



RCB Review Group  
Unit 4/15 Gardiner St.  
ALDERLEY 4051  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

