

460 Squadron Veterans & Friends Group

The G for George Squadron



July - September 2017

ANZAC Eve and Day - Sydney:

ANZAC Eve – Sydney:

460 Sqn Wreath Laying Leader David Barrington marched the gathered group to The Cenotaph in Martin Place Sydney, to commence laying the wreaths as the overhead G.P.O. bells chimed 12 Noon on ANZAC Eve.

Wreaths were laid by 460 Sqn Veteran Monty Roche; CO of the current 460 Sqn RAAF WGCDR Cal Harrison; Mr. Willem Cosign Consul General – Kingdom of the Netherlands (in honour and memory of Operation Manna); 463 Sqn Veteran Don Southwell, Secretary Bomber Command Commemorative Day Foundation and by Jeff McClenaughan, representing Path Finder Force.

A large group of twenty nine 460 Sqn and Bomber Command related people attended the moving ceremony with most then adjourning to the nearby Westin Hotel for a light lunch with many taking



the opportunity to meet WGCD Harrison and catch up with past CO WGDCR Rob Elliott and his family .

On behalf of 460 Sqn V&F Group, the editor thanks Bob Spence for organising both the wreath laying ceremony and the lunch plus Janenne Moffatt for inviting the Dutch Consul General and Trish Berghouse for arranging the two 460 Sqn related wreaths and being the money collector.

Photos by Bob & Olive Spence and Anne Bender

L: The wreath laying group gathers: Olive Spence, David Tod, with Willem Cosign talking to Betty Seery

M: About to march to The Cenotaph: David Tod carrying the banner, wreath layers in the first row: Willem Cosign, WGCDR Harrison, Monty Roche, Don Southwell. John Egan DFC Ld'H in the second row. David Barrington & Bob Spence (backs to the camera) with PFF wreath layer Jeff McClenaughan and Secretary Bomber Command Association in Australia Annette Guterres.

R: Our wreaths on The Cenotaph after the ceremony

ANZAC Day

In this bulletin, the editor is attempting to highlight how 460 Squadron is still remembered and honoured around the world on ANZAC Day

Sydney:

After David Tod chased down our requested RAAFA wheel chairs, 460 Sqn marchers formed up behind our banner and 460 Sqn march leader F/O John Egan DFC Ld'H who travelled down from Gunnedah for ANZAC Eve and ANZAC Day. Veterans Fred Sargeant and Monty Roche (who was delayed by traffic & joined in later) marched with many sons and daughters of Veterans, including David Barrington, Bob Spence, David & Barrie Tod; Trish & Ray Berghouse, Dan Cullen Jr, Marrienne Laurie; and Megan Edwards.

The CO of the current 460 SQN RAAF had commitments in Canberra so sent four of his serving personnel (LAC Yasuari Fujimura; CPL Justin Strecker; CPL Mason Gow; and LACW Desideria van Kleef) who travelled from

Canberra to march behind the 460 Sqn banner (brought in as always by David Barrington) and to assist our Veterans and Widows and to highlight the historic link between the current and WWII 460 Squadron. The brother of 460 Sqn Veteran Mr Williams (both their first names were not noted) who himself flew in WWII with 53 Sqn (RAF Coastal Command) was pushed in his wheelchair by his granddaughter, asked to march with us in honour of his brother, whose medals he was wearing.

At march end, many of the marchers adjourned to the Bomber Command Association ANZAC Day lunch at the Royal Automobile Club. Seated at the 460 Squadron tables were Trish & Ray Berghouse; Megan Edwards; the four 460 Sqn RAAF personnel who marched; Beverley Mayer; Meredith McFadden, widow of Bill McFadden DFM MSEE, Joy & Janenne Moffatt; Bob Spence; and David & Barrie Tod. Reports from all attendees were that the food and drinks were of good quality, the chatter was rowdy with conversations carried out across a room full of Bomber Command Veterans, Widow, family members,

current serving RAAF personnel from several squadrons and friends of Bomber Command.

Thank you to Annette Guterres; Jane Beech Allen and the others on the BCAA luncheon organising committee.

Melbourne:

From the 460 SQUADRON (R.A.A.F.) ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) May 2017 Newsletter:

It was raining steadily for the Dawn Service, but by the time we moved off, it had almost passed over, just a short, sharp shower after we reached the Shrine. The two ex-460 Squadron members rode behind our banner in a Jeep, (not the easiest of vehicles for 90+ year-olds to climb into) with 14 relatives of ex-members marching behind.

At our (post march) service at (the 460 Sqn) tree, there were 39 in attendance, which was very good considering the weather outlook. When the tree was planted in 1995, the dedication address was given by Wing Commander Keith Kaufmann who in 1942 had been the squadron's second commanding officer.

On Anzac Day, his great-nephew Andrew Kaufmann read part of that address for us.

The wreath was laid on the dedication plaque by Audrey Williams, assisted by her daughter Pam and son Edward, and David Bird read "The Ode to the Fallen". Both Audrey and David lost brothers while serving with 460 Squadron. The poem "In Flanders Fields" was read by Colin Fraser, and then Suzanne Trist read a poem by Noel Coward, "Lie in the Dark and Listen". (thank you to Colin Fraser & Laurie Williams for the newsletter)

Adelaide:

WGCDR Ian Gibson and his wife Julie attended the Dawn Service at Walkerville, followed by breakfast at Walkerville RSL. Their thoughts were with their many 460 Sqn Veterans and widows.

In previous years, Doug Leak, cousin of 460 Sqn Veteran Lloyd Leak and a Bomber Command Veteran in his own right with 149 SQN, marched with our 460 SQN Veterans in the Adelaide ANZAC Day march. Doug marched this year, with his trusty 'gofer' – many thanks Doug.

Doug and his wife Laurel have represented Lloyd at a couple of the annual 460 SQN Reformation Anniversary dinners in Canberra. Unfortunately they are unable to attend this year's seventh anniversary being celebrated at the 'Dinner with George'

Perth:

Doug Arrowsmith DFC OAM Ld'H attended the 75th Anniversary of Bomber Command Operational - Service to lay a wreath for 460 Squadron. This was held just prior to ANZAC Day at the Flame of Remembrance, Perth. Also in attendance was George Murray, son of Ian Murray, DFM, who was the Flight Engineer in S/L J H C Clark RAAF's crew.

On ANZAC Day, Doug attended two Primary Schools Services and a Memorial Service at an Aged Care Home.



L: Doug Arrowsmith invited George Murray to join him in the laying of the wreath.

R: George Murray and Doug Arrowsmith DFC OAM Ld'H



Eden NSW and Canberra ACT:

Current 460 SQN RAAF personnel SGT Oates, LAC Van Duren, LAC Klaus, LAC Franklin and LAC Cara marching in Eden on Anzac Day.

Apart from the four current 460 SQN personnel who marched behind the 460 SQN banner in Sydney, the main body of the squadron marched in the Canberra parade along Anzac Parade to the Australian War Memorial.

Binbrook & Brookenby: Binbrook Village 460 Squadron memorial

Binbrook Group Scout Leader and Binbrook Parish Councillor, Mike Kaynes emailed me to report on ANZAC Day in Binbrook Village:

"This year with the kind support of our new school head (Miss Hall) we were given permission to take 14 Cubs and Scouts out of school to attend the ANZAC Day service at the Binbrook Village's 460 Squadron memorial:

We were very proud of all our Cubs and Scouts who attended and they became part of a world-wide event that many Cubs and Scouts participate in to show their respect to the ANZAC's.

The Parish councillors and members of the public were also joined this year by members of the Binbrook and District WI (Woman's Institute) who also laid a tribute.

Our Chairman of the Parish Council (Ian Burgess) led a short service explaining the meaning of ANZAC Day and its particular significance to this small part of England. After a reading the wreaths were laid and a minute's silence observed before completing the service.

We have decided to this year replace our Scout flag in the village and fly the RAAF flag

Top Left: Ian Burgess, Chairman of the Binbrook Parish Council leading the ANZAC Day service
Top Right: Binbrook Cub & Scout wreath being laid
Right: Flags lowered during the minute's silence
(Photos provided by Mike Kaynes)

to commemorate the 460's time with us in Binbrook.

Miss Hall also decided to lead a special assembly on ANZAC Eve so that not only the Binbrook Scouts but all Binbrook children knew the reason behind the importance of this day more fully understood it's background.

With the help of YouTube we also managed to watch 460 Sqn on parade today which was also very special and goes to show how small our World is really.

We hope 460 Sqn V&F Group all had a good ANZAC Day and you all know that even though we are 10,500 miles away we are thinking of all the 460 Sqn members (past and present) and their families on this very special day"

RAF Binbrook Heritage Centre – Ident Square memorial

Ray Whitely, Curator of RAF Binbrook Heritage Centre which incorporates 460 Sqn Memorial Park at the old Binbrook airfield advises of their ANZAC Day 2017:

"It was a great pleasure to welcome David Lester and his granddaughter Ella to the Heritage Centre on ANZAC Day. David is the son of F/Sgt Lester J Burrows DFM RAAF (Rear Gunner who flew 29 ops with various pilots, including the 26 November 1943 raid to Berlin in G-for-George with Harry Carter). Lester passed away in 1994 and Ella chose a tree in the Memorial Park that is now dedicated to him.

