

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR.

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ALL-STATES REUNION IN SYDNEY:

ANZACTIME FESTIVAL FOR 458 SQUADRON.

Squadron members came to the Anzac Festival in large numbers, both from Interstate and from the Country. There were many functions planned for wives and families during the week and, mostly, the wives were there in welcome numbers. Officially, the Festival started on Wednesday April 24th., but unofficially Sydney members were well engaged in small parties to welcome interstate members for some days before. There were parties, small but gay, at the Woolpack Hotel in Parramatta to welcome Len MacDonnell and Bob McKinna and their wives. There was an unexpected party at Frank Mahony's home in Hurstville to welcome Cec Percy. We hadn't seen Cec since the War-didn't know his whereabouts. In fact he and his family were in Victoria. They didn't know 458 was still in being. But a few days before the Reunion Cec saw a par. in the Melbourne Herald mentioning that Jim Munday and other Victorian members were off to Sydney to attend the Reunion. Cec rang up Jim, got the details, and got into his car with his wife and two daughters and drove straight up to Sydney. Delighted Sydney was to see them.

Wednesday April 24th. In the evening, after a day spent in meeting interstate and country members, Squadron members and their wives gathered near the Cenotaph in Martin Place, and members marched to the Cenotaph where the Squadron Vice President (deputising for Squadron President Gordon Orchard) placed a wreath in memory of the Squadron Dead. The wreath was built round a centrepiece which incorporated the post-war 458 Badge.

After the Ceremony, which was attended by about 40 members, members and their wives moved round to the Air Force Club in George Street for an informal reception. It was a gay and cheerful Evening. After the Reception, some Sydney members accompanied the Interstate members back to the Hotel Sydney, where most of them were staying, for a few more beers.

THE MARCH.

Thursday-Anzac Day. 458 gathered round the Squadron Banner in Hospital Road from about 9.0 a.m. on in preparation for the Anzac March. As usual we had a long wait while the Army and Navy led off but this gave us the usual chance to chat with old friends.

The Squadron Vice President (Peter Alexander) again deputised for the President (who was detained in Geelong by business) and led the Squadron--supported by Arthur Green (Victorian Secretary) and Erle Hetherington (Queensland Committeeman)--and followed by Jim Munday carrying the Banner, escorted by Cy. Irwin and Bob Milner. About 70 members marched. This Anzac March, as members overseas may not know, is a major event each Anzac Day in each Australian City. Returned Servicemen march with their old Units in large numbers and the Streets are crowded with enthusiastic spectators.

THE REUNION.

After the March terminated in the Sydney Domain, members made their ways to the South Sydney Police/Citizens Boys Club, a fine modern brick building, where the All-States Reunion was held. Members came in, in groups of old Squadron crewmates or close friends arrived until we had approaching 100 members there. We served, all in all, 50 gallons of Resch's Beer chilled in a special Portabeer. We ate an excellent lunch preceded by a substantial snack of Frankfurters, fish pieces, sausage rolls etc., Arrangements went with the greatest smoothness--a great tribute to the work of N.S.W. Secretary, Allan Walker, and the N.S.W. Committee--notably Cy. Irwin, Eric Munkman, Sam Barlow and Graeme Coombes--to mention only a few. While the members were at the Reunion, their wives were entertained by

Sydney (cont.) Dorothy Munkman and her Ladies' Auxiliary. The outcome of their trip to the Taronga Park Zoo is reported elsewhere.

After we had drunk enough to serve as an introduction to Lunch and had had lunch, there was a Minute's Silence in Memory of Departed Comrades. The Silence ended with the reading of the Act of Commemoration (in the form used by W/Cdr. Mackay on Anzac Day in Gibraltar) in these words:

"Hallowed in Christ be the Memory of Brave Men and Women who have died for the Freedom of the World. They shall yet stand before the Throne, an exceeding great Army, and in that last muster there shall be found our own well-beloved of 458 Squadron. They were young, straight of limb, true of eye. They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted. They fell with their faces to the Foe. They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the Years condemn. At the going down of the Sun and in the Morning, we shall remember them."

The N.S.W. President then briefly welcomed members, particularly those from interstate and the country. He said that the degree to which 458 men were prepared to travel to attend Squadron functions was an indication of the spirit which had made 458 the quite unparalleled organisation it is. To the long-travelling members he said, "To have come from so far, gentlemen, is a Testament of abiding friendship which we know how to value."

