

certainly took place as part of a more general discussion on the process of tactical questioning and I do recall Major Royce informing me that hooding had been sanctioned by Brigade. In regard to ordinary criminals in normal circumstances they would not be hooded. The matter of hooding may also have been discussed at one of my evening conferences and I think it was in this audience that Major Royce confirmed that he had checked with Brigade, but I cannot now remember any more detail.

79. We had sandbags issued, although I cannot remember the scale of issue. They were standard hessian (coarse sacking) and carried for a variety of purposes (trench construction, ammunition collection, hooding prisoners). They were most likely carried on vehicles rather than in soldiers' webbing because of the requirement to reduce the weight and bulk carried in the extreme heat.

80. In regard to stress positions my understanding was that they were part of the conditioning process in order to maintain the shock of capture prior to tactical questioning. Stress positions are not taught to infantry battalions as a matter of routine. We did not conduct any such training but I recognised the term. My understanding was that in the early stages of an arrest, particularly when several arrestees are involved, stress positions might reasonably be used to impose a degree of control on the arrestees whilst the situation is brought under control. In this instance the stress position used might be standing with arms outstretched to the side or lying down on the floor, again with arms outstretched. At some stage during the tour following the regime prescribed by FRAGO 29 I came to understand that conditioning through the use of stress positions was an important part of tactical questioning in order to maintain the shock of capture. I understood that for a short period before questioning detainees would be held in a position that made relaxation impossible. The stress

position was not to be painful but sufficiently uncomfortable to achieve the prevention of relaxation and thereby maximise the effectiveness of the tactical questioning. The application of stress positions was a matter for the BGIRO governed by common sense and consultation with the tactical questioner.

81. I cannot now say when I became aware of the use of stress positions but it must have been when Major Royce was BGIRO and I was discussing the tactical questioning process. I recall going to the room where the tactical questioning was conducted and discussing how the questioning was carried out but I cannot now recall the details of the conversation. Inside camp - I have a vague memory of men stood up with their arms out in front of them, waist height. This might be the occasion that Major Royce refers to of one of the first set of detainees but I really can't be sure. Outside - in lift operations at night I saw men lying face down with arms and legs outstretched. When initially arrested sometimes arms were kept outstretched after searching for a minute or two as a control measure until plasti-cuffs arrived (not every soldier had plasti-cuffs).
82. I did not understand that conditioning would apply after tactical questioning and if it had been brought to my attention I would have immediately required an explanation as to why it was happening.
83. During the tour Major Royce gained a late reserve place at the Army Staff College and I reluctantly agreed to his departure in late August to attend this vital career course. Major Peebles, a Queen's Lancashire officer who was progressing an application to transfer to the Intelligence Corps, was offered as a replacement for Major Royce. I insisted that a full handover of responsibilities took place before Major Royce left Theatre. The two officers overlapped in theatre by several days and Major Royce reported to me that a full handover had taken place, including Major