

[ 3 STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL ]

UN ARCHIVES

SERIES 5-1062

BOX 132

FILE 6

ACC. 1998/0283

UNITED NATIONS  
ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDANATIONS UNIES  
MISSION POUR L'ASSISTANCE AU RWANDA

UNAMIR - KIGALI

PAGE 1 OF 1

SECURITY CLASS

DTG

DOC. NO

PRECEDENCE

UNCLAS

200925B FEB/95 095241

IMMEDIATE

FROM : ETHIOBATT/CYANGUGU/

TO : UNAMIR HQ/KIGALI/

INFO : TAC HQ/BUTARE/

SUBJ: INCIDENT REPORT

1. THIS MORNING AT ABOUT 0430 HRS A BOAT WHICH WAS PROCEEDING TO GR(0145) FROM IJWI ISLAND KNOWING THAT TROOPS ARE AROUND CHANGED THE DIRECTION TOWARDS GR(9246). THE TIME THIS BOAT ARRIVED AT THIS LOCATION ANOTHER 3 BOATS FROM THE DIRECTION OF IJWI ISLAND CAME AND A FIRE WAS OPENED AGAINST OUR TROOPS. THEY RUN AWAY AFTER OPENING THE FIRE AND 1 BOAT WITH A MAN DRESSED CIVILIAN CLOTH WAS CAPTURED. CO LEFT THIS MORNING TO ASSES THE SITUATION AT THIS LOCATION.

2. BEST REGARDS.

- BT -

UNITED NATIONS

ASSISTANCE MISSION IN RWANDA



NATIONS UNIES

MISSION POUR L'ASSISTANCE AU RWANDA

UNAMIR - MINUAR

To: MA/FC

From: Force PM/SO2 G1 Discipline

Info: DFC, COS, DCOS Ops, DCOS Sp, Tac HQ Butare, CO ZAMBATT,  
Legal Adviser (Mr Minta), C BOI Unit  
CO UNAMIR MP Coy

Date: 13 Feb 95

File: FPM/5

Subject: INITIAL REPORT ON THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN BUTARE ON  
THU 9 FEB THAT LED TO THE DEATH AND INJURY  
OF 2 x RPA SOLDIERS

1. You are aware of my reporting at the FC's morning briefings that 2 x RPA soldiers were struck by a UNAMIR vehicle in Butare on Thu 9 Feb 95. It is too soon, yet, for the MP investigators to produce a report on the incident but their initial work has revealed that, about 1600 hrs that day, in good visibility and road conditions, 2 x unladen ZAMBATT DAF trucks were travelling through Butare on the main street south of the town centre. There was some distance between the 2 vehicles and it seems that 2 persons crossed the road between them. The driver of the second vehicle has told MP investigators that, having crossed the road in front of him, the 2 men stepped back into his path and that he could not avoid them, despite braking sharply. One was killed outright and the other was taken to AUSMED for emergency treatment for what was thought, at that stage, life-threatening injuries. He was diagnosed as having only a broken collar-bone, however, and was discharged from hospital within 24 hrs.

2. There was no passenger in the cab of the truck to corroborate the driver's story and no independent witnesses to the accident have been identified. The driver has claimed to have been travelling at around 50 kph, however, but there must be some doubt about this because the truck's skid marks have been measured at 32 metres. The speed limit is not posted on the stretch of road on which the accident occurred but, being a built-up area, 40 kph was the limit according to Rwandan law.

2. Your attention is drawn to:

a. The attached report from the Australian Contingent on the events following the accident. It is apparent that tempers rose and that the situation became very tense.

b. The fact that the ZAMBATT truck remains impounded in Butare.

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3. I intend leaving it a few days - to allow the dust to settle somewhat - before seeking the release of the impounded vehicle, and suggest that no Note Verbale should be sent at this stage. The situation might be eased if some condolences were issued on behalf of the Force, however; and to this end, my second attachment is a draft which might be sent to the Minister of Defence by the FC.

*WCB* *may*

M CUTHBERT-BROWN  
Maj  
Force PM/SO2 G1 Disc

*Sean* *16/2*

UN RESTRICTED

LINE 1			
LINE 2			
LINE 3		GR	
LINE 4		MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS	
LINE 5			
PRECEDENCE - ACTION	PRECEDENCE - INFO	DATE - TIME GROUP	SIC/ORIG NO
ROUTINE		101240 Z FEB 95	E3L140OPS :713
ROUTING INDICATORS	From: ASC UNAMIR II (RWANDA) To: HQ UNAMIR II		

