



Policy Legacy FOI Team
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British Forces Post Office 801

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Reference: FOI: 2018/07382

Date: 30 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – INFORMATION RELATING TO PAUL WORRALL KILLED AT THE COSHQUIN BOMBING – 24 OCTOBER 1990

Thank you for your e-mail dated 4th June, I can confirm that your request has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI(A)), and the process is now complete.

You asked for the following:

"I am writing to you on behalf of [REDACTED] Paul Worrall (aged 23) was killed during the Coshquin Bombing, committed by the IRA on the 24th October 1990 in Northern Ireland."

I can confirm that the MOD holds some information relating to the murder of Private Worrall at the Coshquin Bombing. This information has been located in a range of documents, which I have provided relevant extracts at Annex A. These would have been highly redacted as the remaining information they include is outside the scope of your request. If you wish to receive the documents in the redacted format we can provide on request.

Some of the information you have requested could be exempt under Section 23(1) of the FOI(A), which relates to the bodies dealing with security matters, although it is also possible that the information relates to none of the bodies dealing with security matters. Sections 23(1) and 24(1) are being cited in the alternative as it is not appropriate, in the circumstances of the case, to say which of the two exemptions is actually engaged so as not to undermine national security or reveal the extent of any involvement, or not, of the bodies dealing with security matters. Section 23 is an absolute exemption and, if it were engaged in this material, the MOD would not be required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

Any information that is not exempt from disclosure under section 23(1) could be exempt under Section 24(1) of the FOI(A), which exempts information from disclosure if its exemption is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security. We cannot say which of the two exemptions is actually engaged, but to the extent that S24(1) might be engaged. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is a stronger public interest in protecting national security.

Some of the information located falls within the scope of Section 26 (Defence) of the FOI(A) as its release would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces. Section 26 is a qualified exemption and we have conducted a public interest test to determine whether the information should be released or withheld. The factors for this public interest have determined that whilst disclosure would demonstrate openness and transparency this is

outweighed by the detrimental effect disclosure would have in revealing the capabilities of military operational planning by compromising the methodologies and practices employed in the gathering and analysis of information. I have therefore concluded that the public interest supports withholding some information under Section 26.

All Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) cases remain open and if new evidence comes forward the PSNI will reinvestigate. Release of these documents must be carefully considered under Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the FOI (A). I have completed this consideration through a public interest test including consultation with the PSNI who have advised that release of some of the information could adversely impact on any investigative process, and may jeopardise any future prosecutorial process. On this basis I am withholding some of the information under Section 31 of the FOI (A).

I appreciate that this incident took place nearly 30 years ago and the passage of time can be a factor in diminishing the applicability of exemptions to information. However, in this instance the passage of time is less relevant as the PSNI continue to investigate Troubles-related murders and the overall balance is in favour of partial exemption.

In addition, some of the information falls within the scope of Section 38 (Health and Safety) of the FOI (A), as its release could endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or endanger the safety of any individual.

Section 38 is a qualified exemption and we have conducted a public interest test to determine whether the information should be released or withheld. The factors for this public interest have determined that whilst disclosure would demonstrate openness and transparency this is outweighed by the detrimental effect disclosure could have on those mentioned in the documents, or their family members and friends. I have concluded that whilst disclosure may be of historical interest, the health and safety of individuals must be taken into account especially where release would be likely to endanger, the physical or mental health of any individual. Some information has therefore been redacted under Section 38 of the FOI Act.

