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IRELAND



Reference Code:	2010/19/1714
Creation Date(s):	21 January 1977
Extent and medium:	12 pages
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Access Conditions:	Open
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THE QUEEN

- v -

PATRICK ARMSTRONG

This is the exhibit marked "B"
referred to in the Affidavit of
Joseph O'Connell

Sword this *21st* day of *January*
1977

Before me,

Prin. Rev. Smeal
.....
~~Commissioner for Oaths~~
Solicitor

George E. Baker & Co.,
Norfolk House,
187 High Street,
Guildford, Surrey GU1 3AX
Solicitors for the Appellant

Statement of JOSEPH O'CONNELL, No. 338635 Brixton Prison, S.W.2.

I have been cautioned that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so and that anything I do say will be recorded and may be disclosed to the prosecuting authorities, i.e. The Home Office, Police or both.

(Signed) J. O'Connell

Last June while in Wandsworth Prison I saw Mr. Logan. This was as a result of Frank McGuire, M.P., coming in to see us. Mr. McGuire gave me a card with Mr. Logan's name on it. McGuire said Mr. Logan was a solicitor for one of the persons involved in the Guildford and Woolwich bombings - that's what was said but I didn't believe they were involved. So I wrote to Mr. Logan and asked him to come and see me. I just wanted to see what he wanted at that time.

Mr. Logan came into Wandsworth and told me he was solicitor for Armstrong. He told me that one of us (Butler) had admitted being concerned in the Woolwich bombing. We knew at the time they had been lifted that they weren't responsible for these jobs - we had discussed it before arrest. Our intention was to get solicitors and discuss the problem with them. I told Mr. Logan that the persons convicted were not responsible and we would be prepared to help. I said there was another man (other than Butler, Duggan and myself), the other man was in custody and I said we would need to know if this other man was willing to make a statement as well before we would say anything about the job. Mr. Logan said he would enquire and I gave him the name of Brendon Dowd. There was no discussion of the details of the two matters.

Shortly after my arrest I did tell Mr. Nevill of Metropolitan Police and Mr. Imbert of Surrey Police that the persons convicted of the incidents at Guildford and Woolwich had not been concerned in the incidents but I made no admission as to my own or anyone else's part - I gave no details to the police. The question in particular was about Woolwich and I think I may have said in reference to Guildford "Nothing to say".

In October, early October 1974, it was a Saturday, the Guildford incident took place but I want to think about it before I say anymore.

I was part of an active service unit of the Provisional I.R.A. - Part of my job was to pick out targets where the killing of soldiers would have been involved. We had got intelligence that there was

an army camp in Woolwich - the Royal Artillery who had soldiers serving in Northern Ireland.

In September, 1974, me and O'Dowd went to Woolwich intending to do intelligence on pubs near the army camp. When we got to Woolwich we looked into three or four pubs along Artillery Road - near Army camp - we just looked in - there wasn't many soldiers in any - when we got to the pub nearest the barracks - the Kings Arms - just as we were coming up to it a group of soldiers left - some in battle dress - some in civilian clothes - we knew by the hair and walk they were soldiers - we went in the bar for a drink. Lot of people in bar about 20 altogether. At least 15 soldiers. One of us got the drinks - I was just inside the door near juke box - just on right a few playing darts, on left were most soldiers sitting round tables - benches along wall. Had our drink watching them. The soldiers were watchful as well - you could see they knew we were strangers in the pub. Had another drink and left - there about 40 minutes. Outside Brendon had a look in lounge separate from the bar we had been in - a quick look - only a few couples there. Left the pub area. We decided of the pubs it was the best - amount of soldiers in it - a definite target.

Back to London to 21 Waldemar Avenue, Fulham, where I was lodging. Next time to Woolwich Brendon wanted to drive to see how easy to get away, we went by car. Just the two of us - just a few nights after the Guildford bombing - O'Dowd was driving. Didn't go in, drove straight to pub, turned left into Francis Street - I found out the name later. He drove right past pub to end of street, turned left and drove back to London. He said it was ideal to get away from.

