



Policy Legacy FOI Team
Headquarters 38 (Irish) Brigade
British Forces Post Office 825

E-Mail: 38X-PolicyLegacy-FOI-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk



Reference: FOI: 2019/03733

Date: 1 July 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – ARMY RECORDS IN RELATION TO THE IRA BOMBING AT THE TEEBANE JUNCTION ON 17 JANUARY 1992

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 in order to request the army records in relation to the IRA bombing at the Teebane junction on 17 January 1992, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could let me know whether you have any records for the period dating from 14 to 18 January 1992.”

I can confirm that the MOD holds some information relating to the Teebane bombing on 17 January 1992. 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. Also attached at Annexes B – E are extracts of the following redacted documents:

HQ 3 INF BDE Serious Incident Report 10/92
IED Incident Report No: 157111
8 UDR Int Cell Log Sheet
RUC Terrorist Incident - Cookstown Sub Division

Please note all information redacted using a black box is due to the information being redacted under a Freedom of Information exemption. Information redacted using a white box is because the information is outside scope of your request.

Some of the information you have requested could be exempt under Section 23(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, 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 or 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 27 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(A).

Additionally, some of the information contained within the disclosure constitutes personal information, such as names and addresses. Under FOI(A) 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 2018 (DPA 2018). 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 personal 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.gov.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

38 (Irish) Brigade FOI Team

Annexes:

- A. Verbatim Extracts from Various Documents
- B. HQ 3 INF BDE Serious Incident Report 10/92
- C. IED Incident Report No: 157111
- D. 8 UDR Int Cell Log Sheet
- E. RUC Terrorist Incident - Cookstown Sub Division

Verbatim Extracts from Various Documents Relating to the Teebane Bombing on 17 January 1992

Royal Military Police NI Gazette dated Fri 24 Jan 92

53. (A/6) ALLEGED MURDER
 (Assistance to RUC)

CCRIO NO 36405/92
 [Redacted]

About 2315 hrs on Fri 17 Jan 92, information was received from the Watchkeeper, HQ 3 Inf Bde, BFPO 803, that about 1710 hrs that day, at the crossroads of Teebane Road and Drum Road, Dunnamore, Co Tyrone, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) had exploded at the side of the road whilst a blue Mercedes van, Reg No [Redacted], was passing the location. Fourteen employees of [Redacted], were travelling in the vehicle, [Redacted]. As a result of the incident the vehicle was completely destroyed and seven of the civilian occupants were killed, [Redacted] and remaining passengers all sustained various injuries.

DEATHS, DUE TO THE SECURITY SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	LOCATION
HARKNESS, D	17.01.92	COOKSTOWN
BLEEKS, W G A	17.01.92	COOKSTOWN
DUNSEATH, R J	17.01.92	COOKSTOWN
McCONNELL, J R	17.01.92	COOKSTOWN
CALDWELL, C J	17.01.92	COOKSTOWN
McKEE, N	17.01.92	COOKSTOWN
IRONS, R	17.01.92	COOKSTOWN
GILCHRIST, O	21.01.92	COOKSTOWN

G3 LISTS OF DEATH 1012 VOL 7

1992										
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
2031	17 JAN	MR	N	MCKEE	P	22	TEEBANE	EXPL	PIRA	1992017003
2032	17 JAN	MR	JR	MCCONNELL	P	38	TEEBANE	EXPL	PIRA	1992017003
2033	17 JAN	MR	R	IRONS	P	61	TEEBANE	EXPL	PIRA	1992017003
2034	17 JAN	MR	D	HARKNESS	P	23	TEEBANE	EXPL	PIRA	1992017003
2035	17 JAN	MR	O	GILCHRISH (sic)	P	21	TEEBANE	EXPL	PIRA	1992017003
2036	17 JAN	MR	RJ	DUNSEATH	P	25	TEEBANE	EXPL	PIRA	1992017003
2037	17 JAN	MR	CJ	CALDWELL	P	37	TEEBANE	EXPL	PIRA	1992017003
2038	17 JAN	MR	WG	BLEEKS	P	35	TEEBANE	EXPL	PIRA	1992017003

6 UDR - DETAILS OF OCCURRENCE

SERIAL NO	DATE and TIME	REPORTED BY	DETAILS OF OCCURRENCE	ACTION TAKEN	SIGNATURE	INITIAL
1073	17: 1720	Ops	C/S X10A at 1716 hrs. Heard a Explosion North West of there (sic) position Grid 621677 approx 6/7 Ks away. 999 Call to Omagh RUC reporting a explosion Heard in the area of Carrickmore area	8 UDR Ptl also heard a Explosion poss area 67280 Ops info'd	[Redacted]	
1074	17 1730	Sgt [Redacted]	8 UDR Confirmed an Explosion at Gr 672804 Teebane Bridge poss three Cas	Weekly Intsum to date	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

CWIEDs – 1992

SER	DATE	LOCATION	GRID REF	NO OF DEVICES	TYPE	EXPL/NEUT	WGT	CASUALTIES
01	17 JAN 92 (1710)	DRUM RD, TEEBANE, COOKSTOWN, CO TYRONE	67277990 (03) (8UDR)	1	CWIED	1 X EXPL	150 kgs HME	8 x CIV P (K). 4 x CIV P (W) [Redacted], [Redacted]

52 (Niagara) Field Battery Log Sheet dated 17 Jan 92

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Initials
024	1745	YØ		REPORTS LARGE EXPLOSION TO OUR NORTH. FROM AUGHNACLOY RUC CONFIRMS LARGE EXPLOSION TO THE NORTH ON THE OMAGH COOKSTOWN ROAD 3 CASUALTIES REPORTED SO FAR. GR 673799	[Redacted] BC INFORMED A/Ops OFFR INFO	[Redacted] [Redacted]

45 FD REGT (RA) DRB Log Sheet dated 17 Jan 92

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Initials
18	1740	MØ	YØ	CLOUGHER Ops REPORT LARGE BANG AT 1731hrs IN THE AREA KLI. GR 673799 3 CASUALTIES	OPS OFFICER INFO'D	[Redacted]

