

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR:

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

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August, 1961.

## TWENTY YEARS AFTER.....

The official date of the formation of 458 Squadron was 10th. July, 1941, at Williamtown, N.S.W.

A party of Australian groundstaff were posted overseas, specifically as members of 458 Squadron in August, 1941. This party (records the (Squadron History) felt, and was to retain, a sense of pride and achievement in its membership of 458 Squadron. It assembled at Williamtown R.A.A.F. Station in N.S.W. and consisted of two senior N.C.O.s, and 37 airmen, many of whom were to remain with the Squadron for the greater part of four years.

Apart from practice bayonet fighting, stand-downs for the weekend, and fatigues for making new bayonet targets, nothing much happened until 7th. August, 1941 when the whole party marched out for embarkation overseas on the S.S. Awatea--which gave them quite a good trip across the Pacific to Canada.

While Holme-on-Spalding Moor was certainly the place where 458 first became an operational squadron, Williamtown may nevertheless claim with some authority to be the birthplace of the Squadron.

## The Squadron returns.....

In October, 1961, the N.S.W. 'Country' Reunion will, very fittingly, be held in Newcastle, and, as one of the highpoints, the party of members and their families are to visit Williamtown, and are to be welcomed there in the Officers' Mess. This weekend is planned to commence on Friday, October 13th.

Other events likely to be included in the programme are a visit to the Shoalhaven Country Club; a dance at Tattersalls Club and a visit to the Pokolbin Vineyard in the Hunter Valley.

## How many of the First Party?

There is some speculation as to how many of the original 39 will succeed in being in the 458 party of 1961. Likely starters in this class include Eric Munkman and Freddy Strom. What changes will they notice?

## Who were they all?

Apart from the two mentioned in the previous paragraph who were the 39? We have no list. Those whose names are mentioned in the history were Peter Power (one of the Sergeants), Jock McGowen, Jim Palmer, Noel Griffith, Buster Balmer, and Les Piggott. Who can build on this list? The Editor would like to hear from members who can add names.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

FROM

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

## Annual Anzac Dinner.

We here held our Annual Dinner on April 29th.--which was the nearest saturday to Anzac Day. But, before that, I should mention Anzac Day itself. 458 Squadron (U.K. Flight) laid a wreath on the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and this was followed by the Service in Westminster Abbey. Then, later on in the afternoon, a tea is arranged at Australia House. This tea is arranged by the Ladies of the R.S.L., with Mrs. Chester Wilmot as Chairman. It is quite a good layout, with both the High Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand in attendance.

Now to get on with the Reunion dinner. We all had a very good evening, and there were one or two new faces. The following were able to make it:

M. Mason, wife and daughter; Sid Thompsett, wife and sister; Harry Bishop and wife; Butch Holding (his first time), wife and two friends; Ted Adams; Eric Brown; A. Allen and wife; C. Humbles and a friend; N. Duke; T. Hicks (his first time) and wife; Dick Tombs and wife; A. Anton and wife;

British Bulletin (cont.)

Fred. Nieman, Leon Armstrong, Chris. Holmes (first time) and wife, and, quite unexpectedly, Paddy Ogilvie from Ireland. We also had a guest for the evening --- Mr. Frank Kennedy who is the P.I.O. for the R.S.L., reporting all activities in England and sends them to the Editors of the R.S.L. journals. He took one or two photographs and has sent them on to me. The evening came to a close all too quickly, but we all look forward to our half-yearly Reunion on November 11th.

Bill Carr in Britain.

A week after the Reunion I had a phone call from Bill Carr, who had just arrived in this country and got in touch with me. I got in touch with all the ones I could and we made an evening out. We did arrange to have another evening out later on before he left for America, but at the last moment Bill had to call it off due to pressure of engagements right up to take-off time.

Eric Brown moving to Australia.

We have had a letter from Eric Brown and it seems you in Australia will soon be welcoming him, his wife Honor, and son Tony to Australia. He has all the papers from Australia House so I guess its just a case of time before he leaves us for good---our loss but your gain.

East Grinstead Hospital.

Two weeks ago quite a few of us paid a visit to the Queen Victoria Hospital at East Grinstead. But seeing that there is quite a lot to say, including how the Peanut Club was formed, etc., I am going to put it all in another report.

With all good wishes to you and yours.

CROWEATER COMMENTARY.

from

Col. Hanlon, 2, Eucla Avenue, Warradale Park, Adelaide.

There is very little to report from this Flight, as the cold winter months forced most members to stay indoors. However things are beginning to stir, as our first committee meeting is scheduled for the 1st. August. The main item to be discussed is the Kiddies Christmas Picnic. During the past this particular outing has been a tremendous success and it is hoped that every member of the S.A. Flight will make an extra effort to attend this year. A probable date for this fixture will be late in November, so if any interstate members are in Adelaide during this period, we extend a most cordial welcome to join us. It is rumoured that a change of location may be put before the Committee this year, and that Father Christmas may arrive by aeroplane.

