

458 SQUADRON NEWS.

Vol.1 No.3

Our third issue follows close upon the end of the first year of 458 Squadron's organisation as a continuously functioning concern based upon the 458 Branch of the Air Force Association. Members can look back on a year of great activity with a Theatre Party, "Bugle Call" functions, two Reunions, three cricket matches and, for Association members, Branch meetings. It's involved some hard work but those of us who have been able to take part know that the year has led to a revival and expansion of wartime friendship which we would not now wish to be without.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

The 11th Reunion. The half-yearly Reunion and Annual Meeting was held at Air Force House on March 3rd. About fifty attended and 27 gallons of beer went down. We have to thank Jack Aitken and Harry Baines for solving the beer problem on this occasion. Audited Annual Accounts presented to the meeting showed that the Committee had increased the Squadron's opening cash balance of 30/- to £26. The Reunion itself led, as Reunions do, to a loss (of about £4). The following were there: Stuart Ricketts, Geoff. Burgess, Pete Campbell, Fred Strom, Cec. Nation, Sam Barlow, Ray Davies, Harry Baines, Bert Thompson, Frank Mullane, Lofty Bracker, Jack Nichols, Slappy Hammond, Alan Piggott, Peter Bailie, Ken Knaggs, Doug. Bennett, Buster Balmer, Dick Cattenach, Peter Pettit, Fred Ayres, Allan Macmaster, Goldy Bartlett, Fred James, Bob Millar, Merv. Hargraves, Tom Mitchell, George Bradd, Tony Harris, Cliff Hayward, Frank Keith, Fred Ridge, Peter Alexander, Eric Munkman, Bob Bruce, Ernie Doman, Tom Moore, Ron Ricketts, Toosie Taylor, Terry Waldon, W. Chapman, Jack McDonald, and Dud. McKay. Apologies from Bob Scholes, Jack McPhee, Don Bitmead, J. Timms, J. Hamilton and Wal Archbold. The following were the office-bearers elected for the following year: PRESIDENT Pete Campbell; VICE PRES. Slappy Hammond, Pop Nation; HON. TREASURER Sam Barlow; HON. SECRETARY Peter Alexander; COMMITTEEMEN Ralph Bailey (Immediate Past President), Fred Strom, Eric Munkman, Bob Bruce, Geoff. Burgess, Ernie Doman, Tony Harris, Dud. McKay, Bert Thompson, Peter Pettit. HON. AUDITOR D. Bennett, A.A.A.

During the Reunion the new Squadron Banner was unfurled for the first time. It consists of the Squadron crest with a flying torpedo in colours upon an Air Force blue (cerulean) background, with scroll-work showing where the Squadron operated. Photographs were taken (by Fred Strom) of members with the banner which is regarded as the first-fruits of the Committee's endeavours to establish the Squadron on a permanent basis. During the evening members present subscribed £7.15.0 towards the estimated cost of the banner (£11) which was a great effort.

Cricket. 458 Squadron played its first cricket match at Centennial Park on December 12th against the Air Force Club and won by 52 runs. Since the same A.F.C. side has since defeated both Bathurst and Newcastle, our success was very satisfactory. Scores were:

458 SQUADRON:

S. Barlow	B. Grogan	4
D. Bennett	C. Keogh b. Salmon	16
G. Burgess	Run out	48
D. McKay	B. Wylie	81
A. Harris	Lbw b. Wylie	14
F. Ridge	B. Wylie	0
T. Waldon	C. B. Grogan	4
B. Bruce	Not out	6
P. Alexander	C. Grogan B. Wylie	0
T. Moore	B. Wylie	0
A. Hammond	Run out	2
Sundries		26
		<u>201</u>

A.F.C.

C. Calver	Lbw B. McKay	20
Grogan	Lbw b. McKay	8
M. Slocombe	C. McKay b. Waldon	2
Kannard	B. McKay	11
Beames	C. Burgess b. Wald.	12
W. Keogh	B. McKay	55
A. Emmerson	B. Barlow	27
Bruce	Run out	1
Maclean	B. Waldon	0
Salmon	Not out	3
D. Wylie	B. McKay	0
Sundries		10
		<u>149</u>

This match must go down to history as McKay's match, as the scores illustrate, 81 runs, 5 wickets and an excellent slip catch forming as brilliant an all-round combination as anyone could wish to see.

