



458 SQUADRON NEWS

THE EDITOR.

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ALL-STATES IN ADELAIDE.

The Annual Squadron Reunion of members and their families from all parts of Australia was held this year in Adelaide, capital city of South Australia.

This annual get-together, which is something which distinguishes 458 from any other Squadron in Australia, or, for all that we know to the contrary, any other in the world, was this year attended by members from all mainland States except Western Australia. It was the 9th. of the All-States Reunions, and the second to be held in Adelaide.

The Arrivals.

Arthur Green, this time without Elsie, who was helping to look after a sick friend in Melbourne, came in by train. Eric (Pappy) Macdonald, accompanied by an R.S.L. friend, came in by car. Gordon Cuthbertson (and family) and Dave Firth, with Glad., made up the Victorian contingent. From New South Wales arrived by air Sam Barlow, Cyril Irwin and Peter Alexander. They were met at West Beach Airport by Squadron President Bill Taylor, S.A. member Sid. Bartram, a representative of the Air Force Association and a Press photographer. By a later aircraft from Sydney came Freddy Strom and Noel (Blue) Spurling. Bill and Anne Chapman arrived from Newcastle by road.

Q. Flight President Eric (Ned) Kelly and Committeemember Gordon Postle represented Queensland, with Harry and Pat Derge.

Veteran 458er Jack Carter arrived in Adelaide to attend the Reunion. Jack can be said to represent at least four States on these occasions, being resident at different times in South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Out to Brighton.

Interstate members were, mostly, staying in the outer suburb of Brighton, which, obviously from its name, is by the sea. They stayed in the modern hotels there, very comfortably. Initially they were rather--startled--to find they had the same publican as during the previous Adelaide All-States Reunion. Sam Barlow was observed promptly to put on dark glasses! However, as commented above, they found things in this hotel very comfortable.

The local R.S.L.

458 member Ron Badger is President of the Brighton Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia Club. (That was printed in full for the first and perhaps last time in the News for the information of overseas readers. It's the R.S.L., for short). They have very substantial Clubrooms and very kindly entertained 458ers there during the Reunion events.

That evening, for example, Squadron members spent a convivial and informal evening together there.

Saturday Informal and Formal talking--and a Dance.

As happened very pleasantly in Adelaide last All-States there, the Talbot Hotel in Gouger Street was the scene of a further informal meeting of 458 members the following morning. This hotel has an outside Bar, pleasantly sited and of the right size for the Squadron. Here 458 was again interviewed and photographed by the Adelaide Press.

All-States in Adelaide (cont.)

After lunch, the Annual Meeting of the Squadron Conference was held in a pleasant Meeting room at 75, Grote Street, under the chairmanship of Squadron President Bill Taylor, who was also S.A. Flight President this year. The meeting is reported elsewhere in this issue of the "News". Those not attending Conference went to the races or other functions.

In the Evening, Dancing.

The Hall of the Brighton R.S.L. was the scene of the highpoint of the 458 social calendar, the All-States Dance. There was a good roll-up, a cheerful and rhythmic band and, as always on such occasions, the Squadron enjoyed itself. It was a pretty late night by all accounts. Your reporter left about 2.0 a.m.

Golf, Rain, Barbecue and racing. National Park, Belair, was again the scene of the 458 Golf day for the Anzac Cup and other events. Belair is what its name implies, a beautiful country place fresh with the scent of pines and the bush. It refreshed the dancers. Half way round it rained but no one seems to have been too badly drenched. Back at the Main pavilion, the picnic party assembled in the dry. Outside Bill Taylor, Brian Woodhead and Bruce Thomas barbecued steadily.

Golf winners were announced, during the afternoon, as follows:

The Anzac Cup.....Harry Dorge. Runner Up, Arthur Green;
Queensland Cup (Best off the Stick).....Arthur Green;
Best performance by a Squadron Friend.....Harry Bartram.

During an interval 458ers assembled outside for the race for the Stewart Cup and a few preliminary announcements from the (newly elected) Squadron President Peter Alexander. Sudden and heavy rain caused one of the quickest-ever adjournment motions to be put from the Chair. The Squadron voted with its legs.

A second attempt fared better and the race was won, in greyhound style, by Sid Bartram, who thus becomes Stewart Cup holder for 1961-2.

So back to hotels for dinner and afterwards a few social beers.

Through the Adelaide Hills.

Monday was pleasantly filled by a 458 bus trip though the beauties of the Adelaide Hills and a enjoyable lunch mid-trip. Back to Adelaide for dinner. S.A. President Bill Taylor, S.A. Secretary Arn. Scholar, and Squadron President Peter Alexander were entertained by the S.A. Division of the Air Force Association at 5.30 for a few social drinks. They had a look at the Association's well equipped new Club-rooms and offices near the Cathedral and admired its "Room of Remembrance". This has an Air Force Window in stained glass, which includes such things as the colours of the service ribbons and extracts from Winston Churchill's famous speeches.

