Person 7 DSM. SGT (02, I, XII, XVIII)

OTR Person 7 email address

From Wollongong. Joined in '94 (had seen The Fatal Shore). Kapooka aged 23/24. To 1RAR. Did 5 years as a PTI. Did selection in 2001. Nine deployments to Afghanistan and to East Africa.

A freefaller. Trooper in 02 with the 3rd contingent. 2 Squadron. Enjoyable. Long range patrolling. We did not trust any Afghans. Saw that they had nothing. We would wave to the kids.

Not so in 05. They were surly. You felt it the further you went from TK. Sussing each other out. SOTG 1 as a 2IC LCPL with 2 Squadron, split into two troops. SSM Person 91 a good operator. We went to Gizab. Wanted us to go and escort a party back to TK. Met the Police Chief at Gizab. Big pile of ammunition to blow up. They got ambushed. Sheer cliffs. Went to support. Shot up. Couple killed. One bloke died while we were sitting and talking. Found a landmine in the road and BIP. Some had tried to set up an IED.

We went up to support the other troop and escorted them back. Saw the vehicle with the RPG round embedded. Did not go off. Saw the stare, the different bond developed when men have gone through a gunfight.

came to visit. Got the impression he had underestimated the fight we were in. Said he did not expect.

Later promoted to SGT and became a Patrol Commander in 2010 on XII. 2

Squadron. the OC. My first trip as a patrol commander. Satisfying. In 2010 the Commandos were up and running. Weren't doing combined ops. Some silly things happened. incident disappointed. We had to deal with the messages from wives from back home. Is this us? There was the R-S P29 derogatory comment which was misunderstood at the ramp ceremony after the BH crash. Said something about the vehicles being not far enough apart.

Flew to Kandahar to secure the crash site. A mate of CH47 US vehicle coffins. Complaint my fellers were disrespectful. P1 had the machine gun. Footage of it.

Shitbag? P5 and his 2IC R-S close. R-S had been in a fight on IX. King hit punched out ?

Rotation III. P1 from 06 part of the R-S sniper pair. Standard ? engage at same time. Ready, ready, standby. Dead man's click. In their claiming credit. Earlier congratulated on first kill. Witness to R-S claiming credit. (shot the corpse??) R-S made death threats to P1. ie if on the next patrol we get into a contact I will put a bullet in the back of your head.? On own for 20 mins on massive hill at Chora. 'fucking shoot you cowards'. No target indicators. Shoot at bloody rock. Jacket off round in webbing. Shooting at the air. No sighting from drones of enemy streaming up the hill. P1 spotted someone and saw not armed. Clandestine patrol gives thumbs down Heard shots. And then R-S blasts?

FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

NSD 1485, 1486, 1487 of 2018 Date: 22 March 2022 Roberts-Smith v Fairfax Media Publications Pty Limited & Ors

Exhibit No: AI42 MFI No: Assoc: Flyn Wells

MFI No:___

Rocks. US JTAC and British Exchange Patrol Commander Person 33 . 2 x MGs on a six man patrol.

On XVIII a senior patrol commander. XVIII complaint put in by all other PCs. ? not allowed to. Bullshit all through it. R-S fought to get Person 10 on his patrol. But for 5 to 6 months of the build up he was not there because of official VC duties, presenting jerseys to Wallabies etc. Person 19 also to join his patrol.

Plan was tethered goat. He insert by night with another. Patrols north and south. Enemy came through the middle. Blue on blue. Person 10 with an MG in position. R-S did not tell other patrol when moving. He blamed Person 10.

Complaint RSM 2013 with three others. — also with Person 19. Complaint on the Fair Go hotline and Person 10 interviewed. R-S's father since resigned from anti-bullying inquiry. R-S a long term bully. Unit padre holding a service in Perth. Old lady asked how is R-S getting on saying he was an absolute bastard of a kid. Admitted cocaine and steroids use.

When in 3RAR he was bullying guys. In Malaysia OC got drunk. Bashed.

On IX he snotted Person 3. They were having beers and R-S was glaring.

P3 back in Perth had put the bounce on his wife. One bloke had to pull R-S off. Another who could handle himself settled it. (not so R-S)

put up with him between 06-12. He had wanted P1 charged with cowardice. Slandered him. There was a mediation between the two of them in 2013.

An average soldier. Amount of fuck ups. Out of his depth as patrol commander. On XVIII in four and a half to five months he did five jobs. Of 25-30 missions R-S did five including the blue on blue.

Planned the Hekmattullah job. He killed three of our fellows. Scant and confusing intel 3 weeks. Behind by 24 hours. Caught two accomplices. Got out through the Khod valley through N Helmand. Worked around the clock for three weeks.

CPL P4 with R-S 2IC. Early 2012. We killed a bloke. R-S comes and shoots the body. Claiming he killed him. On XVIII. Had a kill board on the door of his room.

R-S did come out to Char Chineh. Lies to get job approval. Near end, targeting Taliban leadership. Not presenting. tethered goats. Loose plan. 0500 ambush. Blew a slab of dynamite and two Taliban came down. Spectre gunship rare arrival. No comms from him. Not answering his radio. Could not explain why he left. Citation made up. Person 15.

Decent contact in Char Chineh early in the trip. Troop Commander. And Deh Raywud. CAPT Person 58 Cha Chineh WIA only two. TP Commander came home. Patrol Commander Person 57 caught a ricochet from an ANA on the same job as R-S. R-S steals the kill. Watchkeeper action this citation. R-S CDS half of it for mentoring.

The VC citation. Lies and embellishment. From 60m away four of us went back in 2012 and walked the ground. Said very effective, intense and sustained MG fire

when it was actually minimal. Engaged an enemy grenadier with an RPG (at point blank range) from a building. Other told him about the window, looked inside and there was an unarmed Taliban. The RPG was outside leaning on a wall. R-S shot and killed him. Drew fire on himself. Not what happened. R-S behind cover. One member of the patrol had killed machine gunner. Others. Patrol Commander prepared grenaded. Did not take off second safety and he threw it to the enemy, gave it to the enemy. Did not know where.

Claimed machine gunner started engaging two other fellows. No bullets being fired at him. Two not under fire. Ran at same time as him, acted together. Of the three R-S ran the least distance.

Cleared rooms. With an empty magazine. One killed by another. R-S shot a dead body and took credit for the kill.

Four blokes told after clearing the position dragged dead bodies. P5 and R-S heard talking about medals. How did they know what each other did? All four filthy. Told two RSMs the full story.

