

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



The Editor

G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney.

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August, 1955.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.....

458 in New South Wales.

by

Allan Walker.

Annual Squadron Ball: 170 Dancers.

A near capacity crowd of 170 odd came to the Pickwick Club for the Squadron Ball on the 29th. May. The big attendance must have been very gratifying to the hard working Ball Committee--Eric Munkman, Cy. Irwin and Graeme Coombes.

The Squadron entertained, as Guests of Honour, John Waddy, State President of the Air Force Association, and John Harris, President of the Limbless Soldiers Association of N.S.W.

There was a very excellent Floor Show.

Novelty dancers were decided by the novel method of bowling a lemon at a pineapple in the middle of the dance floor. This highly original and entertaining procedure caused an uproar of excitement.

Another outstanding event of the evening was the action of a certain ex-Observer, who as the evening wore on and excitement ran high, insisted on wearing his flying helmet. A centre of attraction also was the three gallon aluminium keg taken along by one party. It was very nice, boys, but much too small as no doubt you found out.

Squadron members who brought parties included Sam Barlow, George Unitt, Henry Bryant, Frank Ward, Eric Munkman, Maca, Bob Millar, Alf Hammond, Frank Hickey, John Dunn, Cec. Nation, Fred Strom, Kemp Beach, Goldy Bartlett, and Bob Lyndon. Snowy Fennell and Wally Archbold came down from Long Jetty and Ross and Pat Burgess from Newcastle. Graeme Coombes, Peter Alexander and Allan Walker represented 458 at the Official Table, with their partners.

The Squadron Picnic at Lane Cove.

We had delightful weather for a most successful and enjoyable picnic at Lane Cove National Park on June 26th. Those who attended had a day of sustained interest. They played Badminton, and Darts, and competed in races. They grilled steaks and drank a by-no-means-small amount of beer.

The Badminton was won by Gladys Baker's young brother and Alf Hammond's daughter; but for some reason the Darts failed to reach a conclusion. Possibly it was too close to the Bar. Jack Riley won the Mens Race. A photo was necessary to decide the winner of the Ladies Championship between Pat Millar and her twin sister Dulcie Byrne. After proper identification (thanks, Bob and Ted) the prize went to Dulcie.. This year there was no Tug-of-War or three legged race, so the reigning champions can retain their laurels until next time. The children were all well catered for with ice cream, soft drinks and sweets and every child who competed in a race received a prize of some sort. 458ers attending their first picnic included Bill McBride, Jim Whitem, Ron Hills, Ron Ricketts, Noel Griffiths, Noel Spurling, George Unitt, Dick Healey and Jock McJowen. Old Regulars attending were Alan Piggott, Alf Hammond, Kemp Beach, Sam Barlow, Jack Baker, Bob Lyndon, Peter Alexander, Jack Miller, Bob Millar, Eric Munkman, Cy. Irwin and Stuart Ricketts. All in all, with members' friends and children there were about 70 adults and about 70 children at this year's picnic.



458 in N.S.W. (cont.)

458 to Broadcast over the A.B.C. The N.S.W. Flight is to take part in Frank Legge's A.B.C. Show "Any Questions". This is regularly broadcast each Wednesday evening over 2FC in Sydney at 7.45 p.m., and over other National Stations throughout Australia. The recording is to take place on Thursday evening of the 11th August, on the premises of the Air Force Club, 330, George Street, Sydney. It is to be broadcast on Wednesday August 24th. A social evening is to be held in conjunction with the recording, and invitations have been sent to those members, and their wives, who it is believed will be interested in attending.

On the Sports Front.

