

458 SQUADRON NEWS.

Vol. 1. No. 1.

Who remembers the snowy winter of 1941 at Holme-on Spalding-Moor? The tropical sun and sand of Shallufa and Amrya? Malta and Protville and the mud of Bone? The bare hills of Sardinia? Foggia? Or the Rock of Gibraltar? Remembrance and greetings to everyone of you!

This is the first issue of 458 SQUADRON NEWS which, the Committee hopes, will go out to 458 members in N.S.W. and Queensland each quarter bringing with it news of the Squadron and old friends and in particular helping to keep country members in touch.

But if we are to have a News-letter we must have news and thats up to you. Let's have some letters to the Editor.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.

458 in N.S.W. has been formed as a branch of the Air Force Association which gives the squadron a legal entity and permanent address, and it is believed that other States may adopt this form of organisation. The Branch was formed early in 1949 and officers elected are:

President:	Ralph Bailey.
Vice Presidents:	"Pete" Campbell;
	"Slappy" Hammond.
Hon. Treasurer:	"Sam" Barlow.
Hon. Secretary:	Peter Alexander.
Committee:	Alan Piggott; "Pop" Nation,
	Freddy Strom, Bob Bruce and
	Eric Munkman.
Hon. Auditors:	Doug. Bennett, A.A.A. and
	Geoff. Cannon.

458 SQUADRON NEWS records our gratitude to those who helped to keep the squadron going before the branch was formed: among them - Noel Walter, Don. Bitmead, Lofty Chalmers, and Peter Pettit.

The Committee meets monthly and has worked energetically and not without some success to get some squadron funds into the bank.

A theatre party was organised to see "Present Laughter", forty members and friends attended.

Then there came the "Bugle Call" broadcast and cabaret, show, which was held on August 10th in the Ballroom at Air Force House, Goulburn Street, Sydney and was a great success. Highlight was a Quiz contest with 455 Squadron. The questions our team was asked were:

Sam Barlow:	On what date and where was 458 Squadron formed?
Alan Piggott:	What was the name of the first R.A.A.F. winner of the V.C. in the 1939-45 war?
Peter Alexander:	What was the target of 458 Squadron's first operation?

Jack Aitken: What was the nickname of the aircraft with which 458 Squadron was formed?

Those who heard the broadcast know who answered what: as for the others, --the censors scissors must intervene. Silence is now best. However there is a return match with 455 coming off on October 19th. This time our team is expected to be: Doug. Bennett, Bob Bruce, Alf. Hammond and Peter Alexander.

The tenth Reunion of the squadron was held at Air Force House, Goulburn Street (the usual premises at 330 George Street being in the decorators' hands) on September 23rd. There were 45 there (rather less than usual) and we got through an 18 gallon keg of beer. During the business session there was some straight talking about the lack of co-operation from some members but it was an enjoyable evening. Pete Campbell and Alf Hammond were elected to the vacant positions of Vice-president and Doug, Hammond and Geoff. Cannon as Hon. Auditors. We heard with regret that Harry Mark who was with us at Shallufa is at present in the 113th General Hospital. The following were at the Reunion: Bert Thompson, Cec. Nation, Jack Aitken, Alan Piggott, Alf. Hammond, Terry Waldon, J. McPhee, Jack Baker, Jack Nichols, C. Campbell, Lofty Chalmers, Ralph Bailey, Fred Ayres, Lofty Bracker, Noel Walter, Doug. Bennett, Bill Hull, K. Gunn, Bob Bruce, B. Bonner, J. McKay, F. Graham, Goldy Bartlett, Col. Corten, Geoff Burgess, Jack Preston, Geoff Cannon, Ray Davies, A. Macmaster, Sam Barlow, Stuart Ricketts, Jack McDonald, Tom Moore, T. Mitchell, Jack Payne, Eric Munkman, Norman Skinner, Wally Archbold, R. Millar, Pete Campbell, Fred. Stron, Pete Pettit, Fred Ridge and Peter Alexander.

The beer took more than a bit of organising, especially as we didn't know how much we were going to need, but it was finally got, thanks to Maca and Fred Ayres, and transported by them Bailey, Alexander, and Pettit in the last-named's car on the evening of the Reunion.

