

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR:

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W. 2001,
Australia.

Year 20, No. 77.

November, 1968.

COLONEL MCKENZIE VISITS AUSTRALIA.

McKenzie, of McKenzie's Air Force, has paid a brief visit to Australia. 458 Squadron's third C.O. is now, as Mr. Bruce R. McKenzie, the Minister for Agriculture in the Government of the Republic of Kenya--and the only European in that country's Cabinet. In his ministerial capacity he has now paid a long-awaited and regrettably brief visit to Australia. He was accompanied by his wife, Christina.

He met Australian and State Ministers and discussed matters of Agricultural and general Kenyan interest with them. And he made sure that wherever possible he met 458 members. It was a brief visit--one day in Brisbane, one night in Sydney, one in Canberra, one in Melbourne, and two in Perth. It was also a visit arranged at short notice, which made the organising of the functions put on a matter, in the main, of heavy telephoning and, possibly, this meant an inability to reach quite a few 458ers who would have wished to meet Bruce and Christina. Even so the functions arranged were well attended, as would be expected. Accounts of events from State Correspondents follow.

MCKENZIE IN QUEENSLAND.

Report by Jim Holliday.

To Chas. Warren goes the credit of discovering the news of Bruce McKenzie's visit to the Sunshine State. Communing with himself after a satisfying meal on the night of Saturday, November 16th., probably aided in his musings with a draught of cool local bottled sunshine, but definitely by reading the meagre news in the Saturday edition of the Brisbane Telegraph, letter by letter, (to make the sunshine last longer into the night), Chas. found over on a rear-end page, almost among the Classifieds, a small $1\frac{1}{2}$ " paragraph that announced "Mr. Bruce R. McKensie, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in the Kenya Government would confer with the Queensland Minister for Primary Industry and the Minister for Industrial Development."---on the 19th. November.

Chas. sprang to his full 6 ft. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and proceeded to wear his index finger to the first joint dialling for help to meet the eminent visitor. To no avail. Who else would be home on a Saturday night but Chas. Warren and Jim. Holliday? And who on a hot 99° Sunday? Not even Chas. Warren who headed for the Gold Coast and Lew Johnston who wasn't home (by the way, where do Gold Coasters go on Sundays?) There certainly was no one left in Brisbane to keep Jim. Holliday company.

Monday morning, Chas. started early and struck oil in the rig of Eric Lloyd, M.L.A. Before the thermometer climbed to 95° Eric had set the wheels of government grinding in top gear, found that Bruce was due to touch down at Eagle Farm from Hong Kong and take off for Sydney the same day. The Premier's Department had him booked from customs clearance to ticket check. No time to meet wartime friends, at least on arrival. Ministers were holding back interviews from visiting American Coal contractors and Japanese mineral developers to meet and help the keen Kenyan grain and cattle promoter. Then there was lunch at the University. More Top Secret conferences behind closed doors (to keep the air conditioning in). But...the Premier's Department promised that Mr. McKenzie would be at the V.I.P. Lounge in the Ansett Complex at 3.45 to meet the boys.

McKenzie in Queensland (cont.)

Unfortunately, Chas. Richardson was away on a week's Shell Safari; Jim Holliday out of town for the day, Bernie (Judge) McLoughlin on District Court circuit until 12th. December, Jack Lewis tied up with wool sales, Erle Hetherington (a special McKenzie mate) 1,200 miles away, others on duty out of town or too far away. Lew Johnston couldn't break an appointment. Still, Chas. Warren, Eric Lloyd and Digger Kelly made it. First words "Chas! You're longer than ever! Second words, "Where's my mate "Erle Hetherington?" A picture in the Courier-Mail---splendid photo--- shows all four, glasses in hand, smiling all over their lovely faces.

Just a brief 15 minutes to recall the past---down some Queensland sunshine---brief exchanges of news---and Bruce and Christina were winging their way with Ansett-A.N.A. to be met in Sydney by N.S.W. Flight at a Reception whose organisation wore Peter Alexander's index finger down to the second joint.

