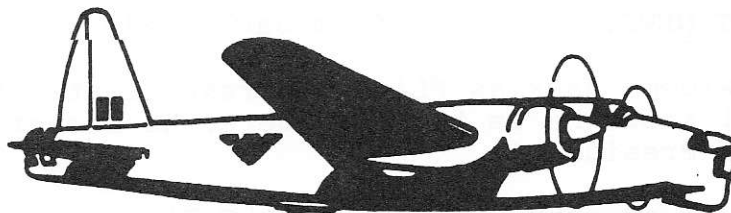


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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

YEAR 44, No.176.

November, 1993.

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST----PUBLICATION No.6056.

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

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SQUADRON SECRETARY: Graeme Coombes (ACT) Bert Ravenscroft (SA.)
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NEXT ALL-STATES REUNION DATE BROUGHT FORWARD.

After Discussion and agreement between the Flights in Australia, it has been decided to bring forward the date of the next All-States Reunion (to be held in Canberra, the National Capital) to the period OCTOBER 9th--15th 1994. This is a year earlier. It was felt by the planners that 2½ years was too long a gap for us to be together again. A splendid programme is being planned and accommodation reserved. It is planned to enclose details, with a preliminary Booking Sheet, with next issue of the Squadron News.

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JIM HOLLIDAY RESIGNS AS Q.FLT. CORRESPONDENT.

For continuing health reasons, Jim Holliday has retired as our Flight Correspondent. Jim, to whom we all wish the best of recoveries, has been the original Q. Flight correspondent from the beginning and his contributions, in his own style of professional skill and readableness, will be greatly missed. Thank you, Jim! Others will describe the great contribution he has made as Q. Flight Secretary. We just say how much we have valued his contribution of the heart to the News.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jack Lewis.

(Ed. We welcome Jack as FLIGHT correspondent. No need at all to say how well known he is to all 458ers. He recently retired as 23rd Squadron President).

I am sorry to say we in Q.Flight have lost our scribe. Because of continued ill health Jim.Holliday has been forced to retire as Q.Flight Secretary; this is most regrettable. Jim has been our Secretary since Q.Flight was formed soon after WW II. The tireless work and effort Jim has given to us can never be emulated. As President of Q.Flight I would like to convey to Jim our many thanks and appreciation; also to Peg for her part in our affairs. We wish them well.

(EDITOR: We of the Squadron Council also pay tribute to Jim for his part in the affairs of the Squadron as a whole. He was Squadron President --the 4th of 24--and is a Life Member of the Squadron Association. Always helpful and constructive, he was the person who first suggested the holding of the All-States Reunions that have so markedly and successfully kept us as a lively continuing Squadron. Thanks, Jim and Peg!)

When I sent out the M.C.Sweep tickets, I also asked the chaps for any news I could use in the Flight News, Eric Lloyd states that he had a newsy reply to a letter he wrote to Jim.Cobb. QUOTE: The last time I saw him was in April 1943. I got tired of sitting around LG 91 and decided to join the Squadron in Malta. I flew over with Jim who was returning with Windy Gale and Mick Toohey. That's when I found I had been posted home, so returned in a big hurry to LG 91. Jim Cobb was tickled pink to have received letters from Harry Godfrey and Keith Cousins and a visit from Bill McFadden and wife. Jim spends half the year in South Africa where he has a married daughter.

Jack Hobbs and wife Shiela have recently made a train trip to Longreach. Found the electric train to Rockhampton and then the diesel to Longreach very comfortable and nicely appointed. Jack found the train much cheaper than car as he was fast running out of points for exceeding speed limits on roads near Barcaldine and on the way to Cairns. You have a heavy foot, Jack! One of the highlights of their stay in Longreach was to meet up with Theo and Dulcie Ravenscroft. The last time they had seen each other was in Brighton, England, when Theo left for home. Jack stayed on, having joined the Squadron in Foggia. Theo is active in R.S.L. work in Longreach and has special interest in the construction of R.S.L. Retirement units close to the Club. Theo is President of the R.S.L. there.

Dud and Enid McKay have just returned from Cairns. They were there for five weeks and for four of those it rained and rained. Western Queensland could do with some of that rain. Frank and Hilda Wilks have recently returned from a trip to the Kimberleys; found the trip most interesting and enjoyable.

I expect the Redlands Q.Flight population to increase by two shortly. Jack Baxter and wife Kitty intend to move from Currumbin Valley to a home at Raby Bay, a new canal development where every home has access to Moreton Bay. Jack will be happy "messaging about in boats again".

Bob Dangaard writes to say that he and Vera and family are O.K., but unfortunately Bob has to front up to a double hernia operation the day after the Melbourne Cup. He says "Cheer me up and advise of a prize in the M.C.S." Goodluck, Danny!

