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8 May, 2022

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## Submission to Inquiry - Mr (former L/Corporal) Gregory John MINEHAN

### Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

**Name of Inquiry \***

INQUIRY INTO THE MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WITH RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

### Part 2 – About the Submitter

**Title or Rank \***

Mr (former L/Corporal)

**Surname \***

MINEHAN

**Given Names \***

Gregory John

**Postal Address \***

[REDACTED]

**Email Address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Primary Contact Number \***

[REDACTED]

**Secondary Contact Number**

[REDACTED]

**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 am seeking your favourable findings in qualifying my service for VEA entitlements by having Air Base Butterworth so far as the role of Rifle Company Butterworth members declared under the Defence Act as an active service area with the approved issue of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) with Malaysian Clasp and the Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB)

### Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: R.C.B. Submission-1.docx

Butterworth-deployment-confirmation-1.docx

ADF-Certificate-of-Service-1.pdf

### Part 5 – Consent and declaration

✓ I consent to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available.

N/A

✓ 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**

Gregory John Minehan

**Date**

08/05/2022 /

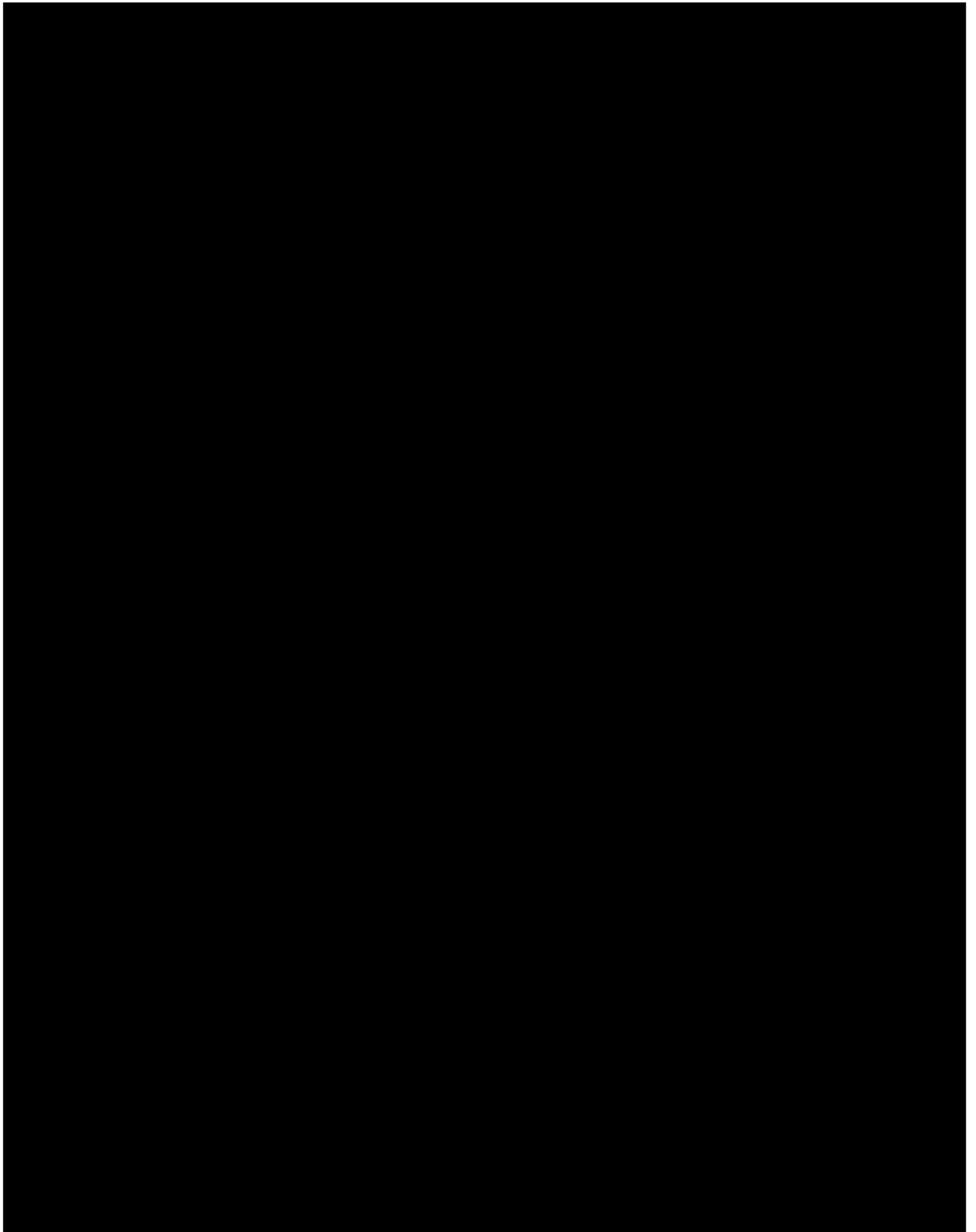


Signed by Mr (former L/Corporal) Gregory John  
MINEHAN

Signed on: 8 May, 2022

# Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mr (former L/Corporal) Gregory John MINEHAN



8 May 2022

Defence Honours and Awards  
Appeals Tribunal  
Locked Bag 7765  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

  
  
*email: dha.tribunal@defence.gov.au*

Dear Sirs

**INQUIRY INTO MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WITH RIFLE  
COMPANY BUTTERWORTH**

On the advice of the RSL Sub Branch I have been asked to provide this submission in support of the Medallic Recognition for my service with Rifle Company Butterworth which is under inquiry.

