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14 July, 2022

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## Submission to Inquiry - Mr Derek Raymond Parsons

### 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 \***

Mr

**Surname \***

Parsons

**Given Names \***

Derek Raymond

**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:**

No

### Part 3 – Desired outcome

**Provide a summary of your submission:**

To whom it may concern, The below are some recollections of my service in Rifle Company Butterworth - Malaysia (RCB). I served in RCB Malaysia with SPT Company 6 RAR in 1985. Prior to deploying to RCB the whole company was assembled in a lecture room at Enoggera Barracks for a series of pre-deployment briefings, including from the 6 Brigade Legal Officer and Battalion Intelligence Officer. Both Officers advised us that we were deploying on Active Service to Malaysia. The Brigade Legal Officer told us that because our tour of RCB was classified as Active Service we would be subject to a higher level of disciplinary proceedings known to us as WOWS (when on war service). He also gave us a brief on rules of engagement (ROE) and orders for opening fire (OFOF). The Battalion Intelligence Officer gave us a briefing on the threat from Communist Terrorists (CT's). Upon arriving in Malaysia at Airbase Butterworth (ABB) our whole company received further briefings from a variety of RAAF personnel who also confirmed what we had been told in Australia. While stationed at ABB our company was required to conduct Quick Reaction Force (QRF) duties on a 24/7 rotational basis. This involved carrying live ammunition and conducting regular patrols within ABB. During an advance to contact activity with 2 RMR near the Malay/Thai Border, we were advancing along a road when we received a message that the lead elements of 2 RMR had come into contact with several CT's. We were later told that two CT's had been killed in action as a result of this contact. The CO of 2RMR later

introduced his soldiers who were involved in this contact to us at the completion of the activity. I understand that compared to some major conflicts RCB service may seem low key to some, however, the fact of the matter is; we deployed on Active Service during the Communist insurgency in Malaysia, also known as the Second Malayan Emergency between 1968 - 1989. I am therefore requesting the following: \*Recognition of Active Service and all DVA repatriation entitlements for those that served in RCB \*Medallic upgrade to the Australian Active Service Medal or Australian Operational Service Medal \*Award of the Malaysian Service Medal (Pingat Jasa Malaysia) Yours sincerely, Derek Parsons

## 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**

Derek Parsons

**Date**

14/07/2022 /

*Mr Derek Raymond  
Parsons*

Signed by Mr Derek Raymond Parsons

Signed on: 14 July, 2022

# Signature Certificate

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