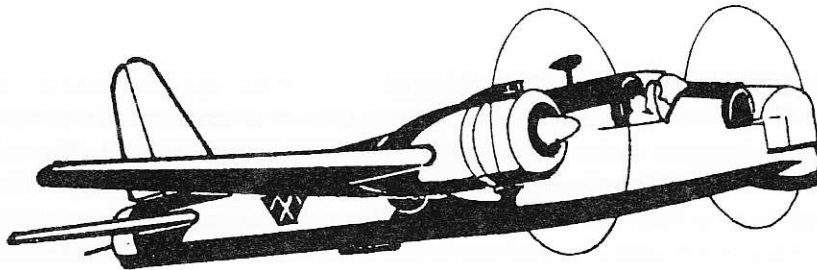


458

SQUADRON NEWS



RAAF

JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, GPO BOX 5289, SYDNEY NSW 20001.
YEAR 53, No. 210 November, 2002.

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Squadron Secretary	Bob Bruce (NSW)	John Excell (SA)
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THE HISTORY

All reports indicate that the new 3rd (expanded) Edition is being well received by members and, we understand, is selling well. We did promise a comment on the Casualty Lists, originally received from the Air Forces themselves, and being in our view incomplete, we again approached the Air Forces. The RAF List remains as was. The RAF did send us, with apologies for its inaccuracies, another list. But this was clearly even less satisfactory and we could not use it. The RAF explained that it did not have the staff to go through a vast number of cards. So we stayed with what we had. But we are asking the RAF if it cannot at least advise us why Wing Cdr. Norm Mulholland and his crew are not listed. It should not be possible wholly to lose a Squadron Commander. Apart from that, no gripes. Further copies from the Publisher, Australian Military History Publications, 13 Veronica Place, Loftus, NSW 2232, Australia (Fax 02 9542 6787).

SANDGROPPERS SAY from Ted Jewell

With Christmas just around the corner it is time to arrange our Christmas lunch get-together, we are going to the same restaurant in Perth as we have done for several years – Miss Mauds in Murray Street. Any 458 members who may be over in the West on holidays are very welcome to come along, Sunday December 8 at 12 noon. We are hoping to have a good roll up this year.

Last Sunday October 27, we went to Dot and Bob Breslands home for lunch; they are both associate members. I don't know where we would be without our few associate members, at their home in City Beach, there was a nice little crowd to enjoy the wonderful lunch, but as usual, there were only three 458 members present, Bill & Joan Clues, Henry and Vera Etherton, Ted Jewell and friend, Margaret Gannaway, most of the members are not able to get around these days, I picked up Val McCormack to go for lunch, Val is still having trouble with breast cancer – we wish her all the best. Len Stewart is enjoying his life in his new unit in Perth, we hope to see him at Christmas – we wish Flight members and all others a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTS from Merv Hargraves

The new National Memorial to the RAAF was dedicated on Friday the first of November in Canberra. 458 members who attended included Peter Pettit, Keith Cousens, Col Fereday and Bill McFadden. The ceremony ended with a fly past of two jets and six aircraft of the Roulettes. A request for any photos and information of the bombing of Naples during World War II by aircraft of 458 and 462 Squadrons appeared in the last issue of Wings. No date was mentioned and it is doubtful if such records are available except in official war records. Arrangements for next year's reunion in Orange are going well. Already 28 members have signaled their intention to attend. Tom Moore and Rinso Purcell are handling matters from the venue end. Peter Alexander has had a recent spell in RNS Hospital and is now home and recovering. Best wishes to you Peter. Our sympathy to Mick Singe and his family on the passing of his wife Mavis. Kindest thoughts to you from 458. Recently Dusty Miller and his wife celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Many congratulations! News from Jack Bevan in Wollongong. He and his wife are both in good health but he has not attended the Anzac March in Sydney for several years. He is kept busy with local matters and is active in RAAF welfare, attending to gardens and surrounds for some members. I have just finished reading an account by an English woman married to an Italian and living in Tuscany during WWII. It is the diary that she kept in 1943-4. Life was very difficult and they were given a hard time by both the retreating German Army and the partisans. There will be a luncheon at Ryde Tafe on November 21, 12 noon for 12.30 pm. This will be the final gathering for the year and we are hoping for a good attendance. Best Wishes to all members for a Happy Christmas and a good year in 2003.

