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8 June, 2022

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr Christoph Berg

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Rifle Company Butterworth correct recognition of service

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:

No

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 inquiries 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: 20220526_Testimony-of-C-Berg-RCB-Veteran.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

Christoph Berg

Date

08/06/2022 /

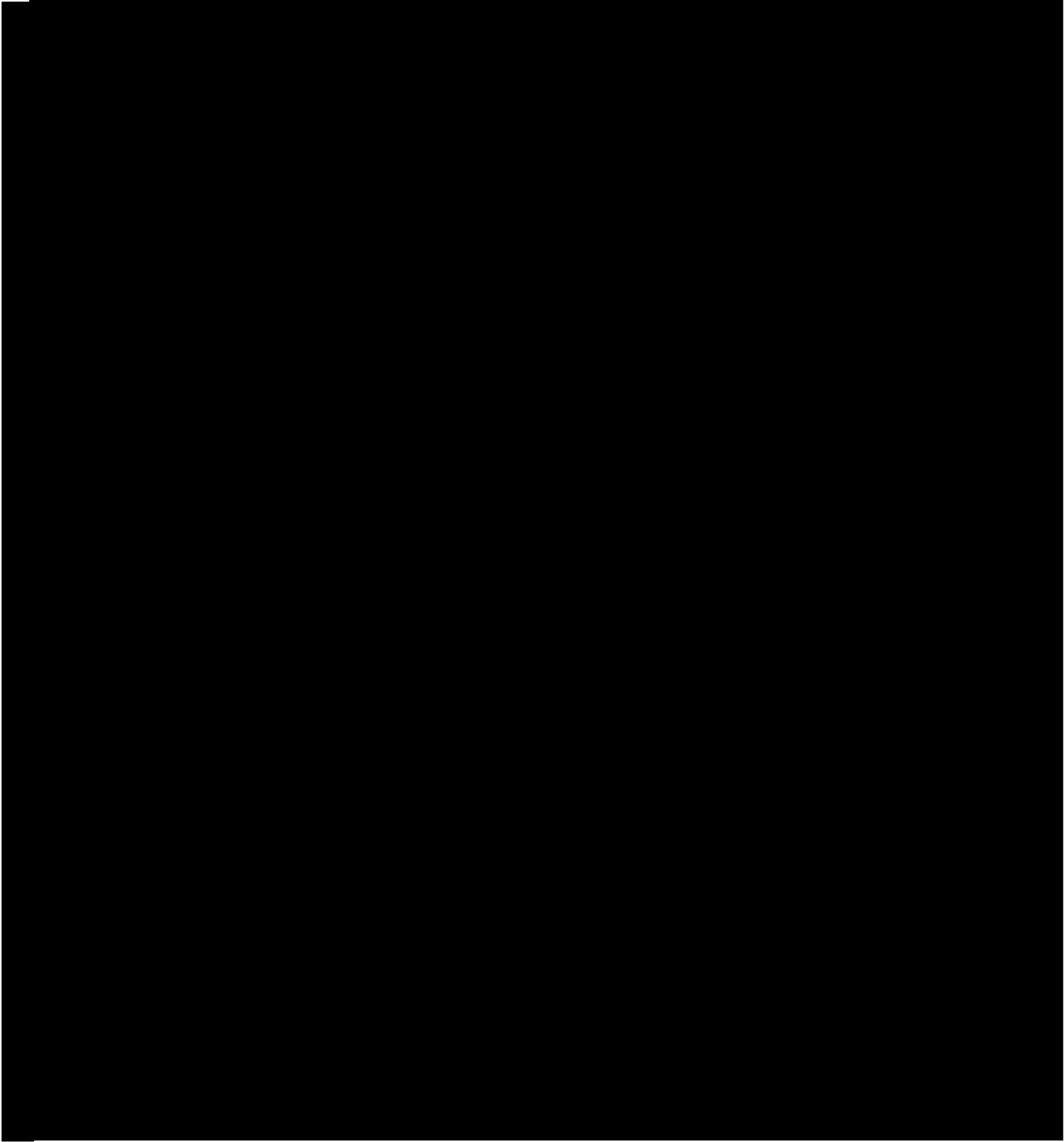
Mr Christoph Berg

Signed by Mr Christoph Berg

Signed on: 8 June, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr Christoph Berg



RCB SERVICE TESTIMONY of Christoph Berg

RCB/RAAF Butterworth Service Summary

I served with 4 Platoon, B Company 6 RAR at Air Base Butterworth as a member of RCB Sept to Dec 1981. At the time, I was 4401121 Private Christoph Schweinsberg. Platoon Commander was Lt Brownrigg. My primary task that of a rifleman. 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.

I shortened my name about 15+ years ago because no one could ever spell, 'Schweinsberg'.

Enemy

I remember being regularly told that there were communist terrorists in the district surrounding Butterworth Air Base. However exactly what the risk was of contact or danger was not really explained, other than that there was an active communist terrorist insurgency in the outlying provinces and jungles.

Danger

I have no recollection of exactly where the danger was or where it was coming from other than that there were communist terrorists out and about and whatever you do, don't go near the kampongs. So we only went to Georgetown and never alone. The passage of time has served to dull my recollections.

Expectation of Casualties

I am unable to comment on this criteria – I just do not have any recollection. But I believe there was always a heightened sense of awareness that enemy attacks could happen at any time... the risk of underlying hostile intent was always there.

But we did get lined up every fortnight to take Chloroquine to protect against malaria and then near the end of the deployment, we were given a worm treatment.

Training with the Malaysians

I never undertook any training with the Malaysians but we did get a demonstration of Malaysian Army use of military dogs. I provide photo evidence of this interaction. It was the Malaysians showing us what dogs they used to fulfill their operational activities. (see pic).

All I did was what rifle companies do when deployed to an operational air base which appeared to be to control the perimeters of the Base. That was the ready reaction truck which went around the inside of the perimeter each day, looking for break-ins or bad guys. We did get sent to Pulada to do a 3 day exercise in the jungle, including an ambush and there was additional training on the range with grenades. We also did training out in the rubber plantation in the Butterworth district for situational awareness.

Actual tasks

The passage of time makes it hard for me to answer this properly, but I believe I went to Malaysia to provide security for Air Base Butterworth and act as a deterrent for communists to leave ABB alone (and go for softer targets). We never went over there as peacekeepers. We went as a deterrent and a security force.

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), but my view may be of little use, because of the passage of time.

Christoph Berg

Email: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]



