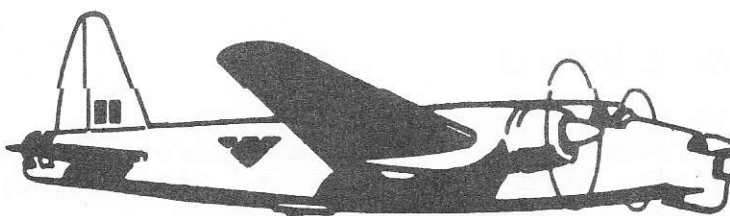


458

SQUADRON NEWS



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, G.P.O.Box 5289, SYDNEY, N.S.W.2001, AUSTRALIA.

Year 44, No.173.

February, 1993.

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST--PUBLICATION NO.6056.

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)
SQUADRON SECRETARY: Graeme Coombes (ACT) Bill Clues (WA)
Hon. SQUADRON AUDITOR: Frank Ward (NSW) Canada: Bill Donaldson (Manitoba)
U.K. Peter Leonard (Wales)
New Zealand: Kevin George.

EDITOR: Peter Alexander,
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Canada	Jim Donaldson, 72, Amarynth Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R2Y, 0C1, Canada,
Sth, Aust.	Ted Creighton, 33, Farr Terrace, Glelg East, 5054, S.A.,
Victoria	Stan Tarczynski, 10/5, Stocks Avenue, Ashburton, 3147, Victoria,
U.K.	Sid Thompsett, 6, Asheridge, Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1NR, England.

LARGE BOOKING FOR MERMAID WATERS--the 28th ALL-STATES REUNION.

Ron Russell advises that all is proceeding well for May 23rd to 29th.
The bookings to date are as follow:

Peter and Rita Alexander	Don and Joan Anderson	Wal and Dora Archbold
Alan Atherton	Peter and Audrey Bailie	Harry and Nita Baines
Black-Jack Baker	J. Bartlett	Sam and Maisie Barlow
Syd and Pat Bartram	Don and Bev. Bitmead	Don and Thelma Brandon
Bob Bruce	John and Pat Carey	Graeme Coombes
Ben and Valerie Cormack	Laurie and Betty Crowley	Mrs Peg Cuthbertson
John and Moya Dunn	John and Ruth Excell	Arch and Glad Fell
Colin Fereday	Dave Firth	Sel and Joan Foote
Bert and Isla Garland	Kevin and Dawn George	Vic. Gibbens
Ian and Beryl Giles	Ivan and Irene Green	Reg and Grace Hansell
Doug and Betty Holland	Jim and Peg Holliday	Bill and Gwen Johnson
Bill and Flip Kelliher	Fred and Marjorie Kleckham	Jack and Gwen Lawson
Peter and Eileen Leonard	Jack and Evelyn Lewis	Bob and Pat Lyndon
Bernie and Helen McLoughlin	Ron and Enid Miller	Wal and Betty Mobbs
Tom and Val Moore	Eric and Dorothy Munkman	Cyril and Betty Murray
Bert and Marjorie Oliver	Jim and Lucy Palmer	Alf and Gloria Peake
Rupert Pearce	Eric and Gloria Purcill	Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft
Theo and Dulcie Ravenscroft	Ron and Olive Rigby	Ron and Joan Russell

Mermaid Waters (cont.)

Mel and Ruth Senn	Mrs.C.Smith	Mick and Mavis Singe
Al.and Moira Stone	Bill and Dorothy Turier	George and Grace Unitt
Frank and Thelma Ward	Frank and Hilda Wilks	Sel and Bobby Williams.

A number of members, not listed above, have indicated that they will attend. Organisers would appreciate a prompt return of their booking forms and deposits. Please contact Ron Russell (075-720831) if you have a query.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS

from Jim Holliday.

We had to abandon our Christmas function at the very last minute. Indeed things looked very serious for our intended host, Don Brandon, who had offered his new unit for our customary pre-Xmas BBQ lunch. Almost on the eve of the function Don was whisked away to hospital with severe abdominal pains. Fortunately, the trouble, though painful and serious, was of benign origin and corrected by surgery. Don is now convalescing rapidly, enjoying the breeze, the sun, and the newspapers. As for the Xmas Do, the operation is postponed.

