

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

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#### 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL --- OFFICE-BEARERS.

Squadron President Sid.Bartram (S.A.) Squadron Treasurer Cy.Irwin (N.S.W.)
Squadron Vice Presidents Sam Barlow (N.S.W.) Squadron Secretary Allan Walker (N.S.W.)
Bill Clues (W.A.)
Editor of 458 Squadron News: Peter Alexander.

#### CYRIL IRWIN RETIRES.

Long-time N.S.W.Flight Secretary, Cyril Irwin has retired. Retired both from his job as a N.S.W.Public Servant-he was with the Valuer-General's Department-and as N.S.W.Flight Secretary.

Cy.has held the N.S.W.Secretaryship for the best part of a decade and 458 owes a lot to his steady and faithful hand on the tiller. Month in and month out he prepared the business for Committee meetings,organised annual reunions,golf games, socials and the financially all-importand Melbourne Cup Guessing Competition. At the same time he held senior office in the Air Force Club,Sydney,of which he was for some years Vice President and of which he is a Life Member. He was also an alternate member for Tasmania of the Air Force Association's Federal Executive. Finally,he was—and retains the position of—Squadron Treasurer with its responsibilities for the publishing work of the Squadron News—for which he wrote the N.S.W. Flight news. He has attended many All—States Reunions and several N.S.W. State Assemblies of the Air Force Association.

Cy plans to travel, with Elaine, in Australia. He expects to remain pretty active with 458 as Squadron Treasurer and a N.S.W.Committeeman. Our warm thanks to him for his work.

His successor as N.S.W.Flight Secretary is Arthur Jollow. Arthur who was with 458 for a long period has worked with the aircraft industry in the post-war years. Firstly on the technical side and later the administrative. He is now T.A.A.'s Claims Officer for N.S.W. He lives in Chatswood with his wife Tess and family. 458 wishes him well.

CORNSTALK COMMENTS from Arthur Jollow, 40, Nicholson Street, Chatswood, 2067.

First, hello to all my old friends in Australia and Overseas.

After many years of excellent service as Flight Secretary, Cy. Irwin has asked to be relieved of the post. He and Elaine have both given unstintingly of their time and energies on our behalf and the Committee extends grateful thanks.

To wish them well I can think of no nicer thought than the one I found in an Irish pub (I had gone in to shelter from the rain)—and on the wall was this wish

"May the sun shine warm on your face

"May the rain fall gently on your fields

"And in all that you do

"May the Good Lord hold you in the palm of his hand."

## Cornstalk Comments (cont.)

We are happy that Cy.will remain a member of the Committee and I, for one, will value his experience and advice as I step into his shoes.

Frank Ward has left the Committee due to pressure of business and is now Licensee/Manager of West Pennant Hills Bowling and Recreation Club. They have,in addition to bowls,very good barbecue facilities and tennis courts,which Frank has kindly offered to members for a day out when the days are longer. That will be something to look forward to.

No more news: I hope to have more to waffle on about next issue.

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#### Retirementof Mick Mather

Holme-on-Spalding Moor and Middle East 458ers will well remember Mick Mather- $\infty$ in those days a Sergeant Pilot with the Squadron.

Mick stayed with the R.A.A.F. in the post-war years and did indeed very well, rising to senior commands and the rank of Air Commodore. In recent years he has held commands at Williamtown, N.S.W., finally the command of the Station. He has kept up his 458 links and attended 458 functions whenever possible. Mick has now retired from the Air Force but is not moving away from the Williamtown area. He has, we understand, gone into horse-breeding close by his old Station. 458 wishes Mick and family every good thing for the future.

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## SANDGROPERS SAY ....

from Henry Etherton, 15, Chaffers Street, Morley, 6062, W.A.

Once again, newstime—and very little to write about. At the moment we are looking at the possibility of holding the next All—States Reunion in Perth. Circulars have gone out to all squadron members informing them of a meeting to be held at Bill and Joan Clues place next Sunday (August26th). Up to date we have heard from a lot of old members who we hadn't heard from for a long time.

The Stork Club:--congratulations go to the Watsons and the Shearmans on becoming new grandparents.

Best wishes to Butch Power for a speedy recovery. Butch has had several weeks in Hollywood Hospital but I believe he was due out to-day-and he and Amy are off on another holiday to Singapore this week.