Potential Pilgrimage of Postle.

I was very pleased to receive a letter from Gordon Postle of Q. Flight. Your best wishes have been passed on to all members, Gordon. And we hope that your planned trip to Adelaide in October eventuates. By the way, the Trotting season commences in September.

IN HOLLIDAY MOOD: Q. Flight News.

from

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

Winter Social.

Our winter social on 17th. June was another big success. Altogether there was an attendance of 142 and, if the westerly winds had not blown so hard probably many more would have been there. It was pleasing to see Harry and Pat Dorge and Frank and Hilda Wilks down from Toowoomba. Also Jack Hobbs brought a party all the way from Cooroy. That three parties travelled over 100 miles each to attend the winter social speaks for itself.

It is not beyond the realms of imagination to expect a party from New South Wales at our Christmas Social.

Kellam was always lucky.

The raffle for the Sunbeam Supersize Frypan, donated by Gordon Postle and the Electric Toaster, donated by Eric Kelly, was drawn at the function. The Frypan was won by "Kel" Kellam, who was tickled pink to receive it. The toaster was won by the Secretary (Jim Holliday) who had to survive a protest and a Stewards Enquiry before being awarded the prize.

Shadows before....

Coming events on the Q. Flight calendar are the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, 26th. August; and then the Air Force Ball at "Riverside" on 15th. September. Then comes the best function of the year, the Christmas Social, to be held about the first Saturday in December.

Personal.

News about bodies has been rather meagre over the winter period, probably because most have taken to bed with the prevalent "urti".

Previous articles in this series have dealt with the Threat--of fire,blast, and radiation and with the Reply. The third article suggested what the individual man might do in the face of the Threat. This article is intended to suggest what the Community can do as a whole.

The Price. The Community can pay the price of survival. It can organise. Firstly, of course, come the endless small moves of diplomacy, the Diplomatic "Chessgame". Secondly, it can be militarily prepared ---so that if the cause be sufficiently good it can get in first. Thirdly it can press on with the scientific search for adequate answers to the new generation of destructive missiles; and satellites soon to pass endlessly overhead, like Democles' dagger poised above. Finally, and supposing the worst to happen, it can have ready the necessary civil defence.

Evacuation. Sufficient warning may be obtained--perhaps a week--of the imminent fall of the nuclear blow, to enable evacuation of non-essential people from the target zones to the distant country reception zones. This will entail large numbers of people travelling vast distances. 458 in N.S.W. will, if plans work out, and if the emergency comes, journey from Sydney to Orange. But before an evacuation can be helpful it must have been planned. The transport, the food, the shelter on arrival must all have been planned.

Shelters. The community can arrange individual and collective forms of shelter, from blast and radiation. It can stockpile supplies.

Rescue. The community can be prepared to rescue, to treat, and to feed the survivors of a nuclear explosion. Probably the target will have been a city or close to a city; and so there will be very many people requiring help. By local action, the community can organise rescue services, fire fighters, wardens, first aiders, radio-activity monitors.

All this will, and should, depend on voluntary effort. But it will also cost money and it is regrettably clear that few governments will spend much money unless they are satisfying a vocal public demand.

What is being done in Australia.

Necessary steps in building a civil defence include:  
(i) Planning; (ii) Recruiting; (iii) Training; and (iv) Equipping.

Planning. In Australia, generally, precious little is being done by way of civil defence preparation. A tribute can well be paid to the small professional civil defence directorate in Sydney, N.S.W., for its planning. But it requires a deal more support than it is getting. Execution of the planning is liable to depend on municipal councils and certainly depends on support from the individual citizen. The individual citizen (including you, gentle reader?) is generally leaving it to "the other feller". (And who, gentle reader, will pay the price if the other feller doesn't do it either?). The picture is not a good one. And this in a country where returned servicemen are many.

Training. There are good training manuals for civil defence personnel--in short supply. There is a very excellent Civil Defence School in Mt. Macedon, Victoria---but there should be half a dozen. Suitable pamphlets are being prepared (at least in some states) for distribution to householders,--but as yet not available in sufficient numbers, nor distributed.

Equipment. The equipment needed consists of fire-fighting equipment, and special radio-activity monitoring equipment.

The latter (dosimeters, etc.) have to be imported from overseas and are not available in anything remotely resembling adequate numbers. Presumably it is being supposed that when we are at war and blockaded, and our overseas sources of supply are themselves monitoring fall-out, then it will be at once easier to import them. Why can't manufacturing capacity be created in Australia now?

