

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR.

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, Australia.

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February, 1960.

## MELBOURNE PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED.

The Victorian Flight Secretary has announced the provisional programme for the All-States Reunion at Anzactime in Melbourne. This will be the 8th. All-States Reunion of 458 SQUADRON. Bill Carr announces that accommodation for interstate members and their wives will be arranged at the Hotel Cecil, where 458 members are in general well-known.

The programme (which may be subject to changes) is	
<u>Friday April 22nd.</u>	Afternoon: Arriving members met and welcomed;
	Evening: Social dance;
<u>Saturday April 23rd.</u>	Morning: Squadron Conference;
	Afternoon: Sporting fixtures, etc;
	Evening: Parties at Melbourne members homes;
<u>Sunday April 24th.</u>	Day: Anzac Cup Golf Day, Picnic, W.A. Cup (footrace);
<u>Monday April 25th</u>	Morning: Anzac March;
	Afternoon: All-States Reunion; (Ladies entertained by the
local 458 ladies:	Evening: Wind-up.

## Who's Coming ?

A Squadron member who has been to all the All-States Reunions comments that the programme arranged is, in the well-established tradition of these Annual Reunions, an exceedingly interesting and entertaining one but that it is not possible in plain print to convey to anyone who hasn't been to one what the spirit of friendship and hospitality is which pervades a 458 All-States Reunion. He said that the Interstate members, and their families, in particular, who start with the holiday feeling, find themselves with the thrill of a new city and the extraordinary attraction and joy of the friendship renewed of old wartime comrades and their families. He added that to miss such an experience, which 458 is perhaps the only organisation in Australia to provide, is to miss one of the best things in life.

Latest reports indicate a preliminary starters list which includes the following interstate members (without separately listing their accompanying families and friends): Sam Barlow, Bob Bruce, Cy. Irwin, Alf. Hammond, Eric Munkman, Fred Strom, Noel Spurling, Peter Alexander, Butch Power, Joe Elliott. Of course, there will be many more.

Potential starters should notify either the Squadron Secretary (Box 5289, Sydney), or the Victorian Secretary (Bill Carr, 36, Harbury Street, Reservoir, Vict.).

## PADRE BOB DAVIES TO BE A BISHOP.

Bob Davies who is very well known to 458 members, as he is to all R.A.A.F. men who served in the Mediterranean area, is to leave Wagga Wagga, where he has been Archdeacon for some years. He is going to be Warden of S. John's College, at Morpeth, N.S.W., and also Assistant Bishop in Newcastle. His appointment has been widely welcomed and we hope that a large party of 458 Squadron members and wives will be able to attend his consecration by the Archbishop of Sydney at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew in Sydney in the middle of 1960.

Bob was born in the British Isles, coming to Australia at the age of 12 and going to school at Cessnock. He took his Th.L degree at S. John's, Morpeth in 1936, was ordained in 1937 and served as Deacon and priest at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, for four years.

Appointed Toc H. padre for the Middle East, he transferred to the R.A.A.F. and did very notable work as a chaplain.

After the war he attended the University of Queensland and was vice-Warden at St. Johns College, taking his B.A. degree there.

Padre Bob Davies to be a Bishop (cont.)

His Master's degree was conferred by the University in 1952.

In 1949 he became Rector and Archdeacon of Canberra, and after four years there, moved to Wagga Wagga, where again he was Rector and Archdeacon. He is married with two small children.

Squadron officers have commented on the pleasure Bob's preferment has given to all 458ers. Our congratulations to you, Bob !

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q.

My sincere apologies for missing Q. Flight's contribution to the last issue of Squadron News. I've had my ear chewed not only by practically every member of "Q" Flight but also by their wives as well. It happened very simply. I mistook the date that Peter wanted it by exactly one month.

