

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



The Editor:

G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney.

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SQUADRON COUNCIL MEETS.....

The 458 Squadron Council, our National organisation, held a meeting in Sydney on Saturday afternoon, September 18th. The Squadron President, Gordon Orchard, came up from Geelong to preside. Delegates and the Squadron Officers who attended were

Squadron Vice President/Secretary-----Peter Alexander,
Squadron Treasurer-----Sam Earlow,
Victorian Delegate-----Jock McGowen,
N.S.W. Delegate-----Dick Healey,
Queensland Delegate-----Black Jack Baker,
W.A. Delegates-----Doug Anderson and Eric Hunkman (proxy),

An apology was received from the S.A. proxy delegate, Pete Campbell.

Reports from the Flights.

Each of the Delegates reported on progress in his own State.

From the West, "Bruno" Anderson reported that several 458 functions had been held in Perth lately, much hard work having been done by Jack Riseley, Len Stewart and Allan Lyons. Approximately 40 members were financial.

The Squadron Secretary reported that in South Australia progress continued along accustomed lines. Several members were planning to visit Melbourne for next year's All States Reunion there.

Victoria had had a Social Evening recently and a farewell Dinner in honour of the retiring Squadron President, "Johnno" Johnston, reported Gordon Orchard who is Victorian President as well as Squadron President.

For New South Wales Dick Healey reported that in the past year there had been two full-scale Reunions, a successful Ball, two Evenings in the Mess with Billiards, darts etc., picnics at National Park and Balmoral Beach, many cricket and golf days. A Memorial Plaque had been placed at Richmond R.A.A.F. Station in memory of the Squadron Dead.

Black-Jack Baker, speaking for Queensland, said Q. Flight had recently held its Annual Meeting and election of officers. The State was energetically taking part in the Guessing Competition being organised by Council.

458 in Britain. Council spent some time discussing Squadron affairs in the U.K. where the organisation is not as satisfactory as it might be, it being about two years since any 458 function had been held there.

The History. The Secretary reported progress. Discussion on probable costs of publication resulted in the intimidating figure of £300 approximately if the Squadron had to do the job itself. However various other possibilities were suggested for inquiry. Jock McGowen asked why the History couldn't be a best-seller. The Secretary was heard to murmur something about the law of libel.

Business in General. The Treasurer reported funds to be about £22. The Squadron Secretary reported on arrangements for the Guessing Competition decided upon by the Brisbane

Squadron Conference. Doug Bennett's resignation as Squadron Auditor was accepted on his leaving Sydney with thanks for his work. Bert Thompson was appointed as the new Auditor. Arrangements for the Melbourne All-States Reunion next year were reviewed. Council decided to recommend to the States that they use the word "Flight" instead of "Branch".

President's address. Before closing the meeting the President suggested to Council that as well as commemorating War-time associations, the Squadron could do much good and could find a source of inspiration in helping to forward a national spirit of patriotism and unselfishness.

After Council adjourned, Council members and members of the N.S.W. Committee and their wives attended a party in the Squadron President's honour given by the Treasurer at his Campsie flat.

VICTORIAN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER.

by

Stan Tarczynski and Gordon Orchard.

SHOW WEEK REUNION.

Friday, 24th. September at Air Force House, Melbourne. A highlight of this 67 strong gathering was the reappearance of five "bods" we had not sighted in a long time, namely; -W/Cdr Mick Mather, Squadron Leaders Howard Gavin and Joe Lynch who came up from Point Cook; and Roy Rabone from Dunkeld and Bill Lyon from Darlington, Victoria, who were heartily welcomed by President Gordon Orchard. Mention must be made of the only other two country members who were able to make it this time--G. Cuthbertson from Burrum Beet and Roger Rodwell from Merbein. Another pleasing feature of these reunions is the number of friends of members who are becoming regular attenders as well as our good friends from 454 and 459 Squadrons. Other members present were:-