To sum up. The only comment I can make on the present set-up, is that the nuclear weapon had better not explode here. The Ancients said, many centuries ago, that those the Gods wished to destroy, they first made mad. What do you, who have read on thus far, consider is our state of sanity in Australia on this subject now? We have, in Australia, no civil defence worth mentioning. We have a Federal Government which surveys the situation with olympian calm. We have a public which has little or no idea of what to do for itself and its families in an emergency. We have great cities wholly without civil defence. We have a vast continent into which to withdraw our non-essential populace in an emergency, and, as yet negligible planning to do it. Are we not, then, of doubtful sanity? Do we not, with our families, face destruction from the ancient gods of fire, thunder and starvation, in a last scene lit by the blinding rays of nuclear detonation?

One more article to come--to deal with 458 Squadron's position in the picture and what has been planned and done (at least in one state). In it some indication of arrangements in hand for 458 in Sydney to play a part as an entity in the overall plan. Then, it must be, mainly, over to you.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from

Jack Riseley, 26, Melrose Crescent,  
Mt. Lawley, W.A.

There is not much news from the sandgropers at present--activities have been restricted by the fairly heavy winter weather we have had lately. The Committee is currently engaged in arranging a social evening with 460 Squadron and we hope this will take place in the next couple of months.

Tony fills a Vacuum in Perth.

Quite recently we have had an addition to our ranks by the transfer of Tony Stone from Melbourne to Perth. He is retail sales manager for the Vacuum Oil Company, for Western Australia. His wife joined him a few weeks ago and they are in the process of settling down in their flat at Cottesloe. We all wish Tony and his wife the best in their new venture.

Butch in Hollywood.

We were sorry to hear that "Butch" Power had four weeks in Hollywood Hospital. He has now been discharged and is back to his normal "abusive self".

Empire Games in Perth.

Our half-yearly meeting is due shortly and it is intended to elect a special committee to handle the accommodation of visitors during the Empire Games next year. To all interstate members intending to make the trip we suggest that some indication be given to us as rapidly as possible. All hotel accommodation is currently taken and members in Western Australia have an earnest desire to assist as much as possible and naturally would like to give preference to their friends. Please advise us as early as possible.

That is all for the moment. Kindest regards to all.

Editor. The weather is always fair conversational game but we are driven at this point to Editorial comment on the appalling unanimity with which our (esteemed) Flight correspondents are misrepresenting the Australian winter. We have Adelaide and Perth sounding like Holme-on-Spalding Moor in midwinter, and the balmy coast of Queensland like the steppes of Russia, where Urti Major prowls. Don't believe it, you overseas migrants in search of a good climate!

VICTORIA FLIGHT JOTTINGS.

from

Shorty Wilson, 78, Carnarvon Road,  
Strathmore, Victoria.

As most members are aware, Vic/Flight activities almost cease for several months after Anzac Day because of inclement weather. Yes, we admit it. (Editor. So do we. We pass that one. The Editor used to live in Melbourne).

Family Picnic.

However, our final gathering before hibernating for the winter was in the form of a family picnic at Gordon Cuthbertson's sheep farm at Burrum Beet, 19 miles past Ballarat. We had an excellent time. Those who attended were accompanied by their wives and children who enjoyed picnic races, horse rides and a showing of the Vic Flight movies and cartoons. The Flight film takes about an hour to run and includes some candid shots. Squadron personnel who attended were:

John Jenkins	Norm. Cugley	Shorty Wilson	Ern. Laming	Ian Higlett
Ted Kennedy	Yank Martin	Roy Rabone	Lloyd Simpson	George Riddoch

Ron Russell accompanied by his friends the Archbold family.

Personalities.

At the picnic the newsgatherer learned that:

Sir Galahad John Jenkins fractured some bones in his hand while jacking the car of a lady visitor to his home. Yes, his wife was home.

Bob Smith is a school teacher at Fern Tree Gully S.S.

Lyle Wurr has recently taken several steps the fourth of which was a transfer to the Tooradin State School. Tooradin is a country and seaside resort town about 35 miles from Melbourne.

Jack Fleming, the white wog, who is a Flight engineer with Ansett-A.N.A. recently completed a trip to the U.S.A. to take delivery of a modified Electra;

Ern. Laming has retired from the R.A.A.F. after 22 years service and is now employed on the Stock Exchange;

Arthur Lehdey, ex-captain of Harry Ashworth's crew, has a settlement block at Pleasant Hills, near Henty, N.S.W. Local members, please note;

Dick Watson, a very well remembered member, is General Manager of an Insurance company in Jakarta. He is still single and very happy in his native state;

Rabone at the R.S.L.