Much Doing in the Flight. There has been a great deal happening in "Q" Flight since our last communique. First there was the Annual Reunion and election of officers at the A.T.C. Mess on the 12th. September. Lew Johnston, before stepping down from the Chair, was able to report a very active year and despite the drain on finances due to the Reunion, we finished the year with a slightly better balance than the previous year. The election of officers resulted in Jack Lewis being elected as President, a popular choice and one well deserved. Yours truly was duly elected as Secretary despite his vehement protestations which were ruled out of order by the incoming President. Jack Lewis also kindly agreed to continue to fill the office of Treasurer. The usual committee was elected, with the addition of Joe Elliott and Jack Baxter. The Annual Reunion was poorly attended and, for the first time, the grog didn't run out.

Horse race in Melbourne. "Q" Flight conducted its usual Melbourne Cup Sweep which met with its usual good response and modest financial return. The drawers of first and second horses were friends of members but it was pleasing that a staunch supporter, Bill Snowden, romped home with third prize.

Christmas Social. The Christmas Social held on 28th. November was the best yet in numbers, enthusiasm and enjoyment. Perhaps it was because of the return to the A.T.C. Mess, where there is not only an "Atmosphere" but no limit to knocking-off time. It was another 3.0'clock job. A highlight of the evening was the raffle for an electric train donated by Bernie McLoughlin and transformer by Charlie Warren and Associate member Merv. McLurg. Tickets were confined by wish of the donor to members and Associate members. The lucky winner was Associate member Tom Donald who incredibly has two small daughters and no boys. Rumour has it that Tom is having no end of fun.

Christmas time usually brings a wealth of correspondence and also visits from country members. We must report on special greetings sent to us from "Smiler" Ravenscroft of Longreach who proudly tells of two sons. Theo said he tried to ring us on Anzac Day, but no one answered at my home. I wonder why.

We've also a card from Jim Plunkett of Cairns and greetings from Erle Hetherington, now also of that fair city. Ernie Laming sends greetings from Malaya.

The Holiday Spirit. Down at the South Coast, many 458ers spent most of their time in and out of traffic jams, including yours truly, Keith Campbell, Len MacDonnell, Bernie McLoughlin, Clive Wyman and, of all people, Ron Russell and wife and family paying Brisbane a flying visit from Melbourne where they are now domiciled.

Charlie Warren took his first holiday for five years but it was only because Tim McQuaid from Barcaldine came to Brisbane for Christmas. While he and Charlie were holidaying at Pialba and sampling a bottle of medicine they had just purchased in the garden of the local hostelry they observed the strange behaviour of a man driving a car. He pulled up in a scurry of brakes, backed some several yards, went forward, circled, and finally stopped. Out stepped the driver carefully examining Tim and Charlie until it was discovered that the strangely behaved driver was Bob Helyar from Tara, also holidaying at Pialba. Tim and Charlie stayed another two days. Incidentally Tim McQuaid is co-proprietor with his brother of one of Barcaldine's leading drapery stores. Bob Helyar is Proprietor of a garage and motor agency at Tara.

I want to send my regards to Stewie Ricketts, who I hope to see, with other Sydneysiders in Sydney about the second week in May.

COME TO MELBOURNE WITH 458. YOU'LL BE VERY GLAD YOU DID. ANZAC REUNION, 1960.

"WE FIND AND DESTROY"

This could be something like the last call for 458ers who want to get their copy of the Squadron History. The second Impression is running out and it is quite uncertain, and dependent on factors not yet apparent, whether there will be a third impression. Our feeling at the moment is that there will not. So, if you want a copy, this is it.

CHRISTMAS, 1959.

The Squadron Secretary and Editor acknowledges, with great appreciation, Christmas cards of greetings for and from 458ers and their families, as follows from Laurie Crowley, Stan Parker, Tony Harris, Bob Bruce, Bill Carr, Geoff. Barrett, Graeme Coombes, Bill Waitt, Allan Walker, Harry Jenkins, Geoff. Burgess, Ernie Laming, Bill Perkins, Don Johnson, Jim Holliday, Harry Baines, Sid Thompsett, Ross Burgess, Rimso Purcill, Bruce McKenzie, Pete Campbell, Jim Palmer, and Theo Ravenscroft.

CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY.

from Brian Woodhead, Adelaide, Sth. Aus.

Rotation of the Scribes.

