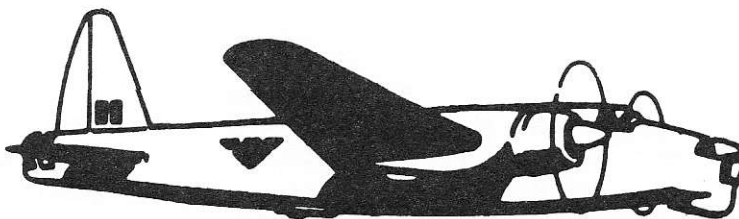


458

SQUADRON NEWS



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, GPO Box 5289, SYDNEY, N.S.W., 2001, AUSTRALIA.

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August, 1997.

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

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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 (S.A.)
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		Canada Jim Donaldson (Manitoba)
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Q'ld	Jack Lewis, 5, Cupania Rd., Victoria Point, 4165, Queensland.

SANDGROPEERS SAY.....from Ted Jewell.

After several months away, travelling around Europe and the U.K., I have only just started to settle down to all day life. I spent a day in York but didn't have time to get out to Holme-on-Spalding Moor village. Restricted by the tour bus timetable. I had a good time but I don't think I would want to make the trip again.

On the 15th July our President, Bill Clues, had organised to have a 458 Squadron plaque placed outside the Bull Creek Museum on a wall with other Air Force Unit plaques. We had about 30 people attending, with the President speaking about members lost during the war years. Henry Etherton laid a wreath after the unveiling. After the event we had morning tea in the RAAF Club. 458ers present were: Bill Clues, Ted Jewell, Henry Etherton, Gordon Jones, Bill Kelliher, Lock Simpson, Jim Palmer, Nundy Carpenter, Len Stewart, Stan Hopewell--I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. During the morning Bill Clues presented his Life membership plaque to Jim Palmer.

We must thank Associate members Phil and Shirley Hicks for a great day at their home on 6th July. A very enjoyable day for those who turned up. It was good to see Doug. (Bruno) Anderson there, and looking so well.

Personal Items. Charlie Davis is still having trouble with his leg. He is having a new cast for the leg which can be taken off. All the

Sandgropers Say (cont.).

'the 'best, 'Charlie':

Peter McCarthy is not very well. Charlie McCarthy is having trouble with cancer and is not very well. Len Stewart had a knee reconstruct but is not too happy at the moment--it is giving him pain.

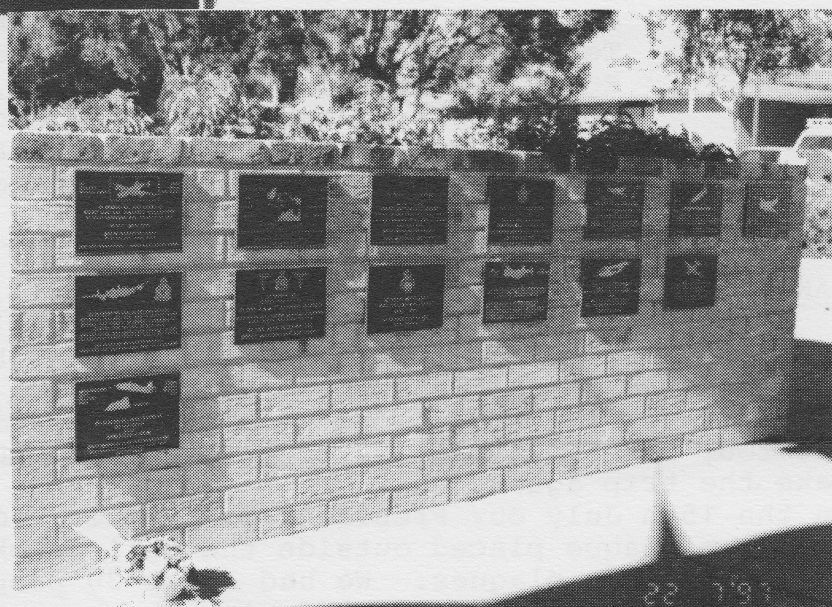
BBQ to Come. Bill and Joan Clues will be having a BBQ at their home in September: no date at the moment, but anyone interested should ring Bill.

All the best---Ted.

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458 Plaque at Bull Creek.

