



# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



THE EDITOR.

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, Australia.

Vol. IO, No. 38.

February, 1959.

## BRISBANE PREPARES FOR ANZAC TIME. ALL-STATES REUNION IN CENTENARY YEAR OF QUEENSLAND.

1959 is the Centenary Year of Queensland's Statehood and, to celebrate, a long programme of Jubilee events has been officially arranged by the State. The fact that 458 is having its All-States Reunion in Queensland's Capital City in 1959 is accordingly a particularly happy coincidence for us. We shall take part in and, no doubt, play a part in adding to the festivity and gaiety of the Year. The successful settlement by the British race of the vast area from the tropics of the North to the N.S.W. border; the development of the great Sugar and Banana and Pineapple industries; and the general growth of the State in the past century are things to celebrate indeed. 458's Programme is again set out below. It now only remains for members to complete arrangements to be there.

### Q. Flight Secretary's Advice.

Jim Holliday writes: Q. Flight Committee is as busy as a hive full of bees working on plans for the best 458 Re-union ever. Peter Alexander has sent us word that already there are 37 starters, including wives. We will be bitterly disappointed if the final numbers do not reach the half century. This is the opportunity of a lifetime to see the Sunshine State at its sunniest. It's our Centenary Year and even the climate is putting its best foot forward. Here's the Programme:

- Thursday April 23th. Welcoming Dance;
- Friday April 24th.
- (a) Anzac Cup Golf Competition,
  - (b) For the non-Golfers, trips to nearby tourist sights,
  - (c) Private evening "At Homes",
- Saturday April 25th.
- (a) 10.0 a.m. Squadron Conference,
  - (b) Wives of delegates entertained,
  - (c) 2.30 p.m. Anzac March,
  - (d) 3.30 p.m. The All-States Reunion,
  - (e) Private evening entertainment;
- Sunday April 26th.
- (a) Barbecue on the Mountain at Beechmont,
  - (b) Tour of the fabulous Gold Coast (including Surfers Paradise;
  - (c) Dinner with the Johnstons (Molly and Johnno) at Southport;
- Monday April 27th. The End:---but, if you will stay on, we'll be happy to make all the arrangements.

### Accommodation.

Jim Holliday continues: We can suit all tastes. We can get really good hotel accommodation for 30/- bed and breakfast to £5/6 per day for an airconditioned private bathroom with maid thrown in. But PLEASE let us know early so that we can book the best. Our Final Word is:---Make your slogan "Holiday in Queensland this Year". We're making our Slogan "We'll be seeing you!"

FILL IN THE FORM ON PAGE 8 and TELL US YOU'RE COMING TO BRISBANE. YOU'LL REMEMBER THE HOLIDAY WITH HAPPINESS FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS.

THE HISTORY PUBLICATION FUND FILLED.

The News takes the greatest pleasure in announcing the fact that the Fund has reached and passed its Target, thanks to the generous support of the Squadron in general and two or three members in particular. This, in about six months, is a remarkably creditable achievement and 458 can be proud of it. Details are:

GRAND TARGET. £735.

	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>S.A.</u>	<u>Victoria.</u>	<u>Q.Flt.</u>	<u>U.K.</u>	<u>W.A.</u>	<u>Overseas.</u>
Previously acknowledged.	£49I- 0- 0	46-IO-0	22-IO-0	58-IO-0	25-0-0	6- 0-0	---
Subs at 30/-	W.Baird R.Gilkes J.Aitken D.Millard W.McBride A.McLean			K.Cahill E.Kelly C.Bull (Assoc)		Lock Simpson Lock Simpson	L.Crowley B.McKenzie B.McKenzie B.McKenzie B.McKenzie B.McKenzie
Donations:							
K.Crago	50- 0- 0						
B.McKenzie							5- 0- 0
Total	£550- 0- 0	46-IO-0	22-IO-0	63-0 -0	25-0-0	9-0-0	14-0-0
			Total of the above	£730- 0- 0			
Loan from "Anonymous 458 er"				100- 0- 0			
				£ 830-0- 0			

What next? Well, the manuscript is with the printers; we have passed the final design for the Dust Cover; the illustrations have been chosen ( a few unsuspecting 458ers will find their faces confronting them in the History). We are promised publication before Anzac Day. In fact the Editor, who is also the Historian, expects to be involved in proof-reading (with help from some Sydney members) as soon as this issue of the News has been typed. We intend to give those 458 Squadron members who have not yet paid for their copy of the History a further chance of preferential purchase before the book is made available for public sale. We have ordered 500 copies; we are now encouraged to anticipate a good sale to the General Public. Anyhow the whole venture is in its way quite an adventure for those involved and is causing some excitement.

