NEW 458 SQUADRON TIES BEING ISSUED.

458 SQUADRON ties, in specially woven terylene, are now available to members and to members of their families who may wish to buy the 458 member a Christmas present, from the 458 Squadron Council in Sydney. The ties are in R.A.A.F. blue, with the 458 Winged Torpedo emblem (a little smaller than in the old discontinued design, with the figures 458 below the emblem).

No one will be able to take the new tie for anything but a 458 tie, nor can they be 'pirated' and sold to the public, as happened to the old ties.

The new ties are a much better job than the old, being of terylene, instead of rayon, and of a more sophisticated design. They are available at 22/- each, posted from Box 5289 G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

Members who have to date bought new ties are the following:

T. Moore C Nation J.C. Baker F. Strom J. Hosking S. Ricketts C. Irwin
M. Hunter I. Higlett J. Lynch L. L. Johnston C. Wyman B. Moore S. Parker
P. McCulloch (2) P. Alexander (2) C. Campbell L. Teale J. Carey
L. Crowley H. Galvin L. Chalmers A. Rackham J. Bevan M. Priest L. Simpson

Only 200 ties were ordered.

VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT. from "Shorty" Wilson, 78, Carnarvon Rd., Strathmore, Victoria.

August Cabaret Night.

The early signs of spring saw the end of the annual hibernation of the members of this Flight, when we held our Cabaret Night at the Melbourne Bowling Club. The attendance was not as large as usual—possibly due to the proximity of the School term holidays—but everyone had a most enjoyable time. 458ers we saw there were:

Bob Smith Ron Russell Norm Cugley Bob McKInna Jim Timms
Bill Carr Gordon Wise Harry Ashworth Frank Wilson

These members, with their wives and friends made up a total of 56 people.
The formalities of the evening were ably conducted by Harry Ashworth, our Senior Vice President, in the absence of Flight President, Gordon Cuthbertson.

In addition to expressing our appreciation of Harry and Nell Ashworth for hosting us so nobly, we take the opportunity of thanking Harry for obtaining for us such an ideal setting. Apologies were received from:

G. Cuthbertson Shearing
G. Riddoch Shearing
L. Warr Slipped Disc
J. Fleming Annual leave interstate
I. Alison Val was ill (but now recovered)
H. Martin Kath was ill (but now recovered)
E. Laming Previous engagement of equal importance
D. Johnston Ettie was ill (but is now improving)
Victorian Viewpoint (cont.)

Show-Eve Reunion.
Spring festivities were continued at this Annual Reunion once again held at the Officers Mess, No. 2 Flight, Air Training Corps, R.A.A.F.

Those attending were:

Ian Higlett Norm Cogley Harold Young Don Johnston Bob McKinna
Ken Guiney Bill Carr Arthur Green Frank Wilson Ian Alison
Bill Hurford Yank Martin J. Goss J. Moran

During the course of the evening the 458 R.A.A.F. Squadron (Victorian Flight) Trophy was presented to F/Lt. Knapp, Commanding Officer of No. 2 Flight by H. Martin, Junior Vice President. Yank very ably gave a thumbnail outline of the background of the Squadron and its traditions. It was very fortunate that last year’s winner of the Trophy and the Victorian Flight Award was in attendance. Apologies were received from G. Cuthbertson D. Firth K. Quper H. Ashworth and J. Fleming.

Children’s Christmas Party.

The Children’s Christmas Party will probably have been held by the time this News is delivered. It is to be held at the home of Wozzie and Pat Warr on Sunday 5th December. This will be the last time we will be able to enjoy their hospitality at this particular place. Wozzie has been promoted and takes charge of a school near Castlemaine. Therefore we will take the opportunity at the party to give them a send off as well. I formally place on record the grateful thanks of members, children and friends who have been entertained and pleased by the efforts of Wozzie and Kath. over the past years at this event.

Christmas Greetings and best wishes to all members of 458, wherever they may be scattered, are extended by members of the Victorian Flight.

Associate Membership Application.

Application is made for Associate membership for Ashley William Carr, weight 7 lbs. 9 ozs., 36 Harbury Street, Reservoir, born in October to Bill and Rose Carr, after 12 months of married bliss. A nice wedding anniversary present, and our congratulations to the Carr family.

