

Miriam's Vision: A Response to the 2005 London Bombings

History

Who was involved in 7/7? Information Pack 3

Eye-witness accounts as reported on the BBC website

KRISHNAKUMAR NAIR (Tavistock Square)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4662515.stm>

I reached Euston station by Silverlink county close to 0900, and walked to Euston Square tube to find police blocking it. So I went back to Euston station again to access the underground. The police were evacuating there too, saying there was a possible explosion at Liverpool Street.

So then I took the number 59 bus to reach Holborn. As the bus passed a bit after Tavistock Square park, we heard an explosion - something like a big bang, sort of muffled inside a metal container.

We looked back from the upper deck and saw a huge metal scrap thing on the road, with a few fumes coming out. Someone was on the road trying to pull something out of it.

All of us panicked and hurried to get out of the bus. People were losing it completely.

I am lucky to be writing this. This was the first time I smelt death so near

YOTTY TODA (Edgware Rd)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4662423.stm>

I was in the train when the blast occurred between Edgware Road and Paddington. I heard the immense bang and tried to look out the window. All I saw was another train passing by mine and the two were stopped very close to each other in the tunnel.

Right after the explosion, thick black smoke came into our carriage. It was powdery, thick smoke. Everyone tried to cover their noses and mouths with handkerchiefs and

tissue paper. It seemed to last a long time, but it must have been less than two minutes until we were told to evacuate the train.

I was in the second carriage so I had to go through the first one in order to evacuate. When I reached the end of the first carriage, I thought I would see the driver's compartment, but it was totally blown off. I saw parts of the compartment - such as the doors and the roof - scattered around the track.

I was helped down to the track by underground staff and we walked all the way to the Edgware Road station in the dark tunnel. I cannot tell you how happy I was to see the sky and have non-coloured air when I reached ground level.

I walked home in the rain. I am still in shock, but I appreciate that I am still alive and unhurt.

RACHEL MCFAYDEN (Kings Cross/Russell Square)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4662365.stm>

As we left King's Cross, about 0855, there was an almighty bang and everything went totally black. Then clouds of choking smoke filled the tube carriage and I thought I had been blinded. It was so dark that nobody could see anything. I thought I was about to die, or was dead.

Then I realised I was choking, the smoke was like being underwater. But gradually I could see, a little, as the emergency lights in the tunnel kicked in. The glass was smashed so air started to flood in, we were OK.

There was silence for 10 seconds. Then a terrible screaming. We all tried not to panic, saying to each other, "OK, stay cool, stand up if you aren't injured, hold hands, don't cry, stand up, hold on, we'll get out, the driver is trying to talk to us."

Some people screamed, some groaned, but we kept saying: "Shh, we'll get out, stay cool, the driver is talking to us, let's listen to him." The driver said: "I've got to go forward a bit, then I can let you out, but first I need to make sure the track isn't live."

We all shouted the message into the darkness. It got passed down the train.

CONRAD MURKITT (Liverpool Street)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4662045.stm>

I was on the train that the 'bang' happened on. I must have been two or three carriages down from where it originated.

I would like to praise the people in my carriage and on the train as a whole for remaining calm despite the sense of fear everyone must have felt when this happened.

After waiting for maybe 15 minutes or more we were rescued by emergency services and had to walk the remainder of the way down the track to Aldgate station.

There was twisted metal from the train laying on the track which we had to pass as well as injured people who needed urgent medical attention.

The emergency services were doing an excellent job taking care of people and their response in general was superb. Bravo to them.