Bruce McKenzie's mission? Jim Holliday arrived home Tuesday night at 5.50 p.m. and left again at 6.50 p.m. but managed to catch a TV interview with Bruce McKenzie in which he stated he was in Australia to buy brains. He wanted top-line Agricultural experts for Kenya and was prepared to pay well for them. \$10,000 to \$12,000:---any takers?

Bruce, I am asked by many who couldn't get to the 'drome to greet you to tender their regrets and apologies. If we'd known a little earlier we could have put on a better show. We trust you understand. We trust also that your visit to Australia was successful (P.S. M.O. Guthrie sends his regards).

Footnote: at Brisbane Airport, Bruce McKenzie was mistaken for Jimmy Edwards.

IN SYDNEY.

The McKenzies, accompanied by two Commonwealth Public Servants, from the Prime Minister's Department and the Department of Primary Industry who were with him through his Australian tour, touched down about 5.30 p.m. At 7.45, Peter Alexander called for them at their Hotel and drove with them to the Air Force Club. This, because of the short time available, was a combined function between 458 and the Kenya-Australia Society in the McKenzies' honour. Of the 68 present about two-thirds were 458 ers and their wives. Among the K.A.S. members were some Kenyan University students studying at the University of N.S.W. Incidentally the members of the two organisations mingled very well and suggestions were even made that they might have other combined functions.

After a brief opening welcome from the Chairman, Dr. Max Martin, President of the K.A.S. spoke for that Society and presented Bruce with a copy of the illustrated book "The Australians". Then Peter Alexander spoke for 458, recalling Bruce's period of 458 command and the Squadron's achievements at that time. He said they then acquired and still had a great admiration and affection for him. They had followed his remarkable career in Kenyan Government in which he had helped President Kenyatta to make Kenya the best led country in Africa. He asked Bruce to accept a 458 Wall Plaque. The State Premier of N.S.W. was officially represented by Liberal M.L.A. Dick Healey (a 458 member) who next welcomed the McKenzies for the N.S.W. Government. Claude Vautin, State President of the Air Force Association, then made Bruce an Honorary member of the Air Force Association.

At this point the caterers served a Buffet dinner---Crayfish mayonnaise being the chief item. There was, of course, throughout all this no shortage of bar service.

The 458ers present at the dinner included:

Wally Baird	Ralph Bailey	Harry and Nita Baines	Kemp and Joan Beach
Don and Bev. Bitmead	Bob and Betty Bruce	Dick Cook	Graeme and Dulcie Coombes
Fred and Mrs. Copley	Bruce and Linda Dean		John and Mrs. Dunn
Dick and Doreen Healey	Cy and Elaine Irwin		Arthur and Mrs. Jollow
Stan and Mrs. Longhurst		Alan Piggott	Barry and Mrs. Menser
Bob and Pat Millar	Eric and Dorothy Munkman		Norm and Mrs. Peachey
Peter and Rita Alexander	Bert and Mrs. Thompson		George and Peg Unitt
Dick Watson	Cec. Nation	Chas Ruthven	Stuart Ricketts

After dinner, Bruce McKenzie replied to what had been said by K.A.S. and 458 speakers. After referring to 458 at Protville and Adjutant Wally Baird's exploits there, he said he thought 458 had had a spirit of its own

which it had had in the war years and which had continued to be with it--and which was still remembered by great variety of people in various parts of the world. Though, he said, he was not sentimental, he had been very nearly made so by what had been said earlier. About Kenya, he said the country wanted Agricultural and Animal Husbandry experts from Australia. He also said that the Kenya-Australia Society was known to and valued by members of the Kenyan Cabinet. Following Bruce's speech, at his suggestion, Wally Baird was called on and spoke briefly in the spirit of what had been said before.

Bruce and Christina then met and talked to everyone present. They returned to their hotel approaching midnight.

FROM CANBERRA TO MELBOURNE.

