dived on an American troopship--"President Coolidge" sunk in WW II got down to 150 feet and inside the ship. Not bad for a man pushing 76."

As previously reported, Theo Ravenscroft has worked indefatiguably for the RSL, receiving high RSL honours. Now 70, Theo has resigned from the position of Vice President, held for 15 years. He was presented with a plaque to commemorate his selfless efforts. Theo also forwarded a copy of The Flying Squadron, as composed by Bunny Harwood at Foggia.

Disappointment for Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson. The whole of a holiday in Melbourne was spent in bed with 'flu.

Jack Hobbs reports that after the holiday-makers retreated from his home at Burrum Heads, the fish returned. Shy of strangers?

Somehow lines got crossed in the last Squadron News about our late member, Theo Hutton. Theo was a pilot. After the war he and his partners established a very successful business in Brisbane, he being an architect. In the mid sixties, Theo moved to our North Coast and set up a new establishment. Unfortunately ,in 1986 he developed an incurable ailment. He entered the Buderim Nursing Home and was still an inmate when he passed away on 6th January this year.

THE BRITISH BULLETIN. from Sid Thompsett.

On Tuesday 23rd April (St.George's Day) we had our Reunion at RAF, Hendon. and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Many 'photos were taken in front of the Wimpy and one or two will be sent to you for inclusion in the Squadron Album. There were 15 in all that attended, being Leon and Doreen Armstrong, Eric Phillips and his son, Peter and Eileen Leonard, Norman and Joyce Duke, Hal Lee and his son, Charlie and Joyce Humbles, Reg Humphries (first time), and Sid and Vi.Thompsett.

It was a glorious day, so those of us who had to come from far away enjoyed the jorney. Eileen and Peter Leonard are really looking forward to the Reunion in the Barossa Valley, and Ray Hufton and his wife are also planning to come over for the Reunion. It is surprising every time we meet how well we are all looking. The years roll on and are being kind to us all.

That's about all this time, so greetings to all of you, and have a happy and joyful Reunion in October. All the best, Sid.

CANNUCK CAUCUS. A note from Jim Donaldson.

From the information I have received from Mickey Reid I am sure he is keeping you informed with what is going on in regards to the Bruce McKenzie painting. I just mailed out photos to all known Canadian members and am awaiting replies. I for one will have one hanging on my wall as it brings back many memories.

Up to date we have received eight applications from 458 members to the 6th Commonwealth Wartime Aircrew Reunion (Winnipeg, June 18-21, (1992). I have managed to get them all billeted on the same floor at the Place Louis Riel. I dont know if we shall ever be able to accomplish this again but it should be a fair party.

(Winnipeg contact for Reunion Box 2639, Winnipeg , Manitoba R3C 4B3 (Canada).

ATTACK ON MARSEILLES. Mick Reid and other Canadian members are spearheading a proposal to reproduce a painting, commissioned by Bruce McKenzie, of his solo attack on enemy shipping in Marseilles Harbour. SquadronCouncil and Flight Committees are currently awaiting further information on costs, etc. This will be discussed at the Squadron Conference at Barossa in October.

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No.10 E.F.T.S 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION AT TEMORA. from Tom. Moore.

No 10 E.F.T.S. was part of the Empire Air Training Scheme and was equipped with DH 82 Tiger Moth aircraft. It became recognised for its efficiency and in 1942 was presented with the award for the most efficient unit in the E.A.T.Scheme.

A total of 2547 student pilots pased throughTemora with No 13 being the first intake and No 60 the last. All that now remains of the neat layout of the Station are the Guard House and one hangar now used by the Temora Aero Club. One thing that hasnot changed is the hospitality of the Temora people. The Reunion was combined with a fly-in of the Antique Aero plane Association. Over 250 aircraft arrived including a world peace time assembly of 72 Tiger Moths. The highlight was the Reunion dinner when the Shire President conferred the Freedom of Temora on each former 10 EFTS member. In all 380 attended the Reunion. I had the pleasure of meeting the Instructor who took me for my solo test, as well as meeting two of my course mates.

