



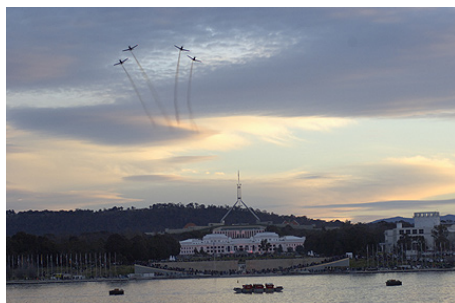
RAAF 458 Squadron Final Reunion

30 October to 04 November, 2005

Hosted by N.S.W. Flight

at

Rydges Lakeside Hotel
Canberra, ACT



VP Day Celebration in Canberra 2005



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Editor's Note

This Reunion Booklet is intended to serve as your personal memory of the 2005 Final 458 Squadron Reunion in Canberra. It also includes a few key records from 458 Squadron's history. Your folder can be easily opened for you to add memorabilia from reunion functions and ceremonies. I hope that you enjoy catching up with your mates, and do have a wonderful visit to our lovely green city.

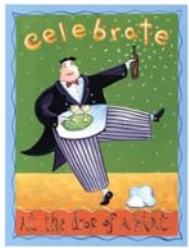


Wendy Whitem-Trunz (Daughter of Jim Whitem), Canberra ACT




Program

458 Squadron Final Reunion

30 October – 04 November 2005

Date/Time	Events & Instructions	Place
<p>Sunday 30th October</p> <p>4-6.00pm</p> <p>6-8.00pm</p>	<p>Arrival Arrive & book into the Lakeside Hotel.</p> <p>Receive your Welcome Pack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 458 registration with Treasurer Frank Ward • Meet John Gibbins & Wendy Whitem-Trunz (Your Final Reunion Coordinators) • Find out where your memorabilia room is, and put your memorabilia in it today from 2-5pm • Please book your Friday "Seafood Buffet" dinner at reception (There is also an À la carte menu in Bobby McGee's.) Notify Hotel of depart time/date. <p>"Meet Your Mates" Reunion Nibbles & Drinks.</p>	<p>Reception</p> <p>Foyer opposite reception</p>  <p>Lake Huron Room, 1st Floor</p>
<p>Monday 31st October</p> <p>Depart: 9:30am - Group 1 9:45am - Group 2</p>  <p>11.45am</p> <p>2.00/05pm & 2.20ish Board buses as desired (no groups).</p>	<p>Canberra Exhibition Buses will transport us to the Canberra Exhibition at Regatta Point. The two groups will be shown around the exhibition on how Canberra was founded. Exciting interactive displays featuring people, events, history and design, illustrate Canberra's vital role as a symbol of federation.</p> <p>Luncheon Cruise on Lake Burley Griffin.</p> <p>We will take a short walk down to the jetty for a two-hour Southern Cross Cruise and Luncheon starting at 12 noon.</p> <p>Buses will collect us at the end of the cruise at the Southern Cross Yacht Club to bring us back to the hotel. If you wish, you can relax further at the Southern Cross Club and return to the hotel by taxi, at your leisure.</p>	<p>Buses at bus stop in Edinburgh St</p>  <p>Board Cruise Boat</p> <p>One Bus in Car Park near jetty (Shuttle)</p>

Tuesday 1st November
 1130am & 12 noon departure (1 bus shuttle)
 12:30pm
 2:00pm
 2:30 pm (1.5hr tour)

Australian War Memorial
 4.05 pm
 or 1 hour free time & at 4.55pm

Memorial Service – Australian War Memorial
 Buses will take us past the memorials on Anzac Parade and then on to the **Australian War Memorial**

Before the service:
Group Light Lunch - the AWM's The Landing Place Restaurant's Terrace

458 Squadron Memorial Service & Wreath laying

Tour the Australian War Memorial complex Conducted tours have been organised, &/or tour at your leisure.

- View the sight and sound displays of G for George & the mini sub attack on Sydney
- View the **458 Squadron plaque** in the memorial pathway outside.


Bus Returns to Rydges Lakeside past the memorials on the other side of Anzac Parade

Join the official closing of the ceremonial area to end the day - piper / bugle, if you wish

Return to the Hotel by Maxi Taxi for those leaving late.