Shorty Wilson and family spent Queen's Birthday weekend at the very picturesque sheep farm of Roy Rabone at Dunkeld near Hamilton. Roy is the very active President of the local R.S.L. and Shorty's arrival coincided with the monthly meeting. Shorty can faintly remember meeting, among others, Jack Parry and Tom Broadhurst,

Victoria Flight Jottings (cont.)

old friends of Jim Munday's. They send kindest regards, Jim.

Ist. Annual Ball?

The Committee meets in August, and it is anticipated that preliminary arrangements may be made to conduct our Ist. Annual Ball. If this eventuates, it is hoped that it is well patronised to become a social success.

Kindest regards to all Flights from the Vic/Flight.

458er OF THE DAY.—JACK CARTER.

The 458er of this issue, Jack Carter, is one of the 'Grand Old Men' of the Squadron, having served in both World Wars. He has proved himself in recent years to be a regular attendee at All-States Reunions--always as a surprise because, since he moves around a fair amount no one is ever sure where he is until he turns up to everyone's pleasure.

Jack was born at Cleckheaton in Yorkshire, England and came to Australia, under his own steam, at the age of 15. He went to Heywood in the Western Districts of Victoria and worked there on barkstripping.

First War. Jack served with the 42nd Battalion in the A.I.F. in France. After the war he stayed in England for some time and worked with J. Fowler and Sons in Leeds--a firm of engineers. Then he returned to Australia.

He trained as a Fitter and Turner at the Wayville Trade School, and worked in the Shipbuilding industry as a maintenance fitter from 1921 to 23.

Jack married during his years in France a French girl. They had a son (now in the R.A.A.F.) and a daughter.

Unionism became a strong interest and Jack was Vice President of the Port Adelaide branch of the A.E.U. at the age of 25, and was a Trades and Labour Council delegate. He continued in the Engineering industry in South Australia until 1927. He then became a Vacuum representative for tractors. During the Depression years, he was a pastoral representative in the Nullarbor.

To the Northern Territory. In 1938 Jack joined a syndicate building navy installations as Plant Engineer. In 1941 he joined the R.A.A.F. and on Friday 13th June 1941 he started on the long journey to 458 Squadron via the Blue Dript.

On 458. Jack went through with 458 as a Fitter until Bone in North Africa. Firstly as a corporal and then as a sergeant, he played a major part in the Squadron's life and its success in serviceability. He took the keenest and most wholehearted interest in the work and welfare of 458 and its men. It could be that, like many others of 458, that he regards his 458 years as the highlight of a varied life. Certainly, he has said in after years that the only time in his life he has been homesick was when he left 458 to return home; when he was homesick for 458 and its companionship.

He had some home service at Lake Boga, Victoria, with No. 1 Flying Boat Repair Depot. For a while he ran the R.A.A.F. Pollies.

Back to Darwin. Demobilised in June 1945, he returned to Darwin as Shift Engineer at Darwin Power House and Cold Stores.

To Queensland. Jack's next venture took him to Palmwoods, Queensland, where he grew pineapples very successfully. He became President of the local R.S.L. and had the experience of handing his R.S.L. Lifemember's badge to Frank Nicklin, Premier of Queensland. In 1958, Jack sold his farm, and moved southwards, firstly to N.S.W. and later to Victoria. 458 was delighted to see him in Adelaide at the 1961 All-States Reunion.

The loyalty, the very deep, very Australian, loyalty of men such as Jack Carter to their mates of 458, and to the Squadron as an entity itself, is the short and full reason for its remarkable strength in its postwar life--a much longer life than its war time life. That it has built a peacetime life, as distinct from a shadowy occasional remembering of wartime friendships, is due to the willingness of such men as Jack to travel great distances and their determination to keep in touch. He is one of the men who symbolise 458 Squadron.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Alf. Rubidge; P.O. Box 132, Cradock, Cape Province, Republic of South Africa;

Dear Peter, I thoroughly enjoyed reading the book you wrote.....  
May as well tell you that I gave up farming and am now working for the United Party Division of Organisation. Having paid a high price for my farm and a low income from

Correspondence: (cont.)

wool, I decided to sell before I was jailed. Now at least I'm not concerned with droughts and fluctuating wool markets. More news next time,

yours sincerely,  
Alf. Rubidge.

From Wallie (Caesar) Baird, 90, Whale Beach Rd., Whale Beach, N.S.W.

Dear Peter, ..... Did I tell you I had met Peter Thompson of 458 in Hong Kong about a year ago? He's married with one daughter and was then liaison officer for the R.A.F. at Manila. He was a Wing Commander and seemed to be enjoying his job immensely, with his own private aircraft supplied by the British Government! He was in H.K. on holiday and was staying in the same hotel as we were. He asked to be remembered to all the boys,

Kindest regards, yours,  
Wallie Baird.

From Bill Swann, 5, Oak Road, Fareham, Hants, England.

