
Transcript of the Inquest

Date: 30th June 2022

Name of witness	Sworn, Affirmed, Promised or Read	Page
Mr Stephen COOPER	Sworn	4
Mr Stephen WALSH	Sworn	39
Mr John TAYLOR	Sworn	62
Mr Alan BENTLEY	Sworn	83
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CORONER: Good morning everyone. Mr SANDERS, I think we have is it four witnesses giving evidence in court this morning?

MR SANDERS QC: That's correct.

CORONER: So there is no video link at all today, is there?

MR SANDERS QC: None today, no.

CORONER: No. And which order are we going to take them in?

MR SANDERS QC: So it's Mr COOPER, then Mr WALSH, then Mr TAYLOR and Mr BENTLEY.

CORONER: Fine. Good, thank you very much.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

CORONER: Mr COOPER, please, thank you.

MR STEPHEN COOPER (sworn):

CORONER: Thank you, do sit down. Thank you very much.

MR COOPER: Thank you.

CORONER: Good morning to you. Good morning to you.

MR COOPER: Morning.

CORONER: Can you give me your full name, please?

MR COOPER: Stephen COOPER.

CORONER: Thank you. Mr COOPER, can you tilt that microphone slightly over towards you? You have got a nice loud voice, but I just need to pick you up on the recording as well, please. I am going to introduce you in a moment to Mr SANDERS QC who is going to ask you some questions on my behalf. When you are answering just concentrate on the questions, please. If we need to ask something else, somebody will. And as I say, keep your voice up nice and loud and do not rush ahead too quickly ...

MR COOPER: Right, sir.

CORONER: ... because we need to take some notes. Thank you very much.

MR SANDERS QC: Sorry, I missed that, I was looking at my notes.

CORONER: Do not worry.

MR SANDERS QC: Good morning, Mr COOPER.

MR COOPER: Morning.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you for coming. I just need to start by looking at the statements that you made to the police at the time of the Guildford pub bombing. And they're going to appear on the screen to your left. So there was a statement on the 6th of October which is the Sunday, the day after the bombing. And that's at Caselines page 20-17. Can you see there this is the original handwritten version? And I just want to confirm that's your name Stephen COOPER, Guardsman, and your number. Welsh Guards Caterham Company, Pirbright Camp, 6th of October. And is that your signature there at the top?

MR COOPER: Yes, sir, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: And then if we go down to the bottom just to confirm that's your signature there again at the bottom?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then there was one other statement, so this is the 15th of October, so about ten days after the bombing you gave another statement to the police. And this at 20-19. Can you see that on the screen just on your left? I want to look at the original because it's just got your signature on there. Is that your signature?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And then down at the bottom again there.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And can you confirm that the contents of those statements are true?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. What we've done, I think, is we've sent you typed up transcripts of the two statements, so you haven't seen the handwritten ones recently.

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: But you had an opportunity to reread the typed ones, is that correct?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. At the time of the bombing, so October 1974, is this right, you were 18 years old?

MR COOPER: That's correct, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: You'd just turned 18, I think.

MR COOPER: Yeah, in September.

MR SANDERS QC: And we've, just to take you back to that time, got a photo of you at the time just to check this is the right person. It's at 4-193. Is that you there?

MR COOPER: In that photo, yeah, that is me, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: That's you, thank you. And you had recently joined the Welsh Guards, is that correct?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you know when you'd joined, roughly how long before the bombing?

MR COOPER: Don't quote me on it, but I think I was in the Depot between six to ten weeks.

MR SANDERS QC: Six ...

MR COOPER: Just starting my training.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So were you still undergoing basic training?

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And how long was that course due to last for?

MR COOPER: About six to eight months.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, okay. And you would have been at Pirbright the whole time?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Living on the camp?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And have I understood this correctly, there was one course at Caterham Company which covered Welsh Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards, you weren't separated, you were all together?

MR COOPER: No, we were all together.

MR SANDERS QC: And what were you doing in basic training? What had you done so far by the time of the bombing?

MR COOPER: Well, just basic training, drill, field craft, and in my case mostly rugby.

MR SANDERS QC: Mostly rugby. And that was all with other troops on the camp?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And so presumably you were doing assault courses and rifle range work and ...

MR COOPER: Correct.

MR SANDERS QC: ... things like that? Do you remember doing any classroom or lecture-based training?

MR COOPER: Can't remember, to be honest with you.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And do you remember by the time of the bombing whether you'd had any briefing or training about the IRA or about security threats?

MR COOPER: Can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you think, you were obviously involved in an IRA attack, when that happened did you reflect back on any training you'd had to think whether that had prepared you for what happened or not?

MR COOPER: I don't think anything can prepare you for something like that.

MR SANDERS QC: No, no. Do you remember being given training about the IRA after the bombing in the remainder of your time with the Welsh Guards?

MR COOPER: Probably did, but I can't really iterate, to be honest with you.

MR SANDERS QC: No. How long did you serve in the Welsh Guards for?

MR COOPER: Five years.

MR SANDERS QC: Five years, and then you left?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And what did you do in terms of work wise after you left?

MR COOPER: I went working in the collieries for a few years, and then back into a
factory ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: ... as a machine operator.

MR SANDERS QC: Uh-huh.

MR COOPER: Where I am today.

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

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: In a factory?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

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

MR COOPER: Neath.

MR SANDERS QC: Neath.

MR COOPER: Just outside Swansea.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Had you worked at all before joining the army?

MR COOPER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: What had you done?

MR COOPER: I started in the colliery.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh right, so you were in the colliery ...

MR COOPER: Colliery yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... then joined up. When you were in the army did you serve in Northern Ireland at all?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. What was your trade or your specialism in the Welsh Guards? Did you ...

MR COOPER: Just infantry.

MR SANDERS QC: Just infantry.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So did you go to Germany or ...?

MR COOPER: I served in Cyprus for six months with the UN, and three years in Germany. The rest of the time in Caterham in the UK.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, thank you. Did you know Willie FORSYTH or John HUNTER the two Scots Guards who died?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: You hadn't met them?

MR COOPER: I don't think so.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: They may be a troop ahead of me, maybe, I don't know.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, I think they joined three weeks before the bombing, so you were maybe ...

MR COOPER: They'd probably be after me, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... a different intake perhaps. What do you remember about the Pirbright camp, what was it like?

MR COOPER: Hard. Hard basic training.

MR SANDERS QC: Quite brutal?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And the camp itself, was it a big camp?

MR COOPER: Very big.

MR SANDERS QC: And is it right that it was quite open, there was a road running through?

MR COOPER: There was a main road running right along inside the camp ...

MR SANDERS QC: But ...

MR COOPER: ... at the edges of camp.

MR SANDERS QC: So it didn't have a perimeter fence or ...?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And do you remember anything about security at the camp? For example, do you remember the BIKINI alert system?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember any signs up saying it's black, or black special BIKINI alert or amber BIKINI alert?

MR COOPER: No, I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Do you remember having any training on or being involved in looking for bombs, looking under cars or anything ...

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: ... like that? No. Do you remember if you were given any advice or briefing about what you could or couldn't do when you left the camp when you were off duty?

MR COOPER: Just to behave ourselves.

MR SANDERS QC: Behave yourselves. Anything about avoiding particular places?

MR COOPER: Not really, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Anything about maintaining vigilance, being cautious around the town or anything like that?

MR COOPER: No. This was our first time, it was the first time we'd gone out.

MR SANDERS QC: The day of the bombing?

MR COOPER: The day of the bombings, I think it was the first time we went out of camp.

MR SANDERS QC: And so prior to that you'd been, if you were socialising, that would be in the NAAFI.

MR COOPER: In the NAAFI and that's all. That's all we were allowed to go at the time.

MR SANDERS QC: How often were you given a pass to leave the camp, how frequently would that be?

MR COOPER: I think, well to be honest, I can't remember. We had a pass out for that weekend because it was our first weekend off. After that I just, I can't remember, to be honest with you.

MR SANDERS QC: No, but the majority of your time was spent at Pirbright?

MR COOPER: Yeah, six months, six to eight months, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And at the time were you aware of the IRA and the IRA campaign on the mainland?

MR COOPER: We'd heard of it obviously.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you understand that being in the military you were a potential target for the IRA?

MR COOPER: Not really, no.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you, and it's not a memory test, but I'd just be interested to know, do you remember anything about part one orders and part two orders on a notice board, having to read those?

MR COOPER: Not before, no.

MR SANDERS QC: Not ...?

MR COOPER: Not before the bombings, no.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, but afterwards?

MR COOPER: After I joined the battalion, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, so that was something in the battalion?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you think that that wasn't the case when you were a trainee?

MR COOPER: To be honest with you, I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: I'd only just joined, I'd only been there six to eight weeks.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. So it's very difficult to try and isolate ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... what came before and what came after the ...

MR COOPER: Very difficult.

MR SANDERS QC: ... bombing? No, that's understandable, thank you. Were you aware when you were at Pirbright that it had been attacked by the IRA the year before in 1973?

MR COOPER: No, I wasn't aware, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright.

MR COOPER: That's the first I've heard of it, to be honest.

MR SANDERS QC: Really?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. In terms of when you were off duty and you were allowed to go into town or to leave the camp, do you remember any rules about whether you could or couldn't wear your uniform?

MR COOPER: We weren't allowed to wear uniforms out. We weren't allowed to wear them out, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And do you remember why that was?

MR COOPER: There was no reason, just weren't allowed to wear uniform out.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: Just had to wear a shirt and tie.

MR SANDERS QC: And so when you went out to Guildford on the night were you wearing a shirt and tie?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So there was a certain standard of being ambassadors for the ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... regiment?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. On the Saturday the 5th of October do you remember what you were doing in the day before you went into Guildford?

MR COOPER: The day before?

MR SANDERS QC: No, the day, during the day.

MR COOPER: Oh, the day, during the day.

MR SANDERS QC: Prior to going into ...

MR COOPER: Just a few of us went in do a bit of shopping and have a few drinks,
first time out.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. Do you remember having to, there was some kind of parade in
the morning, and you had to pass that and have your uniform in the
correct order in order to be allowed out?

MR COOPER: Inspection parades, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Would that have happened ...

MR COOPER: We had them every day, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Every day. And then checking your bunk and your locker ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... and so on. Going back to your statement, so this is on the evening
in question, the person you mentioned being with, it says in the
statement Lynn MORRIS, but we think that might have been Glynn
MORRIS, is that correct?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No?

MR COOPER: Definitely Lynn MORRIS.

MR SANDERS QC: Lynn?

MR COOPER: Lynn MORRIS.

MR SANDERS QC: And what would Lynn have been short for? As this is a male soldier presumably?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And can I show you just in case, can I show you a picture of Glynn MORRIS to see if Lynn was a ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... abbreviation or anything.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So this at 4-216.

CORONER: **Is there another?**

CLERK: (inaudible).

CORONER: **Is that, oh, no, that is it.**

MR SANDERS QC: No, I've obviously got the wrong ...

CORONER: **What was the page reference?**

MR SANDERS QC: We're just going to check the index for the ...

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: ... album and try and ... Oh, 4-261, sorry I've typed the numbers the wrong way around.

CORONER: **There we are, on the left.**

MR COOPER: Yeah that's him.

MR SANDERS QC: That's him?

MR COOPER: That's him.

MR SANDERS QC: So that's Glynn.

MR COOPER: It's Glynn, is it?

MR SANDERS QC: Glynn, yes.

CORONER: **Actually, it looks as though the G may have been scratched out, in fact. The G looks as if ...**

MR COOPER: All years I've known him I've always known as Lynn MORRIS.

MR SANDERS QC: Ah, right, it may be ...

CORONER: **I think if you zoom in it looks as though the G has been marked out with, in pen it has been scratched out. So you remember him as being a Lynn not ...**

MR COOPER: Lynn.

CORONER: ... a Glynn?

MR COOPER: Lynn MORRIS.

CORONER: **Yes, is Lynn a common name?**

MR COOPER: Yeah.

CORONER: **A common Welsh name?**

MR COOPER: Yeah, yeah.

CORONER: **So that is not an unusual name for a man?**

MR COOPER: No, sir.

MR SANDERS QC: For a Welsh Guard.

CORONER: **Oh, there we are, Lynn.**

MR SANDERS QC: And was he ...

MS BARTON QC: Sir, can I assist, just ...?

CORONER: **Yes.**

MS BARTON QC: I think it might be helpful because there are statements from a Lynn

MORRIS ...

CORONER: **Right.**

MS BARTON QC: ... rather than a Glynn MORRIS.

