

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.Anzac Day in Sydney.

458 Squadron marched as usual in the Air Force Section of the March. The Banner was carried by Bob Bruce, supported by Tony Harris and Jack McDonald. Dick Healey, as the A.B.C. Commentator broadcast a description of the March from Bebarfalds balcony opposite the Town Hall, and gave 458 good radio coverage. There was also a description of the Squadron from 2UE.

2nd. Annual Squadron Ball, May 11th.

This year, the Ball was held at the White City Ballroom. Guests of Honour included the State President of the Air Force Association (John Waddy) and Mr. W. Perry of the Centennial Park Cricket Association. Over 100 members and their wives and friends danced from 8.30 till 12.30 to the music of an excellent orchestra and with the Squadron Banner displayed above the Official Table. Among members seen were Col. Campbell, Barry Menser, Jack Preston, Alan Piggott, Les. Piggott, Dud. McKay, Geoff. Burgess, Jack McDonald, Pete Campbell, Cec. Nation, Peter Alexander, Alf. Hammond, Fred. Ridge, Fred. Strom, Ken Knaggs, Doug. Bennett and Shorty Wilson.

It was particularly nice to welcome Shorty Wilson who was on a visit from Melbourne and met many old friends at the Ball.

2nd. Squadron Social, June 9th.

The second of a series of Social evenings designed to enable wives and friends of invited members to meet one another was held at Campsie and again we have to thank Sam Barlow for very generous hospitality. We try to invite members who knew each other on the Squadron at the same time. Harry Baines-down from Wingham-was at this Social: looking very well and being in fact an excellent advertisement for life in the country about the advantages of which he pounded our editorial ear very convincingly.

Softball.

Rain put something of a damper on our first attempt in this new field but those who took part (at Moore Park) were enthusiastic about the game and there is no doubt about its potent ial popularity. Next game (at Moore Park) will be at 2.0 p.m. on August 19th.

Golf.

The postponed Annual Golf Day took place successfully at Campbell town on June 24th. Competitors for the Squadron Cup this year were Lofty Chalmers, Geoff. Burgess (Holder), Sam Barlow, Ray Davies, Peter Alexander, Allan Walker, Geoff. Cannon, Jack Miles, and Bob. Millar. This year's Cupholder is Allan Walker-to whom many congratulations for an excellent performance on a course full of difficulties.

Walking down the third fairway we were in time to witness a crow depart with Sam Barlow's golfball on the fifth fairway. We also witnessed-unavoidably-the Squadron Secretary slice three balls in rapid succession into the roadway from the first tee. The day ended with great jollity in the Clubhouse.

Our next Golf Day, at Campbelltown, will be on July 29th and all squadron members are invited. The Day will include a Match against 466 Squadron.

Air Force Association Annual Assembly.

The Assembly was held at Air Force House, Goulburn Street, Sydney on June 23/24th. Delegates appointed by the 458 Squadron branch were Alf. Hammond and Cec. Nation. (Alf. Hammond was unfortunately prevented from attending). Alan Piggott as a delegate from the Ryde-Gladesville branch and Pete Alexander as a State committeemember were also at the Assembly. The Squadron had put on the Agenda motions criticising the N.S.W. War Service Homes Administration and calling for an increase of the maximum permissible loan to £3000, and another urging the investment in land or buildings of funds collected by the R.A.A.F. Memorial Centre Appeal. All these points aroused considerable interest and debate. The Chief Officer of the War Service Homes Department in N.S.W. was present to explain and defend his administration. After being questioned by various delegates he offered to meet Association representatives, and this offer being acceptable the motion of criticism was withdrawn. The motions for an increased maximum loan and about the R.A.A.F. Memorial Centre were carried. Alan Piggott was later re-elected to the State Committee for two years. Pete Alexander, being elected in 1950 remains a Committee member until 1952.

The SQUADRON'S WARTIME CREST.

