

BOMB THAT KILLED COUPLE IN JERSEY WAS ADDRESSED TO VICTIM

By Robert Hanley, Special To the New York Times

Feb. 27, 1982



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The bomb that killed Andrew and Patricia Puskas, the parents of three young boys, and turned their home into an instant inferno Thursday was addressed to Mr. Puskas, authorities said today. They added that he did not seem unduly alarmed by the device before it exploded.

In a 55-second telephone call to police headquarters at 8:35 A.M., Mr. Puskas described the bomb and the two-foot-square box it was in and then said that he was leaving to drive his sons to school and that his wife would await the arrival of the police.

"He indicated he thought it was a joke - a rather poor joke," said Richard S. Rebeck, the Middlesex County Prosecutor. "Based upon the tenor of his voice, he was not alarmed."

He said investigators were questioning co-workers at the Dodge-Newark Supply Company in Fairfield, customers, friends, church associates and neighbors in a search for a motive.

"There's nothing that's a hot lead," he said. Until authorities replayed a tape recording of Mr. Puskas call, they thought the bomb might have been intended for someone else and was mistakenly left on the doorstep of the modest one-story home.

But, Mr. Rebeck said, the box bore Mr. Puskas name. He declined to say whether his full name was used or one of his nicknames - Andy, Dick and Drew. He also declined to confirm reports that the box contained several bottles and a 45-second timer. Shrapnel Suggests Pipe Bomb

"Obviously," he said, "there was an accelerant along with the bomb." Robert Schwarz, a patrolman who arrived at the home as the bomb exploded, has said the house was enveloped in flames seconds after the blast.

"Both victims were facing the device when it exploded," Mr. Rebeck said. Shrapnel embedded in their chests and abdomens suggests it was a pipe bomb, he said.

Mr. Rebeck said the Puskases' eldest son, Andrew, 9, found the box on the stoop while taking garbage out. His father took it inside, the Prosecutor explained, and placed it under an archway connecting the kitchen and living room. Mrs. Puskas examined the box as her husband was leaving to take the boys to school, Mr. Rebeck said. She called him back into the house, and he called the police, the Prosecutor said.

Neighbors say the Puskases were active members of the Middlesex Bible Chapel, a nondenominational church here. The three boys attended the Christian Academy, a religious school in nearby Green Brook operated by the Green Brook Baptist Church.

Mr. Puskas had worked for the last seven years as a \$28,000-a-year salesman for Dodge-Newark. He specialized in sales of fluid power transmissions for heavy equipment, such as coal mine conveyors.

A version of this article appears in print on , Section 2, Page 26 of the National edition with the headline: BOMB THAT KILLED COUPLE IN JERSEY WAS ADDRESSED TO VICTIM