

458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR.

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

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August, 1960.

"TO BE A BISHOP IN THE CHURCH OF GOD."

Consecration of Padre Bob Davies.

A large congregation filled S. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, on June 7th, 1960, to witness the consecration of Mediterranean Area R.A.A.F. wartime chaplain Bob Davies as a Bishop. It contained many ex-Airmen, a lot of them accompanied by their wives, and among them a good showing of 458ers. The 458 Squadron Secretary acted as a sort of Liaison officer between the Middle East Squadron Associations and the Cathedral authorities in respect of what might be called the 'official' ex-Air Force party but there were certainly many more ex-airmen present than had been organised for.

Ancient Service.

It was, not unnaturally, the first time most of them had had the opportunity to attend a service of this sort and apart from their keen personal interest in the particular case, they found the long choral service extremely interesting.

It commenced with two processions of robed clergy. The first composed of the clergy of the three dioceses interested: Sydney, the consecrating diocese, Canberra, where the Bishop-elect has served for many post-war years; and Newcastle where he is to be Assistant Bishop. The second of the Canons, Archdeacons, Dean, Bishops and the Archbishop of Sydney with his chaplains.

After the reading of the Epistle and Gospel and after the Creed, the Bishop of Goulburn, Dr. Burgmann preached. Then the Bishop-to-be, was conducted by the presenting Bishops, to the vestry to assume his purple cassock and rochet. Returning, he was led to the chancel steps where the Archbishop was seated in his chair. The two presenting bishops said

"Most Reverend Father in God, we present unto you this godly and well-learned man to be ordained and consecrated Bishop."

Then as the bishop-elect continued to kneel, there followed the questions of examination from the Archbishop, who has a most commanding presence, to him concerning his conduct as a bishop.

The bishop-elect then assumed the rest of his scarlet episcopal robes and, proceeding to the Sanctuary, was solemnly consecrated by the laying on of the hands of the eight bishops present.

A Bishop. After Holy Communion, and the singing of Hymns, the procession of clergy passed through the West Door, the Archbishop, Dr. H. R. Gough, leading the newly consecrated Bishop, the Right Reverend R. E. Davies, M. A., Th. L.

Outside the Cathedral.

The very many friends of Bob Davies, from the various Dioceses and other spheres of his activities, had the opportunity of congratulating him. Afterwards there was a lunch in the Chapter House at which Bob's airmen friends were represented. Among those at the Service was Presbyterian Padre Fred McKay, now Head of the Inland Mission, who also gave a message from the third of the Mediterranean trio of Padres, Johnny Macnamara, the Catholic Padre, now stationed in Melbourne, who though not able to be present physically was most clearly and certainly present in sympathy and affection.

To Work in Newcastle.

458 Squadron members join in the general good wishes to Bishop Bob Davies, whose work in the immediate future will be as Assistant Bishop in Newcastle. He will also be Warden of the St. John's Theological College, Morpeth, N.S.W.

NEW SOUTH WALES COMMENTARY.

from

Bob Bruce, Mt. Wilga,
Manor Rd, Hornsby.The President's Cup Golf Day.

This event this year is to be played at Muirfield Golf Club, Barclay Road, North Rocks, on Sunday 11th. September, 1960--hit off time is 10.0 a.m., so intending players should be at the Club by 9.45 a.m. The facilities of the Clubhouse will be available to members but unfortunately children are not permitted within the Club itself. Those members requiring lunch should, please, advise the Secretary JU 1214 or Cyril Irwin UW 1981 before the 3rd. September. Should you desire to barbecue, it is understood there are facilities available to do so.

Country Reunion.

It is now arranged that the next Country Reunion will take place over the weekend 23/25th. September at COWRA. The programme will permit sightseeing in the District, including Edgells Factory, a game of golf, dancing, etc. Harry Baines and Ralph Bailey, who live at Cowra, will be doing their bit to arrange an extensive itinerary--why not do your bit and come along for the weekend with the wife and family? Accommodation in Hotel or Motel will be arranged upon your request, and it would be appreciated if you would advise the Secretary (Box 5289, G.P.O., or telephone JU 1214) of your accommodation requirements and expected time of arrival. Anyone requiring transport can be fixed up.

The Invenimus Club.

