

1 [Sworn Statement of [REDACTED] dated 18 Nov 04]

2 [REDACTED] I'm [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] I'm the AR 15-6 investigating officer looking into the
4 facts and circumstances surrounding the death of Corporal
5 Tillman in Afghanistan on 22 April 2004. [REDACTED] if you would.

6 [REDACTED] was sworn.]

7 [REDACTED] Please state your full name, your rank, and
8 spell your last name for the record.

9 [REDACTED] sir; [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] sir.

11 [REDACTED] Okay. [REDACTED] on the 22d of April
12 2004 when Corporal Tillman was killed. What type of vehicle
13 were you in that day?

14 [REDACTED] I was running in the trail GMV, sir, Serial
15 2.

16 [REDACTED] A GMV?

17 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

18 [REDACTED] Did it have a turret?

19 [REDACTED] Yes, it did, sir.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] if I can get you speak
up.

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1 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

2 [REDACTED] We're recording what you're saying. So it's
3 important that you speak loudly enough to be recorded.

4 [REDACTED] Okay. [REDACTED] what I'd like for you
5 to do with this diagram right here, if you could, I want you to
6 tell me what serial you were in, Serial 1 or Serial 2; okay?

7 [REDACTED] I'm not sure I understand, sir.

8 [REDACTED] Okay. Serial 1 was the first group of vehicles
9 that left. Serial 2 was the second group of vehicles that left.
10 And then what I want you to put below what serial you were in.

11 I want you to note where you were in that order of movement in
12 that serial.

13 [REDACTED] Roger, sir. I was in the second serial in
14 the very last vehicle of the convoy, sir.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay. Then that's what I want you to note right
16 here. And then what I want you to do after that, [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED] I want you, in this vehicle, put the names of who you
18 knew were in what positions.

19 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

20 [REDACTED] Okay.

1 [REDACTED] I'm not sure with the guys in the back with
2 me, sir.

3 [REDACTED] That's okay. It's to the best of your ability.
4 If you don't recall who they are, then we'll leave it at that.

5 [REDACTED] Okay, sir.

6 [REDACTED] Well, if in the course of this you remember,
7 we'll let you do that; okay?

8 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

9 [REDACTED] If you would please print your name, sign it, and
0 date it. Today is the 18th of November of 2004.

11 I got two diagrams for you here [REDACTED]
12 One is a diagram of a larger part of the operational area here.

13 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

14 [REDACTED] This one here is a close up of where the ambush
15 occurred. This village here corresponds with that village
16 there.

17 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

18 [REDACTED] Okay. What I would like you to do, if you could,
19 if you were in Serial 2 using the red pen on this diagram, draw
20 a box where your convoy started or your serial started. Trace
1 the route to where your vehicle stopped when the whole incident

1 was over. And then on this diagram I'll get you to explain to
2 me what happened while you were in this ambush zone or this kill
3 zone and then what happened when you came out.

4 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

5 [REDACTED] So first let's address the route that you took.

6 [REDACTED] Okay, sir. I wasn't sure of the village's
7 name. But I know we stopped for a time when the vehicle broke
8 down just down just on that road----

9 [REDACTED] Okay----

10 [REDACTED] ----being at the village, we spent a lot of
11 time with the villagers that day.

12 [REDACTED] Do you recall which village it was?

13 [REDACTED] I, again, sir, I didn't have access to a
14 map, ready access to a map so I didn't know our exact position,
15 but I knew it was pretty good ways from this intersection here,
16 sir.

17 [REDACTED] Okay.

18 [REDACTED] Probably----

19 [REDACTED] So let's just take it from where you know you
20 were on that drawing right there and we can start from there.

1 [REDACTED] I knew--I know that after we left the
2 village we followed this route, sir. We came to this
3 intersection and, originally, when had come in at the beginning
4 of the operation, we had come in this direction. But they
5 decided to go this way because it was shorter for the towed
6 vehicle. Then we made this--at the "Y" we took a left fork and
7 came down through that canyon.

8 [REDACTED] For the purpose of what you can recall, let's
9 start at that location that you do remember you were at. Okay,
10 with a square that shows where you started.

11 [REDACTED] Okay, sir.

