

ROLANDO 2:15 – 2:45 50 years since ETA's first massacre



Cover photograph:

Stretcher-bearers and firefighters take injured people from Rolando Café.

Source: Regional Archive of the Community of Madrid. Martín Santos Yubero Collection.

ROLANDO 2:15 - 2:45

50 years since ETA's first massacre

From 4 July to 22 September 2024

Centro Memorial de las Víctimas del Terrorismo Vitoria-Gasteiz

Organisation

Centro Memorial de las Víctimas del Terrorismo



Commission Gaizka Fernández Soldevilla Ana Escauriaza Escudero



Exhibition Catalogue

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Rolando 2:15-2:45 50 years since ETA's first massacre



Stretcher-bearers and firefighters take injured people from Rolando Café.

Source: VOLKHART MÜLLER/EFE/ lafototeca.com

On Friday 13 September 1974, at 2.30 p.m., a powerful bomb reinforced with shrapnel exploded in the dining room of *Cafetería Rolando* (Rolando Café), located on Correo Street, next to the Puerta del Sol plaza in Madrid. On that day, 11 people died and more than 70 were injured. As a result of their wounds, Gerardo García Pérez died on 29 September 1974 and Inspector Félix Ayuso Pinel, the only police officer among the casualties, died on 11 January 1977. Thus, the final toll of the Rolando massacre amounted to 13 mortal victims.

It was the first indiscriminate attack in the long history of ETA. However, as on so many other occasions, ETA killed and then lied about it. Instead of claiming responsibility for the crime, ETA blamed the ultra-right and the Francoist regime. ETA did not acknowledge responsibility for the attack until 2018.



Firefighters and stretcher-bearers remove a body from Rolando Café.

Source: Regional Archive of the Community of Madrid. Martín Santos Yubero Collection.



Removing debris in the aftermath of the attack.

Source: VOLKHART MÜLLER/EFE/lafototeca.com

2 Years of lead

In the late 1960s, a new wave of international terrorism emerged. While most of the groups were extreme left-wing or radical nationalist, there were also some far-right groups. They all shared a rejection of parliamentary democracy.

In 1974, Western Europe became the focus of this type of political violence. According to the Global Terrorism Database, 54% of attacks that year took place on the Old Continent. Europe was also the scene of 400 of the 517 killings committed that year by terrorists worldwide: 77.3% of the total.



Neo-fascist attack on the 1486 (Italicus) express train. 4 August 1974. Source: https://www.archiviolastampa.it/



Provisional IRA attack on the Mulberry Bush pub (Birmingham), 21 November 1974. Source: Library of Birmingham.



Carlos the Jackal attack on Boulevard Saint-Germain (Paris), 14 September 1974. Source: https://www.sudouest.fr/

Although they sought to justify their crimes with a range of excuses and operated across different political systems (from dictatorships such as Franco's to consolidated democracies such as the UK's and Italy's), the terrorists bore an unmistakable resemblance to each other. Among other things, they resorted to the same tactics, such as the use of explosive devices in indiscriminate attacks. The following are some of the most lethal from 1974:

Date	Location	Country	Responsible organisation	Ideology	Method	Deaths	Injuries
4 February	West Yorkshire	UK	Provisional IRA	Radical nationa- list	Bomb	12	14
2 May	Belfast	UK	Ulster Volunteer Force	Radical nationa- list	Bomb	6	18
15 May	Ma'alot	Israel	Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine	Radical nationa- list	Grenades and firearms	31	70
17 May	Dublin and Mo- naghan	Ireland	Ulster Volunteer Force	Radical nationa- list	Car bombs	33	258
28 May	Brescia	Italy	Black Order	Neo-fas- cist	Bomb	8	102
17 July	London	UK	Provisional IRA	Radical nationa- list	Bomb	1	42
4 August	San Benedetto Val di Sambro	Italy	Black Order	Neo-fas- cist	Bomb	12	44
30 August	Tokyo	Japan	East Asia Anti-Japan Armed Front	Extreme left	Bomb	8	380
8 Sep- tember	Mediterra- nean Sea	Greece	Abu Nidal Organization	Radical nationa- list	Bomb	88	0
13 Sep- tember	Madrid	Spain	ETA	Radical nationa- list	Bomb	13	71
15 Sep- tember	Paris	France	Ilich Ramírez Sánchez (Carlos the Jackal)	Extreme left	Grenade	2	34
5 October	Guildford	UK	Provisional IRA	Radical nationa- list	Bombs	5	75
7 No- vember	Woolwich	UK	Provisional IRA	Radical nationa- list	Bomb	2	31
21 No- vember	Birmin- gham	UK	Provisional IRA	Radical nationa- list	Bombs	21	183

3 The spiral



ETA attacks during the Franocist dictatorship. Source: Compiled by author. Gaizka Fernández Soldevilla.

ETA carried out its first attack in October 1959 in the midst of the dictatorship. However, ETA's anti-Francoism was circumstantial. From their perspective, Franco was a "mere historical accident". This is why the organisation not only continued its activity after the death of the Caudillo, but accelerated it: ETA committed 95% of its 853 killings between 1976 and 2010.

For radical Basque nationalism, the end justified the means. In 1965, ETA adopted a strategy of action-reaction-action: to provoke, through ETA attacks, indiscriminate repression against the Basque and Navarrese population, so that it would join ETA in its 'revolutionary war'. And indeed, the regime reacted with the clumsy brutality that was expected of it. In fact, that same year, ETA congratulated itself: "General Franco's dictatorship is infinitely more positive for our people than a bourgeois-democratic Republic".



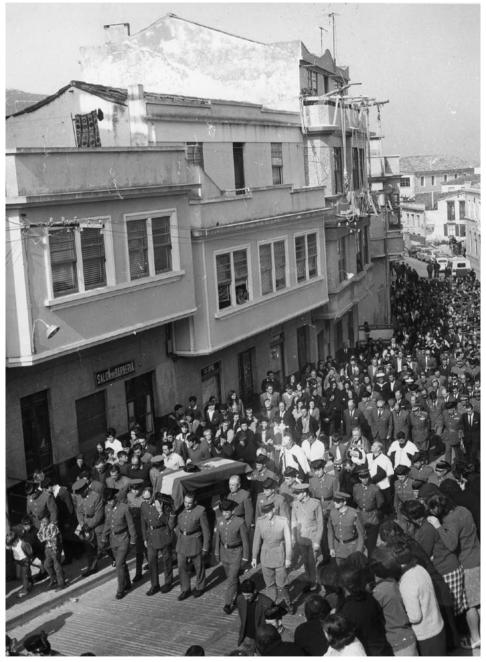
On 7 June 1968, ETA assassinated a Guardia Civil traffic officer, José Antonio Pardines. Its next victims were the chief inspector of the San Sebastian Social Investigation Brigade Melitón Manzanas (August 1968); the taxi driver Fermín Monasterio (April 1969); the municipal police officer Eloy García Cambra (August 1972), and the young Galician workers José Humberto Fouz Escobero, Jorge Juan García Carneiro and Fernando Quiroga Veina (March 1973).

José Antonio Pardines. Source: Guardia Civil.



Guardia Civil José Antonio Pardines' motorcycle in the spot he was assassinated, 7 June 1968.

Source: Guardia Civil.



Funeral procession of José Antonio Pardines in Malpica de Bergantiños (La Coruña), June 1968. Source: Municipal Archive of Bilbao. *La Gaceta del Norte Collection*. Author unknown.

3. The spiral

ETA propaganda photograph. Undated (c. 1968).

Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 3/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



Weapons, explosive materials, license plates and other objects seized from ETA in an apartment in Lekeitio (Bizkaia) on 15 September 1972.

Source: Municipal Archive of Bilbao. *La Gaceta del Norte* Collection. Author unknown.

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4 Magnicide

On 20 December 1973, a bomb made up of 75 kilograms of *goma* (rubber) 2E-C exploded on Claudio Coello Street in Madrid as the President of the Government's car was passing by. The car was lifted between 35 and 40 metres into the air before landing in the premises of a building owned by the Jesuits.

Three people died: Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, who was the dictator's right-hand man; his driver, José Luis Pérez Mogena, and his bodyguard, Inspector Juan Antonio Bueno Fernández. In addition, seven people were wounded, including a five-yearold girl who suffered serious injuries, and a ten-month-old girl who was slightly hurt.

