

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR.

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

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February, 1961.

ADELAIDE PREPARING TO RECEIVE 458.

Anzactime All-States Reunion.

The 9th. All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron will be held in Adelaide in April 1961 and will be attended by 458ers and their families from all parts of the Commonwealth. The S.A. Committee has planned a programme of events which will cover the period April 21st. to 25th, and which will keep everyone interested and amused. These annual interstate Squadron Reunions are peculiar to 458 and present a remarkable chance to see wartime comrades and find out how their lives are developing during the long post-war years; and, at the same time, enjoy with one's family all the thrills associated with a journey to another State and another great city.

The Programme.

The events planned are:

Friday April 21st. Members arriving met by Sth. Australian members. Informal get-together;

Saturday April 22nd. First all-member gathering at the Talbot Hotel at 11.0 a.m. Afternoon-Squadron Conference. Evening-Squadron Dance.

Sunday April 23rd. Picnic at National Park. Anzac Cup for golf 11.0 a.m. Barbecue lunch. Handicap for the Stewart Cup. Private entertainment;

Monday April 24th. A Tour for those who don't want a free day in Adelaide. Through the Mt. Lofty Ranges to the Vineyards.

Tuesday April 25th. The Dawn Service at North Terrace War Memorial at 6.0. a.m. combined R.A.A.F. Service at the Memorial Trees Adelaide Airport at 9.0. a.m. Anzac March at 10.30 a.m. At 12.0 noon follows the All-States Reunion itself.. The Ladies will of course be entertained while their menfolk are at the Reunion. In the evening are the wind-up parties.

Who are packing their bags ?

FOR reasons of accommodation, the S.A. Committee would like to know who is coming. Will our readers please notify the S.A. Secretary, Arn. Scholar, 74, Corunna Avenue, Melrose Park, S.A. ?

CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY

from

Arn. Scholar, 74, Corunna Ave.,
Melrose Park, S.A.

The Children's Christmas Picnic.

The Childrens' Picnic and the Social Evening were both fairly successful. Some of the youngsters are getting past the Father Christmas stage, but there are still plenty of toddlers coming on, which makes the efforts worthwhile. Flight thanks to those who did the work so well.

Johnny Excell and Col. Hutchinson's were faces we hadn't seen at the picnic for some time. Johnny is still at Murray Bridge, and very keen on rifle shooting. Col. has an orchard at Ashton and also instructs at the Agricultural College.

Among the Personalities.

R.A.F. type "Snow" Martyn contacted "Geep" Hanlon at Woomera, and we expect to see him down here in Adelaide soon. He is on 12 months duty at Maralinga as a Stores and Equipment Officer. "Snow" was an electrician on 458. He didn't have any previous knowledge of the existence of the post-war 458 Club.

Croweaters' Commentary (cont.)

Howard Prout of Broken Hill (N.S.W.) was in the Repat. Hospital at Daws Road during November for treatment.

"Hank" Ewens of Mount Gambier dropped in for a few beers and natter. He had his wife and family with him. They had done a round trip, meeting up with Roy Rabone at Dunkeld, and Ted Kennedy and Gordon Cuthbertson in Ballarat. "Hank" is managing the Electrical Dept. of one of Mt. Gambier's big stores.

I have heard that Gordon Cuthbertson was over here for the fourth Test (against the West Indies) but haven't seen him yet.

Bruce "Flash" Thomas has had a holiday in New Zealand, while Ken Russell is at Moana, Ron Badger at Sellicks Beach, Bill Taylor at Christie's Beach, I'm still at the desk.

Anzac. Anzac Week is getting closer:-- have you made up your mind about Adelaide? We would like to know who is coming.

EXPRESSION OF REGRET--No Apology.

The Editor.

We plead guilty to an extraordinary aberration in the last Issue of the News. We gave the title "Sandgropers say..." to the South Australian (Croweaters) Commentary. Aberration it was. We are well aware of the difference between sandgroping and eating crow. We are about, in this paragraph, to shew our own skill at the latter. The more, however, we have tried to frame something of an apology, the worse the situation seems to get. Publicly apologise we do not. We dare not. For to whom are we to apologise? We fear the effects on the Sandgropers if we apologise to the Croweaters for calling them Sandgropers. We doubt if we remove from the Croweaters minds the results of our initial blunder if we apologise to the Sandgropers for calling the Croweaters Sandgropers.