12 [REDACTED] Okay. Put "S1" [witness did as instructed, with
13 red pen]. Okay. And then from that if you would trace the
14 route that you went on until you stopped [witness did as
15 instructed, with red pen].

16 [REDACTED] We made initial contact around in here.
17 About in here we stopped briefly a couple of times in there.

18 [REDACTED] Okay.

19 [REDACTED] But we actually----

20 [REDACTED] Where did you stop?

[REDACTED] We stopped up there by the village, sir.

1 [REDACTED] Okay. Show me the route you went on after that
2 stop and then we'll address the ambush on this diagram right
3 here.

4 [REDACTED] We stopped about there, sir.

5 [REDACTED] Okay. Then put a square there. That's "F1"
6 [witness did as instructed, with red pen]. Okay. Now let me
7 with that diagram and this one [Close-up], what I would like you
8 to do is show where you first stopped when the attack started.

9 [REDACTED] It was probably somewhere in here, sir.

10 [REDACTED] If you would put a square right there [witness
11 did as instructed, with red pen, labeled "S-1"]. Okay. Now,
12 when you stopped there, if you would, tell me what happened.

13 [REDACTED] First we heard an explosion over here and
14 thought it might have been an IED or something, sir. A few
15 seconds later an explosion went off above us. At that time, we
16 likely thought it was mortar rounds coming on top of us as they
17 exploded. I won't say directly above us but close enough to be
18 uncomfortable range from above in front of us.

19 [REDACTED] Okay. Can you show me using the blue pen right
20 there to your left where you think that explosion occurred?

1 [REDACTED] I think it was probably in that canyon
2 there. Right here, sir.

3 [REDACTED] Okay. Could you put "E1" there? And just write
4 explosion underneath that [witness did as instructed]. What do
5 you think that explosion was?

6 [REDACTED] I would think it was probably a mortar
7 round, sir. I don't think it came from us because nobody had
8 initiated fire at that time.

9 [REDACTED] Then what happened after that.

10 [REDACTED] After that [REDACTED] stopped the
11 vehicle. I had [REDACTED] stop the vehicle. We all
12 dismounted and look for cover. They were various pretty much
13 rock and craters in and I think the 240 on the back of vehicle
14 was laying suppressive fire on the ridgeline, sir.

15 [REDACTED] Okay. Could you show me using the red pen where
16 the 240 fired?

17 [REDACTED] He was firing up this direction, sir.

18 [REDACTED] Now, draw line from the vehicle to that location.
19 And then put an "x" and put "FF1". Okay. Now after he fired at
20 that location, what happened?

1 [REDACTED] He started firing at that location, I think,
2 everybody in the vehicle pretty much returned--was putting
3 suppressive fire upon the high ground, sir.

4 [REDACTED] Okay.

5 [REDACTED] In this general direction. We'd seen
6 another machine gun from--we couldn't see the vehicle, but I'd
7 seen another machine gun return fire up the same area that we
8 were firing at, sir.

9 [REDACTED] Okay. And then what happened?

10 [REDACTED] We remounted the vehicles. [REDACTED]
11 gave the order to remount the vehicles so we could get out of
12 the kill zone, sir. We started driving pretty far. We didn't
13 make it very far. And he gave the order to dismount, I guess
14 because the traffic in front us was blocking the road.

15 [REDACTED] Could you show me with the red pen where you were
16 went to and where you stopped again?

17 [REDACTED] We----

18 [REDACTED] To the best of your memory.

19 [REDACTED] We probably didn't make it 200 or 300 meters
20 at most, sir.

1 [REDACTED] Okay. Put "S1" by the first and "S2" by the
2 second. "S1" being the first stop and "S2" being the second
3 stop; okay? And then what happened?

4 [REDACTED] The same thing happened again, sir. We--
5 [REDACTED] gave the order to remount the vehicles and we
6 went about 200 or 300 meters further. I guess the traffic,
7 again, was still blocking. They couldn't make any forward
8 progress so we dismounted and got under cover again, sir.

9 [REDACTED] Okay. And put "S3" for your third stop. And
0 then what happened after that?

11 [REDACTED] After that, sir, we got into the vehicles
12 and continued out of the kill zone, pretty much the canyon and
13 we ended up here, basically, between the base of that draw and
14 the village.

