

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



The Editor:

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SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.....

CLAN GATHERING in ADELAIDE----ALL-STATES REUNION, 1956.

458 Squadron held its 1956 All-States Reunion in Adelaide. Since Anzac Day occurred on a Thursday, the bulk of the Squadron functions and entertainments, other than the March, were held during the previous week-end. A full and well-organised programme, along lines becoming a Squadron tradition, was arranged by the S.A. Flight under the careful and hard-working leadership of S.A. President, Bill Taylor. About 20 interstate members came to Adelaide. Mostly from Victoria --14 or 15 members--but N.S.W. with 4 and W.A. with 2 were represented, and helped to give the genuine "inter-state" atmosphere to the occasion. A member who has attended all the four All-States Reunions held so far commented that the Adelaide Reunion brought to a fine point the accumulated Squadron experience gained over the past four years and produced organisation it would be hard to surpass.

The Arrival.

Friday April 20th--afternoon. The N.S.W. Contingent arrived at Adelaide Airport, by Viscount, about 3 O'Clock. The Squadron President, Gordon Orchard, arrived by another aircraft from Melbourne, shortly afterwards. Bill Taylor, John Ringwood and Sid. Bartram---Bill and John accompanied by their wives--met them at the Airport. The Sydneysiders were Allan Walker, Cyril Irwin, Squadron Treasurer Sam Barlow and Squadron Secretary Peter Alexander. They were driven to the Metropolitan Hotel in Grote Street. Orch., who had his family with him stayed with friends. The Victorian contingent, coming by road, arrived during the afternoon and evening. After sampling South Australian beer (West End) at the Hotel Bar and having dinner, the visitors were taken to spend the Evening at the Brighton Returned Soldiers League Club or with Squadron friends at their homes. A late evening.

The Hotel.

Saturday April 21st--morning. After a look at Adelaide shops, the visitors joined local members in some informal beers at a very attractive small hotel, the Talbot. This was their first meeting with S.A. 458ers in force. Here among well remembered faces not seen, in most cases, as far as the interstate members were concerned for the decade since the war ended, were to be seen Brian Woodhead, Mel Priest, Bing Conway, Johnny Bax, Jack Parkin and many others. Ernie Laming, down from the Rocket Range, looked in. Jack Riseley, recently moved over from Perth, was there too. How do they look now? Well, you dwellers in Britain, Uganda, New Zealand, Canada and Queensland, they haven't greatly changed. Brian still has the infectious Woodhead grin. Mel smokes a pipe with an air of studious distinction. Ernie Laming looks younger than he did ten years ago. Jack Riseley still has the bearing of an athlete, though there is more of the athlete these days. Apart from starting to exchange the news of ten years those concerned with the Squadron Conference arrangements finalised their plans during this morning over the Talbot's beer. Jim Perry came in, having come down from Port Augusta with his wife. Members who were at Gibraltar will remember their wedding there. Col Draysey was another Adelaidier at the Talbot gathering.

458 in Adelaide (cont.)The Conference.

Saturday April 21st.--afternoon. Squadron Conference ---the top controlling body of 458 Squadron in the post-war days---met at the Druids Hall, O'Connell Street, North Adelaide in the afternoon. The Squadron officers and two delegates from each of the Flights met under the Presidency of Squadron President Gordon Orchard to review the affairs of 458 Squadron and make policy decisions for the coming year. Conference is fully reported elsewhere in this Issue of the "News".

The Dancing.

Saturday April 21st.--evening. The Druids Hall, where Conference had earlier sat was a changed scene. Conference, together with the Squadron and its wives, was dancing. Music was provided by five musicians, wearing red tarboushes and, being led by Lofty Trewartha, known for the evening as Lofty's Wogs. They provided dance music of the most excellent standard. For rythm and tempo they were the tops. Lofty, incidentally, be it known to his many friends, is a stately and imposing figure these latter days, with white locks. The Druids Hall was filled with the dancing figures of 458ers and their wives and friends. Every so often a well-remembered figure not seen since the war would arrive. We remember the pleasure it gave us to see Len 'Binghi' Stewart, just in from Perth. The organisation of the evening in the hands of Bill Taylor and Bruce 'Flash' Thomas was very good. The Ball was highly enjoyed. Members commented on the amount of sheer hard work done by both Bruce and Bill during the Anzac week. Bill is another whom the years have not greatly altered in appearance except perhaps to give him a more fine-drawn look.

