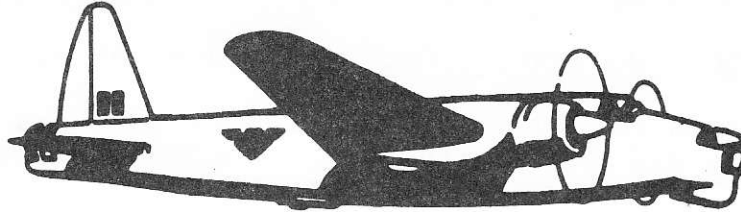


458

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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FROM Q.FLIGHT.

Good responses are coming in for the Q.Flight November luncheon. Following the success of the mid-year function, the November Xmas luncheon has been once again planned to be held at the Irish Club. Good old Bernie, what would we do without you?

Eric and Kath Kelly have recently become proud grandparents of their youngest daughter's daughter. Congratulations!

ENCLOSED with this News is a registration form for the 1998 All-States Reunion at Caloundra and a table of activities. The Committee would be pleased if these forms were completed as soon as convenient. Its sooner than you think!

Q.Flight wishes all members a Merry Xmas and a Happy, Healthy, New Year.

Regards, Jack Lewis,

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION. FROM Jock McGowen.

* We all know how much work Peter Alexander has done over the years for veterans of all Nations, including through the World Veterans Federation. He is off to Korea currently for the triennial Assembly of the World Veterans Federation. He has been awarded the WVF Rehabilitation Prize--awarded each three years. A very real honour: the only other Australian who has received this rare award is "Weary" Dunlop of Japanese POW fame. Our congratulations, Peter--and we must also thank Rita for her help to you over the years.

* By courtesy of Col. Fereday, after his trip to England recently, we have received a really great pen drawing of All Saints Church at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. A copy of this will be in the Squadron Albums.

* We are currently collecting items of memorabilia--mainly photographs--taken at Holme in the snow. If you have any please send them to Eric Munkman--for a collection at Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

* We have had another TAFE Lunch at Ryde on 29th October, and around 30 458ers attended; always good value and good food.

* In earlier issues of the News mention was made of the insertion of a Squadron Map with the names of members who trained at Narranderra at the No 8 E.F.T.S. Tiger Moth Museum at Narranderra. Tom Moore has now finished the Map. We had some delays in getting the names--they were Bert Garland, Ralph Bailey, Peter Pettit, Col Fereday, "Dusty" Miller and Merv Hargraves.

* The Map will be installed, we hope, before Christmas. Should you wish to be informed contact Eric or myself.

* On 15th Septmebr there was a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph for the Battle of Britain. Eric Munkman, Noel Walter, Bob Bruce, Keith Cousins, Jock McGowen and Sam Barlow, who laid the wreath, represented 458.

* We have just heard of the death of Bill Carr in Melbourne. He did a lot for 458 as Flight Secretary over many years and helped greatly with the obtaining of data for the Squadron History.

* The other day Eric received a letter from "Goldie" Bartlett. We had't heard from him for some 20 years. Now living at Ettalong, he has two children and 4 grandchildren.

* Don;t forget the new venue for the NSW Anzac Day reunion--at the NSW MASONIC CENTRE. This is NOT the Masonic Club but is situated at the corner of GOULBURN and CASTLEREAGH Streets. Entry from Goulburn Street and we have our own room on the ground floor. We plan to print a map in the next News.

* Finally, a Happy and Safe Christmas and may the New Year bring you all you wish in 1998. Jock.

* The NSW Melbourne Cup Sweep resulted in wins for:

1st. Alan Walker
2nd. Molly Campbell
3rd. Reg Hansell. those drawing a horse were notified.

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CROWEATERS CHIT CHAT. from Ted.Creighton.

By moving our mid-season luncheon from late July to early August in the hope of finding better weather we achieved only one thing--it broke the long dry spell S.A. was experiencing and at least made the farmers happy. Regardless of a few late scratchings and a stuttering slow start it was

Croweaters Chit Chat (cont.)

generally voted as being "a jolly good show". We do thank our ladies for the strong support they give the Flight. How can we not keep on keeping on when the likes of Verna Riseley, Isla Shepherd (sister of Al.Wheat), and Pat Cribb can brave the elements and the traffic to get from one side of the city to the other in their cars, and Barbara Ringwood in hospital for a by-pass operation insist that John spend the day with his mates.

