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Blast probe focuses on 1987 incident

By MICHELLE CARUSO,
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and DAVID WEBER

Investigators probing a deadly bomb blast at a Roslindale man's home are focusing on a 1987 dynamite explosion outside a Dedham auto body shop where he worked at the time.

Thomas L. Shay, 47, filed suit in Suffolk Superior Court last year, claiming he suffered hearing loss and psychological injury when a

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Son says dad warned police about device

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to other police officers when the explosion shook its foundation.

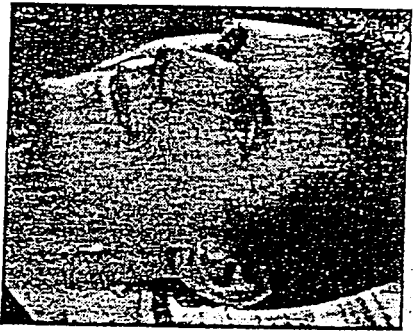
Now, he said, his father, an auto body mechanic, is being grilled by police who think he may have built the device himself, the younger Shay said.

The son, a professional masseur who lives in Quincy with his mother, said he was grilled himself for 90 minutes when he tried to visit his father Monday night.

(Police) asked about my father back when he was in the (Army) Reserves. He was an auto-body man. They were trying to find out if he made the bomb.... Police asked did he ever take off bumpers. Could he build a remote control, I said no

My father is not a criminal.

— Thomas A. Shay



THOMAS A. SHAY
Dad involved in lawsuit

definitely. He doesn't have the technique to do it. Why would he do it?"

Shay said either a "ricko" placed the bomb under his father's car at random or the culprit was connected with a lawsuit his father has brought against a former landlord.

But he said he was positive his father did not build the deadly bomb.

"My father is not a criminal," he said. "He doesn't do drugs. He doesn't gamble. Why this bomb was placed under his car I do not have the faintest idea. "I regret an officer's life has been taken. Because one officer is dead the whole Boston Police Department is played at my father. They should have been pulled up."

DEADLY BLAST

19 01:11:03 PM '91 OCT 30 1991 THE BOSTON HERALD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1991

Son: Police ignored warnings

By ANDREA ESTES

Says officers didn't take dad seriously

Two Boston Police officers struck down when a powerful bomb exploded were skeptical about the mysterious black box and didn't take safety precautions, the son of the man who found the bomb charged yesterday.

Thomas A. Shay, whose father found the device and has been questioned by police, said slain police officer Jeremiah Hurley and his partner Francis Foley weren't wearing protective gear.

He also charged the officers ignored his father, Thomas L. Shay's repeated warnings about the device.

"The officers didn't take it as seriously as he gave it to them," said Shay, 19. "My father looked at it, picked it up. When they came (the police) were not suited. They went to look at it and it unexpectedly went off. I guess they didn't believe it was a bomb."

Bomb squad members Jeremiah Hurley of Readville was killed and Francis Foley of Jamaica Plain was seriously injured Monday when the two examined the explosive in the driveway of the Roslindale home shared by Shay's father and his fiancée Mary Flanagan.

According to Shay, his father felt something under his black Buick Sunday night when he drove into the driveway. He removed it, the son said, and threw it aside thinking it was trash.

At 10 a.m. Monday, Shay said, his father went to clean the yard and examined the wrapped box more carefully and immediately called police.

An hour later, when police hadn't responded, the elder Shay borrowed a neighbor's car and drove to the police station where he "dragged two bomb squad officers back with the (bomb removal) truck," the son said.

Shay said his father was in the house talking

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QUESTIONED: Police are grilling Thomas L. Shay, shown in 15-year-old photo.

EXHIBIT 38

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