Golf. Golf outings were held at Campbelltown Links on May 15th., when a match was played against 2 Squadron, and again on July 17th. On the first occasion, playing conditions were rather formidable (What mild language, Mr. Walker--Editor), and full credit must go to the 2 Squadron players who handled the conditions better than we did and ran out winners by 3 matches to 2. This makes a hat trick of defeats for us at golf as, on the two occasions we played the Armidale Old Boys we were also beaten. Individual trophy winners have been Ted McVicar and Cy. Irwin. Congratulations to them. It is very nice to see Cy. returning to form and playing the golf of which we know him capable. Further golf outings will be held at Campbelltown on August 14th. (Alan Piggott, please note) and September 11th. when the President's Cup (at present held by Eric Munkman) is to be played for. This will also be the occasion of our annual golf match with the Armidale Old Boys for a very valuable and useful trophy.

Bowls. Alf Hammond, Alan Piggott, and Cyril Irwin are looking for a fourth with the idea of forming a 458 team. How about it, you bowlers?

Darts. By courtesy of the Ryde Bowling Club, and through the person of Alan Piggott, who is a member, an invitation was extended to 458 to engage the bowling club at Darts. So, on Friday July 22nd., a number of 458ers and their wives spent a very pleasant evening. Twelve players were divided into A, B and C Grades, and each team played their opposites 801 up-best of three. Final result: R.B.C. won by 6 games to 4. Cyril Irwin proved the best 458 player, winning a handsome trophy, whilst Freddy Ridge played very well, scoring 114 in one visit to the Board--highest of the evening. Very many thanks to the members of the Club who entertained us so well.

Fishing. Our Fishing instructor, Bob Lyndon, is welcoming the approach of warmer weather with the idea of coaxing the other fishermen (mostly fairweather) "outside" again. Incidentally, it was while on a fishing trip to Wollongong recently that Bob ran into an old 459 member, name of Fred White, who sends his regards to Sam Barlow and Peter Alexander and other friends on 458.

Personal news. Congratulations to Cyril Irwin and Alan Piggott, both owners of new Ford Prefects, each (of course) proudly bearing a 458 Car Badge. Dick Healey who covered the Redex Car Trial by air last year for the A.B.C. is going again this year---this time by road. Dick intends fixing a 458 badge on his vehicle and will be most anxious, where time permits, to say hullo to Squadron members en route. Dick who represents 458 on the General State Committee of the Air Force Association recently attended, along with co-delegate Allan Walker, the week-end long Annual Assembly of the A.F.A.

NEWS FROM THE VICTORIAN FLIGHT.

by

Arthur Green.Reunion at Robinvale.

All we have to report is the week-end arranged by Dave Firth and Ken Cupper to Robinvale, for the Queens Birthday weekend. Seeing that I was the only one who remained more or less sober, I shall endeavour to give you an idea of what happened to all who made the trip!

Visitors were: Tom Burgess, with his wife and two children; Roy Rabone, wife and child; Ernie Laming, wife and two children; Frank "Shorty" Wilson. Also, very welcome too, George Unitt and Sam Barlow. Shorty, Sam and George arrived on the Saturday morning; the rest of us on the Friday.

For myself and party, and Ernie Laming and his family, we arrived at 4.30 p.m.. Decided to see if I could find anyone I knew. Knowing the type I was looking for I made for the Hotel and sure enough, trapped between wall and Bar was every fellow not bedridden in Robinvale. Dave introduced my host. Fought my way out at 6.30 p.m. so that my host would not be in the dog house only to find my car devoid of passengers. Began to wonder if his doghouse would hold two of us. Arrived to find tea ready, so averted trouble.

Friday night we were invited to the Robinvale R.S.L. Smoke Night, a night enjoyed by us all. Saturday morning I visited the Fruit Packing



News from the Victorian Flight (cont.)

Sheds. This being very thirsty work, we headed for the Pub. Just entering and hearing a call and lo ! There's Sam and George just arrived from Sydney. A few grogs, then to lunch. Most visitors were taken out this afternoon by their respective hosts. For myself, I played golf. Found the 19th most satisfactory.

