

J7 Response to the Provisional Index of Factual Issues – Provisional Index of Factual Issues – Issue 7 & 8

Forensic issues regarding the bombs and the bodies of MSK, Tanweer, Hussain and Lindsay

7. *The likely components, manner of construction and mode of operation of the explosive devices.*

8. *The likely involvement of MSK, Tanweer, Hussain and Lindsay in the development and assembly of the explosive devices.*

FORENSIC EVIDENCE OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES

Immediately after the events of 7th July 2005 all the news reports that mentioned the kind of explosive used stated that high grade explosives, as typically used by military forces, were responsible. While much of this may be dismissed as media speculation, the police authoritatively confirmed this on the record:

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Brian Paddick: "All we are saying is that it is high explosives. That would tend to suggest that it is not home-made explosive. Whether it is military explosive, whether it is commercial explosive, whether it is plastic explosive we do not want to say at this stage."¹

Assistant Police Commissioner Andy Hayman:

"Initially, the forensic investigation suggests that each device used had less than 10 pounds of high explosives"²

Expert scientists Hans Michels and Neil Fisher also confirmed this opinion.³

Clearly the early forensic evidence from the blast sites indicated that high explosives had been used. Why has this evidence been set aside?

1 WorldTribune.com: Advanced bombs were so powerful that none of 49 dead have been identified - http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2005/eu_terror_07_11.html

2 Ibid.

3 Plastic explosives seen as most likely material | UK news | The Guardian - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2005/jul/08/terrorism.july72>

HOME MADE ORGANIC PEROXIDE EXPLOSIVES NOT CAPABLE OF EXPLODING

The evidence presented by Clifford Todd, at the trials of those cleared of conspiring with the alleged perpetrators of the July 7th 2005 explosions, was that the main explosive charge was a mixture of highly concentrated hydrogen peroxide and ground black pepper.

Giving evidence at the trial for the 21st July 2005 incidents, explosives expert Professor Hans Michels stated that those devices were "not capable of exploding"⁴. His evidence was so compelling that the prosecution dropped the charge of conspiracy to cause explosions likely to endanger life⁵.

The devices allegedly used on 7th July 2005 were essentially the same (using pepper instead of flour) as those which a court of law has revealed to be "not capable of exploding".

No credible explanation has been given of how they were capable of causing the explosions that occurred on 7th July 2005.

NO EXPLOSIVE RESIDUE FOUND AT THE SITES

Although, as stated above, Clifford Todd gave his expert opinion that the main explosive charge was peroxide and organic material, he also stated that the investigation had failed to find any trace of the main explosive charge at the sites.

In the absence of these traces, what is the evidential basis for his opinion that the main explosive charge was peroxide and organic material given that by his own admission such a device would be "unique in the UK and possibly the whole world"?⁶

Explosions caused by some kind of electrical failure would also leave no residue.

How have electrical explosions on the Underground trains (perhaps amplified by the detonation of tunnel dust) been ruled out, given the early reports of power surges and eye witness accounts of the train floor being raised up as if the explosion had originated underneath it?⁷⁸

4 BBC NEWS | UK | 21/7 suspect's claim 'is amazing' - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6545597.stm>

5 BBC NEWS | UK | 21/7 accused are 'plainly guilty' - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6730953.stm>

6 Details of July 7 'bomb factory' disclosed - Telegraph - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1922300/Details-of-July-7-bomb-factory-disclosed.html>

7 CEN News : Region-wide : "I was in tube bomb carriage - and survived" - <http://www.veronicachapman.com/archive/83e33146-09af-4421-b2f4-1779a86926f9.lpf.htm>

8 Guardian audio stream - http://stream.guardian.co.uk:7080/ramgen/s...sbaum_070705.ra

DIFFERENT KINDS OF DEVICES FOUND IN THE NISSAN MICRA

The devices reported to have been found in the boot of the Nissan Micra parked at Luton Station were of a different kind.

How has it been determined that the explosions were not caused by devices similar to those found in the car boot?

Why is it that the devices reported to have been found in the car boot do not resemble the material shown in the pictures released of the Alexandra Grove flat? Is there any forensic evidence of where and when these other devices were made and stored?

DETONATION MECHANISM

The detonators used have never been officially identified, even though it has been reported that the toggle switch of one was recovered from Louise Barry⁹.

CNN reported that, "Investigators believe they found fragments of timing devices in the train attacks, but none on the bus. Some have speculated the bus might have been a target at all, suggesting that bomb could have gone off accidentally as it was being taken somewhere else."¹⁰ Worth noting is that the unintended, accidental, spontaneous explosion of devices on a bus in London is not without precedent¹¹.

