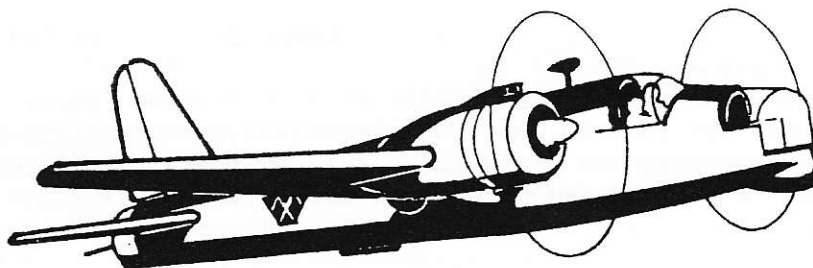


458

SQUADRON NEWS



RAAF

JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, GPO BOX 5289, SYDNEY, 2001, AUSTRALIA.
YEAR 54, No. 213. MAY, 2003.

458 Squadron Council Office-bearers.

Squadron President	Norman Duke (UK)	Squadron Vice Presidents:
Squadron Treasurer	Peter Alexander (NSW)	Australia: Peter Pettit (NSW)
Squadron Secretary	Bob Bruce (NSW)	Tom Moore (NSW)
Hon Sqdn Auditor	Frank Ward (NSW)	New Zealand: Kevin George
		Canada: Mick Reid
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Canada	Bryan Quinlan, 1460 Haywood Crescent, West Vancouver, BC, Canada.

35th ALL-STATES REUNION OF 458 AT ORANGE.

458 achieved another successful All-States Reunion (its 35th) at Orange, following devoted organisation locally (particularly by Tom Moore and Eric Purcill) and by Squadron officers. Details follow. Squadron members are being asked to indicate whether they are interested in another such reunion in 2005 and a questionnaire comes with this issue of the News. Members are asked--please--to fill it in and return to the Squadron Secretary.

Squadron Council at its formal meeting, chaired by Squadron President "Dusty" Miller, in electing its office-bearers for the coming period, made a point of honouring a number of 458ers who have worked long and hard for 458.

The incoming Squadron President is Norman Duke, of the UK Flight. Norman who was an Observer in Bruce McKenzie's crew is the 2nd President from UK Flight (Mick Mason was the 18th President), and the 4th from outside Australia--Bruce McKenzie (Kenya) was the 9th, and Kevin George (NZ) was the

29th. Other office-bearers are as listed above. As an illustration of the fact that 458 (unlike many post-war Squadron Associations) is neither air nor ground crew weighted is the fact that of its 31 Squadron Presidents 15 were aircrew (9 pilots) and 16 Groundstaff. Therein is part of 458's success.

WE FIND AND DESTROY.

The 3rd Edition of the Squadron history is selling well. The latest sales figure we have is 479 copies sold.

A number of copies have been presented by 458 members to libraries and to RSL and other branches. Notably Dave Westgarth, of Bathurst, presented a copy to the Presidents of his RSL sub-branch and Club (Picture below). As a family background Dave has shewn us a letter written to him (age 19) by his Father in December 1941,, which reads:

My dear David,

This is to wish you a happy birthday and many happy returns. I enclose a copy of my father's Coat of Arms on which is the motto "Mens Conscia Recti" meaning, as you know, "A Mind conscious of Right" Live up to it, my son. I also give you my Father's gold-mounted crest which I hope you will appreciate as a family keep-sake. The crest is engraved on a blood stone.

I shall now consent to your enlistment in the RAAF which you have wanted me to do for the past 12 months. I think 19 years old is young enough and I have given you time to think it over. You have your mother's pluck and my self-will and we are both proud of you. Good luck, and may God keep you safe my son. It will be the hardest thing I have ever done when I sign the consent to your application.

Ever your loving Dad. (G. Westgarth)

As an illustration of the way matters of history can arise over the years, we have had an interesting letter from Harry Godfrey, in Ivanhoe, Victoria.

