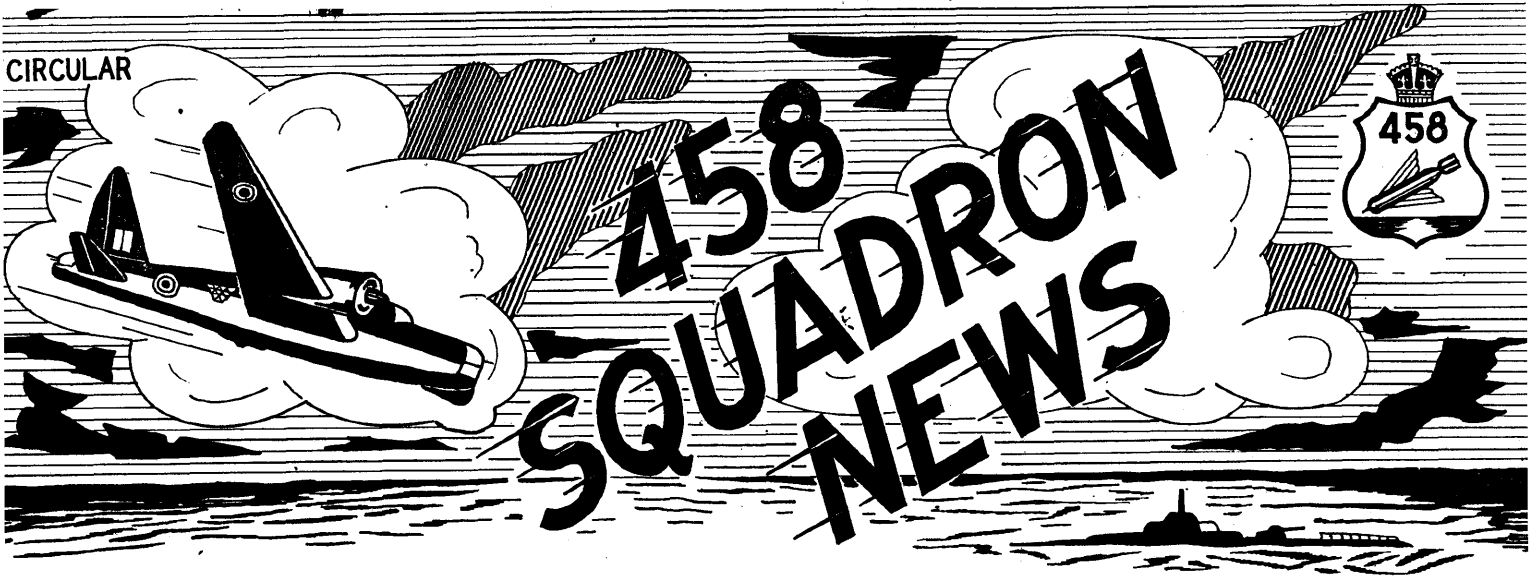


CIRCULAR



The Editor:

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

Vol.4, No.14.

January, 1953.

458 SQUADRON NEWS wishes Squadron members and their families a Happy New Year in 1953, in whatever part of the World they may be. These greetings we also extend to our many other readers, not directly connected with the Squadron, whose interest we appreciate.

We feel that there is every chance that the Squadron as a whole will continue to prosper and expand its activities in 1953 as it did in 1952. Particularly shall we all keep our eyes fixed on 458 in West Australia and in the United Kingdom.

1952 has seen the—very enthusiastic—reforming of 458 in Queensland (so enthusiastic in fact that it is inspiring just to meet a member of the Queensland branch). 1952 has also shown continued progress in Victoria and N.S.W. 1953 must show results as good as these from 458 members in Perth and England.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.

New South Wales events.

Party at "Sam's" (Established '04).

Sam Barlow entertained members and their wives on October 25th, a Saturday evening, at one of the inimitable parties he gives us. The buzz of the conversation could be heard, we are told, from Canterbury to Bankstown. However that may be, and it is probably slightly exaggerated, twenty-odd squadron guests, including the President and his wife, enjoyed themselves very distinctly.

Darkey entertains the Squadron Cricketers.

By the invitation of Yvonne and Owen Crompton, the 458 cricketers and their wives went out to Eastwood after the game against the Air Force Club on November 30th.

