

BLOODY WEDNESDAY

The Day of the Conspirators in Oklahoma City
That Changed the Course of American Democracy

By Ted L. Gunderson and Michael Blair

This story is written from the perspective of retired FBI Senior Special Agent Ted L. Gunderson, an investigator of international reputation with more than 27 years of service to his country, and Michael Blair, a veteran of 35 years as an investigative reporter, who combined their skills and resources to uncover the truth about the fateful Oklahoma City bombing of April 19, 1995.

Gunderson, an authority on counter-terrorism, who retired from the bureau to head the anti-terrorist efforts at the 1979 Pan American Games in Puerto Rico at the request of then-U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell and later foiled a plot by Iranian terrorists to disrupt the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, no longer holds the FBI in high esteem.

This is quite unprecedented, even considering such former agents as Dr. Frederick Whitehurst of the FBI national crime lab, who brought about a national scandal in the midst of the bureau's probe of the Oklahoma City bombing, by revealing a pattern of gross "contamination" and deliberate "alteration" of evidence at the forensic facility.

Such men have attempted to join the ranks of "whistle-blowers," only to have a change of heart at a crucial moment.

Gunderson and Blair as a team are a far cry from the several hundred agents and other personnel who served the veteran FBI agent in his final posting before retirement as Senior Special Agent in Charge of the bureau's Los Angeles Field Office. They have risked careers, reputations and even their lives in an attempt to help halt increasing government abuses.

The Oklahoma City bombing and subsequent court action comprises a test of how successful this team of sleuths has been in revealing that America's government has lost its way, has veered, once again, from a course of honor, integrity and loyalty as mapped by the world's most unique constitution.

Regardless of the fact that America is a country which leads the world in policies referred to as "free speech" and "freedom of the press," there is now no doubt that something is being suppressed regarding what happened in Oklahoma City.

What? Why? Who?

Does anyone seriously believe that two former Army buddies, McVeigh and Nichols, acted alone, as the government contends?

Through gag orders and suppressed testimony, the United States has carefully controlled the information distributed, often as disinformation surreptitiously leaked to the public. But no matter how hard one tries, when there are so many

people involved, information cannot be controlled completely.

What if . . . what if qualified individuals managed to combine their respective investigative skills, combining their findings with documented facts, virtually scattered piece-meal all over the world? Then, the truth would come bubbling to the surface, like a volcano--a force that cannot be controlled.

That is what we have here. The pieces of the puzzle, cut into the tiniest of fragments, have been pieced together to expose the whole picture of that bloody Wednesday in Oklahoma City, the day conspirators, in and out of government, altered the course of American democracy.

Indeed, no one could have said it better than the U.S. prosecution team during the trial of McVeigh. There, the lead prosecutor, Joseph Hartzler, reminded the jury that although there was no actual photograph of the bomber doing the deed, there were enough circumstances, or pieces of the puzzle, which, if put together as a whole, created the necessary picture.

However, Gunderson and Blair have taken those same puzzle pieces and when put together by them they reveal the truth about Oklahoma City, a picture that is far different than that painted by the U.S. Justice Department.

And yet, the Justice Department has not been chastised for creating "a crazy conspiracy theory" with its version of the "finished picture," which few of the knowledgeable in America can totally swallow without gagging. It is not easy

for such Americans to digest their government's deceit and indiscretions.

The government contends that two lone bombers used a crude device concocted of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and fuel oil (ANFO) to successfully devastate the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Office Building in Oklahoma City, something that too many experts in the field of demolitions maintain scientifically could not be done.

And so, consider these points that unravel the government's "two lone bombers theory," which are detailed, among many others, by Gunderson and Blair in Bloody Wednesday and reveal what really happened in Oklahoma City:

* During the McVeigh trial, the United States did not call Dave Williams, the Chief of the FBI Explosives Unit and who supervised the Oklahoma City bombing evidence, as a witness. The prosecutors had their reasons.

