ANZAC DAY

MESSAGE FROM THE SQUADRON PRESIDENT (Ern. Laming)

Gentlemen—What is Anzac Day?

In this our squadron we regard it as the day above all days when we remember those who did not return to receive the thanks of our nation.

It is the day when we remember those who slept where they were left—amid the holly scrub in the valleys and on the ridges of Gallipoli and on the rugged terraced hills of Palestine, and in the beautiful cemeteries of France.

It is the day when we remember those who lie asleep beneath the shimmering haze of the Libyan Desert—at Bardia, Derne, Tobruk, and amid the mountain passes and olive groves of Greece and Crete; and on the snow-capped hills of Syria.

We remember too those who lie buried in the rank jungles of Malaya and New Guinea, and in the distant isles of the Pacific.

We also remember those who lie in unknown resting places in almost every land; and those gallant men whose graves are the never-ending sea.

Especially do we remember those who died as prisoners-of-war, remote from their homeland and from the comforting presence of their own kith and kin.

We recall too those staunch friends who fought alongside our men on their first Anzac Day—men of New Zealand, who helped to create the name ANZAC.

We cherish the memory of all those who gave their lives in the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force; and we think, too, of all the men and women who paid the supreme sacrifice in order that the lights of freedom and humanity might continue to shine.

May they all rest proudly in the knowledge of their achievement, and may we and our successors in that heritage be worthy of their sacrifice.

For they shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we shall remember them.

LIST WE FORGET.
NEW SOUTH NOTES.

Much to relate since the last N.S.W. Notes.

Anzac Day in Sydney.

A wreath-lying ceremony took place on Anzac Eve. A Squadron party of twelve or so assembled at 8 p.m. to honour the squadron dead, and Flight President Eric Munkman placed a remembrance wreath on the Cenotaph. Afterwards, at a short and impressive ceremony a sheaf of flowers was placed in the Memorial Room in the Air Force Association Chapel.

On Anzac Day, squadron members (about 30 strong) marched with the Air Force contingent. The Reunion, with lunch and trappings, was held, as usual, at the Great Southern Hotel, George Street. The Rollcall—

Eric Munkman
Noel Spurling
Tom Ridgeway
Peter Alexander
At the March
Joe Pratt.

Henry Bryant
Pop Lewis-Hughes
Bill Astley
Jack Beaven
Fred Strom

Frank Ward
Cy Irwin
Allen Walker
John McPhee
Gordon Belcher

Sam Barlow
Bob Miller
Jack Preston
John Hosking
Steve Gilkes

Bill McBride
Keith Cousins
Jack Hoscott
Jack McGovern
Frenk Keith

During the afternoon a brief and at all times coherent annual meeting was conducted by Flight President Eric Munkman. A message was conveyed to members from Squadron President Env. Laming. Reports were presented, and an election of officers for 1972-3 resulted—

Flight President: Eric Munkman
Vice Presidents: Sam Barlow, Stuart Ricketts,
Treasurer: Frank Ward,
Secretary: Cy Irwin—plus a Committee of ten.

Past Functions.

A Squadron party of 14 attended a very pleasant Dinner-Dance evening on 25th March to help celebrate with our St. George branch friends their 21st birthday. It was held at the Air Force Memorial Club, Rockdale.

On 17th March, the Flight was represented at another birthday celebration—at the Crest Hotel, Kings Cross, for the 51st birthday of the R.A.A.F.

And yet another dinner, on 14th April, a function for the Air Force Association Branch Presidents and Secretaries. We were represented.

Some General News Items.

Stuart Ricketts, on leave from the Anzactime functions, celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary with a trip to Cooma and the Snowy Mountains. Squadron congratulations to Stuart and Iris.

The Air Force Association State Assembly will shortly be held at Tamra, on the weekend of June 10th-11th. Any squadron member (and wife) wishing to participate will be very welcome and assured of an enjoyable weekend.

Passing of Ron Hills. The Flights's deep sympathy to Nancy Hills, and Ron's children, on the passing of our old squadron mate, Ron Hills. Ron, of course, suffered a major mishap when in the Air Force, and has been in poor health for some time. He died after some time in the Repatriation Hospital, Concord. 458 attended his funeral service. We shall miss him.

