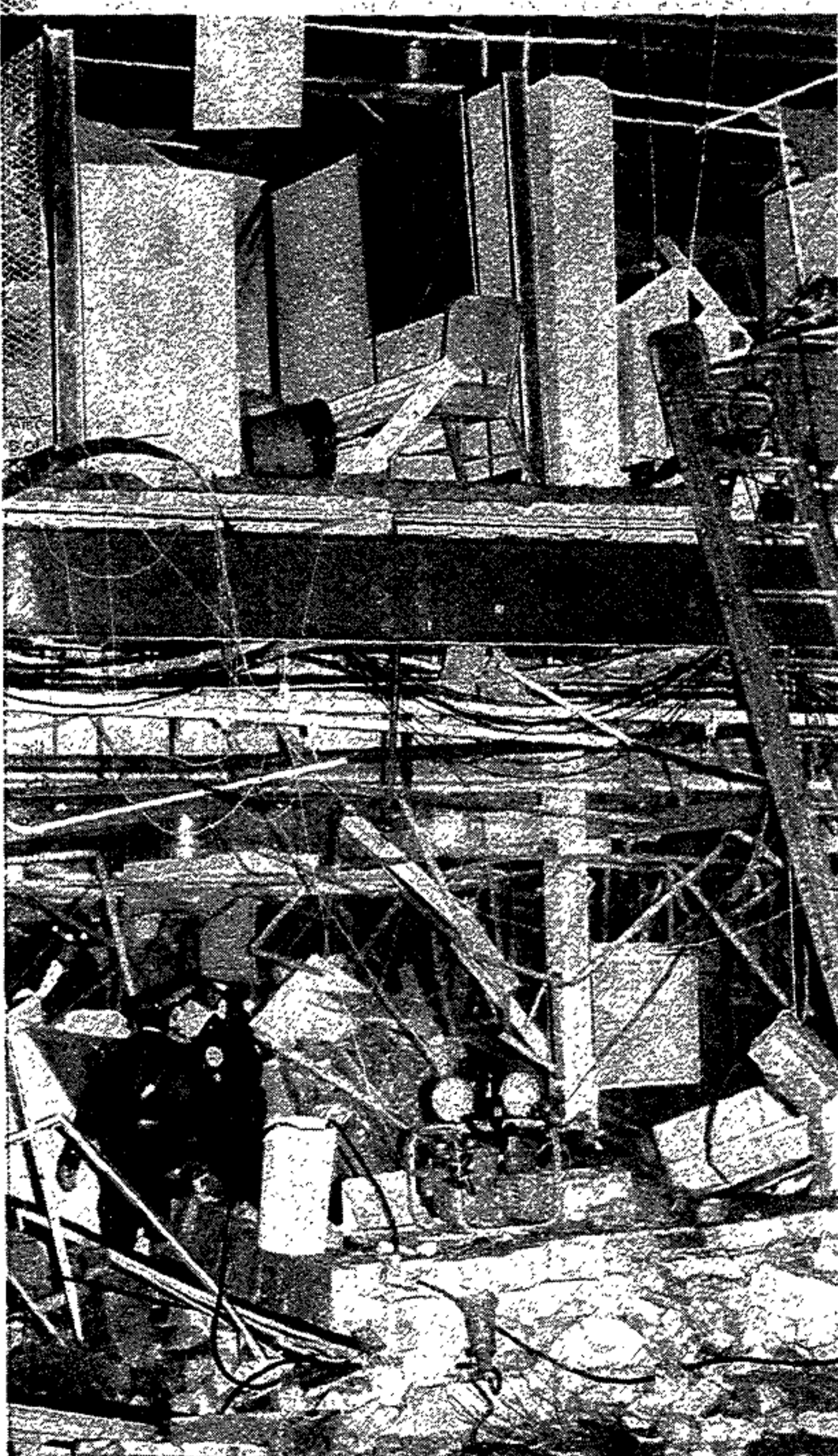


LITTON BOMB BLAST Shock felt miles away



COLIN MCCONNELL/TORONTO STAR

"Black mark for all of Canada:" That's what Etobicoke Mayor Dennis Flynn, a member of the Metro Police Commission, called the bombing at Litton Systems in Rexdale. It was "the first terrorist act of this kind in our country," he said. Two policemen survey the damage.