Proceedings were recorded, by the aid of Dick Healey, and members recorded messages to be sent to friends of 458 in England. A recording from the U.K. was played over during the afternoon. Many remembered voices were heard: Harry Bishop calling Lofty Chalmers, Pete Campbell and Bill Carr. Steve Search calling Ken Crago (who had come down from Gunnedah for the Reunion.) Johnno, Mick Mason and many others. The Reunion went on till after 6.0. when the sixth keg reached its end. The large and attractive Hall of the Police/Boys Club was filled with groups of old Squadron friends. We recall, to instance one or two, observing a group in which Ralph Bailey, Pete Pettit and Arthur Lehdey were prominent and others which included Stuart Currington and Bill Turier; Wally Archbold, Terry Waldon, Bob McKinna; Len MacDonnell, John MacKellar, Stuart Ricketts and Col. Corten. Another round Bob Male, Harry Baines, Sam Barlow and Cec. Percy.

This seems a suitable place to list the names of 458 ers who came to one or more function during the Anzac Festival.

D. Firth	Cec. Percy	A. J. Walker	A. Hammond	E. Munkman	G. F. Coombes	K. Beach	E. Doman
S. Longhurst	A. Piggott	D. Bitnead	J. Hawke	N. Griffiths	J. Miller	F. Hickey	J. Ind
W. Archbold	C. Nation	J. C. Baker	E. J. Baker	B. Lyndon	B. Reynolds	P. Alexander	B. Lord
B. McKinna	B. Millar	N. Bertram	"Yank" Martin	C. Irwin	T. Waldon	L. MacDonnell	R. Davies
L. Chalmers	H. Galvin	T. Mitchell	J. Aitken	G. Bartlett	H. Bryant	D. Millard	R. Burgess
L. Piggott	R. Hansell	C. Hankel	F. Stron	E. Hetherington	J. Carey	T. Harris	B. Astley
G. Catchlove	G. Burgess	F. Mahony	J. Whitten	D. Healey	D. Cook	L. Barton	D. Anderson
J. Preston	J. Wadsworth	A. Dombkins	N. Skinner	P. Pettit	C. Corten	S. Barlow	T. Moore
K. Guiney	J. Munday	A. Green	B. Carr	M. Egan	J. Pratt	P. Bailie	F. Ward
J. Fenwick	R. Bailey	A. Lehdey	J. McGowen	B. Thompson	J. Dunn	C. Hayward	B. Turier
S. Currington	H. Baines	B. Male	C. Hoskings	G. Cannon	G. Balmer	H. Marks	R. Hills
A. Macmaster	G. Bradd	E. Purcill	B. Lamond	K. Crago	F. Ridge	A. Ashton	J. Bevan
T. Fabian	A. Jollow	R. Milner	J. Nichols	W. Sullivan	D. Whiteman	R. Tyson	

After the Reunion, and a brief break for some meat pies at the Air Force Club, was held the annual meeting of the Squadron Conference, 458's top governing body. This meeting is reported elsewhere.

Friday April 26th.

THE ANZAC DANCE.

Friday, being a free day, gave members a chance to work, to rest or to have a look at Sydney with their wives. In the Evening was the Dance. This was held at Transport House in Cleveland Street, a new venue for 458 Dances. We had a good attendance an excellent Band and a supper it would be hard to equal anywhere in the world.

A novelty effect was the issue of Leis to all the Dancers, each Lei bearing a number. There were prizes for certain numbers---of which the first three were 4, 5, and 8, curiously enough. Supper, organised by the Ladies Auxiliary, included oysters, fish, frankfurts and coffee. Kemp Beach was M.C. and a good choice too. Like all 458 Dances it was a happy occasion. We ourselves (the Editor) remember thinking, while watching 458ers dancing to the haunting melody of the Pride of Erin, how stirring an achievement in postwar friendship 458 had become. We thought (perhaps we had reached the stage of fatigue when the imagination becomes fanciful) that in 20 years we would look back and strive to recreate in our memory this scene of old and valued friends dancing.

After the Dance---which went on an hour longer than planned---some of the Sydneyside members went back to the Sydney with the Interstate members for a drink. We

All-States in Sydney (Cont.) understand one N.S.W. Official went to sleep on this occasion-- a sleep he well deserved.

THE HARBOUR TRIP.