Regards to Flight members in other States from N.S.W. Flight. C.P.I.

NOTE FROM THE N.S.W. PRESIDENT TO N.S.W. MEMBERS. I have arrived home from yet another Anzac Day and a 458 Squadron gathering rather a disappointed man. On looking over our attendance, which was far below average one begins to think—what is wrong with these fellows who we considered we knew so well—surely that comradeship still exists today!
From the N.S.W. President (cont.)

I realise we have all taken our different directions in life since those days but surely we are not selfish enough not to be able to give at least one day of 365 away just to be with those few who helped us in the years then still to come.

In all sincerity, I say to you--give it a thought and help to rekindle that camaraderie and understanding which existed in those days of patriotism.

Eric Muskham.

VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT... from Jim, Times, 59, Frank Street, Vermont, 3133.

On Anzac Day, Anzac Day saw 32 in attendance at the March and Reunion at Harry Ashworth's. Catering was in the capable hands of Harry and Ian Allison; they did a great job.

Election of officers resulted as follows:

Flight President; Bob Mckinna Tel. 286-6442
Senior Vice President; Ron Russell Tel. Box 3212
Junior Vice President; Ian Allison Tel. 86-58-97

Others in attendance were Ron, Yates, T. Wishart, H. Young, B. Smith, A. Green, G. Singe, R. Russ, Connolly, T. Tom, Prime, D. Johnson, T. Kennedy, L. Wurr, C. Bradshaw, Col. Hutchinson.

The raffle for a 12" portable T.V. was drawn and won by Robyn Keddo, daughter of George and Thelma of Surrum Beat.

Our Ladies Committee, under the presidency of Joan Russell, is doing a sterling job as far as fund-raising is concerned for the All-States Reunion next year.

Personal Para.

Phil, Muskham is recovering slowly after a major operation; recover soon, Phil, as we have some good do's coming up.

Eun Laming has received an Award of Merit going for ten years good service with the Corps of Commissioners.

Elsie Green is also recovering from a serious operation. Get well soon, Elsie.

Harry Ashworth and Ian Allison will be in Sydney over Queen's Birthday weekend. Staying at Kitch Cross Hotel, Kings Cross, for bowls events.

Bob and Beatrice Mckinna are holidaying in Western Australia, visiting their daughter Jill and her husband.

Don, Johnson has been promoted to Branch Manager, of Motor Spares, in Mildura--Good luck, Don.

Lisle Wurr was discharged from the Repat, Hospital, Heidelberg, where he has been a patient for some weeks.

We are already in the process of drawing up a preliminary programme for the All-States Reunion next year, and can promise great entertainment for everyone who attends.

yours, Jim, Times.

Quiet Reunion.

It was a quiet reunion, probably because it was a working day following. Very few marched. Indeed, it was our smallest ever. However, some of our regulars had very good reasons. Still it was a wonderful day. Not a cloud in the sky; and the kids were wonderful. But we've got to do something about that non-existent band.

At the Reunion, afterwards, Don, Brandon was re-elected President; Jack Lewis again as Treasurer; yours truly was unable to find anyone to take up his pen. Jack Lewis provided the most elegant vittles in a most beautiful fashion. Provide Jack, we call him. Don, President Past and Present, and our most handsome and youngest grandfather, brought forth our spirits. Charles Warren, guardian of the glasses, arrived well in time to hand us
G. Flight News (cont.) refreshment as we puffed our way in. Afterwards there was the traditional game of poker. Who won? I doubt if anyone knows.

Where did we hold it? The Army came to our rescue. No.3 Casualty Clearing Station, Water Street, one of our most pleasant nights - Central, quiet, good parking, nice people - and as clean as a whistle.

We missed Johnnie this year. Son, Nigel, in the school cadets, and Dad has a part to play too. The Old Coast has never seen such a display of precision and polish.

