

The Honourable Shane L. Stone AC, PGDK, QC

Mr. Desmond Morrison  
'Dun Uisdean'  
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Nanango. QLD 4615

14 November, 2006

Dear Des,

You wrote to me under cover of letter dated 31 August 2006 enclosing various information and material that I have placed in my archives. I apologize for not responding sooner but extensive travel overseas has taken up the better part of this year.

Thank you for your warm congratulations on my conferral of the Companion of the Order of Australia.

My success in the political arena was shaped and defined by many people, you included. We knew each other before I was elected to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and although your retirement followed soon after I always valued your frankness and forthrightness. I have read your letter to Peter Murphy who shares an office with me in Darwin. He particularly liked the bit that read "...you were the only politician I thought worth feeding and with your Napoleonic complex you were a refreshingly arrogant and abrasive prick with an apparently high level of testosterone. The trouble was most of your political clones were lacking in moral fibre, opportunists, backsliders, deficient in common sense and of genetically inferior inbred stock. They were social drop kicks and although you led them from the front that exposed your back...". Good to see you haven't lost your touch Des. Australia needs men and women who are straight talkers and not intimidated by the political correctness of the soft under belly of Australian society.

May I congratulate you on the award of the Special Service Medal, with NATO Bar for your service in Germany from 31 October 1953 to 18 October 1955. The enclosed photos were fabulous and it's good to see that you appear very healthy for a bloke who reckons his next career move is death.

You correctly recalled that I did ask you about you medals and decorations at the special farewell to mark your retirement. You have had a very interesting and distinguished service career that has spanned several continents. I assume that you qualify and have applied for the Australian Defence Medal (me too). Perhaps we might join together at an ANZAC march one day. Your medals of course are far more impressive than mine. I have been lucky, never having to fire a shot in war time. My generation is a lot luckier than it understands. Our troops, the men and women of the ADF serving in peacekeeping missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor and the Solomon's deserve our unqualified support and encouragement.

Des you are fondly remembered in the Territory. I am pleased to learn that you are enjoying your retirement whilst at the same time maintaining your membership in the RSL.

I am sorry to say that they don't make them like you any more Des. You were an inspirational leader and instructor who always led from the front and put your men first. For that you are remembered.

Please accept the enclosed book on the Top End as a mark of my personal regard and affection.

My kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Shane L. Stone

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