Anzac Day. Early, before dawn there was a Service at the seafront at Brighton, very well attended. 458's Flight President, Bill Taylor, wearing uniform, was one of the wreath-layers. It was very impressive.

After breakfast (the R.S.L. again entertained) and booking out of the Hotel, 458 went over to West Beach airport. This new aerodrome is a model of what such fields can be made. Among its features is a large glass-fronted building containing the Ross and Keith Smith aeroplane which made the first flight from England to Australia.

Near-by are about a dozen small Memorial trees fronted by small plaques commemorating the dead of various Squadrons. After a brief service by an Air Force padre, wreaths were placed. 458's was placed by the young son of the late Col. Mitchell, who died during the year.

From the Airport into Adelaide and the assembly for the March. As is normal the Air Force moved off last, and had a substantial wait, pleasantly filled with talk with newly arriving 458ers. There were, for example, Junior Davies down from Port Pirie; Johnny Rosenberg in on a Flight from Melbourne (he landed at West Beach during the Tree service.). There was also Johnny Excell from Murray Bridge.

The March was well organised and, in distinction to other Australian cities, is done to amplified music (not bands). The reporter finds in favour of the Adelaide system, after having for years suffered from bands playing at differing tempi. Another thing for which Adelaide is to be noted is the large number of wartime uniforms still worn. There must be more in Adelaide than in the rest of Australia put together. 458 marched well --60-70 strong perhaps-- behind the Squadron and Flight Presidents with Sid Bartram carrying the 458 emblem. After the March came the All-States Reunion at the Windsor Ballroom, North Terrace.

Reunion, Adelaide, 1961.

This, after all, was what 458 had assembled in Adelaide for. It was well attended, with a fair contingent from 455 Squadron present. We sat down to a very welcome meal and a very few words from the S.A. and Squadron Presidents. There was then an election of S.A. Flight officers for the coming year. Those appointed were:

All-States In Adelaide (cont.)

S.A.President	Brian Woodhead,
S.A.Treasurer	Reg Priest,
S.A.Secretary	Col.Hanlon.

Warm thanks were expressed to the retiring Flight officers and a warm welcome given to the incoming officers. After lunch, while the kegs flowed and the Squadron albums were widely examined by members, there was a most entertaining entertainer of the 'after-dinner' sort. Unfortunately we dare not quote him. There was also an enthusiastic and really rather gifted three man band who performed on a broom handle cum wire, a dustbin and something else of the kind. Members made a recording during the afternoon.

Members seen at the Reunion or other functions during the All-States were:

Ron.Badger	Sid Bartram	Brian Woodhead	Arn.Scholar	Reg Priest	Ken.Russell
Bill Taylor	Bert Oliver	Ron McRae	Junior Davies	Bob Drinnan	Johnny Bax
Ned Kelly	Pat Enright	J.Excell	Geoff.Esau	Jack McGlasson	Mel Priest
Bruce Thomas	Bob Thomas	Tim O'Reilly	Jack Parkin	John Ringwood	Ted Creighton
Col Draysey	"Ding" Conway	Bill Cribb	Alan Dickson	Col Hanlon	Malcolm Senn
Eric Baker	Fred Strom	Noel Spurling	Cy.Irwin	Sam Barlow	Peter Alexander
Harry Dorge	Eric Kelly	Gordon Postle	Arthur Green	Dave Firth	Gordon Cuthbertson
Jack Carter.					

Towards 5 o'clock the interstate members, or some of them, had to make towards aircraft, for return to Sydney (via Melbourne). Fred Strom travelled T.A.A. with Noel Spurling; Sam Barlow, Cy.Irwin and Peter Alexander by A.N.A., all arriving back in Sydney about the same time. That is presumably what is called spreading the risks but whether the risks were the Squadrons' or the air-line companies is not clear.

The returning travellers spent the trip enthusiastically discussing arrangements for next year's All States Reunion in Sydney.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT'S COMMENT.

I must express my sense of honour at being elected as 458 Squadron President for the ensuing year. The words are hackneyed perhaps, but I feel, indeed, deeply honoured. 458 has of course played a big part in my life from the day I was posted to it in 1941 at Holme-on-Spalding Moor until this day (with the exception of a year of anti-climax and something like homesickness which I spent on various R.A.F. units after 458 broke up at Gibraltar). I recall the feeling of home-coming I had when I attended my first post-war Squadron Reunion in Sydney after my return to Australia in 1947. So things have gone on from there. In these post-war years, particularly, 458 has given me experiences and friendships such as I could have had in no other way. The only way I could list the friendships I have had would, I suppose, be to print the Squadron mailing list. Far too many to mention them all but I am going to mention a couple of them, because I have worked with the se two throughout the postwar years without a break, closely and with harmony in 458's affairs of business and pleasure--and both have been plentiful. To Sam Barlow and Eric Munkman, particularly, my thanks.

