

SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

This form must cover a submission to the inquiry

Name of Inquiry	Medallic recognition for service by the Rifle Company Butterworth
	for the RAAF Police Dog Handlers to be considered.

About the Submitter

Title or Rank:	Mr (retired RAAF WOFF)
Surname:	Thomas
Given Names:	Raymond George
Postal Address:	[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:	Royal Australian Air Force Dog Handlers Association

Desired Outcome

Provide a summary of your submission.	The men and women veteran RAAF Police Dog Handlers are asking if the Tribunal will consider whether these Australian veterans should also receive the Australian Active Service Medal for their deployment to Malaysia and Singapore from 1971 to 1989 in conjunction with the Rifle Company Butterworth.

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:


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Print name:

Raymond George Thomas
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Date:

27th June 2022
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## Lodging your submission

Further information, including the inquiry's Terms of Reference can be found at **[www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au](http://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](mailto:dha.tribunal@defence.gov.au)

If you wish to speak with someone regarding your submission phone **02 6266 1019**





27<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal  
Level 1, 5 Tennant Street  
Fyshwick  
Canberra BC  
ACT 2610

[DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au](mailto:DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au)

**REF: Medallic recognition for service by the Rifle Company Butterworth for the RAAF Police Dog Handlers to be considered.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Director of the RAAF Dog Handlers Association, RDHA, I am writing on behalf of the Association for those men and women that served as armed Security Force with Police Dogs in Butterworth, Malaysia and Singapore between the years of 1971 to 1989.

The roll of the armed Security Guards and Police Dog Handlers was to patrol with Police Dogs the flightlines of 75 and 3 Squadrons where RAAF and allied aircraft were parked and housed, protecting RAAF assets from insurgents. This roll also was extended to internal patrols within Air Base Butterworth and along the eastern side of No.4 RAAF Hospital and married quarters of Tan Si Gin and Robina.

These veterans were on A Grade posting for a minimum posting of two years.

The Rifle Company Butterworth had submitted the request to have their deployment recognised as “warlike” over a decade ago and at the time was not recognised. The Rifle Company Butterworth has now asked to reconsider a medallic recognition for Rifle Company Butterworth.

With this in mind, we, the men and women veteran RAAF Police Dog Handlers are asking if the Tribunal will consider whether these Australian veterans should also receive the Australian Active Service Medal for their deployment to Malaysia and Singapore from 1971 to 1989 in conjunction with the Rifle Company Butterworth.

Australian Defence Force personnel have served continuously at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth in Malaysia since 1971, when RAAF Police Dog Handlers were posted A Grade at a

Ray Thomas  
Director of National & International Projects  
RAAF Dog Handlers Association

①: [REDACTED]  
②: [REDACTED]

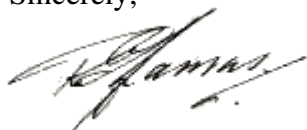


time of unrest in Malaysia, led by the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) until the MCP signed a peace treaty with the Government of Malaysia in 1989.

I am sure the Tribunal would have relevant documentation submitted by Rifle Company Butterworth of which the RAAF Dog Handlers Association supports.

I have attached a copy of the Media Release from The Hon Andrew Gee MP dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 along with my personal Record of Employment and Task Authorization extract where it is detailed of my service in both Butterworth and Singapore from 11<sup>th</sup> March 1974 to 11<sup>th</sup> December 1996.

Sincerely,



Ray Thomas  
Warrant Officer (ret)  
Director  
RAAF Dog Handlers Association

Ray Thomas  
Director of National & International Projects  
RAAF Dog Handlers Association

①: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]





## **The Hon Andrew Gee MP**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel  
Federal Member for Calare

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

7 April 2022

## **INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL TO RECONSIDER MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH**

The independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal will re-examine the issue of medallic recognition for Australians who served with Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia between 1970 and 1989.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the Government had listened to the concerns raised by many veterans who had served on Rifle Company Butterworth deployments.

"The Tribunal will consider whether these Australian veterans should receive the Australian Active Service Medal for their deployment to Malaysia," Minister Gee said.

"The issue was looked at by the Tribunal more than a decade ago, and a view was taken at the time not to recognise their service as "warlike".

"The New Zealand Government recently broadened eligibility for the New Zealand Operational Service Medal for veterans who served in Malaysia and Singapore between 1959 and 1974. Given this, and the concerns raised directly with me by the veteran community, it is timely that this issue is re-examined.

