

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR.

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## BRILLIANT WEEK OF ALL-STATES REUNION in SYDNEY.

The 10th. All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron, held in Sydney, New South Wales, was made a notably brilliant and memorable Reunion by the fortunate conjunction of Easter and Anzac in 1962. Starting on Friday, April 20th, the N.S.W. Committee was able to arrange a series of functions right through the days to the culminating point on Anzac Day, Wednesday, April 25th.

### The Arrivals.

A number of interstate members had arrived during previous days but Friday was the main "Arrival" day for interstate and country members of the Squadron. Official headquarters were at the Hotel Metropole in Bent Street. Members of the Flight's Reunion Committee were posted at the Hotel or went to the Aerodrome to meet arrivals throughout the day. Apart from a few welcoming drinks at the hotel (which incidentally, was very full with people down for the Sydney Show) the first function was at the home of Kemp and Joan Beach at Summer Hill. Here the N.S.W. Committee, led by Flight President Graeme Coombes, welcomed everyone and expressed the Squadron's pleasure at their loyalty and 458-spirit shown in coming, in many cases, great distances to attend.

This seems a good place to list the names of attending members at one or more of the Reunion functions. Interstate and country members in many cases were accompanied to Sydney by their wives. These ladies were looked after and entertained during the week, particularly when such 'Men-only' occasions as the Reunion itself were on, by a Ladies Committee presided over by Dulcie Coombes, wife of the N.S.W. President.

Bob Bruce	Jack McPhee	B. McLoughlin	Gol Gorten	John Carey	Tom Moore	Sam Barlow
Harry Dorge	D. Millard	Bert Thompson	John Dunn	Cec. Nation	Roy Gilkes	Ken Crago
N. Spurling	P. Alexander	F. Ridge	Cy. Irwin	L. Piggott	Fred. Strom	Wal Archbold
Frank Ward	E. Munkman	Bob Smith	Arn. Scholar	Dave Firth	Bill Chapman	Alf. Hammond
Arthur Green	R. Burgess	Otto Mann	Kemp Beach	Jack Baker	Jack Carter	Ern. Laming
Jack Bevan	S. Ricketts	Bill Bailey	J. Nichols	Joe Pratt	Blue Lamond	Aub. Dombkins
Dick Cook	Bill Astley	Jack Preston	Alan Piggott	W. McBride	V. Bartlett	Geoff. Cannon
R. Bailey	Don. Bitmead	H. Bryant	Bob. Millar	T. Mitchell	A. Macmaster	Bob. Lyndon
D. Holland	V. Lewis-Hughes	B. Turier	Jim Wren	Jack Fleming	Dick Healey	Jock McGowen
P. Pettit	C. Warren	Jack Ind	S. Currington	J. Aitken	Wal Clarke	D. Cattenach
G. Coombes	Harry Galvin	R. Hills	R. Milner	A. Walker		

The Welcoming party at the Beachs' was very well attended, transport for interstate and country members being provided by Sydney members. One or two of the Sydney members found their navigation to Summer Hill to be astray—including this reporter, who drove steadily up Parramatta Road for about four miles past the right turn-off before admitting error and turning back. This too after declining all navigational aids. His passengers, Elsie and Arthur Green and Arn. Scholar, were kind enough to appreciate the sight-seeing, apart from Arthur's misgivings about the car's universal joint. (No, Arthur, it was alright). The Squadron Albums were on view and much in demand at this and subsequent functions. After supper and much friendly talk and reminiscence, there was a fairly early stand-down in view of the events looming up next day.

### The Squadron Conference.

Saturday Morning, at 8.30, saw the Squadron officers and Conference delegates arrive at the Air Force Association Rooms, at 330, George Street, for the meeting of the Squadron Conference due to begin formally at 9.0'clock for preliminary business. The official opening of this, the Squadron's top governing body, was held later and carried out by Air Vice-Marshal Frank Headlam, who is the Air Officer Commanding, Operational Command, R.A.A.F. at Penrith, N.S.W. The business carried out by Conference is reported elsewhere in this issue.

