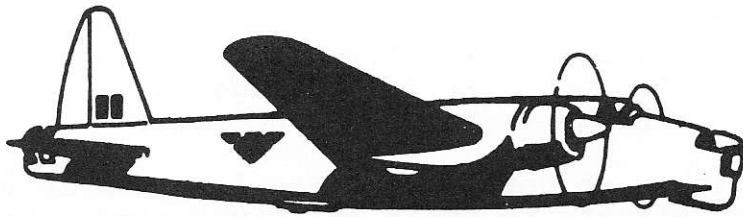


# 458

## SQUADRON NEWS



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

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November, 1994.

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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 Mick Singe (Vic) : Squadron Vice Presidents:  
Squadron Treasurer Peter Alexander (NSW) ---- Australia: Bert Ravenscroft (S.A.)  
Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (ACT) Jim. Palmer (WA)  
Hon. Squadron Auditor: Frank Ward (NSW) U.K. Peter Leonard (Wales)  
Canada Jim Donaldson (Manitoba)  
New Zealand Ivan Green.

Editor: Peter Alexander  
Publisher: Eric Munkman.

### Flight Correspondents.

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N.S.W. Jock McGowen, 119, Patrick Street, Hurstville, 2220, N.S.W.;  
Queensland Jack Lewis, 5, Cupania Road, Victoria Point, 4165, Queensland;  
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 0C7, Canada;  
Sth. Australia Ted. Creighton, 33, Farr, Terrace, Glenelg East, 5054, Sth. Aust.;  
Victoria Rupert Pearce, 46, Mt. Pleasant Road, Nunawading, 3131, Victoria.

### ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SQUADRON ALL-STATES REUNION WITH SAD OUTCOME.

The News reports another very successful and well-attended All-States Reunion in the National Capital, Canberra. Flight reports will give details below. It was a happy event with a sad after-math. Victorian Flight Treasurer, Bill Hurford, driving home after the Reunion ran off the road, suffered grave injury and some days later died in hospital in Canberra.

Bill was a Navigator, with Buck Pedersen's crew. He had a long career with continuing Aviation. He had a son in the RAAF--and also a grandson, both serving now. His calm and businesslike devotion to 458 in Victoria and around the world was long evident and will be greatly missed. Our sympathy to his family.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION. from Jock McGowen.

The first item must be the Melbourne Cup, and we give you the winners:-

|        |                     |
|--------|---------------------|
| First: | Mrs. Z. Wettern     |
| Second | Mr. Gordon Saggars  |
| Third  | Mrs. Julie Beashel. |

All holders of horses were notified, and it would seem members are selling tickets to their relatives, good news.

\*Stan Longhurst has had a short trip to hospital but, we are pleased to report, is back home again. Best wishes, Stan.

\*The Canberra Reunion is now history; we did not hear one complaint about the Reunion and that made us happy; there certainly was a lot of hard work to get the show on the road and I would like to thank Harry Baines for his gifts of grog, which was raffled, and Bert Oliver for his gift of red and white wines which were consumed with great gusto at the final dinner, both of these gifts were certainly a large part of the Reunion's being a financial success. Anne and I would like to thank one and all for the lovely handworked towel for Anne, and from me for the book "The History of the R.A.A.F."; both were very nice mementoes of a great week and we thank you all.

\* It always seems that after something good comes something not good and as reported elsewhere we had the tragic loss of Bill Hurford. Bill was a great guy and will be missed by all who knew him. Eric Munkman and I joined Graeme Coombes, Col Fereday, and Geoff. Hyles at a Memorial Service with the family in Canberra.

\* The Memorial to 458ers who gave their all, in Narrandera, is well on the way. I called in recently and the people of that town are really turned on about it. Don't forget the dates--Friday May 26th and Saturday May 27th. Accommodation will be getting hard to get. The Narrandera No8 E.F.T.S. Committee has purchased six excellent display cases for the model collection now up to 83 models. (ED. Jock has presented his considerable collection of aircraft (models all acquired at, no doubt, considerable effort and cost) If anyone would like to assist with a donation to this 458 Memorial then send your cheque to me or Stan Longhurst. Some more models can surely be included. Ask me for a list of models held.

\* We congratulate Mick Singe on being the new Squadron President, and we look forward to another great Reunion in Victoria next time.

