



THE EDITOR.

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

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February, 1965.

TWENTY YEARS AFTER....

It is twenty years since 458 Squadron, R.A.A.F., finished its wartime work at Gibraltar and disbanded. Twice ten years have passed since that June 9th, 1945 when the Squadron paraded at full strength, under the personal command of the G.O., W/Cdr. Rodney Mackay, at the side of the broad Gibraltar runway. Two decades of another sort of life have carried Squadron members from their twenties to their forties, since Air Vice-Marshal Stevens gave 458 its last command as a unit of the R.A.A.F. "458 Squadron! To the right, Dismiss!"

Not only those who were at that parade but also the many 458ers to who, though they finished their tours earlier, the war years still meant 458 Squadron, this anniversary will be the occasion to stop and remember.

Elsewhere in this Issue is a report of the Anniversary Dinner held by the N.S.W. Flight in Sydney and attended by many members and their wives as well as guests from other Squadron Associations.

It is expected by Squadron officers that the Anniversary will attract further comment at this year's All-States Reunion in Queensland.

WHO'S FOR THE GOLD COAST ?

Members are commencing to make arrangements to go to the Queensland Gold Coast for the 1965 All-States Reunion. Len MacDonnell (acting Queensland Flight Secretary) writes:

Queensland is looking forward with pleasant anticipation to the forthcoming All-States Reunion. We hope that the innovation of holding the Reunion at our Gold Coast will attract more than our usual proportion of members from other States. Following a decision by the State Government, Queenslanders will benefit from a holiday on Monday, 26th, which means that our activities can now extend over three days--commencing on the night of 23rd April and finishing on the evening of 26th April when most Queenslanders will be returning to their homes to resume work on April 27th.

Tentative bookings have already been made at Lennons, Broadbeach, and advice from those attending of their dates of arrival and departure would be appreciated. Please send advice to Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Brisbane, Q.

This is the programme:-

Evening Friday 23rd April

Welcome and dance for members;

Saturday 24th April.

Golf and Sports
Barbecue in evening;

Sunday 25th April.

Morning--March,
Afternoon--Squadron Conference,
Evening--Entertainment;

Monday 26th April.

Free day. Car and boat trips, races, all tastes accommodated.

The Gold Coast (cont.) You are assured of a warm welcome, and provided the weather is kind, a memorable Reunion should ensue. Reiterating previous advices, accomodation will be £2-2-0 per day, bed and breakfast per person for first class rooms. Should any males be not accompanied by their wives, cheaper accomodation is available in an annexe.

Jim Holliday Returns. We in Queensland were more than pleased to welcome Jim Holliday back home after his long and tiring world trip. He has a film record of the trip--he murmurs about being only an amateur photographer, but some of his slides are really in professional class. His experiences and impressions of various countries he visited have been well worth listening to.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Peter Power, I45, Gildercliffe Street, Scarborough,
Western Australia.

A.G.M. The W.A. Flight is scheduled to hold its Annual General Meeting early in March and financial members will as usual be formally advised by letter.

Anzac Day. The arrangements for Anzac Day Reunion are well in hand. Arrangements for the March will be exactly the same as in previous years--the assembly point being the corner of Irwin Street and St. George's Terrace at 9.30 a.m. The Reunion will commence at the conclusion of the Anzac Service (about 12.30 p.m.) and will be held in the Civilian Maimed and Limbless Hall at the corner of Murray and Havelock Streets, West Perth; the charge for a sit-down lunch and liquid refreshment "all In" will be 25/- per head.

With 460 Squadron. As per 1964, the Reunion will be a joint "do" with 460 Squadron. Those who attended last year will recall that the show was an outstanding success. As Anzac Day is a Sunday, we expect an even bigger muster than last year.

The Travelling Trewarthas. Lofty and Marge Trewartha paid Perth a visit recently and were entertained by some of the local Flight at an evening at Len Stewart's home in Inglewood. The evening took the form of a barbeque and Lofty has some weird and wonderful data on a long-playing tape to take back to S.A. Flight including a rendition by myself of the Gyppo National Anthem, for which my good wife has still not forgiven me. Our thanks to Len and Val for the use of their home for this happy and successful evening.

Regards to all the troops.

CROWEATERS COMMENTARY.

from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California Street,
Nailsworth, S.A.

In the absence of an official scribe in this State I thought I would grab a pen and let you have the latest.

27/II/64. A few of the boys thought that an evening at Ned Kelly's would do him good as he has been on the sick list and in Repat. Hospital. Those that arrived bearing a few bottles of the best were Ron and Jackie McRae, Jack and Vern Riseley, Arn. Scholar and Marj. and self. Managed to get some amusing monologue on my tape recorder and Jack Riseley rendered the old ballad about the pawnbroker "O'Leary".

