

CIRCULAR



THE EDITOR.

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, Australia 2001.

YEAR 18, No. 72.

August, 1967.

"SAILOR" WHEATLEY DIES.

458 SQUADRON NEWS deeply regrets to inform readers of the passing of Basil "Sailor" Wheatley. The only details we have come in a letter from Mr. C.W. Kenderdine (of 368 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, Vic.), a friend of his, who wrote

"I have been advised that your friend and mine, Basil Freeth Wheatley passed away in Singapore after an operation and a short illness on July 16th at 2.30 a.m. local time. His wife, who was with him at the time, will be returning to Melbourne. Any correspondence may be sent care of me."

We are confident that to all readers of the Squadron News in recent years, whether they knew Sailor on the Squadron or not, his personality will have been very well known from the letters he wrote to the Squadron from Vietnamese waters, in command of ships plying their trade there. He was a determined, cheerful, hard living, hard playing seaman---and airman. When war came in 1940 he joined the Air Force as an Observer and on 458 flew with "Dougie" Douglas' crew. When that keen and able Belgian and his crew ditched their Wellington at sea by day and were captured by the enemy, "Sailor" and Canadian crewmate Ken McClellan escaped from Fara Sabina P.O.W. Camp. The full story is told on pages 118-120 of the Squadron History, We Find and Destroy. They successfully and with the endurance of considerable hardship made their way back to Allied Lines in a three-week long adventure.

Post-war, "Sailor" married a girl who was to be a good friend and companion to him and returned to the sea. After some years of service as Chief Officer with the Australian National Line, he went north to command ships owned by Singapore Chinese, in the troubled waters of war.

We saw him from time to time in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne; he was always financial with the 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association and was well known to many members of the Sydney Air Force Club.

An adventurous man, of the sort who in earlier centuries might have sailed with Drake or Hawkins, we are sure he enjoyed life and would have wished to die 'in harness'. We shall miss a friendly cheerful loyal mate. To his widow, 458's sincere sympathy---and our wish to keep in touch. Sailor's mate Ken McLellan himself died accidentally about a year ago in Canada.

VICTORIAN VISTA.

from Bill Carr, 36, Harbury St., Reservoir, Vic

A relatively inactive period has transpired since our All-States Reunion efforts. During the past three months the Flight has conducted one special Committee meeting and also welcomed an interstate member and his family to Melbourne.

Sid Bartram in Melbourne.

We were quite surprised to receive a call stating that Sid, his wife and son, were in our city and intending to spend a few days with us. Ron and Joan Russell willingly accepted the responsibility of

Victorian Vista (cont.)

hosting a dinner and evening for Sid and his family. They also extended an invitation to several of the local Flight to "come and have a chat and drink with Sid." Unfortunately the notice was short but those able to accept were Frank and Alma Wilson, Norman and Nancy Cugley, Bill and Rose Carr who with Jack and Dot Fleming, the Bartrams and the Russells were easily able to 'put together' an excellent evening.

Forthcoming Social Evenings.

The Flight Committee has arranged yet another Social Dance to be conducted at the Melbourne Bowling Club on Friday 22nd. September. A charge of \$ 2-00 per head (no profit in this) will be made to approximately cover costs. Country and interstate members who may be down for the Royal Show or passing through our city are asked to particularly note this date.

Social-Dinner combined with Trotting.

We have again been fortunate enough to be allocated an evening at the Trotting. This time the venue has been changed to No.4 Dining Room in the Ledger. The date is Saturday 25th. November, 1967. The cost \$ 9-00 per double which cost includes entrance to trotting, three course meal, all labour and other miscellaneous expenses and all drinks that can be consumed between 6.0 p.m. and 10.15 p.m. Be there--the last occasion was a huge success. Your committee having 300 tickets available, has decided to allocate 100 each to Harry Ashworth's R.S.L. Club, and Ern Laming's Junior Football Club, while retaining 100 for our own use. Let Bill Carr know your requirements (Phones--35-0221 Ext.400; or 46-1941) as promptly as possible. Remember we disposed of 280 tickets last time and only 100 are available this time. Tickets will be disposed of strictly in accordance with the dates of receipt of requests for same.

