

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: TILLOTSON, GUY

Age if under 18: (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: CREW MANAGER

This statement (consisting of 12 page(s) 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.

Signature: G.TILLOTSON

Date: 04/12/2017

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am making this statement in relation to my dealings with the Fire at Grenfell Tower on 14th June 2017.

The people that I am going to mention in this statement are mainly fire fighters of Red Watch, Paddington. In specific I will be mentioning the following people these are Fire Fighters (FF) WOLFENDEN, BETTINSON, CUTHBERT, SHAW and MILLS. I will also be mentioning Crew Manager GALLAGHER and Watch Manager COLLINS. I will also mention a further Fire Fighter who's name I do not know but I believe may have been from Hammersmith Station. These Fire Fighters are the individuals who I spent the majority of my time with at the fire at Grenfell Tower. I will mention a few other Fire Fighters during this statement and in particular Watch Manager O'KEEFE. In addition to these Fire Fighters I also involved in the rescue of a number of residents from Grenfell Tower. The first of these residents that I will mention is a Male and Female and their son who I would estimate to be either 4 or 5 yrs old. These were a family we came across on the 6th floor. I also assisted with the rescue of an adult female and her daughter from flat 65 on the 9th floor. I would estimate that the young child was about 7 years old.

I have been a fire fighter for twenty two and a half years and I have been based at Paddington Fire Station for the past twelve and a half years. I hold the rank of Crew Manager Plus (CM+) and I am part of Red Watch. On the days prior to the 13th June 2017 I had been off sick due to a [REDACTED] that I had sustained, however I returned to duty at 2000hrs on 13th June for a night duty which was supposed to finish at 0930hrs on the 14th June. At each shift change we are briefed on our deployments during the

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shift, I was given the posting of BA Initial Entry. BA stands for Breathing Apparatus, this is the system that we use when we have to enter a fire. I was assigned to the pump call sign A211. It is not normal for a CM to be designated to ride on the back of the pump ladder as I am often in charge of a crew.

On the night of the 13th into the 14th June I was in the dorm facility when I heard the bells went for the Pump first, this was quite quickly followed by the bells for the Turntable Ladder (TL) and then the Pump Ladder (PL) and the Fire Rescue Unit (FRU) were mobilised. This is quite unusual for all the appliances to be mobilised in this way. In most cases all appliances are deployed or just one.

When the bells go off, I call it the bells although it is in fact not a bell but an alarm sound, they call out the call sign of the appliance which is to be deployed. There is a tele printer in the Watch office which churns out a message, which is a call slip, this provides the details of the location and nature of the incident. This appears on a piece of paper but it is also displayed on a screen in watch room. So you don't know where you are going until you see the message on either the screen or on the tele printer message paper. I recall that the message for us was a 8 pump fire at Grenfell Tower. This is not an uncommon number of pumps to be sent to any one fire in this area. Paddington has a number of high rise buildings and blocks of flats so it is fairly normal to get his type of message. We were told that this was an 8 pump fire at Grenfell Tower.

I have been to Grenfell Tower before, this was back in 2007 or 2008. I can't remember the nature of the shout but I do remember that on that occasion I went to the tower on the Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP). In my experience it was very infrequent to be deployed to Grenfell Tower, I have been at this station for 12 years and can only recall the attendance in 2007 or 2008 prior to June 2017.

All Fire Fighters as part of their training go through high rise training and it is something that we practice on the tower here at the station on a fairly regular basis. Because of where we are in Paddington and the number of call outs to high rise buildings we are fairly well drilled in dealing with high rise fires. There is not a separate training course but there are policy notes on high rise fires.

The timescale of deployment on 14th June 2017 was quite quick from the first bells to deploy all the pumps. I remember that when the first bells went off I did jump up and have a quick look at my watch, I can't recall the exact time but I remember that it was after 0115hrs.

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When I heard my call sign I went down to the appliance and got rigged up and got into the appliance. I was on the back of FF CUTHBERT and FF SHAW. In charge was Watch Manager COLLINS and driving was FF MILLS. Once inside the Pump I began to get rigged into my BA kit. I was BA Comms as I was sitting behind the Watch Manager and I was on the passenger side of the appliance. The BA kits are held on each appliance, they are not issued personally to each Fire Fighter, however at the change of every watch each Fire Fighter is responsible for checking the kit which includes the BA equipment.