If some time ago you received a book of Invenimus Club tickets and have not as yet returned them, then would you please be good enough to dispose of the tickets and return the butts and your remittance as soon as possible. Again, if you cannot sell the tickets, then for goodness sake don't leave them at the bottom of a drawer and forget them; return the unsold book and we will try to dispose of them through some other members.

Squadron Picnic in National Park.

The recently conducted picnic held at Lane Cove National Park was blessed by beautiful winter sunshine--members and their families and friends rolled up to make what was probably our best picnic in recent years. Sam Barlow dispensed "good cheer" and Eric Munkman and Cyril Irwin were also tireless workers. Jack Aitken proved himself an able chef--producing pound after pound of pot-roasted new potatoes which were dispatched with relish. It was nice to see Ian Higlett spend the day at the Picnic, on his way by car from Melbourne to Brisbane on holiday. Kemp Beach kept the record of the results of the Children's races. These are the names of some of the winners--they read somewhat like a Squadron rollicall. Boys. 1 Geoffrey Baker, 2 Keith McBride. 1. Pat Beach 2 Ken Smith. 1. R. Smith 2. David Healey. 1. Stephen Bruce 2. John Aitken. Girls. 1. Deborah Alexander 2. Anne Murphy. 1. Lynn Miller 2. Pauline Baker. 1. Dianne Bradd 2. Sue Curry-Beryl Munkman-Margaret Miller. Boys Three-legged. 1. Ron Munkman-Greg. Crompton 2. Stephen Bruce-Peter Longhurst. 3. Ken and Richard Smith. Girls three-legged. Barbara Coombes-Sue Curry 2. Robin Lyndon-Lesley Ingleton 3. Margaret Healey-Annette Lyndon.

Air Force Ball.

The date Friday 9th. September. 458 Squadron are making up a table to attend the Trocadero on the night and you will be most welcome. For reservations, telephone me (JU 1214) and tickets will be sent to you.

Have You a Blazer Pocket?

Have you? For your Bermuda Jacket---there are still a few available--the price 26/-. If not, why not have one?

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ASSEMBLY--N.S.W.

This was held at the Air Force Club, Sydney in June and was attended by delegates from the approximately 50 branches in N.S.W. In N.S.W., unlike the position in some of the other States the A.F.A. is a large and successful body. As members know there is a 458 Squadron branch of the A.F.A. in N.S.W. This branch was represented at the Assembly by President Graeme Coombes and Secretary Bob Bruce (with Treasurer Cy. Irwin as alternate). Dick Healey and Peter Alexander were also there as A.F.A.H.Q. representatives.

Pre-Assembly Dinner.

This year 458 Squadron and 455 Squadron were the hosts at a Dinner for the Assembly delegates held at the Sherbrook Lounge, Double Bay, Graeme Coombes and 455 President Jack Davenport being Joint Presidents.

State Governor opens Assembly.

Sir Eric Woodward opened the Assembly which considered a two-day long Agenda of items of ex-service interest in the widest sense. Civil Defence provided a subject of keen interest and many motions were moved. The Association and its members have been taking an active part in Civil Defence, which seems a constructive interest for a returned servicemens' organisation to undertake. Pensions received a close look. So also did British Immigration. 458 moved a successful motion to set up a

"Bring Out an Airman" Committee of representatives from all Metropolitan branches. Cyril Irwin was later appointed to represent 458 on this Committee.

New Guinea and other Islands. Peter Alexander moved a motion, as a H.Q. delegate, suggesting that Australia should take over the British share in the Condominium of the New Hebrides. This was carried without opposition, which the mover later attributed to nobody knowing where the New Hebrides were. Graeme Coombes later moved another motion which, in line with ideas expressed at the Brisbane 458 Squadron Conference, said that if there were any change in the status of West New Guinea then it should be united with (Australian) East New Guinea and Papua as one country. After a debate this was lost by one vote--apparently because someone thought that if West New Guinea were to be a United Nations Trust Territory then Papua would have to be one too. However it was a very interesting debate.

State Committee elections. President Graeme Coombes was elected to the State Committee for the coming year where he joins Dick Healey and Peter Alexander. Dick Healey was re-elected a State Vice-President.

Next Year and this. Next Year's Annual Assembly is to be in Orange where 458 has several members. It should be a good weekend. This year's Assembly and the Associated hospitality were very enjoyable.

CROWEATER STORY.

from Arm. Scholar, 74, Corunna Ave,
Melrose Park, S.A.