Battle of Britain Commemorative Service.

A service will be conducted at St. Paul's Church of England, Canterbury on Sunday 10th. September commencing at 7.p.m.. The Guest Speaker will be the Rev. Fred McKay who is coming down from Sydney especially for the Service. Members of our Flight together with other ex-airmen will afterwards be entertained at a special gathering in the adjoining Memorial Parish Hall. St. Paul's is on the corner of Margaret and Church Streets, Canterbury. It is hoped that Chaplain Beyer, R.A.A.F. and Father John McNamara will be present. Please join us for this evening.

Christmas Party.

Your Committee has in mind that the Annual Kiddies' Xmas Party will again be conducted approx. mid-December. No location has been set. More details of this event later.

CYRIL IRWIN TO MARRY.

His many Squadron friends will be happy to hear that N.S.W. Flight Secretary and Squadron Treasurer Cy. Irwin has announced his engagement. He will be married to Miss Elaine Frazer at Burwood Anglican Church on September 16th. Elaine was for some years Private Secretary to the State Secretary of the N.S.W. Division of the Air Force Association. The N.S.W. Committee is giving Cy. a "Bucks' Party Dinner" on September 1st. 458 wishes them great happiness in the years to come.

CROWEATER NEWS.

from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California Street,  
Nailsworth, S.A.

Every Prospect Pleased.

The Prospect branch of the Air Force Association entertained members and their wives at a Games Evening held at the Air Force Association H.Q., Finnis Street, North Adelaide, on 16th. June. It is usually harder to get members to attend social functions in this State than it is to find a quid in the vicinity of the Synagogue but for once we were able to muster a reasonable team and enjoyed a night of indoor bowls followed by a first class supper provided by the ladies. On behalf of 458 Sqdn., Bill Taylor responded to Branch Secretary Sid Frankie's words of welcome. Those present were Jack Riseley and Verna; Syd Bartram and Pat; Ron McRae and Jackie; Norm. Trewartha and Marj; Bill Taylor; and Glad Kelly.

Croweater News (cont.)Who's for Port Augusta?

Jim Perry, looking remarkably fit, informed me during my annual visit to Port Augusta recently that he would like to arrange a weekend visit to Port Augusta for members in the near future. A tour of the Power Station would be the highlight of the trip and accommodation would be arranged for those interested. Jim assured me that the local does not serve roast goanna or wicketty grubs these days;--so, what about it?

Junior Davies the Dark Horse.

Junior looks like being the dark horse in S.A. Flight's stable for the golf at the next All-States Reunion. I was having a yarn with him at Port Pirie a few weeks ago when he casually informed me that he is coaching at the local golf course and plays off a plus 2 handicap. Don't let this upset you, Yank.

Air Force Ball.

This was held by the Prospect branch of the A.F. at Prospect Oval, on 28th. July and several tables near the band were reserved for 458 Sqdn. It is a pity we could not have had more strength, as no stone was left unturned to make the night a success. Those present:--Ron and Jackie McRae, Norm. and Marj. Trewartha, Glad Kelly.

All for now and regards to all,

Lofty.

COLONEL MCKENZIE MARRIES.

We repeat, for members' great interest we are sure, the following from a north-of-England morning paper--for which we are indebted to Bill Waitt.

"A cable from President Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya congratulated an Alnwick girl on her wedding in London. Miss Christina Bridgeman, daughter of Colonel the Hon. Henry G.O. Bridgeman and Mrs. Bridgeman of Fallodon Hall, Alnwick, was married to the Kenya Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Bruce Roy McKenzie. The couple are on their way to Brazil for the honeymoon. They were married at St. Mary's Church, Chelsea.... Among the guests were Mr. Charles Njonjo, Attorney-General of Kenya, Mr. Derek Bryceson, Minister of Agriculture, Tanzania and the acting High Commissioner of Kenya, Mr. L.P. Odera. A close friend of the couple, Colonel David Stirling, was Best Man. The couple met in London about 18 months ago. Miss Bridgeman was working for a business concern with interests in Kenya. Mr. McKenzie is a regular visitor to this country. Since meeting him the bride has visited Kenya.

