SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.

REUNIONS AND MORE REUNIONS. Read all about them.

458 SQUADRON has never been more active and alive since the day of its Disbandment Parade in Gibraltar in 1945 than it is in these days. There have been successful Reunions during the last three months in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. Other activities—including the Inter- State Golf Match between Queensland and N.S.W.—are reported elsewhere in this copy of the Sqdn News. But that is not all. We have good grounds for hope that 458 in W.A. and in the U.K. will take off again before long.

We leave detailed descriptions to the Queensland and Victorian State Correspondents whose signed articles are below. We only remark at this stage apropos of the Brisbane Do (the second since the Squadron started meeting again this year) that we understand Chas. Richardson this time substituted spots for stripes.

In N.S.W.

The 16th Reunion. This was held on October 11th, a Saturday, and at the usual basement premises at 330 George Street, Sydney.

Squadron members subscribing were as follows:

Pete Campbell Fred Stron Dick Boydall J. McPhee Jim Whitemore John Dunn
P. Ayres A. Macauster Lance Wood B. Menzer Max Egan John Hamilton
J. McDonald Jack Wilson Jim Brown B. Thompson Bill Turner Bob Bruce
Cec Nation Champ Fabian A. Piggot Bob Lyndon K. O'Brien Don Bitmead
Allen Walker Fred James Bob Millar Col. Campbell D. McKay Stuart Ricketts
Jock McGowan Bev Wallace D. Whitman Ron Rickette J. Atken Black-Jack Baker
L. Simpson B. McLoughlin Goldy Bartlett Fred Ridge H. Bryant Allen Waldon
Jack Preston Ernie Donnan C. Tillack Tom Moore C. Irwin Frank Ward
Alf Hammond Russ Wilson C. Ruthven R. Bailey Jack Bevan Sam Barlow
C. Hayward Eric Munkman

It was a remarkably successful evening, and most of us agreed afterwards that we had noticed an additional air of enjoyment about this Reunion. Probably the presence of the Queensland delegates (Lock Simpson and Bernie McLoughlin) and Jock McGowan from Melbourne had a lot to do with it as well as the return of quite a few members who had been away for some time.

As an indicator of the added "swing" of this particular Reunion there is the fact that the usual quantity of beer went an hour sooner than usual. True it is that both the second and third kegs were sprayed some of their contents (during the process of opening) over (a) the ceiling, (b) Maca and Alf Hammond who were officiating and (c) surrounding squadron members including the President and the Editor—but not enough went
that way to account on its own for the earlier "drought".

During the evening the President (Pete Campbell) gave members a brief verbal report on squadron affairs and there was a discussion, also brief, on Squadron organisation in N.S.W.

Apologies were sent in by Wally (Cesaur) Baird (who had been having recently gone over a 50' cliff), from Lofty Chalmers (teaching aborigines at Gungalmbone), Doug Milard, Frank Koith, Dutch Holland, and Chippy in Newcastle.

Bob Bruce acted as Cashier for the evening with the efficiency we have come to rely upon, and Allan Walker looked after the Sports side of Squadron affairs. Jack Baker arranged for the photographs which were taken during the Evening.

GOLF

The Golf Season, which has brought N.S.W. Squadron members so many pleasant days at Campbeltown during the winter, concluded on October 12th with the long awaited Presidents Cup Day. This year and we hope all future years, the Cup was an interstate challenge game with two golfers from the Squadron in Queensland competing. The Cup goes for one year to the player with the best score on handicap over 18 holes. The winner also receives a smaller cup as his permanent trophy. The Presidents Cup itself was recently donated by Pete Campbell. The Squadron in Queensland also presented a most attractive trophy to be called the Queensland Cup for the best performance by a N.S.W. Squadron golfer (other than the winner of the Presidents Cup). There were prizes also for the winners of a Fourball, and for the longest drive. Rain interfered a bit but didn't spoil the game. The Presidents Cup was won by Bob Bruce, who played exactly to handicap under difficult conditions. The Queensland Cup winner was Ern Donovan, the Fourball award went to Jimmie McLoughlin, and the longest drive to San Barlow. The winners have the Squadron's congratulations and we shall expect to see them doing battle again next year.

The Queensland Cup is to be perpetuated and 458 Squadron feels that this token of 458 friendship interstate should not be the only one of its kind.

The Campbeltwn Golf Club gave us the usual kind and hospitable reception; after leaving the links we looked in at the Good Intent Hotel, which is kept by a Sqn/Ldr T. Onton who will be flying a Mosquito in the England to New Zealand Air Race next year and who joined us for a few drinks and told us something of his plans for the race.

