



The Editor:

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

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April, 1952.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.458 in N.S.W.Annual Meeting and 15th. Reunion.

The Reunion, held on February 29th and as usual at 330, George Street, Sydney, was distinguished for the number of relatively rarely seen members who turned up, as well as for a few notable absentees. The Roll Call was

Col. Campbell	Bob. Millar	Bill Perkins	Bob. Bruce	A. Hammond
A. Piggott	G. Burgess	B. Lyndon	J. Pilcher	F. Ayres
C. Hayward	G. Bradd	C. Nation	J. Aitken	F. Keith
J. McDonald	J. Nichols	E. Munkman	F. Ridge	D. Bennett
T. Moore	B. Reynolds	D. McKay	J. Wilson	W. Rowell
A. Walker	B. Thompson	F. Strom	F. James	M. Bracker
A. McMaster	C. Green	N. Walter	C. Ruthven	J. Pomfrett
B. Fiddes	R. Davies	Red-Jack Baker	B. Lord	B. Turler
V. Bartlett	T. Harris	J. Ellis	C. Jones	B. Balmer
D. Bitmead	R. Tyson	K. Beach	R. Scholes	S. Ricketts
G. Coombes	C. Tillack	B. Carr	W. Archbold	J. McPhee
Pete Campbell	L. Kew	P. Alexander	T. Mitchell.	J. Wadsworth

It was nice to welcome the Squadron Secretary in Victoria, Bill Carr, and also Jack Ellis who had flown up from Melbourne for the Reunion.

The usual 27 gallons of iced beer were provided and dealt with. During the evening the Squadron read and adopted the Committee's Annual Report and accounts, re-elected Squadron officers, and, after a Ballot, elected a Committee for the forthcoming year.

Bob Bruce as acting Treasurer performed the distinctly arduous duties of that office throughout the Evening. To him, to Doug Bennett as Returning Officer, to Fred Ayres as provider of the beer and to Bob Millar as chief Barman thanks are due. Financially, income exactly covered the costs of the Reunion.

The Squadron Committee elected is:

President:	Pete Campbell
Vice Presidents:	Alf. Hammond Cec. Nation
Hon. Treasurer	Sam. Barlow
Hon. Secretary:	Peter Alexander

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Committee Members:

Bob. Bruce            Tony Harris        Dud. McKay        Eric Munkman     Ern. Doman  
Tom Moore            Jack Baker        Alan Piggott     Allan Walker     Cliff. Hayward.

Hon. Auditor: Doug. Bennett, A.A.A.

Cricket.

Cricket has been a major 458 activity recently. "Run-to-Cover"'s comments are to be found on another page.

The SQUADRON WARTIME CREST: Letter from the Governor-General.

Readers are all familiar with the Committee's long continued negotiations for the recognition of the Squadron's wartime crest—a formality which got overlooked during the war—negotiations culminating in a formal Petition addressed to the King. We have now received a formal answer, from Government House, Canberra.

"I am directed by the Governor-General to refer again to your Petition requesting that recognition and registration of the badge used by No. 458 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, be granted. As you know from my letter of 1st. August, 1951, the matter was referred for consideration to His Majesty's Minister for Air in Australia and the Minister's advice has now been received.

I am to say that the Royal Australian Air Force has given full consideration to all factors relating to the desirability of approaching His Majesty the King with a view to securing registration of the badge of No. 458 Squadron. In the view of the Minister, the only justification for such action would be that the Squadron was merely dormant and ready to be manned, equipped, and take the field with its old traditions intact. The Governor-General has been informed, however, that these circumstances are not applicable to No. 458 Squadron in that it has been disbanded, and it is not at present intended that the Squadron will be reactivated.

Accordingly, the Minister has recommended that your Petition be not granted, and has informed the High Commissioner for Australia in London, who was in touch with the Chester Herald. Acting on his Minister's advice, and after consideration of all the circumstances, His Excellency has declined to grant your request and I am to advise you accordingly.