W. Henry	T. Burgess	P. Bennett	H. Young	N. Hurford	K. Brown	W. Carr
J. Jenkins	S. Tarczynski	L. Wurr	D. Johnson	K. Guiney	E. Laming	W. Farrer
E. Macdonald	T. Weir	G. S. Orchard	H. Martin	N. Cugley	G. Matthews	A. Sharp
J. Munday	A. Prideaux	A. Green	J. Ramsay	B. Dean	J. Morris	K. Morkham
W. Bailey	T. Kennedy	H. Jenkins	F. Wilson	T. Wishart	I. Alison	E. Ashworth
E. Love.						

Attendance money just covered expenses so that a small profit was made after the raffling of 1 doz. Ale. This was won by one of "Dizzy" Dean's workmates at G. J. Coles, but unknown to him--he was lucky to have left early, as we feel sure there may have been some awkward questions asked next day at Coles had "Dizzy" stayed on. Some blokes tongues hang out, irrespective of gigantic liquor consumption. !!!

PERSONALITIES. Jock McGowen was down from Sydney on a business trip in July and we were delighted to see him again. He was able to spare one evening, including part of the early hours of next morning with several of the Committee who were all 'Hosted' by Bill Carr and his good lady.

Bruno Anderson One of the original Squadron boys. He passed through Melbourne early in September from West. Aust. on his way to Newcastle. He was welcomed at the Hotel Cecil by Bill Carr, Stan Tarczynski, Bruce Dean, Jim Munday and Howard Gavin.

Shorty Wilson Blew in for a few minutes at the Reunion with a pocket full of travellers cheques in dollars ready to push off for the States again. Frank who is Engineering Instructor at A.N.A., recently returned from U.S.A. from a familiarisation flight, etc., is now booked for an Advanced course on DC 6 s. Good luck, Shorty!

Gordon Orchard, Squadron President, made an official visit in mid-September to Sydney to attend the N.S.W. Reunion and Council meeting. He was entertained right royally and speaks in the highest terms of the hospitality and arrangement of a most successful week end.

NEXT ANZAC DAY. Several well-attended Committee meetings have been held recently, mainly to advance arrangements for Anzac Weekend 1955. This job has stimulated so much interest that it has been decided to hold regular committee meetings every two months in future and to organise small mixed functions in members' homes from time to time.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION. It is expected that there will be the usual good attendance at the Christmas Dinner to be held on Tuesday 14th. December. Any visiting interstate members will be heartily welcome.

Anzac Day, 1955 is a Monday, making a good long week-end--or "Lost Week-end" --whichever way you like it. It's not as hard to get away as you think--have a go and make us Victorians do a bit of work for our crust. It'll be a weekend you'll never forget. We'll give you another reminder early next year---but you'd better decide right now to come.

Q-FLIGHT PARADE.

by

Len MacDonnell.

Well, the Queensland Annual Reunion for 1954 is over, and the election of officers completed. Earl Hetherington is our new President and, following Jim Holliday's

Q-Flight Parade (cont.).

Temporary retirement, Len MacDonnell is the new Secretary, with Gordon Postle to aid and abet him as Assistant Secretary, and Bill Ernst as Treasurer.

Forty-five blokes attended the Reunion, which number included several new and welcome faces. A very good night was had by all, and funds benefited to the extent of £20 per medium of raffles, and a very successful Swi game handled with no mean dexterity by the old Kel Kellam.

Apart from Kel Kellam as a first nighter, another new face there was Norm Taylor's--a very handy bloke at the piano.

Our Associate Member list increased by two.

We were sorry to learn of Theo Hutton's 'progressive series of bad luck, following ill-health and its allied business worries.

Possibility that Swen Hansen might leave Casino and head for the bright lights, course as yet unknown.

Gordon Postle and Bernie McLoughlin are looking forward to the next Melbourne Anzac Reunion.

