SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT:  Mick Mason (U.K.)  
SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS:  Clive Wyman (Q.)  
Stan Tarczynski (Vic)
SQUADRON TREASURER: Peter Alexander (NSW)  
SQUADRON SECRETARY: Greame Coombes (NSW)

EDITOR of 458 Squadron News: Peter Alexander (Sydney 419 5C24).

FLIGHT CORRESPONDENTS:

N.S.W.  Don. Bitmead, 11, Scarborough Street, Monterey, N.S.W., 2217;
Victoria  Stan. Tarczynski, 1946, Malvern Rd., East Malvern, Vic., 3145;
South Australia  Geoff. E. pau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, S.A., 5064;
Western Australia  Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210;
Queensland  Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q., 4121;

RELAXED, HAPPY, ENJOYABLE ALL-STATES REUNION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Elsewhere in this issue are all the details of the 20th All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron. It attracted an excellent attendance from all mainland States.  

SQUADRON CONFERENCE MEETS.

The gathering of 458 at an ALL-STATES reunion enables a full meeting of the Squadron Conference--458's top level policy body. Two delegates attend from each Flight together with the Squadron Officers. Delegates at the Adelaide meeting were:

Squadron President:  Ian Jewell,
Squadron Vice President: Clive Wyman
Squadron Treasurer: Peter Alexander
Squadron Secretary: Greame Coombes

Queensland:  Jim. Holliday and Jack Baxter,
N.S.W.:  Eric Munkman and Don. Bitmead,
Victoria:  Stan Tarczynski and Roger Rodwell,
South Australia:  Jack Riseley and John Corey,
Western Australia:  Ted. Jewell and Bill Clues,
United Kingdom:  Stan. Longhurst (proxy).

Conference heard reports on the progress of each Flight. It heard that Squadron Council had operated profitably in the past two years. It had continued publication of the Squadron News and sales of the Squadron History and had organised new wall plaques.

Squadron Conference Meets (cont.) and it elected the new Squadron Officers. They are:

Squadron President: Mick Mason (U.K.)
Sqn. Vice Presidents: Clive Wyman (Qld),
                   Stan. Tarczynski (Vic)
Squadron Treasurer: Peter Alexander (NSW),
Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (N.S.W.),

Next meeting of the Conference will be in London in April 1982. At that, Mick Mason, as the first UK Flight member to hold the Squadron Presidency, will take the Chair.

The Adelaide Conference recorded its thanks to retiring Squadron President, Ian Showell, for his magnificent support for 458 during his period of office. It also thanked S.A. Flight for the organisation of the Conference.

***************

CROWNEATERS COMMENTARY.

News from S.A. Flight, from Geoff, Esau.

Like the roving breezes, the Adelaide All-States Reunion has come and gone, and I hope my own enjoyment was reflected by all who participated. The roll-call was very encouraging, consisting, by States, of:

N.S.W.
Peter Alexander
Val and Doris Archbold
Sam and Meisie Barlow
Don and Bev. Bittmed
Ross and Pat Burgess
Lefty and Zelma Chalmers
Bill Chapman
Graeme and Dulcie Coombes
Colin and Ineice Corten
Yvonne Crompton
Arthur and Jess Jellow
Eric and Dorothy Munkman
Stuart and Iris Ricketts
Fred Stroh
Bob and Betty Bruce

Queensland.
Jack and Kitty Baxter
Gordon and Peg Cuthbertson
Jim Holliday
Bernie Hughes
Clive Wyman

Western Australia.
Bill and Joan Clues
Tim and Lil Dale
Charlie and Elizabeth Davies
Harry and Vera Etherton
Tom and Betty Howard
Ted and Elsie Jewell
Peter and Doreen McCarthy
Jim and Lucy Palmer
Ray and Marg Turley

Victoria.
Vin and Nancy Clohesy
David and Betty Evans
Jack and Dot Fleming
Bill and Ann Hurford
Colin Hutchinson
Don Johnson
Ted Kennedy
Ern. Laming
Jean Mitchell
Roger and June Rodwell
Mick Singe
Emmy Snell
Stan. Tarczynski
Shorty Wilson

A.C.T.
Col. Fareday

South Australia.
Eric and Mattie Baker
Sid and Pat Bertram
John and Pat Carey
Ted and Frieda Crofton
Bill and Pat Cribb
Pat and Joyce Enright
Geoff and Heather Esau
John and Ruth Excell
Keith Grimshaw
Jack and Gwen Lawson
John and Dawn McClassic
Bert and Marjorie Oliver
Reg. Priest
Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft
Jack and Verna Riseley
Ann. Scholar
Ian and Fee Sholley
Kevin Toit
Ivy Smith
Meisie Thomas
Bill and Madge Taylor
Peter and Monica Thom
Brian Woodhead.

