

SGM Kenneth Foster Killed By Bomb Blast

Sgt. Major Kenneth R. Foster, an Army bomb specialist from Fort Leonard Wood, was killed Tuesday morning in the last of a series of five bomb explosions that rocked a compressor plant in Quincy, Illinois.

Foster was part of a four-man military bomb disposal squad from Fort Wood that was sent to Quincy for an appearance by Republican vice presidential candidate Robert Dole. Earlier reports indicated two other members of the Fort Wood squad were injured but those reports were incorrect. Another man was injured in the explosion; he is Ernest L. Arenz, an Illinois state arson investigator who was taken to the intensive care unit of Blessing Hospital in Quincy for treatment of facial burns. He was reported in serious condition early today.

Secret Service agents and local authorities said they did not know who planted the dynamite explosives but said there was no evidence to link the bombs with Dole's overnight visit.

The first four bombs hit a small bridge and a compressor plant across town from the Dole campaign activities Monday night. Dole left Quincy more than two hours before the explosion that killed Foster.

Authorities said bomb disposal personnel from Fort Leonard Wood and Illinois state arson investigators located a bomb with a

timing device and six to eight sticks of dynamite Tuesday morning inside the Quincy Compressor Inc. plant, site of three earlier blasts. They removed the bomb, placed it in an open area and waited for an hour. Foster and Arenz then were approaching the bomb at 10:40 a.m. and it exploded.

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SGM Kenneth Foster

SGM Foster

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The first bomb damaged the wall of a small bridge on a blacktop road about 8:20 p.m. Monday. The second, third and fourth explosions ripped through the compressor plant between 9:50 and 10 p.m.

Deputy Sheriff Ronald Lantz sustained a minor ear injury when he rushed to the plant in time for the last explosion of the night. He was treated and then returned to the investigation.

Authorities have not discovered a motive for the bombs or any suspects. Other bomb threats were reported in Quincy Tuesday—at the airport just before Dole left for Decatur, Illinois, at a high school and at a small factory. All those threats were hoaxes.

Foster, 45, entered the Army on February 20, 1951. He was assigned to the 543rd Ordnance Detachment at Fort Leonard Wood. On July 26, 1975, he was assigned in the capacity of Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Supervisor (EOD). A native of Salisbury, North Carolina, he was promoted to Sergeant Major on April 1, 1976.

Survivors include his wife Elizabeth, two sons Kenneth and Rodney, and one daughter Alicia, all of Fort Leonard Wood; and his mother Esther C. Foster of Salisbury, North

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Fort Wood Sergeant Major Killed As Bomb Explodes At Quincy, Ill.

An Army bomb specialist from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., was killed Tuesday in the last of a series of bomb explosions which rocked a compressor plant in Quincy, Ill.

Sergeant Major Kenneth Foster, 45, a bomb specialist with the 543 Ordnance Detachment, was killed in the explosion, which occurred at 10:40 a.m. Tuesday.

Ernest L. Arenz, 53, a state arson investigator from Beardstown, Ill., was seriously injured in the incident.

The fifth blast came about two hours after Sen. Bob Dole, the republican vice presidential candidate, had left town. FBI and Treasury Department agents have concluded there was no apparent connection between the explosions and Dole's campaign visit to the Mississippi River town.

In less than 24 hours five dynamite explosions went off in or near the plant, which employs 500 workers, according to a spokesman for the Adams County sheriff's department.

Three of the explosions occurred in the plant and one occurred on a small bridge north of the plant, the spokesman said. The explosions, which occurred Monday night, caused heavy damage to factory walls and a large compressor unit.

About 100 workers were in the building when the first explosion occurred, but no one was injured.

The final dynamite charge, which consisted of 6 to 8 sticks of dynamite, was discovered Tuesday morning inside the plant. It was carried to an area

30 feet from the plant.

As three Fort Leonard Wood experts and Arenz approached the compressor part which contained the dynamite, the part exploded, the deputy sheriff said.

The type of injuries caused by the explosion indicate that Foster touched the timing device on the bomb, the deputy sheriff added.

Authorities have not discovered a motive for the bombs or any suspects.

The plant was the scene of a dispute earlier this year over whether workers would be represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers or the Teamsters. The employees voted to retain the machinists union as their bargaining agent.

