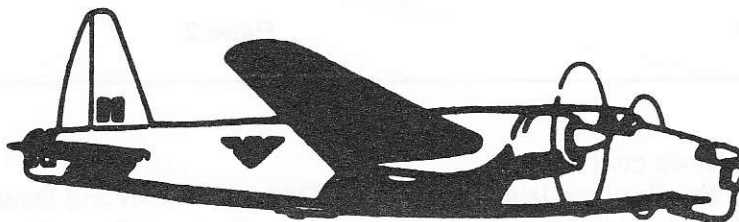


458

SQUADRON NEWS



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, GPO Box 5289, SYDNEY, NSW, AUSTRALIA, 2001

Year 49, No. 194

May, 1998

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
Squadron Treasurer
Squadron Secretary
Hon. Squadron Auditor

Eric Kelly (Q)
Peter Alexander (NSW)
Bob Bruce (NSW)
Frank Ward (NSW)

Squadron Vice Presidents:
Australia: Jim Palmer (WA)
Bert Oliver (SA)
UK Norman Duke (England)
Canada Jim Donaldson (Manitoba)
New Zealand Kevin George

Editor: Peter Alexander (Fax: 9261 8848)
Publisher: Eric Munkman

Flight Correspondents

| | |
|----------|--|
| SA | Ted Creighton, 2/6, Third Avenue, Glenelg East, S A , 5045 |
| Victoria | Rupert Pearce, 46 Mt Pleasant Road, Nunawading, Victoria, 3131 |
| UK | Norman Duke, Orchard Cottage, Guildford Road, Cranleigh, England |
| NSW | Jock McGowen, 110 Patrick Street, Hurstville, NSW, 2220 |
| Qld | Jack Lewis, 5 Cupania Road, Victoria Point, Queensland, 4165 |
| WA | Ted Jewell, 61 Wyaree Road, Mandurah, WA, 6210 |
| NZ | Kevin George, 20 Kowhai Avenue, Kaikohe, New Zealand |
| Canada | Jim Donaldson, 72 Amarynth Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R2Y, Canada |

#####

BIG RESPONSE FOR CALOUNDRA ALL-STATES REUNION. Q. FLIGHT NEWS FROM JACK LEWIS.

The number of registrations received is indeed gratifying. We have received 133--a great response. I would like it known that Jim MacKay who lives at Caloundra and is on the spot has been a great help in arranging the bookings as requested on registrations--of accommodation and as detailed to him by Evelyn. I would like to thank those members who have made donations towards the cost of the Reunion--this was much appreciated.

The list is as follows: Bill and Mavis Addinall, Peter and Rita Alexander, Don and Joan Anderson, Wal and Dora Archbold, Alan Atherton, Harry and Nita Baines, Sam and Maisie Barlow, Peter and Jean Bailie, Sid and Pat Bartram, John and Kitty Baxter, Don, Bev and Peter Bitmead, Curly and Kerry Brain, Don Brandon and Mary Wallace, Bob Bruce, Horrie and Marie Campbell, Graeme Coombes, Keith and Cassie Cousins, Laurie and Betty Crowley, Magna Bryant, Neil and June Dean, Harry and Pat Dorge, John and Moya Dunn, John and Ruth Excell, Arch and Glad Fell, Col Fereday, Sel and