2 Buses at drop off locations at side of AWM (not easy access)

Wednesday 2nd November
 10.00am depart
 11.00am

 11.45am
 12.00noon
 12.30pm
 2.00pm

Squadron Plaque & Tree Dedication
 We will travel by two buses to the **Hughie Edwards VC, RAAF Memorial Grove**

Dedication of our 458 Squadron Plaque & Wreath Laying Ceremony
 Short Speeches by:

- His Excellency, Dr Ivan Fsadni, High Commissioner of Malta
- The immediate Past President of the RAAF Association (ACT), Arthur Skimin

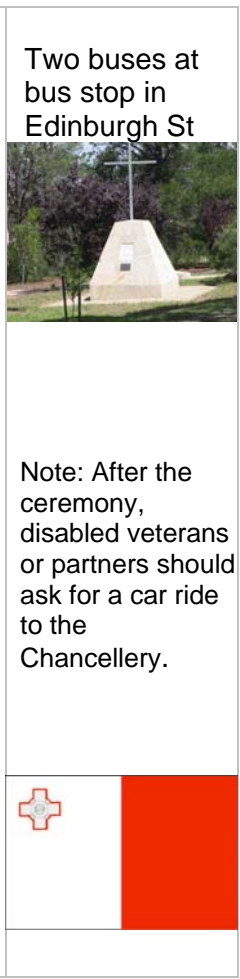
Tree Planting Ceremony

- Col Fereday's leadership and work in developing and maintaining the Grove will be recognised.

Our Veterans will then travel by the two buses to the High Commission of Malta. If there is extra time, the buses may drive to/from the Maltese High Commission via some of the well known Embassies in Mugga Way & Yarralumla

Reception at the High Commission of Malta
 Our veterans are guests of His Excellency, Dr Ivan Fsadni. Mr. Keith Cousins, who served in Malta with 458 Squadron, will give a short toast to thank His Excellency for his hospitality.

Return to the Hotel by bus.



Two buses at bus stop in Edinburgh St

Note: After the ceremony, disabled veterans or partners should ask for a car ride to the Chancellery.

<p>3.40pm</p> <p>4.00pm</p> 	<p>Two Presentations</p> <p>1. Mick Singe - My London Trip A short 10min talk</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Break for coffee/tea</i></p> <p>2. How has the Flying Environment changed? What is the Future of Airspace Technology & Management? A short 20min talk by pilot Merv Fowler, National Towers Manager, Airservices Australia. Merv will share his extensive knowledge about the technologies and management of airspace. ...Questions and answers will follow.</p>	<p>Bobby McGee's Restaurant</p> <p>Restaurant open till 5.00pm (own expense)</p>
<p>Thursday 3rd November Depart: Group 1 Bus 9.00am Tour 1 at 9:30am</p> <p>Group 2 Bus 9.20ish Tour 2 at 10:30am</p> <p>11.45pm - Group 1 12.10pm - Group 2</p> <p>Thursday Evening 6.30 pm 7.00-10.00pm</p>  <p><i>Port Macquarie Dinner</i></p>	<p>Old Parliament House Today we travel in two groups to Old Parliament House (OPH). Tour guides will show us the memorabilia and tell stories of yesteryear. The days of old will be brought to the fore with these extremely interesting displays. Don't forget to take a look at the historical portrait gallery &/or the special traveling exhibitions too.</p> <p>Morning tea can be purchased at the Café within the complex.</p>  <p>Buses will return us to the hotel for lunch or to rest up for tonight's Final Dinner. The second bus can take 42 of us to Tradies Club (bicycle museum) in Dickson for lunch. Others can go by car or maxi taxi. Let John Gibbons know if you would like to catch the bus to the Tradies Club (Return by taxi). Dickson is also Canberra's China town - with many Asian restaurants.</p> <p>Final 458 Squadron Dinner Pre-dinner Drinks Tonight, the private 458's Final Dinner will be held in the Lake Superior Function Room. Families of many veterans will be there too. This promises to be a most memorable evening.</p> <p><u>Guest Speaker:</u> Air Commodore Lee Roberts, Director General Personnel - Air Force</p> <p><u>Guests of Honour and VIPs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency, High Commissioner of Malta, Dr Ivan Fsadni and his wife Mrs. Rita Fsadni • Mrs. Bridget Roberts, wife of Air Commodore Lee Roberts • Air Commodore Geoffrey Michael, President of the RAAF National Council, and his wife, Gwen • Mr. Arthur Skimin, Past President RAAF Association ACT, and his wife Mrs. Kathy Skimin • Mr. Tom Moore, President 458 Squadron 	<p>One Bus at bus stop in Edinburgh St (shuttle return for second load)</p> <p>Bus 1 returns for second load (shuttle).</p> <p>Taxis for those who wish.</p> <p>1st floor Foyer then Lake Superior Room</p> <p>Dress: Smart Casual</p>