We were putting our BA sets on in the back, I can't remember the actual route that we took to get to Grenfell Tower. I remember that we went down Harrow Road and then cut across to the estate. I have had a look at the deployment log and I recall that it took us 7 to 8 minutes to get to the scene from our station. It wasn't an estate that we were particularly familiar with and as I explained the last time I had been to the tower was back in 2007 or 2008. It was not an estate we readily knew, we could see that the tower as we approached and we could clearly see the fire as it was showing on the external surface of the tower. My initial thoughts were that it was a scaffolding fire. It did not look like that it was burning very intensely, it almost looked like a wick on a candle. From a distance, we could see that we had something but at that time I thought that it was a fire on the outside of the building and at that time I was not overly concerned about what we would be facing.

I made this assessment from my personal experience I have previously been in charge of the bridgehead at the fire at Trellick Tower and at Shepherds Bush, Shepherd's Court where again I was in charge of the bridgehead. At Paddington I would say as a station we are experience with this type of fire it is something that we train for here and we have had experience of this type of in high rise buildings.

In my mind I was not overly concerned about what we would be facing, however when we pulled up it was different to a normal high rise fire this was simply with the amount of fire showing at our time of arrival.

Upon our arrival at the scene we pulled up behind the command unit. I can't remember the name of the road which we parked on, but I remember that the road bent round to the entrance of the tower under the covered area. There was a road to the tower and I remember dismounting the appliance and taking two roles of 45 hose off the back and I think I took the branch, this is the nozzle for the hose.

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FF CUTHBERT also got some hose as did FF SHAW both of them were with me as we walked down the road towards the fire. There was at that time two possibly three appliances also in attendance. I know that North Kensington's appliances were there and I think that our Turntable Ladder was just arriving.

Normally in a large fire like this we would report to the Command Unit so that we could be to be briefed and then given directions. However in this case we had just pulled up behind the Command Unit which was just starting to get set up so they were not in a position to start taking command and control of the situation. In this situation there would have been an incident command system set up by the initial appliance on scene. I did not see that at the time I arrived on scene. However Watch Manager COLLINS would have been in charge of taking our nominal role control board to the incident command location.

I can remember, as we approached the tower, there were people shouting from the balconies. They were shouting to get in there this seemed a bit different. Just the fact that there were people shouting at us is not normal. In my experience at most fires there can be an element of panic by residents but this seemed a lot more urgent than anything that I had experienced before. The noise of the fire was not that evident at that time as we approached the tower. The fire was very visible and it appeared that 6 or 7 floors were alight and the fire was creeping round to the left, as I was looking at the tower. I can only see two sides and there is no fire on the front of the building above the entrance. I obviously can't see the other two sides of the building at that time.

As I approached the tower block the Turntable Ladder (TL) had arrived and was getting set up. I saw CM HARRIMAN, he was setting up the Turntable Ladder (TL) with FF REYNOLDS. As I passed CM HARRIMAN I said hello and carried on towards the tower. There was also North Kensington's machine which was plugged into the Dry Riser of the building.

That side was as we approached it, the best way I can describe this was that the road we had parked on bends round underneath the covered section. We were approaching the corner of the building close to the main entrance to the tower block. It was the right hand side that was alight, there was not much debris dropping down at that time. There was a Fire Fighter with a hand branch putting water on the fire on that side of the building.

I remember thinking looking at that it was a big fire so I proceeded into the tower block. I was still with FF CUTHBERT at this stage. We were carrying the hose and we went into the lobby, which was empty. We looked over to see if the lift was working and someone shouted over to say that the lift was not

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working, I think that was CM GALLAGHER. He was on our pump's crew and had been mobilised just before us and had arrived just before us. I went straight to the stairs and climbed two floors to the mezzanine floor. The lift lobby at the location has a set of stairs which leads to the main accommodation. Entry Control had been set up and a Bridgehead was also set up at that location. I remember that Watch Manager O'KEEFE was in charge of that area. I put my hose down, I knew the fire was on the 4th floor. I can't recall exactly how I knew that information.

