

San Francisco Chronicle

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TERROR STRIKES LONDON — NO WARNING, FEW CLUES

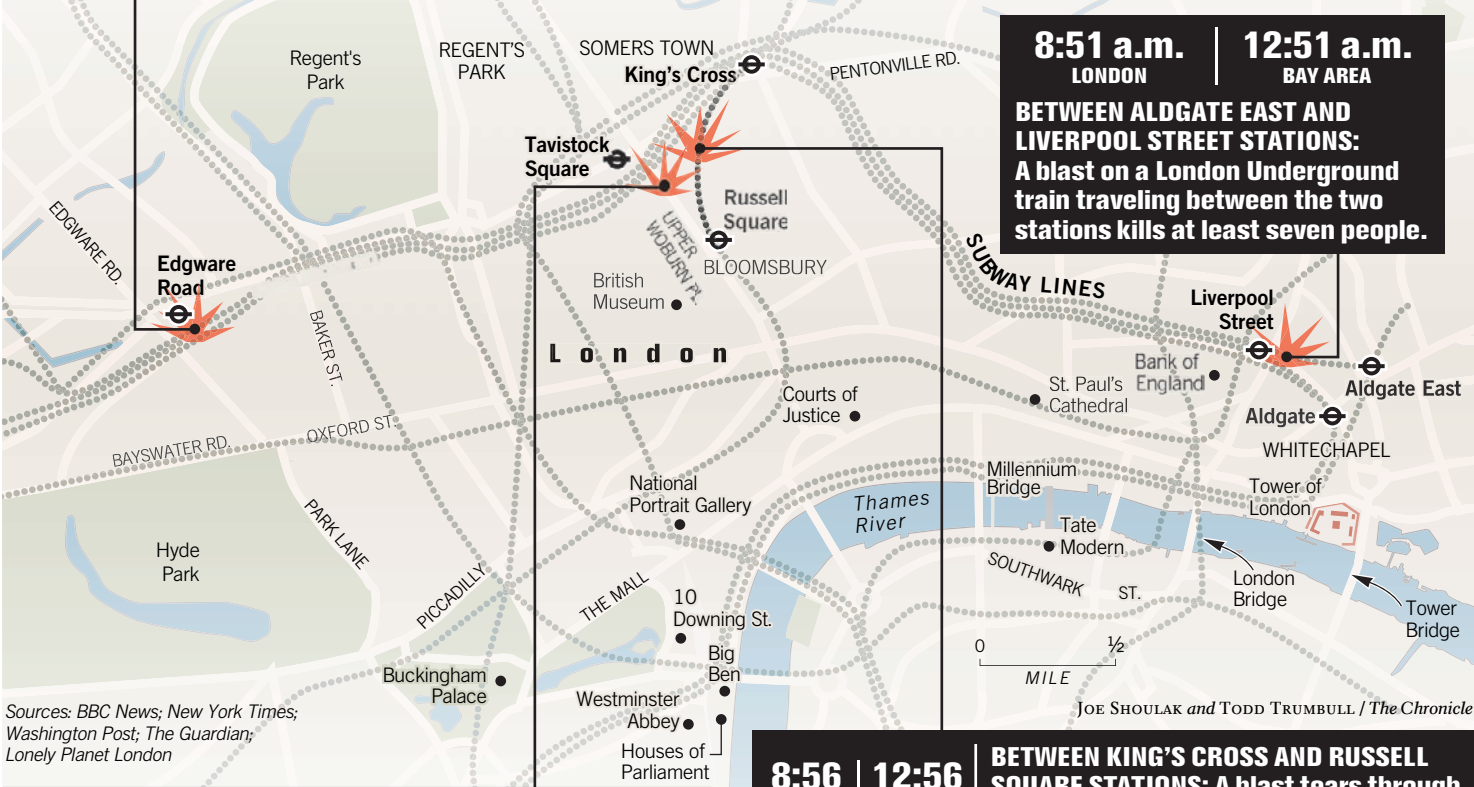
A DEADLY WAVE OF EXPLOSIONS ACROSS THE CITY



GARETH CATTERMOLLE / Getty Images

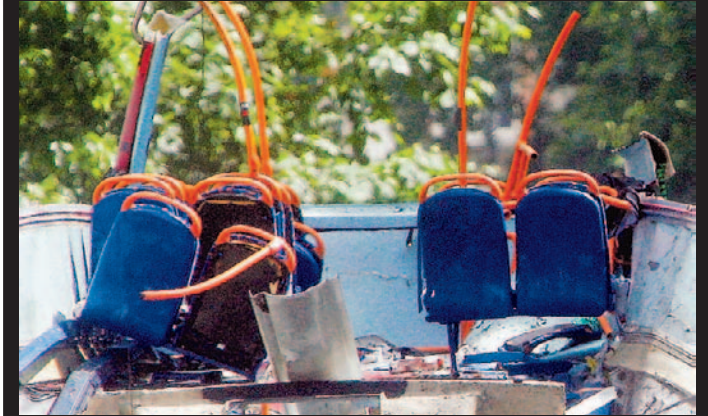
9:17 a.m. LONDON **1:17 a.m. BAY AREA** **EDGWARE ROAD STATION:** A bomb goes off on a train entering the station, blows holes in two other trains and kills at least seven people.

