

Mr Nixon,

Sir,

I feel that in the cause of justice you will listen to my appeal. At stake is the good name of the US Navy and the career of a fine and highly skilled Australian Naval man.

The facts are revealed in the Book "No case to answer" by Joanne Stevenson, wife of the Commander of the Flagship Melbourne which you will remember cut the US Navy Evans in two in June 1969.

To save the face of the US Navy and direct spotlight of attention away from the unpleasant facts, Captain Stevenson was accused on two trumped up charges, and - at the point of a sword - courtmartialled, humiliated, victimized, demoted and his life and that of his wife and children at the whim of the US Navy.

When he was finally Honourably Acquitted of all blame and the US Navy acknowledged to be entirely at fault the sting had been removed from public criticism of the US Navy and things returned to normal, except that Captain Stevenson THE ONLY ONE to be Court martialled, a fine and highly skilled man in the true Naval tradition found he could not in all conscience accept demotion, nor respect the members of the Naval Board who had so completely sacrificed his career to whitewash the US Navy.

My intention in writing to you is that Captain Stevenson should take up his career in the Navy where he left off and that the Naval Board (Australian) should be relieved of the men who are doing so much damage to its image. I feel that should I say what I have to say in the press and Parliament of this country there will be very unfavourable reactions in the world press, including America. You, Sir, could perhaps see that the miscarriage of justice regarding Captain Stevenson was quietly rectified. Your personal approach to our Prime Minister saying that you are concerned that Captain Stevenson was a loss to our Navy and felt that under the circumstances it would be appreciated if a way could be found to ask him to return to his further training in England which has been sacrificed, could rectify a grievous wrong before real harm is done to American prestige and our Navy.

(Mrs.) (signed) PAMELA CASEY

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21-11-69.

Capt. J. P. Stevenson,

Dear Sir,

I would like to take the opportunity to express my thanks for all you have done for the ships company on board the Melbourne especially on June 3rd this year and the weeks that followed. I don't know if you know it or not but you had your whole crew behind you when you went to Penguin for your trial. I know I wasn't in the service for a comparatively long time but I know I have never been under a better captain. You will never have any trouble with your ships company where ever you go as you are a fair and just man and have sincere concern for them.

Sincerely Yours,

D.R. McCann.

P.S. Could you please thank LT. D. PRASS for all the work he did on my discharge as I absintly forgot. (FORMER ABRP)

9-6-'69

Dear Captain Stevenson,

I would like you to know how much I appreciate all you have done for the men on H.M.A.S. Melbourne.

Even before the disaster, my husband wrote home on many occasions telling me the morale on the ship was better than he had ever known it to be, thanks to his Skipper. In all his years in the service he has never spoken so favourably about a Captain.

Through the events of the past week, he said you have helped to lift the Morale tremendously and in his own words "There is not a man on this ship that wouldn't follow our Captain to the end of the world."

I can assure you this is a great comfort for us wives at home.

I hope I'm not out of line in writing to you like this, but it may help you to know that whatever happens in the future you will have the support of all your men.

Thanks you for making it a little easier for them, and us.

Yours very Sincerely

Maria Kinross

July 8th

Dear Captain Stevenson,

On behalf of the sailors of 2 Foxcroft mess, I would like to forward to you our most sincere admiration and gratitude for manner in which you commanded H.M.A.S. Melbourne throughout the ship's recent tour of duty.

We would like to express our appreciation for your sharing our joys and sorrows and congratulate you on the way you stood cool and firm through the unfortunate tragedy of June 3rd.

In closing, we would like to let you know that we have been proud to serve under your command and will always respect you as a captain and a gentleman.

We remain your obedient servants,

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 56 Snyder
 57 Bowles
 58 Perry

54 Roe
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 58 Perry

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