



MOD-83-0000477-A

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DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

URN: Y23

Enter type: ROTI

(SDN / ROTI / Contemporaneous Notes / Index of Interview with VIW / Visually Recorded Interview)

Person Interviewed: **S077**
Place of Interview: INTERVIEW SUITE, GOOLE, HULL
Date of Interview: 06/11/2014
Time Commenced: 14:00 Time Concluded: 14:08
Duration of Interview: 8 minutes
Audio tape reference nos:
Visual image reference nos:
Interviewer(s): **IHAT 3**
Other Persons Present: **IHAT 4**, **IHAT 1**

Police Exhibit No:	Number of Pages:	5
Signature of interviewer producing exhibit:		

Person Speaking

Text

IHAT 3

OK, right recording equipment's working properly next door so I'll just introduce where we are and who we are. My name's **IHAT 3** and I work for the Iraq Historic Allegations Team, it's Thursday the 6th of November 2014 and the time by my watch is just around two o'clock in the afternoon (1400). If you could just give me your full name please **S077?**

S077

Yeah I'm **S077**

IHAT 3

Just to let you know **S077** that my colleagues **IHAT 4** and **IHAT 1** are in the room next door.

S077

Yep.

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IHAT 3

And they're going to be monitoring, listening to what we're saying.

SO77

Yep.

IHAT 3

And basically they're there as a backup for me, if I miss anything out or we need to go back on anything, they'll let me know and we'll come back in and cover the points that they want me to, alright? As I said this interview's going to be video recorded, so it's recording us visually and audibly at the same time.

SO77

Yep.

IHAT 3

And I understand that we're here to talk about an incident that occurred when you were serving in the British Army...

SO77

Yep.

IHAT 3

...in Iraq. I know very little about what you're going to tell me so I would ask you to tell me in as much detail as you possibly can, what you can remember about that incident.

SO77

Right I was stationed in Basra, I'm just trying to think about the time from, well, from March right through to maybe the end of May, May time I think then we moved up to Shiabah Airfield after that. During the time when we moved into Basra, we went into what was then I think the Naval Academy, the Iraqi Naval Academy which is pretty close to the Shatt-Al-Arab river. We were stationed there as a squadron, when we first moved in there we had obviously support from the Armoured Corp with us as well and then we took over the, like the camp, ran the camp and ran our operations from that camp. We had different tasks sorting out the infrastructure for the local area in Basra, different guys going out doing different things, one of my main jobs was out there towards the end, was to build a 500 man camp, tented camp, being an Engineer that was one of things we done so I was sort of commuting from Basra to Shaibah Airfield daily and we used to probably set off around midnight because working there, because it was hot, working at night and then finish about 12 midday the following day then come back to camp, which was the Naval Academy, that's where we stayed. From the incident, regarding the incident which I believe was on the docks, well I know it was on the docks, I was in the camp and I got called forward by my Squadron 2 I/C at the time saying that there was some trouble just down on the docks, as far as I'm aware my guys, well my guys, some of the guys from my troop were down there and what they were doing they were washing their armoured vehicles down using the, some pumps and brushes and the water that was in the river was obviously pumped up in the pumps and just to pump the water round to wash the tanks down and they were down doing that and as soon as I got called, I got told there was a bit of, something going on down, down near the docks and they were starting to get loads of people down there, crowds and stuff and they were a bit concerned cos of, they think there was, a boy had fell into the water and he'd not returned, you know he'd gone under the water and not returned so I, I think there was two of us in all, me and another 432, with one of the guys called, I think it's **SO71** I think it was, one of my Corporals, who, I went out of camp turned left and then I think it's more or less left again, down the road and it takes you straight on to the docks, we went down there and pulled in and trying to see what was going on, there was a couple of guys in a uniform but they were drenched through with water and I'm trying to simulate what was happening at the time and they said, they're telling me that a kid had jumped in the water but he hadn't come back up and then his mate had jumped in apparently and swam off round the corner, going after him and I think the kid had swam off but by then there was like lots of crowd, a crowd of people started coming

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towards us and some of the women, like the Iraqi women seem to do and you've probably seen it on the television, the middle eastern women like really shout and ball and that's the way like they sort of deal with things you know and they were starting to come over and there was a few men and there was quite a crowd coming over, so I said, you know, there's sort of a situation going to infuse so what I really had told all the guys to get all their gear as quick as they can, put it into their 432's and the lads that were there as well, get their tanks and we was to head off back into camp and that's what we and that's what we done and you know, I know it was getting a bit heavy at one point, one of the guys, I think **SO71** the lad who come out with me, he was like sort of standing watching while keeping an eye on what things, you know as things were materialising, just to watch us while we got the kit packed away and stuff and you know, I had a couple of lads posted out just to keep an eye on things and they were starting, the women were starting to come over to them and you know start shaking, shaking him and I was like that 'right come on, get away now then' and withdrew with him and then we all went back into the camp then and that, in our tanks and that's about all I can remember, so then obviously went from there to get de-briefed on what had happened.

IHAT 3

Right, so, what happened there? Carry on.

SO77

And, you know, I sort of, as far as I can remember, that sort of incident would have obviously got recorded in like the, in the log, in the radio cos the 2 I/C was on the radio to me at all times and I just told him, you know, that I was coming in cos the situation was getting bad, so we come back into the camp and we stayed put in the camp and there's like a crowd of people starting to, you know, like gather round the...you know, come down the road and start to gather round the camp, that's as much as I can remember and then, sort of, another sort of day went by and then I just like carried on my normal routine going to, from backwards to Basra into Shaibah Airfield to build this camp and carry on with that, so it's like an incident I know if the kid had, obviously they thought he'd gone and he dived in and they think he hit his head or summit underneath the water, I mean it was an old Naval dockyard and there was loads of things, you know, it was in a bad state of repair, so there could have been all sorts in the water that, you know, could have got thrown in and I saw loads of rusty hulks of all sorts of stuff, you know, knocking about in the place.

IHAT 3

OK, alright, so just to clarify you didn't actually see the incident happen itself?

SO77

No, I got a call, well I got called to the ops room by the 2 I/C like I say and he told me I, you know, you're like on my QRF, Quick Reaction Force, you've just got to go down and get your guys back in cos there's something going off down, at the end of docks.

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

So that's my, so that was my bit in it.

IHAT 3

Alright, OK well we'll switch the recording machine off now.

SO77

Right.

IHAT 3

Alright and I'll go and speak to the guys next door.

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SO77

No worries.

IHAT 3

And then we'll carry on with the process.

SO77

Yeah sure.

IHAT 3

Alright? OK? So I make it eight minutes past 2 (1408) and the guys next door will switch the machine off and then I'll go and have a chat with them, alright,

END OF CD

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Person Interviewed: **SO77**
Place of Interview: INTERVIEW SUITE, GOOLE, HULL
Date of Interview: 06/11/2014
Time Commenced: 14:23 Time Concluded: 15:17
Duration of Interview: 54 minutes
Audio tape reference nos:
Visual image reference nos:
Interviewer(s): **IHAT 3**
Other Persons Present: **IHAT 4**, **IHAT 1**

Police Exhibit No:	Number of Pages:	54
Signature of interviewer producing exhibit:		

Person Speaking	Text
IHAT 3	(Knock on wall) cool, right hopefully the machine's recording properly, it's now twenty three minutes past two (1423) in the afternoon and it's still Thursday the 6 th of November 2014 but we're in the same room as we were half an hour ago when we started and again my colleagues are next door listening, listening to what we say and this is the second session that we've had with yourself SO77
SO77	Yep.
IHAT 3	In the first session you've given me an account of your being in Iraq serving in the Army.
SO77	Yeah.

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IHAT 3

...and an incident that occurred sometime when you were there. So I just need to sort of go back to the beginning again...

SO77

Right.

IHAT 3

...and just to get a bit of, a bit of information about yourself...

SO77

Yep.

IHAT 3

...and how you ended up, you know, going to Iraq, so when did you actually join the Army?

SO77

1984.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and this time that you were in Iraq, was that your first tour or?

SO77

Yeah it was the first, that was like when the 2003, when the, when the war fighting stage was on.

IHAT 3

Right OK, can you remember, cos I know that...

SO77

Date.

IHAT 3

...I can remember that the Army used to refer to them as Telic's?

SO77

Yeah Op Telic 1.

IHAT 3

It was Telic 1?

SO77

Telic 1 yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and what year would that have been?

SO77

2003.

IHAT 3

3, OK. So it was your first tour of Iraq...

SO77

Yep.

IHAT 3

...before you went to Iraq, did you have any sort of specific training prior to going to Iraq, for going to Iraq? If you know what I mean.

SO77

Yeah we did have some training from, some training within, like Battlegroup training and also, I

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was stationed in Germany so...

IHAT 3

Yep.

SO77

...it was like minus 10...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...when we was on the training area, probably not the ideal training but (inaudible) training just exercising as you usually do...

IHAT 3

Yep.

SO77

...when you're in an Army unit and preparing, preparing to go and all different things, bits of language and...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...all sorts of things.

IHAT 3

And what Regiment were you with?

SO77

I was with 32 Engineer Regiment but 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

That's who I was with.

IHAT 3

OK and your main role was, as you've already described, as an Engineer?

SO77

Yeah, I was like the Troop Staff Sergeant so I was in charge of like thirty guys...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...so and then from them they, from may there be a Troop Sergeant below me then they'll be Corporal's in charge of sections of eight guys...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...and then we were all split into different armoured vehicles...

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IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...cos we were an Armoured Engineer Squadron so we used to do everything out of a tank and bridge building, that was like a speciality.

IHAT 3

Right, OK. So...

SO77

Combat engineering.

IHAT 3

So before you left to go to Iraq, that was what you anticipated your job was going to be when you got there?

SO77

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

IHAT 3

Right OK and you said that you, you ended up at Basra...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...at the, I think you called it the Naval Academy?

