



The Editor:

G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W.

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458 Squadron News wishes its readers throughout the five continents of the world a happy and successful year in 1952.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.

Squadron Events in N.S.W.

Squadron Social and Christmas Party, December 15th.

The third Social was held at Sam Barlow's flat at Campsie. Just under 40 squadron members and wives and friends were invited and had a festive and jolly evening. Sam's hospitality is well known and we have an affectionate memory for the Lobster salad he served this time, to say nothing of the Toohey's Special or of the cocktail prepared during the evening by Allan Walker and named by someone the "Foggia Bomb".

Members there included Sam Barlow, Jack Aitken, Peter Alexander, Black-Jack Baker, Red-Jack Baker, Doug. Bennett, Bob Bruce, Geoff. Burgess, Owen Crompton, Ray Davies, Alf. Hammond, Cliff. Hayward, Bob. Millar, Tom Moore, Eric Munkman, Allan Macmaster, Cec. Nation, Alan Piggott, Bert Thompson, Allan Walker and Lance Wood.

At the Long Bar, December 19th.

Members met informally to exchange Christmas greetings over a glass of beer at the Long Bar, Hotel Australia.

Cricket.

Our cricket team has continued on its ambitious season's programme. "Run-to-Cover"'s review may be found below.

Cricket Comments.

by

"Run-to-Cover"

Three matches were arranged for the period since I last reported. The first, against 3 Squadron—on November 18th—must be disregarded as a match owing to shortage of players. The scratch game played involved a most creditable and marathon batting and bowling effort by the four representatives of 3 Squadron and a marathon fielding effort by everyone.

The second match was against the Water Conservation Commission, on December 16th. This was the only team to beat us last year. The game was expected to be a heavy scoring match since both sides were believed to be strong in batting and not so strong in bowling. The reverse proved to be the event, 458 being dismissed for 114 and the Commission for 65. The Commission included two grade players, one of whom scored a spectacular century against 458 last season. If asked to

Account for the low scoring I can only note that the bowlers got some change of pace and height from the pitch and the batsmen seemed to lack concentration. I thought that for 458 Reg. Taylor shewed promising form with both bat and ball. Scores were:

458 SQUADRON		v. WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION.		
Alexander	b. Clarke	0	S. Scott Not out	18
Barlow	b. Ward	9	D. Clarke c. Cowel b. Crompton	4
Crompton	lbw b. Burke	37	J. Walker c. Barlow b. Walker	3
McKay	b. Burke	9	J. Burke b. Barlow	16
Walker	b. Burke	11	C. McCauley b. Taylor	9
Cowel	b. Burke	4	P. Haigh c. Walker b. Barlow	0
Taylor	lbw b. Scott	24	S. R. Bruce b. Taylor	4
Campbell	b. Burke	4	C. Ward c. Taylor b. McKay	4
Baker	lbw b. Bennett	2	D. Bennett c. Baker b. McKay	1
Miller, J.	c. McCauley b. Bennett	0		
Millar	Not out	1		
Sundries		13	Sundries	6

114

65

458 Squadron won by 49 runs.

The third game arranged was prevented by heavy rain.

### The PEANUT CLUB.

Members will recall the Peanut Club as the organisation formed to raise money for the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, (the Plastic surgery centre in England). Gus Charlwood introduced most of us who were with 458 at Bone and thereafter to membership of the club. The squadron raised enough money to endow a bed in the proposed children's ward.

Subsequent developments for the fund seem to have been unhappy. Three squadron members in England (Dick Rutter, Harry Eastwood and Peter Pettit) have drawn our attention to an editorial in the London Sunday Express about the Peanut Club funds. This is too long to reproduce and, being efficient journalism, not easy to condense, but it appears that in all £24,000 was raised for the ward and after the nationalisation of British hospitals continued to be held in trust for its original purpose of endowing the children's ward. Now, it appears, the British Ministry of Health has claimed the money for its General Endowment Fund—from which all British hospitals are financed. The Sunday Express editorial, which is headed "Plain Robbery" includes these words about the affair:

"Money poured in.... All the Services, deeply grateful for what the Hospital had done for their men gave generously. The Navy, Army and Air Force each contributed the cost of a cot. So did R.A.F. Squadron 458..... In 1949 it (the Peanut Club) assured the new State Management Committee that the money was still available for its original purpose whenever needed..... Now, suddenly, the Trustees have received a curt letter..... the letter states, without a word of thanks, gratitude, or simple human understanding, that, under the National Health Act, the money belongs to the Ministry of Health..... As for the Queen Victoria's Children's ward, the writer of the letter adds curtly 'the cost of that, if and when built, will be borne by the Exchequer.' Meanwhile, the Children's ward of the Hospital remains a temporary hut with 14 cots crushed into a space suitable only for eight, and according to one of the surgeons, in a state of dilapidation without equal in a good hospital."