The assassination provided ETA with a great propaganda boon internationally. It was presented as a considered operation carried out to prevent "the continuity of Franco's regime". Believing this, a sector of society began to see ETA as the spearhead of the struggle against the regime.



The crater left by the bomb blast on Claudio Coello Street.

Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 3/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



Device concealed in a briefcase with which an ETA member (disguised as a worker) activated the bomb.

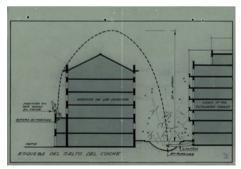
Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 3/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid). However, this was false. On one hand, the attack only sought to provoke more repression. On the other hand, the original plan had been to kidnap Carrero Blanco. The organisation discarded the kidnap plan when, upon his appointment as president, Carrero Blanco was given more police protection. ETA was simply presented with an opportunity and took advantage of it, as it had information, means and a support network in Madrid.



Crater on Claudio Coello Street. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 3/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



President Carrero Blanco's car after the explosion. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 3/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



Outline of the attack. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 3/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

5 Eva Forest's network

In 1971, ETA member José Miguel Beñarán (*Argala*) made contact in Madrid with the married couple of playwright Alfonso Sastre and activist Genoveva Forest, the latter better known as Eva. Fascinated by the Cuban revolution and the Vietnam War, they advocated the use of violence as a means of replacing Franco's dictatorship with that of a communist one.





Objects confiscated from the flat on Virgen del Val Street. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

Police photograph of Eva Forest . Source: EFE/lafototeca.com

Forest recruited and radicalised a handful of her peers and young students with whom she formed the Popular Liberation Front, which was supposed to be a new far-left organisation. However, it only ever functioned as a support network for ETA cells travelling to Madrid. Forest's network provided them with logistical arrangements, surveillance, contacts, accommodation, hideouts, company and knowledge of the terrain; in short, whatever support and infrastructure was required. Not everyone knew what they were doing and for whom.

Without the help of this group and especially that of Eva Forest, ETA would not have been able to carry out either the assassination of Carrero Blanco in 1973 or the Rolando Café massacre the following year.



Entrance to 68 Hogar Street in Alcorcón. Forest ordered the wife of one of her closest devotees to buy this house in her name using ETA money. In addition to containing a significant arsenal of weapons, it served as a hiding place for materials used in both the assassination of Carrero Blanco and the Rolando Café massacre. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



Interior of the hidden weapons cache on 68 Street Hogar in Alcorcón. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

6 ETA in 1974

In 1974, the bloodiest year in its history up to that point, ETA murdered 19 people, to which it would add another 15 mortal victims in 1975.

On 3 April, ETA killed Civil Guard corporal Gregorio Posada Zurrón in Azpeitia. This was the first attack in which *mariettas* (pistol-machine guns) that ETA had recently acquired were used. In the early hours of 3 June, at a roadblock in Ataun, another ETA member killed the Guardia Civil Manuel Pérez Vázquez.

For that summer, the organisation had prepared two operations. The first was the kidnapping of the aristocrat and businessman Luis Gómez-Acebo from the beachside in Zarautz, where he would be spending his summer holidays. Prior to the kidnap attempt, one of the ETA members was arrested for theft. In addition, his companions badly moored the yacht they had rented, resulting in the tide taking it out to sea. Having got their hands on another boat a few days later, they were discovered by the Guardia Civil in the estuary of Orio. After an exchange of gunfire, the ETA members decided to return to Bayonne.

The second operation was the kidnapping of Spanish dignitaries in the port of Monte Carlo (Monaco). ETA acquired a boat and a villa to hide the hostages. However, one of the members of the cell, Jokin Azaola, fearing that the kidnapping would lead to the assassination of the hostages and an escalation of repression, informed the police. In exchange, he asked that none of his colleagues be arrested. And so it was done.

In December 1978, when it came to light what had really happened, a gunman assassinated Azaola in Getxo.

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Map of the location of President Carlos Arias Navarro's house, discovered in an ETA 'mailbox' in Rentería. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

7 The first cell

In the early hours of 6 July 1974, three ETA members arrived in Madrid: José María Arruabarrena (*Tanque*), Faustino Estanislao Villanueva (*Chapu*) and José Manuel Galarraga (*Potxolo*). They had been assigned a threefold mission:

- 1) To construct hideouts in houses belonging to Forest, her followers and people she had deceived. These were to be used to conceal weapons, ammunition, propaganda, hostages, and so on.
- 2) To assassinate the *ABC* journalist Alfredo Semprún. Neither the cell nor their support network managed to find him.
- 3) To test the feasibility of an attack on Rolando Café. Forest and the ETA members ate in the establishment. *Tanque* made a note in his diary of the time when the establishment was at its busiest.



Mannequin found in a dwelling belonging to Forest's network. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid). On 23 July, *Tanque, Chapu* and *Potxolo* left Madrid. At almost the same time, 11:00 a.m., a bomb hidden inside a Seat 600 outside the Ministry of the Army exploded. The attack went unreported in the press, perhaps because it was not claimed, produced no casualties and would have been evidence of a severe security flaw. The shrapnel was similar to what would be used in Rolando: hardware nuts.

On 28 August, in San Sebastian, a shootout took place between the Guardia Civil and two ETA members who were wounded and arrested: *Tanque* and José Antonio Garmendia (*Tupa*). A piece of paper in the former's diary read: 'Rolando 2:15-2:45'. *Tanque* declared that this was the pseudonym of one of his superiors and the time when he could call him. No one gave it much importance.



Some of the hideouts and weapons caches constructed by the ETA cell and its collaborators. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).







Note found in Tanque's diary.

Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

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8 Revenge

The fall of *Tanque* and *Tupa* put paid to the attempted kidnapping of Luis Gómez-Acebo, which added to the fiasco of the operation in Monaco. These failures not only tarnished the celebrity that ETA had gained with the assassination of Carrero Blanco, but also endangered the hegemonic position that the military front held at the top of the organisation. To demonstrate its strength, without consulting the rest of the apparatus, the military front set in motion two initiatives: one in the Basque Country and the other in Madrid.

On Tuesday, 10 September, the Guardia Civil arrested a courier from the military front near the border with France. The information he provided led to the arrest of numerous members of the group. During the police operation, Guardia Civil Martín Durán was mortally wounded by ETA member Juan José Urcelay, who died in a shootout that same day.

The military front only had one card left to play for revenge: Madrid.

Eva Forest told one of her followers: "There is going to be a very significant action, better than Carrero's".



Dynamite, weapons, ammunition and other objects seized from ETA by the Guardia Civil in Bilbao on 11 September 1974.

Source: Municipal Archive of Bilbao. La Gaceta del Norte Collection. Author unknown.

9 The second cell

Bernard Oyarzabal Bidegorri and María Lourdes Cristóbal were a young French-Basque couple active in the ETA milieu. Oyarzabal had been part of the commando that wanted to kidnap the royal family.

The military front trained them in the handling of explosives and gave them 5,000 francs, a timer and 15 kilograms of goma 2E-C dynamite. In addition, they bought 1,000 nuts from a hardware store. On 4 September, the couple travelled to Madrid by train. They were helped by Eva Forest, their go-to assistant, who put them up in one of her flats.



Bernard Oyarzabal was one of the young Frenchmen who went on hunger strike in Bayonne Cathedral when the French Government moved 'refugees' (mostly ETA members) away from the Spanish border. His photograph appeared in Tierra Vasca, November 1972.

Source: https://urazandidigital.euskaletxeak.eus/

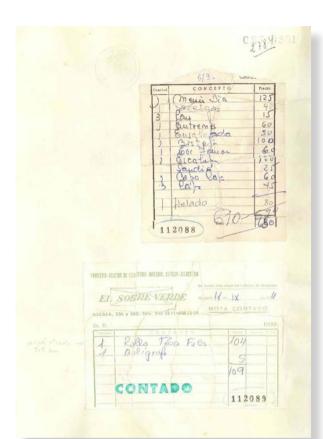
The two ETA members ate on a couple of occasions in Rolando Café and drew a sketch of the premises. They could see that it was an establishment frequented by all kinds of customers. They even left a generous tip for the waiter who served them, Manuel Llanos Gancedo, to whom the couple seemed "very nice".

