

## Witness Baumann

A few seconds after the command „open fire“, the police shooters 1 and 2, positioned on the tower, fired shots at the guards of the helicopter crews. The two terrorists were hit on the spot, before they could make use of their weapons. Shooter 1 had the assignment to take down the guard positioned to the west, Shooter 2 to take down the guard positioned to the east. While shooter 3 was to fire at the leader of the terrorists, shooters 4 and 5 were to fire at the attackers that were moving around in the space between the airplane and the helicopters. I had ordered all the shooters to fire with the aim of killing the terrorists.

The leader and the terrorist accompanying him were taken under fire by shooter 3, possibly also by shooter 4, both were hit, but not immobilized and managed to take cover under the helicopter positioned to the east.

The terrorists lying under the helicopters instantly opened fire towards the control tower with machine guns. The first shots put the radio equipment of the control tower out of operation. From this point on, there was no longer any radio communication with the operations center at the Munich police headquarters. After firing the first shots, which hit the guards, the crew of the western helicopter ran north into the dark. The co-pilot circled around to the west and then approached the airport building from behind. The pilot took cover behind the signal garden. The crew of the other helicopter first attempted to escape in the direction of the control tower, but then threw themselves onto the runway about 15 meters from the helicopters and stayed down. The pilot crawled cm by cm towards the airplane where he was recovered by a police task force. The co-pilot remained motionless; I assumed he was dead.

The terrorists lying under the helicopters were targeted by sharpshooters 1,2 and 3, the latter of which had in the meantime changed position and was firing to the north. It can be assumed that they were hit instantly, because after a short time no more shots were fired from that direction and both terrorists were later found dead behind the eastern helicopter.

Immediately after the terrorists lying under the helicopter opened fire, I also saw muzzle flashes in both helicopters. I am however unable to say, whether the shots were fired in the direction of the control tower or towards the inside of the helicopter. In addition, anytime the terrorists detected movement in the airport building, they fired shots from within the helicopters. Returning fire in the direction of the helicopters or storming the helicopters was impossible because in both cases the hostages who sat in close proximity to the terrorists inside the helicopters, would have been put in grave danger. Moreover, storming the helicopters would certainly have led to a larger number of police officers being killed, because it would have been impossible to give the stormtroopers cover due to the circumstances described earlier.

Around 11pm, the guard, that had been hit right at the start, suddenly showed movement again in front of the western helicopter. He fiddled around near his waistband and one of the sharpshooters thought he saw him holding a hand grenade. I then gave the order to shoot at the man again. As the shot was fired, the hand grenade detonated and threw the man's body 1 to 2 meters towards the helicopter, where he then lay. Whether the hand grenade was detonated by the terrorist or by the shot that was fired I don't know. Over the course of the next hour, the terrorists sitting in the helicopters repeatedly fired machine guns at the airport building, whenever there was any movement. The sharpshooters on the control tower were forced to wait until terrorists would show themselves outside the helicopters. During this time, after consultation with the crisis unit, I requested via hand-held microphone in both English and German that the Arabs drop their weapons and surrender. The same was repeated in Arabic by an Israeli adviser. The request was disregarded.

At 12 midnight Dr. Wolf drove the armoured vehicle past the eastern helicopter in a northwesterly direction.

He was fired at from within this helicopter. Shortly thereafter a terrorist jumped out of that helicopter, I think I remember it was on the east side, pulled off a hand grenade, threw it into the helicopter and ran north toward the dark. A considerable amount of smoke was generated, which prevented the shooters 1, 2 and 3 from firing immediately. Through the thinning screen of smoke a terrorist was spotted running towards the signal garden.

It was the same one that had thrown the hand grenade. He was fired at by shooters 2, 4 and 5; the terrorist was later found dead at the northeast corner of the signal garden.

The helicopter that had caught fire was extinguished by the airport fire department, whose deployment had been ordered by the German Armed Forces. Another machine gun salvo was fired at the fire truck. I assume the shots were fired by one of the men that were later arrested, injured. Shortly thereafter, the firefighting operations resumed without new shots being fired. A strike team brought in from the north then combed the field of operations, apprehending two wounded terrorists playing dead on the airfield and, from the western helicopter, an unwounded terrorist lying over the shot Israelis.

Shooter 4 and his companion abandoned their position under the firetruck, when they were fired at by the terrorists lying under the eastern helicopter. That must have been before 11pm. For the rest of the action, they took cover behind a weather shelter located about 150 meters northeast of the control tower and only intervened again in the final phase, when they fired at the fleeing hand grenade thrower.

Shooter 5, who initially lay in the signal garden, retreated behind its northern concrete wall as the action progressed. Whether he fired any of the shots, is beyond my knowledge. Towards the end of the firefighting operation two armoured vehicles drove towards the burning helicopter and the signal garden, respectively. As far as I know, they had orders from the chief of police to recover any wounded and to take out any terrorists who were still resisting.