Mr. McKenzie was born at Richmond, Natal, South Africa. After Agricultural College in Natal, he joined the South African Air Force and served in North Africa, Malta, Corsica, Italy, France and Germany. He reached the rank of Colonel and was awarded the DSO and DFC and bar.

At the age of 46 he went to Kenya and started farming. In 1959 he became Minister for Agriculture.

Colonel Bridgeman, the Bride's father, is the third son of the fourth Earl of Bradford. He was a Gunnery Officer during the 1914-18 War and won the DSO and MC. Formerly of Harehope Hall, Eglington, he acquired Fallodon Hall, an estate of 2,000 acres, including five farms and woodland, in 1945."

458 Squadron's warmest congratulations and good wishes to Colonel Mac. and his bride.

We understand incidentally that the Colonel has recently recovered from a long-lasting indisposition finally diagnosed as a form of malaria.

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The Editor of 458 SQUADRON NEWS expects to go overseas for about a month in October this year. The main purpose is to attend the biennial Assembly of the World Veterans Federation, being held at the Hague, Holland. He also plans to visit Britain briefly.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.From G. Duffey, 38 Steen Street, Rustenburg, Transvaal, Republic of South Africa.

Dear Sir,

You have in the past been sending your Squadron News sheets c/o the above address. Mr. Ralph Duffey is now Registrar-General and Master of the High Court at Maseru, Lesotho (formerly Basutland), Southern Africa and will you please note the change of address. Thanking you,

yours truly,

G. Duffey.

From Bill Waitt, 7, Woodstock Road, Harlow Green, Low Fell, Gateshead, 9, Co. Durham, England.

Dear Peter,

I am enclosing a cutting from our local morning rag about the Colonel's marriage. You will know that Alnwick is in Northumberland and only about thirty miles from Newcastle, hence the news getting into the journal.

I have moved house again and am not far from the A 1. road London to Edinburgh, so if any of the boys come to Blighty they can be sure of a welcome from Gwen and I.

Ian, our only boy, will be 21 in September and is at Manchester University reading Honours History. He did well to get there on an open scholarship. Up to the present he has not decided what he is going to do when he finishes University but when he and his pals get together at our home the talk quite often indicates that emigration is being given very careful consideration. Gwen is not very happy about it but he can go with my blessing. I'm afraid I could write a book about the reasons why. We are paying a very heavy price for the latest experiment in socialism. What the world thinks of our having all-night sitting at Westminster to legalise homosexuality and abortion I shudder to think. How Mr. Wilson gets away with it all I do not know. Everything he has attempted has gone wrong and yet according to the Gallop Poll he is still well ahead of Heath. This of course is not surprising because the Conservatives do not seem to have much to offer by way of an alternative programme.

How on earth did I get on to such a morbid topic. Perhaps because in writing to 458 I remember the days when the name of Britain meant something in the world. Please give my regards to all the boys.

yours aye,

Bill.

From Jack Riseley, 38A, Cooper Place, Beaumont, South Australia.

Dear Peter,

Just a line to advise that I've changed my address to the above--a little late as I missed the last issue of Squadron News.

Sincerely trust that you and all the boys are in the best of health. The chaps that we see down here are all going fine and we are now in the process of making arrangements for the All-States Reunion when S.A. will be the host State. Passed through Port Augusta about a month ago and saw Jim Perry and his wife--had a lovely meal with them. They are both very pro-Squadron. Jim, in fact, has been trying to arrange a weekend visit to his hometown for all the old Squadron boys. I think his invitation will be accepted as soon as the weather becomes a little better.

Once again the best to all and I'm only a phone call away to any of the boys passing through Adelaide and would be delighted to see them.