"Would you please grant me a little space to possibly shed light on the mystery of Mick Moran's aircraft explosion in July, 1942 (The History records "the cause remaining unknown to this day").

"July was very hot At or about that time, on one op. the first two a/c to take off speared into the Bitter Lake. One tail gunner only survived. Heat distorted fabric.

"I belonged to Phil Mather's crew. We were "on" that night On the way to lunch, I thought I had forgotten to check some item that morning and handed my irons to one of the others and ran out to the a/c, climbing in and going to the back. Seconds later I smelt cordite. Looking to the front, I saw a trickle of smoke coming from the front turret. I must have just started otherwise I'd have smelt it on the way in, but I didn't think that at the time. SABOTAGE! I nearly crapped myself. When your life is on the line, you cannot think clearly: it is only later you can analyse your actions. Over the mainspar like a greyhound, dropping down through the hatch, looking at the smoke on the way. I think I had an inkling then but it was only a guess. However the ammo. had to come out, and I did it. released both belts and pulled both canisters out and on to the ground, the "guilty" one first. In the shade of the a/c the smoke stopped/. I then disarmed the rear turret and left that ammo inside the a/c. I returned the front ammo. parking it near the battery, inside.

That evening, at briefing, I stood up and told what I had done, and suggested that the ammo. canisters be extracted after each op. and the gunners rearm the a/c before each op. Time would have to be allowed for this to be done. S/L Smith (briefing officer) said, "I suppose we have to do as he says" And so it came to pass, but it was hot work, stripped to the jockeys, sweating like pigs. But we never lost an a/c from fire on the ground.

Smith was not very bright. The ammo was obviously faulty and an enquiry should have been instigated to define how widespread the problem and what measures may have been required. It would have meant "rocking the boat", but you couldn't ring up and have a replacement a/c next morning; besides which exploding a/c with bombs frighten people.. I never did discover which type was responsible, tracer or incendiary, and it may have been ball, but whichever it was, if one round was faulty many of the rest may well have been approaching a similar condition and creating large amounts of cordite gas. Had I gone out after lunch I may well have been blown to pieces. Then, the mystery would have been, "Godfrey went out to the a/c, and it blew up. I wonder what he did to cause that?"

Not long before Ac. Taylor died, we were on the phone and he reminded me of the incident and felt it should have been recognised. Jack Loth, ex 108, now of Stone's Corner, Brisbane, remembers the gunners lugging the ammo. around. Len McDonnell, our navigator, certainly knew of it, but maybe saw no connection., There it is, Peter, Can you see a possible link? (ED. Yes!)

I did two tours in Africa, 458, 108, 40 (65) Sigs Leader 40 and also 76 OTU, Agir; returned to U.K. early '44 to see my brother before he joined 83 Sq. PFF, Home, Morotai, and nearly killed in Manila in a DC3. I was there helping Dougie McArthur win the Pacific War. I was a 'shiny bum', and it sure was shiny. Good luck. The best to you and yours.

Harry later added. I don't know if my incident happened before or after Mick's. If the situation had developed along the following lines: Suppose I had gone out to the the a/c slightly earlier and the ammo had not started to smoulder but did soon after I left, and I believe the whole lot would have eventually gone up, and enquiry would have followed: "Well, Sgt you say you did nothing, and know nothing to cause the problem. How do you explain the fire/explosion? Aircraft do not catch fire/explode without some agency? Guilty or not guilty? Harry Godfrey.

British Bulletin. from Norman Duke.

