



RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH REVIEW GROUP (RCBRG)

1/2018 - RCB E-NEWS UPDATE

This is the first of our e-news updates. It aims to keep you informed of the facts and progress towards our RCB service objective to be recognised as warlike. The Government maintains the service is peacetime despite overwhelming evidence discovered and presented by us to Governments that proves a deliberate deception.



We contend that the RCB decision was made for political expediency to save the newly elected Whitlam Labor Government's embarrassment arising from its defence strategy change from Forward Defence to Fortress Australia. Whitlam's Government withdrew all Australian overseas troops, without seemingly realising Australia's international geo-political strategic Treaty commitments for the RAAF presence at Air Base Butterworth (ABB) required the deployment of an infantry force to protect it as had been provided by Battalions previously based in Singapore and approved by Malaysia.

The Defence Department falsely and deceptively misrepresented the RCB deployment for training purposes: we have the evidence from the then Secret

Defence Committee meeting dated 11 January 1973 which in its final paragraph says:

“When the Australian Battalion is withdrawn from Singapore the requirement for a company for security duties at Butterworth will be met by providing the unit on a rotational basis from Australia. This could be presented publically as being for training purposes” – Sir Arthur Tange CBE Secretary Department of Defence and Chairman Defence Committee 11th January 1973.

As part of that deception the Service Chiefs did not seek to have the RCB deployment classified as qualifying service for repatriation and other benefits but rather referred and publicised it as peacetime garrison service.

The deception is a shameful act and an immoral betrayal of the RCB’s men and women who served our Nation on that deployment

“Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom” - Thomas Jefferson

Peacetime service at ABB is a falsity. The Base was owned by the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces (RMAF) and jointly shared with the RAAF. It was a major forward operational base for the RMAF’s ground and air support operations against its enemy the Communist Terrorists in their Counter Insurgency War – The Second Malaysian Emergency 1968 -1989. ABB was a potential enemy target.

The RCB’s deployment as a combat fighting force was operational to protect the RAAF assets (staff, aircraft, facilities and families) as well as the highly important Five Power Defence Arrangements’ strategic Integrated Air Defence System (IADS).

RCB’s deployment proved to be a major deterrent to direct enemy action and thereby achieved successfully its protection role.

While still engaging with the Government through the support of Senator Brian



Burston (Pauline Hanson’s One Nation Party) in the Senate to reconsider its RCB decision, we want the Government to appoint an independent of government inquiry into the rightful

determination of RCB's service classification.

Senate Questions on Notice – RCB Recognition of Service. You can follow the ten questions Sen. Burston asked the Defence Minister with her response and our comments on those answers on our website [here](#) and facebook [here](#). Each of the ten is being posted separately. Have your say on these postings on our [facebook site](#).

Since 2006, the RCBRG led by Robert Cross has in its many submissions to governments contended that RCB service meet the criteria for warlike service at that time and later as determined by Justice Mohr in that there needed to be an implied and an objective danger, a specific military objective, an enemy threat, an expectation of casualties, had rules of engagement and that live ammunition was carried.

In all those submissions to governments we have asked as a matter of procedural fairness and due process to meet with the decision makers and their staff to examine each other's evidence and discuss our claim: those requests have been ignored. You can read the evidence and follow progress on our website [here](#) and facebook [here](#)

Both the Royal Australian Regiment Association and the RAAF Association, who represent the major Australian forces deployed at ABB , have supported, in letters [here](#) and [here](#) to Prime Minister Turnbull, both RCB's claim and request for an independent inquiry.



RCB's Campaign – Operation Exposure

Because we are facing a Government who refuses to engage with us on the whole matter, we are forced to take our campaign to the Australian Defence Family and the Australian people for their support through social media and to prepare for other direct actions related to possible breaches in certain codes of ethics and parliamentary misrepresentations.

We are fortunate to have many veterans from important related professions who willingly advise us on certain matters to achieve our objective – recognition of RCB service if necessary through an independent of Government public inquiry. We greatly appreciate and thank them for their voluntary commitment.



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.

Numbers and actions speak louder than words

Direct Action – Pollies' Engagement



On the 2nd February we emailed a [request letter](#) to all the 226 parliamentarians asking for their support by recommending to their Party an independent public inquiry. We stated three reasons for our dissatisfaction with governments' rejection being:

1. Its deception of the Australian public regarding its false representation of RCB service as peacetime garrison duty when in fact the deployment was to protect the RAAF assets at ABB in Malaysia a country that was at war (1968-1989) against its communist terrorist insurgents.
2. Its failure to consider all the relevant evidence discovered by us as submitted to the Government ; and,
3. Its unwillingness to appoint an independent (of Government) public inquiry to consider ALL the evidence related to the nature of RCB's service.

The response to that letter was a paltry 22 MPs who we thank for writing an acknowledgment with advice they had passed it to the responsible Minister or Shadow Minister. **Silence from the other 204 gives us all an indication of their neglect and avoidance of our claim. *“Their silence will not protect them”***

So we have persisted with a second letter follow up and now eagerly await that outcome.

Our next action will be for our supporters to visit their local Federal MPs in their electorate office to discuss the matter and correct any misinformation they may have been given and again seek their commitment for a public enquiry.

If you receive a reply to any correspondence you have had with a politician then please send a copy to [Robert Cross](#) for our data base reference and help to you in replying and possibly visiting with you. We will challenge any false or misleading information and expose it to our supporters and the public.

Direct Action – Boots on the Ground



Our “boots on the ground” support network has Action Co-ordinators in many federal electorates. They will organise and manage our campaign actions there at the grass roots level.

We’d welcome you as a volunteer to join them. Just email [Robert Cross](#) with the name of your local Federal MP and your preferred contact details and we will call you.

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

Stay **RESOLUTE**.

R. W. Cross

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