Q Flight News cont'd

Joan Foote, Bert and Isla Garland, Vic Gibbins, Kevin and Dawn George, "Farmer" and Beryl Giles, Jack and Elsie Hamilton, Erle Hetherington, Reg and Grace Hansell, Jack and Sheila Hobbs, Doug and Betty Holland, Peg Holliday, Bill and Peggy Hull, Bill and Gwen Johnson, Bill and Flip Kelliher, Eric and Kath Kelly, Fred and Marjorie Kleckham, Jack and Gwen Lawson, Jack and Evelyn Lewis, Jean Longhurst, Bruce McDonald, Bernie and Helen McLoughlin, Dusty and Enid Miller, Tom and Val Moore, Eric and Dorothy Munkman, Nobby and Esme Nobbs, Cyril and Hetty Murray, Bert and Marjorie Oliver, Jim and Lucy Palmer, Rupert Pearce, Norma Pollard, Pete and June Pettit, Mr and Mrs J Pryde, Eric and Gloria Purcill, Bert Ravenscroft, Joan Russell, Bob and Mary Scholes, Bob and Dorothy Smith, Bill and Dorothy Turier, George and Grace Unitt, Ron and Mary Verity, Noel and Nita Walters, Frank and Thelma Ward, David and Judy Westgarth, Jim and Dorothy Whitem, Eric and Bridie Lloyd, Dud and Edna McKay, Jim and Joyce McKay, Bob and Pat Lyndon.

Anzac Day in Brisbane. A few turned out for the Anzac Day Parade. Richard Holliday, with his son Nicholas marched, Nicholas carrying our Banner. Squadron President Eric Kelly led the Q Flight contingent together with a few Odd Bods who generally march along with Q Flight--they help to make up the numbers.

At our Annual General Meeting Eric Kelly was re-elected as Flight President of Q Flight and Jack Lewis as Secretary/Treasurer. (ED. We welcome Jack back after heart surgery and wish him a continued excellent recovery). Q Flight has a few outstanding Annual subs and we would be glad to receive these and so close off 1998 accounts.

Personal Pars. I hear that Danny Dangaard is not the best health-wise, and has some doubts about attending the Reunion. Eric Bird was still in hospital when I last head in February. Trust all is well and you are now home, Eric. Alf Peake has had hip replacement and his wife had a fall and injured her back and requires regular treatment. Our regards to those members I do not know about. I myself have been in hospital during February. I had Open Heart surgery, aorta valve replacement and three by-passes. It was a bit rugged for a while but am now beginning to feel my old self. This surgery was out of the blue, quite unexpected, came about from my 6 monthly check. My wife Evelyn took over all my work for me during all this trauma, not easy for her but we pulled through. Thanks, Evelyn for all you did. Eric and Kath Kelly represented Q Flight at the RAAF Memorial service in Queens Park in March, Eric laid a wreath of Remembrance on the memorial.

Remember: Q. FLIGHT hosts the All-States Reunion at The OASIS HOTEL MOTEL RESORT, CALOUNDRA, 13th-19th SEPTEMBER, 1998

#####

THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION FROM JOCK MCGOWEN

- * Our first task this issue is another sad one, Max Richards from Nelson Bay passed away on 9th May, we were ably represented at the funeral by Bill Fiddes and 458 sent a wreath. Those of you who attended the 458 Reunion in Nelson Bay back in October 1987 may have seen that great little Park that Max made up for the locals near his house, he said he did it to give him something to do. Max was a member of Mal Priest's crew. Our sincere sympathy to Max's family.
- * At long last the No. 8 EFTS 458 memorial at Narrandera is completed, on the 10th March last the map of our operations, made by Tom Moore was fixed to the wall of the museum in the presence of the General Manager of the Narrandera City Council, and it was suitably dedicated and blessed by the local Anglican Padre. Those present were Pete Pettit and wife June, Dusty Millar and wife Enid, Laurie Crowley and wife Betty, Tom Moore and wife Val, Eric Munkman, Col Fereday, Jock McGowen and wife Anne, and Dusty brought a couple of other Squadron members to attend the ceremony.

Cornstalk Communication by Jock McGowen cont'd

As a matter of interest, at the last Anzac Day it was found that Bill Addinall trained at Narrandera, but unfortunately we were not notified when we asked for names, and Bill was left off the list. Sorry Bill, the names are behind glass now and it would be difficult to alter the list.

