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16 July, 2022

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

## Submission to Inquiry - Mr (Ex RAAF WOFF) Raymond George Thomas

### Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

**Name of Inquiry \***

Metallic recognition for service by the Rifle Company Butterworth for Raymond George THOMAS to be considered.

### Part 2 – About the Submitter

**Title or Rank \***

Mr (Ex RAAF WOFF)

**Surname \***

Thomas

**Given Names \***

Raymond George

**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:**

N/A

### Part 3 – Desired outcome

**Provide a summary of your submission:**

I Raymond George THOMAS am asking if the Tribunal would consider whether I should also receive the Australian Active Service Medal for my deployment to Malaysia and Singapore from 11th March 1974 to 11th December 1976 in conjunction with the Rifle Company Butterworth. Extract from Record of Service attached.

### Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: 220407-MEDIA-RELEASE-INDEPENDENT-TRIBUNAL-TO-RECONSIDER-MEDALLIC-RECOGNITION-FOR-RIFLE-COMPANY-BUTTERWORTH.pdf

Record-of-Employment-extract-Raymond-Thomas-RAAF-A120280-2.pdf

### 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**

Raymond George Thomas

*Mr (Ex RAAF*

16/07/2022 /

*WOFF) Raymond*

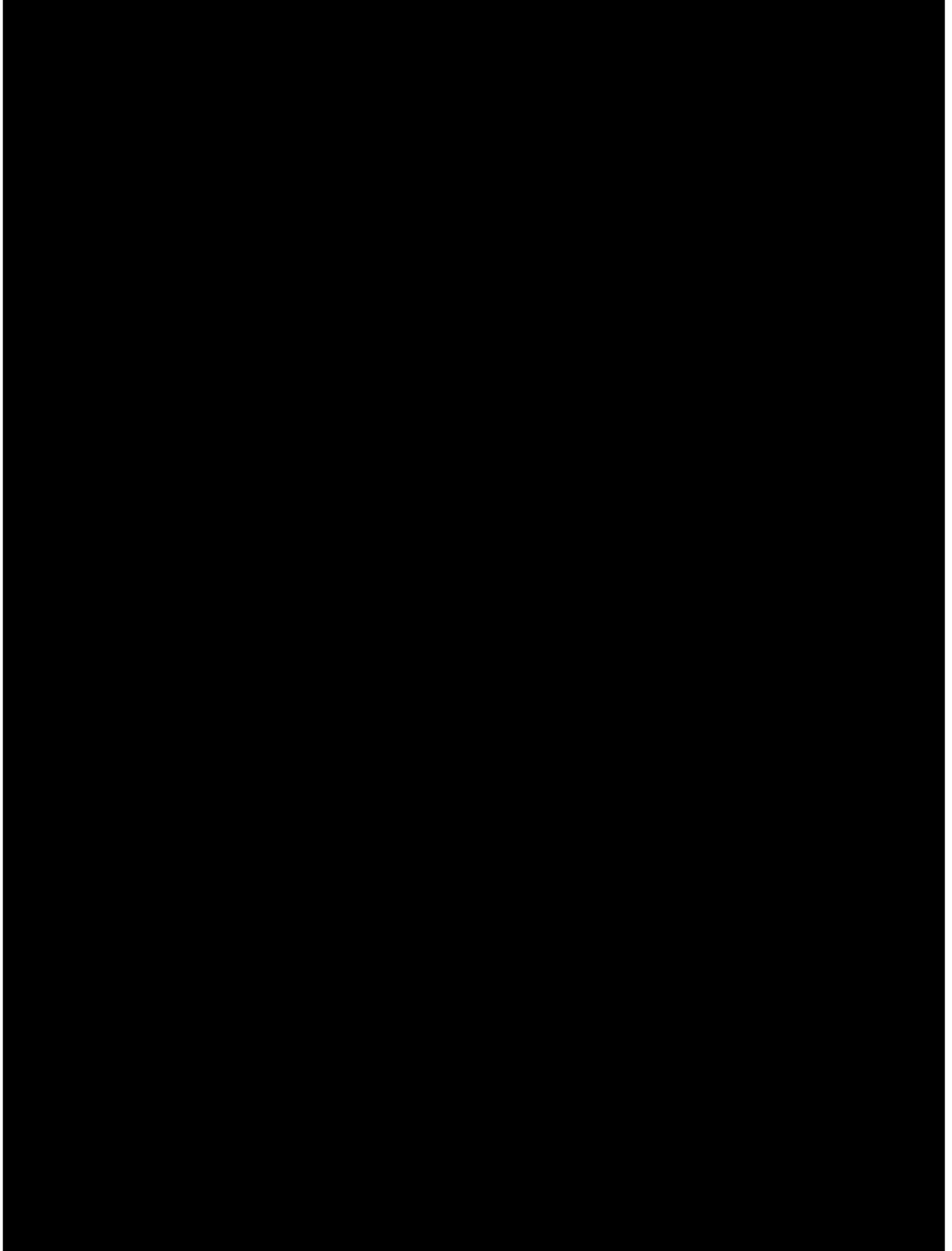
*George Thomas*

Signed by Mr (Ex RAAF WOFF) Raymond George  
Thomas

Signed on: 16 July, 2022

# Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr (Ex RAAF WOFF) Raymond George Thomas





## **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](http://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](http://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**

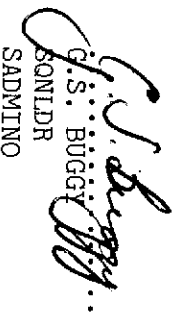
**Office of the Hon. Andrew Gee, Canberra ACT.**

# 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 SADMINS 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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