SO77

I think it's the Naval Academy I think it was, is what they called it, it was the old, where they used to do, like their barracks if you like, so we took their barracks...

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

...it was like a breeze block, breeze block building set up.

IHAT 3

So, that's what I was going to ask you next, what was there when you got there?

SO77

Just like a breeze block perimeter camp, pretty dead basic with a few, like a few office areas inside it, some accommodation blocks inside it like a bit of a kitchen cookhouse sort of thing...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...so we sort of took that over and utilised their facilities, we made good toilets and showers and stuff like that and put the wall back on and sorted that out cos what we're doing here, we are out as trade guys as well so we do brick laying, plumbing, painting and all that lark (laughs).

IHAT 3

OK, so can you just describe the layout of, roughly as best you can, the layout of what you would call the camp, where the, your soldiers were stationed?

SO77

Right so you'd like come through, if you come through the camp gates, you'd have like a sentry box, well as you come through the camp gates the sentry box will be on the left hand side and I

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think there's one on the right hand side as well, probably about twenty, with like a chicane we built with hesco bucking which is like big bags of sand if you like...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...to stop vehicles coming through and we put some protection outside the camp obviously to protect ourselves, stopping vehicles and vehicle borne IED's, people driving into the camp, stuff like that...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...so that was protected round the outside. As you go into the camp, as you're going into it on the right hand side there was like what we call the Ops room, so where all the radios and the lads set up their tank with the radios in but were also relayed into like a room just like an empty room where, you know, like they sort of made it into the operations room, we had the maps and stuff up, so that's where we ran the area from...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...where we was so we knew where everybody was, pinpointed people on the map as they went out to the city and then obviously they kept contact with the guys as they were going out on the radio just so we knew where they were...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...so basic communications really and then we had an area what we usually, in the armoured, call the tank park cos it's just an open area which had spent time previously back filling with bricks just to bring it up to standard so we can get it on cos the sea level, once you went down to about half a metre it was like, sort of clay...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...and these were pretty heavy tanks so we bolted that up so we could get everything on there, so there's like the tank park then you had an area next to that where they had what we call field troops and the support, I was in charge of support troop and they provide all the support element to field troops, so there was like the field troop were on the left hand side as you went through the gate and then support troop were on the right hand side, sorry like in an 'L' shape at the back of them and then rooms ran down the line, at the end of that line then, there was like the Officers and Sergeants sort of canal area if you like, there was a little area which had like a little wall round that and that's where we all stayed. From beyond that there was another bit of road and then there was a kitchen was behind that, there was like some more, the stores where we used to store everything, so that was like the basic layout in the camp right.

IHAT 3

So how many...

SO77

Not sure I can remember.

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IHAT 3

How many British Soldiers would have been there at that time? At that camp?

SO77

Squadron, is usually about 120 guys.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

So you get like three troops and you've got three troops with about thirty men, probably give or take, so three troops of thirty men and then a support troop and then you've got an HQ element so it's, people that run the radios and stuff like that.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and you've said that your main job was to commute from there to another location?

SO77

Yeah we, I got given this, a camp to build which was on Shaibah Airfield which is where eventually we moved back to but we had to build the, these 500 man camps to get all the, well eventually it's done to get everybody onto this airfield...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...and that's where they operated out of so I went out to just a bit of land and then these tents turned up, they're like, it's like a tented camp and all the utility service, drainage and all that was in there as well, everything's there, you need build a camp so you obviously dig the trench, the trenches to put all the drainage, level the ground off then you've got these big like toilet blocks and stuff that, you know, are already made that get let go on there, they're like port-a-cabins sort of affairs if you like and then the guys like live in tented accommodation...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...and that's what we was building and that's got obviously all electric supplies we put in as well to that.

IHAT 3

OK. So was that immediate from the time you arrived at the Naval Academy, was that immediate that you...?

SO77

When we first moved in the Naval Academy we'd come, I think, from the war fighting, we'd move from Az Zabayr when we first moved, when we first moved up to Az Zabayr where there was quite a lot of work and I worked with the Black Watch, spent a bit of time working with them and providing support to them even if it was just building sandbag walls for them storing camps up and stuff like that and building earth bombs and that out with my plough machine cos I had some plough machinery and a combat engineer tractors, I had two of them under my control and a couple of like JCB's and that, that was what I was in charge of cos a plant guy.

IHAT 3

Right, so when you first got there...

SO77

Yeah.

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IHAT 3

...when you first arrived there, was the Naval Academy occupied by anybody at all?

SO77

No, we sort of went into, when we sort of got into, we was on the outskirts of Basra and there was a bit of, a bit of just (inaudible) mines and stuff like that we had to clear to get in and you know the odd bit of gun fire and stuff that we had to come across, we was all formed up ready to go into Basra, we went into Basra itself, got sort of like held up in this other like area and then we moved from there down into, you know, we got told that we was going into this like the Ba'ath Headquarters, I think we moved into there and then we sort of all come back together, we ended up going back into the Naval Academy as a Squadron.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

So we had our operating area if you like.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

And we was right next to the docks and we was doing patrols around the docks because people were just pinching everything they could.

IHAT 3

OK, that was going to be the next thing I was going to ask you about, I mean if, if, could you gain access to the Naval Academy without going through the camp where you were?

SO77

Yeah, the Naval Academy road was, there was a road that ran down the side of it to get to like, I don't know whether it was their training areas or there was like a jetty area with like, and there was like, you know, a jetty for bringing boats in and stuff like that...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...you know, in that area.

IHAT 3

Right and how far was the, the dockside from where your camp was?

SO77

What in metres? It was just at the back of the camp so, I don't know, two, three hundred metres.

IHAT 3

Oh right so quite close.

SO77

Close.

IHAT 3

Quite close to the water then.

SO77

Yeah, yeah.

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IHAT 3

Alright, OK and you mentioned that part of the duties was to go out on patrol.

SO77

Yeah when we first got there into the camp we ended up patrolling the areas, one just to look after ourself and just see who was in that area and keep an eye on what was going on and then just to make that there was, everything was just getting, people were just taking all sorts of stuff and...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...helping themselves to stuff so we were just like keeping people out of the warehouses where there was stuff and trying to keep order if you like, that was what we were generally trying to do.

IHAT 3

Right, so was this local people?

SO77

Yeah local people yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, so tell me the sort of things that you would encounter when dealing with those?

SO77

There was like big warehouses on the docks, I mean a lot of it, there's all sorts of things in the warehouses, I mean there was a couple of missiles and sort of stuff and there's all bits, all various bits of sort of stuff you'd have down in the docks really in the areas and you know they were just trying to come and take it, what they could and help themselves...

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

...so we were just trying to keep order and, you know, until the time is we knew and try and protect the infrastructure, that's what we were trying to do because there was, we was even trying to help keep the electric on and stuff like that but there was wires down, they're more interested in taking the copper wire than they were us putting the electric on and stuff like that.

IHAT 3

Right so this would have been infrastructure for the local people as opposed to...

SO77

For Basra yeah.

IHAT 3

...the camp?

SO77

Yeah for the people, not just for us, it was for everybody...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...you know for the town, trying to get them back, getting back to normal really.

IHAT 3

Right.

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SO77

It wasn't going to happen overnight but...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...we just had to stop people coming in and having a free for all really.

IHAT 3

Right, OK. So was this a regular occurrence that there were people out and about helping themselves?

SO77

Yeah, there was all sorts, I mean we'd find them, all sorts of weapons in bunkers, when you'd search around you'd find all sorts of stuff.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and what was your sort of specific instructions for when you were out on patrol? I mean if you went out on patrol, how many of you would sort of go out and what would you do if you came across somebody?

SO77

Probably about two or three like 432's they're called, like the personnel carriers, so they'll be two or three of us in them with some guys and, you know we just warn them and scare them off if anything else, you know, just by our presence I think a lot of people just used to see when we pulled up, they used to go...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...you know what I mean, that was it really, that's mainly what we used to do.

IHAT 3

So it would be in an armoured vehicle?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Right and about three or four of you in each vehicle and would that be on a regular basis or?

SO77

Yeah when we're first there just to keep an eye because where the camp was, there was like a big dock there and, was it Saddam's boat was there...

IHAT 3

Oh right.

SO77

...that had been taken out, that was on the docks area right next to us as well and then like the jetty bit, there was jetty's there that ran along where his boat was but on the other side of, other side of it was where the smaller jetty's were where the Naval, like, it looked like the Naval Training Academy there was a few buildings and that down there as well.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, OK so were there any, I mean were there any, were there any people actually working there?

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S077

What on the dock?

IHAT 3

Yeah.

S077

No, really it was just like an old derelict buildings but you know you get the odd people walking around here there and there and you know, we did at one time there was some, an ISO container of weapons and I think there was weapons in there, you know as a safeguard to put these weapons and people were watching that as well...

IHAT 3

Right.

S077

...from our camp, from (inaudible), they used to be in there with us as well.

IHAT 3

OK, so what would be the routine then if, if you were out on patrol and you came across somebody that was doing something they shouldn't have done?

S077

We'd just report it on the radio that we found somebody and just how many and then we'd just, you know, just tell them to go really...

IHAT 3

Right.

S077

...nothing else really.

IHAT 3

OK, would you have interpreters working with you?

S077

Yeah we did, in the early stages we would, they, you know, once we got them in the camp and they'd start to come in then and people interviewing people for being interpreters but not right at the beginning when we went into Basra.

IHAT 3

Right.

S077

Cos obviously...

IHAT 3

Yeah, so some of the people that may have ended up as interpreters would have been local people?

S077

Yeah.

IHAT 3

That can obviously speak English?

S077

Yeah.

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IHAT 3

Yep, OK, alright. So would you have gone out on many patrols yourself?

