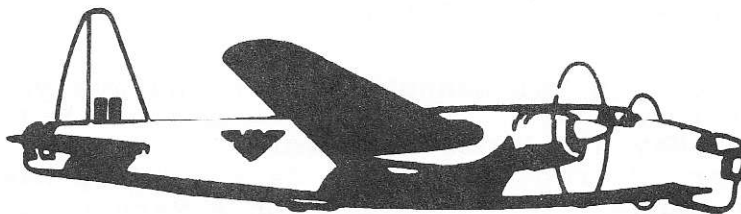


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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4 5 8 S Q U A D R O N C O U N C I L

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BIG ATTENDANCE FOR THE ALL-STATES REUNION THIS MONTH.

The Victorian Flight News from Rupert Pearce.

The numbers have continued to climb. The second list of those coming or apologising is as below. Some are coming only for the Sunday Reception or the Squadron Dinner on the Friday evening. We expect 140 to attend the Reception and the Dinner; 110 to attend the Monday events; 95 to attend the Tuesday tour; 105 to attend the Wednesday tour; 95 to attend the Thursday events. But we shall have to cancel bowls and golf as only 6 indicated for bowls and none for golf.

Here follows the second list: Bill and Mavis Addinall

Syd and Pat Bartram	Shorty and Thora Bradshaw	George Brain with
Kerry Graham	Ken and June Brown	Morrie & Marie Campbell
Graeme Coombes	Neil & June Dean	Harry and Pat Dorge
John & Moya Dunn	Arch and Glad Fell	Colin Fereday
Massa & June Foote	Bert & Isla Garland	Ian & Beryl Giles
Jack & Elsie Hamilton	Ken & Joanne Hinton	Peg. Holliday

Victorian Flight News (cont.)

Helen Laming with Val Bennett	Jack and Evelyn Lewis	Eric Lyndon
Eric and Bridie Lloyd	Bob and Pat Millar	Beatrice Morkham
Brian, Libby, May and Nigel Paroissien		June Schoppe
Roy & Barbara Pearce	Jack & Betty Ramsay	Lock Simpson
Mel & Ruth Senn	Ron & Mary Verity	Christine Smith
David & Judy Westgarth	Harry & Nell Ashworth	Bill Fordyce
Reg & Grace Hansell	Doug & Betty Holland	
Yank and Kath Martin	Don & Taffy Strong	
Vin and Mavis Clohesy		

Apologies. Stan Longhurst--Forbes Paulet---Wal Simpkins (now in Q'Lnd)
Gordon Nash---Neil McPhee.

Personal Events. The usual parcel has been sent to Mrs. Mona Mathews at Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

VALE We are saddened to tell of the death of Jim Irwin at Caritas Christi Hospice on October 15th. Jim served with 454 and 458 Sqdns as an Instrument Fitter. We have sent our sympathy to his wife, Doreen and their children, Beverley and Chris.

Future Event. Harry and Nell Ashworth have offered their home at 13, Harbison Drive, Dromana for a bring your own everything on Sunday March 24th 1996. Time Midday.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN. from Norman Duke.

A small party held at Brooklands Museum on October 9th celebrated ten years of "blood, toil and sweat" since Wellington R for Robert was saved from Loch Ness--and commemorated the reconstruction (or as much as can be achieved). Peter Leonard is bringing Squadron Council a colour photograph. Sir George Edwards, who worked for Sir Barnes Wallis in designing the airplane in the 30s, thanked all the 'surviving' volunteers or at least those still mobile. About 80 old sweats turned up, plus wives and partners--a big family party. I have been given (?) the job, with A.N. Other, of covering some fuselage with linen and dope, so we can display the aircraft number and RAF roundels. Then I guess I'll be redundant.

Joyce and I lunched with Leon Armstrong and Doreen at a favourite watering hole---the White Horse in Westerham, Kent. This is half-way between us. Leon is wrestling with a PC which he has inherited. He reckons flying a Wimpy was easier. Doreen is to have a hip replacement ---we wish her well with a rapid and complete recovery.

I have fortunately made contact with an old Malta and Protville hand after 52 years--Duggie Douglas a Flight Commander at Protville. Shot down off the Italian Coast and POW in Stalagluft 3, he was attending the VJ Parade in Cardiff when Harry Filley also on parade heard him mention 458. Duggie has had no contact with the Squadron since the war and I hope we shall be able to get together. He tells me he was on the list for the Great Escape but his name did not come out of the hat. Maybe that saved his life. He was one of the "quartermasters" and responsible for bribing the guards---among other things.

While compiling the UK Flight Nominal Roll many interesting items have come to light. Charles Humbles recalls that when posted to Holme-on-Spalding as an IAC Flight Mechanic he was allotted to W/C Mulholland's aircraft and also ran and tested S/Ldr Johnston's. Due to the cold that winter, starting and running the Pratt and Whitney engines was very difficult. He says --"to shew my confidence in "the aircraft I flew a number of night flying tests with them and "with Keith Moore, John McKellar and Keith Campbell. Later Shorty "Wilson and M. White arrived and joined the crew. We worked very hard "in very cold conditions and maintained 100% serviceability."

We send Greetings to one and all from UK Flight for Xmas and for a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Norm.

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

This is one of the times when there is very little news from W.A.Flight. We have been asked by the R.S.L. to participate in a flag and banner parade on the 11th.November at the Perth Entertainment Centre. Only flag-bearers will march,but after there will be a band concert for the public during the night.

In December we will have our usual Xmas luncheon at the Freeway Motel, South Perth. It is always a very popular get-together with a good roll-up.

