



THE EDITOR.

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

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May, 1960.

REUNION OF 458 SQUADRON IN MELBOURNE.

Anzac time, 1960, saw the holding of the 8th All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron. Interstate members and their wives came to Melbourne from all the mainland States except South Australia. Interstaters there included Jim Holliday, Jack Lewis, Jack Carter and Harry Dorge (accompanied by Pat) from Q. Flight; Sam Barlow, Fred. Strom, Noel Spurling, Wal Archbold, Jim and Mrs. Timms (of Hay), Alf and Enid Hammond, Eric and Dorothy Munkman, Doug, Millard, Peter Alexander, and Bill and Mrs. Chapman from N.S.W.; and Butch and Amy Power from Perth.

The Friday.

The first person to turn it on was, admittedly, Huey. He did his utmost for Friday and most of Saturday and driving from Essendon Airport into town, cars were axle deep in rainwater. However after that there was a show of traditional "458 weather" --- few if any 458 functions over the postwar years have, if you think of it, been stopped by the weather. There was the usual enthusiastic and hospitable welcome awaiting the interstate members at the Hotel Cecil. Sam Barlow and Butch Power, being first arrivals, successfully held their own with all hospitable comers.

Dancing in St. Kilda

That evening the Victorian Flight gave a Welcoming Dance in St. Kilda, a Melbourne suburb. It was very well attended and held in impressive surroundings in a large mansion now used for parties and functions. Dancing, of course, was diminished by the fact that everyone present had news to interchange with other 458ers not seen for quite a time. Father Johnny Bachomara, one of the three R.A.A.F. Chaplains in the Middle East, looked in during the evening to renew friendships with 458ers who were all delighted to see him.

After the Dance was over

Many a bottle was opened, back at the Cecil. Sam Barlow it was who turned it on for all when the dancers returned. It was still being turned on when this writer retired from the field at about 2.0 a.m.

Saturday.

Flight delegates and the Squadron officers held the Annual 458 Conference in a sitting room at the Cecil in the morning. This is separately reported elsewhere in this issue. Plans were to go to the Races or Football in the afternoon but this was the only part of the planned programme which the rain interfered with.

In the evening Kevin Guiney and his family invited the Squadron and its families to a party at their home that evening. About 60 were expected and about 90 came. It was, most emphatically, a success. Food, drink, talk and laughter flowed. Butch Power officiated at the piano, as also did Bob Macarthur a friend of Jack Ramsay's. Nobody could really be said to have left the party early but Butch left a little less late than some of us. However when the mob piled out into their cars Butch was found to be still in the area, changing tyres. He held his own in the repartee which followed.

Golf and Athletics.

The Golf competition had to be transferred, for reasons of weather, to the Paterson River Course down Port Phillip towards Frankston. John Jenkins, the long-term Victorian Treasurer, being a member, succeeded in arranging for 458 to play off the Anzac Cup Competition there. The rain held off and players went round a very attractive pine-scented country course. The winner --- Arthur Green of Victoria; the Runner-up, Doug. Millard from Humula in the Riverina. From the Golf course members drove on to a Picnic Ground beside the water of the Port Phillip Bay, for a Barbecue, which went off very well. The Western Australian Footrace Cup was run during the afternoon. This most

impressive urn went, in a determined burst of speed, to Harry Ashworth who thus ranks to defend it in Adelaide in 1961. There were the usual functions in the nature of races for the children.

That evening, Arthur Green entertained Squadron members at his home and Dave Firth shewed them the exceedingly good series of colour slides he has taken over the years and the continent at to and from 458 Reunions.

Anzac Day.

The rains didn't come and the March started on time. Over 70 458 members marched behind Victorian President Lisle Wurr and Jim Munday carrying the Banner. After the March, out to Prahran and Harry Ashworth's plumbing business premises for the All-States Reunion itself. Harry's workshop is on the first floor of the building and is a large room containing the various impedimenta of the business. It suited the numbers there and being a workshop was able to stand up to the Reunion. Harry and Ian Alison and John Bilney organised eatables and Harry, after an anxious period with a soldering iron, provided a tape recorder. On the recorder we heard, with great interest, tapes received from London--one with a series of messages and details of the London Reunion; and the other with something of a speech from Bruce McKenzie who recently went to London with the Kenya Government delegation to discuss Kenya's future.

