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THE SOWETAN

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BLAST DRAMA

THE TWO MEN who died in the shooting and handgrenade blast in Boksburg on Monday night have been positively linked with an attack on the Voortrekkerhoogte military base and a sabotage attempt on a bridge at Upington last week.

This was said yesterday by the acting Commissioner of Police and the Chief of the South African Security Police, Lieutenant-General Johan Coetzee.

The information was released after an intensive police investigation after the drama in which two men died and an innocent bystander was shot in the leg.

General Coetzee said yesterday the car in which the two men had been travelling in Boksburg had been stolen recently in Brixton and had been spotted at the Upington sabotage attempt.

He said one of the men had been positively identified as being one of the Voortrekkerhoogte attackers and police believed the second man was also linked. Both have been

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REPORTER**

identified as being part of the group who fled the sabotage scene on the Upington bridge.

Police have also lifted the ban on the publication of the picture of the stolen vehicle but have refused to allow the registration number to be published.

General Coetzee said other aspects of the intense investigation would be revealed later in the day.

The sabotage attempt in Upington occurred on Friday last week when explosives were planted on a rail bridge across

the Orange River outside the town. Three men were seen fleeing from the scene when they were surprised by a Railways employee.

The explosives were discovered at 8.30am and were disconnected before they could explode and damage passing trains.

A huge search was launched in the area but the men are believed to have fled in the stolen car and travelled towards the Transvaal.

On Monday night they were spotted by an East Rand Dog Squad policeman on a routine patrol in Boksburg's Commissioner Street.

As he approached the car, a man threatened him with a handgrenade. He drew his pistol and fired at the

speeding vehicle. The driver of the car was shot dead.

The car mounted a pavement, uprooted a tree and was blown

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INSTITUUT VIR EIETYDSE GESKIEDENIS

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THE SOWETAN

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Blast drama

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apart by the hand-grenade. The passenger was blown to pieces.

Two more Russian-made handgrenades were found at the scene and removed to the forensic laboratories for examination.

The dead men were fingerprinted and their fingerprints were later connected to the other terror attacks and attempts.

General Coetzee also said yesterday the men could possibly have been involved in other terror activities.

On June 2, 1980, two youths discovered three bombs that looked like lunchtins at Sasol's fluor offices in Springs.

Police were informed and a bomb-disposal squad then defused the three bombs, which could have destroyed several nearby shops.

General Coetzee indicated the men could also possibly have been involved in this act of sabotage.

Investigations into all aspects of the two men's activities were still being thoroughly checked.

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