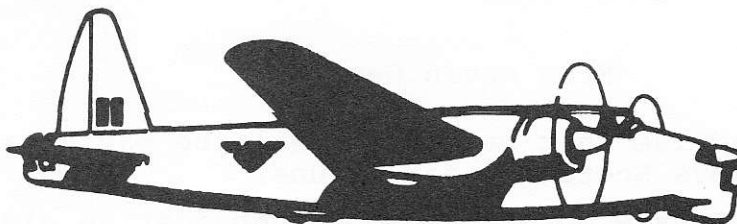


# 458

## SQUADRON NEWS



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, G.P.O.Box 5289, SYDNEY, NSW, 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 .

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		Canada Jim Donaldson (Man:)
		New Zealand Ivan Green

Editor: Peter Alexander  
Publisher: Eric Munkman

#### Flight Correspondents.

Sth.Australia	Ted Creighton, 33, Farr Terrace, Glenelg East, 5045, S.A.
Victoria	Rupert Pearce, 46, Mt. Pleasant Road, Nunawading, 3131, Vic.
U.K.	Norman Duke, Orchard Cottage, Guildford Rd., Cranleigh, U.K.
N.S.W.	Jock McGowen, 119, Patrick Street, Hurstville, 2220, NSW
Queensland	Jack Lewis, 5, Cupania Rd., Victoria Point, 4165, Q.
W.A.	Ted Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210, W.A.,
N.Z.	Kevin George, 20 Kowhai Avenue, Kaikohe, New Zealand
Canada	Jim Donaldson, 72, Amarynth Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R2Y, Canada

#### THE NEXT ALL-STATES REUNION OF 458 SQUADRON WILL BE AT.....

After some controversy and a postal ballot among Flights, this has now been decided! Flights were divided in their preferences between Hobart, Fiji, Queensland, W.A.. Finally, N.S.W. Flight has offered to organise the Reunion in March, 1997 at GRIFFITH in the country, fruit-growing areas of that State and the Squadron President, Bert Ravenscroft on behalf of the Squadron Council has enthusiastically approved. Further details of this interesting program are contained in and with this issue of the NEWS. But---see you there!

# # # # #

VALE! We advise with sorrow the passing of Stan Longhurst. Stan, a long-term and well known wartime 458er was also a most loyal post-war member. After many years as NSW Treasurer he rose to be the 24th Squadron President of the Squadron Council in 1993-4. Many members attended his Memorial Service. Our sympathy to Jean and the Family!.

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KIWI CALL.

From Kevin George.

I have to advise that Dawn and I will be paying a visit to George and Zena McLeod in Nova Scotia in early June.

George and I have more in common than just an old Squadron association. Our forefathers were part of the migration of Scottish Highlanders to Canada and the U.S.A. following the notorious Highland Clearances of the late 18th and the 19th centuries. My great grandfather, named McLeod but not related to George (as far as we know) was born near where George lives, as was his wife, a McLean. They both migrated to New Zealand as children, being part of another migration, involving nearly 1,000 souls, on six home built ships in the 1850-60s. Although I spent six months in Canada in 1942 (GR School at Charlottetown, and Hudson OTU at Debest) I neglected to visit my ancestral connections, but took my leaves in New York instead (Shame!). I now intend to make amends.

I have also been in contact with Bryan Quinlan and Bucky Cather. Bryan is proposing a mini-reunion while Colin Fereday, Dawn and I are with them in Vancouver in mid June. Bucky and Victor (Bill) Munro have offered to take Dawn and me on a trip from Toronto to Niagara Falls; however we would not wish to impose on them to that extent, but are suggesting a "mini-reunion" involving also the other local 458ers--Alan Ruggles and Micky Reid. Alan Ruggles was Ron Verity's Navigator and Victor Munro was one of Ron's WOP/AGs.

All of these connections are attributable to our admirable Squadron Association and its newsletters--long may they last! I will duly report on our Canadian and Hawaiian adventures. We have a daughter who is a long-term resident of Hawaii.

Kind regards, Kevin George.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Norman Duke.

