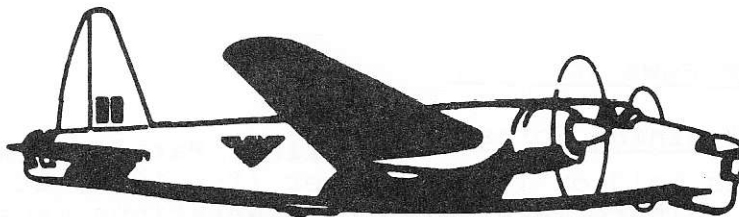


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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

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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 (SA)
 Squadron Secretary Graeme Coombes (ACT); Jim Palmer (W.A.)
 Hon. Squadron Auditor Frank Ward (NSW) U.K. Peter Leonard (Wales)
 Canada Jim Donaldson (Manit.)
 New Zealand Ivan Green.

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ARE YOU FINANCIAL?

Squadron Conference, meeting in Canberra during the recent All--States Reunion looked at the finances of the Squadron News-- a matter worrying the State Flights.

The purpose of the Squadron News is not to make money but to keep 458ers in touch. But it does cost money.

So, we are asking all readers to make sure they are financial to their State Flights, which finance the Squadron News.

Therefore, we have put a RED DOT on the News of members who do not appear to have paid their Flight.

If you have a RED DOT--no offence intended--please send your sub to your Flight. A Form is enclosed. Thank you!

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VICTORIAN NEWS.

from Rupert Pearce.

Narrandera. The Flight did not receive any advice from our members regarding service at 8 E.F.T.S., so we could not further Sgt. A.L. Cox's family inquiry.

Victorian News (cont.).

The Air Training Corps. The final Parade of No.2 (City of Preston) Flight, was held on 16th. December (for 1994) at the Simpson Barracks Macleod. There were seven presentations made to the cadets. The 458 Squadron award was presented by Flight President Mick Singe to the Most Outstanding Cadet, Kesten Green.

Christmas Parcel to Mrs. Mona Matthews, Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

Our President, Mick received a Christmas Card and letter thanking 458 Squadron for the hamper. She sends "her best wishes and hope you and your families have a happy and healthy year for 1995."

R.A.A.F. Pilgrimage to Point Cook.

The Flight Secretary accepted an invitation to attend the Memorial Service at the R.A.A.F. Chapel, Pt. Cook to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Armistice of the Great War.

The R.A.A.F. Association.

Victorian members are reminded that this Flight is an affiliated member. The premises at 4, Cromwell Road, South Yarra are being upgraded and throughout 1995 the RAAFA will participate in the "Australia Remembers" campaign by holding a luncheon on the first Monday of each month. Telephone (03) 826 8573 for more information.

Disbandment of No.1 Aircraft Depot, Laverton.

The Disbandment Parade and Laying up of the Queen's Colours and an Open Day was held on November 25th/26th. Five of our members who had served at Laverton attended the Open Day.

Personal Pars. We were pleased to receive a letter from George Reid of South Mission Beach, Queensland, asking for the address of his old mate Gordon Nash. John Morris is still on the Sick List at home. He is in our thoughts.

Social Events. On the 14th December we again had a very pleasant lunch at the Officers Mess, South Melbourne. 21 members attended and we had 11 apologies.

We remind members of our BBQ lunch on 26th March at the home of Jack and Margaret Ellis, 5, Heales Rd., Dromana. It is a bring your own food and drink. All welcome.

Reunion in Victoria. This has been brought forward to be part of "Australia Remembers". We have been conscious of the price of accomodation and the need to have everyone under the one roof. The venue will be the Novotel Bayside, the Esplanade, St/Kilda---the dates being 19th/25th November 1995. We expect the cost of a standard room per night including breakfast will be \$100-00. Free Parking. The Reunion is still in the early planning stages and we expect full details will be given in the May News.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS. from Jack Lewis.

We have been inactive since the last Squadron News, however I have had correspondence from the following members:

Erle Hetherington and Cliff Mannion. All is well with both. Eric Lloyd writes of a one-armed airman who threw 26 consecutive heads in a two up game on board ship on the way home. Can anyone remember the incident. Eric had a week in hospital with a bad virus, but after many tests he is home and feeling OK.

Eric Bird has vertigo and back problems---this news from his wife. We sympathise with you, Eric.

Bob Helyar Feeling great after last year's heart attack.

Jack Hobbs at Burrum Heads, fishing when weather permits, and keeping supply just ahead of demand. Had a trip north last year: highlight was to take the LAST GREAT TRAIN RIDE to Forsyth in the Gulf Country--a delightful trip. Its a great shame the line is to close down.

