
Transcript of the Inquest

Date: 27th June 2022

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| Mr Charles Alfred KING | Affirmed | 5 |
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CORONER: **Good morning, everyone. I am happy to say that the problem we**

had with the recording has been overcome, and the recording from,

was it TTT2 Tf0.25 Tc 521.47 471.4 Td(,)TjETQq(u(i)7 (n)((n)-6g 25 Tg 7 (5T

MR SANDERS QC:

MR KING: He was very well known, he was very well known in football, both by the footballers and the press.

MR SANDERS QC: Thank you. And was the Surrey Advertiser his first job?

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And he was 20 at the time.

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And he sadly diBDC q10Tf1 04 0 0 1 45617g0 G{)JTJETQ.06(S)-0 0 TJET00887(.



MR KING:

Yes. Well,

200 yards something, looked at the scene, took it in, as he describes in

Advertiser, put it on the wire, phoned up reporters, because he knew where they were. They were at a party that he was going to when he had finished his report. Phoned a photographer, phoned his Editor, and

things in such a short time.

MR SANDERS QC: In order for all those things to have happened ten minutes before the

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ht have just been a typographical error which does

occur.

MR SANDERS QC: Well, can we just look at what the Surrey Advertiser said? So if we go to 4-556, and you produce an online printout of this same article. So this is the Surrey Advertiser 40th Anniversary Special about the bombings.

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And if we just go down to 4-561. There. Can we get that on there? A

Mr KING?

MR KING:

MR SANDERS QC: Right. Because I think what you provided as your exhibit 3 was an

MR KING: No,

MR SANDERS QC: I

Advertiser Reporter Robert KING was one of the first people on the scene. He was working late in the office at Martyr Road when the first

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article there?

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC:

MR KING:

MR SANDERS QC: So can we just look at 4-

Advert

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC:

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC:

Just bear with me, Mr KING. I just want to find
the right part of the document to show you. So can you see where it

Can we zoom into there?

MR KING: Yes. Barely, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. A bit more. S

people to arrive. Reporter Rob KING was working late in Advertiser
House, less than 100 yards from the Horse and Groom, when the first
explosion occurred. He was on the scene within seconds of the blast and
gave this account. I was working late in the Advertiser offices when all
of a sudden, just after 8.50 pm, there was a vivid blue flash from North
Street, coupled with a large explosion which lit up the street 40 yards

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC:

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And you refer in your statement to the fact that quite a number of Surrey Advertiser reporters and photographers attended the scene and were involved in covering the bombing. Is that right?

MR KING: Yes, Robert called them in. Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: And so if this had been a mistake, or had been wrong, one would have expected one of those people to have raised that, bearing in mind that

?

MR KING: Well

MR SANDERS QC: Hold on, Mr KING. Can I finish my question?

MR KING: Sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: Bearing in mind that they are journalists and that it is important that

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: d been a mistake one would expect that to have been

MR KING: Not necessarily, because none of those reporters were actually at the

important, but what was happening was important. And I know I

MR SANDERS QC: Well, we are just concentrating on the coverage at the time. I think

MR KING: Yes. Sorry, beg your pardon. I will agree, and that is why my second statement came, because set against that there are other timings given.

MR SANDERS QC:

important in your mind for the timings is that it was about ten minutes

MR KING: Yes, yes. Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Okay. Well, I just want to take you to the TV listings for the night,

th October 1974.

And I just want to take you to show you first the Radio Times, which is

11-38. So this is the cover for the Radio Times for the week the 5th to

the 11th

MR KING: Sorry, could you come back to the date?

MR SANDERS QC: Yes, go back to the top.

MR KING:

MR SANDERS QC:

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2. And if we just zoom in on the evening schedule. There. At 9

s an Election Broadcast, because Thursday the 10th October was

the General Election, which is the narrow majority for WILSON against
HEATH.

MR KING: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC: 9 Kojak, and

9.50?

MR KING: Around 9.50?

MR SANDERS QC: Around 9.50.

MR KING: No, never. Never, sorry.

MR SANDERS QC: So you think he called about ten minutes before the News?

MR KING: hich I think, I suppose, could have been a News

member any

Election Broadcast or Kojak.

MR SANDERS QC:

MR KING: Yes, I do agree.

MR SANDERS QC:

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MR KING: are

certain memories in your life that you always remember, and that is just

MR SANDERS QC: You remember Robert ringing ten minutes before the News?

MR KING: Before the, before it came on the television then. I must be correct. I
tried

MR SANDERS QC:

MR KING: I'll admit

MR SANDERS QC:

MR KING: Sorry.

MR SANDERS QC:

the right hand side of the page we have the schedule for BBC 2. And

Election Broadcast.