Much more of this explanation and we shan't dare go to Adelaide for the All-States Reunion.

Silence is now best--especially for us.

Sorry, chaps, it won't (we hope) happen again.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS

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

Christmas Social

Our Christmas Social met with the usual success. There were 137 bodies who enjoyed themselves on good food, good entertainment and good refreshment. The highlight of the evening was the "Best Legs" Competition for men-- which was won by a well-known 458er. However, for the sake of his peace of mind, we will not disclose his name. The choice was made by an independent but most indiscriminate panel of wives.

The Christmas Raffle for children of two Agfa box cameras with flash equipment was won by Mrs. D. Taylor, wife of one of our Associate members, and Mr. Bill Wiggers of the A.T.C. Mess. The opinion of those who attended was "Ditto Repeato ad Infinitum."

The Country Calling.

Over the Christmas period, we heard from quite a lot of country members who sent their greetings to the Flight, including Jim Plunkett, Theo Ravenscroft, Kenny Cahill, Stan Parker, and Tim McQuaid.

Incidentally, the Tim McQuaids had a long-awaited present in the birth of a baby girl on December 21st.---a sister to four brothers.

Bernie goes South.

Bernie McLoughlin desires to thank all those who entertained him during his recent leave in Sydney where he watched the third Test match. He does think it really worthwhile going to Sydney because he was given treatment 'fit for a King'.

Dance of the Clover Leaves.

One of our well-known 458ers had a rather embarrassing experience before Christmas. In his very large and fast car he was proceeding from Brisbane to the Gold Coast and came upon, for the first time the new Gum Leaf--Australia's version of the Clover Leaf--traffic cross-roads about 7 or 8 miles out of Southport. At the tremendous speed at which he was travelling he missed the road clues and found himself battling along 70/80 with the milestones flashing past--B29, B 28, B27 and

Q. Flight News (cont.) eventually woke up at B 25 that he was returning back towards Brisbane.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO 458.

The Squadron Secretary and Editor desires to thank the following, on behalf of the Squadron, for their Christmas greetings and cards. Laurie Crowley, Pete Campbell, Don Johnson, Jim Holliday, Ken Mercer, Rinso Purcill, E. Munkman, Jim Plunkett, Lock Simpson, Stan Parker, Sid Thompsett, Jack Riseley, Jim Palmer, Doug, McGuigan, Graeme Coombes, Tony Harris, Black Jack Baker, Geoff. Burgess, Snow Fennell, Theo Ravenscroft, Peter Power; and all their families.

HORRIE PLANT.

458 Squadron News is very sorry to report the death, in South Australia, of Horrie Plant, whom members will recall as the Navigator in Bill Addinal's crew. Arn. Scholar tells us that Horrie, who lived at Barmera, died on December 30th, left a widow and two daughters, aged 19 and 13. He had a motor engineering business at Barmera. Until recently he was a frequent attender at 458 functions.

Cyril Irwin, who knew Horrie well on 458, tells us that Horrie trained at Mt. Gambier and Summerside (Prince Edward Island, Canada), and then went, via the U.K. to the Middle East. He completed O.T.U. at Ein Sheimer and then joined 458 at Foggia. He was in the Falconara Detachment for the greater part of his stay with the Squadron. He went to Gibraltar when the Squadron moved from Italy. He was a man of quiet, modest ways.

458's sympathy to Horrie's family. We shall miss him.

N.S.W FLIGHT NEWS.

from

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

After many reminders from the Editor and despite the efforts of Sam Barlow and Bernie McLoughlin in keeping me out late at night, I finally made the deadline. Peter, you may now relax!

Voyagers and Sojourners . Since the last Edition and over the Christmas period N.S.W. members have entertained Bill Carr from Melbourne and Bernie McLoughlin from Brisbane. Bernie, an ardent cricket fan, was down for the West Indies test. His coming resulted in sore heads for many of his squadron friends.