<p>Friday 4th November 2005 10.00am</p>	<p><i>The Final Squadron Conference, or Free Day</i> Delegates will attend the Final Conference.</p> <p>Those not attending the conference are free to visit other tourist highlights of the city, or spend time with your mates. For tourist ideas, see your welcome pack brochures. Action Bus Route #34 stops in Edinburgh Street right beside the hotel, and loops past many of Canberra's key Tourist attractions, including the National Museum. You could go for a ride!</p>	<p>Room 1320</p> 
<p>Friday Evening 5:30 -7.00pm or 7.30-9.00pm (2 sittings)</p>	<p><i>Sea Food Buffet Dinner in 15th Floor in Burley Griffin Restaurant</i> <i>or</i> <i>À la Carte in Bobby McGee's Restaurant</i> <i>or</i> <i>a restaurant elsewhere in Canberra</i></p> <p>Join your mates again for one last enjoyable meal before you depart for home. The hotel will reserve tables (e.g. tables of 10 if you wish) for our 458ers so you can sit together. Please book as early as possible with Reception.</p>	<p>Restaurant of choice</p> <p>Optional – not included in conference package.</p>

Memorabilia Room Visits – Room Number 1320
See Jim Whitem

The Suite visiting times are planned to be:

Sunday	3-5pm	Setup - bring your memorabilia
Monday	4-6pm	
Tuesday	4-6pm	
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	4-6pm	Pickup your memorabilia
Friday	10-11am	Squadron Conference

Rydges Lakeside

Our Final Reunion Hotel



Rydges Lakeside on London Circuit, Canberra City is situated near the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. All rooms have views of either the Lake or City. Lifts service every facility we will utilize in the hotel – so there will be no problems with stairs or luggage.

Accommodation \$160.00 per room per night (twin, double or single), Breakfast included. Most 458ers will be located near their mates.

Breakfast is served in “Bobby McGee’s” Restaurant located on the ground floor.

Other Meals You can dine in for evening meals or visit the many surrounding clubs and restaurants. Most evening meals & Thur/Fri lunches will be at your own expense. This will allow you to eat with friends at either the Hotel or surrounding restaurants. You can make block bookings in Rydges’ restaurants &/or announce an agreed time to eat together.

Bars - Cahoots Bar is on the Ground floor. It has interesting historical political photos & cartoons. Another small bar with a scenic view is located on the 15th floor.

Memorabilia You will find the 458 historical & memorabilia exhibition in Room 1320. If you have memorabilia to display, please find Jim Whitem who is Reunion Memorabilia custodian.

This room will be open for visitors as announced at the end of the program

Travel to Airport

You can take a \$7 airport bus when leaving to go home.



Royal Bluebell

The Royal Bluebell was announced as the floral emblem of the Australian Capital Territory on 26 May 1982. *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* is a small perennial herb with oblong leaves about 2.5 cm long. The violet blue flowers are up to 2-3 cm in diameter and often appear to have a paler centre due to the light blue base of the petals combined

with the purple style that ends in two white stigmas. The flowers may be erect or nodding and are carried on long slender stems. Royal Bluebell occurs mainly in sub-alpine woodland in the Australian Capital Territory, south-eastern New South Wales and Victoria. It is legally protected throughout its occurrence in the wild, but is relatively easy to cultivate.

You will see a stylised representation of this beautiful flower on your 458 final reunion dinner place name cards.

458 Bus Groups - Monday & Thursday events

<i>Bus Group 1</i>				<i>Bus Group 2</i>			
Crowley	Laurence	Betty	2	Westgarth	David	Judy	2
Fereday	Colin		1	Bitmead	Don	Beverley	2
Ringwood	John	Coral Chapman	2	Bitmead	Peter		1
Archibold	Wal	Dora	2	Whittem	Jim	Dorothy	2
Ashworth	Harry	Nellie	2	Ward	Frank	Thelma	2
Bilney	John	Marjorie	2	Atherton	Alan		1
Cousins	Keith	Cassie	2	Holland	Doug		1
Dean	Neil	Joyce Reeves	2	McDonald	Bruce J.B.		1
Ellis	Jack	Margaret	2	Singe	Mick		1
Gibbins	John	Glenys Bone	2	Dorge	Harry	Greg	2
Hamilton	Jack	Elsie	2	Addinall	Bill	Mavis	2
Hutchinson	Colin	Yvonne	2	George	Kevin		1
Johnson	Bill	Gwen	2	Pryde	Jack		1
Miller	Dusty	Enid	2	Clues	Bill		1
Munkman	Eric	Dorothy	2	Jewell	Ted		1
Palmer	Jim	Lucy	2	Lewis	Evelyn		1
Pearce	Roy	Barbara	2	Baines	Harry	Nita	2
Brown	Ken	June	2	Garland	Bert	Isla	2
Turier	Bill	Dorothy	2	McLoughlin	Bernard	Helen	2
Unitt	George	Grace	2	Murray	Cyril	Hettie	2
				Pearce	Rupert	Norma Pollard	2
				Smith	Bob	Dorothy	2
				Michell	Rick		1
				Cosh	Tricia		1
				Gibbins	Victor		1
				Moore	Tom		1
				Longhurst	David		1
				Wilkinson	Rob		1
Total				Total			
39				40			

Bus Marshals – John Gibbins, Rob Wilkinson & others to be designated

Unless specifically designated in the program, 458ers may board buses on arrival – “First come, First in”.