Cold Outside: T.V. Inside. The last three months have been particularly quiet, mainly, I suppose, because of the weather outside and nice fires and T.V. inside.

Haven't heard of any visitors from interstate. Bruce Thomas has had a business trip to Sydney. Bill Taylor reports seeing Ian Showell of Renmark who is keenly occupied with the power "GoKart" craze.

Sports and Quarts. A Sports evening with the 2nd/48th Battalion was enjoyed by those attending and our team, of Sid Bartram, Keith Foreman and Arm. Scholar took out the honours after a well contested play-off.

A similar evening at the Royal Air Forces Association was disappointingly attended. We hope to muster a better number next time as the amenities are there for a very good night's entertainment.

Adelaide All-States Reunion plans. The S.A. Committee has planned a programme for the Interstate Reunion next April and intend working hard to ensure a good time for those who will be coming.

Events Coming. A film evening, probably showing coloured slides of Ken Russell's recent trip to the U.K. plus views of local interest from Sid Bartram and Bruce Thomas. The Childrens' Picnic at National Park on November 20th--but more of that later.

OUTLINE OF A PROGRAMME FOR ADELAIDE.

This is the plan to which the S.A. Committee is working:

Friday 21st. Meet the first comers: escort to Hotel: Get together;
Saturday 22nd. Meet main arrivals. Gather Talbot Hotel 11.0 a.m.
Afternoon: Squadron Conference. Evening Social Dance;
Sunday 23rd. Picnic at National Park. Golf-Anzac Cup 11.0 a.m.,
Barbecue lunch. Handicap for the Stewart Cup. Private entertainment;
Monday 24th. Tour for those who don't want a free day. Through Mt.
Lofty Ranges to selected vineyards;
Tuesday 25th. Dawn Service at North Terrace War Memorial at 6.0 a.m.
Combined R.A.A.F. Service at Memorial Trees Adelaide Airport 9.0. a.m.,
Anzac March 10.30 a.m. followed by All-States Reunion from 12.0 noon;
Ladies entertained during the afternoon. Evening-wind-up parties.

This Programme represents an attractive schedule. Interstate and S.A. members should start planning now to be there with their wives.

PERSONAL PARS.

Graeme Coombes has been appointed Treasurer of the Australian Jockey Club, Sydney;

Personal Pars (cont.)

Ron Ricketts has been rather ill in Western Suburbs Hospital--all of us hope he continues to make progress;
Cyril Irwin has been re-elected to the Committee of the Air Force Club, Sydney;
Allan Walker who was a member of the Air Force Club Committee did not stand for re-election;

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From K.F. McLellan, 10, Balaby Crescent, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Sir, For several years I corresponded with my navigator, Basil Wheatley, both of us with 458 Squadron.

Having lost his address and wishing to renew our letters I wondered if you might have his present address in your files. If so would you please forward same.

Yours sincerely,
 K.F. McLellan.

From Mrs. Ettie McCarthy, Cocos Islands, Indian Ocean.

Dear Mr. Alexander, Find enclosed cheque for copy of Squadron History.....Charles and I are hoping to visit the eastern States for 1961 leave, will try to arrange things to fit in with the All-States Reunion,

yours sincerely,
 Ettie McCarthy.

From Jack Carter, Tocumwal, N.S.W.

Dear Peter, From the above address it looks as if I had better play the game and enrol with N.S.W. Flight. I am unfinancial anyway so the enclosed quid is not an unduly big-hearted gesture. I am just roaming around and "of no fixed address." I thoroughly enjoyed the Melbourne Reunion, a programme would have helped though, as like other "blow-ins" I had no idea where to contact anybody until the March and then the time with many old friends was all too short. I expected to meet Gee and Lee Percy and regretted that time would not permit me to run down to see them in Seaford. I met Bob Pollock at the Yarroweah Sports a few weeks ago and expect to drop in on him at his orchard property at Cobram in the near future. Bob and I spoke of a possible run up to Robinvale to see Dave Firth and absorb some of Dave's progressive orchard management ideas in the near future.

All the best,
 yours sincerely,
 Jack Carter.

From Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Brisbane.

