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SUCCESSFUL SYDNEY CELEBRATION---15th. ALL-STATES REUNION.

As planned, the 15th. All-States Reunion of 458 SQUADRON was successfully held in Sydney in the Anzac period--April 23rd. to 26th. It was arranged by the previous Squadron Conference, in 1969, and was organised by the N.S.W. Flight Committee.

The planned programme was carried out in superb weather. First event was an informal welcome to interstate and country members and their wives at the Air Force Club. This started off with some difficulties as there were intermittent power failures and the Club was put into darkness. However this trouble was overcome and the party settled down to a steady welcoming session in the Club Dining Room. This was on the Friday evening.

SQUADRON CONFERENCE, the top Squadron body, met, at 213, Clarence Street, in the Air Force Association Boardroom, on Saturday morning. In the unavoidable absence of the Squadron President, Dave Firth, the Squadron Vice President (and Past President) Sam Barlow presided. After a review of 458's progress and plans for the future, delegates discussed the financing of the Squadron News. Particularly Conference looked at the long-simmering question of those 458 members who have received the "News" for years without paying anything towards it or paying their Flight a sub. Some delegates queried this situation in view of the rising cost of the "News". Editor Peter Alexander, asked for comment, said he thought that we had published the "News" now for over 20 years, without missing an issue, for just one reason. This was to keep 458 ers in touch and the Squadron together. The fact that some members did not pay regularly every year, though causing concern, was secondary. They were 458ers and should be kept in touch. Many of those who did not pay every year nevertheless paid a sizeable amount every five years or so. While we could do so financially he thought we should keep all known 458ers on the list to get the "News".

Conference accepted this view though noting that rising costs would cause an increase in subscription rates soon.

During subsequent days of the Reunion several members contributed amounts varying from \$5-00 to \$20-00 to News costs.

Conference decided the next meeting would be in Victoria in 1973. The Victorian Flight Committee is understood to be planning that part of that Reunion shall be outside Melbourne--perhaps in Ballarat.

CONFERENCE DINES and DANCES.

Saturday evening saw 458 dining and dancing in the new location of the Silver Room, at Grace Bros. Store in Chatswood. This was near the Man Friday Motel, where most interstate members were staying and was found to be ideal for the function. Among attenders was Bill Bailey's sailor son John, who represented his father throughout the Reunion, accompanied by his mate, Martin Davies. They were both warmly welcomed.

THE ANZACDAY MARCH.

On Sunday, 458 marched in the R.A.A.F. Section of the Anzac March and was led by its newly-elected SQUADRON PRESIDENT, its former W.O.D., ERNIE. LAMING. Ernie wore uniform and was as smart and trim as ever and ensured that 458 marched well. Our marching was helped by the fact that, by special arrangement, we had a

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Among 458 members seen at various All-States Reunion events were:

Arnold Ashton	Peter Alexander	Wal. Archbold	Harry Baines	Sam Barlow
Don. Bitmead	Bob Bruce	Henry Bryant	Horrie Campbell	Graeme Coombes
Col. Corten	Keith Cousins	John Fennell	Red-Jack Baker	Wally Baird
Ralph Bailey	Jack Bevan	Jack Aitken	Black-Jack Baker	Reg. Hansell
Dick Healey	Ron. Hills	Cy. Irwin	Arthur Jollow	Stan. Longhurst
Bob. Lynden	John Dunn	Sid. Bartram	Bill McFadden	Bob. Millar
Ross Burgess	Jock McGowen	Tom Moore	Eric Munkman	Cec. Nation
Alan Piggott	Bill Astley	Norm. Peachey	Joe Pratt	Jack McPhee
Stuart Ricketts	Stan. Simpson	Noel Spurling	Bob. Smith	Fred. Strom
"Yank" Martin	Reg. Taylor	Bert Thompson	Cliff. Tillack	Paddy Walker
Frank Ward	Ern. Laming	Jim Timms	Clive Wyman	Pete Campbell
Noel Griffith	"Rinso" Purcill	Bill Hull	Bob Scholes	Jack Preston
Dick Cook	Bill Chapman	Noel Spurling	Tom Ridgeway	Jim Whitem
Ted. Kennedy	Ken Brown	Vin. Clohesy	Jack Fleming	Don. Johnston
Bob. McKinna	Stan. Tarczynski			

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It is with great sadness that we must preface the news about Anzac Day with the announcement of the sudden death of our President, Chas. Richardson, on 26th. February.

