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Yet another survivor story

Somit Sen & Hemali Chhappia, TNN | Dec 4, 2008, 12:25 AM IST

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MUMBAI: This is one frame that almost got buried in the rush of news on Wednesday night after Mumbai's police force lost 14 of its men, including three top cops.

When the two terrorists - [Ajmal Amir Kasav](#) and his accomplice - walked out of Cama Hospital, they saw a Honda city with a lone driver. They shot at him, injuring him in the hand. He rolled up the power windows and pretended to be dead. The constable posted outside [St Xavier's college](#) recounted this to the police.

What saved the Honda driver was the sound of an approaching vehicle. It was the one [carrying ATS chief Hemant Karkare](#) and encounter specialist Vijay Salaskar. The terrorists quickly hid behind some trees when they saw the headlights of the vehicle.

It was a call on the wireless about the two terrorists being spotted near Cama Hospital which prompted [Karkare](#) to rush to the spot behind the college in the hope that his team would be able to corner the terrorists.

Karkare had got into a police Qualis along with senior inspector Salaskar who volunteered to drive; additional police commissioner Ashok Kamthe too joined them. Three constables and an assistant police inspector (API) took the back seat.

The vehicle zoomed into the lane (between The Times of India building and [Anjuman-e-Islam school](#)), reached the Foreigners Registration Office and took a left turn towards St Xavier's college.

The two terrorists had by then shot the Honda driver and were about to break the glass of the vehicle, when they caught the glare of the headlights of the jeep approaching. They quickly hid behind some trees close to Rang Bhavan. As the jeep passed a bank ATM, the terrorists opened fire. The policemen were riddled with bullets on the head and waist. Some of them were wearing bullet proof vests which had a rectangular metal sheet which could only protect the chest and abdomen. All except API Arun Jadhav died instantly. He played dead. The terrorists pulled out all the bodies and sped away with the jeep towards Metro Cinema junction.

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