

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



The Editor:

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

Vol.5, No.18.

January, 1954.

.....AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL !

458 Sqdn. News wishes all Squadron members and their families (its Readers and good friends) every happiness and prosperity in 1954.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.

MUCH JUNKETING IN THE NORTH.

Report from 'Q' Flight by Jim Holliday.

Our Committee thought that wives should (a) know what we do at our Reunions and (b) that they should be rewarded for their indulgence in letting us off the chain to attend our Men-Only 'Do's'. It was thought that this act of benevolence should be carried out during the season of benevolence. So the Xmas party with wives and/or sweethearts was held on Saturday Dec.5th. The result was a completely surprised Committee: it was a great success. Dressed up (or should it be undressed?) in their most informal best the girls looked, and thought it was, lovely. They sipped, with maidenly decorum, a modest amount of liquid refreshment; danced enthusiastically and, despite the heat, managed to preserve the right amount of powder on the nose; dived into reluctant husbands pockets and bought raffle tickets for chooks and bottles of beer with reckless abandon, and then did the fine supper justice. And the men? They thought everything was lovely too. We made a loss of a couple of quid but it is money well lost. The girls will let us off the Chain with less reluctance in future (?).

ANZAC DAY, 1954.

Q-Flight is deeply honoured to act as host for the next National Reunion. A tentative Flight programme has been drawn up, which when tidied up will be promulgated through Squadron Council. Q-Flight hopes that the whole Squadron will turn out on Parade, excepting those on essential duties.

PERSONALITIES.

Bob Dangaard At Mareeba making ice and keeping milk. Sends his greetings to his old tent-mates. (A letter from Bob is in the Correspondence columns.)
Alan (Snowy) Atherton Now at Dumbarton, via Dingo. Out of sugar into cattle.
Charles Warren Now the proud father of a third son.
Pon Russell On the good oil now with Ampol. Appointed Manager of Ampol's new Service Station recently opened at Barry Parade, Brisbane. Asks old friends to drop in.
Jack Carter Writes that his health is playing up a bit lately. We've missed you, Jack, at recent Do's, and hope the health does the right thing by you.

BEACH PARTY: Christmas in Sydney.

Sydney members, with wives and families, had a Christmas Get-together on Balmoral Beach on December 13th, a Sunday. A beautiful day and a beautiful place. We enjoyed it. Arriving, mostly by tram, about 11 a.m. we selected a place on the southern beach which while right on the edge of the beach, combined grass to sit on and shade or sun to sit in as the spirit moved. A sufficiency of cold bottled beer--just before Christmas too--was available. Our thanks to Black-Jack Baker for transporting it. The children paddled and swam; the wives sat in the sun/shade, talked and, mostly, were persuaded to have a swim. The Squadron swam, talked, sunbathed, got slightly burned (editorial shoulders

are still peeling) and had a two-sided aquatic game with a tennis ball the rules of which, insofar as there were any, were more like Australian Rules Football than anything else. The whole day was so pleasant that the Chairman of the Sports Sub-committee was heard to suggest that swimming be substituted for cricket as our main summer sport.

AT THE HOTEL AUSTRALIA. The usual informal Christmas beer was drunk together by 458 members in Sydney on Friday December 18th in the Martin Place Bar. The usual rendez-vous--the Long Bar had been closed for redecoration, but next year no doubt we will go back to the Long Bar.

THE GUESSING COMPETITION.

Was a considerable success. Members were asked to do their best and they did in no uncertain way. Thank you, gentlemen.

