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Submission to Inquiry - Ex WO1 Stanley Leonard Hannaford

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Medallic Recognition for Service Rifle Company Butterworth 1970-1989

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Ex WO1

Surname *

Hannaford

Given Names *

Stanley Leonard

Postal Address *

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[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:

We request the following for RCB service in Malaysia 1970 – 1989: • Full entitlements under VEA. • The General Service Medal 1962 for service pre-14 Feb 1975. • AASM 1945/75 for service pre-14 Feb 1975 and the AASM for later service. • The Returned from Active Service Badge. • The Pinjat Jasa Malaysia Medal.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: My-Submission.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

Stan Hannaford

Date

11/06/2022 /

Ex WO1 Stanley Leonard Hannaford

Signed by Ex WO1 Stanley Leonard Hannaford

Signed on: 11 June, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Ex WO1 Stanley Le...



AUSTRALIAN RIFLE COMPANY



1970



1989

COMMUNIST INSURGENCY in MALAYSIA 1968 - 1989

SUBMISSION BY STAN HANNAFORD TO THE ENQUIRY INTO MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH 1970 – 1989.

BACKGROUND

From November 1974 to March 1975, I served as a machine gunner in 8 Section 6 Platoon B Company 8/9 Battalion RAR whilst this company was deployed to Butterworth Air Base (BAB) Malaysia.

We were told, besides securing protection for the two jet squadrons within the perimeter of the air base, the role of the RCB was to provide a quick-reaction force to meet the Communist Terrorist (CT) threat and be responsible for internal security within BAB and if required provide protection for RAAF families both at Butterworth and Penang Island.

To allow RCB to carry out these duties we were deployed on war service (WOWS) with Rules of Engagement (ROE). These ROEs for the RCB were specific on "Orders to Open Fire" if threatened and security was breached. To carry out this mission we patrolled the Air Base with section weapons and live ammunition day and night.



Private SL Hannaford with section machine gun 7.62 Bren Gun ready to mount ready action duty Butterworth Air Base 1974

ENEMY

As the prime role of the RCB was to provide a quick-reaction force to meet the Communist Terrorist (CT) threat and also to protect and defend the BAB we had no doubt that the enemy threat was real. We were constantly briefed by our section commander (a veteran of Malay Peninsula, Borneo and 2 tours of Vietnam) prior to mounting duty and all callouts/clearing patrols were treated as real threats. During my tour of duty, it was common knowledge that the Royal Malay Armed Forces (RMAF) were using BAB as an operational transit and staging area for operations against the CT.

The fact that RCB was providing a secure base for the RMAF to operate from in their war against the CT made us part of Malaysia's war against the Communist Insurgency.

DANGER

As soldiers, we had no doubt we were on active service and the CT were our enemy and they would attack, we must be prepared to defend ourselves. This was drummed into us on the whole tour of duty.

We were fully aware of the CT situation across Malaysia, especially in the Northern sector where the air base is located and there was a definite threat to the air base.

I experienced a situation personally one afternoon whilst on stand down and walking outside the air base wire perimeter along the adjacent road, when suddenly a small convoy of fully armed Malaysian Infantry mounted on trucks came to an abrupt stop and the soldiers immediately performed a cordon and search operation on the nearby kampong. The soldiers did a sweep through the village I heard shots and screaming my first reaction was to take cover in a nearby monsoon drain and make my way back to the main gate to my unit inside the wire where I informed my section commander. Next day we were told the Malay soldiers had shot two CT and taken more prisoner. This nearby kampong was known to the Malays as being sympathetic to the CT.

EXPECTION of CASUALTIES

There was an expectation of casualties as would be expected on any war like operation. We were trained how to deal with this also strengthened by extra first aid training prior to deploying and extra medics than normal for a rifle company.

TRAINING WITH THE MALAYS

Even though the RCB deployments were disguised to the Australian public as overseas training and not the real role, training with the MAF was not possible for either side the RCB were far too busy performing their role protecting BAB and the Malays being on active service and committed to fighting the CT were also unavailable for training exercises.

ACTUAL TASKS

We had no doubt as to why we were deployed to Butterworth, that was to provide a quick ready reaction force to protect Australian assets and personnel from any communist terrorist attack on the air base. To allow us to carry out this role we patrolled the air base with section weapon's and live ammunition day and night.