A tape was then made to send off to London. Various 458ers recorded against a background of 'the beer talking' but the gathering volume of sound didn't prevent completion of a very good tape. And so to the end of another Reunion and back to present day life after a brief renewal of old associations.

The list of 458 members seen at one or another function during the weekend is as follows:

G. Abraham	H. Ashworth	P. Alexander	J. Bilney	I. Alison	N. Cugley
K. Brown	W. Carr	E. Macdonald	R. McKinna	J. Timms	P. Power
K. Clymo	J. Munday	J. Islip	K. Guiney	G. Matthews	F. Strom
N. Spurling	W. Archbold	S. Barlow	H. Dorge	W. Chapman	L. Boyer
A. Hammond	A. Green	T. Burgess	R. Rodwell	D. Firth	E. Laming
J. Ramsay	J. Jenkins	M. Singe	T. Primrose	K. Morkham	G. Orchard
M. Kernot	D. Millard	J. Holliday	J. Lewis	J. Carter	H. Martin
E. Munkman	R. Russell	T. Stone	V. Richards	B. Sherrah	B. Smith
I. Higlett	S. Cartledge	L. Wurr	R. Yates	G. Riddoch	T. Kennedy
B. Dean	F. Paulet	V. Clohesy	J. Fleming	Lloyd Simpson	N. McPhee
J. Cruttenden	I. Giles	H. Young	J. Johnston	H. Jenkins	J. Macnamara
P. Hedgecock	B. Bailey	J. Rosenberg			

NEW SOUTH WALES NOTES

from

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

Anzac Day in Sydney.

Notwithstanding the absence of the N.S.W. contingent at the All-States Reunion in Melbourne some forty four Squadron members marched in Sydney on Anzac Day, 1960. Stuart Ricketts led the March, the Banner was carried by Kemp Beach, flanked by Jack McPhee and Jack Baker. Junior Hawke, down for the day from Orange, came along. The Committee are currently investigating the possibility of holding an Anzac Day dinner next year after the March. This year we foregathered at the Phillip Hotel for a while.

Picnic in the National Park.

Our Annual Picnic will be held on Sunday 10th July at Lane Cove National Park, No. 7 site. Wives, please note, and ensure that you make this a real family day and bring the young ones along. There will be barbecue facilities and refreshments available and if you haven't been to a 458 Picnic before--well, make sure you don't miss this one.

Cowra Country Convention Coming

Plenty of notice of this. It is hoped to organise a Country Reunion on the same basis as the last Canberra Reunion at Cowra over the weekend 23/25th. September. It probably will be possible to organise transport to and from for anyone requiring it and Squadron members at Cowra, Harry Baines and Ralph Bailey, will be there help us plan our itinerary for a first class weekend. These Country Reunions go a long way towards cementing 458's solidarity. Accommodation arrangements will be made en bloc and enquiries about the weekend should be made to the Secretary. Why not plan to come along?

New South Wales Notes (cont.)Air Force Association Annual Assembly.

The Annual Assembly of the Air Force Association is to be held on 11th and 12th June, and this year 458 together with 455 Squadron are acting as joint hosts at a pre-Assembly Dinner to be held on 10th June. At this dinner Delegates, together with Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers of branches have the opportunity of meeting each other prior to the serious business of the Conference on the following day. 458 Delegates this year are Graeme Coombes, Cyril Irwin and Bob Bruce.

Sports to come.

On the golfing side, it is hoped to arrange for the President's Cup to be played for during August. Golfers will be contacted by the Sports Committee at a later date and told the exact location.

Interstate members.

Interstate members in the shapes of Jim Holliday, Harry Dorge and Ken Brown have been in Sydney recently and were seen by some Squadron members.

THE SQUADRON PRESIDENT.BILL TAYLOR of Adelaide.

458 Squadron's new Squadron President, recently elected by the Squadron Conference in Melbourne, is also South Australian Flight President, in the well-known and liked person of "Bill" Taylor.

Bill was Flight Commander on the Squadron during the period of Rodney Mackay's command, having joined 458 at Bone. He went through with 458 until Gibraltar, and was C.O. of the Falconara Detachment. Before he came to 458 he had considerable experience on Gliders with the Air Force.

Qualified as an Accountant, he turned his activities to Real Estate and he now has a very successful Real Estate business in Adelaide.