To stimulate interest in local affairs, the writing of the South Aus. contribution to the News is passed to different ones each time and so it comes about that I am the scribe for this issue.

It could almost be said that I was shanghaied into it, for when Arn. Scholar called to see me in this connection he told me that Lofty Trewartha and family had just shot through to Perth by rail and he, Arn., was following the next day with his family.

Our Annual Picnic. With Xmas, New Year, School holidays, heat, activities have been rather limited, but last November we held our Annual Picnic successfully again at National Park, Belair. We had a good time despite windy and not very pleasant conditions. About 100 members, families and friends turned up. Its a pity Jack Kramer wasn't there, for I'm sure he would have picked up some points after seeing the tennis played.

Bert Oliver won the raffle, which, I suppose, is dry by now.

Contest with the 2/48. Also in November a 458 party visited the 2/48 and won the evening's honours. The team was Bob Drinnan, Keith Foreman, K Tait, Col. Draysey, Ron Badger, and Arn. Scholar and they had a good evening.

The Passing Show.

Squadron identities to pass through have recently included Ray Warwick from Cradock; Gordon Cuthbertson, with his family, was also over on a holiday trip. Returning via the South Coast he called on some identities down that way, including Hank Ewens and Johnny Threadgold.

Bishop-to-be. It was very pleasing to hear that Bob Davies is to be consecrated as Bishop. Our sincere congratulations, Bob.

Lotus Eaters in Shangri-la. Amongst swaying palms, beautiful women, and living a life of luxurious ease are Ron Badger and Bruce Thomas and families (at Sellicks Beach (and Victor Harbour respectively). The rest of us are as usual slaving to keep the wheels of industry turning.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid Thompsett, 369 Downham Way, Bromley, Kent.

At the Feathers.

Our Reunion which was held on the 21st. November at the Feathers Hotel, Westminster was a very successful evening. We were lucky to have as our guests Ken Russell and his wife from Adelaide. During the evening a tape was made. We have a few final comments to put on it but hope to post it off to you so that it can be played at the All-States in April.

Elections and Adaptions.

The business of officers for election was taken up and it was decided that in addition to the usual committee a further addition should be made in the form of a Chairman and a Vice Chairman who will serve for a period of one year only, so as to give all members the chance to serve on the committee. i.e. as Chairman or vice Chairman. For the records the following are the officers who will serve for 1960:

President:	Mick Mason (also Squadron Vice President);
Vice President:	Leon Armstrong
Treasurer:	Harry Bishop;
Secretary:	Sid Thompsett. All unanimously re-elected.
Chairman:	Steve Search;
	Vice Chairman: Eric Brown.

British Bulletin (cont.)

Those who could make the Reunion were Mick Mason, wife and daughter, Harry Bishop and wife, Sid Thompsett and wife, Leo Armstrong, A. Allen (first time), A. Anton, H. Hamlet, S. Search and wife, C. Humbles, E. Brown, D. Tombs, F. Nieman, and Wyn Richards; not forgetting Ken Russell and his wife.

The following sent their regrets at not being able to be there but would like to send their best wishes to their friends in Aussie: Bob Osborne, Henwood Hicks, Harry Eastwood, Geoff. Barrett, Chico Mercer, John Dandy, Guy Johnston, Les. Cook (his best wishes to Kev. Guiney, Roy Simpson, and any of the Big Dig's little Digs), Eric Phillips, Bill Facey, and George Rogers, who is not in the best health just now.

Frank Braybrook with rotating wings. I am pleased to tell you that Frank Braybrook has arrived home from Malaya. He was hoping to make the last Reunion but at the last minute the R.A.F. thought differently. He is now on helicopters in North Wales, but is hoping to make our Reunion in April.

That just about empties my head of all the latest news; but let me send all Aussie members a Very Happy New Year from all members of the U.K. Flight.

SANDGROPER SAYS.

A note from

Butch Power, I45, Gildercliffe  
St. Scarborough, W.A.

There's not much news. W.A. Flight has been more or less in recess for some time. However our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for mid February.

