

S II – Soko –

Mr. A. Lorenzo HARRIS
Dl
Verifie Monday April 7

Hearing start time: 11:30 AM

I am only today able to attend this hearing, as I have been at home the entire time, suffering from an earache.

Robert SIMS
Resident of Spandau

TCA-Club Silverwings, Tel: 819-5560

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MR/GER056294
TRANSLATION

Mr. Sims sat to my left. We walked back and forth around the bar area, however, and didn't have fixed seats. At the bar there sat and stood several black Americans which I recognized, although not by name. Aside from this, there were also two German girls that I recognized only in passing. I have been familiar with the disco for approximately a year, and visit once a week. I visit the disco mostly on weekends. I have to say that there was a lot of coming and going around the bar, and I really can't say anymore who was there and at what time.

Mr. Sims was continually in my sight, however. I didn't pay any more attention to it. There were many Americans there which I recognized from sight, but there at the bar, none which I knew by name. I also didn't notice if there were any Turks or Arabs standing there.

Robert and I stayed at the bar the entire time, and when the explosion occurred, we were still at the bar. In this building schematic, I mark my position with "1" and Mr. Sims' position with "2". At the moment of the explosion, I was looking at the dance floor. I heard a loud boom, did not see any sparks or the like, and was pushed backwards. The explosion caused me injury to my ears, i.e. I still feel a corresponding pressure there. I would also like to say that the general area around the bar was relatively dark, while the dance floor was more brightly illuminated. It was also loud at the bar, and one could only hear the person he was speaking with, and I could not hear other conversations around me. In any event, I didn't notice any foreigners around me, especially Turks or Arabs, and I also did not hear conversations in foreign languages. The entire time, I more or less was speaking only with Mr. Sims. I also didn't take note of what was going on around me. Immediately after the explosion, I spoke again to Mr. Sims, and he told me that he wasn't hurt.

I didn't notice any bags or anything similar. As I mentioned, I was only listening to the music and having a conversation with Mr. Sims. After that, I know that Mr. Sims and I climbed through a hole in the wall and headed for the direction of the exit, ending up on the street. As I was not further injured, I also was not driven to the hospital. As I still had pain in both ears, I went to the Klinikum Steglitz for outpatient care. This must have been around 10:00 PM on Sunday evening. In the meantime, I heard from my friends that I should report here to the police.

In any event, it was difficult to see much of anything in this disco, as the spotlight flickered over the dance floor. I want to say also that there were continuously 15-20 people in the area around the bar who changed their positions, so I cannot say who of the people I knew from passing were where at what time. I didn't notice anything in particular before the explosion, and afterwards, I was happy just to get out.

As mentioned in the beginning, I entered the bar with my friend Mr. Sims, went directly to the bar, and stayed there until the explosion, so I cannot say if there were other acquaintances of mine in the disco. In response to your questions, I have no knowledge of whether at any time, even days before the explosion, if there had been any fights between the customers, or by extension, any bomb threats.

I request that no photographs are taken of me, as I am fearful that they may fall into the wrong hands. My fear is not based in any way on having received any threats or the like. I want to also state that I didn't see anyone in front of the disco when Mr. Sims and I exited together.

Mr. Sims and I made arrangements that we would drive separately to the disco. This we did, and I parked my car (a Ford Granada, metallic silver in color, US license plate No. CP-1155). I parked on the same side of the street as the entrance to the disco, albeit a few meters down.

Mr. Sims likewise parked his car on the same side of the street as I did, approximately 10 meters down from me. We then got out, and went into the disco together. It is uncertain how long I will be remaining in Berlin, and can be reached either at my address, or at the TCA-Club.

Hearing end time: 12:35 PM

Concluded

_____ read, approved and signed
(signature)

(signature)
Büntig, KHM

(signature) Lorenzo A. Harris

Certified in the proceedings:

Upon being questioned, I declare that I have not omitted any contrary information, i.e. that I have not neglected any details from the disco.

