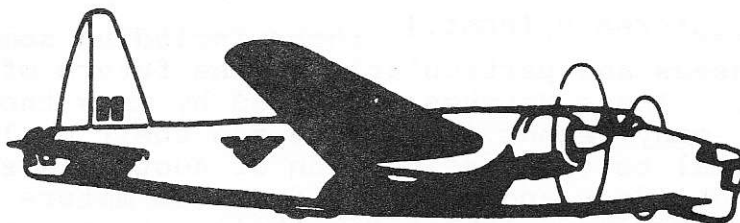


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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Year 48, No. 190.

May, 1997.

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	Eric Kelly (Q.):	Squadron Vice Presidents:
Squadron Treasurer	Peter Alexander (NSW)	Australia: Jim Palmer (W.A.)
Squadron Secretary	Bob Bruce (NSW)	Bert Oliver (SA)
Hon. Squadron Auditor	Frank Ward (NSW)	U.K. Norman Duke (England)
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ONE OF THE BEST EVER?

458's 31st. All-States Reunion at Griffith, was a remarkably successful event. The Squadron's various All-States Reunions have invariably been highly valued and therefore it is hard to say which was the best. But Griffith ranks high. Spread over a week, with a Reception on the first day, a series of interesting visits to the Irrigation and grape-growing areas of the M.I.A., a notably impressive service of Memory at the local War Memorial (conducted by the Dean of the local Cathedral), a meeting of the Squadron Council, and a final Squadron Dinner, all those there will remember it well. It even made a profit, of which 458 members will benefit. Next Reunion will be in Queensland.

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WHAT DID THE SQUADRON CONFERENCE DECIDE?

Attended by delegates from each State Flight, and the UK and NZ and Canada, the Conference speaks with authority for 458. On this occasion in Griffith, apart from receiving reports from each Flight, electing new Life Members of 458 and electing Squadron Office-bearers, it raised various matters of ex-service interest, to be taken up with the Australian Government,

Squadron Conference (cont.) these including some relevant to present-day Veterans needs and particularly to the future of the Anzac Day Marches in Australia. These Marches, witnessed by many thousands of Australians each Anzac Day--many recent immigrants and their children, who cheer keenly, are seen as vital to the continuation of Australia's traditional culture. Therefore, children and grandchildren (of mature age) should be welcomed to join the Marches with or for their veteran parent or grandparent.

This is not controversial in most Australian States but is currently opposed in Sydney and Melbourne. The RAAF Association National Executive has subsequently carried a similar resolution supporting the participation of Children and grandchildren (over 14).

New Squadron President is Eric Kelly of Queensland. Long active with Queensland Flight, Eric (Ned) Kelly was a WAG. The Squadron secretary, Graeme Coombes, retired and Conference paid tribute to his long contributions to the Squadron, starting with his service as a Pilot at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. The new Squadron Secretary is Bob Bruce, long an active worker for 458 --and like the new President, a WAG..

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THE NEXT SQUADRON REUNION. To be organised by Q.Flight this will be at Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland early in September. Details are still being negotiated.

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CROWEATERS CHITCHAT.

from Ted Creighton.

Good Griffith. Squadron Immediate Past President Bert Ravenscroft and other S.A. members attending congratulate and thank the NSW blokes for an interesting and enjoyable reunion at Griffith. Obviously a good time was had by all. Well done, Fellows! Each Reunion seems to bring some sadness and we regret to record that Kaye Michell, widow of Middle East aircrew member Colin Michell died on March 5th. Kaye had a keen interest in the Squadron and S.A. Flight. When in later in life she was forced to battle the ravages of advanced years, her courage, dignity and indomitable Yorkshire spirit shone through and set an example for all. Our condolences to son Rick and daughter Trish both of whom continue to give support to the Flight.

