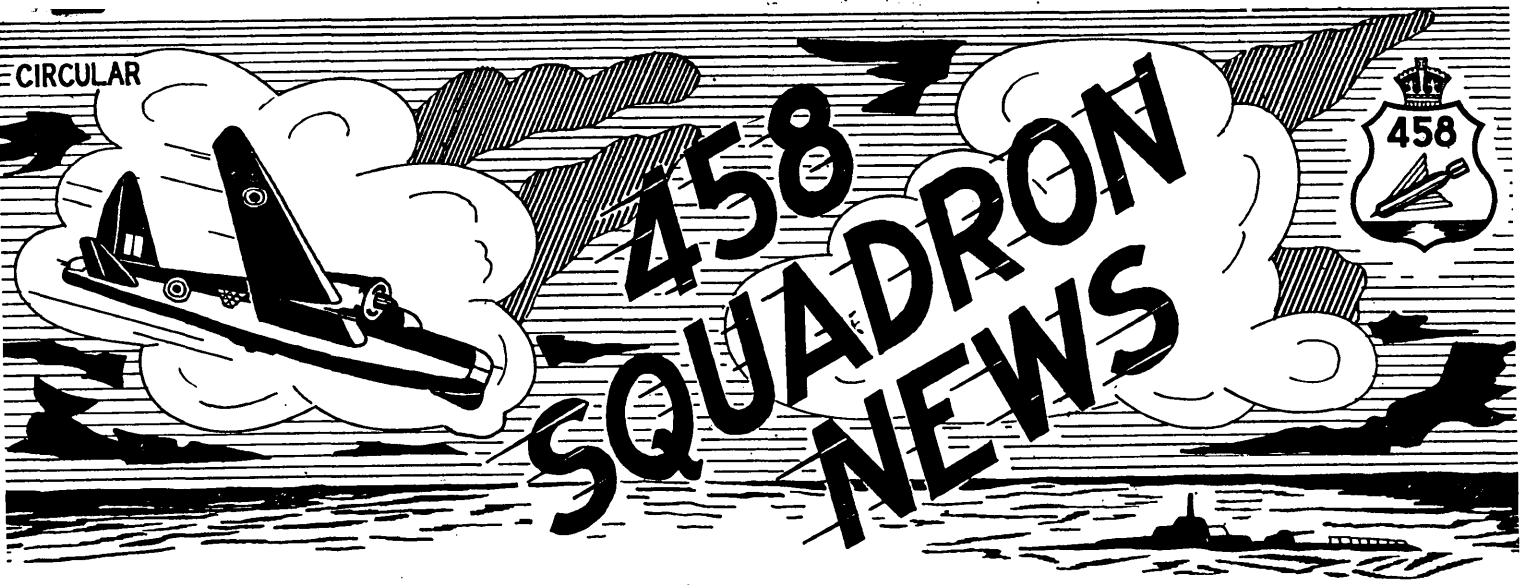


CIRCULAR



The Editor:

G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W.

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October, 1952.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.

REUNIONS AND MORE REUNIONS. Read all about them.

458 SQUADRON has never been more active and alive since the day of its Disbandment Parade in Gibraltar in 1945 than it is in these days. There have been successful Reunions during the last three months in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. Other activities---including the Interstate Golf Match between Queensland and N.S.W.---are reported elsewhere in this copy of the Sqdn. News. But that is not all. We have good grounds for hope that 458 in W.A. and in the U.K. will take off again before long.

We leave detailed descriptions to the Queensland and Victorian State Correspondents, whose signed articles are below. We only remark at this stage, apropos of the Brisbane Do (the second since the Squadron started meeting again this year) that we understand Chas. Richardson this time substituted spots for stripes.

In N.S.W.

The 16th. Reunion. This was held on October 11th, a Saturday, and at the usual basement premises at 330 George Street, Sydney.

Squadron members subscribing were as follows:

Pete Campbell	Fred Strom	Dick Boydell	J. McPhee	Jim Whitem	John Dunn
P. Alexander	Ron Hills	G. Coombes	W. Archbold	B. Crawford	Wal Clarke
F. Ayres	A. Macmaster	Lance Wood	B. Menser	Max Egan	John Hamilton
J. McDonald	Jack Wilson	Jim Brown	B. Thompson	Bill Turler	Bob Bruce
Cec Nation	Champ Fabian	A. Piggott	Bob. Lyndon	K. O'Brien	Don Bitmead
Allan Walker	Fred James	Bob. Millar	Col Campbell	D. McKay	Stuart Ricketts
Jock McGowen	Bev Wallace	D. Whitenan	Ron Ricketts	J. Aitken	Black-Jack Baker
L. Simpson	B. McLoughlin	Goldy Bartlett	Fred Ridge	H. Bryant	Allen Waldon
Jack Preston	Ernie Donan	C. Tillack	Tom Moore	C. Irwin	Frank Ward
Alf Hammond	Russ Wilson	C. Ruthven	R. Bailey	Jack Bevan	San Barlow
C. Hayward	Eric Munknan.				