Next time about a week before bombing I went again with O'Dowd by train to Woolwich Arsenal station - walked to Kings Arms. At this time it was decided the bomb would be thrown into the pub so we didn't go in. We felt after Guildford there was no chance of planting bomb. We intended a closer look at windows of pub on Francis Street side of it, there was a bar window through which we could throw it. Walked passed pub and on main road side was a small car park - not many cars in it - pretty dark - that side was a bigger window where you could look straight into bar - I got impression bar was at lower level than car park - might have been because window so big and ledge was only 2 feet from ground. Decided couldn't do it from that side because of our getaway from Francis Street. If to do it from car park

Brendon or I; I think Brendon, he checked pub - looked through car park window - came back and said "not many in it" meaning soldiers. Shortly after I got out and did the same thing - not many soldiers in it. Then decided to call it off - we thought we were too late getting there and decided to come back following night and get there earlier. Drove back to London - I think we brought car back across river and abandoned it. Not sure how we got back - probably tube and bus.

Next day, I think it was Wednesday or Thursday but it was a mid-week night. We followed the same procedure, except that Brendon and Harry left earlier. Eddie and myself went to Sloane Square pub. At about 9 o'clock Brendon and Harry came in and ordered drink. I think they sat down on their own. When finished we followed them out - car in same area - it was a Cortina 4 door dark coloured - I knew it was a Cortina it was in pretty good shape. I sat in front - Brendon drove as previous night. I had bomb in front in duffle bag on both occasions. Just before Francis Street Eddie got out to look into pub - he must have been on near side seat. We drove into Francis Street parked beyond a lorry. On sketch JOC 1 "P" is Kings Arms; "L" covered lorry; "C" is compressor; "D" is our car - Lorry faced towards pub our car faced opposite direction - back of lorry open - a man sat in it - I think he was about 60 - well towards driving cab - he must have had some sort of stove by which he was sitting - the lorry was lit inside. When parked the engine was switched off as well as the lights - other cars parked without lights further along. Eddie came back from pub got in back and said "Good crowd in pub". Just on left saw an entry - I think house on left - entry was in darkness, it looked like a hallway no door on front - empty house I think - lead to back - we decided we should check it for access via back of pub to car park - which would have meant we could throw bomb from car park. I got out and went into entry - dark lots of rubbish in sacks on floor. When I got to back I found a wall about 6 feet - back yard wall, I thought, so I decided that entry was useless. came back to footpath - walked to pub car park - and looked through window - bar pretty packed - back to car and sat in - the bomb I had left in car. Decided to do it from Francis Street. One should watch the man in back of lorry he appeared to be watching us, other two go to pub - I took bomb with me. Harry and Eddie got out, Eddie stayed near lorry to watch man - Harry and I went to window I

was just in front - when I got there I stood beside window - lit fuse by scraping match box over match on fuse - held it for a second to see it was alight and threw it at window. I threw it very hard and I think it went well into pub - turned and raced back towards car. It exploded as we were just passed lounge door before we reached the car - jumped into car. Brendon had already started engine and the car was driven off casually so that no one would notice it. As we drove off - on footpath opposite I saw a woman running towards pub - perhaps about 30 or 40 years. As we drove off on our left was another pub - lot of people came out looking towards blast but we didn't appear to be noticed. When we drove off the car lights were not on, I believe to avoid our number plate showing, they were switched on about the time we passed the second pub.

At the bottom of Francis Street we turned left and headed back towards the city - the centre of London. We must have driven 2 or 3 miles - then a lot of police cars going towards the bombing so we decided we had better abandon car in case number had been taken. I don't know district but we overtook a bus and shortly after parked the car in a street off the left - up steep hill - about 100 yards turned left and parked in that street. There were old flats about 3 storeys in that street. Got out of car, Harry and I went off first, Brendon and Eddie came after us. Brendon, I think, locked the car before he left it. Went back to main road, turned right to bus stop and caught bus we had just previously overtaken. Harry and myself got on bottom, Eddie and Brendon went up to top deck. I bought ticket for two, I think I asked for centre of London. At Elephant & Castle - I knew it - Harry and I got off because bus was travelling very slowly. We got tube to Putney Bridge or Parsons Green - not sure. Brendon and Eddie, I think, stayed on bus. I think me and Harry got in first, Brendon and Eddie about same time. We listened to radio as soon as we got in and heard the report of the incident we also read a good few newspapers next day. One particular thing was reported. A woman said she had seen a car parked near pub with four men in it. I think this woman had a miscarriage just after bombing. We thought, therefore, the police must have a good information about the car - as days went by there was no other word about it.

When doing the intelligence there may have been one other pub we drank in but I think Kings Arms was only one. We went there on week nights. We had had experience of bombs going through windows before -

we made sure there was no wire on window just plain glass. Plastic sheet was doubled, size of foolscap paper - clear plastic-bolts were laid on it alternatively one head up one down nuts just in between - explosive put on top - then sheet was rolled over bomb - ends taped together - then whole well taped over so that bolts didn't show.