Has it been confirmed that the item recovered from Louise Barry was part of a detonator, and if so what does it reveal about the detonation mechanism? In particular, does it confirm either manual detonation or timed detonation?

How has timed detonation been ruled out, given that the Underground explosions have come to be described as near-simultaneous (though contrary to the earliest reports), and that the New York Police Department claimed that it had been informed that timing devices had been used?¹²

Has it been confirmed that the item purchased by Hasib Hussain at Kings Cross station was a 9V battery? Is there any forensic evidence that such a battery was used in

9 The Healing Foundation – Press Release -

<http://www.thehealingfoundation.org/images/media/hfburnchairpressrelease.pdf>

10 CNN.com – Transcripts, Police Give Update on London Terror Attacks; London Terror; Interview With Rudy Giuliani - <http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0507/08/se.01.html>

11 A case of mistaken identity - Opinion - The Independent - <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/a-case-of-mistaken-identity-1320757.html>

12 'Military quality' bombs in London - The New York Times -

http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/12/world/europe/12iht-london.html?_r=1

any of the explosions?

CHAPELTOWN ROAD SITE

The first purchases of hydrogen peroxide by the alleged perpetrators were made months before the Alexandra Grove flat was rented. A flat in Chapeltown Road has also been stated to be an alleged bomb factory, but much less information has been released about it compared to Alexandra Grove.

What, if any, forensic evidence of bomb making was found at Chapeltown Road? When was it identified?

8. The likely involvement of MSK, Tanweer, Hussain and Lindsay in the development and assembly of the explosive devices.

INADEQUATE EXPERTISE AND EQUIPMENT OF THE ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

It requires great expertise to produce highly concentrated hydrogen peroxide. It is not possible to do this by simply heating dilute hydrogen peroxide solutions (which are readily available commercially) on a kitchen stove. If that is attempted the hydrogen peroxide decomposes into water and oxygen. More sophisticated methods of distillation are extremely hazardous: concentrated hydrogen peroxide vapour is liable to detonate explosively.

No credible explanation has been given of how the alleged perpetrators, given their lack of expertise and equipment, produced concentrated hydrogen peroxide. Nor, given the apparent absence of refrigerator units in the alleged bomb factory at Alexandra Grove, has any explanation been given of how the concentrated hydrogen peroxide was stored.

Maintaining the concentration of the peroxide is difficult as it decomposes relatively easily. Even if the concentration was maintained, it would then be difficult to prevent the peroxide from igniting the pepper. That these difficulties were overcome by using bags of ice on a journey of about 200 miles in summer stretches credulity.

UNIQUENESS OF THE DEVICES

Given that Clifford Todd, a senior forensic investigator at Fort Halstead forensic explosives laboratory, said in open court that the devices were "unique in the UK and possibly the whole world"¹³ it is imperative to understand exactly who is alleged to have been involved with the manufacture of such unique and never-before-seen devices.

13 Details of July 7 'bomb factory' disclosed - Telegraph - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1922300/Details-of-July-7-bomb-factory-disclosed.html>

If the contention is that the devices were manufactured by any number of the four accused, then what evidence suggests any of the four were technically capable of producing them? How, when and where did they gain the expertise and training in order to develop such unique devices?

Any novel product has to undergo rigorous testing before it is used in real-world applications, so if the four accused are alleged to have constructed these unique devices unassisted, where was the methodology developed for so doing? Where did they conduct tests of these new devices before deciding on the unique, never-before-seen and highly unstable explosives alleged to have been used on 7/7 as the method of choice?

NO EVIDENCE OF BLEACHED HAIR IN PUBLISHED CCTV PICTURES

There is no evidence of the hair of the alleged perpetrators being bleached in the very limited CCTV footage released.

Is there any forensic evidence that confirms this?

ALTERNATIVE USES OF PEROXIDE

Much of the material found at Alexandra Grove could be put to use in producing illicit drugs, an activity which would require the alleged perpetrators to act in a somewhat secretive manner. One neighbour, Sylvia Waugh, testified that she suspected such activity.

Is there forensic evidence that rules out this alternative?

RENTAL OF ALEXANDRA GROVE

Although it has been reported that Lindsay rented Alexandra Grove, the description of the man who rented the property does not match Lindsay.¹⁴

Is there any documentation of the rental agreement, and if so who does it state was renting the flat?

14 EXCLUSIVE: THE 4TH BOMBER - mirror.co.uk - <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2005/07/15/exclusive-the-4th-bomber-115875-15738480/>