* The United States did not call Roger Martz, Chief of Chemistry and Toxicology of the FBI crime lab when evidence was being gathered. Again, the prosecutors had their reasons.

* The United States did not call Roger Moore, alias Bob Anderson, who was allegedly robbed by co-conspirator Terry Nichols to finance the bombing. Such an important witness was ignored?

* There was no eyewitness who placed McVeigh at the scene of the bombing, only "Arab-looking" men.

* Witnesses saw the Ryder rental truck at the Dreamland

Motel, where McVeigh rented a room, the day before "Kling" (allegedly McVeigh) rented the bomb truck.

* There was no ammonium nitrate, one of the more than two-ton bomb's two main ingredients, found on McVeigh's clothing, boots, hands, hair, car, etc.

* There was no PETN, the chemical explosive used in the detonator cord, on McVeigh's hands, boots, hair, automobile steering wheel or shifting lever, although he had supposedly been handling it a brief time earlier at the Murrah building.

* There was no PETN found on McVeigh's knife, which was supposedly used to cut the detonator cord.

* The prills from the ANFO bomb, which were allegedly collected from the scene, were not the same prills in the fertilizer supposedly purchased by Nichols, which was claimed by the government to have been used to make the bomb.

* Two witnesses who composed the artist likeness of the bomber in April 1995 were not allowed to testify at trial and a third witness, who saw the bomber, was allowed to testify although he gave a different description at trial than that which he gave in April 1995.

* The only piece of evidence (Prosecution Exhibit Q507), a 9 by 9-inch piece of plywood supposedly from the Ryder rental truck, was all the FBI had to support the theory that an ANFO bomb was used. It was found on the scene by a civilian and used by the FBI, in violation of the Rules of Evidence and in violation of forensic laboratory policy, as testified to by William Whitehurst, the whistle-blowing FBI

lab scientist. Its authenticity simply could not be substantiated, as Whitehurst had been told when it turned up.

* Q507 had miraculous evidence of ammonium nitrate crystals on it, even though these crystals evaporate in humidity (and there was torrential rain in Oklahoma City while the bombing evidence was waiting to be gathered).

In addition to surviving the rain, the crystals also survived the heat of at least 500 degrees generated by an ANFO bomb--crystals that are destroyed at heat above 200 degrees.

* All scientists, other than the FBI's Bermeister, were precluded from examining Q507 for the miracle crystals.

* The remains of the Murrah building were demolished before a full and impartial investigation could be performed, for no apparent reason other than to be "sensitive to the pain of survivors," who were reminded of the tragedy every time they saw the wrecked building.

Bloody Wednesday explores these points and presents all the evidence, including mounds of which were not presented at trial. Thus, the reader will see a completely different "finished picture" than that presented by the Justice Department.

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The Oklahoma City bombing was a joint CIA-U.S. Army operation that went wrong--tragically and terribly wrong.

The bomb in the Ryder rental truck was an Electrohydrodynamic Gaseous Fuel Device, often, although not

accurately, referred to in ultra-top secret U.S. government scientific circles as a "barometric bomb" (U.S. Government Contract No. DAAA-21-90-C-0045). Other bombs of a less-sophisticated nature were planted on the inside of the building. One exploded and others failed to explode. The total bomb "package" would have leveled the entire building, killing probably everyone within.

Two government informants, Carol Howe and Cary Gagan, alerted the BATF and FBI, respectively, well in advance of the bombing that it was going to happen. A third warned the Secret Service guarding President Bill Clinton. He was ignored and the agent informed thus died in the blast.

McVeigh was recruited into the CIA after his Army service, including a tour of duty in the Persian Gulf War, with evidence uncovered by Gunderson and his associate that he was manipulated under the government's top secret MK ULTRA mind-control program, which, contrary to reports, was not closed down decades ago.