On 8 September, the military front gave them the green light to plant the bomb "on the most opportune day and moment".

With Forest's help, they bought the material they were lacking and rehearsed both the assembly of the device and their subsequent escape. On Wednesday the 11th, they confirmed to their collaborator, Forest, that they were going to carry out the attack on Friday the 13th. They needed to know where in the city she could pick them up and where they could go into hiding afterwards. She reassured them: It was all planned.

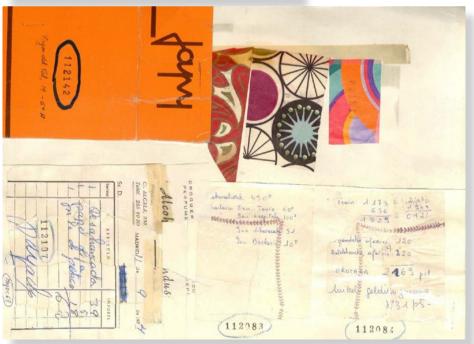


Photos of María Lourdes Cristóbal Elhorga taken by the French police. Undated. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



Receipts and notes left by the French couple in Madrid.

Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).









Receipts and notes left by the French couple in Madrid.

Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

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10 Puerta del Sol

The Directorate General of Security (DGS) occupied the same building as the current headquarters of the Presidency of the Government of the Community of Madrid. It was the body of the Ministry of the Interior that directed and coordinated the General Police Corps and the Armed Police. Among the personnel that worked in the building were civil servants dedicated to bureaucratic procedures; the Criminal Investigation Brigade, which dealt with ordinary crimes; the Social Investigation Brigade, which pursued the anti-Francoist opposition and terrorist gangs; Interpol; spokespeople who informed the press of cases in Madrid, and so on.

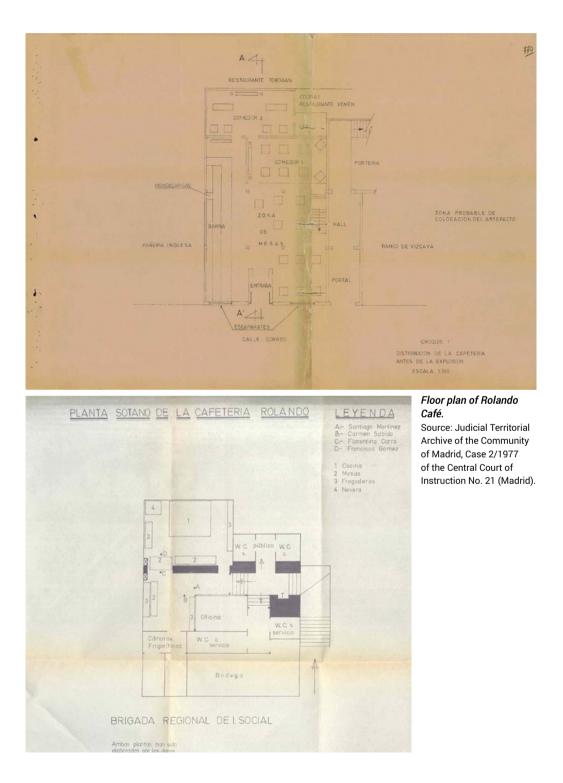
When it was time for breakfast, a snack, or lunch, the auxiliaries, administrative staff and DGS police officers usually went home (if they lived nearby) or went to one of the various catering establishments in and around Puerta del Sol plaza.

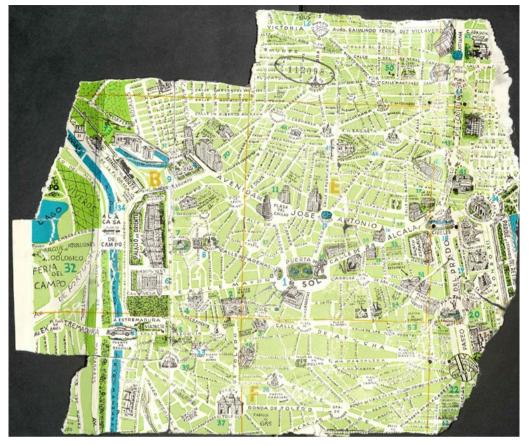
One of them was the Rolando Café-Restaurant, located on Correo Street, next to Puerta del Sol, and which served breakfast and a set menu. Its good food, the professionalism of its staff, its moderate price and its central location meant that it attracted a large and varied clientele: tourists, locals, office workers, manual workers, students, travellers, journalists, people passing through and civil servants of all kinds.



Rolando Café matchbox. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

Rolando Café was adjoined to Yenes Café and the Tobogán restaurant—the latter a modern self-service eatery that was usually very busy during the day.





Map of Madrid used by the terrorists.

Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

11 13 September 1974

Approximate time

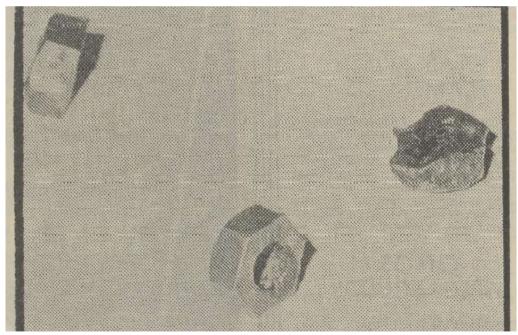
- 8:00 Forest picks up Oyarzabal and Cristóbal in her car near 19 Virgen del Val Street.
- 8:30 She drops them off at a café on Luchana Street next to the Glorieta de Bilbao.
- 10:30 The Council of Ministers begins at El Pardo Palace.
- 11:30 Forest picks up the ETA members and takes them to Callao Plaza.Cristóbal is carrying a heavy cloth bag. Oyarzabal has a black briefcase.
- 11:40 They assemble the time bomb.
- 14:00 Oyarzabal and Cristóbal make themselves comfortable in the dining room of the Rolando Café.
- 14:00 Other diners begin to enter the room.

Cristóbal feigns dizziness. While the waiter Manuel Llanos Gancedo goes to fetch a herbal tea, the French couple leave the premises "to get some fresh air" They have left the device under the table.

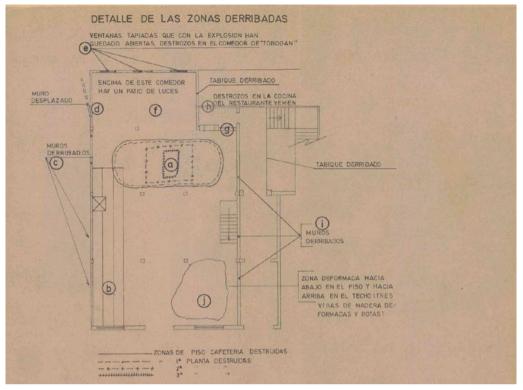
- 14:30 The explosion occurs.
- 14:31 Officer Pedro Chicote Alonso begins to rescue survivors in Rolando.
- 14:45 The Court of Instruction No. 16 of Madrid is set up at 2 Correo Street.
- 15:30 The body of Manuel Llanos Gancedo is brought to the Red Cross hospital.
- 16:15 The President of the Government, Carlos Arias Navarro, arrives at the scene.
- 17:00 Forest picks up the ETA members at Plaza de España.
- 17:30 She takes them to Alcorcón, where she puts them up in a ground floor flat.
- 19:52 Minister of Information and Tourism Pío Cabanillas appears before the press.
 - 5:00 The police suspend rescue work until 8:45 on Saturday 14th.



Dwelling in Virgen del Val where the perpetrators of the Rolando attack stayed overnight. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



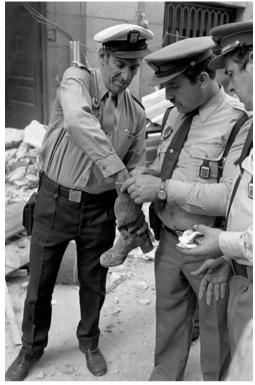
Photograph of three of the hexagonal nuts used as shrapnel on 13 September 1974. Source: Pueblo, 18 September 1974.



Floor plan of Rolando Café after the explosion. Drawn up by the Parque y Maestranza de Artillería de Madrid. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



A man, probably Manuel Llanos Gancedo, is put into an ambulance after being pulled from Rolando Café. Source: Regional Archive of the Community of Madrid. Martín Santos Yubero Collection.