Saturday April 27th.

A specially hired Launch, called "Protend", took a party of 44 adults and perhaps as many children on a cruise along the south shore of the Harbour, past Garden Island and Mrs. Macquarie's Point, Rushcutters Bay, Rose Bay to Watson's Bay where we turned north to cross the Heads to Middle Harbour. We had just the right number for the ship, the weather was perfect. As we passed the beautiful houses and gardens which still line the Harbour shores, particularly in Middle Harbour, up to the Spit, even Sydney members could declare they had had no idea the Harbour was so lovely.

The children were given soft drinks on board and we stopped at the pretty and secluded little Cove at Parsley Bay, where the Ladies Auxiliary organised tea.

PARTY AT THE PIGGOTTS.

That evening, about 40 members and wives went to a party given by Alan and Kitty Piggott at their Ryde home. They had a royal time, dancing, chatting and eating one of the suppers for which Kitty Piggott is famous. Apart from that it was a delight to be entertained by Alan--one of 458's major personalities. We cannot pass from Saturday without recording Alf Hammond's star turn when sitting on a rail at the side of the Marquee; he leaned back and suddenly disappeared from view. He came up out of the outer darkness of the garden outside, minus (squadron bow) tie but still with a lit of beer in his glass. He promised us a repeat performance later on but this did not eventuate.

Sunday April 28th.

GOLF/BARBECUE AT WALLACIA.

A 458 Convoy left the Melba Theatre at Strathfield and drove out to the Picnic Area near the Nepean River at Wallacia. Cy Irwin and Frank Hickey got the golfers off, while Kemp Beach and Dick Healey looked after the Keg, Bob and Pat Lyndon barbecued and the Ladies prepared lunch. The Anzac Cup this year was won by Jack Miller of Sydney with Stuart Ricketts as Runner-up. Doug Millard won a prize for interstate and country players and Joe Murphy for visitors. Another beautiful day concluded with a party for interstate and country members at Sam Barlow's in the Evening.

PORTRAIT OF THE SQUADRON PRESIDENT.

Squadron Conference, held during the Anzac Festival, elected SAM BARLOW as Squadron President. He succeeds GORDON ORCHARD who has held that office for the past three years with distinction.

Sam, during the war served as Observer in Col Fereday's crew, in the Bone/Alghero period. His operational tour with 458 was brought to a conclusion when a hung-up bomb exploded under their Wellington on landing, and he was severely wounded. Other members of the crew lost their lives.

Returning to Sydney he cut short a University course to go into business in the Drapery trade of which he has made a considerable success, being a partner in a number of shops now. He took from the first a lively interest in the post-war 458 and played a part second to none in the creation of the organisation in N.S.W. and later on in other States. He was for several years N.S.W. Treasurer and is currently senior N.S.W. Vice President. He has been notable for intense and constant loyalty to everything 458 has attempted and done. He has lent all his business ability and determination to the progress of Squadron projects. 458 would not, in fact, be 458 without Sam. He has attended all the All-States Reunions.

Notable for a Viking-like ability to deal with beer himself, his generous and warm hospitality has been one of the great factors in cementing 458 together.

Good luck to him.

The DAZED DELEGATE is not publishing his diary this time. He declares, anyhow, that he was not dazed merely breathless with keeping up with the events. We are, instead, able to provide the story of...well, we were going to say, of the DIZZY DAMES...but perhaps we shouldn't. But let them speak for themselves in the story of Room 234 and the Visit to the Zoo.

OFF TO THE ZOO

by

Dorothy Munkman.

With my Committee, of the Ladies Auxiliary, it was my pleasure to entertain our visiting Ladies during their stay in Sydney for the Anzac Week.

Women being barred from Reunions it fell to us to take the visiting Reunion-widows under our wings on Anzac Day. Being very noble (Sydney mothers of children know what a day at the Zoo is like, although to visitors its a sight to be seen) I suggested to our guests that we should show them the Zoo.

After lustily cheering our men in the March (by the way, Elsie, how's Bill ?)

Personalities (cont.)

