

458 SQUADRON NEWS



The Editor:

G.P.O.Box 5289, Sydney.

Vol.6, No.22.

February, 1955.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.....

REUNION COMING IN ENGLAND.

Squadron Council has been notified that a 458 Squadron Reunion is to be held in London on Saturday February 26th 1955. Venue is to be the Feathers Hotel, Broadway, Westminster.

Readers will share the pleasure felt by Squadron officers that after a lapse of two years 458 in the U.K. is meeting again. We will wish them an enjoyable evening and hope they make arrangements to keep together through the years to come.

The Reunion is being organised by Pete Pettit and Leo Armstrong. Pete Pettit writes:

"Happy New Year !

"You will no doubt be pleased to hear that, full of New Year

"Resolution, a Reunion is to be held at the Feathers Hotel, Broadway, Westminster, on Saturday, February 26th at 6.30 p.m. The official notices....should be on their merry way by the end of this week.

"Leo Armstrong has given us a good start by organising notices in several of the national dailies, weeklies, and ex-Air Force Publications, which have already borne a little fruit--2 new addresses to-day."

We understand that the immediately-Past Squadron President, S/Ldr. L.L. Johnston, who is now stationed in England hopes to be able to attend the Reunion from York where he is now serving.

REPORT ON W.A. FLIGHT.

: News from Western Australia

from Allan Lyons.

Hi !! ---and a Happy New Year to all.

Since our last issue, we have experienced (and enjoyed) a fairly quiet spell in our activities, pending our renewed efforts for 1955. Our first affair will be a General Meeting scheduled for late February or early March, so, local members, please inwardly digest and await a notification regarding same.

We have only one official function on which to report--to wit--one highly successful barbecue held just prior to Christmas at Crawley Bay. Approximately seventy members and guests assembled and under a wide and starry sky, and to the lilting tunes of Len Stewart's "Squeeze Box", one and all proceeded to make the most of the occasion. In particular, we welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Harold Manton and their party, who travelled some two hundred odd miles from Yealering to be present in person--"Just for a change"--and it was particularly fitting that they should have held one of the lucky tickets when it came to Raffle Time. Nice work, Harold, and we do hope that you thought it all well worth while and can make it again on some future occasion.

Jack Mitchell of Burekup also deserves a special vote of thanks for his donation to help make the evening a success. Being tied up on a farm he couldn't come in

Report on W.A. Flight (cont.)

person, but his generous action to be with us in spirit was deeply appreciated--thanks, Jack.

A fortnight prior to the above function, the Committee (and their better halves) were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Len Stewart, at which all the details of the above were discussed. This was an extremely enjoyable night and we do say thanks to Len and his wife for the way they turned it on, our only regret being that the keg held more than we did.

Congratulations are also in order to Len and his wife on another score--one bouncing boy is the new addition to their family.

We, (Jack Risley, Len Stewart and myself) were also privileged to say howdy to Doug. McGuigan whilst he was over here with the Repat. Tribunal ----although none of us managed to talk ourselves into any pension increases, we did enjoy your company, Doug., and we hope to see you again when next you are on the track.

Well, as aforesaid, our news-review for this publication is on the quiet side,--we again seek the co-operation of local members in "roping-in" more new blood for 1955 to help swell our ranks, remember to be present at our next meeting when election of officers, etc, will take place--and, well, who knows, you may find yourself with a job to do !

CHRISTMAS CAME TO NEW SOUTH.

At the LONG BAR. Sydneyside members met for the Christmas Noggin at the Long Bar, Hotel Australia after work on Friday December 17th. There was a series of "Two Bob In s" and Sam held the purse. These wholly informal pre-Christmas get-togethers have been held for about five years now and are an established part of our routine. Christmas wouldn't be quite the same without this exchange of greetings with old friends and wartime companions. The members who were able to look in this time included Sam Barlow, Peter Alexander, Allan Macmaster, Alf Hammond, Bert Thompson, Bob Millar, Tom Mitchell, Doug. McGuigan (who told us about his meeting with 458 ers in Perth), Ray Davies, Cy. Irwin, Bob Lyndon, and Eric Munkman.

CHRISTMAS DANCE-SOCIAL.