Anzac Day, 1997. No rain this year. A bright, warm, sunny day ensured good attendances at the Airport Service, the March and afterwards at the Talbot. Thanks to a bit of late organisation by Rick Michell some 25-26 members and friends were able to wander next door to enjoy a seafood luncheon at the Gouger.

Traditionally, Flight subs become due on Anzac Day. They are again \$10 p.a. There are a few blokes dragging their feet from last year. Not to be red-dotted please shoot off your subs to Bert Ravenscroft, 11, Thornton Street, Henley Beach, 5022!

We may not see a lot of him, but Buck Pedersen sets the example by being one of the early birds. We received a note enclosing \$20 some weeks back. An established octogenarian Buck laments the passing of the years. S.A. Flight's most senior citizen, Bill Taylor, responds--"Garn, you're "still only a boy, Buck!".

Its All Go for the Grange. Wednesday, August 6 has been booked for our mid-season Annual Luncheon. Private room, great view, welcoming drinks, and an interesting menu, all for \$20. Table drinks at own cost. No extra charge for the chairlift to the 1st. floor. Grange Golf Club wntry is via White Sands Drive off Trimmer Parade just past the Frederick Road intersection on the beach side of Royal Adelaide. All welcome. Bookings close Friday July 25th. Ring Bert Ravenscroft 83569442; Ted Creighton 82951626; or Duty Liaison Officer Peter Thom 82955570. Noon for 1230 this year will get you home before the late afternoon traffic. Note the date now!.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Rupert Pearce.

Anzac Day, Melbourne. It was a lovely Melbourne day and those who marched or came to the Melbourne Bowling Club later with their ladies were: John Bilney, Ed. Bradshaw, Neil Dean, Ron. Eggers (watched carefully by Sue along St. Kilda Road), Jack Ellis, Ian Giles, Ken Fleming (a new honorary member), Ken Hinton, Roy and Rupert Pearce, Tom Primrose (again wearing a kilt), Bruce Prideaux. Mick Singe led us in front of our banner, which was carried by the A.T.C. Neil Dean at the rear carried the Wellington photo. Ladies who joined us at the Melbourne Bowling Club were June Dean, Margaret Ellis, and friend Cynthia Sutton, Barbara Pearce, Norma Pollard, and Mavis Singe. Best wishes for a successful day were received from Enid Dowling, John and Dot Fleming, Yank and Kath Martin, Vivienne Morris, Neil McPhee, Christine Smith. By chance, Mick Singe saw Les. Kennedy prior to the March, He is well. Although it was officially stated that children and grandchildren could not march Ian Cartledge and granddaughter came to represent Stan. Michelle Jackson came to honor grandfather Gordon Nash. Sue Jackson and her husband came to talk to us before the march. Stan. Cartledge said he was looking forward to his 50th march but an operation for an aneurism prevented him.

Social Activities. Earlier in the year, members enjoyed a luncheon at the East Malvern R.S.L. on Feb. 19th. as a change from the RAAF Association South Yarra. Present were Neil and June Dean, Jack and Margaret Ellis, Don and Shirley Granger, Ken and Joanne Hinton, Beatrice Morkham, Vivienne Morris, Roy and Barbara Pearce, Rupert Pearce, Norma Pollard, and Mick and Mavis Singe.

A barbeque at the home of Harry and Nell Ashworth on March 16th., was a very pleasant day and in addition to those mentioned as attending at the RSL, we were pleased to see John and Marjorie Bilney, Jack and Betty Ramsay, and George and June Tarczynski. We had a number of apologies. Thank you again, Nell and Harry, for your hospitality.

Personal Pars. Helen Laming as 85 on Feb. 11th. Her eyesight is very poor. June Schoppe had an operation in February but is recovering.

Enid Dowling had an operation earlier this year and is slowly recovering.

Joan Munday had her 81st birthday on April 30th and is well.