Our thoughts are with Clive Wyman who continues to suffer bad health.

I am sorry to say Norm.Taylor passed away at the beginning of October. He was a pilot on 458 and after the War rejoined the RAAF as a catering officer. He had lived on the Gold Coast these last few years.

Ron Russell has not been well lately. He had a heart attack recently and was admitted to intensive care. He is feeling well again and his heart specialist does not want to see him for three months.

The Russells were due to go overseas so Joan could attend a Wren Reunion but after the heart attack the Dr. would not allow Ron to fly. It was decided Joan would go and Ron went to Melbourne to stay with their daughter.

From Toowoomba we hear Harry Dorge has had a lot of trouble with a persistent leg ulcer; he has been hospitalised twice and the leg has not shown much progress to recovery. (ED. The Repat. medical people have been promoting a new treatment for such ulcers, Harry--said to be very good)

From Caloundra, Jim McKay writes that he and Joyce have had a few health problems this year. We hope the problems have settled down now, Jim.

Jack Lewis.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Rupert Pearce.

It is with regret we advise that Bill Henry died on Sept. 11th at Heidelberg, after a long illness. Bill was born on Malta and came to Australia in 1926. He was 78. He was an original member of the Squadron and served in the U.K. and the Middle East. He came regularly to the Victorian meetings and was at the Squadron dinner at Mermaid Waters and very pleased to meet old mates. His Memorial Service was held at Le Pines, Box Hill on September 16th. The attendance of approximately 120 persons included family and friends, members of the R.S.L. from Box Hill and 458 Squadron members. Mick Singe talked of Bill's service with the Squadron and the esteem in which he was held. Members who attended were Dot and Jack Fleming, June and Neil Dean, Harold Martin, John Morris, Bill Hurford and Rupert Pearce. Bill was a widower, his wife, Eileen, died in 1988. We send our condolences to his daughter, Lorraine and son-in-law, Ern Franklin.

Cup Day Barbecue. Their usual Barbecue was held at the home of Dot and Jack Fleming at St. Leonards. Those who came and enjoyed the day were: Mavis and Mick Singe, Anne and Bill Hurford, Helen Laming, Chris Smith, Dave Evans, and Rupert Pearce. Apologies were received from Elaine Timms, Beatrice Morkham, Margaret and Jack Ellis, Kath and Harold Martin, and June and Neil Dean. Dot Fleming drew Vintage Crop, and Chris Smith won the prize for the best hat.

Next Function--Christmas in March. This will be held at the home of Margaret and Jack Ellis, 5, Heales Street, Dromana on 20th March 1994. All welcome.

On the Sick List. Harold Martin and Elaine Timms. Best wishes for recovery!

Congratulations--to Beatrice Morkham who enjoyed her 80th birthday party recently.

Visitors to Victoria. Ron Russell rang Mick Singe when in Melbourne. Joan had gone to the U.K. to attend a Reunion. Dusty and Enid Miller visited Jack and Audrey Cruttenden at Drysdale and met with Dot and Jack Fleming.

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CROWEATERS COMMENTS from Ted Creighton.

Adelaide Airport Memorials. Continue to grow in number. Their sub-titles of "Plaques of Enduring Metal and Growing Trees" is very apt for the trees continue to grow both in stature and number. On Sunday October 24th, involving the Aircrew Assn., S.A. branch, the RAAF Association, S.A. Division, and the RAAF Nursing Association, three more plaques were dedicated and unveiled. Including the Ron Badger Memorial this brings to 36 the number of dedications since this Flight planted the first tree and the 458 Sqdn. plaque was dedicated by Middle East Padre Bob Davies, assisted by Rev. Canon H. Shepherd, the local Repat. Hospital Padre, way back in 1958. Hundreds now attend the 9 a.m. Service each Anzac Day and each year the number seems to increase rather than decline. It is a far cry from the few hardy souls that used to get together in the early days and---if it was a boisterous day---shelter in the lee of the huge frame of Padre Shepherd.

Sad News. Vale Lorna Ravenscroft. The Flight was saddened by the

Croweaters Comments (cont.) sudden death on August 17th., of Lorna, loving and loved wife of our longtime Treasurer, Bert Ravenscroft. Her funeral service was conducted at the Church she regularly attended in Henley Beach and which almost overflowed with mourners. Needless to say, many of her 458 friends were present. Bert expresses his sincere appreciation of the condolences, kind thoughts, and support he has received from all.

We have been advised recently of the death of Ruth Warwick. Her husband Ray, also deceased, will be remembered for his long walk in North Africa.

Pre-Christmas Get-together. This will be held at the Adelaide Airport on Sunday November 21st. Same time, same place, same everything.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION. from Jock McGowen.

