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24 June, 2022

Signed On : <https://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au>

Submission to Inquiry - Major (Retired) John Alexander Danaher

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 *

Major (Retired)

Surname *

Danaher

Given Names *

John Alexander

Postal Address *

Email Address: *

Primary Contact Number *

Secondary Contact Number

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

This submission is not on behalf of an organisation.

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

I was attached to the Malaysia Army's Pulada Camp, Johor State, Malaysia for then period 23 Sep - 10 Dec 85. As part of that attachment I was briefed that the Malaysian security forces were in armed conflict with the Malaysian Communist Party (MCP), during the above period I undertook training and exercises with the Malaysian Army, for all activities outside of the camp I carried a personal weapon and live ammunition. On occassions during the attachment, I commanded a full Malaysian Rifle Company. During my attachment the Communist Terrorist threat remained ongoing and as such I and my Malaysian colleagues took all reasonable precautions regarding the threat. Based on my experience I have submitted that the those that served with the Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) served in similar circumstances to my attachment and as such their service should be recognised with an Australian Active Service Medal.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: 316958-J.-Danaher-Submission-in-Support-AASM-RCB-.pdf

J.-Danaher-Malaysian-Company-Commanders-Course-.pdf

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

John Danaher

Date

24/06/2022 /

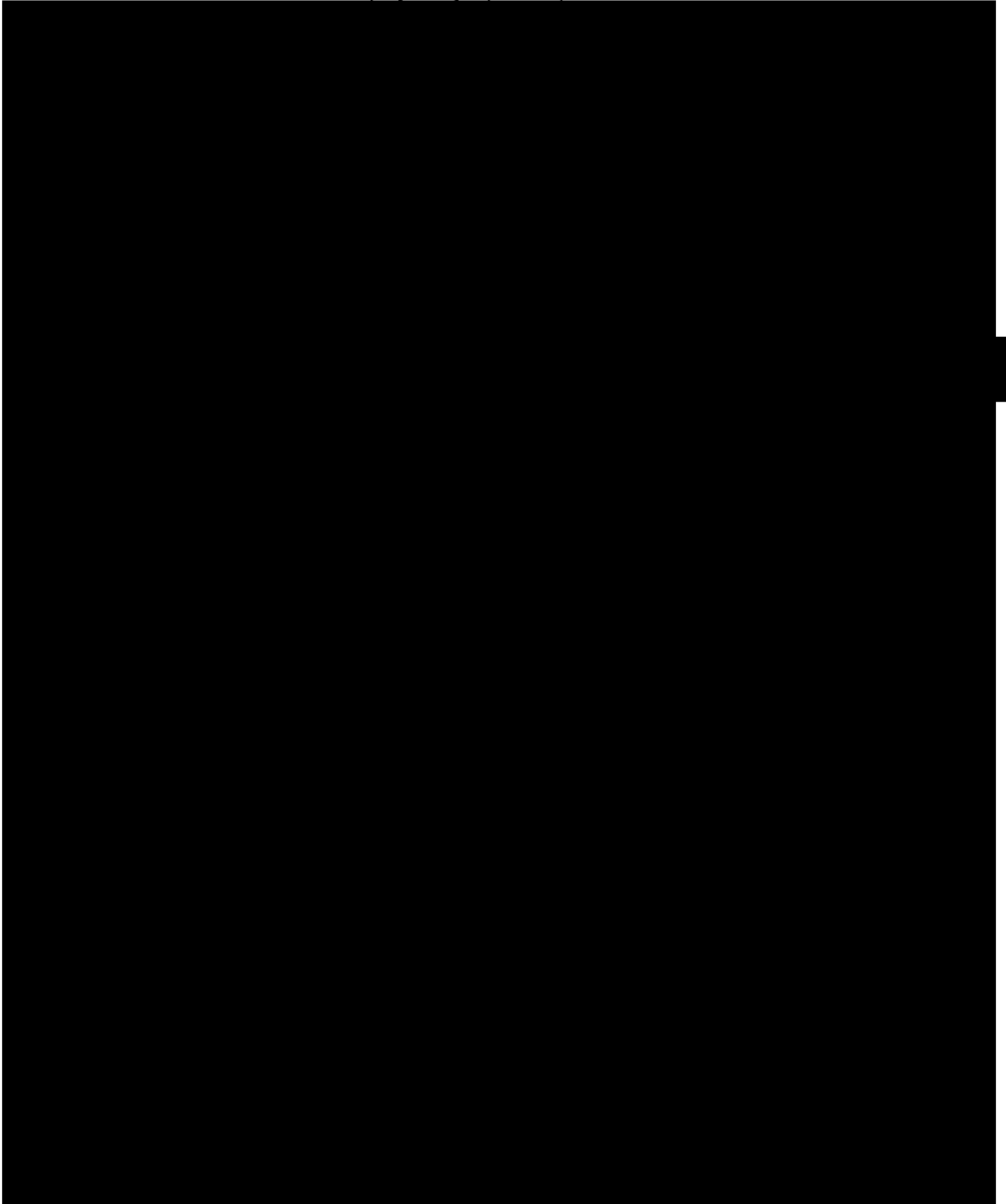
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Alexander Danaher', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Signed by Major (Retired) John Alexander Danaher

Signed on: 24 June, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Major (Retired) John Alexander Danaher



Submission by 316958 J.A. Danaher

Inquiry into Medallion Support for Service with Rifle Company Butterworth

Background

I served with the Australian Army in the period Jan 1974 until discharge in 1998, I graduated from OCS Portsea in Dec 74 and was allocated to RA Inf, my service included two postings to 3RAR (Platoon Commander and Intelligence Officer), 10 IRC Canungra (Battle Wing), DSU Melbourne, Melbourne University Regiment, 2/4 RAR (Company Commander ODF), Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA), Queenscliff, RMC Duntroon, Australian Embassy Staff Washington (SO2 TRG), my final posting was as the Career Advisor Infantry at SCMA.