15 [REDACTED] Okay, if you would, just draw the route with a
16 pen. Okay. And write "S4" and then a square at the top. Now,
17 between when you left on stop 3 to stop 4 there, what occurred
18 in between there?

19 [REDACTED] Pretty much everybody in the vehicle was
20 scanning the ridgeline of both sides of the road for enemy
1 movement. We didn't see anybody and nobody fired. We got to

1 right there basically at the base of the draw. There was a
2 smoke grenade laying there that was fuming off and I heard some
3 confusion as whether it was enemy that had thrown a grenade or
4 that was us that threw the grenade. But [REDACTED] decided
5 that it was one of ours and somebody was using it for screening,
6 to screen off our exit from the canyon, sir. So he tossed
7 another grenade at that point.

8 [REDACTED] Okay. If you would, would please mark with the
9 black pen there exactly where you saw the first smoke grenade.

10 [REDACTED] How do you want me to mark this, sir?

11 [REDACTED] With an "x".

12 [REDACTED] It was right at the base of the draw.

13 [REDACTED] That was the first smoke. And then you said

14 [REDACTED] threw another smoke grenade?

15 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

16 [REDACTED] And where did you throw that?

17 [REDACTED] He pretty much just tossed out right at the
18 same spot.

19 [REDACTED] Okay. Then put an "x" there and put second
20 smoke.

-- [REDACTED] Okay. Then what happened after that.

1 [REDACTED] The vehicle stopped there. [REDACTED]
2 came around down from around the side of the hill, sir. He said
3 that he thought they had casualties on the hillside.

4 [REDACTED] Who did he tell that to?

5 [REDACTED] He told that to [REDACTED] sir.

6 [REDACTED] Okay. If you will, if you could show where [REDACTED]
7 came from. Did you see where he came from?

8 [REDACTED] Yes, he came from--it doesn't give a very
9 good representation. There is some high ground right here. He
10 didn't come from the--he didn't come from the building side. He
11 came from around this direction following the draw down, sir.

12 [REDACTED]: Okay. If you would just draw an arrow. Okay.

13 Put [REDACTED] beside that, please. And what did [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED] say.

15 [REDACTED]: He said they thought they had two KIA on the
16 hillside, but he wasn't sure if they were dead or not, sir.

17 [REDACTED] Okay.

18 [REDACTED]: And he wanted to--he told [REDACTED] he
19 wanted me to head up the hill towards it, sir.

20 [REDACTED] And what did you do at that time?

1 [REDACTED] I grabbed my "A bag" out of the truck and
2 me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] started up the draw, sir.

3 [REDACTED] Okay. And where did you go to?

4 [REDACTED] I followed up my way up the draw. There was
5 a rock ledge. They let me go up first, sir. I scrambled up the
6 rock ledge and followed up the little rock ledge up to where the
7 AMF guy was laying, sir. He was the first person I came to.

8 [REDACTED] Okay. Could you show me on there, to the best of
9 your knowledge, where that AMF soldier was located?

10 [REDACTED] He would've been around here, sir.

11 [REDACTED] And you saw the AMF soldier. What did you see
12 when you got there?

13 [REDACTED] He was kind of slumped over forward in an
14 unnatural position, sir. I checked his pulse. I checked to see
15 if he was breathing; he wasn't.

16 [REDACTED] Okay. Did you see where he had been shot?

17 [REDACTED] I'd seen some blood in his chest, sir. I
18 didn't really look for the wound. Anyway, I had more patients
19 to look after and he wasn't breathing. There wasn't--he didn't
20 have a pulse so I just kind of moved on from there, sir.

21 [REDACTED] Okay. And where did you move next?

1 [REDACTED] I moved directly up the high ground and
2 probably 5 to 10 meters later I reached Corporal Tillman, sir.

3 [REDACTED] Okay. Can you show me where you think Corporal
4 Tillman was at?

5 [REDACTED] Probably there, sir [pointed].

6 [REDACTED] Okay. And when you reached Corporal Tillman,
7 what happened then?