Armed Police officers gathering remains found in the rubble. Source: VOLKHART MÜLLER/EFE/lafototeca.com



Correo Street after the attack. Source: EFE/lafototeca.com



Correo Street after the attack. Source: EFE/lafototeca.com



Interior view of Rolando Café after the debris had been cleared. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



Arrival of President Carlos Arias Navarro at the site of the attack at around 16:15 on 13 September 1974. Source: Regional Archive of the Community of Madrid. Martín Santos Yubero Collection.



Source: El Correo.

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Source: Virtual Library of Historical Press. Ministry of Culture and Sport.



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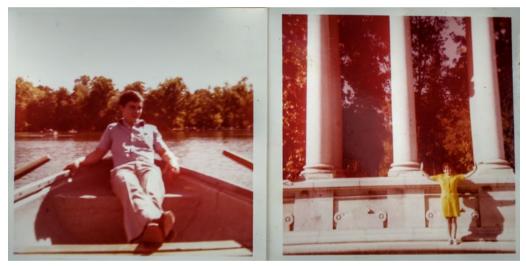
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Baldomero and María Josefina on their wedding day, 3 October 1970. Source: Baldomero Barral Pérez.

Baldomero Barral and María Josefina Pérez were married on 4 October 1970. Thanks to a betting pool they won during the 1972/73 season, they bought a flat and opened a sweet shop called Los Ángeles in La Coruña, where they were both from. They had two sons, Ramón, aged three, and Baldomero, aged four months, when the young couple, aged 24 and 21, decided to go on the honeymoon they had not had after their wedding. María Josefina's mother travelled from the UK to look after the little ones while Mero and Chicha, as everyone knew them, set off for Madrid.



Photographs from Baldomero and María Josefina's Kodak camera, taken on or the day before the attack. On the left, Mero is pictured in the Estanque Grande del Buen Retiro. On the right, María Josefina is pictured between the columns of the monument to Alfonso XII. Source: Baldomero Barral Pérez.

During their time in Madrid, they visited typical sites, such as Retiro Park and Puerta del Sol. As chance would have it, they decided not to go on a planned trip to Aranjuez and chose instead to eat lunch in Rolando in the city centre. Baldomero's lifeless body was the first to be retrieved by the firefighters. He was taken directly to the Forensic Anatomical Institute. The remains of María Josefina were admitted to the Ciudad Sanitaria Francisco Franco. Until María Josefina's handbag was found in the rubble, neither of the couple were identified.

Another couple enjoying their honeymoon in Madrid, on their way to Malaga, was Antonio Alonso Palacín and María Jesús Arcos Tirado, aged 28 and 26, respectively. They had married on 7 September in the church of San Juan (Calatayud). Antonio was from Alhama de Aragón and María Jesús from Contamina, the town where they lived. Both died.



Antonio and María Jesús on their wedding day in Calatayud, 7 September 1974. Source: EFE/lafototeca.com

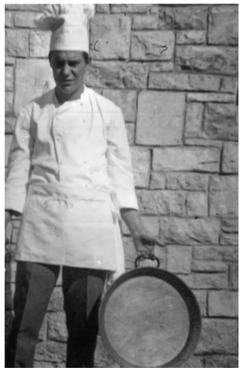


National identity cards of Antonio Alonso Palacín and María Jesús Arcos Tirado. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).





Francisco Gómez Vaquero and Blanca Condado Aguilar on their wedding day, celebrated in Madrid on 10 August, 1968. Source: Alicia Gómez Condado.



Francisco Gómez Vaquero in the uniform of one of the restaurants where he worked before being employed at Rolando. Source: Alicia Gómez Condado.

Francisco Gómez Vaquero with his wife, Blanca Condado Aguilar, and his daughter Alicia. Source: Alicia Gómez Condado. Francisco Gómez Vaquero (*Paco*) worked as a chef at Rolando. In the morning, as he did every day, he said goodbye to his wife, Blanca Condado, and his daughters, Alicia, aged four, and Sara, aged two.

The restaurant's kitchen was on the ground floor. At the time of the explosion, Paco and his assistant, 16-year-old Santiago Martínez Gómez; Carmen Sabido Gracia, 19, who was in charge of washing the dishes, and Florentina Carro Ramón, 35, who worked as a cashier and had come downstairs to eat, were in the kitchen. All were unharmed except for Paco, who died.





Blanca Condado Aguilar, widow of Francisco Gómez Vaquero, and their daughters, Alicia and Sara, are visited by the president and director of Mutualidad de Hostelería (Hospitality Alliance). Source: San Pablo-CEU University Foundation. San Pablo-CEU University Library. Ya Collection.



Manuel Llanos Gancedo working as a waiter. Source: Aidé Llanos Domínguez.



Another of the employees killed was the waiter Manuel Llanos Gancedo. Manuel stood out for his friendliness, ability to make friends and love for his work. From Villar de Vildas in Asturias, he was 26 years old and had been working at Rolando since its opening. He had served food to the terrorists, so he was probably very close to the bomb. His body was among those most affected by the impact of the nuts.



At the wedding of his brother Antonio to Aidé Domínguez. Manuel is located on the far left. Next to him is his older brother, José, and in the opposite corner, his parents, Manuel and Carmen. Source: Aidé Llanos Domínguez.





Manuel Llanos Gancedo. Source: Aidé Llanos Domínguez.

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Emilio Candil García and Ismael López Ollero, both waiters, suffered severe iniuries. Antonio Carro Ramón, general manager of the business, was blinded.

Como una corriente eléctrica

MADRID, 14. (INFORMA-CIONES.) — Dos de los heri-dos que permanecian ingre-sadõe en el centro de reha-bitación y tratunatoicosia de eran precisamente los cos mareros del bar. Su aspecto podría calificarse de normal, en lo que cabe. Emilio Can-dil Garcia, de veintitres años, preguntas con gran claridad y serenidad de animo.

-Me en contraba en mi puesto, en la barra. Acaba-ba de cobrarie a un cliente el café que había consumido y de repente senti como una corriente eléctrica.

-;En el momento e a explosión?

-No oi la explosión. Solo sé que una especie de co-rriente me invadió el cuerpo. Me noté como pegado a la barra. Vi care rescombros y noté que se arremolinaba la

gente, quizà corria. No sé... En pocos segundos, pero pro-gresivamente, perdi la noción de cuanto me rodeaba. Pude llegar a la calle y una vez alli ya se me borró todo.

-¿Corria la gente, oyó m-

-No podría decirlo. Todo fue muy confuso. Fue como una extraña sensación que no he podido olvidar.

El señor Candil Gara: a ainde que en el estableci-miento, tomando consumicio-terinte la barra, habria unas-sonas. Dentro, en el comedor, crec que estaba lleno, pero no puede afirmar nada al res-pecto, pues aquel servicio no depende de él.

-Los de la barra eran en su mayor parte inspectores de Policia. Clientes que cono-cemos bien, de antiguo, pues

in ij

enfrente està la Dirección General de Seguridad La coincidencia de las vi-vencias de don Emilio Candil y su compañero don ismael López Oliero es casi absolu-ta. Está en distinta sala del

centro

-Noté un calambre. Senti un golpe tremendo en la cara y que me quedaba como se-gado a la máquina. Me cos-tó trabajo soltarme. Sali co-rriendo y ya no sé decirie di hubo aglomeración o no en la pinerta. El caso es que lo llegaba a la calle y nota mas. Perdí el conocimiento.

-¿Fue muy fuerte la ex-

-Es que no sé si hubo o no explosión. No oi tal explé-sión. Nada más el golpe en la cara, y en aquel momento como si me cayera de un pi-só a otro.

Ismad Olicro ticne el iado izquierdo de la cara com múltiples herdas y el ojo de ese lado tumefacto. El aspec-to de las lesiones impresio-na pero nos dicen los medi-cos que no es cosa excesiva-mente alarmante, aunque el pronóstilo ese grave.

