
Transcript of the Inquests

Date: 29th June 2022

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CORONER: Good morning, everyone. Mr SANDERS, I think this morning we'll begin with the evidence of Brian SCANLAN, is that right?

MR SANDERS: Sir, yes, that's correct.

CORONER: And then there's one statement to be read, John MCKAY.

MR SANDERS: Yeah.

CORONER: And then we'll come to the evidence of Lorna HILLS. And then we have a remote witness, Mr Frederick KNIGHT.

MR SANDERS: Yes, so he's overseas.

CORONER: Yes.

MR SANDERS: ... and because of the time difference will be giving evidence a bit later, so it might be slightly odd to take him after Mrs HILLS, but ...

CORONER: But we might.

MR SANDERS: ... I think that will be what we're doing.

CORONER: But we're not starting him then, so if we've started Mrs HILLS, we'll finish ...

MR SANDERS: Correct, yes.

CORONER: ... her evidence, and then we'll just get to him as and when. And then, I think other than that, there are some statements to be read.

MR SANDERS: Yes.

CORONER: Mr FLINN, I think you're dealing with Mr SCANLAN.

MR FLINN: Good morning, sir, yes, that's correct.

CORONER: Thank you very much. Good.

MR FLINN: I think we're just waiting for some printing though before we ... begin.

CORONER: Sorry. I think it's here.

MR SANDERS: Thank you, sir.

CORONER: Make sure your telephones are off, please. I won't identify the culprit, yet. Right. Are we ready?

MR FLINN: Yes.

CORONER: Thank you. Mr SCANLAN, please.

MR BRIAN PHILLIP SCANLAN (sworn):

MR SCANLAN: I swear by almighty God that the evidence I submit will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

CORONER: Thank you, do sit down, please. Would you give me your full name, please?

MR SCANLAN: Brian Phillip SCANLAN.

CORONER: Thank you. Mr SCANLAN, can you bend it down a bit towards you, if you would?

MR SCANLAN: Brian Phillip SCANLAN.

CORONER: Thank you very much, very good. Mr SCANLAN, when you're giving your evidence, please try to remember that, and just try to keep your voice up, because I need to record what you're saying, as well as us all hearing you.

Concentrate on the questions you're going to be asked, please, in giving your answers. And don't run ahead too quickly, because we'll be taking some notes.

MR SCANLAN: Okay.

CORONER: Okay. Now, so I'm going to pass you over to Mr FLINN who's going to ask you some questions on my behalf. Thank you.

MR FLINN: Thank you, sir. Good morning, Mr SCANLAN.

MR SCANLAN: Good morning.

MR FLINN: You've already given your full name to the court. Can I ask, are you currently working or retired now?

MR SCANLAN: Retired, but I'm still doing a little bit of work.

MR FLINN: What work do you do?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I'm a groundsman, working for a holiday company four days a week.

MR FLINN: And what town do you currently live in?

MR SCANLAN: I live in Preston.

MR FLINN: Preston. Heather, could we bring up on the screen Caselines reference 20-95?

What should come up on the screen in front of you Mr SCANLAN, right there to your immediate left, it should come up on the screen.

MR SCANLAN: Oh, sorry.

MR FLINN: Hopefully a bit easier for you.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: So it's 20-95. Thank you. This is a handwritten version of statements that I understand you've been sent in typed version.

So the first one we're looking at, you can see there it's dated the 8th of October 1974. Under that date, is that your signature?

MR SCANLAN: Yes, it is.

MR FLINN: Thank you. If we go down to the end of that document, at the bottom of that page do we see your signature there again?

MR SCANLAN: Yes, you do.

MR FLINN: Thank you. Heather, could we go to 20-99?

Mr SCANLAN, this is a second statement that you made. You can see there, dated the 10th of October 1974. Once again, under that date, is that your signature?

MR SCANLAN: Yes, it is.

MR FLINN: And same routine, we'll go to the end of that document, and under the text there, is that your signature again?

MR SCANLAN: Yes, it is.

MR FLINN: And you have had an opportunity to read up the typed version of these statements that were sent to you?

MR SCANLAN: I've read some of it, yeah.

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

MR SCANLAN: To the best of my own knowledge, yeah.

MR FLINN: Thank you. As of the 5th of October 1974, I've had you as being 20 years old, just a few weeks away from your 21st birthday, is that right?

MR SCANLAN: That's right.

MR FLINN: What we'll do is we'll show you a photo we have of you from around about that time. Heather, the reference is 4-305.

On the left side of the screen, you can see a label at the top 'Brian SCANLAN.' Is that you underneath in that photo?

MR SCANLAN: Yes, it is.

MR FLINN: Could I start off by asking you a bit about your military career? Around about when, so far as you can recall, did you enlist with the army?

MR SCANLAN: I think it were probably about June of '74, July '74, I think. I'm not quite sure.

MR FLINN: Remember to keep your voice up ...

MR SCANLAN: Sorry. Around about June '74.

MR FLINN: Around about June '74.

MR SCANLAN: June, July, yeah.

MR FLINN: So by the time of the Guildford pub bombings, about four months approximately, you'd been in the army.

MR SCANLAN: I would say, yeah.

MR FLINN: Okay. Did you remain in the army after the Guildford pub bombings?

MR SCANLAN: Only for a few weeks, because my father wasn't so well, and I had a brother, he was a (inaudible) Sergeant in the Scots Guards. And my father was very, very ill, so he advised me to leave, and so I took his advice.

MR FLINN: And so that was a few weeks after ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah ...

MR FLINN: ... the bombings.

MR SCANLAN: ... not long after, yeah.

MR FLINN: Okay. You don't need to tell us in detail your career subsequently, but could you just give us a brief indication of what you went on to do after leaving the military?

MR SCANLAN: What I did after?

MR FLINN: In terms of your work or studies or ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I'm at work, I got my side job at a cotton factory where my wife worked. I also used to sing in a band at weekends and things like that, you know? And then once I left there, I went into engineering. I were in engineering for quite a long time until I retired, you know?

MR FLINN: Let's flip that. And what did you do before you signed up with the military? Because you were about 20 years old.

MR SCANLAN: Still in the band singing, obviously. We were semi-pro, like, you know, we had a lot of work. Before that I worked in a paper mill.

MR FLINN: A paper mill.

MR SCANLAN: A paper mill factory, yeah.

MR FLINN: Thank you. The unit that you signed up with, was that the Scots Guards?

MR SCANLAN: The Scots Guards Second Battalion, yeah.

MR FLINN: And you were stationed at the time, October 1974, in Pirbright.

MR SCANLAN: Pirbright.

MR FLINN: And that's where you were carrying out training.

MR SCANLAN: Training, yeah.

MR FLINN: And you were living on that camp.

MR SCANLAN: On the camp, yeah.

MR FLINN: The distance from Pirbright to Guildford Town Centre, the court's heard from a number of witnesses, is around six to seven miles. Does that sound right to you?

MR SCANLAN: I think so, yeah.

MR FLINN: Just a few questions about your training. If you signed up in around about June 1974, you had carried out a few months of training by the time the Guildford pub bombings occurred?

MR SCANLAN: I think so, yeah.

MR FLINN: How long did the basic training last, if you can remember?

MR SCANLAN: I really don't know.

MR FLINN: That's fine. Is it right that there was an initial period when you first signed up that you were required to stay on camp? As in you weren't permitted to leave in the very, very early stages?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, that was true, yeah.

MR FLINN: Can you remember how long that period lasted for?

MR SCANLAN: I don't recall.

MR FLINN: Can you give us a brief indication, again, so far as you can remember, of what the basic training covered?

MR SCANLAN: I really can't recall, (inaudible), yeah.

MR FLINN: Did it involve physical training and drills?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, physical, drills. Yeah.

MR FLINN: Was there any classroom work or lectures?

MR SCANLAN: No, I never had any lectures.

MR FLINN: Is it the case that you can't remember undergoing any of that type of work? Again, speaking of by the time the Guildford bombings happened. Or you recall that by the time of that event, you hadn't had any such training, classrooms and lectures?

MR SCANLAN: We didn't have any such training.

MR FLINN: Do you recall if you went on to have training like that after the Guildford pub bombings?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: No. But you only stayed in the army for a few weeks after that.

MR SCANLAN: A few weeks, yeah.

MR FLINN: I understand. Do you recall receiving any training of any nature in relation to the threat posed to you, as a military person, by the IRA?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: Once again, I'll clarify, do you recall that you didn't have such training, or can you not remember?

MR SCANLAN: I can't remember, to tell you the truth.

MR FLINN: We've heard some evidence, and questions have been asked to witnesses in relation to whether or not advice was given to look under cars or be aware of suspicious devices. Can you remember anything like that?

MR SCANLAN: No, no.

MR FLINN: Setting aside whether you'd had any training on security matters or the threat posed by the IRA, at that time did you have an independent awareness of the IRA and threat that you might face from it?

MR SCANLAN: It didn't really enter my mind at the time, you know, but obviously it was there. You know, so ...

CORONER: **Sorry, I'm not sure I got that answer at all. Can ...**

MR FLINN: Could you repeat that answer you just gave us, just with your voice a bit louder?

MR SCANLAN: I can't remember what I said now, to tell you the truth.

MR FLINN: I asked you about whether or not you had any independent awareness of the IRA threat posed to you as a military person. Do you recall

having an understanding of the IRA and the threat that it could pose to you?

MR SCANLAN: Well, I did have a threat, yeah, to the IRA.

CORONER: **So you were aware of the IRA.**

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, at the time, yes.

CORONER: **Yes. And were you aware that as a soldier, you were under potential threat from the IRA?**

MR SCANLAN: Yes.

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR FLINN: Do you recall being given advice about when you left camp, and how to conduct yourself in terms of being aware of any security issues?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: For example, being told to avoid crowded places?

MR SCANLAN: No, no.

MR FLINN: No. And do you recall anything about the bikini alert system?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: No recollection of that. The court's heard some evidence about terms such as 'bikini black,' 'bikini amber.' Doesn't ring any bells for you?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: No. That's fine. Do you have any recollection of part one orders?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: That's fine. Any recollection of standing orders?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: In terms of Pirbright Camp itself, do you have any recollection of the layout of the camp?

MR SCANLAN: A little bit, yeah.

MR FLINN: And we've heard some evidence that it was a, sort of, large, spaced out camp, is that right?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, yeah.

MR FLINN: Can you recall if it had any perimeter fencing around it?

MR SCANLAN: Not what I could see where we was, no.

MR FLINN: Not that you could recall.

MR SCANLAN: (Inaudible), I don't think it had anything like that there.

MR FLINN: I understand. Did you have any awareness of a bomb in the Pirbright Camp in September of 1973? This would be well before you enlisted.

MR SCANLAN: I think somebody mentioned that, yeah.

MR FLINN: Can you recall anything more about that?

MR SCANLAN: No, I can't, actually, I just think somebody had said something about it. It never went any further than that.

MR FLINN: Right, and it didn't form, for example, part of a lecture or classroom training ...

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: ... you had? No. In terms of your time off-duty, could you give us an indication or a flavour of what you were permitted to do in terms of when you were allowed to go off the camp base?

MR SCANLAN: Sorry? Say that again.

MR FLINN: What were the rules in terms of allowing you to leave the camp and go off-duty? When were you allowed to do that?

MR SCANLAN: I don't think we was allowed to go off camp ... honest, I really can't remember.

MR FLINN: That's fine.

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: Did you have any time off at weekends, for example?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, we had time off, but we just stayed around camp and that, you know?

MR FLINN: Right. But there did come a point where you were permitted to leave the camp, is that right?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, there was.

MR FLINN: When that opportunity was allowed to you, were you aware of any restrictions of where you could go when you'd left the camp?

MR SCANLAN: No, as I said, when I did leave camp, I normally went down to my brother's, you know, for tea and that, and the time I actually went out into Guildford, you know, that's the only time I went out.

MR FLINN: Were there any rules about drinking when you were off camp?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: No. And just to pick up something you mentioned a moment ago, the time you went into Guildford on the 5th of October 1974, that was the first time you'd been into Guildford?

MR SCANLAN: That was.

MR FLINN: And previous times, you had left the camp, is that right, but you'd gone to see your brother?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, it was on camp though, it was only down the road.

MR FLINN: Okay, so your brother was based in the camp.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, he was based in Pirbright, yeah.

MR FLINN: So to your ...

MR SCANLAN: He lived on camp, yeah.

MR FLINN: Pardon me?

MR SCANLAN: He lived on camp.

MR FLINN: He lived on camp.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: So is it right then that, to your recollection, going into Guildford on the 5th of October 1974 was actually the first time you could recall leaving the camp?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Okay. Do you recall there being a rule about leaving camp in uniform?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: We've heard some evidence ...

MR SCANLAN: We weren't allowed to leave camp in uniform to go out, I don't think.

MR FLINN: Could you repeat that, sorry?

CORONER: **Sorry, Mr SCANLAN, just pull the microphone down a little bit, because I'm having difficulty picking up some of what you're saying.**

MR SCANLAN: Okay.

CORONER: **So just keep your voice up as best you can, please.**

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MR SCANLAN: I don't think we were allowed to go out in town wearing uniform.

MR FLINN: So there was a rule that you couldn't go out wearing uniform.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I think so.

MR FLINN: Did you have any understanding of the rationale for that rule?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: Might it have been to prevent you being more identifiable as a ...

MR SCANLAN: Almost, probably, yeah.

MR FLINN: It was probably that. But do you think that a young group of squaddies or recruits, perhaps with different accents and short hair, they might nevertheless have been identifiable if they went out in a group in town?

MR SCANLAN: Sorry, say that again?

MR FLINN: Do you think, whether or not you were wearing a uniform, if you went out with some recruit friends, all with short haircuts, perhaps with different accents, you might nevertheless have been identifiable as young military recruits?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, most probably, yeah.

MR FLINN: In terms of the 5th of October 1974, do you have any recollection of what you were doing during the day before you went out in the evening?

MR SCANLAN: I can't remember, on (?) that day, no.

MR FLINN: But you do recall going out that evening.

MR SCANLAN: I do recall going out, yeah.

MR FLINN: You mentioned a number of people in your statement that you said you went out with, and just in case it assists with any recollections, I'd like to show you some photos of them, if that's okay. Heather, could we look at case lines reference 4277?

If we go down the page and we pause there, on the right we can see Robert NODDLE. I understand he was one of the group of recruits that you went out with that evening.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, that's right.

MR FLINN: Do you recognise him?

MR SCANLAN: Vaguely, yeah, it was a long time ago.

MR FLINN: Do you recall that he was one of the group that you went out with?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, he was.

MR FLINN: Next person, Heather, 4293.

And I think it's there on the left, Barry RUSHTON.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I remember that guy, yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah. And he was one of the group as well?

MR SCANLAN: That's right.

MR FLINN: Next reference, Heather, 4-567.

We understand that to be a photo of Jimmy COOPER, or James COOPER, lying in the bed. Do you recognise him?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I remember him.

MR FLINN: Next person, Alex FINDLAY. Heather, the reference is 4215.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: There you can see him there on the right, looking ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... quite injured. Do you recognise him?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I do.

MR FLINN: Yeah. The next photo, and, Heather, it's in the sensitive photo section, so could I just ask you to check that we've got the reference right before you bring it up on the screen? It's A74.

That's showing on the main screen, Heather, when you put it up.

MRS NIN: Yeah, it's jumping ...

MR FLINN: Right.

CORONER: **I think if it's difficult, we'll leave it. Let's move on, please.**

MR FLINN: Okay. So those were two photos of William FORSYTH and John HUNTER that I was going to show you. Can I ask you, do you have any recollection of those two young men?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, well, we were decent friends, you know, and ...

MR FLINN: So you were friends.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, pretty much friends, yeah, I knew these guys.

MR FLINN: And you'd known them a few weeks.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I knew them a few weeks, yeah.

MR FLINN: I don't suppose you have any recollection or knowledge of what either of them were doing during the day on the 5th of October ...

MR SCANLAN: No idea.

MR FLINN: ... 1974?

MR SCANLAN: Not a clue.

MR FLINN: No idea, fine. Can you recall how you travelled into Guildford on the evening of the 5th?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, we went down by train.

MR FLINN: Can you recall around about what time you arrived in Guildford?

MR SCANLAN: The statement says it's around about 7.15 on the Saturday.

MR FLINN: And is it right that the whole group that you went out with, so that's Mr NODDLE, Mr RUSHTON, Mr COOPER - Mr Jimmy COOPER, Mr Steven COOPER, Mr FINDLAY, William FORSYTH, John HUNTER, and yourself, you all went to the Seven Stars Public House, initially, is that correct?

MR SCANLAN: Yes, (inaudible), yeah.

MR FLINN: Is there a particular reason you chose that pub to go to that you can recall?

MR SCANLAN: No, I think it were just the first one we went to, you know?

MR FLINN: It was the first time you had been into Guildford ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... so it was obviously the first time for you going there. Do you have any recollection of it was known as being a place where recruits would tend to go?

MR SCANLAN: No, I didn't.

MR FLINN: You mentioned a couple of other pubs in your statement. One is the Horse and Groom, which we'll come on to in a moment, and the other is the Three Pigeons.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, (inaudible), yeah, I think so, yeah. I don't think we went in, I think we just had a look round and come out because I think there was nobody in there, I don't think.

MR FLINN: Right, we'll come on to that in a moment, but I just wanted to ask in respect of those pubs, did you have any awareness of either of them being army ...

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: Pubs?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: No. So once you were in the Seven Stars Public House, I understand that the group of eight of you actually then split. So, you had Steven COOPER, Jimmy COOPER, Robert NODDLE, William FORSYTH, and John HUNTER, they went off to the Horse and Groom Public House, whilst you, Mr RUSHTON, and MR FINDLAY stayed in the Seven Stars a little bit longer.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: That's correct?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, about ten minutes.

MR FLINN: And then you three went and had just the briefest of look in the Three Pigeons.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah. Can you recall that now?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, we just had look round, there's nobody there, so we left.

MR FLINN: Right. And then you decided to go to the Horse and Groom.

MR SCANLAN: Walk back to the Horse and Groom, yeah.

MR FLINN: And part of that was a decision to link back up with the others that you'd been with earlier?

MR SCANLAN: Probably, yeah, to see where they was, yeah.

MR FLINN: And you arrived at the Horse and Groom at about 8pm.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Heather, could we just bring up a couple of images of the Horse and Groom. First one, 4-555.

Mr SCANLAN, you can see the Horse and Groom pub there and a bus stop to the right of it. Can you remember that?

MR SCANLAN: I can, yeah.

MR FLINN: We'll just bring up briefly another image of the front of the pub, 7-1352. You can see there a sign to the right of it saying 'Courage.' We understand that was because it was a Courage brewery pub.

MR SCANLAN: Mmm hmm.

MR FLINN: Yeah. In terms of the interior of the pub, Heather, could we bring up 1-3?

Mr SCANLAN, this is a bird's-eye view floorplan of the pub, so ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I remember it well.