Wishing all Squadron members a merry Xmas and Happy New Year from W.A. Flight. Ted Jewell.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS. from Jack Lewis.

On the news front,very quiet. There will be a very good attendance from Q'ld at the Reunion in Melbourne in November. We will look forward to a great week.

Hilda Wilks has suffered a lot of stress and strain these past months; we wish to convey that we are thinking of her. Hilda now has Frank in a permanent care home. She wishes to send her regards to all at the coming reunion. Good health to all---Jack Lewis.

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CROWEATERS CHINWAG. from Ted Creighton.

Following the Feathers luncheon and with the approach of the All States Reunion,Flight activities have been in recess. Our AGM and pre-Christmas get-together is scheduled after the deadline for this issue,so there is little Flight news to report.

Have had a request from an SA navy bloke,Jerry Boettcher asking for news of a 458 Queenslander Max Johnson. Can anyone help me to bring him up to date?

Have contacted a few blokes that have been on the Sick List:am happy to report that they all seem able to raise a grin. Fin Mitchell and Peter Thom after their hospital visits are moving along steadily. Ian Sorell after a bit of a set-back seems to have settled well out at the War Vets Home,and his biggest worry probably is whether or not the Sturt Football Club will remain an entity in the SANFL.

The Flight extends to 458ers everywhere our very warm and sincere SEASONAL GREETINGS.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION.from Jock McGowen.

Not a lot of news for this issue,but I guess there will still be plenty to talk about in Victoria,and from what we hear the numbers are growing well and it certainly looks like being a good event for all the usual reunion activities,drinking-talking-drinking-talking and so on.

Noel Walter has received a couple of letters from various Squadron personalities and I will give details as follows:
Firstly,a letter from Vin Clohesy;he seems to be doing more travelling than he ever did on the Squadron and reports he will be in Hamilton, Victoriafor his 80th birthday--Happy Birthday,Vin, from us all. Vin. met up with Theo Ravenscroft in Longreach,Queensland. Theo says he does not expect to make the reunion. But Vin says he will. Great! The next note was from Tom Ridgeway,who had four bi-passes in May. He is now making a good recovery. Tom is now a bright 77 year old and looks forward to a great Christmas.

A letter from Gerry Cull who was made a member of our 458 branch of the RAAF Association. He had found himself without a Unit and requested permission to join up with 458. This was agreed at a Committee meeting. Welcome to 458,Gerry.

A letter from Ted Creighton regarding Peter Thom. Peter is O.K.and

The Cornstalk Communication (cont.) sends his best wishes to the boys: Ted also mentioned Bill Taylor who is reaching his mid eighties and according to Ted retains a good sense of humour. Best wishes, Bill, from all of us.

Eric Munkman and Noel Walter on behalf of 458 laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on 15th September for the Battle of Britain memories. On Sunday 17th both Eric and Noel attended the Battle of Britain Church Service at St. Stephens Uniting Church.

Eric Munkman received a 'phone call the other day from one of the other members of the U.K. pilgrimage for the 50th Anniversary--from Lindsay Broom. Lindsay gave a talk at the Port Pirie branch of the RAAF Association on that pilgrimage to UK, France, the Middle East, etc. After the talk Lindsay was approached by a chap who said he left Australia with Eric in 1941 and returned with him in 1945---none other than Junior Davies of the 458 Transport Section. Great to hear of you, Junior. You have been missing for years now: we will have to remedy that.

We hear Bill Fiddes has had a gallstones operation, but is doing well and still hopes to make Melbourne.

NSW Flight held another TAFE lunch on November 3rd--with 31 in attendance. As always a good 458 occasion. The Beef Wellington turned out to be Beef Lamb. A tribute to Ernie Laming???

Hope to see a lot of you in Melbourne. Safe travelling and somebody has to win the Cup Sweep! Again, good luck! Jock.

N.S.W. Cup results: 1st - Stan Longhurst, 2nd - Bill Hull, 3rd - Sam Barlow

THE LATEST ON THE REPATRIATION SCENE.

Australia's Repatriation law--of great continuing importance to her ex-servicemen and women, and their widows, continues to be scrutinised and subjected to possible changes--few of which seem intended to help.

However, some at least are intended to help. After considerable pushing by ourselves, the Department has recognised the urgent need of adequate facilities for the chronically sick Aged Veteran--particularly those with Senile Dementia (Alzheimers). An elaborate glossy-covered plan was published recently with acknowledgements of the needs and provision of finance. We still look for some more "nuts and bolts" to fulfill the words. We also press on quite another area for improved Rehabilitation for the younger veterans of the Gulf, Rwanda, etc--so that they get not only medical rehab but job retraining and job search help. So that they are not turned into people paid some money each fortnight to stay disabled--as has tended to happen in recent times. There more, much more, remains to be done. Incidentally we are told on high authority that of the (small number of) Australians in Rwanda, over 40% are diagnosed as having PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder).

The first appeal against a Statement of Principle by the Repatriation Medical Authority is to be heard next week. Peter Alexander is presenting to SMERK (the Specialist Medical Review Tribunal) the case for recognising wartime smoking as a cause for Prostate cancer.

The Administrative Review Council has looked at various Merit Review Tribunals (including the Veterans Review Board). It is recommending to the Government among other things a) that the VRB be taken up by (in effect) the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (yes, there are lots of Tribunals!) and b) that lawyers be permitted to appear in all Tribunals. The ex-service community (AVADSC) will need to look sharply at all this.

Now the Australia Remembers year is concluding, we are asking the Government to issue a formal Statement setting out Australia's Commitment to those who served it at war, and their widows.