Dear Peter,One of Q Flight's Associate members, Merv. McClurg, who is a traveller met three of his ex-P.O.W. friends while in northern N.S.W. recently. Merv. was a navigator in the same course as Eric Lloyd, Len MacDonnell and Keith Campbell. Merv. was a POW at Stalag IV B Muhlberg. The result of his meeting his ex-Stalag friends, it was decided to attempt to hold a reunion of ex-Stalag IV B P.O.W.s at a capital city to be decided upon, in 1965. Merv. would like this announced in Squadron News with requests that members of our Squadron who know of ex-Stalag IV B P.O.W.s advise them to contact Merv. McClurg, 16 Skyline Drive, Seven Hills, Brisbane, Queensland.....

With kindest regards,
 yours,
 Jim.

(Will members please do their best to spread the news among ex-P O W s concerned ?-Editor)

From Dud McKay, Freshwater, via Cairns, Queensland.

Dear Peter,I must compliment you on the book--a very good job. When does your novel come off the assembly lines ?

No, Peter, we have no complaints with six daughters and if we had another six

Correspondence (cont.)

and with a choice I think they still might be all girls.
Little Marissa gets an overdose of attention from everyone and myself in particular....The girls are promising hockey players.....I often think of you all down there and quite honestly it is one of my biggest regrets that we are so far away. However I think there's a probability of taking a trip shortly and if so I will take a lot of pleasure from seeing you all then. Please remember me to all the boys,
yours sincerely,
Dudley McKay.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

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

Dining-In Night. We had a very enjoyable dinner (I only just made it, as I had just got over mumps) and the following attended: S. Thompsonett and wife, H. Bishop and wife, M. Mason, wife and daughter Doreen, A. Sleight and wife, W. Allen, A. Anton and wife, T. Adams (first time), A. McKay (First time), N. Duke (First time). We held it at the Feathers Hotel, Westminster on Saturday, 30th. April. Earlier in the week, on Anzac Day a wreath was laid at the Cenotaph by Harry Bishop and Mick Mason made a colour film of the wreath laying. It is only a 2½ minute film. Mick has told me he will send it on to you at a later date along, we hope, with a short film of our visit to the Pea Nut Club hospital later in the summer.

Hospitals, plaques and Museums. I have posted off to Australia two photos of our Squadron plaque at the East Grinstead Hospital (the Peanut Club). It might be some good for the Canberra War Museum or the Squadron Album.
Cheerio for now.

SANDGROPER STORY.

by Peter Power, 145, Gildercliffe St.,
Scarborough, W.A.

I have been away from work for over a month. Originally with bronchitis, and by way of a continuation with, of all things---mumps. No doubt this childish complaint heralds my second childhood. Still somewhat wonky but they tell me I'll come good eventually.

Anzac Day. I can't tell you much about Anzac Day but from all accounts it was quite successful with 23 on parade. Our next venture will no doubt be our annual smoke social and games night with 460 Squadron to be arranged.

Melbourne Reunion. I would be grateful if you would convey to all and sundry the warmest thanks of Amy and myself for the hospitality extended to us while in Melbourne. The Melbourne weather may to some extent have interfered with the programme but it didn't dampen the enjoyable time we had. In particular we will always be indebted to Elsie and Arthur Green, Norm. and Nancy Cugley, Glad and Dave Firth, Lyle and Mrs. Wurr, for the efforts and the trouble they went to on our behalf. As mentioned before, we hope to have the All-States Reunion here in Perth in 1962. The latest information is that Her Majesty the Queen has been approached to open the Empire Games in Perth in 1962 and if it can be arranged to hold the All-States Reunion at a time when members could also see the Games I don't doubt that we could really turn it on over here. Of course we will have to plan well in advance because they expect 100,000 visitors to Perth.

Q FLIGHT NEWS

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

Winter Social.

Was a huge success. Held on Saturday 25th. June, at the A.T.C. Mess, a crowd of 160 (exactly) members, wives, and friends attended; the biggest crowd yet. The evening went with a real swing, helped considerably with entertainment by a very clever miming pair. Perhaps the highlight of the night was the "Best Legs Competition for men Only", adjudicated by three very critical and discerning female judges. It was surprising the number of men who wanted to "show a leg there." The Balloon Dance was extremely popular and hilarious. Some very skillful exponents of back-to-back dancing brought well deserved applause. Yours truly left the Social at 3.50 a.m., and there were still some stout trenchermen breasting the bar.

And Next. Our next function will be our general meeting and election of officers on Saturday 24th. September at the A.T.C. Mess.