As members will recall, we were informed by the Department of Air that 458's wartime crest had not been registered during the war years with the Chester Herald (the responsible official of the British College of Heralds), and that the Chester Herald would not now register it. This was, of course, quite unacceptable and we promised to keep members informed of developments. Signatures were collected from members in Victoria and N.S.W. to a document verifying the use of the Crest during the war, and an approach was made through the Air Force Association to the then Minister for Air (Mr. White). From that point the story to date is best told by the following letters:

1. 458 Squadron to the Minister for Air (Mr. McBride) May 20th., 1951 (per Mr. Bruce Graham, M.P. who is an ex-airman).

Dear Sir,

This letter is addressed to you on a matter of considerable moment to wartime members of No. 458 Squadron, R.A.A.F.

This squadron served, as you will know, in Britain, the Middle East, North Africa, Italy and Gibraltar in the years 1941-45. In North Africa it adopted and continued thereafter to use in the field as the Squadron crest, the badge of which a copy is enclosed.

Recently this squadron branch of the Air Force Association requested your department to verify that all formalities incidental to the proper registration of the crest had been completed. After inquiry in Great Britain your department replied with a promptitude and courtesy which we appreciate, that its inquiries indicated that the Crest had not been registered by the Chester Herald (as Inspector of R.A.A.F. Badges) and that, as the squadron had been disbanded at the end of the war at Gibraltar, the Chester Herald would not now register it.

Further inquiries made by us indicate that with two exceptions all other R.A.A.F. squadrons stationed in the Mediterranean area have been similarly placed.

We feel that a considerable part of the history and tradition of the Royal Australian Air Force and its appeal to younger generations are imperilled by the non-recognition of its wartime Squadron crests.

The Federal Council of the Air Force Association subsequently approached your predecessor, Mr. White, at our request and asked him to direct the registration of our crest and the crests of the other Australian squadrons concerned. We understand that Mr. White viewed the matter sympathetically.

May we, with respect, and with urgency, ask that you, as Minister convey to the Inspector of R.A.A.F. Badges or other authorities concerned your desire that the crest of No. 458 Squadron, R.A.A.F. and the other squadrons concerned receive official recognition.

2. A letter requesting his continued interest in the matter was also sent to Mr. White following his appointment as High Commissioner in London.

3. Mr. T.W. White, High Commissioner, to 458 Squadron, May 25th., 1951.

I have your letter and will be only too glad to see what can be done in the way of registering the Crest of No. 458 Squadron, R.A.A.F. with the Chester Herald, when I get to London.

In the meantime, I am asking the Department of Air not to let this matter lie in abeyance and, independently of whatever action I may be able to take, to follow the matter up through Overseas Headquarters.

4. The Minister for Air (Mr. McBride) to Mr. Bruce Graham, M.P., June 7th.

I have had the opportunity of discussing your letter of 30th. May with the Hon. T.W. White who is proceeding to London as High Commissioner and, in conjunction with him, will do my best to find out what is the position regarding the Crest used by No. 458 Squadron during the War.

It will, as you suggest, be necessary to re-open the matter with the Chester Herald and, when I know what can be done, will be writing to you again.

5. Hon. Secretary, 458 Squadron to the Private Secretary to the King, May 28

Sir,

I am directed to request that you will be so good as to place the Petition and associated documents enclosed with this letter before His Majesty.

PETITION.

May it please your Majesty,

This Petition sheweth that we, the 458 Squadron Association affiliated with the Australian Flying Corps and Royal Australian Air Force Association (New South Wales Division) humbly request your Majesty to direct the recognition and registration of the Badge used by number 458 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force during your Majesty's recent hostilities with the German Republic and the Kingdom of Italy.

Number 458 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, of wartime members of which this Association is composed, served your Majesty in the United Kingdom, Egypt, North Africa, Corsica, Sardinia, Italy and Gibraltar.

While in the field in North Africa a Badge, of which a copy accompanies this Petition, was adopted and thereafter to the end of the war was regarded as the Squadron Badge. An application by the then Officer Commanding, Lieutenant-colonel B. McKenzie, D.S.O., S.A.A.F., was not, it appears, finalised since, following inquiry by this Association, the Australian Department of Air informed the Association that its inquiries indicated that the Squadron Badge had not been registered with the Chester Herald, as Inspector of Royal Australian Air Force Badges, and that, the Squadron having been disbanded at Gibraltar at the end of the war, the Chester Herald would not now register it.

