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3 May, 2022

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## Submission to Inquiry - Dr Craig David Ellery

### Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

**Name of Inquiry \***

Tribunal into Medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth

### Part 2 – About the Submitter

**Title or Rank \***

Dr

**Surname \***

Ellery

**Given Names \***

Craig David

**Postal Address \***

[REDACTED]

**Email Address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Primary Contact Number \***

[REDACTED]

**Secondary Contact Number**

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

Personal submission as part of the overall submission by the Rifle Company Butterworth Review Group.

### Part 3 – Desired outcome

**Provide a summary of your submission:**

My submission outlines the warlike nature of service with a Rifle Company at Butterworth Air Base during the Second Malaysian Emergency 1970-1989.

### Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: RCB-SERVICE-TESTIMONY-Craig-Ellery.doc

### 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.

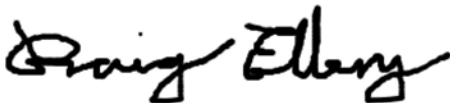
✓ I declare that the information I have provided is correct.

**Name**

Dr. Craig David Ellery

**Date**

03/05/2022 /

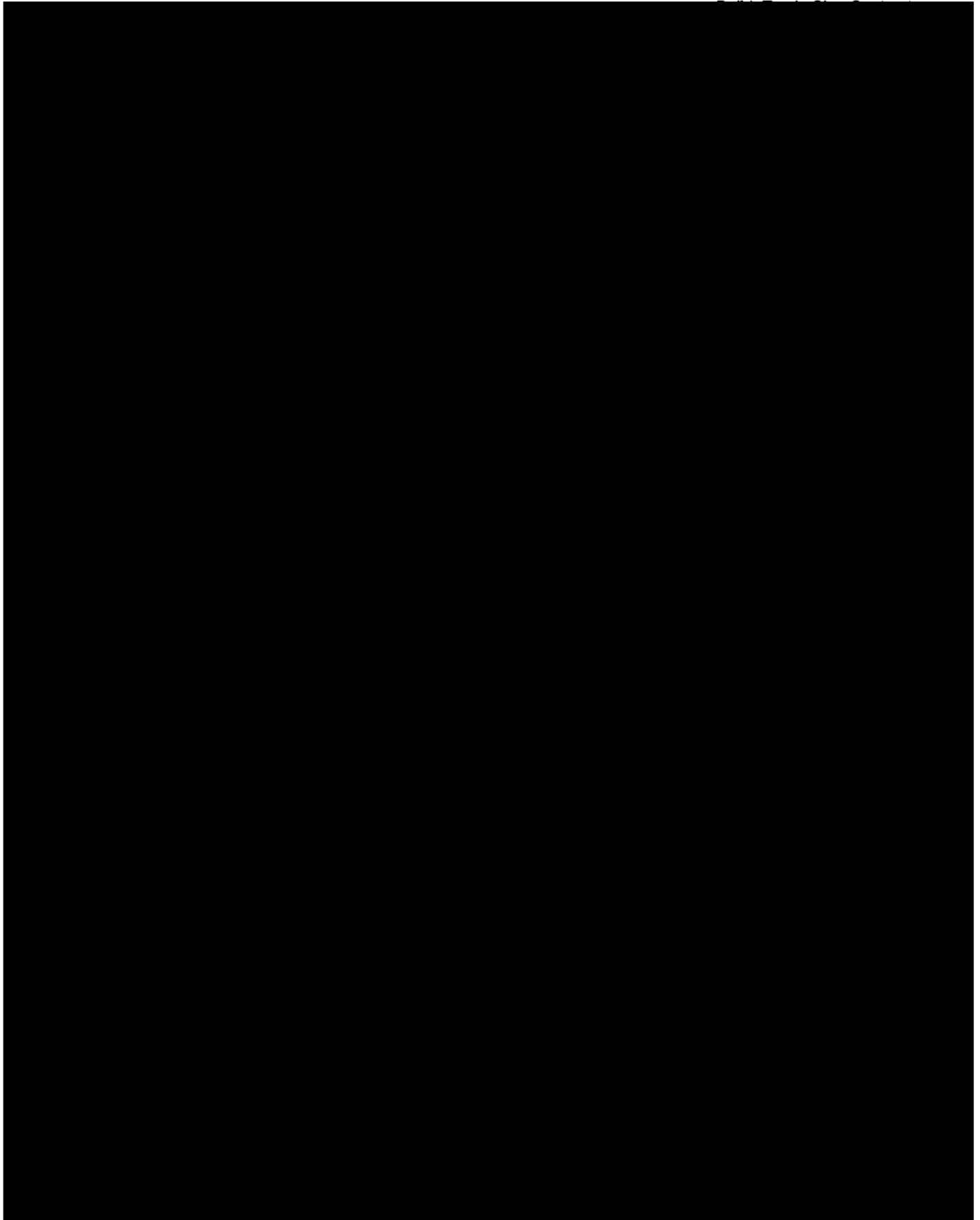
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Ellery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Signed by Dr Craig David Ellery