Andreas Strassmier, a known German intelligence agent, was involved. He came to the United States to act as an adviser for the Department of Justice and worked his way into a neo-Nazi compound in Oklahoma, known as Elohim City. Both Strassmier and McVeigh were in contact with another conspirator, Michael Brescia. Howe believes Brescia is the mysterious John Doe No. 2.

But there was more than one John Doe No. 2. Another conspirator was an American Indian from an upstate New York

reservation.

McVeigh, Strassmier, Brescia and others plotted the bombing through their close ties with Elohim City.

Head of the neo-Nazi compound is self-annointed Rev. Robert Millar, whom it turns out was an informant for the FBI and another government source of prior information about the plotters.

Phone records disclosed at trial revealed that both McVeigh and Brescia were regular callers of Strassmier at Elohim City.

After the bombing, Strassmier returned to Germany.

The American Indian was introduced by McVeigh to an FBI informant at a survivalist exposition in Seattle a year before the bombing and later identified as being with McVeigh and Nichols by two Missouri real estate agents. So good was their description to the FBI that a bureau artist composed a remarkably detailed drawing of the man, which the FBI is still circulating around the nation, although they claim there is no elusive John Doe No. 2.

Others in government know the full identity of the Native American conspirator, including his name and where he has gone to elude those seeking him. This will be revealed in Bloody Wednesday by Gunderson and Blair.

The purpose of the operation was to hasten the passage of a counter-terrorism bill before Congress, which gave the federal government incredibly expanded powers--even superseding the protections guaranteed by the U.S.

Constitution that limit and control government--all under the guise of providing "public safety" and purported anti-terrorism activity.

The bill was found necessary by elements within the government because of the fact there is a rising movement of discontent between the American people and their government--rising discontent that it was feared could reach a point where "extraordinary measures" would be needed to control it.

That discontent is seen as threatening those in positions of power, who needed restrictive legislation to bolster and protect their coveted places in society, their jobs, their assets and their lifestyles, but mostly their power over others beneath them in the social structure in America.

It can be said, and many civil libertarians agree, that America is rapidly becoming--hastened along by the counter-terrorism bill and a further restricting anti-crime bill--reduced to the same conditions that existed in Nazi Germany when Hitler seized power.

The fact is that through this restrictive legislation, coupled with executive orders signed by the president in lieu of constitutionally-enacted legislation, the Executive Branch of government has secured sufficient power, alone and unto itself, to be just one step away from dictatorship--really a fascist government by decree.

No one can deny the fact that acts of Congress, harmoniously and carefully enacted since 1933, and

presidential executive orders have evolved the American government from a united republic, with 50 independent state governments, into one massive, all-powerful federal behemoth.

Some now call it a "benevolent dictatorship," although what's left of the family of Randy Weaver, the survivors of the innocent children of Waco and the victims of other excessive use of federal powers may question the benevolence.

What has created the animosity between America's government and its citizens, resulting in the perceived threat of "domestic terrorism," about which government leaders complain? What was used as evidence that McVeigh "hated" the government that awarded him two medals for valor for service in the Persian Gulf War? Or, did he really hate the government? Could he in fact have been working for government in the interest of "National Security?"

Consider this:

* Original newscasts by local Oklahoma City channels 4 and 9, broadcast to the entire nation, reported that the Oklahoma City Police Department bomb squad had removed two undetonated "military bombs" from the shattered building and then called the U.S. Army to neutralize them. Witnesses state that they had seen the Oklahoma City Police Department bomb squad across the street from the Murrah building at 7:30 a.m. on April 19, 1995.

Two years later, during the state grand jury probe in July 1997, a grand jury witness, V. Z. Lawton from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, testified that

General Services Administration employees had been sent up from Texas the day before the bombing and were in the process of inspecting the building as part of a "security check."