At the Squadron's disbandment Parade at Gibraltar the Air Officer Commanding, Air Vice-Marshal A.C. Stevens, C.B., R.A.F., said:

"Though the Squadron is disbanded to-day, its number and its record live on, and if it is necessary to call it into being once again future generations will proudly carry on the fine example you have set."

The members of this Association feel that a large part of the history and tradition of the Squadron with which they served your Majesty will be sacrificed if the Badge used by the Squadron in the field be lost.

Accompanying this Petition is a statement signed by airmen who served with the Squadron, verifying the use of the Badge in the field.

Accordingly, we humbly petition your Majesty to direct the recognition of the Badge as the Badge of No. 458 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force.

We have the honour to be your Majesty's dutiful servants,

For the Air Force Association,
458 Squadron,

Arthur E. Campbell, President.

Peter C. Alexander, Honorary
Secretary.

Readers will be told of any developments.

VICTORIAN NEWS.

The Committee, meeting at Hutton Armstrong's premises (The West End Coffee Lounge, 145, Queen Street, Melbourne) has discussed Squadron organisation in Victoria. Careful attention was given to arrangements for the ANZAC DAY MARCH which, as members taking part know, was most successful from the Squadron viewpoint. 458 had a far better roll call than any other squadron. This year we marched behind the Desert Air Force Banner but by the next March we intend to have our own 458 Banner.

The Committee decided to hold the next Reunion on Friday, September 21st at 7.30 p.m. at Air Force House, Flinders Lane. Members will be circularised and will of course be in attendance in large numbers.

Closely following the Committee meeting came the publication of the

first issue of the Squadron BULLETIN in Victoria advising Victorian members of the latest squadron developments. 458 Squadron News in Sydney would find it hard to express too highly the pleasure with which it welcomes the appearance of its Victorian contemporary, which is a model of what such a squadron bulletin should be. The Squadron will look forward to future issues.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Charlie (Otto) Mann. Living in Teralba, Charlie says he reads the "News" with the keenest interest and sends it on to Guy Johnson in England. Charlie is coming to the next Reunion.

"Duke" Tame. Is a Hydrographer with the Victorian State Rivers Commission and stationed at Wangaratta. Married with a young daughter, Duke sends remembrances to Merv. Hargraves, Lofty Bracker, Frank Mullane and Bryan Crawford.

Tim McQuaid writes from Barcaldine where he is in the grocery business with his brother. Tim is married with one son, and says he is in regular touch with Fred Kieckham in New Guinea.

Ken. Crago is with the Namoi Flour Mills in Gunnedah and is a new member of the 458 branch of the Air Force Association.

Junior Hawke writing from Orange for his squadron badge, mentions that he is still waiting for that letter from Gerry Abraham.

Geoff. Wright: now living in Collaroy.

Bob. Colegis Foreman of Parks and Gardens at Toowoomba. Married three years ago Bob has two daughters. Says he sees Bernie Hughes often and recently saw Clive Thorpe who was about to get married. Asks to be remembered to Harry Hull and Curly Wilson.

Jack Guthrie living in Box Hill, Melbourne Jack tells us his 5 year old son is a great admirer of the Squadron badge. Jack asks after Robin Knight.

Gordon Nash is living in Preston, Melbourne.

George Merriman. The Gunnery Leader at Shallufa is living in York, England.

Bernie Hughes says he is still chasing cows and calves near Emu Vale, Q. Stuart Ricketts: is building a home in Hunters Hill, Sydney.

Robin Knight says he has recently seen Mel Priest who is now back in Kenya.

Doug. Millard is wool-growing at Humula with golf and bridge as his recreations.

Ken. (Chico) Mercer writes to us from Godalming, England.

Ken. Pond is a Civil Servant in England.

Harry Eastwood in Oldham, England asks to be remembered to Jack McPhee.

Bob. Helyar and Bob Male: have sold their garage at Tara and are both woolgrowing in that area.

Chas. Richardson: has returned to Brisbane from Clifton.

Jim. Brown: who will be remembered as an early 453 man is a grazier at Kumburilla, Queensland.

Erle Hetherington is Commonwealth Government officer in charge at Melville Island.