TO-DAY'S FUNNY STORY

BY

THE PRESIDENT.

Let's emulate the best publications, which use funny stories to either give us a lift or perhaps to get something to dawn on us. The world is a funny place. Ten years ago, we were all unexpectedly playing a part in Hitler's funny story, Mein Kampf, (at least the experts roared their heads off when they first read it), but one man's amusing idea of how the world should be run turned out so close to becoming fact that it wasn't very funny after all. One of the funniest things to-day, so soon after our little picnic overseas, is that a great part of the world is dancing to the tune piped by a few blokes who've taken up the late Mr. Marx's funny ideas and they mean to impose those ideas upon the rest of us by every possible method (the program for which is also set out in books if anyone cares to read them). Now, after all, being shoved around by a handful of jokers is really no joke.

At home here, almost every last bloke is out for himself or his section of the community. And what happens? Everyones at loggerheads and more and more we try to rob the other fellow of his rights and then everyone gets more and more restricted.

Do we wait until we lose what freedom we have or perhaps buy into another stoush? Or do we make time to cast around and see what can be done about things that get people at each others throats? Everyones waiting for someone else to get cracking. Of course, no one person can present a tailor-made solution to life's problems, but perhaps a gang of types like 458 ers with the Squadron spirit which binds us together as a background could start winning the next war now.

What kind of a future do we want for our children? What kind of a country are we making for them to grow up in? Two things I've slowly learned which seem to help a lot towards happiness in my home and business life--a sympathetic understanding of the other person and straight-spoken honesty. Just a couple of things, but maybe steps in the right direction. What are your ideas on how to give the kids a better future?

Will 458 step in where angels fear to tread and fight this time for the kind of country we would really like to see? The Squadron back on active service! Sounds like the shot! Then life could be really funny.

Gordon Orchard.

458 NEWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Our half-yearly Reunion was held on September 17th, a Friday. The Reunion was notable for the presence of the Squadron President, Gordon Orchard, who had come up specially from Geelong for the Reunion. The N.S.W. Secretary, Peter Alexander, welcomed Orch., saying that Orch came among N.S.W. members not as a visitor or a guest but as of right, as Squadron President and as a member of 458 Squadron but that nevertheless it was a mighty effort to have come up to Sydney for the occasion and that N.S.W. appreciated it. Another interstate member in Sydney for the Reunion who was welcomed at the Reunion was Doug Anderson from Perth. Both Orch and Doug Anderson briefly addressed the Reunion. The N.S.W. President, who had a marriage in the family, sent his apologies for non-ability to attend. Fifty plus squadron members were at the Reunion and also a number of invited guests. Record must be made of the attendance of two Squadronites who haven't been sighted for some years in the persons of "Curly" Hosking and Allan McLean --to both of whom our warm welcome. Among members present (the list is incomplete) were:

Steve Gilkes	Allan McLean	Frank Ward	Joe Fenwick	Graeme Coombes	P. Alexander
Sam Barlow	Lofty Bracker	B. Crawford	K. Beach	Jack Baker	Pete Campbell
Dick Healey	Fred Stron	Eric Munkman	R. Millar	Bert Thompson	Tom Mitchell

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

Allan Walker	Stuart Ricketts	Allan Macnaster	Jim Whittam	Curly Hosking	Brian Lord
Alf. Hammond	Ray Davies	Wal Clarke	Goldy Bartlett	G. Balmer	G. Orchard
Henry Bryant	Don Bithead	Dick Boydell	Col Corten	Harry Dorge	Cy. Irwin
Laurie Kew	J. Wren	Jock McGowen	Cec. Nation	N. Spurling	C. Tillack
Norm. Skinner	F. James				

The PRESIDENT'S CUP.

