

Case No. SCSL-2004-16-T
THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
ALEX TAMBA BRIMA
BRIMA BAZZY KAMARA
SANTIGIE BORBOR KANU

FRIDAY, 17 JUNE 2005
9.15 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:	Teresa Doherty, Presiding Julia Sebutinde Richard Lussick
For Chambers:	Mr Simon Meisenberg
For the Registry:	Ms Maureen Edmonds
For the Prosecution:	Mr Jim Hodes Ms Melissa Pack Ms Maja Dimitrova (Case Manager)
For the Principal Defender:	No appearances
For the accused Alex Tamba Brima:	Ms Glenna Thompson Mr Osman Keh Kamara
For the accused Brima Bazy Kamara:	Mr Ibrahim Foday Mansaray Mr Mohamed Pa-Momo Fofanah
For the accused Santigie Borbor Kanuu:	Mr Ajibola E Manly-Spain

1 [Friday, 17 June 2005]

2 [Open session]

3 [Accused Kanu present]

4 [Accused Brima and Kamara not present]

5 [TB170605A - AD]

6 [Upon commencing at 9.15 a.m.]

7 WITNESS: TF1-334 [Continued]

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. I note there is one

9 accused present in Court. Ms Thompson, the others --

09:23:14 10 MS THOMPSON: The situation remains the same, Your Honour.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, we will note that accordingly
12 and Rule 60(B) will apply. Ms Pack, you are on your own this
13 morning?

14 MS PACK: Mr Hodes will be coming to court later on.

09:23:29 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: You seem to be doing fine; I wouldn't
16 worry too much. I will remind the witness of his oath and we
17 will proceed unless there is some other matter. No, very well.
18 Mr Witness, you will recall that every morning I have reminded
19 you that you have taken an oath and promised to tell the truth.

09:23:45 20 The oath is still binding on you and you must answer all
21 questions truthfully. Do you understand?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, My Lord.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Manly-Spain, you were in the midst of
24 your cross-examination. Please proceed.

09:24:05 25 MR MANLY-SPAIN: Your Honours, I indicated yesterday I am
26 now respectfully applying for us to go into closed session so I
27 can ask the witness certain questions.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is the consensus of all counsel for
29 the Defence? Is there any objection?

1 MS THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honour, it is the consensus.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Pack, you have heard counsel's
3 application. Have you any objection to that application?

4 MS PACK: No objection so long as the closed session is for
09:24:32 5 questions relating to issues that might give rise to the identity
6 of the witness being revealed.

7 [Trial Chamber confers]

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: The application for a closed session is
9 granted. We note that this closed session is for purposes of
09:25:00 10 protection of the identity of the witness and for his safety.
11 Madam Court Attendant, please arrange to have a closed session
12 implemented.

13 [At this point in the proceedings, a portion of the
14 transcript, pages 4 to 26, was extracted and sealed under
09:25:10 15 separate cover, as the session was heard in camera.]

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1 [Open session]

2 [On resuming at 11.00 a.m.]

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Before I invite Defence counsel to
4 continue cross-examination I wish to say something. This relates
11:04:25 5 solely to myself and not to my learned brother and sister. I
6 have noted the evidence this morning of the witness when he spoke
7 of being held in "safe custody" and his subsequent release from
8 Pademba Road prison in August 2004. I think I should make it
9 known to all parties that this has caused me to recall that I
11:04:48 10 made an inspection of Pademba Road prison in May and June 2004 in
11 my capacity as a judge of the High Court of Sierra Leone. I
12 became aware of persons being held without charge or warrant. I
13 raised the situation of those being held without charge or
14 warrant as one of many matters in my subsequent report. In that
11:05:13 15 report I indicated what action I considered appropriate and all
16 the matters I found, one of those many matters included the
17 situation of those held without charge or warrant. I wish to
18 make this known to the Court. I stress that there were over 700
19 prisoners in that prison on the two days I inspected and I have
11:05:40 20 no idea if this witness was one of the many hundreds I saw on
21 those occasions. I make this known in court to assure all
22 parties that this earlier visit to the prison et cetera will in
23 no way impact on my view of the evidence of this Court.

24 Ms Thompson, please continue.

11:06:11 25 MS THOMPSON: Thank you, Your Honour. Your Honours, we are
26 now in open session, are we? Okay.

27 Q. You will recall that I earlier asked you a question about
28 the sum of 816,000 Leones said to be paid to you as a witness
29 attendance allowance. Do you recall that? Do you recall the

1 question? Do you recall the question?

2 A. Yes, My Lord.

3 Q. And you said you had no recollection of that?

4 A. Yes, My Lord.

11:06:51 5 Q. Now, Witness, this year alone you came to this Court --

6 let's start with the 14th of March 2005. Do you recall meeting
7 someone from the Special Court on the 14th of March 2005?

8 A. In March 2005, where, My Lord?

9 Q. I'm not asking you about location. I'm just asking you
11:07:37 10 about a meeting on the 14th of March 2005. It may well have been
11 here.

12 A. Well, when you talked about meeting I don't think if I had
13 any meeting with people from the Special Court.

14 Q. Have you met someone from the Special Court - any
11:08:03 15 department from the Special Court, I should add - this year?

16 A. Well, yes. I cannot only recall the date.

17 Q. Can you recall how many times?

18 A. Well, the only thing that I can recall, it is only when I
19 came and went through my statement, that I can recall. That was
11:08:32 20 the time I met with the Special Court.

21 Q. Was it just once, was it twice, three times, ten times?

22 A. I cannot say. I say about two, three times to four times.
23 Round about that.

24 Q. Perhaps eight?

11:08:57 25 A. I cannot state the exact number.

26 Q. Now, on each of those times when you came were you given
27 something, money?

28 MS PACK: Your Honour, if may assist if my learned friend
29 is more specific about by whom. There are various organs of the

1 Special Court including the Prosecution but also the victims and
2 Witness unit which may be the unit to which my learned friend is
3 referring.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: I do recall Ms Thompson, we've considered
11:09:29 5 this in relation to previous witnesses and there has been certain
6 rulings made.

7 MS THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honour. That's why I haven't said
8 the OTP. I'm trying to jog the witness's memory at the moment
9 before putting something specific to him because I do have
11:09:43 10 something here [overlapping speakers].

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. I will permit you to put your
12 case and if it is required, I will reconsider the objection by
13 counsel for the Prosecution.

14 MS THOMPSON: Thank you, Your Honour.

11:09:58 15 Q. Were you given money on each of those occasions? Do you
16 recall being given money?

17 A. The only money I was given was the transport. They gave me
18 the to and fro transport. That gave me that transport.

19 Q. Do you recall how much?

11:10:20 20 A. Well, on each occasion if I recall it was 15,000. That was
21 the money they gave me. Because I hired a taxi to come. That
22 was the money they used to give me.

23 Q. And that was given to you on each occasions, was it?

24 A. Yes, My Lord.

11:10:39 25 Q. The same amount?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Was that given to you by the Witness and Victims section or
28 by the Office of the Prosecutor? Do you know which section?

29 A. Well, actually I did not try to find out about sections. I

1 came to the office so I cannot tell the section. I was only
2 given a transport allowance.

3 Q. So when the Victims and Witness section Say that you've
4 been given 816,000 Leones as witness attendance allowance is it
11:11:21 5 your evidence that you recall receiving no such money, no such
6 amount, I should say?

7 MS PACK: Your Honour, again my learned friend is speaking
8 about a gross sum of 816,000. If she could make clear so that
9 the witness is able to understand that it wasn't -- that she's
11:11:42 10 not suggesting, I don't think she's suggesting, that that sum of
11 money in its entirety was given to the witness by the witness
12 unit at any time but in increments or whatever.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Are you saying, Ms Pack, that this was a
14 cumulative amount?

11:12:00 15 MS PACK: Yes. My learned friend has the document in front
16 of her. There's a cumulative allowance given by Witness and
17 Victims unit of a certain amount per day, as I understand it.

18 MS THOMPSON: I accept my learned friend's point there.
19 The issue is we've been given one break down that doesn't amount
11:12:23 20 to the total amount in another document. But I'll put it to the
21 witness again in another way.

22 MS THOMPSON:

23 Q. Would you say that you've been given monies which total to
24 about 818,000 Leones?

11:12:41 25 A. Well, I never received money in bulk which was 816,000.
26 That has not been done to me. I never received 816,000 Leones in
27 bulk.

28 Q. I'm not asking you about in bulk. Let me be more specific.
29 Let me put it to you this way. Between the 14th of March 2005

1 and the 14th of May 2005 would you say you have received a total
2 amount of 816,000 Leones?

3 A. I have never received that amount from the 14th of March
4 2005 to May. I have never received that sum that you are
11:13:35 5 referring to.

6 Q. Now, you mentioned yesterday that you were given assurances
7 about prosecution. Were you also given assurances about your
8 security for the rest of your life?

9 A. Yes. In case of any threat from anybody or persons
11:14:03 10 concerning the Special Court, they gave me assurance of security
11 to make report.

12 Q. Were you offered relocation after your evidence?
13 Relocation outside of Sierra Leone after your evidence?

14 A. The only thing, location in Freetown that I should be
11:14:31 15 placed in a safer site wherein they could secure that place for
16 me.

17 Q. And that will continue for the rest of your life?

18 A. Well, I don't know. I haven't much idea about that. For
19 now I am in a safe location.

11:14:56 20 Q. Okay. Witness, I don't ask you any more about that.
21 You've given evidence in this Court of attending meetings with A,
22 Honourable A. Now I want to ask you about the meetings during
23 the AFRC period. Did you attend those meetings, did you go
24 inside the rooms where those meetings were being held?

11:15:24 25 A. Never have I entered the meeting room. The only situation
26 was the Iranian Embassy office but I have never entered in any
27 meetings room.

28 Q. Now, when is it that A would show you these documents from
29 these meetings to read? When would he show you these documents?

1 A. A, whenever he came with a document, when he came to the
2 house where we were based he normally gave me this document, I
3 looked through them because I was one of the most experienced
4 soldiers that were with him.

11:16:21 5 Q. Okay. So it would be on the same day as the meeting, would
6 it?

7 MS PACK: Your Honour, this is almost exactly the same line
8 of questioning which was asked by my learned friend
9 Mr Manly-Spain. I'm just wondering whether my learned friend is
11:16:37 10 going to repeat that line of questioning because if she is I
11 object on the grounds of repetition.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: You've heard the objection.

13 MS THOMPSON: Your Honour, it is about the same issues but
14 not necessarily the same line of questioning. If my memory
11:17:09 15 serves me right, Mr Manly-Spain concentrated on minutes and
16 documents from these meetings and I don't recall any question - I
17 stand to be corrected but I don't recall questions about when
18 these documents were shown to him. This was something that we
19 had discussed. I do not think that I am repeating
11:17:32 20 Mr Manly-Spain's line of questioning at all.

21 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Although I do recall, Ms Thompson,
22 Mr Manly-Spain did try to get from this witness whether he
23 understood the meaning of minutes, because ordinarily minutes are
24 usually produced well long after the meeting and he did ask him
11:17:49 25 so when were these minutes ever passed to you? Was it
26 immediately after the meeting? The witness gave some kind of
27 explanation. You recall that.

28 MS THOMPSON: I do recall that, Your Honour. I'm not even
29 going into the issue of minutes now. What I am going into is the

1 issue of the exhibits that have been tendered in the Court that
2 the witness said were shown to him by A and when they were shown
3 to him. That's all I need to explore.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: We will allow that question but bear in
11:18:22 5 mind what counsel for the Prosecution has --

6 MS THOMPSON: I will, Your Honour, yes.

7 Q. Mr Witness, I think yesterday and also on the 16th of May
8 you were shown certain documents. You recall those?

9 A. Yes, My Lord.

11:18:45 10 Q. And your evidence was that those documents were for you to
11 explain to A what had transpired at those meetings?

12 A. All I know, he present them to me. I normally show him
13 whatever I got from reading them through. I read them clearly to
14 him and explained. That's what I used to do.

11:19:17 15 Q. We've got that. Now, those documents that you have -- that
16 have been tendered in court, were they shown to you on the same
17 day as the meetings?

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: A point of clarification. Ms Thompson,
19 are you referring to the exhibits which were --

11:19:39 20 MS THOMPSON: P5 and P5.2.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: The public documents.

22 MS THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honour.

23 MS PACK: Perhaps if my learned friend could make clear
24 specifically which documents she is talking about because the
11:19:50 25 witness was shown many and yesterday indeed was shown a couple.
26 Perhaps it could facilitate his understanding of the question if
27 he was either shown the documents again or if there was something
28 more specific put to him.

29 MS THOMPSON: It's those two documents that he was shown

1 yesterday that I'm asking him about. They can be shown to him.
2 I just thought that because it was only yesterday and only two of
3 them were shown to him -- it was those that I'm asking him about.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: They were public documents. Are you
11:20:15 5 asking him if they emanated from a meeting?

6 MS THOMPSON: No, Your Honour. I think his evidence was
7 that they were shown to him by A. I'm just asking him when A
8 showed him those documents.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. I will allow when was he
11:20:31 10 shown them, yes.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: And for the record these were Exhibits P4
12 and P7 that the witness was shown yesterday.