"The Tribunal is an independent statutory body specifically set up to consider honours and awards issues like this.

"I sincerely appreciate the many representations made to me and my office on this matter since I took on the Veterans' Affairs portfolio last year.

"I also acknowledge that veterans who have served on Rifle Company Butterworth deployments have been fighting for this additional recognition for years, and I don't want this to drag on. I expect the inquiry to be complete by the end of the year.

"This will be a public inquiry and I encourage all those with an interest to make a submission before 1 July 2022."

**Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling** provides 24/7 free confidential crisis support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families on 1800 011 046 or [openarms.gov.au](https://openarms.gov.au). **Safe Zone Support** provides anonymous counselling on 1800 142 072. **Defence All-Hours Support Line** provides support for ADF personnel on 1800 628 036 or [defence.gov.au/health/healthportal](https://defence.gov.au/health/healthportal). **Defence Member and Family Helpline** provides support for Defence families on 1800 624 608.

Australian Defence Force personnel have served continuously at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth in Malaysia since 1970, when Rifle Company Butterworth was deployed at a time of unrest in Malaysia, led by the Malayan Communist Party (MCP). The MCP signed a peace treaty with the Government of Malaysia in 1989.

Information about the inquiry, and how to make a submission, can be found on the Tribunal's website: <https://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au>.

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**  
**Minister Gee office: 0459 966 944**  
**Defence Media: 02 6127 1999**

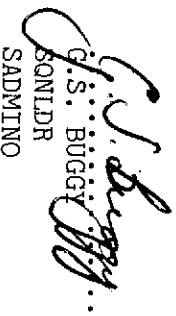
**Office of the Hon. Andrew Gee, Canberra ACT.**

# RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT AND TASK AUTHORIZATIONS

Service No: A120280

Name: Raymond George THOMAS

Mustering: POLDOGH

DATES		Details	Unit	Signature/Rank
From	To			
25AUG 69		ENLISTED AS SECURITY GUARD TRAINEE	RECENE	 G.S. BUGGY SONIDR SADMNO BSESL
25AUG69	16NOV69	UNDERWENT No1024 RECRUIT COURSE EDINBURGH S.A.	1RTU	
17NOV69	22JUN70	UNDERWENT No17 SECURITY GUARD COURSE QLD.	7SD	
23JUN70		POSTED TO BASE SQUADRON AMBERLEY QLD. EMPLOYED IN UNIT SECURITY DUTIES INVOLVING SAFE GUARDING OF RAAF ASSETS AGAINST THEFT, DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION BY SABOTAGE BY WORKING WITH A TRAINED POLICE DOG AS A FOOT PATROL TEAM. AUTHORIZED TO CARRY A 9mm PISTOL ON OR OFF UNIT FOR PAYROLL ESCORT.	BSAMB	
28JAN71	11FEB71	ATTACHED TO TOOWOOMBA QLD FOR RETEAM DUTIES	7SD	
19JUN71		RANK CHANGE TO LEADING AIRCRAFTMAN (LAC)		
24JUN72		POSTED TO RAAF BASE TOWNSVILLE QLD.	BSTVL	
04MAY72	19MAY72	ATTACHED TO RAAF BASE DARWIN NT FOR EXERCISE TOP LIMIT	BSDAR	
07JUL72	06AUG72	ATTACHED TO RAAF BASE DARWIN NT FOR EXERCISE DRY MARTINI	BSDAR	
11MAR74	18MAR74	POLICE DOG ESCORT TO BUTTERWORTH MALAYSIA	BSEBUT	
26MAR74		POSTED TO AIR BASE BUTTERWORTH MALAYSIA. AUTHORISED TO CARRY A 9mm PISTOL.	BSEBUT	
16AUG74	30AUG74	ATTACHED TO AIR BASE TANGAH SINGAPORE RELIEF MANNING.	BSTING	
11DEC76		POSTED TO RAAF BASE AMBERLEY QLD	BSAMB	
07MAR77	21MAR77	ATTACHED TO TOOWOOMBA QLD RETEAM DUTIES	7SD	
01JAN78		RANK CHANGE, PROMOTED TO CORPORAL, AUTHORISED TO CARRY OUT MONTHLY PROFICIENCY POLICE DOG ASSESSMENTS, SUPERVISE THE CONTINUATION TRAINING OF SECURITY GUARDS/POLICE DOG TEAMS; INSPECT POSSIBLE RECRUIT DOGS, ASSIST WITH GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.		

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