Lock Simpson: in Dalby recently became the father of a daughter (Judith).

Terry Waldon has a son (Geoff.)

Harry Sorensen has recently returned to Sydney after radio-announcing in Japan and England.

Jack Wilson is running the local electricity supply at Collareenabri.

Arnold Ashton has moved to West Australia.

Ralph Bailey is practising dentistry in Wollongong.

Peter Baillie has a house in Cammeray with his wife and two daughters.

Lofty Bracker is working with Qantas in Sydney and hopes to go to Britain next year.

Johnny Bryson in Alice Springs recently became engaged and has our congratulations.

Pete Campbell recently moved to a new house in Pymble.

Brian Lord is an accountant with a timber firm.

Bill Sullivan is well known as a radio and stage star in Sydney.

Barry Menser is a manufacturer and lives in Dulwich Hill.

Doug. McGuigan is with the Repatriation Department in Sydney.

Evan Toyer is in business in Croydon.

Our sympathy to Cec. Nation and to Lock Simpson in their recent bereavements.

The Squadron's congratulations and good wishes to the following members who have all recently married; Geoff. Cannon, Snowy Fennell and Bill Turler.

Sydney members will join with the greatest pleasure in congratulating committeemember Bob Bruce and Betty on the arrival of their son (Stephen).

SQUADRON BADGES.

A further supply of squadron badges has been received from the manufacturers and members not yet in possession of a badge can obtain one from the Sydney Secretary (120, Wycombe Rd., Neutral Bay, Sydney) for 4/- plus postage. South Australian members can obtain theirs from Brian Woodhead, 10, Cowra Street, Mile End, Adelaide.

THE MUTUAL AID SCHEME.

The N.S.W. Committee is anxious to extend the operation of the Scheme and seeks members' co-operation. The idea is that members of the squadron may be able to help each other in obtaining goods on reasonable terms or goods which are difficult to get. Will members please advise the Secretary of any way in which they can help? Applications for help should be made through the Secretary and will be dealt with by the responsible sub-committee only.

COMING EVENTS.

Sydney REUNION. The next Reunion will be held on Friday September 21st, 7.30 p.m. at 330, George Street, Sydney. A big attendance of country members is already assured.

Golf. There will be golf at Campbelltown on July 29th and September 2nd. The July 29th day will include a match against 466 Sqn.

Socials. It is hoped to hold further Squadron Socials for members and their wives. Members invited can look forward to a most enjoyable evening.

Melbourne Reunion. The second Melbourne Reunion will, as announced above, be held at Air Force House, 45, Flinders Lane, Melbourne on Friday September 21st, at 7.30.

458 SQUADRON in QUEENSLAND.

We are happy to give advance information of a most important piece of news for Queensland members.

There will be a Squadron Reunion in Brisbane at the end of May 1952. For the Reunion to be a success, as we are sure it will be, it will be necessary for country members to attend in very large numbers and we ask these members to arrange their holidays so that they can be at the Reunion. Further details as to date and place will be circularised.

CRICKET.

The committee in N.S.W. has obtained additional cricket gear and every thing is ready for another full and happy cricket season. The first game will be at Centennial Park on September 23rd.

Committee members in N.S.W.

Members should make a note of the addresses of their committee officers who they can contact for information about squadron affairs.

President: Pete Campbell Phone: Home JX 3942
28, Pentecost Highway Business: BX 5671
Pybble.

Vice Presidents:
Alf Hammond,
78, Wardell Road,
Petersham.
Cec. Nation
52, Underwood Road,
Homebush Home: UM 9724

Treasurer: Sam Barlow Home: LF 1991
252, Beamish Street,
Campsie. Business: LF3672

Secretary: Pete Alexander Business: M 0421
120, Wycombe Road,
Neutral Bay. (Ext. 417)

Further committee members addresses will be published in our next issue.

AUTHORISED BY THE EDITOR. Peter Alexander, 120, Wycombe Rd.
Neutral Bay, Sydney.

To Mr. P.C. Alexander, Hon. Secretary, 120, Wycombe Rd. Neutral Bay, Sydney.

I can assist fellow members of 458 Squadron through the MUTUAL AID SCHEME in the following ways.

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SIGNED.....