

July, 1950.

458 SQUADRON NEWS.Vol. 1 No.4WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

Bugle Call Quiz. We had another round of the Bugle Call Quiz on May 1st against the Ryde-Gladesville Branch of the Air Force Association, being represented by Tony Harris, Jack Baker, Geoff. Burgess and Doug. Bennett. Questions we were asked were:

Jack Baker: What was the most remarkable feature about L/Col. McKenzie?

Geoff. Burgess: What very large aircraft recently flew for the first time?

Tony Harris: Can you identify this gun (long description of rate of fire, muzzle-velocity, etc.)?

Doug. Bennett: How do you spell Rhumb lines and Agheila?
This round was lost by 1-1½ points.

On May 29th the long series of our Bugle Call Quiz performances came to a climax when we found ourselves in the Grand Final with a prize of £60 at stake. We were represented by the team which beat 3 Squadron, that is, Pete Campbell, Sam Barlow, Jack McDonald and Lofty Chalmers. This was one of the three teams which had answered three questions out of four in previous rounds through the year (and the only Air Force team to do it). The other teams in the Final were Hurstville R.S.L., Petersham R.S.L. and Anthony Hordern's Ex-servicemens' Club. The four teams, with supporters, met in the crowded 2 UW Studio and were each asked three questions as a team with about ten seconds to discuss it among themselves. 458's questions were:

1. Who first flew the Atlantic, and in what year?
2. What airman of the R.F.C. claimed to have shot down Von Richthoven?
3. Who was the first Australian airman to win the V.C., M.B.E.?

Of the three questions each team got ours answered two and no other team did as well, so 458 won the Grand Final, with £60 for squadron funds and £10 each for the team. Our particular thanks are due to the winning team. There will not be any more Bugle Call Quizzes (which perhaps readers of 458 Squadron News will be glad to hear) but now the long series is over we thank everyone who came along to represent the Squadron and answered or didn't answer questions. It was definitely worth while ————£60 says it was!

Anzac Day. 458 Squadron marched in some strength behind its Banner in the Air Force Section of the March. There were about 70 there, including a few we hadn't seen for a while. It was very nice to see Ken Graham up from Melbourne, and Junior Hawke from Orange. There was a photograph in the June copy of Wings of the Squadron coming down Martin Place behind its banner carried by Slappy Hammond and supported by the two Piggotts, Alan and Les. A wreath (a very good one presented by Eric Munkman) was laid on the Cenotaph by the President (Peter Campbell) on behalf of 458 Squadron on the Sunday before Anzac Day.

Squadron Picnic and Excursion. A party spent the day together on April 30th., making the trip by boat from Cronulla up the Port Hacking River, which winds through the wooded slopes of National Park, to Audley where they picnicked near the river, and amused themselves with Deck Tennis, Softball and Tombola. The weather was good and while there weren't very many there, those who did go on the picnic enjoyed themselves remarkably and will definitely be in it again the next time. A couple of the party started out the worse for wear

from having been at a small party the previous night (in fact the very early part of the same day) celebrating (and most enjoyably) a visit from Adelaide by Bob Drinnan, but these two also admitted to having enjoyed the picnic.

Tennis. The first Squadron Tennis day, for members and their wives and friends, was held at Maroubra on May 14th. and was generally enjoyed in spite of intermittent rain. We were indebted to Les. Piggott for arranging for us to have the use of the courts. The standard of the tennis perhaps wasn't very high but there is a good deal of tennis talent on the Squadron (or so we hope) not yet brought to play as it will be if any of the plans we have made for tennis come to anything. We have a lot of would-be opponents but so far no suitable court (we don't want to play more than about once a month which of course makes things awkward). However the Air Force Association may be organising a competition among its metropolitan Branches which would about fill the bill for us.

