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7 April, 2023

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Submission to Inquiry - Lt(Ret) John Hunt

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Medallic Recognition for Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Lt(Ret)

Given Names *

John

Surname *

Hunt

Post-nominals (if applicable)

FIEAust.

Street Number and Name *

[REDACTED]

Suburb *

[REDACTED]

Postcode *

[REDACTED]

State *

Victoria

Email Address: *

[REDACTED]

Primary Contact Number *

[REDACTED]

Secondary Contact Number

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

N/A

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

This submission in part addresses the Chair's comment on the 4th April ie :- There was no enemy as Australia had not declared war against the CT's

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: DHAAT-additional-SUBMISSION-20230405-018-B-RE-RCB.pdf
DHAAT-Form-for-lodgement-of-additional-SUBMISSION-20230405-RE-RCB-.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

john hunt

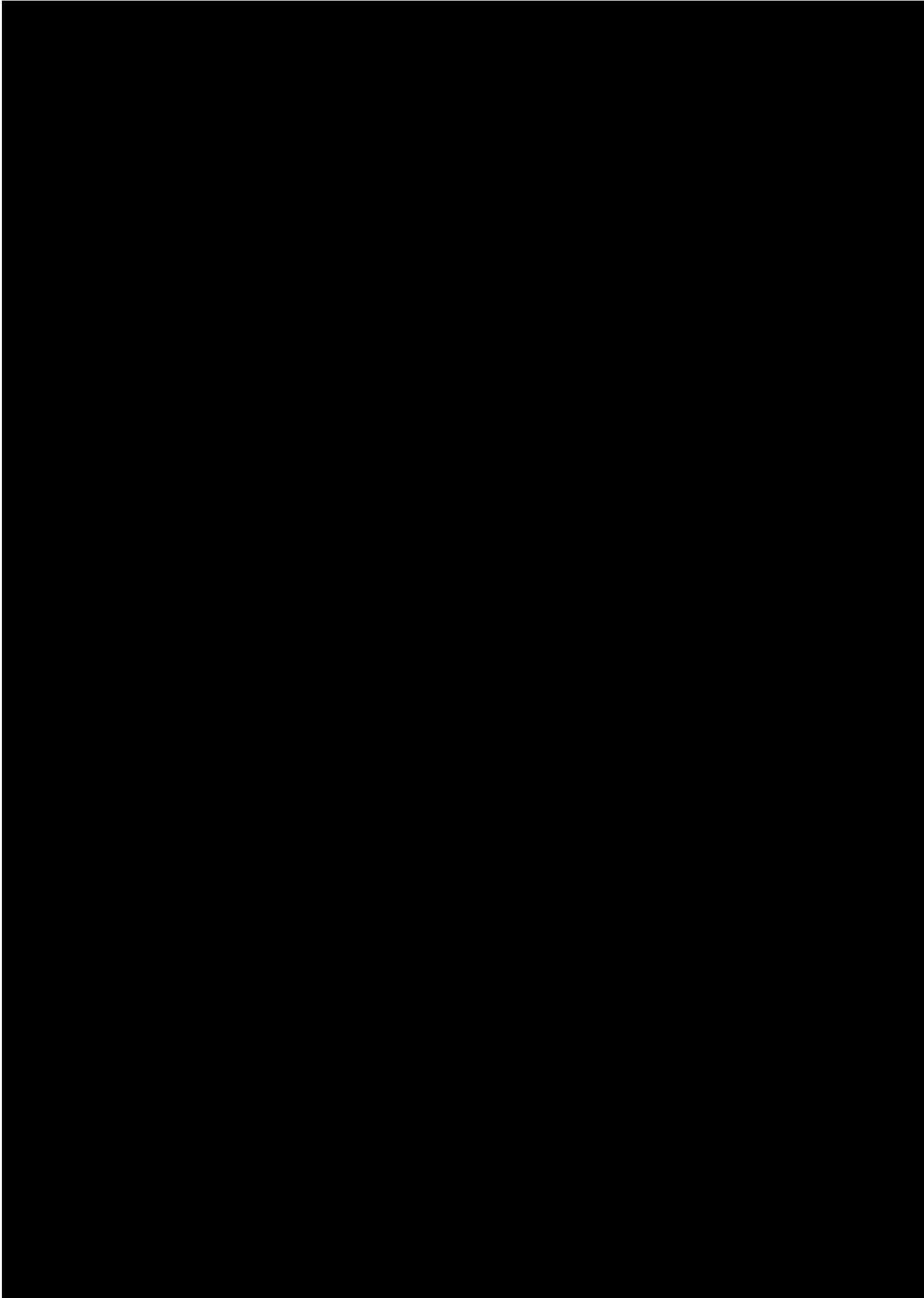
Date

05/04/2023



Signed by Lt(Ret) John Hunt

Signed on: 7 April, 2023



John Hunt
Army Number [REDACTED]
PO Box 765
Ararat, Vic 3377
8th April 2023

Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal
Floor 1, 5 Tennant Street
Fyshwick
Locked Bag 7765
Canberra BC ACT 2610

Re Medallic Recognition Hearing into Rifle Company Butterworth

To Chair Mr. Skehill,
Dear Sir,

This submission is additional to my previous documents numbered 018, and 018 A, and becomes 018 B.