The Gold Coast Reunion. Organiser, Ron Russell, reports elsewhere on those attending. Acceptances are currently 118 and with those yet to confirm their attendance, expected to reach a minimum of 130. Several members, Ron reports, will be attending for the first time. Most gratifying is the number of overseas members attending. Six are coming from New Zealand, and two all the way from the United Kingdom. It is also pleasing that five Western Australian members have booked.

And the Mermaid Waters Resort still has rooms for more. This good response is a compliment to organiser, Ron Russell. He has promoted the Reunion well.

EDITOR'S NOTE. Members will be delighted to join in congratulating Jim Holliday on his award in the recent Honours List, of the Medal of the Order of Australia. His contributions, not only to 458 over many years, but to the life and progress of Queensland and, therefore, of Australia, have been most notable. Good on you, Jim!

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VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Stan.Tarczynski.

Apology. With sincerest apologies to Rupert Pearce, I omitted to report the passing of his wife Beth on August 19th last year, following a stroke back in November, 1990. She had been bedridden since then. A Memorial Service was held in All Saints Church, Nunawading, on August 21st., 1992, and it was a wonderful tribute to her life. Members who attended were June and Neil Dean, Bill Hurford, Helen and Ern Laming, Beatrice Morkham, Elaine Timms, and Mick and Mavis Singe. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Rupert and his family.

Out of the Past. A previous issue of Contact, official journal of the RAAF Association in Victoria, a paragraph appeared in the "Can You Help" column:--"No 76 Squadron and No.458 Squadron RAAF were stationed at "Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire. The Meteorological Officer was "Fl/Lt.Charles Curtis,R.A.F. Charles will be visiting Australia (in 1993) and hopes to meet up with former members of the Squadrons. His son, "Stephen Curtis,P.O.Box 21,Bransholme,3302,Victoria (Tel.055-786201) would "be pleased to receive names and addresses". Rupert Pearce has kindly written to son Stephen outlining details of the 1993 All-States Reunion, with a copy of the November issue of the Squadron News.

50th Anniversary of the No.2,A.T.C.Flight.

Mick and Mavis Singe, and Ern and Helen Laming attended the 50th Anniversary of the No.2 ATC Flight, Preston, and the presentations. The Squadron Book was won by Leading Cadet B.M.Littleboy and presented by Ern Laming, and Mick was invited to present the C.O.'s Trophy to the outstanding N.C.O. on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary.

Victorian Views (cont.) Since then both Helen and Ern. have been in trouble. Helen, pulling a weed too hard fell backwards, and broke her left arm, and then three weeks later Ern fell over grazing his arm badly enough to have to go to Heidelberg Hospital for a skin graft.

After Many Years. After all this time, two members have come to light; namely, Peter O'Bryan, 2/5A, Munro Street, Hawthorn, and Bruce Prideaux, c/o Kilmore P.O. Also, a further welcome to Stan. Smith from King Island, whose address is now RMB 4316, Moonambel, 3478. Also on the mailing list for the Squadron News is Mrs. Christine Smith at 20, Sycamore Street, Frankston.

Hopefully, we would very much like the aforementioned to attend our Christmas in March on Sunday March 14th from noon onwards. It's a BYO BBQ; chairs and tables are not required as it is held in the Community Room at Stocks Village--the address of which is No 1, STOCKS AVENUE, ASHBURTON, Room 24.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION, FROM Jock McGowen.

It is with heartfelt sadness that we report the passing of our old mate "Chappie" who passed away after a long illness on Christmas Day. 458 were well represented by Bill Fiddes and Max Richards. We extend to his family our sincere condolences. We also report another sad item, with the loss by our old D.W.O. and Adjutant Gordon Vale, of his wife. From 458 to you and your family, our sincere sympathy.

Sundry Items. In the last issue of the Air Force Association "WINGS" was a request from a chap named Bryan Pepper from the U.K. He was inquiring about anyone who had knowledge of Sgt D.B. Pepper a WOP/AG, who was lost from Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 15th November 1941. I have written to Bryan but would like anyone with knowledge of Sgt Pepper to drop me a line and I will forward it on.

We read in the Press that Leonard Teale is to run for a seat in the Australian Senate. Good luck, Len. from all in 458!

