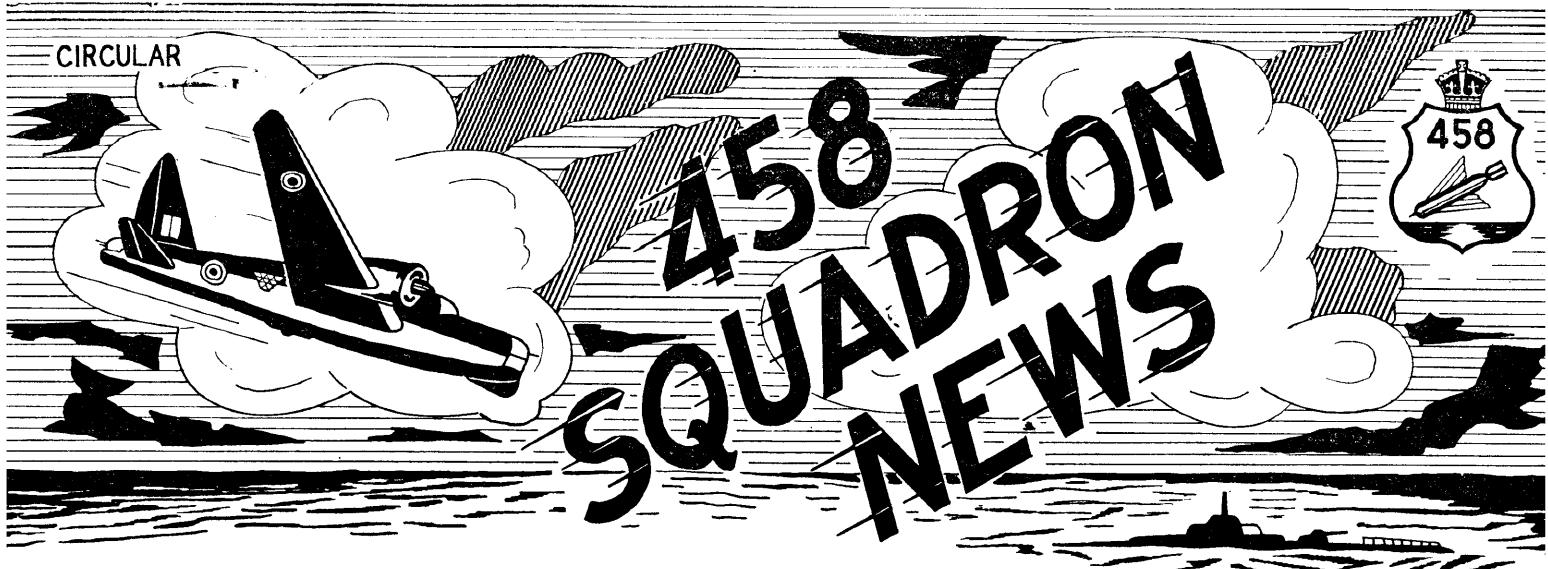


CIRCULAR



THE EDITOR.

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

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November, 1960.

458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATES TO HAVE THEIR OWN BADGE: SQUADRON COUNCIL DECIDES.

For a couple of years now there has been discussion among delegates to Squadron Conferences and Flight Committeemen as to the necessity of having a badge, as close in form as possible to the 458 badge, for the Associate members, mainly from other Air Force Squadrons not organised in Australia, who have given 458 their support in post-war years.

The numbers of Associates vary very much as between the Flights. Q. Flight has many who it greatly values. N.S.W. not so many. Without wishing to embarrass any Associate members who may read this article, it is interesting to recall how attitudes of Flight Committees to the position in 458 of the Associates have varied. On the one hand there has been the attitude of those who would issue them with the 458 lapel badge and make few distinctions between the welcome associate and the 458er. This has been somewhat the approach in Queensland. It has, in a way, been the view of the Squadron Secretary, who has never seen why 458, as a living Squadron, should not have suitable airmen posted to it in post-war years as it did during the war. On the other side, has been the feeling, widely held in most Flights by members, mainly of the ground staff, who spent many years with 458, have the most intense pride and loyalty to the wartime Squadron, and feel that there is no substitute for war service with 458.

The Brisbane Squadron Conference in 1959, contrary to expectations at the time, adopted the second approach, and put an end to the issue of 458 badges to other than 458ers.

The motion to do so came from the W.A. Flight. However, W.A. itself has Associates and has subsequently spear-headed moves to have an Associates Badge created.

The 1960 Melbourne Squadron Conference decided in principle that there should be a badge for Associates and referred details to the Squadron Council.

Council meets in Sydney.

