



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL

Year 69 No 259 April 2018

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WA, QLD, TAS, NT, ACT and New Zealand – Looking for volunteers.

UK- Keith Wilkinson 23 Ferndale Pk, Tedmore, Stourbridge, W. Midlands. DY90RB

CANADA- Bryan Quinlan. 1460 Haywood Ave., W. Vancouver, B.C. V7T 1V6.

*** 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 Editor 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 July, 2018

VALE – TOM RIDGWAY.....NSW FLIGHT



THE SPIRIT LIVES 2014 - 2018

NOTE FROM EDITOR - 458 Veterans and Widows of Veterans, please contact me via post or email with your current postal/email addresses. I would like to update my records for 2018. It is very important for me as Editor of this great Journal to be able to keep contact details up to date, whether they be postal addresses or email addresses. Thank you for everyone's support.

FLIGHT REPORTS



South Australia Flight Report by Rick Michell



On behalf of SA Flight I would like to wish all members a Happy Easter and safe Holiday. Our Christmas get together was a happy and joyous one with our usual group and their family members on December 14th ; my thanks to Pat Cribb for organizing the venue, as she always does. We are holding our next get together on ANZAC Day at our usual venue, The Kensi, at noon. All are welcome and if you would like to join us please contact Dave Cosh on 0417867277. I have nothing else to report for now. I am going to Darwin at the end of March on the Ghan. Hopefully no more cyclones come through. Happy Easter.



Canada Flight Report by Bryan Quinlan

Contacted Ted Rowan, Tom's younger brother and he advised that Tom is much more settled in the Care Centre. Only complaint, too much pasta and not enough potatoes, his favorite. He can no longer walk so is strapped to his wheelchair. Phoned Jack Reynolds who remains active in his electric scooter so remains brighter and cheerful. About a month ago I slipped on some ice and fell heavily on my left side on the brick surface. Result, a broken shoulder bone and various other injuries. Apparnetly there is a long healing time – several months so will not be over for quite a while. Hard to do things with only one arm but lucky it was not my right side! Best wishes to all and hope everyone is in top shape!

Get well Soon Bryan – Ed.



NSW Flight Report by Stephen Bruce



Happy 97th
Birthday Mr
President, Mr Keith
Cousins. The NSW
Committee
members joined

Keith on Thursday 22nd March to wish him many happy returns. Keith is on track to lead our NSW ANZAC Day march following approval from his Nursing Home Judy Cameron House. On behalf of 458 Squadron Association our condolences go to the Ridgway family on the passing of Tom Ridgway on Sunday the 1st of April. Our sympathies go out to Tom's daughter Di Marik and the rest of the Ridgway family. Tom was in his 100th year and would have turned 100 on May 25th. RIP Tom.

Arrangements for ANZAC Day March in Sydney as follows:

1. Assemble Cnr. Hunter & Phillip Streets, Sydney at 9:15am all indications from RSL march coordinator is that we will march off before 10:00am.
2. Our reunion and meeting venue is Castlereagh Boutique Hotel from 11:00am.

There are some changes to this year's march typically centred around lack of accurate information relating to our march off times! Some great news though our President Keith Cousins has been given the all clear to attend and lead 458 at this year's march having just celebrated his 97th Birthday. We should plan to assemble after 9:15am at Cnr of Phillip & Hunter Streets and we should march off before 10:00am. Our function and meeting will be held at Castlereagh Boutique Hotel from 11:00am. The costs per head to be paid on the day will be same as last year ie.\$30 per head. Please pass on this information to any other known 458 contacts who may care to join us on this the centenary of the end of WW1 (albeit some 7 months till 11/11/2018).



Victoria Flight Report by Roland Orchard



I am happy to announce the Flying Officer Eric J. Jewell Award which has come about due to the generosity of Eric's family. The details of this years Award are explained by Chris Orchard in his article included in this Journal. Please read Chris' article headed 'The Eric J. Jewell Award'. Many thanks to the Late Eric Jewell's family, Moira, Peter, Steve, David and Heather. Also thanks to the organisational skills of Chris Orchard for heading up this project with the assistance of Jeremy Orchard. Victoria Flight members would like to wish our President Mr Keith

Cousins a very Happy 97th Birthday. I've just received an email from Ian Dunmore, son of George Dunmore, saying that George had had a fall on Easter Monday and broken his hip. Ian reported that George had seemed to come through the operation the following Wednesday and time will tell. All the very best George for a speedy recovery. Victoria Flight were saddened at hearing about the passing of Tom Ridgway. Our condolences go to his daughter Di Marik and the Ridgway family.