Since the last issue of the News there have been several Golf Days out at Campbelltown Links. August and September both saw 458 golfers make the trip out. Ray Davies and Allan Walker were among the prize winners. The Main event of the year however was the Presidents Cup, which came up for competition on Sunday September 26th. The Holder of the Cup was Bob Millar. The programme for the Presidents Cup makes it a handicap event over 18 holes, nine in the morning and nine after lunch. Over 60 members, their families and visitors arrived and kept the organising Committee (Allan Walker, Sam Barlow Cy. Irwin and Ern. Doman) busy. The Day also saw our Annual Match against the Armidale Old Boys Club. A substantial number of associated trophies were provided for the longest drive, runners up, visitors, ladies. The coming and going of competitors starting out from the Club House in the morning closely upon each others heels, queuing up at the First Tee, making their way up and down the hills of Campbelltown, struggling to get over the creeks, hunting for lost golf balls, returning to the Club House for lunch, queuing up to buy one another a glass of beer, checking in cards and checking on one another's performances to date, eating lunch with their families, starting off again after lunch for another nine holes, some concentrating hopefully, others cheerfully playing nine enjoyable holes, all returning in due course to the Club House, for a few more beers, while awaiting the last in and the day's results, can be imagined. Eric Munkman from the start played excellent golf and, holding off challenges from Allan Walker and Peter Alexander, won the President's Cup for 1954-5--a very popular win. The match with the Armidale Old Boys resulted in the A.O.B. having a convincing win. They have our congratulations.

CRICKET. Another season has now opened. The first match arranged was washed out by rain but several other games have been arranged. The Air Force Club will be the opponents on November 7th and the Western Suburbs branch of the Air Force Association on December 12th, both games being in Centennial Park on Pitch No. 6 (Players please note), and the Armidale Old Boys up at the Entrance on Sunday November 28th. The latter will be an excellent excursion for everyone and everyone interested is invited. There will, it is hoped be tennis and swimming as well as Cricket. "Run-to-Cover," our established Cricket Commentator has again undertaken to report the Cricket season for the Sqdn. News.

Anno Domini becoming what they are this could be the last season 458 will play much cricket. So members should make the most of their chance to play cricket with their Squadron.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS.

(a) An Evening with dancing is being arranged for one evening in December by way of a Christmas Do for 458 and 458 wives. Members will be notified.

(b) 458 Members will meet for a few glasses of Christmas Cheer together from 5.0 p.m. onwards at the Long Bar, Hotel Australia on Friday December 17th.

FISHING. A day's Fishing organised by Bob Lyndon and Allan Walker for Sunday October 24th had to be scrubbed owing to the weather but plans are being made to put it on again on December 5th, so interested members should keep that day free. They will be notified of arrangements.

R.A.A.F. MEMORIAL BOOK.

A Memorial Book containing the names of all the R.A.A.F. airmen from New South Wales who gave their lives during the War was recently dedicated and placed in St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney at a Special Service in Battle of Britain Week. The Primate of Australia, Dr. Mowll, preached. Several members of 458 Squadron were given special tickets to attend. Those present included Gordon Orchard, Jack Baker, Graeme Coombes with Mrs. Coombes, Allan Walker, and Peter Alexander with Mrs. Alexander, Snr. It was a beautiful and impressive service.

The N.S.W. CO MITTEE.

We welcome Bob Millar to membership, he having been elected to fill a vacancy. In accordance with the Committee's own decision, Committee members attendances at Committee meetings are published for the information of the electors. There have been six meetings of the Committee to date this year. Attendances have been:-

6 out of 6. A. Walker, P. Alexander, F. Strom,

5 out of 6. G. Coombes, C. Nation, E. Lyndon, C. Irwin, R. Healey, V. Bartlett, E. Munkman, K. Beach, G. Balmer.

News in N.S.W.(cont.)4 out of 6. H.Dorge, T.Moore,3 out of 6. A.Piggott, J.Baker3 out of 3. R.Osborne (resigned), L.Barlow;1 out of 4. S.Bruce (resigned).SANDGROPPERS SANCTUM.

by

ALLAN LYONS.

