

## CIRCULAR

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION,  
458 Squadron Branch,  
January, 1950.

### 458 SQUADRON NEWS

Vol.1 No.2

The first issue of 458 SQUADRON NEWS, published in October, seems to have been welcomed. We have had a large number of expressions of approval and friendship from members who were with 458 at one time or another during its wandering years. In our turn we want to say "Thanks" for the encouragement we have been given.

While we are on the subject we want to record our thanks to the Air Force Association for the reneeing of the NEWS. Without the Association the NEWS would be a doubtful starter.

#### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.

Bugle Call Broadcast. We had a return Quiz contest with 455 Squadron on October 19th at Air Force House. The Quiz was broadcast and was followed by a successful cabaret evening. 22 458 members and friends were present. Our team and the questions they were asked were:

Bob Bruce: "What are the words of this war-song?"

(Lili Marlene played on the piano)

Cec. Nation: "What is the 1st Meridan?"

Alf. Hammond: "What are the colours in the Africa Star Ribbon?"

Peter Alexander: "In what year was the Battle of Crete fought?"

458 scored  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points to 455's  $3\frac{1}{2}$ .

If there is another Quiz later on, there may be vacancies on our team for a few bright boys, if we have any.

Melbourne Cup. The squadron took an interest in the Cup, of course. Funds are a few pounds the better and we thank members who helped. It is pleasant to record that a friend of Charlie Green held Foxzami.

458 Squadron Branch. Association members held a branch meeting on December 8th. and exercised their privilege of discussing the welfare and the future of the Squadron and of Returned Servicemen in general. Various plans for the future were approved (and described later). Among others two resolutions were carried as follows

"That this Branch is strongly of opinion that the Housing position as it affects Returned Servicemen remains very unsatisfactory and urges that, as an interim and short-term measure, a very large number of pre-fabricated houses be made available to Returned Servicemen. And that copies of this resolution be sent to the Air Force Association and to the Minister for Housing for vigorous action."

"That the Air Force Association be approached with an inquiry whether any members of the Association, being architects, were prepared to act for members at concessional fees."

Readers will be informed of any developments.

Cricket. Two 458 teams, captained by Geoff. Burgess and Doug. Bennett, played against each other in Centennial Park on Sunday, December 12th. It was a most successful day, play starting at 10.30 and finishing at 5.0.

Wives, children and friends watched from the shade of the trees around the ground. The weather couldn't have been better and the editor of 458 NEWS, as one of the players, cannot recall any 458 function he has enjoyed more than this game.

Scores were:

<u>BURGESS ELEVEN:</u>		<u>1st Innings</u>	<u>2nd Innings</u>
G. Burgess	Lbw.b.Collins	11	Lbw.b.Reynolds 42
S. Barlow	c.Reynolds b.Waldon	11	b. Waldon 4
D. McKay	Not out	65	Not out 26
R. Johnson	b.Collins	0	Run out 20
P. Pettit	Lbw.b.Collins	3	Run out 0
T. Moore	b. Waldon	8	b. Waldon 0
J. Aitken	b.Bennett	0	-----
P. Alexander	c. & b.Bennett	5	b. Waldon 0
A. Hammond	-----		C. & b. Bruce 0
Sundries		<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>
		<u>114</u>	<u>98</u>

BENNETT ELEVEN:

B. Reynolds	c.McKay b.Barlow	19	c.Burgess b.Alexander 22
R. Bruce	c. & b.Barlow	0	b.McKay 8
T.A. Waldon	b.McKay	4	C. & b.McKay 0
F. Ridge	c.Barlow b.Alex.	11	st.Burgess b.McKay 7
R. Crane	Run out	1	b. Barlow 4
D. Bennett	c.Waldon b.Moore	12	Lbw. b.McKay 0
C. Nation	b.Aitken	2	c.Barlow b.Alexander 1
P. Campbell	c. & b.Burgess	8	b.Pettit 8
A. Collins	Not out	4	c. & b. Moore 7
A. Hammond	b.McKay	0	Not out 6
Sundries		<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>
		<u>70</u>	<u>74</u>

That, at least, is what the score book says. The editor feels that in the interests of historical accuracy he should append "Errors and Omissions Excepted" to some of the details. We were a bit short of players. Alf. Hammond with magnificent impartiality batted, by request, for both sides -- a performance the more heroic in that he had a recently dislocated finger. Highlights of the game included: Terry Waldon's Hat Trick in a memorable over in which four wickets fell; Bert Reynolds wicket-keeping; Doug. Bennett's boundaries; Geoff. Burgess' masterly field placing; Sam Barlow's catches; Dud. McKay's batting.