### All-States Reunion (cont.)

The Official Opening was held in the 2nd Floor Clubrooms of the Air Force Club, which was specially opened and made available to the Squadron for the purpose. Apart from Air Vice-Marshal Headlam, official guests included Mr. Claude Vautin, State President of the Air Force Association, and Mr. Gerry Harrison, Vice President of the Air Force Club. Squadron members and their families were present in strength.

After a minute's silence, the Squadron President (Peter Alexander), read the traditional prayer said on these occasions:

"Hallowed in Christ be the memory of brave men and women who have died for the Freedom of the World. They shall yet stand before the Throne, an exceeding great array. In that last muster there shall be found our own well beloved Dead of 458 Squadron. They were young—straight of limb—true of eye; they were staunch to the end against odds uncounted. They fell with their faces to the foe. They shall grow not old as we who are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we shall remember them."

The Opening. The Squadron President, inviting the Guest of Honour to open Conference, said that 458 Squadron had had a long and honourable, perhaps even a distinguished record of service in Britain and the Mediterranean, in which, of course, they were in the company of many other squadrons. One thing however in which the Squadron had been perhaps uncommonly fortunate was that its circumstances led its members to stay with it a long time. Many Aircrew did more than one tour with it, and most of the groundstaff did several years service with it. As a result it had been possible to build a strong post-war Association. In this the Squadron had been fortunate to be able to be associated with the Air Force Association in N.S.W. The Squadron had its quarterly paper, held many social functions and reunions, and had its regular All-States Reunions in one or other capital city.

On occasions such as this, 458 remembered its part in the wider Air Force sphere. He thought it well to recall that while there had been Navies and Armies for untold thousands of years, there had been an Air Force for less than fifty. Yet in those less than fifty years the Air Force had raised itself to equality with the Navy and Army and in the Battle of Britain won a victory that was more important to the British race than Trafalgar or Waterloo. With the coming of guided missiles it might be that the day of the manned aircraft of war and therefore of the Air Force as we knew it were limited to a few more decades. How short but how very glorious a life! And how inexpressibly great was our historic privilege in having lived and served with the Air Force in those fifty or so years! These thoughts made it the more happy to welcome such a distinguished serving airman as Air Vice-Marshal Headlam for whom they had the highest regard.

### The Present-day Air Force.

A.V.M. Headlam, in opening the Conference, said he had read the Squadron's history, on which he congratulated it. It was indeed a great story, full of courage, achievement, as well as humour. He thought they would be interested to hear something of the present-day R.A.A.F. There had been a difficult period after the war but planning undertaken when Air Marshal Scherger was Chief of Air Staff had led to formulation of a long-range plan. They had trained a lot of really first-rate young pilots, who apart from their wings would have university degrees. They had obtained some transport and reconnaissance aircraft which were very modern and they were now to get the Mirage fighter. However to be really effective a modern bomber was needed, of which there were now several types available on the market. It was hard to see how any other form of effective deterrent defence was available to Australia. It would take ships a week to get from one side of Australia to the other. He hoped 458 could play its part in forming public opinion on these issues.

Official Reception. After Mr. Vautin had moved a vote of thanks to Air Vice-Marshal Headlam, the Conference adjourned briefly for some refreshment as the Squadron's guests. For this the Committee was greatly indebted to Dulcie Coombes and her Ladies Committee for its work. After this brief pause, Conference then resumed its work. This went on till some time after a normal lunchtime. Conference members, their wives and Squadron members generally then took advantage of the opportunity to go to the Sydney Royal Easter Show and to the Easter Race meeting. In the evening other entertainment was arranged.

One party is reported to have gone sight-seeing to Sydney Harbour South Head to the Gap which apart from being a remarkable place for its views is a traditional suicide point. However no one was sufficiently overcome by remorse, alcoholic or other, to avail themselves of the opportunity.

### Journey to the Blue Mountains.

Early on Sunday morning 458 set off for a day's excursion to the Blue Mountains. For members information, who have not been to the Blue Mountains, these are part of the Great Dividing Range within three hours drive from the city. They are flat topped ranges with deep gorges which on suitable weather conditions have a milky blue atmosphere.



