

Document ID: 3b3f70b1e0560f9aa97c86a2a4365513bd8c7393

1 March, 2023

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr leslie ray

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 *

leslie

Surname *

ray

Post-nominals (if applicable)

Street Number and Name *

[Redacted]

Suburb *

[Redacted]

Postcode *

[Redacted]

State *

[Redacted]

Email Address: *

[Redacted]

Primary Contact Number *

[Redacted]

Number

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

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

a further submission in reply to Defense's recent submission that addressed an incident that I raise in previous submissions

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: submission-to-the-RCB-DHAAT-Inquiry-1-march-2023.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

leslie james ray

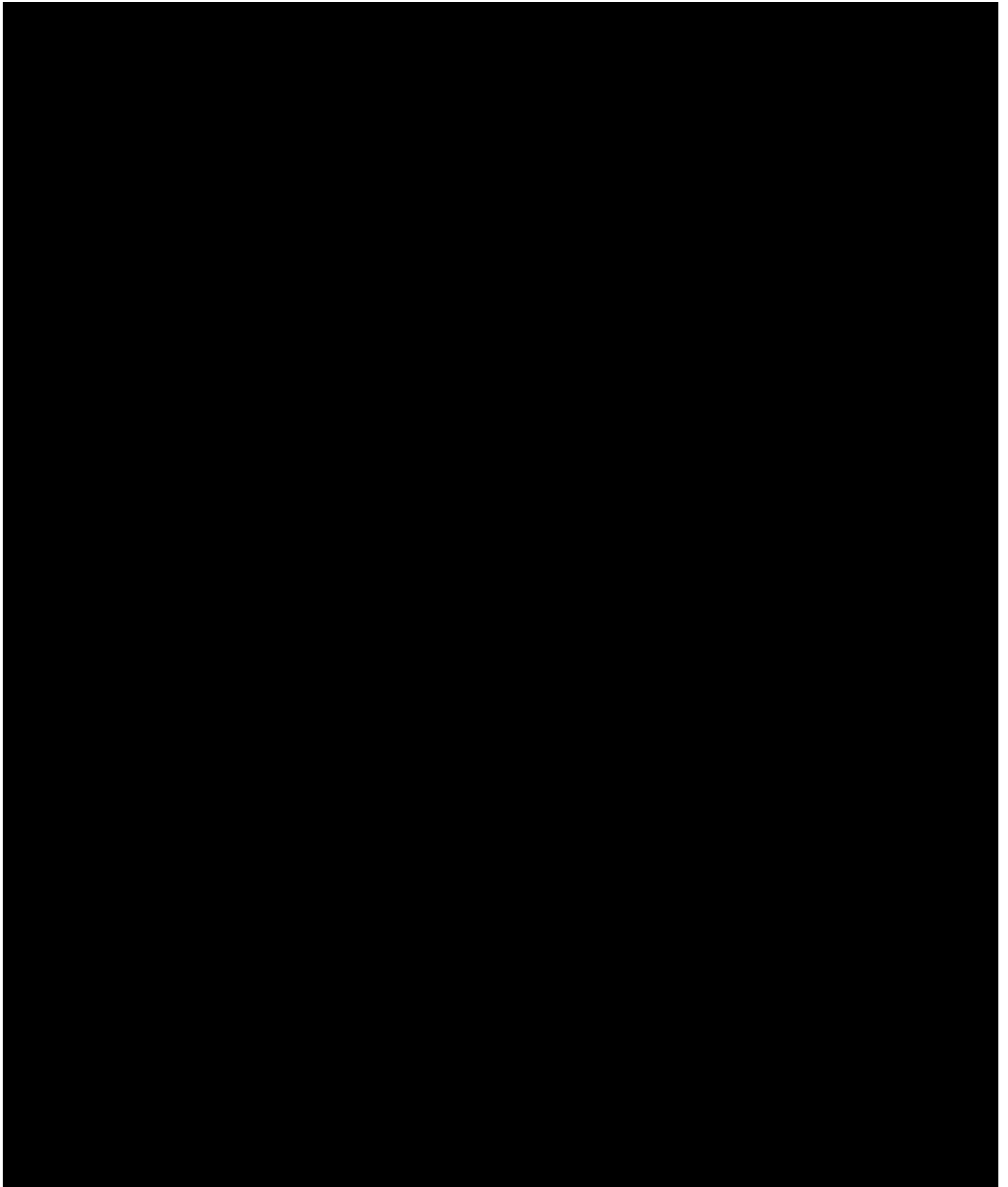
Date

01/03/2023



Signed by Mr leslie ray

Signed on: 1 March, 2023



Second subsequent submission to the RCB DHAAT Inquiry

Leslie James Ray



1 March 2023

I refer to the recent submission by the Department of Defence and in particular to their responses to questions 8(am) and 8 (an).

Defence's response to these two questions refer to an incident which I personally witnessed, and I feel that Defence have distorted the facts, so I wish to exercise my right of reply.

At question 8(am) Defence stated that the Tribunal no longer requires this question to be answered. The same response is found in their reply to question 8(an).

If the Tribunal no longer requires this question to be answered, then it must be due to either of the following two reasons: -

Firstly, the Tribunal is in possession of information that clearly confirms the facts behind the assertion, or secondly, the Tribunal is of the opinion that the claims are so fanciful that they warrant no further investigation.

As I have stated in my previous two submissions, I am recalling events from nearly 50 years ago from the position of an infantryman with no aeronautical experience. I accept, and have declared it in those two submissions, that there could be a legitimate reason for the ostensible damaged we witnessed, however, no-one has been able to offer a sensible explanation to what we witnessed.

Even if there is a sensible explanation (which I do not discount) it does not take away from the fact that at the time we were given clear orders from our section commander, Corporal Lenny Allen, a decorated Vietnam veteran, to consider the damaged as being from a hostile force and to exercise the necessary caution required, and the statement from a member of the Malaysian Army who approached us for food who told us specifically that his battalion had been mobilised to '*search for the CT's who shot down the plane*', and the high ranking Australian army personnel who visited the site while we were there.