It was a remarkably successfulevening, and most of us agreed afterwards that we had noticed an additional air of enjoyment about this Reunion. Probably the presence of the Queensland delegates (Lock Simpson and Bernie McLoughlin) and Jock McGowen from Melbourne had a lot to do with it as well as the return of quite a few members who had been away for some time.

As an indicator of the added "swing" of this particular Reunion there is the fact that the usual quantity of beer went an hour sooner than usual. True it is that both the second and third kegs sprayed some of their contents (during the process of opening) Over (a) the ceiling, (b) Maca and Alf Hammond who were officiating and (c) surrounding squadron members including the President and the Editor: but not enough went

that way to account on its own for the earlier "drought".

During the evening the President (Pete Campbell) gave members a brief verbal report on squadron affairs and there was a discussion, also brief, on Squadron organisation in N.S.W.

Apologies were sent in by Wally (Caesar) Baird (whose car was u/s having recently gone over a 30' cliff), from Lefty Chalmers (teaching aborigines at Gulargambone), Doug Millard, Frank Keith, Dutch Holland, and Chappy in Newcastle.

Bob Bruce acted as Cashier for the evening with the efficiency we have come to rely upon, and Allan Walker looked after the Sports side of Squadron affairs. Jack Baker arranged for the Photographs which were taken during the Evening.

GOLF. The Golf Season, which has brought N.S.W. Squadron members so many pleasant days at Campbelltown during the winter, concluded on October 12th with the long awaited Presidents Cup Day. This year and we hope all future years, the Cup was an interstate challenge game with two golfers from the Squadron in Queensland competing. The Cup goes (for a year) to the player with the best score on handicap over 18 holes. The winner also receives a smaller cup as his permanent trophy. The Presidents Cup itself was recently donated by Pete Campbell. The Squadron in Queensland also presented a most attractive trophy to be called the Queensland Cup for the best performance by a N.S.W. Squadron golfer (other than the winner of the Presidents Cup). There were prizes also for the winners of a Foursome, and for the longest drive. Rain interfered a bit but didn't spoil the game. The Presidents Cup was won by Bob Bruce, who played exactly to handicap under difficult conditions. The Queensland Cup winner was Ern Doman, the Foursome award went to Bernie McLoughlin, and the longest drive to Sam Barlow. The winners have the Squadron's congratulations and we shall expect to see them doing battle again next year.

The Queensland Cup is to be perpetuated and 458 Sqn News feels that this token of 458 friendship interstate should not be the only one of its kind.

The Campbelltown Golf Club gave us the usual kind and hospitable reception: after leaving the Links we looked in at the Good Intent Hotel, which is kept by a Sqn/Ldr. T. Oates who will be flying a Masquito in the England to New Zealand Air Race next year and who joined us for a few drinks and told us something of his plans for the race.

We cannot close this account of the 1952 Golf Day without expressing on behalf of the Squadron in N.S.W. the great pleasure we have had in the visit to Sydney of Bernie McLoughlin and Lock Simpson from Brisbane. Let there be more of it!

A Model of the Wellington.

Acting on a suggestion from Colonel McKenzie, the N.S.W. Committee wrote to Vicars in London some months ago and asked whether it would be possible to get a model of the Wellington aircraft. About three months ago an R.A.A.F. aircraft arrived in Sydney from the U.K. and its pilot handed us a beautifully made scale model of the Wellington mounted on a stand inscribed

"Presented to 458 Squadron, R.A.A.F. by Vicars Armstrong Ltd in appreciation of service in Wellington aircraft."

The model which is about 12" from wing tip to wing tip was shown to members at the recent Sydney Reunion. Quite a few expressed a wish to possess such a model and the N.S.W. Secretary proposes to find out for them whether Vicars are prepared to produce a number for sale to squadron members.

"Q-FLIGHT NEWS"

by

Jim Holliday

The first Reunion under the auspices of "Q" Flight was most successfully held on August 16th. Of the total attendance of 38, 22 were X-458 ers, and the remainder visitors. Each member was allowed to invite one friend.

