

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR.

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

Vol. 10, No. 40.

August, 1959.

## SQUADRON'S PROGRESS. THE HISTORY A SELL-OUT.

Since our last issue, sales of the 458 Squadron History, "We Find and Destroy", have continued steadily. The Squadron Secretary, who has combined the functions of Publisher and Retailer, has been involved in a steady evening job of wrapping Histories and bearing them to the Post the next day. Publication of the official story of the old Squadron has proved of extraordinary interest to 458ers (some of the comments are published in this issue under Correspondence) and the book has been sold-out.

### THE SECOND IMPRESSION.

Of course, we are going to have a second Impression. A Special Committee set up to examine the question has reported favourably, the Squadron President and Councillors have approved, and the second 500 are now rolling through the Presses. Delivery expected in late August. The Author has taken occasion to amend a few errors which have been pointed out. This time, since the second impression costs noticeably less than the first and we can this time afford the retailers exorbitant margin, we are going to sell some through the bookshops. However they will still be available direct from the Squadron Secretary and, for obvious reasons, we would prefer Squadron members to buy direct from the Squadron Secretary. We are, in intervals of typing this News, flat out in sending off circulars to booksellers; R.S.L. branches, libraries and so on. Quite sizeable advance orders have been placed already by some Sydney booksellers.

### DID YOU MISS THE FIRST IMPRESSION?

Not too many 458 members did miss as the sales list will indicate:

N.S.W. Previously reported: 147. Now reported: Col. Campbell, L. Thiele, J. Bryson, W. Archbold, P. McCulloch, H. Baines, A. F. Smith, Ken Gunn, E. Toyer, W. Perkins, D. Boydell, Les. Piggott, J. Preston, E. Lyndon, W. Laughlin, Archdeacon Davies, A. Hammond, A. Rackham, L. Barlow, Dr. Wadsworth, D. McGuigan, 42 non-Squadron; total to date 210:

Victoria. Previously reported: 56. Now reported: V. Richards, D. Johnson, R. Smith, I. Alison 2 H. Jenkins, S. Varcoe, J. McKenzie, J. Rosenberg. Total 65:

Queensland. Previously reported: 64. Now reported: A. Jones, M. Gibson 2, R. Male 2, J. Thorpe, S. Parker 2, C. Warren. Total 73:

South Australia. Previously reported 44. Now reported: B. Taylor 3, M. Senn, W. Cribb, C. Hanlon. Total 50.

Western Australia. Previously reported 27. Now reported: G. Burgess, Don Daniels, C. Geddes, N. Humphreys, W. Kelliher, H. Hemy, A. Glassford, H. Manton, D. Tunney, Lock Simpson 4, J. Mitchell, M. Waldock, H. Hortin, K. McLeod, R. Featherby, P. Power, W. Clues, T. Dale. Total 49.

Tasmania. Previously 4. Now added: E. Mailer, A. Peace. Total 6.

United Kingdom 20.

Overseas. Previously 6. Now: D. Watson 2, A. Rubidge, G. Ough, Ralph Duffey. Total 15.

Total sales including a few review copies, 496.

We hope 458ers not yet in possession will take the renewed chance of getting their copy which the second impression is, unexpectedly enough, going to offer them.

## CORNSTALK COMMENT.

from

Bob Bruce.

## CANBERRA REUNION.

The date of the Reunion in the National Capital has been altered and will now take place over the weekend 25th, 26th. and 27th. September, 1959. Thanks to Col. Fereday, Keith Austin, and other 458 members in the Australian Capital Territory, an interesting itinerary has been arranged, and bookings made at the very comfortable Hotel Ainsley-Rex.

### Cornstalk Comment (cont.)

Cost of the accomodation is 23-5-0d. per person per night. Will anyone desiring to be in it please let the N.S.W. Secretary know as soon as possible. Families, of course, are invited too. The Itinerary is to include sightseeing, golf, dancing, and probably a barbecue trip to Cotter Dam. Everyone interested will be given final times as soon as we determine them. It may be possible to arrange car transport if you are not in a position to supply your own.

### THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION BALL.

This event, which 458 members plan to attend in strength in lieu of organising a separate Squadron Ball, is to take place at the Trocadero on Friday September 11th, 1959. We hope to have a 458 Squadron Table of 30-40; will you join in? Tickets and reservations to the Squadron Table can be organised. Price £2-10-0d per double.

### GOLF.

The first outing for some time was held at Studley Park, Camden, on July 26th and there was a fair roll-up of members and friends. The winner was Harry Baines who must have been using his holiday time in sharpening up on his game. Due to the lateness of the start on a winter's day the match was decided over twelve holes only. Among the players present were Sam Barlow, Cy, Irwin, Alf. Hammond, Freddie Ridge, Graeme Coombes, Stuart Ricketts, Frank Ward, John Keogh, Allan Walker, Sid Bowen, Bob Bruce and other friends of members and their various wives and ladies.

For the information of keen golfers, who are not going to Canberra, there is to be held on Saturday September 26th a Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Cup Tournament under the auspices of the Air Force Association. This Cup, which is for contest by members of recognised golf Clubs, was originally contested annually by the Australian Flying Corps before the War. There will also be Social Competitions, for a superb series of trophies presented by Caltex for those without Club handicaps. The place Riverwood Golf Club; the time from 9.45 a.m. Entry 10/- direct to the Air Force Association BL 1341 well in advance of the date.

### CRICKET.

A match is being arranged against an opposition yet to be arranged at Kitchener Park, Mona Vale on Sunday 11th. October, 1959. Please contact the N.S.W. Secretary or Cyril Irwin, if interested. This is a beautiful area. Liquid refreshment and changed room facilities provided.

### SOCIAL NIGHTS.

Alan Piggott, Secretary-Licencee of Ryde Bowling Club has kindly invited all members and their ladies to a Social Club at the Bowling Club on Saturday Evening 22nd. August 1959, at 8. p.m. Please contact the N.S.W. Secretary.

Kemp Beach is proposing an "At Home" evening at his home at Summer Hill for Saturday night 24th. October. More of this in the next issue.

Future plans include a tennis day at "Mt. Wilga" on 15th. November. The President's Cup day at Golf (date to be decided) and a Christmas Social on 12th. December 1959. It goes without saying that all members and their wives and families will be wanted and welcomed at these functions, which are organised in the name of 458 for your enjoyment.

---

### CIVIL DEFENCE EVENING.

The Squadron Conference in Brisbane in Anzac Week declared 458's support for the Civil Defence project and asked the Flights wherever possible to take part in the C.D. Organisation in their State.

Arising out of this the N.S.W. Committee arranged a Civil Defence Evening at 330, George Street, Sydney for August 14th. N.S.W. has quite a well-organised C.D. Organisation in nucleus and seems to be the most advanced State in Civil Defence (some State Governments as yet have been able to achieve practically nothing).

The Sydney evening consisted of three films, originating from the British Civil Defence, which dealt with the H Bomb and with Residual Radiation; and a talk by Colonel Lilywhite of the C.D. Headquarters. The idea behind it all was to give members an idea of what to do for their families if there were Atomic Radiation around and to see what 458, individually or possibly as a unit could do to help.

John Garey provided the cinematographic gear and also a W.C. Fields short to open proceedings. Afterwards there was a very enjoyable supper and beer for members and their wives who came.

It was all very interesting. We learned something of the areas likely to be lightly or severely damaged or obliterated by an H. Bomb. We learned, most important, how the prevailing Australian high-level winds will carry the atomic cloud with its death-dealing radiation from fall-out. We learned something of what we should do when and if the radiation peril comes. We learned that in Fall-out areas every living soul will have to remain indoors under protection for two whole days. We got an inkling of the precautions which can be taken in advance for such circumstances.

Colonel Lilywhite said that our members with their background of training could as individuals make excellent C.D.O. Staff officers. As a unit, he later commented, we might be able to form a reserve H.Q. Signals Unit to undertake duty in emergencies (including flood relief which is a C.D.O. function in N.S.W.). The N.S.W.

Civil Defence Evening (cont.)

Committee is to consider how much it is feasible for us to undertake and to perform.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

by

Jim Holliday.THE WINTER SEASON.

