

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR.

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

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## MR. WINE IN CHARGE.

Sydney 458's Mr. Wine (N.S.W. Vice-President Bob Lyndon) presided over the N.S.W. Flight's first Wine-tasting evening during July. Being himself a member of the Pitt Club, he was able to arrange the function there, on a Saturday evening.

About forty members, wives, children (grown up) and friends came in about 6 o'clock. A lecturer from an Australian wine firm then talked about the qualities and characteristics of a series of white and red Australian table wines. These were supplied in sample quantities to everyone present who was able to taste and test. One Pokolbin Red from the Hunter Valley was the most popular among the confirmed wine drinkers--of whom there is a small but enthusiastic and increasing number. Some Victorian wine sent up by Ken Brown was appreciated. The Club then supplied an ample series of cocktail dishes as an evening meal.

## PRESENTATION TO SAM AND MAISIE BARLOW.

During the Wine Tasting Evening, the N.S.W. President, Bob Bruce, in a brief speech expressed the Flight's congratulations and good wishes to Sam and Maisie on their recent marriage. The Squadron President, who was present, also spoke, associating 458ers in all parts of Australia and the World, with the good wishes expressed. Bob Bruce, after those present had drunk the Barlow's health and happiness, presented them with a silver Ice bucket, on behalf of the Flight.

## THEN MUSIC AND DANCING.

The evening was adjourned to another floor of the Club where there is a small dance floor, music and the company of squadron friends.

## COUNTRY REUNION COMING FOR N.S.W. MEMBERS. PARKES, 1962.

Experience over recent years has given good reason to think that one of the best things 458 does is to organise an annual country reunion in one or another country town. The first was in Robinvale, Victoria. Subsequently, the N.S.W. Flight has been to Orange, Canberra, Cowra and Newcastle. This year, over the long weekend in October the Flight will go to Parkes where Squadron member Jack Ind lives with his wife Mary; and a town where there is also a strong Air Force contingent. No one who has been lucky enough to attend one of these country reunions will need any second bidding to come to Parkes with his wife and family. Members drive down, on the Friday or Saturday and return on the Monday. Over the week end there is an informal reception, sight-seeing the next day (Parkes among other things, has a world famous radio-telescope), an evening dance, a game of golf, a barbecue and in particular all the warmth of country hospitality.

This week end will be from September 29th-October 1st.

The N.S.W. Secretary--Cy. Irwin (UW 1981)-Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W. would like to hear of your accommodation wishes as soon as possible.

## WESTERN WORDS.

from

Butch Power, 145, Gildercliffe, St. Scarborough,  
Western Australia.

The news from the West consists mainly of social pars., because of the inclement weather during the winter months. Recently Lofty and Marge Trewartha paid a flying visit to Perth to attend the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Marge's parents, Mr and Mrs. Jack Filewood of Lathlain Park. A personal invitation was extended to some of the Flight members and, as a result, Tim and Poss Dale, Ted and Elsie Jewell and Len and Val Stewart

Western Words (cont.) were present at the gathering.

Last week Ted Jewell had the misfortune to fracture his ankle and will be in plaster for some weeks. He fell off the top of a brick-kiln (so he said). We all wish Ted a speedy recovery.

Al. Wheat is at present on a business visit to the Eastern States. Evidently he hasn't been selling enough Falcons and is on the mat. He intends to look up some of the troops while over in the East.

Len (Binghi) Stewart is scheduled to leave for Sydney on a business trip on Sunday 19th. August and will be in Sydney for 7/10 days as from 20th. August. On the return journey he will stop over in Adelaide for two days.

All-States Reunion Tape. I have received a tape record of the Sydney All-States Reunion and will contact the W.A. President, Tim Dale, and arrange for a Flight get-together where it can be played over and then sent onto the U.K. Flight.

Perth, 1964. With only 21 months to the All-States Reunion in Perth, the W.A. Flight will have to get down very shortly to some steady organisation. We sincerely hope that Squadron members will make long-range plans to come to the West for the occasion. Anzac Day, 1964 is on a Saturday. This is not the best day in the week from an organisation point of view because of the "Open day" factor and the normal Saturday afternoon sporting fixtures will presumably be held. Still, more about that later.

Empire Games, 1962. Newspaper reports indicate that there will be a "sell-out" of Games tickets. As far as is known, the only Squadron member from interstate to come to the Games is Ian Higlett who will be accompanied by his son. Possibly there will be other Squadron members and their wives who will be coming for the Games and who have made private arrangements. Naturally, we expect to be advised in these cases because we want to welcome them.

#### Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

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

Maybe it was the credit squeeze or maybe it was just the cold winter, but we haven't seen many interstate or country members in Brisbane these last couple of months. That is, all except Harry and Pat Dorge who came to Brisbane on Saturday, 7th. July to see the Doomben Cup and to attend the Winter Social. Pat, incidentally, had a winning day.

#### Winter Social at the Clearing Station.

The most newsy item of the quarter was the Winter Social which was held at the No. I Casualty Clearing Station at Water Street, Brisbane. Despite the racks of First Aid equipment in an adjacent store there was absolutely no call for it. This may have been mainly due to shutting-shop at midnight. Despite the early closing it was a most enjoyable evening and declared a howling success by the IIB who attended.

It may be of interest that a panel of very discerning lady judges declared Len MacDonnell winner of the men's best legs competition. Since this investiture, Len has been wrestling with the problem of how to wear brief shorts and still keep the wintery westerlies at bay.

Annual Reunion. The Annual Re-union and election of officers is scheduled for the last Saturday in August, (the 25th.). The venue will again be No. I Casualty Clearing Station, Water Street. This time, working on past experience, there will be a stretcher or two handy

#### Jack's Generosity.

A final word about the generosity of Jack Lewis. Once every four weeks or so Jack is one of a party which proceeds several miles outside Moreton Bay, angling for Schnapper, which feed some three or four hundred feet down on hidden reefs. The last few times Jack has generously donated a couple of large specimens for raffling. It has been greatly appreciated and a boon to Q. Flight funds. All the committee say--Thanks very much, Jack !

#### SID SPEAKING.

U.K. Flight News from Sid Thompsett, 369, Downham Way, Bromley,  
Kent, England.

We are looking forward to the arrival of the tape recordings, and will see that they get forwarded on. We are hoping to make a further tape at our November reunion.

Holme-on-Spalding Moor. We have been considering the possibility of presenting a 458 Squadron wall plaque to Holme-on-Spalding Moor Station but this is a ticklish problem. At present the Station is occupied by the Blackburn Aircraft company who are doing very secret work and it is like trying to get into the Bank of England to get into Holme-on-Spalding Moor at the present. If it was staffed by the R.A.F. or even the American Forces it would be comparatively easy to gain admittance, but it is definitely out at the present.

Sid Speaking (cont.) The Memorial Tree at Holme. Don't think, though, that we are not keeping an eye on our Tree as each year Les. Cook makes a special trip around that way on his way to his holiday and can see the Tree from the gate; also last year Fred Nieman went around there to try and get a photograph of the Tree; but without success. He did get information from whoever was in charge of security that if he went through a lot of rigamarole he might repeat might be able to take a photograph so we are still hoping. But we do know the Tree is flourishing. A point I must make is that our Tree is listed as an official R.A.F. Tree and is periodically inspected by the Area R.A.F. Works Dept.

Australia House. We are also thinking of asking Australia House about hanging a plaque there.

At the present time of the year everyone is taking their Annual Holidays so news items are very scarce. But we are looking forward to our next get-together sometime in November. All good wishes to all of you.

CROWEATERS' COMMENTS.

from Colin Hanlon, 2, Eucla Avenue, Warradale Park,  
South Australia.

Firstly, I must apologise for omitting to forward the S.A. Flight news for the last Issue. I am afraid I have no excuse; it simply slipped my mind.

Anzac Day. If I may just dwell awhile on our Anzac Day reunion which commenced at the Adelaide Airport at 9. a.m. A number of Squadrons have memorial plaques in this lovely setting, and a combined service was held; after which representatives of the various Squadrons placed wreaths on the respective plaques. Our S.A. President represented 458.

The March. The Committee was a little disappointed at the attendance for the March Past. This may or may not have been due to the six day Easter break as no one could blame the weather which was perfect. Unfortunately I could not attend the Reunion but from all accounts it was a success, the members being swelled by the various Squadrons calling in for refreshments.