We cannot close this account of the 1952 Golf Day without expressing on behalf of the Squadron in N.S.W. the great pleasure we have had in the visit to Sydney of Bernie McLoughlin and Look Simpson from Brisbane. Let there be more of it!

A Model of the Wellington

Acting on a suggestion from Colonel McKenzie, the N.S.W. Committee wrote to Vicars in London some months ago and asked whether it would be possible to get a model of the Wellington aircraft. About three months ago an R.A.A.F. aircraft arrived in Sydney from the U.K. and its pilot handed us a beautifully made scale model of the Wellington mounted on a stand inscribed "Presented to 458 Squadron, R.A.A.F. by Vicars Armstrong Ltd in appreciation of service in Wellington aircraft."

The model which is about 12" from wing tip to wing tip was shown to members at the recent Sydney Reunion. Quite a few expressed a wish to possess such a model, and the N.S.W. Secretary proposes to find out for them whether Vicars are prepared to produce a number for sale to squadron members.

"Q-FLIGHT NEWS" by Jim Holiday

The first "reunion under the auspices of "Q" Flight was last successfully held on August 16th. Of the total attendance of 38, 22 were X-28 boys, and the remainder visitors. Each member was allowed to invite one friend.

Apologies were received from Chris "Icetron" (casually from Chicken Pox), J.P. O'Brien, Jack Hobbs, Bob Male and Bob Helyar. Bob Male says his car hit a kangaroo, but the car was the casualty not the 'roo.

New faces among X-28 boys included Len McDonald, Keith Campbell and Paul Binslay.

A visitor to Brisbane was the Vico President from the Victorian Branch, Big Jim Munday. The meeting held in conjunction with the Reunion voted approval of the following suggestions by the Committee:

1. Two Reunions per year (August and December),
2. Co-operation with the other state branches, one aim to be the holding of a big Anzac Day Parade in each State in turn,
3. Sporting Competitions.
4. To aim at helping the needy,
5. To honour the Deceased.

The meeting also voted that the Committee deal with the question of (a) Annual subs, and (b) the admission of associate members.

The Reunion started with £43 in the red and finished with £16 in the blue. Some dressed foals were raffled and also sundry £1 notes.

Everyone went home sorry but respectable and demanding another "Do" as quickly as possible.

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458 SQUADRON "R.S.A."

from

Bill Taylor.

I visited Inn Showall at Remarque recently and Inn has started a fruit market which is proving a success. Our ex-engineer officer is an inventive type and has patented a portable glass house known as a "Sun Trap". It is a splendid idea and I am sure it will sell very readily. He sends his regards to all ex-members.

Bill Cribb has recently taken a position with Thompson and Harvey, large glass and paint people. He seems very happy and is doing a good stick.

I am continuing my interest in coastal command but from a lower level, having purchased a small trailer dinghy with outboard. I am not sure which is the safer, the aircraft or small dinghies.

I would be glad to have any news of Roy Schoppe, my ex wireless operator and would like to send my kind regards to Len Thiele and congratulate him on his Sunday night broadcasts.

In response to your request for Squadron History, I have almost completed a fairly comprehensive record from Bone to Gibraltar from which you may like to select some suitable news.

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"PROGRESS IN VICTORIA."

by

Bill Carr.

Members present at the REUNION on September 19th, were as follows:

B. Prideaux Shorty Wilson J. Jenkins S. Tarczynski T. Vinsant Norn. Ougley,

L. Warr A. Holmes J. McGowen J. Roby Paul Fowday K. Brown

Bill Carr Dizzy Dean T. Kennedy W. Hurford Jack Ellis Val. Richards

G. Cowan A. Sharp C. Cuthbertson K. Copper B.ショーマーク G. Irwin

Dave Firth R. W. Smith J. Rodwell K. Wortham D. Johnson Stan Cartledge

Fred Ray A. W. Brown K. Quinn H. Ashworth Harold Stevens Ian Bear

R. Rosevear Neil McPhie Yank Martin Ron Yates Telly Love J. Dowling

H. O'Leary E. Bradshaw H. Calvin J. Hilley and possibly three to five other members whose names were not recorded on my list. Members also introduced some 20 Odd friends from other squadrons. Apologies come from Bert Smith, Jack Ramsay, J. Morris, Bob McKim, Ernie Laxing, Farmer Giles, Jack Guthrie, B. Tipping, G. Wise, and George Riddoch.

A cable was also received from Ernie Laxing in Hiroshima, Japan and from the S. Aus. Branch of the Association, each wishing the Reunion "all the best."