Travelling Tait.

Kevin Tait and Ivy Smart seem always to be going somewhere. They have recently returned from a trip to Europe and the UK. Part of this trip included a tour/cruise through Eastern Europe and Russia, They were in London at the time of the funeral of the Princess of Wales. Kevin reckons it was a good trip but all in all "there's no place like home".

Christmas is Coming.

By the time you read this we will have had our Annual Meeting and pre-Christmas Get Together, and approaching that time we put the trials and tribulations of the year past behind us and look forward with a glimmer of hope to the next one. Close to home, our thoughts are with those who have had a rotten year, and people like Geoff Esau, Arn.Scholar and other Flight members who "don't get around much anymore". To each of you our sincerest regards and best wishes. On behalf of all Croweaters Flight President Bert Ravenscroft, who is now also a great-grandfather, sends the warmest of seasonal greetings to 458ers world-wide.

Full Circle.

458 Squadron member Col Michell operated from Holme-on-Spalding Moor and the Middle East. He died in 1960 as the result of an accident. Col met his wife Kaye in Yorkshire during the war. Kaye, with son Rick, has been in latter years strong supporters of our Flight functions. Kaye died in MARCH this year and Rick and his sister Trish (also a strong Flight supporter) flew to the UK to return her ashes to her beloved Yorkshire. Trish wishes to thank Eric Fox (known at the Hare and Hounds as the "Old Fox" and Frank Robertson for their assistance during her stay in Yorkshire. Frank escorted her to the 458 Memorial at HOSM and shewed her other 458 historical sites. She said he is co-ordinator for three Squadron memorials in the area---76,458 and 460 Sqdns. Along with Trish, we say THANK YOU, FRANK!.

* * * * *

THE WORLD VETERANS AND THE REHABILITATION PRIZE.

The World Veterans Federation is the (only) International body for ex-service Associations--of all war sides and all curtains. Australia (largely through the RAAF Association) has for most of the WVF's 48 years been actively involved. The WVF doesn't interfere in National matters but is very active internationally in developments of rehabilitation kinds (Prosthetics, etc), Law affecting POWs, support for United Nations and Peacekeeping. It holds General Assemblies each three years and held one in Seoul, Korea in November. Australia was well represented (by delegates who pay their own way). The Deputy Head of Australia's D.V.A. Keith Lyon was also an involved participant. Australia had three main objectives--more later. But one was the receipt, by Peter Alexander, of the World Veterans Rehabilitation Prize. One Prize (a Certificate) is awarded for each year.

Peter Alexander received his before the World Assembly (over 65 countries were represented). These prizes are for what the WVF Executive Board and Council consider important contributions to (post-conflict) rehabilitation. A Korean military band, in national costume, played triumphal music and light bulbs flashed. The WVF President, Norwegian General Jorne Egge, made kind comments. Peter made a speech--which was listened to and applauded. His citation read

"For his constant and dedicated action for the full reintegration
"of war disabled, victims of war and other people with disabilities,
"particularly in the developing countries.

"For his contribution to international cooperation and understanding
"and to initiating pilot projects for the welfare of war disabled."

The other two prizes of the triennium went to the Fauji Foundation of Pakistan and to Jesse Brown, first American Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who was also present.

The W.V.F. (cont.)

The other two Australian focuses were the passing of a motion seeking international research on the effects and treatment (if any) around the world of servicepeople exposed to ionising radiation (such as at Maralinga) and the election of an Australian to the Executive Board. These succeeded: there will be a W.V.F. project on radiation and Mrs. June Stone of Australia was elected as Vice President from Asia and the Pacific--the first woman to sit on the Executive Board. Peter Alexander held that elected job from 1980-89. He is now an Honorary (World) Vice President of the WVF.