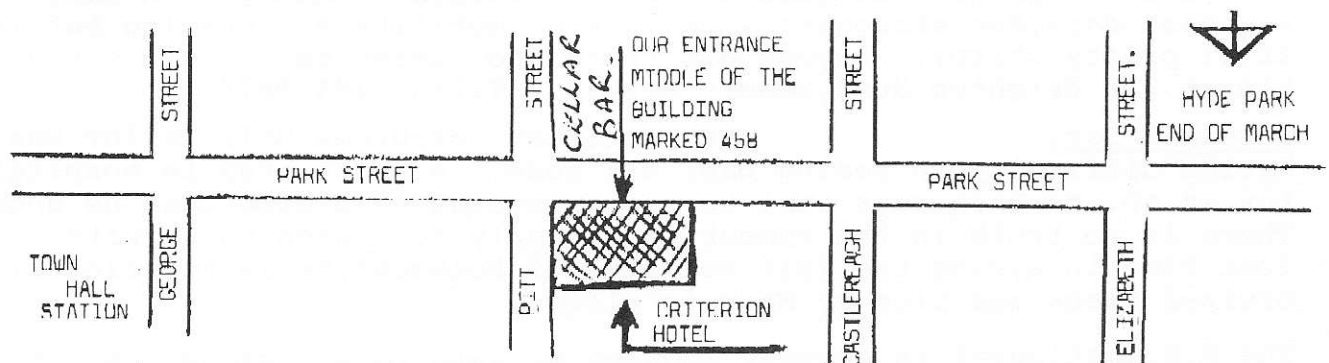
Congratulations to Jim Holliday from us in N.S.W. on your receipt of the Order of Australia. What an opportunity to buy you a beer coming up in late May! See you there!

We have had a letter from a Mr. Ragatzu in Sardinia. He is writing a history of all the Allied Squadrons that erated from Sardinia and has asked for information about 458 and its time there. We will keep you informed.

The 458 Tree at Richmond Base. Some time ago Peter Alexander was at the RAAF Association National Conference at RAAF Base Richmond and he reported the bad state of our Memorial Cairn there and the disappearance of the Tree (planted there years ago).

The NSW Committee has taken this up with the powers that be at Richmond and we are pleased to report that the Air Force is making a new Plaque and supplying a sandstone base for its fitting, as well as a suitable new Tree. The dedication will be on March 28th (Sunday) in the afternoon. Will those members wishing to attend please telephone Eric Munkman (451 0824) or me (502 1689) as numbers will be wanted by the Base.

Anzac Day. Please remember the new venue, the CRITERION HOTEL, cnr of Pitt and Park Streets Sydney. Entrance is in PARK St. and the door of the Cellar Bar will be marked 458 Squadron. This hotel is at the end of the March so now there is NO excuse for not attending!



To Lofty Bracker and Arthur Jolbow we send our best wishes and
assure you both that we will have one or two for you on Anzac Day

Jock.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.

from Ted.Jewell.

It doesn't seem so long ago that we had our Xmas Reunion in December. It is hard to believe we are now well into 1993. I am sure the years are getting shorter. W.A.Flight held their Xmas luncheon at the Freeway Motel South Perth as we have for the last few years. We had, as usual, a good roll up--enjoying the lunch were 45 Squadron members, wives and friends. As usual, there were enormous amounts of food and cold drinks. I am sure everyone overate! It is good to see so many old members of the Squadron enjoying themselves at the functions.

BBQ at Mandurah. Last weekend Elsie and I held a BBQ at our home in Mandurah, and we turned on some of Mandurah's lovely weather for the 25 members and friends who came down from Perth--plus Nobby Nobbs and Esme who live here in Mandurah. Everyone had a great day and said we should hold them more often. But it is about 80 Km each way from Perth.

Personal Pars. Ray Turley has to go into hospital some time for a by-pass operation on his heart. Nobby Nobbs has heart trouble as well and has to have treatment for angina. Time is catching up with us as they are some of the youngest members of the Squadron.

Ron and Alice Gannaway are still looking well and were driven down by their daughter Margaret. Our President Bill Clues and Joan were enjoying themselves and it was good to see them again.

Elsie and I are keeping fairly well; Elsie is still getting over her broken leg--it is a slow healing process. All the best.

