

Headquarters 38 (Irish) Brigade & Northern Ireland Garrison Thiepval Barracks British Forces Post Office 825

Email: <u>38X-PolicyLegacy-FOI-</u> Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

File reference: FOI 2021/07560

10 February 2022



Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE BOMBING OF THE MOUNTAINVIEW TAVERN, BELFAST ON 5 APRIL 1975

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 stated the following:

"I wish to request copies of the following hard copy documents in relation to the bombing of the Mountainview Tavern on 5 April 1975 in Belfast, in which five persons were killed.

The following reports are requested:

* Unit Incident Report (Increp) issued by Battalion HQ 7 UDR and 10 UDR;

*ATO request for the clearance of the site;

*NI Report covering the period of his killing;

*Weapons Intelligence Report collated by personnel from 39 Inf Bde Weapons Intelligence Section;

*Serious Incident Report covering the whole incident from Initial Report to final clearance;

*Any other document held in connection with this incident"

I can confirm that the MOD holds some information relating to your request. This information has been located in a range of documents and relevant extracts of these have been provided at Annex A. Also attached at Annex B is an IED Report and at Annex C, 2 RMP TAC log sheets. Please note that all information that is redacted using a black box represents information that has been redacted under a Freedom of Information exemption.

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 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.

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 (Health and Safety) 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. 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.

I appreciate that this incident took place 46 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 deaths and the overall balance is in favour of partial exemption.

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 <u>CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk</u>). 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

Enc:

Annex A - Verbatim Extracts from Various Documents Annex B - IED Report No:118308 Annex C - 2 RMP TAC log sheets dated 5 – 6 April 1975

Verbatim Extracts from Various Documents Relating to the Bombing of The Mountainview Tavern, Belfast on 5 April 1975

Director of Operations Brief dated 5 – 6 April 1975

2. Belfast.

b. (2) Four people were killed and 53 were injured when a bomb exploded without warning in a bar in the Shankill. Shots were fired as the bomb was placed.

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE

4. <u>1 SG (SHANKILL/FALLS/DIVIS/SANDY ROW/CLONARD/UNITY)</u>

(b) At 1819 hours a bomb, estimated by an ATO to have consisted of 20 lbs of explosive (type NK) exploded in the following:

THE MOUNTAINVIEW TAVERN, 417-421 SHANKILL ROAD, owned by:

THE WILLIAM HASTINGS HOTEL GROUP.

1 Shooting + bomb attack SFNI

Three men, 2 armed, entered the bar and <u>fired 5 to 6 shots</u>. One man placed a suitcase or holdall inside the door and then they all escaped in a yellow Toyota [Redacted], later found abandoned at the junction of AINSWORTH AVENUE and KIRK STREET near SPRINGFIELD ROAD. The car, owned by:

[Redacted]

[Redacted] reported that he had been hijacked "earlier" (at 1843 hrs, to RUC)

¹ The content that we have highlighted was a handwritten addition to the original document.

Had been reported hijacked earlier from:

TATE'S AVENUE FILLING STATION, TATE'S AVENUE, VILLAGE.

Four people taken to the RVH were dead on arrival:

Alan Madden (Prot NK) ADDRESS NK William Andrews (Prot 33) [redacted] GLENCAIRN 2 others: details not known

²4 CIV (K) 52 CIV (W) -

Twenty six others were taken to the RVH suffering mainly from lacerations. Twenty seven others were taken to the MATER HOSPITAL with injuries of varying degrees of severity: one is reported SI. Severe structural damage was caused to the interior of the bar precluding the removal of samples by DIFS. An ATO will investigate further on 6 Apr 75. SOCO and the RUC TENNENT STREET are investigating.

² The content that we have highlighted was a handwritten addition to the original document.

Director of Operations Brief dated 6 – 7 April 1975

2. Belfast.

a. (4) One Protestant died in the RVH from injuries sustained in the bomb explosion in the Shankill on 5 April 1975.

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE

4. <u>1 SG (SHANKILL/FALLS/DIVIS/SANDY ROW/CLONARD/UNITY)</u>

(b) Follow up report. The following died as a result of the bomb at the MOUNTAINVIEW TAVERN, SHANKILL on 5 April 1975:

Albert FLETCHER (Prot) [Redacted] WOODVALE (previously unidentified) [Redacted] ³*TOTAL*: 5 *DEAD* Nathaniel Shaw ADAMS (Prot) [Redacted],OLD PARK (previously unidentified) [Redacted] 2 *injured* Joseph BELL (Prot) [Redacted] WOODVALE (died in the RVH) [Redacted] 1 CIV (K)

(D of Ops Brief dated 6 April 1975 refers)

051819 Mt View Tavern, Shankill Rd Expl 35 Lbs (C)

³ The content that we have highlighted was a handwritten addition to the original document.

