From: STEWART, Bob bob.stewart.mp@parliament.uk Subject: RE: "Difference between a Tornado and a torpedo"

Date: 28 October 2015 at 11:11

To: Anthony Heaford

IMCEAEX-

Cc: NICHOLAS, David P nicholasdpb@parliament.uk, SPELLAR, John john.spellar.mp@parliament.uk, SMEETH, Ruth ruth.smeeth.mp@parliament.uk, SHANNON, Jim jim.shannon.mp@parliament.uk, MOON, Madeleine madeleine.moon.mp@parliament.uk, MERCER, Johnny johnny.mercer.mp@parliament.uk, GRAY, James JamesGrayMP@parliament.uk, CHAPMAN, Douglas douglas.chapman.mp@parliament.uk, BENYON, Richard richard.benyon.mp@parliament.uk, RHYS, James RHYSJ@parliament.uk, WILLOTT, Antony willotta@parliament.uk, BEECH, Nicholas BEECHN@parliament.uk, RAMSAY, Susan RAMSAYS@parliament.uk, SIM, Morgan simmb@parliament.uk, CROWTHER, Sybil CROWTHERS@parliament.uk, AVERY, Katherine katherine.avery@parliament.uk, STRAKER, Robert robert.straker@parliament.uk, BENNETT, Ruth ruth.bennett@parliament.uk, Dr Julian Lewis MP

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Dear Mr Heaford.

Thank you for your e mail which irritated me. I will respond – just this once as I don't intend to get into some form of e mail dialogue with you. But I will make a few points back though.

I wonder why you didn't say this when the investigation was ongoing? You were there on the ground. Please don't argue that you were told or bullied into saying nothing – every soldier has the right (and a duty) to have his or her say when things go wrong as they clearly did in Bastion. That is well established in British Army doctrine as I know from experience.

This matter was dealt with in a very serious matter and the House of Commons Defence Committee did visit the location and write a report on it. I was part of that visit. You have been referred to that report and the MOD answer by the Committee Clerk. Just because you did not agree with it yourself does not make it wrong.

You also allege that you were given orders which you refused as they were war crimes. Let me tell you that soldiers should report such orders and I wonder why you did not do so.

My final comment back to you is that when trying to make a point it is better that you don't also include insults (the tornado/torpedo analogy and an accusation that the House of Commons Defence Committee is complicit in a cover-up) if you want people to take you seriously. That comment was a stupidity by a man who should have known better and your mistake was to repeat it. Based on the fact that you were misguided enough to repeat such rubbish against members of the House of Commons Defence Committee which takes evidence impartially and I have doubts about what you say as well, I will not respond again to any e mail you send me.

Bob Stewart

MP for Beckenham

From: Anthony Heaford [

Sent: 28 October 2015 10:15

To: STEWART, Bob; SPELLAR, John; SMEETH, Ruth; SHANNON, Jim; MOON, Madeleine; MERCER, Johnny; MCGINN, Conor; GRAY, James; CHAPMAN, Douglas; BENYON, Richard; RHYS, James; WILLOTT, Antony; BEECH,

Nicholas; RAMSAY, Susan; SIM, Morgan; CROWTHER, Sybil

Cc: NICHOLAS, David P

Subject: Re: "Difference between a Tornado and a torpedo"

Having received a reply from Senior Committee Assistant David Nicholas referring me to the existing Camp Bastion Attack Report & the MoD/Government's response i wish to reiterate the following:

• The reason for my submission is that critical information relating to the airfield raid appears to have been withheld from the DSC. I am trying to correct that.

If the DSC will not acknowledge and investigate my claims fully then i will consider them complicit in the MoD & Government's coverup of the British Senior Command's monumental failings and possibly criminal activities.

My response to Mr Nicholas's email is copied below. An additional point to enlighten you to the realities of the MoD's unaccountability is the fact that my Platoon was <u>ordered</u> to lie to visiting politicians regarding unresolved faults with the new Foxhound vehicle during their visit to Camp Bastion in Summer 2012.



If the DSC struggles to tell the difference between a Tornado and a Torpedo then i'd suggest that is only because it suits the MoD to prevent genuine or effective oversight of their activities.

Anthony Heaford

Mr Nicholas,

(2nd copy with corrections - excuse me i am incredibly stressed and still suffering repercussions from my experiences serving in our military, over 3 years ago now)

Thank-you for your contact. I am very aware of the DSC report, particularly the conclusion that includes:

Para.48 "The MoD has been obstructive and unhelpful to us as we tried to establish the facts surrounding the attack."

It was reading this report on the day it was published (it's announcement hidden away in the 05.30hrs Radio 4 News Briefing) that prompted me to contact the DSC in the first instance.

My evidence and testimony provide details previously withheld from the DSC:

- a. That the opium harvesting was not only tolerated by the British Command, it was actively protected. My orders that day were that the ANA & ANP were harassing the compound immediately adjacent to the poppy field and that if any ANA or ANP approached the area we were to report it immediately. Having a pair of senior officers visit my guard tower that day too, and leave the tower giggling like schoolboys when i pointed out the opium harvesting is still beyond my comprehension.
- b. There was a stated and practiced policy from the senior command not to punish soldiers caught sleeping or otherwise neglecting their duties whilst on guard. This was a huge frustration to the RAF Regiment guard commander, a Sergeant - one of the most capable and professional men i met during my service.
- c. Reports that the Tongan guard were denied night vision / thermal imaging equipment on a moonless Afghan night items of kit Tower 11 certainly had, and which i found absolutely essential to the role. I first heard this anecdotally in Camp Bastion on 15th September 2012, from a Corporal, as been the main cause of the breach. I have since seen the allegation in print twice here in the UK and yet there's no mention of it in the report. From my experience of many guard duties i would say this was the single greatest contributory factor.

Two US Marines died, £200 Million of kit was destroyed and the British military's reputation left in tatters because our senior command appeared to consider their responsibilities as a box ticking exercise.

At every stage i have followed the chain of command, from Junior NCO up to Brigadier, and from my MP Graham Brady up to the DSC - my speaking publicly is a reaction to those in authority appearing to refuse to acknowledge or address our monumental failings.

I have provided and am willing to provide <u>more</u> evidence and analysis of what i believe to be criminal negligence, war crimes and astounding incompetence within some elements of the senior command of our armed forces.

I believe my claims should be investigated fully and if proven then those responsible must be held fully to account. Unless i see that happen i shall continue to share my information, photographs and claims as far and as wide as i am able.

Anthony Heaford

On 12 Oct 2015, at 16:16, Anthony Heaford <

Attached report is my first hand experience of Camp Bastion Airfield Security,

Summer 2012.

- It's focus is specifically the airfield breach of 14th September 2012.
- Email title ""Difference between a Tornado and a torpedo" refers to former UK
 ambassador to Kabul, Sherard Cowper-Coles's public comment that UK Defence
 Select Committee members "don't know the difference between a Tornado and a
 torpedo". It's my intention to illustrate clearly and simply our incompetence that
 i believe should be investigated independently.
- Whilst i was 'bullied' during my 6 month tour of Afghanistan (for refusing orders i knew to be War Crimes), i hope this will not be viewed as a "disgruntled veteran's" bitterness. I am ashamed i was part of the guard that failed in their duty to protect Camp Bastion Airfield, through utter incompetence.
- This report is not yet in the public domain i shall await any response from the UK Government before i consider sharing it further afield.

Anthony C Heaford

British Territorial Army 2009 to 2013, No.30088729. Six month tour of Afghanistan, April to October 2012.

<360° Camp Bastion Airfield Raid of 14th September 2012 - full length compressed.pdf>

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