B (Sp) Coy 2 RGJ Log Sheet dated 17 Jan 92

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Initials
20	1735	RKU	RUC CDG	INITIAL REPORT ON POLICE NET OF EXPLOSIONS ON BOUNDARY OF OMAGH AND COOKSTOWN POLICE AREAS. BELIEVED THAT A WORKERS' VAN EXPLODED, POSSIBLY THREE DEAD	LOGGED ØB INFORMED	[Redacted]
22	1800	FØ	RUC Castledearg	REF EXPLOSION: THEY BELIEVE IT IS AT TEEBAME (sic) X-ROADS AND THERE HAVE BEEN FATALITIES AND CASUALTIES (sic). CULVERT DEVICE	1, Ø13 INFORMED 2, FØA - "-	[Redacted]
29	1950	FØ	RUC Castledearg	REF COOKSTOWN BOMB: 7 CONFIRMED DEAD 7 INJURED 1 INJURED SAYS 19 PEOPLE IN VAN THEREFORE 5 PEOPLE NOT ACCOUNTED FOR	1, 2IC + FØA INFORMED	[Redacted]
30	2050	FØ	INT	REF SER 29: MINIBUS WAS TRAVELLING FROM OMAGH TO COOKSTOWN	1, 2IC + FØIA INFORMED	[Redacted]

5 UDR Ops South M/Felt Log Sheet dated 17 Jan 92

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Initials
26	1725	INFO	ONLY	OVERHEARD ON RUC NET EXPLOSION AT GRID 673799. CASUALTYS(sic)	OC C COY AND OPS WOS INFO C/S ON GROUND INFORMED	[Redacted]
27	1735	INFO	ONLY	REF EXPLOSION SER 26. IT WAS A [Redacted] VAN	ABOVE INFO	[Redacted]
29	1745	INFO	ONLY	OVERHEARD ON PIN REF SER 26	LOGGED	[Redacted]

					3-CASUALTYS-(sic) 7 DEAD LOOKING FOR MORE				
30	1815	INFO	ONLY		REF SER 29 ON RUC NET 7 DEAD 6 INJURED 1 UNACCOUNTED FOR		LOGGED		[Redacted]
31	1834	INFO	ONLY		REF SER 26 FP GRID [Redacted], EXPLO GRID 672798. COMD WIRE & BATT PACK FOUND				[Redacted]
52	2300	ØB	RUC		[Redacted]		LOGGED CO INFORMED DUTY OFFICER 1/9 UDR INFORMED ØL INFORMED. TO INFORM 176 PROV RMP		[Redacted]

TAC OPS 5 UDR Log Sheet dated 17 Jan 92

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Initials
17	1740	DWK	Ops S	That their(sic) was a explosion at Grid 673799 the main road fm Cookstown to Omagh. It is believed that their(sic) is 6 x fatal casualties RUC are at the scene. The vech(sic) is believed to belong to [Redacted] who carries out work for S/F.		[Redacted]
18	1750	DWK	Maj [Redacted]	Over heard on RUC net that their(sic) is 7 x Cas and still looking for more bodies	Ops Officer info'd	[Redacted]
19	1820	DWK	Maj [Redacted]	That their(sic) is 7 x fatalities + 7+ injured, injured taken to MID ULSTER and that C coy will supply the initial guard until they sort it out with the RUC.	Ops Officer info	[Redacted]

20	1850	Bde W/K	DWK	SITREP ON MID ULSTER HOSPITAL That C coy have 2 x Teams. Low profile on outskirts of Hospital covering RUC entering and leaving	Bde W/K to info COS	[Redacted]
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3 INF BDE NIREP dated 18 Jan 92

NIREP FROM 162359Z JAN 92 TO 172359Z JAN 92
 SITREP NO 1293

1. BDE SUMMARY. MULTIPLE MURDER CWIED
2. INCIDENTS

A. INCIDENTS

(5) 8 UDR K DIV

AT 1710 HRS A BLUE FORD TRANSIT VAN (VRN [Redacted] REMAINDER N/K) CARRYING 14 CONTRACTORS WAS BLOWN UP AT THE TEEBANE CROSS ROAD, GR 67237991 KILLING SEVEN OF THE MEN AND INJURING THE REMAINING SEVEN. THE VEH WAS TRAVELLING FROM OMA TO BALLYCLARE ON THE OMA/CTN RD (A505) WHEN THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE. FFUID

3 INF BDE NIREP dated 19 Jan 92

NIREP FROM 172359Z JAN 92 TO 182359Z JAN 92
 SITREP NO 1294

1. BDE SUMMARY
2. INCIDENTS

A. INCIDENTS

(5) 8 UDR K DIV

(C) FU TO EXPLOSION OMA/CTN RD. ATO TASKED [Redacted] HRS COMPLETED [redacted] HRS. REC 1 TIMES FIRING PACK, COMPRISING OF [Redacted] BATTERYS, COVERED IN BLACK PAT. BELL PUSH AND 200M OF WHITE TWIN FLEX. SEAT OF EXPLOSION GR 67237991 FP GR [Redacted]. DEVICE LOCATED BESIDE A TELEGRAPH POLE. INCIDENT CLOSED 1815 HRS

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND SUMMARY JANUARY 1992

1. There were fifteen fatalities including the deaths of eight contractors when a CWIED detonated at TEEBANE on 17 January.

FATALITIES

3. f. 17 Jan. David Harkness, William Bleeks, Robert Dunsheath, **(sic)** John McConnell, Cecil Caldwell, Nigel McKee and Robert Irons died when a CWIED destroyed their minibus at TEEBANE. All were contractors and had been working at LISANELLY Barracks. PIRA claimed responsibility.
- g. 21 Jan. Oswald Gilchrist died in hospital from injuries sustained in the CWIED attack on 17 Jan.

FRI 17

19. 1710 HOURS. EXPLOSION/EIGHT CIVILIAN FATALITIES, TEEBANE (8 UDR). At 1710 hours, an explosion occurred. 7 civilians were killed and 7 more injured.

