

Coroner's Inquests into the London Bombings of 7 July 2005

Hearing transcripts - 19 January 2011 - Morning session

1 Wednesday, 19 January 2011

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr O'Connor?

4 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Good morning, my Lady. My Lady, may

5 I invite you first to call PC Christopher Mitchell.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Sorry we didn't get to you yesterday,

7 Mr Mitchell.

8 PC CHRISTOPHER ALAN MITCHELL (sworn)

9 Questions by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR

10 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Could you give your full name, please?

11 A. Christopher Alan Mitchell.

12 Q. You are a constable in the Metropolitan Police Service?

13 A. That I am, my Lady.

14 Q. And you were in July 2005?

15 A. That is correct, yes.

16 Q. In July 2005, you were attached to the Albany Street

17 police station in NW1, I believe.

18 A. That's correct, yes, on the Albany Street sector team.

19 Q. Constable, on the morning of 7 July 2005, it's right to

20 say, I think, that, as the events of that morning

21 unfolded, you found yourself on traffic duty on the

22 Euston Road some time after 9.00?

23 A. That's correct, yes. We were aware, via our radios, of

24 the problem that was going on down at King's Cross.

25 I contacted my team at Albany Street because we had

1 quite a bit of manpower there. We decided to assist
2 with evacuating people from the area of King's Cross
3 preventing traffic and pedestrians from going down to
4 that area.

5 Q. Were you actually on the Euston Road when the bus
6 exploded at Tavistock Square?

7 A. Yes, I was on the junction of Eversholt Street,
8 Euston Road and Upper Woburn Place, I was literally more
9 or less in line of sight with the bus.

10 Q. Could you, in fact, see straight down Upper Woburn Place
11 as far as the bus at that point?

12 A. Not at that time, because I was looking down towards
13 King's Cross. I had a number of members of the public
14 coming up to me asking me questions about various
15 things, and a member of the public came up to me when
16 I heard the explosion.

17 Q. So, as you say, the explosion was something that you
18 heard more than something that you saw?

19 A. That's correct, my Lady.

20 Q. How did you react to it?

21 A. Well, I immediately knew it was a bomb. I heard my
22 sergeant come on to the radio, who was looking down
23 Upper Woburn Place, saying that a bus had exploded, he
24 was asking for medics to attend the scene.

25 I immediately started to run down to where the bus was.

1 Q. Were you alone in doing that, or were there other
2 policemen also at Euston Road who were also running down
3 towards the scene?

4 A. There was obviously my colleagues there. As to what
5 they were doing at that particular moment, I wasn't
6 aware. I just was aware of, myself, running towards the
7 bus to try to start getting people away because I feared
8 that there was possibly going to be a secondary
9 explosion.

10 Q. In general terms, how soon after the explosion do you
11 think you arrived at the scene outside the British
12 Medical Association building?

13 A. Probably less than a minute.

14 Q. Can you describe the scene for us, please?

15 A. I can. As I was approaching the scene, I was
16 approaching on the nearside footway, there was a load of
17 members of the public just stood round in shock.

18 I started shouting to them to come away. There was
19 a lady who -- I remember she had some blood on the side
20 of her face and she was pointing to her vehicle which
21 was behind the bus, it was a black vehicle.

22 Q. Was that the Jaguar vehicle?

23 A. I understand it to be a Jaguar, I couldn't tell you at
24 the time, it was a black vehicle.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. She asked if she could move it. I looked at the vehicle
2 and I noticed down the windshield blood splatters and
3 what appeared to be human organ on the front of the
4 vehicle. I said to her, "No, you can't", and shouted to
5 her to come away.

6 I was then immediately drawn to what was left of
7 a body which appeared to have been thrown out of the bus
8 and landed halfway up the wall of the BMA building and
9 landed on the floor. It was a torso with part of the
10 head missing, no arms, no legs, a dark jacket which
11 appeared to be open. We could see intestines and all
12 that sort of stuff at the front of the body.

13 Q. We've heard other evidence about this particular torso
14 and I think it's right to say it was on the pavement
15 just outside the BMA building?

16 A. Yes, literally on the pavement, by the archway into the
17 courtyard, it landed there.

18 Q. There were a number of casualties lying in the road
19 behind the bus?

20 A. Yes, there was. I went to a casualty that, if I can
21 recall, she was putting her arms out towards me as -- to
22 help. I knelt down by her and started to survey the
23 scene. Being I was the first officer that I could see
24 there, started to survey the scene as to what -- how
25 many casualties we had and so on.

1 I made a quick assessment and I believed at the time
2 there to be approximately 15 injured persons on the
3 floor. I could see a gentleman hanging out the bus who
4 I believed to be of Oriental appearance. He appeared to
5 be in some distress, obviously, as the back of the bus
6 had come down, and he was waving at us for help.

7 Q. The casualty whom you describe as holding her arms out
8 towards you, in your statement you refer to a female
9 casualty who was able to tell you her name. Is this the
10 same casualty as you're describing now?

11 A. That is correct, my Lady, yes.

12 Q. Do you remember the name that she told you?

13 A. I remember it to be Carmen or Carmel. It was very
14 chaotic. I had another casualty to my right who
15 appeared to have a lower leg injury and two members of
16 the public either side of them who were shouting at me
17 for help as well. So it was a pretty chaotic ...

18 Q. The casualty whom you recall as being called something
19 like Carmel or Carmen, we know that there was a casualty
20 in the road called Camille, Camille Scott. Would that
21 sound as though that was the person you're talking
22 about?

23 A. That would ring true, my Lady, yes.

24 Q. In fact, the coroner heard evidence from Camille Scott
25 earlier this week.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Were you able to have a conversation with that lady?

3 A. I had a brief conversation with her. I tried to
4 reassure her. At that point, I had another officer with
5 me, so, therefore, I couldn't do any first aid on her,
6 any primary or secondary surveys on her -- on the body
7 to check any injuries. So I just reassured her, brief
8 conversation as to where she was from, children,
9 partner, trying to get some sort of dialogue with her
10 just to make sure that she was going to be okay and
11 reassure her basically.

12 That's when I was joined by PC Ashley Walker.

13 Q. Who we heard evidence from yesterday.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. In the course of your conversation with the casualty,
16 did she say anything about the bomb or what she thought
17 may have caused the bomb?

18 A. She said there was somebody on the back of the bus that
19 was fiddling with something, she wasn't happy with
20 a package on the back of the bus where she was sat.

21 Q. The words you used in the statement that you made at the
22 time was that she said that there was a package on the
23 back of the bus. Was that something along the lines of
24 what she said?

25 A. That is correct, my Lady, yes.

1 Q. When Camille Scott gave evidence a few days ago, she
2 remembered seeing a box which we subsequently know to
3 have been a box with a microwave oven in it. She said
4 that, as she had got on the bus earlier that morning,
5 for some reason she thought that perhaps it was a bomb.
6 Do you think that that may have been what she was
7 saying to you a few minutes later as she lay in the road
8 or are you not sure?

9 A. It could have been, but it's pretty speculative at that
10 time as to what and where this -- it could have been the
11 package that detonated, it could have been -- at that
12 time, I believed it to be the package that had detonated
13 prior to her ...

14 Q. You believed that the information she was telling you
15 was that the explosion -- she thought the explosion had
16 been caused by a package on the bus?

17 A. That is correct, yes.

18 Q. Could we look, please --

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Was the expression "back of the bus"
20 something that stuck in your mind or is that something
21 that you might have thought of later?

22 A. It stuck in my mind, my Lady, because she said she was
23 on the back of the bus with her friend. She had made
24 reference to a friend later on.

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: So, somehow, whatever she was telling

1 you at that time she was worried about, you got the
2 feeling it was at the back of the bus where she was?
3 A. That's correct, my Lady, yes.
4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you.
5 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Can we look, please, at document
6 [INQ10129-1]?
7 If we look towards the bottom of the page at
8 a message timed at 09.54.38. Constable, the call sign
9 here is 492EK. Was that your call sign?
10 A. That was my call sign at the time, yes.
11 Q. Do you recall sending this message?
12 A. Yes, I do. Basically, it was just after she had
13 mentioned this package on the bus. I remember turning
14 round and looking back towards Euston Road and I could
15 see buses moving still up and down, it was very surreal,
16 and I feared there was potentially more packages on
17 other buses possibly, so I certainly wanted buses in the
18 immediate vicinity to be stopped and some form of search
19 conducted.
20 Q. Quite, quite. Did you stay with Camille Scott for
21 a period of time or did you then move off and go to the
22 rest of the scene?
23 A. I stayed there until I was joined by other colleagues,
24 my Lady. I can't tell you the timeframe. It was pretty
25 quick. I noticed to my left a group of people and then

1 one of them turned round and said, "Can we help?"
2 I said, "Who are you?" They said, "We're doctors". So
3 I realised then where we were, we were outside the BMA.
4 I just said, "Pick a casualty and see what you can do".

5 Q. There came a time a little bit later, I think, when
6 many, if not all, of the casualties who were lying
7 outside in the road were moved from where they were into
8 the BMA courtyard and I think you assisted in that
9 process?

10 A. That is correct, my Lady. We were very quickly aware --
11 it filtered down to us what was going on around us with
12 the other incidents, and we were very concerned.

13 I think at that point as well we were told about
14 this potential suspect package within the bus and we
15 were very concerned and believed this to be a very real
16 threat, in that we had been drawn into a situation where
17 we were going to be, as emergency services, the next
18 casualties.

19 So basically, to try to prevent losing more people,
20 we -- I asked for public order shields to come down so
21 we could use them as stretchers. Somebody got some
22 tables -- the Fire Brigade had turned up, I think, at
23 that point as well -- some tables from the local hotels,
24 and we just started to move, as quickly and as easily as
25 we could, the people away from the bus so they could be

1 treated safely.

2 We started moving people into the courtyard of the
3 BMA, which offered us protection from any further
4 explosions or prevention(?) from further explosions,
5 where the doctors started to triage the patients and
6 treat them.

7 That's -- sorry, that's where I left Camille.

8 Q. So one of the people that you helped to carry into the
9 courtyard was Camille Scott?

10 A. That's correct, yes.

11 Q. Did you help to carry others as well?

12 A. I did. One that stuck out in my mind was a pinstriped
13 suit gentleman who I helped off the bus with some
14 colleagues and members of the Fire Brigade. I don't
15 know why, but we moved him down by the County Hotel
16 where he was given some more treatment. His leg was in
17 quite a bad way and we managed to -- somebody got hold
18 of some sellotape, we used sellotape and some bits of
19 wood we found in the road to make a splint and we
20 sellotaped his leg together.

21 Q. I think the gentleman you're referring to is probably
22 a gentleman called Mr Beck, who gave evidence to the
23 coroner also earlier this week. As you say, his memory
24 also was that, unusually, on that moment, he wasn't
25 moved into the courtyard but, rather, further up outside

1 the County Hotel.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You refer in your statement to an episode later that
4 morning, I think, when you went down to the basement of
5 the BMA to see a body that had been taken down there.

6 Do you recall that?

7 A. I do very much so. Basically, a black lady had just
8 been pronounced dead, she was being worked on just
9 inside the courtyard area by the doctors. She had been
10 pronounced dead and, as soon as she had, a security
11 gentleman from the BMA said there was another one
12 downstairs in the basement and I said, "Well, another
13 what?" He said, "Well, there's another body down
14 there", and I asked him "Has anyone seen -- has anyone
15 treated them? Are we sure, you know, are they dead, are
16 they alive?", and he wasn't sure. So I grabbed a medic,
17 I think they were from the HEMS service, and we went
18 downstairs -- went down into the basement where this
19 person was.

20 I remember they were on some form of stretchers,
21 a blanket was over them, and it appeared they had been
22 worked on because there was an intravenous set just
23 lying down by the side of them, et cetera.

24 I remember pulling the blanket back to have a look
25 at them and it appeared to me at that moment that it was

1 the same woman, it was Carmel that I had been speaking
2 to in the courtyard.

3 Q. In fact, as we now know, Camille Scott had been
4 travelling that day with a friend of hers called
5 Marie Hartley who, in fact, had been dressed wearing
6 similar clothes and, in fact, looked quite similar to
7 Camille Scott. Did you subsequently find out the body
8 you had seen was not that of Camille Scott but was of
9 the body of Marie Hartley?

10 A. That's correct, my Lady. I was contacted a number of
11 weeks later by the Casualty Bureau who informed me of
12 that information.

13 Q. Can I ask you to look at one, I think, final document,
14 Constable? In fact, it's the same CAD we looked at
15 a moment ago, but a later series of entries on it. It's
16 [INQ10129-2], please.

17 There's an entry there at 10.43. In fact, could we
18 look at the one immediately above, 10.42 as well?
19 Again, that's your call sign, isn't it, Constable?

20 A. That is correct, my Lady, yes.

21 Q. We've heard some evidence already in the last day or so
22 about what was understood to be a risk of a secondary
23 device in a briefcase on the bus and the fact that
24 a controlled explosion was undertaken in response to
25 that risk.

1 We see here two messages that you sent, which appear
2 to be one sent just before the controlled explosion and
3 one just after, which enables us to identify quite
4 closely the time at which it took place as being at
5 about 10.43. Is that an accurate assessment of what
6 these two messages are?

7 A. That is correct, my Lady, yes. Basically, at that time
8 the EXPO officer coming to the courtyard had said there
9 was going to be a controlled explosion. I put that up
10 on to the radio to make officers aware in the immediate
11 vicinity that there was going to be another loud bang
12 and then there was.