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THE ALL STATES REUNION - ORANGE

Enrolments continue well. Those enrolled to date are Baker, Jack and Grace; Bitmead, Don, Bev and Peter; Cousens, Keith and Cassie; Crowley, Laurie and Betty; Excell, John; Fereday, Col; Hutchinson, Col and Yvonne; Johnson, Bill and Gwen; Kelly, Eric and Kath; Lewis, Evelyn; McKay, Dudley and Enid; Miller, Ron and Enid; Moore, Tom and Val; Munkman, Eric and Dorothy; Palmer, Jim and Lucy; Pettit, Pete and June; Ravenscroft, Bert; Ridgeway, Tom and Isabel; Smith, Bob and Dorothy. Further enrolments to Pete Pettit, 26 Dudley Avenue, Roseville, 2069

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CANUCK CAUCUS from Bryan Quinlan

Sadly, I have to begin this report with the loss of Glenn Hoosier on October 26, 2002 in his 80th year. In separate telephone conversations with Glenn's wife, Edith and daughter Barbara, I learned that he had died at home surrounded and cared for by family members. He is survived by Edith, one son and three daughters and their families, including seven grandchildren and three

great grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held on October 31 in Edmonton, Alberta. Glenn was a devoted family man and, up to this last year, had led a healthy and active life centred on his family and the community. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He served on 458 Squadron in 1943 at Malta, Blida and Protville, and flew as Wireless Air Gunner with Australian Jack Withecombe and also with Peter Thompson taking part in several shipping attacks. In earlier correspondence, Glenn recalled one trip from Malta to bomb Taranto when a tyre blew on take-off, but they completed the operation and returned to belly-land safely at Luqa. Daughter Barbara informed me that her Dad had enjoyed his copy of the updated "We Find and Destroy" and that several members had found the book so interesting they intend to obtain their copies. In a recent phone call, Bill Hailstone's sister Betty advised how pleased she was with her copy of the updated "We Find and Destroy", which is now an important feature of the family's "Memorial Wall" to Bill and that she has been asked to publicly display these mementos as part of the November 11 Remembrance Day ceremonies in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Other than an early October fax from Mick and Margaret Reid there has been very little news from our eastern membership, so hopefully no news is good news. Will try to remedy this situation in the next edition.

Ernie Ireland advises of continuing problems with his 'ticker' and has restrictions placed on his driving which keeps him relatively house bound. He is expecting the usual family get-together in Cranbrook, B.C. on Remembrance Day. Tom Rowan, an avid curler advises that the curling season is underway and that he curls several times a week in two separate Saskatchewan communities. He gets lots of exercise sweeping! Sid Winchester tells a story with an Aussie connection involving his interest in collecting Australian stamps. He obtained a stamp collection from a George Smith, an Australian fellow-resident in Parksville, Vancouver Island, who it turned out, had been stationed with the Australian Army in Egypt close to Shallufa at the same time as Sid in 1942-43. Upon repatriation home Smith remustered to the RAAF, was sent to Canada for flight training and earned his Wings just at war's end. He married a Canadian girl and stayed in Canada and thence to Parksville. A small world! Tom Lindsay seems to be thriving in the company of his daughter and granddaughter; and has suggested a get together, which hopefully will include our other Vancouverites Ben Gruenwald and Jack Reynolds. Just can't resist including some personal BIG news – my first hole-in-one on 9/11/02, 165 yards with a 7 wood. A fitting birthday for my 80th several days later.

Lastly, but certainly far from least, all Canadian Flight members send our sincere best wishes to Peter Alexander for a full and speedy recovery, but with the admonition that he takes things slow and easy from now on. Very Best Wishes to all from Canada.