Anzac Day, 2003. Our commemorative wreath was laid on the Squadron memorial at the old airfield at Holme-on-Spalding Moor by Peter Cochrane, accompanied by his wife, Wendy. As in previous years, Anne Hall produced a special floral display for the Squadron standard in the Church on the Hill

Constant Endeavour. I have received a letter of thanks from the organisers of the Coastal Command memorial to be unveiled in Westminster Abbey, for the U.K. Flight donation to the Appeal which finally totalled 175 pounds. Many thanks to all

The Cross Keys. Don Stocks tells me he paid a visit to the pub recently (purely in the line of duty, of course) and was pleased to see that the photographic display of 458 history is being maintained in the bar lounge, and the new landlord seems happy to keep it that way. Frank Robertson would be well pleased.

Personal Pars. We were sorry to hear from Ken Mercer that his wife Peggy had passed away after a long battle with Parkinsons Disease.

Leon Armstrong is once again fully operational after making a full recovery

from an operation for a tumour on the top of his skull. Apart from a small "hole in the head" he is fit enough to resume collecting for the RAFA. He will be travelling to Pensacola, Florida, later this month for the annual reunion of the Pensacola veterans who trained there as pilots during WW2, now becoming rather thin on the ground.

Jack Christianson has just returned from a holiday trip to Western Australia to attend his son's 50th birthday party. He was very pleased to meet up with Mick Singe during his visit, and to make further 458 links. No flight problems due to the SARS epidemic, apart from a six hour delay due to changing planes in Singapore.

U.K. Flight Reunion. A number of members are interested in holding a reunion this year, and therefore provisional arrangements have been made for the weekend of September 21/22 at the Falcon Hotel, Stratford upon Avon. Booking Forms have been sent to those interested.

And more for history. Ken Morris has written to us regarding an item in the latest edition of the Squadron history (page 112).

"One point where a little local knowledge may be of interest concerns the pranged Stirling at Bone. The pilot, Flight Sergeant Aaron, was a Leeds man

--an old boy of Roundhay School, which was the secondary school I attended. Although I did not know him (he was a couple of years younger than me) his brother was in the same form as myself. F/Sgt Aaron who already held a DFM was wounded over Italy but insisted on going back to the controls to land the aircraft. He later died of his injuries and was awarded a posthumous VC. As part of its millenium celebrations, Leeds City Council decided to erect a memorial to a prominent citizen, to be chosen by popular vote. F/Sgt Aaron was selected from a number of possibilities and a statue now stands in one of the city's main thoroughfares. It was unveiled, I think, sometime last year, attended by one surviving member of his crew."

Best wishes--Kind regards Norman.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS from Evelyn Lewis.

Received a note from Alan Atherton back in February, it was too late to mention in the last News. Alan advised that he had changed his address from Gargett, Q'ld. to Kuttatubul just north of Mackay. Also he has remarried, as he says, to "a younger widow" We wish you all the best. Alan says they are unable to attend the reunion at Orange--send best wishes to all.

Received a call from Peter Bailie--both Peter and Jean were in hospital over the Xmas period; he was worried after ordering Sea Food Platters for Xmas there would be none left as he had friends staying with them. Turned out all was well and Peter and Jean and friends had a happy day.

We welcome a new Associate member to Queensland by courtesy of Bob Lyndon, one Bob Drinnan of Urranween, near Hervey Bay. We had a long chat and gave Bob some news of different ones and we look forward to meeting up with him. Bob Lyndon sent him the 3rd edition of We find and Destroy and he has enjoyed reading it from start to finish; he is very impressed.

Anzac Day, Brisbane. Huge crowds gathered to watch the March; it was most impressive to see so many marching. One did notice though the numbers from so many services unable to take part. Our President proudly marched behind our banner. Eric brought Bernie McLoughlin in to the March though Bernie was unable to take part--but he enjoyed the company he met up with.

Looking forward to the Reunion--nine from Queensland making the trip. We will miss the company of Sel and Joan Foote presently holidaying at Noosa with Joan's sister-in-law from England. After a long period of health problems Sel is starting to pick up. Regards to all Evelyn Lewis.

CROWEATERS' CATCHUP. from Pat Cribb.

