

Smithson

From: MCU [CMBMCU@dva.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 December 2009 11:25 AM
To: smithson@smithsonplanning.com.au
Subject: Reply to Correspondence [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Attachments: Mr Neil Smithson.pdf



Mr Neil

smithson.pdf (57 KB)

<<Mr Neil Smithson.pdf>>

Dear Mr Smithson

Attached please find reply to your correspondence of 16 October 2009

Regards
Ministerial Officer
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Canberra.

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The Hon Alan Griffin MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Federal Member for Bruce

Mr Neil Smithson
smithson@smithsonplanning.com.au

Dear Mr Smithson

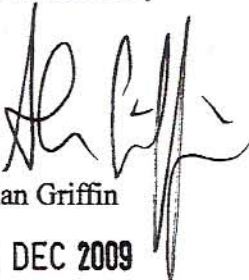
Thank you for your e-mails of 16 October 2009 and 4 November 2009 concerning your plans for a re-enactment of the assembly and departure of the 1st Australian & New Zealand Expeditionary Forces (1st ANZEF) Fleet from Albany in 2014.

In your e-mail of 4 November 2009, you state that you wrote to my office on this matter on seven occasions between 1 December 2003 and 17 December 2008 and have received no reply to date. With regard to the correspondence of 17 December 2008 and 20 February 2008, I regret that neither my Department or my office has any record of receiving this correspondence. As for the other correspondence you mentioned, this would appear to have either been addressed to the attention of the Shadow Cabinet or sent before I became Minister.

The importance of planning for the centenary of the events of the First World War between 2014 – 2018 has been recognised by the Australian Government and the Prime Minister has asked that I take the lead and coordinate whole of government arrangements. This will involve broad consultation seeking the views of all levels of government, the ex-service and Defence communities, institutions that hold collections of wartime history, educators and many others not only of the Gallipoli campaign, but also Australia's involvement on the Western Front and other battlefields of the First World War. This consultation will then allow for the development of a program of events and initiatives that has the scope to ensure the centenary is commemorated internationally, nationally and locally.

I commend your initiative and the work you have done so far in planning the re-enactment and I have asked Ms Alison Hale in my Department to contact you to discuss your proposal, and ensure it is given consideration as part of the wider program of commemorative activities surrounding the centenary. Should you wish to contact Ms Hale directly, you can reach her on (02) 6289 6098.

Yours sincerely



Alan Griffin

13 DEC 2009