



**RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH REVIEW GROUP (RCBRG)  
2/2018 - RCB E-NEWS UPDATE**

## **Welcome**

*Just a reminder that our Campaign involves two independent phases, the second conditional on the failure of the first phase:*

- 1. To persuade the Government to reverse its decision and confirm that RCB service was warlike for the period 1970-1989 or failing that to appoint an independent public inquiry to determine the matter.*
- 2. To expose the governments' deception by direct action to all Australians.*



## **Campaign Phase 1 – Persuasion with Evidence**

You will recall that in the last Update we finished with the intent to follow up the poor responses to our first letter to all MPs

We did this with similar effect: some acknowledgement with referrals to the appropriate Minister. And then we received [this letter from Vice Admiral Griggs](#) (Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF)) on behalf of the Government denying our claim for the same reasons as previously given. A similar text letter was received from Amanda Rishworth the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel which shows that all of the Federal politicians including the Minister for Veterans Affairs are all now also working off the same deceitful (and wrong) drafts provided to them from the Department of Defence as is the VCDF. In effect, the government's advisors are controlling what the elected politicians are able to read, and in this case, that is questionable behaviour from an Opposition whose role is to hold the Government to account.

Interesting to note the same cut and paste reasons for rejection that we saw in earlier letters dating back to 2006 which confirms our belief that the new evidence provided by us has been ignored, and is being deliberately manipulated so that the politicians themselves are unaware of the truth that the evidence so clearly shows. It is likely they are not being shown the material upon which their response is based and even more likely they are not part of the process in any way, except to sign the letter of reply.

We replied to the Vice Admiral advising we will reply with a full rebuttal to the Government and all politicians followed by our volunteer action teams meeting with their Federal MPs in their electorate office. That rebuttal is almost complete. [Ken Marsh also replied with this letter to Vice Admiral Griggs.](#)

It may seem to you all that the RCBRG has been inactive since the first update but that is not so. Behind the front line the Team has been finalising the Griggs rebuttal, seeking additional evidence from both Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and other valuable sources as well as submitting our complaint to the Defence Ombudsman. On top of all that our preparations for **Phase 2 – Direct Action** are being finalised.

We know that since 2006 the Government through the Department of Defence has been stone-walling our attempts for an independent inquiry using its well-known techniques of delay, denial and repudiation while ignoring our continuous requests to meet with their Departmental staff to contest their evidence.

Our intent is to persuade the Government with evidence to reverse its decision denying RCB service as warlike through the Government's own complaints/grievance resolution process: what we call as working "**inside the tent**". We want to complete that process before if necessary needing to go "**outside the tent**" to the Australian people and their court of public appeal and other avenues.



The “**inside the tent**” process since 1993 has included multiple submissions escalating with newly discovered evidence at each step to:

- the Defence Department ,
- the appropriate Ministers,
- the Defence Ombudsman,
- the Defence Honours & Awards Appeal Tribunal,
- the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Petitions
- the Prime Minister with endorsements from the Royal Australian Regiment Association and the Air Force Association and support in The Senate from Sen. Brian Burston (then PHONP) to the Defence Minister.

The take away from that” merry-go-round “process is that all submissions to whoever are referred to the relevant Minister for consideration and decision or recommendation to the referring entity. So even though our complaint challenges the Minister and his Department’s decision they become in fact the judge and jury to our complaint against them. **Is this an example where “the arsonist may also be the fireman”?**



In all our submissions we have asked as a matter of due process to meet with the decision makers and their staff to examine and contest each other’s evidence: those requests have been ignored. **Where is the transparency? What is there to hide?**

We have just placed a complaint to the **Defence Ombudsman** claiming with proof that Defence Departmental staff have erred in examining our claim that has resulted in they coming to conclusions that no reasonable person could reach with an unbiased examination of all available evidence. We believe the Department has been administratively deficient in a number of stated ways listed with examples. If this avenue is unsuccessful and the Government continues to deny our claim and refuses to appoint an independent public inquiry then we are prepared to go “**outside the tent**”

We are encouraged by the continuing support from Pauline Hanson’s One Nation Party and other cross bench senators.

## Campaign Phase 2 – Direct Action

At this time for security reasons we cannot reveal our plans but be assured the professional advice received and the planned actions will expose the truth of the deception to the Australian people.



Thanks to our “boots on the ground” support network volunteers we are building a strong platform for Phase 2. Mark Matthews is our Action Group Leader. He will be advising and guiding your activities. In preparation for planned meetings with your local MPs visit the Australian Parliament House web site [here](#) to learn about them and their background.

We welcome others to join us in the action. Just email me, Robert Cross, [squirrel84@bigpond.com](mailto:squirrel84@bigpond.com) your name and your local Federal MP’s name and your preferred contact details and Mark will call you.

To stay in touch follow us on our [web](#) and our [facebook](#) sites. And thanks Team for all your support, suggestions and comments: they are greatly appreciated.



If you are already a registered supporter then we encourage you to recruit your family and friends to join you and us.

But if you’re not yet registered then we ask you to do it now.



**A big shout out to all our supporters, please continue to encourage your network's support.**

Stay **RESOLUTE**.

*R. W. Cross*

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RCB Service 1973, 1974/75, 1982  
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