Neil McPhee left for overseas on April 28th and hopes to see wartime friends in the U.K. Rita and Tom. Primrose celebrated their

golden wedding anniversary on March 6th. It was a memorable occasion and they received letters from the Queen, Governor-General, Prime Minister, Governor of Victoria, Premier and their local member. We add our congratulations.

Bill Fordyce had a nasty shock when he read his name, Squadron, and address in the March edition of "Mufti", the RSL publication. He assures his friends he is still very much with us!

Mrs Thelma Riddoch is now a resident of the Queen Elizabeth Centre at Ballarat.

The George Cross 55th Anniversary. The Maltese Australian Association extended an invitation to join them and commemorate the 55th anniversary of the George Cross award to the people of Malta by King George VI. The Service was held at the Shrine on April 13th. 12 458ers attended. Ron Eggers and Mick Singe were awarded the Malta Medal.

The Griffith Reunion. Our thanks to Eric Munkman and NSW Flight for the successful Reunion. Those who went from Victoria were Neil and June Dean, Ron and Sue Eggers, John and Dot Fleming, Ian and Beryl Giles, Rupert Pearce, Norma Pollard, and Mick and Mavis Singe. We all had a week of great experiences and enjoyed renewing old friendships.

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A 458 DISTINCTION. It has been an observed fact with postwar Squadron Associations that they have tended to be either air or groundcrew dominated. Not so with 458 where differences have not existed and support has been from all ranks and musters. Witness the fact that of 27 Squadron Presidents 12 have been aircrew (8 pilots), and 15 Groundcrew.

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RED DOT TIME.

Members have accepted Red Dot time with good humour and perhaps are glad to be reminded that their annual sub. is overdue. This year response has been very good so far. However, for those Flights whose year commences on January 1st it is Red Dot time again. So if there is a Red Dot with your May News that means you, Mate. Please can we have your sub.! To your Flight Secretary, please!

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Q.FLIGHT COMMENTARY. from Jack Lewis.

As a result of the 458 Squadron Council meeting at Griffith, Q.Flight was elected to host the Reunion in 1998. Flight President Eric Kelly was elected Squadron President. We are currently arranging things.

NSW held a very enjoyable and interesting and educational All- States Reunion. The vast area under grape and various fruit-growing was most impressive. The rice cultivation was a big surprise to the Queenslanders. Congratulations to NSW and to Ron (Dusty) Miller, a Griffith native, for a great reunion.

1997 Service of Commemoration. To celebrate the beginning of Air Force Week Sunday March 23rd, the RAAF Association (Queensland Division) held a March and conducted a Service at the RAAF Memorial, Queen's Gardens. A large number of ex-Airmen and women together with serving RAAF units participated. Q.Flight was represented by President Eric Kelly, Don Brandon, Bernie McLoughlin (Bernie rode in the leading Geep) and Jack Lewis. On completion of the Service we, with wives Kath and Evelyn, went to the RAAF luncheon at Lennons Hotel to complete the day.

Anzac Day. There was a small roll up for the March, but with Odd Bods we were able to build up to 15. Jim Holliday's son Richard and grandson Nicholas (who proudly carried the Banner) also joined us for the March. At the AGM Eric Kelly and Jack Lewis were elected Flight President and Secretary/Treasurer. Personal Pars. Fred O'Brien from Beaudesert writes that the first Dawn Service he attended attracted only 32, but this year there were nearly 600. After service they adjourned to the Civic Centre for breakfast and the coffee and rum. Fred says he saw three dozen empty rum bottles carried out--he thinks it a pretty good effort for country lads? Fred sends regards to 458 lads. From Bob Dangaard a page from the Cairns Post referring to Mareeba's wartime Airfield--still in use flying multi-engined aircraft to service mining interests in surrounding areas. Laurie Crowley uses the airfield occasionally; he gives Bob a call on his mobile to come and pick him up. A Cairns Coy. plans an Air Show and Museum on the site of this once important WWII base. Joan Russell has left for England to attend the wedding of a niece: she then plans a European tour. June will see Bert and Isla Garland off to UK to see their son. Alf Peake from Home Hill, with a number of North Queensland bowlers visited Newcastle and Sydney during February. Evidently each year they escape the heat south. However they didn't dodge the heat and rain that followed them. But they got plenty of bowls in.