SUBJ: SUMMARY OF INCIDENT GENDARMERIE AND AS PERSONAL AT BUTARE 09 FEB 9

1. AT 1700B 09 FEB 95 TWO AS VEHICLES WERE RETURNING FROM REFUELLING FROM THE GHANAIAN SUPPLY PLATOON. THE VEHICLES WERE PROCEEDING NORTH ALONG THE BUTARE MSR. THEY WERE 200M NORTH OF UNREO OFFICES WHEN THEY CAME ACROSS A ZAMBIAN TRUCK FACING WEST, AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE ROAD, ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE ROAD. A CASUALTY IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WAS UNDER THE REAR AXLES (THE AS ELM HAVE NO DETAILS ABOUT A DEATH AS THE CASUALTY WAS ALIVE WHEN EVACUATED FROM THE SCENE). THE VEHICLES STOPPED TO GIVE FIRST AID. AN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL NGO WORKER SHIFTED THE CASUALTY INTO HIS VAN AT THE SCENE AND TWO AUSMED MEDICS ARRIVED. AS INF ELM CLEARED THE CROWD TO ALLOW ACCESS TO THE CASUALTY. AT THIS STAGE THERE WERE TWO GENDARMERIE AT THE SCENE TRYING TO QUESTION THE CASUALTY. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE MEDICS WANTED TO GIVE FIRST AID. THEY DID AND THE CASUALTY WAS SEEN TO HAVE SEVERE CRUSH INJURIES TO THE HEAD AND CHEST, AND HAVING BREATHING DIFFICULTIES.
2. THE MEDICS AND SGT RICE WENT WITH THE CASUALTY IN THE IMC VAN AND LAND ROVER TO BUTARE HOSPITAL. TIME ON SCENE WAS 10 MINUTES. CPL REILLY STAYED AT THE SCENE WITH THE REMAINING INF SECTION PLUS, TO TAKE THE ZAMBIAN SGT DRIVER OF THE TRUCK TO TAC HQ AND RENDEZVOUS THERE WITH THE LAND ROVER AFTER IT HAD RETURNED FROM THE HOSPITAL.
3. AT BUTARE HOSPITAL THE MEDICS TOOK THE CASUALTY TO THE OPERATING THEATRE, AND HANDED HIM OVER TO HOSPITAL STAFF. ON LEAVING THE HOSPITAL AT 1724B THE PARTY DROVE PAST THE ACCIDENT SITE AGAIN ON ROUTE TO TAC HQ.
4. MEANWHILE CPL REILLY AT THE ACCIDENT SITE SAW TWO, THEN MORE, RPA AND GENDARMERIE ARRIVE AT THE SCENE, ARMED WITH PISTOLS, GRENADES, AK TYPE WEAPONS. THEY IMMEDIATELY HEADED TOWARDS THE ZAMBIAN. CPL REILLY STEPPED BETWEEN THEM AND IDENTIFIED HIMSELF, AND SAID THE ZAMBIAN WAS UNDER HIS

PAGE NO 1			DRAFTER'S NAME AND TITLE A.K. HUGHES DO					PHONE		REF FILE NO 445-10-3			
NO OF PAGES 3			RELEASER'S NAME AND TITLE AS ABOVE			BRANCH/UNIT AS MED SPT		SIGNATURE				DATE FEB 95	
FOR OPS USE	R	DATE	TIME	SYSTEM	OPERATOR	D	DATE	TIME	SYSTEM	OPERATOR	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED		



9. DURING THE TRAVEL TO TAC HQ THE GENDARMERIES AND RPA PURSUED, AND THEN DEPLOYED AROUND TAC HQ. THE AS WERE ORDERED TO RETURN TO THE LOAD CONDITION WHICH THEY DID. THE ZAMBIAN, SGT RICE, AND A GENDARMERIE LT WENT

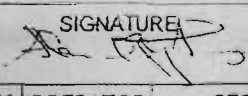
PAGE NO 2			DRAFTER'S NAME AND TITLE A.K. HUGHES DO					PHONE		REF FILE NO 445-10-3			
NO OF PAGES 3			RELEASER'S NAME AND TITLE AS ABOVE				BRANCH/UNIT AS MED SPT		SIGNATURE			DATE FEB 95	
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INTO TAC HQ TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT. AFTER THIS THE AS GROUP LEFT FOR MURAMBE AT 1800B.

10. AT TODAY'S ACTIVITIES AS PART OF OP RETOUR THE RPA IN THE CAMPS WERE FRIENDLY TOWARDS AS TROOPS. CAPT FREWEN HAD A CORDIAL CHAT WITH THE ACTING RPA BDE CDR AT TAC HQ THIS EVENING HOWEVER, AT A MEETING AFTER THIS THE RPA LO FROM BDE HQ, AND THE RPA LO FROM TAC HQ ACCUSED THE AS TROOPS OF GOING TO ACTION FIRST AND DELIBERATELY ESCALATING THE SITUATION WITH THEIR AGGRESSION. THESE RPA DO NOT HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT HAPPENED AS THEY CLAIM THERE WAS ONLY ONE RPA WITH A PISTOL AND TWO UNARMED GENDARMERIES AT THE SCENE WHEN AS TROOPS WENT TO ACTION.