Saturday night, the Ladies of Robinvale entertained us with a Social and Dance. Sunday, a tour of the settlement--a real eye-opener. The work these chaps have done in so short a time is amazing. Sunday evening, our ever gallant hosts put on a Barbecue that ended after 2.a.m. I don't know how. Ask Sam. I doubt if he does either.

Awoke very seedy Monday morning. Decided to move off about 10.a.m. Well, after visiting several homes, with several drinks, three dinners at three different places, we managed to tear ourselves away by 3.30 p.m. Shorty missed his plane so rode second dickie for me--a good relief on a long trip. Sam and George, beggars for punishment, pushed on further for a tour of our Western District, finishing up at my place for the last night of their holiday.

Well, that's the story. I--and all the boys were amazed at the spirit the chaps have up there. If every community worked with the collective spirit the chaps have up there, it would be a very nice world. For myself and each of the Victorian Flight, I sincerely thank Ken and Dave and the hosts who made us all so welcome and the many friends we made on a weekend that will linger in our memories for years to come.

By the way, Shorty and I are heading up to Robinvale again on August 6th for a couple of days---and more amazing, by invitation too !

CONGRATULATIONS from all 458 ers to Gordon and Mrs. Orchard on the birth of their daughter, Penelope Anne. Squadron members will wish the C.O. and his family every possible happiness.

SANDGROPPERS STORY

from

"Butch" Power.

Anzac Day went off with a bang. Twenty nine members on Parade. In the absence of Ron Chessell I led the Flight, with that eighteen-stone wonder, Jack Riseley, acting as "Sister Hannah". I will not detail his remarks except to say that they left nothing to your imagination. You see, it was a very windy day, and despite the capable efforts of our standard bearer the Banner played tricks. We literally sailed past the saluting base in a manner somewhat resembling the Kon Tiki Expedition.

After the March, the game was on in the Braille Society Hall, where approximately fifty members and friends met to relive old times. An excellent Buffet lunch, large quantities of beer, much laughter (most of it ribald), the old songs, and a brand new lot of drawing room stories, told for the most part by our Flight President, soon passed the time away.

I don't know what time the Reunion finished but at 9.30 p.m. there were still a few players and stayers bravely attempting to carry on in the true Squadron tradition despite untold handicaps. Quite a good effort considering the "Do" started at noon. It was a real good show, and we are looking forward with confidence to next Anzac Day. In passing, we were delighted to welcome back to the fold "Hashknife" Hopewell and Jimmy McInnes.

Our next get-together is scheduled for 18th. August and will take the form of a Social Evening to be held in Air Force House, Perth. The evening is for members, their wives and friends.

Recently, the picture "The Malta Story" opened in Perth. The Theatre management asked permission to hang the Squadron Banner in the Foyer. As we were the only Australian Squadron to serve on Malta we agreed and were agreeably proud of the interest it aroused. Alec Barras, Jack Riseley and myself, and our respective wives went along to see the Show. As regards the picture, well, it's a case of "no comment", but there were a lot of very good action shots, with one very fine shot of a Wimpey dropping a torpedo. Outside of Malta, I have never seen so many Maltese as I did at the theatre.

We over here in the Cinderella State are somewhat handicapped by the distance factor. Out of a potential membership of seventy odd, there are thirty-eight chaps who have evinced any interest in the Squadron Association. A special circular has recently been sent to all known ex-members of 458 Squadron in W.A. informing them of the exact position, and advising those who have not replied to our frequent correspondence, that much as we hate to do it, we will have to draw a line, as we cannot afford to carry the uninterested thirty-two on the backs of the interested thirty-eight. So, within a reasonable time we intend to ask for a revision of the mailing list of the "Squadron News".

The Squadron has our assurance that the thirty eight active members of the Association in this State can be relied on to keep the show going at this end.

To our mates over in the Eastern States we say "All the very Best" and hope to see you over in the West one of these fine days. You will sure be made welcome.....



EXTRACT FROM THE PERTH PRESS.