13 Q. In fact, if we look two entries down at 10.47, so a few
14 minutes later, there's one further message from you
15 indicating in substance what you have just described,
16 the fact that there was one deceased in the courtyard
17 and another in the basement.

18 Was that around the time that you then went down to
19 the basement to investigate the other body in the way
20 that you've described?

21 A. That would be correct, yes.

22 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Do I take it that the controlled
23 explosion would not have taken place until all the
24 living survivors had been removed from the bus?

25 A. I would like to think so, my Lady. Looking at my

1 statement, being that it was made shortly after and,
2 obviously, due to traumatic events, my mind wasn't --
3 I think, if I recall my statement, it seems to be that
4 we were still moving casualties out, but I'm sure we
5 moved all casualties and then the controlled explosion
6 took place.

7 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: The effect of the statements that we
8 have, my Lady, certainly is that all the living
9 casualties had been removed from the bus.

10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Indeed.

11 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Constable, thank you very much. Those
12 are all the questions I have for you.

13 Questions by MS SHEFF

14 MS SHEFF: Yes, Officer, that was something I was just going
15 to check with you. There were plenty of other officers
16 at the scene before the controlled explosion took place,
17 weren't there, who were going on to the bus or were
18 around the bus, to ensure that anybody who was crying
19 out for help or who seemed to be saveable was removed
20 from the bus?

21 A. That is correct, my Lady. Between us, we kept going
22 back, even though we feared this secondary explosion
23 ourselves. We kept going back until everyone that could
24 be saved and was saveable were taken away.

25 Q. It clearly must be part of EXPO police protocols to

1 ensure that nobody is endangered by a controlled
2 explosion?

3 A. That would be correct, yes.

4 Q. Yes, thank you. Can I just ask you one more thing which
5 concerns an order that you gave?

6 In your statement, as you were speaking to Carmel,
7 you've thought her name to be Carmen, about the package
8 on the bus, you said that you turned round and you could
9 see that the buses were still moving, so you radioed to
10 the control room to get them stopped and to get everyone
11 off. Do you recall that?

12 A. I do recall that, very much so.

13 Q. What order did you actually give?

14 A. It was a request. Basically, it was a request of my
15 control room. It would be up to the duty inspector at
16 that time to either agree with that decision or not, but
17 being that a bomb had gone off on a bus, there's
18 obviously something going on. At that point, we weren't
19 totally aware of what was going on on the Underground
20 system, but I think I made a pretty sort of good,
21 educated guess that it was some form of attack going on.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. To me, it was common sense that, in the immediate
24 vicinity, anyway, we needed to stop buses, we needed to
25 get people off the immediate transport system and check

1 for suspect packages.

2 Q. Yes, because, of course, the information that you'd been
3 given, the reason you were out on the street, was
4 because you'd been told that there had been a train
5 crash at King's Cross, hadn't you?

6 A. That's correct, my Lady. From what I recall, the first
7 information that came over our local radio was that
8 there was smoke coming out of King's Cross Tube station
9 which was being seen on CCTV. We were then getting
10 information that there was a power surge and then we
11 were getting information that there was a train crash,
12 and it just didn't add up, and obviously, hence, why we
13 went down there to assist getting people out. And when
14 the bomb went off, it was pretty much as I was running
15 down instantaneous what was happening.

16 Q. It then all started to fit together for you?

17 A. Very, very quickly. Hence, as it's been referred to
18 about the secondary device, there was a very real
19 threat, we were very -- all aware of current tactics by
20 various different terrorist organisations in drawing in
21 emergency services to then detonate a secondary device,
22 and it was all pretty much -- if it was going to happen,
23 it was going to happen today, sort of thing.

24 Q. Because there was no doubt in your mind, as you
25 approached the bus, hearing the noise rather than seeing

1 the bomb, that that was a bomb?

2 A. That is correct, my Lady. I'm an ex-soldier and I'm
3 well aware of the noises of bombs.

4 Q. Although you didn't have any direct information at that
5 time about what had happened on the Tubes, hearing what
6 you heard and hearing these varying stories about what
7 people were reporting concerning the Underground system,
8 you took the view, did you, that this was a coordinated
9 attack on the public transport system?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 Q. Your concern, therefore, was to minimise any further
12 danger to the public, was it?

13 A. That is correct, yes.

14 Q. In order to do so, you thought the best approach was to
15 evacuate the buses?

16 A. That is certainly the case. Certainly in the direct
17 vicinity, we've got King's Cross, we've got Euston. At
18 that time of the morning, a massive amount of people in
19 the vicinity, something was happening, some form of
20 attack going on, we needed to take some form of action.

21 I passed that information on to the control room.

22 It was then up to whoever the Silver Commander was at
23 that particular time to make a decision as to whether to
24 go with what I was saying or not.

25 Q. Yes, and you mentioned secondary devices but, in fact,

1 your concern may well have been at that time also
2 primary devices; in other words, other suicide bombers
3 or other persons leaving packages on other transport
4 systems.

5 A. That was -- at the time, that was a great concern.

6 I don't think I've made reference to it in my statement
7 but we were aware of -- there was so many bags lying
8 around. As I said, you know, it was a very real threat.
9 Tactics had been used of other suicide bombers walking
10 into our area, hence cordons going up, and detonating
11 themselves again whilst all the emergency services are
12 there.

13 So it was a very real -- we were very, very aware
14 that we needed, as I said, to get people away and try to
15 save as many people as we could before the next one went
16 up and took us all with them.

17 Q. Can you remember the timing of this direction that you
18 gave?

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Request.

20 MS SHEFF: Request, thank you very much. Because you said
21 you arrived on the scene about a minute after the bomb
22 went off, less than a minute afterwards. So how much
23 later, then, is this request passed on?

24 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: The CAD message is 9.54.

25 A. I would have to go back to the CAD. The only time I can

1 remember, my Lady, at the time --

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: That's all right, we have the CAD

3 message. It's 9.54.

4 MS SHEFF: I'm grateful, my Lady.

5 A. Then that would be a few minutes after --

6 Q. So very soon afterwards?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That was the first time that you noticed the buses and

9 put that message through.

10 A. That's correct, my Lady, yes.

11 Q. You mentioned your Silver controller. Do you know the

12 name of the officer who was in that position at the

13 time?

14 A. I can't recall who was with me at the time, who was my

15 sergeant, that's Sergeant Graham Cross, he would have

16 been, as of then, a Bronze Control. Who was Silver at

17 that time, I cannot recall.

18 Q. Do you know whether your request was acted upon?

19 A. I can only assume so because, a while later, there

20 certainly wasn't any buses going up and down

21 Euston Road.

22 Q. Do you know how much later that would have been?

23 A. I can't recall, I cannot recall.

24 Q. Would it have been minutes rather than hours later?

25 A. After I gave the direction or I asked, I gave the

1 request, my Lady, my immediate concern was the scene in
2 front of me and the casualties and their welfare.

3 As to what was then going on around, that was
4 a decision that somebody else was hopefully making at
5 that time, and that information was getting acted on.

6 Q. Did you receive any feedback yourself on what was
7 happening on the buses after your request was put in?

8 A. No, the only feedback that we were getting from
9 elsewhere was the fact that a number of bombs had gone
10 off on the Underground systems around the capital and
11 that was the only information there.

12 Q. So that was information you received subsequently about
13 bombs that had occurred earlier?

14 A. That is correct, my Lady, yes.

15 MS SHEFF: Thank you very much, PC Mitchell.

16 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions? Mr Hill?

17 Questions by MR HILL

18 MR HILL: Your memory was refreshed by directing your
19 attention to the second page of your statement for the
20 questions just asked about the request you made in
21 relation to the buses. So it is the middle of the
22 second page of your statement that you were being asked
23 about.

24 Can I just give you the opportunity, before your
25 evidence concludes, to refresh your memory from the

1 first page of your statement, in the middle of that
2 page, because what you recorded on 12 July is that you
3 heard on your personal radio from Sergeant Cross that
4 a bomb had gone off on a bus in Upper Woburn Place. Is
5 that accurate?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. Right. So your response to that was to go from
8 King's Cross to Tavistock Square, because any
9 information you'd been given earlier about train crashes
10 was then altered, after a passage of time, by
11 Sergeant Cross telling you in terms that there had been
12 a bomb on a bus?

13 A. That is correct, my Lady. From what I can gather,
14 Sergeant Cross was nearer to the junction and quite
15 possibly had actually seen the bus explode. I was just
16 down from the junction with him, but as I say, down but
17 facing towards King's Cross, so I heard it, it was
18 pretty close, I think it was less than 100 metres, and
19 that's when I've started running down there.

20 Q. Does it follow that any actions you took by way of
21 direction or request in relation to bus traffic were
22 after the fact of the explosion on the number 30 bus?

23 A. Yes. Basically, I've acted by myself at that point and,
24 from what I could see, I personally felt it made common
25 sense that we needed to evacuate people from this area

1 to prevent any further devastation.

2 Q. Thank you. On the second page of your statement you
3 recount the time at which the controlled explosion took
4 place in relation to a package on the bombed bus, and we
5 know from the CAD records that you were taken to that
6 that controlled explosion, according to your own
7 messages, can be timed to 10.43, almost precisely. So
8 some 50, 55 minutes after the primary explosion on the
9 bus.

10 Can I just ask you this: the living wounded had, to
11 the best of your knowledge, as you told us earlier, been
12 removed from the bus and you were in the process of then
13 assisting to move those seriously injured people into
14 the BMA courtyard.

15 It was at that time -- is this right -- that the
16 explosives officer who was on scene dealing with the
17 suspect package then gave a direction for people to
18 remain in the courtyard for the purpose of the
19 controlled explosion?

20 A. That is correct, my Lady, yes.

21 Q. So there was a specific direction given some 55 minutes
22 after the terrible explosion that took place to keep the
23 area clear for the purpose of the controlled explosion?

24 A. That is correct, my Lady, yes.

25 Q. Apart from that specific occasion, some 55 minutes

1 afterwards, was there any other occasion when the area
2 was, by direction, kept clear, or is it the case that,
3 apart from that one instance, you and many other
4 emergency responders were in and around the bus doing
5 what you could?

6 A. I certainly can't recall any other controlled
7 explosions. It was pretty much backwards and forwards
8 into the hotels and trying to get towels and equipment
9 and various other bits and running back to the scene,
10 and whether or not there was anything going on in
11 between that, I cannot recall.

12 Q. All right. If you'll allow me to point out, you were --
13 is this right -- six months beyond the end of your
14 probation period as a Metropolitan police officer by
15 this time?

16 A. That is correct, my Lady, I was in just under two and
17 a half years by then.

18 MR HILL: Thank you.

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions for PC Mitchell?
20 PC Mitchell, no amount of training in the military
21 or the police can prepare you for what confronted you on
22 the streets of London that day. Despite the obvious
23 risk to yourself, you did everything possible to save
24 lives and to minimise injury. I have no doubt that your
25 efforts and the efforts of your colleagues made

1 a significant difference and I commend you.

2 A. Thank you very much, my Lady.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, Mr O'Connor?

4 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, may I invite you to call now

5 Ms Russell-Fenwick?

6 Ms DEBORAH ANNE LYNNE KERSLAKE (sworn)

7 Questions by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR

8 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Could you give your full name, please?

9 A. My married name now?

10 Q. Yes, the name you --

11 A. It's slightly different from the one that you had.

12 Q. Perhaps you'd give the name that you use now.

13 A. It's Deborah Anne Lynne Kerslake.

14 Q. In 2005, I think you used the name Russell-Fenwick?

15 A. That was my surname at that time, yes, it was.

16 Q. In 2005, you were a constable with the British Transport

17 Police?

18 A. That's correct, my Lady.

19 Q. You had been, I think, for 20 years or more at that

20 point?

21 A. At that point, I think 24.

22 Q. In July 2005, you were based at the British Transport

23 Police Central London police station which is in

24 Whitfield Street?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. Whitfield Street I believe is sort of parallel to
2 Tottenham Court Road near the junction with Euston Road,
3 is that right?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. Your job was as a property officer?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. On the morning of 7 July 2005, you were working a shift
8 that began at 7.00 in the morning?

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. We have a statement that you provided to the
11 Metropolitan Police shortly after those events on
12 16 July, in fact, and in your statement you describe
13 a few difficulties getting in to work that morning on
14 public transport, but I assume that those difficulties
15 were the normal commuting difficulties, as it were,
16 rather than anything caused by the travel disruption
17 that had itself been caused by the bombs later on in the
18 morning?

19 A. Yes, it was just the normal, as you say, disruptions
20 that you do find on the Underground, my Lady.

21 Q. Were you, in fact, on time for your shift at 7.00 or did
22 you arrive a bit late?

23 A. No, I think I was actually, by a hair's breadth, on
24 time.

25 Q. So you had been at work already for some time when the

1 news of a developing serious incident, or, as we now
2 know, more than one serious incident, started to trickle
3 through the building. Is that right?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. Can you just, in summary, describe how you became aware
6 of these incidents developing at about 9.00?

7 A. One of my colleagues came into the property office, one
8 of the detective sergeants that is based at that
9 location, saying that, in his words, it was kicking off
10 downstairs, and -- which is sort of police slang for
11 things were starting to happen.

12 He mentioned two or three locations. So at that
13 point, I left the office to try to find out a bit more
14 information as to what was happening.

