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1 June, 2022

Signed On : <https://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au>

## Submission to Inquiry - Mr Les Smith

### Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

**Name of Inquiry \***

Medallic recognition for Rifle Company Butterworth

### Part 2 – About the Submitter

**Title or Rank \***

Mr

**Surname \***

Smith

**Given Names \***

Les

**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 submission hopefully will help the 2,000 remaining soldiers that were deployed on active service starting 52 years ago, to correct the wrong and the lie. If you have see the Whitton report, by H K Whitton, Public Sector Ethicos Consultant (Brisbane), you will have seen; \* Ministers failed to respect administrative law principles; \* Ministers failed to act in accordance with ministerial standards; \* APS officials failed to act in accordance with the 'APS' code and values, dated 24 September 2021 Also Commentry-RCB Nature of Service as Warlike by Lt Col Ted Chitham MC OAM (retd), dated 25 March 2022. All these documents were sent to Mr Gee September 2021, only to be told we will have another inquiry, it defies all logic how this can still be going on after all this time, with all the information available to everyone. If you do not have a copy of the Whitton report and the Nature of Service please inform me and I will forward a copy, Regards Les Smith.

### Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: RCB-Testimony-1.jpg

RCB-Testimony-2.jpg

RCB-Testimony-3.jpg

## 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**

Les Smith

**Date**

01/06/2022 /

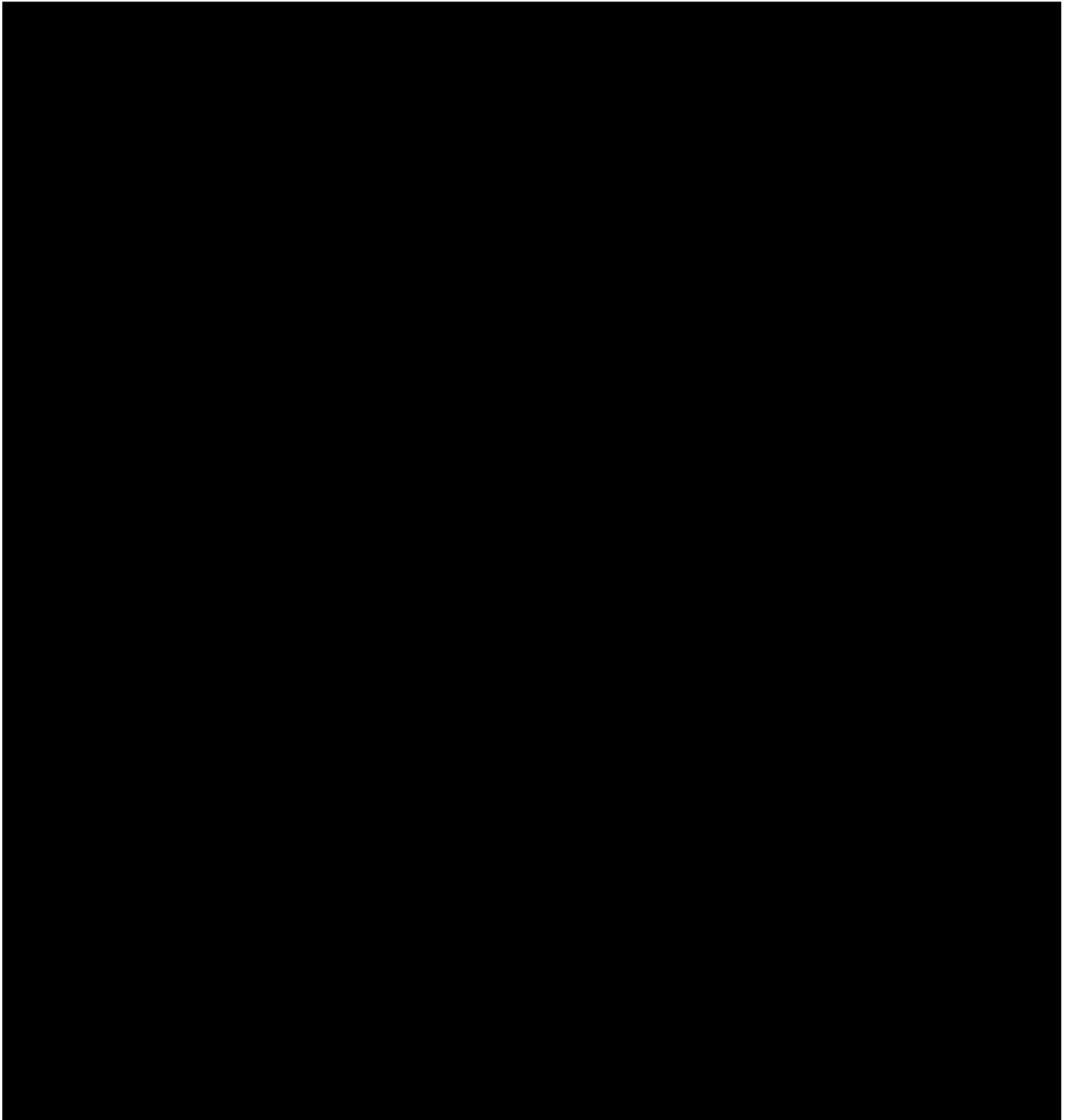


Signed by Mr Les Smith

Signed on: 1 June, 2022

# Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr Les Smith







## AUSTRALIAN RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

Good morning/afternoon, my name is Les Smith . I am a 20 year veteran of the Australian Defence Force, (Infantry).

As you all would be aware, The Second Malaysian Emergency/Communist Insurgency War began on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1968, with the Communist Party Malay/Communist Terrorist Organisation (CPM/CTO)'s terrorists run by CT leader Chin Peng. Almost two-thirds of Australian's fighter-bombers were based at Air Base Butterworth, (ABB) and vulnerable.

The commitment to the Vietnam War was vigorously opposed by the Opposition Labour Party who by 1970 had won support from many people and fostered marches throughout Australia against the war and conscription. Its 1972 election strategy was to see the end of conscription: end Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and the return of all troops deployed overseas.

RCB's operational deployment was authorised by the Australian Government