CORONER: **Thank you very much.**

MR SANDERS QC: And was he also known as Peanuts?

MR COOPER: I don't know if he was known as Peanuts or there was another boy as

Peanuts.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. But you don't remember who Peanuts might have been?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No, alright. So you were with Lynn MORRIS.

MR COOPER: Lynn MORRIS, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And possibly with Peanuts, we don't know.

CORONER: **And sorry, I missed it because I was concentrating on the writing.**

Did you say you recognized Lynn?

MR COOPER: Yes, yeah.

CORONER: Yes.

MR COOPER: Yes, sir.

CORONER: Yes, thank you.

MR SANDERS QC: So you went into Guildford in the afternoon.

MR COOPER: Afternoon, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you say in the statement it was about 3.30. Do you remember how you got there?

MR COOPER: Sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: No?

MR COOPER: Maybe the bus, I don't know.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And do you remember what you did before going into the pub?

MR COOPER: Couple of shops.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR COOPER: Pick up some bits and pieces, honest to God, can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And you went into the Horse and Groom when it opened, is that right?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So we think that would have been 5.30. You've not been into Guildford before.

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: How did you know where to go?

MR COOPER: Well, we didn't, we just walked and seen a pub and in we went.

MR SANDERS QC: So for you it was a random choice of pub?

MR COOPER: A random choice, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Ah. And you say you didn't know that it had a reputation as an army pub or a pub for service personnel?

MR COOPER: May have heard something, I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: To be honest with you.

MR SANDERS QC: That's absolutely fine.

MR COOPER: Can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: And you went into the pub, and I'm just going to show you just one photo just of the outside just to kind of remind you of it. This is at 7-1352. Is that familiar? Do you remember that that's ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... the pub?

MR COOPER: Oh, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you ever go back there?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No, so you only ever went in on one occasion.

MR COOPER: I went past it years ago, I can't remember when, don't quote me on it, we was playing rugby up there somewhere and I think it was a carpet shop.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Yes, I think it's now some kind of sofa shop. So you only went in there once. I just want to show you, you marked up a floor plan at the time just to show where you were in the pub. And this is at 3-36. So the street, the pavement that we just were looking at that's North Street ...

MR COOPER: North Street, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... at the bottom. And then if you go inside there's an alcove on the left and it's marked with your name on it, can you see that?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And that's where you spent most of the time when you were in ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... the pub. And you were in there for just over three hours before the bombing went off, and you were just drinking with friends and socializing?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you describe in one of your statements that just prior to the explosion the pub was packed, do you remember it being busy?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember what percentage of the people in there were
army personnel?

MR COOPER: None, no clue, I haven't got a clue, to be honest.

MR SANDERS QC: Were there ...

MR COOPER: There were quite a few in there.

MR SANDERS QC: Quite a few.

MR COOPER: Because we were talking to a few.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And there were recruits from Pirbright and there were also
WRAC ...

MR COOPER: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... women from ...

MR COOPER: There was some women with their boyfriends and ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR COOPER: ... four young girls.

MR SANDERS QC: And you marked on the plan some names of other people that you
were with and around you. Can you describe, so you're in that area
and it's just coming up to nine o'clock when the explosion happens,
can you help us with what you remember?

MR COOPER: What I remember was me and Lynn we were drinking, and we sort of
said, 'It's your round,' 'No, it's not, it's your round.' I said, 'I'm
going to the toilet.' He said, 'Well, I'll come with you.' So we went

to the toilet, and when we come back from the toilet he went to the bar, we bought some drinks. We started talking to some guys and that's when, I don't know, it just bang.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember anything about the explosion or what happened to you or what you experienced at that time?

MR COOPER: Well, we had sort of, I got half blown, or we rushed down to the door with people coming out.

MR SANDERS QC: And were you sitting on the bench seat against the partition of the alcove? That's what seems to be shown in the photo, were you on a bench seat?

MR COOPER: Not when the bomb went off, no.

MR SANDERS QC: Where were you when the bomb went off?

MR COOPER: We were coming from the toilets, we were about here just around the door area.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, so as you say you were by the door area.

MR COOPER: (inaudible) yeah.

CORONER: Sorry, I cannot see that, so ...

MR SANDERS QC: Just above the main entrance sort of ...

CORONER: I see.

MR SANDERS QC: ... walking from the toilets back in ...

CORONER: Okay.

MR SANDERS QC: ... towards the alcove.

MR COOPER: So we sort of stopped at the bar here to get drinks.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So you were just at the corner of the bar?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Where were you facing when the explosion happened?

MR COOPER: I haven't got a clue.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: Haven't got a clue, to be honest with you.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you get a sense of where it came from, where the actual bomb
must have been?

MR COOPER: Well, something come from sort of well looking towards the side or
behind us.

MR SANDERS QC: So if you were facing the corner of the bar ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... if we just have a look at the ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... plan. You're facing where it says bar.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And is it the alcove where there's a fireplace and a jukebox? That
kind of area to your ...

MR COOPER: Sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: ... left ...

MR COOPER: To my left.

MR SANDERS QC: ... and over your shoulder.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, thank you. And immediately afterwards did all the lights go off
and it went dark?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And there was lots of dust.

MR COOPER: Dust, glass.

MR SANDERS QC: Debris. Were you thrown very far, or were you thrown against the
bar, do you remember?

MR COOPER: Probably against the door area ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: ... where the windows are.

MR SANDERS QC: Towards the main entrance?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you lose consciousness at all?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And then what happened next after the explosion had happened?

MR COOPER: Well, we got rushed outside, so I remember then like we got out, we
went back, I went back in, back in and down to the cellar.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And when you say going down into the cellar there's a hole ...

MR COOPER: Yeah, hole in the floor, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Hole in the floor and you can see down into the cellar.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Can I just show you a couple of photos of the hole? So the first is at 7-1345. That's from the inside of what was left of the alcove with the fireplace and the jukebox on the left, and then the hole and you can see the beer kegs down there. That's what you're referring to, correct?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And there's one more photo which is 7-1360.

MR COOPER: Jesus.

MR SANDERS QC: So that's taken more or less from where you would have been when the bomb went off. And there you can see the fireplace and the hole there. Did you go down into the hole?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: How did you get down? Did you just jump straight in?

MR COOPER: Just got down, don't know how, just went down.

MR SANDERS QC: Just went down. And what did you see, what was down there?

MR COOPER: Well, I seen a girl lying down there with her leg badly, I can't remember if it was off or badly mutilated.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR COOPER: Somebody said, 'Put a tie around it,' so we had a tie, tie around her and then somebody said, 'Help.' I tried helping, but somebody tapped me, from what I can remember somebody tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'She's gone mate.'

MR SANDERS QC: Right. I just want to, and I know this is obviously a distressing memory, but just to break it down a little bit. Did you see any kind of pile, presumably you did, of rubble down in the hole? Debris that had fallen down ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... with the floor and the hearth and so on. And the woman that you saw was she in amongst the rubble, did she have rubble over her?

MR COOPER: To be honest with you, I just can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: You can't remember. Do you remember seeing anyone else down there in terms of casualties or victims?

MR COOPER: No, just remember the one person lying there.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MR COOPER: And there was somebody else helping me at the time, I don't know who it was.

CORONER: **Sorry, someone helping you?**

MR COOPER: Someone helping, yeah.

CORONER: Can I just ask you ...

MR COOPER: There was two of us there, sir.

CORONER: What made you go down the hole? I mean you went back into the pub, and you saw the hole in the floor presumably, but what made you think, 'Oh, I must go down'?

MR COOPER: Just seen somebody, something down there.

CORONER: Because you saw someone down there?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

CORONER: So that is why you went down ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

CORONER: ... you saw someone in the cellar ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

CORONER: ... you went down to help. Thank you.

MR SANDERS QC: And that was obviously putting yourself at risk because you wouldn't know if the building's going to fall down or if there's another bomb, but you've gone in because you know there are people who need help.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. The woman that you saw down there in your statement you said it was her right leg that was particularly badly mutilated.

MR COOPER: I think it was her right, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And that sounds right. Can you describe anything else about her what she looked like or what she was wearing?

MR COOPER: Oh, sorry, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And when you went down there was it your impression that she was alive to begin with?

MR COOPER: Yeah, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Was she conscious?

MR COOPER: Don't think so, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. So you jumped down, was it quite dark down there?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember any firemen down there?

MR COOPER: Not at the time, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: No because we went straight in.

MR SANDERS QC: And you're not sure who you went in with, but you went in with someone else.

MR COOPER: Somebody else was down there with me.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: I know there was somebody down there.

MR SANDERS QC: Could it have been Mr WALSH? Can I just show you, I know you've obviously spoken to him outside, but a photo of him at the time which is 4-337? There on the left, was it Mr WALSH?

MR COOPER: Mr WALSH (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: On the left.

MR COOPER: Oh, right.

MR SANDERS QC: The labels relate to the ...

MR COOPER: Yeah, fine, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MR COOPER: I don't know.

MR SANDERS QC: You're not sure.

MR COOPER: Not sure, no.

MR SANDERS QC: Was it a member of your unit or your training company, someone you knew, or was it a stranger?

MR COOPER: Don't know.

MR SANDERS QC: You don't know. And you talk about applying a tourniquet to the young woman's leg, and that was a tie.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember who's tie that was?

MR COOPER: Don't know. Ours had been taken off as soon as we left the camp.

MR SANDERS QC: But you had them with you?

MR COOPER: Probably in my coat pocket upstairs.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, so you had ties.

MR COOPER: Well, which was upstairs.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you do anything else apart from the tourniquet, any other treatment that you remember?

MR COOPER: Well, if I remember rightly, I think I went down to try and give her the kiss of life, but all blood come up.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: I don't think that's in my statement, but thinking back I can ...

MR SANDERS QC: So you tried to give mouth to mouth resuscitation? Had you had first aid training?

MR COOPER: Not in the army at the time, no.

MR SANDERS QC: But you had a sort of rudimentary ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... first aid?

MR COOPER: Cadets school.

MR SANDERS QC: Cadets, very good. So you think you may have attempted to give mouth to mouth, do you think you actually did?

MR COOPER: I didn't, no, because ...

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: ... all blood come up.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: There was two of us there, but somebody else was doing something as well, but like I said it's so long ago.

MR SANDERS QC: No. I mean obviously you've just suffered an immense shock and it's 48 years ago, it's completely understandable that you don't remember every single detail. Then someone said to you that she sadly died, is that correct?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And can you tell us what you remember?

MR COOPER: As far as I remember somebody tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'Mate she's gone.' That's all I can remember.

MR SANDERS QC: And you don't remember ...

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: ... who that was?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR COOPER: And after that I just don't know what we done, it's like we just went. Like the emergency services have got her then ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR COOPER: ... and said, 'Leave it to us,' and we just give our name to police outside.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MR COOPER: And that was it.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you help to carry her out on a stretcher, put her on a stretcher?

MR COOPER: Honestly can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: You can't remember that. And you don't remember seeing any other casualties or being aware of any other victims down ...

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: ... there? Do you have any other recollections from the night?

MR COOPER: I can remember other people working were looking at somebody else down there, but myself, no.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. But you were obviously focusing on the woman you were trying to help. And then were you injured at all?

MR COOPER: No, cuts, just scratches, cuts.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you go to hospital afterwards?

MR COOPER: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No, alright. Well, thank you very much, Mr COOPER, that's very, very helpful. I don't have any further questions for you, but the coroner might do, so if you just wait there, thank you.

MR COOPER: Okay, thank you.

CORONER: Thank you. Ms BARTON?

MS BARTON QC: I'm asking questions on behalf of Surrey Police, and I just want to try and jog your memory as to who Peanuts might be. We've got a statement, sir, for your reference S140.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MS BARTON QC: From a William WILLIAMS, a guardsman who said he was with you that evening and he said he was also with Peanuts who was called Gerald DAVIES, does that ring a bell?

MR COOPER: No.

MS BARTON QC: It doesn't, okay, thanks.

MR COOPER: But excuse me, could you say that first name again?

MS BARTON QC: William WILLIAMS.

MR COOPER: That name does ring a bell, but it's ...

MS BARTON QC: Yeah. He says he was one of the people in a group with you and Peanuts ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

MS BARTON QC: ... at the Horse and Groom that night, so that rings a bell. And he calls Peanuts Gerald DAVIES, but that doesn't ring a bell for you.

MR COOPER: Have you got a photo of Gerald DAVIES?

MS BARTON QC: I'm sure we do.