Seven injured in bomb blast

Continued from page A1

to testify at the trial of 22 protesters charged with trespassing on company property.

Five pumps, two rescue trucks and more than 50 firefighters responded to the call.

Three of the injured were police. Two of them, 23 Division constables Mervyn Dennis and Bruce McKee, received cuts from flying debris and were released. Constable Guy Courvoisier is in Etobicoke General Hospital with concussion.

The other four victims are Litton employees, including a company security guard.

Hit in head

They were identified as Barry Blunden of Gripholm Rd., Mississauga, who was knocked unconscious by a piece of steel that hit him in the head and is in serious condition; James Tayles, of Hawman Blvd., Mississauga, facial cuts; Terry Chikowski, Avila Rd., Mississauga, cuts to the back, and Leo Bailey, of Broadlands Blvd., Don Mills, smoke inhalation.

Police Staff Supt. Jack Webster, after checking on casualties at the hospital, emerged to tell reporters: "A war-like scene down there, gentlemen."

A Litton spokesman said the van was driven up on the lawn in front of one of seven buildings on the site.

The 1980 Vandura van, owned by Gauley Gage Cartage Ltd. on Civic Rd., Scarborough, was stolen from a house on Latimer Ave. in the Eglinton Ave. W.-Avenue Rd. area. It was reported missing Oct. 1 by driver Frank Donald.

The blast blew a hole up to 18 metres (60 feet) wide in one building and damaged two others.

Cruiser riddled

One large concrete chunk of a building about a metre (3 feet) by two metres (7 feet) was thrown about 20 metres (70 feet) from the building.

The only parts of the van to survive the blast were part of the frame and the engine block. Metal pieces of the van pierced a chain-link fence 60 metres (200 feet) from the explosion.

A police cruiser near the explosion looked as though it had been riddled with machine gun bullets. The windows were smashed, the windshield cracked, one side of the vehicle was dotted with holes and all four tires were flattened. The car was parked about 100 feet (30 metres) from the explosion.

Two plate glass windows in the lobby of the Skyline Hotel, about one kilometre from the explosion, also blew out from the force of the blast, panicking some guests, a spokesman said. No one was injured.

'Everything shattered'

"The whole building shook," said Tracy Pearce, a Skyline switchboard operator.

In the chaotic moments before the blast, a security guard came running into the building to tell workmen there had been a bomb threat "and you'd better get out of here fast." A supervisor estimated there were 20 to 30 people in the building.

Technician Les Bailey didn't make it.

"We started running toward the exit when suddenly there was a big bang and everything shattered," he said. "It sounded like it came from above us."

"A couple of guys tried to make it to the exit and they were knocked out."

He said the doorway was blocked by debris and the room was enveloped by fumes and dust.

'Scared as hell'

"Six of us were in the room," he said. "Three guys left for the exit and I stupidly said, 'I've got to turn off the equipment.' Two other guys stayed behind to help shut it off. Of the six in the room, two were injured. They were two of the guys heading for the exit."

"Some kind of stupid sixth sense made me stay to turn off the equipment. But it paid off."

One of the workers lay unconscious on the floor. Colleagues pulled him back into the room and covered him with towels. They were trying to smash a hole in the wall when firefighters arrived.

Bailey said there was no hyste-

ria. "but, quite honestly, we were scared as hell."

Walter Bilan, a supervisor in the north building about 100 yards from the explosion said: "It blew me right out of my seat - about six inches."

Litton won a \$1.2 billion contract in 1979 to produce 5,500 guidance systems for the cruise missile and, in the past two years, an increasing number of demonstrators had protested in front of the plant.