Dear Mr. Alexander, It gave me great pleasure to receive your letter and to hear bits of news of old acquaintances.

I had already had a letter from Sid Thompsett and have replied to that and paid my subs. to join the U.K Flight. He has since sent me a copy of the Squadron News and I presume my 7/6d subscription will cover this, as I should very much like to receive it regularly. ....

As for myself, I am now married with two teenage children and am employed on the executive side of an engineering firm near Southampton. I also take an active part in the Fareham Air Training Corps. Some of you may remember you christened me "Split-pin" on account of my lack of fat. For the record, I now weigh nearly 15 stone.

Various members of whom I would like to hear are Len Adams, Charlie Mann, John Dew, John Fennell, Stan Longhurst, Jack Nicholls and the 'Doc'. There are very many others I remember well and of whom I still have photographs.... Now let me wish all my old friends the very best. It is nice to be in touch again and to know one is not forgotten.

yours very sincerely, Bill Swann.

From Stan Parker, Box 446, Ayr, Queensland.

Dear Peter, Heartiest congratulations upon your being elected Squadron President. ....

I had a letter from Dick Prior a couple of months ago. He is now headmaster of a boys school in Eastern Nigeria. His address is as follows:

Okongivu Memorial Grammar School,  
Nneuei,  
via Onitsha,  
Eastern Nigeria.

I don't know if my writing is good enough for you to be able to read that.

Please give my regards to all 458ers...

Stan Parker.

From Mr. William N. Hess, 964I, Kingston Road, Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Dear Sirs, I am an American veteran who served with the U.S.A.A.F. and U.S.A.F. in WWII and the Korean War whose hobby has been for some years the collection of material and information relative to aerial operations during these wars.

I have recently been informed by the Director of the Australian War Memorial that there was published some months ago a History of No. 458 Squadron during WWII. I am sure it would be most interesting and informative, and I am writing in the hope that you may see fit to sell me a copy of this history.

sincerely,  
William N. Hess.

ERIC AND HONOR BROWN TO MIGRATE TO AUSTRALIA.

The N.S.W. Committee has been delighted to receive a letter from Eric Brown announcing that he, his wife Honor, and son Tony have made the decision to move to Australia. They are coming to N.S.W. where all 458ers will be looking forward to greeting them and welcoming them to 458 in Australia.

TO JIMMY BROWN--FAREWELL.

458ers--particularly of the "Reinforcements"--the "Reos"--will have been deeply shocked and sorry to hear of the sudden death, in a car accident not far from his home, of Jimmy Brown. Jimmy came to 458, as a Flight Mechanic, at Foggia with the first party of the Reos, and of course then stayed with the Squadron for the rest of its service.

He was a well-built young man with a calm and quiet air but something in his personality which made him the one in the party to whom people looked as its spokesman, a sort of inherent chairmanship; something which made him important to his mates.

After the war he returned to Sydney and went into the business of installing printing machinery. He married and leaves a widow and children.

His personality again took him to the fore among his fellows, and at his death, not yet in his forties, he was President of the Smithfield sub-branch of the R.S.L. May he rest in peace. We shall remember him. Our sincere sympathies to his family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Geoff. and Gwen Burgess on the birth of a son. They are now in Katanning, W.A.

STORY OF COURAGE AND HIGH INTELLIGENCE.

from The Editor.

In July I chanced to see the Sydney Daily Telegraph, not my usual daily, and was brought up with sharp surprise on page 10. There were two pictures. One, the dark, strong, bearded face of Jomo Kenyatta, legendary leader of East African natives, then in custody on suspicion of Mau Mau leadership. I was as familiar as any other newspaper reader with his features. The other was the square whiskered face of our C.O., Colonel Bruce McKenzie, of Kenya. The article, by one Stanley Hurst, dated from Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, told a remarkable story.

The last Squadron members heard of the Colonel will, I suppose, have been what was reported in the Squadron News. He had graduated, as it may be put, from his stud farm to the Kenya Legislative Council, and then to very energetic and successful office as Minister of Agriculture. This, of course, in a Kenya dominated by the British minority centred in the beautiful farming country of the Kenya Highlands. This in a Kenya, too, where the surging rise of African nationalism in vast numbers was being met in the solid main by cold white determination to resist change; an atmosphere of fear and no cooperation between black and white.

That position has been challenged by one of the most intelligent and courageous actions of which I have heard in many years. Colonel McKenzie, with all the bravery and clear-sightedness he shewed as C.O., has moved to start some inter-racial co-operation. He has resigned office and joined the Kenya African National Union, led in Kenyatta's absence by a young African, Tom Mboya.

