

**Person 14**. SGT. SASR. 27/2/18.

Born and bred in Perth. Married to an [REDACTED] he met in Afghanistan.

Amazing, vivid description of [REDACTED] A former [REDACTED]

The [REDACTED] the most rugged he has ever undertaken. Back in 1999 intimidating staff. 0200 swims 'flogged' in sub 60 minute trials. [REDACTED]  
'I was athletic, played footy etc, but until then did not know what pushing gather limits was'.

SASR selection easier. But he chose to be a land operator. The wateries were too much like a club and having joined the Army he wanted something more closely associated with weapons and infantry. But his [REDACTED] gave him a rare ability to challenge the wateries.

Deployed on Rotation I (2005) with 2 Sq just after joining. Was at Bagh Koshak. 'Awesome'. Later was at medals ceremony with [REDACTED] when MGs awarded. Overheard Matt Locke say, 'we're getting that'.

Did Timor 06 and Kanimbla. 2 Sq disbanded. Went to 1 Sq for Timor 07. Rotation V with E Troop 3 Sq. 2 Sq reraised and did 09 Röt IX. **Person 6** his PC. The early rotations had paid dividends. Now a trooper scout. In a Water patrol as a Landy. 80% night ops.

**Person 4** s first Afghan deployment. [REDACTED] Recalls **Person 5** a PC referring to him as a 'rookie', saying 'we've got to blood the rookie'. **P5** dominating and by then R-S finding his feet. At this stage they avoided working with the partner force. Remembers R-S 'fading off' on the Depthcharger job (which angered **Person 6**). 'It was crazy. We were extracting and we could not find him'.

Whiskey 108/9 well remembered. Only time it rained. Camped out unexpectedly on high ground getting drenched under the V shaped BM hull. Gunshots. Heads up like Meerkats. Scanning with his sniper rifle. Saw ins manoeuvring against infantry.

Clear hot. Advanced in daylight across open ground thinking 'I am going to die today'. Approached a bunker occupied by 7 to 8 guys. Had to cross a log bridge. His way was to hit it at speed and trust his momentum. Laughs when he recalls **Person 6** negotiating it 'like a ballerina' 'princessing along' and saying 'oh shit' as he fell in. There is a good photo taken by 7RAR of the approach. **P24** BK **Person 24** as opposed to Mark Donaldson VC – the BK is for Bagh Koshak) carrying a 7.62 Maximi.

Initially **P5** 'adamant he had to be the lead assault patrol'. But when discovered action tended to follow they flipped the arrangement. [REDACTED] was the Alpha and [REDACTED] the Bravo. **P43** [REDACTED] led another patrol but he was always sidelined – accused of being soft. **Person 72** [REDACTED] in his patrol.

Saw a bloke but did not take the shot. Soon after saw an ins with a weapon moving, spotted through broken cover. Estimated where he would emerge and shot him. SSE and could not see where bullet struck. On closer inspection saw he had been shot neatly through the cornea.

E Troop went in. **P5** s patrol seen through the doorway of their next compound. R-S had an M-14 and **P4** a Minimi. Understood **P4** had shot an old guy with a prosthetic leg.

FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

NSD 1485, 1486, 1487 of 2018 Date: 10 February 2022  
Roberts-Smith v Fairfax Media Publications Pty Limited & Ors

Exhibit No: A63

MFI No: \_\_\_\_\_

Assoc: Flyn Wells

R-S was by then getting actively involved in TQing (tactical questioning). He tended to go off and do things away from the rest of us. (Hints but does not describe abuse) Remembers them stopping two blokes who had bags with multiple sims and currency. V suspicious.

Thinks as time went on the Colonel Kurtz 'Apocalypse Now' factor took hold. R-S had 'gone up the river'. 'No one was stopping him even though we saw it coming'.

**P14** returned in 2012. In [REDACTED] so was often attached as sixth patrol sometimes working with R-S. Critical of poor prep and thought **Person 19** a very good soldier who got a bad deal. R-S a CPL in a patrol commander's slot. He became known as 'Achilles', their way of identifying him without him knowing. Saw the kill board on the door.

Went on a job that turned out to be a dry hole and stopped on the way back at Tizak. When R-S took him across their ground where VC was earned he thought things did not seem to stack up. ie distances covered and the size of the wall. R-S told him there about the dead man's click saying this is where I shot the bloke who tried to kill **P72**. **P72** not angry about it later when this was discussed. (**P43** shot the ins, not R-S)

Also went on the [REDACTED] job after the green on blue. They went in by road. Found four or five dudes hiding under a blanket. **Person 48** struggled with one bloke and shot him. On the other side of the compound shots also heard and **Person 41** came by asking, 'has anyone got a throw down'. (This appears to be in reference to the second person killed by R-S – in the back of the head???)

Did not go to Darwana but heard about the cliff incident and the river/rocks kill.

By 2012 more integrated with the WAKAs. Remembers R-S on approach to a job suddenly changing everything and shouting 'fuck we are going straight for the VRI'. (Very reliable info – [REDACTED]). This meant plans went out the window. R-S hops out and runs straight for the VRI. He was surprised when compounds where locals were spotted were bypassed. Seeing this he and **Person 27** went off as a pair and cleared a compound where they found six guys.

Caught up 20 mins later. R-S TQing. Suspicious about one bloke and wanted to blow him away. **P14** told him he was one he had PUCed 'in the compound you bypassed' so had an alibi.

Then spotted discolouration on a wall, chipped it open and a large cache of RPGs etc fell out. Turned on the guy in the compound. WAKA troop commander was a guy almost as tall as R-S. A terp was also there, 'a young guy with a mullet who loved mouthing Americanisms'. **Person 32** also. Heard R-S say to the WAKA, 'get your men to shoot him'. And then, 'if you don't I will'. The WAKA shot him with his M4.

Did you see this? 'Yes'. (Seen through porthole?) There was a problem with recording the man as a PUC and/or EKIA as the count had already gone in over radio.

Thinks it was the last job in 2012 out east of TK, probably October.

Re Koran Ghar, smoke grenade stuff not believed, and patrolling down hill to chase someone across open ground poor soldiering.

Heard they story about **Person 78** shooting the dad in front of his boy. Getting pissed at a wedding and giving up OPSEC. Madly into the Spartan stuff. Enjoying being away from Perth.