
Witness links two in fatal bomb case

By Matthew Brelis
GLOBE STAFF

The testimony of a government witness yesterday in US District Court linked bomb defendant Thomas A. Shay to Alfred Trenkler — the man prosecutors think built the bomb that exploded in Roslindale in 1991, killing a Boston police officer.

Edward Carrion told jurors that he had an on-and-off relationship with Shay from 1988 until the early fall of 1991 and that he drove Shay to the Milton home of Trenkler's parents several times. Carrion also testified that he saw Shay and Trenkler together in a Back Bay location known as "the Block," where gay men go to meet others.

Carrion, a former South Pasadena, Calif., police officer who has lived in Boston since 1985, testified that Shay's feelings about his father were anger and disillusionment. "He felt that he was abandoned. . . . Toward the end, he was very aggressive and angry and did not want to talk about his father very much."

Assistant US Attorneys Paul V. Kelly and Frank A. Libby Jr. have argued that Shay wanted to kill his father, Thomas L. Shay, in revenge for a childhood of physical abuse and to inherit a portion of \$400,000 the elder Shay stood to win if a civil suit he had filed was successful.

The government is trying to prove that Shay had Trenkler build the bomb and that one of them attached the remote-controlled device with magnets to the undercarriage of the elder Shay's car. The bomb exploded in the elder Shay's Roslindale driveway on Oct. 28, 1991, killing Boston bomb squad officer Jeremiah Hurley.

Carrion said that in 1991, Thomas A. Shay told him that his father was terminally ill and Shay would inherit money when his father died.

Carrion said Shay was interested in electronics and remote-control toys, adding that his roommate had a remote-control car Shay used. The roommate was the manager of the Radio Shack store on Massachusetts Avenue in Boston at which officials think Shay purchased components used in the bomb.

Agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms canvassed Radio Shack stores in an attempt to trace the bombing, and through that effort found Carrion.

Another witness, Robert Evans, testified that while he was in the lockup at Quincy District Court, Shay, in the next cell, asked him what sentence someone would receive for murder. When told that the sentence could be 25 years in prison, Shay responded that if he made bail, he would flee, Evans recalled.

Evans testified that though Shay said he was not being held in connection with the bombing, Shay also said he had had someone make the bomb for him.
