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12 April, 2023

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr (WO2) Linton Solomon

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Inquiry into medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr (WO2)

Given Names *

Linton

Surname *

Solomon

Post-nominals (if applicable)

Street Number and Name *

■

Suburb *

■

Postcode *

■ *

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Email Address: *

■

Primary Contact Number *

■

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:

Supplementary to submission #50 Linton Solomon in relation to taped magazines and threat levels.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: 20230410-Supplementary-to-submission-DHAAT-1.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

Linton Solomon

Date

12/04/2023

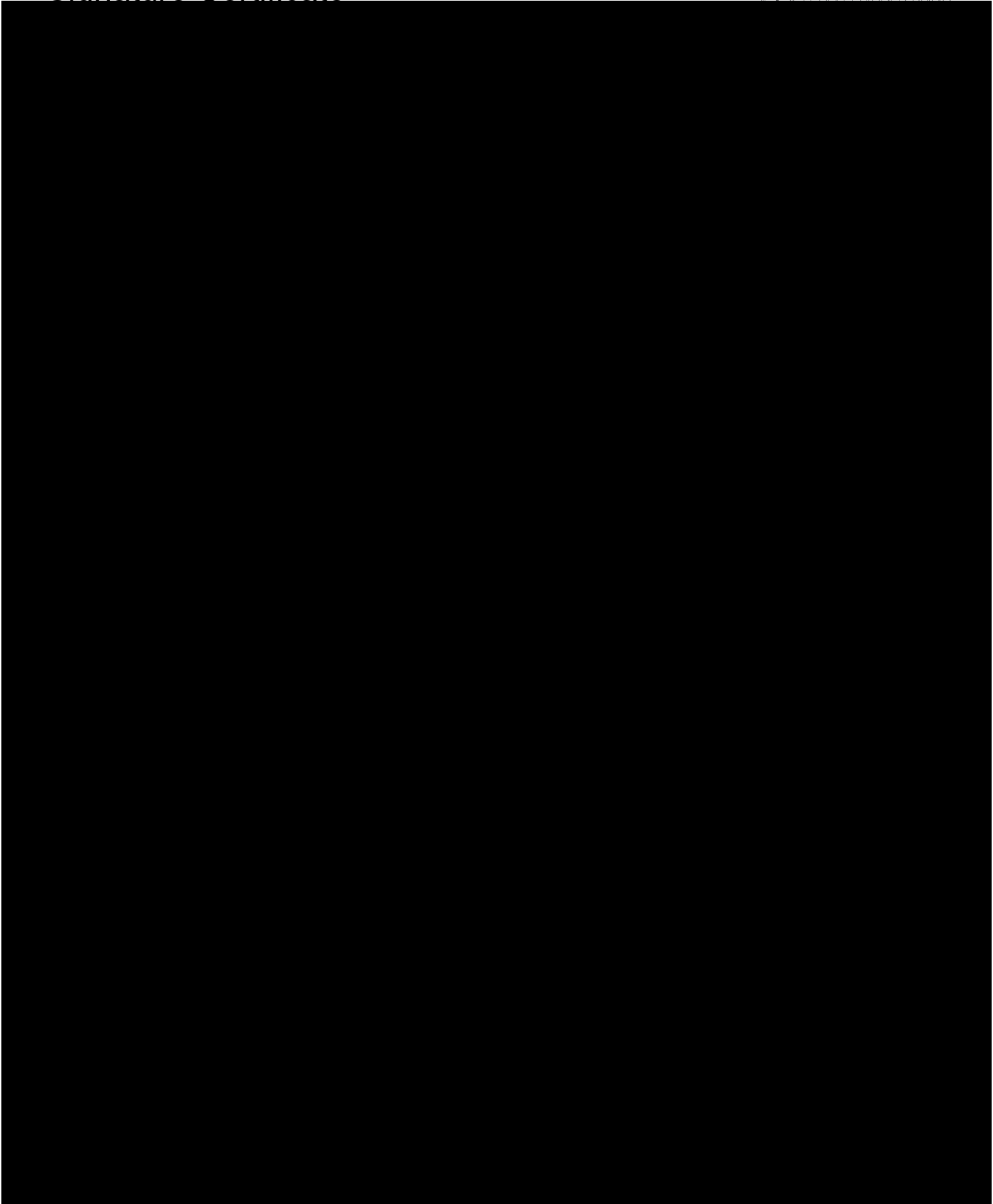
Linton Solomon

Signed by Mr (WO2) Linton Solomon

Signed on: 12 April, 2023

Signature Certificate

 LEGALLY SIGNED USING



Supplementary to submission #50 Linton Solomon

Inquiry into medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth

Taped Magazines:

After viewing the hearing on 3rd and 4th of April 23 I was concerned at a point raised in relation to taped magazines being used on the air base and the panel seeming to accept that this was fact, even though the evidence to the contrary is overwhelming.

I served two tours of RCB in 1974 and 1976 and can say categorically that at no time were taped magazines issued whilst operating on the air base. The use of live, front line, ammunition is not in dispute but I gained the distinct impression that the panel took for granted that one comment on taped magazines being used on base was accepted as fact for all RCBs. This is definitely not true.

My personal experience (and many others) is clear, we loaded all our magazines with live ball ammunition and the magazines were carried upon call out both on the weapons and in our equipment. *No magazine was ever taped whilst operating on base in our defensive role.*

There are no verbal or written assertions from veterans or any other document that would lead anyone to think that magazines were taped whilst operating on base, they were not. Quite the opposite in fact, I would emphasize that live front line ammunition was carried on callouts with ROE.

Threat Levels:

I am also concerned about the notion of levels of threat. It would seem to me to be irrelevant other than to the different levels of response it may have generated at the time. The threat was always there, the notional levels that have been published from time to time were purely arbitrary based on old intelligence and could change at any time without warning. This was the nature of the communist insurgency and, like it or not, we were in the middle of it and could at any time have been called upon to engage in hostilities against against an enemy, not of our choosing, to protect Australian personnel and assets that our Government chose to keep in place knowing full well that the threat existed. Rifle Company Butterworth was placed at the airbase to counter this threat, the levels of which were at the whim of the insurgents and essentially unpredictable.

For your consideration.

LF Solomon

10 April 2023

[REDACTED]