



THE EDITOR.

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

Year 18, No. 70.

February, 1967.

ALL-STATES REUNION, APRIL 1967.

After an interval of two years there will be an All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron again in 1967.

The venue this time is Melbourne and the Victorian Flight has arranged an interesting programme over the four days of Anzactime.

Squadron Council and the Victorian Flight are both hopeful that many Squadronmembers and their families will take this opportunity of going to Melbourne to meet again with old friends in what is always a happy Squadron atmosphere. Accommodation, hotel or private, will be arranged as members wish. Will those wanting accommodation please notify Victorian Secretary Bill Carr (36, Harbury Street, Reservoir).

The Programme, subject to possible minor rescheduling, is:

Friday April 21st.
Saturday April 22nd.

Interstate members arrive—private entertainment;
Afternoon. Squadron Conference at Air Force Association, Queens Road, City;
Football or Races;
Ladies entertained;

Evening. Houseparty at Kev. Guineys residence, 565, Whitehorse Rd., Mitcham;

Sunday April 23rd.
Monday April 24th.

Afternoon Barbeque—Picnic;
Morning/Afternoon. Golf and bowls;

Tuesday April 25th.

Evening. Squadron Dance
Morning. 1. Dawn Service;
2. Anzac March;
3. All-States Reunion—at which Vic. Flight office-bearers for 1967-8 will be elected;
4. Ladies entertained during the afternoon;
Evening 5. Smorgasbord at Don Johnson's residence, at which interstate members will be farewelled.

SQUADRON NOMINAL ROLL COMPLETED AT LAST.

The Squadron History "We Find and Destroy", published in 1959, promised (see page 230) that a list of the known names of those who served on 458 Squadron would be published in due course. This list, prepared after exhaustive analysis of all available sources of Squadron information, has now been published by the Squadron Council and is available to members, on application, for a small sum—see the application attached to this News issue. It identifies the Force—i.e. the

Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, South African or Royal Air Force--with which the member served. This will be a valued sentimental memento for all 458ers and their families.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Bill Carr, 36, Harbury St., Reservoir, Vict.

We are stepping up our Committee activity in preparation for the All-States Reunion and we shall be anxious to welcome as many interstaters as possible. We can offer either excellent and reasonable hotel accomodation or private accomodation. Who is going to make the trip?

Flight Christmas Picnic.

This was scheduled for December 4th. but unfortunately, being rained out, it required a postponement to the 11th. This, no doubt, affected the attendance but didn't prevent those who attended from enjoying an excellent day. We had combined with a private flying Club of which Jack Ellis is a prominent member to stage the day at Tyabb Airfield. Santa came by air (Jack Ellis driving) and dispersed a real load of toys to the kiddies, who looked to number some 60 odd. A list of Squadron members present (as I recall) would be: Norm Cugley Ron Russell Harry Ashworth Ern Laming Ian Alison Jack Ellis Bob McKinna Harold Martin John Jenkins Jack Fleming and Bill Carr. If I have forgotten anyone, my apologies. It proved a most enjoyable day and definitely should be repeated.

NEW SOUTH NOTES.

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

Since the last News issue there is only one item to report as to functions held by N.S.W. Flight.

Christmas Cocktails.

A Champagne-cocktail Christmas Party was held at the Air Force Club on Friday November 25th. Approximately 30 attended--Squadron members, wives and friends. Cocktails blended with the near-Festive spirit of the company, and a well-prepared buffet dinner was served. The evening was voted a very enjoyable one. Vice President Sam Barlow, deputising for Flight President John (Curly) Hosking, had a "few words" to say, and wished all the very best for Xmas and the New Year. A few "selected" yarns were swapped.

Everett Emigrating?

Squadron member Ken Everett was in Sydney recently and although not able to meet up with Squadron friends during his stay, informed us that he would be travelling to the U.K. in March and hoped to establish contact with a few of the U.K. members whilst overseas. He has written to Sid Thompsett to forewarn.

New Banner Flying.

N.S.W. Flight is now proud possessor of a new Squadron banner. It was on view at the Christmas Party and is a credit to the responsible sub-committee--Sam Barlow, Stuart Ricketts and Tom Moore. It is a large Banner (a two-poler) and, I believe, is designed to prevent take-off of banner and bearers in a blow.

A.F.A. Life Member.

It was mentioned in a previous Flight report that Peter Alexander had been recommended by the N.S.W. Division of the Air Force Association for Life Membership of the Association. I can now report that the recent Federal Conference in Canberra confirmed the Life membership and some very nice compliments were paid to Peter, whom we heartily congratulate.

