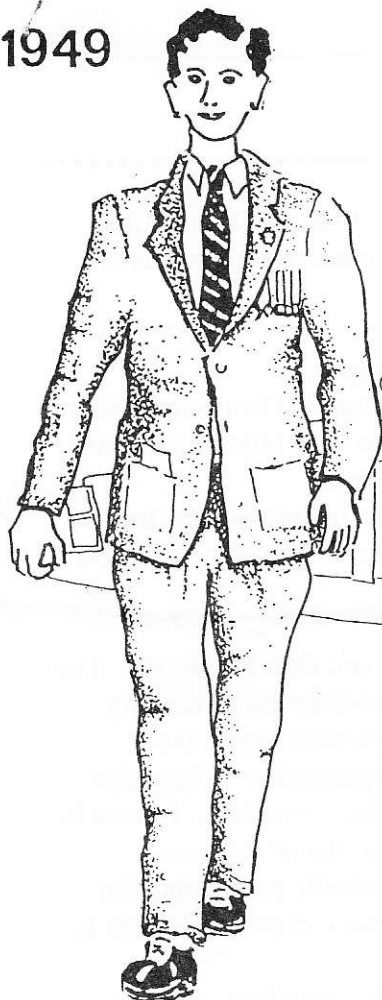


1949

458

SQUADRON NEWS



YEARS
OF PUBLICATION

1999

JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, G.P.O. Box 5289, SYDNEY, NSW, AUSTRALIA 2001

Year 50, No. 200
November 1999

458 SQUADRON COUNCIL

OFFICE BEARERS

Squadron President
Squadron Treasurer
Squadron Secretary
Hon. Squadron Auditor

Jim Palmer (WA)
Peter Alexander (NSW)
Bob Bruce (NSW)
Frank Ward (NSW)

Squadron Vice Presidents:
Australia Bert Oliver (SA)
Jock McGowen (NSW)
New Zealand: Kevin George
Canada Bryan Quinlan (BC)
UK Norman Duke

Editor: Peter Alexander (Fax: 9261 8848)

Publisher: Eric Munkman

Flight Correspondents:

NZ	Kevin George, 20 Kowhai Avenue, Kaikokhe, New Zealand
Canada	Bryan Quinlan, 1460 Haywood Avenue, West Vancouver, B.C. V7T IV6, Canada
SA	Mrs Pat Cribb, 3/2 Stuart Street, Burnside, SA 5022
Victoria	Rupert Pearce, 46 Mt Pleasant Road, Nunawading, Victoria, 3131
UK	Norman Duke, Orchard Cottage, Guildford Road, Cranleigh, England
NSW	Jock McGowen, 119 Patrick Street, Hurstville, NSW, 2220
Qld	Jack Lewis, 5 Cupania Road, Victoria Point, Queensland, 4165
WA	Ted Jewell, 61 Wyaree Road, Mandurah, WA 6120

EDITORIAL

Yes. For 50 years, quarterly, without missing an issue, 458 Squadron News has tried – not without success – to keep 458ers – including their ladies and children – in touch. Some generous messages of congratulation from senior figures follow below.

But let us – briefly – look back to Issue No. 1 and what followed. Issue No. 1 began:

‘Who remembers the snowy winter of 1941 at Holme-on-Spalding Moor? The tropical sun and sand of Shallufa and Amrya? Malta and Protville and the mud of Bone? The bare hills of Sardinia? Foggia? or the Rock of Gibraltar’ Remembrance and greetings to every one of you.’

We did and we do. We remember – almost as though it was last year, but not quite – the committee meeting when your editor suggested to the NSW Committee, that the newly active Squadron might have a Newsletter. Alan Piggott, of the Committee, said “Good idea, if you’ll do it”, and so 50 years on here we are. Many of the members of that Committee of 1949 are still around and, indeed, are members still of the Flight Committee. We mention – Sam Barlow, Bob Bruce and Eric Munkman. The News in its first issue recorded our gratitude to those who helped the Squadron keep going in its early days. Among them – Noel Walter, Don Bitmead and Peter Pettit. The first issues were typed and duplicated in the State office of the Air Force Association, we remember with appreciation. Thereafter we took over the somewhat messy job of typing, roneoing, stapling, addressing, etc. ourselves. It must be said our quality has improved since those days. We used to gather in the Campsie flat of the ever generous Sam Barlow, who kept us from thirst. The procedure was not always wholly proficient. On one occasion a page was duplicated upside down. Your editor was concerned, but was persuaded not to be fussy.