MR KING:

MR SANDERS QC: Sorry, that is BBC 2 the television channel.

MR KING: Yes, yes.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes. And then I just want to show you as well, just for the avoidance

MR KING:

have been much more doubtful.

as far as this inquest is concerned. So thank you very much. Thank you.

MR KING: Thank you.

CORONER: **The next witness, please. I think this is a videolink as well. Alexander CONNOR.**

MRS NIN: . (Conversation aside).

CORONER: **Mr KING, I think you need to terminate your call. There should be, I suspect, a red telephone image somewhere on your screen.**

MR KING: Yes.

CORONER: **Can you click on that for me, please? Thank you.**

(Witness withdrew)

CORONER: **All right. Mr CONNOR, can you hear me?**

MR CONNOR: (no audible response)

CORONER: **I think you must be on mute. You might be on mute. If the person helping you can assist.**

MR CONNOR: Yes, I can hear you.

CORONER: **Thank you very much. We can hear you nice and clearly. My name is Richard TRAVERS, Mr CONN**

affirmation or an oath in front of you?

MR CONNOR: Yes.

CORONER: And are you going to read the oath? Do you have a Bible? Or are you going to do the affirmation?

MR CONNOR: Yes.

MR ALEXANDER JOHN CONNOR (sworn)

CORONER: Thank you very much, Mr CONNOR. That is very helpful. Can I ask you please to give me your full name?

MR CONNOR: Alexander John CONNOR.

CORONER: Thank you. And, Mr CONNOR, is there somebody in the room with you at the moment helping you?

MR CONNOR: Yes.

CORONER: And just let us know who that is, please.

MR CONNOR: One minute.

UK FEMALE: Yes.

CORONER: Hello. You are helping Mr CONNOR, I think, with the videolink,

UK FEMALE: Yes. Yes, I am. Yes.

CORONER:

just need to know there is somebody in the room with him. So when

aight from him, so to

speak,

s all I need to be assured

of.

UK FEMALE:

. Yes.

CORONER:

Thank you. (inaudible). Mr CONNOR, I am going to pass you over now to Mr FLINN, who will be asking questions of you on my behalf. Thank you. I think the camera will move in a moment and you will see Mr FLINN. There we are.

MR FLINN:

Good morning, Mr CONNOR. I am going to put my hand up so that you can see

MR CONNOR: Yes.

MR FLINN:

actually. The Caselines reference is 4-191.

the page. Mr CONNOR, on the left-hand side of the screen, is that young man you?

MR CONNOR:

i

me.

MR FLINN:

ew questions about your

experience of the military. You were a private at the time you gave your statement. Could you help the court by letting us know when you enlisted in the army?

MR CONNOR:

October 1973, I think, yes.

MR FLINN:

October 1973. So

Guildford pub bombings.

MR CONNOR:

Yes.

MR FLINN:

Did you do anything else before you signed up with the army?

MR CONNOR:

In what way?

MR FLINN:

So you were about 20 years old when you signed up. Did you do anything else after leaving school before you signed up?

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN:

ven miles, would that sound

round about accurate?

MR CONNOR:

Seven, ten, yeah, something like that, yes.

MR FLINN:

Okay, fine. Now, I just have a short number of questions about your initial training. So far as you could remember it, can you just talk us through the training that you went through when you first enlisted with the army? Where it happened and what you did.

MR CONNOR:

It was in Browning Barracks. That was the (inaudible). All the physical training, then everything else that goes with it. Then we went through the parachute school in RAF Abingdon. And then from there went up to the battalion.

MR FLINN:

Right. And that was at Aldershot.

MR CONNOR:

Correct.

MR FLINN:

Fine. By the time you got to Aldershot, had you completed your training or were you still undergoing forms of training?

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN:

I understand.

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN:

I understand, okay, thank you. Now, can you recall there being lectures and, sort of, classroom work as part of your training, in addition to military drills and physical exercises?

MR FLINN:

Can you recall around about when you had that instruction and that understanding given to you? Was that communicated to you before the

e

YMKEW

, a Roman

TYMKIN.

And, Mrs NIN, could we go to Page 4-

MR CONNOR: Is that the one on the left?

MR FLINN: Yes, I think if we go up again, on the right. If we just go down again, Mrs NIN, pardon me. On the right on that one, can you see there? Paul LYNSKEY, is that right? Mr CONNOR, can you recognize him?

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: o town, and who were you with on the train journey into town?

MR CONNOR: Roman TYMKIN, and REHILL. Just the three of us.

MR FLINN: Righto. And you went by train. What time did you arrive in Guildford?

MR CONNOR: ut the pubs had just shut.