RESCATO A QUINCE PERSONAS

Don Pedro Chicote Alonso es policia. En el momento de la explosión se encontrava paseando por la calle de Co-rreos, esperando la hora de entrar en su trabajo. Ahora se encuentra en la clínica Francisco Franco de la Di-putación Provincial.

putación Provincial. --No puedo decir que viera ni oyera nada en el primer momento. Senti la explosión, procedentes de los restaurni-tes y las gentes que salton corriendo. Itenas de sangre, me decidieron a entrar. Ola voces de los jefes que se en-contraban en el lugat, ordo-mento de lar Roindo y consegui sacar a quince per-sonas. Todas elhas en brazos. Rescaté a un niño pequeño, pero cuando intestata salvar a una mujer cayo parte del suelo. No puede barcr mus. ron a acostarme en una su-ron a acostarme en una su-ron a de cargar con tauta gente.

Interview published in the newspaper Informaciones with the waiters Emilio Candil García and Ismael López Ollero.

Source: Juan Linz Archive of the Spanish Transition, Juan March Foundation Library. Madrid.

I. Los bomberos realizan trabajos de descombro en del edificio para rescatar a las víctimas

In the prime of their lives



National identity card of María Ángeles Rey Martínez. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

María Ángeles Rey Martínez, 20, from Burgos, was studying at her local Vocational School in the neighbourhood of Yagüe. She had travelled to Madrid with 16 other girls to sit the exam for the only remaining subject she needed to acquire the title of business assistant.

On Friday the 13th, María Ángeles was with four of her classmates: Sara Renedo, Yolanda Busto, Rosario San

Miguel and María Jesús Arandilla. They met for lunch at Tobogán, a very popular establishment due to its self-service system, its affordable price and its central and touristy location. For five young people from provincial Spain, visiting the capital was a rare opportunity.



The Tobogán restaurant after the removal of rubble. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

When the bomb exploded, Yolanda, Rosario and María Jesús were still waiting outside the restaurant in a queue. Sara and María Ángeles had just entered, which was the difference between life and death.

Sara suffered injuries to various parts of her body, including a particularly large wound to her forehead. María Ángeles died as a result of the impact of debris and other materials that fell on her.



Internal view of Tobogán showing damage at its adjoining wall with Rolando. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



Mourners leave the church of San Pedro y San Felices in Burgos after the funeral of María Ángeles Rey Martínez, 15 September 1974. Source: EFE/lafototeca.com



Se encontraba en el restaurante "Tobogán" y se disponía a almorzar

Había ido el jueves a Madrid para examinarse el viernes en Giencias Empresariales

Esta tarde tendrá lugar su sepelio en nuestra ciudad

stra ciudad para preparat asignaturas que le ha-quedado pendicitos pa-concluír sus estudios de cillar de Empresa-. El do jueves marchó a Ma-para, examinarse y el tado la sorprendió en pafía de otras amigas, de ellas María Angeles Martínez que resalió crta en el salvaje atenta-

ra fue asistida por el per-





erio en el atentado. Las cuatro se e a en la cafeteria y eran amigns y cu de María de los Angeles. Arriba, erda a derecha, Sara Renedo Gara quierda a derecha, Sara Renedo Ga resultó con heridas de pronósitica res María Xolanda Busto González, Abaje bién de izquierda a derecha, Rosario guel Saeristán y María Tacha

heridas en el «Hospital Duque», de Ma

mejor. Creo que po-quiere verme mañana

parietal derecho trecejo. Muy poca

etería. Es un establecimiento de coincidencia María de los Ar las bandejas- se liabía separ

mbros y logré sa Gritaba horroria

urgos, en Sandoral de la Reina. La collesa de estras Jévennes burgalesas o nagintanesis. Al doior de la ampa muerta y limese al trácico momento del recoconfinais velada del cietárer da María da los Angoles; or el que hudo de pasar María Jacós Ana ormenta Bor Purificadión Fendioder, profesor e estudiantes, artificanta lo dicidado por María Jac

<section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text> ESCUELA DE CAPACITACION AGRARIA GRANJA - ESCUELA «JOSE ANTONIO» DE LA EXCELENTISIMA DIPUTACION PROVINCIAL VALLADOLID ISO 1974-1975: CONVOCATORIA DE SEPTIEMBRE DE ADMISION DE INSTANCIAS. — Finaliza el día 20 de Septiembr as preubas de ingreso se colebrarán el día 26, indistituaneta, en la Br la Agencia de Extensión Agraria, que el aspiranto haya expressido en s ia. edan exentos de las pruebas los que hayan realizado custro cursos de Bachi-ESPECIALIDADES. - "TEPE DE EXPLOTACION" "CAPATAZ MECANI-AGRICOLA" AGRICOLA" os sapirantes habrán de haliarte comprendidos entre 16 a 30 años. ERANZA Y RESIDENCIA GRATUITA. ADEMAS SE CONCEDEN POR EL PLO. BECAS EN METALICO COMIENZO DEL CURSO: 2 DE OCTUBRE DE 1974

Diario de Burgos, 15 September 1974.

Source: Virtual Library of Historical Press. Ministry of Culture and Sport.

15 An indiscriminate attack



Luis Martínez Martín was identified by his union card. He was the first victim to be identified after the attack. Source: Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



Francisca Baeza Alarcón. Source: EFE/lafototeca.com

Pensioner Luis Martínez Martín, 77, from Valladolid, was a widower with three daughters. He was probably in the dining room when a beam fell on him. His body was found two hours later and taken to the Forensic Anatomical Institute.

Also killed was the 45-year-old teacher Francisca Baeza Alarcón, who often went to Rolando when she visited Madrid. On this occasion, she was eating with her niece, María Isabel González Castro, 21, who was seriously injured in the blast. Francisca taught at the Jesús Castillo school in Valdepeñas (Ciudad Real) and looked after her elderly parents.

Graphic arts employee Gerardo García Pérez, who was waiting for a friend, was seriously injured. He underwent emergency surgery but died on 29 September. Born in Madrid, he was 43 years old and married with three children.

Antonio Lobo Aguado was from Villanueva del Río y Minas (Seville), although he lived in Madrid with his wife and two daughters. He worked for Renfe in the mornings and at a football pools office near Puerta del Sol in the evenings. On Friday 13th, at 2.30 p.m., he was paying the bill for his lunch when everything went to pieces.



Antonio Lobo Aguado with his wife, Antonia Morcillo Romero, and their daughters, Amalia and María Isabel, on a day of celebration in Antonio's home town of Villanueva del Río y Minas (Seville). Source: María Isabel Lobo Morcillo.



Funeral of Antonio Lobo Aguado in Villanueva del Río y Minas (Sevilla), 16 September 1974. Source: EFE/lafototeca.com

16 The Directorate General of Security (DGS)

Rolando's varied clientele on 13 September 1974 ranged from the brother of a detainee in the DGS cells, who was waiting to hear from him, to civil servants of the Armed Police and General Police Corps.

Also among the clientele were Inspectors José Ángel Aguiriano Bardón and Félix Ayuso Pinel. They did not



Some 2,000 people accompanied the funeral procession of the civil servant Concepción Pérez Paino. Source: EFE/lafototeca.com

usually go to Rolando, but as it was José Ángel's last day before the holidays, he encouraged Félix to say goodbye with a beer. A beam fell on Ayuso's head. As a result of the injury, he had to relearn how to speak, write, move... On 11 January 1977, he died of a stroke, becoming the thirteenth fatality of the attack.

The DGS was not only staffed by police officers. Concepción Pérez Paino was an administrative clerk in the Archives Department and usually ate lunch at Rolando with a colleague who had been delayed that day by a last-minute assignment. A native of Carabanchel, she was 62 years old and single. She died from the impact of a nut to her neck and two others to her thorax.



Front page of ABC showing the President of the Government, Carlos Arias Navarro, greeting a relative of Concepción Pérez Paino. Source: ABC.



herren filige

Félix Ayuso Pinel with his children, María Jesús and Antonio. Source: María Jesús Ayuso del Pueyo.

Félix Ayuso Pinel and his wife, Purificación del Pueyo, when they were engaged. He is wearing a soldier's uniform. Source: María Jesús Ayuso del Pueyo.



The Ayuso del Pueyo family: Félix and Purificación with their children, María Jesús and Antonio. Source: María Jesús Ayuso del Pueyo.



Marceliano Gutiérrez Rodríguez, then an inspector, was one of the police officers injured in the attack. In the photograph, he is wearing, among others, the Distinction of Victim of Terrorism and the Cross of Police Merit with red badge. Source: Marceliano Gutiérrez Rodríguez.