We have also heard from and are shortly seeing Ken Morkham, who is now living in Sydney. We welcome him and his family.

Christmas Social. The Christmas Social was held on the 3rd. December last and, although not well attended by Squadron members, was a most pleasant and enjoyable night. Amongst the Squadron members and friends, with wives, present we noted Ron Markham, Bob Smith, Bill McBride, Les. Piggott, Grahame Sadler, Bob Bruce, Sam Barlow, Maisie Kerr, Maca and friend, Peter Alexander, Noel Spurling. Fred Strom put in a late run and made the grade.

Picnic Day. A Picnic Day was also held at "Mt. Wilga" during the last week of November and was enjoyed by those attending. Eric Munkman walked off with the Putting Competition.

Adelaide in Anzactime. Anzac Day may appear at first sight to be a long way away but actually from the date of writing is only 12 weeks. The All-States Reunion is, of course, destined for Adelaide and it is hoped that a large contingent of N.S.W. Flight members will make the trip. At the present date, Sam Barlow, Cyril Irwin, Peter Alexander, Fred Strom and Noel Spurling have indicated that in all probability they will make the trip, and several others are nibbling at the bait. For those of you who have not made the trip to an interstate Reunion it goes without saying that the hospitality encountered is second to none, and you have a most enjoyable time. At this stage it is thought that if a number were making the trip that possibly block air bookings could be arranged and, in order that this matter might be further considered, it would be appreciated if anybody considering going would indicate his intentions as soon as possible and say whether he is travelling by air or by road.

Membership. Members of 458, particularly those who are members of the 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association, are reminded that Association fees for 1961 are now due. The N.S.W. Division of the Association assists us to function in no uncertain manner. In fact, were it not for the generosity in making the Association rooms available for branch Committee meetings our continued functioning would be made appreciably more difficult. It is very necessary that our branch membership of the Air Force Association is not only maintained at its existing figure but increased. Members will be aware that

N.S.W. News (cont.)

Peter Alexander is Federal Secretary and Graeme Coombes is Federal Treasurer of the Air Force Association and, that being so, 458 in this State must do all in its power to assist the Association with its aims and objects.

Sick List. All 458 members will be sorry to hear that Ray Davies has been rather seriously ill in St. George's Hospital. Ray was visited by Squadron members---we all wish you a speedy recovery, Ray.

Anzac Day, 1961. As usual 458 will participate in the March in Sydney on Anzac Day and, after the march, a reunion is proposed at Strathfield Tennis Club where Ern. Doman as Treasurer of this Club is making some arrangements. However, full details of this reunion and Anzac proceedings will be furnished to all Sydney members at a later date by circular. Any Country member hoping to visit Sydney for Anzac Day this year might please contact the Secretary at Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney and advise particulars of his dates of arrival, etc.

Johnny Mills. Members will be interested to hear that we have had some news of Johnny Mills, who is well-remembered by many 458ers, particularly of the ground staff. He is working with the Railways and living in Austinmer.

Car Trial. The Committee is investigating the possibility of holding a car trial in the near future. Would enough members be interested? Here is the chance for you navigators to lose yourselves once again. Why not arrange with a few friends with cars to be in it. Intending starters might let Cy. Irwin UWI98I, Kemp Beach UA 6469, Eric Munkman JY 206I, or Bob Bruce JU I2I4 know.

TWENTY YEARS AFTER..... The original party of 458 Squadron left Australia on the long journey to the field of war in 1941.

This is no small occasion for a party and the next Squadron Reunion and Annual Get-together in Sydney is going to be made a special and bumper occasion for N.S.W. members to celebrate the anniversary. To take stock of what has happened in those twenty years; to celebrate now-long-lasting friendships ---and to look forward to the next twenty years---for these purposes plans are in the making for a specially organised affair (perhaps a Buffet-style) in the near future. Details to follow.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Bill Flentje Jackson Street, Casterton, Victoria.

Dear Sir, Please note that my present address is as above. I enclose £1-0-0, hoping this will cover my a/c for the Squadron News.