We got back from Tizak at 5am. Crashed at 0630-0700. Told to rest up. One a 2IC went to office. R-S and troop commander (Person 30?) sitting behind a computer. On the day we got back no one had been talking about R-S's actions. Not considered remarkable. We did give credit to Person 5. Terrific decision making. It was his decision to continue the assault. The young trooper who killed the machine gunner later got an MG. Both MG actions allowed the move. They supplied statements. P4 coached to elaborate the distance (R-S) ran. Time under exposure. Supposed to be written in isolation.

A large amount of covering fire was going in to the area. Lots of leaf litter. Some could have already been dead. P1 on the hill had engaged a lot. Wounded and ran in? Patrol Commander collaborated. Person 5.

They did not see what each other did. In cahoots. I recommended P5 for a decoration. MG. Upgraded to an SG.

Person 4 a trooper in 2010. Lovely guy. Champion marksman. Shot at the Olympics.

We were on the ground two hours and hit a number. A lot were cowering, died of wounds. I saw about eight. Shot? blokes with gun in hands. Only two or three outside. Got credit for killing 60-70. Found equipment. 4-50 PKMs, AKs, RPGs.

Confident we killed about sixty.

Made sure they only operated in small groups. Tizak a staging village. Landed under fire. Helos took fire. Engaged from green and another direction. Held up by one MG, maybe two. Still taking fire from high ground. Took two casualties.

P5 's call – assault village – full credit.

P5 and his patrol. Work also to be done on the left flank. Next hours separate clearances

20 past 9 took shots as landed. Last? 7pm. Very good soldiering. When moment came? Stood up. Saw no reluctance to go forward. Little evident CIVCAS. One old fellow wounded. Went out to get a cow. Shot in the hand? He said by the Taliban.

had been as useless as tits on a bull. wounded in the back probably a ricochet as he got out of the helo. One trooper hit in the arm later when moving back. From 's patrol. Casevaced to TK with a dog. made the cal to send him back.
Five patrols on the ground. 1. P5 . 2 Person 29 . 3. Person 44 . 4. P43 . 5. Person 7 . 5 or 6 man patrols. And HQ. 31-32 beret qualified operators and another five. JTAC and medic, signaller. Army video. British bloke on my patrol at Tizak.
Six SGs and 4 VCs. Govt handed out too many. No disparity between VC and SG. Person 25 hit six times himself. No VCs awarded for Afghanistan and Iraq (UK SF??) Next morning an ambush killed ten in three days. 30,000 village.
One week in on the road and and walked to Atiq.
Credit officers gave themselves for Gizab. About 30,000 in the village. Not a planned job. SOCC given helos. Have four available. Phone call blokes having a crack at the Taliban. Landed under fire. Went into contact afternoon to evening.
Also had no intention of going to SWK. had four days of helo and four days rest. Because of Gizab. OC stop planning for Gizab. Wanted ops in support of Kandahar. Same plan for the last few months.
First days Commandos in long range contact. Got intel a Taliban commander in Tizak. Drone searched. Could not see any. Went in two hours later. Opportunity. Thought up against about ten blokes. Next three days we went home. Commandos requesting to be extracted. Lost three fellows crook Tizak. Did not? at first.
Only interested in Person 5 's patrol. R-S became a CPL in 2012. Told his wife never to speak to Person 44 's wife after criticism raised. R-S did not go to the 50th. 1000 people there. Not R-S. story might have been sourced to P4 's wife.
Troop Commander one trip. gets a DSM and a bar from XX, which was a pack up deployment. DSC. Did not go outside the wire for a month and a half. I played rugby with He got a second DSC. Minor ops. Not much to say. Conflicting directions ie pack up and do ops. Going after people with tenuous links to Taliban.
Andrew Hastie known as H. My troop commander early 2015. Came over in 2012 to do a handover deployment (XVIII/IXX). Few things left a bad taste. Helped decide make a move to politics. He not a big fan of R-S. Religious, a loss, principles and moral courage. Good discussions. Not there for ego.
Back in 2013 . They did not have

We got out at right time. If you can't sort it out in ten years it is time to go. Thought becoming a law unto ourselves. Remained professional but things winding down, what do when get out there. Mentality starting to develop. Saw it. Frustration creeping in . (gets a bit wild)
New blokes coming in, reos with guys who had done seven trips. Did not want to look meek. (Need to kill someone to prove myself). People conditioned to brutality. had been in Commandos. Biggest target ever going after. Not a biggy to a lot of fellows. Did not shock me but stupid. If he had spoken to would have said no. says he did not know anything about it.
Commander of ISAF wanted sent home, what I heard. Career man. missed out on CO. too, a pity. Thought a goer. Boof-headed. He brought in warrior mentality. I call myself a soldier. Detest the warrior mentality. Blunt instrument. Over there you have got to think a lot. Almost infantry company commander's mentality.
View from a lot of us there in 2010 he got kudos from Iraq 2003 we thought he was out of his depth in working with two FEs. Took him a while. Gizab and Tizak opportunistic but gets a lot of kudos. He was not handling issue between A and B and they were simple things that could have been sorted out.
We had been down to SWK on five different jobs, leading up to Tizak and all quiet. Mission was to effect enemy ops re impact on TK to stabilise so not so much on the radar. 'Crickets' as we call it.
got killed. scout on XIII. Might have been the first to walk forward. Got a commendation I think. Person 25 a humble fellow.
said R-S made himself PNG. Rarely available. Asked to do an Anzac talk and said no. Too high profile. went to function to honour Locke every year. R-S supposed to be a close mate only went to it once. said to R-S all I ever hear about is what a great bloke. All I ever hear about you is what a cunt. That was it. Turned and walked away. He was in Gallipoli this year. He rang and asked whether they would like me to give a talk on Anzac Day. Yet we knew he was going to be in Gallipoli. So he was testing the water. What the reception would be like. Probably the best-known person in the history of the regiment not welcome.
, he OC, good commander 2 Squadron roll when you have something. Did not go out like before. Blame at FATC. Fellows say target in village but little chance of getting him, don't roll. Intel were under a lot of pressure and copped a lot of flack could pick whether long term intel, BDA, hard to give action. Did not develop enough targets. Some commanders use as excuse. Targets there. Work to be done. Get out and stir things up. Worked long hours and expected to have something ready.
War crimes ever? Yeah probably did. Never saw women and kids lined up against a wall and shot. Shooting a bloke without a weapon yes but a spotter, don't have a problem. I was over there when XX happening.

not accepted.

supported us. Good commander. good. good. had a few words with us over there was not happy with a few things that happened when a CO.

