



MOD-83-0000584-A

**In the matter of an investigation into the death of
Mr Radhi Nama**

WITNESS STATEMENT OF
MR [REDACTED] SO87

I, [REDACTED] SO87, will say as follows:

1. My service number was [REDACTED], I enlisted into the Army in September 1988 and after basic training at the Guards Depot in Pirbright I was posted to the 1st Battalion Irish Guards (1IG) at Chelsea Barracks in London for public duties. I retired from the army in late 2010 in the rank of Colour Sergeant (Acting WO2). I completed my service with the London Regiment, a reservist unit, as a permanent staff instructor. I had served on several operational tours in Northern Ireland and also in Kosovo [REDACTED] before this deployment to Iraq in 2003. At the time of deployment to Iraq on Op Telic 1 I was a Lance Sergeant (LSgt) which is the Household Division rank for a Corporal. I did not become a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) until I was promoted to Sergeant.
2. In relation to my previous statements, I would say that all of the 2015 statement up to the last paragraph of page 5 is correct. All the descriptions of the Company Sergeant Major's duties were made using my knowledge of what I expected the Company Sergeant Major to be carrying out as his duties but were not from my own knowledge or experience of what WO2 [REDACTED] SO101 was actually tasked with doing in 2003. In relation to the other statements, I will clarify or amend in other responses within this statement.
3. When we breached the border of Iraq in 2003 my role was as an assistant command post officer (ACPO) in the Mortar Platoon of C Company 1st Bn Black Watch (1BW). I was a section commander, and I was commanding an AFV432 Armoured Fighting Vehicle (mortar variant).
4. In my 2015 statement on page 3 I referred to the change from fighting mode to a policing role. This referred to the change of policy from warfighting role to occupation and peace maintenance or policing. This involved a change in the rules of engagement and how we were to operate in relation to the civilian population. It is not a type of change which I had done previously as the previous deployments I had undertaken were all peace keeping roles less Northern Ireland which was a deployment in support of the civilian authorities.
5. I have been asked to identify the chain of command in Camp Stephen in May 2003 and state who reported to me and to whom I reported. I will say that this was a normal chain of command for an infantry company. The company commander was at the top and the platoon commanders were below him. One of those platoon commanders was the Mortar Platoon commander, however I

cannot now recall his name. He was a Black Watch officer and his second in command (2IC) in the Mortar Platoon was [REDACTED] SO90 .

6. As a section commander I reported to the platoon commander of the mortar platoon. I think I was one of three section commanders. My section was “blistered” onto the operational order of battle of the Black Watch Mortar Platoon to bring them up to full war strength. My own 1 Irish Guards mortar section were below me and they reported to me. I named all of those that I could remember in my 2015 statement.
7. Company headquarters consisted of the Officer Commanding, a company 2IC, and the Company Sergeant Major. I would have expected them to have been supported by a CQMS and his staff as in any normal infantry company. I can recall that the Company Sergeant Major was [REDACTED] SO101 but cannot recall the names of the others.
8. I could not speak Arabic in February 2003. I still cannot speak Arabic.
9. I will now set out what I can recollect of the training briefing and instructions we received before and during deployment up to May 2003. At the end of the warfighting phase of Operation TELIC I knew that we were transitioning from warfighting rules to Card Alpha, which sets out the normal peacekeeping rules for self-defence. I cannot now recall the training or instructions that were given but as I was already familiar with the Card Alpha rules of engagement this was not new to me. Card Alpha was used in Northern Ireland.
10. In relation to maintaining law and order and the prevention of looting I can recall that we were briefed for tasks that involved protecting infrastructure and water supplies. It was pretty chaotic in Basra and I cannot now be more precise due to the passage of time.
11. I had received training on restraint techniques before the Northern Ireland operations and also during basic infantry training. I cannot now recall the training, but I do recall that we were issued with plasticuffs to use on detained persons or prisoners of war.
12. I cannot recall any specific training on prisoner handling, but it was touched upon during pre-deployment training. I had been trained on arrest procedures for Northern Ireland operations. With prisoners of war the training was that they went back to the Sergeant Major, but I cannot recall what else was taught.
13. I cannot comment on the training for processing of detainees and the requirements for medical examination of them as that is not something within my knowledge and in my opinion would have been the Sergeant Major’s area of responsibility. Our pre deployment training consisted of instruction on guarding prisoners of war. I cannot recall any training relating specifically to the guarding of detainees.