In conclusion, I am to say that this decision has been based on the policy which will be applied to all Squadrons where the circumstances are similar to those applying in the case of No. 458 Squadron."

Yours faithfully,

M. L. Tyrrell,

Official Secretary.

There are a number of comments which can be made about this decision but it should first be made clear that it in no way affects the fact that, with or without heraldic registration, the squadron's wartime crest was and is the crest of 458 Squadron, R.A.A.F., and secondly that it in no way affects the squadron post-war badge (of which more below).

We should however have supposed it obvious (the Minister, Mr. McMahon, notwithstanding) that it was in R.A.A.F. interests that R.A.A.F. traditions should be preserved and cherished and that the registration of 458's badge was a mere recognition of historical facts.

While there is at present little that can be done, nevertheless—other Ministers, other policies—and any acquiescence on our part in the permanence of this decision is unthinkable.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge with its thanks sympathetic consideration given in this matter by Sir Thomas White, High Commissioner in London, and by Mr. Bruce Graham, M.P.

After all that it is pleasant to be able to publish something more satisfactory.

The PEANUT CLUB.

The controversy over the use of the funds collected for the endowment of the Children's ward, including the 458 Squadron cot, at the East Grinstead Hospital, has been settled quite satisfactorily. The Squadron Committee has received, by airmail, advice from the British Ministry of Health that:

"In view of the misunderstandings that had arisen, the Trustees of the Fund asked the Minister for the following assurances:-

1. That the work of building the Children's Wing would be started in 1952 and carried on with all reasonable speed.
2. That a sum not less than £24,000 would be expended on its erection and furnishing.
3. That the Peanut Club would be associated with the Wing by means of a suitably inscribed tablet, to the effect that the Wing commemorated the raising of £24,000 by the members of the Peanut Club.
4. That all who subscribed for the specific purpose of naming memorial cots would have them named in accordance with their wishes.
5. That a public opening ceremony would be arranged in association with the Trustees, and that all members of the Club should have the opportunity of attending."

The letter from the Ministry goes on:

"The Minister willingly gave all these assurances, and the Trustees replied that this had given very deep satisfaction to them and would do to all the donors of the money. It is expected that the work of building will start in the early summer.

"I trust that this will remove any fears felt by members of your squadron that the money subscribed to the Peanut Club was being wrongly used."

The Squadron Committee has expressed its satisfaction at receiving the above letter.

The POST-WAR SQUADRON BADGE.

That is, the light blue, Winged Torpedo, badge we wear in our lapels. The Committee applied some months ago for registration of this badge as the Squadron's, under the Designs Act. After some delay due to the Secretary's difficulties in filling in the Application Form to the satisfaction of the Designs Office, the Squadron was informed, on March 19th, that "Registration of the Design has been approved", under the Commonwealth Designs Act. This means that for five years (which may be extended) the Squadron has an exclusive legal right to its post-war badge.

The Regulations under the Charitable Collections Act in N.S.W. were amended some months ago to give the 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association, which branch is a registered charity, the exclusive right to raise money in N.S.W. from the sale of a Winged Torpedo design.

So, all in all, 458 has a fairly secure legal grip on the Winged Torpedo.

From NAKURU, KENYA. News from the Colonel.

Colonel McKenzie writes: "Many thanks for January Sqdn. News. I enjoyed it. I have collected together and listed a number of photos which I hope may be of use to you. Am also busy getting as much as I can from my log book and memory on 458 History from when I joined in Feb. 1943 to when I left end of October 1943. .... I am flying to Europe in June and am spending a day with Sir H.P. Lloyd, A.O., C. Bomber Command.... He remembers 458 only too well.

... Regards to all,

yours,

Bruce McKenzie."

PERSONALITIES.

Ron Pomfrett has been working with a firm making fishing gear and living in Sydney.

Jack Pomfrett is Sales Manager for a caravan park in Newcastle.