On Anzac Day there were 15 marchers in our 458 Group, with many children and grandchildren of those who served proud to be among them. It was heartening to have their support and to know they were acknowledging the contributions made during WWII by their parents or grandparents. Following the March 42 met for lunch at the Royal Hotel, and I am sure we all enjoyed the day. A special welcome to all who became new members of S.A. Flight--through your interest (and your paying of the subscription!) we can continue to meet through the year and send out the quarterly newsletter. Apologies were received from Buck Pedersen, Brian and Joan Woodhead of Goolwa, Jim Perry of Pt Augusta, Max and Jean Barnes, Marjorie Oliver and family and Pat Carey in Melbourne. All wished to be remembered to their mates.

We noted the tribute paid by the Minister for Veterans Affairs to Peter Alexander on his retirement, after 32 years, from his position as Secretary of the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (AVADSC). May we add our sincere thanks for all you have done, Peter, and continue still to do for us all in the 458 Association.

Following the item by the Victorian Flight in the last News (and having no record or contact ourselves), we wrote to the Department of Defence in Canberra for any information on relatives of Flying Officer Maxwell George Parker. He enlisted in South Australia in 1942, serving with the Squadron until he was killed in September, 1943. An inquiry had come from England. We were advised that there has been no contact with any family since.

Our mid-year dinner will be held at the Kensington Hotel, 23, Regent Street, Kensington (take Thornton St. off The Parade) on Thursday, July 10th at 12 noon for 1230. Cost \$25 per head. Book with Pat Cribb (8338 1002).

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....from Ted Jewell.

I had Flight members down to my home at Mandurah during March for a BBQ lunch but owing to some very bad weather some members were unable to come down from Perth--they missed out on a very enjoyable day; altogether we had 15 people for lunch--everyone had a great day. I was pleased to see Mick Singe after so long. Mick is now living in Perth so we will see a lot more of him. Squadron members present were Bill and Joan Clues, Henry and Vera Etherton, Ted Jewell and friend, Nobby and Esme Nobbs, Mick, Margaret Gannaway and Val Cormack plus friends.

Our main news at the moment is Anzac Day, in Perth. Thursday it rained all day and night. We were in for a wet Anzac Day, but in the morning it turned out a perfect sunny day. It really was warm during the March, but on the Saturday it was back to the rain again. Our President Bill Clues laid a wreath at the Dawn Service in Kings Park at the War Memorial. At the March in Perth during the day we only had 3 Squadron members behind the banner--Bill Clues, Ted Jewell and Mick Singe. We filled the ranks with Bill Clues' son Gary, Mick's two grandsons, Gordon Jones' two sons and a couple of strays. Dudley Etherton carried the Banner--Henry's son. It was so good to see so

many younger people who were there to cheer mthe marchers. After the March we had lunch as usual at Miss Maud's in Perth;it just finished off a wonderful day with a few beers and a great lunch. Present were Bill and Joan Clues, Henry and Vera Etherton, Bill and Flip Kelliher, Len Stewart, Ted Jewell, Olga Jones, Margaret Gannaway, Dudley and Sue Etherton, plus members' sons and friends. Late in the afternoon no one wanted to go home. We had to leave eventually as they wanted to clean up. We miss so many of our members who are unable to attend these functions through health problems. We wish them all our best wishes. Ted Jewell.

VICTORIAN VIEWS from Rupert Pearce.

Re Maxwell George Parker: I did not receive any information so I rang Veterans Affairs , canberra who said there had been no inquiries regarding him for many years.

Jack Smith (03 8802 7971) who was a member of 221 Squadron at Malta and in the Desert would like to contact 458 members. He has been in Australia since 1960 and was involved with Monash University.

Roger Turner (03 9363 2306) ex 647 Squadron rang to say Canadian 458er Frank Laughlin would be in Melbourne in March. We could not help him in Melbourne. (Several members met Frank in Sydney)

Social events. A BBQ was held at the Ellis home, Dromana on March 16th.

