



A Message from the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

As The King's representative in Nova Scotia, I extend my gratitude to all who have gathered in Malta to honour the courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of No. 458 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force. On this 80th anniversary, we pause to remember the dedication and bravery of those who served with the squadron.

During the Second World War, over ninety Canadians flew alongside their Australian, British, and New Zealand comrades in this distinguished squadron. Forty of these Canadians gave their lives in service, and thirty are remembered here in Malta, including twenty-six whose names are etched on the Malta Memorial with no known grave.

Among them is Nova Scotia's own son, Flying Officer John A. Diggins of Canso, killed in action on 13 July 1943. His name, and those of his fellow airmen, remind us of the profound sacrifices made by young men who left behind home, family, and country to defend freedom in the darkest days of the Second World War.

Today, we commemorate the life of Flying Officer Diggins, along with all members of the Squadron from across the Commonwealth. We pay tribute to their heroism and service. In doing so, we remember the lives and relationships that unite us across generations and nations.

On behalf of all Nova Scotians, I honour the Canadians who served with the RAAF's No. 458 Squadron, and I reaffirm our enduring commitment to remember their place in our shared history.

Mike Savage, ONS
Lieutenant Governor