

STAFF - INVESTIGATION
OFFICER ONLY

(Continuation Sheet)

Sheet No	2	Case No:	64695/03
Continuation of statement of:	Warren WARD		

I had not received a formal brief regarding the incident and merely drove as directed by Lt Col Griffin.

On arrival, two British soldiers dressed in CS95 clothing appeared to be guarding an 8-tonne truck in the compound.

I remained in my vehicle, a Land Rover, and watched as the CO went into a building. He returned about five to ten minutes later, accompanied by another soldier. I cannot recall his rank or what he looked like, but although not completely certain, I think he wore a 'tanky' beret. It was not a QLR beret.

Both men walked to the truck in the compound. I was sat in the driver's seat of my vehicle about twenty feet away. The tailgate of the truck was down and the canopy was down also. It wasn't until this time that I was aware that people were in the rear of the wagon.

I remained in my vehicle, as was normal practice in the event of any extraction drills involving the CO. I had a clear unobstructed view as I watched four or five Iraqi men dismount from the back of the truck. They were of typical Iraqi appearance but I could not identify them again. Some had beards, some did not.

I did notice that they were from the Garamsche Tribe. They appeared to be scruffy, which was quite unusual because they tended to have a lot of pride in their appearance and were usually washed and clean. Their clothes (dish-dash) were dirty.

About four members of the Rover Group walked to the back of the vehicle and I saw them aiding two men from the back of the truck. It was as though the men could not get down alone (it was a steep drop) as they found it difficult to move. The men were aged between 24 to 37. I found it difficult to gauge their age. Their clothing was dirty but I did not see any blood. I noticed that one of these men had a badly bruised face, his left cheekbone appeared to be very swollen. This man had about four to five days of beard growth and had black hair.

Of the other men I saw, a couple had bruising to their faces and one Iraqi was holding his arm. I cannot recall any other details about these individuals.

The CO appeared to be talking to the tribesmen. I turned my engine on expecting to leave shortly and did not hear any conversation.

I saw the group of approximately seven men get into a pick-up and a brown coloured Datsun hatchback and the Rover Group followed the vehicles to Hexham, their tribal area.

Whilst at the QLR location I did not speak to any members of that unit. I did not speak to any of the Garamsche Tribe and I do not know how the Iraqi's sustained their injuries. In total the Rover Group spent about fifteen minutes at the QLR location.

The journey to Hexham took about twenty minutes through the market, following the Iraqi vehicles

Signature: W WARD

Signature Witnessed by: DA MOSS

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