One of the sides of the DGS faced on to Rolando Café, with the result that several members of the police and administrative staff inside the building were injured to varying degrees by broken glass. Source: Regional Archive of the Community of Madrid. Martín Santos Yubero Collection.

Relación de muertos y heridos en los centros sanitarios

En la Ciudad Sanitaria Francisco Franco el movimiento de victimas registrado es el siguiente: Cuatro personas muertas y veinte heridas de diversa consideración. De las cuatro personas atendidas y que perdieron la vida, solamente ha sido identificada una, don Antonio Lobo Aguado, que ingresó ya cadáver. Un hombre y dos mujeres —una de ellas joven- continúan sin identificar. Los heridos alli internados son los siguientes:

José Cuesta Valcárcel, pronóstico grave.

Vicente Esteban Sanz, pronóstico reservado. Salvadora Zarza Martinez,

pronóstico grave. Fernando Simón Salvat,

pronóstico reservado. José Sánchez Valentín, pro-

nóstico grave.

José Ubach Taranco, pro-nóstico muy grave.

José Angel Asturiano Bar-dón, pronóstico grave.

Conrado Delso Pérez, pronóstico grave.

Pedro Chicote Alonso, pronóstico reservado. Benilde Rubio Martin, pro-

nóstico reservado.

Emelinda Martin Martin, pronóstico grave. Gerardo Garcia Pérez, pro-

nóstico muy grave. Francisca Palma Sodi, pro-

nóstico reservado. Antonio Guzmán Velázquez, pronóstico leve.

Teresa Jiménez Pariente,

pronóstico reservado. Maria del Carmen Manzanares Jiménez, pronóstico re-

servado. Federizo Lázaro Carrancho. pronóstico reservado.

José Ripollés Gorris, pronóstico reservado.

Rosa Alcamiz Sánchez, pro-

nóstico reservado. Marcelino Gutiérrez Rodriguez, pronóstico reservado.

HOSPITAL DE LA CRUZ ROJA

En el Hospital Central de la Cruz Roja fueron interna-das las siguientes personas: Adelina Aguado, de catorce años, con heridas de pro-

nóstico reservado. Dolores Aguado, hermana de la anterior, de cinco años, con heridas igualmente de pronóstico reservado.

Félix Ayuso, de cuarenta y seis años, con hundimiento óseo craneal, de pronóstico grave.

Isabel González, de diecisiete años, con ambas pier-nas destrozadas. Pronóstico grave.

Otra victima falleció al poco de ingresar. Lo único que se sabe de ella es que, al pa-recer, se llamaba Manuel, aparentaba tener unos treinta años y parece ser que tra-bajaba en la cervecería como encargado

EN EL HOSPITAL CLINICO

Ingression cinco personas. una de ellas muerta. Se trata de Francisco Gómez Va-quero. Los heridos, que que-daron ingresados, son: José Herrero, de pronóstico grave, y Antonio Carro Ramón, gra-ve. Pasaron a sus domicilios,

Pasaron a sus domicilios, una vez asistides de sus le-siones, Rafael Mayoral y Se-rafina Ramos Pérez.

CIUDAD SANITARIA LA PAZ

La ciudad sanitaria de La Paz facilitó los siguientes nombres de personas asistidas

- Rosa Maria Villaseñor Rivero, pronóstico leve.
- Manuel Aparicio, pronósti-co menos grave. Elena Rubio Rubio, pronós-
- tico leve. Pilar Sánchez Rodriguez.

pronóstico leve. Michell Angles, pronóstico

leve. Lina Puig Angles, pronós-

tico leve. Marc Angles, pronóstico leve.

Casilda Gómez Acero, pro-nóstico leve.

Zhacer Benyalina, pronóstico leve. Anselmo Villase nor, pro-

nóstico leve. Manuel Jouver de la Barre-

a, pronóstico grave. Santiago Martínez Gómez, ra.

leve. Ismael López Ollero, pro-

nóstico grave. Emilio Candil Garcia, pro-

Carmen Garrido García, pronóstico leve.

Una joven, no identificada, ingresó ya cadáver en este centro. Aparenta tener unos veinte años de edad.

FUNCIONARIOS DE LA POLICIA HERIDOS

Una relación, al parecer provisional, de funcionarios de la Policia y miembros de la Policia Armada que se en-cuentran entre las víctimas de la explosión, es la siguiente

te: Don José Cuesta Valcarcel, don José Ubach Taranco, comisario; don José Sánchez Valentin, don Conrado Delso Pérez, doña Teresa Giménez Valente don Federico Lázarerez, dona reresa Giménez Valiente, don Federico Láza-ro Camacho, don José Ripo-llés Gorris, don Pedro Chi-cote Alonso/ don Manuel Apa-ricio, doña Elena Rubio Ru-bio y don Féliz Ayuso.

Informaciones. 14 September 1974.

Source: Juan Linz Archive of the Spanish Transition, Juan March Foundation Library, Madrid..

iamos el recurso y declaramos ajustada a derecho la resolu-ión impugnada; sin hacer declaración alguna sobre las cos-

888

ac de este recurso.

De conformidad con el anterior fall Este Ministerio, en cumplimiento d culo 105 del texto refundido de la dministrativo de 27 de diciembre de isponer la ejecución de esta senter inos.	e lo establecido en el ar- Ley de lo Contencioso- e 1956, ha tenido a bien Icia en sus propios tér-	Madrid, 13 de marzo de 1975. GARCIA HERNANDEZ Excmo. Sr. Director general de Seguridad.		
Lo que comunico a V. I. para su co ¹⁵ Dios guarde a V. J. muchos años. Madrid, 10 de marzo de 1975.—P. lacienda, Fernando Benzo Mestre.	•	 8001 ORDEN de 13 de marzo de 1875 por la que se co cede la Cruz al Mérito Policial con distintivo biu co al Inspector de 1.º clasa del Cuerpo General Policia don Francisco Saavedra Liorente. Excmo. Sr.: En atonción a los méritos que concurren en interesado, a propuesta de esa Dirocción General y por con derarie comprendido en el artículo 7.º de la Ley 3/1994, de abril. rito Policial con distintivo blanco al Inspector de 1.º clase de Cuerpo General de Policia don Francisco Saavedra Liorente. A los fines del artículo 1.º de la Ley 3/1994, de cuerpo General de Policia don Francisco Saavedra Liorente. A los fines del artículo 165, número 2.10 de la Loy 41/19 de 11 de junio, de Reforma del Sistema Tributario, la expre da condecorseción se otorga para premiar servicios de carác extraordinario. Lo digo a V. E. para su conocimiento y efectos. Dios guarde a V. E. muchos años. 		
mo. Sr. Presidente del Jurado Centra 999 BANCO DE ES: Mercado de Divisas Cambios oficiales del día 15	PAÑA de Madrid			
Divisas convertibles	Cambios Comprador Vendedor	Dios guarde a V. E. muchos años. Madrid, 13 de marzo de 1975. GARCIA HERNANDEZ Excmo. Sr. Director general de Seguridad.		
dódar U. S. A. (1) dódar Canadienze dódar Canadienze dódar Canadienze díbra esterlina libra esterlina franco suizo francos logas francos logas díbra esterlina forin holandés forin holandés forin holandés forona sueca corona sueca torona danesa torona danesa marco finlandés do pertuguéses o yens japoneses d) Sata cotización será_aplicable por el res de cuenta en que se formalice inferca s: Colombia, Cuba y Guinca Ecustorial.	56,263 56,513 55,604 55,518 13,597 13,454 13,597 13,454 13,597 13,454 13,597 13,454 13,597 13,454 13,597 13,454 12,597 15,605 12,523 25,643 12,528 2,544 14,061 14,158 10,127 10,176 11,254 11,310 15,720 15,811 13,31,617 334,4566 226,547 229,072 19,347 19,439 Banco de España a los dó- mblo con los siguientes pai-	 8002 ORDEN de 13 de marzo de 1675 por la que concede la Cruz al Mérito Policial con distintirrolo al Policia armado don Eloy Carrera Peña. Excmo. Sr. En atención a los méritos que concurren en interesado, a propuésta de esa Dirección General y por consistrarle comprendido en el artículo 6.º de la Ley \$1/96, de 29 abril. Este Ministerio ha tenido a bien conceder la Cruz al Mérito Policial con distintivo rojo al Policia armado don Eloy Carrer Peña. A los fines del artículo 165 número 2.16, de la Ley \$1/96, de 29 condecoración se otorga para promiar servicios de carác contraordinario y efectos. Disguarre a V. E muchos años. Madrid, 13 de marzo de 1973. Excmo. Sr. Director general de Seguridad. 		
MINISTER DE LA GOBER ORDEN de 13 de marzo di cede la Cruz al Mérico Pe a los miembros de los Cu y de Policia Armada que	NACION 1975 por la que se con- ilicial con distintivo rojo erpos General de Policia	 8003 ORDEN de 13 de marzo de 1975 por la que se ce cede la Cruz al Mérito Policial con distintivo ra al Inspector de 3.º clase del Cuerpo General de licia don Manuel Ignacio Bragado de las Herass. Esermo. Sr.: En atención a los méritos que concurren en interesado, a propuesta de esa Dirección General y por consistrarle comprendido en el attículo 6.º de la Ley 5/1864, de 29 abril. Este Ministerio ha tenido a bien conceder la Cruz al Mér 		