Some of the information contained within the disclosure constitutes personal information, such as names and addresses. Under FOIA 2000 this information is exempt under Section 40 (2) by reason of the first condition under Section 40 (3) (a) (i), as disclosure would contravene data protection principles under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA 98). This is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test to be conducted in order for this information to be exempt from disclosure. Therefore all information has been redacted.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the FOI(A). Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

38X Brigade FOI Team

Enc: Annex A: FOI 2018/07382 dated 30 July 2018

Verbatim Extracts from Various Documents Relating - Private Paul Worrall killed as the Coshquin Bombing - 24 Oct 1990

EOD Reports and Logs
 01 Apr 90 - 31 Oct 90

EOD No.	DTG TASKED	Type of Incident	Operator	Location incl Grid	Incident	Action Codes	Explosives/Detonators	Remarks	Wheelbarrow Performance
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
13441	240630 Oct 90 8 Bde 1 R Hamps	FALSE	[Redacted]	Buncranna Rd Londonderry [Redacted]	After Expl at PVCP V2 the RUC on route to scene of expl reported a hijacked car abandoned across Buncranna Rd	[Redacted]	N/A	The house of [Redacted] was taken over at approx. 2330 23 Oct 90 at approx. midnight [Redacted] and his car were taken by terrorists. After the explosion at the PVCP later in the morning, it was [Redacted] car which had been abandoned	OK
13442	240820 Oct 90 8 Bde 1 Kings	EXPL	[Redacted]	PVCP V2 Buncranna Rd [Redacted]	At approx. 0404 hours a large explosion occurred at the PVCP resulting in 5 deaths and several serious injuries	[Redacted]	NA	Explosion consistent with as estimated 1000 lb HME - 450kg. It appears the device was a primary car bomb but was initiated with driver still in the car. May have been an R/C device	NA

Daily Operation Brief – 230600A – 240600A Oct 90 No. 297/90

8 INF BDE

6. 240404A Explosion, Londonderry (1 R HAMPS)

0404A an explosion occurred inside the Buncranna Road PVCP, [Redacted]. Immediately afterwards, two separate groups, each of approximately 5 armed terrorists, approached the PVCP. Fire was exchanged. There was 5 military fatalities and 8 military casualties. The PVCP was badly damaged in the explosion. A suspect car was found abandoned on the Buncranna Road, [Redacted].

11 x Civ (I)

5 X Army (K)

[Redacted]

24789824 Kgn Worrall PD DOB 22/6/67 1 Kings (*sic*)

[Redacted]

Daily Operation Brief – 240600A – 250600A Oct 90 No. 298/90

Annex B to

HQ NI Daily Ops Brief 298/90

Dated 25 Oct 90

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS 8 INF BDE

040600A Follow up to Explosion, Londonderry (1R Hamps)

(Daily Operation Brief 297/90 refers)

1. Summary A proxy bomb detonated at Buncranna Road PVCP, [Redacted]. Killing 5 soldiers and injuring 8 others. The civilian driver of the proxy bomb is still missing.
2. Details
 - a. At 232330A gunmen entered [Redacted] Lenamore Gardens, Shantallow, [Redacted]. The owner [Redacted] a civilian cook at the Fort George SF Base was forced to drive a vehicle to the Buncranna Road PVCP, [Redacted]. The gunmen followed this vehicle in a Vauxhall Nova belonging to [Redacted].
 - b. At approximately 0400A the vehicle was driven into the search bay of the PVCP where a large explosion occurred at 0404A.

- c. The explosion caused 5 military fatalities and 13 military casualties. Immediately following the explosion an unknown number of armed terrorists attacked the entry area of the PVCP with 150 round of automatic fire and the terrorists retreated. No hits were claimed.
- d. The Nova car that had been used by the gunmen was later found abandoned on the Buncrana Road [Redacted]. Following EOD action the vehicle was declared clear at 0958A (Follow up proved negative)
- e. [Redacted] is still missing.
- f. PIRA Have claimed responsibility for the attack.

