

Document ID: 6b0f8474b4de59db7d455fc1fb7d1630a1c271f7

2 February, 2023

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

Submission to Inquiry - Wing Commander (Rtd) GARY RICKMAN PENNEY

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Medallic Recognition with Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Wing Commander (Rtd)

Given Names *

GARY RICKMAN

Surname *

PENNEY

Post-nominals (if applicable)

Street Number and Name *

[Redacted]

Suburb *

[Redacted]

Postcode *

[Redacted]

State *

[Redacted]

Email Address: *

[Redacted]

Primary Contact Number *

0419829258

Secondary Contact Number

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

Submission is on behalf of two individuals who have provided Statutory Declarations to the Tribunal.

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

Recognition of the service of RAAF and RCB personnel who served at RAAF Base Butterworth during the period 1970 to 1989 as warlike service.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: LINDSAY-CROUCH-STAT-DEC.pdf

PERRY-MATTHEWS-STAT-DEC.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

GARY RICKMAN PENNEY

Wing Commander (Rtd)
 Date
 02/02/2023
 GARY RICKMAN
 PENNEY

Signed by Wing Commander (Rtd) GARY RICKMAN PENNEY

Signed on: 2 February, 2023

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]



I declare that the contents of this statutory declaration are true and correct. Where the contents of this declaration are based on information and belief, the contents are true to the best of my knowledge and I have stated the source of that information and grounds for the belief.

I understand that it is a criminal offence to provide a false matter in a declaration, for example, the offence of perjury under section 123 of the Criminal Code.

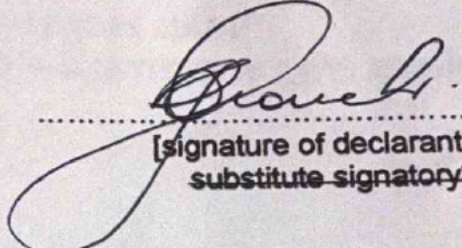
I state that:

- A. This declaration was made in the form of an electronic document.*¹ *cross-out if not applicable*
- B. This declaration was electronically signed.*² *cross-out if not applicable*
- C. This declaration was made, signed and witnessed under part 6A of the Oaths Act 1867.*³ *cross-out if not applicable*

DECLARED by

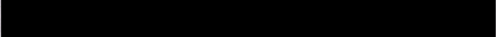
LINDSAY JAMES CROUCH.

[insert full name of declarant]


[signature of declarant / substitute signatory]*⁴

21.1.2023

[date]

at 
[insert place where declarant is located]

Signed for and at the direction of the declarant by*



[insert full name of substitute signatory]*

*cross-out if not applicable

In the presence of:

Jeanette Glasgow
[insert full name of witness]

J. Glasgow J.P. Qual
[signature of witness]

Qual. J.P.
[insert type of witness]⁴

21/01/2023
[date]

[insert name of law practice / witness's place of employment]⁵
cross-out if not applicable



STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, Lindsay James Crouch (Retired) [insert full name],

of [redacted] [insert address].

do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

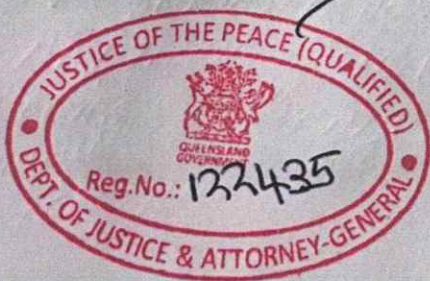
Whilst serving in the Royal Australian Air Force as a fire fighter from 1974-1994, I was posted to RAAF Base Butterworth in Malaysia from 1982-1985. During that time Sgt Roppolt & I, (Cpl Lindsay Crouch) attended an off base SAR incident that involved, SAS RMAF, 2 x Gunships, 1 x SAR RAAF helicopter, near the Malaysian Thai border. It was believed that a Thai Aircraft had been brought down by Communist Terrorists with two Thai Service members on board, believed to be deceased. This information was passed on after some time in the air. On arrival of the crash site & with no Australian Official Clearance to go over the border into another International Country for this type of mission we heard gunfire which was Gunships fire clearing the area, in and around the crash site. SAS troops were lowered to the ground to perform a perimeter of defense to our mission of body retrieval. A period of 2hrs was given. We picked up remains for the 2 hr period which were scattered over the crash site, the remains were put into body bags were then told to carry the bags a few kilometers onto a ridge and pass them over to the awaiting Thai gunships & troops. We returned to Butterworth covered in mud, mud, & blood soaked clothes saturated in blood soaked water we were instructed by our warrant officer Kevin Cummins (Deceased) to remove our uniforms

make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867.

