

*Treatment of prisoners and detainees*

29. My soldiers were trained to treat PW at all times humanely and with respect, and to refrain from causing a PW unnecessary mental or physical harm. I expected questioning of PW to be conducted by specially trained personnel. The tying or hand-cuffing of PW should only be done if it is necessary to prevent their escape. On occasions there is a requirement to cover prisoners' eyes, to prevent them ascertaining useful information about our equipment and dispositions. It is well recognised, however, that this has to be kept to a minimum not only for the good of the prisoner but also because the number of soldiers required to deal with the movement of 'blinded' PWs is greater than for those able to use their own eyes. The practice of blindfolding detainees continues to this day.

30. The Inquiry has asked me to clarify how and when my soldiers were trained to treat PW at all times humanely and with respect and to refrain from causing them unnecessary mental or physical harm. The Inquiry has also asked me to clarify how it was well recognised that covering a prisoner's eyes should be kept to a minimum. In response, I refer to paragraphs 19-29 above, which address training and orders relating to prisoner handling and treatment: such training and orders were the means by which soldiers were taught the correct method of handling PW. Furthermore, the Inquiry has asked when and where the requirement to cover eyes to prevent prisoners ascertaining useful information about equipment and dispositions arose and how and when this was communicated in orders, guidance etc for 7 Armd Bde. My own understanding of this requirement derives from the Volume 2 of the Army Field Manual, Part 5: Urban Operations (Army Code 71657, page B-3-38).

31. I would not ordinarily use the term 'hooding'. Blindfolding detainees might be achieved by using strips of cloth, blacked out goggles or sandbags. I considered blindfolding as acceptable for the purposes