Other matches, against 455 Squadron and the Australian Flying Corps, are being planned and again we invite any members not already on our cricket list to let us know if they are interested in an occasional game.

Christmas. We received a Christmas card addressed to "The Boys of 458" from Padre Bob. Davies in Canberra, and another from Lock Simpson.

News from England. We have been in touch with Dick Rutter, R.A.F. type corporal of the Photographic section (Bone and Foggia), who is now in partnership with another 458 photographer, Les. McKnight, in a photographic business at 47, St. James Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, England. He is doing well. He tells us that Dicky Tombs, who everyone from Protville to Gibraltar will remember, is married and living in Chelsea, London. Dick Rutter asks: "How are Alf. Bullock and Shorty Wilson...? Les and I would like to hear from Buster Balmer." How about it, Buster?

#### PERSONAL ITEMS.

Ray Davies. is now with the Dept. of Immigration and finding the work of great interest.

Hal Coffil. Hal was married on November 15th. All his very many friends on the Squadron will wish him the greatest happiness. Congratulations and good luck, Hal!

Sam Barlow, who is Treasurer and one of the Trustees of the Squadron, has a drapery business in Campsie.

Charlie Ruthven has a bakery and is to be seen in the Hornsby area.

Athol Kerry, now with a precision instrument factory, is building a home in Hornsby.

Freddy Stron, one of our energetic committeemen, makes the third to be building a home in Hornsby.

Tom Moore. A draughtsman with Standard Telephones.

"Harpo" Marks. Was recently seen in Sydney on a visit from Dubbo. 458 SQUADRON NEWS understands "Harpo" to be in the building game.

Harry Mark who is in Concord Repat. Hospital, is progressing favourably. This is the Harry Mark who was in Armstrong's crew.

Stuart Ricketts is another who is in the course of building his own home.

Bob Scholes. We welcome Bob. to membership of the 458 Branch of the Association. Bob has been in hospital and is convalescing after an operation which he attributes to eating sand and drinking vino on 458. He is better and writes cheerfully from Dungowan.

Dudley McKay is engaged in a business which, among other things, sinks wells in country areas.

Ced. Bradnam and George Connors. Members will be interested to hear that these two Queensland members have written recently. They both send regards to their friends and in particular Ced. mentions Harry Mark and George mentions Jack Aitken, Lofty Chalmers, Pete Pettit, Maca and Fred Ayres, Arthur Lehdey and Snowy Atherton.

Les. (Snowy) Piggott is now living in Maroubra and is an Instrument Maker with I.C.I.

Fred. Ridge. Managing a manufacturing business in the South Coast.

Graeme Coombes has recently moved to a new house in the Warwick Farm area.

#### WHAT'S NEXT.

11th Reunion. It is hoped to hold this in February. Notices will go out in the usual way and it is hoped members will come in strength and will let us know their intentions in advance, which makes catering easier. At present we are wrestling with the beer problem.

Squadron History. The Branch has decided that the History of 458 Squadron shall be written in detail. Approaches have been made through the Association to the Dept. of Air for access to official papers and it is hoped that we can start writing in the not too far distant future. Members may be approached individually for help with regard to periods of Squadron history in which they were personally concerned.

Squadron Album. It has also been decided to start a Squadron Photographic Album. This will contain we hope, material, whether personal, operational or scenic, covering all aspects and periods of Squadron History, including post-war history. Members are the only people who can provide the photographs so, while we realise you will probably want to retain most of the photos you have, if you have any duplicates you can spare, you are asked to send them to the Squadron

Secretary for inclusion in the Album. The Album, of course, will be the property of the Squadron and not of any individual.

Squadron Banner. Inquiries are being made into the question of having a durable Banner woven or painted for use on ceremonial occasions.

Subscriptions. Association members are reminded that 1950 subscriptions become payable on January 1st. We make it a rule not to chase members in this matter but every shilling helps to keep things going.

COMMENT.

Not long ago someone who was with the Squadron for a period in the earlier part of its service said to the Editor, "There were a whole lot of names in 458 NEWS of people on the committee and at the Reunion and, do you know, I didn't know any of them." That may be the feeling of quite a few of our more silent members.

Well, names are the first things a man does forget. We suggest that if a member who feels he doesn't know anyone on the Squadron comes to a Reunion he'll find that while he may not know one name he'll know a lot of the faces attached to the names well enough. Even if the member didn't recognise a single face he'd still be a 458 man at a 458 meeting -- where he belonged.

458 Squadron belongs -- not to the Committee or any individual -- but to each man who was on it at any time from Holme-on-Spalding-Moor to Gibraltar. The Squadron draws its continuing life from whatever effort and interest YOU put into it.

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