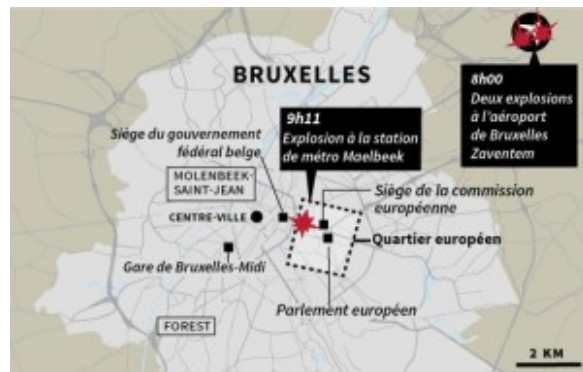


TUESDAY MORNING: ÉTÉ FRAPPÉ



[graphic: Map of Belgian attacks
22MAR2016 for Le Monde via Eric Beziat]

Whatever I was going to write today has been beaten into submission by current events.

Woke up to news about alleged terror attacks in Belgium – social media was a mess, a deluge of information with little organization. Best I can tell from French language news outlets including Le Monde, the first attack was at 8:00 a.m. local time at the Zaventem Airport just outside Brussels. The second attack occurred at the metro station Maelbeek at 9:11 a.m. Both attacks appeared use bombs, unlike the Paris attack this past year – two at the airport, one at the metro. Reports indicate 15 deaths and 55 seriously injured so far.

A third explosion reported in the city at a different location in the city of Brussels has been attributed to the controlled detonation of a suspicious package after the second attack.

In the time gap between the two attacks, one might suppose many law enforcement and military would have gone to the airport to respond to the first attack. Was there synchronization by planned schedule, or was there coordination by communication?

However, communications may have been difficult as telecom networks were quickly flooded. How

soon were the telecom networks overloaded? Or were the networks throttled for observation? We may not ever know.

It's worth reexamining what Marcy wrote about the communications found after Paris attack (here and here). It may be relevant if the same practices were used by the attackers in Brussels.

Important to note that Paris terror attack suspect Salah Abdeslam was arrested March 18 in a raid in Brussels. He is believed to have transported several of the attackers to the Stade de France just before the November 13 attack. Abdeslam may have been one of several suspects who fled from another earlier raid during which another suspect was killed.

Still working on the order issued late yesterday vacating today's planned hearing on #AppleVsFBI. The order is here.

UPDATE – 9:30 a.m. EST – Marcy will be posting in a bit about the #AppleVsFBI hearing that wasn't.

Another interesting story that broke in France today: French Supreme Court affirmed a previous lower court decision which ruled legal the wiretapping of former president Nicolas Sarkozy. Sarkozy has been under investigation for various forms of influence peddling since 2010, including receipt of campaign funds from Libya's Muammar Gaddafi in 2007.

UPDATE – 1:00 p.m. EST/5:00 p.m. London/6:00 p.m. Brussels, Paris –

Now into the post-emergency recovery stage – all manner of political functionaries and talking heads have offered their two bits on this morning's attacks. Three days of mourning have been declared in Belgium. Pictures of the alleged bombers at the airport taken by security video camera have now been published. The airport attackers detonated their weapons in the pre-security check-in area. 34 deaths have now been reported as a result of the attacks for

which ISIS has now claimed responsibility.
Across the Channel, the UK remains on alert for multiple attacks after last week's raid in Brussels; UK travelers have been discouraged from traveling to Brussels.

Timeline (via Agence France-Presse)

22 mars Peu après 09h00/22 March Shortly after 9:00 a.m.

Explosion dans la station de métro Maelbeek.

Explosion in the Maelbeek metro station.

22 mars 08h00/22 March 8:00 a.m.

Deux explosions a l'aéroport. Possible kamikaze.

Two explosions at the airport. Possible suicide bomber.

21 mars/21 March

[Suspect] Najim Laachraoui, dont l'ADN a été retrouvé sur des explosifs, identifié et activement recherché.

Najim Laachraoui, whose DNA was found on explosives, identified and actively sought.

18 mars/18 March

Salah Abdeslam arrêté à Molenbeek.

Abdeslam Salah arrested in Molenbeek.

15 mars/15 March

Fusillade, quartier Forest – Mohammed Belkaid, lié aux auteurs de attentats de Paris du 13 novembre est tué. Empreintes de Salah Abdeslam retrouvées.

Shooting, Forest district – Mohamed Belkaid, linked to Paris attack planners of November 13, killed. Footprints of Salah Abdeslam found.