Members who came were John and Margery Bilney, Neil and June Dean, Jack and Margaret Ellis, Neil McPhee, Roy and Barbara Pearce, Rupert Pearce and Norma Pollard. There were two friends of the Ellis's--and Mick Singe rang from W.A.

We had a pleasant day together. Apologies were received from the Ashworths, Bill Fordyce, the Grangers, the Hinton's, the Kews, the Martins, and June Schoppe.

The Air Force Association, South Yarra, advises that Christmas in June will be held on Sunday 22nd June, 12 for 1230, The cost is \$35 each, drinks at BAR prices. Bookings to Christine McDonald 9826 5086 by 17th .

Anzac Day. We had 8 members marching, John Bilney, Shorty Bradshaw, Stan Cartledge, Neil Dean, Jack Ellis, Kewin Fleming, Roy and Rupert Pearce: 14 relations supported us---Ian Cartledge, Karen, Stan's granddaughter, Peter and Pauline with son Luke Boatman, Peter and Sue Jackson with daughter Michelle, Douglas and Adam Pearce, Michelle Gurney, and Murray Weaver. George Zagon carried a Wellington photo, assisted by son Peric. Thank you to the cadets who carried our Banner. We were joined at the Bowling Club by June Dean, Margaret Ellis, Barbara Pearce, Tom Primrose and daughter Eleanor and June Schoppe. Mick rang me earlier and sent his best wishes. Melanie Gurney was busy with her camera and we look forward to seeing the photos. We had apologies from Jim Anderson, Marjorie Bilney, Hilary Crittenden, Sue Eggars, Bill Fordyce--who had spoken earlier in the week on TV about his experiences in the tunnel--Harry Godfrey, the Grangers, the Hinton's, the Martins and Norma Pollard.

Personal items. Beryl Giles rang--pleased to have received her Gold Card. We know of a number of members not in good health, Bill Fordyce, and Ken Hinton, both having surgery, Joann Hinton, Don and Shirley Granger and there are probably others of whom we have no news. We wish them the best.

VALE. We regret to say that Dave (Bluey) Firth died on February 22nd at Tatura. He was given an RSL and Masonic Service. Mrs Glad Firth is now mostly confined to a wheel chair. His daughter lives at Tatura and son Peter at Nicholls Point.

A.G.M. At Manningham Club on May 27th at Noon. Rupert Pearce.

THE PASSING OF DAVE FIRTH.

There cannot be a 458er who did not know Dave (Bluey) Firth. Dave was over practically the whole life of the wartime Squadron the senior NCO of the Fitters. A calm and experienced redhead he was one of those responsible for the consistently high serviceability for which 458 was noted. He and Glad were major figures for many years at postwar 458 gatherings. Dave was Squadron President (the 11th) in the years 1969-70, chairing the 1971 Sydney All-States Reunion and Squadron Conference. Farewell to another old friend! -- PCA.

CANUCK CAUCUS. from Bryan Quinlan.

The obvious lead-off item is the story of Frank and Peggy Laughlin's recent cruise to New Zealand and Australia which included one-day stop-overs at various centres and culminating in a final two-day visit to Sydney where in Frank's words in a letter to me "I met with and was wined and dined by 458 members Pete Pettit, Bill Laughlin (no relation), Bob Bruce, Eric Munkman, Colin Fereday, and Keith Cousins. This get-together was the highlight of my holiday and was very kindly arranged by Pete Pettit." I know how thrilled and appreciative Frank was of this typical Aussie hospitality as he phoned me soon after their return to fill me in on this most memorable feature of the holiday and followed shortly by some excellent photos of the group. (ED. If Frank can mail us one we will try to reproduce it in a future issue of the Squadron News). Because of time constraints Frank was unable to attempt contacts with Kevin George and Ron Verity at stops in New Zealand.. He was impressed with the Museum at the old Wigram flying station at Christchurch. At the Melbourne stop Frank enjoyed a telephone chat with Rupert Pearce.

