

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

On behalf of the Squadron President (Dave Firth) and the Squadron Council, 458 Squadron News extends greetings for Christmas and the coming year, 1970, to all Readers of the News, to all Squadron Members, and to their families.

FROM THE FLIGHTS.

CORNSTALK COMMENTARY

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

Since the last issue of the News, our Flight's news has been:---

The Air Force Ball.

A 458 Squadron party was noticeably absent from this year's Air Force Ball, held at the Trocadero on Friday, 19th. September. A number of unforeseen circumstances prevented our regular attenders from coming along and we were reluctantly compelled to cancel our booking. Peter and Rita Alexander attended as members of the Air Force Association Official Party, so we were not entirely unrepresented.

We do like to show our face at the Ball, which is the culmination of the Air Force Association's functions to commemorate Air Force Week---so, make it next year, fellers.

Unit Association Dinner.

Flight President John (Curly) Hosking attended and represented our Squadron at this Annual event, held on the 13th. October at which Presidents and Secretaries of Air Force Unit Associations were present. The Malayan Squadrons were 'in the Chair' this year. A different Unit presides each year--and 458 was in the Chair for the first one, some years ago. The Dinner was at the Air Force Club, Clarence Street, Sydney. On this occasion the Guest Speaker was a serving R.A.A.F. officer who talked, most interestingly about the present-day Air Force, its problems and its achievements.

The Squadron Golf Day.

This was held at Asquith Golf Club on Sunday October 26th., and was an outstanding success due mainly to the efforts of Bob Bruce and Sam Barlow. They are both members of the Asquith Club and arranged for the Squadron Party of golfers to be looked after at the Club. A late barbecue lunch was held in the grounds of Mt. Wilga Rehabilitation Centre (part of the activities of the Federal department of (Social Service), with Mine Hosts Bob and Betty Bruce excelling previous Mt. Wilga barbecuedays. Our thanks to them.

It was nice to have Wal. Archbold and John Fennell make the trip down from Wyong to be with us. Wal. Archbold was the Champ. on the day and holds the President's Cup till next time.

In the Annual Teams Match against Armidale Old Boys the 458 Team successfully retained the famous Drinking Pot.

Squadron Picnic.

The Picnic, held at Warwick Farm Racecourse, in lovely weather and lovely surroundings on 23rd November, was not well attended. Mr. Tradition was there though and all who attended enjoyed the Family Day. Among those there, with family members, were Tom Moore, Cy. Irwin, Kemp Beach, Graeme Coombes, Peter Alexander, John Hosking and Cec. Nation. It was nice to see Tom Moore with us after his recent illness—a coronary occlusion from which he has made a good recovery.

458 Squadron Crest at Air Force Memorial Church.

All Saints Church, West Lindfield, Sydney, has, with Air Force approval been named as an Air Force Memorial Church. It is within a stone's throw of the site of the wartime R.A.A.F. Camp at Bradfield Park. Twenty Air Force Units have presented plaques bearing their crests to the Church and these plaques adorn the aisle end of pews. On the evening of November 23rd representatives of each Unit attended the Dedication of the plaques by the Bishop. John Hosking and Peter Alexander represented 458 and sat in the 458 Squadron pew. John Hosking travelled from Sutherland for the Service, and as he had attended the Picnic earlier that day, this represented devoted attention to his job as Flight President.

Visits Interstate by 458ers.

Lofty Trewartha and Bill Taylor were met during recent visits to Sydney, even though it was rather a case of "Good Day and Good-bye" it was nice to see them, and we were glad they were able to seek out a 458er in Sydney and say "I'm in Town."

Wal Archbold will shortly make a trip to West. Aust. and hopes to establish contact with many Squadron friends en route Sydney to Perth.

The Cup Sweep.

Finally, a mention of the recent Melbourne Cup sweep conducted by the Flight, and sincere thanks to those members who returned books of tickets (approx. 120). The nett result (approx. \$100 to Flight funds) was the best for many years.

The lucky winners were:—

First Prize	C. Peasley of Willoughby—sold by
Second Prize	Bruce Dean
Third Prize	Bert Thompson.

Norm. Peachey.

Xmas greetings to Squadron members and families in other States from N.S.W. Flight.

JACK DOWLING RETIRES FROM AIR FORCE.

We are sorry to announce that ill-health has caused the retirement from the permanent R.A.A.F. of 458 Squadron's former Commanding Officer, Jack Dowling. After a distinguished service in which he rose to the rank of Air Commodore and commanded the Air Force fighting in Vietnam, he is now living in Victoria. We wish him every happiness and restoration of health. As Wing Commander Dowling, he was in command of 458 at Bone in 1944 and stayed until Alghero.

NO REGISTRATION FOR THE "NEWS".

An application to the Australian Post Office made by decision of the last Squadron Conference for registration of 458 Squadron News as a periodical—with considerable consequential savings in postage costs—has been refused by the Post Office. While the News obviously is a periodical, it proved impossible to demonstrate that at least 75% of members pay regularly their annual sub.

In fact, most members are highly irregular in paying subs. and we have had to rely on other means—e.g. Cup Sweeps—to pay our way. The situation is disappointing and, no doubt, will be further discussed by future Squadron Conferences.