The 1st 458 Squadron Annual Ball. This was held at the Air Force House Ballroom on May 26th. and was one of the most successful functions the Squadron has held. The Squadron Banner was displayed near the Official Table to which it gave a definite Squadron atmosphere. The guest of honour for the night was John Waddy, acting President of the Air Force Association. Les. Piggott, a most excellent M.C., started things going at 8.0pm. Among members to be seen dancing with their respective wives or friends were Bert Reynolds, Fred Ayres, Ken Knaggs, Doug. Bennett, Alf Hammond, Charlie Green, Bob Millar, Geoff. Burgess, Tony Harris, Fred Strom, Sam Barlow, Cec. Nation, Goldy Bartlett, Fred Ridge, Harry Mark, Bill Turier, Stu. Currington, Aub. Dombkins, Jack Nichols, Peter Campbell, Bob Bruce, Alan McMaster and Peter Alexander. It must have been the fastest floor in Sydney; in fact, wet ice couldn't have been much more slippery and several convincing crashes were registered, including one by the guest of honour, but no one went home in an ambulance.

Members had been asked to support the First Squadron Ball and make it a memorable one, and they did so. It was most successful and was continued for an hour later than originally intended. The Committee's thanks to everyone who took tickets, including members who were unable to use their tickets.

It was nice again to see Aub. Dombkins and Stu. Currington (who both came down from the country with their wives) and Harry Mark who, well on the way to recovery, has now left Concord.

Air Force Association Annual Assembly. The 1950 Assembly was held in Sydney (at Air Force House) instead of Orange as was previously arranged and occupied the very wet week-end of June 17th and 18th. The Squadron Branch of the Association was entitled to two delegates who this year were Alf. Hammond and Peter Alexander.

Subjects which came up for discussion included the need to garrison New Guinea, the use of building materials, relations with Japan, and a revision of the Association constitution. Two motions submitted by the Squadron Branch, one favouring the founding of other branches representing wartime units and the other urging an early start on the R.A.A.F. Memorial Centre were carried after some fairly vigorous oratory from the Squadron's delegates and Alan Piggott who was a delegate from the Ryde-Gladesville Branch (of which he is now secretary). Incidentally 458 Squadron News pays a tribute to Alan's unchanging fidelity to Squadron interests.

Both 458 delegates stood for election to the State Committee of the Association and both were elected. Alan Piggott of course was already a member of that Committee so the Squadron may be said to have a very fair representation on the Committee.

PERSONAL NEWS:

Reg. Hansell. Now a builder and carpenter, having recently done a C.R.T.S. course in these trades.

Ken Graham. Living in Melbourne and working with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (16 mm. Sales Dept.).

Junior Hawke. Fruit-growing at Orange. He would like news of Gerry Abraham (so should we).

Wal Clarke. Now in business in Chatswood. Wal was present when the Squadron wreath was laid on the Cenotaph before Anzac Day.

Bruce McDonald. Bruce, who was with 458 Photographic Section, is now auctioneering with Jack Davey.

Geoff. Wright. Flying with Quantas. Marched with the Squadron on Anzac Day.

Ron Tonkin. We understand Ron is now working in Gosford.

Bev. Wallace. We hear Bev. was in Sydney recently on a visit from New Zealand on behalf of Unilevers. Unfortunately we didn't see him but hear he is doing well.

Ken (Chico) Mercer. Living in Godalming, England, and working as a printer. Chico, who was one of 458's R.A.F. Electricians, expresses his and his family's appreciation of a Food Parcel sent by the Squadron. He wants news of or from Allan Walker, Peter McManamey and Vern. Flaherty.

Peter Pettit. Has gone to England for a couple of years to practise as a dentist there. He has gone as a fully accredited representative of the Squadron and of the Association and will be trying to contact R.A.F. 458 members. There was at one time a 458 Branch in the U.K. but there has been no news of its functioning for some years.

Jack Payne. Members will be sorry to hear that Jack will be going into Concord Hospital for an operation in the near future. We wish him the speediest of recoveries.

Bob Drinnan. Visited Sydney from Adelaide at the end of April representing a firm of Hardware Merchants. Bob, who is quite unchanged from Squadron days, was host at a party of celebration which included among a lot of others, Bob Lyndon, Peter Pettit, Tony Harris, Fred James and Fred Ayres.

Geoff. Danby. Is now living in Sydney.

Peter McManamey. Living in Newport and the father of twin daughters.

Jack Hobbs. Has written to us from Cooroy, Queensland and sends his regards to his friends.

Noel Griffiths. Is an assessor with the Sydney Taxation Dept.

