

458 SQUADRON NEWS



The Editor:

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

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ALL-STATES REUNION in BRISBANE.

This year, 1954, the ALL-STATES REUNION at Anzac-time was held in Brisbane. What a week-end it was! Q-Flight's organisation was superb and none who were fortunate enough to be there are ever likely to forget 458 Squadron's Operation Brisbane, 1954.

Gordon Orchard came up from Melbourne as did the Squadron (and Victorian) President, Johnno. A party of six were there from F.S.W.---Sam Barlow (the Squadron Treasurer), Cy. Irwin, Allan Walker, Black-Jack Baker, Peter Alexander (Squadron Vice President/Secretary), and Sammy Simpson from Scone. They were met and welcomed by the officers of Q-Flight and plunged into a dazzling whirl of social activity.

First official function was a Reception for visitors at the United Services Club on the Friday evening at which many old friends who hadn't met one another for years were able to get together again. Bill McBride, a member of the Queensland Committee, saw to it that no one had an empty glass, with the most unremitting efficiency. The visitors had the chance of meeting some of the Queensland branch's Associate members who have proved a source of strength to Q-Flight and were very pleasant friends to make. The Reception adjourned at about 11.0, to be continued for quite a few at the visitors' hotel, over half a dozen bottles.

Saturday saw a Social gathering in the morning at the Hotel Cecil, where the Country and Interstate visitors resumed the previous evening's conversations with the Brisbane members. After lunch, the accredited delegates from each of the States, together with the Squadron officers, met for the Annual Squadron Conference in comfortable surroundings at the United Services Club, under the Chairmanship of the Squadron President. Conference's proceedings are reported elsewhere. It finished at 6.0., and there was time for a quick meal before moving out to the Air Training Corps Mess at Perry Park for the All-States Reunion. This, for the information of non-Brisbane readers, is a large building providing an ideal set-up for a Reunion (and which would in fact make an excellent Air Force Club). Here, under the new Squadron Banner now acquired by Q-Flight, approximately 50 members and Associates celebrated the chief function of the weekend. The Squadron Albums were on display, the beer was plentiful and cold, and 458 was together again. Johnno led the singing of a thoroughly-unexpurgated original version of Lagos Lagoon. That ditty indidentally was composed by a 458 pilot, Jimmy Sergeant. (It is understood from his crew that any resemblance is purely coincidental and thoroughly libellous).

We must record the excellence of the supper provided for members. Other credits? Len McDonnells efficient business management. Bernie McLoughlin, Q-Flight President, a prince of Hosts. The paragon of Secretaries, Jim Holliday, for the way everything went. This Reunion in fact had everything. Transport homewards was managed for everyone. Gordon Postle must have set the record by taking 14 in his limousine.

Sunday saw 458 march behind its Banner, led by the newly-elected Squadron President, Gordon Orchard. Bernie McLoughlin carried the Banner. 458 was easily the largest R.A.A.F. Unit marching, the only one with a Banner, and we were invited to lead the Air Force Section of the March. A 458 member, Snowy Slater, acted as Adjutant for the March. Our marching? Very impressive; considering the Band we were given, it was spectacularly good.

After the March, out to Perry Park again where there was refreshment laid on. After that, the visitors were entertained at the homes of various local members.

All-States Reunion (cont.).

On Monday, the ANZAC CUP for Golf was competed for, on handicap, on the beautiful (and hospitable) Oxley Golf Club Links. Golf in the morning, lunch and celebration afterwards. Winners--Black-Jack Baker brought the Anzac Cup back to N.S.W. Jack is the Q-Flight proxy delegate on Squadron Council, so that his success was at least partly a Q-Flight success. Erle Hetherington was runner-up, winning the very nice Cup presented by Ernie Doman (the N.S.W. Cup). Prize for the best N.S.W. Net score (other than the winner of the Anzac Cup) was won by Peter Alexander. There were in fact three surprised winners. Other prizes were won by Bill McBride, Eric Lloyd and a visitor. Apart from those who had to catch aircraft the party didn't break up till about 9.0.p.m. T

The Squadron's thanks to Q-Flight for an unforgettable week-end
Who was there? Operating from memory (if we leave anyone's name out--apologies)--these were the Squadron members who took part in the week-end's functions.