Q.Flight News (cont.) Ian Higlett Off on the QE II for a 24 night cruise. Calling at Guam, Kobe (what's left), Nagasake, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Manilla, Bangkok, Singapore and then home by air; Bert and Isla Garland are off aboard the Island Princess, cruising the Pacific, Port Moresby, Bali, Bangkok, Singapore and other ports. Nice life if you can get it!

Keith Austin and Peter Bailie--all well. Dudley McKay He and Enid off to Norfolk Island for a month. Good fishing, Dud.

Theo Ravenscroft Doing well. Still President of Longreach R.S.L. His baby---the R.S.L. Retirement Units are going very well. Dulcie is still having leg problems; Judge Bernie McLoughlin has been in hospital for a minor disability but fortunately no trouble, back to normal now. Bernie Hughes is well but as he says, age is catching up; He will be 81 in March.

They all send best wishes to everyone. Thanks, fellows, for the information. Much appreciated.

The Sick List. Joan Wyman has had open heart surgery a fortnight ago this day (6/2/95). Still in intensive care and very ill. We think of you Joan. Hilda Wilks was cleaning the yard after a bad storm when, being assisted to get tree branches removed, one such branch fell on her. Hilda fell to the ground, very bruised to head, eyes and neck, nearly losing her right ear. How accidents can happen!

Don Brandon spent some time in hospital: home now, still under medication and responding.

Later News. We are sorry indeed to report the recent passing of two 458 members. George Reid of Mission Beach & Chester Jones. Chester, who lived alone was found dead in bed. We have no further information but send 458's sympathies to those left behind.

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CROWEATERS COMMENTS. from Ted.Creighton.

Pre-Christmas and Annual General Meeting.

This received a turnout of about 30% of our membership list. Current office-holders were re-elected and, apart from a suggested annual organised luncheon, just about everything else is "status quo". The S.A. Flight's Squadron banner has been insured and is on offer of loan to the Vic. Flight for the period of the next All-States Reunion.

Christmas greetings were received from Squadron President Mick Singe.

Daw Park R.G.H. will become part of the SA public health system on March 9th along with the introduction of the Repatriation Private Patient Scheme in SA.

Dawn McGlasson, after reading the last News came up with another quirk to the issue of the Malta Medal. Whilst recognising it as a commemorative medal struck 50 years on, it does seem passing strange that you still had to be in the land of the living to qualify. It was not available to widows to add to the campaign medals of their late husbands.

Congratulations to Mark Ravenscroft, grandson of Bert. Mark has won selection to contest Junior County Cricket in the UK.

Sincere condolences to Kevin Tait in the tragic loss of a granddaughter, killed in a cliff face fall south of Adelaide.

Anzac Day: Be prepared for an 8.45 am Service at the Adelaide Airport and, after the MARCH gather for a drink at the Talbot--- during which the Flight's continued use of this Pub will be reassessed. Undoubtedly, an unorganised lunch will be organised somewhere for those who wish it part of the day's outing.

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SANDGROPEERS SAY..... from Ted Jewell.

The Pre-Christmas Get-together at the Freeway Motel, South Perth was a huge success; about 50 attended the Sunday lunch. As always the food was excellent; it was good to see so many old Squadron members turn up. We invited Bunny Williams' son Terry, and brother Gordon, with their wives to come along and meet the Squadron members, and they were

Sandgropers Say (cont.) pleased to hear talk about old times on the Squadron. It was good to see Ray Turley bring Marg. along after her illness.

In the New Year. Our first function for the year was a BBQ at my home in Mandurah last weekend--5th February;the attendance was a bit disappointing as only 18 people were here--but all had an enjoyable time, the weather was great. Squadron members present were Bill Clues, Ted.Jewell,Ron.Gannaway,Ray Turley,John Lilly,Nobby Nobbs with their wives. Others were some associate members and friends.

We have a Sunday lunch on the 2nd.April at Brian and Margaret Hicks' home,so we hope for a good roll-up. It is lucky we have good associate members who come along to all our functions,as our Squadron members are starting to thin out.

Anzac Day will be as usual with our Flight President,Bill Clues, laying a wreath at the Dawn Service in Kings Park;after,with the March and Service in Perth. After the Service we will all go back to the Hyde Park Hotel for lunch and maybe a few beers.

Personal Items. Last year,Charlie Davis had a spell in hospital;he had several heart attacks,but is up and around again. Ron.Gannaway told me that Alice is now in a Nursing Home,as it was too great a strain looking after her at home. Ron says she has settled in very well and enjoys where she is.

