



SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

This form must cover a submission to the inquiry

Name of Inquiry

MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE
WITH RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

About the Submitter

Title or Rank:

MR

Surname:

LAYI

Given Names:

MALCOLM JAMES

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Email Address:

[REDACTED]

Preferred contact number:

Mobile:

[REDACTED]

Home or other:

Is the Submission on behalf of an organisation? If yes, please provide details:

NO

Desired Outcome

Provide a summary of your submission.

I am seeking RECOGNITION OF
WAR TIME SERVICE FOR MY
TIME SERVED IN MALAYA AT
BUTTERWORTH AIR BASE IN 1979
PLEASE FIND ATT

Please attach your submission and any supporting documentation

Consent and Declaration

- 1 ☒ I **consent** to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available.
OR
☐ I **do not consent** to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available. My reasons are:

- 2 I also **consent** to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal:
- a. using information contained in my submission to conduct research;
 - b. providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation considered by the Tribunal to be appropriate;
 - c. providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation the subject of adverse comment in the submission; and
 - d. using content in my submission in its report to Government.

The Tribunal will decide which person or organisation is appropriate, and this may include:

- a. persons or organisations required to assist with the inquiry; and
- b. persons or organisations with an interest in the inquiry.

I **declare** that the information I have provided is correct.

Signature:



Print name:

MALCOLM JAMES LATY

Date:

18/04/2022

Lodging your submission

Further information, including the inquiry's Terms of Reference can be found at www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au

Once you are satisfied with your submission, return this form and all supporting documents

By Post:

Defence Honours and Awards
Appeals Tribunal
Level 1, 5 Tennant Street, Fyshwick
Locked Bag 7765
CANBERRA BC ACT 2600

By Email:

dha.tribunal@defence.gov.au

If you wish to speak with someone regarding your submission phone 02 6266 1019



I was a young Infantry Soldier posted to Charlie Company 3RAR Based at Woodside South Australia. In 1979 Bravo Company we're heading to Malaya to do a tour of duty at Butterworth AirForce base and were looking for extra soldiers to bolster there ranks. I was offered and excepted a position as a rifleman to go to Butterworth with Bravo Company. I was young and green and did not know much about was was about to go on.

First up I was told you must be what was termed DP1 , what does that mean I ask, you must be physically fit ,medically fit, all your teeth must be good and all of your kit must be serviceable and correct for war service in the country you are going to.

So the next thing I know is I'm off to the dentist for a few visits until my teeth and gums are past as in good condition and DP1 , next I am receiving vaccinations for every known and probably unknown ailment going. Then comes all the physical tests.

Once all that is done we are all lined up at the Q store being issued all the items we might need in battle.

Next is the lecture room where we are given a detailed description of our tasks as a ready reaction force for the protection of the RAAF and Butterworth Airforce Base.

We are told that we will be armed with live ammunition and will be given rules of engagement, at this point we are reminded that this is NOT a training exercise , we are there to protect assets and people associated with the base and that we have the right to use lethal force if necessary to achieve this.

Then came the conduct and discipline talk were we are told that as we are on war like service we will be charged under the " Whilst on war service act and that penalties will be a lot tougher and much more expensive. So by now I am thinking to my self " this is not a game this is real and I had better wake up to myself.

Then to reinforce it more we are ask if we have a last will and testament and that if we had to bring it so as 3RAR could view it and keep a record of it, I was 20 years old why did I need a will I thought" well they soon set

PTO

me straight with " You need all your home affairs sorted in case you don't come home , that's why they have coffins at the base.

Then we were taught how to say stop or I will shoot in Malay "Berhenti atau saya Akan tembak ".

Next thing I'm on the plane to Singapore, we get off the plane and are quickly put through customs loaded on trucks and off to Butterworth I remember being very unsure at the airport I had never seen anything like it men in uniforms armed with sub machine guns everywhere you looked , it was scary for a young green soldier.

It's not long before we are all settled in at AirForce Base Butterworth and I work begins . I remember our first night on Duty as QRF (quick reaction force) I was nervous I didn't know what to expect but I did know that I was ready and I knew that the rest of the team had my back as I had there's, we had several call outs on that first night we never knew if this one was for real or just a test so we treated them all as real , I remember thinking I have live rounds and my weapon is in the state of action there are no range flags and there are personal planes and vehicles in front of me and all around me , this is real and my responsibilities are huge.