Re VIII and 1 COMM don't have the background and training we have. Told to go and do it. Winter rotation keep things ticking over. Did the best they could. Complex ops at night questionable. Does not surprise passed over MAJ leading.

Everyone proud to be part of the place. Old and bold did not get to deploy from 2000. HQ. Trooper digger mafia. Senior no combat experience. Juniors did. 2005 onwards. Caused lack of respect junior to senior and resentment senior too junior. 2005 onwards. Timor. Only 1 Squadron to Iraq. Failures of SGTs to enforce discipline among juniors. Grow your hair, rock up to work when you wanted mentality came in.

Why we had our cultural review. Esprit de corps excellent. Great mates blokes you have done something with. Cameraderie at squadron level. You know what each other have done. RSMs have worked hard to get back standards, back on track. Young blokes with a sense of entitlement. Gripe about no skimpies in the boozer. But if Chief of Army says it don't have a go at me. I have got to enforce it and they take it out on me.

Countless years of experience with some blokes and young troop commanders come in with no experience. Hardest job to be a troop or platoon commander when you have got tough, hard veterans to try to work with. Some think they can run it their way, and experienced blokes don't give them respect. Some get too close. Some say I appreciate your opinion but.

under the spell of R-S etc. All about image. Drinking piss at 5.30 in the morning. In discussion with one ends up wrestling on the ground. No clothes on and sitting on his chest. What OC doing at the Fat Lady at 5 in the morning? OK to come and find out what is going on over a few beers and get out before you get pissed. Wear jeans and T-shirt with Metallica on it and a pistol in his back pocket. Baseball cap. When doing farewell speech. US helicopter people came down and their CO dressed in uniforms and spoke really well. gets up, fuck this, fuck that. I felt embarrassed. Not Robinson Crusoe. Talking like he was with the boys down the pub.

US have got that panache. They have experience of big ops and could pull it off. Our blokes did not.

After P5 's SG. Phone call from shut up. What trying to achieve? He wants me to shut up because he would be implicated. Apathetic. I can't understand how a bloke can go around bullying others and the bullshit and gets all these honours and awards. I think it is wrong.

Left a bad taste with a lot of fellows. P1 more courage than R-S will ever have. He took absolute shit in first year. I had a run in with him. He was in a vehicle with Locke and R-S behind and could not win, speed up, slow down. Abused him during the build up. Battling, suffering depression.

On XII? Getting ready to go on a job standing outside ready room. R-S came out of the door and said get out of the way or I will fucking kill you. Minor thing. When I found out the full extent of what he copped I commend him. He needed a bit of guidance. Little bloke, no tattoos, did not talk shit. Did not fit the image. Still affecting him in 2013.

When his name put forward, SSM a water operator said heard bad things. I put up hand and said sounds like it is all R-S stuff.

R-S not a bright bloke. Flat out writing a report on one of his men. Now he is supposed to be running Channel 7 in Qld. Can't imagine him writing an annual report.

Like a frill neck lizard when he is threatened it all comes forward and when you put something on him he backs right off. I've stood up to him in front of him and I have seen how he starts lying straight away. Tell me something and walk around the corner and say something different.

He can't mentally intimidate you and if he can't physically intimidate you he backs right off and comes back and sucks up to you. What he did to me. Complete character assassinate you like Person 1 or you are a legend.

Father resigned for personal reasons not long after Person 10 put his complaint in. I was told it came from R-S's wife to a mate of mine's wife he threatened to take me to court. Not 100%, unit or CO to court. He told some he knew people in high places who could fuck my career over.

Another one when he was called back to answer the allegation of P1 and others P1 did say I put in a statement for P1 he flew to Perth and dealt with it dealt with it and told his wife he had sorted out a misunderstanding and you are never to speak to Person 44, with us in 2010. He a close mate. His wife was one of Emma's best friends and a godmother to one of their girls. Said never to speak to her again. R-S and his wife split up at one point and she moved in with a friend and she was saying what she was like. ie he bullies her but now puts up with it for the sake of the good life.

Had big issues over IVF. She moved in with P44 wife. Her mother shattered. Said I know where you are coming from. She not a fan. (indirectly) Cross of Valour recipient function. ? Cross-of-Valour, Coffs Harbour had a few beers with says ex cop told a bully and VC all lies and exaggeration. Dropped a couple of hints. quiet. R-S egotistical. Wants all the attention. thinks he drags the rest along so he can star.

Beforehand he did not give a shit about charities. I have got my views. He is trying to make his reputation look squeaky clean (like taking insurance). Took protection on his name??

More than enough witnesses on bullying, awards, admitted taking drugs and bashed up blokes. Part of a bullying gang at 3RAR. 6ft 6 and 140kgs. Bashing up young blokes.

He is my one and only issue from 14 years with regiment. We did great work in Afghanistan. Good with the task we were given. stands up as an act of gallantry stands with any nation.

2 Sq don't talk about the good stuff but about Ben R-S and to a lesser extent his patrol commander. Subject raised and they will talk for hours.

All four blokes have gone and spoken to the RSMs. One of the RSMs when we brought this to light said what do you want to do about it?

out when this was happening. Person 6 said it is going to come out. Mate I agree with you.

CO 2010. 2011-12. I have not been to a stirrer's in four years. If you want to be a prick you will be found out. Lost its way and got personal. Could attack a trooper. But if nominating an officer or WO could not do it.

Stirrers there to keep humility in the unit. Meant to be a laugh about stuff ups. Pull your head in. Lost direction. Goes on but has toned right down.

and came about in 2011. 1 Squadron not mine. Heard a bit about it. Did PC's course with He worked us hard, toughness there but I did not learn anything. Water ops have this mentality. Got on with him. Don't worry about the toughness, we are all tough. Teach us the skills for when you do the job. Guardian of the old ways to the point of being stubborn.

I got there in 2001 and it changed a great deal in 15 years. It got rid of the peacetime mentality. Blokes might not have been great soldiers but proved themselves in contacts and got their respect that way. Old mentality gone a bit.

R-S 2IC in 2012 Person 4 bullied in to supporting kept on a short leash from the minute they got to TK. R-S and P5 changed story they knew P4 was a primary witness and another fellow I have spoken to.

wrote a story, someone had spoken, whisper P4 's wife. You will get a lot of agreement in getting it wrong about awards. And injuries.