Bill Clues writes---I would like to thank all members and associates who donated money to the cost of the plaque, and a special thanks to the many members and wives who attended the unveiling ceremony carried out by the W.A. State President of the RAAF Association--Mrs Eileen Southern--my thanks to her. As can be seen ours will be one of a number of plaques of various Squadrons and ex-service Associations below the Spitfire at Bateman.

THE 458 AND OTHER PLAQUES IN PERTH.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION. from Jock McGowen.

* who remembered our birthday 10th July, 1941 at Williamstown, N.S.W. when we were formed 56 years ago? You are forgiven if you forgot --have a beer for it now!

*With regret we report the loss of three of our mates: Freddy Ridge--our sincere sympathy to Edna and the family; John "Curly" Hosking

The Cornstalk Communication (cont.)

and Harry Galvin, of Canberra. Our sympathy to their wives and families. South Australia will record the loss of well-known member, John Carey. We will miss them all as our clan gets smaller by the year.

* Probably the most important message for N.S.W. members and others who could be here next Anzac Day is that the venue has changed again. There were a few shortcomings at our last venue, and we must take our hats off to Eric Munkman and Noel Walter who have found us a new venue. We shall have a room to ourselves, which is great, and it is not a long way from Town Hall Station and the end of the March. It is in:

THE N.S.W. MASONIC CENTRE (NOT the Masonic Club in
(Castlereagh Street) CORNER of GOULBURN and CASTLEREAGH Streets
Ground Floor---Come in from the Goulburn Street Entrance.

Your Committee is sure you'll like the new venue.

* The Narrandera Map is making progress. With the help of Pete Pettit we did get in the names, numbers and details we required to complete the exercise. Tom Moore will be given the information and the map will be complete.

* Jim and Dorothy Whitem are off around the world again. We understand their first stop will be the wineries of Northern Italy. If they survive that, on to Paris and then the U.K. There they visit Norm Duke and the Loch Ness Wimpy. Jim will be taking the lights and curtain with him, and some pocket badges. An amazing coincidence is that they will be staying with a relative of Dorothy's who actually worked with Barnes Wallace designer of the Wellington, during the war.

* The Whittem's will be lucky enough to attend the U.K. Reunion at Stratford-on-Avon on October 5th/6th. We'd all love to be there--and to look over R for Robert from Loch Ness.

* I had a chat with Jim Palmer and Erle Hetherington the other night. Erle is looking forward to the next Reunion up North. We are, too.

---Jock McGowen. Luncheon T.A.F.E. Ryde 29.10.97 (1200hrs) Bookings Contact Eric 99720641

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OUR SYMPATHY TO JIM AND PEG DONALDSON.

458ers will be extremely sad to hear that Canadian Squadron Vice President Jim Donaldson and his lady Peg (who is herself ill), recently lost their son, Jim the younger, at age 34---five days after major surgery. Jim himself writes:

I know all my old mates will understand that writing to inform you of the loss of one of our sons (Jim, Jnr) is not an easy task. You expect your children will outlive you. Such is not the case for Peg and I. We lost our daughter Morrie when she was 23. We were much younger then and told ourselves we were fortunate that we had 23 years with her. We are telling ourselves we have had Jim with us for 34 years. But we have found that the older you get the harder it is to accept the fact of life that losing your children when you are our age is even more devastating. To put it mildly, we crashed.

The Funeral Notice in Winnipeg included the following verse:

"Those we love don't go away,
"They walk beside us everyday
"Unseen, unheard, but ever near
"Still loved, so dear
"So ever near
"You will always
"Be in our hearts."

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VICTORIAN NEWS. from Rupert Pearce.

Annual Meeting. Office-Bearers elected for 1997-8 are:

Flight President Mick Singe
Snr.Vice Pres: Jack Fleming
Jnr Vice Pres. Jack Ellis
Sec/Treasurer Rupert Pearce.

The President welcomed Mrs.Enid Dowling and Mr.Jim Anderson as an honorary member. Those present were:Neil Dean,Ken and Joan Hinton,Beatrice Morkham,Roy and Barbara Pearce,Rupert Pearce,Norma Pollard,Tom Primrose, Mick and Mavis Singe. Apologies were received from Jack and Margaret Ellis, June Dean,Bill Fordyce,Jack and Dot Fleming,Harry Godfrey,Ann Hurford, Helen Laming,Neil McPhee,Vivienne Morris,June Schoppe and Christine Smith.