Apologies were received from Chas. Richardson (casualty from Chicken Pox), J.F. O'Brien, Jack Hobbs, Bob Male and Bob Helyar. Bob Male says his car hit a kangaroo, but the car was the casualty not the 'roo.

New faces among X-458 ers included Len McDonald, Keith Campbell and Paul Hinsley. A visitor to Brisbane was the Vice President from the Victorian Branch, Big Jim Munday.

The meeting held in conjunction with the Reunion voted approval of the following suggestions by the Committee:

1. Two Reunions per year (August and December),
2. Co-operation with the other state branches, one aim to be the holding of a big Anzac Day Parade in each State in turn,

3. Sporting Competitions,
4. To aim at helping the needy,
5. To honour the Deceased.

The meeting also voted that the Committee deal with the question of (a) Annual subs. and (b) the admission of associate members.

The Reunion started with £43 in the red and finished with £16 in the blue. Some dressed fowls were raffled and also sundry £1 notes.

Everyone went home merry but respectable and demanding another "Do" as quickly as possible.

458 SQUADRON III S.A.

from

Bill Taylor.

I visited Ian Showell at Renmark recently and Ian has started a fruit market which is proving a success. Our ex-engineer officer is an inventive type and has patented a portable glass house known as a "Sun Trap". It is a splendid idea and I am sure it will sell very readily. He sends his regards to all ex-members.

Jack Parkyn has sold his garage and is now farming in the Reynella district, and is particularly interested in horses. I understand he is breeding them.

Tom Phyllis is now a proud father of a son. He has been transferred to the Brighton school where he is a master.

Bill Cribb has recently taken a position with Thompson and Harvey, large glass and paint people. He seems very happy and is doing a good stick.

I am continuing my interest in coastal command but from a lower level, having purchased a small trailer dinghy with outboard. I am not sure which is the safer, the aircraft or small dinghies.

I would be glad to have any news of Roy Schoppe, my ex wireless operator and would like to send my kind regards to Len Thiele and congratulate him on his Sunday night broadcasts.

In response to your request for Squadron History, I have almost completed a fairly comprehensive record from Bone to Gibraltar from which you may like to select some suitable news.

"PROGRESS IN VICTORIA."

by

Bill Carr.

Members present at the REUNION on September 19th. were as follows:

B. Prideaux	Shorty Wilson	J. Jenkins	S. Tarczynski	T. Wishart	Norm. Cugley.
L. Wurr	A. Holmes	J. McGowen	Jim Munday	Col. Fereday	K. Brown
Bill Carr	Dizzy Dean	T. Kennedy	W. Hurford	Jack Ellis	Val Richards
G. Cowan	A. Sharpe	G. Cuthbertson	K. Cupper	B. Kohry	G. Irwin
Dave Firth	R. W. Smith	J. Rodwell	K. Morkhan	D. Johnson	Stan Cartledge
Fred Ray	A. W. Brown	K. Guiney	H. Ashworth	Harold Stevens	Ian Beer
R. Rosevear	Neil McPhee	Yank Martin	Ron Yates	Teddy Love	J. Dowling
H. O'Leary	E. Bradshaw	H. Galvin	J. Bilney	and possibly three to five other	

members whose names were not recorded on my list. Members also introduced some 20 Odd friends from other squadrons. Apologies came from Bert Smith, Jack Ramsay, J. Morris, Bob McKinna, Ernie Laming, Farmer Giles, Jack Guthrie, B. Tipping, G. Wise, and George Riddoch.

A cable was also received from Ernie Laming in Hiroshima, Japan and from the S. Aus. Branch of the Association, each wishing the Reunion "all the best".

A questionnaire had been forwarded to each interested member on the subject of expanding activities of our branch of 458. This resulted in a majority in favor of two Reunions and one social dance per year. A limited section also wanted a Christmas Picnic. These decisions will now be passed along to the Victorian Committee for consideration, etc. Currently it is felt that Reunions will be held about Anzac Day and Melbourne Show Day with the Social Dance held about June and the Picnic just prior to Christmas. To date no member or group of members have proposed forming a cricket or other sporting group.

Reunion attendance was again up in the 70s which maintains our average over the past four Reunions at approximately that figure. A charge of 10/- per head was made to cover expenses and on the night just did so nicely. There being only about £8 in hand an emergency committee meeting was held and it was decided to call for a contribution towards a working balance to enable the Committee to go ahead with some

measure of monetary confidence when planning expenditure on future functions. This was announced at the Reunion and a collection produced a further £7 odd which together with cash on hand and a small profit on the Evening left our financial position at £19 in hand.