I think we used masking tape and outside black PVC tape. All the bolts Brendon bought went into bomb about 3 lbs.

White Corsair had a black stripe around roof. It was pretty old car but I think in good condition.

We brought duffle bag back with us.

I wore jeans and dark plastic mac and gloves.

Brendon I'm sure wore plastic mac.

I wore a hat - a bush hat - Eddie might have had one. I wore it when going to throw the bomb as a disguise.

I stood about 2 feet away to throw bomb with my right hand. There was no one nearby at the time.

I have thought about Guildford and can say it took place early October on a Saturday night. There was a lot of intelligence done about a month beforehand. Brendon and I and another man - he was the same man who was with us on first night of Woolwich intelligence - he is not in custody. He was in my company when Armstrong, Hill and others were lifted. We did the intelligence about 3 weeks before, looking at several pubs. One was Star Bar others Seven Stars and Horse & Groom. The reason in first place was because we had reason to believe soldiers drank in Star Bar. When we got there we found Star Bar but no soldiers drinking in it - just walked about centre of Guildford saw Seven Stars immediately thought information was wrong that this was the bar so went into Seven Stars - into bar not many in but all soldiers. There was a disco separate from the bar - we drank in bar - not many people in disco - decided to come back there later. Just walked around again - not far from Seven Stars went into another pub - the Horse & Groom. Inside on left was tables and alcoves - seating around wall - bar was on right. One of us ordered drinks. Stood near bar and rack for coats near where we stood. Lot of soldiers in pub. Further in at back was a sort of lounge - not a door just an opening - mostly civilians in there. Left pub and returned to Seven Stars. Went into Disco, lot of people, packed, mostly soldiers, stood at back lot of soldiers

around us. Disco was pretty dark with different colour lights. As we were standing, table on right just inside door, we thought bomb could be planted under table. Left and returned to London, we travelled by car - not stolen - a hired car. We decided to return following week, earlier just after opening. Our intention was to plant bombs in Horse & Groom and Seven Stars. The reason for going back a second time was to have a better look at inside of pubs as to where bombs could be planted, also when not many people could see more clearly where bomb could be planted.

Following week during a week night Brendon and the other man I've mentioned went again, I didn't go. They came back about 11 o'clock - we talked - said bombs could be planted in both pubs - in Horse & Groom under the wall seat - in Seven Stars in Disco under the table behind door. In Disco it would have been dark most of time and by going in before crowd bomb could be left under table and not be noticed. That was a week night.

Following Saturday week night we decided to do it. We made bombs in Waldemar Avenue on day the bombing was done - two separate bombs about same size 6 lbs in each, Brendon and myself made them, the other man made timers - he used pocket watches - Smiths - he took off faces removed minute hand and made a hole in each of plastic face glass, the tape was put on face by 10 o'clock - the hole was in plastic cover (glass) towards centre so that hour hand passed hole - replaced face then piece of wire - bared end - double wire back over and fitted end into hole in glass put tape to hold wire in place - another wire wrapped around winder - the two wires were connected to a battery via a detonator - an electric detonator fixed into one of the sticks of gelignite - both bombs made the same way - 4½ volt battery flat type with screw terminals. The bombs weren't primed until we got to Guildford.

We went by car - not stolen - an Avenger or Marina - to Guildford leaving Fulham about four got there about quarter past five. Parked in a car park - a multi storey car park. We didn't use a stolen car because we would have been too long with it - chance of it being reported. We parked on a floor above the entrance - primed the bombs in the car that is attaching detonator watch and battery together. Say we set the bombs at 5.20pm we wanted them to go off at 9 pm so we set watches three and threequarters before that ten o'clock position. We decided

We decided that Brendon and other man having done intelligence they should split up - Brendon to Horse & Groom and other man to Seven Stars. There were five of us the other two were girls. One girl went with Brendon and the other girl went with me and other man to Seven Stars.

When we got to Seven Stars the other man looked into Disco and saw table behind door was occupied so we decided to go into bar. In bar just on our left we sat at table, there was a seat fixed to wall. I sat at table facing the other two inside me on wall seat. The other man ordered drinks. The bomb brought in by girl in her bag. She just put bag down by her feet and she had another similar bag inside her coat which she took out and left on table. While sitting the other man who was by her side pushed bag under seat with his feet. A group of soldiers sitting beside us - a juke box near bar - man who was with me put on a few records because pub was so quiet - just to distract people. We had two drinks altogether - man serving behind bar was fairly old - about 50 - seemed to be keeping a close eye on us and was a bit suspicious. At that point soldiers beside us had asked us if we knew what time the bus to Aldershot was - the man who was with me said he didn't know.