DON BITMEAD is now with the A.T.C., making the fourth 458er in Sydney to join;

CEC PERCY has a Motor Body and General Repair Works, in partnership with his brother at Frankston Road, Dandenong, Victoria (Twin Bridge Motors);

KEN BROWN is now farming at Katunga, Victoria;

GEORGE UNWIN with Peg and the family, has moved from Sydney to Crookwell, near Goulburn, N.S.W., where he is managing a Store. His multitude of friends in Sydney, and in particular, members of the N.S.W. Committee will very greatly miss George's friendly and loyal personality. They will look forward to seeing Peg and George again soon;

SVEN HANSEN is with the Dumaresque Shire Council in N.S.W.; we understand he is Senior Clerk;

PETE PETTIT; to Pete and his wife, our sincere congratulations on the birth of a daughter (Nicola);

KEN CRAIG paid a welcome visit to Sydney for the Reunion from Gunnedah. He was sorry not to see George Morgan there but proposed to look him up in Singleton;

BERT FRANCOMBE is with the London County Council;

RON TONKIN is understood to be at Ettalong Beach, N.S.W.;

MAX EGAN is with the Industrial Hose Dept. of Goodyear Rubber, Sydney. Max is now the Father of five children. He sends good wishes to Shorty Taylor;

ALLEN WALDON has a Galtex Service Station at Grafton;

BLUEY LAMOND looked in at the Sydney Reunion, bearing the appearance of much well-being. He is with Beales Pianos and has also recently built a War Service Home;

AUB DOMBKINS, who also was at the Sydney Reunion, has been ill. We wish him complete recovery;

JIMMY WHITTEM is going to Alice Springs soon as Deputy Director of Animal Industry. He is at present with the Veterinary Dept. of Sydney University;

WALLY "CAESAR" BAIRD has been on a visit to Adelaide;

CLARRIE HANKEL has a sheep property at Henty, N.S.W. which he is building up. He was ill for some years but is now recovered. He is married with two boys. Clarrie says he will shew W/Cdr. Dowling some good duck shooting at Henty if he gets in touch within there.

KEN KNAGGS is Master of Apprentices with Australian Iron and Steel at Port Kembla, N.S.W.;

NICK BERTRAM who flew over from Adelaide for the All-States Reunion is a hopeful starter for next year's Reunion in Perth.

BOB MALE came down to Sydney from Queensland for the Reunion and was most welcome.

1958 ALL-STATES REUNION TO BE IN PERTH.

Squadron Conference, meeting recently in Sydney, accepted the invitation of the Western Australian Flight to hold the 1958 All-States Reunion in Perth. Delegates expressed the opinion not only that it was a very excellent idea to hold the next Reunion in the West but that members going there would have a really first class tire. Interstate members are asked to start planning now to make the trip--- preferably with their families. The N.S.W. Secretary elsewhere gives a few facts and figures about fares and means of travelling there.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

W.A. Flight News from Jack Riseley.

Since my return to the West there have been two events on the Western Australian Calendar; the Annual General Meeting and the Anzac Day Reunion.

Numbers at the Annual General Meeting were disappointingly small, but in the West non-attendance does not always mean lack of enthusiasm for some country members find it far too difficult to attend.

Al. Wheat always seems to make it---there is always a car or some business to be attended to in Perth coincident with any meeting. He is definitely one of the stalwarts. Len Stewart was re-elected President. Butch Power (the Reluctant Dragon) Secretary. And Shorty Long Vice President. Minor placings were given to Ron Gannaway, Ray Turley and Peter McCarthy as Committee members.

As the West is to be Host Flight for the '58 General Assembly, it seems that these boys---and indeed every W.A. Squadron member---will have plenty to do during the forthcoming months to make sure that the interstate members sample some of that Western Australian hospitality for which the State is famous. Make every meeting a MUST from now on, you 'gropers, as there'll be a place for you on one of the numerous Committees which will be formed to cope with the influx from the East.

Sandgroppers Say....(cont.)

Anzac Day was perfect from every point of view except attendance---this was a little lighter than normal with 22 on parade.

This year we were proud to have at the head of the column Ernie Laming who did us proud by carrying our Banner. We were very pleased to see both Ernie and his wife over here and we sincerely hope they enjoyed their short stay with us. We think there never was a W.O.D. anywhere as popular as Ernie during the war---tempering his duty, as he did, with commonsense and fairness. He's a nice guy and we were all delighted with his effort in coming to see us.

We are preparing a W.A. Directory in order to bring all the boys up to date on the location and occupation of our members. This may be handy for intending visitors if they desire to contact anyone direct regarding accomodation, etc. In the interim, letters addressed c/o "Butch" Power, I45, Gildercliffe St., Scarborough, W.A. will be forwarded.