Winners were notified very promptly, of course. Here are the successful guessers:

B363	J. Crossman	D.C.A., Eagle Farm, Q.	B180	June Stone	17, Lloyd St. Toowoomba, Q.
B 10	J. Holliday	Holland Park, Brisbane, Q.	C455	W.D. Baird,	6, Bynya Rd. Palm Beach, N.S.W.
B348	R.A. Yeoward,	293, Queen St. Brisbane	C353	H. Baines,	Wingham, N.S.W.
D431	L.J. Barlow	Beamish St. Campsie, N.S.W.	A428	D. Alexander	Canada Cycle Co, Melbourne.
A33	W. Davies	White Horse Rd. Box Hill,	D267	J. Hinchcliffe,	Punchbowl, N.S.W. Vic.
D378	A.C. Nation,	Homebush, N.S.W.	C473	J. Walker	Earlwood, N.S.W.
AI77	J.S. Richards,	Middle Brighton, Vic.	D95	W. Corrigan,	Blacktown, N.S.W.
D318	R. Jones,	Social Service Dept, Sydney	C396	H. Holland	Uungula, N.S.W.
D436	S. McLintoch	Howard Auto-Cult, Sydney	BI09	L. Foote	Ipswich, Queensland
B509	E. Punch	Howard Auto-Cult., Sydney	D259	Y. Crompton	Eastwood, N.S.W.
A444	Miss J. Power	G.J. Coles, Melbourne, Vic.	D505	Betty Show,	Rosebery, N.S.W.
B516	Dorothy Moss,	Howard Auto-Cult, Sydney.	A307	D. Clayton,	A.N.A., Eagle Farm, Brisbane, Q.
D434	G.H. Stapley,	Howard Auto-Cult, Sydney,	C98	H. Farquharson	Albion, Queensland.
C441	W.R. Bates,	Drummoyne, Sydney, N.S.W.	A511	J. Thorpe,	Alt. St. Ashfield, N.S.W.

The big prizes went to tickets B516, B363, and BI09 in that order. Our congratulations to all the winners. To the non-successful, our thanks and better luck another time. The man who sold all the tickets at Howard Auto-Cultivators, Sydney, was Allan Walker.

There is one milk beef from the organisers. It would help much to make sure prizes go to the right places, if ticket-holders would put their full addresses on butts, and also write their names legibly!

Credits for much hard work go to the State Secretaries, to the Squadron Treasurer and to Allan Walker. Audited accounts are held by all State Secretaries.

CRICKET COMMENTS .

by

"Run-to-Cover".

First game of the season was against the Western Suburbs branch of the Air Force Association, pleasant opponents and on this occasion formidable ones. 458 batting first did fairly. Cyril Irwin, who is a stylish and extremely sound bat, did very well for his 46. However the batting just wasn't good enough all in all. The bowling was steady and keen but the main batting weakness was lack of practice. Darby Crompton bowling with considerable hostility took two wickets for three runs in two overs. He is perhaps a shade slower than in previous seasons, but malthoid pitches don't reward pure speed, and he is clearly 458's best wicket-taker. Western Suburbs third wicket added 113 runs and passed 458's small score in the process.

458 Squadron

versus

Western Suburbs, A.F.A.

L.J. Barlow	b. Morrison	9	F. Higgerson	c. Irwin	b. Crompton	0	
P.C. Alexander	c. Sub. Morrison	2	L. Bryce	Retired		49	
C. Irwin	b. Bryce	46	G. Partridge	b. Crompton		I	
O. Crompton	b. Higgerson	17	R. Morrison	Retired		45	
A. Walker	c. Morrison	b. Ashwood	8	F. Wooten	c. Barlow	b. Wood	11
E. Munkman	Not out	3	H. Ashwood	c. Munkman	b. Wood	2	
R. Taylor	Lbw	b. Morrison	2	C. Moyes	Not out	7	
F. Hickey	b. Morrison	2	K. Major	c. Alexander	b. Taylor	4	
L. Wood	b. Partridge	3	L. Harvey	b. Wood		5	
B. Hillar	b. Partridge	0	T. Eagleton	Run out		3	
Sundries		<u>10</u>	Sundries			<u>13</u>	
		102				140	

Cricket Comments (cont.)

This year's Captain and Vice Captain are Allan Walker and Owen Crompton. Last season's skipper, Sam Barlow, was not available for re-election.