SO77

I did at the beginning, like I was out and about with my lads and then sometimes the lads would go and then I might stay in, depending on what I was doing, I can't really remember...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...exactly how many I would have done but we're securing, when we first got in obviously you take a position, you've got to find out what's around it so search all the buildings and that's basically what we did to start with, we were just clearing, as you do, clearing all the buildings and just so you know...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...there's nothing in there that can endanger you and you know the layout of the building in that case.

IHAT 3

Right and was there still fighting going on at this stage?

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

Right and what about any problems with, I don't know, anyone, you know, attacking yourselves?

SO77

No it seemed to, no not really, I mean then soon after, soon after we got there like the sort of, the ceasefire was announced and then there was all just a load of gun fire in the air so you knew, I never heard so many guns in my life, so you knew that everybody probably out there had a weapon each, do you know what I mean, so...

IHAT 3

So as safe...

SO77

...and they were living right next to us, you know.

IHAT 3

Yeah, so as safe as it could be was, it was a fairly safe place for you to work and operate?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

But obviously you had to...

SO77

We still patrol it...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

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SO77

...we still had guys on the gate, we were still in sangars watching, just your normal situation that you would if you was somewhere like, I don't know, when I've been to Ireland...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...or anywhere else you know, it's exactly the same.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and was there any, I mean you say if you're on patrol and you came across somebody who's doing something they shouldn't do, you would report it back...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...via your radio...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...was there, sort of like, any laid down sort of guidelines as to what you should do if you caught anyone?

SO77

Not unless, well I can't remember exactly.

IHAT 3

Right and can you remember any...

SO77

We used to have like, what we used to call orders on a night, every night and every day that, you speak through with the senior ranks of the squadron, what went on and then that gets obviously reported up the chain of command so decisions are made and they can obviously work out what's going on but...

IHAT 3

But you've said that if you came across somebody in the early days, if, when you didn't have interpreters, you would basically just try and scare, scare the locals away?

SO77

Yeah that's it and that's what they used to do, as soon as they see us, a lot of them had, were like in open arms and wanted to speak to us, you know so...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...it weren't too bad, they were glad we came.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, OK and the actual sort of structure of who was in charge of the camp at the time, can you remember any of the names of the...

SO77

Yeah the, Major SO79 was the OC, [REDACTED] was the Serg Major, the 2 I/C was called SO76 and there was a couple of Troop Commanders, there was the Field Troop

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Commander and his name escapes me, I can't remember, I can remember his face, a dark haired chap and we had some of the Sergeants signals, I can remember them, [REDACTED] was one of the, like the Sig Sergeant, there was [REDACTED] was my Sergeant. The Troop Commander who'd like newly joined me just before we moved into Basra was a guy called [REDACTED] **SO70**, he was like a new guy to the engineers and new to the squadron, he was like put with me to be my boss and you know...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...later on in the conflict I didn't have, he wasn't with me at the start when we had the war fighting situation but just towards the end he sort of come with us then I met him in Shiabah, when we was in Shaibah and when we moved forward into Basra he come forward.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and on the day that this incident actually happened, can you recall what your sort of routine was on that particular day?

SO77

What I was doing is, I think I was just in the camp but I was doing a lot of planning towards getting this camp up and running and daily reports back to the 2 I/C and doing that, I used to tell him everyday what I'd done, how far we got, I mean like we had, meant to get built in 62 and I think we turned it around in half the time so...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...we was just planning how we were going to get it done quick as we could, what kit we needed.

IHAT 3

OK, so were any of your guys out on patrol on that particular day?

SO77

The guys were out, like I say, some guys are out from my guys washing down the tank and the Troop Commander **SO70** he was down there with them and his driver, he was a guy called **SO75**, Sapper **SO75**.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, so you've already mentioned about this place where they used to wash the vehicles...

SO77

Yeah, yeah.

IHAT 3

...was that close to the water?

SO77

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, can you sort of describe...

SO77

The layout of that?

IHAT 3

Yeah.

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SO77

It sort of come down out of camp, turn left and then turn left again, go down, down the road and there's was like a couple of old huts, like buildings, derelict buildings down there and then a bit of greenery and stuff, not much, most of it is baron down there anyway and you sort of went down the road and there's like some big, like a big warehouse, like effect near there and then sort of the road sort of went round and then went right and there was like a, like a, just an opening in the docks, it's like a mooring if you like...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...where they could probably get a boat in, I don't know how big a boat but it's probably, from what I can remember the size of it, it was probably about, I don't know, twenty metres by about thirty metres, something like that...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...and then when, at the time when I got called out, that's where the guys were when I went to, with the guys, that's where I see the guys there and then the two, the troopie then who was like SO70, he was like one of the ones who was soaking wet and there was another guy, not 100% sure what it is but they said oh they kept going down and down to get the guy and I said look, listen you're going to end up in there yourself, there's only so much you can do, they'd been doing it for god knows how long and they were both out of breath themselves so they were going to become a casualty.

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

As much as they wanted to help, they were starting to think about did we need to get a diver out there, it was that bad, they'd be there so many times.

IHAT 3

So how close were these pumps to the actual, to the water then?

SO77

I don't know, ten foot away maybe.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and when you say 'pump'...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...how did it operate?

SO77

It's just like a diesel, diesel suction pump that's all.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

It had like a, what they call a dolphin filter with a hard hose on that you throw in the water and

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DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

then obviously that sucks the water up and then it goes through the pump, I mean it's what we used to call the standard pump, I think it was part of the water kit, I think it was we used, I'm not 100% sure but that's all it uses and then it goes into a flexi hose at the end where it pumps your water out from there onto whatever you want to wash down.

IHAT 3

Right and this was a regular place where the guys used to take the vehicles?

SO77

Yeah, yeah and there used to be some locals down there, walking around that area...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...never used to really have any problems with anybody, it's pretty quiet really to be honest.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and again, how far, how long would it have taken you from the camp to get down to the pumps?

SO77

To get down to them where the incident was?

IHAT 3

Yeah, not on that particular day but...

SO77

As if you were gonna drive out to there?

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

Not long, a couple of minutes.

IHAT 3

Right so not far again.

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

And on proper roads or?

SO77

Yeah it's like a tarmac, it was a bit half chewed up road and then down to like docks like it was the old wooden 6 x 100 600 beams that are driven, poles that are driven in and then normal old docks...

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

...dock area.

IHAT 3

But this was outside of the...

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DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

SO77

It was outside the camp.

IHAT 3

...secure perimeter of the...

SO77

Camp.

IHAT 3

...the camp, yeah.

SO77

We still had guys, there were still guys that were, at certain times, you know and there were still guys held up in areas, I can't remember whether they were there at the time of the incident but we used to have guys like attached to us from the snipers and they were in the buildings, you know, at the time, when we first got there so I don't know whether, I can't remember whether, I don't think they were there then.

IHAT 3

Right, OK. What, it's like added protection?

SO77

Yeah just protection yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, OK. Before I move on to the actual day...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...I just want to check with the guys that there's nothing I need to go back on just to the point we've got up to.

SO77

Yeah sure.

IHAT 3

OK so I'll leave the, we'll leave the kit running and I'll just go and check with them.

SO77

No worries.

LEAVES ROOM

ENTERS ROOM

IHAT 3

OK just a couple of things, might get you to do some drawing, as an engineer I expect something spectacular (laughs).

SO77

(Inaudible) (Laughs).

IHAT 3

Right couple of things, just about what we, what we've spoken about already, you mentioned earlier about there was an ops room, a radio room...

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DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

SO77

Yeah yeah.

IHAT 3

Who would have manned that?

SO77

What at the time of the incident?

IHAT 3

Yeah, what would be...

SO77

Well it's usually like the regimental, well sorry not the regiment, the squadron 2 I/C so that was
SO76, was the guy on the day of the incident.

IHAT 3

Right so it wouldn't be specific...

SO77

They'd be a signal, there's a, we've got a signal section within the squadron so that'll be like, they'll have an officer on and they have like a Sergeant who's like the Sig Sergeant, he would have been SO76, he would have been on with his lads and he had a couple of like Corporal and another Corporal with him...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...who'd run, who nearly ran that non-stop really.

IHAT 3

And that was their like regular job?

SO77

Yeah, that's all they done yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, right, OK and explain to me the way you would communicate with your radios, if you were talking to the...

SO77

Ops room.

IHAT 3

...to the ops room, could everybody else hear what you were saying or was it just one way traffic or...?

SO77

No well we'd all be on the same frequency yeah so everybody else would hear us, we'd have like our own squadron frequency so you can hear everybody talking.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

So obviously you wouldn't cut in on somebody else, you'd wait to get talking, wait to speak to and if you know, there was something...

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IHAT 3

Right and what other units would have been attached to the camp at the time that you were there?

SO77

Who would have been in the camp?

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

I mean when we first went there we had like the armoured corp there, they were like, they're protection the first like couple of days, you know, I can't even remember whether it was two days or maybe even a bit longer...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...parked outside the front of the place with their tanks.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And then we had some, I think they were the sniper team from the Black Watch or something, I think that's where they were from.

IHAT 3

And is this the ones you mentioned that were...

SO77

Yeah, they were...

IHAT 3

...like added protection.

SO77

Yeah they stayed, they stayed, some of them guys stayed on the camp and they were out round, round the area.

IHAT 3

Right so would they stay out permanently or was it like a patrol?

SO77

Some of them, yeah some of them like would be in areas reporting on what's going on, you know like listening, watches, watching in a building, just doing surveillance sort of thing.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and you think they were from the Black Watch?

SO77

I think they were, I'm not 100% sure, I think, I'm sure they must be.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and were they there all the time?

SO77

Cos Black Watch, we was a Black Watch battlegroup so...

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IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

We was with the Black Watch anyway, attached to them...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...and they would have been the local infantry regiment but I couldn't swear on that cos, I know there's some lads in there anyway.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and were they there all the time?

