



THE EDITOR.

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

Year 18, No. 69.

November, 1966.

Q.FLIGHT--IN HOLLIDAY MOOD.

Elections.

We are pleased to report that, by unanimous vote, popular Chas. Richardson was, at our Annual Meeting of 6th. September, re-elected into the office of President of Q.Flight for the second successive year. Charlie's term of office was a happy year for all who worked with him, and those who were associated with him on the Committee feel this re-election is a well deserved honour as well as a mark of appreciation.

As for the other offices, Jack Lewis was again elected unopposed as Flight Treasurer and was heartily congratulated for the splendid job of work he has done in this office for many years. Of course, yours truly had a hard fight to remain in the office of Secretary.

Year Out, Year In.

The Year was a most successful one and the Committee was pleased to report to the members that its bank balance was about the same level as at the end of the last financial year.

However, this year is not starting auspiciously. Your committee has been unable to secure a satisfactory date to hold its usual Christmas Social. The Water Street Drill Hall has been unexpectedly booked for Parades for the next few weekends and we were not advised early enough to find alternative accomodation.

We hope to arrange a function early next year in compensation.

In their Cups, Winners.

Our Melbourne Cup Sweep held under the disguise of "November Subscription" was most successful. Seventy of the seventy-eight books distributed were subscribed. We are pleased to announce that Stan Parker drew Galillee, Bernie McLoughlin's wife Helen drew Light Fingers, and Robyn Dew drew Duo. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who subscribed. In particular we thank Bernie McLoughlin and Clive Wyman who sold five books, Charlie Warren who sold four, and Bert Garland, Gordon Postle, Chas Richardson, and yours truly, who sold three---and the many others who sold twos and singles.

Additions.

We are pleased also to announce an increase in the families of two Q.Flight members. Kath. and Eric Kelly have a fine bouncing boy, making three boys and three girls. Pat and Harry Dorge have now a second son, Bryan Lloyd, born 25th. June. Harry says Bryan is a very good baby and they don't lose sleep.

Kelly in Print.

We read a most interesting article about Eric Kelly in the journal which is the voice of the vocation which Eric now follows. Not only did it carry a splendid photograph of Eric at work but also informed us of Eric's career as a Rugby League Five-eighth representing Queensland. The article went on to describe Eric's Air Force days with 458 and by and large did him proud.

In Holliday Mood (cont.).Life on the Ocean Wave.

Our local newspaper recently carried a paragraph about a local Prawner, Jack Baxter, owner-skipper of the "Southport Star" who caught up, in his prawning nets, midway between Southport and Jumpin-pin bars, a bottle reputed to be about 100 years old. The bottle is about 9½" long, and pointed. Stamped on it are the words "Ross's Belfast". Jack says the contents smelt powerfully but he believed contained only mineral water.

--J. Holliday, 43, Stella St. Holland Park, Q.

CROWEATER NEWS.Personalities.

Allan (Snow) Dixon has been down from the Woomera Rocket Range with a spell in Adelaide Hospital. I am sure all of old Snow's mates wish him a speedy recovery.

Gerry Abraham blew in from Melbourne recently and was accorded the usual 458 welcome at the Talbot Hotel by

Syd. Bartram Ron Badger Bert Ravenscroft Jack Riseley
and Arn. Scholar.

Jack and Verna Riseley are back from a very enjoyable holiday in Queensland during which they called on old pals at Mackay. During three days spent in Brisbane they renewed old friendships with Jim Holliday, Charlie Warren and Jack Lewis.

Bill Taylor is back at the grindstone after a few weeks of sick leave and reports that he is O.K. and rarin' to go.

Ken Russell is reported to be a frequent visitor to Western Australia these days where his firm, Adelaide S.S., have vast interests in a Salt industry at Shark Bay.

Christmas Ahead.

Plans have now been completed for a Christmas Picnic to be held at Aldinga Beach on December 11th. To enable the Committee to cater for liquid refreshments, ice cream, etc it would be appreciated if starters would contact either:-

Bill Taylor 79.4066
Jack Riseley 79.6157
Lofty 65.4169

Lofty and Marj. would like to take this opportunity to wish all and sundry a Happy Christmas and all the best for 1967.