Our customary Winter Social and Dance went off in fine style on Saturday July 4th. in the pleasant surroundings of the Waterside Workers Recreation Hall. There were over 100 members with their wives and guests. The enjoyable dancing was enlivened by some clever miming by two young friends of one of the members. The facial expressions of these two artists were extremely funny. Further laughter was brought about by a balloon dance introduced by Jack Lewis. Many members were more skillful with balloons than they were with aircraft.

The highlight of the evening was the drawing of the raffle for a Utility Set donated by Gordon Postle. The lucky winner was Bernie McLoughlin, the only bachelor member of Q Flight.

ANNUAL REUNION.

Plans are afoot to hold the Annual Reunion and election of officers on Saturday 12th. September. Members will be circularised concerning this shortly.

SQUADRON FLAG.

From Theo Hutton we have received a tattered and torn Australian Flag which Theo believes flew over all the Sergeants' Messes that 458 established from Egypt to Bone. It didn't go beyond Bone because Theo took care of it from then onwards. Now he feels that the Flag should be given its rightful place in the safekeeping of the Squadron. Q.Flight intends to display it at all functions in the future and to give it a place of prominence alongside its Banner.

FLAGS.

The comment made by the Queensland Correspondent above about the Bone Australian Flag is interesting. The Flags that flew over 458's Sergeants' Messes seem to have had some survival power. We (the Editor) received some years ago, and still have, from Ernie Laming, a tattered Australian Air Force Ensign which we also understand flew over the Sergeants at Bone. However perhaps Ernie will refresh our memory on the point?

BRITISH BULLETIN.

from

Sid Thompsett.

Three parcels of Squadron Histories have arrived, safe and sound and will go out to members soon. I have also received the May Squadron News and the report of the Brisbane Conference. I myself am looking out for my 458 Pennant, which is due here shortly. I am ordering three more wall plaques at Bob Bruce's request.

As requested, I will return to the Squadron Secretary the various Tapes made, to be kept in Squadron records.

I have heard from Bob Osborne, who is now in London with his wife and young baby daughter.

Not much has been happening here since I last wrote. We are now right bang in the middle of our Annual Holidays. Arrangements have been made for our Autumn Reunion. It will take place on November 21st. at the Feathers Hotel, Westminster. We are hoping to get another tape at the Reunion.

This seems about to wind it up, so, cheerio and all the best.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

JOHNNY ROSENBERG  
RALPH DUFFEY

is now living in Melbourne;  
judging by the postage stamps on his application letter for a copy of "We Find and Destroy" is somewhere in Bechuanaland Protectorate, South Africa;

BLACK-JACK BAKER  
LEN STEWART

has moved, with his family, from Crows Nest, Sydney, to Epping; spent some time in Sydney recently on a Course. Some of his Squadron mates were able to have a few with him in the Air Force Club before his return home;

PETER ALEXANDER

who has combined Squadron activities for some years with the position of Honorary Secretary/Treasurer (and Licensee) of the Sydney Air Force Club, was elected as a Life Member of the Club at its Annual General Meeting. He is a Commonwealth Public Servant;

Personal Paragraphs (cont.)

PETE PETTIT has our congratulations, as does his wife June, on the birth of their third child, Jacqueline Kay. They have three daughters; We recently had a tooth filled by Pete, who is practising dentistry at 381, Pitt Street Sydney.

"JAF" FENWICK also has our congratulations on an increase. He and his wife have a son, Andrew;

RON HILLS is the third 458er to earn congratulations. He and Mrs. Hills also have a new son, Richard;

DOUG and THAMAR BENNETT are back in Sydney permanently. Doug is Administrative Assistant to the Chief Engineer of the N.S.W. Water Conservation Commission. They are temporarily staying with Thamar's parents in Bondi and are looking for a house. Thamar recently entered a Singing Talent Quest and won a prize of £50;

BILL ADDINALL has been teaching at Wyong, making the long journey there from his home at Maroubra daily we are told. He has now, we are also told, gained a Fulbright Scholarship for a lecture tour in the United States for 12 months. His wife and two children go too. Their headquarters will be south of Vancouver.

DON BITMEAD has finished, very successfully, the exams necessary to become a High School teacher and is now teaching at Birrong High School;

NEVILLE VANCE is now an Assessor, Grade IV, with the Sydney Income Tax Dept.