SO77

No, no not all the time, they were there at the beginning and I think that they moved on from there and went back to their unit. See what everybody sort of done is at the beginning we, there were split with different people, I, when we first got into Basra, you know, I was with the Black Watch, in some of the Black Watch and then we sort of all moved into our own units and went into our own units, in our own area...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...so like you had the engineers in one place, you know, another gang of lads were, another unit would be up the road in another place...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...in a building, so sort of just found different secure areas around Basra...

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

...that's where you operated out.

IHAT 3

And would there, would there have been other sort of units within the camp that would have, you mentioned there was kitchens.

SO77

Yeah we had our own Cooks.

IHAT 3

You had your own Cooks?

SO77

We had our Cook, we were self-sufficient, we had our own stores, our own lads for the stores, our own stores sections, we had our own Cooks, a squadron could function on its own.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

Either out of its tanks, even out of its tanks, even, you know, in an area, do you know what I

RESTRICTED
DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

mean.

IHAT 3

Right so there weren't other people, like specialists brought in? You didn't have like a...

SO77

No, no, no, we had our own Cooks, everybody's, you have your own, everybody's self-sufficient.

IHAT 3

Right, what about things like Medics and stuff like that?

SO77

Yeah you have a medic attached to you as well.

IHAT 3

Right so would you have had a medical facility within the camp or?

SO77

Not at first I don't think we did.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and I don't want to go into the day of the incident but can you remember how long you'd been there before, before this incident? How long had you been at that camp?

SO77

In that camp?

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

Dunno, whether it's a month, whether it's a couple of weeks, I don't remember, I know, I mean the war, start of the war fighting phase was probably towards the end of March when we went over the border it first started and then we were slowly moving forward and moving forward towards Basra, that was and then we went into Al-Zabayr, you know and it is a bit, where we was hung around, you know, in that area, we went to Shiabah Airfield, we had a place there that we worked out as well and even though we're help and support the Black Watch in Al-Zubayr, so...

IHAT 3

OK, so how long do you think you'd been at that camp then before, that particular camp before the day of this incident?

SO77

Maybe a month.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, OK and we've talked about the pumps that the lads used to wash the vehicles, would that have been people from your camp took their vehicles down there to wash?

SO77

Yeah yeah.

IHAT 3

Were they ever used by anyone, anyone else?

SO77

No, not as far as I'm aware, just us.

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IHAT 3

And what sort of vehicles are we talking about, you mentioned a...

SO77

You have like a Spartan, one of them that's like a, just a 2 man reconnaissance vehicle...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...most of them, the other ones that we have which you have, well we had a Warrior which the OC's in, you've have a Spartan what the Troop Commander's are in, in charge of their troops and then their Staff Sergeant and Sergeant and they're in a 432, armoured vehicle.

IHAT 3

Right and is that, I mean...

SO77

Standard.

IHAT 3

It means nothing, I know nothing about it.

SO77

Well a 432, like mine, my 432 would have, I'd have had two blokes in it, sometimes I had other, some of lads may be in it, depending on what we're doing, if we had, if there's combat engineer, trackers weren't getting used and them guys would come with me as part of, you know, some protection for us as well, depending on what jobs we were doing but usually there's only two of us in that one vehicle cos mine was like the Command element for the rest of the guys, so I took all the radio messages, usually from higher up to tell me what to do, to tell, to brief the lads and that was all.

IHAT 3

Right and the vehicles, are we talking about sort of tracked vehicles?

SO77

Tracked vehicles yeah not wheels.

IHAT 3

Right, right.

SO77

They're all tracked.

IHAT 3

OK and...

SO77

And when we did have some, were like landrovers, what the stores section had and some 4 tonne trucks as well.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and if, if for example your guys were going to go down and clean their vehicles, what would be the procedure? Just go down there in one vehicle or would there always be like a set number?

SO77

There was a set number of vehicles usually, I mean two, three or four vehicles usually.

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IHAT 3

Right, and to all go down and be cleaned or would one act as like cover?

SO77

One watch and then while the other was getting washed.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

Just so you've got one foot on the ground at all times.

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

Basic Army stuff really.

IHAT 3

OK and did that attract a lot of attention when you know there's like all these vehicles moving around down there with the locals?

SO77

I can't ever remember going down there myself and getting washed down to be fair (laughs).

IHAT 3

(Laughs) so you don't think you've ever gone down there to do it?

SO77

No, I never got, went down there to get washed down, no I didn't no, not while...

IHAT 3

So the only time you would have been down round that area would have been if you'd been out on a patrol?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah, OK. If you can I'd like you to draw me a bit of a diagram of the layout of the place, not necessarily...

SO77

The camp?

IHAT 3

...the camp but the sort of position of the camp compared to the docks and where the pumps were and then we'll probably use that as an aid for you to show me where things were on the day, the day of the incident, does that makes sense?

SO77

Yeah yeah, if I can remember.

IHAT 3

Yep.

SO77

It'll be pretty basic.

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IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

They won't be scale like (laughs).

IHAT 3

(Laughs). Can you remember did this place have a name? This Naval Academy?

SO77

I can't remember what it's called, just used to use it, name as the Naval Academy.

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

There's like a main road running, main road running along here. It's 11 years of memory though.

IHAT 3

And was this close to Al-Zabayr?

SO77

No this one, this isn't Basra.

IHAT 3

Oh right, right.

SO77

You come out of camp, I think the road went like so, I couldn't swear on this like.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

Something like that, this is the river here.

IHAT 3

So it's a river as opposed to the sea?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah, right.

SO77

I think it's the Shatt-Al-Arab river, I think it's called.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

I can always write it down.

IHAT 3

Yep.

SO77

(Inaudible), (inaudible), if I put 'Offr' Officers and SNCO's.

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IHAT 3

Yep.

SO77

... and (inaudible) yeah? And the stores are here somewhere, I might have missed some off on one, hopefully this (inaudible)...

IHAT 3

That's fine and what would the sort of, the perimeter have been made up of at the camp?

SO77

Breeze blocks I think it was.

IHAT 3

Right and that was stuff that was already, already there?

SO77

Already there yeah and then obviously we put some, we put some protection out front of here.

IHAT 3

Yeah, yeah.

SO77

I'm not sure of the distance between when you come out of there but I know, I'm sure you, when you come out you turn left and you went down to the docks.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

I think there was a, I don't know, there's some few buildings here but, I think, I think there's a big, like a boatyard (inaudible). I can't remember whether the water come in there you know...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...so you can get your boats in, I'm not sure.

IHAT 3

Right, so perhaps a place where the, with a roof, where the boats would go in yeah?

SO77

I don't think (inaudible) like a dead end there, then you've got the river, it was like a jetty. There's like just ground here, I think there's a couple of buildings and stuff round here but I can't.

IHAT 3

Right. Where were the, where were the pumps?

SO77

I don't even know whether the road went down there, I think it did, went into here somewhere. Where the pumps were? Down here somewhere, that even might have been smaller you know, so there's was a bit more of an open area, about here I think.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and this, the area close, close to this, was it sort of very heavily populated?

SO77

Round here it was yeah.

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IHAT 3

Yeah?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Was it, I mean was it like a village, a town or?

SO77

It's Basra town.

IHAT 3

It was actually that close to Basra itself?

SO77

Yeah it was on the outskirts of Basra.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and I think you mentioned that there were some boats or ships or whatever you like to call them, in the docks.

SO77

Yeah that was that way though.

IHAT 3

Oh was it? Right.

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Right so that further away from the pumps.

SO77

Yeah yeah.

IHAT 3

Were there any houses anywhere sort of in this sort of area that we're talking about now?

SO77

I think there might have been one here, about here somewhere.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

I can't remember where this is, whether this was clear but it's like a, from what I can remember is it was like a the real old fashioned sort of dock building, you know like we have, the big 600, the 600 things driven in the ground and then it's got like wood...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...cover on it, I mean there was all sorts of scrap material and all sorts of stuff round here really.

IHAT 3

Yeah.

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SO77

I think there was, might have even been another bit that come round like that, not sure.

IHAT 3

So if you were, if you were going out in your vehicles, you'd come out of the camp...

SO77

Turn left.

IHAT 3

...turn left onto the main road and then left on to the road which actually goes into the...

SO77

That was like the Naval like training area as well...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...you know and then this was like, up here was like the docks...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...up this way, so I'll put, the Naval, I think it was the Naval training jetty or...

IHAT 3

Yep. OK and the only...

SO77

I think there were some people, might have even been like, there was like derelict buildings there, some of them they were definitely derelict, I don't even remember if there was anybody living in them.

IHAT 3

What locals?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

Not sure.

IHAT 3

OK so the only access control would have been in and out of the camp? Not to this point here, the main road into the Academy itself?

SO77

No, just there yeah that's it. Do you want me to put 'access control' in?

IHAT 3

Yeah yeah yep.

SO77

There's a sangar right here, I think there was a sangar, there's a gate, shit gate.

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IHAT 3

And if you were in the camp, could you see down to this sort of area or?

SO77

I think there was another, there was a sangar on here as well, on top of, there was another position here.

IHAT 3

Right and when you say sangar, what's that?

SO77

Like we had stuff on top of like a, on the ops room as well there was like a, a sangar's like a load of sandbags...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...up and like an area standing and it might have a roof on it as well and it'll have camouflage net round it.

IHAT 3

Right, so something...

SO77

It's what you watched the locals from you know.

IHAT 3

Right so something that would've been high off the ground?

SO77

It's an observation point, yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, so how high off the ground would they have been?

SO77

Like this one here? That was on top of a roof that was so...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

Same height as we are maybe.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

So ten metres.

IHAT 3

Right OK, so quite high up then? And what sort of view would they have got from, of this area from...?

SO77

I don't really, you can't see all the way down to here.