All-States Reunion (cont.)

There are some notably wonderful views. On the way up, by car, several members called in at the R.A.A.F.H.Q., Operational Command, at Penrith, by A.V.M. Headlam's invitation, to look at the very modern and well-equipped Officers Mess.

First point of stopping was at Katoomba where 458 saw the Three Sisters lookout and went on the aerial skyway (a car which travels by cable over the deep ravine of the Katoomba Cascades) and the Scenic railway (where another car descends at an 80° angle down the face of the gorge--a striking experience).

The cars then went on to Medlow Bath, a mountain spa, where there was a barbecue. Several N.S.W. Committee members had gone ahead to get the fire burning, etc. After the barbecue, there were pony rides and races for the children and two official functions for the members. The Stewart Cup was run off by 458 members and this year went to Queensland, being won, very popularly, by Bernie McLoughlin. Then there was a new trophy for Darts, presented by Gordon Postle of Q.Flight. This was won, in difficult conditions--hands were cold in the mountain air, by Stuart Ricketts of N.S.W. This trophy known as Dick the Tick Trophy; a name which calls for some explanation by this reporter. It appears that last year in Adelaide at the All-States Reunion some 458 members were playing darts--for a threepenny bit, which is now mounted on the trophy--and while playing someone told the story of a carload of people, including a university student, which crossed a Tick Control point (at which livestock are examined for ticks, a major pest). An inspector opened the boot of a car and out popped the head of the University student, who announced "I am Dick the Tick!" The Inspector was so surprised he then dropped the boot door on the Students head. That, however odd it may all sound, is the story of the naming of the Dick the Tick Trophy.

After a very pleasant afternoon, the cars set off back to Sydney about afternoon tea time.

Dancing on Monday. The Day of Monday was officially left free for members to go to the Races and the Show. However, there was an excursion arranged for some interstate members to the Northern Beaches --the series of attractive beaches which range from Manly to Palm Beach north of Sydney Harbour, on the Pacific Ocean. The area is naturally beautiful and is developed with attractive homes and gardens.

In the evening was the Squadron Ball, at the Strathfield Sporting Club. Here was a happy gathering, with a good band, of friends met for dancing and it can only be written that it was enjoyed as it should have been. During the evening the N.S.W. President presented a Rosebowl Trophy to the Strathfield Club for annual competition among veteran tennis players in memory of the late Ernie Doman, a 458 Squadron member who before his recent sudden death, was an active committee man and office-bearer of the Club. Ernie it was who arranged for 458 to use the Clubrooms for this dance.

Golf on Tuesday. This, for members able to get away from work, was the golf day--at Strathfield Golf Club. Here, with the Anzac Cup as the main event, something like fifty players competed for a handsome series of trophies. This reporter has much pleasure in reporting that the Anzac Cup was won by Squadron Treasurer and N.S.W. Secretary Cyril Irwin. The Trophy, presented annually by Q.Flight, for the runner-up, was won and taken back to Queensland by Bernie McLoughlin, again a popular winner.

At the Cenotaph. That evening about forty Squadron members gathered at the Cenotaph in Martin Place. Our Warrant Officer, Discip., Ernie Laming called the Parade to attention, and the Squadron marched to the Cenotaph, where the Squadron President placed a wreath in memory of the Squadron Dead, on behalf of 458ers everywhere.

Afterwards there was an informal gathering at the Metropole where members and wives, totalling about 70, for beer and to celebrate, in champagne, with Bernie McLoughlin.

Wednesday-Anzac Day. Anzac Day was fine--in fact apart from a few rain drops on Sunday, we had "458 Squadron weather" right through the week--and in common with thousands of other ex-servicemen 458ers gathered for the Anzac March. Point of meeting, under the 458 Banner, was Martin Place. Here among other people we saw G/Capt. Bill Duncan who was Liaison Officer in Cairo, when 458 were in the Middle East. After the usual length of time spent awaiting the Air Force Section's move off and in chatting with other Squadron members not seen for some time past--some members are only seen at the Annual March, we moved off. The Squadron President (Peter Alexander) led the Squadron, and Ern Laming carried the Banner, supported by N.S.W. President Graeme Coombes and by veteran 458er Jack Carter, from Victoria.

