

49. During the recce with Black Watch I also visited Camp Stephen in the north of the city with CO 1BW (Lt Col Riddle-Webster) and a Company Commander. By Basra standards it was in a relatively quiet area. There were around six or seven buildings around the camp and it had been done up to be more liveable with tarpaulins and tables to sit on. It was more homely and comfortable and was known as "the best location".
50. Whilst at Camp Stephen I observed in the periphery of my vision a prisoner (he may have been an internee or detainee) being brought into the camp hooded and plasti-cuffed. Myself, the CO, OC and others were discussing other issues at the time and hence I did not raise this with them at the time. I subsequently did raise the issue with the OC HQ Coy 1BW, I recall he was an Australian, quite young and (I think) a senior Captain, but I cannot recall his name. He looked after me during my time with the Black Watch, including organising who I would be seeing. I raised this as hooding was contrary to advice given at a lecture in Catterick which I had attended during the pre-deployment training in May. As previously stated I believed this was because this was to highlight the difference between dealing with PoWs (war fighting Ops) and internees/detainees (Peace Enforcement Ops), however this was only my assumption, and I never had the chance to clarify the point. In discussions with OC HQ Coy 1BW it was clear that hooding and cuffing was an SOP from HQ 7 Armd Bde which had continued on from the war fighting phase. I do not remember the detail of the conversation. He was my host and I spent a lot of time with him, asking questions as I went along. As far as I recall, shock of capture and TQ were not discussed, but there were concerns that potential insurgents should not be allowed to see the layout of the inside of our camps which they could use for targeting purposes. He gave me a brief overview that internees were transferred to the JFIT (Joint Forces Interrogation Team) and the detainees mostly were released. He did not go into any detail but did confirm that hooding and cuffing was carried out. He pretty much outlined the process that we continued with when arresting prisoners initially. I believe Companies were passing prisoners to the RMP as soon as possible at this time. Therefore, during my time with Black Watch I witnessed very little being done in relation to prisoner arrests and processing.