During the post-war period Bill has been Flight President for most of the time and he and Madge his wife have been the centre and mainstay of 458's activities. He has also been a strong supporter of Legacy. 458ers everywhere will welcome Bill's election and wish him the happiest possible term of office.

Bill writes:

"I am very proud to have been appointed Federal President and will do my best to assist in every way.

"I feel that if we remember that our very being originated through comradeship and service, and if we continue to seek to help our fellowmen, in particular our Squadron chaps and their dependents, then the 458 wartime spirit will last for a long time. Monuments and the laying of wreaths have their proper place in the scheme of things but in addition to this I feel that our duty lies in doing our part towards the living, our Squadron members, and, in many cases, their dependents. It is as well to remember that this spirit in wartime endowed in perpetuity 458's own cot in the Plastic Surgery Hospital in East Grinstead, England.

"Personally, I do not mind what form of service is undertaken and it is very pleasing to see that the New South Wales Flight is becoming so interested in Civil Defence.

"One of the remarkable things about our post-war activities is that it would be quite impossible for any member to go interstate without being made very welcome wherever he might go.

"We in South Australia would be unhappy to think that any of our chaps would be in or pass through our city without giving us the opportunity to buy him a beer and hear his news."

PERSONALITIES.

PADRE BOB DAVIES will be consecrated as a Bishop in the Church of England Cathedral in Sydney on Tuesday June 7th. Arrangements have been made for a substantial party of Middle East Squadron airmen to be at the service and 458 will be well represented.

JACK AITKEN

is flying Fokker Friendships for Airlines of New South Wales;

Personalities (cont.)

- LOTTY BRACKER is a Navigation Officer with Qantas. We understand he has been flying Boeings on the U.S.A. run;
- GEOFF. WRIGHT is with Qantas Sales;
- BERT REYNOLDS having disposed of his milk business now drives a taxi; in Sydney;
- TOM MOORE who is a draughtsman with S.T.C. in Sydney, lives in Eastwood. Has three daughters. Reports that he has recently seen Harley (Harpo) Marks;
- GEORGE BRADD is now with C.I.G., Sydney in the Advertising Section;
- DOUG. MILLARD of Humula, N.S.W., was at the Melbourne All-States Reunion. Denies the statement (in the Squadron History) that 'Before long his (bridge) pupils were beating him'. Says (we quote) that he is 'Mucking on the farm as usual'. Is Secretary of the local Golf course;
- ERNIE LAMING after many distinguished years of service with the R.A.A.F. has retired, and now works with the Melbourne Stock Exchange. He brought his very pretty daughter to some of the All-States Reunion functions;
- JIM. TIMMS made a welcome first post-war appearance with the Squadron in Melbourne. He lives in Hay, N.S.W., where he works with Fords in the Engineering Dept.; He is President of the Golf Club, and an Alderman of the Municipal Council. We were delighted that he brought Mrs. Timms with him. They have a girl of 10, and a boy of 7. Sends his remembrances to Len Thiele, Bluey Thorpe, Joe Galvin, Harry Rocks, Duke Tams, and Gordon Jones;
- DOM. ANDERSON also of Hay, has a property there where he is introducing a new irrigation system. He and his wife have, we gather, 3 boys and 1 girl;
- HAROLD (CURLY) YOUNG is a piecegoods importer in Melbourne. Has new home in East Bentleigh. Has two daughters, 1 son;
- FRANK MacMAHON of Port Pirie, is now a Squadron Leader in the R.A.A.F. He was George Cowan's Navigator;
- LES BOYER is carrying livestock on the Melbourne-Kyneton run. Has 3 boys, 2 girls;
- RON RUSSELL has now settled down in Melbourne after his move from Brisbane, and is living in Mt. Waverley. Sends regards to Q. Flight;
- ARTHUR GREEN has a new factory in Melbourne, which he is now having to extend. Arthur and Elsie Green's hospitality is one of the things which make a 458 visit to Melbourne so enjoyable;
- IAN GILES is school-teaching in Geelong.
- ALAN ATHERTON and his family are now living in Rockhampton (86, Dawson Road). Alan is Supervisor-airspraying (Helicopters) for the Central Division of Amsett-A.N.A. Also has some stock on agistment. Is now a fully-fledged pilot;
- BOB SHERRAH is now engaged in the new Wool Futures business; lives in Melbourne;
- GEORGE RIDDOCH farming near Ballarat, sends his regards to Maca;
- GERRY ABRAHAM is still working with the Department of Air in Melbourne;
- IAN HIGLETT who works with the Bank of New South Wales in Melbourne, is a Group Scout master. Sends regards to Judy Garland; Expects to travel northwards on holidays soon;
- JACK FLEMING is a Flight Engineer with A.N.A. wants to be remembered to Jack Nichols;
- LLOYD SIMPSON was an unexpected attender at the Melbourne functions. Has recently sold his W.A. property and moved near his wife's family in Ballarat, where he is fitting. Is thinking of returning to the West;
- NEIL McPHEE is Secretary of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria;
- VIN. CLOHESY is with the Victorian Railways at Yallourn. Tells us that his local library has the 458 History on its shelves;
- FORBES PAULET another to take us pleasantly by surprise in Melbourne was Forbes, down from Albury. He is Truck Service Supervisor for Riverina Implements, Agent for International Harvesters. Has a small son. Sends remembrance to Ted Wheeler, Athol Kerry, Ross Burgess, and to Rinso Purcill;
- RUBE JOHNSON has a motor repair business in Albury;
- TED KENNEDY still in Ballarat, with a garage. Regards to Snowy Fennell and to Tony;
- TONY MAURO who is, of course, in Canada. Or so we believe; we do not know for sure if the News reaches him. It does not come back per Dead Letter Office, but neither does Tony, that leading light of the Radar Section, give any sign of life;
- DIZZY DEAN was at the Melbourne Reunion, his return to Tarawa having been held up by lack of shipping. We were glad to hear that Linda is much better in health;
- BOB SMITH ex-Holme aircrew, is now with T.V. in Melbourne. Lives in Moorabbin;
- RON YATES tells us: he is married with a daughter; has recently built a house. Is schoolteaching--at Bayswater Boys Home, where both the inmates and the discipline are tough.