The Squadron Committee in N.S.W. has written to the Ministry of Health in Britain. As it is probable that not many of the other major contributors, particularly the service units, are now in a position to express their views, the Squadron may be thought to speak for the donors to the Peanut Club as a whole. This is the letter.

The Minister of Health,

Dear Sir,

A proposal understood to emanate from your department has been brought to the attention of the Committee of this squadron that the funds collected by the "Peanut Club" organisation of the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, England, should be compulsorily transferred to your Ministry's General Endowment Fund.

Wartime members of this Squadron were substantial donors to the

"Peanut Club" funds on the clear understanding that these funds were to be used for the endowment of a Wing of the Queen Victoria Hospital.

The Squadron Committee instructs me to inform you that squadron members strongly object to the funds being used for other purposes than those for which they were subscribed.

The Committee has also drawn the attention of the Sunday Express to the fact that 458 was a Royal Australian Air Force Squadron.

#### THE SQUADRON LETTERHEADS.

Members who have been in correspondence with the Sydney Secretary will have seen the new letterheads being used for official squadron correspondence. These bear the Squadron (post war) badge as well as the Air Force Association badge.

#### CHRISTMAS.

We received Christmas cards from many members, including the following: Mel Priest, Ken Mercer, Jack Hobbs, Graeme Coombes, Harry Baines, Alan Piggott, Allan Walker, Ross Burgess, Bob Bruce, Eric Munkman, Wal Clarke, Terry Waldon, Eric Jewell and Brian Woodhead (S.A. Secretary).

#### TREE PLANTING.

The N.S.W. Division of the Air Force Association has circularised its branches drawing their attention to 458's recent planting of a Tree in memory of its wartime dead, at the R.A.A.F. Station, Richmond and suggesting that they might like to take some similar action.

#### OTHER SQUADRONS.

Readers may be interested in a brief survey of the other squadrons in the post-war years and to know—as far as we ourselves know it—what their activities and who their officers are in N.S.W.

3 Squadron has a well-knit organisation with ramifications in the other states. In Sydney it makes a big Reunion lunch on Anzac Day its chief annual function and in addition has cinema and other social functions from time to time. It has a badge and issues a periodical newspaper similar to 458 Squadron News. 3 Squadron's organising Secretary, the well known and energetic Alec MacDonald has recently retired from that position and will be very much missed. His successor is another well known 3 Squadron personality, Ned White, of Woodland St., Baulkham Hills.

455 Squadron under the presidency of a former C.O., Jack Davenport, have formed a branch of the Air Force Association. They hold a Reunion on the first Friday of each month. Secretary Ted Watson, of 29, Wharf Rd., Gladesville.

460 Squadron hold a periodic Reunion and an Annual Ball. We have, though not recently, seen some circular News-letters issued by 460, whose present Secretary is Les Lewarne, 26, Pritchard St., Annandale.

454/459 Squadrons hold a joint Annual Reunion around Anzac Day. Organiser being former adjutant G. Barnard of 73, Pacific Highway, North Sydney.

10/461 Squadrons have combined in the Sunderland Squadrons branch of the Air Force Association. Present Secretary is V.J. McCauley, C/o Air Force Association, Sydney.

Other squadrons which hold an Annual or bi-annual Reunion in Sydney include 2 Sqn, 22, 450, 451, 457, 463, and 70.

#### THE HISTORY OF 458 SQUADRON.

After much delay due to our inability to get access to the official records, we are about to make a start with the writing of the History of 458 Squadron. We still have not got the official records but hope to overcome that problem in one way or another soon. The Committee asks each of you to play a part in this venture, as you did in the events the History will chronicle. Will each member devote an hour of his time to recording the data set out at the end of this issue of the Sqn. News, please? The data should then be returned to the N.S.W. Secretary, G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney. Over to you!

PERSONAL NEWS.

Kevin Walsh is a solicitor practicing in Goulburn. He will be glad to see any squadron member who may be passing through.

Ken Mercer hopes to get married at Easter. Congratulations, Chico!

Cliff Hayward recently visited South Australia where he saw Brian Woodhead and Mal Goers.

George Connors in Brisbane sends regards to all the boys, especially to Tony Harris, Fred James, Jack Aitken and Bill McFadden.

Russ Coghlan is in Werribee, Victoria.

Alistair (Jack) McGregor is a Dispensing Chemist in Berrigan, N.S.W.

Dick Watson has been in Melbourne on furlough from Djakarta.

Bob Scholes is now at Walgett, N.S.W.

C.G. Johnston is a bank officer with the Commonwealth Bank in Victoria.

Ken Crago who is in Gunnedah tells us he recently saw Johnny Bryson holidaying there.

John Bryson got married recently and is transferring from the Commonwealth Bank at Alice Springs to its branch at Goulburn.

Jim Palmer in Kojonup, W.A. tells us he has recently seen Freddy Ray, Stan Long and Len Stewart.

Harry Jenkins who is a qualified Male Nurse may soon, we understand, be going to the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, England.