During the Federal grand jury probe, grand juror Hoppy Heidelberg stated the government was covering up the facts of the case. He claims that the attorney controlling the Federal grand jury would not allow him to ask questions about John Doe No. 2. He believes that a John Doe No. 2 does in fact exist and was involved in the bombing, with government knowledge.

* The government initially reported a car bomb was responsible for the destruction, an ANFO bomb of 1000 pounds. Within a week, the ANFO bomb had grown to 2500 pounds, and ultimately reached, in stages, 4800 pounds, and the fuel oil component was upgraded to highly volatile "racing fuel."

* As the bomb grew in size so did the vehicle transporting it--from a car to one of Ryder's largest vans, although even at trial the government prosecutors could not seem to provide evidence to substantially establish either the size of the bomb or the vehicle.

* After an "all points bulletin", just minutes after the bombing, was put out by the FBI for "two Middle East-looking men" seen leaving the area of the bombed building in a Chevrolet pickup truck, the FBI decided it was only "two co-conspirators" who master-minded the entire episode.

* President Clinton soon announced that the militia was responsible. He blamed talk radio show hosts, who were taking

him to task for his scandal-wracked administration, for fomenting violence, e.g. "hate talk."

* Within 90 minutes of the bombing, McVeigh, the "master-mind," was stopped by an Oklahoma State Highway Patrol officer for not having a license plate on the rear of his car. McVeigh, who had supposedly just blown up the building and killed 168 people, meekly handed over his concealed handgun, which he legally carried, to the lone highway patrolman.

* When McVeigh was jailed after his arrest on the highway his possessions logged in by a jailer included an exposed roll of film, which was later "picked up" by an FBI agent and then disappeared. What was recorded on that film?

* The University of Oklahoma, Department of Geology, Norman, Oklahoma, issued a press release that there were two "ground swells," indicating there had been two explosions. An inquiry by Gunderson determined that immediately following the bombing five members of the media, including ABC television news, visited the university and were furnished details, along with the seismograph. Gunderson obtained a copy of the seismograph and sent more than 200 faxes of it throughout the nation.

The university established that the first ground swell occurred at 09:02:03 a.m. and then, ten seconds later, another at 09:02:13. Gunderson sent faxes because the media was not reporting the information.

Appearing before the grand jury in September 1997, a key

official from the university appeared and testified that there were not two explosions, although he was unable to explain the reason for the two groundswells. He was not the only official or witness in the case to change his story. Oklahoma State Rep. Charles Key, who was responsible for getting the local grand jury seated by public petition, provided evidence of intimidation of witnesses.

* Then surfaced Michael Riconosciuto, whose family formerly owned the Hercules Manufacturing Company in California's Silicon Valley. One of the world's foremost explosives' experts and a brilliant scientist, who started as a child prodigy and then went on to secretly serve the CIA on several projects, including the invention of the Electro-Hydrodynamic Gaseous Fuel Device, said in a taped interview with Gunderson and co-author Blair that an ANFO bomb did not destroy the Murrah building.

He stated that his "barometric bomb" was responsible for the explosion. This explained the absence of unexploded ANFO mixture spattered all about the building and surrounding area, which would have been the case with an ANFO bomb, known to be a "dirty," not particularly effective explosive due to much of its component mixture failing to detonate. Interestingly, McVeigh and his co-horts found this to be the case when experimenting with an ANFO bomb made in a coffee can.

The unique characteristic feature of the barometric bomb is that it creates two explosions, milli-seconds apart, the

first unleashing a white chemical cloud followed by the second and a dark cloud of smoke. It is a highly-classified bomb known only to the government, which Riconosciuto explained that only ten people in the world would be able to assemble. He said the bomb is under government contract (DAAA-21-90-C-0045) with Dynamite Nobel, Inc., of Salt Lake City, Utah.

An inquiry was sent to the Army's Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey and asked for a copy of the contract. It was not forthcoming.

* A lady, who was in the building at the time of the explosion, appeared on CNN News the day after the bombing. She said everything was white and then everything became dark, further suggestive of the pattern of the multiple-detonation barometric device.

