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21 April, 2022

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr (WO2) Paolo Francesco Marin

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Inquiry into Medallic Recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr (WO2)

Surname *

Marin

Given Names *

Paolo Francesco

Postal Address *

[REDACTED]

Email Address: *

[REDACTED]

Primary Contact Number *

[REDACTED]

Secondary Contact Number

[REDACTED]

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

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

To and provide my evidence-based experience to assist in a decision to bring about a change to the Australian medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth between 1970 and 1989 and that that service should be recognised with an Australian Active Service Medal.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: RCB-Testimony-Paolo-Marin.docx

Part 5 – Consent and declaration

✓ I consent to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available.

✓ I also consent to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal:

- using information contained in my submission to conduct research;
- providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation considered by the Tribunal to be appropriate; and

- providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation the subject of adverse comment in the submission;
- using content in my submission in its report to Government.

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

1. persons or organisations required to assist with the inquiry; and
2. persons or organisations with an interest in the inquiry.

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

Name

Paolo Marin

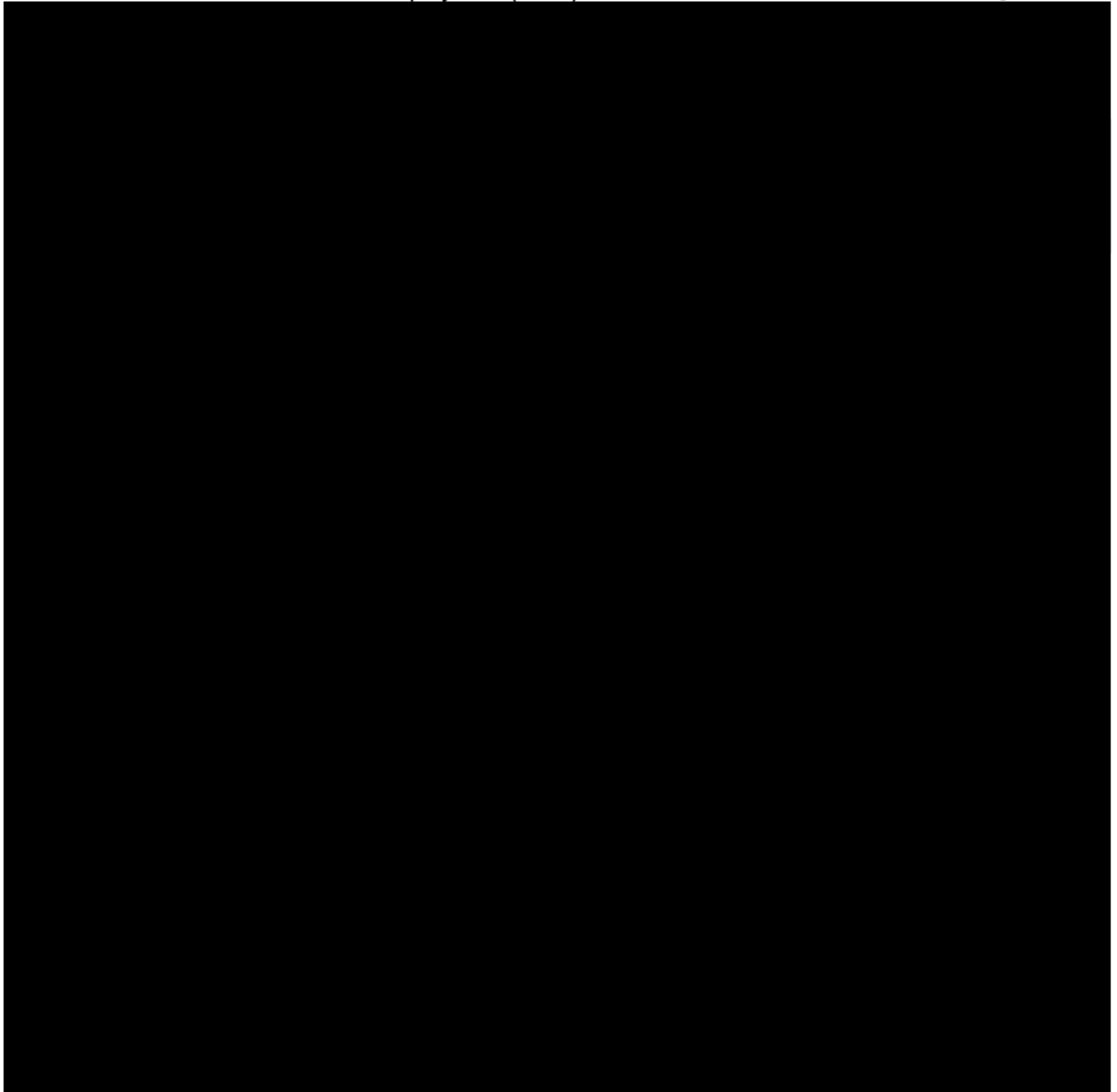
Date

21/04/2022 /

Mr (WO2) Paolo Francesco Marin
(Awaiting Signature)

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr (WO2) Paolo Fra...