WM O'KEEFE asked me if I could go up to the fire floor to get two BA tallies. I went up to the 4th floor. There was a crew fire fighting, I went into the lobby and shouted "Are there two tallies here". I was handed two tallies, I can't say who handed me the two tallies. A BA Tally is an identification for each breathing apparatus wearer, the tally is in each set. We take them out and they go into a board at the BA entry point so that Entry Control know how long someone has been in the fire, it is a way controlling who is in and who is coming out of the fire.

I took these tallies back to BA Entry Control and gave them to the entry control officer who put them in the BA board. I was a bit surprised to have to do this but I had had eyes onto the fire floor and knew that it was heavily smoke logged. I knew that the Tower was involved in a lot of fire. I looked round at entry control. Although I had gone in with FF CUTHBERT, CM GALLAGHER, FF WOLFENDEN, FF BETTINSON and another Fire Fighter that I don't know. I said to WM O'KEEFE "We need to get hold of this now, we need to get in there and start rescuing people". "We have to go in and start clearing the floors and rescuing people." WM O'KEEFE said "Take another firefighter with you". I replied "No I'm taking the whole crew here". WM O'KEEFE said "Fine you go for that". I then said "I am going to take this crew" as it was my pump's crew I knew who they all were, apart from this extra person.

I said to all of them "Right we are going to start up, we are going to go up and search every floor and rescue who we can". I suggested that this was our priority, if we have people fire fighting then we need to get people out. It was my decision to start this search and rescue operation at that time. No one told me to do this but it seemed that this was the best thing to do try and save as many people as possible.

We started up our sets, it is quite unusual to have a crew of five Fire Fighters. I personally felt comfortable with this set up, I wanted quite a large crew at that time. I had not seen any residents come out at that time and the only fire fighters that I had seen were at the bridge head and were fire fighting on the fourth floor. I think that the crew fighting the fire on the 4th floor was a Hammersmith's Crew.

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I specifically remember saying to the crew that I did not want anyone to take anything with us, no fire fighting medium or door entry equipment. I knew this was breaking policy but to me at the time it was the only option to save people. I also remember that I made it clear the crew that I did not want anyone breaking any doors as I wanted to make sure that our escape route was not compromised. If we break doors we sometimes don't know if the fire is behind the doors and we can't then control the fire. My thoughts were to initially knock on as many door as possible and identify were people where so we could get them out of the building, that was my initial priority. I did have BA comms on me however due to one of the leads getting pulled out it did not work so I took the BA comms off. I did have a hand held radio with me.

We started up in our BA equipment and we went up the stairs passed the fourth floor. The staircase was lightly smoke logged, but was heavier with smoke around the 4th or 5th floors. There were no visible markings on the stairwell to indicate which floor we were on, so I had to landmark in head points of reference so that I could keep a track of where we were at the time. I remember that the emergency lighting was working and we could see in the stairwell.

We went around floor 4, I had picked up a 'Halligan' Bar which is a big metal bar, with prongs on, which we use for breaking into properties. The 'Halligan' was propped up one of the stairwell corners as we went up to the 4th floor. I used the 'Halligan' bar to bang on the doors loudly. I had told WM O'KEEFE that we were knocking on doors not breaking them down. My rationale for that is that if we had broken doors and the fire get out we are then bringing people through that smoke and that is going to harm them. We went around the 5th floor knocking on all the doors, there was no answer.

We moved up to the 6th floor, knocked on, I can't remember which flat it was but one of the doors was answered. It was the door if you come into the floor and go round to the right hand side it was the far left corner flat. I knocked on the door and it was answered by an adult male. I asked if we could come in, we were wearing our breathing apparatus he was in the flat with an adult female who I am assuming it was his partner as well and child which was a little boy about 4 or 5 years old. The father was obviously concerned with the situation but the woman and the child seemed to be very calm. The man said to me "Do we have to get out". I replied "Yes we have to get out" The man then said "Through that smoke?" it took me back a bit, I took my breathing apparatus off, it was clear in the flat. That comment threw me a bit, I had been thinking that the best thing to do was to get these people out and now I was looking at the smoke. I said "Yes you have to get out now, if you don't you won't get out". So I detailed CM

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GALLAGHER and FF WOLFENDEN and the other fire fighter to take these three people out of the Tower so the three of them set off with the adult male and female and also the little boy. It was smokey on the landing but not too bad, I can't really recall if it was hot or not as I was wearing my full protective equipment so we can only assess the heat of the fire if it get really rather hot then we can feel the heat through our fire fighting clothes.