Social Activities. A lunch was held at the R.S.L.,East Malvern on July 15th. Among those welcomed were the daughter and 2 granddaughters of Jack and Margaret Ellis,on holiday from the U.S.A.

Another lunch will be held on Tuesday,september 16th. at the Manningham Club, 1,Thompsons Rd.Bulleen,Melway (previously The Sentimental Bloke Hotel) Cost not expected to exceed \$10. It is hoped to arrange a BBQ at the Masonic Temple in Oakleigh on Cup Day November,similarly to last year.

A Correction. The May 1997 Squadron News reported that Tom and Rita Primrose celebrated their Golden Wedding on March 6th. In fact it was their Diamond Wedding. Our apology,Rita and Tom.

Vale. Cec.Percy has told us that his wife,Louise,died on May 24th. They were married for 58 years. We extend our condolences.

Personal. Don Granger has been quite ill for almost 3 months and is presently at the Peter James Centre, Ringwood. Jack Fleming continues to have treatment. Ann Hurford had a cataract operation in May,and recovery is slow. Bill Fordyce has had an eye operation,but is pleased with his pace-maker. Mick and Mavis Singe are presently in W.A.,visiting their family. Mick now has a brace on his knee. Neil and June Dean are leaving in August for a Queensland holiday.

Medals. Eligibility for the Malta Medal appears to cover all 458ers who,in the period involved,served supportively of the Island. They need an appropriate certificate from their Flight Secretary. Eligibility for the 1939-45 Star has been broadened to cover (abbreviated) Operational Service in Europe during six months prior to and including May 8,1945 OR Operational Service in a designated Pacific Theatre during the 6 months prior to and including September 2nd 1945.

There are still anomalies,being debated with the Federal Government.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN. from Norman Duke.

I cannot think of a better item for the August News than the following letter just received from Ed.Carter Jones:

"Dear Norman,

Apparently,through 458 News,a mini reunion has been possible. Bill Prater who started his Squadron career with "Crusher" Jones at Alghero and later joined Harry Smith's crew,contacted me as another crew member of that crew,and put me in touch with Freddie Hatchard,who was 2nd Dickie to Harry.

The three of us met for lunch last Saturday in Walsallwith our spouses--an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable experience,followed by the hospitality of Freddie and his wife Pat in inviting us to their lovely home in Sutton Coldfield for further refreshment. We all parted company in late 1945 in the shadow of Mt.Vesuvius from 52 PTC,Portici. Bill to a transport column,Freddie to Pay Accounts and yours truly to 2825 Squadron R.A.F.Regiment in Vienna.

The upshot of this mini-reunion was that we all resolved to join you in Stratford in October."

I guess we hit the target again,Peter. Booking for Stratford still available. ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !

Q.FLIGHT NEWS. from Jack Lewis.

The May luncheon, held at the Irish Club, was enjoyed by the following "Q" Flight members: Squadron President Eric Kelly, accompanied by wife Kath., Bernie and Helen McLoughlin, Arthur and May Jones, Peter and Jean Bailie from Southport, Bert and Isla Garland, Cyril and Hetty Murray, Sel and Bobbie Williams, Jack and Evelyn Lewis, Peg Holliday and Don. Brandon.

During lunch Squadron President Eric Kelly presented me with the Certificate and Badge of Life Membership of the Squadron Association. I wish to thank all squadron members for the honour of conferring --through the Squadron Conference--Life Membership. I treasure this distinction and will be happy to wear the badge with pride. It has been a pleasure to help keep the "Q"Flight going, and I will continue to serve to the best of my ability.

The next ALL-STATES REUNION.

It has been decided by the Committee to hold the 1998 All-States Reunion at the Oasis Resort Hotel, Caloundra, during the week of the 13th to 19th of September, 1998. There will be more about the Reunion and arrangements in the November '97 News.

Personal Pars.

I recently paid a visit to Joe Bartlett. Joe, a widower, lives in a Retirement Village in nearby Victoria Point. He is still bright at age 86, and we had a good old yarn about Squadron times in North Africa. His address is 425 Lake Sherrin Village, Boundary Road, Thornlands, 4164.

