ANNUAL MEETING IN BRISBANE - ALL-STATES REUNION IN QUEENSLAND CENTENARY YEAR.

The culmination of the year, the 458th Anniversary, was celebrated in Brisbane. This year, 1959, the Annual Meeting was held in Brisbane.

Brisbane was a suitable place since, among other reasons, it is the capital of one of the states of Queensland, which had a delegation from the New South Wales. They had been touring Queensland and arrived in Brisbane on Sunday, April 17th to prepare for the farewell banquet in the evening.

Arrivals. To Brisbane, came 458 members and their wives from all the mainland Australian States. This was the first Annual Meeting at which all Australian States were represented.

First arrivals from interstate were Bill Chapman and his wife, from Queensland in New South Wales. They had been touring Queensland and arrived in Brisbane on Sunday, April 17th.

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Th meat was met by Bill and Eric Land and a reporter and photographer from the Brisbane Telegraph. All Brisbane knew, as well as every 458 member, that Johnny and Denis had arrived by the publication of their laughing faces on page 2 of the Tuesday's Telegraph.

From then on, interstate members (the word 'Visitor' is tabooed for application to a 458 member) arrived by car, train, air -- and by bus too. Many made a holiday of it, staying at the Gold Coast on the way through. Sam Berlow and party from Sydney came by car. Alf and Enid Hammon travelled in convoy by car with Eric and Dorothy Parkman and 'Woolfs' and Agnes Carpenter. 'Woolfs' and Agnes, coming from New South Wales, travelled with the rest of their convoy in Sydney instead of proceeding by long distance coach as originally planned.

Long distance record went to Al and Joy Gant who came by air from Shepparton in Victoria. Al was a Touring trip for himself and Joy in a tractor pulling competition. They met 'Al's crew' in three different States on the way.

Nick Burton and S.A. Secretary Ann. Scholar completed the 5th Aust. party. Arthur Groen, Dave, and Gladys Birt, and Jim and Joan Munday came from Victoria and the Easter party totalled 17.

Civic Reception. Out of the blue came an invitation for all members of 458 and their wives to attend a civic reception by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman Green, to Group Captain Chisholm, V.C., and his wife on the opening day of the official 458 programme. Group Capt. Chisholm arrived immediately on the 458 file as the 458 group was introduced, and spent a great deal of time conversing with our members.
all soldiers in Brisbane. (cont.)

The Reunion Dances. That evening, Thursday 23rd, the
Queensland Flight held a welcoming Dance. It was at the large, new and commodious Ipswich
Barkers Recreation Hall in Mort St, Milt. As had been anticipated, it was a first rate success.
A far greater attraction was the renewal of old friendships. Conversation and
dancing filled the air, and the evening progressed... Banquets also
followed. Informality was a keynote. The orchestra played on and the evening was far too
short. It was a happy introduction to the following days' schedule of festivities.

Oakley and the Anzac Cup. Friday saw the Annual Competition for the Anzac Cup,
held, once again, at Bernie McLaughlin's Golf Club at Oakley. Interclub members returning
from the Club House had been rebuilt and were very well-equipped indeed. The Cup
was competed for over 10 holes, before lunch.

The golfers were rewarded by Bernie, off the
course and by instinct and,costly,women's prizes by playing to them. It was a pleasant
round in fine Queensland sunshine and over a not-too-hard course, green and
countrified.

Bill McRitchie, returning for the Reunion to his old State of Queensland from Sydney,
was the new holder of the Anzac Cup, with Keith Campbell as Runner-up. A Trophy for the best
Interclub member went to last year's holder of the Anzac Cup, Arthur Orion who beat Alf
Hammers in a play-off.

Best Gross trophy went to Bill Allen, an Associate member. Best
absolute performance was by Bill McRitchie's brother, J. S. J. Dandy.
The Club scored 458 with a Lobster luncheon and all that goes with it. After
lunch came something for which the Brisbane Reunion would always be notable. The first issue
of the Queensland Branch of the Reunion History, with portraits, is.
Johnny Box, officiating once again, while the Squadron Treasurer and Secretary kept the score.
Such was the finish that from a chemical sheet there was a sudden complete hush while everyone examined his
book. No more intimate tribute could be paid to an officer than this hush. Then Peter
was besought with requests to have his autograph copies.

While the Golfers Danced Their Ladies, or some of them, accompanied Ruth
MacKinnon and Peg Holliday to the Riviera Hotel at Lone Pine. Two of the younger
members of the party will long remember it as the day they were clouded by a Carpet Blanks.

The Dinner. That night there were a series of parties at Brisbane members' homes.

Jim Holliday, Law MacKinnon and Eric Lloyd were among those who gave parties. One at Jim's
was the first (at the Reunion) production of one of the highlights of
available tape recorders. This was again played at the All-States Reunion later.

For the most part it was boor, revelling the past, more boor, more memories and bed.

Anzac Day, April 25th, 1954
Banq Service at the Flora of Remembrance.

Queensland Treasurer Jack Lewis represented 458 at the Banq Service at
Anzac Park in Ann Street and placed a fine wreath.

The Squadron Conference. Conference's decisions and debates are dealt with
elsewhere. The function of this article is to sketch in the scene and the background.