- a. Background. The explosion occurred at the TEEBANE Crossroad on the A505. A blue transit van, carrying 14 building workers, was passing as the device was detonated. The vehicle was very badly damaged and all those within were either killed or injured.
- b. Fatalities. There were 7 fatalities: Robert Irons, David Harkness, David Dunsath**(sic)**, Jimmy Caldwell, Richard McConnell, Nigel McKee and William Gary Alexander Bleakes.
- c. Casualties The seven injured were: [Redacted], [Redacted], [Redacted], [Redacted], [Redacted], [Redacted] and [Redacted]. They were evacuated to: Mid-ULSTER Hospital, MAGHERAFELT, SOUTH TYRONE Hospital, DUGANNON and TYRONE County Hospital, OMAGH. Gilchrist died as a result of his injuries on 21 Jan.

d. ATO ATO was tasked at [Redacted] hours. He carried out an initial clearance of the seat of the explosion and estimated the cause to have been a device of 100 -200 kgs, initiated by a command wire. He completed the task at [Redacted].

DAILY OPERATIONS BRIEF

PERIOD: 170700Z - 180700Z JAN 92

NO: 18/92



- David Hennes (Prof)
- William Gary Burns (Prof)
- Robert John Dunserm (Gov)
- John Richard McConnell (Prof)
- Carol James Campbell (Prof)
- Nigel McKee (Prof)
- Robert Irons (Prof)
- Oswald Golchroist (Prof) - died 21 Jan (1500hrs)

NORTHERN IRELAND

1 x Expl: 150 kg RME
(Carried/Ambush)
8 x Civ (6) / 4 x Civ (2)

PROVINCE SITREP

017/003 Recv: 220m. Unid. Que
1 x Furg. Rack

3 INF BDE

- 03 Bde / RURA GS:HG7271990 </DUNMURICE
171710Z. EXPLOSION/SEVEN CIVILIAN FATALITIES, TEEBANE
18 UDRI. At 1710Z an explosion occurred, 7 civilians were
killed and 7 more were injured.

a. Background. The explosion occurred at the TEEBANE Crossroads on the A505, GR 67277990. A white minibus, carrying 14 building workers, was passing as the device was detonated. The vehicle was very badly damaged and all those within were either killed or injured. (Capt: SF Contractors)

b. Fatalities. There were 7 fatalities, Robert Irons, David Harkness, David Dunsath, Jimmy Caldwell, Richard McConnell, Nigel McKee and William Gary Alexander Bleakes.

c. Casualties. The seven injured were: [redacted] - Oswald Golchroist and [redacted]. They were evacuated to: Mid-Minster Hospital, MAGHERAFELT, SOUTH TYRONE Hospital, DUNGANNON and TYRONE County Hospital, OMAGH. One of those injured is listed as critical.

c. ATO. ATO was tasked at [redacted]. He carried out an initial clearance of the seat of the explosion and estimated the cause to have been a device of 100 - 200 kgs, initiated by a command wire. A follow-up will be carried out in daylight to confirm the firing point and to complete a full clearance.

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DAILY OPERATIONS BRIEF

PERIOD: 180700Z - 190700Z JAN 92

NO: 19/92



SMTS

NORTHERN IRELAND

PROVINCE SITREP

3 INF BDE

1. 181030Z. FOLLOW-UP TO EXPLOSION, TEEBANE (8 UDR). (Daily Operations Brief 18/92 refers). ATO was tasked at [REDACTED] to the scene of yesterday's explosion. He completed the task at [REDACTED] and recovered a firing pack consisting of, [REDACTED] batteries, a bell push and 200m of white flex, from a firing point at, GR [REDACTED]

Checked 017/03

G3 STATS
SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORT
Jan 1992
2000 VOL 15



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HEADQUARTERS 3 INFANTRY BRIGADE
British Forces Post Office 803

Telephone Army Network Armagh Mil Ext
STD (0861) 523821 46461

See Distribution

Your reference

Our reference 3391/1 G3(Ops)

Date 10 Feb 92

HQ 3 INF BDE SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORT 10/92
CWIED/TEEBANE CROSSROADS - 17 JAN 92

Reference:

- A. Unit Incident Report 8 UDR 9/92 dated 27 Jan 92.
- B. WISREP 3WIS/NORTH/B/09/92 dated 22 Jan 92.

OUTLINE

1. At approximately 171710Z JAN 92, as a blue MERCEDES Van VRN [REDACTED] belonging to [REDACTED] was travelling east towards COOKSTOWN on the A505, an explosion occurred on the southern side of the road at the TEEBANE CROSSROADS, GR 67257989.

2. The van was hit by the blast causing it to go out of control. It overturned and hit a road sign before coming to rest. There were fourteen men travelling in the van seven of whom died at the scene and one who died of his injuries in hospital. The deceased were named as the following:

- a. David HARKNESS.
- b. William Alexander BLEAKES.
- c. Robert John DUNSEITH.
- d. John Richard McCONNELL.
- e. Cecil James CALDWELL.
- f. Nigel McKEE.
- g. Robert IRONS.
- h. Oswald GILCHRIST.

3. The area was cordoned and ATO tasked. After EOD action the following items were recovered:

- a. From the scene of the explosion:

(1) 1 x blue MERCEDES Van VRN [REDACTED]

1.
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Annex B
FOI 2019/03733
Dated 1 July 2019

- (2) Remains of blue and black plastic drums.
- (3) Remains of fertilizer sacks.
- (4) Personal belongings of vans occupants.

b. From the Firing Point:



DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

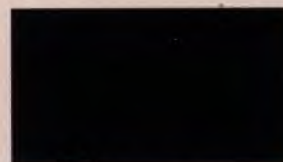
4. Full details of the incident are contained in Reference A and B.

COMMENT

5. This is the worst death toll since the ENNISKILLEN massacre in 1987. The Mercedes van was not using a prescribed route [REDACTED] and had used the same van at regular times, on the same route, for the last two weeks. If [REDACTED] had adhered to Op IRONSIDE advice, this incident may have been avoided.

6. Threat to construction workers has often been reiterated by PIRA and this incident only underlines how vulnerable they are and how important it is that they are reminded of the need to take military/RUC advice on security.

7. The Commanding Officers comments are enclosed and endorsed by this HQ.



Maj
for Comd

Enclosures:

1. Unit Incident Report 8 UDR 9/92 dated 27 Jan 92.
2. WISREP 3WIS/NORTH/B/09/92 dated 22 Jan 92.

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Internal:

RUC
File
Float

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8th (County Tyrone) Battalion
The Ulster Defence Regiment
BFPO 803

Dungannon Mil 48200

1801/G3

See Distr

17th Jan 92

INCIDENT REPORT NO 09/92

MURDER OF CIVILIAN WORKERS AT TEEBANE CROSSROADS - 17 JAN 92

References:

- A. 8 UDR NIREP NO 017/92 DATED 172359Z JAN 92.
- B. 3 INF BDE NIREP NO 1293 DATED 180210Z JAN 92.