The circumstances were tragic. In accordance with the policy of the company which he served for many years, Chas. retired on attaining his 60th birthday. All of the last week of his employment his company and his workmates honoured his many years of service. The official dinner was on Monday; the special function with the training squad (in which Chas for many years played a leading role) on Wednesday evening, and on Thursday evening came the presentation from his fellow representatives.

On Friday evening Olwen and Chas. had a dozen or so of his particular workmates home. After their friends had gone, Olwen and Chas. talked for an hour or so discussing plans---first a caravanning holiday, then an overseas trip. At 2.30 a.m. Olwen awakened to find Chas. had passed away in his sleep. It was a heart attack. For the past two or three years Chas. had suffered from high blood pressure. With typical doggedness he conquered this complaint. The new illness must have crept up on him unawares.

Chas. was our Flight President for some six or seven years; no one wanted him replaced. As was his nature, Chas. was always diligent in duties, wise in counsel and fair in arbitration. We, of the Committee, were proud and content that he continue for as long as he wished as President. The Minister who conducted the cremation service knew him as a boy member of his Church at Goodna and used his boyhood nickname "Chill". He summed up our thoughts: "He was a man's man". Between three and four hundred, mostly men, attended the last tribute. Olwen and Chas. were very close. The shock for Olwen has been immense. Our expressions of sympathy have been inadequate for we know that words, no matter how sincere, cannot show the true depth of feeling. We have lost a true friend, Olwen has lost a loving husband.

This was one of our best-attended Anzac Days. Many more than usual turned out to the March in Brisbane. Probably because we of the Air Force were at the head of the column and because it was the Anniversary Year of the founding of the Superior branch of the Services, the ex-Air Force boys did such a fine job. Q.Flight, as usual, did its bit at its best. Lew Johnston was five paces in front of yours truly (fighting a bucking banner), who in turn was five paces in front of the serried ranks of the 458 force.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

The Reunion afterwards at Chas. Warren's premises was most enjoyable. We started off with a five but so many Air Force friends descended upon us that we sent out immediately for two more. They came, imbibed, tarried and then toddled---not staggered---off. Never less than 27 heads all of the time. Jack Lewis, as he always does on Anzac Day, put on a spread of delectables that more than filled the greatest void.

We had our Annual Meeting too at the Reunion. Elected to the office of President was Don Brandon, our youngest grandfather. Under his youthful, enthusiastic, vigorous, imaginative guidance, watch Q.Flight jump! The Old Brigade, in anticipation, are all consuming rejuvenation pills with great rapidity. Though both Jack Lewis and Jim Holliday withdrew their nominations, these were voted out of order and the offices of Treasurer and Secretary were conferred upon them without the option of refusal. One very welcome visit to the Reunion was from Bob Helyar from Tara. Most of our country members live well away from Brisbane. When anyone of them makes the long trek to Brisbane we, the city members, are most appreciative.

We missed Chas. Richardson. Our Minute's Silence was not enough to pay our respects to him.

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CROWEATER COMMENTS.

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

Anzac Day.

Anzac Day in Adelaide this year will be remembered as the year of indecisions. For the first time since the inauguration of Anzac Day the March was cancelled because of the weather. The official decision to hold the March on the Monday when a holiday was granted seemed as if it was issued from the Trades Hall rather than the H.Q. of the R.S.L. Wreaths were laid at the Cross of Sacrifice and the Adelaide Airport by Bruce Thomas and John Ringwood respectively.

The Reunion. A few of the more hardy types assembled at the Talbot Hotel but I understand Ops were cancelled (I was home in bed) Those that made it were:

Bill Taylor	Arn. Scholar	Jack Carter	Reg. Priest	Harry Bartram
Ted Creighton	and some friends.			

Jim Perry sent down from Port Augusta a couple of bucks in a letter apologising for his non-attendance this year. (Must have known something, Jim)

Doc Angove who has been on the Sick List is recuperating down at Robe. All of us who know Doc wish him a speedy recovery.