The second match, against a team nominally representing 455 Sqdn. but as readers will observe substantially supplied by the A.F.C., was lost by 4 wickets. Scores were:

<u>458 SQUADRON:</u>			<u>455 SQUADRON:</u>		
S. Barlow	B. Phelan	0	W. Keogh	Lbw B. Barlow	43
D. Bennett	C. Sub. b. Kannard	4	D. Kannard	C. Alexander B. McKay	96
G. Burgess (C)	C. B. Kannard	47	J. Phelan	Not out	35
D. McKay	Run out	37	L. Becker	C. McKay B. Harris	0
A. Harris	B. Becker	0	A. Emmerson	B. Harris	1
H. Baines	C. Patrick B. Crooks	63	F. Rutherford	Run out	0
R. Millar	Lbw B. Becker	3	B. Patrick	B. Waldon	0
P. Pettit	C. Sub. B. Becker	17	E. Salmon	Not out	14
T. Waldon	Run out	2	Sundries		10
P. Alexander	Lbw B. Keogh	0			
T. Moore	Not out	0			
Sundries		23			
		<u>196</u>	(6 wickets)		<u>199</u>

Rain interfered with a proposed return match against the A.F.C. Instead those of our team who turned up joined with a few of the A.F.C. in a picnic game against a team from a Pub. called either "The Coach and Horses" "Pig and Whistle", or possibly, the "Peal of Bells" - the Editor cannot remember - who had an 18 gallon keg of beer. The Editor would like to dwell on this game (for once he made some runs) but space does not permit.

Bugle Call Quiz. Two more Quiz competitions have been held (at 2 UW Studio where, unfortunately, we cannot invite an audience) against 455 Squadron and 3 Squadron. Though members who recall previous results may find it hard to credit, 458 won both (by 2-0 and 3-1 respectively). Teams and questions were:

Against 455:

- Geoff. Burgess: What percentage of the National Income is devoted to Returned servicemen?
- Bob Bruce: What great American said "If a man is good enough to fight for his country he is good enough to be given a fair deal afterwards"?
- Arthur Jollow: What Flying Boat is now on the Trans-Tasman run?
- Peter Alexander: King Arthur had a favourite magician whose name was the same as a famous aeroengine; what was it?

Against 3 Squadron:

- Pete Campbell: What aircraft recently crashed with large loss of life in Wales?
- Sam Barlow: Name three RAAF musterings beginning with C.
- Jack McDonald: What American Filmstar had a meritorious record with the U.S.A.A.F.?
- Lofty Chalmers: What Explorer has several times flown over the Antarctic but does not hold a flying licence?

PERSONAL NEWS.

- Bert Thompson: Accountant with the Joint Coal Board.
- Tom Mitchell: With the Bureau of Statistics, N.S.W. Government.
- Bob Millar: Helping to make Austin cars.
- Snowy Fennell: Travelling over the State for Cooper Engineers.
- Cliff Hayward: In the Building trade.
- Keith Clymo: Tailoring in Melbourne.
- "Flash" Thomas: Recently seen in Sydney on a visit.
- Bill Carr: With Kodaks in Melbourne.
- Jack Bevan: Doing an engineering course and now living in Wollongong. Jack will be remembered as being i/c 458 Wireless Sect.
- Jack Nichols: In charge of Maintenance for Henderson's Hats. (If anyone wants a hat.....?)
- Ernie Henwood: Finishing an engineering course with Toronto University. Ernie who was one of our Canadian Radar men has recently married. He may possibly be coming this way in connection with the Snowy River Scheme.
- Jack McDonald: An Insurance man with the M.L.C.
- Jack Payne: In the Motor trade and doing well.

- Bernie Hughes: Now living near Warwick in Queensland. Asks to be remembered to Allan Walker, Goldy Bartlett, Snow Fennell and Don McNeil.
- Peter Bailie: A composer. Still seeking a home for the wife and family.
- Laurie Crowley: With Guinea Air Traders in Lae.
- Dick Hervey: The Squadron Intelligence Officer is now travelling for Noyes Ltd.
- Frank Keith: Our 14 Squadron representative is servicing typewriters.
- Peter Pettit: Has now qualified as a dentist and has our warm congratulations.
- Harry Baines: Helping to manage an hotel in Wingham. The Cricket Committee is wondering if it can arrange his transfer to Sydney for the next cricket season.
- Doug. Holland: We were delighted to have news of "Dutch" Holland again. He is managing a sheep property near Wellington with a constant battle against the rabbits. We have also heard of
- Stu. Currington: who has a wheat farm out of Peak Hill. Don't suppose Stu. is bothered by rabbits as those he didn't trap would undoubtedly fall to his revolver. Good luck to you, Stu.