I shall try to do the things a President should do and try to do them the way my various predecessors have done them. Let us all, who helped to create 458 Squadron, also help to keep 458 together in the years to come.

Peter Alexander.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from

Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Bris.

Anzac Day.

More Air Force than ever before marched on Anzac Day in Brisbane but the ranks of 458 were sadly depleted. Usually, we have between 30 and 40. This year we mustered only 14. Of course, three of our stalwarts, President Eric Kelly, Gordon Postle, and Harry Dorge were in Adelaide. We had an unusually large sick parade of six. Sore feet and slipped discs seemed to be the main troubles, which is a sure sign we're ageing. "Johnno" led the contingent, and Tim McQuaid carried the Banner. Tim flew down from Barcaldine (a mere 600 miles from Brisbane as Fokkers fly), especially for the Anzac March. Ken Cahill came down as usual from Landesborough. Tim and Ken grew up together at Barcaldine and, as you can imagine, had a lot to reminisce about. Tim has that smooth unlined face of 20 years ago and doesn't look the father of five. Another member we hadn't seen for a long time was "Buck" Buchanan who also looks as young as ever.

Q.Flight News (cont.) After the March we had our usual reunion at the A.T.C.Mess. It was a nice quiet session with a few O! La! La! films.

Back from Adelaide. President Eric Kelly and Gordon Postle have come back with a fund of stories and full of enthusiasm about the Adelaide Re-union. The night before they went they had to get together to discuss such things as what tobacco? at the trots and such important matters until 3.30 a.m. They caught the plane at 7.20 a.m. but it is rumoured that one of them just managed to run up the steps before they were pulled away.

Personal Pars. We have it on good authority that Bob Male has sold his property at Dirranbandi and retired to his holiday home at Noosa Heads for a spell of fishing. Also we heard that Bob Helyar has been recently re-elected to the Council of Tara Shire. For the benefit of the uninformed Tara is the spot where oil has just been discovered.

Though it is some months since his accident when his water skis became entangled with a wooden beacon in Broadwater, Southport, Jack Baxter still limps a little from the fractured ankle he sustained.

Down from Cairns was Erle Hetherington. Says he loves it up among the tourists to the Barrier Reef. Back from a job on Hayman Island is Norm Taylor who is now a catering officer at R.A.A.F. Station, Amberley.

Finally, Q.Flight wishes to join in with every other 458'er in congratulating Peter Alexander on his election as President of the Squadron. After guiding our destinies as Secretary for many years, Peter, we feel, has finally achieved the honour he deserves.

458 SQUADRON CONFERS IN ADELAIDE.

The annual meeting of the 458 Squadron Conference was held during the All-States Reunion period. The top policy-making body of the Squadron met under the presidency of the Squadron President Bill Taylor with Squadron officers (Sam Barlow as Squadron Vice President, and Peter Alexander as Squadron Secretary) and two representatives from each Flight. Conference this year discussed, without making any far reaching decisions, the policy matters of relations with the Air Force Association; and Squadron participation in various charities (such as Legacy). In view of the fact that two of the Federal officers of the Air Force Association (the Federal Secretary and the Federal Treasurer) are both 458'ers, it seemed desirable to discuss what the Squadron wanted to make of the situation. After lengthy discussion, Conference referred both matters to the Flights.

Next Reunion. Conference decided that the next All-States Reunion should be in Sydney in 1962. Conference decided against suggestions that the Reunion might be held at another time of the year than Anzac.

Officers.

Officers elected were as follows:

Squadron President:	Peter Alexander,
Squadron Vice Presidents:	Sam Barlow, Bill Taylor,
Squadron Treasurer:	Cyril Irwin;
Hon. Auditor:	Bert Thompson.

The question of appointment of a new Squadron Secretary was referred to Squadron Council. Conference recorded Squadron thanks to the retiring Treasurer, Eric Munkman, who was not available for re-election, and to its auditor, Bert Thompson. Peter Alexander remains Editor of the Squadron News.

ANZAC DAY IN MELBOURNE: Victorian News.

from F. (Shorty) Wilson, 78, Carnarvon Road, Strathmore, Vict.

