

# Bombing link a 'dead end'

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of officer

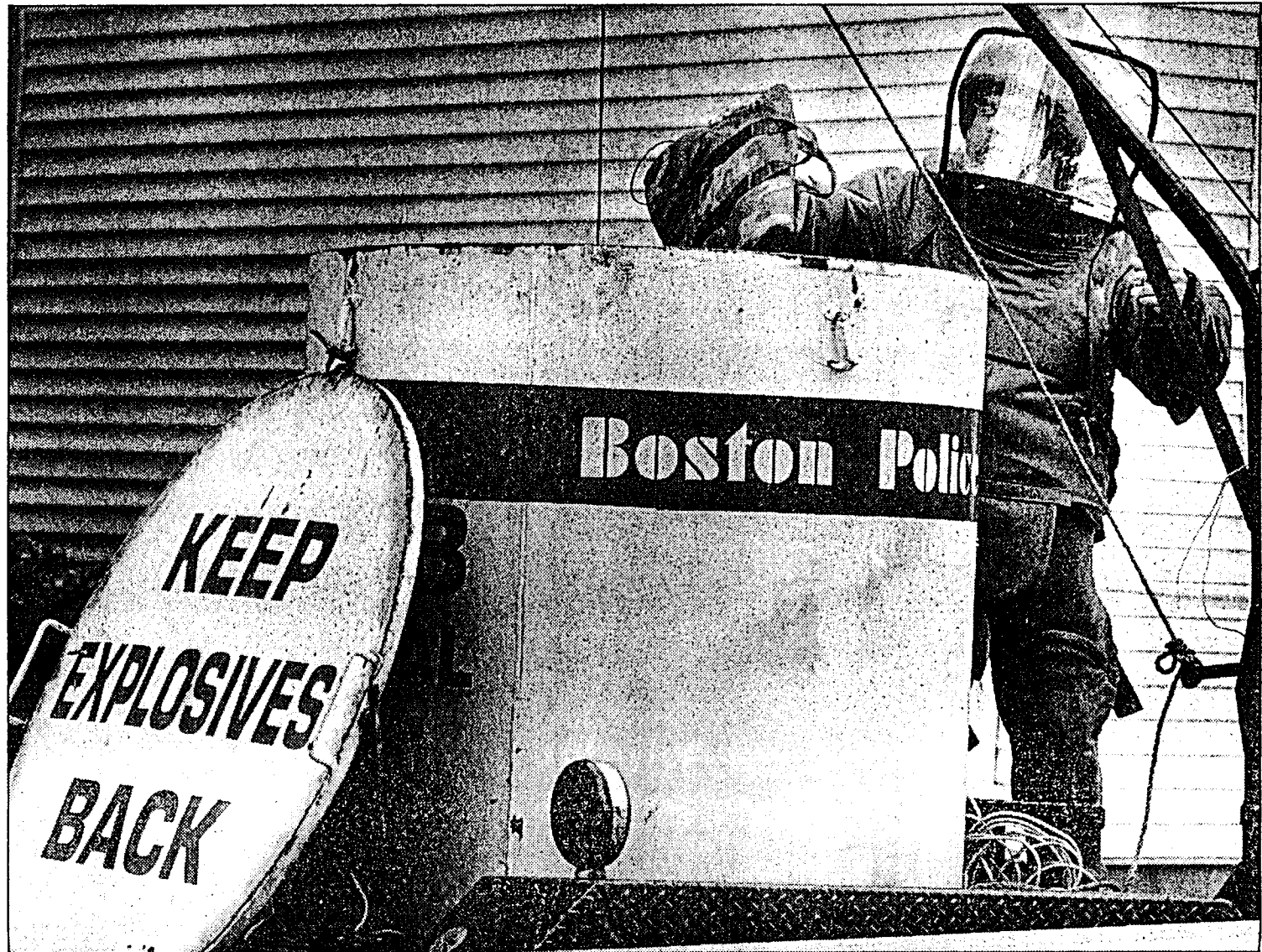
By L. KIM TAN,  
SHELLEY MURPHY,  
SARAH KOCH and  
ANDREA ESTES

Authorities probing last year's bombing murder of Boston Police Officer Jeremiah J. Hurley Jr. are said to have found no links between the bombing and a Hyde Park man who was arrested yesterday for allegedly attacking his roommate with acid and threatening to kill two police officers.

Following a day filled with drama as Boston Police carefully orchestrated the arrest of Dennis Owen, 39, and gingerly removed what they initially thought were explosive devices from Owen's home and which they hoped could be linked to the Oct. 28 bombing, investigators said the trail to Hurley's killer once again has turned cold.

Two investigators told the Herald the three devices removed from Owen's apartment at 204 Neponset Valley Parkway were "dummies" and do not contain explosive material.

