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28 November, 2022

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

Submission to Inquiry - Mr Kevin John Metcalfe

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth.

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr

Given Names *

Kevin John

Surname *

Metcalfe

Post-nominals (if applicable)

Street Number and Name *

[REDACTED]

Suburb *

[REDACTED]

Postcode *

[REDACTED]

State *

[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:

It is a number of points relating to my experience deployed to the RCB, that in my view support the upgrading of the medal to the AASM for service in RCB in the indicated time period.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: RCB-Submission-3.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

Kevin John Metcalfe

Date

28/11/2022

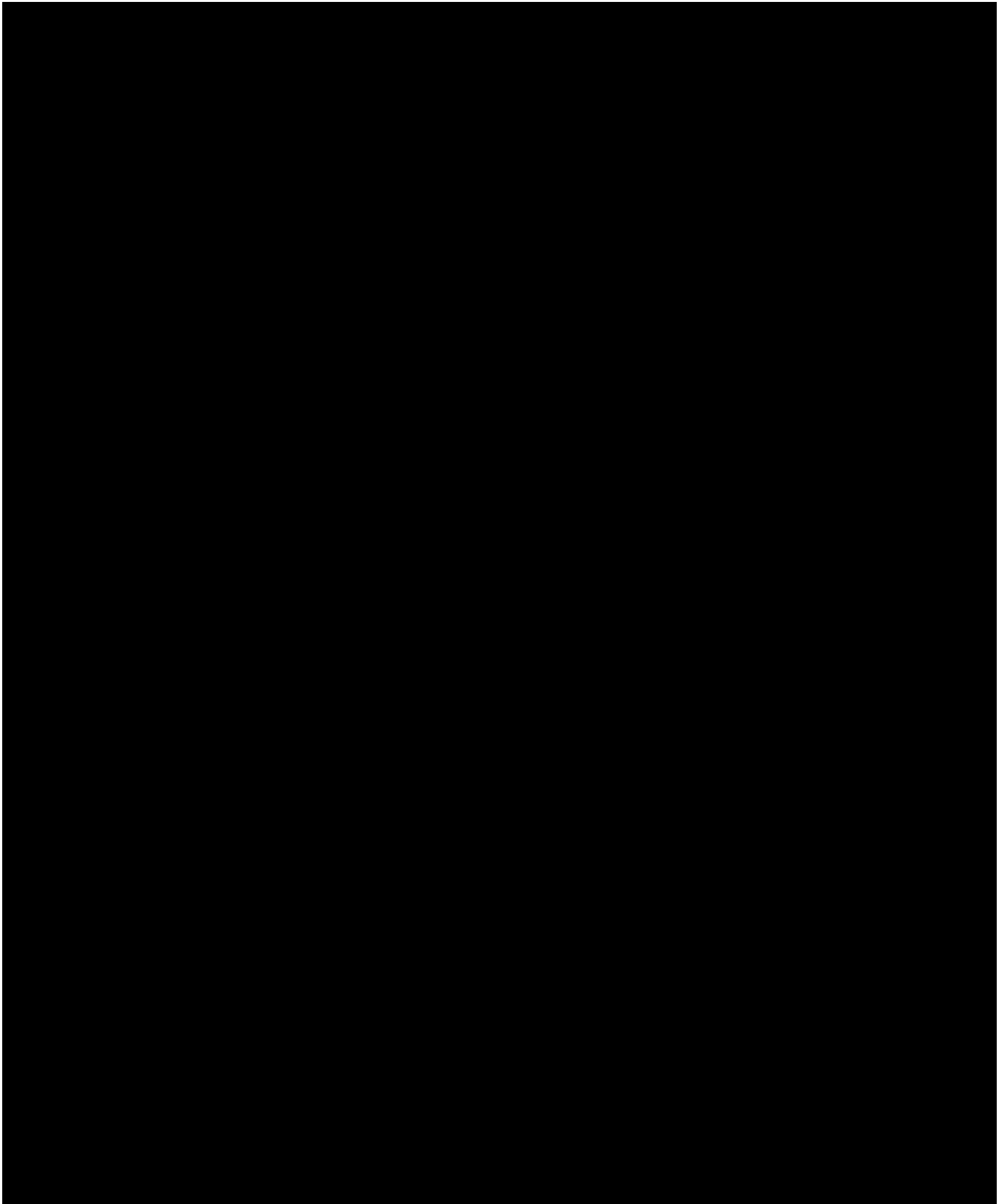
*Mr Kevin John
Metcalfe*

Signed by Mr Kevin John Metcalfe

Signed on: 28 November, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr Kevin John Metcalfe



The Malaysians refer to the time in question in this inquiry as "The 2nd Emergency".

I was deployed with Support Coy 3RAR (organised as a Rifle Company) over Christmas 85/86.

I was employed as Section Signaller (since I was a command post signaller [radio operator] in my normal duties), I carried the 7.62mm L1A1 SLR.

We ran a 24/7 QRF (Quick Reaction Force), and the armoury was continuously manned to facilitate the issue of weapons to follow on forces if required.

I turned 21 in Malaysia and whilst on QRF carried live rounds and had RoE (Rules of Engagement) that ended with the phrase "and then you shoot him".

Consider under what circumstances you put 20 year olds in a foreign country, with live ammunition and a literal conditional licence (our RoE) to kill citizens of that country. That is not training.

No Govt would do this, let alone do it for almost two decades, with the potential for a major international incident, just for training - in addition what Govt would be so foolish as to send troops to train in a conflict zone?

During my deployment we did no joint training with the Malaysian Army.

I did a lot of guard duty in Australia, including guarding Victoria Barracks in Sydney and NEVER received live rounds, let alone RoE that authorised me to kill.

Whilst I was on QRF, my section had a "no duff" reaction (the code word for 'it is a real reaction' - not necessarily hostile, but that there was an intruder sighted) – we treated it as a likely CT (communist terrorist) and had had our weapons at the "action" condition, ie a live round in the chamber, the safety on, when we sighted the intruder as we were moving forward tactically (we called it "pepper potting" - moving in such a way as to make it difficult for a CT protection party to get a good sight picture on us as we advanced), my thumb was resting on the safety of my rifle ready to switch it to "fire" and return fire if we were attacked.

I was also considering the "Contact, Wait Out" message I would need to radio if we were attacked.

Would you send 10 x men in their 20s (who were well aware that there was an ongoing terrorist insurgency) with live rounds and RoE that lets them kill a person, to check out an intruder in a foreign country as a training opportunity?

Our RoE if we sighted an intruder on a QRF reaction was –

"Berhenti Atau Saya Tembak" (x3)

"Halt or I Shoot" (x3)

Warning shot

Then you shoot him.

There were bilingual warning signs on the fence around the base that included a drawing of someone being shot.