Other Flight news includes word from Bert Markland that he and Gladys have departed their home of 30 years at Christina Lake, a resort spot in BC's southern interior and are now settling into a new smaller home built for them and located on their son's farm property at Kamloops where they will be better able to handle some progressive health problems. Their new address is 2100, Robins Range Road, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6W1.

Mickey Reid had his third eye operation of 2003 on 6 May and reports some slight progress, tempered by his Doctor's prognostication of a year's recovery period. Mick potters about the garden and gets his reading enjoyment from "Talking Books". He is restricted from driving: however in his inimitable style continues to retain his sense of humour and upbeat outlook.

A call to Jim Donaldson revealed a similar driving restriction which further complicates his and Peg's onerous and progressive health problems. Jim enjoyed a recent two-week get-together with ex-crewmate Jack Ball, visiting from the U.K. Like Mickey, Jim relies on a sense of humour to see him through the tough times, and increasingly I see this admirable attitude expressed by members in similar situations. Ex-WW II types are tough cookies!

A letter from Ernie Ireland expressed his wish to personally extend his appreciation to Peter Alexander and Eric Munkman for their long-standing dedication in keeping memories alive. We can all sincerely second those sentiments. Ernie's letter covered a lot of his Air Force movements and word of Diane Atherton's visit kindled some memories for Ernie about Snowy, Tim Dale, the La Vallon detachment and escapades at Bari where, he says "was the only time I was given a bath by a girl.." adding "it was strictly on the up and up too, I mean no hanky panky." Hmmm!

Speaking of Diane, Fate seems to have conspired against a get-together. A month of water-leak damage repairs was followed by a month of 'flu for Joan

and me, and now Diane is on holiday, seeing B.C. Diane suggested a date in June, so that is what our Vancouver contingent is looking forward to. I feel very bad it is taking so long to meet her.

For those who received the Malta George Cross Commemorative Medal and were not sure where it should be worn, the March, 2003 edition of the GCIA newsletter contains information to the effect that "although bestowed by the Government of Malta, the medal would be worn alongside and not underneath other British Campaign medals. (Tom Rowan you can advise your local Legion accordingly).

Finally, congratulations to the organisers and all attenders at the All-States Reunion. I'm sure it would have been highly successful and enjoyable. We look forward to a report from Jim and/or Bob on discussions at the Conference and any decisions reached on future plans.

THE ALL-STATES REUNION---and N.S.W. NEWS. from Merv Hargraves and Eric Munkman.

TAFE Luncheon-Ryde. 20 friends met for another pleasant luncheon at the TAFE. It was great to see Peg and Bill Hull who have been unable to attend for some time.

Anzac Day March in Sydney. Again well-attended with 30 assembling to march with most continuing on for lunch at the Masonic Centre in Bathurst St. For health/physical reasons both Peter Alexander and Eric Munkman were unable to march but rode with the Air Force marchers in Geeps provided by the RAAF. It was good to see Jack Baker bring his three sons--one of who has been elected to the Flight Committee. Otherwise the Committee is--as was.

Personal Pars. Sadly, Bill Fiddes passed away on April 7th after a prolonged illness. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Inga, son Grant and daughter Susan. Bill Turier attended the funeral for 458. Also present was Jack Pomfrett's widow.

Bill McFadden attended the luncheon after the March. He was about to leave for the U.K.

Our congratulations to Keith Cousins on his appointment by Squadron Council as a Life Member of the 458 Squadron Association.

Thanks to Noel Walter for representing at the Service at St. Andrews Cathedral for the 82nd Anniversary of the R.A.A.F. Also to Eric for his presence at the RAAF Memorial Service at the Cenotaph. A wreath was laid for 458 in memory of members who served on Bomber Command.