Eighteen stone Jack Riseley, of 6KY's advertising staff, climbed on a kitchen table last week to paint the ceiling of his Lounge. As the echoes of the table's splintering collapse died down Mr. R. found himself sitting in a pool of paint on the floor, wistfully watching the mess spread over the carpet and drip off the furniture. Mrs. R. wandered in, looked the scene over, said mildly, "If you'd seen this on the pictures, you'd have died laughing."

PERSONALITIES.CONGRATULATIONS TO

PETE AND MRS. PETTIT-----a Daughter, Wendy Elizabeth;

TED AND VAL GORE-----a Son, Robbie;

DOUG AND THAMAR BENNETT-----a Son, Richard Douglas;

RON HILLS: has started a new job. He now represents a firm supplying Cycle parts;

MACA: is going to Nowra for a few weeks on duty with the P.M.G.'s Dept.

OWEN CROMPTON: his many friends will be sorry to hear that Darcy has not been well for some weeks past. Our good wishes to you, Darcy, for a complete recovery soon.

FRANK WARD and his Fiancee have set a date, we understand, in October. Frank is now working with a firm of Chartered Accountants in O'Connell Street, Sydney.

JACK BAKER: Black Jack, who is a member of the R.A.A.F. Reserve, with the rank of Flying officer, recently spent some weeks in Camp.

STUART RICKETTS: is also an active member of the R.A.A.F. Reserve. He and Jack Baker both lecture to cadets at the same Unit.

ROGER RODWELL: has had a broken leg, following a car accident. We wish him a rapid recovery.

JIMMY WHITTEM: is teaching at Sydney University.

CEC. NATION AND BILL McBRIDE: represented the N.S.W. Flight at the Anzac Day Reunion of 3 Squadron Association.

LAURIE CROWLEY: who owns and operates an Airline in New Guinea has been in the News of late. He succeeded in locating, from the Air, while flying one of his aircraft, the wreckage of a missing Flying Boat, lost in the Shangri-la Valley.

BRUCE (FLASH) THOMAS: has just returned from a trip to the U.K., the Continent and to the U.S.A.---in fact round the World. Flash wishes to be remembered to Bill Perkins (with an inquiry if the P.P.W. is still working); also to John Carey, Pat McCulloch, Harry Dorge, and Lex Porter.

WALTER SULLIVAN and LEN THIELE: these two 458 Squadron members, who are both well-known Radio and Stage artists, were recently heard together in an A.B.C. Feature; a verse and song feature entitled "A Convict in Chains" heard over 2FC, Sydney.

JOCK PHILIP: who has been an invalid for some time, will be glad to welcome Squadron visitors at his home (105, Botany Street, Randwick, Sydney).

AUB. DOMBKINS: is now living in Sydney. He has a Service Station at Cronulla.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From JIM WILSON, 201, Pell Street, Broken Hill, N.S.W.

Dear Peter,

My apologies for not making contact earlier, but in keeping with the old saying "It's better late than never!".

The passing of time has dimmed our memory for names and I feel I am taking a liberty when I address you as above. Nevertheless, as members of 458 we have more than something in common and I feel quite justified.

My perusal of my first and subsequent copies of the "Squadron News" has brought back a flood of memories and I must convey my personal congratulations to yourself and all concerned for its presentation and the refreshing matter it contains.

Names such as Johnno Johnston, Stan Parker, Dick Pryer, Johnnie Cousins, Tony Main, Don Tunney, Dizzy Dean and many others mentioned in the "News" bring back significant memories. In particular, I must mention Tony Main and Don Tunney for it was in their company that I bid farewell to all the boys at Malta and commenced a very interesting Italian and European Tour which culminated at Brighton (U.K.) !

Since my return to Aussie, I have not been totally divorced from the familiar Squadron smells ! As representative for Commonwealth Oil Refineries in Broken Hill and District I am in what might be regarded as No Mans Land, hence the reason for my loss of contact. News of the South Australian Flight is interesting.....