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IHAT 3

Right, so you couldn't, you couldn't see the pumps say from the sangars?

SO77

I don't think so.

IHAT 3

No.

SO77

I don't know, I've never been up there to look down so I couldn't tell you really.

IHAT 3

And you say there's two at the entrance.

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

One on top of the...

SO77

Yeah there's one on top of here as well.

IHAT 3

One on top, is that the ops room?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah. Would there have been any towards this end of the camp?

SO77

They had like a, I can't remember what they call them just like, they were like bloomin' drainage, drainage rings that were put together but I can't remember if they're on all four corners to be fair.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

That's what I do know for certain yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah and then would they have been permanently manned?

SO77

That would of yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah, so there'd always be somebody in there? Right.

SO77

Yeah we done guard duty on top of there and that, see all round this area here.

IHAT 3

Right and would that have been guys from...

SO77

The troops?

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IHAT 3

Yeah, from your...

SO77

Our squadrons yeah.

IHAT 3

What sort of taking it in turns or?

SO77

Yeah yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and the roads going down to the pump area, I mean I think you said they were mainly tarmac'd, so alright for you to go round them in your tracked vehicles and stuff?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

I think, this is like concrete, like concrete bits here...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...you know what I mean so like you'd have like round the normal jetty so they weren't like a road, you'd just get onto slabs of concrete...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...here, you know what I mean, by, you know what I mean, there and...

IHAT 3

Yeah, OK.

SO77

Near the pumps...

IHAT 3

Alright well we can...

SO77

They were more or less on the end of the jetty and I think I remember coming into here somehow.

IHAT 3

Well we can use that as a reference point for when we, when we talk about the day and when you say what you saw when you got there.

SO77

Yeah.

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IHAT 3

OK, cheers for that and I think what we're going to do now is we're going to have a bit of a break.

SO77

Yep.

IHAT 3

It's seventeen minutes past three (1517) and I'll get the guys next door to switch off the machine.

SO77

OK.

IHAT 3

Alright. Do you want a cup of tea?

END OF CD

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DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

URN: Y23B

Enter type: ROVI

(SDN / ROTI / Contemporaneous Notes / Index of Interview with VIW / Visually Recorded Interview)

Person Interviewed: **SO77**
Place of Interview: INTERVIEW SUITE, GOOLE, HULL
Date of Interview: 06/11/2014
Time Commenced: 15:35 Time Concluded: 16:40
Duration of Interview: 55 minutes
Audio tape reference nos:
Visual image reference nos:
Interviewer(s): **IHAT 3**
Other Persons Present: **IHAT 4**, **IHAT 1**

Police Exhibit No:

Number of Pages:

Signature of interviewer producing exhibit:

Person Speaking

Text

IHAT 3

(KNOCK ON WALL). OK, right the time now is 1535 and it's still Thursday the 6th of November 2014 and we're still in an interview suite at Goole in Humberside, got the same people present in this room, myself and **SO77** and my colleagues **IHAT 4** and **IHAT 1** are still next door listening to what we say. This is the third, third session that we've had with you **SO77** and in the last one you've drawn us a plan of the Naval Academy, just outside of Basra in Iraq.

SO77

Yep.

IHAT 3

And that's where the incident occurred that we're going to talk about. Before we go on to the actual incident, I just want to clarify some things about the communication system that was in place when you were there. You already mentioned that there was an ops room...

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SO77

Yep.

IHAT 3

...at the camp where you were based...

SO77

Yep.

IHAT 3

...and that that would be manned by someone of rank...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...and there would be staff in there who would obviously be manning the radios.

SO77

The watch yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah. Not in relation to the particular incident that we're going to talk about but what would be the route of radio messaging? If somebody was out on patrol and they called an incident into your ops room...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...would your ops room communicate with anybody else?

SO77

Yeah if need be, yeah.

IHAT 3

Right and who would they, who would they be communicating with?

SO77

Well they'll go to higher, they'll go to Brigade cos we was part of the 7th Armoured Brigade so they'd probably go up to Brigade which were stationed in Basra, well in Basra Palace.

IHAT 3

Right and would that be...

SO77

I think, I'm not sure, right at the beginning but it was towards the end, that's where they were.

IHAT 3

Right and would that be the normal practice?

SO77

Yeah that's it yeah your guy, your team on a lower scale of a troop would go to your troop and then they go up, you speak between your troops and then go up to the squadron level and then the squadron go to regimental level...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...speak to the regiment and the regiment will speak to higher from there...

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IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...so that will be the Brigade level.

IHAT 3

So would somebody in an ops room at another camp be able to hear what was going on out on the ground or would it have to be relayed to them by somebody?

SO77

It would have to be relayed to them and they'd probably be on a different, everybody's on different frequencies otherwise it would be that, that much chaos and you know.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, so as an example if someone called an incident in and they were out on patrol, go back to your ops room.

SO77

Yeah if it's our guys it'd go back to our ops room.

IHAT 3

Yeah, someone in your ops room would decide whether that message needed to be passed on to someone else or would it be passed on anyway?

SO77

Yeah it would usually passed on, it'd be put in the, everything gets logged, well it used to get logged, all the calls would get logged.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

On a radio log.

IHAT 3

And who would do that?

SO77

There the signallers whoever's manning the ops room at the time.

IHAT 3

Right and how would they do that?

SO77

Manually by writing it down.

IHAT 3

Manually, on pen and paper?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and would they do that for every incident?

SO77

Yeah.

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IHAT 3

So, for example, if you were going out on patrol and you told the ops room you were going out on patrol...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...would they log that?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

And if you said to them 'we're going down to the pumps to wash our vehicles', would they log that?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, ok and was that something that was done religiously?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

And did you ever go in that, in that ops room?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

We used to have our nightly briefings outside the ops room.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

A nightly briefing.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

All the command element of the squadron used to meet the higher command element...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...every night.

IHAT 3

OK, OK, so if we move on to the day of the actual incident that we've come to talk about.

SO77

Yeah.

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DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

IHAT 3

I think you mentioned earlier that you were, you were doing some planning.

SO77

I think so or just, I wasn't doing much work, I was like in and around my area, you know, which is the Officers and Seniors NTO's bit that's where I was.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and you mentioned earlier that a message was relayed to you.

SO77

Yeah message relayed to me.

IHAT 3

How was that done?

SO77

I think that was by, like what we call runner, just by verbally, a guy coming across to get me to go in the ops room.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And that will be one of the guys out of the ops room, I can't remember who it was, to come and see me but they usually have a guy spare so that, you know, if there's any messages to go out, they'll go and get them, get the relevant person.

IHAT 3

OK so the first thing you're aware of is somebody comes to get you and asks you to go to the ops room?

SO77

Yeah get your kit on and then go to the ops room to get briefed.

IHAT 3

Did that person convey what was actually happening?

SO77

When I went to the, yeah went to see the two I/C who was on at the time and he said 'get your kit together' and I mean I took another guy with me, 'you need to get down to the docks because there's something happening down at the docks, we think a guy's fell in the docks, in the water and then the guys are trying to get him out'.

IHAT 3

OK and where did that conversation take place?

SO77

That was in the ops room.

IHAT 3

Right and who was that conversation with? You said 2 I/C, who...

SO77

Yeah between me and 2 I/C who was **SO76**.

IHAT 3

SO76?

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SO77

SO76

IHAT 3

SO76, right.

SO77

He is a 2 I/C.

IHAT 3

Oh right so what rank?

SO77

Captain.

IHAT 3

So he's a Captain, right, OK. Can you remember who else was in the ops room when he gave you that message?

SO77

No, there was a couple of signallers but I can't remember their names.

IHAT 3

So at that point when he gave you that message, were you aware of the radio conversations going on with anybody else? Did you have your...

SO77

No because I didn't have my radio...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...on, I was, my radio was in my vehicle where my guys were, where my driver was and then I jumped in the turret of my vehicle to go out the camp, turn left and then go down to the area.

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

So all the time if you get a verbal message, you're sort of picking things up on the radios, it gets updated all the time.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, so you say you can't recall who it was who came to get you, to go to speak to the 2 I/C, can you recall who else might have been in the ops room?

SO77

No I mean there was a small team of guys who are the signallers, there's probably about three or four like Corporals, probably three, four probably, I think four or five I'm not sure and then like they have a Sergeant who's in charge of them and you know, he's used to be located with us as well so if he wasn't in the ops room he'd be over there.

IHAT 3

OK, so if you can't remember the ones that were at the, actually there on the day...

SO77

Yeah yeah.

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IHAT 3

Can you remember any of the names of the people who worked in there but on a regular basis?

SO77

No, I can't remember their names.

IHAT 3

What about any of the Sergeants?

SO77

Well [REDACTED] was the, was the Signal Sergeant but I can't, I can remember the guys faces but I can't remember the name of them, this was years ago.

IHAT 3

And how many people are we talking about, would've been in there?

SO77

On average probably about, they'd be usually an officer in there or, I mean thr 2 I/C used to be like manning the ops room so he'd probably be either on shifts or might even be on, he might do four hours on, four, you know, certain hours off.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

But they'd be manning it 24 hours but that was his main job.

IHAT 3

Right, OK. So you're told by the 2 I/C...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...to get your kit together.

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Can you remember exactly what it was he told you?

SO77

No I think, there's some trouble down, I think, there's some trouble down at the docks, we think there's a, I think, you know, there's, some of our guys are trying to get someone in who's in the dock, out of the water.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

You know, someone's gone in the water but I can't remember exactly what he told me.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

All I know is that I got told to go basically down there and make my own, you know get down the bottom and just see what was going on because there was, people starting to gather in that area.

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IHAT 3

OK and at that point that you got that message and the 2 I/C told you, did you know who was down at the pumps?

SO77

I knew that some of my lads were down there but I didn't know exactly, I can't remember exactly, I think I knew, I knew my Troop Commander and that and, there was some, a couple of other guys down there but I can't remember exactly.