After the March ended in the Sydney Domain, members went to the All-States Reunion at the Great Southern Hotel in George Street. Lunch was served and beer and whiskey brought to the tables. The Squadron President said the necessary few words of thanks to those who had done the work of the Reunion. A tape recording was made, and at the finish members looked forward to the next All-States Reunion in Perth in 1964.

ANZACTIME IN PERTH

News from

Butch Power, 145, Gildercliffe St. Scarborough.

March, 1962. The meeting was

We held our Annual General Meeting in Air Force House on 30th. well attended because we had stressed the fact that, to survive,

Anzactime in Perth (cont.)

The W.A. Flight must have more support from its members than it was getting. However all's well that ends well, and the Flight emerged from the meeting in a strong position and on a parallel with the position it held two years ago.

Associate Members.

We have had a drive for Associate members and have been fortunate in enrolling seven associates who are both enthusiastic and active members. They are: Rob. Ellis, Ted Ellis, Bev. Davis, Hugh Crocker, Dave Lofts, Tom Offord, M (Darby) Munro.

With the exception of Tom Offord who served with an English Squadron, all of the above Associates were at Williamstown and other embarkation depots with chaps drafted to 458 and they are all well known to the W.A. Flight and through the Squadron News I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them formally to our Association. They will be on our mailing list for the Squadron News.

Committee.

The new Flight officers for 1962 are as follow:

President: Tim Dale; Vice President: Stan Long;  
Secretary: Myself; Committee: Ted Jewell, Al. Stone, Len Stewart.

Anzac Day.

Because Anzac Day is now an open day in Western Australia we could no longer hold our Reunion in the East Perth Tennis Club Pavilion and reverted to our old stamping ground, the Braille Society Hall. The March was very well attended, we had 30 on parade. Tim Dale led the Squadron, as President, and Tony Stone made a very effective 'Sister Hannah'. The reunion afterwards was very successful. 28 members and friends had an excellent sit-down lunch and a good time was had by all.

Cricket with 460.

On Sunday April 29th we had our annual Picnic Cricket match with 460 Squadron at Yanchep. The weather was ideal. 460 batted first and declared at 8 wickets for 132. 458 made 135 for the loss of only '11' wickets and so for the first time in three years we had a victory. Len (Binghi) Stewart made 42 retired, and we are still trying to work out how he did it because he had more lives than an alley cat.

I feel that the Flight in W.A. can look forward to a very successful year. I note that Conference decided to hold the next All-States Reunion in Perth in 1964. We would have liked it in 1963 but I am sure we will do our best to equal, if not surpass, our effort of 1958.

British Commonwealth Games.

We have had only one request for accommodation during the games in Perth in November next. Ian Higlett and his son are coming and their accommodation is attended to. Once again I would appeal to all Squadron members intending to come to Perth for the Games to let me know their accommodation requirements as soon as possible. The accommodation position in Perth is lousy and anyone who hasn't made arrangements for accommodation could find himself camped on the Perth Esplanade. W.A. members are enthusiastic in their desire to help Squadron members in this regard, and there is no question of any obligation because it is part and parcel of what the Squadron Association stands for. We are only too glad to be of assistance.

To You All.

On behalf of the W.A. Flight I would like to send our best wishes to the various Flights and to the Federal Officers for 1962. To Peter Alexander, we extend our hearty congratulations on election as Squadron President and assure him of our undivided loyalty and support.

PERSONAL PARS.

Bill Astley is a practising solicitor at St. Mary's, N.S.W. He tells us that

Hugh Venning is with a rubber company at Mt. Druitt, also in N.S.W.

