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Encl.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS
COLONY.

No. P.21/1/10.

Tarawa Island,
19th January, 1949.

D.O. Phoenix

INFORMATION
FORWARDED FOR ~~COMMENT~~
ACTION

Dear

One of the matters which Mr. Maude had intended to deal with when he returned from leave six months ago was the placing of a memorial plaque on Gerald Gallagher's grave at Nikumaroro (Gardner Island). However owing to his early departure to the South Pacific Commission he was unable to finalise this and he has left it to me to circularise all those who knew and worked with him and to arrange for the plaque to be made and erected.

2. Shortly after Gallagher's death Sir Harry Lake proposed that a plaque with the following inscription should be placed on the grave:

In affectionate Memory
of

GERALD BERNARD GALLAGHER, M.A.

Officer in Charge of the Phoenix Islands Settlement Scheme who died on Gardner Island, where he would have wished to die, on the 27th September, 1941, aged 29 years.

.....

His selfless devotion to duty and unsparring work on behalf of the natives of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands were an inspiration to all who knew him, and to his labours is largely due the successful colonization of the PHOENIX ISLANDS.

R.I.P.
.....

Erected by his friends and brother officers.

Subscriptions amounting to £A23-9-5. were collected by Mr. Maude from Sir Harry Lake and 4 of Gallagher's other immediate friends and others stated that they would be pleased to subscribe. Owing, however, to the entry of Japan into the war, at that time, the scheme was shelved and Mr. Maude was most anxious that it should now be brought to fruition.

3. The cost of making this plaque is not yet known, but Mr. Maude obtained a quotation in 1942 for one in bronze, which as far as he remembers was about £70. The exact form in which the inscription will be placed on the grave will be decided after quotations are received and depending on the amount subscribed. If there are you would like to contribute to the erection of this memorial would you send me a cheque made payable to the Treasurer. Any subscriptions will be gratefully acknowledged and it is hoped that when the inscription has been placed it will be possible to have the grave photographed and a print sent to each of the subscribers.

Yours sincerely,

LGA

Secretary to Government.