MR SANDERS QC: We'll just check the index.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MS BARTON QC: D A V I S not with an E.

CORONER: So what page was Mr Cooper's diagram plan? Do you remember you referred to it in your ...?

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MS BARTON QC: His plan was 3-36, sir.

CORONER: Thank you.

MR SANDERS QC: There you go, 4-201.

CORONER: So we have got a ... Oh, sorry, which one is he? So that is DAVIES with an I E S.

MS BARTON QC: Yeah, he spells his name DAVIS with a D A V I S, but ...

CORONER: Oh, yes.

MS BARTON QC: ... it may be misspelled ...

CORONER: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: ... on there, it is Gerald.

CORONER: Does that ring any bells?

MR COOPER: Yes, sir, it does. I recognize the first.

CORONER: You do recognize Gerald DAVIES?

MR COOPER: Yeah.

CORONER: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: Thank you.

CORONER: And then if we, sorry, Heather, can you bring up 3-36 again please?

MRS NIN: Sorry, 3-3 ...?

CORONER: Six, 3-36. This is your plan I think, isn't it? Well, I suspect you did not write it, probably ...

MR COOPER: No, no.

CORONER: ... the police officer wrote it.

MR COOPER: The police officer, yeah.

CORONER: But there is a DAVIS there, isn't there, on the bottom on the wall, the outside wall against North Street. He has ...

MR COOPER: Yeah.

CORONER: It looks like Stephen ...

MR COOPER: Yeah, yeah.

CORONER: ... something or other. But in fact, then it is crossed out and there is a DAVIS, D A V I S there.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

CORONER: Sorry, what did you say? Peanuts was that DAVIS?

MS BARTON QC: Peanuts is Gerald DAVIS.

CORONER: DAVIS.

MS BARTON QC: Yes.

CORONER: Yes.

MR COOPER: It's come back to me, yeah.

MS BARTON QC: I can see the witness nodding his head, it's come back to him.

MR COOPER: Yeah.

CORONER: **Yes. That rings a bell?**

MR COOPER: Yeah, yes, sir, it does.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MS BARTON QC: Thank you very much.

CORONER: **Mr PLEETH?**

MR PLEETH: No thanks.

CORONER: **Mr SANDERS, anything?**

MR SANDERS QC: No thank you.

CORONER: **No. Mr COOPER, thank you very much, that concludes your evidence. I am very grateful to you, I know you have come quite a long way to get here, so I am very grateful. It is very helpful to have these first-hand accounts, so thank you very much.**

MR COOPER: Thank you, sir.

CORONER: **You are free to stay or to go, whichever you choose to do. But thank you, safe journey home.**

(The witness withdrew)

CORONER: **So we are going next to, is it Mr WALSH, I think, Stephen WALSH? Mr WALSH, please.**

MR STEPHEN WALSH (sworn):

CORONER: Thank you, do sit down. Good morning to you.

MR WALSH: Good morning.

CORONER: Would you give me your full name, please?

MR WALSH: Stephen Edwin WALSH.

CORONER: Thank you very much. Mr WALSH, much the same as I said before, please listen to the questions, if we need to ask something else, we will, so just confine your answers to the questions please.

Thank you, Mr SANDERS.

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

MR WALSH: Morning.

MR SANDERS QC: You have seen Mr COOPER give evidence, so you know the drill. I am going to go over the same matters. Can I just start by you don't need to tell me your full home address, but where are you living at the moment?

MR WALSH: Plymouth.

MR SANDERS QC: Plymouth, thank you. And are you working or retired?

MR WALSH: Retired.

MR SANDERS QC: When did you retire?

MR WALSH: Last year.

MR SANDERS QC: Last year, thank you. So just to start with I just need to take you to the statements that you made at the time to the police.

MR WALSH: Okay.

MR SANDERS QC: And they'll come up on the screen to your left. So the first one, these are the handwritten statements, the first one is 20-76. And just stop there. That's dated the 6th of October 74, Stephen Edwin WALSH, 19 years old and you were a soldier at HQ Company, Guard's Depot, Pirbright. Is that your signature there?

MR WALSH: It is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Just go down to the bottom, and again there?

MR WALSH: It is.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So that was the day after the bombing, a very short statement. And then you made a longer statement about ten days later, the 16th of October 74, and that's at 20-72. There again, is that your signature under the date there?

MR WALSH: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then down at the bottom again there?

MR WALSH: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And I think you've had an opportunity to reread the typed-up versions of these statements.

MR WALSH: I have, yes.

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

MR WALSH: Yes, they are.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. So you were 19 at the time, and just to put the photo of you on the screen just to sort of take you back to that time. It's 4-337, there that's you?

MR WALSH: Yes, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. When had you joined the army? When did you enlist?

MR WALSH: 1971.

MR SANDERS QC: So you'd been in for three years?

MR WALSH: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: So did you join straight from school?

MR WALSH: I did yes, as a boy soldier.

MR SANDERS QC: As a boy soldier. And when you were a boy soldier were you attached to the Scots Guards, or is that a separate unit?

MR WALSH: As a boy soldier we were in a company and it was all mixed, but it was mostly Welsh guards and Irish guards at the time.

MR SANDERS QC: And where were you based at that point?

MR WALSH: Pirbright in D Lines.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, so you'd been at Pirbright the whole time?

MR WALSH: For my basic training.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you then go on somewhere else?

MR WALSH: After I finished my boy's company, I then done my initial basic training as an adult, and then I went to my battalion that were at Caterham at the time.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, so you were through basic training by the time of the bombing?

MR WALSH: Yes, I was.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were with the battalion there?

MR WALSH: In fact, I was permanent staff in the guard's depot.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Because you're a corporal, so you're obviously senior to the new recruits and the privates ...

MR WALSH: That's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... or the guardsmen. And headquarters company, what was that?

MR WALSH: That was mostly the permanent staff that were employed within the guard's depot.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And were you living on the camp?

MR WALSH: I was indeed.

MR SANDERS QC: But presumably you're in slightly better quarters than the new recruits, is that right?

MR WALSH: Well, I think the accommodation was all basically the same, but I did have my own room.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, you weren't in a big dormitory?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And subsequent to the bombings did you stay in the army?

MR WALSH: I did, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: How long did you serve for?

MR WALSH: About 24 years.

MR SANDERS QC: 24 years. And then after leaving the army what did you do?

MR WALSH: I joined Devon and Cornwall Police as Police Staff.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and then until last year?

MR WALSH: And then I retired.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Pirbright the camp, is this right, is about six or seven miles from Guildford, correct?

MR WALSH: Yes, that's about right.

MR SANDERS QC: And so did you undergo two phases of basic training? One as a boy soldier and then one as an adult, is that correct?

MR WALSH: Yes, but the adult training wasn't, it was only a couple of weeks, it wasn't as long as an adult recruit would have taken.

MR SANDERS QC: Because you'd had the head start of ...?

MR WALSH: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: So by the time of the bombing had you been in Northern Ireland at all?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you go to Northern Ireland after?

MR WALSH: At a later date.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR WALSH: Much later.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So focusing if you can on those early years up until the bombing in 74, had you had training about the threat from the IRA?

MR WALSH: I can't remember on that score.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Do you remember anything to do with the training about checking under cars or ...?

MR WALSH: No, can't remember anything.

MR SANDERS QC: No, nothing about being vigilant or checking your surroundings?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Anything like that? No. Thank you. Do you remember anything about the BIKINI alert system?

MR WALSH: At the back of my mind says I do remember, but I can't remember the colours and I can't remember the different states to the colours.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR WALSH: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: And you wouldn't know whether that was a vague memory from before 1974 or from afterwards?

MR WALSH: Correct, I wouldn't.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. You may be able to help with this, do you remember a part one and part two orders?

MR WALSH: I remember part one and part two, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And what were they?

MR WALSH: Basically, they were daily orders given out by a commanding officer, or in, say, the depot the common (inaudible) stating what was happening for that day.

MR SANDERS QC: And were you obliged to read them each day?

MR WALSH: We were obliged to read them, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And were they put on a notice board?

MR WALSH: Yes, they were.

MR SANDERS QC: And might they say anything about security or the IRA or anything like that?

MR WALSH: I can't remember that far.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And could you just describe what the camp was like? Because we've heard it was quite a large camp with a road running through it.

MR WALSH: It was a very large camp. It had two main barracks which was the Elizabeth's Barracks right at the top end, D Lines and then the guard's depot.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR WALSH: And then you had dual arms drill wing as well.

MR SANDERS QC: And there were assault courses and firing ranges?

MR WALSH: Assault courses, ranges.

MR SANDERS QC: So it was a large centre.

MR WALSH: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And were you aware at the time that there'd been an IRA attack at Pirbright ...

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: ... the year before in amongst some tents where the (inaudible) cavalry were staying?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR WALSH: I can't remember that at all.

MR SANDERS QC: As a corporal when you were off duty were you allowed to leave the base, leave the camp?

MR WALSH: Yes, I was.

MR SANDERS QC: And were there any restrictions on where you could go, what you could do?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Any rules about drinking?

MR WALSH: Only not to mix ranks and be out with recruits or junior ranks to myself.

CORONER: Sorry, can you just say that again? Not to ... What did you say?

Not to ...

MR WALSH: I wasn't allowed to mix ranks.

CORONER: I have got it, thank you, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So you would have to stay with people at your level?

MR WALSH: My own level.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, what was the rationale for that, do you think?

MR WALSH: It was just the ruling at the time of the Guard's depot.

MR SANDERS QC: Just a sort of hierarchic old nature ...

MR WALSH: That's right.

MR SANDERS QC: ... of the army. Do you remember any rules about being not allowed to wear uniform when you left the camp?

MR WALSH: We were, well, we never wore uniform. Well, I certainly didn't at my rank.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember if that was because there was a prohibition on doing that, or that was just a practice?

MR WALSH: I think it was just a practice that come in. I remember when I was an actual recruit in 1971, I had to wear uniform.

MR SANDERS QC: When you left?

MR WALSH: Whenever I went out.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR WALSH: Or went home on leave, it was always in uniform. And then when I went as permanent staff it all changed.

MR SANDERS QC: So that wasn't a change in policy, that was just a change in being a boy soldier as opposed to an adult?

MR WALSH: It could have been a change in policy, I don't know.

MR SANDERS QC: No, alright. So going to the day of the bombing, the Saturday the 5th of October, do you remember what you had been doing during the day beforehand?

MR WALSH: I would more than likely just been relaxing in my room.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And had you been into Guildford to socialize, go to the pubs many times before?

MR WALSH: Yes, quite a few times.

MR SANDERS QC: And were there particular pubs that were known as quote unquote army pubs?

MR WALSH: Seven Stars, Horse and Groom.

MR SANDERS QC: Any others?

MR WALSH: And The Pied Bull.

MR SANDERS QC: The ...?

MR WALSH: The Pied Bull.

MR SANDERS QC: I think there's a reference to The Carpenters.

MR WALSH: Three Pigeons, sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: Three Pigeons, very good. So you'd been into Guildford, when you went into Guildford did you drive or public transport?

MR WALSH: Normally I went on public transport.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And you mention three people that you were with that evening, I just want to take you to photos of those to check we've got the right people.

MR WALSH: Mmm hmm..

MR SANDERS QC: And the first is 4-189, you choose their surnames, but trying to piece it together, was it Robert CLARK that you were with? You mentioned being with CLARK.

MR WALSH: It's such a long, I can't remember ...

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR WALSH: ... because I've never seen them after I left the depot.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and when did you leave the depot?

MR WALSH: It must have been '75.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So they were just friends of yours at the time?

MR WALSH: Well, they were trainee drummers.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. That you would have been training, teaching yourself or just that you ...?

MR WALSH: I was employed as a tailor.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. But you knew them from the camp?

MR WALSH: They were in my same accommodation block.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh. And had you been down to Guildford with them before?

MR WALSH: I don't think so, I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And the next one was you gave his surname BEATY, but he's Archie BEATY, do you remember him?

MR WALSH: No, I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No. I'll just show you the photo just in case, he also seems to have been known as Peach BEATY. And it's 4-173. On the left, bottom left there, do you recognize him?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And then the last one is Colin GRANT, is that a name that rings a bell?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Well, just in case I'll show you the photo, 4-225. And that's Gregory GRANT, is there ...

MR WALSH: No, it doesn't ring a bell.

MR SANDERS QC: Is there another GRANT? I thought there was a Colin, there Colin GRANT bottom right.