F/Lt. BARRETT who was Squadron Navigation Officer at Bone and Alghero is now a Sqdn. Leader and A.P.M. with the R.A.F. at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya;

ALLAN RACKHAM recently wrote for his History from Cooma where he is with the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority;

LOCK SIMPSON recently arranged for Russ McMillan's parents in Bendigo to receive a copy of the Squadron History. He suggests that the Squadron consider sending a copy to other relatives of the Squadron Dead;

KEN RUSSELL with his family has been temporarily transferred to London where he expects to see Leon Armstrong;

KEN GUNN in Forbes, N.S.W., wishes Macca, Jack Miles, Bob Millar and Tommy Mitchell to know that he hasn't had a drink for 18 months now

458 PICNIC.

Kemp Beach reports that the Squadron Picnic, in Lane Cove National Park, went very well this year. There were 24 families there. Bob Lyndon was barbecuing from 12-3 and barbecued practically everything except himself. He and his son, however, were able to win the Father and son three-legged race. Among the race winners we see such names as Geoff. Baker, Beryl and Ron. Munkman, Lyn Miller, Charles Baker--and also Edna Piggott and Dorothy Munkman.

OUR CHANGED TECHNIQUE .

Yes, we are now printed instead of duplicated. It is still due to the good offices of Bob Millar but the stencils are now cut on a new (to us) process. The Gevalith stencils are put into the usual typewriter (with a struggle and some help from the scissors), typed on with a special ribbon and the typing errors obliterated with a special pencil. How it works is, we freely admit, a mystery to us. But it is very much quicker to print than to duplicate and the results much clearer and apart from our having, in our inexperience got too near the margins on page one, better allround. Thank you, Bob.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

by

'Butch' Power.IS THIS YOUR LAST SQUADRON NEWS ?

At the moment we have 20 financial members out of a potential 65/70. It isn't good enough and we shall have to adopt a positive attitude towards the chaps who turn up and enjoy the Anzac Reunion and get the Squadron News but never pay an annual sub. We shall send out a final appeal and then ask that Squadron News be sent only to financial members. Our bi-annual meeting is scheduled for late in September.

BUCKS NIGHT.

On Friday 17th. July we held a Bucks Night with 460 Squadron. There was plenty to eat and drink but the 458 roll up was poor. The evening was a "howling" success, and the "piece de resistance" was a long double-sided record produced out of an asbestos cupboard by one of our visitors, a bloke from 35 Squadron. This record featured such well-known classics as the "Seven Old Ladies....", "The Ball at Carriemoor", etc, etc, in their natural unexpurgated condition. You can imagine. I got home at 3.15 a.m. and there were still some players and stayers when I left.

WESTERN PERSONALITIES. AL. WHEAT who is a tiger as far as 458 is concerned,

Sandgroppers Say...(cont.) Made the long journey from Geraldton to attend the Bucks Night with 460 Squadron. JACK RISELEY'S good lady VERNA has just been discharged from hospital and all of us hope she will soon be fit and well again.

"CHESS" CHESSELL has been out of circulation with a bad back. However these wiry blokes are hard to keep under for long and we feel sure he will be in it again before long. CHARLIE MCCARTHY is (or was) on Direction Island in the Cocos Group. ETTIE, his good wife wrote and said Charlie had received his copy of the History and it had taken precedence over the newspapers.

ALL-STATES REUNION, 1962. As a long term project, we want to hold the All-States Reunion and Squadron Conference to be held in Perth in 1962. It will actually be the turn of either N.S.W. or S.A. and our turn is not due till 1963. However 1962 is Empire Games Year in Perth and we hope to get the consent of N.S.W. or S.A. and have the All States Reunion in Perth to coincide with the Games. It may be an ambitious thought at this early date but time soon passes and accommodation (Hotel not private) will be as scarce as hens' teeth. We feel that all those who made the trip before will support us as we can promise at least to equal our last effort.

Kindest regards.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

"WE FIND AND DESTROY".

From Stan Parker, Box 446, Ayr, N. Queensland.