\*We in N.S.W. Flight wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year that brings us all an answer to our prayers. Jock.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BRITISH BULLETIN from Norman Duke.Reunion at Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

A most enjoyable Flight Reunion was held on the week-end of September 3rd/4th at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. 17 members of the 458 family sat down to dinner at the Olde Red Lion and I think I can say a good time was had by all. Made all the more enjoyable as most of the party were staying at the pub overnight.

On Sunday morning, 25 of our group attended Church Parade for the solemn unveiling and dedication of our Squadron Standard Display case in the Parish Church. A fitting addition to our Squadron Memorial, unveiled by Peter Leonard and Philip Thompsett, Sid's son. After paying tribute to the 12 Squadron members whose graves are in the churchyard, we laid a poppy wreath at the permanent memorial at the old airfield. The feeling of comradeship remains as strong as ever, with the resolve to get together again in '95. See below.

The British Bulletin (cont.) Whilst staying at the Red Lion, we also made contact with one of the original 458ers, who lives at Holme, Jock Patterson, former armourer who left 458 when they went overseas in 1942, Another bonus from the weekend.

Other People. I had a letter from Buck Pedersen in Richmond, South Australia to tell me his son-in-law Laurie Longman would be visiting UK with the Aussie Rules football team and would like to visit Brooklands and the Wimpey. We were able to meet, and I gave him the 'tour' of the ruins.

Joyce and I also had the great pleasure of a visit in late September from Mickey and Margaret Reid from Toronto, who were on their way back to Canada after holiday with their daughter Kathy in Majorca and France. They were able to stay with us for a few days and get a very brief flavour of UK. We have some memorable photos of Mickey alongside R for Robert at Brooklands. His first sight of a Wimpey since 1944.

It was good to hear of the arrival of the VIMY in Darwin after their cliffhanging trip, especially as I had seen her taking off over here.

Our Flight Reunion, 1995. We are investigating the possibility of holding this one at Moreton-in-March, Gloucester, next April. Especially appropriate as 458 crews were stationed here in 1942 before flying out to Egypt. So, BE PREPARED. Regards, as ever, Norman.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Rupert Pearce.

Death of Bill Hurford. We are sad to tell of this. His funeral was held at Canberra on November 2nd and there was a Memorial Service at his church, Wesley Uniting on November 7th. Both services were attended by members of the Squadron. Our deepest sympathy to Ann and her family.

Can you help? Ian Cox has given me a photo of the crew of his brother Sgt Alex Cox's crew. The Ministry of Defence, London, has stated "Post-war investigations have revealed no trace of the Wellington or any of her crew, the presumption being that it was lost at sea." Alex Cox left Sydney on March 16th 1941 for Saskatoon, Canada. He was posted to Holme-on-Spalding Moor on September 24th 1941.

Canberra. Congratulations to NSW Flight for the very happy days in Canberra.

Social Events. Our luncheon at the Officers Mess, Logistics Command was very successful, with 20 members present. Our Cup Day BBQ at the home of Jack and Dot Fleming at St. Leonards was attended by 10 members and 3 friends. The weather was unpleasant but did not interfere with the warm fellowship and drawing the Sweep. Noone came away rich. Next event is at the home of Jack and Margaret Ellis, at 5, Heales Rd. Dromana. It is to be a BBQ on March 26th 1995. All welcome.

The A.T.C. Our President Mick Singe with Mavis, will attend the Annual Cadets and Parents Dining night, thus continuing our association, so much part of Ern Laming's activities.

The Malta Medal Two of our members were late applicants for this medal. Are there any other Squadron members in the same situation and can Squadron Council apply for them? (ED. This has been taken up with Malta and the answer is, no. They will stay with their closing date. It is a pity as, it turns out, any 458er who served in the Med in the period was eligible. Not only those who served on the Island. This was not well known including to us)

Personal. John Morris is home from hospital. We send him our kind regards.

Narrandera. The gift of 80 model aircraft by Jock McGowen on the 50th anniversary of 8 E.F.T.S was a wonderful gesture. May we suggest a list of 458er who served there, and perhaps an Honour Board from the Squadron. A.L. Cox served there.



Victorian Views (conc'd) Perhaps members could advise their Flight correspondents by December 31st, and then given to the Squadron Secretary.

Christmas Parcel. As is our custom, this has been sent to Mrs. Mona Matthews of Holme-on-Spalding Moor with our best wishes.