B. McLoughlin	L.L. Johnston	G. Orchard	J. Holliday	W. McBride	J. Carter	J. Lewis	E. Hetherington
C. Bradnam	C. Wyman	E. Kelly	K. Campbell	"Judy" Garland	T. Stone	B. Hughes	G. Postle
L. McDonnell	"Bunny" Byrne	T. Hinsley	F. Crawley	E. Lloyd	R. Russell	C. Richardson	
J. Elliott	K. Cahill	R. Slater	A.J. Walker	C. Irwin	J.C. Baker	S. Simpson	S. Barlow
P. Alexander							

SQUADRON CONFERENCE, 1954.

Under the Chairmanship of the Squadron President, S/Ldr. Johnston, Conference met at 3.0. p.m. on April 24th at the United Services Club. Delegates were: Queensland--B. McLoughlin and J. Holliday. Victoria--G. Orchard and C. Warren. N.S.W.--A.J. Walker and C.P. Irwin. W.A.--E. Hetherington and J. Lewis. S.A.--Jack Carter and Bill McBride (Squadron Vice President/Secretary) and Sam Barlow (Squadron Treasurer). After hearing and approving the Minutes of the last Conference (in Sydney), Conference heard a report from the Squadron Secretary, who reported that the Inaugural meeting of the Squadron Council had been held after the various States had nominated delegates. Council had arranged the future publication of the Squadron News, drawn up a draft Squadron Constitution, opened the Council Bank account, had letterheads printed and run the Melbourne Cup Guessing Competition very successfully. He welcomed the successful organisation of the Squadron in W.A. and reported that all the States now had a Banner.

Next business was a report from the Squadron Treasurer who presented audited accounts and then from each of the State's delegates reporting on progress in their own States. The President commenting said that in his visits to the States he had noticed that in some, the Squadron's wives and families were getting to know one another and forming friendships and this would be a source of strength to 458. He announced that he was soon going back to the U.K. but would be coming back to Australia (to Queensland) when he left the R.A.F. in a few years time.

First motion was a controversial one from Victoria which moved that Squadron Council be abolished. For Victoria, Gordon Orchard said that nothing personal at all was meant but that Victoria felt the Squadron was becoming over-organised, and that the existence of Council might rob the States of initiative. For Queensland, Bernie McLoughlin said his Committee had considered the matter carefully and thought Council was fulfilling a necessary function and should be retained. Jim Holliday said that as time passed Council would probably become increasingly necessary; he had had experience and found that interstate organisations did not function properly without someone to co-ordinate activities. W.A., N.S.W. S.A. delegates supported retention of Council. The Sqdn. Treasurer asked what the Council had done wrong to be abolished a year after the States had set it up? The President asked the Secretary for his opinion and the Secretary said that whatever one might have thought of the necessity of having a Squadron Council, would it not, now Council had been set up, be a most retrograde step to abolish it? The motion to abolish Council was rejected by Conference by 9 votes (Queensland, N.S.W., W.A., S.A. and Squadron Treasurer) to 2 (Victoria). After the vote Gordon Orchard said that his Committee would loyally support Council's activities now the decision had been made.

Other matters decided by Conference were to leave it to each State to decide whether it would have Associate members; that a form of Constitution be drafted for State branches (motion of W.A.). Bernie McLoughlin's offer to draft the Branch Constitution was accepted with thanks. That another Guessing Competition be held this year (Q-Flight). That the Secretary make preliminary inquiries concerning publication of the Squadron History. (N.S.W.) That next year's All-States Reunion and Conference be in Melbourne.

Squadron officers were then elected. On motion of N.S.W. delegates, Conference elected Gordon Orchard as Squadron President unanimously. The retiring Squadron Vice President/Secretary (Peter Alexander) and Treasurer (Sam Barlow) were re-elected as was the Hon. Squadron Auditor (Doug. Bennett, A.A.S.A.). Conference farewelled the retiring President, and expressed its thanks to Q-Flight for arranging the Conference.

