



458 SQUADRON NEWS

THE EDITOR.

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

Vol. 9, No. 33.

November, 1957.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.....458 IN ORANGE.

Four or five hours by car from Sydney, over the Blue Mountains in New South Wales is the city of Orange. This is the centre of a successful fruitgrowing area, and supplies cherries, apples, pears and other fruits in great quantities. At present, in the midst of a considerable drought in N.S.W., the country around Orange still looks green and beautiful. The city itself is very attractive, with wide streets and modern shops. In the centre is a park where the wisteria is in flower.

Squadron members Eric (Rinso) Purcill and Junior (Sparrow) Hawke and their families have their homes and avocations in Orange (Rinso is in the Engineering game and Junior has a cherry orchard).

Here, in Orange, 458 in New South Wales, held its first Country Reunion over the week-end October 25th/27th. Previously, two very enjoyable Country Reunions have been held at Robinvale in Victoria, in the Murray Irrigation area, but this was the first N.S.W. Country Reunion. It must be accounted one of the most successful and enjoyable occasions 458 has organised. For a start, the weather was perfect from beginning to end; then, the idea was new in N.S.W. and caught the imagination; most important, the local 458 members and their wives had put weeks of work into ensuring the perfect organisation of an imaginative programme.

The Starters. From Sydney, 22 members and wives or friends drove up on the Friday afternoon or Saturday morning early. In Orange they were joined by various Country members from near or not so near-by towns. There would have been many more Country members but for the drought which had been necessitating hand feeding of stock. Among the city starters were the three Squadron officers, led by Squadron President Sam Barlow, as well as all the N.S.W. officers. The attendance list was:

Sam Barlow	Allan Walker	Tom Mitchell	Bob Millar	Fred Strom
Graeme Coombes	Cy. Irwin	Yvonne Crompton	Maisie Kerr	Ray Davies
Verlie Davies	Peter Alexander	Bob Lynden	Allan MacMaster	Eric Munkman
Dorothy Munkman	Alf. Hammond	Enid Hammond	Noel Spurling	Tony Harris
Adrienne Harris	Junior Hawke	Nola Hawke	Eric Purcill	Lorna Purcill
Jack Ind	Mary Ind	Ken Crago	Geoff. Burgess	Johnny Bryson
Noelene Bryson	"Dutch" Holland	Stuart Currington	Mr. Harris, Snr.	

Particular apologies were recorded for Dave Firth (Robinvale) and Bob Scholes.

Friday Evening. Those travelling from Sydney started on their way about 3.0. p.m. They seem all to have gone via Kurrajong and Lithgow to Bathurst and then across to Orange. They arrived between 7.0 and 9.30 p.m. according to the density of the traffic and whether they stopped or not for a few beers at Bethurst. After booking in at the Royal Hotel (very comfortable) they drank some glasses together before going on to Rinso and Lorna Purcill's home for an informal welcome party. After consuming many bottles of beer there, the 'Vino Veterans' were to be seen drinking Est---a popular White wine. And so to bed.

Saturday.

In the morning, the Squadron explored the city and shops of Orange by car or on foot. N.S.W. President Peter Alexander, supported by Junior Hawke, Ken Crago and Maca went round to the local Macquarie Network Radio Station and recorded an interview for subsequent broadcast--about 458 at war and in peace. After lunch at the Hotel, the Squadron moved off on the afternoon's programme. This started with a visit to the very

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beautiful Botanic Gardens in Orange and in particular to its Memorial Greenhouse filled with colour and scent. They then drove out to a Cherry Orchard. It is colder in Orange in the winters than in Sydney and Lilac thrives, which on the whole it does not in Sydney; the gardens in Orange at this time were filled with Lilac in bloom in all the many shades horticulturalists can now produce. It was all very attractive.

After looking at the cherries--in the early, green, stage and being shewn the well-cared for garden of the owner,--where other cold weather flowers such as Tulips and rhododendrons, commonplace enough in the British Isles but unusual to us, were growing--the party drove on to Mount Canobolas which looks out over many miles and several towns and settlements. On the summit Freddy Strom took a photograph of the party. We then drove down to the Barbecue site where Rinso and Lorna, Nola Hawke and Johnny Bryson had a Bush Baebecue under way for us.