8 [REDACTED] I reached Corporal Tillman. I knew pretty
9 much, as I walked up, sir, and just - I don't know how familiar
10 you are with anatomy - but he was kind of slumped forward and
11 kind of the opposite position the AMF guy was. He was kind of
12 sitting there. I just kind of came--as I was kind of coming up
13 the hill, by the time I got to an erect position, standing up
14 because I was kind of scrambling on my hands, I realize that he
15 was deceased, sir.

16 [REDACTED] Okay.

17 [REDACTED] His wounds were incompatible with life.

18 [REDACTED] Did you see [REDACTED] there when you were there?

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I looked up. [REDACTED] was probably
20 another 10 meters further up the hill, sir.

[REDACTED] Okay.

1 [REDACTED] He was in a--he was in an over watch
2 position.

3 [REDACTED] Okay. Did [REDACTED] say anything to you at that
4 point?

5 [REDACTED] No. He was pretty much pulling security
6 towards the high ground, sir.

7 [REDACTED] Okay. Did he tell you that he believed that it
8 was fratricide?

9 [REDACTED] I didn't have any real contact with him at
10 that time at all, sir.

11 [REDACTED] Okay. [REDACTED] was there also?

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was a little further down the
13 hill. I turned and just kind of shook my head to letting him
14 know that Tillman hadn't made it and him and [REDACTED] came
15 up and [REDACTED] followed shortly after. [REDACTED]
16 wanted me to get some identification from Specialist [sic]
17 Tillman.

18 [REDACTED] What did [REDACTED] ask you to do?

19 [REDACTED] He asked me--he said he needed to get some
20 dog tags or ID card off the body, sir.

1 [REDACTED] Okay. Did you see any bullet markings on his
2 MOLLE or his body armor?

3 [REDACTED] I'd seen his helmet later on, on the truck,
4 sir. It was remarkably intact for the damage I'd seen.

5 [REDACTED] Okay. But you did not see any bullet marks on
6 his body other than where he had received the fatal wound?

7 [REDACTED] It was pretty much it, sir. It was kind of
8 hard, sir, and I don't know that he wasn't hit anywhere else in
9 the body just because everything was pretty much covered in
10 blood at that point, sir. And the wounds that I could see were
11 obviously fatal, sir.

12 [REDACTED] Okay. Did you hear any discussion that
13 transpired between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED] I suppose I did, sir.

15 [REDACTED] Do you recall what was said?

16 [REDACTED] Just pretty much, [REDACTED] given
17 orders to [REDACTED] what to do with his men and that they
18 needed to get the bodies off the hill, sir.

19 [REDACTED] Okay. At that time, what was done with the AMF
20 soldier and Corporal Tillman?

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] gave the other to [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] to go ahead and packaged them, move them down the hill and
3 bundle them up in SKEDCOs and cover them up with ponchos and
4 move them down to the HLZ, sir.

5 [REDACTED] Okay. Did you remove any of Tillman's clothing
6 or any equipment while he was there at the site?

7 [REDACTED] I started to cut away at his web gear, sir,
8 to get at his dog tags because everything was covered up with
9 his RBA and his vest. I started to cut away at that and

[REDACTED] came up and just pulled the bump card out of his
11 left breast or out of his shoulder pocket, sir. So I stopped.

12 [REDACTED] Okay. So you didn't take any of his equipment
13 off?

14 [REDACTED] No, I didn't, sir. I never got anything
15 completely off of him.

16 [REDACTED] Okay. Then he was moved down to the PZ?

17 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

18 [REDACTED] Okay. After that what did you do?

19 [REDACTED] At the point when [REDACTED] gave

20 [REDACTED] the order to move them down, I didn't stay for the
packaging. I-- [REDACTED] got the word that we had two other

1 people wounded on the other side up by the house, so I moved
2 over there.

3 [REDACTED] Okay. When you moved over there, who did you see
4 that was wounded?

5 [REDACTED] I saw [REDACTED] the [REDACTED], and the
6 [REDACTED] sir.

7 [REDACTED] Could you describe to me the wounds that were
8 sustained by [REDACTED]?