Bev Wallace, recently in Sydney on a visit from N.Z. expects to go to the U.K. to do an Administrative course at Levers Training College in Henley. Bev wh is married with three children, asks to be remembered to his friends.

Brian Lord is building a home at Narwee.

Johnny Pilcher who was a most welcome member at the recent Reunion is now in Inverell, N.S.W. where he has a sheep property. John has four sons.

Wilbur Rowell in the years since the war has graduated in law, now works with the M.L.C., is married and lives in Collaroy with his wife and daughter.

Rex Tyson works with the Stud and Stock Dept. of Daigety's in Sydney. Rex is married and has two daughters. Asks to be remembered to

Neil McPhee who is understood to be with the Australasian Paper and Pulp Coy in Melbourne.

Eric Cox members will be sorry to hear that Eric has been in Hospital in Adelaide. All good wishes for a speedy recovery, Eric.

Bert Thompson Very hearty congratulations to Bert on the arrival of his first son, Christopher.

Bob Scholes whom also we were very glad to see at the Reunion, is over seeing at Brewon Station. Bob looks very well.

Bill Turier (we decided not to quote you after all, Bill) is with the Bank of New South Wales, Manly.

Doc Wadsworth has now returned to Sydney. He is specialising in Ear Nose and Throat surgery. While in England he became an F.R.C.S. (Eng.) and D.L.O. (London).

Lofty Bracker is flying with Qantas as a Navigation Officer. He recently saw Ernie Laming in Japan.

Ernie Laming spent a few days at Richmond on his way to Japan where he has been posted for a tour. Some of his friends were able to see him in Sydney, and found him little changed from squadron days: if anything a little younger looking! Ernie gave us some valuable help towards the Squadron History.

Fred Strom is studying very hard for the Teachers Examinations.

George Bradd asks to be remembered to Ken Pond.

Charley Ruthven who has a bakery business in Hornsby, Sydney, had a near escape in recent bushfires.

Athol Kerry who also lives in Hornsby seems to be doing well. We hear of him as having two sons, a daughter and a new car.

Freddy Ridge: Fred announces that he is back in uniform—working, like Alf Hammond, with the Sydney Harbour Bridge authority.

Jim Brown lives at Fairfield and works with a Printing Machinery Company.

John Kenyo: who will be remembered as an R.A.F. member of 458 Sqnd, is now in the R.A.A.F. in Victoria.

J. Sharpley is with the R.A.A.F. at Point Cook.

Jack Bevan in Wollongong, says he sees Ralph Bailey there from time to time—not altogether pleasantly as he, Jack, is usually in the chair and Ralph wielding a dentist's drill.

Buck Pedersen. We understand we misreported Buck recently in saying that he had two daughters. Buck tells us it should have been four.

"Hoot" Gibson of 458 Electrical Section lives in Toowoomba, Queensland, with his wife and two children, and operates a Road Service for the "Courier-Mail" from Toowoomba to Chinchilla. Asks to be remembered to and would like to hear from Jim Palmer.

Len Thiele. We are glad to welcome Len to membership of the 458 Sqnd, branch of the Air Force Association. Len is a well-known Actor and broadcaster.

Dick Boydell who we saw during the Cricket team's recent visit to Newcastle writes to express his regret at not making the last Reunion owing to a series of misfortunes which have now passed off.

Ken Mercer expects to get married at Easter. All our good wishes to you, Ken!

Jim Palmer writing from the West tells us that any 458 farmers looking for land at reasonable prices will find it in the West. He tells us there may be a 458 Reunion in Perth before too long.

Tom Bridge is doing an Engineering Degree course at Sydney University. Lock Simpson recently passed through Sydney on the way to New Zealand and was met by a number of old squadron friends. Lock hopes to hear from Stan Tarczynski.

Les Piggott is now living at Maroubra.

Bill Fiddes after some time in New Guinea goldmining has now established a Real Estate business in Newcastle. Proposes to visit the U.K. in the near future. Wishes to be remembered to Jim Brown.