Lofty Trewartha, 60, California St
Nailsworth, S.A.

458 SQUADRON ALL-STATES REUNION IN VICTORIA APRIL 1967. START PLANNING TO COME.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....Visitors from the East.

Things in the West are completely in the doldrums as far as Squadron activity is concerned and apart from seeing an occasional chap in the street I have very little local news to report.

Arthur Jollow paid a rush visit to W.A. in September to see his old uncle, Wm. V. Brown, who was incarcerated in Royal Perth Hospital as a result of a domestic accident. Arthur had previously been to the West on a holiday visit. His account of this former visit appeared in the last issue of the "News". At that particular time I had been tied up at work, and the honours were very efficiently attended to by Len Stewart.

On the second occasion Arthur spent quite a while with me at R.P.H. but was too involved to have time for any social activity. His uncle, by the way, was discharged on October 12th, and is still battling along at a very commendable old age.

Sandgroppers Say... (cont.)

Early in October I was both stunned and delighted to return to my office to find my old friend Jack Carter waiting for me. He was on a "round Australia" tour in a Morris "Mini Moke" which with considerable ingenuity he had adapted and modified to his particular needs. The old varmint hadn't changed a bit. He came out home for a night where, by the way, he refused to sleep on a soft bed (on the grounds that he couldn't sleep on one anyway) and slept in his "Moke", parked on my front lawn. We had a good old natter and drank beer until early A.M. He left next day for Geraldton to look up Al. Wheat and proposed to make his way to Darwin via our north-west coast and hoped to be back home some time in November. My kids thought he was wonderful, as the old J.C. has lost none of his charm where the fair sex are concerned. It sure was great to see him over in the West where, incidentally, he hadn't been since 1915, a little matter of 51 years ago.

The only other item of news is that Gordon Jones' wife, Olga, is in Fremantle Hospital and has undergone a major operation which with her usual equanimity she took in her stride. She is now doing particularly well. The multitude of visitors and the profusion of flowers are sufficient evidence of Olga's popularity and the esteem in which Gordon and Olga are held. (Our best wishes to early recovery, Olga--Ed.)

Visitors to the East.

Amy and I will again be visiting Sydney in March 1967. We are scheduled to leave Perth by train on 18th. March and arriving in Sydney on Wednesday 22nd. March on the daylight train from Melbourne. We will be at 31, Princes Street Gladesville with our daughter Dianne and her husband Cec. Chamberlain and I am looking forward to another night with Cy. Irwin playing those "One-armed Bandits" in the Air Force Club. We will be in Sydney for three weeks.

My regards to all.

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

NEW SOUTH NOTES.Air Force Week Activities.

Following the Flight News reported in the last issue of the Squadron News, September has proved to be a very busy month for N.S.W. members, particularly the Sydneysiders.

September 10th/18th was Air Force Week and our Squadron Association was represented at a number of functions organised by the Air Force Association. First of these was a Dinner (12th. Sept.) for the Presidents and Secretaries of the many Squadron Associations. Peter Alexander and Cy. Irwin attended as 458ers.

A Squadron party attended the Air Force Ball at the Trocadero on Friday 16th. September. Two 458 Debutantes, Beryl Munkman and Patricia Crompton, were presented to the Guest of Honour, Air Vice Marshal C.T. Hannah, A.O.C., Operational Command, R.A.A.F., and Mrs. Hannah. The Squadron booking was 56--the "Oldies" at the Squadron table, and two Debs. tables. It was pleasing to have a mixture of old and young Squadron supporters along and they all had a good night.

Golf.

On the 18th. September the Annual President's Cup Golf Day was held at Parklea Golf Club, Baulkham Hills. It was voted our best golf outing for years--perfect weather, a good roll-up of players, and a comfortable and pleasant course. Winner of the President's Cup was Sam Barlow (What? Again!), with runner-up John Fennell. Visiting players included a party of Armidale "Old Boys", and our match of past years was resuscitated, Armidale winning the point score and "Pot" in a seven aside teams match. It was nice to have Wall Archbold and John Fennell make the trip from Wyong for the day.

The Cup.

