

458
SQUADRON
NEWS



Year 71 No. 266
September 2020



Squadron President:
Leon Armstrong

**Squadron
Vice-Presidents:**
Jim Browne
Jack Christianson
Charles Humbles
Bob Springall

VE DAY
Victory in Europe
8th May, 1945

VP DAY
Victory in the Pacific
15th August, 1945



YEARS

1945 - 2020



458 Squadron Wellingtons Gibraltar 1945

75 years later:

Today, in suburbs & towns across this land, the last of a great generation are remembering a different time And of a great victory that changed the course of human history.

Now in your sunset we honour you. We honour your generation, in my view Australia's greatest, and we say: thank you.

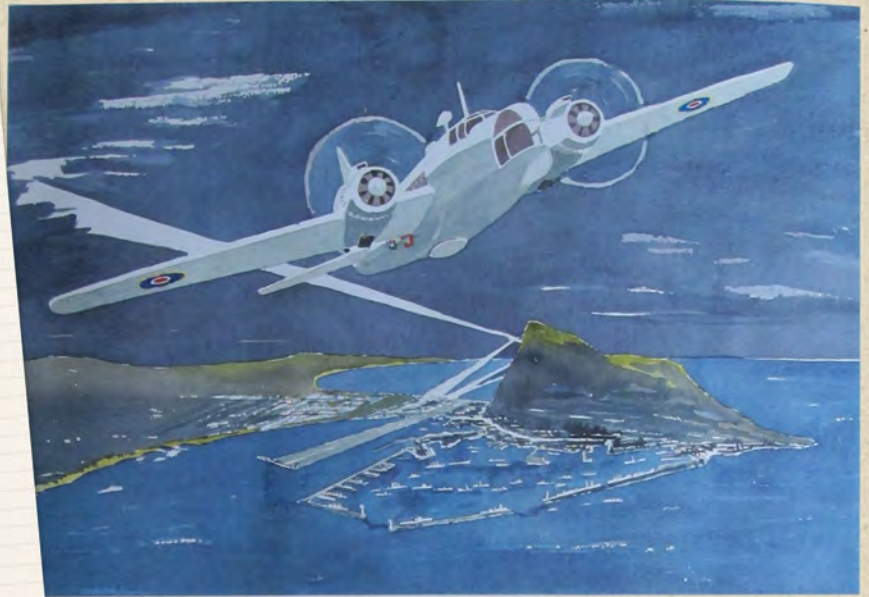
You won a war, you secured the peace, and along with so many more, saved civilisation.

Your deeds will never be forgotten.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison's address from the Australian War Memorial, 15/8/2020.

The Last Patrol, Gibraltar

Read about 458's anti U-boat patrols to end the war in Europe as well as the important connection to the war in the Pacific



Artwork by Warrant Officer Tom Moore who, by the way, was in the crew that escorted surrendering U-boat U-541 to Gibraltar



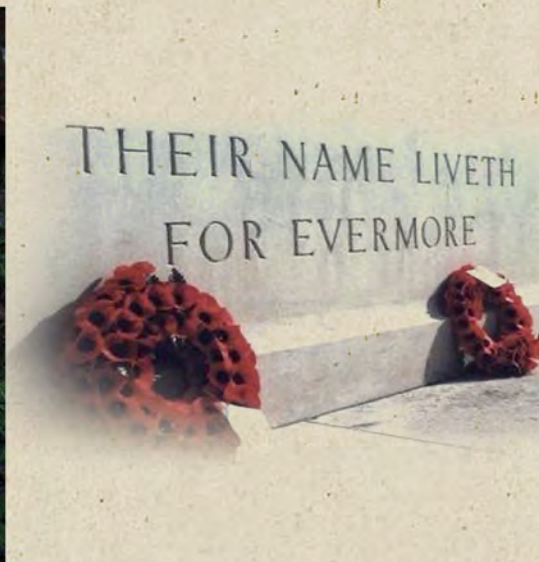
The Last Parade
at Gibraltar
& in the streets



Two 458 heroes among the fallen memorialized in this Edition, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. We will never forget them and the peace & freedom they won for us



One of the first heroes:
Sergeant Philip George Crittenden,
killed in action - 20 October, 1941



The last hero:
Warrant Officer John Gow Shierlaw,
'killed while a POW - 19 April, 1945



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

Year 71 No. 266 September 2020



Squadron President:

Leon Armstrong - U.K.

Squadron Vice-Presidents:

Jim Browne - Australia

Jack Christianson - U.K.

Charles Humbles - U.K.

Bob Springall - U.K.



Squadron Treasurer: Beryl Dodds. 8 Yarraman Avenue, Frenchs Forest, 2086 NSW

Squadron Secretary: Stephen Bruce. Unit 5/10 Kissing Point Rd, Turramurra NSW 2074

Newsletter Editor and Publisher: Roland Orchard. 78 Edward Road, Chirnside Park. VIC 3116

Mobile: 0400433382 **Email:** editor@458raafsquadron.org

Flight Correspondents:

NSW – Stephen Bruce. Unit 5/10 Kissing Point Road, Turramurra NSW. 2074

SA – Rick Michell. 3A Lewis Avenue, Glen Osmond. SA. 5064

VIC – Roland Orchard. 78 Edward Road, Chirnside Park VIC. 3116

WA – Nick Bertram

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 #267 are due to The Editor by 30th March, 2021.



**This 458 RAAF Squadron Association special publication project
was supported by the Victorian Government.**



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

458 SQUADRON (RAAF) ASSOCIATION

Seventy-five years ago, one of the darkest chapters in human history came to a close. With victory in Europe and victory in the Pacific, a new chapter of peace began. A mighty peace that endures to this day as a victory of liberty over totalitarianism.

Thousands of Australians answered the call to join that fight, including those who served with No. 458 Squadron, RAAF. Before the war's end, some 1750 personnel from Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Canada and South Africa would serve under the 458 Squadron. Fellows from across the sea, made family through shared service.

In July 1941, your members assembled for the first time on the airfield at Williamstown Base. Three short months later, they were half a world away at Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire. With the motto, 'we find and destroy', No. 458 Squadron's Vickers Wellington bombers soon made their presence known: in missions against the occupied ports of Europe, in the waters of the Mediterranean, and in the skies over Egypt, Malta and Libya. As Winston Churchill once said, 'the fighters are our salvation, but the bombers alone provide the means of victory'.

In 1945, through the collective efforts of millions of people, that final victory came. Those who flew with No. 458 Squadron played their part and served with honour. Many gave their lives, and their names are engraved on plaques and memorials around the world. They serve as a reminder of the cost of peace and a call to safeguard it for the future. For your service and your sacrifice, I offer you our nation's heartfelt thanks.

Lest we forget.

A blue ink signature, likely of Scott Morrison, written in a cursive style.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia

September 2020



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Department of Defence, R1-6-C001, PO Box 7902, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610, AUSTRALIA

Mr Leon Armstrong,
President, 458 Squadron Association

Cc:
Mr Roland Orchard,
Newsletter Editor and Publisher

To all 458's,

On the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, it is fitting to commend and congratulate 458 Squadron for its war-time service and dedication in post-war years to the Association and community.

In 1945, the Victory in Europe (V-E) and Victory over Japan (V-J) were times of great celebration for all Allied forces, Allied countries and their civilian populations.

As the RAAF approaches its centenary celebrations and continues to be a vanguard in adapting to the significant global changes, we can look back with pride on the accomplishments of those who went before (in the air and supporting on the ground), and building on this, reach even loftier heights.

The theme for the Centenary Year, Air Force 2021 (AF2021), will be 'Then, Now, Always ...'. No 458 Squadron's service and sacrifice is certainly to be remembered and celebrated, and is a key component of the 'Then'. Therefore I very much look forward to this publication to tell us all the 458 story.

I congratulate you for this special 75th Anniversary publication in its dedication to the sacrifice of many, and to the freedom gained from V-E and V-J.

"... through struggles to the stars"

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MEG Hupfeld".

MEG Hupfeld, AO, DSC
Air Marshal
Chief of Air Force

(02) 6265 5474

27 July 2020

VALE –

Elizabeth Alice Crowley..... NSW Flight

War's End in Europe

**An excerpt from We Find and Destroy A History of 458 RAAF Squadron.
By Peter Alexander CMG, OBE, OAM. Additional Information Compiled by
Peter Pettit. 2002 Edition.**

May 8th was VE-Day and over the public address system, throughout the Gibraltar camps, came the voice of Winston Churchill. The 'Great Orator', announced by radio the consummation of victory – Germany had surrendered unconditionally and Hitler was dead. Grand Admiral Doenitz, against whose U-boats the Squadron had fought during the years of its service, had admitted defeat. The purpose for which hundreds of British, Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders, South Africans and people had sacrificed the years of their youth, and many had died, was effected. We stood in small groups listening to the Prime Minister's words and then, fairly quietly, went about our routine work.

FLIGHT REPORTS



United Kingdom Flight Report by Keith Wilkinson

The worldwide Covid-19 pandemic has proved challenging for the surviving members of 458 Squadron who live in the UK.

But I'm pleased and relieved to report that, so far, they have got through it unscathed. Britain has been badly hit by the virus with more than 45,000 deaths.

Celebrations including street parties were held in England to mark the anniversary of VE Day despite the Lockdown restrictions put in place by the UK Government.

But all our 458 veterans had to stay isolated because of their ages. They may well have been in the thick of the commemorations had it not been for the global crisis. After all, they were people who had not only been there on VE Day itself but had played a courageous part in the downfall of Nazi Germany.

If that wasn't sad enough, in the midst of the pandemic came the news that the "Forces Sweetheart" Vera Lynn had died.

They all remembered her stirring music with great affection. Her songs had been an inspiration to them in the dark years of war. Her most famous song "We'll Meet Again" had just been given a new poignant significance in that it had been used by the Queen as a morale-booster in a moving television address to the nation.

The words "We'll Meet Again" have appeared on banners across the frontages of many care homes in Britain.

One member of the 458 “family” in the UK was very much a part of the VE Day celebrations of 1945. Joyce Humbles – wife of 458 Vice-President Charles Humbles – actually made it to the railings at the front of Buckingham Palace to see the Royal Family out on the palace balcony.

How amazing then that 75 years on, she has recently had a card from the Queen to mark her 100th birthday.

Joyce Humbles and Charles (who is 98) have both been in self-isolation during the pandemic. They haven’t been out of the house at all, except to go in their back garden.