Authorities who scoured Owen's apartment and two other units in the building



**FALSE ALARM:** A member of the Boston Police Bomb Squad, above, removes what was thought to be explosive materials from an apartment on Neponset Valley Parkway in Hyde Park yester-

day. Derrick Massey, below left, informed police of the plan by his roommate Dennis Owen, right, to build a bomb to kill two Boston police officers.

Staff photo by Brian Walski

partment at 204 Valley Parkway "mummies" and do in explosive ma-

ties who scoured apartment and two in the building and no other evi- at Owen may en involved in or planting the at exploded and Hurley and injured Francis X. Foley.

explosion occurred ley and his partner examining a device in the driveway at Bourne St. in Ros- the home of Tho- Shay.

is a dead-end," one ator said last night ending much of the ing to find a link Owen and Shay's old son, Thomas o has emerged in months as a sus- the bombing.

e is no connec- e investigator said. a major con job." rday's drama be- out 10 a.m. after

roommate, Der- sey, flagged down ropolitan police of- d told him Owen lding a bomb and epeatedly made to kill two Boston ficers who had ar- dm last month for g a restraining

ey, who moved in en just five days er both were re-

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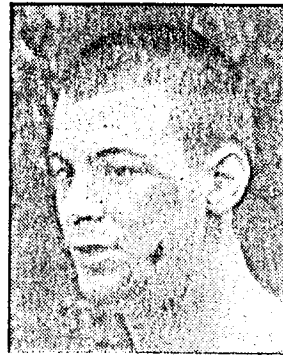
leased from the Nashua Street Jail, where they had been held on unrelated charges, told police he decided to come forward after Owen allegedly splashed acid on his face Sunday following an argument, according to police officials.

One police source said Massey told officers that Owen, in making the threats against Officers Kevin Griffiths and Kenneth Nicholls Sunday night and again yesterday morning, allegedly said, "I'll make a bomb better than the one I did for Shay," an apparent reference to the Shays.

Sources also said Massey told police he had seen at least one photograph of Owen and young Shay together in Owen's apartment.

Based on that information, Boston Police decided to storm Owen's apartment. He was apprehended outside the apartment building at 12:30 p.m., just as a special police entry team was about to rush his first-floor home with a court warrant.

The Boston Police bomb disposal unit soon removed three "wired" devices which investigators



hoped would provide a forensic link to the bomb that killed Hurley.

Owen, Massey, and James Corbett, a resident in the apartment building who is said to be a friend of Owen's, were taken in for questioning at Boston Police homicide headquarters.

Meanwhile, police officers and detectives, U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms Bureau agents, and federal prosecutors scoured Owen's and Corbett's apartments for possible evidence, sometimes using bomb-sniffing police dogs.

A third apartment occupied by Owen's mother also was searched with her consent, said Boston Police Deputy Superinten-

dent Gerard McHale.

For several hours yesterday afternoon, some investigators and police officials were saying they were optimistic that a break in the Hurley case might very well be within grasp.

Owen, who has a criminal record dating back to 1972, is a licensed chemist who had worked for a construction company in Cambridge until recently and may well have the expertise to build bombs and have access to explosive materials, one police source reasoned.

But by early last night, authorities said they were certain they had been conned by Massey.

One investigator said Massey also had spent

time in jail with young Shay, and apparently "picked some pieces (of the bombing)" from Shay.

"Owen was building what appeared to be a bomb so he could use it on people ... for some purpose," the investigator said. "We stumbled across a group of people who had some weird agenda."

Another investigator said Owen did not actually build bombs, and no photographs have been found showing Owen and Shay together. Owen himself also "vigorously" denied he knows Shay, this investigator said.

Shay Jr., in a telephone interview yesterday afternoon, also said he didn't know Owen, Massey, Corbett or Barbara Koufos, the Quincy woman who had obtained the restraining order against Owen which he violated and was arrested for May 24.

"I've never heard these names," said Shay.

When told both Owen and Massey had spent time at the Nashua Street Jail where he is currently being held, Shay insisted he'd never met either of them.

The younger Shay also said he didn't know if his

father knew Owen or the others and said he'd never heard their names in connection with his father.

But, three hours later, after learning that Owen allegedly boasted that he'd built a bomb for Shay, the younger Shay changed his story and claimed Owen was connected to his father.

"I've heard their names (Owen and Corbett) in the South End at the bar with my family," Shay Jr. said. "They're connected with my father."

When grilled for more information and reminded that he didn't recognize the names three hours earlier, Shay admitted, "Maybe (my father) didn't know them. I don't know."

Shay Sr. had no comments last night.

Owen faces arraignment today on a charge of mayhem in the alleged acid assault on Massey and on two counts of a separate charge of making threats to do bodily harm against a police officer. He will be arraigned in West Roxbury District Court.

Corbett was arrested on a default warrant out of Attleboro District Court, but was released yesterday after questioning.