The N.S.W. President's broadcast came over the air at this time and was heard over the car radios. Dutch Holland and Trapper Currington arrived from Wellington and Peak Hill at this point. They wanted to know where Hal Coffill was. Dutch and Bob Lyndon went off with a couple of guns to look for some rabbits but, such are the blessings of myxomatosis, they found none. After everyone had eaten considerable quantities of steak, chops and sausages, barbecued, and drunk a lot of bottled draught beer, we went back to the hotel to get ready for the Reunion in the evening.

The Reunion. This had been organised in a large house, formerly a private home, now set aside for entertainments, and parties. It was all very nicely furnished and equipped. Guests were present who included the President and Secretary of the Orange Branch of the Air Force Association and the Editor of the local paper--an ex-459 man who had already given the Squadron and this Reunion considerable space in his paper.

We drank beer, chatted, danced (dancing on a feltex carpet may not sound easy but is a soon acquired art), had a splendid supper. During the evening, a presentation was made to Graeme Coombes as a small indication of appreciation for his work as N.S.W. Treasurer. Eric Purcill presented the N.S.W. President and Secretary each with a souvenir of the week end in the form of bottle-openers bearing the Orange coat of arms. It was after midnight before we finished. It was a memorable evening.

Sunday. In the morning we were booked to play golf for the Country Cup at Duntry League Golf Club but found we were in competition with a major interclub tournament, so that was impossible. So, by invitation of the Club, we played bowls. Apart from Alf Hammond and Cyril Irwin, none of us had played before but we did alright. We noted Graeme Coombes, Noel Spurling and Jack Ind as accurate bowlers. Also we saw Enid Hammond and Dorothy Mankman putting bowls alongside the jack time and again.

After a leisurely lunch at the Club, we were invited to a Garden party at Junior and Nola Hawke's home in Bletchington to say good bye. We sat in their sunny garden on the lawn, had tea and talked over the week end. The N.S.W. President talking over the events commented that two of the notable things which had happened had been Ray Davies' getting himself marooned half way up Mt. Canobolas and Maca's promising undertaking, under strictly defined conditions, to give up beer. Maca, lifting his glass, promptly redefined the conditions. On behalf of the party, the President then warmly thanked the Orange Squadron members and their wives and asked Nola and Lorna to accept a large box of chocolates each from 458. And so, after visiting a friend of Sam Barlow's in Orange for a stirrup cup, back to Sydney or the home town.

IN HOLLIDAY MOOD.

Q Flight Notes.

by Jim Holliday.

My sincerest apologies for missing "Q" Flight news from the last issue of "Squadron News". I did send the report to Headquarters but it arrived after the issue had been published. July and August are my busiest months and spare time just doesn't exist. Next year, if I am too busy, the news will be forwarded by some other member of the Committee.

To catch up on the news for the previous issue: There were two functions -- Social and Dance on the first Saturday in June, and the Flight's Annual Reunion on the 10th. August.

The June Social was declared to be the best yet. The number who came to enjoy the festivities totalled 119. A good band, a good supper, plenty of the right spirit added up to a lot of good company. Those who attended declared it the best yet. Wives, in particular, were most appreciative of their husband's thought in providing this entertainment for them. With this happy omen we look forward to our next Social and Dance, set down for Saturday 30th., November.

ARE YOU GOING WEST ? ?

THE PERTH ALL-STATES REUNION NEXT ANZACTIME IS THE SHOT !!

In Holliday Mood.(cont.)

The Flight's Annual Reunion was most disappointing from the point of view of members, only 34 attending. August seems to be a bad month in Brisbane. It brings with it coughs, sneezes, URTI, and 'Flu. The Committee is giving consideration to altering the date. The principal reason for the disappointment in the attendance was the fact that the Squadron's President, Mr. Sam Barlow took time off from his many busy activities to attend. We would have liked to have seen many more there to welcome him. However, Sam, with his usual diplomacy, generously thanked the Flight for turning out in such numbers and stated that he was as pleased to be with the Flight as the Flight was to have him. It was a magnanimous gesture, Sam, and "Q" Flight thank you.