As you probably know, Broken Hill is entirely dependant on South Australia for its commercial and industrial existence. Its geographical position has determined this---700 miles from Sydney and only 300 from Adelaide....my employment



Correspondence (cont.)

necessitates fairly frequent visits to Adelaide and I will make it my business to make contact....

My kind regards to yourself and coupled with this best wishes to each and every member of 458 throughout Australia and overseas.

yours sincerely, Jim Wilson.

From Bob Smith, St. Arnaud, Victoria.

Dear Peter,

Just the proverbial few lines to let you know the movements of another of the clan. I have been appointed Clerk of Petty Sessions and Clerk of the Children's Court at St. Arnaud, Birchip and Donald.

Ran into Bob McKinna at Birchip--exercising our right elbows as usual. He sends his regards and mentions that he could not make it to Robinvale owing to business.

Best wishes to Woosle Wurr, and Rusty Zenner. Any 458ers in this District, I hope, will keep clear of crime, but look me up for the usual chinwag and lubrication.

Regards, Bob Smith.

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

From the Sydney Morning Herald. (Thank you, Granny)

LAE. A tree saved a New Guinea bush pilot from plunging down a 1,000 ft. drop when his aircraft skidded off the end of a mountain airstrip late yesterday.

The pilot, Captain Laurie Crowley, who owns a New Guinea Airline, was taking off from Boana Airstrip, 30 miles west of Lae, when his landing wheels threw mud in his face and temporarily blinded him.

He said he stopped his engine and struggled to turn his fast-moving Curtis Robin but the aircraft skidded on the mud surface of the airstrip and careered off the end, down a 1,000 foot drop.

Crowley cleared the mud from his eyes to find the aircraft precariously lodged in a tree, 30 feet from the top of the fall.

He said he would salvage his aircraft.

For the next item we are indebted to G/Capt. John Waddy

LONDON. RAAF OFFICER LEADS RAF SALUTE TO QUEEN.

An R.A.A.F. Officer will lead a fly-past by 18 R.A.F. Shackleton bombers over Buckingham Palace on Queen's Birthday- June 9th. He is Wing Commander Jack Dowling, A.F.C., A Royal Australian Air Force officer who is on loan to the R.A.F.'s Coastal Command.

The fly-past will take place over Buckingham Palace at 1 p.m. after the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have returned to the Palace after the Trooping of the Colour ceremony at Horse Guards Parade. Wing Commander DOWLING will have overall command of the aircraft in the fly-past and he will personally pilot the leading Shackleton.

The Shackleton is a large 4-engine maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine aircraft built by the firm of A.V. Roe of Manchester. It is the principal type used for the purpose by the R.A.F. Coastal Command.

Wing Commander Jack Dowling was born in Stawell, Victoria, in 1916 and educated at Ballarat Church of England Grammar School. He joined the R.A.A.F. as a cadet in 1938. He went overseas in March, 1943, and commanded No. 458 Bomber Squadron, operating Wellington bombers in the Middle East.

After the War, Wing Commander Dowling was Deputy Director of Air Staff Plans for two years. In 1947 he did the Empire Flying School Course in the United Kingdom, and returned to Australia to command the R.A.A.F. at East Sale, Victoria. He went to England in 1952 to attend the R.A.F. Flying College, and then went to Coastal Command.

APPOINTMENTS TO SQUADRON COUNCIL.

The South Australian and United Kingdom Flights have recently announced their appointments of their representatives on Squadron Council. The 458 Squadron Council is 458's Central body. Appointments made are:

South Australian Councillor;	Cyril Irwin,
United Kingdom Councillor;	Cecil Nation.



Q-FLIGHT COMMENTARY.

from

Len. MacDonnell.

Firstly, apologies for there being no Q-Flight news for the last quarter. The Secretary was unfortunately laid low with a slipped disc, and never gave the "News" a thought.