Geoff. Cannon is responsible for Fashion production (Parades) with Women's Weekly. He also does their T.V. Productions;

Joe Pratt is Foreman Mechanic with a Woolloomoolloo firm of Motor mechanics;

Dick Cook is Foreman Mechanic in the Used Truck Sales Dept. of Russell Pearsons Motor Sales in Sydney;

Arnold Ashton is reported to be in the trucking business in Yanderra, N.S.W.;

Col. Corten is working as a solicitor in the State Crown Solicitor's office in Sydney;

He met Mick Mather on the latter's way back from Washington where Mick was at the Australian Embassy. He says Mick is twice the man he used to be;

Stuart "Trapper" Currington says he is now up to the knees in turkey feathers. He is concentrating on raising turkeys for the market at his Peak Hill property;

Jock McGowen is a Sales Engineer with G.W. Engineering;

Jack McPhee is with B.T.C. in Sydney;

"Blue" Lamond is with Warmray Heaters on the manufacturing side. Sends his good wishes to all the boys;

Personal Pars (cont.)

Jack Bevan is Maintenance Engineer with Australian Iron and Steel, Woollongong, N.S.W.;  
Alan Macmaster (Maca) sends his regards (expressed in Maca terms) to George Riddoch;

N.S.W. FLIGHT NEWS

from Cyril Irwin, 17, Vincent St., Canterbury, N.S.W.

The 1962 All-States Reunion was held in Sydney on Anzac Day and the preceding Easter time holiday period. It was very pleasing indeed to N.S.W. members, both city and country, to meet with interstate members under "All-States Conditions". There is no doubt that the venue of this reunion in the home state gives a great impetus to local enthusiasm. To those interstate members and to our own state members who travelled some distance to attend, N.S.W. Flight says "Thank you" for coming. It was very nice to have a good roll up of 'bods' we have not seen for some time. Events and details of the Reunion will be reported elsewhere in this Squadron News issue.

Annual Flight Election.

Our Annual Flight meeting was held in February. Office

bearers for the ensuing year are:

President: Bob Bruce; Vice Presidents: Kemp Beach and Bob Lyndon;  
 Secretary: Cyril Irwin; Treasurer: Tom Moore;  
 Committee: Graeme Coombes, Sam Barlow, Peter Alexander, Alan Piggott, Fred Strom, Noel Spurling, Cec. Nation, Lofty Bracker, Bob Smith, Eric Munkman, Frank Ward, Stuart Ricketts, J. Aitken, Dick Healey.

Buster Ill. Sorry to report that our old friend Gordon ("Buster") Balmer was overtaken by illness and recently had a two weeks spell in Sydney hospital. Buster was on deck previously, helping with the "All-States" arrangements. He is now on the mend, and we wish him a speedy and full recovery.

Death of Ern. Doman

Flight members were stunned at the news of the sudden death of Ern. Doman. Some dozen or so local members attended the funeral and paid last respects, with many of Ern's other colleagues. To Min and the two boys we extend our deepest sympathy. Ern. will live on in our memory.

Visit of Bill and Madge Taylor

Bill Taylor (South Australia) together with Madge and son Brett passed through Sydney on their return from holidaying in Queensland. A brief meeting up with Bill was arranged--a few beers and many words at Pfahlerts Hotel.

Sam's Marriage. Sam Barlow and Maisie Kerr were married at a quiet ceremony early in May. Sam and Maisie have been very much a part of our Flight activities over the past years. All Flight members would like to express to them great pleasure at the news and will wish them a very happy future.

Reminders at the Tail.

I will conclude the Flight report with a double reminder. Firstly to any interstate or country members--please advise us if visiting or passing through Sydney. We would like to see you. Secondly, on the mercenary side: would all N.S.W. members who have not yet paid their Association or Squadron News subscriptions, please let us have them. Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney.

Air Force Association (if applicable)	£1-0-0d (including Wings);
Squadron Association sub.	10-0d
Squadron News sub.	5-0d.

TO SAM AND MAISIE BARLOW.

I want to express to Sam and Maisie the great pleasure and happiness all Squadron members, myself included, feel at the news of their marriage. They are both well known and held in affectionate regard in all Flights. May indeed this year brought with it the traditional happy ending which we all remember from the stories of our childhood ..... "And they were married and lived happily ever after."

Peter Alexander,  
 Squadron President.

REPORT FROM Q. FLIGHT.

