

MOD-83-0000103-A

Witness Name: Andrew Bernard Jackson

Statement No.: 1

Exhibits: None

Dated:

**In the matter of an investigation into the death of
Mr Nadheem Abdullah**

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
ANDREW JACKSON**

I, Andrew Bernard Jackson, will say as follows:-

1. I am making this statement for the purposes of the investigation into the death of Mr Nadheem Abdullah.
2. My current rank is Lt Col, and I am the British Liaison Officer to the US Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE), Fort Benning, GA, USA. I am the senior British representative/advisor at MCOE, where all US Army individual training for the combat arms is conducted.
3. Until early January 2003 when the Company ('Coy') and Battalion ('Bn') commenced pre-deployment training for OP TELIC 1 I was the Officer Commanding for C Coy of 3 PARA. At that time I was a Major and I took over as Officer Commanding (OC) of C Coy in July 2001. My tour was expected to last until July 2003. However, in October 2002 I deployed with C Coy to Republic of South Africa (RSA) in support of a parachute trials programme. I sustained a serious spinal injury whilst conducting a parachute descent as part of that programme. I was in medical care, first in RSA and then back in the UK until late December 2003. My company second-in-command took

over my day-to-day duties but the CO of 3 PARA, now Lt Gen Lorimer, retained me nominally in the post of OC C Coy until the extent of my injuries was known and my likely recovery time could be established. In January 2003 when the Bn returned from Christmas leave, it was clear that my medical situation would preclude me from returning to duty as an OC in the near future, particularly as by that time the possibility of a deployment to Iraq was also a factor. I commenced a medical rehabilitation programme in January 2003 and the CO replaced me as OC C Coy with Maj Daniel Worthington as the Battalion commenced their training package in anticipation of possible deployment. I cannot specify the exact date in 2003 that this occurred.

4. I did not have any responsibility for overseeing any Battalion level training activity, general or otherwise. I cannot remember who the Bn Training Officer was at that time. Whoever it was, he was a captain who would have worked to the Bn Second in Command (Bn 2IC) who would have had the overall lead for training in the Battalion. During my time as OC C Coy, the Battalion 2IC was firstly Maj Peter Turpie and then later Maj, now Col, Mark Christie.
5. I have been asked what general (ie non-OPTAG) training 3 PARA soldiers would have received prior to OP TELIC 1 and what training they would have received in relation to carrying out VCPs. I can only comment on training conducted by C Coy, and not the whole Battalion.
6. From July 2001 to July 2002 any VCP training conducted was Northern Ireland-focused in support of the Battalion's commitment (see below). I cannot recall any specific training for conducting VCPs in a 'war-fighting' situation occurring and it would not have been relevant to our task.
7. From July 2002 until December 2002 3 PARA as a whole were initially refreshing their conventional infantry skills after their time focused upon Northern Ireland but then became heavily involved in Op FRESCO to cover the firemen's strike in England. C Coy specifically was committed firstly to Op FRESCO and then to our RSA deployment as outlined above. I cannot recall any training related to VCPs in a 'war-fighting' situation occurring during that period.
8. With regards to non-war-fighting situations I can only comment on the training conducted by C Coy and not the whole Battalion. I remember that training for and

practise of VCPs occurred during the Battalion's formal training package delivered in preparation for its tour as Northern Ireland Reinforcement Battalion (NIRBAT). This training package was conducted by or under the direction of the Northern Ireland Training Advisory Team (NITAT). This was a mandated training package, high quality and refined, and included VCPs being taught and practised in both the rural and urban environments. The Battalion formally trained for this role in September to November 2001 and then actually undertook the role in December 2001 to July 2003, during which time regular refresher training was mandated. The Battalion as a whole was held at readiness in Colchester during that time, with individual sub-units being deployed across to Northern Ireland as and when tasked. From a C Coy perspective, and to the best of my memory, C Coy deployed to Northern Ireland on three occasions in that time. On each occasion, general refresher training would have occurred before that deployment although, with it being that long ago I cannot honestly be more specific as to the exact content of this training on any one occasion, particularly as regards VCPs. However, the conduct of VCPs was core skill required for ops in Northern Ireland and I have no reason to believe that it would not have been proportionally covered. On each operational deployment of C Coy to Northern Ireland, VCPs were required to be conducted regularly during the Coy's operational taskings.


9. Pre-NIRBAT training was a central package and syllabus delivered by NITAT for the Battalion, with all supporting training documentation, instructional aids, pamphlets, etc. supplied by them. The NITAT package also included a T3 'Train the Trainer' element to provide an organic instructional ability within 3 PARA which enabled the Battalion to conduct its own internal periodic refresher training thereafter, during its time in the NIRBAT role. This provided for the training to be 'cascaded' down the ranks. Again, all training aids, pamphlets etc. would have come from NITAT. I cannot remember the precise frequency of this training other than that in my experience it always occurred prior to any deployment to Northern Ireland and also when new soldiers joined the Battalion.
10. In terms of training on arrest and restraint techniques, to the best of my memory, this subject was covered by the initial NITAT training package, although I am not exactly sure of specifics. I cannot remember whether this subject was also covered during periodic refresher training.

11. I would like to conclude by making the following observations. A lot has happened in the 11-13 years since the events I describe above took place; I have tried to be accurate to the best of my memory without extrapolating. I do not currently have access to any personal notebooks, diaries etc. which might have helped me to better remember dates, names and chronology. Furthermore, due to the injury I suffered and its aftermath, the period of November 2002 to January 2003 was a personally traumatic time for me, and thus my memory of that period may well be affected.

12. Finally, 3 PARA's NIRBAT tour was my last time in Northern Ireland but came at the end of a 9 year period 1993 - 2002 which saw me train for and deploy to Northern Ireland multiple times for a total of about 2 years in Northern Ireland overall. My recollection of each individual deployment and the specifics of the training package which I underwent for each one, the content of which was inevitably amended as the political situation and relative threat in the province altered over time, is necessarily tempered with the generalization of memory which such repetition over time induces. Again, I have tried to avoid extrapolation or speculation.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed 

Dated *24th Oct 2014*