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## **LETTERS**

### **Victoria Cross awarded to Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith**

Thank you very much for your letter dated 11 March 2011 in which you extended the congratulations of The Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales on the award to me of the Victoria Cross of Australia.

As I said when initially interviewed by the media, a lot of members of the ADF did a lot of brave things on the day. I believe the award, although made to me, is a recognition and reflection of that.

I would also like to thank you for the two copies of the journal that you sent, and the way in which you published the article (about my award) [*United Service* 62 (1), 5, March 2011].

I very much appreciate your congratulations and good wishes.

**Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith, VC, MG**  
Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, WA  
2 April 2011

### **Resumption of exchange of journals with the United Service Institution of India**

Thank you very much for your letter of 21 March 2011 forwarding a copy of your latest *United Service* quarterly [*United Service* 62 (1), March 2011].

We had a regular exchange of journals going on between our Institutions until 2005. I am glad the same has been resumed.

I am enclosing a copy of the latest issue of the *USI Journal*, which is also a quarterly. We hope our exchanges and interactions will continue.

**Major General P. J. S. Sandhu (Retd)**  
Deputy Director and Editor  
United Service Institution of India  
New Delhi, 1 April 2011

**[Editor's Note:** The latest issue of the *USI Journal*, the Journal of the United Service Institution of India, is now available, once again, in the Ursula Davidson Library.]

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### **A flag for all Australians**

The aim of my June 2010 letter [*United Service* 61 (2), 7, June 2010] was to derive a flag by reason, to promote discussion and provide an alternate flag for the future. In the debate that followed in *United Service*, discussion wandered, considerable passion was generated and some inflexible attitudes were expressed.

Nevertheless, there was some support for change provided that the Union Jack was removed – it has become as foreign as Australians are in England, some wonder about its inclusion on the flag and it confuses the world – and was replaced by an alternative symbol readily recognisable internationally as Australian. The kangaroo, which identifies our trade goods, was rejected, but no alternate was suggested – perhaps a kangaroo over an inverted boomerang is the answer as it squares the outline, was originally used by our military during World War II and continues to be paraded each ANZAC Day. Both the kangaroo and the boomerang are recognised internationally as Australian and their inclusion should please all Australians because they are of Australian origin and identify Australia.

So, if the Union Jack were to be replaced by an alternative Australian symbol, such as a kangaroo over an inverted boomerang, and the Southern Cross, the Federation Star and the current blue background were retained, the design would be simple and completely Australian and would involve little change to our current flag. Is this not a flag for all Australians?

**Major K. D. Myers, RFD, ED (Ret'd)**  
Asquith, 17 April 2011