



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL

Year 68 No 258 December 2017

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Squadron Vice-President:

Leon Armstrong - U.K



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*** Mail all communications for Squadron Secretary to Stephen Bruce (address above), and for the Squadron (and NSW Flight) Treasurer to Beryl Dodds (address above) ** Have you notified Roland Orchard if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email? Are there others in your family, or circle of friends, who would like to receive a copy by e-mail? Please advise the Editor – see address and e-mail details above.**

Contributions and reports for the next Newsletter are due to The Editor by 30th March, 2018

FLIGHT REPORTS



United Kingdom Flight Report by Keith Wilkinson

458 pilot Jack Christianson has been recovering for some time from a broken collarbone, at the age of 95. But he was recently well enough to take part in a get-together in Shropshire. Jack and his wife Audrey had gone on holiday near the Welsh border with their family - including his son and daughter-in-law, visiting the UK from their home in Australia.



My wife and I met up with them at the Hundreds House inn between Ironbridge and Shrewsbury. We all had a very nice Sunday lunch and a good catch-up. It's still Jack's hope for us to have some form of reunion at the RAF Club in London during 2018 - the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force. Sadly, the numbers of 458-ers in the UK is now very small indeed, and those who are still with us - all in their nineties - are either too infirm or find it hard to travel any distance.

Thanks to an incredible coincidence Jack has come across a 458 member who hasn't been on our radar for a long time (literally). Jack was visiting an eye hospital in the south of England for an appointment when he got chatting to another man, aged 95. The man said he was Douglas Pierce, and he was on the squadron for some time in Bone and elsewhere as a radar specialist. Jack explained that he was a pilot and their paths had probably crossed at some point, though they weren't sure if they had ever met each other. Jack and Douglas only had time for a five minute chat but they hope to get together again to swap stories.

I have some news of Leon Armstrong, another 458 pilot - 98 years old on Boxing Day. His son Paul has told me Leon has left his home in Birmingham and is now in a care home in Worcestershire. Paul says his dad is very happy, seems to have settled into his new home and is doing fine. These days he walks with the aid of a frame but he's been getting about on various trips - for example to Bourton-on-the-Water in the Cotswolds and to the Severn Valley Railway, a steam heritage line. Leon has a lot of knowledge of railways having worked in management on the London Underground. I'll keep you all posted about the RAF Club. We have had two 458 meetings there in recent years. It's a fantastic venue, like a corner of old England frozen in time.



South Australia Flight Report by Rick Michell

First of all a Very Merry Christmas to all Members and Families and also a Very Happy New Year and a Prosperous 2018. We are holding our Christmas get together on December 14th at Noon, at the Kensi Hotel, Kensington SA, all are Welcome and if you would like to attend, please

contact Dave Cosh on Mobile **0417867277**. I have nothing else to report, except that I am Recuperating from a Liver Transplant that occurred on October 29th, all going well. Once again Season Greetings. Rick Michell

All the very best to you Rick, from all 458ers



Canada Flight Report by Bryan Quinlan

I talked to Tom Rowan's younger brother who advised that Tom is slowly getting acclimatized to hospital life although his mood varies day to day. He is unable to walk but keeps trying so they have taken measures to keep him from trying - still a stubbornly independent type.

I also talked to Jack Reynolds who is in good health and gets around on his electric scooter. He enjoys reading and keeping up on the current news - rather bleak these days. Christmas is fast approaching Santa's abound in the shopping malls - earlier every year. We are hopelessly behind as always and worse this year. Joan and I are comparatively well and Joan is as active as ever. We celebrated our 67th anniversary in Nov. and my 95th birthday in Sept. My balance is very poor and I am not supposed to go out alone and now have a set of walking sticks, a 4-wheeled walker but continue to stick with my faithful cane. Oh those "golden years". That's about it. Merry Christmas to all, hope 2017 has been kind to you and nothing but good health and happiness in 2018. Bryan