15 Q. Were you able to find out some more information?

16 A. Roughly, because there was so many of -- my uniform
17 colleagues sort of running backwards and forwards from
18 locker room to stairs to, you know, leaving the
19 building, so trying to actually stop one sort of
20 mid-flight to actually find out what was happening was
21 quite difficult, but, you know, from that, you know,
22 there was the rough story that there were explosions
23 happening on the Underground system at more than one
24 location.

25 Q. One of the locations where one of these incidents

1 appeared to be taking place was Russell Square?

2 A. That's correct, my Lady.

3 Q. As we've heard from evidence yesterday, Russell Square
4 was the location that you and the British Transport
5 Police knew perhaps particularly well because it was
6 round the corner from another British Transport Police
7 building Force Headquarters?

8 A. That's correct, yes.

9 Q. You decided to leave your post, leave the building, and
10 go and assist at Russell Square. Is that right?

11 A. That's right, yes.

12 Q. Just to be clear, you weren't told to go there; it was
13 simply a decision you took on your own initiative?

14 A. Yes, my Lady.

15 Q. Just tell us why you decided to do that?

16 A. Because at that point, you know, I know that there's
17 only a finite number of officers available, you know,
18 especially uniform officers that are based at that
19 particular police station.

20 Although I'm a uniformed -- although I was
21 a property officer, I was still a uniformed officer, so
22 in my head it was -- it wasn't much of a difficult
23 decision to make sure that my radio was -- had a full
24 battery and make my way.

25 Q. As you say, it was to Russell Square that you decided to

1 go?

2 A. Yes, I had originally spoken to one of the other
3 sergeants that was attending, again, like myself, sort
4 of off his own back, so I said, "I'll join you". By the
5 time I actually got the radio, the rest of my uniform
6 from my locker, he'd already gone, but then I ran into
7 another sergeant, and so I said, "Well, you know, if you
8 know the way on foot, I don't, so I'll just follow you".

9 Q. Can you help us and give us some idea of the time, then,
10 at which you left the police station near
11 Tottenham Court Road and started to make your way on
12 foot towards Russell Square, roughly?

13 A. Approximately maybe 25 to, either five minutes before or
14 after that time, my Lady.

15 Q. 25 to 10?

16 A. Yes, sorry, yes.

17 Q. You say you were travelling on foot.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Were you running?

20 A. I knew that it wasn't exactly round the corner, so
21 I think I knew that, if I'd carried on running, I would
22 have run out of steam, so it was a rapid walk.

23 Q. A rapid walk. You have said that you picked up your
24 radio and made sure it was -- had batteries in it before
25 you left, so can we take it that you had your radio on

1 as you were making your way towards Russell Square?

2 A. Yes, my Lady.

3 Q. While you were en route, did you hear one, or perhaps
4 more than one, message about the fact that there had
5 been an explosion at Tavistock Square?

6 A. Certainly at least one message. I didn't get the full
7 message of -- of its context of the bus explosion,
8 I just heard that there was a bus explosion and the word
9 "Tavistock" and, because we were going in that general
10 direction, I assumed that, because the word "Tavistock"
11 was mentioned, that it would somewhere near our
12 Force Headquarters, so, you know, I thought that we
13 should go there instead.

14 Q. So you diverted in a sense and made your way instead
15 towards Tavistock Square?

16 A. Yes, that's correct.

17 Q. Can we take it, then, that you didn't actually hear the
18 explosion itself, just the message about it?

19 A. No, there was so much noise of sirens, the whole air was
20 filled with the sound of sirens anyway, that, you know,
21 it was -- I certainly didn't hear an explosion.

22 Q. Could we look, please, at a document now, and it's
23 [BTP152-78]. If we look at the top half of that page,
24 I think it's right to say that your call sign was
25 Lima Tango 120. Is that right?

1 A. That's correct, yes, my Lady.

2 Q. Probably before this little transcript has started, you

3 had made an initial call saying that you had a message

4 that you wanted to send. Is that right, probably?

5 We see that the first entry on this transcript is

6 the controller telling you to go ahead. So presumably,

7 you would have sent a short message saying that you had

8 a message that you wanted to transmit?

9 A. I had previously called them up, yes.

10 Q. Yes, so the first entry here is then telling you that

11 you are now to send your message.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. The message that we see:

14 "Yeah, Lima Tango 120, Alpha Zulu."

15 What does the Alpha Zulu mean there?

16 A. That was the call sign of the control room.

17 Q. So it's the -- who you're sending the message to, in

18 other words?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You say:

21 "We're just getting to the incident at

22 Tavistock Place now."

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Tavistock Place is, of course, where Force Headquarters

25 was.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. That rather illustrates the point that you've made, that
3 you'd heard "Tavistock", you weren't entirely sure
4 whether it was Tavistock Place or Tavistock Square?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. As is clear from the message itself, you hadn't actually
7 got there yet. Obviously, when you got there, you
8 realised it was in Tavistock Square?

9 A. Yes, we weren't in Tavistock Square by then, we were
10 actually just approaching the road.

11 Q. The timing on this says 09.53. The way in which these
12 transcripts of the British Transport Police messages
13 have been produced is that the timing is not entirely
14 accurate. It's probably the case, judged on other
15 messages, that it was probably more like 9.55 that that
16 message was sent. Would that feel about right to you?

17 A. Yes, my Lady, yes.

18 Q. So, working backwards, that would be about 20 minutes
19 after you'd left your police station --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- and would mean that you arrived at the bus, if you
22 arrived shortly after this, about 10 minutes or a little
23 less than that after the explosion.

24 Does that -- the precise timings aren't important,
25 but does that put you in about the right bracket?

1 A. Yes, that would fit in, yes.

2 Q. I think it's right to say that, when you got to
3 Tavistock Square, you approached -- you went into
4 Tavistock Square and approached the bus from the south
5 end of the square. In other words, you were running
6 towards the front of the bus. Is that right?

7 A. Yes, but not immediately. Having got on to
8 Tavistock Square, there was a group of Metropolitan
9 Police officers to our right and I think there was an
10 inspector standing with them, and then, in fact, looking
11 slightly down to my left, which is at the junction of
12 Tavistock Place, there was a Met officer at that
13 junction, and we -- myself and the Sergeant started sort
14 of going towards the larger group of Met officers
15 thinking that there was about to be an immediate
16 deployment. But as we approached, there didn't seem to
17 be, you know, any immediate orders coming from them.
18 So I remember it as at that point then starting to
19 look down the road to my left towards the bus and it was
20 at that point that I then started running down towards
21 the bus.

22 Q. We've heard some evidence, we've heard some this
23 morning, from officers who came down from Euston Road
24 and came down towards the back of the bus, but is it
25 right that you were coming, at that point, from the

1 other direction up towards the front of the bus?

2 A. That's correct, my Lady.

3 Q. Could we just look at another document now? It's
4 another transcript of the second call that you made,
5 this one [BTP152-66], the middle of the page.

6 Again, Lima Tango 120, that's you calling
7 Alpha Zulu.

8 A. Yes, that's correct.

9 Q. Here you say -- you refer to the bus explosion, you say:
10 "We've got multi deaths and multi serious injuries."
11 The timing again perhaps unreliable, but it looks as
12 though it was a few -- perhaps two or three minutes
13 after you arrived at the scene, would that be about
14 right?

15 A. No, it was literally just seconds, maybe 10 to
16 15 seconds. I passed that message, having literally
17 just arrived on scene. I took 10 to 15 seconds to
18 survey what was in front of me. That was -- this
19 message was passed before I spoke to anybody, before
20 I did anything, it was just to let the control room know
21 the scale of the incidents and that, you know, by the
22 very message, that it would be requiring all emergency
23 services.

24 Q. So very much an overview, your immediate reaction,
25 rather than --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- something that you -- a message conveying your
3 detailed thoughts about what you'd seen?

4 A. Yes, this was just the initial: this is what I've seen
5 on arrival, and my intention would have been, you know,
6 to have then maybe given a later update for it to be
7 more specific, but at that point, I just wanted to give
8 the control room -- because it was a -- virtually a new
9 call, you know, a rough guide as to what was going on at
10 that point.

11 Q. You describe I think walking past a number of
12 Metropolitan Police officers. Did they say anything to
13 you about secondary explosions or a concern about
14 secondary explosions?

15 A. Yes, there was supposedly a secondary device in the
16 area, but that was the sort of general gist of what was
17 being said.

18 Q. So your memory is not that there was just a general
19 concern that there might be a secondary device, but
20 that --

21 A. No, that there was a specific --

22 Q. -- they thought there was one?

23 A. -- concern that there was a secondary device, but there
24 was still a lot of -- you know, just looking down the
25 road, you could still see, you know, a large amount of

1 what I assumed were casualties because of their state of
2 dress and, you know, people on the floor. So, you know,
3 I went down to the bus at that point.

4 Q. You heard about the concern about the secondary device,
5 you saw the people still near the bus, and so you went
6 down there. Was it precisely because there might be
7 a secondary device that you went to the bus then?

8 A. Yes, specifically because -- you know, because there was
9 this danger of a secondary device, that, yes, to go down
10 there, specifically to get the -- you know, the people
11 that I could see out and away, because they were
12 obviously in immediate danger, you know, that was what
13 I was thinking.

14 Q. You went towards the bus. As we've said, you were
15 walking towards the front of the bus, and we'll hear in
16 a minute that you walked, in fact, past the bus and into
17 the area behind the bus.

18 Could I just ask you this: did you walk up the
19 pavement by the BMA, and so walk up the nearside of the
20 bus, or were you walking on the other side of the bus in
21 the road?

22 A. No, on the BMA side of the bus, ma'am.

23 Q. Could then we look at a couple of plans on the screen?

24 First of all, could we look at [INQ9013-2]?

25 This is a map that you drew, Ms Russell-Fenwick and

1 I'm sorry we don't have a particularly good copy of it.
2 Could we perhaps rotate it so it's vertical and put it
3 on one side of the screen and call up [INQ10285-8]? That
4 will need to be -- if we could rotate that clockwise.
5 Could we, in fact, turn them both round 180 degrees and
6 then I think we'll have the right orientation. No,
7 I think I'm wrong about that. Perhaps we could turn the
8 plan on the right another 180 degrees. Then I think we
9 will perhaps have the right orientation.
10 So now I think in both pictures -- correct me if I'm
11 wrong, Ms Russell-Fenwick -- we have the bus and
12 a number of casualties set out behind it. Do you see
13 that?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. Let's focus, if we may, on the plan on the right-hand
16 side, which is easier to understand and which we've all
17 been looking at on and off for the last few days.
18 We see the bus, which is marked in red, and the
19 front of the bus is at the bottom of this diagram.
20 You've described then walking from an area towards the
21 bottom of the diagram up past the bus. The BMA building
22 is where you see the words "Lynton House", that's the
23 name of the BMA building. Did you then walk past the
24 bus and into the road behind the bus?
25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. We see the red marks there. Those are the marks where
2 it is estimated that some of the casualties were lying,
3 in particular the casualties who died. I wanted to ask
4 you, if I may, just about one or -- in fact, three of
5 the casualties whom you saw at the back of the bus.
6 First, you describe in your statement an old man who
7 was face down on the ground and whom you describe as
8 having no lower half to his body. That sounds like
9 a description of a gentleman we know to have been called
10 Giles Hart.

11 If you look again at the right-hand side of the
12 page, you'll see a dotted line, the only dotted line,
13 going from his name, which I'm afraid is upside down,
14 over to a red mark, which puts him behind the bus and
15 slightly to its nearside. Do you see that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is that -- we all understand, of course, this is now
18 five years after the event, but is that roughly, do you
19 think, where you saw this man that you described as an
20 old man lying face down?

21 A. Yes, yes, my Lady.

22 Q. When you saw him, did you get a clear view of him, by
23 which I mean was he lying on the open road?

24 A. Yes, he was lying face down. I knew that it was a male
25 because he had greying hair and he was bald, so you

1 could actually see the bald rear to his head. He was --
2 his torso was lying very slightly on a diagonal, so if
3 the bus was straight, the -- I remembered the torso
4 being slightly on a diagonal with the bottom of the
5 torso closer to the bus, the rear of the bus.

6 Q. And his head pointing away from the bus, as it were?

7 A. Yes, that's correct.

8 Q. Was he a white gentleman?

9 A. Yes, well, looking -- well, the colour of the skin on
10 the back of the head, I would have said, yes.

11 Q. Can you give us an idea of how close you got to him?
12 Did you actually go up to the body or were you simply
13 standing a little way away from him?

14 A. I was probably approximately 2 -- 2 feet away.

15 Q. Was there anyone else with him at the time?

16 A. I certainly wasn't aware of anybody either touching him
17 or, you know, appearing to be specifically with him or
18 dealing with him, no.

19 Q. You described him in your statement, as I've said, as
20 having no lower half to his body. In fact, this man had
21 lost one of his legs which was amputated high up, but
22 the other one, although it was seriously injured, he did
23 still have. Is it possible that you have got that
24 slightly wrong in your statement, do you think?

25 A. Then I bow to your knowledge. I had it in my memory

1 that -- because I even remembered seeing a partial part
2 of the spine.

3 Q. That doesn't lead you to believe that we might be
4 talking about a different person, given what we've said
5 about where he was on the road?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Were you able to form a view about whether this man was
8 alive or not?

9 A. Certainly with the injuries that I saw, or my memory
10 tells me I saw, no, there was -- there was no life.
11 There was certainly no movement.