MR WALSH: No, it doesn't.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Alright, so you were heading into Guildford, and you were just going to go to one of the pubs you'd been to before. All those three pubs you mentioned were all quite close together, that's right, isn't it?

MR WALSH: They are, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So just a few hundred yards away. So you could just head in and then see which one was looking the most lively or people you knew there and so on.

MR WALSH: Correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And you say you got to the Horse and Groom between 6.45 and 7 that evening, is that right?

MR WALSH: That's right.

MR SANDERS QC: So you only stayed there for 15 minutes, then you went to The Seven Stars as a group?

MR WALSH: As a group.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were there for about an hour until about eight o'clock.

MR WALSH: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And then you left to go to the Three Pigeons with Robert CLARK?

MR WALSH: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember being in The Seven Stars that evening?

MR WALSH: I do, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Anything you're able to tell us about what was happening?

MR WALSH: No, it was just a busy atmosphere, the disco was starting up and then we just left.

MR SANDERS QC: And then what was it like in the Three Pigeons?

MR WALSH: I can't remember, I'm sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: No. You say that about 8.50 you left the Three Pigeons to go back to The Seven Stars, does that sound right?

MR WALSH: That sounds about right, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So you were walking from the Three Pigeons to The Seven Stars when you heard ...

MR WALSH: The explosion.

MR SANDERS QC: ... the explosion. You put 8.50 in the statement, do you think that you had a time in your mind, or were you just being told that was when the bomb had gone off?

MR WALSH: I really don't know why that times, but ...

MR SANDERS QC: No, but at that point when the bomb went off you were walking from the Three Pigeons to The Seven Stars?

MR WALSH: Correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Maybe heading to the disco?

MR WALSH: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And can you tell us what you saw and what you heard of the blast?

MR WALSH: Well, just heard a big bang, everybody was coming out of The Seven Stars saying, 'Oh, the Horse and Groom's been blown.' And then I just turned around and run up to the Horse and Groom to see if there was anything I could do.

MR SANDERS QC: And at that point did you have a gut feeling about what might have happened?

MR WALSH: Yes, I did.

MR SANDERS QC: And what was that?

MR WALSH: That the IRA bomb.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And I think you say in your statement that you arrive with Archie BEATY.

MR WALSH: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: So he's come out of The Seven Stars because he wasn't with you in the Three Pigeons, and you've run up to the Horse and Groom.

MR WALSH: Mmm hmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And what did you encounter when you got there? What did you see?

MR WALSH: Mass hysterics everywhere, people coming out not knowing what to do, crying. And I just saw a big hole in the wall, I don't know whether it was my military training took over, but I just went inside to see if I could help.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And did you see were there any police on the scene by that point?

MR WALSH: There was a few police officers, not a lot, certainly no ambulances or fire.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. But this is within moments ...

MR WALSH: Minutes, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... of the blast. I just want to, you've mentioned a hole in the wall, I want to, I think we've got some photos of it, but I just want to just show you first the front of the pub just to remind you. This is at 7-1352. There, that's the front of the Horse and Groom, this is after the bomb obviously, is that familiar to you?

MR WALSH: It is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And the hole in the wall, on the left-hand side of that photo there's a little, it's sometimes referred to as a carport, but there's a passageway with a flat roof cover over it. Can you see that on the far left ...

MR WALSH: Yes, I can, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... photo? Do you remember that?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: That's where the hole was blown in the wall. And I'm just going to show you some photos of that, the first is at 7-1359. There, do you think that's where you went in?

MR WALSH: It could have been, I can't really remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No. I mean it was all, it was dark.

MR WALSH: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: A bomb's just gone off.

MR WALSH: Hysterical people and ...

MR SANDERS QC: And there was dust in the air.

MR WALSH: Mmm, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then just from the rear just to show you another photo of that, it's 7-1337. There, that's just from the opposite end of the carport another view of the hole in the wall. So you remember going through the hole in the wall?

MR WALSH: Hole in the wall.

MR SANDERS QC: Were there other people going in? Were there other people around?

MR WALSH: I remember coming in with BEATY ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR WALSH: ... at the time he was with me.

MR SANDERS QC: Ah.

MR WALSH: And there was quite a few people inside.

MR SANDERS QC: And what did you see when you got inside?

MR WALSH: I saw a nurse and I thought she put a tourniquet on a young girl who I believe the ankle had been blown off. I asked, why I asked I don't

know, but I asked her, 'What's her pulse?' And she said, 'She's going, she's gone, she's come back.' So I then took over and started giving cardiac massage. I remember bringing her back and saying to Mr TAYLOR, 'Give her the kiss of life.' And we brought her back and then suddenly everything had gone again.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And when you said cardiac massage, do you mean CPR?

MR WALSH: CPR.

MR SANDERS QC: And had you had first aid training?

MR WALSH: I've had basic first aid training through Scouts, military, etcetera.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And do you remember a hole in the floor?

MR WALSH: I cannot remember this hole, but it must have been because it's in my statement and this is where the young girl was.

MR SANDERS QC: So you, although you don't remember jumping down in a hole that must have been where you were?

MR WALSH: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: It may follow from the fact that you don't remember the hole that you won't remember this, but do you remember anyone else around you, or any other victims or casualties?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember anyone else down there helping?

MR WALSH: I remember a doctor and I remember someone give me a stretcher.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So can we just, just to go back, when you got there, there was a young woman with a foot missing?

MR WALSH: Correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And there was a nurse, you think?

MR WALSH: I think it was a nurse.

MR SANDERS QC: To think it was a nurse presumably it was a nurse in uniform?

MR WALSH: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And this is a female nurse?

MR WALSH: Correct.

MR SANDERS QC: So there was a female nurse down there applying a tourniquet and trying to help the young woman. Do you remember anything about the young woman, what she looked like, what she was wearing?

MR WALSH: No, it was very horrific, I think her face was all scarred and eyes were burnt, and she was just staring.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR WALSH: And no, she was covered in ash and bits of rubble.

MR SANDERS QC: So a horrific scene.

MR WALSH: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: But was she conscious?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: But she was alive?

MR WALSH: Yes, very weak pulse.

MR SANDERS QC: With a very weak pulse. And so you gave her CPR, you remember Mr TAYLOR giving her mouth to mouth.

MR WALSH: Correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember Mr COOPER being around?

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Do you remember which foot it was that had been blown off?

MR WALSH: I think it was the right.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, thank you. And you mention in your statement that it was Stephen TAYLOR who gave mouth to mouth. And I just want to check because there was a Stephen COOPER who we've just heard from, and there was a John TAYLOR who is giving evidence after you.

MR WALSH: I've just got it as Trained Soldier TAYLOR.

MR SANDERS QC: Trained Solider TAYLOR. So do you think that's probably more likely ...

MR WALSH: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... Mr TAYLOR? Can I just show you a photo of him from the time?

This is 4-319. I think it's down there on the right there.

MR WALSH: No, it doesn't ...

MR SANDERS QC: That doesn't ring a bell?

MR WALSH: No, it doesn't ring a bell, sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: No. The doctor, how did you know that he was a doctor? He told you he was a doctor, did he?

MR WALSH: Well, he was helping other people.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR WALSH: Once everything had settled down you can sort of see what's going on a bit more and he was certainly helping other people.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And when the woman that you were helping died was that something you knew immediately when that had happened, did you?

MR WALSH: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And so it wasn't that someone else told you ...

MR WALSH: No.

MR SANDERS QC: ... 'She's gone,' or anything like that? And then what happened next?

MR WALSH: We, well myself and one other placed her onto the stretcher and we took her outside and laid her on the pavement with the other bodies that were pulled out.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And you say in your statement that the doctor said something about, 'Don't worry about her,' could you tell us about that?

MR WALSH: Once I had been working on the young girl, I wouldn't say you get attached, but the doctor come along and I was trying gently to put her

onto the stretcher and the doctor basically said, 'Put her on, nothing's going to hurt her now.'

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR WALSH: Or words to that effect.

MR SANDERS QC: I see, thank you. Do you remember helping anyone else, any other casualties or victims?

MR WALSH: After everything had died down, I was outside and I remember getting into an ambulance and going to the hospital to see if I could help with identification. Especially as I was from the Guard's depot as an (inaudible) officer.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, thank you. And then you stayed at the hospital until you were no longer ...

MR WALSH: Correct, and then ...

MR SANDERS QC: ... needed?

MR WALSH: ... I went back to barracks.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Thank you very much, Mr WALSH, that's very helpful. If you just wait there, there may be some other questions.

MR WALSH: Thank you.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MS BARTON QC: No thank you, sir.

MR PLEETH: Thank you, sir. Mr WALSH, at the beginning of your evidence you were asked a series of questions about security training or awareness in those early days of your military career, and you said you didn't remember that. I'd like to make sure we understand what you meant. Is your answer, and would you wish us to take from your answer that you did not receive any training or awareness? Or that you simply don't remember whether you received it one way or the other?

MR WALSH: I don't remember one way or the other.

MR PLEETH: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

CORONER: **Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr WALSH, that concludes your evidence. I am very grateful to you as with the other witnesses. So you are free to stay or to go as you choose. Again, I know you have come quite a long way too from Plymouth, so thank you very much for doing that.**

MR WALSH: Thank you.

CORONER: **And safe journey home.**

MR WALSH: Thank you very much.

(The witness withdrew)

CORONER: **We take John TAYLOR next, is it?**

MR SANDERS QC: Correct, sir, yes.

CORONER: **Mr TAYLOR, please.**

MR JOHN TAYLOR (sworn):

CORONER: Thank you. Do sit down, Mr TAYLOR.

MR TAYLOR: Thank you.

CORONER: Good morning to you.

MR TAYLOR: Good morning.

CORONER: Would you give me your full name, please?

MR TAYLOR: John Robert TAYLOR.

CORONER: Thank you. Mr TAYLOR, can I ask you just to come forward a bit, or pull the microphone towards you a little bit? As with the others, please, when you are giving your evidence keep your voice up. Try not to talk too quickly for us because we need to take a note of your evidence. And I will introduce you now to Mr SANDERS QC who is going to ask you some questions on my behalf.

MR TAYLOR: Thank you.

CORONER: Thank you.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Good morning, Mr TAYLOR.

MR TAYLOR: Morning.

MR SANDERS QC: While we've got it on the screen in front of you, can I just check is that a photo of you from the time of the Guildford pub bombings there?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: That's you, thank you. I just need to start with your current address, you don't need to tell me your full home address, but where are you living at the moment?

MR TAYLOR: Rochdale.

MR SANDERS QC: Rochdale, thank you. And are you working or retired?

MR TAYLOR: Retired.

MR SANDERS QC: Retired, thank you. I just first need to take you through the statement that you made at the time of the bombing just to verify that this is yours. So this is at 20-130. We see there 6th of October, so the day after the bombings, John Robert TAYLOR, 23 years old, Guardsman, HQ Company, Welsh Guards Pirbright. And is that your signature there under the date?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And if we just go down to the bottom. There.

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Your signature, thank you. And you have been sent a typed-up version of this and had an opportunity to reread it?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And I understand that your recollection is hazy at best.

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So absolutely no problem if you don't remember anything. Can you confirm first that the contents of your statement are true?

MR TAYLOR: Yes, they are.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. So you're 23 at the time, and you were a Guardsman in the Welsh Guards, correct?

MR TAYLOR: Trained soldier.

MR SANDERS QC: A trained soldier.

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Is that a particular type of rank?

MR TAYLOR: It's a soldier that teaches the young recruit how to clean their kit and lay their stuff out.

MR SANDERS QC: So you were someone training the recruits?

MR TAYLOR: Yes, I was stepping off in November.

MR SANDERS QC: You were, sorry?

MR TAYLOR: Stepping off in November.

MR SANDERS QC: Stepping off in November, what's that mean?

MR TAYLOR: I finished my service.

MR SANDERS QC: Ah, right. So when had you first enlisted?

MR TAYLOR: 68.

MR SANDERS QC: 68. And you would have been, were you a boy soldier as well?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: So what age were you when you joined?

MR TAYLOR: Oh, 16, 17.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR TAYLOR: Somewhere there.

MR SANDERS QC: Was it straight from school or did you do anything else first?

MR TAYLOR: No, I was working as a barman.

MR SANDERS QC: As a barman. And then you joined up?

MR TAYLOR: Joined up.

MR SANDERS QC: And were you in the Welsh Guards your whole career?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then you left end of 74?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. What did you do after the army?

MR TAYLOR: I was a wagon driver.

MR SANDERS QC: Wagon driver. And then when did you retire?

MR TAYLOR: 2018.