So, over the phone Joyce told me her memories of VE Day. During the war years she had been living in Hertfordshire with an aunt and cousin Gladys. She said the aunt was blind so they couldn’t leave her for long and they only went down to London for the day. But they were lucky to bag a great spot right in all the action at the palace.



Vice President Charles Humbles and his wife Joyce celebrate Joyce’s 100th Birthday.

It was a terrific event, she said, with huge joyful crowds across the capital city. But for her it was tinged with sadness. She had married Charles during the war and he remained out in North Africa so wasn’t with her.

“It was another year before he got back, so it meant nothing to me,” she said.

When Charles and Joyce married in Watford a bomb fell

nearby. And when she moved out to the comparative safety of her aunt’s house, a “doodlebug” flying bomb came down near there too. Because of the bombings, Britain was blacked-out for most of the war.

The end of the war and VE Day did mean her husband was now a lot safer and that he would eventually return to her. And it brought her more good news: “At least you could turn the lights on at last!”

After Charles’s time with 458 Squadron he was able to get back home for two weeks leave but he had been ill with dysentery and had lost a lot of weight.

He’d been treated in a desert field hospital, which was in tents.

“I felt almost dead”, Charles told me.

“Joyce could count all my ribs.”

For her 100th birthday she received many cards. She had a cake from her great niece and another from Charles’s 82-year-old cousin, who cracked open a bottle of Champagne for her.

The great niece and a neighbour have been keeping them supplied with food and essential supplies during the Lockdown.

The couple expect to hear again from The Queen this November. Incredibly, it’s their EIGHTIETH wedding anniversary. We wish them all the very best and much happiness for that.

The Squadron’s President Leon Armstrong recently celebrated his 100th birthday in his care home near Birmingham in England and quite a few of us were able to join him for his party just after Christmas. But in March the care home went into complete Lockdown.

There have been many deaths in English care homes and at one point it was feared there might be an outbreak where Leon is living.

All relatives and friends were barred from entering and Leon was living more or less in isolation within his own room for a time to protect his health. Obviously, being a 100-year-old takes him high into the vulnerable category, although he is thankfully in fine spirit.

Leon’s son Paul Armstrong has told me his dad has been given routine coronavirus tests and they were negative. After the restrictions at his home were eased slightly, his daughter Mary went to see him for an open-air visit and found him in good health.

Paul said: “Dad’s doing fine and he has always been very happy there. They are just being very cautious as there have been horrendous problems in some care homes.

They have managed to avoid infections.”

Things have also been difficult for 458 Vice-President Jack Christianson and his wife Audrey, who are both in their nineties.

They have been getting round-the-clock visits at their home from carers and also regular food deliveries. But because of their ages they had to stay in isolation to avoid getting ill. They say things have dragged on, but they have also kept in good spirits during the pandemic.

Jack celebrated his 98th birthday during the Lockdown and I sang “Happy Birthday” to him down the phone, which made him laugh. He and his wife also celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary.

On Behalf of all 458 Squadron members, Happy Birthday Joyce. Happy Birthday Jack, Happy Birthday Leon and Happy 71st Anniversary to Jack and Audrey and 80th to Charles and Joyce this coming November.



Victoria Flight Report by Roland Orchard

2020 is certainly turning out to be a challenging and thought-provoking year. ANZAC DAY 2020 'Driveway at Dawn' initiative was a unique experience. Commemorating our heroic service men and women from the front of our homes was certainly something different, yet my own



experience was quite moving. My wife, Janet and I listened to the Dawn Service on my phone. Looking up and down our street seeing many others doing the same was a definite change from sharing this experience with 50,000 + of our fellow Melburnians at the Shrine of Remembrance in the city. Yet our thoughts of love and admiration for our family members and indeed all who served were the same. Lest We Forget.



West Australia Flight Report by Nick Bertram

Our very unique 2020 ANZAC DAY in WA.

This year we participated in the driveway at dawn initiative, it was heart-warming to see so many candles in driveways along our local streets.

The West Australian newspaper put out 4 ANZAC Day posters which Jess collected and displayed on the front window

We placed the radio on the front porch so we could hear the service

Charlie came out and held onto the candle in the driveway and it must be said he did it without spilling a drop hot wax on himself, an amazing achievement if you know Charlie

I was proud of him standing in the drizzling rain without complaint for the duration of the last post



Oli had a sleep in, but came out to join us shortly after the last post concluded. Both boys rocking their Spiderman pyjamas.

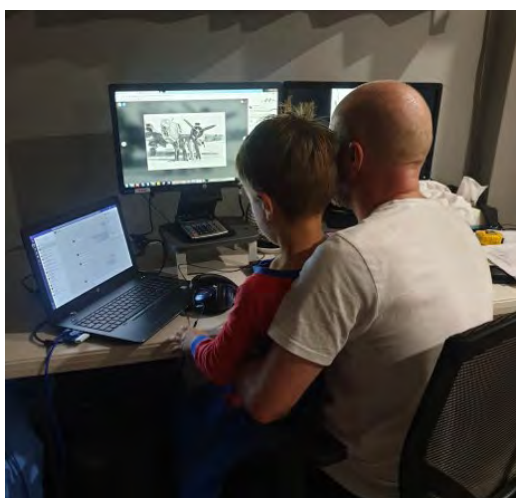
Afterwards, Charlie wanted to see his great grandfathers WW2 photos so I showed him a few of Nick's photos while posted in the 117, 458 & 459 Sqns.

Charlie & Nick in the driveway

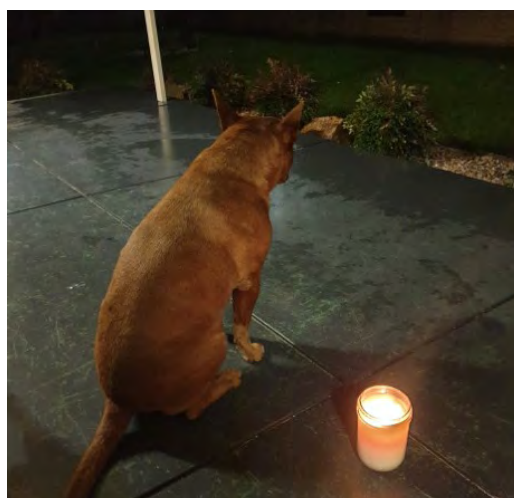


Oli & Jess in front of the window posters from The West paper.

Below-Our Staffy Leah joined in.



Right-Nick showing Charlie his Great Grandfather's WW2 photos.



New South Wales Flight Report by Stephen Bruce

Our latest 458'er elevated to life membership, Bev Bitmead recently suffered a fall which resulted in a few fractures in her back. Thankfully she is well on way to recovery and we all wish her well with her recuperation.

Rob Wilkinson and Charles Baker have been in contact with both RAAF Base Williamtown and adjacent Fighter World to further investigate opportunities for next years planned Squadron Reunion in July.

More news to follow over the next few months.

Wendy Whittem-Trunz pays a special 'Driveway at Dawn' tribute to her Dad, Jim Whittem, on ANZAC Day. Canberra, ACT. 2020.



Memories of VE Day in Gibraltar with 458 Squadron by Vice President Bob Springall (UK)



Bob Springall on his 98th birthday earlier this year.

“An advance party of ground crew left Foggia, Italy on a DC3 (Dakota) to set things up for the main squadron. We landed on a Friday lunchtime and the Warrant Officer told us that we were very lucky as it was fish on the menu. We raced to the cook house with our mess tins as we had not seen fish and chips for years. Imagine our disappointment to find it was boiled fish and boiled potatoes.

We started to get things straight for the arrival of the Wellingtons and on VE Day 458 Squadron was still working hard in Gibraltar as they were doing patrols into the Western Atlantic looking for submarines. One submarine in particular was of special interest as it was thought to be heading to Japan.”

(I looked up the details and sure enough his memory had not failed him as the U-boat U234 was heading to Tokyo carrying half a ton of Uranium Oxide along with German and Japanese scientists and military personnel.

The captain apparently did not believe the war was over when told and needed it confirmed. It subsequently surrendered to the Americans as they felt that they would get an easier time in the USA but the Japanese on board committed suicide. The Uranium was taken by the US and it is thought was added to the stockpile for the Manhattan Project and the atomic bomb. Anthony Springall – Bob’s son)

Happy Birthday Bob from all 458 members.

Happy 100TH Birthday to Vice President Jim Browne (Australia)



*Jim with his 3 sons. L-R
Kenneth, Douglas & Arthur.*

*Jim with Mayor of Western
Downs Regional Council
(QLD) Paul McVeigh. The
Mayor is presenting Jim with
a certificate celebrating the
occasion of his 100th Birthday.*



*Jim's cake made by
friend Ann Muller*

*Happy Birthday Jim
from all 458 members.*



Bill Flentje's recollections of VE and VJ day as told to his family for his 90th Birthday Biography and from his personal diary - by Neil Flentje (Bill's son)



Bill Flentje was the second pilot of Tony Harris's crew who were in Rabat on leave from Gibraltar when the war ended in Europe. Rabat is the capital city of Morocco on the coast of North Africa. The crew were staying in a villa and they decided to hitch a ride in a truck to Casablanca on the 7th May 1945.

According to Bill when they arrived at Casablanca, they did some sightseeing and then at about 4PM all the townspeople started going mad. The crew did not know what was going on so went into a pub where there were some Frenchmen talking, so they asked them what was going on and they said that Germany had surrendered (in previous days German armies had been surrendering across Europe). The

townspeople were dancing and singing and the streets were becoming more crowded. Tiger Moths were flying up and down the streets (presumably in the air). What excitement it must have been, but it was too much for our boys and they felt it wasn't the place for them so they hitched a ride back to the villa about 90KM away. They heard the King's victory speech the next day (VE Day) at the Garrison club in Rabat and on the 9th May 1945, they flew back to Gibraltar by Dakota. In between playing sport they continued operations including practice bombing and patrols including a diversion to Rabat where they had a dicey landing with a strong crosswind. On the 9th of June 1945 458 squadron was disbanded. The squadron flew their Wellingtons back to the U.K. via France (Bill was in 'G') where they landed at the Valley Aerodrome in Wales and left their aircraft for the last time.

Repatriation for the influx of servicemen to the UK meant there would be a long wait for passage back to Australia. Bill subsequently got a job as a chauffeur for an Australian expatriate, Sir Roy Robinson,



who was the Chairman of the British Forestry Commission. Bill's job was to drive the Chairman from his home in Guildford to London and also to various forestry areas around the UK. It just so happened that on VJ Day the 15th of August 1945, Bill was taking Sir Roy into a commission meeting in London and was able to visit St James Park and see the King and Queen waving to the crowd that had gathered. Bill stayed in the U.K. for a further 14 months while he completed a Diploma of Forestry at Oxford University, specialising in Aerial Photography of Forests, this tied in with Bill's job before the war which was working for the Victorian Forestry Commission. Bill was home by December 1946 in time to see Bradman at the Melbourne Test.