36 gallons of ale were provided but not having Maca and a few of his cobbers we were left with an untapped niner. Several of the country boys were down again notably Ken Cupper, Bluey Firth from up Mildura way and of course Roger Rodwell who always manages to look very much like the average 458er back in '43.

With regrets the Victorian Secretary announced Jock McGowen's intended return to live in Sydney, and on behalf of Jock (who was unfortunately delayed) offered his resignation which was accepted, and suggested that in such circumstances it appeared fitting that the Vice President should automatically step into the vacant Presidency. This precedent was accepted and Jim Munday was duly elected President and he at once called for nominations for Vice President. Several members were nominated, and after a show of hands Dizzy Dean was quite comfortably elected Vice President for the remainder of the current term.

Harold Stevens a visiting member from Launceston was again welcomed to our Reunion as was Ian Beer, recently returned from the U.K.

Our wartime C.O., John Dowling, is shortly to go to the U.K. for an extended period of Training connected, it is believed, with a G.R. Course and other courses for senior officers. He naturally will take his family, and on behalf of all members we wish him and his a most successful and most pleasant couple of years in Blighty.

We have again established contact with Bill Stapleton, who would like to hear from Fred Ayres and Maca. Bill is with the Heinz Sauce people and is married, with two children. My regards to all members in other states.

THE SQUADRON IN THE WEST (Who said they were all dead?)

Since the last issue of the Sqdn. News the Editor has been delighted to receive several letters from members in Western Australia. Most of them refer to our paragraph on Squadron non-activity in the West in recent years, and while pointing out the difficulties, one and all welcome the idea of a Perth Reunion. One of the letters came from Jack Riseley. Jack says

"I received the copy of 458 Squadron News last night and I must congratulate you on its size and the news that is contained in it. Your job must be fairly large to compile such a wonderful little paper.

There is one paragraph however which I cannot let pass and that is the one of course which is referring to Western Australians. Every word of course is correct, but I think in the near future we shall see something done in the matter.

Back at the end of '45 we held a couple of meetings and the interest ~~but~~ dwindled to nothing because perhaps it was too soon after the war, indeed quite a number of us were still in uniform at the time.....

Bingy Stewart however I heard was interested in getting some of the boys together and I went and saw him a couple of weeks ago and he tells me that there were four of the boys at the main Anzac Day March in Perth, namely Donga Daniels, Shorty Long, Doug Anderson and himself and although they had a good time together would have felt better for something larger and a little better organised.

In short I'm taking my old list into him of fellows from the Squadron and if possible check them up and perhaps we may be able to decide if the Sandgropers are interested enough to get something going.

As soon as the list of names is revised we will send a copy over-- I have an additional forty or so addresses to those you have in the "News".

Give my best regards to all the boys."

The N.S.W. Treasurer (Sam Barlow) was in Perth shortly afterwards and had the pleasure of meeting Jack and a number of other Perth members.

Jack, Len Stewart and the others of course were with 458 a very long time: in some cases for the whole period of its service. And members in the West can, we know, look to them with all confidence to start the ball rolling. They know that Squadron members in the other states will watch with the keenest interest and good wishes.

PERSONALITIES.

Bev. Wallace: Bev. who was recently in Britain, attending the Levers Administrative Staff College at Henley is now back in Sydney as General Sales Manager.

Jin. Whitten has returned from his two years Sabbatical Leave in the United States and is lecturing in Veterinary Science at Sydney University.

Jock McGowen is now in Sydney as Sydney Representative of Wilcolator, a company selling Thermostats. He recently saw

Geoff. Hyles who has a substantial sheep property near Captains Flat. Geoff is married with two daughters and three sons.

Jack Baxter is in Sydney with P. & R. Williams.

John Dunn is managing his Father-in-law's chemists business in Brighton-le-Sands, Sydney.

Goldy Bartlett is still in the building trade.

Terry Waldon who has been in Sydney on holiday from Crafton and Wal Archbold both send greetings to "Cug". Wal is with the Active Reserve.

Max Egan who was a welcome new face at the recent Reunion in Sydney is now Driving for Buckleys Produce Store. Max who is married with two boys and two girls, sends remembrances to Shorty Taylor.

Freddy Stron is now attending the Teachers College in Sydney.