The Sick List - It's been hospital for two of our stalwarts. Gordon Pauls first. A painful affair, and a little shorter now in the digestive area. Fitter than ever though. Nothing to worry about, says Gordon. Charles Warren was the other. Come unstuck somewhere, so the stitch in time was needed. Waited until he retired though. Couldn't let the customers down. Looks fine in fact, so fit, plus his remarks about nuns, we wonder.

But we are pleased. Neither Gordon nor Chas. said a word about their going to hospital. We never knew until they came out. Of course Gordon flits off here and there so if he's not around we don't wonder. Chas. did a cunning one. Said he was going on a trip. That really fooled us. Just think of the lovely time we missed seeing them in hospital, slipping them a medicine bottle - and then adjourning to the nearest local afterwards.

Fishy Story. Some people have enthusiasm, particularly fishermen. Do you know where Bert Garland's going for a quiet fish? Port Douglas. Look that up in your atlas!

Bill Snowden couldn't make the march but sent his usual apologies in his usual magnificient handwriting. I'm thinking of entering it in the local show, and the prize I collect I'll send to Legacy.

Crowwater News.

From Lofty Trewartha, 60, California Street, Nailsworth, 5063.

Anzac Day. As if to make amends for the wettest Anzac Day ever recorded, the March this year was carried out in brilliant sunshine with weather as near perfect as possible. Sid. Bertram led the Squadron, and although the unlockers were small in numbers, I feel it was one of the best marches I have ever participated in.

The Reunion as usual was held in the bar at the rear of the Talbot Hotel but I am afraid I cannot comment on this part of the celebration as I saw the light and went bowling.

Marching were:

Sid. Bertram  Harry Bertram  Frank Hall  Keith Foreman  Lofty Trewartha  
Brian Woodhead  Arm. Scholar  Paul Hingley  Ken. Miller  John Carey  Gasf. Egan
Bruce Thomas  Reg. Priest  Mel. Priest  Bert Oliver  Jack Riseley  Rn. Badger
Ted. Croxton  Tim O'Reilly  Diver Dunn

Safari Pending. Preparations are going ahead at the Trewartha Camp for a safari north. We hope to leave Adelaide on 1st July and call at the Alice, Darwin, Wyndham, Broome, Darwin, and Perth.

That's Life, Or the Gospel According to St. Trewartha.

It seems that when the creator of man was making the world he called man aside and bestowed upon him 20 years of sex life. Man was horrified - only 20 years! But the creator did not budge. That is all he would grant him.

Then he called the monkey and gave him 20 years. "But I don't need 20 years, 10 is plenty" said the monkey.

Men spoke up and said "Can I have the other 10 years?" The monkey agreed.

Then the creator called the lion and gave him 20 years. The lion said he only needed 10.
S. Trewartho (cont.) Again, the man asked, "Don't I have the other ten?" "Of course," roared the lion.

Then came the donkey. He was given twenty years and like the others said 10 was all he needed. Again men asked for and received the extra 10.

This explains why man has 20 years of normal sex life, 10 years of monkeying about, 10 years of lion about it, and 10 years of making an ass of himself. Lefty.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Robin Knight, P.O.Box 346, Durban, Natal, Republic of South Africa.

Dear Peter,

Our son Roland has just arrived to stay with us for a short time after his sojourn in Australia. He has greatly enjoyed his time there and I am grateful to all my old friends who have entertained him and made him welcome.......... My wife and I have now left Kenya for good and we trying our luck here in South Africa. A hard decision to have to make after all our years in East Africa but forced upon us by the growing determination up there to get rid of all white faces, and also by the growing chaos and anarchy in those countries.

I had a letter from Bill Taylor the other day. I gather he's off for a protracted visit to Europe.

I shall be grateful if you will arrange for the 458 Squadron News to be addressed as above until further notice.

Roland moves on to Europe and eventually Ethiopia in two weeks time but it has been wonderful to see him again after 2½ years.

Greetings to you all, yours as ever, Robin Knight.

From "Dusty" Miller, 27, Boonah Street, Griffith, N.S.W., 2680.

Dear Secretary,

Herewith cheque to cover News and Membership--the balance a donation.

I appreciate the efforts of committee members in all States who keep '458 alive, and particularly of you in Sydney who keep the "News" up to us.