A questionnaire has been forwarded to each interested member on the subject of expanding activities of our branch of 458. This resulted in a majority in favor of two Reunions and one social dance per year. A limited section also wanted a Christmas Picnic. Those decisions will now be passed along to the Victorian Committee for consideration, etc. Currently it is felt that Reunions will be held about Anzac Day and Melbourne Show Day with the Social Dance held about June and the Picnic just prior to Christmas. To date no member or group of members have proposed forming a cricket or other sporting group.

Reunion attendance was again up in the 70's which maintains our average over the past four Reunions at approximately that figure. A charge of 10/- per head was made to cover expenses and on the night just did so nicely. There being only about 28 in hand an emergency committee meeting was held and it was decided to call for a contribution towards a working balance to enable the Committee to go ahead with some
measure of monetary confidence when planning expenditure on future functions. This was announced at the Reunion and a collection produced a further £7 odd which together with cash on hand and a small profit on the Evening left our financial position at £19 in hand.

36 gallons of ale were provided but not having Maca and a few of his coppers we were left with an untouched miner. Several of the country boys were down again notably Ken Cupper, Bucy Pirth from up Mildura way and of course Roger Rodwell who always manages to look very much like the average 458er back in '45.

With regrets the Victorian Secretary announced Jock McGowan's intended return to live in Sydney, and on behalf of Jock (who was unfortunately delayed) offered his resignation which was accepted, and suggested that in such circumstances it appeared fitting that the Vice President should automatically step into the vacant Presidency. This president was accepted and Jim Munday was duly elected President and he at once called for nominations for Vice President. Several members were nominated, and after a show of hands Dizzy Mac was quite comfortably elected Vice President for the remainder of the current term.

Harold Stevens a visiting member from Launceston was again welcomed to our Reunion as was Ian Beir, recently returned from the U.K.

Our wartime C.O., John Dowling, is shortly to go to the U.K. for an extended period of Training connected, it is believed, with a C.R. Course and other courses for senior officers. He naturally will take his family, and on behalf of all members we wish him and his a most successful and most pleasant couple of years in Blighty.

We have again established contact with Bill Stapleton, who would like to hear from Fred Ayres and Maca. Bill is with the Rheims Sauce people and is married, with two children. My regards to all members in other states.

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THE SQUADRON IN THE WEST (Who said they were all dead?)

Since the last issue of the Sqm. News that Editor has been delighted to receive several letters from fellows in Western Australia. Most of them refer to our paragraph on Squadron non-activity in the West in recent years, and while pointing out the difficulties, one and all welcome the idea of a Perth Reunion. One of the letters came from Jack Bisley. Jack says

"I received the copy of 458 Squadron News last night and I must congratulate you on its size and the news that is contained in it. Your job must be fairly large to compile such a wonderful little paper.

There is one paragraph however which I cannot let pass and that is the one of course which is referring to Western Australians. Every word of course is correct, but I think in the near future we shall see something done in the matter.

Back at the end of '45 we held a couple of meetings and the interest got dwindled to nothing because perhaps it was too soon after the war, indeed quite a number of us were still in uniform at the time......

Bingy Stewart however I heard was interested in getting some of the boys together and I went and saw him a couple of weeks ago and he tells me that there were four of the boys at the main Anzac Day March in Perth, namely Doug Daniels, Shorty Long, Doug Anderson and himself and although they had a good time together they have felt better for something larger and a little better organised.

In short I'm taking my old list into him of fellows from the Squadron and if possible check them up and perhaps we may be able to decide if the Sandgropers are interested enough to get something going.

As soon as the list of names is revised we will send a copy over-- I have an additional forty or so addresses to those you have in the "News".

Give my best regards to all the boys."

The N.S.W. Treasurer (Sam Barlow) was in Perth shortly afterwards and had the pleasure of meeting Jack and a number of other Perth members. Jack, Len Stewart and the others of course were with 458 a very long time in some cases for the whole period of its service. And members in the West can, we know, look to them with all confidence to start the ball rolling. They know that Squadron members in the other states will watch with the keenest interest and good wishes.
PERSONALITIES.

B.B. Wallace: B.B., who was recently in Britain, attending the London Administrative Staff College at Henley is now back in Sydney as General Sales Manager.

Jim. Whitton has returned from his two years Sabbatical Leave in the United States and is lecturing in Veterinary Science at Sydney University.

Jock Keil is now in Sydney as Director of Winkler, a company selling Thermostats. He recently saw George Byles, who has a substantial sheep property near Captain Flat. Geoff is married with two daughters and three sons.

Jack Baxter is in Sydney with P.K.L. Williams. John Dunn is managing his Father-in-law’s chemist business in Bright-le-Sands, Sydney.

