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14 May, 2023

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

## Submission to Inquiry - Mr James Thorpe

### Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry \*

James Thorpe

### Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank \*

Mr

Given Names \*

James

Surname \*

Thorpe

Post-nominals (if applicable)

Street Number and Name \*

[Redacted]

Suburb \*

[Redacted]

Postcode \*

[Redacted]

State \*

NSW

Email Address: \*

[Redacted]

Primary Contact Number \*

[Redacted]

Secondary Contact Number

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

No personal submission

### Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

To aid in medallic Recognition and benefits of RCB veterans please add to my previous submissions. This numbered 076D

### Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: 076D-RCB-Tribunal.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**

James Thorpe

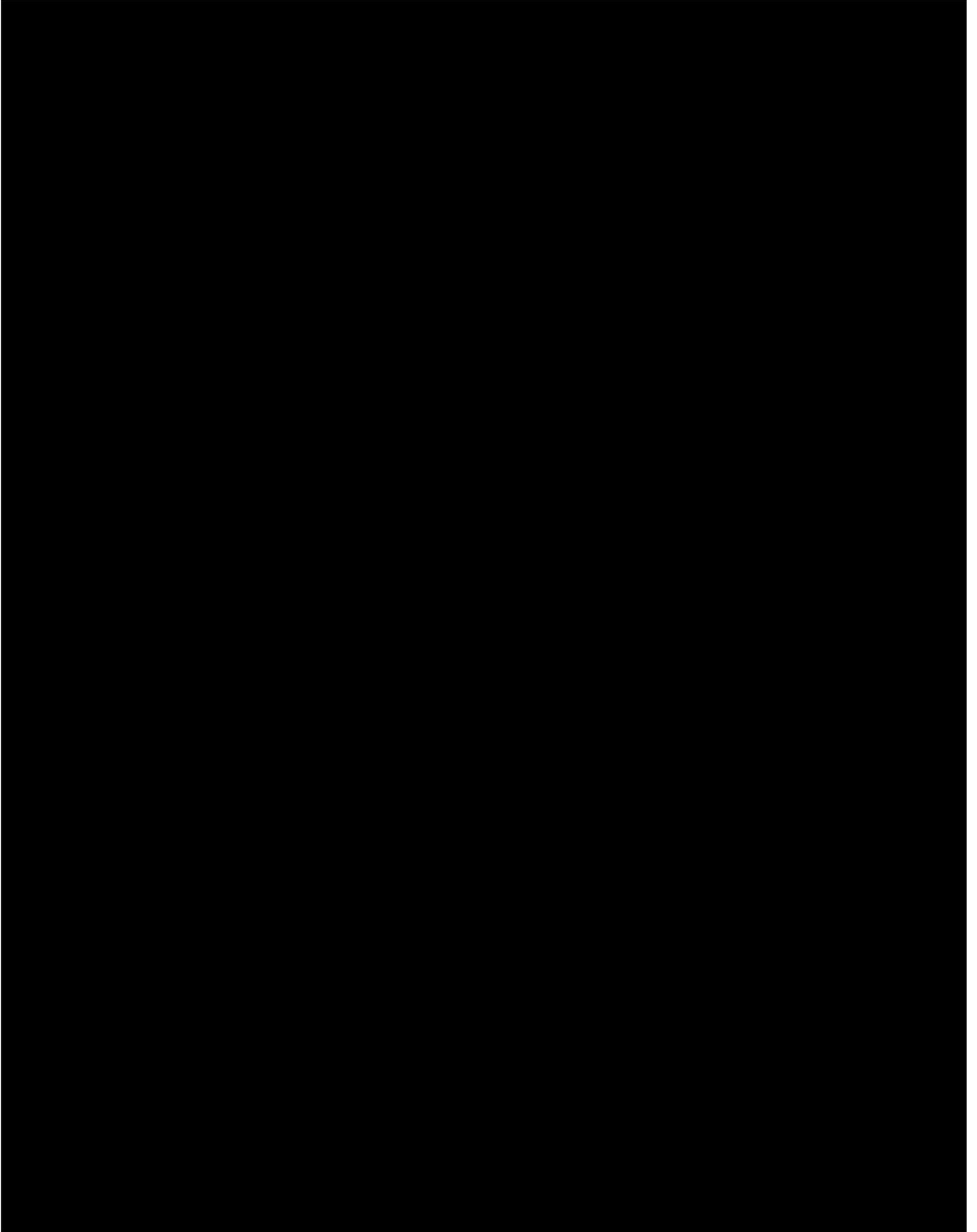
**Date**

14/05/2023



Signed by Mr James Thorpe

Signed on: 14 May, 2023



James Thorpe

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rifle Company Butterworth Medallic Recognition

Supplementary submission for myself 076D

Dear Mr Chair and Panel members of DHAAT,

Once again thank you for allowing us RCB Veterans to voice our opinions, observations and submissions to this tribunal to put forward our case of recognition of warlike service. I would like to express to you some of the key points I think are important to remind you of .