SANDGROPER'S SANCTUM.

by

ALLAN LYONS.BIRTH NOTICE !!

1954: January 13th. To 458 Squadron Association--
One Branch. Both Well.

Thanking Len Stewart, Jack Riseley and Stan Long for their
Kind Attention.

Well, at long, long last, it's happened !! After an extremely good response to a circular by Len Stewart, we, on this side of the black stump, have at last decided that what W.A. wants more than anything else, is a local branch of 458---Pity help W.A. !!

Following our initial get together on the 13th. January which embraced mainly the election of officers and other preliminary arrangements, we had another excellent Roll up one month later when the necessities of life (subs, etc) were discussed in order that we could function properly as an Association.

Following this meeting, one extremely good Barbecue evening was spent at Jack Riseley's residence, when wives and families were allowed to stare in wonder at the various types who were allowed to run loose for so long. Anyway, the evening was thoroughly
(continued below)

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS FROM THE SQUADRON PRESIDENT.

It is my privilege to be the second President of the 458 Squadron Council. Our first President, W/Cdr. "Johnno" Johnston together with his officebearers, did a grand job in creating increased interest in Squadron activities in all States. I thank them on behalf of all 458ers and also congratulate the officebearers on their well-merited re-election.

I must congratulate and thank Q-Flight for the outstanding success of Anzac Week-end in Brisbane, where the 1954 All-States Reunion and second Annual Squadron Conference meeting were held. Their hospitality and organising were of the highest order. It is well worth us all making an effort to get together with the boys at least once a year to renew friendships in nattering about the past and present over a noggin.

Next All-States Reunion will be in Melbourne during Anzac Week-end, 1955---don't be AWL, start squaring the wife and/or Boss NOW. We'll get our fingers out if you do.

"Johnno" (at present S/Ldr., R.A.F.) returns to the U.K. in July from exchange duty. He goes with our thanks for the great lift he has given the Squadron and also our best wishes for the future. We look forward to his return to Aussie when he retires.

I appreciate very much the confidence and goodwill of the Squadron in electing me to its highest office.

Greetings and good wishes to 458ers everywhere.

Gordon (Orch.) Orchard.

Sandgroper's Sanctum (continued)

enjoyed by all and we do say thank you to Jack and his wife for the way they turned it on. Arrangements are now well in hand for our next Reunion on Anzac Day.

In the next issue of Squadron News, we hope to be able to say howdy to Eastern States members from various localities and let you know how we are filling in our time.

In closing, we especially thank Peter Alexander and all other members who have been directly responsible in assisting us in our initial take off.

CROWEATERS'S COLUMN.

from

BRIAN WOODHEAD.

We must congratulate the Queensland branch on their fine programme for the 1954 Conference. As the next Conference is in Melbourne I understand a number intend going over there if the necessary time off can be arranged.

Haven't seen Eric Cox for some time but understand he's spending most of his time at his farm at Naylor. Bob Drinnan called in to see me a week or so back on his way home. He is his old self once more, and I hope both he and Eric continue to progress.

Our deep sympathy to Geoff. Esau and his wife on the recent death of their son.

Croweater's Column(cont.)

Bill Tayler, Ken Russell, Ron Badger and I all attended the special Parade for the Queen here on 23.3.54 and so formed a very small square representing the old squadron. Had a noggin with Snow Dickson the other day, who informs me he is working up the far north with Commonwealth Railways. He often sees Jim Perry..

The Anzac March passed without incident in Adelaide, the 458 Banner to the fore, and a keg was disposed of afterwards.

REUNION IN NEW SOUTH.