MR FLINN: You remember the pub well? That's helpful. If we just go through it briefly, you can see at the bottom of the screen there's North Street, and then the entrance, which is the gap. Walking inside, on the right, there's an area which we have heard referred to as 'The Snug,' and on the left two alcoves, one with an l-shaped bench and another with a c-shaped bench. The bar to the right and in front of you. And to the back, the ladies' toilets and stairs. And you can also see two squares in front of the bar, which we understand were two pillars.

MR SCANLAN: Right.

MR FLINN: Does that all accord with your recollection?

MR SCALAN: Yeah, yes it does.

MR FLINN: And is it correct that, in terms of that plan, where you went and positioned yourself after ordering a drink was in the middle block on the left, i.e., the second alcove with the ...

MR SCANLAN: On the second alcove ...

MR FLINN: ... fireplace?

MR SCANLAN: in the corner there, yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah. And just for the court's reference, you were there pointing at the alcove with the fireplace.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, that's (inaudible).

MR FLINN: Thank you. We'll go on specifically to where you were sitting in a moment. Is it right that in that alcove was the group that you'd gone out with, and it included William FORSYTH and John HUNTER?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, they were all sat round there, yeah.

MR FLINN: And the others as well that you'd gone to the Seven Stars Public House with were also in that area?

MR SCANLAN: Around there, yeah.

MR FLINN: Can you recall the bench seats around the outside of those alcoves?

MR SCANLAN: Not really, no. I can't, no.

MR FLINN: Can you recall if they were open or closed underneath, such that you could store anything under them?

MR SCANLAN: I think, no... but I think it was open actually.

MR FLINN: When you went into the pub that evening, your statement says, I think, you arrived there at around 8pm, was it busy at that point?

MR SCANLAN: Not very busy at that point.

MR FLINN: Did it get busier?

MR SCALAN: It got busier as the night went on, yeah.

MR FLINN: Right. And in terms of the proportion of recruits in there, did you recognise there as being a high number of military people in there?

MR SCANLAN: According to the guys, yeah, they said it's where all the lads go, yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah. Could you repeat that, please?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, the guys who said ... well, I think it's a military pub, yeah.

MR FLINN: Right. Now, in terms of where you were sitting specifically, and we've still got the plan on screen, and I'm taking this information from your statement, I understand that you were sitting facing the fireplace with your back to the partition wall. Is that right?

MR SCANLAN: So that's the fireplace, is next to it, it's not the jukebox?

MR FLINN: That's correct, so you've got the fireplace at the top of the alcove ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... and then to the right of it is the jukebox ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... and I understood that you were sitting on the ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I think ...

MR FLINN: ... opposite side of the alcove.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I think we were sat around these two (inaudible) tables here, round there.

MR FLINN: So, in terms of what you're pointing to, are you pointing to- the three tables along the bottom, the one nearest the wall to the left ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I think I was sat round the (inaudible) on that table there, I think there was two girls and her dad.

MR FLINN: Just pausing you there. You're pointing, when you say, 'two girls at the table,' you're pointing at the table in the top left-hand ...

MR SCALAN: Next to the ...

MR FLINN: ... corner of the alcove?

MR SCALAN: ... fireplace, yeah, in the corner.

MR FLINN: Yeah.

MR SCALAN: I think there were two girls there and her father.

MR FLINN: Yeah.

MR SCALAN: And ...

MR FLINN: We've heard some evidence of that being a birthday celebration, do you ...

MR SCALAN: Something like that, yeah.

MR FLINN: Okay.

MR SCALAN: And we were all sat round there, and I think I was sat somewhere around this end of the corner here.

MR FLINN: Again, just to verbalise what you're pointing at, if we take the table you're pointing at with the two girls and the father ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... we go down from that to the table below it ...

MR SCANLAN: Below it, yeah.

MR FLINN: ... and you were sitting at around about that area.

MR SCANLAN: Around about that area there, yeah.

MR FLINN: Okay. Do you recall if it's correct that you were having your back to the bottom, horizontal partition wall, and ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, at the back.

MR FLINN: ... looking towards the fireplace?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Okay. It might also help ... we're going to hopefully hear evidence from another witness, one of those you went out with that evening, Mr FINDLAY ...

MR SCANLAN: Oh right.

MR FLINN: ... and he did a diagram where he marked up the positions within the alcove. So we might bring that up to see if it assists as well. Heather, the reference is 3-57.

If we just move that down so we can see the bottom of it, please. So we can see the bench seat, and if we go along from the right of that partition wall you can see three WRACs, and then a J COOPER and Alex FINDLAY, and then we can see a FORSYTH, and to the left of that, a Steven COOPER.

Now, I think, can you see above William FORSYTH, there's a number seven? Can you see that?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: And, Heather, if we could scroll up a little bit. A bit more.

And then you can see it goes up to an arrow, and then it marks, at the top of the screen there's a little bubble with the name 'Brian SCANLAN.' Can you see that?

MR SCANLAN: Where am I looking, sorry?

MR FLINN: Yeah, where the cursor is now.

MR SCANLAN: Where? I can't see that.

MR FLINN: You see where the cursor is.

MR SCANLAN: Oh, okay, yeah, sorry.

MR FLINN: Yeah.

MR SCANLAN: I'm looking now, yeah.

MR FLINN: Now, we'll come on to that in a moment, but I think what that is intending to indicate is where you moved to approximately at around about the time of the blast. So we'll come on to that a little bit later, but first of all, I wanted to ask you about some content of your witness statement.

You describe, after going and settling yourself down in the alcove, two young ladies who came in and sat to your left ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... on the bench seat, and they were facing the bar. So sitting against the external wall, looking towards the bar.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: You can recall that?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: In your statement you go into a lot of detail about what they were wearing and their appearance. One was blonde and one had very dark hair, can you recall that?

MR SCANLAN: It's many years ago, but if that's what I put down, that's what it was, yeah.

MR FLINN: Would it be fair to say that you don't have a strong...

MR SCANLAN: I don't have a ...

MR FLINN: ... recollection of them now.

MR SCANLAN: Not now, I don't, no, but probably at the time I did, but not now I don't. I can't ...

MR FLINN: Yes. So I think that first statement was given on the 8th of October, so obviously the events were very fresh in your mind at that point ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... and presumably you would've been doing your best to help the police describe those that you saw.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: So do you think it's fair that those recollections are probably the best recollections you had at that time?

MR SCANLAN: Probably, at the time, yeah.

MR FLINN: For present purposes, I wanted to ask about the fact that you had a recollection in your statement of John HUNTER and William FORSYTH going over to speak to those two girls. In fact, you went with them as well. Do you ...

MR SCANLAN: I went with them as well, yeah.

MR FLINN: ... recall that?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I do recall that.

MR FLINN: You tried to speak to the blonde girl of the two of them, is that right?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: And William FORSYTH was speaking to the one with the darker hair.

MR SCANLAN: Mmm hmm.

MR FLINN: Do you recall anything or overhearing anything of the conversation that William FORSYTH had with the girl with the dark hair?

MR SCANLAN: I don't, no.

MR FLINN: In your witness statement, you said in terms of the conversation you had, you essentially introduced yourself, asked where she was from ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... and I think you said in the statement, you think that William FORSYTH was asking similar questions.

MR SCANLAN: Probably the same question, yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah. You got up at some subsequent point and went to the bathroom, is that right?

MR SCANLAN: I was either going to the bathroom or the bar, yeah.

MR FLINN: And when you came back, is it right that John HUNTER was sitting in the seat that you'd vacated ...

MR SCANLAN: that's right, yeah.

MR FLINN: ... and was speaking to the girl with the blonde hair that you'd previously been speaking to?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: And just if we try and orientate ourselves again by reference to the plan we have on the screen, if the two girls were sitting on the external wall to the left, facing the bar, is it right that you were sitting around the table in the bottom-left hand corner of the screen?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, could be, yeah.

MR FLINN: Did you overhear anything of the conversation between John HUNTER and the blonde girl that he was now speaking to?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: In your statement, I think you mention that the blonde girl had been looking at a newspaper, and that John HUNTER asked if he could take a look at it.

MR SCANLAN: He could take it, yeah. I think they were looking at jokes and laughing at it, you know?

MR FLINN: Right. And then the two girls got up to leave.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, they did.

MR FLINN: Yeah. Do you have any recollection now, I know it's a long time ago, but any recollection of around about what time that happened?

MR SCANLAN: No idea.

MR FLINN: No. Subsequent to that, I understand that you got up to go over to the direction of the jukebox.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Do you recall that?

MR SCANLAN: I do.

MR FLINN: Did you go there because you went to put on a song, or you were heading towards the bar?

MR SCANLAN: I really don't know, I just got up and just walked away. And I don't know if I went to the jukebox or I went to the toilet, (inaudible).

MR FLINN: Right.

MR SCANLAN: You know?

MR FLINN:

It might help if we just go through the description you give in your witness statement at this part of it. Heather, the reference is 2-388.

Just give me one moment, thank you. So you say towards the bottom half of that page – Heather, if we could scroll down – I’m going to read out to you the passage which starts, “It must have been almost 15 minutes after I saw the girls leave.” Actually, I’ll start from the previous sentence.

This is after the girls got up to leave. You said, “I carried on drinking and smoking with my mates, and after a while I got up to the jukebox.

It must have been almost 15 minutes after I saw the girls leave. I noticed that the black-haired one was back in the bar, standing near to where she had been sitting. I got the impression that she had just stood up.

She was definitely not holding her mac or her handbag, but I can’t recall if she was holding anything else.”

MR SCANLAN:

Yeah.

MR FLINN:

“I did not see the other girl, the blonde, anywhere in the bar. And when I looked around about two minutes later, I noticed that the girl had gone.

I saw my two mates, who died, sitting at the same table the two girls had previously been sitting at. That table was situated against the wall nearest to the railway station, and out of the group of four tables it was nearest to North Street.”

So, again, just casting your mind back to the plan we looked at ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... would that be the table ...

MR SCANLAN: That'll be the table ...

MR FLINN: ... in the far-left corner?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah. "FORSYTH was sitting on the bench with his back against the wall, facing towards the counter." So sitting against the external wall, facing the bar.

MR SCANLAN: Facing the bar, yeah.

MR FLINN: "HUNTER was sitting on the same bench, just around the corner from FORSYTH. His back was towards North Street, and he was facing the wall near the jukebox."

MR SCANLAN: That's right.

MR FLINN: So he was on William FORSYTH's right, just around the corner.

MR SCANLAN: Around the corner there, yeah.

MR FLINN: Still on the bench seat but facing the wall with the jukebox and the fireplace.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah. And then you went back over and sat next to John HUNTER and finished your pint. That's what ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I think sat in the middle of them, wherever they were, I was sat in the centre.

MR FLINN: Can you recall if you were sitting on the bench seat or at a chair around the table at that point?

MR SCANLAN: I think I were on the bench seat.

MR FLINN: Heather, could we bring up 3-57?

So this is just taking you back to the plan that was marked by Mr FINDLAY, and if we scroll down a little bit so that we can see that table. First of all, if we just orientate ourselves in respect of William FORSYTH and John HUNTER, based on your description it sounds like William FORSYTH was sitting to the left of the table, you can see there two dots where one of the dots has a line going away from it. Can you see that?

There we go, you can see the cursor marking it there ...

MR SCANLAN: Oh yeah ...

MR FLINN: ... those two dots.

MR SCANLAN: ... that's right, yeah.

MR FLINN: Was William FORSYTH sitting around about there?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, around that area, yeah.

MR FLINN: And if you come down then, it goes slightly to the right, we can see that there's a marking, and it actually says 'John HUNTER.'

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: And so that was where he was sitting.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, that's right.

MR FLINN: And could you help us with where you were sitting, to your recollection, when you went back down after going to the jukebox?

MR SCANLAN: I think I were just sat, as I come back down, I think I were just sat around about here.

MR FLINN: And so in terms of where you're pointing, you're pointing to the bench seat, again, to the external wall, so ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, that's right.

MR FLINN: ... looking towards the bar.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, looking towards the bar.

MR FLINN: And that would be in between William FORSYTH and John HUNTER.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, yeah.

MR FLINN: Can you recall having any further conversation with either of them at this point?

MR SCANLAN: Most probably I did, but I can't say what we were talking about, you know?

MR FLINN: And at that point, after a couple more minutes I imagine, you got up and walked towards the counter again.

MR SCANLAN: I got up and walked towards just about the jukebox.

MR FLINN: And now we get to the point of the explosion. Did you have any awareness of what time it was when the explosion occurred?

MR SCANLAN: No idea.

MR FLINN: Could you just talk us through what you recollect from the point of getting up from the position you were sitting and then moving towards the counter?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I got up and just started to walk. I just got round about where the jukebox was ...

MR FLINN: Heather, if we could scroll up so that we can just see that.
Please, carry on.

MR SCANLAN: I think I just got past maybe around about here. The jukebox is just maybe a little bit further towards the bar ...

MR FLINN: Okay, so you ...

MR SCANLAN: ... and then I just saw a big blue flash and a bang straight after.

MR FLINN: So the first thing, in terms of the explosion, you recollect was a blue flash.

MR SCANLAN: I just saw a blue flash first.

MR FLINN: And then a big bang ...

MR SCANLAN: And then the bang a split second later.

MR FLINN: Right. Did you have any awareness of where the blue flash emanated from?

MR SCANLAN: No idea.

MR FLINN: No. Again, we'll just take you to the passage in your statement.
Heather, page reference 2-389.

So I'll read from where we left off last time. "I went over and sat next to HUNTER and finished my pint. I got up and left the two lads sitting at the same position as I had just described, and I started to walk towards the bar counter. I had just passed the jukebox on my left and was near the pillar on my right when I suddenly saw a blue flash and heard a huge explosion. I was thrown over near the door and I felt a strange buzzing in my ears."

MR SCANLAN: That's right, yeah.

MR FLINN: When you say you 'was thrown over near the door,' can you help us with which door you were referring to?

MR SCANLAN: Well, I think the partition, if I'm sat and the bar's straight facing me, the partition was over to my right-hand side, all that had gone.

MR FLINN: Yeah.

MR SCANLAN: All the front window had gone. And the front door was there. I think I'd gone up and I'd gone towards the front door.

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MR FLINN: So when you were thrown over near the door, you think you were thrown in the direction ...

MR SCANLAN: I think ...

MR FLINN: ... of the front door.

MR SCANLAN: ... towards the front door, I think so, yeah.

MR FLINN: Okay. Just a couple of documents which might help in terms of your position at the moment of the blast. Heather, could we bring up 4-69? What this is, Mr SCANLAN, there's another floorplan of the Horse and Groom, and Surrey Police at the time attempted to identify the people in the bar in their positions at the moment of the blast and identify them by reference to a number. So, Heather, if we could zoom in. Now, you were listed by Surrey Police as being number 378.

MR SCANLAN: That's there, yeah.

MR FLINN: Okay, have you found that? So it's ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... effectively in the middle of the space between ...

MR SCALAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... the alcove and the bar.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: The cursor's over it now. Does that look accurate in terms of your position?

MR SCANLAN: That's right, yeah.

MR FLINN: Another piece of evidence which goes to that, the case lines reference is Page 4-656. We actually have a hard copy version of it, which it

might assist to show to you, Mr SCANLAN. It's DEB45/4. So it's the hard copy version of that document on screen. It should be just here.

COURT USHER: Oh, I see.

MR FLINN: I think it might be the one behind. No, not that one. That ...

COURT USHER: Okay.

MR FLINN: Let's have a look. Try that one there.

COURT USHER: The last one, is it?

MR FLINN: I think that's the one, yeah. We'll just hold this up so you can see it, Mr SCANLAN. We have it on the screen. Heather, could we zoom in? A bit further, Heather, please.

In terms of the three tables along the bottom of the alcove ...

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ... if you go up from the third table along to the right, there's an orange sticker which I think that's the one which says ...

MR SCANLAN: Ah yeah.

MR FLINN: ... 'Brian SCANLAN.'

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: And once again, that ties in with the position on the other document. And would you agree that that is an accurate indication of around about where you were at the time of the explosion?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, that's right, around about there, yeah.

MR FLINN: Thank you very much, we can put that down, thank you.

So you were thrown towards the door. It was obviously a very violent blast.

MR SCANLAN: Mmm hmm.

MR FLINN: Did you lose consciousness?

MR SCANLAN: I think I did, yeah. I don't know how long, probably about an hour, half an hour, an hour or so, I don't know.

MR FLINN: But you don't ...

MR SCANLAN: I don't know how long.

MR FLINN: You don't know how long you were for.

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: Because I think in your statement you say you heard people crying and moaning, and pushed your way out of the door.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I did, yeah.

MR FLINN: Does it follow from that that there was a crowd of people trying to get out?

MR SCANLAN: Well, there were people come, trying to get in, likely police, firemen, stuff like that, what I can remember, you know?

MR FLINN: Right.

MR SCANLAN: And as I already said, on the floor and the firemen came and lifted me up ...

MR FLINN: Yes.

MR SCANLAN: ... and took me out, and as I were going out there, everybody was screaming. People outside and everything, you know?

MR FLINN: Yes. So just doing the best we can, you think you lost consciousness for a period of time. Half an hour to an hour sounds like a very long time.

MR SCANLAN: A long time, yeah. I really couldn't speculate on ...

MR FLINN: You don't know.

MR SCANLAN: ... how long.

MR FLINN: That's fine. Could you just talk us through what you recall seeing when you came to?

MR SCANLAN: Well, it were just a lot of rubble, a lot of smoke and everything, you know? I just heard people screaming and shouting, and the guys come up and got me up, and I were just walking out, and I saw what, I don't know who was outside, but it got through the (inaudible), I don't know who it was, but I think he'd gone through the partition, and they ended up through the window and the rubble outside in the main street.

MR FLINN: Mmm hmm.

MR SCANLAN: I don't know, I can't remember who that was, but it were one of the guys who was sat round where that partition was.

MR FLINN: Mmm hmm.

MR SCANLAN: And after that, once I got outside and ...

MR FLINN: Were the lights off when ...

MR SCANLAN: Off.

MR FLINN: ... you came to?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, they were off, yeah.

MR FLINN: So it was dark?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, it was dark.

MR FLINN: We've heard evidence about there being a lot of dust as well in the air.

MR SCANLAN: And dust and everything, yeah.

MR FLINN: So in terms of what you could see, you didn't have a clear view of what was going on.

MR SCANLAN: No, I didn't, no.

MR FLINN: No. Were you aware of a hole being blasted in the floor of the alcove?

MR SCANLAN: I had got told that somebody had ended up down there. (Inaudible) I'm not quite sure if that's this story or not. And I don't know who that was.

MR FLINN: So ...

CORONER: **But did you see the hole yourself or not?**

MR SCANLAN: No, I didn't see ...

CORONER: **No.**

MR SCANLAN: ... a hole, no.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MR FLINN: Heather, could we have 7-1345?

