

22 May 2000.

Dear Dr. King,

Thanks you for your letter of 5 May. Garvey, Varkess and Isaac (Verrier) were all privy to the story of the bones found on Nibomaroro, but they have all departed to their own individual happy hunting ground. I say, individual, because my memory tells me that they were not part of one another and it would be unfortunate if their spirits have ended up in one Valhalla.

Garvey died in England less than ten years ago. I wrote to his widow - Patricia, known as Pat - at the time of his death. She was then living at "The Priory", Wrentham, Beccles, Suffolk: Tel: 0502 75274. Garvey was Resident Commissioner of the G.E.I. colony (incl. the Phoenix Is. Settlement Scheme) at the time of Gallagher's death. He himself (Garvey) would have been killed by the Japanese invaders in 1942 but for Sir Harry ordering him to take passage on a Navy vessel that Sir Harry had with Ocean Is. to evacuate expatriates. The D.O. (Cartwright) stayed on and a month or so later after the Japs. landed on Ocean Is. he was executed. I realise that that has nothing to do with your mission, but I thought that you might be interested - the fortunes of War! If he kept any papers, his widow would know of them.

I regret that I cannot assist you regarding the other two names - Varkess & Isaac. The former lived on in Suva after he retired and managed a boarding house. He was not a sociable fellow and so far as I know never married. The latter - Isaac - was a colourful character but heartily disliked by most of his colleagues. He too lived on in Suva after retirement and for a time was a close aide to Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara in the political arena after Independence in 1970. If you are visiting Suva again, I suggest that you enquire at the President's office. When Isaac - then named Verrier - died, it was Ratu Sir Kamisese who made all the funeral arrangements. Isaac never married & had no relatives in Fiji. He changed his name during war to avoid being classified as a Jew!

I am sorry that I cannot be of more help to you. I assume that you have not been able to follow up on Perry-Johnston in NZ. He would, of course, have passed on by now, but he may have left papers.

Sincerely, Ian Thomson, LOVER

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News from Fiji these past few days has been disturbing. There are many, difficult to resolve, problems in Fiji, mostly all of which are ethnic based. These are not new problems. The absence of inter-racial, marital, co-habitation amongst the indigenous Fijians and the descendants of Indian immigrants is at the root of it all.

Let's hope that they can continue to live peacefully. The normal rules of democracy may, however, have to change.