Cliff Jones in partnership with his father in business in Waverley. Living at Maroubra Bay.

Noel Walter works with Qantas, and also continues his interest in Church affairs being Sunday School Superintendent and retiring Circuit Steward with the Methodist Church.

Cliff Tillack with the P.M.G., Sydney, City East section.

J.D. McKenzie is farming at Gelliondale in Victoria. Married with two sons and a daughter, he asks to be remembered to his old friends, in particular Eric Both and Bernie Hughes.

Bill Addinall after obtaining his engineering degree is now teaching at North Sydney.

Fred James in connection with the Mutual Aid Scheme, Fred is willing to advise other members with building problems.

Lofty Chalmers is now headmaster of the Gulargambone Aboriginal School.

Bob Helyar lives at Tara in Queensland and hopes to be at the forthcoming Brisbane Reunion.

Bill Johnson writing from Melbourne asks to be remembered to Darky Crompton, Dud. McKay, Tony Harris and members of the 458 Cricket and football teams.

D.I. (Silver Fox) McDonald has returned to Ireland with his wife.

#### CONGRATULATIONS.

Are due to the following members and their wives:

Col. and Mrs. Campbell: a daughter, Jan Alyson.

Stuart and Mrs. Ricketts: a son, Graeme Stuart.

Jack and Mrs. Baker: a daughter, Pauline.

Bert and Mrs. Thompson: a son, Christopher

#### Cricket Comments

by

"Run-to-Cover".

Five matches have been played since my last report and this of course is more than I am allowed space to publish the scores of.

The first game was against the Western Suburbs branch of the Air Force Association; a very pleasant team of sportsmen. 458 batted first, scoring 110 for which they were substantially indebted to Sam Barlow, who made 46. Sam also played a major part in the dismissal of the other side for 91, finishing with an average of 4 wickets for 7 runs.

The next game was an ambitious one entailing a week end trip to Newcastle to play R.A.A.F. Station, Rathmines. The team had a very enjoyable Saturday evening in Newcastle with local 458 members, and received excellent hospitality from the Newcastle Air Force Club. Next morning the team, including three Newcastle members, drove to Rathmines to play cricket. 458 won the toss and batted on matting for the first time. The regular 458 batsmen gave a truly deplorable exhibition of their inability to bat on matting (with the honorable exception, that is, of Bob Millar). 6 wickets fell for 26 runs. However at that point George Morgan stopped the rot with an innings it was delightful to see and with Bob Millar, who topscored with 30, and Frank Mullane raised the total to 120. The squadron's accurate and hostile medium pace bowling and keen fielding then proved good enough to dismiss Rathmines for 61. Two notable catches were made by Geoff Burgess and Ross Burgess. The day at Rathmines, apart from the cricket, was very moderately enjoyable.

Against the Dept. of Social Service in Sydney on March 2nd, 458 had the defeat deserved by a team which fields only six players. Allan Walker took 5 wickets for 6 runs off 4 overs but the team's general tendency this season to "leave it to the bowlers" this time left too much to the bowlers.

Due to play again on March 16th the squadron, left without opponents played a game against another team similarly placed (the Painters and Dockers Union, on a neighbouring pitch). This was an enjoyable game. 458 made 180 (Sam Barlow 71), and the Union 43.

The last game, with the East Fairfield Cricket Club, on their ground, was on matting. The home team batted first, making 110. Eric

Munkman, with his consistent hostility, moved the ball sharply both ways in the air, and Ernie Doman, slow right arm, bowled accurately and deceptively. After the opening batsmen, for 458, had worn down the hostility of the opening bowling, the Squadron went on to make 218. Reg. Taylor and Eric Munkman scored well.

Of eleven games this season 458 won 9—which isn't bad—and enjoyed them all—which is excellent.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Will members please note the following announcements carefully, as it may not be possible to issue special circulars for each function.

ANZAC DAY MARCH.