And this is just for completeness, Mr SCANLAN. We understand this was the hole that was in fact blasted through the floor of the alcove.

MR SCANLAN: Okay.

MR FLINN: Just to confirm you don't recall seeing that yourself.

MR SCANLAN: I don't, no.

MR FLINN: No. You gave us a helpful account a moment ago of you leaving the bar. If we could just break it down a little bit. Did you link up with anyone inside the pub before you left it?

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: No. So when you left it, you were doing so just yourself, as an individual.

MR SCANLAN: Well, I didn't actually walk out by myself, no, the fireman took me out, you know?

MR FLINN: A fireman assisted you out.

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, he assisted me out, yeah.

MR FLINN: Yes. And I should've been a bit clearer. You didn't link up with any of the group that you'd gone out with ...

MR SCANLAN: No, I didn't.

MR FLINN: ... so Mr NODDLE or Mr COOPER ...

MR SCANLAN: No.

MR FLINN: ... before you left the pub.

MR SCANLAN: No, I didn't, no.

MR FLINN: No? When you managed to leave, was it through the front door?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, through the front door, yeah.

MR FLINN: Is it right that you found Mr FINDLAY outside?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: And where was he?

MR SCANLAN: I think he were just stood outside the front door where the ambulances over there (inaudible) where the police were.

MR FLINN: So he was nearby?

MR SCANLAN: Nearby, yeah.

MR FLINN: Did he appear to be injured, so far as you can recall?

MR SCANLAN: I (inaudible).

MR FLINN: You were aware of injuries to yourself?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I split my head and above my eye.

MR FLINN: Sorry, could you repeat that?

MR SCANLAN: My head was split (inaudible) was gone up.

MR FLINN: Split skin in your head?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, and my eye.

MR FLINN: I think you- I'll make reference to your statement. "I felt my head was split and blood was dripping down my face"?

MR SCANLAN: That's right, yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah. With the force of the blast, did you suffer bruising, and other cuts and bruises?

MR SCANLAN: No, just that, no.

MR FLINN: The cut on your head?

MR SCANLAN: Just the cut on my head, yeah. I'm very fortunate, really.

MR FLINN: After encountering Mr FINDLAY, is it right that you then found Mr NODDLE and Mr RUSHTON?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Where were they sitting, or where did you find them?

MR SCANLAN: I think it, just outside, I can't remember, (inaudible).

MR FLINN: In your statement you use the word 'shelter, sitting in a shelter nearby.'

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, maybe. I really don't know (inaudible).

MR FLINN: That's fine. You subsequently went to the hospital?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah, I went there.

MR FLINN: And you were transported there, how?

MR SCANLAN: I think it were by ambulance.

MR FLINN: By ambulance?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: In your statement you say, you sat with RUSHTON and NODDLE until you were taken to hospital in the police car?

MR SCANLAN: Was it? Oh, right. I got it wrong, then. Yeah, it must have been a police car then, yeah, sorry.

MR FLINN: That's fine. Do you recall undergoing treatment in hospital?

MR SCANLAN: We did have treatment, yeah.

MR FLINN: To the cut on your head, obviously.

MR SCANLAN: To the cut on my head and my eye, yeah.

MR FLINN: How long did you spend in the hospital?

MR SCANLAN: Probably only three or four days I think, I'm not quite sure.

MR FLINN: Okay. Just stepping back for a moment, immediately after the blast happened and you came to, do you recall having any thoughts as to what it was, what the blast was?

MR SCANLAN: Well, yeah, exactly, yeah.

MR FLINN: What did you think it was?

MR SCANLAN: Well, seeing the (inaudible) and I saw the fireman over the top of it, I thought, "Oh, no, is it ...?" 'cause obviously it's everybody in there, and all the guys were in the Army and that, you know, and it come straight to me, like, an IRA, like, you know?

MR FLINN: You immediately made a connection in your own mind?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: You said at the start of your evidence that you didn't recall receiving training on the IRA so would that connection have been just on your general awareness of the IRA ...

MR SCANLAN: Yes.

MR FLINN: ... and what their activities had been?

MR SCANLAN: Yeah.

MR FLINN: We've also touched upon the fact that you gave a very detailed description of the two girls in the alcove, and I think it's also right that in your statement you described them appearing to you to be switching amongst different accents.

MR SCANLAN: Well, yeah, all of them were just switching from English to a loud Irish accent, you know?

MR FLINN: Right.

MR SCANLAN: I think we (inaudible) broad, like, an Irishman.

MR FLINN: And we don't need to go into it in too much detail but I'm just wondering that is the fact that you gave such focus of it in your statement is that they were seen as potentially persons of interest by the police at the time?

MR SCANLAN: Well, what I can't understand about these two girls was, and I don't think they were the same two girls that were sat in there (inaudible) with their parents later on.

MR FLINN: Okay.

MR SCANLAN: I'm not quite sure, you know.

MR FLINN: Because you did also give a second statement in which you clarified some recollections about those particular two girls, is that right?

MR SCANLAN: Mmm.

MR FLINN: I don't think I need to take you to that statement.

MR SCANLAN: Right.

MR FLINN: It might be that we come back to you but in the meantime I will hand over to the Coroner.

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

MS BARTON QC: No, thank you, sir.

CORONER: **Mr BERRY?**

MR BERRY: No, thank you, sir. (inaudible).

CORONER: **Thank you very much, Mr SCANLAN, that concludes your evidence. I am very grateful to you. I know you've come a long way. It's very helpful to have those sort of first-hand accounts, so I am very grateful to you. You are free to stay or to go as you choose.**

MR SCANLAN: Thank you very much.

MR SANDERS QC: **Have a very safe journey home.**

MR SCANLAN: Thank you.

(The witness withdrew)

MR FLINN: Thank you, sir. As you outlined at the start of today's hearing, we now have a read statement from a John Gordon McKAY. It's dated the 5th of October 1974. The case line and page reference is 2-470, the unique reference number is S287. And before commencing reading this I will say that the copy we have has some words which are difficult to decipher. We've had some discussion and I will do the best I can.

Evidence of John Gordon MCKAY (Read)

"I am employed by Smiths Industries, Clock and Watch Division, Waterloo Road, Cricklewood, as a watch-caring manager. I have been engaged in the watch-making trade for 30 years and have been employed by my present employer for 22 years. I have served an apprenticeship as a watch and clockmaker.

On the 5th of December 1974, Detective Sergeant HOPKINS showed me a number of items identified by labels DVH4 and DGH11 to 19. I have examined these items and identified them as follows.

'DVH4, a part of a main spring from a pocket watch. DGH11, a part of the main back plate of a pocket watch. DGH12, a case pendant, part of an hour wheel and a piece of the main back plate of a pocket watch. DGH13, a winding pinion of a pocket watch. DGH14, a small piece of the main plate from a pocket watch and possibly a piece of a main spring

together with unidentifiable debris. DGH15, a piece of main spring form a pocket watch together with an unidentifiable object. DGH16, a piece of bezel from a pocket watch and two unidentifiable objects. DGH17, an intermediate winding wheel and ...' and the next word is illegible.

CORONER: I think it's 'bush.'

MR FLINN: 'Bush' - that was my first guess, thank you, sir, '... and bush and possibly a piece of bezel, together with other unidentifiable debris. DGH18, a piece of the main wheel together with the barrel arbor, two plate pillars and part of the minute wheel from a pocket watch, together with unidentifiable debris. DGH19, part of the main spring and part of the barrel bridge plates marked 'Smiths Industries, no jewels, unadjusted,' and another small piece of the barrel bridge plate from a pocket watch.'

Together, these fragments identify as being identical to parts of the chromium plate pocket watch movement manufactured by Smiths industries. Two years ago the company, having achieved an export market for this product, had to satisfy Customs for production in the UK, and since then have stamped the barrel bridge plate with their trademark. Prior to this period no marking was made. The company does supply other manufacturers with these movements, but these

would not be stamped. In the two years this company has manufactured about 1.5 million of these movements,” and so that’s signed by Mr McKAY, and as I said, dated the 5th of December 1974.

CORONER: Thank you very much. We now move to Mrs HILLS, please?

MR FLINN: That’s right, if you will just give us a moment to swap places?

MRS LORNA KIRSTEN HILLS (sworn):

CORONER: Thank you very much, do sit down, please. Would you give me your full name, please?

MRS HILLS: Lorna Kirsten HILLS.

CORONER: Thank you very much, Mrs HILLS. I’m going to pass you over to Mr SANDERS. He will be asking some questions on my behalf. As I have said before, please keep your voice up. Don’t rush ahead too quickly so we can take a note of what you’re saying. Thank you.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, sir. Morning, Mrs HILLS.

MRS HILLS: Good morning.

MR SANDERS QC: We’ve got a report that you produced, I think you’ve got a hard copy in front of you?

MRS HILLS: Yes, I have a copy of the signed report in my original file.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. We are not going to put it on the screen just because it’s got a few pieces of information that aren’t being made public, your

contact details and so on, but if I could just ask you to look at it, you will see page one it's headed 'DSTL' and it's dated the 16th of March.

Is that correct?

MRS HILLS: Yes, that's the covering letter for the actual report.

MR SANDERS QC: And the 16th of March 2022 and then the report itself is 16 pages?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you've signed each page?

MRS HILLS: Yes, and it's dated on the last page.

MR SANDERS QC: And dated on the last page, 16th of March?

MRS HILLS: That's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you can confirm that's your signature?

MRS HILLS: That is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And that the contents of the statement are true?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Now, you are an expert in explosive materials and devices, correct?

MRS HILLS: That's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you're at DSTL in Porton Down?

MRS HILLS: Yes, I'm currently employed as a Principal Case Officer in the Forensic Explosives Laboratory.

MR SANDERS QC: And the Forensic Explosives Laboratory, FEL, is part of DSTL?

MRS HILLS: Yes, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: And DSTL is ...?

MRS HILLS: Is the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory which is part of the Ministry of Defence.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And it's the successor, or a successor of the RARDE?

MRS HILLS: Yes, it's essentially the same organisation, it has just changed names over the years.

MR SANDERS QC: And what was the RARDE?

MRS HILLS: The Royal Armament Research and Defence Establishment ...

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MRS HILLS: ... Development Establishment, sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: And the RARDE, I don't want to say RADA in case it sounds like ...

MRS HILLS: No, that's what we would use.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, oh I'll say 'RARDE' then ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... but you're not the Dramatic Arts. So RARDE was involved in the criminal investigation and the criminal proceedings at the time of the bombing in the 1970s, is that correct?

MRS HILLS: Yes, that is correct. So the Forensic Explosives Laboratory was part of RARDE there, and they were involved in the investigation of these bombings.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, and DSTL as the successor of RARDE has assisted the Coroner's inquests by reviewing materials retained from the time. Is that correct?

MRS HILLS: Yes, so we still hold all their original case files from previous cases within FEL, so we reviewed the material when asked to see what we still held and provided that to the Coroner, interested parties.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, and so there has been a process where your counsel has reviewed material and also Mr FLINN visited Porton Down to look at things?

MRS HILLS: Yes, there have been a number of visits.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, thank you. Can we just start, please, with your qualifications, your academic qualifications?

MRS HILLS: Yeah. I have a Bachelor of Science with Honours Degree in Chemistry, I have a Master of Science and Forensic Science, I am a Chartered Scientist and a Chartered Chemist, I am a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and I am a Member of the Chartered Society of Forensic Science.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, and just briefly if you could outline your career and your experience since qualifying?

MRS HILLS: So I joined FEL in 2001 so I have been there for over 20 years and I have that experience as an analytical chemist with the particular regard to the examination of items for features of explosive significance. I

have moved up through the training programme and I am now a principal case officer within FEL.

MR SANDERS QC: And so is that your whole career spent at the Forensic Explosives Laboratory?

MRS HILLS: It is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, and in terms of forensic work, what type of cases do you typically work on?

MRS HILLS: So FEL provides the scientific evidence for the criminal misuse of explosives for mainland UK, so any criminal case in England, Scotland or Wales that involves explosives will be submitted to the FEL for us to provide the scientific evidence around the explosives on. So that could be anything from looking at documents people have downloaded, recipes on the internet, so assessing viability, precursor chemicals, (inaudible) if a number of chemicals have been found, assessing them, identifying them, can they be used to make explosives. The kinds of explosives themselves and explosive devices, so that's both post blast and also devices that are recovered before they have functioned. We will make an assessment on the viability and the effects of those devices. And we also would be involved in trace recovery of explosives, so the police may sample a person, or a premises and we

would analyse those samples to determine if there's been any explosive residue on that person or in that premises.

MR SANDERS QC: And what is in terms of that function, why does that fall under the Ministry of Defence?

MRS HILLS: Historically it's been under there because that is where the explosives knowledge is, so it draws from that. Being based on an MOD site means that we have access to licenced facilities, so explosively licenced facilities we can get explosives into our laboratory under safe conditions, and we have magazines where they can store them. All our work is done under a Home Office contract and essentially they're our customer as a Home Office, although I am employed by the Ministry of Defence.

MR SANDERS QC: But presumably as a scientist you're independent, you're not part of the chain of command.

MRS HILLS: Exactly, we are an independent expert witness.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And so you've given evidence in criminal proceedings and public enquiries and inquests many times.

MRS HILLS: Criminal proceedings and public enquiries, yes. This is my first coroner's inquest.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, thank you. So you received a letter of instructions from the senior coroner and that was dated the 8th of February 2022.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And it asked you to look at in terms of the Guildford pub bombing, the type of device, the component materials, method of operation, size and power of the explosion, the damage caused and its location in the pub. And then there's a long list of the materials you were provided with, that's correct?

MRS HILLS: That is correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And for clarity, what you have done in terms of your report is a tabletop review of those materials, but that you haven't yourself tested anything in a laboratory or visited any premises or anything like that?

MRS HILLS: That's correct, I've simply reviewed the documents that I've been provided and based a report detailing the findings in those documents. I have not carried out any examinations or analysis or seen any physical exhibits and formed opinions myself on them.

MR SANDERS QC: No. So you're really here to interpret and explain the opinions of the experts who worked on the case in the 70s.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So before turning to the substance of your evidence, it's obviously a very sensitive subject the homemade bombs, so if at any point you're uncomfortable going into any details, please do stop and

signal. It may be that your counsel Mr PLEETH also interrupts to raise a concern and we'll just take it from there.

MRS HILLS: Okay.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Turning to the specifics, we're going to look at the report provided by three experts at the time, or your review of those reports. But I just want to start with some basic propositions, and the first is at page seven of your report. I'll give the Caselines reference, but it's not necessary to put it on the screen. So the Caselines reference is 11-9. And the internal pagination of your report is seven. And I want to ask you about the last two paragraphs there where you explain essentially what bombs are and how they work.

MRS HILLS: Okay.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Could you talk us through, maybe you could start by reading it out?

MRS HILLS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: It's up to you.

MRS HILLS: That's fine.

MR SANDERS QC: Just in your own words.

MRS HILLS: So an explosive substance is a material that undergoes an extremely rapid chemical reaction to produce a large volume of gas and heat over a very short space of time. So a very very short space of time. When we talk about the different categories of explosives, so in this case we're talking about high explosives. So within a high explosive substance that reaction passes through the explosive material is a shockwave that travels faster than the speed of sound, so extremely fast. When high explosives function, we call that detonation, so high explosives will detonate i.e. explode. That gas produced by the chemical reaction in the explosive forms a shockwave that will be projected outwards from the point of explosion in 360 degree, in all directions that shockwave emanates out from it. And it's that shockwave that can cause damage to property such as the hole in the wall in this case, or injury to people who would be close by and experienced a shockwave passing over them.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And you explain in the next paragraph the difference between the damage caused by the shockwave and the damage caused by the ...

MRS HILLS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... components of the bomb. Could you just outline that for us, please?

MRS HILLS: Yeah, so obviously your explosives would be generally contained within something, they wouldn't just be a lump sitting on the table for example, there would be some packaging around it or some container. That container or any parts of the device there will be fragmented by the shockwave, by the explosion, along with any nearby objects they could be caused to be fragmented as well. And those fragments will be propelled outward from the point of explosion at high speed. So again, those fragments will be 360 degrees all directions from the point of explosion. When the fragments have originated within from the device itself, so that could be a container within the device or it may be that somebody adds fragmentation, adds extra objects like nails or nuts to that device to be used as fragmentation, that would be determined to, we could call that primary fragmentation, which I think is one of the terms used in the original reports. So that's what's meant by primary fragmentation, it's come directly from the device itself.

MR SANDERS QC: And so in terms of the damage or the effect of the explosion ...

MRS HILLS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: ... there's one, the shockwaves.

MRS HILLS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And then two, depending on the makeup of the device, there will be primary fragmentation.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then is it right that you might refer to secondary fragmentation?

MRS HILLS: Yes. So as I said, the shockwave coming out will not only fragment the device itself, but also any nearby objects. So if you have got chairs or stools or tables they could be fragmented from that shockwave, and those fragments would be carried out as well by the explosion, and that would be known as secondary fragmentation.

MR SANDERS QC: And so in terms of injury to people it could be a combination of just the shockwaves of the blast, primary fragmentation or secondary fragmentation?

MRS HILLS: That's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then there's another part of your report which is at page 15, and again, no need to put this up on the screen. But the Caselines reference is 11-17. Oh, and it's the very first paragraph there where you explain, it starts at the bottom of the previous page. 'In general, all explosive devices must contain ...' So could you just talk through what the constituent parts of an explosive device of a bomb are?

MRS HILLS: Yeah. So in general they will all contain an explosive main charge, so that is your bulk explosive that's causing the explosion. You need a

means of initiating that explosive, so a way to cause the explosion to happen, and a container that all the items will be held within there.

MR SANDERS QC: And the means of detonation, or the means of triggering the explosion, is that necessarily a detonator?

MRS HILLS: It depends on the explosive used within the device. So if a high explosive, a secondary high explosive is used you would need a detonator in order to cause it to explode, and it requires that shockwave.

MR SANDERS QC: And when you say a secondary high explosive, are there two types of high explosive?

MRS HILLS: There is, yes. You also get primary high explosives, these are again materials that will detonate, so have a shockwave, but they are extremely sensitive to initiation. It's possible to initiate them from shock, friction, impact, flame, heat, so they're extremely sensitive and dangerous to handle, therefore, they are only used in very small quantities within a detonator. So within an initiating system to provide a shockwave to initiate your secondary high explosive, your main charge because that needs that shockwave, so it's safer to handle larger quantities of it.

MR SANDERS QC: Of a secondary high explosive?

MRS HILLS: Of a secondary high explosive.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And we're going to come onto what the bomb in the Horse and Groom was made of, but essentially, it's nitro-glycerine. You say at the end of this paragraph, you talk about different ways in which detonation can be triggered. And then you just talk about a type of initiation circuit, which would be electrical, could you just explain how that would work?