Gally Bartlett is still in the building trade.

Terry Nolden, who has been in Sydney on holiday from Cribb and Dal Archbold both sent greetings to "Cug". Wal is with the Australian Reserve.

Max Spig, who was a welcome new face at the recent Reunion in Sydney is now driving for Banksby’s Produce Store. Max is married with two boys and two girls, sends remembrances to Shorty Taylor.

Fredy Strom is now attending the Teachers College in Sydney.

Cyril Irvin works with the Valuer-General’s Department in Sydney. B. sends his remembrances to Don Brundon, Clive Wyman and Shorty O’Brien. Greetings in which he was joined by Frank Ward, who is now Accountant to an Electrical Engineering Company.

George Corom, who has recently passed through Sydney sends his regards to everyone.

Fred Jones tells us George is completely unchanged from Squadron days, which, when we saw him in Brisbane, was our own opinion. We hope to see George in Sydney again one of these days.

Ralph Bailey has recently left Wollongong and may take up a dental practice in Sydney. Ralph and his wife have two daughters, Jill and Jenny. John Haydon is in the Sales side of the Timber Trade in Sydney. S. sends good wishes to Clive Wyman.

Tim Dale is in Perth.

Caryn Jones has written to us from Perth. He sends his regards to all his old crew mates and to Sydney members, Tubby Tover, Brian Lord, Darcy Crampton and Wilbur Rowell.

Caryn has now a son (Grum) aged five months and has recently finished building a new home.

Russell Wilson who was at the recent Sydney Reunion wants to know why a few more of his contemporaries don’t put an appearance at Reunions. One name mentioned was Peter McInnesey.

Charlie Hamp; we understand Otto is back with the R.A.A.F. Reserve.

Correspondence to the Editor.

Wanstead, London.

Dear Sir,

I am grateful to the unknown member of 458 Squadron who gave my old address to you to enable you to send me some issues of 458 Sqn. News. For several years I have wondered if I would ever be in contact again with my old colleagues of the Middle East days and you can well imagine my pleasure when your letter-letter arrived.

I must confess, however, that I have kept you waiting for a reply or even some acknowledgement but I’d like to take this opportunity of greeting through the 458 Sqn. News all those who served with me at Bone, Algheira, Malta, Boppia and Gibraltar. I recognise only a few names of those mentioned in the Personal News column but I appreciate that, in the main, you are principally concerned with those ex-members in N.S.W. I, even though I am only a Poumy b....I realise that N.S.W. is not all Australia. I am pleased you have extended your circulation to U.K. More power to your elbow!!

I have recently heard from Pete Pottit who is now in England as a dentist. In the absence of any other activity he and I have just started organising a Reunion of the U.K. members of 458 Squadron. This should take place in November in London....

I’d like to say hello to and hear news of Robin Knight, Bill Taylor, Black Panther”, Vale, Doc. Wadsorth, George Kiddock, Ken Russell, my navigator, Crusher Jones and many others whose names now unfortunately escape me......For anyone who is interested I’m working for London Transport as an underground official, have one son.......Please continue to send me copies of the Squadron News......I enclose some information which you may find useful for the compilation of the Squadron History. It may be a little early yet, but I’d like to have a copy of the finished work.

yours sincerely, Leon Armstrong.
Lorengau, New Guinea.

Dear Chaps,

After many years and several copies of the Squadron News conscience has caught up with me and I herewith append my humble contribution to the Squadron History. I am the District Agricultural officer here and have been here for eighteen months, having been in the Territory for some years now. I have not met any old squadron mates for a long time. To my knowledge there is only one other up here, namely Laurie Crowley who is in Lae with his wife, a new child and an aeroplane with which he operates a service to the Highlands. To date I haven't met him here.

To anyone with a yen for the unusual I can recommend New Guinea. Among the more unusual things in which I have been involved has been the eruption of Mt. Lamington (at that time I was D.A.O. for that District and was one of the very few survivors) and the capture of the Japanese shell fishing vessel in these waters a little over a year ago. Life is never dull.

Any letters to me can be addressed to c/o D.A.S.P., Port Moresby, T.P.N.G.

Pass my regards on to any of the lads you may see and I will be pleased to hear from anyone interested. Cheers, thanks and all the best, Fred Klockham.

(Editors note: Fred was decorated following the Lamington eruption)

Djakarta-Raya, Indonesia.

Dear Peter,

Thank you for continuing to send the Sqdn. News. I find the news and briefs re the boys from the various states most interesting. I was particularly interested to see that Queensland has now broken the ice with its first reunion.

