



**GOVERNMENT OF NIUE
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER**

23rd August 2016

Press Release

Niue Return Services join World War 1 Commemoration

Alofi, Niue, 23rd August 2016: The Niue Return Services Tour Group to the World War 1-100 Years Commemoration to France, called on Honourable Premier Toke Talagi yesterday morning ahead of the group's departure on the 6th September 2016.

The meeting with Honourable Premier acknowledged the Government of the day, for the generous assistance to fund the 15 (Fifteen) village representatives to travel to the Battle of The Somme 100th Anniversary commemorations in France.



(Honourable Premier Toke Talagi with Government Ministers and RSA representatives)
Front Row L-R: Hon. Kupa Magatogia, Hon. Billy Talagi, President of Niue RSA Mr Charlie Tohovaka (Makefu), Hon. Toke Talagi, Hon. Pokotoa Sipeli (Government Representative), Hon. Dalton Tagelagi, Secretary of Government Richard Hipa.

Med Row L-R: Mrs Judy Togiakona (Liku), Mrs Tapu Pihigia (Tuapa), Ms Shiloh Pasisi (NHS student), Mrs Mitaki Lio (Alofi South), Ms Pamela Togiakona, (Hikutavake) Ms Vikatolia Liumahetau (Toi), Mrs Shield Palahetogia (Lakepa) Mrs Mona Ainu'u (Namukulu)
Back Row L-R: Mr Talaititama Talaiti (Vaiea) Mr Hagen Siosikefu (Mutalau) Mr Peter Funaki (Tamakautoga) Mr Togia Puheke (Avatele) Mr Alan Tano Puleoti (Alofi North) Mr Ben Tanaki (Hakupu)

The President of the Niue Return Services Association Charlie Tohovaka thanked the Government for prioritising one of the most significant events in history and allowing the group to travel to 3 countries in Europe and to witness the battlegrounds the 150 brave souls.

Honourable Premier Toke Talagi farewelled the (15) village representatives and (1) High School student who were selected by families and villages to represent the ancestors who journeyed for many days to far and foreign lands, with so little knowledge of what was in store for them and each with their own impressions and anxieties of the unexpected, with only their own fellow Niuean brothers to comfort their journey.

The Tour Group will travel first to Belgium and onto Northern France where two Niuean soldiers are currently buried.

The itinerary continues to The Battle of the Somme commemoration with the New Zealand contingent and the official tour will continue and end in Hornchurch, England where (4) Niuean soldiers were laid to rest before returning to Niue

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