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

The principle news for the quarter is the Anzac Day Reunion in Brisbane. We had only thirteen (13) members of 458 march, instead of the usual thirty (30). This was due mainly to a number of our stalwarts having developed some ill-defined, but apparently painful, disabilities which obviously prevented the setting down of shoes solidly on concrete streets.



However quite a number were absent from Brisbane on Easter holidays.

Lew Johnston led the contingent and the President, Gordon Postle, carried the banner. With the Air Force Band from Amberley out in front and the Scottish Police Pipers behind, both blaring out at different tempos, the contingent didn't quite step out in martial style, but managed to do a very successful two-step from assembly to the Shrine of Remembrance.

Needless to say, such exertions demanded refreshment.

At the A.T.C. Mess. Altogether, at the A.T.C. Mess to which the contingent adjourned, their ranks were swelled by friends and members of other R.A.A.F. Associations to a total of 123. From the headaches reported next day, it appears that a good time was had by all. It is regretted by one and all that the venue of the A.T.C. Mess will be closed to 458. The A.T.C. has been transferred from Perry Park to Alice Street, where it will be part of an Air Force Establishment. So passes an era. The closure of Perry Park has also posed a problem of a venue for future socials. This is now actuating the minds of the committee, particularly with the winter Social overdue.

Callers and Passers-by. Since our last communication we have had many callers. Erle Hetherington has made his yearly pilgrimage from the Barrier Reef to the State capital, where he was feted and returned intact--though in need of a rest.

Ken Brown dropped in on a tour from Victoria, seeking crewmate Jack Taylor. Very welcome visitors were Bill Taylor and his family from Adelaide, who spent a week or so on the fabulous 'Gold Coast'. He is now in two minds about uprooting and replanting in the 'Sunshine State'.

Bob Helyar came all the way from Tara, the 'Oil' town, to attend the Anzac Day March. Hereports a lot of excitement and speculation as every new well proves a 'Strike'. Bernie McLoughlin is overjoyed at his success in winning the Stewart Cup and the Golf Trophy for the best off the stick. He declares that these will be very fitting mementoes of his visit to the Sydney Reunion.

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BRITISH BULLETIN

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

Anzac Day in London.

We held our Anzac Day celebrations as usual but attendances were very poor. Our wreath was laid at the Cenotaph by Mick Mason, one or two others made it to Westminster Abbey, but only myself and Mrs. Anton turned up at Australia House for the roll call tea, etc. On Saturday 28th. April we held our usual dinner, but here again only a handful turned up; but it was the others' loss. This year we changed our place, to Gows Restaurant in St. Martin's Lane, London and they simply excelled themselves. The meal was marvellous--more than some of us could get through. Going back to the start, they gave us our own beautiful cosy room, with our own bar service, etc. All who did turn up voted overwhelmingly that this is to be our place for next year. While we were all digesting our meal with a liqueur and cigarette, Mick Mason gave us one of his drawing room jokes. Norm. Gilbert who has just returned from two years in Malta, was not to be outdone, and brought out one of his Sergeants' Mess jokes. It was a real cracker, but everyone enjoyed it. After dinner we all got going with the help of the records Mick brought along; but I, for one, regretted doing the Twist as my back the next morning...! We forget we aren't teenagers any more. The evening wound up at 11.30 p.m. Those there were: Mick Mason, wife and daughter (Doreen), Harry Bishop and wife, Dick Tombs and wife, Bill Allen and wife, Norman Gilbert and wife, Fred Nieman, Sid Thompsett, wife and sister; total 15. Not many but we enjoyed ourselves. The next day 10 of us met in the evening and went to the London Palladium for a T.V. Broadcast on the commercial network;--most interesting, ending with a drink or so in one of the locals.

Harry Wise in Cyprus. I have had news that Harry Wise has had another move. This time he has gone to Cyprus for two years. I will have to drop Bill Prater a line to let him know, as he is also in Cyprus.

Eric Brown not coming. You will no doubt have heard from Eric Brown that he will not be emigrating. His application has been turned down, due to what seems to me very trivial grounds--a slight eye operation to one of the family's eye.

Once again it is time for me to sign off--cheerio and all the best.

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PASSING ON OF ERNIE DOMAN.