My wife and I will be over for the All-States Reunion in April. We are booked to leave Perth on Wednesday 20th. by train. We are travelling first class all the way and are due to arrive in Adelaide some time on Friday 22nd. We arrive in Melbourne A.M. on Saturday 23rd. April and I should very much like to see any of the troops who may like to look us up en route. We are scheduled to leave Melbourne on Tuesday 3rd. May, arriving back in Perth on Friday 6th. My wife will be staying with our daughter in Melbourne but I hope to book in at the "Communal" Hotel. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

Young men who went West.

We had the news, at rather short notice, that Lofty Trewartha and his family were arriving in Perth on holiday. We got moving and contacted all the local members we could by phone. As a result, when the Trans train eventually limped into Perth Station (two hours late) the following 458 members were there to welcome Lofty, Mr. and Mrs. Chessell, Len and Val Stewart, Ron and Mrs. Gannaway, Gordon and Olga Jones, Jack Riseley, Jim Palmer and myself. Lofty is over here for about three weeks and will be here for our Annual General Meeting on February 11th., when no doubt he will meet a lot more of the local members. There is a party at the home of Marge Trewartha's parents and all the local members and their wives have been invited.

I had not seen Lofty for approximately sixteen years but our recognition was mutual. He is a little greyer and somewhat larger, but he is still the same old Lofty.

We were also informed that Arn. Scholar was over in the West holidaying with his brother-in-law. Jack Riseley contacted Arnold and we will catch up with him in due course. I would be grateful if you would publicise the fact that we take a dim view of those characters who come over to our State and don't advise anyone they are coming. We want to welcome them and renew old friendships.

Shadows before.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 11th. in the Committee Room, Air Force House, 207, Adelaide Terrace at 8.0. p.m. There is also a picnic cricket match with 460 Squadron for Sunday 6th. March at 10. a.m. at Rockingham. The next item is the Anzac Day March followed by the Annual Reunion which will be held as usual in the Pavilion of the East Perth Tennis Club, north-east corner of Wellington Square at approximately 12. noon, immediately after the March. My regards to you all.

CRICKET COMMENTS.

by

"Run-to-Cover".

Sub-title---"Mad Dogs and Flannelled Fools". After missing a season (reason being we weren't invited last year), the Annual Match against R.A.A.F. Station, Richmond (which is in New South Wales, gentle overseas reader) took place at Richmond on one of the warmer days of a summer which has had its overpowering moments. Captain Cyril Irwin lost the toss and 458 spent the period from 11.50 to 2.30 (lunch blessedly intervening) in the field in the sun in a temperature of, we understand, 106°. The Squadron side, with some useful reinforcements, was a strong one and

Cricket Comments (cont.)

held its own with the much younger Station team. Cold beer at lunch was wonderful and the return to the field after lunch was unbelievably broiling. A couple of Squadron batsmen were overcome by heat exhaustion.

The 458 bowlers, in particular Eric Munkman and Frank Ward, kept manfully at a hard task on a slow easy wicket on which they could do little. The fielding considering the heat was fair enough, if unenthusiastic. In the batting Brian Lord and Frank Ward made the most of the pitch's ease. The match was drawn. Scores:

R.A.A.F., Richmond.458 Squadron.

Frost	b. Ward	20	Alexander	c. & b. Donlan	2
Derauffignac	b. Munkman	6	Marshall	Retired ill	26
Blythe	c. & b. Matheson	28	Ward	Retired	28
Radford	b. Fulford	54	Fulford	b. Moore	38
Moore	Retired	26	Lord	c. Georgenson b. Bourne	26
Bourne	c. Munkman b. Matheson	2	Millar	b. Bourne	9
Donlan	st. Lord b. Marshall	18	Irwin	b. Bourne	5
Shaw	Retired	7	Dickenson	Not out	15
Georgenson	Not out	5	Kerr	b. Blythe	4
Avery	c. Irwin b. Marshall	12	Matheson	Not out	5
Sundries	(byes)	6	Sundries (2.b, 1 w)		3
		(7)	184		
				(6)	161

CORNSTALK TALK.

from

Bob Bruce, Mt. Wilga, Manor Rd.,  
Hornsby, N.S.W.