David, Ella and I were joined for our ANZAC Day service by Flt Lt Shaun Hayles RAAF. Shaun is an exchange pilot flying Typhoons at RAF Coningsby.

Wreaths were laid at 1100 am and I read out Mark Chandler's superb poem "You came".

A very moving day in pretty dire weather at times."



Rockhampton QLD:

John Marsh is the nephew and namesake of his uncle F/Sgt John Marsh RAAF, Rear Gunner in F/Sgt Alex Richards' crew, KIA on 23 August 1943 when their Lancaster ED421 AR-B2 was shot down over Berlin (4 KIA, 3 POW).

460 Sqn V&F Gp assisted his family to successfully apply for F/Sgt Marsh's medals including the Bomber Command Clasp. John advised that on ANZAC Day he was immensely proud of his young grandson Geoffrey who marched for the first time in honour of his Great Uncle in the Rockhampton (QLD) ANZAC Day march, wearing F/Sgt Marsh's medals.

John summed it up wonderfully "I know now that Uncle John's memory & sacrifice will now last."

Geoffrey Marsh with his great uncle F/Sgt John Marsh RAAF's medals – ANZAC Day in Rockhampton



Stalag Luft III

(Lamsdorf Germany):

Stuart Waldon emailed me to let me know that he had a wonderful ANZAC Day and was very proud to have worn his uncle Ron's (F/Sgt Ron Waldon RAAF, navigator in F/O John Keene's Wellington crew - 5 KIA; 1 POW when Wellington Z1394 UV- Q Queenie was shot down on 3 June 1942) medals with 460 Squadron for the first time ever!

Stuart also advised that on ANZAC Day Wayne Butterworth, grandson of Doug Butterworth (Wireless Operator and only survivor of the Q Queenie crew) and recently retired from the RAAF himself, visited Stalag Luft III the POW camp at Lamsdorf, outside the village of Lambinowince in Poland that Doug was in during WWII.

Wayne Butterworth reports on his memorable experience:

It was Anzac Day and I was wearing my medals. At the adjacent museum which was the old POW Camp's Headquarters, the museum director asked me to share

Doug's story to a mixed German and Polish university journalism class that was attending a seminar there. All the crew got a mention. It was a little weird speaking their names (Doug Butterworth, Ron Waldon, etc.) aloud in that venue as the last time the crew's names would have been uttered there or in the camp proper would have been by Doug, telling the story to his new camp mates all those years ago.

Wayne then flew to Holland and the next day (26 April) visited the cemetery where three of Queenie's deceased crew members are buried – F/O John Keene RAAF, F/Sgt Ron Waldon RAAF, and Sgt William Kendall RAF (Wireless Opr)."

Sydney Daily Telegraph ANZAC Day article:

Thanks to Bev Speechley who highlighted the sobering story that she read in the ANZAC Day Sydney Daily Telegraph involving a 460 Sqn Veteran – she sent me a photocopy of the article.

BROTHERS IN ARMS:

At a time when sport is awash with talk of courage and 'giving everything', Anzac Day and the achingly sad story of the Hutchinson brothers provides a refresher on what true sacrifice looks like.

Extract from the article written by IAIN PAYTEN, April 24, 2017

"Born a year apart, Frank and Eric "Pat" Hutchinson were always side-by-side. Playing together as boys under the half-built Sydney Harbour Bridge, and later as young men, playing together on Sydney's rugby fields. The Hutchinson boys grew to be big young men and they wrapped arms around each other in the second rows of Norths, Sydney Uni and even the NSW Waratahs. The towering duo both played for Australia and, although it wasn't together, Pat's Wallabies debut only came when Frank - who debuted for the Wallabies a year earlier - was out injured.

When war broke out in 1939, Frank, Pat and elder brother Bill enlisted in the RAAF (within two months of each other in early 1941) to fight against Hitler and the Nazis.

It devastated father Arthur and mother Mary and, in echoes of the epic WWII movie 'Saving Private Ryan', elder brother Bill was subsequently blocked from overseas service as the "sole survivor" of the family.

In duplicate, the Hutchinson name now stands out on the Honour Roll in the Australian Rugby Union Headquarters, among the 17 Wallabies to have been killed in WWI and WWII.

At a time when war analogies



L: Eric (Pat) Hutchinson; R: Frank Hutchinson

are fading but sport remains awash with talk of courage, heroism and "giving everything", Anzac Day - and heart-wrenching stories like the Hutchinsons - reminds us what true sacrifice looks like.

True sacrifice looks like the letter received by Arthur Hutchinson on January 28, 1943, from the RAAF Casualty office, it carried the message that his son and Spitfire pilot Eric Hutchinson had been downed in a training accident in the Northern Territory, where he'd been sent to defend Darwin from Japanese raiders. He was missing and presumed dead.

It was tragic enough — but just three weeks earlier Arthur had been sent the same letter about Frank, who had been shot down in a Lancaster bomber over Holland - missing and presumed dead.

"I desire to extend to you the profound sympathy of this Department in having to convey this information to you so closely following the information conveyed concerning your other son," the second letter read.

Wallaby players were high-profile military recruits and of that 1938 team, 14 served and six died in WWII.

Flight Sergeant Frank Hutchinson RAAF was Navigator in F/Sgt Hiram Brooks RAAF's crew, arriving at 460 Squadron, RAF Brighton on 22 November 1942 and were shot down on 4 January 1943, their ninth operation, the raid on Essen. All the crew were KIA and are buried in the Uden War Cemetery in The Netherlands.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/dailytelegraph/posts/10154341866126105>



Eric, Frank and Bill Hutchinson playing cricket.



The remains of Stalag Luft III

460 Squadron Veterans R.I.P — Lest We Forget



Gary Eason's depiction of Avro Lancaster W5005, AR-L for Leader of 460 Squadron RAAF as it appeared on 9 September 1943 when it carried 30 operations in the bomb tally on its nose. (photo with permission of Gary Eason - www.flightartworks.com)

Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster

(an update status on the honour bestowed on WWII 460 Squadron RAAF Veterans):

BBMF Lancaster PA474 was due to take to the air with 460 Squadron Lancaster W5005 being honoured as her port side livery in late May. Technical problems have delayed this by about a month.

Sqn Ldr Clive Rowley MBE RAF (Ret'd) ex OC of Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) and now their Historian has been keeping me posted on the progress of the BBMF Lancaster together with some marvellous photos

When the editor first mentioned to Dave Fellowes that S/L Millikan had chosen the 460 Sqn livery, he was incredibly pleased

saying that he has been pushing the BBMF for years for this.

The sound of four Merlins is unique – for the testing of PA474's engines at RAF Duxford, please click onto the following:

<https://www.facebook.com/aircraftrestorationcompany/videos/790067954483207/> (thank you to John Broadhead for providing the link)

Once PA474 is finally airborne, the BBMF team is planning to hold a special 460 Squadron Day for 460 Squadron veterans, families and friends at the BBMF's home at RAF Coningsby - the date is as yet undecided.



T: Lancaster PA474 at Duxford being weighed - 38,023lbs (17,283kg) without any fuel (ARCo Facebook page)

A: S/L Andy Millikan (CO of BBMF) with 460 Sqn Veteran Rear Gunner Dave Fellowes at RAF Duxford, April 2017 (photo provide by Clive Rowley MBE) – refer to the bottom of the vale section for news on Dave Fellowes's death.



L: F/Lt Thomas Victor (Vic) Watts DFC & Bar painting the original nose art at Binbrook 1943 – photo provide by Robyn Jackson, Vic Watts'

R: The 21st century Vic Watts, Chris Impey painting the nose art on BBMF Lancaster PA474 in 2017 (photo from ARCo Facebook).



BBMF Lancaster PA474 at RAF Duxford – engine checks - 9 June 2017 (photo on ARCo)

Royal Australian Air Force 96th Birthday Commemoration Service 24th March 2017:

460 Sqn V&F Group Committee's Janenne Moffatt was our representative at this historic event, and describes the day:

"A large crowd attended the service to commemorate the RAAF's 96th Anniversary and it was well represented by the NSW Division of RAAFA and other organisations.

The introduction was given by the Rev Geoffrey R Usher, State Councillor, RAAF Association (NSW Division) highlighting the history of the RAAF and thanking everyone for their attendance. The opening prayers were led by Chaplain Sqn Ldr James Cox from RAAF Richmond followed by a moving address given by GPCAPT Nick Osborne representing the Chief of Air Force and

Air Commander Australia.

He spoke about the "humanitarian" side of the current Air Force aiding not only in war zones but helping out in disasters, floods & bush fires. He also spoke about the sadness families experience while their loved ones are away serving their country for great lengths of time. He also talked of the uncertainty that their son, brother, uncle or father might never return home as directly relating to stories of WWII veterans.

