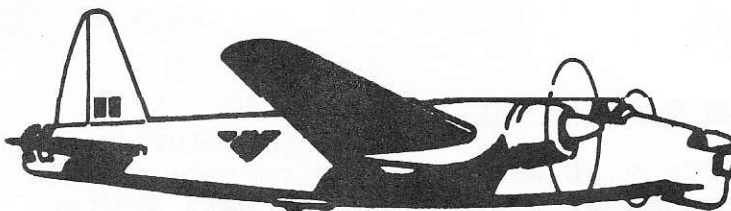


458

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 .

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Jack Lewis (Q.) SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS:
SQUADRON TREASURER: Peter Alexander (NSW) --- Australia: Stan. Longhurst (NSW)
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U.K. Peter Leonard (Wales)
New Zealand Kevin George
Publisher: Eric Munkman (NSW)

Editor: Peter Alexander.

Flight Correspondents.

Canada J.R. Donaldson, 72, Amarynth Crescent, Winnipeg, MB, Canada, R2Y 0C1
Sth Aust Ted. Creighton, 33, Farr Terrace, Glenelg East, 5045, S.A.
Victoria Stan. Tarczynski, 10/5, Stocks Avenue, Ashburton, 3147, Victoria,
U.K. Sid Thompsett, 6, Asheridge, Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1NR, England
N.S.W. Jock McGowen, P.O. Box 110, Beverly Hills, 2209, N.S.W.,
Q'ld Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, 4121, Q.,
W.A. Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210, W.A.
N.Z. Kevin George, 20 Kowhai Avenue, Kaikohe, New Zealand.

REUNION IN THE WEST BEING ORGANISED.

The All-States Reunion in the Barossa brought many requests for a 458 Gathering in Western Australia. W.A. Flight President Bill Clues and his Flight have responded. Bill has faxed us as follows:

Here is a general outline of the reunion this year. We see it planned for October, 1992, covering 6 nights and 5 days, starting with an informal get-together on Sunday evening, 11th October, 1992.

It will be springtime and we shall have no trouble in organising a very pleasant five days--some nice tours into the surrounding countryside to view the wild flowers and take in some local history.

Accommodation can be provided at reasonable cost in the City Centre, allowing for some free time to view the city without the need to travel far from Bed and Breakfast.

Attached is a tear-off Registration Slip returnable no later than 24th April to Bill Clues, with refundable deposit of \$50. A firm decision will be announced in the May News if sufficient members are interested.

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

Our traditional Christmas luncheon in December was once again held at the Freeway Hotel in South Perth. We made it an Anniversary function and it was a great success--one of the most enjoyable functions we have had. Nobody could complain about the quality or quantity of the food put on by the

Sandgropers Say...(cont.)

Hotel---absolutely delicious! With a few drinks and good company, it was a day to remember. The ladies received a little present arranged by Joan Clues and Marj Turley. Once again we thank our Flight President Bill Clues for all the organising. We had 54 members, wives, and associate members come along so we had a good crowd. Squadron members present were:

Bill Kelliher, Stan. Hopewell, Bill Clues, Ted. Jewell, John Lilly, Peter McCarthy, Ray Turley, Jim. Palmer, Henry Etherton, Len. Stewart, Syd. Baker, Doug. Anderson, Charlie Davis, Ron. Gannaway, Nobby Nobbs, Skeeta Staveley.

Bill Clues brought Skeeta Staveley along to the lunch as he is in a wheel chair. He said he thoroughly enjoyed himself, even though he is very restricted in what he can eat and drink--only water.

Bar B.Q. to Come. We have a Bar B.Q. coming up in February while the weather is still warm, then followed by Anzac Day, so we have that to look forward to. We usually have several functions during the year: it is good to see so many Squadron members still able to come along to these functions.

For the Squadron News. I would like very much to remind W.A. members that the annual subscriptions are now due for 1992. We are now paying \$5-00 a year for each member in W.A. There are some members receiving the News who have not contributed for quite some time and the Flight is paying these fees out of our limited funds. So, how about it, fellows, it would be good to hear from you.

Congratulations. I was shewn Bill Clues' Life Membership Certificate and Badge just recently and I must say they are very impressive. Congratulations to Bill on this award. All the best. Ted. Jewell.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Stan. Tarczynski.