MR SANDERS QC: 2018, thank you very much. So were you living on the camp at
Pirbright?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: How long had you been at Pirbright for?

MR TAYLOR: Came down from Chelsea Barracks into Pirbright, so about six months.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And so this was your final job in the army was training recruits?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: When had you done your basic training at Pirbright?

MR TAYLOR: 68.

MR SANDERS QC: 68.

MR TAYLOR: 18 weeks training.

MR SANDERS QC: 18 weeks? Thank you. And between basic training and being at Pirbright had you served in Northern Ireland at all?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And when were you in Northern Ireland?

MR TAYLOR: Sorry I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Just one tour or more than one?

MR TAYLOR: Two tours.

MR SANDERS QC: Two tours. So you were aware of the threat posed to soldiers by the IRA?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Had you had any training or briefings about that, or was that just a general awareness?

MR TAYLOR: During training we had just before we went to Northern Ireland.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, so it wasn't part of your basic training?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And what did that training comprise of, what did it cover?

MR TAYLOR: Crowd control, use of weapons, when we can fire our weapons.

MR SANDERS QC: And were you told how the IRA operated, and what sort of devices to look out for and so on?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Do you remember any training about searching under cars or checking packages or anything like that?

MR TAYLOR: Sorry I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No, that's alright. So you're living on the camp at Pirbright and you've been there for six months. And is this correct, Pirbright was about six or seven miles from Guildford?

MR TAYLOR: Correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And Guildford was the nearest big town where you might go to socialize?

MR TAYLOR: It was Guildford, Woking, Aldershot.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, so you would go to those three?

MR TAYLOR: We would go to any one.

MR SANDERS QC: Those three towns, right. Had you been into Guildford several times
by the time of the bombing?

MR TAYLOR: Oh yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So you knew the pubs well?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And were some of the pubs known to you as army pubs?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember which ones were?

MR TAYLOR: Seven Stars and Horse and Groom.

MR SANDERS QC: Seven Stars and Horse and Groom. So you knew both those pubs
quite well?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Just to backtrack slightly, were you aware that there had been
an IRA attack at Pirbright in 1973?

MR TAYLOR: No, I can't remember anything about that.

MR SANDERS QC: No, it doesn't ring any bells to you?

MR TAYLOR: No, it doesn't ring any bells.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember anything about the BIKINI alert system? A system
for telling you whether ...

MR TAYLOR: No, I can't remember anything about them, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. About security states?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright. And do you remember Pirbright camp being quite open with a road running through it, quite a large establishment?

MR TAYLOR: Yes, the main road running through it.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. When you were off duty, so when you were having free time were you allowed to leave the camp?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And were there any restrictions on what you could or couldn't do when you left the camp? Or where you could or couldn't go?

MR TAYLOR: No, not really, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No, so you were just free?

MR TAYLOR: Free.

MR SANDERS QC: Obviously a grown man.

MR TAYLOR: It was free time.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Were there any rules about not getting drunk when you went out or behaviour?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah, there was always that rule.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and what was the rule? What was the guidance?

MR TAYLOR: Don't come back drunk.

MR SANDERS QC: Don't come back drunk. And did you have a curfew, you had to be back by a certain time?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And do you remember having to wear a shirt and tie when you went out, was that something that rings a bell for you?

MR TAYLOR: Because I was in the Battalion no, didn't have to wear a shirt and tie, but the younger recruits had to.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, I see. Do you remember a rule about not wearing uniform when you were off the camp, when you were out in the town?

MR TAYLOR: I never wore a uniform off camp.

MR SANDERS QC: No, but do you remember if that was because you were told not to?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR TAYLOR: We were never told that.

MR SANDERS QC: No, okay, thank you. So the day of the bombing this is Saturday 5th of October, do you remember anything about the day itself before going into Guildford?

MR TAYLOR: No, I can't remember anything.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And do you remember who you were with, who you went into Guildford with?

MR TAYLOR: Oh, I went to see the girlfriend, sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: You went to see your girlfriend?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So you mention in your statement you got a bus, the 4.30 bus from Brookwood into Guildford.

MR TAYLOR: Mmm.

MR SANDERS QC: And then from 4.30 to 5.30 you were waiting at a bus station and then you go to The Seven Stars and The Carpenters, is that correct?

MR TAYLOR: That's right.

MR SANDERS QC: And are you with your girlfriend at that time?

MR TAYLOR: I left the girlfriend in The Seven Stars.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And there's a reference in the statement that you've maybe had a disagreement with her and ...

MR TAYLOR: Oh, yeah, disagreement, she wanted to go somewhere else.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So you say in your statement, I don't think we need to go through the details, between about 5.30 opening time and about 8.15 you were either in The Seven Stars or The Carpenters?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember The Carpenters?

MR TAYLOR: Yes, vaguely.

MR SANDERS QC: Was that an army pub or was that more of a civvy pub?

MR TAYLOR: It was like a passing through pub.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So you just stopped there for a drink?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah, and then moved on.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember all the pubs were quite close together, the ...?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And you then, you checked into the Horse and Groom, but didn't recognize anyone so sat outside.

MR TAYLOR: No, that's right, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember anything about what it was like in the Horse and Groom that night?

MR TAYLOR: There was a few in, but I didn't recognize anybody I knew.

MR SANDERS QC: It was what, sorry?

MR TAYLOR: There was a few people in there, but I didn't recognize anybody I knew.

MR SANDERS QC: No. When you saw a few people, you mean it was crowded or busy or ...?

MR TAYLOR: I'd say average.

MR SANDERS QC: Average?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you spot a lot of army personnel?

MR TAYLOR: There was quite a few in there, yes. And there was also civilians in there as well.

MR SANDERS QC: WRACs and recruits?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And also, civilians?

MR TAYLOR: Guardsmen, civilians were there as well.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you see any Teddy Boys in there?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No, alright. So you went and sat on a bench ...

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... by the toilets next door to the pub.

MR TAYLOR: Yes, that's right.

MR SANDERS QC: Because I think that there's a Victorian fire station next door to the pub which is converted into toilets and there's a bench there.

MR TAYLOR: Know what they did (?), yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So you sat there and then can you describe what you remember about what happened next?

MR TAYLOR: Well, all I seen was just a flash and a bang and that was it then. And I went into the Horse and Groom, I was shouting for everybody to get out and pick someone up if you can and get them out.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So just to go over that again because I'm not sure I heard that correctly. So you are sitting on the bench.

MR TAYLOR: On the bench.

MR SANDERS QC: And is the pub to your left? Are you facing the road and the pub is on your left, do you remember?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah, I think pubs on the left, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And then you hear a big bang.

MR TAYLOR: A flash first and then you get a bang.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And a flash first, then a bang. Do you remember anything about the colour of the flash? Did that ...?

MR TAYLOR: No, it was just a flash.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And when you saw the flash and heard the bang did you have a feeling about what had happened?

MR TAYLOR: I had a rough idea what had happened.

MR SANDERS QC: And what was that?

MR TAYLOR: A bomb had gone off.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you immediately think IRA?

MR TAYLOR: I didn't think anything at the time, I just ...

MR SANDERS QC: Thought a bomb.

MR TAYLOR: ... a bomb went off, and that's it.

MR SANDERS QC: And so you went straight to the pub which is just meters away.

MR TAYLOR: And just, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: To see what you could do to help?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. You say you went inside The Horse and Groom?

MR TAYLOR: That's right.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember how you got inside, what entrance?

MR TAYLOR: I went through the front door.

MR SANDERS QC: You went through the front door.

MR TAYLOR: Yeah, I could have gone through the window because there'd be no window there.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And what did you see inside the pub?

MR TAYLOR: Well, I couldn't see much at first because it was all dust and bits of shards of glass flying round and people were staggering round. And I just told them, 'If you can get outside take someone with you.'

MR SANDERS QC: Right, 'If you can get outside take someone with you.'

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And it was dark in there presumably?

MR TAYLOR: It was dark, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Could you smell gas? Was there a smell of gas that you remember?

MR TAYLOR: I couldn't smell gas, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No?

MR TAYLOR: Right.

MR SANDERS QC: Were there any, I presume not because you were right next door, but were there any police or ambulance or firemen there?

MR TAYLOR: Not at that time, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Because you had just been ...

MR TAYLOR: I was practically the first in there.

MR SANDERS QC: ... meters away, yes. Did you see a hole in the floor of ...

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... the pub? And did you see it on the screen earlier the photo?

MR TAYLOR: I seen the photo, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, and that was what you saw?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So in front of the fireplace there was a large hole into the cellar?

MR TAYLOR: That's right.

MR SANDERS QC: And what did you see inside the hole?

MR TAYLOR: I just seen someone move, so there was a bench, so I slid down the
bench into the cellar.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR TAYLOR: And moved the rubble off and I found out it was a young girl.

MR SANDERS QC: So she was covered by rubble?

MR TAYLOR: Rubble.

MR SANDERS QC: What do you remember about her?

MR TAYLOR: Not a lot really.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR TAYLOR: You couldn't see her face properly, her clothes were all dusty, face was all dusty, right foot was missing.

MR SANDERS QC: Her right foot? Do you remember it was the right not the left?

MR TAYLOR: Right.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And was she conscious?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. But did you get the impression that she was alive? Were there signs of life?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So you slid down into the hole, did you register any other casualties or victims down there?

MR TAYLOR: No, I looked round, there was no one else down there.

MR SANDERS QC: You didn't see anyone else?

MR TAYLOR: No, not that I could see anyway.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So your focus was on the young woman?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Were there any other people there helping her?

MR TAYLOR: WALSH, he managed to come down into the cellar.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR TAYLOR: And he was giving ... we checked her, there was no pulse, he gave her a heart massage, I gave the kiss of life, she came back, there was a

pulse and about two minutes later she died again. And then we done it again and she came back again, so, and then we moved her out.

MR SANDERS QC: And then, sorry?

MR TAYLOR: We moved her out.

MR SANDERS QC: You moved her out. And so you managed to revive her twice.

MR TAYLOR: Twice, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember that it was Corporal WALSH who was there?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. Do you remember anyone else there helping? Was there a nurse there?

MR TAYLOR: To tell you the truth, I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Do you remember if a tourniquet had been applied to her leg?

MR TAYLOR: Yes, a tourniquet had been applied.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember what that was?

MR TAYLOR: A tie.

MR SANDERS QC: A necktie?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you know whose necktie it was?

MR TAYLOR: Mine.

MR SANDERS QC: It was yours?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So did you apply the tourniquet?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you know who did?

MR TAYLOR: No, sorry, I can't.

MR SANDERS QC: But you handed over your tie?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And that was used as a tourniquet. Did you realize yourself that the young woman had died, or were you told that?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: You weren't told?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: You just knew?

MR TAYLOR: Well, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then you weren't able to revive her a third time?

MR TAYLOR: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And did a stretcher appear quite quickly?

MR TAYLOR: No, no, not quite quickly, no.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember ...

MR TAYLOR: I can remember a police officer standing up on top of the hole.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR TAYLOR: And me and WALSH were shouting for oxygen.

MR SANDERS QC: For oxygen.

MR TAYLOR: Oxygen, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember anything about the police officer above the hole?

MR TAYLOR: No, I think he disappeared, and I think he came back with the stretcher.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR TAYLOR: So I don't know where he got it from.

MR SANDERS QC: So you were calling for oxygen?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: But by the time the stretcher came sadly she was already dead?

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And so did you then help put her on the stretcher and ...

MR TAYLOR: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... help pass the stretcher up? Is that correct?

MR TAYLOR: Correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, thank you. Do you remember coming out of the hole, anything that happened after that?

MR TAYLOR: Came out of the hole, The Seven Stars had been blown up then, so we went down there. Most of the people were out, we checked inside there was no one in. And Mr WALSH gave me a lift up onto the,

because the stairs had been blown away upstairs and there was a big dog up there, so I handed him down the dog.

MR SANDERS QC: This is in The Seven Stars?

MR TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Did you help with any casualties there or ...?

MR TAYLOR: No, there was no casualties there I don't think.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Do you remember the pub had been evacuated and there were just a few people going back in when the bomb went off, did you hear that?

MR TAYLOR: No, because when we were coming down the road the bomb had already gone off.

MR SANDERS QC: Ah, right. Do you have any other recollections of what happened at The Horse and Groom after the explosion?

MR TAYLOR: No, I haven't.

MR SANDERS QC: No. What you have been able to say has been very helpful. Thank you very much, Mr TAYLOR. I don't have any further questions, but if you just wait there, there may be some more.

