



THE EDITOR.

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ANZACTIME IN BRISBANE. ALL-STATES REUNION IN QUEENSLAND CENTENARY YEAR.

The culminating day of the 458 Year is, every year, the All-States Reunion. This year, 1959, the Anzactime Festival including the All-States Reunion, was held in Brisbane.

Brisbane was a peculiarly suitable place since, among other reasons, it together with the rest of the great State of Queensland, was celebrating the passing of one hundred years since, by Letters-patent dated June 6th, 1859, the territory northward from Point Danger to Cape York was raised into a separate colony called the colony of Queensland.

In the short span of that 100 years, Queensland has become a sovereign State and the centre of great primary and secondary industrial ventures. It is one of the World's great producers of Sugar, Bananas and Pineapples.

The Arrivals. To Brisbane, thus celebrating, came 458ers and their wives from all the mainland Australian States. This was the first All-States Reunion at which all Australian Flights were directly represented and none needed proxies at the Squadron Conference. First arrivals from interstate were Bill Chapman and his wife, from Newcastle in New South Wales. They had been touring North Queensland, and arrived in Brisbane on Sunday April 17th to prepare for the fray.

Then came Johnny Bax and his wife Kath and their son, and "Ding" Conway with his daughter Marilyn who travelled from Adelaide by train. Their journey via Melbourne and Sydney was something of a triumphal progress. In Melbourne they were entertained by Arthur Green and Bill Carr and were shown the local sights. This included a memorable visit to the Gardens and Captain Cook's Cottage, an episode which has taken its place in the post-war 458 fund of anecdotes.

In Brisbane, the party was met by Bill Ernst and Eric Lloyd and a reporter and photographer from the Brisbane Telegraph. All Brisbane knew, as well as every 458er that Johnny and Ding had arrived by the publication of their laughing faces on page 2 of Tuesday's Telegraph.

From then on, interstate members (the word 'Visitor' is tabooed for application to a 458er at a 458 function) arrived by car, train, air -- and by bus too. Many made a holiday of it, stopping at the Gold Coast on the way through. Sam Barlow and party from Sydney came by car. Alf and Enid Hammond travelled in convoy by car with Eric and Dorothy Munkman and 'Nundi' and Agnes Carpenter. Nundi and Agnes, coming from Fremantle in Western Australia, teamed up with the rest of their convoy in Sydney instead of proceeding by long-distance coach, as originally planned.

Long distance record went to Al and Joy Wheat who came by air from Geraldton in Western Australia. Al won a Trip to Brisbane for himself and Joy in a tractor Pulling Competition. They met Al's crew, in three different States, on the way.

Nick Bertram and S.A. Secretary Arn. Scholar completed the Sth. Aust. party. Arthur Green, Dave and Gladys Firth, and Jim and Joan Munday came from Victoria and the N.S.W. party totalled 17.

Civic Reception. Out of the blue came an invitation for all members of 458 and their wives to attend a civic reception by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman Groom, to Group Captain Cheshire, V.C., and his wife on the opening day of the official 458 programme.

Group Capt. Cheshire remarked immediately on the 458 Tie as the 458 group was introduced, and spent a great deal of time conversing with our members.

All-States in Brisbane.(cont.)The Reunion Dances.

That evening, Thursday 23rd., the Queensland Flight held a welcoming Dance. It was at the large, new and commodious Waterside Workers Recreation Hall in Petrie Bight. As had been anticipated, at first no one wanted to dance. A far greater attraction was the renewal of old friendships. Conversation and then dancing flowed brighter and faster as the evening progressed. Bulimba also flowed. Informality was a keynote. The orchestra played on and the evening was far too short. It was a happy introduction to the following days' schedule of festivities.

Oxley and the Anzac Cup.

Friday saw the Annual Competition for the Anzac Cup, held, once again, at Bernie McLoughlin's Golf Club at Oxley. Interstate members returning found that the Club House had been rebuilt and is very well-equipped indeed. The Cup was competed for over 10 holes, before lunch. Handicaps were awarded by Bernie, off the cuff and by instinct and, mostly, competitors obliged by playing to them. It was a pleasant round in fine Queensland sunshine and over a not-too-hard course, green and countrified.

Bill McBride, returning for the Reunion to his old State of Queensland from Sydney, was the new holder of the Anzac Cup, with Keith Campbell as Runner-up. A Trophy for the best Interstate Member went to last year's holder of the Anzac Cup, Arthur Green who beat Alf Hammond in a play-off. Best Gross trophy went to Bill Wilson, an Associate member. Best Associate performance was by Bill McBride's brother, Sandy.

The Club served 458 with a lobster luncheon and all that goes with it. After lunch came something for which the Brisbane Reunion will always be notable. The first issue to Squadron members of the Squadron History, with Stories N.C.O. Johnny Box officiating once again, while the Squadron Treasurer and Secretary kept the score. Such was the effect that from a cheerful chatter there was a sudden complete hush while everyone examined his book. No more eloquent tribute could be paid to an author than this hush. Then Peter was besieged with requests to have him autograph copies.

While the Golfers swung...

Their Ladies, or some of them, accompanied Ruth MacDonnell and Peg Holliday to the Koola Park at Lone Pine. Two of the younger members of the party will long remember it as the day they were cuddled by a Carpet Snake.

In the Evening

That night there were a series of parties at Brisbane members' homes. Jim Holliday, Len MacDonnell and Eric Lloyd were among those who gave parties. At Jim's one feature was the first (at this Reunion,) production of one of the highlights of available tape records. This was again played at the All-States Reunion later.

For the most part it was beer, reliving the past, more beer, more memories and bed.

Anzac Day, April 25th., 1952.Dawn Service at the Flame of Remembrance.

Queensland Treasurer Jack Lewis represented 458 at the Dawn Service at Anzac Park in Ann Street and placed a fine wreath.

The Squadron Conference.

Conference's decisions and debates are dealt with elsewhere. The function of this article is to sketch in the scene and the background.

The scene was brilliant. Located on the top of the new Prudential Insurance Building at North Quay in its large Staff Recreation Room, equipped with all the brightness of new architecture and new building. A superb view outside over the broad reaches of the City and the Brisbane River. Sunlight streaming through the windows and over the building. A gallery of over 50 Squadron members and their wives to watch the opening by the Premier of Queensland. Delegates from the Flights and the Squadron officers sitting round a horseshoe table with Squadron President Jim Holliday presiding.

The Premier.

The Premier, the Hon. G. F. R. Nicklin, M.L.A., M.M., arrived in one lift while the official 458 party was going down in the other to meet him but after that minor hitch proceedings went excellently. The Premier met the Delegates and then spoke for 20 minutes or so, referring in most favourable terms to 458 both in war and peacetime. He declared Conference open, after being invited to do so by the Squadron President. 458 C.O., Lew. Johnston, moved a vote of thanks in a sparkling speech which raised many a chuckle. Sitting next to the Premier at Conference table was the Deputy Leader of the Queensland Opposition, Squadron member Eric Lloyd, M.L.A., who supported the vote of thanks.