Dear Peter, Please accept my heartiest congratulations for the production of We Find and Destroy. It is really an excellent history of 458 and I am proud to have been one of the many members. Reading the book stirred many memories for me and brought to mind names I had forgotten.

I well remember our fourteen hour hop from Gibraltar to Kasfareet in a IC. I was at Abu Sueir when the Yank Boston ran into the bombed up IC. That was certainly a lively evening. You mentioned Mac's L for London burning at Protville. I was W/Op in her with Mac the previous evening when we had some starboard engine trouble and I was standing in the cockpit when she caught fire. The fitter was starting the motor when it blew flame the length of the kite. My flying kit was aboard and in due course I lodged a claim for new kit. I was told to report to the C.O., and as I walked into his tent Mac said "Stan, is this all the kit you lost?" When I replied "Yes." he threw the paper to me saying "Go back and submit a decent claim." Which I promptly did and increased my wardrobe somewhat.

I haven't heard anything of Adj. Baird for some time. When I read that Bruce McKenzie is coming to Sydney next year I wondered if Adj. would allow Mac to take him for a drive. You probably know that Adj. refused to ride in the car at Protville because Mac. used to speed. On one occasion Adj. switched off the motor and got out, throwing the key back to Mac.

Have Dick Prior and Dave Thompson ordered copies of the History? I still write to Dick and Dave occasionally. I haven't heard of or from John Cousins since he left us at Malta. Both Dick and John received the D.F.C. for their 458 tour. Dick was later C.O. of 221 Squadron, R.A.F.

I well remember the re-formation of 458 at Shallufa. I drove one of the first Sqdn. trucks from Cairo to Shallufa and for a while I drove the ration truck into Suez.

Alf. Peake and I are the only 458ers in Ayr.

Thanks again for a wonderful job well done. Kind regards,  
Stan Parker.

From Jimmy Whitten, Director of Animal Industry, Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

Dear Peter, In the first place I should like to congratulate you most heartily on the fine standard achieved in the writing and publication of the squadron's history. I enjoyed it very much indeed.....

The second point I wish to raise refers to your paragraph in the February News stating that Colonel McKenzie is visiting Australia..... I would be very glad to assist him if his visit is to include the cattle raising zones of the Northern Territory..... I would be glad if you would pass on the suggestions to him in due course.....

The third matter I wish to mention relates to a suggestion, again in the February News, that an All-States Reunion might be held within the next few years at Alice Springs. If this were the case, there would be little doubt as to who would be the local arrangements committee as Mick Costello and myself are the only two Squadron members here as far as I know. There are, however, plenty of R.A.A.F. types in the town and Anzac Day is quite

Correspondence (cont.)

a feature, and I would be glad indeed to push the matter along. In this connection, I will be in Sydney on leave during December and January next, and we might take the opportunity of having a look at it in some more detail.

yours sincerely,  
Jim.

From Bruce McKenzie, M.L.C., Nairobi, Kenya.

My dear Peter, Very many thanks for your letter of the 5th. July. I am afraid my visit to Australia at Easter next year will have to be postponed. For my sins, I have now been appointed Minister for Agriculture but sincerely hope that this will only mean a postponement of my trip and not a cancellation.

.....

When you next see Caesar please give him my kind regards and tell him when pressure lets up I will write to him. The last I heard of him was either in Portugal or Spain.

I am enjoying reading "We Find and Destroy" although I must confess that I feel a little embarrassed in reading some of the pages. Anyway I sincerely congratulate you on your wonderful effort.

My regards to any of the boys you may meet.  
yours sincerely,  
Bruce.

From Mrs. Joy Perry, 15, Margaret Street, Port Augusta, S.A.

Dear Peter, Jim seldom finds time to put pen to paper these days, so I am writing a few words on his behalf. We received our copy of "We Find and Destroy" and thoroughly enjoyed it. So many familiar names kept popping up and it is interesting to see how they are progressing in the regular newsletters. We think the finished product was a fine reward for your ten years spent in preparation.

Jim's joinery business is flourishing and as new projects are coming to Port Augusta, he expects to have plenty of work for a few years.

Last Christmas the Kingston Nobbs and Henry Ethertons spent a few weeks with us and we see Bob Drinnan regularly. All are well.