Second game was with the Water Conservation Commission, at Centennial Park, pitch I3. Here against weak bowling 458 had a feast of runs, Vice-captain Darky Crompton top-scoring with 88—made with all his usual spectacular aggression, which anyone who has seen this left-hander bat will be able to picture. It was as well 458 made runs as the opposition included Petersham-Marrickville's (First Grade) opening bat, Johnny Walker, who made 95. Again the third wicket put on over 100 after two cheap wickets had fallen to Owen Crompton. However this partnership was broken by Cy. Irwin who after being 458's wicket-keeper for the past two seasons was tried as a slow bowler most successfully. He also proved to be a brilliant slip field, where 458 have for some time felt Dud McKay's absence. Pete Alexander returned as keeper. Dougie Bennett batted very soundly for the opposition. Scores:

<u>458 Squadron.</u>		versus	<u>Water Conservation Commission.</u>	
L.J. Barlow	Retired	34	J. Walker	Lbw b. Irwin 95
R. Taylor	b. Bennett	19	S. Scott	c. Irwin b. Crompton I
P. Alexander	b. Inwood	1	T. Hardy	Lbw b. Crompton 0
O. Crompton	Lbw b. Walker	88	D.J. Bennett	St. Alexander b. Irwin 39
L. Wood	c. Walker b. McCauley	12	C. McCauley	c. Alexander b. Irwin 16
J. Bevan	b. Scott	3	D. Sinclair	b. Taylor 6
A. Walker	Not out	19	A. Hodgkiss	Not out II
E. Munkman	b. McCauley	14	J. Inwood	b. Taylor 4
M. Slocombe	Not out	10	J. Dever	b. Bevan 8
Sundries		24	H. Bridge	St. Alexander b. Wood I
			Sundries	2
		224		183

458 won by 41 runs.

Third match was against the Air Force Club, which annual game has developed into rather a cut-throat business. The boundary flags were placed so far out that it was a very low-scoring game. The A.F.C. were out for 99. 458's bowling was extremely hostile and accurate, never better. Crompton and Munkman each bowled nine overs for 26 and 19 runs respectively. Frank Ward bowling slow medium and moving the ball both ways took 3 for 22 in eight overs. Only other bowler was Allan Walker, who shows signs of not taking his own bowling seriously this season. Tuckwell, an aggressive bat was a danger but ran himself out. 458's batsmen didn't start well but a partnership between Frank Ward and Jack Bevan, who started slowly and later became very aggressive added 51, and Doug. Bennett made the winning hit through rough slips for 4. 458 won by two wickets.

<u>Air Force Club</u>		versus	<u>458 Squadron.</u>	
W. Keough	c. Walker b. Crompton	4	L.J. Barlow	c. Tuckwell b. Phelan 5
D. Dover	c. Crompton b. Munkman	1	R. Taylor	Run out 0
R. Clarke	c. Irwin b. Crompton	9	C. Irwin	b. Grogan 7
L. Clarke	Run out	16	O. Crompton	b. Grogan 7
L. Grogan	b. Ward	14	F. Ward	c. Phelan b. Clarke 32
J. Phelan	b. Ward	2	C.J. Bevan	c. Tuckwell b. Clarke 37
C. Tuckwell	Run out	30	D.J. Bennett	Not out 6
M. Slocombe	b. Munkman	8	A. Walker	b. Sinclair I
J. Moore	Not out	3	J.C. Baker	c. Tuckwell b. Sinclair 0
A. McQueen	Run out	2	Sundries	10
D. Sinclair	c. Alexander b. Ward	1		
Sundries		9		
		99	(8)	105

Fourth and to date last match was organised as a very pleasant excursion to Hazlebrook in the Blue Mountains, where 458 played against the Armidale College Old Boys, who, apart from being pleasant opponents, deserve our gratitude for providing most of the transport which got our team and their families up to Hazlebrook. Eric Munkman and Frank Ward did most of 458's bowling. Sam Barlow and Frank Hickey were both eligible to play for either side and Sam was in fact included in the O.B. team and suffered a proper fate. Cy. Irwin who arranged the match, and Frank Hickey, who hits extremely hard, were, with Allan Walker, Squadron top-scorers. Space, not disinclination, prevents my including the full scores; however 458 duly won by three wickets.

