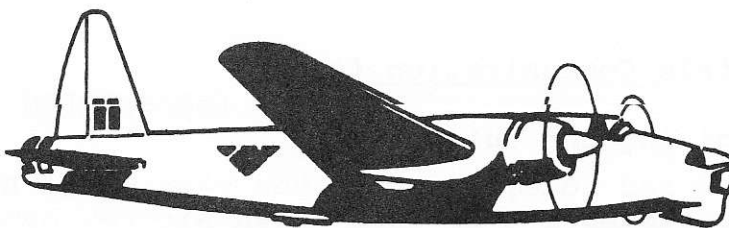


# 458

## SQUADRON NEWS



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### 4 5 8 S Q U A D R O N C O U N C I L O F F I C E - B E A R E R S .

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#### LAST CALL FOR THE BAROSSA.

THIS is the last issue of the Squadron News prior to the gathering of the Squadron for its 50th Anniversary All-States Reunion--which will be the 26th. All-States Reunion--based in the famous Barossa Valley.

The enrolments are excellent with attendance from all States of the Australian mainland, from New Zealand, from the U.K. Indeed the 50th Anniversary is a great occasion. We have received, as a Squadron, some financial assistance from the Minister for Veterans Affairs, which has helped to keep costs a little lower. We thank the Minister.

Some of the original party of groundstaff that left Williamtown 50 years ago, led by the late Peter (Butch) Power, as well as originals from Holme-on-Spalding Moor will be present. Wives and families attending are now, of course, themselves part of 458.

For late entrants, try calling Ted Creighton (address above, under Flight Correspondents).

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#### THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION.

from Jock McGowen.

It is with sincere regret that we record the passing of Stuart Ricketts in June. Stuart had been a NSW Flight Committeeman, and latterly Flight Vice President, over many years, and had spent the last 17 years as the local Welfare Officer in his Ryde area. He had three tours of operations as a Rear Gunner, coupled with a D.F.C. He will be a great loss to all of us. We extend our sincere sympathy to Iris and the family. 458 was well

The Constalk Communication (cont.)

represented at the Service, with Eric Munkman giving the eulogy.

Still on a sad note, we record the passing of Bill "Pedal Wireless" Perkins. Those who remember this well-known Aircrew member, from the Bone period, will remember he always had the latest Gen. Our sympathy to his family.

50 YEARS FROM WILLIAMTOWN. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation of 458 at RAAF Base Williamtown on 10th July. Group Captain Gregory and his officers gave us a great day. There were only three of the old originals--Fred Strom, Eric Munkman and myself but we were ably supported by Stan Longhurst, Red Jack Baker, Jack Aitken, Bill Fiddes, Jim Whittem, Max Richards and Bill Lachlan, along with wives and some friends. Eric Munkman planted a Memorial Tree right in front of the Officers' Mess and the tree was dedicated by Padre Brenton Daulby: a suitable brass plaque was supplied by the RAAF and it is interesting to note that our tree is the only memorial tree on the Base.

\* Heard from Ralph Bailey that John Bilney and Arthur Lehdey were in the Big Smoke. Would have loved to meet up with them again.

\* All newspapers publish little bits of information that happened 50 years ago, etc. When we were at the Williamtown function the Nelson Bay paper published a 50 years old story---concerning Dave Kessler, who found a pearl in a local oyster--only the second time it had happened.

\* All of us of 458 send hearty congratulations to Tess and Arthur Jollow on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary; nice going! Arthur is still in Wesley Gardens Nursing Home at Belrose and would love to see or hear from his old mates

\* Our old mate Bill Chapman is also confined--to Maximilian Colby House c/o St. Josephs at Sangate, Newcastle. Get well, Chappie, we miss your smiling face. No doubt some of the boys will drop in to see you.

\* Lofty Bracker is still in St. Luke's Hospital, Kings Cross and would love to hear from any of his old mates.

\* Frank and Thelma Ward have kindly offered open house to those who would like to attend a pre-Christmas function at their house on 10th November (17) next. It begins at 12 noon, and please ring Frank on 484-2443, or Eric Munkman on 451-0824 to advise you will be attending--the address is 50 Castle Hill Road, West Pennant Hills. Thank you, Frank and Thelma, for your kindness; hope it is a fine day. Please, all, ring your acceptances through before 4th November.

\* Don't forget, all you guys out there that Maps and Place Mats will be on show and for sale at Barossa. Keep the orders coming in, we can still get them printed.

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CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY.

FROM Ted Creighton.

If it were not for the Reunion there would be little to write about. Hibernation is the name of the game down south in winter. I know it's winter because Joan Dickson, minus her Big Apple apron, called around with a whole heap of mandarins. I know also that Bill Cribb--P.T. and Sports Officer for the Reunion (wife Pat is O.I.C. WWAFF--(Welcoming Wives Australian Air Force) was sighted a while back in the Riverland sneaking in a few extra games of golf. Handicappers, please note. Doubtless he has his eye on the Squadron Trophy. That's about all the Flight news I can dig up.

50th ANNIVERSARY ALL STATES REUNION.

