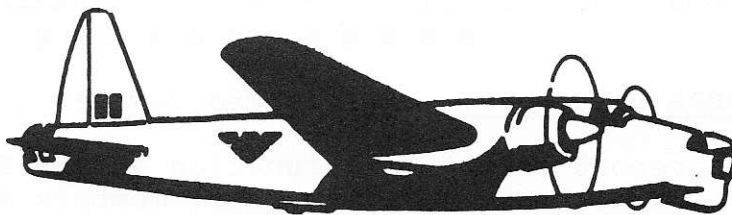


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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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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*New appointment.

PASSING OF SID. THOMPSETT.

Readers will be sorry to hear of the death of Sid. Thompson, long-time U.K. Flight Secretary and Flight Correspondent. He had cancer but in the end a quiet passing. The Squadron Council records its gratitude to Sid and its condolences to his family.

Sid took over U.K. Secretaryship in May 1956 from Dick Murrell, who had acted from May 1955. Sid therefore served for 38 years. We shall miss him. On 458, Sid was a W.A.G. late in the piece and flew among others with Ron. Bint.

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CANBERRA ALL-STATES REUNION ARRANGEMENTS WELL IN HAND.

With this issue of the Squadron News members will find full details of arrangements for the October, 1994 All-States Reunion. We ask for their

All-States Reunion. (cont.) co-operation by prompt return of Entry Forms.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Ted.Jewell.

Firstly a report on the Xmas function at the Freeway Hotel on Sunday, 12.12.93. 52 attended for Lunch--31 members and wives, the others Associates and friends. As always the food was excellent. It was great to see some members who have not been with us for some time-- Col Corten was up from Busselton; Nobby Nobbs, Len Stewart and myself came up from Mandurah, with Jim Palmer up from Kojonup. Doug Anderson picked up Skeeta Staveley from the Home where he now lives--Skeeta is now in a wheelchair. Good to see Gordon and Olga Jones after some time. As usual, Joan Clues had presents for all the ladies--they were passed around by Flight President Bill Clues--a good excuse to kiss all the ladies. 458ers present were: Bill Clues, Ted.Jewell, Nobby Nobbs, Chas. Davis, Ray Turley, Syd Baker, Doug Anderson, Skeeta Staveley, Stan Hopewell, John Lilly, Jack Cobb, Gordon Jones, Bill Kelliher, Ron Gannaway, Col Corten, Jim Palmer and Len Stewart.

B.B.Q. at Mandurah. Last weekend Elsie and I had 20 members drive down to our home for our yearly BBQ. We turned on some of our lovely weather. All over the country they are talking about our succulent crabs--all for the taking in the estuary. John Lilly was not able to come down as his daughter was over for a visit.

Personal Pars. Charlie Davis has had to go into hospital for the 6th. time for another operation on his right knee. Hope it will be the last time; Henry Etherton has been fairly sick with a bad attack of shingles: it is usually a slow process to get rid of it; Bill Kelliher had a spell in hospital. Hope you are feeling better now, Bill.

I had a call from Charlie McCarthy during the week, enquiring about old members who were on the Rock with him. He says he spends most of his time in his workshop; is now 82.

Jim and Lucy Palmer have invited any members who can make it down to their farm at Kojonup for a BBQ lunch on March 23rd. So far there are about 20 starters; most will spend the night at the local Motel and drive home the next day.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION From Jock McGowen.

We have had a very busy month with the Reunion and other matters but at the outset we must thank those kind members from Overseas and Interstate who phoned or wrote regarding the tragic bushfires. No reported damage to any 458er. Peter and Rita Alexander were on holidays in Central Australia at the time and their area at home was evacuated but no damage done. Somebody up there still looks after us.

Sam Barlow has shingles and it is giving him a very sorry time --our best, Sam, get better for the Reunion. Our old mate, Bill Fiddes has had another heart look-over. Hang in there, Bill. While on the subject of sickness, I had a small stroke: but Eric won't give me a day off until the Reunion is over. I really am OK and Anne is watching closely.

