



SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

This form must cover a submission to the inquiry

Name of Inquiry

About the Submitter

Title or Rank:

Surname:

Given Names:

Postal Address:

Email Address:

Preferred contact number:

Home or other:

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

Outcome

Provide a summary of your submission.

Please attach your submission and any supporting documentation



### Consent and Declaration

- 1 ☐ I **consent** to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available.  
**OR**

- ☐ I **do not consent** to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available. My reasons are:


- 2 I also **consent** to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal:
- a. using information contained in my submission to conduct research;
  - b. providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation considered by the Tribunal to be appropriate;
  - c. providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation the subject of adverse comment in the submission; and
  - d. using content in my submission in its report to Government.

The Tribunal will decide which person or organisation is appropriate, and this may include:

- a. persons or organisations required to assist with the inquiry; and
- b. persons or organisations with an interest in the inquiry.

I **declare** that the information I have provided is correct.

Signature:

--

Print name:

--

Date:

--

### Lodging your submission

Further information, including the inquiry's Terms of Reference can be found at **[www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au](http://www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au)**

Once you are satisfied with your submission, return this form and all supporting documents

**By Post:**

Defence Honours and Awards  
Appeals Tribunal  
Level 1, 5 Tennant Street, Fyshwick  
Locked Bag 7765  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2600

**By Email:**

[dha.tribunal@defence.gov.au](mailto:dha.tribunal@defence.gov.au)

If you wish to speak with someone regarding your submission phone **02 6266 1019**



29/04/2023

To the Chair, DHAAT –

## Medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth

My name is LARRY ILIFFE and I was only 19 when deployed to RAAF Base Butterworth – Rifle Company Butterworth with C Coy, 8/9 Battalion in September of 1976 till December of 1976 in Malaya. This is a personal account of my deployment to RAAF Butterworth and of course not all events could be recalled on paper as there is an abundance of documented evidence to support the application to have the RCB deployment between 1968 and 1989 as **WAR LIKE SERVICE**.

### Pre deployment

I was warned out that I was going on “ACTIVE SERVICE” required to sign a form acknowledging the fact and told to complete my “WILL” which was provided to me and duly filled out and signed. Unfortunately, I do not have copies of either document. We were given Intel briefs before we left Australia. That indicated a REAL threat to RAAF Butterworth.

### Deployment

The RCB was an Operational deployment on ACTIVE Service to provide a reactionary force to respond to any incursions into Air Base Butterworth to destroy or kill base personal or families. The RCB was authorised to use lethal force as authorised by the ROE (Rules of Engagement), hence the carriage of “**LIVE AMMUNITION**” during the carrying out QRF duties.

We were given Intel briefs while at RAAF Butterworth on the level of threat and believed locations of subversive groups that were active at that time namely the COMMUNIST PARTY of MALAYA and others.

On our first QRF duty, the first thing we received was the latest Intel brief, then we were allocated our duties, weapons were picked up from the armoury and a “**FULL COMPLEMENT of LIVE AMMUNITION**” , **this was never carried for guard duties in Australia other than on a live fire range.**

The RCB QRF was deployed regularly and at scheduled times as there were ground sensors around the base which was monitored in the guardhouse which caused the QRF to deploy when the sensors went off. The QRF consisted of the Truck with a search light which had a section mounted as the mobile response and the other two sections would conduct foot patrols.

During my tour of duty I was on the QRF for every duty allocated to my platoon.

When on patrol with the QRF patrols when on foot and at the opposite side of the airfield I was **silhouetted by the lights** that were shown on the Mirages behind the revetments. I felt that I was in danger during the entire period. The lights made you an ideal target for the CT if they were outside the wire waiting in ambush with only a single strand of wire fence between you and your attackers. Intel briefs often mentioned that CT activity which were 10 to 20 kilometres away. Attacks at various times in Ipoh, Alor Setar, Penang and elsewhere on the Malaya Peninsular and there was nothing to indicate that they were not outside the wire watching our activities.

The second instant was when approaching the Malay guard posts in the corners of the airfield on the perimeter where you could never gauge the reaction of the guard. Often you would hear the guard

sleeping and was not sure whether he would come out with the finger on his trigger or firing, as there were instances which were told to us that it did happen. I quite often to this day think about those patrols and it keeps me awake at night.

While this happened on every patrol, we continued to conduct our duty and patrols accepting the risks involved:

- The possibility that we would be involved in a fire fight not of our choosing.
- The possibility that we **INCURR** casualties as a result.

The ability to carry out our duties regardless of the risks was because The RCB was a very well trained Infantry Company and carried out their functions and duties to the highest standard. This period of service from 1968 to 1989 became known as the "Second Malaysian Emergency" as documented and recognised as such by the Malaysian Government and the recognition of its own Armed Forces in its role of defeating the Communist Terrorists with the surrender of its leader Chin Peng in 1989.

I believe that all personal that served with the RCB deserved to be recognised for the risks that were taken, the constant expectation of possible combat where casualties would have occurred if it did happen. As a consequence The RCB needs their service reclassified as **"WAR LIKE"** as it meets all the requirements and re-categorised as **"ACTIVE SERVICE"** (as I was told and signed a form acknowledging my deployment on Active Service) and should receive the **AASM**.