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14 April, 2023

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr/ Pte Bradley Donald Geary

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Bradley donald Geary

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr/ Pte

Given Names *

Bradley Donald

Surname *

Geary

Post-nominals (if applicable)

Street Number and Name *

██████████

Suburb *

██████████

Postcode *

██████

State *

███

██████ **Address: ***

████████████████████

██████████████████████

██████████

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:

Correct recognition for service at Butterworth air base Malaysia 1970-1989

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: submission-to-tribunial-inquiry-into-recognition-of-RCB.docx

submission-to-tribunial-inquiry-into-recognition-of-RCB-1.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

Bradley Donald Geary.

Date

14/04/2023

*Mr Pte Bradley
Donald Geary*

Signed by Mr/ Pte Bradley Donald Geary

Signed on: 14 April, 2023

In 1982 Delta coy 2/4 RAR served at Butterworth air base as QRF for base security. A number of us also served on the Malay/Thai border between March and April

before leaving we were sent to the Malaysian army base at Sungai Petani where we joined with 6 MIB. 4 of us left the base before daylight as an advance party

with 4 Malaysian troops, during the journey and while waiting for the main party we had live ammunition in our weapons, I am not sure if we all did but myself and Lance corporal Cederblad and the Malays certainly did, I also had a taped basic pouch with live loaded magazines the whole time we were in the border country.

Traveling in a small Malaysian utility truck, the question the Panel asked is whether the communists would discriminate between Australian troops

and Malaysian troops. Well considering we were in Malaysian transport and in equal numbers in the dark in an area known to have CT, I think no, and don't

see how they could, after some time traveling through jungle roads we dismounted and walked into the area to wait for the arrival of the main force. While waiting

1 of the Malay soldiers a corporal expressed his concern about the foolishness of this idea, as there were CT in the area and the Malays were very nervous

which in turn made me nervous. I don't believe the CT would have discriminated between Australians and Malays in this instance.

The question also asked by the chair, was did we feel threatened. The area contained many booby traps both sophisticated and rudimentary

which do not discriminate. Yes I felt threatened by their presents. While patrolling I found a wire and pointed

it out to others and moved on, I don't know its purpose. A few days later I spotted a hand grenade under a bush a type I had not seen before, a small tin can

grenade not a homemade device this was also shown to the Malays and left in their care.

During our time in the border country myself and a couple of others were attached to 1 of the Malay battalions and patrolled with them to locations we were later to

escort the remainder of our own people to join up with the Malays. After doing so a small group of us myself, SGT Graham, LT McDonald and MAJ Greville moved to a command bunker

bunker in a dug in and sand bagged defensive Malaysian position. This was a fortified position like nothing I had seen before it was serious business that was clear

and not there for our benefit or a training exercise.

One evening on a hill in the distance and not that far away red flares went up, being very hilly country it was hard to see what was happening later green flares went up

and to this day I am no wiser to what went on.

towards the end of our time in the Border area we laid an ambush in which i was part of the Killing group. We laid 6x claymore mines and a 1kg slab of plastic explosive dug into the road which was done by PTE Denison who was our assault pioneer, about 2am the ambush was initiated, the blast was nothing like i had ever experience and felt like it bounced me off the ground at which time

we opened fire with automatic weapons and live ammunition, I dont know the outcome of the ambush as we bugged out without checking the damage and nothing could be seen through the smoke

and white dust we just up and left holding the back of each others pants. SGT Graham counted us out and we moved quickly for a number of hrs, eventually stopping in a rubber plantation to rest.

Later we moved though a palm plantation where we met tranport and returned to Sungi Petani, the platation was guarded by security forces.

also i forgot to mention earlier when moving with the Malay Battalion we climbed a hill that when we reached the summit was burnt and still smoking

why? i do not know! we moved on.

Butterworth airbase service.

On arrival at Butterworth day 1 a bus exploded into flames near the main gate which made me think we were at war and to reinforce this was the presence of

armed soldiers everywhere on the base. Even the picture theater which was well inside the base had armed Malays with Sterling SMG's in case of terrorist attacks.

On the trains guards carried sub machine guns, weapons being very common place.

One last experience was on a QRF call out, we were called to a flight control tower, just up the road from the tower we met MP's who told us the tower alarms had activated

and we were to search and clear it. Anyone inside was to be treated as hostile, as no one was supposed to be there. We proceeded to the tower, a cordon was placed around the biulding. Myself and

Corporal Schwerferger entered to begin clearing the building. The only noise was the blood pumping around in my ears. We searched the bottom floor and it was clear. The building was in darkness,

I started up the stairs to the control room about half way up the door started to open at the top and a person appeared yelling and had a flare gun pointed at me.

this person was yelling with an Australian accent which is the reason I did not shoot. I didnt know it was a flare gun as it was dark, at which time the MP's entered

and stopped us, I must admit I was rattled and used some choice language which I was chatted to for but nothing came of it.

the air traffic controller was milliseconds from being shot. As possibly was I.

Did I feel that I was at harm from terrorism or hostile forces? The answer is yes!

