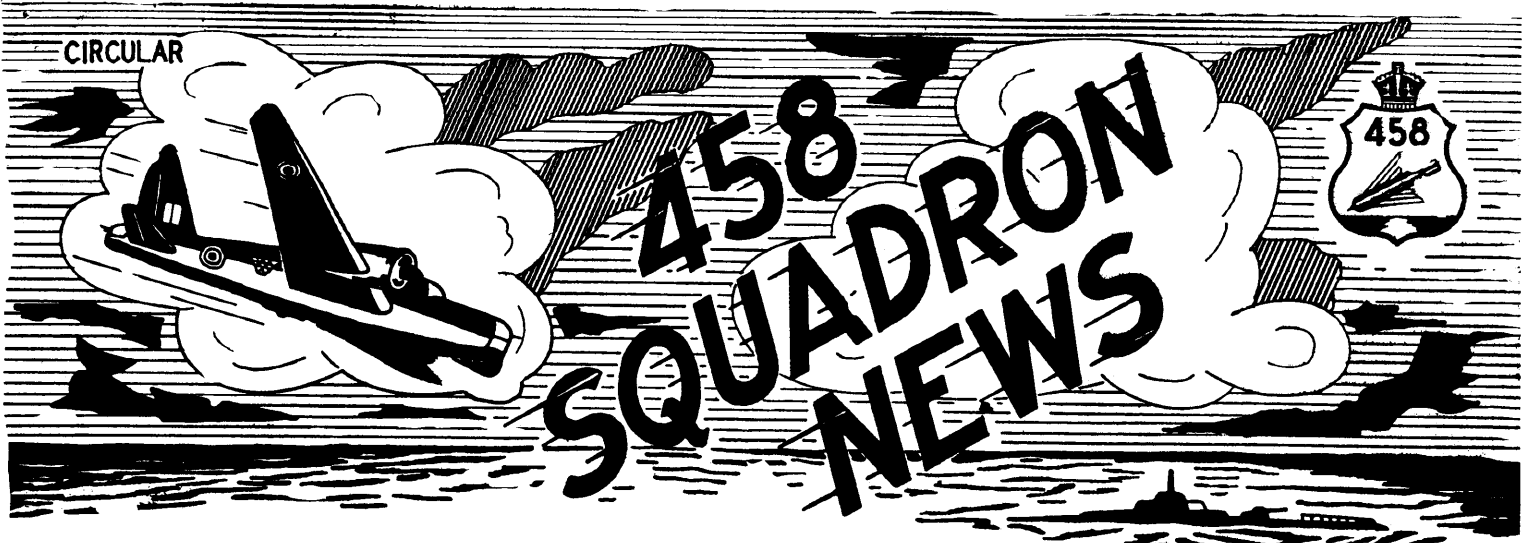


CIRCULAR



THE EDITOR.

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458 SQUADRON VISITS PARKES.

The N.S.W. Flight held this year's Country Reunion at the pleasant country town of Parkes. A party of 20 Squadron members, wives, children and friends made the trip from Sydney. This party was smaller than the attendances at past country reunions in Orange, Canberra, Gowra and Newcastle but those who made the trip had a thoroughly enjoyable time. They travelled by car at speeds varying from leisurely to top (Or not at all, like us—who went to bed with chicken pox instead—Editor.). Most of the party were booked in at Parkes headquarters, the Broadway Hotel, by the Friday night of the week-end.

Parkes Squadron member Jack Ind and his wife Mary welcomed the arriving members that evening at the Broadway Hotel. After tea there was a big gathering around a log fire in the lounge with many beers and much talk.

Saturday morning Was devoted to the fascinating job of exploring the town and looking at the shops—and generally becoming acclimatised;

Saturday afternoon and evening Some went to bowls, some to golf and some to the near town of Forbes. The Services Club entertained the 458 party at a social and dance;

Sunday morning Some slept in and some rose and went to the Leagues and Services Clubs to put out some fires;

After lunch the 458 convoy set out to inspect the world-renowned Radio Telescope, situated about 19 miles outside the town. This very large, revolving disc, is trained on a number of very distant objects, some of them invisible, which, though emitting little or no light in many instances, do give out radio waves—a sort of static, analysis of which is providing scientists with new clues to the nature of the universe. Some of the radio waves picked up come from objects so distant that light travelling at 186,000 miles per second has taken over 1,000 million years to reach the earth. Examination of the radio waves may enable man to tell what the universe was like that number of years ago. A fascinating subject. Radio Astronomy also studies the Sun, and other stars, such as Jupiter, the radio planet.