Other bomb threats were reported in the city Tuesday - at the airport just before Dole left for Decatur, Ill., at a high school and at a small factory. Adams County authorities said all the threats were hoaxes.

Sergeant Major Foster, a native of Salisbury, N.C., entered the army on Feb. 20, 1951. He was assigned to the 543 Ordnance Detachment, Ft. Wood on July 26, 1975 in the capacity of Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Superintendent.

Foster was promoted to Sgt. Major on April 1, 1976.

Survivors include his wife Elizabeth, two sons, Kenneth and Roger and daughter Alicia, all of Ft. Wood; and his mother Esther C. Foster of Salisbury. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Bomb Blast Claims Life of Ft. Wood Enlisted Man

A bomb made up of six sticks of dynamite exploded today, killing one Fort Leonard Wood enlisted man and injuring two other members of the four-man team.

The four-man military bomb disposal squad from Fort Leonard Wood was sent to Quincy for an appearance by Republican vice presidential candidate Robert Dole. The other two men were taken to a hospital with injuries described as serious.

The latest bomb, described as six sticks of dynamite, went off at 10:40 a.m. more than an hour after Dole's departure from an overnight campaign appearance.

Authorities said there was no indication the Kansas senator was the target of any of the five explosions.

Capt. John Harberts of the sheriff's department said at least one man was dead at the plant in this Mississippi River town and a second man was injured and taken by ambulance to Blessing Hospital.

Secret Service agents assigned to Dole monitored the investigation but local police said there was "no evidence at this time" the blasts were connected with the Kansas senator who was across town from the explosions.

Adam County Deputy Sheriff Jeff Timmerwilke said today the first bomb exploded about 8:20 p.m. and damaged the wall of a small blacktop bridge in north central Quincy, some distance from the plant. The bridge was not on Dole's route into or out of town.

The second, third and fourth bombs

exploded between 9:50 and 10 p.m. CDT in and on the sides of the Quincy Compressor Plant, shattering windows and ripping up walls of one section of the plant. There were approximately 100 workers at the plant but none was injured, Timmerwilke said.

The deputy said a box which authorities thought was a fourth bomb at the plant contained no explosives. He said the explosives "were possibly dynamite."

The deputy said the bombs detonated in the plant's air conditioning system and near some new machinery.

"There is apparently considerable damage in spots where the bombs went off," Timmerwilke said.

"There is no motive," the deputy said, "No one has claimed responsibility."

Deputy Sheriff Ronald Lantz who was called to the plant to investigate the explosions was near enough to the third blast to be sent to a hospital for treatment for ear damage. He later returned to the plant to continue the investigation.

Timmerwilke said there had been no other bombings in Quincy in recent months.

Quincy Bomber Sought

Phone Taps To Trace Threats

By JOHN M. MCGUIRE
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

QUINCY, Ill., Sept. 29 — Telephone taps will be placed on all industrial and school telephones to help trace bomb threat calls, Sheriff Robert E. Nall said yesterday, after a fifth explosion in two days had killed one person and injured one.

Three such threats were reported yesterday to the Quincy Compressor Co. plant Monday, before the explosions. Three of the dynamite blasts were at the plant, a fourth was outside as a bomb squad attempted to disarm a bomb, and the fifth was at a bridge north of Quincy.

Sheriff Nall disclosed yesterday that 112 pounds of dynamite had been stolen from the Western Illinois Stone Co. here earlier this month. The company reported the theft also of a powder magazine and detonator.

Nall said he had not disclosed information about the theft before because he was concerned about persons panicking. But he said yesterday that the dynamite stolen from the stone company matched the type used in the bombs.

There are few clues as to who planted the bombs, but federal and local authorities are convinced the bombs were not intended for Senator Bob Dole, the

Republican vice-presidential candidate, who was in Quincy campaigning.

However, Secret Service agents are scheduled to return to Quincy to assist local investigators.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also has been asked to enter the case.

"I have sent an urgent message to FBI Director Clarence Kelley urging him immediately to send a team of FBI investigators . . ." Representative Paul Findley (Rep.), Illinois, said last night.

The bizarre bombing incidents had many persons in Quincy uneasy, and several asked that their names not be printed because they said they were afraid.

Explosions Monday night and yesterday morning set off shock waves that were felt all over town. An Army demolition specialist was killed and a state arson investigator was seriously injured in the last explosion yesterday morning.