An invitation Social-Dance was held in the Air Force Club's 3rd. floor rooms at 330, George Street, Sydney on December 9th. Forty-plus Squadron-members with their wives attended. Though relatively a small function, it is doubtful if any previous 458 function in Sydney has been more enjoyed. After five or six years of considerable Squadron activity there have been enough "Mixed" functions for everyone and everyone's wives to have got to know and like each other. Could there be a nicer Christmas function than a small Dance with one's old friends on a good floor with a cheerful and competent pianist energetically playing with a generous number of progressive Barn Dances? Supper provided by the Ladies was lavish; there was a keg with Air Force Club member Don Sinclair acting as Barman for us. The Banner was displayed and the walls decorated with cartoons of Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, Egypt, and Foggia interest. Streamers flew across the Hall. Dancers attending were: Alan and Mrs. Piggott, Alf and Mrs. Hammond, Allan Walker, Peter and Mrs. Alexander, Sam Barlow and partner, Bob and Mrs. Lyndon, Bob and Mrs. Millar, George and Mrs. Unitt, Cy. Irwin, Eric and Mrs. Munkman, Stuart and Mrs. Ricketts, Ray and Mrs. Davies, Cliff and Mrs. Hayward, Bert and Mrs. Thompson, Fred Strom and partner, Allan Macmaster and partner, Vinc and Mrs. Bartlett, Brian and Mrs. Lord, Ern and Mrs. Doman, Jack and Glad Baker, Kemp and Mrs. Beach.

The N.S.W. President, Alan Piggott, was welcomed back to Squadron activities after his recent severe illness and took a prominent part in the dancing.

FISHING---Deep Sea.

A long-talked of Fishing party was organised, thanks to the persevering enthusiasm of Bob Lyndon, and went outside Sydney Heads in two boats early on December 5th. for the Day. Our Correspondent's report of the Trip follows; clearly the fishermen will remember well their day. We must admit having also heard references (the weather was intemperate) to resemblances between small boats and bucking bronchos ! Our Correspondent writes:

458 GOES FISHING

by

A.J.W.

To the many post-war activities which 458 ers have undertaken collectively has now been added that of 'outside' fishing. Bob Lyndon organised a party consisting of Don Pitmead, Goldy Bartlett, Ray Davies, Fred Strom, Allan Walker, and some friends, which went out to try its luck some time prior to Christmas. It was the wrong day for two things--fishing and flying, and all fishermen should have been grounded as almost certainly all flyers were. Fred Strom was heard to remark that the last time he was

458 Goes Fishing (cont.)

through those same Heads was in 1941 in the Awatea and he would probably be as sorry now as he was then. He was.

Anyway 'Wet and No Fish' was only partly true as all seemed to finish up with a feed anyway. Biggest (edible) fish went to Bob Lyndon (a nice John Dory); Goldy Bartlett caught the most fish (not counting the shark which tangled all the lines when hauled into the boat); Allan Walker had the biggest one that got away--it turned out to be the bottom of the ocean and cost about 250 yards of line and gear.

Many thanks to Bob Lyndon (an expert fisherman) for arranging the trip and for looking after the mugs thus cutting down his own fishing time. To sum up: a great day despite the weather; we'll do it again.

WHO'S FOR MELBOURNE ?

With this Issue members will receive the printed Programme for Anzac Week End in Melbourne--April 22nd-25th. They will see the arrangements are well under way for a first-class week end well up to the traditions set in Sydney and Brisbane in 1953 and 1954. We strongly urge members in other States to make the trip to Melbourne. It is not as hard to get there as it may seem. You couldn't possibly have a better holiday. Be in it !

New South Wales News (cont.)

The N.S.W. Committee has continued its series of monthly meetings. Attendances up to the January meeting this year have been:

7 out of 7 A. Walker, F. Strom;

6 out of 7 P. Alexander, G. Coombes, E. Lyndon, C. Irwin, E. Munkman, K. Beach;

5 out of 7 T. Moore, C. Nation, R. Healey, V. Bartlett, G. Balmer;

4 out of 7 H. Dorge, A. Piggott;

3 out of 7 J. Baker;

3 out of 4 L. Barlow.

2 out of 2 R. Millar.