The scene was brilliant. Located on the top of the new Prudential Assurance
Building at North Quay in its large Staff Recreation Room, equipped with all the
beautifying of new architecture and new building. A superb view outside on the
broad reaches of the river and the Brisbane River. Sunlight streaming through the
windows and over the building. A gallery of over 50 Squadron members on their
visits to watch the opening by the Premier of Queensland. Delegates from the flights and the
Squadron officers sitting round a horseshoe table with Squadron President Jim Holliday
presiding.

The Premier. The Premier, the Hon. Col. W. H. Mckean, J.A., arrived in one lift
while the official 458 party was going down in the other to meet him but after that
minor hitch proceedings went excellently. The Premier met the Delegates and then spoke
for 20 minutes or so, referring in most favourable terms to 458 both in war and peacetime.
He declared Conference member after being invited to do so by the Squadron President
458 Col. Law Johnston, owed a vote of thanks in a sparkling speech which made many a
chuckle.

Sitting next to the Premier at Conference table was the Deputy Leader of the
Opposition, Queensland Member, Eric Lloyd J.A., who supported the vote of thanks.
As a gesture of appreciation Jim Holliday presented the Premier
with a copy of the Squadron History.

The Premier, who is a bon vivant, stayed and drank
and was also invited by the Squadron to lunch at the Squadron Rooms and was
photographed by the Press holding the Squadron History in front of the 458 Banner.

Interclub members meeting Mr. Mckean (who is a Country Party
Member) described him as a shaved-looking and kindly-natured man.

After the Premier left, Conference resumed and ate an excellent
chicken lunch while business proceeded. Lunch was the responsibility of Law MacKinnon
and Eric (Red) Kelly who also looked after morning tea and did a superb job.

In fact and in particular it has to be recorded how much the
success of the whole All-States Reunion programme owed to the untiring and self-supporting
work of Law MacKinnon.
behind the 456 Sqn in Brisbane. It was the greatest number ever to march behind the 456 Sqn in Brisbane. A tally of 11 was counted. The Squadron President Jim Holliday led the march (which was preceded the first place in the Air Force Section of the March) and the President-elect Jim Stanley carried the Banner. We marched to the stirring music of the H.M.R.R. Band from Ansbury. It was a thrill to every marching member to be given such a rousing welcome by 456 wives and children who manned just beyond the Post Office waves 456 Squadron Seminole (camouflage) and cheering most mightily. Dorothy Mackman organised the issue of the pennants.

The All-States Reunion itself. After the March thirsty threats were assembled at the Banjo which followed at the Watereale Works Recreation Hall. Never before have there been so many 456ers to-gether in Brisbane. It was particularly good to see "Bobby" Ashton there, taking the Long-Distance honors for Queensland members with 1,000 miles from Bingo in the North. This seems a good place to list the names of 456ers who appeared during the March festivities:

A.M. Taylor (Q.) A. Green (Vic.) C. Young (Q.) H. Harwood (N.S.W.) L. Milko (Q.)
A. Luntz (Q.) G. Barron (Q.) C. Irwin (N.S.W.) J. Taylor (Q.) F. Stow (N.S.W.)
H. Haddon (Q.) N. Spurling (N.S.W.) J. Richardson (Q.) A. Most (Q.) G. Pustol (Q.)
D. Birth (Vic.) B. F. Cole (Q.) A. Conroy (S.A.) J. Hodge (Q.) G. Prent (N.S.W.)
A. J. Nott (Q.) J. D. Loughlin (Q.) B. Bux (S.A.) L. Macdonnell (Q.) J. Munday (Vic.)
J. Lewis (Q.) B. Alexander (Q.) A. Lloyd (Q.) R. Brown (N.S.W.) E. Kelly (Q.)
A. Davis (Q.) G. S. Jones (Q.) K. Carpenter (Q.) B. Kellum (Q.) P. Baston (S.A.)
J. Holliday (Q.) A. Clarke (Q.) F.推出的 (Q.) B. Chapman (N.S.W.) B. Hughes (Q.)
R. Hardie (Q.) J. Horgan (Q.) A. Robertson (Q.) B. Garland (Q.) E. Bird (Q.)
T. Hamley (Q.) T. Broad (Q.) C. Maguire (Q.) J. Eustace (Q.) B. Larn (Q.)
B. Cull (Q.) A. Sear (Q.) J. Kelly (Q.)

There were apologies from many members, including Stan Parker, Jim Plunkett, John Hockis, Frank Crewe and the band members. One of the biggest honours was the presentation of a plaque to the President-elect, Jim Stanley, who represented the 456 Sqn in Brisbane. The plaque was presented to Jim by the President, Jim Holliday, on behalf of all the members of the 456 Sqn.
Bill Harrison is an official of Parks and Gardens in Townsville, Queensland. He is father of three girls and one boy. Wants to contest Curly McLaren.

Jack Fuller is Workshop Foreman with Frank Pearce Ltd, in Brisbane. He is a deak in Shock Absorbers. Wants to be remembered to "all the boys of 481;"

in Grocery Department Manager with Producers Co-op. Sends remembrances to the Drimmie crew.

Wally Dorsett has his 40th congratulations on his recent marriage. He lives in Toowoomba and is a Railroad Carpenter. He understands he is open for business in those lines. His regards to Bob Bruce, John Carey, Tony Harris; This Hole-close-handed fellow member in driving with the Brisbane Council. Yanks news of Lethem and Tooby;

representing Shell and Bosanquet-Ferguson in Townsville, Queensland. Has a son and a daughter. Wants to be remembered to Dick Boydell and Stan Paragisnadi;

has property at Birriwando, Queensland. Interviewed at the salesman, his comment was "Silence is Golden;"

in with Shell State Brisbane Metropolitan area; doesn’t see too many 450ers there.