MR FLINN: Righto. Do you recall what you did when you went there? I think you mentioned a fairground.

MR CONNOR: Yes, I think there was one. It was just down the bottom, so we just went down there for a bit, got a couple of cans out of an off-licence, and then made our way back when we knew the pub was opening up. And so we sat outside on the bench, waiting for the doors opening.

MR FLINN: Righto.

MR CONNOR: When they opened, in we went.

MR FLINN: Right. And your statement say that that was at about 6.30 in the evening, does that sound about right?

MR CONNOR: Yeah, that sounds about right, yeah.

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: nd you can see a bus stop in front of it?

MR CONNOR: Yes.

MR FLINN: -1352. So, Mr CONNOR, we

can see here a front-on image, and I think the bus stop will be just off

the right-hand side of the photo.

MR CONNOR: Yes.

MR FLINN: You mentioned a moment ago that you were sitting on benches. Now,

so they might not be shown in the photo. Could you let us know where

the benches that you sat on were?

MR CONNOR: It might have been just a little bit down to the left-hand side, somewhere

like that.

MR FLINN:

Meeting Hou

was just to the left of that, perhaps, off the edge of the photo?

MR CONNOR: It might have been. It was somewhere on that hind street where we

were sat.

MR FLINN: And it was on the same side of the street as the Horse and Groom Public

House, is that right?

MR CONNOR: Yes.

MR FLINN:

eye view layout. Mrs NIN, could we go to 1-3, please?

s not the

move up from that entrance, on t

alcove with an l-shaped bench. Can you see those on the plan?

MR CONNOR: Yes, I can.

MR FLINN: Does that match up with any recollections you have of the interior of the pub?

MR CONNOR: Yes, I can remember it perfectly.

MR FLINN:

right, you can see the bar, which curves around and goes up to the back

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NIN, 7-1349.

So, Mr CONNOR, what we understand this to be is an image of the bar

Ah right, so this is actually looking back towards the bar, and you can see there towards the left of the screen what we understand to be the jukebox.

MR CONNOR: Correct.

MR FLINN: Brilliant. Mrs NIN, could we go back to the plan just for a moment at 1-3?

to this, Mr CONNOR, is because you mentioned a moment ago three alcoves, and I just wanted to clarify that, because if we look at the plan, we can see two alcoves on the left, and it right that there were two alcoves on the left?

MR CONNOR: Oh definitely two, yes. Definitely two on the left.

MR FLINN: Okay, great.

MR CONNOR: But between the two, the table was right on the corner of the two here we were sat.

MR FLINN: another diagram which I think will show that quite clearly. I just wanted to ask you, before we do that, in the alcoves, do you have any

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: Does it help if I put the question in this way, can you remember if it was possible to store anything under the bench seats?

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN:

the Horse and Groom Public House. In your statement that you gave you said there were about 20 people in the pub, and also you said a moment ago that you went there at 6.30 because you knew it was going to open around that time. So is it right that when you first went into the
usy?

MR CONNOR: We were the first three in. We went to the bar, sat at that table, and then a bloke and a girl come in, bought a drink, and stood by the jukebox.

MR FLINN: Right, thank you.

MR CONNOR: (Inaudible) jukebox. And the bloke had a hold-all with him, a bag. And

MR FLINN:

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: Go on.

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: Mmm hmm.

MR FLINN:

with at that moment, when you went and sat at the table?

MR CONNOR: Roman TYMKIN and REHILL.

MR FLINN:

MR CONNOR: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

MR CONNOR: Roughly, yes. Roughly, yeah.

MR FLINN: Righto. Now, C, over the left-hand side of the page, this is in the second alcove, you said in your statement you recall of a girl of about 18 years wearing blue and white top jumper, with an older couple whom you thought were her parents. Do you have any recollection of that now?
At Position C?

MR CONNOR: I can roughly remember, yes.

MR FLINN:
celebrating a birthday party, does that jog any recollections for you?

MR CONNOR: No.

MR FLINN: Fine. Is it right that you stayed at the table marked as A from the time you entered until about 20.30 in the evening?

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: Righto. Is there anything else that stands out in your mind now over those two hours that you were based at Position A?

MR CONNOR: Not really, no.

MR FLINN: Not really. Again, for completeness, Position B in the second alcove, to the left side of your screen, Mr CONNOR, we understand that it was Private LYNSKEY was at that position. Do you recall that?

MR CONNOR: No.

MR FLINN:

s that

right?

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: And you left with Privates REHILL and TYMKIN. You went with them?

MR CONNOR: Yes, just the three of us.

MR FLINN:

o

three girls who took the table at Position A.