Thereafter we went on for ensuing years. Cricket was important to the Squadron, and the anonymous commentator ‘Run to Cover’ commented. For the first game Peter Alexander and Sam Barlow opened, one got two runs and the other a duck; at the next, the same two opened, and this time both got ducks. But, thanks to Frank Ward and some others, 458 won the game.

In 1953 the News reported the first All States Reunion, in Sydney, at which over 100 458ers attended. CO Johnno Johnston flew up from Melbourne. The News reported the first attempt to have the war time crest officially recognised. Knocked back that time, but now it seems remedied and recognised. But enough of all that for the present.

MESSAGES TO 458 FROM THOSE WHO HAVE WATCHED OR BEEN REMINDED

From Queen Elizabeth

Please convey my warm thanks to the members of 458 Squadron Council for their kind and loyal message of greetings sent on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the continuous publication of their ex-service paper *458 Squadron News*.

I send my best wishes to all concerned on this important milestone in the history of the paper.

ELIZABETH R.

12th August, 1999

From Sir William Deane, Governor-General of Australia

It gives me the greatest pleasure to send this message of congratulations and goodwill to all members of the 458 Squadron Council, on the publication of this 200th edition of 458 Squadron News.

This edition celebrates the fact that 458 Squadron News has maintained publication for 50 unbroken years. It has had the same Editor throughout, and a devoted band of correspondents from Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

This achievement is an indication of the commitment, dedication and service with which No. 458 Squadron approached its tasks during the second World War. These great qualities have served you well for more than half a century since.

I congratulate you and extend every good wish for the future.

Sir William Deane

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

From John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia

I have the greatest pleasure in congratulating the 458 Squadron News on reaching its 200th issue. Yours is a wonderful record to have achieved. It reflects the commitment and dedication that the Squadron showed throughout its operational history, from the night bombing raids against Germany, through to the Squadron's mine laying operations along enemy occupied coasts and the torpedo bombing missions in the Middle East.

As we face a new millennium, it is time to reflect upon a century during which Australia's peace and security have been defended with courage by so many Australians.

More than one hundred thousand Australian men and women have died in theatres of war in the course of Australia's history. We owe them a great debt. Their sacrifices have preserved our freedom and our prosperity. Their bravery and valiant actions have been an inspiration to the generations of Australians who have followed.

The story of 458 Squadron is an important part of this legacy. The continued dedication of its members and families is a sign of what made it great and reflects a sense of pride and duty which will continue to serve as an example to all of us.

I congratulate you all.

John Howard.

From the National President of the RAAF Association – Air Commodore Geoff Michael

Like many others, I congratulate the 458 Squadron, RAAF Branch of the RAAF Association on the completion of 50 years of continuous publication of its quarterly paper. Its Editor and its Flight Correspondents have served their Squadron well. As National President of the RAAF Association, I know that 458 have, in NSW, been a branch of the Association for decades – since 1948 – and have maintained their membership loyally through the years.

My thanks – my warm congratulations.

Geoff. Michael – National President, RAAF Association

From the Senior Surviving Squadron President – Sam Barlow

I would like to thank the editor (Peter Alexander) for the 200 issues of 458 Squadron News which have given our members a wonderful sense of mateship through all these years. Memories never fade and the News kept us remembering the humour and the sorrow, the anecdotes and the tall stories – friendships that originated on the Squadron and lasted a lifetime. One could always rely on the other fellow through adversity – that was 458 Squadron mateship. Thank you Peter from all of us.

