



THE EDITOR.

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

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August, 1965.

SPORTS--INDOORS AND OUT.N.S.W. Flight Notes--from Cy. Irwin.Games Night at Air Force Club.

We played an Indoors Sports Evening on 31st. July against the Parramatta branch of the Air Force Association--Carpet bowls and darts. The result was a draw: 4 games each.

Annual Squadron Picnic.

This was held at Warwick Farm Racecourse on Sunday 25th. July. Although in the midst of a bad spell of weather, we were fortunate to have a sunny day and ideal conditions for our picnic.

Approximately 30 families attended. There were a few of our old regulars missing, but the day was voted a very pleasant one. There was an ample supply of refreshments for young and old, plus ice cream, sweets and prizes for the children. Races were run, yarns were swapped--all in all, it was a typical squadron Picnic Day, well enjoyed by those who attended. The Flight's sincere thanks to Graeme Coombes (for arranging the Course facilities), Fred Strom and Bob Bruce (refreshments), Sam Barlow and Sid Bowen (Ice cream and sweets), and Kemp Beach (sweets and general organisation).

At the Smorgasbord.

The A.F.A. Ball sub-committee, a very active body of which Kemp Beach is a very active member, arranged a Smorgasbord and Fashion Parade at Leo Buring's Old Crusty Tavern, George Street, Sydney. There were a number of 458ers there, to try the very-ample food and excellent Australian wines before the Courtauld's fabric display was put on--principally perhaps for the enjoyment of the ladies present, including many of the debutantes-to-be who will be presented to the A.F.A. Federal President, Air Marshal Sir John McCauley, at the Ball in Air Force Week.

Talking of the Ball.

458 Squadron will have a party at the Air Force Ass'n Ball which will be at the Trocadero on Friday 17th. September. For many years now, a large party at the Association Ball has replaced our own Squadron Ball. We would like to see some of our old Ball subscribers along, so, why not make a note of the date (Sept. 17th.) and come along.

Enquiries for tickets to Kemp Beach (71-6469), please.

Old Faithfuls.

N.S.W. Flight members will find enclosed with this News tickets for our Melbourne Cup Guessing Competition. We hope that all of our 'Old Faithfuls' will support. This Competition is, financially, the main reason why we can continue to publish the Squadron News.

Country Reunion Off.

This year, our proposed September Country Reunion has unfortunately had to be cancelled. We do hope to hold a Country "Do" early in the New Year.

N.S.W. Notes (cont.)Future Functions for your Calendar.

August 28th. Games Night versus W.A.A.A.F. Wing.
 October 23rd. Ladies Night and Dinner.
 October 30/31st. Family Weekend and President's Cup Golf

Day at Tuggerah.

Further and more specific advice will reach members re the Dinner and Family Weekend. ---Cy.I.

VALE : EDWARD "Ned" KELLY.

458 Squadron News reports with great regret the passing, in Adelaide, of a long-term member of the Squadron's Electrical Section -- Edward Patrick Kelly. Many members will recall his tall thin person, dark hair and blue eyes and his quiet friendly manner. Ned, who died of cancer, joined 458 at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and stayed with it until its disbandment in 1945.

Members in all Flights will join in paying tribute and in extending sympathy to his widow and daughter.

VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT.

from

F. SHORTY WILSON, 78, Carnarvon Rd.
 Strathmore, W.6., Victoria.

Most of the Flight are in hibernation for the winter but the others are still keeping the Flight stock-pot simmering. Arrangements are well in hand for the Annual Cabaret Dance, which will have been held by the time this Newsletter is printed.

The Victorian Flight Trophy.

This trophy, for annual competition among the personnel of No. 2 Flight, Air Training Corps, R.A.A.F. is now complete. It is a large wooden shield, about 22" x 18", on which is mounted the Squadron Crest, a silver scroll, and a provision for mounting silver shields for the Annual winners.

