



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2021/00604/C/U

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14 April 2021

Dear 

Following my letters of 16 February and 15 March, in relation to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request for:

details held by your department regarding the RMP/SIB investigation into the alleged abuse of prisoners and validity of images published by The Mirror/Piers Morgan. Please provide the complete copy of the report the RMP investigation carried out and any details of the outcome of the report. Including all images used in connection with the alleged/faked incident.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. As I informed you in my previous letter, information in scope of your request engaged the qualified exemption: Section 30 (Investigations). This related to the 'complete copy of the [RMP] report'. As such it was necessary for us to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The public interest test considered whether release of this information could compromise future proceedings. It was decided on balance that due to the age and status of the investigation this was unlikely and therefore the RMP report has been released and is attached below.

Section 40(2) (Personal data) has been applied to some of the information you have requested, including parts of the report and the 'outcome of the report', in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

The part of your request which asks for 'all images used in connection with the alleged/faked incident' has been scoped as the images from the alleged incident, which were investigated as a result of the Daily Mirror story. These consisted of the photos which were published in the Daily Mirror. The photos are attached below.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Army Secretariat

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Enclosures:

1. Investigation Summary by [REDACTED]
2. Schedule of Unused Material.
3. AF A6031 - Record of Unit Action.
4. Photographic Album

Distribution:

Action:

CO LCV S GS med Regt

Information:

PS2(A)
HQ PM (A)

HQ ALS
PJHQ
HQBF Cyprus
HQ 2 Div

HQ 42 (NW) Bde
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SO1 Casework
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SO2/SA Inv
Brig Advisory
DACOS J1
SO2 J1 (Disc)
PM
G1 Disc
Legal
G1 (Disc)
SO3 G1 (Disc)
CO (Personal for)
CPO
OC

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(Enclosure 1 (less annexes))
(Less Enclosure 3)

[Ⓢ] - by e-mail

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CCRIO No: 00258/04

HQ SIB (UK) RMP
Campion Lines
Bulford
Wilts

Bulford Mil [REDACTED]

23rd Jul 04

CO SIB (UK) RMP

ALLEGED CONDUCT – SOLDIERS
ALLEGED IMPROPER POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION
INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

Person reported: [REDACTED]

INTRODUCTION

1. **Background to Case.** Further to this unit's Interim Investigation Summary of even reference, dated 14 Jun 04. It will be recalled that a number of outstanding enquiries remained to be completed in order to bring the investigation to a conclusion. Those enquiries, with the exception of expert dermatology, are now concluded and are summarised below.

EVIDENCE

2. **Expert Analysis.** In an attempt to prove conclusively that the photographs depicting the alleged abuse of an Iraqi published in the Daily Mirror on 1 & 3 May 04 were false and that the photograph depicting Soldier A published on 3 May 04 was in fact [REDACTED] whose full details head this report, expert analysis has been employed to positively identify the equipment & clothing in those photographs. Additionally the services of a skin expert was sought to compare the distinctive moles on the left arm of Soldier A with a photograph of [REDACTED] arms. The results of those outstanding expert comparisons are as follow:

a. **Desert Combats.** The two sets of desert combat clothing recovered during the search of [REDACTED] residence in [REDACTED] and the photographs in question have been examined by [REDACTED] Fabrics and Finishes, DCIPT, DLO Caversfield and Audio/Video Forensics, Stockport, Manchester. The conclusion drawn by both experts remains at variance. When re-interviewed, [REDACTED] reinforced [REDACTED] earlier account that whilst there were some similarities in the pattern of the recovered clothing and the combat clothing worn in the Iraqi abuse photographs (as highlighted by Audio/Forensics) they were not the same garments. The published photographs together with a selection of comparison photographs provided by Audio/Forensics are included in the photographic supplement forwarded with this report.