Sam Barlow

From the Squadron President of Today – Jim Palmer

I have written to our News Flight Correspondents and to Eric Munkman as publisher expressing immense appreciation for the wonderful work done in getting the quarterly production mailed to members; I now say to the Editor that we certainly owe each of you a great debt of gratitude..... Here's hoping that you are able and willing to continue the good job. Lucy joins me in conveying very best wishes.

Jim Palmer

(Ed. Jim has written to us at greater length, and we plan to give fuller details in the next issue.

From the Publisher – Eric Munkman

Congratulations to 458 Squadron News and those associated with its success. As Publication Officer, I have seen many changes from the time of the first print on a Gestetner roller ink everywhere in Sam Barlow's office, a group of faithful workers folding and placing in envelopes at the Air Force Association, Clarence Street, to work being done by the Longhursts and Munkmans, now by the Munkmans which includes our daughter. Great effort by those involved.

Eric Munkman Publication Officer

EDITOR'S COMMENT

458 and the News are grateful for the above. There are we believe a couple more messages to come later in this issue. But this is a Newspaper, so let's have some news.

CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION From:

Jack Lyndon

Your Cornstalk Commentator's recovery from his major surgery has been interrupted by a persistent pneumonia, but he hopes to be completely back on deck very soon. Bob Lyndon, who also had major surgery at about the same time is now back on the road again and it was good to see him at the recent committee meeting. He has not lost his taste for white wine among other beverages. Sam Barlow is not enjoying the best of health.

Ralph Bailey reports on a recent trip south on which he saw John Bilney and family and called in on Avis Lehdey, Arthur's widow. It seems that she may be about to find herself part licensee of a hotel, thanks to Arthur's machinations – no comment.

The luncheon at TAFE Catering College, Ryde was held on 17th August and attended by 32 members and guests including our UK members, Norm and Glenis Gilbert. Sadly Norm collapsed in Sydney about a fortnight later and died on 3rd September. The funeral was attended by Squadron members and ladies, Eric spoke on behalf of the Squadron and conducted the RAAFA Funeral Service. A memorial service is planned for Norm when Glenis returns to the UK.

Eric attended the battle of Britain Service on 15th September and laid a wreath on behalf of the Squadron. Eric and Dorothy visited Williamtown RAAF Station and inspected the commemorative tree which the Squadron planted in 1941. Eric reports the tree to be thriving and about 15 ft tall. Our busy President is at last showing signs of his age – he recently enjoyed (?) a tandem sky dive from 13000 ft with a 9000 ft free fall! He called it a 'most exciting experience' – again no comment. He was accompanied by his son and grandson who were fortunately not attached to the same chute.

A letter from Trapper Currington's widow Margaret tells us that Trapper kept up his private flying licence after the war and this enabled him to take up a job as manager of Dalgety's office in Darwin in 1965. He company owned a Cessna 182 which he was able to use to fly to their station properties in the Northern Territory as well as to Narromine for the family holiday. One of the two young Curringtons is a pilot, helicopter and fixed wing craft, flying with Emergency Services Queensland out of Brisbane.

Pete Pettit reports that a goodly number of Information Sheets from the UK have arrived courtesy Norm Duke and there are some good stories among them. This is a very good thing with the deadline fast approaching so please keep them coming.

The next TAFE Luncheon is to be held at Ryde Catering College on 23rd November, 1200 hours for 1230. Would anyone interested please contact President Eric Munkman on (02) 99720641.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!!

Jock McGowen

SANDGROPERS SAY from

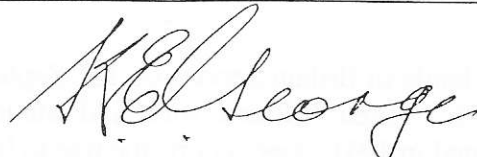
Fred Jewell

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the 458 Squadron News. When we look back it is hard to believe that 50 years have passed so quickly since the first edition was published, I think of all the good memories connected with it for the tremendous feat of producing the publication for 50 years, making it possible for members to be able to keep in touch for all that time. A lot of the Squadron highlights would have to be the All States Reunions where we could renew old friendships with mates not seen sometimes since the war years. It is almost 60 years since I joined the Air Force and later when I was posted to the Squadron at Holme on Spalding Moor. Sometimes I think it seems like a dream all those years ago being on the Squadron, going to so many countries, doing so many things, and seeing many, many places, but it was so real, and I always think how lucky I was to have done and been associated with such a great lot of blokes.

