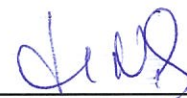


HENRIETTE NASS

1. My full name is Henriette Nass. I live in Christchurch.
2. On 22 February 2011, I met my partner Jess for lunch at the Link Centre. She went to order a coffee at Coffee Culture, while I went into a shop in the Link Centre to look at handbags.
3. The shop was located behind Coffee Culture. Jess had just arrived and we were standing next to the counter when we heard a loud noise that sounded like an explosion. We grabbed onto each other and crouched down. Straight away, the shop became very dusty and the power went out. Despite this, I could see patches of light.
4. Jess pushed me out of the shop ahead of her. The entrance to the Link Centre was blocked by rubble, about a metre high. I thought about climbing over it, but then I saw the side door into Coffee Culture. We went into Coffee Culture and out onto High Street
5. I went and looked back through the entrance of the Link Centre and saw a lady lying face down on the ground with her arms out in front of her. Her legs were covered in a layer of corrugated iron with bricks, mortar and wood stacked on top of the iron.
6. Jess ran back into the Link Centre and started pulling rubble off of the woman. I went in behind her and began comforting her. *and removing rubble off the woman.*
7. As some of the bricks on top of the lady were cleared away by the people helping Jess, I noticed a hand appear next to me. The person was completely buried – in fact, I had to tell one of the people helping to get off of the pile of rubble because there was someone buried under the bricks.
8. I grabbed onto the hand and could see a man's head and body begin to appear as the rubble was cleared. I checked for a pulse, but couldn't find one. I thought later the person looked like they had been crouching down, because I realised after I thought about it that I had seen their knee next to their head.

9. The others decided to get the man out first so that we could get closer to the woman.
10. I suddenly had the feeling that we needed to get out of the building straight away and wedged a piece of wood under the corrugated iron sheet I was holding up. Jess and two people helping her then grabbed the lady and ran out of the building just as a big aftershock started. I could hear the noise of more rubble coming down, and saw more dust, but didn't look back.
11. We could see the man being worked on when Jess and I left High Street so I could tell my work I was okay.



Henriette Nass

15/2/2012

Date