- * Just recently published is a book listing all of the RAAF Squadrons of WWII. It is called 'FLYING SQUADRONS' and is published by AEROSPACE PUBLICATIONS, Box 3105, Weston Creek, ACT 2611, and costs about \$23.00 delivered. The book gives the history and types of aircraft flown during the wartime years.
- * Jim Whittem has given me the details of 'A Gathering of Eagles'. This is a Grand International Reunion of Air Crew from all three services, at Bull Creek, Western Australia, 6 from all Allied Aircrew, the reunion will be held in Perth with a possible extension to Sydney for the Olympic Games, the dates are from 3rd to 10th September, 2000: for details obligation free write to - Thomas Scully, JP, Box 78, Air Force Memorial House, Bull Creek Drive, Bull 149.
- * Bill Fiddes has been looking after our Memorial Plaque and tree at Williamtown Air Base, and we thank Bill for his attention to this important, memorial - keep up the good work Bill!
- * ANZAC DAY in Sydney was a great success, thanks to Eric Munkman and Noel Walter our new venue was all that could be desired, we were on our own in a beaut room, plenty of grog and fine food, all for the inclusive price of \$26.00. For those who might make it next year - join us, it was great. Those there were: Bill Addinall and wife Mavis, Merv Hargreaves and wife Roush, Marshall Alan, Wal Archbold, Arnold Ashton, Kevin George, Ralph Bailey, Harry Baines, Sam Barlow, Don Bitmead, Bob Bruce, Keith Cousins, Laurie Crowley, John Dunn, Kevin George, David Longhurst (son of Stan.), Bob Low, Bob Lyndon, Jock McGowen, Dusty Millar, Eric Munkman, Norm Peachey, Peter Pettit, Jack Powers, John Powers (visitor son of Jack), Tom Ridgway, Bob Smith, Noel Walter, Frank Ward, Jim Whittem. A good roll up and a most enjoyable day.
- * The election of office bearers for 1998/9 resulted in the same committee as before, with Eric in charge, supported by Noel and Bob, we will go well.
- * As a matter of interest, Ann and I went on from Narrandera Museum to Wangaratta and visited the Air Museum - well worth a visit. Two Hudsons and a DC3, plus other pre-war machines.
Jock McGowen.

VICTORIAN VIEWS. From Rupert Pearce.

RE the White Wellington in the February News. This prompted Cec.Percy to write that a Wellington with Bob Male as Pilot took off from Bone on 13.2.1944 on a sub.sweep. Ice on the wings caused it to crash. Bob Male, Harry Baines and himself were the only survivors. He wonders if this was the one found.

BBQ at Rosebud on March 15th. Harry and Nell Ashworth were our hosts and it was a pleasant day. Those who came were: June and Neil Dean, Margaret and Jack Ellis and friend Charlie, Joann and Ken Hinton, Kath and Harold Martin, Rupert Pearce, Norma Pollard, and Mavis and Mick Singe. Apologies were received from the Bilneys, the Grangers, the Pearces, Ann Hurford, Beatrice Morkham, June Schoppe, and Christine Smith.

The RAAFA Annual Ecumenical Church service on the 29th.March. This was held at St.Martins Church, South Yarra and followed by a lunch at the Club premises. Neil and June Dean, Rupert Pearce Norma Pollard, and Mavis and Mick Singe represented the Squadron.

Anzac Day. The Navy led the March, followed by the Army and then the RAAF. Luckily the rain stopped as we moved off led by Flight President Mick, and with our banner carried by ATC personnel. Members on parade were: Jim Anderson, John Bilney, Shorty Bradshaw, Stan.Cartledge with granddaughter Sharon, Neil Dean, Jack Ellis, Ken Fleming (a new honorary member)Ken Hinton, Roy

Victorian Views cont'd by Rupert Pearce

and Rupert Pearce and Tom Primrose. Also Michelle Jackson, granddaughter of Gordon Nash. It was noted that Tom Primrose was not in his kilt this year. He said it was too cold. We were joined at the Bowling Club by Margaret Ellis, Shirley and Don Granger, Joann Hinton, Harold Martin, Barbara Pearce, June Schoppe, and Eleanor, daughter of Tom Primrose. Seen in the crowd were Les Kennedy, and Mr and Mrs Jackson. Apologies from Harry Ashworth, Ron Eggers, Jack Fleming, Bill Fordyce, Ian Giles, Bruce Prideaux, Kath Martin, and Beatrice Morkham.