As a gesture of appreciation Jim Holliday presented the Premier with a copy of the Squadron History. The Premier, who is a tetotalter, stayed and drank some tea with the Squadron, met many members and their wives, looked at the Squadron Albums, and was photographed by the Press holding the Squadron History in front of the 458 Banner.

Interstate members, meeting Mr. Nicklin (who is a Country Party Premier) described him as a shrewd-looking and kindly-mannered man.

After the Premier left, Conference resumed and ate an excellent chicken lunch while business proceeded. Lunch was the responsibility of Len MacDonnell, Ruth MacDonnell and Eric (Mod) Kelly who also looked after morning tea and did a superb job.

In fact and in particular it has to be recorded how much the success of the whole All-States Reunion programme owed to the untiring and self-effacing work of Len MacDonnell.

The March.

It was the greatest number ever to march behind the 458 Banner in Brisbane. A tally of 51 was counted. The Squadron President Jim Holliday led the Squadron (which was accorded the first place in the Air Force Section of the March) and the President-elect Jim Munday carried the Banner. We marched to the stirring music of the R.A.A.F. Band from Amberley. It was a thrill to every marching member to be given such a rousing welcome by 458 wives and children who massed just beyond the Post Office waving 458 Squadron Pennants (Bannerettes) and cheering most mightily. Dorothy Munkman organised the issue of the pennants.

The All-States Reunion itself.

After the March thirsty throats were quenched at the Reunion which followed at the Waterside Workers Recreation Hall. Never before have there been so many 458ers together in Brisbane. It was particularly good to see "Snowy" Atherton there, taking the long-distance honours for Queensland members with 1,000 miles from Dingo in the North. This seems a good place to list the names of 458ers who appeared during the Anzac Festivities:

A.A. Taylor (Q.)	A. Green (Vict.)	C. Wyman (Q.)	A. Hammond (N.S.W.)	F. Wilks (Q.)
E. Munkman (N.S.W.)	C. Warren (Q.)	C. Irwin (N.S.W.)	J. Taylor (Q.)	Fred. Strom (N.S.W.)
B. Snowden (Q.)	N. Spurling (N.S.W.)	C. Richardson (Q.)	A. Wheat (W.A.)	G. Postle (Q.)
D. Firth (Vict.)	B. Male (Q.)	A. Conway (S.A.)	J. Thorpe (Q.)	G. Pradd (N.S.W.)
K. Everett (N.S.W.)	B. McLoughlin (Q.)	J. Bax (S.A.)	L. MacDonnell (Q.)	J. Munday (Vict.)
J. Lewis (Q.)	P. Alexander (N.S.W.)	E. Lloyd (Q.)	S. Barlow (N.S.W.)	E. Kelly (Q.)
K. Crago (N.S.W.)	L. Johnston (Q.)	N. Carpenter (W.A.)	H. Kellam (Q.)	N. Bertram (S.A.)
J. Holliday (Q.)	A. Scholar (S.A.)	E. Hutton (Q.)	B. Chapman (N.S.W.)	B. Hughes (Q.)
B. McBride (N.S.W.)	H. Dorge (Q.)	A. Atherton (Q.)	B. Garland (Q.)	E. Bird (Q.)
T. Hinsley (Q.)	D. Brandon (Q.)	C. Helyar (Q.)	J. Baxter (Q.)	B. Ernst (Q.)
K. Cahill (Q.)	J. Elliott (Q.)	K. Campbell (Q.)	J. Cronau (Q.)	J. Carter (Q.)
B. Coles (Q.)	G. Connors (Q.)			

There were apologies from many members, including Stan Parker, Jim Plunkett, Jack Hobbs, Frank Crowley and best wishes from the U.K. Flight, W.A. Flight, Lefty Trewartha, Ron Badger and the A.A. Flight and Ernie Laming from Malaya. Associate members, friends and relatives swelled the total to 84 present. Further issues of the History were made and members took the chance to buy Squadron Ties, badges and Blazer pockets. Bermuda Jackets with 458 blazer pockets look extremely good, and quite a number of members were wearing them during the Anzac period.

After many pints had gone down, many stories of the old Squadron had been told, news of absent friends exchanged, and old friendships revived, it was, too soon, time to move on. For only too brief a time the close associations which existed for the war years were revived. After the Reunion some members went on to the A.T.C. Mess for a while and later carried on the celebrations over more beers at the Hotel.

Over the Green Mountains to the Gold Coast.

On Sunday morning all cars assembled outside the National Hotel to be briefed for the visit to Beechmont and the South Coast. In all there were 25 cars containing 75 adults and 32 children. Route maps were issued (supplied by Chas. Richardson) and Route Instructions prepared with Service precision by Lew Johnston. Each car bore a 458 Air screen sticker.

The Convey moved off in independent order but was brought back into column of march at an unheralded brief halt brought about by Charlie Richardson and his wife who gave every morning refreshment, a glass of beer and some fine cheese, at a delightful spot at the edge of the Albert River. Being unexpected, this action of Charlie's gave everyone great pleasure and remains in mind as a high point of Reunion friendliness.

From then on, the convey went through a scenic tour, via Canungra, where the Jungle Warfare Training Camp is, and over the Green Mountains to the Green Hillside site chosen for the Barbecue. There they found Johnnie and Jack Baxter in command of arrangements for the Barbecue. While eating barbecued steaks and billy tea, 1,800' above sea level, the convey, sitting in the cool air and the bright sunshine, had a fine panoramic view over the Pacific Ocean and the Queensland South Coast--the well-known Gold Coast of Southport, Surfers' Paradise and Coolangatta.

A late start after lunch prevented the full run to Coolangatta but we had a look, on a hiring dock, at Southport and Surfers' Paradise at the crest of the Gold Coast Building boom. All arrived on time at Johnnie and Molly Johnston's home for a buffet tea, organised by the Johnstons, the Baxters, and Cec. and Mrs. Miles. It was a fitting end to a glorious day and week end. The New Squadron President, Jim Munday, on behalf of the members thanked the workers for their efforts and was supported by Squadron Vice President S. Barlow. Johnnie responded with his usual felicity.

And so to Melbourne!