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN:

quicker. You had a couple of drinks there, and then you decided to go to the Three Pigeons Pub, is that right?

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN:

Right. Mrs NIN, could we bring up Caselines reference 11-271? Now, this is a map, Mr CONNOR, and just to orient your movements that evening. Heather, I wanted to just, sort of, confirm if we look towards the bottom left of that screen, you should see a yellow label with some

that, towards the bottom left of that map? We might need to zoom in a little bit.

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN:

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: Brilliant.

MR CONNOR: A bit, more or less (inaudible) before it went back round to North Street,

MR FLINN: I follow. And if we zoom in, Heather, again, towards the right of the

to see it, but about round about th

square with the number 40 in it, and we understand that to be the Three

MR CONNOR: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

was?

MR CONNOR: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: Brilliant. You were still with Privates TYMKIN and REHILL?

MR CONNOR: Yes.

MR FLINN: When you went into the Thr

been in there a little while when you heard a bang.

MR CONNOR: Yes.

MR FLINN: Can you just talk us through that? What do you recall about being in there and hearing a bang?

MR CONNOR: said to, well, the three of us, well, me and TYMKIN

pint, went round the corner, and then we saw the pub in pieces.

MR FLINN:

MR CONNOR: blast before.

MR FLINN:

MR CONNOR:

MR FLINN: Thank you. Do you recall what time it was?

MR CONNOR: What, when we went back it must have been nine, half nine, something like that, I think.

MR FLINN: Well, maybe we could help a little bit. In your statement you talk about

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Does that trigger any recollection for you now?

MR CONNOR: Not really, no, sorry.

CORONER:

MR FLINN:

MR CONNOR: Yeah.

MR FLINN: When you left the bar to go to the Horse and Groom, once again, was that still with Privates TYMKIN and REHILL?

MR CONNOR: Yes, it was the three of us.

MR FLINN: What did you see when you got to the Horse and Groom?

MR CONNOR: We see the pub in pieces.

MR FLINN: Were there any fire engines or police cars there already, or had they not arrived at that point?

MR CONNOR: I think there was a couple there. I think there was a couple of police cars before the fire brigade come and what have you.

MR FLINN:

needed. Can I just ask, can you remember who you offered assistance to?

MR CONNOR: Either it was the

MR CONNOR:

CORONER: Yes.

MR CONNOR: YMKIN

CORONER:

hear, I think Mr REHILL might be here in the room.

UNKNOWN: Yes.

CORONER: So

give live evidence. So

thank you very much. Thank you.

MR CONNOR: Okay, thank you.

CORONER: Cheerio.

MR CONNOR: Bye.

CORONER:

and

you very much. Thank you.

UNKNOWN: Court, please rise.

CORONER: Thank you. Our next witness please, Mr REHILL.

MR REHILL (sworn):

CORONER:

CORONER: Thank you. Mr REHILL, can I ask you just to, in fact you can pull that microphone just slightly towards you if you would be so kind.
That is lovely, thank you.

MR REHILL: Sure.

CORONER: I am going to pass you over to Mr FLINN who sits closest to you who is going to ask you a few questions on my behalf. Please keep your voice up nice and loudly so we can hear you clearly.

MR REHILL: Okay.

CORONER: And do not rush ahead too quickly because people will be taking notes of what you are saying. Thank you.

MR FLINN: Mr REHILL, good morning.

MR REHILL: Morning.

MR FLINN:

where you live, but roundabouts where are you living now?

MR REHILL: I live in Essex.

MR FLINN: And are you still working or are you retired?

MR REHILL:

MR FLINN: What I would like to do first is take you to the handwritten versions of the statements you gave back in 1974, and there were two of them. Mrs NIN, could we go to case lines reference 20

the screen in front of you a handwritten statement. It is dated the 7th of
October 1974. Underneath that date, is that your signature?

MR FLINN: Right, near the end of the training was it, did that training occur after

MR REHILL: That was roundabout when we got our first leave because we were there quite, you know, for quite some time before that, yeah.

MR FLINN: Right. So were you permitted on occasions to go out into towns like

by the IRA?Qq0.00000887 0 595.25 842 reW*nBTF2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 184.58 539.4 TmE

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah. But it also formed part of the training?

MR REHILL: It did, yeah.

MR FLINN:

MR FLINN: And in terms of what they said after the bombing, can you recall what the guidance was about where to avoid?

MR REHILL: in, you know, because they knew they were certain military pubs and there was a lot of military personnel there so try to avoid them. If there was a lot of people there then avoid them, move off to somewhere else.

MR FLINN: Okay. Turning then to the 5th of October 1974 had you been into Guildford before that date?