Australian members of the RAAF Association who are interested in WVF are invited to contact WVF at PO Box Q314 York Street, Sydney. The next Assembly will be in Paris in 2000.

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KIWI CALL.

from Kevin George.

Ivan Green rang us a few nights ago to say Irene was in hospital following a stroke. She was making progress when she had another lesser stroke ten days ago. She is again making progress and determined to be with us in Caloundra in September.

Dawn and I have just had a lengthy telephone conversation with Arch and Gladys Fell. They are well and also looking forward to the next Reunion in Queensland where one of their daughters is resident.

Arch had a letter from Ron Verity a few weeks ago. Ron and Mary are well but Ron's knee problem inhibits his activities somewhat--and an operation will be necessary sooner or later.

Let's hope he has the operation sooner as we would all like to see a full muster of the New Zealand Flight at Caloundra. Are you listening, Ron?

With kind regards, Kevin G.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Norman L. Duke.

Reunion '97-Stratford upon Avon. October 5th/6th.

Total rollcall 37. Several members unable to take off. Hal Lee, Jim Croft, and Don. Stocks sent apologies due to hospital commitments. John Douglas unable to travel due to a stroke earlier this year. Also Peter Cochrane couldn't make it this year.

Especially welcome, Jim and Dorothy Whitem who drove up with NLD from Surrey and Fred Kleckham from NSW who made the journey to be with us during their holiday trips. The date of 458's very first op on 21/10/41 to Emden was commemorated by the presentation of a framed record of the Squadron's operations from Holme-on-Spalding Moor in 1941-2 to Frank Robertson, our ever attentive and faithful man on the spot, to be displayed in the village Information Room together with the framed Squadron badge.

Ed. Carter Jones, his wife Win., Bill Prater and wife Maureen and Fred Hatchard, whose wife was diverted by the arrival of a new grandchild, spent an even more significant reunion in 50 years when they met Terry Smith, widow of their skipper Harry and their two children, Gillian and Cameron, both now medical doctors.

Other new welcome guests were Jack Christianson, his wife Audrey, and old friend and fellow captain from Bone onward, Mo. Borne. Our sincere sympathy goes to Mo. who very sadly lost his wife several weeks before. A letter was received from Nance Filley, whose husband Harry died last Easter, sending her best wishes.

Members present. Leon and Doreen Armstrong*, Graham Arnold*, Jack and Grace Baker*, Mo. Borne, Ed and Win Carter-Jones, Jack and Audrey Christianson, David and Rose Davies, David Duff*, Norman and Joyce Duke*, Bill Eden, Fred. Hatchard, Norman and Glenys Gilbert*, Stewart and June Kent, Babs Mahsey*,

The British Bulletin (cont.)

Ken and Kathleen Morris, Peter and Eileen Leonard*, Fred Kleckham*, Bill and Maureen Prater. Terry Smith*, Gillian Smith*, Cameron Smith, Jim and Dorothy Whittem, Reg and Betty Windett*, Frank Robertson*.

All those marked * sat down for a second innings on October 6th, including 5 members of Leon Armstrong's family from Birmingham for a mini family reunion...son Paul and wife Sue, and granddaughters Jane and Laura (another doctor) plus boyfriend Tom. Plenty of doctors at our get-together, but fortunately no casualties.

After the October 5th dinner, Leon Armstrong presented Norman Duke with the honour of Life Membership of the 458 Squadron Association.

At Brooklands On October 1st, Jim Whittem and Dorothy, with second cousin David Young, his wife, NLD and Joyce visited Brooklands for an official presentation of the 458 "artifacts" to be included in the R for Robert museum display. A number of official photographs were taken.

Note. I now have a few blazer badges (10 pounds each) and car stickers (two pounds) available. I forward to Australia a few photographs received from David Duff for Squadron records.

yours aye, Norman.

