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## 'I can still hear the firing'

Saturday, Jul 25, 2009, 10:48 IST | Place: Mumbai | Agency: DNA

Menaka Rao

Policeman who saw three top cops slain recounts incident with teary eyes.

The sole surviving policeman in the car in which senior officers Hemant Karkare, Ashok Kamte and Vijay Salaskar were killed, deposed on Friday. Known to be very close to Salaskar, Arun Jadhav was heated and emotional. He broke down twice in court saying that he could still hear the sound of firing. While identifying Kasab, he angrily pointed at him and used an expletive, for which he later apologised to the court.

◆I saw an injured policeman coming out of Cama Hospital. He said there was firing and that senior police officer Sadanand Date and other officers were lying injured on the top floors,◆ said Jadhav. There was a discussion between the three and it was decided that they would proceed towards the main gate of Cama Hospital as ◆there is a chance of terrorists stepping out from there◆.

The senior cops stopped a police Qualis which was passing by.

Salaskar sat in the driver◆s seat with Kamte by his side. Karkare occupied the middle seat. Jadhav and three other constables, Yogesh Patil, Jaywant Patil and Balasaheb Bhosale, sat on the rear seats of the Qualis.

◆When we were proceeding towards the Special Branch 1 office, we received a message on the wireless that two terrorists are hiding behind a red car on the Rang Bhavan lane. Kamte directed Salaskar to drive slowly,◆ said Jadhav. As the Qualis proceeded towards Rang Bhavan, Jadhav said he could see a red car at a distance. There were also some bushes. ◆As soon as we reached near the bushes, there was a burst (function in an AK-47 by which many bullets can be fired at one go),◆ said Jadhav. Jadhav claimed that Karkare, Kamte and he retaliated. Jadhav had a carbine with him, Kamte

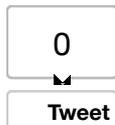
had an AK-47 and Karkare had a pistol.

Jadhav sustained five bullet injuries on his hand after which his carbine fell down. After some time, the firing stopped and there was a stunned silence. One of the bullets is still lodged in his arm. ♦The tall terrorist tried to open the rear door of the vehicle, but couldn♦. I tried to pick up my weapon but I couldn♦. Bhosale, Yogesh and Jaywant fell on me. I realised it was not possible for me to retaliate, so I pretended to be dead,♦ said Jadhav.

Ismail, according to him, opened the door of the car and started the vehicle. ♦He pulled out Salaskar sahib and threw him out,♦ said Jadhav, bursting into tears. He was asked to calm down. Jadhav then saw the car going towards Metro junction where he heard a round of firing. Soon, he heard a tyre being punctured. The car drove till near Vidhan Bhavan and stopped.

Jadhav then heard one of the terrorists fire in the air and then saw the terrorists move in a car which looked ♦like Honda-city♦. After they left, he immediately called the control room informing them of the whereabouts of the terrorists and his injured condition. He received help from senior police inspector Sanjay Amrute and assistant police inspector, Khude. He recovered in Bombay Hospital. Amrute also deposed in court on Friday.

When suggested by the defence that he is deposing falsely, he said, ♦Do you think I am lying? My officer died in front of me. I got injured. I can still hear the sound of firing and cannot sleep for nights on end.♦



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