



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL

Year 70 No. 264 December 2019

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UK- Keith Wilkinson

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

* 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 postal address above or email Roland at editor@458raafsquadron.org

Contributions and reports for the next Newsletter #265 are due to The Editor by 30th March, 2020.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY, HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS 2020.



VALE -

**Bryan Quinlan (VP).....West Vancouver, BC, Canada.
Dorothy Pritchard.....Victoria.**



**458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION APPOINTMENT OF
Co-VICE PRESIDENT**

It is a pleasure to announce the appointment of our new
458 Squadron Co-Vice President

Jim Browne from Dalby, Queensland

Jim served with 458 Squadron as a Wireless/Air Gunner
from April 1942 to May 1943. Heartfelt congratulations,
Jim.

Vale Flt Lt Bryan Quinlan DFC. RCAF



It is with great sadness to announce the death of
Bryan Quinlan. Bryan served with 458 Squadron as
a pilot from late 1942 to mid-1943. He was
awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross whilst
serving with 458 Squadron for his part in the
sinking of an enemy 11,000-ton merchant ship on
14th July, 1943. The then Pilot Officer Quinlan also attacked an
enemy destroyer on 13th March, 1943 with results of this attack
unknown. Bryan went on to serve with an all Canadian 407
Squadron for a 2nd tour of operations. Bryan was our Canadian
Flight correspondent to the 458 Newsletter for over 20 years. He
kept us informed the world over of all activities and events
involving Canadian 458 Veterans and



families. Rest in
Peace Bryan. Our
loving thoughts and
sympathies go out to
his wife Joan and the
Quinlan family.



FLIGHT REPORTS



United Kingdom Flight Report by Keith Wilkinson

Here's a rare treat to see close-up the type of aircraft



that was familiar to members of 458 Squadron...some photographs taken from inside the Wellington bomber currently under restoration at RAF Cosford Museum in Shropshire, England.

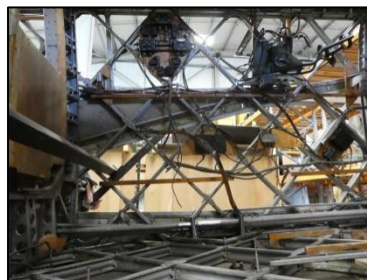
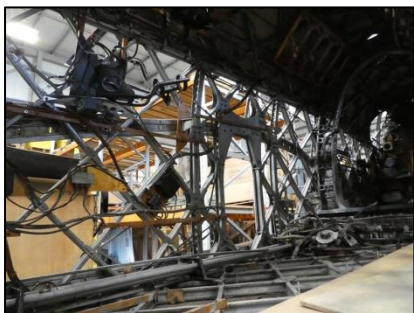
I was given special access to the interior of

the aircraft, one of only two that survive in the world. The Irish linen that covered the geodetic frame has been stripped off and is being replaced. This currently allows you to see right through the structure, which was designed by the bouncing bomb inventor Barnes Wallis. The Wellington is being restored in



the museum's conservation centre and access is normally restricted to open days. The photographs show the work in progress. They also show details that cannot be seen when the plane is intact.

Work is taking many years to complete but eventually the plan is for the completed aircraft to be back on display to the public at Hendon in London. This Wellington was used as a post-war trainer and took part in the epic war film *The Dambusters*.





West Australia Flight Report by Nick Bertram

On Sunday the 6th of October I caught up with Wendy Hopley (Budd) who is the daughter of 458er Arthur Budd. Nick and Arthur were posted together throughout the entire war 117 Sqn RAF, 458 Sqn RAAF & 459 Sqn RAAF. We found this photo of Nick's in the family collection with comments on the back



Me (Nick Bertram) & Arthur Budd
The parting of the ways 1945
Chivenor Aerodrome, Barnstaple, Devon, England

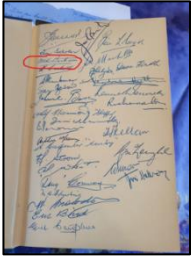


Me (Grandson Nick) and Wendy 06/10/2019 Perth



We had a look through Arthur's photo album and found these familiar photos of Bristol Bombays from the 117 Squadron RAF. These photos were also in our family collection and noted in Nicks serviceman's story link on the 458 website. Found Nick in Arthur's photo album on the first page probably while posted in the 117 Squadron RAF.





