
Transcript of the Inquest

Date: 28th June 2022

| Name of witness | Sworn, Affirmed, Promised or Read | Page |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Ms Caroline Wilma MACRAE | Sworn | 5 |
| Mrs Marion Roseanne PRESCOTT | Sworn | 30 |
| Mr Arthur James MARTIN | Read | 59 |
| Mr Andrew SAUNDERS | Sworn | 64 |
| Mr Leslie John DOXEY | Read | 97 |
| Mr Christopher SHAW | Sworn | 100 |

CORONER: Good morning, everyone. Mr SANDERS, just quickly run through today's evidence. I think we are starting with the evidence of Caroline MACRAE?

MR SANDERS QC: That's correct, sir. On the videolink, yes.

CORONER: On the videolink. I can see Ms MACRAE there. Then moving on to Marion PRESCOTT.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

CORONER: Is Mrs PRESCOTT here or ...? Yes, hello. Good morning to you. Then I think we are going to read the evidence of Arthur MARTIN.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. Arthur MARTIN and also a schedule of the clothing.

CORONER: Schedule of clothing.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

CORONER: And then Andrew SAUNDERS. Mr SAUNDERS, good morning to you. And then the evidence of Leslie DOXEY, and then finally the evidence of Christopher SHAW. Mr SHAW, good morning to you. So we will take it in that order. I don't know which of you is dealing with Ms MACRAE?

MS KUZMENKO: Sir, I am.

CORONER: Right. So, Heather, can I have the ...? Good morning, Ms MACRAE.

MS MACRAE: Good morning.

CORONER: I am Richard TRAVERS. I am the Senior Coroner here in Surrey. I take it you can hear me okay, can you?

MS MACRAE: Yes, yes.

CORONER: Thank you. When you are talking, Ms MACRAE, could I ask you to keep your voice up so we can hear you nice and clearly, please? And don't rush ahead too quickly because people will be taking some notes of what you are saying. I am going to pass you over in a moment or two to Ms KUZMENKO, who is going to be asking you some questions on my behalf.

Before I do so, I need to read out a warning, which I will do so now.

I hereby give permission for the use of live video to enable

participants to access these court proceedings. It is a contempt of court to record, play, dispose of or publish a recording or transcript of these proceedings. That means it is a criminal offence to make or attempt, or to record or broadcast these proceedings.

Ms MACRAE, can I ask you are you going to be taking the oath?

Do you have a holy book or a Bible with you? Or are you going to do the affirmation?

MS MACRAE: I have a Bible here.

CORONER: Okay. And do you have the words of the oath in front of you?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

CORONER: You have. Good, all right. Can I ask you please to hold the Bible in your right hand and can you please read for me nice and clearly, and not too quickly, the words of the oath, please?

MS CAROLINE MACRAE (sworn)

CORONER: Thank you very much. Can I ask you to give me your full name please, Ms MACRAE?

MS MACRAE: Caroline Wilma MACRAE.

CORONER: Thank you. I am going to pass you over now to Ms KUZMENKO. The camera will move, I hope, and so you will be able to see Ms KUZMENKO and she'll ask you a few questions. Thank you.

MS MACRAE: Thank you.

MS KUZMENKO: Good morning, Ms MACRAE.

CORONER: **Just wait for the camera ...**

MS MACRAE: Good morning.

CORONER: **... to move. There we are.**

MS KUZMENKO: There we go. I am just raising my hand. I am the one asking you questions this morning. Now, Ms MACRAE, can you just confirm what town you live in?

MS MACRAE: Inverness.

MS KUZMENKO: And at the time of the bombings you made three statements to the police. Have you received typed copies of those?

MS MACRAE: Yes, I have.

MS KUZMENKO: So we are just going to bring up on screen those, because we want to just verify your signature. Mrs NIN, can you bring up Caselines 20-45, please? Now, Ms MACRAE, you should see on screen at the top handwriting and there is a signature there. Can you confirm if that's your signature, please?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's my signature.

MS KUZMENKO: And if you can scroll down, Mrs NIN, to the bottom of the statement.
And is that signature also yours, Ms MACRAE?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's my signature.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. Mrs NIN, can you move on to 20-47, please? This is your statement. This is from the 8th October. Again, this signature at the top, is that yours?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's mine.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. Moving down. Is that also yours?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's mine.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. And lastly, Mrs NIN, at 20-50. This is your third statement. This is the one dated 16th October. Again, the signature at the top, is that yours?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's mine.

MS KUZMENKO: And just scrolling down for the last one. That one also?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you very much. Now, have you had a chance to re-read the typed versions of your statements?

MS MACRAE: Yes, I have.

MS KUZMENKO: And can you confirm that the contents of those statements are true to the best of your knowledge?

MS MACRAE: Yes, they are.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. I'm just going to start and take you back to 1974 when you started at the WRAC. Now, I understand you joined on the 16th September 74. Does that sound right?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's right.

MS KUZMENKO: How old would you have been?

MS MACRAE: 17.

MS KUZMENKO: I'm just going to get a photo up again just to help jog your memory. So it would be, Mrs NIN, at 4-137. And it's at the bottom of that page on the right. Is that you?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's me.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. So before you enlisted, did you have any other jobs or anything like that, following school?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: What did you do?

MS MACRAE: Various jobs. Worked in the hospital, did hairdressing for a bit, and then joined the Army.

MS KUZMENKO: And when you started you would have had basic training. Is that right?

MS MACRAE: That's right.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you complete it?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And did you go on to do any further training within the Army?

MS MACRAE: I went to Aldershot and became a Driver.

MS KUZMENKO: And how long did you stay in the Army for?

MS MACRAE: About three years.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you have any other roles besides Driver?

MS MACRAE: No.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And throughout your time at QEB, at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks, were you living on camp?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And just so we have a sort of vision of it, was there anything like fences around the camp?

MS MACRAE: Yes, there was. Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And on entry would there have been anywhere, any sort of guardhouses or anything like that?

MS MACRAE: Yes, there was a guardhouse.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. I'm just going to now try and tease out some of the details from your basic training. Now, we appreciate it has been 48 years since you did this, so you might not recall all the details. So if you don't remember please just let us know. Okay. So in terms of the six weeks of training, can you just give us an outline of what you recall being trained in?

MS MACRAE: Just the basic training. We were taught how to march and just general ... It was just basic training. It was just ...

MS KUZMENKO: Sure. And do you remember ...

MS MACRAE: You did what you were told.

MS KUZMENKO: And do you remember were you mostly outside or did you do indoors training as well?

MS MACRAE: Mostly outside.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And do you remember anything like classroom sessions?

MS MACRAE: Yes, we all did the tests.

MS KUZMENKO: What sort of tests?

MS MACRAE: Just general knowledge and tests, you know, just to assess I think the sort of grade that you were going into.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, can you just explain to us what was your understanding of the Provisional IRA threat before entering the WRAC?

MS MACRAE: Not very much.

MS KUZMENKO: And when you joined, did you have any training on that point?

MS MACRAE: No training that I can recall.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. Yes. And did you have any understanding or sense of being a threat as a military target?

MS MACRAE: No, I didn't feel any personal threat, no.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, in terms of your training, did you cover anything like, sort of bomb threats, in the sense of checking underneath cars or post or anything like that?

MS MACRAE: I know they did, they advised us that the guardrooms and that ...

MS KUZMENKO: Sorry, did you say they advised you?

MS MACRAE: ... you know, to be careful. Sorry?

MS KUZMENKO: Sorry. No, please go ahead.

MS MACRAE: Just to be careful and just to go out in no more than two or three people.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And so you would go in groups, so in groups of no more than two or three people. Did I understand that right?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's right.

MS KUZMENKO: Yes. And were you held on camp for a certain amount of weeks before you were allowed to leave?

MS MACRAE: We were on camp for three weeks and it was our first weekend out.

MS KUZMENKO: Was there any restrictions on the days that you could go out after that three week period?

MS MACRAE: Not that I can recall.

MS KUZMENKO: And what about timings? Did you have anything like a curfew that you had to respect?

MS MACRAE: Yes. We had to be in by 11 o'clock.

MS KUZMENKO: Were you ever told that there were certain places you couldn't go to?

MS MACRAE: They advised us not to all go to the same bars or nightclubs if possible.

MS KUZMENKO: Did they explain why?

MS MACRAE: Just to take care of ourselves, you know. They were just advising us to all take care of (inaudible).

MS KUZMENKO: And just to check, sorry, who was it that was advising you that?

MS MACRAE: The NCOs.

MS KUZMENKO: And were you allowed to leave in your uniforms?

MS MACRAE: No, we were always wearing civvies.

MS KUZMENKO: Did they explain the rationale behind that, or were you just told not to?

MS MACRAE: We were just told not to, but the reason was so that nobody knew that we were in the military.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you think that when you were in your civilian clothes that you would have been recognised as military?

MS MACRAE: Yes, I think we would have.

MS KUZMENKO: Why do you think that?

MS MACRAE: Just the way we held ourselves and where we went.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you, you very possibly may not, but can you remember the names of any of the people that provided you with training, such as your Company Commander or the Lieutenants?

MS MACRAE: I can only remember Corporal Dwayne BILLS (?).

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. Now, are you familiar with the term the BIKINI Alert System?

MS MACRAE: No, I'm not.

MS KUZMENKO: So you wouldn't have heard anything like BIKINI Red, BIKINI Amber, BIKINI Black?

MS MACRAE: No.

MS KUZMENKO: Are you familiar with the term Part I or Part II Orders?

MS MACRAE: I have heard them, but I'm not familiar with them.

MS KUZMENKO: What about Standing Orders? Is that something you recognise?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you remember what they were?

MS MACRAE: Not now, no.

MS KUZMENKO: No, that's okay. If there were to be any instructions or advice about security, how would you have found that out?

MS MACRAE: I think we were all advised before we left just to be careful.

MS KUZMENKO: As far as you were concerned, what was the culture like regarding security from, for instance, the Provisional IRA?

MS MACRAE: I honestly don't know, no.

MS KUZMENKO: So moving on then from the training. I'm going to take you to the day of the bombing itself on the 5th October. What were you doing during the day, do you remember, before you went out in the evening?

MS MACRAE: We just, it was just a normal day. We just had our breakfasts and our dinner and we all decided that we were all going out for the evening.

MS KUZMENKO: And you decided to go out to Guildford. So that was your first time, you said, out, isn't it?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And who did you plan to go out with?

MS MACRAE: Marion and Susan.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you remember Susan's surname?

MS MACRAE: Not at this stage.

MS KUZMENKO: No, that's okay. And ...

CORONER: **Sorry, I didn't understand that?**

MS KUZMENKO: I couldn't remember off the top of my head Susan's surname?

CORONER: **And it was?**

MS KUZMENKO: Was that PEARSON by any chance? Does that ring a bell?

MS MACRAE: No, no.

MS KUZMENKO: No, okay.

CORONER: **So there is somebody called Susan, and did the witness say Steve?**

MS KUZMENKO: No, Marion.

CORONER: **No, Marion. Yes. No, I heard that. But then after she said Susan**
I thought she said something else?

MS KUZMENKO: No, just Susan.

MS BARTON QC: I thought she said, "Not at this stage."

CORONER: **Not at this stage. Okay. Thank you.**

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. And according to your statement you left around 7.05.
Does that sound about right?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that sounds about right.

MS KUZMENKO: And you had to book out of camp. Is that correct?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's right.

MS KUZMENKO: What does that mean?

MS MACRAE: At the guardroom.

MS KUZMENKO: And how did you get to Guildford?

MS MACRAE: By bus.

MS KUZMENKO: How long would that have taken you, roughly?

MS MACRAE: About 20 minutes, I think. I am not sure.

MS KUZMENKO: And when you got off the bus where did you go?

MS MACRAE: We went to the Horse and Groom.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you take any stops along the way?

MS MACRAE: No.

MS KUZMENKO: And so you would have arrived at the Horse and Groom. I think, according to your statement, it said around 8 o'clock. Does that sound about right?

MS MACRAE: Possibly, yes. Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you pick that pub out in advance?

MS MACRAE: I don't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you remember why you might have gone in there in particular?

MS MACRAE: No.

MS KUZMENKO: We've heard some evidence that it was a pub that was quite popular with military personnel. Does that sound about right to you?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that sounds about right.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, when you went inside to the pub, can you just tell us what your sort of first impressions were on entry of what the pub was like?

MS MACRAE: No, I can't remember. It was just a, it was just a pub.

MS KUZMENKO: How busy was the pub?

MS MACRAE: Quite busy, and it got busier.

MS KUZMENKO: As the evening went on?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: In terms of the sort of people that you saw or you recognised, was it civilians or military personnel?

MS MACRAE: Military personnel.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, Mrs NIN, can you just bring up for me 1-3, please? So I'm just bringing up on the screen, Ms MACRAE, this is a master sketch plan of the pub. So I'm just going to take you through it, just to help set the scene. So at the bottom of the page, where it says 'Pavement,' above it we have a dotted line and that's the door to the pub, the entry. On the left we have two alcoves with benches around it, and it's the top alcove that has a juke box and a fireplace. Does that sound familiar?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: We've heard some evidence that Carol BURNS was in that alcove with the fireplace and the juke box. Do you remember her at all?

MS MACRAE: No.

MS KUZMENKO: Celebrating a birthday, perhaps?

MS MACRAE: No.

MS KUZMENKO: That's okay. And above that we have the ladies toilets and a staircase.

And in the middle of the plan there's two squares which are pillars, to the right of which is the bar. Does that sound familiar?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that sounds familiar.

MS KUZMENKO: And so when you went into the bar, where did you go?

MS MACRAE: We went to look- we went to the bar to get drinks, and we also went to look for seats.

MS KUZMENKO: And you were still with Marion MONTGOMERY at the time?

MS MACRAE: That's right.

MS KUZMENKO: And were you possibly also there with a Private NEVE, Carol NEVE.

MS MACRAE: That's it.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, I think Marion in her statement talks about chatting to Ann HAMILTON. Do you remember seeing her there?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you talk to her at all?

MS MACRAE: I think we just said hi and ...

MS KUZMENKO: And can you remember roughly how far along the bar you were? So if we are looking at from the top to the bottom where it curves, can you remember roughly where you went?

MS MACRAE: Possibly middle.

MS KUZMENKO: And who bought the drinks?

MS MACRAE: I can't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: And so you went then looking for seats. So where did you go looking for seats?

MS MACRAE: I think we just turned around and saw some table seats and sat there.

MS KUZMENKO: And am I right that's the, it was the top alcove where the juke box was?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: I'm just going to bring up a slightly different plan. Mrs NIN, at 4-68, please. So this is a plan that's plotted out where various people were at the time. And so you are number 251. I am just going to ask Mrs NIN to zoom in please, in the top alcove where the three tables are. It is just lower. There we go. So do you see, Ms MACRAE, the three circles, which are the three tables in that top alcove?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And just to the right of it there's a very small 251 plotted, to the right of the third table?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Does that sound roughly where you sat?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And at this point you were still with Privates NEVE and MONTGOMERY?

MS MACRAE: That's right.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you recognise others in that alcove at the time?

MS MACRAE: I can't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: I'm just going to bring up some photos. Perhaps that might jog your memory. Mrs NIN, can you bring up 4-165, please? Ann WILLIAMS. Just there to the right. From the same block as you. Does that ring a bell?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you also bring up, Mrs NIN, 4-145? It should be Isabel PRICE. So just down ...

MS MACRAE: No.

MS KUZMENKO: Not familiar. No, okay.

MS MACRAE: No.

MS KUZMENKO: And I think your statement also mentioned a Jimmy COOPER. I think that's at 4-565. No, that's not right. No. Okay, never mind. So did anyone join you at your table at any point?

MS MACRAE: Not that I can remember. People were passing by and we were saying hi and things like that, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And were you always sat at the same table up until the explosion?