The wreaths were laid by many "representing" various politicians & consuls as well as wreaths laid by Betty Seery (Women's Auxiliary RAAF); Joy & Janenne Moffatt (460 Sqn WW2 veterans & widows/460 Sqn V&F Group); Keith Campbell OAM Ld'H (President

BCCF) & Don Southwell Ld'H (463 Sqn & Secretary of BCCF) as well as Dr Ron Houghton DFC Ld'H (President of BCCA).and Dame Marie Bashir AD, CVO (retired Governor of NSW and patron of the RAAF)

Mr Ron Glew President of RAAF Association (NSW Division) recited the ode and was followed by the singing of a hymn sung to "The Dambusters" March.

The Australian Army Band under the command of Major David Thompson should be congratulated for their performance of the National Anthem and our thanks also go to the Catafalque party from RAAF Richmond and the NSW Police for their contribution to the day.

Unfortunately due to the cloud cover & showers there was no flypast."

Flight Lieutenant Peter Stuart

Isaacson AM DFC AFC DFM

(31 July 1920 – 7 April 2017):

Peter Stuart Isaacson was born on 31 July 1920 in London, UK and grew up in Melbourne and started working for a newspaper when he was sixteen. Little can he have known at that time, what life had in store for him. He enlisted in the RAAF on 8 December and trained as a pilot under the Empire Air Training Scheme in Australia and Canada. While not yet operational (still at the Operational Training Unit), he and his crew followed the order of Bomber Harris' strategy to prove that the fledgling Bomber Command was a force to be reckoned with by flying on several of the 1000 Bomber Raids. He was transferred to 460 Squadron arriving with his four man crew at RAF Brighton on 11 June 1942, flying 19 operations in the two engined Vickers Wellington bomber, before the squadron was taken off operations to convert initially to Halifax and then before becoming operational to the Avro Lancaster. At this stage F/Sgt Peter Isaacson DFM flew a further nine raids with 460 Sqn before being transferred to 156 Sqn Pathfinder Force where he completed his tour of 32 operations, adding the DFC and being commissioned. In May 1943, F/Lt Peter Isaacson DFC DFM had completed 45 operations and was asked to fly Lancaster Q-Queenie to Australia and fly a tour of the major cities to encourage the population to buy war bonds.

On 22 May 1943 Peter and his crew took off in Lancaster A66-1/ED930, Q for Queenie VI on what was to be the first flight from England across the Atlantic, the United States and the Pacific to Australia - the longest flight by a Lancaster, becoming F/Lt Peter Isaacson DFC AFC DFM.

Supposedly with the altruistic aim of generating more publicity for their war bonds tour, Peter used his network of media contacts to arrange the press to be strategically placed to photograph the never before (and never since) feat of Peter flying his heavy bomber aircraft under the Sydney Harbour Bridge on 22 October 1943. Peter

always humbly said he did it "because it was there" but it certainly got the nation's attention to the reason Queenie was in Australia

Peter's philosophy was "when in doubt do the courageous thing".

In December 1943, following his promotional tour with his crew in Q-for-Queenie, Peter settled down to instructional work at an Operational Training Unit before undertaking a further tour in the Lancaster commencing in March 1944.

After the war, Peter transferred to the RAAF Reserve, becoming Commandant of the Victorian Air Training Corps from 1950-1968. Peter would be pleased to know that his recommendation from that period has come to fruition with the Australian Air Force Cadets now offered both gliding and powered flight. He was also Commanding Officer of No 21 (City of Melbourne) Squadron from 1961 until retiring in 1969 as a Wing Commander. From 1956 he served as a Trustee, Chairman, and finally (in 2000) Life Governor of the Victorian Shrine of Remembrance. Peter attended the Shrine of Remembrance Dinner in November last year where he received a Letter of Appreciation from our Governor, Her Excellency The Honourable Linda Dessau AC.

In 1991 Peter was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his publishing and community work – it seems it took the Government almost 50 years to forgive the transgression of Peter seeing the underside of the Sydney Harbour Bridge from the cockpit of Q-Queenie – Peter Isaacson AM DFC AFC DFM.

Sources: Eulogies by Christopher G. Spence AO and Rabbi Dr John S Levi AM, 460 Sqn files, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Isaacson

His non-military career – Peter Isaacson Publications and his family life:

Extract from Graeme 'Jacko' Jackson's eulogy:

"Let me take you into the world of Peter Isaacson Publications, Porter Street, Prahran, not only a house of beautiful alliteration but buzzing with energy, enthusiasm and endeavour. Journalists, sales, admin, accounts, subscriptions,



L: F/Lt Peter Isaacson DFC DFM with the Pathfinder Force flying eagle, taken in 1943
R: The Stella Bowen portrait of Peter (photo courtesy of the AWM)

circulation, printing, they are all beavering away and the boss is striding through, keeping everyone on their toes with his regulation query in his booming voice, 'How's sales?'

Amidst all this hectic action, if you have a moment to look up from your desk, there will be Joan Viner (Victorian Premier) ushering in today's guest for lunch. Why, it's John Gorton, the former Prime Minister. That's the calibre of people who used to drop by.

Extract from Rabbi Dr John S Levi AM's eulogy:

His sister Barbara Joan visited Peter before he passed away. They spent some time together. She went home and died while Peter, unaware that she had gone, also died that same night.

The author, Denis Warner wrote in his book "Pathfinder-the Peter Isaacson Story. The business began "on the smell of ink" and grew to include more than sixty publications around Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore. In its time, he observed with a smile, he was publishing more mastheads than Rupert Murdoch.

Not bad for a boy who had left school when he was 16 years old."

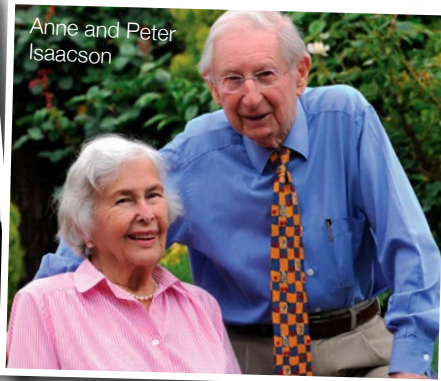
His 21 year old grandson, Walt Isaacson explains:

"Grand-Peter was a generous man who gave his time, support and company freely to us. He had time for a chat, though always brief over the phone or time just to give Clem a snuggle or hold my hand. He encouraged us with our chosen paths and always inquired about what the next steps were and how we could achieve them.

He was a humble man when he spoke of his incredible achievements, which he did rarely. He talked as if he saw that his actions were a necessity. Something needed doing so he did it, an attitude which was carried right up until the end. In November we saw him stumbling



L: The crew of Q-Queenie
R: The photo of the infamous flight under the Sydney Harbour Bridge



Anne and Peter Isaacson

around Bindaree with a chain saw nearly cutting off his leg as he tried to cut some fern branches... but the ferns obviously needed a trim so he was the man for job. He wasn't a dogmatic man with his religion but he thought philosophically, had strong moral values and followed them.

We saw in the last six months how much Grand Anne meant to him. The love of his life. He was devoted to her and it broke his heart to see her go. Getting old was hard for Grand-Peter, for some reason he just never thought it would happen to him. Even still he carried himself with great dignity and kindness right to the end and let his big heart guide his way."

Sources: Eulogies by Rabbi Dr John S Levi AM, Walt Isaacson and Tony Isaacson

After a private family burial soon after his death, his sons Tony & Tim arranged a Memorial Service for their father on 3 May 2017 at Temple Beth Israel which was Peter's and his mother and father's

night. Most will not know that WGCDR Nathan Klohs kindly agreed to trial a luncheon format in 2015 to allow Peter to accept our invitation to the luncheon and to be the guest speaker. This Peter did with an incredibly memorable talk about his time on 460 Sqn – asking the audience to close our eyes to visualise what Peter was describing. Peter then rushed to the airport to catch his flight home to Melbourne so he could be with Anne.

Tony agreed for me to read the poem 'To Absent Friends of 460

synagogue.

All readers will know of the annual anniversary celebrations in Canberra for the reformation of 460 SQN RAAF. Most will also know that apart from one (2015) they have all occurred at

Squadron' at Peter's Memorial Service. Unfortunately a last minute family commitment prevented me making it to Melbourne. The CO of 460 SQN WGCDR Cal Harrison kindly sent CPL Brione Gamble to represent both the current and WWII squadron and read the poem. Veteran Maurie O'Keefe advised later that he also attended the memorial service.

460 Squadron Veterans & Friends Group extends our sympathy to Tony, Tim, Megan, Julie Clementine and Walt and to the children and grandchildren of Peter's sister, Barbara Joan.

Peter was the last surviving member of the crew of Q for Queenie.

