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## Better late than never, war hero wins medal

Fifty years ago, Mississauga resident Alex Milne was a Canadian torpedo-fighter pilot defending Malta from the Germans.

Today, as a result of the bravery and heroism he displayed in the Second World War he is the proud recipient of the Maltese Cross.

Milo Vassallo, Malta's consul general in Canada, presented Milne, 81, with the medal at a small ceremony at his home in the Tyndall Estates on Monday.

Malta's government is presenting the Maltese Cross to the surviving 496 Canadians veterans who took part in the battle, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of that country's receipt of Britain's George Cross.

The Mediterranean island was presented with the award, one of Britain's highest bravery honors, for its refusal to surrender to the Germans.

Milne served six years with the Canadian air force, with two of those years spent defending Malta.

Milne says his time in Malta left him "deathly tired."

"There was bombing every day and every night," says Milne. "We were flying every night and trying to sleep in the day."

A Mississauga resident for more than 36 years, Milne founded Alex Milne Associates, a chemical distribution company, 20 years ago.

Veterans who served in Malta during the Second World War, and who have not yet been contacted by the Maltese consulate, should call the consulate at (416) 767-4902. These medals will only be awarded until April 15, 1994.

**War hero's due...**Malta's consul general in Canada, Milo Vassallo, presents Alex Milne, 81, with the Maltese Cross for his part in defending Malta from the Germans during the Second World War. Milne spent two years as a pilot.



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