



The Honourable Dan Tehan
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister Tehan,

Re - Recognition of Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) service from 1970-1989

We thank you for the open-mindedness and sense of fair play displayed in your meeting with Senator Burston on 19 Jun 17 by allowing us a 'rebuttal' of the 2011 Defence Honours and Awards Appeal Tribunal findings regarding the RCB Review Group's submission.

The PM has frequently announced that his Government is an evidenced-based one. Yet in our case we believe that it has not been applied.

The background to this distressing matter is well known. Since its original case put to Government in 2006, the RCB Review Group, supported by many individuals and the Royal Australian Regiment Corporation, has been repeatedly denied its service as warlike.

Based upon our discovered evidence, we identify four reasons for this denial:

- The deliberate deception of the deployment's strategic protection role as training;
- The Government's research and staff support agencies' inability to access the full data available;
- The Government's advisors' selective use of some facts without consideration of all the relevant facts thereby providing seriously misinformed recommendations; and,
- A predetermined position within the NOS Branch.

As a result, material provided in research papers and drafts to Ministerial and other senior officials' correspondence and evidence at various hearings, has been severely flawed.

Attached is our rebuttal as requested, included in the paper titled ***Recognition of Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) service from 1970-1989 – The Way Ahead.***

However, we contend and recommend that the more recent 2014 House of Representatives Petition Enquiry into the matter, reported in Hansard with the evidence presented by all parties, allows a clearer observation of the evidence differences and examination of all the facts discovered by the RCB Review Group since the earlier 2011 DHAAT Report. **The attached RCB's rebuttal submission (20141201A) highlights the disputed evidence.**

The RCB Review Group again thanks you and offers itself to meet with you and your Officers to examine our evidence data base to achieve a positive understanding of the matter and a rightful outcome.

Yours sincerely

Robert Cross

Leader

RCB Review Group

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Attachments:

1. Recognition of Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) service from 1970-1989 – The Way Ahead
2. RCB Group's Comments and Rebuttal of Statements made at the Petitions Hearing (20141201A)

Cc:

Prime Minister

Minister for Defence

Secretary for Defence

Chief of the Defence Force

Chief of Army

Chief of Air Staff

Australian Army History Unit

RAAF History Unit

Senator B Burston (PHONP)