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had a wound--it would've
10 been his left knee, sir. He had an entrance and exit wound. It
11 looked very clean. He was already being dressed by another
12 private that was over there, sir. And I let him continue to
13 dress it. I moved over to work over on the [REDACTED]. He
14 had a--it was--it looked like he had a pretty bad bloody nose,
15 sir. So I started looking for the wound and I found an entrance
16 and an exit wound through his upper lip, sir. And I asked him
17 if he was hit anywhere else and he told me his leg hurt. And so
18 I cut his leg pant up and found another entrance wound in the
19 side of his left thigh, sir.

20 [REDACTED] And do you recall what type of wounds these were?

1 [REDACTED] They looked like small caliber bullet
2 wounds, to me, sir. They could have been shrapnel wounds too, I
3 guess, sir.

4 [REDACTED] Okay. Would the FST personnel have removed the
5 clothing from Corporal Tillman?

6 [REDACTED] I don't know about that, sir. If he was
7 part of the hodge podge [phonetic] of people up there that were
8 with [REDACTED] and helped package him to make it easier to
9 package. It's pretty common for us to pull a guy's gear off
when we package them in SKEDCO just so they fit in the SKEDCO,
11 sir, and then we usually place the gear between their legs.

12 [REDACTED] Okay. Do you recall if any of his gear was
13 removed at all?

14 [REDACTED] I don't recall, sir. While I was there none
15 of it was removed. His helmet which wasn't on him at the time,
16 I got and his weapon were brought down to our vehicle later on
17 that evening. Other than seeing the packaged bodies laying
18 there, sir, I never--I couldn't tell you.

19 [REDACTED] Okay. How long did you stay out there after this
20 incident occurred?

1 [REDACTED] Oh, we were out there for another probably
2 24 or 36 hours, sir. Because we were there that evening. We
3 were there the next day. We SSEd the villages closest to us,
4 sir, to see if we could find any signs of the guys that ambushed
5 us.

6 [REDACTED] Okay. And when did you returned to Salerno?

7 [REDACTED] It would've been that evening, sir, the next
8 day.

9 [REDACTED] The evening of the next day?

10 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

11 [REDACTED] So the incident occurred on the 22d?

12 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

13 [REDACTED] The morning of the 23 or sometime the day of the
14 23d you conducted your SSC?

15 [REDACTED] Roger, sir. It would've been probably early
16 afternoon, sir.

17 [REDACTED] You came back?

18 [REDACTED] We came back to that site and that's where
19 we had our perimeters established, sir.

20 [REDACTED] And when did you move out to go back to Salerno,
that night?

1 [REDACTED] It would've been after dark, sir.

2 [REDACTED]: Okay. And you returned to Salerno on the 24th;
3 is that correct?

4 [REDACTED] Probably the wee hours of the 24th, sir.

5 [REDACTED] Do you recall returning to Salerno?

6 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

7 [REDACTED] Did you arrive with the daylight or was it still
8 dark?

9 [REDACTED] It would've been probably still dark, sir,
just before first light.

11 [REDACTED] Okay. And what did you do when you got back?

12 [REDACTED] Pretty much, just dropped gear in our tents,
13 got comfortable, got some sleep, sir.

14 [REDACTED] Okay. And when did you wake up on the 24th?

15 [REDACTED]: Probably early afternoon, sir.

16 [REDACTED] Okay. And what happened after that?

17 [REDACTED] Not too much, sir.

18 [REDACTED] Did you have an AAR that day at all?

19 [REDACTED]: Not that day, sir. Actually I don't think I
20 ever went to an AAR. We had a [REDACTED]'s briefing 2 days later,
sir.

1 [REDACTED] and who was there at the [REDACTED] briefing?

2 [REDACTED] Pretty much the whole [REDACTED]. Everybody
3 involved in the incident.

4 [REDACTED] Did anyone ever tell you as a group of soldiers
5 that you all had to accept blame for this?

6 [REDACTED] Nothing really like that. I can't recall
7 anything like that, sir. I remember that the [REDACTED]
8 the [REDACTED] just said we made a mistake. We
9 needed to make sure it never happen again. That's about the
10 only thing.

11 [REDACTED] Okay. Did anybody tell you, as a soldier, not to
12 discuss this with anyone else?

13 [REDACTED] They told us not to discuss it with the
14 general public, only to discuss it, you know, people like
15 yourself.

16 [REDACTED] And why did they say that?

17 [REDACTED] Because of OPSEC, sir, for us not to phone
18 home and talk about operations. I wouldn't think that it would
19 extend any further than that, sir.