So I split the crew, FF BETTIONSON who was our trainee remained with me. The other three of them took the three residents out, I would say that the smoke was getting bad but it was not that bad at that time. It was smoky but you could still see, I realise I was in breathing apparatus. The question from the man stuck with me. Normally in fires the policy is that people are to stay where they are which this is generally the best advice. The rationale is that they will generally be protected from the fire so we can get control of the fire. I am so glad that I took that decision to get those people out form that flat.

I told CM GALLAGHER that FF BETTINSON and I would be going up and that when he came back into the tower to come and see if they could see where we are. CM GALLAGHER agreed with that and took the three residents out of the flat. FF BETTIONSON and I continued up to the 7th floor. The smoke on these floors was getting worse, it was getting denser however I still could not tell how hot the fire was at this time. I personally knocked on all the doors on the 7th floor. I also knocked on all the doors on the 8th floor. I was knocking with the 'Halligan' bar and no one was coming to the door, I don't know why.

We were on the 9th floor and we did all the doors. If you come through the door the flat which is in the far corner was answered. It was an adult woman with her daughter. By that time CM GALLAGHER had not come back to me. It was smokey and it had become worse in the stairwell. I said to the woman "Just stay there, we know were you are". The woman was quite calm, I left and went up onto the 10th floor, I opened the door to the lobby it was full of thick black hot smoke. I stuck my head through the door and it was hot, we had no firefighting equipment and I said to FF BETTINSON "No we are not going into that, we are going back down". I shut the door and decided to go back down to the 9th floor. I think that I had only taken one step onto the 10th floor and I realised that we should not go any further.

We went back down the stairs we met up with CM GALLAGHER, FF WOLFENDEN and the other fire fighter. We went into the females flat on the 9th floor, I think that CM GALLAGHER took the 'Halligan' bar from me and went to break open the dry riser. It all is a bit hazy at this point. I took my BA of to

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speak to the woman and her child, I remember that when we had come down the stairs from the 10th floor the smoke was getting worse and the smoke had suddenly got really bad outside the flat on the 9th floor.

So I made the decision that three of us were going to go down to entry control and get two additional BA sets and bring them back so we could get the residents out. It is not something that I have ever done before. Ironically I had been working on a smoke hood project with WM COLLINS, my governor about bringing people out through smoke, we are making it hard to rescue people.

We are on the 9th floor I know we have a really bad fire, I know that it is really bad outside I just did not think that with the young girl, who was about 7 years old and the mother would make it out. I made the decision to go down to entry control, three of us CM GALLAGHER, myself and the other fire fighter and get two BA sets from whoever was down there, bring them back and put the BA sets on the mother and the daughter and bring them out that way under air. We had all taken our masks off in the flat. I confirmed with FF BETTIONSON and FF WOLFENDON that they were going to be happy to be left. This flat did not have any smoke in it and was ok at that time. I did give them a brief that if they felt uncomfortable then they were to make their way out with the residents and bring them down. They agreed with that course of action. For me that was a hard decision for me to leave half my crew in there but I thought that it was the best thing to bring people out alive. I knew that the next door flat was alright, you could see it through the window but it was contained, the door had not been breached and the lobby outside was hot and had black smoke in the lobby, but you could see through it. It is not normal to put BA equipment on people who we are tasked to rescue, in fact in my service I have not known this to happen.

