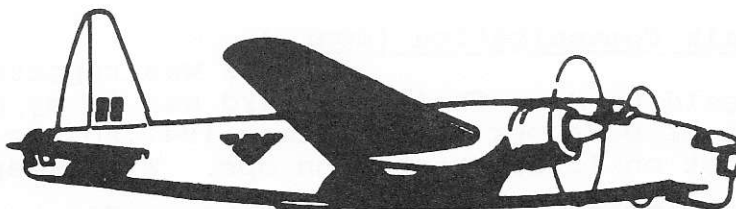


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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

Year 44, No. 174.

May, 1993.

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST--PUBLICATION No. 6056.

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EDITOR: Peter Alexander,
PUBLISHER: Eric Munkman

Flight Correspondents.

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, Kaihohe, New Zealand
Canada	Jim Donaldson, 72, Amarynth Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R2Y 0C1, Canada,
Sth. Aust.	Ted Creighton, 33, Farr Terrace, Glenelg 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,
N.S.W.	Jock McGowen, 119, Patrick Street, Hurstville, 2220, N.S.W.

ALL SET FOR MERMAID WATERS.

This issue of the News will reach readers as many prepare to set out for the 28th All-States Reunion in Queensland, beginning May 23rd. Ron Russell advises a large booking---between 140 and 150 will sit down for the Squadron Dinner. Six from N.Z. and 2 from U.K. There will be one special occurrence--a Raffle for 8 airlift flights in a FLoat plane. Only 100 tickets @ \$2 each. A 15 minute flight over the coast. The winner is limited to one flight. Bring your Flying boots!

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION from Jock McGowen.

We had a great day at Richmond Air Base on Sunday March 28, dedicating a Memorial Tree and plaque there in Squadron memories. Padre Fred McKay, looking great, officiated. After the ceremony we had afternoon tea in the Sergeants Mess and then those so inclined looked over a C 130, Hercules. Just a little more complicated than a Wimpy. It was nice to have Gordon Vale with us. (ED. This is the third tree we have planted at Richmond--(someone ran over the first with a truck and the second was cut down by (the RAAF which apparently found it too large. But we are grateful to the (Base for their help with this, the third).

Some more correspondence has taken place regarding Sgt D. Pepper

The Cornstalk Communication (cont.)

as was reported in the last issue. A Holme-on-Spalding Moor Christmas card was in my possession and it shews a signature of D. Pepper at Christmas, 1941, so the plot thickens as he was reported lost on 15th. November on ops. Will keep you posted.

Does anyone out there remember an RAF type ground crew who was with us from Holme, name of Bernard Creaney. We had talks with his son who has just gone back to Ireland. ANY information, photos welcomed. He is in touch with Sid THompsett in Lincoln.

Walter Sullivan kindly sent in a print out of the last operation of F/O Bill Hailstone when he went in to attack a small ship in Bastia (Corsica) Harbour. Walter was navigator for S/Ldr Peter Thompson who was also operating there and actually witnessed the explosion from accurate and heavy ground fire that finished Bill Hailstone and his crew. The account is accurate and interesting. ANYone with an interest in Bill Hailstone and his crew can have a copy. Walter has sent one to Jim Donaldson in Canada.

Anzac Day in Sydney. This was great--for the first time in years we were able to have a quiet room to ourselves with our own bar and meals served at tables. We have to thank Eric Munkman for finding the Criterion Hotel which we have reserved for years to come. Those present were Stan Longhurst, Bob SMith, Pete Pettit, Bob Lyndon, Peter Alexander, Harry Baines, George Unitt, John Preston, Bob Bruce, Sam Barlow, Marshall Allen, Wal. Archbold, Noel Walter, Jack Aitken, Arnold Ashton, Walter Sullivan, Reg Hansell, Cy Irwin, Len Barton, Don. Bitmead, Jack Baker, Ken Rosen, Rob. Wilkinson (son of Bill), Frank Ward, Bob Low, Eric Munkman, Keith Cousins Peter Hills (son of Ron), and Jock McGowen. Not a bad roll up and we hope the word is around that our new venue is good so next year will be better.

Bomber Command Dinner. After many years there is to be another Dinner in Canberra for former members (both air and ground) of Bomber Command. It will be on November 13th at the Convention Centre and cost \$50-00 per head including pre and during-dinner wines. Ladies of course, welcome. Contacts--Peter Alexander or me. 458 is on the organising committee.