This saw the end of the official functions. Sam Barlow, Dick Conway, Nandi Carpenter, Alf. Hammond and Eric Munkman with Cy Irwin and their party and a further look at South Queensland and Dave Firth went further north. But for most 458ers it was chaotic to or from Brisbane next morning--with plans already making to be at next years All-States Reunion in MELBOURNE, where many other 458ers are waiting to welcome you! ---J.H. and P.C.A.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

- BERNIE HUGHES is selling his property at Amu Vale and buying some flats in N.S.W.;
- BOB COLES is an official of Parks and Gardens in Toowoomba, Queensland. He is father of three girls and one boy. Wants to contact Curly Wilson;
- BLISSY THORPE is Workshop Foreman with Frank Pearce Ltd, in Brisbane, who deal in Shock Absorbers. Wants to be remembered to 'All the Boys of 458';
- JACK TAYLOR is Grocery Department Manager with Producers Co-Op. Sends remembrances to the Drinnan crew;
- HARRY DORGE has 458's congratulations on his recent marriage. He lives in Toowoomba and is a Builder and Carpenter. We understand he is open for business in these lines. His regards to Bob Bruce, John Carey, Tony Harris;
- JACK CROMAU This Holme-on-Spalding Moor member is driving with the Brisbane Council. Wants news of Lanham and Toohy;
- BOB HELYAR representing Shell and Massey-Ferguson in Tara, Queensland. Has a son and a daughter. Wants to be remembered to Dick Boydell and Stan Tarczynski;
- BOB MALE has a property at Dirranbandi, Queensland. Interviewed at the Reunion, his comment was 'Silence is Golden';
- CHAS RICHARDSON is with Shell Sales Dept.-Brisbane Metropolitan Area;
- "SNOWY" ATHERTON is grazing in North Queensland. Says he doesn't see many 458ers there. One girl, two boys. An officer with the Citizen Military Forces;
- ALF PEAKE has a Lime Mine at Ayr, North Queensland;
- KEN EVERETT is grazing at Kyogle in northern New South Wales. Is Past-President of Rotary there. Looks prosperous but says he isn't. I boy, one girl;
- THO HUTTON an architect. With Lund Hutton and Newell, Brisbane. I boy, two girls. Wishes to be remembered to Jack and Ron Pomfrett;
- BILL CHAPMAN (ex-Stores) works with the Newcastle City Council, in N.S.W. Enjoyed his time in Brisbane;
- KEITH CAMPBELL still with Fauldings in Brisbane. Short of hair; says it comes of flying with hairy pilots;
- JACK BAXTER has his own motor cycle business in the Gold Coast where he now lives;
- "REEL" WILLIAM has sold his Pub and is in the Advertising business--has a Scotchlite Agency;
- PETER DAVIES is now in Brisbane with Bell's Asbestos but may move, with them, to Newcastle, N.S.W.
- JACK CARTER is a member of the Maroochy Shire Council in Queensland. President of the North Coast Zone, R.S.L. and Vice President of the S.E. District. His son is now stationed in Canberra with the R.A.A.F., attached to the V.I.P. Flight. Jack himself recently sold his Pineapple Farm and retired but, of course, works harder than ever. Apart from the activities mentioned above he is President of the National Fitness Committee in his area and Secretary of the Fruitgrowers Association. As an R.S.L. official he recently had occasion to present an R.S.L. Life member's badge to the Premier, Mr. Nicklin;
- JOHN BILNEY recently transferred to Henry York and Co., where he is Melbourne Photographic Sales Rep. Says it won't be long before he does Bill Carr out of his easy job with Kodaks. John has two sons and a daughter and is now living at Box Hill;
- ARTHUR GREEN is still in the Spring Manufacturing game in Brunswick, Melbourne. He is currently a very busy boy as he and his partner are building a new Factory. He recently visited Robinvale and contacted Blue Firth and Ken Cupper, both farming in that area. Arthur tells us he has secured some very good Defence Contracts. Elsie his wife recently shared £2,000 in Tattersalls with their son Ron;
- "PAPPY" MacDONALD has recently been taking half his Long Service Leave from the Melbourne Herald, where he is Deputy Foreman of the Reel Paper Store. Paid a visit to Sydney during it and met some of the boys in the Air Force Club. Pappy is a Gilbert and Sullivan addict;
- DON JOHNSON is a traveller with Motor Spares, Melbourne. At the moment is still single. Wishes to be remembered to all his pals of yesterday and sends a particular greeting to Eric Munkman and Clappy Hammond;
- "SHORTY" WILSON spent Easter at Robinvale where he too saw Dave Firth and Ken Cupper, as well as Arthur Green. Shorty is Examiner of Aircraft Engineers with the Dept. of Civil Aviation. He proved an excellent reserve Banner Carrier (Jim Munday being in Brisbane) at the Anzac March in Melbourne;
- HARRY ASHWORTH has his own plumbing business in Prahran and lives in Oakleigh, Melbourne. There is more of him than there was. Sends his regards to the two boys in the N.S.W. scrub, identified as 'the short farmer and the long dentist, neither of whom could fly the course he gave them;
- BOB PERCY has a garage and repair shop at Dandenong (Victoria) and lives at Seaford. Has a very fine home there. Came to Melbourne for the Anzac March;
- BOB SHERRAH is still in the wool business and living at Sandringham (Victoria).
- BILL HEFCRO at the Melbourne Anzac March. Has a lad just entering the Air Force. Is still very actively interested in the Air Reserve and A.T.C. Living at Springvale;

Personal Paragraphs (cont.)

JOE SINGE who is in Victoria, sends remembrances to "Chico" Mercer, Eric Phillips and Lofty Trewartha;

ALAN MATHER who is currently Wing Commander, Postings at R.A.A.F. H.Q., Melbourne is leaving shortly for Washington, U.S.A., where he will take up duties as Air Attache at the Australian Embassy for a three year period; he had half a dozen drinks with a lot of 458ers at the H.Q. Mess on Anzac Day;

PETER HEDGCOCK is with War Service Homes, Melbourne. Sends regards to his pals;

HARRY (MATRON) JENKINS marched with 458 on Anzac Day. Is nursing at Heidelberg Repat. Hospital;

JOHNNY MORRIS -- Bill Carr understands he is conducting his own Menswear business in Mt. Waverley. Has altered very little over the years;

PEIL MCPHEE Is Manager of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria;

BOB McKINNA is farming at Sealake, Victoria;

JACK RAMSAY is with the Post Office. Was moving his Department to new premises on Anzac Day. Living at Box Hill;

BRUCE "DIZZY" DEAN is expected home on leave from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands;

STAN TARCZYNSKI is still with the "Leader" at the Age Melbourne office. Currently on leave, and playing a lot of golf;

A. PRADSHAW recently had the misfortune to have the back part of his home destroyed by fire. Is very interested in R.S.L. activities out Spotswood way;

PILL BAILEY is in the Woodyard business at Caulfield. Told Bill Carr he was considering a move to another locality;

JOHN CARTLEDGE lives at Yarraville. Marched on Anzac Day. Sends regards to all his mates;

JOHN DOWLING is currently at Albert Park Barracks as Group Captain, Training;

GORDON CUTHBERTSON farming at Burrum Beet, Victoria. Turn left at the 89 mile post on the Highway and his is the 3rd. place on the left. All welcome, says Cuthy.