The Flight Melbourne Cup Sweep was conducted and resulted in a net profit of approximately \$90. This about covers our Squadron News subs for a year. Winners were: 1st. (Galillee) B. Copley,
2nd. (Light Fingers) Col Campbell,
3rd (Duo) Maisie Barlow.

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to Squadron members who supported the Sweep.

VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT.All-States Reunion.

The following is the programme proposed for the 458 Squadron All-States Reunion in April 1967.

Friday April 21st.

Interstate Members arrive--private entertainment.

Saturday April 22nd.

Afternoon. 1. Squadron Conference at Air Force Association, Queens Road, City;

2. Football or Races;

3. Ladies entertained;

Evening. House Party at Kevin Guiney's residence at 565, Whitehorse Rd., Mitcham;

Sunday April 23rd.

Afternoon. Barbeque-Picnic and Joy Flights at Tyabb Airport;

Evening. Private arrangements;

Monday April 24th.

Morning/Afternoon. Golf and bowls;

Evening. Squadron Dance;

Tuesday April 25th.

Morning. 1. Dawn Service;

2. Anzac March;

3. Anzac Reunion--at which Vic. Flight office-bearers for 1967/8 will be elected--at Harry Ashworth's business premises at Benchley Place, Prahran, Melbourne; 4. Ladies entertained during afternoon;

Evening. (early) Smorgasbord at Don Johnson's residence at 5, Champion Street, Doncaster East, at which interstate members will be farewelled.

All will be welcomed: accommodation, private or public will be set up, provided we know who will require what. We are organising a series of functions the proceeds of which, together with donations, will, we hope, enable us to provide most if not all the activities on a "pre-paid" basis.

Trotting Evening.

Towards this end we have been able to obtain a "Trotting Evening" at the Melbourne Show Ground on Saturday April 8th. 1967. We shall have 400 people there who will be asked to pay \$5-00 per head inclusive of entrances to the Show ground and a four course dinner with all necessary drinks. The evening will be from 6.30 to 10.40 p.m. Betting not included in the \$5-00

Social-Dance.

A most successful Social-Dance was held at Melbourne Bowling Club on Friday 17th. August last. In all 116 persons attended. A profit of \$90-65 was made. Those attending included Jim Timms Frank Wilson Bob McKinna Harry Ashworth Ian Alison Harold Martin Bill Carr Ken Brown Eddie Bradshaw Norm. Cugley Jack Ellis Ron. Russell Lyle Wurr Bob Smith Don Johnson. My apology about other names which escape my memory for the time being.

Christmas Party.

Sunday 4th. December 1966 will see our Annual Xmas. party at Tyabb airport, which is situated 8 miles, on the Hastings Road, from Frankston. Santa Claus will arrive will arrive by air (by the hand of Jack Ellis). Those attending should assemble adjacent to the Clubrooms at the Airport. Look for the "458" Sign.

-- Bill Carr, 36, Harbury St.
Reservoir, Victoria.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

We are continuing our activities though not very often. However, I am in touch with most of the chaps from time to time.

I am not sure whether I mentioned to Bob Bruce that I did receive the Squadron Ties--but they did arrive safe and sound.

At the Pathfinders Club.

A few of us met at the Path Finders Club in London on October 1st.--and hope to meet again on December 3rd. It makes a jolly good evening, a few drinks and a chat.

Stamps. My son has started at a new Grammar School after the summer and one of his activities is stamp collecting. Australian stamps are much in demand, if anyone can let him have some.

British Bulletin (concl.)

In case I don't write before, a very happy Christmas to you in Australia.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Jack Carter, Cloncurry, Queensland.

Dear Peter,

I thought the enclosed newspaper cutting would be of interest. Since leaving home I have called on Squadron members Gordon Nash, Dave Firth, "Butch" Power, Al. Wheat and Stue Currington. I'm separated from Snowy Atherton by 40 miles of flooded road, but there is no hurry. The only regret is I didn't equip myself with a Squadron Address Book before starting. I must apologise for not calling on Jim Perry at Port Augusta but I passed through on the coldest night of the year (2½" of snow at Balalie North).

Regards to all in Sydney.

Jack Carter.