Squadron Council held its annual meeting in Sydney on 30th. August and considered designs and quotes. Final decision made, with some qualms expressed by councillors was to have a badge made for 458 Associates exactly in the form of the 458 lapel badge, though by a different process of production, but with a small red A over the moonpath. Councillors postponed placing the order to give Flight Committees time to lodge objections. But none have been received and the order is now to be placed. Badges will be available shortly.

WINDING-UP OF THE HISTORY PROJECT.

Another decision taken by Squadron Council was to begin the closing stages of the very successful publication of the Squadron History "We Find and "Destroy".

Council was informed that the second impression was very nearly disposed of. (There are now about 50 copies only left). While there is still some showing of public demand it did not appear that a third impression would be justified. Accordingly, the capital advanced, mainly by the N.S.W. Flight, has been returned; and the very satisfactory profit which was made (mainly on the second impression, sold through the bookshops) is being divided, as decided by the Melbourne Squadron Conference, between the author and the Squadron.

Winding-up of the History Project (cont.)

Squadron officers have commented that the History project has been a fortunate one and the business side has gone with a swing throughout. Started with a quite brilliant advertising move, suggested by Sam Barlow, of sending out a copy of the Dust cover with the preliminary notices, a good deal of prompt and helpful work was done by squadron members with such things as wrapping, addressing and labelling and much businesslike attention was given to the mechanics of publishing and retailing. The Dust cover itself served as a major piece of sales propaganda.

All these things, the officers went on, made a major success out of what could in other circumstances have been an expensive fiasco.

CLOSING COMMENTS OF AN AUTHOR.

I am left, as we start to finalise the reckoning for "We Find and Destroy", with a number of thoughts. I still feel the amazed gratification I got, when the books actually arrived from the printers, that the job into which I had steered a course ten years or so before, not lightly to be sure, but without fully realising now perilous it could be, had really produced a book. It is a spring-like feeling. I surmise that, perhaps, the escaped P.O.W. who finally crosses the frontier to freedom, feels something of the sort.

Then, frankly, it is quite a thing to wander into a bookshop in some distant city and see one's book for sale on the shelves.

I have deeply appreciated kind comments made. At the same time I sense, here and there, feelings of disappointment from 458ers who had perhaps hoped that more, or certainly something, might have been put in about their part, which was long, in the Squadron story. No one says, or even hints at, this, but one does well to be

sensitive to feelings unexpressed. However, since nothing can now, or perhaps ever could be done about it, I can only repeat that I am sorry. These members can be sure that irrespective of what is or is not in the History, their doings will be known and discussed as long as 458ers meet and talk of 458.

The insights we have all got into the fascinating and cut-throat world of the publisher and the bookseller, during our History episode, have been very valuable.

Two things finally. Thoughts, which in due time will come to something or to nothing, lurk in the back of my mind that, some time, annals of post war 458 and its men and women could be made interesting. Then, we gave some undertaking to produce a list of 458 personnel for those who have bought the History. That will have to be done. However, apart from dealing with those two things, or one of them, I see no reason why I should from this time on afflict readers with anything more about the History. In fact, the Editor of the News feels free to say—"This subject is now closed."

P.C.A.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS

from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street,
Holland Park, Brisbane.

Air Force Week.

We've had a rather busy quarter. Q Flight laid a wreath at the Shrine of Remembrance during Air Force Week, our representative being Eric Lloyd. It was quite an inspiring ceremony with Airmen and Airwomen forming the Guard of Honour while jets circled overhead. Jack Plunkett sends a copy of the Cairns Post shewing pictures of our Governor, Sir Henry Abel-Smith who took the salute at the War Memorial at the Battle of Britain Commemoration Service. One of the pictures shews Jack right behind the Governor with a wreath almost as big as himself. Other pictures shew the parade of ex-airmen of the R.A.F. and R.A.A.F. as they marched down Spence Street. It must have been a cold day at Cairns; everyone had their coats on.

Annual Meeting of the Flight.

On 1st. October we held our Annual Meeting. As usual the attendance was rather poor; but we have grown used to that for Annual Meetings. However, our country members were there in spirit. We had 15 apologies. Our new President is Eric Kelly, a most popular choice. Eric Kelly is a building contractor and a keen and tireless worker on our committee. We look forward to a good year. Eric Kelly follows in Jack Lewis' footsteps. Jack was able to report increasing attendances at all our social functions and an increase in our bank balance. Jack Lewis has again taken over the position

of Treasurer again and of course, yours truly is again Secretary.

Christmas Social. Our next social function is the Christmas Social. Its to be held at the A.T.C. Mess on Saturday 19th. November. We are looking forward to a record crowd and a number of pleasant surprises have been planned.