13 MS THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honour.

14 Q. Now those documents that were shown to you yesterday, can
11:20:44 15 you recall -- I'm not going to ask you about the date or the
16 time, but can you recall whether it was the same day as the
17 meetings that A showed you those documents?

18 MS PACK: Your Honour, it's very difficult for the witness
19 to answer this question because my learned friend isn't talking
11:21:03 20 about minutes of a meeting. She's talking about documents that
21 were public documents that may have been given to A at a meeting.
22 There's no date been put to the witness. It's difficult for him
23 to be specific about an answer to this question.

24 JUDGE LUSSICK: I think you should at least allow him to
11:21:20 25 try and answer the question. He may well be capable of answering
26 the question, Ms Pack.

27 MS THOMPSON:

28 Q. Do you want me to repeat the question?

29 A. Yes, My Lord.

1 Q. You remember being shown two documents yesterday?

2 A. Yes, My Lord.

3 Q. And those are documents you say were shown to you by A?

4 A. Yes, My Lord.

11:21:51 5 Q. Can you just help us - help me, perhaps - whether they were
6 shown to you by A on the same day as the meetings were held?

7 A. Well, it was after the meeting when we went back home.
8 That was the time he would present these papers to me and he
9 would tell me that these are the papers that were given to me

11:22:16 10 during the meeting.

11 Q. And you would explain what the contents of those papers and
12 from your explanation did you understand him -- were you aware --
13 sorry, I'll rephrase that. Did he understand what you were
14 explaining to him was what had transpired at the meeting he'd
11:22:52 15 been at earlier?

16 A. Well, especially the type of document that he brought
17 which -- part of which I used to scan through and explain
18 according to my understanding. He too can understand. For
19 instance, the proclamation for the appointment of council, that I
11:23:22 20 explained to him. He understood that, that it was made for the
21 appointment that the council had wanted to make. Not every
22 detail I could explain but the most important things that
23 concerned him, that I used to explain to him.

24 Q. Okay. Yesterday you were shown two documents.

11:23:53 25 MS THOMPSON: Perhaps, Your Honour, Exhibit P5.1 can be
26 shown to the witness.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Attendant.

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: It wasn't P5.1. It was Exhibits P4 and
29 P7. Those were yesterday.

1 MS THOMPSON: I'm talking about today now.

2 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Okay.

3 MR FOFANAH: May it please Your Honours, it's just a point
4 of clarification that I seek. I think it was actually P4 and P6
11:24:45 5 that Mr Manly-Spain referred to yesterday.

6 MS PACK: It was P7, according to my record, Your Honour.

7 MR FOFANAH: Thank you.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]

9 MR FOFANAH: The point is both P7 and P6 are gazettes,
11:25:07 10 probably that's why. Thank you.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Fofanah, both P4 and P7 are gazettes.

12 MR FOFANAH: P7 and P6, they are both gazettes.

13 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: But the documents that were shown to him
14 yesterday, were also proclamations, yesterday.

11:25:37 15 MR FOFANAH: P4 is a proclamation, and my recollection was
16 P6, but if the records show P7 then you're right. Thank you.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Attendant, please show
18 counsel for the Prosecution first.

19 JUDGE LUSSICK: What is that document, Ms Thompson?

11:26:08 20 MS THOMPSON: If it's AFRC decree number 4, P5.1.

21 JUDGE LUSSICK: Exhibit P5.1?

22 MS THOMPSON: Yes.

23 [Exhibit No. P5.1 shown to witness]

24 Q. Mr Witness, can you see that document that is in front of
11:26:31 25 you?

26 A. Yes, My Lord.

27 Q. And you can see a date on it, 14th July 1997?

28 A. Yes, My Lord.

29 Q. If you turn to the next page can you see another date, 12th

1 day of July 1997?

2 A. Yes, My Lord.

3 Q. And at the bottom: "Printed and published by the

4 government printing department, Sierra Leone, authority of the

11:27:09 5 Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, gazette extraordinary Number

6 43 of 14th July 1997." Can you see that?

7 A. Yes, My Lord.

8 Q. And this is one of the documents that you had to explain to

9 Honourable A?

11:27:28 10 A. Yes. I can read this and give my own view as far as I can

11 understand it.

12 Q. Thank you very much. Now, you were still with Honourable A

13 when you retreated from Freetown -- sorry, it can be brought back

14 from him.

11:28:05 15 A. Yes, My Lord.

16 Q. And you told us about meetings which you attended with A?

17 A. Well, the areas. I specified the areas.

18 Q. At these meetings what was the language used?

19 A. Which of these meetings? I want to know them. In Kono?

11:28:38 20 Q. Let's start with the first one. Let's start with Kono,

21 what language was used?

22 A. Krio was the common language that was used in the meeting.

23 Q. Did you still have to explain it to him?

24 A. No, during this period I went as a security, personal

11:29:09 25 security. That was the work I was doing.

26 Q. Did A have more than one security at this time?

27 A. Yes, My Lord.

28 Q. Did all this security go with him?

29 A. No. Most of the time, even when I drove him, he had

1 XXXXX -- sorry to call his name. He had some of his security who
2 were under his command. They normally moved together.
3 Q. So when you've told us that you've always been with
4 Honourable A, you were not the only person who was always with
11:30:12 5 him?
6 A. Well, with regards to security I was not only the person
7 that was with him.
8 Q. Apart from security what was the other reason why you were
9 with him?
11:30:37 10 A. Personally he had love for me and most of the time he had a
11 personal love for me and my experience in the army. I can say
12 both of us trained in the same year so he had love for me.
13 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I'm sorry, Mr Interpreter, was that
14 personal love or passionate love?
11:31:06 15 THE INTERPRETER: Personal love.
16 MS THOMPSON:
17 Q. Both of you trained in the same year, did you say?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Sorry?
11:31:24 20 A. Yes, but it was not the same month. As they had their
21 passing out, we went and trained after them, the same year.
22 Q. Okay. Were you friends?
23 A. Well, formerly I only knew him in the army. But since I
24 joined him during the AFRC he regarded me as a brother, just as a
11:31:53 25 brother.
26 Q. So when did this personal love for you develop?
27 A. It was actually the time I lived with him in Freetown. It
28 was during that time that the love developed.
29 Q. Would you say that he had trust in you, absolute trust in

1 you?

2 A. Yes, My Lord, because even his mother, I used to move with
3 her upcountry, so his mother loved me so much. And, in fact, the
4 man's tribe is the same as mine. So he grew to love me.

11:32:44 5 Q. And did you trust him?

6 A. Yes, My Lord. I trusted him actually.

7 Q. Why did you not explain to him that you had a cousin in the
8 camp who you thought would need protection?

9 MS PACK: If my learned friend could specify which camp.

11:33:13 10 MS THOMPSON: Your Honour, I think the evidence has been
11 about one cousin in one camp. Although this cousin was described
12 as something else and so -- I think the witness knows which
13 cousin I'm talking about.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: The question can be put as formulated.

11:33:45 15 MS THOMPSON:

16 Q. Why did you not explain to A that you had a cousin in the
17 camp who you wanted to protect?

18 A. During that time, it was that day that I took him. That
19 was the day he realised that the cousin was a member of my
11:34:12 20 family.

21 Q. Was that the first time you realised that you had a cousin
22 there?

23 A. No. I had seen him, but -- I saw him in the camp, but we
24 hadn't any personal talks.

11:34:37 25 Q. So when you -- is it him or her?

26 A. Her. Her.

27 Q. Right. So when you saw her in the camp, why did you not
28 tell A that you had a cousin in the camp? Why did you not tell
29 him then?

1 A. Well, during that time I did not reveal anything to him
2 because it was said that there was no family relation in the
3 jungle. So I did not reveal anything concerning that to him.

4 Q. Now, are you sure you had a cousin there?

11:35:31 5 A. My Lord, I'm sure of this.

6 MS THOMPSON: Sorry, My Lord, I'm just looking for the
7 exact page of the transcript. It's the transcript of the 16th
8 May. 16th May at page 6, I think it was.

9 Q. You see, when you gave evidence here some time this week
11:36:10 10 you described this person as your nephew. Do you recall that?

11 A. That was corrected. That was my cousin.

12 Q. [Overlapping speakers] effectively you corrected yourself
13 as cousin. Now, if you remember the first day you gave evidence
14 here, it was in closed session so I'm not going to go into the
11:36:37 15 evidence. The question which was put to you was you're going to
16 be talking later in your testimony about a cousin, a female
17 cousin. The question to you is this -- my question to you is
18 this now : Isn't that the first time that you thought about that
19 person being your cousin?

11:37:06 20 A. No, My Lord. At Newton when I saw him with one of the
21 security -- with one of Five-Five security, when he said it was
22 him who brought him to the jungle. So I just told her that there
23 was no problem. That in case of anything she should inform me.
24 She was still with him when we went to the West Side jungle.

11:37:33 25 Q. You see, on the 16th May you did not even know this
26 person's real name?

27 A. I didn't state the name. I hadn't the name at that time.
28 I just gave the alias. I wrote it down.

29 Q. On the 16th May, you did not know your cousin's name.

1 A. I didn't write the name down because that was my first
2 experience to be in court. That was my first experience, so I
3 just gave the --

4 Q. Even though you were assured that we were in closed session
11:38:20 5 and the name was going to go no further?

6 A. Yes, My Lord. Like I said, that was my first experience to
7 be in court. So I was unable to say everything.

8 Q. Now let's deal with dates. May 1997 -- after May 1997 when
9 were you arrested?

11:39:04 10 A. This, like I said, we had discussed that in closed session.

11 Q. Okay, sorry. I'll just look at my notes again. Thank you,
12 Mr Witness, you are quite right. Now, when you left Freetown
13 after the first retreat -- that was February '98; am I right?

14 A. Yes, My Lord.

11:39:54 15 Q. Were there SLA troops elsewhere in the country?

16 A. Yes, My Lord.

17 Q. You reached Masiaka, that was your evidence?

18 A. Yes, My Lord.

19 Q. Were there other commanders there?

11:40:22 20 A. Yes, My Lord.

21 Q. Was Tamba Brima there?

22 A. No, My Lord.

23 Q. Was Tamba Brima in Freetown when you were leaving in
24 February '98? Sorry?

11:40:46 25 A. No, My Lord.

26 Q. Your evidence is that Johnny Paul Koroma was in
27 Magbonkineh. He'd moved to Magbonkineh, that was your evidence?

28 A. Yes, he went to Magbonkineh.

29 Q. Did he have men with him?

1 A. Yes, My Lord.

2 Q. After this there was an operation in Bo. Were there SLAs
3 stationed in Bo?

4 A. No, they had withdrawn to Mile 91. That's where they were
11:41:33 5 based. And it was Colonel Palmer who was their commander. He
6 was the commander in Bo.

7 Q. In Kabala were SLAs present?

8 A. Yes, when I reached there with Operation A we met some SLAs
9 there.

11:42:30 10 Q. Do you know who the commander was there?

11 A. Well, as far as I knew, the most senior commander was SAJ
12 when I and Operation A reached there.

13 Q. How many men did he have with him in Kabala?

14 A. Who are you talking about now?

11:42:31 15 Q. The commander Kabala; you said SAJ Musa was the commander.

16 A. My Lord, I can't give the specific number, but he had
17 security with him.

18 Q. Did he have fighting men with him?

19 A. Since he withdrew I met him with so many soldiers in
11:43:10 20 Kabala.

21 Q. Now, you gave evidence that there was a meeting in Kabala
22 at which you and A were present?

23 A. Yes, My Lord.

24 Q. Can you recall how many men were at this meeting?

11:43:50 25 A. As far as I could recall the soldiers were many and senior
26 commanders were present.

27 Q. You said senior commanders. Apart from SAJ Musa who else
28 was present?

29 A. Bazy was there, Operation A was there, Superman was there

1 and other commanders, whose names I cannot recall now, they were
2 also present.

3 Q. Now, the men in Magbonkineh with Johnny Paul Koroma, do you
4 know how many men were there?

11:44:30 5 A. He had so many soldiers, he had so many soldiers. I
6 wouldn't know the specific number, but he had so many soldiers
7 with him.

8 Q. He had many. At this time in Kabala was Tamba Brima with
9 you?

11:44:47 10 A. No, My Lord.

11 Q. It was around this time that you left for Kono; is that
12 right?

13 A. Well, after we left, that was the first movement to Kono.

14 Q. And it was during this operation that you captured Sewafe;
11:45:13 15 yes?

16 A. Yes, My Lord, when the troops captured.

17 Q. And burnt villages?

18 A. This was Sewafe village. That was an order from the
19 chairman at that time; Johnny Paul Koroma.

11:45:34 20 Q. Was Tamba Brima with you then?

21 A. No, My Lord.

22 Q. When you captured Koidu Town was Tamba Brima with you?

23 A. No, My Lord.

24 Q. Was it about this time that Johnny Paul Koroma left for
11:45:57 25 Kailahun?

26 A. No. Well, the first capture while the troops were entering
27 were ambushed by Five-Five's spot. The entire troops including
28 Johnny Paul Koroma retreated whilst I, Superman and Commander A
29 captured -- while going to capture Kono. It was during another

1 operation that we took Johnny Paul back to his village,
2 Magbonkineh.