I did not serve with the Rifle Company Butterworth, but as a Captain I had personal experience with the Malaysian Army by attending the 3/85 Company Commanders Course, conducted at the Company Commander's Wing at Pulada Camp, Johor State, Malaysia. The course dates were 23 Sep 85 to 10 Dec 85 inclusive.

I had previously attended the 1/85 Regimental Officers Advanced Course (RAOC – Company Commanders Course) in the period 3 Feb – 22 Mar 85 at the School of Infantry at Singleton. My attendance at the 3/85 Company Commander's Course was as part of a Training Command activity, to my knowledge I was the first Australian to attend the Malaysian Army's Company Commander's Course. As I was already qualified as a Company Commander, my attendance on the Malay Course focused on representing the ADF and assessment of the Malaysian Army.

On arrival in Malaysia, I was met and briefed by the Army Attaché, Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur.

On arrival at Pulada I was issued with Malaysia Army Field Equipment along with Malaysia Field Uniforms.

The Program

The course included two Field Force Police, one Civilian (Malaysian Ministry of Defence), one RMR Major and thirty Malaysian Captains (RMR, RENJER and Commando) and me.

An initial briefing to the course (conducted on day 2, 24 Sep 85) outlined the Communist Terrorist (CT) threat level, which included an intelligence assessment as to the estimated number by district and state of active CT in Malaysia at the time. The briefing outlined that the threat was ongoing and real and that all possible precautions should be taken in relation to the threat both inside and outside the camp. The Malaysian security forces were involved in an armed conflict with the Malaysian Communist Party (MCP).

Based on the assessed threat, all course members carried a personal weapon (M16) and live ammunition for all activities outside the camp.

These activities included, individual and small group navigation exercises, reconnaissance, TEWT's, physical assessments (which included 5 & 10-mile timed test with equipment) as well as the end of Phase 1 (Conventional Warfare) and Phase 2 (CIW) Exercises with troops.

Live ammunition was issued to each participant for each activity conducted outside of the camp. The Malaysian Army treated the CT threat very seriously and therefore live ammunition was issued to me and all participants.

The course was broken into two phases, Phase 1 - Conventional Warfare, 23 Sep – 16 Nov 85, Phase 2 – Counter Insurgency Warfare (CIW), 18 Nov – 10 Dec 85. After completing the instructional part of each Phase, the Course linked up with a Malaysian Rifle Company and conducted a weeklong “exercise” to practise that Phase of the course that saw students command various levels of the Rifle Company. This meant that participants were placed in various levels of Command through-out the Company from Company Commander to Section Command Positions.

The CIW Phase of the Course was excellent with the following subjects being taught, TEWT’s conducted and then practised and assessed during the end of Phase exercise:

- a. Fire Support Bases,
- b. Air Mobile Operations,
- c. Search and Destroy Operations,
- d. Company Area Ambush, and
- e. Attack on an Enemy Communist Terrorist Camp.

The training and Phase 2 Exercise experienced by the Course was entirely consistent with the initial briefing and CT threat assessment given at the start of the course. The Malaysian Security forces were involved in an ongoing armed conflict.

The subject matter throughout the CIW Phase was a clear indication that the enemy threat was active in 1985.

In late 1985 Australian Students also attended a tactics and survival course at Pulada Camp. I believe that a small number of other Infantry Captains attended the Malaysian Company Commanders Course in 1986 and 1987.

My experience in late 1985 provides a separate insight to the service by Australian Army personal in Malaysia in the 70’s and 80’s. Those that served with Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) did so as part of an armed conflict in Malaya (1968-1989) between the Malaysian Communist Party (MCP) and the Malaysian security forces. As such I submit that those that served with RCB in Malaysia during this period did so as part of that armed conflict and that Medallic recognition with an Australian Active Service Medal should therefore be approved.

I submit that my service and similar service by others in Malaysia during the period of armed conflict also be recognised with an Australian Active Service Medal.

John Danaher



663 6683

Melbourne University Regiment
65 Grattan Street
CARLTON VIC 3053

14 Aug 85

R84-D-2

MCO
MELBOURNE

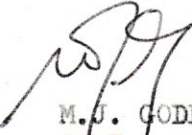
MALAYSIAN ARMY COMPANY COMMANDERS COURSE
15 SEP - 9 DEC 85

Reference:

A. Telecon MAJ R. Margetts DINF/CAPT Danaher of
13 Aug 85

1. 316958 CAPT J. Danaher of MUR is to be panelled as
a student on the above course.

2. It is requested that he be furnished with an official
passport due to the nature of his duties in Malaya.



M.J. GODFREY
CAPT
ADJT