JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL
Year 69  No 261  December 2018

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WA, QLD, TAS, NT, ACT and New Zealand – Looking for volunteers.
UK- Keith Wilkinson 23 Ferndale Pk, Tedmore, Stourbridge, W. Midlands. DY90RB

* Mail all communications for Squadron Secretary to Stephen Bruce (address above), and for the Squadron (and NSW Flight) Treasurer to Beryl Dodds (address above) ** Have you notified Editor Roland Orchard if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email? Are there others in your family, or circle of friends, who would like to receive a copy by e-mail? Please advise the Editor – see postal address above or email Roland at editor@458raafsquadron.org
Contributions and reports for the next Newsletter #262 are due to The Editor by 30th March, 2019.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS 2019 TO ONE AND ALL.
FLIGHT REPORTS

NSW Flight Report by Stephen Bruce

Apart from Rob Wilkinson's news on his trip to Tasmania, (see Rob’s email page 10) Our Xmas function will be held at President Keith Cousin's Nursing Home, Beecroft Nursing Home, on Monday 3rd December. Hope to have 7 attendees for the meeting and lunch. Beryl Dodds (nee Munkman) spent some time in Europe visiting WW1 battlefields of Somme, Paschendale & Villers Bretonneux where her husband’s great uncle saw service. Keith should be in fine form reflecting on matters of WW2 and I hope I can jog his memory on Northern Africa, Morocco in particular and the Sahara where we spent 10 days in late October and early November.

South Australia Flight Report by Rick Michell

The year is drawing to a close, 458 SA Squadron passes on its Sympathy to Jean Barnes and her daughter Meredith Galanti and her family on the sudden passing of Meredith husband and Jean’s son in law recently.

We have had our Christmas get together by celebrating Armistice Day at the Kensi Hotel. The hotel did a fabulous meal for the day and Pat’s daughter did a superb job with her cupcakes. In total 18 people attended the lunch. SA Squadron would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.
United Kingdom Flight Report by Keith Wilkinson

Seventy-five years after my dad's 458 Wellington bomber crew learned to drop torpedoes I decided to take a close look at where some of their highly dangerous training took place. Some of the crews who were posted to 458 Squadron from the UK had first trained at RAF Turnberry up in Scotland. Some then had top-up training in North Africa at Shallufa. Although RAF Turnberry is long-gone, the wartime runways still survive. They cross the magnificent golf course at the five-star resort owned by the US President Donald Trump. To be near the old site, my wife and I stayed at the resort. The hotel has incredible views out across the Firth of Clyde towards the distant Scottish mountains, the Isle of Arran and the jagged little island that is Ailsa Craig. Close to the lighthouse and right in the middle of the golf course, we walked up to the monument to those who died here. The outlook from this spot on a clear day has got to be one of the most spectacular anywhere in the world, especially at sunset when it becomes truly breathtaking. But that great natural beauty hides the tragic past here. Learning to drop torpedoes from a Wellington flying at about 70 feet (or even lower) above the waves was risky in the extreme and unsurprisingly a number of men lost their lives, including the elder brother of the television presenter, the late Sir Bruce Forsyth. John Forsyth-Johnson was at Turnberry on a course just after my dad - and his 458 pilot Jack Christianson - was there. John was killed in the same Wellington my dad's crew flew in. I decided it wasn't enough just to walk along the old runways to get a sense of that time. So I hired a light aircraft from the airport at Prestwick, which also was a wartime RAF airfield. We flew across the golf course in line with the redundant runway and then headed out to Ailsa Craig. Here, using the aeroplane's dual
controls, I flew myself in much the same flight path as used by the trainees. It was the day after a major storm caused serious problems in Wales and Scotland, but this day was one of the calmest and sunniest of the year and we had amazing visibility across the Firth of Clyde and the numerous islands. I was able to get just a tiny impression of what it must have been like for those crews who trained here. "Tiny" because I certainly wasn't flying at 70 feet. I also wasn't flying by moonlight or in poor weather conditions. And I also had the comfort of knowing I'd not be doing this for real - with flak guns firing straight at me! I've always greatly respected what you guys did in 458 Squadron. But after this trip around Turnberry - which, let's face it, was just a pleasure flight - that respect went up quite a few notches.