1. Introduction. This was the murder of eight civilian workers at the Teebane Crossroads, Gr 6723 7991 on the 17 Jan 92.

2. Details of Incident.

a. At approx 1710hrs on 17 Jan 92 an explosion occurred on the Drum Road, Cookstown at Teebane Crossroads. As a result of this explosion (which occurred on the right hand side of the road when travelling from Omagh to Cookstown) a blue mercedes van, VRN [REDACTED] was totally destroyed. This van belonged to [REDACTED]. There was a total of 14 pax in the veh - 8 of whom are dead. It is believed that this road may have been used over a period of time by [REDACTED]. This particular merc van has been used for at least the past fortnight travelling from Omagh to Magherafelt. The van and workers had left Lisanelly Bks, Omagh, where they had been working, a short time before the explosion.

b. The following is a list of the names of the deceased:

DECEASED

(1) David Harkness	Cookstown
(2) William Alexander Bleeks	Cookstown
(3) Robert John Dunseith	Magherafelt
(4) John Richard McConnell	Doagh
(5) Cecil James Caldwell	Cookstown
(6) Nigel McKee	Ballymena
(7) Robert Irons	Ballymena
(8) Oswald Gilchrist	Magherafelt

c. 17 Jan 92, at 2238hrs Ulster Television received a call from a male caller stating that Tyrone Brigade PIRA claimed responsibility for the landmine attack on the Cookstown/Omagh Road.

3. Details of Follow Up.

- a. 171710Z Jan 92 - Report of large explosion from RUC Cookstown.
- b. 171724Z Jan 92 - Confirmation of large explosion at Teebane Crossroads Gr 6723 7991.
- c. 171746Z Jan 92 - C/S LOA & LOB deployed to scene.

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d. [redacted] Jan 92 - C/S Y20A deployed to scene by CPV escorting ATO to ICP, Gr 673 800.

e. [redacted]
[redacted]

f. [redacted]

g. 171855Z Jan 92 - Comd Offr 8 UDR on way to scene of explosion.

h. [redacted] CATO at ICP.

j. 172026Z Jan 92 - U20A deployed to Cordon position.

k. 172330Z Jan 92 - Cordon positions:

[redacted]

- l. [redacted] - ATO returned to scene.
- m. [redacted] - ATO retrieved firing pack from firing point.
- n. [redacted] - RESA & REST arrived at ICP.
- o. [redacted] - WIS tasked.
- p. [redacted] - SOCO & forensics arrived at ICP.
- q. [redacted] - WIS & Coroner arrived at ICP.
- r. [redacted] - ATO task complete.
- s. [redacted] - REST task complete.
- t. [redacted] - DOE cleaning road, van recovered.
- u. [redacted] - SOCO making mould of tyre tracks.
- v. [redacted] - SOCO finished, task completed.
- w. [redacted] - Incident closed.

4. Details of Items Recovered. The following items were recovered:

[redacted]

d. Blue mercedes van VRN [redacted]

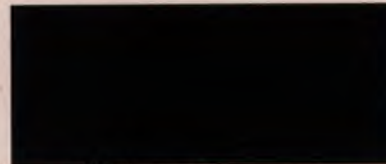
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5. Troops and RUC Involved.

- a. B Coy 1 QLR.
- b. B Coy 8 UDR DUNGANNON.
- c. C Coy 8 UDR COOKSTOWN.
- d. RUC COOKSTOWN.

6. Agencies.

- a. SOCO COOKSTOWN.
- b. ATO ARMAGH.
- c. WIS ARMAGH.
- d. REST ANTRIM.
- e. RESA DUNGANNON.
- f. CATO LISBURN.
- g. MAPPING & PHOTOGRAPHY DUNGANNON.
- h. NIFSL BELFAST.
- j. CID DUNGANNON.



CSgt

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7. Commanding Officers Comments.

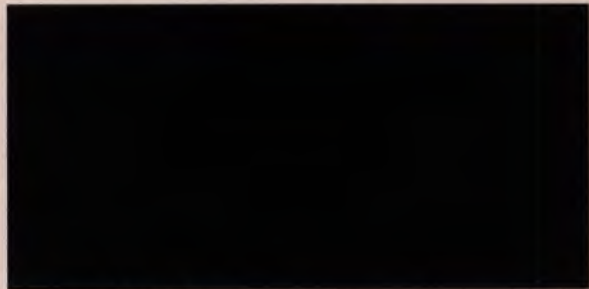
a. A horrific incident which shows PIRA's true colours and incidently has the worst death toll since the Enniskillen massacre. This attack shows how PIRA can easily target pattern setting. Three [REDACTED] Mercedes vans (different colours) have been used over the past year two times a day five times a week over the same stretch of road without the RUC being informed by the construction company. If they had been part of OP IRONSIDE. then they would not have been using that road that day.

b. It is believed that the landmine had been laid the previous evening for detonation that morning. That would have caught the van on the bomb side of the road which may have resulted in 100% casualties (sixteen that morning). An RUC route check with dog was conducted during the day North South through Teebane crossroads and it is therefore thought that the surface laid landmine had been removed during the day.

c. There are various lessons:

- (1) CPV's are extremely vulnerable and their use should be minimised.
- (2) All security bases with construction/maintenance civilians should ensure that they are linked into the RUC OP IRONSIDE. They should be now more keen to comply.
- (3) PIRA cross boundary operations (Mid to East Tyrone) must not reveal any weaknesses within the Security Forces. Security Force cross boundary operations should be conducted to practise procedures and to confuse the boundaries.

d. It should be noted that this incident was not connected to OP LOREN. However, unfortunately the shock waves will be felt by all construction workers.