* Two bombing survivors were interviewed by the Gunderson team, one who had been on the seventh floor of the building and the other on the eighth floor. Each stated emphatically that there were two explosions, milli-seconds apart. They were asked to demonstrate the sound. They each described it as a "boom . . . BOOM!"

The first explosion of the device releases a cloud of liquid ammonium nitrate and other chemicals, which is then electrically charged. Then the cloud of electrically-charged gas is detonated, creating massive destruction. The bomb is highly directional.

The bomb is similar, although extremely advanced, to a

fuel-air explosive device, often referred to as a "daisy cutter," which was used both in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf War. It was highlighted in the film, Outbreak, about the spread in a small California town of a deadly viral disease from Africa, the bomb being used to "sterilize" the area infected. The difference is that the Riconosciuto device utilizes a system of electrically charging the gaseous cloud, multiplying the explosive result.

When the barometric bomb was tested, Army demolition experts were astounded by the force of the explosion, particularly after members of the demolition team were gravely injured and killed.

At that point, the bomb was given the highest government secrecy classification by order of President Ronald Reagan, personally.

Parts of the bomb, including detonator components, were taken by the CIA from a warehouse maintained by Reconosciuto's company in the state of Washington. The contents of the warehouse were hauled away in trucks. A previous attempt to break into the building was foiled by police.

* An Oklahoma state assemblyman was interviewed and stated he was looking out of the fifth floor window of the Oklahoma Capital Building in the direction of the Murrah building when the detonation occurred. He said he saw a "white cloud rise about 150 feet above the ground, followed immediately by a dark spiraling cloud."

* A rescue worker was interviewed who said he had never seen anything like it. The concrete, he said, was reduced to "sawdust." He said they needed shovels and wheelbarrows to clean it up. He explained that he expected to see chunks of concrete, but in this case there were few.

* A survivor was interviewed on TV immediately following the bombing. He stated the building shook. He then got under a desk and next the windows blew in. Characteristic of the barometric bomb, the white chemical cloud would blow the windows in and permeate the building, then be detonated by the second blast, creating the dark cloud and destruction that would appear to have been caused by a device within the structure.

* Riconosciuto explained that an active BATF agent told him the tagants from the Oklahoma City bombing match the barometric bomb developed by his family's Hercules Manufacturing Company. Federal agents, Riconosciuto said in his interview with Gunderson and Blair, had been in contact with him about the bombing a number of times since the explosion in Oklahoma City.

* Riconosciuto indicated that neither defendant in the bombing case, McVeigh nor Nichols, had the knowledge or ability to assemble the bomb.

* Shortly after the bombing, a retired U.S. Army munitions officer visited the officers' club at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and became involved in a conversation with active army officers. They were discussing the Oklahoma City bombing

and the active officers discussed participation in the incident. They stated it was classified "National Security" so they could never go public with the information.

* A lady recognized a BATF agent standing across the street from the federal building immediately following the bombing. She asked about his whereabouts at the time of the explosion. He told her that the BATF agents were informed of a bomb scare the day before and were told they didn't have to report for work on April 19.

One BATF agent, who was lauded for his supposed heroics in trying to save people during the bombing, claimed injuries sustained when the elevator he was in fell several floors. Elevator inspectors, in Oklahoma City to inspect the building's elevators, rushed to the building at the time of the explosion and found that none of the elevators had fallen.

* An FBI report shortly after the bombing indicated that Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating discovered the axle from the Ryder rental truck, which allowed agents to trace the vehicle. Then, it was reported that an FBI agent had found it. As it turned out, at the McVeigh trial it was determined that the axle was found when it supposedly came flying through the air and crashed into an automobile owned by a man who worked in a nearby apartment complex.

No one has ever found the truck's huge V-8 engine, which could not have been vaporized by the blast. And that engine would determine the exact type of truck involved. There could

be a good reason for that determination not being made.

