



**MOD-83-0000269-A**

Witness Name: Edward Morris

Statement No.: 1

Exhibits: SO13/1

Dated:

**In the matter of an investigation into the death of  
Mr Muhammad Abdul Ridha Salim**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF EDWARD  
MORRIS**

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I, Edward Morris, will say as follows:-

1. I have been asked to provide a statement setting out what I can remember in relation to an incident that occurred on 5 November 2003 in Basra City, Iraq, resulting in the death of an Iraqi male whom I now know to be Mr Muhammad Abdul Ridha Salim.
2. By way of background, at the time of the incident I held the rank of Kingsman, C Company ('C Coy'), 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 1 King's Regiment ('1 KINGS'). My Platoon Sergeant was Sgt [REDACTED] SO11
3. On the evening of 5 November 2003, I was on guard at Camp Cherokee. I recall that one of the interpreters spoke to a man who came to the camp and gave him information about a house nearby containing loads of Rocket Propelled Grenades ('RPGs') and weapons. We were getting a lot of attacks on the camp at the time, and we were told that the occupants of the house were armed and ready to make an attack on us. My section [which section?] was sent down to carry out a raid on the house. We [who exactly?] walked to the house as it was very close to the camp, and the Land Rovers followed after us.

4. When we arrived at the house we spent about five minutes trying to gain entry. I remember hearing gunfire in the area, but I didn't hear any shots from within the house. We tried to knock, but no-one answered, so Sgt SO11 kicked the door and went in. Sgt SO11 was the first man into the house, and I followed him second. I remember that Kingsmen Chris Heyes and Chris Woodruff followed me in, but I don't know which order they were in. 2Lt SO13 was the fourth man behind Sgt SO11 and Kgn Ryan Jones was also there. There were about eight soldiers who entered the house altogether. As we did so we were all shouting 'Armed Forces'. We each shouted at least twice so I would say that altogether there were about fifteen times that 'Armed Forces' was shouted.
5. We didn't know what we were going to find behind the door when we went into the house. I heard movement in the living room so I went in there, where I found a couple of females. I have been shown a diagram labelled 'Incident Sketch Map', which I now produce as Exhibit SO13/1. [Which room on the map is the living room: Room 4?]. There were stairs connected to the living room going up to the first floor. The living room also connected to the kitchen.
6. As we entered the house we went into the hallway, I went into the room on the left [room 3?] and cleared that with Kgn Woodruff. We both then went into the kitchen. I made the kitchen secure, then I went back into the living room [Room 4?]. I recall that Kgn Jones and Heyes were in the living room, a couple of us were beside the living room door and a couple of others were in the kitchen. It was a tight space so only a few could get in. At that point, a male whom I now know to have been Mr Salim came down the stairs brandishing an AK-47. Sgt SO11 was in the hallway [which room number?] with his rifle pointing upstairs. Sgt SO11 said 'drop your weapon' twice but the man carried on coming down the stairs, brandishing the rifle by his side. He was pointing to where we were all standing.
7. Sgt SO11 took a shot at the man and he fell down three stairs. He had been on the fourth step up when he was shot. Even though Sgt SO11 had told him to drop his weapon and he had had time to do so, he carried on coming down the stairs. I didn't see anyone behind the man as he was coming down the stairs but I could hear someone behind him so I knew there were people there. After Mr Salim was shot, myself, Sgt

SO11 and Kgn Heyes and Jones went up the stairs to clear the house as we could hear shots fired close around the roof from another house nearby. There was a male in the hallway at the top of the stairs who I believe was Mr Salim's brother-in-law. He also had an AK-47 but as we made our way upstairs he dropped it. We arrested him and brought him downstairs. No other weapons were found after that. Altogether there were two males in the house, including the injured, and I am pretty sure that there were three females.

8. I then tried to give the injured man medical attention. All I can say is that we did everything in the correct manner, Sgt SO11 shouted at him to drop his weapon twice and he had ample opportunity to do so, but still he came after us. He saw us and knew who we were but continued coming down the stairs anyway.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true

Signed .....

Dated .....