Peter Alexander has been awarded the Australian Centenary Medal "for services to Veterans during the 20th Century." He was (Honorary) National Secretary of the RAAF Association for 41 years and, concurrently, 32 years of the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council

The Orange All-States Reunion. Another successful Reunion, mainly due to the hard work of Peter Pettit, Tom Moore and Eric "Rinso" Purcill. Thank you Fellas. It was great to see our old Squadron mates, their wives and friends--- some have changed a little, while others just as ever. We had three from West Australia (including Jim Palmer and wife Lucy and Mick Singe), two from New Zealand (Kevin George and Jack Pryde), and all other states represented except Tasmania and the Northern Territory. Sixty-eight attended the Reunion, however, there were eighty-one at the Dinner. Mick Singe was very disappointed on finding his mate Wal Archbold and Dora didn't make it for medical reasons. However, a phone call to Wal resulted in him and Dora making the effort for 2 days, Mick shed tears of joy on their meeting. That's mateship.

The Memorial Service for the Squadron was conducted at the city Cenotaph in very picturesque parklands--- a very impressive ceremony, with T.V. and Media coverage, followed

by a mayoral reception. Three coach trips were organised to neighbouring regions including Mt. Canobolas, and the Japanese Gardens at Cowra where the group had a light lunch and then inspected the War Cemetery. A Barbeque lunch at Yeoval followed a visit to a mini Zoo and Angora rabbit farm.

On Friday, the Squadron Conference was held and many points were discussed the main one being the next possible reunion.

The Dinner on Friday night was a happy occasion, but tinged with sadness as knowing it may be the last. Eighty-one people attended, the distinguished guests for the evening being Councillor John Miller, Mayor of Orange City, and his wife. The Mayor gave an interesting talk on the history of Orange. This is a brief account of the Orange Reunion--- till our next happy meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE; Letters to the Editor.

From Mick Singe, 79, Tyrell St., Nedlands, 6009, W.A.

Dear Peter, Now I am more or less settled in W.A., I would like to sincerely thank all those members that expressed condolences on Mavis' passing, special thanks to the overseas people--Eileen Leonard in Wales--Bryan Quinlan and Mick and Margaret Reid in Canada; I must also thank the Victorian Flight to those members who were able to attend the send off party that Neil Dean organised at the Glengarry RSL. for me, it was a very special occasion indeed. TO those members that sent apologies, I'm sorry I didn't see you at the Party--

I must say that the West Australian Flight have given me a warm welcome--my thanks to Bill Clues and Joan who so kindly took me to the BBQ at Ted Jewell's home for a great day of meeting the WA people--one person I had not seen for 59 years in Nobby Nobbs--it was a great day.

Peter, I was good to see your recognition and photo in VET. AFFAIRS. Cheers now..sincerely Mick Singe

From Alan (Snowy) Atherton P.O.Box 54, Kuttabul, 4741, Queensland.

Dear Peter or Eric, I don't quite know about the 458 Box and who will get the mail from there (ED. Usually Peter) so I will address this letter to both--or either of our mainstays.

For a start I have a change of address, as above: the reason being that in July, two years ago I married again a young (by our standards) widow who was well known to both my late wife, Jean and myself so life has had an upturn again. Now, that upturn certainly does not relate to the Sugar industry in which I had funds invested in the farming side, but I made an exit in a manner through the Government Scheme of tax exemption to enable transfer of productive property from Father to Son. Of course, this means a Father could unload his debts onto younger shoulders; however, in our case it has all worked out reasonably well.

I had intended doing something about representing the Squadron at Fred Kleckham's funeral. However there wasn't any notification to anyone and I learned of his passing from mutual friends who couldn't find out anything more until afterwards.

I visit the Alf Peakes' from time to time when passing through HOME HILL--he hasn't got any smaller and we usually manage to blow the froth off

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one, on these visits. I regret not being able to attend the Orange Reunion, but I do hope there will be more in the future regardless of the passage of time and all the effects it has, I think it's more a matter of maturity than age. With best wishes to everyone. Snowy.