Ernie Doman, who was the Observer in Brian Woodhead's crew, was a very active member of the Strathfield Tennis Club and a very good tennis player. He was playing a set at the Club, bent down to pick up a ball and had an immediately fatal heart attack.

Ernie was for years an active committeeman of the N.S.W. Flight, as well as being active with his Tennis Club and holding a responsible position with the Australian Gas Light Company, Sydney.

458 will miss him very much.

TENTH MEETING OF THE 458 SQUADRON CONFERENCE.

The top Squadron body, the Squadron Conference met in Sydney during the recent All-States Reunion (see page 2 for story of the formal opening). The Squadron President took the chair, and the Squadron officers (Cy. Irwin, the Squadron Treasurer, Sam Barlow, the Squadron Vice President and Bob Bruce, the Squadron Secretary) were accompanied by two delegates from each Flight. This year the delegates were:

Queensland: B. McLoughlin and C. Warren;  
N.S.W.: G. Coombes and R. O. Healey;  
Victoria: A. Green and D. Firth;  
South Australia: A. Scholar; and K. Beach;  
Western Australia: E. Munkman and E. Laming;  
U.K.: P. Pettit and C. Nation.

Air Power Conference placed on record its firmly held opinion that the adequate defence of Australia is dependent on Air Power and that Australia must be equipped with the latest aircraft including a strong force of the most up-to-date bombers.

Anzac Day March Music. Conference after criticising the sort of band music the Air Force has to try to march to in Anzac Marches expressed its willingness to accept relayed music as is successfully done in Adelaide.

Squadron Banners. Conference expressed the view that all wartime Squadrons should be encouraged to have their own banners for display on suitable air force occasions. Delegates thought that such emblems made up a part of Air Force tradition and pageantry and helped to build up the Air Force picture in the public mind.

Life Membership Conference decided not to proceed with proposals to award Life Memberships in the Squadron Associations.

Next All-States Reunion. Is to be held in Perth in 1964. There will not be an All-States Reunion in 1963.

Elections.

Squadron officers elected were:

Squadron President: Peter Alexander;  
Squadron Vice Presidents: Sam Barlow and Peter Power;  
Squadron Treasurer: Cyril Irwin;  
Squadron Secretary: Bob Bruce  
Hon. Squadron Auditor: Bert Thompson, A.A.S.A.

Presentation. During the Official opening, Air Vice-Marshal Headlam, on behalf of the various Flights of 458 Squadron, presented to Peter Alexander, a silver salver, on which was engraved the words: "An Appreciation to Peter Alexander from Members of 458: 25.4.62"

In reply to the A.V.M.'s words, Peter Alexander expressed his surprise and deep appreciation, as well as that of his wife, for this presentation from those who he knew to be his friends and with whom he had been so closely associated for many years of common Squadron endeavour. He said he could think of few things nicer than such a presentation from such people.

VICTORIA FLIGHT JOTTINGS.

from "Shorty" Wilson, 78, Carnarvon Rd., Strathmore, V.

Anzac Day The day dawned with weather conditions that have predominantly existed for many months, fine, warm and sunny. The roll was called by Yank Martin, who was appointed to lead the Flight. Amongst those present were:

Bob McKinna	Lloyd Simpson	Keith Clymo	Bill Carr	Ted Kennedy	Stan. Tarczynski
L. Wurr	Pappy McDonald	Don Johnson	Neil McPhee	Ron Yates	Gordon Cuthbertson
Geoff. Matthews	Jim Timms	Jim Munday	John Bilney	Norm Cugley	John Jenkins
Ron Russell	Kevin Guiney	Mick Singe	Mick Mather	Sailor Wheatley	Harold Young
Duke Tame	Bill Hurford	Ian Allison	Harry Jenkins	Jack Fleming	Peter Hedgcock.

Reunion. After the March the Flight went to Harry Ashworth's business premises for the reunion and annual elections. The outgoing President, Norm Cugley, called the Flight to attention for the Loyal Toast and two minutes silence in memory of our fallen mates.