9/I/65. In W.A. for Christmas and an evening arranged for Marj. and self at Len Stewart's home by the W.A. Flight. Present were Tim Dale, Butch Power, Mum Geddes, Billy Clues, Charlie Davis, Teddy Jewell, Ben Cormack, Ted Ellis, Len Stewart and of course, the good ladies. A barbeque supper, coloured lights and 15 gallons of Swan Lager guaranteed a mighty evening. Tim Dale as Flight President welcomed Marj. and self after which I played the tape made at Kelly's. All the members of the W.A. Flight taped messages back to S.A. and Butch explained by verse why "Queen Farida" couldn't come out to-day. Spent a day with the Parkin family at North Dandalup. Jack and Laurel wish to be remembered to all their old coppers.

29/I/65. An evening at the home of Jack and Verna Riseley. With Jack as Mine Host Bill Taylor as "Chef" and Ron Badger as "cellarmaster", the evening was perfect.

Croweaters' Commentary (cont.) Others present were Gordon Cuthbertson, Reg. Priest, Brian Woodhead, Arn. Scholar, and the ladies. Was pleased to see Joyce Bertram's smiling face again. An unexpected pleasure was the arrival, late, of Poss. Dale, who was over as chaperone to the girls' swimming team.

I should like to send best regards to Bert Garland in Queensland, whom I have not seen since his prang in 1941. Trust that this finds you enjoying all the very best; and that the "All States" is a big success this year in Queensland.

DEATH OF "DIGGER" WATTS.

458ers will well remember Bill Watts, who drove the Squadron bowser for a lengthy period. He will be remembered particularly for the small African monkey he adopted when 458 was at Bone in Algeria. It accompanied him on his rounds and was an excellent watchdog. He called it the "C.O." "Which C.O.?" said Bill, "Any bloody C.O."

Bill came from the West and members there and those members from the Eastern States who made the journey to the first Perth All-States Reunion will recall seeing him then. He entertained some of them at his home in Gildercliffe Street.

The "News" is sorry to report Bill's sudden passing in November. He leaves a family who have the Squadron's sincere sympathy.

THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid Thompsett, 369, Downham Way, Bromley
Kent, England.

Our best wishes for 1965. There is not much to report really. We have matters all in hand for Anzac Day Reunion, etc. That at the present is all there is to report. Will send off a cheque for the U.K. members to get the Squadron News. Hope some of our members who don't pay up will pay up one day.

Braybrook's Moving Wings. Just before Christmas, while I was watching T.V. (Childrens' programme) I had a surprise to see Frank Braybrook, now holding the rank of Squadron Leader, delivering parcels to a Children's Home by helicopter. I have lost touch with him recently but with the help of Norman Gilbert who is also still serving I traced his Squadron. I wrote to him but so far have had no reply.

Peanut Club still Serving. Has anything been done by the Flights in Aussie regarding the Peanut Club at East Grinstead?

U.K. in the All-States? Roll on the day when our number comes up in the Premium Bonds and then a few of us will join you at the All-States Reunion--instead of in thought.

ON THE SICK LIST AND OFF IT.

458 Squadron News reports that Cec. Nation has now recovered from the illness which put him into Concord for a few weeks. He is now back on deck and has been seen at N.S.W. Flight committee functions.

Bill Chapman --this is Bill the Fitter--is in Concord at the time of writing recovering from a Coronary Occlusion. We saw him there in the last couple of days and found him looking well enough. However he was in Concord last year with an ulcer so he has had his share of sickness. Our good wishes, Bill. May you soon be fitter.

CORNSTALKS CALLING.

Notes from Cy. Irwin, 17, Vincent St. Canterbury, N.S.W.

Reunion in Wollongong. In mid November a party of 458ers, wives and families, journeyed to Wollongong on the near South Coast for a week-end Country Reunion of members. Arrangements at the Wollongong end were in the hands of Jack Bevan and George Unitt, local members. Visiting members were booked in at the Strata Motel and the weekend itinerary was:

Saturday: Inspection of steelworks in morning; free afternoon; Social at the Master Builders Club in the evening:

Sunday: Tour of District in morning; barbecue lunch afternoon--beers and nattering at the Yacht Club on Lake Illawarra prior to home departure.

Cornstalks Calling (cont.) A thoroughly enjoyable weekend. Thanks, through this News, to our Wollongong hosts and wives for their hospitality. Attendance was a little disappointing. It is intended to arrange a return weekend in force this year.

Christmas Drinks. A number of 458 members met at the Air Force Club on Wednesday 23rd. December to enjoy a few Xmas beers and exchange Seasonal greetings.

January and February Have been quiet months in the main: the Committee has concentrated on the organising of the 20 Years After Dinner.