12 Q. Thank you. Moving on to a second casualty, again, in
13 your statement, you describe seeing a girl in her early
14 20s with dark, curly hair with her eyes open --

15 A. That's correct, yes.

16 Q. -- and, again, with very serious injuries to the lower
17 half of her body.

18 Looking again at the plan at the right-hand side of
19 the page, if we may, we believe that the casualty you're
20 referring to there is probably a girl called
21 Shahara Islam, who you'll see again -- I'm sorry that
22 the wording is upside down -- but a mark over on the --
23 again, on the same side of the bus, a little bit further
24 over on the offside of the bus. Do you see that mark
25 there?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Would that, again, approximately equate to where you
3 thought that body was?

4 A. I actually thought that the lady was actually to
5 Mr Hart's right.

6 Q. I see. How close to his body do you think she was?

7 A. Approximately 3 to 4 feet.

8 Q. Is it possible that she was actually over on the other
9 side or do you have quite a clear memory that she was on
10 the right-hand side?

11 A. I would have sworn that she was -- her torso was to
12 the -- to his right and slightly behind but that he was
13 on the left.

14 Q. Let me ask you, then, a few more questions about this
15 casualty, who may or may not have been Shahara Islam.
16 You've said that you were within a couple of feet of
17 Mr Hart and you say that this body was close to Mr Hart.
18 Were you a distance of a few feet away from that body as
19 well or did you get closer to that body?

20 A. Only in the later -- you know, in the course of, you
21 know, moving backwards and forwards, dealing with other
22 casualties.

23 Q. Was this girl a white girl or was she coloured?

24 A. I wouldn't say she was white. She had, like, swarthy
25 skin.

1 Q. You say that you saw her more than once as you moved
2 around the square during that morning.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you ever see anyone attending to her?

5 A. No. Again, I think maybe because it was -- she appeared
6 to be so obviously dead, because, again, I had the
7 impression that there was no lower half to her body
8 either. The expression on her face was mouth open, eyes
9 open, but no facial movement at all, that I saw at all.

10 Q. Did you at any point see that a blanket had been placed
11 over her body?

12 A. No, that was one of the things that I wanted to do
13 latterly in that incidence, but by the time I'd just
14 taken a casualty in and come back with that intention to
15 cover both her and Mr Hart, the blankets had actually
16 disappeared that had appeared as a pile on the pathway,
17 but I don't recall whether they had then been covered.

18 Q. I see. Finally, as far as the casualties in the road
19 are concerned, may I ask you about the third casualty
20 you refer to in your statement and that is a casualty
21 you describe as a young black girl. This casualty was,
22 you said, being worked on by some people.

23 A. Yes, I was aware of people around her.

24 Q. We think that that person you describe may well have
25 been Gladys Wundowa, another of the casualties who is

1 over on that side of the bus. You perhaps can see, in
2 fact, on the extreme left towards the top of that plan,
3 her name is at the top of the page with a mark down to
4 that red dot. Approximately speaking, is that where you
5 remember this casualty being?

6 A. Yes, I think on my drawing we're virtually the same now.

7 Q. I think that's right. You think we are talking about
8 the same casualty, pretty certainly here?

9 A. Yes, my Lady, yes.

10 Q. Can I ask you the same question: how close did you get
11 to this lady?

12 A. I think she was actually one of the casualties, the
13 latter part of my time there, that was carried through
14 to the courtyard area of the BMA building.

15 Q. You noticed her. Did you notice her when you were sort
16 of first moving around at the back of the bus?

17 A. Yes, because I'd -- my sequence is, having first dealt
18 with -- I think I now know him as Mr Beck, then the girl
19 that I have marked as number 9 on that diagram. Then
20 I got involved with the casualty that was on the rear of
21 the bus, and then, having come back from that, that was
22 when I was again aware that this black girl was still
23 out there and I was still thinking, "Well, you know, why
24 has she not been taken away?".

25 Q. Because, by this time, were a number of people being

1 taken, or had already been taken, in the way that we've
2 heard, on table-tops and stretchers, away from the road
3 and into the courtyard of the BMA?

4 A. That's correct, yes. I got a table from the reception
5 area of the BMA building, which was sort of just close
6 to where the rear of the bus was, to get -- I can't
7 remember if we used that for the black girl or the white
8 girl number 9.

9 Q. In any event, you clearly were able to say that the
10 black lady, whom you believe to be Gladys Wundowa, was
11 alive for some time after the explosion and obviously
12 alive when you carried her into the BMA courtyard?

13 A. I don't specifically remember either, you know, her
14 speaking or her moving. I assumed that there was life
15 because people were still --

16 Q. Precisely.

17 A. -- around her.

18 Q. You were aware that the people treating her -- or
19 perhaps you assumed -- were from amongst those doctors
20 who had come out of the BMA and were treating the
21 casualties in the street?

22 A. Yes, and because the -- I certainly wasn't aware of any
23 uniform -- police uniform around them. I thought maybe
24 they are unaware, so I was concerned that they were
25 still there after I'd seen them initially and was

1 wanting to get them and her, you know, sort of back into
2 the BMA.

3 Q. Yes. You mentioned a minute ago, when you were
4 giving -- answering a different question, assisting
5 a man who was trapped inside the bus, the Oriental
6 gentleman whose head was leaning out on the side of the
7 bus facing the BMA building. Is it right that you
8 assisted him at one point?

9 A. Yes, I became aware of him as I came back out, having --
10 it was -- yes, having taken the first casualty out, the
11 one 09 on the drawing, as I came back out, it was the
12 first time that I'd saw who I think now was Mr Ly, or
13 a male casualty still on the rear nearside of the bus.
14 So I was running around the bus trying to find a way
15 on. I think I ran round maybe two or three times, you
16 know, because I thought, if the bus goes up, then, you
17 know, then he is -- you know, would be taken with it.
18 So I don't know why I didn't subsequently get on the
19 middle doors, because I understand now that there was
20 access there, but I didn't actually see -- physically
21 see a way on to the bus.
22 Because of the height that he was at within the bus,
23 I couldn't climb on to the bus to get to him, so there
24 was a male person who was in a suit and, because he was
25 so clean, I assumed that he was somebody from the BMA,

1 and asked him, if he was medically trained, to come and
2 assess this guy that was on -- still on the back of the
3 bus.

4 So he came over and he said, "Well, I can't see",
5 because he seemed to have wreckage that was trapping him
6 around the neck and shoulder area, and it was just at
7 that point that two extremely tall London Fire Brigade
8 officers appeared on foot and I said to them, "Look,
9 we've got to get this guy out. Can you get him out?
10 Because I can't get to him."

11 Q. As perhaps we'll hear in their evidence when they come
12 next week, they did get on board the bus and managed to
13 get both Sam Ly and one or two other people who had
14 remained trapped in the wreckage off the bus. Were you
15 aware of that?

16 A. I assumed that they got him out, because I was then
17 distracted by the black girl. But I didn't realise that
18 there were other injured still on the bus at that stage.

19 Q. You've described assisting quite a number of different
20 casualties over a period of time after having arrived at
21 the scene.

22 Did there come a time when you took the view that,
23 in fact, all the living casualties who were still at the
24 scene were being treated and being looked after and
25 those that needed to be moved had been moved, and that

1 you might do a better job elsewhere?

2 A. Yes, after -- my last action was -- in connection with
3 the casualties, was with the black girl, and then was
4 originally going to come back out to cover the two other
5 casualties up with the blankets, but at that point there
6 didn't seem to be any other people around, the scene was
7 getting very quiet then. There might have been
8 peripheral people, you know, away from the bus, but
9 I certainly wasn't aware of any other living persons
10 left.

11 So at that point, I thought -- because I was
12 originally going to be going to Russell Square.

13 I thought, "Well, I'll now make my way to Russell Square
14 to see, you know, if there was any more assistance, you
15 know, uniformed officers required there".

16 Q. And that's exactly what you did, you walked round. It
17 couldn't have taken you very long, only a few hundred
18 metres to Russell Square Tube station?

19 A. Yes, I actually went through the BMA building and
20 actually asked the security guard for directions,
21 because I'm not very good on my way round London. You
22 don't want to ask me for directions.

23 Q. The directions he gave you were reliable, were they?

24 A. I think his were probably more reliable than mine.

25 Q. You found your way there and you describe in your

1 statement meeting some colleagues, who, in fact, we've
2 heard from or about, Chief Inspector Saunders and
3 Inspector McMunn of the British Transport Police.
4 I think it's right to say that you didn't actually go
5 down to the platform or certainly into the tunnel at
6 Russell Square?

7 A. No, there was still -- when I got to Russell Square,
8 there was still a lot of casualties in the booking hall
9 area, and they were still being treated on -- being
10 treated, and I still actually had the parcel tape that
11 I'd pinched from one of the abandoned Met vehicles from
12 the Tavistock scene, so in fact, that came into use
13 again with sellotaping people's heads to water bottles
14 et cetera.

15 Q. You then spent considerable time assisting people with
16 the casualties above ground at Russell Square?

17 A. Yes, there was still quite a number in the booking hall
18 area waiting for transport to the hospitals.

19 Q. It was only after you finished that task that you went
20 to a rest station, you were debriefed after that, and
21 finally, much later that evening, you walked back to
22 your police station where you'd set off from at the
23 beginning of the day?

24 A. Yes, there wasn't actually a debriefing, but, yes, we
25 eventually ended up back at -- at a number of locations

1 en route, but back at the Central London police station,
2 I think, at about 7.00, 7.00 that night, something like
3 that.

4 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you very much. Those are all the
5 questions I have for you. It may be that others have
6 some questions for you which they'll ask now.

7 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?

8 MR SAUNDERS: Nothing thank you, my Lady.

9 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Sheff.

10 Questions by MS SHEFF

11 MS SHEFF: I just have a couple of questions for you on
12 behalf of the family of Giles Hart. That was the body
13 that you identified face down, the older gentleman with
14 the balding hair.

15 Could we please have those plans back up again side
16 by side? Thank you.

17 Can you see on the right-hand plan there is one
18 vehicle which is in green?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That was a Metropolitan taxi, a black cab. Do you
21 remember that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You do. All I want to ask you, then, is where was the
24 body that you saw of Mr Hart in relation to that taxi?

25 A. My memory told me that Mr Hart's body was behind the

1 taxi, maybe two to three feet away from the rear of that
2 taxi.

3 Q. If we look at the direction of travel of these vehicles,
4 they're travelling up the page from south to north.

5 A. That's correct, yes.

6 Q. The dotted line that relates to Giles Hart seems to
7 place him to the front and right of the taxi.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Are you saying your recollection is that he was on the
10 other side of the vehicle or is that consistent with
11 your recollection?

12 A. My recollection was that he was actually to the rear of
13 the taxi.

14 Q. How far away from the taxi?

15 A. As I say, approximately sort of two to three feet.

16 Q. Were you aware of anybody lying underneath the taxi?

17 A. No, I certainly didn't see that at all.

18 Q. Is it possible that he might have been to the front of
19 the taxi between that vehicle and the vehicle in front
20 which was a silver, smallish Volkswagen-type vehicle?

21 A. That wasn't my recollection.

22 MS SHEFF: Right. Okay, thank you very much indeed,
23 Officer.

24 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Gibbs?

25 MR GIBBS: No, thank you.

1 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mrs Kerslake, you were very brave
2 that day and you have been very brave giving evidence
3 before me. I know you were dreading reliving the trauma
4 of that day, but you were determined to help me and the
5 bereaved families. I hope that we haven't distressed
6 you too much and I won't say any more in case I do
7 distress you, but we are all extremely grateful to you.
8 A. Thank you.

9 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, is that a convenient moment?

10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Very well. 11.30.
11 (11.15 am)
12 (A short break)
13 (11.30 am)

14 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, may I invite you to call
15 PC Robert Farrugia.

16 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you.

17 PC ROBERT FARRUGIA (sworn)
18 Questions by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR

19 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Could you give your full name, please?
20 A. PC Robert Farrugia, my Lady.
21 Q. You are, and were, in 2005, a constable with the
22 Metropolitan Police Service?
23 A. That's correct, yes.
24 Q. On 7 July 2005, Constable, your shift began at 2.00 in
25 the morning, I believe?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. With you, as with other witnesses whom we've heard
3 during the course of the morning, you heard from your
4 colleagues on your radio about the developing incidents
5 that were taking place across London?

6 A. That's right, yes.

7 Q. I think it's right to say that, at about 9.30 that
8 morning, you decided to offer assistance yourself?

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. You had heard, in particular, discussion on your radio
11 about a cordon being put in place at the junction of the
12 Euston Road and Eversholt Street?

13 A. That's right. There was a PC who called up on the radio
14 who said she was on her own trying to coordinate that
15 junction, I knew it was a very busy junction, and
16 I thought that was somewhere where we could make
17 ourselves useful.

18 Q. Just to be clear, that's the junction on Euston Road
19 with Eversholt Street to the north. Is that right?

20 A. That's correct. Euston fire station on one corner and
21 the Euston bus and railway station on the other.

22 Q. On the other side of Euston Road, Upper Woburn Place --

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. -- leading down to Tavistock Square?

25 A. To Tavistock Square.

1 Q. So you went to assist there?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is it right that you were at that junction at the time
4 that the bus exploded in Tavistock Square?

5 A. That's right. I had just repositioned my vehicle and
6 got out of it. I had my -- I was actually facing north,
7 so I had my back to Tavistock Square, and I heard a very
8 loud bang, which I recognised as an explosion.

9 I turned around and all I could see initially was
10 just smoke, dust and debris. As that cleared, I could
11 see, about 200 yards away, what was left of the double
12 decker bus.

13 Q. You heard, then, the very loud noise, you saw the dust.
14 What was your immediate thought as to what had taken
15 place?

