

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001, AUSTRALIA.

Year 22, No. 85.

November, 1970.

50 c. per annum.

NEW SOUTH NOTES.

from Cy. Irwin, 32, Rose Street, Ashfield, N.S.W., 2131.

Air Force Memorial Church.

All Saints Air Force Memorial Church is situated just outside the gates of the old Bradfield Park R.A.A.F. Station at West Lindfield. It has been officially recognised as an Air Force Memorial Church by the Air Force. The annual Air Force Service was held on the Anniversary of the formation of Bradfield Park Station--November 1st. By a very appropriate coincidence, this was also All Saints Day. The Service was attended by many representatives of Air Force wartime units and their wives as well as the serving Air Force.

Many of the pews have Air Force Squadron crests on them, presented by the units concerned and, among these, there is a 458 pew. This was occupied at the Annual Service by a 458 party, headed by Flight President Eric Munkman and his wife.

The Service was organised by an Air Force Association committee of which 458 member Peter Alexander is Chairman.

Squadron members will find a visit to this Air Force Church of interest. It is situated at 11, Moore Avenue, West Lindfield.

President's Cup Golf Day.

By the time this News reaches members this event will be over. A party of approx. 20 golfers will have hit off. Only half this number will be Squadron golfers, which is a bit disappointing---(what about next year, fellers?)

Presidents and Secretaries Dinner.

The Annual Dinner for the office-bearers of A.F.A. branches in N.S.W. was held on the 18th. November at the Air Force Club. Fred. Strom and Peter Alexander represented 458. The Dinner enabled the branch representatives to meet the new State President, Mr. Barry Brooke (who was a Wellington Observer); and to exchange views.

Melbourne Cup Sweep.

Our Cup Sweep was held once more this year and results were:

- 1st. Dick Watson---with Baghdad Note,
- 2nd. Allan Smith---with Vansittart,
- 3rd. Phyl. Gough---with Clear Prince.

Congratulations to the winners and a repeat of thanks to the Squadron members who supported, already conveyed through the result advices.

New South Notes (cont.)

Peter Returns.

Peter Alexander has returned from an overseas trip and it is good to have him back in the fold. As a Council Member, he represented at the recent General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation in Vienna. I will not attempt to outline further; no doubt, Peter will do this elsewhere in this issue.

N.S.W. Flight President.

Eric Munkman is the new Flight President and has taken over the reins following the death of Kemp Beach. Eric is well-known in all States. We are sure he will well carry out the important duties of Flight President. C.I.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Henry Etherton, 15, Chaffers St., Morley, W.A., 6062.

Air Force Week.

Air Force Week came and went with the usual round of events. The wreath-laying was attended by Bill and Joan Clues and my wife and self, with Bill laying the wreath. Earlier in the week, the Air Force Association held a Social gathering and as neither Bill nor I could attend, our wives attended on our behalf.

Passing of a Friend.

Since last writing we have lost one of our stalwarts---Mrs. Ted (Shorty) Ellis: I was pleased to see that several Squadron members went along to the funeral. Although Ted is only an associate member, a lot of our squadron members ought to follow his example of loyal support.

Butch Back from Shearing 'em.

Butch Power is back from the bush. He went up to his son-in-law's to help with the shearing. I asked him if he learned any new swear words, while working with the sheep, and he claims that he taught them a few. He reckons he knows every sheep by its first name. However he is looking a lot better so it must have done him some good.

Perry---Second generation.

We had a surprise visit from John Perry and his wife a few weeks ago (he is Jim Perry's son, from Port Augusta). They were only just passing through on a tour of the State but it was good to see them. Jim is still doing joinery and he and Joy are keeping well.

At Diamond Lil's.

We tried to get the Squadron boys out for the night with a visit to Diamond Lil's Wild West Night Club. Once again, it was the usual few that turned up; twelve to be exact, and this included the women as well. Had we been able to get 20 or more, Squadron funds would have benefitted by about \$1-00 per head. It was a good night out and I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Sick List.