In both the National Capital Canberra and in Melbourne, Bruce had many official discussions and short time and no full scale 458 functions were possible. However in Canberra, 458 member Col. Fereday had charge of the arrangements and he and some K.A.S. members joined the McKenzies for drinks for the best part of an hour during the evening of the following day.

Senior representatives of 458 in the persons of Squadron President Harry Ashworth, Flight President Ron Russell and Secretary Bill Carr met the McKenzies at their hotel, representing the Squadron in Victoria, in Melbourne.

AND IN THE GOLDEN WEST.

(Ed.-- There is a glowing warmth about the people of Western Australia as all (who have attended 458 All-States Reunions there know. Their entertainment of (the McKenzies was well up to standard. A proposed visit to Esperance to see (--300 miles from Perth---extensive land development under the high-pressure (techniques of American investors as a matter of interest to Bruce was not (pursued by him and the 458 Barbecue was his only W.A. engagement as follows:)

This washeld in the garden of Flight President Bill Clues home at Rivervale and great credit goes to him and Flight Secretary Henry Etherton and their wives, Joan and Vera. The grounds were set out in cabaret style with a magnificent supper; "you name it, we've got it" so far as drinks were concerned, and the whole surrounds set out in coloured lights. The Squadron Banner was on prominent display as also was a large scale model of the Wellington G. for George on the construction of which Henry Etherton has spent many painstaking months. Outside the house on the nature strip between the road and the footpath was a prominent sign, being a replica of the sign on the road leading to the Squadron's Base at Protville in Tunisia "McKenzie's Air Force" with a large finger pointing in the general direction of the scene of the evenings entertainment.

At approximately 8.15 p.m. Bruce and Christina duly arrived in a Commonwealth car attended by two officers from the Prime Minister's Dept. in Canberra. Whether or not they were Security Officers we don't know but they were most entertaining and good mixers. If they were Security Officers their job was cinch because apart from the frailties of human nature in the form of liquid refreshment there was no chance of anything likely to happen to the Colonel and his Lady, as he was surrounded by members of his old unit who took good care of him.

The general opinion was that apart from putting on some weight Bruce had changed very little over the years and still had a remarkable memory for names and faces.

During the evening Bruce and Christina were formally welcomed by our President on behalf of the local Flight and Christina was presented with a Koala Bear, a small marquisite brooch in the form of R.A.A.F. wings complete with crown, and a small polished opal, this being a personal gift from Henry Etherton's son David who had spent many hours in preparing and polishing it.

Christina appeared very moved by the small tokens she had received.

In reply to the formal welcome Bruce spoke at length. His speech has been recorded on tape and will be circulated to all Flights in due course. Although his car arrived on schedule at 11.0 p.m. it was not till 12.20 that they left to return to the Adelphi Hotel. In passing, it was noted that the sign was acquired by Bruce and taken with him back to Kenya. The success of the evening must be credited to the magnificent work done by Joan and Bill Clues and Henry and Vera Etherton and the W.A. Flight is truly indebted to them.

There was a good roll up and with the exception of Joy Wheat and Ethel Baker who could not be present, the ladies turned out in force. Those members

In the Golden West (conc.)

weres

Sid. Baker	Rube Chessell	Bill Clues	Ben Cormack
Hugh Crocker	Tim Dale	Henry Etherton	Chas. Davis
Ron Gannaway	Ted Jewell	Gordon Jones	Jim Palmer
Peter Power	Len Stewart	Al. Wheat	"Trike" Wheeler.

Apologies from six or seven chaps, including Stan Long who is in hospital.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The ladies were most impressed with Bruce who has lost none of his fatal charm but although the years have mellowed them somewhat all the chaps couldn't keep their eyes off Christina who is a lovely lady who endeared herself to all present.

And Bruce and Christina left Guildford airport next (Sunday) morning and some of the chaps were there to see them off. Like all Bruce McKenzies doings 458 will remember this flying visit in their conversation in years to come. The organisers probably all felt as though a comet was passing by. But this was what they felt on 458 and remember as a legend. They all hope the comet will come back soon, so that those 458ers who missed out this time will have another chance, particularly in South Australia and Tasmania.

CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY.

from Lofty Frewartha, 60, California Street,
Nailsworth, S. Aust, 5083.

I wince when I think of that well worn pun about the sunshine State of the South and then think of the past six months or so as we have only just finished nailing back our roofs and I am not sure yet if the time is ripe to pack away my electric blanket. No shortage of water here and the reservoirs at the full. This State now faces the possibility of having a 100% Bush fire hazard on hand at all times for the next four months as even the weeds in my back yard are about six feet high.

Personalities.

Arn. Scholar, is now out of hospital where he spent several weeks at Repat. for a nose complaint;

Pat and Joy Enright have been working hard on their lovely old property at Robe where, according to Jack Riseley who recently spent a few days down there, the property and beautiful old home have to be seen to be properly appreciated.

Bill and Madge Taylor recently on the Sick List are, according to my informant, both back again hale and hearty;

Flash Thomas has just arrived back from a 'Round the World Jaunt for the people who provide his bread and butter'—according to a Press Statement Flash gave it is becoming increasingly more difficult these days to adhere to one's itinerary owing to the fact that the trains, planes and what have you are bursting at the seams with peasants. Gad, sir, next thing we'll know is that they will all be staying at the Savoy.

Ken Russell currently reported to be in Japan on business trip for his firm, Adelaide Steamship Co.;

Mari Frewartha still on Lofty's back

All-States Reunion, 1969.

The Committee formed to arrange details for the forthcoming Reunion and Convention in 1969 will meet shortly to review progress. Notices will be sent out advising where and when and it is hoped all systems will be go.

Marj. and I would like to wish all 458ers good health and a Happy Xmas.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

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

Not much has happened at all since my last report. I was hoping to say I had met Flash Thomas but alas, the night I arranged to meet him we were about ten yards apart but didn't know it. But I did manage to speak to him twice on the phone and enjoyed a good natter. But it would have been better over a drink.

I have not had a letter from a member for some months now. I do keep in touch with Harry Bishop on the phone but it would be nice to hear the latest

British Bulletin (cont.)

news (if any). Winter is now upon us once again: long dark nights---and now mornings as well. I am keeping my fingers crossed the elements are kind to us this year.

By the time you receive this and print it, it will be near Christmas, so can I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 1969.

Cheerio for now,
Sid.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park,
Queensland, 4121.

Annual Battle for Office over.

The Annual Meeting has been and gone and the whole team of former officials have been re-elected--unanimously. Not a dissentient voice! A compliment indeed to the very good work of Chas. Richardson, now our President for four years in succession.

Our finances have weathered many storms but never have we been broke or failed to weigh in. The pockets of the Committee are sewn up immediately on arrival at meetings. Hence the growing fighting funds for the glorious 8th. June, 1970, the Jubilee Reunion at the Gold Coast. You'll be hearing more and more of the Jubilee Reunion throughout 1969. We would strongly advise 458ers. from all corners of the Continent--in fact the Globe--to plan their holidays for 5th. June 1970 and enjoy a second honeymoon on the Queensland Gold Coast. Don't forget! The sun is brighter, the beer more thirst-quenching (not to say better) the girls bikinis are briefer and the entertainers more entertaining--on the Gold Coast, particularly about the Fifth June 1970.

After the Blurb...

We had to put the blurb in first because we want to thank the participators in our Melbourne Cup Sweep. Won by a friend of Chas. Richardson, second by a relation-in-law of Jack Lewis and third by a friend of Harry Dorge. Thanks everyone. The best result ever.

...The Bonus.

Melbourne Cup Sweeps bring us in a special bonus in that we hear from many of our members by letter and by phone. We may yet call it our Raffle Round-up. Here's some of the news.

Jim Plunkett has received his Gold Badge from the Returned Servicemen's League, as a Life Member, at Cairns. A good worker for both the R.S.L. and the Air Force Association "Plunk" has been a prominent member of ex-servicemen since the War and thoroughly deserves the honour.

