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28 April, 2022

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Submission to Inquiry - Major (Rtd) Graham Albert Hayes

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Medallic Recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Major (Rtd)

Surname *

Hayes

Given Names *

Graham Albert

Postal Address *

Email Address: *

Primary Contact Number *

Secondary Contact Number

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

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

My service summary at RCB during the period 6 Sep - 30 Nov 1983 in support of the avoce mentioned inquiry.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: RCB-SERVICE-TESTIMONY-229008-G.A.-Hayes.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

Graham Hayes

Date

28/04/2022 /

Major (Rtd) Graham

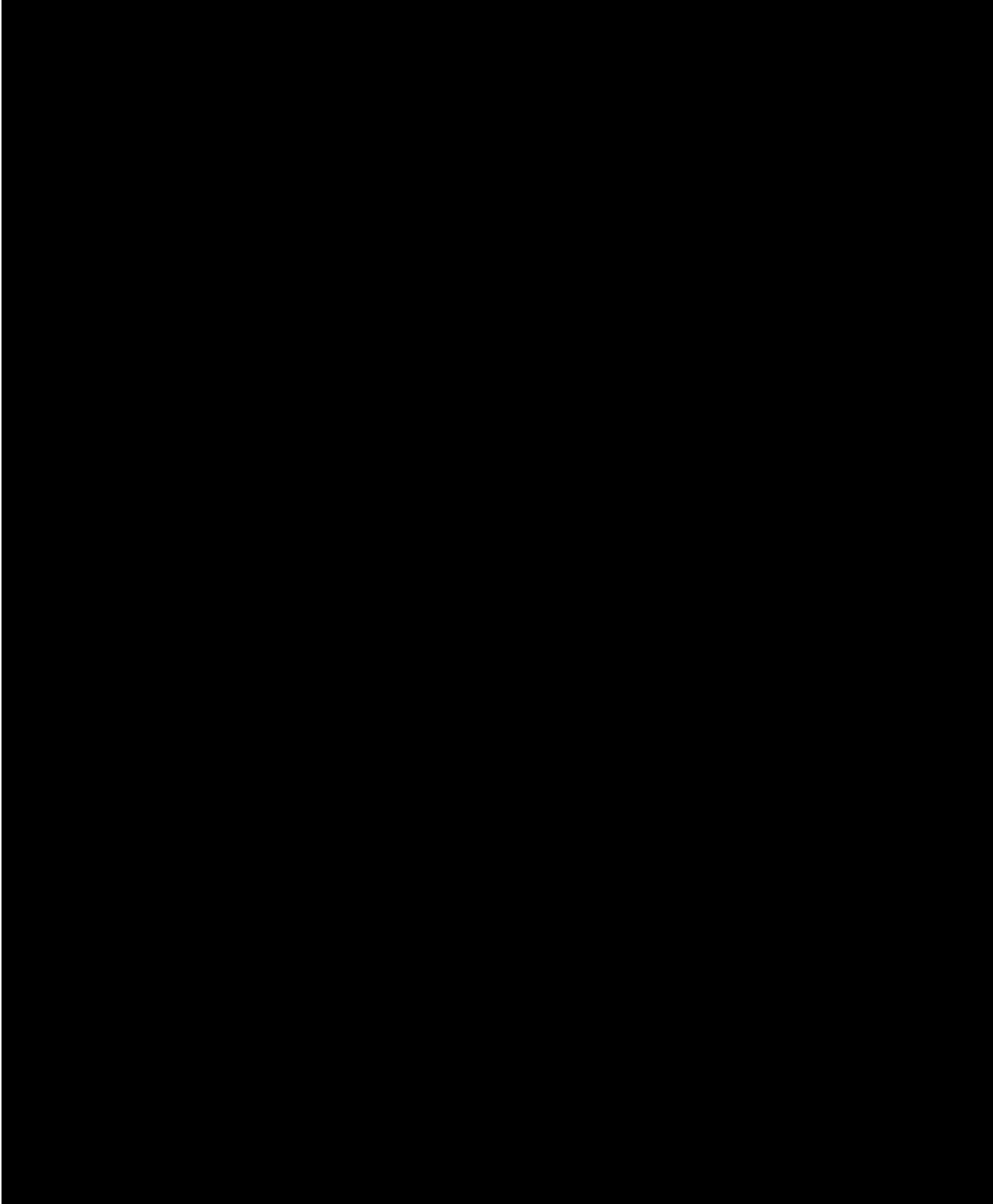
Albert Hayes

Signed by Major (Rtd) Graham Albert Hayes

Signed on: 30 April, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Major (Rtd) Graham Albert Hayes



RCB SERVICE TESTIMONY

RCB/RAAF Butterworth Service Summary

I served with 3 Platoon, A Company 6 RAR at Air Base Butterworth as a member of an RCB from 06 Sep-30 Nov 1983. At the time, I was 229008 Private Graham Albert Hayes. My primary task was rifleman of a rifle section. My normal weapon was an SLR while the rest of the company carried their normal small arms weapons required for operational service. The company's heavy weapons were also readily available along with ammunition on base. While on QRF duties, section machine guns were routinely deployed. My secondary role was as a mortarman having been posted to the company from Support Company for the RCB deployment.

Enemy

We were given pre-deployment training. This training consisted of the following:

- Quick Reaction Force familiarisation;
- Country Overview; and
- Historical background to deployment to RCB Malaysia (SEATO and Insurgency).

Further we were given extensive in-country briefings which included:

- The enemy and his background/history;
- Rules of engagement which included a warning/challenge in Malay before firing;
- Intelligence update of current insurgency operations;
- A training film on High Velocity Projectile Wounds (gunshot), Explosive Wounds (mines and booby-traps); based on the experiences of the US troops in South Vietnam;
- Roles of QRF, On call personnel and the Arms Co (Armoury Guard);