16 A. Bearing in mind what had already happened at various
17 locations, I don't think anybody had said specifically
18 on the radio that there had been bombs or anything like
19 that, but because of the nature of the incidents that
20 had already happened at various separate locations
21 I think I'd already made my own mind up that there was
22 some sort of terrorist incident involving bombings at
23 those various locations.

24 Q. Just pause there. You mean you'd made your mind up
25 before the bomb exploded at Tavistock Square?

1 A. That's right, yes, simply because so many separate
2 incidents happening in so many separate places
3 simultaneously, to my own mind I couldn't think of any
4 other scenario that would fit, other than that those had
5 been deliberate actions at those places.

6 Q. That was the context into which you put the explosion
7 that you then witnessed?

8 A. That's right. Because I wasn't absolutely sure where
9 the explosion had taken place in the first two or three
10 seconds or so, and I knew it was somewhere close to
11 Russell Square. In my own mind, I actually thought it
12 may have been some sort of secondary device in relation
13 to the initial devices.

14 Q. I see. Could we have a look, please, at a document? It
15 is [INQ10127-1]?

16 We have an entry there at 09.47.

17 Constable, this is -- 09.47.47 -- not a particularly
18 illuminating record of this report, but you refer to
19 this report I think in your witness statement.

20 A. That's right, yes.

21 Q. We don't -- we don't see a call sign here. Is that
22 right?

23 A. About four lines up from where you've highlighted, where
24 it actually says "deassign", next to that is "264TL"
25 which, at the time, was my shoulder number.

1 Q. I see. In any event, you recall making a radio call at
2 this time and this is a record of it?

3 A. That's right, yes.

4 Q. What we see in the text is "major explosion at
5 location", but the precise location doesn't seem to have
6 found its way on to the record. Did you give a location
7 of where you thought the explosion was?

8 A. I remember the very first transmission I gave the
9 location erroneously as Russell Square, but almost in
10 the next breath I corrected that to the correct location
11 at Tavistock Square, but obviously whoever was typing
12 into the CAD had taken my first location and then not
13 updated it.

14 Q. I see. But in any event, that's your evidence as to the
15 message that you sent at that time. Where were you when
16 you sent the message?

17 A. I was still at the junction, at Euston Road, at that
18 particular moment. I then heard on the radio another
19 colleague calling up and saying that there were, you
20 know, lots of casualties at the location, and at that
21 point, I then started to make my way down towards the
22 bus.

23 Q. Yes. You refer in the statement that you provided at
24 the time to the fact that you were a trained first
25 aider.

1 A. Yes. In fact, only two or three months previously, I'd
2 done my initial First Aid at Work course. I took the
3 first aid kit from our vehicle and started to make my
4 way down to see what I could possibly do.

5 Q. You've described yourself as making your way towards the
6 bus. We've heard evidence now from a number of your
7 colleagues whose evidence has been to the effect that
8 they, as it were, dropped everything and ran to the bus
9 and were there within a minute, or possibly even less,
10 of the explosion taking place. The impression one gets
11 from your statement is that you weren't there quite as
12 quickly.

13 A. That's right. As I went towards the bus, there were
14 a number of people, some were making their way away from
15 the scene, but there were other people sort of just
16 milling around or even making their way back towards the
17 bus, so I spent a couple of minutes, as I made my way
18 there, trying to get people away and, you know, either
19 into cover or just simply away from the scene.

20 Q. Doing the best you can, how long do you think it was
21 after the explosion that you arrived at the immediate
22 scene?

23 A. No more than two or three minutes I would say.

24 Q. You approached, as your colleagues had, from the rear of
25 the bus?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You saw the casualties in the road as they have
3 described?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In your statement, you describe one particular female
6 casualty being attended to by an Asian doctor.

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Can you please tell us what you remember of that
9 casualty?

10 A. She was female, and I thought, at the time, about
11 mid-20s, a white female.

12 In terms of description, I remember her being --
13 I think slightly plump in terms of build, and I remember
14 there was a tattoo on her lower back. One of her feet
15 was missing, I think it was her left foot that was
16 missing.

17 Q. Constable, we believe this casualty to have been
18 Marie Hartley that you're describing.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I see you nodding. Have you subsequently come to that
21 view yourself or --

22 A. Yes, from other evidence that's been given at the
23 inquest, I believe that that almost certainly was
24 Marie Hartley, yes.

25 Q. Was she conscious when you saw her being treated?

1 A. No, she was unconscious.

2 Q. Did you, yourself, form any view as to whether she was
3 alive or dead or did you simply see that she was being
4 treated?

5 A. I saw that she was being treated by the doctor. She was
6 certainly unconscious, but I didn't form any view as to
7 whether she was alive or dead at that stage.

8 Q. Did you, in fact, as it were, stop and kneel down by her
9 or --

10 A. Yes, I knelt by her and I think it was around that time
11 that we were aware specifically of the possibility of
12 another device being on the bus and the priority changed
13 slightly from rendering first aid right there and then
14 to getting people away and into the courtyard of the BMA
15 building.

16 So I assisted to place her on -- I can't remember
17 whether it was a table, a board of some kind, and
18 carried her into the courtyard of the BMA building.

19 Q. We've heard other evidence about this process of moving
20 these casualties. Some of the witnesses have said that
21 was perhaps 10 or 15 minutes after the time of the
22 explosion. Would that accord with your evidence, or are
23 you suggesting that it was perhaps a little earlier than
24 that?

25 A. It's very difficult to measure time in that sort of

1 situation. It could well have been 10 minutes before
2 people started being moved. I'm not sure at which
3 point.

4 Although secondary devices are always
5 a consideration in a situation like that, I can't recall
6 exactly at which point I became aware that there was
7 specific information about the microwave box on the bus,
8 but I was aware at some point that the priority was to
9 get people away and into the courtyard of the BMA.

10 Q. You've described how you assisted to move this casualty,
11 who we believe to be Marie Hartley, on a table or
12 a board of some sort. Is it right that you assisted
13 with at least one other casualty, moving that casualty
14 also into the BMA courtyard?

15 A. Yes, that was another female, similar age and
16 description to Marie Hartley. That person was
17 conscious, I remember she was saying that she was
18 feeling cold, she was already covered with a blanket
19 from what I remember.

20 Q. Was she lying close to Marie Hartley?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. It may well have been that that, in that case, was
23 Camille Scott.

24 A. Again, from the evidence that has already been given to
25 the inquiry, I would say that almost certainly that was

1 Camille Scott, yes.

2 Q. These casualties were lying behind the bus and a little
3 distance from it, say 10 or 15 metres.

4 A. Yes, about that.

5 Q. They were, as it were, there for you to see as you
6 arrived at the scene.

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Did you pay attention to them and assist with them
9 without actually going up to the bus itself in the first
10 instance?

11 A. At that point, yes. I dealt with the -- certainly those
12 two casualties. I didn't, at that stage, get any closer
13 to the bus itself.

14 Q. You would, though, perhaps have seen the nearside of the
15 bus as you were moving to and from the courtyard of the
16 BMA carrying people into the courtyard?

17 A. Yes, my Lady, yes.

18 Q. Was it after, though, or perhaps during that process
19 that you became aware of a casualty, a living casualty,
20 on the bus?

21 A. It was a -- I think I came back out of the BMA building
22 to see if there was anyone else who needed to be brought
23 in, and a fireman brought my attention to the fact that
24 there was still one person on the bus who was alive and
25 that they needed some sort of board or stretcher to

1 assist in getting them off the bus.

2 There were a number of collapsible tables -- I think
3 they'd initially come from the hotel rather than the
4 BMA -- that were being used to stretcher casualties back
5 and forth, so I went and got one of those and brought it
6 to the side of the bus where the firefighters were
7 extracting the gentleman of Oriental appearance.

8 Q. This was the gentleman, as you said, of Oriental
9 appearance who we believe to have been Sam Ly?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Is it right that his head and perhaps the upper part of
12 his torso were protruding from the side of the bus?

13 A. That I don't specifically remember. I do remember part
14 of the -- before he was extracted, part of the bus, the
15 ceiling of the lower deck, was pressing into the -- his
16 chest area.

17 Q. Your role at that point was, as you've said, to find
18 something that could be used to carry him once he had
19 been extricated.

20 A. Yes, that's correct.

21 Q. You've described how you did that. Were you there
22 during the operation that took place, in fact, to get
23 him out?

24 A. Yes, I was, yes, because it was necessary to actually
25 hold the table up to the bus so that he could be lifted

1 and placed on to it.

2 Q. Is it fair to say that it was quite a considerable
3 operation to extract him?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Involving firemen and police officers?

6 A. There were certainly firefighters there. Whether there
7 were other police officers other than myself at this
8 distance, I can't now recall.

9 Q. Some of the firemen were, in fact, on the bus itself?

10 A. Yes, they were.

11 Q. Did they use cutting equipment to cut some of that
12 metalwork away from Sam Ly?

13 A. I don't specifically remember. I would suppose that
14 they must have, but I don't actually remember.

15 Q. In any event, your role, as we said, was concerned with
16 the table that you had obtained --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and you, and perhaps others, held it in place when he
19 was eventually moved?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Where did you take him then?

22 A. Into the courtyard of the BMA.

23 Q. What was his condition when he was removed from the bus
24 and placed on that table?

25 A. He was certainly alive and I remember, when he was

1 actually on the bus, he was calling out in pain.

2 I can't remember if he still was as we carried him into
3 the building. But he clearly had certainly some
4 injuries around the chest area.

5 Q. You mentioned carrying him into the building. You would
6 have carried him under the archway into the courtyard.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was he deposited, as it were, there or was he carried
9 through the courtyard and straight into the building
10 itself? It may be that you can't remember that this far
11 off.

12 A. I would have said into the courtyard, as I can only
13 recall carrying people directly into the courtyard
14 itself.

15 Q. That would be consistent with other evidence, if that's
16 your memory. You put him down, then, in the courtyard.
17 I take it there were doctors with you at the time.

18 A. There were doctors, and other medical staff had started
19 to arrive at that stage.

20 Q. Did you stay with him at that point, or did you go off
21 to do other things?

22 A. I think from that stage, as best I can remember,
23 I remained in the courtyard area, because I understood
24 there were no -- no, sorry, I correct myself. I did go
25 back out, because I went to check if there was anyone

1 else left who needed to be brought in. I then walked
2 into the gardens in the middle of Tavistock Square to
3 make sure there wasn't anyone there who had sort of
4 staggered there and then collapsed or anything like
5 that. So I walked round in a circuit and then came back
6 into the BMA courtyard.

7 Q. I just want to ask you briefly about another casualty on
8 the bus. Just behind the position where Sam Ly had been
9 and had been extricated from, you describe in your
10 statement someone you describe as an apparently lifeless
11 black female. Do you remember that individual?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. We are confident that the person you're describing is
14 a lady called Shyanuja Parathasangary, who was indeed
15 sitting just behind where Sam Ly was on the nearside of
16 the bus.

17 A. That's right, the seats were actually back-to-back.

18 Q. That's right, that's right. She was, in fact, from
19 a Sri Lankan family. Would that accord with your
20 memory?

21 A. Yes, I certainly remember she was dark-skinned. I think
22 I described her in my statement as black, but if she was
23 Sri Lankan, then, yes, I certainly would say that would
24 fit.

25 Q. I just want to ask you this about her. You describe her

1 in your statement as being apparently lifeless. What
2 was it about her that led you to the conclusion that she
3 was lifeless at that point?

4 A. I remember her -- just the whole appearance of her and
5 her body. There seemed to be simply no life left in it.
6 It's difficult to describe. I think there comes a point
7 sometimes when you deal with people, you recognise
8 they're not simply unconscious but are actually dead.

9 Q. You've described how you assisted the medical staff in
10 the courtyard.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Fetching and carrying essentially. You mention in your
13 statement that there came a time when the casualties who
14 had been removed from the road, and in Sam Ly's case,
15 the bus, into the courtyard were moved into what you
16 described as a rear courtyard. Could I just ask you to
17 look at a photograph? It may take me a moment to get
18 the right reference.

19 Could we try [INQ10348-1], please?

20 Constable, I believe this is a photograph taken, as
21 it were, with the photographer standing in the archway
22 with his back to Tavistock Square looking into the
23 courtyard. Would you agree with that?

24 A. Yes, I think so.

25 Q. What we can see then is a courtyard which is divided by

1 a large fence across the middle of it and, in the far
2 part of the courtyard, there's what looks like
3 a fountain.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Help us, then, with this: when the casualties --
6 Marie Hartley, Camille Scott, Sam Ly -- were initially
7 brought from the bus or from the road behind the bus
8 into what we've described as the courtyard, where were
9 they placed?

10 A. Essentially around the fountain, there were casualties
11 all the way around the fountain area.

12 Q. When you describe in your statement them being moved
13 back, where were they moved to?

14 A. In the picture we see another archway in the background
15 and, from what I recall, there was another second
16 courtyard beyond that.

17 Q. I see. So it's not as though they were moved within the
18 area that we can see; they were actually moved from it
19 further back into the building?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Do you know why they were moved?

22 A. There were still concerns over the microwave box that
23 was on the bus and we were told that a controlled
24 explosion was going to be carried out on that, and so
25 we -- I can't remember who took the decision, but the

1 decision was made to move the casualties further away
2 from the scene before that took place.

3 Q. Presumably, the fear was that, if it was indeed
4 a secondary device, then the explosion caused by the
5 controlled explosion could be very substantial indeed?

