**Four British terror attacks foiled by the authorities**

**As Theresa May reveals 40 terror plots have been thwarted by security services and with a report on Lee Rigby's death due to be published, here are some of the most high-profile plots stopped by British authorities**

**Liquid bomb plot – August 2006**

It was one of Britain's biggest ever surveillance operations, involving more than 220 police officers and fundamentally changing the way airport security is carried out today.

Angered by the conditions of Afghanistan refugee camps and infuriated by the failure of protest to stop the Iraq invasion, a group of increasingly radicalised east Londoners plotted to launch suicide bomb attacks on successive transatlantic airliners leaving Britain.

Investigators first became suspicious when they secretly opened the luggage of Abdulla Ahmed Ali, who they had been monitoring, as he returned from Pakistan in June 2006 and discovered an unusual powdered soft drink, Tang, and a large number of batteries.

The surveillance project launched exposed a horrifying plan to take liquid bombs disguised as soft drink bottles onto aeroplanes, with plotters sharing coded emails and getting as far as researching flight times. Three men including Ahmed Ali were jailed for life.

**Birmingham beheading plot – 1 February 2007**

A plan to kidnap, torture and behead a British Muslim soldier in Birmingham was foiled after security services used secret bugs to thwart the plot.

Parviz Khan, the 37-year-old ringleader, was recorded planning to film a confession and then behead a soldier, saying: "We give the judgment ... well then cut it off like you cut a pig, man."

"Then you put it on a stick. Then we throw the body, burn it, [and] send the video to the chacha (uncles, a term for Mujahideen leaders in Afghanistan or Pakistan)."

Khan was jailed for life after pleading guilty, with the judge saying he was "absolutely serious and determined" to carry out the attack and "undermine the morale of the British Army". Others were also found guilty of supplying terrorism.

**Tiger Tiger bomb plot – 29 June 2007**

A car packed with 60 litres of petrol, gas cylinders and nails was discovered by police parked outside the London nightclub Tiger Tiger just two days after Gordon Brown became Prime Minister.

An ambulance crew saw smoke coming from the green Mercedes around 1.30am in Haymarket, near Piccadilly Circus, with a controlled explosion eventually defusing the situation.

A second bomb was discovered in another car illegally parked nearby and towed to the Park Lane car pound. Police said there would have been "carnage" if the explosives had gone off.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke said at the time: "The threat from terrorism is real – it is here and enduring." Mr Brown said the incident showed that Britain faced "a serious and continuous threat."

**Birmingham rucksack bomb plot – September 2011**

The men were plotting an attack to rival the 9/11 atrocities in America and the 7/7 bombing of the London underground; detectives believed it was the most significant terror plans to be uncovered since the 2006 liquid bomb plot.

Radical Islamists from Birmingham planned to set off up to eight bombs in rucksacks concurrently, using timers to detonate the charges in a coordinated attack across Britain.

Leaders of the would-be suicide bombers had travelled for Pakistan for training from al-Qaeda contacts in Pakistan and recorded martyrdom videos there before returning to the UK, posing as Muslim Aid charity street collectors to raise £12,000 and taking out loans to help fund the attack.

Eleven men were jailed in total for the plot, with three getting life sentences. "Many deaths were planned by a determined team of individuals who were fully radicalised," said the judge. "No lack of assets, skill or manpower was going to stop you."