Dole spoke Monday night at Quincy College and had been back at the downtown Ramada Inn about 30 minutes when the first blast occurred. It ripped a four-foot hole in a brick wall on a narrow bridge over a creek north of Quincy.

No special security was requested for

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BLAST SCENE: Authorities scrambling to aid victims of a bomb at Colt Industries' compressor plant in Quincy, Ill., seconds

after the explosion occurred yesterday morning. One man was killed and one was injured. (UPI Telephoto)

Bombings

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the Kansas Senator after the blast. He flew out of Quincy's Baldwin Field airport before 8 a.m. yesterday, almost three hours before the last explosion.

Quincy, a Mississippi River city of about 45,000, is about 110 miles northwest of St. Louis.

At 9:50 p.m. Monday, the first of three explosions went off at the Quincy Compressor Co. plant about five miles northeast of downtown.

Ten minutes later, there were two more blasts in quick succession. The bombs had been placed in large experimental compressors used to power rock drills, and in an air conditioning unit. All the machinery was outside the plant, which is a subsidiary of Colt Industries, Inc.

A fifth explosion yesterday morning killed Sgt. Maj. Kenneth R. Foster, a 45 years old, a demolitions specialist from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Ernie Arenz, a state arson investigator, was standing behind Foster when the six to eight sticks of dynamite exploded. Arenz, 52, of Beardstown, Ill., was in serious condition at Blessing Hospital.

Foster was attempting to disarm the bomb when it detonated. It was believed that the last bomb had malfunctioned and had a timing device set to go off Monday night.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy Robert Oitker and Deputy Ronald Lantz heard the first explosion at the compressor plant as they were fueling their patrol car about 12 blocks away.

"We go rushing in there just as another one goes off," Oitker said. "All I saw was smoke and a blaze — all over the ground in front of us."

Late yesterday afternoon, authorities sealed off the road and area around the Quincy Compressor plant for 24 hours, while the search for more explosive devices continued. None was found last night, the county sheriff said.

When the bomb threats were phoned to the plant Monday night, employees were given a choice of staying or going home. Those who went home were not paid. The plant employs about 500 persons.

Sheriff's Detective Lloyd Boden said, there were no clues to why the bombs were planted at the compressor plant.

"There have been no labor problems, it's a real mystery," Boden said.

The bombings touched off a rash of bomb threat telephone calls to police yesterday and caused the closing of the two high school buildings here, a part of Quincy College and another compressor plant.

A manager for the plant, who lives

about a mile away across a large pasture, was talking on the telephone with a brother in New York who had called "to find out what was going on in Quincy" when the last bomb exploded. The plant manager confirmed that a new contract with the International Association of Machinists union had been signed without incident. There had been no recent firings at the plant either, he said.

"I can't think of anyone rattle-brained enough to do something like that," the plant manager said.

He asked that his name not be used, saying: "Somebody's likely to light one under here. I don't need that."

Other persons in the neighborhood who saw the explosions from the other side of the pasture also asked that their names not be used because they were afraid.

"I was talking with my mother on the phone and had just stepped out this side door and the dumb thing went off," said a woman. "You don't believe it, you don't believe things like that going on."

"It's bad for Quincy, it's just bad," said a woman who works in the Holiday Inn dining room.

2 Held, More Sought In Quincy Bombings

Special to the Post-Dispatch

QUINCY, Ill., Sept. 30—Two men are being held and police are looking for one or two more suspects in connection with a series of bomb blasts here that killed one person and seriously injured another Tuesday.

Robert Eugene Motley, 38 years old, a Quincy construction worker, surrendered on murder and arson charges at Quincy police headquarters last night. Soon after that Adams County Sheriff Robert Nall announced that Jeffrey T. Lewis, 17, of Quincy had been arrested on the same charges earlier yesterday.

Nall said the two would appear in circuit court this morning.

He said one or possibly two more suspects were being sought in the case. He would not give any details.

In the last of five explosions in the Quincy area, an Army demolition specialist was killed Tuesday morning when he was trying to dismantle a bomb at the Quincy Compressor Co. plant. A state arson investigator was seriously injured in the blast.

Motley, who had been the object of a

wide search by police, told reporters at police headquarters that he had decided to turn himself in because he had had nothing to do with the bombs.