We had a great day with 33 for lunch at the Ryde TAFE College in November. Next such lunch at the same place will be on APRIL 13th at 12 for 12.30 on Level 5. Please advise Eric Munkman on 451 0824.

Anzac Day. Again at the CRITERION HOTEL in Park Street--good food, good grog and a room to ourselves with our own bar. Not far from Town Hall station or from the end of the March. Let's see some of the not-so-regulars as well as the regulars. Jim Whitem will be down from Port Macquarie. The Criterion offers great rates for accomodation--let me know if we can help.

The Reunion. Last but not least--enclosed you will find Entry Forms --get yours in early as we will have many problems with accomodation. Get it in by April 18th please. Names of probable attenders is now 102. Have a happy, safe and healthy 1994. See you in Canberra--it's later than you think.

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CROWEATERS COMMENTS.

from Ted.Creighton.

The Pre-Christmas Get-together held at Adelaide Airport drew a reasonable turnout of some 26 Flight members. Additional to the old reliables (well, getting old anyway) we were also able to catch up with John and Barbara Ringwood; and Kevin Tait with his usual heart of gold dug out Arn Scholar from the War Veterans Home and eased him around the gathering for a short chat among old friends. Anzac Day and this November gathering seems to be the extent of S.A. Flight activities. Is it any wonder I scratch for news?

A Face to a Name--at last! Local watering holes sometimes can be a source of news. It puzzled me, when dining with friends just prior to Christmas when the waitress said the bloke at the next table wanted to buy me a drink. Went over to thank him for his hospitality and his first words were "So, that is a 458 lapel badge you're wearing." It turned out to be none other than Len Thomas. Have seen his name on our mailing list for years but never met the bloke before. Len, an RAF type posted to 458 at HOSM from Binbrook (either 267 or 276 Sqdn--whichsoever's crest was a (Fox's head). He went with 458 to the Middle East and later in the War returned to the RAF. It comes to mind that without the nucleus of blokes like Len with their RAF experience and know-how it would have been much more difficult to get 458 up, up and away.

Daw Park Repat. Hospital is still in limbo. Like a TV soapie the saga continues. Will the State accept it? Will it go to private enterprise? Or will it just gradually fade away? Wait for the next episode!

Personal Par. Bill and Pat Cribb with Bert Ravenscroft spent a day chewing over old times with John and Ruth Excell at their home in Murray Bridge. Bert has plans for an extended tour of the U.S. of A which will include a stay with a nephew at Clearwater in Florida.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. Please note in your diary that the commencement time of the ANZAC DAY ADELAIDE AIRPORT MEMORIAL SERVICE has been brought forward to 8.45 a.m. See you all there!

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KIWI CALL

from Kevin George.

I have received a letter from Stewart Kent of London, son of Fred Kent, a Flight Sergeant WOP/AG who served with 458. He enclosed a letter to be sent to his late father's old Captain C.W. (Wink) Price of Christchurch. He had for some time been researching the Squadron history with a view to a book for publication in the U.K. I suggested an extended visit to Australia (October an ideal time) to view memorabilia and talk to Squadron veterans. His address is ---Stewart Kent, 57 Springfield Avenue, Merton Park, London SW 20, 9JR.

(Editor: We have been in correspondence with Stewart, who now has a copy of We Find and Destroy. He is particularly keen on building up a collection of photographs. Can anyone assist?)

We have been concerned over your bushfires--which will remain an eternal problem in Australia and we sympathise. We have no real natural hazards here in Northland--localised flooding, thunderstorms few and earthquakes very infrequent. Aren't we lucky!

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jack Lewis.

