



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

Year 21, No. 82.

February, 1970.

50c. per annum.

STILL LIVING TWENTY FIVE YEARS AFTER.....

On 9th. June, 1945, 458 Squadron, R.A.A.F., paraded in full strength--and for the last time. This was the occasion of its disbandment as a fighting unit, at Gibraltar.

On June 12th. 1970, at Broadbeach, on the Queensland Gold Coast, twenty five years after, 458 Squadron will parade again. Having behind it a quarter-century of continuing association--and many other parades--it is now, if anything, a more cohesive whole than in 1945. The anniversary is being marked and celebrated by a special All-States Reunion, centred at Broadbeach, from June 12th. to 15th.

X X X X X X X X

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

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

Jubilee Reunion.

The preparatory work on the Jubilee Reunion is finished. "Q" Flight is ready, willing and waiting. All we want now is bodies--members, wives and families. Already we have twenty-nine (29) firm bookings. We have the machinery to cope with one hundred more. Let's get down to the bare facts.

DATE.

Queens's Birthday Weekend from Friday 12th. to Monday 15th. June, 1970. Functions start with a barbecue on Friday night and end with a boat picnic on Monday. For those who want to come earlier and stay later, a few local members will be around to guide, advise and entertain.

VENUE.

Broadbeach on the Gold Coast.

ACCOMODATION.

After a thorough investigation of the many first-class accomodation centres offering on the Gold Coast, Q.Flight selected the Broadbeach Hotel. Built in the 1950 s and now undergoing a complete refurbishing--new carpets, new furniture, repainting throughout with T.V. (free), radio and refrigerator in most rooms, bathroom and toilet to each room, the Broadbeach Hotel provides de luxe accomodation for only \$6-50 per person for bed and breakfast. Furthermore it's only a stagger from the surf. Should you need more economical accomodation Q.Flight can find many first-class motels, quite handy, for a couple of dollars less per night.

PROGRAMME.

"Get Togethers" balanced with sight-seeing; and "official" functions balanced with home entertainment.



To Trigger Your Memory (cont.)

you would like to bring up ?

2. Unwritten History. There are numerous events to my knowledge which are not recorded but would make very interesting discussion. Certain events in Chapter 1 were recounted to me by Gordon Vale; Page 19 mentions a certain goat's head; then there was the matter of the gharry taken on an unofficial journey and left overturned and abandoned on the Cairo road. This mystery was almost unravelled at a Sydney reunion but unfortunately the culprit, having confessed, plied me with alcohol and I have difficulty remembering even what he looked like. There must be many other events.....

3. Personalities. The book mentions numerous characters who contributed to the Squadron's reputation. To mention a few--

Bruce McKenzie  
Don Saville  
Jimmy Sargeant  
Dougie Douglas  
Gordon Orchard

Gordon Vale  
Bluey Firth  
Charlie Warren  
Roger Angove  
Anzac Douglas

There are many more that you could think of, some not even mentioned in the book. Let's have your reminiscences.

Having triggered off your memories, how are we going to get your stories? Some of you will be coming to the reunion. We would still like to know what you have to contribute so we can tie it in with the other chaps who have something to offer on the same subject. Others will not be able to come but we can still use their 'evidence' in the form of a letter or, better still, a tape recording of their story to be played at the meeting. There could be quite a few there who would be pleased to hear your voice again even if you were not there in person.

To start things off, we have prepared a questionnaire for your use. If you have anything to offer, fill it in and post it to me. We will then get in touch with you and let you know what other information we have on the subject. In this way we hope the evidence will be sufficient to give a clear picture of what actually happened.

Don't be too concerned about the strict truth. Hearsay evidence is admissible and rumour encouraged. We have some of the best legal brains in the State at our disposal to ensure the accused is given what appears to be a fair trial. Looking forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Johnno

X X

CROWEATER NEWS.

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

Queensland Reunion.

I have it on good authority that the Banana-benders plans for their reunion are well in hand. Have not had any reports yet as to who is going but one thing is for sure. I will be there.

## Anzac Day

What about some of you blokes that never show up and a few of you that have sort of just dropped out, quietly extracting the digit and putting in an appearance this year. Take-off will be about 11.0 hrs. and the usual battles will be fought at the Talbot.

Bruce (Flash) Thomas

I am happy to be able to say Flash is back in top gear after suffering a short illness in January. He informed me over the blower that the term was 'Hypertension', but he is feeling O.K. again now.