Reunion Coming—This event, a real must for all N.S.W. members, will be held on Friday March 18th 1960 at the Air Force Club (3rd. Floor) at 8.0. p.m. During the evening the President's report, Balance Sheet, and annual elections will take place. This will be the only Reunion of the year, so please do your bit to ensure its success. All that is asked is that you grace the reunion with your presence; your eating and drinking requirements will be adequately catered for.

Anzac Day The programme for the forthcoming All-States Reunion is reported elsewhere in this journal and it is hoped that N.S.W. Flight are adequately represented at this important function. However, for those remaining in Sydney, 458 will again march under the Squadron banner and it is proposed that at the march a rendez-vous will be arranged where fellows can meet after the march.

Dues Enclosed with this copy of the News is a gentle reminder for those concerned that 1960 A.F.A. dues, Squadron dues and News subs are now overdue. Your remitting the appropriate amount to either the Treasurer or Secretary will materially assist audit arrangements.

Cricket The annual match against the R.A.A.F. Station Richmond was played in January in an outside temperature of 106. Honours were pretty evenly divided and it was, to say the least, pretty uncomfortable on the field. The hospitality extended at lunch and again after the match was much appreciated. It was nice to see Brian Lord turn out once again and to see him still keeping wickets as well as ever.

Country Reunion—As members know, the Squadron has made it the practice in recent years to have a week-end reunion in some country city or town. In the past Orange, Canberra (and Robinvale in Victoria) have been visited, generally by parties in cars, and the opportunity is taken of renewing friendships with Squadron members in the locality, having a social gathering or two or three and taking in local points of interest. Has any country member any bright suggestions for this year which might be considered by the incoming committee, if so please let me know. By the way, any of you country fellows coming to Sydney for holidays or the Show or even for business, don't fail to let us know. It is often possible to arrange to have a few of your mates meet and enjoy a half hour or so, even if you are on a rush trip.

Personal Occurrence Report N.S.W. Flight committeeman Fred Strom has been in hospital undergoing diagnosis. However he is now up and about.

Geoff. Cannon has landed himself a rather enviable job in that he is in charge of Australian Women's Weekly overseas promotion which, in case you blokes don't know, includes looking after those fashion models. Ken Rosen was in Sydney at Christmas from Broken Hill, where he is Managing Director of his own Charter flying company and is doing very well. To Bill McBride, 458's thanks for his help in connection with the Squadron History.

VICTORIAN ITEMS.

from

Bill Carr, 36, Harbury St.,  
Reservoir, Vict.

Preparations are in full swing for the Anzac All-States Reunion in Melbourne. There is to be a Dinner-Dance in February for the Victorian Committee and we are hoping to form a Ladies Auxiliary.

Preliminary organising and fund-raising are to include outdoor house-parties in February and March as well as a lunchtime chop grilling Do. We want to raise adequate funds to finance local costs.

SO--will any 458 member care to help financially? Any help will be most appreciated if sent to the above address on behalf of the Victorian Committee.

This year Anzac arrangements will, probably, be altered by Act of Parliament following a plebiscite conducted by the Returned Soldiers League, to allow limited forms of public entertainment in the afternoon, including a race meeting.

The locale for our All-States Reunion itself is going to be Harry Ashworth's business establishment near the city.

This Reunion, and the associated arrangements and functions are going to be a great success and we want to see you here in large numbers.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Bill Waitt, 14, Brandon Road, Fawdon, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.

Dear Peter, Heartiest congratulations to you as author of THE Squadron History. Naturally there are many little episodes missing from my store of memories but as was stated in one of the news-letters it would be an impossible task to record every squadron member's memoirs.

However, one point, in my humble opinion an important one, I would like to make. The splendid effort made by the Squadron to endow a cot at the East Grinstead Childrens' Hospital. I thought you might have devoted a little space on the hard work in raising funds for this permanent record of one of the most notable Squadron achievements.