Our proposed Squadron Ball fell through due to lack of interest and support by members but, possibly, next year when we are better organised, we may be able to make a go of it.

Our General Meeting held on October 4th. was disappointing from the attendance side, only 14 "bodies" being present, they being,

Peter McCarthy Ted Jewell Clarrie Eagle Al Wheat Stan Long Ben Cormack Sid Baker
Cliff Williams Len Stewart Laurie Grigsby Gordon Jones Ron Gannaway Jack Riseley A.Lyons.

However one good feature to compensate this fact was that the keg we hadn't tap just did the trick nicely and we were all able to give it a quiet nudge and prevent the throat muscles seizing up whilst the more serious side of our get-together was in progress.

All told, the meeting accomplished quite a lot.

Membership.

So far we show a total of thirty-eight financial members. This is not too bad, considering we have only been in operation for a matter of nine months; however it can be a lot better. If your name isn't among the financial ones shown below, or if it is and you can't see names which should be there, but just ain't, either contact me or the member concerned and see what you can do to make the list grow a bit bigger--

List of Financial Members:

D.H.Anderson	C.E.Eagle	G.S.Jones	A.R.Power	K.B.McLeod	E.S.Baker	J.A.Edwards	S.C.Long
J.L.Palmer	A.E.Budd	C.H.Etherton	A.Lyons	J.Riseley	A.Bullock	R.Featherby	A.C.Main
L.J.Stewart	R.C.Chessell	H.Manton	R.Gannaway	D.J.Tunney	J.F.Cobb	C.W.Ceddes	A.Wheat
J.R.Mitchell	B.Cormack	L.B.Gibbons	E.Moriarty	E.Wheeler	A.Dale	L.Grigsby	C.McCarthy
C.Williams	L.Dickerson	E.Jewell	P.McCarthy	R.G.Wood			

A decision was carried at the meeting that all financial members are empowered to issue interim receipts to new members and then forward the proceeds on to me so don't be afraid to use the system if its convenient to you.

Squadron Conference Delegates.

In order to prevent us from becoming a "proxy State" at the above Conferences, we are saving hard to finance a delegate (to be elected by ballot) to attend periodically at future Eastern States Conferences. We therefore draw your attention to the previous paragraph and also request your interest in any social outings which you can attend.

Our next Get-together.

Popular request for another Barbecue should see us assembling around Crowley Bay mid November sometime, when the evenings should once again be ideal for this form of entertainment. All members will be advised in due course of details, but the big thing to remember is---BE IN IT !!!

The only other social activity on which we have to report is an important one. It was our farewell to Mr and Mrs. "Johnno" Johnston. As their boat was only in port for a matter of a few hours, the send-off was necessarily a hurried one, but we were able to join them in a few drinks and renew memories over the luncheon table. To the twenty-odd members who were able to make it we do say thank you. We were all sorry to see the Guests of Honour go but hope to have the privilege of being the first to welcome them home in the not too distant future.

CROWEATER'S COLUMN.

by

BRIAN WOODHEAD.

Johnno Johnston rang me when he arrived in Adelaide and on a quick rally we mustered the Adelaide regulars, to bid him and his family Adieu over a noggin. We passed on the time of his arrival to the Perth boys so that they might be able to get them together.

Not long after this the 2/43rd Battalion invited us to a social evening at their Club Rooms. Actually this was in response to a little courtesy extended to them on Anzac Day. About 18 represented the Squadron there and we had a very successful and enjoyable evening. Over many beers we played a number of games and the final tally finished even so we are to have a return evening at which we hope the response will be good.

The Redex Air Trial was the next event and Syd Bartran rang me to say that Laurie Crowley, who had been forced-down in the Blackfellows country, would be at his place

Croweater's Column (cont.)

for a few days. I hear that several of the boys went along and that they had a pleasant evening nattering and that next day Laurie left for Sydney where we trust he arrived without further mishaps.