First and foremost: our next gathering is Christmas in March--on Sunday March 22nd at the Stocks Village Community Room at 1/24 Stocks Avenue, Ashburton, from Noon onwards. It is directly behind my Unit. Those present last year declared it "Par excellence" for such an occasion.

At the A.T.C. Back in December and without the presence of Ern. Laming, Mick and Mavis Singe and I journeyed to the Preston Drill Hall for the annual Parade of No.2 Air Training Corps. Mick presented the Squadron book to the leading cadet, L.Cdt. Kate de Burgh, appr. Aircraft Structural Mechanic, and I am sure she is the first female recipient. A noticeable feature of the Parade was the increase in numbers and variety of New Australians.

On Sick Parade. The balance of this Newsletter appears to be a Sick Parade Report.

Bill Henry, who has been in and out of Heidelberg for about 18 months, has finally received a clearance and is moving around again.

Yank Martin has been undergoing tests at Heidelberg for his feet and is walking with great difficulty.

Rupert Pearce's wife Beth, who had a severe stroke (left side) last year is now back home but has not fully recovered and needs plenty of attention.

Jack Ellis at Mornington has recovered from some months of illness with a clean slate and is very happy to be allowed to fly again.

Mick and Mavis Singe journeyed to Deniliquin recently to attend the funeral of Beatrice Brain. (Our sympathy to her family.)

Golf and Meetings. Eat your heart out, Wal. Archbold! I played my age the other week, with a 78, and lost two strokes!

Would all Vic. Flight members please be forewarned that the Annual Meeting and Dinner to follow will be held at the usual place, Air Force Club, Cromwell Road, South Yarra on Friday May 22nd--drinks beforehand and the meeting starts at 6.30 p.m. Please advise me at least a week before for dinner arrangements.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Athol Kerry, just before Christmas. Athol was one of the groundstaff and will be remembered by his mates. With the same sadness in our hearts we report the loss of Beatrice Brain, wife of "Curly" Brain from Deniliquin. Mick and Mavis Singe represented 458 and we join with many others to convey our sympathy to Curly and Family.

Harry Baines continues to improve after his hip replacement operation, who knows? He may well lead the Anzac March in double time.

We were all proud to read of Leonard Teale's award of Officer of the Order of Australia. Good going, Len, our congratulations to you!

I was very proud to be presented with a plaque for service to 458, in the post-war years. This started way back in about 1947-8 in Melbourne. Boy! That is a long time ago!

We always seem to gather a few more names for our Sick List. We send our best wishes to our old mates "Chappy", Arthur Jollow, and Lofty Bracker; this month we will have to add Bert Thompson who is currently having a bit of a problem and myself--I will be having Heart surgery in the very near future, so will be off the road for a while. Plenty to take my place for a while.

while,
Anzac Day. Let me remind all you members out there that the Anzac Day Reunion will be held as usual at the Great Southern Hotel, at the Central Station end of George Street, and for those who will be marching, the Assembly Point will be in St. James Square by 10.00 a.m. on Anzac Day.

To Join the R.A.A.F. Association,!

To Join the R.A.A.F. Association,: Finally, we are hoping to increase our membership of the 458 Squadron branch of the R.A.A.F. Association. Don't forget that the Association gives a lot of backing to fellows like Peter Alexander who spends so much time working for us all. It is essential that the work for veterans is continued, so join us now. Details from our Hon. Treasurer, Stan Longhurst.

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CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY. from Ted.Creighton.

Christmas Get-together. The pre-Christmas gathering of the S.A.Flight at the Adelaide Airport was a quiet social affair held on Friday December 6th. The 25 member roll call included the usual muster of familiar faces and a few we don't see a lot of:-Brian and Joan Woodhead, who made the trip up from Goolwa, Joan Dickson, and Mel and Ruth Senn. It was also particularly pleasing to welcome Bill (W.D.N.) Johnson, who has been on the 458 missing list for a number of years. Bill, among other things, was captain of the cricket team at Gibraltar. He currently resides at 3/23, Azalea Street, Prospect, SA, 5082.