My name is Gregory John MINEHAN, born 29 November 1956. I enlisted into the Australian Regular Army on 26 February 1974 and my Registered Number is 223848. Having completed my initial training at the Kapooka Army Base I was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment, Puckapunyal, Victoria. Later in 1974 was transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment at Jordan Lines, Holsworthy, NSW

In early 1977 whilst at Holsworthy with a number of others I was nominated to undertake a deployment to the Butterworth Rifle Company, Malaysia as part of the 3rd Royal Australian Regiment contingent. (3 RAR)

In preparation for this deployment, I was required to undergo medical examinations in addition to being transferred to 3 RAR's base at Woodside in South Australia. This was necessary for me to complete operational training with this infantry regiment. I was assigned to an infantry section where I undertook exercises and manoeuvres in the heavily timbered landscape around Woodside. At the completion of these exercises I was informed that I was to be deployed to Malaysia as part of Rifle Company Butterworth. I returned to Holsworthy and was granted leave to visit my family and make the necessary arrangements as I was to out of the country for some months.

On 1 June 1977 along with others from C Company - 3 RAR I departed Australia for Malaysia landing the same day.

Although I was from Armoured Corps my role in the Rifle Company Butterworth was as a rifleman. My weapon was a 7.62 Cal L1A1 SLR. Others in the section carried the 5.56 Cal Colt M16 and the 7.62 Cal M60 medium machine gun. Live ammunition for all these weapons was available in the guard room and was carried at all times when on patrol for use should the necessity arise.

As part of the Quick Reaction Team (QRT) it was our responsibility to mobilise to investigate and repel those who attempted to gain entry to the RAAF Base. The Ground Force Operations Centre - guard room monitored movement via ground sensors located within the perimeter of the RAAF Base. When it was identified by the sensors that movement may be occurring at a particular location, the responsibility of B.R.C - QRT was to immediately respond travelling directly to the location. In responding the patrol vehicle was equipped with a search light, weapons and live ammunition was carried.

Rules of engagement were detailed by the Section Leaders which confirmed the potential for armed confrontation was imminent. Our role was clear – we were to ensure the security of the RAAF Base against the Communist Insurgency using lethal force if necessary. My duty in R.C.B. is the only occasion in my military service where:

- A. rules of engagement applied to operations
- B. weapons carried and live ammunition available whilst on patrol

It is my belief that my duties in 1977 as a member of Rifle Company Butterworth constitute “active service” as detailed in the findings of Justice Clarke’s report to the Government in 2002, Chapter 14 detailing the criteria to be met,

***The Mission.** “Warlike operations are those military activities where the application of force is required to pursue specific military objectives, such as a declared war, conventional combat operations against an armed adversary and peace enforcement operations in support of diplomatic efforts to restore peace between belligerents*

***The Rules of Engagement.** In warlike operations, the application of lethal force is authorised, within defined parameters, to achieve the mission*

***The Threat to ADF Personnel.** “In warlike operations there is an expectation of casualties.*

I am seeking your favourable findings in qualifying my service for VEA entitlements by having Air Base Butterworth so far as the role of Rifle Company Butterworth members declared under the Defence Act as an active service area with the approved issue of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) with Malaysian Clasp and the Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB)

Yours sincerely

Gregory Minehan VA JP

Enc.

- a. Certificate of Service (copy)
- b. Passport and confirmation of Service in Malaysia in 1977 (copy)

# Australian Army

## Certificate of Service

Name: Gregory John MINEHAN

Rank: Lance Corporal

Number: 223848

Service:  
Australian Regular  
Army



From:  
26 February 1974

To:  
27 February 1980

Decorations, Medals and Commendations: Nil.

*M. J. J. J.*  
Major

Date of Issue: 22 April 1980

for (D.S. BALDWIN)  
Major General  
Chief of Personnel

Signature of Member:

*G. Minehan*



2

DESCRIPTION  
SIGNALEMENT

NAME NOM		Gregory John MINZHAN	
Place and Date of Birth Lieu et Date de Naissance		[REDACTED]	
Height Taille	1.83 metres	Colour of Eyes Couleur des Yeux	Hazel
Colour of Hair Couleur des Cheveux	Brown	Visible Peculiarities Signes Particuliers	-
CHILDREN ENFANTS			
Name Nom	Place and Date of Birth Lieu et Date de Naissance	Sex Sexe	
XXX			

PHOTOGRAPH OF BEARER  
PHOTOGRAPHIE DU TITULAIRE



Bearer's attention is drawn to  
IMPORTANT information on  
inside back page of passport.

Sydney

Issued at  
Délivré à

on  
le

and valid for five (5) years therefrom.  
et valable pour cinq (5) ans à partir de cette date.

An Officer duly authorized under Section 7 of the  
Passports Act 1938-1973

Bearer should sign this passport in space provided  
above.

SIGNATURE OF BEARER  
SIGNATURE DU TITULAIRE

3