Kel Kellam is back on his feet, though he has a day or two now and then at the Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital. Still as cheerful as ever--and an inveterate M.C.S. Ticket-taker.

George Connors---a Shell stalwart, fit, well, and going well on Shell.

Alan Atherton, now at Ernestina Plains, Oorindi, via Cloncurry says he's flat out at the new location. Chas. Warren who knows the area says this part of the back country is a gold mine for Alan.

Sel (Massa) Foote Says he's running late with 'the Butts'. Old Master Fleet-of-foot, the National Champion twice over must still be running well. He didn't miss the post clearance.

Big Jack Hobbs is still looking after the lines of communication around Cooroy way. The pitch is so good they simply can't bowl him out.

Erle Hetherington writes to Chas. Warren "If I send it to Jim, he might not go home to collect it. If it were a big barramundi I would! Erle has got tired of his old homestead and moved to a more luxurious mansion. We suspect it's a few steps nearer the Club. Erle's about to become a grandfather and apparently suffers the usual grandfather's pains and is feeding off finger nails.

"Danny" Danqaar sends special greetings to Jack Lewis, Chas. Warren and a lot of others. Says he's 'Fit and well and enjoying life' He's had the pleasure of seeing Laurie Crowley, Jack Dew, Erle Hetherington and families on a recent Sunday aboard Laurie's boat, the "Coral Queen" Just the same good blokes

Junior O'Brien from Beaudesert sends regards to all.

Stan Parker marked his tickets with the address Magnetic Avenue, Rainbow Bay, Magnetic Island!! Strange place to grow sugarcane.

Bunny Byrne has been reported at an Esso garage at Riverview, Goodna.

Q.Flight (concl.)

Alf Peake sent along his contribution but we seem to have mislaid his comments. Sorry, Alf.

Others are Jack Baxter, Jack Dew, Tim McQuaid, Theo. Ravenscroft, Frank Wilks, Cliff. Mannion, Bob Male and Bob. Helyar, Bernie Hughes, Harry Dorge (who recently phoned to ask "Any Do's on? We've got a baby-sitter now and can go out more.") Three siblings now. Bill Ernst, Lew Johnston and Gordon Postle, Lloyds of Gaythorne.

Eric Lloyd is deeply interested in the new Gaythorne R.S.L. Club and has taken on the job of Secretary.

And a laugh for the last! Yours truly came home from a 50 and over Golf Do, woke up in the middle of the night, wandered round, had a blackout and broke a couple of ribs in a most awkward and confined space. That's a better effort than sliding off the deck of Jack Baxter's Prawner into 40 feet of water!

VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT.

from Harry Ashworth, Box 49, Prahran, Vic. 3181.

Westward Ho!

Vic. Flight has booked a carriage on the Overlander to Adelaide for the next All-States Reunion. Carriage accomodates 20 people in 10 twinette cabins. If any Northern States members wish to join Vic. Flight at Melbourne and travel by train with us, please notify Bill Carr as we can add to the number if we know before the end of February. Cost return, Melb. to Adelaide is \$24-60. per each, which includes breakfast on each journey. As quite a number of Vic. Flight officials will be in Adelaide next Anzac Day there will be no Reunion after the March. Instead there will be an evening Reunion at the Melbourne Bowling Club. Date will be advised.

After the March.

Also, to any member who marches for Vic. Flight, they will all be meeting at the Bowling Club after the March instead of at the usual spot in Prahran.

Personal Pars.

Bill Bailey is now living at Cnr. Orca and Voltans Streets, Mt. Eliza, Vic.
Gordon Wise is now at 20, Palmerston St., Maryborough, Vic. where he and his wife have a mixed business.

Christmas in Melbourne.

Vic. Flight are having a Christmas Party at Don. Johnson's on Sunday afternoon December 8th. Also, for the 1st. Trots Night in November we expect to get rid of 280 tickets.