The Annual Meeting and half-yearly Reunion took place at 330, George Street on March 12th., a Friday night this time. Friday seems to have an edge on Saturday in popularity for Reunions, and the N.S.W. Committee has taken the hint. 56 members with some visitors disposed of the usual three kegs and also of a first-class supper organised by the catering sub-committee with the capable help of Goldy Bartlett and his wife. After things were fairly started, the N.S.W. President held the Annual Meeting, giving members a summary of squadron activities in N.S.W. during the past year. Quite a list it was, too--- six cricket matches, five golf days, a Picnic at Lane Cove National Park, a Beach Day at Balmoral; the fourth Annual Ball, a Social Evening and a Film Evening in addition to two full-scale Reunions. The President also presented, for the Treasurer, audited Annual accounts shewing an annual turnover of £282. The Squadron then elected its officers and Committee for the coming year. They were:

President:	Alan Piggott	Vice Presidents:	Alf. Hammond and Allan Walker
Hon. Treasurer:	Graeme Coombes	Hon. Secretary:	Peter Alexander,
Committee:	F. Strom C. Nation V. Bartlett A.C. Harris J.C. Baker E. Munkman		
	D. Healey B. Osborne B. Lyndon C. Irwin K. Beach S.R. Bruce		
	T. Moore H. Dorge G. Balmer.		

The major change, of course, was the retirement of the Treasurer, Sam Barlow. Sam is recuperating from an operation on his shoulder and has to take things more easily for a year. As the N.S.W. President said words cannot express 458's debt to Sam, who has been N.S.W. Treasurer for five years and has been one of the creators of the post-war 458 organisation not only in N.S.W. but throughout Australia. He remains a squadron stalwart.

Members at the Reunion included:

L. Kew	B. Lord	B. Bruce	Pat McCulloch	D. McKay	L. Bracker	B. Menser	J. Baker	G. Cannon
A. McMaster	K. Beach	B. Crawford	S. Barlow	N. Spurling	C. Irwin	E. Doman	B. Lyndon	D. Healey
H. Bryant	C. Tillack	E. Munkman	L. J. Baker	T. Harris	D. Bennett	A. Walker	V. Bartlett	W. Chapman
G. Bradd	F. Ridge	C. Ruthven	W. Archbold	F. James	A. Hammond	C. Corten	L. Piggott	C. Nation
A. Piggott	T. Mitchell	B. Millar	G. Balmer	B. Thompson	M. Hargraves	M. Egan	J. Hamilton	
G. Burgess	P. Alexander	G. Coombes	B. Osborne	F. Strom.				

Squadron thanks to Bert Thompson, Ernie Donan, and Pete Campbell who have retired from the Committee after many years of loyal membership.

The Ex-Service Rally, Hyde Park.

Those 458 members who were able to make it were delighted to have the chance of attending the Parade in honour of H.M. the Queen. No organised 458 or Air Force party could be organised, the Parade was in fact a shambles as far as organisation went (three hearty brickbats to the N.S.W.R.S.L.) but 458 members were to be met with all over the Park.

Anzac Day, Sydney.

Graeme Coombes placed a wreath on the Cenotaph on behalf of 458 Squadron, on the Saturday evening prior to Anzac Day. The March itself was held on the Sunday afternoon and members marched behind the Banner, afterwards going in company to the Air Force Club to have a few drinks together.

The forthcoming ANNUAL BALL.

Friday May 28th is the date, the Coronet Ballroom, George Street, the place. This will be the fifth Squadron Ball and we hope to see all N.S.W. members and their wives and friends there. Tickets from Peter Alexander, I7/6d. each. This will be the Event of the Year. Be in it! Fill in the form on page 8.

Golf.

We shall look forward to seeing 458 golfers at Campbelltown during the coming golf season. Members will be notified of dates as arranged by Allan Walker.

DIARY OF A DAZED DELEGATE.

by

P.C.A.