20 [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you for your time and your candor.
Is there anything you'd like to add to this?

1 [REDACTED] That's pretty much all I can tell you, sir.
2 I can't think of anything else unless you have another question.

3 [REDACTED] I don't have anything else for you. Just a
4 reminder, this is still an open investigation. I'd ask you not
5 to discuss this with anyone while this investigation remains
6 open.

7 [REDACTED] Roger, sir.

8 [REDACTED] Thank you very much for your time and candor,

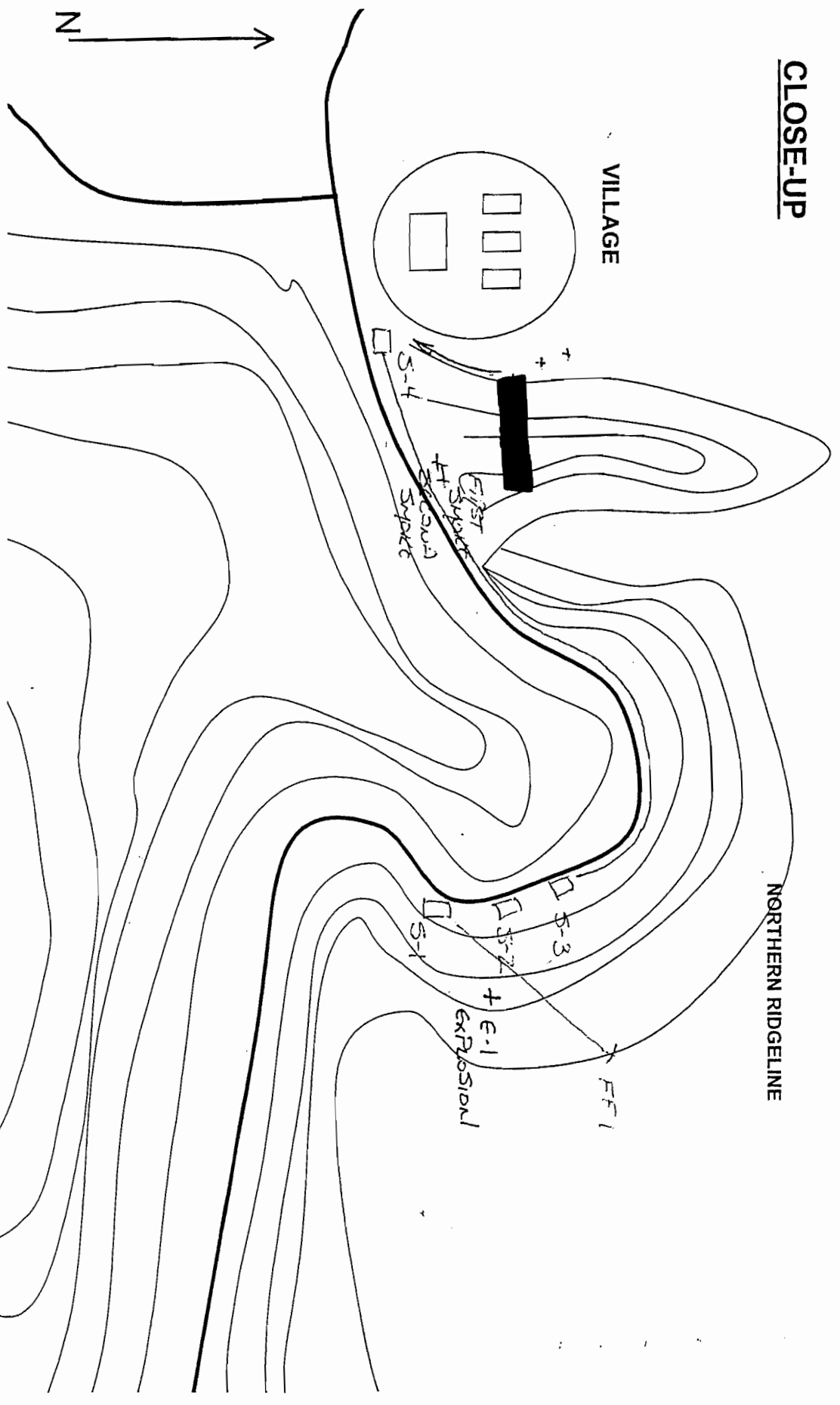
9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]: Roger, sir.