MR TAYLOR: Thank you.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MS BARTON QC: No thank you, sir.

MR PLEETH: No thank you, sir.

CORONER: Thank you very much, Mr TAYLOR, it has been very helpful. Again, another eyewitness account is really very helpful indeed, so I am very grateful to you. I know you too have come a long way, you have come from Rochdale. So ...

MR TAYLOR: Yeah, sir.

CORONER: ... it is a long journey, but it is much appreciated. That concludes your evidence, so you are free or to stay, it is up to you.

MR TAYLOR: Thank you very much.

CORONER: But I hope you have a safe journey home.

MR TAYLOR: Thank you very much.

CORONER: Thank you. I think we have one more live witness. I think although it is slightly earlier than I would normally break, we might break, I think, for the mid-morning. I do not particularly want to break halfway through a witness if I do not have to. So Mr BENTLEY, we are going to have a short ... Which is Mr BENTLEY? There we are. Mr BENTLEY, we are going to have a short break, a short mid-morning break, when we come back, we will start your evidence. Thank you very much.

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CLERK: Court please rise.

(A short adjournment)

CORONER: Thank you, Mr BENTLEY, thank you.

MR ALAN BENTLEY (sworn):

CORONER: Please sit down. Could you give me your full name, please?

MR BENTLEY: Alan Geoffrey BENTLEY.

CORONER: Thank you very much, Mr BENTLEY. You've heard me say what I've said to the other witnesses, the same applies, please. Keep your voice up nice and loud, not too quickly, and I'm going to pass you over to Mr SANDERS QC.

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

MR BENTLEY: Morning.

MR SANDERS QC: You were in court yesterday, I think, as well as today?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So you know what's coming. Can I start, please, with where you've living at the moment, not your full home address, but where you live?

MR BENTLEY: Dorset.

MR SANDERS QC: Down in Dorset? Thank you for coming today. And are you working or retired?

MR BENTLEY: Retired.

MR SANDERS QC: When did you retire?

MR BENTLEY: Five years ago.

MR SANDERS QC: Five years ago? Thank you very much. So just to start with, I just need to verify that the statement that you made at the time of the

Guildford Pub Bombing, so this is dated the 9th of October '74, so four days later and it's at 20-121, it'll appear on the screen.

MR BENTLEY: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So Alan Geoffrey BENTLEY, you were over 21, there is your address there, and 9th of October, is that your signature there, Mr BENTLEY?

MR BENTLEY: It is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, and if we just go down to the bottom, there it is again. I think maybe just under the text, perhaps. It's, there?

MR BENTLEY: Yes, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: There? Thank you very much, and you've had an opportunity to reread the typed up version of the statement?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

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

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So October '74, how old were you at that time?

MR BENTLEY: 22.

MR SANDERS QC: 22? And you were working as, what was your job?

MR BENTLEY: A bus driver.

MR SANDERS QC: A bus driver? And you were also a Special Constable with Surrey Police?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And were you a bus driver your whole career or did you do other things?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: What other jobs did you do?

MR BENTLEY: I left bus driving and went into dry cleaning when I became a Health & Safety Advisor and looked after about 25 shops.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and that's, until you retired recently, were you doing that?

MR BENTLEY: No, I left that and then the last ten years I done chauffeuring.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And how long had you been a Special Constable for by the time the bombing happened?

MR BENTLEY: About two years.

MR SANDERS QC: Two years? And what was your role as a Special Constable? What would you do?

MR BENTLEY: We would do regular patrols of Guildford, sometimes on our own, sometimes with people. We were given an area to patrol and I would work most Saturday nights between about six and two am, patrolling to assist the regular police.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and did you have to do a certain number of hours or days a year? What was your commitment?

MR BENTLEY: I think it was only something like about four or six hours a month.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Did you do more than that, though?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes? And as a Special Constable is it right you didn't have the full powers of a police officer, is that right?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No?

MR BENTLEY: That is wrong. You have full powers.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, so what training had you had?

MR BENTLEY: We had training in Law at Mount Browne in Guildford, training in First Aid, and continuous training, and sometimes we went out with regulars who also gave us training.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and so you had the full powers of a Constable.

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Had you had any First Aid training as part of your training?

MR BENTLEY: I'd done some First Aid training, and when I was on the buses we had to do a course and we done a St John's Aid course on First Aid and got a certificate.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and as your police training, were you trained to respond to major incidents like this? Was that something you had covered?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? Presumably if you were working on Saturday nights, would you sometimes have to arrest people?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So you would have training in ...

MR BENTLEY: That's right, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... your powers and about how to restrain people and so on? Had your training covered anything to do with the IRA or bomb threats?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? But you were aware at the time, were you, that there was an IRA campaign in the (inaudible)?

MR BENTLEY: That's right.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So you were on duty, I think you say in your statement that you were on duty on the Saturday night in Guildford with Special Constable Malcolm KEEFE?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember that?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes? And so you were patrolling Guildford and you were out on foot? You weren't in a vehicle?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? Do you remember what gear you carried when you were out on patrol?

MR BENTLEY: At the time it was a truncheon, a radio and a whistle.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and you were in uniform.

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Did that include headgear?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So a normal policeman's helmet?

MR BENTLEY: No, a flat cap.

MR SANDERS QC: A flat cap? Was that to mark you out as a Special Constable?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Did you carry a torch?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: You did?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: You've mentioned the radio. Handcuffs?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? First Aid kit?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? And how far were you from the police station when you were at North Street and the High Street? Where was the police station relative to that?

MR BENTLEY: It was the old police station which was probably about six or seven minutes away.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and what were Saturday nights in Guildford like in the 70s?

MR BENTLEY: Very busy. Some of the pubs were very busy.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you know that, or recognise some of the pubs as being Army pubs?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So there would be soldiers and recruits from the surrounding camps come in?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Were those pubs and was the presence of military personnel, was that just on Saturday nights or was that on other nights as well?

MR BENTLEY: I think it was mainly, from what I can remember, Saturday nights because they used to get the passes and the girls used to get the passes from Guildford and then meet the soldiers in Guildford.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and did Guildford get quite rowdy when it was kicking-out time?

MR BENTLEY: It could do, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: There is a reference in a Surrey Police report after the bombing to the fact that there was additional police manpower put onto the streets of Guildford that night. Do you remember that? Were you aware of that?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Had you had any kind of briefing that, or any message on the radio to say that there seemed to be a lot of troops in town tonight?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? That's all right. So at the time of the bombing, so you came on duty at six, did you say?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: So you had been on almost three hours.

MR BENTLEY: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember anything that had happened at the beginning of your shift, what you were doing?

MR BENTLEY: Only advising motorists not to park in places and things like that, and generally just keeping a check on the town.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And at the time of the explosion, I'd just like to ask you where you were, and I'm just going to put a map on the screen if that's all right? So this is at 11-271. There, and if we just go down a bit and then zoom into the North Street area. Have you got your bearings from this?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: This is familiar to you?

MR BENTLEY: I would say, I know exactly where I was. Outside Guildford Library, which was dead opposite, which was down Jeffries Passage.

MR SANDERS QC: Dead opposite the pub?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Can we, I don't know if we can zoom in and see that, but if you just zoom in, can you see there is Ward Street coming from the north down to the south?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

CORONER: **I think you can read Jeffries Passage is there by your (inaudible).**

MR SANDERS QC: Can we? Apologies, sir, I can't see it.

CORONER: **Sorry, no, can you see ...? Heather, can you see the old Cloth Hall? It's at the bottom now of where you zoomed in? If you zoom out a little bit or just move up a little bit there, that writing immediately below the, that will read Jeffries Passage, albeit a bit ...**

MR SANDERS QC: All right, and I see the words 'library' there. So that's, you were outside the library opposite the pub?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And you say just also opposite the junction of Ward Street. And Special Constable KEEFE was further down North Street by, near the junction with Woodbridge Road. Do you remember that?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And what was he doing down there?

MR BENTLEY: He was dealing with a motorist.

MR SANDERS QC: And if we just zoom out a bit you've got, Ward Street comes into North Street and then Leapale Road and then I think Woodbridge Road is the next one if we just keep zooming out? There, that junction there between ...

MR BENTLEY: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: He was up there?

MR BENTLEY: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And what was he doing?

MR BENTLEY: He was dealing with motorists. From what I can remember it may have only been something like a faulty light or something, because obviously we'd stop vehicles for faulty lights and advise the driver to obviously get them repaired, you know ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR BENTLEY: ... and make a note of their number.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And do you know what other police officers or special constables were around? Had you seen others on that night or were just the two of you together?

MR BENTLEY: I think it was just the two of us.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. At the time of the explosion I think you say you had your back to the pub, you weren't looking at the pub, is that right?

MR BENTLEY: No, I was looking down towards Special Constable KEEFE so I was turned slightly.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and could you help us, please, with what happened next and what your experience of the explosion was?

MR BENTLEY: I heard a loud bang. I didn't see a flash and then as I turned around in seconds I could see that the pub had been blown up with dust and debris blowing in the road, you know, and glass and what have you.

MR SANDERS QC: Were you close enough to feel a shockwave?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? So there was a loud bang and you turned around and the pub's been blown up?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And what did you do then?

MR BENTLEY: I immediately got on the radio and reported in that there had been a gas explosion, and asked for fire engines and ambulances as there could be a lot of people injured.

MR SANDERS QC: Were there already casualties coming out of the pub at this stage?

MR BENTLEY: There was, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then what happened next?

MR BENTLEY: I went into The Horse & Groom and I could see there was a hole in the floor with beer barrels. I could see someone in there. I could see

some legs. I could see someone was trapped, and as I was there I helped people outside and then I looked and I could see a fire engine pull up, so I immediately rushed outside and told the firemen that people were trapped in the building.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, thank you. And so when you are approaching the pub you ran over to the pub, I think you say in your statement that WPC PARRISH, Jacqueline ...

MR BENTLEY: PARRISH was there, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... but do you remember her being there?

MR BENTLEY: Yes, kneeling on the ground attending to somebody.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you speak to her or did you just go straight in?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: And she, I think she was the only police officer who was there before you, is that right?

MR BENTLEY: Yes, (inaudible), yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR BENTLEY: I think Mr KEEFE who was obviously dealing with that motorist obviously ran up the road straightaway afterwards.

MR SANDERS QC: Hot on your heels?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And WPC PARRISH, she was attending to someone and also she was on the radio as well?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: So were you aware at this point that help was on the way, that the emergency services had been summoned?

MR BENTLEY: Yes, we had radioed in for help.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And at that point had you been inside The Horse & Groom before?

MR BENTLEY: Not at that point, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No?

MR BENTLEY: I only went in the once.

MR SANDERS QC: On the night of the bombing?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And so you went inside and just before we get to the hole, what did you see as you entered inside the pub?

MR BENTLEY: Just a lot of dust and wood and glass and everything, and people coming out injured.

MR SANDERS QC: And was it dark inside?

MR BENTLEY: It was but luckily enough, as I was doing nights I had my torch.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, so you were able to shine ...?

MR BENTLEY: Shine the torch and see what's happening.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And could you smell gas at all?

MR BENTLEY: No, I could not.

MR SANDERS QC: And at this point was it still in your mind that there had been a gas explosion?

MR BENTLEY: I still think ... Yes, yes, I did.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you stop to consider whether it was safe to go inside?

MR BENTLEY: No, I did not.

MR SANDERS QC: You just went straight in to help?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you went inside and then you saw the hole in the floor?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And if we just have a look at a photo of that, that's at 7-1345. And you said at the time you could see beer barrels down there?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And so the hole was going down into the cellar.

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And what, taking it in stages, could you see anyone else around the hole?

MR BENTLEY: I only saw someone laying in there and people were getting up from around the hole but not from the bottom of the hole.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and so from down inside the hole, what ...?

MR BENTLEY: I saw some legs.

MR SANDERS QC: You saw some legs?

MR BENTLEY: Yeah, but I couldn't really distinguish much else.

MR SANDERS QC: No. You said that it looked the person whose legs you saw was trapped and was kind of halfway?

MR BENTLEY: That's right. I think the legs were sort of sticking up and there was something across her and you could just see a bit of face, but as I said, that's, it was very dark and I just shone a torch down there, and so it was only a second that I saw that ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, go on.

MR BENTLEY: But I knew the person was trapped, so that's why I went outside again to obviously, once I saw the fire brigade to obviously let them deal with that situation.

MR SANDERS QC: Trying to get her out?