The convoy retraced its steps back through Parkes and visited a farm some six miles out of town. Here some very interesting water conservation and farm irrigation works were being undertaken.

From late afternoon the squadron party joined, until night, their new-formed Parkes friends in a gathering around a real bush log fire and enjoyed a country cooked barbecue meal. Finally they returned to Parkes for an early (in most but not all cases) night.

Even on Monday Shewing some signs of wear, members packed their belongings prior to gathering together for a farewell at the Services Club and a departure shortly before mid day. Squadron members making the trip from Sydney included, with families and friends; Sam and Maisie Barlow, Sue Kerr, Fred and Lena Sadler, Fred Strom, Noel Spurling, Thelma Corbett, Alan and Kitty Piggott, Cyril Irwin, Yvonne, Patricia and Greg Crompton, and Black-Jack Baker and his three boys.

We are indeed grateful to Jack and Mary Ind for their time and

458 in Parkes (conc'l'd) effort spent, firstly in arranging the set items for the weekend and secondly for their reception and hospitality during the weekend. Our thanks also go to Marshall Allen, a very good Air Force friend of Sam Barlow's, who helped in many ways towards our enjoyment. C.P.I.

458ers VISIT OPERATIONAL COMMAND H.Q. MESS. During October, the Squadron President (Peter Alexander) and three other 458 Squadron members were invited to attend the Dining-In Night of the Officers' Mess, at Operational Command H.Q., Penrith, N.S.W. The Squadron Treasurer (Cyril Irwin), Bert Thompson, and Dick Healey were the other members of the party. They drove up to Penrith, which is in the Blue Mountains in Cy. Irwin's car. They were entertained with the greatest hospitality and enjoyed the experience. Among the R.A.A.F. officers there they found G/Capt. John Dowling, who commanded 458 Squadron in North Africa and Sardinia, nearly twenty years ago. He is now Senior Officer, Admin. with the Command Headquarters.

During dinner, G/Capt. Dowling was called on by the P.M.C. to welcome the 458ers and the Squadron President replied, shortly afterwards.

It was a particular pleasure to talk over old times and recall old friends with John Dowling.

SANDGROPPERS' SAY-SO.

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

Games Fever. Perth and there is a huge influx of visitors for the Commonwealth and Empire Games. Although we as a Flight issued an open invitation to all Squadron members and their families the only acceptor was Ian Higlett from Victoria and his son Peter who will both be stopping with my wife and me at Scarborough. We have heard indirectly that Arthur Green is coming over but at the moment of writing this is unconfirmed. Would like any others who may come to give me a phone call (25-1205) so that we can shew them round the outer urban areas.

Next Squadron Conference. We held a special general meeting to discuss the decision that W.A. should be the venue of the 1964 All-States Reunion and a full report was sent to the Squadron Secretary the next day. A Ways and Means Committee has been formed and will hold its first meeting in the office of Stan. Long on December 13th, 1962.

I find the 1964 Anzac Day will be on a Saturday and although this does present difficulties re the night for holding the Squadron Ball, they will doubtless be ironed out in due course.

Cricket and 460. Our annual match and picnic with 460 Squadron will be held at Yanchep in January and will follow the usual pattern.

With best wishes and regards to all,
Peter Power.

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

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

New Flight President. Our new President is Clive Wyman, elected unanimously and with great acclaim at our Annual Reunion held at the No. 1 Casualty Clearing Station on Saturday 25th. August. Clive has been a very ardent worker on the committee and thoroughly deserves the honour which has been accorded him. Jack Lewis is again our Flight Treasurer. The Committee is the same as last years with one welcome addition-- Chas. Richardson. Of course, yours truly is the Secretary--for the fifteenth time. Unfortunately there was an epidemic of Virus 'flu sweeping Brisbane which cut attendance considerably. One surprise visitor was Phil. Bennett who came under the guidance of Bill Snowden. He had just blown in from Darwin and looked fighting fit.

Air Force Ball. Q. Flight also enjoyed the Air Force Ball, which is a combined effort by ex-Air Force people in Brisbane. This was only the second but it was even more enjoyable than the first. Patron was Air Commodore W.N. Gibson, A.O.C., South Queensland at Amberley. (Ed. Ball Secretary was Jim Holliday).

Q.Flight News (cont.)Barlows and Barbecues.