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b. **Distinctive Markings.** Despite the above findings, it was evident from examination of the combat shirt worn by the soldier in the Iraqi abuse photographs that there was markings on the underside of the rank slide epaulette on the front of the shirt, which appeared to bear the letters [REDACTED]. The letters [REDACTED] were found to be present on the rank slide epaulette of both shirts recovered from [REDACTED]. No further sets of desert combat clothing were recovered from [REDACTED]. Evidence from RTMC Chilwell stated that all reservists were issued with two sets of desert combats. The [REDACTED] did not hold or issue any desert pattern uniform.

c. **Weapons Expert.** [REDACTED] SA80 A2 Fielding Team, Donnington identified the rifle depicted in the Iraqi abuse photographs as being a genuine SA80 A1. The main identifying points were the presence of a Radway Green (RG) magazine denoted by a plastic base plate and seam running down the front. The A2 rifle by comparison, has a flat steel plate on the bottom and no seams on the body. All RG magazines have been withdrawn with the introduction and issue of the A2 rifle, however, [REDACTED] Preston still holds A1 rifles and RG magazines. A further distinguishing feature of the A1 rifle is that the gas cylinder is shiny whereas on the A2 it is painted black. A copy of [REDACTED] report is attached at Annex LL.

d. **Dermatology.** Expert comparison of the distinctive moles present on the left arm of Soldier A and the photographs taken of [REDACTED] is being conducted by [REDACTED] Glasgow University. The results of this examination are awaited and will be made known to entitled addressees in due course.

e. **Ammunition.** During the search of [REDACTED] residence on Fri 14 May 04, 3 x 20 round boxes of 5.56mm blank ammunition were found amongst [REDACTED] personal possessions. It was confirmed by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 521 Sqn, 11 EOD Regt RLC, that these rounds were of British origin, MOD issue, manufactured by Radway Green in 2003.

INTERVIEW WITH SUSPECT

3. On Thu 15 Jul 04, [REDACTED] was re-interviewed after caution in the presence of [REDACTED] solicitor. [REDACTED] declined to answer any questions regarding the production and subsequent publication of the stories and photographs in the Daily Mirror. Regarding the recovered blank ammunition, [REDACTED] did admit that [REDACTED] had unwittingly left a range in possession of the 60 rounds of blank ammunition during a training weekend (Haslingden Weekend), in Apr 04. [REDACTED] claimed to have found the rounds in [REDACTED] day-sack during the weekend of 1-2 May 04 whilst packing to depart on [REDACTED] on Tue 4 May 04. [REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] had intended to hand them in on [REDACTED] return, citing the lack of an appropriate opportunity to do so prior to leaving the UK. [REDACTED] was reported.

4. **Weapon Issue.** It is worthy of note that [REDACTED] records show that [REDACTED] last signed out [REDACTED] weapon, prior to the publication of the photographs in the Daily Mirror, on Fri 16 Apr 04 and returned it on Sun 18 Apr 04, some two weeks prior to his departure to [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] attendance register confirms that 'Haslingden Weekend' took place on 16-18 Apr 04 and was attended by [REDACTED].

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OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

5. Audio/Video Forensics. For the benefit of ALS, the evidence supplied by [REDACTED] Audio Video Forensics is available in DVD format. The DVD exhibit is currently with [REDACTED] (vide para 2.c), however, once to hand will be copied to ALS for their information and action as necessary.

6. Photographic Supplement. A photographic album depicting the Audio Video Forensics evidence, (Bedford vehicle, combats and skin marks), SIB SOC examination of the Bedford vehicle, images of soldiers A and B and copies of all the 'abuse' pictures supplied by the Daily Mirror is forwarded for entitled addressees.

7. Mirror Group Newspapers. It is worthy of note that no further evidence has been forthcoming from Mirror Group Newspapers and no evidence has been adduced that would implicate any other person(s), civilian or military in the production and publication of the Mirror stories and pictures. As such soldier B and the 'victim' depicted in the Iraqi abuse photographs remain to date, unidentified.

UNUSED MATERIAL

8. Schedule of Unused Material. A schedule of non - sensitive unused material is attached for entitled addressees.

9. Original Documents. Enquiries, less those at para 2 d, are now complete. Copies of all relevant statements are attached hereto for entitled addressees, the originals of which, together with the case exhibits, are retained at this unit for production, if required.

[REDACTED]
RMP (SIB)

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ANNEX A TO
Investigation Summary of

DATED Jul 04

STANDARD LIST OF ANNEXES

<i>Annex</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Page</i>
B	Statement of	B-1 to B-5
C	Statement of	C-1 to C-5
D	Statement of	D-1 to D-4
E	Statement of	E-1 to E-3
F	Statement of	F-1 to F-2
G	Statement of	G-1 to G-2
H	Statement of	H-1 to H-2
I	Statement of	I-1 to I-2
J	Statement of	J-1 to J-4
K	Statement of	K-1 to K-3
L	Statement of	L-1 to L-2
M	Statement of	M-1 to M-2
N	Statements	N-1 to N-6
O	Statements	O-1 to O-6
P	Statement	P-1 to P-4
Q	Statement	Q-1 to Q-3
R	Statement	R-1 to R-2
S	Statement	S-1
T	Statement	T-1 to T-3
U	Statement	U-1 to U-2
V	Statement	V-1 to V-3
W	Statement	W-1 to W-2
X	Statement	X-1