"Q" Flight's Anzac Day was quite successful. 30 odd attended the March, and some 50 Odd gathered at the A.T.C. Mess afterwards for wassail. A very successful night financially, but marred somewhat by a couple of thefts, one serious. The blame has been attributed to a couple of coves whom subsequently no one could account for, it being a mixed gathering of A.T.C., R.A.A.F., Navy and Q Flight. Adequate precautions will be taken in future !

Congratulations to Melbourne on a very successful Reunion. Q Flight's representative had nothing but praise for the whole show.

With Q Flight's Annual Reunion coming up in August, we are going to miss a couple of old stalwarts in the forms of Bill McBride, now in Sydney, and Frank Crowley, moved to Cairns. Bill McBride, as Sydneyite visitors to Queensland will recall, was our champion beer dispenser, and I have no doubt that his talents in this direction have been utilised in Sydney by now.

We have been fortunate enough to have had a Glider plane given us by Terry Mullins. This is a lovely job, with a wing span of 4'3" and is capable of being fitted with a motor. We are running a Raffle on this at the moment, and it will be drawn at the Annual Reunion to be held at the beginning of Exhibition Festivities in Brisbane. We hope to benefit financially by this raffle. Terry has even consented to teach the winner to fly it, an extremely nice gesture !

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from

Pete Pettit.

We have got things started. Johnno managed to get our Circular duplicated, and my wife has addressed all the envelopes. Dick Murrell will send them off as he has all the copies of the Newsletter that you sent over.

The idea at the moment is for another Reunion in about September. At this we can organise some other "Do's", making an early start on getting the blokes to bring their women along. Some sort of a social or possibly a Dance. We have considered having a Do on Anzac Day. It was too late this year.

We are having a Membership Card designed for the mob. Hammy Hamlet is finalising the draft now.

Johnno still has the matter of a Squadron Tie in hand.

PORTRAITS OF TWO SECRETARIES.

(The N.S.W. and W.A. Flights have recently appointed new Secretaries.)

Allan (Paddy) Walker of New South.

Allan came to 458 when the Squadron was at Foggia. We remember, having been on leave, travelling back to Foggia from Naples in the gharri which took him, with other "Replacement" airmen, to 458. This was the first party of replacements to reach 458 and so break the ice for others to come later. There were, in that party as we remember, Bill Fiddes, Jimmy Brown, Peter MacManamey, Chester Jones, Laurie Kew and Bluey Forsyth as well as Allan.

It was possibly a difficult thing to come into a Squadron like 458 composed of men who had been together on the Squadron for three years. But the "Reos" accomplished it. When we next saw them, having returned to Foggia from Falconara, they had settled in and were giving 458 the same quiet and thorough service it had always had from its Fitters. They experienced with us the snowy Christmas in the Foggia Paper Mill, before going on with 458 to Gibraltar.

Gibraltar was noted for, among many things, duty-free Scotch Whiskey, which being duty-free was, by that token, cheap. We recall indulging. We recall indulging in Mr. Walker's company in as many as a dozen-plus Scotch in Gibraltar's cafes, before returning, only a little the worse, to Camp. We played Contract Bridge at Gibraltar with and also against Allan. If one can judge a man by the way he plays cards, Allan is very sound.

After the war, we located Allan in Parramatta, and working as a Progress Officer with Howard Auto-Cultivators. He came into the post-war organisation of 458 Squadron effectively at a cricket match, in Centennial Park, against 460 Squadron. From that point on he became one of the men on whom 458 in N.S.W. pivoted. Elected to the Committee shortly afterwards, and later as Vice President, he became Hon. Organiser in 1954 and in 1955 took over the N.S.W. Secretaryship. He represented N.S.W. at the All-States Reunions in Brisbane and in Melbourne.



Allan Walker (cont.)

458's strong sporting interest can be expected to continue. Allan has been an enthusiastic Rugby player and is still a keen and hard hitting cricketer and golfer. On the general Air Force side, he is a member of both the State Committee of the Air Force Association and the Committee of the Sydney Air Force Club.