One girl, two boys. An officer with the Citizen Military Forces;

has a Lime Mine at Ayr, North Queensland;

in growing at Kynool in northern New South Wales. Is Past-President of No taxi there. Looks prosperous but says he isn’t. I boy, one girl;

an architect. With Landutton and Neveil, Brisbane. I boy, two girls. Wishes to be remembered to Jack and Ron Feeblet;

(ex-store) works with the Newcastle City Council, in N.S.W. Enjoyed his time in Brisbane;

still with Fouldings in Brisbane. Short of hair; says it comes of flying with hairy pilots;

has his own motor cycle business in the Gold Coast where he now lives;

sells his Pub and is in the Advertising business—has a Scottsdale Agency;

is now in Brisbane with Bull’s Essendon but any move, with them, to Newcastle, N.S.W.

is a member of the Aughacody Shire Council in Queensland. President of the North Coast Shire, N.S.W. and Vice-President of the S.M.District. His son is now stationed in Canberra with the R.A.A.F., attached to the V.I.P. Flight. Jack himself recently sold his Principal Farm and retired but, of course, works harder than ever. Apart from the activities mentioned above he is President of the National Farmers Association. As an S.M.A. official he recently had occasion to present an S.M.A. life member’s badge to the visiting Mr. Nicklin;

recently transferred to Sunny York and Co, where he is in Melbourne Photographic Sales Rep. Says it won’t be long before he does Bill Carr out of his easy job with Kodak. He has two sons and a daughter and is now living at Box Hill;

is still in the Spring Manufacturing firm, in Brunswick, Melbourne. He is currently a very busy boy as he and his partner are building a new Factory. He recently visited Robinvale and contacted Blue Firth and Ken Capper, both forming in that area. Arthur tells us he has secured some very good Defence Contracts. Made his wife recently shared £2,000 in Tattersall’s with their son Reg;

recently been taking half his Long Service Leave from the Melbourne Hotel, where he is Deputy Manager of the Paul Paper Store. Paid a visit to Sydney during it and met a few of the boys in the Air Force Club. Peggy is a Gilbert and Sullivan Odette;

a traveller with Motor Spares, Melbourne. At the moment is still single. Wishes to be remembered to all his pals of yesterday and sends a particular greeting to Eric Jansen and Happy Horton;

spent Easter at a ski lodge where he saw Dove Firth and Ken Capper, as well as Arthur Green. Thirty in Empire of Aircraft Cockburn with the Dept. of Civil Aviation. He proved an excellent reserve Banner Carrier (Jim Tandy being in Brisbane) at the Anzac March in Melbourne;

has his own plumbing business in Pymble and lives in Cockleb, Melbourne. There is more of him than there was. Sends his regards to the two boys in the M.S.I., identified as the short fellow and the long dentist, neither of whom could fly the course he gave them;

now a garage and repair shop at Bundaring (Victoria) and lives at Sandford. Has very fine hope there. Came to Melbourne for the Anzac March;

is still in the wool business and lives at Cambridges (Victoria);

at the Melbourne Anzac March. Has a lad just entering the Air Force. Is very actively interested in the Air Reserve and A.F.U. Living at Springvale;
Regional Paragraphs (cont.)

Mrs. C. B. B. who is in Victoria, sends remembrances to “Chico” Mercer, Eric Phillips and Lofty Travers;

Mr. ANBER, who is currently Wing Commander, Festings at R.A.A.F. H.Q., Melbourne is leaving shortly for Washington, D.C., where he will take up duties as Air Attaché at the Australian Embassy for a three-year period; he had a half dozen drinks with a lot of 458s at the H.Q. Mess on Anzac Day;

Peter Hackock is with Var Service House, Melbourne. Sends regards to his pal;

Paddy (Boy) Jankins marched with 458 on Anzac Day. In nursing at Heidelberg Repat. Hospital;

Jim Morris—Bill Carr understands he is conducting his own Menswear business in Mt. Waverley. He altered very little over the years;

Pett Morphet is Manager of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria;

S.A. Morphet is farming at Kooyong, Victoria;

A. L. Bartlett is with the Post Office. Was moving his Department to new premises on Anzac Day. Living at Box Hill;

N. D. Boyce has expected home on leave from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands;

J. E. L. Cross is still with the Leader at the Age Melbourne office. Currently on leave, and playing a lot of golf;

J. A. Mouse recently had the misfortune to have the back part of his home destroyed by fire. Is very interested in R.M.I. activities out Spotwood way;

I. L. Bailey is in the Woolward business at Chadfield. Told Bill Carr he was considering a move to another locality;

R. S. Carter lives at Yarraville. Marched on Anzac Day. Sends regards to all his mates;

A. D. Cutfield is currently at Aspendale Park Barracks as Group Captain, Training;

A. C. Westhead is farming at Burrum Heads, Victoria. Turn left at the 62 mile post on the highway and his is in the 3rd place on the left. All welcome, says Cathy;

R. E. Beckett is farming at Burrum Heads alongside Cathy;

R. C. Cathels is school-teaching at Box Hill, Victoria;

L. E. Russell is reported to be approaching his second million, farming at Kortlake;

T. W. C. Atkinson is foreman mechanic at Atlas Auto Auctions, Melbourne. A tireless and invaluable supporter of the Victorian Flight. Tells us he recently saw Pett Bennett, who was down from New Guinea, where he is Maintenance Mechanic with Guinea Airways;