Owen's home is a most attractive one in beautiful countrified surroundings. Cars were arriving for the party in large numbers for about an hour after the game (we hadn't seen so many 458 cars at once since Protville). Owen's and Yvonne's hospitality is of first-class 458 standard and not to be forgotten. Guests, most of them with wives, fiancées, children or friends, were Sam Barlow, Tom Moore, Jack Baker, Lance Wood, Doug Bennett, Bob Millar, Cyril Irwin, Allan Walker, Cec. Nation, Alan Piggott, Jock McGowen, Peter Alexander, Maca, and Max Egan.

The Squadron Secretary in a brief speech expressed members' thanks, saying that it was functions such as this one that helped to keep the Squadron together.

With so many cars the transport-home question was not difficult though we understand it fell to Cy. Irwin to deliver the last revellers to their homes in the not-so-small hours of the morning.

An Evening in the Mess.

About a year ago, by way of an experiment, (the first suggestion, we recall, came from Geoff. Burgess), the N.S.W. Committee endeavoured to revive the atmosphere of a wartime squadron Mess and invited about 25 members to attend an evening with billiards, darts and a modest supply of beer. 25 only because that is about all a billiard table will cope with.

N.S.W. (continued).

The attempt was remarkably successful and popular but owing to the removal of the Billiard table we weren't able to have another Evening of the sort until recently. The billiard table being back in the basement at 330 George Street we held another Evening in the Mess on December 6th. This time Pool rather usurped the place of billiards and Snooker but the Evening was thoroughly liked by the invited members. They were Cec. Nation, Alan Piggott, Sam Barlow, Doug. McGuigan, Peter Alexander, Pete Campbell, Don Bittmond, Bob Millar, Cyril Irwin, Cliff, Hayward, Ralph Bailey, Ernie Doman, Bob Bruce, Eric Munkman, Lance Wood, Jock McGowen, Tom Moore, Bert Thompson, Buster Balmer, Allan Walker and Ray Davies, as well as several others. Algy Walker ran the Pool and Eric Munkman and the Secretary looked after the bar. We had a niner which just lasted the distance until 11.0'clock. As far as the Pool was concerned we have to regard Ern. Doman as undisputed Champ of Champs.

Christmas, 1952.

No full-scale Squadron function was arranged but several members had a few beers and a meal together in Christmas week, including Geoff. Cannon, on a visit to Sydney from Hobart, and Harry Dorge who recently moved to Sydney from Toowoomba. The Squadron Secretary received Christmas cards from the following members, for which he says, "Thank you." Dud. McKay, Theo. Ravenscroft, Mel. Priest, Jim. Palmer, Terry Waldon, Ron Yates (who says "Greetings to all 458 members I have been unable to contact this Christmas."), Brian Woodhead, Jack Hobbs, Geoff. Burgess, Graeme Coombes, Wal. Clarke, Allan Walker, Ross Burgess, Alan Piggott, Bob Bruce, and Eric Munkman.

Golf.

This is the Off season for golf but there are two announcements. Firstly, Ernie Doman the Holder of the "Queensland Cup" (which was presented by members of the Queensland branch for the best performance by a N.S.W. golfer at the Annual Golf Day) has announced that he will present a Cup for annual competition, at the Golf Day, to be held by the best Queensland performer.

Secondly, following comments about Squadron golfers with handicaps of 40, the said golfers having considered taking their clubs (if any) away and refusing to play, are now thinking of forming a "40 and Over Club"--- membership to be restricted to those who have gone round Campbelltown in 130 or more for 18 holes or, by special request from one member, who have fallen into Campbelltown Creek. Seriously though, if there are any 458 men who haven't yet started golf and would like to, they will be most welcome to start with us. Their handicap shall be large!

Cricket Comments:

BY

"Run-to-Cover".

Four games have been played up to this point. Three have been won, one tied. Which is up to the usual standard. I don't know whether the Squadron team's successes, year after year, are due to ability or wise choice of opponents. A considerable amount of enthusiasm and team spirit might have something to do with it. Certainly this year there have been both of the latter. Plus some excellent organisation in selecting and notifying members of the teams. So far 19 players have been selected and played, which is good. First game was against Bob Bruce's department (Social Services). Bob himself opened the batting with Sam Barlow for 458 and they both set an example which subsequent Squadron openers have since hastened to follow. They departed without scoring. Allan Walker made 40 in his usual powerful style. 458 made 142 and the Department 137. This game was on October 26th at Centennial Park.