Recognition

Those who especially helped make Our Final Reunion a Success

458 Squadron, Sydney Flight Committee - Our Hosts

John Gibbins - Sydney liaison, planning & coordination

Wendy Whitem-Trunz - Canberra coordination, planning & PR

Tom Moore - Leadership, 2005 Reunion Art work, & place mat door prizes

Jim Whitem - His autobiography of his war years – “*No One’s Anybody*”

Colin Fereday - Canberra liaison and Reunion planning, and contribution to building and maintaining RAAF Memorial Grove

His Excellency, Dr. Ivan Fsadni, High Commissioner for Malta - His Hospitality

Arthur Skimin, his son Steve and the RAAFA, ACT - advice and assistance for ceremonies, especially at RAAF Memorial Grove and for the Lone Pine sapling

John Grigsby - PR

Lance Halvorson - RAAFA PR & future Web page

Airservices Australia - Presentation, pens and door prizes

Woden Plaza News Agency - two books door prizes

Erindale News Agency - two calendars door prizes

David Whitem, 1st National Real Estate - Conference Bags

Adrian Trunz – Historical Slideshow development & Photography

&

All our Delegates, their families & friends

who were so keen to make this final reunion such a
SUCCESS.

Thank you to Everyone!



Newsletter article for RAAFA



458 Squadron RAAF Final Reunion

30 October – 4 November 2005, at Rydges Lakeside, Canberra

458 Squadron Association will hold its final reunion in Canberra from 30 October to 4 November 2005. The Canberra reunion is the final one, as the veterans have recognised their numbers are dwindling and their health is no longer the health of youth. Even so, over eighty aircrew, ground crew and family members, from NZ and all states will spend nearly a week in Canberra.

Association members are scattered around the world, mainly in Australia, NZ, UK and Canada. Since the first national reunion in Sydney in 1953, members have held reunions on 36 occasions, in NZ, Canada, UK and all states of Australia. The Association's youngest veteran is 81 and many are in their nineties.

Hosted by the NSW Flight, the final 458 Squadron Reunion program focuses on remembrance while enjoying the company of old mates. During their time in Canberra members will hold a memorial service and wreath laying ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, followed by visits to some of the key attractions of the national capital, including the Canberra Exhibition at Regatta Point and lunch on a cruise boat on Lake Burley Griffin

An important event during the week is the 458 Squadron memorial plaque and tree dedication ceremony on Wednesday 2nd November at RAAF Memorial Grove, on the Federal Hwy at the Majura Road turnoff. Recognising the squadron's important role in the protection of Malta, His Excellency, the High Commissioner for Malta will be guest of honour at the dedication. RAAF Association members are very welcome to attend the service, which will begin at 11.00am. Following the ceremony, 458 veterans will attend a reception hosted by the High Commissioner for Malta.

History recounts Malta's suffering from the German Luftwaffe's heavy bombing, so the significance of 458 Squadron's contribution to the protection of Malta, a key strategic island in the middle of the Mediterranean, cannot be underestimated. Mick Singe, who will be attending the reunion, recalls the Germans bombed Malta up to 12 times a day. He lost several of his mates during the assault and was saddened by the women and children who had been without essential provisions for eight months, as Allied convoys had great difficulty in re-supplying the island. Mick and the other members of the squadron gave them food from their own rations whenever they could.

A key highlight is the 458 Squadron Final Dinner, which will be attended by senior air force personnel. To complete the week of reunion, 458 veterans will tour Old Parliament House.

Veterans will return home at the end of the week's celebrations confident that they will be remembered in our national capital, but a little sad that over 60 years of close and regular comradeship is coming to an end.

458 Squadron RAAF – Brief History

458 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, was formed at Williamstown, New South Wales, on 10 July 1941. Formed under Article XV of the Empire Air Training Scheme, the squadron was destined for operations in Europe. In early August, the 37 airmen then in it sailed for the United Kingdom, where they joined further personnel from across the British Commonwealth being gathered at Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

The squadron was equipped with Vickers Wellington bombers, widely nicknamed the "Wimpey" after the character in the Popeye cartoon strip, J. Wellington Wimpey. Wellingtons were the first bombers used to attack Germany in September 1939, but like all British bombers of the war they were lightly armed and suffered heavily from attacks by German fighters. In 1940 the Wellington squadrons were switched to night raids. The unique geodetic latticework construction of the Wellington made it particularly robust - able to sustain remarkable amounts of flak damage and yet still keep flying.