Peter giving the keynote address at the fifth anniversary celebration of the reformation of 460 SQN, July 2015



WOFF Ernest George Truman

(27 March 1921 – 10 April 2017):

Ernest was born in the inner Melbourne suburb of Yarraville on 27 March 1921. He enlisted in the RAAF on 15 May 1942. He teamed up with F/O Peter Birt RAAF's core crew as the Bomb Aimer at the Operational Training Unit and after converting to Lancasters, the crew was assigned to 460 Squadron at RAF Binbrook, arriving on 14 October 1944.

Their first bombing operation was two weeks later on the 28 October 1944 raid on Cologne. They flew various Lancasters on their first 13 operations, before being assigned one of 460 Sqn's favourite Lancasters ND970 AR-S for Sugar with

the famous Snifter nose art for the night of 28 January 1945 raid on Stuttgart as the current pilot Doug Arrowsmith was sick.

The crew that were shot down that night were:

F/O P N Birt RAAF (Pilot); Flt Sgt E S Symes RAAF (Navigator); Flt Sgt E G Truman RAAF (Bomb Aimer); Flt Sgt D R Benbow RAAF (Wireless Opr); Sgt A Field RAF (Flight Engineer); Flt Sgt D G O'Hara (Mid Upper Gunner); and Flt Sgt S G Wilson (Rear Gunner). Symes, Truman, Benbow & Field survived to become POW's.

At war's end Ern Truman was repatriated to the UK via Operation Exodus and was discharged from the RAAF on 25 January 1946.

The May 2017 edition of the 460

Squadron Association (Victoria) Newsletter provides the sad news that:

"Ern Truman died on April 10th. He lived in Clifton Springs and in our early days, he was a regular member of our Geelong group who came up to our various activities. He was the Bomb Aimer in P. N. Birt's crew, and became a POW when they were shot down on 28/01/45 having done 14 operations. The pilot and two gunners were killed. Ern Truman was in aged care accommodation prior to his death."

His Funeral Notice advises that his wife Joyce predeceased him and he is the father of Geoff and Diana, Mark and Hannele, and David and Sue. Our condolences go out to all of his family.

Warrant Officer David Fellowes RAF:

Just as the bulletin is going to the Type Setter, we were sadly informed that Dave Fellowes RAF has passed away after a long battle with cancer. Dave flew 33 ops with 460 Sqn – the most spectacular of which, the 7 January 1945 raid on Munich was covered in "The Dangerous Clouds" in our March bulletin, and the story's prelude: "Getting through the day knowing you are on Ops that night" is in this edition.

We will include a vale to Dave Fellowes in our September bulletin.

Flying Officer Frederick Charles 'Fred' Sargeant

(26 January 1925 - 21 June 2017):

After the bulletin was with our Type Setter, Terry Sargeant called me to say his father had a fall a while ago, hurt his back and had been on serious painkillers since. He had a heart attack last Sunday and died at 8am on Wednesday 21 June.

I passed on our condolences to Terry & his family on behalf of the many 460 Sqn friends that Fred has made over the years.

We will include a vale to Fred in our September bulletin.

Flying officer William Horsley (Bill) Grey Ld'H (1 November 1919 – 10 April 2017):

Bill Grey was born on 1 November 1919 in the inner Sydney suburb of Paddington, enlisting in the RAAF on 31 January 1942, training as an Observer, a multi-tasked mustering being a fully qualified Navigator, Bomb Aimer and Air Gunner. He teamed up with his pilot Dan Cullen at the Operational Training Unit not realising at the time that they would fly together on all of their flights including the 33 operations of the first tour, but would also become very close, lifelong friends. Bill's four children have Dan & Enid Cullen as their godparents and they all call him 'Uncle'

As Bill wrote in Dan's eulogy (March 2016 bulletin): *"Dan and I were on the same course at Bradfield Park. We first met at White Bay when the Wharfies went on strike and the RAAF were posted to unload the ships. The only time during the war that we were separated was when he went one way and I another (to Canada). We met up again at 27 OTU Litchfield".*

The crew were assigned to 460 Squadron arriving at Binbrook on 23 March 1944 and started their pre operational training including Night Flying Tests. On 9 April 1944 they were briefed by the SQN CO and Ops staff for their first bombing operation, the raid on the Villeneuve – St. Georges marshalling yards. Getting ready to don their flying gear, Rear Gunner Ian MacDonald surprised everyone by saying that he was not going. His personal problems in flying ops had not been apparent but it was dangerous to him and the crew to force him. SGT Ian MacDonald RAF was quickly, quietly and completely removed from the crew and the station. There is no record on 460 Squadron files that Ian MacDonald was ever on 460 Squadron – as Bill told me, this is the way it was done.

This left the crew without a Rear Gunner and forcing them to fly with multiple rear gunners throughout their tour. Flying Officer Bill Grey was discharged from the RAAF on 5 March 1946.

The editor became good mates with the straight talking Bill Grey. In one discussion with him years ago I raised the issue of Dan the pilot receiving the DFC at the end of the tour, whereas the other crew members who endured the same dangers (more so as Bill put it, due to Dan's habit of rough landings) went unrewarded. Bill's lethargic comment was simply "Dan deserved his medal".

Bill had a life-long philosophy of attending as many 460 Sqn functions as possible for as long as he was able. Even

after not being well enough to march on ANZAC Day he still attended the post-march luncheon for several years. With his family's support, Bill was able to live at home for longer than was thought possible, moving to the RSL ANZAC Life Care Village Care Home in Narrabeen a few months before his death.

Readers are now aware that 460 Squadron has been honoured by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Commanding Officer with Lancaster W5005 to be the next port side livery on the BBMF Lancaster. Bill was very happy to hear that Dan's crew had flown Lancaster W5005 on its last three bombing operations with 460 Sqn (before being transferred to 550 Sqn). Adding that we had found a photo taken after that last op, with the aircraft being repaired for damaged landing gear – Bill's chuckle came loud and clear down the phone "another of Dan's rough landings; I



R: The crew photo was taken at 1662 Heavy Bomber Conversion Unit at RAF Blyton in Lincolnshire in March 1944.

Names Left to Right: Donald Arthur Gray (known as 'Gray Junior') DFM RAF, Engineer; Colin Henry Wheatley RAAF, M.U. Gunner (Rear Gunner for 3 ops); Ian MacDonald RAF the crew's Rear Gunner; Denzil (Dan) John Cullen DFC RAAF, Pilot; A (Robbie) Robinson RAF, Bomb Aimer; Ross William Knight Yates RAAF, Wireless Operator; and William (Bill) Horsley Grey RAAF, Navigator (known as 'Grey Senior').

remember that we thought W5005 would have been for the scrap yard". I promised to bring over that photo and all the information we had researched on W5005 – I regrettably left my visit too late.

460 Sqn V&F Group condolences go out to his son James & Jill Grey and Bill's daughters Robyn Bell & Suzanne Moane and their families.



L: Sydney ANZAC Day 2011 with the Air cadets – left to right: Jack Barrington DFM, Bill Grey Ld'H and Jim O'Riordan

R: march 2013 460 Sqn V&F Gp lunch at Watsons Bay – left to right: Suzanne Moane, Tony Cohen DFC, Richard Munro, Bill Grey Ld'H and Robyn Bell



L: Bowlers Club lunch, Feb 2009 – left to right: Bill Grey Ld'H; Ken 'Bluey' Shephard DFC, Bill Moffatt OAM and S/L Gordon Johnstone OAM (then) President of RAAFA (NSW)
R: Celebrating Dan's ton – Bowlers Club Dec 2014: left to right: Tony Cohen DFC, Enid & Dan Cullen DFC Ld'H and Bill Grey Ld'H



Flight Lieutenant Victor Clarence (Vic) Grimmatt DFC (17 December 1921 – 24 April 2017)

Vic Grimmatt was born on 17 December 1923 in the suburbs of Melbourne. His father was Clarence Victor Grimmatt who played 37 cricket Tests for Australia and was the first bowler in the world to obtain 200 test wickets. He was christened Victor Clarence Grimmatt as per his father only in reverse.

After school he stated that he was lucky enough to get a clerical position in the Engineering and Water Supply Department, in Victoria Square, Adelaide. Vic enlisted in the RAAF on 10 October 1942, two months before his 19th birthday, but before he was called up in September 1942, he had to spend six months in the Militia, serving with the 58th AA unit stationed at West Beach. He was trained in Australia, gaining his pilot wings and being commissioned at Deniliquin NSW.

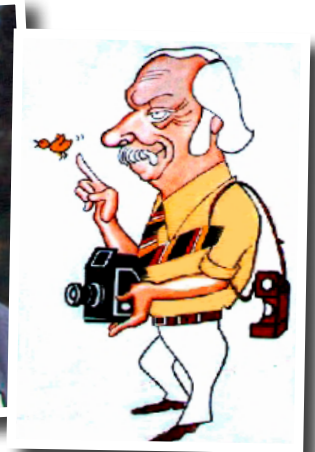
He and his crew were posted to 460 Squadron, where he did a tour of 31 operations over Europe.