MRS HILLS: So depending on the type of detonator you use, one type of detonator is an electrical detonator that will function when an electric current passes through it. So it will be possible to simply ... A simple electric circuit will be simply a power source with a switch, and you push the switch, and it will cause the detonator to function. You can complicate things by introducing a timer into that circuit or introducing another type of delay mechanism or control mechanism, a more complicated switch such as a remote-control switch could be used. Essentially, you want an electric circuit that will close or allow the power to flow to the detonator at a certain point of time.

MR SANDERS QC: And when the electric charge goes into a secondary high explosive is the reaction then instantaneous?

MRS HILLS: When the electric charge goes into the detonator with the primary that would be instantaneous, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, thank you. So having set out those key propositions about bombs and how they work we'll just go through your report. And you said there are three main experts who were involved at the time. The first is Major Donald HENDERSON and he wasn't at RARDE, he was in fact, although he had a military background, he was employed by the Metropolitan Police Bomb Squad.

MRS HILLS: Yes, that was according to the information.

MR SANDERS QC: And that starts at page three of your report which is 11-5 of Caselines. And he says in his statement that he had 26 years' experience in the field of explosives worldwide. And he produced two reports, one dated the 30th of October 74, and a longer one dated the 2nd of January 75. And you outline that he ... Go on.

MRS HILLS: I was going to say the dates that I have provided were different to what you've just read out.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, apologies.

MRS HILLS: So I was provided a witness statement dated the 2nd of January 75 and the ... Oh, sorry, no, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, I just put them in ...

MRS HILLS: The 30th of October, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: I put them in chronological order.

MRS HILLS: Yeah, yeah, sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: Apologies.

MRS HILLS: No, no, that's fine.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, so your review of his report, he in fact examined both the Seven Stars and the Horse and Groom pubs, so the two pubs where bombs went off.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And that he went into the Horse and Groom on the morning of the 6th of October, so the day after once the pub had been made safe.

MRS HILLS: Yes, that was what his report said, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And we heard some evidence yesterday about the making safe being done first thing in the morning on a Sunday. We then have his plan of the pub, and I'd just like to ask you about this. So this is at Caselines at 4-585, so this will come up on the screen on your left. So just at the- are we able to do it so we can zoom around on that please, Heather? So can we just look at the title at the top of the page first? Zoom into that. So it's the layout of the ground floor. And then just zooming out, so making the plan smaller, can we go down to the bottom left-hand corner and just look at the key there? So there's brick pillars, wood pillars, dividers, steel beams, windows and cellar flaps there. And then just getting the whole plan on the screen there, so there's North Street running horizontally at the bottom of the plan and there's the windows

along the front. And you can see the entrance there going in. And the focus of the report is on what's labelled as 'Alcove one', is that correct?

MRS HILLS: Yes, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: So we see just on the right there's the bar alcove sometimes referred to as the snug or bar annex I think it says there by the gent's toilets. So on the left there's alcove two, but it's alcove one that's the focus of attention. I just want to ask you about there's an area described as 'Extension' on the left-hand side. Is the way that you read the report that the extension is simply the, where it juts out from ...? Let me start again, if you see the ladies' toilets at the top left-hand corner you see that there's a vertical line going down from there, it goes a short distance and then it diverts.

MRS HILLS: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And then there's a kind of chimney breast shape. Is that the extension that jutting out part?

MRS HILLS: It wasn't clear from the reports exactly how far the extension went into the original premises. When Major HENDERSON was describing the construction of the building he talked about a difference in flooring and in the ceiling, and in the extension area it was slightly different. So for example, it had a concrete floor with a carpet laying directly on top of

it in the extension area compared to the main bit of the building which had floorboards.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. So bearing in mind the hole that we've seen that goes through the floorboards which is in the middle of alcove one, we know that when he's talking about the extension that must at least be that left hand area ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... next to the carport marked 'extension.' And I just want to ask about that because he says – I just want to try and get this right – he says it had a pitched roof and underneath it were manholes or inspection hatches in the floor of it, of the extension. And we'll come onto another plan showing those. And there's two photos that might help, so the first is at 7-1359. That's what's referred to as the carport and you'll see the hole in the wall there, and it looks like in terms of the extension the part that juts out from the main wall is a brick column there.

MRS HILLS: Yes, that would appear to be the case ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS HILLS: ... that the extension was just that small strip.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And so the extension essentially just made alcove one a bit bigger?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And there's one other photo that might help which is that area from the rear which I think shows the pitched roof, and that's at 7-1337. So again, you see the extension there and the pitched roof on the top left of the photo, almost looks like a bit of breezeblock construction at the top, bricks underneath. And then there's the hole where the explosion has blown a hole in the wall.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So just going back to the plan at 4-585. There, just leaving that there. So we see in alcove one there are some brick pillars and some steel beams in an L shape above it. And it seems that the pub had various extensions and various additions to it at different points. But we have those pillars there, and then the gas fire in the chimney breast, and the jukebox next to it. And I'm just going to show you one more plan, if I can, which is at 1-3. So same layout, but it's just to show you the cellar flap on the left-hand side on the North Street entrance. Under one of the tables, you can see that's where the cellar flap was, so that beer could be loaded from the street down into the cellar. And then where it says 'manhole covers', that's in the floor of the extension, the inspection covers.

MRS HILLS: I think that's how you refer to them – as inspection covers.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And they are somehow connected to the drains or the sewers going to the ladies' toilets.

MRS HILLS: That is what I understood, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. So looking at your review, so this is page three of your report.

CORONER: **Mr SANDERS, when it is convenient to you, we will have a short break.**

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, sir. So I will, let me just see, if I could just set out this part ...

CORONER: **No, no, just ...**

MR SANDERS QC: ... and then ...

CORONER: **... whenever it is ...**

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah.

CORONER: **... appropriate.**

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So page three you set out Major HENDERSON's review of the damage and of the pub itself. And what he describes is that in the alcove first there was subdued lighting, which he comments, 'Might make it easier to conceal a bomb.' That there were bench seats around alcove one, so in a kind of C shape from the fireplace right to left, then down the exterior wall at the back of the extension, and then from left to right into the alcove with a partition behind. That the bench seats

had wooden frames, plywood seats and the backs were upholstered with foam, plastic and vinyl covering. Is that correct?

MRS HILLS: That's, yes, that is right.

MR SANDERS QC: And then we see later on some evidence about recovered fragments of the foam and vinyl covering.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then the whole area of the public bar is carpeted, and it's underlay on floorboards, except for the extension to alcove one which seems to be underlay straight onto concrete.

MRS HILLS: Yes, that's how he described it.

MR SANDERS QC: And so the inspection hatches would have been under the underlay?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then the cellar, the main body of the cellar was under alcove one as well with a spur going under alcove two to the cellar flap so the beer kegs could be loaded in and so on.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then finally, the partition. So the partitions that's forming alcove one and dividing alcove one and alcove two was a tongue and groove board construction with railings on the upper half, so as to look a bit like a stable.

MRS HILLS: Yes, it was the same tongue and grooved boarding and iron railings.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then I just want to ... No, I think what I'll do is we'll break now, then we'll come back to the damage in that area, if that's okay?

MRS HILLS: Okay.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

CORONER: **Mrs Hills, we will have a short break now about 15 minutes or 20 minutes. We will then come back and carry on with your evidence, please. You are on oath, you are in the middle of your evidence, please do not talk to anybody about it during the course ...**

MRS HILLS: Yes.

CORONER: **... of the break. Thank you.**

CLERK: Court please rise.

(A short adjournment)

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, sir. Mrs HILLS, just returning to, this is your review of Major HENDERSON's report ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... which is, so particularly the damage inside the pub. I'd just like to get back on the screen, please, his plan, which is 4-585. And if we could enlarge, zoom into that. Not zoom in, just leave it like that. Thank you.

And then just turning to page 4 of your report. What I want to do is just to read out his findings about the damage, and then just ask you to correlate those with the plan. So he says A; “The outside wall of the extension was completely destroyed, being blown outwards in various sized fragments. The end wall had been blown into the ladies’ toilet.” And so that’s what we identified as we think the sort of, the quite shallow extension that goes under the carport?

MRS HILLS: Yes. So the bit that was blown out, as he described, would be where the arrow from extension points to the wall.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And if we could just verify that with a couple of photos. So the first, 7-1359. And it’s that wall that he’s talking about there, correct?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then 7-1337. That’s just from the opposite direction. So you see a very large force has just blown a big hole in that wall.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then the next finding is B; “The ceiling joists of the extension were still in position, but all the plasterboards had disappeared.” And so that’s he says that the ceiling of the extension was just plasterboard and that has gone?

MRS HILLS: Yes, that’s correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And then C; “The west wall of alcove two was very badly cracked and had been displaced outwards.” And so that’s the corner of the pub, and I think we’ve seen photos of the cracking of that.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then D; “The front wall onto the street had been badly cracked. Part was blown onto the pavement. The windows were completely shattered and the roof was sagging on the street side. The whole wall had been displaced outwards. The cellar flap doors were blown out, but the cellar flap was neither disturbed or damaged. Several coping stones were missing from the roof, and the railings were bent downwards over the missing section of street wall.” And just to put up two photos of this. 7-1352. So that’s from the outside?

MRS HILLS: Yes. So that’s the damage that described by that last bullet point.

MR SANDERS QC: And then just the corner, which is 7-1334. And you see that the side, that’s the corner of alcove two, is almost come through completely as well.

MRS HILLS: Yes. So that’s what I think he has described as the west wall.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And all of that damage, that’s purely caused by the blast, the wave?

MRS HILLS: Yes. Essentially the blast wave would be pushing the shock wave emanating out and impacting into those surfaces.

MR SANDERS QC: So that's not damage resulting from primary or secondary fragmentation? It is simply ...

MRS HILLS: No, that is from the blast wave.

MR SANDERS QC: The blast wave moving faster than the speed of sound ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... at a sudden moment? You mentioned the gas being involved in that. How does gas come into the equation?

MRS HILLS: So the gas forms the wave. Essentially you are being hit by a wave of gas that is produced from the explosive functioning.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MRS HILLS: But you feel it as a blast wave, but it's actually, it's gas being, expanding outwards from the point of explosion in an extremely rapid manner.

MR SANDERS QC: So is the secondary high explosive, the chemical components of it ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... when detonated they just turn into a gas?

MRS HILLS: Yes. So your solid turns to a gas, but obviously the gas has a much larger volume than the material does as a solid, which is why it needs to expand rapidly pushing outwards.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then just returning to Major HENDERSON's findings. I'm going to go through them all, so apologies for that. But I do want to try and just plot them ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... by reference to the plan, so that we can understand. So if we can go back to his plan, which is at 4-585. Thank you. And so we have E; "With the exception of a short length along the street wall, all bench type seats had been completely destroyed in both alcoves. The divider between the alcoves had been destroyed, and that in alcove two had been displaced towards the entrance." And so that's a reference to the partition between alcoves one and two. Is that correct?

MRS HILLS: That's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then finding F; "Much of the freestanding furniture, i.e. stools and tables, had been smashed." G; "The metal section of the gas fire, although relatively undamaged, had been thrust violently to the right of the chimney breast. It was still connected to the gas point. The juke box had been moved bodily towards the bar and it had sustained damage." Do you read that as meaning the body of the juke box had been thrown by the blast, rather than somebody had come and moved the juke box?

MRS HILLS: I just took that to mean the whole item had been physically moved to the side ...

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

MRS HILLS: ... and that was how he was describing it, by saying it had bodily moved.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And we're going to come to some photos just to try and make sense of this as well. H; "The ceiling plaster over alcove one had been blown down and the laths had been bent slightly upwards." They bent upwards because of the blast has forced them upwards. Is that correct?

MRS HILLS: Exactly. So it shows that the blast has happened below the ceiling and that they'd been pushed up the way.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Then, "The plasterboard boxing over the steel joists," so we see the steel joists in the L-shape, the little diagonal line.

MRS HILLS: So there's actually four steel joists, which I think he's marked as A, B, C and D in the diagram, over the two alcoves.

MR SANDERS QC: Ah, yes. So just to the left of the entrance door, running vertically up towards that stairs there's one. And then branching off from that, above the partition between alcoves one and two, there's another.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then heading up towards the corner of the pub, the ladies, there's another.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And so, “The plasterboard boxing over the steel joists had been smashed and removed from the following areas.” And he says, “Both sides and underneath of joist A.”

MRS HILLS: So that is the one on the far left hand side above, in the extension area ...

MR SANDERS QC: Ah, right.

MRS HILLS: ... running north to south in the plan.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, yes. Thank you. And then, “Also the alcove one side and underneath of joist B.” Can you ...?

MRS HILLS: So that’s the one between alcove one and the bar area, again running vertically, but B is very difficult to make out.

MR SANDERS QC: Ah, okay.

MRS HILLS: Just to the right of that. So from the juke box down towards the end of alcove one is joist B.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And then that’s got a ...

MRS HILLS: So he’s saying that the plasterboard has been removed from the alcove one side and the underneath of that joist.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MRS HILLS: So that would infer it was still intact on the bar side.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, yes.

MRS HILLS: Or still some of it was still in place.

MR SANDERS QC: And then that's supported by a brick pillar. And then we've got, "The alcove one side of joist C."

MRS HILLS: So that's the joist running between the two alcoves. So above the bench seating and above the partition there.

MR SANDERS QC: And then, "Both sides and underneath of joist D over three quarters of its length."

MRS HILLS: So that's the one going from sort of the top of alcove two down to the ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS HILLS: ... front wall of the pub.

MR SANDERS QC: And that pattern of damage is all pointing to the bomb being in alcove one?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then he says K; "The inspection cover was shattered into small pieces." So the inspection cover is not marked on that plan, but it's where the manhole cover ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... on the kind of the western wall in the extension part of it, alcove one?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So that's shattered into small pieces. And then, "The concrete was severely impacted," I think that should be ...

MRS HILLS: I think it should be.

MR SANDERS QC: "... over an elliptical area of approximately 24 inches by 20 inches next to the inspection cover to a depth of about 6 inches. This area was fissured in an electrical pattern."

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: What does that tell us?

MRS HILLS: So this means there was essentially what we would call a crater had formed in the concrete. So that would suggest that the explosive device was placed in this position, so on top of that concrete. That's why that area had suffered the most damage because it was closest to the device.

MR SANDERS QC: And that would have been under the bench seat against that western wall?

MRS HILLS: That's right. Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. M; "There was a hole approximately 14 inches by 14 inches ..." I think that might be 14 feet by 14 feet?

MRS HILLS: No, I think that is inches, because I think there is another larger hole ...

MR SANDERS QC: Ah, okay.

MRS HILLS: ... in the next point.

MR SANDERS QC: Apologies yes. So, “There was a hole approximately 14 inches by 14 inches through the floorboards between joists to the left of the chimney breast.” So just sort of under the A almost or by that pillar?

MRS HILLS: Yes. I think it was possibly under the bench seating.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And then N, this is what I was thinking of; “The floorboards in alcove one had collapsed in front of the chimney breast over an area about 7 foot wide and by 8 foot 9 inches long. The carpet and under felt had split along the axis of the hole centre towards the fireplace. The hearth had collapsed into the hole altogether, with a large quantity of smashed furniture and other debris.” And we know that there’s a lot of rubble down in the cellar, which would be consistent with the hearth having ...?

MRS HILLS: Yes. The items that were originally in the annex ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS HILLS: ... having fallen through the hole.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. “Close examination of the floorboards and joists in this area show that they were badly infected with woodworm and had fractured along two centre lines forming a cross. The left hand boards and joists were supported upon a cooling unit, the brackets of which had bent downwards. A water pipe underneath this collapsed area had been bent

downwards and wrenched away from its connection.” So that shows we’ve got the force going up at the ceiling and down at the floor ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... which is all consistent with it being in the lower part of the alcove?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then just to complete this. We don’t need to go through the details, but he also described the damage to the bar area, ladies toilet, bar annex and external area. “This included missing plaster, blown out windows and doors and cracked walls. However, it was not as extensive as that within the alcove area.”

And then there’s, “Damage caused by the explosion was shown within the scene photographs supplied.” And I just want to take you to some of the photos. So the first is 7-1330. So that shows the ceiling has come down and there’s cables hanging down.”

MRS HILLS: Yes.

CORONER: **Mr SANDERS, can you just bear with me for a moment? Thank you.**

MR SANDERS QC: Carry on?

CORONER: **Yes, thank you.**

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, sir. Apologies, Mrs HILLS. The next witness has just appeared on the scene, but please just ignore him. It's just the way the video link works.

And then just to show you external damage. This is at 7-1331. This is the chimney stack.

MRS NIN: Sorry (inaudible)?

MR SANDERS QC: 7-1331. That's the chimney connecting to the fireplace.

MRS HILLS: So that's the chimney stack at the top there, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And would that have, it may not be possible to say, but would that have been caused by a blast coming up the chimney or just by the building shaking?

MRS HILLS: I can't say. Either would be a possibility.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And then 7-1342. And just down a bit. And what this shows, I think, is just the fact that the partition has just been blown completely away from between alcoves one and two. That's alcove two on the left.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then 7-1345. And if we could just open this up on a separate tab so we can zoom in. So that's the hole down into the cellar in front of the fireplace, and the hearth has gone down there. And just above, if we just go up and look at the top left hand corner of the screen, of the photo sorry, in a bit more detail. I think the first thing we see next to

the fireplace is the gas fire has been blown to the right. Do you see that?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then beyond that is the juke box, which has also moved along.

MRS HILLS: It would appear so, but it's difficult to make out from the photographs without being familiar with ...

MR SANDERS QC: No, sure.

MRS HILLS: ... the equipment.

MR SANDERS QC: And we've seen that there. And then there's a long list, I won't read this out, but there's a long list of exhibits. This is page 5 of your report. Of exhibits that Major HENDERSON collects and packages.

MRS HILLS: Yes, there was 20 items that were collected by Major HENDERSON and submitted to RARDE for examination.

MR SANDERS QC: And is it more than 20 items, because some of them are bins of debris, so ten bins of debris?

MRS HILLS: Yes. So we would, so an item or exhibit. So essentially an exhibit can be one single fragment or it could be a large number of fragments collected together. So, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: But I mean it's an extensive investigation. It's not just, "Oh, we can tell there's a bomb ..."

MRS HILLS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: "... gone off"? Everything that can be recovered is taken away ...?

MRS HILLS: Yes. Everything would be collected so that we could go through it and try and identify any fragments of any device.

MR SANDERS QC: And traces of explosives?

MRS HILLS: And traces of explosive, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then Major HENDERSON's conclusions were that, "It was a medium sized bomb under the bench seat in alcove one against the west wall." And he points in particular to the fact that, "The inspection cover at that point is shattered," which is by the crater. "The wall, roof and ceiling are destroyed." And then also thrust patterns he mentions. What are thrust patterns?

MRS HILLS: So the gases, when they expand, are also extremely hot. So close to the point of explosion you will get almost, you may have sooting or you may have deposits on the wall where that gas is coming out. So he would mean there would be a visual pattern present, possibly from the heat or possibly from sooting on the wall, that indicates the point of explosion.