Douglas Packham has a Motor Mechanic business at Bungaree, doing tractor and car repairs;

Jack Sharpless is at the Bridge Hotel, Richmond, Victoria;

R. G. Ward is at Holondilling Station, Cranbrook, South Australia. Recently wrote for his copy of the Squadron History. We were delighted to hear from him after many years;

J. P. Briggs is at Geelong, Victoria;

A. M. White is in Shepparton, Victoria;

P. O'Brien (Cebu) is at Geelong, N.W. Recently wrote for his History;

A. C. Walter sends regards to all friends;

Jim Stacey is in Yallourn, Victoria;

W. D. Denham is with Winescombe Curson, Brisbane;

Bill Jenkins, who has been ill, has our good wishes for his recovery;

A. H. Betts: this valued member of the N.S.W. Committee has been in Concord Repat for an operation. Is now recovered;


J. J. Thompson is in Asst. Secretary, Cockatoo Island Dockyard, Sydney;

J. F. Poynton was a welcome starter at the recent Sydney Reunion. Has a mixed Milk business at Bondi. Has a son of 16, who was born in Scotland. Sent regards to Fred Ridge and Harry Bryant;

Lance “Timmer” Wood recently promoted in the Accounts Section of the Sydney Post Office;

J. J. Martin and his wife have our congratulations on the birth of a daughter;

J. A. McKee recently spent 6 weeks with the R.A.A.F. in Bali;

J. E. Lead the N.S.W. Treasurer is now Accountant with Potter and Banks, Sydney. Is taking over the W.O.D. Secretary’s exams;

Mrs. Yvonne Chapman is now working with the Sydney Metropolitan West Board. Was a welcome attendee at the Brisbane All-States festivities.

The Return of Bill Carr.

458 Squadron members will be interested to know that Bill Carr has recently again taken on the Victorian Secretariat, which he held with distinction for a number of years before. We are in a position to testify to the energy and drive he is putting into the job. The substantial number of Victorian news items included above are from Bill. Readers can also gain the same impression of drive from the Victorian News printed below.

Readers of the Squadron History also should know that it could not have been written with anything like the same degree of detail or accuracy had it not been for Bill who, years ago, sent his own staff down to the Dept. of Air in Melbourne to copy the
We offer Bill our best wishes both personally and as Flight Secretary.

At its Brisbane meeting 458's Annual Conference decided on Queensland's motion, to support the Civil Defence organisations of the various States. The suggestion was that the Flight Secretaries examine the position and, if Civil Defence is inadequate in their State, do what they could to urge improvement; if there was an organisation, then support and work with them, if possible collectively.

No local badges for associate members.

All Wheat, delegate with local Carpenter for S.A., moved a motion to the effect that issue of Squadron badges was a factor for the Squadron as a whole and that local badges should not be issued to Associate members. They said that, while Associate members were to be welcomed, only people who had served with 458 should wear the 458 local badge. Queensland delegates said Queensland valued its Associate and wanted to give them the badge as a symbol of their membership of the post-war organisation. An amendment was moved to permit Flights with Squadron Council's approval to issue a 458 badge to an ex-dismember Associate who had been an Associate for at least a year. This was rejected and the original motion carried by 9 votes to 6. 2.2.2.2, 2.2.2.2, 2.2.2.2, 2.2.2.2. Victorian President 2, Squadron Treasurer I were the majority. 2.2.2.2, 2.2.2.2, 2.2.2.2, 2.2.2.2. Vice-President I were the minority.

Provision made for Squadron Life members. After debate, it was decided to make provision for Squadron Life Members as an honour for members who had served 458 well. There already provision for Flight Life members. Squadron Life Home will be Life members of all Flights. Only one a year may be elected (by S.A. Conference) on written nomination from at least two Flights. Conference did not vote any candidates.

Next Conference.

Victorian delegates Jim McManus and Arthur Green sought Conference to meet next year in Melbourne. A.S.W. delegates Alf Macdonald and Fred Wilson asked that next Conference be in Hobart. Queensland delegates Charlie Warren and Jack Fraser agreed, and asked delegates in which State it would be held. In the mean time, travel became easier and cheaper, Squadron Conference would undoubtedly be held in places not distant, such as Alice Springs and Darwin. It was decided by 21 votes to 4 to go to Melbourne next year.

For Guiana. Conference invited S.A. member Eric Lloyd (Deputy Leader of the Labor Party) to address it on the situation in Dutch New Guinea. A resolution was carried that while the inhabitants of Dutch New Guinea had an inalienable right to self-determination, in the meantime, if any change in the status of Dutch New Guinea were to be made, it should be united with Papua as one country.

Jim McManus new Squadron President. Jim McManus, a Victorian delegate, was chosen, with reelection as Squadron Treasurer. Vice Presidents are Bob Morgan of Sydney, and Rick Mason of London. Rick Mason, who is also Flight President, is the first U.K. member to hold high Squadron office. Eric Luncken and Peter Alexander were re-elected as Squadron Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Squadron Secretary

The publication of the Squadron History takes precedence and pushes gossip down such as this into the background—justifiably, the success of the History, still hot off the press, must be to its author, Peter Alexander, a just reward for his long hours in the library at Sydney's City Library, and work in the office. Congratulations, Peter.

