



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## Press Release

# Co-conspirator in Quincy Armored Car Robbery admits on all counts

*Already serving 30 to 35 years on Suffolk County home invasion*

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A Dorchester man today admitted to helping two associates stage the brazen daylight armored car robbery on Hancock Street in Quincy that left a guard shot and clinging to life in 2004, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

On October 21, 2004, Dennis J. Quirk (DOB: 1-16-1969) of Roslindale and Martin O'Brien (DOB 1-12-1970) of Malden met at the Dorchester apartment of Brian Smith, (DOB 04-28-1967) to put on fake beards, prep their AK-47 assault rifle and gear up for the armored car robbery they were planning for 10 a.m. at the Citizens Bank at 371 Hancock Street in Quincy.

Based on the joint venture theory, Smith was convicted of two counts of masked armed robbery, armed assault with intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury, use of a firearm in a felony, receiving a stolen motor vehicle, larceny of a firearm and unlawful possession of a firearm. Judge Janet Sanders sentenced him to 7 years to 7 years and 1 day concurrent with the 30 to 35 years sentence he is currently serving out of Suffolk Superior Court, District Attorney Morrissey said.

"This was a meticulous, professional investigation by the Quincy Police Department and the State Police detective unit attached to the Norfolk District Attorney's office," District Attorney Morrissey said. "It was also a difficult and complex grand jury investigation handled by Assistant District Attorney Brian Wilson bringing all three of these men to account."

"This was a pre-meditated, brazen crime just feet from an elementary school which nearly cost one man his life," District Attorney Morrissey said. "The three players are all serving decades in prison, as it should be."

Quirk and O'Brien ambushed the driver of a Loomis, Fargo & Co. armored car as the driver began to unload a delivery of cash for the bank just moments after 10 a.m., O'Brien, wearing a fake beard and carrying a gun, came running toward him and ordered him to the ground. Seeing a Quirk following behind carrying a rifle, the driver drew his handgun but was quickly set upon by the O'Brien, and the two wrestled for the driver's gun, Morrissey said.

The Quirk, also in a fake beard, approached with the AK-47; O'Brien, on the ground struggling with the guard, shouted "Shoot him! Shoot him!" Quirk stood over the driver and fired multiple shots, one point blank into his leg severing his femoral artery. One of the bullets discharged during the struggle landed in the schoolyard of the Sacred Heart Elementary School across Hancock Street from the bank.

A nurse from the elementary school rushed across the street and managed to slow the bleeding from the driver's leg and an additional wound in his arm, almost certainly saving his life, Morrissey said.

The pair fled the scene with two bags containing a total of \$200,000 cash, Morrissey said. Police found the first getaway car, a stolen gold Oldsmobile Alero, behind an apartment complex in Quincy. They swapped getaway cars two more times.

Earlier that morning, a witness driving down Adams Street in Dorchester had noticed two men wearing fake beards and clothing like that of the perpetrators walking from an apartment. That residence was placed under surveillance until the police attempted to execute a default warrant for its tenant, Brian Smith, the next day. Though they did not locate Smith or anyone else inside, strewn around the apartment they found numerous disguises, including fake beards, moustaches, fake noses, and stage make up. They also found ammunition, binoculars and plastic "flexi-cuff" handcuffs. They also noticed Dunkin Donuts coffee cups, including coffee with milk or cream that was not old enough to have curdled and a breakfast sandwich that looked relatively fresh.

The Massachusetts State Police Crime lab tested DNA from one cup and found that it matched O'Brien, and DNA from another cup was found to match Quirk.

The disguises found in the apartment were traced to a costume shop in New York that Quirk had visited and bought items from two and a half weeks prior to the robbery in North Quincy. Cellular telephone records showed numerous calls between phones registered to or used by Quirk, O'Brien and Smith in the days leading up to the robbery, the early morning prior to the robbery, and the days that followed, according to District Attorney Morrissey.

Quirk pled guilty in July of 2008 and was sentenced to 25 to 30 years state prison, 25 of which was concurrent with a federal sentence on an attempted armored car robbery from the same time period. O'Brien pled guilty on October 28, 2007 to 18 years to 18 years and one day state prison, 15 of which was concurrent to a federal sentence on the same armored car robbery for which Quirk was serving 25 years.

*(Please note that six conspiracy charges had to be nolle prosequi as duplicative of the charges Smith admitted to today.)*

*Any and all defendants mentioned are legally innocent until proven guilty.*