MR BENTLEY: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you recognised that it was a young woman. Is that right?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And I think you say that she was crying and screaming. Is that correct?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So you remember that?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So she was conscious and struggling?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you know if she was one of the people who died or if that was someone who was then saved and taken to hospital?

MR BENTLEY: The only recollection I got is, I think from the photographs it looked like Caroline SLATER but I honestly couldn't swear to that.

MR SANDERS QC: No.

MR BENTLEY: It's just a feeling in my mind.

MR SANDERS QC: And when you say you saw legs, were they injured legs?

MR BENTLEY: Yes, they were, but I couldn't describe where they was injured but I saw blood and that, but I don't know where they were injured.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you think that the legs that you saw were intact or had a foot been blown off or anything like that?

MR BENTLEY: I thought at the time they didn't look intact, but I honestly couldn't give you an answer whether they were intact or not because they had rubble there and ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR BENTLEY: ... you know, I suppose I could say it depends on the height of the person to see where the legs were ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR BENTLEY: ... in relation to the body.

MR SANDERS QC: But you thought at the time that they were intact?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And did you notice anything about what she was wearing?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? So as you were looking into the hole and you could see that she was there struggling, was it at that moment that a fire engine pulled outside?

MR BENTLEY: Yes, it did.

MR SANDERS QC: And you went straight out to tell them?

MR BENTLEY: To tell them because I thought they were in a better position to effect the rescue of her.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. Do you remember giving your torch to anyone to help them?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember anyone else down in the cellar either having jumped down the hole or gone down the stairs?

MR BENTLEY: No, I do not.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And so the firemen went to assist?

MR BENTLEY: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And then what happened after that? You were outside, were you?

MR BENTLEY: Yes, I went outside and I was still guiding people out, and because there was a shortage of ambulances taxis turned up and asked if they could take people to hospital, so anybody who come out who wasn't seriously injured we put in a taxi.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you want a glass of water? Have a sip.

MR BENTLEY: Yeah, we put them in a taxi ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR BENTLEY: ... if they were just walking wounded or a bit cut, they said, "We'll take them to hospital," so we put them in the taxis to save the ambulances for the more serious, and probably about ten or 15 taxis turned up and said, "Can we help?"

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR BENTLEY: And it wasn't help taking people home, it was help, they said "We'll run them to hospital," which of course we did.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, and how many casualties were there? How many walking wounded? Do you remember? Have an idea or dozens or ...?

MR BENTLEY: I think I put, probably from memory, probably about eight or nine in taxis.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR BENTLEY: Sometimes two people in a taxi ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MR BENTLEY: ... if they just had a slight head wound or things like that.

MR SANDERS QC: And the more seriously injured were going in the ambulances?

MR BENTLEY: That's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember how many fire engines arrived on the scene?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Did they arrive before the ambulances or around the same time?

MR BENTLEY: I think they were about the same time.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember how many ambulances there were?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: And what other police officers were on the scene by this point?

MR BENTLEY: I don't know, I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: No?

MR BENTLEY: I think the trouble was you couldn't hear anything because there were so many two-tones and so much noise you were totally blank to everything going on because the two-tones went on for about half an hour so all you had in your ears was two-tones.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, sirens.

MR BENTLEY: So you really couldn't hear much at all.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

MR BENTLEY: All you had was sirens and of course everybody rushing about doing things.

MR SANDERS QC: And you say, you tell us in your statement about a member of the public pointing out a young 18 to 20 year old man by a bus shelter.

MR BENTLEY: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Is that the bus shelter that's just in front of the pub?

MR BENTLEY: Yeah, just to the right of the pub, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and what do you remember about that?

MR BENTLEY: I know I went over there and it was a young man and he was bleeding badly. And I was just going to do something when within seconds a Land Rover ambulance pulled up, so I rushed and told him how serious it was and let them deal with it.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember anything about what he looked like, what was he wearing?

MR BENTLEY: I think he had a dark-coloured jacket with wide lapels. I couldn't see the colour of his trousers but I would say that he had quite a short haircut and I would, assumed he could have been Army.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, one of the young recruits?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And where was he situated? Was he lying down or sitting up?

MR BENTLEY: He was lying down, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: On the pavement or on a stretcher?

MR BENTLEY: He wasn't on a stretcher, he was lying down and I think he had collapsed, come out of the pub and collapsed.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and was he conscious or unconscious?

MR BENTLEY: At the time he was unconscious.

MR SANDERS QC: But you could see that he was alive?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you said he had a serious injury to his throat?

MR BENTLEY: On the throat, yeah, he was bleeding a lot at the throat.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and then was there anyone with him at the time?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you know if he was one of the people who died?

MR BENTLEY: I have no idea at all.

MR SANDERS QC: No? All right.

MR BENTLEY: I couldn't recognise him or anything.

MR SANDERS QC: So you helped get people into taxis and ambulances ...

MR BENTLEY: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... and then you moved onto traffic control. Is that correct?

MR BENTLEY: Yes, because as a lot of vehicles were coming down they were getting stuck at the bottom of North Street and Swan Lane, and of course the lights kept changing to red and people were stopping for lights, so I

went down there and waved the traffic through the lights so it cleared North Street for the emergency vehicles.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and this is all in quite a short space of time because I think your backup near the Woodbridge Road, North Street junction when the explosion at The Seven Stars happened, is that right?

MR BENTLEY: I was actually down the bottom which is the bottom of Swan Lane where The Seven Stars was, controlling traffic when I heard the second explosion ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right, okay.

MR BENTLEY: ... so I ran up to Swan Lane.

MR SANDERS QC: So you were down, is that on the High Street, then?

MR BENTLEY: North Street, the bottom of Swan Lane, on the junction.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, so is that the north end of Swan Lane, though?

MR BENTLEY: So, sorry, the Swan Lane runs between North Street and the High Street ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MR BENTLEY: ... and The Seven Stars was slightly up on the right, so I was actually in North Street which is probably about three or four minutes running time up to The Seven Stars.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, okay. And what do you remember about the second explosion?

MR BENTLEY: A lot of people were coming out. I didn't see a lot of people injured, but I was told by somebody that there was people running away and one was supposed to be wearing a red coat. So I immediately ran to the top of the High Street to look because at the time didn't know if that person was injured or whether they were members of the IRA. I didn't know who they were so I ran up to look for him, but I never, ever found anybody like that.

MR SANDERS QC: No, and was it when the second explosion happened that you began thinking that these may have been bombs rather than ...?

MR BENTLEY: I think between The Horse & Groom and The Seven Stars I think it came on the radio, I don't know what time, there had been an IRA bomb ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR BENTLEY: ... 'cause obviously the pubs were being cleared out between 8.50 and 9.30 then, so that's why The Seven Stars did not have so many injuries 'cause it was being cleared out, and another one, The Three Pigeons was being, all the pubs were being cleared out in Guildford.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and you stayed on traffic duties until three in the morning.

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Would that be, forgive me, you did say when your normal shift ended. Was that staying on later?

MR BENTLEY: It was 'cause we were asked to stay on.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah. And do you have any other recollections of the night?

Anything else you can help us with?

MR BENTLEY: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No? Well, thank you very much, Mr BENTLEY, that's very helpful.

If you just wait there, there may be some further questions.

CORONER: Ms BARTON?

MS BARTON QC: Mr BENTLEY, as you know I represent Surrey Police and I just want to ask you a couple of things, please. Firstly, you have told us about where were standing when the explosion at The Horse & Groom occurred. Can you tell us what time that was?

MR BENTLEY: I would say it was 8.50.

MS BARTON QC: Why would you say that?

MR BENTLEY: Because, basically, I used to drive buses, and a double-decker bus left just on 8.50 or just before which I had driven, and it was the 408A going to Merrow, and had it have been there at the time it would have been blown over, so it had only been gone two or three minutes, now I knew roughly what the time was.

MS BARTON QC: Right, so you are fixing the time by reference to the bus timetable which you knew?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: And that's something that you noted at the time and remember now, is it?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: And then can I just take you briefly, Mr BENTLEY, and I hope, I don't want to upset you with this, but I want to take you just back to the bit where you saw the girl in the hole in the floor? If you have a look at your witness statement, and I think you've got a copy of your witness statement in front of you, but we can bring it up, it's at page 2-606. Thank you, where you describe immediately before that seeing a hole in the floor with some beer barrels, and you say, "I saw a woman lying amongst the rubble half-way down the hole with her feet towards the cellar and head roughly level with the floor of the bar."

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: Today I think you said her feet were sticking up. Do you have a mental image now of what position she was in?

MR BENTLEY: To be honest, no.

MS BARTON QC: No? Is your statement taken a couple of days later likely to be accurate, do you think?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: Okay. So when you describe someone who you remember crying and screaming, what you were saying at the time you wrote your statement was what you could see was the head and top half of her body?

MR BENTLEY: Yes, that's correct.

MS BARTON QC: And when you say that you think it might be Caroline SLATER, what causes you to reach that conclusion?

MR BENTLEY: Only the fact that I believe she had leg injuries ...

MS BARTON QC: Right.

MR BENTLEY: ... and if she had been sitting on her seat and blown forward, you'd have been blown down into the hole.

MS BARTON QC: Right. Have you seen any photographs that you've since compared to the woman that you saw in the hole or not?

MR BENTLEY: No, no, I couldn't be honest.

MS BARTON QC: So you're not making a comparison based on photographic evidence.

MR BENTLEY: No.

MS BARTON QC: You are making a comparison based on what you saw and what you know of injuries?

MR BENTLEY: Yes.

MS BARTON QC: Okay, now when you say in your witness statement, 'only the face and the top part of her legs can be seen, she appeared trapped,' is that

because your view was obstructed of the lower part of her legs or because now that you recall that her legs weren't there?

MR BENTLEY: I can only recall that looking at her laying there I could see part of the fact but it was bloody ...

MS BARTON QC: Yes.

MR BENTLEY: ... and I could see rubble across the top part of her body ...

MS BARTON QC: Yes.

MR BENTLEY: ... and I could see legs, but I couldn't describe it any better than that.

MS BARTON QC: You say you could see legs or you couldn't see legs.

MR BENTLEY: I could see legs ...

MS BARTON QC: You could? Thank you very much.

MR BENTLEY: ... but whether they were attached I don't know.

MS BARTON QC: Thank you very much.

CORONER: **Thank you, Ms Barton. Mr SANDERS, anything arising?**

MR SANDERS QC: No, thank you, sir.

CORONER: **Thank you very much, Mr BENTLEY. That's very helpful evidence, again, to have that sort of evidence is very helpful to me. Like the others I know you have travelled a bit of way to get here today so I am very grateful to you. That concludes your evidence, so you are free to stay or to go as you choose, but I hope you have a safe journey home.**

MR BENTLEY: Thank you.

CORONER: Thank you.

(The witness withdrew)

CORONER: I think that leaves two statements to be read. Malcolm KEEFE about whom we have already heard and then David LAMBERT.

MR FLINN: That's correct, sir.

CORONER: I think you are going to read them, are you?

MR FLINN: Yes, sir. I'll first read the statement of Malcolm Brian KEEFE, URN S1220 and Caselines page reference 2-654.

He states, "I am a Chief Laboratory Technician employed by University College, Gower Street, London WC1. I am Chief Technician in anatomy teaching. I have been a Special Constable 55 in the Surrey Constabulary for 13 months, stationed at Guildford.

On Saturday the 5th of October 1974 I was working a six pm to ten pm tour of duty. I was on duty in North Street with Special Sergeant 157 BENTLEY.

"The time was about 8.48 pm when I went to check a car which had come speeding to a screeching halt at the traffic lights by Swan Lane.

The vehicle I recall was index number BPJ 919B. I can't recall make or colour. There were two young men in the car about 23 to 24 years.

The driver's details are, Michael John PADFIELD, 6 Crossway

Cottages, Alfold, Cranleigh, Surrey. I asked him why he was travelling so fast and he said, "Sorry," but gave no explanation. I told him his excise licence had expired and he said, "Yes, I have been out of work."

"Suddenly there was a muffled roar from up North Street and I heard the breaking of glass. I saw dust, a large cloud of it, up by the library.

I was running towards it and I could hear women screaming. As I got closer I realised it was some sort of explosion at The Horse & Groom public house. The very first thing I saw was a WPC who I now know as WPC PARRISH. She was at the corner of the pub and appeared to be trying to use her handset. To my left I saw a man sitting in some rubble, bleeding from the head. There were people shouting and screaming, and a woman came out of the door bleeding from the face and screaming. People were coming out very fast, staggering. I managed to get in and I shouted, "Get out, everybody out. This way."