News out of Africa: We've had several interesting letters from Africa from:

Gordon Vale who is managing a business in Port Elizabeth, sent us on a list of 458 addresses, most of which we hadn't got. Hence the fact that a lot of people who may have thought 458 was dead recently heard from us;

Mel Priest who expects to be in Sydney on leave later this year;

Robin Knight who is with a timber mill in Kenya wants news of and from his crew (attention Dusty and Bert!). He has sent us some photographs for the Squadron Album (members nearer home please note) and wants to join the 458 Branch of the Air Force Association.

Association Members:

We welcome the following new members: "Dutch" Holland, Harry Baines, Cliff Hayward, Ernie Doman, Tony Harris, Bert Thompson, Jack Bevan.

Squadron Album:

Photographs from the following are acknowledged with thanks: Pop Nation, Alf. Hammond, Buster Balmer, Dick Hervey, Bert Thompson, Robin Knight.

Branch Resolutions:

Members will recall that the Squadron Branch passed resolutions asking for the large scale provision of prefabricated houses and about architects fees. Both resolutions were adopted by the Air Force Association as its policy. The Housing resolution was taken up vigorously with the Minister for Housing by the Squadron and with the Premier by the Association. Members will have observed from the Press that N.S.W. is apparently to get some prefabricated houses; and while we don't claim all the credit, still.... !

Annual Assembly of Delegates:

Two delegates will represent 458 at the Annual Conference of the Air Force Association at Orange in June. These will be Alf Hammond and Peter Alexander. Alan Piggott will be there as a delegate from the Ryde-Gladesville Branch. We hope to see "Rinso" Purcill in Orange.

Association Branch Meeting:

The 458 Branch held a meeting on March 23rd to decide what items the Branch should put on the agenda for the Assembly of Delegates. Various motions were approved. The Branch also discussed the organisation of the proposed Ball, the picnic and the Anzac Day March. Members had the benefit of some bottled beer.

Hon. Secretary's Address:

Members are asked to note that the Squadron Secretary's address has changed to 120 Wycombe Road, Neutral Bay, SYDNEY.

Marriages:

Our congratulations to Ralph Bailey and Don Bitmead both of whom recently got married.

Births:

To Harry and Mrs. Baines, a daughter. To Dud and Mrs. McKay, a daughter.

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WHAT'S TO COME.

Squadron Ball:

This is to take place at the Ballroom, Air Force House, Goulburn Street, Sydney on Friday May 26th. This will be the first Squadron Ball and while it is a formidable undertaking at which other Squadrons have not been successful, we already know from the members who have asked for tickets that we shall have a success. Still we hope a lot more will apply (through the Squadron Secretary) for tickets which will be 10/6 each. No money can be taken at the door. Supper will be provided and tables may be reserved. The Ball Committee comprises Pop Nation (Chairman), Eric Munkman, Les Piggott and Ken Knaggs. Dress is optional but members are invited to appear in their dinner jackets.

Anzac March:

458 Squadron will march on Anzac Day, the Squadron Ensign being carried on this occasion by Slappy Hammond.

Picnic-Excursion:

Weather permitting, there will be an excursion via Cronulla and the Port Hacking River to National Park on Sunday April 30th. Members attending will assemble at Cronulla Station at 9.50am. This is being organised by Jack Aitken, Tony Harris and Geoff. Burgess, and is particularly intended for wives and families.

COMMENT.

458 Squadron has always been pretty fortunate in having a good attendance at its functions and, particularly, its Reunions. But we would like to draw members' attention to their obligations to their own contemporaries. It is no fun to come to a Reunion and find out that you are, for example, the only person there who was at Holme-on-Spalding-Moor. There were a number of helpful suggestions put forward by members at the last Reunion, including the provision of a pianist and the sending of a second reminder just before future Reunions. Among suggestions which the Committee will no doubt consider is that at each Reunion a certain period in Squadron history will be selected for special attention. While all members will be expected as usual, a special additional summons will be sent to members who were at (say) Lydda or Malta. A member receiving such a special summons will be expected to move heaven and earth if necessary (and no one will have to do as much as that) to be at that Reunion for it will mean that all his contemporaries will be there.

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