Those elected were:

President: John Jenkins; Vice President: Ian Allison Sec/Treasurer: Frank Wilson  
Committee: Bob McKinna, J. Munday, H. Ashworth, W. Bailey, E. Laming, N. Cugley, H. Martin, R. Russell,  
L. Wurr, K. Guiney, A. Green.

The new President announced lunch--which was a credit to the Mess orderlies, John Jenkins, Ian Allison and Ray Jay, who worked hard at its preparation.

Victoria Flight Jottings (concl.)Gossip of Anzac Day.

The talk of Melbourne is that glamorous new automatic Pontiac--which fits Mick Mather very nicely.

and well again.

We were looking forward to picking up old threads again, Duke.

Nice that Joan Munday is now fit  
We missed Duke Tame at the reunion.

I hear Pat Wurr has finally put her foot down. Woosle has been ordered to stop the annoying habit of cleaning his shoes with the new drapes.

being his bright and chirpy self again. He is a credit to the Repat hospital and his wife Nettie.

--we hope nothing serious eventuates. Mick Singer's wife's health is improving.

We cordially welcomed John Sullivan, a close friend of Jim Munday's, and a supporter of ours. Jim Timms sends his regards to his old schoolmate, Eric Jewell.

Well, it was a good reunion: fine food, good company, enough refreshments, and plenty of willing workers to clean up the debris. After the orderly officer (Ian Allison) carried out his inspection, the Flight stood down.

Social Evenings and Events.

Arthur and Elsie Green gave a barbecue on 3rd. March.. a highly successful and convivial evening. There was an excellent muster. We noticed Chief Stoker Betty Jenkins eyeing Arthur's back fence for loose palings..... Another very successful evening occurred at Kevin and Phillis Guiney's home on April 14th. Their spacious home is ideally situated to cater for the large number who attended. We welcomed Jim Timms and his family who have moved to Melbourne from Hay, N.S.W.

"Dizzy" Dean Ill.

A Stop Press item has come in to tell us that Bruce "Dizzy" Dean underwent a serious operation at the Royal Melbourne Hospital on 15th. of this month. His illness was brought about by a tropical parasite he acquired in the course of his employment at Tarawa Island (Gilbert Island). I am pleased to report that the initial anxiety is over and he is now allowed to have visitors. All the best wishes from your friends, Bruce, and we wish you a speedy recovery.

THE SYDNEY REUNION FROM THE WOMAN'S VIEW.

by Dorothy Munkman.

Well, once again Sydney has had the honour of being host to the Squadron, and all agree it was a pleasant task to perform. I will only enlarge on the functions our Editor was not at. That, I might add, was because one was a spur of the moment outing and the other Ladies Only--on our Anzac Day outing.

Saturday at Suicide Point.

Saturday afternoon two carloads went to Watson's Bay to view our famous "Gap" and a chance to walk off all the liquid refreshment consumed whilst the outing was planned and Arthur's Jackpot spent. On thinking back, the original rendezvous was King's Cross but the lead car driven by Cy. Irwin must have had faulty brakes 'cause we just kept going. The Gap has numerous vantage points, each gets higher. Bill Chapman of Newcastle thought a 2½ dive would just about see him down to the water, but as the betting stakes were not high enough and his wife Anne was arriving in Sydney on Monday, he thought discretion the better part of valour and we returned with the same number of bods we started with.

Anzac Day.

As usual we went to watch our menfolk march and picked a spot where we were well to the fore and were able to give our usual cheer and wave, though a little restrained as "No cheering" had been ordered by the local R.S.L. here in Sydney, I think we made ourselves known and helped to spur the boys to lift their feet higher.

Taronga at Last.

Five years ago we started a trip to Taronga Zoo but were side-tracked. This year we made it! The weather was perfect and the animals put on a good display. We also were treated to a delicious lunch, paid for by the Flight and the service was excellent from the Refreshment Rooms. In 1957 our heads were sore; in 1962 our feet were sore. It just shows the difference between a Zoo at the Hotel Sydney and one at Taronga Park.

Many thanks to the interstate and country members for making the Sydney Reunion so pleasant. I value the friendships I have made with the post-war Squadron. May it continue to flourish in all ways!