It is to be presented to the Commanding Officer, F/Lt. Knapp, at the Annual Show Eve Reunion on September 30th. All 458 Squadron members will receive a circular letter at a later date and we hope to have a good roll call.

Queens' Birthday Weekend.

Roy and Margaret Rabone invited all members of the Flight to spend this weekend with them at their sheepfarm, situated at the gateway to the Grampians at Dunkeld near Hamilton.

Shorty Wilson and his family gladly accepted the offer and arrived at suppertime on the Friday night to find a warm welcome and first-class accommodation had been provided for any partakers of the Rabone hospitality.

A round of activities had been arranged; sightseeing in the city of Hamilton on the Saturday morning, a good football match in the afternoon and listening to fine recorded music in the evening by a warm fire with the support of the little brown jug and good company.

Although the response from Melbourne members was poor, Sunday saw the arrival during the course of the day of the families of the Flight President, Gordon Cuthbertson; George Riddoch, Vin Clohesy, and Allan Brown. After a barbecue lunch, everyone inspected the property, and to us City slickers it was most interesting. This is a sheep farm with a difference; it has hundreds of stately red gums on the property. We had a day full of interest. We were within shooting difference of emu and kangaroos, though of course we had no guns, the scenery was beautiful with a backdrop of mountains close by:--and so barbecue teatime arrived.

After Cuthy and George Riddoch departed for home the rest of us still continued to kick on by the camp fire, where we watched the flight of a satellite from one horizon to the other. This was verified by our wives and children who were quite sober. The hours stole away too quickly and so bedtime came finally after a grand day.

Monday morning saw the departure of the Wilsons for Melbourne and also the end of a peaceful and restful weekend.

Many thanks to Roy and Margaret for their pleasant effort and their hospitality.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor, -and others.From Jack Guthrie, 14, Balfour Street, Doncaster, Victoria.

Dear Peter,

.....Please note that I have changed my address to (the above).....Please believe me when I tell you that, though I visit no functions and will not "march" except under orders I value my membership of 458 Squadron and I do wish the very best of health and luck to 458 Branch members.....

J. Guthrie.

From Stan Parker, Box 446, Ayr, North Queensland.

Dear Cyril,

Many thanks for sending the book. I am very pleased to have been able to receive it. I lent my previous copy to my doctor three years ago last September and he has been unable to find it to return it to me.....

Alf. Peake and I are the only 458ers in this district. Alf used to live in Ayr but has now moved onto a farmsome ten miles south of the Burdekin river.

I can assure you that the Squadron News is very interesting and I never fail to read it. I will watch for mention of the Squadron Tie. Mine is getting a little old now.

I am a past President of the Lower Burdekin Legacy Contact Group. We are attached to Townsville.

Again thanks for what you have done for me.

Kindest regards,

Stan Parker.

P.S. Give my regards to any of the 458ers you meet.

THE NEW SQUADRON TIE AVAILABLE SHORTLY.

The new 458 Squadron Ties, made up in terylene in the new 458 motif are expected to become available during September. They will be available to members at 21/- (plus 1/- postage). For convenience of members, an application form is incorporated in this issue of the News. We have placed an order for 200 and as there are may more 458ers than that, it will be first come first served.

SERVICES CANTEEN TRUST FUND.

Perhaps some 458 members may be in a position to make use of the Education Awards available under this Fund.

Educational Assistance is available to the children of any man or woman who served in the R.A.A.F. during the second World War. The child must be enrolled in a secondary course next year. For the child either of whose parents is deceased, the age of entry is 12. For other children the age is 15 or over next year. There is a Means Test. It works like this. Take the family income from all sources, deduct 10% for each dependent; this gives the "adjusted family income" used as a basis of award. However, if the family income from all sources exceeds £1,200 then the "adjusted family income" is obtained by deducting £120 for each dependent instead of 10%. The maximum adjusted family income over which no award will be granted is £550 in the case of orphans and £450 in all other cases.