Christmas greetings from myself to all our members and families. (Ed. All 458ers will heartily reciprocate the Squadron President Harry Ashworth's (Christmas Good wishes.)

CORNSTALK CALL.

from Cy. Irwin, 61, Park Avenue, Ashfield, N.S.W., 2131.

It's a true saying that it never rains but it pours. Our last Flight report mentioned the quiet time N.S.W. members were having. This certainly came to an end with the turning of the calendar to September. Successive functions have been:--

Squadron Picnic.

Sunday, September 1st. Held at Warwick Farm Rececourse. A family picnic day, now well known to Sydney members. The day was fine and Squadron members, wives and families enjoyed a day in the sunshine with a barbecue lunch, an ale or two, and the usual attractions for the kiddies.

President's Cup Golf Day.

Sunday, 15th. September. Held at Parklea Golf Club, in the Blacktown-Baulkham Hills area. A field of 16 golfers attended the course. At the end of the day it was generally voted that the day should have been called "Stuart Ricketts Day". Stuart won the President's Cup, the nearest to the Pin Prize, and the drinking competition. He was a popular winner in all three. Runner-up in the President's Cup was Cy. Irwin. In the Teams' Match 458 was able to narrowly defeat the Armidale Old Boys team and win back from them the famous "Pot".

The Air Force Ball.

Friday, 20th. September. A Squadron Party attended the Ball, which was held at the Trocadero during Air Force Week. Members who attended, with their wives, were Kemp Beach, Ron Hills, Eric Munkman and Cy. Irwin. We were

Cornstalk Call (cont.)

pleased to have, as a guest at our table, Dianne Atherton, daughter of "Snowy" Atherton of Q Flight, partnered by Ron Munkman. Peter and Rita Alexander attended the Ball in the Official Party.

The Melbourne Cup Sweep.

First prize went to Lee McCulloch (\$60)
 Second George Bradd (\$30)
 Third Bill Hull (\$10)

Congratulations to the winners and through these pages the thanks of the Committee to those who assisted by selling and returning books. The 95 books sold returned approximately \$50 for Flight funds.

200th Anniversary Dinner.

An evening to celebrate the holding of the 200th meeting of the Flight Committee of N.S.W. was held at the Air Force Club on Friday 25th October. Approximately 50 Squadron members and wives attended. We had along as guests Claude Vautin, State President of the Air Force Association and his wife, Janie. Many nice words were said; the successive Flight Presidents---Ralph Bailey, Pete Campbell, Alan Piggott, Peter Alexander, Sam Barlow, Bob Bruce, Stuart Ricketts, and John Hosking, each took a bow and the evening was voted by all a very happy one. A presentation was made to the Air Force Club of a photograph of the Squadron at Protville and a coloured picture (done by Sydney photographer Bob Wingfield) of a Mk. XIII Wellington in flight over the Suez Canal. The photographer has 'dubbed' the Squadron's letters (as used in England) FU on the Wellington.

Evening for Bruce McKenzie.

For some time we had been awaiting a visit from Bruce McKenzie. Bruce and his wife arrived for a one night stay only in Sydney on Tuesday, 19th November. An evening at the Air Force Club enabled Squadron members and their wives to meet Bruce once again. Also present were members of the Kenya-Australia Society. I feel that our Editor will do more justice to a description of this evening elsewhere in this issue.

The Sick List.

We are sorry to report that Fred Strom was operated on at the Hornsby Hospital recently with Gall bladder trouble. Fred has had a nasty time of it but now over the 'Op.' we wish him a full recovery. Alf Hammond has been ill recently. Members will wish him a quick recovery.

Sympathy to Frank and Thelma Ward.

The Squadron expresses sympathy to Frank and Thelma Ward in the loss of their daughter recently.

Congratulations to Frank Hickey.

To Frank, on his marriage, 458's best wishes for happiness.

SANDGROPEERS SAY.....

from Henry Etherton, 15, Chaffers St., Morley, W.A.

"Shorty" in Hospital.