Membership of the Air Force Association. Each issue we keep plugging the need for membership in the A.F.A.--particularly the 458 Squsdron branch in N.S.W. The traditions of the RAAF need to be preserved in these times. Now, Affiliate membership is available for spouses and adult children. Peter Alexander has enrolled wife Rita and three daughters and Eric Munkman has enrolled Dorothy. How about some support? You will be very pleased for help from outside when it is needed. Here we must remember our good mates Lofty Bracker and Arhtur Jollow--they will welcome your visits.

See you in Queensland. Jock.

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VIC. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Stan. Tarczynski.

Another successful Christmas-in-March on Sunday 14th. was held at the Community Room of the Ashburton Senior citizens Units, with an attendance of 17. They were Jack and Dot Fleming, Ernie and Helen Laming, Mick and Mavis Singe, Yank and Kath, Martin, Neil and June Dean, my brother George and his wife June, Bill Henry, Elaine Timms, and Beat. Morkham,, Rupert Pearce and your truly.

The forthcoming Annual General Meeting and dinner have been transferred to Friday June 25th and, as an experiment, to a daytime at noon, at the Air Force Club. Anyone who did not attend the Anzac Day march and who intends to come, please let me know before June 18th. As Annual Dues are payable by that time, the new rate for the News is \$7 plus \$5 membership. Please remit to Bill Hurford, Hon. Treasurer, at 1/9 St. Johns Avenue, Frankston, 3199.

Anzac Day. Mick Singe led our one row at the March. The others were Bill Hurford, Stan Tarczynski, Jack Ellis, Jack Fleming, Stan Cartledge and his granddaughter Karen, Shorty Bradshaw, Gordon Nash, Tom Primrose, and last but by no means least, Neil Dean who carried a 3' x 2' color picture of a Wimpy. The backing and pole were erected by none other than master craftsman Mick Singe. Very favourable comments were heard from the onlookers--meaning that they did not know what a Wellington

looked like. The usual reunion followed at the Melbourne Bowling Club at Windsor and we welcomed Bill Henry there. We missed our congenial sandwich-maker Ian Alison. We were informed that his non-attendance was due to a by-pass operation. Best wishes for a quick recovery, Ian. Also absent was Ern. Laming who is not in the best of health and likewise Yank Martin who is still crook in the foot.

We hope for a good attendance on June 25th at the Air Force Club.

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CROWEATERS' COMMENTS. from Ted. Creighton.

Anzac Daze ? Here in S.A., for as long as I can remember, when Anzac Day falls on a Sunday the services have been held on the day with the March spilling over to the holiday 26th. Any concerns we may hold personally about such an arrangement we each of us have dealt with in our own way. This year, belatedly and as if it was something new, the media beat up the situation even to questioning the whole concept of the March. However, it would be a wasted exercise. By now it is yesterday's news--S.A. is S.A. and things will continue to be done as they always have been done.

The March.

On a bright sunny Sunday morning 17 of our membership were spotted at the Adelaide Airport Memorial Service. On Monday, the 26th, again in bright sunshine, John Carey led two ranks of six with Geoff. Esau carrying the banner past the saluting base to the Cross of Sacrifice. Could the two day spread have contributed to our numbers being down to the extent that it was remarked on in the TV commentary?

After the March.

Back at the Talbot, and as forecast by John Carey everything was much as in the old days. Our old bar was open, Earl and his trumpet were missing but the new bar attendants better looking. It was quieter--obviously a lot of other RAAF frequenters have found other watering holes. Nine of us stayed on for a well-presented and enjoyable low-cost lunch. Several of our blokes were displaying the Malta 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion.

Over the weekend, we appreciated the support of the ladies. Saw Pat Carey, Madge Taylor, Joyce Austin, Dawn McGlasson, Barbara Ringwood at the Airport Service whilst Leslie Adams, Yvonne Hutchinson, Marjorie Oliver and Monica Thom were starters at the Talbot together with Freda who fronted up both days.

Recognition of the work of Jack Riseley. A plaque honouring Jack Riseley has been installed by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs in the Garden of Remembrance at Centennial Park, Adelaide. It is on Wall 31, Row O, near the Cemetery's main gate.

Personal Par. Late in March found Peter and Monica Thom celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary at a local Dinner Dance. Heartiest congratulations from S.A. Flight.