A presentation lunch to Jim and Peg Holliday was held at Sizzlers, Carina on 25th November. We had two long tables set aside for as long as we wanted. Jim was presented with a gold Parker pen inscribed with the famous J.E.H. Jim was really surprised and deeply moved--we had kept the "Old Scribe" in the dark about the presentation. Healthwise he had a good day. After the presentation and we had all eaten we were able to move around and chat.

Christmas in Sydney. Evelyn and I were in Sydney over the Xmas holidays. We did not get a chance to see any 458ers but I spoke to Peter by 'phone and Eric Munkman rang to invite us out after Xmas but we were going to Wollongong. While in Wollongong I contacted Jack Bevan and he called and took us to his place for a pleasant couple of hours with Lucy and Jack. Lucy is recovering from a broken wrist after chasing her hat that blew off onto the bowling green. I was fortunate enough to go out deepsea fishing twice while there--with good catches.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

I had a 'phone call from Bob Coles to advise a change of address, which is now 3, Florence Place Greenbank Tweed Heads, NSW 2485.

Bob is well and sends regards.

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BRITISH BULLETIN. from Norm.Duke

I have the sad duty to report to you and Squadron Council the death of our dear old friend and fellow Squadron Member, Sid Thompsett on February 18th. Of tireless and conscientious service he will be sorely missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Vi, and Family. Plans are under way, thanks to our friend Frank Robertson in Holme to construct a cabinet to protect and display our Squadron standard in the church at Holme on Spalding Moor. The factor is to prevent any future atmospheric deterioration in the fabric. It is provisionally proposed to hold a Service in the Church in the afternoon of Sunday September 4th 1994 to rededicate the 458 Standard. Peter Leonard, our UK Vice President agrees that will be an ideal opportunity for our annual UK Flight Reunion. UK members are therefore warned to prepare for Church Parade. It will enable us to remember Sid Thompsett who would have been involved if he were not ill.

I have had a rewarding contact with Stewart Kent who spent with his wife June an enjoyable afternoon with Joyce and myself, raiding old 'photo albums, etc. It was good to join forces with the next generation--and I think we have recruited a new member.

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CANUCK CAUCUS. from Jim Donaldson.

I am still receiving correspondence on F/O Hailstone and his crew, full of heartfelt thanks. I am sure Wally Sullivan has also received many letters, thanking him for telling the story of their heroic attack on Imperia Harbour. I have been surprised that Bill did not receive the DFC. I have no idea if it could now be done post-humously. Many brave men died without recognition and I believe when their deeds do come to light it should be acknowledged in some way. Any advice would be welcomed.

I have now got my 1994 Agenda of events for 1994 of the Wartime Pilots and Observers Association. Ten events scheduled.

To all our mates Down Under--our thoughts were with you during your recent trial by fire. God Bless you and yours.

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(Editor: The need to include Reunion matter with this Issue is severely (restricting space and will exclude some interesting letters and (articles. We shall hope to include them in the next Issue. Apologies!)

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VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Rupert Pearce.

Anzac Day. Numbers decrease but the spirit is the same. March as usual and afterwards at the Melbourne Bowling Club, Prahran.

Future Functions. Christmas in March at the home of Jack and Margaret Ellis, 5 Heales Road Dromana on 20th March. BYO BBQ.

Annual Meeting at the RAAF HQ at 4, Cromwell Road, South Yarra at Noon on Friday May 27th followed by lunch. All welcome!

After some Years. We welcome Ted Love of 8, Albert Jones Ct., Heidelberg, Vic. 3084.

Memories of Bill Henry. His daughter Lorraine Franklin has presented to us her father's photographic album and a collection of 200 loose photos of Bill's service with 458 and 454. Thank you, Lorraine!

With the Air Training Corps. Bill Hurford, Mavis and Mick Singe attended the 51st Anniversary of No 2 Flight, Preston. Mick Singe presented a Squadron History to the leading cadet.

Visitors. Ron and Joan Russell were in Melbourne. They recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Vic. Flight entertained them to lunch. George Brain was here recently for Harness Racing at Moonee Valley.

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