**Victoria Flight Report by Roland Orchard**

Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month, 1918 the guns fell silent. One hundred years on and we remember all who fell in battle since that fateful date. 

*Lest We Forget.*

My brother Chris has written a poignant article about 2 men who served and had renowned sporting careers. Read on page 11.
Canada Flight Report by Bryan Quinlan

Very much regret to advise the passing of Jack Reynold's and Tom Rowan. I am the sole member of the former Canadian Flight. The only other news I can think of is that Joan and I reached our 68th Anniversary on the 10th November and it was celebrated with family members at an enjoyable dinner and today with our youngest grand son Michael, who couldn’t attend Saturday, so took us out for a very enjoyable lunch. Best wishes to all. Bryan.

Hello. My name is Sandra Clarke and I am the daughter of Jack Reynolds, from Maple Ridge, Canada, and am writing to you to advise that my Dad passed away on Sept. 16. He made it to his 100th birthday and enjoyed a wonderful party with family and friends. In looking over his wishes, he asked that we contact you to advise. Regards Sandra.

In Loving Memory Of

J.T. “Tom” Rowan

Who Passed Away
Friday, November 2nd, 2018
Porcupine Plain, Saskatchewan
Age - 99 Years

Funeral Service
Wednesday, November 7th, 2018 1:00 P.M.
Porcupine Community Hall - Porcupine Plain, Saskatchewan

Officiant - Rev. Nancy Steiachs
Interment - St. Andrew’s Cemetery

Active Casket Bearers
Terry Pegg Ryan Gridale Derrick Reed
John Rowan Hugh Mack Scott Zimmerman

Honorary Bearers
All Those Who Have Shared In Tom’s Life
Guest-Book Attendants
Carlee Reed Loretta Harpham Torre
Tributes - Alan Rowan Danny Rowan
FACE OF 458 SQUADRON.
F/O Manley Brechin. RCAF

Sun 11-Nov-18 7:20 AM

Hello, I found your web page and see that my Dad’s brother, Manley Brechin, J/20439 RCAF, was part of 458 Squadron. We found some photographs of him and the men he flew with. We have scanned them and will send them to you if they could be of use. Let me know.

There are about 60 photos. Some of them are taken in London and Cairo I assume when they were on leave. The rest are of Manley and the others but not all are labelled so we didn’t know who everyone was. I’ll send a few that have names.

Lois Brechin McNally

F/O Brechin’s Mates

We salute these airmen no matter what Squadron(s) they served with. Let them not be forgotten. Ed
https://www.458raafsgordon.org/honour-roll/servicemens-stories/brechin-m-l

Click on the above link to our website for more on F/O Brechin & crew.
458 Squadron EMAILS
Tue 31-Jul-18 2:22 PM
Hi Roland, I emailed Brian Quinlan and he suggested I send this little piece to you with some Photos of Our ANZAC DAY here in Ladysmith BC, Canada. We are at this point the only ones running a service. This year was our fourth service and it seems to be growing each year with lots of Interest from the South and Mid Island RCL Branches. We had ex pat Australians from south of Victoria a Place called Sooke came. They brought Pavlova to top things off. The Branch we are affiliated with is 171. Brian Kelly, a New Zealand Veteran of the Korean Campaign and I organise the day with the help of some of the Canadian Members. We had a piper pipe in the colours this year and a Bugler for the Last Post and Rouse and Reveille. The Chaplin of the Branch gave the address; He is a Marine from the USAS. The Sergeant At Arms took control of the little Parade. David Edwards, Vietnam Vet RAAF, from branch 10 led the Parade. Please find the attached Photos Hope you might be able to use them even though it’s a little late in the day.

All the best Diane Atherton (Snowy Atherton’s Daughter.)

Thanks once again Diane. It’s always heart-warming to know you are driving this solemn event in Lady Smith, BC, Canada. Ed

Mon 30-Jul-18 12:29 PM
Dear Roland,

I am Richard Hills (son of late Ronald Arthur Hills and late Nancy Hills) Hurstville, NSW. Just letting you know that my mother passed away on 24th July, 2004. About a couple of months after my mother's passing, I had notified late Peter Alexander (previous editor) and asked him not to send any more mails (newsletters). The newsletters kept sending to my house for 14 years, where I currently live. However, I have changed my mind and I do want the newsletters keep coming. I would like to ask you to send me newsletters by e-mail. Do you have any photo about my dad, who was an aeroplane fitter and was sergeant? Thank you. Kind regards, Richard Hills.