Lt Col
Commanding Officer

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ANNEX A: Map Details

Distribution:

External:

HQ 3 Inf Bde
1 RGJ
2 RRF
1 QLR (3)
2/11 UDR
4/6 UDR
5 UDR
CIO RUC COOKSTOWN

Internal:

Comd Offr
A/Adjt
Int (2)
Int Cookstown
OC's A, B, C, D & HQ Coys
Reg Coy COOKSTOWN
Reg Coy DUNGANNON
File

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Annex B
FOI 2019/03733
Dated 1 July 2019

ANNEX A TO 8 UDR 1801/G3
DATED JANUARY 92

MAP DETAILS



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Copy No
Of 60

ARMAGH WISREP.

3 SECTION WIU.

INCIDENT:

BOMBING: CWIED.

WISREP REF NO:

3 WIS NORTH/B/09/92. DOC NO D[D497004].

REPORT DATE:

22 Jan 92.

REFERENCES:

A. 3 WISN0992 dated 18 Jan 92.

1. DATE & TIME: 17 Jan 92 about 1710 hrs.

2. LOCATION & GRID: Main A505, Drum Road,
----- Area of Teebane X Roads,
Dunnamore Ward,
Co Tyrone.

Grid: K6725 7989.

3. TYPE OF INCIDENT: BOMBING.

4. CASUALTIES: 1. Robert Irons, (Deceased).
----- Age: 61 Years.

[REDACTED]
Ballymena,
Co Antrim.

2. David Harkness, (Deceased).
Age: 23 Years.

[REDACTED]
Cookstown,
Co Tyrone.

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3. Robert Dunseith, (Deceased).
Age: 25 Years.
[REDACTED]
Magherafelt,
Co Londonderry.
4. Cecil Caldwell (Deceased).
Age: 37 Years.
[REDACTED]
Co Tyrone.
5. John Richard McConnell, (Deceased).
Age: 38 Years.
[REDACTED]
Ballyclare,
Co Antrim.
6. Nigel McKee, (Deceased).
Age: 22 Years.
[REDACTED]
Ballymena,
Co Antrim.
7. William G. A. Bleakes (Deceased).
Age: 35 Years.
[REDACTED]
Cookstown,
Co Tyrone.
8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]

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11. Oswald Gilchrist, (Deceased 21 Jan 91)
[REDACTED]
Magherafelt,
Co Londonderry.

12. [REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED]

5. ARRESTS: NII.

6. INVESTIGATORS: [REDACTED]

DETAILS OF INCIDENT.

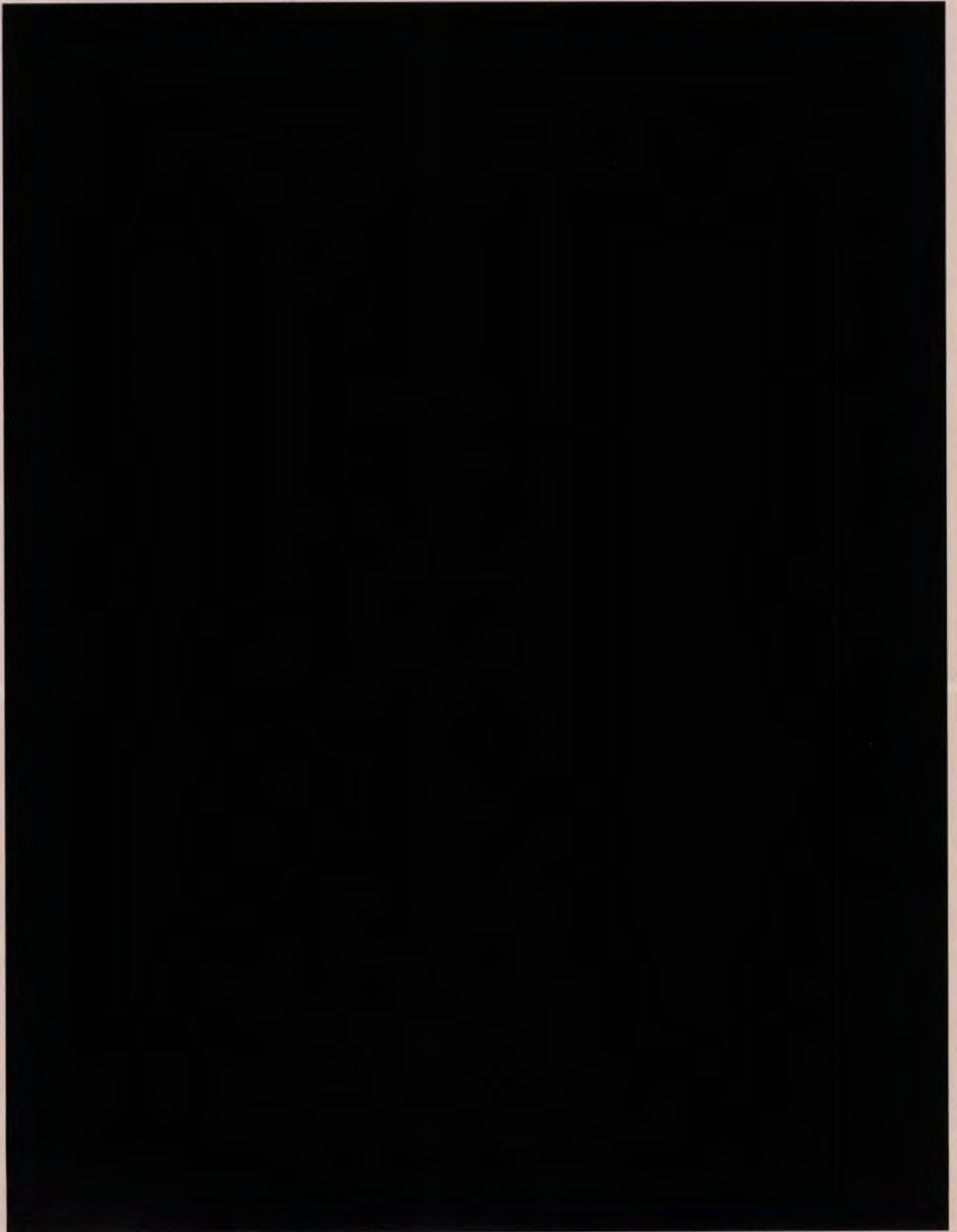
7. About 1710 hrs a blue Mercedes van, VRN: [REDACTED] was travelling east towards Cookstown on route to the Magherafelt area when an explosion occurred on the southern (west route) side of the road at a point approx 55 metres from the Teebane X Roads, 10 miles from Cookstown. The vehicle sustained a direct hit, by blast, on its offside, causing it to go out of control, coming to a halt, after tumbling and hitting a road sign, in the area of the X roads. [REDACTED] reported to the RUC an explosion had occurred. Unconfirmed reports stated numerous dead and injured and all emergency services were tasked to the area.