Sheriff's deputies said Motley apparently had no connection with the compressor plant, a subsidiary of Colt Industries, Inc., where four of the five bombs that exploded Monday night and Tuesday morning were planted. The bombs were placed in experimental compressor equipment outside the plant.

The first bomb, which exploded shortly after a campaign speech here by Senator Bob Dole, the Republican vice-presidential candidate, blew a hole in a brick wall of a narrow bridge north of the city.

It was not believed at first that the bombings had anything to do with Dole's visit, but a sheriff's deputy said yesterday that that now was a possibility. He cited also the possibility of a grudge against the Colt Industries operation here.

There was little information yesterday on the evidence against Motley, although

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a deputy said that a map of the compressor plant was found in the suspect's automobile along with some incriminating letters.

However, Jonathan H. Barnard, an assistant state's attorney for Adams County, refused to discuss the evidence against Motley.

He said he had no information on what had been seized from Motley's auto.

The search for Motley began about midnight Tuesday. Barnard said there was a possible motive, unrelated to the Kansas Senator's visit to Quincy.

The blast at the compressor plant killed Sgt. Major Kenneth R. Foster, 45, a demolition specialist from Fort Leon-

ard Wood, Mo. Ernie Arenz, a 52-year-old state arson investigator from Beardstown, Ill., was seriously injured.

There were three other explosions outside the compressor plant Monday night.

The series of bombings produced a rash of telephoned bomb threats here, which led to the closing Tuesday of the two high school buildings, another compressor plant and a part of Quincy College. Another bomb threat was phoned to the airport.

Officials said they would place taps on telephones at schools and industrial plants in an effort to apprehend persons making the bomb threats.

Laborer sought in fatal bombings

By JAMES L. MORICE
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

QUINCY, ILL.—A construction laborer is being sought in connection with a series of bomb blasts that severely damaged a compressor plant Monday and Tuesday and killed an Army explosives expert in this Mississippi River community.



Motley
'63 photo

Police applied for and received warrants Wednesday charging Robert Eugene Motley, 38, a Quincy resident, with murder and arson. Adams County Associate Judge Paul Kolodziej set bond at \$250,000.

POLICE SAID they acted after receiving tips from informants and finding evidence that dynamite had been cached close to Motley's car, which was found in woods near the city.

Motley remained at large late Wednesday and was believed to be in the Quincy area, authorities said.

Tip leads to uncovering of evidence in series of blasts at Quincy, Ill., firm that killed Army explosives expert.

Investigators are seeking possible links between thefts of dynamite last month from Western Illinois Stone Co. in Quincy and the explosives used in the series of blasts this week.

The last of the series Tuesday morning, killed Sgt. Major Kenneth R. Foster, 45, and seriously wounded an Illinois state arson investigator.

Joe H. Slater, resident agent in charge of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Peoria, said that investigators have no idea why the dynamite was stolen.

NO EVIDENCE has been turned up linking Motley with the thefts, said Slater, who was called to assist in the Quincy investigation.

The first of the five blasts that rocked this city of 45,000 residents 135 miles

north of St. Louis damaged the guard rail of a seldom-used bridge east of the city about 8:20 p.m. Monday, Adams County sheriff's deputies said.

Sheriff Robert E. Nall speculated that this explosion was a test.

About an hour later a bomb exploded at the Quincy Compressor Co. on the city's north side. Two other blasts at the plant followed within 45 minutes, authorities said.

The plant, which manufactures air compressors and is a division of Colt Industries, Inc., was evacuated after the first explosion. None of the 300 employees at work was injured.

SGT. MAJ. FOSTER, a member of the 543rd Ordnance Detachment at Ft. Leonard Wood, was killed by another explosion at the plant about 12 hours later.

Foster was in Quincy as a member of the security staff for the campaign stop of Republican vice presidential candidate Robert J. Dole Monday night and Tuesday morning.

Authorities said the explosions apparently were unrelated to the visit of Dole, who left the city about two hours before the last blast.

Foster and State Arson Investigator Erne Arenz, 52, of Beardstown, were

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Laborer sought in bombings

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asked to check a device believed to be a bomb which was discovered at the compressor plant about 9:30 a.m.

Foster was killed when it exploded about 10:30 a.m. Arenz remains under intensive care at Quincy Memorial Hospital.

PHOTOS TAKEN of the device before the explosion show it apparently consisted of about six sticks of 1 1/4-inch-thick dynamite, an electric battery and a timing device, ATF agent Slater said.