There were two whitemen in this very far-sighted action. The other being a Mr. Derrick Erskine, M.L.C. Mr. Erskine, educated at Eton, former officer of the Hussars, established a business in Kenya, and early distinguished himself by bringing up his family there to be on friendly terms with the Kikuyu natives and to speak their language.

His son put a knowledge of Kikuyu to use during the Mau Mau troubles by taking to the forests in armed company with friendly Kikuyu and ambushing Mau Mau groups with whom he "shot it out". The father, though opposing the Mau Mau, defended the Kikuyu, quoting (according to Stanley Hurst, whom I am quoting in hopeful confidence) Edmund Burke's saying "I do not know a method of drawing up an indictment of a whole people."

Now he and Bruce McKenzie are the two white parliamentary members of Tom Mboya's party. They have come to the conclusion that the only possible way for Kenya to achieve stability is by co-operation and friendship between all races.

458 Squadron News has neither politics nor religious affiliations (except perhaps a belief in loyalty among Squadron members and to Squadron members) and in this article I speak only for myself. But I have been filled with an enthusiasm over Bruce McKenzie's active lead, which I have not felt for a long time. It seems to me the best news to have come out of troubled Africa in this generation. In what other way can Africa have a prosperous future than by cooperation between its manifold races black, white and coloured? It comes, I am very afraid, at the last quarter of the eleventh hour but for all that is not too late. For me, my eyes will be directed towards Kenya with breathless expectancy and--with hope. I conclude with some parts of letters from me, as an individual, to Bruce McKenzie; and from Mr. Erskine to me.

July 7th. Dear Bruce, Herewith some cuttings from the Sydney press. On the assumption that apart from journalistic embroidery, the report is correct, I want to express my admiration for what you are doing. Your lead towards the essential cooperation between

the various races in Kenya is the best news to come out of Africa in my time. Bully for you ! I hope other people have the intelligence to follow your lead. Congratulations also to Mr. Erskine.....yours, indeed, Peter.

Dear Mr. Alexander, Bruce McKenzie shewed me the interesting cuttings you sent him from the Australian Daily Telegraph. They were most amusing and flattering though, as you suspected, not particularly accurate in regard to details.

I am so glad Bruce McKenzie has taken a very courageous line and, without doubt, it will pay rich dividends for our country. The twenty African elected members of our party KANU, all regard Bruce as a heroic figure.....Bruce's attitude is so simple. He came to this country after the War, and took a great fancy to it. He now says: "I am a Kenyan and from now on I put Kenya first, and as far as I am concerned my fellow-citizens are Kenyans, regardless of racial origins, colour or creed." It takes a big man to do what he has done. But, then, as you know, no one could be much bigger either in physique or courage !

There is no doubt that Bruce will be a leading figure in Kenya politics for many years to come. When we progress towards a complete democracy with universal suffrage, I should think that Bruce could get himself elected in any constituency in Kenya and when this happens it will be a wonderful example to the world.

yours sincerely,

Derek Erskine. "

Intelligence; courage; and loyalty. What do you think, Squadron member?

P. Alexander.

#### CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

from

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

#### The Picnic.

Blessed once again with fine weather--458 Squadron weather--members, friends, and many children congregated at Kurnell Park on Sunday 6th. August, for a most enjoyable day. This superb site, on greensward sloping to the edge of Botany Bay, was lit by warm sunshine all day. Members could, and some did, take their children to the very spot, on the rocks nearby, where Captain Cook first landed in the newly found land of Australia. (This landing was resisted, the Memorial records, by two aborigines with spears.). It was the first time we had gone here for the Annual Picnic. There was a mixed series of events, including Badminton, won by Dorothy Munkman in partnership with Richard Healey Jnr. Chef Jack Aitken barbecued potatoes which we ate with relish. Thanks to Bill Cotton, packets of Kellogg's Frosties were disbursed to the kids (as prizes) as were soft drinks, ice creams, and sweets. It is nearing tradition for N.S.W. officers to shed their blood or bruise their limbs on Squadron occasions, and on this occasion, the N.S.W. President (who sprained his ankle) and N.S.W. Secretary (who nearly broke his wrist) maintained the record.

#### Country Reunion, 1961.

This will be in Newcastle on the weekend 13th to 15th. October. Ross Burgess and his fellow Newcastle 458ers have been active, and with Sam Barlow's support, an interesting itinerary has been arranged. This is the programme:

Friday Night: Informal gathering Stone's Federal Hotel;

Saturday Morning: Visit to Williamstown R.A.A.F. Base;

Afternoon: Visit to Showl Bay Country Club and Nelson Bay;

Evening: Dinner Dance at Tattersall's Club, Newcastle;

Sunday: Car tour of Hunter Valley, including Maitland District, Kurri Kurri R.S.L. Club, Cessnock, Pokolbin Vineyards, Toronto, Wangi R.S.L. Club. A cold luncheon and refreshments will be available.