Well,I am afraid that is all for this time; but, once again,I would like to ask the W.A.boys if they have any news of members or which they think would interest other members, let me have it, please. Kind regards to all ——Henry.

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### CROWEATER CAUCUS.

from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California St., Nailsworth, S.A.

JACK RISELEY telephoned me the other day and advised me that from August 25th., the Riseley address would be c/o Alice Springs Hotel for a fortnight. Jack said he and Verna would be flying to the Alice and hoped to see all the sights,including Ayers Rock. Jack gave me some news that will without a doubt be of interest to most of the boys. DING CONWAY has been in Daws Road Repat.Hospital with what I believe to be a spot of ticker trouble. I shot out to see him, but was informed he had been discharged that morning. If you still get the letter, pal, please accept our best wishes for a speedy recovery. 458 has had a lot going for it, but I suppost it must be the only squadron that could claim the distinction of having two doctors on its strength. Of course, I refer to our M.O., Dr. Angove, and his locum, Dr. Ding, What a crazy set-up that was. First you reported sick and saw Dr.Roger, who prescribed treatment; then you saw Dr.Ding.who reexamined you and suggested that the complaint needed a different approach altogether. Sort of second opinion, if you follow me. I still consider that one of the best stories to come out of the squadron concerned that snazzy little nursing sister on the Awatea and the poor unfortunate aircrew bloke that arrived on board suffering from the after-effects of one of those unmentionable Jewish operations. The story goes that after we sailed from Sydney and during a particularly rough morning, Ding had the misfortune to have to attend to the dressing on our hero. Feeling extra crook he suddenly sang out "Sister, hold this." then departed leaving the poor lass with her hands full. No doubt, a full chapter should have

### Croweater Caucus (cont.)

been included in "We Find and Destroy" about the exploits of the most lovable character on the Squadron, DING CONWAY.

Had a postcard from PAT and ROSS BURGESS who have been jounting about the U.K. and Europe. Ross said they had just finished about 3,000 miles of sight-seeing in Britain and had visited Holme-on-Spalding. They were not impressed with Italy but enjoyed their stay in Switzerland, Austria and Germany. No doubt Ross will contribute to the News when he returns and give us a more detailed description of their trip. Thanks for the card, pal.

Had a letter from my old tentmate, SHORTY WILSON, who informed me that he has been invalided out of the Australian Public Service. Frank said he is now leading a very full life at Rye in Victoria where he has bought a nice little home and occupies himself by working at the local R.S.L. and playing golf and bowls. Obviously, one of those fat cats. Don't forget, pal, Marj. and I are expecting you over soon and don't forget to bring your bowling gear with you.

All for now, and all the very best from Lofty.

#### VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Jim Timms, 39, Frank Street, Vermont, 3133.

Vic.Flight has been rather quiet since the All-States Reunion. Anyhow,I feel we need a bit of a holiday. Our Ladies Committee has run one function,a bar-b-que down at St.Leonards on Sunday.

Our flight President, John Fleming, has recently purchased a very nice holiday home there, and this was the venue; not a very big roll-up: this could have been due to the weather—cold, windy and showers. A cake made by Jean Rodwell was raffled and won by Elaine Timms. Those in attendance were the McKinnas, Cugleys, Russells, Cuthbertsons, Wurrs and two of their friends, the Morkhams, and the Giles called in later in the afternoon.

## Personal Pars.

JOHN and MARC.BILNEY are going to New Zealand next month for a holiday. NORM.and NANCE CUGLEY are also going to New Zealand in November. RON and JOAN RUSSELL sail on Melbourne Cup Day for a Pacific cruise. HARRY JENKINS has retired from the Repat.Hospital, Heidelberg—had his picture in the "Age", surrounded by pretty nurses toasting him on the day of his retirement. Regards to all 458ers—Jim.

### CORRESPONDENCE:Letters to the Editor.

From Bill Matthews, Old Road, Holme-on-Sp. Moor, Yorkshire, England.

Dear Secretary,

Thank you for sending my request for a boomerang on to Bill Taylor. I have received it and the little boy thinks its marvellous. I also received another letter and am writing to Bill to thank him. It really was a first class effort on everyone's part. Thanks again, yours faithfully, Bill Mathews.