This year our WA Flight Christmas Lunch will be on Sunday 5th December at Miss Maud's Restaurant in Murray Street, Perth, 12 noon. We hope to have a good roll up as usual.

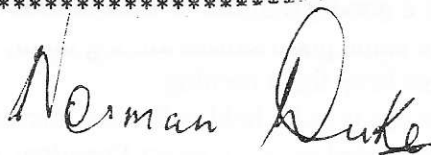
Doug Anderson has had a spell in hospital I was told, but is now on the mend.

We had a great day in September at the home of Bob and Dot Bresland of City Beach, it was for Sunday lunch and we had 16 people come along. Everyone had a great day, Bob and Dot are associate members but come along to all our functions. As this will be the last Newsletter before Christmas I would like on behalf of WA Flight to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year for the year of 2000.

KIWI COMMENT from

I hope this is not too late. I have recently been in touch by telephone with our NZ Members and have to report ill health which will keep some of them from going to Geelong in March. Arch and Gladys Fell called on us a week ago. Arch looks as well as ever, and still mows his lawns, but has a health worry which will probably prevent them from attending the reunion. Mary Pryde is still struggling with her health problem and we do not expect to see them in Geelong. Irene Green's disability keeps her bedridden and Ivan ever close to her. Ron Verity remains his old chirpy self, quite amazing for an 87 year old, and intends to come to Geelong, with Mary and the Georges.

THE BRITISH BULLETIN from



Congratulations from the UK Flight to the 458 Squadron Council on the forthcoming issue Number 200, completing 50 glorious and memorable years of uninterrupted publication of the 458 Squadron Newsletter. And in particular to Peter Alexander, the Editor, for his service and dedication throughout that time. There is no doubt that the Squadron News has played a major part in keeping our Association alive in maintaining contact with members, and in locating forgotten or missing relatives and friends. Long may it continue.

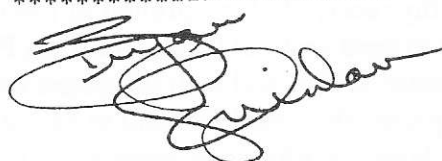
UK Flight Annual Reunion A very successful and happy weekend was spent on a return visit to the Falcon Hotel, Stratford upon Avon on September 19/20th. It seems that on these occasions enjoyment increases as age advances. Our numbers were sadly depleted this year by the loss of 2 of our good friends during the past month. Norman Gilbert who died tragically in Sydney during a family visit, and Jim Croft who was finally beaten by cancer. Our deepest sympathy goes to their families. A number of other regular supporters who are not so mobile at present were also unable to make the trip. 18 of us finally landed, and made the rafters ring! Leon/Doreen Armstrong, Jack/Grace Baker, Jack Ball, Jack/Audrey Christianson, Mo Borne, David Duff, Graham Arnold, Norman/Joyce Duke, Keith/Ann Wilkinson, Reg/Betty Windett, and Bill and Peter Prater. We were particularly glad to see Bill Prater who had suffered the loss of his wife Maureen in August from cancer, who joined us with his son Peter. David Duff brought along a further selection of photographs (enclosed) for the Squadron records. Thank you for the copy of the very handsome new 458 crest, via David Gilbert, Norman's son during his recent visit. Hal Lee has had to undergo further surgery, and was unable to join us at Stratford. He hopes that his medical problems have now been resolved. And so do we all Hal. After a long wait his son Stephen has obtained a visa to travel to Russia to be reunited with his Ukrainian lady and her son. We sincerely hope his trip is successful. I managed to contact Ronald Moy after seeing his name published in the ACA Magazine 'Intercom' with 458 given as one of his service units. He joined the Squadron at Bone in November 1943, and after serving at Alghero until July 1944 was transferred to 36 Squadron. Another voice from the past who had no knowledge of 458 Association until now. There are still a few left out there it seems. Best regards to all my fellow correspondents.