The Annual Election of officers held in conjunction with this Reunion saw the election of Len MacDonnell as the new President of the Flight. It was a popular choice and long overdue. Of course, yours truly was refused permission to withdraw the nomination of him as Secretary. Needless to say, he was elected unopposed. However, yours truly was duly embarrassed by the presentation made to him in recognition of services rendered. The gift was accepted in the spirit in which it was given and will be among his treasured memories.

Points of interest at the Reunion were the attendance of Mr. Bill Cotton, Sam Barlow's friend and fellow-traveller, a genial gentleman whose presence added immeasurably to the hilarity of the occasion; and the presence of John McKellar, whom it was very good to see again after these many years. John is still flying for T.A.A. Another welcome face was that of Terry Waldon of Grafton who was inveigled to attend by Squadron President Sam on his way north. We were pleased to see Terry and hope that he will find it convenient to come again.

The only function since August has been "Q" Flight Melbourne Cup sweep which gave an excellent financial return. The winners are as follows:

1. W.R. McDougall, P.O. Box 98, Maryborough, Q.;
2. M. Major, Department of Civil Aviation,
3. Vera Garland, 382, Waterworks Rd., Ashgrove.

Anticipating these splendid returns from the Cup Sweep, Q. Flight has given donations to the Fund for the restoration of St. Clement Danes Church, London, and to the Sir Charles Kingsford Smith Fund, to house his old 'plane, the "Southern Cross" at the Brisbane Airport.

Bernie McLoughlin officiated on behalf of "Q" Flight at the Shrine of Remembrance during the Battle of Britain ceremony on the 13th. September, when the Flight contributed its annual wreath.

TO ALL OUR READERS -- A MERRY CHRISTMAS: and MAY THE BEST BETIDE US ALL IN 1958 !

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

ARN. SCHOLAR. accompanied by his wife has recently made a holiday journey from his home in Adelaide as far east and north as Newcastle where he met Ross Burgess and the Pomfretts. Returning via Orange (just after the Reunion) where he saw Rinso, he foregathered with the boys in Sydney one evening at the Air Force Club. A game of darts, plenty of beer and the pleasure of old acquaintances renewed led to an excellent evening. Arn. is a Public Servant--with the Post Office;

BILL HULL writes from Cairns in North Queensland that he often sees JACKIE DEN in Tully, where he has a thriving electrical business. Bill says he is contacting DUD McKAY at Redlynch;

THEO RAVENSCROFT is the father of a son, now 10 months old, and is very comfortably installed in his partly built home. He regrets being unable to make the Anzac Do in Brisbane;

DOUG. BENNETT recently paid a visit to Sydney, accompanied by Thamar and their two boys, after some years away, latterly in Lemlipin. We spent an evening with him in the Air Force Club. It was extremely nice to see him again. He may be returning to Sydney soon. We're all for it.

JIM PLUNKETT is Treasurer of the Air Force Association in Cairns. He writes (to the Queensland Secretary) that theirs is the biggest membership outside Sydney. Plunk is exceedingly active in R.S.L. affairs. He had "kittens" the other day when asked to deliver a speech before Rotary;

BERT GARLAND was very happy at the last Queensland Committee meeting. Mrs. Garland gave birth to a bonny boy that morning;

ERIC BIRD writes to his Flight Secretary from Cootharaba of plenty to do, or illness, when the "Q" Flight do s come around. Better luck next time, Eric !

Personal Paragraphs (cont.)

