

MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WITH AUSTRALIAN RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH
know as Rifle Company Butterworth Communist Insurgency.
James Thorpe Submission 076-076A

Mr Chairman,

Firstly I wish to thank you and the Tribunal for your efforts to date.

I am attempting to answer your question about expected casualties at RCB from a personal view.

It grieves me to use my fallen brothers who died on duty at Butterworth as a RCB rotation .

RCB have lost 13 soldiers over a time frame from 1971-1998 where the 5/7 RAR (Mech) bore the burden of most casualties 7 in number . To break it down further 4 members lost their lives during the Communist Insurgency period and the remainder after the conflict period.

I personally knew 6 of those members of the 5/7 RAR (Mech) who were some of the best soldiers I know. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the 4 members of RCB that lost their lives during the Communist Insurgency period(1971-1989) these were fully manned rifle companies with medic's attached to every platoon with the company and a fully functional hospital on base with easy access to medical equipment, bandages, medication, bod bags and a morgue and of course the RAAF Search and Rescue aircraft, where in comparison with the 5/7 RAR (Mech) soldiers (RCB's only mass casualties) who died as a result of a truck accident in 1993 there is a distinct lack of medical equipment available, bandages, medication and body bags and morgue.

With the result of lack of emergency equipment available the injured and the deceased waited up to 12 hours to receive attention, this was mentioned in the defence investigation and Coroner inquest.

The memorial of our fallen at Butterworth Air Base was commissioned by defence and DVA and maintain by Australian Army 2/30 Training Group Butterworth Air Base.

So in conclusion, I believe RCB meets your requirements of expectations of casualties.

I have included photos of the memorial.

Yours faithfully

James Thorpe

Ex 5/7 RAR (Mech)

RCB Veteran 1989

Duty First



REGIMENTAL NUMBER	RANK	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	UNIT	DATE OF DEATH	AGE
1203644	PTE	WAYNE CHARLES SUTHERLAND	10 APR 1953	6 RAR	7 OCT 1971	18
1738959	LCPL	JAMES MILLS	22 JUL 1951	6 RAR	16 NOV 1978	27
49785	LCPL	WILLIAM RICHARD BARNFIELD	15 NOV 1960	5/7 RAR	4 MAY 1984	24
2303070	PTE	PHILIP BARRY CURTISS	14 FEB 1968	8/9 RAR	10 FEB 1989	21
329315	PTE	JEFFERY PAUL WILTS	23 JUN 1971	5/7 RAR	27 JUN 1990	19
112456	SGT	IAN KENNETH RUTHERFORD	26 OCT 1961	5/7 RAR	23 SEP 1993	32
328364	CPL	CHRISTOPHER JOHN BURNETT	23 AUG 1967	5/7 RAR	23 SEP 1993	26
237395	CPL	DARREN MICHAEL MURPHY	15 MAY 1970	5/7 RAR	23 SEP 1993	23
2308973	CPL	PAUL RONALD WIFFEN	29 MAR 1964	5/7 RAR	23 SEP 1993	29
237368	LCPL	DARREN PAUL O'ROUKE	17 DEC 1966	5/7 RAR	23 SEP 1993	27
137531	LCPL	RICHARD BERNARD RALPHS	22 AUG 1973	1 RAR	5 JUL 1996	23
325102	LCPL	DAVID MICHAEL ADAM	22 DEC 1964	2 RAR	16 AUG 1997	33
1804176	PTE	ANDREW RONALD WATT	26 JUN 1975	1 RAR	12 JUN 1998	23

LEST WE FORGET



MEMORIAL PLATE

UNITED STATES ARMY

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CONTINENTAL	RANK	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	UNIT	DATE OF DEATH	AGE
HURABLE		WAYNE CHARLES SUTHERLAND	10 APR 1953	6RAR	7 OCT 1971	18
10054	PTE	JAMES SMILES	22 JUL 1951	6RAR	16 NOV 1970	22
173959	LCPL	WILLIAM RICHARD BARNFIELD	19 NOV 1960	67RAR	4 MAR 1968	24
49785	PTE	PHILIP BARBY CURTIS	14 FEB 1968	67RAR	10 FEB 1969	21
2300070	PTE	JEFFERY PAUL WILES	23 JUN 1971	67RAR	27 JUN 1990	19
359315	SGT	HAN BENNETH RUTHERFORD	26 OCT 1961	67RAR	23 SEP 1992	30
112456	CPL	CHRISTOPHER JOHN BIRNITT	23 AUG 1967	67RAR	23 SEP 1992	25
328504	CPL	CARSEN MICHAEL MURPHY	10 MAR 1970	67RAR	23 SEP 1992	22
237305	CPL	PAUL DONALD WYFEN	29 MAR 1968	67RAR	23 SEP 1992	24
2308973	CPL	DARREN PAUL O'DOWD	17 DEC 1966	67RAR	8 JUL 1986	23
237368	LCPL	DARREN PAUL O'DOWD	22 AUG 1973	1RAR	16 AUG 1997	23
137681	LCPL	RICHARD BERNARD DALPIN	22 DEC 1964	2RAR	12 JUN 1998	33
325102	LCPL	DAVID MICHAEL ADAM	26 JUN 1975	1RAR		
1804176	PTE	ANDREW DONALD WATT				

LEST WE FORGET