Kindest Regards and Best. Wishes from W.A.

FROM THE CROWEATERS.S.A. Flight News

from

Ron Badger.

We were delighted to welcome Jim Holliday, the Queensland Secretary, recently and by a stroke of luck, Jim Munday, his crewmate, arrived from Melbourne at the same time. Although the notice was short, a few members rallied round and had "a few" together and, later in the evening, bombs started to drop--ships being sunk, but mostly "schooners".

Another visitor, "Rosie" Rosenberg from T.A.A., Queensland, gave us some very interesting facts of his flying life in the Northern Territory. His notice of arrival and stay were all too short, however, about ten members were able to come and have a few at the Local, and then adjourned to Ron Badger's Shop to carry on and finished up with a grilled flounder. They included Mel Priest, Brian Woodhead, Ron Badger, Bill Taylor, Lefty Trewartha, Nick Bertram and Arn. Scholar.

Our Committee. At our last meeting our stalwart President, Bill Taylor, and Secretary, John Ringwood, were unanimously re-elected, together with "Flash" Thomas as Treasurer, and Ron Badger, Mel Priest, Brian Woodhead, Lefty Trewartha, Nick Bertram, Sid Bartram and Arnold Scholar as committeemen.

We were very pleased to welcome an ex-458 Orderly Room "Waller" in Harry Wise, who has arrived from the U.K. in the R.A.F. and is now stationed at Edinburgh Air Field in S.A. We hope to see more of him at our future functions.

Two Travellers. Bill Taylor has just left on a short sea trip to Tasmania with Ken Russell. Ken is a leading light in the Adelaide S.S.Co., and by the number of short sea trips these two make, there would appear to be collusion somewhere along the line.

Barbecue Day. A Picnic Day was held, very enjoyably, recently and 460 Squadron joined us later in the day at the venue. Picnic races were run for young and old. During the Children's Events, the men, of course, gathered round the inevitable wooden container holding 18 gallons of the best. The Barbecue, of no mean proportions, was a great success and the fragrance of chops, steaks, etc., permeating the air to other nearby picnic parties caused much envy. In fact we ate so much, we couldn't even finish the keg. This "Do" was well organised, well attended and most enjoyed.

Legacy. Through Competitions and money raised by our various functions, we are happy to be able to subscribe our usual contribution to Legacy again this year and feel justly proud of our Flight.

Memorial Tree. Our 458 Memorial Tree planting project has been held up, as the official R.A.A.F. 'Drome in S.A. at Edinburgh is surrounded by Security Regulations covering Woonera, etc., but we hope to overcome these difficulties in the near future and press on with the Project.

Anzac Day, 1957. We were sorry not to be able to send a bigger representation to the All-States Reunion in Sydney but our representative, Nick Bertram, reports a real good show: congratulations to N.S.W. on their fine efforts. Believe us though, our hearts were with you and a Toast was drunk to its success.

Our S.A. Anzac Day Reunion was a huge success. Some 56 Members and Associates marched and went to the Reunion in Legacy House. The Authorities this year placed a Ban on the use of two-man Banners, so reluctantly we had a big Roundel made, painted blue with a bold 458 painted in white on it and mounted on a long handle. During the March the broadcasters made repeated references to the Roundel, stating that it was by far the best identification in the March. Thus our disappointment in not carrying our usual Banner gave us more publicity than in previous years. The March was conducted in glorious sunshine with over 1,000 more men marching

24, the Croweaters (cont.) than last year. Although fewer uniforms were worn, a bigger percentage of medals were worn by our members and we request that, next year, every member wear his medals to make 458 really bright. We were pleased too at the number of members who attended the various Dawn Services.

All of us were delighted to see "Sailor" Wheatley, who happened to be in port. We hope he can bob in next year too. Another stalwart, Roger Rodwell, blew in from Mildura and anyone knowing Roger will realise the skin and hair that flies when he's around. Our Secretary, John Ringwood, and Johnnie Bax were unfortunately away ill, but both are now on deck again.

Enthusiasm at the Reunion prompted the thought of holding a Dinner later in the year, but more of this anon. The results of our Competition were announced during the afternoon. We were pleased to learn it had been won by Nick Bartram who was away representing us in Sydney. Good luck to you, Nick!