A surprise but nevertheless welcome visit occurred of Maisie and Sam Barlow, on a visit to the Gold Coast on what is now become an annual pilgrimage to worship the sun. Several of the boys gathered at the 'International' to toast Sam's health and Gordon Postle arranged for a barbecue on the last day of their visit at his home on the Gold Coast. Gordon did a magnificent job with the tenderest steaks on record and entertained us and the two visitors with plenty of liquid refreshment.

A Win for Mannion of Maleny.

The winner of our raffle for a Shav emaster was Cliff Mannion of Maleny. A lady, Mrs. M. Anning, drew "Even Stevens" and "Comicquita" with two separate books in our Melbourne Cup Sweep, and Bernie McLoughlin drew "Aquanita".

But Once a Year...

Q.Flight's usual Christmas Social is scheduled for No.1 Casualty Clearing Station on Saturday December 1st. Apart from the usual dancing and the usual liquid diversions, Gordon Postle has again donated a prize for raffling. This time a 32 piece utility set, bless his generous heart.

Personal Pars.

Saw Bob Male at the Oxley Golf Club the other day looking fit and well—and who wouldn't be, living within twenty feet of the surf at Noosa Heads.

Met Chas. Richardson with a group of co-workers, celebrating his twenty-fifth anniversary with Shell

While in Melbourne recently lunched with Shorty Wilson and Ron Russell. It was Ron's last day in Melbourne, he having been transferred by his firm, Ampol, to Swan Hill as manager. This, I gather, is near Mildura. Also dug up Jim Munday at 9.30 p.m. to have a few drinks to revive memories. Needless to say, suffered for it next day. Heard at last from our former committee member, Erle Hetherington, who informs us he is still alive and keeping fit on Cairns beer. Pat and Harry Dorge came down from Toowoomba to see Maisie and Sam, and they desire to thank all those in Sydney who gave them such a good time at the All-States Reunion.

To All of 458...

Our new President, Clive Wyman, on behalf of all "Q" Flight members wishes every member of 458 throughout the World, a very merry Christmas and a most prosperous New Year.

P.S. Erle Hetherington would like Jack Carter to drop him a line at 5, Aplin St., Cairns.

VICTORIAN VIEWS AND NEWS.

from F.S. (Shorty) Wilson, 78, Carnarvon Rd., Strathmore, Victoria.

Show Eve Reunion.

The 1962 "Show Eve" Reunion was once again held at the Air Training Corps Drill Hall, Preston, on 27th. September, by courtesy of F/Lt. W. Knapp, C.O. of No. 2 Flight, A.T.C. It was a highly successful evening.

Those there included:

H. Jenkins	D. Johnson	A. Green	E. J. Love	K. Guiney
Ian Alison	J. Timms	N. Cugley	J. Fleming	R. Russell
H. Ashworth	I. Higlett	F. Wilson	L. Taylor	J. Jenkins
E. Laming	W. Hammond	I. Goss		L. Tame

An invitation was extended to the Commanding Officer for him, together with his officers and N.C.O.s to join us. This offer was accepted at the conclusion of the A.T.C. Parade and the C.O., accompanied by F/O Lock and F/O Dellar joined us at supper.

The Flight President John Jenkins opened proceedings by proposing the toast of the Queen and then of Fallen Comrades.

We received many apologies for business and other reasons. The day before the Reunion I contacted Father Johnny McNamara to see if we could arrange transport for him. He is one who will need no introduction to 458ers. Unfortunately the date clashed with his Parish Ball but we had quite a prolonged talk and I find he has an outstanding memory in regard to the names of members of the Squadron. And so we went on mentioning many chaps and how they are progressing in civil life. He sent his kindest regards to all and wished us a happy evening and continued success in all our activities. I told him how sorry we were to hear he had had three coronary attacks over the last eight years and wished him better health in the future. I know I spoke on your behalf when I told him that, because he, like the other two padres, was and is high in our regard.

Victorian Views and News (cont.)

About those who were there:

Harry "Doc" Jenkins is still the same cheerful Harry of old. Put on a bit of weight but has not slowed down a bit. Perhaps one of the chief assets he has as a qualified male nurse at the Repatriation Hospital at Heidelberg is a happy disposition;

Don Johnson who is Sales Representative of Motor Spares Pty Ltd., is looking fitter every day and is the same Johnno we knew in earlier days. He and wife Nettie have a baby daughter;

Ted Love looks exactly like a successful real estate agent. Says he weathered the recent credit squeeze without a great deal of worry. His philosophy is that people are still getting married in spite of the atom bomb, and therefore must still buy blocks of land and houses;

I noticed at this stage that John Jenkins was obtaining free tennis coaching from our professional tennis coach Kev. Guiney. John, who is with the Superannuation Dept. of T & G. Insurance was as usual the life of the party. Don't know about the tennis lessons though. John and wife Betty are golfers. Not being a golfer myself I suppose there must be some similarity.