However, it has long been policy to regard the News as the means of keeping 458ers in touch with one another—whether or not they pay us any money for it—and while we can keep going this does seem to be what we should do. But if costs continue to outstrip income, then costs will certainly have to be trimmed.

CROWEATER NEWS.

from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California Street,
Nailsworth, S.A., 5083.

From Interstate.

Bill Carr, over from Victoria recently was welcomed by a few of the boys at the local waterhole. Looking remarkably fit, Bill was on a business trip for his firm, Kodaks.

Jack and Verna Riseley returned to their home State, W.A. in September, where, Jack informed me, they were entertained by Squadron members at one of the Pubs. Jack, who has been a member of the "News" team for the kiddies' Christmas Appeal, will be at his usual post in Victoria Square at the Xmas Tree this year, where he does a mighty job.

For the Squadron News.

So that we can support an application for registration of the Squadron News as a periodical, will each member please send a subscription of 50 cents to Flight Treasurer Mel Priest c/o South British Insurance Co. Ltd., 83, Currie Street, Adelaide.

Eastward Ho!

Having been in the Repat. Hospital for a few weeks with a crook leg I decided to take a bit of long service leave and head for the eastern States, with May and Sherri in the family jalopy. Spent a night in Melbourne, Lakes Entrance and Canberra and arrived in Sydney neck and neck with a wild thunderstorm. Spent a few days showing the girls the sights including "Les Girls" at the Cross but steered clear of "Hair".

On Cup Day I was standing in Pitt Street trying to muster courage to ask someone how to get to Randwick when I saw a pedestrian looking almost human moving towards me. This person was wearing an R.S.L. badge and was only too pleased to supply me with the information I sought. In answer to my query re the R.S.L. badge he said he was with the R.A.A.F.. Further discussion proved that he was with 458 Squadron at Malta as a W.A.G.---George Catchlove. Small world, isn't it?

At Barlows'---Vintage '04.

A phone call and we became the guests of Sam and Maisie Barlow at one of Sydney's exclusive clubs for dinner. Later, with Sam at the helm, we adjourned to a night club where Sam knew the magic word. (Must have been Rain Lover).

Saturday night we were again entertained by Sam and Maisie Barlow at their lovely home where I had the opportunity to say hello to Gordon (Buster) Balmer, who nearly wrung my arm off. Later in the evening Peter and Rita Alexander with Eric and Dorothy Munkman arrived and, well lubricated with some of Sam's choice vintage claret, we talked until after midnight. Many thanks, Sam and Maisie for a most enjoyable week end.

May I take this opportunity to extend to all members and associates compliments of the season!

Lofty.

VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT.

from Frank (Shorty) Wilson, 78, Carnarvon Road,
Strathmore, Victoria, 3041.

At the McKinnas'

A happy gathering gave Bob McKinna a surprise party at his home on October 5th. after he was given a 48 hour leave pass from Heidelberg Repatriation General Hospital following the amputation of his right leg just below the knee.

The celebration also co-incided with their 35th. wedding anniversary. Those present were Don Johnston, Harry Ashworth, Ian Alison, Yank Martin, Frank Wilson, Ron Russell, Jack Fleming, and Jim Timms who, with their wives and some neighbours decided to launch Bob on his crutches in preparation for the forthcoming fitting of a tin leg. It was a jolly good evening and its success was greatly helped by Yank Martin and his yarns, Jim Timms with his movies of the Adelaide Reunion, and the delightful supper provided by the ladies. We left Bob in his sober state complete with "Learner" plates for his return to hospital where he hopes to be discharged in about two months time.

Personal Paragraphs.

In the course of conversation we learned that Bill and Rose Carr have cracked it for another daughter; that Gordon Cuthbertson is to have an artificial artery inserted in his stomach at the Royal Melbourne Hospital; that Ron Russell is shortly to have a gall bladder operation; Shorty Wilson's daughter Janice has become engaged; and Harry Ashworth has been given the unusual honour of being re-elected President of the Melbourne Bowling Club.

More Trotting.

Bill Carr is in close contact with the people concerned with social nights at the Melbourne Trotting Facility and is negotiating several nights for 458 patronage. All interested members are advised to keep in touch with Bill as the demand for tickets is quite high.

NOTE FROM THE LAND OF HOLLIDAY.Miss Australia Quest.

Interstate members will be interested to learn that Marie and Gordon Postle's daughter Suzanne was a contestant in the Finals---held in Adelaide---of the recent Miss Australia Quest.

Jim Holliday comments that at the time of the Finals, Q. Flight members had far more interest in the Miss Australia Contest than in the Federal Elections on about the time.

THE PASSING OF LES. (SNOWY) PIGGOTT.

The death occurred, suddenly, on December 8th, 1969, of Les. (Snowy) Piggott, leaving a widow, Edna, and a son and daughter, Barry and Brenda. Les. served with 458 Squadron for a long time, arriving at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and he will be widely remembered and his early passing widely lamented. Les.' funeral service, at St. John's Church, Maroubra, was attended by a 458 party, and at the Botany Crematorium Fred. Strom, Bob Bruce, Sam Barlow and Peter Alexander formed a Guard of Honour. Peter Alexander recited the Ode and each member of the party placed a Poppy on the casket.