Another comforting report from Flash Thomas, our Treasurer, was that the Reunion was a financial success in spite of everything being laid on for a good time.

During the afternoon many humorous incidents were recounted and I happened to listen in on one worth retelling about our late member, Eric Both.

Eric Both was a right good bloke--popular and a good cricketer--but he had a theory while he was away not to wash any apparel until he was down to his last stitch. Sometimes theories go haywire---hence---His tent-mate at Lydda in Palestine was Ron Redpath who had carefully laundered his shorts in preparation for an evening trip to Tel Aviv. That same day Eric, who was down to his last bagful of laundry, was given a sudden 'afternoon off'. He had a sudden desire to scamper off to Jerusalem--which he did.

After work that day when Redpath returned to his tent from work, he found this note:- Dear Redpath. Your pants have gone to Jerusalem and I'm in 'em. signed, Both. The hilarity of Both on his return late that night and the wrath of Redpath were not quite parallel.

After the 'Do' members drifted off to various hostlies and homes in groups ---some with a crayfish under one arm and a couple for the road under the other, to conclude another enjoyable Reunion.

In conclusion, we wish to pass on to the new Squadron President and Council congratulations and best wishes for another year and our thanks to the retiring officers who have done a great job in the interests of a better and bigger 458.

1957 SQUADRON CONFERENCE.

Conference decides to Bring Out a Briton. Squadron Conference met in Sydney on Anzac Evening. Delegates representing each mainland State and also the U.K. Flight. On the notion of the Queensland Delegates, Conference decided to approve the Flights participating in the "Bring Out a Briton" Campaign now being run by the Australian Government. Speakers explained that the Flights could help the Campaign by finding accommodation for Britons and generally cooperate with the Dept. of Immigration. Cec. Nation, representing the U.K. Flight at Conference said Australia needed more British Immigrants to balance the numbers of Southern Europeans coming in. The U.K. Flight is to be asked to help by vetting prospective immigrants when asked.

More Associate Members. Conference agreed, again on the notion of Queensland to amend the Flight Constitution to assist the enrolment of Associates.

But not on Conference. By a majority Conference rejected a notion that Associates might represent their Flights at meetings of Squadron Council and Conference.

Legacy. At South Australian Flight instance Conference discussed a proposal that the Flights be again urged to support Legacy. Cy. Irwin (S.A. Proxy) spoke strongly for this idea. Sam Barlow said the previous Conference in Adelaide had discussed this; so had Council. It was a good thing but he was sick of having the same thing raised time and again. After discussion, Conference again recorded its support for the work of Legacy.

Squadron History The Chairman (Peter Alexander) reported slow but continued progress with this project. He hoped final revision of the draft would be complete in the next few months.

Tree Planting. In the course of Conference's review of progress in each Flight during the past year, Arthur Green (Victoria) said that while there had been some falling off in interest in Victoria, the Flight was concentrating on accumulating a Benevolent Fund. Victoria also hoped to plant its 458 Memorial Tree at Point Cook this year.

Squadron Conference, 1957 (Cont.)

Flight Reports. For the U.K. Flight, Pete Pettit, who recently returned from London, said the U.K. had a very good Flight Secretary and the Flight was doing well. Cec Nation said he hoped there would be some agenda items from the U.K. at next year's Conference. For N.S.W., Allan Walker reported a good year with Reunion, cricket, golf, a Squadron Ball, Picnic and a Christmas Social.

Squadron Ties. Squadron Conference approved the newly available Squadron Ties and fixed the prices for them at 12/- for Broadway and Bobtail ties and 6/- for Bows.

1958 All-States Reunion. Contrary to general expectations held before Conference met, when delegates generally thought the decision would be to go to Brisbane Conference decided to accept a W.A. Flight invitation to go to Perth. Queensland delegates invited Conference to go to Brisbane and were supported by South Australia. However when the W.A. invitation became known, Eric Hetherington (Queensland) said his Flight would be prepared to support going to Perth. Arthur Green (Victoria) and the Squadron Secretary spoke strongly in favour of going to Perth.

New Squadron President. After other nominations (of Jim Holliday-Queensland; and Jim Munday-Victoria) had been withdrawn, Sam Barlow (N.S.W.) was elected Squadron President in succession to Gordon Orchard who had held the office for the past three years. Sam Barlow had been Squadron Treasurer since the formation of Squadron Council four years before. After members had congratulated Sam, he took the Chair and Conference then elected Eric Munkman as Squadron Treasurer and re-elected Peter Alexander as Squadron Vice President/Secretary. Conference placed on record its appreciation of the work done by Gordon Orchard as Squadron President.

