

# 6000 SEE SIR PETER BUCK'S ASHES

## CEREMONIES AT OKOKI Governor-General Unveils Memorial

THE wish expressed five years ago by Sir Peter Buck, distinguished Maori scholar and scientist, that he be buried at Okoki Pa, near Urenui, was fulfilled yesterday when 6000 people attended the solemn ceremonies of interring the ashes and unveiling the national Maori memorial.

The official party, numbering about 100, was seated high above the assembly on a level with the concrete replica of a Maori canoe which thrusts its way out of the bank towards the New Plymouth-Tu Kaiti highway and the Tasman Sea beyond.

With them was the Maori choir, including boys from Te Aute College, Sir Peter Buck's old school, and their voices, sustained by the acoustics of the bank and carried by a favourable wind, could be heard on the highway, half a mile away.

Before noon cars began arriving in the parking area some distance away from the ceremony as people sought vantage points to view the unveiling of the memorial and interring of the ashes, scheduled to begin at 1.30 p.m.

By 1 p.m. the number of cars had swelled to hundreds and a steady stream of visitors were making their way to the ground below the memorial. Many made a picnic of the occasion and were favoured with a sunny day, a mild wind and a clear view of Mt. Egmont to the right of the memorial.

### The Challenge

The ashes arrived at the memorial just after 1 p.m. and were deposited in position near the memorial from where they were to be taken to the crypt. Mr. Sonny Wain, Waitara, performed the traditional ceremony of challenging the ashes and then guided them to their resting place.

The Governor-General, Sir Willoughby Norrie, and Lady Norrie, accompanied by their three children, arrived at the memorial at 1.30 p.m., travelling from the parking paddock, over the narrow, newly formed metal road by Land Rover provided by the Ministry of Works.

The Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr. Corbett, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Nash, the Member for New Plymouth, Mr. E. P. Adams, the four Maori Members of Parliament, Mrs. J. M. Haines, and Misses S. T. Estline, T. Cronin, and T. Fallow, the Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. E. O. Hill, and Mrs. Hill, and the Mayor of Waitara, Mr. W. Hurdley, were among the official party.

The Rev. Frank, of Wangarei, led the gathering in a Maori and read a Psalm and then the Lesson. Another hymn was sung and then Mr. Corbett stepped forward to make the traditional representative of the Ngati Mutunga tribe, Mr. Pei Jones, Ngauruwhaka, who spoke on behalf of King Korokoi.

### At the Prov

The Bishop of Aotearoa, the Rt. Rev. W. P. Fallick, congratulated the Government and those responsible for carrying out the idea of the prov of a canoe as a memorial to one of New Zealand's famous sons, stating, "He who stands at the prow of a canoe is great."

Sir Peter Buck's ashes would find a fitting place in the annals of the history of New Zealand, the Bishop continued. "It would serve as a reminder to the youth of New Zealand. All that can die of Sir Peter Buck is here, as the canoedie."

A leader of the Tokoroa Maori, Mr. M. Vercoe, said that as a comrade of the late Sir Peter Buck he had to express the feelings of many comrades, European and Maori.

"I speak you to on these great occasions of both the past and the future, come, knowing full well you will be welcome in their places and their lands as a worthy and illustrious son," he concluded.

The ashes were then carried to the front of the crypt and laid on a table covered with mats. There the Bishop pronounced the Benediction and committed the ashes into the Lord's care.

A further hymn was sung while the Bishop, clergy and the official party were in front of the crypt and the party left for the unveiling.

The ashes were later placed in the crypt, which was consecrated by the Bishop.

### Scientist, Soldier

"As Governor-General of New Zealand it is my privilege to unveil this memorial, the last remembrance to one of New Zealand's greatest sons," said Sir Willoughby Norrie as he released the coverings from the canoe prow.

"Sir Peter was renowned as a scientist and a soldier, as well as a New Zealandist and a Maori," His Excellency said. "He was a man of whom the whole Dominion was justly proud."

