



SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

This form must cover a submission to the inquiry

Name of Inquiry

Inquiry into Medallic Recognition for
Service with Rifle Company Butterworth

About the Submitter

Title or Rank:

Pte / Mr - 226930

Surname:

Sanders

Given Names:

Martin James

Postal Address:

[Redacted Address]

Email Address:

[Redacted Email]

Preferred contact
number:

Mobile:

[Redacted Mobile Number]

Home or other:

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

On my behalf.

Desired Outcome

Provide a
summary of your
submission.

for all RCB soldiers service be
recognised as warlike and our
service be rewarded accordingly
with awards fitting our service.

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:

M. Sanders

Print name:

Martin James Sanders

Date:

18 / 4 / 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

**DEFENCE HONOURS & AWARDS
APPEALS TRIBUNAL**



INQUIRY INTO MEDALLIC RECOGNITION
FOR SERVICE WITH RIFLE COMPANY
BUTTERWORTH.





Australian Government

Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

INQUIRY INTO MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WITH RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

Terms of Reference

The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) is directed to inquire into issues pertaining to medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth.

Specifically, the Tribunal is to have regard to the New Zealand Government's recent decision to extend eligibility for the New Zealand Operational Service Medal to a larger proportion of members of the New Zealand Armed Forces who served in Malaysia and Singapore between 1959 and 1974. The Tribunal is to consider whether this decision should bring about any change to Australian medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth between 1970 and 1989, including whether that service should be recognised with an Australian Active Service Medal.

The Tribunal is to determine its own procedures, in accordance with the general principles of procedural fairness, when conducting its inquiry as set out in these Terms of Reference. In this regard, the Tribunal may conduct its own research, interview such persons as it considers appropriate and consider material that is relevant to these Terms of Reference.

The Tribunal is to report, in writing, to the Minister for Defence Personnel on the findings and recommendations that arise from the Inquiry.

In making its findings and formulating its recommendations, the Tribunal is to have regard to the integrity of the Australian honours system and identify any consequential impact or make any finding or recommendation upon that system.

Submissions to the Tribunal close on 1 July 2022.

18TH April 2022

To Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal,

My name is Martin James Sanders, I served as a private infantry soldier (226930) with C Company - 8/9 RAR Enoggera Queensland.

My company, C Company were deployed to Butterworth Airbase Malaysia, September 1980 to December 1980, prior to our departure we were informed our role was to defend our countries investment of military combat aircraft based at Butterworth Malaysia, against all enemies, we were educated in regards to the nature of our enemy being communist insurgents in conflict with Malaysian Federal security forces.

We were informed the role of RCB was created in 1970 due to a resurgence in communist insurgency activity and we were a ready reaction force to provide protection for the RAAF at Butterworth, we were well informed of the danger we could face if engaged.

We landed at Butterworth Airbase early September 1980, upon arrival, we were ushered to a compound and once again reminded of our role at Butterworth Airbase and the dangers involved, we were educated in the rules of engagement, we were well trained and prepared for our role at Butterworth prior to our departure from Enoggera, we were now ready to undergo our role at Butterworth.

My personal role was mostly in platoon headquarters being the radio operator, calling in helicopters for drop off and pick up, communicating with our sections during exercises both on base and on exercise, also calling in fire missions if needed, my other role was at times forward scout, which was my usual position, I carried an M16 with M203 attached grenade launcher, we frequently trained in all weapons carried by our company, M60 7.62mm automatic

machine gun, SLR – 7.62 rifle, 66 LAW and Carl Gustav 84mm anti - tank weapon and hand grenades.

You will see attached photos of myself using most of these weapons on my deployment, these photos were taken in Malaysia on live fire ranges, we consistently practised with all these weapons to maintain proficiency and maintain our skills. The main photo is of myself firing my own weapon M16 with M203 Grenade Launcher, taken by an army photographer at the time.

We constantly practised contact drills on base and outside the base in designated areas, myself along with some other troops were assigned to Pulada Jungle training school to train with the Malaysian Army, learning patrolling techniques and jungle warfare, myself and a small contingent were also at a later date choppered to Langkawi Island for a three day exercise to enhance our skills on the terrain we may have to patrol in, attached are photos I took myself from our RAAF Iroquois chopper over Langkawi and also over Butterworth Airbase on our arrival back to base.

In our time at Butterworth, our company had an encounter, the airbase wire was breached and they were able to somehow elude base patrols, there were two insurgents and they attacked one of soldiers coming from the ablutions, he was confronted and stabbed in the cheek, the soldier staggered into the radio hut, which was occupied and manned by Private Danny Hanly, he could verify this incident if required – his contact number (0438 138 158). After the incident we were instructed to move in pairs when performing any duties from barracks to mess, ablutions etc....., I didn't witness this myself and was informed of the incident the next day, I am not sure if records state the incident, but as mentioned Danny Hanly would verify the incident.