Victoria Flight Report by Roland Orchard

Season's Greetings to one and all. This last quarter of the year has been eventful both personally and within the 458 Squadron Association. The Association has recently received a sizable donation from the family of Veteran Eric Jewell. Eric resided at Brimlea Nursing Home in Murrumbena, Victoria until his passing in November, 2015. Eric's memories of 458 Squadron were always vivid and he always spoke fondly of the time spent with his comrades. On his admission he and his crew did have a number of narrow escapes from some very dicey situations, as did most during the war. We thank Peter Gray and his family for this donation in honour of Eric and his wartime service, including his time with 458 Squadron. A special meeting was convened on December 5th with the 458 Squadron Association Committee at the Chesalon Nursing Home, Beecroft, NSW, where our esteemed President Mr Keith Cousins resides. This special meeting discussed how to best utilise this donation. We will keep Peter's family and all members informed during this process. Bryan Quinlan has kindly mailed me all of his archived 458 Squadron Canada Flight records which I will systematically upload onto our 458 Squadron website. www.458raafsquadron.org This process will take some time so please bear with me. Again, I will keep Bryan and everyone informed as I progress through this project. **Thank you Bryan.**



Emails

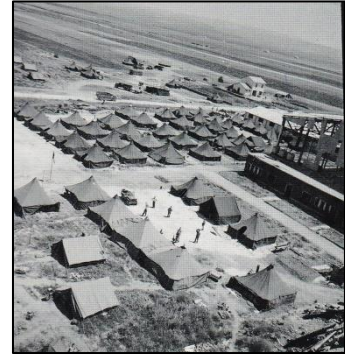


Valter Battistoni - battvtr@tiscali.it

Sent: Mon 06-Nov-17 10:38 PM

To: editor@458raafsquadron.org

Hi, For your records, please find attached a photo of the USAAF camp at Alghero airport in 1944. This photo comes from a book regarding the last days of Saint Exupery in Alghero by J. Phillips. The camp is exactly on the site where 40 years later was built the office residence where I lived when I was the airport director.



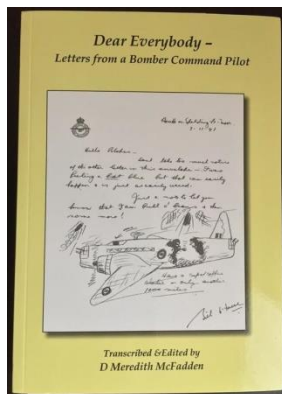
Regards. Valter Battistoni. Alghero. Sardinia.



Meredith McFadden. mcfadden.m4@gmail.com

Sent: 2 November, 2017 11:13 AM

To: editor@458raafsquadron.org



Subject: Book Release - 'Dear Everybody - Letters from a Bomber Command Pilot'

Dear Roland, I have just returned from the UK where I launched my second self-published book on the life in the RAAF of my late husband, Bill McFadden. I have your latest '458 Squadron News' in front of me now, and it occurred to me that some of your readers might be interested in them. In particular, Keith Cousins who was a good mate of Bill's and for whom he had a great respect. The first book is called Survival of a Bomber

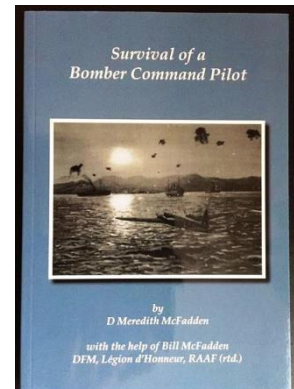
Command Pilot (of which there are a limited number of copies left) and the second is Dear Everybody - Letters from a Bomber Command Pilot. Should any of your readers show an interest in reading both or either the books, I would be happy to post them a copy gratis. I would obviously need name and full address. An email address would be useful as well. In the meantime, I look forward to receiving the next Journal. Kind regards,

D.Meredith McFadden - Author - Researcher

Book Launch Excerpt from DVA Magazine.

'Dear Everybody - Letters from a Bomber Command Pilot' was launched in September (2017) at the RAF Club in London which some 30 people attended, including the Vice Chairman, Air Commodore Peacock-Edwards who wrote the Foreword.

The Book tells the personal story of a Bomber Command pilot during his six years he spent servicing overseas. Bill McFadden, DFM, Légion d'Honneur wrote copious letters home to his family in Queensland. They were kept and then returned to him after the war. These letters form the basis of



Dear Everybody – It is interspersed with explanations for the reader as to the place he was writing from and what was happening at that time in the bigger sphere of the conflict. When Bill was writing home, he was always conscious of the Censor. Dear Everybody - follows on from last year's publication of Survival of a Bomber Command Pilot which described how he so often narrowly missed death.