West Australia Flight Report..continued.

Inside Arthur's 1st edition 458 Sqn book – probably would have been signed at the 1958 WA All States Reunion in Perth.



Victoria Flight Report by Roland Orchard

As 2019 sinks slowly into the west we reflect on the year that was. We lost our President Keith Cousins, just prior to ANZAC Day. It was a sad time for the Cousins family and 458 Squadron. Another memorable ANZAC Day passed by as we silently reflected on our loved ones and the trials and tribulations of their war time service. The appointment of our new Executive Committee represented by our beloved United Kingdom Veterans Leon, Charles, Jack, Bob and our sole surviving 458er in Australia, Jim. We pay tribute to the recent sad loss of our Canadian 458er and Vice President, Bryan. October saw our first 458 Conference in many a year. (see photo) Held at the Mercure Hotel in Canberra, our focus was the transitioning into a more



streamlined 458 Squadron Association that can move us into the next 70 years. The minutes of this Conference will soon be available on our website and is open to discussion, comment and input by all. One of the more significant ideas put forward was a suggestion to hold a 458 Squadron Reunion at RAAF Williamtown, NSW, in 2021. This coincides with two important anniversaries. 2021 is the Centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force and 80 years since the formation of 458 Squadron at Williamtown. Exact dates for the reunion were not set *however*, due to the 80th Anniversary falling on Saturday 10th July, 2021 , this date was mooted. Consider this as a 'SAVE THE DATE' notice and have a think about how we could make this reunion something that our Veterans would be proud of. Expressions of Interest are on page 14. Please fill in and return asap.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone.





New South Wales Flight Report by Stephen Bruce

Nothing special to report other than we are having a Xmas meeting on 19/12/2019 at Nth Ryde RSL the location of last regular NSW flight meeting attended by our late President Keith Cousins. I hope we can all enjoy the day and reflect on the legacy of those fallen.



South Australia Flight Report by Rick Michell

We will be having our usual Christmas luncheon at the Kensi Hotel on Sunday the 8th December.

SA Flight would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

MISSING 458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTERS / JOURNALS.

We are 5 Newsletters away from having a complete SET of Newsletters/Journals from the very first edition, #1 in October 1949 to the current one, #264.

ALL editions can be downloaded/read at the [Newsletters](#) page of our website. Our original Editor, Peter Alexander CMG, OBE, OAM and his brains trust were true visionaries & heroes amongst all our 458 heroes. **We still need:**

#23 and #24 from 1955, #32 from 1957, #35 from 1958 and #39 from 1959 (the copy we currently have is difficult to read)

Could everyone please look through any 458 Squadron materials that they may have hiding in cabinets, book shelves etc. It would certainly surpass our 458 Veteran's wildest imaginations to be able to display on our website, a complete set of all 70+ years of



the life blood of all 458 Squadron Veterans and their families, in the form of the 458 Squadron Association Newsletter. This would be a researcher's gold mine.

Bob Springall **- a potted wartime history by Tony Springall**



At the Runnymede Air Force Memorial, August 2019

Dad was born in 1922 in South East London and upon leaving school became an apprentice instrument maker with Elliott Brothers. When war was declared he was advised that he was in a Reserved Occupation and therefore was exempt from military service. He was not happy and tried to join the Royal Artillery but was turned down as he was under 8 stone but the Royal Air Force snapped him up as he had the skills in very short supply. Basic training was in Great Yarmouth and whilst there he was summoned to see the Commanding Officer who told him that Elliott Brothers wanted him back but dad politely refused the invitation. As he was already qualified he did not undertake trade training but instead sat what were called the "West Drayton

Tests” to prove his efficiency and received his posting to 51 Maintenance Unit, RAF Lichfield where aircraft were prepared for squadron operational use after being received from the manufacturers. It was staffed by mainly pre-war regulars who were married and lived on camp therefore when the call came for someone to join 153 Squadron it was almost inevitable who would be sent.

Arriving in Algeria on a troopship with the 51st Highland Division it was off to Maison Blanche and the Beaufighters which had a multitude of roles. The squadron left the main airfield for Algiers and moved to Reghaia near the coast where off duty moments could be spent swimming in the sea.