Kevin George from New Zealand, Kevin was a 458 pilot. He phoned me one night recently to say he was passing through and would I join him at the R.S.L. for a few. I cannot recall having previously met Kevin but, like all Kevins, he is a good bloke. We parted about midnight like blood brothers. Members of Kevin's crew were Alec Johnson, Ted Adams, Ivan Green, Ron Dodds, Chips Wilson. Kevin said he looks forward to his copy of the Sqdn. News and gave me \$4 to forward to Peter.

Vale. Col Hanlen, who held the office of State Secretary, passed away recently. Every sympathy is extended to Col's widow and family.

All the best, Lofty.

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VIC'S VIEWS.

from Shorty Wilson, 26, Taylor Avenue, Burwood East, Vic.

The winter activities got away to a flying start when the Victorian Flight's Ladies Auxiliary organised a coffee and hot cross bun morning at the home of Bob and Beatrice McKinna on Good Friday. Thirty members and wives patronised the function and it was such an outstanding success that the last customer went home about 6. p.m.

Vic's Views (cont.)

Anzac Day.

Melbourne's weather was very kind to the Flight as we swung down Swanston Street to the Shrine. To mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the R.A.A.F., the R.A.A.F. was first off the mark, and well in the foreground was the Victorian Flight, ably commanded by Jim Munday in the absence of the Flight President, Don Johnston. After the March the annual reunion and meeting, and election of office-bearers was held at the premises of Harry Ashworth. Everyone enjoyed themselves with refreshments and food but the attendance was not good as so many attended the Sydney All-States Reunion. Jim Timms of 39, Frank Street, Vermont, 3133 was elected Flight President.

Send-Off Luncheon.

Thirty two members and wives attended a very enjoyable luncheon at the Baron of Beef, Sherbrook Forest, on Sunday 16th May. It was arranged by the livewire Ladies Auxiliary as a send-off to Joan Russell who was to fly home on a visit to England on June 6th. The luncheon was an outstanding success with Vic Flight enjoying much hilarity and claret and luscious roast beef---a very real crowd. Also enjoying themselves were Roger and Jean Rodwell who were celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Both happenings gave cause for Jim and Elaine Timms to invite all to their home where the bar was finally drained--excluding the bottle of red that Roger won in the Raffle.

Personal Items.

We deeply regret to learn of the death of Gordon Wise recently. He will always be remembered by his cheerful and kindly nature.

Harry Jenkins is slowly recovering from a very serious operation he had just before Christmas.

Shorty Wilson is making good progress recovering from his second heart attack.

458 Squadron was represented at the wedding of David McKinna at the religious centre, Monash University.

Cuthy and Peg look well. They stayed at the McKinna's after their trip to the Joan Russell luncheon.

Norm Cugley is looking fit after knocking off two vices as a result of his heart condition.

Congratulations to Ernie Laming on his election as Squadron President; and to Joan Russell on her election as President of the Victorian Flight's Ladies Auxiliary.

Peter Alexander on a business visit to Ballarat for a day was met and warmly welcomed by Ted Kennedy, Lloyd Simpson and Cuthy. There was a 458 lunch and 458 drinks after work.

Kindest regards to all, Shorty.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Henry Etherton, 15, Chaffers Street, Morley, 6062.

Well, Anzac Day has passed again and our Reunion is over:--and I can say was a good show. This year the boys boasted that they did not have to change step once in the parade, as we had the Air Force Band just in front of us, not like last year's effort, thank goodness. Doug McGuigan, who was over from Sydney, was asked to lead and did a good job. Although Doug was supposed to be on the official dais he chose to march with us and stay with us. Thanks, Doug.

The Reunion was held at the home of Bill and Joan Clues as 460 went out on their own this year and we were left with only eleven members so a hall was not warranted. The "Do" was a great success; Butch Power was in good form and entertained us with his usual jokes right from the start. If I had a memory like his I wouldn't need a reference library. "Binghi" Stewart was there but we didn't have a piano to get him going on, which was one of the things missed. The two Ellis boys were there and as usual turned on the family arguments (all in good fun); maybe, some day they will find they are related and then it will be on.

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(We will try to do this letter more justice spacewise next issue--Ed.)