Several were unable to attend due to ill health, which while not unexpected was unfortunate, and we hope they are fully recovered now.
Crowsters Commentary (cont)

At Renmark-- For a week prior to the holiday Reunion, some 60 of those mentioned spent a week at Renmark aboard a fleet of Libra houseboats provided by Ian Shawell. Except for the first couple of days when cross winds (and currents) were evident, no doubt ameliorated by frequent toots of horn in true naval tradition, the weather was kind, as it was, indeed, for the Reunion in Adelaide. Some of the mariners lacked a little more ancient on arrival in Adelaide than I remember them 35 years ago. Reports of the experience were unanimously terrific! A truly generous gesture on the part of Ian and Fee Shawell and much appreciated.

Our Premier, David Tonkin, very kindly having consented to welcome our members and their ladies to the Reunion, was present with his wife at the Reception at the Haven Motel on the Friday evening. He set the tone for the evening in a speech of warmth, sincerity, and not a little humour, before departing to host a Parliamentary dinner in honour of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

This was my first opportunity to attend an All-Staters Reunion, and I was amazed how readily the years rolled back in meeting contemporaries after such a long time. Saturday morning saw the Squadron Conference conducted, of which a report will appear elsewhere. Mick Mason was elected Squadron President (he will be followed by Clive Wynne, after the U.K. Reunion—congratulations). Thanks to the outgoing President, Ian Shawell. On the Saturday afternoon, Bert Revanscroft was successful in taking out the Squadron Golf Cup. Congratulations, Bert! Nice to have the others eating crow for a change!

A Dinner-Dance at the Haven very happily concluded the busy day.

On Sunday morning, Robert Lin williams conducted a Memorial Service at Westbeach airport and wreaths were laid at the 458 Squadron Memorial Tree. As always, a very moving occasion and especially so with the wider Squadron participation. Afterwards, party members piled aboard three buses bound for three different vineyards in the Southern Vales 40 miles south of Adelaide to inspect and sample the wares of three old family wineries, all meeting at Ben Ellen for a barbecue lunch, returning to the Haven Motel along the Coast road at late afternoon.

At lunchtime on Monday, everyone met at the "official" 458 watering hole, the Talbot, for drinks and chatter, soaked up by bits and pieces to eat (and no doubt ears). A pleasant interlude that went on much longer than scheduled, if not anticipated.

The Reunion officially concluded with dinner at the Mitcham R.A.F. Bowling Club at Hawthorn on Monday evening, and for one was sorry that Monday came so quickly. On an even sorrier note I mention that at different times over the last couple of days several of our interstate members were stricken with a very sudden and devastating virus-type woe. Shades of Egypt! I hope and understand the affliction was of short duration. Our sincere regrets to the sufferers.

S.A. Flight President, Jack Riseley, has asked me to mention His gratitude to members of the organising committee for their stalwart help over a long period of time, and I add my belief to his that it was all very well worth while—and thank you, one and all, for coming.

Good wishes and God speed to those attending the U.K. Reunion next year. See you also in Melbourne. Ah there—Terz!

RANKS GATHERING FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM REUNION.

The 2nd INTERNATIONAL REUNION of 458 Squadron will be held in London, commencing April 20th 1982, when the Australian party will arrive from Australia.

The programme is: April 20th arrival in London

21st. Tour of London—the City, St. Paul’s, etc
23rd. Visit to Shakespeare country, Stratford-on-Avon, Anne Hathaway’s cottage, Warwick Castle,
24th. Squadron Conference. Tour to Buckingham Palace,
Westminster Abbey, Parliament House. Luncheon cruise on the Thames. Evening
Squadron Dinner:
25th. Wreath on Cenotaph Coach to Knowle (Bruce Mackenzie’s old home in Surrey) for luncheon.
26th. By coach to York in time for sight-seeing
including the 13th century Cathedral and the Roman walls.

