

DAVID B NOTT RFD FRGS FRACS FACS

To the Secretary.

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories,

Inquiry in to the administration of the National Memorials Ordinance 1928

- Media published reports that two memorials are to be constructed in the area of the Rond Point, one commemorating WW1 and the other for WW2, , completely upsetting the amazing view on the central axis of the city, from Parliament House, across the lake to Australian War Memorial.
- Many people were incredulous, being aware of the requirement to incorporate community input before a decision was made. To my knowledge there has been no community consultation at any stage of the process. There is no doubt that had there been any consultation there would have been many submissions made opposing the concept.
- There was also an understanding that there were two members of the local community on the National Memorials Committee. Extensive inquiries were not able to confirm that there were any Canberra citizens on that committee.
- As result of this publicity a series of public meetings of concerned member of the public were held.
- I am one of many Australians opposed to the construction of two new large World War memorials on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin, I wish to express my grave concern at this proposal, for which approval seems to have been given by the Canberra National Memorials Committee on the advice of the National Capital Authority (NCA).
- Thousands of visitors come to the Australian War Memorial every year. Many ex-service men, their families, friends and those people who had suffered a tragic loss in any wars we have been involved in from 1845 to Afghanistan. They do not come to look at two 20-metre high, featureless granite monoliths, without any meaning. They come to the Australian War Memorial to learn about their relatives. I am a volunteer in the Research Centre, and have been for 15 years. With my volunteer colleagues, we help 20-30 people each 4 hour shift, seven days of each week, to discover all the information held in the vast Australian databases relating to the veteran. That is why they come to the Australian War Memorial. They

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want to come to the Australian War Memorial. They are very moved when they are able to read these service records, to understand what their loved ones went through. What the people want is the personal tender feeling they can only get in the War Memorial, featuring as it does every conflict this country has been in.

- All the ex-service personnel I have spoken to are opposed to the idea of the columns.
- Such constructions will spoil what is one of the world's finest vistas and also interfering with Walter Burley Griffin's central axis plan.
- It is not possible to imagine that ANZAC Day service could be anywhere but at the Australian War Memorial, as it has for the last 70 years. Where else to commemorate November 11?

Summary. There can be no good reason for such columns, when we have a World-class war museum, commemorating every war in which we have been involved and full details of every person who served

How did it ever get this far?

David Nott

Tuesday, 6 September 2011