



Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Special Minister of State

Ref: M14/1699

Mr Matt Sloan

Dear Mr Sloan,

Thank you for your letter of 14 May 2014 in which you draw my attention to your planned commemoration of the Australian and US servicemen killed in the Liberator plane crash at Port Moresby on 7 September 1943. I would also like to thank you for your very kind invitation to participate in a private service to mark this event, either at Port Moresby or in Sydney.

I was very much taken by the short synopsis you provided of your Grandfather's war service with the 2/33rd Infantry Battalion. The story of Jack Balfour-Ogilvy typifies that of the courage and resilience shown by so many of his generation. He struck me as one of those men around whom a unit such as the 2/33rd Infantry Battalion would rally in times of need. The tragic events of 7 September 1943 were undoubtedly one of those periods and you are rightly proud of his memory and the example that he set.

Your letter suggests that you cannot yet confirm detailed plans for your commemoration because you are awaiting permission from the Port Moresby Airport Authority. You may wish to contact the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby (ph 0011 675 325 9333) as they might be able to assist. Once you have the specific details of these services at hand, please write back to me and I will see whether it is possible for me to share these special events with you and your comrades.

Once again, thank you for your letter. It is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

SENATOR THE HON. MICHAEL RONALDSON

5 JUN 2014