But 75-year-old Rev. W.G. Zwicker, a spokesman for the protesters, said the demonstrations were always peaceful and he had never heard any intimation of violence.

"I regret to hear this very much," he said. "We never made people feel guilty about working there. They were like everyone else, they needed a job. We used to be out there every week handing out pamphlets and we got to know some of the workers."

Early today Metro police searched the roofs of nearby factories searching for sticks of unexploded dynamite that may have been thrown clear after the bomb went off. One stick of dynamite was found near Highway 27, several hundred metres from the explosion.

Even Top Litton employees were being barred from entering Plant 402, a main storage area containing high-level components including those for the cruise missile guidance system.

Pitman said it would be days before a damage estimate is possible, but said it would be safe to say it would be in the millions of dollars.

"This has gone too far," Pitman said. "Spraying paint on our walls and blinking traffic is one thing; bombing is madness."

All 1500 employees except for maintenance workers were told to stay home today.

Zwicker agreed suspicion will be cast at the protesters until an arrest is made.

"It will have an affect on our movement, I suppose. The first thing I thought about when you told me about this was 'Did some of our people wreck the place?' But I honestly don't think any of our protesters did this."

'A boom and pieces of debris were flying by'

It shattered the stillness of the night with frightening power, sparking fears of everything from plane crashes to train derailments among the thousands of Etobicoke residents who heard it.

But no one equated the sound with a bomb.

"You just never think of a bomb, that's for war-torn countries somewhere else," said one man who called The Star for information.

Tow-truck driver Keith Sibbert was driving along Highway 27 when the bomb exploded at 11.31 last night in front of Litton Systems Canada Ltd., on City View Dr., just east of the highway.

"There was just a flash, a bright light in the sky, a tremendous boom and before I could react, pieces of debris were flying by me," he said.

Striking trucker Jim Hamilton, 38, of Willowdale, was in the picket hut outside Husband Transport on Dixon Rd. when he heard "one hell of a bang."

'Sky was smoke'

"We thought a plane had come down, so we ran out. The whole sky was just smoke."

He said he and a co-worker hopped in their cars and headed for the scene to offer help.

"When we got near there, there was steel all over the highway. The whole side of the building was gone. You could see right through the building."

The night shift of workers at the nearby Reynolds Aluminum plant all felt the force of the blast - it shook heavy equipment in their plant and brought a light fixture crashing down from the ceiling.

Sam Bryceland, owner of Clarke Lithographing Ltd., about half a kilometre down the street from the Litton plant, said the force of the blast blew out "a great big, monstrous piece of glass" from the front window of his plant.

Residents as far away as Dufferin St. and Wilson Ave. and Martin Grove Rd. and Eglinton Ave. W.,

Litton won court fight earlier in day

By Farrell Crook Toronto Star

Executives of Litton Systems of Canada can't be forced to give evidence at the trial of 22 anti-nuclear war protesters who are charged with trespassing on the company's Etobicoke property, the Ontario Court of Appeal has ruled.

The court yesterday upheld a lower court decision to quash subpoenas for five executives whose company manufactures guidance systems for cruise missiles.

The defence had wanted to call the officials in an attempt to establish the defendant's claim that Litton is committing a crime against mankind by producing the guidance systems and that as a result the protesters were within their rights to try to shut down the City View Dr. plant.

The 22 were charged in connection with a demonstration last Remembrance Day.

Correction

Owl was carved by Chris Cape

A photo caption in the Oct. 13 Star incorrectly identified the creator of a wood carving of an owl shown in the picture.

The carving, now on display at First Canadian Place and to be auctioned by the World Wildlife Fund in November, was carved by Chris Cape. The Star regrets the error.