Apathetic, who cares. Every single CO gets a DSC. OCs a DSM. Commendation based on personality rather than performance. After two trips. We have PCs doing nine. I was decorated once, which is more than enough. Some have done six and got nothing.

Person 6 complained about CDS. He was there when R-S assaulted P3 and was there on the ground when R-S standing guard on a compound and took off P6 believes chasing medals. Got away with it.

Look at all his awards, MG two witnesses. VC two witnesses. CDS Person 15 talked up more than what it was. Job up at Cha Chineh. Strong opinions. Joined in the 80s and decorated in 2009.

team. All four were damning. Never spoke to those guys again. Split. R-S and two. Person 18 and Person 4 later got an MG. He was filthy. Four straight up.
British bloke on my patrol. Other three gave statements. Person 29 ally of R-S. Another ally and two against R-S. Witness who saw R-S sitting with with .
RSMs toe party line. P4 worked with P5 . Well done to him.
Four teams hit the ground. P4 's team giving aerial fire support. Others took heavy fire from the start. Mine and P29 's patrol took heavy ground fire. P43 stayed in a reserve position. Our patrol prominent at the start and last to take rounds. Complete troop effect. Needed everyone. 's patrol took a lot of fire, stayed in position and killed a lot of enemy. Kept on the hop. Could not form attack against us.
The Brit on my team recommended for an Australian CG. Ex Para Trooper in UK, got shadow rank of CPL. Exercise Longhook. Came over and was put in my patrol. Proud to have him. He went back two weeks later. He received it. Good job.
After P5 cleared the right flank for the VC action. We moved to orchard. Saw enemy they could not see us. Looking in orchard engaged and killed enemy in an irrigation depression. They lying prone we standing. I peeled back and took cover. He stayed a when they opened fire and he moved forward. Another engaged us from 5m. He threw a grenade. I killed a bloke. There were seven enemy in the orchard.
They were wearing conventional street clothing, no camo, but with AKs and chest rigs.
Person 30 seen at computer next morning by Person 18. Pushing for higher. upgraded it. P30 defends the VC but later said he was sorry he became mixed up in the process.
Re I. First patrol of deployment. Doing a village assessment. Met an crew. A sign of goodwill up at Gizab when we were given a cache to destroy. Blew it and moved back through the Gizab pass. Police Chief was angry. His convoy ambushed. There was a bloke in the back who was dying. Drove through and found the ambush site but they had bugged out.
Harboured up at Gizab pass. Then moved to harbour at Chora. Hold in contact. Were to head to Khas Uruzgan but action in Khod valley so went there to help escort the other team home, from FOB Cobra. Roughly 24 hours after Bagh Khoshak contact. RPG in the grill of troop SGT's vehicle
We were covered in dust when we saw Bagh Khoshak.
On III had a sniper rifle and a spotter lined up. R-S the other in two man team meant to engage at the same time. 'Ready, ready, aim, fire'. R-S

engaged on the last ready and heard the dead man's click. shot the spotter but R-S still claimed the first kill. His rifle had not been properly prepared.
At Tizak XII Person 31 on the roof team. I recommended him for a SOCAUST commendation. He had carried an extra 30 kilos of gear including a Person 57. Two replacements and the Brit.
Tizak 5pm. Clear position. Walked out. P72 got level. Engaged at 15-20m. Missed by inches and then had a stoppage. Person 43 engaged and killed him. R-S engaged the general area. In the Australian newspaper told Person 14 responding to automatic fire he killed him. And what he said in AWM Wartime about my patrol wrong. Not an elevated fortified position.
R-S known as a bully from school days. He has boasted about being part of the 3RAR bullying culture. A friend told of the incident at Butterworth in Malaysia when he knocked unconscious an OC who was drunk. To feed his ego and gain reputation
The incident on XII when rolled on the floor drunk at 0530 was not with R-S but another. And on XII Troop SGT told on the incident outside the ready room when he shoved Person 1 in to the dirt saying 'get out of the way or I will kill you'.
16/2/16
Good detail in the story as if from someone there, so don't buy the Commando angle unless an ex Commando. When we got back from Tizak no one was talking about R-S. Not happening. Only talk three days later being generated by the PC was about R-S. As we know, found out the PC did not see the supposed R-S actions. He was on that side of the building and did not see it. All satisfied we did it together. The one bloke's name we did hear was Person 4 Because he was the one who initially stood up in front of a machine gun and killed this machine gunner, which allowed the others to push and continue forward. From there it was a PC threw the grenade over the top of a building but he did not see where that grenade went. He did not know where the enemy were and he did not know the effects of that. He can't claim that because he did not see it.
That came from a bloke Person 18 and another bloke on the side of that building Person 8 as well. They say with him the whole time. Can't say the grenade had an effect. But can say the two main actions that made a difference were P4 's standing up and taking MG out. Allowed patrol to sweep though. And Person 5 's decision making to go and assault that flank.
That is how it was explained to me by all four of those blokes. There was dead ground and a building, famous building R-S supposed to clear on his own, which was rubbish. Split them into two groups of three, Person 32 , Person 4 and R-S on one side and Person 5 , Person 8 , Person 18 on the other. How it played out

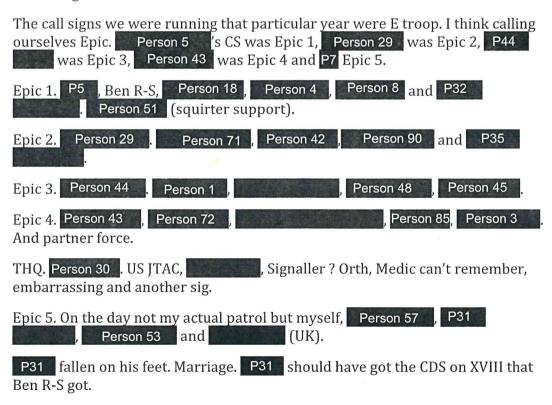
Once got to the outside, sort of relaxation area, thigh high wall the famous defended fortification. Rubbish. Open area thigh high mud wall around it. In there apparently. Could show you a photo of area. Big fence here. Forensically suggest large shoot out that occurred, brother a police office. He looked at it.

Where links, expended cartridges. None there whatsoever. All the shooting happened earlier in the piece when they were forward of this final position in the orchard. Got to this area later on.