Response to our reunion plans for Stratford-on-Avon on September 15th/16th is very encouraging so far, and the following members expect/hope to attend: David and Rose Davies, Jim and Mrs. Croft, Ken and Kathleen Morris, Harry and Nance Filley, Hal Lee, Jack and Mrs. Baker, Peter and Eileen Leonard, Bert and Nell Sleight, Norman and Mrs. Gilbert, Reg and Betty Windett, Leon and Doreen Armstrong, Stewart and June Kent, Norman and Joyce Duke.

Our best turn-out yet, and still room for more.

Following an Ad. in Airmail, the RAFA Magazine, we have received 5 replies to date from possible new members, and, maybe, reunion candidates. Advertising does pay! They are: Peter Cochrane (2nd pilot to "Tiny" Woodcock); Bill Eden (Ken Cupper's crew); Jim Peters (Radar Mech-Air) Frank Garvin (Electrician) and David Duff (Telephonist). It's grand to know there are still a few left "out there".

At Holme-on Spalding Moor.

A Service of thanksgiving was held at the Parish Church at Holme-on-Spalding Moor on April 21st in recognition of Anzac Day, and thanks to the co-operation of Frank Robertson, the Vicar - David Cook - commemorated the service and sacrifice of 458. The U.K. Flight arranged for flowers to decorate the Squadron memorial and banner in the church, and for a poppy wreath to be laid on the 458 Memorial stone at the old airfield by Jock Pattison, a former Squadron armourer.

Mick Mason. We have been out of touch with Mick Mason, the UK Flight Chairman for many years, but Leon Armstrong has finally made contact with his daughter, Doreen by telephone. Mick is older than most of us old codgers--late 80s at least, and now very frail and withdrawn. One of life's survivors, and we send him our memories of good fellowship, and good wishes to himself and his daughter.

Col Fereday. Col's visit is now imminent. More news later.

Personal. Joyce and I have just returned from a few days Spring R & R trip, and an experience anticipated for many years. A magical

The British Bulletin (conc'd) visit to Venice. Forget Disneyland, this is really out of this world, and for us unforgettable, living history. Kindest regards, Norman.

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CROWEATERS CHINWAG from Ted.Creighton.

Next Reunion not for S.A. Enthusiasm to become the host State dissipated once it became obvious Conference would not accept our submission for a 3-day event. Consequently, at our meeting on February 25th there was an overwhelming vote to withdraw our offer and leave it to Council to make its own arrangements.

S.A.Flight President Steps down. John Carey has relinquished the office of S.A.President. Following on from the late Jack Riseley he has led the Flight with distinction. He deserves our commendation for his untiring efforts at both State and Federal level. John, the Flight will miss your guiding hand, and to you and Pat we extend our sincere thanks. Take care, best wishes and here's to you from all of us!

And Still it rains on Anzac Day. Being first cab off the rank for the WWII section of the Anzac March brought with it no favours, Whilst 458 mustered close to its usual numbers, there was an unusually small attendance at the decidedly cool and damp 7.30 a.m. start to the Airport Memorial Service. Only damp at the Airport, the 9.30 kick-off to the March really brought down the rain. The Flight was distinctly soggy by the time the saluting base was reached. Surprisingly, our usual tongue-in-cheek estimate of 20-24 starters was for once pretty close to the mark. There was a breath of new life into our numbers from Steven, son of Col. Bowley; Nathan Price, grandson of Ned Kelly; Rick, son of Colin Michell; and Glen, nephew of Wal. Forgan, who was an early casualty of 458 in a raid on Cherbourg, out of HOSM. These four also joined us at the Talbot, where a happy gathering, including ladies, made a luncheon table of 16. Thanks, Fellows--a bit of young blood renewing the footsteps of those gone before is just what the Flight needs.

Sick Parade. Missing on Anzac Day, both confined to barracks on MO's orders were John Carey and Peter Thom. John has had a rough trot over the past few months and Peter has had an operation to his back. Confident of bouncing back, Peter has paid his current golf club fees before the op.

Reminder. Monday JULY 29th., for the Annual Lunch at the Feathers. Don't miss it! The last one was a great show. It may be an opportune time to instal ourselves a President. We may even find a new Secretary/Flight Correspondent. In the meantime Ted has endorsed his resignation "to become effective when a replacement "is forthcoming". We will need to know the final numbers for the lunch by JULY 14th. Please ring Bert Ravenscroft 356 9442 or Ted 295 1626 before then with your RSVP plus any office-bearer nominations you may have.