From then on the party will separate for its own tours, returning to Australia at individual convenience.

Contact our Travel Agent—Vic. Williams, RSL Travel, 215 Clarence Street, Sydney (331-3121) to join.
CORINTHIAN COMMENTS, from Don. Bitmead.

Adelaide Reunion. A superbly organised reunion by S.A. Flight was attended by many N.S.W. Members. It was wonderful to renew friendships after a lapse of 37 years in some cases and also to meet the regulars of All-States Reunions. Congratulations to S.A. Flight— who gave up so much time to plan the itinerary and to transport the bodies.

River Murray Expedition. What a magnificent gesture of Ian Showell to give Squadron members free use of the 8 Life Libe boats for the week preceding the Reunion. Although the river was in flood and running fast there were no serious mishaps. We can all say we had a most enjoyable week which ended too soon. Heartfelt thanks also to Fee who invited 50 + members to a beaut dinner before we cast off. What a wonderful couple. They certainly have the Squadron at heart.

Annual Air Force Boats Day. This year was held at Lindfield and was much enjoyed. 458's representatives were: Dick Hasley, George Catchlove, Stuart Pickett and Tom Riddaway.

Ethnic Dinner. The next Ethnic Dinner will all please note this, and notify either Eric Munckman 407 2061 or Peter Alexander 419 5024, if they are coming, will be at the Safari Seafare Restaurant, 22 King Street, Newtown, starting at 7.30 on January 20th. This will coincide with the 300th meeting of the NSW Flight Committee. A brief committee meeting will be held at the commencement of the Dinner. All who have ever served on the 458 Committee are asked to come. BYOG. Indonesian food.

As many members are retiring I am sure we should be able to see these dinners attended by increasing numbers—perhaps wives could give their husbands a nudge. It is later than you think.


The Mackenzie Memorial Plaque. On behalf of the Squadron throughout Australia, N.S.W. Flight organised the preparation of a Memorial Plaque commemorating Bruce's service and life. This is to be unveiled at the R.A.F. Memorial Church, West Lindfield, at 11 Moore Avenue, at the conclusion of the morning service there—which starts at 9 a.m. Please come and pay your tribute of memory and respect to our great C.O. The ceremony will be conducted by Bishop Neville Langford-Smith, formerly of Kenya, supported by the Very Rev. Fred Mackay, 458's Mediterranean area Chaplin. Please note the date.

Squadron Blazer Pockets. A quote and a sample from an overseas manufacturer has been received. When a final decision has been made advice will be circulated. If you are interested in principle (and they are very good indeed) write in now so we shall order enough.

Annual Cup Sweep. Thanks to members who support our Sweep. Without their help Annual subs would be much higher. Postage, like everything else is a big overhead to cover. The winners were: Fred Strom, Dorothy Aitken, and George Brad. Everyone who drew a horse was notified in time. Our thanks to George Brad who donated his prize back to 458 funds.

Squadron Plaques and Histories. Members interested in purchasing these either for themselves or as presents, should contact us.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

SANDGREYERS SAY from Ted. Jewell.

Once again news time and having just returned from our trip to the S.A. Reunion, I have not had time to find out any fresh news here. Members of W.A. Flight who attended the Reunion were enthusiastic— thanks to S.A. Flight members. Every Reunion is of such high standard that it is impossible to say one is better than the others. We had ten couples at functions in Glenelg—and that was very satisfying.

What can I say about our week at Renmark. Once again Ian and Fee Showell were the perfect hosts. Wonderful evening at their place for all who had arrived. Our very special thanks. After the first night on the boats, which was wet and windy, the weather became almost perfect for our jaunt up the Murray. The current was flowing fairly fast which tried out the skippers when mooring the craft at the end of the day's cruising. It was all most enjoyable and the time to depart came too soon. Once again many thanks to Ian Showell.

Coming up are two social functions before the end of the year. A day out at Baskerville Winery, Barbeque and wine testing arranged by Vic Grenville for Sunday 22nd November. The other will be a Xmas function at the Plain and Fancy
During the Party's time in York it hopes to see 456 ers from the North who have been unable to get to London. 456 will be staying at the Post House Hotel and U.K. members will be welcomed to join the Farewell Dinner there on the 27th.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Send your Say (cont.)