The second match was against the Western Suburbs branch of the Air Force Association and was played 12 a side. After the openers (the Old Firm) had amassed 2 between them, Lance Wood and Jack Bevan batted brilliantly with a sound display from Ern. Doman, who is an all-rounder of remarkable skill, and some valuable hitting from Tom Moore and Bob Millar. Tony Harris (slow left arm) then laid the opposition low by bowling straight. He took 4 wickets in one over, including his brother's.

Against the Air Force Club, 458 had the help of two new players, Frank Ward and Cyril Irwin, of very considerable abilities. Cyril Irwin kept wickets and Frank bowled batted and particularly fielded brilliantly. Doug Bennett batted as well as he has ever done, and Tom Moore again was among the runs (something will have to be done about Tom's place in the batting order). With the bowling Eric Munkman was missed badly. Apart from Frank Ward who bowled well but without luck, the bowling was innocuous. 458 did well to tie.

There was a marked allround improvement in the Squadron performance in the next game played (against Arnidale College Old Boys). This was probably due to practice.

Lance Wood shewed his ability with the bat in the unaccustomed position of opener. Dud McKay though out of touch made 28 and Ernie Doman again passed 30. The main improvement though, was in bowling and fielding. Allan Walker and Jack Baker bowled really well. Dud McKay turned the ball from the leg as only he can on macadam. He had better shew someone else how it is done before he goes to Queensland.

One final word about the captaincy. Sam Barlow has taken over from Geoff.

Burgess, who is now in the Country. Sam's captaincy has been both successful and popular, and, in this writer's opinion, skillful. Captaincy seems to have affected his batting performance but that should be only a temporary result. The scores (those I am allowed space for) were:

458 SQUADRON versus WESTERN SUBURBS A.F.A.

<u>458 Sqn.</u>		<u>West.Subs.</u>			
P.Alexander	Lbw b.Connell	2	W.Eagleton	b.Walker	82
S.Barlow	b.Connell	0	R.Connell	b.Munkman	19
L.Wood	c.Harris b.Connell	20	E.Ashwood	b.Harris	25
A.Harris	b.Ashwood	2	R.Morrison	b.Miller	4
E.Doman	b.Ashwood	30	H.Vandenburg	b.Harris	7
J.Bevan	Run out	61	K.Major	b.Harris	0
B.Millar	Retired	16	J.Russell	b.Harris	0
P.Campbell	b.Connell	4	N.Harris	b.Harris	0
T.Moore	st.Major b.Eagleton	28	L.Harvey	c.Wood b.Moore	1
J.Miller	b.Ashwood	1	C.Russell	Run out	2
E.Munkman	c. b.Ashwood	0	K.Wilkes	b.Millar	1
A.Walker	Not out	1	F.Argue	Not out	0
Sundries		<u>17</u>	Sundries		<u>7</u>
		182			148

458 SQUADRON versus AIR FORCE CLUB.

<u>A.F.C.</u>		<u>458 Sqn.</u>			
D.Dover	Retired	43	P.Alexander	st.Phelan b.Perry	0
G.Perry	c.Barlow b.Doman	22	S.Barlow	b.Grogan	0
L.Grogan	Retired	29	L.Wood	Run out	30
M.Slocombe	b.Ward	4	A.Walker	b.Grogan	2
C.Tuckwell	c.Ward b.Wood	9	C.Irwin	c.Keough b.Grogan	10
W.Carter	lbw b.Wood	0	F.Ward	b.Dover	45
J.Phelan	c.Barlow b.Moore	19	D.Bennett	c.Grogan b.Perry	26
W.Keough	Not out	10	E.Doman	c.Carter b.Grogan	11
L.Harvey	st.Irwin b.Bennett	6	T.Moore	Not out	24
D.Sinclair	Not out	4	J.Baker	lbw b.Grogan	1
Sundries		<u>19</u>	B.Millar	Not out	2
		165	Sundries		<u>14</u>
					165