Anzac Soon.

Anzac Day will be with us again shortly and it is not too early to remind members that arrangements in Sydney will be the same as in previous years--an after-march reunion and dinner at the Great Southern Hotel. We hope to have our regulars again attend--and urge some of our members not sighted for a while to come along this year.

Passing On of Jock Philip.

It is with regret that the death of Jock Philip is reported to members. He had been in very poor health for many years. Our deepest sympathy to his widow. (The News hopes to publish a tribute to Jock in the next Issue)

New South Notes (cont.)No Dragons at St. George ?

This will be past history by the time the News is despatched, but on February 10th a party of Squadron members will attend a Sports Night at the recently formed Air Force Memorial Bowling Club at St. George. It is hoped to make a presentation of a 458 Squadron plaque during the evening. This Club, at Rockdale, represents a bowling and social "Home" for ex Air Force types, and the St. George branch of the A.F.A. which is responsible for its formation, is to be congratulated.

Airmen at Sea.

Jack Aitken is still able to arrange an 'outside' trip on the waves in a ketch (owned by a friend of his). This outing has been before the Committee for some time and it is hoped to arrange details and advise members shortly. In the meantime, would interested members indicate by ringing Jack Aitken (524-6958) or myself (75-3263-work; or 78-1981-home)

In closing the Flight report, N.S.W. wishes other Flights a successful Year; and a special message to Peter Power (W.A.) who, we note, will be over in Sydney shortly--"We'll be ready!"

CROWEATER'S COMMENTS.

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

Vale Allan (Snow) Dickson.

On the 4th of January members gathered at Derrick Gardens Centennial Park Cemetery to pay their respects to the memory of an old Squadron identity, Allan (Snow) Dickson, who, after an illness extending over several years, died on 2nd January. 'Snow' joined the Squadron as a Fitter IIE late in 1941 at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and soon established himself as a Dinkum bloke. As an N.C.O. with the Squadron, he saw service through the Desert campaign and finally, at Bone, was posted to 450 Squadron in Italy. At the graveside, with the Squadron banner covering the casket, members acted as pallbearers to their old comrade. To Allan's widow and two daughters, members in South Australia wish to extend their deepest sympathy. (As do all 458ers--Ed.)

Junior Davies in Adelaide.

Junior made one of his very rare trips down from Port Pirie, and as is the custom members met at the Talbot Hotel to drink his jolly good health. Junior looked extremely fit and asked me to remember him to Ross Burgess, 'Snow' Fennell and 'Slappy' Hammond through the courtesy of the Squadron News. Those who dropped in to have one were Ann Scholar, Bill Taylor, Bert Ravenscroft, Bob Drinnan and, of course, the Old Grey Mare. Junior informs us that Col. Bowley, who is a Shift Superintendant with the Smelters wishes to be remembered to all his old coppers and in particular Jack Parkin who is farming in West Australia. By the way, who was the younger out of Junior and Nobby?

Eric and Birdie Lloyd sent me a bonzer Xmas Card and asked me to say Hello to all their mates in South Australia. Thanks, Eric, and hope you and yours are enjoying all the best.

Jack and Enid Dowling--hope to be back in Australia from Vietnam about May when Jack may take an appointment in Canberra.

Jim and Joy Perry--have been holidaying in West Australia as I have been informed. It's about time you headed down this way, Jim.

Picnic Postponed.

Perhaps this would be as good a time as any to say that the picnic at Aldinga was organised in all good faith but owing to the late arrival of the Newsletter, which arrived the day after the picnic was due to be held, we had to have a late scratching. Perhaps some time later.

Letters to Lofty ?

In conclusion, I would like to say that to be able to report news items concerning the activities of members in this State I should very much welcome a note now and then keeping me abreast of times. Finally, all the very best to Bas. (Sailor) Wheatley and his Mum, wherever they might be.

Regards--Lofty.

The Editor acknowledges with many thanks Christmas cards, from and for, Squadron members from the following:

Jim Plunkett (Cairns)	Cec Nation (Homebush)	Sid Thompson (U.K. Flight)
Al. Wheat (Geraldton)	Graeme Coombes (Pymble)	Sam Barlow (Pymble)
Eric Purcill (Orange)	Bruce McKenzie (Nakuru)	Lock Simpson (Perth)
Harry Jenkins (Melbourne)	Peter Power (Scarborough)	Jack Hobbs (Cooroy)
Jim Holliday (Brisbane).		

BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid Thompson, 119, George Lane,
Lewisham, S.E. 13, London.

Many thanks for the New Year's greetings--please accept the U.K. Flight's to all in Aussie.

Would Squadron members generally please note my new address and phone number:--

119, GEORGE LANE, LEWISHAM, S.E. 13, LONDON, ENGLAND.

Tel: 852--2173.

Thanks for the stamps you have sent for my son--they are very welcome. I have also had some from Jean Pomfrett.

I was very pleased to have a letter from Ken. Everett telling me about his visit to the U.K. in a few months time. We will lay on the usual Get-together.

News from U.K. Flight is non-existent at present but we hope to see a few of the boys at the Reunion on April 29th.

I am pretty busy myself decorating: it will take me a couple of months yet as I hope to do a complete job right through the house. Oh, my aching back!

All the best,

Sid Thompson.

Correspondence: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Basil (Sailor) Wheatley, M.V. Galle, c/o Sin Soon Guan Ltd.
47, Telok Ayer St., Republic of Singapore.

Dear Sec.,

Enclosed please find a cheque for A\$ 5 for my 1967 subscription.... The above address should finally reach me for any correspondence but please forward any reading matter to c/o C. Kenderdine, Federal Benefit Wireless Co. of A'sia, 368, Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria..... my South Yarra address is no longer in use. I trust that you weathered the festivities and that 458 threw a hectic Christmas Party. I was in Saigon for Christmas and the New Year and now am on my way from Da Nang to Singapore running before a strong N.E. ly gale. We left yesterday and that was a Moslem feast day celebrating the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan and this called for much rejoicing and eating among the Moslems in my crew; these are all the sailors and one officer who, in turn, come to my quarters clad in their best and shake hands with my wife and myself. Some bring gifts, usually in the form of liquor, which is ironical as I no longer enjoy a glass of cheer, having given it up 18 months ago to concentrate on my livelihood in these hazardous waters. At lunch we had to partake of the local Malay dishes cooked by their bhandary and these comprise exotic curries of unknown contents which were delicious but very hot.

Our next gastronomic hurdle is the Chinese New Year, about Feb. 5th., the Year of the Goat. This is ushered in with much eating, drinking, and general frivolity and after a day of it one's insides start to rebel against the misuse to which they are subjected. Right on top of this the Viet Nameese have a similar festival called 'Tet' which also calls for much self-indulgence. This goes on for a few days during which everything takes on a carnival atmosphere and there is absolutely no work done anywhere except for the benefit of merrymaking. I was in Saigon last year for it and expect to be in Da Nang for it this year, and it is a bit wearing on the nerves for foreigners as people are hurling confetti, streamers and balloons allround the place and one is likely to wear a necklace of grenades if the VC are around. Their goodwill to mankind does not extend to white skins.

Correspondence (cont.)

--Sailor Wheatley: The war goes on just the same with waves of terrorist killings, then a lull of false security. There were several incidents in Saigon but Da Nang was fairly quiet. Coming down the coast we watched a lot of aerial activity and there were a lot of flares dropped last night off Nhatrang. However we are getting bored with the war and Viet Nam so when this ship goes to the new owners in the near future I may find a new trade. This one has been very interesting and lucrative but enough is as good as a feast; I have been here nearly two years now. My last ship, the "El Nabeel" was bought by the Viet Nameese and they put her under their flag and manned her locally, so I was transferred to this one, the sister ship, but she will be going shortly. If it were not for the Aussies actively participating in the war it would be fun to run the blockade into Haiphong for a few trips; I bet that would be well-paid; but one can hardly assist the enemy against one's own countrymen.

We will get 4 days in Singapore, which is a civilised paradise after Saigon, the once 'Pearl of the Orient' is a very tawdry bauble now. In Singapore we stock up on big steaks flown fresh from Aussie and other good eating at reasonable prices and, best of all, one can sleep in comfort without the thought that some VC frogman is attaching a mine to one's anchor cable or planting a plastic bomb in one's cargo. They have been giving the Saigon River a fair bit of attention lately and hit a Shell tanker the other day with a recoilless rifle, killing the helmsman and wounding the skipper. I have been fortunate that in all my trips up and down the river I have not yet been fired on but I have been up the day after and the day before when ships have been hit. On one memorable occasion we ran ashore in the river with faulty steering gear and stayed there for an hour in the middle of the VC territory while repairs were effected. Needless to say we were quick on the radio and the Yanks sent out a couple of choppers to ride shotgun on us until we were under way again. I can tell you they were mighty welcome until the gunboat arrived.