Bill and Madge Taylor.

Spent Xmas in Perth, W.A., stopping off en route to say hello to son Brett who was on a working holiday at Kalgoorlie. Bill reported that Butch Power and Shorty Long with whom he had a couple were both in fine form.

Croweater News (cont.)458ers with Legacy.

John Ringwood and John Carey have both accepted the responsibilities of Legatees and with this goes the duty of becoming "Dad" to some child needing the guidance of a man.

Arn Scholar.

Arn wishes to thank Peter Alexander for organising a quick Get together when he was in Sydney at Xmas. Members extend to Arn their deepest sympathy at the sad loss of his wife Nancy, who passed away late last year.

Lofty,

x x

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Ian Alison, 10A Black Street, Mont. Albert, Vic, 3127.

Victorian activities have been few and far between since the last issue of the News. Our Childrens' Xmas gathering was once again held successfully at Don and Nettie Johnson's home in Doncaster. A good roll-up arrived and Santa touched down on time, much to the enjoyment of the little ones--and some of the bigger ones, too!

Harry Ashworth and I would like to send our thanks and appreciation to N.S.W. Flight for the way they entertained us on our recent trip to Sydney. We were royally entertained at a special Bob Bruce Barbecue and, as everyone knows, a B.B. Barbecue is a Barbecue.

To Trot or Not to Trot.

Our Trotting Nights are at a standstill just at the moment. The Inter-dominion Championships have apparently interfered with some of our arrangements. Still, we hope to get a night soon.

The McKinnas Entertain.

Bob and Beatrice McKinna held a party recently for a visiting 458er. Arthur Jollow, who was here on a T.A.A. course, was the guest of honour and the welcoming party consisted of Frank Wilson, Ron Russell, Jim Timms, Harold Martin, Ken Brown, Mick Singe, Jack Fleming, and their wives. It was quite obvious everyone enjoyed themselves!

To Queensland.

I believe we Vics. have 20-26 starters for the June Anniversary. We are anxiously awaiting further details, such as a possible programme and accommodation arrangements. Let us know, we'll do the rest!

And to close, may we of Victoria wish everyone good fortune for this new decade, and wish that our association continues to prosper.

x x

NEW SOUTH NEWS.

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

Scant news of functions for report in this issue, so the report is confined to (a) personal news of general interest, and (b) items of particular interest to N.S.W. members (free plug via the Squadron News.)

Of General Interest.

Harry Ashworth and Ian Alison, with families, paid a visit to Sydney during the Xmas-New Year vacation. They were able to say Good-Day to Arthur Lehdey (Henty) on the way, and whilst in Sydney met up with quite a few of the Gang. A New Year's Eve party at Bob and Betty Bruce's place (Mt. Wilga) was, I understand, the highlight of their visit.

Also from Vic. via, Bob McKinna was up to see his daughter, resident in Sydney, in late January. He was able to get along to the Air Force Club on the night of our Committee meeting and see many of his Sydney Squadron friends. Bob has our admiration for the way in which he has accepted the recent below-the-knee amputation of his leg. We wish him a complete recovery and know he and Beatrice will be able to "cope".

From the north came Don Brandon (Q. Flight) on a quick



New South News (cont.)

business-wise trip to Sydney recently and was able to meet up with Frank Ward, Peter Alexander and Cy Irwin for a few beers on the night of his return to Brisbane.

Of Local Interest.Barlow's---104

Many Squadron members will remember "Barlow's Place--Vintage 04"---location the Middle East--a Tent.

Sam has now recently finished additions to his shack at 9, Grayling Road, Pymble, in the form of a Cellar-Studio, and has thrown the invitation open to Squadron members and wives to pay him and Maisie a visit. Business will be done almost as it was 30 years ago; but Sam has assured us wines will be better, with suppers and all mod. cons. The DATE set is SATURDAY APRIL 11th--from 7.30 p.m. So, would Sydney members please note this date on their diary/calendar and take Sam and Maisie up on their invitation. This is Sam's show, so please reply direct to him on 49-4954. A Donation (\$2-50 per head) will be sought from those attending to be applied to funds for the 1971 All-States Reunion.

Anzac Day Arrangements.

These are basically as in previous years:

Anzac Eve: Wreath-laying 8.0 p.m.  
Assemble G.P.O. Steps, Martin Place.