Flight Lunch to come. Q.Flight will be having a luncheon to be held at the Irish Club, City, on May 15th and I am looking forward to a good roll up.

Healthwise Q Flight seems to be OK: I have not heard anything to the contrary.

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FROM CANADA--a SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENT WRITES----from Jim Donaldson.

As usual I am pushing time to the limit. Thought, as I had your Fax number I had time to spare. When I looked for it, you guessed it, it like my memory just disappeared. If we can't find it I'll send it on a Wing & a prayer (ED. That's how it came!--my FAX, in Sydney NSW is 61-02-9261 8848)

I received a Blazer pocket crest from Colin and it sure makes a difference; I now feel properly dressed when I attend our local meetings. These are held at the RCAF Officers Mess. We have a turn out of 160-180. The usual banter and we head after dinner to the lounge. The majority of us have slowed down but there are some live wires who keep us laughing.

We are soon reminded we are not living in the past. We are living in the Red River basin which can be an experience in itself. We, with other States have had record snowfall--which drains into the Red River. Thousands have been evacuated. The River will be 25 miles wide.

From Jim Donaldson in Winnipeg (cont.)

Manitoba built a floodway around Winnipeg after the flood of 1950 and moved more earth than was moved for the Panama Canal. It cost 63 million and has saved us close to a billion to date. But this one may be bigger than 1950. Some of us old blokes are really getting our money's worth--wars, depressions, droughts, fires and floods. Recorded history. Hey! You cannot ask for anything more than that and serve with 458 as well, can you.

To close on a real happy note I finally contacted one of my original 458 crew. His name is Jack Ball--the crew consisted of Leonard Johnson, RAAF Captain, Archie Fell, RNZAF Co-pilot, Dave Welsh, Nav; Jack Ball, WOP/AG, with myself bringing up the rear as usual--- Jim Donaldson, R/G.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION from Jock McGowen.

* The Griffith Reunion is over and those who attended voted it a huge success. 132 there---64 Squadron members, the balance wives, relations and Squadron widows. We all enjoyed the various trips around the District and those who had not seen the Narrandera Tiger Moth Museum with the 458 Memorial Model aircraft collection were able to add to the success. Eric and Dorothy thank those who contributed to the beautiful flowers and gift waiting for them when they returned home.

* Squadron Council met and elected or re-elected Squadron Officers --and also awarded Life Membership of the Squadron Association to Don Bitmead (NSW), Jim Palmer (WA), Jack Lewis (Q.) and Norman Duke (UK). Our sincere congratulations to them. Jim and Lucy Palmer must surely have a travel record for Reunions--not counting overseas--Good on you both!

* As you have been told we have some 90 odd Model Aeroplanes with the No 8 E.F.T.S. Tiger Moth Museum at Narranderra. A lasting Memorial to 458ers and those who trained at No.8 EFTS. Called the Jock McGowen collection but I need no medals--they are for all our mates. I think the only other 458 Memorial readily seen by the public is the one at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and in the church there on the Hill. We will erect a Map, as done by Tom Moore some years ago to show where we went and importantly list names of 458 pilots who trained there in 8 EFTS.

So far I have Ralph Bailey, Pete Pettit, Col Fereday, Ron Miller, and Merv. Hargreaves and Bert Garland? Please let me know of any more---and I would like Wartime photos of them all (they will be returned after copying). Also their number and final rank and of course any decorations. Those who currently visit the Memorial do not know who or what 458 was.

* Had a chat with Jack Aitken--he is pretty fit except for a dose of the 'flu.

