



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, Box 5289, G.P.O. Sydney, N.S.W., 2001, AUSTRALIA.

Year 20, No. 80

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TWENTY YEARS AFTER.....

How many Readers of this News remember receiving Issue No. 1? That was twenty years ago. Nearly a third of your lifetime.

With this issue--No. 80, 458 Squadron News completes twenty years of continuous publication. The first issue came out in October 1949. Every quarter since then the News has issued to 458ers--and their families. No due dates have been missed.

Many Flight correspondents have, over the years, contributed to achieving the job the News has set itself--keeping in touch among themselves the large family of friends who served with 458 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force. They live now, as they have done since Peace sent them to their homes, in Australia, Britain, Canada, Africa, and New Zealand.

To them all the 458 Squadron Council--and the Editor--send greetings on this anniversary.

The Squadron President, Dave Firth, writes--

This issue of 458 Squadron News completes twenty years of continuous publication. I think it appropriate at this time to look back over the years at the activities of the Squadron Associations and the part that the Squadron News has played. I think that 458 Squadron--with Flights established in each mainland State--is unique as a service unit Association. I know of no other Unit Association that enjoys the organisation and the activities of 458 Squadron. Naturally, no Unit organisation can expect to engage in the scope of activities of a national service organisation like the R.S.L. or the Air Force Association where the emphasis is on welfare and national issues, etc. However, the State and interstate Reunions on Anzac Day, together with the occasional country reunions of 458 Squadron have been a wonderful means of keeping members together and maintaining friendship, to say nothing of the fellowship we have enjoyed over the years.

Together with my wife, Glad., I have been fortunate enough to have attended a number of interstate reunions--12 in all, I think--and wherever we have travelled I have been amazed at the number of ex-458ers who are taking part in the community activities of their particular town or district. In most cases, not only as a member but taking an active part, as leaders of the organisation to which they belong. Truly, the members of 458 Sqdn. are 'serving still' in the interests of their fellow men. I firmly believe that this service in civic and community affairs has inspired in many cases by the contacts that we as 458ers have maintained over the years.

Which brings me back to the Squadron News. Without the News and the dedicated work of its Editor I doubt if we would be enjoying all the benefits of being a Squadron Association. The News has been the active link and the inspiration that has made 458 Squadron Association what it is to-day, and has enabled all of us to maintain contacts with old mates and over the years to enjoy good fellowship with friends old and new.

On behalf of all members of 458 Squadron I extend to Peter Alexander and all those who have assisted in the preparation and despatch of the News our grateful

Twenty Years After....(cont.)

thanks and appreciation. May your good health and enthusiasm continue for many years yet, so that we can continue to enjoy each issue of the Squadron News.

Hoping to meet you all again next year in Queensland.

Dave Firth.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Ian Alison, 10A, Black Street, Mont Albert, Vic.

There seems to be little or no news for the Squadron from the land of Natural Gas, Aussie Rules and Courage Beer.

Since we've confined most of our activities to Trotting Nights and a Ladies Night the winter seems to be a dead spot.

But with winter on the way out it looks well for the future and we'll soon be back in the swing of things. No exact date has been set as yet but November seems to be about the time of our first Trotting Evening;—but I expect a few "Do's" before then. Our next Committee meeting will settle these uncertainties.

One item of particular interest is the coming marriage of our Past Squadron President's No.2 daughter! Harry Ashworth's daughter June, who turned 21 a few months ago, is being married on 5th. September and every member of Vic. Flight will join with me in wishing the young couple happiness and a bright future!

I also hear from my spies that Dave Spence is doing very well, now being a "big wig" at Heinz (21/c so I believe). Having seen him canned a few times myself I can well understand his success! Good for you, Dave!

That other character, John Bilney, is now on the advertising side of Agfa and seems to be enjoying this new world where one picture is worth a thousand words—or so they say.

Anyway, I know I'm late with these few lines and they should have been in a few days ago but I do hope they can be squeezed in before the News goes to press. Much more for the next Issue.

Ian Alison.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

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

News is scarce this time of the year as it is too cold and miserable to have any outings of a social nature; but Bill (Clues) and I plan to try a few outings in the Spring weather to try and keep the boys together.

At any rate, congratulations on passing the twenty year mark in the publication of the Squadron News. It is always looked forward to in our house just to see what the other boys and their wives are doing.

This is perhaps a personal par., but our eldest son has joined the Regular Army, and left by plane on Tuesday night for N.S.W. As yet we don't know for sure just where he is to be stationed, but will advise you when we know as he may be able to see some of the boys who live in the area.

Well, Peter, I hope to have more news for you in the next issue, so now best of luck to all 458ers.

Henry Etherton.

CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.

from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California St., Nailsworth, South Australia.

General Meeting.

At Flight Headquarters (the Hotel Talbot), in May, was chaired by Flight President Bill Taylor. The President expressed pleasure in the fact that the recent All-States Reunion was such a success;—and added that this was only due to the team spirit displayed by members of the Committee. In reply Flight Secretary Jack Riseley concurred, and informed members that the Flight is financially solvent. A suggestion that a 458 Dinner Dance be organised annually was received with enthusiasm. Date to be fixed.