The attached cutting reports:

A 69-year old man and his tiny Mini-moke arrived in Darwin this week as part of their round-Australia tour.....The man is former Darwin pioneer, Mr. Jack Carter, who during the early post-war years was Secretary of the then Civic Committee. Jack has been looking round an enlarged Darwin since his arrival. He says the old informality has gone—days when offices had "Back in two hours" notices, which did not matter because you could always find the man you were looking for if you knew which pub he drank in. Now everyone seemed to rush about.....

He first came to Darwin in 1938 and was Fitter-in-charge for the building of the Navy Fuel tanks there. In 1940 he joined and served with an R.A.A.F. Squadron in Europe and the Middle East.....He returned to Darwin in 1946 and stayed till 1950 working at the Powerhouse and for a period as Secretary of the Darwin Civic Committee.

He recalls those days and the efforts to get development in the time before the Legislative Council or any local government. Townspeople were angry that Army property was lying idle and being ravaged by white ants when so many people had no proper accommodation.....The committee took up the cudgels to campaign for two doctors who had been posted away from the city.....

To-day, Jack is a spritely and upright white-haired man and is meeting old friends of pre-and post-war Darwin. He set out from his home near Shepparton, Victoria, in September, travelled west to Adelaide and crossed the Nullarbor Plain to Perth and then to the North-West, the Kimberleys, and Darwin. His tiny vehicle has caused consternation in some areas and envy that he could complete 400 miles on 9 gallons of petrol. He says that a feature of his journey was the number of New Australians on the road. They shewed a pioneering spirit, but many of them expected a lot to be done for them.

He says that mining development in Western Australia is colossal but it had brought in its wake tin cans, old tyres and rubbish throughout the neighbouring bush.....Jack will push on from Darwin to Queensland where he has a date with his wartime R.A.A.F. comrades.....

From Ted Gore, 29, Yellagong Street, Wollongong, N.S.W. to Cyril Irwin.

Dear Cy.,

I enclose herewith cheque for \$2-00 together with book of butts for the forthcoming Melbourne Cup Raffle. It would be appreciated if you would record my new address in your records, as I certainly would hate to miss out on any "Squadron News" or any other of the Editor's epistles.

As you are probably aware, I deserted the "Big Smoke" shortly after the war and have moved around quite a lot since then. However, I can quite honestly say that the only regret I have is that I have not been able to keep personal touch with the old 458 mob.

Recently I was fortunate to be able to retrace much of the path that 458 took during the war, i.e. in the U.K. and Italy, and through this I feel now probably closer to the old days than ever before.

Correspondence (cont.)

Fred. Ayres and Bob Lyndon are 2 people with who I have nearly made contact over the years and maybe we could get together soon.

I feel sure I speak for all of us in congratulating Peter on his long and sustained efforts in keeping things going in the communications section of this Association.

By the way--has anyone heard of my skipper, Stan Slater or of old Sid Collins or Alby Barker and, last but not least, the imperturbable Bill Perkins ?

Sincerely,

Ted Gore (Snow)

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL CONFERENCE.

458 Squadron members Graeme Coombes and Peter Alexander who are the Federal Treasurer and Federal Secretary respectively of the A.F.A. have recently returned from attending the biennial Federal Conference of the Association, held at Canberra on November 18/20th. The meeting was at the Hotel Canberra.

The Minister for Air, Mr. Peter Howson, opened the Conference at an official lunch also attended by the Chief of Air Staff, Secretary of the Dept. of Air, Deputy C.A.S., and the heads of the Defence Dept.

A lengthy agenda was accomplished in two and a half days and during discussion of Repatriation items, a deputy Commissioner of the Repatriation Commission attended to give factual advice. On the Sunday morning, the Secretary of Department of Immigration addressed the Delegates and answered questions.

The social side of events was provided by the A.F.A. Canberra branch which put on a chicken and champagne supper.

Conference made Peter Alexander a Life member of the Association, an honour which is restricted to a maximum of 3 per annum for the Commonwealth.

THE EDITOR (P.C. Alexander)

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

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS.

The Hon. Secretary,

.....Flight,

458 Squadron.

I enclose my annual sub. to 458 Squadron herewith. Please arrange for me to continue to receive the Squadron News and notifications of Squadron functions.

Name.....

Address.....

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