11 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] before you leave, could you please
12 down there print your name, sign it and date it on both of
13 those?

14 [END OF PAGE]

CLOSE-UP



PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

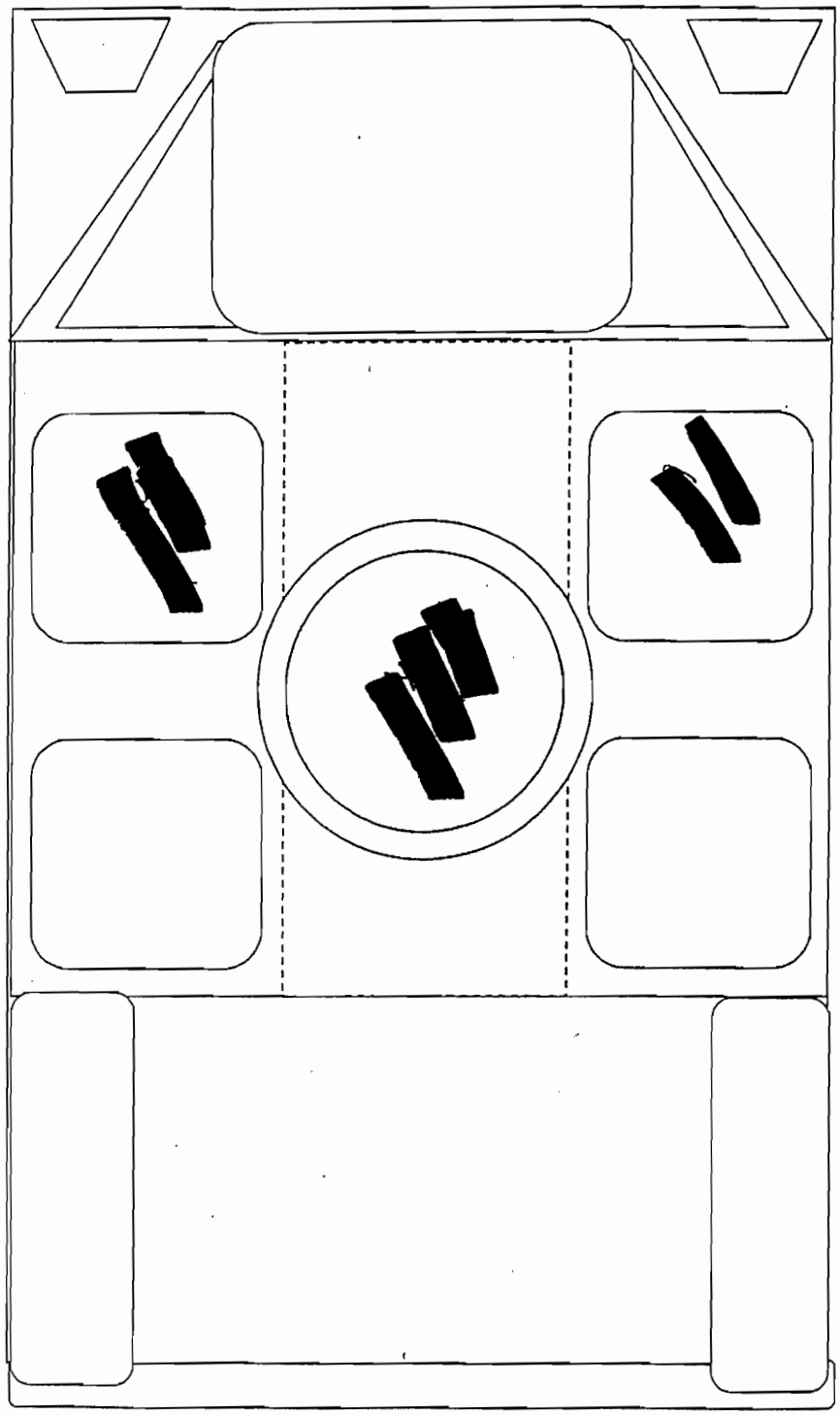
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18 Feb 04