MS MACRAE: Yes. I remember at one stage we were going to move, but we didn't.

MS KUZMENKO: Why not?

MS MACRAE: We stayed where we were. I think some people left and we went to go and move from the table to further over, but the soldiers all moved so we couldn't move.

MS KUZMENKO: And did you see Ann HAMILTON leave the pub as well? Does that sound familiar?

MS MACRAE: I can't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: Yes, okay.

MS MACRAE: No, I can't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: And up until the explosion, did you ever notice anything suspicious in the pub?

MS MACRAE: The only thing that I remember is a lady, well a woman staring at us for some reason, I don't know why.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember anything about what she looked like?

MS MACRAE: Yes. She was about the same height as me, about 5'4. Same sort of build, maybe slightly bigger. Brown hair and wearing a grey coat.

MS KUZMENKO: And for how long did you stay around?

MS MACRAE: I remember looking at her and I can't remember if I spoke to Marion or Caroline. (inaudible) commented that she was looking at us, and when I stared at her she turned and walked out.

MS KUZMENKO: Just one second, sorry. And can you recall seeing anything else? I believe in your statement you mention a bag?

MS MACRAE: Yes. There was a bag sort of by the juke box.

MS KUZMENKO: What did it look like?

MS MACRAE: I think it was just like a carrier bag.

MS KUZMENKO: How large was it?

MS MACRAE: Probably about, nearly the height of a chair seat. You know a stool, the legs, just about the height, you know.

MS KUZMENKO: And so where was it? So it was on the floor up to the height of a chair?

MS MACRAE: It was on ... Yes, yes. Just to the legs, the bottom, you know, the seat of a chair just about.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And what did you think of that bag when you saw it?

MS MACRAE: It did cross my mind for about a split second, but I didn't think anything more of it, because people were standing beside it, you know, next to it, so I assumed it was theirs.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, I'm just going to take you forward then to the moment of the explosion. Now, as best as you can recall, what was it like?

MS MACRAE: I think I can remember saying to Marion, who was right next to me, I'm sitting on top on it (?) and I was bouncing up and down. Then all the lights sort of caved in and I could feel it singeing my hair.

MS KUZMENKO: What was the sort of lighting like? What did you see?

MS MACRAE: It just went completely dark and you could sort of, suppose you could sort of smell singeing.

MS KUZMENKO: And what did you hear, if anything, at the time?

MS MACRAE: I personally just thought it was like a boiler that had blown, that had burst beneath me.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay.

MS MACRAE: But I can recall Marion saying, "It's a bomb."

MS KUZMENKO: And what did it feel like at the time?

MS MACRAE: It was very scary and it was strange.

MS KUZMENKO: And did you remain seated throughout the explosion?

MS MACRAE: No, I went up in the air a bit and came down. Sort of hit my stomach, I think, on the table.

MS KUZMENKO: And so did you land on the table, is it?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you get a sense of where this explosion came from?

MS MACRAE: No, no.

MS KUZMENKO: And what did you do from there, once you'd sort of landed?

MS MACRAE: Sort of got up, sort of checking to see where Marion was, and she was on the floor. I can still see her striped jacket, it was blue and white, and I can still see it to this day.

MS KUZMENKO: And what did you do from there? Did you help her up?

MS MACRAE: To be honest I don't think I did.

MS KUZMENKO: And so what did you do?

MS MACRAE: Tried to turn and get out.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you remember where you got out from?

MS MACRAE: I think actually walked out through the window.

MS KUZMENKO: How easy was it to make your way out?

MS MACRAE: It was very hard because everybody was screaming and I can remember getting pulled back, and my jacket being ripped and everything as we all tried to get out.

MS KUZMENKO: And besides seeing Marion on the floor, did you see anything else on the floor, or anyone else?

MS MACRAE: No.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember? Okay. Now, once you got outside, where did you go?

MS MACRAE: I can't remember. I think we just ...

MS KUZMENKO: Okay.

MS MACRAE: Just (inaudible).

MS KUZMENKO: I think you mention in your statement that you crossed, you went across the road, somebody took you across the road. Does that sound familiar?

MS MACRAE: Possibly. I can't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: At any point did you get any medical assistance on the scene?

MS MACRAE: Yes. Some people, you know, came around and told me to sit down and that. So at one stage I think I was sitting on the pavement.

MS KUZMENKO: And did your friends join you at any point?

MS MACRAE: Eventually Marion came out, but she was (inaudible).

MS KUZMENKO: Did you look back at the pub after you'd gotten out?

MS MACRAE: I can't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: So you don't remember what it looks like or what it looked like after the explosion?

MS MACRAE: I think we did after a certain time, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And can you remember- can you tell us what you remember seeing?

MS MACRAE: Just the whole front of the pub being blown away.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you recall if you saw any emergency response vehicles outside?

MS MACRAE: Yes, there was police, ambulance, fire brigade.

MS KUZMENKO: And did you go to hospital that evening?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you tell us where? So was it the Royal Surrey County Hospital?

MS MACRAE: I believe so, yes. Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember how you got there?

MS MACRAE: I think a policeman took me in his van.

MS KUZMENKO: Were you on your own?

MS MACRAE: No. I believe Marion was with me.

MS KUZMENKO: And when you got to the hospital what care did they give you?

MS MACRAE: Full examination (inaudible).

MS KUZMENKO: And were you then taken also to the Cambridge Military Hospital?

Does that sound familiar?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's right. Yes, think so.

MS KUZMENKO: And when would that have happened?

MS MACRAE: I believe that evening.

MS KUZMENKO: And what did they do for you care wise?

MS MACRAE: They just examined me at the end and kept me in.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, in terms of your injuries, can you just tell us what injuries you sustained that night?

MS MACRAE: Just cuts and bruises.

MS KUZMENKO: And I think in your statement you also mention that your left ear was damaged. Is that right?

MS MACRAE: Yes, and I still have a slight problem with it.

MS KUZMENKO: And how was your hearing afterwards?

MS MACRAE: It was quite a while to come back properly.

MS KUZMENKO: And so then in terms of coming back to camp. When did you get back to camp?

MS MACRAE: About two or three days later.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you have to report to anyone?

MS MACRAE: I can't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: So just sort of reflecting on all of that. At what point did you come to learn that it was a bombing rather than just say a boiler?

MS MACRAE: When Marion told me.

MS KUZMENKO: And is it fair to say that if you'd had any training on things like bombs that you would have connected that with the incident you'd gone through?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. Right. Thank you. I don't have any further questions for you, Ms MACRAE. That has been very helpful. If you could just wait one second, others might have questions for you.

CORONER: **Bring her back to me, please. Ms MACRAE, I just wanted to ask you a couple of things about the evidence you have given. At one point you said that you didn't feel yourself under threat as a military target, but you knew that they advised you as soldiers, the guards' room, you said it was, to be careful and to go in groups of no more than two or three people. Do you mean leave the barracks**

in groups of no more than two or three, or just socialise in groups of no more than two or three?

MS MACRAE: To socialise no more than two or three.

CORONER: But you were then asked, I will come back to that, but you were then asked about whether you could go in uniform, and you said no, you had to go in civvies if you left the barracks. And you said that was so that, “We were not identified as military.” But you went on to say that you thought that nevertheless you were identifiable as members of the military, “By the way we held ourselves,” you said, and also, “And where we went.” What did you mean by that? What do you mean by, “Where we went”?

MS MACRAE: Possibly, just where we went to the pub, bars.

CORONER: And do you mean by that, that the pubs and bars were known military venues, so to speak, where you and the other soldiers would go?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

CORONER: I mean this pub that you’ve told us about, the Horse and Groom, it was a crowded pub, wasn’t it, certainly by the end of the evening when the explosion occurred? It was crowded?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

CORONER: And was that predominately military people?

MS MACRAE: Yes, in our area.

CORONER: Sorry, say that again, please?

MS MACRAE: Yes, in the area I was in.

CORONER: In the area you were in. Yes. And so if the advice was don't socialise in groups of more than two or three, presumably that wasn't advice that anyone really paid much attention to was it then?

MS MACRAE: No, not really.

CORONER: Yes. All right. Thank you. Can you just wait there for a second?
Ms BARTON, anything from you?

MS BARTON QC: Just one matter, if I may?

CORONER: I'm going to pass you over to Ms BARTON QC, who represents Surrey Police. The camera will move now. There we are.

MS BARTON QC: I hope you can see me now?

MS MACRAE: Yes, I can see you.

MS BARTON QC: Good. I've only got one issue that I want to deal with, if I may, with you? You have talked about a green plastic carrier bag. At the time that you saw that carrier bag, where exactly was it?

MS MACRAE: It was next to the juke box.

MS BARTON QC: Right. So between the juke box and the fireplace?

MS MACRAE: Yes, that's right.

MS BARTON QC: Okay. And did you see it move at any point from that position?

MS MACRAE: No, I don't think so.

MS BARTON QC: You have talked about a woman who was staring at you. You never saw the woman with that carrier bag did you?

MS MACRAE: No, she just had a handbag.

MS BARTON QC: Yes. And at the time when you saw the green carrier bag, you made the connection between Janet OLIVER's boyfriend, who was standing near that bag, and you thought it was his?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: Yes.

MS MACRAE: Or hers.

MS BARTON QC: Or hers, because they were standing very close to it?

MS MACRAE: That's right.

MS BARTON QC: Thank you very much. Perhaps I just ought to ask you this. You gave three statements. The latter statements concerned further questions from the police, didn't they, about the identity and description of the woman who was staring at you, and the location of the carrier bag?

MS MACRAE: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: Thank you very much.

CORONER: **Anything, Mr PLEETH?**

MR PLEETH: No, thank you.

CORONER: No. Then back to me, please. Ms MACRAE, that concludes your evidence. I am very grateful to you for joining us today and for giving the evidence you have given. It is very helpful to have these insights, so ... But that concludes the evidence now. So we will cut the link, but thank you very much.

MS MACRAE: Thank you.

CORONER: Cheerio. Bye bye.

MS MACRAE: Bye.

(Witness withdrew)

CORONER: (Conversation aside). Right, thank you very much. So the second witness please today is Mrs PRESCOTT.

MRS MARION ROSEANNE PRESCOTT (sworn)

CORONER: Thank you very much. Do sit down please, Mrs PRESCOTT. Could you bring your chair forward because I want to pick you up on that microphone, please? In fact you can bring the microphone because it's a loose microphone, so you can bring it forward a bit if you need to. First of all, could I ask you to give me your full name?

MRS PRESCOTT: Marion Roseanne PRESCOTT.

CORONER: Thank you, Mrs PRESCOTT. Your voice is nice and clear, so please try and keep it that way. I am going to pass you to Ms KUZMENKO in a moment. Before I do so, please, as I say,

keep your voice up. Listen to the questions you are being asked and just answer those questions. If we need to ask something else we will. And also please don't rush ahead too quickly, because people will be taking notes of what you are saying.

MRS PRESCOTT: Sir.

CORONER: Thank you very much.

MS KUZMENKO: Good morning.

MRS PRESCOTT: Morning.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you just confirm for us the town that you live in, please?

MRS PRESCOTT: Stirling in Scotland.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. And at the time of the bombings you weren't yet married were you?

MRS PRESCOTT: No.

MS KUZMENKO: What was your maiden name?

MRS PRESCOTT: MONTGOMERY.

MS KUZMENKO: And at the time of the bombings you made three statements for police didn't you?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And you've had a chance to, you've received those typed statements, haven't you?

MRS PRESCOTT: I've had a look over them, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: I'm just going to take you through, as we did with Ms MACRAE, through the originals, so that we can have a look at your signatures. So, Mrs NIN, can you bring up please 20-51? So this is your statement from the 5th October, and I think at the bottom we should have a signature. Is that your signature signed Marion MONTGOMERY?

MRS PRESCOTT: That's my signature, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Brilliant. Thank you. And can you bring up please, Mrs NIN, 20-54? This is yours from the 8th October. Is that your signature at the top?

MRS PRESCOTT: That's my signature, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And, sorry, we should scroll to the bottom as well. There should be another one there as well.

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, that's my signature.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. And the third statement is at 20-57. It's from the 16th October. Again, top of the statement should be your signature. Is that right?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, that's my signature.

MS KUZMENKO: And just going to the bottom as well. There we go.

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, that's my signature.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. And have you had a chance to re-read those statements?

MRS PRESCOTT: I've had a look through them, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And can you confirm that its contents are true to the best of your knowledge?

MRS PRESCOTT: To the best of my knowledge, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. So I'm going to take you back now to 1974. I'm just going to start by confirming a few details. So, I think you joined on the 14th September 74. Does that sound right?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And how old would you have been at the time?

MRS PRESCOTT: 18.

MS KUZMENKO: And I think we have a photo from the time, 4-141.

CORONER: **Sorry, just bear with us.**

MS KUZMENKO: Yes.

MRS NIN: Ms MACRAE is still on screen. I'll cut the line.

CORONER: **Just bear with me for a moment. Ms MACRAE, can you hear me still? She can't.**

MRS NIN: She is frozen.

UK FEMALE: She is moving.

CORONER: **No, no, she is moving. Can you try and ... See if you can cut it again, please. Sorry, we won't be a minute. Can you close the room, please?**

MRS NIN: I can't because I'd have to shut the link to ...

CORONER: I see. All right. Well, let's see.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you.

CORONER: Thank you.

MS KUZMENKO: So Mrs NIN was just going to bring up a photo.

CORONER: Sorry, can you say again?

MS KUZMENKO: Bring up a photo please ...

CORONER: Yes, please.

MS KUZMENKO: ... at 4-141. Should be the ... No.

MRS NIN: Oh, sorry.

MS KUZMENKO: Yes. So it should be the top right corner. There we go. Is that you?

MRS PRESCOTT: That's me.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. So just tell me. So you were 18 when you enlisted. Did you have any employment before you started?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes. When I left school I started working in a local factory, and then I went to work at an office in a large department store in the centre of Belfast.

MS KUZMENKO: And then you came to the Queen Elizabeth Barracks to enlist?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you complete your full basic training?

MRS PRESCOTT: I did, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And did you go on to do further training?

MRS PRESCOTT: I did, yes. I did, I became a Technical Clerk, which is for the accounting side of stores and things like that, and later I became an Army Welfare Assistant.

MS KUZMENKO: So how long were you in the Army for? Can you recall?

MRS PRESCOTT: Just over nine years.

MS KUZMENKO: And throughout your time were you always based at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks for those roles?

MRS PRESCOTT: No, no. At one point I was in Germany. I went to- I believe I was in Blackdown Barracks at one point, and then I settled in Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone in Kent.

MS KUZMENKO: So it was only the basic training you really had at Queen Elizabeth Barracks?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And again, does it match your memory the sort of things like fences around the camp? Is that right?

MRS PRESCOTT: You know I really don't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: That's okay. What about guard houses? Does that sound familiar?

MRS PRESCOTT: There would have been a guard house.

MS KUZMENKO: For signing in and signing out?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Yes. Now, again, basic training. I appreciate it has been a long time, so you might not remember, and if you don't just let us know. So in terms of the six weeks, can you recall roughly what you would have been trained in?

MRS PRESCOTT: Well, obviously, fitness and marching. There was- you covered history of the Women's Royal Army Corps in lectures. I believe we did some NBC Training, gas masks, things like that.

CORONER: **Sorry, what sort of training?**

MRS PRESCOTT: Gas mask training, sir.

CORONER: **I see, yes.**

MRS PRESCOTT: That sort of thing.

MS KUZMENKO: And so you would have had lectures indoors as well as outdoors, during that time?

MRS PRESCOTT: Oh, yes. Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And so did you always live in Belfast before you moved to the Army to enlist?

MRS PRESCOTT: Sorry?

MS KUZMENKO: Did you always live in Belfast before you'd enlisted?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: So what was your understanding of the Provisional IRA before you'd started the Army?

MRS PRESCOTT: Well, obviously working in the city centre we had to be aware of surroundings and where you were. In the department store that I worked in, office staff had to take their turn at being down at the front door searching ladies' handbags and things, because at that particular time there were incendiary devices and things like that being left in stores. So I was quite aware of, you know, being aware.

MS KUZMENKO: And when you joined WRAC did they have a similar sort of culture of awareness/security, would you say, in your personal opinion?

MRS PRESCOTT: No. I can't remember exactly everything that was, you know, told to us about security.

MS KUZMENKO: Sure.

MRS PRESCOTT: I would imagine it was covered, but ...

MS KUZMENKO: But you can't remember specifically?

MRS PRESCOTT: I can't remember specifically.

MS KUZMENKO: That's okay. So similarly then, so you may have had training on things like bomb threats or something like that, but you don't remember?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember specifically, but it's a possibility I would have thought.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And in those six weeks, do you recall there being a period of not being allowed to leave the camp?

MRS PRESCOTT: Well, the first few weeks of basic training you weren't allowed out.
You socialised in places like the NAAFI within the camp.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember if there was any particular rationale given as to why you couldn't leave in those first few weeks?

MRS PRESCOTT: No, I can't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: That's okay. Once you were allowed out, was there any restriction as to when you could leave?

MRS PRESCOTT: Sorry?

MS KUZMENKO: So were there restrictions on sort of, for instance, the days that you could leave?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't recall.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay.

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't recall.

MS KUZMENKO: And is there anything, or does it sound familiar to have a curfew? Does that sound familiar?

MRS PRESCOTT: Well, we did have to be back by a certain time at night. Usually about, it was usually about 11 pm.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And can you recall whether there were any restrictions about what you could do once you left the camp?

MRS PRESCOTT: I know- I knew we were told not to go out and about in uniform. Any other restrictions? I really don't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember who told you you weren't to go out in uniform?

MRS PRESCOTT: It would have been NCOs.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you think even without uniform you would have been recognisable as military personnel?

MRS PRESCOTT: I really can't answer that.

MS KUZMENKO: No

MRS PRESCOTT: You know, I can't answer that.

MS KUZMENKO: That's okay. Following your training, do you have any exams on the things you'd done lectures on or anything like that?

MRS PRESCOTT: Exams? Yes, you had to have a pass mark, you know, in different things that you covered.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember any of the names of your Commanders or Corporals or anything like that?

MRS PRESCOTT: No.

MS KUZMENKO: No. That's okay. So do you remember anything about the BIKINI Alert System? Is that familiar to you?

MRS PRESCOTT: The alert system BIKINI, I recognise it. I don't actually remember it, but that rings a bell with me, the BIKINI Alert System.

MS KUZMENKO: So the terms sort of BIKINI Red, BIKINI Amber, BIKINI Black is familiar?

MRS PRESCOTT: It rings a bell. Yes, definitely rings a bell.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you recall whether that would be something you would have heard sort of from word of mouth or something you would have read somewhere?

MRS PRESCOTT: I would believe that we would have been told about it, and also read about it in orders as well.

MS KUZMENKO: Sorry, I didn't catch that right.

MRS PRESCOTT: In orders.

MS KUZMENKO: In orders. Is that Part I or Part II Orders?

MRS PRESCOTT: Part 1 Orders, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And so what generally would that Part I Order contain otherwise?

MRS PRESCOTT: Basic duties, I think, for the day, if I remember correctly. You know, yes, it was something that was displayed on a regular basis.

MS KUZMENKO: Where would it have been displayed?

MRS PRESCOTT: In your platoon, visible. It was something you had to read. You were to make yourself aware of it every day, if I remember correctly.

MS KUZMENKO: And do you remember Standing Orders as well?

MRS PRESCOTT: I remember Standing Orders as well, yes. And they would have been displayed in the same place.

MS KUZMENKO: So if there was to be any advice or new instruction about security, you would have found it in one of those orders?

MRS PRESCOTT: It would have been on there, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And might you have also been told about it as well from superiors?

MRS PRESCOTT: I suppose they would have been checking that you'd read Part I Orders.

Sorry.

MS KUZMENKO: So I'm going to take you now to the 5th October specifically. Can you remember what you did during the daytime before you'd gone out?

MRS PRESCOTT: No.

MS KUZMENKO: No, okay. And what would you usually do on a Saturday, on the day off?

MRS PRESCOTT: There would be things like catching up and washing, you know, the daily chores that you had to do. Get your uniform ready so that, you know, it was all done beforehand, before you went to the NAAFI or wherever.

MS KUZMENKO: So let's focus on the evening then. So you arrange to go out to Guildford, and I think that's with Private Carol NEEVE and Caroline MACRAE. Does that sound familiar?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And you will have seen the photos. We brought them up earlier. Did they look familiar to you when we brought them up? We can bring them up again actually. Mrs NIN, at 4-141. It should be Carol NEVE, on the left. Does she look familiar?

MRS PRESCOTT: I remember Carol, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Yes. And can we also bring up Caroline MACRAE at 4-137? On the right there.

MRS PRESCOTT: I remember Caroline. Caroline and I were good friends.

MS KUZMENKO: Yes, okay. And so it was the three of you that arranged to go out together?

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe so, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you recall whether you were told that you had to go out in groups no larger than two or three? Does that sound familiar?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't recall that.

MS KUZMENKO: That's okay. Had you been out to Guildford before this weekend?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't believe so.

MS KUZMENKO: I think in your statement you said you booked out of camp around 7.15. Does that sound about right?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, round about that time.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And booking out of the camp, what does that entail?

MRS PRESCOTT: Just your name, details and time out.

MS KUZMENKO: And you caught a bus. Is that right?

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe so, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you remember how long it would have taken you to get to Guildford?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: Yes. And where did you go once you'd gotten off the bus?

MRS PRESCOTT: I would need to look at my statement, but I think we just headed into a local pub.

MS KUZMENKO: I think you mention something about a post office to buy stamps. Is that familiar?

MRS PRESCOTT: Again, if it's on my statement. I would need to have a look at my statement, but I don't recall that.

MS KUZMENKO: No, that's okay. So thinking about the Horse and Groom, is that the pub that you were recommended or told about in advance?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: We've heard some evidence it was popular with the military personnel. Does that sound familiar to you?

MRS PRESCOTT: There were military personnel in there. I can't recall being told it was, you know, a popular place to go by anyone in particular.

MS KUZMENKO: And you can't remember why it is you went there at all really?

MRS PRESCOTT: No.

MS KUZMENKO: No. That's okay. So when you went in, can you just sort of paint a picture for us? What was the atmosphere like?

MRS PRESCOTT: Busy. Yes, busy.

MS KUZMENKO: And did it get busier across the night or did ...?

MRS PRESCOTT: It did get busier, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And you recognised it was military personnel there?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, one or two that I recognised.

MS KUZMENKO: Was it mostly military, or partially, or you can't remember?

MRS PRESCOTT: I can't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. So I am just going to bring up briefly 1-3, a sketch plan. So you will have seen it brought up earlier today. Again, just to sort of orientate you, we have the entry from the bottom, the two alcoves on the left hand side, just below the ladies bathroom, and to the right we have the bar. Does that look familiar to you? Does it fit with your recollection?

MRS PRESCOTT: Vaguely familiar.

MS KUZMENKO: What doesn't quite sit with you?

MRS PRESCOTT: I think the fact that it's just a drawing. The area of ...

MS KUZMENKO: It's not an angle you would have seen, to be fair. So, no, that's fine. So when you walk in, does that sit with you though, that you walk in and the bar is slightly to your right and ahead?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And would you have gone straight there, to the bar?

MRS PRESCOTT: I think we headed straight to the bar.

MS KUZMENKO: Did you see anyone along the way that you recognised?

MRS PRESCOTT: Well, I had a look at my statement and Carol ... Sorry, Ann HAMILTON's name is there, and in that it said I said hello, but I don't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: That's okay. So you don't remember saying hello or you don't remember seeing Carol BURNS?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember either.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And so Ann HAMILTON as well. Your statement mentions speaking to her, but you don't remember speaking with her?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember seeing or speaking to her at that time.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And so at this point were you still just with, as far as you remember, with Private NEVE and MACRAE?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And so the three of you were at the bar together. Is that right?

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe I was at the bar with Carol. I think we went to get the drinks.

MS KUZMENKO: The two of you. Okay. Do you remember roughly where on the bar you were? So if you are looking at that scene, do you remember where roughly you were?

MRS PRESCOTT: At the bar? No.

MS KUZMENKO: No. That's fine. And once you'd bought the drinks, what did you do?

MRS PRESCOTT: Found a place to sit down.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember where it was you sat?

MRS PRESCOTT: I think it was in this area here.

MS KUZMENKO: Pointing at the alcoves. Yes.

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

CORONER: **Sorry, I can't see that.**

MS KUZMENKO: Sorry, yes. So ...

MRS PRESCOTT: Sorry. Where the fireplace is.

CORONER: **I see, yes.**

MRS PRESCOTT: In that area where the bench is. I believe we were there.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MS KUZMENKO: So I'm just going to bring up a plan which hopefully plots it. It should be, Mrs NIN, at 4-68. So this plan plots the different people and the different time periods. This is for 8 till 8.30, and you are number 275. So I think you are just to the right of the three tables. Can we zoom in please, Mrs NIN? Yes. There we go.

CORONER: **Sorry, what number again, please?**

MS KUZMENKO: Sir, she is 275.

CORONER: **I see. All right.**

MS KUZMENKO: So it is just to the right of those three tables. You can see that. Does that look roughly where you would have been?

MRS PRESCOTT: As I recall, I was on a bench and fell backwards. Whether there was a bench in that area. I thought the bench ...

CORONER: Well, I think, Ms KUZMENKO, that's the plan at 8 to 8.30, isn't it? And if you scroll down the page, then we come to the plan at 8.30 till the explosion.

MS KUZMENKO: The explosion, yes.

CORONER: And if we then try and find ... Sorry, I've forgotten the number again. 275 is it?

MS KUZMENKO: Yes. So it's a slightly different place, yes?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: So is this the one that's actually more accurate in terms of where you were?

MRS PRESCOTT: I think that's closer to a bench, yes. I was ... Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. Were you at the same sort of location throughout the whole night?

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe so, yes.

MS KUZMEMKO: Okay, fine. And you were sat with Privates NEVE and MACRAE throughout?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you recall if anyone joined your table or joined your bench?

MRS PRESCOTT: Only what it says in my statement, but I don't recall personally.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. Yes. So you don't remember specifically now?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember, no.

MS KUZMENKO: That's okay. It did mention that there was possibly an Army lad, a friend of Jimmy COOPER. So that's not familiar to you now?

MRS PRESCOTT: I've read that and I've no idea who Jimmy COOPER is.

MS KUZMENKO: And do you recall trying to leave that table at any point?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't recall that.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, at the time that you were sat throughout the whole evening, did you see anything that you thought was a bit suspicious?

MRS PRESCOTT: I did see a bag.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay.

MRS PRESCOTT: A plastic carrier bag near a chair. That's one thing that I do remember about the whole thing, seeing the bag. And I also remember a woman that I believe Corporal MACRAE ... Sorry, Private MACRAE pointed out to me initially who ... And I remember thinking at the time she must be very warm in the coat that she was wearing.

MS KUZMENKO: What sort of coat was it?

MRS PRESCOTT: It was a grey longish coat, a wintery type coat.

MS KUZMENKO: I'm just going to break those down a bit. So please come back to the bag. So remind me, where did you say it was?

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe it was near a chair.

MS KUZMENKO: Near a chair.

MRS PRESCOTT: A chair.

MS KUZMENKO: So it might have been on the floor rather than on a chair?

MRS PRESCOTT: I think in my statement I said it was on the chair, but I'm not 100% sure of that now, you know. That's a long time ago ...

MS KUZMENKO: Of course.

MRS PRESCOTT: ... and my memory has faded quite a bit.

MS KUZMENKO: That's okay. And do you remember how big it looked to you?

MRS PRESCOTT: Just carrier bag size.

MS KUZMENKO: Right, okay. Did it look like there was anything in it, or did it look empty?

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe it looked as though it might have had something in it.

MS KUZMENKO: But you couldn't see what it was?

MRS PRESCOTT: You couldn't see what was in it.

MS KUZMENKO: And did you think it belonged to anyone?

MRS PRESCOTT: I can't recall.

MS KUZMENKO: If I could just take you to your statement. So, Mrs NIN, I think this should be at ...

CORONER: **Is it 2...223?**

MS KUZMENKO: 223A, sir. I think it is 20-54.

CORONER: **Thank you. This is the original statement.**

MS KUZMENKO: No, the second, the addendum statement.

CORONER: **I mean not the typed ones, I mean, we are looking at?**

MS KUZMENKO: Oh. Just one second. Let me just get the reference up. Actually, Mrs NIN, can you just search for S223A, please? That will be an easier way for it. Okay. So if we can just scroll to the bottom of that page. There we go. So about five lines from the bottom can you see the sentence starts, “On thinking back ...”?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you just read that sentence out for us, please?

MRS PRESCOTT: You want me to read that sentence?

MS KUZMENKO: Please.

MRS PRESCOTT: “On thinking back now, I feel I should have paid a little more attention, as when I worked in a large departmental store and we used to do some security ...” Oh, it’s gone off. “... security work on the door, although I worked ...” Sorry, it keeps ...

MS KUZMENKO: Sorry, the screen is cutting out.

MRS PRESCOTT: “Although I worked in the office and we are very much alert in Belfast. Some ...”

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. That’s okay, yes.

MRS PRESCOTT: Is that fine?

MS KUZMENKO: That’s fine. Thank you. So just looking at that, is that a sentiment you still hold? Does that sound familiar to you?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: So can you just tell us more? What do you mean when you say you should have paid more attention?

MRS PRESCOTT: Well, a bag on its own. Well, I take it, it was on its own on the area it was in. I think because of where I'd come from, where I lived and the dealings I had with the public and having to search bags and things, I perhaps should have paid it more attention. I think I was probably more intent on enjoying my night out.

MS KUZMENKO: So it's mainly your experience within Belfast that made you think that, rather than say training that you'd gotten at the WRAC?

MRS PRESCOTT: I would say so.

MS KUZMENKO: I'm just going to take you ahead now to the moment of the explosion.

CORONER: **Sorry, before we go there.**

MS KUZMENKO: Yes.

CORONER: **Heather, can you bring up S223, please? Can we go to the bottom of that? We have it there. I mean you say you should have paid more attention. I don't know if you are being slightly hard on yourself, Mrs PRESCOTT. You say here, look at the bottom of the penultimate paragraph please, the last three lines. "Across the room, near the juke box, Janet OLIVER was speaking to her boyfriend. I don't know their last names. I recall seeing a green**

plastic bag which was wedged between the fireplace and the juke box lying on the floor.” So it was not on a chair it was ...

MRS PRESCOTT: It was on the floor.

CORONER: ... on the floor. “But did not think much about it. I thought it was Janet’s boyfriend’s as he was standing next to it.” So does that rather explain perhaps at the time why maybe you did not pay so much attention because you thought it was Janet’s boyfriend’s bag?

MRS PRESCOTT: It could well be sir.

CORONER: Yes. Sorry, thank you.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. So in terms of at the moment of the explosion you were still sat at the table that we looked at the plan earlier and who were you with still at that point?

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe MACRAE and NEVE.

MS KUZMENKO: As much as possible can you in your words explain to us what the explosion was like?

MRS PRESCOTT: I remember as though I was falling backwards, it was just I seemed to be lifted up off the bench. And it was in slow motion, and it was as though I was falling backwards. And I was looking over my shoulder and it looked as though there was something burning behind me. So as I was falling backwards, and again it felt like slow motion, I was trying

to move my hand to get whatever it was burning behind me out of the way, if you understand what I mean, before I landed. And then I hit the floor.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you need to take a minute or are you okay there?

MRS PRESCOTT: I'm okay. I'm okay, thank you.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay, well let us know if you need to take a minute. Do you remember- did you recognise what it was that was burning at all, can you recall what it was?

MRS PRESCOTT: I can't recall what it was, I just know it looked like something burning behind me.

CORONER: **And sorry, can I just be clear in my mind, when you say behind you, so which way were you facing? Where was behind? Was that towards the bar or towards the other end of the alcove?**

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe that I was, where I was sitting, I felt I was going backwards so that would have been towards the bar, sir.

CORONER: **Yes, thank you.**

MS KUZMENKO: What was the lighting like otherwise?

MRS PRESCOTT: I beg your pardon?

MS KUZMENKO: What was the lighting like? Was there light in the building still or was it dark?

MRS PRESCOTT: It went dark.

MS KUZMENKO: What did it sound like at the time?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't recall.

MS KUZMENKO: Could you hear people around you?

MRS PRESCOTT: Not initially, not initially.

MS KUZMENKO: So it came later on, okay. Now, from what I understand from your statement you realised it was a bomb. Can you tell us how you recognised what you thought that was?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't know, it was just, I just had a gut feeling, call it what you like, but I felt it was a bomb had gone off.

MS KUZMENKO: And once you managed to get up, did you manage to get up on your own or did you need help with that?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't recall.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember getting out of the building?

MRS PRESCOTT: I would say the next thing I remembered was sitting down outside.

MS KUZMENKO: Whereabouts outside were you sat, do you remember?

MRS PRESCOTT: I'm not sure exactly, but I was on a, it was on a bench, I thought it might have been a bus stop, but I'm not 100% sure. But it was away from the building, it was just out of the way of the building.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember that bus stop was it on the same side of the road as the pub, or was it on the other side?

MRS PRESCOTT: I think it was on the other side, but I'm not 100% sure on that.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. Did you look back at the pub once you were out?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't think so.

MS KUZMENKO: So you can't recall what it looked like after the explosion?

MRS PRESCOTT: From photographs, I did see photographs afterwards.

MS KUZMENKO: But not from the moment of ...

MRS PRESCOTT: No, no.

MS KUZMENKO: ... actually being there?

MRS PRESCOTT: No.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember what it was like outside? In the sense of, was there
sort of an emergency response outside?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, there was.

MS KUZMENKO: Who was there?

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe ambulances and police.

MS KUZMENKO: What about the fire brigade, were they there?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't recall that. I know there was a lot of blue flashing lights.

MS KUZMENKO: But you remember specifically ambulance and ...

MRS PRESCOTT: Ambulances, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: How did you find your friends privates MACRAE and NEVE?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, I was- I ended up Caroline was next to me.

MS KUZMENKO: Next to you. Do you remember roughly timing wise how long until she
joined you?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember any of that.

MS KUZMENKO: Were you seen to by anyone, by either medical staff or otherwise at the scene?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't recall, I don't recall.

MS KUZMENKO: Were you taken to hospital that evening?

MRS PRESCOTT: I was taken to hospital.

MS KUZMENKO: The Royal Surrey County Hospital, does that sound familiar?

MRS PRESCOTT: It sounds familiar, but I honestly don't remember ...

MS KUZMENKO: Okay.

MRS PRESCOTT: ... which hospital.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you remember how you would have gotten there?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you remember if you were with anyone?

MRS PRESCOTT: I believe Caroline was with me.

MS KUZMENKO: Can you remember if you were given any care once you got there?

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes, we had been examined and checked over.

MS KUZMENKO: And your previous statement says you were then taken to the Cambridge Military Hospital as well, do you remember going to a second hospital that night?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember that.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. So just sort of thinking more broadly in terms of your injuries
can you tell us what injuries you sustained?

MRS PRESCOTT: It was cuts and bruises, I know I had cuts on this side of my head.

CORONER: **So that is the left side of your head?**

MRS PRESCOTT: That's the left side.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MRS PRESCOTT: Just up here, sir. And my hair was all singed and burnt at the front.

MS KUZMENKO: And for the cuts on your head what treatment did you need for that?

MRS PRESCOTT: Do you know, I honestly don't recall. I don't.

MS KUZMENKO: Because I think in your statement it says you needed three stitches, is
that sounding familiar to you?

MRS PRESCOTT: It may well have been, but ...

MS KUZMENKO: You can't ...

MRS PRESCOTT: ... it's sort of memories I- things I didn't want to remember.

MS KUZMENKO: I understand. Do you remember when you got back to your own camp?

MRS PRESCOTT: Do I remember exactly when?

MS KUZMENKO: Well, was it the same day or later?

MRS PRESCOTT: I think it was- do you know what, I don't recall exactly.

MS KUZMENKO: That's fine. And so your first statement was on the- it is signed the 5th
of October, so do you remember doing a statement to the police on the
same evening?

MRS PRESCOTT: No.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. Looking back and reflecting, firstly, do you remember when you first heard that the bombing was from the provisional IRA?

MRS PRESCOTT: I don't remember.

MS KUZMENKO: But did you come to learn that fact though that it was by the provisional IRA?

MRS PRESCOTT: Well, I must have read it and, yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay.

MRS PRESCOTT: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: And after all these incidents did you think to yourself that you'd recognised any parts of your training that you should have been aware of? Did anything like that come up?

MRS PRESCOTT: Can you repeat that please?

MS KUZMENKO: Sorry, as in do you think that you would have recalled training you'd had relating to such an incident? So in terms of training on bombs did that ignite in your memory after the incident?

MRS PRESCOTT: So what you're saying there is, after that incident would I have recognised? I probably wouldn't have thought about it.

MS KUZMENKO: No, okay. Thank you, that's really helpful evidence. I don't have anything further, but others may do.

MRS PRESCOTT: Thank you.

CORONER: Ms **BARTON**?

MS BARTON QC: No thanks, sir.

CORONER: Mr **PLEETH**?

MR PLEETH: No thanks.

CORONER: No. Thank you very much, **MRS PRESCOTT**, that concludes your evidence. I am very grateful to you, I know you have come a long way and I am grateful to you for giving evidence to the inquest, it really is very helpful. But you are now free to go or to stay as you choose. But safe journey home.

MRS PRESCOTT: Thank you, sir.

CORONER: Thank you.

MRS PRESCOTT: Thank you.

CORONER: I think we now move on to a statement to be read. Mr **FLINN**, are you dealing with this?

MR FLINN: I am, sir.

CORONER: So this statement of Arthur **MARTIN**. Can you put your microphone down for me? Thank you.

MR FLINN: Sir, this is a statement of Arthur James **MARTIN**. The document reference number is S286, and the case lines page reference is 2-465.

'At 2am on Sunday the 6th of October 1974 I went to the Chapel of Rest and The Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford with Police Constable 333

MASSEY and Detective Chief Inspector STYLE. I saw five bodies numbered from one to five. I was present when body number one was identified as Ann HAMILTON. Body number two was identified as Caroline SLATER. Body number three was identified as John Crawford HUNTER. And body number five was identified as William McKenzie FORSYTH. Assisted by Police Constable 333 MASSEY I then took from body number two Caroline SLATER debris from the head hair. This debris was sealed in a polythene bag and labelled as Exhibit AJM1. I then took possession of a yellow metal earring and a yellow metal chain from the body of Caroline SLATER. These items were sealed in a polythene bag and labelled as Exhibit number AJM2. I then took possession of the clothing of Caroline SLATER, a denim jacket, a brassiere, a red skirt, two pairs of underpants, a black woollen jumper and a pair of tights. These items were sealed in a nylon bag and labelled as exhibit number AJM3. I then took possession of two yellow metal rings from the body of Ann Ray HAMILTON which were sealed in a polythene bag and labelled as Exhibit AJM4. I then took possession of the clothing of Ann Ray HAMILTON. A blue dress, a black floral brassiere, a white half-slip, a pair of pink underpants and a pair of tights. These items were sealed in a nylon bag and labelled as Exhibit number AJM5. I next took possession of the clothing of William McKenzie

FORSYTH. A white shirt, white trousers, white sweater, and biro ballpoint pen. These items were sealed in a nylon bag and labelled as Exhibit number AJM6. PC 333 MASSEY and myself then wrapped the five bodies in protective sheeting after which they were removed to the mortuary of St Peter's Hospital, Ottershaw. At 10.30am I was present at the mortuary at St Peter's Hospital when the five bodies were x-rayed on the instruction of Professor A.K. MANT. At 12 midday a post-mortem examination was carried out on the body of Ann Ray HAMILTON and items AKM numbers one to 12 were taken. At 2pm a post-mortem examination was commenced on the body of Caroline SLATER and items AKM numbers 13 to 26 were taken. At 4.30pm a post-mortem examination was commenced on the body of John Crawford HUNTER. I took possession of property from the clothing, one ticket, one paper, a £1 Bank of England note number AN61721703, a packet of Number Six cigarettes, a box of Swan Vesta matches and a yellow metal medallion and chain. This property was sealed in a polythene bag and labelled as Exhibit number AJM7. I then took possession of the clothing of John Crawford HUNTER. One pair of socks, a pair of black trousers, a red, black, and white checked jacket, a black and red cardigan, and a pair of mauve underpants. This clothing was sealed in a nylon bag and labelled as Exhibit number AJM8. In the

course of the post-mortem examination on HUNTER items AKM27 to AKM30 were also taken. At 5.45pm a post-mortem examination was commenced on body number four which had by this time been identified as that of Paul CRAIG. I took possession of property from the clothing of CRAIG as follows: correspondence contained in a clear plastic wallet, a handkerchief and tie, a yellow metal medallion and chain, a yellow metal wristwatch, a bunch of keys and 19 half new pence. This property was sealed in a polythene bag and labelled as Exhibit number AJM9. I then took possession of the clothing of CRAIG. Left shoe, a pair of striped underpants, a pair of socks, a pair of blue trousers, a blue jacket, and a white shirt. This clothing was sealed in a nylon bag and labelled as Exhibit number AJM10. In the course of the post-mortem examination items AKM31 to AKM33 were also taken. At 6.30pm a post-mortem examination was commenced on the body of William McKenzie FORSYTH where items AKM34 to AKM37 were taken. At 7.30pm I received from Professor A.K. MANT items numbered AKM1 to AKM37.' Sir, I won't read that list of exhibits. 'At 9.25pm all exhibits taken from the mortuary at St Peter's and placed into the store at the Scenes of Crime Office at Guildford Police Station. At 12.45pm on Monday 7th of October 1974 I again attended the mortuary at St Peter's Hospital Ottershaw with PC 333

MESSY where I fingerprinted the five deceased. Assisted by PC MASSEY the fingerprints were sealed into polythene bags and labelled as Exhibits AJM11 fingerprints HAMILTON, AJM12 fingerprints FORSYTH, AJM13 fingerprints CRAIG, AJM14 fingerprints HUNTER and AJM15 fingerprints SLATER. The five sets of fingerprints were placed into store at the Scenes of Crime Office Guildford Police Station.’ And sir that is signed by Mr MARTIN and the date of the statement is the 9th of October 1974. Sir, following that we are going to read out a schedule which summaries the clothing of the deceased as taken and identified in Mr MARTIN’s statement. The URN for this document is D782 and the case lines page reference for the typed version is 4-80. Document is headed ‘Dress of Deceased Person.’ ‘Body number one, HAMILTON, female. Blue woollen dress, black floral bra, white half-slip, pink pants, brown tights, two rings, one plain silver band and two small gold band with the word ‘Love’ on top. Body number two SLATER, female. Grey denim jacket, black woollen sweater, white bra, red skirt, green pants and brown check pants, brown tights, plain pierced gold band earring in the left ear. Body number three HUNTER, male. Red, black, and white checked jacket, black cardigan red piping, black trousers and socks, surgical plaster on chest, mauve pants. Body number four CRAIG,

male. Navy blue jacket, blue trousers, white shirt, black platform shoes, brown socks, pink pants, yellow metal watch St Christopher. Body number five FORSYTH, male. White shirt, white sweater, white trousers, biro pen.' And sir, that completes the segment of the reading.

CORONER: Thank you very much. We will take a mid-morning break now. Can we be ready to start again in about quarter of an hour, 20 minutes? And when we come back, Mr SANDERS, I think we are turning to the evidence of Andrew SAUNDERS, is that right?

MR SANDERS QC: That's correct, sir, yes.

CORONER: Thank you very much. Thank you.

CLERK: Court please rise.

CORONER: Thank you. Andrew SAUNDERS, please.

MR SAUNDERS (sworn):

CORONER: Thank you very much. Do sit down please, Mr SAUNDERS. Can I ask you to give me your full name please?

MR SAUNDERS: Andrew SAUNDERS.

CORONER: Thank you. Mr SAUNDERS, could you pull that microphone slightly closer towards you? Just because I need to pick your voice up nice and clearly, please.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

CORONER: I am going to pass you over to Mr SANDERS whom you have met who is going to be asking some questions of you on my behalf. Please do make an effort to try to keep your voice up because I need to hear you clearly and I need to be able to record you. And as I have said to the others, please do not rush ahead too quickly because people will be taking a note. Thank you. Mr SANDERS.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, sir. Good morning, Mr SAUNDERS.

MR SAUNDERS: Good morning.

MR SANDERS QC: Just to start with, your full name I believe is Andrew Geoffrey Edwin SAUNDERS, is that ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... correct?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. I am just going to start by taking you to the, you were a fireman at the time of the Guildford pub bombing, that is correct?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And I'm just going to take you to the statement that you made to the police shortly after the bombing.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: So this is at case lines 20-116. This is going to come up on the screen to your left. And can you see this is a Surrey Police statement, it's got

your name there and your address. Was that where you were living at the time?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: 40 Robin Hood Road.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And then it's dated the 9th of October, so four days after the bombing.

And is that your signature there?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And just if we go down to the bottom, please. Is that your signature there again?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you'll see it says, 'Statement taken at Guildford Fire Station between 11.25 and 12.50 on Wednesday 9th of October.' Do you remember giving the statement to the police? Do you remember speaking to the police?

MR SAUNDERS: To be honest, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. But you've had an opportunity, I think, to read a typed-up version of this statement.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And can you confirm that the contents are true?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. If you just move your face a bit towards the microphone so we can get your answers. So at the time of the bombing you were about 37, is that correct?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you are now around 85.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So a long time ago. When did you first join the Surrey Fire Brigade?

MR SAUNDERS: I joined the Worcester Fire Brigade first, then I transferred down to Surrey.

MR SANDERS QC: When did you join the Worcester Fire Brigade?

MR SAUNDERS: Oh.

MR SANDERS QC: How old were you?

MR SAUNDERS: About 26, 27.

MR SANDERS QC: So you'd been a fireman for almost ten years when the Guildford pub bombing happened?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: How long had you been in Surrey for?

MR SAUNDERS: All together 30 years.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, because did you grow up in Surrey and then move to Worcester?

MR SAUNDERS: No, I was in Worcester, and I transferred to Surrey.

MR SANDERS QC: Uh-huh. So in 1974 how long had you been with the Surrey Fire Brigade for?

MR SAUNDERS: Oh, memories. I'm not quite sure, can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: More than a year?

MR SAUNDERS: Oh, yeah, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you then stay with the Surrey Fire Brigade ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... for your career?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And when did you retire?

MR SAUNDERS: At the age of 55.

MR SANDERS QC: 55.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, compulsory.

MR SANDERS QC: So that would have been around 1992?

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And then did you work again after retiring, or have you been retired since then?

MR SAUNDERS: No, I do work still.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, what do you do?

MR SAUNDERS: I'm a gymnastic coach.

MR SANDERS QC: A domestic ...?

MR SAUNDERS: Gymnastic ...

MR SANDERS QC: Gymnastics coach.

MR SAUNDERS: ... coach, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, very good. So in 1974 you were living in Woking.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were based in the Guildford Fire Station.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: I just want to establish where the fire station was at the time in Guildford. Do you remember where it was?

MR SAUNDERS: On the Guildford bypass.

MR SANDERS QC: On the bypass. I am just going to ask you to just confirm this on a map.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: So it's Caselines 11-271. We've got it, don't move. We've got a map there and the bypass is at the very top, is that correct? Running horizontally from left to right.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And is it right that the fire station was just at the Stoke crossroads?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, that's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And I think that that fire station, the one that you were at, opened in about 1936.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And it's been redeveloped ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... since you were there.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And if you look can you see the road coming down south down from the Stoke crossroads? There's the Stoke Road and then that goes into Chertsey Street.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

CORONER: **In fact, there is a bit of Stoke Road missed, isn't there, on this map. I think we have got the central bit, but I think the Stoke Road is slightly longer than that, isn't it? I do not think we see the whole of the Stoke Road.**

MR SANDERS QC: Ah.

CORONER: **I mean it goes down to that junction but ...**

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

CORONER: **... it is a bit longer I think than that.**

MR SANDERS QC: And then if we just zoom in slightly to where the Horse and Groom was
you see there's a yellow label, just zoom in a bit further. Can you see
that's where the ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... Horse and Groom was at the ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... end of North Street.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you have any idea of roughly the distance between the fire station
and the Horse and Groom?

MR SAUNDERS: Four miles perhaps.

MR SANDERS QC: Four miles?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

CORONER: **Four miles?**

MR SANDERS QC: If we just zoom out just to look at the scale of that map.

MR SAUNDERS: I could be wrong.

MR SANDERS QC: Just at the bottom there.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Can you just zoom in there? That marks 100 meters, each square is 100
meters. And it looks like the Horse and Groom is about three, 400
meters away from the Stoke Crossroads.

CORONER: Sorry to interrupt you, Mr SANDERS. The map in fact is misleading.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh.

CORONER: The map is only showing a little bit of the central part of Guildford and then it joins the Stoke Road I think, Mr SAUNDERS, but it does not show the whole length of the Stoke Road. Could I suggest to you that maybe it is more like a mile or so from the Horse and Groom to the fire station?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, could be.

CORONER: Do you think that might be right?

MR SAUNDERS: That could be right, yeah.

CORONER: Yes, thank you.

MR SAUNDERS: I'm sure you are.

MR SANDERS QC: So not far away.

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Were you familiar with Guildford's town centre at the time of the bombing?

MR SAUNDERS: Reasonably.

MR SANDERS QC: And were you aware that it was quite popular with army personnel, with soldiers?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Because there were a number of barracks and camps around Guildford.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And would you have known some of the pubs to be quote-unquote army pubs? Pubs that were popular ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... with the soldiers.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And were you aware that the Horse and Groom was in that bracket?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Was an army pub?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So just to take you to the evening of the bombing which was a Saturday night, the 5th of October 74. You say in your statement that you were on duty from 6pm, so it was a nightshift.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And how long would that have gone onto?

MR SAUNDERS: Nine in the morning.

MR SANDERS QC: Nine in the morning.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And your shift was known as White Watch.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: How many fire fighters and fire engines would have been on that shift,
do you know?

MR SAUNDERS: Three plus a special, as it was known as.

MR SANDERS QC: So three fire engines and a special?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And what was the special?

MR SAUNDERS: Hydraulic platform.

MR SANDERS QC: Say that again, sorry.

MR SAUNDERS: Hydraulic platform.

MR SANDERS QC: A hydraulic platform?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And so roughly how many firemen would have been on
duty that night?

MR SAUNDERS: 11 or 12.

MR SANDERS QC: 11 or 12.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And how senior were you within that team?

MR SAUNDERS: I'm just a lowly fireman.

MR SANDERS QC: Just a lowly fireman, thank you. You mention in your statement
Leading Fireman HUDSON.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Was he in charge?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: What position was he?

MR SAUNDERS: He was second in charge.

MR SANDERS QC: Ah, and who was in charge?

MR SAUNDERS: A man called John REDDICK.

MR SANDERS QC: REDDICK?

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Just a couple of other names that are mentioned in a Surrey
Fire Brigade report, Divisional Officer SHETTLE.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember him?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And Station Officer ALLEN.

MR SAUNDERS: Name doesn't ring a bell.

MR SANDERS QC: No?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: That's fine, thank you. And the Saturday nights in Guildford, how busy
were they usually for the fire station?

MR SAUNDERS: Reasonably so, yeah, (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: You'd expect to get some call outs?

MR SAUNDERS: Yes. We were laughing on the way there, thinking it was another hoax call, which we got quite regularly.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And what sort of jobs would you usually be doing? What sort of calls would you normally get?

MR SAUNDERS: The odd fire, or accidents mostly.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So you say in your statement that the call came through to the fire station around 8.50, just around ten to nine.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Was it your first job of that night, do you remember?

MR SAUNDERS: I don't remember, to be honest.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And so when the call came in what was the drill from that point? What did you have to do before you could drive out of the station?

MR SAUNDERS: Get rigged, get rigged on the way there.

CORONER: **Sorry, Mr SAUNDERS, could you pull your microphone closer to your ...? Because I am losing you slightly and I need to ensure ...**

MR SAUNDERS: How's that?

CORONER: **Yes, a bit closer still, please, thank you. That is probably better.**

MR SAUNDERS: Is that okay?

CORONER: **Yes, that is better, thank you. So, sorry you were saying you got rigged?**

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

CORONER: Just tell me what you mean by that, it is probably obvious, but just tell me what you mean, please.

MR SAUNDERS: Putting on your leggings and your fire boots and your helmet and your jacket.

CORONER: Thank you.

MR SANDERS QC: And so you all jump in your fire engines and drive out of the station.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: How long does it take from getting the call to actually getting on the road?

MR SAUNDERS: Minutes.

MR SANDERS QC: Minutes?

MR SAUNDERS: Minutes, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Because that would be part of the thing ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... that you practice, is to do that as quickly as possible.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And when you drive out from the station what information do you have about what you're heading to, what the job is?

MR SAUNDERS: Just a bomb scare, that's what it was.

MR SANDERS QC: So you had been told it was a bomb scare?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: You weren't aware that there had actually been an explosion?

MR SAUNDERS: No, that's why we were giggling about it on the way there because we were always getting hoax calls.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And I just want to just ask you one question, I think if I could just take you to Caselines 1-70. Just go down this page a little bit. Just there, we've got a list of the fire appliances attending, so the fire engines, and we've got three from Guildford. Water tender ladder, water tender, water tender. And then another from Guildford further down that arrives a bit later. So that would have been all of the engines from your station?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And then a number of other appliances from other nearby stations attend as well. But we can see in the right-hand column that the three Guildford appliances arrive about 8.58, so about eight minutes after the bombing. Does that sound about right to you?

MR SAUNDERS: Mmhm.

MR SANDERS QC: Just took you a few minutes ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... to get out and then get down there.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And what do you remember seeing on arrival at the pub?

MR SAUNDERS: Some of the front of the pub damaged quite a bit, and then we went in.

MR SANDERS QC: And I'm just going to show you a photo of the front of the pub just to refresh your memory. This is at 7-1352.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm.

MR SANDERS QC: So that's where the front of the pub is all ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... blown out.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember where the fire engines parked?

MR SAUNDERS: Yes, just up the road a bit.

MR SANDERS QC: Up the road a bit.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you say in your statement that you saw a man sitting outside, did you see other casualties and other people from the pub?

MR SAUNDERS: No, not to my knowledge.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember if there were police or ambulances there by the time you got there?

MR SAUNDERS: There were police there, but I didn't see an ambulance as yet.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, you maybe arrived around the same ...

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm.

MR SANDERS QC: ... time. And so you say in your statement that you went inside. I just want to ask you before we ask you what happened inside, at this point did you know that there had been a bomb?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, virtually.

MR SANDERS QC: And you could see there had been an explosion.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you have any thoughts that it might have been an IRA attack?

MR SAUNDERS: It probably went through your mind (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: So that went through your mind.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you give any thought to whether there might be another bomb or there might be boobytraps, or did you just head straight in?

MR SAUNDERS: No, you suss it out and look there might be another bomb somewhere.

MR SANDERS QC: But as part of your duty, you have to head in to help the people in there.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Which is obviously a very brave thing to do. So the pub when you got there and you went inside, how did you get inside?

MR SAUNDERS: Went through the door. And then ...

MR SANDERS QC: Just through the doorway?

MR SAUNDERS: And then found a great big hole ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR SAUNDERS: ... in the floor and down into the cellar.

MR SANDERS QC: I'm just going to show you some pictures of the hole just to refresh your memory. So this is at 7-1345. That's a picture there, you can see down into the cellar and the beer kegs down in there.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: I think you say in your statement that when you get inside that Leading Fireman HUDSON is on his stomach looking down into the hole, do you remember that?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: What did you see at that point?

MR SAUNDERS: Just Leading Fireman HUDSON lying on his tummy, I wasn't looking to see what he could see.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And was it dark in the pub?

MR SAUNDERS: Reasonably so, (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: And was it dusty?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, dusty.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you have to put on any kind of breathing equipment or did you just head in?

MR SAUNDERS: No, not at that time, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And there was some evidence that people could smell gas, could you smell any gas? Did you notice that?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. So you say in your statement that there was a man in a white shirt who was clearing a doorway into the cellar. And you then borrowed a lamp from a policeman and went down the steps into the cellar. So you didn't jump down the hole, you found a way into the cellar?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember where the entrance to the cellar was?

MR SAUNDERS: Not off hand, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. But you borrow a lamp, and you follow the man in the white shirt.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember a man in the white shirt in front of you?

MR SAUNDERS: No, I don't. I don't actually remember the man in the white shirt, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. But you remember going down then into the cellar?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And what could you see when you got down into the cellar?

MR SAUNDERS: A couple of bodies if I remember right.

MR SANDERS QC: Was it quite a low ceiling to the cellar?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So could you stand up in it, or ...?

MR SAUNDERS: Oh, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: I know your memories are quite hazy about what was down there, so if I can just take you through what you said in your statement.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: So the first thing that you say in your statement is that you saw an ambulanceman down in the cellar who was pulling one of the victims from a pile of rubble. Do you remember anything about that?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: What do you remember about that?

MR SAUNDERS: Just helping, and the body parts.

MR SANDERS QC: So he was trying to get someone out from under some rubble?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And I think that we come back to that person a bit later on. Then you say you also saw under the rubble some buttocks in pink underpants, does that ring any bells to you?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And that was one of the female victims.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you later lifted her up into a sitting position and she was wearing a blue jumper.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And we can work out from that, that that was Private Ann HAMILTON.

When you saw her did she appear still to be alive?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: You then say that you saw a body lying behind some beer barrels, so to the side, with a shoe on, do you remember anything about that?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Was that away from the pile of rubble?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, well, running into it.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, sorry?

MR SAUNDERS: Running into it.

MR SANDERS QC: Running into it?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you don't mention that body again, do you think someone else helped that person or moved that body?

MR SAUNDERS: Probably.

MR SANDERS QC: Probably.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Did that body, did that seem to be someone who was alive?

MR SAUNDERS: Not to me, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And so you say in your statement that you called for a stretcher and that you and the ambulance man helped put, I think this is the first body you saw, the one that the ambulance man was ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... helping, help put that person on a stretcher. Do you remember that?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And the person that you put on a stretcher was a young man in a sports jacket with a plaster around his chest, a bandage, do you remember that?

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And we can work out from the fact he had the bandage on that that was Guardsman John HUNTER. Do you remember anything else about him?

MR SAUNDERS: I'm not quite sure now, but he was minus a leg.

MR SANDERS QC: You're not sure if he was minus a leg.

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Did he appear to you to be alive? Were there signs of life?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: The next thing that you talk about in your statement is that a man appears just behind you to your right and says he's a doctor.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Can you remember a doctor being down there?

MR SAUNDERS: To be honest, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. But when you gave your statement to the police that would have reflected your memories at the time?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So you and the doctor go to assist someone else in the rubble, this is on the far side on the left. And you didn't notice if it was a male or a female, but the doctor said that the person was still breathing and needed a sucker. Do you remember that?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So what can you tell us about that?

MR SAUNDERS: I think there was a nurse there as well, I think, and he asked the nurse to get one.

MR SANDERS QC: So the doctor asked the nurse to get a sucker.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Presumably if you knew it was a nurse that this was a nurse in a nurse's uniform, was it?

MR SAUNDERS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR SAUNDERS: If I remember right.

MR SANDERS QC: And the nurse was above the hole.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And she brought one and handed it to the doctor.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So is this some kind of ventilator, something to help with breathing?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, clear the airway.

MR SANDERS QC: To clear the airway.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And then the doctor uses the sucker to help this person, the fourth person you mentioned.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And you say that this person had a very very badly injured leg, and you could see the sinews on the inside of the leg.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And so we think from that, that this is possibly Private Caroline SLATER.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: But you weren't aware at the time whether it was a man or a woman?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: But it was someone who was still breathing. Just going back to the young lady with the blue jumper and the pink underpants, you helped her, you helped sit her up, do you remember that?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And the doctor you say passed a stethoscope to the nurse who listened to her chest and said ...

MR SAUNDERS: Mm.

MR SANDERS QC: ... 'This one is still.' You didn't hear the next word, but you think it was that she was still alive, do you remember that?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And a stretcher was passed down for her and you helped put her on the stretcher and pass her back up through the hole. Does that ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: That's correct?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And then the final thing you remember down in the cellar is that another stretcher was handed down and you put the fourth person onto that stretcher and passed that person up.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Does that sound right?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember this, that that person you said was wearing a clumpy shoe, do you remember a large shoe sticking out?

MR SAUNDERS: Mm, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: What can you remember about that?

MR SAUNDERS: Well, it was just a, it could have been an army boot or army shoe.

CORONER: **Sorry, can you say that again? I did not understand that.**

MR SAUNDERS: It could have been an army style shoe.

CORONER: **I see.**

MR SANDERS QC: Could it have been a platform shoe, if it was clumpy?

MR SAUNDERS: It could have been, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So we know that one of the victims that Paul CRAIG was wearing platform boots.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you say that he was slightly tubby. Did you notice if he appeared to be alive or not?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: You don't think he did?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: And you helped place him on a stretcher and handed him up ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... as well.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So you've helped four people onto stretchers and up out of the hole.
And possibly two of them were still alive.

MR SAUNDERS: Possibly, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And then you say you checked round inside the cellar, and did
you see anyone else down there?

MR SAUNDERS: No, not at the time.

MR SANDERS QC: So the cellar was clear of bodies?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And casualties?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And then you came up out of the cellar.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember what you did next?

MR SAUNDERS: Actually went and had a cup of tea with the Salvation Army Wagon as
it arrived.

MR SANDERS QC: So the Salvation Army had come, were outside and ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... trying to give tea to the people in shock and so on.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So you had a cup of tea then.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember roughly how long it took to clear the cellar?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: We've got ...

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: ... the fire brigade report which is at Caselines 1-70, seven zero. And if we just go down, further down, a bit further down and then just stop there, we see that you arrive around 8.58 and then Divisional Officer SHETTLE has recorded, 'Ground floor of building now cleared of casualties, removed to hospital by ambulance. Exact numbers of casualties followed 21.18. And then by 21.34 all casualties cleared from site. Further explosion at lower end of North Street.' So within about 20, 30 minutes you've cleared the pub, does that sound about right?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you hear the second bomb at the Seven Stars, did you hear that going off?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And where were you at the time that that ...?

MR SAUNDERS: Still at the pub.

MR SANDERS QC: In the pub, or outside?

MR SAUNDERS: No, outside.

MR SANDERS QC: Having a cup of tea.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So we know that that was 9.34. And then four fire engines are deployed from the Horse and Groom to go to the Seven Stars. Do you remember if you had to go to the Seven Stars?

MR SAUNDERS: No, we didn't.

MR SANDERS QC: You stayed at the Horse and Groom?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, as far as I can remember.

MR SANDERS QC: And what did you do after that?

MR SAUNDERS: We all went back to the station and cleared up.

MR SANDERS QC: There's some evidence that after the Seven Stars was cleared that fire engines were stationed around the town in case there was a third bomb. Do you remember being involved in that until about one in the morning?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: There were apparently ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... eight appliances were deployed to the Telephone Exchange, the high street, North Street, and the train station, do you remember being at any of those?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. How many people do you remember being down in the cellar helping the victims and casualties?

MR SAUNDERS: Must have been four, four or five.

MR SANDERS QC: Four or five.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And so you were one of them and you mention there was a doctor, and were the others firemen or policemen?

MR SAUNDERS: Firemen and ambulancemen.

MR SANDERS QC: And the man in the white shirt?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, whoever he may be.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, thank you very much. Mr SAUNDERS, I don't have any further questions for you, that's been very helpful. And thank you for waiting for us to get to you. I'll just see if the learned coroner has any questions for you.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Ms BARTON?**

MS BARTON QC: Mr SAUNDERS, I act on behalf of Surrey Police.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MS BARTON QC: And I've just got a couple of questions for you if I may. I wonder if we could have your statement S321 on the screen, please. And this is the statement you've already been taken, I think, to a handwritten version,

this is the statement you made to the police on the 9th of October of 1974.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MS BARTON QC: Okay. And you recall, don't you, a call at about 8.50pm which in your evidence today you described as a hoax. But you wouldn't know would you whether a call was a hoax ...

CORONER: **Sorry, can I just interrupt you? I think the witness did not actually say it was a hoax, I think he said on the route to the Horse and Groom they were joking about it thinking, 'Is this another hoax?'**

MS BARTON QC: Well, that ...

CORONER: **Rather than knowing it was a hoax.**

MS BARTON QC: That's what I want to be clear about if I may ...

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MS BARTON QC: ... Mr SAUNDERS.

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm.

MS BARTON QC: What happened is that at 8.50 there was a call to a bomb explosion, wasn't there?

MR SAUNDERS: I don't know the wording of the ...

MS BARTON QC: What did you think you were going to? What were you told you were going to when the alarm sounded in the fire station?

MR SAUNDERS: Just an explosion.

MS BARTON QC: An explosion.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MS BARTON QC: Thank you. And it was on the way to the explosion that you and your colleagues thought it might be a hoax?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MS BARTON QC: Yes. But when you got there what you saw was that the front of the pub had in fact been blown out?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MS BARTON QC: And you assisted in getting a number of people who were badly injured and deceased out of the pub?

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

MS BARTON QC: And I just want to clarify one other issue with you. All of your ordinary fire engines were dispatched immediately from the Guildford station, weren't there, all three?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

MS BARTON QC: Yeah. And they arrived there very quickly as we've seen from the report that you've been referred to. Thank you very much, Mr SAUNDERS.

CORONER: **In fact, sorry just looking at that, I think what we have got, we have got a water tender with a ladder.**

MR SAUNDERS: Mmm hmm.

CORONER: Was that the special that you referred to?

MR SAUNDERS: No.

CORONER: I would say there is a water tender with a ladder, a water tender, and a water tender, so those are the three that get there just a few minutes later at 58 and 59 they arrive.

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah, yeah.

CORONER: And then there is lower down at 21.22 there is an emergency tender, is that the special that you are referring to?

MR SAUNDERS: Yeah.

CORONER: Got it, okay, thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr SAUNDERS, that concludes your evidence. I am very grateful to you.

MR SAUNDERS: Thank you.

CORONER: Very helpful. You are free to stay or to go as you choose, thank you.

MR SAUNDERS: Thank you very much.

MR SANDERS QC: So we're just going to swap places just now.

CORONER: Yes. So, Mr FLINN, I think we are going to read a statement first of all.

MR FLINN: That's correct, sir.

CORONER: So that is the statement of Leslie DOXEY.

MR FLINN: Correct sir.

CORONER: **And then we are going to call Mr SHAW.**

MR FLINN: Correct.

CORONER: **I think what we will do is, it is about half past 12, I think we will press on and if we have to sit a little past one, we will sit past one. But I think Mr SHAW has been here all morning and I would like to get him away.**

MR FLINN: Of course. Sir, as you have indicated, a statement from Leslie John DOXEY Chief Building Control Officer. The URN or unique reference number is S1017, and the Caselines page reference is 2-639.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MR FLINN: 'I am the Chief Building Control Officer for the Borough of Guildford and a Qualified Building Surveyor. I am a fellow of the Institute of Building Control Officers or FIBCO, an associate of the incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors or AIAS and a member of the Royal Society of Health, MRSH. On Saturday the 5th of October 1974 I remained at home throughout the day until 9.45pm when I received a telephone call from Councillor HARDY who was a member of the Guildford Borough Council. He told me that he had seen from his home at the Mount, Guildford, two explosions in Guildford which he thought were bombs. Mr HARDY knew that I was connected with dangerous

structure to buildings and felt that I ought to attend. At about 10pm my wife drove me into Guildford and parked in Leapale Road near the Co-op. My car is a white Austin Maxi registration number FPL 366J. My wife remained in the car, and I went directly to the incident post outside the Guildhall where I spoke to the incident officer and told him of my presence. I then went to the Horse and Groom Public House where I met Mr SHAW from my department who was with a friend of his who he introduced me to as Mr WODEHOUSE, some sort of expert in blast damage at Ministry level. Mr SHAW and myself carried out a cursory visual inspection of the exterior of the Horse and Groom. At no time did any of the three go into the Horse and Groom. I remained there for between five and seven minutes and the three of us walked down to Swan Lane where a similar examination was made of the Seven Stars Public House. None of us went into the Seven Stars. Again, we remained for only a few minutes and walked back to the Horse and Groom Public House. It was then that I decided I had better tell my wife that I was going to be delayed and that she ought to go on home. I walked to the parked car and was talking to my wife when Superintendent HARDING came across and spoke to me. With Superintendent HARDING it was arranged that my wife should drive home and that he would arrange transport for me at a later time. I then

returned to the area of the incident post where I met up with Mr TWYFORD Chief Executive for Guildford Borough Council and Mr SNAPE Head of Technical Services with the Council and we again had a general discussion and further visits to both public houses. During these visits I again saw Mr SHAW and his friend, and I drew him into the discussions with Mr SNAPE. The examinations I made of the Horse and Groom showed in my opinion that it was extensively damaged and was in imminent danger of collapsing. The Seven Stars was less severely damaged. From our observations we informed the police that the Horse and Groom would not be safe to enter that night. However, the Seven Stars did not appear to be structurally unsound, and the police took the responsibility to enter that night. I left Guildford at about 12.30am and returned home. On none of the visits on Saturday to either of the pubs did I enter, neither did I remove or touch anything. During my time in Guildford I can remember seeing nobody who attracted my attention. There seemed to be only police and press about. On the Sunday 6th of October 1974 I returned to Guildford and with colleagues and police thoroughly examined both public houses. I am able if required to prepare a full detailed report on my observations and examinations made on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.' And, sir, that is signed by Mr DOXEY, and it is dated the 21st of October 1974.

CORONER: Thank you very much. Mr SHAW, please, would you like to come forward?

MR SHAW (sworn):

CORONER: Thank you very much, do sit down please. If you could come right forward, Mr SHAW, and get reasonably close to the microphone for me.

MR SHAW: Is that alright?

CORONER: That is good, thank you. Thank you very much. Could you give me your full name please?

MR SHAW: Christopher Bernard SHAW.

CORONER: Thank you. Mr SHAW, I am going to pass you on to Mr FLINN in a moment who will be asking questions of you on my behalf. But as with the other witnesses if you could keep your voice up, please ...

MR SHAW: Mmm hmm.

CORONER: ... so we can hear you nice and clearly. Bear in mind that people will be taking notes so do not rush ahead too quickly, thank you.

Mr FLINN.

MR FLINN: Mr SHAW, good afternoon.

MR SHAW: Good afternoon.

MR FLINN: You have given your full name to the court, could you tell us, are you working now or retired?

MR SHAW: I'm working.

MR FLINN: What do you work as now?

MR SHAW: I'm a Consultant Chartered Civil and Structural Engineer.

MR FLINN: Thank you. You don't need to give us your exact address, but what town do you live in at the moment?

MR SHAW: Guildford.

MR FLINN: Thank you. I am going to bring up a handwritten version of a statement that you prepared. Mrs NIN, could you bring up on the screen 20-132? Mr SHAW, you can see at the top of that screen the date of the statement there is the 25th of October 1974, and can you see a signature next to that?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Is that your signature?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Mrs NIN, could we go down to the bottom of that document? And if we just go up there in the middle of the screen, is that again your signature there?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Wonderful. I understand you have been sent a typed version of this statement, is that right?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Did you have a chance to review that typed version of the statement?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Are you able to confirm that the contents of the statement is true to the best of your knowledge and belief?

MR SHAW: Yeah, there is a slight typo at the end, Mr SNAPE isn't Mr SNAKE. And I think the date is wrong, it's 75 on my typed version.

MR FLINN: But it should be 1974, is that right? And in terms of the name, it should in fact be Mr SNAPE ...

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: ... with a P and not Mr SNAKE with a K.

MR SHAW: Correct.

MR FLINN: Thank you very much. As of the 5th of October 1974 I have you as being 25 years old, is that right?

MR SHAW: If you say so.

MR FLINN: Well, I won't ask you to give your date of birth in court, but that's the date which I have you as.

MR SHAW: Sorry.

MR FLINN: Does that sound roundabout right?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Thank you. And as of that date you were already a Chartered Structural Engineer?

MR SHAW: Correct.

MR FLINN: And your role at that time was Senior Assistant Engineer for Structures for The Borough of Guildford.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Is that correct? What did that role involve?

MR SHAW: I inherited responsibility in April 74 basically for all the structural engineering work for the Council, and also for structural engineering aspects of building control submissions submitted to the council.

MR FLINN: And what did you do before April 1974?

MR SHAW: I was an engineering assistant for Guildford Rural District Council.

MR FLINN: And as part of the role that you took responsibility for in April 1974, did that involve assessing the safety of buildings and their structural soundness?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Had you ever had any experience of assessing buildings damaged in an explosion prior to the 5th of October 1974?

MR SHAW: Only by reading reports of other explosions. Not necessarily military ones, but there were other explosions caused by gas. Ronan Point is a famous one.

MR FLINN: But in terms of those gas explosions, these were reports you read, by others, rather than visiting the site of the explosion, is that right?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: So the Horse and Groom Public House on the 5th of October 1974 was in fact the first time that you visited a building damaged by explosion?

MR SHAW: Yes, as far as I can recall, yeah.

MR FLINN: Thank you. You don't need to give us a rundown of your entire career, but if you could just let us know what you did after the Guildford pub bombings, you continued in your role as Senior Assistant Engineer for structures?

MR SHAW: For a few years, then I became- I was promoted to a Principal Engineer. A few years later I was promoted to The Principal Engineer for the Council. I then left and got a job as Chief Engineer elsewhere and then I became a consultant which I am now.

MR FLINN: Roughly how long did you spend as an employee of the Council with their engineering department?

MR SHAW: Until 1987.

MR FLINN: Thank you. I'll now turn to the 5th of October 1974 itself. You've mentioned that you've refreshed your memory by reading the typed version of your statement. That statement says that during the day you were working at a house at 9 Brody Road before returning to an address in, is it Burpam or Burpham ...

MR SHAW: Burpham.

MR FLINN: Thank you. ... where your parents lived at about 6pm. Does that sound right?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: What did you do when you got home at 6pm?

MR SHAW: Had tea.

MR FLINN: Did you watch some television?

MR SHAW: After tea, yeah.

MR FLINN: Your statement says that you had no plans to go out again that evening because of the cold, do you recall that now?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Is it right that at some point in the evening a friend Mr Robert WODEHOUSE came over to your house?

MR SHAW: Yeah, that's WODEHOUSE.

MR FLINN: The pronunciation is WODEHOUSE, is it?

MR SHAW: WODEHOUSE, yes.

MR FLINN: Thank you.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: He was a friend of yours?

MR SHAW: Yes, and he was also a Structural Engineer.

MR FLINN: And I think he was employed, not with the Council, but with something called the Building Design Partnership, is that right?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: What happened when he came over?

MR SHAW: He came and knocked on the door and said he thought there'd been explosions in the town, and we ought to go and have a look and see if we could help.

MR FLINN: Can you recall what time that was that he came over approximately?

MR SHAW: No, it would have probably been after nine I expect.

MR FLINN: Well, the statement you originally gave is consistent with that, it says 9.20pm.

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Do you think you would have had a marker for that time? For example, a television program which made you put the time at 9.20 or can you not recall at this point?

MR SHAW: No, I don't recall anything special at that time.

MR FLINN: Right, but 9.20 sounds about right?

MR SHAW: Yes, about right.

MR FLINN: Okay. You said that he mentioned a couple of explosions and you'll have to remind me, did you say that he actually mentioned bombs or just explosions at that point?

MR SHAW: No, he just mentioned explosions.

MR FLINN: Did he mention the location of them?

MR SHAW: Only that he thought they were in the town centre.

MR FLINN: Okay, so at that point he didn't mention the Horse and Groom or Seven Stars Public House?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: Did you make any connection in your mind with the IRA at that point?

MR SHAW: No, because the most common source of explosions is gas.

MR FLINN: Yes, and he just mentioned explosions, not bombs specifically.

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: But he said that he thought, in light of your position and your expertise, it might be a good idea for you to go into town.

MR SHAW: Yes, I would've probably been called anyway.

MR FLINN: Yes. And your plan once there, was to offer what assistance you could to other people on site?

MR SHAW: In the form of actually assessing the buildings ...

MR FLINN: Yes.

MR SHAW: ... because if they have been subject to an explosion and been damaged, then they need a proper assessment.

MR FLINN: So from that point you went into town, and that was in the car of Mr WODEHOUSE.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: How did you know precisely where you were going at that point? You were going into the town centre ...

MR SHAW: Yeah, we went down what was the upper high street. We were just looking for any signs that something might have happened, and when we got to the junction of North Street, you could see the blue lights.

MR FLINN: So when you got into the car with Mr WODEHOUSE you didn't have a specific destination in mind, you thought we'll go to the centre and see what we can see.

MR SHAW: Yeah, we needed to try and see what had happened and where it had happened.

MR FLINN: And when you got into the centre, you effectively looked around and followed the sounds and the sights until you got close to the Horse and Groom Public House.

MR SHAW: It was purely sights, because the thing we saw was the blue lights from the emergency services.

MR FLINN: I follow. Could you estimate roughly how long the journey was going into town?

MR SHAW: Oh, about five to ten minutes.

MR FLINN: So not long.

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: Would you be able to give any estimation now, if we take the time of 9.20 being round about when Mr WODEHOUSE came over to your house, would you be able to estimate what time you think you probably arrived in Guildford?

MR SHAW: About 9.30.

MR FLINN: About 9.30. The statement says that you parked in the Carlton Hotel car park, is that right?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Do you recall that now?

MR SHAW: Not specifically.

MR FLINN: Right. And as you just indicated, you walked down the upper high street and into North Street.

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: Is it right that you encountered a police cordon at that point?

MR SHAW: Yes, that was almost at the top of Chertsey Street, as I remember.

MR FLINN: Right. And what did you say at the police cordon?

MR SHAW: We introduced ourselves, and asked him, you know, what had happened. And we knew there'd been an explosion because Mr WODEHOUSE had told me he'd heard it.

MR FLINN: Yes.

MR SHAW: And, you know, we needed to go and see if we could do what we could do.

MR FLINN: So you asked what happened. Did the person you spoke to at that point mention a bomb, or was it still just an explosion at that point?

MR SHAW: No, he didn't say anything, he just lifted the blue and white tape and let us through.

MR FLINN: Alright, in order to get him to do that, did you need to explain that you were a council employee?

MR SHAW: Yes, we did that.

MR FLINN: Yeah. What did you say about Mr WODEHOUSE's position, if you can recall?

MR SHAW: I don't think we said anything. He just let both of us through.

MR FLINN: I understand. I think your statement also mentions that as you then approached the pub, you were challenged again by police officers. Do you remember anything about that?

MR SHAW: Yeah, that was further down. Sort of, just over halfway down from where the barrier, where the blue and white tape was, down to where the actual pub was.

MR FLINN: So about halfway between the first cordon where you were stopped and then let through ...

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... halfway between there and the pub, you were challenged again.

MR SHAW: Yes, or slightly further than halfway, I think it was.

MR FLINN: Yes. And what happened at this point?

MR SHAW: Oh, we explained again who we were and what we were doing.

MR FLINN: The Horse and Groom itself, prior to visiting that night, were you at all familiar with it?

MR SHAW: No, well, I knew it was there, but I'd never been in there.

MR FLINN: No. Did you know it as being a place where army personnel liked to congregate?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: So as far as you were aware, it didn't have that reputation. As you approached the public house, what did you see?

MR SHAW: Well, the front left-hand side was badly damaged. Bearing in mind it's pitch dark now, and we were also getting the flashing of all the blue lights.

MR FLINN: Yes.

MR SHAW: So it's quite difficult to see in detail, but it was quite clear that the left-hand end of the front of the building was leaning.

MR FLINN: Mmm.

MR SHAW: It was badly damaged. There was also debris from that wall, right across the road, as far as the front of the library.

MR FLINN: Okay, so it had been blasted out.

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Right. What we'll do is we'll break down that evidence into various parts if that's okay. You've talked about seeing blue, flashing lights. That would suggest police cars, is that right?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Do you recall seeing any ambulances at the site when you first arrived?

MR SHAW: Not specifically. I was concentrating on the building.

MR FLINN: Yes. Do you recall seeing any fire brigade units? Any fire engines?

MR SHAW: Yeah, I think there was a fire thing there, but it didn't take much notice of it.

MR FLINN: And we've just heard a moment ago from Mr SAUNDERS that the fire units parked a little further up the road, so that might not have been immediately in front of the public house. But you do recall flashing lights and police cars, is that correct?

MR SHAW: Mmm hmm.

MR FLINN: It might just help here just to briefly turn to the typed version of your witness statement. Mrs NIN, could we bring up Page 819? And if we just go down slightly, I'm looking at the third paragraph.

What is said here, Mr SHAW, is, "During the time I was alone with Robert before being joined by Mr DOXEY..." - we'll come on to Mr DOXEY later - "...I cannot remember seeing anyone other than police officers. I also at some stage went to one of these police officers who was in a police vehicle and asked him whether or not they had indeed asked for Mr DOXEY to be called."

So this would be consistent with coming on arrival and seeing blue lights, and your recollection there is that at that initial phase you only saw police officers. Does that accord with your recollection now?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: So you don't recall seeing any ambulance workers?

MR SHAW: Not specifically. As I said, we were really, myself and Mr WODEHOUSE were really focused on looking at the building ...

MR FLINN: The structure.

MR SHAW: ...and trying to make an assessment of the building, bearing in mind it was dark.

MR FLINN: Yes. Did you see any injured people or bodies?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: No. And is it the case that you can't recall, or you can recall that by the time you got there, they had gone, they weren't there?

MR SHAW: As far as I'm aware, by the time I got there they had gone.

MR FLINN: And another piece of evidence that just might assist with this. You heard questions to Mr SHAW, and Mr SANDERS took Mr SAUNDERS to a document, I'll give the page reference, 1-70. And if we could just go down the page again, Mrs NIN, under the heading 'Messages from Incident.' And then at the bottom of the screen there, Mr SHAW, you can see, 'All casualties cleared from site. Further explosion at lower end of North Street. Four appliances from Horse and Groom. ADO CROWE in charge, deployed to investigate. Time 2134.'

So again, this would be consistent with that, wouldn't it? So you say that you think you arrived at the site maybe at around 9.30 ...

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: ... we see there a message timed at 21.34 that by that point all casualties had been cleared from the site.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Yeah. You mentioned in your evidence that it was dark and that the only thing were the blue, flashing lights from police cars. Was there no street lighting on at that point?

MR SHAW: I don't recall any. I don't recall there is any street lighting round there. If there is, it was minimal compared to the flash of the lights.

MR FLINN: I understand. We might be able to get some help with this issue from another document. For the court, it's D671, and, Mrs NIN, could we first go to page reference 1-6?

Mr SHAW, I'm just showing you this as the first page of the document, which you can see there is a report that was prepared by Superintendent HARDING. So having seen that page, we can now jump ahead to 1-84.

Now, this I understand, Mr SHAW, to be a report from a county engineer. Do you recall who the county engineer was at this point ...

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: ... in time? No. Was it someone different to the person identified further down the page under 'Key to initials', where it says 'Mr David BRISTOW, Area Engineer?'

MR SHAW: I don't know the answer to that one.

MR FLINN: No? Do you recall David BRISTOW?

MR SHAW: I only know the name.

MR FLINN: Down at the bottom of that page ... Mrs NIN, if we could go down ... we can see 10.30 hours, a request received from explosion squad for flood lighting, shovels, brushes, gloves and helmets. Calor gas floodlights and electric generator were on site at approximately 11.15. So it looks like floodlights were called, but by the time you got there they hadn't arrived yet, they were much later on.

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: Now, 1-85, which is the next page, Mrs NIN, we can see at 11.30 hours at the top of the page, 'Lighting, Superintendent GILLINGHAM turned on all streetlights in the vicinity of North Street, largely on own initiative. This proved to be most useful.'

So again, we've got a timing there of the lights being switched on at 11.30. And once again, this would seem to support your recollection of perhaps most streetlights were not on at the time ...

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: ... you went there.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Although from your experience, would you expect streetlights to be turned off, sort of, by 9.30 in the evening in the normal course of events, at that time?

MR SHAW: I don't know the answer to that, that's a highways matter.

MR FLINN: Okay, that's fair enough. In your statement, you say that you and Mr WODEHOUSE just glanced at the pub before going to report to the police instant vehicle, is that right?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: So when you talk about glancing at it, can you recall if it was a matter of minutes or just seconds at this point, this first look?

MR SHAW: It would probably be about a minute.

MR FLINN: A minute or so.

MR SHAW: I mean, it doesn't, as structural engineers, it doesn't take us very long to assess, you know- look at it and think we've got to do something.

MR FLINN: Yes, at least to reach a judgement of safe or unsafe. I follow.
You mentioned in your statement that you mentioned to a police officer that someone should call Mr Leslie DOXEY.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Can you recall that?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: So could you tell us who Mr Leslie DOXEY was?

MR SHAW: Chief Building Control Officer.

MR FLINN: And we've heard a statement that's just ...

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: ... been read out from him. So what impressions did you have of the building from that first, short glance at it over the course of about a minute?

MR SHAW: It was seriously damaged, and we needed to look and see in more detail what had actually happened and what its condition was and what we needed to do about it.

MR FLINN: Yes. On that first glance, could you tell if it was in fact safe or unsafe, or in danger of collapse?

MR SHAW: Well, it was certainly unsafe. There was a danger it could collapse, but it hadn't done so at that time ...

MR FLINN: Right.

MR SHAW: ... so the equilibrium in the building, although it was very shaky, was still there.

MR FLINN: Yes. So no part of the structure had actually collapsed at that point.

MR SHAW: Well, the front bits of the front wall had come out ...

MR FLINN: Right.

MR SHAW: ... but most of the front wall was still there, and most of the roof was still there.

MR FLINN: Your statement mentions that it did like one of the walls was leaning out over a policeman standing nearby, and you told him he should consider standing further away.

MR SHAW: Indeed.

MR FLINN: Yes. Can you recall doing that now?

MR SHAW: Oh yes.

MR FLINN: Yes. Can I ask, was that the frontside of the building or the side of the building?

MR SHAW: That was the front.

MR FLINN: That was the front part. So it was the front part of the building which looked like it was leaning out.

MR SHAW: Yes, it was.

MR FLINN: What we'll do is we'll come back to that a little bit later with a few photographs, but just carrying on with the chronology for a moment, was it around that time, difficult to be precise, but around that time you were approached by Mr DOXEY who had arrived?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: And you had a discussion with him about what you were looking at?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Can you recall what you said to each other about the building at that point?

MR SHAW: Well, we didn't know the cause of it. And it was literally, if I can move back a little bit, if the front wall is, like, vertical, and the roof was here
...

MR FLINN: Mmm.

MR SHAW: ... and the wall had gone out, and the comment we made was that the roof was literally, looked as though from the outside as though it was hanging on by its fingertips.

MR FLINN: I understand. You said that you didn't know what the cause of it was, did you have any view as to what the cause of it might be based on what you were seeing at that point?

MR SHAW: No, it could've been anything.

MR FLINN: So there's nothing at that point which marked it out as a bomb as opposed to a gas explosion.

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: Right. Is it right that you did not go into the pub at that point?

MR SHAW: That's correct.

MR FLINN: Right. From there, with Mr DOXEY and Mr WODEHOUSE, I understand, you then went to the Seven Stars.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: And you had a look at the outside of that pub again.

MR SHAW: Mmm hmm.

MR FLINN: Is it right that once again you did not go inside the pub?

MR SHAW: We didn't go inside, no.

MR FLINN: And then you returned to the Horse and Groom ...

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: ... and carried out a further visual inspection.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: What we'll do now is we'll go to some photographs. Mrs NIN, could we bring up 7-1366? Mr SHAW, this is to take a look at the front of the pub.

So, does that accord with what greeted you when you arrived?

MR SHAW: Yes, except there's no policemen.

MR FLINN: No, so where was the policemen standing when you ...

MR SHAW: Here, just to the left of the door.

MR FLINN: Just to the left of the door, thank you. Was he standing on the rubble or just in front of the rubble?

MR SHAW: He was standing on that little bit of pavement that you can see just to the left of the door before the rubble starts.

MR FLINN: I see. And you've explained to us that it was that front wall that you saw, and you felt was leaning out.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Just to get another couple of images up to get a sense of what you were looking at, Mrs NIN, could we bring up 7-1334?

So this is looking from the left side of the front of the building. Back up and you can see a bus stop there on the right. Could you just talk us

through what we're looking at here in terms of what this image tells us about the structure of the building? We can see some pretty significant cracks.

MR SHAW: Mmm. Well, you've got the front wall of the building. The outer part of that, some of that between the windows has gone down on to the pavement as a result of it.

MR FLINN: Yes.

MR SHAW: The inner part of the wall is still standing, and that's actually supporting the flat roof behind the balustrade.

MR FLINN: So when you talk about the outer part of the building you're talking about the white material that we can see around the sides? And when you talk about the inner part, is it brick work which is still standing?

MR SHAW: As far as I can recall, yes, but then you've got the, around the side of the building here, just past the left of where the rainwater pipe is, you've then got this very big crack because the wall has moved out, and the secondary and third level cracks as well.

MR FLINN: Now, I'm going to probably use the incorrect word, but it's almost like a railing for a balcony above the roof, and you can see it's quite seriously dipping.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: What does that tell us that has happened there?

MR SHAW: Wherever the railing was sitting, which was probably on the outer part of the wall, as the wall disappeared down to the rubble on the pavement, then it's lost its support and it's just dropped.

MR FLINN: Thank you.

MR SHAW: But it's still being held by the two ends.

MR FLINN: Thank you. Mrs NIN, could we bring up 4-673?

This is obviously a photo which has been taken on one of the days following because we're in daylight there. You can see the bus stop, so again, this is from the right side of the front of the pub, looking down in the other direction.

The reason I thought it would be helpful to show this photo was that, if you look, you can actually see that the front wall of the pub, bulging outwards. Can you see that there?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Yeah. Mrs NIN, could we bring up 7-1352?

The reason I brought up this photo, Mr SHAW, is this shows you a passageway with an overhanging roof to the left of the pub. Can you see that?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Mrs NIN, could we now bring up 7-1359?

This is a closer-up photo of that passage, and you can see there within it, a brick wall has effectively been entirely blown out. Do you recall observing that on the night?

MR SHAW: Only vaguely because it was so dark down there, there's no light. So you could see something was there, but not enough to make an assessment of it.

MR FLINN: And at that point you didn't walk down that passage.

MR SHAW: We walked down as far as the ... can you see that little black line on the photograph?

MR FLINN: Now, is this slightly to the left of the pole that we ...

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: ... can see? Right.

MR SHAW: Yeah ...

MR FLINN: Yeah.

MR SHAW: ... slightly to the left of the pole, and just behind the curb line.

MR FLINN: Yeah.

MR SHAW: And we walked down as far as there.

MR FLINN: Okay, so that's just past the curb line and in front of the sign saying 'Friends Meeting House.'

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: So you approached the entrance of the passage that was covered by the roof but didn't walk down it.

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: Okay. And finally, 7-1337, Mrs NIN.

This is looking at the other direction, so from the back of that passage.

And you can see there another view of the hole, effectively blown out of that side wall.

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: Just turning a moment to the chimney, if you said it was dark, could you actually see the chimney, or, when you first had this look at it on the night of the 5th of October?

MR SHAW: We could only see the chimney by shining a torch through the doorway.

MR FLINN: Did you do that that evening?

MR SHAW: As far as I can recall, I think we did have a torch, borrowed from one of the police officers ...

MR FLINN: Right.

MR SHAW: ... but it was, what shall I say, a cursory look, rather than a proper assessment.

MR FLINN: Yes. Let's bring up a photo. Mrs NIN, 7-1362, please...

So just to clarify, a moment ago, I asked you about the chimney and you talked about using a torch inside, were you actually referring to the

fireplace inside the building, or the chimney at the top of the building,
which is what I was ...

MR SHAW: No, we ...

MR FLINN: ... was asking about?

MR SHAW: ... were actually looking through the door towards the fireplace.

MR FLINN: I see, thank you very much for clarifying that. So in this photo I wanted to just look at the external chimney or chimney pot on the top of the building, on the left-hand side of it. You can see there some slight damage to it.

And now if we go to another photo with a better view, 7-1331. You can see some damage there. Do you recall viewing this or seeing this on the night of the 5th of October 1974?

MR SHAW: No, because it was too dark.

MR FLINN: I understand. You've been very clear that you did not go into the pub that night. There's just one photo I wanted to show you. Mrs NIN, 7-1464.

If we could just go down, we can see a photo here, and, Mr SHAW, I'm not sure precisely when this photo was taken. What I wanted to ask you initially was ... if we zoom in slightly, Mrs NIN. A bit more. Mr SHAW, is that Mr DOXEY in the foreground?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: No. Do you know who that is?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: There've been some other names mentioned in statements. We've had Mr TWYFORD mentioned, does that ring a bell?

MR SHAW: Yeah, Mr TWYFORD was the Chief Exec, but that's not him.

MR FLINN: That's not him. What about Mr SNAPE? Is that ...

MR SHAW: No ...

MR FLINN: ... Mr SNAPE?

MR SHAW: ... it's definitely not him.

MR FLINN: No. The only other name I was going to put to you was a Paul HIGGERTY.

MR SHAW: I can't be certain on that.

MR FLINN: Did you know Paul HIGGERTY?

MR SHAW: I did meet him a few times, but not enough to know him in the sense that you mean, to be able to identify him.

MR FLINN: Do you recall seeing him there that night on the 5th of October?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: No. Mrs NIN, if we zoom in even more, if that's okay? Just that gentleman to the left. I know we can only see a little bit of him, do you have any idea who that is?

MR SHAW: I think it's me.

MR FLINN: I was going to ask you. Which would suggest that this had been taken not on the night of the 5th of October, although it does look potentially dark. Did you go into the pub and just, kind of, look around the doorways, rather than going right in, or did you not go in the pub at all that night?

MR SHAW: No, we didn't go in the pub at all.

MR FLINN: Fine. You can see there the gentleman in front is holding a torch.

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Looks like you're maybe holding a clipboard or a file, down below, can you see that?

MR SHAW: Yes, I don't know what that is.

MR FLINN: Yeah. How confident are you that that's you in that image?

MR SHAW: Reasonably so.

MR FLINN: Right, thank you. So probably that means that we could place that image being taken on the following day?

MR SHAW: Yeah, or even later.

MR FLINN: Or even later than that. Did you go back to the pub several times afterwards?

MR SHAW: Yeah, certainly on the following day we were there.

MR FLINN: When you were carrying out your examinations externally on the night of the 5th of October, did you get up close enough to look through the door or look in a window, for example?

MR SHAW: Oh yes.

MR FLINN: Right.

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: And did you shine your torch in?

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: What did you see when you looked inside that particular night specifically?

MR SHAW: There was lots of debris on the floor. The ceiling was badly cracked. And that was about it, I think. There was a hole, but you couldn't see very much of it.

MR FLINN: A hole in the floor, or ...

MR SHAW: Yes, a hole in the floor.

MR FLINN: Right. Could you see from where you looked in the hole in the wall that we've seen photos of, or is that not something you recall?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: No.

MR SHAW: No, it's too far out.

MR FLINN: You did go into the pub the next day, is that right?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: What time of day did you go into the pub?

MR SHAW: Oh, it would've been in the morning sometime.

MR FLINN: Rough estimate of time?

MR SHAW: Half nine, ten-ish, probably.

MR FLINN: Who were you with at that point?

MR SHAW: Mr DOXEY was around. And there was some police, I think, still around, as well.

MR FLINN: Right, and what was the purpose of that visit on the morning of the 6th of October?

MR SHAW: That was to make an assessment of the building in daylight, which is much easier to do than in the dark, and decide what we needed to do about it, because the front wall hadn't actually collapsed overnight.

MR FLINN: Yes.

MR SHAW: So we needed to do something that would make the building sufficiently safe for the forensic people to go in ...

MR FLINN: Yes.

MR SHAW: ... but I was specifically asked to go in but try not to disturb anything for the forensic people.

MR FLINN: Because it was seen as a potential crime scene.

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: There's been some evidence, and we'll bring up another photo in a moment, showing some supports to the front wall to make it safe. When you went in, had that happened, or were you going in to assess what needed to be done to make it safe?

MR SHAW: I was going in to make it safe ...

MR FLINN: Right.

MR SHAW: ... and I was, from a risk point of view, I was the only person who went in that morning for the purpose of assessing the inside of the building. A number of reasons, firstly, the wall, the roof. We needed to look around the hole ...

MR FLINN: Mmm.

MR SHAW: ... to see how closely you could approach the hole without going through the floor.

MR FLINN: Yes. But were the front wall supports outside on the street, were they in place by the time you went in?

MR SHAW: No ...

MR FLINN: No.

MR SHAW: ... because we had to decide what to do after the assessment.

MR FLINN: I understand. I'd like to bring up another photo, if I may. Mrs NIN, 7-1339.

Is that you in that photo there?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: No. We'll zoom in a bit more just to double check.

MR SHAW: No, not me.

MR FLINN: No. Do you recognise who that is?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: No. That's fine, thank you. What we'll do now is we'll just briefly go to a document that shows the layout of the pub. You might have seen another witness being showed this document. D118, Mrs NIN, 1-3.

Do you have any recollection of the layout of the pub from your visits to it?

MR SHAW: Vaguely, because when I went in on the following morning, they went around the pub, apart from looking at the assessment we were looking to see if there was anything there which had been missed the night before because of the darkness.

MR FLINN: Right. So if we just, sort of, canter through that, we can see the bottom of the screen is where North Street is, there's an entrance to the pub, an alcove immediately on your left, and what we've been referring to in court as 'a snug' on the right. With the bar in front of you, slightly to the right as you look inside.

Then on the left, there's a second alcove, and we understand that it was in that second alcove which had the blasted-out wall that we've shown

you in the photographs. Does that tie in with what you saw the next day when you went in?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: And is it right that the hole that we've been talking about in the floor was in the area of that second alcove on the left?

MR SHAW: Yeah, it was in front of the fireplace.

MR FLINN: It was in front of the fireplace. And you can see the fireplace there at the back wall of that second alcove.

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: What we'll do is we'll bring up a photograph of that, of the interior of the pub to see some of the damage caused. Mrs NIN, 7-1346.

Is that what you saw when you went in on the next day?

MR SHAW: No, because this is taken from the other side. Right, this ...

MR FLINN: Yeah.

MR SHAW: ... is taken from the left of the fireplace.

MR FLINN: Correct, yeah.

MR SHAW: The door and the entrance when I went in is on the right of that.

MR FLINN: Okay, so you saw that hole, but you were looking at it from the other side of it.

MR SHAW: From this side, yeah.

MR FLINN: Right, I understand. Are you able to just, using your expertise, talk us through what this photo shows in terms of what's happened to the floor?

MR SHAW: Right, well I needed to do an assessment of the floor, as I said earlier. To do that, I went from the front door, past the hole, to where the stairs are ...

MR FLINN: Mmm hmm.

MR SHAW: ... and went down the stairs, and then worked back along through the cellar. I got to the stairs plus, probably two or three paces, and the floor was wet, which was a bit of a shock because I only had shoes on.

MR FLINN: Right.

MR SHAW: There was also, I could hear a very, fairly slight, hissing noise. My immediate thought was, "Oh dear, it's gas," so I had a smell, but it wasn't gas. So I got a torch and looking around, and it was one of the waterpipes on the other side had got a tiny, tiny leak, and it was spraying a very fine jet of water out into the room, which overnight had accumulated on the floor and was making my feet wet.

MR FLINN: I understand, so ...

MR SHAW: So from there, I went round here, past where these beer kegs are to look at the floor. And the floor there is a very traditional construction, timber joist floorboards, and the carpet.

So the question really was what had happened at this front edge here, and whether there had been any damage to the floor either side of the hole which would require work to be done before it would be safe for forensic people to work on it.

MR FLINN: Mrs NIN, could we just briefly go back to 1-3?

So you talked about going down the stairs, so ...

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: ... is it you went down the stairs behind the second alcove that we can see there at the back wall?

MR SHAW: Yeah, as far as I can recall, that's where they were.

MR FLINN: So past the alcove where the hole in the floor was, down the stairs, and then ...

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... you worked your way back towards the hole.

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Right. Another photo I wanted to show you was 7-1351.

This is another photo, I understand it to be taken within the second alcove. You can see a jukebox there, and, it's not in the photograph, but we understand it to the left of that is where the fireplace was. So you're looking back towards the bar. Mrs NIN, if we could just scroll up again so we can see the top of the photo.

I just wanted to ask you here about the damage we can see to the ceiling.

Can you talk us through what we're seeing there in that image?

MR SHAW:

Yeah, you've got the ceiling joists, which are, you can just about see them. These are the white ones through here. Going the other way, you've got laths, and then they would've been plastered, which is a very traditional ceiling.

MR FLINN:

Mrs NIN, could we bring up 7-1353?

The reason I want to show you this photograph, Mr SHAW, is here we can see some further damage to the ceiling, it doesn't look quite as extensive as the damage we saw in the previous image. Mrs NIN, I'm not sure if that's the entire photo, does it go any further down than that? Right, so we can see that that damaged portion of the ceiling is, in this photo, above the bar. The fact that we've got portions of, at least, ceiling cover coming down over the bar ... the court's heard some evidence that the bomb was located further away towards the external wall in the vicinity of the fireplace. We'll hear more evidence about that in due course.

But the fact that there was part of the ceiling coming down over the bar, does that give you any information about, sort of, the integrity and strength of the ceiling?

MR SHAW:

Yeah, can you take the photo back up again?

MR FLINN: Of course, yeah, here we go.

MR SHAW: Yeah, you've got here, these going across there, parallel to this beam, are the laths...

MR FLINN: Mmm hmm.

MR SHAW: ... and then what has come out to expose them is the plaster. And that is, as I said, a very traditional form of ceiling. And it's also very prone to cracking. And certainly, the blast, when it happens you get a pressure wave, but then you get a suction wave which follows the blast. So if the blast didn't pull that down, the suction wave would've done.

MR FLINN: Right. This might not be a question for you, and let me know if not, but do you think it speaks more to the potential size of the explosive device or the construction of the building, that there was ceiling coming down over the bar, when we'll hear some evidence that the explosive device itself was located further along in the alcove?

MR SHAW: Yeah, I think it's more the construction of the building because, as I said, those lath and plaster ceilings are very prone to cracking, and it's not uncommon for them to collapse under their own weight, never mind with the extent of either a pressure wave or a suction wave.

MR FLINN: Another photo I'd like to show was 7-1367.

One particular point I wanted to ask you about in this photo, Mr SHAW, is you can see to the right, so here we are in the pub looking towards

the two alcoves on the left, the one on the left of the image is the one closest to North Street, and the one on the right is the one where, I think if we just scroll down very slightly, there is the hole in the floor ...

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: ... and the blown-out wall behind it. You can see within that alcove what looks like a lantern hanging down. Can you see that?

MR SHAW: I'm not sure what you're referring to.

MR FLINN: Mrs NIN, can you move the cursor again around that ... that's what I was talking about.

MR SHAW: Oh, that one, right.

MR FLINN: I interpreted it as being a lantern.

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Do you recall that?

MR SHAW: Not specifically, I was looking much more at the floor and the structure of the building, rather than the fittings.

MR FLINN: Do you have any recollection of lights or wires hanging down from the ceiling ...

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: ... when you visited the next morning? No. The reason I ask is because we've had some evidence from other witnesses about feeling cables,

electrical cables, or electrical burns on their legs, so I just wondered if that had been something which you'd noticed as a hazard.

MR SHAW: Not specifically.

MR FLINN: No. Just to bottom out that issue, Mrs NIN, could we look at 7-1373? Another example of a wire hanging down from the ceiling. And then if, Mrs NIN, if we could go to 7-1343.

Now this is just to contextualise the image we previously saw. You can see to the left of it, there looks like a bar with a couple of rings attached to it, can you see that?

MR SHAW: Mmm hmm.

MR FLINN: That appears to be where that wire was coming down from. Mrs NIN, could we go to 7-1342.

The purpose of this photo, Mr SHAW, is simply to get a sense of the amount of debris that was in the pub. Is it right that there was, at the time you went inside, an awful lot of debris?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: And the inside of the pub was severely disrupted and damaged.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Just stepping back generally, we've seen a hole in the floor, parts of the ceiling coming down, the hole in the wall, as well, and you've explained how you observed the front wall coming outwards.

MR SHAW: Mmm hmm.

MR FLINN: That led you to the conclusion, I think, even on the Saturday night, before you visited the next day, that the building was not safe.

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: The next day when you went in, prior to setting up some measures to make it safe, did that reinforce that conclusion that it was unsafe?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: Did you think it was in danger of collapse?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: What do you think would've been the feature of the building which put it at risk of collapse?

MR SHAW: Probably the junction between the ceiling and the wall, the top of the wall.

MR FLINN: Mmm.

MR SHAW: Because, as I said, we had concluded on the Saturday that the roof was probably just about hanging on to the wall by its fingertips because of the amount that the wall had moved out. If that equilibrium was disturbed by something, then that junction could've gone and, irrespective of whether or not the wall fell, the ceiling would've come down.

MR FLINN: Mmm. I asked you a question a moment ago about the fact that certain parts of the ceiling had come down. Whether or not that spoke to potentially the size of the blast or device, or it could also talk to the construction of the building and the material ...

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: ... from which it was made, and you said it could be that you don't require a huge blast to cause that sort of damage based on the nature of the materials.

MR SHAW: That's correct.

MR FLINN: A similar question in regards to the building as a hole, in light of all the different type of damage, we're dealing with a situation which it appears that the blast was not contained by the building's structure. It effectively blew it out ...

MR SHAW: Mmm.

MR FLINN: ... in various respects. What does that tell us about the construction of the Horse and Groom pub? Its sturdiness, the materials that were used, or anything of that nature that you can speak to?

MR SHAW: I think that the main thing is that it was a very old building. And you can see in one of the other photographs that you had, there was a steel beam. So it had obviously been changed, refurbished, modernised,

whatever you like to call it, maybe more than once. And in fact, you can see the steel beam in this one, there it is.

So that form of construction with the hangers round it is something which you'd expect to see in a pub that had been refurbished. So you've got lots of different parts of the building of different ages not necessarily connected together very well.

MR FLINN: Did you have any information, or did you know as to precisely how old the building was?

MR SHAW: No.

MR FLINN: Right. Did you see any signs during any of your examinations which suggested to you that there had been poor construction of the building in any respect?

MR SHAW: Not particularly, no.

MR FLINN: No. But you did form the view or impression that there had been various refurbishments and changes to parts of it ...

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: ... over time.

MR SHAW: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Thank you. Final thing I wanted to ask you about, it's just once again in relation to the wall leaning outwards and what happened with that.

Mrs NIN, if we go to Page 1-85.

This is the document I showed you earlier, Mr SHAW. The reference towards the bottom of the page, Mrs NIN, I'm looking for reference to 9.00 hours.

So we can see there, 'Work commenced on shoring the front of the building under the direction of Mr DOXEY. Shoring completed by 13.00 hours.'

Couple of things to take from that. The fact that you indicated that when you went in, there was no shoring of the building, and one of the purposes of you going in was to establish that that needed to happen.

Would that suggest that you probably went into the building before nine o'clock in the morning the next day?

MR SHAW: Yes.

MR FLINN: And in terms of the shoring work, I thought it might just help if we looked at one photo which showed that being completed. Mrs NIN, 7-892.

In this photo, which we understand is a visit from the Home Secretary which took place on the 6th of October 1974, you can see there diagonal poles going up towards the front. Is that the shoring work which took place?

MR SHAW: It's part of it.

MR FLINN: What was the other part of it?

CORONER: Well, we saw the other part. We saw acrow props inside the building, with timbers holding the ceiling up, I think, as well, didn't we, in some of the earlier photographs.

MR SHAW: Well not that photograph, but there is another photograph taken from the other side looking this way, which shows acrows on the outside of the building, timbers going in through, I think, the window, and then there would be acrows inside. And part of my assessment was to find somewhere or to see if there was anywhere on the inside of the wall where we could put the acrows safely to support through the window. But that only shows the acrows at this end, it doesn't show the other ones.

MR FLINN: I follow, thank you. But that does bring me to the conclusion of my questions, Mr SHAW, so I'll hand you over in case any others have questions.

MR SHAW: Okay.

CORONER: Thank you very much. Ms BARTON?

MS BARTON QC: I don't, thank you, sir.

CORONER: Mr PLEETH?

MR PLEETH: Neither do I, sir.

CORONER: **Thank you very much, Mr SHAW, that concludes your evidence.**

I'm very grateful to you. You're free to stay or to go as you choose,

but thank you very much, it's been ...

MR SHAW: Thank you, sir.

CORONER: **... very helpful. Thank you.**

Thank you. Mr SANDERS ...