and replaced by new uniforms. We were also instructed
Never to discuss the incident with Anyone. All log entries
were removed by Authorities at the time, making claims
of my own near impossible with no paper trail to follow
with further investigation @ a later date information of
this incident was reported in The Bangkok Post News
1984 April.

J. G. Naragaw J.P. Qual

J. G. Naragaw J.P. Qual



Statutory Declaration

QUEENSLAND
TO WIT

I, Perry Norman Matthews

of [REDACTED] in the State of Queensland

do solemnly and sincerely declare that

I was a Flight Lieutenant (0319277) at Airbase Butterworth in Malaysia in a unit of some 26 or so officers, as a Special Duties officer in the Air Traffic Control (ATC) branch of the Royal Australian Air Force, throughout the period from January 1979 to November 1981. I was rated and validated in all 11 Butterworth ATC positions; in the aerodrome control tower (TWR), approach control office (APP), and base operations (OPS) components. I was also a Training Officer in all the traffic elements. I became an ATC Supervisor there, in both TWR (aerodrome environs and maneuvering areas), and APP (essentially for the airspace in north-west peninsula Malaysia and the Malacca Straits, for which Butterworth ATC was responsible for), and was given two 6-month extensions to my two-year tour.

The Communist Party of Malaya>Malaysian Communist Party had long-waged terrorist operations against the Malaysian Government. Throughout my tour, such actions continued in particular, in the Betong Salient portion of the Thai-Malaysian border, from about 45 nautical miles (NM) of Butterworth to the Tai border, referred to as Forward Locations, especially at Baling, and at Gubir, where helicopters were seemed most often despatched; but also to Kroh and Gerik (Grik), where army firefights with terrorists might feature hot pursuits or extractions. Aircraft used from Butterworth included:

- a. Sud Alouette III helicopters, adapted as gunships, and also provided forward air control for close air support aircraft, and for communications.
- b. Canadair CL41 (Tutor/Snowbird) Tebuan light jets, deployed to Butterworth from Kuantan, could use rockets, bombs and miniguns, and were observed armed with napalm cannisters before launching.
- c. Sikorsky SK61 helicopters, used for troop transport ingress, supplies carriage, and medical evacuation (MedEvac) operations, at forward locations. They also sometimes operated nearby to the east of Butterworth, at Kulim and Lunas (about 10 NM).
- d. Northrop F5A Freedom Fighters, and later F5Es (the Talon II replacement variant delivered in 1979, could be used for higher-performing strike capability, as the F5As previously had reportedly been, although those operations were not observed by me).

Inbound SK61s from forward location, would notify APP on initial contact should their first destination be polo-ground the helicopter landing site for Penang General Hospital in Georgetown on Penang Island implying that casualties were on board, requiring a higher level of treatment than could be available at Butterworth airbase. ATC never knew whether or not there were deceased persons on board the MedEvac flights, only number of persons on board (POB) were given (necessary for fire-rescue crews should an accident occur at / near the airbase, for rescue recovery purposes). Normal SK61 crew numbered three pilot, co-pilot and crewman. For MedEvac tasks, medics were presumably also on board. I don't recall notional troop-carrying capacity of the SK61, but on two inbound polo ground occasions, I recall 17 and 26 POB respectively, because of these unusually high numbers.

Two local events near the airbase during the above period featuring terrorist activity were widely reported in the news media:

- 1. the Post Office at Sungai Patani (large provincial town 15 NM north-north-east of the airbase) was blown up; and
- 2. the Kepala Batas Police Station (Balai) was attacked (located between the airbase and Sungai Patani).

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867.

Signature of declarant/deponent

Taken and declared before me at [Location] [REDACTED]

this 23rd day of JANUARY 2023

A Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for Declarations.

GARY KENNEDY
JP (QUAL)