Restaurant in Perth, for dinner and drinks, should be a good night. To be held on Saturday December 19th.

As this will be the last newsletter before the festive season, I would like, on behalf of W.A. Flight, to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

* * * * * * * * * * *

VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Stan. Tarczynsky.

R.A.A.F Europe Club. Ken. Markham, who is an active member of the Committee of this Club reports that last month's dinner at the Palace, St Kilda, was an outstanding success, being attended by nearly 400 bods.

There are still about 22 of our Victorian members who have not yet returned my questionnaire. The return of some would be much appreciated—filled in, of course.

Those of us who attended the Adelaide Reunion were most impressed and appreciative of the organisation behind it all. The important aspect is that now Victoria has just 16 months to prepare for the big one in Melbourne, April 1985. We will need all the co-operation and know-how from all Victorian members to produce ideas, ways and means to accommodation, entertainment, transport etc—and the sooner the better. Please contact Ken. Markham or myself if you have anything to offer. Who knows? This could be the last get-together in Melbourne because under normal circumstances the next one would be in 1993.

We have an SOS from an English lad now residing in Melbourne (Tel. 763840)—Jill Gibson. Her uncle, Alby PRUDEN lives in England, was on 456 and she seeks contact with "Singhi" Stewart (Try W.A. Flight—Ed.) and Ken. Guiney. We have lost touch with Kevin Guiney.

Now for some personal paragraphs:

John (Roger) and Jean Rodwell. Since coming to Melbourne from Mildura, Roger has been a stalwart Committee and past President. Originally, when he lived at Ashwood, he joined, unknowingly, Torq's R.S.I. at East Malvern, and wife Jean belonged to the same Golf club as Jean Mitchell. They now live at 6, Cronin Court, Cheltenham. Although Roger still has five years to go as a Golf Inspector with the Department of Primary Industry, he thinks he might give it away early. He is a very modest fellow as he quotes his hobby as cricket umpiring and "useless at anything else". They have two married daughters, one lives at Frankston and the other at Dareton, near Mildura.

Neil (Mac) and Sylvia McPhee. Are living in retirement at Point Leo. Red Hill South on Mornington Peninsula. Neil will be best remembered as past General Manager of the Royal Auto Club of Victoria which he quite in 1976 due to ill health and the loss of his eldest son. A year ago he suffered a coronary attack which caused him to resign from other activities—State Travel Authority, the Melbourne Pageant. Now feeling fitter he is getting back to bowls and a few holes of golf. He is still an active member of Carry On, Rotary and the Church. Sylvia is also a golfer and is keen on painting and gardening and keeps Neil "in order". Daughter Sue works as a psychologist with the Department of Education and is married to a glass artist. They have two children. Donald, Neil's son, has recently completed a course at Dookie College.

Gerald (Gerry) and Betty Abraham. reside at 8 Deborah Avenue, E. Bentleigh. He retired over five years ago and enjoys swimming and driving. His health is only 50/50. Gerry is interested in a school for retarded children of which he is on the Board of Management. He is inquiring the whereabouts of Forbes Campbell. Can anyone help him?

Our copy for the News was delayed to report the B.B.Q. which is always held in Melbourne on Cup Day and, for the second year in a row, at Harry and Nell Ashworth's place at 39 Andrew Street, Oakleigh. Despite follow up calls to some of our longest members and promises to turn up, only twelve apart from the Ashworth family, fronted, under a 30° sun.

It was good to see the following: Elaine Timms, Beat and Ken. Markham, Jean Mitchell and Stan, Tarczynsky, Harold Martin, John and Jean Rodwell, Ern. Lamingt, Bob and Lorna Smith, Ian Allison, and, of course, Harry and Nell Ashworth, daughter Leslie, husband Roy, and Samantha and Belinda Robinson.

* * * * * * * * * * *
Thanks to S.A.Flight. The Buxters, the Guthbertons, Bernie Hughes, Olive Wyman, and Jim Holliday wish to say thanks to the S.A.Flight for its magnificent hospitality extended to members at the Adelaide Reunion. We also wish to add our congratulations. A very good show.