I have been advised that Squadron member Bill Chapman, a fitter in squadron times, now lives at 169 Townson Avenue, Palm Beach, 4221. I made a 'phone call but unfortunately he was in hospital, having adjustments to his pacemaker. Bill's wife says that otherwise he is well and she expects him home shortly.

Our deepest sympathy to Bob Coles for the loss of his son, who was tragically killed in a car accident on the way home from work. He leaves two young children.

Without further to the contrary, "Q" Flight seems to be O.K. Jack Lewis.

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CROWEATERS CHIT CHAT. from Ted Creighton.

BILL CRIBB and JOHN CAREY. Early in June, within one week we lost two backbone members of the SA Flight. In the early hours of June 6th, Bill Cribb died at home. This unexpected loss of a long-term groundcrew member was a sad blow to all. We will miss him. Together, Bill and Pat Cribb made a team always ready to lend a hand. Bill set his standards in life and with quiet dignity and purposefulness achieved his aims. With S.A. Flight well represented, the large cross-section of people who crowded his place of worship to gather and pay tribute to Bill exemplified the esteem in which he was held. The last few words of a short valedictory by one of his daughters said it all--"Bill Cribb was a good bloke!"

Six days later on June 12th., John Carey, who had uncomplainingly been fighting a long illness, finally lost the battle. John, a pilot with the Squadron from Foggia to Gibraltar joined S.A. Flight on coming from N.S.W. Backed by wife Pat he gave outstanding service over a long period, first as Secretary and then as President. He served as Squadron President for several years. A strong family man John also worked hard for Legacy and untiringly served his church. A large crowd attended his Funeral Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in the city. A strong contingent from S.A. Flight witnessed the impressive ceremony. Pat Cribb shewed her admirable spirit in being with us, simply saying "Bill would have been here". Our thoughts go out to both families. Sympathy was conveyed personally to Pat Cribb and Pat Carey by Immediate Squadron Past President Bert Ravenscroft on behalf of all 458 members. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

The local Scene. Despite the toll of the years and brass monkey weather S.A. Flight can still wag its tail and support our popular mid-season

Croweaters Chit Chat (cont).-luncheon. Copy deadline prevents a report for this issue but currently bookings stand at over 40-a good day for August 6th.

Next on the social scene is the pre-Christmas get-together. Same place, same time, same everything. Barclay Room Adelaide Airport, BYO Lunch. buy drinks from the bar. 12 noon Sunday NOVEMBER 16th. NOTE IT DOWN NOW.
Personal Par.

Bert Ravenscroft is in celebratory mode. He has recently received his 50 Year jewel from the Grand Lodge of Freemasons whilst a family party on August 24th welcomes him into the ranks of the 80 year olds. Congrats, Pres.

Pat Cribb and Pat Carey sincerely thank all Squadron members for support in their difficult times.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to 458ers.

From Alf Rubidge, 19 Bordon Street, Rondebosch, 7700 Cape Town, South Africa to Lock Simpson

Dear Lock, Thanks again for the print of "Q" Queenie; your letter and Bernie's address.....I want to send a bank draft...I haven't been receiving any newsletters for ages--perhaps a donation will get them to send me a copy twice a year to see what's happening.....Your Waugh brothers are a tremendous pair of cricketers and then you've got Shane Warne....I pity the English side

Regards, Alf.

* * * * *

From Jim Palmer, RMB 473, Kojonup, 6395 W.A. to the Editor.

.....Re Doug. Frost who went down off Malta and became an Italian POW...Don Tunney who flew with George Buchanan's crew had the same experience, I rang Don's cousin Morton who took over the farm previous to Don's death to find if he knew other crew members names. He doesn't but perhaps Grace, Don's widow may be able to help...Don. once told me about a crew member, the second pilot who was a Rhodes Scholar, who as POW jumped from a train and was shot by the Italian guards--I don't know his name.....
Congratulations to Mick Reid not only for getting into his wartime uniform but still having one..I am still the same weight I was when going overseas but somehow I seem to have changed shape somewhat....Best wishes, Jim Palmer.

* * * * *

Received from Archie Fell, a photo taken at Griffith.

A shot of the Publisher and the Editor of 458 Squadron News, taken among 458ers during the War Memorial Ceremony at the Griffith All-States Reunion. Left, Publisher Eric Munkman, Right, Peter Alexander, Editor.