Annex A FOI 2021/07560 Dated 10 February 2022 Sheets Six/Seven

HQNI Ops Log Sheets dated 5 Apr 75

Serial	DTG	То	From	Event	Action	Sign
30	1823	245	39 Bde	1 QUEENS – 1819 MOUNTAIN VIEW BAR – EXPLOSION	INT, PR 3, 8 Bdes and	1997
					[Redacted]	175-1
34	1859		39 Bde	1 SG – 1819	G2 Ops INT PR	
		and and	10-14	2 dead, 20 injured in Mountain View Bar in SHANKILL	CATO [Redacted]	1.18
36	1933	Sector .	39 Bde	MOUNTAIN VIEW PUB – NOW 4 DEAD AND 29 INJURED.		1
38	1955		PR	Bomb in SHANKILL	39 Bde	12.5
		1.1.1	1	1830 – 1SG	NIO	
	-		12 22.13	Yellow Datsun with two men drove up to the MOUNTAINVIEW		With the second
				TAVERN, 417-421 SHANKILL ROAD. They fired six shots, possibly		
	1			from a Thompson. The bomb was then placed at the front with no		9 11 80
		-		warning. The place was packed. Four dead and 23 injured.		
		1.000		(Grid Reference: CIR 39/108		

HQNI Op Log Sheets dated 6 Apr 75

Sheets One/Four

Serial	DTG	То	From	Event	Action	Sign
01	0005		CATO	Shankill Bomb: A collapsed ceiling is preventing DIFS investigation but ATO estimates 10-20lb.	PR	
17	1436		39 Bde	1 SG follow up to explosion. Joseph BELL, [Redacted] WOODVALE Died, as a result of injuries received, at 1345.	P2	
18	1535		RUC	Names of the 5 dead as a result of SHANKILL bomb: William ANDREWS (Prot), [Redacted], GLENCAIRN. Alan MADDERN <i>(sic)</i> (Prot), [Redacted], PROTESTANT BONE. Albert FLETCHER (Prot), [Redacted], WOODVALE. Nathaniel Shaw ADAMS (Prot), [Redacted], OLD PARK. Joseph BELL (Prot), [Redacted], WOODVALE.	39 Bde, PR Enter in Brief as follow up report less for two names already mentioned.	

1 RWF Log Sheets dated 5 Apr 75

Serial	DTG	То	From	Event	Action	Sign
26	1820	CC	TAC	Rattrap, Red Hillman minx Reg No [Redacted] with black roof connected with shooting, also Yellow Datsun, Reg No [Redacted] this was connected in explosion at Mountain View Bar.	This came in over Bde Net from C/S 56, [Redacted] RUC found abandoned in Kirk St, 1820hrs	
27	1825	TAC	RUC	3 youths seen to abandon Yellow Datsun and run down Mount Castle St into the Collins. One youth with [Redacted].	Sp & A Coy informed.	
28	1843	CC	TAC	Rattrap, Blue Vauxhall Viva Reg No [Redacted] or [Redacted] connected with bombing, seen speeding down Shankill Rd.	This came in on Bde Net	
29	1845	TAC	RVH	Two dead and twenty injured in Mountain View Bar explosion.	Passed to Bde	
30	1848	TAC	D Coy	Hijacked car in Tates Ave Reg No [Redacted] same as one in explosion.		
31	1851	TAC	Sp	Youth answering description to youth with [Redacted] in ser 43 being brought to TAC to assist in inquiries of explosion, voluntary.		
33	1926	TAC	RVH	24 injured 4 dead, Mater 5 injured.	Informed Bde.	125.04
34	2015	TAC	A Coy	Can we lift blocking of RVH now? (Results of Mountainview bombing).	Yes	
03	0040	TAC	RVH	Names of two of the four involved in Mountain Expl: Alan Madden NFTR. 2. William Andrews age 33, [Redacted]. 1 unknown man transferred to Mater with GSW		

1 QUEENS Log Sheet dated 5 Apr 75

Sheet 225

Serial	DTG	То	From	Event	Action	Sign
299	1818	0	3	REPT OF EXPLOSION AT MOUNTAINVIEW BAR.		
300	1820	0	5	RATTRAP 2 VEHS. RED HILLMAN [Redacted] AND YELLOW DATSUN [Redacted]	31 11.00	

40 Cdo RM Log Sheet dated 5 April 75

Sheet No 388

Serial	DTG	То	From	Event	Action	Sign
29	1817	Ø	5	Bomb heard to NE, about 1 mile away	1 RWF info state	[Redacted]
30	1820	CCA	Ø	Rattraps - Red Hillman [Redacted] involved in shooting incident in Castleragh – Yellow Datsun [Redacted] involved in bomb incident in Shankill	<i>(in illegible)</i> & Bde Net	[Redacted]
31	1841	CCA	Ø	Wanted Vehs – Blue Vaux Viva [Redacted] or [Redacted] involved in bomb in Shankill	(in illegible) 1RWF	[Redacted]