We were shooting in to this orchard. There were Apache gun runs on it. There was no way they would have stayed in there. They had pulled back. And by the time R-S almost walked up to this position, 5 bloody metres, not 20 metres and did his action. I have walked the ground. They had pulled back into these buildings.

One of my blokes who went to give them a hand told me. Later on when they were SSMing. When I got there there were only 2 or 3 bodies in that courtyard.

Bloke he (R-S) was supposed to engage at point blank with an RPG an absolute lie. He actually told one of my blokes himself that night, not what later appeared in citation. The weapon they talked about the RPG was on the outside of the building and he was on the inside and R-S shot him through a small window that he could lean through. The bloke wasn't armed. I have no problem with that as he was fighting against us early on. If he expects... Blokes fired up. But it wasn't a gallant act. It should not be written in his citation. R-S himself said the night we got back he was trying to hide whatever and I killed him RPG outside. When he cleared other rooms. He did not charge in on his own and save blokes lives. They all ran together.



Complete team effort at Tizak I know what I did do and what I didn't do. Happy with what my patrol achieved.

Village about one kilometre long as far as the green zone went. Valley running north, south. 3 on high ground to the centre left. 4 and 5 centre, 1? to the south of the village.

My overriding memory is good soldiers, obviously well trained and well equipped carrying out the basics of soldiering to a very high standard. No panic in anyone's voices. Methodical day. Did not see any stupidity. Soldiers can have reputation for not being sharp but everyone stood up. Everyone's grand final. Basics. Lots of common sense talk. Not panicky. Good SA as much as wee could before we moved forward. Nothing rash. Methodical clearing of the village. Go up the guts and got extremely close with the enemy. Not like Derapat not taking anything away, where they stayed where they were.

Give full credit to Person 30 for that, lost some over the years. R-S originally gave credit to Person 29 before I let him know he did not make decision it was Person 30 , credit where credit due. P5 and he don't do that, give it to themselves.

We were sitting in office after Tizak writing after action reviews, awards. P5 on computer. I saw this. He has and spoke to and spoke to - what are you writing there? Writing up one of my fellers. P5 looked over shoulder. Next minute, fucking hell you have got to think long and hard about that. It will put a cat among the pigeons. He was writing Person 1 up for a SOCAUST commendation and here is P5 getting angry when he did not have a clue of what P1 did up on that hill. This is the shit that P1 put up with year after year. Risked his life, carried out actions that had a direct effect on saving other lives and yet they could not give the bugger the small credit that he was bloody due.

At the least the fire they were putting on which P1 was a part of. It is on Youtube. There is a round that lands an arms length in front of P1 's head and he continues shooting. MAG58 you can see on the video.

Poor old P1 initially went into a water troop I troop, back in 2004-5. It was shocking R-S, P5 all these Alpha males, bullies, other fellows. P1 came from an Army reserve bg, he wasn't big or overly fit. He is a fit bloke, holds his own but all he needed was a bit of direction. Younger bloke back then. Character assassination put on him by those fellows and believed by officers like

See stoppage. MAG 58 if anyone says shoot for a sustained period of time without stoppages is kidding themselves. Bloody gas system, can have it up too high or too low. Can be firing too fast, too slow, when putting rounds through of course you are going to get a stoppage. 35-40 degrees on the day. Stinking hot.

sitting in SOCCE drinking coffee with his feet up on the table. He can't comment on anything. Not even there. Jumped on the glory. Not even in uniform that day I think. Sitting in jeans and a T shirt.

R-S raised the stoppage stuff? not there. Watch video footage yes. But anyone would have. 2400 rounds through that thing. About 5 left. Early stages a lot of rounds through it. My impression implicated, covering up. Start of 2014 he and posted to US. I had a 45 min conversation with All I am doing 4 blokes – a whole squadron filthy because things said to happen that didn't happen. We want to get to bottom. He says leave it alone R-S deserves VC. I said as far as blokes on the ground there that day a lot of bullshit being said. A lot of lies said. As the OC like to think you concerned by being lied to. Basically upgraded by blokes who were not on the ground. R-S citation basically written up by people who did not see it. P5. Person 30 he acknowledges. and could not have seen it as they were sitting back in TK.

One bloke who did not come out because he was crook reckons did not know what was going on for the first couple of hours. I get so angry with these officers taking credit. We were sitting in the SOCCE and we had these helos. Given for a single day, otherwise a down period. About 1 o'clock in the afternoon I remember and all of a sudden nothing doing. Phone call came through there is a request for a couple of blokes up in Gizab. They are fighting Taliban do you want to get up there and give them a hand.

probably because there was nothing on, bloody oath let's get up there. Get up there. Most of the action happened that afternoon. 4 or 5 days up there killed about 10 blokes. This was the uprising that supposedly liberated about 30,000 people. Did not go back again. We left an crew up there but even they pulled out saying nothing is happening.

Tizak. On that particular day before we headed off I was down to 3 blokes.

Myself, and P53 and only going to be a quick in and out job. What Tizak started as and they said you might as well stay behind. And I said bloody hell I am not staying behind. I will be the roof team. I ended up getting Person 31 and Person 57. P31 ended up carrying And my blokes assaulting as well.

He carried take it off extend it. Get up him, myself. To be PC getting looking into compounds at what is going on. Person 57 got on roof as well.

When we flew down landing on high ground in what was the overwatch. With THQ. Small high ground to centre left of the village set up. Position overlooked by high ground to the east of the valley deemed to be better closer to the vegetation.

Epic 1, P5 's patrol and THQ Bravo the TP SGT Person 51 they were in the same helo, aerial fire support, squirter support. When they landed they stayed so if anyone squirted out say on a motorbike they could interdict and provide fire support from the helo. They remained in the helo.

I was in a helo with Person 29 and in another helo was Person 43 and our partner force. We landed in direct south in open area centre south of the village. took fire as we were coming in to land from the high ground to the east.

Basically land whichever terrain dictates. Pilots only land on an approved HLZ. We landed they fly away we shake out and move to target. P44 lands centre west of village, P5 stayed in the helo, myself P43 and P29 and partner force landed to S of village.

Generic plan, always four patrols landing incl partner force. Patrol doing overwatch and another staying doing squirter control. No complaints. When we planned a job that is basically what we did in mountainous areas like SWK.

Partner force took a casualty straight off the helo and sat behind a wall and that was it. We pushed forward and Person 51 the TP SGT got them to lend a hand and carry stuff. They did not do anything. Not a thing.