Cyril Irwin works with the Valuer-General's Department in Sydney. He sends his remembrances to Don Brandon, Clive Wyman and Shorty O'Brien. Greetings in which he was joined by Frank Ward who is now Accountant to an Electrical Engineering Company.

George Connors who recently passed through Sydney sends his regards to everyone.

Fred James tells us George is completely unchanged from Squadron days, which, when we saw him in Brisbane, was our own opinion. We hope to see George in Sydney again one of these days.

Ralph Bailey has recently left Wollongong and may take up a dental practice in Sydney. Ralph and his wife have two daughters, Jill and Jenny.

John Hamilton is in the Sales side of the Timber Trade in Sydney. Sends good wishes to Clive Wyman.

Tim Dale is in Perth

Gordon Jones has written to us from Perth. He sends his regards to all his old crew mates and to Sydney members, Tubby Toyer, Brian Lord, Darky Crompton and Wilbur Rowell. Gordon now has a son (Graham) aged five months and has recently finished building a new home.

Russ. Wilson who was at the recent Sydney Reunion wants to know why a few more of his contemporaries don't put in an appearance at Reunions. One name mentioned was Peter McManamey.

Charlie Mann: we understand Otto is back with the R.A.A.F. Reserve.

Correspondence to the Editor.

Wanstead, London.

Dear Sir, I am grateful to the unknown member of 458 Squadron who gave my old address to you to enable you to send me some issues of 458 Sqdn. News. For several years I have wondered if I would ever be in contact again with my old colleagues of the Middle East days and you can well imagine my pleasure when your news-letter arrived. I must confess, however that I have kept you waiting for a reply or even some acknowledgement but I'd like to take this opportunity of greeting through the 458 Sqdn. News all those who served with me at Bone, Alghero, Malta, Foggia and Gibraltar. I recognise only a few names of those mentioned in the Personal News column but I appreciate that, in the main, you are principally concerned with those ex-members in N.S.W.. I, even though I am only a Pommy b.....d realise that N.S.W. is not all Australia. I am pleased you have extended your circulation to U.K. More power to your elbow !!

I have recently heard from Pete Pettit who is now in England as a dentist. In the absence of any other activity he and I have just started organising a Reunion of the U.K. members of 458 Squadron. This should take place in November in London.....

I'd like to say hello to and hear news of Robin Knight, Bill Taylor, "Black Panther" Vale, Doc. Wadsworth, George Riddoch, Zen Russell, my navigator, Crusher Jones and many others whose names now unfortunately escape me..... For anyone who is interested I'm working for London Transport as an underground official, have one son..... Please continue to send me copies of the Squadron News... I enclose some information which you may find useful for the compilation of the Squadron History. It may be a little early yet, but I'd like to have a copy of the finished work

yours sincerely, Leon Armstrong.

Lorengau, New Guinea.

Dear Chaps, After many years and several copies of the Squadron News conscience has caught up with me and I herewith append my humble contribution to the Squadron History.

I am the District Agricultural officer here and have been here for eighteen months, having been in the Territory for some years now. I have not met any old squadron mates for a long time. To my knowledge there is only one other up here, namely Laurie Crowley who is in Lae with his wife, a new child and an aeroplane with which he operates a service to the Highlands. To date I haven't met him here.

To anyone with a yen for the unusual I can recommend New Guinea. Among the more unusual things in which I have been involved have been the eruption of Mt. Lamington (at that time I was D.A.O. for that District and was one of the very few survivors) and the capture of the Japanese shell fishing vessel in these waters a little over a year ago. Life is never dull.....

Any letters to me can be addressed to c/o D.A.S.F., Port Moresby, T.P.N.G. Pass my regards on to any of the lads you may see and I will be pleased to hear from anyone interested.

Cheers, thanks and all the best, Fred Kleckham.
(Editor's note: Fred was decorated following the Lamington eruption)

Djakarta-Raya, Indonesia.

Dear Peter, Thank you for continuing to send the Sqdn. News---I find the news and briefs re the boys from the various states most interesting. I was particularly interested to see that Queensland has now broken the ice with its first Reunion.

Several familiar names appear on the lists, particularly Chas Richardson, the "Watch King".....I hear occasionally from Roy Allan an English pilot on 458 he was with the Malta detachment and later came across to Nth. Africa and eventually left from Bone at the same time as I did. Some of the boys may remember him.