In the West---"Butch" Power.

It was not, in fact, as "Butch" that we first encountered him, but as "Bubbles". He was functioning in the Squadron Stores, off the Hangar at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. "Who's that,?" we asked someone. "That's Bubbles Power." was the reply.

He continued with 458, as Sergeant in charge of the Stores, with the assistance of Johnny Bax and Ron Usher, on the journey out from England to Egypt. From Shallufa, we recall, he and Gordon Vale were the only people who got to Cyprus on Leave. They organised themselves a trip over. Bubbles seemed to be the only person who, at that particular period, achieved anything like friendship with that severe disciplinarian, the D.W.O.

After leaving 458, Sgt. Power was, we understand, commissioned as an Equipment Officer. We next heard of him, in post-war years, as organising the obtaining of the W.A. Flight's Squadron Banner. His other post-war history? We quote:

"I am an Accountant with Royal Perth Hospital. Although up to last year I did not keep very good health, one of our surgeons found several lumps of North Africa in my guts (how's that for a "line"), very capably removed same (the stones, not my guts) and I am now quite O.K. and able to stand the strain of being a Flight Secretary."

458 cannot but benefit from the energy and organising ability Butch's old friends know him to possess in high degree.

THE ROAD TO ROBINVALE.

with

SAM.

We left Sydney on Thursday morn and got to Yenda that afternoon, repairing to the Pub with Dusty Miller. He is Manager of a Sales and Service Station which sells Tractors, cars, refrigs and all and sundry motor parts and repairs. He has a nice big home and he and his wife, Enid, have three children (1 boy, 2 girls). The Publican put on a games night for us where we had darts, table tennis, and loads of grog. We finished up about 1 a.m. and next morning found us very seedy. That morning we were taken to the local rice mill and it was well worth seeing. Also visited the fields where the rice was growing. After many valiant attempts to get away from Yenda, we finally made it at 1.30 p.m. instead of 10.30 on original schedule.

The road from there to Hay was really bad, after the rains and we decided against the last dash to Robinvale that night. So we arrived at our destination at 11.30 Saturday morning. The 458 bodies there were:

Tom and Doreen Burgess with 2 children  
Ernie and Jean Laming with 2 children  
Shorty Wilson  
Ken and Rene Cupper

Roy and Margaret Rabone with one child  
Arthur and Elsie Green  
George Unitt and, of course,  
Dave and Gladys Firth.

Friday Night. R.S.L. Smoke Social, attended with Arthur, Ernie, Roy and Tom--extra good time had by all--lashings of grog and food--ended 2 a.m. All moderately full;

Saturday morning. Grog at Local and more grog in the afternoon. Weather very warm;

Saturday night. Ladies Dance night, attended by all 458 members and wives. Colour movies shown by Shorty Wilson who had arrived that morning by plane at Mildura--extra good dance--extra nice ladies--extra nice grog--extra nice food--ended 12.30. Everyone very pally.

About 50 people.

Sunday morning. Few grogs.

settlement--very interesting--shown pumping stations--farms in various stages from no vines to vines 8 years old.

Sunday afternoon. Car drive around the  
Sunday night. The big Barbecue at Milton Whiting's home. A big fire and plenty of food. This show started at 5.15 p.m. and finished at 2.15 a.m. It was a beaut night. Much singing round the camp fire, numerous jokes, a never-ending speech by Shorty Wilson, Ken Cupper endeavouring to sing (without success) Lagos Lagoon. Everyone finished up very full including myself. Some members right at the death were drinking Mildara sherry straight out of a Gallon jar.

Monday morning. All members very seedy. All trying to get away. Beer everywhere.