MR SANDERS QC: And does that heat, that then explains why there were burns and people's hair was singed and so on?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. He says that, his conclusion was that the bomb wasn't immediately above the hole in the floor because of the lack of damage in that area to the fire and the juke box, and the fact that there was reports that the floor collapsed slightly after the explosion. Is that correct?

MRS HILLS: Yes, that is correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Because if the bomb had been in the middle there, it would have blown the whole street away?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And done more damage to the juke box and so on?

MRS HILLS: Yes. There would be a different pattern of damage.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And so the next most significant experts that we come to is Senior Scientific Officer Donald LIDSTONE ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... at RARDE. So is he one of your predecessors?

MRS HILLS: He is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And just there's two RARDE Scientists who are involved; Donald LIDSTONE and HIGGS. I forget his first name.

MRS HILLS: Douglas HIGGS.

MR SANDERS QC: Douglas HIGGS. Thank you. And one is a Senior Scientific Officer and one is a Principal Scientific Officer.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Which would be senior?

MRS HILLS: So Mr HIGGS is, I think in that time the Principal Scientific Officer, who is responsible for the whole of FEL. So I would be more applicable to the Senior Scientific. So Mr HIGGS is the individual responsible, so he's essentially in charge of the casework ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MRS HILLS: ... and there'll be a number of Senior Scientists working underneath him.

MR SANDERS QC: And LIDSTONE is one of them?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And we see that Donald LIDSTONE had had 36 years of experience of explosives, including World War II and the military and also commercial explosives as well. And then he produced the reports that you refer to in your report?

MRS HILLS: Yes. He was responsible for the examination and analysis of the scene at the Horse and Groom.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And so we've got, there's a report 24th October 74, 6th January 75 and 18th October 77. They are spread over a long time because of the different stages of the criminal proceedings. And then a

further report in relation to another bomb, similar bomb, which is the 12th September 75.

MRS HILLS: Yes. Those were the ones supplied to me.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And so Donald LIDSTONE examines the Horse and Groom Public House on the 7th October. So that's the Monday. And I think Douglas HIGGS goes as well?

MRS HILLS: Yes. There's information in the reports that they examined both the Horse and Groom and also the Seven Stars.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. I just want to take you to page 7 of your report, where there's an outline of the scene examination, which I think will be helpful. Could you just, looking at paragraphs 2 and 3 of that page, could you just talk us through what you say there?

MRS HILLS: So taken from Mr LIDSTONE's witness statement on the 7th October 74, he described his examination of the premises at the Horse and Groom in Guildford. And he found that, "A violent detonation had occurred within the premises, which comprised essentially of a single public concourse, the periphery of which was divided in to bench seating alcoves, which were additionally provided with small tables and stools. The position of a crater in the concrete floor, coupled with the evidence provided by the directional perforation of table legs and bench seat cushioning, showed clearly that the detonation had occurred

underneath a bench seat which had been positioned against an exterior wall.”

MR SANDERS QC: And then you just go on to talk about directional damage to the furniture. What’s directional damage to the furniture?

MRS HILLS: So, as I described, fragments will be thrown outwards as part of the blast. They will be thrown out from the point of explosion in 360 degrees. If those fragments impact or hit something, it may be possible to work out the direction in which the fragment was travelling when it hit that object. So working back, you can work out where the fragment originated from, which would generally be the seat of the explosion.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Thank you. And so, “These clearly show fragments were projected vertically upwards through the bench seat cushioning, along with directional damage to a table leg. Together this indicated that the point of detonation was close to the floor level.” And could you just tell us about his finding there?

MRS HILLS: So he stated that, “The plain brick wall near which the detonation occurred had been shattered and displaced violently outwards. The considerable venting of blast pressures afforded by this complete displacement minimised the overall blast effects which prevailed across the general area of the bar. I also noted that the structure of the building had in the past been greatly strengthened by the addition of pillars and

concealed strong steel joists. I consider that, but for the presence of this reinforcement, the building could have suffered a complete collapse as a result of the explosion.”

MR SANDERS QC: So his conclusion is that if the building hadn't had various extensions and bits of reinforcement it might have just fallen down ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... as a result of the blast? When he says, “The considerable venting of blast pressures afforded by this complete displacement minimised the overall blast effects which prevailed across the general bar area,” what does that mean?

MRS HILLS: So he is talking there about the fact that the wall essentially fell down. There's a large hole in the wall. This allows the blast, and all the gas build up, to escape out into the outside. If that hadn't have failed, the blast would have been reflected back in off the wall and then caused more damage, as it would have bounced back in and potentially injured more people or caused more damage inside the pub.

MR SANDERS QC: So is there a sense in which fortuitously the Horse and Groom was kind of on the middle of the spectrum. So it wasn't so weak that it just fell over, but it wasn't so strong that it contained the blast and made it worse inside?

MRS HILLS: Possibly, you could say that, or you could say the positioning by the wall meant that, because that was nearer the explosion, it suffered a higher blast and therefore failed earlier. Whereas if the blast was more central, the wave may not have caused as much damage to the wall, to allow the gas to escape, which could have resulted in more damage and injuries inside.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. So the wall sort of absorbed and then released a certain amount of the pressure?

MRS HILLS: Basically it failed immediately ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS HILLS: ... and allowed the pressure to escape.

CORONER: **I mean the wall is quite a substantial wall. I mean it's not ...**

MRS HILLS: Yes, I mean it's not a flimsy wall.

CORONER: **It's not a single brick wall.**

MRS HILLS: No.

CORONER: **I mean it's quite a substantial wall ...**

MRS HILLS: Yes.

CORONER: **... that has given way.**

MRS HILLS: Yes.

CORONER: So is it the case then that really the gas just finds the easiest way to expand, and if that gives way then that's, it's easier going that way than it is going the other way?

MRS HILLS: Exactly. That's why the windows failed in the front of the building.

CORONER: Yes.

MRS HILLS: But obviously there was no windows on this side.

CORONER: Right.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Oh, sorry.

CORONER: Sorry, Mr SANDERS. Does that also, the hole in the floor going down, we know the floor was somewhat rotten but ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

CORONER: So did that also allow the gas to escape downwards to escape as well?

MRS HILLS: So it would escape downwards as well. Obviously, I don't think the cellar was a huge space ...

CORONER: Yes.

MRS HILLS: ... that it could have escaped into. But, yes. Essentially the gas is just trying to escape ...

CORONER: Yes.

MRS HILLS: ... any way it can, and it forces its way out.

CORONER: Thank you.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you, sir. So the bottom of the page, just to pick up what's said. "Any parts of the device or container holding the explosive, along with nearby items, will be fragmented and these fragments will be propelled outwards at high speed by the shock waves." So that would be primary fragmentation?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And in this case there was no primary fragmentation, or no evidence of primary fragmentation?

MRS HILLS: That's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And so that suggests ... What does that tell us about the bomb?

MRS HILLS: That would indicate that the device container was not a type that would produce significant fragments, and also that there was no additional material added to the device designed to cause damage by projectiles.

CORONER: **You mean the inclusion of things like nails or (inaudible)? Yes.**

MRS HILLS: Exactly. There was no additional shrapnel added to that device.

MR SANDERS QC: And does that make any difference that if you are including, it may be it's not something to cover, but can we deduce anything about the making of the device or the thinking of the device maker where there's no shrapnel included?

MRS HILLS: It may be that there just was none available. But the additional shrapnel would indicate an intention to cause damage by fragmentation.

MR SANDERS QC: But it would also, including shrapnel presumably just makes it heavier to carry?

MRS HILLS: It would do, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And Mr LIDSTONE also describes massive secondary fragmentation.

MRS HILLS: He does, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And so that would be the furniture and the partition and so on?

MRS HILLS: Yes, and any objects that were lying around.

MR SANDERS QC: And can I ask you particularly that that you refer to the two photos here. So the first is at 4-422. And if we could just open that up separately. What are we looking at there?

MRS HILLS: So here is showing a section of cushioning from one of the bench seats. Unfortunately, it is tilted on its side so it's being shown vertically, as normally it would be horizontal. Through that foam padding there's a number of rods been inserted. That is to demonstrate the direction of the holes through that bench seat padding that were caused by the fragments. So it shows that fragments have passed through in an almost 90 degrees direction to the padding itself.

MR SANDERS QC: And that's presumably consistent with the bomb being under the bench seat?

MRS HILLS: Yes, it is.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then the next one is 4-423, the next page. If you just open that up on a separate tab. And so, again, what are we looking at here?

MRS HILLS: So here you have two legs from a table, that were identified as being from a table, and on the left hand side we can see a line coming from towards the top down towards the front of the photograph. Again, that's a length of wire, a probe that's been inserted into a fragmentation hole, showing the direction of the fragment has originated below the point in which it impacts into the table leg.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. So again, consistent with being on the floor ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... down below the furniture?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then we've got Mr LIDSTONE's laboratory examinations. If I could just turn to page 8 of your report. He lists some of the items. So these are obviously provided by Major HENDERSON that are analysed ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... in the lab. Could you just tell us what that analysis would have involved, what it would have looked like?

MRS HILLS: So there will first be a physical examination of the items that would come in. So he would sit and physically examine them to see what the item was. He would be looking for anything that appeared explosively damaged. Then he would, any items that appear to have characteristic explosive damage he may conduct some chemistry on, so chemical analysis. So that item would be sampled, either by swabbing, by essentially getting a clean cotton wool ball, using a solvent and passing that over the surface, rubbing it over the surface to remove any explosive traces. Or, if more appropriate, simply washing that item in solvent itself. Those solvents or those samples taken would then be analysed to determine if there was any explosive traces, to try and identify the type of explosive used within the device.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Thank you. And then the items listed at the bottom of page 8 of your report. There's fragments from Perspex or clothing, copper strip, fragments of bench seat, tables and stools, a scrap of newspaper, bits of the carpet, large quantity of debris, damaged clothing from the deceased, and items recovered from their dead bodies. Now, just the last bullet point there.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: This is from the body of Caroline SLATER, Private SLATER. We know, or we are going to hear evidence in the Pathologist's report, that she seems to have been sitting immediately above the blast ...

MRS HILLS: Okay.

MR SANDERS QC: ... on that bench seat. Her injuries point to that. One of the pieces that's recovered from her is a very small piece of shattered zinc. I wondered if you could help with the possible significance of that?

MRS HILLS: Yes. So there was a number of very small pieces of shattered zinc that were found, and Mr LIDSTONE concluded that these could have originated from the construction of electrical dry cells, so essentially a battery. So battery casings would be made from zinc. So that's where he concluded that they may have originated from.

MR SANDERS QC: And the significance of the battery would be...?

MRS HILLS: That would indicate that there was an electrically initiated circuit within the device.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. So just over the page. Page 9. There's the significance of the shattered zinc. And then also the next significant item. Could you tell us what that was at the top of the page there?

MRS HILLS: So there was also a small piece of shattered brass, which had a chromium nickel electroplated coating, which was found within the items submitted. The statement described this fragment as, "Having

appeared to have originated from the metal lens bezel of a Smiths pocket watch,” and then Mr LIDSTONE produced that as his exhibit. He separated that out.

MR SANDERS QC: And, just out of interest, do you know what he means by pocket watch? Does this mean a wristwatch or a fob watch?

MRS HILLS: I would take it to mean more a fob watch. So a watch that you would not wear on your wrist but you would have in your pocket.

MR SANDERS QC: Maybe looks a bit more like a stop watch?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And covered in the reports is the fact that these were quite commonly available, and we’ve heard the statement saying how many of them were produced.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So it is quite easy to buy one in Woolworths.

MRS HILLS: Yes, one of the statements mentions that.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And then the tests that were conducted for explosive substances. You mention three chemical analyses for the presence of the explosives, and there’s three explosives mentioned. Could you tell us what the three are?

MRS HILLS: So the three explosives that were tested for were Nitroglycerine, which is also known as NG; Nitrobenzene, which is known as NB; or Cyclotrimethylene trinitramine, which is known as RDX.

MR SANDERS QC: And are those the only three candidates that there could have been?

MRS HILLS: So those were the, the analysis results that I saw, those were what was tested for. I can't comment on the types of explosive that were commonly encountered at that time.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MRS HILLS: But that was what the test was for.

MR SANDERS QC: And was one of those; NG, NB or RDX, was one of them more commonplace than any other?

MRS HILLS: Without looking back at all the data, I wouldn't be able to give you an answer on that.

MR SANDERS QC: No, thank you. And could you then tell us what Mr LIDSTONE found in terms of identifying an explosive substance?

MRS HILLS: So he found that, "The chemical analysis of a piece of felt, found imbedded in one of the foam plastic cushions, showed that it had been contaminated with Nitroglycerine" so NG. "No other explosives that were screened for were detected in any of the samples."

MR SANDERS QC: And that presumably points to the fact that the bomb was made of Nitroglycerine?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And that's described, and we've already touched on this, as a secondary high explosive?

MRS HILLS: It is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So a slightly more stable rather than volatile ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... substance? And what can you tell us about Nitroglycerine itself?

MRS HILLS: So, as a pure substance, it's an oily liquid in its pure form. Although it's a secondary high explosive, it still is sensitive to detonation from shock or impact in its pure liquid form. Therefore, generally, it would be absorbed onto an inert material, such as clay, to form a usable explosive substance, because it becomes less sensitive in that state. That substance is commonly known as Dynamite. So when you hear people talking about Dynamite, that would be Nitroglycerine based. You can also use Nitroglycerine in combination with Nitrocellulose to form smokeless powder, or propellant that's used in firearms ammunition, but it also has innocuous uses in some types of heart medication. So some people may take small tablets containing Nitroglycerine as part of their heart medication.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And you mentioned Dynamite.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: What's Gelignite?

MRS HILLS: So Gelignite is a type of Dynamite. Gelignite would also contain a nitrate compound in there, as well as the Nitroglycerin.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MRS HILLS: It's still a secondary high explosive.

MR SANDERS QC: Can we tell from the reports at the time whether this was Dynamite type explosive or Gelignite type explosive?

MRS HILLS: No. All we can tell is it was a Nitroglycerin based explosive.

MR SANDERS QC: And so we know already that Mr LIDSTONE wasn't able to tell anything about its container. There was nothing left.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: No primary fragmentation. What was his conclusion about the size of the bomb?

MRS HILLS: So he thinks that the lack of the recovery of the container itself reflected the size and the severity of the explosion. However, the damage, the evidence seen and the damage caused, is consistent with, "The involvement of a high explosive time bomb which contained around ten pounds of Nitroglycerin based blasting explosive," which he says is, "Likely to have been of industrial origin." For information, ten pounds is the equivalent of about four and a half kilograms.

MR SANDERS QC: So it's the weight of four full bottles of wine, roughly?

MRS HILLS: There or thereabouts.

CORONER: Or two bags of sugar.

MRS HILLS: Two bags of sugar.

MR SANDERS QC: And could you give us an idea of how significant a device that is, to make a ten pound Nitroglycerin bomb? Is that very large or ...?

MRS HILLS: It's a significant quantity of explosives. So it would be a reasonable size. It's not very large, in that you could, you'd need a vehicle, because we have seen vehicle devices. It would be fit into a bag, a rucksack type size.

MR SANDERS QC: And what would the weight of an ordinary stick of Dynamite be?

MRS HILLS: Around about 250 grams, usually. These days, so.

MR SANDERS QC: So 16/18 sticks of Dynamite?

MRS HILLS: It would be a reasonable number of sticks of Dynamite, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So a significant device?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And he mentions it being Gelnite type. Does that tell us that it was Gelnite, or just that it was ...? What does that mean?

MRS HILLS: I couldn't find anything to suggest that he had identified it specifically as a Gelnite. I think it just means it is Nitroglycerine based. Most likely would be that type of, an industrial or commercial produced explosive, which the commercially produced Nitroglycerine based

explosives would be for use in quarrying or blasting. So they would be Gelignite or Dynamite type explosives.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And when he says that the Nitroglycerine is likely to be industrial, does that mean the oily liquid has come from industry or the actual ...

MRS HILLS: The actual explosive itself.

MR SANDERS QC: ... explosive? Right.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, and he has mentioned mining and quarrying and so on. And then he talks about an electrical firing circuit.

MRS HILLS: Yes. He said that, "The small pieces of zinc identified, which appear to have originated from the casing of an electrical dry battery, indicated the involvement of an electrical firing circuit."

MR SANDERS QC: And so that's, what detonates the bomb is an electrical charge ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... going into the explosive?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Would you need much more than a current going through the explosives to detonate it?

MRS HILLS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. And he talks about a watch that has been modified to act as an electromechanical timer.

MRS HILLS: Yes. He said that, “The metal fragment, which appeared to have originated from the lens bezel of a Smiths pocket watch, suggests that a ...”

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, I think that’s where the missing ...

MRS HILLS: All right. Sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: ... words are.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So I think that suggests that such a watch was used ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... and that that conclusion is enhanced by the complete ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... absence at the scene of those finely shattered (inaudible) fragments, which normally result when an alarm clock is closely associated with a powerful detonation. So does that mean that if it had been set off by an alarm clock, we would have expected to find ...

MRS HILLS: More fragments.

MR SANDERS QC: ... fragments of that?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then he puts in a comment that an alarm clock obviously makes a louder ticking noise, and so a watch is a more surreptitious type of device?

MRS HILLS: That was his opinion, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then just moving on to the position of the blast and Mr LIDSTONE's views on that. He has produced, and I'll just get these up on the screen, at paragraphs 3 to 5 here, he talks about where the blast may have been. And if I could just put figure 1, which is at 1-134. So can we zoom in please, just to the alcove? There. So he has marked an A, B, C and D, and can you tell us the third paragraph of your page 10 what he says there to begin with about point A?

MRS HILLS: So the one where it starts, "The early indications ..."?

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, please.

MRS HILLS: Yes. So his early indications at the scene, "Suggested that the centre of the explosion may have been coincident with the large hole in the floor of the bar," which also, because there was a number of splashes of blood and tissue on the pillar marked as B in the diagram. So that's the one at the bottom of the screen here. "They appear to have originated from a direction of the point marked A in figure 1." So that's the large hole in the floor.

MR SANDERS QC: So initial indications were that the bomb might have been in the middle?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And then he goes on to say, “Subsequent detailed examination of the exhibits showed, however, that the centre of detonation was at a point marked C in the diagram.”

MRS HILLS: Yes. So that’s on the left hand side under the bench seat, about halfway up.

MR SANDERS QC: And then I’m just going to put up another diagram, which is 1-135, so the next page in Caselines, if that helps. There, that’s a photo. Could you just tell us what ...?

MRS HILLS: So this is a photograph, I think, of the reconstructed carpet that had been removed from alcove one. And again we can see points A, B, C and D marked on little stickers on the photograph, which correlate to the points A, B, C and D on the previous plan. So point C at the top of this photograph is on top. You can see ... It’s quite hard to make out due to the quality of the photograph, but around about C it looks as though the area has darkened and the carpet there is actually very badly damaged, which would indicate that that was the point of explosion.