THE COLONEL TO VISIT AUSTRALIA.

Bruce McKenzie, who as L/Col. B. McKenzie, S.A.A.F., was 458's third Commanding Officer, is to visit Australia about Easter, 1960.

The Colonel is now a prominent Cattle Breeder in Kenya as well as a member of the Kenya Legislative Council. He intends, we suspect, to attend the Sydney Royal Easter Show. He will also (we quote) tell us how the poor --like himself-- struggle on in Africa while observing how we rich white men live. (we unquote).

We understand that there is somewhat more of Mac. than there used to be. We are quite certain that we could not announce anything that would give 458ers more unalloyed pleasure than that the Colonel is coming to see us. He is welcome indeed. We warn him, however, that there will be some mornings during his visit when he will regret having come!

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

from

Jim Holliday,43, Stella St., Holland Park, Brisbane.Christmas Social.

Q. Flight chalked up another success with its 1958 Christmas Social-- held again at the A.T.C. Mess. 112 members, associates, wives and friends romped away happily until 3.0. a.m. The Band played on until 2 a.m.; and what a Band! Played all those evergreen rhythmic tunes that came out in the early thirties. Made us all feel quite young again. Everyone's verdict: "Let's do it again."

Erle Hetherington Among the Tropic Isles.

One sad note at the Christmas Social was the knowledge that Erle Hetherington was due to depart a few days later to Townsville and Cairns in North Queensland, 1,000 miles away, to take up duty as a marine engineer with

Q. Flight News (cont.)

Hayles Tourist Company on boats voyaging to the Tropic Isles of Magnetic and Green. Eric has been a member of the Queensland Committee since Q-Flight was born, and is a former Queensland President. It was with great reluctance that the Committee let him go, particularly because each member would like to be with Bev. (Mrs. Hetherington) and Eric among the coconut palms, the coral, and the beaut. big fish.

458er of the DAY.-----ERIC MUNKMAN of Sydney.

Eric Thomas Munkman, the Squadron Treasurer, was with the Squadron Orderly Room from Holme-on-Spalding Moor to the close of the Squadron's operational life. He, in fact, before that sailed from Australia as one of the "Original 458ers". He thus served with 458 right through, knowing and being well-known to the many hundreds who passed through 458. This wartime service with 458 he has continued without interruption in the active post-war years of Squadron life. Not of flamboyant nature he has been essential to the Squadron and is in fact one of the "Quiet Builders" of the most remarkable and successful post-war 458 Association.

He became a member of the N.S.W. Committee in its first year, remaining on it and now being its Senior Vice President. Most of his close friends on the Squadron came from the West and it was very suitable that he should be W.A. Councillor on the Squadron Council, until his election to the Squadron Treasurership. This same W.A. link led him to make the long journey in 1958 to Perth to the memorable All-States Reunion there at Anzactime.

When 458 in N.S.W. decided, nearly ten years ago, to take up cricket and did it successfully, Eric revealed himself to be a natural cricketer of great ability, mainly as a medium-paced In-swing bowler and keen slip field. Probably the cricket team would never have functioned without the Munkman truck to carry the gear and many of the team to and from play. Dorothy Munkman is the team's scorer.

Incidentally, Dorothy herself has been a most staunch 458er---but she deserves to have this column to herself in due course.

Eric is a carpenter and builder by occupation, being in partnership with his brothers.

The comment of those who know him might well be "If we are to have friends, then let them be such friends as Eric is."

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From JACK ELLIS, Richmond Hill Hotel, Richmond, Surrey, England.

Dear Peter, It is now almost six years since I and my family left Australia, it is therefore quite a long time since I had any direct contact with the old Squadron, but of course I have often thought of them. I could have written, often meant to, but somehow never did. I feel that an apology on this score is due, especially as I am now writing for assistance, but the honest fact is that we have lived a very active life.

We left Australia for Burma as you know, I did write once, ran into difficulty with a very different standard of honour there than we were used to at home, and so made off to the U.K. During a couple of years in that country, whilst I flew with Air Charter, a lot of my time was spent in Germany, and a whole lot of the time at home in the U.K. very busily occupied converting and renovating a couple of old cottages, in an attempt to recoup some of the losses sustained in Burma. Incidentally these efforts were reasonably successful.....