We are both actively interested in the local branch of the A.F.A., which is a progressive club. If you intend to write a sequel to "We Find and Destroy" we wish you lots of luck.

yours sincerely,  
Joy Perry.

From Ron Verity, Bohally Intermediate School, Blenheim, New Zealand.

Dear Peter, Congratulations on the publication of the Squadron History. It must have been difficult making a decision about what to include and what to omit. If I have any regrets, they would be, in the main, two in number:

(i) too often the captains of aircraft are mentioned to the exclusion of the crew; and (ii) a group photograph such as was taken at Protville would have given a lot of odd bods a real kick. But I am talking out of turn.....

I wonder more of the lads have not shown an interest in the Squadron. Even in my crew there were Alan Ruggles (Navigator), Ernie Allanson (2nd. pilot), Eric Fendick (S.E. operator), Gerry Landry (W.Op), "Bill" Munro (Gunner). How I wish I could see them all again. They were a grand team.

Did I tell you about Eric? The day we were operating from Bone and had a motor which was running rough. I decided to return to Base. Eric had not been plugged in on the intercom. when I asked Rug, the Navigator, for a course back; and as Ernie went back to stand by the petrol cocks Eric caught hold of him and, lifting up his helmet asked "What the so and so's wrong?". Ernie picked up Eric's pencil and wrote "The port engine is vibrating badly." Eric capped it with "and so am I."

Next day (after being unable to locate any trouble), Cec. Percy and I took the kite up again and it behaved perfectly. Just one of those gremlins!

.....By the way, do you happen to have any roll of N.Zedders still interested in the Squadron, or am I a lone wolf?

.....Congratulations once again from  
Ron Verity.



Correspondence (cont.)From Mrs. Mary Ind, 4, Wentworth Avenue, Parkes, N.S.W.

First and foremost I must congratulate you for the book "We Find and Destroy". It is a wonderful piece of work and I enjoyed it as much as Jack did. Jack lent the book to the Mayor of Parkes to read and he too was very happy about it. In fact, so much that Jack has promised him one to put in the R.S.L. Library, of which the Mayor is President. I am enclosing a cutting out of the "Diggers' Doings" from the local paper so you can read what the Mayor thinks of the work.

We are having our Air Force Ball on Saturday August 29th. and I am going to decorate our table (14 guests) in the Squadron colours and would dearly love to have a Squadron bannerette in time for that as it would be a centre for me to build around.

Jack was working in Cowra last week and stayed at the Australian Hotel and was pleased to see that Harry Baines has taken it over and said to tell you all that he serves a very good brew.

Jack also wishes to be remembered to Harry Densham and Snowy Atherton. I myself would like to be remembered to Dorothy Munkman and Yvonne Crompton and the rest of the gang I met in Sydney and Orange.

We now have two lovely granddaughters.

Best wishes to all 458ers.

Mary and Jack Ind.

From Ron Badger, 8, Goods Crescent, South Australia.

Dear Peter, Having received and digested my copy of "We Find and Destroy", I would like to extend my sincere personal congratulations for your fine effort.

The magnitude of writing this book after such a long time almost overwhelms me and naturally a few errors are bound to occur. One I detected is the insertion of Slappy Hammond's name in lieu of my own in the swimming episode at Aden. However as I have said to many; if we didn't write in when invited to do so; nobody has any kick coming.

I can fully realise that the angle you would adopt must have exercised your mind considerably and I feel you have done the job really well with a comprehensive coverage on all phases of Squadron life.....

With kindest regards,

Ron Badger.

(Editor's note: We deeply appreciate Ron's congratulations and, really, it would be impossible for anyone to draw attention to an omission in a more kindly way than Ron has above. However, there do seem to have been several people in the harbour water at Aden at the time. Slappy, who was in fact our authority for his participation in the swim, now confirms that he did swim, round and round, as described in the book.)

MEMBER FROM THE APPLE ISLAND.From "Tote" Peace, Koonya, Tasmania.

Dear Peter, As a wireless operator I learned that "Silence is Golden" only to be broken in extreme emergency. However as I am unlikely to receive a copy of the Squadron History if I remain silent any longer it may fairly be said that a state of emergency exists.