GEORGE RIDDOCH is farming at Burrum Beet alongside Cuthy;

JACK GUTHRIE is school-teaching, at Box Hill, Victoria;

CHARLIE HARDING is reported to be approaching his second million, farming at Mortlake;

BOB CUGLEY is foreman mechanic at Atlas Auto Auctions, Melbourne. A tireless and invaluable supporter of the Victorian Flight. Tells us he recently saw PEIL BENNETT who was down from New Guinea, where he is Maintenance Mechanic with Guinea Airways;

ARTHUR PACKHAM has a Motor Mechanic business at Bungaree, doing tractor and car repairs;

JACK SHARPLEY is at the Bridge Hotel, Richmond, Victoria;

RAY WARWICK is at Holowiliena Station, Cradock, South Australia. Recently wrote for his copy of the Squadron History. We were delighted to hear from him after many years;

J.V. GRIGGS is at Moe, Victoria;

ALLAN SLARKS is in Shepparton, Victoria;

LOYD O'BRIEN (OBIE) is at Graman, N.S.W. Recently wrote for his History;

NOEL WALTER sends regards to all friends;

VIN CLOHESY is in Yallourn, Victoria;

"BUCK" BUCHANAN is with Winchcombe Carson, Brisbane;

BILL PERKINS who has been ill, has our good wishes for his recovery;

KEMP BEACH: this valued member of the N.S.W. Committee has been in Concord Repat for an operation. Is now recovered.

BOB SMITH with Income Tax, assessing, in Sydney. His regards to Bob Drinnan, Ken Brown and Jack Taylor;

BERT THOMPSON is Asst. Secretary, Cockatoo Island Dockyard, Sydney;

CHARLIE PIGGOTT was a welcome starter at the recent Sydney Reunion. Has a mixed Milk business at Bondi. Has a son of 16, who was born in Scotland. Sent regards to Fred Ridge, and Henry Bryant;

ANCE "TIMBER" WOOD recently promoted in the Accounts Section of the Sydney Post Office;

"TANK" MARTIN and his wife have our congratulations on the birth of a daughter;

"BLACK JACK" BAKER recently spent 6 weeks with the R.A.A.F. in N.S.W.

FRANK WARD the N.S.W. Treasurer is now Accountant with Potter and Birks, Sydney. Is taking Chartered Secretary's exams.

MRS. YVONNE CROMPTON is now working with the Sydney Metropolitan Meat Board. Was a welcome attender at the Brisbane All-States festivities.

THE RETURN OF BILL CARR.

458 Squadron members will be interested to know that Bill Carr has recently again taken on the Victorian Secretaryship, which he held with distinction for a number of years before. We are in a position to testify to the energy and drive he is putting into the job. The substantial number of Victorian news items included above are from Bill. Readers can also gain the same impression of drive from the Victorian News printed below. Readers of the Squadron History also should know that it could not have been written with anything like the same degree of detail or accuracy had it not been for Bill who, years ago, sent his own staff down to the Dept. of Air in Melbourne to hand copy the

History of Bill Carr (cont.) the official records.

We offer Bill our best wishes both personally and as Flight Secretary.

THE 458 SQUADRON CONFERENCE. 458 to support Civil Defence.

At its Brisbane meeting 458's Annual Conference decided, on Queensland's motion, to support the Civil Defence Organisations in the various States. The suggestion was that the Flight Committees examine the position and, if Civil Defence was inadequate in their State, do what they could to urge improvement; if there was an organisation, then support and work with them, if possible collectively.

No Lapel badges for Associate members.

Al. Wheat, delegate with Fandi Carpenter for W.A., moved a motion to the effect that issue of Squadron badges was a matter for the Squadron as a whole and that lapel badges should not be issued to Associate members. They said that, while Associate members were to be welcomed, only people who had served with 458 should wear the 458 lapel badge. Queensland delegates said Queensland valued its Associates and wanted to give them the badge as a symbol of their membership of the post-war organisation. An amendment was moved to permit Flights, with Squadron Council's approval, to issue a 458 badge to an ex-sirman Associate who had been an Associate for at least a year. This was rejected and the original motion carried by 9 votes to 6. W.A. 2, N.S.W. 2, U.K. 2, Vict. 2, Squadron Treasurer I were the majority. Q. 2, S.A. 2, Squadron Secretary, Sqdn, Vice President I were the minority.

Provision made for Squadron Life members.

After a debate, it was decided to make provision for Squadron Life members as an honour for members who had served 458 well. There already is provision for Flight Life members. Squadron Life members will be Life members of all Flights. Only one a year may be elected (by Sqdn Conference) on written nomination from at least two Flights.

Conference did not make any appointments.

Next Conference.

Victorian delegates Jim Munday and Arthur Green urged Conference to meet next year in Melbourne. N.S.W. delegates Alf Hammond and Fred Brown moved that next Conference be in Hobart. Queensland delegates Charlie Warren and Jack Lewis supported them. After debate in which delegates said that in time, as travel became easier and cheaper, Squadron Conferences would undoubtedly be held in places, now distant, such as Alice Springs and Darwin, it was decided by 11 votes to 4 to go to Melbourne next year.

New Guinea.

Conference invited Q member Eric Lloyd (Deputy Leader of the Labor Party) to address it on the situation in Dutch New Guinea. A resolution was carried that while the inhabitants of Dutch New Guinea had an inalienable right to self-determination, in the meantime if any change in the status of Dutch New Guinea were to be made, it should be united with Papua as one country.

Jim Munday new Squadron President.

Jim Munday, a Victorian delegate, was chosen, with acclamation, as Squadron President. Vice Presidents are Sam Burlew of Sydney, and Mick Mason of London. Mick Mason, who is U.K. Flight President, is the first U.K. member to hold high Squadron office.

Eric Munckman and Peter Alexander were re-elected as Squadron Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

GOSSETTAIN COMMENTARY.

from

Bob Bruce.

The publication of the Squadron History takes precedence and pushes gossip columns such as this into the background--but, seriously, the success of the History, still hot off the press must be to its author, Peter Alexander, a just reward for his long hours in day out research, revision, etc. Congratulations, Peter.

Anzacday in Sydney.

For those not lucky enough to attend the All-States Reception in Brisbane, Sydney presented a number of functions over Anzac week. Firstly, Anzac Eve, saw 9 Squadron members, most magnificently escorted by a band of pipers from the R.A.F. Highland Pipe Band, attend a most impressive Wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph. Anzac Morning saw the 458 Banner once again marched through the Sydney streets. Jack Risley once again managed a business trip over from Perth (chaperoned this time) and again carried the Banner, ably assisted by Buster Balmer in his capacity of "Publicity Campaigner". The Squadron marching strength appeared to be some 40 Squadron members and then some 8/10 follows from other squadrons with no "home" who year after year accompany 458.

After the March.

The Hotel Phillip was the general rendez-vous. Soon there and really letting their hair down were noticed Jock McGowen (incognito, minus his moustache), Alan Piggott, Ernie Doman, Jack Risley, Stuart Ricketts, Dick Healey, Bob Millar, Jack Baker, Coo. Nation, Ray Davies, and others too numerous to remember (blame the fog). Alan Piggott again in "press on regardless" manner took a party of "bodies" to Ryde Bowling Club; others

Domestic Commentary (cont.).

after a long day, meandered home to bed.

