

TRANSCRIPT
NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
7 FEBRUARY 1997

Voice of Tom Brokaw:

On NBC news In Depth tonight: a special investigation that has centered on a simple chilling question, "Did federal officials have any sort of advanced knowledge, a warning, that someone might be plotting to blow up the federal building in Oklahoma City,

NBC news has learned that an undercover informer, for the FBI, a woman who was a part of a white supremacist group, provided information about bomb threat. But was it enough to prevent this tragedy?

Voice of Mike Boetcher: April 19th, 1995, the largest investigation in US history was launched. But NBC News has learned that, in the months before the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, federal investigators had been told bombings were being discussed, only three hours away.

Elohim City.... A rag-tag community of huts and trailers, is also home for what, federal investigators say, is a collection of white supremacists. NBC News has learned, the community was penetrated by this woman, Carol Howe (image of her), a paid government informer, who was gathering information on possible threats of the U.S. government. In this photograph, dressed in a Russian general's uniform, a joke. But her business was deadly serious.

Howe, from Tulsa, was once a debutante. But she traded this life for fatigues, and the underground. Starting in June of 1994, Howe began telling the BATF, and later the FBI, that Dennis Mahon, a leader in the Neo-Nazi movement, often spoke with others at the compound about building a bomb, and often about specific targets.

Two days after the OKC bombing, according to FBI documents Howe reported that Mahon had talked of targeting federal installations for destruction through bombing, such as the IRS building, Tulsa Federal building, and the Oklahoma City federal building. Federal officials say these specific threats were never relayed to them before the bombing. And Dennis Mahon, who now lives in Tulsa, denies any connections to any threats or bombing.

"I never said anything like that, that is a lie", (voice of Dennis Mahon).

Remarkably, Howe and Mahon, appear in a 1994 German television interview. Mahon, the supremacist, and Howe the informer, are asked if their movement, had been infiltrated.

"I know for a fact, infiltrated by the FBI, they are trying to get involved....." (her voice trails off. During response to this question, she is stuttering and stammering.)

Howe gave the government information before the bombing on alleged threats by others in Elohim City, including this man, Andreas Strassmier. According to federal documents, Strassmier was the military training officer for Mahons organization, called the White Aryan Resistance. The FBI summary of informant Carol Howe's reports, states, "Strassmier has talked frequently about direct action against the United States government. He is trained in weaponry and has discussed assassinations, bombing, and mass shooting. Strassmier and Mahon have taken three 3 trips to Oklahoma City."

Strassmier's whereabouts are unknown, he was last seen in in Germany. As for the informant Carol Howe, she is now in hiding. She refuses requests for interviews. But the government acknowledged in federal documents, that she was their informant.

While Carol Howe reported on white supremacists, their talk about bombing, and anti- government threats, there is no evidence she reported specific treats to the Murrah Federal building before the bombing.