



RCB Review Group
Unit 4/15 Gardiner St.
ALDERLEY 4051
2nd February 2018

(MPs/Senators Name)

Re: Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) Service – An Independent Public Enquiry

Dear (Name),

We are advocates representing those Australian troops who were operationally deployed as members of Rifle Company Butterworth, during the period 1970 – 1989, to protect the Australian RAAF assets (personnel, aircraft, air warning, and facilities) at Air Base Butterworth (ABB) Malaysia. That Base was strategically important as part of Australia's international Treaty obligations.

At the time of RCB's deployment the Malaysian Government and its armed forces (MAF) were engaged in their Communist Insurgency/Second Malaysian Emergency against the communist terrorists (CT) who were being supported by the Communist Chinese and Vietnamese Governments. The ABB was a major forward operational base for the MAF's air and ground combat operations against the CTs. The ABB was a potential target for the CTs.

Our advocacy to successive Australian Governments since 2006 has sought to have RCB's operational service recognised as warlike and not peacetime service. The evidence discovered by our researchers clearly exposes a deliberate public deception of their service and supports our claim that their service was warlike. Watch [This one minute video](#)

Our claim is endorsed by both The Royal Australian Regiment Association and the Royal Australian Air Force Association.

We are disappointed with our Governments' rejection for three reasons:

Firstly, by its deception of the Australian public of RCB service being falsely represented as peacetime garrison duty and for training, when it was in fact a defensive operational deployment where there was a specific military objective, an enemy threat, an expectation of casualties, live ammunition carried and authorised rules of engagement: all criteria for

warlike service. In effect the troops and their families have been denied access to repatriation entitlements arising from that operational warlike service;

Secondly, by its failure to consider all the relevant evidence discovered by the RCB Review Group as submitted to the Government; and

Thirdly, by its unwillingness to appoint an independent (of Government) public enquiry to consider ALL the evidence related to the nature of RCB's service.

In our view, this is a shameful betrayal of the RCB's men and women who have served our Nation in that deployment.

We seek your support in recommending this matter to your Party for an independent public enquiry and look forward to your acknowledgement and agreement: If not agreement then the reasons for that decision please.

Yours Sincerely,



*Robert Cross
Chairman
RCB Review Group*