Stop Press.

Members will be sorry to learn that Bob McKinna was recently admitted to Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital for a further series of skin grafts arising from skin cancer caused by an exploding battery when the Squadron Detachment was based at Amiriya in Egypt. We trust everything is progressing alright, Bob.

SQUADRON COUNCIL MEET: All-States Reunion Postponed.

458’s Federal body, the Squadron Council, met in Sydney on November 5th to consider a report from the Victorian Flight that Victoria did not wish to accept the invitation of the last Squadron Conference to hold the next All-States Reunion in Victoria in 1966.

After noting Victoria’s comments, Council decided to accept the suggestion that the Reunion be postponed till 1967, still to be held in Victoria. Councillors heard with regret that Victoria did not think it feasible to hold the Reunion outside Melbourne. Conference had thought Geelong or Ballarat would be interesting places to hold the Reunion for a change.

Council heard from the Squadron officers of progress in the Squadron Tie and Squadron Plaques projects.

On the suggestion of the Chairman (Squadron Vice President Peter Alexander) Council asked Squadron Secretary Bob Bruce to send its good wishes to the Squadron President (Bruce McKenzie) in Kenya.

458 SQUADRON TIES AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS: FILL IN THE FORM ON THE BACK PAGE.
KENNY CAHILL KILLED. Very many members indeed of 458 Squadron will remember Kenny Cahill well from his long time with the Squadron in the war years, when he was a Fitter, rising to senior non-commissioned rank; and also from his loyal and active membership of Q Flight in the post-war decades. The News deeply regrets to tell his friends that Kenny was accidentally killed during November.

He had for some years run a garage business at Landsborough and he was called out to attend to a car smash. While he was under the crashed vehicle attending to it, a semi-trailer came along and ran into the crashed vehicle and caused Ken's instantaneous death.

Many remembrances come to mind. We will mention just one. Some years ago we were in Queensland for an All-States Reunion, which included a picnic excursion led by Chas. Richardson. Ken, being busy, wasn't coming but the convoy happened to pass near where he was working. That was enough for Ken. He downed tools and joined his 458 mates for the rest of the day. He and his wife also came down to Surfers Paradise for the recent All-States Reunion.

The Squadron's very deepest sympathy to his widow.

CROWEATER ITEMS.

In Renmark. On a recent visit to Renmark, I called in and paid my respects to Ian Showell and family. He was flat out with work on his river boats (luxury catamarans) but Ian took time off to buy me a few beers, and informed me that he and Meg were due to leave on a combined business and pleasure trip to America, U.K. and Europe.

Riseleys Off West Again. Had a yarn with Jack Riseley the other night and am pleased to report that Jack is feeling more like his old self again. Jack, Verna and family will be spending Christmas in W.A.

Whitey Returning.... Murray White, back from holidaying in New Zealand is seriously considering returning there in the near future (Wedding Bells?)

Carey Going South. John Carey is now in South Australia, being Manager for Eric White and Associates. We may let you carry the banner Anna.

Russell Fit—After Japan. Ken Russell is reported to be looking 100% fit after his recent trip to Japan. Ken is Assistant General Manager of the Adelaide Steamship Co.

I will take this opportunity of wishing all the mob a happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

(The News welcomes Lofty to the position of 5th. Aust. Correspondent—a position possibly onerous and certainly entirely honorary. It is nice having him.)

N.S.W. FLIGHT NEWS.

Since the last Squadron News issue, the Flight is pleased to report on a number of evening functions and weekend outings.

At the Air Force Ball. Held at the Trocadero on Friday September 17th. We had a table party of 18 attend. It was a very good night—voted one of the most enjoyable Air Force Association Balls to date. It was nice to have Graeme and Dulcie Coombes' daughter Susan with us. Susan made her debut at the Ball last
New South Notes (cont.)

Year—Thanks are extended to Kemp and Joan Beach for preparing a very decorative table for us. Kemp, incidentally, had quite a bit to do with the Ball arrangements generally as a member of the Ball Committee.