Approximately 25 Squadron members gathered round the banner, on a morning that dawned cold and wet, but improved as time passed. Norm Cugley acted as C.O. and the writer was Sister Anna. The members were:

Norm Cugley	Stan Tarczynski	George Cowan	Jack Fleming	Yank Martin	Gordon Orchard
John Jenkins	Shorty Wilson	Stan Cartledge	Bill Carr	Peter Hedcock	Mick Singe
Tom Primrose	Ian Alison	Ron Yates	Bill Bailey	Don Johnston	Ron Russell
Lyle Wurr	Bob Smith	Phil Bennett	Jim Munday	Neil McPhee	Harry Ashworth
Harry Jenkins	Bill Hurford.				

The Unit paid homage to dead and absent members with all the seriousness such an occasion demands; however there are always some unrehearsed incidents to relieve the tension. This time, Tarz and Orch about turned at one halt to admire a following drum major, with the result that they were badly 'left' when the Squadron marched off. Because the Unit

Victorian Views (cont.) had a band within earshot, they marched well and, it appears, they looked well on T.V. Norm Cugley did a fine job as C.O. and managed to keep the step on several occasions. After the March, the boys adjourned for a Reunion at Harry Ashworth's place. After Norm Cugley had proposed the Loyal Toast, there was a buffet lunch and then the amber fluid flowed. Thanks to Harry, Ian Allison and John Jenkins, and others for a fine organising job.

Flight Officers * The following officers have been elected:

Flight President Norm Cugley;
Flight Secretary and Treasurer John Jenkins;
News Correspondent Frank Wilson.

Personal Pars.

Gordon Orchard who is now managing director of the family printing business in Geelong and Vega Press in Blackburn has recently become father of his first son, after several girls. Valerie Allison has presented Ian with a daughter--their first girl.

Peter Hedgcock is still with War Service Homes, and is frequently a valued advisor to 458 members on home purchase problems. He is also a Legacy Contact Officer. We are proud of Peter.

Bill Bailey has retired from the firewood business.

Don Johnston is a traveller with motor spares. Johnno was just about the last of the bachelors to acquire his shackles. His wife Netty presented him with a daughter the day he started his Christmas holidays. All you can get out of Johnno now is 'my Daughter'.

Flight President Norm Cugley is with Christy Auto Auctions again. Once again Shorty Wilson acted as taxi driver for Cug after the reunion but once again Norm had to act as Navigator. Cug certainly knows where these tram lines lead. How do you Sydney fellows navigate without any tram lines?

Bill Carr our highly esteemed and efficient Secretary has resigned. Bill has departed on a five months business trip covering 12 countries, representing his firm, Kodaks. Bill will be particularly interested in digital and analog electronic computers while overseas. For the un-initiated, a digital computer gives the vital statistics measurements, while the analog computer gives the curves and shape.

Barbecue. The Squadron has arranged to hold a barbecue at Gordon Cuthbertson's sheep property on 21st May. Cuthy's property is at Burrum Beet, past Ballarat from Melbourne, at the 89 mile post. Incidentally one of Cuthy's children suffered an appendicitis attack during their stay in Adelaide but is now O.K.

THE PASSING OF GORDON OUGH

458 Squadron News regrets very deeply to announce the death, at too early an age, of Squadron member Gordon Ough, of Canada. Gordon, who was a pilot and a 458 Flight Commander in North Africa, died on September 2nd, 1960, aged 43. He had been swimming near his Lake Erie home. Leaving the water he complained to Mrs. Ough of feeling dizzy which he attributed to too much swimming. Mrs. Ough went to the house and returned five minutes later to find him face down on the ground. He died of a coronary thrombosis.

Our most sincere sympathy to his widow, Helen, and son and two daughters. We well remember Gordon's energetic and athletic personality on 458.

He was born in Newmarket. He was a member of the Blenheim Anglican Church, a Mason, and a Rotarian. Until recently he was Assistant Sales Manager of C.I.L. Fertilizer plant at Chatham, Ontario and at his death, Sales Manager of the American Agricultural and Chemical Co of Toronto. He was interested in Youth and Crippled Children. He served as chairman of a major project for the support of crippled children.

We shall remember him.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From W.H. Swann, 5, Oak Road, Fareham, Hampshire, England.

Dear Sir, I should like to know if I am able to purchase the book "We Find and Destroy". I am most anxious to read it as I served with 458 Squadron for many years during the war and made a great many Australian friends. I should also like to find out more about the 458 Squadron Council.....

yours sincerely,
W.H. Swann

From Leonard C. Baker (S/Ldr, retired), "Neilgheny", Sunte Avenue, Haywards Heath, Sussex, England.

Dear Sir, On reading 'Air Mail', published by the R.A.F. Association H.Q., I notice a review of a book relating to 458 Squadron, and I would most certainly like a copy. As Senior Operations Officer at Shallufa, I, of course, knew 458. W/Crd. Johnston, your charming C.O., Micky Moran,