Many thanks for all those copies of the Squadron News I have received. It must be disheartening at times to you and all those who are working so hard to keep the spirit of the Squadron alive when members like myself go for years without making contact. I know the feeling as a small band of us here have been for years trying to stir up interest in the ex-servicemen to build clubrooms. We are, I am pleased to say, now meeting with some success, and perhaps next year, should some 458ers stray this way we may be able to regale him in a way befitting such a seasoned and travelled warrior.

My service with the Squadron only lasted from Shallufa to Malta, consequently I would not be known to many, although I have a sneaking idea the "Black Panther" remembers me. To all those who joined the Squadron from 216, and to George Unitt, Clancy Harris, John Pilcher and Alec Barras, I send my best wishes.

After returning from the M.E. in 1944, the trip home being somewhat extended by contact with one or two of those tin fish (of which Dizzy Dean and Alec Barras thought so little), I finished the war flying in Catalinas with 43 Squadron.

I remember the snow on those Egyptian hills. Jack Kewley, Jack Kelly and I journeyed to Cairo that day on the back of an open truck, and were only kept alive by an obliging Yank with a bottle of Paul Jones.

For the record, I am a farmer of sorts, on a hillside across Norfolk Bay from Llanherne Aerodrome. We have three children, David, 18, Eric, 13, and Anne 7.

Should any 458er be so far off course as to make a landfall here, we will

Correspondence (cont.) endeavour to see that he does not regret it.

I am enclosing my subscription for the Squadron plus a small contribution for Squadron funds.

yours sincerely,  
Aristote Peace.

From Junior Hawke, The Wire Fence. (Orange, N.S.W.).

Dear Peter, As the world's worst scribe, about the best compliment I can pay you regarding the Squadron History is to write and tell you how much I enjoyed it. Instead of a mass of boring facts and details I was surprised to find it light, humorous and very easy to read, filling in all the gaps in my knowledge of the Squadron's activities. Being a 458er, I guess I am naturally prejudiced but I enjoyed your book equally as well as any of the post-war books like the "Dambusters" and others. I shall side with you about those snowcapped mountains of Egypt, although the sunshine on a bare head can cause some funny things to take shape.

Nola and I now have a little son of some six months of age, whom we called Stephen John. Naturally he is the apple of my eye and fills our house with great happiness and amusement. He caused quite a flap by catching encephalitis but thank Heaven he is now O.K. with no aftereffects.

Could not make Brisbane because of the little chap but hope you will give us the chance of entertaining the troops at Orange again in the near future. Ken Crago sent me a detailed report of the Brisbane activities. I thought we might have seen Dave Firth on his way through but he evidently went another way.....

yours sincerely,  
Junior Hawke.

458er OF THE DAY.  
MICK MASON---SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENT.

Mick Mason, who is the first member of the U.K. Flight to hold Squadron office, lives in London. Indeed we would say he is a Londoner par excellence. He is also, and has been for a year or so, U.K. Flight President. Most of our readers will remember him on the Squadron, when he was a corporal in the Transport Section. Since the war he has established a very prosperous business in London. He seems to do a lot of interesting travelling on his holidays having recently toured Italy (again). He visited Milan, Rome, Naples, Sorento and finally the Isle of Capri. His comment was that it was very nice to see Italy again but very expensive. For instance, a pot of tea cost 12/- !

Mick has a couple of electrical shops, one managed by his wife the other by his daughter. Mick does a lot of contract work himself.

We hope his travels bring him to Australia before long. In the meantime, we send him our warm greetings from 458 in Australia to London, 12,000 miles away, where he with Sid Thompson and his committee keeps 458 in being in the heart of the Empire.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.  
This issue is very substantially filled with letters from readers. For this, no apologies. We think, in general, a letter from another 458er is about as interesting a thing as another member can get in his Squadron paper. We acknowledge, for ourselves, the pleasure we get when a member's letter arrives. Let's have them.

THE EDITOR (Peter Alexander), Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.

TO THE SQUADRON SECRETARY  
Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, Australia.

Please send me.....copies of the 458 Squadron History  
"We Find and Destroy",  
for which I enclose £....., @ 31/6d. per copy (post paid).

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
.....

Office Use Only.  
Rec'd £.....  
.....copies sent on.....