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THE BOSTON GLOBE • FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1993

Officer tells of Roslindale bomb scene

By Matthew Breilis
GLOBE STAFF

In a small voice choked with emotion, Boston Police Officer Denise Corbett told jurors yesterday that as Bomb Squad Officer Jeremiah Hurley Jr. lay dying on a Roslindale driveway and his seriously wounded partner sat nearby, they implored her to tell their families they loved them.

"Frank [Foley] was leaning up against the fence and Jerry was al-

most under the truck. It was really bad, there was blood everywhere," said Corbett, her voice starting to quiver as she recounted the Oct. 28, 1991, blast.

"Jerry had lost a hand and a leg and Frank's face had fallen apart."

Assistant US Attorney Paul V. Kelly asked, "Did they say anything to you?"

"They wanted us to tell their chil-

dren that they loved them, and their wives that they loved them," she said. "They wanted to know how each other were doing, and they wanted us to leave because they thought the bomb was still underneath them."

Tears streamed down the faces of Hurley's widow, two daughters and two sons as they sat in the front row of US District Judge Rya W.

Zobel's courtroom listening to Corbett's account of Hurley's last day of life.

As the testimony became more and more painful, Hurley's family ran from the courtroom.

Corbett was the second witness to take the stand at the trial of Thomas A. Shay, 21, of Quincy, who is accused of killing Hurley and wounding Francis X. Foley with a bomb that prosecutors allege was intended for his father.

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Officer takes stand at Shay bomb trial

■ BOMBING
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Corbett testified that she and Sgt. Thomas Creavin were questioning Shay's father, Thomas L. Shay, at his Eastbourne Street home while Hurley and Foley were examining a small black box that Shay had said may be a bomb.

The elder Shay said he found the box in his driveway and speculated it had fallen from under his car.

"We were talking in front of the truck in the driveway for just a minute when we heard the explosion," Corbett said, describing how they were pelted with debris as they frantically called for an ambulance.

"A bomb is the ultimate weapon of terror. It is indiscriminate," Kelly told jurors during his opening statement. "Oftentimes, a bomb functions other than is intended and it explodes without warning, leaving behind a path of death, destruction and a trail of unintended victims. Ladies and gentlemen, that is this case."

Shay is accused of enlisting Alfred Trenkler, 36, of Quincy, to build the bomb. Trenkler is scheduled to stand trial separately.

Prosecutors Kelly and Frank A. Libby Jr. allege that Shay wanted to kill his father to avenge a childhood punctuated by abuse, neglect and abandonment and that he hoped to inherit a substantial portion of \$400,000 he believed his father might win in a pending civil suit.

In her opening, defense attorney Nancy Gertner indicated that defense strategy would be to cast doubt on Shay's father and show

that the government's admittedly circumstantial case has no evidence tying her client to the bomb.

Attacking the reliability of a television interview in which the younger Shay admitted purchasing parts used in the bomb, Gertner said her client craved media attention and was willing to make statements to the press, even if they were not true,

so that he could bask in the lime-light.

"For every witness to testify for the government that [father and son] did not get along, we will have witnesses saying that in September 1991 they were getting along fine," Gertner said. "Two weeks before the bombing they went to the racetrack and Tom sent his father a loving note.

"For every statement they have where he says 'I have a motive to kill my father,' we will offer a statement that he said, 'I love my father.'"

Kelly described the bomb as two or three sticks of repackaged dynamite, which had come from a National Guard armory, contained with blasting caps, batteries and a toggle switch in a wooden box that was nailed and glued together and painted black. It was attached to the bottom of the elder Shay's car by two speaker magnets and a dozen smaller magnets.

The elder Shay told police that the box became dislodged from his car on Oct. 27, 1991, and that he had handled it several times before they arrived, throwing it against his house and moving it down the driveway.