After the Ball was over.

Saturday evening (late)/Sunday morning early. The interstate members, at their hotel, adjourned to the room of a couple of members who chanced to have some bottled beer, to discuss the evening and old times. This function proved to be rather less than 100 % popular with the Hotel management. It terminated at the relatively early hour of what must have been about 2.0 a.m.

The Golf Day.

Sunday April 22nd.--morning. Driven up to the National Park Golf Course in the Adelaide Hills, the Squadron golfers competed for the Anzac Cup. Holder Stan Tarczynski was unfortunately unable to be in Adelaide; however his fellow-Victorian Yank Martin playing sterling golf succeeded in keeping the Cup in Victoria for another year. Congratulations to you, Yank. A Trophy presented by the N.S.W. Flight for the runner-up in the Anzac Cup (other than an N.S.W. member) was very popularly won by Sid Bartram. After the golf, there was a Barbecue at which piles of very appetising food were cooked (mainly by Bill Taylor) and consumed and thereafter there were races for the children and one for the men. The latter had so many competitors that they formed up in two ranks and the race (we are told) resembled a charge of elephants and shook the ground. We have to congratulate Johnny Bax on winning this event. The Squadron Photographic Albums, brought over from Sydney, were on display and proved a great attraction. They were surrounded by interested groups of members and members wives.

Farewell to the early-departing.

Sunday April 22nd. --evening. The interstate members staying at the Hotel, together with Bob Drinnan, representing S.A. members, held, with the Hotel's cooperation, a small function to say good-bye to two N.S.W. members who regretfully had to return home the following morning to Sydney (where they arrived in time for the Sydney Anzac festivities for which they hardly felt at their fittest ---but that's another story). This was the kind of small function, motivated by the essence of Squadron friendship, which make such weekends as the Anzac Weekend so memorably happy. The departing members expressed their pleasure at having been in Adelaide. A brief resumption of the function in the room where the supplies of bottled beer happened to be later in the following morning was discouraged by the hotel management.

From this point on, as the Editor, to his regret, was one of those compelled to return to Sydney, we are indebted to Jack Riseley and Cyril Irwin for the chronicle of events at Adelaide.

Free Day

Monday-April 23rd. No organised events were scheduled, at least during the daytime, so that members could explore Adelaide, do some shopping, visit personal friends or just hold their heads together. Jack Riseley writes. "Please note that the following is not necessarily factual...the people from whom it was gleaned have only a hazy recollection of the facts and the writer is also still very befogged and suffering from what might be termed a genuinely worthy hangover. Nevertheless, from what we can gather there were many private parties, none of which was arranged but just happened. Some of these had repercussions and required the persuasive assurances of the S.A. President which were greatly taxed to pacify a certain hotel management. However he succeeded and no one was forcibly ejected." In the evening, Squadron - member Billy Cribb

458 in Adelaide (cont.) and Mrs. Cribb entertained Squadron members most hospitably at their home.

Barossa Valley and the Vineyards.