Ex P.O.W. Reunion. Q. Flight would like to draw attention to the proposed Reunion (20 years after) of ex-Stalag IVB P.O.W.s in 1965. (See Page 4 in Correspondence).

THIRTY MILES FROM GROUND ZERO. Australia and the Nuclear Weapon. I.

This is to be the first of a series of brief articles dealing with the possibilities of the future. Nuclear Warfare, radiation, and the defence against them.

The Threat. The possibilities of warfare have moved with a speed, since Hiroshima, that has startled the experts and dismayed the Great Powers themselves. The only limit to the speed has been, amazingly, the purses of America and Russia. After Hiroshima, when the World saw what an aeroplane with an Atom Bomb could do, the Americans spent untold millions on a Distant Early Warning system of radar across the frozen wastes of north Canada and the Sea, to get the maximum tactical warning of Bombers approaching. Installed, it was almost at once obsolete. Giant intercontinental rockets of which radar could give no adequate warning, now existed to carry the warheads. Presumably Russian and British defences were similarly, if perhaps less expensively, outdated suddenly. The feverish expenditure was then poured into the heart-breaking perfecting of the great rockets and their aiming. Sputnik, Canaveral, Blue Streak. The sudden full-stop of the Blue Streak (if it is not to be otherwise used to explore space) was the effective announcement that the great rockets fired from fixed bases were now too vulnerable to each other to be worth while. The stage we now seem to be at, and probably not the ultimate stage, is of war from beneath the face of the oceans. Packs of nuclear-powered (and highly expensive) submarines spending long periods beneath the water and firing their nuclear weapons from beneath the water, perhaps 1,000 miles offshore: quite undetectable by any present means of defence. Perhaps not so many are nuclear-powered subs at the moment but the others can do it well enough.

When it explodes. With so much progress, if that word should be employed, in the means of delivering the weapon, it is not the case that there has been much recent change in the effect of the explosion. The ten megaton (10,000,000 tons of T.N.T. equivalent) bomb seems to remain as big a cracker as is economic to be delivered.

Its local effects are, of course, colossal. But if this series of articles has one purpose more than another, it is to demolish the folly of those who say the effects are so colossal that it is a waste of time to do anything. There is another school which says it'll never happen here. Let's hope they have something. But about those effects. They come in three main ways: (a) Heat; and (b) Immediate radiation, together, travelling at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second); and then (c) Blast, travelling at about the speed of sound (1,100 feet per second).

Heat. With the 10 Megaton weapon the light and heat radiated last for more than 30 seconds and are therefore more than a mere flash. Those caught in the open within 4 miles from ground zero (the point underneath the explosion) will be killed. (That is the heat would kill them before the blast arrived to do it); there would be First degree burns as far off as 20 miles from GZ. A lot of buildings would be set ablaze, and that is the serious feature of the Heat element;

Radiation. The fireball emits radiation instantaneously, in the forms of Gamma radiation, neutrons, alpha and Beta particles. The first two are dangerous. But they are also, in the form of immediate radiation, unimportant. The greatest range of the radiation, that of the gamma, is 4 miles. And anyone near enough to GZ to be inconvenienced by radiation will have been abolished by the much wider ranging effects of blast. As a matter of interest we shall give a few more details presently of the forms of radiation. But, apart from Residual radiation (Fall-out) which merits a mention later on, radiation (Immediate radiation) is positively unimportant.

Blast. This is the killer. For an Air burst, 8,000' up, of a 10 Megaton weapon, there will be total destruction for (about, of course) 4 miles from GZ; irreparable damage up to 6 miles; moderate to severe damage up to 16 miles of GZ; and light damage (tiles blown off windows blown in, etc) up to 24 miles (give or take a mile or so). The people killed would be killed, in the main, not by the blast itself; the human frame is surprisingly unaffected by blast; but by falling bricks, walls and roofs and assorted objects flying around. It is hard to picture or imagine the amount of debris which would be left lying around after the dust had settled. There would be no driving cars in and out.

A bit more detail on the Threat in another article before we come to the Defence. But before adjourning, a fair answer to a fair question. Why 30 miles from Ground Zero? (our title.) Because that is the nearest this writer hopes he ever has to get to a 10 M.T. Ground Zero. He won't willingly be as near as that, either. (To be continued).

THE EDITOR

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

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

Please forward me a copy of the Squadron History "We Find and Destroy". I enclose 32/-.

Name.....

Address.....