40 Cdo RM Log Sheets dated 5 April 75

Sheet No 139

Serial	DTG	То	From	Event	Action	Sign
13	1819	CC1	S Gds	RATTRAP. Yellow Datsun [Redacted] involved in Explosion in our area	INFO	[Redacted]
14	1820	BDE	S Gds	Believe explosion at Mountain View Bar	INFO	[Redacted]
15	1823	BDE	2 RMP	Ref Ser 13 Rucksack has found this car abandoned in Kirk St	CCA Info'd	[Redacted]
16	1840	BDE	2 RMP	CC1 Wanted Vehicle Blue Vauxhall Viva [Redacted] or [Redacted] connected with Bomb seen speeding down Shankill Road	CCA Info'd	[Redacted]
17	1845	BDE	S Gds	Request Felix Woodvale Rd confirmed bomb MOUNTAIN VIEW BAR Cambria St Shankill St Felix on Task [Redacted]		[Redacted]
20	1952	BDE	Felix	Ref 17 Task complete	Info	[Redacted]

EOD Log Book

EOD No	DTG Tasked	Bde&Unit	Type of Incident	Operator	Location	Grid Ref	Incident	EOD ACTION	Explosives	Detonators	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(C)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(j)	(k)	(1)	(m)
118308	051845	39 Bde 1 SG	EXPL	[Redacted]	SHANKILL ROAD	6/318750	Expl in Mountainview Tavern	[Redacted]	20-50lbs	NK	Expl dev left in Mountainview Tavern. Expl at 1830 hrs after a short delay. 4 DEAD up to 20 INJURED. Believed whole floor of room above fell in making it impossible to get fragments. SOCO and DIFS were at the

-							scene. It is intended to return and search for fragments from the device when the reinforced
			40	*			concrete slab has been removed and the ceiling made secure. At
					4		this time it is not possible to est qty of expl used.

Daily Explosions Log

Ser	DTG	CAT	PROT	TYPE	AREA	DETAILS OF INCIDENT	CASUALTIES	DATE REPORTED	DATED COMF'D
150	051819 APR	1	-	EXPL	BELFAST	35LBS SUITCASE BOMB in the MOUNTAINVIEW TAVERN SHANKILL ROAD. There was severe structural damage. NO WARNING.	5 Civ (K) 52 (Civ (W)	6 APR 75	7 APR 75

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE – DIARY OF EVENTS 1975

DIARY OF EVENTS APRIL 1975

Saturday 5th April

A holdall bomb exploded in the Mountainview Tavern, a Protestant bar on the Shankill Road, killing 5 people and injuring 53 others. Severe structural damage was caused to the bar.

NOTABLE EVENTS 1975

APR 5th An IED EXPLODES at the MOUNTAINVIEW TAVERN, SHANKILL ROAD, BELFAST. 5 X CIV PROTS are KILLED as a result of the explosion. (CAT)

Death Logs 1012 Vol 2

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	LOCATION
ANDREWS, W	05.04.75	Belfast
MADDEN, A	05.04.75	Belfast
FLETCHER, A	05.04.75	Belfast
ADAMS, N	05.04.75	Belfast
BELL, J	05.04.75	Belfast

1012 Vol 7

•	Mark States			1975						
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
849	05 APR	MR	W	ANDREWS	P	33	BELFAST	EXPL	N/K	-
850	05 APR	MR	А	MADDEN	Р	18	BELFAST	EXPL	N/K	-
851	05 APR	MR	А	FLETCHER	Р	32	BELFAST	EXPL	N/K	
852	05 APR	MR	N	ADAMS	Р	29	BELFAST	EXPL	N/K	- 11
854	05 APR	MR	J	BELL	Р	52	BELFAST	EXPL	N/K	-

1012 Vol 3

SER	NAME	ADDRESS		5 1973		12	K	ILLE	D		DATE	CIV
1187	JBELL	[Redacted Belfast	Belfast Killed in a explosion at the MOUNTAINVIEW TAVERN edacted] " " " " " " " "					5 Apr 75	\checkmark			
1190	A MADDERN(sic)	N/K	Kill	ed in a	a expl	losi	on at th	ne MC	UNTA	INVIEW TAVERN	5 Apr 75	\checkmark
1191	WANDREWS	[Redacted] Belfast.	"	"	"		"		"	"	5 Apr 75	\checkmark
1192	A FLETCHER	[Redacted] Belfast	"	"	"		"		"	"	5 Apr 75	\checkmark
1193	N SHAW ADAMS	[Redacted] Belfast	"	"	"		"	-	"	"	5 Apr 75	\checkmark