IHAT 3

Right and you knew that they'd gone down there...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...to wash their vehicles.

SO77

Wash the vehicle down yeah.

IHAT 3

Right and the Troop Commander is?

SO77

SO70

IHAT 3

Right so you knew that Mr SO70 was down there?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

And you...

SO77

There was a guy called SO75 who was his driver, SO75

IHAT 3

Right and there was some other people down there but you can't remember who else.

SO77

No not 100% what names, names who are.

IHAT 3

OK and what vehicle would Mr SO70 usually be?

SO77

He'd be in a Spartan.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

Which is a command vehicle.

IHAT 3

Right, OK. So you get the message and get told to get down there.

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SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Tell me what happened next then.

SO77

Well I made my way down, down the road and then I noticed that, you know, the vehicles were over on this side of the, this side of the camp, well this area here, this area here so I made my way over to that area and got my vehicle in there and obviously spun my vehicle round so the back end was facing that way and I think, no the front end was facing that way across the docks to where, you know, and when I get down there I see two of the lads, Mr SO70 being one of them, like was actually drenched through and I can't remember the other guy with him.

IHAT 3

OK, so can you indicate on your diagram...

SO77

(Inaudible) there like...

IHAT 3

...where their vehicles would have been.

SO77

Roundabout here somewhere, do you want me to draw them on?

IHAT 3

Just mark, yeah where you think the vehicles were, yep, OK and who would have been in your vehicle with you?

SO77

My, [REDACTED] who's my driver.

IHAT 3

[REDACTED] ? [REDACTED] ?

SO77

[REDACTED], yeah.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

He was always my driver.

IHAT 3

Yep, anybody else?

SO77

I can't remember whether, I think I took and then I took also the other 432 from, with me who is like a, SO71 who's one of my Corporals and SO72, I think there was the two of us went down, it's sort of is like two vehicles..

IHAT 3

Oh right.

SO77

...(inaudible) at the time.

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IHAT 3

So two vehicles with two people in each one.

SO77

Two people in each yeah.

IHAT 3

And, excuse my ignorance, but what position would you have been in in that vehicle?

SO77

In the top of the turret.

IHAT 3

So you mean sticking out...

SO77

Sticking out of the top yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and your other guy would have been driving.

SO77

Yeah, he was just down below me.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

With his head sticking out also.

IHAT 3

Right, so at that point, would you have had, on your journey down from the camp to the pumps, would you have been in radio communication?

SO77

Yeah we was in radio contact but I can't remember ever mentioning, anything I ever mentioned to him, you know, on the radio on the way down there to be fair, cos it's that sort a distance.

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

When you went out was more or less there in like a minute or minute and a half, two minutes.

IHAT 3

Right, OK so...

SO77

Don't take long to get down there.

IHAT 3

What I'm trying to get at is did you get any more information before you got to the pumps?

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

From the Comms room to...

SO77

I don't think so.

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IHAT 3

And the radio equipment that you had.

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

How, is that a hand held...?

SO77

Yeah you have headphones on with a mike and then you got a handheld press up...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...that's connected to that and into your radio.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And like I spoke to my driver as well.

IHAT 3

Yeah right OK, OK, so in that vehicle you would have been fully kitted up...

SO77

Yeah yeah helmet on.

IHAT 3

...with your helmet on and you'd had been, like you say on, they call it top cover.

SO77

Top, yeah like yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah OK, so.

SO77

Yeah I had the machine gun with me at the top.

IHAT 3

Right, so if, describe to me what you can see then as you're going down the road towards the pumps.

SO77

Well I got down there and then sort of span into this area then got in my vehicle, told my driver to stay in the vehicle near the time and just try, try to work out myself what was going on, there was like two guys like soaking wet in water and then they were insisting that they want to keep going in the water and I was, they were both tired and like lying on the side of the dock and absolutely worn out, you know what I mean and...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...I was saying to them what's happened? and they said a boy jumped in and he jumped in and we not seen him and there was another guy that, they said that this kid jumped in and then the

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other guy jumped in as well afterwards but the guy sort of swam off and the other guy never popped up.

IHAT 3

Right, OK so...

SO77

So they were trying to find him underneath the water basically.

IHAT 3

So how many vehicles, apart from yours, were already there when you got there?

SO77

Two I think, two or three.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and you've mentioned the two soldiers that were, appear to be, had gone in the water.

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

And you, I think you said one of those was Mr **SO70**, do you remember who the other one was?

SO77

No, not sure whether it's, there was a, I'm not 100% sure, I think his name might have been **SO70**. I'm not sure, he was like one of the other, I can't remember his second name, I'm not 100% sure whether it was him.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

You know I know there was two but I couldn't.

IHAT 3

And the two guys that you could, that you could see, the two guys that were wet, what were they wearing?

SO77

They had their uniform on but they just had, they took their boots off, you know to dive in, they were jumping in and pulling each other out.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And the other lads were hoping and pointing and I just said you know, what's happened, he said oh 'he's gone under', 'he's gone under' and they'd been trying to find him for, I don't know how long it was.

IHAT 3

Right, how many other soldiers were there?

SO77

I don't know about, probably four probably.

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IHAT 3

Not including the ones that went with you but...

SO77

Oh right, yeah I think about four I think four.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and can you remember who any of those might have been?

SO77

No, no.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and who actually said to you, you know, what had happened, who actually told you what had happened?

SO77

I think it was I went to see obviously Mr **SO70** cos he's my Troop Commander and I said you know what's going on?...

IHAT 3

Right, yeah.

SO77

...what's happening?, what's (inaudible)? and then he said oh the kids, he's not come up, we need to get him out, you know he's not appeared.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And apparently, you know, the other kid that was him, they both jumped in while they were cleaning the vehicles down and the other guy never, well wouldn't come up, the other one didn't.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and did anyone else who was there, apart from Mr **SO70**, sort of explain to you what had happened?

SO77

I mean there's someone else like trying to tell me as well, there's a couple of, the other lads are saying oh you know that's what's happened.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and what was your assessment of what was going on when you got there?

SO77

Well them lads was in and out the water trying to obviously rescue the kid cos no-one wants to see a kid die, so they were doing their best to get, to get the kid and then there was loads of people started to come and then more or less like blaming, blaming us you know for, you know maybe the kid going in I think, that was my assessment, the situation was just loads of, hoards of people started to come and the women were shouting and balling and even the lad **SO71** who'd come down with me, he was stood there you know, keeping sort of guard while we sort of pulled the pumps in, in the actual trucks and got rid of it in the tanks and got rid of it. You know it was just one of them situations where you had to make a split second decision to get everybody out otherwise a crowd of people could easily take over a few people.

IHAT 3

Did you actually see the two soldiers that were wet? Did you actually see them go in the water?

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SO77

No, they both, I think they were both on the outside of the water when I got there I think, although one of them wanted to go back in, he was that tired, he wanted to go back in but he would have ended up drowning himself.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

They could hardly, you know what I mean, they were actually bent down, really tired and you know.

IHAT 3

OK, how long do you reckon you were actually physically there yourself then before...

SO77

Before we extracted back to the camp?

IHAT 3

...you (inaudible), yeah.

SO77

It happened really quick, I don't know, five minutes, ten minutes.

IHAT 3

Right and was there any, you know, suggestion as to how long the person might have been in the water?

SO77

No not time wise, as I said he's been in there a while, that was it, you know he didn't say, I can't remember whether he said how long he'd been in there for.

IHAT 3

Right and while all of this was going on, was there any other sort of radio communication going on back to the ops room?

SO77

I think my driver was talking to but I was off the radio then cos obviously I was out on the ground...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...speaking to the guy and then when I got back in, I just said to the boss right we're coming back, there's a lot of crowd, I remember saying that there's, you know, there's a lot of crowd coming, I'm getting everybody back, back into camp.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and did anyone convey back to the ops room that potentially they'd, somebody had drowned in the water?

SO77

Yeah I mean that's, I think they conveyed that first off, the lads and that's why they got me out in the first place.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

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SO77

And I think they even try, you know, they were saying is there any chance we could get any diving kit or anything to get the, you know, but it may well have been too late by then.

IHAT 3

OK and the area where the soldiers were indicating that this had happened...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...on your drawing you've got like this jetty which is, I presume this is water is it? That comes in here?

SO77

Yeah yeah yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah and whereabouts were they sort of indicating that the incident had happened? Where the boys had gone in the water?

SO77

I think like they said he got down and gone from one side to another.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

More or less.

IHAT 3

Right and what was in this sort of area? Was there anything there?

SO77

There was like a derelict building, that boat yard I can remember...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...there's bits, there was a concrete like sort of hard standing sort of, you know, sort of there, I can't remember if there's anything moored up in the jetty itself, I'm not sure.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

All I remember is the jetty really to be fair, I can't remember whether there was anything in there.

IHAT 3

OK and what sort of drop is there from the side of the jetty into the water?

SO77

I don't know, it must be about eight, ten foot probably.

IHAT 3

Right so eight, ten foot before you get...

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SO77

Or six, six, yeah six foot probably.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and was there any way of getting in or out of the water?

SO77

Yeah when the lads were climbing up on the side of like the beam, the beams that are on the jetty, I think that's how they were getting up and down.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, and was...

SO77

In the corner I think.

IHAT 3

Right so what wooden beams that are on the...

SO77

Yeah, they're on the...

IHAT 3

...on the inside of the jetty.

SO77

(Inaudible) like (inaudible).

IHAT 3

Right, right, OK. What sort of time of day was this?

SO77

In the afternoon I think it was.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

Yeah it was in the afternoon.

IHAT 3

And...

SO77

It was still light like.

IHAT 3

Yeah?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Right and I don't know what the sort of weather would have been on...

SO77

Just normal, warm, dry weather.

