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Jadhav recounts night of horror near Cama

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MUMBAI: On receiving the information that terrorists had arrived at Cama Hospital after wreaking havoc at the CST, Arun Jadhav, along with his boss, encounter specialist Vijay Salaskar, arrived at the hospital gate around 11:30 pm on November 26, 2008. Hemant Karkare and Ashok Kamte were already at the spot.

"I saw an injured policeman coming out of the hospital who told us that senior officer Sadanand Date and others were lying injured on the top floors of the hospital," said Jadhav. After a short discussion, the three senior officers decided that they would proceed towards the main gate of the hospital as "there was a chance of terrorists stepping out from there".



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They hailed a police Qualis, which was passing by. Salaskar was at the wheel with Kamte by his side, while Karkare occupied the middle seat. Jadhav and three more constables - Yogesh Patil, Jaywant Patil and Bhosale - sat in the rear.

As the vehicle headed for the Cama main entrance, they received a message on the wireless that two terrorists were hiding behind a red car on the Rang Bhavan Lane, Jadhav said. Kamte then asked Salaskar to drive slowly. "I could see a red vehicle at a distance. As we neared a bush, there was a burst of fire," said Jadhav, who "along with Karkare and Kamte retaliated". Jadhav had a carbine with him. In the exchange of fire, he sustained five bullet injuries and his carbine fell down. After some time, silence fell.

"The tall terrorist tried to open the rear door of the vehicle, but he couldn't. I tried to pick my weapon but could not do so. The bodies of Bhosale, Yogesh and Jaywant had fallen in a heap on me. I realised it was not possible for me to retaliate, so I pretended to be dead," said Jadhav.

According to him, Ismail then got inside and started the vehicle. "He pulled Salaskar sahib out," he said. Jadhav said he saw the jeep going towards Metro junction where he heard a round of firing. Soon he heard a tyre being punctured. The jeep drove till near Vidhan Bhavan and stopped.

Jadhav then heard one of the terrorists fire in the air and saw them move into a car which looked "like Honda City". After they left, he immediately called the control room and informed them of the whereabouts of the terrorists and his own injured condition.

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