The last I saw of the equipment recovered was it handed over to the RSM. All the equipment spread out. probably did want it. I doubt it handed over. More than likely destroyed. Some could have come back and handed over to our museum??

02. 2 SQ. Completely bloody incident free. 3 SQ had a smaller one. Nothing to write home about. 1 SQ main action Anaconda. There was an incident gunplay with 3 SQ I was brand new to unit.

2002 thought fondly excitement international old school desert LRPs heavy loads climbing up mountains. Exciting sitting in hides reporting, classic recon role. When mention to a fellow these days, why have to do all that? Carry 50-70 kg packs with webbing, sustaining yourself for seven days to two weeks. Now go out for no more than five hours. An old skill gone now. No exposure to it.

Hard yards driving around climbing mountains to put up OPs. Martac basically hearts and minds. Understand where they are coming from. Not stirring them up. Putting your POV. Listen to their complaints. Big shuras. We just want to let you know. Know you can't do anything. We will go back and tell HQ. Every single village. Poor. No electricity. How tough they do it. Just an ear for them. Like turning on TV for a day. Something different.

I was in same troop but different patrol to ... Feeling we got by end humanitarian mission rather than invasion required. We covered country from Bagram, Kabul, Ghazni, Gardez in those areas quiet. and would always get into attack. Mind you always driving on same roads and getting ambushed. Those border areas still plenty of action AQ Taliban mix. We went to Khost v quiet but more volatile later on.

Young bloke happy to be there for first trip but could have come home. Already planning Iraq leave us in Kuwait but 1 SQ went. We no vital role. More political apart from getting good experience.

R XVIII.

Blue on blue about a week into it, probably the second job for the deployment. First time we went out the gate was to go and catch a Taliban leader in Der

Rafshan just north of TK. First job we got him, an afternoon job, two hours. My bloke.

The second job BD had been killed and basically R-S's revenge job. He came up with it, poorly planned. Listened to his orders, did not use the word but that is what the job was all about. Right in the area where Blaine was killed. Plan to go back in, his thinking go back and kill the blokes that killed Didds, basically a revenge job. Straight back, not to the actual area, in that area to the north.

The fellow Didds was going after on the day he was killed did not present again for the rest of that trip. It was just speculation he will be up there. Planning, basically tethered goat to draw him out and try and kill someone.

Shitfight where blue on blue, Person 10 incident. Poor job. Two patrols out n the ground, R-S and another. They inserted through the night to set up ambush position and basically R-S set up ambush. How they should have done it – set up his patrol on the edge of the green and the dascht. The other patrol to his south in the green. Other should have been to the east and west so he was running linear to the edge of the green. By putting second patrol to the south, about 200m apart, question should have been put to R-S, issue caused blue on blue if an enemy comes between who is and is not engaging? Causing ambush and that is exactly what ended up happening.

We weren't targeting anyone, we are going back up there to draw them out and kill blokes in that area. Disruption at best. Crickets, only disruption to ourselves.

Person 57 WIA also in Chora different job, getting off the helos running to the targets and one of the partner force fired at whatever. He got a ricochet low down to the back of his leg. He stayed on. A minor bit of frag to the back of his leg. Did not effect hi, made sure it was not infected. He kicked on. Did not miss any jobs.

Char Chineh job August 10-11. P6 detests P58, goes back to a previous deployment. Mutual. I had no problem with him, we got on. P58 wounded in an all day job. His wound serious enough for his trip to be over and done with. Hit down near his ankle. Went through between bone and archilles. I think it hit the bone and he had some sort of spiral fracture to his leg, tibia? Home to pretty good rehab had to go through. Stuffed him around for a while.

Char Chineh info on a target, not a great deal of info, Decided to launch and flew up there to compound detained a number of fellows. Not the bloke we were after. He got away. While we were around got ICOM chatter they were going to have a go at us. We killed two blokes, spotters. One came in Apaches saw him and we rushed out and ambushed this fellow.

There for a couple of hours. Then we moved to a HLZ and chatter got heavier, don't waste bullets at blokes on ground, when the helos come in have a crack at them. Stepping back – while waiting for helos got word ISR 4-5 armed blokes to the north of village. Did we want to got and get them and might our target be one of them?

P58 asked me. Do you think you have got your bloke? Hard to tell, don't know. Got to go and get them. Never liked bouncing one job to another but if we go back to TK going to lose him so if going to do it do it now.

Quick plan to pick up, bounce off HLZ to where 5 blokes were and roll them up. Four patrols landing, my patrol stay in helo as AFS, agreed to at HQ. Pick HLZs out. Good to go. Moved to extraction HLZ. Helos came in. All of a sudden started firing RPGs and helos, shooting etc. One bloke underneath firing up at belly. Watched the RPG fly through the sky. Missed the helo by 5-10m, shat myself expecting this helo to come tumbling out of the sky.

While this was going on a complication. Helo picked us up. At our HLZ we had 12-13 blokes getting on, because middle of summer and altitude had issues with weight. Saw one you head off to other HLZ and could not see where it was. This bloke nickname starts running through the green. He said did not have a clue where I was going. Looked up to orientate and kept running. Finally got to HLZ.

We shooting at where we thought enemy were and other patrols doing the same. We all got on the helo picked up and took off. Plan to bounce to other HLZ, should have taken all of 2-5 mins. Get up in the sky and 5 becomes 10, 10 becomes 15-20 my headset not working, P58 back to me in helo. Did not know what going on.

Turned out no one knew where was. Asked R-S is on your helo? When jumped on got in the front. R-S at the back and could not see him. R-S saying no. P58 – but I sent him to your helo. R-S – no he is not on the helo. Twenty minute conversation.

In the meantime terp listening to ICOM chatter and is telling me they are all down there. We doing figures of eight. They saying if they come back get yourselves ready and shoot at the helo. I am trying to get a message at yelling too late mate the job's off. That got missed and we turn and make a run for HLZ. Righto it is on. Thankfully they did not know where we were going to land. I was AFS, opposite side bird. One of my blokes said he could see at least three armed enemy running out of the village. Running back into the green.

We could not shoot out of the helos and my bloke could not explain to the door gunner where he saw so they got away. We landed and rolled up a couple of blokes we thought could give us info. Questioned and we start getting engaged about 600m further to the E.

This village we landed on in the dascht. In the open. Person 31 taken his partner and clearing compound. I doing some TQing of these blokes. R-S and Person 57 pushed down to give us some cover out of the green and engage from green. P58 behind a small cow pen reporting back to HQ. covering the rear.