Not long after, Gov. Keating's brother, Martin, made a few news ripples locally when it was discovered by the press that he had written a book, The Final Jihad, which detailed several major events, including the bombing of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City by Arab terrorists (an event which the FBI admitted having foreknowledge of during the trial of the perpetrators) and the bombing of a federal building in the nation's mid-West. Interestingly, the book was written before the events.

Martin Keating later said in a radio interview that he had gained the information during a visit to the FBI's operations center in Washington, arranged by his brother, the governor, a former FBI agent and U.S. Attorney.

* Roger Moore, the Arkansas gun dealer who was allegedly robbed by Nichols of guns, money and other valuables to finance the bombing, was revealed to the court as "Bob Anderson" during McVeigh's trial. FBI informant, Cary Gagan, had earlier, through letters to the FBI, the press and a lawsuit publicly filed in January 1997, identified "Bob Anderson," aka Roger Moore, as a fellow FBI informant.

During the trial, McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones, ridiculed the discrepancies in the story of the robbery. Moore/Anderson was never called to testify at the trial, although the theft of his valuables supposedly financed the bombing.

* Later, at the trial of Nichols, it was exposed by the

defendant's attorney, Michael Tigar, that the FBI had rigged evidence in the case. One example was a rigged list of firearms stolen from Moore's Royal, Arkansas, residence, a list provided by his live-in girlfriend who travels about the gun show circuit with him, posing as his sister. The list she had supposedly composed included a Ruger rifle, legally purchased a year before the bombing by Nichols, but it became one of a number of guns confiscated at his home by FBI agents. How did the firearms get on a list of guns supposedly stolen from the Moore home? Obviously, they had to originate from a list of the guns confiscated from the Nichols' home by FBI agents, with someone at the bureau failing to check all of the serial numbers, closely.

* Two days after McVeigh's arrest the government released artist conceptions of John Doe 1 and John Doe 2. Descriptions were obtained from employees of Elliott's Body Shop, where the Ryder truck had been rented. However, these employees were precluded from testifying at the trial. Why? Because the descriptions given at the time of the bombing did not match the descriptions of the defendants? Further, the government later asserted that there was no John Doe 2 with McVeigh when he rented the truck, and to explain away the second man the government suggested that the employees were mistaken; they were mixing up the Kling, aka McVeigh, transaction with men who had come into the rental shop the next day. A soldier named Bunting from Fort Riley, Kansas, had come into the shop with a friend. That was the day after

Kling, who was allegedly McVeigh, rented the bomb truck, or so the FBI claimed.

* Information was released by the media that an attendant at a Firestone store parking lot saw a Ryder truck in his lot in Oklahoma City from 8:25 a.m. to 8:35 a.m. on the morning of the bombing. The attendant identified McVeigh as the driver and John Doe 2, fitting the description of the Native American conspirator, as the passenger.

* Gunderson developed a source that identified McVeigh with a person who resembled John Doe 2 in Kingman, Arizona, prior to the bombing.

* A source was found that identified John Doe 2 with McVeigh at the Dreamland Motel in Junction City, Kansas, the weekend before the bombing.

* Another source claims McVeigh did not flunk out of Special Forces, as widely reported, but was one of ten outstanding soldiers picked to work for the CIA during operations against "its competition." This would explain why McVeigh displayed no concern during his trial--why he whispered to his sister that it was "alright" when the death penalty was announced and why he flashed the peace sign to the jurors after they condemned him to die.

* Prior to the Oklahoma City bombing, Mark Koernke, leader of the controversial right-wing Michigan Militia, advised a confidential source that McVeigh was with the CIA. He stated that McVeigh attempted to become involved with the Michigan Militia but they refused to admit him into the

group. Koernke tipped the source, who is in the Texas Militia, to be alert for McVeigh, since McVeigh intended to go from Michigan to Texas--or Oklahoma.