"Q" FLIGHT NEWS from

Jack Lewis

A Christmas Luncheon has been arranged at the Sheraton Hotel, in Brisbane on the 17th November, 1999. So far there are 24 acceptances from Members and wives. We look forward to an enjoyable luncheon. Cyril Murray has had further heart treatment, is now progressing well. He and Hettie had a trip to Sydney to attend the installation of their daughter's admission to the Bar as a Solicitor. Also on their agenda is a planned trip to the Flinders Ranges. Cyril and Hettie will be down to the luncheon. Sick Parade: Don Brandon has been in hospital for shoulder surgery. Don is now convalescing at home. Jack Baxter is now in a Nursing Home, Kitty just could not lift him when he fell and the care that Jack required after further surgery was just too much. Fred Kleckham wrote to say he had spent quite a while in hospital for a lower bowel operation. Fred is getting on quite well and says he will see us on Anzac Day 2000. Harry Dorge rang me last week to say that at last the doctors were getting somewhere with his knee surgery and feels in himself progress has been made with the other problems he has had. We may see him at Geelong next March. Evelyn and myself will be down south next week mainly at Wollongong for a family pre-Christmas reunion, hope to contact Jack Bevan and Lucy. Memorable Moments for the 50 years News edition have enclosed replies from Eric Lloyd, Bernie McLoughlin, Jack Baxter. Vale: I am sad to state the passing of Fred O'Brien from Beaudesert. Fred was WAG, he was on 458 about the same time as Don Brandon – they trained together in Australia. As Fred never married, "Q" Flight sent a floral tribute to his close relatives, sisters and brothers.

CANNUCK CAUCUS from



First and foremost on behalf of all members of the Canadian Flight, heartiest congratulations on the 200th edition of the 458 News. A remarkable achievement indeed and everyone, past and present, who have been or are now involved can rightly take great pride in this vehicle so vital in sustaining and extending the 458 bond. And of course, Peter, our special thanks and congratulations to you, the indispensable driving force! Collectively, and on behalf of the entire Canadian Flight, that is indeed our primary contribution to the milestone 200th edition and comes with the heartfelt congratulations and appreciation from all of us. Well done! On a personal level, I am at a total loss to explain my omission of a very significant item of 458 news from my August report which related to my 'rediscovery' of one of my original crew members at Limavady O.T.U., namely, George Dunmore. After a rather lengthy search via RAF Officer records at Gloucester I was overjoyed when I was indirectly put in touch with George and received his letter in June confirming that he was indeed the 'real' George Dunmore who I had not been in touch with since Protville days, some 56 years ago! I then involved the ever-dependable Norm Duke to get George's telephone number and we were away to the reunion races. I would also like to thank Norm for including the news about George in his August report. Again, how I could have missed out is inexplicable as it was the highlight of the year for me. George was unaware of any 458 presence in the UK, so he is now back in the fold and hopefully be able to attend reunion get-togethers and re-energise memories of his time on the Squadron and his significant contribution to 458's operational record at Malta and Protville. On a local level, it was most pleasurable as always to receive a visit (too short) from Mick and Marg Reid in August when they visited Vancouver to attend a special family celebration. Joan and I enjoyed their company at a Sunday lunch and can happily report they are as upbeat and lively as ever. They advised that daughter Cathy, through her successful TV modelling activities in France, has been asked to participate in a movie role. A new career? Also granddaughter Tiffany has gone to the UK to continue her music studies. The Lindsay's have decided to sell their house (only a couple of blocks

away from us) and move into a condo with easier upkeep, although Tom does not seem to be over-enthusiased with the idea. Received a letter from Ernie Ireland (Cranbrook, B.C.) with an updated Info Sheet and an interesting note about the connection between a local French teacher and the wartime North African days. This info' has been passed on to Pete Pettit for his Squadron history file. Very little contact with other 458ers since August, so am not up to speed on their summer activities. Can only report that in mid-October Joan and I spent an enjoyable golfing holiday with our son and his wife at the Lawrence Welk resort near San Diego, California. Sadly, like my memory, the golf game does not improve with age! Again, sincere congratulations to all involved in the wonderful record and achievements of the 458 Squadron News. You can justifiably be very proud of the results of your dedicated efforts.