SQUADRON TIES.

458 Squadron Ties are now available from the Squadron Secretary or the Queensland and Victorian Secretaries. They have been made from specially woven imported material (rayon). They are dark blue with a small winged torpedo emblem. They are very attractive and went like hot cakes at the Sydney and Brisbane Anzac Reunions. They are made up in Broadway (the normal type), in Bobtails (two kinds, one having the Torpedo emblem straight down the centre of the tie -- the "Centre" bobtail, the other having the design cut diagonally) and two types of Bow Tie. Prices 12/- plus postage except for Bows which are 6/- plus postage.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to and from Squadron members.To Allan Walker-N.S.W. Secretary.

From Mary Ind, Parkes, N.S.W.

Dear Allan, I am writing to thank one and all for a really wonderful Reunion in Sydney. Believe me, Jack and I are really looking forward to the next one in Perth. At the Sydney we met some really fine people and I am sure Room 234 was very lonely when we left. I am sure the girls:- Dorothy Munkman, Yvonne Crompton, Beatrice McKinna, Kath., Glad, Dot, Elsie, will remember our afternoon there.... the Dance on Friday was a splendid turn-out and I must say the supper was something extra special.. oysters are one of my specialities. After the Dance back again to Room 234.... On Saturday our trip on the Harbour with afternoon tea supplied again; it was really very restful and got us in trim for our night at Alan and Kitty Piggott's. There again, what a spread. We in the country are renowned for our suppers but Kitty out-classed anything I have ever seen. Many thanks for a delightful evening. On Sunday, Wallacia where we must thank Bob Lyndon for his really lovely barbecued steak and chop. Then as you know we were going to head for home but were out-voted and ended up at Sam Barlow's party and once more must thank Maisie and Elsie for another lovely supper. Back to the Hotel Sydney-and we did get a room and were pleasantly surprised on being given the key to Room-----458. Have taken a lottery ticket calling it 458.....

In closing, thank you all once again.

Mary and Jack Ind.

To Bob Millar, Sydney, N.S.W.

From Ron Radbourne, 45, Poplar Road, Redditch, Worcestershire, England.

Dear Bob, Remember me? I was your so-called Navigator on 458 Squadron. I was

Correspondence (cont.)

going through some papers the other day and came across a letter from you dated November 1947---nearly ten years agoI haven't a clue whether this is going to reach you or not. Just in case it does here goes.

I haven't a clue when I last wrote to you so I had better mention first that I am an old married man of 8 years standing with two sons, one coming up six years, the other four in July.

I suppose by now that you three, yourself, Mitch, and Blue are all well and truly hitched; if you see them please give them my very best regards. If they feel like writing I promise to reply.

I have never heard a word of Roy or Taffy.

Since leaving the R.A.F., I have only been with my present firm. It's an Electro-plating firm in Redditch and I am now in charge of the General Office.....

Best of luck,

Ron.

NEWS FROM Q FLIGHT.

from

Jim Holliday.

Q Flight has been quiet this last quarter. Our only major project was Anzac Day; when in glorious weather and before the largest crowd ever, 20 members and associate members of Q Flight marched behind the Banner. President Ron Russell strode our ahead and the band of the Royal Australian Air Force beeped it out behind. People clapped, probably at the band, but still we thought we did a rather good job.

We adjourned to the A.T.C. Mess for refreshment and did brisk business in the sale of Squadron Ties.

The next event on our programme is the winter Social and Dance on Saturday 1st. June, followed by our Annual Reunion on Saturday 10th. August.

CORNSTALKS RECOVERING.

N.S.W. Notes

from

Allan Walker.

Now the All-States Reunion is over and has been reported elsewhere, we will content ourselves by saying how happy we were to have been hosts to the Squadron and we trust you one and all enjoyed yourselves. To those who came---many thanks---to those that couldn't make it our very best wishes and we hope to see you soon. A special note of congratulations to Sam Barlow, our new Squadron President. We are mighty pleased, Sam, and mighty proud to have you as the first N.S.W. member to achieve this singular honour. Nobody could be more deserving of it.