Intelligence Reports

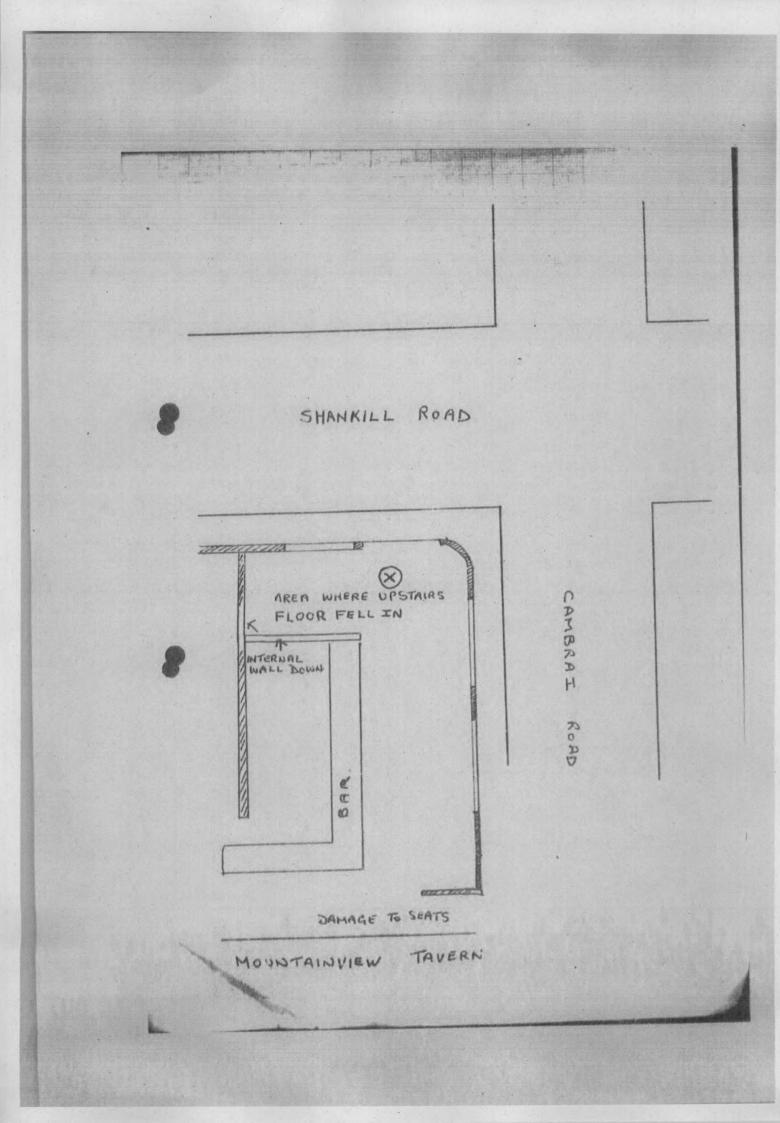
BOMBING MURDER THEFT VEHICLES

5/04/1975

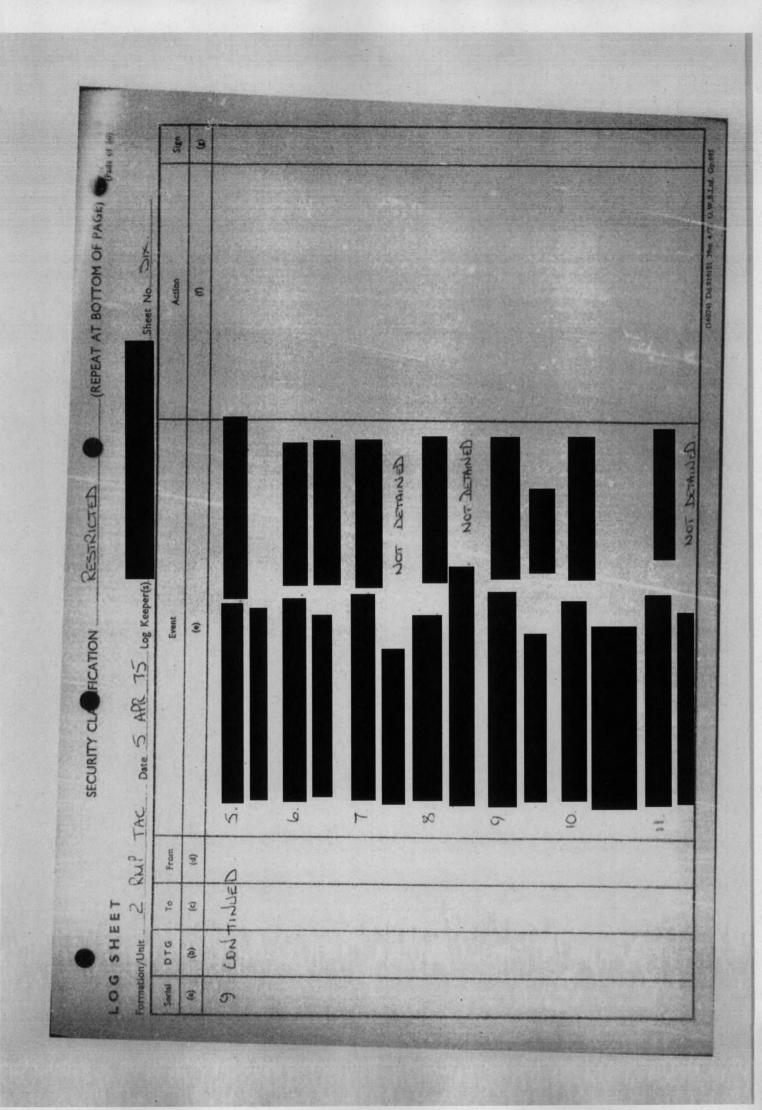
At 1819 hours a bomb estimated to contain 20 lbs of explosive, exploded in the Mountainview Tavern, located at 417 Shankill Road and owned by the William Hastings Hotel Group, killing four people and injuring fifty three. Earlier three men, two armed, entered the bar and fired 6 shots one of the men placed a suitcase inside the door and then they escaped in a