Our Deepest Sympathy To Vic (Goldy) Bartlett, following the recent death of his wife, Betty, after a heart attack. Squadron members Henry Bryant, Alan Piggott, and Cy. Irwin attended the funeral and extended personal condolences.

The Fijian Wards. Frank Ward has received a 'posting' in his job to Fiji. By now his wife Thelma and family will be with him. We wish Frank all the best in his new sphere.

Anzac Day. To conclude Flight News, would all N.S.W. members please note that arrangements have been made for a Squadron Reunion and lunch after the Anzac Day March, at the Great Southern Hotel, George Street (near Central) from 12.30 to 3.0. p.m. Anzac Day and the March will this year fall on Sunday. Please endeavour to make the March this year.

Subscription accounts are enclosed with this News issue to all N.S.W. Flight members.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER SUCCESS IN SYDNEY.

Over 90 Squadron members and their wives, with some visitors from other Squadrons, dined together at the Air Force Club, on Friday February 26th, 1965. The Dinner was to mark the passing of 20 years since 458 Squadron finished its wartime assignment and disbanded at Gibraltar.

Pre-dinner sherry was served in the Club Dining Room at 7.15 and there was a large gathering of 458ers. One committeeman described it as excitingly large. Guests of Honour were Air Marshal Sir John and Lady McCauley and Air Commodore Hughie Edwards, V.C.

At 7.45 the diners moved upstairs to the Club Functions Room for Dinner. They had oysters, asparagus entree or fish, chicken or fish, a sweet and coffee; served with white wines and beer.

Flight President Bob Bruce, who presided, welcomed those attending and N.S.W. Vice President Stuart Ricketts proposed the Loyal Toast.

Air Marshal McCauley then proposed the Toast of "458 Squadron". He said that as Federal President of the Air Force Association he strongly felt the importance of keeping alive, for later generations to understand, memory of the achievements of such units as 458 Squadron. 458 was a great squadron, and he quoted Air Marshal Tuttle, who commanded the Wing when 458 was at Protville, under the command of L/Col. Bruce McKenzie, as saying "No 458 Squadron was one of the main reasons why my Wing was taken off operations--the enemy ran out of ships!"

Response to the toast, which as it was to the Squadron, rather than its members, everyone drank, was by N.S.W. Past-President Peter Alexander. He referred to events of the past 20 years, saying he had been very moved at being asked to respond to this toast. There had been a very keen committee in N.S.W. when they started, and most of its members were still keen and were there that night. They had achieved the various things a Squadron could do: reunions, a quarterly paper, lapel and car badges, ties. The latter so successful a venture that they were appalled to find 458 ties on sale to the public! A new tie was under way. These post-war ventures, however rewarding, had not been without their blood-letting. Sam Barlow and he, both 458 trustees in N.S.W. since the commencement, had each acquired black eyes in the course of their 458 activities! One successful venture had been the decision to play a part in the wider field of ex-air Force activities by forming a 458 branch of the Air Force Association. He thought they had enough in common to be able to invite all present to come to the 40th Anniversary dinner in due course of time.

Following serving of sweets, Bob Bruce proposed the toast of the Guests and invited Hughie Edwards, V.C. to respond.

Air Commodore Edwards, who is the only living Australian-born airman with the Victoria Cross, said he had spent some time that day, in business hours, studying

Anniversary Dinner (cont.) 458's history. He had followed Norman Mulholland and been contemporaneous with Lew Johnston in the Air Force. 460 Squadron had been the Australian Squadron he had had to look after and while one Australian Squadron was quite enough for anyone, he felt he knew something of 458 and could agree with what Sir John had said. There was every evidence that 458 had been a great Squadron. He asked the Guests and Visitors for whom he responded to drink the health of members of 458 Squadron.

Bob Bruce thanked the Club for the arrangement of the Dinner and Club President Ron. Levenger responded.

Members then circulated and chatted with old friends.

Among the 458ers seen at the dinner, mostly with their wives were:

Ralph Bailey	Pete Campbell	Alan Piggott	Bill Astley	Jack Aitken
Sam Barlow	Kemp Beach	Doug. Bennett	Don Bitmead	Bob Bruce
Henry Bryant	Cy. Irwin	Cec. Nation	Tom Mitchell	Bob. Millar
Col. Corten	John Carey	George Catchlove	Lofty Chalmers	S. Hansen
Graeme Coombes	P. Alexander	Junior Hawke	Dick Healey	Ron Hills
Arthur Jollow	Bob. Lyndon	Tom. Moore	Eric Munkman	Fred. Strom
Noel Spurling	Ross. Burgess	Barry Menser	Bert Thompson	S. Ricketts

Among the Guest list was Mr. Harold White from Kenya, an Australian by origin, who is a close personal friend of Bruce McKenzie, 458's Protville C.O.

