

STAFF - INVESTIGATION
OFFICER ONLY

STATEMENT

RICHARD OSBORNE

(Formerly [REDACTED] CAPT R OSBORNE – Anzio Company Second-in-Command
1st Battalion Queen's Lancashire Regiment)

1. Between June and Jul 2003, I was the Company Second in Command of Anzio Company, 1 QLR, based at Camp Stephen in Basrah City on OPERATION TELIC 2. During this time, 3 TA Officers worked for me, some of whom were employed as Watchkeepers: Capt Stewart McFarlane was one of the TA Officers employed as a Watchkeeper. My working relationship with him was amicable during his time with Anzio.
2. During my tour with Anzio Company, I was made aware of an incident involving an Iraqi detainee (possibly held on suspicion of committing an illegal act), that took place in the vicinity of the company Guardroom. The incident in question took place at night between the hours of 2100 – 2359 hrs, exact date or time is unknown.
3. A soldier from the guardroom (name unknown) informed me that the detainee (name unknown) had suffered an injured wrist as a result of a member of the guard being too rough with him. He requested that the medic be asked to attend the injured man. It was suggested by the soldier that the wrist may be broken or fractured, although he could not be sure.
4. The company med (Cpl D?) was called to attend the injured man and I asked him to make an assessment of his injury. A quick examination by the company medic confirmed that the wrist was only sprained and not broken. I was a witness to the medical examination outside the guardroom and saw that the injured man could move his fingers and hand, although with some discomfort. The medic put the injured forearm in a sling and issued a small number of paracetamol-type painkillers. I do not recall seeing any swelling of the injured wrist at the time of any discolouration
5. I believe, but cannot be sure, that my reaction to the guardroom's perceived excessive use of force against a prisoner was to inform the Company Sergeant Major (WO2 Tomkinson) of the matter since he was responsible for discipline within the camp. I did not investigate or find out who the person responsible for causing the injury was, since I was keen to return to the Operations room to continue with my work. I do not know the circumstances of why this level of force was used, or exactly how it happened. At no time did I enter the guardroom or speak to any member of the guard, other than the man that reported the incident.
6. The SOP for processing detainees arrested on suspicion of committing an illegal act, was for the two RMP JNCOs (LCpl Nelson and Cpl Kerrigan) attached to Anzio Coy to interview them. Occasionally I attended these interviews and remember attending this particular one. I cannot recall why the detainee had been arrested, however, I do remember the offence was fairly minor and there was little to be done in taking further legal action against him. I believe he was given a verbal warning like so many other detainees arrested by Anzio Coy during the tour and released from our custody. I noticed during the interview with the RMP JNCOs, the injured man was able to use his injured hand.

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