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'Q' FLIGHT NEWS from Evelyn Lewis

At last a luncheon has been arranged for 19th November at the Irish Club. Thanks to Bernie McLoughlin who made the booking for those wishing to attend. Thirteen so far, hard to get numbers in the Brisbane area, however I'm sure those present will enjoy a pleasant couple of hours. Dud McKay rang from Caloundra with news of the passing of Jim McKay, a month ago. Jim was a great supporter of 458, he went out of his way to help so many. Dud and Enid are looking forward to attending the Reunion in Orange, Dud was born in Blayney, not far from Orange. Also as a point of interest Dud passed on news of the late Jeff Burgess, his grandson Paul won the Silver Medal for Pole Vaulting at the recent Commonwealth Games. Jack Hobbs and Sheila have now retired to MacKay and have a Villa at Eaglemont Retirement Resort. They found it hard to leave their waterfront home at Burrum Heads. They had to consider being close to medical facilities and family. Sheila has heart problems and needs further medical attention. We wish them well.

Early September I had at Cooe Bay Resort near Yeppoon with some members of Jack's Probus Club, Shoreline, which was very enjoyable. While there I made contact with Joan Porter who lives there, her late husband Rex, was a navigator with 458. Joan could not tell me which crew Rex flew with as he did not talk about his service career. It was an enjoyable couple of hours for lunch, I passed on a lot of 458 news. Joan's sister in law had ordered to editions of We Find and

Destroy, and her family are most interested to read of 458 which gave them some insight in operations of 458. I then contacted Len Netherway who with his wife Raebe moved to Cooe Bay from Victoria. Len was just out of hospital. They are looking forward to going to Orange, health permitting. I also ordered We Find and Destroy for Len and he was so rapt in reading it he could not put it down. Belated congratulations to Eric and Bridie Lloyd who celebrated 59 years of married bliss. Eric first met Bridie at Coolangatta in 1939, he was a handsome young man of 21, Bridie was an 18 year old Ballet dancer. They married in Brisbane in August 1943. Bridie raised their two sons while Eric's career took off with 458. Later his career was in politics. We wish them continued happiness. Kath Kelly is back playing tennis after breaking her arm running to get the ball back over the net. This is the second time, the first time she broke her two wrists. Eric tried to ground her but Kath still plays on in the game she so much enjoys. It was great to receive a call from Kitty Baxter during the week. Kitty has her time taken up visiting Jack. Jack has had quite a few strokes and progress is not improve. He knows of Kitty's presence but has no communication. Also Jess Helyer has had her time taken up visiting Bob, who she also feels knows of her presence but cannot communicate. We hope to welcome Jess and her son to our luncheon.

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VALE It was with sadness I received the news of the passing of Jim McKay. Jim had battled emphysema for so long. Our thoughts are with Joyce and family. Passed away also Cliff Mannion from Maleny. I phoned his son Pastor Brian who is compiling a history of his father and his war time service, he advised he will forward a copy to 'Q' Flight when completed.

Compliments of the coming season to all. Regards Evelyn.

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BRITISH BULLETIN from Norm Duke

On behalf of our UK members I wish to convey our support to all our Australian friends in the grief which you have suffered as a result of the horrific tragedy which occurred in Bali, and our revulsion for those who could even contemplate such an act.

Project 'Constant Endeavour' A commemorative tribute is to be erected in Westminster Abbey To all who served with RAF Coastal Command and its successive formations, including those from the Commonwealth and Allied Air Forces and others similarly engaged in overseas theatres of war and conflict. This will be in the form of a specially commissioned relief sculpture in the abbey cloister; a fitting salute also to mark the sacrifice of the 9,000 and more who gave their lives in World War II. All being well it is hoped to carry out an official unveiling In May 2003 or thereabouts. In addition a Book of Remembrance has also been commissioned. Any contributions to 'Constant Endeavour' The Maritime Air Trust, The Treasurer, P.O.Box 251, Aylesbury, HP21, 7WE. Any UK members can send donations to Norman Duke for submission as a combined contribution.

BRITISH BULLETIN cont'd

Ed Carter Jones Congratulations to Ed for his award on his 80th birthday by the Royal British Legion of their World Cross for 45 years continuous service with the organization, now as a Vice President. His busy life also included 25 years as a Magistrate. A solemn thought. Good show Ed.