Snowy Atherton in Sarina, North Queensland, has sold his garage business and is now in the Sugar business as a grower. He has had some ill-health but has thrown it off. Sends his regards to his friends and says he has seen Scottie Campbell and has had news of Jack Carter.

Eric Jewell has written to us from the Repatriation Hospital in Melbourne where he is improving in health.

John Hamilton is now living in Sydney and is working with a Timber company.

Our congratulations to Stuart and Iris Ricketts on the birth of a son, and to Geoff and Gwen Burgess on the birth of their daughter (Margaret).

A. McLean is now living in Bexley, Sydney.

Bill (Hot Horse) Hortin lives at Young's Siding near Albany in W.A. now.

Jack Lewis is in Brisbane.

Doug Bennett one of the leading lights of the cricket team has become engaged to Miss Tamar Haigh and has our sincere congratulations.

Snowy Fennell and "Flash" Thomas from Bourke and Adelaide respectively were very welcome visitors at the January Committee meeting in Sydney.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION—458 SQUADRON Branch.

Air Force Association members are reminded that 1952 subscriptions are due now. These were recently increased by the Association to 15/- per annum (plus 5/- if "Wings" is desired). Subscriptions should be sent to the Squadron Secretary in N.S.W. Members will be interested in some statistics about the 458 Squadron branch. At the end of 1951 the Branch was 90% financial and in the year had increased its membership by 26%—which are pretty good figures.

The SQUADRON ALBUM.

The Committee acknowledges with thanks photographs for the Album from Jim Palmer. Members who have not already done so are asked to consider whether they have any photographs of squadron interest which they can give or lend (to be copied) for the Album.

WHAT'S TO COME.N.S.W. Programme.

Cricket. The following fixtures have been arranged for the remainder of the season.

January	20th.	458 v. Western Suburbs branch of Air Force Ass'n, No. 21 Pitch, Centennial Park.
February	3rd.	458 v. R.A.A.F. Station, Rathmines, at Rathmines.
	17th	458 v. Newcastle Air Force Club, No. 21 Pitch, Centennial Park.
March	2nd.	458 v. Dept. of Social Service, Centennial Park.
(Tentative)	16th.	458 v. Howard Auto-Cultivators, at Cumberland Oval.
	30th.	458 v. East Fairfield.

The Squadron team will be in Newcastle for the Saturday night before the match at Rathmines, staying at the Grand Hotel, Bolton

and Church Streets. They will be glad of the support of any local squadron barrackers.

15th. Squadron Reunion, N.S.W.

This will be held on February 29th at 7.30 p.m. at 330, George Street, Sydney (Basement). Notices will be sent out to members as usual.

Squadron Reunion in Brisbane.

All arrangements have now been made for a 458 Queensland Reunion in Brisbane on Saturday May 31st at Anzac House. We hope Queensland Country members will arrange their holidays so that they can attend. There will be a sizeable party from N.S.W. including, according to present intentions, Pete Campbell, Sam Barlow, Cec. Nation, Black-Jack Baker, Peter Alexander.

N.S.W. Committee.

The Committee and officers will shortly be due for election. Offices to be filled are

President,  
Two Vice Presidents,  
Hon. Treasurer,  
Hon. Secretary,  
Ten committee members  
Hon. Auditor.

Nominations may be sent in (to the Hon. Secretary) at any time now.

Subscriptions.

The Editor has received 1952 subscriptions to the Squadron News from many members in all states. Some members have paid for the News as a present for other members.

Members we should like to hear from.

There are a large number of squadron members we should like to hear from but in particular we have had inquiries about the well-being of the following: Bob Dangaard, Geoff. Hyles, Cyril Murray, Bill Fiddes, and Lloyd O' Brien.

Authorised by the Editor, G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W.  
AUSTRALIA.

The History of 458 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

Your name:.....  
 Service number.....  
 Peacetime occupation before the war.....  
 " " now.....  
 Where did you join 458 Squadron.....  
 When " " .....

Where did you leave 458 Squadron.....  
 When " " .....

Where were you posted when you left 458?.....  
 Who was the officer or N.C.O. in charge of your Flight or Section?  
 .....

Who were the other members of your crew (where applicable) and what  
 were their trades or musteringings?.....  
 .....

For ex-Aircrew members. Please give a brief description of a  
 typical operation at each place where the Squadron served in your time:  
 i.e. where briefed and by whom, usual times of take off and return,  
 length of trip, load carried (bombs or D.C.s), any special difficulties  
 encountered.....

List sightings or observed operational results recorded by your crew.

For Ground Staff members. Please list and describe generally the equipment on which or with which you worked, e.g. Pegasus engines, R1155 wireless receiver, and the like and state any special problems encountered.

General-for all members. Please describe any squadron episodes you recall, operational, dramatic, humorous, which stand out in your memory of 458 Squadron.....

Please use separate sheets of paper if this form doesn't give you enough space, and when complete return to the Hon. Secretary, G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.