3 Q. Was Johnny Paul Koroma detained in Kailahun around this
4 time?

11:46:49 5 A. Well, the time that we returned to Magbonkineh and took him
6 back to Kono, himself, Issa and Mike Lamin, CSO Akim and others
7 and his entire family went to Kailahun. I had no brief idea but
8 at that time he was not calling any more.

9 Q. When you say he was not calling any more, did you lose
11:47:19 10 contact with him around that time?

11 A. Yes, since then he had no communication with the troops.

12 Q. Would you say that was around March '98 to July '98?

13 A. The time that he went, it was around that time when he went
14 to Kailahun.

11:47:52 15 Q. Do you know a man called Augustine Kobba?

16 A. Augustine Kobba, I can't recall that name.

17 Q. Do you know that between March '98 and July '98, Tamba
18 Brima, Johnny Paul Koroma and Augustine Kobba were detained in
19 Kailahun by Mosquito?

11:48:24 20 A. The only time I knew that was when Tamba Brima came to Kono
21 and explained that he was detained, that Johnny Paul had been
22 detained. That's what he disclosed to us. That's when I knew of
23 that.

24 MS THOMPSON: For Your Honours, the name Kobba is
11:48:42 25 K-O-B-B-A.

26 Q. Do you recall telling this Court on the 20th of May that
27 Gullit explained how we were treated in Kailahun and Johnny Paul
28 Koroma's treatment in Kailahun, how he Gullit was beaten and his
29 diamond was taken from him?

1 A. Yes. He explained that clearly.

2 Q. Wasn't the explanation that in fact he had been detained
3 with Johnny Paul Koroma and Augustine Kobba by Sam Bockarie and
4 Issa Sesay from March `98 to July `98?

11:50:01 5 A. The only thing that he told us was that Johnny Paul himself
6 was --

7 THE INTERPRETER: I didn't get that last word,
8 Your Honours.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think you need to repeat part of the
11:50:13 10 question, Ms Thompson. The witness says he didn't get the last
11 part, or was it the interpreter who didn't get it.

12 MS THOMPSON: I think was the interpreter.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, Mr Interpreter. Mr Witness,
14 please repeat the last part of your answer.

11:50:32 15 THE WITNESS: He said Johnny Paul was in duress.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I'm sorry, Mr Witness, I am totally lost.
17 Could you repeat what you just said. What did Gullit say?

18 THE WITNESS: He said he was under duress, that is under
19 pressure.

11:51:02 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: That who is under pressure?

21 THE WITNESS: Johnny Paul Koroma.

22 MS THOMPSON:

23 Q. This meeting, according to your evidence, was in Mongor
24 Bendugu. That was your evidence?

11:51:22 25 A. No, the first meeting that I told you about that when
26 Gullit came it was around Five-Five's spot. That is where he
27 disclosed this to Operation A, Ibrahim Bazy, myself and the
28 other soldiers who were present.

29 Q. Did you not tell this Court that "It was at Mongor Bendugu

1 that SAJ Musa immediately summoned me and the commanders present
2 at that time. He held a closed door meeting and Gullit
3 explained"?

4 A. This was the second explanation at Mongor Bendugu when he
11:52:10 5 went to SAJ. But the first time that he briefed us in Kono I
6 said it was around Five-Five's spot.

7 Q. And you're saying now that Tamba Brima was present at
8 Five-Five's spot?

9 A. At that time that he came to Kono I said -- you can check
11:52:31 10 your document. I said clearly that when he came he went to
11 Five-Five's spot where the troops had based after Masingbi Road
12 had been destroyed.

13 MS PACK: Your Honour, if I can provide a record it was on
14 the 20th May 2005 that evidence concerning Gullit at Five-Five's
11:52:55 15 spot was given.

16 MS THOMPSON: Your Honour, the issue was this meeting and
17 this explanation. It wasn't whether -- it was not the issue
18 whether it was at Five-Five's spot, it was this particular
19 meeting that I'm putting to the witness and this particular
11:53:12 20 explanation.

21 MS PACK: Well, on that date there was -- I have a summary
22 that he informed us that he'd been maltreated in Kailahun. So
23 for my learn friend's record there was a meeting at Five-Five's
24 spot where Tamba Brima informed those present about his treatment
11:53:30 25 in Kailahun or mistreatment.

26 MS THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honour. I stand corrected.

27 Q. This meeting at Five-Five's spot, can you remember when it
28 was?

29 A. This was the time of almost the pull-out from Kono.

1 Q. Can you remember what month?

2 A. It was around May. Around May.

3 Q. Would this have been after the operation to capture Koidu
4 Town?

11:54:32 5 A. Yes. The capture had taken place. That was when Gullit
6 came from Kailahun.

7 Q. So how long did it take you --

8 A. I didn't get the question clearly.

9 Q. I haven't finished the question, sorry. I should have made
11:54:57 10 that clear. How long did it take you to move from Makeni to Kono
11 and to the capture of Koidu Town?

12 A. My Lord, I told you that it was a continuous journey. A
13 day's journey. We moved in the night, by morning we were in
14 Koidu Town.

11:55:20 15 Q. Do you remember when you left Makeni?

16 A. This was -- it should be in the early month of February
17 going to March. It should be about that time in 1998.

18 Q. So you still have got to Kono February/March. You'd be at
19 Kono February/March?

11:55:59 20 A. Yes, around that time.

21 Q. When you arrived in Kono to the capture of Koidu Town, how
22 long did that take?

23 A. That same day when Johnny Paul retreated, it was the same
24 day that we captured Koidu Town.

11:56:20 25 Q. So we're still in February and March?

26 A. Yes, within that time. To early March or so, yeah.

27 Q. So from when you left Makeni to the capture of Koidu Town
28 we're talking about a timeframe of about 48 hours?

29 A. Well, we left in the night and by morning we had captured

1 the ground. We were almost in Koidu. We were ambushed and at
2 the end of the day we had captured Koidu Town.

3 Q. Now after the capture of Koidu Town when did you have the
4 meeting at Five-Five's spot. Sorry, that's not the question.

11:57:14 5 How long after the capture of Koidu Town did you have the meeting
6 at Five-Five's spot.

7 A. About two months to three months. That was in May, around
8 that time, as I could recall.

9 Q. And is it your evidence that you were in Kono all of that
11:57:40 10 time, all of that two to three months?

11 A. Yes. I didn't go anywhere. I was in Kono.

12 Q. How many men were with you at this time?

13 A. Well, I didn't have men. I was with the commander.

14 Q. No, that's not my question. I didn't say you had men. I'm
11:58:04 15 saying you, amongst others, how many of you were there? How many
16 men were with you at this time?

17 A. As far as I could recall, we had senior commanders. The
18 SLAs were many. I wouldn't tell the specific number but the SLAs
19 were many in Kono.

11:58:25 20 Q. Would you say about 100, more?

21 A. We were more than a hundred, we were more than 200.

22 Q. 300?

23 A. It was more than 200. More than 200. Above.

24 Q. Apart from SLAs who else was with you at Kono at this time
11:58:54 25 I'm talking about?

26 A. The RUF too had a base in Kono. They too had their
27 defensive base there.

28 Q. Did you have women and children with you?

29 A. Well, at that time I didn't have a woman, but they were in

1 the town. Children, women also were in the town.

2 Q. How long -- you've told us that -- all the while up to
3 Five-Five's spot was about two months, that's right. So how long
4 in total did you spend in Kono District?

11:59:52 5 A. In Kono District we spent about four months.

6 Q. During this time were you aware of SLA troops elsewhere in
7 the country?

8 A. Yes, My Lord.

9 Q. Do you know where?

12:00:33 10 A. Kabala, Mongor Bendugu -- Mongor Bendugu, because that was
11 their strong base.

12 Q. Anywhere else?

13 A. Well, also we heard that there was soldiers in Kailahun.

14 Q. What about other retreating soldiers from Freetown? Were
12:01:09 15 they all with you in Kono?

16 A. During the retreat from Freetown some left to go to Kabala
17 together to SAJ and in our first attempt to Kono others went with
18 SAJ, others went with Johnny Paul to Kailahun. That's what I
19 know.

12:01:45 20 [TB170605C - EKD]

21 Q. When you left Kono District after four months, where did
22 you go?

23 A. After Kono District the entire troops moved to Tombodu,
24 from Tombodu we headed for --

12:01:58 25 Q. Let's just hold on at Tombodu for now. Was Tamba Brima at
26 Tombodu?

27 A. Yes, My Lord.

28 Q. At this stage were you aware of other troops elsewhere in
29 the country or had they all joined you at Tombodu?

1 A. It was after the battle and the meeting at -- the meeting
2 at which it was said we should go to Tombodu, that's the SLAs
3 retreated to Tombodu. The only people who went out were Kallay,
4 Leather Boot and Adams. They went the other way together with
12:02:55 5 the soldiers.

6 Q. Kallay, Leather Boot and Adams, they had men with them, did
7 they?

8 A. Yes, they were also senior honourables. They too had
9 soldiers with them.

12:03:24 10 Q. And is it right that they were stationed elsewhere?

11 A. Well, at the time that we retreated they were not with the
12 group. They went to the Kailahun area.

13 Q. Now, earlier you mentioned that there were troops in Bo
14 under Colonel Palmer who had retreated to Mile 91. Do you know
12:03:56 15 where these troops were at this time?

16 A. All of them retreated -- after the operation when they
17 rescued their families in Bo they all retreated to Makeni, Kabaala
18 and Kono. They moved to various areas.

19 Q. When you say they retreated to Mile 91, did they stay in
12:04:27 20 Mile 91 or did they move on elsewhere?

21 A. Well in 91, they just based there after Colonel Palmer
22 arrived in Masiaka for an operation. After that operation
23 everybody withdrew. Everybody headed for Makeni, Kabaala and
24 elsewhere.

12:04:47 25 Q. When you say elsewhere, do you know where they went or are
26 you saying elsewhere because you don't know where they went?

27 A. Yes, because some soldiers, from what we heard -- was that
28 some of them were going across the border.

29 Q. Apart from Colonel Palmer's men who had retreated from Bo,

1 were there other men -- sorry, may I just ask you this: Were
2 there men in Kenema?

3 A. In Kenema, the men that came from Bo said that the troop
4 had retreated. Mosquito also had retreated from Kenema to
12:05:49 5 Kailahun.

6 Q. I am not asking you about Mosquito. You said that the
7 troop retreated but do you know where they retreated to?

8 A. Yes. The SLA that were there, it was said that they had
9 retreated to Daru, to the Kailahun area.

12:06:16 10 Q. Okay, they retreated to Daru. For Their Honours' benefit
11 perhaps you might like to spell Daru. Can you spell Daru,
12 please?

13 A. I said they retreated to Daru and the Kailahun area.
14 D-A-R-U. Daru barracks. Sorry, Daru barracks.

12:06:42 15 Q. Now from Tombodu you went where next?

16 A. From Tombodu, went through some villages. From there we
17 arrive at Mansofinia.

18 Q. Okay. And the people who went to Mansofinia with you, were
19 they all the ones that were in Tombodu?

12:07:15 20 A. Well, yes, because before I, Tamba Alex Brima, Operation A,
21 Bazzy moved in one vehicle and there was another vehicle and they
22 ensured that the entire troop moved. They walked while we
23 travelled on vehicles.

24 Q. When you moved to Mansofinia did any of the troops from
12:07:46 25 Makeni, Kabaala, Kono, Kailahun or Daru join you?

26 A. The only thing I know, when we retreated to Mansofinia, we
27 only met few soldiers there. I never knew where they came from.

28 Q. So there were soldiers already in Mansofinia?

29 A. Yes, there were a few men who were there.

1 Q. When you say few, can you recall how many?

2 A. There were -- the number was not much. The ones that we
3 met there, the number was just a small one.

4 Q. Okay. At this time in Mansofinia can you recall how many
12:08:32 5 there were of you?

6 A. At that time we can estimate about 500 according to the
7 authority. Even they told SAJ even that we are about 500
8 manpower.

9 Q. Does that include or exclude the people you met there, the
12:08:59 10 men you met there?

11 A. In fact, it included all the men that we met there, because
12 they too were SLAs so they joined the troop.

13 Q. Was Tamba Brima with you at this stage?

14 A. Yes, My Lord. He was at Mansofinia.

12:09:37 15 Q. Can you recall when this was?

16 A. That was around -- because we arrive there around May, so
17 we are there about mid-May. So it was about the end of May
18 during that time.

19 Q. Who was in command of the troops in Mansofinia?

12:10:18 20 A. During that moment it was Gullit, Tamba Brima, who was the
21 commander.

22 Q. Was SAJ Musa there?

23 A. In Mansofinia, SAJ was not there.

24 Q. I am going to take you back in time a little bit. Whilst
12:11:11 25 you were in Freetown before May '97, you recall there was a war
26 going on in this country?

27 A. Before May '97?

28 Q. I said before May 97 [Microphone not activated]. At that
29 time there was a war going on.

1 A. Yes, there was a war.

2 Q. And is it the case that there were SLAs stationed
3 throughout this country -- in various places throughout this
4 country?