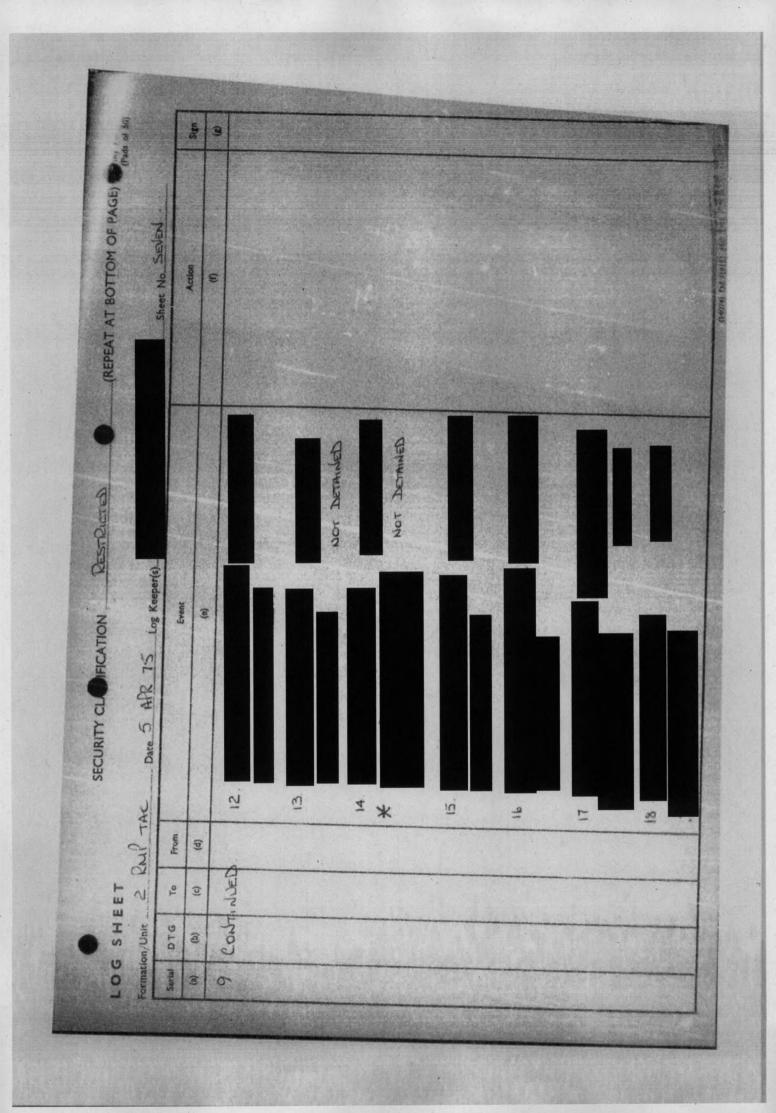
yellow Toyota, VRN unknown.