Log Sheet – 5 UDR – 24 Oct 90

Ops Room

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Sign
02	0420	CO	C12	Proxy bomb at Buncrana PVCP 2 at 0404Hrs cas at Sangar and accommodation block	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
03	0426	DO	D13	[Redacted]		[Redacted]
04	0450	CO	C12	At present 3 x Cas with 4 ranks not accounted for buried (sic) In the accommodation block		[Redacted]
05	0510	CO	C12	Suspicious veh a red [Redacted] with 3 masked men seen Driving in Moss Pk possible secondary device at junction of Buncrana Rd and Branch Rd House takeover at [Redacted] [Redacted] H/T At 2355 Hrs		
06	0640	CO	C12	ATO Request A. Clearance of car B. [Redacted] C. ICP [Redacted] Sitrep Exp 0404 Hrs		[Redacted]
07	0720	CO	C12	5 Dead, 5 Injuries number of shock victims 5 Terrorist engaged Fm city side 5 terrorist fm border side fired rtn with GPMG terrorists abandoned [Redacted] Vauxhall Nova Branch Rd/ Buncrana Rd		[Redacted]

Log Sheet – 5 UDR – 24 Oct 90

Forward Ops

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Sign
07	0427	PIN		At 0404 explosion at Buncrana PVCP 3 X cas Mil evac.		[Redacted]
		CO	C12	By civi amb & RUC. Fire returned		
10	0451	PIN		3 x Cas Evacuated details to follow 4 x Ranks still unaccounted		
		CO	C12	for thought to be buried in rubble of accom block. Which is being cleared.		[Redacted]
12	0510	PIN		Poss secondary device at V2 red [Redacted] with 4 masked		
		CO	C12	men seen in Boundry Road RUC info of a house takeover [Redacted] Lenamore Gdns at 2355 [Redacted]		[Redacted]
16	0715	PIN		Ref Exp V2 it occurred from area generator room complete		
		CO	C12	destruction of base PSA working just before. 5 dead 5 seriously injured evacuated Altnaglevin numerous shock victims 10 x terrorists open fire into PVCP 5 either side tried to move in but couldn't so continued to fire into victor Sus veh Brough Rd Buncrana Rd junction 150 rnds fired from GPMG terrorists fled follow up in progress		

Log Sheet – 6 UDR – 24 Oct 90

6 UDR Ops

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Sign
11	0529	Ops	RUC Omagh	Another proxy bomb at Buncrannagh (<i>sic</i>) PVCP 2 x dead at least 15 injured no further details	Int Info	[Redacted]

Log Sheet – 24 Oct 90
 G3 Ops HQNI

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Sign
8	0429	X	8X	SITREP Explosion 0427 outside V2 GR 410208. Cas are tps in accom QRF dep in CPV to secure area. Casevac by civ amb. Fire returned, Details N/K.		[Redacted]
13	0451	X	8X	All cas evacuated, 4 ranks unaccounted for poss buried in rubble		[Redacted]
15	0510	X	8X	Sus veh red [Redacted] in Moss Park 3-4 men poss 2ary dev on Buncrana Rd – conf in progress. HTO [Redacted]-Lenamoor Gnds (<i>sic</i>) 2355A Civ Staff from Fort George		
18	0523	X	8X	2 fatality Londonderry		[Redacted]
23	0550	X	8X	Large veh drove into search bay PVCP, comd sang & accom block demolished		[Redacted]
29	0713	X	8X	<u>SITREP</u> V2 Expl 0404 area generator room accom blk cas 5 dead, 5 injured, 1 SI evac to alt hosp Numerous shock cas 5 terr attack form city 5 from border side City eng GPMG 150 rds Both gps att entry, unable to do so. Fired into area. Terr retreated. Sus Nova car at Gr [Redacted]. ATO on task. Cordon by QRF. Engr Recce. en route. Reports of 3 to 4 men in Moss Park GR [Redacted]		[Redacted]
33	0746	X	8X	100 rds returned by sangars/sentry		
43	0949	8X	C12	<u>SITREP</u> V2 Expl ATO cleared car outside [Redacted] moved to ICP at GR 415206 WIS found poss car remains 5 dead, 5 inj (1 with blast Inj) house searches underway.		