* Strong evidence indicates that McVeigh was placed in the MK ULTRA program, the CIA's venture into mind-control. This is based on the fact that Dr. Louis "Jolly" West, head of the Psychiatric Department of U.C.L.A., has visited McVeigh while he was incarcerated in both Oklahoma and Jefferson County, Colorado, prior to trial. West is the foremost mind control expert in America and is a known CIA asset.

Consistent with the elements necessary to recruit a candidate susceptible to mind control, it is noted that during the sentencing phase of McVeigh's trial his neighbors, teachers and army supervisors all agreed to the same thing, that being: McVeigh obeyed orders no matter what.

* Gene "Chip" Tatum, a former CIA agent, while incarcerated in the Federal Correctional Institute in Englewood, Colorado, observed construction on April 5, 1995. He asked what the addition was for and was told it was being built to hold bombing suspects who were expected at a future date.

* In connection with the fact that the Oklahoma City Fire Department was on notice the day of the bombing and that BATF offices were 90 percent empty, Motions to Compel evidence were required before the prosecution at McVeigh's trial would cooperate in pre-trial discovery regarding this

evidence.

* McVeigh's Motions to Compel evidence asked for disclosure of documents which suggested that the bombing was perpetrated by "others unknown" and that the FBI knew that someone had planned to bomb the federal building on April 19, 1995, but the FBI did nothing about it.

* During McVeigh's trial a witness, who was at the Dreamland Motel on the Sunday before the bombing truck was rented, said she saw a "white Corsica" car outside of the room which had a second Ryder truck in front of it.

FBI informant, Cary Gagan, claimed in his lawsuit against the government that he was involved with the group that was orchestrating the bombing. He indicated he had rented a white Corsica.

A Ryder rental truck of the same type supposedly used in the bombing and what appears to be a white Corsica were photographed from the air, prior to the bombing, where they were parked in a secret enclosed compound at an Army National Guard base near Baggs, Oklahoma, east of Oklahoma City, near the Arkansas border. A spokesman at the base told Blair that the project, which had been closed down, was being conducted by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), a top secret Defense Department agency with links to the Reconosciuto "barometric bomb" project.

* Voir Dire--jury selection--discloses that even though "randomly selected" more than half of the potential jurors for McVeigh's trial had personal or professional ties to the

federal government. All were asked questions to reveal their political beliefs, their feelings about the IRS and whether or not they were aware of "conspiracy theories." A similar process was used when the Nichols jury was selected.

* During opening statements of the McVeigh trial on March 31, 1997, Stephen Jones, McVeigh's attorney, conspicuously abandoned his previously disclosed assertions and his demeanor was suddenly quiet and disinterested, as opposed to passionate and energetic during pre-trial proceedings.

The defense appeared to let go of opportunities to defend McVeigh when they did not call the witnesses who saw what had to be a second Ryder truck and did not call witnesses who saw three men leave the Ryder truck when it was parked in front of the Murrah building on the morning of the bombing.

Jones failed to object to the government presentation of theories, using hearsay and unfounded theory, and then he earned the criticism of professional criminal defense attorneys who express the opinion that he was inept, allowing evidence that should have been omitted. Indeed, Jones did not object to repetitive, redundant, excessive, emotional, gut-wrenching testimony from survivors of the bombing, when a simple stipulation would have avoided the emotional testimony which clearly prejudiced the jury.

* The defense failed to call those expert witnesses who recognized that the characteristics of the bombed building

were not consistent with an ANFO bomb.

* The court sealed more than 50 percent of the evidence to keep it from public view, and then completely suppressed testimony of certain witnesses.

* Carol Howe, who was on the defendant's witness list, was precluded from testifying. The very morning that she was to testify, about her being an informant for the BATF within the neo-Nazi Elohim City compound, the court suppressed her testimony and she was sent home.