To read more of Bill's story please visit the 458 website [Servicemen's Stories](#) page.

EMAILS

From: Robert & Julie Forgan

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 9:24 PM

Subject: Rare photo Wellington R1785 of 458 Squadron that crashed 9 January 1942 with loss of all air crew.

Dear Rick (Adelaide), Rob (Australia) and Keith (UK),

458 Squadron Association members

Earlier today I received the underlying welcome email from Georges Dennebouy of St Malo France. Georges, was kind enough to send this rare photo of the crashed and burnt out Wellington bomber that came to grief near the villages of Golleville and Colomby, south of Cherbourg in the harsh European winter of 1942.

One of Georges colleagues, Mickael Simon located the photo in the British archives earlier this year. The team of 4 amateur aviation archaeologists and historians had persisted and hoped to locate some photos taken by the occupying German forces at the crash site but as the email suggests this 2020 find draws this aspect of their research into R1785 to a close. I thought you might appreciate a copy of this email for your interest and the photos for your archives.

I hope this email finds you and surviving members of 458 well.

Regards Rob Forgan, Mount Gambier, South Australia

(nephew of W W "Wally" Forgan RAAF)

From: Georges Dennebouy

Sent: Sunday, 29 March 2020 8:09 PM

Subject: Picture of The Wellington (R1785)

Dear friends,

During our researches about the Wellington (R1785), we learned that a person of

Golleville gave a picture she took to a British officer who came to Golleville after war for enquiries about the Wellington shoot down and crashed in this village. Claude, Mickael, Claire and I thought that this picture was still in the archives of the Royal Air Force. But it was not possible to have a look to this archive.

The archives of the RAF are progressively transferred to the British archives. On February, Mickael, as every year went to London for his researches and he learned that the file about the Wellington was now at the British archives so he asked to have a look to this document. And he found the picture of the Wellington.

We send you this picture, it's your picture.



We think that now we will not be able to find more information about the Wellington that we found.

Amitiés,

Lest we forget

Mickael, Claude, Claire

Georges



R1785 Crew L-R: Fred Hinton, Bob Birnie, Peter Hickey, Albert Austin, Vic Johnstone, Wally Forgan

These emails from Robert Forgan and Georges Dennebouy and the new found photo of R1785 have a direct connection with the next article written by Linda Clay. Editor

It is a privilege to be able to share a 458 Squadron story, unknown for so many years until our 458 Squadron website revealed the story behind Fred Hinton and now.....

Fred's wife Jean Warner. (Editor)

Memories of Fred Hinton

Article by Linda Clay

My mother, Jean Warner (pictured right), married Sgt. Fred Hinton on her 20th birthday, 6th December 1941 at the parish church of St. Michael's, Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire.

Jean was a beautiful girl who worked in the Co-op store across the road from her parents' house in the village. She was also a volunteer member of the fire service during the war years.

This photo of Jean is the one Fred carried with him on his war time sorties. It shows Jean as Stoney Stanton's Carnival Princess 1939. For some reason, on the flight from which he never returned, he left that photo behind, that is how I come to have it in my possession now. I also have the last letter he wrote to her on that night of 8th January 1942. Fred was always a part of our lives - my father, Jean's second husband whom she married several years after Fred's death - acknowledged Fred's bravery and knew Fred's sacrifice gave Dad the wife and family that could have been Fred's.

Fred loved visiting Jean's family, her parents, Cyril and Rose, her 14 year old brother Arthur and 10 year old brother Roy who was especially enthralled by Fred's stories of life as a pilot.

Jean was married just a day and a night before Fred had to return to his base at Holme on Spalding Moor.





Imagine her shock when, two days later, her mother came across to the Co - op where Jean worked with the telegram telling her Fred was missing in action. My mother fainted on the spot. She stayed in her room for a long time afterwards convinced her husband would one day come home. As we know, he never did. Years later my mum married John, who also served in the R.A.F., and I and my sister Ann were born. Jean never knew what happened to Flight R1785.

Then I began to research Fred's story, aided by the power of the internet which enabled the story of 458 Squadron to finally be told.

My mum would have wanted to know that her Fred had not been burnt in the fire. That kind villagers respectfully removed his body. That due honours were later given to him and his crew by those wonderful people who recognised that for their tomorrow they gave their today. I believe that now she does. *Linda Clay*

*Read the article written by Rob Forgan 'R1785-A Ring Cycle' on our website.
Go to the following link - www.458raafsquadron.org/education/lest-we-forget*

WO Percival George Brown

Article by Grandson James Fitzmaurice



This is my first email to your great association, and it is long overdue. My Grandfather was posted to 458 Squadron during the early part of the Squadron's history, during the European bombing campaign in 1941.

My Grandfather was Sgt (later W/O) Percival George Brown (pictured left), an Air Gunner on board 458 Squadron's first loss on 20th October 1941, when Wellington IV Z1218 FU-D failed to return. I have been researching this loss for some years, and I thought I would share what I have found, so that the newsletter readers may know a little more about the early history of the Squadron.



FU-D's target was Antwerp docks, along with the majority of 458's aircraft that night. At around 22:30 local time, the aircraft crashed into a meadow in the town of Mont-Sur-Marchienne, just outside of Charleroi. Pilot Officer DK Fawkes (pictured left) and Sgts PJM Hamilton (AUS), PG Crittenden (AUS), AY Condie and T Jackson and all died when the aircraft crashed. According to the casualty file at the National Archives in London, the crew

was ordered to bale out, but seemingly only Sgt PG Brown was able to get out.

Mont-sur-Marchienne is some 95 km south of their target, Antwerp, suggesting the crew may have got lost during the sortie. Eye-witnesses saw the aircraft circling above the town, partially on fire. In a post-war questionnaire, Sgt PG Brown wrote that Sgt AY Condie, the wireless operator, was wounded by flak before they were ordered to jump. Sgt PG Brown landed by parachute in the nearby town of Marcinelle. According to the Missing Research and Enquiry Unit (MREU) report, Sgt PG Brown was picked up by the resistance before being denounced by a local well-known collaborator. Sgt PG Brown was arrested on the 21st October and interrogated at Brussels before being sent to Dulag Luft for processing. Sgt PG Brown spent the remainder of the war in various Prisoner of War camps around Europe, culminating in the forced long march from Fallingbommel with the famous Sgt 'Dixie' Deans towards Lübeck. Sgt PG Brown was promoted to Warrant Officer around 1943. For a while, 458 Sqn assumed that FU-D had at least made it to Rotterdam, the secondary target if Antwerp was inaccessible. Wg Cdr Mulholland reported that an aircraft was observed by another 458 Sqn aircraft to be engaged in intense Flak over Rotterdam. The observing aircraft had a similar take-off time to FU-D so this engaged aircraft was assumed to be FU-D. Unfortunately, the truth was that FU-D was approximately 170 km south of Rotterdam, very likely as a result of being lost. Ultimately, the damage sustained from flak caused the aircraft to crash.

The co-pilot, Sgt PG Crittenden (pictured right), is recognised as the first Australian to die in an RAAF Squadron serving under bomber command. The pilot Sgt PJM Hamilton was also Australian, but was serving in the RAF.

My Grandfather W/O PG Brown was liberated on the 4th May 1945 and repatriated to the UK not long after. He reunited with his Wife, my Grandmother, and they had two children after the war. Unfortunately, my Grandfather died in 1978, some years before I was born.

I have checked the photo albums on the website, but I think that FU-D was lost too early into the Squadron's



formation for a photo to have been taken of the crew. Some years ago, I met up with the nephew of Sgt PG Crittenden, and we laid a wreath at the graves of the crew in Charleroi.

I thought I would share this short account of a long-forgotten part of 458's history. Unfortunately, the crew of FU-D was lost so early that it never got to be part of history that 458 Sqn made for itself when it served fantastically in North Africa and Italy. However, by sharing this story, I hope your readers can remember the crew, especially those lost the night of the 20th October 1941.

If any of your readers have any recollection or photos of any of the members of the crew of FU-D, I would be delighted to hear it!

Kind regards, James Fitzmaurice

Thank you, James, for sharing the memory of your Grandfather and his crew. If any members have photos as requested by James, please contact the Editor. Lest We Forget.



George William Sergio Crompton Sergeant 404207

Article by Sgt Crompton's
Great Nephew Ryan Gilbank

Thank you for your help in enabling me to honour my great uncle George Crompton.

We were able to place the squadron logo on the underside of the board, along with the attached writing in white

The fin was locally made on the Gold Coast by hand and coloured to the red of the RAAF logo.

It is a 7ft x 21 1/2 x 2 7/8 from PU foam. The camo pattern is resin pigment and done by hand. The stringer is cedar.

That is me (Ryan) on the right and David Seymour is the board shaper. Thank you for your service. Lest We Forget. Ryan.

Date of Birth – November 10, 1914(Tuesday)

Location of Birth – Cameron's Pocket, Calen, Mackay

Son of Charles and Annie Crompton. He had three brothers, Charles, John and Frank.

Date of Sacrifice – July 30, 1942 (Thursday)

Location of Sacrifice – Mediterranean Sea in the Mersa Matruh area, Egypt.

His last posting was with 458 Squadron;

Pilot – P/O. Horace Spencer Wills “Bill” Fordyce Aus/400396 RAAF Age 28

- PoW No. 2365 Camp: Stalag Luft III Sagan and Belaria

Pilot – Sgt. Leonard William Mears 1376790 RAFVR

- PoW details not known

Obs – Sgt. Richard Arthur Greene R66340 RCAF Age 26

- PoW – details not known

W/Op/Air/Gnr – Sgt. George Maxwell 1365019 RAFVR

- PoW – details not known

W/Op/Air/Gnr – Sgt. George William Sergio Crompton Aus/404207 RAAF
Age 27 – KIA

George had been mad keen to join the Royal Australian Air Force and had made his first application to do so immediately following his 18th birthday in November 1932. He was unsuccessful on that occasion and similarly rejected following each of another 6 applications, in 1935, 1937(2), 1938 and 1939(2). It was only following his 8th application on 20 January 1940, that he was finally accepted, a decision no doubt significantly influenced by the outbreak of the war.