SQUADRON CONFERENCE MEETS IN MELBOURNE.

The Squadron's Annual Conference was held on the Saturday morning of the Anzac weekend, with Squadron President Jim Munday in the Chair. Among the gallery listening to proceedings was Mr. Bertram, father of the late Nick Bertram, who was a delegate for South Australia at many previous Conferences. After hearing reports from the Squadron officers and from each Flight, Conference considered a lengthy agenda.

Civil Defence.

After noting some activity by the N.S.W. Flight in Civil Defence, Conference re-iterated that the Flights should honour their pledge to support Civil Defence.

Badges for Associate members.

At the urging of W.A. Delegate Butch Power, the Conference decided that Squadron Council should take urgent steps to obtain a badge for Associate members. It was generally proposed to have a badge like the 458 lapel badge but with a small A in red lettering at the base. Conference declined to lay down uniform rights for Associates but left that to the Flights. However Associates are not allowed to have the 458 badge. Delegates generally expressed satisfaction with the present form of the 458 lapel badge.

The 458 History.

Conference, on the motion of Q. Flight, expressed its appreciation of the author of "We Find and Destroy" and those who had helped in its publication. The Squadron Secretary said that, among others, he wanted to mention the names of Bill Carr, Graeme Coombes, Bill Taylor, Sam Barlow, Jim Holliday, Allan Walker, Jock McGowen, Frank Ward, and Fred Strom as being prominent in the production of the History.

Clubrooms for 458?

The Squadron Secretary moved a motion that each Flight Committee report to the next Conference on what it had done towards providing club rooms or a headquarters for their members. He said that where 458's own club could not be obtained, then all members in a city might be encouraged to join the same existing club where they could meet often without formal functions being arranged. Jim Holliday said Q. Flight was considering building its own Bowls club.

Life Membership to remain.

Queensland moved rescission of the clauses of the Constitution, inserted last year in Brisbane, providing for Life membership. They said it was a meaningless honour as all 458ers were Life members of 458; they suggested, as a more tangible honour, a medallion. After debate, the motion, and also a W.A. amendment for a certificate of merit, were defeated by large majorities.

Bringing Out Britons.

