



the hindu universe



Money Transfers to India

Fast & Secure with no Hidden Fees. Try Our Services For Free Today!

AdChoices

Armed with lathis and handguns, they saved the day

Author: Jaidev Hemmady

Publication: The Indian Express

Date: December 11, 2008

URL: <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/armed-with-lathis-and-handguns-they-saved-the-day/396830/>

Introduction: How a group policemen at Girgaum Chowpatty captured a terrorist on a suicide mission

For Senior Inspector Nagappa Mali from the D B Marg Police Station, November 26 was just another day. Until the news of Terror attacks reached police stations across the city through the walkie-talkies and control room phones. Recalling the fateful night, which turned some ordinary cops into heroes, Mali said, "Barricades had been erected at all vital exit points to prevent the terrorists from escaping. I got information at 12.15 am that the terrorists, who had shot dead top police officials and had taken over a police vehicle, a Qualis, had abandoned it and were moving towards Girgaum Chowpatty in a white-coloured Skoda."

The DB Marg cops immediately swung into action and formed two teams - one of which was deployed near Tribhovandas Zaveri lane and the other at Girgaum Chowpatty.

"At 12.30 am, we spotted the Skoda approaching the barricades at Chowpatty. The occupants had seen the police and had turned on the headlights to full beam and switched on the wipers, so that their faces would not be visible. We knew this was the vehicle we had to intercept," said Inspector Vinod Sawant from the same police station, who was present at the spot. Sawant added that a majority of the team was armed with only lathis and a few of them had their service automatics. Two officers were armed with SLRs (self loading rifles) and were positioned on either side of the stretch of road near the barricade.

Assistant Police Inspector Hemant Bawdankar, who shot dead Abu Ismail, the driver of the car, said, "When the car slowed down, we surrounded it and ordered the occupants to step out of the car with their hands raised. Kasab was the one to open the door and lean out of the car with his hands raised. Sub-Inspector Bhaskar Kadam and myself were on the driver's side of the car, with our automatics trained at Ismail. Even as Kasab was stepping out, we heard firing and the next thing we saw was that ASI Tukaram Ombale, who was the nearest to the car, taking bullets from an automatic rifle which Kasab had hidden between his knees and had snatched up even as he was getting out." Tukaram was hit by five rounds as he was the nearest to the car.

"All of us pounced on Kasab with our lathis and started hitting him in order to make him drop his weapon. Though there were two officers armed with SLRs, they were told not to fire as they might have hit their own men. All we had were lathis," said a constable who was among those who had pounced on Kasab. When asked if they were scared of pouncing on an armed terrorist with mere lathis, he said, "At that time, it was only anger that fuelled our action. All we wanted was to capture Kasab alive."

Meanwhile, on the driver's side of the vehicle, where Kadam and Bawdankar were positioned, Ismail had opened fire out of the window with his automatic rifle. The officers were armed with just 9 mm service automatics.

Kasab was captured at 12.36 pm, six minutes after the car was intercepted at the barricade, and then taken to the Nair hospital where he was questioned for some time by the DB Marg cops before they handed him to the

Crime Branch. Tukaram Omble was declared dead at the hospital.

[Back](#)

[Top](#)

Hindu Reincarnation

Enter Your Birth details and Reveal Your Past Life. Accurate Reading !



Advertisements