



MOD-83-0000391-A

Witness Statement

(C.J. Act 1967, s. 9 MC Act 1980, ss. 5A (3a) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r. 70)

Statement of Chester Arthur Park BSc MSc
Age of Witness Over 18
Occupation Forensic Scientist
with
Forensic Alliance Limited
Darwin House, Birchwood Park, Faraday Street, Risley, Warrington WA3 6AT

This statement, consisting of 5 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, 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 the 14th day of February 2005

Signature

Qualifications

I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry and I have a Master of Science Degree in Analytical Chemistry. I have been employed as a Forensic Scientist since 1982. During this period I have made numerous examinations of the type described in this statement.

Case Reference Number: FAL-645-05

Police Crime Reference Number 64872/04 LLO/04/213

Information

From information received from the Royal Military Police, on 17 December 2004, on Route TOPEKA, South of Basrah, Iraq, BFPO 647, Abdul Hussain TALAB HASSAN failed to slow his vehicle, a white Daewoo Prince, VRN 48741, while approaching a coalition forces check point. Three warning shots were fired at the vehicle bonnet in order to immobilise the vehicle. The driver allegedly responded by firing a burst at the patrol. Various items were recovered and submitted for examination.

Signature

If any of these details are found to be incorrect, or further information becomes available, it may be necessary for me to reconsider my interpretation and conclusion.

Receipt of Items

On 12 January 2005, the following items were received at the Forensic Alliance Laboratory Rislely:

MAR/02 Bullet fragment

MAR/03 Bullet fragment

MAR/04 Bullet fragment

On 19 January 2005, the following items were received at the Forensic Alliance Laboratory Rislely:

MAR/01/Swab Swab from steering wheel

MAR/02/Swab Swab from dashboard

MAR/03/Swab Swab from roof above driver's seat

MAR/04/Swab Swab from driver's door panel

PR/1 1 x Glock pistol, Serial number FXB907

PR/4 1 x pair of trousers

PR/5 1 x blue checked shirt

PR/6 1 x blue jacket

The above items were packaged correctly.

Signature 

Purpose

I have been asked to examine the Glock pistol item PR/1 in an effort to establish whether the weapon has been fired and if so is it possible to determine the time frame of when last fired. Additionally, the swabs and clothing are to be examined for gunshot residue. The bullet fragments are to be examined to determine possible sources of origin. The examination of swabs and clothing items MAR/01, MAR/02, MAR/03, MAR/04, PR/4, PR/5 and PR/6 for gunshot residue will be the subject of a future statement.

Use of Assistants

In undertaking the work I was assisted by other trained members of staff as outlined in the Forensic Examination Record (CAP.101) attached, and I have taken their contributions into account when preparing this statement. A full record of their work is available for inspection at the laboratory, and they can prepare statements if necessary provided they are given sufficient notice.

Examination and Results

A full record of the work undertaken is contained within the case notes made at the time of the examination. These are available for inspection, if necessary, at the laboratory.

MAR/02 Bullet fragment

This was a small piece of bullet jacket material with some rifling characteristics present on the outer surface consistent with a 5.56mm calibre bullet, and a very tiny fragment of lead. The land and groove impressions and cannellure on the bullet jacket are consistent with a 5.56mm calibre bullet with six (6) lands and grooves with a right twist. The bullet jacket was examined microscopically, compared to the bullet jacket item MAR/04 and determined to have been discharged from the same barrel as that bullet.

Signature 

MAR/03 Bullet fragment

This was a small tapered metal object consistent with the penetrator insert normally found in armour piercing bullets of nominal 5.56mm calibre.

MAR/04 Bullet fragment

This was a small piece of bullet jacket material with some rifling characteristics present on the outer surface consistent with 5.56mm calibre bullet embedded in a fragment of rubber material. The land and groove impressions on the bullet jacket are consistent with a 5.56mm calibre bullet with six (6) lands and grooves with a right twist. The bullet jacket was examined microscopically, compared to the bullet jacket item MAR/02 and determined to have been discharged from the same barrel as that bullet.

PR/1 1 x Glock pistol, Serial number FXB907

This was a 9 x 19 mm calibre Glock model 19 pistol serial number FXB907. Apparent dried blood was observed on the exterior surface and on the interior of the barrel breech block and interior of handgrips. Blood samples were carefully removed on 23 January 2005. These were referred to as:

AK/1 Blood samples from PR/1

The interior of the barrel shows evidence of relatively recent fouling and the barrel has not been cleaned since the last cartridge was discharged. The barrel was swabbed on 23 January 2005. These were referred to as:

AK/2 Fouled barrel swabs from PR/1

AK/3 Swabs from PR/1

This pistol function tested normally with a trigger pull of five (5) pounds of force. The pistol was test fired on 23 January 2005. These were referred to as:

AK/4 Test fires from PR/1

Signature 

Conclusion

The presence of blood in the fouled barrel of the pistol item PR/1 shows that it had not been discharged since the blood was deposited.

The same 5.56mm calibre barrel (firearm) exhibiting six (6) lands and grooves with right twist was used to discharge the two separate bullet fragments items MAR/02 and MAR/04. There are sufficient individual characteristics for comparison purposes to test fired bullets from appropriate firearms (any 5.56mm calibre weapon with a barrel exhibiting six (6) lands and grooves with right twist). These fragments were of correct type, calibre, configuration as that currently issued to British Military Forces.

Signature . 