Tuesday April 24th--all day. After a scheduled 9.30 a.m. departure and an actual departure at 10.0, a busload of 458ers wives and families, driven by Snowy Dickson drove off for the very attractive Barossa Valley. Jack Riseley comments ".....one of the organisers who only got time off to dart down and count the starters so that he could ring ahead to Tanunda with a luncheon booking, was trapped in the bus and "had to" make the trip. Despite his natural reticence he assures us he made the best of his misfortune and had a good day. With 458's famous wartime record for serviceability during the war, it was natural to check the bus at intervals during this scenic trip....strangely enough it was found that the hotels provided suitable drive-ins for such stops. Arrangements were made at Tanunda by Mal Goers for the visitors to be shown over Gramps Orlando Vineyard and winery. They were welcomed by Mr. Ian Gramp (ex member of 462 Squadron) and any type of wine they desired was theirs for the asking. From here on reports are vague. It goes something like the story of the chap who decided to give up drinking and to pour the last dozen down the sink, bottle by bottle. At the sixth bottle he firmly resolved to sample the sink and pour the plug down the bottle and replace the wine in the cork."

Cyril Irwin continuing the report for us narrates that after inspecting the winery in all its aspects--grape receiving, crushing, maturing, bottling and sampling, the party drove back to Adelaide with community singing. The Squadron President, we understand, acted as Censor of Songs. Choirmasters were Johnny Bax and Ron Badger. Solo songs were rendered by Mrs. Harding, by Yank Martin and by Harry Ashworth. A few quiet beers at the Hotel ended an excellent day.

P R E S I D E N T I A L L Y S P E A K I N G . (from Gordon Orchard.)

The Squadron has honoured me with the Presidency for a third year. I am grateful and encouraged by your confidence in my self-imposed task of trying to create a broader vision of our activities as a Squadron, particularly in the field of constructive action related to our duties and responsibilities as citizens in peacetime.

It was heart-warming to speak with members of S.A. Flight about their scheme to assist Legacy and to find that this effort of theirs has created fresh interest, bringing the fellows, and their wives too, a great deal of satisfaction. Legacy is one field but there are also many more where, in helping others, we cannot but benefit ourselves greatly.

Anzac Week, 1956, was to me a profound experience. Meeting so many of the chaps and their families at Conference, Dance, Picnic, Barossa Valley, the March, the Reunion and at home helped to make a memorable week. As time passes, the warmth of my association with you chaps increases.

S.A. put their hearts into it and did a grand job, richly deserving the congratulations and appreciation of all their visitors.

Best wishes and heartiest greetings to 458ers everywhere.

Pressing on,

years,

Orch.

Anzac Day--458 Squadron marches. Wednesday April 25th--morning.

There was a Service at Dawn at the War Memorial. A number of 458 members gathered there quietly. They saw S.A. President Bill Taylor place a wreath in honour of 458's Fallen. After the Service Bill and Madge Taylor entertained those who attended, for coffee and toast.

Then followed the March. 60/70 marched with 458 Squadron, led by Squadron President Gordon Orchard who was supported by Bill Taylor and Ken Russell. The Banner was carried by Sid. Bartram and Nick Bartram. There seems to have been some opposition by the organisers of the Air Force Section of the March to the use of individual Squadron Banners but this was overcome. It was a serious and impressive march. Many marchers wore their wartime uniforms. March music was broadcast over street amplifiers--there were no bands.

The Reunion. Wednesday April 25th--afternoon.

After the March there was the Squadron Reunion which included a sit-down lunch as a combined affair with 463 Squadron. Some 87 attended.

Jack Riseley writes: "For the first time W.A. were represented--by their President, Len Stewart, who renewed a lot of old acquaintances. At the luncheon, Arthur Green from Victoria as well as Gordon Orchard said some appreciative words on behalf of the

members from interstate. Two members of the S.A. Flight were honoured for their services to the Squadron--Bill Taylor and Brian Woodhead were each given a pewter mug and fulfilled the necessary requirement of draining the contents at a draft. Highlighted in the proceedings was the reading of the Honour Roll by Bill Taylor. Most assuredly Anzac Day, 1956 will be remembered."

Tail of the Tale. "There was a contingent at the Station to see Yank Martin and Woozle Wurr off, with Len Stewart who also decided to go on to Melbourne. Despite signals from Lefty Trewartha, the Express started off with Ding Conway, Ned Kelly and, we understand, Noel Moody (who were seeing them off) still aboard. Lefty manned panic stations, arranged for the train to pull up just outside Adelaide and set off to intercept the train. The Station arranged was in the Middle of National Park-- and of course after nightfall the gates were shut and he couldn't get in. So, miles of detour and ultimate arrival at another station to see the tail lights of a disappearing Adelaide-bound train with the three blanks aboard."

