



The Old Un's diary

All the news that matters. And some that doesn't

Military campaign

Retired RAF Wing Commander John Crowley is calling for victims of Britain's frozen pensions policy to manifest their despair by returning their service medals to the Queen.

As previously reported in *The Oldie*, the frozen pensions policy penalises Britons who retire to over 100 proscribed countries, including most Commonwealth nations. They don't receive the annual pension increase or other special allowances. Currently about 540,000 Britons are affected. They include very elderly British ex-service men and women who are trying to survive on pensions that have not been increased since they retired 15 or more

years ago, and their situation has been made worse by the falling exchange rate. Wg Cdr Crowley hopes that thousands of medals will be returned and handed over to a representative of the Queen at a ceremony in London.

Crowley hopes that thousands of medals will be returned

He stresses that his proposal has been made 'more in sorrow than in anger' and has offered to contribute his own medals, which include the Air Force Cross for gallantry and the Queen's Commendation for Bravery.

International Consortium of British Pensioners Chairman, Tony Bockman,

has asked frozen pensioners to comment on the wing commander's proposal (email tony.bockman@primus.ca).

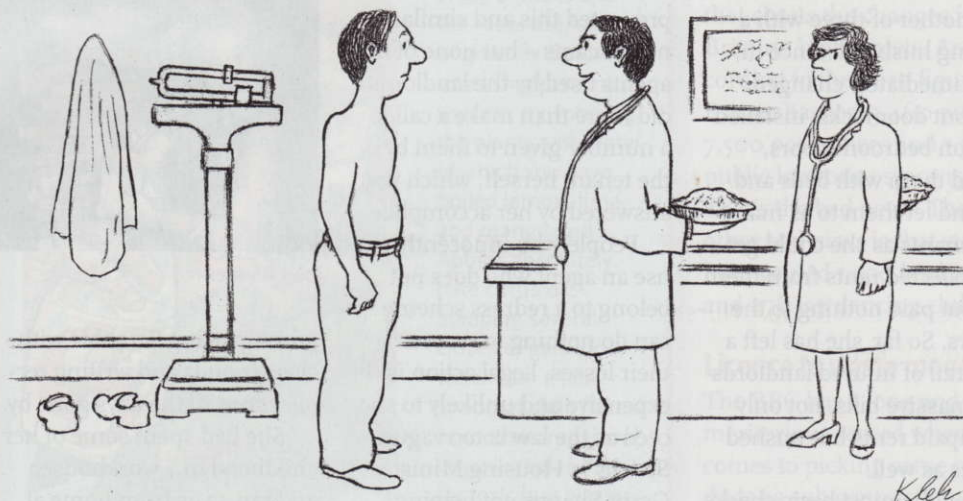
Meanwhile, Crowley has conscripted one of his sons-in-law, a retired admiral, to the campaign, and they have both been invited to meet the Australia-based Vice-President of the British Australian Pensioners Association, James Nelson. Nelson commented: 'I shall feel very outranked with an admiral and a wingco - I was only in the RAF for the compulsory two years and reached the exalted rank of SAC [senior aircraftman].'

Going with Grace

Oldie reader Barbara Hopkins writes to tell us of a family

friend who attended the funeral of an elderly lady who had been a lifelong fan of Gracie Fields.

The deceased had requested that Gracie's song 'Sally' was played at the committal part of the crematorium service as her final song, and the beautiful ballad was duly played. However the person in charge of proceedings failed to pause the CD and the next song began to play. As the curtains closed around the coffin Gracie began a much cheerier number: 'Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye'...



'Around here we believe that laughter is the best medicine'

TOP CHUMPS

SARAH, DUCHESS OF YORK



- CHUMPFIL**
- ★ Toe sucking 100%
 - ★ 'Duchess of Pork' nickname 85%
 - ★ Accused of plagiarism 89%
 - ★ Bogus sheikh sting 99%
 - ★ Major Ron disgrace 86%
 - ★ Shopaholic 100%