Anzac Day: March with Air Force Contingent. Reunion and lunch from 12 Noon, at Great Southern Hotel, George Street, Sydney (near Haymarket area). Election of Flight Office-bearers.

Q.Flight Centenary Reunion.

It is hardly necessary to plug Queensland hospitality. Any Squadron member able to make the trip to the Gold Coast (12th--15th June) is urged to contact us so that firm bookings and accomodation can be arranged.

To conclude this report, and not on a happy note, Squadron members will be sorry to hear that Alan Piggott is at present in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, North Sydney, following a stroke. Our sympathies to him, and to Kitty (herself recovering from a recent hospitalisation) and the family, and we hope Alan will soon be O.K. He would appreciate a visit from any 458 member. His home address is 17, Turner Avenue, Ryde.

Final Note. The N.S.W. Annual General Meeting will be held at 213, Clarence Street, Sydney at 8.0. p.m. on Friday April 3rd. It will deal with all matters except the election of office-bearers and adoption of accounts which will be adjourned to the Anzac Day meeting.

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

50th. ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION.

The Air Force Association celebrated its 50th birthday on February 28th., 1970. It was started, in Melbourne, about that date in 1920 as a result of the wish of former members of the Australian Flying Corps to welcome Ross and Keith Smith and their crew, after the famous first flight they made from England to Australia. This they did and stayed together as an Association. Similar action in other States led to its being a nationwide body which did much to help look after the needs and interests of ex-servicemen and of the Air Force.

Action taken in 1943 to bring in the many thousands of young airmen serving in the R.A.A.F. made the Association the very substantial body it is.

The anniversary was celebrated by dinners, barbecues, open days, etc, amid general review of the considerable achievements of the fifty years past and the plans for the years ahead. The Association now admits airmen with (two years or more) peacetime service, as well as those with six months wartime service.

It is of interest to recall that for the last twenty years of the A.F.A.'s history, 458 Squadron has played, particularly in N.S.W., a quite substantial part in its affairs, following the formation of the 458 Squadron branch of the A.F.A. The present Federal Treasurer and Federal Secretary of the A.F.A. are both members of 458. They would hope to see other 458ers also active in the A.F.A.--the national organisation for airmen and ex-airmen.

X X

Many 458 Squadron members, including many who have visited Sydney from the country and interstate, know the Sydney Air Force Club. It was formerly at 330, George Street, opposite Wynyard Station, and for some years now has been at 213, Clarence Street, not far from the Grace Building.

Over the years various 458ers have been on its Committee, and following the recent resignation of its long-term President, R. M. Levenger, for health reasons, a 458er, Peter Alexander, has been elected Club President. He would like to see 458ers join and use the Club, which has now been redecorated and furnished. This is probably the nearest 458 will get to having its own licensed club so it is hoped they will join and support it.

X X

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

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

A.F.A.--458 Sqdn.branch	\$3-00	plus Wings sub. 70c.
458 Sqdn.Association	1-00	
458 Sqdn News	50	Total.....

Name: ..... Address: .....

P.S. I am interested in joining the Air Force Club:please send me details.

Strike out any inapplicable item, please.

To L.L. Johnston, 51, Pohiman Street, Southport, Queensland, 4215.

Name.....	Address.....
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10
11	11
12	12
13	13
14	14
15	15
16	16
17	17
18	18
19	19
20	20
21	21
22	22
23	23
24	24
25	25
26	26
27	27
28	28
29	29
30	30
31	31
32	32
33	33
34	34
35	35
36	36
37	37
38	38
39	39
40	40
41	41
42	42
43	43
44	44
45	45
46	46
47	47
48	48
49	49
50	50
51	51
52	52
53	53
54	54
55	55
56	56
57	57
58	58
59	59
60	60
61	61
62	62
63	63
64	64
65	65
66	66
67	67
68	68
69	69
70	70
71	71
72	72
73	73
74	74
75	75
76	76
77	77
78	78
79	79
80	80
81	81
82	82
83	83
84	84
85	85
86	86
87	87
88	88
89	89
90	90
91	91
92	92
93	93
94	94
95	95
96	96
97	97
98	98
99	99
100	100

Period on 458 Squadron.....Section, Trade, etc.....

I can supply information on the following controversial points in the Squadron History..

.....or on the following unwritten history.....

I knew the following personalities and would like to submit information.....

I will be attending the 1970 Reunion Yes/No. I will be able, I think, to tape my talk for use in my absence Yes/No.