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CORRESPONDENCE: LETTERS TO THE Editor and Others.

From Mick Reid, 1539 Glenwatson Drive, Mississauga, Ontarion to Graeme Coombes.

Dear Graeme,

......Sincerest wishes from Marg and me for good health and happiness and belated congratulations on your Golden anniversary...We delayed mariage until I came home on leave in '44. Hopefully you headed home from Shallufa. My mildewed Logbook records Sept 15th '43 I flew you to Helio. On Sept 1st, after arriving from Protville you, Brian Quinlan, and I made two drops on the target ship "Arpha". Bryan and I were to be there for almost a year flying those beat-up old Mk ICs and VIIIs. I converted to Beaufighters. Mac spent some time with us at Shallufa. He arrived minus his legendary moustache, from South Africa, where his betrothed, Henrietta, insisted he shave it off, or no deal. Our next and only other meeting with Mac was 25 years later, in Ottawa where he was on the scrounge for a/c for Kenya. He was accompanied by Christine and the Kenyan Minister for Finance. His Navigator, Peter Eastcott, George Powell his WAG and I were privileged to join them for an overnight celebration, to which Christina refers on Page viii of we Find and Unfortunately the next time we saw Christine was when Peter and I attended Mac's Memorial Service in London and stayed at their home at Knowle.

We are in indirect contact with Christine to launch a Limited Edition of a painting that Bryan had commissioned until Peter, now involved, suggested Mac's painting in a letter from which I quote---

Not just any painting but a very special one commissioned by a man who we are all thankful chose to pass this way when his kind were so badly needed

Wonder of wonders, Graeme, should we get this operation off the ground.. with sincere good wishes to you and Dulcie Mick.

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From Dick Downer, 11, Manor Court, Manor Road, Worthing, W. Sussex, Englnd.

Dear Peter, You might recall me if you refer to Page 201 of your book We Find and Destroy. For family reasons I changed my name from Tombs to Downer.

It was sad to read in Lock Simpson's letter of the death of Gerry Ring. He and I had a long friendship sharing a fondness for the Anglican Church among other interests.

Correspondence (cont.)

When his tour of duty finished and he returned home he sent me a small book which I still have. Then at the end of the war I met him a couple of times in London. But as neither of us actually lived near London at that time, as so often happens, we lost touch gradually.

I was in the Photo Section of 458 and spent most of my time inside the Blitz Opel van, which was clad in plywood, and had no ventilation...trying to process prints in a temperature recommended at 68° Fahrenheit!

The Squadron Group <u>had</u> to be taken in two halves because the home-made enlarger could have only blown up each individual as a pinhead!

My dear wife died of cancer 11 years ago. Happily I have many friends. Dick.

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From James Lovelace, Box 1810, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Dear Mr Alexander, The Minister for Defence (Australia), Senator Robert Ray arranged for me to be supplied with your address. My purpose is to connect with former members of 458 (RAAF) Bomber Squadron. (Ed. T.e Minister managed to pick the wrong Peter Alexander hence some delays)

I would surely like to have a copy of the Squadron history. I have a large number of photographs of the Squadron taken when I was a member in the period August 1941-2, being an original member with Sgt Chris Hare and P.O.Cliff Chappell (both from Toronto). We had been transferred from 103 Sqnd tour-expired. Chris and I were commissioned. The Squadron was assigned to ferry duties. When our commissions came through it was found that we were commissioned as RAAF officers--which accounted for an incredible list of SNAFUs. The redtape artists repaired the problem by ante-dating our seniority by one day!

Our African summer (1942) constitutes an interesting adventure by itself. All our personal documentation was lost in a tent fire at El Maza; as a result we had to apply for adoption by the Royal Navy at Lagos for pay and rations. We were lost for that summer! By late July, HMS Archer, took us aboard as far as Freetown from there we transferred to HMS Dunottar Castle, flying the RAF flag and back to UK. Having lost all I reported to RCAF Overseas in an Aussie Forage Cap, RNZAF Hat Badge, Royal Navy "Square rig" Jacket, British Army socks and boots and not one item of identification. After being put through the ident routine I was then told I had been commissioned in the RAAF for the past year. Being back-dated I was sent off to join 150 Sqdn. I won the DFC and eventually retired from the permanent Air Force as Chief Canadian Liaison Officer to British Air Ministry in 1961.