The Committee has held its meetings in recent years in the Air Force Association Council Room which is made available to it. Meetings always on a Friday evening (which has varied from the 1st to the 3rd in the month) lasting from about 7.30 to about 10.30 --usually finishing just in time for a quick drink at the Air Force Club downstairs. The Committee has always worked hard and kept the closest control of Squadron affairs (in N.S.W.). Since it started functioning in 1949 there have been 61 Committee meetings--under the presidency of three different N.S.W. Presidents: Ralph Bailey, Pete Campbell and Alan Piggott.

ANNUAL BALL: SYDNEY: 1955.

The Sixth Annual Ball is being held on Friday May 27th. The Committee has each year endeavoured to make the Ball even better than the previous one. This year the Ball is to be held at the Pickwick Club, Bligh Street. After extensive inquiries the Ball sub-committee concluded that there was no superior place in Sydney for a Ball. Charge will be £1-0-0 per head. Dancing from 8.30 to 1.0. We hope members will start making plans to attend and forming parties with their friends. This will be the best ever. Incidentally, cost to the Squadron per head will be about 25/- but the difference is being carried by the Squadron with the aid of an occasional raffle. Ask the N.S.W. Secretary to reserve your tickets for you.

CROWEATERS COLUMN. South Aus. News.

from

Brian Woodhead.

Just prior to Christmas we held our Xmas Party at National Park for the children of the Squadron and we were favoured with most delightful weather. Approximately all told we numbered 80 and apart from some faulty navigation and a couple of doubtful D.I.s we had a wonderful time. Lefty Trewartha brought along a rope and fixed a swing from a tree, and I, for one, am sure I gave swings to 15 of the Trewartha children (?) and about the same number from the Bax household. Quite a few others I saw similarly employed. Tom Phillis had arrangements well organised for games and some of the imps raced themselves silly. It might be worth asking Bill Taylor what he thought of

Croweaters Column (cont.)

his son when the younger Taylor increased Bill's bid for a few oranges by 10/- and copped the lot. Nice work, Bill! Of course, there's the other side too, for when it was nearing an end we auctioned a few items and our bright and efficient auctioneer sold my wife's drinking glasses for about half of what was paid for them.

Among those present were Lofty Trowartha, Syd. Bartram, Ron Badger, Johnny Bax, Tom Phillis, John McGlasson, Jack Parkin, Mel Priest, Johnny Ringwood, Jack Sherlock, Arnold Scholar, Colin Hanlon, and many members of their families and friends. There was only one unfortunate point and that was a Father Christmas from a neighbouring party who suddenly appeared in our midst and of the original 40 or so children in one minute we had only about 10 left. However all finished well.

We hope that about 12 will be coming over to Melbourne from here for Anzac Day. As a means of easing the expenses of members attending the celebrations we are inaugurating our own Lay-By Scheme which we hope may encourage a few more to come along and meet their old mates.

VICTORIAN FLIGHT.

News from

G.S.O. and S.T.

Recent activities have been limited by the festive season to a Committee meeting and Christmas Dinner.

The Committee meeting was held on 6th. December at Arthur Green's home where a good roll-up advanced arrangements for the All-States Reunion next Anzac weekend. Afterwards, over a few bottles (each) and King-size Phillip Morris hot from the States, Shorty Wilson gave us the GG on life in the U.S.A. Arthur's wife Elsie hospitably emptied her larder for her unexpected guests and a good night was had by all.

Christmas Dinner was held on Tuesday 14th. December with an attendance of 30. In addition to the usual 'Hardy Annuals' it was very pleasing to have Bob Osborne, Bob Sharrah and Harry Mark on ops with us. Shorty Wilson endured much heckling as he again recounted some of his experiences as a guest of Uncle Sam. Capt. Phil Gude, 6th. Battn., veteran of Greece, Crete, M.E., New Guinea, etc., as guest of honor, gave us some inspiring thoughts on the Squadron spirit so much in evidence and the need to pass it on to our fellow-Australians in all spheres of our activities. Another well-received guest - an ex-Luftwaffe pilot and now a citizen of this country - gave us some interesting information about the German Air Force.

All this together with a very good dinner, a plentiful supply of the amber liquid and much nattering and some songs later on resulted in an excellent night.

A little folder will be enclosed with this issue of the News, setting out the programme for Anzac weekend. Get cracking with your part of the arrangements and let us know (early if you want hotel accommodation) so that we can get our fingers out.