MR SANDERS QC: And then that would have been over the crater?

MRS HILLS: Which would have been over the crater, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Thank you. So, yes, the carpet at point C has been blown away, whereas at point A, corresponding to the centre of the hole in the floor,

it is intact. “Flash melting of the pile of the carpet was at a maximum near point C, diminishing at greater distances.” What’s flash melting?

MRS HILLS: So that’s essentially the carpet is likely to have been made from some sort of plastic type fibre. So the heat of the explosion would cause that to suddenly melt. It is suddenly exposed ... It is not like you would apply flame to it for a long amount of time. It’s more just its applied and then gone, so you get flash melting.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Thank you. And then the next figure is figure 3, 1-136. If we can get that up? Thank you. That is what we’ve already looked at. So this is again he says, “Fine perforated fragment holes had been produced at near normal impact, i.e. close to 90 degrees, through the 9 ply timber of the bench seat and its two and a half inch expanded plastic foam cushioning.” And then that indicates the perforations?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So again pointing to the bomb under the bench seat. And then, B, that relates to the ... It’s the next page, but it’s the one we’ve already looked at.

MRS HILLS: The table legs again.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. Thank you. And then can you just tell us what’s said at C, please?

MRS HILLS: So, “Characteristic fragments of plywood, grey/green plastic covered leather cloth, plastic foam and a metal staple had all been recovered

from the body of Ms SLATER. All these materials are identifiable in the construction of the bench seat.”

MR SANDERS QC: And that’s consistent with her sitting on ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... the seat above the bomb. And then D is again about Ms SLATER.

And can you just tell us what that says?

MRS HILLS: So, “The post-mortem photographs indicate severe damage to the buttocks and lower limbs of the two female victims, and severe damage to the legs of the males. These injuries are consistent with the women being sitting on the bench seat, probably to the left and right of the bomb; Ms SLATER sitting on the right as seen from the bar counter. The relative lack of injury to the upper parts of the victims’ bodies has probably resulted from the shielding afforded by the bench seats.”

MR SANDERS QC: So the underside of the bench seats has taken some of the force ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... but obviously can’t protect their legs?

MRS HILLS: No, that’s right.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And then the final expert is Douglas HIGGS, and I think we can take him a bit more quickly because he essentially concurs with Mr LIDSTONE. But this is at page 13 of your report. So he was a Scientist in RARDE?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And he's effectively supervising Mr LIDSTONE?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And he has 16 years' experience and there's three reports and a sketch that he has produced; a report 10th October 75, 13th August 75, 28th September 77, and then a sketch 30th July 77. And is it right he went with Mr LIDSTONE to the Horse and Groom for the examination?

MRS HILLS: He did, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And essentially, is this fair, that he concurs with Major HENDERSON and Mr LIDSTONE?

MRS HILLS: Yes. He didn't actually produce any reports detailing the examination and analysis because that was covered by Mr LIDSTONE.

MR SANDERS QC: You cover in your report one matter that's not relevant to the inquest, but it's just that there was some dispute at trial about whether the bomb had been in a brown bag or not. Mr HIGGS and Mr LIDSTONE were clear that whatever it was in there was nothing left of it and there couldn't have been anything left of it?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And lastly, well lastly in terms of Mr HIGGS, he deals with some correlation evidence, and it's really just drawing, linking together

various IRA bomb incidents with similar devices or timed bombs operated by Smiths pocket watches were used. Is that a fair summary?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. You talked earlier on about the components of the device and how you need a detonator to make it function, and that that could be a timer, as was used in this case. What can you tell us about the scope for, with that type of set up, just using an analogue watch, what scope is there for controlling the amount of delay from priming, or setting it up, to actually explosion?

MRS HILLS: So depending on how you modify the watch would give you, depend on the length of time available. With an analogue watch you could have a number of hours delay up to 24 hours. 12 hours, sorry. So the time it would take the hand to travel round.

MR SANDERS QC: And you could use a different hand, depending on how you were setting it up?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So in this case, in the Horse and Groom, we know that it opened at 6.30 and that the bomb was planted after 6.30, and then there were four or five hours for the planter of the bomb before closing time and the curfew at the local barracks and so on. So would it be possible for

whoever planted the bomb to have set it up before going in the pub and to know reasonably precisely how long they had to leave it and get out?

MRS HILLS: Yes. You would be able to modify a watch to give you several hours to leave. Yes, that would be possible.

MR SANDERS QC: And we know that the bomb went off around 8.50, around 10 to 9. Would that have been a precisely chosen time, or would there be some give or take in it?

MRS HILLS: It would depend on exactly how well they've modified the watch and what they've used. There would be likely to be some error in that, so you wouldn't be able to precisely say it was going off at exactly 8.50. It would just go off when the circuit was completed.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. But it could be set up ready to go before going into the pub? You wouldn't have to sort of get it out in the pub and press a button ...

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... or anything like that?

MRS HILLS: That's correct. A device with a timer like that would be able to be set up before.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

CORONER: Sorry, can I just ...? You say four or five hours. In fact it is two hours 20 minutes, isn't it, from opening time to the point of explosion?

MR SANDERS QC: That's correct, sir. But in terms of the person going in at some time after 6.30, they would need it to go off before ...

CORONER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... last orders and kicking out.

CORONER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So I just mean ...

CORONER: I see what you mean.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

CORONER: Okay, I understand.

MR SANDERS QC: We've had various witnesses describing what it was like when the bomb went off, and you were in court for Mr CALVERT earlier on.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: There were different accounts of the order in which things happened, but there does seem to be a difference between there being some kind of possibly a pop and then a flash and a bang. What can we deduce from that, if anything?

MRS HILLS: With a device that was simply constructed with high explosive Nitroglycerin, I wouldn't expect there to be anything prior to the explosion. So I wouldn't expect to have heard a pop prior to the flash. That would be the first thing that you would see.

MR SANDERS QC: Would there be, in terms of people remembering the noise and the flash coming at different points, could that just be simply to do with light travelling faster than sound or something like that?

MRS HILLS: It could be, although if they were within the premises, within the pub, I would expect them to be almost instantaneous, because it's not travelling that far over distance. It may just be how they remember things.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Thank you.

CORONER: **But would there be a flash of light effectively?**

MRS HILLS: Yes, there would be. There would be a flash of flame and light as well.

CORONER: **Yes, yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: Would you know what colour that would be?

MRS HILLS: It would depend on the exact nature of the explosive used. So it would be determined by any additives within there, which we don't know from this.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, right. Some of the people near the bomb described a kind of electrocution feeling, which may have been cables dropping down from the ceiling and actually giving them an electric shock. Is there any evidence that the victims of bombs do experience that?

MRS HILLS: Not that I've come across, no.

MR SANDERS QC: But it would be burns and being thrown?

MRS HILLS: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

MRS HILLS: It would be a very traumatic experience, so it's understandable how people's memories of the situation are not entirely accurate to the minute detail.

MR SANDERS QC: Sure. And we heard yesterday an engineer who inspected the structure of the pub, mentioned that in his view the bomb or the explosion would have had a pressure wave followed by a suction wave. Is that something you are able to help with?

MRS HILLS: Yes. So, as I said, the gas expands out the way, so pushing everything with it. So almost creating not an entire vacuum, because it is pushing everything with it, it reduces the pressure behind it. So then, essentially, the atmosphere comes back in on itself to normalise pressure throughout.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And is that all taking place in the same instant or over what sort of timeframe does that happen?

MRS HILLS: Within seconds.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. You mention in the statement, this is at page 16. I just want to ask you about this. Yes. So at the top of page 16; "This type of explosive does not require any confinement to increase its effect." Could you just explain what you mean by that?

MRS HILLS: I think that was within the redacted information.

MR SANDERS QC: Was it? Apologies. So that's not something you can ...? If you can't, don't.

MRS HILLS: So essentially the high explosives don't need to be confined. Other types of explosive you can increase the damage by increasing the confinement. But in this case Nitroglycerine will do the damage; it doesn't need confinement.

MR SANDERS QC: Are we talking about the device or the building? That was the ...

MRS HILLS: I am talking about the device.

MR SANDERS QC: So this isn't to do with whether or not the building is ...

MRS HILLS: No.

MR SANDERS QC: ... sturdy or, you know?

MRS HILLS: No. This is to do with how you would just build a device.

MR SANDERS QC: Okay. Thank you very much. I think those are all the questions I have for you.

MRS HILLS: Okay.

MR SANDERS QC: If you just wait there. There may be others (inaudible).

MRS HILLS: That's fine.

CORONER: **Just this, please. As far as the bomb itself, or the quantity of Dynamite is concerned, it was described as ten pounds or four and a half kilos. A stick, if there is such a thing, you said about 250**

grams. So it's somewhere 16 to 18 sticks, which would be a reasonably large volume to carry.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

CORONER: But that's described as a medium sized bomb.

MRS HILLS: Yes.

CORONER: And so just help me please with that. I mean do you work on small, medium, large?

MRS HILLS: We wouldn't describe them in those terms now. However, I would say a small device would be something that would be handheld or carried in a pocket.

CORONER: Yes.

MRS HILLS: A small pipe or firework type thing. A medium device may be something in a backpack, and then a large device, a vehicle-borne device.

CORONER: I see.

MRS HILLS: So if you fill a vehicle with explosives that would be a larger device.

CORONER: Yes.

MRS HILLS: A large device.

CORONER: And so of its type this was, in the sense I appreciate it is called medium, but for actually of its type this was quite a large ...?

MRS HILLS: This was a significant quantity of explosive ...

CORONER: Yes.

MRS HILLS: ... which you can see from the damage that it has caused.

CORONER: Yes. Yes, thank you. Ms BARTON?

MS BARTON QC: Sir, I don't have a question for the witness, but I think I should just correct the timing that Mr SANDERS put to the witness.

CORONER: All right.

MS BARTON QC: In fact D767 shows the pub opened at 5.30 rather than 6.30.

CORONER: 5.30. Actually, you thought it was 5.30 at one point.

MR SANDERS QC: I did. I was corrected ...

CORONER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... about that, so.

CORONER: All right. Thank you very much.

MS BARTON QC: Thank you.

CORONER: Mr BERRY?

MR BERRY: No, thank you, sir.

CORONER: Mr PLEETH?

MR PLEETH: No.

CORONER: Thank you very much. Thank you, Mrs HILLS. That concludes your evidence. I am very grateful to you because that was very clear and a good clear explanation.

MRS HILLS: Thank you.

CORONER: Easily understandable. So I am very grateful to you. But you are now free to stay or to go as you choose.

MRS HILLS: Okay.

CORONER: Thank you.

MRS HILLS: Thank you.

(Witness withdrew)

CORONER: And it is 1 o'clock. So we will stop for lunch now. Could somebody contact Mr KNIGHT?

MRS NIN: He's online, sir.

CORONER: Oh, is he. So he can hear me?

MRS NIN: Yes, he can.

CORONER: Mr KNIGHT, can you hear me? If you can, do you want to come back online and turn your camera back on again? He may be away from the ... No, you are there. Mr KNIGHT, can you hear me?

MR KNIGHT: Good afternoon.

CORONER: Good afternoon to you. Mr KNIGHT, I am Richard TRAVERS. I'm the Senior Coroner here in Surrey. And so I am grateful to you for coming online in the way that you have. In fact we have just finished our last witness here, and it's 1 o'clock, which is the time we break for our luncheon adjournment.

MR KNIGHT: Okay.

CORONER: Sorry, but I don't know what time ...? I think you are five hours behind us, aren't you?

MR KNIGHT: That's correct, yes.

CORONER: And so I'm afraid I'm going to ask you ... We will break for about an hour, because we've been sitting since this morning, obviously. So could you be ready back at your camera to start again in about 55 minutes?

MR KNIGHT: I can do. I can go for my breakfast while you are having lunch.

CORONER: Okay. Well, you have breakfast and we'll have lunch and we'll see you in about an hour. Thank you very much.

MR SANDERS QC: Sir, there was one.

MR KNIGHT: Okay.

CORONER: Sorry, just one ...

MR SANDERS QC: It's not for Mr KNIGHT.

CORONER: Oh, I see. All right. Yes, thank you very much, Mr KNIGHT. Enjoy your breakfast ...

MR KNIGHT: Okay.

CORONER: ... and we'll see you in a bit.

MR KNIGHT: Thank you.

CORONER: Thank you.

MR SANDERS QC: It was just this. We were proposing to read, after the other read statements today, also the statements of HUDSON and REDDICK ...

CORONER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... the two firemen who Mr SAUNDERS mentioned yesterday. They're some relatively recent brief statements, but they complete the picture of his evidence ...

CORONER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: ... and we were proposing to read those. I think one of them is deceased. Which one is that? (conversation aside). Sorry, I am just checking. I think one of them is deceased and one, the last time we did look into it, was still ... So it is Mr REDDICK who is deceased. Mr HUDSON may still be alive, but we are proposing to read them under Rule 23. So it was just to announce that and give the other interested persons an opportunity to ...

CORONER: Thank you very much.

MR SANDERS QC: ... consider if there's any objections.

CORONER: Good. All right. Well, they are on Caselines so people can have a look at them. Good. Thank you very much. We will start again please at 2 o'clock. Thank you.

CLERK: Please rise.

(Luncheon adjournment)

CORONER: So we are starting, I hope, Mr KNIGHT.

MRS NIN: Mr KNIGHT he has his camera switched off.

CORONER: Ah, Mr KNIGHT, if you can hear me, it is Richard TRAVERS again, could you switch your camera on for me please? Debbie, can you give me the wording for the oath and ...?

MRS NIN: He has them, sir (inaudible).

CORONER: He has got them. Okay, thank you very much. I am going to read this warning. Mr KNIGHT, if you can hear me. Ah, there you are.

Mr KNIGHT: Yes, I can.

CORONER: Hello to you, good. First of all, before we start, I have to read out a warning, so I am just going to. It is just a formality, but I need to do it, so let me just read this for a moment. I hereby give permission for the use of live video to enable participants to access these court proceedings. It is a contempt of court to record, play and dispose of or publish a recording or the transcript of the proceedings. That means it is a criminal offence to make or attempt to record or broadcast these proceedings. So, Mr KNIGHT, coming to you now, I would like to begin please. I think you have got the wording for the oath and a bible with you, have you?

MR KNIGHT: No, an affirmation.

CORONER: An affirmation, that is absolutely fine. Do you have the wording of the affirmation with you?

MR KNIGHT: I do.

CORONER: Could you read it out slowly and clearly for me including your full name in the place where indicated?

MR KNIGHT: Certainly.

MR FREDERICK LAURENCE KNIGHT (affirmed):

CORONER: That is lovely, thank you very much. It is nice and clear as well, so we can hear you very clearly. In a moment or two I am going to introduce you to Mr SANDERS QC who will be asking some questions of you on my behalf. And then we will see if anyone else, there are two other barristers in the room representing Surrey Police and also The Ministry of Defence, we will see if they have any questions, they may or may not. But let us proceed and see what happens. I will ask you please to concentrate on the questions you are being asked, Mr KNIGHT, and just restrict your answers to those questions. If we need something else one of us will ask you a question about it. Keep your voice nice and loud please, and do not rush ahead too quickly because we need to take a note of what you are saying. So I will pass you over to Mr SANDERS, the camera will move in a moment. There we are.

MR SANDERS QC: Good morning, Mr KNIGHT.

MR KNIGHT: Good afternoon to you.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. I hope you enjoyed your breakfast. I would just like to start by taking you to the statements that you made to the police at the time. I think you may have frozen, can you see and hear me?

CORONER: **Oh. Actually, I do not think I confirmed his full name, did I? I know he gave it in the affirmation, but ... Mr KNIGHT, I do not know if you can hear me? Your video has frozen, you may need to disconnect and reconnect, I do not know.**

MRS NIN: I think a storm has just hit in St. Lucia apparently.

CORONER: **Oh, is it? Oh.**

MR KNIGHT: Hi.

CORONER: **Oh, we can, can we hear you?**

MRS NIN: He has disconnected.

CORONER: **Oh, you are back. I think, Mr KNIGHT, I can see you moving. Can you hear us again?**

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

CORONER: **Oh, excellent.**

MR KNIGHT: Yes, I can, yeah.

CORONER: **Right. Well, Mr SANDERS is going to start asking you some questions.**

MR KNIGHT: Okey doke.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright, we will try again. Could you just please just confirm your full name please?

MR KNIGHT: Yes, certainly. Frederick Laurence KNIGHT.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And where are you living at the moment?

MR KNIGHT: Well, I'm based in the UK, but I'm temporarily living in St Lucia.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, thank you very much. And you don't need to give your full UK address, but what town do you live in, in the UK, normally?

MR KNIGHT: Eastbourne.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. I just want to start by taking you to two statements that you made to the police in 1974 after the Guildford pub bombings just to verify that they are your statements. So they're going to come up on your screen, they're going to be shared on your screen. The first one is dated the 7th of October 1974 and it's at 20-135 on our database.

MR KNIGHT: Yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Can you see there your name and the date I've just given and your signature?

MR KNIGHT: I can, yes, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And if we just scroll down to verify that it is your signature at the bottom. Is that your signature?

MR KNIGHT: That is correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And then you made another statement a few weeks later, the 23rd of October 74, and this is at 20-138 on our system. And again, is that your signature there?

MR KNIGHT: It is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And down at the bottom as well please. Happy with that?

MR KNIGHT: That is correct.

MR SANDERS QC: Great, thank you. I understand you've been sent and would have had an opportunity to reread some typed versions of these statements, is that right?

MR KNIGHT: I have, yes.

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

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Going back to October 1974, I think you were 28 at the time of the bombing, is that correct?

MR KNIGHT: I haven't done the maths, but yes, you're correct, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And you were a corporal in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

MR KNIGHT: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And would you say REME for abbreviation?

MR KNIGHT: That is true, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And I'm just going to show you, just to take you back to that time show you a photo of yourself that we have. This is at 4-249. Is that you on the left there?

MR KNIGHT: Yes, that is right, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And when did you enlist in the army?

MR KNIGHT: What year was it? You know, I can't remember.

MR SANDERS QC: I think you ...

MR KNIGHT: It would have been 69.

MR SANDERS QC: So about four years before, does that sound about right?

MR KNIGHT: Yeah, four years, four, five years, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, thank you. And did you continue serving after the bombing?
Did you remain in the army?

MR KNIGHT: I did, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: How long for?

MR KNIGHT: I served a total of 19, just short of 20 years.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, so a full military career.

MR KNIGHT: Virtually, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: What rank were you by the time you left the military?

MR KNIGHT: Staff Sergeant.

MR SANDERS QC: Staff Sergeant. And did you stay in the REME the whole time?

MR KNIGHT: I did.

MR SANDERS QC: Right, thank you. At the time of the bombing, I believe you were stationed in Germany, but were back in the UK to do a course at Bordon.

MR KNIGHT: That's correct, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And that had started in June, the 11th of June 1974.

MR KNIGHT: Yeah, that's true.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember what the course was that you were doing?