58		8X		V2 232355 HTO [Redacted] Lenamoor Gdns (<i>sic</i>),[Redacted]. 240404 – Expl V2 as a result of proxy bomb driven in – fol up asslt by terrorists foiled due to rubble. 5 x 1 Kings killed others VSI all in Ag (<i>sic</i>) Hosp. [Redacted] still missing PVCP extensively damaged. Size of device to be confirmed.
61	1534	CO	C12	<u>SITREP</u> ATO Complete poss radio active spillage cleared. Forensic evidence being collected. Cas were team preparing to move out. Device in Veh in search bay (TBC) HTO Leanmoore Gdns. (<i>sic</i>) [Redacted] Poss RCIED attack House searches – NTR
62	1540	CO	L21	L21 finished task. Just clearing weapons left.
63	1558			Body of [Redacted] found (TBC)
65	2044	X	8X	<u>SITREP</u> RUC halted forensic search. 1 x civ body discovered at V2. Remains Cordoned. 21 house searches, NTR Engr recce tomorrow.

NIREP FM 232359A OCT 90 to 242329A OCT 90

SITREP No 7529

(1) 1RHAMPS N Div/Londonderry/Waterside

(A) At approx. 232355A Oct 90 at least 3 masked men entered [Redacted] Lenamore Gdns, Shantallow GR [Redacted] home of [Redacted]. At 0404hrs explosion at PVCP 2 GR [Redacted]. Foll by an attack by terrorists on PVCP 2 Sangar sentry returned fire. No hits reported. Explosion at PVCP 2 resulted in the death of 5 times sldrs. and injury sustained by 13 times sldrs. Further, a [Redacted] Vauxhall Nova vrn [Redacted] found abandoned at junction Buncrana Rd and Branch Rd GR [Redacted]. ATO L21 tasked [Redacted] to car and PVCP 2. Task completed [Redacted] nothing found in car at PVCP 2 no further explosives found. During FU action RUC and Army made 24 times OCC house searches leading one arrest. FU investigation ongoing

RMP GAZETTE – Fri 20 Nov 90

492 (L/150) Murder of Security Forces
 (Assistance to RUC)

CCRIO RMP[Redacted]
 [Redacted]

About 0420 hrs on Wed 24 Oct 90 information was received from the Watchkeeper, HQ 8 Inf Bde, BFPO 807, that about 0405 hrs that same morning, an explosion had occurred at the V2 permanent vehicle checkpoint, (PVCP), Buncrana Road, Londonderry. At the time of the incident the location was being manned by personnel for both 1 KINGS, BFPO 802, and 172 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 807 and a number of fatalities and casualties had been sustained

Radio Log Books – Bn Comp – from 21 Oct 1990

Time	Call		N.R. No.	Text
	To	From		
0404	WO	V2		Explosion at V2 terrorists still atk large explo No atk sangers in confusion started firing
0418	WO	V2		Theres is no atk at this stage we have multiple casualties
0420	MO	M50		Tasked civvie amb sending ORF in CPV- V2 Vast damage heavy cas
0421	M50	MO		Ref [Redacted] 5 mins Abandoned car on Buncrana Branch Rd Junc
0425	MO	M50		Cas – Altnaglevin can you arrange reception
0428	MO	M50		2 pax trapped 4 seriously injured
0429	MO	M50		3 x cas – hosp
0432	-	-		Large destruction 4 pax cannot be locate
0433	WO	V2		3 pax hosp 1 missing at this time
0439	WO	V2		Garda have still got crossing point open
0445	WO	W33A		3 pax not accounted for expected to be in accommodation 1 in supersanger
451	M50	MO		Permission to use night on 1 poss in supersanger 2 in poss comd sanger 1 unaccounted for