#### From Lock Simpson, P.O. Box 81, Mt. Hawthorn. 6016, W.A.

Dear Peter,

Marg.and I are off to the United Kingdom and Europe for three months on 15th.

August. We propose to stay in the U.K.for a month and have a flat in London organised. Would it be possible for you to send me a list of the known 458ers in the U.K. ?

No doubt you know that Reg.Bullen who was Russ.McMillan's Navigator is now Air Vice Marshal Bullen,R.A.F. I intend to spend some time with him while in London. While I have not had a great amount of contact with the W.A.Chaps over the last few years,I have been in touch with Robin Knight and Alf.Rubidge in South Africa. Best wishes...yours sincerely,

Lock Simpson.

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#### OBITUARY.

MARTIN O'SHEA.

We have been very sorry to hear, from his widow Pat., of the passing of 458 member Martin O'Shea. Martin had been seriously ill, with emphysema, for a number of years but very courageously carried on with life's activities from his home in Pymble. He came, when he could, to 458 functions and was a member of the Chatswood R.S.L.

Martin was a W.A.G. and a member of Joe Elliott's crew at Shallufa, etc.

Our warmsympathy to his widow and family. We too shall miss him,

MILO MILOSAVLJEVIC. Milo was not a 458 member but a Royal Jugoslav Air Force man who served in the Mediterranean area before coming to Sydney. He met us in Sydney in the come and go of ex-service affairs and on various occasions marched with us on Anzac Day and came to Sydney reunions. He was a good fellow and we were sorry indeed to hear of his sudden death, from hepatitis, recently. He left a widow and two sons to whom we send our sympathy. 458 was represented at his funeral at the Serbian Orthodox Church of StaSava, Flemington.

## AIR RACE IN N.S.W. 458ers COMPETE,

What was described as the first N.S.W.Air Race recently took place, the course being from Bankstown to Coffs Harbour (1st day); and from Coffs to Dubbo (2nd.day). Several 458ers took part. Jack Aitken flew as Navigator in one aircraft. Stuart Currington, down from Darwin, in another. Hal. Coffil flew his own aircraft. Peter Alexander flew with Air Vice Marshal W.E. Townsend, Federal President of the Air Force Association, in another.

Assembly for final briefing before dawn at Bankstown; nearly two hundred aircraft lined up awaiting take off; then taking off, at first light, at half minute intervals, flagged off by the Governor of N.S.W. (Sir Roden Cutler, V.C.), navigation in superb weather (thank heaven) over the marker towns of Maitland, Taree, Mudgee and Scone. Landing at enthusiastic aerodromes at Coffs and Dubbo. The chat and cheerful company of flying men. The dinner, waiting while the judges determined the results. It was all immensely enjoyable and indeed nostalgic.

Results are not of first importance but as readers will want to know—the Race was won, on handicap, by two grandmothers, who flew with great skill. The A.F.A.aircraft piloted by A.V.M.Townsend came in 8th but also won prizes as the best all exservice crew, and as the best crew all over 45. Participants will hope for another Race before too many years pass.

# THE FUTURE OF REPATRIATION.

Australian readers are aware of the press talk of possible adverse changes in the Repat.system:e.g.the handing over of the Repat. Hospitals to the State Health authorities. Our view is that some changes will probably follow the report to be made early in 1974 by Mr. Justice Toose who was appointed as an Independent Inquiry into the Repat.System by the last Government. Certainly much evidence was given by Social Security organisations seeking the integration of Repat.hospitals into the State system. But the ex-service bodies also gave evidence (e.g. Peter Alexander for the Australian Service Council and the Air Force Association; and Bill Keys for the R.S.L: and many others) and, particularly as Paul Toose is himself ex-serviceman as well as a Judge, one may anticipate a fair and balanced report from him. He recently visited Paris to talk to the World Veterans Federation at our suggestion.

All politics apart, the ex-service organisations have to agree that their members have obtained pension increases, etc from the incoming Australian Government which they had sought in vain from its predecessor over many frustrating years. This success, in this writer's informed opinion and he expresses it, as a matter of justice, is substantially due to the favourable influence of the present Minister of Defence, Lance Barnard, himself a former soldier and a longterm repat.advocate in Tasmania.

Ex-Service organisations will watch future developments very carefully and, if need be, will look to ex-servicemen to support them vigorously. P.C.A.