Melbourne Cup Sweep. Again we had a very good response to our Melbourne Cup Sweep. The winners were: Hijinx--R.L. Dew of Tully; Howsie--H.T. South of Brisbane; and finally, W. Longpilly.

We do like Annual Meetings and Melbourne Cup Sweeps. There is something about them that urges our members to take pen in hand and tell us what they have been doing over the past twelve months. One of our members from the Far North, Alan "Snow" Atherton, writes from Rockhampton where he is now living after a trip last year to the Phillipines, Hong Kong, Japan, Honolulu, Vancouver, San Francisco, Long Beach, Suva, Auckland, and finally Sydney.

Bernie Hughes has sold out at Warwick and he's now up at Emerald. Says he met Bob Murdoch at Rockhampton and "a big chap who has a dam-sinking outfit about Clermont, can't think of his name, was aircrew at Gibraltar." Erle Hetherington writes that he's in the pink and intends to come south from Cairns at the end of January.

Sam Barlow in Brisbane. We got a shock last week-end when Sam Barlow walked into Bernie McLoughlins office on a surprise visit from Surfers Paradise. Len Macdonnell and Keith Campbell helped Bernie to entertain Maisie and Sam at the United Service Club for the evening. Sam intended to go to Melbourne to back Delirious for the Cup--at least that was his intention.

From the Uranium Coast. We also heard from Peter Hemingway from Mary Kathleen. He's determined to make a reunion one of these days. Might we suggest a spot of uranium in the petrol tank, and wings under the Land Rover?

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Arn. Scholar, 74, Coronation Avenue, Melrose Park, Adelaide.

With us the last four months have been very quiet: but, to emerge from the winter recession, we have two events for the near future. The Annual Children's picnic and a Picture and Social evening.

Picnicing. The picnic is to be held on November 20th at National Park, with our usual facilities for barbecuing, etc. A good time is usually had, especially by the kiddies.

Sven's Courtesy. Through the courtesy of Sven Kallin we will be using his "Flamingo Room" for the Picture and Social evening on Saturday December 3rd. The contemporary design and other amenities lend themselves for an enjoyable night out, so be sure to attend.

All-States Reunion, 1961. As hosts for the 1961 interstate reunion next April, we in South Australia tender a cordial welcome to all, and arrangements are in hand for a programme that should satisfy. Long range weather forecast is favourable--so be in Adelaide next April.

Col. Michell Passes On. I regret to report the passing of Col. Michell, who suffered a heart attack which resulted in his car overturning. He leaves a wife and two children. A good representation of the Squadron attended his funeral.

Russell Returning.... Since returning from his U.K. trip, Ken Russell has been promoted as Asst. General Manager of the Adelaide Steamship company, as well as Secretary.

Final thought. Who is nominating to come to the Adelaide Reunion next Aug.?

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Ken Morkham, 82, Winmollee Rd., Balwyn, E.8., Victoria.

Dear Peter, I will be going to Sydney to live in about a month's time. The Squadron boys may know of a house in a good area that I could rent for a while until I find a place to live. A house with three bedrooms, furnished or unfurnished, preferably furnished, the family consists of two boys and two girls.... Ken Morkham.
(Can any reader help--Ed.)

Correspondence (cont.)From Bruce McKenzie, Ministry of Agriculture, Nairobi, Kenya.

Dear Peter,

Who should walk into my office, whilst unfortunately I was very busy at an important meeting, than my namesake the Australian who was in 458 with us all. I let him have a brief look at your book and also gave him one of the newsletters. He was up here on a holiday from the copper belt in Northern Rhodesia.

We have had a very dry year agriculturally in Kenya though I am pleased to say the rains are now beginning to break. We find them very welcome although a bit late.

As you can imagine we are having an exciting time in this part of Africa.

yours aye,
Bruce.

From Mrs. Jim Croft, 42 Sandilands Road, Manchester England.

Dear Sir,

I wonder if it is too late to ask for a copy of "We Find and Destroy"?

The circular must have arrived just about the time we were removing from Liverpool to the above address. As you can imagine things were a bit chaotic. The envelope and book cover my husband must have read and then they were put 'safely away'.

Well, I have just come across them tucked in a book and I hope its not too late to purchase a copy as a present for my husband. I enclose the money and am keeping my fingers crossed!.....

Yours faithfully,
(Mrs.) May Croft.