6 A. Yes, and could cause further injury.

7 Q. We've seen evidence this morning that a controlled
8 explosion took place about an hour after the initial
9 explosion. Would that accord with your memory, would
10 that be about the time that this move from one courtyard
11 to the other took place?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You mention in your statement, having described the
14 controlled explosion -- we take it that's the controlled
15 explosion about an hour after the initial explosion --
16 that it was at about this time that ambulances began to
17 arrive at the rear of BMA House and casualties were
18 taken away.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you, in the course of what you had been doing
21 earlier, following the explosion, have an understanding
22 as to whether there were already ambulances on the
23 scene, whether there was a feeling that there weren't
24 enough ambulances or that they'd somehow been delayed in
25 arriving?

1 A. In the very initial moments, as I first arrived at the
2 bus, dealing with the first sort of one or two
3 casualties, I was certainly aware that there weren't
4 ambulances present, and I was very grateful that there
5 were doctors coming out of the BMA to assist us, but at
6 the same time, I knew that all these other incidents had
7 happened around London and that, you know, resources
8 were going to be stretched, so I anticipated that there
9 probably would be a delay in getting further help to us.

10 Q. I see. Finally, I think, Constable, in your statement
11 you refer to going back into the front courtyard
12 a little later. The timing, I think you give it, is at
13 11.30, and seeing two dead bodies in the front
14 courtyard.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. In the statement you describe seeing one white female
17 body, we believe that would have been the body of
18 Marie Hartley. But you also describe seeing one black
19 male body. Is it possible that you were mistaken about
20 that and it was, in fact, a black female body that you
21 saw at that point?

22 A. I remember being quite sure at the time that it was
23 a black male, because I remember subsequently, from
24 media reports and so on, trying to work out who that had
25 been. So as far as I was concerned, it was a male.

1 Q. But you wouldn't exclude the possibility that it was, in
2 fact, a female?

3 A. I could have made a mistake, certainly.

4 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you. Thank you, Constable.

5 Those are all the questions I have.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?

7 Questions by MR SAUNDERS

8 MR SAUNDERS: Mr Farrugia, can I just deal with one or two
9 matters? I think you were asked about your attendance
10 at the bus slightly after -- I think it was
11 Police Constable Brierley who had gone on ahead.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But I think, in fairness, you'd had the forethought to
14 go back to your car and to get, as it were, your medical
15 kit that was in the car before you went down towards
16 Tavistock Square?

17 A. Yes, at the time the explosion occurred, I was standing
18 right next to my vehicle, so it wasn't a case of going
19 back to it to get my first aid kit, but simply getting
20 the first aid kit out of the vehicle.

21 Q. Thank you. Then you were dealing with a number of
22 people, including Marie Hartley and Camille Scott, when
23 you return and are aware that there are still persons on
24 the lower deck of the bus. It's then, at that stage,
25 you come to the removal of Mr Ly.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think this is right, that your attention is brought by
3 a firefighter -- I don't suppose you know who that was?

4 A. No.

5 Q. But what that firefighter was telling you was that
6 there's one casualty who's still alive.

7 A. That's right, yes.

8 Q. Although there were others still on the bus, there was
9 only one that was actually alive?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. You've then gone on to describe who clearly would be
12 Shyanu Parathasangary, but you also describe her as, at
13 this stage, still being with her eyes fixed open.

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. Also, you see her handbag that's still across her?

16 A. Yes, I can't remember if it was across her or on her
17 arm, but she certainly still had her handbag.

18 Q. It's at that point Mr Ly is obviously clearly conscious
19 because he's calling out?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Your description, for which we're very grateful, the
22 whole of her appearance was totally lifeless?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. No sign of any life at all?

25 A. That's correct.

1 MR SAUNDERS: Thank you very much indeed, Officer.

2 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions for PC Farrugia?
3 Mr Hill?

4 Questions by MR HILL

5 MR HILL: Just three matters. In relation to the first of
6 the casualties whom you assisted -- the lady lying in
7 the road at some distance from the bus, one of the two
8 ladies that you described, and who Mr O'Connor
9 identified as Marie Hartley -- in your statement, did
10 you indicate that, at that stage, you noted that
11 assistance from the Ambulance Service was arriving and,
12 under the direction of the doctor who was tending to
13 Ms Hartley, that it was possibly an ambulance backboard,
14 if not a table, that was used to assist her and to
15 transport her inside the BMA courtyard?

16 A. Yes, I was aware of one ambulance vehicle either
17 arriving at the scene or having chanced upon it en route
18 to one of the other scenes. It wasn't an emergency
19 ambulance, it was one of these patient transport
20 vehicles, but I believe it had some limited equipment on
21 board.

22 I know that some equipment from that vehicle was
23 used, but whether, in Marie Hartley's case, it was
24 a backboard or a table, I cannot recall.

25 Q. No, and in fairness to you, you say it was either

1 a backboard or a table. But given that that was the
2 first casualty to whom you gave assistance, that was
3 quite early on in terms of your attendance at the scene?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Right. That's the first matter.

6 The second matter, in relation to Ms Parathasangary,
7 who tragically died on board the bus, just to complete
8 your description, in addition to noting that her eyes
9 were fixed open, did you record in your statement that
10 her right arm hung limply over the side of the bus?

11 A. That's right, and the tips of her fingers appeared to be
12 missing as well.

13 Q. You obviously took care to note how she seemed to you
14 and to record that in your statement. Was there
15 anything at all that you could have done for her?

16 A. No. As far as I was concerned, she was dead, and my
17 understanding, at that stage, was that those people who
18 were on the bus had already been checked over.

19 Q. Lastly, thirdly, this: in relation to the movement back
20 from first courtyard to second courtyard in the BMA, for
21 the purpose of the controlled explosion, there was,
22 I think, a doctor, or someone you understood to be
23 a doctor, from the BMA -- I think you recorded his name
24 as Dr Holden -- who was part of the announcement that
25 was made within the first courtyard in preparation for

1 the controlled explosion to move casualties back?
2 A. Yes. Dr Holden was essentially coordinating the
3 operations in the courtyard area.
4 MR HILL: Thank you.
5 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions? Yes,
6 Mr Saunders?
7 MR SAUNDERS: My Lady, may I just deal with one matter?
8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Of course.
9 MR SAUNDERS: It was something Mr O'Connor and I had
10 described. It's in relation to what had just been asked
11 of the officer. May I, because, as your Ladyship knows,
12 the parents are here, put one matter to the officer?
13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes.
14 Further questions by MR SAUNDERS
15 MR SAUNDERS: I've seen a photograph, Officer, which has
16 Ms Parathasangary's hand closed, so it may have looked
17 as if there was a problem with her fingertips, but in
18 fact, looking at Dr Chapman's pathologist's report
19 there's no question of fingertips missing. All right?
20 So could it just be that the hand was closed? It is
21 hanging down, as Mr Hill has just described, but there
22 was not this additional injury.
23 A. Certainly, if that wasn't recorded at the subsequent --
24 MR SAUNDERS: Can I say there's no criticism. One can
25 understand exactly, having seen those photographs, how

1 you may have thought that, but that wasn't actually the
2 case. Thank you very much, my Lady.

3 MR HILL: I hope very much that I didn't confuse and, for
4 absolute clarity, the words that the officer recorded in
5 his statement were, the appearance in relation to
6 fingers, that was not a physical finding that you were
7 making, you were simply describing the hand as it
8 appeared to you at that time?

9 A. That is correct, yes.

10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions for PC Farrugia?
11 Mr Saunders, are you content that you don't wish to take
12 any further instructions from the family?

13 MR SAUNDERS: None at all. It is a matter we had discussed
14 earlier and I wanted to correct that for them.
15 Thank you very much, my Lady.

16 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: PC Farrugia, those are all the
17 questions we have for you. You were another of a number
18 of officers who didn't hesitate to go to help, despite
19 the risk to you and despite the horrific scene that
20 confronted you. Thank you very much for all that you
21 did.

22 A. Thank you, my Lady.

23 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, Mr O'Connor?

24 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, may I invite you to call
25 Constable Sean Bannister.

1 PC SEAN CHRISTOPHER BANNISTER (affirmed)
2 Questions by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR
3 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Could you give your full name, please?
4 A. Sean Christopher Bannister.
5 Q. You are, and were, in 2005, a constable at the
6 Metropolitan Police Service?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Constable, on the morning of 7 July 2005, you were,
9 I think, on duty in full uniform in London.
10 A. Yes, I was.
11 Q. Were you also on a shift that had started at 7.00 in the
12 morning?
13 A. I think it might have been 6.30, it was close to that
14 time.
15 Q. In any event, by about 9.30 or a little afterwards, you
16 were, I think, driving a police van?
17 A. Yes, I was.
18 Q. Your route took you close to King's Cross station?
19 A. Yes, we were driving on blues and twos, the lights
20 flashing, just to go and assist at King's Cross.
21 Q. I think you were on a journey which had nothing
22 whatsoever to do with the developing incidents around
23 London?
24 A. No, we were initially up in Hampstead, West Hampstead,
25 dealing with an arrest enquiry with CID officers and we

1 were just hearing what was going over the radio and,
2 once it was all sorted out that we were required, we
3 just said "Shall we go and assist them?" and control
4 room said, "Yes, make your way down".

5 Q. Were you already making your way down towards
6 King's Cross with a view to assisting before you heard
7 about the bomb at Tavistock Square?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So you were, in fact, intending to assist, what, at
10 King's Cross station itself?

11 A. Yes, because we'd heard about black smoke coming out and
12 loads of people were coming out of the station and it
13 just needed more assistance.

14 Q. You heard on your radio, shortly after 9.45, reports of
15 the bomb at Tavistock Square?

16 A. Yes, I heard Sergeant Cross come over the radio, there
17 was a -- "The bus has exploded" something along that
18 lines.

19 Q. At that point, you hadn't yet reached King's Cross. Is
20 that right?

21 A. No, I hadn't.

22 Q. Where were you?

23 A. I believe I was somewhere along Hampstead Road, not far
24 from Euston Road.

25 Q. I see. You decided, though, to divert and, instead of

1 going on to King's Cross, to drive down to

2 Tavistock Square where the bus was?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. How long did it take you to make that journey and get to

5 Tavistock Square?

6 A. Offhand, I think minutes. There was a lot of -- the

7 traffic was building up quite a lot now and it was just

8 trying to push my way through, making space. Some cars

9 and whatever, would move over, give me the chance, and

10 eventually, we got a bit of space, we could speed up,

11 made my way, so minutes at the most, I would think.

12 Q. But again, can we take it that you weren't one of those

13 officers who was there within seconds or one or two

14 minutes of the explosion?

15 A. No.

16 Q. You arrived, shall we say, five minutes or --

17 A. Yes, approximately.

18 Q. -- so afterwards?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you drive right up to the bus or you parked a little

21 way away?

22 A. No, once I came into Tavistock Square, I came in and the

23 bus was -- I parked directly in front of the BMA arch,

24 approximately about 30 metres away from it, because

25 I couldn't get any closer due to the amount of debris

1 and body parts that was just littered on the floor.

2 Q. I see. You got out of the van and went to assist with
3 the casualties in the street?

4 A. Yes, we did.

5 Q. In your statement you describe going over towards and
6 assisting a black lady casualty who was lying?

7 A. Yes, I think there was a BMA doctor who was down there,
8 maybe someone else, they were dealing with her, and we
9 went straight to her. I did, anyway.

10 Q. Can you describe the doctor who was with her for us?

11 A. To be honest, no, I just know there was people there
12 dealing -- and I just concentrated on the black lady, to
13 be honest.

14 Q. I want to ask you a little bit about her in a minute,
15 but from what you say, did you then go to her and stay
16 with her for a period of time?

17 A. Yes, I didn't leave her until we subsequently moved her
18 into the BMA courtyard.

19 Q. Tell us, then, what did you make of her condition when
20 you arrived there?

21 A. She seemed very serious. I just recall a lot of -- she
22 was in and out, sort of, consciousness, and it was just
23 trying to talk to her, tell her to stay with us while
24 the doctors were still working on her, getting her
25 ready, just to keep her with us, I just didn't want her

1 to go asleep as such or pass out. I just thought it was
2 better she was speaking to me.

3 Q. I should say this is the casualty who we believe to have
4 been Gladys Wundowa.

5 A. I believe that's what's been sorted out now, yes.

6 Q. That's something that you now have independent knowledge
7 of, is it?

8 A. Yes, I only found out within the last seven days.

9 Q. You describe her moving in and out of consciousness and
10 you were talking to her. Did she talk back to you at
11 any time?

12 A. Not that I can recall. I think she just seemed in so
13 much pain and everything, it was just -- anything -- as
14 long as she had something to focus on is what I was
15 hoping for.

16 Q. Did she respond to you in any way other than talking to
17 you?

18 A. Not that I know of, no.

19 Q. We've heard some evidence now about that process of
20 moving the casualties, including Gladys Wundowa, from
21 the road into the courtyard. That's something you
22 remember too, is it?

23 A. Yes, because I was -- we eventually got some sort of
24 wooden table or whatever it was, or some flatboard, got
25 her on to it and carried her down towards the BMA

1 building and left her with the doctors there.

2 Q. Can you give us an idea of how long it was after you
3 arrived that Gladys Wundowa was moved into the
4 courtyard?

5 A. I would be guessing at anywhere between 5 and
6 10 minutes, something like that.

7 Q. Thank you. As you moved her into the courtyard, did her
8 condition change or did she remain very much as she had
9 been?

10 A. She was in and out, they were just more concerned about
11 getting -- starting to deal with it, and she was in
12 protection now from anything else that could occur, that
13 was it.

