

the vehicles was attacked using rocket propelled grenades the windscreen broke and Private Channing Moss was hit badly in the side of his body.

The rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) is a mini-missile designed to be used against tanks, and it is a ferociously effective weapon. At one end it has a rocket with three or four stabilising fins which help it to be aimed very accurately over a distance of several hundred metres. At the other end is a high-explosive warhead that normally detonates the moment the RPG hits its target.

Although two of the RPGs had caused a lot of damage to the Humvee, the one which hit Channing Moss in the lower body had for some reason failed to explode. It had also failed to kill him, which is extraordinary for a metal object more than a metre long that had been travelling at more than 500 miles per hour when it smashed into the vehicle.

In the heat of battle the twenty-three-year-old soldier didn't realise straight away that he'd been hit. When he looked down Channing could see that his body was actually smoking, but he was in such a state of shock that he probably didn't fully understand what had just happened.

Once it has been fired an RPG can explode at any moment. Because of this the sensible thing was for the other soldiers to get out of the Humvee as quickly as possible and get as far away as they could. They all knew that if it went off it wouldn't just kill Channing but everyone else within ten metres as well. Even so, nobody moved, including Jared Angell, who was sitting next to the injured private and reached for his emergency first aid kit.

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