



SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

This form must cover a submission to the inquiry

Name of Inquiry

Medallic Recognition for Service with Rifle Company Butterworth

About the Submitter

Title or Rank:

WGCDR (retired) 8147543

Surname:

Piers

Given Names:

Josef Anton

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Email Address:

[REDACTED]

Preferred contact number:

[REDACTED]

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

No

Desired Outcome

Any recognition of such service by Army would have to take in/include the Air Force Ground Defence Section/Operations Room personnel. That Section (I served there between 1979 - 1981 for 30 months) had a personnel strength inclusive of Ground Defence Officers and Airfield Defence Guards only of 2xOfficers and 3x Airmen. Standard Posting tour was between 24 to 30 months. That Section OIC was the conduit to task the Army Company (on behalf of the Base Commander) for any required operational task, and was the liaison for day to day activity as well as controlling ammunition and weapons storage. That Defence Section went regularly to potentially hostile, or dangerous areas, in the contested areas of Malaysia and the Thai border to obtain intelligence and status reports from Malaysian Police Field Force Kulim and to the Southern Border of Thailand, to Betong, to obtain operational information from the Thai equivalent of the Malaysian Field Force. The Army Company personnel remained at Butterworth for their main role as a QRF/other tasks as directed (one platoon on call) and the remainder on training, either on Base, or with the Malaysian Army in their training area south of KL. The Company also practised its role of providing additional Base Security during annual 5 Nation IADS Base Air Defence Exercises. The Defence Section conducted Army arrival and departure briefs, weapons control, ROE and incident tasking, including SAR, which may or may not include the Army Company and the RAAF Iroquois helicopters.

Provide a
summary of your
submission.

The Ground Defence Section Butterworth Staff would need to be included in any medallic recognition to the Army Company by the Tribunal, as the Section faced greater potential danger than the Army Company and over a longer period than 3 months. And the Base Commander C&C was done via the Ground Defence Section/Operations Centre for all Base required Security tasking. The Section was an integral part and more for, and of, any/all security situations.

Please attach your submission and any supporting documentation



Consent and Declaration

- 1 ☒ I **consent** to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available.

OR

- ☐ I **do not consent** to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available. My reasons are:

- 2 I also **consent** to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal:
- a. using information contained in my submission to conduct research;
 - b. providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation considered by the Tribunal to be appropriate;
 - c. providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation the subject of adverse comment in the submission; and
 - d. using content in my submission in its report to Government.

The Tribunal will decide which person or organisation is appropriate, and this may include:

- a. persons or organisations required to assist with the inquiry; and
- b. persons or organisations with an interest in the inquiry.

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

Signature:



Print name:

JA Piers

Date:

26 April 2022

Lodging your submission

Further information, including the inquiry's Terms of Reference can be found at www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au

Once you are satisfied with your submission, return this form and all supporting documents

By Post:

Defence Honours and Awards
Appeals Tribunal
Level 1, 5 Tennant Street, Fyshwick
Locked Bag 7765
CANBERRA BC ACT 2600

By Email:

dha.tribunal@defence.gov.au

If you wish to speak with someone regarding your submission phone **02 6266 1019**

**DEFENCE HONOURS & AWARDS
APPEALS TRIBUNAL**



From: Joe Piers

Sent: Tuesday, 26 April 2022 4:04 PM

To: DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au

Subject: FW: Submission-to-inquiry-Form.doc

Further to the above attachment – An Air Force Ground Defence Officer (GRDEFO), out of the 2 on posted strength, was required to be on 24 hour call to respond to any security incident, or operational task, as well as one of the ADG airmen for support purposes (armoury access/briefing requirements, establishing the alternate/back up HF communications and other support as and if required. The Section personnel would also be armed (if needed/required) with own access to individual weapons/ammunition, and would respond, as required, to any adverse or hostile incident or situation including evacuation or protection of off base military personnel in MQ and other Australian civilian staff in support to Butterworth. The RAAF Ground Defence Force is the equivalent of Air Force Infantry in training and weapon skills and the Force Protection role. The Section also conducted weapon training and field skill training to other Base staff as required, and conducted the overarching area operational tasking to the Army Company Commander for the Butterworth Force Protection and Air Base Defence role and Base personnel protection on and off Base in conjunction with Malaysian Air Force Security, Malaysian Infantry/Police Field Force, Butterworth Rifle Company and RAAF Police.

Yours

Joe Piers

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

NOA

I spoke on the phone to a DHA POC on this and some online issues of a signature. I advised that I would mail the current submission with this additional e-mail and that you would seek to do another online and send that by e-mail. I was advised that the context would help as required on the phone but my initial would be flagged as part of the hearing.

1

Joe Piers

1 Jun 2022