ON THE RUN: A man comforts a victim wearing a burn mask as they flee the scene of the attack.



Sources: BBC News; New York Times; Washington Post; The Guardian; Lonely Planet London

9:47 a.m. LONDON **1:47 a.m. BAY AREA** **TAVISTOCK SQUARE:** An explosion destroys a double-decker bus near the square, killing at least three people.



MIKE FINN-KELCEY / Reuters

TORN APART: The blast that ripped through a double-decker bus left behind a twisted mass of wreckage.

8:51 a.m. LONDON **12:51 a.m. BAY AREA** **BETWEEN ALDGATE EAST AND LIVERPOOL STREET STATIONS:** A blast on a London Underground train traveling between the two stations kills at least seven people.



ALEXANDER CHADWICK / Associated Press

8:56 a.m. LONDON **12:56 a.m. BAY AREA** **BETWEEN KING'S CROSS AND RUSSELL SQUARE STATIONS:** A blast tears through a train on the Piccadilly line, killing at least 21 people.

Bombings of subway, bus have 'the hallmarks of an al Qaeda-related attack'

By Don Van Natta Jr. and Elaine Sciolino
NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON — Investigators searching for clues in the attacks that killed at least 38 people and wounded more than 700 here said that the three bombs used in the subway cars appeared to have been detonated by timers, not suicide bombers, and that a fourth device may have been intended for a target other than the city bus that it destroyed.

The four incidents Thursday were the deadliest attacks on London since the blitz in World War II.

The blasts at three subway stations went off within 26 minutes, starting at 8:51 a.m. in a London Underground train just outside the financial district. The bus bombing occurred near the British Museum at 9:47 a.m. — less than an hour after the first explosion.

The city's residents ventured back to the partially reopened Underground today, saying they had little choice but to return to mass transit.

► **BOMBS:** Page A12

Inside: Terror in London

► **The militants:** For two decades, London has been a haven for Islamic extremists fleeing crackdowns in the Middle East. **A12**

► **The scene:** Stunned eyewitnesses tell of a destroyed double-decker bus and subway tracks strewn with bodies. **A13**

► **The response:** Heightened security — such as police Officer Steve Ryan and his bomb-sniffing dog, Brando — greets BART riders on the run to the San Francisco airport. **A14**

► **The world:** Other European countries with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan are equally vulnerable to an attack, experts say. **A15**

► **In Business:** World markets plunge but recover quickly from the numbingly familiar news of terrorist bombings. **C1**

CAN THEY BE STOPPED?

Security tightened, but experts worry bigger and deadlier attacks are inevitable

THE BAY AREA

By Patrick Hoge, Alan Cathright and Rachel Gordon
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITERS

Bay Area transit agencies beefed up security Thursday in response to the terrorist bombings in England, deploying extra police officers and managers to look for suspicious activities and urging the public to call them with tips.

At the same time, officials said public transit systems across the nation remain vulnerable to attack given the enormity of the task of prevention and the relative lack of national funding for transit security compared with airports.

"All the terrorism experts say it's not a matter of 'if' but 'when,'" said BART Police Chief Gary Gee. "I don't think it's just a matter of paranoia. That is why we must be vigilant and employ the public as eyes and ears."

U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos, D-San

► **TRANSIT:** Page A14

THE WORLD

By James Sterngold
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

As some American officials called for better security to stop horrific attacks like the bombings in London, terrorism experts generally agreed that no foolproof defense was possible against such attacks and that more should be done to mitigate their inevitable impact.

London is regarded as a model of smart terrorism security, a benchmark for other major cities, because of the years it faced the threat of attacks from the Irish Republican Army. And yet, experts pointed out, it was still vulnerable to four coordinated bombings of the city's subway system and a bus.

The attack not only took a terrible human toll, it shut down public transportation in the stunned city, exacting a large economic cost.

A number of terrorism experts said the unfortunate lesson to be learned was that, in all likelihood, sleeper cells remained busy plotting.

► **WORLD:** Page A11

San Quentin warden fired over health care

State investigated conditions at prison

By Mark Martin

CHRONICLE SACRAMENTO BUREAU

SACRAMENTO — The warden at San Quentin State Prison, after little more than a year on the job, was fired Thursday amid an investigation into health care problems at the facility.

Jill Brown, a longtime corrections official who took over the top job at the Marin County prison in May 2004, has been under investi-

gation by the state inspector general's office, and a corrections official said the office's report led to Brown's dismissal.

Todd Slosek, press secretary for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, said Brown was told Thursday of her firing.

The inspector general's office, which acts as an independent corrections watchdog, investigated allegations that Brown had threatened disciplinary action against a doctor who spoke with attorneys about problems with health care delivery at the prison.

The report has not yet been

► **SAN QUENTIN:** Page A8

INSIDE TODAY'S CHRONICLE



Asian comics make mark

► "Kims of Comedy" are serious about stardom.

Datebook



Hotel standoff in S.F.

► Groups consider pulling out because of labor woes.

Business



Italian is driven to succeed

► Racer Valentino Rossi comes to Laguna Seca.

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