Interstate members going and returning.

First on the list comes "Pappy" Macdonald, up from Melbourne on long service leave. He spent some time with Allan Walker and Slappy Hammond and met the boys in the Air Force Club before returning southwards. Johnny Bax and Ding (how many know his first name? Actually its Alf) Conway arrived in Anzac Week, after most of the mob had set sail for Brisbane. Peter Alexander met them at the Station, and Alan Piggott and Kitty entertained them until train time that evening. Nundi and Agnes were met by the Hammonds and Munkmans and joined forces for a car convoy to Brisbane with them. Al and Joy Wheat spent half a day in Sydney with Bobs Lyndon and Smith before Viscounting on to Brisbane.

Returning we first saw Al Wheat and there was a well-attended gathering in the Club in his honour. Among those there, for the first time for too long, we welcomed Fred Agnes.

A day or so later we had another good evening--a late one too--in honour of Nandi Carpenter. The wives were not forgotten during these parties. Our womenfolk saw to that. Ding and Johnny took the return trip quietly with relatives of Johnny's in Sydney but Sam Barlow saw them off on our behalf.

Annual Reunion and Elections.

Our 1959 Annual Meeting was relatively poorly attended and certainly consumed unusually little beer. One interesting and pleasing feature was the first attendance at a postwar 458 function of Charlie Piggott who we shall hope to see more of. The Committee were re-elected with two new-comers in John Carey and Joe Fenwick. Sam Barlow accepted a second year's term of office as N.S.W. President. Members paid a warm tribute to what Sam has done and does for 458 Squadron. Bob Bruce and Frank Ward continue as N.S.W. Secretary and Treasurer.

Next Events.

The Social Committee has planned a full and complete programme for 1959. Events will be announced from time to time. The first up is the Annual Picnic at Lane Cove National Park.

This will be on June 21st at the usual site. Anyone who has been to this regular Annual 458 function knows how enjoyable a day it provides for the whole family. Ice Cream, soft drinks, not so soft drinks; games prizes for the children are all being organised.

Country Reunion.

With the active advice and assistance of 458ers living in Canberra the second N.S.W. Country Reunion is being held in the National Capital over the long weekend of October 2/5th. Accommodation is being arranged for members and their families at the Hotel Ainsley-Rex. The programme being arranged includes a 458 Dance, golf and sight-seeing. This will be really something and members should make plans now to be in it. No one who went to the Orange Reunion is likely willingly to miss Canberra.

Air Force Ball.

458 plans to attend the Air Force Ball at the Trocadero in force this year. Date September 11th.

WE FIND AND DESTROY--the HISTORY OF 458 SQUADRON.

The long awaited and long worked for Squadron History came out just in time for Anzac Day. By now most of you will be in possession of your copy. Members can and will comment on the book, its make-up its appearance and its illustrations themselves. The author makes his comments below. Here we will just make one point. This is already incomparably the most successful thing the post-war Squadron has done by way of a single venture. It is selling like the traditional hot cakes. It has brought applications from members, on the mailing list for years but who, to our regret, nothing has before this tempted to put pen to paper. There are not too many left and we have not yet sought to make public sales in any degree. Members not yet in possession of a copy would do well to expedite if they want one.

This is the score:

N.S.W.

Previously reported 44. Now reported: D. Whiteman, F. Ward, G. Coombes, J. Dunn, F. Pettit, C. Hayward, J. McPhee, A. Dombkins, E. James, J. Baker, J. Pratt, W. Clarke, (2), C. Corten, S. Ricketts, B. Thompson, R. Davies, E. Coffill, R. Burgess, F. Paudet, C. Faraday, J. Carey, G. Bradd, T. Chapman, K. Everett, D. Bitmead, J. Hosking, D. Roberts, J. Brown, J. Miles, T. Moore, G. Saggars, J. Wilson, C. Morgan (2), R. Miller, D. Cameron, J. Hawke, F. Keith, R. Tyson (2), N. Griffiths, H. Marks, A. Ashton, F. Rowell, D. Cook, E. Lord, J. Miller, Pete Campbell (3), E. Skinner, R. Smith, C. Irwin, E. J. Baker, B. Wallace, H. Prout, C. Hankel, R. Wilson, W. Adams, J. Dawes, Mrs. R. Mackay, S. Simpson, C. Murray, H. Campbell, N. Walter, L. O'Brien, J. Fennell, J. Healey, W. Dight, P. Lewis-Hughes, L. Dawes (2), Don. Anderson, F. Ridge, R. Low, D. McNeil, J. Logan, A. C. Harris, S. Barlow, B. Reynolds, A. Yuille, R. Ricketts. Total including some non-Squadron sales: 147

Queensland.

Previously reported 42. Now, P. Hemingway, J. Lewis, R. Russell, H. Dorge, J. Wilson, W. Ernst, J. Cronau, T. Hutton, J. Baxter, J. Taylor, A. Atherton, E. Lloyd, C. Richardson, J. Carter, T. Ravenscroft,

To Find and Destroy (cont.)

Victoria. Previously 15. Now, G. Riddoch, L. Russell, J. Guthrie, W. Carr, G. Orchard, M. Hunter, R. Rabone, D. Firth, E. Macdonald, M. Singe, J. Morris, H. Young, J. Munday, A. Green, T. Burgess, G. Cowan, B. Colquhoun, A. Holmes, A. Clymo, I. Higlett, M. Mather, B. Moon, R. McKinna, J. Lane, K. Morkham, I. Giles, J. Fleming, L. Murr, G. Nash, J. Sharpley, R. Rodwell, A. Clarks, A. Packham (2), V. Clohesy, W. Lyon, E. V. Griggs, E. Littlehales, K. Guiney, B. Furrer, F. Ray. Total to date; 56;

South Aust. Previously 31. Now, B. Woodhead, D. Orchard (2), S. L. Cookes, J. McGlasson, K. Russell, Mrs. Woodhead, F. Enright, R. Warwick, J. Davies, I. Screll, J. Thredgold, A. Dickson. Total 44;

West Aust. Previously 6. Now, A. Main, E. Carpenter, A. Wheat (2), L. Stewart, R. Cannaway, E. Scott, Lloyd Simpson, R. Turley, S. Long, J. Palmer, E. Etherton (2), R. Chessell, J. Watson, P. McCarthy, P. Power, G. Jones, B. Williams, L. Gibbons, J. Riseley, Total to date 27;

N.S.W. L. Armstrong, I. Brown, H. Bishop, L. Cook, J. Dandy, W. Facey, H. Hamlet, R. Havers, T. Hicks, R. Hufton, M. Mason, E. Phillips, W. Prater, J. Rutter, S. Search, A. Sleight, S. Thompson, R. Tombs, W. Watt, R. Windett. Total to date 20;

Tasmania L. Cameron (2), H. Stevens, R. Jacklyn Total 4;

Overseas Previously 6. Now, B. Dean, R. Knight (2); S. Verity. Total 10.