Doug Anderson wrote to say he was passing through Adelaide but although we met the train we weren't able to locate him.

We have also had a letter from Squadron President Gordon Orchard to say he and his family would be over next month to see us. Our welcome will be warm and we hope that their stay among us will be enjoyable.

Editorial Note---A few Words to bewildered overseas readers.

	Sandgroper	means	Western Australian
	Croweater		South Australian and, while we are on the
subject,	Cornstalk		New South Welshman,
	Bananalander		Queenslander.

PERSONALITIES.

Laurie Crowley. Laurie is now living in New Guinea where he owns and runs Crowley Airways operating from Lae. He has two Avro Ansons, a Curtis Robin, a Stinson and a Tiger Moth. He provides charter flights to the Islands and incidentally transported the Hallstrom Project sheep into the newly discovered Highlands of the Territory where it is hoped they will establish a new Wool area. Married, Laurie has three children--Gisele, Denis and Shane. Down in Australia for the Round-Australia Redex Air Trial, Laurie spent some time in Sydney on his way home. He stayed with Alf Hammond and they did some flying around the Sydney area, shooting up Wal Archbold's home at Ourimbah. Laurie was welcomed one evening at the Air Force Club by the largest gathering of Original Groundstaff there has been in Sydney possibly even including Reunions. Those there included Alf. Hammond, Alan Piggett, Eric Munkan, Frank Mahony, Buster Balmer, Henry Bryant, Sney Fennell, Wal Archbold, Peter Alexander, Kemp Beach and Freddy Ridge. We were delighted to see Laurie and hope to see him again next year.

Doug Bennett Has moved to Burrinjuck with the Water Conservation Commission and will be very much missed by his many Sydney friends;

Ken Markham recently visited Sydney from Melbourne and was met and entertained in the Air Force Club by a number of old 458 friends; he is with Repco.;

"Bubbles" Power, in Perth is asking for news of Stan Parker;

Allan McLean is Personnel Officer with Black andacker in Sydney. He is married with two sons; asks to be remembered to Jock Thompson;

Frank Ward has been on a visit to New Zealand;

Cec. Nation and his wife have been up to Brisbane to attend his parents 60th. Wedding Anniversary;

John Carey has returned to Sydney and is very welcome;

Curly Hosking runs a taxi-truck at Como, N.S.W. Married with a son and a daughter he sends good wishes to Tim McQuade and Kenny Cahill;

Lofty Bracker is a Navigation Officer with Qantas;

Jack Nixon has recently returned to Australia from Pakistan where he has been flying; Norm Skinner who is in the Building Trade sends his regards to Mick Mather;

Stan Parker is at Ayr in Queensland;

Ted Littlehales is with Littlehales Motors at Warragul in Victoria;

Tommy Burgess is at Mortlake, Victoria;

Max Parker's mother recently attended the unveiling by the Queen of a Air Force War Memorial in Malta;

Geoff. Burgess is understood to be moving to Wellington, N.S.W.

Les Cook, at Pontefract in England sends his best wishes to his old 458 pals;

Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Our Condolences to Fred. Ridge on the death of his Father.

Births: Congratulations to

Henry and Mrs. Bryant--a son (Denis);
Brian and Mrs. Lord--a daughter (Linda);
Black-Jack and Mrs. Baker--a son (Geoffrey);
Bill and Mrs. Turier--a son (John);
Dusty and Mrs. Miller--a daughter (Wendy);

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Ron Verity, Makarewa, Southland, New Zealand.

Dear Peter, Many thanks for the Car Badge and the continuing 458 Squadron News. It would seem that any Aussies visiting N.Z. will just have to locate a car bearing the Squadron badge and they'll have found me! But let me warn such visitors to look for the badge inside the windscreen. I felt it was such an imposing affair that to place it outside the car might prove too big a temptation to some souvenir-hunters!.....It is possible to defend my action on other grounds. Some of the roads here are no better than those covered in the Redex Trial and I had a fear of chipping the enamel by flying stones.