As I am going back downstairs I have not seen any other fire fighters in the tower block and I can't recall seeing any residents. All those floors that I have searched I have not seen any residents. We start descending the stairs. That is CM GALLAGHER and the other Fire Fighter, at this point I go onto my warning whistle on my BA apparatus. It goes into pre-alarm just to tell me that it is coming up to my low pressure warning whistle. It started to pre-alarm as I was leaving the 9th floor. The stairs is quite bad by now and definitely there is a heat barrier at the 6th floor. Just above the heat barrier we met FF CUTHBERT and FF SHAW who were a little bit confused, I think that they thought that they had got lost and seeing us reassured them that they knew where they were and that they were ok. We all went back to entry control which was in the lift lobby, there were still fire fighters on 4th floor fighting the fire. There was a Station Manager in charge of entry control at this point. So I sent CM GALLAGHER and the other FF to grab two set of equipment whilst I went to speak to the Station Manager on the entry control.

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I explained to the Station Manager at entry control in the lift lobby what my plan was and what I wanted to do. I did not know the name of the Station Manager at entry control, it was at this point that the other FF and I heard that our warning whistles were going off. This happened as I was talking to the Station Manager. That meant in normal circumstance about 10 minutes of air left. Although we said we were going to take two sets, the Station Manager was trying to get me to stay and send another crew to go and get FF BETTONSON and FF WOLFENDEN. I said "No that is not going to happen, I am going to go and get them I have left them so I will go back and get them". That plan was agreed and the three of us left to go back. I did notice that there was more activity now, I was talking to the Station Manager on the stairs, I was a couple of stairs above the Station Manager so I was looking down on him a bit. Again he tried to stop me and I said no we are going. I think we got to floor 5 and the other fire fighter, who's name I still don't know said that he was out of air. His whistle on his BA set was going off and he handed me the fresh BA set and he turned and set off back to entry control. I was quite happy with that at the time, although it is not procedure. We were not that far from entry control and I was happy that he would make it out safely.

CM GALLAGHER and I went back up to the 9th floor and knocked on Flat 65 and FF BETTINSON opened the door and let us in. I put the BA set that I was carrying on the sofa. CM GALLAGHER took the set that he was carrying round to the woman and I took off my face mask. FF WOLFENDON and FF BETTINSON had taken their face masks off for the time that they were with the residents in the flat. I briefed everyone about the plan. This was to put a BA set on the mother, she was happy with that plan.

The woman was amazing, she was very calm throughout, you could see the fire next door was raging and both the woman and her daughter were not fazed at all by the whole situation, they were brilliant.

I still was not sure about what to do with the little girl, it was clear that the little girl was too small to carry the BA set so we decided to take the mask off the set that I had carried and put that onto the little girl. We then plugged the little girl's mask into the BA set of FF BETTINSON and he would carry her down to entry control.

It was at that time that my set ran out of air after I had put it back on in readiness for our return to the entry control point. FF BETTINSON pointed out to me that my set was out of air, I sort of said "Oh yes so it has". It was at that time that I decided to take the BA set that I had carried and plug my set into the new set, that's what we call an exchange of air. It's something that we train for but I am not sure if

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anyone has ever done it for real certainly in my 23yrs I have not done this procedure apart from in training. I plugged into the new BA set, I had not purposely carried the extra BA set up to use for myself but it was what eventually happened so that I could come out under air.

I remember that CM GALLAGHER told the little girls to close her eyes. This was because we were not sure what we would come across on the way out. I thought that this some really good advice to the little girl who was really good throughout. It was at this point that there was a knock at the door, I opened the door and it was a crew from West Hampstead. CM YEARMAN was someone that I knew, these were the only other crews that I had seen inside the building at that time. CM YEARMAN was surprised to see us in the flat, I believe that they were planning to fight the fire next door. I remember asking them just to wait for a moment before they entered to fight the fire so we could get the mother and her daughter out. I understand that once they opened that door it was not good at all. All of us then proceeded onto the hallway and down the stairs, I went first carrying the BA set, FF BETTINSON came directly behind me carrying the little girl in his arms. Then FF WOLFENDEN who was walking backwards helping the woman who was coming down the stairs. FF WOLFENDEN had hold of the BA set straps to help guide the woman down the stairs making sure that she did not fall. At the end of the line was CM GALLAGHER, who was now on his low pressure warning whistle. I can't recall how long we were in this whole BA wear was, I knew that we were in the flat for quite a bit, it seemed like the longest BA wear that I have done in some time. I know that crews that came in after us had left the tower before we managed to get out.