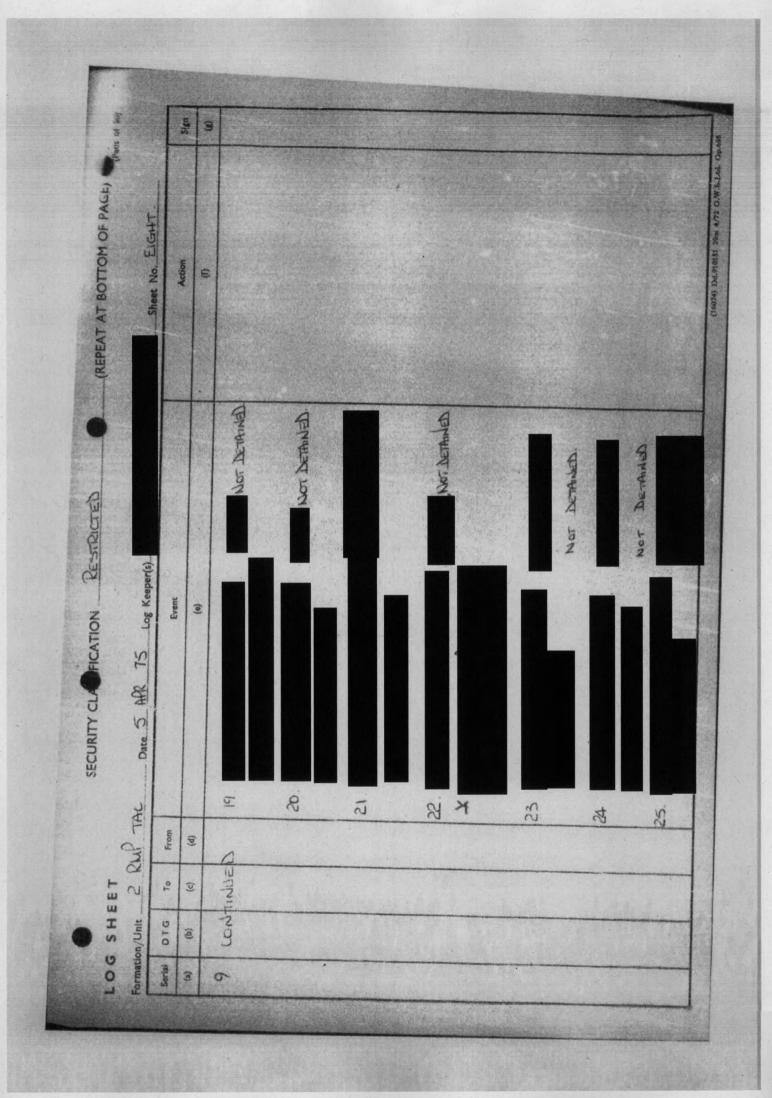
hand	N.C.	RESTRICTED	DOS F 709 Rev 74					
	A19 IEC	D INCIDENT REPORT						
I. Formation 39 R	sde/15G		2.Report No					
3. Confoct			4 Type of Incident ExPLoSION					
5.Time Tosked	6. Out	7.Operator						
8.Completed	8. In	10. Time Laid 111.0	Day 12. Date					
D. Completed		1825	7 050475					
13. Map Reference		14 Multi Task	15. Miles					
16. Location a start		50 17. Time of EOD Action /Exp	Notion					
16. Location SHANK	LFAST	1 8 3 0						
18. Target	INVIEW TAVERN	19. Position of Device INSIDE ENTRADLE MOUNTAINVIEW TAVERN						
20.Container	21.Fastening	22. Appearance	U THVERN					
23. Device Type	24. Delivery HAND	25. Explosive Filling						
26. Booster	27.Shrapnel	28. Multi - Charge 29. Linked by						
		YES / NO						
30.Initiation		31. Delay to Initiation						
32. Arming		33. Delay to thing						
34. Power	35. Anti Handle Type	36. Effect	Dead Inj Damage					
Jindi befor and injuc inside the caused the fall anto to search slats ha securel. 39. Reason Device Fai	corried a box at & 1830 hos. It en mig over fibby entrance The b le concrete rein, the seat of the for fragments of DIFS and SOCO Hed to Function	The device had been last from the device of the device of the device un to a away and the for and the for continued one see	t deley killing three . ne placed two yards - eice explading - two not pessible - It was not pessible - It was not pessible -					
40. Service Explosives	s Used	41. SATO Comment						
TENN	ANT ST TI	1	4					
43. DRC Number	CTTTTTTTTT	-1-						
44, DIFS Number		Toate QI 475 RESTRICTED	Majar					