As part of 1 Group, Bomber Command, 458 commenced operations over German-occupied Europe on 20 October 1941. For the next three months the focus of the squadron's operations was the strategic bombing campaign against Germany. 458 Squadron is reputed to have been "congratulated almost continuously" for the highest serviceability in any bomber group in the United Kingdom.

In February 1942 the squadron was reallocated to Middle East Command. Its relocation was a chaotic affair, however its aircrews ferried all but one of its Wellington ICs safely to Egypt. The air and ground crew were separated and the squadron's aircraft were commandeered for operations by other squadrons from Malta, where they had stopped on their way to Egypt. Malta suffered heavy bombing from the German Luftwaffe, and the significance of 458 squadron's contribution to the protection of Malta, a key strategic island in the middle of the Mediterranean, cannot be underestimated.

Mick Singe, who will be attending the reunion, recalls the Germans were bombing Malta 12 times a day. He lost several of his mates there and was saddened also by the women and children who had been without many provisions for eight months, as Allied convoys found it hard to get through. Mick and the other members of his squadron gave them food from their own rations whenever they could. He also recalls the times they slept on the ground without sleeping bags and were moving so much there was no time to erect tents.

Finally arriving in the Middle East, the squadron's ground crew worked on the maintenance of bombers operated by the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the United States Army Air Force, while the air crew were attached to 37, 70, 104, 108, and 148 Squadrons RAF. Thus, many 458 aircrews almost completed an entire tour of duty without flying with the Australian Squadron. 458 Squadron was not reunited until 1 September 1942, at El Shallufa, in Egypt.

Based at El Shallufa, the squadron was re-equipped with Wellingtons. Its primary role was to seek out and attack enemy shipping in the Mediterranean Sea using bombs and torpedoes, and lay mines. A number of ships and German submarines were destroyed. In one mission, a 458 pilot force-landed his damaged Wellington four hundred miles behind enemy lines in North Africa. Four of the crew decided to evade capture and head for friendly territory. Over a period of twenty-two days, travelling in the cool of the evenings, they were eventually found by Allied troops in what was one of the most remarkable escapes of World War II.

458 Wellingtons operated from airfields in Egypt, Malta, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Sardinia, Corsica, and Italy. It also escorted huge convoys, sometimes, comprising as many as eighty-five ships, and this despite flooded aerodromes that sometimes

compelled its Wellingtons to do their best to emulate flying boats. The squadron later bombed enemy shipping in and around the Gulf of Genoa, most notably in support of the Allied invasion of southern France in August 1944. It subsequently performed the same tasks in the Adriatic from captured Luftwaffe bases in Italy.

458 Squadron relocated for the final time, to Gibraltar, on 26 January 1945 and was treated to fresh fruit and vegetables for the first time in the war. With the occupation of southern France, and the continuing progress of the Allied campaign in Italy, enemy submarines and surface vessels in the Mediterranean presented little threat. From Gibraltar, the squadron roamed out across the western Atlantic, escorting Allied convoys and searching for German submarines. The squadron was still carrying out these tasks when the war in Europe ended on 8 May 1945. It disbanded on 9 June 1945.

Edited by Wendy Whitem-Trunz, based on information published on the internet.

Resurrection of a Wellington

Many former members of the RAAF will be delighted to hear that a Wimpy that lay on the bottom of a lake for 45 years has almost completely been restored. On New Year's Eve 1940, R for Robert took off from RAF Lossiemouth on a training flight. A subsequent engine failure together with heavy snow showers meant the aircraft could not return to base. It was necessary to land as soon as possible. The six trainees were ordered to bale out - sadly one was killed when his parachute failed to open properly. In due course the captain and co-pilot found a gap in the clouds and saw an expanse of water. They safely ditched on what turned out to be Loch Ness.

Forty-five years later in September 1985, R for Robert was recovered from the lake and transported back to Weybridge where it was originally built by Vickers. As you can imagine it looked a very sad and sorry sight when it emerged from the lake. Many parts had to be re-made including engines, turrets and major sections of the fuselage.

How has this miracle of restoration been achieved? Tribute should first be paid to the team of about 250 volunteers, men and women, who persevered with great dedication for 11 years expending nearly 96,000 man-hours. Much technical and collaborative help came from companies and organisations.

Perhaps the fact that R for Robert was capable of being restored after being submerged for 45 years is a further testimony to the enormous strength of its geodetic construction. It is ironic that the Wellington on display at the RAF Museum at Hendon is the sole survivor of the 11,461 Wellingtons built, that is, until R for Robert was reborn. It should be noted that the Wellington at Hendon was a training aircraft whereas R for Robert had actually seen operational service.

With the restoration of R for Robert almost complete this achievement will undoubtedly go down in British aircraft preservation history.

