



MOD-83-0000392-A

Witness Statement

(C.J. Act 1967, s. 9 MC Act 1980, ss. 5A (3a) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r. 70)

Statement of Chester Arthur Park BSc MSc
Age of Witness Over 18
Occupation Forensic Scientist
with
Forensic Alliance Limited
Darwin House, Birchwood Park, Faraday Street, Risley, Warrington WA3 6AT

This statement, consisting of 8 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 23rd day of March 2005

Signature... 

Additional Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with my statement dated 14 February 2005.

Qualifications

I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry and I have a Master of Science Degree in Analytical Chemistry. I have been employed as a Forensic Scientist since 1982. During this period I have made numerous examinations of the type described in this statement.

Case Reference Number: FAL-645-05

Police Crime Reference Number 64872/04 LLO/04/213

Signature... 

Information

From information received from the Royal Military Police, on 17 December 2004, on Route TOPEKA, South of Basrah, Iraq, BFPO 647, Abdul Hussain TALAB HASSAN failed to slow his vehicle, a white Daewoo Prince, VRN 48741, while approaching a coalition forces check point. Three warning shots were fired at the vehicle bonnet in order to immobilise the vehicle. The driver allegedly responded by firing a burst at the patrol. Various items were recovered and submitted for examination.

If any of these details are found to be incorrect, or further information becomes available, it may be necessary for me to reconsider my interpretation and conclusion.

Receipt of Items

On 12 January 2005, the following items were received at Forensic Alliance Ltd. from the Royal Military Police:

MAR/02 Bullet fragment

MAR/03 Bullet fragment

MAR/04 Bullet fragment

On 19 January 2005, the following items were amongst those received at Forensic Alliance Ltd. from the Royal Military Police:

MAR/01/Swab Swab from steering wheel

MAR/02/Swab Swab from dashboard

MAR/03/Swab Swab from roof above driver's seat

MAR/04/Swab Swab from driver's door panel

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PR/4 1 x pair of trousers
PR/5 1 x blue checked shirt
PR/6 1 x blue jacket

On 4 March 2005, the following items were received at Forensic Alliance Ltd. from the Royal Military Police:

PT/1 SA80 rifle Ser No 350140 with SUSAT Ser No 83161 pertaining to Mne **SO32**
PT/2 SA80 rifle Ser No 351636 with SUSAT Ser No 24175 pertaining to Mne **SO31**
PT/3 Minimi Ser No 074517 pertaining to Mne **SO28**
PT/4 Minimi Ser No 074740 pertaining to Mne **SO33**
PT/5 Spare barrel pertaining to Mne **SO28** s Minimi Ser no 4517-2
PT/6 Spare barrel pertaining to Mne **SO33** s Minimi Ser no 4740-2

The above items were packaged correctly.

Purpose

I have been asked to examine the swabs and clothing for gunshot residue. The bullet fragments are to be examined to determine possible sources of origin.

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Use of Assistants

In undertaking the work I was assisted by other trained members of staff as outlined in the Forensic Examination Record (CAP.102) attached, and I have taken their contributions into account when preparing this statement. A full record of their work is available for inspection at the laboratory, and they can prepare statements if necessary provided they are given sufficient notice.

Examination and Results

A full record of the work undertaken is contained within the case notes made at the time of the examination. These are available for inspection, if necessary, at the laboratory:

MAR/02 Bullet fragment

This was a small piece of bullet jacket material with some rifling characteristics present on the outer surface consistent with a 5.56mm calibre bullet, and a very tiny fragment of lead. The land and groove impressions and cannellure on the bullet jacket are consistent with a 5.56mm calibre bullet with six (6) lands and grooves with a right twist. The bullet jacket was examined microscopically, compared to the bullet jacket item MAR/04 and determined to have been discharged from the same barrel as that bullet.

MAR/03 Bullet fragment

This was a small tapered metal object consistent with the penetrator insert normally found in nominal 5.56mm calibre bullets.

MAR/04 Bullet fragment

This was a small piece of bullet jacket material, with some rifling characteristics present on the outer surface, consistent with 5.56mm calibre bullet embedded in a fragment of rubber material. The land and groove impressions on the bullet jacket are consistent with a 5.56mm calibre bullet with six (6) lands and grooves with a right twist. The bullet jacket was examined

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microscopically, compared to the bullet jacket item MAR/02 and determined to have been discharged from the same barrel as that bullet.