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CROWEATERS COMMENTS.

from Ted.Creighton.

Adelaide Airport Get together. There was cheery chatter at this late-November gathering of S.A.Flight. So much so that it took a blast from Joan Dickson's whistle to get the mob to settle down to a bite of lunch. A good roll up included Joyce Austin, Syd and Pat. Bartram, John and Pat Carey, Bill and Pat Cribb, Ted and Freda Creighton, Joan Dickson, Geoff Esau, John and Ruth Excell, Colin and Yvonne Hutchinson, Reg Priest, Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft, Vern Riseley, Mel and Ruth Senn, Bill and Madge Taylor, Peter and Monica Thom, and Brian and Joan Woodhead. After lunch, John Carey attempted the usual Flight A.G.M. It would seem that we still have a bob or two in the kitty and that somehow or other the existing office-bearers were re-elected unopposed.

Tips from Tait. Kevin is generally a good source for a bit of news. For some time he has insisted that there is an old 458er living on the road to Brighton. I had checked this out with members of the S.A. Flight but no one could recall a bloke called Ron Fuller. Anyrate, a week or so back Kevin picked me up to say "Goodday" to Arn Scholar at the War Veterans Home. Then, like many a taxidriver before him, Kevin had to take the long way home and landed us on Ron's doorstep. Turns out that Ron Fuller was one of the earlybird aircrew at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. He flew with S/Ldr Favell and also was involved with the ferrying of Wimps to the Middle East. A WAG, Ron did his airgunnery at Evans Head and was on No1. Wireless Course at Ballarat. Along with many of us these days, Ron struggles with lack of mobility and hearing but is still pretty chirpy. Anyone out there who remembers Ron can contact him at 172 Brighton Road, Somerton, 5044 Tel: 08 294 9674.

Personal Par. With cataract problems Bill Taylor was having difficulty in seeing past his nose. A short stay in hospital for an op. and Bill says that he is now seeing even more than he should. There is no truth in the rumour that simply for catching up with lost time in eyeing the fair beauties of Beaumont, he is sporting ribs bruised black and blue by Madge's elbows.

The S.A. Contingent is eagerly looking forward to a rousing time in Queensland.

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MESSAGE FROM W.A.FLIGHT PRESIDENT TO W.A.MEMBERS.

Bill Clueswrites --As you are all aware--not much in this life is free! This applies to our newsletter which arrives in your post box 4 times a year. Someone has to pay! We have members who have paid the small \$5-00 a year sub for as long as we have been W.A. Flight and these monies have been used exclusively to cover the cost of the Squadron News. The editor has indicated that the Council can no longer produce a newsletter for \$5-00 and costs will have to rise progressively to \$10-00. Let me say I applaud the editor and his volunteer staff for having kept the costs down for so long but with rising postage and costs of materials this has been long overdue.

Ted Jewell, our Secretary, has indicated that we in W.A. can cover the cost of this February newsletter but as from Anzac Day all W.A. subs will increase to \$10-00 and it is with some regret we advise that the Newsletter will no longer be forwarded to unfinancial members. Therefore if you wish to continue on the mailing list you need to forward your \$10-00 subs for 1993 to E.T. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah. Failing this, your name will not be included on the mailing list for future newsletters.

H.G. (Bill) Clues, President W.A. Flt.

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NEWS FROM CANADA.CANNUCK CAUCUS from Jim. Donaldson.

I have been reading over the excerpts from the November News, and thinking of the times that you and other members of our Squadron, who are within commuting distance of one another, must have had over the years. I, for one, am very envious. I doubt that there is another Unit that has managed to carry on the relationship with one another as you have. I would imagine that it is more like an extended family now, than like a military unit. You who are responsible are to be congratulated for what you have accomplished. I for one wish to thank you and I am positive that all other Canadian Members do as well.

Our condolences to Jim and Dorothy Whitem on the loss of their son Hugh. If we had more understanding of "God's Way" we would not measure a life by its length but only by the fullness of its love. God bless. Jim

OUT OF THE SILENCE OF THE YEARS.