When 458 Squadron arrived at Foggia, dad received his posting and joined the vast tented encampment that was Foggia airfield outside of Naples to work on the Wellington Bombers with which the squadron was equipped. The winter of 1944 was long and wet which proved as equally difficult for the ground crew as for the aircrew operating from the airfield. Christmas 1944 is still remembered as he was able to visit Rome which had been liberated in June to hear the Pope speak to the thousands of allied servicemen crowded into St Peters square.

The move to Gibraltar was undertaken in a Dakota and at this point various Wellingtons were equipped with Leigh Lights in an anti U Boat role, flying over the Mediterranean. The period in Gibraltar is fondly remembered after the trials and tribulations of Italy and it enabled various members of the squadron to fashion small canoes from the drop tanks of aircraft to scull around the harbour.

With the disbandment of 458 Squadron it was back to Algeria to clear up damaged aircraft and the multitude of other stores before being finally repatriated back to the UK after more than three years away.

Tony Springall (son of Bob Springall)

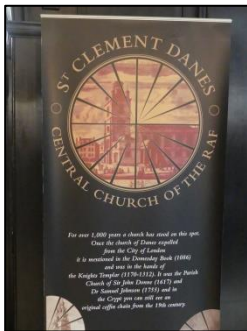
Emails

From-Michael & Margaret Sampson

Sent- Mon 14-Oct-19 11:02 AM

You may be familiar with the St Clement Danes RAF Church in London (over the road from Australia House) – we were rather excited to find it, and very impressed with the volunteer staff who were interested that we were looking for records of two family members, both lost in Wellingtons. The church is impressive, and it is very humbling to know that every British airman who was lost, is recorded in large books, located around the church. The church is in regular use. The volunteers helped us locate the Squadron Emblems (480 and 460) and unlocked and opened the books to see the names of our two flyers.

Regards. **Margaret and Michael.**



Photos of St Clement Danes, Central Church of the RAF. These were taken during a recent visit to London and are kindly shared with the permission of Margaret & Michael Sampson. Note the 458 Squadron Crest which is one of hundreds of Squadron Crests inlaid into the floor of The Church.

Thanks once again Margaret and Michael for contributing to The Newsletter. Ed.

Emails-continued

From-Gary Pritchard

Sent-Sat 28-Sep-19 1:56 PM

Hi Roland,

We did speak some time a few years ago briefly at the Anzac day parade. I don't expect you will remember.

Sadly, I have to advise that mum, Mrs Dorothy Pritchard passed away on July 12, 2019. She was the wife of Ronald Cedric Pritchard who passed away in April 1987. Dad was a wireless air-gunner and while he spent most of his time seconded to the RAF, he did a stint of several months with 458 squadron. He is mentioned in the book, "We Find and Destroy", I think for his cricketing prowess rather than anything else. He actually was a very good cricketer in his time. I am sure there are very few of the squadron left but thanks for your efforts keeping their spirit alive. Regards, Gary Pritchard.

Condolences to you and your family Gary. – Ed.

DONATIONS.

Thanks for the very kind and generous donations to 458 Squadron Association. If you wish to donate please see the donation page on our website or contact the editor.

These donations help in ongoing costs of the 458 Squadron Newsletter Publication, projects such as the recent 458 Cap & Polo Shirt & 458 Website management by [*Potentweb](#)

NOTE FROM EDITOR –It is very important for me as Editor of this great Newsletter to be able to keep contact details up to date. The Association would like an up to date number of surviving 458 Veterans and Widows. Jim Browne from Qld is the only Australian 458 Veteran that has come forth recently. Please contact the editor if there are any other 458 Veterans or Veteran widows who wish to be known. Thanks for everyone's support. All postal/email details will be held in the strictest of confidence by the editor. (my postal and email address details on page 1.)



THE 2019 ERIC J. JEWELL AWARD

The 2019 Eric J. Jewell Award was presented to twenty-one Cadets from 303, 304, 305, 307, 314, 315, 318, 322, 324, 330, 331, 336, 345, 507, and 508 Squadrons, and to three AAFC staff attending the [103rd International Four Days Marches Nijmegen](#), in the Netherlands, during the month of July.

2019 Eric J. Jewell Award – Cadets and Staff Four Days March in Nijmegen, Netherlands, to Commemorate Operation *Market Garden*, 17-25 September 1944.