Next Year's All-States Reunion is to be in Sydney, where the N.S.W. Committee is said to be making its plans already. For the great success of the Adelaide Reunion, the heartiest congratulations are being extended from all quarters to Bill Taylor, John Ringwood, Ron Badger, John Bax and all the members of the S.A. Flight, too numerous to be named in detail, whose work made it all possible. Members present during the various Adelaide functions were

B. Woodhead	N. Trewartha	B. Thomas	W. Taylor	I. Showell	A. Scholar	J. Ringwood
H. Ravenscroft	Reg. Priest	McI Priest	H. Plant	T. Phillis	J. Perry	J. Parkin
C. Mitchell	J. McGlasson	E. Kelly	M. Goers	J. Txcoll	P. Enright	R. Drinnan
C. Draysey	S. Dickson	W. Cribb	E. Cox	D. Conway	N. Bertram	S. Bartram
J. Bax	R. Badger	R. Angove	A. Ewens	A. Green	H. Ashworth	I. Beer
R. Rodwell	K. Guiney	E. Baker	N. Moody	K. Russell	L. Wurr	Y. Martin
J. Fisher	H. Oliver	G. MacDonald	M. White	G. Guthbertson	G. Young	G. Orchard
R. Cock	J. Riseley	L. Stewart	L. Barlow	A. J. Walker	C. Irwin	P. C. Alexander
K. Cupper	D. Firth	R. McKinna	E. Laming	C. Harding	T. Burgess	N. Cugley
D. Johnston.						

VICTORIAN FLIGHT NOTES.

by

Arthur Green.

Since the February News, the main activity in Vic. has been by way of Committee meetings which organised a fund for the assistance of squadron chaps who may need on-the-spot help and also endeavoured to raise a lot of interest in the Adelaide trip. Both efforts were very successful. In the latter case, at least 16 members (eight of whom were game enough to take their wives) were among those present at the All-States Reunion. All thoroughly enjoyed their stay and congratulate S.A. Flight on the complete success which crowned their efforts. We can hardly wait for 1961 or thereabouts. We feel a bit diffident about mentioning the Anzac Cup for Golf but feel confident about retaining it for the third time in Sydney next year. Stan Tarczynski will be 100% again next year and will do the trick if Yank Martin can't. Stan unfortunately went into hospital just before Anzac Weekend. We hope he'll soon be AI again.

Anzac Day in Melbourne suffered somewhat from the exodus to S.A., but the usual band of stalwarts gathered round Big Jim Munday and the Banner at the March and finished up as usual at Griff's Woodyard.

On May 8th., VE Day, Bruce Dean, the Victorian President, and a gang of chaps mustered with the Banner to take part in the Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance with many other ex-service organisations. Padre McNamara took part in the impressive ceremony at the Shrine.

We regret to report that Ted O'Leary passed away very suddenly on May 4th. Many of us were pleased to see him at the All-States Reunion in Melbourne in 1955 and all of us will mourn his passing.

REPORT FROM Q-FLIGHT.

from

Jim Holliday (Secretary).

Things in Queensland have been a bit damp since the last News. While the rain's been good for the country, it's been bad for our social activities.

Our Annual Golf Cup Tournament was played in the rain and the Anzac Day March was washed out. Only eleven brave hearts competed for the Cup at the Oxley Golf Course on the 11th. March. Bernie McLoughlin was there to arrange handicaps and clear the decks generally but a sore foot prevented him from competing in anything but the bout at the Bar afterwards. Pete Williams, a staunch Associate member, came home the winner and Keith Campbell deservedly won the trophy for the best gross. Conditions weren't the best. Having had rain daily for several weeks, the course was sodden. Balls just dug into the Fairway and couldn't be found. Still, a noggin or two wetted our insides and made

Report from Q-Flight (cont.) up for being wetted outside.