Anyone who knows Gordon Jones will be sorry to hear that he is in the Royal Perth Hospital. He has had a nervous breakdown and is very sick at the minute. We wish him a speedy recovery. Mrs. Chessell is also very sick and Chess. is unable to leave her. We trust she is soon on the road to recovery too.

All the best to 458ers.

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CROWEATER NEWS.

From Lofty Trewartha, 60, California Street, Nailsworth, S.A., 5083.

Perth.

A city synonymous with progress. Man, you've got to see those freeways and new buildings to realise what progress has taken place in the sandgroper world. Marj. and I were home from the Jubilee Reunion

Croweater News (cont.)

about a month when we decided to hit the road again and have another look at the Golden West. Got held up on Nullabor by a couple of Old Aussies who wanted biscuits and beer:---and, for good measure, blew a tyre.

Jim and Lucy Palmer

Down at Kojanup they were in the middle of a big redecorating job; but, maaleesh, out went the welcome mat.

Jack and Laurel Parkin

Were sitting down to dinner with the family when we blew in; but what better time to arrive than at Munga time. Jack and I killed a few while we talked over old times and about midnight we decided to shut the hangar doors. By the way, you all remember Margie Jackson; well, there is another flyer on the way---Mary Parkin.

Len and Val Stewart

In the midst of preparing for son Graham's wedding, still found time to take us to a real swinging show at the 'Charles' First time I have ever seen one swinging one way and the other one swinging the other way.

Curly O'Connor

Bill is still with the P.M.G. Dept. but has been home convalescing as the result of a fall from a ladder. Huck told me the apprentice holding the ladder let go to have a shufti at a bint with a mini skirt on. I bet the air was blue in that district.

I fell for the three-card trick on the way home and stopped a gibbe through the windscreen. You can't win them all.

Jack Riseley

Jack is back in Daws Road Hospital with a recurrence of his old eye complaint. A few of the boys called in to see him on November 9th, which also happened to be Jack's birthday. Those present were Jack Bax, Ron Badger, John Carey, Arn. Scholar, Bruce Thomas and Bert Ravenscroft.

Pat Enright

Has been in Adelaide Hospital where he had a big operation on his gall bladder, but is now convalescing at 39 Koongarra Avenue, Magill. We missed seeing Pat in hospital but a few of the boys have been out to see him since.

Will take the opportunity to wish everyone the compliments of the season.

Lofty.

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VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT.

from Ian Alison, 10A Black Street,
Mont Albert, Victoria.

Things have moved slowly since the last issue of the Squadron News but the tempo has quickened recently---perhaps the festive feeling is catching up with us.

Committee Changes.

Vic. Flight held a committee meeting on Tuesday, 17th. November. At this we were informed that Bill Carr desired to resign from his post of Sec/Treas. of the Vic. Flight, owing to lack of available time due to greatly increased pressure at work. This was accepted by the committee with regret as they all realise the wonderful job he has done in the past.

Frank (Shorty) Wilson, who is no stranger to the position, has generously agreed to carry on in Bill's stead.

Norm. Cugley, unfortunately, has had a spell in hospital with a possible heart complaint but I believe he's at home again although not back at work. I know everyone will join with Vic. Flight in wishing Norm. well and a very speedy recovery.

Victorian Viewpoint (cont.)

Xmas Party.

Once again we will be having our Childrens' Xmas Party on December 6th and we know all our regulars will be there in force but we certainly would like to see all Vic.458ers and friends along.

Grandfather Harry.

A well known figure here in Victoria, in the person of Harry Ashworth, has, for the first time become a grandfather. June, who was always a considerate daughter, had her baby on Saturday morning (Nov.7th) so as not to interfere with pennant bowls in the afternoon---I believe Harry bowled a magnificent game that Sat! By the way, it was a boy.

Sam in full Flight.

It was great to see Sam Barlow down for the Melb.Cup Week. We trust the Barlows returned to Sydney with pockets full. They were seen, at one stage, at the Melb.Bowling Club buying a starter at the Calcutta Auction on Cup Eve---but I doubt if this helped said pockets !