Jim Timms of Broons Motors seemed to be thoroughly enjoying himself. He has shifted permanently to Melbourne from Hay, N.S.W. and is proving himself a staunch supporter of 458 activities.

Ian Higlett was enjoying himself in what I would say was a conservative manner befitting an officer of the Bank of New South Wales, the oldest and possibly the most successful banking business in Australia.

Duke's Band. The facilities of the A.T.C. are ideal for a reunion, except that they lack a piano. However the lack of music was soon rectified by the arrival of Lloyd Tame who had thoughtfully brought along his mouth organ. Lloyd proceeded to brighten the proceedings.

Ern. Organises. Catering was left in the capable hands of Ernie. Laming. He promptly enrolled Nancy Cugley, Betty Jenkins and Alma Wilson--and we ate like kings. Thank you!

Final Fate of a Wellington. We raffled it. A 14" scale model of a Wellington in desert camouflage was the prize for the raffle and proved most sought after. Harry Jenkins proved to be the winner and was most happy with his prize

Ron Russell's Departure. Ron has been appointed by Ampol as the North Western Victoria District manager and will be based on Swan Hill. We offer him our congratulations on the promotion and our sincere best wishes for the future. Ron has been a very staunch worker on the committee. He and his wife Joan will be sincerely missed. They have made many friends among us and were an extremely popular couple.

Mystery Car Trial and Family Picnic. The next Squadron function will take this form and will be held on November 18th. We are hoping on that day to make plans for a repeat of the very successful Childrens' Christmas Party held just prior to last Christmas. We should like your support to make it an annual event.

Editor. Members will be sorry to hear that our Victorian Secretary, "Shorty" Wilson has not been very well.

NEW SOUTH WALES NOTES.

by C.P. Irwin, 17, Vincent St., Canterbury, N.S.W.

Since the last "News" issue two very enjoyable functions have been held by our Flight. Over the holiday week-end early in October there was the country reunion--reported elsewhere--a type of function which has helped tremendously in the past by enabling city and country members to meet and enjoy a pleasant weekend together. We hope to hold the next one early in the New Year (perhaps in Gosford). Full and timely advice will be given.

President's Cup Golf. The other function was our annual President's Cup Golf Day. This trophy was first presented by Pete Campbell, when he was N.S.W. President. This year it was held on Sunday October 28th at Lynn Ridge Golf links, Gordon. We were favoured with a very nice golfing day. Approximately

N.S.W. Notes (cont.)—20 golfers played and after their tour of duty on the course ended adjourned to Mt. Wilga, Hornsby, for a barbecue lunch, a few beers and a convivial afternoon with squadron non-golfers and friends who made the afternoon trip to Mt. Wilga. Presentation of prizes was made during the afternoon: trophy winners were:

President's Cup Bob Bruce; Runner-up Eric Munkman;
 Visitor's Trophy Greg. Crompton; Runner-up John Keough
 Nearest pin competition John Carmichael.

Congratulations to them--particularly Bob Bruce and Greg. Crompton who played good golf to win their trophies. This may be the first occasion on which the incumbent N.S.W. President has won the President's Cup. Our thanks to Betty and Bob Bruce, our hosts at Mt. Wilga for the many ways they made our afternoon enjoyable. Many thanks also to duty cooks; barman Sam Barlow, also Alan Piggott who assumed the role of bowls coach for the afternoon.

Christmas. The Social committee are planning a mixed Christmas social for mid December. Advice to members later.

The Cup ! The Cup ! Our Melbourne Cup Guessing Competition was successful. Nett profit approximately £35. Thanks to all who assisted by disposal of tickets. Receipts go a long way (not all the way though) towards defraying News publication costs, postages; and in short, to keep us afloat financially. All ticket holders were advised immediately after the draw and this was followed by a complete list of horse-holders to all members who disposed of books. Winners were:

1st. Bob Millar (ticket sold by----Bob Millar);
 2nd. J. Montgomery (" " Bob Bruce);
 3rd. M. Reynolds (" " Bert Reynolds).

With Deep Regret. I have to notify the passing of Clarrie Hanckel (see below for notice). At Henty on 10th. October.