Anzac Day was also subs day. If you weren't around to hand Bert \$10, you can help him balance the budget by posting it to him at 11, Thornton Street, HENLEY BEACH, 5022.

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ANOTHER RED DOT DAY!

Squadron Council's thanks to those readers who complied so good-humouredly with our RED DOT reminders last year. Some Flights are repeating the exercise. SO, if you have a RED DOT just here--please help us financially by sending your Flight Secretary your Annual Sub for 1996. Thanks!

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AND NEXT PAGE SETS OUT THE PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ALL STATES REUNION IN GRIFFITH NEXT YEAR! IT COULD BE VARIED OF COURSE.

P R O V I S I O N A L      P R O G R A M M E .**458 SQUADRON REUNION  
Griffith 2 - 8 March 1997****Day 1.      Sunday March 2**

Members arrive and register. Allocated rooms etc. Meet their mates during the afternoon.  
6.30pm      Drinks and finger food provided until 9.00am

**Day 2.      Monday March 3**

9.30am      View Griffith Video  
10.00am      Guided Tour of Griffith including Griffith Regional Theatre Curtain (if available)  
12 noon      BBQ Lunch at McWilliam's Wines followed by tour & tasting  
2.30pm      Guided Tour of Catania Fruit Salad Farm  
3.45pm      Return to Motel

**Day 3.      Tuesday March 4**

9.00am      Guided Tour of Rice Farm  
10.30am      Tastings at DeBortoli Wines  
11.45am      Return to Motel  
Afternoon free

**Day 4.      Wednesday March 5**

8.45am      Depart for Leeton  
9.30am      Visit Leeton Rice Display Centre  
10.45am      Tour of Quelch  
                Depart for Narrandera  
12.30pm      Lunch at Buckingbong Homestead  
2.00pm      Guided Tour of Narrandera Inland Fisheries  
3.00pm      Inspect Tiger Moth Memorial and Jock McGowan's display of model aircraft at Visitors' Centre  
3.45pm      Depart for Griffith

**Day 5.      Thursday March 6**

9.00am      Inspect mechanical harvesting of wine grapes and possibly of prunes and/or peaches  
                (Rick Ceccato or Michael Crook)  
10.30am      Tour & Tastings Koala Gourmet Foods  
11.30am      Visit Pioneer Park Museum for lunch and inspection  
2.30pm      Visit Belle Amour Garden  
3.30pm      Return to Motel

**Day 6.      Friday March 7**

Free Day  
6.30pm      Formal Dinner to include drinks (Primarily Beer & White wines together with soft drinks)  
11.00pm      Close



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

I am sorry to report of our President Bill Clues having a heart attack early in April. After a spell in Hollywood Hospital, Bill was allowed home the day before Anzac Day and was able to watch the March and Service on TV. After a week's rest at home Bill has to return to hospital for further tests.

Anzac Day. Was not the same without Bill. His daughter and son-in-law had to lay the wreath at the Dawn Service in Kings Park. I don't know how long it is since Bill missed an Anzac Day in Perth. I led the Squadron in the March this year, with three A.T.C. cadets carrying the Banner, which made it a lot easier for us. We had a very poor turn-out for the Parade, as there were only 3 Squadron members on parade--- Ted Jewell, Henry Etherton and Jack Cobb. Henry Etherton's son marched with us plus about 12 others who had no unit to march with. After the Service we went, as usual, to the Hyde Park Hotel for lunch and drinks where we had a roll-up of about 35. Squadron members present were Ted Jewell, Henry Etherton, Jack Cobb, Gordon Jones, Ray Turley, Charlie Davis, Len. Stewart, John Lilly, and Peter McCarthy; the rest were wives, associate members and friends. Doug. Anderson could not make it as he hasn't been in the best of health. It was good to see Margaret Gannaway and Poss Dale there.

For W.A. Flight members, our next function is a casserole lunch at Phil and Shirley Hicks home, on the first Sunday in July--the 7th. We hope there will be a good roll-up. Regards, Ted.Jewell.

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CANUCK CAUCUS.

from Jim Donaldson.