Prior to going out on these patrols the section was fully briefed and given specific rules of engagement along with reaction plans.

The above situation was reinforced by the fact there were two fully armed RAAF fighter planes on operational readiness parked on the tarmac. These

aircraft were shown to us on day one of our tour and we were told that they were part of the RAAF ready reaction force. These jets remained on standby for the duration of my tour.

WARLIKE SERVICE

RCB Veterans from this period have no doubt that their service met all the criteria required for Warlike Service and have stood by for over 50 years and seen what they consider lesser deserving deployments gain full recognition including Warlike Service.

Having personally been involved in this fight for RCB recognition for over 30 years and a foundation member of the Rifle Company Butterworth Review Group (RCBRG), now with the acquisition of many revealing documents (submitted to the DHAAT by the RCBRG) that we never had access to in previous years to support our case, RCB service 1970 – 89 clearly meets the criteria for Warlike Service.

MALAYSIAN SERVICE

On my many visits to the Malaysian Embassy in Canberra and speaking with the Defence Advisors posted there seeking their opinions on what they refer to as The Second Malaysian Emergency and RCB service there during the period.

The reaction from them is “what is wrong with your government, why won’t they accept there was a Second Emergency, Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) were on Active Service during the period and the simple fact RCB were deployed to protect the Air Base, which we the MAF were using as a base to carry out operations against the enemy made RCB part of this war”.

The Second Malaysian Emergency/Communist Insurgency 1968 -1989 is clearly documented in the book by the Malaysian Defence “The Malaysian Army’s Battle Against Communist Insurgency in Peninsular Malaysia 1968 – 1989” of which a copy was presented to me by the Chief of Army Malaysia in 2008 with the following inscription “in appreciation of your (RCB) brave involvement in the conduct of the fight in particular during the early 1970’s”.

On the 50th anniversary of RCB, the Malaysian CDF officially thanked RCB for its service at Air Base Butterworth:

“Your presence and sacrifice here on Malaysian soil in protecting RMAF Butterworth Air Base during the resurgence of the communist insurgency in 1970 – 89 was a remarkable contribution and has always been a highlight of your presence here”.

Malaysian Government has issued the Pinjat Jasa Malaysia Medal (PJM) to their defence members who served on Active Service against the CT during the period 1968 – 89.

I was advised by them to personally apply to the Malaysian Defence Department via the Defence Advisor in Canberra for the PJM for my RCB service and my application would be recommended by them for further action by Malaysia Defence. This would open the gates for all RCB veterans to receive the PJM.

My application was not rejected however it became too political as the Malaysians did not want to be seen getting involved with our fight for recognition, and suggested that we the RCB veterans apply to our government to request the Malaysian government to extend the qualifying period for the PJM to cover the period 1970-89 and it would certainly be looked upon favourably by them.

CONCLUSION

Cost should not be a consideration, however from correspondence received over the years from various politicians we know this is a major factor.

The cost to grant RCB Veterans warlike service would be minimal, as all have entitlement under the VEA regardless.

Many have qualifying service, those without also have VEA access to TPI/ Gold Card for defence caused and accepted disabilities.

The number of RCB veterans affected is quoted at 9,000. This is incorrect, as this figure takes the overall number of soldiers deployed during the 19 years, of the Communist Insurgency. It does not take in multiple tours and veterans with qualifying service for the entire period 1970 - 1989. The actual figure without qualifying service living today would be closer to 1,500 and a large percentage of these already have TPI and or Gold Card and access to Centrelink benefits.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING

We request the following for RCB service in Malaysia 1970 – 1989:

- Full entitlements under VEA.
- The General Service Medal 1962 for service pre-14 Feb 1975.
- AASM 1945/75 for service pre-14 Feb 1975 and the AASM for later service.
- The Returned from Active Service Badge.
- The Pinjat Jasa Malaysia Medal.

I am prepared to give this and further oral evidence if given the opportunity personally or by phone if requested.



Stan Hannaford
Ex 1204780 Warrant Officer Class One



6 June 2022

B Company 8/9 RAR RCB 1974/75



8 Section 6 Platoon B Company 8/9 RAR Gun Group RCB Malaysia December 1974.