CROWEATERS COMMENTS from

Pat Gribble

It is with sadness that we report the passing, on August 29, of Ted Creighton, after a long illness. His funeral was privately held. Ted was a very active member of SA Flight for many years as Secretary and Correspondent, and is also remembered for his considerable efforts, with John Carey, towards the success of the SA Reunion in 1991 in the Barossa Valley. Freda and her family wish to thank all 458 members for the many expressions of sympathy received. First printed in 1949, this 200th edition of the newsletter is a milestone, and the time is right to send grateful thanks from SA Flight to all who have kept news circulating over those 50 years between 458ers and their old mates throughout Australia and overseas. Looking back, who would have expected the newsletter still to be going out and playing an important part in keeping the memories strong of those eventful years spent away from Australia. In particular, Peter Alexander is to accept our special thanks and appreciation for so ably carrying out his role as Editor, and for 50 years of dedication. A very successful luncheon was enjoyed by 42 members and friends on July 29 at the Grange Golf Club. The next get-together will be Sunday, December 5, at "The Woolshed Shear Fun", on the corner of Hamra Avenue and Military Road, West Beach. The Annual General Meeting will be held at 11.30 am when the present office bearers retire and nominations for the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer will be accepted and votes taken. Our Christmas Luncheon will follow at 12.15. The Woolshed is a unique tourist attraction where the Shearer's Kitchen serves wholesome food that Grandma would have served over 50 years ago. There is also an Interpretive Centre, Ram Show and a hands-on Animal Nursery. The new tourist enterprise involves Rick Michell, son of 458er the late Colin Michell. Rick gives us invaluable assistance with correspondence, and marched last Anzac Day with others of the next generation representing their deceased fathers and grandfathers. We send our best wishes to all for a Very Merry Christmas and a health, happy year in 2000.

Bert Ravenscroft writing as a Past Squadron President and a Life Member – of which he is proud – adds: Congratulations on the Jubilee Issue 200 in Year 50, 1949 – 1999. Through the efforts of Peter Alexander and his assistants and the correspondents throughout the world, we have, through the issues of 458 Squadron News, Squadron Members and Associates who are still comrades and proud to be members of our post-war Squadron. To all Past Members "We Will Remember Them". "LEST WE FORGET". Bert also has raised the suggestion that the RAAF of today number a new Squadron as 458. He says SA Members will be pleased if a number 458 RAAF Squadron was operating from Edinburgh. Well, our newly recognised Winged Torpedo crest might appeal to an air to ground armed Squadron. We may hope, but it may take some time!

(Bert) Ravenscroft

VICTORIAN NEWSLETTER from*Rupert Pearce*

Members will have received recently from Neil Dean registration papers for the March All States Reunion at Geelong. This is prospering and 160 indications of interest have already been received. The programme, briefly set out, is as follows:

March 19	Sunday: Evening	Meet your Mates
March 20	Monday:	Great Ocean Road
March 21	Tuesday: Morning:	Memorial Service at Geelong
March 22	Wednesday:	Queenscliff
March 23	Thursday:	Werribee Park Open Range Zoo and Mansion, or in the afternoon Pt. Cook Museum and Liberator Restoration
March 24	Friday:	Morning: City Sights, Geelong Conference Evening: Squadron Dinner

SOCIAL NOTES:

The lunch at the Manningham Club was attended by: John and Margaret Bilney, Neil and June Dean, Jack and Margaret Ellis, Don and Shirley Granger, Ken and Joann Hinton, Roy and Barbara Pearce, Rupert Pearce, Norma Pollard and Mick and Mavis Singe. The Annual Return to the Sergeants Mess at Pt. Cook on October 17 was attended by Neil and June Dean, Jack and Margaret Ellis, Roy and Barbara Pearce, Rupert Pearce, Norma Pollard and Mick and Mavis Singe. It is hoped to return there next year.