Anyone visiting England is advised to visit Brooklands Museum at Weybridge in Surrey and marvel at this gem of restoration. As one who did his tour on Wimpys I found my visit to Brooklands Museum an unforgettable emotional experience. (NB: 458 Sqdn. Assoc. donated \$500 towards cost of doped fabric)

By John Leeuwin-Clark (WINGS, Winter 1997)

Media Advice

RAAF'S WARTIME BOMBER SQUADRON

RAN OUT OF ENEMY TARGETS

The RAAF's 458 Squadron in Coastal Command in the Middle East in WW2 was so successful in attacking the enemy it ran out of targets.

This commendation was made by the Commander of the Coastal Command Wing in North Africa, the RAF's Air Marshal Geoffrey Tuttle. He said he had never been so impressed with a unit such as 458 Squadron either before or since. "We were all engaged in finding and destroying enemy ships at a time when the enemy had begun to realise how good the opposition was. 458 Squadron was one of the main reasons why my Wing was taken off operations- the enemy ran out of ships".

The 458 Squadron Association will hold its final reunion in Canberra from 30th October to 4th November. Surviving members, now well into their eighties, feel that the time has come for a farewell to old mates and to make a tribute to those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Among reunion events, will be dedication of a commemorative plaque at the RAAF Memorial Grove, Federal Highway at 11am on Wednesday 2nd November. The ACT Division of the RAAF Association, "guardian" of the Grove, will assist with the service.

The High Commissioner for Malta, Dr Ivan Fsadni, will be Guest of Honour at the dedication ceremony at the Memorial Grove.

You are invited to send a reporter and photographer to the plaque dedication at RAAF Memorial Grove at 11am on Wednesday 2nd November.

Over 80 air crew and ground staff and families from all states and New Zealand will spend nearly a week in Canberra. Included in reunion events will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

A number of former pilots who continued flying after the war are attending and are available for interview. They are Laurie Crowley who operated an airline from Lae, New Guinea, Kevin George flying private aircraft in New Zealand and Jack Ellis who became an Australian airline pilot. Former squadron pilot, Colin Fereday OAM, has lived in Canberra since the 1930s. He has devoted much of his time to the RAAF Association which was one of the factors in his award of the Medal of the Order of Australia. Des Singe witnessed the continuous and shattering bombing of Malta with huge casualties and where he lost many mates.

458 Squadron was formed at Williamstown, NSW in July 1941 and transferred to Holme-on-Spalding Moor, England. Equipped with Wellington bombers it flew with Bomber Command over Germany until January 1942 when it was reallocated to Middle East Command. Based at El Shallufa with Wellington bombers it attacked German shipping and submarines in the Mediterranean Sea. It also operated from Egypt, Malta, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Sardinia, Corsica and Italy. The Squadron was finally located in Gibraltar and was disbanded when the war in Europe ended.

Inquiries John Grigsby RAAF Assn PRO Tel 6231 3181 Mob 04098 19437 or Jim Whittem Sqdn Scty. Rydges Lakeside Hotel 6247 6244 from 30 Oct.

By John Grigsby

The Originals



458 ORIGINALS

THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF 458 SQUADRON R.A.A.F..

FORMED AT WILLIAMTOWN R.A.A.F. BASE N.S.W. on 8th. JULY 1941.

departed WILLIAMTOWN 4-30 a.m. BY BUS AND TRAIN 8th. August 1941.

departed SYDNEY by R.M.S.AWATEA at 4-00 P.M, the same day for

AUKLAND, FIJI, VANCOUVER, HALIFAX and LIVERPOOL U.K.

then by various R.A.F. Stations to HOLME ON SPALDING MOORE YORKSHIRE.

where the Squadron became operational under W.Cdr Mulholland D.F.C.

our first operation was against German Targets on the night of 20th. October 1941.