Well, enough of that nonsense, life has been reasonably quiet lately, since the Chief Engineer went berserk with a knife... I will call it a day before I bore you, so here is wishing all 458ers a very happy and prosperous 1967 and my regards to anyone who remembers me. My wife, the Assistant Captain, endorses those good wishes. Now she is back to making out a shopping list for Singapore that will put me in the Poorhouse.

Hooray, Sailor Wheatley.

From Syd Bartram, 33, Parker Road, Torrens Park, South Australia.

Dear Peter,

I have intended advising you of our change of address for over 12 months but never seemed to make it. Have been flat out trying to get things in order in the garden. We have planted lots of shrubs, trees, etc. ... At night we have a view of the lights of Adelaide which make a real fairyland. Haven't seen much of the boys lately. Lofty was playing at a dance some weeks back. Have had a terrific run in our business in the last 2/3 years. Still play bowls, but not going very well this year.

Wishing all the best for Xmas and the New Year,

yours sincerely,

Syd Bartram.

From Jack Hobbs, Cooroy, Queensland.

Dear Peter,

Many thanks for the Squadron News. My best wishes to those few I knew on 458 and the many I did not. I am now living at Cooroy employed by S.E.A.Q. and almost reared a family of four, so I may be able to come out of hiding in a year or two. I often read in the news where members have travelled north perhaps when passing through Cooroy, they may like to ask for Shiela and Jack. Often see Gordon Postle.

Cheerio for now,

Jack Hobbs.

Correspondence (cont.)From Mrs. Lorna Purcill, 5, Hillcrest Avenue, Orange, N.S.W.

Dear Peter,

Eric has felt very badly about not keeping in touch with the Squadron members over the past few years. We have moved to a new home three years this Xmas and we have found our time has been taken up every weekend, in fact our visits to Sydney have been few and far between. We are all very well and our family has grown up. Colette 20 years, Andrew 18 years and Jane 6 years.

If you or any Squadron members are up this way we shall be delighted to see you

Regards, Lorna P.

From Joan Dickson 32, Gardiner Avenue, Warradale Park, S.A. to Lofty Trewartha:

Dear Lofty,

I greatly appreciate the beautiful floral tribute which 458 Squadron sent on our recent sad loss. Alan had spent many periods of sickness in hospital during the past six years and it is hard to realise he has now passed away after nearly ten weeks in hospital.

My daughters Susan, Gillian and myself give many thanks to 458 members for arrangements at Derrick Gardens, Centennial Park. We remember too how Alan (Snow, to his pals) was proud to be associated with the 'boys' of 458 Squadron and to read the Squadron News which I also enjoyed reading and would appreciate a copy if possible.

Thank you, Lofty, once again for everything.

Sincerely, Joan Dickson.

From Wal. Archbold, Ourimbah, N.S.W. to Cy. Irwin.

Dear Cy.,

I enclose cheque for my subs.... Of all the old familiar names we keep reading about in the News I would like some news of Sam Scott, a Fitter IIE from the West. Could you send him my regards, the next Bulletin?

Tell Sam Barlow the courses are better than ever up on the Central Coast now and Snow and myself are ready to repossess the President's Cup.

I am hoping to make the Melbourne Reunion this year if all goes well and catch up with old faces.

All for now, Wal.

From Bill Perkins, Bank of N.S.W., Curtin, Canberra, A.C.T. to Cy. Irwin.

Dear Cy.,

Herewith my cheque for my A.F.A. sub. Will be domiciled at the above address from the end of March. Referring to the last News, you may care to pass on to Peter for subsequent publication that it is very nice to know crew member "Snow" Gore is still on top and in answer to his enquiry re Sid Collins and Alby Barker, I haven't seen them or heard from them since we disembarked from the old "Dominion Monarch" in Sydney. Snow Slater has paid us several calls on business trips and is still the "Happy Whistler" as in the past.

Curtin is yet another new suburb of Canberra and the task has fallen on my shoulders to establish a new branch of the bank there.

Kindest regards, Bill Perkins.

Note from Bill Laughlin, Deniliquin, N.S.W. Kindest regards... If you happen to be in contact with Charlie Richardson, remember me to him.

THE EDITOR (Peter Alexander)

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

To The Editor,
458 Squadron News,
Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

Please send me.....copies of the
NOMINAL ROLL of 458 Squadron @ 27c. each.
I enclose.....remittance.

NAME.....ADDRESS.....