Best to yourself

Regards, Jack Riseley.

P.S. There's a couple of dollars herewith--might help with the postage or something.

From Les Boyer, 27, Yaldwin Street, Kyneham, Victoria, 3444.

Dear Peter,

Just to let you know I am still in the land of living, but must say, due to sickness in the family plus other complications I was unable to be present at the last Reunion. This I regretted very much; perhaps better luck next time. Am enclosing cheque for the Nominal Roll also a little extra to keep me financial on the "News".

Correspondence (cont.)

Family gradually growing up; son Noel now in the Army on National Service (really relished drill in the initial stages--just like his old man), daughter Maureen is a nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne.

Others of the family still at school. Don't get me wrong; I only had a family not a litter.

Marie and myself are leaving for Mildura to-morrow for a few days break from toil. Hoping to contact Bluey Firth and the old Roger Rodwell there. Remembering last meeting with Rodwell up there--the channel bridges appeared too narrow for a car to negotiate with both backdoors open. Result being an open-air car for some period of time after.

At present I am working among gravel, sand, etc., privately and with the Kyneton Shire. Sold my stock carrying business some two years ago; what with old age and long hours, it was getting a little hard.

Would you kindly remember me to "Smiler" Ravenscroft if he has time, to drop me a line some day.

Cheerio for now, Peter,  
yours sincerely,  
Les. Boyer.

N.S.W. NEWSNOTES.

from Cy. Irwin, 17, Vincent St., Canterbury, N.S.W.

Squadron Emissaries.

Flight President John (Curly) Hosking and Peter Alexander represented 458 at the Annual Meeting and Dinner of 463/7 Squadrons, held at the Air Force Club on July 14th. They were cordially entertained and enjoyed the evening.

458's Annual Picnic.

By the courtesy of Graeme Coombes and the Australian Jockey Club, 458 again had the use of the attractive facilities of the A.J.C.'s outer-Sydney Racecourse. The Picnic was held on Sunday, August 27th. A different area, near the Members Stand, was used this time. After a barbecue lunch, the children competed for many prizes at various races, including orange races (the oranges from Freddie Strom's tree). Dorothy Munkman defeated Maisie Barlow in the final of the Rolling-pin throwing contest. Cy Irwin's fiancée, Elaine Frazer, did not pass the first round of this contest; but there were theories that, at this stage, she was 'Running Dead'.

The Air Force Ball.

With many other ex-airmen and their families, 800-900 strong, 458 will be going to the Air Force Ball, organised by the Air Force Association on September 8th. There will be a Deb. Table adjoining--Mary Beach, daughter of Kemp and Joan will be presented to the Governor Of N.S.W., Sir Roden Cutler, V.C. Melanie, youngest daughter of Peter and Rita Alexander, will be one of the Flower Girls.

Battle for the President's Cup.

Second event of September will be the Annual Contest for the Presidents Golf Cup. This will be on Sunday 10th. September at Park Lea Links, Baulkham Hills. Our old friends, the Armidale Old Boys will be there. Hit-off time 10.00 a.m.

Vale.

N.S.W. Members join in saluting the memory of old comrade, "Sailor" Wheatley.

458 SQUADRON ADDRESSES.WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

E.S. (Sid) Baker	180, Lockhart Street, Como, W.A. 6152;
F. Barnett	154, Victoria Avenue, Nedlands, W.A., 6009;
A. Barras	23, Marradong Street, Mt. Lawley, W.A., 6050;
N. Carpenter	258, Grand Parade, Dianella, W.A., 6062;
B. Clues	179, Kooyong Road, Rivervale, W.A., 6103;
J. Cobb	52, Calais Road, Scarborough, W.A., 6019;
B. Cormack	104, Ventnor Street, Scarborough, W.A., 6019;
A. Dale	122, Eton Street, North Perth, W.A., 6006;