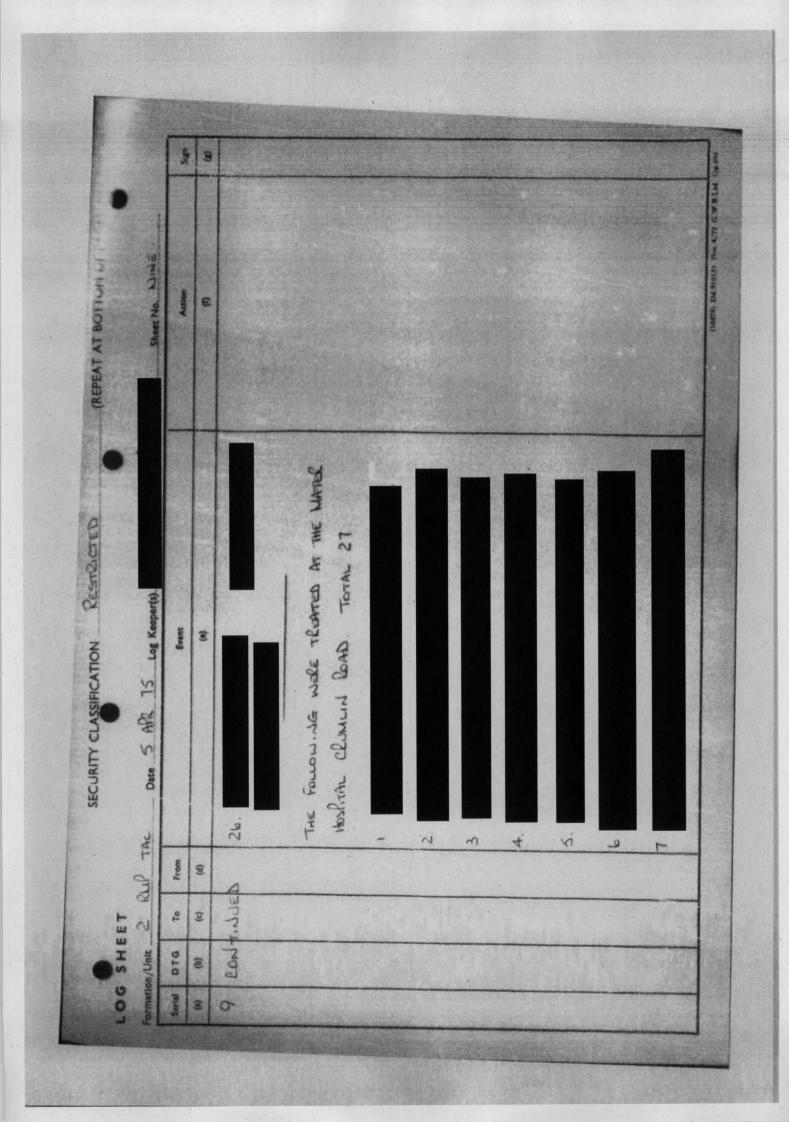


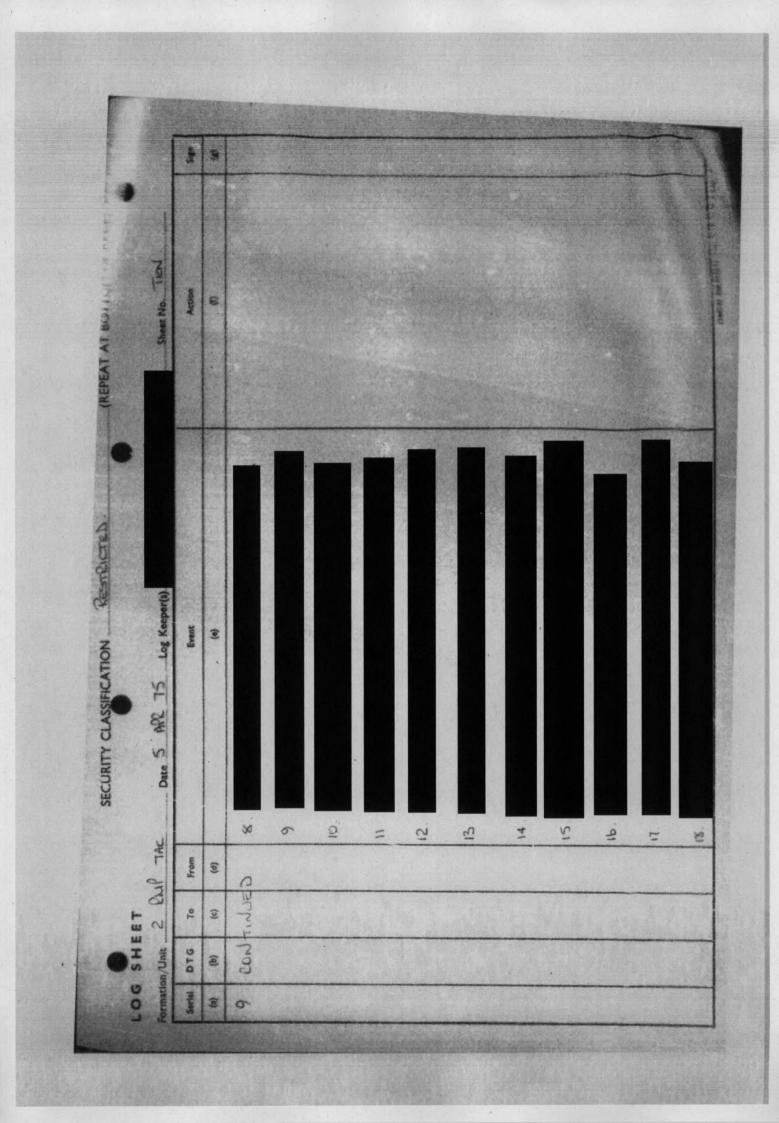
rm 85		Sign	3						
(REPEAT AT BOTTOM OF PAGE) Ony Form 848 (Pade of 50)	Sheet No FiJE .	Action	0		Durn Orncek warbued 39 Bac wralwed 1 Scorrechtas wralwed	FRom Rith DOAS HD Two of The December	HAVE BEEN IDONTIFIED AD :. I. LIE ALAN LIADDER ()().	2. UR WILLIAM ANDRAVS (23)().	
SECURITY CLAPHICATION RESTRICTED	Date 5 APR 75 Log Keeper(s)	Event	(e)		Bourd INTIJZIES. INTURES. 53. The Followinds People were treated at the Roman Victoria Hosfithe. Toman 26.	×.	2	s. 51	4
	RUP TAC	From	(p)	A	RUH GUACO ROCH	Halith	•		
1		To	(c)	JUNI	Ø				
•	Formation/Unit _ 2	DTC	(q)	CONTINUS	NR.				
1	mation	Serial	(1)	×	0				