12:11:55 5 A. Yes, My Lord.

6 Q. When the AFRC came into power in May '97 did these SLAs
7 continue to be where they were?

8 A. Well, in May 1997, when the AFRC took over power and called
9 on the RUF, there was peace existing between them. The only
12:12:32 10 thing, they fought -- the AFRC fought the Kamajors and the ECOMOG
11 forces.

12 Q. I will ask you the question again. When the AFRC came into
13 power did the SLAs who were stationed elsewhere in the country,
14 did they continue to be where they were?

12:12:59 15 A. Well, yes, the other areas where they were, they were
16 there, they continued to stay there.

17 Q. Can you tell us where -- can you name various places where
18 they were stationed?

19 A. As far as I can recall there were AFRC soldiers in Makeni,
12:13:25 20 there was a brigade there. Soldiers were in Kenema, where there
21 was a brigade. Soldiers were in Bo, also there was a brigade
22 there. And later they went to Kailahun and later up to Daru,
23 there were soldiers there. And later soldiers captured Tongo.

24 Q. And what was the rank of these various brigades? You
12:13:59 25 mentioned Bo, Kenema, Makeni, Kailahun. What was the rank of the
26 head of these brigades, pardon?

27 A. Colonels were the heads of the brigades.

28 Q. They weren't brigade commanders?

29 A. These colonels that I have named, they were the brigade

1 commanders in the various districts that I have named.

2 Q. Can you recall yesterday when a similar question was put to
3 you by my learned friend, Mr Manly-Spain, you said they were
4 headed by brigade commander?

12:14:45 5 A. Yes.

6 MS PACK: Your Honour, just to clarify, my learned friend
7 asked a question about rank as opposed to appointment. The two
8 have been distinguished by the witness.

9 MS THOMPSON: I was under the impression that a brigade
12:14:58 10 commander was a rank, but I stand to be corrected.

11 MS PACK: I don't think it is, Your Honour.

12 MS THOMPSON: I think the witness can help us there,
13 Your Honour.

14 Q. These brigades -- first of all, let me ask you, brigade
12:15:20 15 commanders, is it a rank or is it a position?

16 A. It was an appointment.

17 Q. So it is a position opposed to a rank?

18 A. Yes. Yes, My Lord.

19 Q. And what would be the rank of the brigade commander?

12:15:38 20 A. Well, in the various areas colonels were the heads of the
21 brigades.

22 Q. How many men make up a brigade?

23 A. Well, it consists of different battalions and those
24 battalions constitute a brigade.

12:16:08 25 Q. Three battalions make up a brigade; is that not correct?

26 A. Well, as I'm saying, different battalions constitute a
27 brigade. It depends on the area. If the area is too large then
28 you get a battalion.

29 Q. How many battalions make up a brigade?

1 A. Well, it depends on the area. If it is possible that
2 Kenema, which is a big place, it has different, different
3 battalions that were -- that constituted that brigade.

4 Q. Now, in Kailahun was a brigade there at this time -- we're
12:17:08 5 still during the AFRC period? In Kailahun, was a brigade
6 stationed there?

7 A. It was in Kenema that the brigade was. The high command
8 from --

9 Q. [Overlapping speakers]

12:17:26 10 A. No, there was no brigade in Kailahun.

11 Q. Was there a brigade in Daru?

12 A. Daru, it used to get a battalion that covered that area.

13 Q. And what would be the strength of a battalion?

14 A. It can be about 100, because a company is about 20
12:18:00 15 something. So three companies constitute a battalion.

16 Q. Tongo?

17 A. Tongo also it was -- there was a joint force there, almost
18 a battalion. It was the RUF and the SLA that based there.

19 Q. I am asking about the AFRC period; that is what I am asking
12:18:26 20 about.

21 MS THOMPSON: Your Honours, Tongo is T-O-N-G-O.

22 Q. When the AFRC had to withdraw from Freetown, where did the
23 men from Tongo go?

24 A. My Lord, I cannot say anything about that because I wasn't
12:18:53 25 in Tongo. But what I heard all the soldiers had withdrawn and
26 went to Daru -- rather, Kailahun.

27 Q. Daru or Kailahun, which is it?

28 A. They moved, passed through Daru and finally Kailahun.

29 Q. Now, is it the case that the SLA retained the military

1 command structure after they retreated from Freetown? I am
2 talking about the first retreat.

3 A. Well, as far as I know everybody were in disarray, were
4 completely in disarray.

12:20:14 5 Q. Did they retain the military command structure; that's the
6 question?

7 A. After the intervention --

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. -- they were not in their positions.

12:20:30 10 Q. So, when you left in February '98, you were what rank?

11 A. I was a sergeant.

12 Q. Who promoted you?

13 A. It was a recommendation that was made by all the
14 honourables and the chief of defence staff approved of it.

12:20:57 15 Q. When you say "recommendation", can I just ask you this:
16 How are promotions in the SLA given; do you know? If you don't
17 know, don't bother to answer.

18 A. All what I know, it depends on where you worked. If the
19 commander that you were under -- working under then will

12:21:22 20 recommend you and send that to the Defence headquarter for
21 approval.

22 Q. So it comes from the headquarters, does it?

23 A. Yes, My Lord, from there they signals, a signal came out
24 which will indicate that there were promotions out.

12:21:45 25 Q. Okay. So who signalled?

26 A. Well the Defence headquarters.

27 Q. I haven't finished the question. Thank you, we've got
28 that. On 13th June this year you said Gullit made -- promoted
29 certain people who were with him. Do you recall that?

1 A. Yes, My Lord.

2 Q. Now, first of all, you said Gullit had just promoted
3 himself to lieutenant general. Do you recall saying that?

4 A. The area towards Freetown, that was where I said I talked
12:22:42 5 about it.

6 Q. Yes, but I mean did you say that -- you recall saying that
7 he promoted himself to lieutenant general?

8 A. Yes, the promotion that SAJ used to carry, that was the
9 promotion he gave himself. That is lieutenant general.

10 Q. Okay. Can you help me with this: Can you just tell us the
11 exact words that the person you refer to as Gullit used when he
12 was conferring the promotions on the men?

13 A. He said, "Now, I, Tamba Alex Brima, now I'm lieutenant
14 general and I have approved the promotion of Five-Five as
12:23:41 15 brigadier general and Woyoh as also brigadier." Because normally
16 they refer to them as brigadier general as brigadier. And also,
17 he approved of the other appointment that he made.

18 Q. So, do you recall that you were asked this same question by
19 my learned friend for the Prosecution and you said he said, "I,
12:24:17 20 Gullit, approve the promotion to ---"

21 A. Yes, My Lord.

22 Q. Which is it -- which version are we to accept - "I, Gullit"
23 or "I, Tamba Brima"?

24 A. Well, it is the same name that he has called. "I, Tamba
12:24:40 25 Alex Brima, known as Gullit." But he did not mention all that.
26 He said, "I, Tamba Alex Brima".

27 Q. Now, he said, "I, Tamba Alex Brima known as Gullit" or "I,
28 Tamba Alex Brima"? Mr Witness, you're making this up as you are
29 going along, are you not? You're making it up.

1 A. It is the same name: Gullit, Tamba Alex Brima, that's the
2 way at times he called himself. Because everybody in the camp
3 knew him as Gullit, except those that were -- that stayed closely
4 with him that knew about Tamba Alex Brima.

12:25:26 5 Q. Mr Witness, I have asked you, my learned friend for the
6 Prosecution asked you, about the exact words used by this person
7 you refer to as Gullit. And now we have had four different
8 versions of what this person is supposed to have said. I will
9 move on.

12:25:46 10 You say he used to use the word "approved". He would say,
11 "I approve". That is what you said on 13th June?

12 A. Yes, My Lord.

13 Q. Who made that recommendation for promotion?

14 A. Well, in the battle the recommendation came through the
12:26:23 15 praise of the various soldiers that will say, "This commander
16 worked so hard". Then, if you are praised by the soldiers, you
17 will be promoted. Gullit always accepted that promotion.

18 Q. Did this person called Gullit not refer to anybody else
19 before promoting -- anybody higher up before promoting his men?

12:26:47 20 A. He did not talk about any person. He did not refer to any
21 person, but he talked about himself that he agreed about the
22 approvals.

23 Q. I am still on 13th June. You said he read from a prepared
24 script. He read from something that had been written down on
12:27:25 25 paper. Did you see this paper?

26 A. This paper, he held it and read out the appointment.

27 Q. I will ask you the question again. Did you see the paper;
28 did you see what was written on the paper?

29 A. I saw the paper. He held it in his hands while reading it.

1 Q. Did you see what was written on this paper?

2 A. I did not see what was written there, but what he used to
3 say out from the paper.

4 Q. Was the language used English?

12:28:20 5 A. Yes, Gullit usually speak English.

6 Q. So did you have to interpret to A?

7 A. This was clear enough. Even the least person could
8 understand. He spoke in English. There were times he could
9 mixed them, he bring Krio. So no interpretation was required.

12:28:46 10 Q. I am not asking you about generally, I am asking you about
11 when he was making these appointments and he was reading from
12 this paper. The language he used, was it English?

13 A. Well, in this appointment where he said, "I, Tamba Alex
14 Brima had approved". I told you he mixed the English language

12:29:13 15 with the Krio, so it was very clear for every person to
16 understand.

17 Q. So even the illiterate A could understand it?

18 A. Yes, he could understand. So there were a lot of soldiers
19 that were not literate, but they could understand.

12:29:56 20 Q. Now most of the men with you at this time, were they other
21 ranks -- what military people call other ranks?

22 A. When he said the man that were with me, the commander that
23 I was with.

24 Q. I am not asking you about A. I am asking you about the
12:30:25 25 fighting men, the men that were with you. You were amongst many
26 men, were you not? I am talking about the time Gullit gave this
27 promotion when he called himself lieutenant general or whatever
28 and promoted various people. I am talking about that time.

29 Okay? Are you clear now what I am talking about?

1 A. Yes, there were other people that had promotions who were
2 officers. You had junior officers that were from second
3 lieutenant, captains, RSM.

4 Q. I am asking you as to whether the other men with you -- I
12:31:12 5 am not asking you about the commanders, were the other ranks,
6 non-commissioned officers, were they with you at this time?

7 A. Who were present when Gullit was speaking? There were
8 many, there were other ranks as well as officials who were in the
9 jungle. It was in the open.

12:31:38 10 Q. These men were SLAs, were they?

11 A. Well, most of them were SLAs although there were other RUF
12 around. Also the STF were also there.

13 Q. The person you refer to as Gullit, what was his rank in the
14 SLA?

12:31:59 15 A. I knew him to be a sergeant. Before the AFRC he was a
16 sergeant.

17 Q. Did these other ranks -- sorry, I will start again.
18 Sergeant is a non-commissioned officer, is one of the
19 non-commissioned ranks; is it?

12:32:29 20 A. Yes, My Lord.

21 Q. Did the other non-commissioned officers accept another
22 non-commissioned officer giving himself -- conferring upon
23 himself what would have been perhaps a promotion ten-fold?

24 A. My Lord, as Johnny Paul, as I last said, in Masiaka, he
12:33:10 25 said all the honourables now would be promoted to colonels. From
26 that time all the honourables had become colonels. So after the
27 battle was going on, they promoted themselves and they also
28 promoted others.

29 Q. My question is did they accept it?

1 A. Yes, My Lord.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Did who accept it, Ms Thompson?

3 MS THOMPSON: The other non-commissioned officers in the
4 military.

12:33:48 5 THE WITNESS: It was a jungle time so there was acceptance
6 with regards the promotions with those ranks.

7 MS THOMPSON:

8 Q. Let's talk about the person you refer to as Gullit. After
9 the 25th of May when was the first time you saw him?

12:34:14 10 A. The first time I saw Gullit was at the State House during
11 the takeover.

12 Q. During the takeover?

13 A. No, after the takeover when I reported at the State House.
14 Before -- during the second operation I saw him again when I came
12:34:40 15 to the State House.

16 Q. Did he look well?

17 A. Very well. He was in readiness when I saw him.

18 Q. Did you have much interaction with him when he was at State
19 House?

12:34:57 20 A. My Lord, during that time I saluted him because I was in
21 doubt about the people that took over the country. I mean, the
22 immediate bosses. So when I saw him alighted the jeep that he
23 came with, so I saluted him.

24 Q. Was he one of the coup plotters?

12:35:26 25 A. Yes, My Lord.

26 Q. Did you name him when you were asked that question?

27 A. Yes, My Lord.

28 Q. Describe this person for me, please?

29 A. Tamba Alex Brima?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. He is a medium height man. He is not too black, but fair
3 in complexion anyway. He is a man that loves speaking English.

4 Q. Is he fat or is he slim?

12:36:35 5 A. No, no, he's not fat. Tamba Alex Brima is not fat. We
6 worked together at Kabasa Lodge so I know him personally.

7 Q. What is Kabasa Lodge?

8 A. Well, it was during the NPRC regime we worked together at
9 the lodge.

12:36:57 10 Q. As PLO 2 was he below or above the ministers?