Next game will be at the R.A.A.F. Station, Richmond in the middle of January. 458 will be a bit short of a gallop but no doubt will do its best. This game is usually the highlight of the season, being our only game on grass, and played in the best possible circumstances. So far we have played the Station twice, honours being even.

CROWEATER COMMENTARY.

BY

Brian Woodhead.

The Squadron Secretary's telegram came to hand to-day, extending Christmas greetings to South Aus. members, for which let me on behalf of the members in this State reciprocate with those greetings to all members at this Festive Season.

Bob Drinnan was admitted to Daw's Rd. Repat. Hospital last Thursday the 10th of December and expects to be there at least three weeks, receiving treatment. I understand from Bob that if they will insist on sending such pretty nurses to look after him, then he'll have no alternative to volunteering to remain another three weeks. Bob, who wasn't too good when admitted is already much better. But I'm sure he would appreciate a note from any of the boys who could spare the time. His address there is

Ward I4, Repatriation General Hospital,
Daw's Road, Springbank, S. Aus.

Bill Taylor has just acquired a new boat, and from now on, no doubt he will be only too glad to supply any of the boys with whatever fish they require. Just let Bill know and he'll do the rest.

I think the less said the better about our efforts for the Melbourne Cup Sweep, but let us congratulate the other States on their fine effort.

Jack (Nigger) Baker was over to see us about a month ago and we were very pleased to see him. I would take this opportunity of apologising to Jack for the very poor attendance on the Saturday night but trust that this will not stop him from visiting us again at a future date.

Something (a blonde?) backfired I believe and now Johnny Bax is walking around with a broken arm. "Be more careful, Jack!"

Our next Anzac Day promises to be an outstanding performance. Ron Badger has arranged for some of the Caledonian Club to come along and entertain us with Scotch humour, Music and fun and games. Also our old friend the 'Story Tell'

be with us again and so, one and all, big and small, it should be a good day. All welcome.

Will all 458 members please note that the South Australian Secretary's home address is now
9, Woodville Road, Woodville, South Australia.

SQUADRON CAR BADGES.

We have now received the "First-off" car badge. It is a Super job; and we have given the manufacturer the green light to fill our order. We expect delivery towards the end of January, when members who have paid deposits or, in some cases the full price (which is 30/-), will be contacted.

Sales are going very well and members who want one should not be too long putting in an order.

We have acknowledged some of the orders received but not all yet; so will the following members please accept this provisional acknowledgement of their order and remittances:

C. Nation, D. Bitmead, K. Crago, A. Green, R. Burgess, Ted Gore, H. Jenkins, K. Cupper, C. Webb, J. Lewis, F. Morris, C. Mannion, A. Wheat (2), S. Foote, A. Dombkins, R. Hills, W. Chapman, A. McGowen (2), J. Pratt, C. Eagle, B. Male, F. Strom, A. J. Walker, A. C. Harris, H. Dorge, G. Morgan, J. Payne, G. Jones, J. Hosking, R. Verity, L. Tame, J. Plunkett.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

We received cards and greetings to 458 from the following: Jim Holliday, J. Carey, Air Force Association (N.S.W.), A. Piggott, P. Campbell, Harry Bannister, G. Coombes, Geoff. Burgess, Dud. McKay, Eric Munkman, Cliff. Hayward, Bob Bruce, Jim Palmer, Allan Walker, Ken. Mercer, Eric Jewell, and Geoff. Barrett. Thank you.

YOU KNOW THAT NUMBER ?

We reported Jock McGowen's achievement in getting himself a car registration number ALA 458. Alf Hammond has now got a new phone number at his home--LF 4558.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, ANNUAL DONATIONS.