His captain (Bill Fordyce) and friend referred to him as, “my beloved friend George Crompton” made this recommendation for a Military Medal after George’s sacrifice.

“During the engagement with two ME109s, Sgt. Crompton displayed great courage and devotion to duty and even when shot in the neck, body and severely injured refused to leave turret and continued at his post until killed”

As the Wellington sank (after being shot down), the dinghy was automatically released. George had managed to shoot down one of the ME109s the other, in an act of vindictiveness, strafed the dinghy and sank it.

Lest We Forget. Thank you. Ryan.

What a magnificent gesture Ryan.

For more information about Sgt Crompton read The Bill Fordyce Story on page 194 of We Find and Destroy. A History of 458 RAAF Squadron. 2001 Edition.

Visit the 458 Squadron Website link below to view Bill Fordyce at the 1989 Melbourne Reunion.
Editor

www.458raafsquadron.org/about-us/postwar-reunions-conferences

Warrant officer RE Hufton

After all these years I have made a frame and put my father's uniform and his medals in. As you know we are like you in shutdown but all his family 3 sons, wives, 9 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren all remember and thank him.

Kind regards, Keith Hufton. (UK)

Brilliant work Keith - Editor

Excerpt from We Find & Destroy: A History of 458 RAAF Squadron - page 164 (2002 Edition)

An Australian Wellington bomber crew recently broke up an enemy convoy entering Venice Harbour. The crew sighted a 2,000-ton converted tanker and its escort vessels and called up a rocket firing Beaufighter force which scored hits by the light of Wellington's flares. The Wellington straddled the tanker with bombs. The members of the crew were F/O R.T Miller, W/O A. H. Thompson, F/Sgts L.R. Coghlan & J.R. Cruttenden and 2nd Pilot (WO) R.E. Hufton, who was an RAF man.



VE Day Memories from Bill Kelliher

Article by Bob Kelliher (Bill's son)



Dad (Bill Kelliher pictured left) was on No. 11 Flying Instructor School at RAF Shallufa for all of May 1945. Multiple flights per day were taken from 2 May to 7 May, no flights were taken from 8 May to 11 May, then multiple flights per day were taken from 12 May to 29 May. The VE day celebrations were long and hard, for 4 days, before being healthy enough to fly!

John Dunn from Dad's crew was detailed to fly with a trainee crew on their first night exercise on 7 May. He was told at the briefing; if the Declaration of VE came before take-off, they would not take off, but if it came after take-off, they

would not be recalled. As the word did not come through in time, the five-hour trip was taken. Landing was amongst all sorts of fireworks at the 'drome, but flying continued for another four weeks, after which all aircraft were ferried to Heliopolis RAF station in Cairo.

VP Day



Dad found himself in Cairo with time to spare while waiting for a ship home. With a few mates they hired a dhow (sailing dinghy) for a sail along the shores of the Red Sea. They came across a group of English girls sunbaking on the beach. Having concern for the girls wellbeing in the harsh Arabian sun, they invited the girls to come on the boat. This started the friendship between Dad, and Mum from the British Army Post Office. Dad's crew mates told Mum not to marry an Australian,

especially not one that came from a wheatbelt farm as Dad did. Fortunately, Mum knew better, and after a long correspondence, Mum came to Perth and they married in June 1948.

Class photo (above) of the Graduates of No 11 Flight Instructors School, from Dad's log book. Dad is front row, second from right, arms crossed. Most of these graduates are from the RAF, who felt VE day most keenly, with a few top RAAF pilots added to fill the numbers. So those RAF types led the huge celebrations for VE day from 8 May to 11 May inclusive, and the Aussies had to follow along in good spirits. Hope this helps. Cheers, Bob.

It certainly does, Bob. Thanks for the memories of your Dad and Mum. Editor.

More memories from Bob – Taken from No. 253 Newsletter, 2015

Please find attached a copy of the letter received today from the French Embassy in Canberra, awarding Dad (Bill Kelliher) their "Legion of Honour" medal.

This results from his role in the 458 Coastal Command operations in the

Mediterranean Sea around the southern coasts of France and Italy in August 1944, hunting Subs and other ships. The American/French planned Operation Anvil launched 2,000 transport ships, escorted by 300 warships, at dawn on 15th August 1944. The US 7th Army landed between Toulon and Cannes in Provence, followed the next day by the French II Corps, and they intended to move north to link up with the June 4 Normandy landing troops. With little opposition, Toulon and Marseilles in the west and Cannes and Nice were captured on the 16th August and all the French coast from the mouth of the Rhone to Nice was in Allied hands by the end of August.

Dad's log book for August 1944 includes items :

13 August, Armed Recce Savona- Spezia, Bombed Imperia, left fires burning.

17 August, Armed Recce, Crossover patrol south of Nice, Bombed Imperia

19 August, Armed Recce, Sete-Pour-Querolles, illuminated harbour at Port de Bove, Bombed oil storage tanks.

So, this record is recognised by the French as sufficient connection with the Liberation of France.



Bill Kelliher after being awarded the French Legion of Honour. 2015.

458 HONOUR ROLL

In this year, the 75th Anniversary of the Commemoration of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day: 8th of May, 1945) and Victory in the Pacific Day (VP or VJ Day/Victory over Japan: 15th of August, 1945) we pause to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by those who served with 458 RAAF Squadron, giving their lives during World War II. They are buried and memorialized in nearly every country they served in: the UK, France, Belgium, Egypt, Malta, Tunisia, Algeria, Sardinia (part of Italy), Sicily (part of Italy), Corsica (part of France), Italy, Gibraltar, Germany. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. Lest We Forget.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

401756	W/O	D. A. Anderson	Staglieno General Cemetery, Genoa, Italy	402920	F/Sgt	J. E. Flecknoe	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
405168	F/Sgt	R. D. Armour	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy	407639	Sgt	W. W. Forgan	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France
18762	LAC	I. W. Batton	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	428682	F/Sgt	W. J. Fox	Gibraltar Memorial West of Gibraltar North Front Cemetery
402028	Sgt	T. L. Brown	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, UK	415777	F/Sgt	R. T. A. Freeman	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria
407524	F/Sgt	R. J. Burns	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	404332	P/O	R. J. Furey	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK
412335	F/Sgt	S. N. Campbell	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	409686	F/Sgt	G. J. Gebbie	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
403040	P/O	D. N. Carmichael	Holme-on-Spalding Moor (All Saints) Churchyard, Yorkshire UK	402440	P/O	A. T. Gell	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
428070	F/Sgt	L. R. Conolan	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	400403	P/O	W. Goldman	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK
400460	Sgt	A. L. Cox	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	401507	F/O	L. Y. Hazeldine	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
416043	F/O	J. I. Craig	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	402353	Sgt	A. L. Hewish	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, UK
400410	Sgt	P. G. Crittenden	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium	404431	P/O	B. R. Hickey	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France
404207	Sgt	G.W.S. Crompton	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	405312	F/O	D. G. Howie	Massicault War Cemetery, near Tunis, Tunisia
405591	W/O	C. C. Dacey	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	410488	F/Sgt	A. J. Huntley	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
407414	W/O	C. K. Dickson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	400414	Sqn Ldr	G. F. Jackson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
403915	W/O	W. J. Doude	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	400716	Sgt	V. W. Johnstone	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France
425286	W/O	G. W. Duncan	Cagliari (St. Michele) Communal Cemetery, Sardinia, Italy	9352	Cpl	K. Kenny	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
427457	W/O	R. Ellis	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy	414537	W/O	M. T. F. Knox	Staglieno General Cemetery, Genoa, Italy
402736	F/Sgt	H. D. Everingham	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	400228	W/O	L. C. Laver	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
427504	W/O	P. J. Farrell	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy	409466	F/O	B. F. Lawler	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
403865	P/O	J. M. Fischer	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	410933	W/O	M. T. Lee	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
				419785	F/Sgt	K. J. Leslie	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy

421740	F/Sgt	W. M. M. Lipscombe	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	425372	F/Sgt	T. R. Rogers	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
403429	F/O	J. R. Markey	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	404425	F/Sgt	E. F. Saggars	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
404346	P/O	E. J. N. MacDonald	Holme-on-Spalding Moor (All Saints) Churchyard, Yorkshire UK	407255	Sgt	B. W. Shearer	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
420032	F/Sgt	A. E. McGee	Mazargues Cemetery Extension, Marseilles, France	416107	Sgt	J. Shierlaw	1939-1945 War Cemetery, Berlin
407903	P/O	L. McKay	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	416895	F/Sgt	J. C. Shipard	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
404252	F/Sgt	C. T. McLoughlin	Tel-el-Kebir war Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	420068	W/O	H. S. Shying	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy
409574	F/O	H. R. McMillan	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta	416371	W/O	G. G. Simons	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy
410909	F/Sgt	L. J. Muschialli	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	404414	F/Sgt	D. A. Smith	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
407800	F/Lt	K. H. Neill	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	407209	Sgt	P. H. Smith	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, UK
425201	W/O	J. B. O'Connell	Cagliari (St. Michele) Communal Cemetery, Sardinia, Italy	402262	F/Sgt	R. G. Spencer	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
400354	Sgt	A. L. Opas	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	402471	Sgt	D. G. Taylor	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, UK
416227	F/O	M. G. Parker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	410397	F/Sgt	L. C. Taylor	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
10158	LAC	G. G. Parkin	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	406268	F/Sgt	C. R. Thurstan	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
407801	P/O	J. Paroissien	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	425388	W/O	J. H. Watson	Ancona War Cemetery, Ancona, Italy
401049	W/O	L. A. Pearce	Salerno War Cemetery, Italy	402425	F/Sgt	D. M. Watts	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
422702	F/Sgt	G. K. Reid	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	429839	W/O	K. H. Watts	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
409851	F/Sgt	J. Richards	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	402430	Sgt	A. R. Wills	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE

NZ 403773	P/O	R. Birnie	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France	NZ 41186	F/O	I. D. Prebble	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
NZ 413429	F/Sgt	I. Kippenberger	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	NZ 415362	F/O	J. Reid	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt



AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND
IN THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.
LEST WE FORGET.

HALLOWED GROUND



Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy



Alamein Memorial El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt



Ancona War Cemetery, Italy



Berlin 1939 to 1945 War Cemetery, Germany



Biguglia War Cemetery, Corsica, France



Bone War Cemetery, Annaba, Algeria

All Photos courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission: www.cwgc.org "We honour and care for the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars, ensuring they will never be forgotten."