11 A. He was above the ministers. That's very clear.

12 Q. Why is it very clear?

13 A. Well, because since the NPRC regime they also came with
14 PLOs. So those PLOs, the ministers were under them. So they use
12:37:41 15 this person of administration because he was not only a PLO but
16 also a member of the Supreme Council, so he was above ministers.

17 Q. How do you know that PLOs were above ministers? What
18 equips you to know that? How do you know that?

19 A. Well, they were responsible for supervising various
12:38:11 20 ministries, including honourables, that were charged with
21 responsibility of supervising ministries.

22 Q. They and the honourables were charged with supervising
23 ministries or --

24 A. The PLO 1, 2, 3 and the honourables that were appointed
12:38:42 25 that were in the Supreme Council, they also had ministries. Like
26 the honourable with whom I live had a ministry.

27 Q. Was he a minister?

28 A. Well --

29 Q. [Overlapping speakers]?

1 A. He was a member of the Supreme Council. A Principal
2 Liaison Officer 2.

3 Q. Did he have an office? I am talking about PLO 2 now. Did
4 he have an office?

12:39:23 5 A. Yes, he had his office.

6 Q. Where was that office?

7 A. I cannot recall his office again, but he had his office in
8 Freetown.

9 Q. How do you know he had an office?

12:39:36 10 A. Well, there were times, as I said, Honourable A sometimes
11 moved to go to his office to him. They had coordinations among
12 themselves.

13 Q. When Honourable A moved to go to his office did you go with
14 him?

12:40:00 15 A. I was his personal MTO. Anywhere he moved I went with him.
16 They too can approve that because they knew me very well.

17 Q. So where was this office that you went with Honourable A to
18 see the PLO 2?

19 A. It was in Freetown. The only thing, I cannot recall the
12:40:31 20 exact area but he had an office where we used to visit him.

21 Q. And when you visited him in this office would you go inside
22 the office itself?

23 A. The only thing that I used to do, as I move with the
24 honourable, I can only greet him and say "Good morning, sir" or
12:40:58 25 "Good afternoon, sir." So I came out. When he came out -- the
26 honourable, when he came out he can talk to us.

27 Q. You would not be present at the meetings?

28 A. Yes, in Freetown I wouldn't be present in any meeting he
29 had with --

1 Q. Would the honourable tell you about these meetings to ask
2 you to explain to him?

3 A. Well, he used to go to him. He would just, "Today I'll go
4 to Bazy, Five-Five." Five-Five too can pay him a visit. So it
12:41:45 5 was not on a meeting basis. At times he'll just say, "Let me go
6 to this office to such and such a person." And he went there.

7 Q. It was a social call? It was a social call?

8 A. Well, yes, he used to move as honourable can say "let me
9 visit my boss there." So he went there, there and there.

12:42:14 10 Q. Do you know if Tamba Brima was in Freetown throughout the
11 period of May '97 to February '98?

12 A. He was here in '97; later he went to Kono. He was sent to
13 Kono; he was there. He was head of the mining in Kono. There
14 was a confusion when Johnny Paul arrested the honourables that
12:42:46 15 were in Kono. So from there he sent a responsible individual to
16 go there. It was Tamba Alex Brima that went there.

17 Q. When did he go to Kono?

18 A. Well, as far as I can recall, when he went to Kono it was
19 not long a period we had the intervention.

12:43:13 20 Q. Was he in Freetown in December '97? Do you know that; if
21 he was in Freetown in December '97?

22 A. Well, that's what I have said, before the intervention.
23 Before the intervention Tamba Alex Brima had left. During that
24 time he had left.

12:43:39 25 Q. The intervention was February '98. Before could be
26 January, okay. So let's use Christmas as a guide time. Was he
27 in Freetown before or after Christmas? Did he leave Freetown,
28 sorry, before or after Christmas?

29 A. He was here before the intervention. That I know. Before

1 the intervention he was in Freetown.

2 Q. Okay. When was the first time after the 25th of May -- can
3 you remember the first time after the 25th of May that you saw
4 Tamba Brima?

12:44:19 5 A. After the 25th of May I saw him when the operation -- the
6 June 2nd operation took place I saw him. Because all the
7 honourables came to the State House, including Johnny Paul. All
8 the PLOs reported at the State House.

9 Q. Do you know where he was on the 25th of May?

12:44:49 10 A. I cannot recall where he was May 25, because normally I
11 knew that he was doing a course, he was studying. I don't know
12 whether in one of the colleges.

13 Q. So he was not working as of the 25th of May?

14 A. No. What I know, I said before I knew that he was doing
12:45:20 15 course while I was at the lodge. But on the 25th of May to the
16 time I saw him, he was in full military uniform.

17 Q. No, no, no. You didn't see him on the 25th of May, did
18 you?

19 A. I said to the time. From the 25th to the time I saw him,
12:45:38 20 that was June 2nd at the State House, he was in complete military
21 uniform.

22 Q. Okay, let me understand this, because I'm a bit confused
23 now. Between the 25th of May and the 2nd of June did you see
24 him?

12:45:59 25 A. I only saw him June 2nd at the State House when he came
26 with other honourables. That was the day I was able to know most
27 of the council members.

28 Q. Okay. You knew most of the council members on the 2nd of
29 June, that's your evidence, and that was the first time you saw

1 Tamba Brima?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So you do not know where he was between the 25th of May and
4 the 2nd of June, when there was an operation?

12:46:33 5 A. Yes, My Lord, I never knew where he was.

6 Q. And prior to that you know that he was studying in a
7 college?

8 A. Yes, I knew about that, that during the time of the NPRC he
9 was doing a course.

12:46:53 10 Q. Did you hear of a road accident on the 26th of May?

11 A. 26th of May?

12 Q. Can you recall a road accident involving Tamba Brima?

13 A. All I know I was at the State House during that time. I
14 was unable to know whether somebody was involved or that was
12:47:16 15 involved.

16 Q. Involved in what?

17 A. The only accident I heard of that soldiers had an accident
18 up Wilberforce wherein including Colonel Carew that they
19 collided.

12:47:38 20 Q. Apart from Colonel Carew, do you know who the other
21 soldiers were?

22 A. At one time I knew of Ibrahim Bioh Sesay that was involved
23 in that accident, and the driver that drove the other vehicle, it
24 was said that he died. That I knew about.

12:48:00 25 Q. So you did not hear of Tamba Brima having an accident
26 around that time?

27 A. No, during that time I never knew whether he was involved
28 in that accident or not.

29 MS THOMPSON: Your Honour, I have an eye on the time.

1 Might I stop here because I am moving to a new area.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: That would be appropriate then,
3 Ms Thompson. We will adjourn to 2.15 p.m. Madam Court
4 Attendant, please adjourn court to 2.15 p.m.

14:19:51 5 [Luncheon recess taken at 12.45 p.m.]

6 [TB170605D - EKD]

7 [Upon resuming at 2.15 p.m.]

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Thompson, you were in the course of
9 cross-examination. Your last line of questions related to some
14:21:16 10 accident.

11 MS THOMPSON:

12 Q. Mr Witness, on the 17th of May when you were giving
13 evidence-in-chief, you mentioned that the coup of the 25th of May
14 had been staged by members of a football team, a military
14:21:47 15 football team. Do you recall that?

16 A. Yes, I said something of that, yes.

17 Q. How do you know that?

18 A. Well, like, Zagalo was a player who was a PLO 1 and others
19 who too were players. They too were members of the football team
14:22:15 20 in Wilberforce and, as a military man, I used to go to that area.

21 Q. How do you know the names of the people who staged the
22 coup?

23 A. Well, this, it was clearly stated after the coup and when I
24 was with Operation Commander A, so I was able to get in touch
14:22:47 25 with all the coup plotters. And it was through him that I knew
26 the men who played the role in the coup.

27 Q. You say it was clearly stated. Where was it stated?

28 A. The time when they made the appointments of the
29 honourables, the council. When they made the appointment of the

1 council, the Supreme Council.

2 Q. How do you know that the members of the Supreme Council
3 were also the coup plotters? How did you make that connection?

4 A. Well, this I got through my boss with whom I was. He
14:23:34 5 briefed me about the men who took part in the coup and he too was
6 a member and through the past regime of the NPRC, the Supreme
7 Council members whom they appointed were also coup plotters. So
8 I had that experience.

9 Q. What exactly did your boss tell you?

14:23:58 10 A. Well, I was eager to know who these men were they were
11 talking about, these 17 men whom they were talking of. So I was
12 eager to know, so I asked him. Say, "Please sir, could you
13 please tell me -- let me know the men who were part of the coup?"
14 And it was he who told me the exact people, the members of the
14:24:29 15 coup.

16 Q. When you reported at State House on the day of the coup --
17 that was your evidence, was it, if my memory serves me right.
18 You said on the day of the coup you reported when they said all
19 soldiers should report at State House. Was that what you said?
14:24:51 20 I am summarising so correct me if I am wrong.

21 A. Yes, My Lord.

22 Q. Now, at that time or on that day, 25th of May, did you know
23 the people who the staged the coup, the names of the people who
24 the staged the coup?

14:25:10 25 A. No. Well, I didn't know when I went to the State House.
26 It was confusing for one to know.

27 Q. So who did you report to at State House?

28 A. Well, as far as I could remember Lieutenant Jalloh was
29 there, one Lieutenant Jalloh who was a commander. I met him

1 there. JK Jalloh.

2 Q. Was Lieutenant Jalloh in charge of State House?

3 A. Well, yes. He was the OC and I worked under him there, the
4 time I went to the State House.

14:26:09 5 Q. Did your boss A tell you that the coup plotters were the
6 members -- that it was the football club members who had staged
7 the coup?

8 A. Yes, he stated it clearly to me that -- all I know was that
9 most of them were members of the football team.

14:26:35 10 Q. You say most of them. Does that mean that in fact it was
11 in fact not the entire football club that staged the coup?

12 A. Well, yes, because it was a coup. But most of them of the
13 Supreme members were from the football team.

14 Q. Who told you Tamba Brima was one of the coup plotters?

14:27:02 15 A. According do his appointment he had, my boss himself told
16 me.

17 Q. Your boss told you according to whose appointment?

18 A. The appointment they gave him as PLO 2.

19 Q. So between you and your boss you assumed he was a coup
14:27:33 20 plotter because of the position of PLO 2?

21 A. My boss told me -- my boss told me that he was one of the
22 men who plotted the coup and I made sure through the appointment
23 he had.

24 Q. You made sure. From whom did you make sure?

14:28:02 25 A. Well, where I made sure was the meeting -- even at the
26 meetings my boss went to at -- to Johnny Paul's place, that was
27 the area I really had the full knowledge of all those who were
28 concerned who were the coup plotters.

29 Q. How did you know from the meetings that your boss went to?

1 How did you know?

2 A. Well, we drove the vehicles right into Johnny Paul's lodge
3 and he will come down and enter Johnny Paul's place, because he
4 would tell me that he had a meeting and that it was a council
14:28:45 5 meeting.

6 Q. You haven't answered my question. From the meetings that
7 your boss attended how did you know that Tamba Brima was one of
8 the people who had plotted the coup?

9 A. The appointment as a Supreme Council member and PLO 2
14:29:09 10 clearly -- it was clear to every soldier that they were the
11 members of the coup plot.

12 Q. So you formed an impression?

13 A. I am telling you that my boss himself told me that he was a
14 coup plotter and Tamba Brima was one of the other coup plotter.

14:29:31 15 Q. Mr Witness, I don't want to belabour the point but we have
16 moved on from what your boss told you. We have moved on from
17 that bit. I am talking about you knowing from meetings that your
18 boss went to. I am now asking you how did you know -- from the
19 fact that your boss attended meetings how did you know that Tamba
14:29:55 20 Brima was a coup plotter?

21 A. I have stated clearly, my boss himself told me that he too
22 was part of the coup plotters. He told him that Tamba Brima --
23 he called me and told me all those that were concerned, the 17
24 members.

14:30:23 25 MS THOMPSON: Okay.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: My learned brother has just pointed out
27 the accused Mr Kanu was in court this morning but is not here
28 now.

29 MS THOMPSON: I do beg your pardon, Your Honour, I should

1 have indicated to you earlier on. I beg your pardon. He did
2 mention before the luncheon adjournment that he has to see the
3 doctor for complaints that he has this afternoon. So he has a
4 medical appointment. I am very sorry, I intended to bring it to
14:30:51 5 your notice.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: It's quite all right, Ms Thompson. We
7 have that on record. Please proceed, Ms Thompson.

8 MS THOMPSON:

9 Q. So, apart from what your boss told you, you had no other
14:31:03 10 means of knowing that?

11 A. Well, as a member of the Sierra Leone military force and
12 those type of appointment, that man never had one before, and to
13 what I saw that he has become a member, and I was eager to know
14 who the coup plotters were. With that type of appointment in a
14:31:29 15 government position, it clearly indicated to me that he was one
16 of the members that plotted the coup.

17 Q. Okay. Now, this morning I think we established that you
18 were what is normally termed a non-commissioned officer within
19 the SLA. We established that this morning. We established that
14:32:05 20 this morning; yes or no?

21 A. I did not get the question clearly from the interpreter.

22 Q. I beg your pardon, I am talking over the interpreter. I'm
23 sorry. We had established this morning that you were one of the
24 non-commissioned officers within the SLA.