Several familiar names appear on the lists, particularly Cass Richardson, the "Watch King". I hear occasionally from Roy Allan an English pilot on 458 he was with the R.A.A.F. Station and later came over to N.W. Africa and eventually left from Bone at the same time as I did. Some of the boys remember him.

Please continue to send the news as I expect to be aboard from Australia for some years yet. I will be going to England for six months next year and after that will possibly be back here for a further period. We still have plenty of work to cope with here but the work is extremely interesting and definitely no shortage of spare time is at a premium. We have a good British Club known as "The Box" with all usual sporting, (Indoor and outdoor) facilities and no shortage of beer (bottled or draught). There is always a sprinkling of Australians present.

Should any of the boys be passing through here by Qantas or DOAC on route for points west I should be delighted to hear from them if they drop a word of warning in advance.

A small contribution to squadron funds should arrive within a week or so.

Again, many thanks, yours sincerely, Dick Watson.

(Editors note: Dick Watson is the Sun Insurance office in Djakarta-Raya).

INTERSTATE VISITS.

There is a constant stream of members of 458 Squadron passing between the capital cities of Australia, as might be expected. These interstate visitors can, if they will, perform a most useful liaison service between the State branches of the Squadron. There are often things which can be much better arranged by personal contact than by letter. And of course their friends want to see them in the cities they are visiting. Trouble often is no one knows about the visit till its over. Will Squadron members, therefore, who are about to go interstate, please contact their State Secretary before they leave, and also the local Secretary when they arrive? In particular the Queensland branch has asked that intending visitors to Brisbane notify them a bit in advance so that anyone they want to meet among local 458 members can be rounded up.

Squadron Secretaries are:

Victoria; Bill Carr, 36, Harbury Street, Reservoir, Melbourne.
South Australia; Brian Woodhead, c/o Hollmann, McEocharn Ltd, Kip William St., Adelaide.
Queensland; Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Brisbane.
New South Wales; Peter Alexander, G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney (M 042I Ext. 417)

The Squadron Album.

The Album is becoming a notable piece of work, as most members know from having seen it. However there are still some periods of Squadron History not as well illustrated as we should like. So will any member who has any photos of squadron interest which he is prepared to give or lend (to be copied) please post them to the Editor. The Committee will be most grateful. Incidentally the Postwar section of the Album is becoming a substantial record. Dick Simpson, we observed,
during his Sydney visit taking a number of (moving) pictures of the Golf Club. Among his shots was one of Graeme Combes achieving the shortest drive of the day from the 1st Tee. .

CONGRATULATIONS.

Marriages: The Squadron's heartiest good wishes to the following members whose marriages have been notified: Doug Bennett, Cec Nisson, Fred Ridge, Ivan Tovar, Rob Williams, Peter Pottit.


Birth: To Bill and Mrs. Turley, a son (Andrew Williams). To Jim and Mrs. Whittington, a son.

Congratulations, Bill and Jim.

THE SQUADRON PROGRAMME.

Members will be notified by their State Secretaries of Squadron functions as they are arranged. In N.S.W. there is to be another Squadron Social during October. Also, the Sports Sub-committee has arranged cricket fixtures as follows:

- October 26th, Dept. of Social Services: No. 15 Pitch, Centennial Park.
- November 9th, Eastern Suburbs branch, Air Force Association, No. 15 Pitch.
- November 30th, Air Force Club, No. 29 Pitch, Centennial Park.

Otheritches will follow.

A FINAL STATISTICS.

458 Squadron News circulation: 620 copies (Australia, Britain, Africa, North America and the Islands).

Squadron membership badges: worn by 237 members.

The 458 Section of the Air Force Association (N.S.W.) membership: 66.

These statistics indicate two things. A steady growth of 458 postwar activity; and a large field of squadron membership not yet in touch with the postwar organisation (and therefore a large field in which we can still expand. Certainly 458 wartime membership was well into four figures over the whole period.

FUTURE N.S.W. REUNIONS.

The reunion on October 11th was on a Saturday night, as before, on a Friday. There were special reasons for the change in this case. However, many members at the reunion expressed the view that Saturday was much more convenient, and no doubt their views will weigh with the Committee in arranging future reunions. It is however possible that Saturday doesn’t suit everyone at all. If that is so, will such members convey their opinions to the Committee, please?

CONCLUSION.

The Queensland branch has expressed the view that each year an attempt should be made to stage an interstate 458 Get Together on Anzac Day at one or other of the State Capitals. Each state would be represented by at least one delegate, and it should be possible to hold a Federal 458 Conference. The State Committees will no doubt discuss this before long. 458 Squadron News feels that something can and must be made of this bold and imaginative idea. It is another reason why members should notify their journeys interstate.

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