



MOD-83-0000313-A

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: HUTCHINSON, SIMON

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: RETIRED

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) 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.

Signature: S HUTCINSON Date: 21/01/2015

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am the above named person, and am retired from the Army.

I have been asked by Mr [REDACTED] and Mr [REDACTED] of the Iraq Historical Allegations Team about the operational records of 1 Kings Regiment on Telic 2, in 2003. I have been shown a report that I submitted to ACOS Commitments, Headquarters Land Command, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 0AG, which I refer to as item MP/18/IHAT119. I have signed and dated the exhibit label.

I became the Commanding Officer of 1 Kings in September 2004. Soon afterwards I became aware that the operational records for the battalion were missing for Op Telic 2. This issue had been dragging on for some time.

I do not remember the exact dates but I was requested to close the matter off formally. The battalion's archives were searched and the following documents were sent to Corporate Memory:

72 Operational Orders and FRAGOs issued by 1 Kings or sub units. This did not represent the total number issued, the remainder of the material being unaccounted for.

126 Operational Orders and instructions issued to 1 Kings.

39 SINC REPS/Action reports, which did not represent the total number produced, the remainder of the material is unaccounted for.

Signature: S HUTCINSON
2010/11

Signature witnessed by: [REDACTED]

A copy of the file kept on the Tpr Williams incident.

The above documents were also submitted to Brigadier Vere-Hayes, I believe he was completing a report on lessons learnt in Iraq. To confirm this an enquiry would have to be made with him.

Whilst completing this task into the missing records, 1 Kings was in the process of merging with The Kings Own Royal Borders Regiment and the Queens Lancashire Regiment. As such none of the key personnel serving in 1 Kings Regiment at the time of TELIC 2 remained in post.

I found that the correct procedures had not been followed and the complete records had not been returned to the UK.

Watch Keepers Logs and G2 Assessments, and other reports were reported to me to have been left behind in the Shatt al Arab Hotel on handover to the Queens Royal Hussars.

The outstanding material from 1 Kings had been sought on many occasions. However I was satisfied at the time that no new material existed within 1 Kings and none was likely to be found elsewhere.

Signature: S HUTCINSON
2010/11

Signature witnessed by: 