- FRED KLECKHAM is at Daru in New Guinea and doing well. ERLE HETHERINGTON writes to the Queensland Flight that he has been in touch with Fred. He tells us Fred's wife is now holding her own;
- ERIC COX has been in the Repat. Hospital in South Australia again. Eric--A Get-well greeting comes to you from us all with all the friendship of "Auld Acquaintance";
- NICK MATHER is now Director of Posting in the R.A.A.F. He is a member of the Victorian Committee;
- ERNIE LAMING has been attending a Moral Leadership Course conducted by the R.A.A.F. Chaplains at Ballarat;
- BILL BAILEY has a coal and cartage business in Melbourne;
- TED KENNEDY has a Garage at Ballarat, Victoria, at the corner of Marr and Peel Streets. Ted is one of the relatively few remaining 458 bachelors; Ted sends remembrances to Snowy Fennell and Tony Mauro;
- GORDON CUTHBERTSON was at the recent Melbourne Reunion. He has a sheep property, and, we gathered, had recently been shearing. Cuthy has four sons. Sends his remembrances to Rinso Purcill, Arthur Jollow and Athol Kerry;
- GEORGE RIDDOCH was also at the Melbourne Reunion, down from Burrum Beet. He has one son. Sends his regards to Maca;
- TEDDY LOVE tells us he also is shearing. He is an Estate Agent;
- FRED RAY is with the Victorian State Electricity Commission. He is now married. Tells us to ask Snowy Piggott who the White Wog was;
- JOHN BILNEY is still in the Jewellery game. He has one girl and two boys;
- IAN ALISON is a Freelance Commercial artist. He now has two sons. Sends regards to Ralph Bailey and Bill Perkins;
- SHORTY WILSON is with the Department of Civil Aviation. Sends regards to Graeme Coombes, Stuart Ricketts, Fred Strom, and to Les Piggott and family;
- YANK MARTIN sends regards to Kemp Beach in Sydney. He wants to know how Kemp recovered from Thursday and Friday. Our notes are somewhat illegible but there seems to follow some reference to a bottle of Grants Liqueur Whiskey and 12 bottles of beer;
- NORM. CUGLEY now living in his new house in Melbourne is looking for some letters from Curly Waldon, Smiler Ravenscroft and Wally Archbold;
- LISLE WURR who is a School-teacher, has recently become the father of a second son. He bought Dizzy Dean's car when Dizzy recently went overseas;
- "DUTCH" HOLLAND recently looked us up when he paid Sydney a visit on business. He has a Station at Wellington, N.S.W. He and his wife have three children;
- FRANK HICKEY who is with the N.S.W. Valuer-General's Dept. has been promoted as Valuer;
- "DUSTY" MILLER has moved with his family from Yenda to Griffith, in N.S.W. where he is a Partner a General Engineering business. The family has two boys and two Girls now;
- "GOLDY" BARTLETT hopes, in the near future, to commence a new house at La Perouse, near Sydney;
- "CURLY" HOSKING has been hospitalised for an operation but is now 100%;
- CLIFF HAYWARD has had a trip to Cairns, going by air and returning by Pioneer Coach. He looked for Bernie McLoughlin on the way but missed him. Had some grog with Bill Ernst at the Gresham Hotel;
- BRIAN LORD is now Assistant Secretary to British Paints in Sydney;
- COL CORPEN who lives at Harbord Beach is Solicitor to the Warringah Shire Council and Secretary of the Marly-Warringah Law Society. He and his wife have five children and have maintained a boy-girl sequence;
- BOB BRUCE is managing the Mount Wilga Rehabilitation Camp near Hornsby, Sydney;
- BILL PERKINS is with the Bank of New South Wales. He would like news of Fred Ayres;
- ERIC MUNKMAN: the Editor's thanks to the Squadron Treasurer, Eric Munkman, for collecting items of N.S.W. news during the Sydney Reunion during the Editor's absence in Melbourne.

"SMILEY GETS A GUN."

Squadron member and distinguished Sydney actor, Leonard Teale, is currently taking a part in the sequel to the film "Smiley" which is now being filmed. He proposes to wear the 458 Squadron Tie in his part. The film is, we gather, tentatively titled "Smiley Gets a Gun". However, whatever the title we have no doubt that 458 ers will be very interested to see it in due course.

OUR SYMPATHY.