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

On October 5th., W.A. Flight members met at Bill and Joan Clues home for a Sunday lunch BBQ. There were 16 people who turned up, but owing to some sickness only 6 458ers, with some associate members: Bill Clues, Ted. Jewell, Henry Etherton, Ben Cormack, Gordon Jones, Len. Stewart. A great day. Len. Stewart brought along a world map showing 458 Squadron travels around the world, plus an album of photos taken during those years. Certainly brought back a few memories. Strange how young everyone looked. "Nobby" Nobbs, was away caravanning up the north of the State: Doug. Anderson was not too well--'flu I was told; John Lilly is still not enjoying good health; Len Stewart's knee is still giving some trouble. Bill Kelliher was tied up at the local sailing club--he is one of the official starters of the racing.

W.A. Flight's Xmas dinner will be at the Freeway Motel, South Perth, on Sunday December 7th at 12 noon. Any member who has not been notified please ring Bill Clues as soon as possible. Ted. Jewell.

THE CANADIAN FLIGHT UPDATE. from Bryan Quinlan

Firstly, our sincere best wishes for a very merry Christmas.

Frank and Peg Laughlin, Victoria, B.C. report good health and an enjoyable Caribbean cruise last Jan. More recently, they attended a family gathering at Trout Lake on Vancouver Island (a Mars water-bomber base). Frank joined 458 from 221 and flew in Jack Reynolds' crew during Jan-March 1943.

Jack Reynolds reports good health but says he now plays his golf on the computer and participates via TV. Jack and Dorothy are moving to a more central Vancouver location on 1st. November which will bring Jack closer to U.B.C. and his volunteer role in the Senior Centre activities.

Last 458 News sent to Bob Shannon was returned "Incomplete Address" from Oliver, a small community in B.C.'s interior. As Tony Mauro also lives in Oliver and his was not returned I called him for any news on Bob. I learned that Tony is in good health and that Bob is in a Senior's Rest Home there. Tony also reported that Bob never belonged to 458, so how he came to be on our list will remain a mystery.

Speaking of disappearances, both Jim Lovelace and Lorne Holtzman have either moved without advising or have had their situations change over the summer. Jim's Fax and Tel are no longer in service. I can only hope for the best and further news.

Canadian Update (cont.)

Jim and Peg Donaldson are naturally still trying to come to terms with the tragic loss of Jim Jnr. Jim, aided by his strong faith, retains his positive outlook and his determination to overcome this very difficult situation. Jim advises that he has traced an old crew mate, Wop/AG Jack Ball in the U.K., and earlier this month the two were reunited when Jack made a special detour from his USA trip to stay with them in Winnipeg. Jack was unaware of the 458 UK Flight and Jim provided him with Norm Duke's address, and he is now keen to renew his 458 connection. On a less happy trace result Jim learned of the recent passing of their navigator, Dave Walsh, who resided in Belgium.

Tom Lindsay who lives only two blocks from me is keeping well but unfortunately his wife has had health problems for some time. Tom recalled a little jaunt into Spain with Tony Mauro when the Squadron was in Gibraltar. Tom and I are going to get together for lunch at the local Legion in the near future.

Ernie Ireland, Cranbrook, BC, advises that his BIG NEWS is the projected arrival of his first blood-related grandchild in January. Ernie has a number of valued young step-grandchildren of whom he is very proud, but this special event will naturally carry added significance. Other than an up and coming cataract operation, Ernie says he is doing OK healthwise. (ED. We wonder if Ernie still plays Bridge. We recall him as a very good player in North Africa.)

Sid Winchester advises that he and Joyce will celebrate their 50th in June '98. They stay pretty close to home. He got his first deer this year, but unfortunately with his auto! No injuries other than to the deer and the car. Said he has had some angina problems in the past and he and Joyce walk for health reasons. Sid had some very hairy experiences after leaving 458 and his pilot recorded them in book form. I found them very interesting. I often wonder how many fascinating war stories remain untold and which will disappear with the participants.

Bert and Gladys Markland are looking forward to their annual group vacation to Reno, Nevada, and Palm Springs, California, in Feb and March. The rest of the year their Christina Lake home is at a popular holiday location in B.C.'s interior so, in effect, they are on "holiday" all year. Bert was recalling Christmas at Foggia in 1944, Italy and the successful scrounging for food for Xmas dinner, outfitting the partially completed Pulp mill building being used as a billet, and a highly dangerous-sounding drip arrangement for heating. Maybe this will ring a bell with others on 458 at the time. Bert also recounts a flight with Mel Priest and their sinking of a 5,000 ton ship, and another trip to bomb an oil installation at low level.