After the war he returned to the E&WS Dept, but became disillusioned and unsuccessfully tried out as a radio

announcer, despite being auditioned by every radio station in Adelaide. He became a professional photographer, a career that held for 40 years; during that period he had the opportunity to photograph many famous people, including film stars, pop stars, royalty, politicians, sportsmen and women. He retired in 1993. Vic witnessed and photographed many funny, sad, unusual and exciting moments, and with a who's who of so many well-known people, he decided to write a book titled "CONFESSIONS OF AN ADELAIDE FLASHER".

Vic was a staunch member of Rotary from 1979, rising to become President of the West Torrens club.

He married Maureen O'Farrell in 1950 and became the father of a daughter, Helen and a son Brenton, both born on the same day of the year, 28th October



1954 and 1957. Unfortunately his marriage broke up in 1975 and he was on his own until 1982 when he married Louie Booker, a widow.

Helen never married and sadly died on Vic's birthday in 1990, and then Louie died eight days short of their 10th wedding anniversary on 28 May 1992. Brenton lives in Taiwan.

Sources: www.ozatwar.com;
www.460squadronraaf.com; 460 Sqn files and
<http://users.senet.com.au/~grim/index1.html>

On behalf of 460 Squadron Veterans & Friends Group, I passed on our condolences to Brenton and the rest of Vic Grimmatt's family.

460 Sqn V&F Group lunches since the last edition: '99 on York' (the old NSW Bowlers Club) Sydney 13 June 2017:

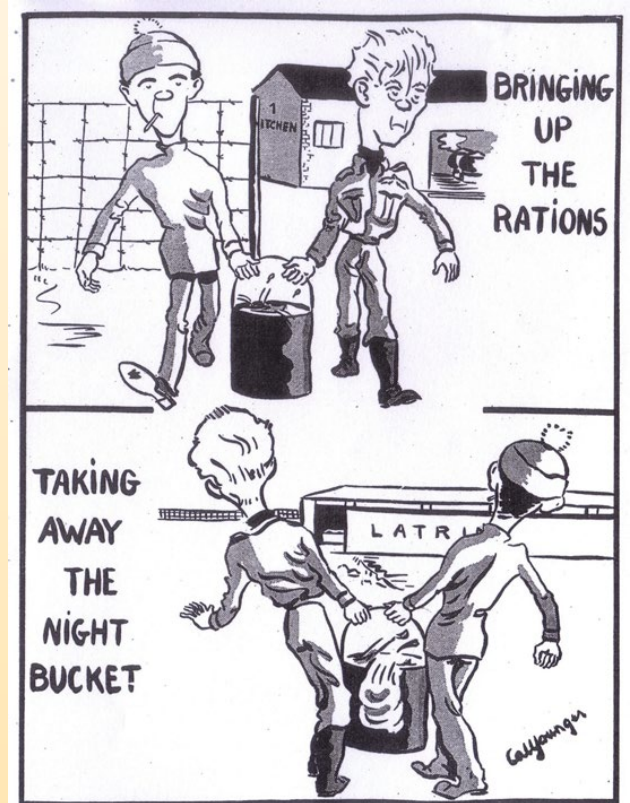
Immediately following the multiple BCCD events in Canberra and then Sydney, plus being the day after the NSW Queen's Birthday long weekend where many people took advantage of the holiday to have a mid-year break, I was delighted to join four other diners (Fran Dewhurst, Widow of Brian; her friend Faye Gonzales; David Tod and Barry Anderson) at '99 on York' for a small lunch gathering which allowed the five of us to all take part in the conversations.

Faye's comment that she had just returned from a wonderful trip to Vietnam encouraged Vietnam Veteran Barry Anderson (son of Rear Gunner Colin Anderson DFC who did his second tour on 460 Sqn (first tour on Liberators)) to share his experiences. As Barry talked and answered questions, it became apparent how many similarities there were between Bomber Command aircrew and the National Service soldiers – BC aircrew had the courage to hop into their aircraft night after night to face unknown dangers; day after day NS soldiers had to face the danger of not knowing who their enemy was (Barry recounted an incident where South Vietnamese officer uniforms had been stolen by the Viet Cong); both BC & Vietnamese War Veterans all suffered PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) in some form or another and both were shunned by society on their return from war. Barry advised that their repatriating aircraft touched down shortly after midnight – there was neither a military band nor any official welcome home. A Sydney based BC Vet told me a few years ago that it was night when his ship arrived in Melbourne - no one was there to meet him, he had neither Australian money nor any tickets for further travel. He slept his first night back in Australia on a bench at the wharf.

I know that I am preaching to the converted but I restate that the aircrew and soldiers courageously did as they were ordered. Whatever criticism Bomber Command received for the persistence of 'area bombing', everyone is unanimous in separating any debate on the moral issue from that of the courage and dedication of the men who flew the aircraft in this strategic controversy. The same applies to the Veterans of the Vietnam War.

We did have some more light hearted conversation and all enjoyed the lunch.

Cal Younger's sketch book:



This is the seventeenth bulletin exhibiting the late Cal Younger's cartoons from his booklet "Get a Load of This", which adds some humour to the seriousness of the risks and stresses of everyday at war, especially from his three long years as a Prisoner of War.

In Cal's honour, we will continue to include his cartoons in future bulletins.

CO's Corner:

WGCDR Cal Harrison summarises his first months as Commanding Officer of 460 SQN RAAF:

"Warmest greetings to all members of the 460 SQN family; veterans, friends, supporters, past and present members of our great squadron.

These past several months at 460 SQN have passed very quickly indeed and it is difficult to believe the year is almost half over. For me there has been much to learn and the squadron has been very busy focussing on supporting current operations, reviewing and improving the way we do business, training new members and preparing others to deploy on operations in the Middle East.

The year began with what was for me a very moving Change of Command Ceremony under the legendary 460 SQN Lancaster 'G' for George in Anzac Hall at the Australian War Memorial. At that ceremony SQNLDR Leith Biddell handed over command and he and I had the opportunity to speak about the important work the current squadron does, to recognise the remarkable courage, achievements and sacrifice of its original members during World War Two, and the pride we have in striving to uphold that great legacy. I was very pleased to see that Betty Seery, Joy and Janenne Moffatt, Bob and Olive Spence and Richard and Anne Munro were able to travel to Canberra to share the occasion.

In the months since we have continued to prepare and send individuals forward to participate in our operations the Middle East, and Leith has himself also deployed and will not be back until the end of the year. I thank him for his service, leadership and stewardship of the squadron in the second half of 2016 and wish him all the best for the future. He is one of six personnel currently deployed, and 11 more members of our team will follow before 2017 concludes. The work they do there is central to our operations and also draws heavily on our core business here in Canberra, in partnership with the Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation.

On the occasion of the RAAF's 96th Birthday on 31st March this year, the squadron was honoured by being awarded the Markowski Cup by the Chief of Air Force. The Markowski Cup is awarded to the most proficient unit not eligible to compete for other

WGCDR Cal Harrison, Commanding Officer No. 460 Squadron RAAF



RAAF proficiency awards. It is very pleasing recognition of the hard work and dedication of many people in the squadron and elsewhere over a number of years. Also on that same day, at the RAAF Memorial Service on Anzac Parade hosted by Chief of Air Force, one of our members, LAC Daniel Hogan, gave a heartfelt speech

about his experiences in the Air Force so far and what that service means to him and his family. It was a tremendous performance and demonstrated to me the thoughtfulness and pride with which our current generation of young airmen approach their service.

The squadron was also very pleased to be involved in a variety of Anzac Day Commemoration activities. I laid a wreath and attended the wonderful luncheon at the 460 SQN V&F Group Anzac Eve event in Martin Place in Sydney. The event was very well attended and was a great opportunity to meet with members of the 460 SQN Veterans and Friends community. On Anzac Day itself a number of current squadron members marched in the main parade in Sydney with the 460 SQN contingent, we provided a five person Catafalque Party to support commemorations in Eden in NSW, and the main body of the squadron marched in the Canberra parade along Anzac Parade to the Australian War Memorial. The weather was cold and very wet in Canberra but the parade went very well and was as always a great event for all.

This past weekend, 4-5 June, the squadron participated in a number of events at the Australian War Memorial to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the commencement of Royal Australian Air Force squadrons' operations with Bomber Command in World War Two. The events included a meet and greet with Veterans and dignitaries in Anzac Hall, a wreath laying ceremony at the Bomber

Command Memorial in the sculpture garden, and a luncheon hosted by Dr Brendan Nelson. Over the course of these events I was very privileged to meet two distinguished 460 SQN veterans, Howard Hendrick DFC and Murray Maxton Ld'H, both of whom spoke with great clarity and eloquence about their amazing service flying Lancasters on operations over Europe. It was a tremendous honour for 460 SQN to participate in these very significant commemorative events. The courage, sacrifice and selflessness displayed by that greatest of generations to defend our freedom and defeat tyranny is truly inspirational. It drives the current squadron to strive to continue that rich history of distinguished service in the spirit of those who have gone before us.