Reunion post-script. An audited statement of receipts and payments has been forwarded to the Squadron Secretary. This shows a contingent credit balance of \$295. Late cancellations after October 1st have caused problems. The small credit balance and the inability of Lamberto Travel to obtain accomodation booking refunds, etc makes it almost impossible to allocate any registration refunds. It would appear that mambers who have not effected successful insurance claims are out of luck. The matter is still being pursued with Lamberto but--to the blokes involved--Don't hold your breath! Saving postage and speaking of out of luck--sorry, Frank Ward, no trace of a camera anywhere.

Other Flight activities. None!

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS. from Jim.Holliday.

(Editor: Jim has been in hospital for major surgery. We welcome (him back on deck and wish him continued recovery!)

Again, we had our Xmas function at Toowoomba, Queensland's Garden City. It was at the kind invitation of Hilda and Frank Wilks. A delightful setting and a delightful day.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Once again, too, the Brisbane contingent travelled to Toowoomba by the "Joint Venture" DVA/RSL bus. On the way home it could be termed the "Snooze bus" because all know they can rest in peace, safe from the police-blitz "Booze bus".

As usual, the Wilks are the perfect hosts and again Hilda provides that seemingly endless variety of superlative salads, etc, especially the plum pudding. Those who enjoyed the day included the Lewis', McLoughlins, Footes, Russells, Wymans, Brandons, Dorges, Chester Jones, Bobby and Sel. Williams, Pet Williams and daughter Linda, and Peg Holliday. Apologies from the Kellys (Bowls tour), Dud McKays and Jim McKays (previous engagements), Cuthbertsons (illness), Garlands (holidays), Ruthvens (Chas. can't travel too far), Jim. Holliday (hospital).

News from Evelyn and Squadron President Jack Lewis that they're off to Norfolk Island with their Probus Club and they've managed to squeeze in Hilda and Frank Wilks in the Tour.

Sel Foote's progenitors were early settlers in the Ipswich district and descendents too preferred to stay in the district. So, when, the other day, the Foote clan decided to celebrate Sel's elder twin brothers 80th birthday, 300 Footes gathered (or should that be 600 Feete?)

Trivia. Mozart's musical composition No.458 is known as "The Hunt". How could Mozart see into the future that our motto would be "We Find and Destroy"?

Personal Yours truly thanks the great number of members who forwarded their best wishes during my hiccough in hospital. The aged body is slowly recovering.

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KIWI CALL. from Kevin George.

I have nothing newsworthy but a story emanating from the Reunion may be worth telling.

At the reunion I met an old friend whom I had not seen for nine years and noticed that although now in his 80th year, he could pass for 60.

I commented to Dawn that he was virtually a non-drinker, and pondered whether I should give the booze away. A day or two later I was sitting beside another old friend who had achieved the allotted span but looks to be in his 50s. I commented to Sandy (not his real name) on his youthfulness, and he replied that perhaps it was because of all he drank.

"Do you drink much, Sandy?" I asked. "Oh well, most nights I would drink 6, maybe 8, middies." And--after a pause. "You know, I have two brothers, one a bit older, one younger. Guess which has had the heart attacks?" "Thank you, Sandy, you have made my day."

On my return I threw that story at my doctor, who replied "Oh, yes, we know that.".....with kind regards, Kevin.

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BRITISH BULLETIN. from Sid. Thompsett.

The following report has been received from Norman Duke, who has been working on the restoration of R.for RObert for many years.

On the weekend of November 2nd/3rd., a special Wellington weekend was held at the Brooklands Museum. The object was twofold. First, to launch a new book about the history of R.for Robert, from Day 1 to the present day, at a function attended by Prince Michael of Kent, our aponsor. Secondly, to get together as many as possible old Wellington air and groundcrew bods, to exchange horror stories/line shoots, and to view the progress made to date on the reconstruction of the aircraft. The fuselage repair is 90% complete, and the tailplanes, tailfin and rudder and inner mainplanes are now attached. As a matter of interest, I now have an ex-Wing Commander working on my group as a metal basher cum dogsbody, who actually flew this very aircraft when an Instructor at the O T U. at Lossiemouth in December, 1940

Norman Duke is now making the necessary arrangements so that we

British Bulletin (cont.)

can hold our 1992 Reunion in April at the Brooklands Museum.

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PERSONALITIES AND INCIDENTALS.

