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17 June, 2022

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr Liam James Shanley

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

INQUIRY INTO MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WITH RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr

Surname *

Shanley

Given Names *

Liam James

Postal Address *

[REDACTED]

Email Address: *

[REDACTED]

Primary Contact Number *

[REDACTED]

Secondary Contact Number

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

No

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

I was deployed with B company 6 RAR to Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) from August 30 through to November 29 of 1978. My role during the deployment was section machine gunner of 5 section, 5 platoon. My personal weapon was the GPMG M60, with the other section members carrying their personal weapons which included the SLR, M16 and M203 weapons. Other, heavier weapons, which included the Carl Gustaf 84mm recoilless rifle and the M79 grenade launcher were available and stored in the nearby armskote. Prior to deploying to RCB we were told our primary role was to provide a quick reaction force (QRF) in the event of an attack on the Butterworth airbase by Communist Terrorist insurgents who were known to be active in Malaysia at the time. Preparing for deployment involved reinforcing the company with other army elements including a sniper group, intelligence, medical, engineers and other military specialist personnel. While being on QRF duty as an infantry section, we were fully armed with our section weapons which included live ammunition. We were position in the duty room with our response vehicle nearby. I personally carried 100 live rounds, with my number two carrying additional rounds. I clearly recall undertaking at least two randomly timed turnouts in a twenty four hour period, usually once during daylight hours and then again at night. Presumably this was in order to maintain and sharpen our skills edge. I Believe RCB service meets the qualifying criteria for warlike service, both at the time and currently, for a number of reasons; Namely, the need to have a fully armed quick

reaction force in the first instance. If there was no threat, there would be no need for a QRF. Also, recently released government documents indicate that previous governments consciously decide to mask the deployment of ADF personnel to Butterworth Airbase as "training" in order to avoid public backlash. I believe those eligible personnel deployed to RCB are entitled to the following: 1. Qualifying service for VEA entitlements, and have the Butterworth Airbase declared under the Defense Act an active service area, 2. Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) with clasp Malaysia, 3. Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB).

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached:

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

Liam Shanley

Date

17/06/2022 /

Mr Liam James

Shanley

Signed by Mr Liam James Shanley

Signed on: 17 June, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr Liam James Shanley