458 SQUADRON versus ARMIDALE OLD BOYS.

<u>458 Sqn.</u>		<u>Armidale.</u>			
P.Alexander	c.Murphy b.Holt	12	P.Pembroke	b.Walker	0
L.Wood	c.Keoghnan b.Bannon	56	H.Baxter	c.Alexander b.Baker	14
D.McKay	b.Murphy	28	J.McElhone	lbw b.Doman	15
A.Walker	b.McElhone	7	D.Bannon	c.Baker b.Walker	0
D.Bennett	lbw b.Holt	11	K.Holt	c.Barlow b.Doman	13
E.Doman	c & b.Bannon	33	R.Bannon	st.Alexander b.McKay	15
J.Baker	b.Bannon	9	J.Murphy	c.Walker b.Millar	14
R.Bavies	b.Holt	1	G.Keoghnan	c.Hallahan b.Doman	0
B.Millar	Not out	9	J.Keough	c.Hallahan b.Millar	6
S.Barlow	b.Bannon	0	V.Hanna	b.McKay	2
M.Hallahan	Not out	25	T.Murphy	Not out	0
Sundries		<u>25</u>	Sundries		<u>2</u>
					81.

9 Dec. 216

Annual Elections

The Annual elections for the Committee and Squadron officer-holders for 1953-4 will take place at the next Reunion and before long. Members should give some thought to the matter, decide who they think should be on the Committee and see that those people get nominated.

It's your squadron and its future is your responsibility.

Wear your Squadron Badge!

Two recent episodes. Dud. McKay, on a visit to Queensland, in Tara, sees someone wearing a 458 Badge, speaks to him, and so meets Bob Male. Not being on 458 at the

same time they would not have known each other to be from the same squadron, but for the 458 badge.

A few weeks later, two Squadron members met in Walcha, N.S.W. One had just arrived from Sydney as Accountant to a local store, the other from Brisbane as Overseer in the Woolsheds. "In all probability," writes one of them, "We would not have realised we were off the same squadron if it had not been for the badge."

Dramatis personae--Geoff. Burgess and Jack Lewis.
Wear your Squadron badge--that is what it is for!

458 IN VICTORIA.

by

BILL CARR.

As this account of a section of 458's activities is shortly to appear in the January Bulletin may I, on behalf of members in Victoria, extend to members and their respective families in other states and also overseas our warmest greetings and also our wish that the New Year proves for each and all of us both a happy and prosperous year.

Previously we mentioned that W/Cdr. John Dowling was departing for an extended tour of duty in the U.K. On the 18th. December, we held a dinner at the Hotel Francis, at which our C.O. was the guest of the Victorian Committee and a limited representation of the Victorian membership. Not being aware of the departure date earlier, it was found somewhat difficult to make all the necessary arrangements for such a dinner in the remaining time available, and on account of this together with the fact that the accommodation at the Hotel Francis was limited we were obliged to restrict invitations to those members who had attended all of our previous functions over the past two years. This action the Committee very much regretted but being faced with a limit of 30 persons the course taken was considered the fairest open to decision.

This dinner was generally considered to be our best function yet and obviously has indicated that a much larger Christmas Dinner be organised for next year. A late liquor license being available added very considerably to the success though members agreed that the meal itself (a poultry dinner) was most excellent and well worth the Parading to consume.

Our President, Jim Munday, calling for order at 7 p.m. proposed the Loyal Toast and then briefly outlined the time and location of W/Cdr. Dowling's service with 458, and wished him on behalf of all 458 ers a pleasurable trip and a safe return to our shores. W/Cdr. Dowling, responding, thanked the Committee for organising and each member for attending a Dinner in his honour. He also offered whatever help he is able to extend towards reuniting members in the U.K. The Dinner was also addressed by various other members, many toasts being offered: and, generally speaking, 458 lived well up to its reputation for being able to consume the amber and other fluids. Members present were; John Dowling, Jim Munday, Bruce Dean, Stan. Tarczynski, Bill Carr, John Jenkins, John Bilney, Ron Yates, Tommy Wishart, Shorty Wilson, Lyle Wurr, Norm. Cugley, Jack Ramsay, Johnny Morris, Ian Beer, Peter Hedgecock, Harry Ashworth, Bruce Prideaux, Don Johnson, Jack Ellis, Bill Stapleton, Bob. Sherrah, Bill Jackman, Ken. Morkham, Val. Richards, Arthur Sharp. Apologies were received from nine other members. The evening broke up at 11 p.m., after which several members could be seen weaving their way across Lonsdale Street with large bunches of gladioli, most recently acquired. We, who watched the experiment, hoped the peace-offerings were accepted. We still hope so.

Before departing, W/Cdr. Dowling invited members to join him at the ship on January 16th for a drink or two before sailing. In fact he ordered a compulsory Parade. How unfortunate that Ernie Laming isn't available to call the roll!