[Redacted Name]
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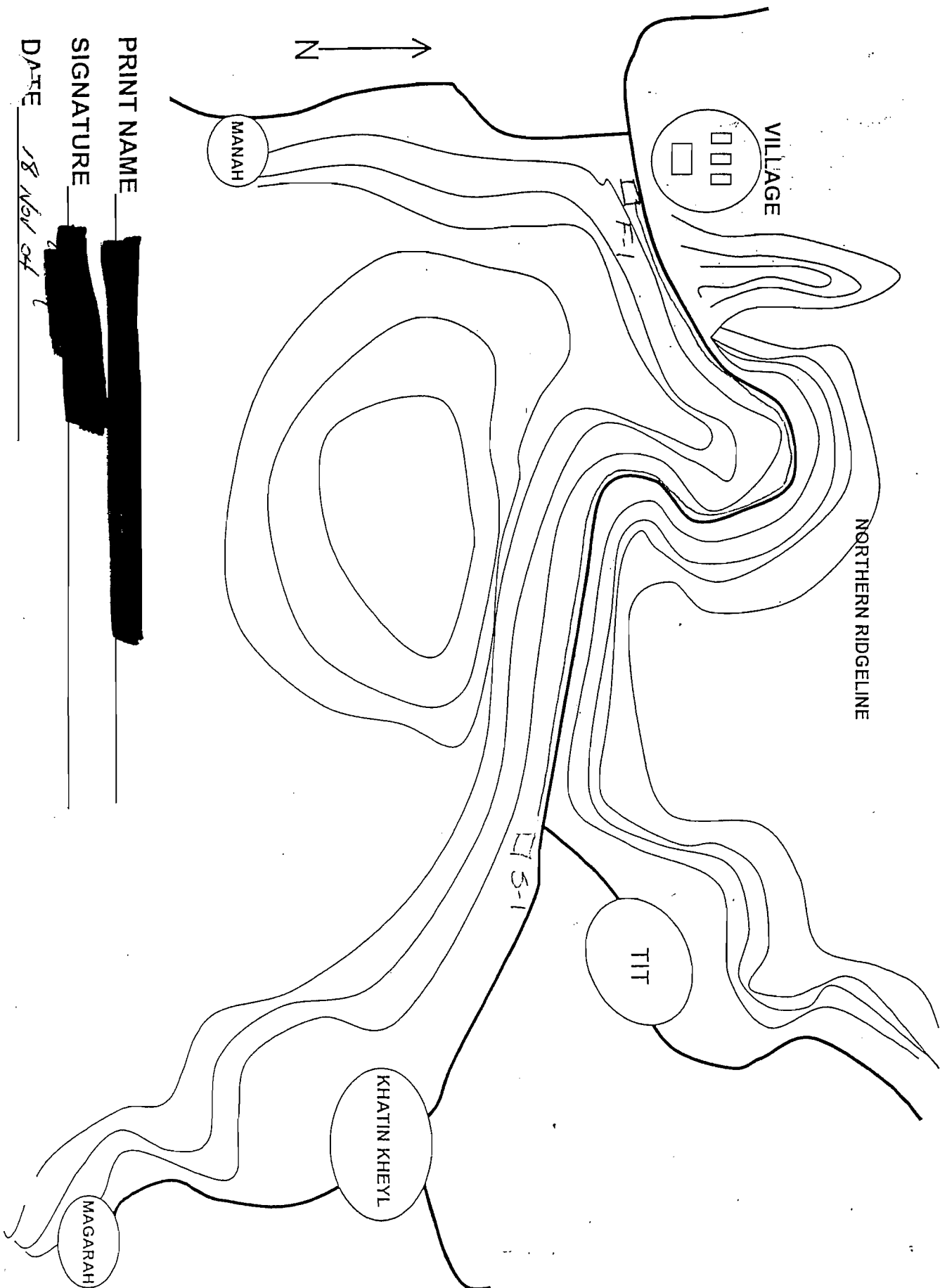
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18 Nov 04

[REDACTED]



VILLAGE

N

MANAH

NORTHERN RIDGELINE

F-1

S-1

TIT

KHATIN KHEYL

MAGARAH

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

18 Nov 04