An early indication of the need for publication of the History was evident when the members of the Sub-committee, Peter Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Alexander, Eric Luncken, Peter Alexander and Ron Alexander gathered for a business trip the week before this writing, to proceed to Sydney. The journeying work force appeared to be some 40 Squadron members and then over 6/10 followed from other squadrons with an "In" on the year. Your superbly assembled and organized conference of the past four days.

After the Marches. The Royal Phillip was the general rendezvous. Some there really did let their hair down and enjoyed Jack McManus (incognito, and his nosegay), Alan Figgatt, Eddie Sperling, Jack Mason, Stuart Mitchell, Jack McManus, Bob Miller, Jack Mason, Councillor Dyke, and others too busy to merriment (blame the greg). Alan Figgatt again in "print or perish" manner took a party of "bodgers" to Ryle Station Clubhouse.
A day or so later we had another good evening—a late one too—in honour of Merv Girma. The wives were not forgotten during these parties! Our womenfolk were to that, Bing and Johnny took the return trip quietly with relatives of Johnny’s in Sydney but Sam Barlow saw them off on our behalf.

Annual Reunion and Elections. (Our 1959 Annual Meeting was relatively poorly attended and certainly consumed unusually little beer.)

One interesting and pleasing feature was the first attendance by another 458 function of Charlie Pigott who we shall have to see more of. The Committee were re-elected with two new members in John Carey and Joe Fainwick. Sam Barlow accepted a second year’s term of office as N.S.W. President. Rael paid a warm tribute to what he has done and does for 458 Squadron. Bob Bruce and Frank Varl continue as N.S.W. Secretary and Treasurer.

Next month. The Social Committee has planned a full and complete programme for the semi-final of the NSW National Park.

This will be the June 21st at the usual site. Anyone who has been to the annual 458 function knows how enjoyable a day it provides for the whole family.

It is a transport drink, not so soft drinks; general prices for the children are all being reviewed.

Scenery Reunion. With the able advice and assistance of 458ers living in Canberra, the second N.S.W. Country Reunion is being held in the National Capital over the long weekend of October 2-5th. Accommodation is being arranged for members and their families at the Hotel Ainsley box. The programme being arranged includes a 458 dance, talk and sight-seeing. This will be really something and members should make plans now to be in it.

No one who went to the Orange Reunion is likely willingly to miss Canberra.

Air Force Ball. 458 plans to attend the Air Force Ball at the Trecadero in April this year. Date September 11th.

WE FIND AND BREASTY--the HISTORY OF 458 SQUADRON.

The long awaited and long worked for Squadron History came out just in time for ANZAC Day. By now most of you will be in possession of your copy. Members can will consent on the book, its make-up its appearance and its illustrations themselves. The author makes his comments below. It is just a snap at one point. This is already incomparably the most successful thing the post-war Squadron has done in a single venture. It is selling as the traditional hot cakes. It has brought applications for members on the mailing list for years but who, to our regret, nothing has come for this tapestry to put pen to paper. There are not too many left and we have not yet bought sufficient to make public sales for those who ask in any more. Members are yet in possession of a copy would do well to duplicate if they want one.

This is the scope:


Total including some non-Squadron sales: 147.


Kangaroo.
The First and Last of Us

by Peter Alexander

The First and Last of Us has been with me (and my family) a long time. We are proud of it. First thought about ten years ago—writing, rewriting, typing, and so on. Must have absorbed the environs of fifty, all added in. Such as it is, it is now. I share the view that the printers have produced a good looking job and the result an attractive book jacket. As to the matter, you must judge yourselves.

I have felt at times considerable impatience over the years. I was told, by one, that the history should not be "full of quotations" but should give a summary. I did not feel it was necessary to do so. The book was another "San Francisco" to show our families. Then last feeling lingered a while and I have taken every opportunity to say, as I see it recurring, that the book is a history and not a historical romance. I resisted the suggestion that I should "cut a lot of bulk in." Again, as I was incorrigible, I kept that for practically every episode in the finished book, there would be at least one reader who knew more about it than I did and would be in a position to say "that's not quite right." That's the trouble about writing for an audience of people expert in your subject.

However I had the copies of official papers which Hill Carr got (and we are in his debt for it); I had the records I kept throughout the war (in which I noted, John, the moves on the world's air fight) and I had the notes sent in by (two or three) volunteers. To the latter, my thanks. I thanked them, but I think the facts are, after all, better and nearer scrutiny. A few things have been pointed out and changed. By and large I have not yet been torpedoed though my name occurs. One appalling suggestion was made that "mention" might have been distributed in a way favoring the State in which I happen to live. I had, and have still, because I am not interested, no idea how the newspapers fell as between State and national. That is me. I know the facts and the facts justified names. Many and 458 here are unmanned. I regret this tax of course there were too many.

The book is selling well, which I think speaks for itself. Then came the time I wrote, as on the world, in terms of considerable violence and I freely admit this has caused me much grief. To be honest, to see one's work in print, as a book, is no small thing. It's a small thing, To 455 San Francisco which williled the history and by its efforts brought it to fruition, my deep thanks for enabling me to have the privilege of being the writer of that History.

I would have liked to know several things I now know, in time to put them in.