Sydney, Friday April 23rd. 1.0 p.m. Arrive at Wynyard Station en route to Brisbane, suitcase in one hand, golf clubs over shoulder, Squadron Album weighing half a ton in the other hand. Stagger round to A.N.A. Terminus; book in, sink exhausted on lounge. Transport to leave for

Mascot at 1.45. Keep eye open for L.J.B., A.J.W., and C.I. who are going up on same D.C.6.
 1.20 p.m. No sign of the others. Buy a paper. 1.40 p.m. No sign of others. Wonder if its the right day. Commence to bite fingers. 1.45. C.I. arrives 1.44 L.J.B. arrives. 1.45 A.J.W. arrives. Books in. 1.50 Transport manages to leave. 2.10 p.m. Board Kite at Mascot. We have the Starlight Lounge--six seats round a table in the Tail, A.J.W. remarks that we must be over the tail wheel; then remembers D.C.6 is a tricycle undercart job, and changes subject. Two elderly gents occupy other two seats. 2.15 p.m. Take off. Someone orders four beers. West End. Cheers for South Aus. beer. 2.20 p.m. L.J.B. commences to navigate kite. Explains difference between navigators and observers. Promise C.I. he can navigate coming back. 2.40 p.m. A.J.W. orders four beers. Good for A.J.W. 2.50 p.m. Impenetrable cloud. L.J.B. takes time off to glance out of porthole. Announces our height as 18,000'. C.I. orders four more bottles of beer. Good for C.I. 3.30 p.m. Sandwiches and cakes brought round. 3.35 p.m. Hostess asks who rang bell. No one has but L.J.B. orders three beers and a bottle of Scotch. Good man. Much vibration; beer glasses vibrate. Our navigator curses the pilot. 3.50 p.m. Beers arrive. Elderly gent looks disapproving. 4.0 p.m. Rather bumpy. Glass of beer upset over elderly gent. Pilot blamed and floor swabbed; broken glass gathered up. 4.20 p.m. or thereabouts. Touch down at Eagle Farm. 4.40 p.m. Met by Bernie McLoughlin and Jim Holliday. Book in at Hotel Daniell. 5.0 p.m. Taken to Lennons for a few beers, say five or six. 6.30 p.m. Dinner. Not much appetite. 7.30 p.m. Informal reception at the United Service Club. Many old friends who it is a delight to be with again. Bill McBride, i/c supplies, declares war on empty glasses. 11.0 p.m. Return to Hotel. Bernie brings half a dozen bottles. Half a dozen of us drink them in L.J.B.'s room. Talk about Rugby League prospects. 12.30 Guests depart. With exquisite sense of tidiness, Bernie gathers up the empties and places them in L.J.B.'s waste paper basket before leaving. April 24th 6.0 a.m. Wake up. Reach for Aspirins. 10.30 a.m. Rendez-vous at the Hotel Cecil. Erle Hetherington i/c supplies. 1.0 p.m. Bernie takes us to lunch. Brisbane's huge and delectable Mud Crabs, preceded by outsize prawns. 3.0 p.m. Squadron Conference. Johnno chairs meeting with his usual extreme skill. 6.0 p.m. Conference over. J.C.B. has arrived by train from Sydney and is having a beer. He deserves it. 7.30 p.m. Grand All-States Reunion at Perry Park. Good beer and the best of company. Bill McBride still at war with empty glasses. Talk to Bunny Byrne. Listen to Johnno singing. Add some sound to the chorus. Watch some films run by Jim Holliday. Have some supper and a few beers. 1.0 a.m. return to Hotel. Decide to give party air of respectability by entering hotel first. Clutch foot in carpet and proceed through Hotel lobby running hard to preserve balance, followed by burst of song from pavement. Most unfortunate. Sunday April 25th. 2.30 p.m. Anzac March, Bernie carrying the Banner. We march behind the Salvation Army Band. Wonder if someone is implying something. 4.0 p.m. Keg laid on out at Perry Park. Afterwards with LJB out to tea with Jack Lewis. Monday April 26th. 8.45 a.m. Out to Oxley Golf Links for Anzac Cup, driven by Joe Elliott. Have a few beers in anticipation of the golf. Land huge handicap from handicappers. Go round with Erle and Bernie. Listen to Bernie addressing his golf ball; enlarge my vocabulary. Realise why Judges find him so convincing. Back to Clubhouse. Find I have won the Third Pot. Return thanks on behalf of Burglars Union. Join in celebrations. 4.0 p.m. Driven back to Brisbane with A.J.W. by Gordon Postle who has done much to make our week end in Brisbane so enjoyable. 4.30 p.m. We catch aircraft back to Sydney after most enjoyable and unforgettable week-end. Melbourne, here we come next year!

