



**MOD-83-0000583-A**

2<sup>nd</sup> Witness Statement of SO86

Exhibit: SO86/2

Dated: 20 Dec 2022

**In the matter of an investigation into the deaths of Radhi Nama and Mousa Ali**

**and**

**In the matter of an investigation into the death of Ahmed Jabbar Karim Ali**

Inspector: The Rt Hon Dame Anne Rafferty DBE

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SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF

SO86

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I, SO86, state as follows:-

I make this further statement for the purposes of the investigation into the deaths of Radhi Nama and Mousa Ali and the investigation into the death of Ahmed Jabbar Karim Ali, in response to the List of Supplementary Questions provided by the investigation on 2 December 2022.

**A. Culture at Camp Stephen**

- 1.1. In general, it is worth my qualifying my answers in my First Witness Statement and this Second Witness Statement by saying that the events under question all happened a long time ago, and my recollection about that time in Camp Stephen is limited. I also mentioned the car crash I experienced in 2014 in my First Witness Statement, which has affected my memory severely too. Having said this, I have tried to recall the events to the best of my abilities.
- 1.2. I am directed to paragraph 10 of my First Witness Statement which says:

*The culture at Camp Stephen was tense at times, particularly after WO2 SO101 left and a colour sergeant stood in for him. I left Camp Stephen in July 2003 so I am unable to comment on the culture after that time.*

I am asked to provide additional detail regarding when WO2 SO101 left Camp Stephen.

- 1.3. I cannot recall exactly when WO2 SO101 left Camp Stephen. It might have been after the Inquest that was held in Iraq, but I cannot be certain.
- 1.4. I am asked why WO2 SO101 departure increased tensions.
- 1.5. I can just remember it was tense, without much more detail. If I had to say, I think it was probably because of the fact of the Sgt Major (WO2 SO101) being removed and the circumstances surrounding his removal.
- 2.1. I am referred to paragraph 14 of my First Witness Statement where I recall an incident where in the evening I heard: (i) what sounded like someone being punched and/or slapped; and (ii) cries of pain. I am asked what, to the best of my recollection, the approximate date of this incident was (and, if I cannot recall, whether I think this was before or after the deaths of Mousa Ali and Radhi Nama at Camp Stephen).
- 2.2. I cannot recall what date or when during the tour that happened or if it was before or after the death of Mousa Ali and Radhi Nama at Camp Stephen.
- 2.3. I am asked to explain why I did not report this incident along with my REME colleague.
- 2.4. I think I did not report it because the other person present was senior to me and so was in my direct Chain of Command. I also took his statements to mean he was indeed going to report the incident to the appropriate rank to get it stopped.
- 3.1. I am referred to paragraph 19 of my First Witness Statement where I say:

*The Army culture at that time was a lot different to what it is now, I knew that had I reported my concerns I would have got a difficult time and it would have not gone anywhere.*

I am asked to explain what I mean by 'a difficult time', as well as who would have given me a difficult time and how.
- 3.2. I cannot recall what I thought when I said that I would have had a 'difficult time.' I think I mean simply that the report would not have been adequately addressed if it was made, and that it could have soured my relationships with my peers if the fact of any report became widely known. I think I would have feared getting a difficult time from the Black Watch cap badged soldiers. As I was a REME badged soldier newly joining the Company, I think my concern would have been that a report like this would have affected my ability to fit in.
- 3.3. I am asked to explain why I believe any reports I might have wanted to make would not have been adequately dealt with at Camp Stephen.
- 3.4. Probably because the concerns would have gone through WO2 SO101