The CWGC website enables you to search for and readily locate the final resting place or memorial plaque for your loved one. A Commemorative Certificate is also provided for each never-to-be-forgotten hero.

HALLOWED GROUND



Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, UK



Cagliari St Michele Communal Cemetery, Sardinia, Italy



Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy



Charleroi Communal Cemetery, Belgium



Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France



Florence War Cemetery, Italy

HALLOWED GROUND



Gibraltar Memorial



Holme-on-Spalding Moor All Saints Churchyard, Yorkshire, UK



Malta Capuccini Naval Cemetery



Massicault War Cemetery, near Tunis, Tunisia



Malta Memorial, Valletta

HALLOWED GROUND



Mazargues War Cemetery, Marseilles, France



Medjez El Bab War Cemetery, near Tunis, Tunisia



Naples War Cemetery, Italy



Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy



Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, UK

HALLOWED GROUND



Salerno War Cemetery, Italy



Staglieno Cemetery, Genoa, Italy



Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt



Tel El Kebir War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

All Photos courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission: www.cwgc.org The CWGC website enables you to search for and readily locate the final resting place or memorial plaque for your loved one. A Commemorative Certificate is also provided for each never-to-be-forgotten hero.



AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND
IN THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.
LEST WE FORGET.



458 HONOUR ROLL

ROYAL AIR FORCE

1531154	Sgt	T. Adair	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1213637	Sgt	W. E. Dixon	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1063543	F/Sgt	B. E. Adams	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	122475	P/O	P. R. Driver	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
619953	Sgt	J. E. Andrews	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	745531	F/Sgt	H. W. Duffield	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK
1007177	Sgt	E. Anstee	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy	1266506	Sgt	D. Dunnett	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt
1133860	Sgt	M. V. Auniger	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	1001432	Sgt	C. Ebbage	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1159702	Sgt	A. S. Austin	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France	12969	P/O	D. K. Fawkes	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium
1295239	Sgt	F. E. Baker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	83117	F/Lt	J. Francombe	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
960943	Sgt	J. G. Barlow	Tel-el-Kebir war Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	912835	Sgt	P. J. M. Hamilton	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium
946569	Sgt	K. T. Bates	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1332496	Sgt	L. S. Hill	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
987758	Sgt	D. E. Bottomley	Tel-el-Kebir war Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	127301	F/O	J. Hillen	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
657621	Sgt	E. B. Bottomley	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	752964	Sgt	F. Hinton	Cherbourg Old Communal Cemetery, France
88216	F/Lt	L. A. Brain	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	645979	Sgt	R. J. Hobbs	Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey UK
1388140	F/Sgt	H. W. Brandon	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	120970	F/O	G. Holt	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
658144	Sgt	A. W. Brighurst	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1019209	Sgt	J. S. Hornsby	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1289528	Sgt	A. E. Brown	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta	1020873	Sgt	J. R. Hunter	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1315187	F/Sgt	H. F. Bryson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	995859	Sgt	T. Jackson	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium
1245327	Sgt	R. E. Burrows	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1333888	Sgt	L. H. Johnson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1189409	Sgt	R. E. Clark	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1384540	Sgt	F. C. Kingston	Biguglia War Cemetery, near Bastia, Corsica, France
968155	Sgt	A. Y. Condie	Charleroi Cemetery, Belgium	1135628	Sgt	G. W. Knox	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt
1269264	Sgt	J. R. Cousins	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	1020882	Sgt	W. S. Lees	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1192315	F/Sgt	F. G. Crocker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1022822	Sgt	G. Lyle	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1270898	Sgt	E. J. Cuming	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1388415	Sgt	J. McIlhatton	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta

458 HONOUR ROLL

ROYAL AIR FORCE

657704	F/Sgt	W. H. Milne	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1165671	F/Sgt	J. D. Reynolds	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
1069843	Sgt	H. Milner	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1050936	Sgt	E. Rowlands	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK
1290297	Sgt	M. J. Morgan	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	1365035	Sgt	E. Stanfield	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
34098	Wg Cdr	N. G. Mulholland	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy	111507	F/Sgt	A. Sutherland	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1025192	Sgt	R. Musgrove	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	144087	F/O	E. E. Tatt	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1316142	Sgt	T. E. Musto	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	118487	F/Lt	J. L. Taylor	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1218227	Sgt	C. A. Neal	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	1334816	Sgt	J. Tindall	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
102132	F/O	D. B. Neale	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt	137297	F/O	M. Tuckwell	Catania War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
1029630	Sgt	T. A. Oliver	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	942702	Sgt	S. G. Vials	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
119810	F/O	J. Outerbridge	Ravenna War Cemetery, Italy	1219231	W/O	J. M. Wagstaffe	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
127187	F/O	W. Paton	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	1315073	Sgt	J. Whittaker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
496888	Sgt	D. B. Pepper	Runnymede Memorial, Surrey UK	1239994	Sgt	R. Wilkinson	Biguglia War Cemetery, near Bastia, Corsica, France
1425553	Sgt	B. L. Pottage	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	1252008	F/Sgt	R. H. Williamson	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
1270949	Sgt	G. R. Potter	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1316300	F/Sgt	E. L. Wilson	Florence War Cemetery, Italy
1117324	F/Sgt	W. B. Ralph	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	1212913	Sgt	M. E. Windsor	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
1286457	Sgt	E. L. Rayner	Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt				



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

R.93115	WOI	A. Aikman	Bone War Cemetery, Algeria	J.9516	F/O	M. M. Kempton	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
R.84883	WOII	G. J. Banks	Naples War Cemetery, Naples, Italy	R.101976	WOI	H. E. Kontzie	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
J.20378	F/O	G. L. Barker	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.9691	F/O	G. H. Lawson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
R.119875	WOII	H. E. Bradley	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.98941	WOII	D.H. McConechy	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.20439	F/O	M. L. Brechin	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.11132	F/O	E. A. McCorkell	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
R.92308	WOII	P. E. E. Brown	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta	J.11125	F/O	A. R. Pagan	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
R.111309	Sgt	G. A. D. Cameron	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.13982	F/O	A. Renton	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.12745	F/O	J. A. Diggins	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.102787	Sgt	T. P. Scandiffio	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt
J.17063	P/O	L. H. Gleason	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta	J.20438	F/O	R. C. Scott	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.10409	F/O	B. W. Glickman	Alamein Memorial, El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt	J.10666	F/O	S. C. Shusterove	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.5999	F/Lt	D. D. Graham	Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, near Tunis, Tunisia	R.91441	WOII	H. E. Stanley	Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta
R.86232	WOII	J. R. Grasley	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.105554	WOII	N. A. Stelter	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
R.98819	WOII	T. E. Griggs	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.11225	F/O	M. H. Tarrison	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta
J.10642	F/O	W. C. Hailstone	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	J.20570	F/O	F. K. Verhaest	Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, near Tunis, Tunisia
J.17587	P/O	R. W. J. Hudson	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.101306	WOII	R. M. Westman	Agira Canadian War Cemetery, Sicily, Italy
R.90509	WOI	A. L. Keith	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta	R.87392	WOII	W. W. Wright	Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta



AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND
IN THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.
LEST WE FORGET.

Their Enduring Legacy

At such a time as this, 75 years since the end of World War II, we reflect on the legacy of those in 458 Squadron who sacrificed so much. They have inspired their descendants in many ways: service, courage, mateship, hard work, hope, a spirit of adventure. These men could easily recall the days of their youth, as many enlisted in their twenties (or younger). Their wartime service left an indelible mark on that youth; Making their mark on the unfolding tumultuous world events and ultimately paving the way for peace. The essence of this spirit and legacy is wonderfully epitomised by the story of Flying Officer Eric John Jewell. He and his family's thoughtful and generous support of youth is an integral part of the focus and activity of the 458 Squadron Association's work today. Honouring the Veterans of 458 and looking to the future by supporting the youth of the Air Force Cadets.

The Eric J. JEWELL Award for AAFC Youth



Through the generosity of Eric and his family, we have dedicated the **Eric J. Jewell Award for Youth** to be a take-off point for telling his story and offering financial support to Australian youth, and specifically the **Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC)**. Commanding Officers of Air Force Cadet Squadrons can apply for this support via the submission process available at our website www.458raafsquadron.org/eric-j-jewell-award. Recent awardees are described in detail there.

Eric Jewell's Life and War Service

Flying Officer (FLG OFF) Eric John Jewell (service no. 410161) was second pilot in the Vickers Wellington aircraft with 458 Squadron. Please read his life story, which is found on the **Servicemen's Stories** page of the 458 Squadron website: www.458raafsquadron.org/honour-roll/servicemens-stories



Photos of Eric with crew members, Bone (Algeria) early 1944 & Alghero (Sardinia) mid-1944

Eric took part in a number of operations, and of notable significance is his and 458 Squadron's decisive involvement in **Operation Dragoon**, starting on the 15th of August, 1944. This Operation, which came to be known as the "second

D-Day landings”, was spearheaded from the Mediterranean Sea in southern France into Nazi-occupied French ports. Page 611 of the 458 RAAF Squadron 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 of August 1944 in aircraft with serial no. HF360 is the same Mk. X (“Mark 10”) variant of the Wellington as aircraft HF344 shown below.

16th	Wellington	A.420847	P/O. J.B. Atkinson, Capt.	Q105. 0715.	Recon. Sète-Toulon. Attacked camp South of Port St. Louis. Paratrooper and explosion seen by rear gunner. Weather 5-6/10 at 1,000 feet. Vis. good.
		A.425154	P/O. G.H. O'Connor, Maj.		
		A.410161	P/O. Jewell, R.S. 2nd Pilot.		
		A.424187	P/O. R.H. James. W/ain/Asst.		
		A.422397	P/O. Brain, D.S. 10.		
		A.424257	P/O. Anderson, D.C. do.		

Extract of 458 Unit History, page 632, operation on 16-Aug-1944. Note the flight details, and 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 vectors, Southern France, Aug 1944. Note the ports of Sète and Toulon, and the Rhone river’s entry point to the Mediterranean Sea (Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhone).