RCB SERVICE TESTIMONY

RCB/RAAF Butterworth Service Summary

I served with 5 Platoon, B Company 1 RAR at Air Base Butterworth as a member of an RCB deployment.

The period of my service was December 1981 to February 1982.

At the time, I was 321049 LBDR PF Marin. My primary task was in command of a rifle group within 5 Section. My normal weapon was a loaded 7.62 SLR with Tri Lux sights.

Through the duration of this deployment, we carried live ammunition in our webbing and a fully loaded magazine on our weapons. The various weapons throughout the platoon and section were, the M60 Machine Gun, M16, 40mm Grenade Launcher all carried Live Ammo. These were normal small arms which were carried by the Company along with, as mentioned, live ammunition required for operational service.

Whilst on QRF duties, section machine guns were routinely deployed as were all weapons in the section when called to QRF.

Our company's role was to defend and protect Australian assets (Aircraft, Dwellings, and personnel) on the base and in the surrounds against the communist insurgency threat as part of the Quick Reaction Force and any extended defence and security arrangement against that enemy.

Pre-deployment Training

Pre-Operational deployment training was conducted as part of the operational deployment force in Townsville North QLD. This operational training was held with 1 RAR at Lavarack Barracks, Mount Stuart training area and Garbett Air Force Base Townsville with the RAAF.

This training comprised Urban Warfare training, Security Training, Medevac training, using training aircraft and standard infantry minor tactics.

Enemy

To prepare us for this rotation we were briefed and trained on what to expect, it included urban warfare operations and jungle warfare, so we were under no doubt of an enemy threat.

My experience was off the base and during operational patrol training in Paladar, I was part of a recon group and during that time I encountered what I believe was a communist insurgent. I believe this to be true as he was carrying a side arm (a colt 45) which was holstered.

I looked at him he looked at me, and we did surprise each other, he smiled (had a big grin wearing Straw Hat) I waved/gestured to him he then disappeared back into the Jungle. There was no other reason for a person to be there except us. He was doing what we were doing, except I totally believe he was monitoring operations/tactics.

Danger

My experience with QRF duties and rules of engagement, potential/actual clashes including with the Malaysian guards: as we constantly did QRF and clearing patrols in the morning around the extremities of the airbase and to a greater extent checking for security fence breaches as part a mobile clearing patrol, we were always vulnerable.

Our rules of engagement were quite clear, we could open fire at persons in any of the following circumstances, e.g. if a building, vehicle, aircraft, tent etc, we could open fire if the person was in an act of destroying or damaging that building by explosives or fire also, if we were being attacked and it gave us reason to fear the death or grave bodily injury that would result from such an attack, we could open fire on the person carrying out the attack.

Like most rules of engagement provided there was no other means of preventing that person from carrying out the attack.

Expectation of Casualties

There was an expectation of casualties which can be demonstrated through the work with aircraft and personnel to assist in the extraction of casualties for example:

Training in the UH1H utilising jungle penetrator to extract injured personnel.

We also constantly conducted training where there was a casualty theme and we would exercise the practises to extract those casualties whether it be in an urban environment, within the jungle conducting casualty removal from stricken aircraft, securing aircraft due to incidents, there is no doubt in my mind given the repetitive nature of our training being, first aid and medevac drills there was an expectation of casualties and we would be trained to respond to that when required in addition to our hold and secure objective.

Training with the Malaysians

A coordinated approach to training with the Malaysians was not evident at all with Rifle Company Butterworth.

The deployment of the company around the air base to defend and secure the Australian and Malaysian assets laid wholly with the Australian defence personnel in my eyes and was the main deterrent. The only training that occurred with the Malaysians was utilising an exercise area, rifle ranges for sighting weapons, rehearsing defence operations, against attacks, urban warfare against the communist insurgency.

Most times Malaysian military personnel, as mentioned previously, slept all night at guard post with the lights on 90% of the time. Most of their activity was around the entry points to the base the main gates. With that in mind I clearly believe that the bulk of security and protection and response operations laid with the Rifle Company Butterworth.

Actual tasks

We were briefed and told that we should be prepared for any scenario as the RCB service met the warlike service criteria, as the military activities of RCB where the application of force was authorised, and it was there to pursue specific military objectives (hold and secure) we were told there was an expectation of casualties at any time.

These operations encompassed:

1. a state of readiness and declared war against the communist insurgency by the Malaysian Government in which we deployed to protect and secure Australian and Malaysian assets
2. we were operating against a known armed adversary.

I am prepared to give this and possible further oral evidence if given the opportunity to appear before an independent inquiry (personally or by telephone).

Name: Paolo Marin

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]