



SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

This form must cover a submission to the inquiry

Name of Inquiry	Inquiry into medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company
	Butterworth 1970 - 1989

About the Submitter

Title or Rank:	PRIVATE
Surname:	LOVETT
Given Names:	GEORGE THOMAS
Postal Address:	[Redacted]
	[Redacted]
Email Address:	[Redacted]
Preferred contact number:	Mobile: [Redacted]
	Home or other:
Is the Submission on behalf of an organisation? If yes, please provide details:	Personal

Desired Outcome

Provide a summary of your submission.	I firmly believe that service at Air Base Butterworth with Rifle Company Butterworth was warlike in nature due to the threat element that existed.
	I humbly request the honorable Tribunal to give consideration to the attached submission which clearly supports my view.

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:

George Lovett

Date:

27/05/2022

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**



Military Service .

Australia.

I served my time in the Australian Army as a National Serviceman having been conscripted in September 1971. After 3 months of Recruit training ,I underwent another 3 months of intensive Infantry training at the infantry Training school located in Singleton NSW where I later qualified as a Rifleman ECN3.

In March 1972 I was selected as part of a small group of reinforcements to join Delta Company 6TH Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (D.Coy 6RAR) who were located in Singapore and who formed part of the tri nation 28 ANZUK Brigade.

I deployed to join 6RAR in May 1972 but not before undertaking pre deployment procedures with 7RAR located in Holsworthy NSW having reached DP1 Standard as a fully trained soldier suitable for deployment overseas.

Singapore / Malaysia.

Although 6RAR were located in Singapore, they carried out counter insurgency training in the south of Malaysia at both at the Jungle Warfare Training facility at Kotta Tingi and in the State of Johor in primary and secondary jungle environments .We were lectured on the possibility of encountering mines and or booby traps during these military Exercises¹.

Throughout 1972 , 6RAR also rotated its Rifle Companys through Butterworth Air Base as the Protective Security Company.

Typically the composition of a Rifle Company comprised – 3 Rifle Platoons of 30 men in each platoon with each platoon broken down into 3 sections.

At the time when Gough Whitlam became Prime Minister in December 1972, our Commanding Officer briefed the National Servicemen who remained with 6RAR on our options to remain with the Battalion. At the same time he advised the ones who were rotating through Butterworth in the upcoming January rotation that he was in communication with those above him to have the service at Butterworth formally recognised due to the threat.

Butterworth Air Base.

Delta Company -6RAR rotated through Butterworth Air Base in January 1973. Prior to deployment we were briefed on the Threat that existed at Butterworth and the Rules of Engagement. Throughout December 1972 we trained extensively on patrolling techniques to be used when at Butterworth.

Upon arrival at Butterworth on the 14th January 1973 we were briefed by an Officer on the Base Defence Plan and the threat situation. The Company settled into accommodation in basic huts which housed from memory 10 at a time.

Duties.

Each platoon of 30 infantry soldiers comprised 3 sections of 10 each who rotated as the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) with one section of 10 men always at the ready to respond to an attack or incursion against the air base. Another section was held in standby mode and the other section involved in perimeter patrols commencing at 1600 hours until 0.630 the next morning. Another platoon carried out sentry duties guarding Vital Points and the remaining platoon carried out training commensurate with the duties. We were kept in a constant state of readiness.

Perimeter patrols were carried along the southern and eastern boundary against the airbase lit up background. Patrols were carried out in pairs of two with one forward and one back. External to the air base was a rice paddy and kampong villages concealed by the darkness of night.

We were under no illusions about encountering communist terrorists when at Butterworth and were fully prepared to meet and respond to any threat. The extensive counter insurgency training we received in the south of Malaysia during military exercises placed us in a position to respond effectively.

During my time at Butterworth, I am not aware of any incidents involving a breach of security by the communist terrorists notwithstanding it was not uncommon to be called out during the midst of night when doing QRF duty to respond and run the length of the airstrip only to be stood down after being ordered to take up a defensive position.

I recall the first time when doing a perimeter patrol, it was night time and prior to commencing the patrol, the other person with me was a Vietnam veteran who advised me to hit the ground immediately if we came under attack. He explained that we had no cover and stood out against the lit up background of the air base. As I looked around towards the middle of the air field I could see an RAAF dog handler patrolling the air strip with the dog on a lead. He also stood out against the lit up background. Looking back now, it was a reality check for me and despite all of the training, initially I felt very nervous.

I firmly believe that service at Butterworth Air Base was warlike in nature due to being briefed on the threat and being placed in a position to respond to the threat if required.

I am prepared to give this and possible further oral evidence if given the opportunity to appear before an independent inquiry (by telephone).

Name: George Lovett

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Telephone: Mobile. [REDACTED]