See you all in Melbourne in April.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH: Q-FLIGHT Commentary

by

Len MacDonnell

Queensland's principal item of news covers our last function held at the end of November for wives and girl-friends. Its popularity is definitely on the improve, as we had just 44 couples present, plus a few odd bods. Once again we engaged the facilities of the A.T.C. Mess, which can cope with a far greater attendance than we have yet secured and the facilities of which are known to those chaps who attended the last Queensland Reunion. Apart from films, a first class magician, and dancing, the grog flowed well, and everyone apparently enjoyed themselves immensely.

We were more than happy about our share of the profits of the Guessing Competition, and hope that interest in its continuance does not wane.

For the Melbourne Reunion, Bernie McLoughlin, and Gordon Postle are definite attenders, as is old Jim Holliday who has conveniently arranged a conference in Hobart which will fit in nicely with the Reunion.

According to the rumours which reach the Editorial ears, the Q-Flight Christmas function was indeed quite a Do. 55 gallons was the figure we heard as being laid on. We understand, also, that 458 was invited to the Brisbane Reception organised in honour of Marshal of the R.A.F. Sir John Slessor and was represented by Queensland President Eric Hetherington and Frank Crowley. Eric Lloyd was present, representing the Queensland Government.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.From Leo Armstrong, 47, Rutland Road, Manstead, London.

Dear Mr. Alexander, Every time I see a new issue of the 458 Squadron News I am reminded of the fine job you lads in Aussie are doing to keep alive the great spirit that existed in the old Squadron during the war. I've never known such an active ex-servicemen's organisation as you have "down under". It thoroughly puts to shame anything we have over here.

Please note my new address: four editions of the News reached me from Bob Havers, my old second dicky, with whom I am constantly in touch. For some five or six years I have been a civilian instructor at a local Air Training Corps Cadet Squadron but due to pressure of business had to give it up. I've now been elected to the Managing Committee instead. Bob Havers recently joined the same Squadron and is now commissioned. The Squadron is very active and owns a fully equipped Link Trainer and a real aeroplane--true its only a Tiger Moth and would fly but for the holes in the fuselage.

.....Earlier in the year I had a visit from Harry Smith (known by some on the Squadron as 'The Sheikh'. Harry has left his cotton firm in Glasgow and is now a qualified dentist; he has also recently married.....At another reunion of ex-servicemen recently I ran across E.P. Herbert who told me he was with 458 at Protville.

As for myself, I have two children (boy 6½, girl 2½) and am working as an Underground Railway Inspector with London Transport. I won't say the work is easy but its certainly interesting and full of variety.

I am interested to hear that the Squadron History is nearing completion and will be more than pleased to have a copy. Please let me know how I can secure one.....

Please give my greetings to all who remember me. I'd like to say Hallo to Bill Taylor, Ken Russell, my navigator, (can Ken tell me where the rest of my crew are? I've lost touch), George Riddoch, Ian Showell and Chas. Chessell, Bernie McLoughlin, Docs. Wadsworth and Yuille. What happened to Adj. Vale, the Black Panther? Then there was Bill Barnett, the Big Digger's navigator, who could forget him? And Jock Forbes, the Mess Barman who knew all our drinking likes and dislikes. What parties we used to have, too!

With kindest regards, and more power to your elbow.

yours sincerely,

Leo Armstrong.

From Les Boyer, 27, Yaldwin Street, Kyneton, Victoria.

Dear Peter, Once again the "Squadron News" has arrived and as my conscience is pricking me somewhat.....I have decided to drop a few lines. Until the last couple of years or so I was moving around in different States quite a lot but somehow the "News" always caught up from my old pre-war address. I had written to the Victorian branch.....

I now have three boys and a girl in the family. We usually have an annual trip to Adelaide and never miss calling on Ned Kelly who with his wife always treats us royally. Also ran into Noel Moody.....Roger Rodwell paid a few visits to us in Kyneton here but I hear he's not game now....!

Have been in the carrying business for the last five or six years and at present exceptionally busy on livestock carting to Melbourne.....I can assure any of the Squadron boys of a very warm welcome should they ever be passing through this little six pub town. Send my regards to my tent mates, 'Smiler' Ravenscroft, and Wally Archbold, also Terry Waldon and Mick Singe. Am enclosing a cheque and would like to receive a cdr badge and a lapel badge. Thanking you once again for forwarding the Squadron News,

yours faithfully,

Les Boyer.

