

[REDACTED]

To: MND(SE)-HQ-INFL-SO1-INFL
Cc: MND(SE)-HQ-J5-JT-FIRES-PLANS-SO2; MND(SE)-HQ-INFL-INFO-SO3

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I have the 2 MiTTs looking into the Cemeteries (Basra and AZ) and will report back when they have decent info. Both cemeteries have Brit graves. From 3/51 MiTT they recommend the AZ Cemetery for a formal service as it appears to be in better order and much more photographic.

The Basra City British Cemetery is much worse. The following is an extract from the patrol report:

The site is divided into two Cemeteries one either size of a road. The Christian/ British Cemetery is on the north side of the road with the entrance at Grid 7067 8087. With the other faiths/ other nationalities Cemetery on the southern side of the road with the entrance facing the other. [REDACTED]

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The locals in this location have established a small football pitch on the northern cemetery, and the area is very open. On the other side the Cemetery area is very overgrown and the locals don't seem to use it in the same way as on the northern side. The headstones are still broken but some are still readable. There is a lot of litter in both Cemeteries.

The locals, which were mostly made up of children, were aware of what the area was and seemed respectful. The IA said until 2003 there was a full time grounds man who lived on the site and the Cemetery was guarded by the IA and locals did visit and walk through the site.

Interesting fact that there is a collocated Muslim and British Cemetery – if we could (and I realise could is the key word) refurbish both, this would make an excellent story if combined with our departure and by chance a joint “service”.....2 Armies from 2 Countries....brother in Arms.....respect the fallen. Multi national, multi lingual, multi media, multi religion. It might not be the right time for 7 Bde – but this could be a good handover to 20 Bde.

More to follow.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

2IC 9/12L
Chief Influence UK MiTT Gp

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