Yesterday, 29th April, was the first day of 1996 that was warm enough to go outside in shirtsleeves. In Winnipeg we managed to break a few records this year, the longest winter, with snow on the ground for a total of 168 consecutive days. We also managed to increase the snowfall to almost 50% over normal.

I don't know if this is a familiar saying down-under: it is very appropriate for our situation here, it goes like this. Spring is sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the boidies is. I guess it must be just because spring is not as early as it used to be. The whole of the southwest part of Manitoba is like a huge lake, filled with a large amount of jagged ice cubes.

The farmers should have been on the land with their tractors, etc: instead they are there in boats, trying to save what they can. Typical of our people, they remark that not even the fishing is good. There will not be any complaints about drought this year. I like the people of the land: there are some that complain no matter what, but there are more of them that say when you're in a partnership with mother nature, you know who is the boss and just roll with the punches. Our stay with 458 Sqdn. also taught that lesson.

Our good friend, Colin Fereday informs me he will be visiting friends and relatives in various parts of the world. Part of his time will be spent here with us in various parts of Canada, some of who live right here in Wpg., so, God willing, I will be spending some time with him. He hopes to contact Mickey Reid, Floyd Lovelace, Al. Johnston, Bryan Quinlan, and our wives, as well as Mrs. Ruth Moore--the widow of Guy Moore, who I believe was one of Colin's instructors. God Bless Jim Donaldson.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS from Jack Lewis.

The usual bright sunny day smiled upon us for the Anzac March, although the dawn service and marchers found it rather wet with early morning showers. Q Flight had some additions to ranks this year. We had Bob Helyar back after missing a couple of years. Bob was accompanied by his son Bob. Cec Bull also marched with his son Ron a veteran of Vietnam. We also had Richard Holliday, Jim's son, and his son Nicholas, who very proudly carried the Squadron banner. We found it very pleasing to have the Holliday name back in the ranks.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

We missed Bernie McLoughlin this year: because of an injured leg he was unable to march. After the March we gathered at the Irish Club for refreshments and the A.G.M. Eric Kelly was re-elected Flight President and Jack Lewis Secretary/Treasurer.

Judging by the letters I have received from out-of-town members most appear to be well enough for our years. Keith Austin sends Best Wishes to all Squadron members. Fred Kleckham is still scuba diving--he is 81 this year. He was down from Seaforth for the March--looks very fit, more like a 70 year old. Jack Hobbs wife Shiela has had open heart surgery. There were complications but all is well now.

Ian Higlett had a very interesting (at times anxious) overseas trip, returning from London on the "Oriana"'s inaugural world voyage via the Panama Canal. 1750 passengers and 750 crew. First night out from Southampton on across the Bay of Biscay a Force 11 Gale, seas up to 50' high sloshing over deck which is 30' high from water lines, a blackout, alternator failure during the night. Rest of the trip was very enjoyable, calling at many interesting ports. Cost to P.O. for use of the canal US\$ 180,000.

Joan Foote was finally persuaded to have surgery on her back, which had been giving her considerable pain. The operation was successful, she now feels great, 100% better than she was at the recent Melbourne Reunion. It indeed caused great concern at the time but, knowing Joan, she came through smiling. Best wishes to all, Jack.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION. from Jock McGowen.

\* Our hearts were filled with sadness when we heard of the passing of our longtime friend and colleague Stan. Longhurst. Stan was our State Treasurer for over 25 years; he had said he would take it on to help out for a year and was still there 25 years later--that was Stan. He had just passed his 80th birthday and received the Squadron's Life Membership badge at the last All-States Reunion in Melbourne. Despite his health, which in later years was giving him lots of trouble, Stan attended regular committee meetings and never missed an Anzac Day Reunion. Some 20+ members of 458 with wives attended his Memorial Service at his Church in Ryde. It was nice to get a message from Stan's longtime friend Padre Fred McKay. It was also good to see Stan's young grandson escorting Jean and wearing Stan's Life Membership badge. To Jean and family we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

\* Col Fereday is off to England and intends to call in at Holme on Spalding Moor and also take a look at the Loch Ness Wimpy, which we understand is coming along fine. We are just jealous, Col.