I believe that this meets the objective criteria test.

I would appreciate a response from the Tribunal as to the reasons they did not want Defence to answer those two questions.

Despite not having to answer these two questions, Defence made a statement in question 8(am) that I believe is deceptive and misleading.

Defence quotes the History and Heritage Branch – Air Force (Attachment AC) which gives a reason for the crash of A3-18 as being the failure of a first stage compressor blade. This is a true statement that explains why A3-18 had engine trouble, but it does not explain the reason the compressor blade broke in the first place.

Defence also refers to the inquiry conducted at Butterworth into this incident, which was conducted in April 1974 several weeks after the incident, however, Defence did not quote from this document.

In that inquiry, under Conclusions, the inquiry stated: -

It is most probable that the first event in the sequence which culminated in the destruction of A3-18 was the separation of a portion of one of the front row compressor blades. **Whether the blade broke as a result of impact with a foreign object, or as a consequence of a pre-existing deficiency will be the subject of further analysis by authorities in Australia.** (my emphasis)

Defence was quick to quote the first report but failed to quote the second, which I believe was done to weaken my position.

Also note that the pilot was questioned several times about what he thought the effects of foreign object damage could cause to his aircraft, and on page 24 of the report it states -

...there appears to be no information in any official document governing Mirage functions which would assist a pilot in identifying engine foreign object damage.

Further, Wing Commander Roser stated on page 29 of the report that it was not a ricochet problem.

The pilot in his testimony stated that he had a dummy run to the target and pulled out at 8000 feet. In other words, he did not fire his weapons and he was not close enough to the ground to pick up any debris from the ground.

The quote above and in other parts of the report refers to the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation (CAC) conducting further tests with more sophisticated equipment to ascertain the cause of the failure of the compressor blade.

Clearly, there is another report into this incident which I have not been able to locate, and I call upon the Tribunal to call for this document.

Sincerely Yours,

Les Ray

██████████ Pte L.J. Ray

Charlie Company 5/7 RAR

3 March – 3 June 1974