Investigators estimated damage to the plant from the four explosions at \$300,000.

About 112 pounds of dynamite of the same size as that at the plant were taken in one of the thefts at the stone company, investigators said. The other theft was of 1,690 pounds of 3-inch diameter dynamite, they said.

The investigation, as a result of tips from undisclosed sources, began centering Tuesday night on Motley, who apparently was living alone after a recent divorce.

AFTER A SEARCH warrant was obtained, investigators searched Motley's home and found a map which led them to his late-model red Cadillac in woods near the city, State's Attorney Robert J. Bier said.

Wrapping paper for dynamite was found in a shallow hole lined with plastic garbage bags near the car, Slater said. No explosives were found in the home or the car, he added.

The hole could have contained only a fraction of the dynamite taken in last month's thefts, Slater said.

Investigators declined to say if they



State's Attorney Robert J. Bier, left, and Adams County Sheriff Robert Nall.

knew of a motive or other suspects in the case.

LOREN E. GILHOUSE, president of the Colt subsidiary, said there is no record of any relationship between Motley and the plant.

The suspect has been an employee of Hollenbeak Construction Co. in Quincy for 10 years and did not show up for work Wednesday, the firm's president, Perry Hollenbeak said.

He described Motley as "a good worker" and said Motley never worked directly with explosives although he was assigned to construction sites where dynamite was used.

Quincy, Ill., Man Draws 45 Year Sentence In Dynamite Bombing

A Quincy, Illinois, man has been sentenced to 15 to 45 years in prison on a guilty plea of murder in the dynamite bombing there that took the life of Sgt. Major Kenneth P. Foster, 45, of Fort Leonard Wood, on September 28.

Robert Eugene Motley, 39, entered a plea of guilty to the murder charges and agreed to testify in the trial of two alleged accomplices. He told police that he hired the two youths to dynamite the plant so his estranged wife, who worked in the plant, would be laid off. He said he hoped she would become more dependent on him and therefore come back to him, police said.

Jury selection began Tuesday in the trial of the alleged accomplices, Jeffrey Lewis and Stanley Stock both 18, of Quincy.

The youths are charged with murder, arson, conspiracy to commit arson, and possession of explosive or incendiary devices. Lewis also was charged with

burglary.

Similar charges against Motley were dropped when he pleaded guilty to the murder charge. Adams County Circuit Judge Cecil J. Burrows sentenced Motley to 15 to 45 years in prison.

Robert J. Bier, Adams County state's attorney, said he will recommend that Motley not be prosecuted on other charges.

Sgt. Major Kenneth P. Foster, 45, an Army explosives expert, was killed and an Illinois state arson investigator was seriously injured in a blast of some of the dynamite allegedly planted by Motley's accomplices.

Bier said Motley will testify he paid Lewis and Stock to plant the dynamite on the roof of the Quincy Compressor Co.

A total of five blasts shook

Quincy, a city of 45,000 inhabitants, late September 27, and early September 28.

Originally, there was speculation the blasts were related to a visit to the city September 28 by Republican vice presidential candidate Robert J. Dole.

Foster was killed and state arson inspector Erne Arenz was injured as they inspected a device about 12 hours after the original explosions.

Motley surrendered to police after anonymous tips led police to his automobile and evidence of dynamite used in the explosions that had been stashed away.

Damage to the plant was estimated at about \$300,000. Motley, a construction laborer, was described as a good worker who had never worked directly with explosives.

Two Teen-Agers Acquitted On Murder Charges In Death Of Sgt. Foster

Two Quincy, Illinois youths were acquitted of murder charges stemming from the September 1976 bombing of a Quincy factory, that took the life of Sgt. Kenneth Foster of Fort Wood. Sgt. Foster was killed and a state arson investigator was injured in one of the blasts.

A Circuit Court jury deliberated for eight hours over the weekend before acquitting Jeffrey T. Lewis, 18, and Stanley Stock, 18, early Sunday.

Lewis and Stock also were ac-

quitted of arson, possession of explosive devices, conspiracy to commit arson and burglary.

Both youths took the witness stand in their own defense and testified that they had no part in the bombings September 27 and 28. Their testimony contradicted that given earlier by Robert Motley, 39, who entered a negotiated plea of guilty to the murder in connection with the bombings.

Motley was sentenced to 15 to 45 years in prison last week.