Future activity. Subject to confirmation at the AGM on 26th May, it has been suggested that a lunch be held at the Frankston RSL, Cranbourne Road at noon on 23rd June. We hope members living in that area will be able to attend. A booking is needed and members intending to come should please ring Mick or Rupert by 19th June.

Welfare. We would welcome news from members, particularly country members. We know that the Grangers, Ron Eggers, Bill Fordyce, Jack Fleming, the Martins, Bruce Prideaux, and Helen Laming have not been well and we wish them better days ahead. Mick Singe has been told that both knees need reconstructing and he will be in Bethesda Hospital, Richmond on 18th August for knee no.1 The 2nd to be later. He regrets he will miss the Queensland Reunion but it will be in his thoughts.

The Australian Service Medal. Helen Laming was pleased to receive this with clasps for Korea and Malaya, awarded to her late husband Ernie, our own W O D who continued to serve in the RAAF after the war.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

THE CANADIAN REPORT. From Bryan Quinlan. 1460 Haywood Ave, West Vancouver, V7T 1V6.

A rather limited telephone survey revealed that Frank and Peg Laughlin had just arrived back in Victoria from a vacation trip to Los Angeles, Anaheim and San Diego including a visit to Disney Land, with the return leg by cruise ship. In March they celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary, one of the many long-term couples from our generation and unlikely to be duplicated under to-day's flighty commitments. Congrats to Frank and Peg. Frank intends to contact Wilf Baynton (North Bay, Ontario) who has had some health problems-and will hopefully be able to report some positive news.

Come this October, 54 years congrats will also be in order for Mick and Marg. Reid who likewise recently enjoyed a vacation--in Phoenix, Arizona, getting in some golf and lots of sunshine. Mick reports that they, like the rest of us, are experiencing the wear and tear of advancing years, but sound as cheery and upbeat as ever. Mickey continues to exude his trademark infectious enthusiasm for everything he is involved in.

My nearby neighbour Tom Lindsay reports a quiet winter and currently he and wife Fay are enjoying a visit by their son from Calgary, timed for Mother's Day. Jack and Dorothy Reynolds are settled in their new Condo in Vancouver and advise relatively smooth sailing. Back troubles have caused Jack to abandon the Golf course but he is still active in his work for seniors. Sid and Joyce Winchester report from Parkville, Vancouver Island, and are about to celebrate their 50th with family in Vancouver, at which time I hope to renew our 458 friendship after a 55 year interval! Congrats to them also.

Sid. derived great enjoyment in reading his recently received copy of Peter's invaluable "We Find and Destroy" which has obviously rekindled his memories and the bond formed during his time on 458. Sid had distributed a montage of his 458 photos and I will forward a copy if Sid has not already done so. I unsuccessfully tried to reach Jim Donaldson, Ernie Ireland, and Bert Markland and will endeavour to encompass a wider group.

My personal and collective best wishes to all you good Aussie types with special mention for Colin Fereday and George Unitt and anyone else I owe letters to, on my ever-lengthening list. You are often thought of most fondly.

Bernice Evans has provided information on Cam's time on 458 and who he flew with. He was with Suddaby's crew and at Malta from 11th April to 29th May 1943 and then to Protville via Blida until tour-expired.

It goes without saying that we are happy to have old friend Col Fereday as our delegate at Squadron Conference. Don't let him take our share on at the Bar.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

THE BRITISH BULLETIN From Norman Duke.

