

STAFF - INVESTIGATION
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Case Ref No: 64695/03

MOD Form 266A/B
(Introduced 12/03)



**SERVICE POLICE
WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, S.9;MC Act 1980, SS.5A(3a) and 5B;MC Rules 1981, r70)

Statement of: Edward James HEMESLEY	
Rank/Status: Maj	
Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")	Occupation: HM Forces (Army)
This statement (consisting of 7 pages 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: EJ HEMESLEY	Dated the 8 th day of March 2006

I am Maj Edward James Hemesley (QLR), currently serving as the SO2 Policy G6/CD Div, at HQ LAND, Wilton, an appointment I have held since Aug 05.

Between May 03 and Nov 03, I deployed to Iraq on Op TELIC 2. I held the appointment of Somme Coy Comd during this deployment and was based within the Basrah Palace. Somme Coy had a very small AOR, as our main responsibility was to assist various other Coys in a wide number of operational matters. As such, Somme Coy had very little dealings with Iraqi detainees and the few that were arrested were taken directly to I QLR Main to be processed.

Due to the time that has now elapsed, my recollection of specific events and conversations during the tour are vague.

I do recall that the unit received some training in relation to prisoner handling prior to deployment. This was during internal unit training and OPTAG training. In essence, guidance was given to treat prisoners in a way that you would expect to be treated yourself should you be a prisoner. The Laws of Armed Conflict was reiterated on Prisoners of War and I specifically recall that upon arrest of individuals only the minimum amount of force should be used.

As the tour progressed, further direction was given in relation to detainee handling. I believe that this information would have been relayed to me at a CO's O Group. Although I cannot recall who specifically mentioned or discussed the process of detainee handling at O Groups or when it was mentioned, it was direction that for security reasons the sight of the detainees had to be hidden. This could be conducted in a number of ways, for example: sandbags, blacked out goggles or even placing the individuals' shirt above his head. This was essential not only for security, but to ensure the detainee did not see what was happening within camp.

Signature: EJ HEMESLEY

Signature Witnessed by: G RITCHIE

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