MR REHILL: Yes, I had, yeah.

MR FLINN: How many times can you recall roughly?

MR REHILL:

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN: h the town?

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Turning to the day itself, the statement that you gave said you went into

you recall what you did that morning on the 5th of October?

MR REHILL: No.

MR FLINN: No. What would you normally do on a Saturday morning?

MR REHILL: Usually dropped off my washing in the launderette and then picked it

MR FLINN: A bit of free time?

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN: The statement mentions going into Guildford with a Private JOHNSON, does that ring a bell for you now?

MR REHILL: Yes, it does, yeah.

MR FLINN: Yeah, what was his first name?

MR REHILL: We used to call him Jonno.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: No.

MR FLINN: So no problem. You travelled by train?

MR REHILL: Yes.

MR FLINN: Again, your statement talks about walking around Guildford and buying

like we did with Mr CONNOR briefly take you through the photos of those just to confirm your recollection, maybe jog

believe. We do have Mr CONNOR,

look at the photo again of him as a young man. This is in case lines

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN: ns around it identifying where you
Mr TYMKEW and Mr CONNOR were sitting, does that sound right?

MR REHILL: Yes, it is, yeah.

MR FLINN: Okay. And for completeness, your statement says you were specifically
remember that?

MR REHILL: Yeah, it was, yeah.

MR FLINN: Right, you do remember that. Your statement also says that Private
LYNSKE
detail about that. But is it right that you stayed at the table at A broadly

MR REHILL: Yes.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: Yes, it is.

MR FLINN: And that was at about 20.30 hours, so 8.30?

MR REHILL: Maybe a little bit before that.

MR FLINN: Just a little before that.

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

suspicious over the course of your time in the pub, is that right?

MR REHILL:

MR FLINN:

of seeing

anything odd or suspicious?

MR REHILL:

I actually identified persons that were in the pub which looked suspicious at the time.

MR FLINN:

Right. And you described them in your statement, is that right?

MR REHILL:

Yeah.

MR FLINN:

Right. But aside from that thinking about that after the event, at the time when you were in the pub you were just having an evening with your friends?

MR REHILL:

Basically yes.

MR FLINN:

Right.

MR REHILL:

Yeah.

MR FLINN:

And that was the whole time at that table with Mr CONNOR and Mr TYMKIN?

MR REHILL:

Yeah.

MR FLINN:

Your statement say that you went to the Seven Stars Public House, but only stayed for five minutes and decided to go back to the Horse and Groom. But on route you changed your mind and went to the Three Pigeons instead.

MR REHILL:

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL:

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL:

MR FLINN: Same

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: I mean as soon as the bomb went off, I

watch because I do.

MR FLINN: Yeah. Can I ask what was it about the bang or the noise which immediately made you make that connection as opposed to something like a gas explosion or something like that?

MR REHILL: We just had the whole series of them last time I was in Northern Ireland, and they were virtually going off every 15 minutes.

MR FLINN: Yes.

MR REHILL: g because I used to time them to see how far there was between each one.

MR FLINN: that the Three Pigeons was quite close to the Horse and Groom but not immediately next door. From where you were in the pub was it particularly loud or was it more in the distance?

MR REHILL: We were right at the back end of the pub, and it was actually upstairs it was almost at the back wall that was facing the Horse and Groom.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: We got quite a vibration off it as well.

MR FLINN: Okay.

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

about you looking at your watch, can you recall that now?

MR REHILL: Yes, I did.

MR FLINN: And what time was it when you looked at your watch?

MR REHILL: 20.50.

MR FLINN: Do you have a clear recollection of that?

MR REHILL: Yes.

MR FLINN: Okay. Your statement said a few seconds later someone came running

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

about what they said at that point?

MR REHILL:

CORONER: **Can I just ask you, was your watch reasonably accurate at the time
do you think?**

MR REHILL: Yes.

CORONER: Yes.

MR FLINN: You then left the pub and went down to the Horse and Groom.

MR REHILL: Yeah, basically just finished the pints off and went straight round the
corner.

MR FLINN: What did you see there?

MR REHILL: Devastation, there was one ambulance and there was no police and the fire brigade were just turning up at that point.

MR FLINN: You said a moment ago that you finished your pint before walking down there, how long do you think it took you to get to the pub, to the Horse and Groom after having heard the bang?

MR REHILL: Less than a minute.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN: Less than a minute, but already an ambulance there in your recollection?

MR REHILL: Yeah, it was, well it was just turning up, there was blue lights flashing at the time.

MR FLINN: Blue lights, certainly.

MR REHILL: Yeah.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: ce.

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MR FLINN: Okay. Mr CONNOR said that you offered assistance, can you recall doing that?