Arn. Scholar.

Arn. and his partner are the current bowls champions of the R.S.L., South Australia. Congratulations, Arn!

Bill and Pat. Cribb.

The Cribbs are looking forward to the day when they will move into their new home, being built at Aldgate, in the Adelaide Hills.

Wally Archbold.

Wal was the author of a letter received by Bill Taylor in which Wal. expressed his sincere appreciation for the manner this Flight had entertained and looked after the comfort of interstate members at the All-States Reunion.

'Dieu et mon Droit!'; or, 'Up with the gangway!'

Lofty.

CORNSTALKS' COLUMN.

from Cy. Irwin, 32, Rose Street, Ashfield, N.S.W., 2131.

The N.S.W. report for this issue of the News is----Bad news first:

Sick Reports.

Ron Hills, Flight committeemember and well-known to all, has been ill and was admitted to Concord Repatriation Hospital some weeks ago. He is now discharged and we hope getting around to feeling O.K. again.

Our President, John Hosking, had the misfortune to drop something heavy on his foot during his operations in the "Moving Business", and fractured an ankle. Reports are that although the plaster cast is a nuisance he will survive.

Air Force Ball.

The Air Force Ball will be held this year on September 19th. and will be the Air Force Association's culminating function to celebrate the Battle Of Britain through Air Force Week. Each year the Squadron is represented by a party at the Ball---of late years getting down to approximately a dozen or so of Squadron stalwarts. The night is always a thoroughly enjoyable one, so would all N.S.W. members please note the date and try to be with us. Please contact me for further details.

Saturday Evening Get-together.

Arrangements have been made to book a 458 Squadron Party at the Cabaret night at the Lakemba Air Force-Navy Club, on Saturday September 27th. This is an informal "Do" with all Club facilities available---entertainment, Dance floor, etc., This is another function we ask members and their wives to note and to support. Advise me, for booking.

President's Cup Golf Day.

This will be held this year at Asquith Golf Club on Sunday 26th. October. Hit-Off time is 9.0 a.m. Bob Bruce is a committee member of the Asquith Golf Club so it can be promised that our Squadron Party will be well looked after. Wives and family members will be welcome. More details will follow but for the present we would like you to note the date, please.

The Squadron Picnic.

The date for the Squadron Picnic this year has been moved from the winter date to warmer climes---Sunday 23rd. November is the date and the venue is once again Warwick Farm Racecourse. The date selected is such that, as Xmas is just round the corner, Squadron families will be able to gather for Xmas pleasantries, even though a month away.

Bob Lyndon in Newcastle.

News from Bob and Pat Lyndon---Bob had a transfer, within the Department of Motor Transport to a position at Newcastle. His address for the information of Squadron friends is 21, Veda Street, Hamilton. They are well settled in now and write "Squadron Visitors Welcome".

Squadron members will be sorry to have news of the death, after a long illness, of Peter Alexander's mother. Mrs. Alexander was at all times a staunch supporter of our Squadron Association and assisted, up to a short time ago, in a very practical way—in addressing the majority of envelopes for the Squadron News.

The Alexanders have always been a closely united family and she will be greatly missed. To Peter, Rita and the girls—the sincere sympathy of Squadron members throughout Australia.

C.P. Irwin.

IN HOLLIDAY MOOD.

Q.Flight News from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street,
Holland Park, Queensland.

Jubilee on the Gold Coast.

News for this quarter from Q.Flight is centred round the plans for the Jubilee Reunion. Q.Flight Committee has been working on this, not necessarily day and night, but nevertheless persistently.

One unforeseen circumstance it now hastens to bring to your notice. The Queensland Government has altered the Queen's Birthday weekend in 1970 from Monday 8th. June to Monday 15th. June. Accordingly, Q.Flight, to aid local members—and it is believed many interstaters has deferred these auspicious celebrations of 458 to this weekend. Will all members please copy and relay to wives. Remember the actual date we commemorate is 9th. June.

Pardon us for re-iterating this: the celebrations are not on Anzac Day, 1970 but Queens Birthday—12th. to 16th. June, 1970.

A most fitting date because June is the balmy month on the Gold Coast. Cloudless blue skies, sunshine, warmth, surf you can frolic in all day, gentle zephyrs, mermaids, bikinis on the most easy-on-the-eye models that one could see and fabulous refreshment.

To catch all these delights, time to drink them in, as it were, we've planned a programme that will enable you to laze, to lap it up, to taste the delights, to drink in the sun, surf, sights and sounds. Here's an outline:

Friday 12th. June	Rousing Reception;
Saturday 13th. June	Bus jaunt about the haunts on the hinterland, with barbecue lunch, At night, living it up.
Sunday 14th. June	Tribute to those no longer with us. In the afternoon reminiscences with visual assistance. At night, our Gold Coast hosts host.
Monday 15th. June	THE Boat picnic:—with sundry unrehearsed entertainment.

Let us emphasise, the Gold Coast has the finest accomodation at the lowest price. You name it, we'll provide it.