As the Squadron Standard is permanently displayed in the Church on the Hill at Holme, the Church occupies a significant place in the hearts and minds of 458 members, and especially at this time of the year when we remember all our absent friends who died in the service of their country, and those who survived but are no longer with us. Especially our 458 aircrew members--Flying Officer McDonald, and Pilot Officer Carmichael who are laid to rest in the Holme churchyard together with P O Allen, Sgt. Tressider and Sgt Ware.

Association members Jock Pattison, Ken Morris, and Peter Cochrane, together with local stalwart Frank Robertson, who had arranged a display in the church together with a special floral arrangement by Ann Hall, a local florist expert, were able to attend the Church Service on Sunday April 26th, when tribute was paid to 458 by the Rev. David Cook. After the service Jock Pattison laid the squadron wreath on the memorial at the old airfield. A sudden downpour interrupted this solemn event necessitating a rapid adjournment to the Hare & Hounds for a wee dram.

More Pub news!! A new commemoration for 458 in Holme. Thanks to a cooperative landlord, Frank Robertson has arranged for a photographic display board of Squadron history to be displayed in the bar of the Cross Keys. Another excuse for us all to visit Holme in the future.

Bookings so far for the '98 reunion in Limpley Stoke Hotel, Bath are encouraging. Still room for a few more on October 3rd/4th.

.....

CROWEATERS CHIT CHAT from TED CREIGHTON

Pat Cribb Reports on the "Old Man of the River" and FEE

Dear Ted: I don't know when items are due for the next newsletter but I thought it would be of interest to his old mates to hear of the 60th Wedding Anniversary celebrations of Fee and Ian Showell. Actually their anniversary was January 6, but at that date Fee was not very well and it was still close to Christmas festivities. So, on January 31 at 5 pm a party was held at their Renmark home for about 45 guests. It was a great success. Daughter Lydia, son-in-law Andrew and granddaughter Alex did most of the organisation and preparation and looked after everyone perfectly.

Being invited I went up by bus on the Saturday and was met in time for the party. I returned on Monday's bus after a lovely weekend and being made so very welcome. Fee was to read a poem composed for the occasion by their son. She caused much mirth at the start by remarking that she already had had four bottles of champagne and hoped she could read it properly - then hastily corrected this to FOUR GLASSES. This will take some living down, Fee.

Fee and Ian are keeping quite well as Fee has felt better since her recent visit to her daughter Josephine in Queensland. The holiday break proved very beneficial. Congratulations to both from 458'ers everywhere.

Verna Riseley's Chicken and salad luncheon held on March 15 was again a successful affair. More than 20 people gathered at her home to enjoy a "snack and a yack". Later Bert Ravenscroft organised a flower drop to show the appreciation of the Flight. Verna's response - "wonderful to receive flowers to thank me. I enjoyed them so much. Happy days everyone - Verna".

Grange - Vintage 1998 So well received last year the ANNUAL MID-YEAR LUNCHEON will be held again at the Grange Golf Club. The date: Thursday 30th JULY. The time: NOON for 12.30 pm. Similar round table seating but park yourself where you please. Standard table drinks will be included in the cost which this year is \$22.50. Bookings close Monday 20th July--ring Liaison Officer Peter Thom 82955570; Ted Creighton 82951626 or Bert Ravenscroft 83569442, Note the DATES NOW.

The One Day of the Year. Wild, wet and windy set the scene for Anzac Day, Adelaide, 1998. So much so that those attending the early morning Airport Service and the March deserve special mention. Shivering at the Airport were Joyce Austin and Beth Lawson, Ted and Freda Creighton, Reg. Priest, Bert Ravenscroft, John and Barbara Ringwood, Kevin Tait, Bill and Madge Taylor, Peter Thom with grandson, Luke Verrall and Glen Forgan--very much below our usual muster. The March suffered even more. Led off by Colin Hutchinson were Eric Baker, Keith Grimshaw, Rick Michell, Trish Cosh, John Ringwood, Peter Thom and Luke Verrall - belatedly joined down the road by Bert Ravenscroft, Glen Forgan and others. The warmth of the combined Talbot - Gouger Café had a much greater appeal and some 29 bods gathered for a most enjoyable lunch. Special thanks to Rick Michell for his organisation and hospitality. It was really the highlight of the day. Anzac Day is due day for 1998 subs. Don't be on the Red Dot Reminder list. Get yours off now To Bert Ravenscroft at 11 Thornton Street, Henley Beach, 5022. Whilst Buck Petersen couldn't join us, he has done the right thing including a note of a trip down memory lane re a tyre blow-out on the kite he was flying back from Gibraltar to the UK. Good to hear from you Buck!