From Geoff. Cannon, 25, Matthews Ave., Lane Cove, N.S.W.

Dear Peter, Please find enclosed a cheque, which I hope may be of some assistance to the Squadron Club. Business activities have that unfortunate habit these days of upsetting the things from which I gain my pleasure, thus the reason for my regular absence from Club functions.....

Please accept my congratulations in the steady output of the Squadron News. I suggest you have a readership check taken. In my own home I am generally the last to see the News. My wife and family being some of your most avid readers. With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Cannon.

THE ATLANTIC STAR. Letter from the Dept. of Air.

To the Squadron Secretary.

Dear Sir, I refer to your recent communication and desire to inform you that in order to qualify for the Atlantic Star, a member of aircrew, after completing two months service with an operational squadron and participating in operations against the enemy in order to qualify for the 1939-45 Star, must have completed a further two months service with an operational squadron under the control of Coastal Command and participated in operations against the enemy in the Atlantic Ocean, between the 3rd September, 1939 and the 8th of May 1945.

By virtue of the fact that No. 458 Squadron did not come within the control of Coastal Command until February 1945 and aircrew members of the unit who had not previously qualified for the 1939-45 Star could not complete the required four months service prior to the 8th May 1945, regulations provide that the prior qualification of two months service necessary to qualify for the 1939-45 Star is waived and participation in operations up to the 8th May 1945 is an entitlement to the Atlantic Star.

I further desire to inform you that ground staff members cannot qualify for the Atlantic Star.

yours faithfully,

E.W. Hicks, Secretary.

The question of entitlement to the Atlantic Star was taken up with the Department at the instance of the W.A. Flight. The position appears to be that any aircrew member of 458 who operated from Gibraltar over the Atlantic should be entitled to the Atlantic Star on application to the Department (War Medals Section).

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Vale, Jack Payne ! Squadron members will be very sorry to hear of the passing, towards the end of 1954, of John Payne, formerly N.C.O. i/c Motor Transport Maintenance. Our sympathy to his family.

458 Squadron's most sincere sympathy to Les and Edna Piggott on the passing of their infant son, Eric Leslie.

458 SQUADRON IN THE SIXTH STATE.

by

THE EDITOR.

Among the many Christmas Cards we received this Christmas, from 458 members wishing the Squadron well, we received one which made a more than usually deep impression on us. It was in the form of a coloured rendering of the News' front page heading with the words, on the front, "458 Greetings from Tasmania" and inside, the message

"Just to let you know that there is such a place as Tasmania and that at least two of 458 are there and able to send Greetings" from Harold Stevens.

There are not, to our knowledge, many 458ers in Tasmania--hence the fact that we have never managed, hitherto, a Tasmanian Column in the News. But Harold Stevens' effort, we felt, made it a plain necessity that there should be a Tasmanian Section in the next News even if we had to write it ourselves. So, here goes !

We have six squadron addresses in the Island State:

J.B. Jennings, 73, York Street, Hobart	R.M. Jacklyn, Physics Dept. University, Hobart
Eric Mailer, 7, Kay Street, Launceston,	J.D. Thorpe, 33, Gatehouse Street, Hobart
Harold Stevens, Alanvale Road, Newnham, Launceston	W. Wilkinson, 42, View Road, Burnie.

What are they doing ? Well, Harold Stevens is in Launceston and (apparently) a leading light in the illustrating and printing world. Eric Mailer, we understand, is managing a store in Launceston. R.M. Jacklyn (we are led to believe--readers will note an air of uncertainty about us. But we are doing our best) is with the Physics Dept at the University and has played a role in recent Antarctic explorations. Bill Wilkinson, when we heard from him last was with Bankers and Traders Insurance in Burnie and was Secretary of the local branch of the Air Force Association.

Good luck and our greetings to them ! If the information we have put over the air about any of them is as inaccurate as it is admittedly old, no doubt we can correct it.

PERSONALITIES.

Congratulations to Ned and Mrs. Kelly (Queensland)---a daughter, Barbara Anne; and to Frank Ward on his engagement.