Melbourne ANZAC Day 2018 - Please see the Melbourne order of march table below <http://www.rslvic.com.au/commemoration/anzac-day/>

Note that step off time for this year is 11:30am. This is approximately one hour later than usual. Keep an eye out for the 458 Squadron Banner. We will set up The Banner on Flinders Street, east side of Swanston Street, Federation Square side. Refreshments after the march at Jardin Tan booked at 1pm. Please let me know who can attend by email - editor@458raafsquadron.org

RAAF EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST

Flinders Street East Side (Same side as Federation Square)

<u>Step off Time</u>	<u>Unit</u>
1130	463 & 467 Squadrons
1130	3 Squadron (Desert Air Force)
1130	Desert Air Force Association (3, 450, 451, 454, <u>458</u> , 459, 462, Air Amb Squadron)
1130	455 Squadron
<u>1130</u>	<u>458 Squadron</u>
1130	460 Squadron



United Kingdom Flight Report by Keith Wilkinson

No Report from the UK this time. All the very best to Keith, Leon, Jack and all other 458ers in jolly old Blighty. Please take note of my request for update details. Thank you. (Editor)

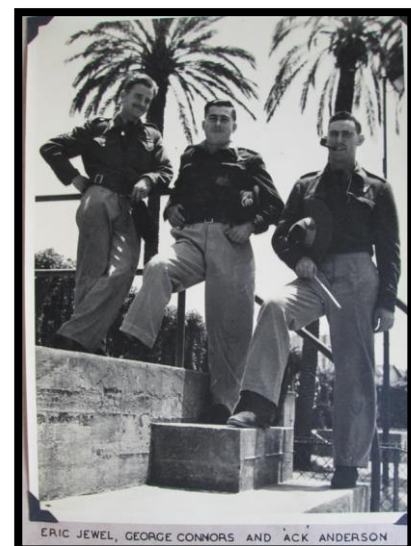
The Eric J. JEWELL Award

Through the generosity of Eric's family, we have dedicated the **Eric J. Jewell Award** page to be a take-off point for telling his story and offering financial support to our youth, and specifically Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC). Commanding Officers of Air Force cadet squadrons can apply for support via the submission process detailed further below.

Eric Jewell's Life and War Service

FLGOFF Eric John Jewell (service no. 410161) was second pilot in the Vickers Wellington aircraft with 458 Squadron. His life story is found on the Servicemen's Stories page on the 458 Squadron Association Web Site. www.458raafsquadron.org

Eric took part in a number of operations, and of notable significance are his and 458 Squadron's involvements in **Operation Dragoon**, starting the 15th of August, 1944. This operation, which came to be known as the "second D-Day landings", was spearheaded from the Mediterranean Sea into southern France via Nazi-occupied French ports. Page 611 of the 458 Unit History confirms the Squadron's involvement in stating, *"This has been a momentous week. The Squadron is really in the "front line" of the invasion."* The operation Eric and his crew flew on 16th Aug 1944 in aircraft serial no. **HF360** is the same Mk. X ("Mark 10") variant of the Wellington as aircraft **HF344** shown below.