Whereas we always seem to have a shortage of news for the Squadron News, there is one item that seems to stay closer to us these days, more's the pity. We report the passing of two of our old members, both Groundcrew; Arthur Jollow and Freddie Strom. Arthur was with us for many years--and was Flight Secretary--and if I recall he joined us in England and stayed to the end. Freddie was one of the originals from Williamtown, and went right on, and finished in Germany after most of us found our way home. Fred was a most regular attender at 458 functions and was Minute Secretary of the Flight for a long time. He received an RAAF Association Certificate of Merit for his work. Our sincere condolences to those who remain.

Better News , at least for three members of the Flight, the Melbourne Cup.

First.	Vintage Cup	George Bradd
Second.	Te Akau	John Dunn
Third	Mercator	Cy. Irwin.

Better luck next time!

Peter Alexander had a short spell in hospital but is now fighting fit again. Good on you, Peter, we need you.

Eric Munkman has had his second knee joint replaced: the right one was done a year or so ago and now the left one. He is O.K., still not as mobile as he would like, but strange to say the operation did not affect his drinking arm.

The ALL-STATES REUNION. Now we have the Reunion; lots of work yet to be done, lots of work already done--bringing forward the date by a year proved a popular decision: one or two said they did not approve but most did. The Application Form will be out by the next issue of the News. In the meantime here is a list of those who say they will probably be with us in October 1994.

Jock McGowen	Sam Barlow	Eric Munkman	George Unitt	Jack Baker
Allan Rackham	Reg. Hansell	Cy. Irwin	Graeme Coombes	Keith Grimshaw
Eric Baker	B. McLoughlin	Don. Anderson	Neil Dean	Ian Showell
Bill Laughlin	Bill Turier	Jack Lewis	Massa Foote	Bert Garland
Rupert Pearce	P. Alexander	Bill Kelliher	Ken Brown	John Fleming
Yank Martin	Jim. Holliday	Tom Moore	Les Boyer	B. Ravenscroft
Syd Bartram	Bill Cribb	Eric Kelly	Len. Barton	John Carey
Chris. Smith	Bill Fiddes	John Excell	Helen Laming	Eric Lloyd
Mick Singe	Dud. McKay	Jim Palmer	Tony Stone	Jack Lawson
Jack Cruttenden	A. Atherton	Bill Hurford	Dave Firth	Col. Corten
Alf. Peake	Ron. Russell	Ron Eggers	Bert Oliver	Don. Brandon
Jack Bevan	Doug. Holland	Kevin George	Wal. Archbold	Ron. Verity
Bob. Smith	S. Longhurst	Noel Walter	Frank Ward	Col. Fereday
Bob Millar	Bob Lyndon	Bill Hull	L. Crowley	N. Carpenter
Ian Giles	Bob. Bruce	John Dunn	Kevin Tait	E. Purcill
Don. Bitmead	Ken Gunn	Geoff. Hyles	Jim Whittem	Jim Perry
S. Hopewell	Jack Ellis	Harry Baines	Ray Turley	K. Cousins
Ivan Green	Bill Clues	H. Etherton	Ron. Miller.	

It may seem strange but the biggest problem in Canberra is Accommodation; there is plenty of 5 star variety but we are trying to keep the overall

Cornstalk Communication (cont.) cost to within 458 limits. So, if you are thinking of coming along then we suggest you get an early reply in and then when you have the Application Form you will be in front. See you there in 1994!

Jock.

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BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid.Thompsett.

Here I am once again, and, as usual, no news to tell you. I did send a report about six months ago about the Squadron Plaque being in the Hendon Museum but unfortunately it got missed out. So, to all U.K. members this is to let you know that after all these years we finally got permission to put our Squadron Plaque with all the others in the Hendon Museum. I myself had been trying for many years but without success, but Reg. Windett must have had blue eyes, and he got permission for us to hang it. The plaque was very kindly donated by Squadron Council. No other news is to hand, so hoping all Down Under are keeping fairly fit. I myself had a short stay in hospital, and now the hospital tells me I shall have to have some radiotherapy on my legs.

With Christmas just around the corner let me wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy 1994. Sid.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY...

from Ted.Jewell.

We all had a great day in September at Bill and Joan Clues home for Sunday lunch, ladies bringing a hot dish. After a few beers and a wonderful lunch everyone settled down to some serious talking about old times. Stan Hopewell wandered around with his video camera "unnoticed at times", taking some great shots, which were later played back on Bill's TV. Stan did a really professional job with lots of laughs. 458 members who were there were:

Ray and Marg.Turley	Henry and Vera Etherton	Ted and Elsie Jewell
Bill and Flip Kelliher	Ron and Alice Gannaway	Stan and Betty Hopewell
Jim and Lucy Palmer	together with Associate members	

Phil and Shirley Hicks Brian and Margaret Hicks Bob and Dot Brisland.