The Annual sub. of 5/- for the Squadron News for 1954 is now due and payable to your State Secretary (in the case of members overseas or in W.A. direct to the Editor). Please fork out. In NSW members of the 458 Squadron Association should send their Annual Donation of 10/- to the NSW Secretary (Box 5289, G.P.O.) Members of the 458 Sqdn branch of the Air Force Association should send the Annual Sub.

Annual Subs, etc (cont.) of 15/- plus 5/- if they want "Wings" to the Hon. Secretary,
Addresses ?

The Editor, 458 Sqdn. News
 N.S.W. Secretary, 458 Sqdn Association
 Hon. Secretary, 458 Sqdn branch of Air Force Association } Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.
 Victorian Secretary, 458 Squadron Association---36, Harbury Street, Reservoir, Victoria.
 South Australian Secretary, 458 Squadron Club---9, Woodville Road, Woodville, Sth. Aus.
 Queensland Secretary, 458 Squadron Association---43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Brisbane, Q.

ANZAC DAY ALL-STATES REUNION 1954. BRISBANE.

The decision was taken by the Squadron in all States some time ago that each year at Anzac Time all 458 members who could would gather in one of the capital cities, march together, have a grand Reunion and meet those of their mates who, living in other States, weren't so easy to meet. The first All-States Reunion was held in Sydney in 1953 and was an outstanding success.

Anzac Time this year 1954 will see BRISBANE as the host city for the 458 All-States Reunion. The Queensland Committee, under the presidency of Queensland President, Bernie McLoughlin, is taking its responsibility as host very keenly and a full programme for the week-end from Friday April 23 to Monday April 26th is being prepared. It will include the March behind Queensland's new 458 Banner, a Grand Reunion, a Meeting of Squadron Conference (458's governing body consisting of the Squadron officers and two delegates from each state), the Golf Tournament for the Anzac Cup, and many informal social get-togethers. The Squadron President, our C.O., "Johnno" Johnston, will preside.

458 Sqdn News urges every member of the Squadron to give every serious consideration to being in Brisbane for the Anzac Week-end. Particularly must N.S.W. members who are nearest to Queensland, go North in large numbers. It's the best of all chances to see your Queensland and interstate mates again and to have a first-class time. Queensland Secretary, Jim Holliday, whose address is 43 Stella Street, Holland Park, Brisbane, will be glad to give any advice or help he can with accommodation or other problems, if you drop him a line.

Brisbane, here we come !

PERSONALITIES.

Coc.Nation is now working with W.T.Coggins, in Sydney.

Jack Thorpe has been located in Brisbane, where, we understand, Len Thiele recently saw him.

Jack Aitken recently became the father of a daughter (Jane). Jack already has three sons.

Dud McKay and his wife now have a fourth daughter, Vicki.

The Ven. Bob Davies, now Archdeacon of Wagga Wagga, was married to Miss Helen Boucher on October 17th 1953, at St. John's Church, Canberra by the Bishop of Goulburn, Dr. Burgmann.

Cliff Hayward recently became a Grandfather. Is this a first for 1939-45 Aircrew ?

Nick Singe has a son.

Bob Osborne has returned to Australia after some years in London. He has now settled in Sydney and is with the Advertising company, J. Walter Thompson. We are delighted to see Bob again.

Geoff. Barrett writes that he has been holidaying at Shanklin in the Isle of Wight and has also been to the Alamein Reunion at the London Express Hall. Sends best wishes to all who knew him.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Editor, Many thanks for yet another 458 Squadron News which arrived this morning's post, it takes me back, as it always does to my first introduction to 458 at Holme-on-Spalding-Moor one cold miserable January morning and our meeting with your pin-up boy "The Black Panther" and his subsequent full-pack with stiffed overseas kit bag complete with rifle as well rehearsal of desert marches to come, the air was blue with threats.....Gourock, Fayid Kilo 26, Shallufa, Aqir in Palestine, Egypt and Amiriya and those heart-breaking dust storms, then our never-to-be-forgotten trip to Pretville where I think we must have been the best-equipped private car outfit in North Africa.I never believed we would contact again until one morning I saw an invitation to a Reunion of 458 Squadron, in "Air Mail" by Peter Pettit. I couldn't believe my eyes. ...I phoned Peter right away and it led to our subsequent gathering; we renewed old