Signed on: 3 May, 2022

# Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Dr Craig David Ellery



# RCB SERVICE TESTIMONY

## RCB/RAAF Butterworth Service Summary

I served with 1 Platoon, A Company 1 RAR at Air Base Butterworth as a member of an Australian Rifle Company from February to June 1981. At the time, I was 226398 Private Craig David Ellery. My task was to carry and operate the GPMG M60. We carried two machine guns in our section, the GPMG and the Bren Gun. 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 Quick Reaction Force (QRF) duties, section machine guns were always deployed. First line ammunition for the Company was kept in the 'Arms Cote' and this was guarded by a picquet, twenty-four hours a day.

## Enemy

It was made crystal clear in a series of briefings by our Officer Commanding, Platoon Commander and Platoon Sgt that we were being sent to Butterworth to protect Australian personnel and assets there from an armed and cunning adversary. We were told and re-told in Australia about our 'Rules of Engagement' and the penalty for shooting non-CT Malays. We were also informed that we would be 'Whilst on War Service' and the severe consequences that could be expected of any breach of military or civilian law.

## Danger

I was certainly aware that our tour of RCB would be of a dangerous and warlike nature. This perception of peril started in Australia and was confirmed to me in the following instances in-country: Multiple callouts of a night whilst on QRF and carrying live ammunition. Guarding breaches in the wire alongside the Malay Handau with loaded weapons. Observing 'shot-up' Malay helicopters returning to Butterworth air base and having dead and wounded Malays removed from these aircraft. Seeing a Malay CT in the cells who was being sent to Kuala Lumpur for execution for breaking national security protocols by carrying ammunition. Watching Malay fighter bombers leave for sorties against the CTs during the night. Knowing that live ammunition was being carried during road convoys and during limited training stints outside of the Butterworth airbase.

## Expectation of Casualties

There certainly was an expectation of casualties and the possibility of 'contact' with CTs. We had endured a lengthy pre-deployment training period whilst still at Lavarack barracks, that included bayonet fighting, combat first aid lessons, navigation, intense physical fitness training and section and platoon formations and counter-enemy drills. In Malaysia, our readiness tempo had markedly increased from my service in Australia to include advanced first aid training, jungle navigation, living in the jungle, section drills, the use of non-section weapons, such as the Carl Gustav anti-armour weapon and section live fire attacks, which I had never experienced in Australia. All this intense training was obviously conducted for a purpose and that was for the eventuality of an attack on the airbase and our ability to meet that threat. Any attack would likely result in 'friendly' casualties, and this could also occur outside of the airbase due to booby traps and the long CT habit of ambushing civilians and the military. The only other time I encountered such realism and live firing training was when I served with the *Special Air Service Regiment*, primarily in the counter-terrorist Squadron from 1984-1989.

## Training with the Malaysians

I vaguely remember elements of our Company conducting a short exercise with the Malaysian army. A brief sports carnival followed. This was the only time we had anything to do with 'working' with the Malays. Ninety-five percent of our training was of a Company, Platoon or Section nature, which included training on the base, in the local area or at the Malay jungle training facility at Pulada.

**Actual tasks**

I am certain that I was deployed to Butterworth Air Base due to the on-going CT problem and the resurrection of the 'Emergency' in Malaysia. I remember my parents being very concerned with my deployment to the country; fresh in their minds was the first 'Emergency' and 'Confrontation'. The airbase conducted many air operations against the CTs and was undoubtedly a 'rich' target. In my opinion, and with hindsight, the Malay military and Handau were not of an adequate military standard that could be relied on to defend the airbase or respond in a fashion to ensure the safety and security of Australian personnel and assets. Therefore, our training, discipline and focus was of an operational, warlike nature. It was certainly clear in my mind that I may be called upon to shoot and or kill CTs to ensure the security of the base. Confirming in my mind the seriousness of the deployment was the mandatory necessity to have a Will. All those that didn't have a Will had to have one of these completed in Australia before deployment.

**State:** 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:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Telephone:** [REDACTED]

*Craig Ellery*

5 May 2022