NEW SOUTH WALES NOTES:

by Bob Bruce, Mt. Wilga, Manor Rd., Hornsby

Country Reunion

The N.S.W. Flight held its third Country Reunion at Cowra at the end of September. Harry Baines and Ralph Bailey, both of Cowra, with the whole-hearted co-operation of the committee of the Central West Aircrew Reunion Committee, the Cowra Golf Club, the R.S.L. Club, the Aero Club and Edgell's Cannery, ensured a week-end to remember. Details are reported elsewhere. Many thanks to those fellows who attended and those people who worked so hard to ensure its success.

Membership Annual dues to the 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association for 1961 can now be accepted as can payments for the Squadron News, etc. Please see the form at the end of the News.

Air Force Association.

Congratulations to Peter Alexander and Graeme Coombes on their recent election as Federal Secretary and Federal Treasurer respectively of the Air Force Association.

The Invenimus Club, 1960.

Thanks to those members who assisted in the disposal of tickets in the recent competition. Winners were :

1st. £25.	J. Tibbets, Hornsby R.S.L.	Ticket sold by Bob Bruce;
2nd. £10	P. Murphy, 27, King Street, Sydney	" " Sam Barlow,
3rd. £ 3	J. Perkins, Canterbury	" " Bill Perkins.

Additionally £21-10-0 was given in minor prizes of 10/- each.

Personality.

N.S.W. Flight has recently made contact again with Martin O'Shea, who was a Flight Lieutenant Gunner with 458 in England and the Middle East in the early days. Martin, who at present resides at "Koonunga", Swan Vale, via Glen Innes, is about to move to Sydney.

Christmas Social.

This has now been arranged to take place on Saturday 3rd. December, on the 3rd. Floor of the Air Force Club, 330, George Street, Sydney. The time-7.45 p.m. Supper and refreshments are of course provided. To assist catering arrangements, please let any of the following know you are coming: (and please come with your wives)

Bob Bruce-JU 1214;

Eric Munkman-JY 2061

Cyril Irwin-UW 1981.

OUTING FOR ALL.

The Social Committee has organised an outing at Mt. Wilga Rehabilitation Centre, Hornsby, on Sunday 27th. November, 1960. Tennis and completely new Barbecue facilities will be available. A warm invitation to all members and families to attend is given.

N.S.W. Notes (cont.)

A telephone call to the members listed above will enable you to obtain full details of the day and transport if required. See you there?

THE PASSING ON OF TWO 458ers.COL. MICHELL.

From South Australia comes news of the accidental death of well-liked 458er, Colin Edgar Michell, who lived at Gilberton. According to Press report, he was 45. He had been staying at Stansbury and was driving on business to Yorketown, when he had a heart attack. The car overturned several times and came to rest on its hood. Col was thrown from the car and died almost instantly.

Educated at King's College, he joined Elder Smith and Co, after leaving school. After two years there he joined a family business G.H. Michell and sons Ltd, founded by his grandfather. In 1935 he resigned to found his own business, Woolstock Trading Ltd. He remained a Director of G.H. Michell, Peter Cameron Ltd, and Penny's Knitting Mills Ltd.

He played cricket for his school and Kensington Club but was best known as a racehorse owner. His most successful horse was Royal Road, and his jumper Scarborough Chief won the Grand National. In January 1941 he joined the R.A.A.F. and was posted to 458 Squadron. He was discharged in February 1945.

Col's genial personality and warm loyalty made him a most well-liked squadron member. 458's deep sympathy to his family. The Squadron attended his funeral.

RON RICKETTS.

Ron Ricketts came to 458 towards the middle of its Middle East and North African period. He was then a Corporal Fitter II A and had served with some other Middle East Unit before coming to the Squadron.

He is remembered as a quiet friendly fair-haired young man which he remained.

He returned to Australia from 458 and settled in the Sydney area with his wife and family. He lived in Greenacre and worked with the Department of Railways. The Squadron saw them from time to time at 458 functions and was delighted to see them there. A few months ago, Ron went into Concord with heart trouble. He came out but passed away on September 9th, 1960--aged 39. He leaves a widow and children, who have 458's keen sympathy in their loss. 458 members attended his funeral service.

458 SQUADRON IN GOWRA.

The N.S.W. Flight chose Gowra for its third Country Reunion--the two previous ones having been held in Orange and Canberra. Gowra was chosen for two reasons: it is an attractive and interesting town within driving range of Sydney; and it is the home of two 458 members--Harry Baines, who keeps the Australian Hotel there, and Ralph Bailey, who is in practice there as a dentist.