Sir Willoughby had had known Sir Peter privately and had last seen him during a visit to New Zealand in 1949. He would always remember his friendliness and his perfect modesty. In that year Sir Peter knew he was seriously ill, but he faced the future with calmness and great faith.

"It was proud and glad to have known this man, who raised Christian civilities in a way that makes a person feel better for having known him," said His Excellency. "The devotion he showed enhanced not only the prestige of his Maori people, but also that of New Zealand."

Sir Peter was born in 1889, a period of racial antagonism and in 1909 en-

## 4000 PROVIDED WITH FOOD AT TWO PAS MAMMOTH TASK TO CATER FOR VISITORS

Seven pigs, four bullocks and four sheep, over a ton of potatoes and kumera, dozens of sacks of cabbages, mutton-birds and about 300 smoked eels were among the food which provided about 4000 people with a feast at the Urenui and Manukorihai pas yesterday, after Sir Peter Buck's ashes had been interred at Okoki and the memorial unveiled.

The Urenui Pa was the scene of the actual ceremonial feast but many visitors preferred to travel back to Waitara after the main feasting was over. The Urenui Pa was the site of the Urenui and Manukorihai pas, where the ashes of Sir Peter Buck were interred. The Urenui Pa was the site of the Urenui and Manukorihai pas, where the ashes of Sir Peter Buck were interred. The Urenui Pa was the site of the Urenui and Manukorihai pas, where the ashes of Sir Peter Buck were interred.

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A glance along the table catered for by Urenui revealed fruit salad, trout, jelly, fruit cake, sponge cake and small cakes, soft drink, sherry, wine, beer, butter, biscuits, and apples as well as nutmeg and ginger bread. The titles of steam pudding were also served up as well as hundreds of cups of tea and coffee. The Urenui and Manukorihai pas were held on the tables while other Maori women served the food and washed the dishes in the hot water, generally wash tubs.

At Manukorihai arrangements were made to cater for the overflow from Urenui. Two pigs, two bullocks, two sheep, ox tails, small mountains of potatoes and kumera, sacks of greens and lettuce, and other vegetables were prepared early in the morning and cooked.

It was estimated that about 2000 people would be present for the evening meal. Last night about 2000 people stayed at the pa. Cooking for them was a mammoth task, but the work was done well. The food was prepared in Maori haka and in the Army field equipment. The food was prepared in Maori haka and in the Army field equipment. The food was prepared in Maori haka and in the Army field equipment.

### Home He Spoke

"Today the responsibility that has been laid on me to return to his tapu a son of Ngati Mutunga, and a distinguished champion of the Maori people, the home he sought on Okoki has been gained," said the Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr. E. P. Adams, as he addressed the assembly before handing over the ashes to the official representative of the Ngati Mutunga tribe, Mr. Pei Jones.

Mr. Adams read the following message from Lady Buck, Sir Peter Buck's widow:

"Please convey to the Maori people my sorrow at not being with you all. I wish I had better health so that I could have made the trip."

He travelled with the ashes by air down the Sea of Kiva, the same pathway Sir Peter Buck's ancestors travelled in 1840, and on the way he spoke of his father's life and his own life as a Maori.

"As they challenged successfully the hazards of that journey, so Peter Buck, through seas of ignorance and antipathy, achieved the pinnacle of fame by his scientific and literary contributions. He was a man of high character and high purpose, and it was fitting that he should be buried in his own land, the land of his ancestors."

Sir Peter Buck's attainment had revealed a depth of mental and physical power, and it was fitting that he should be buried in his own land, the land of his ancestors.

The Minister said that despite Sir Peter Buck's high attainment and social position, his love for his motherland and his love for his Maori people had remained. "As Sir Peter Buck he had the humbleness of the great and the simplicity of the good."

His life was the perfect example of achieving and retaining the best characteristics of both the past and the future. "His success remains a challenge to those who the greatest privilege and opportunity of today only wish to use."