We then started getting engaged. Apaches gone home to get refuelled which is why, they knew there was no support from the sky. 600m away, outranged us with AK47s and good cover. Had a general idea where they were but did not

have heavy enough weapons with the range to engage effectively. So we basically hunkered down just took it. P31 continue to conduct his clearance. They were putting some effective fire hitting the buildings and ground around us. We were comfortable, but bloody P58 decided being a young and impetuous officer he would have a crack so he steps out from behind this wall to have a crack with his M4 at 400m and sure enough they hit him in the ankle. I might also add one of my blokes Person 90 (Tizak 2010) he stepped out to have a look and took a direct hit in the chamber of his M4. Now useless. He lucky but out of the fight. Our blokes having a bit of a crack.

A bit of confusion the medic not in a position where he could see P58 handed over to me. He was feeling faint and worried about losing consciousness. I thought shit he may have been hit in the femoral artery and suffering blood loss. Asking fellows with him what state he is in. Did not want to call helos in.

Medic running around, all over the place under fire, got to P58 and patched him up. Called for a normal extraction not medivac. By this stage Apaches back. Got out of there. Started 10am and finished up about 6pm. Day turned out to be more than what it was. Rolled too early without enough info and missed our target. Ended up getting evacuated and another almost killed.

Biggest incident for trip. Lessons learned. should have stayed with us. Could have got off relanded and we all sorted ourselves out. Blokes excited a bit of gunplay but addressed for the rest of the trip.

Inexperience on P58 's part to send off alone. Because he was a BH pilot knew only take 12 can't get on. Could have lifted off and put back down. Could not sleep that night, what if we had left him on ground? Inexperience learned the hard way. When confusion on helo should have said day is done lets go home. Enemy able to reorganize. Thankfully helos not hit, pilots quite nervous. I gave P58 cutthroat signal but he the boss. Went against our own advice not to bounce from the ground. Too rushed. Plan back at HQ and go back out. I take blame for that because lose time going back.

Smart on them can't win fight on the ground but go for the helos. Every gun in Char China going for them. Near misses. Lucky.

21 October know everything about it. Expressed opinion before it happened. Late in the trip. Opinion of everyone R-S had a quiet trip. Out of depth as a PC not surprising considering in two previous years off doing VC shit. Cynical view most of the blokes put plan together to get shot at, led a patrol under fire to get a gong for leadership.

Once again a tethered goat job where he would go and sit in the bush. out of FOB Cobra to personally insert him and continue along road. Enemy come running through green zone. R-S in ambush position get to kill a number of blokes.

Issue was when he put the proposal two, three weeks beforehand. Got all the PCs in. I said look R-S. Excuse he wanted to get target never heard about to show

himself. I said let's go up there together. Whole troop do it as a night job go up there and run amok and if that doesn't get them on their comms nothing will. Oh yeah, yeah. Pays that off and goes with a lone patrol. His prerogative. Righto, no target, we are here to target and we have got targets on the go. This should not get in the way of targeting.

He said it won't go up at night and be back by 0600. I said you know we start targeting at I think 0800. He said no I will be back at 0600 I will be buggered I know but we will crack on. Fill your boots. I know patrol not overly keen.

This is when lies started. Lied to me, the TC, OC to XO because he had to put in a request for a Spectre gunship. As rare as rocking horse shit over there and people in bigger and more dangerous areas than us requesting them. R-S lied to get the gunship approved by saying a night-time SR patrol. He flew to FOB Cobra and lied to to get them on board. Their OC not happy did not approve till the end when he saw the plan. He said he wanted at least two overwatch teams watching the convoy. R-S had to readjust drawing more and from our troop.

All set. Picked his ambush location. I said what is your intel to put it there? Char Chineh is a massive valley. Why there? He said I think that is where they come through. That's where we were last time. I said that green zone is over a kilometre and a half wide and you are adamant they are going to run within 300m of your position when they have got all that area.

Loose. I sat in on his orders the would leave FOB Cobra and drive on the N side of Char Chineh Valley he dropped off inserted him and he got compromised within half an hour. He walking along and got to location and sets up ambush patrol. He bumps up his team to about eight.

Contradiction. He is got it approved by saying it is an SR patrol, Spectre gunship on board by saying, but put in an ambush, which makes it a fighting patrol. At 0500 and sun came up after 0600, supposed to be back by 0600.

Tells start rolling down the road and all the enemy is going to start running in and my eight are going to clean up 100 Taliban. He did not wait for to start rolling forward, he goes and blows a slab. Idea was did not want to make plan to work but to draw Taliban down.

Ended up working. Two spotters came down. About 0800. I walked in to SOCCE by this stage and said where is R-S? XO looks up at screen anger on his face and points as if to say still out there. I was furious. roll forward and come across what looks to be an IED. That goes to shit. Ends up being two hours trying to deal with IED. Don't move again.

Two spotters heard on ICOM. Know down here compromised earlier but can't find them. So according to those there R-S fires 40mm grenade. Heard something go down and get killed. Spotters in the ROE so not critical. But that draws more blokes who start shooting at R-S ensconced in compound. They are safe.

We are back at SOCC and don't know anything R-S sending nothing. All we got were in contact. Report six motorbikes coming down road, two on each with

RPGs and machine guns hanging off their backs. What the bloody hell going on? Trying to radio his radio operator, Cobra, everyone. He is not saying a word.

Turning and pointing at Person 15. Slinking at back. Disgraceful not the standard. We have a target in TK and could not roll as had to be QRF for R-S. Boys coming in and seeing, why aren't we rolling? Said get them ready for Char Chineh.

Turns out he hunkered down in compound. Safe as houses. They shot at compound for about 20 mins. P4 the R-S JTAC got the Spectre to fire a bit of 40mm into the general area, did not have a clue where they were and stopped fire. After 20-40 mins all over. R-S then comes on comms and said no need for QRF all sorted, all good. Going to leave here walk about a kilometre marry up and head back to FOB Cobra

The signaller with him what the fuck doing that for, come all this way, enemy right out there. The right question. On video seen not heard. Fucking shut up cunt we are out of here. They leave, sig goes, bloody waste of time. They leave.

They get back to TK about 1400 target, nice juicy watching all morning. Our as per directive protect TK basin but he is gone, bugged out missed target.

