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## 454–459 SQUADRONS ASSOCIATION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

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**Web site:** <https://www.454-459squadrons.org.au/>

**Facebook:**



Public: <https://www.facebook.com/454459squadrons>

Private: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/348000605705789/>

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### APRIL 2022 BULLETIN

*[this Bulletin is **only** available **online**]*

### YOUR COMMITTEE

Hon. Secretary – Rick Capel	Nephew of Cam Stephen - 454
Treasurer – Michael Antonios	Son-in-law of Bill East - 459
Julie Parsons	Daughter of Jim McHale - 459
Pamela Antonios	Daughter of Bill East - 459
Jill Lord	Daughter of George Gray - 454

# APRIL 2022 7BULLETIN

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY



## **Anzac Day Monday, 25TH April 2022**

Another year has gone by and here we are in 2022, 77 years since the end of WWII. I look back over the last 12 months and shake my head at what we have had to endure yet again: an ever-evolving global pandemic; after horrific fires, disastrous floods; a mice plague hitting our farmers and savage cost of living increases.

Yet, as we approach April 25, I remain grateful to be an Australian, part of this nation that has shown great resilience in facing the challenges that nature has thrown at us. I would like to think that our men and women in uniform who have gone before us are happy that we have made a reasonable fist of protecting and nurturing our country.

But then, another disaster comes along, this time man-made. War in Europe. A democracy being swallowed up by an autocracy. The blatant destruction of life and property by Putin is a stark reminder that all the best diplomatic efforts could not avoid this conflict. It is also a reminder that a democracy is a fragile thing.

Yes, a democracy is perhaps not as robust as we once thought, but it is the best form of government for the civilised world and so must be protected. That is the primary reason why our troops have marched off to defend freedom around the world. We therefore need to maintain a strong defence force so that we can face potential conflicts and negotiate from a position of strength.

We have a role to play in that. By attending an ANZAC Day service at numerous points all over Australia reminds the nation of the sacrifices made by our forefathers and the need to lift the banner and continue to remain vigilant. What has happened in Ukraine could also happen in our region. So we must remain strong and remember our history.

This year, I would like to see a large turn-out for the Sydney March and our gathering afterwards at Bungalow 8 in Darling Harbour. Kick-off is

at 11.00am so by the end of the march we should be ready for a drink and a bite to eat. It is an easy walk so please encourage your families to come and be thankful that we reside in this great country of ours.

Lest we forget

Rick Capel

# ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION 2022

## General ANZAC Day information

### RSL Information

- [General ANZAC Day information | RSL NSW](#)
- [Circular 11/22 ANZAC Day 2022 | RSL NSW](#)

Additionally, all modes of transport on the Opal network will be free for commuters for 12 days from 4am on 14 April 2022, Holy Thursday, to 3:59am on 26 April 2022, immediately following Anzac Day.

Additional early morning train and bus services will be running and continue throughout the day.

Please direct people to [transportnsw.info](https://transportnsw.info) or call 131 500 to plan their trip on public transport.

## ANZAC Day Sydney March information

The RSL has advised that "***There is no known or guaranteed step off time when marching with your branch of service, which could lead to a long wait time***"

As our **scheduled start for the march is approx 11am**, the association is recommending that we **form-up at 10:00am**. The form-up location is on the **west side of Castlereagh St, and Hunter St**.

The march is simply heading straight down Elizabeth St before disbursing at Liverpool St. There will be an 'Eyes Left' as an Act of Remembrance adjacent to the ANZAC Memorial.



## ANZAC Day Lunch Venue

After the march, please join us for a casual gathering at a very reasonably priced restaurant known as '[Bungalow 8](#)' at Darling Harbour.

3 Lime Street, King Street Wharf, NSW, 2000

Phone: 8322 2006

Bungalow 8 [menu](#).

Please feel free to order and pay for your own meals and drinks on the day.

Thank you for your forbearance as we, your committee, work to ensure the 454/459 members are lined up for the Anzac March this year. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Stay safe and start planning to be there!



# ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Association is thankful to all our members and descendants who have continued to provide financial support over the past years. This valuable support allowed the Association to

- Coordinate and commemorate ANZAC Day and its associated activities
- Create and update our website and promote the Squadron history and its members
- Produce and distribute the annual Squadron bulletin; and
- Support some of our veterans and families

Without the continued financial support, none of these initiatives would be possible.

The annual subscription fee of \$30 remains unchanged and can be made online at <https://www.454-459squadrons.org.au/subscription>

We respectfully request your continued financial support through regular subscription.

Naturally if you have any queries, please feel free to contact us through our website <https://www.454-459squadrons.org.au/contact>

Thank you once again for your support.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we ask that **no cheques or cash be posted**. If you could please use electronic banking.

- PayPal subscriptions: can be made by following this link <https://www.454-459squadrons.org.au/subscription> or
- Electronic transfer to:  
St George Bank BSB: 112 879  
Account Number: 067 706 091  
Please make sure you enter your name in the "Description field".

Thank you.



# ABSENT COMRADES



We have not been advised of the death of any 454-459 Squadron members.

## FEATURE STORIES

### **Sergeant Alan J RAY**

459 RAAF Squadron

Service No. 937332

Date of Birth: 1 January 1918

Place of Birth: Blaydon, County Durham, UK

Date of Enlistment: 3 September 1939

Date of Discharge: 20 March 1946

Date of Death: 30 September 2003

[Ray AJ | 459 Squadron \(454-459squadrons.org.au\)](http://Ray AJ | 459 Squadron (454-459squadrons.org.au))



### **Message from Alan's son Patrick Ray**

My late father, Sgt Alan Ray, RAF Police, served on 459 Squadron in the Western Desert in 1942. He often spoke to me about it and I know he'd very much have liked to be remembered on your website among his comrades. I also have some photos of other Squadron members that he had in his album. Unfortunately, there aren't any captions but perhaps someone will recognise them and I'd like you to have their pictures.

