



MOD-83-0000062-A

IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO
THE DEATH OF MR NADHEEM ABDULLAH

INSPECTOR: SIR GEORGE NEWMAN.

I, S005 [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]

make this Statement believing the same to be true.

1. My Solicitor has referred me to the interviews of the other soldiers. I have not read through all of the interviews myself but my Solicitor has referred me to the relevant parts for me to comment on.

2. From the outset I wish to say that the events that we are talking about happened in 2003 and therefore took place some 11 years ago.

3. I have been referred to the interview of S002 [REDACTED]. S002 [REDACTED] refers to an incident when there were vehicles travelling towards a vehicle checkpoint and one of the vehicles turning round and driving off. He refers to our patrol chasing after such a vehicle. He says that the vehicle drove into a small village and that various passengers disembarked from the vehicle and ran off whilst we carried out the vehicle checkpoint.

4. S002 [REDACTED] then goes onto say that the driver and the front seat passenger were taken out of the car and put on the floor. I have no recollection of such an incident taking place. I believe S002 [REDACTED] also says that he used some force to put one of the Iraqi's on the floor and says that S001 [REDACTED] was hitting one of them with his helmet. Again I have no recollection of such an incident taking place.

5. I should point out at this stage that because I was the main gunner on the wimmick when vehicle checkpoints were carried out I would either remain on the wimmick or I would take up a position either to the rear or to the flanks. I would push out to the most vulnerable point in order that I could have a good view of what was going on around us. I had the GPMG

and therefore I had the main fire power of the patrol. I was never involved in the searches and would often be perhaps 50 to 100 metres away from where the vehicle was being searched. I would be observing around us to make sure that there were no people around who might wish to cause us any problems and therefore I often would not even observe what was happening at the point of search.

6. With regard to S001 [REDACTED] the only point I wish to raise is that he says that S004 [REDACTED] was the main "chatter" and I believe that this was the case because S004 [REDACTED] was a real chatterbox. S001 [REDACTED] makes some comment about patrol reports only being handed in if there was an incident on a patrol. I cannot comment on this because I had no idea about patrol reports being made at any time.

7. As regards S004 [REDACTED] I agree with what he says about rules of engagement. I believe that once the situation changed from combat to peacekeeping that we did move more towards a Northern Ireland type situation where using a weapon would be very last resort and we were told to treat civilians with courtesy I have no idea as to how blood would have got onto the rifle butt of S004 [REDACTED] and I do not recall any conversations relating to this at the time. My recollection from the forensic evidence at the Trial in 2005 was that the blood was not from the deceased but from one of the deceased relatives. I could be wrong on this.

8. As regards S003 [REDACTED] I agree with what he says in his written statement at pages 4694 and 4695 regarding the blood but not what he says about any incident taking place. I have already said that I don't recall any incident where we chased an Iraqi pick up into a small village.

9. The other soldiers all give no comment interviews and therefore there is nothing really of any significance that I can comment on in their interviews.

10. As regards training on vehicle checkpoints I suppose that we must have had some training but I can't specifically remember it. I do know that we had some training on vehicle

checkpoints before going to Northern Ireland but I can't remember the specific details. I know that I was never trained as a searcher on the vehicle checkpoints.

11. As regards training that we were given on the changeover from a combat situation to law and order policing I don't believe that we were given any such training at all. After the period of combat there didn't seem to be a great deal of tension on the ground where we were based in Al U'z Ayra. The local people there were in fact very friendly. I would say that we felt sorry for them because of the conditions that they lived in and because of the regime that they had lived under. The children used to follow us around and generally the people were very friendly. We used to go down to the local market place and people seemed to be glad that we were there.

12. When I was on guard at the old Police Station where we were based there was a man who lived across the road who would often bring me a cup of tea over.

13. The only real tension that I felt after the combat period was when we were on one of our patrols near the Iranian border. I remember that we gave a bottle of water to a young boy but a young man got hold of it and threw it back at us. As I say, generally the local Iraqis seemed to be glad that we were there and seemed to welcome our presence.

14. I have seen the Statement from S010 [REDACTED] He says that we were helping the Iraqis to set up their Police Force. I don't actually remember this specifically. [REDACTED] S010 [REDACTED] also talks about moving to "white card" rules of engagement after a period of combat. That expression doesn't mean anything to me now although it may have done at one time. S010 [REDACTED] talks about taking captives at vehicle checkpoints if weapons or drugs were found and taking people to Camp Condor but again I have no recollection of having done this.

15. In his Statement S010 [REDACTED] talks about our patrol being excited when we returned on the 11th May but he says it wasn't a visible excitement, just something that he felt.

To me this makes no sense at all and I really don't know what he is trying to say if he felt that we were excited and it wasn't visible then how can he say that he felt that we were excited.

16. I have also seen a Statement from Sergeant O'Brien and I don't really disagree with anything that he says.

17. In terms of my Military Service I joined the Army in January 2000 and went straight into Paratrooper training.

18. My first proper deployment was to Northern Ireland in 2002. Prior to going to Northern Ireland we had been to be a training camp on the South Coast of England which I believe is called something like Ivanlyd. I think this was a training centre specifically for Northern Ireland. We had riot training there and we would also have had some vehicle checkpoint training.

19. I think we were deployed to Northern Ireland for about 6 weeks. We then came back but then had to go back out again as there were riots in Drumcree which was related to the Orange Marches.

20. I have also been to Germany and South Africa but this was just for parachute training and was not a proper deployment as such.

21. I do not recall having any additional training before going out to Iraq. I believe that we went out in February 2003 and we spent a few weeks in Kuwait waiting to go into Iraq. The most training that we would have had was possibly some live fire training in Brecon but I am not sure that this was immediately before we went to Iraq. In Kuwait I think we had some training on landmines. We did not go to Germany before going to Iraq.

22. I have already said that I don't believe that we received any training on the changeover from combat rules of engagement to a policing situation. We were probably told something simple such as to use common sense and to use Northern Ireland type rules of engagement.

23. In terms of Iraq when we first moved into Iraq we were in the Rumallah oil fields for a short time. We did not really see civilians down there. There was some combat taking place down there.

24. We then moved onto Basra but again didn't really have any great contact with civilians when we entered Basra.

25. It was only when we were in Al U'z Ayra when we had any significant contact with civilians and as I have already stated we generally got on well with them.

26. In terms of the incident that is alleged to have taken place on the 11th May 2003 I simply do not recall it. Obviously I had been told about the incident but have no recollection of it. In terms of who was in charge on that patrol it would have been S001 because he was in charge of virtually every patrol that I went on. I know that S010 did ask us at some stage after our return whether any incident had happened but I believe that everyone told him that nothing had happened at all.

27. I have found it difficult making this Statement due to the fact that 11 years have gone by since the events in Iraq. I have done my best to recall and can say no more.

DATED this 13th day of SEPTEMBER 2014.

S005

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