11. THE RPA BDE LO ADVISED US TO BE CAREFUL AND THAT IF ANOTHER SUCH INCIDENT OCCURRED THERE WOULD BE BLOOD SHED.

12. END OF INCIDENT SUMMARY.

PAGE NO 3		DRAFTER'S NAME AND TITLE A.K. HUGHES DO				PHONE		REF FILE NO 445-10-3			
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DRAFT LETTER OF CONDOLENCES

It was with deep regret that I learnt of the death of Private John Baptiste and of the injury of Corporal Bosco Gashugi in a traffic accident involving a UNAMIR vehicle in Butare on Thursday 9 February. It is most unfortunate that troops whose presence in Rwanda is directed towards assisting its people in the restoration of their country - and essentially humanitarian in nature - should become involved, for whatever reason, in the death and injury of some of those same people. I also very much regret the subsequent misunderstanding that led to a show of force by troops of both organizations - and several nationalities - during the hours that followed the accident.

I take some comfort in the medical assistance that UNAMIR was later able to provide to Corporal Gashugi but this is little in comparison with the suffering stemming from the inattention that caused it. May I ask that you pass my condolences, and those of the force that I command, to Corporal Gashugi and to the families, colleagues and friends of both soldiers?

You have my utmost assurance that UNAMIR, in general, and its Military Police, in particular, will cooperate in the investigation of the accident and that if UNAMIR is found to have been at fault, it will provide whatever compensation is due. I suggest that we try to dedicate the memory of Private Baptiste to our continued cooperation and mutual assistance.



\* Confidential

092355 B FEB 95

OPS 394

Tac HQ  
UNAMIR HQ // OPS  
INFO DFC

SUBJECT: INCIDENT REPORT

Ref:

A. Our INCREP dated 09 Feb 95

1. At about 091830 B Feb 95 a ZAMBATT truck UNAMIR 3424 driven by Sgt Chisowa F Knocked down two (02) RPA Sldrs in mufti at BUTARE. At the time of the accident, the dvr was going to refuel after returning from KIGALI on Op RETOUR. One of the victims later died while the other one was evacuated to KIGALI in a MALAWI Coy ambulance.
2. An AUSMED team that arrived at the scene of the accident rescued the dvr otherwise he would have been seriously manhandled.
3. Later about one Coy of RPA Sldrs surrounded Tac HQ demanding the release of the dvr to them. The siege continued until the RPA acting Brigade Commander was invited by the commander who apparently persuaded the Sldrs to withdraw. However, he demanded

Tac HQ

What method was used in rescuing the dvr.  
Give full details ~~Conf~~ under Confidential  
cover.

J Th 11/2  
DFC

DO NOT STAPLE. CREASE FOLD OR SMUDGE - NE PAS BROCHER, PLEIER, FROISSER OU MACULER

MESSAGE FORM FORMULE DE MESSAGE										SECURITY / SÉCURITÉ		FILE / DOSSIER		
PAGE OF DE	DATE / DATE				TIME GROUP / GROUPE		PRECEDENCE / PRÉCÉDENCE		CLASS	ORIG / ORIG	ATT / ATT	CA / CA	SEC / SEC	INSTRUMENT NUMBER / NUMÉRO D'INSTRUMENT
	DATE	TIME	GROUP	DATE	TIME	GROUP	PRIORITY	CLASS						
BOOK / DOSSIER	DATE	TIME	GROUP	DATE	TIME	GROUP	PRIORITY	CLASS	ORIG / ORIG	ATT / ATT	CA / CA	SEC / SEC	INSTRUMENT NUMBER / NUMÉRO D'INSTRUMENT	
MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS - INSTRUCTIONS D'ACHÈVEMENT DU MESSAGE														
<p>that the Jvr be made available the fol day to make a statement to the local police. The Jvr has since given a statement and has been asked to report whenever they need him.</p> <p>4. There has been much fuss by the local RPA Sldrs about the AUSMED team which rescued the Jvr. RPA Sldrs were apparently aggrieved about the method adopted to rescue the Jvr which hinges on the threat of use of force.</p> <p>5. RPA Sldrs failed to release the veh involved in the accident despite all entreaties made to that effect.</p> <p>6. Please Ack receipt</p>														
TO / À										BY / PAR				
NAME / NOM										SIGNATURE / SIGNATURE				
TITLE / TITRE										POST / POSTE				

RX by Capt D. MACLU  
Duty Officer.

DFC