I've attached a photo of Dad that would have been taken during his time on the squadron and some more where

he's with other members, perhaps of the Police section but he didn't caption any of the pictures. He had a couple of prints of the group picture that's in the photo stream on your website and I've marked the one who (I think!) is him. I've also attached a copy of \* the Christmas 1942 Sergeants' Mess menu with his name and the signatures of other mess members on the back. There isn't any official paperwork in the album that dates from his time with 459 but there's an ID card from 1943 when he was serving with DAPM Levant Central with his service number on it.

Some more photos. Dad told me that he'd had a lot more, including shots of aircraft, that had been printed off by the squadron photographic section, but he'd destroyed them before he returned to the UK because he was worried, he'd get into trouble for infringing security regulations if they were found. I'm not 100% sure #14 belongs with his 459 Sqn photos but it does look as though it was taken in the desert (there are some other shots that look like Palestine to me) and that would be the only time he served there. <<

\* The 454-459 Squadrons Committee has been able to identify some of the names on the back of the Christmas 1942 Sergeant's Mess menu – RAAF 459 Squadron, as follows:

Wing Commander Phil Howson  
FO Noel "Dagwood" Lynch  
Sergeant Vernon A. Chadwick  
Flight Lieutenant - Bryan Rostron  
Flight Sergeant – Keith McCarthy  
Flying Officer – William [Bill] Martin Hurley  
Flight Lieutenant John 'Brian' Young  
Flight Lieutenant Robert James Fraser  
Flight Sergeant Ronald Green  
Sergeant Max Gordon Glenn  
Sergeant William 'Murray' Wilson

## Flight Officer James Harding TAYLOR

454 RAAF Squadron

Service No. 421945

Date of Birth: 29 April 1920

Place of Birth: Berrima, NSW

Date of Enlistment: 24 April 1942

Date of Discharge: 30 November 1945

Date of Death: 1970



*In truck enroute to aircraft, Falconaro, L.R. Don Fraser (Pilot), Charlie McLeod (Pilot), Kanga Den (WOP/AG), Charlie Mathews (Nav) and Mac Hume (Pilot).*

*Gray Collection*

[Taylor JH | 454 Squadron \(454-459squadrons.org.au\)](http://454-459squadrons.org.au)

**From Matt Duggan** - My wife's great uncle (paternal grandfather's older brother) James Harding Taylor 421945, - was a member of the 454 Squadron. He appears to have been called Jimmy on the squadron.

From his service records he served with 454 squadron from May 1944 to March 1945 during the squadrons period in Italy. He was an Air Observer (Navigator). He enlisted for service on the 24/04/1942 and appears to be mustered in that role from the start, 1 ITS at Somers.

He underwent training at 1 AOS Cootamundra, 3 BAGS West Sale and 2 ANS at Nhill before posting to Canada and the 1 GRS course. He then spent a short period Great Britain before being posted to the Middle East. Family recollection is that he was a member of \*Hume's crew. This is highly possible as a photo in Mark Lax's book "Alamein to the Alps" has a picture on page 143 that has Hume seated on a squadron truck enroute to the aircraft with what appears to Jimmy Taylor seated behind Hume (able to supply photos). At demobilisation he was recorded as Flying Officer, and entitled to the 1939-45 Star, Italy Star, War Medal and Service Medal. Sadly, Jimmy passed away in the early 1970's.

\*Flight Lieutenant George 'Mac' Hume 454 Squadron

There is a remarkable article which was published by the Southern Highlands Express on 19 Jan 2022 relating to Flying Officer James Harding Taylor 454 on his new webpage – see link above.

## THE ODE



"They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in  
the morning  
We will remember them."

## OUR WEBSITE

Our website <https://www.454-459squadrons.org.au/> continues to gain popularity with over 200 daily visitors from many parts of the world. As you'd expect, most of the visitors are from Australia, UK, US, Italy, France, and Greece

To keep the memories alive, we're constantly updating our website with new stories, pictures and memoirs from various members who have been kind enough to share this valuable content.

We encourage our members to check out our website and share any historical information you may have of the 454 and 459 Squadrons.

### Facebook

Our social media channels on Facebook have been an amazing instrument that brought many of the descendants closer to each other. In case you want to check them out, we have

- A Public Facebook page that is accessible to all Facebook users <https://www.facebook.com/454459squadrons/> we continue to get extremely positive feedback and engagement from Australia and the wider international community
- A Private and exclusive Facebook group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/348000605705789/> accessible only to approved members and descendants of the 454 and 459 Squadrons (i.e. it's not viewable or accessible to the public). This private group has grown over the past year where we now have over 97 members and descendants who have joined. So, if you haven't signed up for this, we'd love for you to join us.

### Join our Committee

We are seeking new committee members to join us and provide fresh input into how we can keep the Association relevant to new generations of descendants. If you are interested in helping, please [let us know](#).

**Reminder:**

If you need to contact us, please use the Contact Us page <https://www.454-459squadrons.org.au/contact>

## PHOTOS FROM 2021 ANZAC DAY







Checkout more photos on our website <https://www.454-459squadrons.org.au/anzacday2021>