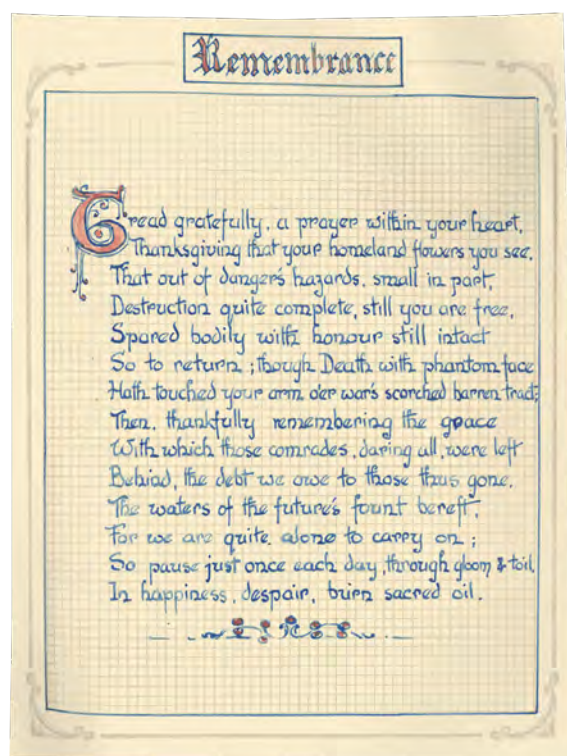
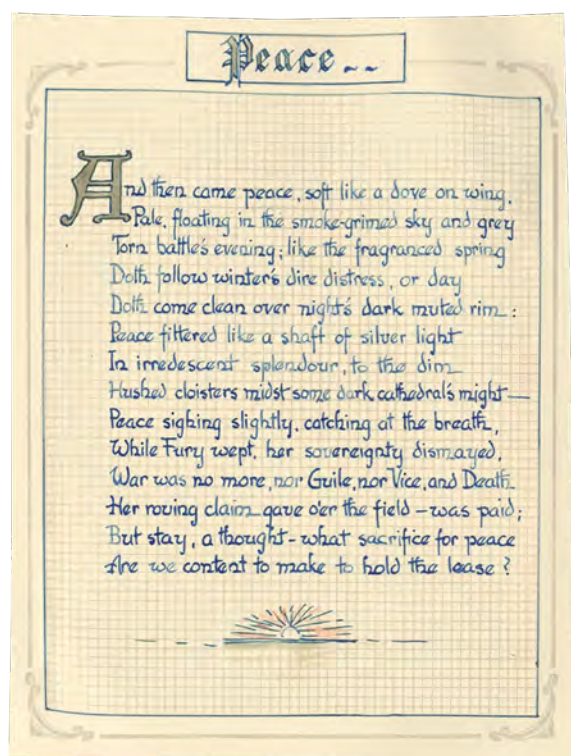
Operation Dragoon: "2nd D-Day landings"

In 1941, 458 RAAF Squadron had been assigned to Bomber Command and bombing operations over Nazi occupied France. Now, in 1944, after their years of service and the sacrifices made, Eric and 458 Squadron were again performing a truly significant role in a decisive campaign to free enemy occupied France. This pivotal part for all involved ultimately led to the final defeat of the enemy.

After five long years of war, it would only take another 9 months (albeit extremely turbulent) before the declaration of peace in Europe on VE Day, the 8th of May, 1945. VE Day: Victory in Europe!

Eric Jewell's post war life

Marvellously described at our website, Eric was a man of many talents and a couple of his remarkable works of poetry are shown on the inside back cover of this Special Edition. His pieces, in his own hand writing, on "Peace" and "Remembrance" authentically convey profound meaning. They perfectly complement the purpose for publishing 75 years after global conflict ended. We honour Eric and all of 458 Squadron for their service and will always remember their enduring legacy. Rest in Peace Eric, he passed away on 10 November 2015 during the Anzac Centenary year and the day before Remembrance Day. And rest in Peace all who served with 458.



Epilogue

How fitting a further tribute to Eric and 458 Squadron that the inaugural Eric J. Jewell Award was presented to the Australian Air Force Cadets of 3 Wing and their 2018 Western Front Tour of France & Belgium. This tour notably marked the centennial year since the signing of the Peace Armistice in 1918 to end WWI.



This Award supported fifteen Cadets (and supervising AAFC adult staff) who toured a number of the significant battlefields, cemeteries, and memorials of WWI, as well as the site of the Normandy D-DAY Landings of WWII. Official duties of the group saw four of the Cadets and their AAFC Flight Lieutenant take part in official ceremonial proceedings on ANZAC DAY in Villers-Bretonneux. As part of the Award, all Cadets (and staff) were given an informative Briefing about Eric and 458 RAAF Squadron.

Snapshot of Sgt Hal Lee, Rear Gunner: extracts from his last year and a half of WWII service with 458 Squadron

From this remarkable historical collection of Hal's Diary & Letters sent home, we gain insight into war time events as well as this part of his service life. Extracts include: when Hal turns 21! (a coming of age occasion all of us can recall); The Squadron chaplain's reassuring letter; Hal's jubilation over completing his tour of operations; Hal's reflections on war's end, both VE Day and VJ Day.

These selections come from the wonderfully transcribed and annotated title: *"Letters Home 1941 – 1944. A Rear Gunner's Letters to his Mother in Tiverton. By Henry H. Lee"* compiled by Hal's daughter, Lynda Q Harvey. This extensive 150-page compilation commences with Lynda's introduction: 'Henry Hippisley Lee was just 18 years old when he joined the R.A.F. in 1941, he had signed up earlier but was returned home when they learnt his real age.'

*And now skipping ahead
(a selection from page 82):*



My 21st Birthday at Blida

Blida, Algeria 1944

Diary JAN 8 I had made great preparations for my 21st tomorrow when there was a flash today the whole squadron went to Blida to hunt a submarine pack that was there. Got up there at 2 and was told we were taking off again at 7.30. Went right over to the coast of Spain. Within 3 miles of coast could see several large towns all lit up, one was Alicante, looked beautiful. Went over several ships, had one or two false alarms. Returned without sighting one – 36 sqdn found one and fired on them and the rear gunner was killed.

Diary JAN 9 Went to bed at 6 o'clock slept until 12.00 got up and found we were flying again at 7.00 that evening. What a 21st birthday. We were taking off at 3 o'clock went flying down the runway when the flare path went out, we swung off the runway and went into a trench there was a terrific crash, I nearly went through the roof of the turret, the tail wheel was driven right up through the fuselage and the stern frame was wrecked. We climbed out of the wreck and dashed for another kite with all our kit we took off at 4 o'clock. Boy was I nervous until we were off the ground. We went to the same area, as last night, had two false alarms, saw a beautiful sunrise. Half of the sky was still night with the moon and stars in the sky the other half was daylight with the sun just risen over the horizon. Mistook the morning star for a night fighter caused quite a bit of excitement.

Operations Records

Operating from Blida . U-Boat Swamp

9th January 1944 Page 371

Wellington 'K' Time up – 19.48 Time down – 03.54

F/Lt Mckay, JAF Captain

F/O Helyar O J 2nd Pilot

F/O Edwards C Navigator

Sgt. Walden F S W/Optr

Sgt Waitt E SE/Optr

Sgt Lee H H Rear Gunner



Diary JAN 10 We did not bother to go to bed. We were told when we went to debriefing that Markey had made an attack and had most likely sunk the U-boat. Good show! We went into Blida to have a look around very similar to Bone with mountains rising up to 3000 feet behind it. Went to a flick then back to bed.

Diary JAN 11 Heard that Markey had most likely got another U-boat. Went back home today there was 14 blokes with kit packed into the kite never thought it would take off, landed quite safely. Good to be back home again. Found that Harper's mob had been posted.

Diary JAN 12 Moved into Cogan's tent. Dug the floor down and made a good job of it. Got a little wooden shack built in the end.



Diary JAN 17 Had my birthday party a little delayed. We had a fine feast with chicken soup, chicken, fried potatoes, peas, followed by jam tart and raisin pie after that the drinking started. We had beer, whisky, brandy and cordial. Everyone got merry and we had a fine time the party didn't break up until 12 o'clock.

Moving ahead 5 months to just after the Allied D-Day Landings at Normandy, France:

Airgraph from Fred McKay, Australian Chaplain. 12th June 1944

Dear Folks at home, I am writing this air graph as I visit 458 Squadron in Sardinia, for I thought it the least thing in my power to drop you a personal word about the boys in this veteran and well-known Australian unit. You no doubt are proud to have a representative of your home, or someone in whom you are particularly interested, in this famous Squadron. I want to assure you that he is well in health and representing his name with honour in a far away country, in the kind of way you would expect – with unassuming efficiency and practical adaptability.

Conditions are typically Active service, there are none of the 'taken for granted' comforts of ordinary home life; but this band of shirtless bronzed Australians, with some solid British lads at their side too, have long since accustomed themselves to life in the raw. Three years is a long time to be separated from home and loved ones. So much has happened since the boat pulled away from familiar shores; and the day cannot come soon enough for their return. The whole Squadron to a man lives unto the day of their reunion with their own kith and kin and unto the day when this war will be done.

What especially appeals to me is the 'family sprit' which has developed through common hardships on a Squadron like 458, the common hardships, the common interests, the common lift has bred an esprit du corps which makes each tent a little family: troubles are shared and gladnesses and sadnesses are everybody's concern. Do not think you need to answer this note. But be certain always – you gallant wives, you devoted mothers, and you waiting sweethearts – that your continuing love, and, your faithful letters are a constant encouragement to a band of men who are facing unpublicised and unknown realities of war.

Kindest personal regards,

Yours sincerely, Fred McKay Padre

Letter No. 47 dated 28-7-44 Alghero, Sardinia

1313883 FT/Sgt. H. H. Lee
458 Sqdn. RAAF (RAF)
B.N.A.F

Dear Mum,

Dear Mum,

Well ducks dive down into the old cellar and bring out the cherry brandy, wipe the dust off, and pour yourself a nip, for on this fine, sunny day your dearly beloved youngest son was officially tour expired, which means that I have finished with operational flying for at least another nine months, so the Germans can begin to breathe again. I shall most likely be leaving the squadron in a short time. Goodness knows where I shall go or do, that is in the laps of the gods. I doubt I shall come home, I don't think I particularly want to until the yanks have cleared out. Still must wait and see what happens. I hope to get a bit of leave before I go however to have one grand bust up before the parting of the ways. I am glad it is all over, but shall be sorry to leave all my friends, but still such is service life. I must say I have been very lucky in many respects, which is something of a miracle for me isn't it.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

SUK10136

Wellington Rear Gun Turret



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

MEC2679

Wellington 'Q'

Received a big bundle of papers from you and your Number 57 but have not the parcel or the photo of the proclamation of the fair but still bags of time yet. I don't think it was necessary to send Ken a 21st birthday present as I haven't heard from him since I've been out here but then his mother did send out a bundle of books. Thanks very much anyway. I had very pleasant surprise when I went up to pay accounts and found I had £37 credits to come so will be remitting a further £20 home next week which means that I have saved £83 since I have been on the squadron which isn't bad, why I shall be able to have at least a years holiday after the war when I get demobbed.