As we proceeded down the stairs, there were a lot of fire fighters in the stairwell. The smoke now was really bad, we could only really just make out the yellow helmets and the colour of the cylinders of the other fire fighters coming up the stairs. I think that we had been in the tower quite some time. There were people coming past, I am pretty sure that we were passed by the FRU crew from Paddington wearing the Extended Duration Breathing Apparatus (EDBA). That is the extended BA system, these are the ones with the orange covers over the cylinders.

Because people were coming up, head down carrying lots of gear they were pushing passed us. There was a bit of bashing and bumping around as we were trying to get the casualties out. I remember that FF WOLFENDEN had got a bit annoyed and was shouting to be careful and that we had casualties going out of the building. Once we had made crews aware that we were coming out with casualties then the argi bargi stopped, there were lots of people with big set on and it was quite a confined space in the staircase.

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We made are way back to the entry control and I closed down at entry control, I had a quick de-brief with the Station Manager and then I proceeded to leave the tower with CM GALLAGHER, who only had 10bar in his BA set. I don't know where the other fire fighters took the woman and her daughter, I am assuming that they took them out of the tower. We got our BA tallies and left the building by the main entrance. We must have been some of the last crews to come out of the main entrance as about 5 to 10 mins later the main entrance was closed. This closure was because there was lot of debris coming down off the building. I remember that there was a lot more fire going up the side of the tower and wrapping round the building and coming across the part of the tower above the entrance. The debris was falling down all around. There are flats that were still untouched and you can see people coming to the windows in those flats. These were on the flats that were on the floors that we had knocked on earlier.

Just on the grassed area we saw FF SHAW and FF CUTHBERT changing the cylinders on their BA sets. So we met up on the corner with them and did our change of cylinders, we appreciated that we were going to have to go into the building again. I did not know the scale of that incident had gone up to at that point. The six of us went back to the engine to get our new cylinders, at that time the HART team were quite close to us. The HART team is the London Ambulance Services Hazardous Area Response Team (HART). Just after we finished our sets, there was a lot of activity with people being rescued and being brought out to the HART team. I think I saw three or four people who looked deceased being brought out and being taken to the HART team.

The Turntable Ladder (TL) was still in operation at that time I could see CM HARRIMAN at the top with a jet fighting the fire and FF REYNOLDS who was on the TL. They were getting peppered with debris and there was another FF from North Kensington's Pump or Pump Ladder with them. The North Kensington Fire Fighter had a hose reel and was putting out the burning debris. There was some frantic activity on that corner but there was not a great number about. I remember CM BATCHENDOOR from G35 Fulham who was talking on a phone to someone inside the tower. From what I understood CM BATCHENDOOR had the husband with him outside the tower and this man's wife was still inside the tower. That was in the covered area near the bins. There were Fire Fighters with the bins getting Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) calls the Fire Fighters were using the bins to plot each of the FSG calls. They were using the bins as a representation of each of the floors where the calls were coming from. It was pretty ingenious, someone was coming up with the calls and someone was collating them next to the bins

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and then someone was going into the lobby to pass these details on. They were drawing these calls onto the lobby walls to be dealt with by the fire crews.

I am not sure were FF CUTHBERT and FF SHAW went as they were ahead of us, so I am not sure what happened to them. Then I saw our Fire Rescue Unit (FRU) come out and I can remember one of them was carrying a casualty over to the HART Team area and I can remember that the debris by now was really starting to come down onto the Fire Fighters. I think that they were the last Fire Fighters to come out of that entry. I remember that they were trying to get the HART team to come closer and deal with the casualty but they wouldn't because of the debris was really coming down.

We gathered together and we moved over to next to the grass square, we met up with Kensington's crew in the expectation that we were going to go back into the tower. We sat down to take on some water and we looked at the tower, it was in far worse condition than when we had turned up. I recall that I looked at a photo it was time stamped at 0301hrs, we were ready to go back in at that time.

I also remember that at about that time the Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) from Soho Station had turned up but had broken down and was pitched on the grass. We weren't there that long and there was all the noises going on, there was screaming from the tower and people screaming from the side. There was the noise of the fire the noise of the firefighting operation but the overwhelming noise was that of the debris falling off the building. You could see people come to windows in flats that we not involved in fire at that time, then they would disappear back into the flats.