458 W.A. Addresses (cont.)

D. Daniels 13 Wood Street, Inglewood, W.A., 6052;  
 C. Davis 30, Milne Street, Bayswater, W.A., 6053;  
 L. Dickerson 151, Albany Highway, Albany, W.A., 6330;  
 C. Eagle 70, Lockhart Street, Como, W.A., 6152;  
 J. (Sharkey) Edwards 5, Bridge Street, Albany, W.A., 6330;  
 H. Etherton 245, Sixth Street, Geraldton, W.A. 6530;  
 R. Featherby 295, Oceanic Drive, City Beach, W.A., 6015;  
 R. Gannaway 27, Duncan Street, Victoria Park, W.A., 6100;  
 C. Geddes 2, Muriel Street, Leederville, W.A., 6007;  
 A. Glassfurd 78, Third Avenue, Mt. Lawley, W.A., 6050;  
 H.F. Harper 22, Greig Street, Willagee, W.A. 6156;  
 R.A. Hatton 133, Wilson Street, Kalgoorlie, W.A., 6430;  
 S. Hopewell 40, Wickham Road, Attadale, W.A., 6156;  
 N.G. Humphries c/o H.L. Brisbane and Wunderlich Ltd., Lord Street, Perth, 6000;  
 E. Jewell 65, Kirkham Hill Terrace, Maylands, W.A., 6051;  
 W. Kelliher 31, Baldwin Street, Como, W.A., 6152;  
 L. Lockhardt 30, Currong Way, Nollamara, W.A., 6061;  
 S. Long 1, Edward Street, Cottesloe, W.A., 6011;  
 A.G. Lyons 47 Canning Road, Kalamunda, W.A., 6076;  
 A. Main Kyarup, Borden, W.A., 6338;  
 H. Manton Box 4, P.O., Yealering, W.A. 6372;  
 J.R. Miles 22, Highfield Street, Manjinup, W.A., 6258;  
 A. Naylor 12, Celebration Street, Cannington, W.A., 6107;  
 K.L. Nobbs 23, Mundaring Road, Kalamunda, W.A., 6076;  
 B. (Curly) O'Connor 70, Leonard Street, Victoria Park, W.A. 6100;  
 T. Offord 71, Kooyong Road, Rivervale, W.A. 6103;  
 J.L. Palmer "Cranham", Kojonup, W.A., 6395;  
 P. Pigford c/o Perth Fire Station, Perth, W.A., 6000;  
 A. (Bubbles) Power 145, Geldercliffe Street, Scarborough W.A., 6019;  
 J. Quigley 20, Shell Avenue, North Beach, W.A., 6020;  
 E.K. Screigh Avon Terrace, York, W.A., 6302;  
 R. Shearman 130, Railway Crescent, Bayswater, W.A., 6053;  
 Lock Simpson P.O. Box 81, Mt. Hawthorn, W.A., 6016;  
 L. Stewart 344, Crawford Road, Inglewood, W.A., 6052;  
 A. Thomas 286, Salvado Road, Wembley, W.A., 6014;  
 D. Tunney Rainscourt, Kojonup, W.A., 6395;  
 R. Turley 25, Kishorn Road, Applecross, W.A., 6153;  
 L.J. Waldock 207, Vincent Street, North Perth, W.A., 6006;  
 A.J. Wells 43, Brandon Street, South Perth, W.A., 6151;  
 A.G. Wheat 9, Grant Street, Geraldton, W.A. 6530;  
 E. Wheeler Kojonup, W.A., 6395;  
 R.G. Willis c/o A.M.P. Society, Geraldton, W.A., 6530;  
 R.G. Wood 16, Leeds Street, Dianella, W.A., 6062.

If anyone knows a more recent address than given above for any of these members will he please let us know (G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W. 2001) and so help to keep 458ers in touch?

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THE EDITOR (P.C. Alexander)

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001, Aust.

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The Historian,  
 Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney  
 N.S.W. 2001,

Please send me.....copies of the 458 SQUADRON NOMINAL ROLL. I  
 enclose.....@ 27c. each.

Name: .....

Address: .....

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