From England we drove by car to Beirut, via France, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and Syria, where I had accepted a job with the Shaikh of Kuwait as personal pilot for the Ruler himself and his family. The aircraft was a Convair and I stayed in the job for a year, managed to get home for a quick leave, then back to Beirut, which is where I am now, having recently resigned the position of Chief Pilot of the York and DC 3 fleets for Middle East Airlines. Whilst seeking a position at home I have remained with the Company as a Viscount Captain. However since the A.N.A./Ansett merger, flying has become a very difficult game to break into back in Australia, and so we have been considering all sorts of alternatives, and a decision has been taken in favour of a private venture in the light aircraft field.

We, Margaret and I, propose to form a company whose aims will be:-Aerial top-dressing, sowing and general aids to property owners, including aerial survey, stock feeding, general carriage, and air taxi. We feel that in this field there is still great scope for an energetic, imaginative, approach, and we propose to investigate the needs of the Farmer and the man on the land everywhere, to try to establish the fullest possible pattern of

Letters to the Editor (cont.)

aerial assistance. New Zealand especially has developed a very progressive spirit in this sphere and I am sure there is much need for far greater progress in this field in Australia. Of course, it goes without saying that our aircraft would always be immediately available for mercy work, especially in remote regions.

It will be readily appreciated that the initial outlay involved would be considerable and in order to be sure of a sound start we are at present earnestly surveying the market on an Australia-wide basis. In fact, we are mainly interested in the East but would definitely operate throughout the land should it be warranted, or alternatively we are prepared to base our operation according to demand.

My letter to the Squadron through you, Peter, is essentially a part of that survey. I would be most grateful for any assistance. Any costs, such as mail, etc., are naturally mine. Some of the boys I know are property owners, some may have connections; I am most anxious to have introductions to Government Depts which would be interested in pellet sowing of difficult ground, area survey of cattle areas in the North---and, of course, would like to have under offer any work under the above headings.

As regards cost, naturally our starting prices are those set by our competitors already in the field and our efficiency has just got to match up from the word go, or we will fail to survive. I am hopeful that, once established, we will do more than just compete.

Actually Margaret and I are living in Beirut at the moment, Margaret having just returned with the recent improvement in local conditions following the upheavals of the past months; however we are not very convinced that peace has come permanently to the Middle East, and so the children are at Boarding School in the U.K.. The address above is due to the hopelessly unreliable mail service. With it all, you can't imagine how we're dying to get home. In conclusion I should like to send my very best regards to all of 458 and the same again to yourself, Peter,

Sincerely,

Jack Ellis.

(Can any member advise, please--Editor)

From RON RADBOURNE 45, Poplar Road, Redditch, Worcestershire, England to BOB MILLAR, Sydney:

Dear Bob, ..... I expect Mitch informed you I had written to him; his letter was very interesting and gave me some useful information on immigrating. I don't think I have thanked you for sending me a Sydney newspaper. You were quite right when you said that clerical types could get jobs quite easily, the paper was full of advertisements.

I see one of the Flights has already brought out a Briton. I'm still hoping and, as I told Mitch, I'm sure the wife would be quite willing to leave here if accommodation was forthcoming. Boy, and with the weather outside as it is, cold and very foggy, shew me some sun.

At the beginning of last month I went to London for the weekend for a Squadron Reunion. An enjoyable evening, and I only regretted the fact there were no recordings made that evening as I should have loved to have replied to your message; anyway may I now thank you very much. The new tape was played and also the old one, the one you were on, so that some of us who had not been to the previous Re union could be brought up to date.

They have arranged for a day's Celebration on Anzac Day next April as it falls on a Saturday. I hope to attend and if a baby-sitter can be obtained for the lads, 7 and 5, I hope the wife will come too. The Cenotaph at 11.0 a.m., followed by a Service at Westminster tea at Australia House, and a Dinner and Dance in the Evening--sounds good.

..... My greetings too to Mitch and all 458ers. Write soon, I enjoy your letters so much.

yours,  
Ron.From KEN CRAGG, New South Wales:

Dear Peter, Thanks for your last letter with the news of Jack Ellis....

I am enclosing a cheque which I hope will help the History Fund a little. The only request that goes with it is that it be accepted as a gift to the Squadron. If it is not all used on the History, then put the balance to whatever you think needs boosting.

.....

I had a card from Junior Hawke for Xmas....

Kindest regards to all.

yours sincerely,

Ken Crago.