**The Malaysian Communist Party have and were actively against the Malaysian Government from 1948 until 1989 , The 1<sup>st</sup> Malaysian Emergency, The Indonesian Confrontation and The Communist Insurgency ( The 2<sup>nd</sup> Malaysian Emergency).**

**The Australian Government made a decision of national security importance to task Department of Defence to provide defence aid to a foreign government ensconced in a Communist uprising expanding the time and space of 41 years until the peace treaty signed 3 December 1989 .**

**Over that 41 year period there the Malaysian Government have recognise 3 distinct periods of warlike within their country , the 1<sup>st</sup> Malaysian Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation ( in which Australia recognise) and the (2<sup>nd</sup> Malaysian Emergency) Communist Insurgency ( where Australia doesn't recognise) .**

As the communist Insurgency progressed through out Malaysia over these periods Australian defence personnel were posted to various areas of Malaysia, and Singapore after 1973 the main location of Australian defence personnel was and still is Butterworth Air Base where we Australia still have the RAAF and RCB ( Rifle Company Butterworth) personal in attendance under the defence treaty between Australia and Malaysia.

Now comes the reason for my supplementary submission and my observations and opinion of known facts.

**1; A reinforced Rifle Company supplied by battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment every 3-4 months from Singapore (1968-1973) from Australia (1973-1989) in country replacement Over lapping each rotation armed with security briefings, ROE'S for warlike conditions and the protection task of QRF to defend the Butterworth Air Base from the Communist Insurgency. We RCB were a physical and psychology deterrence against the Communist Insurgency while our allies the Malaysian defence force concentrated on fighting the Communist Insurgency across the country .**

**2; over the RCB deployments every company provided QRF to the satisfaction of both the Australian and Malaysian governments where there was no actual attack on the base occurred, so the Malaysian**

defence force could continue taking the fight to the CT's from Butterworth on a daily basis over the period.

3; over the 50 plus years that RCB has been going on and through many DHAAT tribunals there has been many misinformation and misinterpreted of information been used against veterans of RCB deployments previously, now we come to this tribunal and again I thank the tribunal for their due diligence to hold a open and transparent formal hearing that has allowed a lot of information now available for all to view to be presented.

I would also like to thank my fellow veterans of RCB for the valued and very appreciated diligence of researched of all information that is now available to be presented to this tribunal and presenting the facts hidden from the public due to government secrets and policies and public presented lies from both consecutive Australian governments and Department of Defence .

With the declassification of secret documents over the last few years in which has brought this tribunal in public scope of recognition of warlike service by the RCB Veterans, I am proud of been part of the veteran groups involved in tribunal as I am proud of my Army service knowing that we did our duty to Australia and the allied country of Malaysia in securing their freedom from insurgency that was destroying their country .

4; I still have questions and disbelief why the Department of Defence are fighting So hard against us veterans. When both sides the Government and DoD are using the same government and defence documentation and directives of the time period showing it was warlike , I can understand why the government and defence of the time announcing it's a training deployment decision. But what I can't understand is why the government and defence declaring that we were there in a peace time environment and training while the Malaysian defence force was in a all out war against the Communist Insurgency forces especially after the fact of security and safety concerns of the time period have well and truly past and with defence stated many times throughout this tribunal declaring that DO NOT CONTEST any RCB veterans submissions and with the consecutive governments and defence past and present showing a distinct lack of compassion respect and duty of care towards us RCB Veterans and overall veteran's in general .

Currently the government and defence has a morale problem within its ranks from lack of leadership compassion and confidence towards all ranks and to the people of Australia , this tribunal is a first step towards restoring the respect to all veterans, currently serving members and the people of Australia by correcting a past wrong of classifying RCB peacetime service to warlike service and awarding to appropriate benefits dues .

In conclusion as this tribunal enters the final stage of deliberation, I envy your task of many hours, days even months of deliberation ahead of you all to come towards a decision and recommendation towards this mammoth task of content that this tribunal to compile to make a difference for us all.

Thank you once again

Your servant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J' or similar character, located at the bottom left of the page.

**James Thorpe**

**RCB Veteran**

**Charlie Company**

**5/7 RAR (Mech)**

**Jun-Sept 1989**