

Terrorist bombs rock London train stations

LONDON (AP) — A bomb exploded at Victoria Station during morning rush hour Monday, 45 minutes after a caller claiming to represent the Irish Republican Army warned of bombs at all of London's train stations, police said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast at Victoria, one of London's two main train stations. The warning was delivered by a man with an Irish accent who said: "We are the Irish Republican Army. Bombs to go off at all mainline stations in 45 minutes."

It came less than three hours after a bomb exploded at Paddington station, the city's other main station. Only a dozen employees were on duty, and no one was injured.

Churchill-Coleman said the call was only one of a number of threats following the Paddington explosion, and that the others "transpired either to be false or malicious." Iain McGregor, deputy chief constable of the British Transport Police, said his department gets half a dozen bomb threats a day.

Churchill-Coleman said the warning was passed to the British Transport Police, who already were searching all the main railway terminals when the blast at Victoria occurred.

The bomb, which was hidden in a trash can on the concourse, "was quite deliberately intended to maim and kill," he said.

British Rail Chairman Robert Reid said the caller's timing may have been a deliberate attempt to make his warning appear to be a hoax.

"Let's face it, as soon as you have an incident, your telephone lines are choked with hoax calls," Reid said in an interview on

British Broadcasting Corp. radio. "Since these two incidents we've had hoax calls all the way up the line."

British Rail closed all mainline stations after the bombings, suspending service that carries half a million people into the capital every day.

Several hours after the Victoria blast, Heathrow Airport, Britain's busiest, was evacuated briefly Monday after police received a vague bomb threat, an airport spokeswoman said. Police searched and found nothing.

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Pro-choice bill passes in Maryland Legislature

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — A bill that would protect a woman's right to abortion in the event Roe vs. Wade is overturned won final passage Monday in the Maryland Legislature, ending intense lobbying and a yearlong battle.

The House approved the bill on a vote of 84-52 and sent the measure to Gov. William Donald Schaefer, who was expected to make it law later Monday.

A proposed, anti-abortion "conscience amendment" to bar lawsuits against people who refuse to refer patients for an abortion was rejected on a vote of 61-73.

The bill already contained a provision barring such suits. It also includes a parental notification provision, but one that doctors may opt to ignore.

In the hours leading up to the House session, lobbyists for the Roman Catholic Church and other anti-abortion groups sought support for the amendment, which would have sent the measure back to the Senate.

The Senate approved the bill Feb. 11 on a vote of 29-18.

The bill was at the center of a year-long legislative fight over attempts by pro-choice legislators to write into Maryland law key elements of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision.

Both houses of the Legislature are heavily dominated by Democrats and have tended to be pro-choice on abortion in recent years. Last year, an abortion rights bill was killed by a filibuster in the Senate after the bill's supporters failed by just one vote to get a two-thirds majority to cut off debate.