In closing, we of Vic.Flight wish all 458 members, together with their families, a wonderful Xmas, and just as wonderful a New Year.

There are a lot of members down here looking forward to seeing you all at the next All-States Reunion in Sydney, 1971.

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NOTES FROM THE NORTH.

from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q.

Again, we of Q.Flight must thank our many contributors to our annual Melbourne Cup sweep. Cliff.Mannion's family drew Baghdad Note; V.F.Wilson, fellow-toiler with Chas.Richardson, drew Vansittart; while Evelyn Lewis drew the third horse, Clear Prince.

About Members.

Bernie Hughes is now at Emerald with the State Wheat Board. Erle Hetherington was down in Brisbane for one day from Cairns. Jim Plunkett is now a T.P.I.; says he doesn't get round much any more. Eric Lloyd has been rather ill but has bounced back brighter than ever. However, the cost is no grog and no cigarettes. Rather embarrassing now that he is President of the Gaythorne R.S.L.Club. Chas.Richardson retires next February. Looking forward to it, he says. We have our doubts. Chas.is too energetic at 60 to want to slow down.

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BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid.Thompsett, 119, George Lane, Lewisham, London.

I seem to have neglected writing to you recently but I have had quite a year. Four weddings in the family, including my own daughter's, my annual holidays to Jugoslavia, and am now in the process of changing houses. I am not going too far away.....

We had the pleasure of seeing Arthur Jollow and his wife when they arrived here some time ago, and we had a good chinwag. Sent you a photograph of our Tree at Holme-on-Spalding Moor by Arthur so hope it arrived O.K.

To-morrow I take my son to Biggin Hill to go before the Selection Board as he hopes to go for Pilot.

Sorry I haven't much to tell you but news items are very scarce. However, our usual chaps keep in touch with me from time to time.

All for now, Sid.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Jim Palmer, Box 102, Koionup, Western Australia, 6395.

Dear Peter,

....I wanted to comment on the excellent tape-recording of the Padres' addresses at the Jubilee Reunion. Jim Holliday said he would inquire into the possibility of having copies made for those interested, as well as each Flight. If it is possible, I thoroughly recommend all members, wives and friends to attend.

On the way over to the Jubilee Reunion at Broadbeach I looked up Jim Perry in Port Augusta, Col. Draysey in Adelaide, Bob Pollock in Cobram and rang Jock McGowen in Sydney. On leaving Broadbeach we called on Jim McKay in Brisbane, Maurice Gibson in Toowoomba, Noel Griffith and Clif. Tilloch in Sydney. Owing to a late arrival and short stay in Melbourne, I was only able to contact Fred. Ray by telephone. Called in on Cuthy, John Excell and a repeat performance with Col. Draysey and Jim Perry to pass on the news of a wonderful Reunion.

Our last call was on one of the 2nd generation 458 at Esperance, Mrs. Faulds, Wally Archbold's daughter. It seems that I have rambled on a long time, but, of course, there is plenty to ramble about in a trip like that; 7,354 miles in thirty days. So wonderful to see so many good friends after so many years and in most cases to meet their wives and families.....

Kindest regards, Jim Palmer.

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From Howard Prout, 215, Jamison Street, Broken Hill South, N.S.W.

Dear Secretary,

.....Reading your News-Sheet shews me what a mighty job you boys are doing. I only wish I lived nearer to Sydney and was about 20 years younger. I am retired on the war pension; sometimes I'm fair and other times not so good; still one must not complain after all I'm 68 years of age.

I would like to meet all the boys I was with, particularly Erle Hetherington, and would like to have his address, also Ron Hills, I was running the motors the night he got knocked, and Johnny Mills. If ever I get the chance to get up that way I would like to call in on them.

In closing I would like to be remembered to all the boys, and, believe me I look forward to Squadron News. Keep the good work up.
Sincerely, Howard Prout.

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From Hensell (Sonja) Hemy, 4, Melvin Avenue, Thornlie, W.A., 6108.

