



SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

This form must cover a submission to the inquiry

Name of Inquiry: INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL TO RECONSIDER MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH (RCB)

About the Submitter

Title or Rank: MR (J.P-RETIRED)

Surname: DUTHIE

Given Names: KENNETH DOUGLAS

Postal Address: [REDACTED]

Email Address: N/A

Preferred contact number:
 Mobile: [REDACTED]
 Home or other: [REDACTED]

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

Desired Outcome

Provide a summary of your submission.

THAT APPROPRIATE MEDALLIC RECOGNITION (AASM - BUTTERWORTH/MALAYSIA) BE GIVEN FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT WERE STILL IN EFFECT 1973 ONWARDS (MALAYSIAN GOVT REFERRED TO IT AS THE 3RD COMMUNIST PUSH.

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:

K. D. DUTHIE J.P. (Retired)

Print name:

K. D. DUTHIE J.P. (RETIRED)

Date:

15th JUNE 2022 (RE SUBMIT FROM MAY 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 Tribunal
 Level 1, 5 Tennant Street
 Locked Bag 7765, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

RE: INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL TO RECONSIDER MEDALLIC RECOGNITION
 FOR RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH (RCB) - SUBMISSION BY
 KENNETH DOUGLAS DUTHIE

Service Details at time of Deployment:

44067 CPL K.D. DUTHIE RA INF/RAR

SECTION COMMANDER

A Company 8RAR (Amalgamation Butterworth Oct 73 to 8/9RAR)
 Deployed to Malaysia Late July 1973 until Oct 1973.

On arrival at RCB Butterworth Malaysia, we settled in on the first day and given an orientation of area of operation.

Day two, we were taken to the base theatre (RAAF) where we were briefed by the Senior RAAF Base Butterworth Commander, during his brief which covered safety and Rules of Engagement.

The base Commander stated during his brief that the CT's (Communist Terrorists) were still active and a threat to the base aircraft and personnel. Our role was ready reaction company and whilst on guard duty, patrol of the designated areas we were armed.

Over the period of deployment, there were two (2) incidents that occurred in which I was involved, other section commanders have their own incident reports.

At the time of our deployment we as a company were required to maintain our training skills.
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1. On a range shoot at Selambang Rifle Range at Alor Star (near Thai/Malay Border), one of our soldiers (A' Coy) became ill with a breathing problem. I was given the task of transporting/escorting the ill soldier back to Butterworth at night by truck. There was the driver, medic, soldier (patient) and myself. This move at night we were armed and I rode shotgun in the cabin along with the driver, medic & patient in the back.

During the trip back, driving through a Kampong (village) a shot was fired from within the Kampong, the driver accelerated on command and the speedometer mileage reading recorded. The civilian population of Malaysia at this time were not allowed to possess fire arms of any form or description.

On arrival at RCB Butterworth we took the patient to the base hospital, the medic, driver and myself reported back to the duty room. SSGT Bevan Heathcote secured our weapons and ammunition in the armoury until the next morning. A report of the incident was given to the Duty Officer and SSGT Heathcote (CpMS), this was to my knowledge recorded in the duty log with all relevant details, this information was to be passed to the Senior RAAF Base Commander.

2. In our time at RCB, we as a were activated, recalled from leave or any other activity we doing at the time. We were issued weapons, ammunition and briefed on a aircraft hijacking. As a company we were required to deploy to either side of the tarmac in a defensive role, the Malaysian Special Forces would address the issue of aircraft boarding should the plane land. The aircraft changed direction and landed at an alternate airport instead of our military base.

Maj Gen D.B Dunstone, the then C.O.C. Field Force Command visited the base to check on the troops, their role and training, he also over looked our change from 8RAR to the amalgamated 8/9RAR. Maj Gen Dunstone was advised of events that had occurred whilst A Company was there on deployment. Anytime leave was approved at RCB Butterworth, we were advised to be aware of our surrounding & personnel if we went to George Town Penang. For our own safety we were advised to travel in pairs because of the CT's activity.

Lt Col Mike Dennis MBE (Retired/Deceased), submitted a comprehensive report on RCB Butterworth Malaysia before he passed away. My data was presented to him and included in that report.

On the strength of the RAAF Base Butterworth Commander advising us of the CT's activity and ongoing threat, the base, personnel and aircraft were always on alert.

Consideration of the awarding of the ARSM with Clasp (Butterworth or RCB Malaysia) must be reconsidered.

Yours Sincerely

Ken Duthie J.P. (Retired)
(KEN DUTHIE J.P. RETIRED)

Mobile [REDACTED]