Can anyone help Richard with a photo of his father Ronald Arthur Hills?? Ed.
Fri 20-Apr-18 11:44 PM  
Mr. Orchard,  
To your distribution list, would you please add Marguerite Somers. 
Marguerite, a nun, is the sister of Daniel Joseph Somers, RCAF, who flew with 
458 Sqd in North Africa and died when an engine on his Wellington bomber 
cought fire and crashed while approaching LG 106.  
Regards, Michael Lamont  

Fri 27-Apr-18 8:05 AM  
Dear Roland,  
Michael Lamont forwarded your e-mail to me. I have now added you to my e-mail list. I am a 91-year-old 
sister of Daniel Somers. He was the oldest in our family of 5 boys and 5 girls. I am the last remaining member of my family. In September, 1946, I entered the convent and became a Grey Sister of the Immaculate Conception. In June of 1943 I took the telephone message that Daniel had been killed overseas -- the first break in our family. I have been amazed that often something on or around Dan's anniversary something happens to remind me of him. A couple of years ago one of our sisters phoned me to ask if I knew a Daniel Somers. I told her he was my oldest brother. At St. Joseph's Parish in Ottawa paper was folded like birds and the name of a veteran was on each. Parishioners were invited to take one. Mary took the one Dan's name was on! When I was teaching high school I was showing a film put on by the National Film Board. It was June 28th. A shot of the grave yard in El Alamein was featured! I have fond memories of Daniel driving all night so that he would get home. The family would all get up to join him -- except me. My mother said that she couldn't rouse me. We were just young when he went north to get a job -- working in the gold mines. He would recite poems to us ... "The wind she blow on Lac Ste. Pierre. The wind she blow some more." He would tell us how exciting it was to ride in a small plane and the way to avoid getting sick was to let your body move with the movement of the plane. When he was in accident in the mine he came home to recover. He complained to my mother that I asked too many questions! Enjoy your visit to Canada with your wife. Marguerite Somers
Dear Roland

The photo copy of a few pages of John Excell’s note book was given to Rick Michell at a recent SA flight dinner in Adelaide for his and other wives and relatives at the dinner. Rick has contacted us to enable us to give you more information about John. John passed away in May 2004 having been a regular attendee of marches, dinners and reunions since the war and had kept a note book, against the rules we believe, during his war time experiences and recorded the dates and places that he, as "Ground Crew", had been stationed at and a diagram of the tool he designed and made to enable them to easily remove the Wellington bomber tyres from their rims (mentioned in the book "We find and Destroy"). John was great mates with other ground crew S.A. members Bill Cribb and Ian Showell to name just a couple. Please contact us if we can be of more assistance. Margaret Harden (née Excell)

Best I could do reproducing your Dad’s note book entry, Margaret. Ed.
Mon 22-Oct-18 8:13 AM
Hi Roland, My father Jim Browne of Dalby Qld has requested that I pass on a small donation to assist with keeping the work that you do going. He is 98 and still living in his own home with only a small amount of assistance. He does enjoy the news letters but was sad that there are so few of the 458 squadron left. I guess that comes with the territory when he is at the age he is. Can you let me know how to make this donation to the cause please?


Wed 12-Sep-18 1:15 PM
Hi Roland, I’m down in Hobart for a week (my home town) and dropped in today to RAAF Association Tasmania and the Hobart Air Force Museum. I’m pretty sure my dad was a past State President of RAAFA, so I went to check out his picture on the wall. I spoke to WCDR Geoff O’Hara, who is the current State President. Cheers mate. Rob (Wilkinson)

Rob Wilkinson at the Hobart RAAF Museum. As Rob stated “There were some ‘interesting’ ditties displayed on the walls of the Museum. (A couple of them a little too ‘interesting’ for me to publish, Rob.😊 Ed.)
Remembering War, Armistice, Peace and Our Sporting Lives

Article by Chris Orchard.
(458 Squadron Association. Vice President Victoria Flight.)

