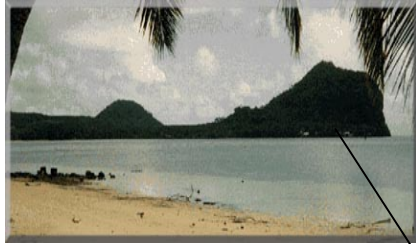


From: Jione Kaitu'u, Navua, Fiji Islands



MAFTOA VILLAGE, ITU'MUTA



ROGER & FIJIAN FRIENDS IN UK



SOLRORO A VIEWED FROM AHAUSI

**ROGER WALE (RAJA)**



ARMY

**ROGER WALE** hails from the village of Maftoa, in the district of Itu'muta and was born in 1942. His parents were **Aferete Pene** and **Repeka Memaofa Pena** of Maftoa & Saulei, Lopo, Itu'muta. Roger Wale left the island of Rotuma to further his education at the Lelean Memorial School and it was during the first British Army Recruitments in Fiji in 1961 where he and 199 other Fiji Nationals left our shores for the United Kingdom at the age of **19**. Roger Wale served with the British Army 29 Commando's Unit and was known for his "**die hard attitude**" by his fellow comrades during peacetime or in the combat operations theater. He was a skilled boxer who acquired the British Armed Forces Light Heavyweight Title and the Hong Kong Heavyweight Belt (Open category) in the mid sixties but was also a gentleman amongst his peers with only few skirmishes with tough blokes from other armed forces/units whilst in Malaysia, what eventuated was quite an experience for these blokes as they never dared the Rotuman gentle warrior again. Roger Wale suffered external and internal injuries during a parachuting incident in one of the numerous exercises in England in 1971 and was discharged from the Armed Forces on medical grounds and on his own request returned to the island of Rotuma later in the year where he spent some time with his parents and families before he died on Boxing Day the same year at the age of **29**. Roger Wale faithfully served the British Army for ten years.

### **29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery based at Royal Citadel Plymouth, United Kingdom**

The batteries of 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, provide artillery support to 3 Commando Brigade in the form of 105mm howitzers. 29 Commando Regiment Fire Support Teams (FSTs) deploy at the front-line and call in fire support from artillery, Naval gunfire, fast jets, attack helicopters and mortars. All members of 29 Commando are volunteers from other Royal Artillery regiments and are Commando trained.

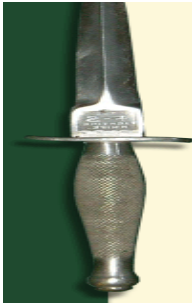


## “ Roll of Honour”

Dedicated to the memory of our friends and comrades who served the 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery

## “WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

29 Commandos



Dagger Insignia



Green Beret



Badges



Batteries

29 CDO RA USE THE L118 105MM HOWITZER AS ITS MAIN GUN. THE L118 CAN FIRE 6-8 ROUNDS PER MINUTE TO A RANGE OF 17KM. CRUCIALLY, FOR COMMANDO OPERATIONS, THE GUN CAN BE TRANSPORTED SLUNG BENEATH HELICOPTERS AND TOWED BY VEHICLES.

*Roger Wale died in late 1971. Roger was an Army and Gunner front row forward, a light heavy weight (LHW) boxer who would box LHW first then get back in the ring to box heavy weight, I never saw him beaten. He was the biggest regimental clerk you ever saw. Roger came to Aden now Yemen with Black VIII in 1967. Between Pete Hobson, Jock MacMenamy they had the boxing booth on the Barbican sewn up. Roger was from Ratuma Fiji and joined the regiment from 34 Regiment with Nick Naico and Mick Sylevali (that is another story best told by Nick or Mick).*

## **8 (Alma) Commando Battery Royal Artillery**

Also known as '**Black Eight**', based at the. Alma consists of 6 105mm guns and 3 Fire Support Teams.

### **29 Commando Training**

Volunteers for the Regiment first undergo a series of fitness tests before being assigned to specific Batteries for a pre-commando training schedule. They then progress onto Commando training where they attempt the All Arms Commando Course. Those who successfully complete Commando training are eligible to wear the Green Beret and Commando Dagger insignia. Further specialized training is then undertaken.

**Roger Wale** came from a family of five boys and five girls: **Jione Kaitu'u (Navua)**, **Fukefu Pene (USA)**, **Finiasi Pene (d)**, **Fagmaniu Pene (Navua) & Mareta Etika (d)**, **Isapeti Suliano (Rotuma)**, **Amoe (Australia)**, **Kafmonu Kaitu'u (Australia)**, and **Lily Toga (Navua)**. Many accounts of **Roger** whose name is pronounced as '**Raja**' in Rotuman would be relayed by the elderly men folks especially from **Itu'muta and Losa** to the younger generation in kava sessions in Rotuma during the seventies – to date. Accounts of **Roger Wale** during this present time and in kava sessions – **caution** for the listeners as the events could either be exaggerated or never occurred – '**or mane'ek ne kau kao ta**'. **Visenti Makrava** was a close friend from Rotuma and then to Lelean Memorial School. **Roger Wale** and **Kauata Fred Marfaga** (of Pepjei) were the two Rotumans who left our shores in 1961. Marfaga Kauata retired from the British Army and settled overseas. A common '**mak hanisi**' which was composed by **Mesulame** who was married to **Akesa of Itu'muta** and is normally sung by the **Itu'muta kau kao ta** reads:

#### **E te 'u ne Ava**

E te 'u ne ava

Is koro ma he'a

La mauri roa

La is haikelega

Mafa marumaru

Helava ka peka

Tukuena ma isa noho fahepa

Fur fa gou he'a

La ae mauri roa

Haisirigena ma te 'u ne os ofa

Vae ma la 'ana e ona kaunohoga

I 'a maimai 'ia se ona ojoga

Iris fakasoro ma la pa nusurua

Tari ne ranite pure ke se ausa

Ma noanoa la le 'et la po la furia

Ne hanue te pure ke se ausa

Ran te is ma lagi  
Tae ma te raksa'a  
Ka ne ona asa ia aragvaka  
Ma noanoa la le'et la forau fua  
Ne hanue te' pure ke se atua

**End of Mak Hanisi**

**\*Roger Wale's good friend Romanu Naceva in picture (retired from the British Army and residing in Fiji – President of the British Army Parents Association Fiji) and Fijian female friend in the UK, sixties.**

**\*Te'is rogrog me'ame'a het on sasig ta Raja Wale.**