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13 May, 2023

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr David Kilbride

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr

Given Names *

David

Surname *

Kilbride

Post-nominals (if applicable)

Street Number and Name *

[Redacted]

Suburb *

[Redacted]

Postcode *

[Redacted]

State *

[Redacted]

Email Address: *

[Redacted]

Primary Contact Number *

[Redacted]

Secondary Contact Number

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

No

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

I was with B Coy 6 RAR and we were posted to RCB for the last 1/4 of 1981. During our stint a RAAF Fighter crashed into the ocean, young pilot killed. We were tasked with protecting the crash site staying on the water overnight (teams of three) on what was referred to as Big Boat One. From memory our orders were to make sure no CTs or Pirates dredged the crash site for Australian property. We were told that they would in the hope of getting Australian property with a view to sell it back to the Australian Government. We were deployed on the

second or third night. We had been told that on a prior night, the team had opened fire on boats that would not heed warnings to stay away. On the night we were deployed (myself Dave Kilbride, Rock and ?) we were taken to Big Boat One over the horizon via a smaller speed boat. Here is the kicker, we were told weapons would be on Big Boat One. They were not, however our orders remained the same and told to improvise if needed. During the night (pitch black) we could here boats chugging in the distance and more than one. A boat came into view and was obviously dredging. We had on board a Ferry Pistol and limited Rounds. We as a group decide to send up a flare as a warning and hopefully a deterrent. We did so. The boat appeared to back away. But within a short time returned. At this time Rock (Warwick or similar) fired another flare near the boat. The boat continued. So Rock fired another round at the boat. This caused the boat to withdraw. The rest of the night we remained alert and did not sleep until relieved the next morning. On reflection a stupid thing for us to have done, but at the time being young 10 foot tall and bullet proof (naïve) it's what we done. Why, because we were told to protect Australian assets from CTs and or pirates.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached:

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

David Kilbride

Date

13/05/2023

Mr David Kilbride

Signed by Mr David Kilbride

Signed on: 13 May, 2023