CAPT William Henry Orchard (WWI),
FLGOF Harry Rotheram Ashworth (WW2)

As we near the end of 2018, and the centenary of Armistice fresh in our minds, not only have we seen another tumultuous year across the world, but also on some of the sporting fields, and our Australian 458ers would have been bemused at some of the un-Australian behaviour.

Let us pause for a moment to remember the Great War, World War 1. The end of hostilities finally coming after a long and horror-filled 1,568 days. A generation gone, warfare unmatched in calamity, loss and suffering at the ceasefire.

Remember the fallen … and those who returned …
Offerings of thanks for their service and sacrifice
Who left home with hope in their hearts
and wings on their heels

458er Gordon Orchard’s uncle, William “Billy” Orchard, born 9-Aug-1888, played Australian Rules Football for the Geelong Football Club during the years 1906, then 1908 to 1915, in which he played 112 games and scored 67 goals, debuting at the age of 18 years 23 days. He captained the club for two seasons from 1914 to 1915, and was also playing coach in 1914.

Billy Orchard, Geelong Football Club, Standard Cigarettes (Sniders and Abrahams), 1912

He enlisted in the AIF on 14-July-1915, part of the 1st Reinforcements, 38th Battalion, 10th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Australian Division. He embarked from Melbourne on His Majesty’s Australian Troopship (HMAT) A54 “Runic” on 20-Jun-1916. He disembarked in Plymouth on 10-Aug-1916, completing 10th Battalion and Bombing School training during August, September and October that year.
On Saturday 28-Oct-1916, the former Olympic champion swimmer Lieutenant Frank Beaurepaire organised an Australian Rules football match between two teams of Australian servicemen in aid of the British and French Red Cross. The match was promoted as the "Pioneer Exhibition Game of Australian Football in London". The members of the competing teams, Australian Training Units and The Third Australian Divisional Team, were all highly skilled footballers, the majority of who had already played senior football in their respective states.

Lt William Orchard is the player in the top row, second from the left, wearing the Guernsey with Australia on it.

As the records show, our 458 Veterans competed in many sporting endeavours with vigour, displaying fairmindedness and sportsmanship, and above all else keeping things in perspective.

Fast-forward to today, and it seems that the stadiums of money thrown around combined with a dilution of values and personal responsibility have turned these values upside down.

Many of our 458ers sporting feats in cricket, golf, tennis, athletics, swimming, hockey and other ventures are testament to their esprit de corps. Visiting Harry and Nell Ashworth in their Rosebud home in 2008 produced a number of surprises, including Harry’s sporting career. He achieved life member status with the Melbourne Bowling Club (Australia’s oldest lawn bowls club, established in 1864), and more...

With the World Cup played out this past July (France beating Croatia 4 – 2), our very own Harry Ashworth also played for the Socceroos, in 1947. Once again in defence of his country, he played goalkeeper for Australia in a B team against a South African delegation. The first match was on April 26 at the Norwood Oval in Adelaide, and the second on April 30th at none other than the Melbourne Cricket Ground.
By this time, Harry was an accomplished football player, having played as a junior and eventually with South Melbourne United football club. His love for what would become known as “the world game” no doubt influenced by his forebears and birth in Manchester, England. In 1966, the inventors of the game finally stood on top of the world with their one and only World Cup triumph. This no doubt would have evoked warm feelings and taken him back to his own playing days. Moreover, in his adopted country of Australia, is it any wonder that Harry came to love the Australian Rules equivalent in the South Melbourne Football Club, unwavering in his support when they uplifted to a new home in the coat-hangar city of Sydney to become the Sydney Swans, “the bloods”.

All States Reunion – Melbourne 1955, Golf Day

Harry and Nell Ashworth at 458 Supper Dance, Hawthorn Football Club – Melbourne 1967
Eric J Jewell Award for 2019

The 2018 Award granted to 3 Wing AAFC assisting with clothing for their 2018 Western Front Tour was a resounding success. We now look forward to receiving many applications from Australian Air Force Cadet Squadrons for the 2019 Award. If you or someone knows any youth aspiring to become an Air Force Cadet, then please go to the 458 Squadron website where the application form is (https://www.458raafsquadron.org/eric-j-jewell-award).