The Best of British

Only in Britain

- Can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance?
- Do Supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?
- Do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and Diet Coke.?
- Do Banks leave both doors and chain pens to the counters?
- Do we leave cars worth thousands of £'s on the driveway and lock our junk and cheap lawnmower in the garage?
- Do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting, so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

With Best Wishes to all and a very Happy Christmas. . . . Norm.

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CROWEATERS COMMENTS from Pat Cribb

Eric and Matti Baker intend going to the ceremony in Canberra on November 1, 2002, when the redesigned RAAF Memorial will be rededicated. The Governor General, Dr Hollingworth and the Prime Minister, Mr. Howard will lay wreaths. Our thanks are extended to Eric for his offer to lay the wreath on behalf of 458 Squadron, S.A. Flight. We were saddened to have a call to inform us that John Davies died on October 17, in the Port Perie Hospital. Our sincere condolences to his family – Neal, Howard and their partners.

New issues of the Squadron History, "We Find and Destroy" have been purchased, one by Ruth Senn for 92 Wing, RAAF Base, Edinburgh, and the other by Keith Grimshaw for the Royal United Service Institute. Thank you Ruth and Keith for your thoughtful gestures to ensure the Squadron's wartime service is kept in perpetuity at both these libraries.

Our Annual General Meeting and Christmas Lunch will be held on Sunday, December 1, at the Royal Hotel, at 2 North Terrace, Kent Town. The meeting will be at 11 am (upstairs) and the lunch at approximately 12 noon (downstairs). We look forward to catching up again.

Our loving thoughts go out to members and their partners who have been on the sick list. We do hope you get well soon.

Christmas greetings to all readers of this Newsletter and may the New Year bring in renewed and wise solutions towards world peace.

* * * * *

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor

From Mick Singe, 26 Liston Street, Glen Iris Victoria 3116

Dear Peter, Since Mavis passed away on October 14 I have had a weeks holiday in WA and our son and his wife had long discussions about my future and we finally reached the conclusion that it would be best for me to move to WA. As yet I have only told Rupert Pearce and Neil Dean of my intention to move and their opinion seems to be that it will leave a bit of a hole in the 458 Vic. Flight. In reality both of them have been instrumental in giving me an armchair ride, especially in organizing the Victorian Reunions – their professionalism has been a tower of strength to me especially Neil and June during Mavis's illness; however the family and I decided that there can't be a lot of years left for Squadron activities, hence the big decision to move to WA. It will be sometime into the New Year but before Easter. I have lots to do before

A LONG JOURNEY HOME.

ANNEXURE TO PAGE 5.

RAF Groundstaff in the Middle East were there for a 2 or 3 year tour. But towards the end they did get a leave home--by whatever route the Air Force could devise. Norm Duke has sent us the story of David Duff's long journey home, on leave, to Scotland.

1945.

Wed. Aug 1st Posted to No.11 Signals Centre--Hotel St. George Algiers

Sun, Aug 12th Started leave. Left for Fort de l'eau--55 PTC.

Tues Aug 14th Left 55 PTC 1015 a.m.; Sailed from Algiers 1215 p.m. on Italian liner "Argentina",

Thurs Aug. 16th Docked Naples 5 p.m.

Fri Aug 17th Disembarked 8.30 a.m. thence by truck to Portici

Sat Aug 16th Left Portici 1230 p.m. by truck; Left Naples by train 2.15 p.m. via Caserta, 3.15 p.m., Casino: Dinner at Roccasecca.

Arrived Rome at midnight;

Sun. Aug 19th Travelling all night. Breakfast at Foligno, 6 a.m:

Lunch at Rimini 1.30 p.m.; Dinner at Bologna.

Mon. Aug 20th. Travelling all night arrived Milan 8.15 a.m. Truck to 59 PTC. Visited Milan:

Wed. Aug 22nd Left camp 5 a.m. Left Milan by train 7 a.m. went via Italian lakes. Lunch Tunnel (15 minutes) Brig, Montreux Lausanne, Vallorbe--into France;

Thurs Aug 22nd. Breakfast Pontoise 1030 a.m. Arrived Dieppe 3.45 p.m.