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FROM CANADA. This time our Canadian news comes from Bryan Quinlan. He writes: Just a few lines to enclose news of Wally Beer, one of my wireless air gunners from 458 at Malta and Protville. I lost track of my 458 crew many years ago when my address book went missing during one of our many moves during my work with heavy constructions. I was overjoyed to re-establish contact with Wally, by placing a notice in the George Cross Island Association newsletter, but drew a blank with the others., Ken. Stevens, George Dunmore and Pete Cooper. I have included Wally's initial response that provides a thumbnail sketch of his activities, trials and tribulations. But you can see from the snap enclosed that he is still smiling and looking pretty good. I have sent him the issue of the recent August News--by the way I did not get the May edition. I still distribute 28 copies to those in Canada with 458 connections or membership. My best wishes and collective greetings from your Canadian mates. Jim has been doing an excellent job. Very best Bryan

Wally Beer's letter, in part, reads: It was great to get your welcome and interesting letter--talk about reviving old memories! As you say 50 years is a long long time. Well, going back, yes I recall every incident you mention as if it were yesterday. Yes, the little dog we, or was it you bought in Alexandria and took back the desert--called Wimpey. Mickey's parrot: could it swear!

After we split up, I can't quite remember where, Pete, Stevie and myself were shipped home after a spell in Algiers. I finished up at Cranwell and then a place in Scotland, air training Navigators and W.OPs. A short course in the Isle of Man. Lost contact with Pete and Stevie but met a chap called Huntback--Luqa days. Posted to Aden in early '45 on Liberators. After Heliopolis and Sudan finished up at Rabat Sale as an Air Traffic Controller. Back to Civvy Street still single. Got restless, went to New Zealand in 1949. Forestry Service: married in Christchurch girl I met on the trip out. Returned to UK in '59--wife was homesick. Worked for Cadburys. Retired at 63. Health reasons.

Happy time till my wife died whilst I was in hospital Not a happy period. My health problems? Too many. Gangrene, amputation of most of both feet. Two heart attacks; prostate. Cancer. Other minor ones. But can still raise a laugh.

Met my second wife, Mabel: one of the best We will have been married 22 years soon.. I am a step Grandfather. Have now settled in Bath. (Address: 65, Arlington Road, Bath, Avon). I had lost all contact but must remedy that. I remember George Unitt and Mick Reid and P. Eastcott. Do you remember Pip Neil, also C. Moncur of NZ. Both were killed, I believe. Congratulations on that D.F.C. My best wishes to any 458er who might remember me. Wally.

+ + + + + (ED.No 65 was obscure in print)

Q.FLIGHT NEWS. from Jack Lewis.

Q.Flight sends congratulations to N.S.W. for a very fine, well planned, well organised and most enjoyable reunion. We all had a real Ball. This was particularly so on the Sunday night Welcome function. A highlight was the Squadron Dinner where we were honoured by the presence of Padre Fred McKay and his wife, Meg. Fred made the After-Dinner speech during which we were transported to the days of flies and heat of North Africa.

We were shocked and saddened by the tragic accident resulting in the death of Bill Hurford, returning home after the Reunion. Q.Flight's deepest sympathy to his family.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

The Melbourne Cup Sweep. Owing to the loss of our contact for the printing of our Sweep tickets, and of the high cost of printing elsewhere, Q.Flight has abandoned the running of the Cup Sweep.

Sick List. I have to advise that Clive Wyman is in the Canossa Hospital, Oxley. Clive is very ill and likely to remain at Canossa. Joan Wyman has also suffered a set back resulting in her being hospitalised. We wish you well, Joan, and trust you are on the road to recovery. We also wish Sel William's wife, Bobbie, well after her sojourn in hospital

Compliments of the season to all. Jack.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....from Ted Jewell.

Where do you start writing when you have no news to report? We will have our usual Xmas dinner at the Freeway Hotel, South Perth on Sunday 11th. December. We have been going there for several years; everyone is still in favour of the venue for our Get togethers, as the food is excellent.

I had a visit from Nobby Nobbs just recently; said he had been away for five months travelling around the country. We were to have gone out to lunch with Len Stewart, John Lilly, and Doug. Anderson several weeks ago, but it had to be cancelled for the time being. I hope we will all make it at a later date.