As usual it was a lovely Perth day for the Anzac Day march, but the Flight members marching are becoming fewer and fewer each year, we only had 3 458 members line up at the start of the march, Bill Clues, Ted Jewell, Stan Hopewell, with Gordon Jones falling in along the way. Our President, Bill Clues, attended the Dawn Service in Kings Park and laid a wreath at the war memorial. After the march we all met at the Moon & Sixpence Hotel in Perth for drinks and lunch, where we had 26 people turn up, extra Squadron members and wives were Henry Etherton and Vera, Joan Clues, Poss Dale, Margaret Gannaway, Betty Hopewell, Olga Jones and others were associate members and friends, John Lilly sent his apologies as he is still having troubles with his leg; everyone said they had a great day. Peter Alexander had a trip down to Mandurah when he was over for a few days in Perth, Peter and Rita dropped around home for a short spell before being picked up by his driver, Len Stewart and Nobby Nobbs called in to say hullo to Peter, it was good to see him again. To help preserve our Flight Banner from extra wear and tear, Bill Clues has had his son Gary make a cabinet with a glass front big enough to show the banner opened out, it will be put on show at the WA Flight's stand at the Air Force Bateman Museum. It will be on permanent display, only taken out on Anzac Day, and any other functions.

We are all getting older and having some health problems, Gordon Jones is suffering with back trouble, Les Lockhart has had a fall hurting his spine, getting around at the time with a walking frame, Jack Cobb has some problems and cannot drive his car now. Doug Anderson hasn't been well, couldn't make the lunch.

Associate members Phil and Shirley Hicks are having a casserole lunch at their home on July 5th, a Sunday, all are welcome to come, we always have a great day, with the ladies bringing a hot dish. All the best. Ted Jewell.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Ground Staff members will well remember Les (Snowy) Piggott of the Instrument Section. Les died many years ago. His widow, Edna, asks if any 458er remembers Les suffering injury to his back while with the RAAF. This could be important to her in a Repatriation application. Will anyone who can help please send us details to pass on to Edna. (GPO Box 5289, Sydney, NSW 2001)

XX

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

Once called Shell-shock, this considerable disability has become well recognised in medical and psychiatric circles--particularly since the Vietnam conflict. Substantial numbers of ex-service people are currently receiving treatment in Department of Veterans Affairs clinics in every Australian State for a variety of symptoms. Over 40% of Australians who served in the horrific events in Rwanda have been diagnosed as PTSD sufferers, some badly. It is, of course, possible for PTSD sufferers to lead normal lives and careers--but with handicaps. Major professional opinion is that there is a "Window" period after a trauma has occurred in which PTSD can be averted or cured; thereafter it is incurable and you can only treat the symptoms. This should be very important to the Services (who should want to keep their soldiers, airmen, sailors fit for service) and to DVA which has to provide treatment for the untreated perhaps for many years and at much expense.

So, the ex-service movement (AVADSC in particular) is pressing to know what the Defence Dept is doing. Peter Alexander recently attended an International Conference (his own expense!) in Croatia on the Psycho-social Consequences of War at which about 290 psychiatrists/psychologists plus some veterans discussed the issues as to what can be done in the window period. Such an environment is a strange one but some useful ideas were obtained--particularly from younger Croatian doctors. We are currently pressing Mrs Bronwyn Bishop, Minister for Defence Science and Personnel for a Video to be made to tell Squadron/Company Commanders and Ships Captains what to do--they being the people with immediate access to potential sufferers in the window period--before the (adverse) brain paths get permanently set.