Thank you Sir, for the manner in which you, and the other two panellists have conducted the open, fair and impartial proceedings on Nov 23rd 2022, and April 3rd and 4th 2023. I have, had a long involvement with proceedings with the DOD & DVA concerning the nature of my service, starting in 1972, when I applied for a War Service Home, and was rejected. I also lodged a submission and attended the Mohr Enquiry in Melbourne 1999 and have submitted multiple submissions to all authorities throughout the 2000's. It has been a long struggle for something that has deeply troubled me since being unceremoniously kicked out at the end of my National Service.

This additional submission is due to your comment late in the afternoon of the 4th instant. Ie. **"There was no enemy, as Australia was not at war with the CT's"**.

Sir, As a National Serviceman, I served for 488 days in Malaysia and Singapore with 1RAR between Jan 1970 and May 1971. Generally speaking, during our training in Australia and overseas service, The VC's, Vietcong, Reds, Charlie, CT's, or what-ever you want to call them, were all communists to us. We had been indoctrinated that there was a **Domino Theory** threat to Australia of the Communists goals etc, in South East Asia. In the Malaysian Peninsula we referred to them as Commo's or CT, and to us, they were all, the enemy, so reference to the enemy or the commo CT's were one in the same.

To say that there was no enemy because Australia was not at war with them, although may be correct to an astute legal mind such as your own, but the application of the law at times is blind to that of common sense understanding of an issue.

If we are looking for Intent by the CT's to kill Australian soldiers or destroy Australian assets, then it would be fair to say that the probability or possibility that Ching Peng, the leader of the CT's during Malaysia's first emergency showed his intent to kill Australians, so it follows that the same leader of the same CT's fighting for the same outcome, would have the same intent

towards the Australians in Malaysia's second emergency. It could easily be argued that a clear precedent of showing his Intent, was set by Ching Peng in the first emergency.

Sir,

The following article telling the story of the British children that were killed, would seem to indicate a clear intent to kill Allies, by planting these flags in school grounds. It was directly targeted at us. This incident occurred only months after I arrived in Singapore and around the same time that we went to the border region for the first time. Our CO, assembled the battalion on the Selarang parade ground and made it loud and clear that the CT were our enemy.

Bomb victim dies

The Straits Times, 25 April 1970, Page 1

Article also available on microfilm reel NL6486 [Lee Kong Chian Reference Library - On shelf]

Citation Added

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Bomb victim dies

SINGAPORE, Fri.

SIX - YEAR - OLD Katty Salter, injured in a booby-trap bomb blast at Changi yesterday afternoon, died in the Changi Hospital tonight.

Katty, a primary school student, and her neighbour, Peter Neil, nine, stepped on the bomb buried in a playground where a communist hammer-and-sickle flag was planted.

Peter's condition is said to be improving.

Their father are British servicemen.

Two more bombs -- believed to be homemade -- were found in busy Gaji Lane off Arad Street at

I would like to give an analogy, to indicate what a profound effect these children's deaths, had on our state of mind at the time. On the 15th Dec 1915, the German soldiers executed the famous nurse Edith Cavell, and the news of her death galvanised the British public and soldiers to a renewed and heightened anger and resentment and resolve towards their enemy, the Germans. Its only an analogy, but I can clearly remember the change in attitude towards the CT's. In the Straights Times news paper at the time, we regularly read of the vicious acts, the CT's were inflicting on the Malaysian Security forces, and civilians, who were deemed to be against the CT communist struggle.

Sir, The above two items, being the Precedent set by Ching Pengs struggle in the First Emergency and that of the School children killed by the CT's in April 1970 are a couple of items that I hope you will consider when deciding if the CT's showed intent to harm or Kill, towards us.

Sir, I also would like to draw your attention to my submission 018 A, in which I articulate my discussions and training given by my RMO, as he was very concerned for the possible carnage that I may have to face caused by the CT's, for my upcoming patrols near the Thai/Malay border. The CT's were, the enemy in his mind.



John Hunt
Army number [REDACTED]
PM Keys [REDACTED]