...We have moved to a much larger school, only about six miles from Invercargill.....There were one or two Aussie teachers on the Squadron.... I wonder --have they all deserted the ranks of the Dominies? From previous "News" I have Lefty Chalmers' address and must drop him a line some time; well, so long to Pretville, Bone and Alghero types,
Ron Verity

From Frank Braybrook, R.A.F. Station, Hawarden, England.

Dear Pete,

From time to time I receive a copy of the "458 Squadron News"---each time I vow I'll write to the Cobber responsible for keeping me on the distribution list with a sincere thank you: I have been lazy until now, nevertheless my gratitude is as sincere as ever. Names like Len Thiele, Brian Woodhead, Snowy Slater, Merv. Hargraves and many others bring back smiles---I'd like to hear from some of those boys.....My second dickie Groppi (Blair) Eames married an attractive ex-Wren and is now a most sedate civilian....Of the remainder of my crew, F/Sgt. Les Herley is in a Southern County Police Force, F/Sgt. Robbie Farquharson and W/O Jock Sheddson are civilians up in Scotland. Unfortunately I have lost touch with Navigator Don Granger. To-night whilst browsing through my many photographs and relics of the 458 days I found the enclosed poster---you may care to keep it in the Museum---it reminds me of a Foggia organisation which operated most fluidly on plonk and which flourished under a remarkable name---"The Dinkum Pommes"---?!

I hope this note raises at least a brief "Hello" from Don Granger ---my wife and I would welcome a visit from any of the boys should they ever come this way. My best wishes to the Squadron types,
yours sincerely, Frank Braybrook.

From Bill Waitt, 14, Brandon Road, Fawdon, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England.

Dear Pete,

Many thanks for your August edition of 458 Squadron News which reached me this morning. After reading it several times I must confess to feelings of gloom, nostalgia and of joy: it was grand to read of the "Mess" Night; memories flooded back to the old Mess nights at Pretville, Bone and Alghero.....I met Eric Fendick in Leicester and spent a very enjoyable evening over a few beers; as you can well imagine our days and nights with 458 were the main topics.....Do you remember me?.....I was in J.A.F. Mackay's crew with Cyril Edwards as navigator and young Trev. Walden and Hal Lee as fellow W/Ops. Hal was a Canadian in the R.A.F. Trev is married and has a baby girl. He lives in Ilford, Essex. Mac went to Canada six years ago but hasn't written. Hal went back to Canada as far as I know. Cyril Edwards promised to let us have his address but whilst on leave at Sorrento fell over a cliff....and missed the boat back to the Middle East. He was quite O.K. but I do not know his present address..... I have a boy Ian, aged 8 and life has been good during the past few years. Pleased to note you are preparing a History of the Squadron.....Was pleased to read about old Jack Carter, Charlie Ruthven, Bill Hull (where is Farmer Giles?), Orch., Col. Fereday, Sam Barlow (of I'm a Fairy Fane at Bone), 'Jidge' Jenkins and many others. Does Buster still oblige with a song? Yours, Bill Waitt.

From Mrs. Mock Philip, 105, Botany Street, Randwick, Sydney.

Dear Peter,

Could any of the boys come out and visit Jock? He is not in very good health these days and spends a lot of time in bed. I think a visit from some of the boys would do him more good than a visit from his doctor often.....

Thelma Philip.

Correspondence (cont.)From Marshal of the R.A.F. Sir John Slessor

My dear Alexander,

Very many thanks for your kind letter of welcome. As you may imagine it is a great thrill to me to be visiting Australia for the first time, and it gives me a nice warm feeling to get such a letter from a Squadron like 458 with whom I have served in the past. I hope I may see some old 458 chaps during my visit to Sydney.

Many thanks again,
yours sincerely, J.Slessor.

