

# BOSTON HERALD

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## Blast probe focuses on 1987 incident

By MICHELLE CARUSO,  
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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 "sticker" 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 pissed at my father. They should have been pulled up."

# Investigators said to be focusing bomb blast

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small piece of dynamite was detonated in a drum, and could change direction if new information surfaces.

Some investigators have expressed doubts about Shay's story and consider him a potential suspect in the case, police sources said.

The source also said the most crucial physical evidence police have is bomb fragments. He said the pieces will be analyzed by federal experts in Washington, D.C. In an attempt to determine where they were obtained and if possible, by whom.

Police yesterday also recovered what they believe to be the bomb's detonator, which they hope may provide significant clues.

A crime scene investigator donned protective gear and removed the piece from the wooden exterior wall of a home at 35 Eastbourne St., where it became lodged after the blast.

Shay's lawsuit claims the 1987 dynamite blast occurred behind a building at 106 Washington St., Dedham, where Shay was renting space for an auto-body shop. The building also housed a service station at that time.

The suit alleges that an employee of the service station put a "quarter stick" of dynamite, which is about the amount of dynamite contained in an M-80 explosive, into a 55-gallon drum of trash and detonated it, causing a loud fiery blast.

Shay claims he was inside his auto-body shop when the barrel exploded outside the garage door of his shop. The suit alleges Shay was afflicted by the "concussion" of the blast, which damaged his hearing and caused lasting psychological injury.

Witnesses described the 1987 blast as a "ball of fire that hit a 65-gallon drum into the air," according to court documents.

Jeffrey S. Berry of Sloughton, who ran the service station and is part owner of the Dedham property where the blast occurred, claims one of his employees at the time, Desmond Matthews, was responsible for the explosion, according to court documents.

Berry said yesterday both he and Louis Glimmarco, a co-owner of the Dedham garage property, were questioned by police following the explosion in Roslindale.

It was unclear yesterday whether police had questioned Matthews and Anthony Glimmarco, who was also present during the 1987 blast, according to court documents.

Berry said he had no idea who would want to kill Shay. "When I heard it was 'Tommy' Shay, I couldn't believe it. My stomach turned," said Berry. "They (the police) are trying to make a connection between this (the 1987



SEARCH: Investigators look for clues yesterday at 39 Eastbourne St., Roslindale, the site of a deadly bomb explosion Monday.

blast) and that (the bomb) was detonated in a drum here. There is no connection," Berry said.

When police arrived at Shay's home Monday and asked him why he thought someone would plant a bomb under his car or in his driveway, Shay cited the lawsuit, according to Boston Police Sgt. Thomas Crenvin, one of two officers who responded to the scene before Hurley and Foley arrived.

Spentling to the Herald at the scene Monday after-

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CLOSE LOOK: Investigators comb through the grass

# probe on '87 dynamite explosion in Dedham

door to 39 Eastbourne St., Roslindale, yesterday, looking for bomb fragments from Monday's blast. Staff photo by Ted Fitzgerald



NEW SCARE: Bomb squad team prepares to check a bomb threat on Murray Hill Road in Roslindale yesterday.

Staff photo by Ted Fitzgerald

noon, Greavin said he had just begun to question Shay about the lawsuit when the bomb suddenly detonated.

"I was talking to the owner of the house as to who would place an explosive device there, and he

said he didn't know, but that it may have something to do with a lawsuit," said Greavin.

"He said he had sued somebody, and it was coming up soon. . . . We didn't get into it too much. It wasn't too long into the

questioning when it (the bomb) went off."

The suit is scheduled for trial Nov. 6, court records show.

Police officials, meanwhile, said the explosive device that killed Hurley apparently was of the "high-explosive" variety and probably was more powerful than homemade pipe bombs or even military hand grenades.

Shay's son, Thomas A. Shay, 19, of Quincy, yesterday said some investigators told him the bomb was made of "C-4—a class explosive." But investigators did not confirm that yesterday.

Deputy Superintendent Edward Eagar, who until May was commander of the Boston Police Mobile Operations Unit which includes the bomb squad, said it was "still too early" for investigators to tell what sort of bomb exploded in Roslindale.

Handolph G. LaMullina, 47, a former Boston Police

officer who was disabled by a bomb in 1983, said C-4 is a white putty-like explosive sometimes used to blow up safes.

"C-4 is a high explosive. It can be put into any type of explosive device. . . . You would have to have a blasting cap or a booster. You'd have an electrical type circuit," LaMullina said.

Eagar also said investigators still didn't know for certain if Hurley and Foley were wearing protective gear when the device detonated.

But even if they were, Eagar said, the protective gear—which is made for the U.S. Army out of bullet-proof Kevlar—might not have made much of a difference in the incident.

A federal team of about 30 agents and specialists from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is assisting Boston Police in the bomb probe.

"We try to reconstruct everything, even the explo-

sive device," said Terrence McArdle, special agent-in-charge of the Boston ATF office, adding that the painstaking work provides investigative leads.

Boston Police Commissioner Francis "Mickey" Roache said yesterday, "We're confident that at some point at least we'll have some information on the device itself."

Roache said much of what investigators hope to learn about the device may also come from Foley. However, it could be several days before they can question the injured officer.

Shay's lawyer, Alan J. Pransky of Dedham, yesterday refused to comment about Shay's lawsuit or the fatal bomb blast.

Asked if authorities were treating his client as a potential suspect, Pransky said, "No more so than I'm a suspect."

Meanwhile yesterday, Shay's son, Thomas A. Shay of Quincy, held a

press conference to say that his father is not responsible for the tragic bomb incident.

Mayor Raymond L. Flynn said yesterday, "The city lost a brave police officer" in Hurley. "And we are all praying that Frank Foley pulls through."

Richard Harris, who answered the door at Foley's home, said only, "He's a wonderful wonderful man, and it looks like he will make it."

Meanwhile, a Mass will be held 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Anne's Church, Reading, with Cardinal Bernard Law as celebrant.

A memorial fund has been set up for Hurley's family and contributions may be made to: The Jeremiah J. Hurley Jr. Memorial Fund, Hyde Park Savings Bank, 1106 River St., Hyde Park, MA, 02136.

—Beverly Ford, Stelley Murphy, Paul Sullivan, Andrea Estes and Gary Witherspoon contributed to this report

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