Dear Peter,

Recently when I was in hospital I met one of the sisters, whose twin brother C.R. Thurston was lost off the coast of Corsica when he was with 458 Squadron. I lent her my copy of "We Find and Destroy" and she is most anxious to obtain a copy, even a second-hand one for herself. I have tried all sources in W.A. and cannot lay my hands on one, so am wondering if you can help me in locating a copy.

After the way the sisters looked after me in hospital I am prepared to pay above the original cost to get a copy to give her. Would you please do your best to get one for me?

Regards, G.H.S. (Sonja) Hemy.

Editor:--The Sqdn. History has been long out of print. If any member can help Sonja, will he please write direct to him.

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From Les Cook, St. Mary's Cottage, Roecliffe, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, YO5 9LY, England.

Dear Peter, I am prompted to write a few lines early enough this year to wish you

Correspondence (cont.) all the very best for the coming Christmas and New Year.
I cannot send the usual airletter as I wish to enclose a newspaper cutting of a few weeks ago...

(Editor: The cutting gives account of a meeting of 50 survivors of a German (U Boat who invited the R.A.F. Crew of the Wellington which sank them to be their guests at a Reunion in the Rhineland.)

it made quite interesting reading--and then I realised there in the picture is Charlie Ford who came to 458 for his second tour..he was one of the "Big Dig's Little Digs" at Gibraltar. And what about the chap next to Charlie--- Len Neale of Melbourne--surely that face is familiar. His name doesn't appear in the Squadron Nominal Roll, but I can't find mention of Charlie Ford, either!

The last issue of the News reminds me that 25 years have passed since we broke up at Gib. Apart from the tree-planting ceremony at Holme-on-Spalding Moor, I have been unable to attend any Reunions but I still keep hoping the day will come. I am now manager of the local branch of the Midland Bank and we now enjoy a 5 day week! Our two boys (19 and 15) are growing up and one might expect the opportunity to arise some day soon. However we suffered a severe shock about a month ago when we learned after my wife had spent some weeks in hospital that she has irreparable kidney damage. Since that it has been decided that she is lucky enough to be considered suitable for an artificial kidney unit--at home. It means extending the kitchen and building a new bedroom over the extension... We shall both have to undergo a period of training. It will mean that for three nights a week she will have to spend 10 hours coupled to the machine. As for the future, a transplant, we hope...

Unfortunately all the dashing to and fro has had its effect on me and I am on the sicklist with 'tummy trouble' awaiting an X ray. I am sure it is nerves--but knowing what it is doesn't seem to cure it!

(Editor: We hope to continue Les Cook's letter in the next issue. Unfortunately space and, still more, time limitations are forcing us to curtail or defer details of several interesting letters and news items in this issue.)

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From Bruce McKenzie, Knowle, Cranleigh, Surrey, England.

Dear Peter,

I was very pleased to get your letter the other day. I have had to resign from the Kenyan Government--as you rightly predicted because of health reasons. I am at the moment going through a series of treatments under the care of the R.A.F. Central Medical Establishment who maintain they will have me as good as new in six months. We are at this moment contemplating doing a trip to distant parts which could quite easily include Australia later in the year, so I will keep you informed.

I am still a member of Parliament and in fact we are going out to Kenya for Christmas and once I am better I hope I will be spending as much time in Kenya as I will be in England, especially during the English winter period.

Meanwhile, Kind regards to all my friends out in your part of the world and hoping to see you in 1971.

yours aye, Bruce.

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From Bill Scott, Rayang Teachers College, Binatang, Sarawak.

I received your address as "Keeper of the 458 Squadron Records" from Ron Verity in New Zealand to which green and pleasant land I shall be returning next December. But my purpose in writing is to find out the whereabouts of cobbles with whom I served on the Squadron during most of 1944--especially those living in Sydney.

1. W.E. Turier;
2. Ron Gould;
3. Dick Hatton;
4. Bill Kelleher;
5. "Snow" Horton.

I served as a Navigator on the Squadron; crewed up at Limavady with Don Anderson, who was later killed in ditching. Served in Bone, Corsica, Foggia, Falconara--Jack Dowling was C.O... With best wishes to 458' from Bill Scott.