(Author: Yes, we should have noted Gus Charlwood's work with the Peanut Club. It got overlooked)

Do you remember the big raffle made to raise the second large amount of cash? You will recall that the first prize was a case of 48 bottles of Dows Black Horse Beer. The winner was Ralph Duffey of Lock Simpson's crew. The ironical fact was that when he won the prize he was "off the grog" on medical instructions from Doc. Wadsworth. If my memory serves me correctly, I think Doc granted a temporary dispensation until the case was finished which didn't take long.....

The reference to Laurie Crowley's trip to Blighty caused me a chuckle. When he returned I was one of the senior N.C.O.s detailed by the Colonel to escort him..... I also remember visiting with Laurie a tent that was extremely well supplied with bottled beer. Aussies as usual were very generous and the two visitors were well catered for. Not strict discipline I must admit but typical of life on 458. One of the occupants of the tent, I can't remember who he was, was engaged on the task of making a first-class travelling bag from the lining of a tank from a crashed kite. I wonder if he ever finished it?

I am enclosing a jacket to fit your copy of the History. I don't know if you have these P.V.C. jackets in Australia but they are quite common in England. It will protect and preserve the very fine 458 Dust cover. If desired, I would be very pleased to obtain further supplies.

I am also enclosing a snapshot of our tent and shed at Bone, shewing myself, Cobber Kain, Mo Bownes and Trevor Walden of MacKay's crew. The shed was built by Umphelby, navigator to Johnny Harper and we moved in when they left the Squadron. I remember he had a row with Anzac about a shot gun. I think the C.O. had to arbitrate?

I have some French friends now living at Carthage and have asked them to drive round the Protville area and let me know what it is like now. Wonder if we could get a tree planted there?

All my good wishes to you and all 458ers wherever they may be,  
yours aye,

Bill (Waitt).

From Mrs. John Pilcher, Inverell, N.S.W.

Dear Mr. Alexander, Would you be good enough to forward me a copy of "We Find and Destroy"? ..... The idea is to give it to my husband as a "surprise" Xmas present! Lately he has been muttering about "must get the book" but that is as far as it gets!

John was an original member of 458 at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. I also have



Correspondence (cont.)

a keen interest in the Squadron as I was serving in the W.A.A.F. at Holme when John and I first met early in 1942.....

yours faithfully,

Barbara Pilcher.

From Mr. J. G. Anderson, 16. Elm Street, Surrey Hills, Melbourne, Victoria.

Dear Mr. Alexander, I received the History of 458 and your accompanying letter, for the latter of which I thank you. I am most interested in the History and congratulate you on such a fine book. Apart from the incidents which concern us personally, there are many names mentioned of which we have heard in Don's correspondence. We have not made many contacts with many of Don's former comrades, but some years ago had a visit from Roy Rabone who was in Corsica when Don was there and we were delighted to meet him and appreciated his visit. We receive more or less regularly greetings from the families of Brian Lawler, Malcolm Knox, and Arthur Huntley. Bill Scott was last heard of in New Zealand. Ron Gould's parents from West Australia have been good enough to visit us twice. Ron I believe is married and settled down very well in W.A.....

As an old A.I.F. I have been in some of the places mentioned in your History and will always be interested in 458 and the doings of its members in civil life. I took a good deal of interest in men of all the services in the last war. I was President of the Jeparit branch of the R.S.L., Secretary of the local branch of the Repatriation Commission, and generally tried to help..... I have been honoured with the Life membership certificate of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. Thus I am pleased to know you have formed a 458 Squadron Association that over the years you may keep in touch with each other. I note that your Council publish a quarterly newspaper and would ask as an 'outsider' is it permitted for me to receive a copy of that quarterly newspaper so that I may read of the doings and activities of many of the comrades of the young man who was so dear to us and of whose memory we are so very proud?

Again many thanks, yours sincerely,

J.G. Anderson.

From Mrs. Ken Brown, Katunga, Victoria.

Dear Peter, I am taking the opportunity of sending Christmas greetings from Ken and myself. Hoping to go to Melbourne at Anzac time but that will depend on being able to get someone to milk. If not, Ken will possibly go and I'll hold the fort!

We do enjoy the Squadron News and its nearly a race to who gets it first. Many thanks for a great job.....