14. I have been asked to comment about any training briefing or instruction specific to my role at Camp Stephen at that phase of the war. At the point when we were established in the camp my role was as an infantry section commander as we were acting as a standard infantry platoon by then. No additional training or instruction was needed as that was my normal duty.
15. I have been asked about the pre deployment training conducted in Germany. I cannot recall the content of the pre deployment training. We were mainly concerned with integrating into the other mortar platoon and learning how they operated. I do remember that we carried out live firing training.
16. I have been asked about the training for dealing with prisoners and what it consisted of, as set out at page 5 of my 2015 statement. Within that statement I was referring to the general infantry training on the capture and handling of prisoners of war.
17. I have been asked to comment about my role with regards to detainees at Camp Stephen and can say that I had no role in relation to detainees at Camp Stephen.
18. In my opinion the circumstances as to why detainees would be taken to Camp Stephen could be many and varied. In my opinion this would be a decision made at Company Headquarters probably by the OC, Coy 2IC or CSM. It was not a decision I was ever involved with.
19. I have been asked who was responsible for detainees at the camp in May 2003. I would presume that the CSM was responsible for detainee handling, but ultimately everything in the camp was the responsibility of the OC as he was in overall command. As I understand it the OC would have been tasked by the Battalion Commanding Officer.
20. I had no knowledge of the process or paperwork for dealing with detainees and would presume this would be dealt with by the CSM as his war role was to deal with PW's. Any prisoner being brought back to the camp would be notified to the operations room over the radio. I presume that they would be met by the CSM and dealt with at that stage. If the chain of command were active on the radio network, they would know this was happening, but it would be a matter for the operations room to notify the chain of command.
21. I cannot comment on how High Value Targets were identified and recorded. I knew that there were High Value Targets for the warfighting phase that were identified using a "pack of cards" and involved people running the regime of Saddam Hussein. When we went to the peace maintenance phase of operations, I had no idea of who the High Value Targets were.

22. I cannot say whether a medical check would take place on any detainees. Any such checks were not part of my duties and I presume would be a matter sorted out by the company headquarters and the operations room.
23. I have been asked whether interpreters were used or available during processing and detention but as I never saw the processing or detention of any detainees I'm unable to comment. I knew that we had interpreters available in the camp as they accompanied us on patrols.
24. I have been asked to comment in relation to my 2015 statement about the prisoner holding area described on pages five and six of that statement. I can only say at this point that I have a recollection of a camouflage net being used. I cannot recall if this was around a tent structure although I referred to a tent in that statement. I cannot recall if it was a tent structure with the sides rolled up and a camouflage net used for screening on the sidewalls. I cannot recall any furniture or fittings used in the prisoner holding area.
25. I cannot recall arresting or guarding any detainees prior to this incident and cannot comment in relation to any physical contact with detainees by others. I cannot say what would happen to detainees after they were processed and who would make decisions about them. These were all chain of command decisions that were above my level of involvement. I cannot say how long detainees would be held at the camp and where they would go on leaving the camp. These are all matters that are outside my knowledge.
26. I cannot say how detainees were guarded at the camp and give details of the guarding and guard duties. Prior to this incident I did not have any knowledge of this so I cannot say what procedures and practices were in place for providing food or water to the detainees.
27. I cannot say under what circumstances detainees might be questioned and who would authorise and conduct it as this was not within my knowledge and experience.
28. I have been asked to comment about "tactical questioning". In 2003 I had no knowledge of tactical questioning. I have no knowledge of what it consisted of or how it was conducted. I have been informed during the making of this statement that a prisoner handling and tactical questioning course was run by the army but at the time I had no knowledge of that course or its content.
29. I never saw the use of hoods or face coverings on detainees at the camp. I never saw the use of stress positions on detainees at the camp and I never witnessed any ill treatment of any detainee at Camp Stephen. I cannot remember if I ever witnessed plasticuffs being used on detainees. However as these were issued for the restraint of Prisoners of War or arrested detainees I would have expected them to have been used by any soldier involved in the capture as that was their purpose and what we were trained to do.

