

PRESS RELEASE BY THE UNITED NATIONS POLICE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA. (UNPAA).

Kenneth Ward AOM, 90 year old father of Senior Sergeant Ian Ward, formerly NSW Police who was killed in a landmine explosion when a member of the UN Police in 1974, is to make an Anzac Day pilgrimage to his sons memorial and to attend Anzac Day Services with the Australian Federal Police stationed on that island.

Key Dates:

Friday 22ND April 2011: Ward Family arrive in Cyprus.

Wednesday the 27th April 2011: Ward Family depart Cyprus.

BACKGROUND:

Senior Sergeant Ian Ward was a member of the NSW Police seconded to the then Commonwealth Police, (now AFP) as a member of the 11th Australian Police Contingent to Cyprus. He died in a land mine explosion when a passenger in a UN Land Rover on the 12th of November 1974. Ian Ward had previously served in Vietnam as a Military Police Officer during his National Service.

Ian Ward was killed and Senior Sergeant John Woolcott another NSW Police Officer was seriously injured in the explosion. John is now retired and lives in Sydney.

A Turkish refugee sitting between the two Australians was also killed and his three children seated in the back of the Land Rover received injuries. They had been conveying the refugees from the Greek Cypriot sector to the Turkish sector in Lefka.

Ian's body was returned to Australia and he was given a State and Police Funeral at Parramatta.

The United Nations Police Association of Australian (UNPAA) is seeking to publicise the first visit of Ian's Wards father to Cyprus to visit the site of his son's death and to attend he Anzac Day Services held there.

Ian's father Kenneth Ward AOM served in World War 11 in the Royal Australian Navy and had visited Cyprus during his war service to re-supply Tobruk out of Cyprus.

Family member Kevin Ward, Ian's brother, has advised the UNPAA that their intention is to visit his brother's memorial which was erected near the site of his death. The memorial. was built by UN British Engineers and his Australian Police colleagues on the roadside in Lefka District.

A total of six family members are expected to travel to Cyprus.

OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEDIA RELEASE:

1. To appropriately commemorate the Ward Family visit to Cyprus
2. To raise awareness of the sacrifices made by past NSW Police on Peacekeeping operations.
- 3 To raise awareness of the continued role played by Australian Police in Peacekeeping operations.

ISSUES:

1. the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Scipione APM has been made aware of their journey and has written to the family wishing them a safe journey re same.
2. Commissioner Scipione has also arranged for a wreath on behalf of the NSWP to be placed at the Commonwealth War Cemetery Nicosia Cyprus on Anzac Day.

3. The Assistant Commissioner of the International Deployment Group AFP Mr. Prendergast has been informed of this visit and has arranged an AFP press release through Laura Keating of the AFP media office.

4 The commander of the Australian Federal Police Contingent in Cyprus Mr. Greg Mowie has been also notified of this visit and will assist the visitors on their arrival to access the memorial site and to attend the Anzac Day Service in Nicosia.

COMMENT:

Kevin Ward brother of Ian has stated to me that the family is happy to have the Australian media involved, either before departure or whilst on Cyprus.

Kevin is available at Tweed Heads on mobile 0407172679.

I am also available for comment on 0419 422809.

Forwarded for general information and distribution.

Denis Percy

National President

UNPAA.

15/3/11