The Victorian Committee meets again early in February, our main business being to consider Anzac Day. Usually we have supported ex-454 and 459 Squadrons on this day for a very excellent turn-out which is staged at Brien Griffiths Woodyard alongside Dennis Station: after marching in company with these chaps as the Desert Air Force we board transport to their Do which is a continuous show until at least 2 p.m. the following morning. It is also usual for the Victorian Committee to organise a Reunion for early May. Currently there appears every likelihood that this programme will again be adopted. However members will be advised of dates of fixtures well beforehand.

It is also proposed to commence Social Evenings next winter. A Social Committee will be formed from the existing committee to handle these evenings.

Victorian members were delighted to hear that the West are now becoming active

Does anyone know what became of the airgunners in Bill Taylor's crew? Also, Fred Ayres and Maca, what about that letter to Bill Stapleton who would also like to hear from Dave Spence and Snowy Gore. Bill's address is c/o Heinz Ltd, Burnley, Victoria.

Also to be mentioned are the many requests from Victorian members to pass on their regards to our immediate Past-President, Jock McGowen. Incidentally, Jock, I still have those negatives of yours, also the previous supplies can still be arranged. Drop me a line if required.

It is understood that a party of S.A. members intend attending our next Reunion by car or cars. Let's have some details. Either Shorty Wilson or myself will be very pleased to hear from these chaps. We must know as early as possible so that something

may be organised. Ken.Cupper, what do you know about this ?

We feel that Queensland's suggestion of an annual conference is excellent and will support it, suggesting that the first meeting be held in Brisbane this Anzactime.

Finally, congratulations from all 458 ers to the following members:

Col and Mrs.Fereday---a daughter,
Norm and Mrs.Cugley---a son,
Bill and Mrs Carr---a daughter.

Q-FLIGHT COMMENTS.

by

JIM HOLLIDAY .

We had 28 at the December "Do" and the site was ideal (at the University). At the meeting held in conjunction with it, we resolved to accept Associate members, one per member, capitation fee 10/-. Application forms will be sent out with the next circular. We also rejected Annual subscriptions.

It was also decided that the first Anzac Get-Together be in Sydney. Queensland appreciates the honour that N.S.W. accorded it by suggesting that Brisbane be the site of the first attempt. We felt that as N.S.W. is the biggest of the Flights that it should be the first in the field. Queensland would appreciate the honour next year.

I have been asked officially to express thanks for the news, given to us by Doug McGuigan, that N.S.W. have presented a Golf cup for competition among Queenslanders. It was received with great enthusiasm at the meeting. Tentative plans have been made to have a golf match at Bernie McLoughlin's club early in the winter months.

The innovation of an "Evening in the Mess" was well thought of and the boys thought it could be well repeated here.

It is regrettable that Doug McGuigan and I couldn't get together during his visit. Those evenings when he was available I wasn't, and vice versa.

A few items of news:

Kenny Cahill now has a garage at Monheim.

Lock Simpson has sold his business at Dalby and is seriously contemplating migrating to New Zealand (we hope not).

Erle Hetherington is now in charge of his company's operations at Bellthorpe.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

by

THE EDITOR.

Bill Taylor and Brian Woodhead who devote much time and thought, as President and Secretary, to the Squadron in Adelaide, have kept us in touch with 458 in South Australia.

Incidentally the writer of the Squadron History wants to express his appreciation of Bill's written contribution towards the History. Bill's is an excellent effort which more members might imitate.

We hear that Pat Enright has been in the doctor's hands. All good wishes, Pat, for a quick recovery.

A Film Evening was recently organised for 458 members in Adelaide. It is regrettable to record that very few of them turned up. Buck Pederson with his family was an honourable exception.

458 members in Adelaide are free, white and, like the rest of us, certainly over 21, and can make their own decisions. However, if they want to have a 458 organisation in being, they should give some thought to the consequences of not supporting their President and Secretary.

THE SQUADRON IN WEST AUSTRALIA AND THE U.K.