Meantime boys who had a gutful writing cynical smart arses comments on our white board in troop line. We in SOCC patrol commanders etc looking for more targets and R-S comes storming in to the SOCC bloody P7 I want to speak to you blokes right now. Good mind to tell him to piss. He starts banging on. I have got a sense of humour but when my boys out there taking fire and risking their lives and I come back to read that shit I am pissed off.

Hold it right there. I said no need for your boys to take fire. What were you doing blowing a slab in your ambush? Straight away that little mouse that runs that little wheel in his head could not think quick enough. All there. Everyone knows it. Not an ambush a listening post. I said no I sat in on your orders. Meant to be an SR patrol blowing slab against orders. Why?

He said rang on radio and wanted me to blow a slab so they could the enemy's position. Bullshit you the commander why not say no and follow the plan. Start moving forward. Report all comms, you did not say anything about He ducked that.

I said why did you lie, back at 0600 when this going on. the XO getting nasty phone calls from Told spectre gunship want to hand off to someone else. Reckless and we miss on target down here. He. Did not ask for QRF. And requesting info for an hour. Pulls out notebook I was sending this is what I wrote down. I said you did not say a word, a whole SOCC as evidence not sent, three different means to get hold. Did not get on to us on one.

I know. He could come back and give his own version of events he was in contact and at least 6-12 enemy. When he got back on his own walked into OC's office.

And P15 being the spineless mollusc did not ask why did you lie? Approved based on what you told. And against what you told.

TC Person 86 ? beforehand went to and said boss we are being lied to, railroaded before job. All said to R-S was this job necessary. R-S saw red, so much time and effort put in. R-S then storming back in to where I was sick of this stabbed in the back by my mates pointing at me and P86. Told you it is bullshit and don't go fucking accusing in front of soldiers. He storms out.

Tizak. Number of people say never gives actual detailed description of what happened. Sat in on historian Peter Pedersen interview at AWM. Spends a lot of time justifying himself to other people.

He in office on his own. I am chasing info. Person 25 had got SG and some talk about not getting VC. Some in 1 SQ dirty P25 missed out definitely worthy because of lies R-S told. Out of blue starts bagging P25 out - that contact, that was fucking piss, nothing to that. I said mate he ran in front of MG 5 m away to rescue mate and got shot six bloody times. Kidding. Then starts getting personal about P25 a shot soldier not good enough to do delta exchange.

V sensitive to anything being said. He would front blokes. You talking about me. Everyone says does not deserve. But never fronted me. I was vocal and asked questions. In 2012 he asked what P7 saying a mate of us both. Person 4 had on shortest leash kept on side. He was vocal and Person 32. P4 's wife no shrinking violet fronted R-S a number of occasions.

P4 , a good but not outstanding soldier started getting put on courses before his time and deservedly so and ends up getting MG and R-S said to me he was vocal in getting P4 MG.

Put this to Person 30. Nothing to do with R-S. If any all be looked at. He had ear of Chief of Army. RSM of Army, politicians etc.

did go through a period where he was sort of supportive knowing R-S best way to get MG??? One who saw both sides in my patrol Person 53.

Nicknamed ' ' ' On a subject course P4 told him everything. Then in 2012 P4 defended R-S. Corroborated story to keep pressure on R-S. Then when MG came through I think he wanted it to settle down and not look like an arsehole.

Now he can't sleep at night. Big issues re his time with R-S. Now quite vocal. Gone and told R-S support P10 on bullying case and VC bullshit. Part of that group to go to two RSMs to give their version of events.

Day one, all me, me, me. Award. Then the false humility comes in and he was looking after us. Only one he looking after was P4 . He would not have cared less about P4 if he had not said a word.

Green on blue. I was PC in charge of jobs to get Hekmattullah. P4 was R-S's 2IC.

info most vocal getting H out of TK. That afternoon got info H might be running out of Mirabad. Sent Person 31 in a helo to do vehicle interdiction. COI watched with ISR and got info H on motorbike with someone on back with burkha. Could be him. Get the VI helo out there to interdict. Caught Emerald Panther and turned out the person on the back was a local prostitute.
We brought EP in for questioning. Now had a COI as well. We going to assault. Might still be there. Half troop got driven in on back of old jingle truck. My patrol and another doing W side, outer suburb on edge of TK Mirabad. my scout.
cover corner in case squirt. Someone else puts , went up second bloke comes running out at the back. sees him and jumps off and grabs him. He wrestles, starts fighting grabs rifle. Once gets hold of pistol grip he kills him. Too dark. Might be H. Did not know. Had a KIA not H. Gave me description. feared for his life and got hold of rifle killed and fell under ROE OK.
Then found out R-S landed on other side in a helo I did not see. They had an EKIA and when they came back R-S gave pretty much the same version of events. EP did not give info. That is how played out. Supporter of H left compound and two blokes squirted from compound.
Re psych counselling a cover up. Cynical. Bullshit. If he had problems?? Happy to kill whomever he had to kill. He never had a problem. Killed who he had to kill. Knew he was under investigation for bullying but not know questioned re killing.
Know defence lawyers questioned Person 48 about incident.
My opinion. We got out of Afghanistan at right time. If can't solve a problem in ten years get out. A sense became a law unto ourselves time right to get out. Lot of frustration told to do a job. Pointless, fruitless.
R-S wife and sware of issues. Blokes suffering depression because of lies and bullying, character assassination. R-S called to answer questions and got off scott free. Mediation, lied all way through. When he got home to his wife Emma said sort out a misunderstanding but never to talk to Person 44 's wife again.
She knows about him but turns a blind eye. History disgraceful, C'man of Australia Day Council. Blokes still angry talk about it for hours on end.
Come unstuck. Saw what he is like over a long period of time. Takes on small plokes, P19, P1. Lies he told.
unassuming. Not bombastic. When R-S goes to lunches hear he is lying. Blokes been there taking credit for things he did not do. He puts himself in that position. Psychopath. Mad story.
Person 4 spoke it come out book by 'told unit bigger than ndividual. Cold shoulder. Complaints death threats 2006. would

know. P31 spoken approval. CO rang him and SR at Tizak etc. I saw R-S at Gallipoli 3 m away but he did not talk. He knows. Surf boat race service.

Very proud of where come from and what unit achieved. Issue with one or two who felt above the unit. The unit had opportunity to stop it early on and did not. Frustration, anger and depression. Tell good points and warts and all bad points.

Weight of evidence re Tizak. Anger and frustration when mention one bloke's name incredible.