14:32:25 25 A. Yes, My Lord.

26 Q. Otherwise known as other ranks?

27 A. Yes, My Lord.

28 Q. When you told this Court that Corporal Tamba Gborie said
29 that other ranks had overthrown the government of Tejan Kabbah,

1 did you count yourself amongst those other ranks?

2 A. Well, the announcement, the other ranks of the Sierra Leone
3 Army, I did not count myself, because all I wanted to know that
4 there was a coup and there was firing going on. So I cannot just
14:33:02 5 go and count myself as I was part of it. I wanted to know
6 whether the coup was going to succeed or not and the man in his
7 statements said all soldiers, but -- all soldiers should report
8 and that is why I reported.

9 Q. By the time of the announcement you did not know that the
14:33:23 10 coup was successful?

11 A. At all not, because still there were soldiers going into
12 the area where I was, everybody was moving up and down. So there
13 was confusion, there was firing going on, and we didn't know.

14 Q. Okay, I want to move on to another area; child soldiers.
14:33:54 15 You mentioned Camp Rosos in your evidence. Was Tamba Brima in
16 Camp Rosos, first of all?

17 A. Yes, My Lord.

18 Q. Do you remember when you were in Camp Rosos?

19 A. As far as I could remember, we went there around early
14:34:19 20 June, July, August up to September.

21 Q. Of what year?

22 A. 1998.

23 Q. And your evidence -- the evidence you gave on the 24th of
24 May was that child soldiers were trained at Camp Rosos. Do you
14:34:38 25 recall that?

26 A. Yes, My Lord.

27 MS THOMPSON: Sorry, Your Honour, I'm just looking for
28 something.

29 Q. And you mentioned that there were mostly boys, mostly 10 to

1 12 years of age?

2 A. Yes, My Lord.

3 Q. And you know that because you took down names and ages?

4 A. Yes. I was checking and then the brigade administrator too
14:35:35 5 was checking.

6 Q. Who took down the names and ages of these children?

7 A. The brigade administration -- the brigade administrator FAT
8 Sesay, that was his responsibility.

9 Q. Can you just tell us how he did it. Go round to every
14:35:59 10 child and take down the name and the age?

11 A. Well, the time when an order was given that all the
12 children should report in the field, including some elders who
13 were civilians to be trained, and that was the area he was taking
14 names. He would ask them what is your age and the town where
14:36:23 15 they were coming from and he took down these names and addresses.

16 Q. And addresses too. Who kept these records?

17 A. Well, at that moment he, the brigade administrator, was
18 keeping them and later he'll report.

19 Q. Do you know what happened to these records later -- when
14:36:53 20 you were on the move do you know what happened to these records?

21 A. Well, these records, all I know, they were well secured and
22 were with the brigade administrator. I don't know what later
23 happened with them. But they were well secured as we moved
24 ahead.

14:37:09 25 Q. How were they secured?

26 A. Well, the brigade administrator was always with these
27 records.

28 Q. What, he walked around with a bag containing the records,
29 did he?

1 A. Well, he had something like that.

2 Q. A bag?

3 A. Well, he had where he kept his documents, and he has
4 civilians who were with them and they held them for him. They
14:37:47 5 were responsible for carrying his loads.

6 Q. So the civilians would walk around carrying these bags, or
7 whatever, containing the records of these children?

8 A. All brigade -- not only the children, but all brigade
9 administration records.

14:36:52 10 [TB170605E - SGH]

11 Q. So there was brigade administration record now. Tell me
12 a little bit about the brigade administration records. Did it
13 contain the name, you have told us now that addresses were
14 included so the name, age and address of every member of the
14:38:03 15 brigade?

16 A. Yes. That was a duty of the brigade administrator at any
17 time -- at any time any troop that came, he would get the names
18 and address of all those. Especially if you are SLA, they will
19 write down your number, your rank and get details about you.

14:38:34 20 Q. Would that include nationality and religion?

21 A. Yes, My Lord, as a military that is it. The name,
22 religion. Name, rank, religion and nationality.

23 Q. Tribe and blood group; were they included?

24 A. No. Well, this I will not be able to talk about, the blood
14:38:58 25 group, because there was no doctor to prove for the blood group.
26 There was no qualified doctor.

27 Q. But your tribe would be on it?

28 A. Yes. Yes, My Lord.

29 Q. Did you see these records?

1 A. Well, in the area of children, like the time they took
2 mine, I saw the record that were taken down. And while we were
3 training there, training the children and the others, I saw the
4 records when he was writing them. In my presence he will take
14:39:34 5 down the names and addresses. And the time when O-Five came, he
6 too was taking names of soldiers that came with the RUF.

7 Q. So this was an organised brigade administration, was it?

8 A. Yes, My Lord. It was well organised.

9 Q. Does this mirror what would happen in normal times within
14:39:55 10 the Sierra Leonean Army, this sort of meticulous record taking?

11 A. Well, in the Sierra Leone Army it was much more improved
12 because even the salaries were paid. There were people
13 responsible. But here we were in the jungle so it was not
14 very -- it was not really well organised.

14:40:25 15 Q. But records were meticulously taken of all members of the
16 brigade?

17 A. Yes, My Lord.

18 Q. When you moved from Camp Rosos, or from camp to camp, did
19 those records go -- did those records follow you? Do you know
14:40:44 20 whether those records were taken?

21 A. Well, I can say from Camp Rosos we went to camp Eddie Town.
22 Eddie Town. And when O-Five came, they took down records. So
23 those record were still maintained.

24 Q. So it's fair to say that as you moved from camp to camp the
14:41:07 25 records built up?

26 A. Well, it depends of when -- the time when there was
27 reinforcement, that record went further and during that training
28 the record was increased.

29 Q. And when the unfortunate happens and someone dies is that

1 person's name deleted off the record?

2 A. Well, there was no machine to delete names, but only
3 that -- this name would be there because they would stress that
4 in case you die and by the grace of God the mission succeeded,
14:41:54 5 the benefit would go to your family. So it was part of --

6 THE INTERPRETER: Please, could you please go over the last bit?
7 The last bit, please.

8 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Go over the last bit of your evidence,
9 please.

14:42:17 10 THE WITNESS: There was no machine to wipe off names. The
11 only thing is that those names, if you die the name would be
12 there as a record in case -- in case you died, that record would
13 be used in case the mission succeeded and the benefit will go to
14 your family so that you will get what was necessary for you to
14:42:40 15 get. So this will show that you were part of the movement.

16 MS THOMPSON:

17 Q. Coming back to child soldiers, how young would you say
18 was the soldier that you trained?

19 A. Well, most of them -- those that I saw were around 10 to 12
14:43:06 20 years. Very young children.

21 Q. Do you recall telling the person who interviewed you from
22 the Prosecution that the young boys were about 12 or 13 years and
23 that the youngest boy that you trained was about 12 years?

24 A. Well, yes, My Lord, and I still call them 12.

14:43:44 25 Q. So 10 to 12. You will agree with me if I say to you 10 to
26 12 is different from 12 to 13 and the youngest is 12?

27 A. Well --

28 Q. [Microphone not activated]?

29 A. Yes, 10 to 12 was the stated amount, 12, 13. But 10, 12,

1 13, it was around that age.

2 Q. Mr Witness, I am going ask you to stick to one age range.

3 10 to 12 or 12 to 13?

4 A. 10 to 12. Ten to 12.

14:44:27 5 Q. So now your evidence is 10 to 12. So when you spoke to the
6 person who interviewed you from the Prosecution and said 12 to 13
7 that was wrong, was it?

8 A. Well, it could be that he made a mistake. Maybe it's a
9 mistake. All I know is that 10 to 12.

14:44:53 10 Q. Did you tell that person that the youngest boy you trained
11 was 12, or about 12?

12 A. Well, as far as I could remember, I know that what I said
13 was between 10 to 12 years. Maybe he left that, I don't know,
14 but I said I was 10 to 12 years.

14:45:16 15 Q. How long did the training last for?

16 A. The training was not long. It was about three weeks
17 training to one month. It was not long. It was just basic
18 training.

19 Q. And at the end of the training did they become members of
14:45:39 20 the Sierra Leone Army?

21 A. They became part of the fighting force, not members of the
22 Sierra Leone Army because we had in that --

23 Q. Mr Witness, it's the case, is it not, that the Sierra Leone
24 Army does not recruit or train child -- children?

14:46:12 25 A. But this, I want you to clearly know that this was a jungle
26 time. Was it not when the army was there, it was in the jungle.

27 Q. It wasn't when the army was there but who was fighting, the
28 Sierra Leone Army or somebody else?

29 A. The Sierra Leone Army was fighting with other groups but

1 the Sierra Leone Army was not earning salary. They were just
2 fighting to -- so that the army could stand.

3 Q. SAJ Musa, can you describe him for me, please? Is he a
4 tall man or a short man?

14:47:14 5 A. SAJ Musa, very handsome, tall and dark. He was not so dark
6 but almost fair in complexion. He is a tall man. Very handsome.

7 Q. Are you good with feet and inches? I just want to ask you
8 if you can estimate how tall he was. If you can't, just say you
9 can't.

14:47:45 10 A. No, I would not be able to tell how tall he was but we are
11 of the same height. He was of the same height with me.

12 Q. Was he a fat or slim person?

13 A. SAJ Musa was not fat or slim. I say slim man.

14 Q. So he was a tall and slim man.

14:48:02 15 A. Yes, My Lord.

16 Q. I want us to go back to -- I think when I last asked you
17 about this we were in Mansofinia; I think we had got to
18 Mansofinia. And from Mansofinia you went to Mongor Bendugu; that
19 is right, is it not?

14:48:49 20 A. Mongor Bendugu, yes.

21 Q. When did you arrive at Mongor Bendugu?

22 A. It was just hours because it was not far from -- it was not
23 far because we went in a vehicle.

24 Q. Sorry, I will re-phrase it so that you understand. Can you
14:49:33 25 tell us what month you arrived in Mongor Bendugu?

26 A. It was in the same month, the end of May when we left Kono;
27 that was the time we went to Mongor Bendugu.

28 Q. And how long were you there for?

29 A. We didn't sleep there, we returned. After the meeting we

1 returned to Mansofinia.

2 Q. And then you stayed in Mansofinia for how long?

3 A. It was for some hours; about four hours. It was about four
4 hours.

14:50:25 5 Q. Where did you go from Mansofinia?

6 A. Well, we left Mongor came to Mansofinia. And we were to
7 move ahead for the north.

8 Q. So you left the same day, round about the end of May, for
9 the north?

14:50:55 10 A. The day we left Mongor and came to Mansofinia, we waited
11 for Five-Five to come with the reinforcement and Gullit formed a
12 brigade. He formed a brigade administration then the troops
13 left.

14 Q. You left for where?

14:51:18 15 A. Well, we moved as far as Camp Rosos to Karina.

16 Q. How long did it take you to move from Mongor -- sorry,
17 Mansofinia to Camp Rosos?

18 A. Well, it took days because we were advancing gradually. It
19 was jungle movement, it took days.

14:51:51 20 Q. Would I be right in saying that Mansofinia was a base for
21 you to go -- a base from where you do your operations?

22 A. Well, Mansofinia, as long as -- it was because of our
23 withdrawal from Kono that we went to Mansofinia. And we went
24 there and moved to SAJ and again we moved back and moved to the
14:52:16 25 north.

26 Q. Who advised the person you have referred to as Gullit to go
27 to the north?

28 A. Well, at that meeting in Mongor, SAJ said, "Well, now that
29 the RUF have played that kind of game in Kono as we explained, it

1 was better for the troops to move to the north. So that --
2 because it was advisable to move toward that, and since Brigadier
3 Mani was there, it was good for Gullit move towards there. It
4 was good for the SLA to go towards that area."

14:53:01 5 Q. Who was senior SAJ Musa or Gullit?

6 A. Well, the time we went to Mongor, it was SAJ Musa was the
7 senior whom we met; he was a senior commander.

8 Q. This person Gullit did what SAJ Musa said he should?

9 A. Well, he too said it was necessary to find a base in the
14:53:32 10 north because we could not just not be around the area and the
11 RUF had taken possession of all the east. So the SLA should move
12 in the north. It was just an advice that SAJ gave him.

13 Q. You mentioned Brigadier Mani. Where was he, do you know?

14 A. The only thing that SAJ told us is that Brigadier Mani has
14:53:57 15 moved to the north.

16 Q. At this time do you know where the troops that had
17 retreated to Makeni were?

18 A. At what time and which troops?

19 Q. Earlier you mentioned troops who had left Bo to Mile 91,
14:54:36 20 and then most of them had retreated to the Makeni. Do you recall
21 that this morning?

22 A. I said the troops that moved from that area, most of them
23 went to Makeni. Some of them went to Kabala and we later went to
24 Kono. It was later when ECOMOG was pushing them they went to
14:55:02 25 Kabala.

26 Q. Okay. Now you are still between Mongor Bendugu and
27 Mansofinia. Okay; that's where we are with you. The troops in
28 Makeni, do you know where they were at this time?

29 A. All I heard over radio was that the ECOMOG forces were in

1 full control of Makeni at the time you are talking. Makeni,
2 Kabala, ECOMOG had captured there and even part of Kono.