Personalities. Bruce (Flash) Thomas has recently returned from a trip through New Zealand; Arn. Scholar has just recovered from the Sydney Reunion; Bill Taylor has returned from Surfers' Paradise with an unusual gleam in his eyes. As you all know, Bill is in the Real Estate business and it is believed that he surveyed the surrounding beaches with a most experienced eye;

Lofty Trewartha we don't see much of these days; but he has landed a good position with the Customs Dept. in the city;

Bert Ravenscroft sent his apologies for the Anzac Day march. Bert is still at Gladstone; Jack Riseley is off on a business trip to Queensland and by the time this News is printed he will have no doubt made acquaintance with 458 members in Queensland;

Ian Showell of Renmark we were very pleased to see at the Anzac Day March; Mel Priest is another one we don't see much of these days.

Mel is Assistant Manager of the South British Insurance Company;

Reg. Priest our Treasurer is an Industrial chemist at B.A.L.M. Paints, Port Adelaide;

Johnny Bax is travelling around the country for Sven Kallins;

John Ringwood, still going strong, is a representative for the M.L.C. Assurance Company.

VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT.

News from "Shorty" Wilson, 78, Carnarvon Road,  
Strathmore, W.6., Victoria.

Dizzy Recovering. All members of the Squadron will be pleased to learn that Bruce "Dizzy" Dean is now on the way to recovery after his recent serious operation. Dizzy sends his regards to all and naturally would welcome any visitors who may be in the vicinity of 40, Dendy Street, Brighton.

Annual Country Barbecue. Before hibernating for the Melbourne winter the Vic. Flight held its annual Country Day Barbecue on the 27th. May at the sheep property of Gordon and Peg. Cuthbertson. Their property is at Burrum Beet, which is 88 miles from Melbourne and is ideally situated for such a function.

The popularity of this barbecue is such that some members drive from places as far spread as Hamilton, Kyneton, Robinvale, Dunkeld, and Tooradin to attend. This is also a good example of the Squadron spirit, and the popularity of the occasion

Victorian Viewpoint (cont.)

is adequately demonstrated by the regular attendance of members' friends. The function takes the form of a family day in which all efforts are made to make it most enjoyable for all concerned with particular emphasis on the children.

The Cuthbertson family go to no end of trouble to organise such entertainments as a 40' high flying fox, pony rides, hay-rick rides, tractor rides and sled rides, sheep round-ups, numerous sports activities, barbecue fires and stacks of hot water. The Squadron was represented by Dave and Glad Firth, John and Betty Jenkins, Harold and Norma Young, Frank and Alma Wilson, Allan and Audrey Brown, Norm. and Nancy Cugley, Les and Marie Boyer, Roger and Jean Rodwell, Roy and Margaret Rabone, Ron and Joan Russell, Bob and Beatrice McKinna, Lyle and Pat Wurr, Lloyd and Isabel Simpson, Ted and Gwen Kennedy, George and Thelma Riddoch.

There were also eight car loads of friends of the squadron members to bring the total to 24 car loads in which were 48 children. It was a tired bunch of people who wended their way homeward that evening.

Other Activities. Plans are now finalised for the Annual Showtime reunion to be held at the A.T.C. Drill Hall, cnr. Raglan and High, Preston on wednesday 26th September. All Vic. Flight members will be formally advised later.

CORNSTALK REVIEW.

by Cyril Irwin, 17, Vincent Street, Canterbury, N.S.W.

Wine Tasting at the Pitt Club. The Social evening, in the form of a Wine Tasting evening at the Pitt Club on July 20th has been reported on page I of this News. Being the first Flight evening since the wedding of Sam and Maisie we had Mr. and Mrs. Barlow as our special guests. A presentation was made to them on behalf of their Squadron friends and interstate members can be assured that their good wishes were included with the gift.

Move of the Air Force Club. The N.S.W. Division of the Air Force Association and the Air Force Club have joined in the purchase of a city building at 213, Clarence Street. Work is proceeding to renovate and convert it to a first class Club and Air Force headquarters. We consider this a very good move, air-force wise, and hope in the near future to be able to receive interstate and country members in a good atmosphere and surroundings. The Squadron has been happy to regard the Air Force Club as its unofficial social headquarters in Sydney for a number of years now. Two of its members are on the Club Committee.

Death of Norm Walker. We are sorry to report the death of Squadron member Norm Walker early in July. Squadron members attended his funeral and paid the last respects to Norm.

Al. Wheat comes East. Al. Wheat was a very welcome visitor to Sydney from 12th. to 19th. July. Fellow crew member Ken Brown made the trip up to Sydney from Victoria to join Al, Bob Lyndon and Bob Smith in almost a full crew reunion.