I have had an offer of a job as a cinema projector operator from one of the guys I am friendly with, who is the manager of a cinema in Swansea Wales it may come in useful if nothing comes of my offer from that vet I knew at Portrait. Glad you had a good time at Mrs Beard's. I think you must be a bit confused this isn't Sidinia Island but Sardinia and it belongs to Italy.

My giddy aunt you didn't really ask Mrs Elson to look out for a wife for me, did you. What ever will they think or do they realise that I have grown up now.

How I should like to send over a couple of shiploads of peaches and sell them to Mrs B for 8/6 each, it would be quite a paying proposition. I think I shall have to write a very strong letter to Mrs Kerslake and give her firsthand information of just what a degenerate race of people they really are, though goodness knows she shouldn't need telling after what they did in this war and are still doing. There is a very enlightening article in one of the Sunday Pictorials about what sort of reception our boys are meeting in Normandy from the French population have you seen it? It certainly opens one's eyes. I hope Tony got through ok and had a good time he sure has all the luck in the way of leaves. Do you think you could obtain a book of the works of Dante and send it out as I read a very interesting article about him.

I went for a sail the other day with another bloke, the sea was pretty rough and we didn't seem to be getting anywhere at all so we decided to come back. The fisherman from whom we borrowed the boat was waiting and we told him it was no good today, you should have seen the look of amused contempt he gave us. He climbed aboard and soon we were absolutely skimming across the waves, so looks as if there is more to sailing a boat than I thought. We have a very good trip rather bumpy but glad to say I wasn't seasick or else that would have finished us with the old boy. He was 75 years old just like a shrivelled-up monkey but he was as active and agile as a man of thirty. I did a good spot of bartering the other day I got about three pounds of very nice apples and a melon for twenty cigarettes pretty good eh! Most of the trees in town are in flower now and it is really beautiful. I don't know the names of most of them but they are similar to magnolias with a beautiful pinky rose colour and some a much darker red. The Italians make gardens of them on their aerodromes in Tripolitania and make them look quite pretty. It was a very welcome sight after nothing but scrub and sand. I know men make some rude comments about women's 'hats but out here soldiers certainly wear some queer creations made out of all sorts of materials, woven straw, paper bags, and in all shapes and sizes, some of them would put to shame any ascot model. They have them painted very vivid colours and call themselves all sorts of fancy names which are painted around the hatband similar to yank cars and trucks. Why a couple of people dubbed themselves Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt which just shows what type of people they are considering we were enemies not so long ago.

We are having a grand gala today with a cricket match this morning, a swimming gala this afternoon and a concert tonight so will tell you about it in my next epistle. I will make an effort and pack up the tiles and despatch them as soon as possible. All for now hope the summer weather is still lasting for you, Love HAL.

*June '43 while assigned to RAF HQ Middle East.
Hal joined 458 July '43*



Hal's Reflections on the end of the War (both VE and VJ Days)

I was stationed at RAF Metherringham when Victory Europe, 8th May 1945 was declared. I had been wounded and was waiting to take up a ground job. Everyone was confined to camp, I guess because the authorities thought we might go berserk, which of course we did but in more a sense of relief the threat to Britain was finished. However, the war in the Far East was still on and a lot of people were on alert to go there. Most people reported for duty the next day and a normal routine was continued the war was still on.

When Japan surrendered, I was on leave at my home in Devon. I and all Service people and townsfolk really did go to town knowing that we had survived. I know I caused a bit of a flap to all the town authorities by firing off my personal two red star distress flare at the bottom of our garden. I had been saving them for the end of the war. I must say that I, and a lot of my old comrades did not agree with all the Ho Ha that was carried out this year, fifty years after. There was nothing to celebrate, it should just have been a thanksgiving and remembrance of all those who died and the wounded who are still suffering. No one who took an active part in any war was ever the same afterwards. Little appears to have been learnt from it and the same mistakes are still being made.



Hal Lee. 1943

Finishing the Job: 458ers also served in the Pacific

Having served their tour of operations in the European theatre of World War II, a good number of 458ers returned to Australia to answer the call in the Pacific theatre. They were determined to serve until the war was won. On this, the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, we commend those who, having returned from their duty in Europe, continued the fight until the enemy surrendered and peace was finally achieved.

Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Brian Cupper (service no. 401496) was one such Airman. After enlisting in the Royal Australian Air Force in February 1941 and serving with 458 RAAF Squadron in the Middle East in places such as Protville, Tunisia and Bone, Algeria (along with a number of other postings) he returned to Australia in December 1944. He was posted to Number 7 Heavy Bomber Operational Training Unit (No. 7 O.T.U) in Tocumwal (on the Victoria/New South Wales border) as a Flying Instructor. Pictured on the following page, front row on the right (his brother, Ray, back row 3rd from the right) he also saw active service from bases in the Northern Territory. Flying the B-24 four engine aircraft, missions were flown to/over places like Timor Island, the Flores sea, Mokmer (Biak) and Manila.

An accomplished pilot, Flight Lieutenant Ken Cupper had flown many aircraft during his RAAF service. From February 1941 through to February 1946 he flew the following: Tiger Moth, Anson, Beaufort, Hudson, Ventura, Wellington, Fairchild, Lodestar and B-24 Liberator – how fitting the name of this last aircraft at war's end. Within these Air Force Squadrons – groundcrew & aircrew, their spirit of courage and determination to finish the job is forever remembered!



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04287.001

No. 23 RAAF Squadron: B-24 Sqn Ldr Ray Cupper and crew (Northern Territory, Australia) prior to a sortie north of Timor, c. May 1945, including his brother F/Lt Ken Cupper – previously with 458 RAAF Squadron



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

NW40909



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00056.001

B-24 Liberator bomber

***Long Airfield, NT Australia,
~200 km south of Darwin***

No. 23 RAAF Squadron was re-armed with B-24 Liberator bombers in April 1945 and moved to Long airfield in the Northern Territory. Its missions in the final months of the Pacific war included attacks on Japanese occupied Netherlands East Indies; a move to Morotai to support the Allied assault landing at Labuan (occupied Malaysia) on 10 June 1945 and attacks on Balikpapan (occupied Borneo) in support of Allied amphibious landings.

Earlier in the war, in 1943, F/LT Ken Cupper flew Wellington (twin engine) bomber aircraft in North Africa and over the Mediterranean. Described in the official history of 458 Squadron, its publication *'We Find and Destroy'*, author Peter Alexander recalls: "Anti-submarine operations, mainly in the form of convoy escorting or sweeps ahead of convoys, provided the staple 458 occupation; such flights lasting an average of 8 hours. Coastal Command work was notoriously long and exhausting and often uninteresting and uneventful. Invariably it was of the highest operational worth as instanced on the night of 4-5 November 1943..... the same night three other crews escorted an east-bound convoy called 'Taunton', consisting of sixty-five Allied merchant vessels and five naval escort ships. W/Cdr Dowling, W/O Richardson and F/O Cupper were the pilots concerned in the protection of the convoy."

Ken Cupper's Crew 1943
L-R: Tony Cotton, Bill Eden,
Ken Cupper, Jock Watson,
'Ginger' Ingleson,
Johnny Fowles



Orch's Orate **by Roland Orchard**

My Late father, Squadron Leader Gordon Orchard (pictured left) once said to me when asked why he went to war,

"It was a job that had to be done."

At the time I nodded and made some inconsequential and less than intelligent reply such as, oh... ok. I guess I didn't really understand his response as I was only a kid. Let's face it, anyone who hasn't

experienced war would not appreciate and understand, what I perceived to be, a very simple nine-word reply.

'It was a job that had to be done' demanded the following–

- Enlisted RAAF Melbourne, 13th October, 1940.
- Basic training at RAAF Bradfield Park, Sydney, NSW, in October of 1940.
- No. 5 Elementary Flying Training School, flying Tiger Moths at Narromine, NSW, from December 1940 to February 1941.
- No. 1 Service Flying Training School Camp Borden, Ontario, Canada, flying Harvards and Yales, from March 1941 to July 1941. Awarded his wings at Camp Borden and promoted to Pilot Officer.
- Embarked Halifax, Canada, disembarked UK via Iceland July, 1941.
- No. 52 Operational Training Unit and No. 11 OTU Bassingbourn, UK, from August, 1941 to April, 1942, flying Wellingtons.
- April, 1942, first operational flights from UK to Gibraltar – Gibraltar to Malta – Malta to Cairo, Egypt, in a Wellington.
- No. 2 Middle East Training School at Kabrit, Egypt, early June, 1942.
- First tour of operations commenced with 70 Squadron RAF on 19th June, 1942. Completing 37 operational flights with 70 Squadron in October, 1942. Flying Wellingtons.
- Commence ferry flying (non-operational) December, 1942, with 216 Group RAF Middle East Force. This entailed some 73 flights in and around the Middle East and Karachi, then India, now Pakistan, ferrying aircraft such as Wellingtons, Bostons, Hudsons, DC 3 and an Empire Flying Boat.
- Operations with 458 Squadron commenced in May, 1943 as a Flying Officer.
- Operational Flying with 458 Squadron from May, 1943 to June, 1944 which included a Torpedo Course and Junior Commanders' course. The latter seeing him promoted to Squadron Leader and command of A Flight, 458 Squadron. Total operational flights completed with 458 Squadron was 39. Total operational flights or 'trips' as they called them, 79.
- Disembarked Brisbane, QLD, January 1945 to 1 Personnel Department Melbourne.
- Posted to 7 OTU for conversion to 4 engine bombers (B24 Liberators) and Flying Instructor duties, February – April 1945. During this time, 11th March, his youngest brother P/O Norman Orchard was killed in a training accident whilst serving with 463 Squadron, Lincolnshire, UK.
- Test and Ferry Squadron, Laverton, Melbourne, June 1945
- 82 Wing, Morotai Island, Indonesia, July – October 1945. Posted as an Administrative Officer but managed to participate in 5 operational flights as 2nd pilot, bombing Japanese held territory in Western Borneo, flying B24

Liberators. (see photo of his Pilots Log Book, right) Please note on the same day the Atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, 9th August, 1945, Dad was bombing a Japanese held target in Borneo. His last flight as Captain of an aircraft was the 12th August, 1945. He did not take control of an aeroplane again. Total operational flights or 'trips' 1940 – 1945 was 84.