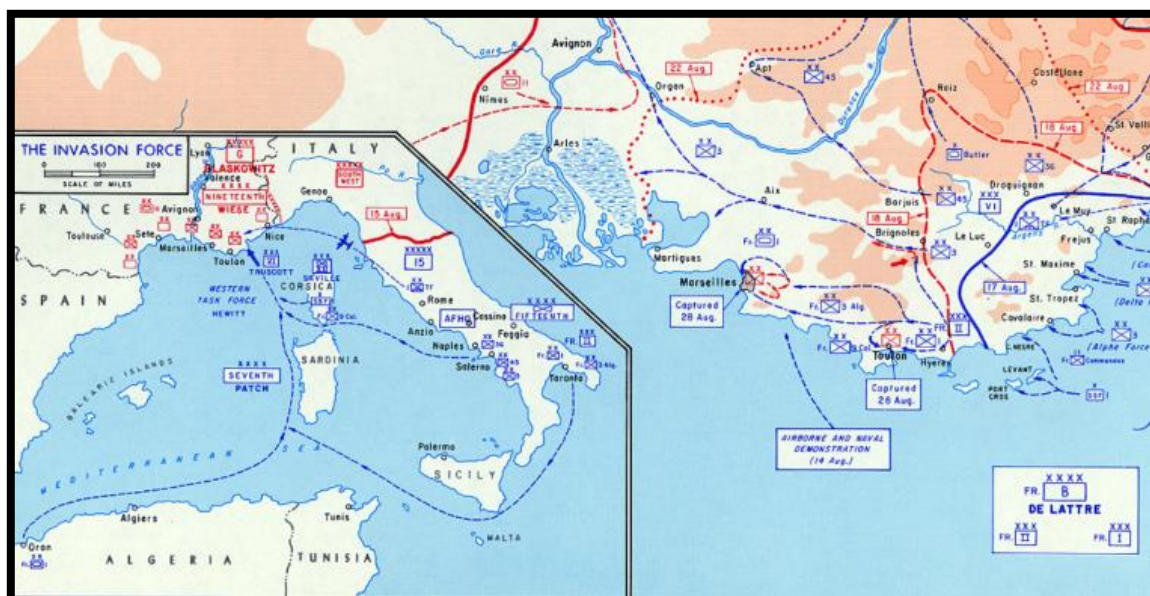
Photos of Eric with crew members

16th	Wellington	A. 403047	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	Base: Sète-Toulon. Attached came South of
		A. 403048	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	Port St. Louis. Base seen and position seen by
		A. 403049	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	rear camera. Weather 5-6/10 at 1,000 feet
		A. 403050	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	vis. good.
		A. 403051	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	
		A. 403052	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	
		A. 403053	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	
		A. 403054	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	
		A. 403055	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	
		A. 403056	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	
		A. 403057	P/O. J. J. Gifford, Capt. Q10. 0710	

Extract of 458 Unit History, page 632, operation on 16-Aug-1944. Note the flight path over the ports of Sète, Toulon and Port-Saint-Louis (-du-Rhone).



Two Mk. X Vickers Wellingtons at Alghero, Sardinia. Aircraft with serial no. **HF344** is in the foreground



The invasion pathways, Southern France, August 1944. Note the ports of Sète and Toulon, and the Rhone River's entry point to the Mediterranean Sea (Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhone)

The Inaugural Eric J. Jewell Award Recipient - Number 3 Wing Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC)



The inaugural Eric J. Jewell Award was presented to AAFC 3Wing and Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Sharon O'Donnell for their upcoming 2018 Western Front Tour of France and Belgium. This tour will mark 100 years since the end WWI. Fifteen cadets and nine adults are taking part in the trip from 14 to 26-Apr-2018. The tour will trace a number of the significant battlefields, cemeteries, and memorials of WWI, and also the site of the Normandy D-Day Landings of WWII. ANZAC day 2018 will be held at Villers-Bretonneux, with Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) O'Donnell and four cadets taking part in the official



ceremony. The Award has contributed to the purchase of official AAFC clothing to be provided to all participants, with the sleeve design on each participant's dark-blue 'Hoodie' style Jacket.

Left - Embroidery for cadet "Seth" on his AAFC clothing.

Australian Air Force Cadet Funding Submission Applications

AAFC Squadron representatives are invited to submit an application for funding for new or existing cadets and/or cadet programs on or before 30th March, 2019. An application form will soon be available at <https://www.458raafsquadron.org/eric-j-jewell-award>

FACES OF 458 SQUADRON.



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](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) 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](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) 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](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) 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](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) to order. Items will be posted on receipt of payment.

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.

75th ANNIVERSARY CUP 1941 - 2016



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