MR REHILL: We were actually about right on the edge of the building and there was some people stumbling out. And I remember looking into the actual, the hole which was at the table we were actually sitting at, and I thought

MR FLINN: When you say looked into the pub, was this from the street or down the side alley to the left of the pub?

MR REHILL: No, it was from the street.

MR FLINN: It was from North Street?

MR REHILL: From the front of the building.

MR FLINN: Right. So do you think you looked in through a door or a window?

MR REHILL: No, there was a window that was well smashed.

MR FLINN: Right. So you looked at them and saw, you said you saw a hole or you looked through a hole?

MR REHILL: No, I looked, I saw a hole.

MR FLINN: You saw a hole.

MR REHILL: Directly below the table we had been sitting at.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: Well, the police arrived then and then they started ushering everybody away.

MR FLINN: So you were moved on. Before I ask about what you did next briefly,

out, do you recall that?

MR REHILL:

MR REHILL:

MR FLINN: From a distance?

MR REHILL: In the fact, yeah, from a distance at the end of the lane.

MR FLINN:

MR REHILL: Okay.

MR FLINN: Thank you.

CORONER: Thank you, Mr REHILL. Ms BARTON?

MS BARTON QC: No thank you, sir.

CORONER: Mr REHILL. Thank you very much, Mr REHILL, that does conclude your evidence. It has been very helpful to have that picture and the timings, so I am grateful to you. But that concludes your evidence, so you are free to stay or to go as you choose, thank you.

MR REHILL: Okay, thank you very much.

CORONER: Thank you. Our next witness is Helen WOOD.

MRS HELEN WOOD (sworn):

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

MRS WOOD: Thank you.

CORONER: Would you give me your full name please?

MRS WOOD: Helen WOOD.

CORONER: Thank you. I am going to pass you over in a moment to Ms KUZMENKO who is going to ask you some questions on my behalf. But your voice is nice and loud, can you try to keep it up so it maintains that volume? Do not rush ahead too quickly please, Mrs WOOD, because we have to take a note of the things you are saying.

MRS WOOD: Okay.

CORONER: But I will ask Ms KUZMENKO now if you are ready to ask you some questions, thank you.

MS KUZMENKO: Thank you. Good afternoon, Mrs WOOD.

MRS WOOD: Afternoon.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, without confirming your full address, can you just tell us what

MS WOOD: Pontypridd.

MS KUZMENKO: And at the time of the bombi

MRS WOOD: Single, yeah.

MS KUZMENKO: And what was your maiden name?

MRS WOOD: ATKINS.

MS KUZMENKO: Now, at the time of the bombings you made two statements to the police, and you received typed of copies of thos

MRS WOOD: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO:

MS KUZMENKO: Six weeks. And did you do any further training after that?

MRS WOOD: No, I came out.

MS KUZMENKO: ~~MS Kuzmenko (at 7:07) (J. H. T. v. U.S. at 165)~~ you always based at the Queen Elizabeth barracks?

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO: Do you remember anything like classroom lectures or anything like that?

MRS WOOD: I think we did a few lectures.

MS KUZMENKO: Do you remember what those lectures would have been on?

MRS WOOD: No.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. Were you able to leave in your uniform?

MRS WOOD: No, no.

MS KUZMENKO: Why not, do you remember? There was a rational or you were just told

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO:

personnel, do you think you would have been noticeably military even without your uniform going out?

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO: Following the six weeks did you have any exams or anything that you had to do?

MRS WOOD: At the end of the six weeks.

MS KUZMENKO: And what was the exam on?

MRS WOOD: I was going to go in and do driving so they did maps and road things

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And in terms of providers of your training do you remember for instance who your company commander would have been?

MRS WOOD: No.

MS KUZMENKO:

MRS WOOD: No.

MS KUZMENKO: Serjeants or Corporals.

MRS WOOD: No.

MS KUZMENKO:

MRS WOOD: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Right. And that was with Private Susan PEARSON and Private Carol
TOWNSEND?

MRS WOOD: Yes.

MS KUZMENKO: Is that right? And that was your first time in Guildford?

MRS WOOD: First time in Guildford, yeah.

MS KUZMENKO:

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO:

MRS WOOD: The first one, yeah, first pub.

MS KUZMENKO: Why did you go there?

MRS WOOD:

went along with the girls.

MS KUZMENKO: So did they know the pubs around or were they the same as you?

MRS WOOD: They must have to go there.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And you stayed for about half an hour, is that about right?

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO: And what was the sort of clientele like? Was it civilians or military there, do you remember?

MRS WOOD: In the first pub?

MS KUZMENKO: Mm, the Three Pigeons.

