MINISTER FOR THE ARMY

With the Compliments

of

The Hon. Malcolm Fraser, M.P.

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The Minister for the Army, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, presented a pipe banner this week as a personal gift to the pipes and drums of the Ist Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment.

The banner bears both the Fraser crest and the Pacific Islands Regiment badge.

Mr. Fraser attached the banner to the bagpipes of the battalion's leading piper at a parade at Taurama Barracks, Port Moresby, on Monday during a two-day visit to Papua-New Guinea.

At the same parade, Mr. Fraser pinned new badges of rank to the uniform of the Territory's oldest soldier, Warrant Officer Osi Ivalaca, who has become the first of his people to attain the Army rank of Warrant Officer Class I.

Warrant Officer Osi, from Kereama in the Gulf District of Papua-New Guinea, fought with the Papuan Infantry Battalion during World War II and joined the Pacific Islands Regiment when it was reformed in 1951. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 1962 New Year Honours.

Mr. Fraser said that before much longer other Papuan and New Guinean soldiers would achieve this rank, the highest non-commissioned rank in the Army.

Warrant Officer Osi could take particular pride in being the first.

Mr. Fraser was guest-of-honour at a formal dinner at the I PIR officers' mess on Monday night.

On Tuesday, he officially opened Port Moresby's new Murray Barracks, rebuilt and enlarged at a cost of $9.4 million dollars.

20 February, 1968.