The Squadron is now open to, and willing, contribution of "During the War's History Did not know." I shall now start the roll rolling with thanks. You know the story of the pilot who decided to take the trip home to Australia in his own initiative and how he escaped Court-martial conviction on his return to the State. Well, I did not know that the authorities contributed exceedingly to their own downfall by being so exceedingly imprudent as to employ him on the ship carrying him back to the U.S. in the ordinary way where he was able to obtain his personal papers and put them through the port-holes. I also did not know. I see in the Times that the rescued ship happened to stop at the place in the second place. But, we began, we can't get the papers, so we had to return. Then there was the pilot (Bob Salyer) who wrecked the crew's personal papers. The Squadron did not know what the A.C.S. did. In fact, Bob tore up the C.O. himself picked Bob up in his 20 cut out and said nothing. But Bob found a loaded revolver in
Pathetic View

Observer.

A Horse in the Back of the Garden—A Silent Invitation to Hara-Kiri which, you gather, he did not accept.

ANGUS IN KALGOORLIE. Approximately 40 members marched behind the squadron banner, being led on this occasion by Bill Carr. I recall the following names of marchers: Harry Ashworth, Jim Allison, John Hilkey, Eddie Bradshaw, Bill Bailey, Norm Ogley, Alan Cartledge, Gordon Cuthbertson, George Caven, Bill Henry, Peter Hedgcock, Bill Parford, Ben Johnson, Yank Martin, Nick Nathan, Pappy Macdonald, Gordon Orchard, Sec. Percy, Jack Ramsey, Wil Richardson, Ron Russell, Bob Sharratt, Dick Singo, Lyle Farr, Frank (Shorly) Wilson, Gordon Wise, Tony Hair, Tommy Mahair, and Harold Young.

Interurban to Brisbane. Arthur Green, Bill Carr and Pappy McLeod did not train from the West and were able to locate Mundi Carpenter without any trouble. He and his wife were staying for a few days, which provided an opportunity for a visit at Arthur and Elsie Green’s home at which Sec. Percy, Frank Wilson, Pappy Macdonald, Bill Carr, Norm Ogley and their wives were able to meet Mundi and his wife.

Arthur and Bill (with their Fords) again met the train from Adelaide a few days later to pick up “Ding” Conway and Jimmy Box and their families. Both were in transit to Kalgoorlie. After showing them some of the sights of the city (and being booked for illegal smoking in a shower) both carloads proceeded to Sec. Percy’s home at SeaFord for a really first class dinner. Had several beers and a game of two or three billiards, then together with Joe and his wife took the party through the Randoonga, then home to Arthur’s place where Mudi served a quick but excellent smock before heading again for the train.

Next in order of appearance came Jack Reidy and his wife, Verna. They were returning home to the East and had a few days to look round our village. Again an opportunity for a house party presented itself—this time at the home of Bill and Mary Carr. In addition to Jack and his wife, there came Lyle and Joyce Verr, Yank Martin, Arthur Green, and Frank and Alice Wilson.

Again a variety of talk about a variety of subjects—of which I recall the Brisbane reunion, Sec. Percy’s swim, Squadron Colourful Room, Harry Jenkins’ worries for the boys’ health, the Squadron History, numerous brands of Australian Ale (those were expert judges), Jim Sunday at Brisbane.

Keeping to the arrival and departure order, next on the Melbourne serial were “Conway” party returning to Adelaide. Jim Sunday and Arthur sat them down and were able to keep them till “fill up” the afternoon. The end result was a happy, though somewhat inside train that evening without being “parred out” as the saying goes—but only just.

Lust but by no means least came Al Wheat and his wife returning from Brisbane to the West. They stayed with Arthur and Elsie Green who, as always, were quick to extend their ability to put on yet another party. This time we also had Ken Brown down from his farm on the Murray River Irrigation area. Eddie Bradshaw and Bill and Mary Carr came too. Ken Ward showed very little but Al was very much in evidence, if you know what I mean (Harry Ashworth will).

The Part-way 429. It is a tribute to the post-war Squadron Association that, as many of you will have discovered, that so many of the chaps should be so keen as to think of finding up to a trip of several thousand miles to attend Randoonga. Trips of up to 700 miles are commonplace here. I feel sure we in Victoria will in years to come be delighted to look after anybody either staying or passing through our city. Prospective visitors to Kalgoorlie please note that any of the below-listed members will always be available to meet you, look to your needs, and what’s more, guarantee to get you on your transport in time:

Jim Sunday 8D 6005 (Business) XU 4000 (Home);
Arthur Green 89 6009 (Business) PH 4039 (Home);
Bill Carr 8J 3511-1x 282 (Business) JI 1941 (Home).

Camping Venues. Country Picnic at Burrum Best. This is arranged for May 10th to Gordon Cuthbertson’s place at Burrum Best. There has been an excellent response with 25 or more planning to go.

Social Dance. After that we play a Social Dance. We are particularly keen to see some of our Victorian members at this function who we haven’t seen in a while and if as we would like in recent times, bring your wife or fiancée. Make it a Buck of 4.08 evening. We want you there!

CONFIDENTIAL Letters to the Editor.

Florence Mackey, "Glenlands," Marrickville, N.S.W., says her son Peter Alexander, thank you sincerely for sending me a copy of "We Find and Destroy" from No. 9 Squadron. It was a thoughtful act—no doubt I should have discovered and enjoyed the book, but the courtesy in sending it to me has rather enroiced its value to the Mackey family. So much so that at the moment I can only consider the book as something of rich treasure to the Robert Mackey family—for our children to hear the story of a great squadron and to feel their
From Rob Osborne,St Helens Court,Great St Helens,London.

