

Witness Name: George Clark Wilson

Statement No.: 2

Exhibits: Nil

Date: *4 September 2009*

THE BAHA MOUSA PUBLIC INQUIRY

Supplementary Witness Statement of George Clark Wilson

I, LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE CLARK WILSON will say as follows: -

1. I have previously made a statement in response to the Inquiry's Rule 9 Request dated 24 April 2009.
2. I make this statement in response to the Inquiry's supplemental Rule 9 Request dated 22 July 2009 and I seek here to cover everything it raises to the best of my ability and recollection. I have been shown and read a copy of a FRAGO dated 9 September 2003 (MOD017034) and a copy of the transcript of my evidence given at the Court Martial on day forty one.

Operation Comiston 2 - FRAGO 2/03 (MOD017034)

3. To the best of my recall I never had sight of this FRAGO until it was shown to me at the Court Martial on day forty one.
4. I have no recall of any operation known as Operation Comiston. It is possible that I may have been told about this operation if it was part of a bigger plan, but I would have had no cause to act on it as it was an operation conducted in the 1 KINGS' area and not the area of 1 KOSB.

Accordingly the A Company Group that was tasked to perform this operation was not under the command of 1 KOSB but under the command of 1 KINGS.

5. Other than to note that the name of Lieutenant Andy Watson, the Second in Command of A Company, 1 KOSB, appears in the signature block on the second page, I have no knowledge of who drafted this Company Operation Order.
6. I cannot say who would have seen the order. It is however reasonable to assume that all those listed on the distribution list would have seen it i.e. all of those within A Company (internal) which would include all the call signs within that Company, the Commanding Officer, the 2IC, the Officer Commanding C Company, the Quick Reaction Force, the Officer Commanding Aviation and various other sub-units of 1 KINGS to which A Company was attached at the time.

Reference at 4(g) to PW etc

7. The Inquiry have asked me to give an explanation of the references at 4(g) to 'PW'. Mult responsibility. Plasticuff Search. Bag out of sight once in vehs'.
8. The interpretations that I give to the words and phrases mentioned in this Operational Order is based on my general military knowledge and not the specifics of the operation: I am not aware of the processes that were employed by the Company at the time, nor the threats surrounding this particular operation or any direction provided to troops operating in Basra.

9. PW stands for Prisoners of War and in this case is likely to refer to anyone potentially captured or detained as a result of the planned operation.
10. "Mult Responsibility" indicates that anyone detained would be the responsibility of the detaining multiple which would normally be a team of twelve soldiers led by an Officer or an SNCO. In my view it would be fair to assume that this responsibility is for the immediate period of the operation i.e until the troops had recovered to their base location.
11. The words "plasti-cuff. search." indicates to me that detainees should be restrained using plasti-cufffs and checked for any potential weapons and items of intelligence interest that potentially could be rapidly exploited or become part of evidence for subsequent prosecution.
12. "Bag out of sight once in vehs" could infer, as suggested in the Court Martial process by Mr Langdale, that prisoners/detainees were to be hooded once inside the vehicles. Equally the order could refer to the process of bagging evidence and search items recovered from the detainees. In an urban environment it may be advisable to conduct the administration of the arrest process out of sight so as not to antagonise the local population and create a public order situation.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

Lieutenant Colonel George Clark Wilson

Dated 4 September 2009