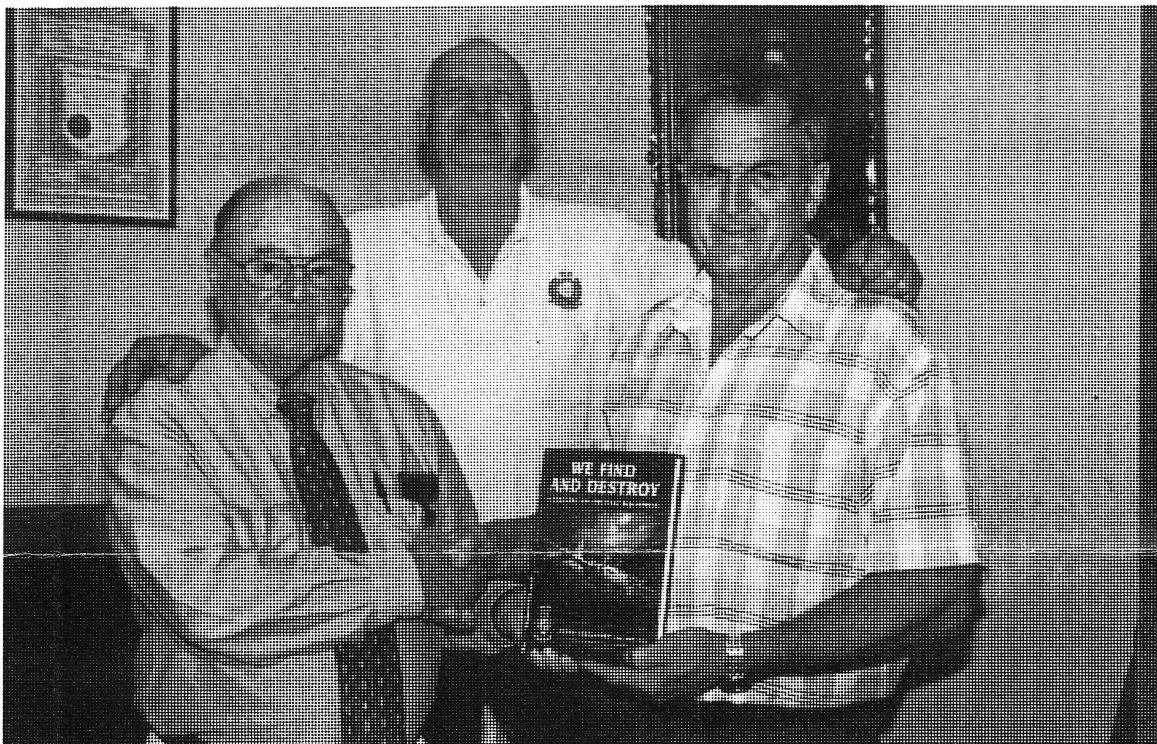
From Mrs May Croft, 37, Westminster Drive Ainsdale Southport Merseyside U.K.

Dear Mr Alexander, I have just read in the News that you have retired--not in the full sense of the word, I am sure! My husband Jim and I used to discuss your many duties and marvel at the great capacity you had for putting your caring attitude for people into definite action, I heartily agree--a "Living National Treasure"

I send my good wishes to you, yours sincerely, May Croft

(Thank you May--Peter A.)

PRESENTING THE HISTORY OF 458. IN THIS PHOTO DAVE WESTGARTH (LEFT) PRESENTS A COPY OF W21 E FIND AND DESTROY TO THE PRESIDENTS OF HIS RSL SUB-BRANCH AND HIS CLUB. SEE THE STORY ABOVE



Found on Coach at Orange Reunion

Tartan Cap
and
Blue Cardigan
Owner please contact Tom Moore (02) 63 63 1336