Squadron Vice Presidency Observants readers will have noted a change in our U.K.Vice Presidency. Norman Duke has conveyed his resignation and Peter Leonard has been chosen to fill the vacancy. Our thanks to Norm.for his long devotion to 458 and the work he has done and is doing. TO Peter Leonard,who with his lady,has visited Australia a number of times and attended 458 Reunions,our warm welcome!

Not to the Pacific Islands. It has been decided not to go ahead,at this time,with the proposal to organise a trip for those 458ers who were interested and able,to some Pacific Island. We looked at various and many possibilities from Saipan,Guam,Fiji,Norfolk and Howe Island to Vanuatu before making our decision.

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CORRESPONDENCE:LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

From George Unitt,5,Penguin Place,Bateman's Bay,N.S.W..2536.

Dear Peter,I enclose my annual fees... Now that the New Year has begun we have started to get our world in order again. After the splendid Reunion,Grace and I went on tour to visit parts of S.A. and Victoria,and planned to be away until mid November;however on arrival in Melbourne we were greeted with the news that a grandson had been killed. We therefore hurried back to Newcastle to attend the funeral. The lad was 16 years,an only son. Needless to say we have not had a pleasant time of late-- the death was an accident,the lad falling over a 50 metre cliff.

I rceived mail from Canada at Christmas from Mick Reid and Bryan Quinlan, both looking forward to the Reunion in Winnipag later this year and sending greetings to their 458 cobbers--also hoping to see some at the Reunion. Bryan is planning a trip Down Under and 1993 could be the year--I have mentioned that our '93 Reunion will be in Brisbane so he may take that into consideration.

Best regards and wishes for '92. yours sincerely, George.

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From Peter Leonard,Sinoia House,28,Dorlangoch,Brecon,Wales,LD3 7RH.

Dear Peter,

It is now three weeks since we arrived home after a most enjoyable holiday in Australia. Winter has arrived early and on reaching home we found the hills around us covered in snow. Not a welcome sight for November. The main reason for writing is to thank you all for the kind way you received us again. Besides all the reunions at Lyndoch we were later the guests of Mick and Mavis,Don and Bev.,Eric and Dorothy and Wal and Dora. Then you realise you are not in Australia as a tourist but as a 458er. (Continued overleaf).

Correspondence (cont.)

This brings me to the final dinner at Lyndoch when I surprised some of you by abandoning my script as a guest speaker. In doing so I neglected to repeat my invitation to anyone visiting the U.K. to visit us and sample the hospitality of Wales. It is almost certain that Mick and Mavis will be here next year (1992). I would like to take this opportunity also to thank John Carey and Ted Creighton for making the arrangements for our stay in Lyndoch. That was complicated by the fact that we landed in Darwin.

While at Lyndoch Bill Taylor asked me to locate Robin Fender. Robin now lives at No 1 High Street, Wittington, Gloucester (Tel. 024289229). I spoke to his sister. Robin was at home but for some reason not available to speak to me. I left my 'phone number hoping he would ring back but he has not done so.

In conclusion, Peter, a special thanks to you for all you are doing for 458. You and the team in Sydney are doing a fine job of work.

yours sincerely,

Peter Leonard.

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ON THE AUSTRALIAN REPATRIATION SCENE.

For office-bearers in Veterans (ex-service) Associations the story never stops rolling. Currently the matters in debate are many: some principal ones include:

The Lifestyle Report. Applicants for compensation have had to fill in a form we considered intrusive and unhelpful. That is being changed.
Aged Care Policies. Adequate longterm hospital care facilities-- should have been planned years ago. Now under "Active" review. A Veterans Health Week (our initiative) is now planned for early April. Hopefully it will help to keep Veterans /War Widows healthy as a better option to patching them up after an avoidable illness.
The Veterans Independence Programme. Designed to adopt the best features of Canadian practice and keep the ageing Veteran and spouse comfortably in their home. Help with grass, gutters, shopping, laundry, etc (No. Not always adequately done by other programmes). Slow progress.
Integration of Repatriation Hospitals plus Private Patient status.

Subject to various problems in each State, is our preferred option. We have ridden this one hard (it has divided the ex-service movement). Currently now the plaything of the politicians in the Senate. The Minister has addressed us and the Opposition and Democrat spokespersons (both ladies) are to do so. We won't quote John Knox!

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