Things are rolling along in fine style. President John Carey still has some hair left that is not grey, and Ian SHowell has things in hand up at Renmark. The Flight will meet again early in September for a final "fine tuning" briefing.

NOTE--re SPECIAL CHARTERED COACH ADELAIDE/LYNDOCH.

The pick-up point previously announced for the Ambassadors Hotel, King William Street, has been changed to the Grosvenor Hotel on North

Croweaters' Commentary (cont.)

which has become the preferred spot for those requiring accomodation in Adelaide on Saturday 19th. Pick-ups at Adelaide Airport and Franklin Street Bus Station remain unaltered. The S.A.Flight is thrilled with the tremendous response from Squadron Members for this milestone reunion. See you soon.

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CANUCK CAUCUS.

from Jim.Donaldson.

Things are quiet here,as they usually are at this time of the year, especially at the week ends when the weather is as nice as it is at the present time. Everyone who possibly can takes off for the Lakes, as our summers are pretty short.

The count down to our '92 Reunion should really begin in the next ± months or two,and from all indications it looks as though this will, like the others,be a huge success.

Those who have confirmed reservations from 458 Squadron are as follows:

Mickey Reid Peter Eastcott Hugh Fallis George McLeod Norm.Duke  
George POwell Col.Fereday Frank LaughlinBryan Quinlan Jim.Donaldson.

There are two others who have assured me they are coming but as yet I have not received confirmation Jim.Whittem Jim Lovelace.

We have been extremely lucky in being able to get them all accomodation in the same hotel and to the best of my knowledge on the same floor. Maybe we should also add a hospitality suite so the wives will know where they are.

It sure would be great if we could get the whole Squadron back together to renew our relationship. The aircrew never had the opportunity to really get to know our groundcrews and the others on whom we depended so heavily to see that everything else was looked after except delivering the message to the enemy.

This was all brought home to me when Mickey Reid,Peter Eastcott,etc got going with the idea of reproducing the picture that Bruce McKenzie had an artist paint for him. Anyone who took part ina run-in or an illumination,on seeing the picture,would have an immediate recollection of the time he took part in a similar operation. Peter Eastcott's comment on seeing the painting was that it portrayed but the tip of the arrow--the striking end of the missile--one of the parts,but unable to perform without the other essential elements. His reference was to the vital function of the groundcrew who seldom,if ever,witnessed the final action. You will no doubt be hearing more about the above-mentioned picture in the near future. All the best to our mates down under.

\* \* \* \* \*

SANDGROPER SAY....

from Ted.Jewell.

After months of rain and cold weather here in the West we have been socially very quiet. but with the spring just around the corner we could become more active. In July we had a Sunday get-together at Brian and Margaret Hicks place--they are Associate members--ladies to bring a hot dish,and we certainly had a great spread:but,alas,there were very few Squadron members present,owing to sickness,etc. Members present were Bill and Joan Clues,Ted and Elsie Jewell,Ray and Mary Turley,John Lilley,Pete and Doreen McCarthy.

Although Xmas still seems a long way off at the moment,we are already booked in for our Flight Xmas dinner,at the Freeway Motel,South Perth, to be at lunchtime in early December. We are hopingto make it a special occasion for all W.A.Flight members and friends,and would like a big effort to have a great roll-up. Members will be notified at a later date. So,come along for a happy and enjoyable day.

Farewell to Shorty Long. We inform readers,with great regret of the death of Shorty Long on 9th August. He had leucemia. An original 458er he sailed on the Athlone Castle as a Fitter IIA. There was a big funeral



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from Stan.Tarczynski.

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from Jim.Holliday.

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The recent battering of our Rugby League team by the Australians must be seen as a passing phase, and we look to better results in the Union code.

Kiwi Call (cont.)

If my information is correct, and up to date, all the Squadron members from this side of the Tasman, along with their wives, have indicated their intention of being present at the Barossa Reunion, and that could be some sort of a record! Once again, we are grateful for the splendid programme put together by the S.A. Flight to cope with visitors, and we hope that a happy and successful gathering results. May all be winners!

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BRITISH NOTE.

from Sid. Thompsett.

I write on the hottest day of the year so far--thunderstorms threatened by to-night. I have been criticised by a U.K. member who, when sub. notices went out, wrote back wanting more reports from members, etc.

I enjoy looking after U.K. members, and have done for 30 years. I would be only too pleased to send a lengthy report each three months, but when I receive nothing from our members, what else can I do?

Sorry! But I had to get it off my chest! There is no other news.

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LATE REPORT.

Vale! Jack Riseley.

We have, while typing this News, been told of the passing of another major 458 figure. Jack Riseley was in the Orderly Room through most of 458's long tour of duty. He came from a Fremantle family and later moved to Adelaide, being in the Media. He remained a sturdy, athletic figure though for the past decade he had had severe health problems. A tumour on the brain had led to partial blindness, which grew worse and he developed other health problems. For some years he continued to contribute to the ex-service world as S.A. President of the Partially Blinded Soldiers Association. He will be greatly missed. Our sympathy to his widow and family.