"At Manukorihai it was said that in placing him on Okoki we were putting him with the ruru." His body, yes, but his spirit, his mind, the darkness and ever be an inspiration to men of both races."

Mr. Corbett concluded by quoting that the memorial would symbolise the will of a great canoe that cannot be hidden.

### Long Tale to Tell

Te Rangī Hīroa (Sir Peter Buck) was gathered to his fathers and with his comrades in Maori, the Temple of Fragrant Bresses, in the Twelfth Heaven of his Polynesian Valhalla, said Mr. Pei Jones, Ngauruwhaka, after the ashes had been handed over by Mr. Corbett.

In the company of Timi Kara, Maul Pomare, Aprana Ngata and other contemporary leaders of the race, Te Rangī Hīroa would have long tale to tell, he continued. Many a night would pass unheeded as the story of a full rich life, which painted in brilliant colours and added lustre to the story of the peoples of the land, and it is a great honour, said Mr. Jones, "It has brought to the historic soil of Okoki the great story of a life that has inspired and encouraged the best of our people, and the highest form of tribute to have his Excellency, the Governor-General, with us to unveil the unique and great memorial which will mark the resting place of the ashes of a great man."

He recalled that Te Rangī Hīroa could have had, among other honours, the glittering title of United States citizen-

## PETER BUCK SCHOLARSHIP TO BE ESTABLISHED

WITH the memorial at Okoki unveiled, it was proposed to create another memorial to Sir Peter Buck in the form of a scholarship, Dr. R. A. Fallick, director of the Dominion Museum, Wellington, and chairman of the national executive of the memorial committee, announced yesterday.

Dr. Fallick was speaking after the memorial (feast) which followed the interment of Sir Peter Buck's ashes and the unveiling of the memorial. He said that the work of the national executive was not quite done, for now they had to launch a scholarship which would keep evergreen the memory of Sir Peter and the great acts he had performed.

An appeal for funds to form the scholarship would be launched shortly, Dr. Fallick said. Subscriptions would be called for among the Maori and he hoped that all Europeans in the Dominion would feel that it was an opportunity to help in the making of a permanent and fitting memorial to a great man.

He said the scholarship would operate on a broad basis but it would not be over-abundant. The details would be outlined shortly.

It was said it was a great privilege to be associated with the ceremony and he realized fully how much was owed Sir Peter and the work he had done.

He thanked Mr. Corbett, Minister of Maori Affairs, for the work he had done in having the ashes brought back from Honolulu and in escorting them to their final resting place. He also thanked the Maori Affairs Department for the help it had given and the Taranaki committee and all other groups that had helped.

### FITTING TRIBUTE

He felt that that day they had completed a fitting tribute to a man whose friendship he had personally valued over a number of years.

Mr. W. Haines, M.P., spoke of the great work that Sir Peter had done in allowing his ashes to be returned to his people and his own land.

Mr. J. Wilson-Hammond, chairman of the Taranaki division of the memorial committee, who conducted the ceremonies at the haka, said he was very proud to be there to see the work of the committee fulfilled.

He said that now the whole area round the memorial would be landscaped so that it would look very beautiful and would be an asset to the surrounding countryside.

Dr. Roger Duff, director of the Canterbury Museum, spoke on behalf of anthropologists and other scientists, and he said that it was fitting that he should address the gathering as the work of the committee was being completed.

He said that Sir Peter had been a great friend of his and that he had been very proud to be able to help him in his work. He said that Sir Peter had been a great friend of his and that he had been very proud to be able to help him in his work.

### The Maoris Wanted Songs and Hakas

With the solemn part of the day over, the crowd who attended the Sir Peter Buck interment ceremony at Okoki Pa for the final haka, for which tables were piled with plates of Maori food, turned to the feast and during the official speeches, in the main hall, the master of ceremonies had increasing difficulty in restraining the Maoris from giving way to their natural feelings and then came another haka.

