

Document ID: 75283f1fcbc8cc1167056cf74d8d9a9bc23f47c9

14 March, 2023

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

Submission to Inquiry - Mr Stephen Winthrop

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Medallic Recognition for Service of RCB

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr

Given Names *

Stephen

Surname *

Winthrop

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:

No

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

Expectation of Casualties

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: Was-there-an-Expectation-of-Casualties.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

Stephen Winthrop

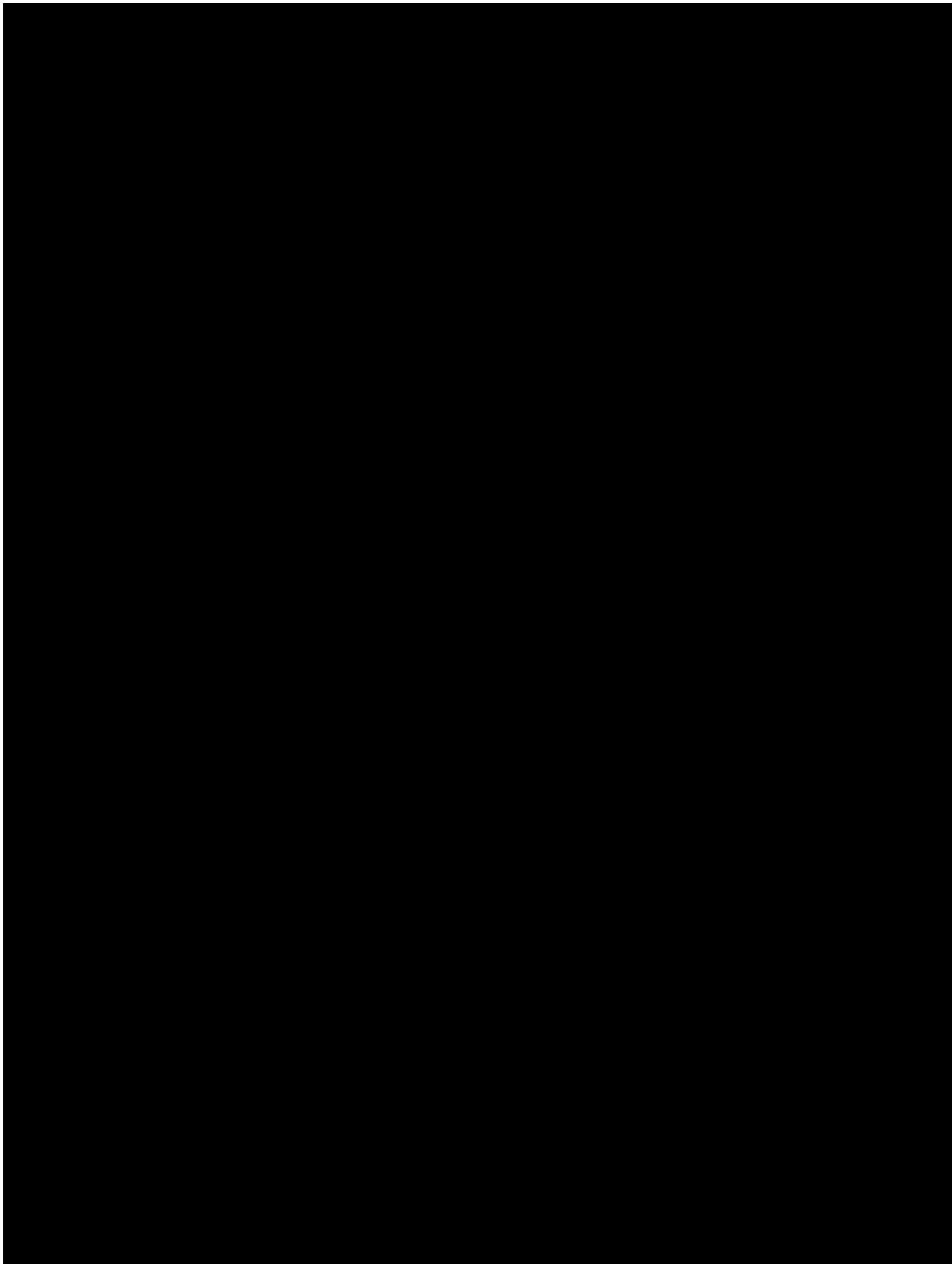
Date

14/03/2023



Signed by Mr Stephen Winthrop

Signed on: 14 March, 2023



Was there an Expectation of Casualties.