PERSONALITIES.

Lofty Trewartha is no longer a Taxi Magnate but is working for H.M. the Queen as a Customs Officer in South Australia.

Lofty Chalmers has left Gulargambone, where he was Headmaster of the Aborigines School, and is now Headmaster of the Public School at Anna Bay, near Nelson Bay, N.S.W.

Len Thiele, well-known for his acting and broadcasting, is now living in Randwick, N.S.W. Les "Snowy" Piggott is now living in his own home at Panania, and working at Bankstown. Dud McKay and his family recently paid a visit to their old friends in N.S.W.

Judging by the McKay limousine, our motto should be 'Go North and Prosper'. Anyway, it was good to see them again and to have Dud again in our cricket team.

Geoff Burgess was another welcome re-visitor to Sydney for the Reunion.

Stan Tarczynski visited Sydney recently and 458 members in Sydney were delighted to see him again.

Les Cook who was 458's Compass Adjuster, is now with the Midland Bank at Pontefract, England. Les is married with a three year old son.

Geoff. Cannon is now back in Sydney as Sales Manager with Beutron Buttons.

Keith Austin is now a Supervising Mechanical Engineer with the Dept of Works in Canberra. Pat McCulloch lives in Dubbo with his wife, son and daughter. He is with a Joinery Works. Asks to be remembered to Flash Thomas.

Col Corten has returned to Sydney from Wollongong.

Personalities (cont.)

T.G. Johnston is understood now to be Secretary of Wagan Sawmills, near Innisfail, Queensland.

Birth Notices.

To Geoff and Gwen Burgess, a son, David.
To Peter and Rita Alexander, a daughter, Deborah.

Marriages.

To the following members and their wives, 458's congratulations

Gordon Orchard
Sammy Simpson.
Erle Hetherington.

THE SQUADRON PRESIDENT.

"Orch"---Gordon Orchard---was a pilot, a Flight Commander, and an acting C.O. of 458 Squadron in Egypt and North Africa. He needs no introduction to anyone who was with 458 in those days. In Peacetime he is connected with a Printing and book-binding business in Geelong, Victoria.

The years, incidentally, have passed very lightly over Orch who looks if anything years younger now than he did then.

His return to the ranks of 458 Squadron a year or so ago revived in everyone who has met him a warmth of loyalty and affection which makes his election to the Presidency a matter of universal pleasure. Loyalty, indeed, is one of Orch's own most noticeable qualities. To him and his newly married wife, 458 Squadron's greetings and good wishes.

During the coming year the Squadron President hopes to visit as many of the States as possible.

QUEENSLAND NEWS

from

JIM HOLLIDAY.

Q-Flight would like to have interstate members come to Brisbane more often. The visit of the Interstaters was a very good excuse for members of Q-Flight to have a darn good time. From Sydney came Peter Alexander, Sam Barlow, Allan Walker, Cy. Irwin, Jack Baker and Stan Simpson; from Melbourne, Gordon Orchard. These latter two gentlemen were on their honeymoons. Brave men indeed to cope with both hangovers and honeymoons. Last but not least comes Lew Johnston our competent and popular Ist. President.

It was indeed a joy to see old friends meet once again. In fact to the Committed men it made them feel that all their efforts were worth while. The occasion brought not only new faces from interstate, but also from among our local members. Those that we particularly noted were Joe Elliott, Gordon Postle, and Ced. Bradnam.

We had staunch support from our Associate members and our interstate visitors have agreed that we have gathered some very stout trenchermen to our bosoms.