Please continue to send the News as I expect to be absent from Australia for some years yet. I will be going to England for six months next year and after that will possibly be back here for a further period. We still have plenty of problems to cope with here but the work is extremely interesting and definitely no shortage spare time is at a premium. We have a good British Club known as "The Box" with all the usual sporting (indoor and outdoor) facilities and no shortage of beer (bottled or draught). There is always a sprinkling of Australians present.... Should any of the boys be passing through here by Qantas or BOAC en route for points west I should be delighted to meet them if they drop a word of warning in advance.

A small contribution to squadron funds should arrive within a week or so. Again many thanks, yours sincerely, Dick Watson.

(Editor's note: Dick is with the Sun Insurance office in Djakarta-Raya).

INTERSTATE VISITS.

There is a constant stream of members of 458 Squadron passing between the capital cities of Australia, as might be expected. These interstate visitors can, if they will, perform a most useful liaison service between the State branches of the Squadron. There are often things which can be much better arranged by personal contact than by letter. And of course their friends want to see them in the cities they are visiting. Trouble often is no one knows about the visit till its over. Will Squadron members, therefore, who are about to go interstate, please contact their State Secretary before they leave, and also the local Secretary when they arrive? In particular the Queensland branch has asked that intending visitors to Brisbane notify them a bit in advance so that anyone they want to meet among local 458 members can be rounded up.

Squadron Secretaries are:

Victoria; Bill Carr, 36, Harbury Street, Reservoir, Melbourne.

South Australia; Brian Woodhead, c/o McIlwraith McEacharn Ltd, King William St., Adelaide.

Queensland; Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Brisbane.

New South Wales; Peter Alexander, G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney (M 0421 Ext. 417)

The Squadron Album.

The Album is becoming a notable piece of work, as most members know from having seen it. However there are still some periods of Squadron History not as well illustrated as we should like. So will any member who has any photos of squadron interest which he is prepared to give or lend (to be copied) please post them to the Editor. The Committee will be most grateful. Incidentally the Postwar section of the Album is becoming a substantial record. Lock Simpson, we observed,

during his Sydney visit taking a number of (moving) pictures of the Golf Day. Among his shots was one of Graeme Coombes achieving the shortest drive of the day from the 1st Tee

CONGRATULATIONS.

Marriages. The Squadron's heartiest good wishes to the following members news of whose marriages have been notified:

Doug. Bennett,
Cec. Nation,
Fred. Ridge,
Evan Toyer,
Bob. Williams,
Peter Pettit.

Engagement: Peter Alexander to Miss Rita Williams of Chesterfield, England.

Birth. To Bill and Mrs. Turier, a son (Andrew William).

To Jim and Mrs. Whitten, a son.

Congratulations, Bill and Jim !

THE SQUADRON PROGRAMME.

Members will be notified by their State Secretaries of Squadron functions as they are arranged. In N.S.W. there is to be another Squadron Social during October. Also, the Sports Sub-committee has arranged cricket fixtures as follows:

October 26th. Dept. of Social Services: No 15 Pitch, Centennial Park

November 9th. Western Suburbs branch, Air Force Association, No 15 Pitch, Centennial Park.

November 30th. Air Force Club, No. 29 Pitch, Centennial Park.

Other matches will follow.

A FEW STATISTICS.

458 Squadron News Circulation: 620 copies (Australia, Britain, Africa, North America and the Islands).

Squadron membership badges: worn by 237 members.

The 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association (N.S.W.)

Financial members: 66.

These statistics indicate two things. A steady growth of 458 postwar activity: and a large field of squadron membership not yet in touch with the postwar organisation (and therefore a large field in which we can still expand. Certainly 458 wartime membership was well into four figures over the whole period.

FUTURE N.S.W. REUNIONS.

The Reunion on October 11th was on a Saturday not, as before, on a Friday. There were special reasons for the change in this case. However many members at the Reunion expressed the view that Saturday was much more convenient, and no doubt their views will weigh with the Committee in arranging future Reunions. It is however possible that Saturday doesn't suit some members at all. If that is so, will such members convey their opinions to the Committee, please ?

COMMENT.

The Queensland branch has expressed the view that each year an attempt should be made to stage an interstate 458 Get Together on Anzac Day at one or other of the State Capitals. Each state would be represented by at least one delegate, and it should be possible to hold a Federal 458 Conference. The State Committees will no doubt discuss this before long. 458 Squadron News feels that something can and must be made of this bold and imaginative idea. It is another reason why members should notify their journeys interstate.

Authorised by the Editor, P.C. Alexander,

Box 5289,

G.P.O.

Sydney, N.S.W.

AUSTRALIA.