



MOD-83-0000459-A

**RESTRICTED**

Statement of: **SO77**

Form MG11(T)

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**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: **SO77**

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

Occupation: DISCHARGED 22/05/2007

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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: **SO77**

Date: 20/10/2015

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

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I am the above named person and I reside at the address mentioned overleaf. I have today Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 been shown a transcript of an interview that was recorded at Goole Police Station on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 when I was interviewed by IHAT to the best of my memory it was what I remembered over the 11 years since the previous statement that I made to the RMP on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2003. The account that I gave on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 was true to the best of my memory. I have also read a certified true copy of the statement that I made to the RMP on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2003 and can say that this statement was given when the events of that day on 23 May 2003 were fresher in my memory and is a true account. I have noted that there are differences in the two accounts but reaffirm that the original statement is a truer account. I recall that on the day when I was told to attend the dock area to see what had happened, there was no urgency in Capt **SO76**'s voice but I made my way down there with **SO78** as a matter of urgency as my troops were obviously down the docks. I think it took us a couple of minutes to drive down there in the 432. When I arrived at the scene I do recall the two, that is **SO70** and **SO72**, being soaking wet in their clothing. They both seemed to be exhausted; I would estimate that there was a crowd of 30 to 40 locals that seemed to come from everywhere. There were a few women in attendance who were becoming hysterical. I believe that the first person that I spoke to was **SO70** and I asked him what was going on. He basically told me that two people had jumped into the river but gave no reasons as to why. He also informed me that one had got out of the river but one hadn't come up and that they had tried to look for this person. I got the impression that due to them being exhausted that they had tried in vain to find this person. I remember the area as a dock inlet and that the

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2018

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water was a dirty brown colour and smelt. As I have said in my previous statement the crowd were getting more irate and as I feared for our safety, I decided to return to our base as quickly as possible. I did not make any radio communication until we were leaving which would have been to expect us shortly and to get the gates open. I did recall speaking to a local Iraq person at the scene who spoke English to some degree and I believe that I told him that we would try and get a diver to the scene. At no time did I offer compensation to anybody at the scene and it is not something that would have crossed my mind at that time. I was more concerned to vacate the area to get my staff to safety. I remember returning to Camp a few minutes later. I think the first person I spoke to when I got back was the 2 I/C Captain **SO76** in the Ops room but I cannot be sure. As far as I recall I merely briefed him on the scant knowledge that I had. Other than speaking to the others at the scene, it was merely to load the pump into the vehicles and return to Camp. I do not recall asking them what had happened at the scene.

I do not recall having a conversation with the RSM **SO70** or him tearing me off a strip in relation to **SO70** and **SO72** being in the water and putting themselves in danger. I do not recall being at the oasis area within the Camp where the incident was discussed with Major **SO79** and those involved.

I do not recall giving the RMP a piece of paper with a name and telephone number on of a possible Iraqi witness when I gave my statement to the RMP.

My impression of **SO70** was that he was a new Officer in the Troop who had a lot to learn. I was aware that he was an ex member of **SO70** and that he could speak Arabic.

I did not return to the scene after leaving and cannot remember visiting there again. As I have said I can offer nothing else of the events of that day due to the passing of time.

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