

Quincy man eyed in bombing

By SHELLEY MURPHY

Feds probe explosion that killed Hub officer

A Quincy engineer has been slapped with a "target letter" from federal prosecutors warning him he's suspected of building a bomb that killed a Boston police officer, the Herald has learned.

Alfred W. Trenkler, 36, of Atlantic Street, is being targeted by a federal grand jury investigating the Oct. 28 blast in Roslindale that killed Bomb Squad Officer Jeremiah J. Hurley Jr. and maimed his partner, Officer Francis X. Foley, sources said.

Grand jurors are weighing several charges against Trenkler — including killing a public safety officer by means of explosives, according to the letter sent last week to Trenkler's lawyer, Terry Segal.

Additional charges be-

ing considered against Trenkler are receipt of explosives through interstate commerce and conspiracy, sources said.

Trenkler could not be reached for comment yesterday, and when his lawyer was asked about the letter, Segal said, "I really can't comment on that case." Assistant U.S. Attorneys Paul V. Kelly and Frank A. Libby Jr., who are prosecuting the case, also declined comment.

The bomb squad had been called to Eastbourne Street in Roslindale by Thomas L. Shay, 47, who reported a suspicious box in his driveway that had apparently fallen from under his car.

The bomb — a sophisti-

cated remote-control device — exploded while being inspected by Hurley and Foley.

Hurley, 50, a 23-year veteran of the Boston Police Department and a father of four, died in surgery hours after the blast. Foley, 50, a 25-year veteran, lost his left eye and suffered extensive burns and injuries.

Trenkler's name first surfaced publicly in the case in March when Shay's 20-year-old son, Thomas A. Shay, announced that investigators believed he tried to kill his father and enlisted his friend Trenkler to build the bomb.

At the time, the younger Shay insisted he had "nothing to do with

the bombing" and accused investigators of targeting Trenkler because his name was in Shay's address book and he builds satellites for a living.

Trenkler, who operates an electronics company in Weymouth, was charged with unlawful possession of an explosive in 1986 after a bomb blew up a Quincy fish company truck.

Investigators suspected Trenkler built the bomb for a friend who was embroiled in a dispute with the Capeway Fish Co. The charges were continued without a finding after Trenkler cooperated with authorities in an unrelated case involving drugs, sources said.

The bomb that destroyed the Quincy fish truck and the device that killed Hurley were strikingly similar, according to sources.

In other new developments in the federal probe, the younger Shay told the Herald he recently underwent hypnosis in an effort to help investigators and convince them he was being truthful. The federal grand jury has subpoenaed Trenkler's roommate to testify this week, sources said.

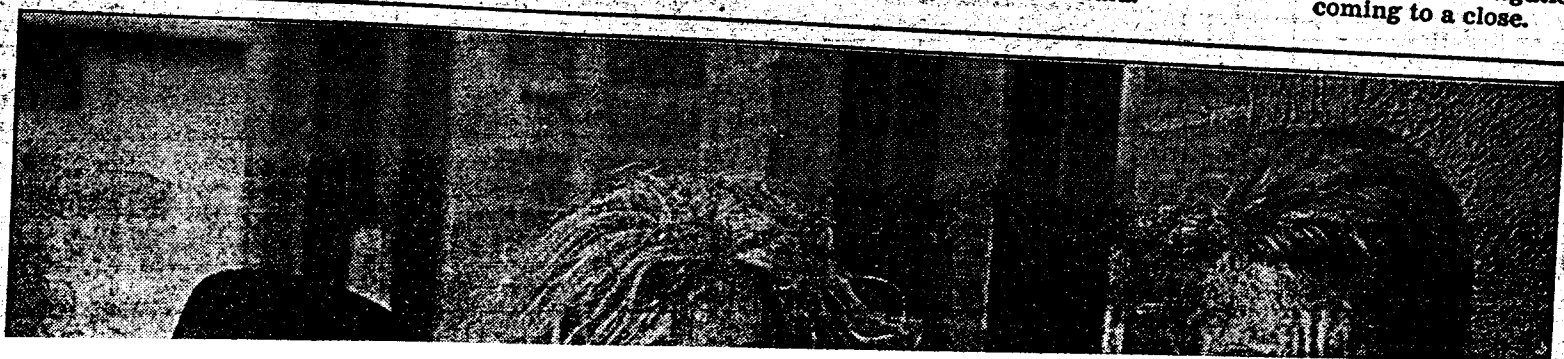
Foley, the surviving officer, has also been subpoenaed to testify, said sources, adding that his appearance may signal that the investigation is coming to a close.

Federal prosecutors met with officials from the office of newly appointed Suffolk County District Attorney Ralph Martin yesterday to brief them on the case.

The bombing is being investigated by Boston Police, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the offices of Martin and U.S. Attorney A. John Pappalardo.

Although no charges have been brought as a result of the Roslindale blast, the younger Shay has been jailed since March while awaiting trial on an unrelated charge of telephoning a false bomb threat to the Back Bay MBTA station in Nov. 1990.

He's scheduled to appear Friday in Suffolk Superior Court for a suppression hearing in that case.



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