Most of the Histories posted were got ready for dispatch during an evening at Sam Barlow's flat when a party of 458ers addressed labels, stuck them on (when Slappy stuck them on they stayed on!), inserted books into cartons, tied them up, tearing chunks from fingers in the process, and stacked them. Specifically, the author addressed the labels, Alf Hammond stuck them on, Cy Irwin put them in cartons, Ray Davies tied them up, helped by Cec. Nation. Bill McBride provided the cartons and string, Sam the labels. Bill, in particular, did us proud.

ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK.

by

Peter Alexander.

To Find and Destroy has been with me (and my family) a long time. We are glad it is out. First thought about ten years ago, its writing, re-writing, typing and so on must have absorbed the evenings of five years, all added in. Such as it is, it is now yours. I share the view that the Printers have produced a good looking job and the artist an attractive Dust jacket. As to the matter, you must judge yourselves.

I have felt, at times, considerable trepidation over the years. I was told, by some, that the History should not be "all operations" but should give squadron life-on-the-ground its share of the story. I got the clear impression that, by others, what was wanted was another "Dam Busters" to shew their families. This last feeling lingered with me and I have taken every opportunity to say, as I now do again, that the book is a history not a historical romance. I resisted the suggestion that I should "put a bit of Bullo in". Again, and this was inescapable, I knew that for practically every episode in the finished book, there would be at least one reader who knew more about it than I did and would be in a position to say "That's not quite right." That's the trouble about writing for an audience of people expert in your subject.

However I had the copies of official papers which Bill Carr got (and we all are in his debt for it); I had the diaries I kept throughout the War (in which I noted, Johnno, the snow on the summit of those Egyptian Hills); and I had the notes sent in by (far too few) members. To the latter, my thanks. I thereupon did my best.

I think the facts are, after all, what will come under closest scrutiny. A few things have been pointed out to me already. By and large I have not yet been torpedoed though glancing damage occurred by one near-miss;

One appalling suggestion was made (before publication) that "mentions" might have been distributed in a way favouring the State in which I happen to live. I had, and have still because I am not interested, no idea how the mentions fall as between States and countries. They fall where I know the facts and the facts justified names. Many good 458ers are unmentioned. I regret this but of course there were too many.

The book is selling well, which I think speaks for itself of 458 interest in it. Several members have been nice enough to speak to me in terms of considerable praise and I frankly admit this has caused me much gratification. To be honest, to see one's work in print, as a book, is no small thing. To 458 Squadron which willed the History and by its efforts brought it to fruition, my deep thanks for enabling me to have the privilege of being the writer of that History.

I would have liked to know several things I now know, in time to put them in. The Squadron News is now open to, and invites, contribution of "Stories the Historian Did Not Know." I shall now start the ball rolling with two.

You know the story of the pilot who decided to take the trip home to Australia on his own initiative and how he escaped Court-martial conviction on his return to the Middle East. Well, I did not know that the Authorities contributed exceedingly to their own downfall by being so exceedingly imprudent as to employ him on the ship carrying him back to the M.E. in the Orderly Room where he was able to obtain his personal papers--and put them through the port-hole. But, so Chas. told me recently in Brisbane, it did happen.

Then there was the pilot (Bob Helyar) who wrecked W/Odr. Cowling's personal Hurricane. The History did not know what the C.O. said. In fact, Bob tells me, the C.O. himself picked Bob up in his 20 cwt and said nothing. But Bob found a loaded revolver in

on his seat in the back of the gharri--a silent invitation to hara kiri which, you gather, he did not accept.

THE VICTORIAN VIEW.

by

"Observer".

Anzac in Melbourne. Approximately 40 members marched behind the Squadron banner, being led on this occasion by Bill Carr. I recall the following names of marchers: Harry Ashworth, Ian Alison, John Bilney, Eddie Bradshaw, Bill Bailey, Norm. Cugley, Stan Cartledge, Gordon Cuthbertson, George Cowan, Bill Henry, Peter Hedgcock, Bill Hurford, Don Johnson, Yank Martin, Mick Mather, Pappy Macdonald, Gordon Orchard, Cec. Percy, Jack Ramsay, Val Richards, Ron Russell, Bob Sherrah, Mick Singe, Lyle Wurr, Frank (Shorty) Wilson, Gordon Wise, Tony Weir, Tommy Wishart, and Harold Young.

Interstaters going to Brisbane. Arthur Green, Bill Carr and Pappy Macdonald met the train from the West and were able to locate Nundi Carpenter without any trouble. He and his wife were staying for a few days, which provided an opportunity for a gathering at Arthur and Elsie Green's home at which Cec. Percy, Frank Wilson, Pappy Macdonald, Bill Carr, Norm. Cugley and their wives were able to meet Nundi and his wife.

Arthur and Bill (with their Fords) again met the train from Adelaide a few days later to pick up "Ding" Conway and Johnny Bax and their families. Both were in transit to Brisbane. After showing them some of the sights of the City (and being booked for illegal parking on a Sunday) both carloads proceeded to Cec. Percy's home at Seaford for a really first class dinner. Had several beers and a game or two of billiards, then together with Cec and his wife took the party through the Dandenongs, then home to Arthur's place where Elsie served a quick but excellent snack before heading again for the train.

Next in order of appearance came Jack Riseley and his wife, Verna. They were returning home to the West and had a few days to look round our village. Again an opportunity for a houseparty presented itself---this time at the home of Bill and Mary Carr. In addition to Jack and his wife, there came Lyle and Joyce Wurr, Yank Martin, Arthur Green, and Frank and Alice Wilson. Again a variety of talk about a variety of subjects--of which I recall the Brisbane Reunion, Cec. Percy's swim, Squadron Orderly Room, Harry Jenkins' worries for the boys' health, the Squadron History, numerous brands of Australian Ale (these were export brands), Jim Munday at Brisbane.

Keeping to the arrival and departure order, next on the Melbourne serial were Bax/Conway party returning to Adelaide. Jim Munday and Arthur met them and were able to assist them to "fill up" the afternoon. The end result was, I hear, that they caught the Adelaide train that evening without being "poured on" as the saying goes--but only just.

Last but by no means least came Al. Wheat and his wife returning from Brisbane to the West. They stayed with Arthur and Elsie Green who, as always, were quick to extend their ability to put on yet another party. This time we also had Ken Brown, down from his farm in the Murray River Irrigation area. Eddie Bradshaw and Bill and Mary Carr came too. Ken has changed very little but Al. has grown, if you know what I mean (Harry Ashworth will).

The Post-war 458. It is a tribute to the post-war Squadron Association that so many years after we disbanded that so many of the chaps should be so keen as to think of facing up to a trip of several thousand miles to attend Reunions. Trips of up to 600 miles are commonplace here. I feel sure we in Victoria will in years to come be delighted to look after anybody either staying or passing through our city. Prospective visitors to Melbourne might please note that any of the below-listed members will always be available to meet you, look to your needs, and, what's more, guarantee to get you on your transport in time:

Jim Munday	MU 6015 (Business)	XU 4000 (Home);
Arthur Green	FW 6009 (Business)	FM 4393 (Home);
Bill Carr	JB 3511-Ext. 282 (Business)	JM 1941 (Home).