All is well with me. My eldest daughter lives in Melbourne with her husband and two children--we are the usual proud grandparents! Our eldest son, Peter, commenced a Food Technology course at Hawkesbury this year. This leaves Wendy, (Sixth Form), and Paul (Fourth Form) still at home.

I have just returned from a week's fishing trip to Burrinjuck Dam--most enjoyable--but was disappointed to find that Robin Knight's son, Roland, had rung from Wagga in my absence. He intended coming over to Griffith to see us. Perhaps Bert Thompson saw him in Sydney (Editor: Yes).

My very best regards to you, Peter, and members of your committee.

Sincerely, Ron (Dusty)

EXTRACT from the Ballarat COURIER.

Missionary Aviation Fellowship engineer, Mr. Roland Knight, has completed his training with M.A.F.-Air Services Pty Ltd., Ballarat, and will be taking up the position of British MAF engineer in Ethiopia in May.

Mr. Knight was farewelled at a valedictory church service arranged jointly by the Wondouree Baptist Church and MAF-Air.

After gaining an engineering degree at Cambridge University, Mr. Knight came to Australia
From The Courier (con'd) to gain light aircraft maintenance experience, and to qualify as a licensed engineer.

Prior to the beginning of his service in Ethiopia, Mr. Knight plans to visit his parents in South Africa and return to England for brief orientation training with British M.A.F.

CARD FROM BILL TAYLOR.

FALCONARA. A note to let you know that we found our old stepping ground much as we left it. Still an Army Barracks. Was shown over the whole place after stilling years, that we were possible spies. Fogha and Ancora full of huge flats and more unrecognizable. Will give you full details later. Bill.

OBITUARIES. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

RON HILLS.

Ron, we understand, was born in the Wheatbelt area of New South Wales. He grew up in the country and in the early days rose to prominence as a cyclist. He was in fact N.S.W. Amateur Cycling Champion. With the War, he joined the Air Force and in due time 458 Squadron as a pilot. Quiet, capable and popular, he reached N.C.O. rank. He met a major accident while in North Africa, being hit across the head and face by a moving propeller. Lucky indeed to survive and of course necessarily suffering some consequences. He rebuilt his life back in Australia, in the Coffs Harbour area and later back in Sydney. Ron was twice married and leaves two families. To Nancy and to Ron's children, our sincere sympathy.

GEORGE GRUBB.

We have heard with great regret recently of the sudden passing of another old mate, George Grubb, in Launceston, Tasmania. We hope to receive further details."Geooff was an electrician with 458 for much of his long wartime career. In the post-war, he worked with the Tasmanian Hydro-electric Authority. We shall miss him.

ERIC MAHON. Eric Mahon, who also lived in Launceston, in the retailing business in his post-war years, was a "Rag" on the Squadron and worked in the Stores. He died recently, after a long illness in Launceston. Harold Stevens tells us that Eric's widow is seeking Repat acceptance of Eric's abdominal cancer as war-caused. It will greatly help if anyone who travelled with Eric on the U.S.S. Grant Mitchell from Australia and recalls Eric's being hospitalised in Bombay about October 7th, 1944 with acute dysentery, will supply evidence, including a Statutory Declaration if possible, to that effect. Please send any evidence to Harold Stevens, whose address is 194, Almanalee Road, Newnham, Tasmania, 7250.

Our warm sympathy to Eric's family in their bereavement. We too shall miss him.

EDITORIAL.

To the words of admonition addressed by the N.S.W. Flight President, earlier in this issue, to his N.S.W. troops (and perhaps applicable to a wider 458 audience) we would only add this. Those 458 ers who retain a Squadron interest but keep deferring to "Later On" coming to a 458 Do -- particularly Anzac Day -- should remember something. That is -- it is later than you think. If they procrastinate for too long, the old mates they want to see, may not be there. Certainly some will have fallen by the wayside. Over a quarter of a century of years have passed and people have married, built homes, raised families, carved out careers. Not a few of them are now grandparents. A great source of warm friendship exists among 458ers for their old associates. But time passes. Let's be having you.

Box 5289, C.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.