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CANNUCK CAUCUS.

from Jim Donaldson.

I do wish that I was one of the participants of the 28th All States Reunion but as this is not to be, the only thing I can do is WISH YOU ALL THE BEST on behalf of all your Canadian mates.

I do hope that someone who has gone before is organising a real bash for all of us when we finally get together. Thank God that he gave us the ability and wisdom to Dream the impossible.

At present we are trying to locate the next of Kin of F/O Bill Hailstone and his crew for Wally Sullivan. It is too early to tell if we will have any success, only time will tell.

From all your mates in Canada who wish they could be with you God Bless.

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KIWI CALL.

from Kevin George.

Dawn and I are looking forward to 14 days in Queensland meeting with

Kiwi Call Cont.)

old Squadron friends and also having reunions with other friends and relations scattered around the area. Being half Australian--according to Dawn--my Dad was an Aussie and a fair dinkum one at that. A trip across the Tasman is always a matter of pleasant anticipation and never a disappointment.

We are pleased that Ivan and Irene Green and Arch and Gladys Fell will be there with us. I have written to Ron Verity. Wink (Cut) Price rang me from Christchurch a few days ago to say how disappointed he is not to be present at Surfers Paradise. He is 81 has not had a particularly good year, and his doctor says "No". However he will be there in spirit and will ring shortly after my return for a full report. He wishes to be remembered to old Squadron friends and sends best wishes for a successful Reunion.

Just to refresh people's memories, Wink was in Malta and Protville and became tour-expired about the time we moved to Bone. By that time he was a Squadron Leader and Flight commander of A Flight.

I note that the future of our reunions is a matter on the Agenda --my view is that we should leave that to the Good Lord to decide. Even if there are only three or four arriving in wheel chairs, the show should go on. We will all be dead soon enough. And on that cheerful note--yours with kind regards
Kevin.

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CORRESPONDENCE: LETTERS TO THE Editor and Others.

From Jimmy Cobb, 3, Bolnore, Isaac's Lane, Haywards Heath RH16 4BU England.

(to Graeme Coombes.)

Dear Graeme, Through a Bryan Pepper, who was researching the loss of his cousin Douglas Pepper with Ron Fury's crew on the night of 15/16 November, 1941, I have received a copy of your Squadron News and noticed your name as Secretary. Assuming that you are the Graeme I knew in the Middle East with Ian Cameron I am writing to check. If that is so--greetings again after all these years--and if you would like to be reminded of the visit to Palestine and the venture up the Desert I have one or two quite good photographs of you and Ian. You most probably know already, but Ian was shot down whilst taking part in a flak suppression role in a ~~Beaufighter~~ off the Dutch coast.

Bryan Pepper carried out a most meticulous investigation into the loss of Ron Fury's crew. My main friend in that crew was Alex Cox, the 2nd pilot with whom I trained at Bassingbourne in the summer of 1941.

On return to UK again after the first tour in the Middle East, I got posted to torpedo Beaufighter with Ian. He got posted as Pilot Officer but my commission was not through until after the posting. Therefore by a quirk of fate I was posted to a new Unit, as was the custom, and I was back on Wellingtons for another tour of anti-shipping work. I stayed in the Royal Air Force until 1967 and have done some very odd flying since then!

If you are the same Graeme it is very good to contact you again and to know that we did not all die too young. In any event I would like to catch up with any survivors, especially Windy Gale if he is still around,

Sincerely, Jimmy Cobb (H.J. Cobb).

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From Ernie Ireland, 312-6th Ave, Cranbrook B.C., V1C 2H9, Canada (to Eric Munkman)

Dear Eric, I was sorry not to be at the Reunion in Vancouver--that year was not a good one for me.. I was fortunate to join 458 at Bone: the best Squadron I served with, even though I later served with the fighting 48 at Wick and Sunbury Head. I was one of the Canadian Radar men and I remember we spoke a few times particularly in Sardinia. I was lucky to go to France, La Valon, with Robin Knight's Detachment. Snowy Atherton was there and Jack Fleming who helped when I broke my ankle. He was a 100% guy, I have tried to find him over the years. Also Arthur Packham and Bill Lyon..... It's great to belong to 458.

Ernie Ireland.

(Ed. I well remember Ernie as a very good Contract Bridge player)