NOTE FROM EDITOR – It is very important for me as Editor of this great Newsletter to be able to keep contact details up to date. The Association would like an up to date number of surviving 458 Veterans and Widows. Please contact the editor (details on page 1.) Thanks for everyone’s support. All postal/email details will be held in the strictest of confidence by the editor.

DONATIONS.
Thanks for the very kind and generous donations to 458 Squadron Association from:-
Bev Bitmead
Jim Browne
Neil Flentje
These donations help in ongoing costs of the 458 Squadron Newsletter Publication, 458 Cap & Polo Shirt project & 458 Website management by *Potentweb
458 BASEBALL CAP AND POLO SHIRT PROJECT
Thanks to those who replied to me in relation to calls for expressions of interest for the purchase of baseball caps and/or polo shirts with the 458 Squadron Badge embroidered on them. There are few issues to be ironed out but due to the drive and enthusiasm of the Victoria Flight Historian Peter Hedgcock, this project has progressed and I’m confident in saying that these items will be available soon. See pictures below for the style of shirts and cap. Various sizes and colours will be available.

ALL DETAILS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE ON OUR 458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION WEBSITE. PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT ON THE MEMORABILIA PAGE.
PRICES TO BE ADVISED.

Details
- 65% Polyester for durability, 35% Cotton for comfort
- 210gsm pique knit fabric
- JB’s 3-button placket
- Knitted collar with reinforced herringbone tape on inside neck seam
- Straight hem with side splits
- Set-in sleeves with open cuffs for relaxed movement
- Easy care, reduced pilling fabric

Sizing

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Mens/Adults Shirt Sizing

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Our Memorabilia Page  www.458raafsquadron.org

458 SQUADRON BADGE (VELCRO BACKING)

In stock

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2 PHOTO-DVD SET OF OFFICIAL SQUADRON ALBUMS

This two DVD set presented in an artistically 458 motif DVD case contains all 273 whole page images of Album 1 and 866 individual images from these pages. And all 251 whole page images of Album 2 and 626 individual images from these pages. All images are in high resolution format.

Our Official Squadron Albums web page explains the remarkable story of the Squadron and its Albums and the project to digitize them.

$20.00 AUD when ordering one 2 DVD set (price includes postage anywhere in Australia). Contact Us to order, including notification of total cost if ordering multiple sets (postage will vary) or postage to international destinations. This item will be posted on receipt of payment. Thank you.

ICONIC GROUP PHOTOS OF THE SQUADRON

These poster size wartime photograph reproductions will make magnificent wall history/art. A fine example elegantly framed. Sizes shown below:

- Squadron at Protville, Tunisia, 1943: size 973 mm x 220 mm - $30.00AUD
- 'A' Flight at Bone, Algeria, 1944: size 973 mm x 296 mm - $30.00AUD
- 'B' Flight at Gibraltar, 1945: size 785 mm x 300 mm - $30.00AUD

All prices include postage within Australia Only. All prints will be posted in a mailing tube. Prices for Outside of Australia - On Application. Contact Us to order. Items will be posted on receipt of payment.

COLLECTORS EDITIONS:- 458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION 250TH & 75TH ANNIVERSARY EDITIONS NEWSLETTER

$20AUD. per copy PLUS Postage*

*Postage within Australia $2.10 per copy.

*Postage to UK, Canada, New Zealand - price on application.

Please note- All monies are used for on-going costs involved in web-site, printing, postage of these and all Memorabilia items. These Publications were made possible with the grateful assistance of grants received from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Commemorative Grants Section and the Victorian Government and Public Records Office Victoria.

75TH ANNIVERSARY CUP 1941 - 2016

In 2016, 458 Squadron celebrated 75 years since its formation in 1941. 458 is only 20 years younger than the RAAF itself! Therefore what a more fitting way could there be to reflect on these occasions than to enjoy your favourite beverage from your very own 75th anniversary cup. Special price until Anzac Day 2017 is AUD$22.95 (anywhere in Australia). Buy now before the price goes up. Please note that it is price-on-application for orders overseas from Australia.

Please contact the editor for all orders or order online via our website
www.458raafsquadron.org