Dinner for the Ladies

To express the Squadron’s thanks to our ladies, we held a dinner at the Air Force Club on Saturday 23rd October. We were a little disappointed at the attendance (20) but those present had a superb evening—a nice dinner followed by a sing-song and dance on the Club’s 3rd Floor Functions Room. We express particularly warm thanks to Lew Turner, a friend of Curly Hoskins who was our pianist.

Flight President Stuart Ricketts thanked our Ladies for their support of 458 over the years. Dulcie Coombes responded for the Ladies. It was generally agreed that we should hold more such functions.

President’s Cup Golf Day

This was combined with the Annual Family Holiday Weekend and held at Waikiki Holiday Resort, The Entrance, Juggerah Lake, on 30/31st October. Our party was accommodated in 12 Holiday Family Cabins. The weather was perfect and the Mums and Dads and Kids had a good break for the weekend. The Cup was held at Wyong Golf Club on the Sunday and attracted 18/20 starters. Winners were:

President’s Cup—Wal Archbold
Runner Up—Ross Burgess
Visitor’s Trophy—Ron Gubbins.

John (Snowy) Fennell, who lives in the area kindly assisted in the local arrangements. Thanks, John.

Annual Guessing Competition

This was again held successfully—our thanks to those who took part and congratulations to winners.

Drinan, Crew, and Priest.

Sydney had a visit from Al Wheatcroft, Bob Drinan, from Glenfield, Bob Drinan, from Glenfield (S.A.), Mel Priest, from Adelaide and Ken Brown from Katunga (Vic.). To the best of my knowledge, Al met up with Bob and Mel in Adelaide and they travelled by car to Ken Brown’s farm. Mel’s Valiant blew up on the way and they travelled on to Sydney in Ken’s car. In Sydney Bob Lyndon took care of the party. There was a night at the Pitt Club (Bob is a committee man there)—Pete Petit came in. On the Saturday, with Sam Barlow, Bob Smith and myself at the Air Force Navy Club in Lakemba and afterwards to Cronulla (a heavy night). On the Sunday, they visited Bob Bruce at Mt Wilga, had lunch with Sam Barlow and a barbecue tea at Bob Lyndon’s.

Good Wishes for Christmas to all Squadron members and families.

Will see members in the Air Force Club about 5 o’clock on December 17th for that Christmas drink.

PERSONAL PARS.

Rex Tyson is now living at Mt. Colah, north of Sydney. He is with I.B.M. Sales;

Harley (Harry) Marks is now at Belmont, N.S.W.;

Keith Austin is Assistant Director, Dept. of Works, in Brisbane. He is responsible for control of planning and design and all construction and main tenance in Townsville and Rockhampton districts;

Walter Sullivan, the noted actor, has been touring the outback of Queensland and the Northern Territory with plays, for the Arts Council. The company had on occasions to put up their own stages, being both architects and builders;

Alf (Slappy) Hammond is working in the Head Office of the Dept. of Main Roads, Sydney and playing bowls;

DICK WATSON’S MERDEKA.

458 Pilot Dick Watson has come back to live in Australia after about 17 years in Sukarno’s Indonesia. He managed the Sun Insurance Coy’s office in the capital Djakarta, until early this year, until the Indonesians applied the practical part of Merdeka (Freedom) by seizing the business. Dick now works with his company in Sydney and has a flat in Cremorne. He has ‘got together’ with Sydney (and Melbourne) members on
Dick Watson (continued)

He has had some interesting comments to make on affairs in Java and on the
august inspiration behind the recent attempted coup there.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS. from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park
Brisbane, Q.

It is difficult to describe the shock to our members that Ken’s death was...
A young lad of 17 was driving the truck. His first trip. It was loaded with
refrigerators. Apparently the lad couldn’t control it. The two police
officers attending the smashed cars were lucky; one was knocked 50 feet.
By 8 a.m. on the next morning most of us knew. Fred Kieckham at Port
Moresby got a newspaper by air and immediately rang Chas. Warren. Even Associate
members rang and Tim McQuaid at Barcaldine 750 miles away immediately set off
for Brisbane. Tim and Ken grew up together at Barcaldine.