The debrief after our first night wasn't great apparently the AirForce commander said that we were not quick enough and that if the base was attacked he would lose planes, needless to say we soon learnt to be a lot quicker.

Mostly I carried an SLR and sometimes an m16 but I liked the SLR because I knew it had great stopping power , The CPLs who were Vietnam Vets would always tell me m16s didn't stop the enemy like an SLR.

On one occasion though I had to swap my m16 for a 9 mm pistol because I had to clear an aircraft hanger full of mirage fighter jets, i remember thinking if I come across a CT I'm sure he wouldn't be carrying a nine mil but the AIRFORCE said it would be easier to fix a plane hit by a 9 mm than it would to fix the damage from a 7.62mm nato round..

Now I wasn't a ranking soldier in the know of everything that was going on but I was a soldier sent to another country to do a job because there was a threat and the threat was real , I remember reading a local Penang paper

where the headlines were " police shoot dead suspected CTs in car after they did not stop at check point".

Malay Helicopters would often land and reportedly unload wounded on the Air strip.

At all times from first preparing to go To RCB Malaya ,serving at RCB Malaya and returning home from RCB It was drummed into us that this was real the threat was real and that we were on war like service .

Our presence alone was a deterrent but if the base was attacked we were there to do a job and we would have killed if necessary to protect base and personnel.

It wasn't a game, it wasn't training it was a seen threat by the Malaysian government and the Australian Government , The Malaysian Government even offered us a medal but our Government knocked it back because they didn't want to admit the truth .

Thank you

Malcolm J Layt

reg no 178850

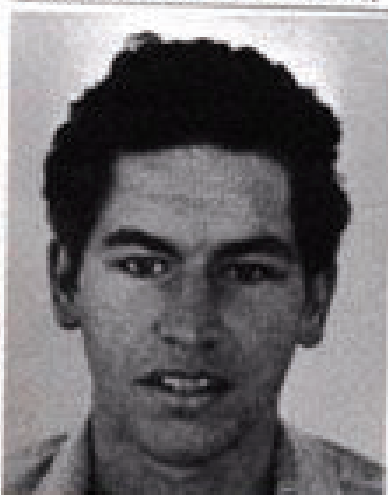
Tour of Duty 22 May 1979 to 2nd September 1979

War Like service Butterworth Airforce Base Malaysia

DESCRIPTION
SIGNALEMENT

NAME NOM Malcolm James LATT		
Place and Date of Birth Lieu et Date de Naissance [REDACTED]		
Height Taille 176 cm	Colour of Eyes Couleur des Yeux Blue	
Colour of Hair Couleur des Cheveux Dark Brown	Visible Peculiarities Signes Particuliers	
CHILDREN ENFANTS		
Name Nom	Place and Date of Birth Lieu et Date de Naissance	Sex Sexe
X X X		

PHOTOGRAPH OF BEARER
PHOTOGRAPHIE DU TITULAIRE



Attention is drawn to
information on
inside of passport.

Issued on **Adelaide**
Delivered to
on [REDACTED]
le [REDACTED]

and valid for five (5) years from this date.
et valable pour cinq (5) ans à partir de cette date.

E. J. Clarke

An Officer duly authorized under Section 7 of the
Passports Act 1953-1973

M. Latt

Bearer should sign this passport in space provided
above.

SIGNATURE OF BEARER
SIGNATURE DU TITULAIRE

VISAS

Class 3

MALAYSIAN IMMIGRATION
IMMIGRATION EXEMPTION ORDER

22 MAY 1979

PENANG

146879

IMMIGRATION
HATYAI THAILAND

ADMITTED
13 JUL 1979

OFFICER

29 JUN 1979

8

HAADYAI THAILAND

5 JUL 1979

IMMIGRATION
THAILAND

VISAS

EXEMPTION CLASS 131

DATE 5 JUL 1979

PADANG BESAR

00

PADANG BESAR

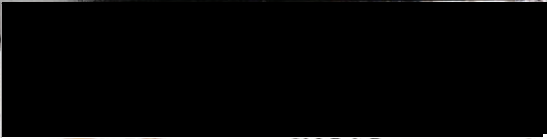
29 JUN 1979

IMMIGRATION SINGAPORE

23 JUL 1979

PERMITTED TO ENTER AND
REMAIN IN SINGAPORE
FOR FOURTEEN DAYS
SOCIAL VISIT ONLY
DATE SHOWN ABOVE

9



VISAS

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VISAS