Dear Peter,........when my wife arrived home with the new baby about a week ago,there was a huge box of flowers from "the Pioneers of 459 Squadron". This was a wonderful gesture. It all came down on Anzac Day when I went along to the Cenotaph service at II.0 a.m. and found none of the boys. They made me very welcome, and from there we went to the service, and later, the bun fight at Australia House. The latter was very pleasant because I wasn't at one of the buses, but in all, and their wives, and later on moved on, my visit to the hospital, to their dinner at the Marquis of Granby, which was beautifully arranged and a very pleasant evening. Must say the boys made me very welcome and it must also have been there that I met Arabella, in my woe whilst I was taking Grosetta and the new baby (Violetta Mary) home on the following Friday, as you know I have come over here permanently with Shell International Petroleum Company. I have had a pretty busy time since we arrived in November, with the new house, my new job and new baby, but things seem to be settling themselves out now.

Just get on with some work. Best wishes to everybody, Bob.

From Robin Knight, P.O. Box 35, Nandi, Kenya, British East Africa.

Dear Peter, I have just received the Schedule for 456 Squadron, and I am thereby spurred on to do some thing that I have long intended to do—namely to write and say how much I enjoy reading it.

Since leaving 459 at the end of 1944 in Italy, apart from a spell in the Middle East for a year, I have been in East Africa where I lived as a boy and where the rest of my family live. I have a great desire to visit Australia again, but it would appear unlikely that I shall be in position to do so for a good many years yet. In fact until I can retire (if ever). East Africa is a lovely place and it is my home but if the Communists have their way we shall be thrown out sooner or later, whichever the Europeans may have with it. My desire to revisit Australia is not entirely due to my pleasant memories of the country, but in large measure to the fact that all of the friends I have in many parts of the world away from these. West in America and on the Squadron.

I hear regularly (once a year) from my old comrades Stuart Miller, Bert Thompson, Pat Gears, Jack Crittenden and Hans Gerdian, as also from Ed Priest and Bill Taylor.

As for myself, I am in the timber industry and manage a large mill one hundred and sixty miles from Nairobi. I feel that I am making a living and well, I am not sure. I feel rather not so well, but the pace of life is very busy and I am doing well.

I have three children. The eldest is 21 and is in the R.A.F. as an electrical engineer. The other two are at school in Kenya. There is no suitable secondary school for Europeans in Uganda. I am greatly looking forward to the publication of the Squadron History and am planning to judge for 10/- to cover the cost. The balance shall be grateful if you will divide evenly between Squadron.funds and a pint or two at the nearest pub for any you can find we may remember me.

Good luck to you all, yours, Robin G. Knight.

From Fred Brown, 11, Fairfield Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.

Dear Peter, Had a wonderful Anzac Day from the outing in the morning at the Cenotaph, the extremely interesting and beautiful service in the Abbey, an afternoon spent as well as I could, spent one in the company at Australia House, and a most enjoyable evening, a complete reception at the Marquis of Granby. You will hear all about the day in detail, any small contribution is welcomed. Signature is attached.

Rob Osborne (a new kid that week) obtained a Westminster Abbey Order of Service on which are the signatures of about 50 Officers and their wives and end of the K.Z. High Commissioner, etc. cameo. We saw amongst them Dick Hobbs, Robin Gluck, Bill Arden, Walter Macey, Steve Search, Chris Hambly, Rick Mason, Bill Porter (it was really pleasing to read Bill's signature; we distribute our ability to do it to the authorities we are teaching Bill's handwriting), Andy Bishop, Bob Springall, Leon Armstrong, Bob Osborne, Donald, Bob Hughes and Eric Brown. Eric continues at London looking the tablets on 25th, I thought how well everyone looked, old soldiers and not so young people alike. Myself have acquired some of that robust
II.

... I remember all week in Jordan, sailing out towards the horizon without pause for rest...

舱内芳及把，希德布朗。

Sid Thompson. 369 Downham Way, Bromley, Kent.

We are pleased to know the Brisbane Conference went off so well.

... quite a kick for the Squadron to have a Premier to open the Conference and that a nice gesture to present a Squadron History to the Premier (any photos?)

... I was anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Squadron Historian here to send on to the chaps.

I have just telephoned Mick Mason with the very good news of his being made one of the Queensland Vice-Presidents. He is very pleased.

... 9:30 A.M. At II.0 A.M. on April 25th, the Squadron laid a wreath at the Nonjuph. Harry Bishop laid it for us. Following this, at 12.0 a service was held at St. Peter's Abbey. By the time at Australia House, we had a good attendance. In all including wives, and unknown to us as Bob Osborne turned up. He is now over here for quite some time so he naturally joined in with us. After the tea, with time on their hands to kill until the dinner is prepared, all the chaps and their wives made off to different places. I have been trying to work all my family on Sunday could only make the dinner in the evening and what a treat it was! To my mind the best we have ever had. Everyone voted it a smashing dinner with very good company. We all hope. Mick brought along a record player and it not only supplied music during dinner, but got us all dancing (even the Chas Chas) until time was called (five times over) at II.0 p.m... Those who attended were: Sid Thompson, his wife and sister; Eric Brown, Harry Bishop and wife, Steve Sharp and wife. Mick Mason, wife and daughter, R. Adams (his first visit), the girl from Northern Ireland and stayed with Mick; it won't be his last visit. Bill Proctor and cousin (Bill is going overseas in July—he is still serving in Ireland), Springall, Walter Haydon, and Bob Osborne. We all had a really cracking evening and are all looking forward to the next function which we are hoping to hold in the coming months. Those whose didn't come to the dinner missed one of the best evenings they could have attended.