The 2019 recipients of the Eric J. Jewell Award, Australian Air Force Cadets and staff from 3Wing and 5 Wing, participated in this year's "Vierdaagse" (Dutch for "the four days") walk that has taken place since 1909, being based at Nijmegen, Netherlands since 1916. Marching a scintillating 40 kilometres each day from Tuesday to Friday, 16 – 19 July 2019, and starting early morning (I mean early!), covering 166.6 kilometres in total. A distance that left all with lasting impressions and memories, arousing many emotions, joy, struggle, contemplation, esprit de corps, mateship, fatigue, pain, perspiration, accomplishment, unity, victory. All with the backdrop, history, location, sights, and remnants of battles of World War II (including Operation *Market Garden*), and a handy reminder of both 458 and FLGOFF Eric Jewell, carried throughout the journey.

Each day of the march begins and ends at the same location - **Camp Heumensoord**, but has a unique route each day.

MARCH TO NIJMEGEN continues....

Day 1, Tuesday July 16. The team march out on the first day:



Day 2,
Wednesday
July 17

Day 3, Thursday July 18:



Day 4, Friday July 19. The fourth and final time the Team march through the boots and helmet of camp Heumensoord, Nijmegen.

Not all were able to attend on 21 September

2019, but those that did were honoured to be on the John Frost Bridge (the rebuilt Arnhem Road Bridge) where, remembering *Allied Operation Market Garden* and 75 years earlier, *“A small British force captured the north end of the Arnhem road bridge, denying use of the intact bridge to German forces. After the ground forces failed to relieve the paratroopers on time, they were overrun on 21 September. At the same time that XXX Corps' tanks moved over the Nijmegen bridge, 36 hours late, after seizing it from the Germans, the British paratroopers at the Arnhem bridge were capitulating, unable to hold on any longer. The remainder of the British 1st Airborne Division was trapped in a small pocket west of the Arnhem bridge, which was evacuated on 25 September after sustaining heavy casualties.”*



An amazing turnout with thousands of people watching the march over the Bridge:

458 Squadron CAPS and POLO Shirts

Once again many thanks go to the 458 Squadron Association Victorian Flight Historian Peter Hedgcock, Vice President (Victoria Flight) Neil Flentje and NSW Flight, for enabling this project to proceed. We are proud to announce the availability of baseball style caps and Polo shirts with embroidered 458 Squadron Badge. The embroidery is high quality with 22,000 stitches for each badge. The cap is one size fits all and many sizes available for the polos. See example photos and size details below. 7 colours available. Royal Blue, Navy, White, Red, Maroon, Bottle(green) & Black. Example colour given here is Royal Blue. Thanks to our model Peter Hedgcock.



Polo Sizes

LADIES	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
<u>BUST</u>	46	48.5	51	53.5	56	58.5	61	63.5	66	68.5	73.5	76
<u>SP LENGTH</u>	62	64	66	68	70	72	73	74	75	76	78	79

Mens/Adults Shirt Sizes

ADULTS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
<u>CHEST</u>	53.5	56	58.5	61	63.5	66.5	70	73.5
<u>SP LENGTH</u>	70	72.5	75	77.5	80	81	82	83



Caps – AUD \$32:00 plus Packaging & Postage
 Shirts - AUD\$45:00 plus Packaging & Postage.

NOTE-PACKAGING & POSTAGE COSTS MAY VARY DEPENDING ON DELIVERY LOCATIONS.

See our Memorabilia Page on our website.

<https://www.458raafsquadron.org/memorabilia-shop>



Expression of Interest / Save the Date for 458 Squadron Association 2021 Reunion

Proposed Dates –
Friday 9th July – Tuesday 13th July, 2021.

Proposed Location-
Williamtown/Newcastle, New South Wales

Detailed Itinerary to be Advised

However, a group tour of RAAF Williamtown to coincide with the 80th Anniversary of 458 Squadron and Centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force is proposed. A day trip to local tourist destination may be on the cards.

Expression of Interest for 458 Squadron Association 2021 Reunion

Name. _____ number of attendees (if interested) _____

Contact Details. _____

I **would like to attend** / **am unable to attend** this proposed Reunion in 2021.
Please circle your choice of wishing to attend or not.

Please cut on the above dotted line and post your expression of interest to
Editor (Roland Orchard. 78 Edward Road, Chirnside Park. Victoria. 3116)
or scan/copy and email editor@458raafsquadron.org