Ken took up this garage and petrol station shortly after the war. Landsborough
is 54 miles north of Brisbane on the main highway. He built up a reputation
as a good hard-working and honest mechanic, well liked by everyone in the district.
As he worked selling petrol to the touring public at the weekends, we didn’t see
much of him.
When we called on him, he was always flat out, head buried in an engine.
However, a realignment of the main road cut off the weekend petrol selling, and
we began to see a lot more of Ken at our socials. He and Maureen were to have
come to our Christmas Social.

Unfortunately I was gone from the Squadron before the unit became a fighting
force so I didn’t know Ken. But when the Squadron became active post-war I got
to know Ken for the good bloke he was. I can appreciate the high regard his
mates on the Squadron had for him.

At the funeral were Tim McQuaid from Barcaldine, Frank and Mrs. Wilks from
Toowoomba, Jack Baxter and Lew Johnston from Southport, Chas. Warren, Jack Lewis,
Don Brandon and Eric Kelly from Brisbane—and many others.

Chas. Warren says that this was the biggest and most moving funeral he has
ever attended. The crowd couldn’t get into the church; three parts were outside.
Three priests were there including a Monsignor. Maureen’s sister, a nun, flew up
from Sydney. Chas. Warren counted 176 cars—as far as he could see. He thought
there were some 35 to 40 more.

At the graveside, the R.S.L. Ceremony was held. About 300 ex-servicemen
lined the path and placed poppies on the casket.

As a final, unrehearsed gesture, before Kenny was laid to rest, Frank Wilks
stepped forward and dropped his own 458 tie and badge on to the casket. The
badge fell with 458 upwards.

And so passed one of our best members........
Chas. Richardson Elected........

It was pleasing to all in Q.Flight to see
Chas. Richardson elected into the office of President of Q.Flight at the
Annual Meeting in September. Chas. has been a sterling supporter and
worker for 458 in Queensland. The elevation was a popular one with one and
all.

We wish him a happy and trouble free year.

Our Melbourne Cup sweep was very well supported. We’re sorry everyone
who contributed couldn’t win a horse. First, second, and third prizes were
won by Miss D. Bull, K. Foote, and J. Lamke respectively. Among those present
at the M.C.S. Drawing was Erle Hetherington, down on holidays from Cairns.
Bronzed, looks very well and drives a Jaguar 120. Sees Stan Parker often.
Kel Kellam is now very well and sends all his regards.

We’ve lost Peter Heningway. Letters to Mary Kathleen have been returned.
Eric Kelly has changed jobs from pushing Jack planes to pushing pens.
Putting on a little weight.

Others we’ve heard from in recent weeks include Bill Snowden (still
with State Immigration), Bob Coles, Jack Hobbs, (at Cooroy), Bernie Hughes (of
Erskineville, Springsure), Cliff Mannion, Bob Male, Bob Helyar, Jack Dew, who is
an electrical dealer at Tully, George Connors, Alfie Peake, and Bob Dangard.

Jack Baxter has sold the “Guinea Gold”—and is now living off the gill.

CORRESPONDENCE Letters to the Editor.

From Alan (Snowy) Atherton, Ernestina Plains, G. N. R., Queensland.

Dear Peter,

Just a note to keep in the picture and also to advise a change of
Correspondence (cont.)

From outside Marlborough in the Rockhampton district we have now bought into sheep—situated between Julia Creek and Cloncurry only six miles off the main road, the property is just over 29,000 acres and runs about 7,000 sheep providing the drought breaks soon.

Following the sale of "Mongrabry" we bought a caravan and did a tour of the North during which time we called on the Dangard family in Mareeba. Danny informed me he was off the beer—take my tip Peter if ever you call on him make sure he's off it. I'd hate to think of what he'd have done to me had he been feeling like a session—as it was I took a week to recover.

Later in our wanderings we visited Toowoomba and called on Frank Wilks and found him the same old Wilksie only minus some hair, but his memories of Bournemouth remain.

Many thanks for all the copies of the News over the years Peter, you've really done a good job—I wonder if you find time to work for a living.

All the best to all the boys—Alfie Peake in particular, and look out Danny, I'll come back after some practice.

All the best

Alan (Snowy) Atherton.