Editorial note. This letter, in reply to a note welcoming Sir John to Australia, was written by hand and its receipt gave Squadron members very much pleasure.

The Competition results. Squadron thanks to those who took part. To the Winners --congratulations; to those who didn't win,--better luck next year, and thanks again.

D I9I	J. Dalrymple 29 Waruda St. Kibribilli	E.363	E. Lucas, 68, Windsor Rd., Northmead, N.S.W.
C 228	Beverley Bell, Yachadoo, Palmwoods, Q.	B.328	E. Alexander, Punchbowl, N.S.W.
E.297	Peter McCarthy, Canning Bridge, W.A.	D.440	F.R. Wailles, Bexley North, N.S.W.
D.I05	R. Adams, Toongabbie, N.S.W.	E.423	J. Bax, Adelaide, S.A.
D.I37	Mrs. Hardy, I7 Vincent St. Canterbury, N.S.W.	A.84	Mrs. J.C. Baker, Crows Nest, N.S.W.
		B.325	Robert Alexander, Lakenba, N.S.W.
C.43I	C.W. Mannion, Maleny, Q.	A.I44	Dick Boydell, Newcastle, N.S.W.
D.4I8	A. McLean, II, Rundle St. Sydney, N.S.W.	C.I37	D. Whitworth, G.P.O. Box 257 D, Brisbane,
E.3I5	D. Mackie, Mt. Hawthorn, W.A.	D.358	Mrs. McDonald, Neutral Bay, N.S.W.
A I4I	Dick Boydell, Newcastle, N.S.W.	B.42	N. Mornbury Edward St. Orange, N.S.W.
D.I87	S. Gorman, Beanish St. Campsie, N.S.W.	A.I88	J.W. McKay, Jervis Bay, N.S.W.
D.73	T. Rafferty, Royal Oak, Parramatta, N.S.W.	D.38I	J. Kerwin, Camperdown, N.S.W.
B.8	C.N. Abbott, Maroubra, N.S.W.	D.350	B. Menser, Dulwich Hill, N.S.W.
B.304	G.E. Macfarlane, Hurstville, N.S.W.	A.28I	A.E. Campbell, St. Ives, N.S.W.
E.I58	Don Postle, II6, Elizabeth St. Brisbane	D.8I	A.L. Wilson, North Parramatta, N.S.W.

The big prizes went to tickets D.I9I, D.8I, and B.42. Victoria did not take part in the Competition this year but there was an extra big effort in the other States and the Competition was a big success.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS for the SQUADRON NEWS.

For 1955 can be sent to your State Secretary or to the Editor from any time on now. 5/- per annum.

STOP PRESS ITEM.

The Squadron President (Gordon Orchard) has arrived on a visit to 458 in South Australia. 30 members attended an evening at the R.S.L. to welcome him. The South Australian President, Bill Taylor, has also given a Squadron Reception at his home in honour of Orch.

Annual Elections in S.A. have resulted as follows: President-Bill Taylor; Secretary-Brian Woodhead; Committee: Syd. Bartran, Johnny Bax, John Ringwood, and Tom Phillis.

COMMENT.

I. We welcome Squadron Council's decision that the States should refer to themselves as Flights rather than as branches of the Squadron. Honour to Q-Flight and Jim Holliday for the original idea;

2. With Q-Flight, we regret the retirement, however temporary, of Jim Holliday from the Queensland Secretaryship. His was Secretaryship as it should be. We note that we are now relieved of the recurring temptation to entitle Q-Flight News "In Holliday Mood" ! Welcome to Len MacDonnell as Queensland Secretary. He is a good choice;

3. 458 Sqdn. News understands that plans are being matured to present, in memory of the Squadron's Dead, a 458 Squadron Memorial Trophy to the R.A.F. for Annual Competition among Coastal Command Squadrons. Sounds like an idea to us.

AUTHORISED BY THE EDITOR--

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