To well-known and greatly liked Squadron member Cec (Pop) Nation on the recent death of his wife, Mrs. Claudia Nation.

Claudia was well known to many 458 ers and their families in Sydney and her passing is the deeply regretted passing of a loved friend.

N.S.W. FLIGHT NEWS.

from

Allan Walker.

Reunion in Sydney. The half-yearly Reunion of the N.S.W. Flight was held at the Air Force Club on Friday September 20th. The N.S.W. President was interstate on business, so the Squadron President, Sam Barlow, who is also N.S.W. Senior Vice President, welcomed the 35 members who came along.

It was very nice to see Bob Bruce again attending a Reunion. After living at Jervis Bay, Bob is now back in Sydney again, having been appointed Manager of the Department of Social Services Branch at Hornsby. We were also very happy to see Wal Clarke, who was attending his first Reunion since his return from an overseas visit.

Golf. The result of the recent battle, out at Campbelltown, for the President's Cup Golf Trophy was that the Cup will now stand, for a second time, for a year on a shelf in Eric Munkman's home in Willoughby. This was the second time Eric has won the Cup and he turned in a very fine round of 64 net. In fact, good scores were the order of the day---Alf. Hammond had a net 65 and there were several others whose net scores were below par. The Team Trophy, played for annually between Squadron members and Armidale Old Boys was won by the Squadron and the win was celebrated in the usual way.

Legacy. The N.S.W. Flight has decided to hold a yearly function of which the net proceeds are to be donated to Legacy in N.S.W. More details in the next copy of the News.

Sam Barlow's Accident.

We are pleased to report that Sam and his friends escaped serious injury in their recent nasty car smash. Sam's Holden was involved in a collision with a truck one night. He has an injured knee: one passenger suffered a broken arm, the other some cracked ribs. However, they are all recovering--and, Sam, we wish yourself and your passengers a complete recovery soon.

Cec. Nation.

We have all been shocked and saddened by the untimely passing of Claudia Nation. We extend to Cec. our sincere sympathy.

The Valuers.

We congratulate Cy. Irwin on his election to the Board of Commonwealth Valuers and Frank Hickey on his promotion as Valuator. Frank is now driving a Volkswagen.

Visitors Here.

We have had the pleasure of entertaining three Squadron members from out of town. Firstly, Dutch Holland down from Wellington for a brief break. Secondly, Doug. Bennett down from Deniliquin where the N.S.W. Public Service has him domiciled at the moment. Thirdly, Arnold Scholar from South Australia. It was very nice indeed to see them, and we hope they enjoyed their stay.

Christmas Drinks.

The usual, informal, gathering of 458ers to exchange good wishes in honour of the coming of Christmas, will be held over a few glasses of beer in the Long Bar, Hotel Australia, Sydney on Thursday December 19th from 5.0. p.m. onwards. Let's see you there.

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from

Sid Thompson and Harry Bishop.

Anzac Day in London. On April 25th., the U.K. Flight were represented at the Cenotaph in Whitehall at an official wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate Anzac Day. Mick Mason laid a wreath of poppies enclosing the Squadron badge, on our behalf. Others attending included Norman Gilbert, John Dandy, Bob Havers, and Harry Bishop. In the afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Anton, Harry and Mrs. Bishop, Bob and Mrs. Havers and Sid Thompson attended a tea party organised by the Anzac Fellowship of Women at Australia House, where we were entertained by Joan Sutherland. Short talks by the High Commissioners for Australia and New Zealand (the former commenting on the undisciplined lot you Aussies are, or were) were followed by community singing. So, on leaving, we split up and made our various ways to wherever we wanted to go.

The Reunion.

On the following Saturday, we held another Reunion at the Feathers Hotel, Westminster, during which we held our Annual General Meeting. After

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seeing that all our glasses were charged, the President, Johnno Johnston, reported on the various activities of the Flight since our last A.G.M., including the Reunion last November, the visit to Holme-on-Spalding Moor and the events on Anzac Day. Johnno announced that he was leaving us before the next A.G.M. and therefore would not offer himself for re-election. Mick Mason was unanimously then elected as our President. Leo Armstrong was elected to fill the position of Vice President, and Sid Thompsett re-elected Secretary.. Harry Bishop is Treasurer, Vincent Thwaites being elected Assistant Secretary.

