

INSTITUUT VIR EIETJDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat



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Former journalist guilty of treason

Own Correspondent

A FORMER Sunday Times reporter was convicted in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday of treason for placing limpet mines in the toilets of three police stations in February and March this year.

Marion Monica Sparg, 28, a Rhodes University graduate, was also convicted of arson and attempted arson for petrol-bombing three Johannesburg premises belonging to the Progressive Federal Party on Republic Day 1981.

Sparg pleaded guilty before Mr Justice Van der Walt to all the charges. She was convicted of arson and attempted arson, for petrol bombing, together with two accomplices listed in court papers as Arnold Geyer and Damian de Lange, a Norwood home belonging to the PFP and two of its offices.

In statements handed to the court by her advocate, Mr Jules Browde SC, she acknowledged responsibility for damage to the premises estimated at R73 400.

She was convicted of treason for detonating two mini limpet mines at East London's Cambridge police station on February 19, two at John Vorster

Square on March 4, and later that day, placing one limpet mine at the Hillbrow police station.

Sparg admitted smuggling eight limpet mines — three of which were found by police in the Hillbrow flat during her arrest on March 7 — into South Africa from Lesotho on February 18 in the company of Stephen Johannes Marais.

Marais was last week convicted of terrorism and sentenced in Johannesburg Magistrate's Court to ten years' imprisonment, partly for assisting Sparg to smuggle the eight limpet mines into South Africa.

Sparg admitted joining the ANC in 1982, first as member of organization's publicity department and from March 1984 as a member of Umkhonto we Sizwe — the military wing of the ANC.

She admitted entering South Africa from Botswana some time in 1985 as a member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, after a time spent in Zambia as a Lusaka-based reporter for the ANC publication "Voice of Women" and a period of military training in the ANC's Angolan training camps of Caxito and Pango.

The trial continues today.

TREFWOORDE

1 ... Hawe.....

2 ..Johannesburg.....

3 ..Uitspraak.....

4 Sparg..Marais.....

5 ..Hoogverraad.....

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