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27 June, 2022

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr (WO2 Retired) Garry Jones

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Review of Medallic Recognition for Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr (WO2 Retired)

Surname *

Jones

Given Names *

Garry

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:

NA

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) Service Summary I served as a member of RCB with Platoon Headquarters, D Company 2/4 Battalion RAR at Air Base Butterworth Malaysia from February to May 1982. At the time I was 58986 Craftsman Garry Jones, Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME). My issued Weapon was a 5.56mm M16 Rifle while the rest of the Company carried their normal small arms weapons required for operational service including 7.62mm M60 machine guns. A significant amount of small arms ammunition, including grenades and 66mm rocket launchers were located on base in a storage facility. Whilst deployed to RCB my primary task was as the Rifle Company Fitter/Armorer with responsibilities to provide technical support to maintain and repair all personal and section weapons, field and other associated equipment. I also provided support as required as a company duty driver and as a rifleman whilst on Quick Reaction Force (QRF) duties. All of the company, including support staff, were required to meet Deployment Level 1 (DP1) status. In addition training, included field training, at the Mt Spec Training area where infantry minor tactics were conducted and also in an urban/civil environment (Lavarack Barracks) where vehicle check points, vehicle searches and dealing with civil unrest was conducted. Both during pre-deployment and when deployed it was made clear by Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCO's of the risks posed by the Communist Terrorists (CT) to Australian and Malay personnel (civilian and military) and assets at Butterworth.

Training on Rules of Engagement (ROE) was emphasised and included learning commands in Malay that lethal force may be used against intruders. This was supported by the presence of fully armed Australian soldiers conducting patrols of key points with front line ammunition, strictly controlled access points to the base controlled by armed Malay soldiers, and the deployment of armed Malaysian Airforce Commandos (HANDAU) on base on rotation from conducting operations on the Thai/Malaysian border against the CT. Whilst deployed I was involved with protecting a convoy of Australian vehicles, one loaded with several tons of ammunition, grenades and explosives, for use at the Malay Jungle Training School in Pulada. We drove almost the length of Malaysia on the main N/S highway Via Kuala Lumpur. Briefings we received were that the convoy could be an attractive target for the CT and that contact was possible. Front line ammunition was carried and weapons were in the loaded condition. This only highlighted the seriousness the CT threat was given. In my experience there was always an underlying perception that there was a real danger and that we could at any time be subject to CT action. This was emphasised by the fact that the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) was maintained 24/7 for the whole tour, carried front line live ammunition, and was operating under ROE that included lethal force. As a 21 year Veteran I believe the above supports why I believe RCB service meets the warlike service criteria.

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

Garry Jones

Date

27/06/2022 /

Mr (WO2 Retired) Garry Jones

Signed by Mr (WO2 Retired) Garry Jones

Signed on: 27 June, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr (WO2 Retired) G...