Jack Aitken has returned to Australia from Pakistan, where he has been flying. Doug Bennett has settled down at Burrinjuck with the Water Conservation Commission. We understand Doug has been made a Justice of the Peace;

Ross Burgess is now Abattoirs Engineer in Newcastle;

Geoff Burgess is Accountant with a Mining company at Wellington, N.S.W.; he proposes to visit Melbourne for the All-States Reunion;

Doug McGuigan recently visited Western Australia, where he saw Allan Lyons, Jack Riseley and Len Stewart;

Lew Johnston, our Immediate Past-Squadron President is now stationed near York, England; Ted Gore; we had the pleasure of seeing Ted recently and of having Dinner with him and his wife in Leura, N.S.W.

Don Brandon took part as a crewmember of the Queensland yacht Laurabada in the recent Yacht race from Sydney to Hobart.

Alan Piggott has been playing bowls in the State Pennants;

Pete Pettit and his wife have been on a trip to Norway;

Ken Mercer and his wife have obtained a flat in Godalming, England;

Dud McKay has bought a Service Station at Mareeba as H.Q. for his tractors operating in the Cairns area.

IF YOU HAVE TEARS TO SHED---PREPARE TO SHED THEM NOW.

We, or rather the R.A.F., are down to the last Wimpey. We quote, with thanks to Leo Armstrong who forwarded it, from an article in the London Daily Mail. Our acknowledgments to that largely-circulated paper.

"The odd tear will no doubt be blinked back to-day among the types whose talk was once filled with 'Gen' and 'Grenlins' by this news item from the Air Ministry: 'The last Wellington in the Royal Air Force will fly during the Battle of Britain' display at St. Athan on September 19.' The last Wimpey, as this twin-engined Bomber was called throughout war-time Britain.....the last of the planes that first hurled defiance at the man who tried to conquer Europe, Adolf Hitler. (!!!!-Editor)

".....There is its story as a night bomber, told in an official wartime pamphlet: T2619 took part in a night raid on Bremen last year. A dreadnought with sides of stretched linen it was hit by half a dozen shells over the target. It caught fire. But instead of crumpling up and dropping out of the sky, it flew back to England. That was the strength of the Wellingtons, all 11,461 of them that were built.....There is its story as a German baiter: In 1942.....Wellington bombers appeared over Germany in daylight, bombed their targets and returned without loss. In 1942 Wellington bombers harried Rommel in the Western Desert and made him think as much about supplies as fighting. That was the saucy, ebullient nothing-can-stop-us spirit of the Wellington. Then there is the story of the Wellingtons that found other jobs to do when the four-engined bombers came along to lead the bomber battle. Take U boat hunting...Wellingtons, with depth charges and torpedoes, were in the lead during an 11-day battle against German submarines in the Mediterranean. Take torpedo bombing....when everyone thought the Wellington was finished for active service, a young band of enthusiasts turned them into dashing precision bombers, specialising in night attacks. Take the Middle East and Italian battles....the Wellington carried on there until the end of the war, perfecting new techniques with block-busters, with flare-path bombing, with mining.

"So it could go on. So perhaps it had better be left to the Army to make the final tribute. An air-borne Major-General wrote after a night-bombing mission during the Sicily campaign in 1943: 'There is no doubt that the task was magnificently done, and extremely accurately....let your crews know how much their efforts that night were appreciated by the Army.' Thus ends the life of the Bomber that found fame at under 200 miles an hour."

Christmas Cards. Our acknowledgements and thanks to the following 458 ers and their families for Christmas cards: The Squadron President; Lew Johnston; Dick Boyde; Jim Palmer; Wal Clarke; Owen Crompton; Ray Davies; Alan Piggott; Harry Baines; Bruce McKenzie; Ken Mercer; Graeme Coombes; Eric Munkmen; Jim Holliday; Stan Parker; Pete Campbell; Tony Harris; Len Adams; Dud McKay; Geoff Burgess; Mel Priest; and Allan Walker.

CRICKET COMMENTS

by

"RUN-TO-COVER"

Despite the passing of time, the departures of regular players to distant places, and the increases of family and other responsibilities, 458 Squadron in Sydney has continued to play cricket in 1954 and, to date, in 1955 with some regularity.