Ben Gruenwald, Vancouver, is staying relatively healthy. Ben is a keen baseball fan and attends quite a few games, although he states that he cut-back somewhat this season. Ben and the rest of the Lower Mainlanders of 458 are hoping we will get some more visitors like Colin Fereday and the Georges or the U.K. Dukes so we can organise another mini reunion and gathering of the Cloverdale Clods with the originators and adopted 458ers Jack and Enid Miles. Get Colin or Kevin to explain that one.

Mick Reid and I had a long and enjoyable tel conversation last week--I owed him for a couple of his information--packed masterpieces--and Mick will probably be sending you any information he has on our Eastern Clan and presumably including his and Marg's status report. They sound very chipper and the same as ever and the obvious highlight of the year was the visit of granddaughter Tiffany. Oh, yes, the M and Ms celebrate their 53rd on Oct. 28!

Lastly, Joan and I can't really complain about the relatively minor ailments which pop up periodically. Last month I passed the 75 mark which seems a long way from my "Junior" era. Our greatest joy are our four grandsons and one grand-daughter, and the close proximity of our families. We took in three pro golf events this summer. A Skins game with Greg Norman, Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo, and Fred Couples, then the Fred Couples Invitational in Seattle and the Greater Vancouver Open. My handicap remained the same, mainly because I didn't record some of my poorer rounds--Can't accuse me of sand-bagging!.....Very best wishes Bryan.

VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Rupert Pearce.

Lunch at the Manningham Club. Flight President Mick Singe welcomed 24 members and friends to this lunch. It was pleasing to see Joan Russell, who was on holiday in Melbourne. Also Don and Shirley Granger, Tom Primrose and his daughter, Eleanor. Don has been in hospital for long spells this year; Shirley has been on the Sick List, and Tom has been in hospital having attention to an old by-pass operation.

BBQ at Nell and Harry Ashworths. All members are invited to a BBQ on 15th March, 1998. As in previous years, bring your own food and drink only.

Reminder of Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Ian Cox, a brother of Alex Cox, who was a member of the crew of P/O R.N. Furey on 15th November 1941 on a raid to Emden, sent us a copy of a letter from his cousin. This describes a visit to HOSM. He writes that it is known as Holme Industrial Estate and it was closed down as an airfield in December, 1983. He enclosed some photos of the disused buildings. An extract from the letter and the photos have been sent to Don Bitmead for Squadron records.

The Christmas Parcel for Mrs. Matthews This has been organised by Mick Singe and despatched.

The Malta Medal. Bill Fordyce has provided extracts from the RAF Association paper "Air Mail" stating that the Malta Medal has been given official status by HM the Queen and can be worn after officially awarded British medals.

55th Anniversary of Milne Bay. This was celebrated on 23rd. September at a Service at the Shrine of Remembrance and a luncheon at the RAAFA Centre at Cromwell Road, South Yarra. Bruce McDonald, Secretary of 6 Squadron and a member of 458 Squadron came down from Wollongong to attend them, and was accompanied by Rupert Pearce.

Passing of Bill Carr. The Flight has heard with regret of Bill's passing and joins in sympathy to his family. Bill gave long and devoted service to this Flight as its Honorary secretary and President.

Personal. Our thoughts are with members who are not as well or agile as they would wish--and a Merry Christmas to all.

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A picture of Mrs. Moma Matthews of Holme-on-Spalding Moor--widow of the man who for years tended the 458 graves in the Churchyard. 458 keeps in touch with her.



A P H O T O G R A P H I C P A G E .

We are indebted to U.K. Flight members for recently received Squadron photos--particularly mentioning David Duff.
The photos are a varied lot from different times, places and climates.



Shallufa, 1943. Cooking in the Egyptian summer---and desert.



The Tree at HOSM now--compare it with the picture in the Squadron History--p.255 (2nd Ed.)



David Duff with Hugh Hamlet, 1943.