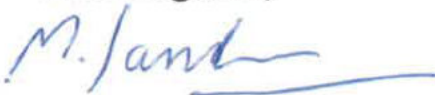
To conclude my submission by saying, I believe our RCB service is deserving of medallic recognition for service, we were trained for a

role that involved risk of engagement with an insurgent enemy and there was a clear and present danger, we were prepared accordingly prior to our deployment and maintained a high standard of proficiency whilst performing our defensive role of our RAAF combat fighter aircraft and maintaining our foreign relationships with both Malaysian Airforce and Army.

I am proud of my service with the Australian Army and proud to serve with the men I did, we carried the proud tradition of Anzacs with us.

I look forward to your response and appreciate an inquiry is underway for our recognition.

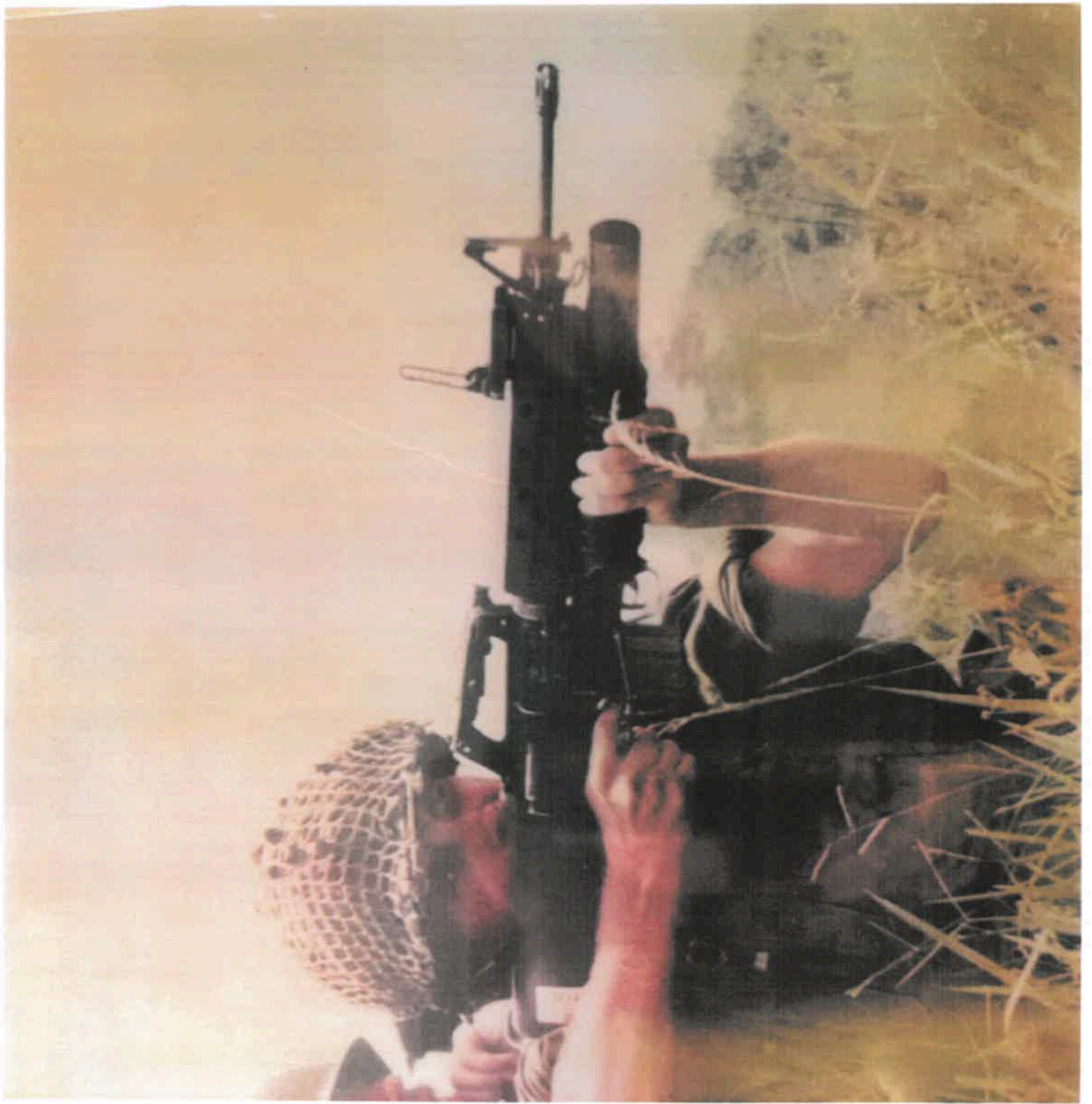
Kind Regards,



Martin Sanders

KTM Manufacturing Pty Ltd





















PHQ
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WOLFENDEN
SANDERS



4 SECTION

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