The Anzac Day March was the first in Q-Flight's history and I answered the Roll call to march behind their brand new Banner with Johnno Johnston striding ahead. It was a very inspiring sight to myself in the rear rank to see the way the boys caught the spirit of ITS. They never faltered a step. This was extremely difficult as there was a Salvation Army Band ahead which, when it played struck a tempo of 180 to the minute and when it did not, the drum beat out a dismal 90. Q-Flight looks forward to the next Reunion in Melbourne.

9 members turned out resplendent with gongs for the Ex-servicemens Rally for the Queen and all declared they wouldn't have missed it for the world. Cliff Mannion was along. He looks exceptionally well, despite his protests of plenty of work on his dairy farm at Maleny. Wedding bells sounded for Erle Hetherington very recently. One and all wish Erle every happiness and a long future.

REUNION PERSONALITIES.

Keith Campbell travels for F.H. Faulding in Queensland. Married with a son, Keith sends good wishes to Jim Munday, J. McKellar and Snowy Wood.

Bill McBride is with "Truth" in Brisbane

Bunny Byrne is a Buyer for Finneys in Brisbane. He was married in November 1953. Sends remembrances to Red-Jack Baker, Pete Campbell and Geoff Wright.

Paul Hinsley is a driver with Redbank Woodworks. Married three days after his return home, Ted has a daughter. Sends regards to Tim Dale.

Jack Carter is President of his local R.S.L. at Palmwoods and is also connected with the Fruitgrowers Association there. He has twin grandsons.

Bert "Judy" Garland is with Civil Aviation (Air Traffic Control) in Brisbane. He is married with a son. Sends regards to Jim Munday and Ian Higlett.

Frank Crowley is with Thompson Transport Coy. He is married.

Len McDonnell Q-Flight's Assistant Secretary is with the Main Roads Dept. in Brisbane.

Reunion Personalities (cont.)

Jack Withecombe is flying DC 6's with A.N.A.--Headquarters in Melbourne.

K.Kellam now has the Queens Hotel in Bundaberg, Queensland.

"Snowy" Slater is with the Commonwealth Public Service Inspector's Office in Brisbane.

L.V.Johnston is now understood to be with Woolworths in Melbourne.

VALE !

458's Pilots can now feel like the Arab saying Farewell to his steed. The last Wellington the R.A.F. has left in flying condition will make its farewell flight during the Battle of Britain display at R.A.F. Station, St. Athan, Glamorganshire. It has not yet been decided what to do with the plane, No. MF 628, a Mk.10 trainer.

A total of 11,461 Wellingtons were built, several thousand more than any other British bomber type. The R.A.F. has no Museum for interesting and historic planes, but it is possible that it will be offered to someone who can store it.

Incidentally, and talking of Museums, the 458 Squadron delegates to the Annual Assembly of the Air Force Association in N.S.W. are going to propose that an R.A.A.F. Museum should be established to look after Air Force memorials, mementoes, relics and what-have-you. The War Memorial Museum at Canberra now existing is given up about 85 % to the First World War and of the remaining 15 % the Air Force has about 1 %.

CRICKET COMMENTS

by

"Run-to-Cover"

There have been four Squadron games since my last report, plus one semi-squadron "Away" game--a mixed team--at the Entrance. Of the five the Squadron won four. That is of nine games in the 1953-4 Season 458 has won 7, a fair enough record if anyone is concerned about the results. Personally I am. It's no great fun if one always loses. The five games were at Richmond against the Station team, at Campbelltown versus the R.S.L., at Centennial Park versus the Armidale College Old Boys and against the Western Suburbs branch of the A.F.A., and at the Entrance.

Richmond really turned on the full Station team which was much too good for 458's rather weakened side. Reg. Taylor had a good game with both ball and bat. Brian Lord, playing his first post-war game with 458, kept wicket very soundly and was the best Squadron performer with the bat. By and large 458's fielding was shocking, at least five catches being dropped. Richmond won by 96 runs. Congratulations to Richmond.

