



MOD-83-0000251-A



Ministry of Defence

COPY

MOD Form 266A/B
(Revised 06/13)
PPQ = 100

S4

Investigation Reference No:

IHAT 120

SERVICE POLICE WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, S9; MC Act 1980, ss5A (3a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r70)

Statement of:

Rank/Status:

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

This statement (consisting of () 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: Date:

I am the above named person and my full details appear overleaf.

On Thursday 30th October 2014 I was visited by Mr [redacted] and Mr [redacted] from the Iraq Historic Allegations Team (IHAT) in relation to an incident that occurred on 5th November 2003 during my tour of Iraq with 1 KINGS and relates to a house search where a member of the patrol Sgt SO11 [redacted] shot a male inside the premises.

I left the Army on 22nd October 2014 after serving 23 years and 3 months with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC).

I remember the incident vividly although I cannot recall the date it happened.

I was a Cpl at the time with the (RAMC) and was a Combat Medical Technician (CMT). My parent unit was 9 Army Air Corps (AAC) and I was seconded to C Company 1 KINGS at short notice to go to Iraq as the soldier who was due to deploy didn't want to go so I was chosen instead.

I did not undergo any Operational Training (OPTAG) before hand due to the short notice of my posting.

I qualified as a CMT in 1994 and also attended a Battle Field Advanced Trauma Life Support course and had regular in unit training after qualifying.

With regard to the incident in question it happened near the end of my tour although I cannot be exact on dates. We were based at Camp Cherokee on the outskirts of Basrah.

Signature: Signature witnessed by:

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE PERSONAL

RESTRICTED - INVESTIGATION

MOD Form 266 E (Continuation Sheet)
(Revised 10/09)
PPQ = 100

Inv Ref No: IHAT 120

Continuation of statement of

SO14

It was a time when the insurgency was picking up and there was lots of sniping at the UK Forces and drive by shootings.

I remember a "walk in" a man who came into the base during the afternoon or evening - I remember it was still light - and said that a large number of armed men had gone into a house near to the base.

The house in question could be seen from the base from one of the Sangers.

We had local people employed at the base and the Sergeant Major - SO12 - loaned and put on a dish dash and carried out a recce of the house in a local taxi. He came back and a plan was put together.

We had a briefing which I think was given by Major ROUTLEDGE the Company Officer Commanding (OC) I remember it was thought that this was an insurgency cell preparing for an attack and we travelled to the house in General Service Land rovers. I think the whole Company were involved and some of the names I can remember are:

Maj ROUTLEDE
Capt RAWSTHORNE
Sergeant Major SO12
Pte Trevor JONES
Pte David SMITH

We placed a perimeter defence on the house and I went to the left side of the building with another soldier and took cover behind a Mercedes car. It was very hot at the time and the local people would sleep out on roofs or in the open air.

I heard a burst of automatic fire from the house an AK 47 and then 2 or 3 rounds from an SA80.

The difference between the sound of an AK47 and an SA80 is so distinctive. I knew by experience it was a burst from an AK47, on evening patrols I would hear shots being fired by the Iraqis who predominantly used AK47's.

During a tour of Bosnia I remember we heard shooting and we thought all hell had broken loose and when we investigated it was a wedding party celebrating by firing their AK47's into the air which the Iraqi people also did.

Signature:

SO14

Signature

witnessed by:

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE PERSONAL

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Continuation of statement of

SO14

Almost immediately after I heard the shots someone screamed "Medic" and I ran towards the house thinking who's been hit.

As I ran around the house I saw the OC stood in the doorway and he shook his head.

I entered the house into a lounge which had a curved staircase directly opposite the door and saw a male laying on the lower two stairs on his back and there was an AK47 next to him. I could see blood on the stairs from where the man had been hit.

I put my bag down and my helmet on the sofa because it was so hot and I ripped open the mans dish dash. He had one gun shot wound to the stomach which had caused a small hole on the right hand side of his stomach wall, he was writhing around in pain. I placed a first aid field dressing on the wound but I realised there was not much I could do for an abdominal wound other than dress it.

I lifted the man up and as I did so I saw I had blood and pieces of body organs on my hands and realised that the exit wound was on his back, it was on the right side of his back as if the round had gone through the body at a slight angle.

I placed a dressing on the wound and called for an ambulance, the mans wife was in the room and was hysterical and screaming, it seemed to take forever for the ambulance to come.

I repeatedly asked for the RAP at the Shat-al-Arab Hotel, The 1 Kings HQ in Basra, to be informed and to deploy an ambulance with the doctor to our location.

I was informed a message was sent back to camp for the ambulance, but was disheartened, when my ambulance from Camp Cherokee arrived, driven by an unqualified (medically) soldier. It was a Land rover make, the armoured ambulance was broken.

The male was placed on a stretcher and we put him in the back of the ambulance and I tried to get an IV in but the man had lost so much blood that I couldn't find a vein.

The reason I remember this incident so vividly is when I was holding the male he said three words to me that have stayed with me since that day, "Why Mr Bush, why"?

Signature:

SO14

Signature
witnessed by:

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE PERSONAL

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Continuation of statement of

SO14

Someone said there was an Iraqi Hospital but it seemed to take so long to get there, we took the male to the Iraqi Hospital and took him inside and placed him on a bed. There were lots of Iraqi Doctors stood about, one of them managed to find a vein to get an IV in.

There was a Czech Hospital next door and all the staff were in bed, I remember a Czech Surgeon who wasn't very happy the took the male in and told us to leave, the male was going to surgery.

I think the driver of the ambulance was a man called Ian FLEMING who was Territorial Army. I would say that it took about 40 minutes from first treating the male to getting him into the ambulance.

There may have been a de-brief after the incident but I can't remember now.

I did not make a statement about the incident but I would have recorded my treatment of the male on a medical card but I would have handed it over with the patient at the Czech Hospital.

I heard the next day that the man had died and I remember I asked the OC for an update, I found out that the man was a Teacher and his wife a Lawyer and that the incident had been a set up, the family were being intimidated. The people seen originally were attacking the house, there was some kind of feud going on and he had thought we were the people coming back so armed himself and then fired as the soldiers entered.

It was Sgt SO11 who shot the male, thinking now it was only one or two shots fired after the burst of rounds, there was so much going on, the place was a lawless mess.

During my tour with 1 KINGS I dealt with all manner of incidents from heat exhaustion to gun shot wounds and I received an appraisal from Capt RAWSTHORNE and one from Maj ROUTLEDGE which I produce as:

SO14/1 – Mid Period Appraisal and insert slip to AF B2048

I have drawn a sketch of the incident which I produce as:

SO14/2 – Hand drawn sketch of incident.

Signature:

SO14

Signature

witnessed by:

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE PERSONAL

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Continuation of statement of SO14 [REDACTED]

The items are attached to Service Police Exhibit Labels which I have signed and dated. I handed them to Mr [REDACTED] at 1145 hrs on 30th October 2014.

Signature: SO14 [REDACTED] Signature witnessed by: [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE PERSONAL