MR KNIGHT: From memory it was a four-month course so it would have probably been a combined military training course and then going onto a technical course from what I can remember.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you have a specialist trade or area of expertise in the military?

MR KNIGHT: Vehicle mechanic.

MR SANDERS QC: Vehicle mechanic, thank you.

MR KNIGHT: Yeah, at that time, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember how far Bordon was from Guildford?

MR KNIGHT: In actual miles, oh, you had to travel up from Bordon up to Farnham, Farnham to Guildford, so I don't know, 30 miles perhaps, perhaps not that.

MR SANDERS QC: I think I went on Google maps and got 20 miles about half an hour drive away.

MR KNIGHT: That's probably right, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright, thank you. And at that time had you served in Northern Ireland at all?

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

MR SANDERS QC: Did you come to serve in Northern Ireland subsequently?

MR KNIGHT: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No, thank you. In Germany when you were stationed there how long had you been in Germany for?

MR KNIGHT: Well, the first posting I would have been there a couple of years.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And were you aware of the IRA threat to military personnel in Germany?

MR KNIGHT: Of course.

MR SANDERS QC: And had you had training and guidance on that?

MR KNIGHT: Not specifically.

MR SANDERS QC: So when you say 'not specifically' do you mean there was more general instruction about being vigilant and being on your guard and being aware?

MR KNIGHT: Of course, I mean security at the barracks was always an issue and basically it was common sense.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And do you know how soon after joining the army you received training and guidance about the IRA and about security threats?

MR KNIGHT: As soon as it became a threat you had briefings and things like that. But it was never an issue.

MR SANDERS QC: How do you mean it was never an issue?

MR KNIGHT: Well, when you're in an organization like the army you're expected to be on your toes, so to speak, for everything, so you never got specific instructions about the IRA or whatever.

MR SANDERS QC: It was more just a general you're a soldier in the armed forces and so you should have your wits about you for anything suspicious.

MR KNIGHT: Exactly, exactly.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright. Do you remember checking for bombs under cars or the guardhouse checking post for post bombs or anything like that?

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you remember being given any guidance about avoiding crowded places?

MR KNIGHT: No.

MR SANDERS QC: No. Do you remember if there were any rules about not wearing uniform when off duty or off camp?

MR KNIGHT: At that particular time there were no rules.

MR SANDERS QC: Are you referring now to when you were at Bordon or when you were at Germany or both?

MR KNIGHT: When I was in the UK on that course there was no specific rules about, not that I was aware of, wearing uniform outside of camp.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright. And can I just ask you do you remember something called the BIKINI alert system?

MR KNIGHT: Yeah, roughly I can remember. You had different stages of alert depending on the threat.

MR SANDERS QC: So do these terms sound familiar, black, black special, amber, red alert?

MR KNIGHT: Yeah, you had black alert, red alert, etcetera, etcetera, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And was this the case in 1974 or was this something you became aware of later?

MR KNIGHT: It was the case right throughout my army career.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you very much. As a serving soldier when you were in Germany were you living on the camp? Were you in barracks?

MR KNIGHT: I was in barracks and married quarters.

MR SANDERS QC: When you were at Bordon were you living on the camp as well then?

MR KNIGHT: I was living on the camp, yes, in barracks.

MR SANDERS QC: And when you were off duty were you free to leave camp and go and do what you wanted?

MR KNIGHT: Yes, yeah, totally.

MR SANDERS QC: There were no restrictions about where to go or what to do?

MR KNIGHT: No.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright. Were there any rules or restrictions in place in relation to drinking or consumption of alcohol when off camp?

MR KNIGHT: Not specific rules other than the fact that the set of same rules applied to civilians.

MR SANDERS QC: So no drinking and driving, things like that?

MR KNIGHT: Exactly, exactly.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright.

MR KNIGHT: Yeah, exactly.

MR SANDERS QC: And I think you say in your statement (inaudible) ...

MR KNIGHT: But don't forget that that was ...

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, apologies, Mr KNIGHT, you just broke up, could you repeat that?
I think maybe he's dropped out again.

CORONER: **Yes. Hopefully he will try to reconnect like he did last time.**

MR SANDERS QC: Mr KNIGHT, you're back.

MR KNIGHT: Yes, back again, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Sorry, the last thing I heard was you saying, 'But don't forget,' can you remember what that was that you were going to say?

MR KNIGHT: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: Say again.

CORONER: (inaudible).

MR SANDERS QC: I don't know what we're going to do here.

MR KNIGHT: (inaudible).

CORONER: **Mr KNIGHT, the connection is very poor, I am afraid. We cannot hear what you are saying, we get the occasional bit of a word, but we cannot really hear you. So if you can hear me, I do not know whether you can disconnect and try and reconnect again to see if that improves it.**

MR PLEETH: He should be able to turn off his camera and still see the screen
(inaudible).

CORONER: **Well, we could just have audio, but then we will not be able to see him obviously.**

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, are you back, Mr KNIGHT?

MR KNIGHT: Yeah, I apologize for this, the island's right on the edge of a tropical storm at the moment so the internet keeps coming and going.

CORONER: **Alright, well we can hear you nice and clearly. You were being asked about any specific rules about drinking and you said that there were none over and above that which civilians had. And we were sort of going on from there really, so I do not know if we can pick that up.**

MR KNIGHT: (inaudible) yeah. Yeah?

MR SANDERS QC: So you were saying, 'But don't forget,' and that was the ...

MR KNIGHT: Don't forget 50 years ago you didn't have the stringent drink driving rules that you have today.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh, I see, yes, that's a good point. Thank you. I think you say in your statement that you'd been into Guildford about six times before during the course of your time at Bordon, is that right?

MR KNIGHT: That's correct, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And on the Saturday the 5th of October, the day of the bombing you were off duty and you'd been to the cinema in Aldershot during the afternoon.

MR KNIGHT: That's correct, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: And you were with Lance Corporal Bill CHAMBERS.

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Was he on the course with you?

MR KNIGHT: He was, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And we have a photo of him at 4-195. Is that him there?

MR KNIGHT: It is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: When you went to the cinema and then when you went out into Guildford, I take it you weren't in uniform then?

MR KNIGHT: No, no.

MR SANDERS QC: No. How did you decide which pub to head for when you got to Guildford?

MR KNIGHT: I have no (inaudible) idea (inaudible), I don't know. (inaudible) knew Guildford that well, but apparently it was known as a service pub, an army pub and we just drank there.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright. And you'd been there before?

MR KNIGHT: No specific (inaudible) reason.

MR SANDERS QC: No, thank you. So no specific reason, and you'd been there before, I think?

CORONER: **There is a bit to go yet, isn't there?**

MR SANDERS QC: There's a little bit, I mean I can ...

MR PLEETH: He could turn off his camera, sir, the audio would still come through and he'd still be able to see the screen share (inaudible).

CORONER: **Yes, that might reduce the bandwidth a bit.**

MR SANDERS QC: I think it just turns off his camera rather than alters the ...

CORONER: **Sorry, say that again.**

MR SANDERS QC: I think that just turns off his camera rather than changes the amount of data he's using.

CORONER: **Is it?**

MR SANDERS QC: But ...

CORONER: **Oh, I see, yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: ... it might help, I suppose.

MR PLEETH: It will definitely use less data.

CORONER: Mr KNIGHT, I do not know if you can hear me? If you can, we were thinking that maybe if you turned off your camera and just have an audio link you would still be able to see our screen, but it might reduce the ...

MR KNIGHT: Yes, sir.

CORONER: It might reduce the bandwidth a bit. So shall we try that and see if it works at all?

MR KNIGHT: Yeah, I'll ... Okay, can you hear me?

CORONER: Yes, we can hear you. And so if it goes ...

MR KNIGHT: Okay.

CORONER: ... silent for a long time we will assume you have gone again because obviously we cannot see you now. Alright, can you still see ...

MR KNIGHT: Okay.

CORONER: ... our screen?

MR KNIGHT: I can.

CORONER: Good, alright. Well, let us just try on audio for a bit then and see how we get on.

MR SANDERS QC: So Mr KNIGHT, I think you had been to the Horse and Groom before?

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

CORONER: Try again.

MR SANDERS QC: Can you hear me?

CORONER: That was not very successful.

MR PLEETH: Try turning (inaudible) camera off (inaudible) reduce the bandwidth.

CORONER: How much more do we have to show Mr KNIGHT by way of ...?

MR SANDERS QC: Well, it ...

CORONER: Just the plans?

MR SANDERS QC: I mean we can skip the tour of the pub ...

CORONER: Mm.

MR SANDERS QC: ... and just use his plan to confirm where he was. There's a photo of him on the night. The main evidence he gives is in relation to ... Well, the main reason for calling him is the evidence in relation to helping Caroline SLATER.

CORONER: Yes.

MR PLEETH: We could try turning our camera off to reduce the bandwidth as well and still see the screen share.

MR KNIGHT: Okay, I can hear you again.

CORONER: Oh, can you? Okay, alright. Well ...

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

CORONER: ... let us pick it up again and see how far we get.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright, Mr KNIGHT, so you had been to the Horse and Groom before, is that correct?

MR KNIGHT: Yes, it is, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. Given the poor quality of the line I will cut to the chase.

You arrive in the pub I think you say in one statement 7.50 and in another statement 7.30. Does that sound right?

MR KNIGHT: Approximate, yes, yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: Approximately. Was it the first pub you went to that night in Guildford?

MR KNIGHT: As far as I can remember, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you say in your statement that you were surprised how busy it was, can you just give us an impression of what the pub was like when you got there?

MR KNIGHT: It's 50 years ago, if I said in my statement that I was surprised that it was busy then it was busy.

MR SANDERS QC: That's alright.

MR KNIGHT: I cannot remember specifics, I'll be honest with you.

MR SANDERS QC: No, thank you. Do you have any recollection of whether it was mainly service personnel or whether it was a mix of service personnel and civilians?

MR KNIGHT: Mainly service personnel as far as I could tell.

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MR SANDERS QC: And you would be able to recognize them by their short haircuts and ...?

MR KNIGHT: Exactly.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, thank you. So you say in your statement you stayed drinking at the bar for most of the time. And I just want to show you a plan that you marked up or that the police marked up for you. This is at 3-150.

MR KNIGHT: Yeah, I see it.

MR SANDERS QC: And do you see if we just zoom into the area that, just move the plan up so we lose the storeroom. Does that layout of the pub seem familiar to you?

MR KNIGHT: It does, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So there's a small alcove on the right, there were two alcoves on the left and then the bar in the middle. And if we ...

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: If we go up and zoom in slightly to the top, the middle top area of the plan at the end of the bar there.

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, I think you've marked A, B and C for the three different places that you and Mr CHAMBERS were during the evening.

MR KNIGHT: That's ... yeah.

MR SANDERS QC: So you're at the bar and then after you speak to a couple of females for five minutes. And then just as you get to 8.45 you say that you're just about thinking of leaving and you move back to C to make room for some other women to get to the bar.

MR KNIGHT: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And at this point you say that the pub was filled to capacity.

MR KNIGHT: As far as I could judge, I mean there was a lot of people in there.

MR SANDERS QC: Yeah, thank you. And then so you stand up, you move back to let four or five WRACs get to the bar. And we're now at the point of the explosion, can you tell us what you remember happening next?

MR KNIGHT: I can remember us (?), I think I was stood up at the time. I can remember the explosion happening and because we were in the alcove I was stood looking towards the main door, the explosion passed us by literally in front of our eyes.

MR SANDERS QC: Mr KNIGHT, are you still there?

CORONER: **Mr KNIGHT, if you can hear me, we will wait for you to say something because we cannot hear you at the moment.**

MR KNIGHT: Hi, can you hear me?

CORONER: **Yes, you are back, thank you. So you said you saw the explosion go past in front of your eyes, is the last thing we heard.**

MR KNIGHT: Yes. Yes, yeah, and what I think were body parts flying through the air, debris, it was, the room was filled with dust, smoke. I can remember somebody saying, 'Quick, run for the door.' And I think that I said to them, 'No, wait,' because there was panic at the door, 'Wait for the path to clear.'

MR SANDERS QC: And was it ...

MR KNIGHT: I think a couple of them took no notice and rushed for the door, but everybody else in the alcove stayed there for a few minutes until the panic sort of cleared at the doorway. And then we made our way out of the doorway.

MR SANDERS QC: Was it dark in the pub at this point?

MR KNIGHT: Not pitch black, no. Obviously, there was no lights in the pub, but there was plenty of light coming in from outside.

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR KNIGHT: As I remember it.

MR SANDERS QC: And I don't think, you weren't injured by the blast is that correct?

MR KNIGHT: The only injuries I sustained were a certain amount of deafness at the time, everything was echoey in my hearing.

MSQ Right. Did you lose consciousness at all?

MR KNIGHT: No, no, no, no.

MR SANDERS QC: And so you went out of the main entrance onto North Street, is that correct?

MR KNIGHT: That is correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And can you help us with what happened next? Because I understand you went to then assist with casualties with those who had been injured.

MR KNIGHT: When (inaudible) went outside, turned back to look at the pub and I think I heard somebody shout, 'There's still people in there,' so I went back into the pub. As far as I remember I climbed then into the cellar, and I come across a young lady with severe injuries.

MR SANDERS QC: But hold on, Mr KNIGHT, I think we just lost a bit of your evidence. So you went back into the pub after someone said, 'There's still people in there.' And what did you see when you got inside? We're almost there if it helps.

CORONER: **Do not worry, I think we just have to be patient and try and limp through.**

MR KNIGHT: Yeah.

CORONER: **Mr KNIGHT, can you hear us?**

MR SANDERS QC: Mr KNIIGHT?

MR KNIGHT: Hello.

MR SANDERS QC: Hello.

MR KNIGHT: Yes, I'm back.

MR SANDERS QC: Oh.

MR KNIGHT: Yes, I'm back again.

MR SANDERS QC: Good, thank you, Mr KNIGHT. We're almost there, so hopefully just one or two good bits of signal we can get to the end. So someone said that there's people still in there and you went back into the pub, correct?

MR KNIGHT: That's correct.

MR SANDERS QC: And can you tell us what you saw when you went back into the pub?

MR KNIGHT: I went back into the pub, I saw there was a hole in the floor. I climbed down into the cellar saw a young lady there with very bad lower body injuries. I tried applying a tourniquet on one of her legs and basically, I stayed with her until more qualified people came behind me ...

MR SANDERS QC: Right.

MR KNIGHT: ... and said they would take over.

MR SANDERS QC: And how did you get down into the cellar? Did you go through the hole, or did you find the stairs?

MR KNIGHT: I went, as I can remember it, I went down the hole.

MR SANDERS QC: Right. And was there a pile of rubble, debris that had come through the hole there?

MR KNIGHT: Yes, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And apart from the injured, the young lady who was injured, what else did you see down there do you remember?

MR KNIGHT: It was difficult to see anything down there, there wasn't a lot of light down there. The only thing I can remember seeing down there is the young lady she was right in front of me. And that is the only thing I can remember about being down in the cellar.

MR SANDERS QC: And so you concentrated on her, do you remember what ...

MR KNIGHT: As much as I could, much as I could, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember anything about her, what she was wearing?

MR KNIGHT: No, everything was covered in dust and ...

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And you said in your statement that she had one leg missing and one was badly injured.

MR KNIGHT: Right.

MR SANDERS QC: Do you remember that?

CORONER: **Just wait for him to come back.**

MR KNIGHT: Hi, good afternoon.

MR SANDERS QC: Hello, Mr KNIGHT, we've got you back.

MR KNIGHT: Okay, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: So you're down in the cellar and you're helping a young lady, and you said in your statement that she had one leg missing and one very badly injured, is that correct?

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Was she conscious at the time?

MR KNIGHT: I don't think so, no.

MR SANDERS QC: Was it your impression that she was still alive?

MR KNIGHT: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And so you tried to apply a tourniquet and then the emergency service personnel came and took over.

MR KNIGHT: Well, somebody came and took over, I have no recollection as to whether it was a fireman, ambulanceman or the police.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright.

CORONER: **On that note pretty much concludes the evidence, doesn't it?**

MR SANDERS QC: All ...

MR KNIGHT: I have no ... Back again.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright, thank you, Mr KNIGHT. I think we're almost there. So you have no recollection of who took over. And then you came out ...

MR KNIGHT: No.

MR SANDERS QC: ... of the cellar, do you remember how you got out of the cellar?

MR KNIGHT: I presume I got out the same way up the rubble.

MR SANDERS QC: Did you help lift the young lady out of the cellar?

MR KNIGHT: Now, now you say it, yes, I believe I did, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And we've got a photo of you which given the problems with the signal I won't show you, but there's a photo of you helping carry a stretcher, I think, with a young lady on to an ambulance. Do you remember that?

MR KNIGHT: I do, yes, God, you're bringing it back now, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And at that point was it your impression that she was still alive?

MR KNIGHT: I have no idea, no recollection.

MR SANDERS QC: No recollection, thank you. I think that's almost at the end, is there anything else that you think we might find helpful that you can remember from the night or about the young lady?

MR KNIGHT: Not really, no, I can't think of anything else, no.

CORONER: **We can probably show the photo because the screen is on.**

MR SANDERS QC: There's two photos in the sensitive photos bundle at A87, but it's only the higher one, not the one of him carrying the stretcher that we would want to show. So the top half of that page, A87. Mr KNIGHT, are you still there?

MR KNIGHT: Yes, I am, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Alright, we're just going to try and show you a photo just to see if this helps jog your memory at all. Yes, that's it under the carport. If we can enlarge that, but not the one below it.

MS NIN: I can pull in the picture below it.

CORONER: **Alright, well do not worry, we will leave it otherwise.**

MR SANDERS QC: Alright, Mr KNIGHT, I don't have any further questions for you. It's been very helpful despite the technical difficulties. I'm just going to pass you back to the coroner now, thank you.

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

MS BARTON: No, I don't, thank you, sir.

MR PLEETH: No, thank you, sir.

CORONER: If you could just bring me back, please. Mr KNIGHT, I cannot see you, but I am very grateful to you. I know it has been a bit difficult with the internet keep dropping in and out. But it is very helpful to have these recollections, this type of recollection. So if you are still there, I am very grateful to you. I do not know if he is or not. Heather can you cut the link and could you send him an email, please and ...

MS NIN: Yes.

CORONER: ... thank him for me?

MS NIN: Yes.

CORONER: Good. Right, so thank you. I think we got there in the end. I think we got the evidence that was relevant, so.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, sir, I think the most important point was the assistance of Caroline SLATER and the fact that she appeared to be alive ...

CORONER: Exactly.

MR SANDERS QC: ... at least for a time.

CORONER: Yes, quite. So we now come to some further statements to be read. We have got three on the list, but then we have also got the two firemen, have we now?

MR FLINN: That's correct sir, and I was going to read those two firemen first.