16 abril 1975

Excmo. Sr.; En atención a los méritos que concurren en los teresados, a propuesta de esa Dirección General y por con-derarles comprendidos en el artículo e.º de la Ley 5/194, de de abril, este Ministorio ha tenido a bien conceder la Cruz Mérito Policial con distintivo roio a los miembros de la blicía Gubernativa que a continuación se expresan:

Cuerpo General de Policia

Comisario de 2.ª don Conrado Delso Pérez. Inspector-Jefe don Francisco Fernández-Valencia -Matamoros. Inspector de 1.ª don Félix Ayuso Pinei. Inspector de 2.ª don Fernando Simón Salvat. Inspector de 3.ª don Juego Robledo Hernándoz. Inspector de 3.ª don Juego Robledo Hernándoz. Inspector de 3.ª don Juego Robledo Hernándoz. Inspector de 3.ª don Marceliano Guiférez Rodriguez. Inspector de 3.ª don José Marcio Fuente. Subinspector de 1.ª don José Maria Sauras Vázquez.				
Cuerpo de Policía Armada				
Sargento 1.º don Manuel Corrales Gómez. Policía don Pedro Chicote Alonso.				
A los fines del artículo 165, número 2.10, de la Ley 41/1964,				

Order awarding the Cross of Police Merit with red badge to the members of the General Police and Armed Police Corps who were wounded on 13 September 1974.

Source: BOE, No. 91, 16 April 1975.

B. O. del E .--- Núm. 91

presadas condecoraciones se otorgan para premiar servicios de carácter extraordinario. Lo digo a V. E. para su conocimiento y efectos. Dios guarde a V. E. punchos años

e con-blan-ral de

en el consi-de 29

en el nside-29 de

conie Po-as.

"Etée Ministerio ha tenido a bien conceder la Cruz al Mérito Policial con distintivo rojo al Inspector de 3. clase del Cuerpo General de Policia don Manues Ignacio Bragado de las Heras. A los fines del artícuio 165, número 2.10, de la Ley 41/1964, de 11 de junio, de Reforma del Sixtêma Tributario, la expresada condecoración se otorga para premiar servicios de carácter extraordinario. La digo a V. E. para su conocimiento y efectos. Da guarda V. E. muches años. Madrid, 13 de marzo de 1975. GARCIA HERNANDEZ dérito

GARCIA HERNANDEZ

Excmo. Sr. Director general de Seguridad.

ORDEN de 9 de abril de 1975 por la que se estable-cen las aportaciones municipales a la Corporación Metropolítana de Barcelona en el ejercicio de 1975. 8004

Subinspector de 1.º don José Maria Sauras Vázquez. Cuerpo de Policia Armada Sargvnto 1.º don Manuel Corrales Gómez. Policia don Pedro Chicote Alonso. A los fines del artículo 165, número 2.10, de la Ley 41/164, 11 de junio, de Reforma del Sistema Tributario, las est

17 The scene of the crime



Outside view of Rolando. Source: VOLKHART MÜLLER/EFE/lafototeca.com

The bomb was planted in Rolando, but also affected adjoining premises. The Tobogán restaurant fared the worst. In other establishments, there were no casualties.

On the same street was Pañería Inglesa, a business dedicated to selling fabrics. Due to its split opening hours, no one was in the shop in the middle of the day. Almost all of the business material was rendered useless.

Two employees of Yenes Café, José Herrero and his assistant Manuel Crespo, were injured when part of the roof collapsed. Perfumería Urquiola and the flats above Rolando sustained some material damage.

The President of the Government, Carlos Arias Navarro, arrived at 16:15. Other authorities later appeared. Prince Juan Carlos, who was in Palma de Mallorca, sent a telegram to express his condolences. Days later he visited the wounded, accompanied by Princess Sofia.

17. The scene of the crime



Pañería Inglesa, next to Rolando Café. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid. Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



One of Rolando Café's windows. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).



Interior of Pañería Inglesa. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

Telegrama de condolencia del Príncipe de España

MADRID, 14. (INFORMACIONES.) - Desde Palma de Mallorca, S. A. R. el Principe de España dirigió al

de Mallorca, S. A. R. el Frincipe de Espana dirigio al presidente del Gobierno, a los pocos minutos de cono-cerse el suceso, el siguiente telegrama: «Al tener noticia del salvaje atentado perpetrado en el dia de hoy, quiero expresar mi profundo sentimiento por tan doloroso suceso, agradeciéndole haga llegar a las familias de las victimas mi sincero pesar en este triste momento....Firmado: Juan Carlos de Borbón y Berbén Deinaio de Fengão a Borbón, Principe de España.»



A flat above Rolando. Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid, Case 2/1977 of the Central Court of Instruction No. 21 (Madrid).

Telegram of Juan Carlos de Borbón published in the daily newspaper Informaciones on 14 September 1974. Source: Juan Linz Archive of the Spanish Transition, Juan March Foundation Library, Madrid.





Firefighters and stretcher-bearers removing an injured person. Source: Regional Archive of the Community of Madrid. Martín Santos Yubero Collection.

The response to the massacre brought out the best in people: neighbours, employees of the affected establishments, firefighters, police officers, sanitary workers, taxi drivers, and so forth. Their quick, effective and selfless action saved an incalculable number of lives.

A prime example of this was the case of 25-year-old Pedro Chicote Alonso. A native of Palacios de la Sierra (Burgos), although living in Bilbao, Pedro had been studying for a permanent job in the Armed Police. On 2 September 1974, he was given his first posting: the police station on Leganitos Street (Madrid).

On Friday the 13th, after lunch, Pedro was walking down Correo Street to go to work when the bomb went off. The shockwave sent him flying through the air. From the ground, he heard the screams of the wounded. Despite the danger, falling debris and smoke, he entered Rolando Café to look for survivors.



Pedro Chicote Alonso in his Armed Police uniform. Source: Pedro Chicote Alonso.

Pedro Chicote Alonso in the dress uniform of the National Police. He is wearing, among others, the Cross of Police Merit with red badge and the Commendation of the Royal Order of Civilian Recognition to the Victims of Terrorism. Source: Pedro Chicote Alonso



Pedro repeatedly went in and out of the establishment until he rescued, according to the press, 15 people. The last two were a girl that had been trapped by debris, and a woman in a very bad condition. After lying her down on the street, the officer collapsed and was taken to hospital.

Pedro was awarded the Cross of Police Merit with red badge. He worked as a national police officer in Bilbao until his retirement in 2014.



19 Kill and lie

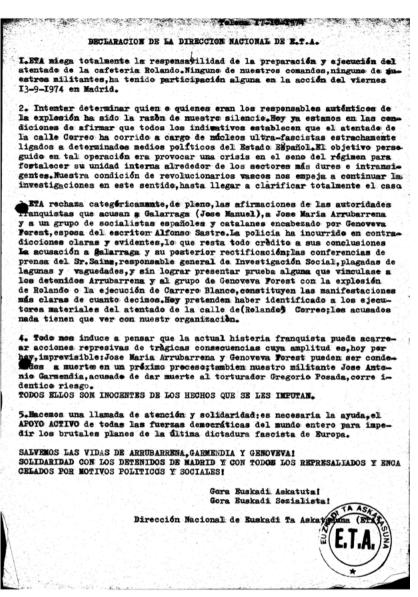
When news of the indiscriminate attack reached France, a heated discussion broke out within ETA's leadership. The representatives of the military front, who were intellectually and materially culpable for the massacre, defended taking responsibility for it. On the other hand, the delegates of ETA's other fronts, who had not been consulted about the plan, opposed it. They went so far as to label the military front a "Basque Black September".