(signature)

Lorenzo A. Harris
Description of Injuries

Background

Lorenzo Alexander Harris was born on March 14, 1955 in Atlanta, Georgia. On September 9, 1975, he enrolled in the United States Army. In 1977, he was assigned to the U. S. Army base in Berlin, Germany. Not long after arriving in Berlin in 1977, Lorenzo met Karin Grice. The couple married on September 2, 1980. Two years later, on March 9, 1982, their daughter, Priscilla Alexandra Harris, was born. On August 13, 1982, Lorenzo was honorably discharged from the Army, but he continued to serve his country as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves. Se

One of Lorenzo and Karin's favorite activities was dancing. After they were married, they would try to go dancing every so often, when they could get a babysitter. On the night of April 4, 1986, they planned to go to one of their favorite dance clubs, the La Belle discotheque, but they could not find a babysitter. Karin decided to stay home, while Lorenzo met their friends at the club.

The La Belle Bombing

On April 5, 1986, Lorenzo Harris arrived at the La Belle discotheque at approximately 12:30 a.m. He met his best friend, Robert Sims, at the club and the two of them sat down at the bar. At the time of the explosion, Lorenzo was looking at the dance floor. He heard a loud bang, was thrown backwards, and lost consciousness. When he regained consciousness he escaped from the club through a hole in the wall. The police inspection report of the scene soon after the bombing states that there was a heavy, discernible presence of smoke and dust in the club. The report also notes that almost all of the people who were seen exiting the club were visibly in shock.

Karin Harris was at home when the bombing occurred, and did not know what happened. When Lorenzo walked through the door of their home, he was completely covered in white dust. She asked him what was going on, but he did not respond. He vomited and appeared disoriented. He was in shock, could not speak, and could not hear anything. A few minutes later, Karin received phone calls from friends, asking her if she had been at the club and explaining to her what had happened.

Karin took Lorenzo to the hospital. At the hospital, Lorenzo was diagnosed with explosion trauma to his inner ear with hearing loss in both ears, and a lump and pain on the back left side of his head. Doctors noted that Lorenzo exhibited signs of a fractured skull, ordered a cranial x-ray, and instructed him to severely limit his activities for the next several days. Hearing tests revealed that he had high frequency hearing loss in his left ear in addition to moderate to severe hearing loss in his right ear. His hearing would never be the same.

For days following the explosion, Lorenzo could not hear and had debilitating pain in both ears. He was nauseous and suffered from severe headaches. Over time, his hearing slowly began to improve, but it never returned to normal.

Lorenzo's life changed significantly because of the bombing. He was rarely sick prior to the bombing, but after being exposed to the dust and debris in the bombing, he was sick all of the time. In addition to having hearing loss and continuing headaches, he began to complain that he was having chest discomfort and difficulty breathing. He had several lung infections, was hospitalized with reoccurring pneumonia, and was diagnosed with asthma.

It is clear that Lorenzo's inhalation of dust and debris during the explosion caused his lung problems. He did not have any allergies or respiratory disorders prior to the bombing and had never had any significant lung infections. Studies have shown that dust and debris from an explosion can cause lung disorders and respiratory problems in those who are exposed. For instance, the majority of firefighters and other individuals who were caught in the dust and debris clouds during the collapse of the World Trade Center towers have been found to have respiratory disorders and a reduction in lung function.¹ Like Lorenzo, they suffer from symptoms such as wheezing, chest discomfort, and shortness of breath.

Due to Lorenzo's breathing difficulties, he was never able to return to the activities that he enjoyed prior to the explosion. He could not go jogging, play sports, or actively play with his kids. He could not clean the house any more because he grew tired very easily and could not catch his breath. He no longer wanted to go out of town on vacation with his family.

Lorenzo was unable to go back to work after the explosion, and he lost his job at TCA Club Silverwings. After seven months, he was able to go back to work and got a job at the Berlin Main Exchange, a store on the military base. The pay at this job was significantly less than the pay he received at TCA Club Silverwings. In addition, he constantly had to miss work for weeks at a time because of his frequent illnesses, which further diminished his earnings.

On January 3, 1990, Lorenzo was at work at the Berlin Main Exchange when he collapsed and died. Due to the lung and respiratory problems he developed from inhaling dust and debris in the La Belle bombing, he had an asthma attack and died from respiratory distress. He was 34 years old.

¹ David J. Prezant, M.D., et al., Cough and Bronchial Responsiveness in Firefighters at the World Trade Center Site, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 347, No.11 (2002). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Robert M. Brackbill, PhD, et al., Surveillance for World Trade Center Disaster Health Effects Among Survivors of Collapsed and Damaged Buildings, Surveillance Summaries, April 7, 2006. MMWR 2006;55 (No. SS-2).