Fri Aug 24th. Left Dieppe by Channel steamer 1015 a.m. Arrived Newhaven 3 p.m. London 6 p.m. Dinner at the Great Northern Hotel Left Kings Cross London at 10 p.m. Travelling all night. Arrived home 9.15 a.m. Aug 125th.

14 days Leave.

Sat Sept 8th. Left home 7 a.m. Edinburgh 10 a.m. London 7.15 p.m.

Night in Transit Camp at Newhaven;

Sun Sept 9th Left Newhaven 10 a.m. Arrived Dieppe 2 p.m. 6 days stay in Dieppe;

Sat Sept 15th Left Dieppe by train in evening; travelled all night

Mon Sept 17th Via Limoges, Toulouse;

Tues Sept 18th via Marseilles. arrived Toulon morning. 12 days in Transit Camp (! Ed). Visited Toulon and La Seyne. Some swimming;

Sat Sept 29th Embarked S.S. Argentina 11 a.m. Sailed from Toulouse 5 p.m.

Mon Oct 1st Arrived Algiers 8.30 a.m.

In Hospital with foot trouble till 27th December.

All from the Diary David kept. The R.A.F. forbade us to keep diaries (lest they fall into enemy hands and give information) But many of us did. This Editor did.

then. It saddens me to make the move from Victoria but I guess times change and I'm sure you will understand my situation, as I have no one in Victoria. My new address will be 79 Tyrell Street, Nedlands, WA 6009.

My kindest regards to NSW Fight, Sincerely, Mick C.D.Singe.

* * * * *

From Reg Windett, 16 Wildwood Court, Cedars Village, Dog Kennel Lane, Chorleywood, Herts, WD3 5GG.

Dear Peter, I was more pleased than I can say to receive your letter and your very kind annotation, both of which were much appreciated by the new generations. Betty and I try to keep up with the times but probably, like yourself, just despair on occasions; however, we are optimists and that is important. My copy of the book, which you signed is dated 24.4.82 – it also contains the signatures of everyone present at the Viking Hotel in York at the 1989 Reunion. – Shallufa, Protville and on up to Bone days seem but a dream . . . how did we always manage to play cricket I wonder. We live in a 22 acre retirement Country Club (so called) with 200 others, one of whom is called Len Gridley who was in the photographic unit at Holme. How's that for 'a small world'? Our main mansion, built in 1863 has two very comfortable visitors flats (need I say more?). If you get a chance, please remember Betty and I to Jack and Grace Baker especially, as well as the other wonderful 458ers whom we have met. I have just spoken to Norman Duke, but he has no news at the moment. Healthwise I play golf twice a week at least plus table tennis, take a yoga class and run a poetry group in spite of being deaf, visually handicapped and suffering from amnesia (don't we all?) – apart from that I'm fine. I look forward to getting the 458 News and I hope you find the UK News interesting. Naturally numbers diminish as time goes on and I haven't heard any reunion details for this year, I hope it will be at Stratford-on-Avon again. Personally I would like to know if anyone has any gen on our Canadian pilot, big 'Curly' Davidson. I wrote to Canada ages ago but did not get a reply. In the meantime, once again, best wishes to you all, from Reg Windett.

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BOOK REVIEW James C. Lovelace

The Flip Side of the Air War (Privately published) available from the author at 203-5770 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS, B3H 4J8, 1996. \$12 Paper. 168 pages ISBN 09681077-0-2.

Jim Lovelace joined the RCAF in Halifax on 17 June 1940, on his third attempt, and became one of the first Canadian WOp/AGs (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) to serve on operations over Europe. His memoir of his time in and out of combat is better in its parts than in the whole. It is a gripping story of how a Cape Bretoner survived two tours in Wellingtons, those tough two-engined bombers. The writer captures well the chaos of the early days as Canada geared up for war, and the loneliness of Canadians in the RAF, made worse by the frosty reception the 'colonials' received from the pukka types. Jim was an early 458er.

Christmas and New Year Greetings to all readers.