Everyone going by 12. Noon. 1 p.m. All visitors still there; more beer. 2 p.m. More beer. 2.45 p.m.--Melbourne and Western Districts mobs depart. 3 p.m. more beer 3.40 p.m. Sydney lads throw off the grip and flee for their lives. They leave Robinvale with happy memories but sore heads.

All Robinvale, including most of the wives, are going to Adelaide next Anzac Weekend. So is Dusty Miller who particularly wants to see Geoff. Esau there.



458 Squadron's sympathy is extended to Cy. Irwin in his recent bereavement.

#### N.S.W COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES.

<u>5 out of 5.</u>	P. Alexander, E. Munkman, A. J. Walker, C. Irwin, C. Nation, T. Moore, F. Stron;
<u>4 out of 5.</u>	G. Coombes, K. Beach, N. Spurling, F. Hickey, R. Healey;
<u>3 out of 5.</u>	S. Barlow, B. Millar, B. Lyndon, A. McGowen;
<u>2 out of 5.</u>	G. Unitt, D. Bithead, J. C. Baker;
<u>1 out of 5.</u>	V. Bartlett, R. Davies;

#### ANNUAL ASSEMBLY-N.S.W. AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION ,1955.

The Annual Assembly was held over the weekend of June 18th/19th. Locale was the Air Force Club, 330, George Street, Sydney. The State President of the A.F.A., G/Capt. J. L. Waddy presided. The 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association was represented by Dick Healey and Allan Walker. There were the usual number of motions dealing with War Service Homes administration, Pensions, and the like. 458 had put on the agenda three motions all of which were carried (a couple with some amendments). First suggested that the Association should encourage the writing and publishing of the histories of wartime Air Force Units; the second suggested more publicity in the Association for the decisions and doings of the Association Federal Council; and the third suggested that the Air Force Association present a trophy to the R.A.A.F. for annual award for the most meritorious achievement by an airman--Air Board to decide the winner. 458 wanted it called the Middleton Trophy after the V.C. but the Assembly decided to call it the Air Force Association Trophy.

Elections carried out at the Assembly resulted in Allan Walker's being unanimously re-elected to the Association's State Committee for two years. Dick had another year of his term to run.

#### DEAD LETTER OFFICE. Can anyone tell us the present whereabouts of the following:-

Peter Bailie	K. Bolton	D. Benson-Inglis	R. Bint	G. Brain	J. Briers	C. Chamberlain
N. Christie	S. L. Cookes	W. Creighton	S. G. Davidson	W. Fiddes	John George	
E. C. Ibbotson	Rube Johnson	L. V. Johnston	C. Jones	D. Kessler	L. Lehman	G. Loughheed
E. Mercer	Bruce McDonald	J. McGlasson	Tony Mauro	N. Moody	L. Nuske	
Lex Porter	P. O'Grady	R. Robinson	C. Stacey	J. Thompson	R. Tonkin	N. Vance
Jim Ward	M. V. White	A. J. Wells	Dave Westgarth.			

#### EDITORIAL.

Readers can make their own choice but, for our money, the most important thing reported in this Issue of the News is the Robinvale Country Reunion. There are several country towns which are the centre of areas containing enough 458 members for a local Reunion to be held from time to time. Robinvale, in the centre of the Irrigation Area bordering three States, has been the first to shew the energy and enthusiasm required to pioneer the way. Good luck and the Squadron's thanks to Robinvale. How about Newcastle, Toowoomba and Bendigo?

2. The Squadron will watch with interest and with close attention the progress of Squadron organisation in the U.K. Roughly, half the men who served on 458 have their homes in the United Kingdom. It cannot be impossible for them to have an active post-war association.

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To the Squadron Secretary, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

#### TITLE FOR 458 SQUADRON HISTORY.

I suggest that the Squadron History be given the title I have written below. I understand that the member suggesting the winning title will receive a free copy of the History when published. The copyright in the winning title will rest with the 458 Squadron Council. Winning, or any, suggested title not necessarily used.

SUGGESTED TITLE.....

Member's Name..... Address.....