A letter in the Correspondence section of this issue will give members the information we have about the progress of events among the Sandgropers. We have nothing new to report about events in the U.K.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

Dear Sir,

For a long time past Stan Long, of Perth has been passing on to me the Squadron News which I read with avid interest.....Being an original member of 458 I am not very proud of the fact that I have taken all these years to show some interest in our very squadron.....I note many names of types who upheld the drinking capabilities of 458 from Holme-on-Spalding-Moor to Malta where I eventually left the Squadron and would like to say bung-ho to all of them. In particular, Jim Munday, Keith Campbell, Jim Holliday, Stuart Ricketts, Graeme Coombes, Dizzy Dean, and last but not least....."Caesar" Baird...with his

5.
continual threats to charge me for breaking up the camp on many occasions ! Could you give me any information about W/Cr. Johnston (Johnno)...I've lost track of him. I should like to be remembered to all the ground staff boys who may, possibly, remember me....Good luck to you and your Committee for keeping a very wonderful squadron alive

Very sincerely, Alex.E.Barras, Perth,W.A.

Dear Peter,

It is with very much pleasure that I am able to inform you that at long last something definite is being done to get together ex-458 Sqdn members in W.A. Initially it will be in the form of a Reunion and eventually I hope to form a State Sqdn.Club. Judging from all the chaps I have contacted myself I feel sure in saying that all are eagerly looking forward to the initial function.....We already have over 70 names listed,all of which I am hoping to forward the first circular which I have now drawn up and passed on to Jack (Riseley) for printing. Jack as you know is in the newspaper game.....Until I receive acknowledgement from the Circulars I cannot as yet inform you as to when and where the first meeting will take place except that it should be in the next month of February. So, in brief, there you have it, Peter.

Many thanks for forwarding the Squadron News,it is great reading....

As to myself,I am a well and truly married man;besides having the perfect wife,a boy 4 years old and a daughter 6months, topping it off with the completion of my new home end of February. Am still toiling at the old firm of Musgroves Ltd.,being in charge of the repairs and service section....

Have had many of the lads call in to see me whilst visiting here from the Eastern states:.....Shorty Wilson, Pappy Ray, Lofty Trewartha, Sam Barlow.

Dave Kessler also came in the other day, just having returned from South Africa.

Well, that's all for now, will keep you well informed.....Please give my regards to all the lads,

yours sincerely,

Len (Bingy) Stewart,
Subiaco, W.A.

PERSONALITIES.

Harry Dorge has moved to Sydney from Queensland. He now has an interest in a Service Station in Pymble.

Ted (Snowy) Gore is living in Leura, N.S.W. where he is in business with relatives as a Builders Supplier. He has a wife and a house there (and a garden).

Jack Riseley is with the Mirror Newspaper in Perth, W.A.

Geoff Burgess is living in Walcha now where he is Accountant to a local Store; he and Gwen have a large house, and Geoff is playing a lot of cricket, tennis and golf. Geoff tells us he has met Doug Cameron who is a Surveyor with the New England County Council and lives in Armidale.

Brian Woodhead asks to be remembered to Leo Armstrong with kindest regards.

Alec Barras works with the West Australian newspaper in Perth as, inter alia, Advertising representative. He is still playing First grade cricket and for the past two seasons has been non-playing captain of the State Baseball team. Alec is married, with a son.

Bill Kelliher is living in Como, West Australia. Since the end of the war he has done an engineering course at the University, has got married (having a son and a daughter), built a house and at present works with the State Main Roads Dept. as an Engineer.

Tim Dale is managing a butchering business in South Perth.

Billy Clues is with the Post Office in Perth.

"Unca" McCarthy has been heard of as about to go on a crayfishing expedition around the islands of the North-west coast.

Stan (Hashknife) Hopewell has his own Electrical contracting business in Cottesloe, W.A.

Jim Palmer has recently been on a visit to Perth from Kojonup.

Geoff Cannon now lives in Hobart where he works with Levers. He and his wife have a daughter.

R.M. Jacklyn is with the Physics Dept. of Hobart University where he is doing Cosmic Ray research.

Ralph Bailey has returned to Sydney from Wollongong

Norm Walker we recently ran into Norm in Sydney. This well-known 458 personality has been frequently asked after by his squadron contemporaries in recent years and we hope to see him at Reunions in future.

Tony Harris. His many squadron friends in all states will wish Tony and Adrienne all good luck and congratulations following the birth of their son, Phillip.

Jack Lewis recently paid a visit to Sydney where some of his friends were able to see him and have a few glasses of beer with him. We gather Jack is a likely starter at the next Squadron Ball in Sydney.

THE HISTORY OF 458 SQUADRON.

The writing of the Squadron History is now under way, based on the Official Records and information supplied by members. Members will be kept in touch.