- Requirements for our contributions and employment of local personnel in laundry/boot-boy roles;
- Language and culture education when dealing with the locals;
- We conducted live fire training and zero of weapons (Including the first time firing of the Carl Gustaf. We were told that the reason we were able to shoot this was because we were on war service and therefore had a ammunition allocation. I had trained on this weapon in Australia but fired it for the first time in Malaysia.); and
- Jungle Combat Survival Training.

Danger

We were briefed that the Communist Insurgents were active in the northern states of Malaysia. That the Malaysian troops were in contact regularly and that we could expect that Butterworth Airbase would be a target for attack. We patrolled with live rounds and were required to secure the MQ and Airbase Main area. We believed we had a real threat that could result in an attack.

Expectation of Casualties

We were briefed on the expectation that casualties may occur. We practiced casualty evacuation drills and were trained on how to treat a casualty with saline bags. This had not occurred in Australia.

Training with the Malaysians

We did not conduct any training with the Malaysia Forces. We conducted training in the South at Paladar conducting Live Fire Range Practices and Jungle Training.

Actual tasks

We would be rostered on guard (24 hours), on call 24 hours and manning of the Armoury (24 hours). These duties were rotated between the 3 platoons on a weekly basis throughout our deployment. This included:

Guard Duty:

- Armed guard where irregular patrols were carried out throughout the 24-hour guard period;
- Call outs to a given area in response to the Duty Officer declaring an emergency (These were carried out without notice to keep us alert. No indication of real or trial callouts were given); and
- Upon arrival weapons remained at the loaded condition until ordered otherwise after assessment of the situation. We regularly went to Action as part of the call-out.

On-call QRF:

- Remain in our Barracks where we could be called out to react to an emergency;
- Armed; and
- Stepped up to become Guard when guard deployed on a call-out.

Armory:

- Manned 24-hours;
- Duties to issue firearms and ammunition to platoons if the call-out escalated.

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: GRAHAM ALBERT HAYES

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]