For the first time, the Anzac Day March in Brisbane was cancelled. It rained intermittently all day, but cancellation came after time of assembly. It was complete confusion. Several Units ignored orders and marched, including President Bert Garland, supported by Len McDonnell and Erle Hetherington, bravely bearing the Q-Flight Banner. Several others, including yours truly, arrived late at the Assembly point, and missing the Banner, took off for the A.T.C. Mess. The weak sisters were soundly berated by the three stalwarts. Some 30 odd eventually arrived at the Mess, and the spirit of Anzac Day was well and truly captured.

Reports from other centres in Queensland, including Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Toowoomba revealed that rain washed out Anzac Day right throughout the State.

Another memorable event was the visit of Jim Munday to Brisbane. He was ceremoniously received at Lemmens Bar by all those who could make it, with adjournments to the United Service Club and the Johnsonian Club. While we hope Jim will come again soon, he says our welcome will last him for another two years at least.

PERSONALITIES.

Ken and Mrs. Cahill have another baby girl;

Bert Garland is a bit brassed off with building contractors;

Eric Lloyd is also in the throes of building a new home;

Jack Taylor has changed his address--we hope Mrs. Taylor is now enjoying better health;

Sam Barlow is asking after Bob Hale;

Len McDonnell is now fully recovered from his illness and looks a picture of health;

Fred Stron has been promoted by the N.S.W. Education Dept. and now teaches the Opportunity Class in Narrabri;

Ding Conway is Chief Inspector with Wylie and Co, Adelaide. He asks to be remembered to Cyril Murray, Frank Mahony and Pop Nation;

Neville Vance is with the Income Tax Dept in Sydney as an Assessor;

Bunny Williams is driving with the Post Office in Perth. We understand he and Mrs. Williams have six children. This, according to the known records, puts him in the lead in the Stork Stakes (but not far in the lead);

Ray Turley is a linotype operator with a Newspaper in Perth;

Jack Miles is driving a Crown truck in W.A.;

Sid Baker is an earth-moving contractor;

Les Dickerson is with the Albany Shire Council, W.A.;

Col Draysey is with a Jewellery/Watchmaking business in Adelaide;

Jack Parkin has a mixed farm near Adelaide where he concentrates on Stud Pigs (Canadian Berkshires) but also has sheep and cows. Jack is one of those who have put on no added weight since the war. Married he has a girl and two boys;

J. McGlasson is working with General Motors Holden in Adelaide. He is married with two girls. Asks to be remembered to Johnny Mills;

Robin Knight is now in Uganda, managing a Sawmill;

Reg. Priest is with the B.A.L.M. Paint Laboratory in Adelaide. Sends his regards to Doug. McGuigan;

Billy Cribb is in the Building Trade in Adelaide;

Gordon Guthbertson went to Adelaide for the full week of the Anzac Reunions. His wife and four boys accompanied him;

George Riddoch is President of Beaufort Shire Council in Victoria;

Ken Russell is building a house at Beaumont, S.A. He is Assistant Secretary of the Adelaide Steamship Coy. He has two children--a girl and a boy;

Jack Riseley, until recently W.A. President, is now living in South Australia.

He is Assistant Advertising Manager with the Adelaide News. He and Mrs. Riseley have three daughters;

Johnny Ringwood, the S.A. Secretary, has a Selling Agency in Adelaide;

Lloyd Letcher is with the Adelaide Steamship Coy;

Horrie Plant has a Garage at Barnera, S.A.;

Mel Priest is Assistant Manager of the South British Insurance Coy in Adelaide. He and Mrs. Priest have recently had a baby daughter;

Len Stewart, the W.A. President, made a special solo trip from Perth to attend the Adelaide Anzac Reunion. He wants to thank Lofty Trewartha and Mrs. Trewartha for putting him up in Adelaide and to be remembered to Tim McQuade, Keith Kappler, Ken Cahill and Lance Wood;

Arnold Scholar is with the Post Office Drawing Office in Adelaide. He is married. He wants to be remembered to Bill Snowden, Goldy Bartlett, Curly Hoskings and Dick Whiteman;

Dick Watson expects to visit Australia on holidays from Djakarta this year.