Later, McVeigh's defense team filed a motion to include her testimony in the appeal as a sealed "Offer of Proof" that the FBI had prior knowledge of the bombing and its plotters.

Why was Howe's testimony hidden from the public? Why did the government suddenly file a stipulation on the morning that she was sent home, which allowed McVeigh's defense team to provide evidence that completely discredited Michael Fortier, who had prior knowledge of the supposed conspiracy involving McVeigh and Nichols but was given immunity from prosecution for turning state's evidence.

Indeed, the prosecution filed two more motions to suppress Howe from testifying at her own trial, where she faced charges of making bomb threats, conspiracy and possession of unregistered bomb devices.

Howe reported to her BATF handlers regularly while she was at Elohim City, reporting, among other things, that Strassmire's group had intended to blow up a federal building and that they had cased the Murrah building in Oklahoma City

in November-December 1994 and again in February 1995. Howe has since passed no less than 17 polygraph tests. She was also found not guilty of the trumped-up federal charges that followed her public revelations about being an informant and government foreknowledge of the bombing.

* Why was it necessary to pressure McVeigh's sister, Jennifer, to testify, to the extent that she was tricked into thinking she needed immunity in exchange for her testimony? Why was the FBI allowed to use interrogation techniques on the young woman that are considered, by experts, to be "psychological torture."

* Why was Lori Fortier, Michael Fortier's wife, trained by the U.S. Attorneys to present carefully canned testimony?

* Why were the reasons not brought out by the defense that the government did not call as witnesses Dave Williams, chief of the FBI's explosives unit, and Roger Martz, chief of chemistry and toxicology at the FBI lab, both of whom were involved in handling evidence in the case? Both had been fired by the bureau for incompetence.

* Why did the defense abandon presentation of their investigative findings which linked Edwin Angeles, a Filipino terrorist, and Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing, to Nichols, McVeigh's supposed partner in the crime? The defense had material indicating that an informant, Emad A. Salem, a former Egyptian Army officer, was in the terrorist group that blew up the World Trade Center. The leader, Yousef, was trained by the CIA.

* Why did the defense team and Sen. Arlen Spectre of Pennsylvania ignore a 167-page report prepared by Gunderson on the bombing, revealing facts necessary to investigate the true nature of the bomb and, perhaps, the true source of the bomb?

* Why did Jones blatantly say that "dead men don't talk" when he summed up the arguments at the sentencing hearing? What did he mean when he said that McVeigh "might talk" if he was left alive?

* The trial was an illustration of how constitutional rights have been superseded by recently enacted crime statutes, ironically resulting from the Oklahoma City bombing. It illustrates how a court can now deal with "thought" crimes and opinions.

After reading Bloody Wednesday readers will face some burning questions?

Among them:

Has a sacrifice of personal freedom for the "public safety and welfare" gone too far in the case of the new counter-terrorism and anti-crime legislation?

Was the public deceived into demanding these new protections--or did we really need them?

Was the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building America's version of the Reichstag fire that allowed the consolidation of the power of the Hitler dictatorship?

Was Ayn Rand warning Americans to protect their standard of freedom--lest America become another Nazi Germany?

MICHAEL BLAIR

Michael Blair is an award-winning investigative journalist who started his career 35 years ago as a cub reporter for a weekly newspaper in his native upstate New York. Ultimately, he became the editor of two newspapers in that part of New York state, prior to becoming a national and international free lance correspondent in the mid-70s. His awards include the coveted Project Censored Award (1990) given annually by the School of Journalism at the University of California at Sonoma, Project Freedom Award (1981) for his reporting of issues relating to American prisoners of war and missing in action, National American Legion Golden Press Award for America's Best Editorial Written in the Interest of Youth (1973) and several New York State Press Association awards and citations. His biography appears in the 1993-94 edition of Men of Achievement published in Cambridge, England. He and his wife Ann reside in central Virginia.