14 Q. Were you still talking to her and walking next to her as
15 they moved her into the courtyard?

16 A. From what I can recall, yes.

17 Q. We saw the photograph when Mr Farrugia was giving
18 evidence. Was that the courtyard that she was moved
19 into?

20 A. Yes, it was. I believe, when you walk into the
21 courtyard, it was the first bit that we put -- she was
22 placed there.

23 Q. So the front part of that courtyard?

24 A. The front part, yes.

25 Q. She was on a table or a door or something of that

1 nature. Was she put down on the ground?

2 A. Yes, she was placed on the ground.

3 Q. Still on the table?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The doctors who had been with her in the street, did
6 they come through with you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And they carried on treating her once she arrived there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you stay with her at that point or did you go back
11 out?

12 A. No, I then went back out to see -- because there was
13 still screaming and shouting going on, so it was just to
14 go out and see who else we could bring into the BMA
15 building.

16 Q. I'll ask you in a moment about what happened when you
17 went back out into the street, but sticking with
18 Gladys Wundowa for a moment, is it right that you saw
19 her a little while later?

20 A. Yes, I believe it was -- she was being given CPR and
21 then -- because I was still carrying on with whatever,
22 I then found out from one of my colleagues that she'd
23 passed away.

24 Q. Did you assist at all with giving her CPR --

25 A. No.

1 Q. -- or in her treatment at that point?

2 A. No, there was other people dealing with her at that
3 time.

4 Q. There's other evidence that this treatment of her being
5 given CPR took place at around the time or shortly
6 before the controlled explosion, so about an hour or
7 a little less than that after the initial explosion.
8 Do you have any -- can you help us with the timing
9 of that, or is it something that you don't really
10 recall?

11 A. No, because we was going back and forth so much. I just
12 remember taking her, and then the doctors took over and,
13 truthfully, all lack of -- any sort of timing was just
14 forgotten about. It was just getting on with everything
15 that we needed to do.

16 Q. Yes. Going back, then. After you had carried or helped
17 carry Gladys Wundowa into the courtyard, you went back
18 out into the street. Was this the first opportunity
19 you'd had to get a closer look at the bus itself?

20 A. I think so, yes, because it was -- that was the general
21 direction then I went into, just seeing, I think coming
22 out we'd noticed a bit about the body, torso, which had
23 hit the side of the BMA building. I think there was
24 a lung or a heart somewhere around there and other parts
25 and then I just noticed the splattering on everything

1 that was on the vehicles.

2 Q. On the bus itself, we've heard some evidence -- and
3 we've heard some more evidence this morning -- about the
4 Oriental male, as he's been described, who we know is
5 called Sam Ly, whose head was protruding out of the
6 nearside of the bus. Did you see him?

7 A. I've said in my statement, when I was dealing with the
8 gentleman who was getting off -- who we took off, that
9 there was a male, a white male, I believe dark --
10 light-skinned, I should say, was hanging out of the bus
11 from when -- it looked as if he had been squashed
12 between the top and the bottom. I believed -- I thought
13 that might have been him, but having heard he's alive or
14 he was taken off alive, I'm not sure now, to be honest.

15 Q. It may be, from your memory, you simply can't take this
16 matter much further, but let me just ask you this: there
17 were probably there to be seen two people, there was
18 Sam Ly, the Oriental man who was hanging off the bus,
19 and the other evidence suggests moving and talking, or
20 at least moaning. He was the man who subsequently was
21 taken off by the Fire Brigade. Just behind him, as
22 we've heard, was the body of Shyanuja Parathasangary,
23 a Sri Lankan lady.

24 Do you have a clear memory of seeing either of them
25 at that time or is it really, frankly --

1 A. I just only recall one person being there because, when
2 we was taking the white male off, he became quite
3 agitated and -- with seeing what was beside us and for
4 what I assumed was a gentleman at the time. I believe
5 someone then covered him over and it seemed to relax him
6 a little bit and that's all I could say about it.

7 Q. I see. Moving on, then, to your assistance with getting
8 the gentleman off the bus, you're quite sure that that
9 wasn't Sam Ly, that was a different man?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You describe in your statement him having an injury to
12 his leg.

13 A. Yes, from his knee down to his ankle was a mess. There
14 was bone sticking out, it was -- I don't think there was
15 much skin there. I was even, at one point -- where we'd
16 started moving him down, the firemen and me, I took hold
17 of his leg -- his foot, I should say, and his foot
18 almost turned right around.

19 Q. We believe this is probably Mr Beck, who we heard
20 evidence from earlier in the week. Did you, in fact,
21 get on the bus to help extract him, or were you standing
22 by the side of the bus?

23 A. I think I was standing at the side. I don't know if
24 I climbed up and was -- like, my arms over the top
25 trying to get -- because we sort of like piggy-backed

1 him down between all the officers that were helping out
2 to put him on the wooden table.

3 Q. You say "we". Was this police officers or some police
4 officers and some firemen?

5 A. There was another police officer, Pete McDonagh, he was
6 on the opposite side to me, and then there was the
7 fireman who was actually on the top of the bus, I think
8 there was at least four of us carrying the table, one to
9 each corner.

10 Q. Another casualty who you record seeing in your
11 statement, Constable, you describe as seeing a young
12 white girl near to the rear offside of the bus. You
13 describe her body as being severely contorted, and you
14 say you thought she was clearly dead.

15 Could I ask you to look at a plan, please? It's
16 [INQ10285-8] you'll probably have seen this plan before
17 this morning, other witnesses were shown it. We see the
18 bus there and the red marks, as you may recall, indicate
19 the position that some of the casualties were in.

20 Looking -- if you can look just at the top left of
21 those red marks, you see a mark which is marked
22 "Shahara Islam". Would that position -- in other words,
23 on the offside of the bus and, in fact, just on the far
24 side of another vehicle -- be where you saw that body
25 that you described in your witness statement?

1 A. Yes, there's the young lady and, also, which is not in
2 my statement, is the old man, which I know of as well,
3 but those -- that's where -- because when I came back
4 out to have another look round, I went at the back of
5 the bus and round the car where she's actually -- the
6 grey car, I went round there and came all the way round
7 just to make sure there was no one else around.

8 Q. I'll ask you about the old man in a moment, but that, at
9 any rate, is the position that you saw this particular
10 body in?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. When was it, roughly speaking, that you went to see this
13 body? If you don't know timing, tell us when in the
14 sequence of events.

15 A. I think it -- we'd taken them -- is it Mr Beck you said?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. We'd taken him outside the hotel because I believe HEMS
18 or some sort -- LAS arrived. They dealt with him.
19 I went back inside, came back out of the courtyard and
20 went looking round again. So it wasn't -- I couldn't
21 give you a time. It was all fluid.

22 Q. It was after you'd moved Gladys Wundowa into the
23 courtyard?

24 A. Oh, yes, definitely. Gladys was the first person
25 I dealt with.

1 Q. You dealt with her, you moved her to the courtyard. You
2 came back out, Mr Beck. Some time after that, that you
3 saw --

4 A. Yes, because I dealt with someone else, I think.
5 I think I took another lady back, which I don't know
6 much of, and then went back out to look for the stuff.

7 Q. You describe her as being clearly dead.

8 A. Yes, she was in a contorted, awful shape, just lifeless,
9 nothing, nothing really breathable, she wasn't doing
10 something which I would expect someone to be doing.

11 Q. Of course, this was now some time after the explosion.
12 In your statement, you say placed a blanket over her
13 body.

14 A. I believe so, yes.

15 Q. You mentioned a moment ago, Constable, that you also saw
16 the body of an old man. You perhaps were in court this
17 morning when we heard other evidence about that.

18 A. No, what it is is, for the past several -- well, five
19 years, whatever, I've always had an idea that it was
20 a gentleman, I had it in my head, but there was also
21 a girl there, but I always thought it was a gentleman --
22 an older man, and then, having spoken last week, it all
23 came about that I'd actually seen the both of them, and
24 that, in doing my statement a couple of days later,
25 I actually hadn't picked up on it myself, and I'd just

1 missed him out by saying I had actually come across him
2 because he was by a black cab.

3 Q. Looking at this plan, we see the red mark slightly to
4 the right and slightly further down the page to the mark
5 for Shahara Islam with a dotted red line marked
6 Giles Hart. Would that be where you saw the body of an
7 old man?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Was he lying face down?

10 A. I believe so, yes.

11 Q. He had very serious injuries to the lower part of his
12 body. You say he was near a black cab. When you saw
13 him, was he in the street, able to be seen? All of his
14 body that was there, you were able to see?

15 A. I just remember him being close to the black cab lying
16 on the floor, just not moving.

17 Q. This was at the same time, was it, as when you had moved
18 around and saw Shahara Islam?

19 A. Yes, it was a process for me for going round, just to
20 see if there was anyone else still alive that could be
21 moved before anything else was going to happen, or if
22 there was any -- if we could pick up any more medical
23 supplies that were lying on the floor that we could use
24 in the BMA building.

25 Q. As with Shahara Islam, was there any doubt in your mind

1 as to whether this old man who we believe to be
2 Giles Hart was, in fact, dead?
3 A. He was dead, yes, there was no doubt.
4 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you, Constable. Those are all
5 the questions I have.
6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions?
7 MR SAUNDERS: Nothing, thank you, my Lady.
8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Sheff?
9 Questions by MS SHEFF
10 MS SHEFF: You say this gentleman was by a taxi.
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Would you have noted it in your mind or in your notebook
13 later if he'd actually been under a taxi?
14 A. I would have thought so, yes.
15 Q. So, at that time, he was out in the open?
16 A. I believe --
17 Q. Close to the taxi?
18 A. Very close to the taxi, close to it, yes.
19 MS SHEFF: That's all I have to ask. Thank you very much.
20 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you. Any other questions?
21 Mr Hill?
22 Questions by MR HILL
23 MR HILL: May I just see if we can give any more assistance
24 as to the men that you saw on the bottom deck of the
25 bus, because you were asked questions about the Oriental

1 man, severely injured, but removed from the bus, Mr Ly.

2 Can you recollect the position of the man with the

3 very severe injury to his right leg who was also

4 extricated from the wreckage of the bus and helped off?

5 Was he at the back of the bus?

6 A. As far as I know, yes.

7 Q. He -- that gentleman whose name was given to you as

8 Mr Beck, who survived this incident -- was seated close

9 to another man who was hanging outside or half in/half

10 out of the bus, who was clearly dead and who had

11 something placed over him, I think you recollected in

12 your statement.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was that man on the offside of the bus, the driver's

15 side?

16 A. I never saw the offside of the bus. Everything I saw

17 and dealt with initially, when it was with the white

18 male taken off, was on the nearside of the bus facing

19 the BMA building.

20 Q. So you were looking through the nearside, as it were?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Right. Can you help with whether the man who was half

23 in and half out of the bus was in a seat that was facing

24 forwards or facing back?

25 A. I couldn't see. The bus -- the way the bus was squashed

1 down, just his body was half -- was hanging out.

2 Q. Yes, all right. Well, this may or may not assist you
3 and my Lady, but if we could just have [INQ10285-6] on
4 screen, please, the position of Mr Beck, who you've told
5 us about, was at seat 22, which you see towards the top
6 of the screen in the very back row of the lower deck in
7 the middle seat of the back row, 22. Facing that seat
8 and to the right, if one's in Mr Beck's position, is
9 seat 18, Mr Philip Russell, who did die in the explosion
10 and was found partly hanging outside the offside of the
11 bus. Thinking back now to the man, describing him in
12 your statement, who appeared to be dead, hanging from
13 the side of the bus motionless and over whom a cover was
14 placed, may that be consistent with the position of that
15 man?

16 A. Possibly, yes. That sounds --

17 MR HILL: It may be that's Mr Philip Russell. That's all
18 I ask.

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions? Those are all
20 the questions we have for you, Mr Bannister. I'm sure
21 it's a great comfort to Gladys Wundowa's family to know
22 that you did what you could to reassure her and to save
23 her. I hope it's of some comfort to you to know that
24 your brave efforts did help save Mr Beck. Thank you
25 very much.

1 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, that concludes the oral
2 evidence for this morning. Perhaps I may use at least
3 some of the time available to read some statements?

4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Certainly.

5 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, there are two statements that
6 we had been due to read yesterday that we didn't get to,
7 so perhaps I'll read those first, starting with the
8 statement of Louise Shepherd.

9 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Very well.

10 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: A statement of Louise Shepherd dated
11 11 July 2005.

12 Statement of MS LOUISE SHEPHERD read

13 "I live at an address known to police. I'm
14 self-employed as a training consultant and work
15 full-time. My work takes me to different locations on
16 a daily basis. My course is usually run between 9.00 am
17 and 4.30 pm Monday to Thursday. Friday is usually an
18 administration day for me.

19 "On Thursday, 7 July 2005, I left my home address in
20 New Cross just after 8.00 am to travel to Highbury and
21 Islington. I would expect this journey to take about
22 45 minutes. It is a journey I have completed before.