Coming Events.

Country Picnic in Burrum Beet. This is arranged for May 10th to Gordon Cuthbertson's place at Burrum Beet. There has been an excellent response with 25 car loads planning to go;

Social-Dance. After that we plan a Social-Dance. We are particularly keen to see some of our Victorian members at this function who we haven't seen as much if as we would like in recent times. Bring your wife or fiancée. Make it a Back to 458 evening. We want you there!

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Mrs. Florence Mackay, "Woodlands", Warrimoo Road, St. Ives, N.S.W.

Dear Peter Alexander, Thank you sincerely for sending me a copy of "We Find and Destroy"--from 458 Squadron. It was a thoughtful act--no doubt I should have discovered and enjoyed the book, but the courtesy in sending it to me has rather enhanced its value to the Mackay family. To me it is vitally interesting tying up so many loose ends in activities and geography. Frankly at the moment I can only consider the book as something of rich treasure to the Robert Mackay family--for our children to hear the story of a great squadron and to feel their

Correspondence (cont.)

Father was a small part of it,

Again, my thanks,

Florence Mackay.

From Bob Osborne, St Helen's Court, Great St. Helens, London.

Dear Peter,

.....when my wife arrived home with the new baby about a week ago, there was a huge box of flowers from "the Pommies of 458 Squadron". This was a wonderful gesture....

It all came about on Anzac Day when I went along to the Cenotaph service at 11.0 a.m., and found some of the boys. They made me very welcome, and from there we went to the Abbey service, and later, the bun fight at Australia House. The latter was very pleasant because I there met more of the chaps, about ten in all, and their wives, and later moved on, after visiting the hospital, to their dinner at the Marquis of Granby, which was beautifully arranged and a very pleasant evening. Must say the boys made me very welcome and it must also have been there that I let slip, in my alcoholic daze, that I was taking Gretta and the new baby (Victoria Mary) home on the following Friday.

As you know I have come over here permanently with Shell International Petroleum Company. I have had a pretty busy time since we arrived in November, with the new house, new car, new job and new baby, but things seem to be sorting themselves out now.

Must get on with some work..... Best wishes to everybody, Bob.

From Robin Knight, P.O. Box 15, Masindi, Uganda, British East Africa.

Dear Peter,

I have just received the Feb. copy of 458 Squadron News, and I am thereby spurred on to do something that I have long intended to do--namely to write and say how much I enjoy reading it.

Since leaving 458 at the end of 1944 in Italy, apart from a spell in the Middle East for a year, I have been in East Africa where I lived as a boy and where the rest of my family live. I have a great desire to visit Australia again, but it would appear unlikely that I shall be in a position to do so for a good many years yet--in fact until I can retire (if ever). East Africa is a lovely place and it is my home but if the Communists have their way we shall be thrown out sooner or later, whatever ties the Europeans may have with it. My desire to revisit Australia is not entirely due to my pleasant memories of the country, but in large measure to the fact that of all the friends I have in many parts of the world many of the finest were those I made in Aussie and on the Squadron.

I hear regularly (once a year) from my old crew--Dusty Miller, Bert Thompson, Mal Goers, Jack Cruttenden and Russ Coghlan, as also from Mel Priest and Bill Taylor.

As for me, I am in the timber industry and manage a large mill one hundred and sixty miles from anywhere, not far from Lake Albert if anyone feels like looking it up on the map. Uganda is very hot and tropical and with the help of the Commies is rapidly going Nationalistic. I have no doubt that when they get their independence, I along with the other Europeans who live and work here will be asked to leave. I shall then go and live in Kenya which is not so far "advanced", and where I have a small property and where my parents and brothers live. I have always thought that one of the wisest things you ever did in Australia was to lay down the White Australia Policy. Don't ever reverse it.

We have three children. The eldest is 21 and is in the R.A.F. as a cadet learning Electrical Engineering. The other two are at school in Kenya. There are no suitable secondary schools for Europeans in Uganda.

I am greatly looking forward to the publication of the Squadron History and am enclosing a cheque for 100/- to cover the cost. The balance I shall be grateful if you will divide evenly between Squadron funds and a pint or two at the nearest pub for any you can find and may remember me.

Good luck to you all, yours, Robin G. Knight.

From Eric Brown, 11, Fairfield Road, Bromley Kent, England.

Dear Peter,

Had a wonderful Anzac Day from the meeting in the morning at the Cenotaph, the extremely interesting and beautiful service in the Abbey, an afternoon spent as well as I've ever spent one in AI company at Australia House, and a most enjoyable evening, a complete success at the Marquis of Granby. You will hear all about the day in detail; my small contribution is enclosed--autograph hunting. Bob Osborne (a new Dad that week) obtained Mr. Laking's signature. Editor:--attached was a Westminster Abbey Order of Service on which were the signatures of about 30 458ers and their wives and of the N.Z. High Commissioner, a Mr. Laking. We saw among them Dick Tombs, Richie Ogilvie, Bill Anton, Walter Maryott, Steve Search, Charlie Humbles, Mick Mason, Bill Prater (it was really picking them to read Bill's signature; we attribute our ability to do it to the practice we get reading Bill Carr's handwriting), Henry Bishop, Bob Springall, Leon Armstrong, Bob Osborne, J. Connell, Bob Havers and Eric Brown.---

Eric continues: Looking round the tables on Sat. p.m., I thought how well everyone looked, old soldiers and not so young airman alike. We must have acquired some of that robust

Good Attendance (concluded.) health and vitality which abounded on the Squadron. I remember All Pinks in Sardinia swimming out towards the horizon without pause for rest.
 Cheerio for now, all the best,
 Eric Brown.

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from

Sid Thompsonsett.

369, Downham Way,
 Bromley, Kent.

We are so pleased to know the Brisbane Conference went off so well. Quite a kick for the Squadron to have a Premier to open the Conference and what a nice gesture to present a Squadron History to the Premier (any photos?)
 I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Squadron Histories here to send on to the chaps.
 I have just telephoned Mick Mason with the very good news of his being made one of the Squadron Vice-Presidents. He is very pleased.

Anzac Day. At 11.0 a.m. on April 25th., the Squadron laid a wreath at the Cenotaph. Harry Bishop laid it for us. Following this, at 12.0 a service was held at Westminster Abbey. For the tea at Australia House, we had a good attendance, 17 in all including wives, and unknown to us Bob Osborne turned up. He is now over here for quite some time, so he naturally joined in with us. After the tea, with time on their hands to kill until the dinner in the evening, the chaps and their wives made off to different places. I myself, having to work all day on Saturday could only make the dinner in the evening; and what an evening it was! To my mind the best we have ever had. Everyone voted it a smashing evening with many more to come they hope. Mick brought along a record player and it not only supplied music during dinner, but got us all dancing (even the Cha Cha) until time was called (five times over) at 11.0 p.m. Those who attended were: Sid Thompsonsett, wife and sister; Eric Brown, Harry Bishop and wife. Steve Search and wife. Mick Mason, wife and daughter. R. Gilvie (his first visit, he came over from Northern Ireland and stayed with Mick; it won't be his last visit). Bill Prater and cousin (Bill is going overseas in July--he is still serving as C/O Wireless), R. Springall, Walter Maryott, and Bob Osborne. We all had a really smashing evening and are all looking forward to the next function which we are hoping to hold in December sometime. Those who didn't come to the dinner missed one of the best evenings they could have attended.

