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14 August, 2022

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

Submission to Inquiry - Mr Stephen Winthrop

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Stephen Winthrop

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr

Surname *

Winthrop

Given Names *

Stephen

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[REDACTED]

Email Address: *

[REDACTED]

Primary Contact Number *

[REDACTED]

Secondary Contact Number

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

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

This is in support of RCB claim for the correct recognition of War-Like Operation. We are all aware of the reason for the deception from the very start of RCB deployment to Butterworth. Whitlam had been elected on a platform of withdrawal of all ground troops from South East Asia, but due to the Five Power Defence Arrangement, and the Intergraded Air Defence System, Whitlam was obliged to retain the RAAF at Butterworth. It would have been embarrassing for Whitlam to be seen deploying ground troops back into another Asian conflict. Time has moved on more than 1/2 a century has passed. It is time now to look at the truth, the evidence is there. There is ample TOP and SECRET documents to prove our case, there should not be any debate. Defence want to hold on to this deception which should have buried years ago, the hide these hi level documents, twist the truth and make feeble red hearing comments to distract from the real issue. It is now time to correct the injustice and give closure to our veterans, after all they were deployed and asked to give their lives if needed to protect our assets during the Communist Insurgency and they are only asked for correct recognition nothing more.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: The-following-is-to-demonstrate-Defence-continued-statements-to-confuse-the-issue-and-mislead.docx

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

Stephen Winthrop

Date

14/08/2022 /

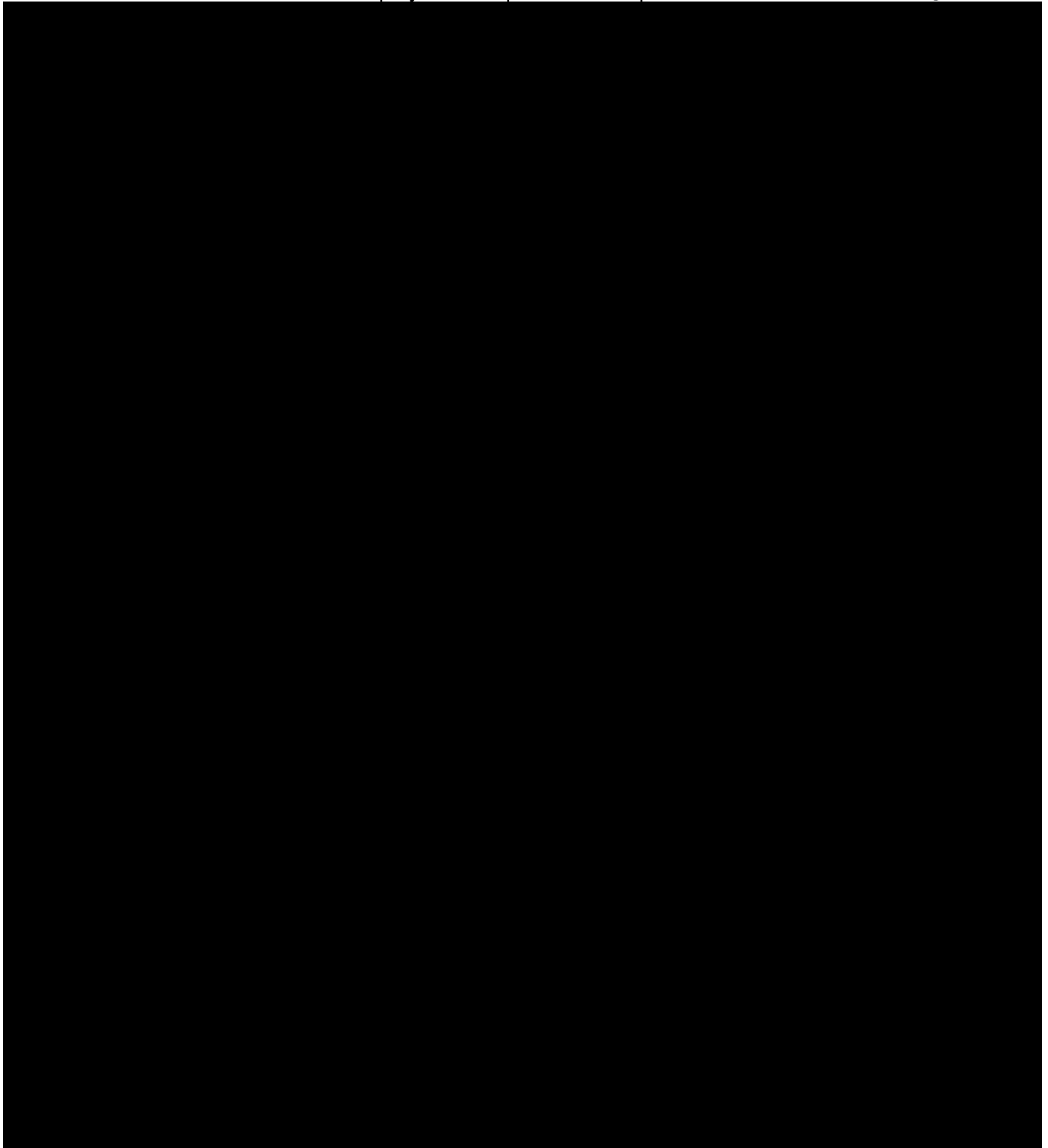
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Winthrop', written in a cursive style.