Awards are not made for the First Year of any tertiary course but should a student in receipt of a Commonwealth Scholarship have the Scholarship suspended the Trustees will consider an application for assistance to enable a student to qualify for restoration of the Commonwealth Scholarship provided funds are available after dealing with all other cases. For this assistance closing date for applications is 31st March next. For general applications, closing date is 15th October this year. Forms from The Secretary, Rickard House, 84, Pitt Street, Sydney --or the Funds office in other capital cities, as shewn in the 'phone book.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN:—Twenty Five Years Later.

September, 1965, brings the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. This was fought over the fields of southern England by the Spitfire and Hurricane pilots of Fighter Command, R.A.F., led by Air Chief Marshal Dowding. These pilots, who fought and won against greatly superior odds, were the superbly trained professional airmen of the small permanent R.A.F. There were about 300 of them, including 30 Australians who had short-term commissions in the R.A.F. The Battle they won probably saved the Allied cause; certainly it ranks with the great and decisive battles of world history and at least equally with Trafalgar and Waterloo. Of the pilots, Winston Churchill said (and many of us heard him make the speech over the radio) "Never in the Realms of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so Few."

The 25th Anniversary therefore deserves public note and will be celebrated, particularly in Britain.

Some members of 458 who are office-bearers in the Air Force Association have been involved in the (now successful) endeavours to enable a representative party of ex-Battle of Britain pilots to return from Australia to take part in the celebrations in Britain.

There are about 20 of them now in Australia, about half of them having migrated to Australia following their retirement from the R.A.F. the others being Australians by origin. It has been possible to arrange for 12 of them to have passages at no charge to themselves by air to England and back. From Australia to Singapore by Qantas, from Singapore to Britain and back by R.A.F. Britannia, from Singapore to Australia by R.A.A.F. Hercules. Of the making of these arrangements (together with accommodation in London and a programme while there)—and at times it looked nearly hopeless—it is only necessary to say briefly that it was highly involved. Finally it was all arranged.

The twelve pilots who come from all mainland States, including two from North Queensland and two from southern Western Australia, will be leaving from Sydney and Perth early in September and will be wished God Speed—as they were 25 years ago. They have a well planned programme ahead in Britain. Air Chief Marshal Dowding will join them in placing a wreath on the Air Force Memorial on the Thames Embankment. They will go to A Reunion at Bentley Priory (Fighter Command H.Q.). They will go to Westminster Abbey for a Memorial and Thanksgiving Service attended by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. They will go to a reception at the London Mansion House. They will revisit Biggin Hill R.A.F. Station and then come home to Australia on 24th September.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES.

We have not overlooked the undertaking to reprint for general information, 458ers addresses. However our records at this time are in process of analysis for the long-promised list of those who served on 458 and listing of current addresses in any one Flight will have to wait awhile.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella St., Holland Park, Queensland.

Since the All-States Reunion, it's been all Quiet on the Q.Flight front. It has not been determined whether this is due to the need for rest to recharge the batteries for the next burst, resting on laurels, resting in bed, or the usual Queenslander's hibernation for the winter. However, many did emerge for the evening of the 5th June to cut a caper or two at the Winter Social held, as usual, at the No.1 Casualty Clearing Station. Everywhere, on all sides, there was much kicking up of heels, kicking over traces, and letting down of hair. A very, very satisfactory evening. And then we all returned to hibernation.

Imminent events, including the Annual Meeting on Friday, 17th September and the Xmas Do on Saturday 20th November have been planned. Will all please record in diaries, and turn up with bright faces.

Under our new State laws, we cannot hold our usual money-spinner, the Melbourne Cup Sweep, without infringing or transgressing or something of the kind. So, in its place, we've arranged a "November" Contribution at 1/- per contribution. There will be bonus payments according to a fortunate set of coincidences. Of course, only contributing members can

Q.Flight News (cont.)

participate in the bonus payments. It behoves all members to come to the aid of the finances.