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. How busy was it?

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO: Mmm hmm you went to the Horse and Groom?

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO: Again, was there any particular reason you chose it?

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO: Mmm hmm. And so you arrived you say around 8.50 roughly?

MRS WOOD: We got there around 8.45.

MS KUZMENKO: Right, okay. And when you entered the pub where did you go from there?

MRS WOOD: We walked into the pub, and we stood by the bar.

MS KUZMENKO: sort of help you with the layout. Mrs NIN, can you bring up 3-12 please? So this is the first of the plans that we have for you.

MRS WOOD: Yeah.

MS KUZMENKO: Does this look like a plan that you marked up with some various crosses? So we see at the bottom is the entry which is marked the only door.

MRS WOOD: Right.

MS KUZMENKO: square. And at the top we can see the bar and the counter where I think rked out where you were.

MRS WOOD: Yeah.

MS KUZMENKO: Can we just take a look at the second plan as well which is at 3-14, Mrs NIN? So this is a sort of more standardized plan drawn up by someone else. And again, we see the sort of four crosses for four of you and

MRS WOOD: Yeah.

MS KUZMENKO: So in this one we have the bar and the counter reaching as far as the

but do you remember how close you were to the pillar?

MRS WOOD: The four of us was

at the bar, there was two in the front and two behind us and then there

was the pillars.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. Okay, now were you the one ordering drinks, is that right?

MRS WOOD: Yes, yeah.

MS KUZMENKO: Sorry, how busy was this pub?

MRS WOOD: It was very busy.

MS KUZMENKO:

MRS WOOD:

they had a

MS KUZMENKO: Okay.

MRS WOOD: But, you know, you could see that they were something, you know, like that.

MS KUZMENKO:

the drinks I think that you say the explo
to try and sort of break it down slightly, so in terms of what you can
recall about the explosion what did it sound like?

MRS WOOD:

paid for them, I still had the money in my hand. And there was a big
orange and then everything went dark.

MS KUZMENKO: Mmm hmm, okay. And what did you feel? So you were holding the
money at the time was there something you felt at the time?

MRS WOOD: I was holding the

And

then my friend pushed me, there must have been a chair she pushed me
on it. And then all of a sudden we could hear someone shouting,

MS KUZMENKO: Mmm hmm, okay. And in terms of besides your friend I think it was Jane pushing down, did you feel sort of any vibrations or anything like that from the explosion do you think?

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO: Okay.

MRS WOOD: I was frightened, I was just frightened at the time.

MS KUZMENKO:

able to get up and manoeuvre okay?

MRS WOOD:

it was just, everyone was just moving towards the door entrance. But I remember two fellas and they were quite big fellas standing either side and they were just dragging us through.

MS KUZMENKO: Mmm hmm, okay. And so would you remember who the fellas were?

MRS WOOD:

MS KUZMENKO:

MRS WOOD: I just thought they were, you know, soldiers at the time, you know.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And in terms of the aftermath what did you hear sort of within the pub? Did you hear people?

MRS WOOD: Oh, they was loud just talking and singing and the music it was just merry everywhere.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And based on where you heard the bang did you get a sense of where that came from?

MRS WOOD: Behind.

MS KUZMENKO: Behind you, okay. And do you recall looking back in terms of inside, so did you see for instance a hole in the floor or anything like that?

MRS WOOD: nothing, no.

MS KUZMENKO: How dark was it? When you say it was dark was it continually dark until after that?

MRS WOOD: It was dark, but it was a lot of dust, there was a lot of dust coming down. And you felt like choking and you just wanted to get out.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And when you got outside you tried to find your friends, I think?

MRS WOOD: I think one of the girls came behind me. And I think another girl then

MS KUZMENKO: Mmm hmm

MRS WOOD: I think so.

MS KUZMENKO: Okay. And from there what was your sort of instinct when you were outside?

MRS WOOD: Oh, just relieved to be out there, yeah.

MS KUZMENKO: Mmm hmm. And so you decided to go back to camp?

MRS WOOD: Well, we heard someone shouting, think the three of us then made our way back.

CORONER: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mrs Wood, that concludes your evidence. It is very helpful to have an eyewitness account. And so you are now free to stay or to go as you choose, but thank you very much.

MRS WOOD: Thank you very much.

CORONER: Thank you, cheerio. I think that leaves three statements to be read. Mr FLINN, are you reading it?

MR FLINN: I am sir.

CORONER: Okay.