23 I drove my son to New Cross Gate and parked in
24 Sainsbury's car park. I got on the East London Line for
25 two stops on the train to Canada Water. I bumped into

1 a friend that I used to work with at the station and had
2 a chat with her until I got off the train. I changed at
3 Canada Water and got on to the Jubilee Line for two
4 stops. I got off this train at London Bridge. I then
5 got on to the Northern Line, where I got off at
6 King's Cross planning to get on to the Victoria Line.
7 "There was an announcement over the speakers that we
8 had to all evacuate the station. I left King's Cross
9 and waited opposite the main entrance. It was beginning
10 to rain so I thought that I may as well walk to Euston
11 station. There were a lot of people about at this time.
12 I went into Euston and, after a short time, was
13 evacuated again. My mobile phone was discharged and not
14 working.
15 "I looked for a pay phone and rang the employer
16 where I was due to commence training, as I knew I would
17 be late. I spoke to a lady and told her that I would be
18 late in to work. She told me not to worry as everyone
19 else would be in late as well. I told her that I was
20 not sure how to get to Highbury and Islington from
21 Euston station. She told me that I could get
22 a number 30 bus all the way or some other buses and then
23 change at the Angel.
24 "I bought myself a cup of tea, walked through Euston
25 station, and saw a number 30 bus in front of me in the

1 station forecourt at Euston. I was struggling with my
2 black briefcase and my laptop, which was in a bag with
3 the words 'Office Deputy Prime Minister' on it. The bag
4 was black. I also had a cup of tea in my hand and an
5 umbrella. I approached the bus. A man tapped on the
6 doors and the driver opened the bus doors. The bus was
7 a regular London double decker bus with an electronic
8 door at the front to get on and a door in the middle,
9 usually to get off.

10 "The bus appeared fairly full. I produced my Oyster
11 travel card and asked if the bus went to Highbury and
12 Islington. The driver said 'Yes, seats upstairs'.
13 I wouldn't have struggled upstairs with all I was
14 carrying otherwise. I know the bus driver was a male,
15 light-skinned, meaning not white or dark. He was aged
16 about 40 years and polite. I climbed up the stairs of
17 the bus. The downstairs was busy but not packed like
18 some can be.

19 "At the top of the stairs of the bus, I turned left
20 and saw a double seat which was empty on the row of
21 seats opposite the stairs, the nearside of the bus. The
22 double seat I now know is six sets of seats from the
23 front of the bus towards the rear."

24 My Lady, the witness then refers to marking
25 a photograph of the bus with a mark to show where she

1 was sitting. Perhaps we could see [INQ10285-6]? That's
2 the wrong page. Yes, I'm grateful.
3 We see here that Ms Shepherd is marked sitting at
4 seat 39, in fact next to Lisa French, whose evidence we
5 heard orally, who is marked as number 38. That is
6 indeed six sets of seats back from the front and it's
7 consistent with the mark she placed on the photograph
8 which is rather difficult to read. She goes on:
9 "It was the seat nearest to the window. I sat in
10 this seat and had my bags on the seat next to me to sort
11 them out. The bus on the upper deck was again fairly
12 full. Immediately to my left when I got to the top of
13 the stairs, with her knees against the staircase, there
14 was a black lady. I would say that she was not
15 particularly big, casually dressed, about 30 years of
16 age. She sat on the outside of this seat next to an
17 empty seat by the window. I did not sit there as I did
18 not feel I could struggle through with my bags. I knew
19 more people were getting on the bus, so I made room next
20 to me on the seat. A few seconds later, before the bus
21 pulled out, a girl who I now know as Lisa approached my
22 seat and said, 'I'll just squeeze in here next to you'.
23 "Lisa was about 30 years' old, white, and had
24 a Newcastle accent. We started to talk about the Tubes
25 not working. I could also see that they had blocked

1 a road off. It was the Euston Road. It appeared to be
2 blocked in both directions. The bus was moving forward
3 out of Euston Square and into Eversholt Street. At this
4 point, a policeman on a motorcycle road up as the bus
5 was halfway across the road. He was waving the bus to
6 get back and shouting, 'Get back, get back' or similar.
7 The bus reversed slightly back into Euston Square to let
8 the motorcycle policeman through and then continued
9 forward into Eversholt Street and towards
10 Tavistock Square.

11 "The traffic was slow-moving. At this point,
12 I heard a male's voice from behind me mention an
13 explosion. He was on his mobile phone. I turned to him
14 and said, 'Sorry for eavesdropping but did you just say
15 there's been an explosion?' he said, 'Yeah, there's an
16 explosion at Edgware Road station'. He said he had been
17 there and heard it. He said that it didn't sound like
18 a really big bang, it may have been an engine blowing
19 up."

20 My Lady it would appear that that was

21 Tony Cancellara:

22 "I was then engaged in a conversation with the male
23 about bombs and, from my experience of life, there is
24 usually a second one. So I said, 'Maybe that's here at
25 King's Cross'. The male was sitting directly behind me

1 near the window. He sat next to a young female. At
2 this time I noticed a woman going down the stairs of the
3 bus. At the time, I thought this was odd but, on
4 reflection now, maybe the bus was not going the way she
5 thought it was going."
6 There's then a passage where she describes this
7 lady. She continues:
8 "The reason I thought her movements were odd is that
9 we had only just got on to the bus, yet she was getting
10 up to get off. I did not, however, see her get off the
11 bus. There was a bus stop between Euston and the
12 explosion. I continued talking to the girl next to me,
13 Lisa, who said that she worked for British Telecom and
14 offered me the use of her mobile phone. I did not take
15 up this offer at this time.
16 "My impression of the male and female behind me were
17 that they were possibly students. This was down to
18 their age and part of a conversation I overheard about
19 them being late for something. I am not sure what it
20 was they were late for. I thought it may have been
21 a lecture or similar. The male behind me was white,
22 light-brown hair, which was short, clean and tidy.
23 I recall he had a sort of pencil-thin moustache that
24 seemed to end in a thin goatee beard. He was somewhere
25 in his 20s. I cannot estimate his height, as he was

1 seated. I think the male had an accent which was not
2 British. It was not a strong accent, possibly American.
3 The female, again in her 20s, quiet, a small girl, with
4 mid-brown hair, cut to the shoulder. It was fairly
5 straight with a slight wave. They were both dressed
6 casually. I can't recall anything else.

7 "At this point, the explosion happened. I do not
8 recall a bang. I remember being inside something with
9 huge pressure. I can only describe it as being inside
10 an explosion, an overwhelming feeling of pressure
11 pushing me. I am not sure if I lost consciousness for
12 a few seconds, I may have. I was aware my ears have
13 been damaged. I opened my eyes and I could not hear
14 anything. I could just see debris floating in the air.
15 My first thought was 'Have I still got my legs?'.
16 I moved them to check. It was so silent, very strange.
17 I did not know if I was alive or able to function.
18 I said, 'Oh God'. I felt slightly reassured that
19 I could hear my own voice. I heard Lisa speak. I stood
20 up and I looked behind me and I saw the back of the bus
21 was gone, including the young couple behind who I had
22 been talking to.

23 "I saw a slope of debris behind me and wondered if I
24 would have to climb down in it. I saw a man's legs
25 sticking out of the debris wearing pinstriped trousers.

1 I am not sure if there was a body with the legs.
2 I looked away. I gave Lisa her mobile phone which
3 I picked up. I started looking for my glasses. I asked
4 Lisa to help but she suggested that we left it until
5 later. I noticed other people were getting off the bus,
6 walking down the stairs. Lisa went ahead of me and
7 there was a young man from the front of the bus who
8 indicated that I should get off in front of him. I had
9 my bag, but I left my laptop computer by my seat.
10 I climbed down the stairs of the bus. I think the bus
11 driver was helping people to get off the bus. I stepped
12 off and followed Lisa towards the front of the bus.
13 "I heard a voice say, 'Come in here'. I think it
14 was the British Medical Association officer. They said
15 that I would get medical help from there. I had damage
16 to my ears, I could not hear. I had severe chest and
17 back pains. I was breathing fast and shallow. I was
18 very concerned that I had internal injuries. I later
19 discovered I had a cut and bruising to my left shoulder.
20 I noticed my jacket sleeve was wet, the left arm.
21 I recall a terrible smell. My hair was matted with
22 debris and had changed to a grey appearance. I left the
23 BMA offices as they feared another explosion. I went to
24 a nearby hairdresser who gave us water. I was then
25 asked to go to a police station nearby. I don't know

1 the name of the station but we walked there.

2 "On arrival, there was confusion. A doctor came by

3 to check us over. I believe the explosion took place at

4 about 9.40 to 9.50 am. I did not get taken to hospital

5 until about 1.00 pm that day. There is nothing else at

6 this time I can recall about the incident or anything

7 out of the ordinary in respect of the bus journey that

8 I have not already mentioned. My injuries were treated

9 at the Royal Free Hospital initially and I later

10 attended King's College Hospital."

11 My Lady, the remainder of the statement describes

12 further --

13 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: You don't need to trouble with it.

14 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, I'll read the statement of

15 Josephine Weah. This is a statement dated 10 July 2005.

16 Statement of MS JOSEPHINE WEAH read

17 "My name is Josephine Weah. I am a staff nurse at

18 St Mary's Hospital. I have been working there

19 since September last year. I have been asked to make

20 this statement regarding the sequence of events that

21 took place last Thursday, 7 July 2005.

22 "I left my job at the hospital, finished working at

23 8.00 am. I changed out of my uniform and put on my

24 normal clothes."

25 My Lady, she then describes the clothes she was

1 wearing and the contents of her handbag.
2 Moving on, she says:
3 "I normally get the Tube from Paddington station to
4 Liverpool Street to get home. This morning, I decided
5 to walk and get the bus. I got a 205 bus from
6 Paddington and I changed at Baker Street. I had to get
7 the number 30 bus to get home. I remember it was
8 raining. I was stood at the bus stop near
9 Madam Tussaud's. I recall that the first number 30 bus
10 did not stop. There were approximately 10 people at
11 that bus stop. I then got on the next number 30 that
12 arrived. I can remember getting on the bus. The people
13 that got on in front of me were normal-looking people."
14 She then describes one particular gentleman she was
15 with and goes on:
16 "I remember boarding the bus and looking at my
17 mobile phone. It said 9.06 or 9.10. I think it was
18 9.10."
19 She mentions the gentleman she described and
20 continues:
21 "I boarded the bus using my Oyster card. I recall
22 the downstairs section of the bus being very full,
23 people standing up, so I went upstairs. I recall going
24 upstairs and walking to the back of the bus. I have
25 been asked by the officer taking this statement to show

1 where I sat on the bus. I have marked my position with
2 an X and recall several people upstairs. The back row
3 was fairly full. There was a seat empty which drew my
4 attention. There was a male sat in the right-hand
5 corner by the empty seat. He was listening to his
6 Walkman. I remember deciding not to sit beside this
7 male, as he made me uncomfortable. This was only my
8 feelings.

9 "I remember walking past a woman with ginger hair in
10 a red, V-necked top. She was English and in her 40s.
11 I have marked on the map where I think this woman was
12 sitting. I recall walking back and sitting on the
13 fourth row of seats on the left-hand side."

14 My Lady, I wonder if we could have on the screen two
15 diagrams. First of all, [INQ9023-2] and then, secondly,
16 [INQ10285-6]. If we could have the upper deck, if it's
17 possible to have them both on the screen at the same
18 time. Perhaps not.

19 On the right-hand side, my Lady, we have the exhibit
20 that the witness completed. You will recall her in
21 effect saying she walked to the back of the bus but did
22 not sat at the back, walked back to the front, and you
23 can see that, in fact, she's marked two seats on the
24 front nearside of the bus. She said she possibly sat in
25 either of them, one three seats back from the front and

1 one four seats back from the front. On the plan that
2 we've been using, Ms Weah is marked as position
3 number 33, that is the seat four seats back from the
4 front, which is what in fact she says in her statement.
5 She goes on in her statement:
6 "I sat beside a male who was well-dressed and wore
7 a suit. I remember that he got off at Euston station.
8 I then moved on to his seat by the window. I remember
9 I was listening to my Walkman and heard the announcement
10 regarding the bomb going off at Liverpool Street.
11 I recall an elderly black male sitting beside me. He
12 had two shopping bags with him, maybe Sainsbury's or
13 Tesco's. He was wearing dark clothing and was in his
14 50s. I would recognise this male and the man who left
15 the bus again.
16 "I recall that the two sets of seats in front of me
17 were vacant. There were two males on the front seat.
18 The male in the corner was in his 30s and using a flip
19 mobile phone. I remember he was very loud. He had
20 ginger hair, slim build. He kept drawing my attention.
21 I think I may recognise him again. I remember
22 a teenager being sat on the other corner seat in the
23 front of the bus. He had his Walkman on.
24 "When I heard the announcement regarding
25 Liverpool Street I remember turning around and saying to

1 the man sat behind me what had happened. He was a white
2 male in his 30s. He wore a white shirt with brown
3 trainers and brownish trousers. He had silver hair.
4 I remember somebody saying, 'Thank God we were on the
5 bus'. That is when I heard the bang. I think I went
6 unconscious. I do remember seeing the man I talked to
7 fly across the bus. I remember seeing him being injured
8 and part of his head was missing. I remember my bag was
9 lying where he lay behind the stair area."
10 She refers to a picture in a newspaper and having
11 marked on that picture, as well as on the map we've
12 seen, the position where she had been sitting. Going
13 on:
14 "The next thing I remember was a doctor treating me
15 by the roadside. I was also given first aid by a lady."
16 She supplies the mobile phone number of the lady
17 which she had been given. She says:
18 "I don't remember much else. I saw people being
19 given first aid and remember being taken to
20 University College Hospital by ambulance."
21 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: It sounds, Mr O'Connor, as if your
22 voice might need a rest.
23 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, it possibly could. There are
24 three more statements to read. Perhaps we may read
25 those this afternoon.

1 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Certainly.

2 (12.43 pm)

3 (The short adjournment)

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