From LAURIE CROWLEY, Lae, New Guinea:

Dear Peter, I am enclosing a cheque for £10, to cover my Squadron History, any dues outstanding, the balance to Squadron funds. Many thanks for the Squadron News; I really look forward to receiving it. Am going to make a determined effort to attend the All-States Reunion

Letters to the Editor (cont.)

in Brisbane this year and look forward to seeing many 458ers there.

yours sincerely,  
Laurie.

From HAROLD "CURLY" YOUNG, Lot 90, Brady Road, East Bentleigh, Victoria:

Dear Sir, please find herewith a copy of CIVVY..., with a very interesting article about the old Wimpy. You will notice that 458 gets a good write-up.....

The truth is I meant to forward them to you last year, but I moved into my new home in November and as you realise there are a million things to do.

Please pass on my regards to Tom Moore and Dick Healey. All for now. All the best

Harold (Curly) Young.

CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

by

Bob Bruce, Mt. Wilga, Manor Rd.,  
Hornsby, N.S.W.

Reunion soon in Sydney. The next N.S.W. Flight Reunion will be held on Friday, March 13th., 1959, at 330, George Street, Sydney (3rd. Floor) at 8.0. p.m. The Annual Election of N.S.W. President and Committee will be carried out during the evening and a good roll-up of members is requested. Supper will of course be provided and the usual liquid refreshments.

Tennis Day. A large number of Squadron members, wives and friends came to Mt. Wilga for Tennis, etc on Sunday December 7th. Unfortunately it was marred by wet weather in the afternoon. However there were other things to do, apart from Tennis (thanks to Bill Cotton) and we disposed of an I8 and six dozen also.

Christmas Gathering. There was an enjoyable evening on December 19th at the Air Force Club for an informal Christmas Drink. Too few members came along--unfortunately too often we have to depend on the old regular supporters. The eight or nine present had a really good evening. Norm Walker who was there, gave us a fascinating insight into the operations of the Trading Ring at Protville.

Interstate members.

In recent weeks we have been delighted to see a number of interstate 458ers. Sid Baker (W.A.), Bernie McLoughlin and Jim Holliday (Queensland), and Ken Russell (S.A.). Sid met a gathering of Squadron friends on his way back from New Zealand. Bernie (down for a week to see the Test Match in Sydney, which he did do very thoroughly) had dinner with Sam Barlow and Peter Alexander before meeting several other 458ers in the Club, where the Diners arrived somewhat late and rather mellow. We understand they drank champagne and Bernie ordered and ate Snails with (or without) Garlic Sauce; the others stuck to oysters. After Jim and Ken had some beers in the Club, Sam and Peter took Jim to dinner before his aircraft left. They started off for the Coronet Restaurant but found it burned down; they then went to Fernandez and found it shut down; third time lucky they went to Gravas and found it open.

Bermuda Jackets and 458 Pockets. Have you noticed how popular Bermuda Jackets with Matching 458 Pockets are becoming, now that the N.S.W. Flight have a supply of blazer pockets embodying the Squadron Badge. Eric Munkman is the latest to appear in one--a Christmas present from Dorothy.. They are very effective. The price--26/- and a note to the writer will ensure your being supplied. We would like to see plenty of sales.

Anzac Day. If you are not going to the All-States Reunion in Brisbane over Anzac Weekend, you are advised that 458 in Sydney will still be marching in this year's Anzac March and you should watch your Sydney papers for details of assembly points, etc, in the week before Anzac Day.

Another Country Reunion. The first N.S.W. Country Reunion was such a marked success that the N.S.W. Committee has decided to hold another. This will be in Canberra some time in September. Members are asked to bear this well in mind. Accommodation will be booked at a suitable Hotel. There will be a Social Reunion one evening and sight-seeing tours in the very beautiful Canberra District. We will have further details in later issues.

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from

Sid Thompsott,  
369, Downham Way, Bromley, Kent, England.

We were glad to receive the Perth Reunion recording. Will play it over at the next Reunion. To date 20 Squadron members have asked for copies of the History here. At the beginning of the month I made an extra effort to find some of the old 458ers we haven't heard from and I am glad to say I have added another 8 members onto the mailing list: they are; D.J. (Dewi) Davies, Eric Phillips, P.B. Bishop, H. Holding, Ken Morris, J. Rose, R.E. (Pop) Boyle, and W.G. Allen; I am very pleased and it was well worth the effort.

The British Bulletin (Cont.)