1.	ANGOVE R.C.	"DOC:"	MEDICAL OFFICER
2.	* POWER A.R.	"BUTCH"	STORES CLERK
3.	HAMILTON BILL		PAY CLERK.
4.	* BAX JOHN		STORES CLERK.
5.	HUTTON BRIAN	"CRUTCHIE"	PHOTOGRAPHER.
6.	* BALMER GORDON.	"GUSTER"	PHOTOGRAPHER.
7.	RAY FRED	"PAPPIE"	ELECTRICIAN.
8.	* CATT TOM		ELECTRICIAN.
9.	GIBSON A.M.	"HOOT.	ELECTRICIAN.
10.	KELLY	"NED"	ELECTRICIAN.
11.	* KESSLER DAVE		ELECTRICIAN.
12.	McRAE C.W.	"RED"	ELECTRICIAN
13.	* SILBEREISEN LOU.	"SILVER"	ELECTRICIAN.
14.	PALMER JIM	"BALDY"	ELECTRICIAN
15.	GRUBB GEOFF		ELECTRICIAN.
16.	TILLOCK CLIFF		ELECTRICIAN.
17.	* O'LEARY TED	"ACE"	ELECTRICIAN.
18.	CATTANACK DICK		ELECTRICIAN.
19.	* PIGGFORD P.	"PIGGY"	ELECTRICIAN.
20.	* POLLOCK BOB.	"POLLY"	ELECTRICIAN.
21.	* TREWATHA N.	"LOFTY"	FITTER IIE.
22.	* WHITE MURRAY	"WHITEY"	FITTER IIE
23.	* WILSON	"SHORTY"	FITTER IIE.
24.	* STROM FREDDIE.	"STROMMY"	FITTER IIE.
25.	* STONE A.L.	"TONY"	INSTRUMENT MAKER.
26.	* MCGOWEN ATHOL	"JOCK"	INSTRUMENT MAKER.
27.	STEWART LEN.	"BINGI"	INSTRUMENT MAKER.
28.	QUIGLEY JACK.	"QUIG."	INSTRUMENT MAKER.
29.	* DRAYSEY COLIN	"DRAYS."	INSTRUMENT MAKER.
30.	* HYLES GEOFF.		INSTRUMENT MAKER.
31.	* GRIFFITHS NOEL.	"TICH"	INSTRUMENT MAKER.
32.	McKENZIE JACK		PAY CLERK.
33.	* USHER RON.		STORES CLERK.
34.	DAVIES JOHN	"JUNIOR"	MOTOR TRANSPORT.
35.	* OSBEISTON N.	"OSSIE"	
36.	MELLOR R.W.	"RED"	ORDERLY ROOM.
37.	WILSON JACK		ARMOURER.
38.	STARTON or ROBINSON.		(left draft in Canada with ear problems.)
39.	MUNKMAN ERIC	"MONKO."	ORDERLY ROOM.

MANY OF THESE ORIGINAL MEMBERS STAYED WITH 458
RIGHT THROUGH TILL THE SQUADRON DISBANDED IN GIBRALTAR IN 1945.

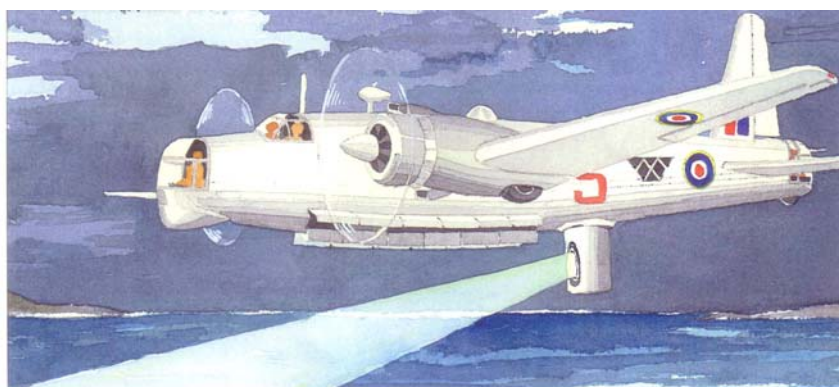
FREDDIE STROM WENT ON TO GO TO GERMANY WITH THE OCCUPATION FORCES.

NO DOUBT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO HAVE PASSED ON, THEIR NAMES ARE NOT KNOWN AT THIS PRINTING.

Jock McGowen, 9th. October 1994.

Squadron Movements

- 07-41 Squadron founded at Williamtown NSW**
- 08-41 39 Ground crew leave Williamtown for UK
- 09-41 Squadron forms at Holme-on-Spalding Moor**
- 10-41 Squadron's first operation against Germany
- 02-42 Aircrew fly out to Middle East
- 03-42 Ground crew leave by sea for Middle East
- 05-42 Ground crew arrive at Suez, Egypt
- 05-42 Ground crew move to Fayid, Egypt
- 06-42 Ground crew to Lydda, Palestine with USAAF B 24's
- Ground crew to Aqir, Palestine with USAAF B 24's
- Ground crew to St Jean, Palestine
- 09-42 Squadron reforms at Shallufa, Egypt**
- 11-42 Detachment to Tobruk and Benghazi
- 01-43 Squadron moves to Malta**
- 03-43 Detachment to Amiriya, Egypt
- 05-43 Squadron moves to Blida, Algeria**
- 05-43 Short detachment to Oran, Algeria
- 05-43 Squadron moves to Protville, Tunisia**
- 10-43 Short detachment to Borizzo, Italy
- 10-43 Squadron moves to Bone, Algeria**
- 11-43 Short detachment to Grottaglie, Italy
- 01-44 Detachment to Malta
- 02-44 Detachment to Ghisonaccia, Corsica
- 04-44 Detachment to Malta
- 05-44 Squadron moves to Alghero, Sardinia**
- 09-44 Squadron moves to Foggia, Italy**
- 09-44 Detachment to Ancona, Italy
- 10-44 Detachment to La Vallon, Southern France
- 12-44 Detachment to Leghorn Italy
- 01-45 Squadron moves to Gibraltar**
- 05-45 End of war in Europe
- 06-45 Disbandment of 458 Squadron