3 Q. What about those who were in Daru?

4 A. My Lord, all I know -- all I know is that they had all
14:55:59 5 withdrawn and gone to Kailahun.

6 Q. So there were some troops in Kailahun, you in Mansofinia
7 going to Mongor Bendugu and back, and Brigadier Mani somewhere in
8 the north. Do I understand you right?

9 A. Yes, My Lord.

14:56:23 10 Q. What about the troops who had gone with Kallay, Leather
11 Boot and Adams?

12 A. Well, all I know about them is they are with the RUF. That
13 was part of Kono in the east. So we didn't know where they were
14 at that particular time because they never communicated us to or
14:56:46 15 tell us where their present location was.

16 Q. Okay. So they were somewhere out there?

17 A. Yes, My Lord.

18 Q. Now when you left Mansofinia you said you went to Karina.

19 A. We went to Kama Gbembem. From Kama Gbembem --

14:57:08 20 Q. [Microphone not activated]?

21 A. K-A-M-A G-B-E-M-G-B-E-M.

22 Q. You went from Kama Gbembem to where?

23 A. Well, in Kama Gbembem, Gullit called the whole troops, the
24 commanders, the military supervisors, the company commanders at
14:57:53 25 that time, because at that time it was companies -- well, by now
26 it is better for the troops to attack Kamabai. He said this:
27 "Other decided -- other commanders decided that it would not be
28 nice for the troops to divide. If the troop goes Kamabai
29 manpower would be short." Gullit said, "Well, now Karina was the

1 hometown of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah." So he is ordering
2 that the troop should capture Karina and there should be a big
3 demonstration in Karina so that the international community would
4 know that the troop were in the jungle and that the junta forces
14:58:49 5 were not dead. Wherein, burning of houses should take place --
6 we should burn houses in Karina. We make sure that --
7 Q. Just let me stop you there. You've told us all of this in
8 examination-in-chief. All I asked you was whether you were at
9 Karina from where you were. It is a yes or no answer. The long
14:59:10 10 explanation really is not necessary. We will keep this short.
11 It will probably be easier on you as well if you try and answer
12 questions. Okay? The question was: Did you go to Karina?
13 A. Before we reached Karina we passed through Bumbuna, from
14 Bumbuna to Kamagbengbe, from Kamagbengbe to Karina.
14:59:37 15 Q. Okay. Now you passed through Bumbuna. What province is
16 Bumbuna in?
17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Thompson, I did not hear.
18 MS THOMPSON: What province? Sorry, not province. I beg
19 your pardon, Your Honour.
14:59:51 20 Q. What district is Bumbuna in?
21 A. Well, Bumbuna should be between Bombali and Koinadugu
22 District, between that spot.
23 Q. The Karina that you attacked which you say was
24 President Kabbah's home town, what district?
15:00:26 25 A. Well Karina should be around Bombali. It should be part of
26 Bombali. Bombali district.
27 Q. Witness, I don't want you to say where you think it should
28 be. I want you to tell me where you know it is. If you don't
29 know what district, don't answer the question. Just say I don't

1 know.

2 A. It is around Bombali district.

3 Q. Not Kambia?

4 A. Not Kambia at all.

15:01:10 5 Q. After you attacked Karina - just help us with this; when
6 exactly did the attack on Karina take place? Can you remember
7 the month?

8 A. This was the time when we left and we are advancing. That
9 was starting of June. Around June.

15:01:33 10 Q. How long were you there for?

11 A. Karina, we just capture there and we moved further to
12 Mandaha and in Mandaha we spent about two days and we moved
13 further.

14 Q. So by the end of June where exactly were you?

15:01:58 15 A. We were now at Camp Rosos.

16 Q. Was Tamba Brima with you?

17 A. Yes, My Lord.

18 Q. In June '98?

19 A. Yes he was with the troop at Rosos.

15:02:22 20 Q. And you saw him with your own eyes, did you?

21 A. Well, we moved from Kono, Mansofinia and right down to
22 Freetown.

23 Q. Camp Rosos, was it like a town?

24 A. Yes, Rosos is a town, it has some houses. It has houses
15:02:54 25 and it is surrounded by water.

26 Q. When did you leave Rosos?

27 A. Well, Rosos we left there around September.

28 Q. So you were in Rosos for three months and this was
29 September '98.

1 A. Yes. Yes, My Lord.

2 Q. From Rosos you went to where?

3 A. Colonel Eddie Town.

4 Q. And at Colonel Eddie Town was Tamba Brima with you?

15:03:38 5 A. Yes, My Lord.

6 Q. Colonel Eddie Town, was that a town or was it a small camp?

7 A. It was a town also. It is a big village anyway. It is a

8 big village not a big town.

9 Q. The strength of the troops you were with, was it just

15:04:26 10 executive into company at this stage, into companies I should

11 say?

12 A. Yes, from Mansofinia it was the divided into companies. At

13 Rosos we are still at companies. Up to camp Eddie Town.

14 Q. What was the strength -- how many companies, first of all,

15:04:49 15 did you have?

16 A. Well, at that time we had four companies.

17 Q. And what was the strength of each of those companies?

18 A. Well, at that time the manpower was not much. We never

19 disclosed the strength because at that time manpower was not

15:05:14 20 much. So we never disclosed the strength.

21 Q. When you say you never disclosed the strength you didn't

22 disclose it to the other men or was it a secret between those of

23 you who were always in the know?

24 A. Well, the problem was that why we never disclosed the

15:05:33 25 strength that's because if there was any attack or the troop

26 suffers an attack if we are questioned about the strength, you

27 will not be able to talk about the strength. That was part of

28 the jungle tactics.

29 Q. You know the strength?

1 A. Well, all I know was that there were more than 50 in any
2 company.

3 Q. Was this something that you and the others in the high
4 command knew?

15:06:19 5 A. Well, since I was with the operational commissioner, we
6 moved to the various villages, we checked these companies, at
7 times we get in church and just to keep the people, the men
8 alive.

9 Q. You knew what those who were not with the higher -- those
15:06:39 10 who are high up in the hierarchy did not know?

11 A. Well, I knew through my boss because he was operation
12 commander. It was there I knew and mostly we went to the
13 villages.

14 Q. And of course he trusted you.

15:06:57 15 A. Yes, My Lord, he trusted me.

16 Q. What was the rank of each of these companies -- of the
17 commander of each of these companies?

18 MS PACK: When, Your Honour. It is a difficult question to
19 answer if there is no specific time frame attached to it.

15:07:16 20 MS THOMPSON: Your Honour, I think the witness knows exactly what
21 I'm talking about. We are talking about a particular time when the
22 troops were divided into companies.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is this still at camp Eddie Town?

24 MS THOMPSON: Yes we haven't moved any further. His
15:07:34 25 evidence is that from Rosos to Colonel Eddie Town the troops were
26 divided into companies. I have not mentioned anywhere else.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Specify the place and then we are clear.

28 MS THOMPSON:

29 Q. When you were at Camp Rosos, what was the rank of each of

1 the commanders of these companies?

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]

3 THE WITNESS: They were captains.

4 MS THOMPSON: They were captains.

15:07:56 5 A. Captain, yeah.

6 Q. When you moved to Colonel Eddie Town were the company
7 commanders still captains?

8 A. Well in Colonel Eddie Town they were promoted to major.
9 Major.

15:08:34 10 Q. Is it not the case that the commanders of companies are
11 usually majors?

12 A. Well, just as I said, this was the jungle time. Jungle
13 time it was not like normal times. So these are company
14 commanders were appointed captains because all those that came

15:09:00 15 from Kono were lieutenants. They were promoted to captains and
16 they are appointed as company commanders. And as time went on
17 promotion was coming out for them.

18 Q. Usually - you note the word that I used - company
19 commanders are they not majors, that was the question. It's yes
15:09:23 20 or no.

21 A. A company commander can be a major. A captain can act in
22 the place of a company commander.

23 Q. So the captain would be acting?

24 A. Yes, but this time in the jungle --

15:09:45 25 Q. [Overlapping speakers] Witness, I don't mean to cut you
26 off, but we need to stick to specifics. When did you leave
27 Colonel Eddie Town?

28 A. Colonel Eddie Town, we left there in December.

29 Q. December 1998?

1 A. Yes, My Lord.

2 Q. And by that time did you know where the other troops were,
3 that is the troops that had gone to Kailahun and Kono?

4 A. The only thing I knew was through the communications that
15:10:36 5 Gullit was making. That was the time I knew that the troops were
6 still based at Kailahun.

7 Q. Did you know where Brigadier Mani and his men were by this
8 stage?

9 A. All I knew was that they were in the north according to
15:10:57 10 communication. They were in the north.

11 Q. Lieutenant JK Jallow, who you had met at State House in the
12 beginning of May 1997, where was he at this time?

13 A. JK Jallow was a commander from RDF, he was there.

14 Q. [Microphone not activated]

15:11:42 15 A. No, no, no, no, no, I was not there. I was at military
16 police. It was later when his announcement came that I reported
17 at State House.

18 Q. No, no, you misunderstand the question. I mean at this
19 time, December 98, when you were about to leave Colonel Eddie
15:11:55 20 Town, where was Lieutenant Jallow?

21 A. All we have was that he was executed, that he was one of
22 those executed in Freetown.

23 Q. Colonel Palmer from Bo, do you know where he was at this
24 time?

15:12:30 25 A. All I heard was that he was among those 24 officers who
26 were executed.

27 Q. Who was the brigadier general -- the brigadier general in
28 Kenema in May 1997? Where was he at this time?

29 A. We never had a brigadier general there, we had a brigade

1 commander.

2 Q. Brigade commander, I beg your pardon. Brigade commander,
3 my mistake. Where was he at this time?

4 A. Well, Colonel Fallah Sewa, he also -- I never knew where he
15:13:05 5 was, but he was not among the 24 officers that were executed.

6 Q. So he was somewhere else then?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. The brigade commander in Makeni in May 1997, where was he
9 at this time?

10 A. He also was not among the 24 officers. I never knew his
11 whereabouts.

12 Q. When you were leaving Colonel Eddie Town in December 1998,
13 was Tamba Brima still with you?

14 A. Yes, My Lord.

15:13:50 15 Q. And where did you move to when you left Colonel Eddie Town?

16 A. The whole troop moved to Mange Bureh.

17 Q. Whose idea was to it move to Mange Bureh?

18 A. Well, since the troop had known the time of Gullit that we
19 should go and attack Mange Bureh once as that was the only

15:14:44 20 possible route to use, we went to Mange Bureh to come as far as
21 Freetown.

22 Q. This, according to you, was the person you referred to as
23 Gullit in communication with others, other commanders elsewhere
24 in Sierra Leone in December 1998?

15:15:03 25 A. Well, I want to get this question clear. Whether it was in
26 Camp Eddie Town or when the troop was moving.

27 Q. Camp Eddie Town, just about the time when you were leaving
28 in December '98, the person you refer to as Gullit, was he in
29 communication with other commanders elsewhere in the country?

1 A. Yes, he spoke to Mosquito whilst that was the time at the
2 time SAJ had not come. He also spoke to SAJ.

3 Q. And you were present during these conversations?

4 A. Yes, My Lord.

15:16:15 5 Q. In Colonel Eddie Town was there any radio communication
6 where you weren't present?

7 A. Yes, My Lord.

8 Q. So there are communications which you will not be able to
9 tell us about?

15:16:42 10 A. The only vital communication like that of Mosquito, Gullit
11 usually calls the operation manager and at that time I will go
12 with him and I will be present.

13 Q. Mr Witness, you have just told us that the communications
14 took place when you were not present. And if you were not
15:17:03 15 present it stands to reason, does it not, that you will not know
16 who those conversation were with -- who these communications was
17 with. You will not know that, will you?

18 A. The only thing I am saying, the communication I knew, that
19 was the one I spoke about.

15:17:34 20 Q. [Microphone not activated] about that one. You have also
21 told us that communications took place which you knew nothing
22 about.

23 MS PACK: Your Honour, I am not sure how the witness can
24 answer this question. I am not sure whether my learned friend is
15:17:46 25 putting alternative communications in which they perhaps should
26 be put to the witness. But in any event, my learned friend
27 appears to be saying, "Are there communications that you don't
28 know about that you therefore can't tell us about? Can you
29 confirm that?" It is a pretty difficult hypothesis in which to

1 deal, in my submission.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Thompson, what do you say to that
3 objection?

4 MS THOMPSON: Your Honour, the witness can tell us about
15:18:15 5 conversations where he was present. He has told us about various
6 things that happened and he was present at all of those times.
7 The question I put to the witness that it is possible for there
8 to have been communications with others where he wasn't present.
9 He couldn't have been present all the time, everywhere, with
15:18:32 10 every person and is all. He must have gone to sleep at some
11 stage, for example. He would not know whether conversations took
12 place. It is just a possibility that he wasn't there when
13 certain conversations happened.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: If he wasn't there, how can he answer
15:18:45 15 that question?

16 MS THOMPSON: Your Honour, it is a possibility that the
17 communication happened when he was not there. He cannot tell
18 this Court that he was present every time there was a
19 communication. That is all I am putting to the witness. I am
15:18:57 20 asking him details about any communications.