Q. Flight delegates moved that all Flights honour their pledge to Bring Out a Briton. They said they had recently brought a British family to Brisbane without difficulty. Other Flights expressed difficulties in providing accommodation. After debate the motion was carried by 7 votes to 6. Supporters were Queensland 2, U.K. 2, W.A. 2, and the Squadron Treasurer. "No" voters were Victoria 2, N.S.W. 2, S.A. 2. The Squadron Vice President and Secretary both abstained.

Delegates to vote as Instructed.

Conference amended the Constitution to provide that Flight delegates had an obligation to vote as their Flights instructed them not as they pleased. This was carried by 8 votes (Queensland, Victoria, W.A. and S.A. 2 each) to 4 (N.S.W. 2, Vice President, Treasurer).

The next Reunion.

After the Squadron Secretary had tried to interest delegates in a Conference in Hobart, it was decided to go to Adelaide in 1961. W.A. mentioned that they would hope to have the 1962 Reunion but possibly in September, not April.

Elections.

After electing Bill Taylor of Adelaide as the next Squadron President, the two Vice Presidents chosen were Sam Barlow and Jim Munday. Eric Munkman was re-elected as 458 Squadron Treasurer after he had informed Conference that he would not be able to go to Adelaide in 1961. Peter Alexander was re-appointed as Squadron Secretary. In accepting he said that while various kindnesses shown to him made it harder to say, he must advise Conference that next year he would not be a candidate for re-election as Squadron Secretary, for personal reasons.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella St., Holland Park, Brisbane.

Anzac Day in Brisbane.

Anzac Day was quieter than in most previous years. However, quite a good number of members and Associates marched behind the Banner which, this

Q.Flight News (cont.)

year was carried by Eric Lloyd. "Johnno" Johnston led the Q.Flight Contingent. Bernie McLoughlin, suffering from a slipped disc, saw the parade from the balcony of the Johnsonian Club and declared without bias that 458 was the smartest contingent of them all.

After the march Q.Flight adjourned to the A.T.C. Mess for refreshment and joined other ex-R.A.A.F. in celebrating Anzac Day in the traditional manner.

Q.Flight drew its raffle for an electric fry pan and toaster, won by J. Cuthbert, a friend of Bernie McLoughlin and N. Clarke, an acquaintance of Bob Coles.

In the absence of our President Jack Lewis and yours truly at the Melbourne All-States Reunion, sterling work was done by Len Macdonnell, Charlie Warren and Ned Kelly.

To Victoria.

On behalf of Q.Flight members who attended the Reunion in Melbourne, (Harry Dorge and Jack Carter were also there), thanks are extended to the Victorian Flight for its hospitality and splendid organisation. As far as Queensland is concerned, it was a very successful Reunion.

Victorian Queenslanders.

Queenslanders will be pleased to know that Ron Russell and Tony Stone are well and happy in their new positions in Melbourne and send their greetings to all in Q.Flight.

The Brisbane Scene.

Since our last despatch, we have had visits to Brisbane by Erle Hetherington and Frank Crowley. Erle looks the picture of health, a real bronze Anzac, beautifully tailored in spotlessly white overalls, his official uniform on the tourist launch which conveys many of our southern visitors from Cairns to the islands in the Barrier Reef. Frank Crowley is permanently stationed on Hayman Island and likes the life immensely.

We have also heard from Cyril Webb in Mackay and Stan Parker from Ayr. Both are as fit as fiddles and send greetings to all 458 members.

Britons Brought Out.

One of the most important events for Q.Flight was the welcoming of its migrant family from Great Britain. Our migrant is Denis Cleary with wife and family of three. Denis served with the groundstaff of the R.A.F. for 12 years, and spent $3\frac{1}{2}$ years as a P.O.W. in Malaya. He is now working at his trade of bricklayer and is thoroughly settled in Queensland. The consensus of opinion of those who met him is that he will be a good Australian. The thanks of Q.Flight is extended to W.A.Flight and N.S.W.Flight for meeting the Cleary family at Perth and Sydney respectively.

Next Function.

For Q.Flight will be the Winter Social--to be held at the A.T.C. Mess on Saturday 25th. June.

Many Greetings.