When Mr. T. P. Fallick, Maori M.P., had finished speaking, he was greeted with a loud cheer from the back of the hall, upon which most of the Maoris burst into a haka and Mr. Fallick joined in willingly with a robust voice.

Soon after, a Maori chant was started and then came another haka. And when the official speakers had finished the Maoris still wanted someone to go on making speeches so that they could hear their own haka or songs, mostly of farewell to Sir Peter.

### A Busy Day for Traffic Officers

Over a dozen special buses and hundreds of private cars carried about 6000 people from over New Zealand to Urenui yesterday to attend the interment of Sir Peter Buck's ashes in the memorial at Okoki. Traffic officers had a busy day, starting at 8 a.m. and working till well after 3 p.m.

Cars streamed along the road between Waitara and Urenui all day and the position was not helped by a fresh slip on the road just beyond sharp corner near Omere. Traffic officers stood at each end of the slip to guide the traffic.

Eight traffic officers from Taranaki and Tairānui were on duty all day, six police from Taranaki stations, including Senior Sergeant A. Quinn of New Plymouth, also had a day-long job on patrol. They had their meals at the pub at Manukorihai or Urenui.

Numerous Ma police, with special car armbands, were appointed at each pa-

## Door of Crypt Would Not Open

CONSIDERATION reigned for a short time at Okoki yesterday during the ceremonies associated with the interring of Sir Peter Buck's ashes and the unveiling of his memorial.

Just before the address given to the crypt at the rear of the memorial, when they were to be interred by the Bishop of Aotearoa, the Rt. Rev. W. P. Fallick, an official went to unlock the door of the crypt. To his alarm, he could not unlock it with the keys available. Mrs. Haines, while others made frantic signals to the official party preparing for the march to the crypt down a short flight of stairs.

When the door could not be opened, then a man rushed down with a small table, placed it in front of the door, covered it with mats, and the Bishop laid the ashes on this and pronounced the Benediction over it. The official party had to wait for the unveiling of the memorial when an officer of the Maori Affairs Department, Mr. E. P. Adams, inserted the keys into the locks on the door of the crypt and the door swung open. The Bishop later laid the ashes in the crypt and consecrated it.

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### Governor-General Speaks to Elders

"Sir Peter, in his lifetime, followed the course of his ancient sea-going ancestors and journeyed over towards the rising sun looking for new land to conquer," said the Governor-General, Sir Willoughby Norrie, addressing elders of the Ngati Mutunga tribe at Urenui Pa yesterday, after unveiling the memorial to Sir Peter Buck at Okoki.

His Excellency stated that the gates of the pa would not know the gates that many had to remain there to attend to the needs of the many tribes that had gathered there for the memory of "your great son, Te Rangī Hīroa," and it was not possible for them to attend the ceremony at Okoki that morning, or the interment and unveiling ceremony at Okoki.

"I am glad that I have been given this opportunity of meeting Sir Peter Buck's own elders and people," His Excellency stated, "and had the greatest admiration and regard for him."

The Ngati Mutunga tribe should, indeed, be proud that they have given to this nation such a distinguished son. You have a Maori proverb which says the old net is cast aside and the new net is cast. Te Rangī Hīroa and his Mau Pōmare were the old net of Taranaki and you are the new.

In death the new net (Sir Peter's) canoe has been turned to the westering sun to the land of his ancestors, but the old net is cast aside and the new net is cast in its entirety, His Excellency said.

He concluded by associating Lady Norrie and himself with all the Maori and the Second Secretary from the well O Chieftain, Departing to Everlasting Life."

and Automobile Association officers helped direct traffic into parking lanes at Okoki. A large paddock had been marked out in long lanes and there was no difficulty moving in and out.

One car on the road had an obstructed view. It was a black, modern German car with diplomatic plates. It contained the Indian Trade Commissioner, the Second Secretary from the German Legation, and the American Charge d'Affaires and his wife, who attended the ceremony.

Sir Peter Buck ceremony photographs by D. Elliott and T. Bisset.