0500	M50		Branch Rd/Buncrana Rd to be cleared
0504	MO	M30	Report of 4 masked men in a Red [Redacted] in Moss Park Note handed by [Redacted] pax unaccounted for [Redacted] home take over [Redacted] Lennanmore Gdn (<i>sic</i>) 2355 hrs [Redacted]
0505	INFO		
0517	WO	M44B	Bright green light Blinding light loud bang what was heard at the time [Redacted] veh abandoned
0520			
0525	WO		No requirement for plant yet
0527		WO	We expect it was a IED not a MORTAR
0537	M50	MO	Do you req add lightning W-1-G5 has 10 mins left can you get another one
0540	CO	L2?	Arrive at FG. Hold the plant at your loc until tasked All pax accounted for
0547	MO	M50	Fire fight in conjunction with explosion

Radio Log Books – A Coy 1 R Hamps – from 21 Oct 1990

Time	Call		N.R. No.	Text
	To	From		
0405	WO	WIOC		Contact explosion V2 Lurk Sw moving in now BN info
0412	WO	WIOC		Automatic gun fire possibly from sanger.
0419				Armoured Sierra on route to your loc Pos several people in accom Shooting stopped Cas multiple injuries plant req for accm 1 x amb up Buncrana now
0430	E4OA	EO		Move to Cregltan now with your 3 team paralleling Croarty Rd
0432	EO	E40B		Do you wish me to support Vi by moving closer on the high ground Yes move now
0436	E4OA	EO		Move your 3 team into Ballymagroarty where you can cover trench rd
0437	WO			
0440	WO	V2		Guardi (<i>sic</i>) have BCP open QIA cordoning South road still being used

0445	VI	4OB	Now in loc north of you 3 x cas 3 c/s not account Mas destruction to accom
0452	WO	WIOC	4 people not accounted for
0456	EO	E4OA	Buncranna/Northland Roger stay there
0459			[Redacted] nova Templemore Branch Rd Buncranna
0503	WO		Press arrived this loc
	E4OA	EO	Coshquin Rd to secure check [Redacted] Nova send SITREP
0504	E4	E3OB	Handed a note 4 x masked men [Redacted] Lada Moss Pk [Redacted] all c/s info
0508	EO	E4OB	Car left nothing susp. lights on doors open opposite side to driver on
0509	EO	M445	Poss found cas under accom

Synopsis of Events

Item	Date/Time/Place	Details
N2 NDA 016 Proxy Bomb Explosion And Murder Update	24.10.90 0410 Hours Londonderry	<p><u>Proxy Bomb Explosion and Six Persons Murdered</u></p> <p>At 1300 hrs on 24.10.90 post mortems were carried out on the bodied of the two identified Soldiers –</p> <p>(1) WORRELL (<i>sic</i>) Paul Desmond DOB 29.01.71(<i>sic</i>) of 1st Kings (2) [Redacted] - do - died from blast injuries.</p> <p>The three Soldiers missing presumed dead are –</p> <p>(3) [Redacted] 1st Kings Regiment (4) [Redacted] - do - (5) [Redacted] - do -</p> <p>The body of civilian, [Redacted], from [Redacted] Lenamore Gardens, Londonderry</p>

was formally identified at the Mortuary, and a autopsy carried out on the 25.10.90.
A number of persons arrested by the Gardai in Eire after the explosion appeared at
Dublin
Special Criminal Court on 25.10.90. Police investigations continue.

N3
NDA 003
Proxy Bomb
Explosion/

24.10.90
0410 hrs
Londonderry

Subsequent enquires reveal a house take over and vehicle hi-jacking at [Redacted]
Lenamore Gardens. [Redacted] Two soldiers are confirmed dead. A further three soldiers
are missing presumed dead as is [Redacted]
Five soldiers sustained injury, one of them is described
as very serious and in the Intensive Care Unit. The soldiers are all members of 'D'
Company 1st Kings Regiment. Thirteen civilians from the housing estate treated for
shock and minor injuries. The PVCP is destroyed and there is substantial damage to the
houses in the nearby Glenview housing estate. [Redacted].