Len Stewart was unable to be at the lunch as he was in hospital having his appendix removed. Len was only in the hospital for a short time, but when at home for a few days, complications set in and he was rushed back to hospital as the wound had turned septic. I rang on the weekend and he said he was feeling a lot better but had to take things easy for some time.

I guess everyone has heard about the tornado that struck Mandurah where I live last month, doing quite a lot of damage. Some houses were completely demolished; several houses in our street were badly damaged but luckily we were on the edge of the blow. I had a call from Wal Archbold enquiring if we were O.K.

Subs.—I must remind some of our W.A.Flight members that if they want the Squadron News they must be financial to the tune of \$10-00 as with the increase of cost for the News we are unable to carry them any longer. Send your cheques to me "as treasure."

Xmas. W.A.Flight are having our usual Xmas lunch on 12th December at the Freeway Hotel, South Perth. We usually have had between 40 and 50 sit down to lunch--458 members, wives and friends--so once again it should be a great day.

Wishing all 458 Squadron members a merry Xmas and a happy New Year for 1994.

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KIWI CALL.

from Kevin George.

I have been in touch with Ivan Green and Arch Fell quite recently. We approve of Canberra and the revised date and have pencilled it in.

You will perhaps recall my mention of the escort for Winston Churchill when on his way to Cairo in November 1943. As this News will come out coincidentally with the 50th Anniversary of 458's involvement, which

Kiwi Call (cont.) was on the night and day of 16/17 November 1943 from about 2100 hrs to 1500 hrs. I am fairly sure that F/O Bourque and crew did the first section. We did the next from west of Bone along to CapBlanc, and W/O Christianson and crew carried on down to the approaches to Malta. Churchill was on HMS Renown which was moving at over 30 knots and zigzagging. It had a strong cruiser and destroyer escort and, no doubt, fighters above but we did not see them. It was hard work for the navigator especially during the hours of darkness, but our very capable Ted Adams (RAF) took it in his stride. With the highspeed zigzagging it required frequent changes of course to maintain the correct relative position and adequate cover of the vulnerable areas within the limiting lines of approach. The convoy arrived in Malta on the evening of the 17th. and Churchill spent several days there before proceeding to Alexandria still on Renown. Security was pretty tight and we were forbidden to speak of it to others on the Squadron---hence no mention in the Squadron History. I don't think we knew who the V.I.P. was at the time. Lord Alanbrooke's diaries contain some interesting details--"the President had wired "that as Security had been violated and the Germans had already "published the fact that we were all meeting in Cairo we should have to "find another place. He suggested Khartoum. PM suggested Malta. "Government was horrified. Wires flew in all directions and I think "that in the end we shall all be going to Cairo."

Will close with kind regards. Kevin.

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EVENTS IN CANBERRA FOR 458ers.

Several Squadron members were involved in events of an intensive week in Australia's capital--the week November 10-16. Graeme Coombes and Peter Alexander were at the Parade and Ceremony at the War Memorial for the re-interment of the Unknown Soldier (the Navy and Air Force could have preferred the term Unknown Warrior). A splendid ceremony and most moving. It was a strong public reaffirmation of the values of "old Australia"--Australian traditions of before the immigrations--hopefully Press and Public will respond. There were not many "ethnic" Australians in the large crowd--apart surely from among the children who were present and involved.

There followed after that day (the 11th.--Remembrance Day revived), preparations for and the holding of a 50th Anniversary Dinner for Australians who served in Bomber Command. With the full RAAF Band in attendance, about 340 sat down to a formal dinner with an excellent Address by Sir James Rowland, who was a POW-E and a Path Finder pilot. Graeme Coombes, Mick Mather, Bill McFadden and Peter Alexander sat together --with Bill and Peter's ladies.

A Bomber Command Memorial Service, with the RAAF Band, was held on the Sunday morning at the War Memorial.

Peter Alexander then had three intensive days (including Sunday!) with the Ministerial Council on Veterans Issues (MACOVI) of which he is a member. That Council is currently advising on proposals under consideration by a special Committee, chaired by ex-Senator Baume, which is to report on the High Court's judgment in the case of Bushell, and on the Auditor-General's critical Report on the Department of Veterans Affairs and on the Australian Repatriation system which the Auditor considers too generous. Other members of the Council (MACOVI) include the National President of the RSL, Major General "Digger" James, and of the War Widows Guild (Mrs. Kays), and senior representatives of the TPI Association, of Legacy, the Vietnam Veterans, the Regular Defence Forces Association and two ladies with appropriate background. The Chairman is a retired Justice, the Hon. J. Muirhead (who did the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Inquiry). All this may come to decisions early next year and will be important indeed to the Australian Veteran and War Widow population.

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SQUADRON COUNCIL AND THE NEWS SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO READERS.