Incidentally Peter and Rita found Croatia (particularly Dubrovnik where the Conference met) in good condition with much bullet and shell damage being rapidly repaired and the economy looking good. Zagreb, the capital, was an enjoyable small city of mediaeval origins with life proceeding well.

Some weeks before this, Peter had the interesting experience of being Guest Speaker at the Annual dinner, in Canberra of the Scottish-descended members of Parliament and Senators. There were about 35 there with a number of apologies. The Dinner was at the Burns Club and Peter spoke on "Scotland and its Future"--a subject close to his heart. Scots have, like other Celts, made a major contribution to the settlement and development of Australia. Indeed, who's like us! (A remark that could also be made about 458)

+++++

THE GOLD CARD FOR MORE VETERANS.

The recent Australian Budget extended the Repatriation GOLD Card (Free treatment for all medical, surgical, optometrical, dental, etc disabilities--whether or not service-caused) to all Australian Veterans with overseas service. This clearly must apply to all Australians of 458. It will require to be applied for (apart from those already having the Gold Card) and will apply from January 1st 1999 or the date of application----- whichever is the later. Applications on the appropriate form to DVA State Office (Applicants have to be over 70).

+++++
+++++

S.A. FLIGHT SECRETARY'S MOVE.

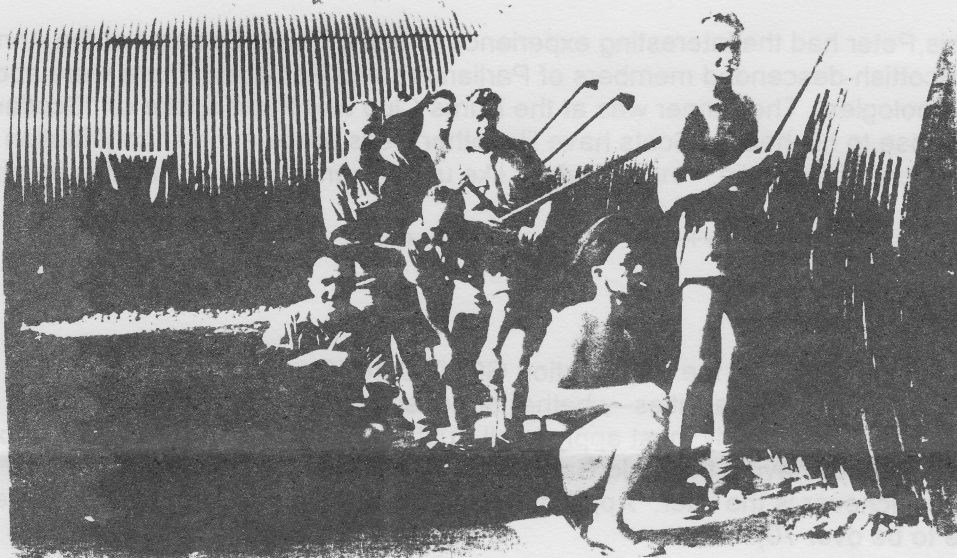
Sharp-eyed readers will have observed that Ted Creighton has moved from the ancestral half-acre to a near-by residence--2/6, Third Avenue, Glenelg East, S A 5045 Telephone number unchanged.

+++++

SOME MORE SQUADRON PHOTOGRAPHS. Received from 458ers some photos--mostly from long-ago and not the better for the years. But we believe readers like to see such reminders of long-ago. One comment--working clothes in deserts weren't dry-cleaned or ironed!

Shallufa 1943.

Lto R Hugh Hamlet
Bill Baxter
Jack Crisp ?
Frank Baggott



At Gibraltar 1945

Bill Baxter at left.

S A Flight one Anzac Day

