

**Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
References Committee**

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Inquiry Title: Defence Health Arrangements Prior to Deployment

Submission No: 04

Date Received: 01.12.03

Organisation: British Commonwealth Occupation Force
Executive Council of Australia Inc

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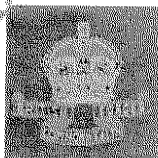
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Date Authorised:



**British Commonwealth Occupation Force
Executive Council of Australia Inc.**

**Patrons: Maj-Gen J C Hughes AO DSO MC ®
Air Cdre G.G.Michael AO OBE AFC RAAF ®**

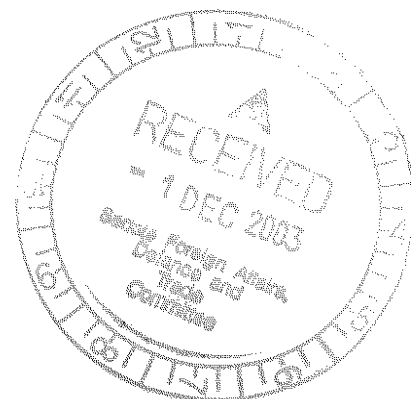
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FILE : HEA03/53

27 November 2003

**Brenton Holmes Esq
Secretary
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Reference Committee
Australian Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600**



Dear Mr Holmes

**INQUIRY INTO CURRENT HEALTH PREPARATION ARRANGEMENT
FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCES
OVERSEAS**

Reference is made to your letter dated 25 August 2003. Following discussions at our AGM on 24 September 2003 our Chairman has requested me to reply to same.

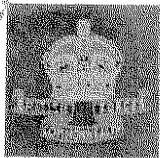
The manner of determining the service of Australian veterans in B.C.O.F., Japan from 1945 to 1952 has been a vexed question for many years.

Information received from the Department of Veterans' Affairs has indicated that it is beyond their present resources to ascertain the exact number of Australian veterans who served with the Australian contingent of B.C.O.F. in Japan in order to establish a relevant Nominal Roll.

The reason offered is that there has not been any separate listing of Service personnel during the period of service which would specifically define them as being Australian veterans with B.C.O.F. service.

This has placed an extra burden on veterans in their claims for disability pensions, which are claimed to have been caused by their service, for illnesses which have arisen in later life.

Representing Australian Veterans of the Occupation of Japan 1945-1952



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We have examined the matters referred to in the Terms of reference and consider that the major thrust of the Committee's deliberations must be to ensure that the matters referred to are implemented within the Departments concerned to ensure that the service of ADF personnel overseas is fully documented.

In conclusion we consider that, to ensure that the matter raised in paragraph (2) are subject to the latest medical advice available, a review of all present medical standards be undertaken for authenticity and relevance to the illnesses which Service personnel may encounter during their overseas service.

A case in point is the present attitude of the Department of Veterans' Affairs towards claims by Australian B.C.O.F. veterans in respect of cancer related illnesses which are claimed and medically supported as being the result of exposure to ionising radiation during service in Japan It should be noted that both the United States and New Zealand governments accept claims for ALL cancers related to the service of their veterans as members of the Occupation force in Japan.

For the consideration of the Reference Committee, please.

Yours sincerely

**R Orwin JP(Qual)
Secretary
B.C.O.F.**

**EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL
AUSTRALIA**