To You All. Christmas Wishes to you all ! We have heard from Stan Parker (Ayr) wishing all 458ers a Happy Christmas.

The Sick List. Alf. Hammond and Fred. Strom have both spent some time on the sick list recently. We wish them both prompt recovery.

PASSING OF CLARRIE HANCKEL.

Many 458ers will remember Clarrie. He was a quiet but determined young Fitter with red hair who was one of the many to pass most of his war years with the squadron. He was seen in Sydney at the second All-States Reunion to be held in that city. We remember his inviting us to come to Henty for the duck shooting.

Clarrie died in Henty Hospital on October 10th. He had a heart condition. He was 47. He came of a large family settled in the Riverina and married a Melbourne girl while in Darwin in 1952. He leaves a widow and three small sons, Stephen aged 9, David, aged 7, and Bruce aged 5.

His uncle, Pastor Mueller of Wagga Wagga conducted the funeral service at S. John's Lutheran Church, Muryabla.

458ers who served with him will remember Clarrie with affection and will join in sympathy for his widow and family.

May he rest peacefully !

FEDERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION.

We feel readers may be interested in some account of the recently held biennial Federal Conference of the Air Force Association. The Squadron plays a part in Association affairs through the N.S.W. 458 Squadron branch of the Association, and two 458 members hold federal office in the Association, Graeme Coombes being Federal Treasurer and Peter Alexander Federal Secretary.

The Conference met in Sydney on November 3rd and 4th and was officially opened by the Governor-general of Australia, Viscount de l'Isle, V.C. The site was the Association's newly acquired and reconstructed building in Clarence Street.

A.F.A. Federal Conference (cont.)

The Governor-general on arrival was received by the Federal President, Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams and the Federal Secretary. Sir Richard Williams is certainly the most distinguished member the R.A.A.F. has ever produced. He was Chief of Air Staff for 17 years before the war, after holding the No. 1 Flying certificate in the Australian Flying Corps. After a series of high ranking jobs in Britain and America during the war, he returned to be Director-general Of Civil Aviation in Australia for five years. He and the Federal Vice President (Mr. Vautin) both belonged to No 1 Squadron in World War I, just as the Federal Treasurer and Federal Secretary both belonged to 458 Squadron in World War II.

In his speech which was televised and filmed, Lord de l'Isle, spoke of what the Air Force owes to associations like the A.F.A. which made known publicly its problems and needs and increased public support for it. He commended the A.F.A.'s concern for its members welfare.

After the official opening and the reception which followed in the new Clubrooms, delegates, of whom there were two from each State, together with the Federal officers, got down to their two days of work on a lengthy agenda.

Readers will, incidentally, be very interested to know that the Air Officer Commanding, Operational Command, was officially represented at the opening--by G/Capt. J. Dowling, one time C.O. of 458 Squadron.

Air Power. After a debate which the Press attended, the Conference carried a motion calling for an R.A.A.F. of maximum striking power. Delegates said that only an Air Force, equipped with the latest weapons could react quickly enough to an enemy. It was said that the Navy would take six days to get from one side of Australia to the other.

Repatriation Treatment. Repatriation treatment for sufferers, among returned servicemen, from the diseases cancer, high blood pressure, and mental illness was keenly discussed by councillors, who said that since the causes of these illnesses were usually not known, the onus was, or should be, on the Repatriation Dept. to accept them for treatment, as tuberculosis is now accepted.

Membership. Space is too limited to write about the 100 plus agenda items of repatriation and air force interest in any more detail, but it is worth noting that after keen debate Conference decided by a majority, N.S.W. and Queensland opposing, to admit peacetime airmen with three years service as associate members of the A.F.A. on certain restrictive conditions. This represented a move forward on a subject debated for several years now.

Conference delegates, as well as working hard, were given hospitality and entertainment by the N.S.W. members. Next biennial Conference will be in Hobart in 1964.

PRIVY COUNCIL APPEAL. 458 member and well-known Brisbane barrister, Bernie McLoughlin, has been briefed to appear before the Privy Council in London.

CHRISTMAS IN SYDNEY. 458 members will gather in the Air Force Club, 213, Clarence St. (1st floor) any time after 5 p.m. on Thursday December 20th. Please look in.

TO ALL OUR READERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE BEST OF THINGS IN 1963.

THE EDITOR (P.C. Alexander)

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Will members please help by recalling that their modest annual subscriptions are now due to their Flight Secretaries?

A.F.A. members will know that the Annual sub is 20/- (plus 5/- for Wings)

Thank you all!