Curly O'Connor's brother drove Curly down to my place in Mandurah just beforeXmas;we had a beer or two and talked about old times as we joined up together--but he is not the Curly of old as most will remember him.

I must remind W.A.Flight members that 1995 subs are now due:\$10-00 to cover the cost of the Squadron News,etc. Money can be sent to me.

Regards,Ted.

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CORRESPONDENCE:Letters to the Editor and Others.

From Frank Garvin,Corry,Belleek,Enniskillen,Co.Fermanagh.Nth.Ireland.

Dear Sqdn Secretary,

I was perusing my copy of "Air Mail" to-day and was reminded that we are approaching the 50th Anniversary of the end of the war,which prompted me to reflect on that occasion. I was with the Squadron when it was disbanded at Gibraltar.

I was an electrician and joined the Squadron at Naples on the way to Foggia where it remained,I think,until January,1945 and then moved to Gib. Fellow elect ricians were Ken Morecombe,F/S I.C., George Atkin (RAF),Hank Ewens,Roy Latt,R.Hooke,Bruce McDonald, and there were. L.Piggott ,J.Gardner and C.D.Singe. These are all the names I can think of which,I suppose,is not bad after 50 years.

I am sure that after this long period quite a few of the ex-members of the Sqdn have passed on. When the Sqdn was disbanded the RAF members were posted to various units;I wasposted to Algiers,Maison Blanche Airport where I remained until June 1946;from there back to Italy to 112 Sqdn;then to Luqa on Malta and thence to Bishops court, N.Ireland where I was demobbed in May 1947.

After leaving the RAF I joined H.M.Customs and Excise Service and retired 8 years ago having reached the rank of Senior Executive Officer.

Well I will conclude,hoping the Sqdn has not become too decimated. yours sincerely, Frank Garvin.

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From Mick Reid ,1539 Glenwatson Drive,Mississauga,Ontario to Col.Fereday.

Dear Conscientious,Thoughtful reliable old Cobber, (in Part only)

Indeed,it is so,you are all of the above and more. Thank you for your two most recent,gener ous letters---Don Elliott and his Bomber Harris Trust Board will be pleased to learn of your support. Don is optimistic that we will win our appeal. Since the preliminary

Correspondence (cont.) court hearing both the Chairman and the President of the CBC have resigned. (Mick and his lady visited (Majorca and France, with a high point being Normandy. They then crossed the Channel to be met by Norman Duke at Dover) "That was just the start of a joyous five days in Dukedom with Norm and Joyce guiding us to historic sights in Surrey and Sussex. Norm who had attended a culinary school for years had prepared, with Joyce's super supervision, a grand feast for our lunch gathering with his three daughters, spouses and grandchildren.....

The highlight of our outings was Brooklands and all it represents of British auto racing and aircraft development. Naturally, we think its greatest laurel to be the restoration of the Loch Ness Wimp "R" for Robert. Norm has laboured as a volunteer each Wednesday since the Wimp was raised. A labor of love, but such dedication. (Mick enclosed some photostats of their time with the Dukes and also of the Loch Ness Wimpy) Trusting you (Col) are loading up on vitamins, garlic, onions and ginger --am convinced you'll have your old "ginger" back....As ever Cobber Reid.

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From Bryan Quinlan, 1460, Haywood Avenue, West Vancouver, V7T 1V6, Canada.

Dear Peter, Just a few lines to extend belated Season's greetings. Also enclosing a bank draft from Ernie Ireland, Cranbrook, BC...Ernie had a tough year: car stolen and wrecked, prostate operation, and the loss of his wife in October while he himself was in the hospital.

Sad to report that besides losing George Powell early in 1994, Lawrence Glenn died recently in Abbotsford, a major community close to Vancouver.

Thank you for including Wally Beer's letter in the Nov. News I sent him a copy. His wife has recently had a second heart attack but seemed to be in good spirits when I phoned them before Xmas.

Still hope to visit your wonderful country before too long but no definite plans as yet. Cheers Bryan.

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CANUCK CAUCUS. From Jim Donaldson.

Squadron news is as scarce as a hen's teeth. I hear from Mick Reid and Bryan Quinlan occasionally: they, on the whole are a lot more active and are in contact with more of their old mates than I do. I flew with three squadrons while overseas and have only met up with one person I actually flew with, which was our old mate Joe Elliot when he attended the aircrew reunion.