After retirement I returned to academic life and secured a degree in "Media Arts", ending up as a manager for the Baron Fleet (Lord Thompson) in their Ontario paper, the Times-Journal. I retired from that in 1984 and have been busy with my Bio ever since...collecting eight pension cheques!

I have been scripted into the history of 103 RAF Squadron by Syd Finn of Raymond Terrace (NSW) in his book "The Black Swan"--an RAF history written by an Austrlian and including a Canadian. Another connection has me a part of the Tolpuddle Martyrs in Van Dieman's Land as transportees in the 1830s.

I would now appreciate rounding out my Australian connections and ask for your history.....One wonders if you have the Squadron songs (quoted)

I would like to hear from you soonest

Yours truly, Jim Lovelace DFC Croix du Combattant (formerly of Jack Leslie's crew) Squadron Leader (Ret'd).

(Ed. Of course, we remember Jim Lovelace and he is mentioned in the Sqdn History. It is good to be in touch after so long. A History has been sent. His letter has, we regret, had to be abbreviated here and there for unavoidable space reasons. Space is the reason why a number of interesting letters and other reports sometimes get held over longer than we would wish.)

NSW

John Aitken Peter & Rita Alexander Don and Joan Anderson Wal & Dora Archbold Harry and Nita Baines Jack Baker and Joy Beattie Red Jack Baker & Audrey Arthur Sam & Maisie Barlow Don & Bev Bitmead George & Beatrice Brain Bob Bruce Horrie & Marie Campbell Laurie & Betty Crowley John & Moya Dunn Jack & Elsie Hamilton Stan & Jean Longhurst Bob & Joyce Low Bob & Pat Lyndon Bruce McDonald Bob & Pat Millar Dusty & Enid Miller Wal & Betty Mobbs Tom & Val Moore Eric & Dorothy Munkman John & Frances Pilcher Eric & Gloria Purcill Bob & Dorothy Smith Freddy Strom & Lilian McGlynn Bill & Dorothy Turier George & Grace Unitt Frank & Thelma Ward and Elvine Buckley Jim & Dorothy Whittem

AIC

Les Boyer and Joan Turner
Neil & June Dean
Ron & Sue Eggers
Dave & Betty Evans
Dave Firth
Jack & Dot Fleming
Farmer & Beryl Giles
Bill & Ann Hurford
Ern & Helen Laming
Len & Reabie Netherway
Rupert Pearce
Mick & Mavis Singe

NZ

Kevin & Dawn George Ivan & Irene Green Ron & Mary Verity

UK

Ray & Edna Hufton Peter & Eileen Leonard

ACT

Graeme & Dulcie Coombes Colin Fereday

QLD

Snowy Atherton
Gordon & Peg Cuthbertson
Roy & Terry Gilkes
Jim & Peg Holliday
Eric & Kath Kelly
Jack & Evelyn Lewis
Bernie McLoughlin
Theo & Dulcie Ravenscroft
Ron & Joan Russell
Frank & Hilda Wilks
Clive Wyman

WA

Bill & Joan Clues Henry & Vera Etherton Bill & Flip Kelliher Stan (Shorty) Long Jim & Lucy Palmer Ray & Marjory Turley

SA

Syd & Pat Bartram John & Pat Carey Ted & Freda Creighton Bill & Pat Cribb Geoff & Heather Esau John & Ruth Excell Mel & Mollie Goers Colin & Yvonne Hutchinson Bert & Marjorie Oliver Jim & Joy Perry Reg Priest & Bet Burnard Bert & Lorna Ravenscroft Ian & Fee Showell Kevin Tait & Ivy Smart Bill & Madge Taylor Peter & Monica Thom Ken & Molly Russell