30. I have been asked to describe what guard duty involved and how the duty was allocated. These duties were allocated on a company notice to the platoons and fell into a normal duty roster which consisted of patrols, guards, maintenance, and rest etc. There were several duties involved within the overall guard duty, it involved manning the front gate and also a tall Sangar (a protected observation post). I cannot at this point recall much more about the duty.
31. I cannot now recall whether the guard consisted of two person duties operated as a pair. These types of tasks varied from place to place in different environments so I cannot now specifically recall what happened at this camp. It was routine in many bases that the front gate would be operated by a pair of men, one person would operate the gate or barrier and the second person would provide an armed cover for him from a protected location whilst he carried out the task.
32. I have been asked to comment on whether I received any training instructions or briefing for the guard duty role and where I received it and who delivered it. The answer to the question is yes, I have received training and instructions. It is impossible for me to recollect who gave me the training and instruction on each occasion because this is such a wide topic.
33. I have performed the guard rule duty in the rank of Guardsman, Lance Corporal and Lance Sergeant. These duties varied from barracks in the United Kingdom or bases in Northern Ireland and in Kosovo and in Iraq. They also involved Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London. The orders and duties for each task would be different and briefed and updated by the chain of command as appropriate for each duty and on each day that I carried out the duty. Formal guard duties would have the guard orders read out by the guard NCO on every occasion to the persons conducting the duty. This is a normal and routine infantry practice in barracks and camps worldwide. Less formal handovers would take place on operations and when in the field, but would still be a guard duty.
34. I have been asked to identify everyone who was present in the prisoner handling area (EPW). I cannot identify any person who was present in the area when I arrived there as they were not known to me. I had been asked by the CSM to go and assist with the guarding and as I got there I came upon the scene as I described in my 2003 statement. I don't have a clear recollection of what occurred. I cannot be sure if there were one or two people with the Iraqi citizen. He was slumped over. I cannot recall what the other people present did or were doing. I cannot recall who called the medic.
35. I don't recall seeing more than one detainee there. I don't recall him moving other than during any medical intervention or treatment and I cannot say what that consisted of now because of the passage of time. I don't know if any detainees were removed from or returned to the prisoner holding area, I can only recall seeing the one detainee I have described. I don't know if there was an

interpreter present in the prisoner holding area. As we had interpreters within the camp one could have been requested if one was available. I cannot now remember if Corporal SO102 was on guard duty during this time or if he was present in the prisoner holding area before me.

36. I have been asked to comment on the detainee's condition on my arrival. Although I have made two statements, one in 2003 and a later one in 2015, both say different things about what I saw and did. I cannot now truthfully recollect what happened and I'm not able to say which is the correct version. I can only say that the 2003 statement was made closer to the incident and I would therefore rely upon it. In regard to the 2015 interview from which the later statement was produced it was video recorded and I believe that the IHAT investigators may have prepared the 2015 statement from that video recording. I do not recall reading through and signing the statement. I do recall that I was very uncomfortable with the way that they dealt with me and subsequently received a letter of apology from them about their conduct and I have issued proceedings against them as part of a group action because of their conduct towards me.
37. The slumped detainee described above was not hooded. As I have already stated, I have no recollection of ever seeing a hooded detainee.
38. I cannot recall if it was a particularly hot day. It was hot in Iraq in May 2003. Nothing other than that stands out about the heat on that day. I saw no other detainees that day so cannot comment on their treatment in any way.
39. I cannot recall any more about the detainee's condition and appearance when he collapsed. I cannot now remember as it is 19 years ago, and I would rely on the content of my 2003 statement.
40. I have been asked to recall about any medical treatment given by me to the detainee. The medic was called, and he was principally involved in giving medical treatment. I can say that I have no recollection of taking the detainee's pulse. I do not know if he had a pulse when he was slumped over. I did not administer CPR to him. I don't know why I would have administered CPR and can give no explanation of the sequence of events. I have been asked to recall if I swept his tongue and can say that I did not. I don't know why I would have swept his tongue and can give no explanation of the sequence of events of medical treatment administered.
41. I have been asked to recall who arrived at the prisoner holding area following the detainee's collapse. I cannot recollect the exact sequence, but the medic arrived as I set out in my earlier statements. I have no recollection of any other person arriving.
42. I have been asked to comment as to whether I understood him to be dead at this point. It would not be my call as to whether a person was dead as only a doctor

would pronounce death. I can say that I did not participate in or witness any ill-treatment of any of the detainees at any point and I did not witness anything that I think might be relevant as to why this detainee died.