Many personal greetings were given to Q.Flight members at the All-States Reunion to convey to friends in Queensland. Bill Bailey sends greetings to Terry Mullins. Bill Chapman sends regards to Gordon Postle. George Riddoch asks particularly after George Connors and Bob Helyar. Bob Sherrah sends greetings to R.D. Wallace and Dizzy Dean conveys his warmest regards to Johnno. Ian Higlett enquired after Bert Garland and hopes to see him in July. Lloyd Simpson was pleased to hear about Bill Snowden and desires to let Bill know he is doing very well. Bob McKinna sends greetings to Frank Wilks, Kenny Cahill, Massa Foote, and Dicky Bird; also to Ruth and Len Macdonnell.

President Jack Lewis wants to convey his personal thanks to the many old friends he met for the first time since service days and trusts the opportunity will soon arise to meet again.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.From Mrs. Enid McKay, Freshwater, North Queensland.

.....Dud has had an envelope addressed for 8 months, believe it or not so I am writing.....We are still having ups and downs but Dud is confident it will be a good year for us.

Our plans are uncertain: sometimes we feel we'd like to stay on here, having made friends and become part of the community here. Freshwater is an outer suburb of Cairns, six miles from the city, surrounded by beautiful hills and cane fields. At other times we are not so sure, so who knows?

Though we don't get to writing so often, we often think of the happy days we had with the 458 boys and their families. Per medium of the News, Dud would like to say a special 'hullo' to Geoff. Burgess and Tony Harris, Bob Bruce, Jack Macdonald, Pat McCulloch,

Correspondence (cont.)

Eric Munkman and Bill Flentje. There are a couple of others he speaks of with affection but I can't think of the names and if I don't get this off now, it may stay another 8 months ! Our best wishes always to the 458 Club...

Enid McKay

From Lofty Trewartha, Adelaide, S.A.

Dear Peter,

Back again at the saltmines after a month's holiday in West Aus., and, believe me, I am already suffering from 'Croweater strangulation' (Pubs shut at six; no lottery; no Sunday sports). We are still allowed to breathe though.

May, the kids, and I had a wonderful time and travelled there and back by train. How is that W.A. train from Kalgoorlie ? Have you ever ridden a camel ?

About a dozen of the W.A. members and their wives met the train at Perth, not forgetting a few of May's relatives (about 60 of 'em). The railway officials must have thought that Bill Slim had returned.

Had a large reunion at the in-laws' home where 458 were once again to the fore. Sixteen members and their families turned up and it was great to have a yarn again after so many years. Present were: Bhingi Stewart, Jack Riseley, Henry Etherton, Nundi Carpenter, Mum Geddes, Ron Gannaway, Al. Wheat, Ray Turley, Jurlly O'Connor, Digger Watts, Charlie Davis, Tim Dale, Jim Palmer and Arn. Scholar.

Spent an evening with Arn. Scholar and Al. Wheat at Butch Power's home. I have a feeling that Amy was pleased to see us go, about 3.0 a.m.

Visited Rockingham as guests of Bhingi and Val. On the way back to Adelaide saw Charlie Davis and his wife at Northam. Same old Charlie. A bit fatter perhaps. (No perhaps about it--Editor).

Trusting all are well, Best regards,

Lofty.

From Les Cook, Midland Bank House, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Dear Peter, It is some months now since I received the book and I read it at the first opportunity. It certainly gave me enormous pleasure and a feeling of pride at being associated with the Squadron. Although my two years with 458 was a short spell compared with some of the 'boys', I like to think that they were perhaps the most important years. Indeed, they were the two happiest years of my service --even if we did have our grouses and grumbles.

...My address above is brand new, in fact I haven't moved in yet. I was appointed 2nd. officer of our branch here as from 1st. January.....

Unfortunately I still have not been able to attend any Reunions since our 'Tree-planting ceremony'. For that reason I take particular pleasure in reading the Squadron News..... I was pleased to see reference in the August issue to Bruce Barrett--Nav. Officer with whom I worked (or should I say 'occupied my time'). Do you remember what a repertoire of 'Barrack Room' ballads he had ? What will it be like after an extra 15 years service !! I should give a lot to have a session with him again.

Now Harry Wise has returned from Aussie, I am looking forward to a Reunion this summer. With very best wishes to all my old cobbles,

Most sincerely, Les. Cook.

From Johnny Excell, 82, Swanport Road, Murray Bridge, S.A.