Finale re the Future.—I will conclude the Flight report with regards to all interstate 458ers and a special appeal to our local Sydney members to support

1. The Squadron party at the Air Force Ball at the Trocadero on Friday evening September 28th. Please contact me about this;
2. Air Force Association Golf Day (Kingsford Smith Trophy) Castle Hill, September 9th.;
3. 458 Squadron President's Cup Golf Day on Sunday October 24th. at Gordon Lynn Ridge Golf links. Hit off will be at 9.0.a.m. There will follow a Squadron gathering at Mt. Wilga, Manor Road, Hornsby.

PASSING OF NORM. WALKER.

458ers who knew Norm Walker either during his Squadron service as a pilot in North Africa, or indeed after the war in his Sydney years, will regret to hear of his passing.

He was, as some squadron members know, greatly afflicted in health in the post-war years. He developed both diabetes and pulmonary tuberculosis. He shewed the highest courage and, in intervals of hospitalisation, started and managed his own business, marketing a patented hypodermic syringe for auto-injection. In the end his heart gave way and he died in his sleep in hospital.

458 was represented at the cremation.

May he sleep in peace.

REUNION OF DRINNAN CREW-MEMBERS.

July, 1962, has been a memorable month for members of Bob Drinnan's wartime 458 Squadron crew. Scattered in post-war years over all five of the mainland Australian states, they have retained all the typical R.A.A.F. crew loyalty.

Recently, Alwyn Wheat, who is a car and tractor salesman in Geraldton on Australia's Indian Ocean coast, north of Perth in Western Australia, found he was to visit Sydney, in New South Wales, on the Pacific coast. He immediately made plans for a crew get-together. After disposing of business, he went to stay with Bob Lyndon and Pat his wife. Bob, as well as being a Vice-President of the N.S.W. Flight, was one of the crews W.A.G.s. That evening was spent by them all at the Cronulla R.S.L. Club, where they were joined by N.S.W. Secretary Cyril Irwin, accompanied by Yvonne Crompton, and by Bob and Dot Smith. Bob Smith was another of the crew W.A.G.s.

Unannounced arrival. Next day, Saturday July 14th, was another red letter day, as without previous advice, Ken Brown arrived in Sydney by train from his home in Katunga, Victoria, where he has a farm. Ken was the crew's Navigator. After moving from his hotel to the Lyndon's, he and the other two crew-members paid a visit to Bob Lyndon's club, the Pitt Club in Sydney, where other Squadron members in Sam Barlow, Cyril Irwin and Peter Alexander joined in a social afternoon. The evening was spent by the crew quietly at home.

Airborne Again. Sunday at Bankstown aerodrome was spent, by Al. Wheat, in flying aircraft tests, and by the whole party including children afternoon, in flying, with Al. as pilot, a Cessna. First trip was by the four Drinnan crewmembers. Sam and Maisie Barlow, with Maisie's daughter Sue were also there. The flying is reported to have filled the women with terror and the children with glee. On Sunday evening Ken Brown had to return to the farm at Katunga. During the evening there was a telephone link-up with the two other crewmembers in Bob Drinnan himself in South Australia, and with Jack Taylor in Queensland. On Monday, Al. went to stay with the Smiths. That evening Maca and his wife visited. Tuesday Al. spent in part in examining the new Victa light aircraft and, in the evening at a party at Sam Barlow's flat. Wednesday evening was the night of a small Squadron get-together. The crew, Sam Barlow, Cyril Irwin, Fred. Strom, Peter Alexander, John Dunn came in, for a smoko evening. Poker machines rattled, with the inevitable ultimate result but considerable amusement. The Editor was pleased to see Al. wearing an A.F.A. badge.

Long Distance Stuff again. Al with a crew of Bob Smith, Sam Barlow and Bill Cotton, took off on Thursday in a Cessna. First touchdown was at Parkes where they met Trapper Currington. Trapper has a Turkey farm at Peak Hill. Next touch down was at Cowra, where Harry Baines and Ralph Bailey were waiting. The aircraft returned to Sydney that evening.

The Young Man goes West The inevitable day of departure for Al., back to Western Australia came on Friday. He went off with the intention of spending a day with Bob Drinnan in South Australia on his way.

All of this amounted to a superb and unforgettable occasion. There should be more of them. Other crews please note.

