



MOD-83-0000460-A

## STATEMENT PRINT

Surname: **SO78**  
Forenames: **SO78**  
Age: 39 Date of Birth: **[REDACTED]**  
Address: 32 ENGR REGT, HOHNE,  
Postcode: BFPO 30  
Occupation: HM FORCES ARMY SPR  
Telephone No:

Statement Date: 08/06/2003

Appearance Code: Build:  
Height (From): 189 Height (To):

Hair Details:	<u>Position</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Colour</u>
	HEAD	SHORT	BROWN

Left Eye Colour: BLUE Right Eye Colour: BLUE

Complexion1: FAIR Complexion2:

Glasses Worn: Glasses Use::

Accent Details:	<u>General</u>	<u>Specific</u>	<u>Qualifier</u>
-----------------	----------------	-----------------	------------------

Number of Pages: 7

I am the above named person.

I am currently serving with the unit detailed overleaf.

Since 1 Mar 03 I have been deployed with my unit to Kuwait and Iraq on Op Telic.

I am currently employed as a Class One Electrician/Combat Engineer within my unit.

**RESTRICTED**  
DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

Statement Number: S8

I have today been asked by Sgt HALL, RMP (SIB) of my knowledge regarding an incident when an Iraqi male drowned at the former Iraqi Naval Base in Basra, on Fri 23 May 03.

I recall that Friday's were usually days when we carried out admin taskings, and I recall that on that particular day, a temporary pump was set up at the dockside within the Naval Base, to enable the vehicles to be washed.

At the time my Troop was located within the Naval Base, about 1km from the dock itself.

In total there are three tracked vehicles within my troop, two 432 and a Spartan. One of the 432's and the Spartan took the pump down to the dockside, about mid morning. The plan was that once they had set up the pump, they would wash their vehicles, before I drove up to the dockside in the second 432 and wash that. Once I had washed my vehicle, I would retrieve the pumping equipment and return to our camp.

About 1200 hrs, I left for the dock, accompanied by SSgt **SO77**, the vehicle commander. At this time I was unaware of any problems at the dockside .

As we approached the location where we were to wash to vehicles.

To get to the dock we entered the main entrance to the dockyard and went straight down the main road, for about 250 metres or so. I was then instructed to turn left and then basically weaved through a number of gaps in the building until we reached the dock itself.

I cannot recall too much about the quayside as I was concentrating on driving the 432. I recall that there was quite a large ship alongside the quay, which appeared to have been burnt out.

I saw that the Spartan was right against the edge of the dock, facing away from the water. The other 432 was in front of the Spartan, about 10m to 15m away facing towards the water.

I could see that there was a crowd of people on the far side of the two tracked vehicles, right up to the waters edge.

I was instructed to stop alongside the other 432, about 10 metres from the crowd.

Once we stopped, SSgt **SO77** dismounted and headed over to the crowd, whilst I stayed with the vehicle, standing up in the driver's compartment.

As we arrived it was apparent that the crowd, which consisted mostly of about 10 or so locals, was getting quite irate . I could see Spr **SO72**, of my unit by the waters edge trying to retrieve the pump, whilst being jostled and grabbed by people in

**RESTRICTED**  
DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

Statement Number: S8

the crowd. I could see Spr [REDACTED] SO75, of my unit, standing on top of the Spartan, holding his rifle, giving some protection to the soldiers on the ground .

I could see LCpl [REDACTED] SO71, of my unit, crouched by the commander's hatch of the 432, with the radio headset on his head .

I was aware that also with the two vehicles was 2Lt [REDACTED] SO70, of my unit, but I could not see him and assumed he was on the far side of the vehicles amongst the crowd of people.

I could not see SSgt [REDACTED] SO77 at this point as he too had gone into the crowd on the far side of the two vehicles.

A couple of minutes after I arrived I saw LCpl [REDACTED] SO71 get down from the 432 and go back into the crowd of people by the waters edge. As he did so I saw that he was being jostled by people in the crowd, which was growing all the time.

At this time I had heard over the radio net, when LCpl [REDACTED] SO71 had been using his radio previously that two thieves had been detained but did not hear the complete message. I thought that two of the people within the crowd were detained, but knew nothing of any other incident.

I was then instructed by either SSgt [REDACTED] SO77 or LCpl [REDACTED] SO71 to help retrieve the pump from the waters edge.

I then left the 432 and went to assist Spr [REDACTED] SO72

As soon as I left the vehicle I started to be jostled by the crowd. People were pushing and shoving me towards the water, some women were also shouting at me and pushing me. I recall that one youth, who appeared to be quite upset and was trying to punch me, but I managed to push him away. It was all very confusing at this point and the people were shouting at me in Arabic, so I did not know what they were trying to say, I had no idea what the problem was at this stage.

It took Spr [REDACTED] SO72 and I a couple of minutes to retrieve the pump, by which time I noticed that somebody have moved the other 432 alongside the Spartan, so that we could put the pump straight into the back of the vehicle.

Once we had retrieved the pump I was told to return to my vehicle and get ready to go.

I got back into the driver's compartment and spun the 432 around, facing away from the dock, ready to go.

I could not see anything happening at the dockside and after about a couple of minutes, SSgt [REDACTED] SO77 got back in to the Commander's compartment and told me to go.

**RESTRICTED**

DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

Statement Number: S8

I then drove out of the dock and went straight back to our camp.

I recall that everybody at the scene was wearing desert combats trousers, I was wearing a desert combat shirt.

To the best of my knowledge all the others were wearing t-shirts, but what colour they were I do not recall. The only person I do recall was Spr [REDACTED] SO72 who was wearing a green t-shirt, with a large rip in the back of it.

I recall that Spr [REDACTED] SO72 was completely soaked when I arrived at the scene.

As for Lt [REDACTED] SO70 I later heard that he was also soaked however, I do not recall noticing whether he was wet or dry when I saw him very briefly at the dockside that day.

It was not until I returned to camp after the incident, that I was informed that two Iraqis had fallen or jumped into the water, one of whom had not been recovered at that time.

Whilst I was at the quayside I did not see anybody in the water nor was I aware that anybody was in the water.

Signed: [REDACTED] Signature Witnessed By: