

MOD-83-0000266-A

Witness Name: Ryan William Jones

Statement No.: 1

Exhibits: SJR/2

Dated:

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

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF RYAN
WILLIAM JONES**

I, Ryan Jones, 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'), 1st Battalion 1 King's Regiment ('1 KINGS'). My Platoon Sergeant was Sgt [REDACTED] SO11. I turned 18 in January 2003, and was deployed to Iraq only a couple of months later. At the time that we were deployed as part of OP TELIC 2, the Battalion was very understaffed. This meant that we were joined by a lot of soldiers from the Territorial Army ('TA'), whom I met only a few weeks before going to Iraq. After the soldiers from the TA left Iraq I never saw them again. I left the army soon before my 20th birthday, in or around 2005.

The incident in November 2003


3. Turning my mind back to 2003, I remember incidents of the camp being shot at and also a couple of occasions on which informants came to the camp and told us there were people planning to attack the camp. One of my duties was to guard the camp, and I remember that locals used to come to the gates of the camp and speak to an interpreter

who would tell us that they had some information. We would then take the informant into the camp, however that was all the contact I would have had with them. Often the locals would come to the camp with information in the hope of obtaining food or money. We were always wary as there had been stories of people coming into the camp and then attacking soldiers with knives. I do not however remember being present when an informant came to the camp on 5th November 2003.

4. The Inspector has asked me whether I frequently participated in house clearances during my time in Iraq. In general although house clearances didn't occur every night, they were very common. Any time that we did have to carry out a house clearance, we would always have armoured vehicles accompanying us. Usually, there was a family group of both men and women inside the house. Nine times out of ten were happy to let us carry out our search and then move on.
5. I have been asked by the Inspector whether I recall participating in a house clearance with Sgt SO11 on the 5th of November and the early hours of 6th November, which resulted in the death of Mr Salim, and I have to say that I do not. I have been shown a document entitled 'Post Incident Report' (Exhibit SJR/2) which states 'Sgt SO11 opens front door and enters target A1 followed by Kgn Jones and Kgn Morris'. However, I do not remember participating in a house clearance on this particular occasion. I would say that because I was only a Kingsman, I would hardly ever have been at the front when a group went in to do a house clearance. I certainly do not remember any occasion when I was at the front. I also do not remember any particular occasion on which we had to force entry into a house, or of hearing that any civilians had been injured during the course of a house clearance.
6. The Inspector has asked me whether I recall the names of any other soldiers who might have been present on the evening of 5th November 2003. I cannot now remember any names, as even those that I did know were only by their nicknames, and as I have said many of the soldiers I had only met shortly before we were deployed. I recall Sgt SO11 and also 2Lt SO13, however I do not recall any particular incidents in which they were involved and I do not now remember hearing about any such incidents either. The Inspector has asked me whether I recall Edward Morris, Richard Price or Trevor Jones, but I do not.

Statement of Truth

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true

Signed 

Dated 27/11/15