

22 June 1998

Rear Admiral G. Dennis Vaughn  
Director of Naval Reserve  
OPNAV NO95  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Admiral Vaughn,

I want to bring you up to date as much as possible about the plans on the upcoming reunion. Things are happening fast and furious, so I will try not to leave to much out.

Enclosed you will find a letter from Captain B. L. Swan, AM, RANEM who is president of the HMAS Melbourne Association. As you can tell from the letter there is an enormous amount of planning going on for the 30th Memorial Services in Sydney, Australia.

Also, Cal Rankin, who is in charge of the Living Memorial Service at Arlington National Cemetery has done an extensive amount of work. I understand his daughter Susan, has been a key player in this process. I will enclose a copy of the FAX that he sent me. As you can see, a great deal of planning has also been done here.

In your letter of 7 October, 1997, you had four (4) items that you said you would pursue.

\*The Melbourne Association's reunion of June, 1999, with a wreath laying on 3 June. You would explore opportunities for senior U.S. Navy's presence through our foreign liaison offices in the Pentagon.

\*The possibility of using the name Frank E. Evans again after her distinguished service and the sacrifice paid by her crew members. You would pursue the naming process from Washington to see how we might get a DDG named Frank E. Evans.

\*You were to visit the Naval Historical Center to see if a complete roster would exist for the ship's logs and records.

\*You suggested that a luncheon could be arranged for a small group at one of the executive dining rooms in the Pentagon.

If there are further developments in these areas, please let me know.

Also included, is a letter to the ships' company advising about the reunion. I want to again invite you to join us for all of the festivities, but would like for you and your wife to be our guest for the Saturday evening dinner. It's not very often our association gets the honor of having dinner with a Rear Admiral. But what makes it so special is you were and still are a Frank E. Evans Sailor.

Sincerely,

J.C. Campbell

# HMAS MELBOURNE ASSOCIATION

CAPTAIN B.L. SWAN, AM, RANEM

## **PATRONS:**

Lady MARTIN

Rear Admiral R.C. SWAN, AO, CBE, RAN Retired

## **OFFICE BEARERS**

### **PRESIDENT:**

**Captain B.L. SWAN, AM, RANEM**

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**MR D.V. HARPER, AM**

### **SECRETARY/ TREASURER**

TELEPHONE:

8 June 1998

J.C. Campbell

President

USS Frank E. Evans Association, Inc ( DD 745 )

Dear JC ,

Greetings from the land down under !

Thank you for your letter of May 12 . Yes , I have been pestering my members to get things rolling for your visit next year .

Upon receipt of your letter I have booked the ANZAC memorial in Hyde Park , near the centre of Sydney , for June 3 next year . During the next two weeks I will be writing to the relevant Admirals so that they may book a place in their busy diaries for the event.

I have made contact with the Australian American Society and expect to hear from them as soon as they have put the idea to the committee. JC , in broad terms , I propose that on June 3 1999 we meet at the ANZAC memorial at about 0930 to lay wreaths in front of the

war memorial with the pool of remembrance in the background . At this stage my thinking is that there should only be two wreaths : one from each ship association. ( To have more than two will open the flood gates to every one who thinks they may have a reason to participate . To my mind the ceremony will have more meaning with just the two of us laying wreaths.)

On completion of the wreath laying , two speeches will be made , one by ~~you~~ and one by me . At the conclusion of the speeches an ecumenical church service will take place in front of the memorial . I see this as a better option than the Garden Island chapel as it eliminates the need to get everyone into buses and transport them through the city. It also has the advantage of rolling both ceremonies into the one occasion.

In the unfortunate event of wet weather there is sufficient space for about 200 people inside the memorial.

On completion of the service all members and their families are invited inside the memorial for morning coffee and to view a display of memorabilia from the Frank E Evans and HMAS Melbourne . On completion of morning tea I have suggested that the Australia America Society host a luncheon somewhere in the city . This luncheon will be the occasion for less formal speeches by many others ,other than you and I .

I shall be requesting the full Naval Support Command Band .

To finalise arrangements for the day I have formed a committee of six members and we plan to meet in July to work through details for the ceremony . You know the type of thing : flags , protocol , music , guard , programs, etc.

I hope that all of this sounds OK to you . If you have any suggestions or comments please don't hesitate to write or telephone.

Turning now to other matters , I fully appreciate the difficulties of arranging such a diverse tour group as everyone will have their own ideas of what they wish to see and do . Again if I can help please let me know.

Regarding the possibility of attending your reunion this August in Alexandria, Virginia , I will leave the date open . As you may know I am working full time and I may not be able to get away. However , please advise me of the time , place and date and I will see what opportunity presents.

That's all I have at the moment. As I write letters to the Admirals etc, I will copy them to you so you know what is going on. Regarding Bob , Ron and others they will be invited to join the organising committee within which all ideas will be tested. In the interests of steering a straight course , please only respond to letters from myself or Mitch Miller , the Associations Secretary.

With the very warmest regards to you , your family , and all members of the USS Frank E Evans Association.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.