Dear Peter,

They informed me that Butch Power would be going to Melbourne for Anzac Day, so I went down to the Express to see him but I didn't contact him, so he must have gone through on a different night..... Would you mention the fact that I was disappointed in not seeing him after so many years. But I hope to have better luck next time; if anyone is ever coming this way I would only be too pleased to see them. By the way, my business is not registered in my name but as Brook's Cycle Depot, Bridge Street, so if any body happens to be motoring through that will help them to find me.....

yours sincerely, John Excell.

CORONATER COMMENTS.from Arn Scholar, 74, Corunna Ave, Melrose Park, S.A.Since our last Report.

The S.A. Flight has had quite a successful time since last reporting to you, the main activities being centred round Anzac Day.

That day started with the laying of a wreath by Ken Russell's father, at the War Memorial at dawn. As Ken lost his only brother in air activities over Europe it seemed very fitting that his father, who was on a visit from Brisbane, should be the person selected to lay our wreath. These dawn services have to be experienced to be fully appreciated.

The second part of our day was the laying of a wreath at our dedicated Tree at the West Beach airport. On this occasion we combined with fellows from other Squadrons, namely 455, 460, 86 and R.A.A.F., Malaya, all having their own trees. There were over 100 present and the ceremony was televised. Howard Bertram, the twelve-years-old son of Nick, laid our wreath. Padre Shepherd officiated--our thanks to him for his valued help.

The Adelaide March.

It went splendidly. 458 had 32 marching. We do admit to a few ring-ins who seemed pleased to be with us as we were to have them. T.V. was again used but, as yet, none of us have been offered contracts from Hollywood! 5AD gave the Squadron quite a write-up, including a plug for "We Find and Destroy".

Luncheon.

We combined with 455 this year. Considerable quantities of ale were consumed, and we did hear a few new stories. We had apologies from Ian Showell (Renmark), Bert Havenscroft (Gladstone), Dud Murdoch (Crystal Brook), and Col. Bowley (Pirie). We were particularly glad to see Jim Perry but badly missed Jack Thredgold (Kingston) and Geoff. Esau (Reedy Creek). I think it's the first time Jack Thredgold has missed. What's the matter, Jack?

Elections.

Festivities were halted for a brief period during which we held a General Meeting. Results:--Bill Taylor, President; Flash Thomas Treasurer; and Arn Scholar, Secretary. Lofty Trewartha retired after three years sterling service as Flight President, for which we thank him. A power pot was presented to Flash Thomas for his years of service as Treasurer, but he needn't think this in any way entitles him to give up the job.

All-States Reunion.

We are all delighted it's to be in Adelaide and promise a first-class time for all who will be able to come. Mark it up in your diaries, fellows!

The Passing Show.

Dick Healey from Sydney, televising the Golf Championship. He made it his business to see Buck Pederson, his old skipper. Johnny Rosenberg flew in and saw Brian Woodhead. Butch Power and his wife were met and shown over Adelaide by our Johnny Bax.

BRITISH BRIEF.from Sid Thompsett, 369 Downham Way, Bromley

We had the Squadron Secretary's cable and were able to see Squadron migrant Denis Cleary and family off at St. Pancras Station. Mrs. Cleary was paging Mr. Cleary over the Tannoy when Mick Mason and Harry Bishop arrived but it was 8 minutes off departure time before he was located.

The Colonel.

At long last we have been able to meet Bruce McKenzie. We met at the Air Force Club in Piccadilly and not only was Bruce McKenzie there but Alan McKay and Norman Duke. Apparently Alan has been in Canada for the past eleven years. We had a very enjoyable evening. We went along to Kenya House on the Friday afterwards and made a Tape for despatch to Australia. Incidentally Bruce hopes to make it to Australia next Easter.

Peanut Club.

I have written to the East Grinstead Hospital for a photograph of the Plaque over the bed which our Squadron endowed. I am wondering if this will be of any use for the (Canberra) War Museum? (Editor: Yes, I think it might).

We are also hoping to make up a party to visit the hospital during the coming summer.

Reunion Planned.

I have been in contact with Harry Wise, on his return from South Australia, and he is hoping to make our Reunion Dinner on April 30th. Plans are well in hand for our Anzac Day celebrations, the laying of the wreath at the Cenotaph; the Service in Westminster Abbey; the tea party at Australia House, with our Reunion Dinner on the following Saturday.