As this news will be the last for the year, I would like on behalf of W.A. Flight to wish all members a very merry Xmas and happy New Year. Ted.

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CROWEATERS COMMENTS

Congratulations to the NSW Flight for their grand efforts in Canberra.

SA News is scarce as hens teeth.

Does this old Christmas Card ring a bell? So, to all

readers from the whole of S.A. Flight---

SEASON'S GREETINGS

50 YEARS ON!.

Ted Creighton.

THE AUSTRALIAN EX-SERVICE SCENE.

Having some space for it---for once--seems perhaps interesting and possibly useful to talk about what Australia does for its Veterans and their widows. Perhaps for the information of readers outside Australia we might go back a bit to explain the system and that word "Repatriation".

The word goes back to W.W.I. when the relatively new Dominion of Australia (federated only 15 years before) was contemplating the task of bringing back to Australia tens of thousands of soldiers (and sailors) fighting for the Empire in Europe and the Middle East. Led by then Prime Minister Billy Hughes (welsh-speaking, deaf, irascible and popular) and one Senator Millen, a system of hospitalisation for disabled, return to home for all, retraining, job provision, and assisted housing was elaborately and certainly generous for those days was laboriously created. It was called repatriation and the term has lasted ever since. There was consensus among politicians that it had to be done: there still is consensus in the main. The money problem was faced. The motto was "Help the Man with the Medal".

Of course there were problems and controversies but by the coming of W.W.II, pensions were paid to the disabled, their widows helped, their housing needs given attention.

The Australian Ex-Service Scene (cont.)

Assistance had been extended to education of children and, in 1930 the ageing effect of war service was recognised by a s-called Burned-Out diggers pension--the Age Pension five years earlier (subject to Means tests). The formation of active Ex-Service Associations had greatly helped the process. The Returned Soldiers and Sailors League (still the largest body) occurred while the WWI was still on. The Australian Flying Corps Assoc., now the RAAF Association was founded in Melbourne in 1920.

There was therefore an established basis on which to build when WWII came. The system carried on with some improvements--e.g. a good Training programme for demobbed Veterans--the C.R.T.S. scheme (which Vietnam and later Veterans have not had).

There have arisen, for various reasons a large number of Ex-service bodies--about 30 active nationally. Apart from the RSL they are mostly working together in a peak Council known to Australians as AVADSC.

Now, as to the current situation. Over the years, Repat has been extensively reviewed and criticised--by Veterans as not being sufficiently helpfully administered by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and by the Treasury as being over-generous and expensive. There has been a "Reverse Onus of Proof" whereby the Authorities have had to prove that a claimant's disability was NOT due to his/her war service. Amendments to the legislation have required there to be a "reasonable hypothesis" that a particular form of disability was attributable to war service. Smoking, induced by wartime stresses became accepted as the cause of cancer and heart disease, rendering many widows eligible for generous benefits as "War Widows". Interpretation of the legislation by Australian Courts of Law has steadily widened eligibility. It became legally clear that a "Reasonable Hypothesis" could be established on the say-so of a single doctor--however way-out.

The Australian Auditor-General issued a hostile report to the effect that Repat had greatly exceeded reasonable limits. All this frightened the Finance Department and the Government set up a Review (the Baume Committee)--this being at least the fourth such review in recent decades. Baume reported advocating a considerable revision of the system. Professor Baume called it a fair deal. The ex-service movement saw it as quite unacceptable. It was reviewed by a Council of ex-service reps (MACOVI--the Ministerial Council on Veterans Issues) on which this writer sits, & following their (confidential) report to the Minister, the Government largely rejected the Baume Report.

Legislation was passed however requiring the causality of disabilities to meet Statements of (Medical) Principle currently being produced in considerable numbers by five eminent Professors. During debate in Parliament the ex-service movement obtained the creation of an Appeal mechanism against the Professors. (There has always been an elaborate, three-tier Appeal system to judge (matters of law and fact))

Our impression so far is that the Professors are playing fair (though we are rather swamped by the volume of their opinions).

Apart from these matters, we are strongly concerned by the needs arising for the WWII veterans and their wives, in their last years. We are pressing the Government on such matters as the adequacy of accommodation for Veterans with Alzheimers Disease. The Government is moving--but too slowly.