1. As no documents were written on the subject we need to look at the situation on the ground for evidence of the Expectation of Casualties.
Did the environment around Butterworth, that is the Communist Insurgents, and their warlike activities pose an expectation of an attack resulting in an expectation of casualties, they go hand in hand.
2. The possibility and the expectation of an attack and casualties are the same. There is a possibility I may have an accident driving my car, there is also an expectation I will have an accident driving my car, as I have passed many accidents over the years, and myself have been involved in accidents. I drive my car with the possibility and an expectation of having an accident, as I do not know how the other drivers are going to behave.
3. This is exactly the same as the Communist Terrorist, you do not know how they are going to behave or react but you have to treat them with an expectation of an attack, they have already demonstrated their ability and desire to attack patrols, military bases and infrastructures Butterworth was not isolated from the Insurgency war, it was part of it.
4. It was a guerrilla campaign waged in Malaysia, from the north to the south, no place was exempt from attack, each and every military base was a target for the Ct's, Butterworth was no exception, it was at the same or if not higher risk as any other based which was attacked, and suffered casualties.
5. Let's talk about the environment around Butterworth which would lead you to an expectation of an attack, and as a result casualties would have been inflicted.
 - a. Butterworth was directly involved in the fight against the Communist Interagency.
 - b. There was many fire fights between the Ct's and Malaysian Forces on the door step of Butterworth.
 - c. The Ground Defence Operational Centre and RCB was activated due to ground threats.
 - d. Bridges and railway lines blown up close to Butterworth.
 - e. Minden Military Base on Penang Island rocketed.
 - f. Other Military Bases in Malaysia were attacked.
 - g. Butterworth was in the operational area of the active 8th Communist Assault Group.
 - h. Butterworth was the largest and closest to the Communist strong hold.
 - i. Butterworth was a hindrance for the Ct's as they were bombed and troops were deployed into battle from Butterworth.

Butterworth was no by stander in this war, Butterworth was part off, and directly involved in the war.

Malaysia was fighting their war against the Ct's from Butterworth.

This war environment, made Butterworth a target for the Ct's and there was an expectation of an attack and as a result an expectation of casualties.

When you have war activates happening all around you due to the Communist using armed force to take over the country and other military bases being attacked, then there is an expectation of an attack resulting in casualties.

6. Did JIO think there was an expectation of an attack which means an expectation of casualties. Obviously they did. Again the Ministerial Brief October 1975.
 - a. JIO wanted at least one Battalion to the area immediately surrounding Butterworth for area **defence**.
 - b. Arraignments for ARA to operate outside the Base to **defend** their assets (and Malaysian assets)
 - c. Approval to reinforce Butterworth at short notice with ARA.

These action by JIO would not have been recommended unless there was a concern of an attack and as a result an expectation of casualty.

7. The Communist were active in attacking military bases in Malaysia, there was no reason or rhyme why one or another would be attacked, but they were attacking military bases and patrols. Malaysian or Australian Intelligence could not tell anyone which would be attacked, but they were all targets for attack. Butterworth was a prime target for attack, it had a major role in the fight against the Ct's, one could only expect Butterworth would be attacked and as a result an Expectation of Casualties.
It was more than a possibility, it was more than likely.

8. We know there was very high risk of an attack on Butterworth, which means there was a high risk of casualties, or an expectation of casualties, the Malaysian Deputy Director Military Intelligence Lt. Col Ahmad told our Ambassador in Malaysia **“that all Bases was now seriously at risk”**
He assessed Butterworth as a probable target. (probable: almost certainly) It is very clear from the Lt.Col assessment that there was certainly an expectation of an attack on Butterworth and as a result there was an Expectation of Casualties.

Why does Defence not acknowledge the Deputy Director of Military Intelligent assessment.
Does Defence think he is unreliable, or does it not fit their scripted narrative.
Talk about withholding evidence, Defence are masters at it.

Butterworth was in the middle of war like activities, and not to expect an attack and expect casualties is absurd, especially when no place was off limits to the Ct's, and other military bases were attacked

9. Every single Military base in Malaysia was a legitimate target for the Ct's to attack and inflict casualties. This history of random attacks and casualties during the insurgency on other bases, teaches us that nothing was safe from the Ct's and every base including Butterworth was a likely target with casualties.

There was no separating Butterworth from the Insurgency, Butterworth was a major player in the Insurgency, it was actively involved in the Insurgency war, and to claim there was no threat of an attack on Butterworth is ludicrous, even to say the threat level was low is ludicrous, and for Defence to say in this environment there was not an expectation of casualties is ludicrous.

10. I'm sorry to keep repeating this, but the fact that in Air Brief, 546/8/28 said that the CTO has given instructions to its underground organisation in Malaysia to carry out rocket attacks against air bases. That 100 percent gives you the expectation of an attack and the expectation of casualties. Defence can put their head in the sand again, and choose to ignore it, as they do with every other document which does not support their scripted narrative.

11. Expectation of Causalities

You know from past events the Communist Terrorist have been attacking patrols and military bases and you know they will continue to attack patrols and military bases, so you know it is just a matter of time when Butterworth will be attacked. That gives you the expectation of casualties.

You cannot isolate Butterworth from the insurgency, only a naive person would think Butterworth would not be attacked or penetrated, and as a result casualty.

Stephen Winthrop

14 March 2023