From Basil (Sailor) Wheatley, M/V El Nabeel, Da Nang, South Vietnam.

Dear Peter,

I thought it might be of some idle interest to 458 boys to know that they have at least one representative in Vietnam. I am skipper of the above vessel chartered by the Saigon government to run between Saigon/Da Nang. She flies the Red Ensign, but I am the only European aboard, out of a complement of 42; the mate is Indian and speaks English, the rest are Malays, Chinese and Vietnamese so it is rather a lonely life, but I get tangled up with the Aussie troops in Saigon and the Yankee airmen in Da Nang. She is a very nice ship with sumptuous quarters for myself, as I am the only one who eats European food I eat in solitary state in my dayroom.

The trip takes 10 days, 2 days at sea, 4 days each end of it is a gentleman's life but pays well, there is war insurance on us, mine is 12,000,000, renewable every month. Saigon is pretty quiet as far as the war is concerned, she is wide open otherwise apart from a few terrorists, they killed 80 the other day in a floating restaurant in the heart of the city. But Da Nang is different; around there they are killing one another madly, you can hear and see the bombing all the way from Saigon. We get challenged every hour by blacked-out warships, and sometimes stopped and searched and there is a procession of aircraft and choppers around your ears all the time, the Yanks are really playing for keeps, I have never seen so much equipment since Alaiain. And the A/C out of Da Nang, fighter-bombers mostly, Thunderbirds, Sky Hawks, Sky Raiders, and goodness knows what, coming back from their raids they have to make their approach over my ship; they come screaming over and these flyboys can drive them, they stand on their ears as they turn in for the runway.

Here everybody is armed to the teeth with the killer look about them, I bet Matt Dillon would take to the hills, but it pays not to take chances, the Chinese won't go in a bar or restaurant where the Yanks are. I was in a bar on the outskirts of Saigon, waiting for a mate of mine from the base when a couple of terrorists burst in with automatic rifles, we were round the corner of the bar, they got one burst in before they were mowed down; there were blood and guts everywhere.

We beat it out the back door before the white mice arrived; that is the contemptuous term for the local police, who shoot at their own shadows.

O.K., Peter, I hope I haven't bored you but I got to talk to someone.

So good luck to all 458ers, and best wishes to yourself and family.

See you sometime.

Sailor Wheatley.

From Peter (Battie) Power, 144, Gildercliffe Stt., Scarborough, W.A.

Dear Peter,

...Firstly, I want to thank you all for the very kind reception you gave to Amy and me during our short stay in your wonderful city and in particular our grateful thanks to all those who organised the evening at Mt. Wilga. Meeting those chaps who I had not seen for over twenty years certainly brought back many nostalgic memories.

I had a stay in Hollywood Hospital immediately subsequent to our return for an operation on my hand and even now writing is very difficult.

Over in W.A. the affairs of the Flight seem to have hit an all time low,
Correspondence (cont.)

We did call a meeting to elect officers for 1965-6 but we didn't even get a quorum and consequently they have remained as was.

Shorty Ellis is now at North-West Cape supervising a building contract for the U.S. Navy. His postal address is E.T. Ellis c/o Kopper-Clough, Block Plant, Exmouth, W.A.—he will be glad to hear from any of the boys.

Cordially,

Peter Power.

A.F.A. FEDERAL EXECUTIVE MEETS IN CANBERRA.

The A.F.A. Federal Executive, on which sit two members of 458 Squadron, has its headquarters in Sydney but its members recently travelled to Canberra to hold a first meeting in the National Capital. They went by road or air and the Federal officers led by the Federal President, Air Marshal Sir John McCauley, they called at the Department of Defence at its new building at Russell, and saw the permanent Head, Sir Edwin Hicks, and also the Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee, Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger, who briefed them on the present position.

After the Federal President had met the Press, the Executive held its meeting at the R.S.I. National Headquarters Board Room. The Western Australian Division's newly appointed representative was Hughie Edwards, V.C., who is the only living Australian-born V.C.

In the evening there was a well attended dinner combined with wine-tasting. Sir Frederick Scherger welcoming the Executive to Canberra, said it should come regularly so that the Chief of Air Staff could keep members in touch with Air Force matters.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN: Twenty Five Years After.