\* Anzac Day, after the March, was as usual held at the Criterion Hotel, in a different room, but it was a great day. The following attended:--Peter Alexander, Arnold Ashton, Harry Baines, Jack Baker, Sam Barlow and brother Kevin, Don. Bitmead, Bob Bruce, Keith Cousins, Laurie Crowley, John Dunn, Merv Hargraves, Stan Longhurst, Bob. Low, Bob Lyndon, Jock McGowen, Bob Millar, Norm. Peachey, Pete Pettit, John Preston, Tom Ridgeway, Bob Smith with friends Bill Clough and Nev. Hall. Bill Turier, George Unitt, Noel Walter. Eric Munkman, Frank Ward and Jim Whittem. Apologies from Wal Archbold, Rinso Purcill, Jack Bevan, Bill Fiddes, Cy. Irwin, Reg Hansell, and Don Brandon. Our usual total of 31 458ers. Year by year it seems to stay the same.

\* The election of office-bearers resulted in: Eric Munkman President, Bob Smith senior Vice President, Bob. Lyndon, Junior Vice President, Secretary Noel Walter, Minute Secretary Bob Smith, Treasurer Bob Bruce, News Correspondent Jock McGowen, and the committee elected was Peter Alexander, Don. Bitmead, Sam Barlow, Keith Cousins and Peter Pettit. We trust Cy. Irwin will attend meetings when he feels up to it.

\* There will be another TAFE luncheon at the Ryde TAFE College on 7th June. This was organised by Stan Longhurst and we will miss him. If you would like to come get in touch with Eric Munkman as quickly as possible as seating is limited. Cost the usual \$15/20 plus drinks. Time 1230 location the Ambassador Room, 4th Floor.

\* About 3 years ago we mentioned that the N.S.W. Flight had obtained a copy of the Micro-filmed diary of 458 Squadron. This deals mainly with the

The Cornstalk Communication (cont.)

operational side of the Squadron and is very detailed. The printing of the diary was attempted in Sydney over a year ago but with some 650 pages and at about 25c a sheet the project was beyond us. But Rupert Pearce of the Victorian Flight came to the rescue and is getting the whole diary printed at an interesting price. On receipt of the total pages we will work out a price to make the Diary available to all Flight members at a basic cost. We will keep you posted.

\* We are pleased to report that Wal Archbold is back in good health and so also is Pete Pettit who has had a second hip replacement--the first having been very successful. Jock McGowen.

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VICTORIAN FLIGHT NEWS from Rupert Pearce.

BBQ at Rosebud. Our thanks to Nell and Harry Ashworth for an excellent day on 24th March. Those present were the Bilneys, Deans, Ellis's, Pearces, Hintons, Ramsays, Singes, Vivienne Morris, Christine Smith, and several friends of the Squadron.

Anzac Day and After. Familiar faces were Ian Alison, Harry Ashworth, John Bilney, Shorty Bradshaw, Stan Cartledge and granddaughter Karen, Neil Dean and grandson Michael, Jack Ellis, Ken Hinton, Harold Martin, Gordon Nash, Rupert and Roy Pearce, Bruce Prideaux, Tom Primrose, Mick Singe,--and Murray Weaver from 459 Squadron. Apologies from Ron Eggers and Ian Giles. We were pleased to welcome June Dean, Margaret Ellis, Barbara Pearce and Mavis Singe at the Melbourne Bowling Club, where we had a happy afternoon. Tom Primrose came in the MacKenzie tartan kilt as worn by the Seaforth Highlanders. It was a fitting tribute to his father who lost his life while serving with the Seaforths in WWI.

Vale. It is with regret that we tell that our long-time member, Gordon Nash, after marching with us on Anzac Day, died in the train when returning home to Berwick. Gordon was a Fitter 2E and left Australia with the Yellow draft, disembarking in the Middle East July 1941. Neil Dean, Ken Hinton, Harold Martin, Roy Pearce and Val Richards attended the funeral service on behalf of 458 members. Neil Dean spoke at the Service and the Squadron Banner was on display. We have sent our sincere sympathy to his family.

Outcome of the Melbourne All-States Reunion. The Minister for Veterans Affairs, Mr. Con Sciacca, gave a grant of \$1200 towards the Reunion, and we are pleased that we achieved a small surplus in addition to having a week of good fellowship.

