



MOD-83-0000328-A

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, SS.5A (3)(a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of **SO17**

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: HGV Driver

This statement (consisting of 2 pages) each signed by me is true to the best of knowledge and belief and I make it knowing if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated: 14-06-16

Signature: **SO17**

I, **SO17** (D.O.B: **SO17**), I will say as follows will say in support of my witness statement which was served on the Iraq Fatality Investigation on 3 May 2016 and the evidence that I provided at the hearing on 18 May 2016:

1. At the hearing on 18 May 2016 I was given the opportunity to respond to the evidence provided by Sergeant **SO15**. I now wish to take the opportunity to clarify several points.
2. At the time the incident took place on 8 May 2003 I am confident that the door of the warrior was broken and had to be opened manually from the outside. This will be evidenced in the maintenance log for the vehicle.
3. When we arrived at Bridge 4 and came to a standstill the door was opened from the outside by Guardsmen **SO16**. I am almost certain that when Guardsman **SO16** opened the door he was accompanied by Sergeant **SO15**.
4. It could not have been the case that Guardsman **SO18** or I opened the door manually from the back of the Warrior. There is only a small window on the back door and you could not see properly out of it. Accordingly we would not have been able to assess if the situation was safe.

Signature:

**SO17**

Witnessed by:

5. We were ordered to dismount from the warrior once the door was open. We would not have done so otherwise.
6. In the period of time from our getting the looters out of the vehicle and being told to 'mount up' again Sergeant **SO15** remained on the ground with us. It is incorrect that he returned to, or remained in, the Warrior.
7. As stated, in the back of the Warrior you cannot see out clearly so I am unsure how exactly the vehicle was manoeuvred. I am however certain that no person returned to the Warrior to manoeuvre it while other members of the Callsign remained on the bank.

Signature:



**SO17**

Witnessed by:

