Transcript of the Inquest

Date: 23rd June 2022

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Mrs Eileen BURNS	Read	5
Mr Robert BURNS	Read	14
Mrs Janet FLEMING	Affirmed	20
Mr Brian CALVERT	Affirmed	66
Ms Isabella PRICE	Read	87
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CORONER: **Good morning. Mr SANDERS, I think today we have a number of witnesses who are live, either in person or on videolink, and a couple, I think, to be read as well. In the running order in fact, first on is Sheila HIGHAM, but I understand Sheila HIGHAM has not appeared. She was expected but hasn't appeared. Is that right?**

MR SANDERS QC: That's correct, sir. So Sheila HIGHAM, whose maiden name was PARROTTE, has been in correspondence with your office …

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: … previously, but we haven't heard from her for a while. She has been served with the summons to attend today but hasn't attended. And so I

understand that enquiries are going to be made through Hampshire Police to see what the situation is.

CORONER: **Yes. All right. And so, well we'll have to just wait and see, and wait and hear what the issue is, if there is an issue, and we'll deal with it as and when we know what it is.**

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

CORONER: **So, as a result of that, how are we going to start with the evidence then?**

MR SANDERS QC: So the proposal is, subject to your views, sir, that we read the statements of Eileen and Robert BURNS …

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: … because the statement we heard, the last statement last night was Carol BURNS. So that will complete the evidence from the BURNS family. Then hear from Mrs FLEMING, whose maiden name was OLIVER, and who you see on the screen.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: I am not sure if she can hear us at the moment, but …

MRS FLEMING: Yes, I can.

CORONER: **Good morning to you, Mrs FLEMING.**

MRS FLEMING: Good morning.

MR SANDERS QC: And then read the statement of Isabella PRICE, and then we also have Brian CALVERT via videolink, and hopefully Stephen COOPER in person.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. As we have people on videolink, I ought to read this, this morning, which I haven't done to date. 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 to record or broadcast these proceedings. Good. All right. So we will start then, please, with reading of the two statements.**

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, and Ms KUZMENKO is going to read Eileen BURNS first.

CORONER: **Thank you very much.**

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you, sir. The reference for the witness statement for Eileen BURNS is S182, found at Caselines 2-84.

(Reads statement of Eileen BURNS in full)

"I am the mother of Carol BURNS, who is a recruit WRAC stationed at Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford.

It was Carol's birthday on Saturday 5th October 1974, and my husband, Robert BURNS, and I decided to visit Carol and help celebrate. We had spoken to Carol on Friday 4th October 1974 and arranged to meet

her at 6.30 pm on Saturday 5th October outside the gates of the WRAC College. A friend of the family, Paul CRAIG, who lives at Boreham Wood, was travelling with us as it was his birthday on Sunday 6th October 74, and he'd decided to help celebrate Carol's first and then continue with his. This was going to be his 22nd birthday. Paul was a Buff like my husband. I knew that he was under the doctor for some illness and had been warned by the doctor not to drink or smoke.

We travelled down to Guildford in Paul's car, a white Cortina, and arrived at the WRAC gates at 6.25 pm. Carol was late and never arrived until 6.45 to 6.50 pm. She had a friend with her when she arrived, and Carol introduced the girl to us as Sammy. She said that she was doing the same course as Carol and had come out to celebrate Carol's birthday. Sammy told us that four other girls were coming as well, but were getting ready. Carol and Sammy said that we were going to the Horse and Groom Public House in Guildford, and that the other girls were coming down later.

Paul drove to the Horse and Groom and parked in the side street near the pub. I have never been in the Horse and Groom in my life. We arrived at the pub at about 7 pm and went in. I describe the pub as follows. On entering the door there is a bar on the right with a sort of funny area beside it, up a couple of stairs which look like a little snug.

On the left there is a sort of alcove and another alcove behind it. My husband and Paul went to the bar to order some drinks. I ordered a Bacardi and coke. Sammy had the same. Carol had a Cinzano and lemonade, and I think the men had two pints, but I am not sure.

Whilst they were at the bar, the three of us walked to the partition which separates the two alcoves, and were stopped by a girl called Bubbles. She was introduced to us by Carol, who didn't seem to like her, and was a WRAC from Carol's unit. She wished Carol happy birthday and then walked back to the first big alcove where she seemed to have some friends.

I looked into the second alcove on the left and saw a corner piece empty on the right-hand side. There was enough room for our party, so we walked over and sat down. There was one table in the corner on the right with two or three other tables down the left-hand side. We made our way to the tables before my husband got back and sat down. There were a number of empty beer glasses on the tables; mugs with handles, both half pint and pint. There were about six. I sat down in the corner. Carol sat down on my left, that is the bench in line with the fireplace, and Sammy sat on her left next to the fireplace.

My husband and Paul returned with the drinks. My husband sat next to me on my right on the bench seat which runs parallel with the outside

wall. Paul approached the table. Sammy got up from her seat and Paul sat down next to Carol. We put our drinks on the table at the same time, pushing the empty beer glasses to one side.

When we first entered the pub, I saw a few people standing at the bar. I cannot really say how many, but about six to ten. I remember seeing two tables in the snug with two or three old people about 50 years old. There was at least one woman and I think a dog. I cannot describe the people but they were elderly. The dog was black and may have belonged to the old boy. That's the impression I got.

The first alcove was filled up with a large number of people. My impression was that they were young soldiers and young WRAC girls. They were laughing and joking. The alcove that we sat in contained about six to eight people. I think they were all males. They were all sitting on the left-hand side of the alcove, on the bench seats and on stools around the table. I think that some of these people were sitting around the corner, ie on the same bench as my husband, although there was a big gap between my husband and the people. I cannot possibly describe the people sitting on the bench, but I got the overall impression they were soldiers.

I remained in my seat all evening, chatting to our company and other friends of Carol's. I had given Carol three silver charms for her

birthday, which were in two small boxes. These were jewel boxes with cotton wool and about 2 inches by 3 inches. Paul gave her a birthday card.

I remember that the bench seats went all around the alcove with a back to them. At the top of the back was a lip which we used as a shelf to put things on. I kept my coat with me. Carol and Sammy put their coats and bags on the shelf near the fireplace. I do not remember if the benches were covered in at the bottom.

About half an hour after we went into the Horse and Groom, four WRAC girls from Carol's unit arrived. These were the girls that Carol expected to see in there. The girls were introduced to me and my husband by Carol, and they looked at the three silver charms. I only remember one of these girls. She was about 23 years, about 5' tall, slim build. She had blonde short hair which had been peroxided. It was cut close to her head. Carol told me this girl was their mummy because she was the eldest of the lot of them, and all the girls went to her with their problems. I describe another of these girls as about 19 to 20 years old, tall and thin with black hair. I think she was quite a pretty thing. I don't remember what any of these were wearing, and cannot describe the other girls at all.

After they had spoken to us, the girls went and sat on the bench opposite us. Two of the girls sat on the same bench as my husband. The blonde girl sat in the corner on the left side of the alcove, and the dark-haired girl sat somewhere on the bench amongst the soldiers. The other two girls sat on the same bench, but I don't really remember where. The pub started to fill up quite suddenly then, and the people sat down with the WRAC girls. I think they must have been soldiers. The bench was quite full and everybody was pushing and shoving and larking about.

I remember that Carol whispered to me that she liked a good-looking boy who was sitting on the bench on the opposite side of the alcove to us. He was directly opposite to Carol. I saw he was sitting with one leg over the other and drinking. He did not appear to be talking to anyone and was keeping himself to himself. I describe him as being early 20s, a smart boy, slim, about average height, very fair hair. His hair was longer than a soldier's. If he was a soldier, he wasn't a new one. His hair was parted and brushed forward. It was nicely groomed. His face was not a babyish face, and he had a fair complexion. He was quite a nice-looking lad. He was dressed in a red shirt, open necked. He had a casual look. I don't remember much more about him. I only looked at him once because Carol mentioned him. I don't know what

happened to him after that. I do not think he was sitting on the bench when we first went into the Horse and Groom.

Sammy came up to us shortly afterwards and said she was just going down to another pub, the Shooting Star or something like that, with a friend of hers. She said that she was just going to show her the pub. The girl that Sammy went with was the girl that died. They went off and we carried on talking. Robert and Paul went to the bar to get a round of drinks. This was about the third round. Robert and Paul just got back to the table when Sammy and her friend came back. The girl with Sammy sat next to my husband. We squeezed up to give her a bit of room. She gave Sammy some money and asked her to get a drink, and Sammy came back with two ciders. I think that Sammy and the girl were away for about five minutes, that's all.

Everybody in the alcove was moving about. They were changing chairs or going to other parts to see their friends. Sometime during the evening some friends of Carol's came over and bought her a drink. One was a bloke called Tony, a soldier, I think. I cannot describe him. A girl came over as well and bought a drink for Carol. She looked like a WRAC, but I cannot describe her. Sammy was flitting about all evening. She was two minutes here, two minutes there. The girl who gave Sammy the drink, and was sitting next to my husband, started talking to us about

herself. She said she was going home to Bradford, or something like that for the weekend and that it was costing £8. She had to pay this herself as the Army didn't pay the first trip home. She spoke about her father being in the Buffs, and my husband was talking to her about the Buffs as well.

That's all I remember, because after that the explosion must have taken place. I don't remember the explosion at all, but I can remember that this was the last conversation I had before I woke up in hospital.

I remember seeing a young lad, a soldier, sitting at the table in the alcove nearest the left-hand corner. He was sitting on a stool facing the bench my husband was sitting on. Paul and my husband had some difficulty getting past him, and a soldier moved his stool. I describe the soldier as being about 16 to 17 years, short fair hair. He was Scottish. I cannot remember anything else about him, except he spoke with a Scottish accent. I think that this young soldier moved off the stool and sat on the bench next to the girl that we were talking to. I don't remember what time this was.

At the time that I stopped remembering things, the people sitting around me were as follows. Carol was nearest the fireplace. Paul was sitting on her right next to her. That's what I think. I was tucked up in the elbow of the right-hand corner, and my husband, Robert, was sitting

next to me. The girl who died, and was talking about her father being in the BUFFs, was next to him, and I think the soldier was next to her. I think the blonde WRAC with the peroxide hair was sitting in the opposite corner to me, tucked up in the alcove. Sammy was kneeling down, putting the cider on the table. I didn't see any parcels or boxes on the seat when we went in, neither did I see any coats. I produce a sketch of the positions EWB1. The seats were wooden ones.

The only person that caught my eye was a person who stood near the bar at about 7.30 pm. He was standing practically opposite the street door. He was dressed like a Teddy Boy with a grey tweed coat with a black velvet collar. His hair was fair, curly and pushed back at the sides. He had a DA. I didn't see his face or the front of him at all, but he struck me as being a Teddy Boy. There was a crowd of people around him, but I didn't see him talk to anybody. I cannot remember anything else. There was so much movement in the alcove. People were moving about and changing places that I lost track.

My injuries consist of a bad burn on my left upper arm, which was extensively bruised. My right upper arm was badly bruised and burnt. I had eight stitches inserted into the right arm pit, and five stitches into the left arm. I had five stitches in my forehead, right side. Both my legs and buttocks were extensively bruised and burnt. I have bruises

and cuts to my back. I have also been told I have fractures to my ribcage at the front and back." That is signed by Eileen BURNS on the 14th October 1974.

CORONER: **Thank you very much.**

MR FLINN: Pardon me, sir. Thank you. The next statement is from a Mr Robert BURNS. The reference is S183 and the Caselines page reference is 2-89.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MR FLINN: (Reads statement of Robert BURNS in full)

He states, "I am the father of Carol Ann BURNS and the husband of Eileen Winifred BURNS. My daughter is a member of the Women's Royal Army Corps and is stationed at their training depot at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford.

My daughter's birthday was on the 5th October 1974. She then attained the age of 19 years. Prior to this date, my wife and I arranged to go to Guildford on her birthday, and a friend of ours, Paul CRAIG, said he'd like to come as well, as his birthday was on the 6th October 1974. We three travelled together in Paul's car, a white Ford Cortina, and arrived at the WRAC Barracks at about 6.25 pm on Saturday 5th October 1974. We waited outside for Carol, and she arrived at about 6.50 pm. She was accompanied by a friend from the WRAC, who she introduced as

Sammy. Paul then drove us into Guildford, and we parked in a side road within short walking distance of a pub which Carol said she wished to visit. We all walked to the pub, the Horse and Groom, entering at about 7 pm.

Paul and I went to the bar to get the drinks. I purchased a Bacardi and coke for my wife and Sammy, a Cinzano and lemonade for Carol, and pints of light and bitter for Paul and myself. After purchasing the drinks, we all walked towards an alcove in which was situated a fireplace and juke box. We saw some vacant seats in the corner of the alcove and made towards them. On the way we were stopped by a girl from WRAC called Bubbles. My daughter had a short conversation with her, then we moved into the seats. I produce a plan showing our respective positions.

Sammy sat next to the fireplace on a bench seat with her back to a wall. Paul was standing beside her. Carol was seated next to Sammy. My wife in the corner next to Carol, and myself round the corner on the continuous bench seat. As far as I remember, the bench seat was open underneath and not boarded in any way. At this stage I believe that the remainder of the bench seating right round the rest of the alcove was vacant.

From then on, whenever Sammy got up to speak to other friends, Paul would take her place. During the earlier part of the evening there was a flow of people that Carol knew who were coming over to wish her a happy birthday and examine her birthday present. I remember that there were a number of soldiers and girls in the adjoining alcove and they were making quite a lot of noise.

At about 7.25 pm, I vaguely remember a young couple, male and female, came and sat on the bench seat beside me and to my right. They both had a drink but what sort I don't know. At about this time the seats in the alcove were filling up, and in the main they appeared to be soldiers and members of the WRAC. I would describe the young couple as; 1) male, 19 to 20 years, and 2) a female, 19 to 20 years. I cannot possibly remember anything else about them, except I have the feeling they were an ordinary, young courting couple. I can't remember seeing them carrying anything at all. They didn't stay long and must have left the pub by about 7.40 pm.

For most of the time I didn't take much notice of people to the right of me, as my group of family were to my left, and my attention and conversation were naturally directed towards them. By this time the alcove was full of people, but I can remember no details of any of these,

although I remember thinking that in the main they were soldiers and WRAC girls.

Soon after the first young couple left, I left my seat and purchased another round of drinks at the bar. I would have been up at the bar for several minutes, as I remember that the service was very slow. In fact, I was fed up with the place and would have been happy to have moved elsewhere. When I purchased the drinks it would have been about 8 pm. Within a few minutes I went out to the gents toilets, and although I can't be sure, I feel that when I returned to my seat another male and female couple were sitting on the bench seat next to my position to my right. They must have come in at about 8.10 pm. I would describe the couple as follows; 1) A male, aged between 23 and 26 years, height 5'10-11, stockily built, about 38 inch chest, medium brown hair, fairly long to near collar length, quite tidy appearance, dressed in a sort of safari type jacket with different coloured panels in it. I'm not sure of this, nor am I sure of any colours. It's just an impression I have. I cannot recall whether or not he was carrying anything. 2) A female, aged about 22 to 23 years, height about 5'7, possibly wearing platform shoes, medium brown shoulder length hair, an attractive looking girl with very little make up. I can't remember her dress, but I believe she was either carrying or wearing a top coat, but I can't remember any details. I

cannot remember if she was carrying anything. I really did take much notice of either of them, but I do remember at one stage they were kissing each other.

At about 8.35 pm, I remember the woman said to her companion words like, "Come on. It's time we got out of here." I saw them leave but just can't remember seeing them leave anything behind. But if something had been placed beneath the bench seat, I would not have noticed it. I just cannot remember if anyone took the seats they'd vacated, but the pub was so crowded that I feel someone must have sat there. However, I cannot remember taking note of anyone.

From this point on my memory is a complete blank. I remember nothing of any explosion, and can only recall at some stage realising I was in hospital. I've since been shown a sketch drawing of a male and female. Both sketches are extremely good examples of the male and female I have referred to as sitting beside me prior to the explosion. I have also been shown a photograph of a girl named Sheila PARROTTE. I recognise her as being the girl who sat with us in the pub, whom I have referred to as Sammy.

I have been shown a number of photographs of persons allegedly using the Horse and Groom on the evening of the explosion. I recognise the following people as having been in the pub, but I cannot recall where

they would have been positioned. It is just that their faces are familiar. Helen BROWN, Heather BRISTOW, L A CUMMINGS, Donna GREGORY, Daphne HUGHES, Lesley KEELING, Rosemary MCKAY, I PLANT, Isabel PRICE, Susan RIDGE, Bruce CALLUM, Adrian CHURCH, Andrew COLE, Jonathan COOK, Brian SCANLAN." And, sir, it was signed by Mr BURNS and dated the 16th November 1974.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Thank you.**

MR SANDERS QC: Sir, if we could formally call Janet FLEMING and arrange for her to be sworn or affirmed.

CORONER: **Thank you. Mrs FLEMING, can you hear me well enough?**

MRS FLEMING: Yes. Uh-huh.

CORONER: **Good morning. As I said before, good morning to you. I am Richard TRAVERS, Mrs FLEMING, I'm the Senior Coroner here in Surrey. You are going in a moment or two to be asked to … I am not sure whether you are taking the oath or …?**

MRS NIN: Mrs FLEMING has the words.

CORONER: **You have the words with you, do you, Mrs FLEMING?**

MRS FLEMING: I'll just promise to tell the truth.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Would you read the words? Is it an affirmation or an oath you are taking, Mrs FLEMING? Are you using the Bible or are you just …?**

MRS FLEMING: No. No, I'm just promising to tell the truth.

CORONER: **All right. Could you read the words? I think you've been provided with a form of words, haven't you?**

MRS FLEMING: Hold on.

MRS NIN: (inaudible).

MRS FLEMING: Oh, (inaudible).

CORONER: **Don't worry. If you can't find then we can read them out. Can somebody pass me the …? Thank you very much. Mrs FLEMING, what I'll do, I will read them. If you can repeat the words after me, and when we begin you need to include your full name. So can you start by saying, "I …" and followed by your full name, please?**

MRS JANET FLEMING (affirmed)

CORONER: **Thank you very much, Mrs FLEMING. I am now going to pass you over to Mr SANDERS QC, who is lead Counsel for the inquest …**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **… who will be asking you some questions.**

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, sir. Mrs FLEMING, can you see me?

MRS FLEMING: No. I only have a wee bit of the whole court.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MRS FLEMING: The main screen is just the headline of the court, you know, who was killed and that. It's just a, there's just a heading paper I can see on the main screen.

MR SANDERS QC: All right. Well, as long as you can hear me you will just have to …

MRS FLEMING: I can hear you, yes.

CORONER: **Sorry, just hold on. I am just going to ask Heather if (inaudible)?**

MRS NIN: I can, but I can't see what Mrs FLEMING can see.

CORONER: **So, Mrs FLEMING, can you just help me? When you are looking at your screen, you can see a document can you on part of your screen?**

MRS FLEMING: Yes. I can see a document on the main bit – part of the screen.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MRS FLEMING: It's says, "In Surrey Coroner's Court before HM Senior…"

CORONER: **Yes. Well, that is fine. That's fine. We can see that. And then you've got a view of the whole court. So we are all there, but we are rather small probably?**

MRS FLEMING: Yes. You are really small down in the right-hand corner.

CORONER: **All right. We are going to see whether or not we can zoom in to the person who is speaking.**

MRS FLEMING: All right.

CORONER: **So, first of all, I don't know if it will be me. Just waiting to see if the camera moves.**

MRS FLEMING: If I touched it would it not go up, no?

CORONER: **No. There we are.**

MRS FLEMING: I can …

CORONER: **Are you focused on me now? Can you see me now?**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **All right. And then, hopefully, in a moment, when Mr SANDERS starts talking, the camera will move. I shall look at it to see if it does move, and then … Yes, it is moving.**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **I think it's that camera over there.**

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Good morning again, Mrs FLEMING. Hopefully you can see me now?

MRS FLEMING: Yes, I can.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. You've given your full name as Janet FLEMING.

MRS FLEMING: Uh-huh.

MR SANDERS QC: At the time of the bombing, 1974, your maiden name was OLIVER?

MRS FLEMING: Yes, that's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And you are living … You don't have to give us your full address, but where are you living at the moment?

MRS FLEMING: Loch Leven in Fife, in Scotland.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And are you retired now?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And am I right that you have, you have someone with you in the room?

MRS FLEMING: No, I'm on my own at the moment.

MR SANDERS QC: Very well. I think we …

MRS FLEMING: I was going to have somebody with me, but I'm just myself.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. What I'd like to do to start with is just take you to the statement, the police statement that you made at the time …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … and hopefully this is going to appear on the screen so that we can just look at it together and we can confirm that it is your statement. So it's at Caselines reference 20-77. Can you see that?

MRS FLEMING: Yes, I can see that.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And is that your signature there?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And it is dated the 10th October 1974. Is that correct?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And I think you've been provided with a typed copy of this statement …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … to refresh your memory with?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And you've had an opportunity to re-read that statement?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

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

MRS FLEMING: I don't recognise some of the things that occurred in the contents of the statement.

MR SANDERS QC: No. So you don't, it's not all in your memory now, but can we say …

MRS FLEMING: Not all in my, it isn't in my memory some of the things that happened.

MR SANDERS QC: No, I understand.

MRS FLEMING: Some of the information that I gave, or said I gave about people I recognise, and different things that happened, when I read this, I don't remember it.

MR SANDERS QC: No, thank you. I understand.

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Can we agree, can we agree that when …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … you made the statement it would have been your full recollection at the time?

MRS FLEMING: I want to say yes, but I'm not sure.

MR SANDERS QC: Well, if you were making this …

MRS FLEMING: It's a bit …

MR SANDERS QC: If you were making a statement to the police about the bombing …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you think you would have been trying your best to tell the truth?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So at the time of the bombing, so it's the 5th October 1974, am I right that you were 18 years old?

MRS FLEMING: Yes. Uh-huh.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were a Private who'd recently joined the Women's Royal Army Corps. Is that correct?

MRS FLEMING: Yes, I was only there for a few weeks before the …

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, because you'd joined, I think you say in your statement, Monday 16th September, and then the bombing was just under three weeks after that.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember that you were in 3 Platoon under Lieutenant Gill TAYLOR?

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: You do?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And you were stationed at the WRAC Centre at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, just outside Guildford?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. You'd been in the WRAC for three weeks at the time.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: What had you been doing in those three weeks?

MRS FLEMING: It was basically just basic training.

MR SANDERS QC: Can you remember anything about what that involved?

MRS FLEMING: Physical training. We just would have like … I can't remember. We'd go in and have lectures on different things. I can't really remember precisely. No.

MR SANDERS QC: So it was basic training?

MRS FLEMING: It was basic training, yes. I really can't remember precisely.

MR SANDERS QC: No. That's absolutely understandable, Mrs FLEMING, and no problem. Can I ask you, do you remember if you'd had any training about the threat from the IRA to military personnel at the time?

MRS FLEMING: No. I definitely don't remember that at all.

MR SANDERS QC: You don't remember that. Do you mean you can't remember or you think that you did not have any training along those lines?

MRS FLEMING: I think I didn't have any training along those lines.

MR SANDERS QC: So no training about different types of bombs, for example letter bombs or bombs under cars or anything like that?

MRS FLEMING: No, no.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Did you stay in the Army after the bombing, or did your Army career stop there?

MRS FLEMING: No. I was in hospital for two months, and then I was off sick for a while after that, and then I got married and I left. I left the Army.

MR SANDERS QC: So it was a very brief military career?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So you don't remember anything about what alerts there was at the camp or whether there was any special guidance about terrorism?

MRS FLEMING: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Do you remember if the barracks at the camp was fenced?

MRS FLEMING: I think it would have been. I'm not quite sure, but I think it would have been.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember a guardhouse where you had to sign in and out?

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm. Yes, I had to do that.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. When you were doing your training and you were on duty, obviously you had to be doing what you were told. When you were off duty, were you free to come and go from the camp as you wished?

MRS FLEMING: No. As I remember, the first, we didn't get leave until the third week. That's what I remember in my head.

MR SANDERS QC: When you say you didn't get … Apologies, continue.

MRS FLEMING: I think we didn't get to leave the camp for the first initial few weeks.

MR SANDERS QC: So your recollection is …

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible). In my recollection we didn't get to leave camp until the third week when we, the weekend happened. That's what I remember. Whether that's right or wrong, that's what I remember.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Do you remember any rules about leaving the camp in uniform, whether you were allowed to wear your uniform or told not to wear your uniform?

MRS FLEMING: Not to wear your uniform.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember if that was explained to you or what the reason for that was?

MRS FLEMING: No, I don't remember that. Just not to wear the uniform.

MR SANDERS QC: I just want to ask you in your statement you made at the time you said you'd been into Guildford about six times in the first three weeks.

MRS FLEMING: Well, I can't remember that.

MR SANDERS QC: You don't remember that?

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible) I don't remember that.

MR SANDERS QC: And you also mention in the statement that the night before the bombing you'd been into Guildford with Ann HAMILTON and been to several pubs. Do you remember that?

MRS FLEMING: Yes. We went to the Seven Stars and the Horse and Groom.

MR SANDERS QC: And also the Three Pigeons?

MRS FLEMING: Well, that's one I couldn't quite remember. I know on the night of the bombing we were going to go to that pub, and then we changed our minds and went to the Horse and Groom.

MR SANDERS QC: Because it was on the Friday night, the night before the bombing, that's when you first …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … met your now husband, George FLEMING?

MRS FLEMING: Uh-huh.

MR SANDERS QC: And so do you think that that was the first time you'd been into Guildford?

MRS FLEMING: I do, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So on the Saturday- so the day of the bombing, the Saturday …

MRS FLEMING: Can I just say something, I can't seem to … That's what I'm telling you. If I can't remember right, my mind is a blank, but everything in my statement - a lot of it just doesn't seem right in my head as I remember things. This is why I'm having a hard time answering your questions, I think, because my statement is there, but half of the things in it I don't remember saying or happening or remembering even.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MRS FLEMING: I'm sorry. I'm very sorry it's a bit, you know …

MR SANDERS QC: No, we understand, Mrs FLEMING, and it's quite understandable, because first it was …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … 48 years ago. And, secondly, these were events that happened in a short space of time just immediately prior to a very traumatic incident, and so …

MRS FLEMING: And I think …

MR SANDERS QC: … your memory may … Go on.

MRS FLEMING: My statement was given five days after the accident, and I don't think I'd have been in a very good place at the time anyway.

MR SANDERS QC: No, I understand.

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember what you were doing during the day on the Saturday before the evening of the bombing?

MRS FLEMING: I think we would just be- I think we'd just be doing our kit and different things like that, you know. And I do remember we weren't sure whether we were going to be allowed to go out that night, and then they changed their minds and said we could go out, so off we went, you know.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, thank you. And you went with a group of four of you. Do you remember this? Got a taxi into Guildford and were dropped at the Horse and Groom at about 8 o'clock?

MRS FLEMING: Yes. I remember going to the Seven Stars first, and then we went up to the Horse and Groom.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And who were the other three recruits that you were with?

MRS FLEMING: I think it was Ann, Isabel. I can't remember the other girl.

MR SANDERS QC: Was that Caroline SLATER?

MRS FLEMING: Yes. Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: I'd just like to ask you a bit about the layout of the pub.

MRS FLEMING: Right.

MR SANDERS QC: And you had been there, you remember going there the night before the bombing …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … and you were there on the night of the bombing. And you also went back there at least once because you were interviewed for an ITV documentary …

MRS FLEMING: That's right.

MR SANDERS QC: … in 1989 …

MRS FLEMING: Yes. Uh-huh.

MR SANDERS QC: … with your husband.

MRS FLEMING: Uh-huh.

MR SANDERS QC: So, if you don't mind, I'd just like to show you some photos of the pub …

MRS FLEMING: Right.

MR SANDERS QC: … and then to look at a floor plan, just to try and take you back there and orientate you within the pub.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So the first photo I'd like to show you is just at, this will come up on the screen, it is Caselines 4-555.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And these are photos taken after the bomb explosion.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: But you will see there's the pub. There's a bus stop …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … on the right, and you can see where the damage has come through the front entrance …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … and the front windows further up. And if I can just show you a picture of the front of the pub. That's at 7-1352.

MRS FLEMING: Yes. Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: There, that's the front entrance.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then 7-1357. There's just another view there.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And if we can just look at a floor plan of the inside of the pub. This is at 1-3.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm. Right. Where's the bar? There's the bar.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, there's the bar. So looking …

MRS FLEMING: Then you've got … Right.

MR SANDERS QC: If you look at that, the bottom of the screen in the middle, that's the front door where you would walk in …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … there from North Street.

MRS FLEMING: Yes. Uh-huh.

MR SANDERS QC: And then just on the right, next to the entrance, there's a fruit machine there, and then on the right of that there's a small area that's being referred to as a snug, with a door to the gents toilets at the end of it.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So there was that area. And then on the left of the door there was an alcove with an L-shaped bench in the bottom left hand corner with seats …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … and tables in. And then going and standing in the middle of the pub, on the left, there's a larger alcove with …

MRS FLEMING: Yes. That's the area I've (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And then the arrow there that points to the juke box, and then next to the juke box was the fireplace.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then there's a C-shaped bench seat going around the alcove, and that's the area where you spent …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … most of your time. Is that correct?

MRS FLEMING: Yes. Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And then we've got the bar on the right …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … and then the ladies toilets in the top left hand corner of the pub.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And I just want to also show you, just some photos, and again these are taken after the explosion, so they are not …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … as you would have seen them.

MRS FLEMING: No.

MR SANDERS QC: If we could start please with 4-678. And that shows the bar there on the right.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then on the left, just near the bar, there are two large wooden pillars.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Then at 4-680 is a view of those pillars from the other side. So the bar now is on the right. And then you can see, just beyond and between the pillars, that's the remains of the juke box. Do you see that?

MRS FLEMING: Yes, it's near the fire.

MR SANDERS QC: And there's the fireplace on the left there.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then one more photo, 7-1349.

MRS NIN: Apologies, I missed the reference.

MR SANDERS QC: 7-1349. Sorry, we are back to one that we've seen before. Sorry.

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: If we go to 1-351. So that's taken from inside of where the main alcove had been …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … and you can see the juke box there in the bottom left.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And then 4-680. There's another photo of the pillars and the fireplace.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember if there were any soldiers congregating in the snug, the area on the right near the gents toilets, or were they all in the other two alcoves?

MRS FLEMING: I don't remember that. I remember that I was in this alcove and I remember the other alcove was very busy.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS FLEMING: But you mean that where you come in the door?

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. If we go back to the plan …

MRS FLEMING: Yes. Uh-huh.

MR SANDERS QC: … at 1-3. So there has been some evidence that regulars and non-military people tended to go on the right of the door …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … in the snug. And then the soldiers and the WRAC …

MRS FLEMING: Yes (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: … went on the … Yes, thank you.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: The bench seats that were around the edges of the two alcoves, do you remember if they were hollow underneath or if there was room for putting things under them?

MRS FLEMING: I think they were hollow.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And how busy was the pub when you arrived, when you got there?

MRS FLEMING: It was quite busy when we got there. I remember we couldn't get a seat, and a couple got off from a table and they left and we took their place, me and Ann, both.

MR SANDERS QC: So it was quite busy, and are you able to say were the majority of the people in there military, were young soldiers?

MRS FLEMING: Yes. Uh-huh. I mean Carol BURNS and her family, Carol SLATER and Donna, and they had family and friends all round that back. I remember, I remember all them being there (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS FLEMING: Then when the explosion went off, they were all behind me. I was stood near the fireplace facing the bar, and George was like side, like

sideways on facing the juke box, and was like to might right and we were talking to each other when the bomb exploded.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. So you had …

MRS FLEMING: And all the people that I knew and I was with were in that alcove behind me.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MRS FLEMING: And those were the, those were the ones who, that's where, well that's where the people lost their lives.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And do you remember in the corner beyond the fireplace that that's where Carol BURNS and her parents were sitting?

MRS FLEMING: You mean the back, the very back corner?

MR SANDERS QC: So if one goes along horizontally. From right there's the juke box, then the fireplace …

MRS FLEMING: Right.

MR SANDERS QC: … and then the corner.

MRS FLEMING: Right.

MR SANDERS QC: That's the corner I'm talking about.

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible). Uh-huh. That's where I would place all of my memory, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: You say in your statement, obviously you were talking to different people at different times, but then there comes a point where you are talking to George …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … for quite a long time by the juke box, until about 8.30. And then you and three other girls go to the Seven Stars.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember that?

MRS FLEMING: No. I don't remember it happening that way.

MR SANDERS QC: What's your memory of how it happened?

MRS FLEMING: I remember going to the Seven Stars. Then we came back up to the Horse and Groom, and I would say about 8.30 went in. We weren't going to go in. We were going to go past and go somewhere else, and then decided to come back because I said I wonder if George would be in the Horse and Groom that night.

MR SANDERS QC: Apologies, Mrs FLEMING. You've just got your hands in front of your face so it is blocking the microphone.

MRS FLEMING: Sorry. I'm nervous. I beg your pardon.

MR SANDERS QC: That is no problem.

MRS FLEMING: I've not realised. So I say, I'd say we went into the Horse and Groom about half past 8, got our seat, me and Ann, Isabel, sat down. This

couple, this is how I remember, this couple, think she was like fair, blondie fair hair and he was dark haired, they got up from the table. We sat down and all the company was there. And then George come across to speak to me. He said, "Would you like a drink?" So he went and got drinks, brought them back. And then I got up to speak to George, and I would say about, in my mind, 10 to, 5 to 9 the explosion happened, and that's what I remember. Whether this is what I remember, whether it's because of the shock I had, and in the statement I didn't, I don't remember these things, but this is what I remember.

MR SANDERS QC: That is what you remember now. That is helpful.

MRS FLEMING: And George – he wasn't called as a witness, and he could tell you the same, the same thing. But this- that's what I'm saying, this statement doesn't make a lot of sense to me, and I'm sorry to keep saying that.

MR SANDERS QC: No, no, that's understood. We've …

MRS FLEMING: I mean even in the statement it says I saw a brown bag, a suspicious bag lying about. No I didn't, and why would I think a bag was suspicious when I wasn't even thinking there was any threat now, today? And after the explosion, yes, I would think a bag was suspicious. But at that time, no way am I picking it … I said- I can't remember saying I saw a brown bag. Just not here.

MR SANDERS QC: Mrs FLEMING, in your statement you talk about seeing a bag …

MRS FLEMING: I know.

MR SANDERS QC: **…** on the Friday night, on the night before. You just …

MRS FLEMING: Yes. I don't believe that this statement is true and my statement. I have to tell you that right now.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MRS FLEMING: I don't know what else to say. I wasn't going to say it, but I don't know what else to say, unless I've totally lost my mind.

MR SANDERS QC: That's all right, Mrs FLEMING. You can only tell us to the best of your recollection what you remember now.

MRS FLEMING: I mean like a lot of the descriptions of people and what they wore and who they were and what I thought of them. I thought: I wouldn't be taking in all that. I was just out for a night with my friends. So how am I giving all these details that I can't … I thought when I read the statement that the statement would trigger off memories in my head, and they haven't.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MRS FLEMING: It hasn't been, "Oh, I might remember that now. I remember this now." It's something that I think not even what I would say. Sorry. Sorry, but I only know what happened. Me and Ann went, when we went in that night. I know what happened from there.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And …

MRS FLEMING: She was … Sorry, I'm not making any sense. I'm not making any sense to myself really. The thing is, I don't remember these things and then sort of just … I mean I was badly injured, so I was in- I wasn't in a very good state after the explosion. I was in hospital for two months.

MR SANDERS QC: And you made your statement when you were still in hospital. The police came and interviewed you and that's where you made your statement.

MRS FLEMING: Yes. I made my statement five days after I was- five days after the explosion, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: But what you are clear about is that the bomb went off about, you think, 5, 10 to 9 …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: …and at that point you had your back to the fireplace and you were …

MRS FLEMING: No, I had my back to the company sitting behind me.

MR SANDERS QC: Am I correct that you were by the fireplace?

MRS FLEMING: I was by the fireplace and I was facing the bar. I'd be looking straight ahead to the bar. And Ann and all the company they were behind me, because I've got up from the table to speak to George and they were all behind me in that alcove.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS FLEMING: And that's how I remember it. And George was- I was like facing the bar with my back to the company, and George would have been stood like in front of me but like sideways on looking at the fireplace and the juke box.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS FLEMING: So like I'd be there facing the bar, and George was probably there facing the fireplace, talking to me, like on a, you know, halfway turn. That's where we were when the bomb exploded.

MR SANDERS QC: And can I just ask you about your memory of what happened when the bomb went off? And I just want to take you to your statement …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … to see if this description is right. So this is at 2-360.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: This will come up on the screen. It's about ten lines down. If I can just … Can you see where it says, "I was stood chatting to George and Sheila PARROTTE"?

MRS FLEMING: I don't remember talking to Sheila PARROTTE. I just remember chatting to George.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MRS FLEMING: I can't hardly, I can't hardly even remember Sheila PARROTTE as one of my, you know, go-to friends.

MR SANDERS QC: She was sometimes known as Sammy it seems.

MRS FLEMING: Yes. No, but I don't really remember her that well.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MRS FLEMING: And when the explosion happened, I was only speaking to George.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And it says, "And I was stood half turned toward the bar counter. About five minutes after I got into the pub, and had been talking to George, I suddenly felt a shock and I could not understand what was happening to me."

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: "I felt I was being shaken and there was a fuzzy noise in my ears. The next thing I realised, I was below the floor and thought I was dying."

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Does that fit with your memory of what actually happened when the bomb went off?

MRS FLEMING: Yes. When the bomb went off I thought, still your mind says, "Oh." I thought I'd got a shock off the fireplace or something. I thought, what kind of fireplace was it; gas, electric. I didn't know. My head thought something had happened like that. And then I just felt like I was going (?) away, you know.

MR SANDERS QC: And then you …

MRS FLEMING: The next thing I came round.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were in the cellar?

MRS FLEMING: Yes, I was. I don't know how … Obviously if I'd have been right in the cellar I wouldn't have been able to climb out, I know that, so it must have been partially. The floor must have collapsed partially because I was able to crawl out of this hole.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were helped out of the hole …

MRS FLEMING: Out, no.

MR SANDERS QC: … and out of the pub?

MRS FLEMING: I was helped once I got to the door. I asked for help to get out of the hole and out the pub, but I can remember asking, somebody was standing for help and there was just blabbing (?) and crying and screaming, and I crawled. I crawled all the way to the door. I crawled out, and then somebody helped me.

MR SANDERS QC: And then were you taken by ambulance to hospital?

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: What do you remember about that, if anything?

MRS FLEMING: I don't remember nothing. I remember … getting in the ambulance, because I can remember the ambulance driver asked me to lie down and I kept sitting up because my back … I didn't know but my back was all burnt. I think it had been like, it had (inaudible). And there was a boy in the ambulance, there was a couple of people in the ambulance. I was

on the stretcher and then this boy was stood. He came in and he sat down. He was screaming, crying and there wasn't a mark on him actually. He only had his underwear on but he was covered in, he was covered in blood.

MR SANDERS QC: Mrs FLEMING, you've just gone, I think you are a bit far away from the microphone. Could you just come …

MRS FLEMING: Sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: ... and just say that again a bit more slowly?

MRS FLEMING: When I was in the ambulance I kept sitting up and the ambulance driver kept laying me down, but I kept sitting up because my back was all burnt, my hair was all burnt. I didn't have any pain in my leg at the time, but it must have been the shock. As I said, there was other people in the ambulance, there was a boy with no clothes on apart from his underpants, as far as I remember covered in blood. But he wasn't injured, and he was just screaming and crying and all this. And I can remember getting to the hospital and I can just remember the noises and sounds in the hospital and the lights because I was in a long, a stretcher. I can remember being taken to the (inaudible) that. Took off my shoe or whatever else, and things like that, still (inaudible) at that time. And then that was it, I don't remember anything else until I woke up on the ward.

MR SANDERS QC: And you'd …

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: You'd had a blood transfusion.

MRS FLEMING: Yes, mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And I think you've said that you nearly lost your leg.

MRS FLEMING: Yeah, I lost my right-hand leg, if you imagine your leg and then you go down your leg and just put your calf out, so my leg's like a funny shape, goes down in the calf and my calf's missing.

MR SANDERS QC: And you …

MRS FLEMING: And I'd injured my ankle as well.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were …

MRS FLEMING: I was lucky.

MR SANDERS QC: You were in hospital …

MRS FLEMING: Sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: … for almost two months.

MRS FLEMING: Yes, uh-huh. And when I came out, I was still having medical treatment from nurses visiting to look after the wound. I had skin grafts.

MR SANDERS QC: And then shortly after you came out of hospital, that's when you married George. And you didn't …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: … go back to the WRAC.

MRS FLEMING: No, no, I didn't go back.

MR SANDERS QC: I just want to try and ask you, and you may not be able to help with this, but I want to ask you a bit about where people were in the pub at the time of the explosion.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And I just want to show you a plan that is going to come on the screen and it's at 4-69.

MRS FLEMING: It's coming up.

MR SANDERS QC: Now …

MRS FLEMING: But …

MR SANDERS QC: We're going to zoom in, don't worry, but can you, just pausing there …

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Don't zoom at the moment. You get your bearings again, so you see where the bar is and the alcove with the jukebox and the …

MRS FLEMING: Yeah, I see the fireplace and …

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So we're going to zoom into that alcove.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: A bit further if possible. Keep going.

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Now, we've got a code for the numbers, a key for the numbers of the people there.

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And I just want to see if I can verify with this, do you see just in front of the jukebox the 132?

MRS FLEMING: 132.

MR SANDERS QC: Just the number.

MRS FLEMING: Yes, I do, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MRS FLEMING: Uh-huh.

MR SANDERS QC: And is that where George was? Because we've got 132 as his number on this map.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: This plan.

MRS FLEMING: Well, I was stood in, I would say I was stood central to the fireplace speaking to them. Well, there's not that much difference between …

MR SANDERS QC: So …

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Can you see just in front of 132 there's 325?

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: That's your number.

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Do you think that's where you were?

MRS FLEMING: Right, so I must have been stood … I think well, I thought I was, I thought me and George were more nearer the fireplace than the jukebox, like in between the two, do you know what I mean?

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS FLEMING: (Inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember if Isabella PRICE was near you, or do you not remember her being there?

MRS FLEMING: No, I can't remember where Isabella was.

MR SANDERS QC: And you don't remember there …

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible) sitting with Anne, but I know Anne was sat at a table that I'd left.

MR SANDERS QC: So I just wanted …

MRS FLEMING: It looked like that (?).

MR SANDERS QC: I just want to go round the bench seat …

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm, right.

MR SANDERS QC: … from the fireplace starting just at the left of the fireplace.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember if next to the fireplace was that where Carol BURNS was sitting? It's okay if you don't remember.

MRS FLEMING: I don't remember. I thought Donna was sitting… maybe it was in these seats here, 478 or 471. I might have got them muddled up.

MR SANDERS QC: Mmm hmm.

MRS FLEMING: But I can't remember exactly where they were all sitting. But I only know that they were all sitting in that area, that's as much as I can tell you, I can't remember what order they were sitting.

MR SANDERS QC: No, that's …

MRS FLEMING: To be truthful.

MR SANDERS QC: That's fine …

MRS FLEMING: To be truthful.

MR SANDERS QC: … Mrs FLEMING. But you think Ann HAMILTON and Caroline SLATER were on the side wall of the pub against the wall on the bench seats there.

MRS FLEMING: No, I remember- it's funny how these tables are laid out, but I remember, like, I would say we sat at that table 478 or round that area and then when I got up and stood. But I was stood for just, I was only a wee bit away from them and the tables were behind me. So I think I'm, I'm trying, I'm thinking, I'm trying to think where, what table it would have been. Or that Ann and I would have sat, initially sat down at the table, you know the table that says 478 and 378 …

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS FLEMING: … could have possibly been that table …

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MRS FLEMING: … where Ann would be.

MR SANDERS QC: So that sounds …

MRS FLEMING: It's a bit hard, it's a bit difficult looking at a map to work it out when …

MR SANDERS QC: No, I …

MRS FLEMING: … you can kind of see three dimensional in your head. But I'm, yes, I would say, to me I think that table 478 and 378 was possibly where Ann and I sat, and then I got up and Ann, well, Ann didn't get up (inaudible) did she? Sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: No, that's very helpful, thank you, Mrs FLEMING. I don't have any further questions for you.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm, beg your pardon.

MR SANDERS QC: No, that's alright, take your time.

MRS FLEMING: I'm okay, it's just when I think about them.

MR SANDERS QC: No, it's understandable.

MRS FLEMING: I mean me and Ann, although it was only three weeks, we'd been together- when you're living in that kind of environment and it's just three weeks, though it's morning, noon and night, we got to be really close and we were the best of friends, so it's difficult.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, of course.

MRS FLEMING: So I beg your pardon, I beg your pardon.

MR SANDERS QC: No, there's no need for that Mrs FLEMING.

MRS FLEMING: I'm sorry I've been so (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: I don't have any more questions for you. If you just wait …

MRS FLEMING: I don't think I've been very helpful.

MR SANDERS QC: No, you have been very helpful. There may be some other questions, if you just wait there, but I think we're almost finished.

MRS FLEMING: Right.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MRS FLEMING: Uh-huh. Yeah.

CORONER: **Mrs FLEMING, I think the camera is coming back to me. No, you have been …**

MRS FLEMING: Hello.

CORONER: **… very helpful indeed, Mrs FLEMING. You have been doing your best and it has helped me to have an image of the situation …**

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

CORONER: **… at the time. And so I am very grateful to you. Can I just ask you this, just as a final question for me: immediately before the explosion you …**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **… picture yourself now close to the, or somewhere by the fireplace looking at the bar …**

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

CORONER: **… in the direction of the bar.**

MRS FLEMING: Yeah, uh-huh.

CORONER: **And George is to one side, and you are chatting to George at that time.**

MRS FLEMING: Yes, mmm hmm.

CORONER: **Do you recall now in your mind's eye when you think of it, was George to your left when you were talking to him or to your right as you were talking to him?**

MRS FLEMING: To my right, he would have been to my right.

CORONER: **So he would have been to your right.**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **So you are facing …**

MRS FLEMING: Uh-huh.

CORONER: **You are facing …**

MRS FLEMING: Right.

CORONER: **You are facing the bar, the fireplace is …**

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

CORONER: **… to your left.**

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

CORONER: **And George is to your right you think in your mind's eye now?**

MRS FLEMING: No, I'm facing the bar … Sorry, say that again please to me.

CORONER: **Sorry, yes. So as I have understood it, and I just want to be clear I have got it in my head right.**

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

CORONER: **You are facing the bar?**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **So …**

MRS FLEMING: So the fireplace would be on my left.

CORONER: **The fireplace would be on your left. And your recollection …**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **… now is that George would have been to your right facing …**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **… the fireplace in other words.**

MRS FLEMING: Yes, uh-huh.

CORONER: **Yes. No, I have got it, thank you. Let me just ask if any other …**

MRS FLEMING: It would be on my … Excuse me …

CORONER: **Yes.**

MRS FLEMING: … can I just say it would be on my right, but like, you know like side by side on my right? Oh, you've got that right, he'd be on my right, but he'd be facing the fireplace and the jukebox sort of, but …

CORONER: **Yes, sort of, yes.**

MRS FLEMING: … talking to me.

CORONER: **Exactly.**

MRS FLEMING: Is that right? Uh-huh.

CORONER: **So that is the sort of position.**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **Let me just check, Mrs FLEMING, I just want to check with the other barristers if anybody has any further questions for you.**

MS BARTON QC: I do, sir, yes please.

CORONER: **So I am going to introduce you now to, Fiona BARTON QC who represents Surrey Police in these inquests. So the camera will pick up Ms BARTON when she starts talking.**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **And so, I will pass you over to Ms BARTON.**

MS BARTON QC: Good morning. I think the camera will …

MRS FLEMING: Good morning.

MS BARTON QC: … begin to turn as I speak.

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

MS BARTON QC: Do you have me now?

CORONER: **Not quite.**

MS BARTON QC: Not quite, it's coming down.

CORONER: **There you are.**

MS BARTON QC: There we are.

CORONER: **There you are, yes. Oh, no, up a little bit.**

MS BARTON QC: Oh, I think we've lost my head.

MRS FLEMING: Yes, I do, yes, uh-huh.

MS BARTON QC: Thank you.

MRS FLEMING: Have you now.

MS BARTON QC: There's just a couple of questions I want to ask you please about your statement.

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: First of all, what you're saying today is that your recollection today does not match what you read in your witness statement, is that correct?

MRS FLEMING: Yeah, yes, uh-huh.

MS BARTON QC: Now, do you accept that there are a number of reasons why that might be the case? Firstly, a very long period of time has elapsed, so …

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: … that plays tricks with the memory, doesn't it?

MRS FLEMING: Certainly, yes, I take that on board, yeah.

MS BARTON QC: The second thing is that when the witness statement was taken from you it was only …

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MS BARTON QC: … five days after the event and you were in hospital at the time, weren't you?

MRS FLEMING: Yes, mmm hmm.

MS BARTON QC: And so your state of mind at the time, given that you had been shocked and badly injured, was not the best.

MRS FLEMING: No, it wouldn't be.

MS BARTON QC: No. But back in 1974 you were somebody who would have done your very best to tell the truth to the police officers who were taking the statement, wouldn't you?

MRS FLEMING: Of course I would, mmm hmm.

MS BARTON QC: Yes. And can I ask for the handwritten witness statement to go back on the screen, please? I believe its reference is 20-77. Just leave that there, that's ideal.

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MS BARTON QC: You can see your signature on that witness statement, can't you?

MRS FLEMING: Yeah, yes, I can, mmm hmm.

MS BARTON QC: Right. And that signature is directly under these words, isn't it? 'This statement consisting of seven pages each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it …

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MS BARTON QC: … knowing that if it's tendered in evidence I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe …

MRS FLEMING: Mmm.

MS BARTON QC: … to be true.'

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MS BARTON QC: In signing immediately underneath those words you were aware that you were signing a statement that had to be true to the best of your knowledge and belief on that date, weren't you?

MRS FLEMING: Yes, I was.

MS BARTON QC: Thank you very much.

CORONER: **Mr PLEETH?**

MR PLEETH: Thank you sir.

CORONER: **Mrs FLEMING, I am just going to introduce you now to Mr PLEETH of Counsel who represents the Ministry of Defence.**

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

CORONER: **The camera will pick him up if you start talking actually.**

MRS FLEMING: Hello.

MR PLEETH: Can you see me, Mrs FLEMING?

CORONER: **Yes.**

MRS FLEMING: Yes, I can, uh-huh.

MR PLEETH: And can I thank you for helping us in the way that you're able to with your evidence today.

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

MR PLEETH: I think you've told us both in evidence and in your witness statement that you had started at the WRAC on the 16th of September and so I think the entire period of your service led up to the 4th of October. And as you've told us you left shortly thereafter, didn't you?

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

MR PLEETH: Is that right?

MRS FLEMING: Yes, mmm hmm.

MR PLEETH: Do you remember when you first joined the WRAC who your Platoon Commander was? Do you remember who the second …

MRS FLEMING: No.

MR PLEETH: … Lieutenant in charge of your platoon was?

MRS FLEMING: No, I can't remember, I'm sorry.

MR PLEETH: That's fine. Do you remember …

MRS FLEMING: I can't …

MR PLEETH: I'm just going to ask you some more details about those first few weeks if you don't mind. Do you remember …

MRS FLEMING: Yeah.

MR PLEETH: … who your corporal was within your platoon?

MRS FLEMING: I think I did, I think you mentioned the name and now I can't remember, I'm very sorry.

MR PLEETH: That's fine.

MRS FLEMING: (inaudible) too much.

MR PLEETH: We've heard also that there would have been a major who was the company commander sitting above the platoon. Do you remember who that individual was?

MRS FLEMING: I don't remember names, no.

MR PLEETH: That's fine. When you first joined the WRAC do you remember there being any form of induction program telling you where you needed to be and how the course was going to operate?

MRS FLEMING: I think so, yes.

MR PLEETH: And do you remember …

MRS FLEMING: I couldn't tell you all in detail.

MR PLEETH: You anticipated the next question I was going to ask you. Do you remember the details of those induction talks?

MRS FLEMING: No.

MR PLEETH: Do you remember for example being told about something called part one or part two orders?

MRS FLEMING: No.

MR PLEETH: Do you remember being told something about routine orders?

MRS FLEMING: No.

MR PLEETH: Do you remember any other details about what you were or were not told in those early induction lectures?

MRS FLEMING: I can't remember, I'm sorry.

MR PLEETH: That's fine, thank you for doing your best to assist us, Mrs FLEMING.

MRS FLEMING: No, I'm sorry.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Mr SANDERS?**

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: No, thank you, sir.

CORONER: **Mrs FLEMING, that concludes …**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **… the evidence that you are going to give during the course …**

MRS FLEMING: Mmm hmm.

CORONER: **… of this inquest. I am very grateful to you, I know it has …**

MRS FLEMING: Uh-huh.

CORONER: **… been difficult for you, and I appreciate that.**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **I am grateful to you for the evidence that you have given. But as I say, that now concludes the evidence and so I will say goodbye. Thank you once again, and we will end the link. Thank you, Mrs FLEMING.**

MRS FLEMING: Thank you very much, thank you, bye.

CORONER: **Cheerio, bye-bye. In that case, MRS FLEMING, I think the link needs to be cut probably at your end. I think there may …**

MRS FLEMING: Oh, alright, yeah.

CORONER: **Is …**

MRS FLEMING: Okay.

CORONER: **If there is a red telephone, hit that and …**

MRS FLEMING: Yes.

CORONER: **… we will say goodbye. Cheerio.**

MRS FLEMING: Thank you very much again, bye.

CORONER: **Bye-bye. Right, Mr SANDERS, I think we will take our mid-morning break. Can we be back again, please, in about 15, 20 minutes? Thank you.**

(A short adjournment)

CLERK: Court please rise.

CORONER: **Mr SANDERS, I think our next witness is going to be another video link witness, Brian CALVERT.**

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

CORONER: **Do you know, Heather, is Mr CALVERT taking the oath or the affirmation?**

MRS NIN: I haven't asked him. He has the wordings for both.

CORONER: **Okay, thank you, we will ask.**

MRS NIN: Mr CALVERT, could you turn on your camera please?

MR CALVERT: Yeah, it's on.

MRS NIN: You're not visible to the court.

MR CALVERT: I can see the court.

MRS NIN: No, we can't see you unfortunately.

MR CALVERT: Okay. All I've got on my screen in front of me is the highlighted and the summary of the coroner's court. Bear with me, please.

CORONER: **Mr CALVERT, can you hear me?**

MR CALVERT: Hello. Can you see …? Sorry, your honour, is it on now?

CORONER: **Can you hear me Mr CALVERT?**

MR CALVERT: Yes, yes, I can.

CORONER: **Mr CALVERT, I am Richard Travers, I am the Senior Coroner here in Surrey, so I am conducting this inquest. And at the moment, you can hear me. I can hear you, not terribly clearly so I am going to have to ask you to speak … Oh, now I can see you. You have appeared on the screen.**

MR CALVERT: Okay.

CORONER: **Good, I can see you nice and clearly. Mr CALVERT, I am going to have to ask you to keep your voice right up because you are slightly quiet here in court. And not only …**

MR CALVERT: Okay.

CORONER: **… do we need to hear you, but I am also recording the proceedings and so I need to be able to ensure that your voice is audible on the recording. So if you could do your very best please to keep your voice as loud as possible.**

MR CALVERT: Okay.

CORONER: **What we will do to begin with please, I think you have been given some wording either to take the oath with a bible or another holy book, or to affirm, in which case effectively you are promising to tell the truth. Which would you rather do?**

MR CALVERT: Affirm to tell the truth.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Do you have the wording there in front of you, or alternatively I can read it out and you can repeat it after me?**

MR CALVERT: I have it in front of me.

CORONER: **Thank you. Would you be so kind as to read the wording and putting your full name in please? Read it as clearly and as loudly**

as you can and then we will take it from there please. So in your own time please.

MR BRIAN CALVERT (affirmed):

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Thank you, that is very helpful. Heather, I think the camera … At the moment, I think- is the view you have got just of the whole court, Mr CALVERT?**

MR CALVERT: Yeah, but it's in a smaller version.

CORONER: **Yes. What is going to happen now is that the camera in court is going to move around. It has just moved, I think you can probably see me better now, can't you, because I am talking.**

MR CALVERT: Yes, I can, yes.

CORONER: **So first of all, thank you for giving evidence this morning, or this afternoon, Mr CALVERT, it is very helpful. Can I ask you to give the court your full name please?**

MR CALVERT: Brian Calvert.

CORONER: **Thank you. Mr CALVERT, what I am going to do now is I am going to pass you over to Oliver SANDERS QC who is lead counsel for the inquest. Mr SANDERS will be asking you some questions on my behalf. Then when he has concluded his questions there maybe some further questions either from me and or from two of the other barristers here in court with me. The camera when Mr**

SANDERS starts talking will move to him. So I will now introduce you to Mr SANDERS.

MR SANDERS QC: Good afternoon, Mr CALVERT. Can you see me?

MR CALVERT: Hello, good afternoon, I can hear you and I can see you as well.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. Can I ask first- you don't need to give your full address, but could you tell the court where you're living at the moment?

MR CALVERT: In North Wales.

MR SANDERS QC: And that's where you are on this link at the moment?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Is there anyone else in the room with you?

MR CALVERT: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And what's your occupation now?

MR CALVERT: I'm retired.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. Just to start with, I just need to take you to the police statements that you made at the time of the Guildford pub bombing just to confirm that they're your statements. They're going to appear on the screen in front of you. The first is at- you don't need to do anything, they'll just come up. The first is at 20-12. And we have here, it's a statement of Brian CALVERT, it gives the address that you had in Hong Kong at the time.

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: It's dated the 6th of October 1974. And is that your signature under the date?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And I think you've been provided with a typed-up copy of this to refresh your memory, is that correct?

MR CALVERT: Yes, it is correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And then just going down to the bottom – is that your signature at the bottom again?

MR CALVERT: Yes, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. And then there is one other subsequent statement, this is at 20-15, and it's the 23rd of October 74.

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And can you confirm again that's your signature at the top?

MR CALVERT: Yes, that's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And then down underneath as well, is that …? Oh, there.

MR CALVERT: Yes, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. You had an opportunity to re-read typed up versions of both your statements, is that correct?

MR CALVERT: That's correct.

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

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So the Guildford pub bombing took place on the 5th of October 1974, you were 20 at the time, is that correct?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And what was your occupation at the time?

MR CALVERT: At the time I was training to be an army physical training instructor.

MR SANDERS QC: So you were a private in the army?

MR CALVERT: Yes, I was. Yes, I was.

MR SANDERS QC: And what was your regiment?

MR CALVERT: Royal Hampshire Regiment.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And when did you first enlist into the Royal Hampshire Regiment?

MR CALVERT: In around 1970.

MR SANDERS QC: So you'd been in- almost as soon as you left school did you join?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And you were stationed in Hong Kong, but in the UK to do a physical training instructor course at Hammersley Barracks, Aldershot, is that correct?

MR CALVERT: Yes, that's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. After the Guildford pub bombing how long did you serve in the army for?

MR CALVERT: A short period of time and then I left due to what had happened.

MR SANDERS QC: I see. And you had previous- prior to the Guildford pub bombing you'd served in Northern Ireland, is that correct?

MR CALVERT: Yes, on two tours.

MR SANDERS QC: On two tours?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: How long had those tours been?

MR CALVERT: Four months each.

MR SANDERS QC: Four months each, thank you. Had you been given- I mean presumably you would have been because you were in Northern Ireland, but had you been given training about the threat to the military from the IRA?

MR CALVERT: In my army career I was given it on a regular basis, yes, I was.

MR SANDERS QC: And what was the guidance and the training that you were given? Are you able to remember that?

MR CALVERT: I don't recall.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you recall being given any special advice about for example, letter bombs, bombs under cars, bombs in public places?

MR CALVERT: I remember being trained, but I don't specifically recall the details.

MR SANDERS QC: No, that's understandable, it's obviously a long time ago. Do you remember – and it may be that you won't remember – but do you remember a system known as the BIKINI alert system that the army had?

MR CALVERT: I don't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: So there was a system for army establishments having- being either on black alert, black special alert, or amber alert, does that ring any bells?

MR CALVERT: I remember those words, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember how you were given training about the IRA and about the threat from terrorism?

MR CALVERT: I don't recall those.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you recall being given any advice in Part One or Part Two orders on noticeboards, anything like that?

MR CALVERT: No, I don't recall.

MR SANDERS QC: No, thank you. Do you remember whether there were any rules in place about wearing of uniforms off army establishments when you were off duty?

MR CALVERT: Those rules were predominantly in the beginning of my army career, but after that I don't recall any information given to me.

MR SANDERS QC: What's your memory of the rules that were in place at the time in 1974?

MR CALVERT: No uniform going home, and just be alert.

MR SANDERS QC: Be vigilant while you're out and about?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: What was the reason for the no uniforms rule?

MR CALVERT: It just drew attention to the military.

MR SANDERS QC: In your understanding was it connected to the fact that the military were a target for the IRA?

MR CALVERT: At that time, yes, they was.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. On the day of the bombing it was a Saturday, were you having the day off that day?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were with two friends – do you remember the friends that you were with?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Could you tell us?

MR CALVERT: It was Peter MOORE and Bob LAWTON.

MR SANDERS QC: Were they colleagues of yours in the Royal Hampshire Regiment?

MR CALVERT: No, they was at the army school of physical training with me taking the same course.

MR SANDERS QC: I see, so they were from other units?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And the three of you, is this right, you travelled from Aldershot to Guildford by train?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And had you been to Guildford before that day?

MR CALVERT: No.

MR SANDERS QC: What made you decide to go to Guildford?

MR CALVERT: We just thought we wanted to get out of the Garrison of Aldershot and possibly go to a quieter place which we- that's what we thought it was.

MR SANDERS QC: Could you just repeat that? Sorry, it was slightly difficult to hear.

MR CALVERT: Oh, sorry. We wanted to leave Aldershot because it's a Garrison and we wanted to go somewhere a little bit quieter. That's why we went to Guildford.

MR SANDERS QC: Was it your understanding that there were pubs in Guildford that were frequented by soldiers and military personnel?

MR CALVERT: I don't recall that.

MR SANDERS QC: So you don't, that wasn't part of your thinking so far as you remember it now?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you say in your statement that you arrived in Guildford about 7.30.

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then you spent half an hour in a pub called The Three Pigeons.

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you have any recollection of how you chose that pub or how you came to end up in that pub?

MR CALVERT: No recollection whatsoever. It was just a pub we come to when we went into it.

MR SANDERS QC: Uh-huh. Were Peter MOORE or Bob LAWTON more familiar with Guildford than you were?

MR CALVERT: Can't recall that.

MR SANDERS QC: No, that's fine. And so after The Three Pigeons you went to the Horse and Groom, is that correct?

MR CALVERT: Yes, yes, correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And you got there about eight o'clock.

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And was this the only time you ever went to the pub?

MR CALVERT: Yes, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: And when you went there did you know it was, quote unquote, an army pub, that there would be other soldiers in there?

MR CALVERT: No, I didn't. I did when I walked in, but prior to that I didn't know.

MR SANDERS QC: I see, so when you went in you could immediately see that there were other soldiers in there?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. I just want to ask you a bit about the layout inside the pub and I would just try and refresh your memory by showing you some photos first, and then we'll look at a floorplan. So if we could look first at the photo that's at 4-555. These are photos that were all taken after the explosion, so there's obviously damage clearly in them. But that's

the exterior of the Horse and Groom, and you see there's a bus stop in front of the pub and you can see the area where most of the damage was just beyond the bus stop.

MR CALVERT: Yes, I can, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Does that …

MR CALVERT: Yes, I can see that.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember or recognise the pub at all seeing that photo?

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And I just want to show you some photos of the front of the pub. So, 7-1352. So that's the front there and you can see the front door just under the courage sign and the Horse and Groom sign that's slightly hanging off, do you see that?

MR CALVERT: Yes, I do.

MR SANDERS QC: Was it a relatively small pub inside?

MR CALVERT: It seemed small because of the numbers, the number of people inside it.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. If we could just look at a plan of the pub which is at 1-3. This is the layout, so North Street is at the bottom of the plan and there's the front door that we just looked at as where you went in. How familiar is this to you in terms of the layout?

MR CALVERT: It's fairly familiar to what I can recollect.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And so just going in through the front door there's a fruit machine immediately on the right, and an area with tables and chairs in, and then beyond that the gents' toilets. And then there's another alcove on the left with an L shaped bench seat in the far corner and more tables and chairs in there. And then in the middle of the pub there's a larger alcove which has a jukebox and a fireplace and a C shaped bench seat going all the way around it. Does that seem familiar to you?

MR CALVERT: Yes, it does.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then the bar is on the right extending up to the back wall, and then in the top left-hand corner was the ladies' toilets.

MR CALVERT: Yes, that's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And can you see just in front of the bar, it's not very clearly marked, but there's something in the middle of the floor and the writing there is in fact 'pillars' and there were two pillars there.

MR CALVERT: Yes, sir, I understand, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, thank you. And I just want to show you just a couple of pictures, just to try and take you back there. So the first is at 4-678. If we just go down a bit. That's the bar there and the pillars just in front of it.

MR CALVERT: Yes, I recognise it.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then 4-680. That's taken from the other angle, so you've got the bar on the far right-hand corner, you can then see the pillars there. And then just behind …

MR CALVERT: Yes, I recognise it.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then behind and between the pillars there's the jukebox, and then to the left of the jukebox there's the fireplace.

MR CALVERT: Yes, I recognize the layout.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. Do you remember seeing the bench seats that went around the outsides of the alcoves? Do you remember those?

MR CALVERT: Yes, yes, I do.

MR SANDERS QC: And were they hollow underneath? Was there space to leave things underneath them, do you remember?

MR CALVERT: I don't remember that.

MR SANDERS QC: And when you got to the pub, I think you say eight o'clock?

MR CALVERT: Yes, around about that time, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: How busy was it at that time?

MR CALVERT: It was fairly busy.

MR SANDERS QC: And did it get busier in the time you were in there?

MR CALVERT: Yes, it did. People were coming, people were going as well.

MR SANDERS QC: And would you say that the majority of the people in there were soldiers and army personnel?

MR CALVERT: Yes, I would.

MR SANDERS QC: Are you able to say what sort of percentage of the … very roughly what fraction of the people in there were military?

MR CALVERT: I can't remember that.

MR SANDERS QC: No, but more than half?

MR CALVERT: Yeah, definitely more than half, but I can't remember the percentage.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And so in your statement you say that you began standing near the jukebox, can you remember that?

MR CALVERT: Yes, clearly, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And can you help with what you saw at that time when you first went in and were near the jukebox?

MR CALVERT: When we first went in, we went to the bar, got a drink, at the time I didn't drink because I was on a PT course. It was busy there, and then we moved over near the jukebox, and it was busy as I said, it was bustling with people, people were leaving, people were arriving. And the next thing I knew the bomb had gone off.

MR SANDERS QC: I just want to take you to your statement, the statement that you made at the time, and this is at page 2-93.

MR CALVERT: I can see that.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And I just want to just take you to the wording that you used. So it's at the bottom, you described some people you saw in the

pub. And then you said, 'After we had been in the pub for about half an hour,' so to your recollection it's around 8.30, 'there was a flash, and I was thrown back right to the end of the bar. The flash came from under the table that the three women had been sitting at.' So I just want to clarify with you if we go back to the plan at 1-3, whereabouts were you standing? Sort of near the jukebox?

MR CALVERT: I was standing I would say in front of the jukebox.

MR SANDERS QC: Near the lower of those two pillars that's marked there?

MR CALVERT: Are you saying nearer the pillars, or towards the outer wall where the front door is?

MR SANDERS QC: I'm just trying to get a rough idea. If you see the main alcove with the fireplace …

MR CALVERT: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: … and the jukebox in, were you not in that alcove, but at the edge of it near the pillar that's just in front of the bar?

MR CALVERT: No, I was directly in front of the jukebox. I would say I was closer to the fireplace.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MR CALVERT: And the pillar … sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: When the explosion happened you say you were thrown to the back of the bar, do you mean the top of that map towards the back wall of the pub?

MR CALVERT: No, to my best recollection I was thrown if you face the bar from the fireplace towards the bar.

MR SANDERS QC: Towards the bar?

MR CALVERT: Yes, towards the bar.

MR SANDERS QC: And then your sense at the time was that the explosion emanated from, there was a flash which came from under a table, and was that the table that we see at the end of the partition between the two alcoves?

MR CALVERT: Yes, that's where I thought it come from. But afterwards after a good few … because the evidence that I gave in my statement was the day after, that's where I thought it come from.

CORONER: **Sorry, can we just clarify which table on this plan?**

MR SANDERS QC: So, sir, if you see the main alcove and then the alcove below it.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: The partition between the two alcoves at the end of that, at sort of the end of the pier there's a table.

CORONER: **Is that the table, can you see where the cursor is on the screen, Mr CALVERT?**

MR CALVERT: Yes, I can.

CORONER: **Is that …**

MR CALVERT: Yes.

CORONER: **Is that the table you are referring to?**

MR CALVERT: Yes, it is.

CORONER: **Thank you very much, thank you.**

MR SANDERS QC: And, Mr CALVERT, you're clear that you remember a flash.

MR CALVERT: Yes, I am.

MR SANDERS QC: But do you think now that it might have come from a different area?

MR CALVERT: Yes, I do.

MR SANDERS QC: Where now do you think it came from?

MR CALVERT: To the left of the fireplace in the alcove.

MR SANDERS QC: And what makes you think that?

MR CALVERT: Because of the debris, the damage in and around that alcove. Afterwards, after I'd given my evidence and handed it over and thought about it, that's where I felt that the bomb actually come from.

MR SANDERS QC: And that would make sense, wouldn't it? Because you were blown towards the bar.

MR CALVERT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And so the source of the blast must have been on the left hand side of the plan?

MR CALVERT: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: What else do you remember about the moment of the explosion?

MR CALVERT: All I can remember is going, seeing a flash and then I was, this happened in a split second, going straight towards the bar, and hitting the bar.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you …

MR CALVERT: And that's the last I remember.

MR SANDERS QC: So were you unconscious for a period after the explosion?

MR CALVERT: Yes, I was.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember the lights going out?

MR CALVERT: The lights were out when I come- when I woke up.

MR SANDERS QC: But you don't remember the lights going out at the moment of the explosion?

MR CALVERT: No, when an explosion happens in such a close vicinity like that everything is just split second.

MR SANDERS QC: Sure, I understand. And you mention in your statement that you had a sense that the flash may have come from a brown parcel, what do you think about that now in hindsight?

MR CALVERT: In hindsight after thinking about the explosion it most probably didn't come from that area …

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR CALVERT: … under the table at the end of the partition.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you think you have any recollection of seeing any brown parcels anywhere in the pub or on the floor?

MR CALVERT: At the time of my evidence, I believe it was true when I gave it.

MR SANDERS QC: But that's not your view now on reflection?

MR CALVERT: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you have a sense of being unconscious for a long time or just for a momentarily?

MR CALVERT: When I woke up there was debris over me, I kicked it off and I stood up. And there was one door in and one door out I remember, and I went towards the door and I hit some debris on the floor, fell over, and people were panicking to go out, get out the door. And then what I did was get up on my hands and knees, crawl backwards, then I went to the right where the fireplace is, and then I went towards one of the windows that had been blown out, to get out. And when I got out there was debris there, the police were set up and the ambulances were out, so that led me to believe that I'd been unconscious for a short period.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And did you see the hole in the floor in front of the fireplace that had been created by the bomb?

MR CALVERT: I don't recollect that.

MR SANDERS QC: No. I just want to ask you about your- what we think from the basis on what you said in your statement where we think you were in the pub.

And there's a plan that I'm going to ask to be put on the screen which is at 4-69. If you do it, so, no no, go back, zoom out and just so, leave it there for a second. So this is the same floorplan but it's got multiple numbers to indicate where different people were at the time of the explosion. And I just want to zoom in to the right-hand sector of the main alcove where the jukebox and the fireplace were. Just zoom in there, a bit more. Can you see, Mr CALVERT, where the number 55 is there?

MR CALVERT: Yes, I can.

MR SANDERS QC: There?

MR CALVERT: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Does that seem about right for where you were standing? That's the best that we've been able to do.

MR CALVERT: Yes, I would say that's fairly correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: That's correct, thank you. Could you help us with what happened once you got outside of the pub, did you go in an ambulance to hospital or something else?

MR CALVERT: No, when I got outside, well I met up with the two, LAWTON and MOORE, the friends, and everybody seemed to, as you can understand, there was a lot going on outside. And we both, all three of us had been to Northern Ireland before so we know what it was like in that sort of

situation. So what we decided was, to go to the train station, go back to Aldershot, go to the hospital myself and check ourselves in because we thought the ambulance and the police had enough to do.

MR SANDERS QC: And …

MR CALVERT: And we was capable of going back and checking ourselves in.

MR SANDERS QC: And what injuries had you sustained?

MR CALVERT: Cuts and bruises to my shin, my sternum and my left ear got damaged and there was particles in my eyes.

MR SANDERS QC: And were you admitted to hospital for any time, or was it that you were just checked over and discharged?

MR CALVERT: Yes, I was checked in and I can't recall how many days I was in.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Mr CALVERT, that's been very helpful. I don't have any further questions for you, but if you just wait on a second there may be some other questions from either the Learned coroner or the other barristers.

CORONER: **Ms BARTON, Mr PLEETH, do you have anything?**

MR PLEETH: I don't have any questions.

CORONER: **No, thank you.**

MR PLEETH: Thank you sir.

CORONER: **Mr CALVERT, thank you very much, Mr CALVERT. There are no further questions, that has been very helpful, you have painted**

a very clear picture, so I am grateful to you. That now concludes your evidence to this inquest and so once again, many thanks.

MR CALVERT: Okay, thank you very much.

CORONER: **Cheerio, bye bye.**

MR CALVERT: Cheerio, bye.

CORONER: **Heather, is that ended?**

MRS NIN: Yes.

CORONER: **Thank you. Mr SANDERS, I think we have another witness who is Mr COOPER. Is Mr COOPER in court?**

MR SANDERS QC: We do, but what I was, I think he's outside.

CORONER: **He is outside.**

MR SANDERS QC: What I was going to suggest is …

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: … that rather than start him and perhaps go into lunch that we read Isabella PRICE which will complete the BURNS party …

CORONER: **I see.**

MR SANDERS QC: … evidence. And then hear from him after lunch.

CORONER: **Alright. And then is Gail YOUNG as well to be read?**

MR SANDERS QC: No, we're not going to read Gail YOUNG on reflection …

CORONER: **So we are not going to hear from Gail YOUNG.**

MR SANDERS QC: We've removed that, yes.

CORONER: **So Isabella PRICE. And so that, I suppose, also means that we have then dealt with the BURNS party …**

MR SANDERS QC: Subject to …

CORONER: **… as a whole.**

MR SANDERS QC: … where we get with Sheila HIGHAM, yes.

CORONER: **Yes, subject to that.**

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

CORONER: **So who is going to read? Thank you.**

MS KUZMENKO: The first statement from Isabella PRICE is at S262, Caselines 2-381.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MS KUZMENKO: (Reads statement of Isabella PRICE in full)

'I am a recruit in the WRAC at Guildford, and I have been at the training centre for three weeks. On Saturday the 5th of October 1974 after training classes had finished for the day I went for dinner on the camp. Immediately after dinner I left camp with Private Janet OLIVER, Private Ann HAMILTON, and Private Angela SHORT. We booked out at about 12.30pm. We caught the bus into Guildford and as soon as we got there, we went to the railway station where Ann bought a train ticket for the following weekend. From there we went to the Greyhound Public House for a drink, Angela waited outside for us. We were inside for about a quarter of an hour. After that we just went shopping in the

town area. We caught a bus back to the centre and booked in about 3.30pm. At 7.15pm the same day Private Janet OLIVER, Private Ann HAMILTON and Private Caroline SLATER and I left the camp. We caught a taxi into Guildford, it dropped us off outside the Horse and Groom Public House. We went inside and up to the bar, we all had lager and lime. We stood a while in the centre area of the pub. I saw Private Sheila PARROTTE and Private Bubbles Veronica MARSH with some soldiers. I saw in the far corner was sat Private LE-GRYS, I'm not sure of the name, but it is French. She was with a boy who was a soldier. After we had stood there for a while, we moved over to some bench seats opposite the fireplace. The bench seat was attached to the partition. Caroline was opposite the fireplace, Janet was on her left, and I was next to her, Ann was on my left, we sat in a row. Next to Ann was another lass, not with our company though. Next to her was another girl from our camp, she was not a recruit, but I don't know her name. They left about five minutes after we sat on the bench. Ann and I moved up the bench and as we did so two lads sat down between Janet and me. The lad who sat next to me was about 21 years old, well built, he had dark hair and a moustache, I did not detect an accent. He was wearing dark clothing. Sitting next to him was a Scots lad who was blonde, slim, with a very broad Scots accent. He was 17 or 18 years

old. He was wearing a t-shirt with a boat shaped neck, over the top of this he wore a jacket which was light-ish in colour, I think. Ann had a newspaper she was reading, and she read out aloud her horoscope, then I read mine. There was another lad sitting opposite us on a stool, he was with the other two lads, but I didn't take a lot of notice of him. All I can say about him is that he had blonde hair in a crewcut style. He was about 17 years old and slim. One of the lads asked if he could look at the paper to see the jokes. He said after looking that he couldn't find the jokes, so the paper was handed back and I said, 'You didn't look very hard because they're here,' and I handed it back to him. I noticed Janet had got up during this time and was standing by the jukebox which was beside the fireplace, she was talking to a lad who was leaning with his back to the jukebox. Later Janet told me his name was George and that he was a paratrooper. We finished our first drink, Ann joined Janet at the jukebox and then they moved to the bar. The lad with the moustache had moved, and I don't know where to. I called to Janet and Ann to get my drink. The Scot's lad was sitting beside me, we were very squashed together on the bench. I started to talk to him just about general things, he told me that he had only been in the army a few weeks and that he had missed a lot of drill because of something wrong with his stomach. He said he had bandages all around his middle. He said

his hair had been very long. There was a lot of general small talk about army. Then Janet and Ann brought the drinks back, Ann sat next to me again. I remember Ann saying to Janet, 'Why don't you try and squeeze in here?' But I didn't see what she did. There was another girl in the same part of the pub as us called Private Carol BURNS, she was there with her mother and father, and they were celebrating Carol's birthday. I had been speaking to them earlier about the army. We finished that drink and then either Janet or Ann decided to go down to the Seven Stars for a dance. On my way out I spoke to Private Caroline MACRAE who was sitting at the very end of the partition as you turned to go out. We left the pub at about 8.40pm, we met two army girls who were on their way back from the Seven Stars and they told us not to bother as it was packed. Caroline SLATER stayed behind in the Horse and Groom, I don't know where she was in the pub, but she was in a group somewhere. We arrived at the Seven Stars and outside was a group of girls and a couple of lads sitting on their feet in a crouched position. Janet said to me, 'They are the ones who were goading us last night.' I didn't recognize them at all as I had stayed at the camp the previous night. We went into the Seven Stars, it was crowded so we walked straight through and out through the other saloon bar onto the street. I noticed that the group that were outside had gone. We started to walk

back to the Horse and Groom, we went inside. The Scot's lad was still sitting in the same place. Ann sat down in the same place as before and put my handbag on the bench seat where I had been before. I was surprised the seats were still empty. I had my purse in my hand. I noticed the lad with the moustache was sitting on a stool at the corner of the jukebox. The Scot's lad said to me, 'Oh, you're back then.' I acknowledged him and then walked to the fireplace. I stood with my left shoulder against the end of the fireplace which was nearest the jukebox. Janet was in front of me. I was trying to move towards the bar. I knew Ann had no money and that was why she was sitting down, she was in the far corner next to the Scot's lad, my bag was between them. I never did see Caroline again. The next thing that I remember was a flash of light and a loud bang, they happened together. Then I heard a booming noise, but whether that was just my ears, I don't know. I shouted, 'Janet, Janet, Janet,' there was screaming and couldn't see anybody. I saw shapes, but I couldn't make anybody out, everything seemed to be in slow motion, and it seemed as if things were revolving. My legs were caught between tables and bits of debris and all sorts, I just seemed to be jammed, I couldn't get free. I eventually wriggled free, and I made my way to the door, how I don't know. I didn't know where anybody was, and I was in no state to stop and look. When I got

outside I fell to the floor and two lads picked me up and helped me across to the other side of the road. One lad left and the other one stayed with me, he helped me towards the ambulances, they were all full. A woman came on the scene, and she took me to her house which was nearby. She later took me to the hospital in her car. I cannot remember seeing anyone who was acting suspiciously that night, but as I was in the corner I couldn't see much anyway. My injuries were all down my left side, I had burns and bits of debris in my skin and many bruises. My ears were damaged and my left one is perforated. My hair and eyebrows were badly singed. When I saw the flash in the pub it seemed very close and to my left-hand side, I think it came from the corner of the fire.'

That was signed on the 8th of October 1974. We then have the addendum statement, which is at 262A, case lines 2-385. 'Yesterday a police officer came and showed me a photograph of a man who I now know to be SCANLAN. He was sat next to me for about ten minutes when I was in the Horse and Groom Public House on the first occasion. I sat down first, and I think he was looking for a seat and he sat next to me. That was the first time I noticed him. Ann was sitting next to me all the time. He didn't have any conversation with me. The Scot's lad I mentioned in my other statement was beside him, we just passed a

newspaper backwards and forwards. When I came into the pub the second time just before the bomb went off SCANLAN was sitting on a stool with his back to the jukebox. On the same table I noticed Cathy LARGE. This table was at the end of the partition.' That was then signed by Isabella PRICE on the 9th of October 1974.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. So we will break there for lunch in general. After lunch we will hear evidence from Stephen COOPER. Can we sit again please at ten to two? Chris, could you ask Mr COOPER to be back and ready to give evidence at ten to two, please? Thank you very much.**

CLERK: Court please rise.

(Luncheon adjournment)

CORONER: **So I think we are starting with Stephen COOPER?**

MR SANDERS QC: That's right, if we call him now.

CORONER: Mr COOPER?

MR STEPHEN COOPER (sworn):

CORONER: **Thank you, do sit down, Mr COOPER. Good afternoon. Could you give me your full name, please?**

MR COOPER: Stephen COOPER.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Mr COOPER, I'm going to pass you to- over to Mr SANDERS who will be asking questions on my behalf. It's very important, please, that you keep your voice up or come a bit further forwards to the microphone. We all need to hear you, because also I am recording to what's being said, and so we need to ensure you are heard on the recording. Yeah, (inaudible).**

UNKNOWN: (inaudible)

CORONER: **No, I know, I'm (inaudible) okay.**

MR COOPER: (inaudible)?

CORONER: **Yeah, that's probably, you've finished, but that's fine but anyway, if I need to I can give you a reminder occasionally to keep your voice up. Thank you very much.**

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, sir. Good afternoon, Mr COOPER. To start with, could you please- you don't need to give your full home address, but just confirm where you're living at the moment?

MR COOPER: In North London.

MR SANDERS QC: And are you employed?

MR COOPER: I'm in the process of retiring.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. From?

MR COOPER: Landscape gardening.

MR SANDERS QC: From landscape gardening?

MR COOPER: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Very good, thank you. I'm going to start just by taking you to the statements you gave to the police at the time of the Guildford Pub Bombing, just to verify that they're yours. They will appear on the screen next to you. The first is at 20-154. Can you see that? That's a statement of Stephen COOPER, 14th of October 1974. It's not signed by you because, as we see, I think at the bottom it's signed by DC BOTHAM because you were still in hospital at the time and you were unable to sign.

MR COOPER: Yes, I can confirm that that's ... Do you mind if I get a paper copy of it?

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, someone will pop and get it for you.

MR COOPER: (inaudible)

MR SANDERS QC: No, that's fine, because you have probably been given a slightly-- given a typed up version of it, a typed transcript of that, but do you remember speaking to the police while you were in hospital and giving your statement?

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, and then the second statement which is a bit later dated the 8th of November '74, that's at 20-160. And, again, that's- it's not signed, and it says 'signed S COOPER' but there is no manuscripts of

it because your statement was taken at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton.

MR COOPER: Yes, I can confirm, I remember.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. I think you were in hospital for seven weeks after the blast.

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: You've had an opportunity to re-read the statements?

MR COOPER: I have, yeah.

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

MR COOPER: I don't remember much of the detail, and I was surprised at the degree of that in terms of sort of the particulars of the social interactions- my memories, you know, the story that I can remember, and the series of events. So, as far as I'm concerned, yes, it is as I remember it. There is one detail, but I can't remember (inaudible) altogether and that is the trip to Woking that is referred to quite early on in the first statement.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR COOPER: My memory of the whole thing is that the first time we went out from the camp was on the night of the bomb blast.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: I tried to rationalise that retrospectively and it might be that the first time we'd been out of the camp it wasn't for the evening, so I'm just remembering that we went out ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, I understand.

MR COOPER: ... rather than, so that's the only ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MR COOPER: Right, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. I'm just going to start by showing a picture of you at the time, this is to try and just sort of take, take you back to 1974, so there is a picture on the case line system at 4-199.

CORONER: **Sorry, I think if you (inaudible) as well?**

MR SANDERS QC: I don't know if my microphone's stopped working.

UNKNOWN: (inaudible)

MR SANDERS QC: Apologies. Yeah, so it's 4-199, please, and that's you there on the right. The police came and took a Polaroid of you for their album of everyone in Guildford on the night of the bombing. You had just recently enlisted with the Scots Guards.

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: That's correct?

MR COOPER: Correct.

MR SANDERS QC: I think Saturday the 14th of September was the day you joined up.

MR COOPER: Was that the day I physically went (inaudible)?

MR SANDERS QC: That's when you first went to Pirbright, so it's three weeks before then.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you stay in the Army after the bombing?

MR COOPER: No, I was medically discharged in (inaudible) some months, and I (inaudible) the following year.

MR SANDERS QC: So you were only a serving soldier for a very, very short period?

MR COOPER: Yeah, a short time.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Your unit was the Caterham Company of the Scots Guards. Is that right, correct?

MR COOPER: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were stationed at Pirbright?

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And that was about six or seven miles outside of Guildford. Does that sound right?

MR COOPER: I can't remember if it was close or not, specifically (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: How much do you remember about the basic recruit training that you had in those brief three weeks?

MR COOPER: I can remember the nature of it, it was pretty brutal experiences 'cause those two weeks as a squaddie (inaudible) ...

MR SANDERS QC: A rude awakening?

MR COOPER: It was harsh, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, so at the time you were 18. Had you just left school, or had you done something else between school and joining the army?

MR COOPER: I'd worked as an apprentice engineer for a couple of years before.

MR SANDERS QC: And so what camp ...? Go on.

MR COOPER: I (inaudible) I joined the Scots Guards, I played the bagpipes at the time ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: ... and that was, I would just be the motivation 'cause at the time it was a very good school at piping.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, and so tell me what you can remember about the first three weeks?

MR COOPER: Well, I can just remember lots of drill and cleaning things, and parade around the (inaudible), and we did the assault course a few times. There was no heating in the barracks at all.

MR SANDERS QC: No heating?

MR COOPER: There just was a big hole in the wall where the heating system should have been, so it was pretty harsh, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you obviously had your hair cut short on arrival?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember being given any training about the IRA or the threat to the Military from the IRA?

MR COOPER: Not specifically, no, I don't.

MR SANDERS QC: When you say you don't remember, do you mean you don't remember, you don't think there was any, or you're just not sure?

MR COOPER: I don't think there was any.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Do you remember anything about the security alert level, something called the Bikini Alert System? Does that ring any bells to you?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember anything about Part 1 or Part 2 orders being put on the noticeboards?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Was the Pirbright camp fenced? Was it secure in that sense?

MR COOPER: I don't remember it being fenced. I remember it being very open plan. I had been down there previously to do a (inaudible) effectively, and there was quite- the sense of space, and it was spread out. It's quite a strong memory.

MR SANDERS QC: Were you from the area as growing up or when you were doing your apprenticeship?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Go on?

MR COOPER: I'm from the West Midlands.

MR SANDERS QC: West Midlands? Do you remember any sense of there being a threat from the IRA or a general sense of people being vigilant or checking under cars or checking letters or packages for devices?

MR COOPER: I don't remember any of that at the time, the actual short period of training was all-encompassing in terms of (inaudible) yourself, you're not, you're taking information around- from around you (inaudible)?

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, sure.

MR COOPER: Was mainly, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. Were you aware that there had been an IRA bomb attack at Pirbright the year before in September 1973?

MR COOPER: I don't remember having that awareness at the time (inaudible) down there.

MR SANDERS QC: The Saturday the 5th of October, was that your first day off in the three weeks, do you think?

MR COOPER: That's how I remember it, which is contrary to the trip to Woking.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, the trip to Woking? Yes.

MR COOPER: Yeah, and it was a bit of (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: When you were off duty or allowed off the camp were you free to do whatever you wanted?

MR COOPER: I don't remember anybody placing any restrictions, but that was the first evening when we were allowed to go out, so in the sense of what we wanted to do was to go and socialise in the town.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember being given any advice about being vigilant in the town or not getting too drunk or not going to certain places?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Sorry, go on.

MR COOPER: No, that's fine. I'm just (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: No, it's helpful, thank you. Do you remember any rules about wearing uniforms off the camp? So when you were away from Pirbright, were there any rules about not wearing uniform?

MR COOPER: I don't recall that in particular, but I'm very aware that that evening we went out in civvies. There was no question that we were going to go out wearing the uniform, I think.

MR SANDERS QC: No? Do you remember what you were doing during the day on the Saturday before you went out?

MR COOPER: Not clearly, but I have a vague memory, but not big, it being to some extent relaxed in afternoon before we went out in the evening, because it's a whole thing about I borrowed a pair of trousers.

MR SANDERS QC: From John HUNTER?

MR COOPER: I think that just related to laundering wet clothes, and we must have been doing that on that Saturday.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And was there something of a mass exodus from Pirbright if this was the first weekend when the recruits were allowed out? Did most of them go out?

MR COOPER: The people that were in, who had come in the tranche that I think would all have been going out I think, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you have any idea how many recruits were in your intake?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Could you say just even in terms of dozens or hundreds?

MR COOPER: No, it wasn't hundreds. I don't remember precisely ...

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: ... they were taking people in. I'm not sure if the military terminology means (inaudible) a long time now, but it wasn't hundreds.

MR SANDERS QC: No. How long were you due to be at Pirbright for?

MR COOPER: Again it's- I can remember the section training I would have done would have been shorter because I was going to be a piper so it was a reduced amount of training (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: And would then, specialising as a piper would that then take you away from Pirbright to somewhere else?

MR COOPER: No, the piping skills have to be in Pirbright, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So picking up in your statement you left the camp late afternoon around 4.30, 4.45, and you were with three others that you name as Jimmy COOPER, John HUNTER and Willie FORSYTH, just to try and take you back a bit and refresh your memory, I'm going to show you some photos of those three. So if we start with Jimmy COOPER. He's at 4-567.

MR COOPER: In the bed?

MR SANDERS QC: In the bed. Do you remember him?

MR COOPER: I do.

MR SANDERS QC: And just to show you a photo of John HUNTER, and this is a photo of him after he's joined the Army. It's in the Sensitive Photos section of case line, and it's at A-79.

MRS NIN: **A-79? Thank you.**

CORONER: **(pause) (inaudible) what's the image showing?**

MR SANDERS QC: It's just the mugshot of John HUNTER that we showed on the first day, and maybe I've got the wrong reference number.

MRS NIN: 78, sorry.

CORONER: **A-78?**

MR SANDERS QC: Apologies.

MR COOPER: Yeah, (inaudible)

MR SANDERS QC: Just say that a bit louder into the microphone?

MR COOPER: I haven't seen that picture of him since then.

MR SANDERS QC: But you remember him?

MR COOPER: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And then Willie FORSYTH is A-75.

MR COOPER: (pause) Yeah, it's so interesting because the pictures in the papers as it were, were not like we all were at the time with big long hair and it's all (inaudible) I couldn't remember that these are ...

MR SANDERS QC: Those were the colleagues that you remember?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then the four of you go down to the guardhouse and you meet a number of others there, and I'll just show you their photos as well. So we start with Robert NODDLE, this is back in the main section of case lines and it's at 4-277. (pause) And you remember ...?

MR COOPER: (inaudible)?

CORONER: **Is it the picture above?**

MR COOPER: It's the picture.

CORONER: **(inaudible)?**

UNKNOWN: (inaudible)

CORONER: **Do you think you would recognise or not?**

MR COOPER: I don't recognise, no.

MR SANDERS QC: The next one is Barry RUSHTON, who is at 4-293.

MR COOPER: (pause) I do not recognise this one, the guy on the left, he's (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: He's holding a piece of paper that says ...

CORONER: **Barry RUSHTON.**

MR COOPER: I can't read the detail of it.

MR SANDERS QC: And the next one is Alex FINDLAY who is at 4-217, on the left. Do you remember him?

MR COOPER: Yes, I do, very well because I got to know him better because he went to the rehabilitation centre where I was for quite a long time. So I had a stronger friendship with him ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR COOPER: ... after this (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and then finally Brian SCANLAN who is at 4-305, on the left there.

MR COOPER: Yeah, there is a vague recollection there (inaudible), yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: A vague recollection?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So that's the group you were with. Were you all in the same platoon or squad or whatever it was?

MR COOPER: I don't remember exactly. I think Willie and John, they were both in the Scots Guards and Jimmy COOPER as well because there was a mixture of different guards ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: ... regiments in there.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. You then, as a group, get a bus to Brookwood and a train to Guildford via Woking.

MR COOPER: I don't remember all the dynamics of the journey, but I do remember one section where we walked quite a long way, so it would be between bus or trains or something, we were effectively on quite busy, quite a leafy country road ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: ... and I can remember the energy and the people were looking forward to going out.

MR SANDERS QC: Excited about a night out?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you're wearing some trousers you have borrowed from John HUNTER?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you arrive in Guildford, you say in your statement, about 5.30, 5.45?

MR COOPER: I don't remember those details (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember going to another pub before going to the Horse & Groom?

MR COOPER: The Seven Stars, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you're there with Jimmy COOPER, John HUNTER, Willie FORSYTH and Robert NODDLE?

MR COOPER: All of their details now, as far as my memory, independent of the statement I made are not clear. Had I not read this statement I wouldn't have been able to remember that ...

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: ... the sequence of everybody's movements.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you have any idea how you decided where you were going to go, how you knew which pubs to head for?

MR COOPER: Well, I think The Seven Stars was quite quiet when we got there. There was certainly pubs, like any town, that that were the best pubs to go to and we probably had an awareness of that before we arrived in Guildford ...

MR SANDERS QC: Just that ...

MR COOPER: ... and the squaddies (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, and then after The Seven Stars you tried another pub but didn't stay there?

MR COOPER: I don't remember that.

MR SANDERS QC: No? In your statement you say that was The Three Pigeons, but it was no good, and then you went onto The Horse & Groom.

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you go there knowing that it was an army- it was a squaddie pub?

MR COOPER: I don't remember, but I presume that was the knowledge that we had at the time, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Just to take you to the pub itself, you only ever went there once, and I assume you never went back there?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? So if I can just show you some photos just to try and re-orientate you. There is a photo of the front of the pub that's at 4-555. That's just come up on your screen? You will see there is a bus stop in front, and the main public area of the pub is on the left, and you will see the damage on the pavement outside, because this is after the explosion. And then there is another one at the front of the pub which is at 7-1352. Is that familiar to you at all?

MR COOPER: It's familiar to me, though I think (inaudible) I've seen since the event. It's not a place that I remember walking up to and going into, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No?

MR COOPER: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: No, that's completely understandable. Just in terms of the layout inside the pub, if we could just look at the plan at 1-3? And just go down to, the storeroom is off the screen. That's a floor plan of the pub.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And is that broadly ...

MR COOPER: I do have ... Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... a recollection of that?

MR COOPER: (inaudible) and, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And so on the right just through the front door there is a fruit machine and an area that some have called the snug, with the gents' toilets at the end on the bottom right hand corner of the plan. Then you see the bar extending up to the back wall, and then on the left there is a smaller alcove with an L-shaped bench seat, and then above that further up is a larger alcove ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... with a jukebox at the top right of the pub by the partition, then a fireplace, then a C-shaped bench seat.

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And that's the area where you were?

MR COOPER: I (inaudible) remember? I do remember that 'cause we were sat in that area.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And just to show you some photos and, again, these were taking after the explosion, but if we could look, please, at 4-678? That was the bar and then there's two wooden pillars just in front of the bar,

and so the main alcove is off this shot to the left. And then the next one is 4-680.

CORONER: **Do you recognise that first photograph (inaudible)?**

MR COOPER: I do, yes.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR COOPER: Yeah, it rings a bell.

MR SANDERS QC: And there's, from the other side, there are the two wooden pillars, the bar, the edge of the bar just at the bottom right in the foreground, and then you will see on the left there is the fireplace that's in that, the main alcove, and then to the right just behind the pillar there is the jukebox, and then going behind the partition that's behind the jukebox that's the way to the Ladies' toilets.

MR COOPER: I remember all of that quite clearly because I was sat (inaudible) a length of time in (inaudible)?

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And if we could just look at, I think its 7-1351? That's the view out from that alcove looking towards the bar, so that's the jukebox there next to the partition, and the fireplace would be to the left of the jukebox.

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Do you remember the bench seats that went around the perimeter of the alcove? Do you remember if there was space under them?

MR COOPER: No, I don't remember that. I don't remember taking time to check whether there was space.

MR SANDERS QC: No? And you arrive at The Horse & Groom about 6.45?

MR COOPER: Again, I have no recollection of the time, but that would fit for the (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: And if we could just look? You drew a plan, or a series of plans that are quite helpful. Have you seen these again, the plans with your ...?

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes? Thank you, so the first is at 3-38, and we see there that's a sketch plan of part of the interior of The Horse & Groom Public House showing the positions of persons at about 6.45 to 7pm.

MR COOPER: I can't remember that, no, I couldn't sit down, as I said before when (inaudible) but, and I'm surprised at how difficult it was from my memory at the time, but it's, I can say it's as true as I remember it, whenever it was, ten days after, when I was (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, and so what we see, could we just go down a little ...? Yes, so you're marked with a cross on the bench there looking, facing towards the fireplace and the jukebox. Jimmy COOPER's next to you and on

the table opposite you I think we can see Robert NODDLE, and then I can't, from here, read the writing on the right-hand side of that table?

CORONER: **Male, Scots Guards furry coat brown?**

MR COOPER: There is a reference to that person, (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, you identify him later on. Thank you, Sir. And then just the left-hand corner of the alcove, that's the ... Heather, can you just scroll so we can see, move the image down? Thank you. There's Mr and Mrs BURNS and Carol BURNS, that was the WRAC recruit who was celebrating her birthday with her parents.

MR COOPER: And they were quite, the majority of the people in the pub were all young people, so there was, like, an anomaly, that she got her mum and dad were ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR COOPER: ... was kind of memorable (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: And then next to them there was a WRAC soldier in a sky blue dress who was good-looking, and you're not sure at that point where John HUNTER and Willie FORSYTH were.

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: And then just along from you on the bench seat were three Scottish WRAC soldiers. And then just going through your statement to the plan at 3-40, please? And I appreciate these aren't details that you would

have at your fingertips now, but in your statement you say that Barry RUSHTON, Alex FINDLAY and Brian SCANLAN have come in at this point. The three Scottish WRAC recruits have left and five other WRACs have taken their place, so this as the evening progresses. Do you remember the pub getting busier as the evening went on?

MR COOPER: Yes, I do. I mean, it was busy (inaudible) prior to the explosion.

MR SANDERS QC: And were most of the pub customers in that area military?

MR COOPER: I'm not absolutely sure.

MR SANDERS QC: But a lot were?

MR COOPER: A lot were.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, and then just to go down to the next plan, and this at the point of the explosion, so this is at 3-41. What we see here that you describe in your statement and the arrows are you moving to the bar and back, can you describe what happened, what you remember?

MR COOPER: I went to buy a drink, so I went to the bar, and when I got to the bar, he didn't have enough glasses, so I went back to the table and my recollection is that when I touched the glass, the bomb exploded at that point. At the time I thought it was something that had just happened to me, because the contact with the glass and, like, previously (?) when I heard (?) it, the initial experience was a very total body, kind of … do you want me to describe the whole …

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, I mean …

MR COOPER: … thing?

MR SANDERS QC: … it would be helpful if you could, yes.

MR COOPER: It's interesting because I met Jimmy COOPER after the explosion, and he told me some interesting things, but my own initial experience of it was that initial blast moment, and quite soon after that I was aware that I was covered in rubble. And I, kind of, thought (?) the explosion at that point, it's amazing how rational my brain was, but I didn't feel the (inaudible) was going to happen next in a profound way. But I could move my legs, so I shook my legs and I fell into the basement at that point.

What I subsequently learned from Jimmy COOPER, he was sat next-behind me as I was standing to pick the glass up, and he was more aware initially after the explosion. He said there was an electric cable around his leg and I had electric burns on my arm, and he kicked it away. So that would explain my period of absolutely not being aware of anything apart from … yeah.

And that was the sequence of it. I'm in the basement and I don't clearly remember somebody pulling me out, but that must have then happened. And subsequently I do remember being out in the street and a young woman supporting me until the ambulance arrived.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you have any sense or impression of where the explosion had come from? Where the blast had come from?

MR COOPER: At the time I didn't articulate anything like that. It was, no …

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: … (inaudible) at all. It was just …

MR SANDERS QC: Did you …

MR COOPER … I …

MR SANDERS QC: Go on.

MR COOPER: I became very aware very soon that I needed to be in a hospital.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. Were you unconscious for any length of time, do you think?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you notice the lights going out or …

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: … a smell of gas?

MR COOPER: I didn't. I don't have recollection, no.

MR SANDERS QC: I just want to take you to your statement, because the description you gave of the explosion at the time might be quite helpful to read. So this is at 2-114.

MR COOPER: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Can we just go down a bit? So it, just there. So you say, "I had just asked the WRAC if a glass on their table was spare. And I think I had

just picked it up with my left hand when I felt as if my body had curled up into a ball and I was shaking all over. There was a lot of rubble about the place, and some of it was on top of me. I thought that I was trapped, but I realised there was a space below me. Then I went down a hole. Someone pulled me out, and since then a person named Ainsley told me it was him."

MR COOPER: I don't remember that exchange. How I would've known that person was Ainsley, so that's gone.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. The description of feeling as if your body had curled up or contracted, is that how you remember it?

MR COOPER: Well I can rationalise that in hindsight after the conversation with Jimmy COOPER that everybody's had an electric shock. I've had a few small ones, and that's …

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. Can I just show you, if you're happy to look at them, some photos of the hole itself? Would that be okay?

MR COOPER: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So this is at 7-1345.

So we see there, just if you go to the top of the picture first, there's the fireplace and the jukebox. And then go down, that's the hole in the floor. So it's quite a large collapse, and you can see the beer kegs.

MR COOPER: I was aware of falling, which was slightly post the initial explosion. It must've been, because I had a short period of awareness where I felt trapped by what was on my head, where I could feel that my feet could move.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, I think …

MR COOPER: And then I felt … yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, so from some of the evidence, it seems that the floor gave way slowly, and then the carpet lowered people into the hole, rather than suddenly falling down onto a hard floor below.

MR COOPER: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And then there's another photo that's at 7-1346. Very similar. And then 7-1360. That's from further away, so essentially the whole of the alcove is destroyed …

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: … and the partitions and bench seats are blown away. Could you tell us about your injuries and how badly hurt you were?

MR COOPER: I'd got a series of blast burns to my hand and my legs, and there was a, sort of- I think most people suffer them, sort of, I think the mildest form of burn all over their bodies. So at the time I could actually walk, not in a hurry, but I could stand up and get to the ambulance. And subsequently it was the extent of the surgery to remove all the stuff that

didn't cause injury, but it meant that the healing process took much longer. I just got one small, broken bone, but fortunately there were no major injuries to internal organs and …

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, there's a note that about ten days after the blast, the doctors find a piece of zip in your leg, and you have to have an operation to remove that.

MR COOPER: A similar thing happened a couple of years later when something else was removed from my leg, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: The theory being the zip was off the bag that …

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. You also say in your statement that you remember becoming aware of being in hospital and your boots being taken off by the medics.

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: I just want to …

MR COOPER: I can remember that was the worst part of it in terms of that. By then the pain had really hit in and I just wanted somebody to give the injection and put me out, and they couldn't because they needed to pump the alcohol out of my stomach. And I thought, "That's a strong physical (?) (inaudible)," yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. Obviously a very shocking and traumatic experience.

MR COOPER: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: You also say that your trousers, or the trousers you'd borrowed from John HUNTER were blown off and you lost the sleeves to your jacket.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So a very powerful explosion very close to you.

MR COOPER: That was a very strange … well, it didn't really bother me at the time because it wasn't the priority, but I was aware that I was outside of this pub without any trousers, and, yeah, I'd got a need for other things at the time, rather than …

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. I just want to try and pin down so far as possible where you were sitting. And I think the easiest way to do this might be by looking at a plan that's at 4-656.

And we have a large, hard copy of it.

CORONER: **Could you just …**

MR SANDERS QC: It's not the big one. That's it, yeah.

So this shows the people around the edges of the alcove, and the red …

UNKNOWN: (Inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: That's alright. The red spots are the people who sadly died. The green spots are those who are injured. And then yellow, less serious injuries, and blue, uninjured.

And can you see yourself?

MR COOPER: Yes. My memory is that I was sat next to Jimmy before I went to the bar. And I'm not sure how accurate your scale is here, but it felt like I was closer to him when, in terms of being more in front of him when the bomb went off, but that's …

MR SANDERS QC: That's about right.

MR COOPER: I remember my seating prior to going to get the drink in relation to Jimmy in particular. The rest is what I would've recalled at the time, which I don't remember clearly, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Do you have any recollection of who you asked about taking the glasses away?

MR COOPER: I don't.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: That's fine.

MR COOPER: That's from (?) a statement I don't recall.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much, Mr COOPER, that's been very helpful. I don't have any further questions. It may be that the Coroner does or some of the other barristers.

MR COOPER: Thank you.

CORONER: **Mr COOPER, just going back to that diagram of the pub, as I've understood your evidence, immediately before the blast, you'd been**

up to the bar to go and buy your round, there'd been insufficient glasses, so you'd come back …

MR COOPER: Yeah.

CORONER: **… to collect some. So you hadn't sat down again, it was literally as you were just about to gather the glasses to take back to the bar that the explosion occurred.**

MR COOPER: Exactly, yes.

CORONER: **Yes. And I just want to go back. Heather, can we bring up, please, and go back to those series of drawings starting at 338?**

MRS NIN: 338?

CORONER: **Sorry, 3-38.**

MRS NIN: (Inaudible).

CORONER: **Yes. These were the sketch plans we've just been looking at a few minutes ago. And I appreciate, I mean- what you're saying is actually you couldn't possibly do this now, but these were the diagrams or the sketch plans that were prepared on what you were saying at the time.**

MR COOPER: Exactly, yes.

CORONER: **And effectively what you've done here is you've set out in a timed sequence where people were sitting and the change in place where people were sitting as the evening progressed. Is that right?**

MR COOPER: Correct, yeah.

CORONER: **And so it's fair to say that when you prepared these plans, or at least when they were prepared on what you were saying, the detail you had in your mind at the time was quite considerable, isn't it, as to where people were and where they (inaudible)…**

MR COOPER: I find this surprising now, that when these came in the post that … yes.

CORONER: **There was so much detail.**

MR COOPER: That there was so much detail. But …

CORONER: **But this was your recollection at the time.**

MR COOPER: At the time which we did …

CORONER: **I mean, to the point that if we look at 3-39, please, Heather, if we look along that bottom bench, so to speak, we then have a list of people, starting off with a Welsh lad, Jeff, then Jimmy COOPER, Stephen COOPER, Alex, and then there are a series of five girls from the WRAC, one of which you've noted comes from Birmingham. Presumably that had come up in conversation because of where you came from.**

MR COOPER: We had a similar accent, yeah.

CORONER: **And so even to that sort of detail, I suppose that's what I'm getting at, you had quite a detailed recollection at that time.**

MR COOPER: I find it interesting to speculate how that … but yes, indeed. I mean, I'd been in a hospital for … when was this statement made?

CORONER: **I can't remember this statement was … this was the 14th of October statement, I think, isn't it?**

MR SANDERS QC: I think so, yes, sir.

MR COOPER: So nine days afterwards, yeah. I would've had no intervening experiences.

CORONER: **No.**

MR COOPER: But also, I didn't do the drawing. Obviously, it was part of a conversation with a …

CORONER: **Of course. This was someone else drawing …**

MR COOPER: … a police officer that …

CORONER: **But then …**

MR COOPER: Yeah, but I can imagine … can I imagine that my memory would've been reasonably true within that period of …

CORONER: **Yes, thank you very much. Ms BARTON, anything?**

MS BARTON QC: No thank you, sir.

CORONER: **Mr PLEETH?**

MR PLEETH: Thank you, sir.

Good afternoon, Mr COOPER. I ask questions on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. I'm not going to ask you any questions about what

happened at the Horse and Groom that night, but I'd like to ask you some questions about your period of time spent at Pirbright in the lead up to the 4th of October. Can you just remind us how long were you at Pirbright in the leadup to the 4th of October?

MR COOPER: Three weeks. I'm not sure exactly.

MR PLEETH: And I think you …

MR COOPER: I couldn't …

MR PLEETH: … told Mr SANDERS in answer to one of his …

MR COOPER: Mmm hmm.

MR PLEETH: … questions that it was, understandably, a fairly brutal period of basic training, is that right?

MR COOPER: Exactly, yeah.

MR PLEETH: And you commented in answer to a question from Mr SANDERS that the effect of that was, in your words, 'that you weren't taking in all of the information from around you at that time,' is that fair?

MR COOPER: Yeah, so I think that's a way of expressing that the training was very absolute. I wouldn't have been reading the papers about what was going on in the rest of the world, but if I was being sat in a situation like this, I'd like to think I'd remember if it was part of the process of what I was supposed to learn.

MR PLEETH: I'm sorry, you were going to carry on, I didn't mean to interrupt you.

MR COOPER: No, that's fine.

MR PLEETH: Do you recall that when you first arrived at Pirbright, you had any form of induction telling you what was going to be expected from you on the basic training course and how you must act and where you must be?

MR COOPER: Not specifically, I don't remember. I can remember sitting in classrooms a few times, so there were alternatives to physical training.

MR PLEETH: And do you remember what you were told during those classroom-based sessions about, for example, how the course was going to run, and where you needed to be?

MR COOPER: I don't remember that, no, I don't.

CORONER: **Sorry, can I just be clear? Do you mean by that, you don't recall what was being said in the classroom?**

MR COOPER: I don't remember the content of the …

CORONER: **Of the classroom.**

MR COOPER: I just remember being in that environment.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR PLEETH: And do you remember any of the details of what you were told in those classroom sessions?

MR COOPER: No.

MR PLEETH: Do you remember who your Platoon Commander was?

MR COOPER: No.

MR PLEETH: Do you remember who the Company Commander was?

MR COOPER: No.

MR PLEETH: You were asked …

MR COOPER: I can remember a person, but I don't remember a name.

MR PLEETH: Understood. You were asked by Mr SANDERS about whether you remembered something called 'Part One' or 'Part Two orders,' and I think you said you don't remember anything about those. Is that right?

MR COOPER: That's correct.

MR PLEETH: Do you remember them perhaps under a different name called 'Routine Orders?' Does that ring a bell?

MR COOPER: No.

MR PLEETH: Do you remember anything being posted in barracks rooms or guard rooms on doors telling you about, for example, what time you needed to parade in the morning, what order of dress you needed to be in?

MR COOPER: No.

MR PLEETH: And, again, I'll ask you the question that the coroner asked you a moment ago, when you say 'no,' does that mean you just don't remember one way or the other, or you don't think that you were told about, for example, what order of dress or what time you needed to parade?

MR COOPER: I don't remember one way or another.

MR PLEETH: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr COOPER, and thank you for assisting.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MR SANDERS QC: Mr COOPER, just following up on that, you said, when I was asking you questions, that you don't think you had any training on the threat from the IRA or on security matters. Three weeks after joining the army, you were blown up by the IRA. When that happened, did you connect that with anything you'd been told prior to the explosion? Anything that had been said in the army?

MR COOPER: No, I didn't.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you …

MR COOPER: And one would expect there to be a mental connection, perhaps …

MR SANDERS QC: Yes …

MR COOPER: … if one had been given that information.

MR SANDERS QC: … if you'd been told to be vigilant for IRA attack, and then you were blown up by the IRA, you would refer back to that in your mind and think that there was a connection there, wouldn't you?

MR COOPER: None of that is in my story of what happened.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: (Inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: No. Thank you.

CORONER: **Thank you very much, Mr COOPER, that concludes your evidence. I'm very grateful to you, it's been very helpful evidence. You are now free to stay or to go as you choose, but thank you very much.**

MR COOPER: Okay, cheers.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, apologies, sir, there was one thing we needed to confirm …

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: … for Mr COOPER's benefit, because there are two Stephen COOPERs …

CORONER: **Oh yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: … that there was some confusion about whether Mr COOPER was due back next week.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: So if we could just confirm he's released.

CORONER: **Alright. Yes, Mr COOPER, if there was any confusion, let me clarify it. Your evidence is now absolutely complete, you need not come back, but I'm very grateful to you for coming along and giving the evidence you have.**

MR COOPER: Thank you.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, sir. Well, you know, but not necessarily everyone in the court knows that we've been informed via Hampshire Police and then the Hampshire Coroner's Office that Sheila HIGHAM, maiden name PARROTTE, sadly died in February, and that explains her non-attendance today.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: And so what we're going to do is, subject to any submissions from any of the other interested persons, we'll read her statement now.

CORONER: **And that statement is to be found at 2-370.**

MS KUZMENKO: Correct.

CORONER: **Ms BARTON, do you have any submissions, no?**

MS BARTON: No, I don't, sir.

CORONER: **Mr PLEETH?**

MR PLEETH: And neither do I, sir.

CORONER: **No, thank you very much.**

MS KUZMENKO: You just announced the page number, but for everyone else's reference, as well, it's S259.

(Reads statement of Sheila HIGHAM in full)

"I'm a serving WRAC undergoing my basic training at the WRAC Centre at Guildford. I enlisted and commenced my training on the 16th of September 1974. I joined exactly the same day as Carol BURNS,

Caroline SLATER, Ann HAMILTON, Isabelle PRICE, and Janet OLIVER.

"We are all in the same platoon, which is Number Three Platoon. From the moment we joined, Carol BURNS and I became firm friends. It was general knowledge among our platoon that it was Carol's birthday on the 5th of October 1974, and that Carol was going to celebrate it at the Horse and Groom Public House in Guildford.

"It was arranged that she would be there early and that her friends would pop in sometime during the evening for a drink. It was not specifically mentioned where we would be sitting, they would just have to find us in the pub.

"Carol had arranged with her mother and father for them to come down and celebrate with her, and had spoken to them on the telephone on Friday for them to pick Carol and I up outside the gate of our camp at 6.30pm on Saturday.

"On Saturday the 5th of October 1974, Carol and I met Carol's parents outside the gate at 6.45pm. I knew it was this time because I looked at the guard room clock.

"I was introduced to Mr and Mrs BURNS and to a young man called Paul CRAIG, who I understand was an ex-boyfriend of Carol's. They were still good friends.

"It was Paul's car, a white Ford or Vauxhall estate. Paul was driving. Mr BURNS sat next to him. Mrs BURNS sat behind Mr BURNS in the back seat. I sat behind Paul, and Carol sat in between us.

"We both told Mr BURNS that we had decided to go to the Horse and Groom to celebrate. Carol and I directed Paul to the Horse and Groom, and he parked the car on the second turning on the right past the Horse and Groom, on the same side as the Horse and Groom as you drive down the hill towards the taxi rank.

"We then walked to the pub, arriving at the latest by 7.15pm. We walked in the Horse and Groom and stood by the slot machine by the bar as Paul and Mr BURNS were going to order a drink.

"I went to the ladies' toilet, and as I did, so Carol said to me she would be over in the corner in the alcove. She pointed to the top right-hand corner of the alcove near the fireplace. I went straight to the toilet and came out after a few minutes and walked into the alcove.

"I saw that Paul was sitting on a bench seat next to the fireplace. Carol was sitting next to him on his right. Her mother was sitting on Carol's right, in the bend of the alcove, and Mr BURNS was sitting next to his wife, but on the bench seat at the top of the alcove, facing the bar.

"This bench seat runs parallel to the outside wall. Mr BURNS moved along, and I squeezed in between him and his wife. The three of us together with Mrs BURNS in the corner filled half of the bench seat.

"I do not remember having seen anything on the bench seat when I sat down. Neither do I recollect Mr BURNS having to move any item or clothing in order to allow me to sit down.

"I do not remember seeing anybody filling the left-hand corner of the alcove, although I am not certain. I feel that had anybody been there who looked out of place, I would have noticed.

"I do remember that the first table on the left into the alcove had a number of soldiers sitting around it. There was about half a dozen, and these were young soldiers.

"I recollect that some of these were sitting on the bench seat while others were sitting on the stools. I remember the jukebox was playing, but I don't remember the tune.

"I had given my coat and handbag to Carol BURNS before I went to the toilet. Carol told me she had put my coat and handbag on a shelf behind her, and it remained there all evening except on the occasion when I took them with me when I went to the Seven Stars with Caroline SLATER later that evening. I did return them back to their original position when I returned to the Horse and Groom.

"I sat in the position I have described for about 30 minutes, talking with Mr and Mrs BURNS, Carol, and Paul. I was still sitting on the bench seat when other WRAC girls and a number of soldiers came into the alcove.

"The WRAC girls were Isabelle PRICE, Ann HAMILTON, Caroline SLATER, and Janet OLIVER. At about the same time as they came in, a group of young soldiers followed in behind them.

"I would like to say that before the WRAC girls and soldiers came in, I saw a man sitting on the bench seat diagonally opposite to where Carol was sitting. He was in fact in line with the fireplace. There were soldiers sitting either side of this man, but he did not talk to any of them.

"My attention was called to him by Carol BURNS, who was attracted towards him. He seemed to be sitting by himself, drinking a pint. I describe this man as being between 20 and 25 years of age, five foot# nine to six foot tall.

"Although he was sitting down, he was proportionate build and had blonde hair, which was swept back, with sideboards which came down to just below his ears. His hair was cut short, but not to a military fashion.

"His hair was well-kept, and his appearance was altogether smart. He had a tanned complexion and was very good looking. He was dressed

in dark jacket and dark trousers and a red, open-necked shirt. This was a modern shirt with a large collar, which he wore on the outside of his coat.

"This person never smiled or made any effort to attract any of the girls. He kept himself to himself. Carol mentioned twice that he was good looking, and I told her to flash her eyes at him.

"This man had a serious face, and seemed to be observing the other occupants in the alcove. I am definitely sure he was sitting on the bench before the WRACs came in, but I'm not certain if he was there when Mr and Mrs BURNS and our party came in. I am positive I would recognise this man again if I saw him.

"The four WRAC girls came in and waved to Carol and I, then went to the bar, purchased their drinks, and walked over to where we were. By this time, I had left my seat and was standing in front of the fireplace, holding a general conversation with our party and the WRACs.

"The four WRACs came over to the table, wished Carol a happy birthday, finished their drinks, and then HAMILTON, PRICE, and OLIVER left the pub.

"Caroline SLATER then went over and sat on the bench on the left-hand side of the alcove, about four places away from where the man in the red shirt was sitting.

"She was sitting on his right, in amongst a crowd of soldiers. I noticed that they were all squeezed up close together on the bench and that there were soldiers sitting on stools around the tables. There was also at least a dozen soldiers standing up around the two tables in the area of the jukebox and fireplace.

"I cannot positively describe any of these soldiers, as I was flitting about, not paying particular attention to anyone. I do recollect that there was four WRAC girls sitting on the end of the bench seat near the bar, on the left-hand side of the alcove.

"I do not know who they are, and cannot describe them, but I definitely knew they were WRACs, because they nodded and smiled at me in acknowledgment.

"I remember that one was about 18 to 19 years of age, medium build, with long, frizzy, wavy hair, which was mousey in colour, which hung down to just above her elbows.

"I do not remember who was sitting next to Mr BURNS, if indeed anybody was. The place just suddenly filled up and I was moving about talking to everybody. I then went into the alcove next door to speak to recruit Gillian LE-GRYS and recruit John HIPSON.

"I spoke to them for about 20 minutes. They were sitting on the bench seat on the opposite side of the partition to our alcove, but on the same

bench seat that Mr BURNS was sitting on. They were sat in the left-hand corner.

"I remember there was a large number of soldiers sitting around the bench seats in this alcove. I cannot describe any of them. Jillian was the only female and the only WRAC in the alcove at that time. I had seen Jillian as soon as I had walked in the pub, and she was sitting in the same position with HIPSON.

"I returned to Carol's table and picked up my handbag from the shelf behind Carol, took some money out, and put my handbag back. I then went over to the jukebox and played the following records, 'Honey Honey,' 'When will I see you again?' 'I shot the Sheriff,' 'Jailhouse Rock,' 'Blue Eyes Boys.'

"My Bacardi and coke was on Carol's table. I went back to drink it, and it was then that Carol told me she fancied the man in the red shirt. She said she wished her mum and dad were not there, as she would have chatted him up.

"Caroline SLATER then called me over and asked me if I would take her to the Seven Stars to see what it looked like. I told her I would and went across to Carol and asked to be excused. I told her where I was going, and I would only be about five minutes.

"I picked up my coat and handbag, finished my drink, put my coat on in the pub, and walked out with Caroline. We walked down North Street to the Seven Stars and went in by the disco door.

"We went straight through the bar, which was very packed, and went into the ladies' toilets. We went back to the bar and bumped into an ex-boyfriend of Caroline SLATER's. His name is Robert MCPIKE of Caterham Company of the Scots Guards.

"He was accompanied by about four or five friends of his who I do not know. We only stood talking for about ten minutes and then made our way back to the disco door.

"As I was doing this I was stopped by a soldier. I don't know his name, but he seemed to know my boyfriend, Corporal John MCCRORY of Caterham Company, the Scots Guards.

"He asked me where John was, and was going to come up to the Horse and Groom with us. He was 19 years of age, slim build, about five foot four tall, brown hair and brown eyes, and quite good looking. I think he was wearing a yellow shirt and was drinking a pint.

"Caroline and I then walked up North Street to the Horse and Groom. It was about 8.30pm when we got back to the Horse and Groom. We both went in the pub together, and Caroline SLATER went and sat next

to Mr BURNS, while I went and put my coat and handbag back on to the shelf behind Carol BURNS.

"Carol and Paul had changed places, and Carol was now sitting next to the fireplace. I knelt at Carol's table, talking to her, when Caroline SLATER gave me 50 pence and told me to go and get her and myself a drink. She asked for half a pint of cider, and I was going to have a half of bitter and lime.

"I went to the bar and got the drinks. A short lady with short, black hair served me. I took the drinks back to Caroline SLATER, gave her the change, and again, knelt by Carol's table, talking to all of them.

"I do not remember at this stage seeing HAMILTON, PRICE, or OLIVER, but have some recollection of the person sitting next to SLATER at this time. I do not remember if it was male or female, or soldier or civilian, as I was not paying attention.

"I then went to the jukebox and spoke to a young soldier who asked me where Janet OLIVER was. I had seen the soldier earlier on speaking to Janet, first before she left with PRICE and HAMILTON. This soldier was about 20 years of age, about five foot four tall, medium build, fair complexion, fair hair, and blue eyes.

"He was wearing a white, Aran-looking jumper, which had a crew neck. I think he was wearing check trousers. I spoke to him for a few

moments, and whilst I was doing this, HAMILTON, PRICE, and OLIVER came back in.

"I moved back to the fireplace, and OLIVER spoke to the soldier. PRICE and HAMILTON went into the corner on the left-hand side of the alcove. I am sure that HAMILTON sat down not far from SLATER, but on the same bench seat.

"I did not see where PRICE sat, if indeed she did sit down. The time must have been about 8.45pm. I was leaning on the fireplace with my back to the fireplace, talking to Janet OLVIER and her boyfriend. I turned to my right to put my drink, which was in my right hand, on the fireplace.

"I had just turned back when I got what I thought was an electric shock. The next thing was total blackness. I then saw a small light. I put my hand on what felt like someone's head, pushed myself up, whereupon someone pulled me out. I realised I was below floor level and was in a hole.

"I then walked out, saw a policeman, and then ran into Callum BRUCE's arms. BRUCE is a recruit soldier from Caterham Company, the Scots Guards. I was then taken to the Royal Surrey Hospital where I was detained.

"My injuries consist of a very badly burnt right arm from fingertip to shoulder. I've got cuts, burns, and bruises to my right side of my back. I also have extensive cuts and bruises and minor burns to both my legs. I have a three-inch, lacerated gash to the inside of my left leg, which required eight stitches. The left side of my body escaped all injuries.

"At the time of the explosion, I remember seeing the following persons in these positions. Janet OLIVER was standing in front of the fireplace beside me. Her boyfriend was standing next to the jukebox. Carol was sitting next to the fireplace. Paul was sitting on her right on the same bench seat. Mrs BURNS was on the right of Paul and Mr BURNS was on the right of Mrs BURNS, tucked into the right-hand corner.

"Mr BURNS was next to his wife, but on the bench seat running parallel with the wall. Caroline SLATER was next to Mr BURNS, on his right. And then a soldier who I can't describe, but I was shown a photograph, and I think it was FORSYTH. Next to the soldier was HAMILTON, and then I don't remember who else.

"That's all I can remember about the position at the time of the explosion. I cannot help you regarding who was sitting in the left-hand corner of the alcove from 7.15pm when we entered the pub, until I returned from the Seven Stars with Caroline SLATER.

"Before I went to the Seven Stars with Caroline SLATER, I would like to add that I went into the other alcove where LE-GRYS was sitting, to say hello to Callum BRUCE, described previously, whom I had seen through the partition coming into the pub. I sat on his knee for a while, and then returned to Caroline SLATER and we went to the Seven Stars. Callum was sitting on the bench seat on the left-hand side of LE-GRYS.

"The Horse and Groom is a regular haunt for WRACs and soldiers, and every time I go out drinking, I go there, but not to any particular place in the pub.

"I would like to add that when I said hello to Callum BRUCE, WRAC Sandra BURGESS came over to me and said hello and asked where Carol was. I told her, and she went away to the bar and got a drink and took it over to Carol.

"By this time, WRAC Donna GREGORY had come in and sat down on the same bench seat as LE-GRYS, sitting on the left of LE-GRYS.

"Also, when I left the Horse and Groom with Caroline SLATER, I remember the man in the red shirt was still sitting on the bench seat, but when I returned, he had gone.

"The bench seats in the alcoves have wooden partitions underneath the seat, but are not fully enclosed, and it is possible to place things underneath the seats."

That's then signed and dated on the 12th of October 1974.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Mr SANDERS, I think that concludes the evidence for today.**

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

CORONER: **Tomorrow we have three witnesses giving evidence live, one by video link. We're starting at 9.30 tomorrow, please, if everyone can be ready to start at 9.30.**

We start with Robert NODDLE, who is going to be here in person, and then Alexander FINDLAY, who is video link. And then we have John HIPSON, who is going to be in person, and I think he has a couple of statements to read.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, that's correct, sir.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Thank you, so can we sit again, please, tomorrow morning, again, I remind you, at 9.30 tomorrow.**

(Court adjourns)