# Tavistock Square bombing marked by resilience amid devastation on 7 July 2005



On the morning of 7 July 2005, London was transformed by a tragedy that would leave an indelible mark on the city’s memory. Just one day after the jubilation surrounding London’s successful bid to host the 2012 Olympics, the capital was rocked by coordinated terrorist attacks. One of the most harrowing moments occurred at Tavistock Square near Euston, where a bomb exploded aboard the number 30 double-decker bus during the morning rush hour.

Amid reports filtering into The Times’ Westminster office, parliamentary sketchwriter for the paper was redirected to Tavistock Square to witness the aftermath firsthand. The blast ripped through the bus at 9:47am, killing 13 people, including the bomber. The scene was one of horrifying devastation — the roof and back of the bus were obliterated, and bodies and debris were strewn across the street. The elegant British Medical Association building nearby was splattered with blood, underscoring the brutal reality of the explosion.

Eyewitnesses recall the moment with chilling clarity. One young woman, Jasmine Gardner, had been desperate to catch the No 30 bus after being forced off the Underground at Euston. As she hurried to board, the bomb detonated, showering her with metal fragments and bodily debris. Wrapped in an emergency blanket and visibly shaken, Jasmine’s composed recounting of the event reflected the quiet courage shown by many that day.

Other eyewitnesses described the explosion in vivid detail — the roof being lifted from the bus, a storm of glass and debris raining down, and the eerie silence that followed the initial chaos. Medical professionals from the nearby British Medical Association building rushed to treat the injured, while ordinary Londoners instinctively helped one another amid the carnage. Despite the trauma and the graphic injuries witnessed, many noted an absence of panic, replaced instead by a somber resilience.

The blast was part of a coordinated terrorist attack targeting London’s public transport system. Earlier that morning, bombs had exploded in three Underground trains, forcing authorities to divert or shut down much of London’s transport network. The number 30 bus had been rerouted to avoid disrupted underground stations, unknowingly placing it at the epicentre of the deadly attack.

Survivors recounted harrowing experiences of being thrown from the upper deck or struggling with injuries in the aftermath. Some recalled the poignant silence and offers of comfort from strangers, amid the unsettling quiet that followed the initial explosion. The Friends House, a nearby Quaker centre, opened its doors to evacuees and provided a sanctuary where people wrapped in foil blankets sat silently, listening to sparse news updates — a stark contrast to the normal bustle of the area.

The impact of the Tavistock Square bombing extended beyond the immediate devastation. It became a powerful symbol of the resilience of Londoners in the face of terrorism. The steady footsteps of those walking home that day, as recorded by a witness, came to embody a powerful image of communal strength and quiet determination.

These eyewitness accounts and reflections provide a deeply human perspective on a day which fundamentally altered London's sense of security and community. The extraordinary bravery and calm shown by survivors, first responders, and ordinary citizens underscore the profound tragedy, but also the enduring spirit that defines the city.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/77-bombings-london-tavistock-square-j0xf2xscm)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/77-bombings-london-tavistock-square-j0xf2xscm), [[3]](https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/uk/05/london_blasts/html/tavistock.stm), [[4]](https://www.declarepeace.org.uk/captain/murder_inc/site/londonbomb.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/77-bombings-london-tavistock-square-j0xf2xscm), [[2]](https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/4662515.stm), [[5]](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2005-07-08/eyewitness-accounts-london-blasts/2054228)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/77-bombings-london-tavistock-square-j0xf2xscm), [[2]](https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/4662515.stm), [[4]](https://www.declarepeace.org.uk/captain/murder_inc/site/londonbomb.html), [[3]](https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/uk/05/london_blasts/html/tavistock.stm), [[7]](https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/7-7-london-bombing-tavistock-square-eyewitness-alex-marshall-recalls-double-decker-bus-blast-1509579)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/77-bombings-london-tavistock-square-j0xf2xscm), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2011/jan/25/7-july-bombs-friend-tavistock)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/77-bombings-london-tavistock-square-j0xf2xscm), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2011/jan/25/7-july-bombs-friend-tavistock), [[7]](https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/7-7-london-bombing-tavistock-square-eyewitness-alex-marshall-recalls-double-decker-bus-blast-1509579)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/77-bombings-london-tavistock-square-j0xf2xscm)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/77-bombings-london-tavistock-square-j0xf2xscm> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/4662515.stm> - This BBC News article features eyewitness accounts of the Tavistock Square bus explosion during the 7 July 2005 London bombings. Stephen Thornhill describes being near the front of the bus when the explosion occurred, noting the roof lifting and debris flying. Julia Phillips, a doctor, recounts arriving at the scene and assisting survivors amidst the devastation. An anonymous eyewitness details seeing the bus explode, with glass flying and a bus driver in shock. Cassandra Harwood describes hearing the explosion and witnessing debris propelled into the air. Krishna Kumar narrates hearing the explosion from a nearby bus and observing the aftermath, including injured people and debris.
3. <https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/uk/05/london_blasts/html/tavistock.stm> - This BBC News in-depth report provides detailed information about the Tavistock Square bus bombing during the 7 July 2005 London attacks. At 09:47 BST, a blast tore through a number 30 double-decker bus at the junction of Tavistock Square and Upper Woburn Place, killing 13 people, including the bomber. Eyewitnesses reported a massive explosion with papers and parts of the bus flying through the air. The bus was traveling from Marble Arch to Hackney but had been diverted due to earlier tube bombings. The device was placed on a seat or the floor at the back of the upper deck. The explosion occurred outside the British Medical Association building, where doctors rushed to provide emergency care to the injured.
4. <https://www.declarepeace.org.uk/captain/murder_inc/site/londonbomb.html> - This article provides eyewitness reports from the 7 July 2005 London bombings, including accounts from Tavistock Square. David Jones describes hearing a thud on the bus, with passengers rushing to the front, and the roof being blown off. Belinda Seabrook, on a bus in front, heard an incredible bang and saw half the double-decker bus in the air. The article also includes reports from other locations, such as Russell Square, where a loud explosion was heard, and King's Cross, where people were screaming and running about.
5. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2005-07-08/eyewitness-accounts-london-blasts/2054228> - This ABC News article presents eyewitness accounts of the 7 July 2005 London bombings. Virginia Crompton, near the explosion in Tavistock Square, describes hearing a huge explosion and seeing two men who had witnessed the bus being blown up. Raj Mattoo, who saw the bus explosion, mentions the blast seeming to be at the back of the bus. The article provides various perspectives from individuals who were in different locations during the attacks.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2011/jan/25/7-july-bombs-friend-tavistock> - This Guardian article discusses the testimony of a survivor at the inquest into the 7 July 2005 London bombings. Emma Plunkett, who was on the No 30 bus in Tavistock Square, describes being hurled out of the double-decker bus after the explosion and landing partly under a taxi. She recalls struggling to breathe and move her legs. The article provides insights into the experiences of survivors and the aftermath of the attacks.
7. <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/7-7-london-bombing-tavistock-square-eyewitness-alex-marshall-recalls-double-decker-bus-blast-1509579> - This International Business Times UK article features an eyewitness account of the Tavistock Square bus explosion during the 7 July 2005 London bombings. Alex Marshall, working in the kitchen of Woburn House, describes the devastation following the bomb on the number 30 double-decker bus. He mentions giving first aid to some of those affected by the blast and providing doctors with basic supplies and makeshift equipment from the restaurant where he worked. The article offers a personal perspective on the events of that day.