Fighter Command of the R.A.F. celebrated the 25th Anniversary of this one of the decisive battles of World History in 1965, with a series of ceremonies in Britain. 12 of the 23 Battle of Britain pilots who now live in Australia were invited back to Britain to join in. The Air Force Association undertook the considerable work involved in organizing the party and obtaining free transport to and accommodation in, and of course, free transport back to Australia, for the party. The pilots came from all States except Tasmania where there seem to be no B of B pilots, and were led by W/Cdr. Gordon Olive of Brisbane.

They were given the warmest hospitality all the way to Britain and V.I.P. treatment from the moment of arrival.

On September 15th they joined other Battle pilots at the Air Force Memorial on the Thames Embankment where their old A.O.C.'s in C's, Lord Dowding placed a wreath. Then to Bentley Priory (H.Q. Fighter Command) for a Reunion. "I conveyed "greetings from Australia," writes Gordon Olive, "And this received an ovation "out of all proportion to its delivery. Much sorting out of differences in "appearances since our last meeting 25 years ago occupied the hours until we left to "return by bus—thank heavens, no private cars to drive in our state of celebration."

To R.A.F., Wattisham on the 17th and Biggin Hill on the 18th. "The "Biggin Hill trip proved rather expensive as there was a very good bar in a marquee "and frequent heavy showers to force us into it. Towards evening it was discovered "we were in the wrong enclosure, and should have been in the V.I.P. paddock where the "grog was on the house. This oversight was corrected by a surfeit of alcohol, with "musical honours. I (Gordon Olive) had to sing Waltzing Matilda frequently whilst "the Commandant insisted on several renditions of Mother Machree (his name was "Connolly))."

The delegation attended the Anniversary Service at Westminster Abbey on the Sunday. "The Abbey Service was a climax to an overwhelming rush of events. "The galaxy of the great was vast. The Queen, the Prime Minister, the cabinet, peers, "Diplomats, most of the M.P.'s, not to mention a very subdued band of Australian "Battle of Britain pilots and their British brother-in-arms. The whole spectacle "was breathtaking in its magnificence. The Abbey has been largely restored with much "enamel and gold-leaf: over much filigree, bringing it back to its pre-reformation "ornamentation. This was quite startling when lit by T.V. arc lights. The music "matched the grandeur and appropriate fanfares announced the arrival of the V.I.P.'s "reaching a climax as the Queen entered. It was a very proud moment for me when "I marched with the other boys of the escort to the colour party up through the "ancient aisle, the whole Abbey resounding to the R.A.F. Band and the Cathedral organ. "The service was short and to the point... for me the most moving moment was "during the anthem when two small choirboys about 12 sang, their lovely young voices
Twenty Five Years After (cont.)

alone in that huge gathering of the great. There
"were few dry eyes but no one dared blow his nose, absolute silence being observed
"throughout.....After the service the Queen came down our ranks to say a few words."

The Lord Mayor of London gave a reception at the Guildhall on the
20th to 1,800 guests including seven marshals of the R.A.F. There was a Spitfire
on the floor of the Guildhall and a Hurricane in the forecourt. Upwards of 400
Battle of Britain pilots attended the largest gathering of the "Few" since 1940.

Many old friends were found again and the time passed all too soon.
And so home to Australia by courtesy of the R.A.F., R.N.Z.A.F., and R.A.A.F.

The 12 pilots' spokesman says "We shall never forget and never cease to be
"grateful". The rest of us say the same to them.

FOR LEW JOHNSTON.

Hughie Edwards wishes to be remembered to you and looks forward
to meeting you again at the first chance.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS AND MANY MORE IN THE
YEARS AHEAD.

THE EDITOR (P.A.C. Alexander) Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

STOP PRESS REMINDER.
Sydney members informal Christmas Drink together—Air Force
Club, 213, Clarence St.—December 17th (Friday)—5.0 p.m. onward.

To the Flight Secretary,

Flight

Flight

Attached is my remittance to the Squadron for 1966, in the amount of £

Name

Name

To the Squadron Secretary,

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

Please send me...458 Squadron Ties @ 21/- each (plus postage 1/-)

Name

Name

Despatched