By the way, a few "Q" Flighters have already vowed to turn up in Melbourne to the next All-States Reunion. It really looks as though Queensland will be there in force.

Bert Garland was tickled to read Lofty Trewartha's greetings in the last News and reciprocates most heartily. All's well with him and his'n.

TIES FOR U.K.FLIGHT.

U.K.Flight Secretary, Sid Thompsett, writes that he is waiting for news of the new Squadron ties. Says he has had notes from several members inquiring, also one or two wives who want to give a tie for Christmas. Says his son is still collecting matchbox tops; has approximately 1,000 and would like some new ones. Can any 458 member or child assist? Address—369, Downham Way, Bromley, Kent, England.

MEMORIES FROM HOLME DAYS.

Eric Lloyd, who flew in K.J.Mellor's crew at Holme-on-Spalding Moor, has recently heard from his skipper, now retired from the R.A.F. and living in Tasmania. He has given us details of the letter as he knows it will be of interest to some of the 'older fellows' from the Squadron to know where the Maestro is.

From K.J.Mellor, P.O.Box 163, Ulverstone, Tasmania.

My dear Eric,

I really was delighted to get your letter and to realise I had, at last, caught up with one of my old crew. So sad about Peters Howlett and Hickey but I suppose that was the luck of the draw.

Before I go further, P.O.Box 163 is my address. We are sufficiently far away from the town to be denied a postal delivery although a chap does toss a newspaper over the hedge at about 5.00—rather early for me and in consequence we often have to dry it out in the oven. He is not too good a shot either and we often have great fun and frustration finding it. As you probably realised I stayed with the R.A.F. after the war but sometimes I kick myself for not having left and joined B.O.A.C., which I could have done quite easily. I didn't find peacetime soldiering nearly as stimulating as wartime...in consequence I leapt at the chance of volunteering to leave early under the "golden bowler" scheme. Now, of course, I occasionally miss the R.A.F. life—there is obviously no satisfying the Mellor bird.

After leaving 458—which I missed terribly—I went to another heavy Squadron in command. After that I went out East and formed two G.R.Squadrons in both of which there were a lot of Australians. I returned to U.K. for D.Day and took over a parachute dropping Transport Squadron. So you can see I was one of the really lucky ones—apart from the odd visit to hospital for maintenance I stayed with aircraft the whole war. After the war was over I got myself married in 1946 and we have a boy (13) and a girl (11).

Apart from always wanting to see Australia I don't really know what made us up traps and come out for good. I think it was possibly the terrible overcrowding in England which for a long time was made worse by a continual flow of West Indians to the Welfare State. I have now been in Tasmania for six months and there are no regrets—I like the country, I like the people, and I certainly like the climate. We came out as sponsored migrants and I have absolutely no complaints as to our treatment.....

We moved up north and bought a property overlooking the Bass Strait and I am busy gardening and persuading my "chooks" to lay more eggs.....It unfortunately follows, therefore, that any visit to

Holme Days (cont.)

Brisbane would be most difficult because the life of a poultry farmer—even a very small one—is pretty tied. Under the modern method they have to be pampered and they are treated a darn sight better than I was when I first joined the R.A.F. So I guess you'll have to come here.....

Yours sincerely, R.

THE EDITOR (P.C.Alexander)

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Squadron Addresses.

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N.S.W. Secretary (C.P.Irwin) Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

Victorian Secretary (F.Wilson) 78, Carnarvon Road, Strathmore, W.6., Victoria.

Queensland Secretary (J.Holliday) 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Brisbane, Q.

W.A. Secretary (C.Geddes) 2, Muriel Street, Leederville, Perth, W.A.

S.A. Secretary c/o G.Taylor, 26, Pirie St., Adelaide, S.A.

U.K. Secretary (S.Thompsett) 369, Downham Way, Bromley, Kent, England.

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

Please send me.....new 458 Squadron tie as soon as available.
I enclose £.....@ 21/- per tie plus 1/- postage and packing.

Name.....

Address.....

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