One afternote; Ken Brown sent up for the then-forthcoming Wine tasting evening some remarkably good Yeringa Sherry and Port. The Editor who is told he departed from the Wine tasting with a bottle under each arm, vouches that the wine was good. Thanks, Ken!

458 IN N.S.W. AT THE A.F.A. ANNUAL ASSEMBLY.

The Squadron shortly after its first formal organisation in N.S.W. after the war. In 1949 in fact, formed a 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association, so that those 458ers who chose, as many did, to combine Squadron activity with membership of one of the big Returned Servicemen's organisations, could do so. This has meant that several 458ers have taken a prominent part in Association affairs, in N.S.W. and Federally. To mention names, Alan Piggott, Alf. Hammond, Bob Bruce, Dick Healey, and Peter Alexander have all at different times been State Committeemembers, as has Graeme Coombes. Dick Healey and Peter Alexander are both State Vice Presidents. Graeme Coombes and Peter Alexander hold Federal office. Allan Walker also was a State Committeemember.

The branch is entitled to send two delegates to each Annual Assembly of the Association which is the policy making body for the State. This year's Assembly was held at the Oceanic Hotel, Coogee, a seaside suburb of Sydney.

The Governor of N.S.W., Sir Eric Woodward, opened the Assembly in a speech which recorded the 40 years of the Association's work (in the between-wars years as the Australian Flying Corps Association).

President Bob Bruce and Secretary Cyril Irwin represented the 458 Squadron branch, while Dick Healey and Peter Alexander were present as Headquarters Delegates, Dick wearing the laurels of his recent election to the Legislative Assembly.

458 and the A.F.A. Assembly.

The debates carried on by the representatives of the many thousands of N.S.W. members of the Association were punctuated at suitable intervals by a barbecue lunch on the hotel forecourt, a Dinner, and so on.

Motions put forward covered the various subjects of interest to ex-servicemen as such or as citizens; or constitutional matters.

458 branch moved a number of motions. It must be said that some of them were lost ! one supported the use of relayed music for the Anzac March in Sydney instead of the bands which have been considered unsatisfactory for some years. Cyril Irwin pointed out that this form of relayed music from bands centrally placed was successfully used in Adelaide. One opposing speaker wanted to know what happened if there were an electric failure. Others were horrified at the thought of the absence of marching bands. Motion defeated.

Motions supporting the use of unit and Squadron banners on all suitable Air Force occasions and supporting the R.A.A.F.'s need for a modern bomber moved by 458 were however carried.

Post-war airmen. The Canberra branch moved and 458 member Peter Alexander seconded a motion proposing the admission to the A.F.A. of postwar airmen with three years R.A.A.F. service as 'Special' members. This caused a tensely argued debate of opposed views. Peter Alexander said he favoured the motion as being in the interests of Australia--which needed a continuing organisation to speak for the Air Force and airmen in civil life and which possessed the A.F.A.'s traditions; as being in the interests of the A.F.A. which would gain the energies and support of younger men; and in the interests of the R.A.A.F. which would continue to have an organisation able to press for air power and R.A.A.F interests publicly. The State executive members opposed the motion and past State President John Waddy, a well-known Fighter Ace and now an M.L.A. also made an opposing speech which was quoted from in the Sydney Press. This fragmentary report caused some concern by appearing to reflect upon present-day airmen, an intention denied by the speaker. Despite powerful opposition the motion was lost only by 28-23 votes. The matter will come up again at the A.F.A. Federal Conference.

Other motions carried dealt with pensions and war service homes, as well as the New Guinea position. It was generally felt to be a highly enjoyable Assembly--which lasted over the two days, Saturday and Sunday.

Bob Bruce moved a successful motion favouring a Death Moratorium Insurance Scheme for A.F.A. members.

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458 COMMANDING OFFICER NOW IN N.S.W.

The Squadron's fourth commanding officer, John Dowling, who commanded from Bone to Alghero, and who is a permanent officer of the R.A.A.F. is now stationed at Penrith in N.S.W. He is a Group Captain and is now serving as Senior officer (Administration) with Operational Command.

The Squadron sends him its regards.

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AUTHORISED BY THE EDITOR.

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

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

I shall be going on the Parkes Country Reunion. Please book accomodation for me and .....for the nights of.....

Name:.....

Address.....

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Members buying car tyre paint should ask their garages for Alan Piggott's special Rubber Mat Dressing, sold by Austral Coatings Pty Ltd., Ryde, N.S.W.