* Norman and Glenys Gilbert from UK have been here for the christening of their great grandson. Eric and Dorothy had lunch with them and Peter Alexander lunched with Norm. Norm was in the Orderly Room, joining 458 at Shallufa, leaving at Protville.

* A church service was held to celebrate Dr. Fred McKay's 90th birthday and the launch of a new book about his career. 458 was represented. A happy birthday Fred, and best wishes to Meg.

* Anzac Day has come and gone. We were at the new Windsor Hotel, which was good apart from the noise of an Army group sharing the same floor. The meal was the best we had at any reunion. Some 35 attended the lunch--as follows. Arnold Ashton, Wal Archbold (bearded!), Peter Alexander and his (21 year old) grandson Collin Beashel, Bill and Mavis Addinall, Marshal Allan, Harry Baines, Sam Barlow, Don Bitmead, Bob Bruce, Ralph Bailey, Laurie Crowley, Keith Cousins, Norm. Gilbert, Neville Hall, Reg. Hansell, Merv. Hargreaves, Bob Low, David Longhurst (Stan's son), Bob Lyndon, Jock McGowen, Eric Munkman, Bob Millar, Dudley McKay and his brother Keith from Queensland, Norm Peachey, Pete Pettit, Rob. Phillis and Tom Phillis from S.A., Tom Ridgeway, Graeme Ricketts (son of Stuart), Ken Rosen, Bob Smith, Frank Ward, Noel Walter. Len Barton, Walter Sullivan and Bill McFadden, DFC, looked in but could not stay for lunch.

The Cornstalk Communication (cont.) 25 marched--and isn't it great to have had three sons and a grandson coming along to keep the 458 flag flying high. Keep it up!

* Finally, don't forget we have for sale Lapel badges (\$10 ea.); Jacket pockets (\$20 ea.); and self adhesive windscreen 458 badges (\$5 ea). Time is running out for these items and we may not renew because of the quantities suppliers require to be ordered.

* Look after one another!

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* Late Item. We have heard with regret, from Arthur Lehdey, of the passing of Gordon Saggars, 458's wartime dentist, at Lockhart where he had lived. Our sympathy to his widow and children.

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A KIWI CALL. from Kevin George.

Once again we can congratulate an Australian Flight on a well-organised successful Reunion. It was interesting and enjoyable. The week we had in Griffith was all too short. Someone said that it was the best ever in her experience, but I would hesitate to pick a best or a worst from the eight that Dawn and I have attended, The standard has been consistently high.

The circumstances that led me and my crew to transfer from another unit to 458 at Protville can well be described as fortuitous. I do not know of another WWII Veterans organisation who have the privilege of attending such enjoyable and well-organised Reunions so often. Long may they last! We look forward to Queensland in 1998.

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FROM THE WEST CANADIAN DETACHMENT. from Bryan Quinlan.

(ED. We have welcomed further news from a large country!)

Firstly, very best wishes for 1997, personally and collectively! We had expected to have a representative at Griffith as Cam Evans and wife Bernice had planned to attend and were quite excited as Cam would renew old friendships from Malta and Tunisia. I was therefore greatly shocked to hear in January that Cam had died on December 3rd, twelve days after triple heart by-pass surgery. He had previously had two angioplasties. Bernice in Calgary has a difficult time coming to grips with her loss. She writes "We are very proud of his Malta Medal. "He was a wonderful husband and Father as well as an honorable person".

I wish I could update you with happier news. After hearing from Anne Markowsky at Christmas that husband Bill was having a tough time after another stroke I phoned Saskatoon and talked to Anne. Had a few words with Bill. He was part of "McKenzie's Air Force" and was shot down attacking a ship. He and at least part of his crew were picked up and became POWs, I believe. Now news of Bill's death has been received.