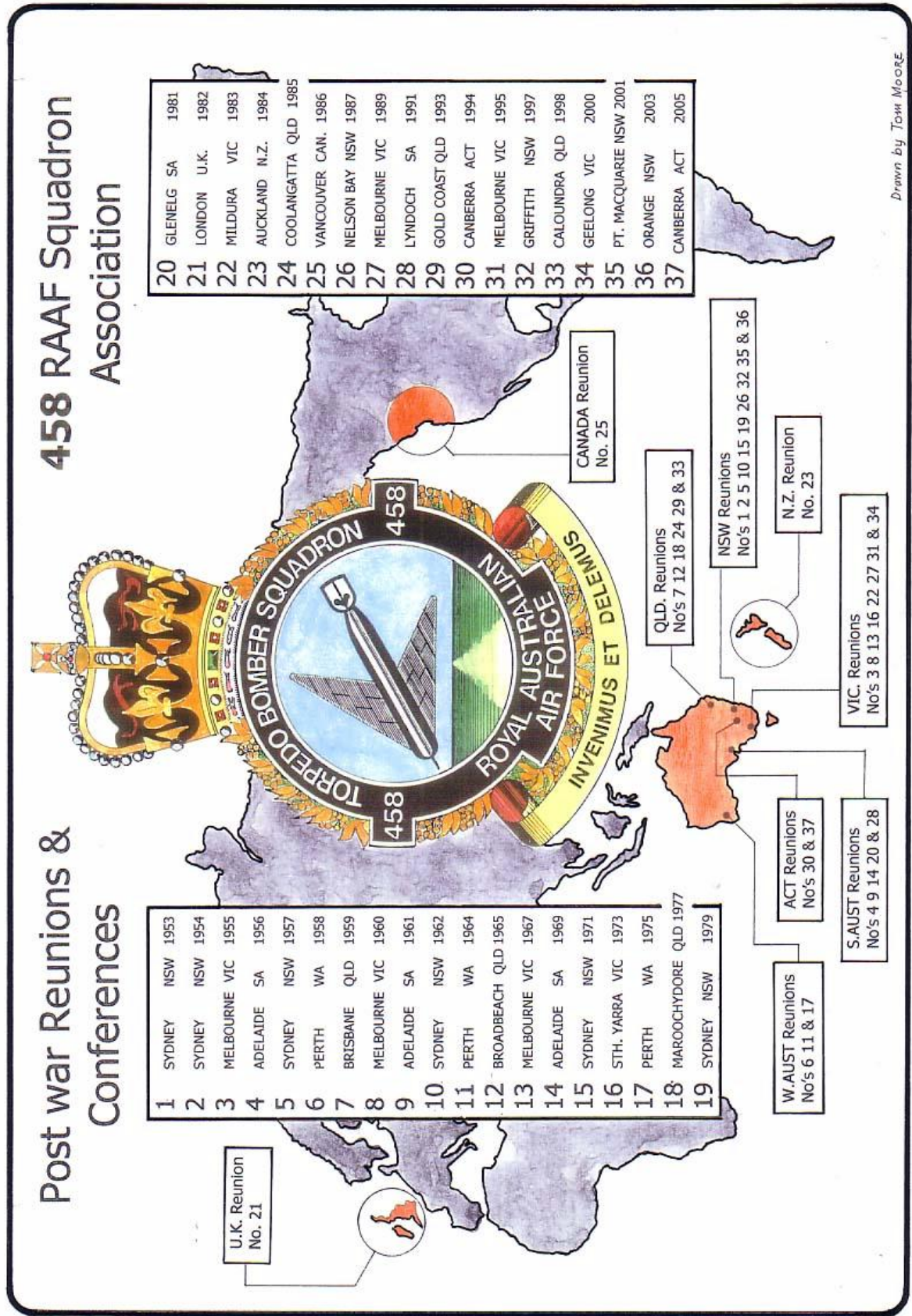
458 Squadron Wellington with Leigh Light down

Historical Records on the Internet

Several of our 458 veterans participated in the Australian Archives Film Unit's project. You may find interviews and photos at <http://www.australiansatwarfilmarchive.gov.au>

The RAAF Association, ACT is planning a website which will incorporate information and photographs from the 458 Final Reunion.

List of 458 Reunions



Final 458 Squadron Reunion - My Special Memories



My special Squadron Reunion Friends

Name	Address	Phone