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30 June, 2022

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

Submission to Inquiry - Major (retired) Keith Fraser

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Medallic Recognition for personnel deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Major (retired)

Surname *

Fraser

Given Names *

Keith

Postal Address *

Email Address: *

Primary Contact Number *

Secondary Contact Number

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

No.

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

Australian Defence Force personnel were warned for war service, and undertook warlike operations when deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB). Individual Records of Service (AAB83) were annotated with the letters WOWS, which stands for Whilst on War Service. The annotation and meaning are indisputable. One of my soldiers, accidentally discharged (fired) his personal weapon when on a rifle range. The discharge was unauthorised and the person was charged with an offence under the Defence Force Discipline Act. The decision to charge the soldier was mandatory because of the inherent danger to friendly personal. Owing to the fact that we were on War Service, the penalties imposed on the soldier than had the offence been committed on home soil in Australia. The RCB mission was to deter and defend against communist terrorist activity and incursions onto Air Base Butterworth from 1970 to 1989. Owing to the RCB's presence, the mission was mostly successful because the terrorist attempts were mainly unsuccessful. Some individual terrorists, as well as terrorist groups did enter the base, but their presence was detected and the force defeated and or repelled. There were occasions when terrorists engaged the base with mortar fire. Therefore, the ADF cannot justifiably say after the mission's success that because no terrorist incursions caused the base to be overrun, then the threat was not present. All RCB personnel must be duly recognised and awarded the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM).

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

Keith Fraser

Date

30/06/2022/

*Major (retired) Keith
Fraser*

Signed by Major (retired) Keith Fraser

Signed on: 30 June, 2022

Signature Certificate

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