8. At 1720 hrs the explosion was confirmed by [REDACTED], address NK, on his car phone.

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CASEVAC/INITIAL FOLLOW UP:



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ANNEX B TO
3WIS NORTH/B/09/92
DATED 22 JAN 92

NO 3 SECTION
WEAPONS INTELLIGENCE UNIT

PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLEMENT



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File No.
2

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less to Ops Staff
Monthly fire in
for monthly 17 Jan 92
15/9

Attached 14/07/98
No 1459

1389 G3 (Ops)
18 Jan 92
ACOS G3

correct
017/03

BRIEF ON EXPLOSION TEEBANE CROSSROADS 171710Z JAN 92

THE INCIDENT

1. At 1710Z a device exploded on the DRUM Road, A505, at TEEBANE Crossroads, GR 67277990. The explosion occurred as a white minibus was passing, carrying home 14 employees of [REDACTED]. The vehicle was very badly damaged and the occupants were all either killed or injured. They were en route from LISANELLY Barracks OMAGH, where they had been carrying out routine maintenance and were travelling home for the weekend.
2. Their final destination has not yet been confirmed however, the men were from various locations in between COOKSTOWN and ANTRIM which would suggest a fairly direct route via MAGHERAFELT, CASTLEDAWSON, KELLS and BALLYCLARE. It is not known whether or not this was a regular route.

EOD

3. ATO was tasked to the scene at [REDACTED]. He carried out an initial clearance of the seat of the explosion and estimated the cause to have been a device of 100 - 200 kgs, placed at the side of the road in a hedge line. Remnants of blue plastic similar to the sort found in chemical containers were recovered. A full follow-up will be carried out in daylight to confirm the firing point and to complete a full clearance. A map of the area is at Annex A.

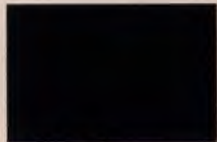
ROUTE CLEARANCE AND SECURITY

4. The vehicle booked out of the guardroom LISANELLY Barracks at 1642Z and headed west towards COOKSTOWN along the A505. It is worth noting that this route has been out of bounds to 'Green Vehicles' as far as the Brigade boundary, which is just short of the scene of the incident, since Jan 91. CPVs may only use this road with the permission of the Ops Offr 4/6 UDR.
5. Military vehicle movement to and from OMAGH is controlled by 4/6 UDR and all routes are approved individually through 4/6 UDR Ops Rm. There is no 'Route of the Day' system operated in this TAOR and no specific clearance, either by physical presence on the ground or by use of ECM, is made of any route, other than that carried out during routine patrolling.
6. Contractors are not required to book out and clear their routes. Contractor movements are the responsibility of the RUC, who co-ordinate protection under OP IRONSIDE. On this occasion there was no escort provided of any kind.

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CASUALTY DETAILS

7. There were 7 fatalities, all civilians: Robert Irons, David Harkness, David Dunsath, Jimmy Caldwell, Richard McConnell, Nigel McKee and William Gary Alexander Bleakes. The seven injured were: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Oswald Golchrist and [REDACTED]. They were evacuated to the MID ULSTER Hospital, MAGHERAFELT, the TYRONE Hospital, OMAGH and the SOUTH TYRONE Hospital, DUNGANNON. One of the those injured is presently listed as critical. Of the remainder, [REDACTED] are at Annex B.



Capt
for GOC

Annexes.

- A. Map of the area of the explosion.
- B. Details of [REDACTED]



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ANNEX B
TO 1389 G3 (Ops)
DATED JAN 92

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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19-01-1992 09:03