YEAR	AIRCRAFT		Pilot, or 1st Pilot	2nd Pilot, Pupil or Passenger	DUTY (Including Results and Remarks)	
	Month	Date				Type
					Totals Brought Forward	
Aug						
July	1	203		SELF	PARRISLY - GORRIE DANG	
	4	A72	103	TULLAGY	SELF	DARWIN - PINE MOUNTAIN
	16	"	94	LEVANS	SELF	BOMBED LALABATA
	21	"	76	JEFFREY	SELF	BOMBED LALABATA
	26	"	103	MELDRUM	SELF	BOMBED LIMBOONG
	31	"	94	BLACK	SELF	SEARCH HALMAHERAS - PATEL
Aug	9	"	103	DAVIES	SELF	BOMBED LALABATA
	12	"	94	SELF	3 BLACK AND PASSENGERS	FLYING PRACTICE - INST. 3. ENG OVERSHOT BRUNN

- 1 Personnel Depot Melbourne, October – December 1945
- Demobilised 7 December, 1945

As with many war Veterans, my father did not speak much about the war. In fact, it was very hard to coax anything out of him unless he had a couple of iced cold beers on a very hot day. My summary of his active service in the RAAF does not do him justice as it clearly made a life changing impression on him after the war. However, in his own words "A job that had to be done" certainly summed him up.

Duty to the end – That was Dad. Lest We Forget.



L to R- Gordon Orchard, Norman Scott, Len Reid, Douglas Spooner, Rawdon Middleton VC.
No. 5 E.F.T.S Narromine, NSW. 1941

Eric J Jewell Award for 2021 – Update



AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS
REACH FOR THE STARS

Through the generosity of Eric Jewell's family, the Eric J. Jewell Award page is dedicated as the take-off point for telling his story and for offering financial support to Australian youth, and specifically to Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC). The Coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic continues to be a tragedy for many families and has affected us all. The suspension of Air Force Cadet activities, including parades, since March 2020 has also resulted in no applications for Eric's Award this year. One AAFC Squadron is working on a submission for flying software however it is still a work in progress for them. We apologise that these circumstances have meant no Award for 2020, however applicants please get creative and send your applications for the 2021 Award. Commanding Officers of AAFC squadrons can apply for support via the submission process detailed at our website.. Submission period is 26th April 2020 to 25th April 2021, with selection and announcement of the Award recipient for 2021 by the end of May 2021.

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 Potent - www.potent.com.au

458 SQUADRON MEMORABILIA NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

See our *Memorabilia Page* on our website.

www.458raafsquadron.org/memorabilia-shop
for our extensive range of items available for sale.



458 Squadron Badge



458 Squadron Cap



DVD of the Official 458 Squadron
Photo Albums.



ICONIC SQUADRON PHOTOS

Squadron at Protville, Tunisia, 1943:
size 973 mm x 220 mm

'A' Flight at Bone, Algeria, 1944:
size 973 mm x 296 mm

'A' Flight at Gibraltar, 1945:
size 785 mm x 300 mm



458 Squadron Cup



ORDER your 2021
Squadron Calendar!
Nice Price 😊
Great Christmas gift



Order online www.458raafsquadron.org/memorabilia-shop



458 Squadron Association 2021 Reunion

80th Anniversary of 458 Squadron

**FINAL NUMBERS OF THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND NEED TO BE
SUBMITTED TO THE EDITOR
BY 1st DECEMBER, 2020**



Dates –

Friday 9th July – Sunday 11th July, 2021

Location–

**Williamtown/Newcastle,
New South Wales**



Itinerary–

The itinerary will include a welcome dinner, group tour of RAAF Williamtown to coincide with the 80th Anniversary of 458 Squadron and Centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force is proposed and a private tour of Fighterworld Museum.

A Detailed Itinerary will be provided to those who will be attending.



458 Squadron Association 2021 Reunion

Name. _____

Number of attendees _____

Contact Details (phone/mobile and address). _____

**I would like to attend / am unable to attend
the 458 Squadron Association Reunion in 2021.**

Please circle your choice of wishing to attend or not.

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

VICTORY IN EUROPE

Sir Winston Churchill's victory speech he made from 10 Downing Street on 8th May 1945.



“Yesterday morning at 2:41 a.m. at Headquarters, General Jodl, the representative of the German High Command, and Grand Admiral Doenitz, the designated head of the German State, signed the act of unconditional surrender of all German Land, sea, and air forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force,

and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command. General Bedell Smith, Chief of Staff of the Allied Expeditionary Force, and General Francois Sevez signed the document on behalf of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, and General Susloparov signed on behalf of the Russian High Command... Today this agreement will be ratified and confirmed at Berlin, where Air Chief Marshal Tedder, deputy supreme commander of the Allied expeditionary force, and General de Lattre de Tassigny will sign on behalf of General Eisenhower; General Zhukov will sign on behalf of the Soviet high command. The German representatives will be Field Marshal Keitel, chief of the high command, and the commanders-in-chief of the German army, navy and air forces. Our dear Channel Islands will be free tomorrow. Hostilities will end officially at one minute after midnight tonight, Tuesday, the 8th of May, but in the interests of saving lives the ceasefire began yesterday to be sounded all along the fronts. The Germans are still in places resisting the Russian troops, but should they continue to do so after midnight they will, of course, divest themselves of the protection of the laws of war and will be attacked from all quarters by the Allied troops. It is not surprising that on such long fronts and in the existing disorder of the enemy the orders of the German high command should not in every case have been obeyed. This does not, in our opinion, constitute any reason for withholding from the nation the facts communicated to us by General Eisenhower of the unconditional surrender already signed at Rheims, nor should it prevent us from celebrating today and tomorrow, Wednesday, as Victory in Europe Days. His Majesty the King will broadcast to the nation and Empire at nine o'clock tonight. The German war is therefore at an end. After years of intense preparation Germany hurled herself on Poland at the beginning of September, 1939, and in pursuance of our guarantee to Poland and in common action with the French Republic, Great Britain, the British Empire

and Commonwealth of Nations declared war against this foul aggression. After gallant France had been struck down, we from this island and from our united empire maintained the struggle single-handed for a whole year until we were joined by the military might of Soviet Russia, and later by the overwhelming power and resources of the United States of America. Finally, almost the whole world was combined against the evil-doers who are now prostrate before us. Gratitude to our splendid Allies goes forth from all our hearts. We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead. Japan, with all her treachery and greed, remains unsubdued. The injury she has inflicted on Great Britain, the United States, and other countries, and her detestable cruelties, call for justice and retribution. We must now devote all our strength and resources to the completion of our task, both at home and abroad. Advance, Britannia! Long live the cause of freedom! God save the King!"



VE (Victory in Europe) Day in Trafalgar Square London, marking the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Lincolnshire, England, May 1945. Crews of No. 463 (Lancaster) Squadron, RAAF, and No. 467 (Lancaster) Squadron, RAAF, celebrate a belated VE day in their station mess, RAF Station Waddington



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

UK2852

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC

“Fellow citizens, the war is over. The Japanese Government has accepted the terms of surrender imposed by the Allied Nations and hostilities will now cease. At this moment let us offer thanks to God.

Let us remember those whose lives were given that we may enjoy this glorious moment and may look forward to a peace which they have won for us.”

Australian Prime Minister Ben Chifley, 15th of August 1945



“Japan has today surrendered. The last of our enemy is laid low. Peace has once again come to the world. Let us thank God for this great deliverance and his mercies. Long Live the King”.

United Kingdom Prime Minister
Clement Atlee

A group of Australian Women's Army Service members and two soldiers read a special edition of Guinea Gold announcing the end of the war, Lae, New Guinea, 15 August 1945. AWM 094950



Five newly liberated Australian prisoners of war in Singapore, September 1945. Most families of prisoners of the Japanese knew very little about the fate of their loved ones, some of whom had been in captivity for three and a half years. Photo: Z. Oliver AWM P01182.005

Sailors and civilians "skipping in George Street", outside the Criterion Hotel in Brisbane, 15 August 1945. General Douglas MacArthur's General Headquarters was situated nearby in the AMP Building on Queen Street between 1942 and 1944. AWM P10364.005



Dancing Man, Sydney, Australia, 15 August 1945



Flight Lieutenant Athol Graham meets his young son. Graham had left Australia in June 1942 and returned home to Melbourne in October 1945 after serving with the Royal Air Force in Burma. Argus Newspaper Collection, State Library of Victoria H98.100/3897

Soldiers and civilians celebrate VP Day on the streets of Adelaide, South Australia, 15 August 1945. Photo: Adelaide Newspapers Limited. AWM Po2018.411



Melbourne's Chinese community celebrated VP Day on 15 August 1945 with firecrackers and a dragon. This picture shows the dragon heading towards the Shrine of Remembrance. AWM 1128

The End of World War II after
**5 years, 11 months and
11 days!** Peace at last!
We Remember **75 years** later!



Remembrance

Gread gratefully, a prayer within your heart,
Thanksgiving that your homeland flowers you see,
That out of dangers hazards, small in part,
Destruction quite complete, still you are free,
Spared bodily with honour still intact
So to return; though Death with phantom face
Hath touched your arm, o'er war's scorched barren tract;
Then, thankfully remembering the grace
With which those comrades, daring all, were left
Behind, the debt we owe to those thus gone,
The waters of the future's fount bereft,
For we are quite alone to carry on;
So pause just once each day, through gloom & toil,
In happiness, despair, burn sacred oil.



VP DAY: Victory in the Pacific!

WWII Ends!

"Fellow citizens, the war is over."

Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, 15/8/1945



Peace ~ ~

"For our
tomorrow
he gave his
today. His
duty nobly
done."

And then came peace, soft like a dove on wing,
Pale, floating in the smoke-grimed sky and grey
Torn battle's evening; like the fragrant spring
Doth follow winter's dire distress, or day
Doth come clean over night's dark muted rim:
Peace filtered like a shaft of silver light
In iridescent splendour, to the dim
Hushed cloisters midst some dark cathedral's might—
Peace sighing slightly, catching at the breath,
While Fury wept, her sovereignty dismayed,
War was no more, nor Guile, nor Vice, and Death.
Her roving claim gave o'er the field—was paid;
But stay, a thought—what sacrifice for peace
Are we content to make to hold the lease?



Quiet you
lie who had
your wish
— to fly;
nor feared
in giving
all, to die."



Poems by Flying Officer Eric J Jewell
of 458 Squadron



458raafsquadron.org