IHAT 3

Yeah, OK but you say that there was a crowd developed after...

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SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...a period of time, were there...

SO77

As soon as I more or less, as soon as I pulled up there was like a, and you're trying to get explained, get an explanation from the guys on the ground what was going on.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

Literally a minute after or thirty seconds after, there was people walking, walking towards, you know what I mean, from sort of like over this area...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...walk across to here, you know, it was quite a big crowd and they seem to be coming from out of this area round here somewhere, I don't know where exactly where they're coming from but...

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

...there was like a mass of like hundred, you know what I mean, if...

IHAT 3

Right, that many people?

SO77

Yeah, I mean yeah.

IHAT 3

Right and they're coming from a part of the Academy that anybody could have walked through?

SO77

Yeah I mean I don't know whether you can walk through the back of here, I can't remember but they were coming this direction, I know that for, saw them cross from here, cross the open area.

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

And I remember like there was one, I think there's one guy like in dressed in like white with a grey beard, I think he was like trying to explain him you know what had, I think I tried to explain to him what happened, what happened, you know but it's a language barrier, you know...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...that was the problem, the women they were just delirious because and you know shaking, **SO71** you know what I mean, the lad who was with me and I was like, you know at the end of

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it that we (inaudible) they could have ended up throwing him in, you know what I mean, at the end of the day so...

IHAT 3

Right, so...

SO77

...I made the decision to get everybody out.

IHAT 3

There was nobody there that could talk to the Iraqi people in their language?

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

Right and what about any of the Iraqi's? Could any of the Iraqi's that were there, can you remember having, speaking to any of them there, them speaking English? Who might have said, you know, what had happened or...?

SO77

No not clear English, it might have been broken English but...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...know what I mean.

IHAT 3

And you say you can remember having a conversation...

SO77

I think they were just like trying, I remember this guy vividly like he had a, just like dressed in white with a grey beard and he had, I'm sure it was like a, you know, like a white dish dash...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...we call them and then like a dress, I'm sure I remember saying to him we're trying to, we're trying to get the boy out...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...you know, we'll do everything you can.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And then we went back to camp and then that's when they said, you know, is it, did we have any diving equipment but it had been too late then anyhow.

IHAT 3

Yeah.

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SO77

But you know what I mean but we was trying to source something, maybe some diving equipment.

IHAT 3

And did that man that you were talking to, did he speak English?

SO77

I can't, I can't remember, I think I was trying to explain cos like he seemed quieter than the women, he was a man you know (inaudible).

IHAT 3

OK and you've mentioned that there was, potentially there was another lad who, it would appear got out of the water, did you see him at all?

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

Have you got any idea of how he got out or where?

SO77

No, not what he looked like or anything.

IHAT 3

No, OK. So you made the decision that because of this large crowd everyone should get out of there?

SO77

Yeah, otherwise we're kind of a bit of a problem.

IHAT 3

Yeah, OK.

SO77

Not because, as well cos of the language barrier, cos no-one can understand you and everybody, no-one, you know what I mean.

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

That's the problem.

IHAT 3

Yeah, OK so did you, did you have to get, did you have to communicate back to the ops room that that's what you were going do?

SO77

Yeah, I just said like, you know, there's a bit of a crowd gettint too many, I'm getting everybody back, that's all I can remember saying and then went back into camp.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

And I think, you know,...

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IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

...I think I then after that, I think some of the crowd come up here and I think they were trying to, you know, get into the camp...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...find out what's going on but...

IHAT 3

OK well we'll stick with the incident that's happened. Before we go on to what happens when you get back to the camp.

SO77

Yeah yeah.

IHAT 3

I'm just going to clarify with the lads next door if there's any points we need to cover about...

SO77

The jetty or...

IHAT 3

...what happened at the jetty, yeah.

LEAVES THE ROOM

ENTERS THE ROOM

IHAT 3

OK, a few things. You mentioned, you mentioned, forgive me I can't remember the name of the chap you said, you said that one of the soldiers was stood with his weapon...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...and the locals were sort of shaking him about, would all of the soldiers, if they were going down there to wash their vehicles, would they have been armed?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

And what sort of weapons would they had carried at that time?

SO77

SA80's and they'd be a GPMG on top of the actual CVRT.

IHAT 3

Right, so the SA80's are personal?

SO77

Personal weapons.

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IHAT 3

Personal issue, would they carry anything else?

SO77

Some of them would probably have a 9m pistol.

IHAT 3

Right, right and, right OK. So if they were going to go down there to wash their vehicles, they would all be...

SO77

Kitted up.

IHAT 3

...fully kitted up, they wouldn't go out there...

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

No, right, OK and if they were out of the vehicles and they were washing the vehicles, would they still be in full kit with their weapons?

SO77

Yeah should be but...

IHAT 3

Right, cos I think I asked you if you'd ever gone down there and done and you said you hadn't.

SO77

No, no.

IHAT 3

Would it be normal for, again you'll have to excuse my ignorance about the...

SO77

That's alright.

IHAT 3

...rank structure but, Mr SO70 ...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...he's the Troop Commander...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...so he's...

SO77

Higher than me.

IHAT 3

...higher of you, so would it, if you've never been down there, would it be normal for him to go down there?

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SO77

Dunno, see different people were doing different jobs, you know what I mean so...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...like he was like out on Recce's and looking around different things around the city as well so he's not always doing the same thing as me, even war fighting you would all be together...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...but when we got to that situation we're all like working with different people and you know what I mean, so.

IHAT 3

Right, OK but I mean, again I don't know how the Army works but would a Troop Commander be expected to go down and wash the vehicles?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

He's in the Engineers in it, he gets his hands dirty.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, OK and you mentioned that you, you were obviously, you were a Troop Commander, no Staff Sergeant sorry.

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

And you would have had about thirty men under...

SO77

Yeah in my command.

IHAT 3

...your supervision, in your command right and how many sections would those have been split into?

SO77

Eight man sections usually.

IHAT 3

So...

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SO77

So about four sections.

IHAT 3

Right, so four eight man sections.

SO77

Yeah I know that's thirty two but...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...maybe a couple of extra guys, you know, were drafted in from the TA to help us out.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and who would have been in charge of each of those four sections then?

SO77

They'll be Corporals in charge of them.

IHAT 3

Right, can you remember the names of any of your Corporals then?

SO77

Yeah, Corporal [REDACTED], one of them, there was a lad Corporal SO71 was the guy who come with me but he was like Lance Corporal but he was, you know, he'd be given...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...Command of like a Corporal if you like cos of how good he was, you've got Lance Corporal [REDACTED] he was there, just trying to think of the others. Trying to, Corporal (inaudible), can't remember (laughs).

IHAT 3

What about the names of any of the guys below them?

SO77

You've got like Sapper SO75 he'd be Troop Commander's driver, SO71 I've said SO71, you got SO72, he would have been SO71's driver, he was a Sapper, Spr SO72, [REDACTED] who's my driver, he was a Sapper, I don't, I can't really.

IHAT 3

Right, so each of those groups of eight...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

How many vehicles were in each of those groups?

SO77

You have like one, we had one, eight, armoured personnel carrier with eight men in it usually.

IHAT 3

Right, oh I see, right, OK and what sort of vehicle would that be?

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SO77 That's a tracked vehicle.

IHAT 3 Right, is that Warrior?

SO77 No not a Warrior no.

IHAT 3 No?

SO77 It's a 432, AF 432.

IHAT 3 Right, right and if that was going out fully manned...

SO77 Yeah.

IHAT 3 ...who would be where in that vehicle?

SO77 The Corporal would be in, as you call top cover...

IHAT 3 Yeah.

SO77 ...and the driver be (inaudible) and the guys would be at the back of that.

IHAT 3 Right so you've got driver, somebody up on the top turret, the same position that you were in when you down to the...

SO77 Yeah.

IHAT 3 ...and then everyone would be in the back?

SO77 Be in the back yeah, back door.

IHAT 3 OK.

SO77 And they've got two bench seats in them.

IHAT 3 Is there any way you can, you can think of that you can help with the names of the other soldiers?

SO77 Yeah, probably.

IHAT 3 Right.

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SO77

I'll probably have something at home with their name on.

IHAT 3

Have you got photographs or?

SO77

Photographs yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah? OK and going back to the day in question, obviously you've mentioned that Mr
SO70 and the other soldiers were down there to, to wash the vehicles...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...and they were diesel, diesel pumps?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Were they going when you got there?

SO77

No I don't think they were.

IHAT 3

No, OK and was there anything else going on, you've mentioned the crowd...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...and you've obviously mentioned the two guys who'd looked as if they'd been in the water...

SO77

Yeah

IHAT 3

...and there's the Army vehicles, was there anything else going on, in that location?

SO77

No only the crowds, the crowd of people.

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

That's it and just washing down the, they were washing down the vehicles and then the two
guys there.

IHAT 3

Right and did any of the crowd, did they do anything else? You've mentioned that they...

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SO77

Yeah there was a couple of women, that's what I mean, like we, that's what I was trying to say to him like we're going to try and help you, you know what I mean but it's hard to, I can't speak Arabic.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and did they do anything else to suggest that they were angry with the situation?

SO77

Yeah they, they were crying and just the way they, the women were like, they were all in black the women and they like, you know, they're starting to pull in, that's why I made a decision then, let's, you know, get the guys out.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

Cos they didn't know what was happening, there was a language barrier and, you know what I mean, and if I'd be the same probably if I, if I lost my son, you know you would be a bit distraught I would've thought.

IHAT 3

Yeah, did any of those people that were in that crowd indicate that they might have been family or related to..

SO77

Not really, no.

IHAT 3

...either of the two boys that run off?

SO77

No no no.

IHAT 3

OK and you said that you made the decision to go back to camp.

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

And you say that, that some of the local people came to outside the camp.

