

STAFF - INVESTIGATION
OFFICER ONLY

(Continuation Sheet)

Sheet No	3	Case No:	64695/03
Continuation of statement of:		Gary Mark PINCHEN	

From early on in the tour and from the briefings I attended conducted by the OC, it was clear that the CO wanted the QLR to adopt a robust posture in order that authority was not compromised for operational effectiveness. By this term I understood it to be that, if necessary, adopt a firm approach and that would include 'rough handling' of prisoners. I should emphasise here that I would deem it acceptable for detainees' arms to be firmly gripped and for them to be moved around and shouted at, but this would not include any assaults or other forms of ill treatment. It was entirely proper for 1 QLR to be robust because we were part of an occupying power and it was important and necessary to conduct ourselves in a manner which did not threaten or jeopardise our authority.

Although I witnessed many occasions when C Coy personnel being robust, I did not see any incidents where individuals overstepped the mark and ill treat any prisoner. Had I seen anything of this, I would have stopped it immediately and taken the appropriate action as I deemed necessary.

I have today been asked if I have any knowledge regarding Iraqi detainees being brought to C Coy location and being placed in an area other than the designated holding area.

Although I cannot be certain, I believe that an incident may have involved local tribesmen. They had entered Basrah and ordered shopkeepers to cease trading for several days as a period of mourning. Not wishing them to exercise their authority, 1 QLR and specifically C Coy, may have arrested a number of those individuals as part of framework operations.

I vaguely recall this incident, but as it was led by the OC, I had very little directly to do with it. Although aware it had occurred as I was in the Ops Room, Maj Kenyon was in charge of the Op and therefore I did not need to get involved. At no time did I see these detainees, nor can I now recall what happened to them. However, I did hear later, but from whom I cannot now recall, that they had been held in between two corimecs in another part of camp. I also heard that 'stress positions' had been used on those detainees. I should say that this information came to my attention sometime after the incident, but cannot now recall who told me this information.

I understand the term 'stress position' as placing a person in a position for a period which is uncomfortable and causes discomfort. There is no reason in the Coy's role that 'stress positions' would need to be used for the reasons stated earlier in this statement. As these prisoners were in the OC's custody at the time, I did not get involved as there was no requirement for me to do so.

I have today been asked whether Capt Good brought this incident to my attention and raised concerns. In reply, I cannot now recall any specific conversation with Capt Good in relation to this incident. That is not to say it did not occur, only that I cannot now recall it. Quite frequently, Capt Good and I would discuss all sorts of matters and it may be that he mentioned this as a concern, but due to the time that has elapsed I cannot specifically recall that conversation. Furthermore, it is more than likely I had a conversation with Maj Kenyon regarding these arrested Iraqis, but as before cannot now recall any specific conversation.

I have also been asked if I recall an occasion whereby the OC addressed all Coy personnel in the volleyball courts in which an issue regarding ill treatment of detainees was spoken about. I do recall an occasion whereby either the CO or the OC addressed the Coy personnel, but this was in relation

Signature: GM PINCHEN

Signature Witnessed by: G RITCHIE

U-3
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