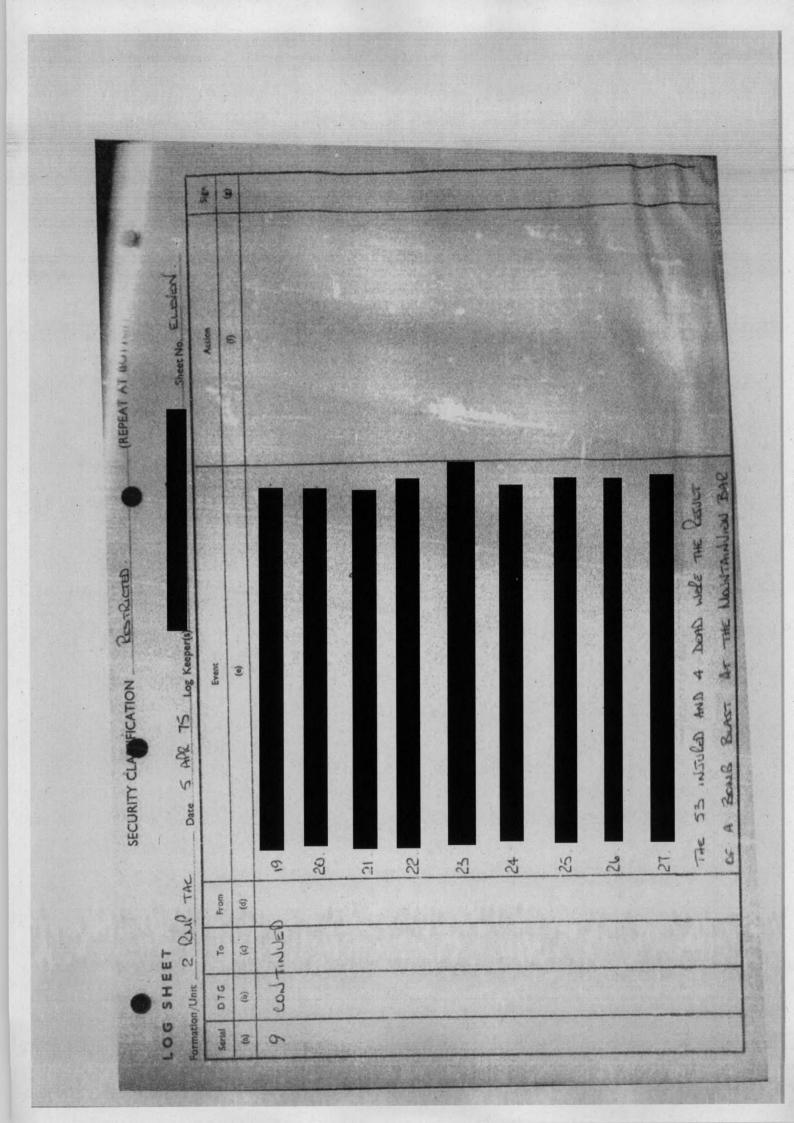


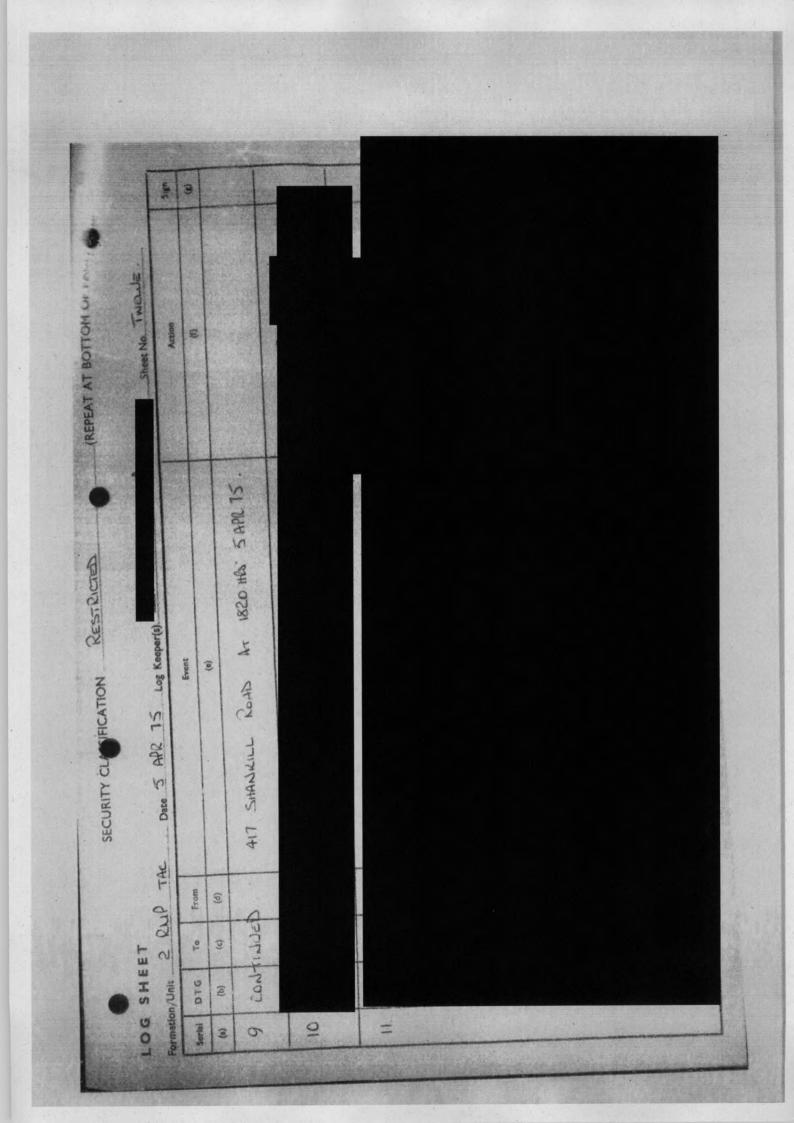












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