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Y	Statement of Evidence by [REDACTED]	Y-1 to Y-2
Z	Statement of Evidence by [REDACTED]	Z-1
AA	Statement of Evidence by [REDACTED]	AA-1 to AA-3
BB	Statement of Evidence by [REDACTED]	BB-1 to BB-5
CC	Statement of Evidence by [REDACTED]	CC-1 to CC-4
DD	Statement of Evidence by [REDACTED]	DD-1 to DD-7
EE	Statement of Evidence by [REDACTED]	EE-1
FF	Statement of Evidence by [REDACTED]	FF-1 to FF-7
GG	Summary of Tape Recorded Interview of [REDACTED]	GG-1 to GG-69
HH	Summary of Tape Recorded Interview of [REDACTED]	HH-1 to HH-71
II	Exhibit – SW/7 – Daily Mirror Article, ‘Vile’ dated 1 May 04	II-1 to II-4
JJ	Exhibit – SW/8 – Daily Mirror Article ‘We Told The Truth’ dated 3 May 04	JJ-1 to JJ-6
KK	Exhibit – SW/9 – Daily Mirror Article, ‘Sorry... We were Hoaxed’ dated 15 May 04	KK-1 to KK-4
LL	Audio Video Forensics Report by [REDACTED]	LL-1 to LL-5
MM	Exhibit – DMN/1 – 1 x Certified True Copy of FMT 1004/3A Section 3: Maintenance/Repair Record Pertaining to Bedford MJ 4 Ton 63 KE 19 – 19 Jun 00 to 7 Jan 04.	MM-1 to MM-2
NN	Exhibit – DMN/2 – 1 x Certified True Copies of FMT 1001A Vehicle Utilisation Report. Pertaining to Bedford MJ 4 Ton 63 KB 19 – Jun 03 to Apr 04.	NN-1 to NN-17
OO	Exhibit – DMN/5 – Certified True Copies of Territorial Army Attendance Register and Individual Attendance Register Pertaining To [REDACTED]	OO-1 to OO-6
PP	Exhibit – DMN/3 – Certified True Copy of [REDACTED] Weapon Signing Out Sheet Between Jul 03 and May 04 (66 Pages)-	PP-1 to PP-6
QQ	Exhibit - SH/1 – Certified true copies of AFG 1033 for clothing, equipment and weapon issue (4 pages).	QQ-1 to QQ-5
RR	Exhibit – PR/1 – Technical statement with regard to photographs supplied by SIB Catterick 17 Jun 04.	RR-1 to RR-3
SS	Exhibit List	SS-1 to SS-6

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DAILY Mirror
Monday May 3 2004
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 35p



WORLD EXCLUSIVE

WE TOLD THE TRUTH



SOLDIER A

- Pictures of torture **ARE** real, say squaddies
- Shock new claims of other attacks on Iraqis

Full soldiers who captured British troops, including the Iraqis, are now being held in the US.

The British soldiers who captured British troops, including the Iraqis, are now being held in the US.



SOLDIER B

DAILY Mirror
Tuesday May 4 2004
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 45p

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

SNAPPED



Picture that proves Queen's Lancashire Regiment **DID** take trophy photographs of beaten Iraqi POWs

t



CD9056313-EXCLUSIVE

u



CD9056315-EXCLUSIVE

v



CD9056316-EXCLUSIVE

a



CD9054422-soldier from 1st

b



CD9054433-soldier from 1st

c



CD9054453-soldier from 1st

d



CD9054471-soldier from 1st

e



CD9054478-soldier from 1st

f



CD9054508-soldier from 1st

g



CD9056299-EXCLUSIVE

h



CD9056300-EXCLUSIVE

j



CD9056301-EXCLUSIVE

k



CD9056302-EXCLUSIVE

l



CD9056303-EXCLUSIVE

m



CD9056305-EXCLUSIVE

n



CD9056307-EXCLUSIVE

p



CD9056308-EXCLUSIVE

q



CD9056309-EXCLUSIVE

r



CD9056310-EXCLUSIVE

s



CD9056311-EXCLUSIVE