George Reed sent a long newsy letter from his retirement home at Mission Beach. He recently received a visit from his old Squadron mate, Gordon Nash, from Mitcham. George says they spent a great week fishing, wine and dining, and touring the immediate hinterland. Apparently Gordon Nash was highly amused at the report in the Squadron News that he is a "Keen gardener." Gordon, since the tragic loss of his wife, Lorna, in an accident, lives in a Unit. George Reed advises that he is taking leave from his retirement activities of planting cane, involvement in the R.S.I.O Dyggers Home, and standing in as a boat hirer for his son, James, to visit Melbourne, Sydney, and not forgetting Ted Kennedy at Bellarat.

Ian Higlett unearthed a 458er by chance. He found that his opposite number at a bowls match was Len Goode who was posted to 458 at Gibraltar at the closing time of the war. Len is a retired Bank of N.S.W. Manager and still does part-time at the Head Office. He's delighted to learn of our post-war activities. We've put him in contact with his old mate Reg. Priest. He would like to renew acquaintance with other contemporaries. His address: 23 Nagel St., Upper Mount Gravatt, 4122. Incidentally, Ian Higlett, tired of retirement, is doing part-time work in real estate.

The distribution of our Melbourne Cup sweep books brings a rich return of correspondence. 458 members in our far-flung State seem to welcome the opportunity when returning butts to add a few words of news. For instance, Bob Dangeard writes that he is off to New Zealand for a two-week tour. He visited Frank Wilks in Toowoomba and Ches. Warren in a day's stop-over in Brisbane. Theo Ravenscroft hasn't had a 458 visitor for years out at home town Longreach. Dick Boyell says that it is great to receive the News because it recalls so many pleasant incidents during those days in North Africa.

Jack Hobbs "still has the nose to the grindstone" and is hoping to renew acquaintance with Chester Jones one day. Bill Snowden sends regards to all. Chester One is still commuting between Brisbane and country acreage. Dud. Mackey still flat out at Caloundra but hopes to make a reunion one day. Norm. (Shorty) Taylor never tires of basking in the breezes at Southport. Ann Kellem writes that Kel has lost a lot of weight but though struggling with ill-health is still as sharp as a tack.

Jack Dew is a dedicated gem-stoner and is off to the gem fields for a couple of months.

Tony Stone underwent open-heart surgery recently, had veins removed from both legs and is now back on his feet and receiving a long-delayed war pension. John Elliott lapping up golf these days—while Flight President Jack Lewis has taken up golf again to ease his aching back.

Euston Garland deep-sea fishing off the reef. You would imagine that a Kelly on going overseas would be found in Ireland. Not so the daughters and son of Kath and Eric (Bigger) Kelly. Eric told me the other day that his son Paul is somewhere in Cyprus, one daughter in Ecuador learning Spanish at the University. Another daughter spent some years in Iceland while son Paddy returned from U.K. with a bride. In other words, the whole world is Kelly country.

Members of Q.Flight Committee would like to record their sadness in losing their longstanding associate Merv. McLaurin, from a heart attack. Merv enlisted in Brisbane in 1940 along with Len. MacDonald, Keith Campbell, Eric Lloyd, Corruck McLoughlin, Peter Hickey, Bert Garland, Ian Higlett, Jim Holliday and others who were members of foundation crews at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Merv served on an R.A.A.F. Squadron and became a P/O of Calitz. He appreciated being brought into the field of 458 and marched proudly under their banner on Anzac Day and was an indefatigable worker at socials. We'll miss him.

Pres. Jack Lewis and Jim Holliday were invited to the 40th Anniversary of the 9th Division to represent the R.A.A.F. Squadrons that operated in the North African Desert. There were also representatives from 3 Squadron and 450 Squadron. 458 was signally honoured as Jim Holliday was asked to respond to the toast to the R.A.A.F.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor has received among many others letters from Bill Weitt, in the U.K.—containing the very saddening story of the passing of 458er Trevor Walden—who served with him on J.A.F. MacKay's crew. He has also had, like a welcome voice from out of the past of 36 years, a letter from Canadian 458er, Tony Mauro—who remembers his 458 mates keenly over the long years.

We shall hope to print these letters in the next issue.

To Trevor—our affectionate memories. We shall remember him.