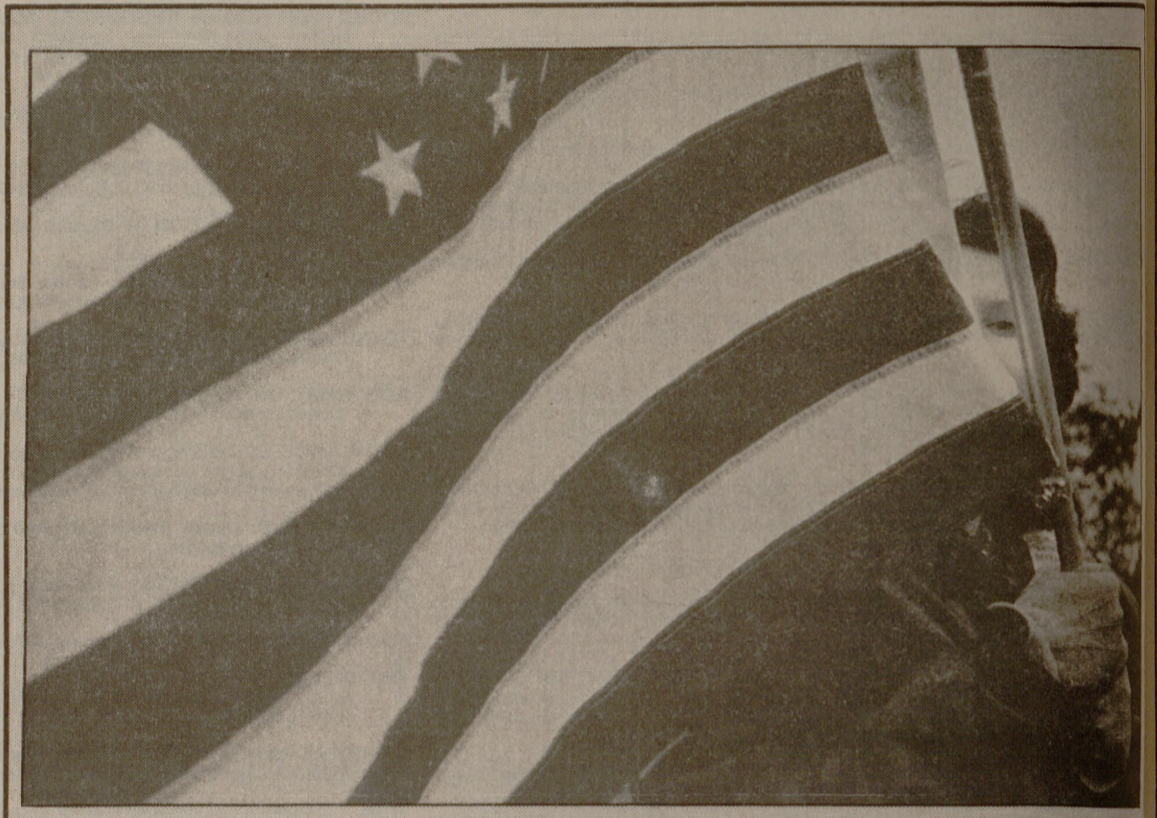
The pro-choice bill grants adult women unrestricted access to abortions up to the time when a fetus is able to survive outside the womb. After that, abortions could be performed only to protect a woman's health or in cases where the fetus is deformed.

The measure also includes what both sides agree is a weak parental notification clause. It requires that at least one parent must be notified when an underage girl seeks an abortion. Doctors would be allowed to ignore the requirement if they deemed it to be in the best interests of the girl.

"Only Connecticut has passed a pro-choice bill since Webster," said Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg, D-Baltimore, referring to a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1989 that allowed states to restrict access to abortions.

Karyn Strickler, director of the state chapter of the National Abortion Rights Action League, described the measure as "a step backward." She complained that the parental notification provision could force some teen-agers into risking illegal abortions.

"To view this bill as a very liberal bill is simply erroneous," she said.



SCOTT D. WEAVER/The Battalion

Showing the colors

Leanne South, an editorial assistant for the Texas Transportation Institute, peers around her U.S. flag at a pro-troops rally held on the Texas A&M campus early last Saturday morning.

Marines prepare for landing Seaborne assaults have roots in ancient warfare

WASHINGTON (AP) — An amphibious landing on the oil-stained shores of Kuwait would be the largest such undertaking since Gen. Douglas MacArthur ordered 40,000 troops into action at Inchon harbor in Korea 40 years ago.

Amphibious warfare, attacking from the sea, is a weapon honed on the seawalls of Inchon, the bullet-riddled coral of the Pacific and the gale-lashed rocks of Normandy.

Dress rehearsals for a seaborne invasion of Kuwait have been under way for months on the beaches of friendly nations nearby. A task force of about 17,000 Marines is poised on ships in the Persian Gulf, backed by a flotilla of support vessels.

The operation they have been practicing requires precision.

It uses bombing runs and battleship guns to beat up targets on shore, landing craft to bring in troops, helicopter gunships and low-flying jets to support them, special equipment to clear away mines and obstacles, and tanks, armored vehicles and howitzers to drive the attack home.

Amphibious landings have their 3805000 roots in the warfare of ancient times. The Persians brought an army in by sea to face the Athenians at Marathon in 360 B.C.

