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18 May, 2022

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Submission to Inquiry - MR / WO2 RETIRED Neville Jon Forsyth Warwick

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 RETIRED

Surname *

Warwick

Given Names *

Neville Jon Forsyth

Postal Address *

Email Address: *

Primary Contact Number *

Secondary Contact Number

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

No

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

I served at RCB Malaysia from Dec 1986 to March 1987, in the lead up to deployment we were required to ensure we were DP1 deployment fit for operational service ie: conduct all quick reaction force training prior to deployment including, operational readiness checks, including intelligence briefings on the current threat from the communist terrorist insurgency. We were issued with our OFOF Cards (Orders for Opening Fire), we were also required to conduct base patrols, with live ammunition and man a 24/7 guard rotation to protect the assets and Airbase. Whenever we left the base for any activities which included the upkeep of our skills in the jungle etc, we had to have live ammunition and be aware of the current threat potential form insurgents at that time. We were always briefed that the threat was ever present, and the base was sending sorties on a daily basis to conduct air operations against the communist terrorist threat. We conducted QRF Responses at the airbase for perceived high threat attacks based on current intelligence at the time, which included heightened security within the base. Armed patrolling and rules of engagement authorising lethal force can only mean one thing – we were on a combat footing. Any other conclusion denies the evidence. We were briefed that the CT could possibly attempt an isolated attack on or within the Base at any time. It was believed these 'isolated' attacks

could occur at 'any time' without advanced warning. Anticipated methods of attack included penetration of the base at night by one or more (up to 20) CTs, sabotage, booby traps, small arms fire or mortar attacks. Clearly, in relation to service at BAB, an armed enemy clearly existed. There was an 'objective danger'. Additionally, 'rational people in a disciplined armed service', were 'told there is an enemy' and that they were 'in danger'. There was an obligation placed on those in command to protect Australian assets and personnel. The only way this could be achieved was by providing security personnel ready to respond at a moment's notice. This is not the case in normal peace time situations. Australia was clearly involved in the insurgency. The facts are irrefutable. 1. Malaysia was fighting an internal war against communist insurgents. 2. CTs attacked military bases, police stations and other security force targets in Peninsular Malaysia. 3. The Communists were active in and around Province Wellesley. 4. Senior military officers had a clear expectation that Butterworth could come under attack from insurgents. There were no grounds to indicate that BAB would be spared from attack. 5. The types of attack clearly brought with them the expectation of casualties. 6. Australian forces were clearly involved in the insurgency.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached:

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

Neville Jon Forsyth Warwick

Date

18/05/2022 /



Signed by MR / WO2 RETIRED Neville Jon Forsyth
Warwick

Signed on: 18 May, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - MR / WO2 RETIRED Neville Jon Forsyth Warwick