Signed by Mr Stephen Winthrop

Signed on: 14 August, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr Stephen Winthrop



The following is to demonstrate Defence continued statements to confuse the issue and mislead.

No state of war or emergency in Malaysia existed after the end of the confrontation on the 11 August 1966.

- a. The Malaysian Government believe there was a Communist Insurgency between 1968 to 1989.*
- b. The Malaysian Chief of Defence believe there was a Communist Insurgency between 1968 to 1989.*
- c. Chin Peng the leader of the Malaysian Communist Party who signed the Peace Accord in 1989 believe there was a Communist Insurgency between 1968 to 1989.*
- d. The Malaysian soldiers who were killed and the mothers and wives who shed their tears over their graves believe there was Communist Insurgency between 1968 to 1989.*
- e. All historians believe there was a Communist Insurgency War between 1968 to 1989.*
- d. Defence own documents show there was a Communist Insurgency between 1968 to 1989.*
- f. Our ambassador in Malaysia who received Intelligence report from the Deputy Director of Malaysia Intelligence believe there was a Communist insurgency between 1968 and 1989.*

It seems that Defence are the only people who believe the Communist Insurgency War between 1968 and 1989 never happened. Do not Defence read their own documents.

Anyone who say's 'no state of war or emergency existed after the end of the confrontation on the 11 August 1966' are just in denial or has their own agenda.

2. Another statement by Defence is that, we could have a misconception of what we were being told.

What a feeble and low statement by Defence to use in their justification not to give proper recognition.

- a. To degrade the 9000 soldiers who served with RCB to imply they were stupid just to make a derogative point is not acceptable, may be it is Defence who cannot understand what they are being told, when they make the statement there was no war or emergency after the 11 August 1966, then they could be the ones who cannot understand their own document newspaper reports, history books, or what the Malaysian COD told them on the 50th anniversary. 'protecting the RMAF base during the resurgence of the communist insurgency in 1970 – 1989'*
- b. Many of the Officers, NCO, OR's were Vietnam Veteran's and knew what they were being told. Many of these fine soldiers Defence insulted went on to gain degrees in many areas such as lawyer's I can assure you that I understood what I was told.*

Defence statement, RCB was not to be involved in civil disturbance or to be deployed outside the wire.

- a. That is correct up to a point, they somehow forgot to mention the rest – 'unless we needed to carry out our duties' During civil disturbance one of RCB jobs was to escort Australian, NZ and UK citizens from surrounding areas like Penang Island safely on to the Butterworth for evacuation.*
- b. I cannot understand how Defence could have missed that bit out.*

Defence have said in the past their could not have need a war/emergency, because families were there.

- a. Are Defence saying they did not know families were at Butterworth during the 1st Malay Emergency which ended 1960*
- b. Again are they just trying to mislead or throw something in to confuse the issue.*

RCB were not pursuing a specific military objectives were not authorised to use force beyond minimum required for self-defence and there were definitely no expectations of casualties.

Let's examine each issue one by one.

There was no military objectives.

- a. The mission of RCB was to be a Quick Reaction Force to counter any attack or penetration to protect our assets and people while the Communist Insurgency was on.*
- b. Did not defence read their own documents? maybe they did not understand them, after all they accused us of not being able to understand what we were told.*
- c. SECRET Air Brief Department of AIR, 564/8/28, 30a. The ARA company fulfils the Military Quick Reaction Role.*
- b. JIO Document. Base Security and DEFENCE. 'The ARA Company provides an on base Quick Reaction Force.*
- c. JIO Document - To assist the OC RAAF an ARA Infantry company is permanently available at Butterworth as a Quick Reaction Force.*
- d. SECRET Document JIO draft 1975, Security measures to protect base. - 'The RCB provides specialist ground defence skill that are not possessed by RAAF.*
- f. Chief of Staff, 24/1973 Minutes No 38/1973 – Use of the Company for the protection of the RAAF base, as this was their primary task.*
- g. Minute from a hand written document - 'The Company has the security of Australian property and personnel at Butterworth as its primary task, but for political reasons it was not possible to state this in low level unclassified documents'*

I know it does not conform to Defence narrative, but it is factual.

Minimum Force for Self- Defence.