but not prescribed by the Governor General as an operational area at the time because of political sensitivities for both Australia and Malaysia.

The Governments line was to tell everyone that we were "training".

Between 1970 and 1989, Australia deployed 9,000 soldiers on a rotational bases, a period of 19 years until the signing of the peace treaty by Ching Peng (CT Leader) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1989, we currently have approximately 2,000 of us old diggers left.

My first deployment was from 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1975 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 1976, (97 days) and my second deployment was from 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1979 to 4<sup>th</sup> September 1979, (106 days). On both of my deployment's we were required to be DP 1 status (ready for combat in war), the same requirement as for Vietnam service.

Apart from being DP 1 we were trained to the highest physical standard possible, we were young and ready for what ever happened, we also had to have our Wills made out, as per being deployed on active service.

Before we were deployed we were warned of the treat from the Enemy and the possibility of casualties, we were also deployed with front line ammunition with second line ammunition in reserve.

On my first deployment with 6 RAR, we were required to lie in an ambush position all night with our weapons at the ready condition, (with live ammunition), around the back of the air field because of the possibility of the enemy gaining access to the base through the boundary fence. To say there was no treat is just not true, every one should read the book , "Battle Against Communist Insurgency in Peninsular Malaysia 1968-1989 published 2001".

With both of my deployment's, We never trained with the Malaysian Army as was stated be the Government for our reason for deploying,

The RCB deployment was a conventional combat operation; the defence of the RAAF assets in a Shared Defence Plan with the RMAF within ABB. Specifically , RCB's primary role, was a Quick Reaction Force, (QRF) to defend against an enemy attack.

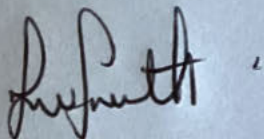
The fact that this has been going on for 32 years is unconscionable, in the 32 year's that the Rifle Company Butterworth Review Group (RCBRG) have been trying to right this wrong, we have lost 7,000 veterans, we have had inquiry after inquiry, Minister after Minister telling us to go away, nothing to see hear, the RCBRG having 200 Secret and 18 top secret documents saying it has all been a big lie.



I believe it is up to you to right this wrong.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say in this very important matter .

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).



Les Smith  
Ex Sergeant  
RCB D Coy 6 RAR 1975  
RCB B Coy 3 RAR 1979



1/5/22