It was then proposed to increase the Committee, to which Eric Brown and Charles Humbles were elected.

It became known that Johnno was getting married in June. Some time later we were able to give Johnno and his wife a set of clocks--alarm, kitchen, and cooking--not forgetting the greetings telegram.

A Visitor to London.

Quite by chance we saw Bruce McKenzie on T.V. at the Royal Show at Norwich. Finally after a number of phone calls, Harry Bishop succeeded in contacting him. Bruce conveyed his best wishes to the Squadron boys and hopes to be over here again with more free time.

September Reunion.

We received the Tape recording from the Sydney Reunion just in time for the half yearly Reunion, again held at the Feathers Hotel, Westminster. How nice it was to hear so many familiar voices again! Some of the members who had messages on the tape were not there to hear for themselves, but we will be playing it over again at future Reunions. Those who made it included, Johnno and Mrs. Johnston, Mick Mason, Harry and Mrs. Bishop, Sid and Mrs. Thompsett, Eric Brown, Vincent and Mrs. Thwaites, Bert Sleight (first time), Charlie Humbles, Roy Springall, Norman Gilbert, Leo Armstrong, and Bill Prater. We had numerous apologies. It was very nice to see Bert Sleight for the first time and Bill Prater who is still serving as a W.O. came along quite unexpectedly.

Blazer Pockets and Ties.

Our Blazer pockets do look outstanding, due to the fact that we are now able to get them finished in gold wire. Our Squadron Ties are of very fine woollen material with the Squadron badge hand embroidered on them.

Tell Pete Pettit I will be dropping him a letter. I have just got back from my holiday which I (Sid) spent in Jersey with my family. Cheerio.

458 SQUADRON IN VICTORIA.

We had occasion to pay a business visit to Melbourne during September and, of course, got in touch with Arthur Green. There is no doubt about it, getting in touch with Arthur is an immediate passport to the warmest and most kind hospitality.

We found ourselves at once in a party of 458 ers having a few beers prior to a Committee meeting to discuss arrangements for a Reunion the next Friday. After a few, quite a few, glasses of Melbourne beer we were very kindly invited to sit in on the Committee meeting as a visitor (at Jim Munday's office) and afterwards to adjourn with the Committee to the well-known Hardware Club. Afterwards we went on to Arthur's home. That was on Monday night. Thereafter we seem to have spent most of our non-working time with 458ers.

After contacting Gerry Abraham at the Department of Air, we met him and his wife at their new and very attractive home at East Bentleigh and talked of old times and Squadron friends of other days. Gerry does not change in any way, it seemed to us. Another evening was spent with Arthur and Elsie Green and Norm and Mrs. Cugley.

Friday evening, of course, was the evening of the Victorian Reunion. This was at the Air Force Association building in Flinders Lane. It was quite a moment to walk in and be able to feel once more at a Melbourne 458 Reunion. Incidentally, Johnno, we can still recall how nice that first glass of beer tasted.

During the evening, the first Tape recording sent out by the U.K. Flight was played over and sounded remarkably good and clear. There were several 458 ers present whose friends in London were calling them. Particularly Bill Bailey (Old Rowley), and George Riddoch. That recording carries a real punch as a 458 link. There must be more exchanges. We understand Arthur Green proposes to organise one at the next Victorian function. Squadron friends we saw there were: Jim Munday, Arthur Green, John Jenkins, Don Johnston, Norm Cugley, Ian Alison, John Bilney, Freddy Ray, Ted Kennedy, Ernie Laming, (who is leaving the Air Force), Mick Mather, Cuthy Cuthbertson, George Riddoch, Bill Bailey, Yank Martin, Shorty Wilson and others. It was a late and an enjoyable evening.

Next day, back to Sydney. Arthur saw us off. Good luck and thanks to the Victorian Flight!