Financially the evening was a loss (about £7). This was due to the combination of a lower than usual attendance and a higher than usual charge to pay for the use of the hall but members will understand it if the Committee has, very unwillingly to increase the charge at the next Reunion.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION.

Alan Piggott and Alf. Hammond represented the Squadron at the ANNUAL Conference of the Association in Goulburn and Alan had the honour of election to the General Council. If anyone wants any subject raised with the Association, Alan's just the man to do it.

458 needs more members to join the 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association as this membership is the backbone of the Squadron giving us our legal standing and financial help. Four new members joined during the Reunion. Forms may be got from the Hon. Secretary. Annual subscription is 10/-.

WINGS.

There was an illustrated article about 458 in the September copy of Wings. Copies are available from the Editor of 458 NEWS at 1/3d. each (post paid).

OTHER STATES' ACTIVITIES.

458 has an organisation in South Australia with Brian Woodhead as Secretary and Bill Taylor as President. We have been in touch with Brian and have a list of S.A. 458 addresses if anyone here is wanting to get in touch with any 458 Croweater. There is apparently no Queensland 458 Organisation at present and Queenslanders are being put on the N.S.W. mailing list. We don't know what's happening

in the other states but we're still trying to find out.

W/CDR. MACKAY.

Members in all States will have heard of the deeply lamented death some months ago in an air accident of our C.O., Rodney MacKay. We miss him very much.

INDIVIDUAL NEWS.

Here are some personal items, and news of present activities:

Ralph Bailey: At the University doing Dentistry.
Black-Jack Baker: A Designing Engineer with the Railways.
Jack (Tubby) Payne: Playing (at Concord) in the State
Bowls Championship (pairs).
Noel Walter and Arthur Jollow: with Qantas as Mascot.
Stuart Ricketts: in his last year at the Tech. doing an
Electrical Engineering course (welding).
Goldy Bartlett: A carpenter and joiner in and about Sydney.
Terry Waldon (the Cossack): in charge of maintenance at a
large Chemical manufacturing factory.
John McPhee: a law student.
Jack Aitken: Managing a company dealing with Pratt
Whitney Wasp engines. Jack has some
jobs for Fitters, and any Fitter II E
can get in touch with Jack by ringing UB
1041 or writing to Engineers Laboratories
Pty. Ltd., 228 Pitt Street, Sydney.
Theo Ravenscroft: a Refrigeration man in Longreach, Q'land.
Alan (Snowy) Atherton: Managing a garage business in Sarina,
Queensland, (We owe Snowy and Smiler
Ravenscroft our thanks for a lot of
Queensland addresses).
Alf. Peake: doing well in the engineering business in the
Ayr district.
Bob Male and Bob Heyar: in partnership at Tara as Motor
Mechanics and General Engineers.
Mel Priest: in Nairobi, Kenya, with the South British
Insurance Co. Ltd., and liking it there.
He wants to be remembered to everyone and
in particular to Hal Coffil, Pete Pettit,
Red-Jack Baker, Max Richards and Geoff
Wright.
Robin Knight: Also in Kenya (Beeston Timber Mills Ltd.,
Njoro, Kenya Colony) and, we hear, well
and happy.
Arthur Lehdey: living in Goolagong, N.S.W. and anxious to
be remembered to his old friends.
Alan (Maca) Macmaster and Fred Ayres: with the Post Office
in and about Sydney.
Pete Pettit: in his last year at the Uni. as a dental
student.
Eric Munkman: working with his brothers in the Building
trade.
Freddy Strom: a photographer.

We hope the first number of 458 SQUADRON NEWS has been of interest to members. It's a bit of an adventure. You can help by giving us your news: and remember to notify us of any change of addresses and of the address of any 458 ers who aren't yet on our mailing list (and we suspect there are a lot). If we haven't got your address we can't write.

And, before we close, who plays cricket? We may be organising an oddsocial match on a Saturday or Sunday, and we will want eleven players. Nobody need be modest - the Editor of 458 SQUADRON NEWS will probably be there and he suspects that his cricket would disgrace a nine year old schoolboy (he doesn't know because he hasn't played for about five years). Anyway let us know if you'll be in it, and what you can do.

You can always get in touch with 458 Squadron c/o the Air Force Association, 330 George Street, Sydney, N.S.W. and the name and address of the present editor of 458 SQUADRON NEWS is

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CROWS NEST, Sydney,
N.S.W.