SO77

I think like after like we come back and I don't know, a little time after then they're some local people were coming to the gate I think.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And obviously trying to find what went on.

IHAT 3

OK, so what did you do when you got back to the camp?

SO77

I reported back in the ops room.

IHAT 3

Right.

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SO77

And let them, you know, what I'd seen and then they go from there.

IHAT 3

Right, OK, so...

SO77

Why I was with my kit, you know, would have parked up again, my vehicle, you know.

IHAT 3

So when you went back into the ops room, who did you report to?

SO77

I think a bit of brief, just said to the 2 I/C what I'd done and I was down with, extracted everybody and you know there were a fair few crowds you know, we might, you know, have some trouble later on.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and was the same 2 I/C that you'd spoken to that had given you the instruction to go down there?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

That's, SO76

SO77

SO76 yeah.

IHAT 3

SO76 yeah, OK and I don't know, was there any sort of discussion amongst yourself and the other guys as to what had actually happened down there?

SO77

Yeah, you know like, obviously I spoke to my guys quickly down there what's happened and I said you know what the hell's happened and they said oh like there's one little kid jumped in the actual, you know, the jetty and then the other one jumped in just after him but in a slightly different place and one of them, the first kid, I think it was the first kid, didn't come up and then the other one like sort of swam off round, round the corner.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And he went, you know what I mean.

IHAT 3

And did anyone say why they...

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

...jumped in?

SO77

No.

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IHAT 3

OK and again what would be the process then, after an incident like that you've potentially got a civilian who's possibly...

SO77

Oh he died.

IHAT 3

...drowned...

SO77

He died yeah.

IHAT 3

...what sort of, what did the Army do next?

SO77

Well obviously they got, they must have got us in for statement I think, I can't, I can't remember, I mean it's like, just said you'd, I can't, for the life of me remember, there was an investigation went on I know that much, afterwards.

IHAT 3

Right, I'm talking more sort of like immediately after it...

SO77

Yeah obviously you were just talked to, talked to in the ops room and then, you know, the Sergeant Major and the OC and everybody comes over and you know...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...and you know, you know there's a situation because you know there's a kid gone in there and we couldn't find him.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

So then obviously it turns to, you know what I mean, it's a pretty serious situation that.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and again what happened with the locals when all this was going on?

SO77

I think there's some locals come to the gate and I think, I can't remember whether they got the interpreter go out, I think we had like an ops, an interpreter in the ops room by that stage, I mean, so I can't remember whether he went out and maybe talked to them and doing a bit in...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...you know, interpreting between them.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and can you remember who that interpreter was?

SO77

No haven't got a clue.

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IHAT 3

But was that a soldier or was that?

SO77

No it would have been one of the locals.

IHAT 3

Right, OK.

SO77

You very often, you know if anybody come to the gate, he'd be there with the soldiers, you know, just to obviously find out what they wanted.

IHAT 3

OK so what would be the, I mean Mr SO70 's a rank above you.

SO77

So he'll obviously, he'll go in, he went in to speak to you know, the ops room then and let them know what's come in.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

What's happened, when he give him his version of, you know, the story of, you know because he was obviously higher rank...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...probably highest rank down there.

IHAT 3

So would have been there when he did that?

SO77

No I don't think I was.

IHAT 3

Right and again who would he have made that report to?

SO77

Probably the 2 I/C in the ops room.

IHAT 3

Right, again that's Mr SO76

SO77

Yeah, yeah.

IHAT 3

Right OK and how...

SO77

I think then the OC, the OC got called over the Sergeant Major then so you know what I mean, so.

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IHAT 3

Right, sorry, remember, remind me of his name again.

SO77

Major [REDACTED] SO79 (inaudible).

IHAT 3

OK and how would that reporting of that incident have been done?

SO77

And then they would have obviously reported it up to higher echelons so regiment, the regiment who sit in the brigade headquarters...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...would have reported it to them, they would have gone to brigade then.

IHAT 3

Right but in the first instance when Mr [REDACTED] SO70 is reporting to the 2 I/C...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

...and possibly the Sergeant Major as well, how would he do that?

SO77

Verbally.

IHAT 3

Just verbally?

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Right, would there be any expectation of any sort of written report?

SO77

Probably would have thought he'd give a statement.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and you say you can't remember if you...

SO77

I can't remember whether I give a statement cos there was, the thing is there was a lot going on at once...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

...you know and I was, I was dead on my feet about the time because I was driving backwards, doing 12, 14 hour or 16 hour shifts to Basra and back, you know what I mean and it's sort of, it was crazy you know what I mean...

IHAT 3

Right.

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SO77

...and just things, one thing sort of fell into another, you know what I mean.

IHAT 3

OK and what about after, sort of like later on in the day, was there, was there a, I think you mentioned in the first session that there was a debrief.

SO77

Yeah, yeah, well we have a debrief every night, you know and it...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...they talked about what happened.

IHAT 3

Right, can you remember who gave that debrief?

SO77

Well every night we had, it would have been the OC and the 2 I/C, they all do the debriefs.

IHAT 3

Right and what sort of, how would that take place?

SO77

We're always like sat in a room.

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

Whenever we could get in.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And then we'd just go through the days events.

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

And what's happened.

IHAT 3

Right and were you present there at that debrief? That day?

SO77

I can't remember whether, I usually was but I can't remember.

IHAT 3

Right and was this incident, I mean if you were there, can you remember this incident being mentioned?

SO77

Yeah well it would have been mentioned cos it was the most important thing that happened that day.

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IHAT 3

Yeah, yeah, that's what I'm thinking, I mean who...

SO77

It's not just something you just go 'oh a kids died', you know that I mean.

IHAT 3

No, no, who would have...

SO77

We were trying, I think there was talk we were trying to get, that's what the lads were trying to do was, oh is there any diving kit we can get, to get you know, to get him but I mean like by that time would have been too late anyhow but.

IHAT 3

But who would have actually, if you've got a group of people in the room who weren't involved in the incident...

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Would it have been Mr **SO70** who would have told them what happened or would it have been the 2 I/C or?

SO77

He would have briefed the 2 I/C usually or and then maybe you know, they might have been talking, he would have briefed the OC up as well...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...what happened cos he's the ultimate command.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and can you remember was there any sort of outcome as a result of this debrief?

SO77

No, L..

IHAT 3

No?

SO77

I know it sounds hard to say but...

IHAT 3

No I'm just wondering if, you know, was there any instructions, you know, about...

SO77

Yeah not to go down to the jetty...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...you know, weren't allowed to go down the jetty or whatever.

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IHAT 3

Right and you can recall that can you? That, that instruction came out?

SO77

No but that probably would have been...

IHAT 3

Yeah.

SO77

Yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah it seems logical.

SO77

Logical, yeah.

IHAT 3

Yeah and what about the sort of relationships with the local population after that?

SO77

They weren't as good as they were before.

IHAT 3

Right and what was the inference that was sort of flying around, from them? That you were aware of, that it had been something deliberate or?

SO77

I don't know but like, ultimately at the time when the women were there, they just took it upon themselves to think it was our, our doing, you know what I mean when, none of my guys had drowned a kid, do you know what I mean, they've all got family and, most of them have got family.

IHAT 3

OK.

SO77

I mean, it was flippin heck good, we were all good friends, we used to give the kids food and all sorts of stuff, you know what I mean.

IHAT 3

OK and again, was there, was there any suggestion that anybody did know who this kid was?

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

No? OK. Alright.

SO77

There was loads of kids, I mean everywhere you went in the town there was kids all around you as soon as you pulled up.

IHAT 3

Right, OK and you mention about giving statements and stuff but I think you said you couldn't remember if you ever did...

SO77

No.

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IHAT 3

...you assumed...

SO77

I think I did...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

I would have thought I would've.

IHAT 3

And who would have done, who would have done...

SO77

Because I went down there so I must have give a statement.

IHAT 3

You went down where?

SO77

Well I was down the jetty weren't I?

IHAT 3

Yeah yeah, so who would have done that? Who would have taken a statement from you?

SO77

Would have been either the two I/C and I can't remember whether we had someone else high come in to take statement as well, I'm not sure.

IHAT 3

Right and is, is this something that you would have written yourself or something that somebody would have, you would have sort of done like we're doing and they would have written a statement.

SO77

No I would've, well sat down with them and...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...would have gone through it.

IHAT 3

And can you remember doing that?

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

And, I mean I know obviously from other people I've spoken to, that the Royal Military Police would potentially...

SO77

Yeah.

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IHAT 3

...carry out investigations.

SO77

Yeah exactly, investigate (inaudible).

IHAT 3

Can you remember having any contact with them?

SO77

No, I mean it was that far back, that's why I can't remember specifically sitting down and giving a statement but I must of...

IHAT 3

Right.

SO77

...you know what I mean, cos the seriousness of, you know it's a kid at the end of the day.

IHAT 3

OK and can you remember was there any sort of, sort of action as a result of everyone giving statements or anything?

SO77

No I mean, seem to carry on with daily business.

IHAT 3

Right, so after the incident you, you obviously all stayed at the camp for some time afterwards I presume?

SO77

Yeah yeah.

IHAT 3

OK and was anyone ever, has anyone else ever spoken to you about this?

SO77

No.

IHAT 3

OK, right just bear with me I'm just going to go and speak to the guys.

SO77

Yeah.

LEAVES THE ROOM

ENTERS THE ROOM

IHAT 3

Right, I think we've got to the end, the only thing I want to do is the drawing that you did for me of the Naval Academy, I'll just give it a proper name, so I'm going to use your initials SO7701, so this will now become exhibit SO7701, it's your hand drawn plan of the Naval Academy in Iraq and basically I'm just going to sign this to say that I'm going to be taking possession of that from you, OK?

SO77

Right.

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IHAT 3

Right, OK and the time now is 1640 and I'll get the guys next door to switch off the machine.

END OF CD