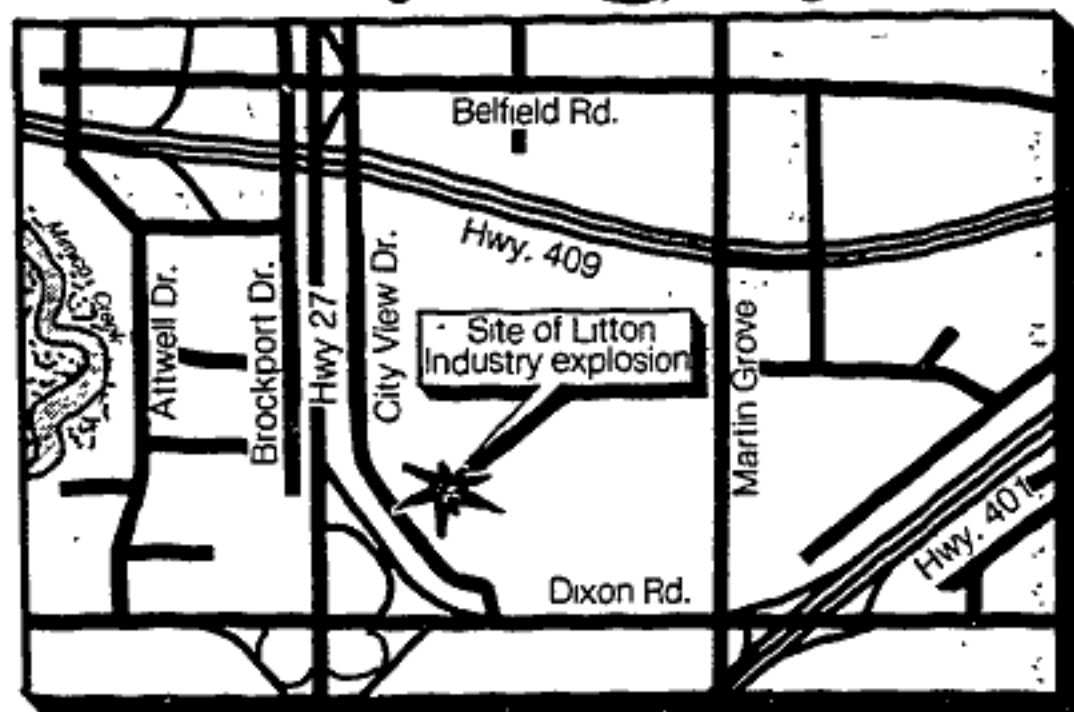
The people who live in the shadows

● Everyone knows they're here, but no one, it seems, knows the answer to their situation.

● They're the 100,000 or more illegal immigrants whose underground existence is one of the least documented phenomena of this city.

● A team of Star writers has assembled an astonishing insight into the fear-filled lives of a segment of society that lives in the shadows.

● In tomorrow's Saturday Star, read about the plight of the illegal immigrants' children, the pain of families kept apart by endless red tape, the ordeal of the illegals' exploitation by unscrupulous employers.



BOB WESTOVER/TORONTO STAR

reported that the explosion shook their homes.

A shaky Fiona Skurjat, 25, of Whitby, told The Star she was just 10 minutes away from possible serious injury or death.

Skurjat, who works as a receiver inspector at Litton, said she was playing cards with eight co-workers in an adjoining building during a coffee break when the bomb went off.

"We go for a break and the place blows up," she said.

She said she left the building where the explosion occurred to go to the next building and was due back at her post within minutes.

Her work station is on the first floor and she said she would have been within feet of the hardest hit area.

"I feel really shaky and really mad. . . We're just doing a job."

Etobicoke Mayor Dennis Flynn, who is a member of the Metro Police Commission, was at his home, about 6 kilometres (4 miles) from the explosion, watching television when he heard the blast.

He said his first thought was Etobicoke was experiencing a "Mississauga-like derailment," referring to the 1979 incident which forced evacuation of the city.



JIM RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR

"War-like scene:" Police Staff Superintendent Jack Webster described the scene as war-like after seeing the injured. Barry Blunden of Gripholm Rd., Mississauga, was transferred from Etobicoke General to Toronto Western Hospital and was in serious condition.

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