We then left after seeing bomb was well concealed under seat - left about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6. Back to car park, we first looked and saw Brendon and other girl not back. At back of car park was big field with trees, stayed there for fifteen minutes before the other two returned. When they arrived we got into car and drove out of park - must have taken wrong road - drove around and eventually saw sign for London and made our way back. At London about 9pm or quarter past had a drink in Durrell Arms, Fulham Road till 9 o'clock. We had the car parked just nearby - the other man left us. We listened to radio in car about 9-30 or $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 going towards North London to leave two girls home. The first report was that one had gone off - no word of second - after heard second had gone off - no report of serious casualties in second one.

Did visit other pubs other than those three mentioned, then didn't park in car park but in street. In 7 Stars it was a round table, the bar was dark, chairs around. No record kept of reconnaissance. Twelve sticks in each bomb. My girl's was hand grip two wooden handles, a lady's bag, closed by holding handles together, it was dark cloth material about foot long 6 or 7 inches high. Each of our girls had two bags each pair being similar. I think now the shoulder strap one

was with Brendon and my girl had the handle bags. The one I described above was with me - my girl's bags were of the same colour - black. Brendon's Girl's bags were of different colour - one left was lady's shoulder bag - brown - which we had found in Waldemar Avenue - the outside was sort of suede - imitation. I'd say closed by a flap - about 12 inches long, 7 or 8 inches high. I think there was a snap to close the flap. The bomb was lying flat in the bag the watch and battery were on top. The minute hand of the watch was snipped off the stub remaining on the centre pivot.

There was a small hallway as you enter Seven Stars, we sat just inside on left of door - bomb under wall seat near corner of hallway. Over to left was toilet and door to Disco. Facing me as we sat, the girl was on my left nearest the door.

We had parked about 2 storeys up - the exit was down. Field was on slope so that you could look down on some levels of park. I think stream or something at bottom.

Plan JOC 2 is of 7 Stars: "D" is Disco; "J" is Juke Box; "T" is table we intended to use; "T2" is table at which we sat; "M" is man; "W" is girl (associates); "C" is where I sat; "S" is where soldiers sat; "B" is where bomb was set; "T3" is toilets; "S" is where 8 soldiers at least sat, long table.

To go back to car I think we passed Horse & Groom. Arrows show direction we left. H & G is where I think Horse & Groom was in relation & Stars.

JOC 3 is Horse & Groom pub "W" is wall seats with some alcoves with partitions; "B" is bar - where I have put 2 "Os" were civilians at back; "T" I think were toilets.

Four or five could have sat by partitions of alcoves - soldiers were just inside door; "R" is Coat rack - free standing near wall.

7 Stars to Horse & Groom was about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile say about seven minutes to walk. I think it was a long narrow quiet street to car park.

(Signed) Joe O'Connell

This was read over to Joseph O'Connell by me after the Palantype operator had left. After making some amendments Joseph O'Connell agreed it represented the substance of what he said during the interview.

(Signed) J. Still

JOCI

ARTILLERY RD

JOC

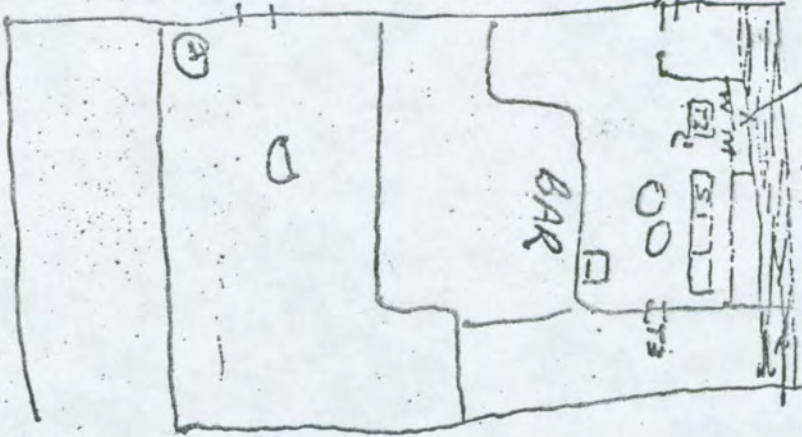
2

FRANCIS ST

JOC2

H.K.G.
X

MAIN RD



J.O.C.

BAR

D

D

D

JOC 3

J.O.C.