Sincerely, June Brown.

From Mrs. Harold Manton, Yealering, W.A.

Dear Sir, May I take this opportunity of thanking you for our copies of the Squadron News, and find enclosed sub. for future editions.

Although I do not know many of your members I have become familiar with quite a number of names and enjoy the News equally as much as Harold does.

We did enjoy Peter Alexander's fine effort of "We Find and Destroy". I must add this is the first book Harold has completed for years. Often I have asked him to write a few lines to you but he has never got round to doing so, so I hope you won't mind my doing so. Some of his friends may be interested to hear his whereabouts. At present he is a patient at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital where he usually spends a little time now and then. I noticed your mention of Doug Colquhoun and would like to send Harold's regards to him, as his is a name I've often heard spoken in our home when the tales of service days are being told. We have a wheat and sheep property here, the latest addition being a Border Leicester stud flock of which Harold is very proud. We have three sons, also of whom we are very proud.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of Harold and myself, of wishing all members and their families good health for 1960.

yours sincerely, Evelyn Manton.

Correspondence (cont.).From Ernie Laming, R.A.A.F. Base, Butterworth, Malaya.

Dear Pete, Could you send an autographed copy of the History, as I am desirous of presenting one to the Sergeants' Mess here.

About flags, the one I had flew at Protville outside the Equipment store and close to the tent I occupied. ....

I should be home for discharge in March and will see you at the Melbourne Reunion.

Group Captain Dowling is arriving here to take over my Squadron the day after I leave here,

yours sincerely,  
Ern.

From Eric Fendick, 143, Shanklin Drive, Leicester, England.

Dear Peter, I received "We Find and Destroy" yesterday morning and read it throughout in the evening without, I think, putting it down. Please accept my sincere congratulations--it could not have been done better. Talk about nostalgia! Your book brought back scenes and incidents, half forgotten, so very vividly.

I think I shall read it about once a month--it will be the third book on my bedside table, the other two being the Bible and the "Complete Golfer"!

yours very sincerely,  
Eric Fendick.

From the Director, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

Dear Sir, It is desired to acknowledge receipt of the 458 Squadron Crest which has arrived at the Museum in good order. Arrangements are in hand to exhibit the Crest as soon as possible but it may be some time before we can do so as, apart from the printing arrangements, we have a number of other urgent activities to which we must give attention.

I am glad the Squadron members enjoyed their visit to the Memorial and should you be here at any other time in a party I would like to know as I am always pleased to meet ex-servicement and relate to them briefly the meaning of the Memorial and particularly the Hall of memory.

yours faithfully,  
J. McGrath.

From Bill Anton, 32, Oakland Way, Ewell, Surrey, England.

Dear Peter, ... "We Find and Destroy" was received on December 23rd, and as this was in the nature of a Christmas present, it couldn't have been received at a better time. I did not expect it to arrive so promptly.

I doubt whether you remember me--I was, I believe, unobtrusive. I joined the Armoury section at Holme-on-Spalding Moor in December 1941 and left the Squadron at Gibraltar, I think, in February 1945. So more or less went all the way as far as the R.A.F. "bods" were concerned..... Time marches on and memories fade so it is good when one can recall a few episodes from the printed word..... Am now writing to Alan Meynell to inform him he is on record.

yours sincerely, Bill Anton.

EDITORIAL: Apologia.

Some letters from Squadron members published in this and earlier issues have been such as would bring a blush of gratification to the face of a much more hardened and spoiled writer than the 458 Historian has any reason to be. He has appreciated them deeply, and also things not written but said to him. He has indeed, well knowing the book's faults, not been too sure whether he should exhibit his vanity by printing them. But by determined splitting of the personalities of author and editor they have gone in, the Editor believing that Squadron members' letters rank for space in the Squadron paper.

However, all splitting of personalities and hairs apart, thank you, indeed!

COME TO MELBOURNE FOR THE ALL-STATES REUNION, April 22-25th. LET BOX 5289, G.P.O., SYDNEY  
KNOW YOU ARE COMING AND WHAT YOUR ACCOMODATION NEEDS WILL BE. See you there!