Unfortunately, George MacLeod's Christmas Card included news of a relatively minor heart attack when he happened to be alone on his farm at Scotsburn, Nova Scotia. After an hour when his wife Zena came home he had to face an 18 mile drive to an emergency clinic. He says he is making a good recovery, following doctor's orders. Kevin and Dawn George spent some time with the MacLeods when in Canada.

Sid Winchester and wife Joyce who live in Parksville, Vancouver Island did a lot of travelling in '96 both round the Island and to Portugal, Spain and Morocco. Appears to be enjoying the so-called "Golden Years".

Bucky Cather in North York, Ontario is still trying to get used to the loss of his wife late in 1985 but says his daughters spoil him rotten. He is another visited by the Georges last summer.

Wilf Baynton advises that he has been having chemo treatment since last May which is delaying their usual winter vacation in Florida.

I have received Peter Eastcott's critique of Tony Spooner's new book

From West Canada (cont.) "Supreme Gallantry". I provided quite a bit of material to Tony including a brief mention of 458's time in Malta and Tunisia. It was an interesting account of Malta's role in the war with most emphasis placed on the earlier years.

I played golf with Bert Markland when I spent a week's golfing holiday at Christina Lake--a holiday spot but home to Bert and wife Gladys. Unfortunately Bert put his back out and had to quit. Is still having problems.

Ernie Ireland is still taking things easy after his hectic visit to England, Scotland and Ireland last summer. We are in contact with Jim Doaldson and likewise with Frank Laughlin and wife Peggy in Victoria who seem to be holding their own healthwise. Nell Powell, George's widow, writes that she is getting used to living alone and keeps busy with golf and cards at the Senior Centre.

In case they are known to you--I keep in touch with George Cooper, Hugh Esch, "Pop" Painter, Bill Mitchell--all, I think, with 221. Also made contact with Les Card of Calgary--who became a prominent radar expert in the Med. years.

Have just received one of Mick Reid's thick letters. He and Marg. had an eventful summer, attending daughter Cath's wedding in France and getting together with Norm and Joyce Duke. Mick is still a crusader and maintains his boudless energy, sharp wit and can still get into his wartime uniform! (ED. Can anyone else? Let's know.)

Joyce and I stay relatively well and keep busy--major pursuit being five grandchildren. We are still hopeful we can make a trip to Australia while we are fairly mobile.

Later. Bernice Evans phoned with info on Cam's Time on 458. He was with Suddaby's crew at Malta and Protville via Blida until tour-expired. Is his crew in touch with 458? Bernice has sent a crew photo. (ED. See below. Can anyone identify the Crew members? Cam Evans is 2nd (left at rear. Please let us know)

Finally it goes without sying we are happy to have old friend Col. Fereday Act as our delegate at Squadron Conference. But don't let him take our share at the Bar though! Cheers!

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THE SUDDABY CREW.



CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Roger Angove, 82, Watson Avenue, Rose Park, S.A., 5067.

Dear Peter, I received a photograph from my old colleague Frank Robertson of Holme on Spalding Moor and told him it is being sent on to you for safe-keeping. (ED. See the Holme Memorial photo below.).

I keep enjoying the 458 Sqdn News but am not a very active member. You have done a great job for the RAAF ex-service Associations.

Frank is a good contact for any ex-RAAF visiting the UK.

Trust you have a good year and keep up your good work.

Sincerely, Roger Angove.

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From Hal Lee, 3, Woburn Road, Launceston, Cornwall to Jock McGowen.

Dear Jock, I enclose \$30 for a Squadron blazer badge.....I was rear gunner in J.A.F. McKay's crew at Protville to Alghero and I did attend the International Reunion in London in 1982. It's great to get the Newsletters and get news of my old comrades. It really was a happy family and it is my pleasure to have been part of it. All the best to you and yours and all my old mates, Cheers, Hal.

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From Theo Ravenscroft, PO Box 169, Longreach, Queensland, 4730.