The N.S.W. Flight's congratulations to the Westralian Flight upon obtaining the 1958 Reunion and we wish them well.

Going to Perth in 1958? Of course you are! As Confucius says "In all things success depends on previous preparation." So, we supply the following details on how to get to Perth for the 1958 Reunion:-

By Air. Present fare to Perth via Adelaide is £45-15-0 Single. T.A.A. planes leave Sydney daily at 11.25 a.m. and take about 9½ hours to Perth. The return trip leaves at 11.25 p.m. arriving back in Sydney about 10.15 the next morning. That means any Squadron member with limited time could leave Sydney on Thursday April 24th., arrive the same evening, spend three full days and arrive back at a reasonable time on the following Monday.

By Rail. The Train leaves Sydney four days weekly--Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday and the journey occupies four nights each way. Our spy recommends the following procedure: 1st. Class between Sydney and Adelaide but 2nd. Class between Adelaide and Perth which is reported to be quite satisfactory. The total cost doing it this way, including Sleeping berth and meals is £26-10-3 Single and, in the wonderful ways of the Railways £52-18-0 Return. The catch seems to be that only 8 2nd. Class berths are available per train to N.S.W. passengers. Some six months advance booking, believe it or not, is therefore necessary. Confucius says, "Be Early!"

By Sea. The journey to Fremantle from Sydney occupies ten days each way, the fare being £28-7-6d each Single; 2nd. Class. Here again our spy reports that this is quite satisfactory, particularly if travelling with a party of friends.

You can also motor or hitch-hike provided you get there!

Squadron Ball. The N.S.W. Flight's 8th. Annual Ball will be on Friday 26th. July at the N.S.W.R.S.L. Club Ballroom, Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Tickets are now available on application to Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, or I, Denison Street, Parramatta; and we shall be happy to book you a Table.

Golf Programme. Although the Golf Programme has not been finalised, it will follow

Contacts Recovering (cont.) the usual pattern of monthly outings during the winter, culminating with the President's Cup, probably during September. Members will be circularised and intending golfers can check with either Cy, Irwin at UW 1981 or myself at YL 8475.

EXTRACTS FROM THE OVERSEAS PRESS.

The Natal Mercury, South Africa, March 13th, 1957.

Mr. Bruce Roy MacKenzie, who at 24 years of age was a Colonel in the South African Air Force and is the holder of the D.S.O., D.F.C. and Bar, has been nominated by Sir Evelyn Baring, the Governor of Kenya, as a member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. MacKenzie was born at Richmond, Natal, in 1919 and was educated at Hilton College. He then attended a Natal Agricultural College until the outbreak of World War II.

After demobilisation in 1947 he bought an undeveloped farm at Nakuru, the capital of Kenya's White Highlands. This he built up into one of the best farms in the country with a pedigree herd of Friesland cattle. Three years ago he bought a second farm.

Mr. MacKenzie holds many public positions and is President of the Royal Agricultural Society of Kenya in which capacity he welcomed Princess Margaret to Kenya's Royal Show last year.

A picture herewith shews Mr. MacKenzie, then a Major, in 1943 shaking hands with King George VI. It records the moment at which the preservation of Mr. MacKenzie's sideburns, now famous throughout Kenya, was ensured by royal decision.

While serving in the desert Major MacKenzie grew his sideburns as a bet. As they flourished his fellow officers pulled his leg about them, and there were mutterings about King's Regulations. When the late King toured the area and Major MacKenzie was introduced he asked: "May I keep my whiskers, Sir?"

"Yes, certainly--they look very handsome," replied the King.

To this day Mr. MacKenzie has carefully nurtured his sideburns in recognition of the Royal gesture.

YOUR SECRETARIES' ADDRESSES.

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AUTHORISED BY THE EDITOR (Peter Alexander).....Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, AUSTRALIA.

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

Please send me the following 458 Squadron articles:

- a) Squadron Ties, Broadway @ 12/- ea., Bobtail, Centre Bobtail @ 12/- ea., Bows @ 6/- ea. (plus postage);
- b) Squadron Lapel Badges, Pin Fastener/Half noon fastener @ 4/6d ea (postfree);
- c) Squadron Car Badges @ 30/- each plus postage;
- d) Squadron Blazer Pockets @ 26/- ea.
- e) 458 Squadron News during 1957: Subscription 5/- per annum. (Strike out what is not wanted)

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