Amphibious war in the modern world dates from one of the darkest episodes of World War I — the British attempt in 1915 to force a passage up the Dardanelles, the narrow

Balance of Power in the Gulf Table with columns for IRAQ, U.S., and ALLIES, listing military strengths and troop movements.

Note: Turkish troops not included. Forces deployed by other countries in Turkey not included.

straits that separate European and Asiatic Turkey. Major amphibious landings were ordered at Gallipoli in April following the sinking or disabling of six British and French warships in an undetected mine field.

Once ashore, the British, Australian and New Zealand troops were plagued by the mistakes of their commanders and bogged down in murderous trench warfare. They never broke out of their beachheads.

London withdrew its forces in January 1916; British casualties totaled 214,000. Amphibious landings as a method of war were largely dis-

credited. But in the United States, Gallipoli was seen in a more positive light. The Marine Corps, attempting to carve out a future role for itself, viewed Gallipoli in terms of possibilities not failure.

In 1921, Maj. Gen. John J. Lejeune, then the Marine Corps commandant, recognized the growing military power of Japan and commissioned a study that resulted in the first detailed plans for amphibious operations in the Pacific.

Lejeune was convinced that the failure at Gallipoli was due to the incompetence of commanders and the nature of amphibious warfare, according to Edward L. Beach, 1986 history of the U.S. Navy.

By 1929, it was accepted that the Marines' role was to provide an amphibious assault force to seize and occupy overseas bases.

By the mid-1930s, the corps had a landing operation doctrine and was developing flat-bottomed landing craft, modern attack aircraft and amphibious tanks. It also mounted a series of landing exercises.

After Pearl Harbor, all of this was put to the test of war.

Beginning at Guadalcanal in August 1942, the Marines and the Navy conquered the Pacific in a series of amphibious assaults, most of them fiercely opposed by Japanese troops who preferred death to surrender.

Suspects in church robbery remain in custody Officer arrests seven in high-speed chase

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. (AP) — Five men and two women — all Vietnamese — were being held in a Kansas jail Monday under suspicion in a weekend robbery and shooting at a Vietnamese Catholic church here, officials said.

Five were from Houston and one from the Houston suburb of Pasadena. One member of the group had "provided some information in regards to the shooting and robbery at the church," Randall Jones, Colby, Kan., chief of police, said.

The group, driving in two cars, was stopped by a Kansas Highway Patrol officer about 9 a.m. Sunday for driving in excess of 90 mph, Jones said. After running a check on driver's licenses, one of the men, Hoang Nguyen, 20, was found to be wanted by Houston authorities for a Feb. 8 robbery and shooting at a residence there.

"He was supposedly armed and dangerous," Jones said.

Also held by Kansas authorities Monday were: Tai Kim Pham, 22, of Denver; Vinh Tran Nguyen, 20, of Houston; Khai Kinh Nguyen, 20, of Houston; Tam Hoang Nguyen, 18, of Houston; and two women identified as Lily Nguyen, 20, of Houston, the wife of Hoang Nguyen; and Joo Yum Baek, 19, of Pasadena, Texas.

Aside from the Texas felony warrant for the arrest of Hoang Nguyen, Jones said, there have been no charges filed against seven people.

The seven were being held at the Thomas County Law Enforcement Center in Colby. Jones said diamond rings, gold jewelry and money were found in the car. A red ski mask and four handguns were found under the hood of one of the cars, tucked into an engine part, he said.

The jewelry, some with initials and names inscribed, matched the description of some that were taken during the church robbery here, Jones said.

Wheat Ridge Police were en route to Colby Monday afternoon to investigate, said Peg Rowlett, a spokeswoman of the Wheat Ridge Police Department.

A gang of Asian gunmen stormed the Queen of Vietnam Martyrs Catholic Church just after midnight Saturday, shot a handyman and robbed about 30 members. Parishioners were cleaning up after a Vietnamese new year's celebration.

The Nguyen, 57, a volunteer at the church was hit by a shotgun blast during the attack. Doctors amputated his right leg and he was in serious condition Monday at St. Anthony Hospital in Denver.

Several other parishioners were treated for minor wounds after they were pistol-whipped by the robbers.

Jones said Kansas authorities heard news reports of the Wheat Ridge robbery and shooting Monday morning and called police there.