PERSONAL: Some of our members and their wives are not well and we have them in our thoughts.

*Ted Creighton*SUNDRY NEWS NOTES

Farewell to Ted Creighton – Long time SA Flight Secretary and News Correspondent died on August 29. A private funeral was held by Freda and the family. Bert Ravenscroft expressed 458's sympathy. We thank Ted and shall miss him. Also the UK 458er, Jim Croft, whose lady, May, wrote as follows to Sam and Maisie Barlow: It is with sadness I write to tell you, Jim passed away peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice in Southport on 7th September. As you know he had been in and out of hospital for the last two years. He bore his illness with great patience, never complained. I and my family loved him dearly and shall miss him greatly. He was proud of his association with 458 Squadron and valued your friendship Sam. I will keep in touch with you. Hope you are both well. Sincerely Yours - May.

Correction: We learn through Lock Simpson and Reg Bullen, both News readers, we have Wal Clarke's address wrong. It is C/- W.G. Taylor Village, 151/156 Ocean Street, Narrabeen, NSW, 2101. Wal, who is 91, has a phone No. (02) 9913 7708.

In Memory - of Cormack McLoughlin. We have received details through the Internet of the place of burial of Bernie's beloved brother. Cormack died with the Air Force aged 23, and with 700 others is buried at Tel El Kebir War Memorial Cemetery in Egypt. Well remembered.

New South Wales Melbourne Cup

New South Wales Flight advises the winners:

1 st	Jim Whitten
2 nd	Bill Lachlan
3 rd (jointly)	Harry Baines and Sam Barlow

ON A HIGH NOTE – TWO MORE MESSAGESFrom the State President, RAAFA, NSW (where 458 Squadron has a Branch of the Association)

On the occasion of the publication of the 200th issue of 458 Squadron News, I extend to the Editor and the Publisher my congratulations on scoring a very fine “double century”.

458 News has been instrumental in keeping “458ers” from all States and overseas up to date with one another’s news for 50 years and is looked forward to by all Squadron members and others with a connection with 458.

The Squadron Council can well be proud of its endeavours.

BARRY BROOKE

(Barry has been State President for 30 years and well knows 458’s work.)

From Today’s Chief of Air Force – Air Marshal Errol McCormack AO

I welcome this opportunity to send greetings to the members of the 458 Squadron Association, on this the fiftieth year of your organisation’s newsletter. I congratulate your office bearers, and in particular the Editor, on producing and distributing such an informative publication.

You will be pleased to know that I have recently signed the portrait of the 458 Squadron Badge, drawn up by the Heraldic Office of Australia. This means that the ex-members of the Squadron now have an official symbol of their unit, which served so meritoriously in Europe and the Middle East during WW11. Those fine qualities demonstrated by 458 Squadron members in this conflict are again being demonstrated by Air Force personnel serving with INTERFET forces in East Timor, thus continuing the RAAF’s long standing tradition of loyal and professional service to the Nation.

On behalf of the RAAF, I congratulate the Association on reaching such a significant milestone in its service to its members and I wish you the best for the future.

CAF

AND MY THANKS – FROM THE EDITOR

To the Publisher, Eric Munkman and his family: to Flight Correspondents, past and present: to Tom Moore who designed the special masthead and has long helped the Squadron: to the National President, Geoff Michael, who has helped us to achieve some Squadron ambitions, such as the Chief’s message above: to my wife, Rita, who typed this and earlier news issues: to Janice Bellette, who typed this final page 10 and has always helped – and particularly to fellow 458ers for their friendship.

And now to paraphrase some words from the Squadron’s History “*We Find and Destroy*” –

The Squadron celebrates 50 years of its newspaper publication and that newspaper now, like the Squadron itself, will face forward to the unfinished business of the years to come.

Peter Alexander.

EDITOR AND HISTORIAN