Some time ago we heard from Pat Hare, sister of Chris Hare, who served as a pilot with 458 at its inception at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. We had long wondered about his later career. Readers of the Squadron History (to which for details we must refer readers) know that his was an experienced Crew that volunteered to come to 458 from 105 Squadron and took a major role in Ops. He was, of course, taken P.O.W. after his aircraft pranged in North Africa. His sister Pat, to whom he was very dear, has sent us Press cuttings describing his career. He took part in a mass escape from an Italian POW Camp and reached Allied Lines in 1943. He served as Staff Pilot with Training Command and later Bomber Command. After the War he served with a Canadian Squadron in Korea, was RCAF Liaison Officer in Germany and, administratively with RCAF Station, Bagotville. In 1960, as a Wing Commander commanding a Fighter Squadron, at the age of 38, his aircraft hit at North Bay high tension wires and he and his observer were killed. Chris left a widow but no children.

Pat Hare has now a copy of the Squadron History and we shall hope to keep in touch.

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LOVELACE'S PROGRESS.

We have had news of Jim Lovelace's recent doings, from his HQ in Sydney, N.S. --- Nova Scotia. He has been active with the Executive Council of the Reform Party--which is a new political party increasingly active. He has also been involved in a Seniors Cooperative Development which (we think) resembles what in Australia is called a Retirement Village.

In May Jim's work towards a Memorial for John Bernard Croak, V.C. culminated at a top level Gathering attended by the Provincial

Lovelace's Progress (cont.) Lieutenant Governor, the Bishop of Antigonish, and serving and ex-service VIPs.

Jim has been taking a Computer course and has been appointed Chairman of the Year of the Child project for the senior Kiwanis.

He had a very special August for the RCAF Fighter Interceptor Squadron came to town to celebrate their 50th Anniversary at RCAF Station, Sydney. He designed the presentation award and planned the ceremony for the Freedom of the City. And has now been personally invited to accompany the Squadron to Bayeau, France for a similar memorial ceremony there.

Apart from working and debating against the Constitutional Amendment Referendum (which was defeated) Jim has been involved in Remembrance Day and his receipt of two outstanding Awards.

Not bad Jim points out for adiabatic who has had a paralytic stroke an embolism and now disc trouble.

As Jim came from a Gaelic-speaking part of Nova Scotia, this Editor finishes this abbreviated account by saying to Jim. "Bha e gle mhath, "a charaid!"

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THE CANADIAN FALLEN.

Jock McGowen has come across a list of Canadian airmen who fell in service with 458 Squadron which contains some names not included in the List contained in the Squadron history though that was obtained from the "Authorities" at the time. We now publish these names. Readers may wish to add them in their copy of "We Find and Destroy".

WO2 Howard BRADLEY

F/O John DIGGINS

F/O William HAILSTONE

WO2 Donald McCONECHY

WO2 William WALLACE.

They were lost off Sardinia and have no known grave.

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CORRESPONDENCE AND GENERAL.

This is an active and busy Squadron and we have much interesting copy for which there is no room or only room abbreviated. Our apologies for those who provided them.

First, and with regret, we report, from Jim Palmer, in Kojanup, W.A. that Maurice (Hoot) Gibson has passed away after a heart attack. He was an original 458er from Williamstown, an electrician who married an English W.A.F. His son, Ian lives in Toowoomba.

Secondly, a note from Eric Johnston, author of "The RAAF Groundstaff of the Desert Air Force" writes to say: Many thanks for your co-operation "throughout the year in enabling my book to reach many members of 458"

Thirdly: 458er, particularly in N.S.W. who belong to the 458 branch of the RAAF Association will find with this News an Application Form for the use of their spouse or children for "Affiliate" membership. The RAAFA has decided to admit to membership people who will share the Air Force service tradition and loyalty, who by joining will help to keep those traditions alive longer and will certainly help the work of caring for the veteran in need. We recommend it to you. Membership is on a par with ordinary membership--NOT a 2nd class membership. It costs \$23-00 annually.

Fourthly, the need to fight for veterans and widows Repat. rights is not ceasing. After the (defeated) Government attempt to reverse the "Bushell" judgment, we now have a destructive report from the Commonwealth Audit Office which displays no understanding of the Australian approach to those who served. This will be another hard-fought and long fight ahead.

And finally, see you at Mermaid Beach! If not, still keep in touch.

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