The Squadron will assemble outside the Road Transport Building in Macquarie Street, Sydney as usual, at 9.30. You are asked to march with 458 and to arrive early. This is 458's chief public appearance in the year and we should have a good roll up.

A wreath will be laid (in memory of the squadron's wartime dead) on the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday evening April 24th. You are invited to accompany the Squadron President at this ceremony.

SQUADRON PICNIC.

There will be a special Picnic for squadron members their wives children and friends on the Sunday immediately following Anzac Day: that is, on April 27th. This will be at Lane Cove National Park. These are the arrangements. Transport, very kindly provided by Eric Munkman will leave Chatswood Station (Tramline side) at 10.0 and again at 10.30 on the Sunday morning. Entrance to National Park is at Fullers Bridge, No. 7 Site, where there are swings, etc for the children has been selected in National Park. A programme of games is being organised by Ernie Doman (and there will be prizes!). Members should of course bring lunch. If there is any last minute doubt about the weather a phone call to Eric Munkman at JA 4061 will tell you if the Picnic is still on or not. A lot of organisation has been put into this Picnic, in the beautiful and easily accessible surroundings of National Park and it deserves your attendance.

THE THIRD ANNUAL 458 SQUADRON BALL (Country Members also please note)

The SQUADRON BALL will take place on Friday May 23rd., at the White City Ballroom, Rushcutters Bay, Sydney, at 8.30 p.m. Tickets, 15/- each from the Squadron Secretary, G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney.

This will be the highlight of the Squadron year. A first rate orchestra, an ideal Ballroom and the gay company of many old friends and their families and friends, will make it an occasion you will remember. We want to see you there, with your family and friends. Tables may be reserved. Dress is optional but we invite you to wear your dinner jacket.

To The Squadron Secretary,  
Box 5289,  
G.P.O.,  
Sydney, N.S.W.

Please send me.....tickets for the Third Annual Squadron Ball to be held at the White City Ballroom, Sydney on Friday May 23rd. I enclose....., being 15/- per ticket. Please reserve me a table for.....persons.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

(Please turn over).

BRISBANE REUNION.

There will be a REUNION of 458 Squadron at Anzac House, Brisbane, at 7.0.p.m. on Saturday, May 31st.

Queensland members, and indeed members from all states are asked to make every possible effort to be present and to make the Reunion the success it should be. It is known that quite a large party will be making the trip north from N.S.W. for the Reunion.

Charge per head, including beer and supper, will be 10/-.

GOLF.

Golf days have been arranged for squadron members on the following Sundays at Campbelltown Golf Club.

May 25th.

July 13th.

August 31st.

September 21st.

Trains leave Central Station at 9.25 a.m. and reach Campbelltown in time for play to start about 10.30. Members should bring a picnic lunch. The Squadron Golf Cup will be competed for on one of these Sundays.

Other Items.AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION-458 SQUADRON Branch.

We welcome to membership the following: John Plicher, Rom Pomfrett, Allan Macmaster, Len. Thiele, Cliff Jones, Wal Clarke.

There will be an Air Force Get-together at Air Force House, Goulburn Street, Sydney after the Anzac Day March. A.F.A. members wearing badges, and accompanied by one friend, are entitled to attend.

The SQUADRON ALBUM.

The Committee acknowledges with thanks photographs from Bob Helyar, Freddy James, Pete Campbell and Bill Carr. The Album will be on display at the Brisbane Reunion.

COMMENT.

The beginning of a new year of 458 activity is an excellent occasion for reflection on where we are, as a squadron, and where we are going.

Squadron Committees might reflect on the energy and success of their efforts at organisation. Each individual member of the squadron might consider whether he is pulling his weight.

In our view, 458 will go just as far, and last just as long, as its members want it to.

That is, Reader, 458 will continue to prosper to the extent YOU are prepared to play your part in its affairs.

Authorised by the Editor,  
P.C. Alexander,  
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