ETA's first communiqués were very ambiguous, kindling a rumour that the far right and the dictatorship were responsible for the bombing. Far-left and nationalist forces, the media and even prestigious intellectuals subsequently spread the rumour.

Taking advantage of the conspiracy theory, ETA sent a communiqué to the press:

TOLOSA 17-10-1974 DECLARATION DE LA DIRECTION NATIONALE DE E.T.A. E.T.A.nie absolument la responsabilité de la preparation et de l'éxécution de l'attentat de la cafeteria Rolando. Aucun de nos commendos, aucun de nos militants n'a eu participation quelconque dans l'action de vendredi 13-9-1974. Essayer de decouvrir qui étaient les veritables responsables de l'explosion a été le motif de notre silence. Aujourd'hui nous sommes en mesure d'affirmer que toutes les indications visent à établir que l'attentat de la rue Correc est l'ocuvre des groupes ultra-fascistes étroitement liés à déterminés milieux politiques de l'étot espagnol. L'objectif visé avec une telle opération était de provequer une crise au sein du régime pour renforcer son unité interne autour des secteur plus durs et intransigeants. Notrecondition de révolutionnaires bas-cues nous obligent à continuer lesrecherches dans ce sens, jusqu'à pouvoir éclaircirtotalement l'affaire. E.T.A. rejette categorique ent les affirmations des autorités franquistes qui accusent Galarraga José Manuel, Jpsé Maria Arrubarrenn et a un groupe de aocisilistes espagnal - et catalana dont Eva Porest épouse de l'écrivain Alfonso Sastre, serait responsable, La police est tombée dans d'évidentes contradictions qui enlèvent tout crédit à ces conclusions. L'accusation contre Galarraga et la récussion de l'accusation posterieure, les conférences de presse de Mr. Sainz, res-ponsable général des renseignements sociaux, pleines d'ambiguités et sans avoir rétusir à pressister aucume preuve précise concernnet les de-tenusÀrrubarrens et le groupe d'Eva Forest avec l'explosion de ROLANDO ou l'éxécution de CARIEND BLANCO, constituent les plus claires mani-festations de tout ce que nous disons. Aujourd'hui lis pretendent avoir identifié les exécuteurs matériels de l'attentat de la rue Correo: ces accusés n'ont rien à voir avec l'organisation. Tout cela nous fait penser que l'actuelle histérie franquiste peut Iout deux nous interpenser que l'actueire inserté l'angluire de entrainer des conséquences tragiques dont l'ampleur est aujourd'hui core imprévisible: José Maria Arrubarrena et Eva Forest pouvent être condamnés à mort un prochain procès, ainsi que notre militant José-antonio Garmendia, accusé d'avoir donné la mort aù tortionnaire Gre-gorio Possdas, il court un risque identique. TOUS SONT INNOCENTS DES FAITS QU'ON LEUR ATTRIBUE Nous faisons un appel à la solidarité: l'aide est nécessaire, l'ap pui actif de toutes les forces démocratiques du monde entier pour em-pecher les plans brutaux de la dernière dictature fasciste d'Europe. SAUVONS LES VIES DE ARRUBARRENA? GARMENDIAET GENOVEVA SOLIDARITE AVRC LES DETENUS DE MADRID ET LES EMPRISONNES POLITIQUES LARKAO Gora Euskadi Askatuta ! Gora Euskadi Sozialista ! (Bunnet Direction Nationale de Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA)

Third communiqué from ETA (original in French), 17 October 1974. Source: Lazkaoko Beneditarren Fundazioa.



Third communiqué from ETA, 17 October 1974. Source: Mario Onaindia Fundazioa.

The massacre was not the cause of the subsequent schism in ETA, which had been going through a lengthy internal crisis, but it was the straw that broke the camel's back. At the end of 1974, the organisation split in two. The bulk of the militancy formed ETA political-military, which disbanded in 1982. Meanwhile, the military front became ETA military, whose bloody trajectory lasted until 2018. It was only then that the terrorist group finally took responsibility for the Rolando Café bombing.





Facial composite of the perpetrators of the massacre. Source: EFE/lafototeca.com

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Cover of one of the volumes of Case 285/74 of the Military Court of Chiefs and Officers (Madrid).

Source: Judicial Territorial Archive of the Community of Madrid.

In the wake of the Rolando Café attack, the entry in *Tanque*'s diary revealed its true meaning. Eva Forest was arrested on 16 September. As a result of her disclosures not only was her network rounded up, but so were those who had lent her their homes without knowing Forest's links to ETA. Some were tortured.

Forest claimed that she was a member of the PCE, which was a lie, but she managed to make the police suspect the involvement of that party. Taking advantage of this, Franco's secret service tried to link the PCE with ETA. To avoid this association, the PCE ordered its lawyers not to defend the accused.

However, all the evidence pointed to ETA. The Alcorcón safe house was discovered, but it was too late: the terrorists had already fled, although the paper trail they had left behind made it possible to retrace their steps and identify them.

In December 1974, the Military Court of Chiefs and Officers issued a search and arrest warrant for Bernard Oyarzabal and María Lourdes Cristóbal. They were not arrested, however. The French Government refused to extradite ETA members



Front page of the evening newspaper Pueblo, 14 September 1974.

Source: Virtual Library of Historical Press. Ministry of Culture and Sport.



on the basis of an international convention from 1877. Oyarzabal and Cristóbal resumed their lives unhindered.

From 1975 onwards, the defendants were released from prison. On 1 June 1977, Eva Forest was also released. She claimed that she had had nothing to do with the massacre. She and her husband, Alfonso Sastre, moved to Hondarribia.

In October 1977, the first Cortes of the democratic era passed the Amnesty Law, which expunged criminal responsibility for the crimes committed by ETA until June of that year. The attack on Rolando Café went unpunished.

Eva Forest leaving prison, accompanied by her lawyer, her daughter and Alfonso Sastre, 1 June 1977. Source: MANUEL P BARRIOPEDRO/EFE/ lafototeca.com

21 Forgetting/Remembering



Presentation of the Euskal Herritarrok candidacy for Gipuzkoa in the Basque regional elections in San Sebastian on 13 September 1998, on the 24th anniversary of the massacre. From right to left, Arnaldo Otegi, Eva Forest and Alfonso Sastre.

Source: ANTONIO ALONSO./EFE./lafototeca.com.

Although the investigation showed that ETA had planted the bomb and there was almost unanimous condemnation of the massacre, there was no shortage of those who defended Forest's innocence, denied that ETA had anything to do with it and tried to shift the blame to the more radical right and/or the regime itself.

A lack of evidence meant that this conspiracy theory

was eventually abandoned in the 1990s. Except for ETA itself, of course. The terrorists did not acknowledge what they had done until 2018.

When she was released from prison in 1977, Eva Forest suffered no social reproach. She was even presented as a champion of causes such as freedom and solidarity. However, she never had a word for the victims of terrorism. Neither did the instigators of the crime, the heads of ETA's military front, nor the perpetrators of the attack.

"To ask for forgiveness requires more courage than firing a gun, than setting off a bomb" (Fernando Aramburu: *Patria*).

The survivors and the relatives of the dead feel that they are the forgotten ones in the history of ETA's first massacre. It is up to us to stop them being so. Let us remember what happened, but let us remember everything and everyone. Reading the darkest pages of our past is the best vaccine against fanaticism and violence.



Correo Street today. Source: Gaizka Fernández Soldevilla.

Exhibition

ROLANDO 2:15-2:45

50 years since ETA's first massacre

Organisation Centro Memorial de las Víctimas del Terrorismo



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Girl injured in the Rolando Café attack. Source: Regional Archive of the Community of Madrid. Martín Santos Yubero Collection.

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Want to know more? Dinamita, tuercas y mentiras. El atentado de la cafetería Rolando





Source: VOLKHART MÜLLER/EFE/lafototeca.com

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