NEWS FROM THE WEST.

from

Butch Power.

Since the last issue of the News we have held our General Meeting. Despite circularisation of all members, only eight "Stalments" turned up, which was very disappointing. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President	Len Stewart,
Vice President	Stan Long,
Secretary	A. Power.

Notwithstanding the apparent lack of interest, the W.A. Flight is very solid, and we are looking forward to the Annual Reunion on Anzac Day with confidence. It will be held in the Braille Society Hall as previously, and the game will be on for young and old.

Rumour has it that "Sharkey" Edwards, Ted Wheeler, and Jim Palmer will be at the Reunion this year. When I recover, I will tell you how the Reunion went.

Since I last wrote, the 1939-45 section of the State War Memorial was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor. There was a general parade of all ex-service units, and we were proud to see that although the Air Force had a poor roll-up, 458 turned up in force and it was not a case of 458 marching with the Air Force Association, but of the Air Force Association marching with 458.

After the ceremony, we adjourned to Jack Riseley's home for a barbeque, and also a send-off to Jack and Mrs. Riseley. They were presented with a small token of esteem from the W.A. Flight, and were wished Good Luck and every success in their new sphere of operations. We haven't had any news from Jack yet but hope he hasn't got himself too involved with Johnny Bax, Lofty Trewartha, Ding Conway and Co and all those other no-good Crow Eaters who may lead John astray.

As you will note from a note from Len Stewart, the one and only Ding Conway descended on Perth. I heartily endorse what Len says, as we were very glad to see Ding.

Len Stewart will be attending the All-States Reunion in Adelaide. Apart from attending the Reunion he will report on the future possibility of holding the Reunion in Perth. We are particularly anxious to be a "Host" State.

Well, that's about all the news from the West. Cheerio from all the 'Gropers to you 'Big City' types, and don't forget the front door is always open to any of you who come to the West

SWAN RIVER SNAPS.

by

Len Stewart.

Jim Palmer called in whilst in town, having brought his wife up from Kojonup for treatment. Jim informed me that his wife had just recovered from a mild attack of Polio. Hope everything is now O.K., Jim. You and yours have our best wishes.

John Fleming also pops in every now and again during his many drop overs in Perth. He passes on any interstate news he has gobbled up between trips. Flying interstate is just so many circuits and bumps to John. Not too many bumps, we hope John. Keep 'em flying, we are always glad to see you.

"As I was sitting by the fire..." who should appear but that..... Conway. No other than the celebrated Ding. You could have bowled us all over with a feather. We had many a laugh over many a schooner. Arranged a lunch (mostly liquid) with Ding, John Fleming, Butch Power, and self and it was a riot from Go to Whoa! Also managed to contact Ron Chessell and deliver a bottle of A.S. "Slops" that Ding brought from Johnny Bax. Hope you enjoyed your stay Ding. Come again (but not for a while, we are still getting over your last visit.)

Story: "A Garage Was Built"

Location.....	Len Stewart's home.
Bricklayer.....	Bunny Williams,
Roof putter-upper and pitcher....	Peter McCarthy,
Tile Supplier and sticker-owner..	Pop Grigsby,
Result	A ----- Good Job.

Thanks a million, chaps.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

from

Sid Thompsett.

This letter may serve to announce myself as the new U.K. Secretary of 458 Squadron. At our Reunion recently the officers appointed were as follow:

President.....	S/Ldr. L.L. Johnston,
Vice President.....	Mick Mason,
Treasurer.....	Leo Armstrong,
Secretary.....	Sid Thompsett,
Asst. Secretary.....	Harry Bishop.