PT/1 SA80 rifle Ser No 350140 with SUSAT Ser No 83161 pertaining to Mne

SO32

This was a 5.56 x 45 mm (.223") calibre rifle, L85 A2 (SA80) Number UN93A350140 in good operating condition with a trigger pull in excess of 12 pounds force. The point of impact determined with a cartridge laser insert is low and to the left with respect to the point of aim using the attached optical sight (Sight Unit Small Arms Trilux). The rifle was test fired on 17 March 2005, three (3) times with half loads and three (3) times with full loads. These were referred to as:

CAP/1 Test fires from PT/1

Test fired bullets from this rifle were compared to the fired bullet fragments items MAR/02 and MAR/04. This rifle was **not** used to discharge these bullet fragments

PT/2 SA80 rifle Ser No 351636 with SUSAT Ser No 24175 pertaining to Mne

SO31

This was a 5.56 x 45 mm (.223") calibre rifle, L85 A2 (SA80) Number UN93A351636 in good operating condition with a trigger pull in excess of 12 pounds force. The point of impact determined with a cartridge laser insert agrees with the aim point of the attached optical sight (Sight Unit Small Arms Trilux). The rifle was test fired on 17 March 2005, three (3) times with half loads and three (3) times with full loads. These were referred to as:

CAP/2 Test fires from PT/2

Test fired bullets from this rifle were compared to the fired bullet fragments items MAR/02 and MAR/04. This rifle **was** used to discharge these bullet fragments

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F2 12.10

PT/3 Minimi Ser No 074517 pertaining to Mne SO28

This was a 5.56 x 45 mm (.223") calibre rifle, Herstal Minimi number FN074517 in good operating condition with a trigger pull in excess of 12 pounds force. The point of impact determined with a cartridge laser insert is slightly low and slightly to the right with respect to the aim point of the open iron sights. The rifle was test fired on 17 March 2005, three (3) times with half loads and three (3) times with full loads. These were referred to as:

CAP/3 Test fires from PT/3

Test fired bullets from this rifle were compared to the fired bullet fragments, items MAR/02 and MAR/04. This rifle was **not** used to discharge these bullet fragments

PT/4 Minimi Ser No 074740 pertaining to Mne SO33

This was a 5.56 x 45 mm (.223") calibre rifle, Herstal Minimi number FN074740 in good operating condition with a trigger pull in excess of 12 pounds force. The point of impact determined with a cartridge laser insert is level and to the right with respect to the aim point of the open iron sights. The rifle was test fired on 17 March 2005, three (3) times with half loads and three (3) times with full loads. These were referred to as:

CAP/4 Test fires from PT/4

Test fired bullets from this rifle were compared to the fired bullet fragments items MAR/02 and MAR/04. This rifle/barrel combination was **not** used to discharge these bullet fragments

PT/5 Spare barrel pertaining to Mne SO28's Minimi Ser no 4517-2

This was a 5.56 x 45 mm (.223") calibre barrel designed to fit a Minimi sub machine gun. The barrel was test fired using the Minimi rifle item PT/3 (Serial Number FN074517) on 17 March 2005, three (3) times with half loads and three (3) times with full loads. These were referred to as:

CAP/5 Test fires from PT/5

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The point of impact for this barrel determined using the Minimi rifle item PT/3 with a cartridge laser insert is slightly low and to the right with respect to the aim point of the open iron sights

Test fired bullets from this rifle/barrel combination were compared to the fired bullet fragments items MAR/02 and MAR/04. This rifle/barrel combination was **not** used to discharge these bullet fragments

PT/6 Spare barrel pertaining to Mne **SO33**'s Minimi Ser no 4740-2

This was a 5.56 x 45 mm (.223") calibre barrel designed to fit a Minimi sub machine gun. The barrel was test fired using the Minimi rifle item PT/4 (Serial Number FN074740) on 17 March 2005, three (3) times with half loads and three (3) times with full loads. These were referred to as:

CAP/6 Test fires from PT/6

The point of impact for this barrel determined using the Minimi rifle item PT/4 with a cartridge laser insert is level and to the right with respect to the aim point of the open iron sights.

Test fired bullets from this rifle/barrel combination were compared to the fired bullet fragments items MAR/02 and MAR/04. This rifle/barrel combination was **not** used to discharge these bullet fragments

The swabs (items MAR/01/Swab, MAR/02/Swab, MAR/03/Swab, MAR/04/Swab) and clothing (items PR/4, PR/5, and PR/6) were examined for gunshot residue. Whilst no **unique** gunshot residue particles were found, numerous particles **indicative** of gunshot-residue were located on swabs from the vehicle and the clothing. These particles could have arisen as the result of bullet fragmentation or from a non-firearms related source.

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Conclusion

The 5.56 x 45 mm calibre L85 A2 (SA80) rifle Serial Number UN93A351636 (item PT/2) was used to discharge the fired bullet fragments items MAR/02 and MAR/04. The other rifles (with their associated barrels) were **not** used to discharge the fired bullet fragments items MAR/02 and MAR/04.

The large quantity of particles indicative of gunshot residue associated with the vehicle and clothing suggests an exposure to gunshot fragmentation or possibly a non-firearms related source.



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