



MOD-83-0000359-A

STAFF – INVESTIGATION  
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MOD Form 266A/B  
(Introduced 12/03)  
Case No: 64872/04

SERVICE POLICE  
WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, S.9; MC Act 1980, ss5A (3a) and MC Rules 1981, r70)

Statement of: SO34

Rank/Status: Mne

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: HM Forces (RM)

This statement (consisting of 7 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: SO34

Dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2004

I am Mne SO34, and my parent unit is 40 RM Cdo, based at Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6PF.

On 1 Jul 04, I deployed on Op TELIC, which is an operational tour of Iraq.

Whilst in Iraq, I have been serving with my parent unit at Az Zubayr Port (AZP), BFPO 643.

In response to questions asked by Sgt Vinton, RMP (SIB), I can state that about 1715 hrs, Fri 17 Dec 04, I deployed from AZP on a tasking as part of callsign (C/S) PE10B.

The C/S comd was Sgt SO29 and I was driving his vehicle, a Pinzgauer VRN: [REDACTED]

We were the lead vehicle in a 2 vehicle convoy. Our top cover was provided by Mnes SO32 and SO28. The second vehicle was a Wolf Land Rover and I think, although am not certain that the VRN was: [REDACTED]

The comd of the second vehicle was Cpl SO30, the driver was Mne SO35 and the top cover was provided by Mnes SO33 and SO31. Each of these men are members of my unit, whom I have known for over one month and can easily recognize again.

I do not know in which direction which person on top cover was facing.

We also had a passenger in the rear of our vehicle. This was a male DJ from BFBS. I do not know his name, but do know that he is based at Shaibah Log Base (SLB) and presents a live radio show from 0700 – 1000 hrs daily. No one else was in our vehicles.

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MOD Form 266E (Continuation Sheet)

Sheet No: 2

Case No: 64872/04

Continuation of statement of: SO34

Before we left AZP, I attended a briefing conducted by Sgt SO28, and the 40 Cdo Intelligence Officer (IO). I do not know the name of the IO.

Every member of my C/S was present at this briefing which took place about 1645 hrs, 17 Dec 04, within my unit Ops Room at AZP.

During the briefing, we were informed that we were to convey the DJ to SLB and then return to AZP. We were also given details of various threats including a warning of both a red and blue vehicle, which were believed to be involved in IED's.

I do not recall any specific information regarding suicide attacks.

After leaving AZP and turned right onto Route MAUI towards SLB, we passed 'Two Mosques' roundabout and turned right onto Route TOPEKA.

We continued on Route TOPEKA until just before the area marked on the Az Zubayr Spot Map as Red 1.

We drove across the central reservation, completing a U turn and rejoined Route Topeka, heading south. We did this to enable us to take the correct route to SLB.

About 300 yds later we turned right onto another road, towards SLB. I do not know the name of this road. Immediately after taking this turning, I heard a burst of automatic fire, which lasted about 2 or 3 seconds.

I then heard the very distinctive noise of two Minimi machine guns firing on automatic.

I cannot be certain, but I think I heard two short bursts from the Minimis, each of about 1 or 2 seconds.

I could not see what they were firing at, nor could I see anything I believed to be a threat. Because I was aware that one person on top cover from each vehicle had a Minimi and the others had SA80 rifles, I formed the presumption that top cover from both vehicles had engaged an enemy target.

I did not hear any single shots fired. Sgt SO28 told me to accelerate, which I did. Both vehicles then drove to SLB without further incident.

In response to questions asked by Sgt Vinton, I can state that I did not fire any rounds whatsoever, nor did I see anyone fire any rounds. I am not sure who fired rounds from my C/S, nor do I know which weapons they were using or their ammunition states.

The initial burst of automatic gunfire did not sound like that of either SA80 or a Minimi.

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MOD Form 266E (Continuation Sheet)

Sheet No: 3

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Continuation of statement of: SO34

I do not know which type of weapon it was, however, having heard both the SA80 and Minimi fire automatic bursts on a number of occasions, I can state with considerable certainty, that the initial burst did not come from either of those types of weapons.

In response to specific questions asked by Sgt Vinton, I can state that at no time did I hear any single shots fired. Despite this, it is possible that some were fired and I simply did not hear them.

The incident occurred at about 1815 hrs and lasted no more than 10 seconds.

In response to other questions, asked by Sgt Vinton, I can state that between 1930 hrs - 2000 hrs, that evening, my C/S returned to the scene of the incident together with other C/S (I do not know who they were) and secured the area.

Once there, I could see a white civilian vehicle in the central reservation, at the location of where I had heard the gunfire.

I could not see anyone inside the car, however, I did not approach the car. I remained with my vehicle and the closest I got to the car was about 20m. I did not see if anyone else approached the car or not.

The only exception to this was about 60 minutes after arriving at the scene of the incident, Sgt SO28 and I approached the car, to within one metre and searched the area outside the car for empty ammunition cases, however, could not find any.

I did not see any casualties inside the vehicle however, I did see blood on the inside of the driver's door. The car, a white 4 door saloon, was left hand drive and had number plates written in Arabic, which I could not read.

I would also like to add that having fired an AK47 on numerous occasions, the noise I heard from the initial burst of automatic gunfire, was identical to that of an AK47.

The noise is distinctive in that the tone of the gunfire is slightly higher in pitch than either the SA80 or the Minimi.

Signed: SO34

Signed: S. VINTON  
Sgt  
RMP (SIB)

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