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26 May, 2022

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## Submission to Inquiry - Mr Christoph Berg

### Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

**Name of Inquiry \***

Rifle Company Butterworth - Medallic recognition

### Part 2 – About the Submitter

**Title or Rank \***

Mr

**Surname \***

Berg

**Given Names \***

Christoph

**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:**

Australian Army service in Butterworth to be recognised as being active. In other words 'operational' or 'warlike'. Award of appropriate medals, including the Pingat Jasa Malaysia for the 3 month tour of duty at Butterworth. Acknowledge the injustice done to Veterans arising from various government enquiries in years gone by that failed to recognise the role Australian Veterans fulfilled in Malaysia. Formally and properly apologise to Veterans affected for the denial of recognition and denigrating the service by classifying the service as training. Impress upon the Government of the need to address the injustices urgently due to many Veterans passing on with health issues.

### Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: 20220411\_Recognise-RCB-service-as-active\_C-Berg.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**

Christoph Berg

**Date**

26/05/2022 /

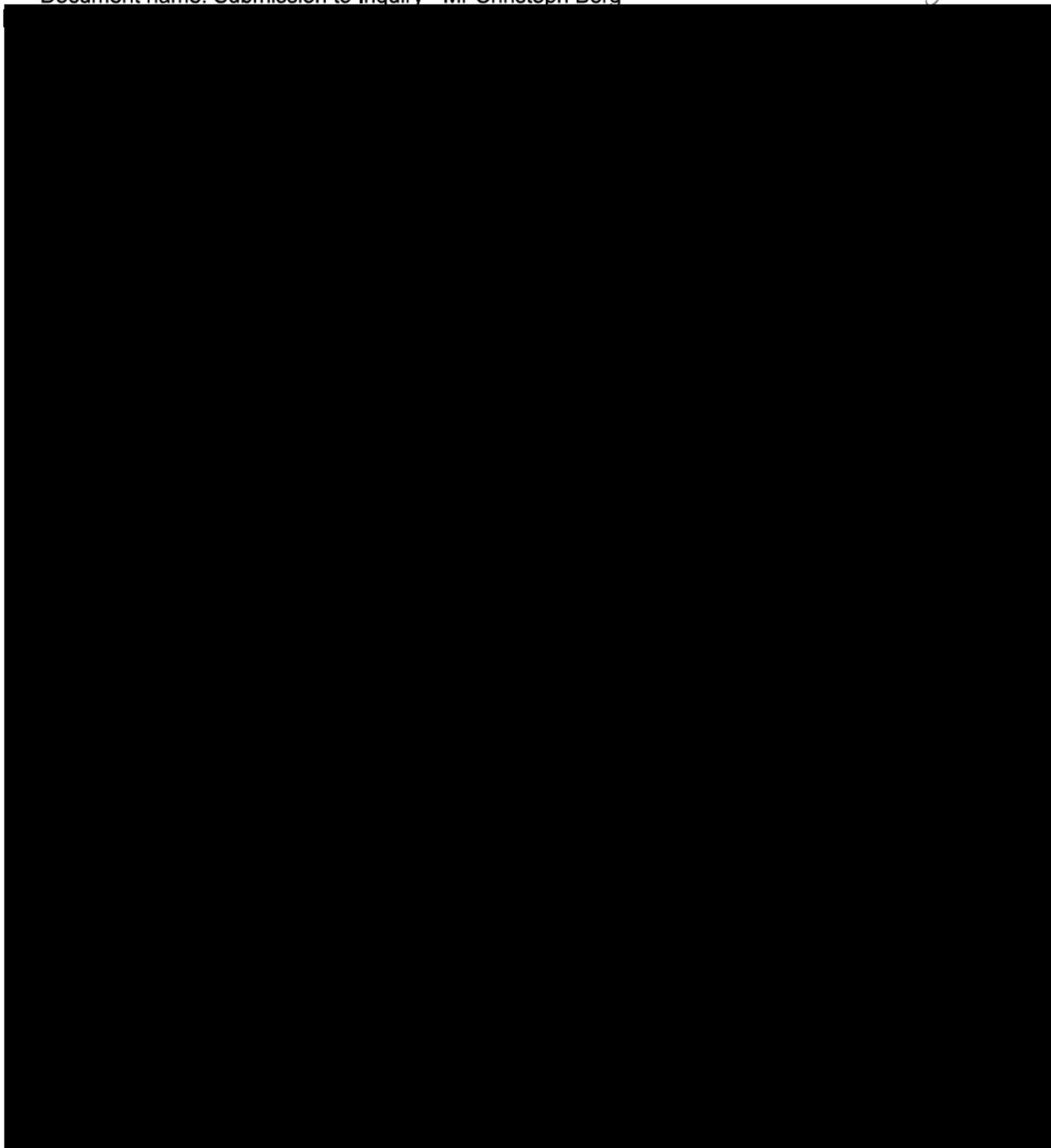
*Mr Christoph Berg*

Signed by Mr Christoph Berg

Signed on: 26 May, 2022

# Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr Christoph Berg



## **The case for the acknowledgment of Australian Army Rifle Company Butterworth service to be recognised as active service.**

Dear Tribunal Members,

I am writing to you to seek your support for Australian Army service in Butterworth to be recognised as being active. In other words 'operational' or 'warlike', given that we, as fully trained soldiers of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment were sent to Butterworth Air Base in Malaysia in 1981 to protect and defend Australian assets from communist terrorists.

Much has been written and argued about the role of the Australian troops at Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) and to this end I would like to reflect on the outcomes that were achieved for Australia and Malaysia; being that a lasting peace was declared in 1989, allowing Malaysia to focus on modernisation. It would be good for the community to be made aware of Australian contributions to nation building in Malaysia and accord genuine acknowledgement of the service of the members of the Australian Defence forces in those times.

The benefits of proper recognition and the expected publicity that should follow is that it serves to demonstrate Australia does not blindly follow the USA into conflicts. It sends a message to other countries that are currently expanding their territory against the principles of international laws and treaties that Australia has a long and proud history of meeting commitments to those treaties. Military co-operation between countries serves as an effective aid to grow diplomatic ties.

Australia continually meets the call for assistance in helping developing nations achieve their security objectives. In the late Eighties, Australia's standing and good relationships were arguably adversely affected by the actions of Dr Mahathir, in the South East Asian region. In correctly recognising the contribution of RCB troops, it can be held that Australia acted effectively to contribute to the security of Malaysia; thus being positive steps to assist in ongoing efforts to build and strengthen relationships with Malaysia. I believe a consequence of failing to award the correct decorations may send a message to Malaysia and other countries that Australia does not value the services of ADF members.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris BERG Ex Australian Army 1980-1986 (6 RAR & RAAOC)

Ph [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