We are currently conducting final preparations for the Dinner on 30 June at the Australian War Memorial in ANZAC Hall under 'G' for George, at which the 460 SQN family will come together to celebrate the 7th Anniversary of the squadron's reformation. I look forward to a wonderful event which will serve to remind current members who we are and where we came from, and provide an opportunity to pay tribute to the fallen, and to our distinguished veterans and friends.

As I look forward to the next few months we are likely to be even busier as we prepare to send eight personnel away to support Exercise Talisman Sabre, both in Australia and the United States, in addition to getting on with a very demanding business as usual routine. I have every confidence that the current 460 SQN team will continue to meet every challenge with the diligence and professionalism they have demonstrated thus far.

Strike and Return

WGCDR Cal Harrison
Commanding Officer
Number 460 Squadron -
Strike and Return
"The Air Force's target
intelligence squadron"



L: Air Marshal Leo Davies, AO, CSC, Chief of Air Force presenting the Markowski Cup to 460 SQN RAAF

R: 460 SQN's SGT Oates, LAC Van Duren, LAC Klaus, LAC Franklin and LAC Cara marching in Eden on Anzac Day



7th Anniversary celebration of the Reformation of 460 Squadron RAAF:

As covered in CO's Corner, the Seventh Anniversary of the reformation of 460 Squadron RAAF will be celebrated on Friday 30 June 2017, with a dinner in ANZAC Hall at the Australian War memorial under the wings of 460 Sqn Lancaster G for George. We will cover this function in the September bulletin.

Getting through the day knowing you are on Ops that night - the precursor to last edition's article "The Dangerous Clouds - AR-O Oboe's mid-air collision":

For the crew of AR-O for Oboe (ND968/G) 460 Squadron RAAF 13 AMQ RAF Station Binbrook Lincolnshire

By 460 Sqn Lancaster ND968/G AR-O Rear Gunner Dave Fellowes

The morning of the 7th January 1945 started much the same as many others, the last minute scramble to complete ones ablutions, into battle dress, a quick dash to the Sergeants' Mess for the last of the breakfast, a few minutes in the anti-room looking at the previous day's papers then with crew complete a gentle walk to the hanger and 'B' Flight office, our skipper Art Whitmarsh followed us in. Amid the smoke haze and noise a telephone rings, an Aussie voice yells "Quiet"; the chatter stops, Bob Henderson our Flight Commander replaces the phone. "OK, it's on!" We all know what he means, so the crew disperse with the exception of the pilots and report to our individual sections.

Ken De La Mare, the mid upper and I disappear into the Gunnery Section, set about checking our Brownings, cleaning, 4x2 pull throughs, check the return springs, take them out to our dispersal and to Oboe. Sgt Spud Murphy with his team of fitters and armourers met us. Spud, with his black curly hair, wide grin was more like and Irish gypsy than a real digger.

The turret covers had already been removed and the guns fitted, all systems checked, spare sight bulbs, what little Perspex we had given a quick polish, most of it we had removed, a bit more draughty and a lot colder but it did improve vision, less frightening and made less work. Last job: fit the celluloid caps over the flash eliminator, put the turret covers back on and meet up with the other crew members and hot foot it back to the mess.

As we enter the foyer there for all to see the 'Battle Order': a list of names, aircraft, main briefing time etc. But there without mistake under 'B' Flight F/O A. Whitmarsh, (P) Sgt A. Shephard (F/E), F/Sgt D. Collett (N), F/Sgt P. Turnbull (B), F/Sgt J. Wilson (W/OP), Sgt K. De La Mare (MUG), Sgt D. Fellowes (RG). Aircraft O-Oboe ND968/G flying meal 15.30hrs. Briefing 16.15hrs.

Back to our Quarters (No.13 AMQ) Art, Shephard and I shared a small room upstairs, soon a fire was burning in the grate, kettle on, a quick brew up, feet up, relax, for soon the game would be on again and one more operation less to do.

A call at 15.00, flying sweaters on, a walk to the mess, into the servery with its large trays of fried eggs, streaky bacon, baked beans and fried bread and margarine; all to be washed down with hot tea or coffee. Somebody drops his plate; a mighty roar goes up – then quietness for a few seconds before the murmurings return – but – not for long, time to leave. Greatcoats on and join the growing crowd on its way to the Briefing Room. In a few minutes we see the Corporal SP (Service Police) outside the double doors and we pass through and there past the rows of

tables and chairs, the low stage with black curtains closed, we take our seats in line with the Skipper and Navigator, with Pilots sitting in the aisle seats. The room is thick with cigarette smoke and noise for the room is almost full, 18 crews operating tonight, 126 men.

The Intelligence Officer, Flight Commanders, Specialist Officers take their place on the platform either side of the curtains. Loud and clear comes the call "Atten-shun!" Everybody stands, it is quiet, and down the aisle walks the Station Commander Group Captain Keith Parsons, Squadron Commander Mike Cowan, a curt "good evening gentlemen" is followed by a mass murmured reply and followed by "be seated" as the Intelligence Officer draws the curtains apart and the target is revealed: MUNICH, a large groan goes up.

For all to see, the thin red tape stretched from Binbrook southwards to Reading then altering course to Beachy Head, over the Channel south-east towards a point north of Mulhouse where the track turned north-east and headed towards Stuttgart, a right turn onto a south-easterly heading passing Ulm on our port side and on to Memmingen and now a left turn direct for Munich.

This was to be the second attack on Munich this night, 5 Group squadrons were to attack with an H hour of 20.30; we in 1 Group at H hour 22.30. The briefing went on, we could expect moderate to heavy flak with fighter activity, the target and plan would be Parramatta, with emergency sky markings. Finally the Met-man, a small cheers goes up as he tells us 10/10 thick cumulus from France to the target area with tops to 85,000ft, with a frontal belt lying SE of Paris, with winds at 18000ft of 270/350 knots and tops 8-10,000ft near the target; no moon during the operation and the likelihood of snow on return with possible diversions. The briefing comes to an end, the Squadron Commander wishes us well, the Station Commander wished he was coming, everybody stands, the hierarchy leaves and the crews disperse to the changing rooms, empty pockets, into flying overalls, long socks, flying boots, gloves, helmet, check the oxygen mask, collect our parachute and harness (oh yes – sign for it) put our Mae West and harness on, collect our Escape Kit – place in inner battle-dress pocket and then out into the cold night. The crew bus soon arrives and with other crews with aircraft in adjacent dispersals, we are soon there and again met by Spud Murphy, he tells us all is well and the aircraft serviceable. We climb aboard, stow our chutes and carry out the necessary pre-flight checks.

I stick wakey-wakey tablets onto the strut with a piece of chewing gum and with time to spare the crew gather at the small ground crew shelter for a last cigarette. Art Whitmarsh signs the Form 700, most of us go for a quick 'leak', then with harness fastened, into the aeroplane - while the others go forward, I clamber over the Elsan (toilet), turn onto my back, slide over the tail spar, legs down and you are there. Check chute is secure, remove cotton reel from the oxygen economiser, close the doors, plug in the inter-com and connect oxygen tube to mask tube, fasten seat belt, open the breach covers and arm the four Brownings, make sure they are all cocked and Fire/Safe to safe, a call to the Skipper – "Rear Gunner ready, turret serviceable" – "ok" comes the reply, and one hears the others reporting and at last it is time to start the engines, so time to check the turret operation, full rotation, guns elevate and depress, gun sight switch to dim, check radar systems and report all systems serviceable. One can hear the power increased to the engines, we move forward then almost stop as the brakes are checked, a quick thumbs up to the ground crew as we taxi out of the dispersal and onto the perimeter and join the queue of Lancasters, slowly past the hanger and the Control Tower down the hill past the bomb dump then onto the end of 'Runway 22', then in turn we move onto the runway, final checks, a steady green from the Runway Controller, the engines roar, the brakes are released and the take-off run starts, the mighty Merlins give full power, the tail comes up. I am airborne, the tail swings a little then corrected, I hear the Engineer call "Full Power, temperature and pressures normal" – we are airborne at 18.47. Flaps and undercarriage come in and the Skipper calls for a 2650 + 9 and Oboe climbs away with a 4000lb Cookie and incendiaries, we turn onto course for the rendezvous at Reading and we climb to our first height. The guns are set to 'Fire' and the methodical search pattern of the gunners starts, with us reporting any other aircraft that may put us at risk.

Occasionally the whole aeroplane shudders due to turbulence from other Lancasters joining the bomber stream, eventually the flight level is reached and the Navigator gives the Skipper a time for Reading and a new course to steer. At the appointed time we turn on to the new course and start to climb to our next flight level carrying on to the next turning point, Beachy Head and head on up into The Dangerous Clouds (please refer to the March 2017 edition for Dave's amazing story on surviving a mid-air collision).

Bomber Command Commemorative Day Foundation - 75th Anniversary of the commencement of bombing operations:

Canberra 3 and 4 June 2017:

Many Bomber Command Veterans were able to attend this year's Bomber Command Commemorative Day events due to the generous offer of the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist with transport costs.