Children will be catered for. Please come and, if coming, let the Secretary know your accommodation needs. These Country Reunions are among the things which 458 does best. Be in it.

#### Annual Ball, 1961.

The Venue--the Trocadero; the date---22nd. September, 1961. 458 Squadron is making the Air Force Association Ball, its Annual Ball night, as is usual. Join the Squadron table. Tickets 25/- each. Available from the Secretary, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney. Please let us have your company.

#### All-States Reunion, 1962.

Just reminding you that this is arranged for 20th. to 25th. April, 1962 in Sydney. Accommodation has been reserved and can be booked now (from the N.S.W. Secretary, Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney) at 37/6d per night (Hotel Metropole) (Meals extra). The itinerary tentatively planned by the N.S.W. Committee and approved by the Squadron Council is: Friday, 20th. April 1962. Welcoming Party (Kemp Beach's Home);

Saturday 21st. Morning: Squadron Conference

Afternoon: Races (A.J.C. Autumn Carnival), Sydney Show; (Independent parties);

Evening: City sightseeing, etc (Optional)

Cornstalk Commentary (cont.)

Sunday 22nd. Bus trip to the Blue Mountains with a barbecue. Stewart Cup;  
 Evening: Free;  
Monday 23rd. Free day to attend the Races and/or Royal Easter Show. Car trip to the  
 Northern Beaches arranged for those wishing to go.  
 Evening: 458 Squadron Reunion Ball  
Tuesday 24th. Squadron Golf Championship-the Anzac Cup. Strathfield Golf Club;  
 Evening: Wreath laid at the Cenotaph. Later, refreshments at the Hotel  
 Metropole;  
Wednesday 25th (Anzac Day) Morning; the March behind the Squadron Banner;  
 Afternoon (1.0 p.m.) All-States Reunion --Great Southern  
 Hotel lounge--George Street, Sydney.

458 Squadron Wall Plaques. Perhaps some wives might feel like spending £4-0-0d on a Squadron Plaque as a gift from Santa Claus. If so, there are five still available which can be forwarded (post free) on the receipt by the N.S.W. Secretary (Box 5289, Sydney) of the necessary finance.

Personalities.

Alf. (Slappy) Hammond has been in hospital with a coronary attack, but is now recovering at home;  
Cyril Irwin has been in Sydney Hospital for an appendicectomy but is back at work;  
Bob Lyndon's popular wife Pat has recently undergone an operation, but is now recovering in Bankstown Hospital. Best wishes, Pat, from all your 458 Squadron friends;  
Eric Munkman has had a recurrence of his wartime slipped disc trouble, but he also is recovering after some days off work;  
Jim Munday has been in Sydney in connection with the recent 'take-over' of his company by a Sydney firm of tanners, about which he is very satisfied;  
Jack Riseley who was recently sighted briefly in Sydney, like a substantial comet passing through, has now been transferred to Adelaide from Perth;

SQUADRON COUNCIL MEETING.

The 458 Squadron Council, which is the Squadron's central organisation between meetings of the Squadron Conference, met in Sydney during August. Squadron Officers and Councillors from the various Flights were present and the Squadron President (Peter Alexander) took the Chair. After discussing reports on affairs in the various Flights; as well as a report on finances from the Squadron Treasurer, Cyril Irwin, Council had the important position of Squadron Secretary to fill.

Bob Bruce elected as new Squadron Secretary. The present N.S.W. Secretary, Bob Bruce, was elected unanimously to fill the vacancy in the Squadron Secretaryship existing since former Secretary Peter Alexander was elected as Squadron President in Adelaide. Councillors wished him a happy term of office.

Draft Programme for All-States Reunion. Council considered a report from N.S.W. and approved that Flight's proposals for the next All-States Reunion, 1962.

More Stocks of Squadron Ties. Council ordered a further supply of Squadron ties.

Interstate Holidays for 458 Children. The S.A. Flight suggested to the Adelaide Conference that the Squadron should organise a scheme whereby 458 members should take care of the children of other members from interstate, on interstate holidays. The parents would, it was decided by Council, be responsible for travelling costs. Councillors thought there would be many details to be worked out, and, as a preliminary decided to ask members who are potentially interested, either as receiving or sending parents or friends, to let the Squadron Secretary know what they think of the idea. A form is attached to this issue of the News.

458 SQUADRON ADDRESSES IN VICTORIA. L-S.

E. Laming	28, Barwon Avenue, Reservoir, N. I9., Victoria.
J. R. Lane	Box 52, Derrinallum, Victoria,
E. J. Littlehales	25, Windsor Avenue, Warragul, Victoria,
E. J. Love	46, Linden Avenue, Heidelberg, Victoria;
Sqdn. Ldr. J. Lynch	R. A. A. F., Point Cook, Victoria,
W. Lyon	Wonominta, Darlington, Victoria,
E. McDonald	75, Wellington Street, South Richmond, Victoria,

Victorian Addresses (cont.)