General. Wren Gilbert, who is still serving has been posted to Malta. Roy Menzies' wife gave birth to a son on May 9th. (50th's congratulations, Roy—34tor)

Now all good wishes to 458 in Australia. Chooio.

General Meeting. We held our Annual General Meeting on March 20th. There was a very poor attendance. Election of officers resulted as follows:

President: Ron Convery; Vice President: Jack Rineley;
Secretary: Peter Power; Auditor: Len Stewart;
Councillors: Bill Chus, Sunny Williams, Gordon Jones.

You will be interested to know we have Sunny Scott back in the fold.

Chairman of the Day—Jim Sunday, Squadron President.

Jim is in Melbourne where he has always been a Squadron rallying point. His key role is now to play for 458 as a whole following his election in Brisbane as the Squadron President in succession to his cousin, Jim Holliday.

He is, by all accounts, new General Manager of his own company, J. Sunday and Co Pty Ltd, which supplies building and other industrial materials.

Jim was picked for 458 Squadron, starting as second pilot to Jimmy Surgeant, whilst having a career of his own. We were not flying with Jimmy Surgeant when the crew landed in German territory and consequently did not become a POW as they did but flew as POWs again in Egypt. Benders of W. E. Find and B. M. Haydon, will see him in the illustrations of him at the bottom. A big athletic man, he looks as if he is a good player and keen on the game of Australian Rules Football (particularly kicking football).

Jim's heart, a very loyal heart, in 458. This is also to be said of Joan Mason. We wish them both a happy and enjoyable Presidential year. We are very happy Jim in Squadron President.

Civil Defence in Australia...
All too fast, in Australia (A.C.T.) which follows the blast. Very many will be injured.

It will be essential to deal with water, electricity, gas and transport. Telephonic will attract children by railroad and hear it. That is something of the picture of the Target site.

Then it is not safe, much more than that. There is Full-aire. If, for example, an atomic bomb is dropped in Australia there will be an area about 100 miles wide, from Moloko to Point Piper in Brisbane to Adelaide in which anyone who is out of doors for the next three days and nights will suffer the most serious consequences, even death. Animals will suffer likewise.

The report was well received and as how the winds are blowing at the time.

The very substantial air raid is indeed alarming and certainly more so than the West. It is why the recent 456 Squadron Conference has asked the flights to organise an early action on behalf of Civil Defence. There is a nucleus Civil Defence in a couple of state, not much elsewhere. There is some organisation, it needs work and can only be done with as a military society to be ready to minimise the after-effect of an attack on one area.

Squadron 456 will host its flights to take each, to forward Civil Defence and as sickness requires a kind of lectures for members in the squadrons, that we can at least, know what to do for our families if the emergency happens.

It is a good start, in fact, and then end help the general Civil Defence in the nation to cut under way. An ex-service man we might think that a duty.

END OF REPORTS.

The R.S.A. Committee has recently organised the importation of a 456 Squadron Paper. Scarcely existed in colour in London in the midst of what is called a hobby. The committee first thought of the idea and when the book was selected. The book has been presented to the Sydney Air Force Club, and the book has been dropped by Sydney members.

If you are interested you can obtain a copy at 25/- from the Squadron Office, Box 989, P.O., Sydney. There will be only a limited stock in getting the best of a year.

The small booklets or pamphlets we buy were not before were printed just before more and all all of 456. However will be delivered very shortly. They are triangular pamphlets, each at 10/- each, in white, with a winged cover in blue, and one copy with "456" in one green. In other words they are printed in the book colour, light blue, light blue and the green. They are suitable, among other things for use asaris in any other for us.

Price 10/- (post-free). Apply Squadron Secretary, R.S.A., 5258, P.O., Sydney.

ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN.

A Salute from

Myth Hawken.

We set off bright and early, April 16th, in company with the Hamiltons and the Carpenters and travelled via the New England Highway to a brick house, the Hamiltons in the lead, the Carpenters taking their place, and a seaside in the rear. We had a couple of hours at Brisbane with Harry and Mie Blackburn and entertained us most cordially.

The Darling Downs, stand by my garden, and the Fabulous Gold Coast!

To our hosts at the Rome, in Brisbane where our members were very interested in hearing with us, many of which to drink and refresh, to exchange!

On Friday Pgs. Libby and Ruth Macmillan took us up to the Fine Arts Sanctuary, and it was, and I was watching our two my doses with Harry and Marilyn Cress having a cake, but, by gum, and a crying again! We were more quite content to call them in.

Saturday morning we went to the opening of the Squadron Conference, quite impressive.

The highlight for me was shaking hands with the Premier of Queensland who seems to be a very popular man.

Saturday afternoon we stood in force to cheer our boys on the march and find the prince in their face I think they appreciated our cheering.

Sunday very pleasantly spent sight-seeing. As run out of petrol but eventually caught at Royal and Lady J mustard, where we stood up a pleasant reunion with tremendous emotion.

I would like to say in closing that these 456 reunions are doing a lot to accent loyalty and spirit and we have made a lot of good friendships we hope to continue for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Squadron Secretary, R.S.A., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Myth Hawken.