Correspondence (cont.)

old friendships, met old Hamlet and George Merriman, Harry Eastwood and Sgt. Gilbert, who, incidentally is still serving Now we are looking for our meeting next year when we hope to get a far greater attendance..... Please convey my sincere wishes to Charlie Mann.. Jack Payne and Bill Bailey (Old Rowley). I must mention that I ran into F/Lt. Chessel with his family at the Daily Mail Flower Show three years ago and spent a grand evening at the Trocadero.

So, cheerio for now, you Aussies,

Michael Mason--Hackney, London.

Dear Sir,

For many a long year now I have been receiving 458 News Circular without so much as a word to the "Good-Oh!" boys. Kindly note the above address. The people at the old address must be pretty cheosed by now having to readdress the circular to me. Being a useless correspondent I have done nothing about it.

The last contact I had with down under was with Jack Guthrie.... Would it be possible for you to "snell him out" and supply his address. His last was II, Hannaslea Street, Box Hill, Vic.

At present I am farming merino sheep. It is at the moment quite a profitable line. I unfortunately waited in the S...A.F. too long before getting out--2 yrs ago-- and had to buy at top prices. Nevertheless we are progressing.

Bumped into Robin Knight and family in Port Elizabeth last year. He was down on holiday from Kenya. He is at the moment engaged in fighting the Mau Mau during out of office hours.

My regards to all the 458 types of Bone, Alghero vintage

yours sincerely,

Alf. Rubidge, "Xanadu", P.O. Rosmead, Cape Province, South Africa.

Dear Peter,

Attached please find Squadron Car badge order form. Re the History, I have a newspaper clipping shewing 458 marching past the saluting dais at the Gibraltar "Keys" ceremony. Also a clipping from "Wings"

Words do not express how much I look forward to receiving the Squadron News and reading of the members' doings. Here in Western Australia we seem to be right out of things and look forward to greater activity here in 1954.

yours sincerely,

Gordon Jones,

5, Birdwood St. Melville.

Dear Pete,

During my absence your October issue of Squadron News has arrived. If not too late enclosed is an application for a Car badge My skipper, Merv. Hargraves, Navigator, Lofty Bracker, etc came from N.S.W. I would like you to pass on my regards to them. Time and distance make it rather difficult for me to attend functions.

As far as History for 458 Squadron is concerned, Merv. Hargraves can speak for me. As far as any special problems being encountered, I think I was the skipper's biggest.

The compliments of the season to you and my squadron mates.

yours sincerely,

"Duke" Tame,

I, Greta Rd., Wangaratta, Vic.

To the Queensland Secretary:

Dear Jim,

I have regularly been receiving Q-Flight News and enjoy reading of 458ers doings---congratulations to Jack Lewis, gone and got himself married. Most groundstaff members will remember me clearing out on them at Foggia to go back to England to be married. Yes, I did too---and no regrets--have three children, girl 6 years, boy 4 years, girl three weeks.

Tent-mates Tim McQuaid, Ken Cahill, Fred Klockham, Frank Wilks, Jack Lewis will all be interested to know how I fared, please pass on special regards to all these fellows, Jim.

I hope to see them all next Anzac Day in Brisbane. Am doing well in business with my brother---Ice Works and Milk Depot. Have just returned from a trip up to the Gulf Country (Normanton) by road, only ten days. Reminded me of the time we travelled from Alex. to Protville. Those who remember me in those days will be interested to know that I still blow my own trumpet and I still have a ton of fun with it. If any 458ers should chance to come... Cairns or any part of its hinterland, I shall be only too pleased to make