3 INFANTRY BRIGADE

Annex B
FOI 2019/03733
Dated 1 July 2019

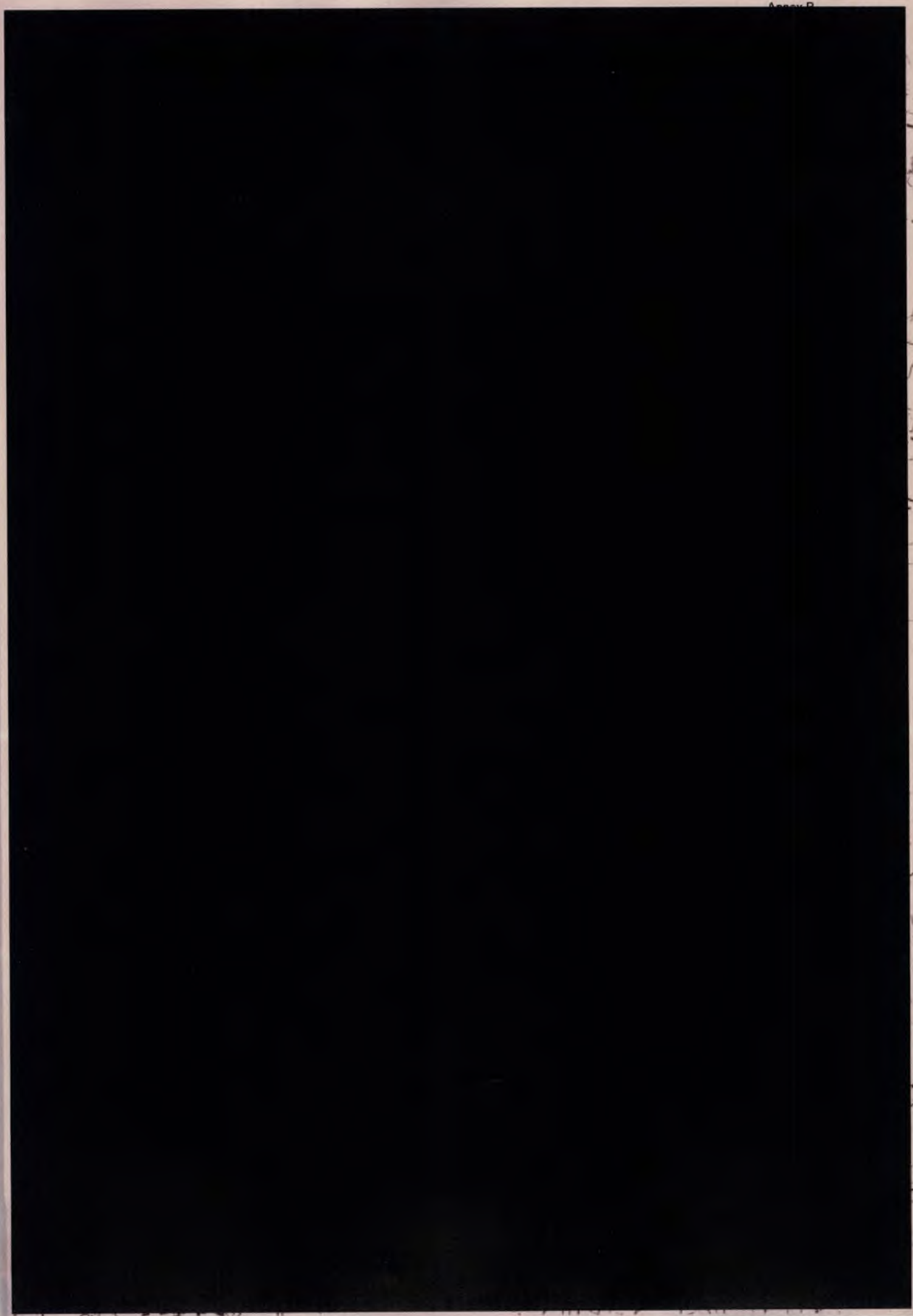
10/TL

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ANNEX A TO F ORD 754



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Handwritten notes in the right margin, including the word "Table" and some illegible characters.

IED Incident Report

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1. Tasking Authority/Formation 3 Inf Bde		2. Police Force/Station/Unit 8 UDR		3. Contact Rank and Name [REDACTED]		4. Report No. 157111	
6. Operator's Name and Code [REDACTED]		7. Type of Incident				5. Multi Task (other Report Nos) na	
		IED	EXPL	INCDY	FIND	SEARCH ASSIST	HOAX FALSE
		✓	x1	✓			✓
8. DTG Laid/Found [REDACTED]		12. DTG Arrival at Scene [REDACTED]		16. Day Code 6			
9. DTG Tasked [REDACTED]		13. DTG Completed [REDACTED]		17. Month Jan			
10. DTG of Explosion 171700		14. DTG In [REDACTED]		18. Year 92			
11. DTG Out [REDACTED]		15. Kms [REDACTED]					
19. Map No. 13		21. Address/Location		22. Position of Device		23. How Delivered	
20. Grid Ref. [REDACTED]		Near Teebane Xrds Nr Cookstown Co Tyrone		At side of road		By hand	
24. Device, appearance, size, fastening, etc. A large explosion				25. Vehicles, make, colour, registration na Stolen <input type="checkbox"/> Hijacked <input type="checkbox"/>		26. Target Civilian contractors working for MIO	
27. RSP Codes [REDACTED]							
Topcat in attendance on 17 Jan. [REDACTED]							
28. Explosive Filling (Type and Wt) NK- estimated 100-200kg of prob HMF		29. Booster (Type and Wt) NK		30. Initiation Prob electric detonator.			
31. Delay of Initiation Terrorist		32. Arming Connection of CW to battery pack		33. Delay to Arming Terrorist			
34. Power Source Prob [REDACTED] batteries.		35. Multi Charge Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Linked by		36. Shrapnel (Type and Wt) NK			
37. Device Type Command wire IED		38. Effect of Explosion/incendiares (a) [REDACTED] (b) [REDACTED] (c) [REDACTED] (d) [REDACTED] (e) [REDACTED] (f) [REDACTED]					
39. Device Failure Code na		40. Forensic Through [REDACTED] NIPSL		41. If Anti-Handling/Victim Operated. Device Details na			

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42. Operator's Comments (Including Sketches etc)

a. Background. At about 1700 hours a blue Mercedes van, VFN [REDACTED], was approaching Teebane Crossroads along the A505 from the Omagh direction when an explosion took place at the side of the road. The Mercedes van came to rest 55 metres further on down the road. The occupants were returning from carrying out contract work in Lisanelly Barracks, Omagh. As a result of the explosion eight workers died and six were injured.

b. [REDACTED]

c. [REDACTED]

Annex A Yes No

43. Operator	44. OC Unit/Det Comments	45. Tasking Authority Use Only
[REDACTED] Signature [REDACTED] Date 24 Jan 92	[REDACTED] Signature [REDACTED] Date 7 Feb 92.	[REDACTED] Signature [REDACTED] Date 27/2/92

ETS/IT/192/001

Log Sheet

Security Classification RESTRICTED

Note: Carbonless. Do not use carbon, insert backing plate (Code No 38-64) after required number of pages.

Formation/Unit 8 UDR INT CELL Logkeeper(s) [REDACTED] Date 180192 Sheet No. 66

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Initials
210	0315	INT	MSX	DOI 170192 MURDER OF CIVILIAN WORKERS - GR 6723 7991 TEEBANE X- ROADS		
				At approx 1710hrs an explosion occurred on the Drum Road, Cookstown at Teebane X - Roads. As a result of this explosion which occurred on the right hand side of the road travelling from Omagh to Cookstown (Approx 9 1/2 miles from C'Town) a Mercedes van VRN [REDACTED] was totally destroyed. This van belonged to [REDACTED]. There was a total of 14 pax in the veh 7 of who are dead. It is believed that this road may have been used over a period of time by [REDACTED]. This particular merc van has been used for at least the past fortnight travelling from Omagh to Magherafelt.		
				At 2238hrs Ulster Television received a call from a male caller stating: Tyrone Brigade IRA claim responsibility for the landmine attack on the main Cookstown/Omagh road when a 1500lb landmine was detonated when a van load of [REDACTED] workers drove by.		

Security Classification RESTRICTED

ETS/IT/92/10001

Log Sheet

Security Classification

Army Form B58
Revised 4/89

Note: Carbonless. Do not use carbon, insert backing plate (Code No 38-64) after required number of pages.