460 Sqn Lancaster G – for – George – Saturday morning 3 June:

Director of Australian War Memorial Dr Brendan Nelson AO invited 460 Squadron Veteran pilot Flying Officer W C Murray Maxton RAAF Ld'H and some of his family to join him inside 460 Sqn Lancaster G for George in the AWM's ANZAC Hall. Murray and his brother Eric who died in April 2015 are quite special among BC legends – in response to their strong request, 460 Sqn Commander Hughie Edwards VC broke the rules by allowing them to fly together in the same crew. Hughie supposedly demanded that Murray safely complete their tour as he definitely didn't want to have to explain to their (fellow West Australian) family that the two of them had been shot down. Hughie thought he had better show them the ropes to increase their chances of survival by personally taking Murray and his rookie crew including Wireless Operator Eric Maxton, on their first operation. On 7 July 1944 Murray flew as Hughie's Second Pilot on the raid to bomb Caen. Murray complied with Hughie's 'demand' safely bring back his crew which always included his brother Eric, a further 30 times to complete their first tour.

Inside George, Murray walked along the fuselage halting at the notorious Lancaster wing spar. As Dr Nelson explained at the BCCD lunch, he couldn't imagine how fit young aircrew climbed over this daunting wall of metal in their flight gear to get to their forward positions, let alone try to get back over to the back door in a crippled Lancaster spiralling down out of control. Murray turns 97 in November. With the same sense of humour that must have come from Hughie Edwards VC 73 years ago, Dr Nelson asked Murray if he broke his neck today would he die a happy man. Murray immediately answered with a definite "yes!!" so Dr Nelson helped 'throw' Murray over the spar to reach the pilot seat.

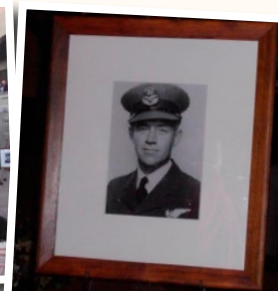
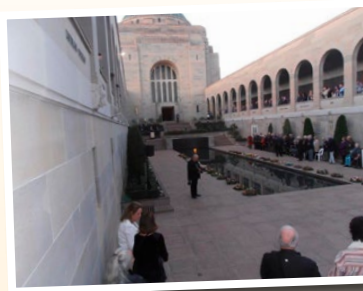
From the discussion I had with Murray afterwards, the editor can happily report "soft landing, no broken bones and a broad smile on Murray's face".

Last Post Oration – 4.55pm Saturday 3 June:

Linking wonderfully with the commencement of the BCCD weekend of commemoration events, the



Murray Maxton inside G for George, L: sitting on the wing spar; M: in his 'WWII office'; and R: afterwards, the smile says it all (photos by AWM photographer)



L: Last Post Oration tribute by BC Veterans; M: Photo of F/O Williams DFC RAAF (photos by Bob Spence); R: Howard Hendrick DFC & his daughter Margaret (photo by AWM photographer)



L: David Tod, Murray Maxton Ld'H & David Tod (photo provided by David Tod); M: Laurie Woods AM DFC Ld'H with two of the RAAF band (photo by Bob Spence) R: 460 Sqn Veterans – current: Sgt James Oates & WGCDR Cal Harrison and WWII: Howard Hendrick DFC Ld'H

Last Post Oration at the Australian War Memorial honoured Bomber Command Veteran Flying Officer Charles Rowland Williams DFC RAAF from Queensland, who served with the legendary 617 (Dambusters) Squadron. As part of the 16/17 May 1943 Dambusters raid (code named Operation Chastise) he was the Wireless Operator in F/Lt Bob Barlow RAAF's crew in Lancaster ED927G assigned to bomb the Sorpe Dam. They took off at 2128 hours. On the outward leg near Rees on the Rhine River, flying at very low altitude, his aircraft was hit by flak and flew into high tension wires before crashing - all were killed in Action. Their bouncing bomb mine survived the crash and was examined the next day by German technicians.

In tribute to F/O Williams, the Bomber

Command Veterans lined one side of the Remembrance pool throughout the ceremony.

Source: AWM Last Post Oration and 617 Squadron – The Operational Record Book 1943 – 1945 by Tobin Jones

Meet & Greet – 6.30pm Saturday 3 June:

Close on 300 BC Veterans, Widows, RAAF dignitaries, Veterans' families and friends came together under 'George' for the traditional BCCD weekend 'Meet & Greet'. Vice President BCCDF Brian Morelli was the master of ceremonies. 460 Sqn was honoured by the attendance of three veterans, Laurie Woods AM DFC Ld'H who came down from Brisbane (with the very kind assistance of Tiana Walker Adair who accompanied Laurie

to & from Brisbane; Howard Hendrick DFC who was accompanied by his daughter Margaret came across from Adelaide; and Murray Maxton Ld'H who was accompanied by his wife Patricia, daughter Lorraine Marshall and her partner Tony Carter, flew over from Perth.

Living up to the name of the function, attendees mingled and got to know old friends and made many new friendships.

During the evening Murray remembered that Laurie had filled in for his normal Bomb Aimer on the 4 November 1944 raid on Bochum, only 5 days before Laurie. With no previous pilot training, Laurie took over AR-K2 from his severely wounded pilot F/L Ed Owens RAAF and flew the aircraft home after bombing the Wanne Eickel Oil Refinery. Laurie was given an immediate DFC (as was Ed Owen) and commissioned for his courageous actions that saved the whole crew.

460 Sqn V&F Group members Bob & Olive Spence, David & Barrie Tod, Betty Seery, Rosemary Horton, Ken McKeown, Jan Dimmick and Richard Munro also partook in this successful evening

BCCD Wreath laying Ceremony – Sunday 4 June:

On a crisp cloudless wintry morning almost 500 people gathered at the Bomber Command Memorial in the Sculpture Garden at the Australian War Memorial for the 10th Annual Bomber Command Commemorative Wreath laying Ceremony, made even more special with this year being the 75th anniversary of the commencement of RAAF squadrons' bombing operations with RAF Bomber Command. All of the 460 Sqn attendees from the Meet & Greet attended the service.

Hosted by the AWM's Richard Crews, the current 460 SQN RAAF provided the Honour Guard. Attendees were welcomed by The Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson AO and the Introduction was given by Keith Campbell OAM, President of BCCD Foundation. The Commemorative Address was given by Senator Linda Reynolds CSC representing the Prime Minister and Reflections given by BC Veteran Ray Merrill DFC. The CO of the current 460 SQN RAAF, WGCDR Cal Harrison laid a wreath with Bob Spence laying the 460 Sqn V&F Group wreath.

A flyover by an F-18 from RAAF Williamtown concluded the service – an incredible (albeit a touch noisy) sight, strongly applauded by the amazed crowd.

BCCD Luncheon – Sunday 4 June

Being the 75th anniversary of the commencement of Australian squadrons' bombing operations, Dr Brendan Nelson AO kindly hosted the luncheon, held in the AWM under G for George for the BC Veterans, their families and those with direct links to Bomber



L: S/L Gordon Johnstone OAM (Ret'd) Vice President of BCCDF giving the Thanks and Farewell. 460 SQN RAAF Honour Guard to his right

R: Dr Nelson AO's Welcome; (photos taken L: David Tod; R by AWM photographer)

L: Keith Campbell Ld'H giving the Introduction (Senator Linda Reynolds CSC, representing the Prime Minister sitting with back to camera);

M: Bob Spence with the 460 Sqn V&F Gp wreath. (Photos taken by Bob Spence & BCCD photographer);

R:F-18 flypast over the BC Memorial (photo by AWM photographer)



L: Group photo of all the attending BC Veterans (photo by AWM photographer);

R: the 2017 BCCD wreaths around the Bomber Command Memorial (photo taken by Richard Munro)

Command.

Stuart Waldon joined most of the other 460 Squadron BCCD attendees at the lunch

A series of screens allowed the almost 300 attendees to see the people giving the talks. Dr Nelson's main address was considered to be one of the best military talks ever given and resulted in a long standing ovation at its end. He had researched several very moving BC Veterans' stories with tears flowing from many attendees. The Veteran (not 460) sitting next to the editor was incredibly overcome with Dr Nelson's words, bringing back all the emotion of his crew and lost colleagues. In an unplanned magical experience, several Veterans came to the lectern and gave amazing impromptu stories of the courage and bravery of their colleagues

On behalf of 460 Sqn V&F Group, the editor thanks the BCCDF committee and the AWM for arranging and hosting a very emotional and memorable weekend, which from the many attendees

who discussed this with the editor, the weekend programme was pitched perfectly and considered "the best yet".

Sydney 11 June 2017:

To also allow BC Veterans and their families to commemorate BCCD in their own states, each of the capital cities hosted a ceremony on a different day to Canberra. Sydney held their BC commemoration ceremony on Sunday 11 June under threatening skies after a week of constant rain at The Cenotaph

BCCD Sunday luncheon (photo by AWM photographer)



in Martin Place. The rain held off throughout the ceremony.