We now have two children---Rodney 5 years, and Lindy, 2 years and we have been in Casterton for 3 years.

If space allows, please send Christmas greetings to Tony Harris, Geoff. Burgess, Bob Bruce, Pat McCulloch, Dud McKay, Bill McDonald, and Harry Dorge.

Wishing the News all the best,
yours faithfully,
Bill Flentje.

From Len Barton, I22, Jersey Road, Woollahra, Sydney (FB 4I78)

Dear Peter, I'm breaking a long silence to say cheerio to you, and any of the boys who may remember me. How the years have slipped by since that long voyage on the Aorangi; and the subsequent months at Holme-on-Spalding Moor; then the Middle East---the Lydda Detachment and all the other good and bad places that made up the war for me. Names and faces of many 458ers come to my memory as I think back on those times, and I hope they have all lived to enjoy the ensuing years of prosperity. Still, enough of this nostalgic reverie. I guess its a song of old age.

These days I'm an Auctioneer and Dealer in antiques and collector's items. Whatever people collect, I buy and sell it---old guns, swords, coins, medals, native weapons and curios, rare books, military items of all kinds, etc etc (not stamps);---so, if any 458er wishes to sell any war souvenirs (non-explosive) I'd be pleased to hear from them.

My very best wishes to you and yours,

Sincerely,

Len Barton.

Correspondence (cont.)From Stan Parker, Ayr, Queensland.

Dear Peter, I have had a request from the local librarian at the School of Arts for a copy of the Squadron History. I wouldn't be at all surprised if this request is too late, but we can only have a go. The idea is that seeing that a local "lad" is mentioned in the book, we should have it in the local library.

It is a long time since I last heard from Dick Prior. He was then packing up in preparation for a move to a school in Nigeria. I can only hope he hasn't been caught in some of the African trouble.

Kindest regards to yourself and 458ers everywhere,

Sincerely yours,
Stan Parker.

(There are about 20 copies--Ed.)

From John Dandy, 22, Ludlow Avenue, Luton, Bedfordshire, England.

Dear Peter, It is a long time since I wrote to you and now must apologise for asking you a personal favour. The 22 year old son of a friend and neighbour of mine is at present in Australia working for a firm whose headquarters are here in Luton.....I would be very grateful if you have an opportunity to contact him...I think that with Christmas he may appreciate this link with Luton.....

I am sorry I have not written to you earlier on this but soon after he left England I developed Coronary Thrombosis, was rushed into hospital, and have only recently resumed more or less normal life.

May I compliment you on your wonderful work in connection with the Squadron History. I have only two very minor criticisms; firstly, there were four S.P.s with the Squadron till it reached Amiriya, when Fred Cook was posted to 454 Squadron. My other comment relates to the plane which crash-landed near the camp at Shallufa. I was one of the party who went out expecting to have to rescue the crew and although I cannot dispute the distance you say we were from the plane when the first 'bang' occurred I can assure you it seemed very much shorter than the History reports !

I have not been to a Reunion for some considerable time but still keep in touch with Sid Thompsett and frequently meet Geoff. Barrett, who, in fact, is Godfather to my younger child. I often wonder whether anyone hears anything of John George who was with us at Holme and I believe left when we reached Fayid.

With kind regards and best wishes,
yours sincerely,

John Dandy.

(John George, who in peace was a Solicitor and an amateur racing motorist, was with 458 as (an Equipment Assistant, from Holme to Shallufa, where he left to be commissioned. We have not heard of or from him since then, --- Editor)

From F/Lt. B.C. Martyn, R.A.F., Maralinga.

Dear Peter, You may remember me as Corporal "Snowie" Martyn in the Electrical Section of 458 Squadron. I joined the Squadron at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and remained with it for two years in the Middle East.

One of the first people I met at Maralinga was Tom Hanlon and within a few hours on my first trip to Adelaide I was sampling the local brews with Johnny Bax and Ron Badger.

You may imagine how delighted I was to meet these old pals and to learn what a wonderful Association you have out here. I was in fact unaware that there was a U.K. Flight and I am now eager to join it when I go back to England in twelve months time.