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ON THE REPATRIATION SCENE.

Australian members who belong to the various ex-service Associations will have become aware of the battle being waged--mainly between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Office of the Returned and Services League, in Canberra, over Government proposals to integrate the national Repatriation Hospitals into the State Health systems. The proposals will include Private Patient status for entitled Veterans for treatment in the areas in which they live.

The Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (the crest Council to which 24 of Australia's many other Associations belong) after careful research feels it to be distinctly to the advantage that veterans can be treated as private patients in the areas in which they and their families live--saving relatives long journeys to capital cities--provided there is no detriment to quality of service. We are assured the Repatriation Hospitals will remain available to those wanting them. Very detailed research indicates that there will be very adequate bed availability in the local areas and that specialist and out-patient facilities will remain good. However, it is the case that each State must be considered separately and local problems satisfactorily settled before integration--which in some States is quite a way off.

CORRESPONDENCE: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

From Mrs. Margaret Trevena, 1 Raymond Road, Redruth Cornwall, England.

I am so delighted that my brother-in-law Frank Beebee was able to meet you earlier this year and to bring back to England your excellent book on 458 Squadron. Were my husband still alive he would have been so delighted to read it..... We have been in contact for many years with one crew member, Bill Waitt and more recently, Hal Lee his rear-gunner.

Ken joined the RAF in 1941 and trained as a pilot in S. Rhodesia

Correspondence (cont.) until 1943 when he converted to Wellingtons with F.O. McKay, at Limavady, Turnberry and Haswell. I enclose a copy of his Logbook from that point on.....At the crash at Salerno (Page 127 of the History), Ken received what, at the time, seemed a minor back injury which developed into a major problem and part of the shoulder blade was later removed.

On leaving 458 Ken joined 178 Liberator Squadron in the Middle East, and instructed until 1945. During that tour he flew low level supply dropping sorties to Warsaw and shortly before his death from cancer two years ago, he was greatly honoured by the Poles with the Polish Cross of Valour---The Warsaw Uprising Cross---and the Polish Home Army-in-exile Cross.

Ken attained the rank of Flight Lieutenant and was a very proud member of the R.A.F. He always spoke highly of his Australian colleagues-----I am grateful for "We Find and Destroy" which I shall always treasure and my sons after me. Margaret Trevena.

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From Jim. Lovelace, 476 Rotary Drive, Sydney, Nova Scotia, B1P, 4S8, Canada.  
Extract.

Hello, Peter Alexander! Fraternal Greetings long lost Harry Godfrey! Greetings to Bryan Quinlan! (How's that for an opener?) and thank you indeed Jim. Donaldson.

I have been having surgery--vascular, in a hurry. All went well and I hope that if I behave myself my physician may allow me to go to Manitoba for the Air Force Reunion there. But as a diabetic I have to take precautions.....

Harry Godfrey had such an interesting newsletter and so genuinely Harry that it seems as if we had never parted so long ago! It was sad to hear of Geoff Hayes and his sudden demise. Among the WOPs on the Squadron he was almost like crew and I have always thought of him when my mind recalled the fine days at "Holme". Jimmy Shirra, the Scotsman, in Chris Hare's crew, Geoff and I pulled off some hairy stunts before we left for the M.E.? Does anyone recall when the Station Groupie assembled us for a briefing, only to be "briefed" that some Wops on the Squadron were breaching security by transmitting "spurious messages" to Ismaelia? Well now it comes out. Geoff, Jimmy Shirra and I made a wager that we could finetune our transmitters well enough that we could get a QDM from Ismaelia over the U.K. This was in preparation for the long trip out. So, one day on airstest, we did it. I was first; Jimmy Shirra second and Geoff. Hayes third. Each in turn got a QDM from Ismaelia except when we had been challenged for proper identification, did not respond. That caused some concerns that the station had been giving QDMs to enemy aircraft. All hell broke loose in the ensuing furious correspondence among the various Command HQs, and they zeroed in on 458. Naturally the three of us assumed the look of innocent virgins! "Who-Me, sir?" "No, Sir, not I." Does anyone remember that?.....

Who remembers the tricks we got up to on HMS Archer, an aircraft carrier that had not been commissioned yet. When we summoned the Chief P.O. who affirmed the cook required it for a cake--and he poured in three quarts of lemon mix --except that it was lemon flavoured something else. The whole ships company got roaring drunk and the ship's commander shipped off the "drunken Air Force" in the middle of the night to board the Dunottar Castle. And one Canadian (Lovelace) fell over the side among the sharks --whose clothes disappeared and who was given an Aussie hat, NZ Hat badge, naval square rig jacket and army shorts. Put through the missing airman's drill at RCAF Overseas HQ, and then informed he had been commissioned for a year. Those were the daze! Except that the whole episode was carried by the Canadian Press:--and I had been a theological student! That caused me to join the Anglican Church and leave my more restrictive band behind (or Ahead!)

Ed. Jim by descent and early life was a Gaelic speaker from the Nova Scotia Scots. He and Peter Alexander have been trying out--with limited success--corresponding in Gaelic.

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