On Saturday November 15th., we held our Reunion at the Feathers Hotel, Westminster, and everyone had a very enjoyable time. One of the new-found members (Eric Phillips) was able to get there (he would like to be remembered to Nick Sings). Those attending were: S.Thompsett and wife, Eric Brown, C.Humbles, Hugh Hamlet, Ron Radbourne, Dick Tombs, Norman Gilbert, Steve Search and wife, Mick Mason, Harry Bishop and wife, Leon Armstrong, Eric Phillips, Wyn.Richards, C.Goldring, Roy Springall and wife, and not forgetting Olive, our Barmaid. We held our A.G.M., and it was agreed that all officers be voted en bloc to carry on for another year. It was agreed (following a comment about the Bring Out a Briton Campaign) that this Flight will Bring In an Aussie here if anyone is interested (any comments?)

We are all looking forward very much to our first Dinner on Anzac Day in April. All the very best.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from

Butch Power, 145, Gildercliffe St.  
Scarborough, W.A.

Here's hoping this arrives in time for the current issue of the "News".

First of all on behalf of the President, Officers, and members of W.A. Flight I would like to convey all the very best for 1959 to Squadron members wherever they may be.

After the hectic week of the All-States Reunion there was a marked recession in Squadron activity in W.A. (probably recuperating), but in 1959 we got away to a flying start. A Special General Meeting was held on 19th. December to elect a new Secretary, Hensell Homy having resigned. I was elected or should I say re-elected and will endeavour to maintain the close liaison with the Squadron of my previous three years term.

Cricket Match against 460 Squadron.

On Sunday January 25th. the W.A. Flight played a "Grudge" cricket match with our sister Squadron 460 at Rockingham. Rockingham will be recalled as the place where we stopped for lunch during the Scenic Tour of the Reunion week and where Eric Munkman saw his first W.A. Swans, which to his disgust were white not black. We played 15 a side, the loser to purchase a 5 gallon keg. We had them well and truly beaten, but they appealed against the 'light' at 3.0. p.m. in the afternoon of a bright summer's day. The captains and the umpires conferred, the appeal was upheld, and play was abandoned so that the last keg could be finished off. The match was declared drawn and will be replayed at a date to be fixed. It was the first of what we know will be a permanent liaison between the Squadrons as 460 are a great bunch of fellows.

The History.

Subscriptions are coming in---about 22 are now in.

Brisbane All-States Reunion.

There are several possibles. Al and Joy Wheat hope to make the journey. Sid Baker may fly over, while "Fandy" and Mrs. Carpenter may go by car. I would travel overland by car if I can find three other starters to share the expenses. It is a long way (6,800 miles return) but for a party of four it should only cost £50 per head. "Binghi" Stewart is interested. It is a bit early to give a final estimate of just who may attend from W.A.

Geraldton.

Went north to Geraldton between Xmas and New Year and looked up Al. what in his native haunt. Had a few minutes with him--he being ~~too~~ busy selling cars to settle down to a quiet session. However this was smartly rectified on his recent trip to the city.

Our Annual General Meeting.

This, with the election of officers is scheduled for March 3rd., in Air Force Association House, Perth at 8.0. p.m., while our Annual Reunion will be held as usual immediately after the March on Anzac Day, in the Pavilion of the East Perth Tennis Club, northeast corner of Wellington Square.

(News of W.A. Personalities, supplied by Butch Power, is included in our PERSONAL PARS, Below)

BIRTHS.

458 Squadron congratulates:---

MERV. and MRS. HARGRAVES on the arrival of a daughter, Rosemary. This makes it 1 boy, 2 girls;  
BRIAN and DOT LORD -- a daughter; their third;  
PETER and RITA ALEXANDER -- a daughter (Melanie Rose); also their third;  
GEORGE and PEG UNITT -- a daughter. They have one boy and three girls.

THE EDITOR acknowledges with many thanks Christmas Greetings, both for the Squadron and for himself from the following members and their families: Tony Harris, 'Rinso' Purcill, Johnno, Don Johnson, Graeme Coombes, Ken Mercer, Ross Burgess, Yvonne Crompton, Stuart Ricketts, Alan Figgott, 'Dizzy' Dean, Cec. Nottion, Jim Holliday, Geoff. Burgess, Bob Bruce, Stan Parker, Len Stewart, Harry Baines, Eric Munkman, Arthur Green, Jim Palmer; there was also a very nice specially printed U.K. Flight card on which the Flight Committee is to be congratulated.