This was one of the most successful functions put on by the N.S.W. Flight for its members for quite some time. Among the Squadron people attending were all the men who have been N.S.W. Flight Presidents: ---Ralph Bailey, Pete Campbell, Alan Piggott, Peter Alexander, Sam Barlow, Graeme Coombes and Bob Bruce, and these include both the N.S.W. men who have been Squadron President.

MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA.

by the Editor.

I was recently nominated as a delegate to the 1965 Citizenship Convention in Canberra. I represented the Air Force Association. This Convention meets annually and the 350 people who attend come from the various organisations assisting in the Migration programme or influencing public opinion. They were accommodated by the Dept. of Immigration at various Canberra hotels, and the Convention had its main sessions at the Rex-at-Canberra Hotel.

On the day of arrival there was a formal opening by the Minister for Immigration and the Treasurer and after lunch, a keynote address by Sir John Allison which was commented on by three other speakers--among them Albert Monk of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, who has done much to avoid industrial trouble for migrants.

There is generally a 'main theme' for the Convention, and for 1965 it was "Every Settler a Citizen". Why? the Convention asked itself, "Why are there 250,000 migrants eligible who are not seeking naturalisation as Australian citizens?" "Are we doing all we can to make them settle?"

Discussion Groups. The Convention divided itself for the following day into five Discussion Groups to discuss this sort of issue. How well the groups did their job depended on the efficiency of the Chairmen, some of whom seem to have been better than others. Discussion was, as far as I could see, pretty uninhibited. While, by government policy, no resolutions were carried, this did not offend me since the purpose of the Convention was the exchange of opinion and airing of queries. Matters of major controversy, e.g. the White Australia Policy, were stopped by the Chairman (K.C. Wilson M.P.) the moment they arose in the general discussion in Convention when the Groups reported.

Press. The Press was present and newspaper reporting was quite substantial. Of course the Press reported only what was "newsworthy" which seems to be the same in meaning as "sensational". A quite intemperate (I thought) attack by a Queensland delegate from (of all things) a Good Neighbour Council, on all British migrants for their grumbling, received widespread publicity. The replies and rebukes he attracted from other delegates no publicity at all. Similarly a query (not a statement) whether there were 17,000 migrants in N.S.W. who couldn't be naturalised for security reasons attracted headlines. The great substance of intelligent and useful debate very little headlining.

The Major Event. I feel that the great post-war migration programme, which has brought to Australia 2,000,000 migrants (two-thirds of them British) has been the major event in Australian history in the period, and the lack of controversy with which this

The Migration Programme(cont.) has been done is due among other things to the way public opinion has been 'on side'. And that is due in part to the Citizenship Conventions.

The Social Side. We were well looked after in Canberra by the Government --our fares and transport provided,our accomodation very comfortable,all expenses met (but we paid for our own drinks!). There was a ministerial reception ,at Parliament House,and the Governor-general received us at Yarralumla,where I spent an interesting half hour talking to a migrant (from Fremantle) from Croatia on his compatriots relations with former Serbians. He said,and it sounded fair enough,that the Croats he knew caused no trouble. But in the bus going back from Government House I talked to another delegate (from the Council of Churches) who said the Serbs (in Melbourne) could never hold a meeting without having windows broken (presumably by Croats). Apparently there are two opinions on this matter.

The Outcome. On the main issue (the 250,000 unnaturalised) the consensus of opinion was not to worry;it was largely elderly south Europeans with little or no English and little or no hope of any;and the next generation was being integrated so fast you couldn't see it happening.

I came back to Sydney feeling I knew a little more about Migrants and Immigration and willing to help and I suppose that a good part of what,for this delegate,the Convention was intended to produce. I have since been to local Naturalisation Ceremonies--and found them quite moving in their significance.

NEW 458 SQUADRON TIES BEING MANUFACTURED.

Some years ago,readers may recall,we obtained some special material from overseas and had 458 Squadron ties made up. They had the 458 Winged torpedo on a blue background. They were liked and most members have had one or more. The stocks of ties being sold out,the last Squadron Conference at Perth instructed Squadron Council to obtain some more in a design which preserved the Winged torpedo and negotiations to that end were undertaken.

Squadron Councillors havebeen moved to expedite these negotiations by discovering that the old ties,in precisely the old material and design have been put on the general market by someone,in quite considerable numbers. Copyright in the design was registered but has expired so we have no remedy but to get a new tie. This is being done. Special precautions have been taken to ensure that this will be a '458 only' tie. It will be in terylene (the old was in rayon);be of darker background than the old and will preserve the winged torpedo. It will retail for somewhere in the range of 21/- plus postage. Members will be notified when it is available for purchase.

THE EDITOR (P.C.Alexander)

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

To the Hon. Secretary.
.....Flight,
458 Squadron Association.

address are: Here is my Annual Subscription for 1965. My name and

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Amount remitted.....

Signed.....