I attended the Annual Meeting of Wartime Pilots and Observers Association on the 19th. 167 sat down to dinner, the food is good, the company excellent and as usual the names of those who have gone were read out. The list was much longer this time, which at our age is to be expected. I guess it is about that time in our lives that, if we have people to thank for what they have done or been in our lives, there is no time like the present.

So I, and I am sure, all your Canadian mates, would want to thank you for the time we spent with you on 458 Squadron. To all of you we call friends and who in one way or another have made our lives both richer and more enjoyable, for having known you in a common cause, we would like to thank you for what you are and what you meant to us. When you lift the next one, let it be to the Squadron and to those who served on it. God Bless: Jim Donaldson.

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AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS.

1995 being the year 50 after the end of WWII, the Australian Government, through the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, is conducting a major celebration and commemoration around Australia. We serve on various Committees. The programme covers many pages of events. Space now restricts us to naming a few of the RAAF events. More details from D.V.A. offices in each State.

- a) RAAF EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA. Formal Dinner at Canberra Convention Centre June 10th.
- b) RAAF PACIFIC & AUSTRALIA Formal Dinner (same venue) August 26th. There are other State-wise events.

THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION. from Jock McGowen.

Firstly, our sincere condolences to Graeme Coombes and family for the loss of his dear wife, Dulcie, shortly after the Canberra Reunion.

Eric and Dorothy Munkman have moved into a retirement village. Their new address and phone number are:

R.S.L. Veterans Retirement Village
722 Lantana Lodge
Lantana Avenue
Collaroy Plateau, N.S.W. 2097 (Tel: (02) 972 0641)

Anzac Day will be held as usual at the Criterion Hotel, cnr of Pitt and Park Streets--downstairs in the Cellar Bar--close to the end of the March and only a block away from Town Hall Station. This year we shall have two important offices to fill--Secretary and Treasurer. Although I will be giving up the Secretary's job, I shall still be Flight correspondent. We need some new blood also for the Committee--so how about it, you guys.

The Assembly Point for the March is, as before, in Elizabeth Street from King Street back to Market Street. Banners on site by 9.30 a.m.

The E.F.T.S. Memorial Display, Narrandera.

Anne and I will be taking the 87 model aircraft down the first week in April and they will be on view for Anzac Day. The transport of the models is giving us a headache but I hope we have solved it. Don't forget the final dedication will be on 26/27th May and there will be a Dinner at the local RSL Club on Saturday night, costing \$15-00 per head. Accommodation is now very tight so swift action is required. So far we have, from 458, Noel Walter, Tom Moore, Eric Munkman, Don Bitmead, Dusty Miller with wives and Col Ferday from Canberra and, of course, Anne and myself.

Remembering Clarrie Hankel. We have had the pleasure of a visit from two of Clarrie Hankel's sons. They visited Reg. Hansell and met other 458ers to discuss Clarrie's Squadron years and give us news of his post-war life. They hope to attend a Squadron Reunion: sons of old mates are always welcome, we look to them to keep the 458 flag flying for a few more years to come. One of them lives near Arthur Lehdey and we remind Arthur that it isn't too far to Narrandera--how about it!

Australia Remembers, Some N.S.W. functions are (the total runs to 23 close-typed pages): May 7th. St. Andrews Cathedral 1030 .

May 8th VE Day Service and following events at the Opera House (Details 213 7866)

June 24th Opening of RAAF Museum, Wagga Wagga
March 31st RAAFA Dinner at Parliament House (267-2722)
May 8th RAAFA VE Day lunch Parliament House ((267-2722)
June 12th Randwick Raceday-RAAFA (267-2722)
September 26th RAAF Concert at Opera House (267-2722)

Australia Remembers is to do two things--let those involved remember and rejoice. To make sure present-day Australia knows what it was about--including the immigrant communities and their children.

The next RAAFA Assembly . Will be at Bardwell Park on 17/18 June.

Other Items. Firstly, the passing of Charles Catt of Port Macquarie. After further service with 460 Sqdn, Charles worked with Qantas.

My personal thanks to the Committee and members who have helped me as Secretary and Stan Longhurst as Treasurer over the years.

Peter Alexander advises that, like Sam Barlow but not as severely, he is having an attack of shingles. Not to be recommended. Peter has now been reappointed for another year to the Ministers Advisory Council on Veterans Issues (MACOVI), being one of ten ex-service nominees; there are reps of RSL (its National President), Legacy, the War Widows Guild, Naval Association, the Regulars, ex-Servicewomen, T.P.I., Viet Vets and Korean Servicemen.

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Queenslanders. Seek support for the Brisbane RAAF Memorial in Queens Park. Contact Jack Lewis .