The family had recently decided to sell their Post Office business at Tarana and return to Sydney where Les was to work.

A Squadron member recalls:--I well remember my first meeting with the snowy-headed young Instrument Fitter, Les. Piggott, beside a Wellington at Holme on Spalding Moore in 1941. He had come to 458 at the very beginning at Williamstown. He was to be one of the large number of groundstaff whose long stay with 458 was to

provide the Squadron with its strong coherence in its post-war career. Like them he kept in steady touch. We shared with him in sympathy the trials and interests of civilian life. We remember his and Edna's interest in tennis. Being short and fair he never seemed to get much older. While he had some disc or sciatic trouble in recent years his health had seemed fair enough. He will be missed indeed. Our deepest sympathy to Edna and the children. It was good that some of his old mates, including one of the Williamstown party, were able to attend him at the end.

458 SQUADRON NEWS TO BE PRESERVED BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA.

Following on the comment we made in the last issue of the News--- the one which completed twenty years of continuous publication---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."---there have been developments.

The National Library of Australia has written to say it would like to receive a back set of the News and a copy of each future issue.

One of the two known complete sets will therefore be sent to Canberra there to be preserved in the National Library.

Readers will share our pleasure at this news. The Editor.

FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE SQUADRON.

by The Editor.

Squadron policy as I understand it has always been that anyone who served with 458 Squadron is a member for Life of the Squadron. That is, there is no such thing as an unfinancial member. This has always seemed to me just what it should be. Whether a member pays an occasional annual sub. or not, he receives the Squadron News, is invited to and welcomed with joy at 458 functions. After he passes on we do all we can in our limited means to assist his widow and children, if they wish.

All this does require funds.--and this note is an appeal to members to see that they do pay the small annual sub, for which their Flight asks and with which it keeps them (or should keep them) financial for the Squadron News. Some Flight Secretaries might also check from time to time that they have paid their Flight's annual assessment to Squadron Council for the News. No names, no drill.

Also--and this comment is addressed principally, but not exclusively to N.S.W. Flight members--in 1949 the Squadron decided to build its organisation in N.S.W. around a 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association. This was done and it remains the working part of 458 in N.S.W. In this way 458 played a part in the wider field of ex-Air Force and ex-Service affairs. Some of us, myself included, have --from this initial 458 action--acquired senior office and responsibilities in the A.F.A. This affiliation does enable us to do rather more than our own limited means do to help the Squadron widow or welfare case.

Therefore may I ask those 458ers who are in the 458 Squadron branch of the A.F.A. to make sure they now pay their 1970 sub (\$3-00 plus 70 cents for Wings) --and invite other 458ers who are not in the A.F.A. branch to consider whether they will join us and by so doing help to share the work and also to share the considerable satisfaction of "being in it."

There is a form for interested members at the end of this issue.--P.C.A.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.From Jack Carter, P.O. Box 140, Streaky Bay, South Australia, 5680.

Dear Peter,

We all missed you at the S.A. All-States Reunion but you certainly were not forgotten. Since writing last I have had another extensive trip during which I called on Mrs. Adams at Gundagai where we had afternoon tea together. We discussed Len's long illness and his courageous fight against overwhelming odds. Mrs. Adams has given up the garage and taken on the less exacting business of a small block of flats. I also had a glorious week end with Doug and Vi. Millard at Humula where we made plans for the Adelaide Reunion which, alas, was not to be for dear old Doug, who died a couple of weeks later. A letter from Vi. tells me of Doug's long battle against drought over the last couple of years when they were droving sheep for a period of seven months. This must have taken toll even though Michael and Bill were a tower of strength throughout this period.

Back to Victoria where I had a visit from Alan (Snowy) Atherton and Jean on their way down to Portsea for son Bruce's passing out parade at the Officers' Training College on Friday 13th. June---any memories of this date? On to Port Augusta which, on this occasion, I made in daylight and did not by-pass Jim and Joy Perry as on my round Australia trip.

Jim has a "Willsdon Joinery" which is the name to look for in the phone book. Their hospitality made my need to "press on" in a race to avoid driving an unregistered vehicle very regrettable. At Port Augusta I also met jovial A.F.A. President Rex Griffiths---a very nice fellow. As far as our Association is concerned, I'm back where I started---South Australia---where Erle Hetherington and I sent our first subscriptions from Darwin in the early post-war years. Guess I'd better send another one.

Kind regards to Squadron members and Best Wishes.

Jack Carter.

P.S. I've built myself a mini-caravan---must be getting soft.

THE EDITOR (P.C. Alexander)Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001, Australia.

The Hon. Treasurer,
458 Squadron (N.S.W.),
Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

I am interested in joining the 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association.
Please send me a form.

Name.....

.....

For N.S.W. Members.Annual Subscriptions, 1970.

The following options are available. Please indicate by ticking which you are are paying.

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 should pay this please)	50

Please now post the necessary remittance to

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