I stayed in the R.A.F. at the end of the war but have always looked back on 458 days as being the happiest of the twenty years I have now had in the 'mob'.

After the war I went out to Egypt again for three years from 1948-51, and to Malaya from 1954-57. Due no doubt to old associations I jumped at the chance of coming out here for a year to see a bit of the country and the odd chance of renewing some old friendships.

I am arranging for some leave in Adelaide for the Anzac Day celebrations and am looking forward to meeting some of my old cobbbers. In the meantime I am anxious to obtain a copy of the Squadron book, the tie and the Newsletter. Red McRea tells me you could assist in this.

yours, etc, Snowie Martyn.

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from

Sid Thompsett, 369, Downham Way,
Bromley, England
(Tel: Hither Green 6653)

Calling the sunshine land of Australia from a dull English climate. For the past months, nothing but rain. On that cheerful note, I say a very cheerful hallo.

Reunion at the Feathers--but no Olive. We had a very enjoyable Reunion on 12th. Nov. at the usual place. Most of the regulars turned up. It was election night for Officers and the following will take office for the next year:

President: W. Anton;	Vice President: B. Havers;
Chairman: F. Nieman;	Vice Chairman: H. Hamlet;
Treasurer: H. Bishop;	Secretary: S. Thompsett;

As you will notice no doubt there has been a near complete change of officers--not due to any disagreements but we thought it would be nice to see a few of the others participating in the running of the U.K. Flight. The Treasurer gave us our financial position--not a tremendous amount in hand, just enough to keep us solvent.

My own report was that we had found another long-lost member, Peter Chadwick, who lives in Prestwick, Manchester. Also, John Dandy has been seriously ill but, I am pleased to say, is now very much better.

A point of interest to those who knew our waitress at the Feathers-- I have to report that Olive doesn't work there any more.

We have booked in for our dinner at the Feathers for April 29th.

Histories and Readers. The further copies of the History have arrived safely. One was for Leo Armstrong, as a replacement--his original copy has been sent to a friend in Canada. I must say copies of our History have found themselves practically all over the world. 458 in the Air Training Corps.

An item of news--Bob Havers has recently been promoted F/Lt and C.O. of 228 Squadron, in the Air Training Corps. The news, with a photo, appeared in the local paper in Bromley. Leon Armstrong is also connected with the A.T.C., Wanstead branch, and he was recently made Chairman of the local group. He has been connected with it for the last 10 years.

Anzac Day, 1961. All arrangements are in hand for our Anzac Day wreath-laying as well as our dinner on April 29th.

All the best.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from

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

Bi-annual General Meeting. This was held at Len Stewart's home early in December, but, as is usual with general meetings, it was very poorly attended, even though our 2 energetic A.C.W.s Val Stewart and Verna Riseley went to a lot of trouble to prepare a first class supper. Ten stalwarts turned up.

But the business was done. We were gratified to learn that Associate badges were about to become available. We would like a supply at the earliest opportunity.

The All-States Reunion is a major issue; in brief, we are prepared to be host state in 1962, and will guarantee a 100% show similar to what we produced in 1958.

Cricket with and against 460 Squadron. Our next get-together will be the annual cricket match with 460 Squadron which is scheduled to be held at Rockingham on Sunday 29th. January 1961.

Personal par. We have heard from Clarrie Eagle and Dave Wood, both of whom have rejoined the fold; and we are delighted to have them back playing an active part in the Flight activity.

To You All. On behalf of the office-bearers of the W.A. Flight, may I extend to all our mates the very best of everything for the New Year.

WHAT A MAN CAN DO. Australia and the Nuclear Weapon. III.

My two previous articles have dealt with the THREAT of the shrivelling heat, the pulverizing blast, and the slow poison of radiation. Deliberately, the possibilities of the last day of Judgment have been set down in full horror and over-mastering menace. What can happen should be clearly realised and faced with courage. And so now, having perhaps --if I have achieved anything--brought into the open the fact that we might, if things go wrong, have to write off half the population of one or more of our major cities in a few moments