- a. We could open fire if ordered to, which means it did not have to be in self – defence.*
 - b. Able to fire on someone in a protected place, we did not have to wait for our lives to be in danger.*
 - c. Able to fire on someone trying to escape, we did not have to wait for our lives to be in danger.*
 - e. Able to fire on someone in the act of destroying or damaging, we did not have to wait until our lives were in danger.*
 - f. Then there is the Quick Reaction Force role to counter any attack or penetration.*
- There were civilian workers on the base and kampong surrounding the air strip, and rightly so our Government wanted us to be sure we did not fire on a Malaysian civilian and that is why we had to give a warning.*
- In my view Defence seems to have a habit of leaving things out, which alters the truth.*

Definitely no expectation of Casualties.

- a. SECRET Department of Air Brief, 564/8/28 – 'The most important requirement to ensure that the base has adequate emergency response arrangements to deal with casualties and recover from the effect of an attack.*
- b. RCB role was a Quick Reaction Action Force to counter any attack or penetration by the CT's*
How could Defence say definitely no expectation of casualties.

Just as well RCB people are good at locating these documents, because Defence senior researchers are not capable of finding them, maybe they did not think they were important, were not reverent to the issue. I have notice Defence will not produce any documents which do not support their story. Why let the facts get in the way of a good story?

Defence statement to DHAAT for the 2022 Enquire.

Page 16. 3.29 B 'The activates of the Communist Terrorist in Malaysia through the period have been found to be incidental to ADF personnel at Butterworth'

a. The activities of the Communist Terrorist.

Defence cannot even get their own story straight. One moment they tell us that there was no war or emergency and the next moment they are talking about the activities of the Communist Terrorist in Malaysia.

b. Activities of the Communist Terrorist in Malaysia have been found to be incidental.

What does that mean? Defence would say. What would be the chance of that happening? We send combat troops to a country with front line weapons and ammunition just for training, and there just happens to be a Communist Insurgency going on, who would have thought that would have happened.

Why do Defence make these petty little statements for, why do they need to throw these red hearing in, to distract you from the real issues I suppose. They are good at that.

Standing Committee on Petitions October 1914

Military was not deployed against them. It was a Police action, and they were just a few bandits.

a. Operations against the Communist Insurgency.

Operation Gonzales a Division size operation. Operation Sedar 6th Infantry Brigade, Operation Setia 2nd Infantry Brigade, Operation Indire 4th Infantry Brigade, Operation Galas 8th Infantry Brigade, Operation Asli, Operation Ukor, Operation Pago, Operation Bamboo.

They must have been the hardest few bandits ever, Malaysian Defence require Division and Brigade level operation to defeat them, and it only took Malaysian Defence 19 years to defeat them. I'm glad there was only a few bandits otherwise it would have taken them longer.

b. But wait there is more the RMAF were flying bombing missions and ground attack on them from Butterworth. I wonder if that mean I was on a RMAF base used in fighting a war from

How did these just few a bandits hold out for 19 years.

Sorry I forgot, Defence said there was no war or emergency in Malaysia after 11 August 1966

Previous statements by Defence

Because no state of war or emergency existed in Malaysia after 11 August 1966 and because Malaysian Government made no request to the Australian Government for military assistance after this date.

a. Because no military assistance was requested does not mean there was no Communist Insurgence in Malaysia.

b. Malaysia did not need to ask for Military assistance for Butterworth. It was in the Exchanged of Notes, Australian Treaty No 2, Five Power Defence Agreement.

Defence just put these carefully worded statements in just to give a false impression, like move along nothing to see here.

It is about time Defence stopped living in their fantasy land and admit there was an insurgency war in Malaysia which happened after 11 August 1966. They probably know, but it does not suit their flawed narrative.

While this is not to prove hard evidence for the recognition of RCB for the Australian Active Service Medal It is to underline Defence continued nick picking, twisting the truth, not providing the full documents or hiding documents which do not follow their desired outcome or narrative.

*This debate if not about if the l was dotted and the t were crossed, or if a Special Area was declared or not declared that is now history. **It is about correcting those mistakes. It is about the truth about what was really happening on the ground at the time,** The Tribunal need to looks at what really was happening on the ground in full at that point in history, and find that truth. Defence can put up their academic arguments to try and muddy the water, they will not provide document opposite to their flawed narrative and only cherry pick low level document to support their flawed narrative*

Defence maintain it was Peace Time Service!

Being deployed to a country with a Communist Insurgency going with the aim of overthrowing the elected Government by armed force, and being deployed onto a forward operational air base which was involved in and fighting a war as part of a Quick Reaction Force to counter-attack any penetration, and defend our assets and personnel from Communist Terrorist attack while the Malaysian Communist Insurgency was on.

That is not Peace Time Service

Defence can make all the twisted arguments, but the above statement is the bottom line in this issue, and that is a War-Like Operation.

It is as simple as that.