

Department of Veterans' AffairsOffice of Australian War Graves

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12 July 2012

Brigadier Chris Appleton CSC (Ret'd)
Director

Group Captain Micka Gray
Director Combat Capability – Air Force
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Russell Offices
RUSSELL ACT 2600

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Dear Group Captain Gray

This letter is to finalise arrangements regarding the memorial for Squadron Leader Holt and Flight Lieutenant Noordink located in the Evans Head War Cemetery. While the memorial does not comply with Commonwealth War Graves Commission guidelines I have determined that it does not need to be relocated and that this Office will manage compliance issues as they arise.

I appreciate your patience with this issue and extend the offer for the Office of Australian War Graves to undertake programmed preventative maintenance on the memorial in conjunction with the war cemetery maintenance. If you, 6 Squadron or another representative organisation wish to be provided with annual maintenance reports, that can be accommodated.

I apologise for any concerns that the proposed relocation may have had with the families or service colleagues. Under normal circumstances the memorial would not have been approved within the war cemetery however I believe the memorial in this instance, does not detract from the solemnity of the war cemetery.

I note your correspondence regarding a 6 Squadron and families visit in September and I will ensure that the surrounds of the war cemetery are prepared accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Chris Appleton

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