We are also strongly urging much better rehabilitation and retraining systems for younger veterans (the under 35s, say) who come out of Somalia, and the Gulf, etc, etc.--so that they are not turned into people paid a sum of money every fortnight to stay sick or disabled. Some, slow, progress there too. P.C.A.



ADDENDUM TO 458 SQUADRON NEWS, February, 1995.

458 SQUADRON - CANADIAN MEMBERS  
DECEMBER 1994

BAYNTON WILF 503 - 116 Blair St., North Bay, Ont.,  
PIA 4E6  
CATHER EWART 68 Glengrove Ave., West, Toronto, Ont.,  
M4R 1N7  
DONALDSON JIM 72 Amarynth Crescent, Winnipeg, Man.,  
R2Y 0C1  
DOIRIN LEONARD 29 Harbourview Drive, Charlottetown,  
P.E.I., C1A 7C9  
EASTCOTT PETER 531 Homewood Ave., Peterborough, Ont.,  
K9H 2N4  
EVANS CAM 2404 - 7th St., N.E., Calgary, Alta.  
T2E 4C9  
GRUENWALD BEN 4911 Collingwood St., Vancouver, B.C.  
V6N 1S7  
HENWOOD ERNIE 9 Hutton Ave., Toronto, Ont., M4C 3L2  
HOLTZMAN LORNE 634 Williams Crescent, Regina, Sask.,  
S4T 6B2  
HOOSIER GLEN 6603 - 92B Ave., Edmonton, Alta., T6B 0V6  
IRELAND ERNIE 312 - 6th Ave., South, Cranbrook, B.C.,  
V1C 2H8  
LAUGHLIN FRANK 3874 Gordon Head Road, Victoria, B.C.,  
V8P 4X2  
LINDSAY TOM 1456 Fulton Ave., West Vancouver, B.C.,  
V7T 1P1  
MACLEOD GEORGE RR #2, Scotsburn, Pictou County, N.S.,  
B0K 1R0  
MCLEOD JOCK 4251 Arthur Drive, Delta, B.C., V4K 2X1  
MARKLAND BERT Box 227, Christina Lake, B.C., V0H 1E0  
MARKOWSKY BILL 220 - 2509 Louise St., Saskatoon, Sask.,  
S7J 3L7

MATHEWS LEA 468 - 3rd St., Courtenay, B.C., V9N 1E5  
MAURO TONY RR #3, Oliver, B.C., V0H 1T0  
MUNRO BILL 1205 Runningbrook Drive, Mississauga,  
Ont., L4Y 2T5  
QUINLAN BRYAN 1460 Haywood Ave., West Vancouver, B.C.,  
V7T 1V6  
REID MICKEY 1539 Glenwatson Drive, Mississauga, Ont.,  
L5E 2W1  
REYNOLDS JOHN 9294 Goldhurst Terrace, Burnaby, B.C.,  
V5A 4P3  
RATHBONE JOHN 1808 - 2330 Bridletowne Circle,  
Scarborough, Ont., M1W 3P6  
RUGGLES ALAN 29 - 10 Tangreen Court, Willowdale, Ont.,  
M2M 4B9  
SHANNON BOB RR #1, Oliver, B.C., V0H 1T0  
SLADEN DICK 2 Coronation Crescent, Coburg, Ont.,  
K9A 1T4  
WINCHESTER SID \* 802 Drew Road, Parksville, B.C., V9P 1X2

UNKNOWN ADDRESSES: LOVLACE James +  
HEMMINGWAY P  
LANDRY Jerry  
MULDOON Ray  
OUGH Gordon (Deceased)  
WINTERS E

PLEASE ADVISE ANY CHANGES, CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS, ETC., TO  
BRYAN QUINLAN OR JIM DONALDSON. \* DENOTES REVISION TO LIST  
+ GEORGE MACLEOD ADVISES THAT JIM IS ALIVE AND WELL AND  
STILL WRITING TO/IN THE HALIFAX HERALD, HOWEVER, NEWSLETTERS  
SENT TO HIS OLD ADDRESS ARE RETURNED "ADDRESS UNKNOWN".

SADLY, GEORGE POWELL AND LAWRENCE GLENN HAVE BEEN REMOVED  
FROM THE LIST, BOTH DECEASED IN 1994.

TO END ON A POSITIVE NOTE - WE WELCOME SID WINCHESTER TO OUR  
RANKS.