Cricket Comments (cont.)

At this date four matches have been played, three being won. Allan Walker has been the team's captain, Cy. Irwin vice captain. First game of the season, on November 7th was against the Air Force Club, in Centennial Park. 458 made 105 (Cy. Irwin top-scoring with 30, and Frank Ward and Allan Walker both making some runs. Despite an inability to dismiss the Club's opening bat (Dover) who carried his bat, the Squadron dismissed the Club for 96 and therefore won by 9 runs.

The Squadron team journeyed up to The Entrance on November 28th to play San Barlow's old school (de la Salle College). The Old Boys won by 141 runs to 120. 458's runs were made by Eric Munkman and Cy. Irwin. Eric Munkman bowling his medium pace in-swingers with his usual skill was nearly unplayable with the new ball in his opening overs. Chief interest of the match was perhaps that two local Squadron members (Snowy Fennell and Wal Archbold) both played for the Squadron, as did Ross Burgess who had driven down from Newcastle. Ross took two wickets.

Third game, in Centennial Park and against the Western Suburbs branch of the Air Force Association was won by 458 with the closest of margins--2 runs. That 458 did any good at all was due to two players--Cy. Irwin who, batting with a broken finger made 97 runs (out of 136) and to Ernie Doman who took a hat trick at a stage when a hat trick was the only thing that could carry the day. The three wickets were all bowled. Ernie does not turn his slow right arm bowling very much on macadam but gives the ball plenty of air and his flight makes him a most important and successful 458 bowler. Cy Irwin also kept wickets despite his broken finger--a courageous effort.

Fourth and most recent game was a return against the Air Force Club on February 13th. 458 made 174 and the Club 122. Several 458 members made runs. Jack Baker batting in the unaccustomed position of first wicket down batted aggressively in a chanceless 37 (retired) and set the tune for later batsmen. His straight driving was quite spectacular including a six off the opening over from Allan Walker who played for the Club (of which he is a member) Cy Irwin made runs, as usual. Peter Alexander also scored some runs. Eric Munkman took two excellent catches. Brian Lord kept wickets very soundly. Score Sheet.

458 Squadron

B. Lord b. Dover
E. Doman c. Parks b. Dover
J. C. Baker Retired
H. Bowman b. Parks
C. P. Irwin Retired
N. Matheson b. Ginnane
R. Davies lbw b. Ginnane
P. Alexander Not out
E. Munkman b. Keough
W. Munkman lbw b. Keough
L. Miness b. Moore
Sundries

Air Force Club.

2	J. Johnson	b. Munkman	8.
8	R. Pearce	c. Lord b. Munkman	9.
37	A. J. Walker	c. Munkman b. Matheson	1.
33	S. Mortison	b. Doman	0.
33	W. Keough	b. Matheson	31.
0	R. Youngman	c. Munkman b. Bowman	3.
7	D. Dover	b. Matheson	28.
35	W. Dunn	b. Matheson	2.
1	D. Ginnane	Not out	19.
0	J. Parks	c. Doman b. W. Munkman	8.
0	J. Moore	b. Miness	2.
18	Sundries		12.
174			122.

The Year ahead in N.S.W.

The Organising sub-committee has made the following plans for the year 1955. Will members in N.S.W. please note the dates.

March 4th Annual Meeting and Reunion
(330 George Street)

March 6th Cricket

March 20th Cricket

April 22-5 Anzac Week end, Melbourne

May 15th Golf

May 27th Annual Ball (Pickwick Club)

June 5th Picnic

July 8th Evening in the Mess

July 17th Golf

August 11th Social Evening,

August 21st. Golf,

September 16th Squadron Reunion,

September 18th Golf--Presidents Cup,

October 2nd Visit to Jervis Bay,

October 16th Cricket,

November 6th Cricket,

November 27th Cricket.

December 15th. Social dance.

It is also hoped to organise some fishing.

State Secretaries Addresses; please note.

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

Victoria Bill Carr, 36, Harbury St. Reservoir, Vic

Queensland Len MacDonnell, 49, Tennyson Street, Norman Park, Brisbane.

South Aust. Brian Woodhead, 9, Woodville Rd. Woodville, S.A.

West Aust. Allan Lyons, 47, Canning Road, Kalamunda, W.A.