

Veterans Compensation and
Rehabilitation Inquiry
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra ACT 2604

Mr Jack Fordyce



22nd January 2019

To: Productivity Commission (closing 11 Feb 2019)

Dear Commissioner,

Complaint: 36 Squadron RAAF members were not supported administratively after war service causing frustration and depression when claiming for their dues and being refused.

(It has been over 50 years and Veterans are still waiting for their records to be produced! I am 87 years old and still waiting!)

I am Jack, aka "Jockey", Fordyce an ex-Flight Sergeant, Flight Engineer of 36 Squadron flying Hercules C130A aircraft in the 1960's. I am a Veteran of 26 years-service and am compelled by my long-held sense-of -injustice to report to this Productivity Commission that: ***We airmen of 36 Squadron from the 1960's era, have been inadequately compensated for our war service and are still awaiting justice. (Records of the flights are not available to prove our service.)***

[I must apologise that I struggle with computer management and although my records are here, somewhere, I can't attach them easily so, as the time I would take to produce them would result in me exceeding your closing date I would like to give you the gist of the lack of appreciation given to 36 Squadron Hercules C130A, members' during over-sea's operations into multiple war zones during the 1960's.

To get a fuller understanding of our plight please request, --- nay, subpoena a copy of 36 Squadron "Flight Authorization Books", Form A71, for the 1960's to refer to, as that is the legal document that records every flight and each member's participation.

In this respect I hope you receive a better response from the Dept of Defence, Air Force History Section, Department of Veterans' Affairs than myself and my 36 Squadron brethren have had.

These missing Journals have resulted in difficulty in every transaction with DVA and denial of claims.

(e.g. I was denied my application for War-Service Home Loan at a critical stage of my marriage when I first became aircrew and was being apart from my wife and family for weeks at a time, later for months. (Copies of request and refusal enclosed.)

You have my family authority to obtain my past correspondences regarding the "Flight Authorization Books Form A71" from all the Departments so that the

Commission can understand the enormity of the damage done to the "post-morale" of these Veterans and their families and given no redress.

36 Squadron's page in history has suffered, which deeply hurts us "oldies" on National Memorial days as there is that, "our gap" in 36 Squadron's history. When one looks to the Australian War Memorial or the National Vietnam Museum records there is nothing about our service for the British Ministry of Defence and the Malaysian Ministry of Defence in Borneo, nor the DFAT flights into Djakarta during Indonesian Confrontation even though these flights were recorded in the "Flight Authorization Books." *[in history: Caesar knew that his Legions needed recognition for their service, it seems that in our time, putting your life on the line for Australia waits for recognition until lost records are found, in other words we'll die off and the distasteful question of who destroyed the "Flight Authorization Books" will die with us!]*

Please find two examples relative to decisions made from wrong or incomplete records :- Nothing about Indonesian Confrontation!

I hold many Government letters and my correspondence in paper form to present when the Commission requests them.

I await further instructions from you.

Respectfully yours

Jack Fordyce

