

Suspect in fatal bomb blast arraigned

By Matthew Brelis
GLOBE STAFF

Thomas A. Shay pleaded not guilty at his arraignment in US District Court yesterday on charges he conspired to kill his father with a bomb.

The bomb exploded outside Thomas L. Shay's Roslindale house on Oct. 28, 1991, and killed Boston Police Officer Jeremiah Hurley and wounded Officer Francis X. Foley.

Shay, 21, and Alfred W. Trenkler, 36, both of Quincy, were charged in a five-count indictment returned Wednesday that alleges they received explosives in interstate commerce; attempted to destroy by explosive real property or a vehicle used in interstate commerce; and were involved in a conspiracy.

The bomb, which was designed to detonate by remote control, had been attached to the undercarriage of the elder Shay's car.

A source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the younger Shay and Trenkler met about three

years ago when both were frequenting gay bars in Boston. Despite vastly different backgrounds, the two became friendly.

According to state court records, as a very young child Shay allegedly witnessed his father beat his mother and was first hospitalized for psychiatric treatment at the age of 5. He had a lengthy juvenile record in Milton, the town in which he grew up after the family moved from Brighton.

Shay was a client of the Department of Social Services from 1980 until he turned 18 on Nov. 3, 1989. His criminal record includes charges of receiving stolen goods and common nightwalking.

Shay spent time at Bridgewater State Hospital after he threatened to commit suicide when he was 17.

In court yesterday, Shay said he completed 10th grade while under the care of the DSS.

Until the trial, he voluntarily agreed to be detained at the Essex County Jail in Middleton.

Trenkler grew up in Milton and

received a private school education, first at Thayer Academy and later at Wentworth Institute.

Trenkler also had brushes with law enforcement. He was investigated for a 1986 incident in which a remote-controlled bomb was attached to a truck with speaker magnets, sources said.

The indictment describes Trenkler as having a background in electronics and alleges that he built the bomb with parts supplied by Shay.

Sources said that the motive for trying to kill the elder Shay was profit and revenge for the younger Shay's unhappy childhood.

In September 1991, the younger Shay found out that even if his father died, a civil suit in which the elder Shay was seeking \$400,000 in damages from two Dedham businessmen would continue. Shay apparently asked his father's attorney if the elder Shay had a will. If the father were to die without a will, the beneficiaries would have been his children.

Both Trenkler and Shay face the possibility of life in prison or the death penalty because Hurley was killed by the bomb.

US Magistrate-Judge Marianne B. Bowler said she would appoint an attorney for Shay after further review.

Trenkler will be arraigned this morning and the government will move that he be detained until the trial.

He was arrested Wednesday afternoon, minutes after a federal grand jury returned the five-count indictment charging him and Shay.

Trenkler graduated from Thayer in 1975. His yearbook quote from that year reads, "To some people the only way to have a good time is to do it and try not to get caught, and to others a good time can be had without worrying about being caught, and to me a mixture in the right proportion results in a good time."

Law enforcement sources said Trenkler was shocked when police, who had been following him all morning, arrested him.

DEFENDANT'S
EXHIBIT
108 ID

Milton