Formation/Unit

8 UDR INT CELL

Logkeeper(s)

Date

180192

Sheet No.

67

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action	Initials
210	contd	The van and the workers had left Lisanelly Bks, Omagh, where they had been working, a short time before the explosion. The contact point was confirmed as GR 67237991 The firing Point was confirmed as GR [redacted] From LO a short time before the explosion 2 x ODS had seen 2 x vehs acting suspiciously around the area of the X roads. The first veh was a yellow Transit van which had stopped some distance past the junction. 2 x N/K males had got out of this veh and were looking back at the X roads. VRN of veh [redacted] The other veh had driven up and down this stretch of road several times. Occupants N/K. VRN [redacted] ODS said this veh was red toyota Corolla. Vengeful gives it as red VW golf. [redacted] refers to a yellow Ford transit regd to [redacted] [redacted] refers to a red VW regd to [redacted]		
211						

Security Classification

TERRORIST INCIDENT - COOKSTOWN SUB-DIVISION
=====

AT APPROXIMATELY 1710 HRS ON FRIDAY 17 JANUARY 1992 AN EXPLOSION OCCURRED ON THE DRUM ROAD, COOKSTOWN, CO TYRONE AT GRID REFERENCE 672/798. AS A RESULT OF THIS EXPLOSION WHICH OCCURRED ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE ROAD TRAVELLING FROM OMAGH TOWARDS COOKSTOWN, (9 1/2 MILES FROM COOKSTOWN) CO TYRONE, A MERCEDES VAN REGISTRATION NUMBER [REDACTED] WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED. THIS MERCEDES VAN BELONGED TO [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. THERE WAS A TOTAL OF FOURTEEN PASSENGERS CARRIED IN THE VAN, SEVEN WHO HAVE NOW BEEN PRONOUNCED DEAD. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. DAVID HARKNESS, [REDACTED], COOKSTOWN, X
2. WILLIAM GARY ALEXANDER BLEEKS, DOB [REDACTED], [REDACTED], COOKSTOWN
3. ROBERT JOHN DUNSEITH, [REDACTED], MAGHERAFELT, CO LONDONDERRY
4. JOHN RICHARD MC CONNELL, [REDACTED], BALLYCLARE, CO ANTRIM
5. CECIL JAMES CALDWELL, [REDACTED], COOKSTOWN X
6. NIGEL MC KEF, [REDACTED], BALLYNEHA, CO ANTRIM
7. ROBERT IRONS, [REDACTED], BALLYNEHA, CO ANTRIM

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE EXPLOSION AND ARE IN HOSPITALS:-

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]
6. DONALD GILCHRIST, [REDACTED], MAGHERAFELT, CO LONDONDERRY X *TL 105*
7. [REDACTED]

ALL AGENCIES IN ATTENDANCE AT THE SCENE, CID, SOCO, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO TEAM, MAPPING AND FORENSIC.

IT IS BELIEVED THIS ROAD MAY HAVE BEEN USED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME BY [REDACTED] AND THIS PARTICULAR MERCEDES VAN HAS BEN USED FOR AT LEAST THE PAST FORTNIGHT TRAVELLING FROM OMAGH TO THE MAGHERAFELT AREA, CO LONDONDERRY. IT IS PRACTICE FOR THE FIRM TO CHANGE VANS ON THIS ROUTE. HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY THE COLOUR CHANGES AS THE VEHICLE MAKE REMAINS THE SAME.

AT 2238 HRS THIS DATE, ULSTER TELEVISION RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A MALE CALLER STATING:-

TYRONE BRIGADE IRA CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LANDMINE ATTACK ON THE MAIN COOKSTOWN/OMAGH ROAD WHEN A 1500 LB LANDMINE WAS DETONATED WHEN A VAN LOADED WITH HENRY'S WORKERS DROVE BY.

RELATIVES OF ALL THE DECEASED HAVE BEEN INFORMED.

FORENSIC EXPERTS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE SCENE, ESTIMATE THE BOMB CONSISTED OF 400 LBS OF HOME MADE EXPLOSIVES.

THE SCENE IS BEING HELD AND WILL BE FURTHER EXAMINED AT FIRST LIGHT ON 18 JANUARY 1992 BY ALL RELEVANT AGENCIES.

ETB/IT/92/0001

ROBERT IRONS, [REDACTED], BALLYKENA, CO ANTRIM

FOLLOWING PERSONS WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE EXPLOSION AND ARE IN HOSPITAL:

[REDACTED]

AGENCIES IN ATTENDANCE AT THE SCENE, CID, SOCO, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO TEAM, AND FORENSIC.

IT IS BELIEVED THIS ROAD MAY HAVE BEEN USED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME BY [REDACTED] AND THIS PARTICULAR MERCEDES VAN HAS BEEN USED FOR AT LEAST THE PAST FORTNIGHT TRAVELLING FROM DMAGH TO THE KASHERAFELT AREA, CO DOWNDERRY. IT IS PRACTICE FOR THE FIRM TO CHANGE VANS ON THIS ROUTE. HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY THE COLOUR CHANGES AS THE VEHICLE MAKE REMAINS THE SAME.

AT 0038 HRS THIS DATE, ULSTER TELEVISION RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A MALE CALLER STATING:-

UPON BRIGADE IRA CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LANDMINE ATTACK ON THE MAIN BUCKSTOWN/DMAGH ROAD WHEN A 1500 LB LANDMINE WAS DETONATED WHEN A VAN LOADED BY HENRY'S WORKERS DROVE BY.

RELATIVES OF ALL THE DECEASED HAVE BEEN INFORMED.

FORENSIC EXPERTS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE SCENE, ESTIMATE THE BOMB CONSISTED OF 400 LBS OF HOMEMADE EXPLOSIVES.

THE SCENE IS BEING HELD AND WILL BE FURTHER EXAMINED AT FIRST LIGHT ON 16 JANUARY 1992 BY ALL RELEVANT AGENCIES.

THE NAMES OF THE DECEASED SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL THE RELEVANT LOCAL POLICE CONFIRM THAT ALL RELATIVES HAVE BEEN INFORMED.

INVESTIGATING OFFICER - [REDACTED]
AUTHORISING OFFICER - [REDACTED]

SENDER A S
NNNN