Tim McQuaid is living in Barcaldine, Queensland. He is a football referee these days.

Frank Wilks. Has a garage business in Toowoomba and wrote to us a few weeks back. Frank has been married for four years now and has a small daughter. We are sure members will share our pleasure in again having news of Frank.

L. Nuske. Has rejoined the R.A.A.F. and is now stationed in Ballarat.

Al. Walker. Is living in Parramatta and working on the staff of Howard Auto-Cultivators. He wants to be remembered to Bernie Hughes and Ken Mercer, among others.

Alan McKay. "B" Flight Commander, is now in Montreal, Canada, and in Tea and Coffee business. He has sent us news of various other Squadron members, including:

Jack Harper. Married and living in Toronto, Canada, and Cyril Edwards in Birmingham, England.

Gordon Ough. Now living in St. John's, Newfoundland. We have hopes of getting some news from Gordon.

Kemp Beach. Works with the Bank of New South Wales, Head Office, Sydney, and is living in Campsie with his wife and a sizeable family of small children.

We were happy to get a letter from Rinso Purcill too, some weeks back. He lives in Orange with his wife (to whom we are grateful for being responsible for his writing!). The Squadron Assembly delegates were very disappointed at the transfer of the Assembly from Orange to Sydney as this prevented an intended get-together with Squadron members living in Orange.

Our Circulation. We are now going out to about 300 readers in different States and countries, mainly N.S.W. and Queensland. It has become desirable to know whether 458 Squadron News is wanted where it goes. Readers (other than Association members) are therefore asked to fill in and return the form at the foot of page 5.

458 Squadron in South Australia. The South Australian Branch of the Squadron continues to flourish, with Brian Woodhead as Secretary. We are indebted to Brian for our news of Alan McKay and Gordon Ough. 458 in S.A. marched behind its Banner on Anzac Day prior to holding a Reunion.

The Peanut Club. Members from Bone to Foggia will remember being enrolled by Gus Charlwood in the Peanut Club, the supporting organisation for the East Grinstead Hospital in England. The Peanut badge was next thing to regulation 458 wear at that time. The Squadron Secretary has contacted the Peanut Club again and has got a number of badges so that anyone who wants to enrol or re-enrol in the Peanut Club can now do so (Life Membership 1/6d.). This Hospital is now concentrating on the long process of plastic surgery for airmen burned or disfigured during the war. For badges write to the Squadron Secretary. The membership fee will, of course, be sent on to the Hospital.

Association Membership. We welcome to membership of the 458 Squadron Branch of the Air Force Association the following: Jack Baker, Harry Eastwood. Harry, by the way, who is living in Oldham, England, is the first R.A.F. 458 member to join the Association Branch.

Squadron Album. The Album has now been bought (being a gift from Sam Barlow). The Committee acknowledges with thanks the receipt of photographs for the Album from Jack Baker and Stuart Ricketts.

Association subscriptions. Our attention has been drawn to the fact that some 1950 subscriptions are still outstanding. Will members concerned please give the matter their consideration? We have built a 458 Branch of some size and with some standing in the Association and it would be a pity to let things slip.

Births. Our congratulations to Eric and Mrs. Munkman on the birth of a daughter (Beryl Marion).

WHAT'S TO COME:

12th Reunion. It is hoped to hold this on September 22nd and (probably) in the basement of 330 George Street. Members will be circularised. The Reunion after that (Stu. Currington please note!) has been tentatively fixed for the third Friday in February, 1951.

Cricket. There will be a regular cricket programme next summer. The Committee is at present considering the purchase of cricket gear ---towards which it acknowledges with thanks a generous gift from Jack Payne.

Golf. A golf day arranged for June 25th at Campbelltown was rained off, but it is proposed to try again soon.

COMMENT

Readers will probably agree that Squadron affairs have been going well enough lately. But, going where? What are our objectives as a Squadron? Well, the first and most important objective is what we are already trying to accomplish----keeping 458 Squadron together. That apart, 458 Squadron News suggests that the Squadron might set as an immediate objective the obtaining and furnishing of a clubroom which could be open for members use (say) once a week. Has anyone any other ideas?

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