Dear 458ers, 12 months this November since I had the emergency double Bypass open heart surgery in Townsville. On 7th December I had the Aorta aneurysm---gave me a 50% chance. The aorta had been leaking for 2 months. They flew me back to Longreach from the Mater in Townsville to Longreach. Am still very sore and it will be a couple of years, they tell me. Can't do anything much. Theo.

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From Ron Verity, 80 Gayhurst Rd., Christchurch, New Zealand.

Dear Peter, Greetings and best wishes...May the years of war fade and the peace so dearly won shine on All....The main reason for our absence from Griffith is the deterioration of my right hip joint. If --???--I have surgery and if ??? we may attend the next Reunion.

A big Thank you to all the chaps who shoulder the burden of our organisation and specially to those who keep the News circulating.. Cheers, Ron.

WHO REMEMBERS...?

NSW Flight heard recently of the passing of a 458er with whom there had been no contact at all. Who remembers Doug Frost? He flew with the Squadron and contact with his sister tells us his crew came down off Malta and he and at least some of his crew became POWs of the Italians, and in Doug's case, later, of the Germans. We wonder which crew and if there are any of them around? Our sympathy to his next-of-kin.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....from Bill Clues (Ted Jewell is overseas)

I am filling in for Ted as he is off with a friend on 6 weeks holiday in Europe. I believe Kingston Knobbs (Knobby) is also away overseas with his good wife Esme. I hope they all enjoy their trips and rekindle some old memories along the way. Memories--that's about all we have these days.

Anzac Day. Anzac Day has passed, and I attended the Dawn Service and laid the wreath for Fallen Comrades. It was very pleasing to see the large number of people in attendance, particularly the youth who seem to be increasing each year in numbers. They are the ones I believe who will carry on the Anzac remembrance tradition, when we who served are all gone, and they should be encouraged to participate in every way possible.

Unfortunately due to the large increase of "No Marching Chits", the number of members on parade was down on previous years. For the second year I was able to arrange for 3 Air Force cadets to carry our Banner. Henry Etherton and myself were the only Squadron members on parade, along with a few strays who were 'pressed into "service."

After the Parade we adjourned to the Hyde Park Hotel for lunch and some amber fluid. 25 were in attendance, amongst them some stalwart Associates. It was great to see Charlie Davis and his wife Betty there. Charlie who is still having trouble with his knee and is confined to a wheelchair, sends best regards to all his mates. Also at the lunch was John Lilly, who attends Hollywood Repat at least twice a week and needs to carry an oxygen bottle to assist breathing--it was great to see him make the effort to be there and effort I am sure it was--Thanks, John.!

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN. from Norman Duke.

U.K. Flight Reunion. Plans have been set in motion for this year's Reunion. A majority vote has opted for a return visit to our 1996 choice, and a date has been booked for October 5th/6th at the Falcon Hotel at Stratford-on-Avon. Booking forms have already been sent to those who have already decided. Any new enquirers, please contact me. This could be our most successful year so far.

Following my request in the last "News" for ideas for Reunion locations, I received a wonderful letter from Christina McKenzie generously offering to host any future functions at her home at Haselbech Hall. Once a member of the 458 family, you're in it for life!

Last Sunday, April 27th, as the nearest Sunday to Anzac Day, a Memorial Service was arranged at the Parish Church at Holme-on-Spalding Moor, with the help of our local enthusiast and supporter, Frank Robertson. Special flowers were arranged to decorate the Squadron Memorial and standard in the Church by Anne Hall, and a wreath was laid on the Squadron Memorial at the old airfield by Peter Cochrane, assisted by Ken Morris, who were able to attend for the occasion. Jock Pattison who lives locally was also present. Apparently the flowers were supplied by a Dutch importer--Jan--who lives in Holme, at a preferential rate (I.E. Wholesale) Thanks are also due to the local representative of the War Graves Commission, Michael

The British Bulletin(cont.)