43. After the detainee was taken away, I waited for the Royal Military Police to arrive and as my first statement is dated the same day as the incident, I assume it was taken later that day.
44. I had no other dealings with any records made or any paperwork completed regarding the incident other than the making of my statement to the military police. I do not know who was responsible for reporting the death. I don't know and would presume this was a matter dealt with by the chain of command.
45. I have been asked to comment about a phrase on page 11 of my 2015 statement in relation to deaths in the camp other than during the war fighting stage. I would say that the statement is not correctly worded. I was not aware of any deaths in the camp at all until after this incident.
46. I have no knowledge about the formal procedural requirements for reporting the incident to the chain of command and to the military police. In my experience all significant incidents in barracks or on patrol would be reported to the chain of command. What would require to be reported by them to the military police or to their higher command is not within my knowledge.
47. I don't know when the death of this detainee was reported up the chain of command and to the military police. I don't know who made the report or what was reported but as a military police NCO arrived later and spoke to me and took a statement it would be reasonable to presume that reports had been made as this would be the normal service procedure. I have no knowledge of when the military police became involved in investigating the incident.
48. I can't recall if at any time any person expressly stated or implied that I should not discuss the matter.
49. I had no knowledge at the relevant time of any procedure for informing the next of kin or family member of a detainee in the event of their death. I don't know if the family of this detainee were informed of his death as it was not something I was involved in.
50. I have been asked to comment on the "culture" within the camp between May and October 2003, I can only say that this appeared to me to be a normal infantry company deployed on operations and nothing seemed out of the ordinary as far as I was concerned and expected in the circumstances. I do not understand what might be meant by "culture" other than as stated here.
51. I have been asked how Iraqi civilians were generally viewed and treated by those at the camp. In my experience they were treated no differently than any person

in England would be treated as far as I was concerned. You had to respect the Muslim traditions and could not speak to women as freely as you could to men.

52. As I had no dealings with detainees up until this point, I cannot comment on how they were generally viewed or treated by those at the camp as the matter had not arisen.
53. I have been asked to explain my understanding of the term "beasting" and whether I am aware of any incidents of this practice. As a Guardsman I would take this word to mean that when on parade on the drill square and things were not going properly that there would be a further period of extra drill until things improved. No drill parades took place within Camp Stephen. The phrase carried a different meaning at the Infantry Battle School Brecon or on other courses and might there be taken to mean extra exercises in fieldcraft et cetera. I do not recall hearing the use of the expression "beasting" in Camp Stephen.
54. I did not at any time witness the mistreatment of any detainee or civilian within the camp nor did I ever witness any threats made to detainees. I did not see any individual mistreat any detainee and therefore I have no knowledge of how they were considered by others within the camp. I did not ever witness any troops complaining about the treatment of detainees or civilians within the camp.
55. I have been asked to recollect the degree of oversight that commanders, including myself, had of troops at the camp. As a section commander my own troops were normally operating with me and under my close supervision, other than when on individual tasks for example sangar duty or when at a sentry post. When on patrol we were operating together. This is normal section level activity and commanders at this level interact and have oversight of their men at close range. As senior commanders are further up the chain of command they become further away from direct oversight. Oversight of how I carried out my duties was by the Mortar Platoon commander and Sergeant.
56. The degree of freedom that the patrol commanders had over those under their command was normal when on operations. I had operated in an infantry section on previous operations, and it was no different in my experience on those previous operations in Northern Ireland or Kosovo.
57. There were no SNCO's or NCO's who were particularly influential within the camp or who had any influence other than that which would be normal for their rank and military appointment. For example, WO2 [REDACTED] SO101 was particularly influential on all ranks within the camp in that he dictated what happened within the camp. That is entirely normal for his rank and appointment and is within the role and duties of the CSM when on operations. He was the camp Sergeant Major for this camp and I would expect it to be the same for the CSM's at all the other company locations.

58. I can say that I never saw the CSM act improperly at any stage during my deployment with the company. I can make a similar statement in relation to Cpl SO101, who I knew as another Corporal in the Company.

59. I have been asked if I understand the term "wetting". It is not a term that I was familiar with. At no stage did I ever witness any detainee being placed into water or threatened with being placed into water or transported to any body of water.

60. I am not aware that "wetting" took place at all and so cannot give any view or opinion as to whether the chain of command was aware of the practice being used on detainees. No directions were ever given to me to use water generally as a deterrent to looting. I was unaware of any practice involving water being used on detainees at any time.

61. I can recall that there was a stream outside the front of the camp. It was on the other side of the road to the main gate. My main recollection of it was that it was a filthy water course. I never witnessed any detainee being put into or going into that stream and was not involved in any such incident. I have no knowledge of that being a practice of others or of any general order that was given to cease the practice.

Statement of truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed 

Dated 04/11/2022