If anyone would like copies of these books and more, please visit Meredith's website <https://www.mcfadden-buttrey.com/> or contact me (editor) My address and mobile number is on the cover page of this Newsletter.



John Unitt

**Sent: Wed 26-Apr-17 10:52 AM To: editor@458raafsquadron.org
Subject: 458 ROLL CALL**



Hi Guys, Hope you all had a fabulous Anzac Day. I have attached a recent pic of our son Lee's, (who is a Lieutenant at Kapooka,) visit to see Uncle George for Anzac Day. He doesn't do the march nowadays but was thrilled to have a visit. He attended Lee's graduation at Duntroon in 2011 &

was given the VIP treatment, which he enjoyed. George & Grace can be contacted at THE MANOR. 156 BEACH RD. BATEMANS BAY. 02 4472 0300
BTW: Roland, I can dig up an email from a chap in the UK who has written a book on some aviation crashes that occurred in the UK....1 which Uncle George was involved in. Let me know if you need this or any other info I can help with. Kind regards. John.

Our Memorabilia Page www.458raafsquadron.org

458 SQUADRON BADGE (VELCRO BACKING)



In stock

Badge + Postage within Australia:-

15.00AUD

Badge + Postage and Transaction costs to New Zealand:-

17.00NZD

Badge + Postage and Transaction costs to UK:-

10.00GBP

Badge + Postage and Transaction costs to Canada:-

17.00CAD

2 PHOTO-DVD SET OF OFFICIAL SQUADRON ALBUMS



This two DVD set presented in an artistically 458 motif DVD case contains all 273 whole page images of Album 1 and 866 individual images from these pages. And all 251 whole page images of Album 2 and 626 individual images from these pages. All images are in high resolution format.

Our [Official Squadron Albums](#) web page explains the remarkable story of the Squadron and its Albums and the project to digitize them.

\$20.00 AUD when ordering **one** 2 DVD set (price includes postage anywhere in Australia). [Contact Us](#) to order, including notification of total cost if ordering

multiple sets (postage will vary) or postage to international destinations. This item will be posted on receipt of payment. Thank you.

ICONIC GROUP PHOTOS OF THE SQUADRON

These **poster size** wartime photograph reproductions will make magnificent wall history/art. A fine [example](#) elegantly framed. Sizes shown below:

Squadron at Protville, Tunisia, 1943: **size 973 mm x 220 mm - \$30.00AUD**

'A' Flight at Bone, Algeria, 1944: **size 973 mm x 296 mm - \$30.00AUD**

'B' Flight at Gibraltar, 1945: **size 785 mm x 300 mm - \$30.00AUD**

All prices include postage **within Australia Only**. All prints will be posted in a mailing tube. Prices for Outside of Australia - On Application. [Contact Us](#) to order. Items will be posted on receipt of payment. Thank you.



COLLECTORS EDITIONS:- 458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION 250TH & 75TH ANNIVERSARY EDITIONS NEWSLETTER. \$20AUD. per copy PLUS Postage*

*Postage within Australia \$2.10 per copy.

*Postage to UK, Canada, New Zealand - price on application.

Please note- All monies are used for on-going costs involved in web-site, printing, postage of these and all Memorabilia items.

These Publications were made possible with the grateful assistance of grants received from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Commemorative Grants Section and the Victorian Government and Public Records Office Victoria.

Vickers Wellington Key Tags

ONLY 1 LEFT FOR SALE -



\$10 per key ring Plus Postage*

All proceeds go to website and 458 Squadron Association Journal Publishing costs. Please email Roland Orchard for your order-

editor@458raafsquadron.org One key ring per member please. I will order more if needed in future. Thank you for your support. *Postage within

Australia \$1. per key ring *Postage to UK, Canada, New Zealand - price on application.

Anniversary Cup 1941 - 2016

75TH ANNIVERSARY CUP



In 2016, 458 Squadron celebrated 75 years since its formation in 1941. 458 is only 20 years younger than the RAAF itself! Therefore what a more fitting way could there be to reflect on these occasions than to enjoy your favourite beverage from your very own 75th anniversary cup. Special price until Anzac Day 2017 is AUD\$22.95 (anywhere in Australia). Buy now before the price goes up. Please note that it is price-on-application for orders overseas from Australia.



Please contact the editor for all orders or order online via our website www.458raafsquadron.org