The Turntable Ladder (TL) had packed up and moved away, it was not archiving anything and it was far too dangerous for them to be in that position. We could see some people in the window and CM GALLAGHER and I went back to the Turntable Ladder to see if we could help to get the Turntable Ladder back to rescue people, as went to do this this it was clear from the amount of debris that was falling off the building that this plan was not going to be feasible and we decided not to move the Turntable Ladder. We got back into the covered area and we decided that we would try and get back into the building to see if we could have another wear of our BA's and help. We felt that we'd had sufficient time to compose ourselves. So just after 3am we moved to get back into the tower. The entrance was closed and no one was allowed back in that way, there was a huge amount of debris coming down off the building. I can remember that we walked under the covered bit as we tried to get back into the tower. We did not know that all the BA crews were being coordinated from the other side of the tower. We all had

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our BA kits on and four of us shimmied round the edge of the building to try and get into a window which had been broken on the other side of the tower. I picked up a folded plastic chair and I put it over there head, I felt a bit silly but it was the only protection that I could find. I am not sure if the others had riot shields but we had not seen loads of shields at that time. We went round the building to a window which had been pushed out, people were squeezing into the building.

CM GALLAGHER could not squeeze through the window, CM GALLAGHER is fairly small. The debris was now really coming down hard. We decided that the best way to get in was to take our sets off and get through the window, we ran over to the BA holding area. It was getting really quite organised in the BA holding area. What struck me was how well it was organised and also how well the policies were being imposed. There was a BA holding area with someone in charge. There was a request for fresh wearers, we all went over to try and get counted, the officer counted 10 people. FF CUTHBERT had been counted but as our helmets were black we were all told to move over out of the way as they wanted fresh wearers. CM GALLAGHER, FF BETTINSON and I moved over out of the way and we lost FF WOLFENDEN at that time. We put our sets down on the floor next to the estates office, although there were a number of police officers with shields there were a number of shields hanging around. There were no fire fighters protecting others coming and going, so the three of us picked up shields. There were plenty of Fire Fighters trying to get into the building who were not getting protected. We used the shields to protect ourselves and our fellow fire fighters. We had come in and out of the building a number of times. There were police officers with us and we were shielding fire fighters coming in and some residents who were getting out of the building.

BA main control was at the bottom of the tower, it struck me that this was now really well organised. People were queuing property and getting proper briefings. The noise was incredible. From the number of times that we were coming backwards and forwards there was a time that I honestly thought that I was not going to be coming back from this incident.

I cannot remember exactly what time it was but when CM GALLAGHER and I were at the edge of the building we were handed a casualty, an elderly female. I remember saying to a small female police officer who was carrying a riot shield, "You protect us". CM GALLAGHER and I got hold of the elderly female between us and we were going to carry her out. I was on the left side, I took her handbag off her and I knew that her husband had gone before. CM GALLAGHER took the woman's right side, we took hold of

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her under her arms and we were also carrying her under her legs, in a sort of seated carry. The elderly woman was not wearing suitable shoes on for running across the debris.

As we left the building the small female police officer, who we had asked to assist us was trying to shield us. As we moved away from the building we got hit by a large piece of debris, it was probably as big as a dining table. This knocked us all to the floor, we were still holding the woman and CM GALLAGHER and I sort of shielded the elderly woman from the debris. A piece of burning debris went down the back of my fire coat and I was burnt on the back and as I was not wearing my gloves I also got burnt on my hands. We got up and moved at a brisk pace when again we got hit by some debris. This time we did not go to the floor but kept going.

There was a lot of debris coming down some was very small and some was really rather large, it looked like insulation as well as metal that was falling from the building. My tunic was covered in molten aluminium and bits of other stuff which had stuck to my jacket. I especially remember that when the metal came down and hit the floor it made an awful noise. I really feared for the lives of my friends and colleagues, I thought that one of these pieces of metal would kill someone. I still can't believe that this did not happen.