Then a young man came up to me and said, "Come quick, over here, there are people hurt." I moved towards the middle of the pub and on my left I shone my torch onto a group of people piled together on top of each other in a large hole in the floor. This may be important.

When I went towards this group there wasn't an actual hole in the

floor at this stage. It was like a tin can with one side of the lid pushed down into the can a little way.

“I could see through the gap, the cellar below and as the bodies kept moving so the hinged end of the floor creaked and started to give way.

The lights were on in the cellar. I went to a screaming woman on top of this pile. She was saying something like, “My mother’s down there,” or, “My Martha’s down there.” This woman was on top of the pile.

“I looked past this pile of bodies and saw on the far side on the other side of the hole a man lying down and a person bending over him and another person standing by him. People then started passing me and going towards this latter group, skirting the hole as they did so.

I then leaned over the hole and grabbed this woman on top of the pile by her hand and leg. Someone, I don’t know who, held my tunic at the back and said, “Go on, I’ll hold you.” As I pulled, someone else grabbed her other hand and we swung her onto the safe floor to my left. I had given my torch to someone else to shine on the pile of bodies.

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“I then went to grab another person on the pile, I think a woman. I grabbed a leg which was severed which I let go. I turned to my right where a man on the pile was moving towards the gap in the floor as

the floor gradually started to give way. His face was down. His head was moving side to side. He had trousers and a jacket on, not a light jacket as I recall. I could see his legs below the knee where his trousers were torn away. He had socks and shoes on. I grabbed him by the legs, leaning over, but he kept slipping. The skin was slipping and I couldn't get a hold of him.

“All this time the floor was crumbling away and slowly sinking into the cellar from one end only. I managed to scramble into the hole and lower myself into the cellar and for a couple of seconds no one else was there. Then I was joined by a doctor, Dr STEWART, a nurse and someone else. They had obviously got in by some stairs and not through the roof. I remember smelling gas and shouting for someone to turn it off. A man in wellington boots said he had found the switch and turned it off. I recall a policeman in ordinary uniform and hat on down in the cellar with me.

“I could now see people on the floor above me at the gap end looking down into the hole. The pile of bodies were still on the lid of the floor, so to speak, and piled up on top, one another, the bottom one down in the rubble in the cellar. We were then joined by firemen.

I then assisted to ease the bottom body off the caved-in floor onto the cellar floor behind some barrels and one doctor started to treat him.

The doctor had a stethoscope and also a jar with a tube in it, and was trying to clear the person's throat. Then we tried to straighten the woman out and I remember one nurse lifted up her clothes and used the stethoscope on her. The body was a female and was thin. The doctor then listened and said, "Heartbeat faint." A stretcher was lowered and this female body was lifted out of the hole. I have seen the photographs and I'm sure it was the one named HAMILTON, so she was the first out of the hole, to my knowledge. When we lifted her it was then I saw another body under her.

"I think the second body was the one the doctor had been treating because that's when I saw the plaster. The body the doctor was treating had a plaster on his abdomen.

"By this time I was feeling a bit rough, and I was just assisting to lift the stretchers up to the people above. I recall that one body, the last one, I think, had badly injured feet as they were dangling over the stretcher.

"As far as I can say, there were three bodies in the cellar, the one the doctor was treating, the thin girl and another man. I recall I saw his penis. I can't recall seeing anyone else but of course I was feeling a bit sick by now. By this time all the floor was down in rubble and there was none hinged to the top floor. During all the time I was

down there we were all drenched in water from a pipe which had burst.

“I went out of the cellar by the stairs and walked out of the pub. There was a police officer on the door. A man came and asked if he could get his girlfriend’s purse, and the policeman told him, “No.” I can’t recall seeing any injured on stretchers about, and it seemed to have quietened down.

“I walked down North Street feeling stunned and sick. I met Special Sergeant 144 MURPHY who told me to go and give Special Sergeant 157 BENTLEY a hand at the junction opposite Swan Lane in traffic control. I did this and then the second bomb went off in The Seven Stars public house.

“There was a muffled bang and a crash, and breaking glass, and then I heard a woman screaming hysterically. I with Sergeant BENTLEY ran up Swan Lane. The woman was screaming and was lying about ten feet from the pub entrance, the High Street side of the pub in Swan Lane. I looked at her and I couldn’t see any injury. It seemed to be just hysterics and a pile of youths came up to her and started to comfort her.

“I turned back towards the pub. A man, I think he had fair hair, shouted, “There is some kids up there,” and pointed up above the pub.

He was a civvy and we went into the pub first. Someone said, "Don't go in there," because there was dust, rubbish and rubble all around, but he went on with the policeman behind him with no helmet on and I followed.

"We went right across the pub towards the rear and down some stairs came the same guy carrying a small child and took it outside. Next, a policeman came and he had a child as well in his arms. Next, staggering down, came a woman screaming hysterically. She wouldn't move so I picked her up and carried her out of the pub. Then there was a flash of a camera. I carried her down Swan Lane and others to the pavement on the other side of North Street where seeing her children calmed her.

"I then took over point duty at Commercial Road where a couple of youths started fighting. I tried to separate them. I was hit in the chest by one who was called Tim. I then blew my whistle twice for assistance. Help came immediately, about ten policemen, but the youths ran off and I was then taken to an ambulance as by this time my emotions had got the better of me. I was sent to Farnham Hospital where I was given a routine check-over and allowed home. I got home at 11.50 pm."

Sir, and that is signed and dated the 9th of October 1974.

CORONER: **Thank you very much.**

MR FLINN: The second and final statement for reading today is from David Paul LAMBERT, URN S299, Caselines page reference 2-500.

He states, "I am a Police Constable in the Surrey Constabulary traffic department, stationed at Burpham. I have been in the police force just over 5½ years and stationed at Burpham for just over three years.

At 20.45 on Saturday the 5th of October 1974 I was on patrol duty with PC 852 CAMPBELL. Our call sign was Lima 7. We were static on the forecourt to Guildford Motors which was next to The Horse & Groom public house observing traffic in North Street, Guildford. A motorcycle passed by towards the High Street. We followed and stopped this vehicle in the Upper High Street. Whilst talking to the rider I heard a loud, dull thud. PC CAMPBELL said, "What's that?" We quickly completed the check and reported back on the radio. This was at 20.50. We were told of an explosion at The Horse & Groom public house, North Street, Guildford.

"PC 852 drove the patrol car as fast as possible towards the scene. As we approached the traffic lights at the junction of the High Street and North Street, I saw about 20 off-duty soldiers running down North Street outside Barclays Bank. They were all shouting. We arrived at The Horse & Groom at 20.51. I reported our arrival to HM and then

went to the pub. Outside the bar, sitting on some rubble I saw a soldier. He was covered in blood and looked shocked. Other soldiers were attending to him and so I went into the bar.

“There was a strange, musty smell. The dust was still settling and it was completely dark. I could see a large hole in the floor at the back of the bar and all around the room I could see injured people. Soldiers who were arriving from other pubs came into the bar. They were in a state of panic and shouting abuse about the Irish. They began squabbling amongst themselves. I removed four of these soldiers and then went back and looked into the hole in the floor.

“I could see the lower half of three people. Two were definitely women because I could see their tights and pants. Their outer clothing was missing. The bodies appeared to have been upturned and were buried in rubble up to the waist. There were gaping flesh wounds in these people’s lower limbs. The bodies were grey and there was no movement. The wounds were not bleeding. We could do nothing because it was so dark. I could hear moaning and I saw WPC 55 PARRISH assisting people from the pub.

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“I ran back to the patrol car and radioed for further assistance and the fire brigade with lighting equipment. I checked with HM to make sure they were aware of the situation at the pub. Whilst I was doing

this PC CAMPBELL returned to the car and took the search and rescue lamp.

“I then returned to the pub and looked down the hole. PC 192 SPINDLOVE had found his way into the cellar and was moving some debris. The bar carpet was partly covering the hole in the floor. I started to tear the carpet away because it caused more rubble to fall on the injured in the cellar and so I stopped. The bar floor felt very unsafe and when I looked up I saw that the ceiling was even less safe.

A man appeared out of the gloom. His clothes were torn and covered in blood. He was in a severe state of shock. I led him to the door where some off-duty soldiers led him away.

“A fire appliance arrived from the Chertsey Street direction. I told the driver to get a searchlight. He handed me a large electric lamp from the rear of the appliance and I took it into the bar and with the help of the leading fireman I shone the light into the cellar. Other firemen arrived in the bar and the lamp was placed on a tripod. The firemen went to the cellar and began to rescue the injured.

“The bar became full with rescue workers and I felt conscious of the fact that the floor could cave in on those in the cellar. I thought it best to keep as many civilians out of the bar as possible and so I went to the door. Outside there was chaos. Off-duty soldiers and other

onlookers were getting in the way of the fire and ambulance service.

There was only one ambulance and the ambulance officers' Land Rover at the scene.

"Injured people were wandering dazed amongst the crowds. I moved around, ushering the injured people towards the police car parked outside Guildford Motors and told onlookers to go home.

"I cleared the pavement opposite the pub and then returned to the door of the bar where I saw a man with a cut hand. Someone, I believed Inspector LEE, said, "Here is a barman. Get what you can from him."

He was Peter KNEE, 25 years, of 33 York Road, Guildford who said, "I was serving when I was blown back with the explosion." He made his own way to the hospital. I turned some onlookers away and then went back towards the bar.

"A man was brought out on a stretcher and placed in the road directly outside the door. He was at right-angles to the pavement with his head close to it. This man's eyes were closed and his open mouth was full with bright red thick blood.

"A student nurse with a red belt began sucking the blood from his mouth with a surgical instrument. Dr P JOHNSTON said, "Let's see his eyes." The nurse stopped what she was doing and opened the man's right eye which was grey and glazed. She continued sucking

the blood away whilst Dr JOHNSTON felt for a pulse and checked his eyes. The doctor said, "I think he has gone," and reached for his stethoscope. As the blood cleared from the man's throat his chest heaved. I gave the nurse an airway which I carry and she inserted it into the man's mouth. Within seconds bright red frothy blood began bubbling out of the airway. The injured man appeared fairly tall with short hair which was singed. His face was burnt and his legs looked burnt and battered. Around his chest starting at the base of his breastbone and working downwards was a surgical bandage.

"An ambulance woman arrived and with the help of a fireman the stretcher was lifted and placed on an ambulance trolley which in turn was put in an ambulance. Because of the length of the stretcher the communicating door between the cab and the back of the ambulance had to be opened.

"Another ambulance arrived from the direction of the High Street. I signalled to the driver to pull on at the side of the road because the road was becoming blocked. The surgical team were in this ambulance and I showed them to the cellar where the bodies had been.

The cellar had been cleared and so I showed them to the man who had just been loaded into the ambulance.

“I was then asked to prevent people entering the bar of The Horse & Groom. I went to the bar door and looked in. It was empty and fire brigade lights were still there. I was sitting by the door when I heard another loud, dull thud from the direction of Lower North Street. The firemen were instructed to muster by their machines. I allowed two firemen to enter the pub and remove their lights. I saw WPC 55 PARRISH driving off down North Street towards Swan Lane. I remained at the door of the bar and only allowed gas, electric and water board workers into the pub. None of these went right inside.

“Later I allowed senior fire, police and bomb squad officers into the pub. I was there until the road was cordoned off and nothing was removed.”

And, sir, that is signed and dated the 7th of October 1974.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. Now, I think that concludes the evidence that we’re going to take today, (inaudible)?**

MR SANDERS QC: That’s right, sir, yes.

CORONER: **So tomorrow we have three witnesses to be called in person and then a further statement to be read, I think?**

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

CORONER: **Great.**

MR PLEETH: Sir, as you will appreciate, today marks the end of the evidence being provided by former service personnel, save for the evidence of Mr FINDLAY, which I understand we'll try to arrange at a later date. Just as with the Metropolitan Police, the Ministry of Defence has taken the view that public funds are not best spent by requiring me to be here for the remainder of the inquest, save for if it would assist you at any particular juncture. There will be someone here from Government Legal Services and we are available to attend at any point if you require it, but we don't intend to be here for the majority of next week, save for when Mr FINDLAY gives evidence, and obviously no disrespect to you, sir, or the process.

CORONER: **Mr PLEETH, thank you, that's fine, thank you very much.**

MR PLEETH: Thank you, sir.

CORONER: **Good. We'll sit again, please, tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.**

Thank you.

(Court adjourned until 10 am on Friday, 1st July 2022)