Members drove down from Sydney on the Friday afternoon and evening and most of them seem to have stopped for a meal at Bathurst on the way. The journey of something about six hours driving takes the traveller over the Blue Mountains and through attractive country. From Bathurst on the road is an easy one made for driving. At Gowra the Squadron, whose arrival had been heralded in the local paper, stayed at the Lachlan Hotel by arrangement with Harry Baines. After dinner there was a friendly gathering at Harry's Inn attended by all the 458ers. Those attending were Graeme and Dulcie Coombes, Eric and Dorothy Munkman and family, Cy. Irwin; Yvonne Crompton and family, Bob and Betty Bruce, with Stephen, Sam Barlow, Maisie Kerr, Sid and Merle Bowen, and family, Peter Alexander, Bob and Pat Lyndon, Ross and Pat Burgess from Newcastle, Jack Baker, Fred Strom, Noel Spurling, and Bob and Mrs. Smith arrived late in the evening.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, there was an interesting excursion to Edgells canning factory where a variety of vegetables are canned for Australia-wide sale. Gowra

458 in Cowra (cont.)

Is a noted centre for asparagus-growing, and after going over the large factory with the Manager as escort, the Squadron convoy drove through the asparagus fields. The weather had been wet and the ground was too muddy for the picking which was currently due. The asparagus beds last for up to fifteen years. After the picking, bracken is allowed to grow up, shoulder-high, the party was told. Later it is cut down and dug in around the beds.

From the asparagus fields there was a quick drive up to the Cowra Look out, high over the township and so to lunch.

After lunch there was golf at the Cowra Links, an episode rather curtailed by rain. One thing was most noticeable around Cowra and the Lachlan river which flows northwardly through Cowra, and that was the amazing greenness of the pastures, due mainly to good rains but also to a great deal of aerial crop-fertilizing there.

Dining and Dancing.

The evening brought the Squadron Dinner, at the Lachlan; and a very good dinner it was. It was perhaps the formal highlight of the Reunion, when everyone was there and the Flight President was able to express our pleasure at being together. After dinner and some informal gatherings at the hospitable homes of some Cowra ex-airmen, the Squadron and their local hosts went to the Golf Club for a dance. This proved really to be one of 458's most enjoyable occasions. There was, among other things, a most enthusiastic two-piece orchestra, which played well, with gusto, and without ever growing fatigued. Even after the National Anthem, around 2.0. a.m., they seemed to be willing to play on. 458 stayed in full force, at last returning to the hotels late, happy and fatigued.

Banner, beer and barbecue.

Next morning, after a working party had carried a barbecue oven out to the airfield, and, later, another party had got it alight, in very cold, windy conditions, the Squadron gathered round its banner at the War Memorial, and Flight President, Graeme Coombes, placed a wreath there. The R.S.L. Club, which is a splendidly equipped licensed club, invited us in for some beer, and soft drinks for the women, and then we drove out to the Airfield for the barbecue; Bob Lyndon was chef-in-command, and had quite a few cooks assisting at the great fire. It got rather too hot and a couple of volunteers heaved a bucket or two of water over it with spectacular results but achieved the desired temperatures. There was a keg or two, some parting speeches, after everyone had eaten barbecued steak and sausages to satisfaction. Then we set off on the homeward drives in the direction generally of Sydney.

Where next year ?

Not yet finally determined, but eyes are being directed towards the wine-growing areas of the Hunter Valley.

NOTE FROM SID THOMPSETT.

Did you know Ches. Chessell was in London? He has contacted me and is to meet a few of us to-morrow night for a few drinks and a good chinwag.

Could you once again print my telephone number for any members intending to visit U.K.; it is so much easier than writing. For the record, it is HITHER GREEN 6653. We are to have a Reunion here on November 12th.

Cheerio for the present.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION.

As readers will have gathered above, two 458 members now hold high office in the Air Force Association. This took place at the recent biennial Federal Conference held in Sydney in October. Peter Alexander moved from Federal Treasurer to Federal Secretary, following the resignation of Geoffrey Cohen, the previous Secretary. Graeme Coombes came onto the Federal Executive as the new Federal Treasurer. They both appreciate the honour done them by the election, and hope to be able to achieve something for ex-airmen. The formation a decade ago of the 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association in N.S.W. has led to various 458ers playing a part in A.F.A. affairs. Additionally, Dick Healey is a State Vice President in N.S.W. Not unnaturally, they would like to see 458ers playing a part in A.F.A. affairs wherever possible in Australia.

The Federal Conference, presided over by Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams, dealt with many matters of ex-service interest: pensions, War Service Homes waiting period, civil defence, the future of the New Hebrides, the repatriation rights of British ex-servicemen migrating to Australia, immigration, etc. It was opened by the Minister for Air, Mr. F. Osborne. It spent two days dealing with its agenda. Among the delegates from South Australia, was Doug. Orchard, who is a friend of 458 in Adelaide.