When we got clear of the building we passed this elderly female over to other officers in the casualty handling area. I can't remember any road names but as best as I describe this area, you pass the children's play area and then passed the estates office and round the back of the building, it was not too far from the entrance to the tower. This was the only time that I went to the casualty handling area. At the casualty handling area there were several casualties and a number of deceased people.

After dropping off this casualty I continued to run backwards and forwards to the tower I remember that on one of the runs back into the building I assisted along with FF BETTINSON Commissioner COTTON and one of her officers to get safely into the tower.

At that point I was thinking that I have been running backwards and forwards too many times that I am not going to make it out alive, I've been hit a number of times and I am just riding my luck. I decided at that point that the safest place was back in the building, I just put my BA set back on and joined the back of the queue of Fire Fighters. I queued for a bit and then in time went back into the tower.

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I am not sure what time that was but it was still dark but starting to get a bit lighter, I was in the base of the tower and I can see that there was the EDBA crew from Chelsea in the lift sector. I went and had a chat to a few of them. At that time there was a body outside the front of the tower. I think I saw the leg of the person who had jumped, I did not know it at the time but I am aware that this person had hit one of my colleagues.

There were a few windows that had been put out, someone had set up some Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV) system outside. These are big fans that are supposed to push smoke around, these had been set up to push air into the lobby area. They were under the covered area and I could remember that the PPV's were pushing smoke into the lobby as the smoke was curling down from the fire above. It just ended up blowing smoke into the bottom of the tower and making the conditions quite bad. I remember that I was wearing my smoke hood over my nose and mouth as it was getting really bad. I think that was recognised as soon the PPV's were turned off.

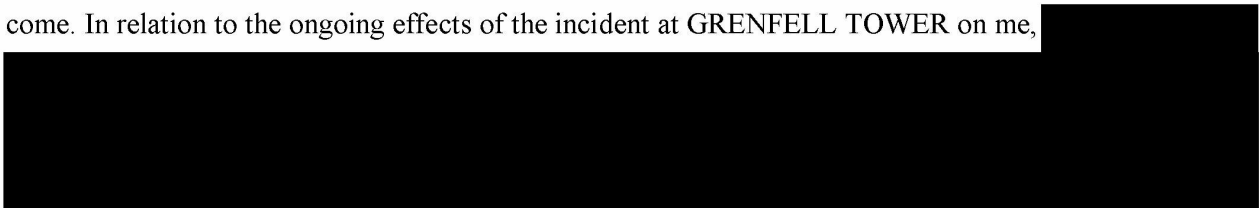
It came to my turn to go back into fire fight. I went again in as a crew of 5 and we were detailed to fight the fire on the 6th floor. On the 6th floor I picked up the branch and we went onto the floor and we went left and then through the door of the flat. The door had not burnt right through so we had some control over the door, however once inside the flat was a burn out. I had the big branch on the end of the hose which was not that great to deal with the fire as it was not easy to control putting out the fire in the flat. I spent the whole of the BA wear fighting fire in the flat, it was a standard fire fight. I remember that we did a left hand sweep of the flats and we did not identify any bodies in the flat. I had a thermal imaging camera with me but by this stage the fire was in a state of decay. I remember that someone was getting close to their whistle so we all came out together. The whole crew went back to the main control area and de-briefed. We then made our way back out of the tower, assisted by people with shields. By this time it was getting light and I had been split up from everyone that I had come with so I went back to my fire engine and put the BA set back on the appliance. Technically after 2 wears you have to do a B test on the set, however I chose to go back to see if I could find my colleagues. By about 630am to 7am we all started to meet back up again and some were still in the tower and a couple of our crews were waiting to get a BA wear at that time.

I met up with a number of my colleagues and had a chat, I remember that this was really getting towards the end of our duties. I went and took some refreshments and then we ended up getting back to Paddington at about 1200hrs.

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On all those floors that we banged on with the Halligan bar I am still surprised that no one opened the doors to us. I now know that people were rescued from all those floors later on whilst we were fighting the fire. This has always bothered me, why people did not open the doors when I banged on the door. It imagine that it could be because of fear or if they were asleep or if they were on the phone to control who were telling them to stay put. It is something that has bothered me and will be with me for some time to come. In relation to the ongoing effects of the incident at GRENFELL TOWER on me,



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