21 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: If I recall, about maybe three minutes
22 ago, you asked this same question to the witness and he said
23 words to this effect: That he was present when Gullit spoke to
24 other commanders like to SAJ and to Mosquito, but he said in
15:19:20 25 Colonel Eddie Town there were communications which he did not
26 attend to.

27 MS THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honour, that is what he said.

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I recall --

29 Q. Is that correct, Mr Witness, that in Colonel Eddie Town

1 there were other communications that you did not attend, but you
2 attended the most important ones to which A was invited? Is that
3 correct?

4 A. I said the most vital ones that have concerned -- that
15:19:49 5 concerns the movement which Mosquito has called. He called my
6 commander where I would be present. Those I knew are the ones
7 that I spoke about. I don't know whether they were having
8 private communication, but those that I was present, those are
9 the ones that I spoke about.

15:20:05 10 Q. But the question asked was, "Is it possible that there were
11 other communications to which you were not privy?" And the
12 answer is yes it is possible or you don't know?

13 A. It might be possible, but those I know are the ones I spoke
14 about.

15:20:29 15 MS THOMPSON: Thank you.

16 Q. Yes, Mr Witness, I will move on from there. I think I have
17 got the answer I was looking for. When you left Colonel Eddie
18 Town in December '98 the destination was Freetown, was it?

19 A. Yes, My Lord.

15:21:09 20 Q. That was the ultimate goal, Freetown?

21 A. Yes, that was the aim of the troop.

22 Q. By the middle of January, can you remember your location?
23 January 1999 -- I am sorry, I beg your pardon. January '99
24 already. Sorry, I will re-phrase. When did you leave Colonel
15:21:38 25 Eddie Town? Was it in the middle of December or towards the end
26 of December?

27 A. No, it was in the first week of December we moved from
28 Colonel Eddie Town.

29 Q. So, it took you about a month to get to Freetown?

1 A. Yes, we were coming by stages.

2 Q. The person you referred to as Gullit, was he with you at
3 every stage until you got to Freetown?

4 A. He continued to be with the troop until we came to
15:22:18 5 Freetown.

6 Q. And you are sure about that?

7 A. Yes, My Lord.

8 Q. Now, your evidence in this Court was that this person
9 Gullit - it was 14th June you told us - that this person Gullit
15:22:51 10 had ordered that when you got Freetown you must burn every police
11 station down.

12 A. That was on the 5th January and it happened in Allen Town.
13 That was what he said.

14 Q. What was the penalty if you did not follow that order?

15:23:26 15 A. Gullit had one say. Even in Mansofinia. He said it
16 clearly. Minus you, plus you, the movement will carry on. If
17 you failed to do or to obey the movement, then we get rid of you.

18 Q. What did you understand that to mean? Getting sacked,
19 killed?

15:23:53 20 A. My Lord, I have just imagined - you were not there, but he
21 was really very aggressive. When he gave an order that minus
22 you, plus you, if you joke with that order then you would be no
23 more.

24 Q. Mr Witness, what I want you to answer is what did you
15:24:18 25 understand? What did you think he meant by that?

26 A. If you fail to obey then if you are lucky they will fire
27 you on the leg. But if you are not lucky, then if you are not
28 lucky, you are killed. Indeed, if you are not fired on the leg,
29 you will have the big task which will be given to you.

1 Q. When you, got to Kissi, did you burn down the police
2 station in accordance with Gullit's orders?

3 A. Well, in Kissi, as the advancing troops moved, the
4 barracks - we put fire on the barracks. They were coming at the
15:25:06 5 back, not that the advancing was very far off from them. They
6 were moving - coming from the back.

7 Q. I did not ask you about the barracks, Mr Witness. I asked
8 you about the station. The Kissi Police Station, did you burn
9 down Kissi Police Station?

15:25:26 10 A. The barracks was burnt down. They have cleared the
11 barracks.

12 Q. I will try one more time. Really, Mr Witness, it is yes or
13 no. Did you burn down Kissi Police Station.

14 A. We burnt the barracks. The barracks was burnt town.

15:25:46 15 Q. You have told us that quite a few times.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, we have already ascertained the
17 difference between the police station and the barracks which was burnt?
18 The question is did you burn the police station?

19 THE WITNESS: No, the station was not burnt down, it was
15:26:02 20 the barracks.

21 MS THOMPSON:

22 Q. Was anybody punished as a result of this failure to carry
23 out this person called Gullit's orders?

24 A. No, they didn't punish anybody.

15:26:26 25 Q. Thank you?

26 A. Because that order was carried on.

27 Q. When did the -- you are now in Freetown. We are now in
28 January 6th, 1999. When did the abductions you mentioned take
29 place; was it coming into Freetown or going out of Freetown?

1 A. I clearly stated that the time when the troops entered
2 Freetown, most of the commanders were with women they abducted
3 who were not part of the movement and when the troops were ready
4 to withdraw from PWD, abductions took place. As the troops were
15:27:50 5 leaving from crazyard, to go there, abductions took place.

6 Q. Did you abduct anybody?

7 A. The only thing, later on when we are leaving, I had two
8 children and I had two children who were with me. I rescued them
9 from soldiers.

15:28:17 10 Q. Mr Witness, I am not asking you about a rescue mission, I
11 am asking you whether you yourself abducted anybody?

12 A. Well, as long as I know, I rescued the two who were with
13 me, they were with me. They were about to kill them and I
14 rescued them from a soldier.

15:28:37 15 Q. Okay, let's do it this way: you said on the 14th of June
16 that Gullit passed an order -- sorry, that commanders also
17 abducted civilians. Sorry, I'll rephrase that. You said that
18 commanders also abducted civilians and that everybody had a
19 civilian. Okay? And this was because Gullit said this would
15:29:16 20 attract the attention of the international community. So, once
21 again, Gullit has passed an order. Since you did not abduct
22 anybody, you merely rescued, were you punished for this flagrant
23 disobedience of Gullit's order?

24 A. My Lord this was not a kind of disobedience. I have met
15:29:44 25 somebody killing them and they were part of the abductees. So
26 that was not a kind of disobedience. They were about to kill
27 them and I rescued them and they were part of the abductees. I
28 only rescued them.

29 Q. Mr Witness, you did not abduct them, did you?

1 A. Well, nobody could tell. It is only I who could tell that
2 I rescued them because Gullit could not prove that I did not
3 abduct because he saw them with me. Neither -- it was I myself
4 that I - I only knew that I rescued them, that is what I am
15:30:30 5 trying to say.

6 Q. What about the soldier who was about to kill them; he knew
7 that you did not abduct them that you rescued them, didn't he?

8 A. Well, I don't know what the soldier would take to it be.
9 But I only begged him, say, "Do. Let these children be with me.
15:30:53 10 Don't kill them; give them to me."

11 Q. So he knew you rescued them?

12 A. Well, it was left with him to decide but, with me, I begged
13 him to give them to me. I don't know how he will interpret that.

14 Q. When this happened was it just the two of you and these two
15:31:13 15 children standing there; there is nobody else around?

16 A. It's true, there was no other person there where I got the
17 children.

18 Q. Whereabouts was this?

19 A. Well, these two children I had, it was in Allen Town that I
15:31:34 20 got them.

21 Q. On a street corner, in a house?

22 A. Well, this happened as a soldier was within the houses in
23 Allen Town when I asked him to give these children to me.

24 Q. The soldier was within the houses? Sorry, I don't
15:32:02 25 understand.

26 A. He was at the back of house. When I checked at the back of
27 his house I saw him and they he said he was going to kill them
28 and I said, "No. Please don't kill them. Give them to me."

29 Q. What made you go there to the back of this house?

1 A. I was - I am a fighter. I have a right to go to any
2 corner, so I went there to watch and as I went there to watch I
3 saw these soldiers and I asked them to give them to me.

4 Q. What did you do with them?

15:32:49 5 A. I went with them. I was with them to the West Side and
6 later when we were asked to release the children and I handed
7 them over back for them to be brought.

8 Q. What did they do for you?

9 A. What they did for me, the only thing, I took care of them.
15:33:08 10 I myself took care of them because they were young. I had to
11 take care of them. The only thing that later, even though they
12 were carrying arms for me, but I took care of them.

13 Q. Did they wash your clothes?

14 A. No, no.

15:33:21 15 Q. Did they cook your food?

16 A. No, they didn't cook anything for me. The food was a
17 general cook. It was when they cook for Commander A, it was from
18 him that I had my own meal.

19 Q. How old were they?

15:33:40 20 A. Well, as far as I can remember one was around ten and the
21 other was around 12.

22 Q. Would I be right in saying that they were the only ten to
23 12-year-old children in the camp, or with you in the camp who did
24 absolutely nothing except being looked after by you?

15:34:11 25 A. No, no. These are the ones that were with me. The others
26 had their own. There were other little children in the camp.

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Did I hear the witness say "they carried my
28 arms"?

29 MS THOMPSON: "They carried my arms", yes, Your Honour.

1 Q. Did Commander A abduct anybody?

2 A. Well, as far as I were at the base with him, he too had a
3 boy with him. He had a young girl with whom he was in the house.

4 Q. And what work did this boy do?

15:35:03 5 A. Well, he too - he adopted him as his own son. He held his
6 hand as an SBU.

7 Q. So Commander A's boy was an SBU. Now I forgot to ask you
8 this, Witness, your own two, were they male or female?

9 A. They were all boys.

15:35:34 10 Q. They were boys. They were not in SBU?

11 A. Well, all of them were termed as SBU. They were termed as
12 SBUs.

13 Q. How old were they?

14 A. Mine were ten, and the other one was 12 - one was ten and
15:35:51 15 the other one was about 12.

16 Q. So ten and 12 boys termed as SBU and at this stage you
17 would agree with me that, according to your evidence, boys of
18 this age were being trained to fight?

19 A. Yes, indeed, that happened.

15:36:14 20 MS PACK: Might I just assist also to have a time frame again for
21 when this training was taking place. There have been various portions
22 of evidence about training of young boys.

23 MS THOMPSON: I think Your Honour we are on the retreat
24 from Freetown. The witness knows what we are talking about. I
15:36:31 25 am talking about going away from Freetown and the witness has
26 agreed that they were being trained.

27 THE WITNESS: When you were talking, I didn't know the
28 specific time, Whether it was on retreat - whether you were
29 asking me during the retreat or the SBUs I was talking about.

1 MS THOMPSON: The witness doesn't understand any more. I
2 will clarify.

3 Q. We are talking, Witness, about leaving Freetown after
4 January 6th. If you recall, you have gone as far as Kissi. No,
15:37:15 5 when you were coming into Freetown in Kissi. Going back, you
6 said abductions were taking place as you were going back. If you
7 recall, that was when you rescued these two boys between ten and
8 12 years of age. Okay? So you are certain what I am talking
9 about now, are you?

15:37:45 10 A. Yes. My Lord.

11 [TB170605F - CR]

12 Q. These SBUs that were being abducted, is it true that they
13 were being trained?

14 A. The only thing I said, that in Newton, they had the basic
15:38:11 15 ideas, the basic training on how to handle arms, which I have
16 spoken about that.

17 Q. The two that you rescued, were they trained at Newton?

18 A. Well, I myself gave them basic training. All commanders
19 give their own boys basic training.

15:38:34 20 Q. So they were trained at Newton?

21 A. All commanders, whosoever had a small boy, would give him a
22 basic training.

23 Q. All commanders gave basic training, I see. We're still on
24 the retreat from Freetown, Witness, so you know exactly what
15:39:02 25 we're talking about. This is the second retreat now.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Could you pause, Ms Tompson. I notice
27 the time. Are you at a line of cross-examination now that this
28 would be a convenient point to have the normal afternoon
29 adjournment?

1 MS THOMPSON: I'm about to go into a new area.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: It might be appropriate to break at this
3 point.

4 [Trial Chamber confers]

15:40:27 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, we know you have been in the
6 witness box every day from Monday morning and we are wondering
7 how are you feeling and if you feel it would be easier for you if
8 we stop now and start again on Monday?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, My Lord.

15:40:50 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: We will finish?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, My Lord.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. I think that would be only
13 fair since you have been the one doing all the talking. I think,
14 in the circumstances, counsel, it's been a long week for the
15:41:00 15 witness and it's not his first week either. I think in the
16 circumstances we should give him a bit of a longer break over the
17 weekend.

18 MS THOMPSON: Yes, Your Honour.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Particularly in light of the fact you are
15:41:12 20 entering into a new phase of cross-examination.

21 MS THOMPSON: Thank you, I'm most obliged.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: In the circumstances, we'll adjourn until
23 Monday morning. Witness, I know I have told you every day, but
24 I'm going to keep telling you every day that you're under oath
15:41:27 25 and you should not discuss your evidence with anyone until all
26 your evidence is finished. Do you understand this?

27 THE WITNESS: Yes, My Lord.

28 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 3.37 p.m.,
29 to be reconvened on Monday, the 20th day

1 of June 2005 at 9.15 a.m.]

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WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

WITNESS: TF1-334	2
CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR MANLY-SPAIN	4
CROSS-EXAMINED BY MS THOMPSON	15