- 4.1. I am referred to paragraphs 20 – 28 of my First Witness Statement where I recall an incident in the evening where multiple detainees were made to lay face down, the lights at Camp Stephen were turned off and I heard sounds similar to that of people being beaten. I am asked to describe:
- (i) Whether I believe the lights were turned off to prevent those in the Camp or nearby from seeing the beating of the prisoners;
  - (ii) Otherwise, why I believe the lights were turned off;
  - (iii) Who I believe turned the lights off, and at whose instigation;
  - (iv) Whether the lights being turned off was reported if it was unusual; and
  - (v) What the approximate date of this incident was, to the best of my recollection, and if I cannot recall, whether it was before or after the deaths of Mousa Ali and Radhi Nama at Camp Stephen.
- 4.2. Taking each of these points in turn:
- (i) I do not believe they were turned off on purpose, but ultimately I do not know.
  - (ii) From what I recall there were a lot of power cuts during our time at Camp Stephen.
  - (iii) See above.
  - (iv) I do not know whether the light being turned off was reported. I do not recall reporting it; I think because it was not unusual. There were power cuts all the time in Camp Stephen, and we were relying on a generator for electricity that sometimes took a while to kick in. Power cuts were normal over the whole of Basra at the time.
  - (v) I cannot recall if it was before or after the deaths of Mousa Ali and Radhi Nama at Camp Stephen or when it was during our time at Camp Stephen.
- 5.1. I am referred to paragraph 31 of my First Witness Statement where I state:
- I can say that a few days after this conversation, I remember hearing on the company grapevine, by this I mean the rumours amongst the soldiers that the Commanding Officer (CO) of the Black Watch and the RSM had come to Camp Stephen, where the CO gave all the senior NCOs and above a dressing down on how prisoners had been treated and this was to stop. He told them that all prisoners were to be properly treated from now on.*
- 5.2. I am asked, to the best of my recollection, to provide additional detail about:
- (i) What I understood the content of this ‘dressing down’ to be;
  - (ii) Whether by the ‘grapevine’ I mean it was widely known in the camp that the CO had been involved; and
  - (iii) Whether you believe those rumours were true.

- 5.3. Taking each of these points in turn:
- (i) I cannot say as I did not witness what was said or how it was said by the Commanding Officer to the NCOs. It was a rumour.
  - (ii) I cannot recall if it was widely known but I can recall some people talking about it.
  - (iii) I have no idea as I was not in Camp when they were reportedly in the Camp.

- 6.1. I am referred to paragraph 36 of my First Witness Statement where I state:

*I can state that he [WO2 SO101] was not a popular man within the Company, which deteriorated even further following the incident with Sergeant [redacted] I was wary of him and I thought that he was a bit of a bully.*

I am asked to explain in as much detail as possible why I believe WO2 SO101 [redacted] was 'not a popular man within the Company.'

- 6.2. I do not think he was popular with the junior members of the Company because I overheard junior members of the Company saying they did not like him, and indeed was warned in advance about WO2 SO101 [redacted] character before I joined the Company. I cannot recall who I overheard or who warned me, aside from their juniority, as it was a long time ago.
- 6.3. I am asked to explain in as much detail as possible why I consider WO2 SO101 [redacted] to have been a 'bully' and why I was 'wary of him', if appropriate, by reference to examples.
- 6.4. I cannot recall precisely. WO2 SO101 [redacted] had a hard demeanour, and he was tall and towered over most. To some degree the position of Sergeant Major required him – at that time – to be a disciplinarian, albeit Army culture has changed somewhat since then. I think I made these statements because of WO2's demeanour, his physical stature, the warnings I had received regarding him prior to joining the Company, and my knowledge of his general unpopularity.
- 7.1. I am referred to paragraph 40 of my First Witness Statement where I recall:

*I remember one occasion when I was summoned to the sleeping quarters used by WO2 SO101 [redacted] ... Following this I was instructed by the CQMS, I cannot remember his name, not to talk to SO101 [redacted] again regarding this matter and to report it if he approached me. The CQMS had replaced, as far as I am aware WO2 SO101 [redacted] in running Support Company, following the incident where Sgt [redacted] was seriously injured.*

- 7.2. I am asked why, so far as I can recall, the Company Quartermaster Sergeant took over from WO2 SO101 [redacted] in the running of the Support Company after the incident with Sergeant [redacted].

- 7.3. I do not know why he was replaced. It might have been because WO2 SO101 was under investigation for the incident with Sgt [REDACTED] That would just be my speculation though.
- 7.4. I am asked, if it is within my knowledge, whether the Company Quartermaster Sergeant would have taken over WO2 SO101 [REDACTED] responsibilities with regard to the detainees at Camp Stephen.
- 7.5. This is not within my knowledge.

I believe that the facts stated are true.

Signed.. **SO86** .....

Dated..... 20 Dec 22 .....