Welfare. Jack Fleming has not been well and is undergoing tests. Bill Fordyce recently had 5 by-passes and is recovering slowly. Helen Laming has a continuing problem with her failing eyesight. Bruce Prideaux soldiers on but has to be watchful. Val Richards has had some health problems. June Schoppe had an operation for a clot in her leg and a thrombosis. Mick Singe has had a successful operation on his knee. June Dean has returned from a week in hospital. There may be others in the Flight who are not well. We send them our kind thoughts.

A Holiday. Eric Jewell writes that he has just returned from the U.K., and Neil McPhee is planning to go there soon.

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THE LOCH NESS WELLINGTON--CAN WE HELP?

Delegates to Squadron Council have expressed interest in our assisting the work being done on R. for Robert at Brooklands. Norman Duke, readers will recall, has laboured, with others, long and hard on the restoration of what is probably one of only two Wimpeys to survive the post-war "salvage" of metal that destroyed many aircraft. With a colleague, Norm has almost finished covering the geodetic with linen--obtained from a "friendly" source and therefore a real financial windfall as such fabric is now very



The Loch Ness Wellington (cont.)

costly. They have now reached the stage of obtaining and applying the dope which shrinks the covering to conform to the shape of the fuselage and also strengthens it. The initial and vital coat is red, followed by three or four colourless coats and then the camouflage paint. Each coat will cost 100 (pounds).

Any contributions will be welcomed keenly. Will any 458 Flight Committee AND any individual member who wishes to help please remit what they can to GPO Box 5289, Sydney, NSW, 2001. The Squadron Treasurer believes that Squadron Council will bring the total up to a good round figure from Council reserves.

Thank you!.

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EDITORIAL.THE FUTURE OF THE ANZAC DAY MARCH.

As Australian readers well know the Annual Marches of Veterans through the streets of Australian cities attract still tens of thousands of Marchers through city streets lined with even greater numbers of cheering spectators--including recent immigrants and their children. It represents a monumental re-affirmation and reassertion of traditional Australia and this in times of very heavy immigration from countries of quite different cultures and languages. Continuation of the Marches seems to us to be of vast importance, not only to the memories and sentiments of Marchers, but to continuation of the culture of Australia for which earlier generations worked and fought.

The numbers marching are still large and vigorous. They include in most places some children and grandchildren of those who fought. But in some States that is officially not acceptable (e.g. N.S.W.). Even there the ban is to some extent ignored. As this issue of the News will illustrate the presence of such mature-age children and grandchildren is becoming important.

It seems to us that while the feelings of those opposed, in the Veterans organisations, can be respected (it seems to amount now to a feeling that (the March belongs to us who fought--when we go it can fade away), there is a higher objective--the continuation in vigour of Anzac Day Marches.

We have the view that the children and grandchildren whose participation will soon be essential to the continuation of the March should be actively encouraged, not just quietly accepted. They cannot just be suddenly "turned on" in five or ten years but should be welcomed now.

What do Readers think? What does the interest of Australia call for?

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ON THE REPATRIATION FRONT.

Australian Readers will remember the long fight of our Vietnam War Veterans for acceptance of the fact that chemical sprays caused disabilities. Claims vigorously resisted by Governments, Judges, and even, regrettably, by some Veterans Associations. It is now officially accepted that the disabilities DID arise. Another claim has now had to be accepted, in USA and presumably soon in Australia. That (some) children of Viet Vets also suffered genetically. American research now indicates that there is statistical evidence of increased risk of Spina Bifida in them. Surely other disabilities will in time be seen to exist from ill researched sprays.

THE MALTA MEDAL AGAIN AVAILABLE.

The Government of Malta has recognised that many missed out. The Medal can now be claimed by any who served --not just in Malta--but in support of Malta at sea or in the Air in the period June 10th 1940 to September 8th 1943. Medals will have to be bought for 25 pounds (Miniatures 8-50 pounds) from Award Productions Ltd PO Box 30, Haslemere, Surrey GU26 6UT, U.K. Copies of Service documents or certification by 458 Squadron will be required of our members. We read the qualifications as including ground support of Air operations.

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