I.A. McDonald	6, Wairoa Avenue, East Brighton, Victoria,
Rev. J. McNamara	49, Strathalbyn St., East Kew, Victoria;
J. McKay	21, Smith Crescent, Wangaratta, Vict.,
J.D. McKenzie	Loose Bag, Gelliondale, South Gippsland, Vict.,
R. McKinna	Box 143, Sea Lake, Vict.,
R.N. McPhee	11, Studley Road, Ivanhoe, Vict.,
R.V. McRae,	Natimuk, via Horsham, Vict.,
H. Mark	Mt. Colite Road, Belmont, Geelong, Vict.,
A.J. Martin	Flat 3, 1, Robe Street, St. Kilda, Vict.,
M. Mather	86, Tucker Road, Bentleigh, Vic.,
G. Matthews	26, Surden Street, Spring Vale, Vic.,
E.G. Meredith	145, Mont Albert Road, Canterbury, Vic.,
B.F. Moon	230, Springvale Road, Runawading, Vic.,
F.J. Morris	43, Larch Street, Syndal, via Mt. Waverley, Victoria,
J. Munday	9, Dickens Street, Moorabbin, Vic.,
G. Nash	4, Asling Street, Preston, vic.,
J. Newton	96, Blessington Street, St. Kilda, Vic.,
L. Netherway	3, Francis Street, Horsham, Vic.,
P.V.O. Bryan	Gallston, Leongatha, Vic.,
J.H.O. Leary	9, Kenna St., Moonee Ponds, Vic.,
G.S. Orchard	24, Orchard Grove, Blackburn, Vic.,
A.J. Packham	18, Bond Street, Ballarat, Vict.,
D. Parkinson	Parkinson Bus Service, Beechworth, Vic.,
C. Percy	182, Nepean Highway, Seaford, Vic.,
W.G. Phillips	36, Beech Street, Sth. Caulfield, Vic.,
R. Pollock	Katamatite Road, Cobram, Vic.,
T. Primrose,	71, Reynards Road, Coburg, Vic.,
R. Pritchard	32, Holland Road, Blackburn, Vic.,
R. Rabone	Box 58, Dunkeld, Vic.,
B. Raftis	41, Blackburn Road, Blackburn, Vic.,
J.R. Ramsay	28, Clota Avenue, Box Hill, Vic.,
F.C. Ray	47, Verdon Street, Williamstown, Vic.,
R.W. Redpath	"Howicke", Noble Street, Newtown, Geelong, Vic,
F.E. Reed	5, Parnell Street, Elsternwick, Vic.,
V. Richards	155, Warrigal Road, Oakleigh, Vic.,
G. Riddoch	Burrum Beet, Vic,
J.K. Rodwell	P.O. Box 1, Merbein, Vict.,
J. Rosenberg	18, Britten Street, Glen Iris, Vict.,
L. Russell	60, Reynolds Parade, Pascoe Vale South, Vic.,
R. Russell	28, Lechte Road, Mt. Waverley, Vic.,
J. Ryan	111, Waverley St., Moonee Ponds, Vict.,
R. Schoppe	175, Beaconsfield Parade, Middle Park, Vict.,
A.L. Sharp	21, Orchard Street, Brighton, Vic.,
J. Sharpley	Bridge Hotel, 642, Bridge Road, Richmond, Vic.,
R. Sherrah	27, Cummings Road, East Brighton, Vic.,
C.D. Singe	26, Liston Street, Burwood, Vic.,
A. Slarks	1, Winston Street, Shepparton, Vic,
B. Smith	33, South Avenue, Moorabbin, Vic.,
R.W. Smith	70, Canterbury Street, St. Arnaud, Vic.,
W. Stapleton	14, Queens Street, Surrey Hills Vic.,
D.B. Strong	46, Brunel Street, East Malvern, Victoria. (to be completed)

THE EDITOR (Peter Alexander)

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

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

I am interested and would be prepared to take part in the arrangements for the 458 Squadron Childrens' Interstate Holidays Plan.

My wife and I would be glad to be receiving/sending parents. (strike out what doesn't apply)  
We would be able to receive.....(number) of boys/girls. Age limits.....  
We would possibly wish to send.....children.....boys.....girls. Their present ages being....  
Time of year we can receive children..... Time of year we would send.....

I understand that filling in this form commits me to nothing specific and that I would be communicated with again before anything further is done. I also realise that the sending parents would be responsible for the fares involved.

Name..... (signature)

Address.....

I Agree ..... (Wife to Sign)