MR FLINN: Thank you very much. The first statement I will read is from a Mr William Frank DENTON. URN S1000 Caselines page reference 2-

past five years have been employed on a casual basis at the AA office in Guildford. I have been a regular customer of the Horse and Groom Public House for the past five or six years, usually drinking there on a Saturday afternoon and evening. When using the Horse and Groom Public House I usually buy my drink at the bar then walk across to where there is a shelf along the wall. I used to put my drink on the shelf and stand there normally facing towards to the front door of the public house. I do not drink with anyone as I enjoy drinking on my own although I know most of the regulars by sight. For the past year or so

minutes I saw some lights in front of me, so I made my way towards them. To get to the lights I had to step over debris. When nearing the street I could see that the front door of the public house was lying flat on the pavement. I managed to get out of the public house where I could see a member of the special constabulary standing nearby holding a torch. At this time there was a lot of shouting and screaming and a great deal of confusion. On leaving the Horse and Groom Public House I walked down North Street, crossed over and went into the White Lion Public House where I bought myself a drink and also informed the landlady of what had happened at the Horse and Groom. I then finished my drink and walked down to the bus station where I caught the 9.15pm bus to Bellfields and I went straight home. At the time of the explosion in the Horse and Groom Public House I was wearing brown corduroy twill trousers, dark brown polo neck sweater, medium brown coloured coat with fur collar and dark brown suede shoes. I own a motorcar which is a Hillman Husky 1962 model, colour blue, index number

CORONER: **Thank you very much.**

MR FLINN:

the above address. Although I am Irish, I have lived in England since 1933 and in the Guildford area for five years. On Saturday the 5th of October 1974 I left home at about 7.45pm and walked to the Horse and Groom Pub in North Street Guildford arriving there about 8pm. When I arrived the pub was fairly crowded, I bought myself a drink and went and sat near the lavatory door with my friend Joe HALPIN and his wife Kath. I sat drinking and talking to Joe and his wife until about 8.45pm

for about two minutes and was just leaving when there was a terrific explosion. The door blew into the lavatory, and I staggered a bit. The landlord then came into the lavatory and told me to get out quick. I went out the front door and as I walked through I saw there was dust and bricks everywhere, there were people lying about and screaming. I got outside and walked down to the Little White Lion and had a drink to pull myself together. I remained there until the landlord cleared the pub at about 9.45pm and then went home. The people I know who were in the Horse and Groom last night was an Irish fellow called Ned who

live. Then there was Scotch Joe, I believe he was injured and taken to hospital. These three were standing at the corner of the bar near the flap. I remember seeing Ned after the explosion, not the other two. Joe

HALPIN

neither did I see anything suspicious. I was sitting to the right of the

ital Roehampton. The next

passengers were two young girls aged about 15 to 17, one had light hair

and one dark hair both shoulder length. The girl with fair hair had a

light- -haired girl

had a dark coat on. There was a man in his late 40s with reddish gingery

hair and a weather-beaten face. This man had been drinking pretty

~~had a~~ ~~was~~ he reeked of beer. This man got o a

and before the explosion two cars turned out of this turning, travelled across my front, and passed me down North Street. One car was a white Corsair the one with the pointed front near the headlamps. I saw a wing in the cab. The car was on full headlights and appeared to swing out of the turning quite fast. This car was followed immediately by another car. I thought they were similar models, and the second car was a grey green colour. This car followed the first car down North Street, again on full headlights.

if required. The statement is signed and dated the 9th of October 1974.

CORONER: **Thank you very much.**

MR FLINN: And concludes the read statements for today.

CORONER: **Thank you. So Mr SANDERS, I think that concludes the evidence for today, is that right?**

MR SANDERS QC:

CORONER: **Thank you. And so tomorrow we have one, two, three, four live witnesses, I think, four witnesses attending court. And two statements to be read, is that right?**

MR SANDERS QC: So we have Andrew SAUNDERS the fireman is being brought forward and is attending tomorrow, I believe.

CORONER: Yes.

MR SANDERS QC:

CORONER: Oh, yes, alright, yes.

MR SANDERS QC:

possibly one more video link.

CORONER:

MR SANDERS QC: Correct.

CORONER:

MR SANDERS QC: Correct.

CORONER: Caroline MACRAE.

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

CORONER: What about Cristopher SHAW?

MR SANDERS QC: Yes.

CORONER: And then Andrew SAUNDERS as you say out of slightly more interposed. I do not know what the position is in relation to Mr FINDLAY, but no doubt we will find out.

MR PLEETH: Ms MACRAE, sir, is scheduled to give evidence remotely as well.

CORONER: Oh, is she? Oh, that is where I was getting it wrong. And so she is remote, sorry that was my fault. Good. Thank you very much. So that concludes the evidence for today. We will sit again please at

CLERK: Court please rise.

CORONER: Thank you.

(The court adjourned)