Redshaw and his sister Marianne Laverack, who do such an efficient job of maintaining the graves in the churchyard. I think we have now established an annual Anzac Day Memorial event.

Don Stocks. I have had a request from Don who has joined the U.K. Flight a few months ago, to ask if anyone has any news of any of his former crew members. Don was a Wop/Ag in Fl.Lt Treadwell's crew at Bone and Alghero in 1943/44. Other crew members were Moy, Johnson, Turner and Hunn. Don was a member of the crew that pranged on Bone airfield on Xmas Day, 1943, and he wonders if any photos exist of that event?

In Memoriam. We regret to have to report the sad loss of two more of our faithful supporters over the years. Harry Filley died suddenly a few days before Easter. Harry and I flew in the same crew for almost a year in 1942-43. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Nance and their family. And also to Bert Sleight, whose wife Nell died in hospital on March 4th. after a serious illness. We have lost a very loyal supporter.

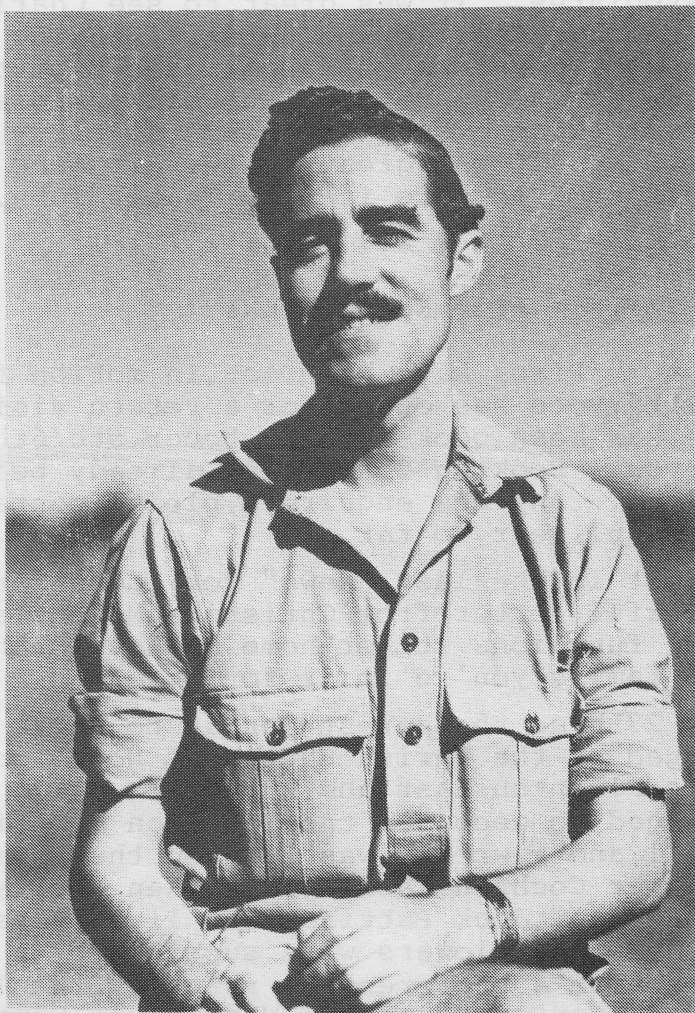
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THE MAN WHO DESIGNED THE 458 CREST LONG AGO.

From David Duff, Norm Duke has sent us a few photos for the Squadron Album. Among them is one of Hugh Hamlet, the R.A.F. 458er who designed our wartime crest. We are still contemplating another attempt to achieve the formal recognition that either the Air Force or the Heraldry people have long denied us. First it was the RAAF that resisted. When that changed the Heraldry people changed from support to refusal. Of course it has never made any practical difference nor will it. We have used the crest all the time.

However all that may be, readers will be pleased to see what Hugh Hamlet looked like with 458 in Egypt over half a century ago.

Many of us remember him well.



H. M. HAMLET