CORONER: **Alright, let us do that, fine. Thank you. Can you just remind me of their names, please?**

MR FLINN: Of course, sir. The two individuals are Mr John REDDICK and a Mr Robert HUDSON. And I shall read the statement of Mr John REDDICK first. We haven't received any objections from any interested person. The unique reference number is S319, and the case lines page reference is 2-552.

CORONER: **Thank you.**

MR FLINN: 'I am a sub officer in the Surrey Fire Brigade stationed at Guildford. On Saturday the 5th of October 1974 I was officer in charge of the nightshift which commenced duty at 6pm. At 8.50pm that evening in response to a telephone message I attended the Horse and Groom Public House, North Street, Guildford where a bomb had exploded. A total of two appliances attended immediately and a third arrived a few minutes later. Station Officer Kenneth ALLEN and Divisional Officer Ronald SHETTLE also arrived within a few minutes. Upon arrival and turning from Chertsey Street into North Street I saw glass strown across the road and a heap of rubble on the footpath outside the Horse and Groom. The next thing I saw was a police officer in the door. I asked if there was anybody inside and he said there was. I then entered the building together with Fireman RICE and LYON. I saw a hole in the floor on

the ground floor of the bar which was in darkness. By the light of torches, I saw masonry intermingled with four or five bodies in the cellar below the hole. I then saw a man who told me he was the governor of the pub and I asked him where the stairs were to the cellar. The doorway to the cellar was obstructed by another door which I believed had been blown from another part of the bar. Together with others I cleared this doorway and went down into the cellar with the police officer, Fireman SAUNDERS, and LEON. I saw some barrels, a cellar pump which was working, water flowing from a fractured main then reached the heap of debris and the bodies. I saw the buttocks of a female sticking up through the rubble, this was closest to me. All I could see of the clothing on this body was a pair of tights without pants. I then saw a pair of legs from about the knee down sticking out of the rubble and one of the legs had most of the flesh blown from it. Further towards the top of the heap of rubble I could see the head and possibly the top half of the body of a young male person, the rest of this body was buried within rubble. I then deployed Firemen LEON and SAUNDERS in clearing the rubble and preparing to move the bodies. I then left the cellar leaving the two firemen and the police officer. The police officer was wearing a white motorcycle crash helmet. I returned to the ground floor and together with the governor of the pub I checked

the first-floor rooms but found no other persons. I returned to the ground floor where I was met by Station Officer ALLEN and Divisional Officer SHETTLE who then took charge of proceedings. I then returned to the cellar, but prior to doing so met a young nurse in uniform who then came down to the cellar with me. On reaching the cellar I saw on the far side of the heap of rubble, a man. I confirmed this man to be a doctor who was attending a person I had not previously noticed. I saw the nurse commence to treat the person whose head was protruding from the rubble. I then left the cellar and on the instructions of Divisional Officer SHETTLE I searched the surrounding area outside the public house for any other injured persons. No one else required my assistance so I returned to the bar of the pub, and by this time work had commenced on the removal of the bodies from the cellar through the hole in the floor. I then assisted others to pull up the last three victims from the cellar, and I think that Fireman SAUNDERS was down in the cellar from start to finish. As far as I know everyone was out of the cellar. There were still others outside the pub awaiting transportation to the hospital and I was busily engaged with these persons when another bomb exploded and all five crews who were present were ordered to the Seven Stars Public House where a second explosion had occurred. Following my check of the Horse and Groom

Public House I realized that the premises were not in danger of fire.’

And, sir, that was signed and dated the 8th of October 1974.

The next statement is from Mr Robert Michael HUDSON. URN S297, case lines page reference 2-494. ‘I am a leading fireman in the Surrey Fire Brigade White Watch stationed at Guildford. On Saturday the 5th of October 1974 I was on night duty commencing at 6pm. At 8.50pm in response to an alarm call I attended with other firemen a bomb explosion at the Horse and Groom Public House, North Street, Guildford. On my arrival I went through the front door, I saw a hole in the floor and to the left of this hole on the floor I saw one person who appeared to be alive, and this was the nearest on the floor to me. This person was the first out on a stretcher. Just beyond this person was another with someone in civilian clothes, short hair, I believe a blue striped shirt trying to give a heart massage. By the side of these two casualties was what I took at the time to be an archway leading to the outside. I knelt down on the side of the centre to see if there was an obvious way down. I could see in the hole the buttocks of a young lady wearing tights and pink pants. Underneath her was another body, I could only see one leg, and I took it to be a female as there was no clothing visible on the leg. Immediately below me lying on his back was a young man with blood foaming from his mouth, but he was

moving. He had a tweedy jacket on, light coloured shirt and trousers, most of his body was visible. At this stage these were the only persons I saw. Roy LYON was behind me, and I sent him for a short ladder. Geoff SAUNDERS then came in and I told him to try and find another way into the cellar. The next I saw of him was that he was in the cellar on the opposite side to me, there was a civilian with him. The person working on one of the two lying on the bar floor was shouting hysterically for assistance, I told him to shut up and get on with the job quietly. I stood up as there was a lot of noise behind me, I took stock of the situation of the ceiling above, I saw two policemen and three civilians whom I took to be soldiers. I suggested to the police officer with a flat cap that he remove the civilians because of the possibility of further collapse. At this stage the first of the stretchers arrived through what I assumed to be an arch. The first to be taken out was the person on the upper floor who was obviously alive. The second was passed down the hole and a male with plaster on his chest was lifted out and handed to others behind me. At that time our retain crew may have been removing the second person from the floor by the hole. During this time other persons had got into the cellar, there was a doctor attending the man who had plaster on his chest and who next attended the man with blood foaming from his mouth. There was a nurse also

there and Station Officer ALLEN assisting with the stretchers. His instructions were to get the casualties onto the stretchers and out of the cellar as quickly as possible. Another stretcher and body were passed up and handed to the people behind. The next stretcher brought up the man the doctor was dealing with, and I went out with that stretcher. It was carried to the opposite side of the road and put down as there were no ambulances. As soon as one arrived this man on the stretcher was loaded into the nearside ambulance bay, and another placed on the opposite side. A third was put on the floor in the middle gangway, that ambulance then drove off. At that time there were still two bodies on the pavement on stretchers by the bank near the bus stop.' And that's signed by Mr HUDSON dated the 9th of October 1974.

Sir, the other three statements, or four statements from three individuals, were those originally scheduled for today. The first I will read is from a Mr William Kendal CHAMBERS. Case lines reference 2-62 with URN S172. 'I am a Lance Corporal number 24126318 at present attached to C Company, School of Electrical Mechanical Engineers, Bordon, Hampshire. I enlisted in the army on the 12th of August 1967 and have been at Bordon since the 13th of June 1974. When I first arrived at Bordon practically every evening I went to Guildford for entertainment, mainly using the Horse and Grooms Public

House, North Street, Guildford. However, since August 1974 I have only visited the Horse and Groom Public House occasionally, usually at weekends. On Friday the 4th of October 1974 I went to Guildford with my mate Fred KNIGHT. We went in Fred's car which we parked in Ward Street, Guildford. We arrived at the Horse and Groom Public House about 8pm, we stood about three quarters along the bar. Fred and I stayed together during the evening. About 9.15pm two girls came into the public house, I know them vaguely and I believe their names were Phil and Bridget, we just chatted about things in general. They left the pub at about 9.30pm and we left about 15 minutes later and returned to Bordon. On this night the public house was fairly busy but not overcrowded. On this night I recognized some of the customers as being regulars but didn't know their names except for two girls, one named Angie and the other named Irene. On Saturday the 5th of October 1974 Fred and I went to the cinema at Aldershot leaving about 7pm. We then drove to Guildford in my car, a Renault 12 saloon car, colour light blue, index number KB765B. I parked my car on Ward Street. We then went to the Horse and Groom Public House arriving at about 7.30pm. We again stood about three quarters along the bar. The bar at this time was fairly busy so we couldn't stand right up against it. Angie came in and almost immediately left the pub. After a short time, a

couple sitting at the bar left the pub, we sat on the stools that they had used. We then spent a short time talking to a barman named Pete, about this time a few people left the public house. I can't say who left, but the bar didn't seem so crowded. Phil and Irene came into the pub and stood near us. Phil bought drinks for me and themselves. I had a pint of shandy, Irene had lemonade, I don't know what Phil drank, but she bought the barman Pete a drink. Phil and Bridget told me they had too much to drink the night before and had a headache. They finished their drinks and left. They were only in the pub for about seven minutes, the pub then became very crowded. Fred and I remained at the bar drinking, chatting to one another, and also the barman Pete, and Paddy an Irishman who works at the pub washing glasses. All this time people were coming in and going out of the pub, I didn't know them or pay much attention to them. During this time an old fellow kept wandering about the pub, he didn't appear to be drunk, I recognized him as being a regular and I know he is known by the bar staff. At about 9pm I was sitting on a stool with my back to the bar. I turned around to get my drink from the bar and saw smoke coming from the alcove on the left of the pub entrance. Suddenly there was a flash, I went deaf, the next thing I saw was confusion. Two girls were screaming clinging to themselves and the bar. It was dark in the bar, and I couldn't see

anything else except vague shapes moving towards the door. I remember helping the two girls out of the door, one I had to practically carry. I took them to the other side of North Street, made sure they were okay and went back to find my mate. Fred was helping someone who was lying on the path by the window of the pub. I then went back across the road to see if the girls were alright, there was another man with the girls who was helping them. I gave the girls a cigarette each and went back to see if I could help. Fred went into the Horse and Groom Pub through the hole in the wall and I followed. Just inside was a man with serious injuries to the right-hand side of his face and a girl whose legs were missing from the thighs. I helped the man while Fred helped the woman. A woman who I think was a nurse was also helping the woman. There were about four other people standing near, I think that they were soldiers. We moved the man away from the injured woman. A man came in with some bandages, I took some and started attending the injured man and sent the soldiers out to try and get a stretcher. The injured man kept saying, 'My head, my head,' and was then sick. Almost immediately a fireman came in with a stretcher, they were at first going to take the girl, but took the injured man out and put him into an ambulance. I went and got another stretcher and went back in the pub. The injured girl was dead, so we put her onto a stretcher. A

policeman came with a light and I saw a hole in the pub floor with injured people in it. I helped to get these people onto stretchers, I think there were about two people in this hole. I couldn't see that I could do anything else, so I returned to the two girls, they appeared to be alright. I then started to take the two girls to the Seven Stars Public House to try and give them a brandy. The three of us went in and asked the barman for a drink, he was a coloured chap, he said, 'No, the bar's shut.' He asked us where we had been, my arms were covered in blood so I asked him if I could get washed up. I left the two girls in the bar and went with him to the ladies' toilet, I got washed and he stood outside. I then returned to the bar where the barman gave me a towel, he gave me a brandy. The two girls and I left there and went to the Wimpy Bar. By this time the girls had told me they were WRAC, one was a private and the other a lance corporal. I told them that I would take them to the camp. The two girls got washed up in the Wimpy Bar. I told them that I would get my mate and come back. When I got out of the Wimpy Bar I heard a bang, I ran down North Street and saw that it was the Seven Stars. The police were already there so I started to keep the crowd back. I then saw Fred there. I then went to pick up the girls and took them to my car and drove them to the WRAC camp. I drove back to Guildford town after I dropped the girls off and went to look for Fred. I found

Fred, we then went to my car and drove back to Bordon. On Saturday the 5th of October 1974 I was wearing brown brushed denim trousers, fawn shirt woven with white pattern striped. I am five foot nine inches, medium build with dark brown hair and a moustache. I would describe Phill as follows, five foot two inches, aged 21, slim angular face, slight protruding teeth, dark hair, wearing a brown jacket. I cannot recall any further details, but I would recognise him again. I would describe Bridget as follows, five foot six inches, aged 21, heavy build, dark hair, round face, wearing a brown coat. I would recognize her again. I would describe Angie as five foot seven inches, medium or heavy build, aged 25 years, hair blonde with pigtails, I cannot be sure what she was wearing. I would describe Irene as five foot four inches, slim build, aged 25 years, ginger hair, I cannot recall what she was wearing. The two WRAC I took back to the WRAC college I would describe as, the lance corporal was five foot four inches, thin, 20ish, wearing a light floral dress. The private was five-foot one-inch, medium build, wearing trousers and a brown jumper. I would recognize all these people again.’

And then he goes on, sir, to say that he is leaving for Germany on the 25th of October 1974. And that statement is signed and dated the 7th of October 1974.

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CORONER:

Thank you.

MR FLINN:

We then have two shorter statements from a Mr Archibald BEATY. The case lines reference is 2-391 and it's S265. It is a floorplan which Heather might like to put on the screen whilst we read out Mr BEATY's statement. But if the screens are off it's not essential. So if the interested person wishes to use that, to look at that it is case lines reference 3-132. 'At 6.10pm yesterday Saturday the 5th of October 1974 together with Stephen WALSH a corporal of the Irish Guards, Colin GRANT a piper in the Scots Guards and Brian CLARKE a drummer in the Scots Guards I caught a bus number 28 from Brookwood to Guildford town. We got off the bus on Woodbridge Road by the cinema and walked up to the Horse and Groom. We got into the pub at about 6.45pm. We had one drink in the Horse and Groom and played a couple of records on the jukebox. There were a number of WRACs and paras in the pub. I didn't recognize anyone in the place, most of the customers were couples. Whilst in the pub we sat at the bar, I cannot describe any of the customers in the bar. After about 20 minutes we left and walked up to the Three Pigeons Public House. We just showed our faces in the Three Pigeons to see if we recognized anyone, we didn't see anyone, so we then walked down the street to the Seven Stars. When we got to the Seven Stars we went to the bar, ordered drinks, and sat by the jukebox. Whilst in the pub we

used the toilets. We stayed in the Seven Stars about 15 minutes, whilst in there we met Brian CRUDEN and his girl Rose. Brian is a piper in the Scots Guards. Parked outside the Seven Stars was a red Ford Escort K registration containing two drummers, one from the Grenadiers called SARGEANT and one from the Scots. As we were leaving, they entered. We then walked back to the Horse and Groom arriving outside at about 7.40pm. Whilst standing outside the Horse and Groom a uniformed constable driving a blue Escort stopped and asked what regiments were in town tonight, we told him, and he then went off. I then went in the Horse and Groom with Colin GRANT leaving the others outside. We had one drink and only stayed in there about five minutes. At the time the place was full of WRACs, I gathered that one of them had a 19th birthday. Again, I can't recall anyone in particular in the pub. Colin GRANT and I then walked back down North Street to the Seven Stars. We went in and as we got just into the bar somebody shouted that a bomb had just gone off at the Horse and Groom. Practically everyone in the pub ran up to the Horse and Groom. I assisted in releasing a young girl with her leg blown off. We started to give the girl first aid, a nurse felt her pulse and said that it had stopped. Stephen WALSH gave her artificial respiration and after a couple of seconds she started to breathe. Then after two minutes she stopped

breathing again. The nurse came up and told us she was dead. I then went out of the wreckage and got two stretchers, we put the girl on one and covered her with a blanket. Then we took an injured man on a stretcher to the ambulance. We then took the girl out of the pub and laid her on the pavement by the bus stop. After a short while I left the body of the girl and walked back down North Street to the Seven Stars where I had left my jacket prior to running to the Horse and Groom. When I got to the Seven Stars there was only about six people in the place, all girls standing by the jukebox. I got my jacket and walked down to the taxi rank, as I got there, I heard the second bomb go off. We then walked down to the bus station and caught a bus back to camp, the bus was the 9.20pm from Guildford. We arrived back at the depot at about 9.55pm.' And sir, that's signed and dated the 6th of October 1974. We then have a second very short statement from Mr BEATY. Case lines page reference 2393, URN S265A. 'I would like to say one thing more about the incident in the Horse and Groom last Saturday. When we first went in that is also Stephen WALSH, Colin GRANT, and Brian CLARKE at 6.45pm there was a regular customer at the end of the bar. I have seen him on many occasions in the pub at about 7pm. I would describe him as six foot tall, 45 years, well built with short black hair, spectacles, sometimes wears a dark suit, smart appearance,

and drinks port.’ And sir, that’s signed and dated the 15th of October 1974.

The last individual from whom we are reading a witness statement this afternoon is Alexander BLACK. Case lines page reference 2-607, URN S577. ‘I arrived in Guildford at about 5.50pm on Saturday the 5th of October 1974. I was with recruits SLOAN, DORBIE and LYNSKEY. We went into the Seven Stars Pub in Swan Lane, and we stayed there for about ten minutes. When we left, we went for a walk around the town and we looked into the Three Pigeons Pub, we didn’t have anything to drink there. We made our way back to the Seven Stars arriving there at about 7.15pm. We stayed until about 8.50pm. During this time, I did not see anyone acting suspiciously in the pub and I did not see any suspicious parcels or packages. I left the pub at this time for a breath of fresh air, almost as soon as I got out, I heard a loud explosion from the top of North Street. I immediately ran to where it had come from, as I got towards the top of North Street, I saw the front of The Horse and Groom Pub was destroyed and there was glass and rubble everywhere. I saw people wandering in the road injured and dazed and they were screaming. I went to the pub through the remains of the door, and I found a person who was under some rubble. I saw he was barely alive and together with an ambulanceman we managed to

free him. At this time, he was still alive, but as we were getting him out of the building I felt him go limp and I knew that he was dead. When this happened I was so shocked I just burst into tears and I had to get out of the building. I stood out in the street and just couldn't bring myself to help any of the other injured, I couldn't stop crying. Shortly after this the police cleared us from the scene, and I went with my three mates down to the bottom of the street to the bus station to get some transport back. We were told that the buses were not running and so we started to walk back up North Street. When we were about 25 yards from the junction of Swan Lane, I heard another explosion which came from the direction of Swan Lane. Almost as soon as I heard it a light-coloured Ford Cortina came speeding past me going down the street, it was going very fast and it had at least two and possibly three persons in it. I remember the index number of the vehicle as APD608D. The letters are definitely correct, and the numbers were also the ones involved, but it could be that they were in a different order. My own feelings are that this vehicle was involved in some way with the explosion. After this I tried to get up to the Seven Stars, but the police turned us away. We made our way to the station and then we caught a train out of Guildford. Other than the car I have described I did not see anything else that aroused my suspicions.' And sir, that is signed and

dated the 6th of October 1974. And that completes the read evidence for today.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. And, Mr SANDERS, that concludes the evidence I think for today.**

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, sir.

CORONER: **So tomorrow I think we have four witnesses live to give evidence and two statements to be read, is that right?**

MR SANDERS QC: That's correct, sir. So we have three witnesses John TAYLOR, Stephen WALSH and Stephen COOPER, the second Stephen COOPER, who were service personnel in the pub who ...

CORONER: **Yes.**

MR SANDERS QC: ... rendered assistance. And then we have the first of the police witnesses which is Alan BENTLEY. And so then we're moving onto the emergency service response.

CORONER: **Thank you, good. Thank you very much. So sit down please. Tomorrow at ten o'clock, please. Thank you.**

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you.

CLERK: Court please rise.

(Court adjourns)