At Campbelltown, 458 had a good day dismissing the R.S.L. for 60 and scoring 220 itself. Cy Irwin top-scored with a sound 42--he is always sound. Jack Baker made 33 and Eric Munkman 27. Captain Allan Walker made 26.

The game with the Old Boys, who are our established friends now, after many Cricket and golf days shared, was memorable for the return of Dud McKay, on a visit from Queensland. Dud made 39. Of the perhaps 30 times he has batted for the Squadron, one can only recall one occasion when Dud wasn't among the runs. Frank Ward and Allan Walker also made runs. Frank and Peter Alexander added 60 for the second wicket. Tony Harris was another welcome returner to the side. The last game of the season, like the first, was against Western Suburbs. Each team won one game. Eric Munkman's bowling and Darky Cromptons sheet-anchor batting were the features of this match. Eric took 4 for 17; Darky made 59 not out. 458 won by 26 runs. Scores of the Old Boys game are below:

458 Squadron		versus	Armidale Old Boys XI.	
C. Walker	c. Hanna b. Malone	1	J. Murphy	b. Ward 7
P. Alexander	b. Egan	16	G. Hamilton	b. Munkman 2
F. Ward	c. Nelson b. Hanna	62	B. Keegan	b. Walker 15
D. McKay	c. Sub. b. Murphy	39	H. Malone	c. Walker b. Munkman 9
B. Millar	b. Murphy	0	T. Harris	c. Munkman b. McKay 9
A.C. Harris	b. Hanna	9	A. Nelson	st. Alexander b. McKay 2
A.J. Walker	b. Egan	46	J. Keough	c. Miller b. Harris 3
D. Walker	c. Hanna b. Malone	5	R. Anderson	st. Alexander b. Ward 28
E. Munkman	b. Egan	2	F. Chalmers	b. Harris 2
Sundries		14	D. Sinclair	c. Munkman b. Walker 1
			J. Baker	Not out 8
			Sundries	5
				92

458 should be good for another couple of seasons. There we will leave it till next season.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

Dear Editor, I was looking at an earlier copy of the News and saw the attached form concerning the Squadron History.....You'll see that our stay with you was short--brief but enjoyable. Unfortunately the brain doesn't remember the things which did happen, but for what it's worth there it is. Thanks for the job you are doing in keeping the traditions of an Australian unit alive. It seems bad psychology to me to disband units--there should be a 458 Squadron still going even if only a shadowy volunteer reservists unit.....Give my regards to the boys who stayed back with 38 Squadron. I see their names quite frequently. When next in Sydney must see them again. Regards, Neil McPhee, Melbourne, Vic.

Dear Editor,

.....The News certainly keeps one (as I am) who is a poor correspondent in touch with mates from '458'. Bob Drinnan's illness was noted with concern. I hope by now that he is well on the road to recovery. Best wishes to you, Bob....I enclose an order form for a Squadron Car badge...My sojourn in Brisbane may soon draw to a close as the grocery business I am conducting is up for sale. When this transpires I may be returning to Sydney where I hope to renew old acquaintances.....yours sincerely, Jack Taylor. Brisbane

458's SYDNEYSIDE LADIES.

Congratulations to Dorothy Munkman and her Ladies on another successful social outing of Squadron wives.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

1. Despite some recent debate over the best form of Squadron organisation, there is not the smallest doubt that next years All-States Reunion in Melbourne will provide yet another demonstration that 458 is one squadron.

2. To Johnno, returning to the U.K. after a year as 458's first Squadron President, the Squadron's thanks for a first-class job.

AUTHORISED BY THE EDITOR (P.C.Alexander), 458 Squadron News, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.
AUSTRALIA.

SQUADRON CAR BADGE: ORDER FORM.

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

Please supply me with.....458 Squadron Car badges @ 30/- each.

Name:.....

Address:

.....

458 SQUADRON ANNUAL BALL 1954.

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

I am coming to the Annual Squadron Ball to be held on Friday, May 28th at the Coronet Ballroom, George Street, Sydney.

Please send me.....tickets (@ 17/6d. each). I shall want a table for..... persons.

Name:.....

Address:.....

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