Stan "Shorty" Long is in hospital (with Diverticulitis). We wish him a speedy recovery. (Ed. Stan's address for those wishing to write is 1, Edward Street, Cottesloe, 6011).

Reconnaissance Party.

Vera and I set out the other Sunday to try to dig up some of the old boys. Six homes visited, none of the boys home. However, we did get the drop on some of them. Vera got in touch with Pops Grigsby's wife and we hope to see them in the near future. Pop was the Best Man at our wedding. The Grigsbys are now living at Dianella, so hope to see them soon.

We have heard it 'on good authority' that 'Butch' and Amy Power have bought a home in Geraldton and will be retiring there. Hope the 'Southerlies' are not too much for them.

The Third Generation.

Vera and I have become Grandpop and Grandma for the second time on the 28th May when our daughter had a daughter.

Air Force Ceremony.

Bill and Joan Clues attended the Wreath-laying Ceremony at Air Force House during Air Force Week while Vera and I attended the "At Home" given by the State President of the Air Force Association. It was a good show and we met a lot of people we did not know previously. We also went to Pearce R.A.A.F. Base for the Commemoration. We saw the Macchi trainer, and the Vampire, though old, did a good job.

Sandgroppers Say (cont.)Scale Wellington.

I don't think I mentioned it before but I have just completed a scale model of the Wellington aircraft, complete with the men, and even the ammunition belts. It has a wing span of nearly three feet and is exact to scale, even to the men in it. It has taken me twelve months of spare time to build and I am very proud of it now.

And so, Cheerio and a very happy Christmas to all the Four Fifty Eights.

Henry.

PERSONAL NEWS.

The gathering of personal news is at the heart of the value of the Squadron News to 458ers. We must congratulate Victorian Flight Secretary Bill Carr on arranging a system for collecting news on a special form. We have received some for publication in a future issue. Please, will Members keep their news items and letters coming in.

458 SQUADRON NEWS WISHES ALL READERS A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Jack Carter, "Strathbry", Katunga, Victoria, 3640.

Dear Peter,

Recently returned from a visit to the U.K., I am reminded by the reports of the Lewisham floods that that is where Sid Thompsett lives and that he has asked me to convey his regards to the members in Australia. I hasten to do so, regretting that I did not contact the members while I was over there.

An earlier return than expected upset my plans a bit. Blame those icy fingers that reached up my back every time a cloud came over the sun, and my lack of desire to leave my bones in the land of my ancestors.

I enclose a couple of news cuttings which might interest you.

(Ed. Jack encloses, to our great interest, covering a new posting, and a double enlistment in the R.A.A.F. The posting is that of Wing Commander John Carter, Jack's son, as C.O. of Base Squadron, R.A.A.F. Station, Edinburgh, South Australia. He has recently come from service in Vietnam, where he commanded the R.A.A.F. Base Support Flight at Vung Tau for 10 months. He was a W.W.II pilot and has the Air Force Cross. He served for six years with 34 Squadron flying V.I.P. aircraft.

The enlistment is of W/Cdr. Carter's twin sons, Michael and Simon, as Engineering apprentices in the R.A.A.F. A third son, Nicholas, talks of joining the R.A.A.F. when old enough. The boys are third generation R.A.A.F. on both sides)

Incidentally, I believe my grandsons are the first third generation (both sides) members of the R.A.A.F. Young Nicholas, aged 8, is even more 'clued up' than the boys mentioned by Lofty Trewartha in the last News. He has decided he is going to muster as a Wing Commander--like Dad. Could you arrange to send John the Squadron News and enrol him as an Honorary Member (Ed.--S.A. Flight, please)?

Also I should like to rejoin the Air Forces Association, will you let me know what I am up for, please? (Ed. \$3-00 for 1969--no arrears)

Regards,

Jack Carter.

THE EDITOR (Peter Alexander)

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001,
Australia.

STOP PRESS: A report on the recent Federal Conference of the Air Force Association, with some quite far reaching decisions, will be included in the next Issue.