The Knox College Cadet Pipe Band built up the military atmosphere ahead of the ceremony. Ross Browning, son of Don Browning (President of 463/467 Sqn Association) was the MC, with the Introduction read by Dr Ron Houghton DFC Ld'H and the CO of 460 SQN RAAF WGCDR Cal Harrison giving the Main Address, containing the horrible statistics of being BC aircrew and quoting a couple of very moving stories of the courage of very young men. Sally Kingsford-Smith, daughter of WGCDR Rollo Kingsford-Smith AO DSO DFC, the first CO of 463 Sqn. read the Ode.

The Governor of NSW His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and his wife Linda led the wreath laying party, laying a wreath



L: 460 Sqn V&F Gp wreath;

M: His Excellency the Governor and his wife, with the attending BC Veterans;

R: BCCD wreaths on The Cenotaph post the luncheon - the rain held off throughout the ceremony.

(Photos by Richard Munro)

on behalf of the people of NSW. Richard Munro laid the 460 Sqn V&F Gp wreath.

Betty Seery, Elizabeth Uren (widow of Bert Uren) and her daughter Robyn, plus Kymberly Martin and her daughter Olivia attended. Kymberly is the daughter of Bob Clarke, Rear Gunner who flew 11

operations between 13 March and 6 May 1942 – one of 460 Squadron's Originals.

Most attendees moved to the Mosaic Restaurant in the Westin Hotel for further discussion over a sumptuous buffet lunch.

Congratulations to the organisers for a wonderfully organised event, causing eve-

460 Squadron Crash site memorials:

460 Sqn Lancaster DV174 Memorial update:

Lancaster DV174 – Fire Extinguisher – the journey is complete:

Right: Erik Wieman, WGCDR Ruth Elsley RAAF and Peter Berkel with the fire extinguisher next to the DV174 Memorial, Speyer, Germany, 1 October 2016 (photo provided by Erik Wieman)

Far Right Top: GPCAPT Paul Nicholas, the former Air Force Adviser to the Head of Australian Defence Staff, Australian High Commission, London presents the fire extinguisher to the incoming CO of 460 SQN RAAF, WGCDR Cal Harrison, in ANZAC Hall under 460 Squadron Lancaster G for George at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, on 25 January 2017. (photo provided by 460 SQN)

Far Right Bottom: The DV174 fire extinguisher and explanation certificate signed by Erik Wieman & Peter Berkel, in the 460 SQN RAAF show room in their Canberra offices. (photo by WOFF Brue MacLucas 460 SQN)



Visit by Plant relatives

Erik Wieman, the co-founder of the recovery team that researched the DV174 crash site, recovered many pieces and erected a memorial on the site, advises that the two nieces of DV174 Flight Engineer Sgt W A Davis, Margaret Davis and Louise Cullen visited the crash site, memorial and cemetery with their husbands.

Erik explains: "We drove into woods, close to the crash site. From there we walked the same "memorial-route" through the woods to the memorial. On the way I explained the details of the crash.

At the crash-site I explained exactly where we found the fire extinguisher, based on our finds how the aircraft was laying in the woods at the time, and where we have found the crew's personal belongings and showed them the still visible dip in the ground where the nose and cockpit of the plane has been. Next to this spot we took some pictures. In between it was very emotional for Margaret and Louise. They were very happy to be there.

After the explanations we went back to the memorial stone and I gave Margaret and Louise the two wooden remembrance plaques containing pieces of 460 Sqn Lancaster DV174

The two families then drove to Reichswald Forest war cemetery to visit the graves of the seven crew members."

L: Sgt W A Davis RAF; T: Margaret Davis, Louise Cullen, their husbands and Erik Wieman at the DV174 memorial



Memorial to DV174 Pilot unveiled

As covered in earlier bulletins, Michael Drew arranged a memorial dedicated to 460 Sqn Lancaster DV174's pilot F/Sgt Bruce Albert Plant RAAF on 23 April 2017.

The ceremony was organized by the Paluma and District Community Association (PDCA) and was held at the Community Hall in Paluma Rainforest Village, 83 Kilometres north- west of Townsville, in a tropical downpour (Top right). Bruce grew up at his parent's mountain Guest House "Kangaroo Park" on the Seaview Range in the 1930s The participants included an RAAF Honour Guard; Bruce Plant's sister and his son, John plus several relatives; Judy Midgley and Janice Pasterfield, nieces of DV174 crew members F/O George Hadley (Navigator) & F/Sgt Allen Cumming (Bomb Aimer) respectively; plus the local Political Representatives; and Paluma & District residents.

Judy Midgley advises: "The Ceremony was conducted by two RAAF Chaplains, F/Ls David Kelly and Ken Schulz. Following the entry of the Catafalque Party from RAAF Garbutt, Chaplain Kelly led with the opening prayer followed by the address by Squadron Leader Cole then Chaplain Schulz read the 23rd Psalm, and the unveiling and dedication held outside in the rain was conducted by Chaplain Kelly. A tree was added to the town's memorial garden, planted Bruce's grandson". Michael Drew adds: "WGCDR Ben Cole, Executive Officer of Garbutt Base gave an address describing Bruce's early life in the District as well as recounting 460 SQN's extraordinary history during the War which resulted in the death of 589 RAAF airmen"



460 Squadron Veteran's Grandson wins RSL sponsored Scholarship:

The Gallipoli Scholarship provides significant financial assistance to the most deserving and meritorious Australian applicants, resident in New South Wales or the ACT, to commence the first year of their first degree at a NSW or ACT University in 2017. One of the Scholarship's goals is to perpetuate among Australians an understanding of those enduring traditions of perseverance, courage and self-sacrifice which were established so indelibly in the cause of world peace at Gallipoli and thereafter on other battlefields in World War I. Subsequently these traditions have defined the Australian response to war.

In WWII, our soldiers at Milne Bay were the first to halt the advance on land of the Japanese Army. Bill Hall OAM BEM, the founder of the Gallipoli Scholarship, served in that battle. The Bill Hall Memorial Scholarship was founded to provide a scholarship for those descended from WWII veterans and was awarded for the first time in 2006.

Source: <http://www.gallipolischolarship.org/>

Kieren Bellemore, grandson of F/Sgt Geoffrey Tallents Ld'H, who flew a 31 op tour as Bomb Aimer in F/O Ron Tardent DFC RAAF's crew applied for the 2017 Bill Hall Memorial Scholarship. Kieren is a keen history student and was required to write an essay on a particular battle in New Guinea during WWII. His essay won him one of the scholarships.

On 20 April 2017, his proud family drove from Kempsey to Newcastle, collected Kieren from Uni, and continued on to Sydney for the presentation ceremony at Merrylands R.S.L.

Bronwyn Bellemore, the daughter of Geoff and Dorothy Tallents provided the above story as she believed other 460 Sqn family members may be interested to know about these scholarships. She knows that Geoff would have been very pleased that Kieren had been awarded one of them.



Above: F/Sgt Geoff Tallents Ld'H RAAF;
Below: Kieren Bellemore with his scholarship tutor and a second of his successful applicants, 20 April 2017, Merrylands RSL (photos provided by the Tallents & Bellemore families)

International Bomber Command Centre

IBCC Opening date announced:

Readers please take note that there has been a delay in the opening of the International Bomber Command Centre It will now be officially opened on **12th April 2018**

For readers wanting to attend, please contact Sue Taylor on: sue@internationalbcc.co.uk

Thank you for contributing

The Committee of 460 Squadron Veterans & Friends Group thanks all the members who have continued to respond to our request for assistance in funding this publication.

The work of the V&F Group is solely paid for by the generous donations of members. The cost of publishing and posting the bulletin is our major expense, costing \$30 per year per reader. The Committee give their time voluntarily. Many members donate \$50 annually. If you haven't already contributed we ask that you please do so. Thank you.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this bulletin. If you have any comments, suggestions or potential articles please contact the editor, Richard Munro or any member of the committee.

While we strive for perfection, we are only a volunteer group, so occasionally we make an error. If you detect any fault, please let the editor know and I will publish a correction in the next edition.

460 Squadron V&F Group Events for the balance of 2017:

August	8th (Tuesday) - '99 on York' (previously the City Bowlers Club), 99 York Street Sydney. The third of our bi-monthly lunches at the NSW Bowlers Club.
September	12th (Tuesday) Watsons Bay Hotel lunch The second of our two annual lunches at this beautiful harbour side location.
October	10th (Tuesday) - '99 on York' (previously the City Bowlers Club), 99 York Street Sydney. The fourth of our bi-monthly lunches at the NSW Bowlers Club.
December	1st (Friday) - Christmas luncheon – date and location to be confirmed 12th (Tuesday) - '99 on York' (previously the City Bowlers Club), 99 York Street Sydney. The fifth of our bi-monthly lunches at the NSW Bowlers Club and our last get together for 2017.

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Please make out your cheque/ money order & send to:

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20 Japonica Road, Epping
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Account Number: 482694577

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