General. Norm Gilbert, who is still serving has been posted to Malta. Roy Springall's wife gave birth to a son on May 9th. (458's congratulations, Roy--Editor)
 Now, all good wishes to 458 in Australia. Cheerio.

CHOCOLATES SAY..

A note from

'Butch' Power.

General Meeting.

We held our Annual General Meeting on March 20th. There was a very poor attendance. Election of officers resulted as follows:

President: Ron Gannaway;	Vice President: Jack Riseley;
Secretary: Peter Power	Auditor: Len Stewart;
Committee: Bill Clues, Sunny Williams, Gordon Jones.	

You will be interested to know we have Sammy Scott back in the fold.

458er of the Day---JIM MUNDAY, Squadron President.

Jim lives in Melbourne where he has always been a Squadron rallying point. That role he is now to play for 458 as a whole following his election in Brisbane as the Squadron President in succession to his crewmate, Jim Holliday.

He is, we believe, now General Manager of his family company, J. Munday and Co. Pty Ltd, which supplies belting and has interstate interests.

Jim was a Pilot with 458 Squadron, starting as second pilot to Jimmy Sargeant, and later having a crew of his own. He was not flying with Jimmy Sargeant when the crew came down in German territory and consequently did not become a POW as they did, but flew with 458 again in Egypt. Readers of We Find and Destroy will see him in the illustrations and read of him in the text. A big athletic man, he looks, as he is, a good player and keen follower of Australian Rules football (particularly Geelong football).

Jim's heart, a very loyal heart, is with 458. This is also to be said of Joan Munday. We wish them a happy and enjoyable Presidential year. We are very happy Jim is Squadron President.

CIVIL DEFENCE IN AUSTRALIA.

This means in practice Civil Defence against the Nuclear Bomb. We as readers visualise what Nuclear warfare could mean for them and their families? If a nuclear bomb is dropped in one of the big cities there will, of course, be huge areas of total devastation in which thousands will die; great buildings will collapse, great fires will rage. Further out there will be large areas of lesser damage, probably suburban areas of the sort in which many of us live. There there will be damage caused by heat and the great wind

Civil Defence in Australia (cont.)

which follows the blast. Very many will be injured. There will be complete dislocation of water, electricity, gas and transport. Telephones will not work. Children may wander homeless. That is something of the picture of the Target City. There is, in fact, much more than that. There is Fall-out. If, for example, an Atom Bomb is dropped on Adelaide there will be an area, about 100 miles wide, from Adelaide to ~~Adelaide~~ from Brisbane to Melbourne in which anyone who is out of doors for the next three days and nights will suffer the most serious consequences, even death. Animals will suffer likewise. The Target area will depend on how the winds are blowing at the time. All that may sound alarmist; it is indeed alarming and certainly no more than the facts. It is why the recent 458 Squadron Conference has asked the Flights to organise some Squadron activity in behalf of Civil Defence. There is a nucleus Civil Defence in a couple of States, not much elsewhere. Where there is some organisation, it needs men and women with some training to be ready to minimise the after-damage of an attack if one ever comes. Much can be done. Surely 458 will want its Flight Committees to take some action to forward Civil Defence and as a minimum organise some kind of lectures for members and their wives, so that we can, at least, know what to do for our families if the emergency ever came. We could, too, do a bit more than that and help the general Civil Defence Organisation to get under way. As ex-servicemen we might well think it a duty.

PLAQUES AND BANNERETTES.

The N.S.W. Committee has recently organised the importation of a pair 458 Wartime Squadron Crests, beautifully executed in colour in London in moulded metal on a wooden shield. Bernie MacLaughlin in Brisbane first thought of the idea and one hangs there in the United Services Club. One has been presented to the Sydney Air Force Club and the others have been snapped up by Sydney members. If you are interested they can be obtained for about £3-15-0. Contact Bob Bruce, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney. There will be some weeks delay in getting them out of course.

The small Bannerettes or pennants we have menti ned before were obtained just before Anzac Day and all sold forthwith. However more will be delivered very shortly. They are triangular pennants, about 10" long, in white felt, with a Winged Lizard, a blue sea below and "458" in sea-green. In other war ds they are painted in the 458 colours, light blue, dark blue and sea green. They are suitable, among other things for use in car aeriols or as wall decorations. Price 10/9d (post-free). Apply Squadron Secretary, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

BRISBANE AND THE WOMENFOLK.

A Comment from

Dorothy Munkman.

We set off, bright and early, on April 19th, in company with the Hammonds and the Carpenters and travelled via the New England Highway at a brisk pace, the Hammonds in the lead, the Munkmans copping their dust. We saw some wonderful scenery. We had a couple of hours at Wallabulah with Harry and Nita Baines, who entertained us most genially.

The Darling Downs stand out in my memory--and then the fabulous Gold Coast!

We met our hosts at the Dance in Brisbane where our husbands were not very interested in dancing with us --too many old mates to talk to and reminiscences to exchange!

On Friday Peg Halliday and Ruth MacDonnell took us up to Lane Pine Koala Sanctuary. We enjoyed it, and also watching our two young lasses Joan Box and Marilyn Conway hugging a smoke. Oh to be young and daring again! We wives were quite content to cuddle koalas!

Saturday morning we went to the opening of the Squadron Conference, quite impressive! The highlight for me was shaking hands with the Premier of Queensland who seems to be a very popular man. Saturday afternoon we stood in force to cheer our boys on the March and from the grins on their faces I think they appreciated our cheer squad.

Sunday--very pleasantly spent sight-seeing. We ran out of petrol but eventually lit up at Molly and Lew Johnston's, where we wound up a pleasant reunion with tremendous enjoyment.

I would like to say in closing that these 458 reunions are doing a lot to cement closer relationships and we wives have made a lot of good friendships we hope to continue far into the future.

Authorised by the Editor (F.C. Alexander)

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

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

Please send me the following 458 Squadron items:

Squadron History.....copies @ 31/6d ea.....

Squadron Ties:

Broadway..... @ 12/- ea..... Bobtail.....@ 12/- ea.....

Bow..... @ 6/- ea.....

Squadron Blazer Pockets.....@26/- ea.....

Squadron Bannerettes.....@ 10/9d ea..... Lapel badges..... @ 4/6 ea.....

NAME.....ADDRESS.....AMOUNT REMITTED.....