Think now and act now. Write me a note asking for accomodation to be reserved. Remember its your one and only chance to celebrate the Squadron Jubilee.

REMINISCENCE, AND PROJECTION.

Twenty years ago 458 SQUADRON NEWS was first published. The Air Force Association office cut the stencils and ran off the four pages for us. At no charge, it may be noted in passing. The Editor addressed about 250 envelopes to N.S.W. members. At that date only South Australia was active among the other States, Victoria being in (temporary) recess after an energetic post-war start.

We quote again the opening words of Year 1, No. 1—

"Who remembers the snowy winter of 1941 at Holme-on-Spalding Moor?
"The tropical sun and sand of Shallufa and Amiriya? Malta and Protville and the
"Mud of Bone? The bare hills of Sardinia? Foggia? Or the Rock of Gibraltar?
"Remembrance and greetings to every one of you!....."

We say it to you again. And to your wives and to such of your

Reminiscence and Projection (cont.)

children as may glance occasionally at another generations paper, we send our greetings too.

That first issue was addressed, folded and inserted and readied for posting in a couple of hours. As the next few years passed and 458 members in all States and overseas came on to the mailing list the task grew. The next stage came when a party of Sydney stalwarts---Doug Bennett, Jack Baker, Paddy Walker, to name a few---joined us at Sam Barlow's Campsie flat and we spent a hectic and indeed exhausting evening duplicating (on Sam's machine), addressing, folding, stapling and inserting. Sam plied us with beer and hospitality and bullied us into keeping on with the work. At one time the duplicating was done by courtesy of Paddy Walker at his place of work. He and some of the party worked there while the rest addressed, etc. at the flat. At one stage the duplicating party ran off some pages upside down---an episode which has stuck in the Editor's ungrateful mind.

In recent years we have used the technically much better though certainly more expensive Rotaprint method. Two names should be mentioned as having contributed much to the News production---Cyril Irwin and Bob Millar. In other States the names of the Flight Correspondents are well known to Readers; without the Flight reports the News would not fulfill its purpose. To the Correspondents, the News' thanks.

Despite the limitations of space it is tempting to glance, if fleetingly, at some of the Squadron episodes recorded in the News files. There were the cricket matches in the Sydney summer which remain so nostalgically in the memories of those who played in them in the now distant early 1950s---Dud McKay's aggressive and successful batting---the fiery fast bowling of Owen Crompton, a great sportsman who died young. The Victorian revival in which Jock McGowen played a leading role. Golf at Campbelltown and Bob Millar's unwilling swim in the Creek which crossed the fourth hole. The petition to the Queen about the 458 Crest. The pleasure that came when a well-known 458'er who had been out of touch came back in touch. The struggle to obtain the essential beer for reunions in those distant days of beer shortages. The peak which was reached with the 1st All-States Reunion in Sydney, on the initiative of Jim Holliday and with former C.O. Lew Johnston in the Chair. All the host of family occurrences, moves of residence and change of job, marriages births and indeed the sadness of death. The first grandchildren for the older 458ers. Cliff Hayward and Cec Nation were early starters here.

Details are too many to tell but one has the feeling that the fairly close account of the progress through life of a group of people starting together from a common point---Air Force service---could one day be of interest to a social historian if the records are preserved and come into the right hands.

However that may be, what next and how long? Jack Carter's World War I army unit is still publishing a paper. No doubt there were more of them than of us to start with but as this Editor sees it, we should be able to achieve another thirty years. Someone should be around in each Flight, surely, who will carry on, even though no doubt some of us will "drink their cup a round or two before, and one by one creep silently to rest."

Let's see how we go.

P.C.A.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN.

The film of this name is to have Premieres right round the world on October 20th. It has been made with skill and close care for truth and as everyone of us who served in the Air Force do not need to be told, is concerned with one of the great battles of history, almost certainly more important historically than such renowned victories as Agincourt, Trafalgar and Waterloo.

We recommend the film to members and hope they will take their families to see it.

Roles are played by Sir Laurence Olivier (as Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding), Trevor Howard (as Sir Keith Park), Sir Michael Redgrave and Sir Ralph Richardson.

Truthful presentation has been ensured by the technical advice of G/Capt. Hamish Mahaddie and, from the German side by Luftwaffe General Adolf Galland.

Will Squadron Members please fill in any of the following option forms which may be relevant and set them in to the address indicated.

.....

The Squadron Secretary (Bob Bruce),
Mt. Wilga, Manor Road, Hornsby, N.S.W.

Please send me.....458 Squadron plastic CAR BADGES, at \$1-00 each.
I enclose the amount of \$.....

Name.....

Address.....

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FOR N.S.W. MEMBERS ONLY.

Annual Subscriptions, 1970.

The earlier members are willing to pay their annual subscriptions the greater the help to Flight funds. The following options are available;

Air Force Association--458 Squadron branch	\$3-00
The quarterly paper Wings	70
458 Squadron Association, N.S.W.	1-00 ✓
458 Squadron News (all members should please pay this)	50 ✓

Please indicate by ticking which you are paying for and then send this form together with your remittance to

Hon. Secretary,
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Box 5289, G.P.O.,
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