

February in 2013 came with a disturbing series of attacks, and a concentrated manhunt for ex-LAPD officer Christopher Dorner. Over the course of nine days, citizens of Los Angeles were put on the highest alert, due to attacks that had been carried out by Dorner as revenge for his dismissal, for reporting a fellow officer for excessive force, from the police force. After appealing his dismissal and being turned down, Dorner was subsequently discharged from the Navy. It was not very long after this that he apparently decided to enact vengeance for the loss of his career, and to expose what he called racial barriers within the LAPD.



In an online manifesto detailing the supposed injustices, Dorner made specific threats: “I will bring unconventional and asymmetrical warfare to those in LAPD uniform whether on or off duty.” In the coming days the citizens of Los Angeles, and the members of the LAPD, were forced into fear as these threats were carried out.

This series of events was made even more worrying due to the fact that it was an ex-law enforcement officer that had made the threats, and carried them out against innocent individuals.

Dorner also had received training with the Navy, being certified as an expert pistol marksman, according to Pentagon records. Raising the stakes was the fact that Dorner had access to special munitions, and equipment -normally reserved for the armed forces and tactical police units. It was with this training and physical means, that he first struck.

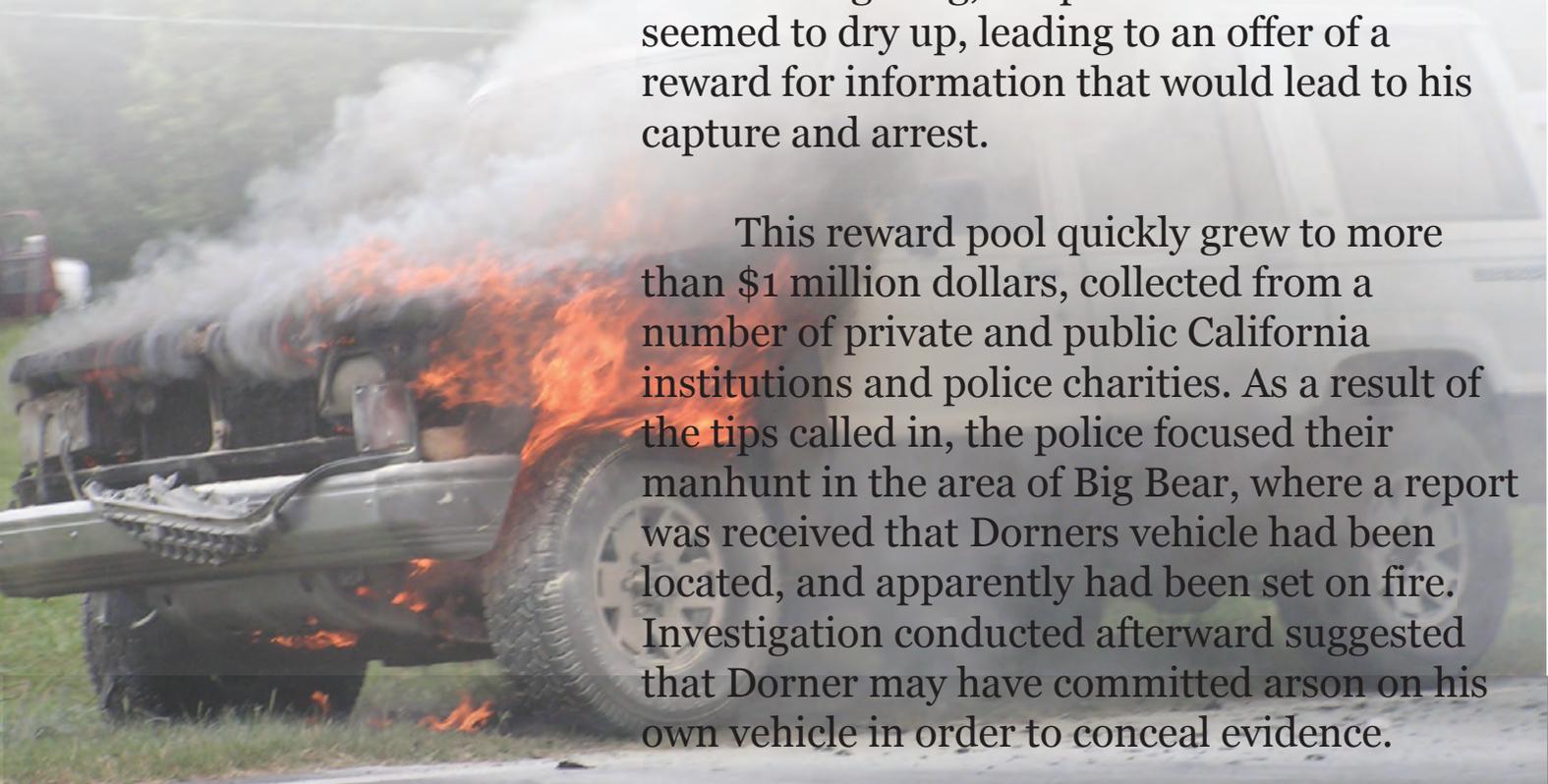
The first killings, sparking the manhunt of the ex-officer Christopher Dorner, occurred at dusk in a parking garage. Dorner approached an SUV there and murdered two people with connections to the LAPD. Monica Quan, who was the daughter of a LAPD officer who was in charge of Dorner's dismissal appeal, and her fiancé, Keith Lawrence, were both shot and killed. Randal Quan, Monica Quan's father, and his family were both named as high profile targets by Dorner in his threatening letter. Regrettably, the bloodshed was far from being over.

In response to these killings, protective custody was ordered for over 50 families that had been named specifically by Dorner in his rambling manifesto. Due to this heightened protection, the loss of life was likely less severe. Four days after the first killings, in the suburb of Corona, Dorner attempted to attack another person listed in his manifesto as a high profile target. This attempted attack resulted in a grazing head wound to one of the officers assigned to protect the targeted family. Other than the sustained injury, however, no one was harmed in the altercation, and Dorner fled, being unable to reach his target.



This vow of personal vengeance against his former employer, the Los Angeles Police Department, then led Dorner to ambush two police officers who were stopped at a red light. Dorner reportedly pulled up next to the officer's patrol car, uncovered a concealed rifle, and opened fire without giving any warning. This surprise attack resulted in the death of one of the officers, 34 year old Michael Crain, who had been with the department for 11 years. The second officer in the patrol car was also shot, but was able to recover after being listed in serious condition.

Over the next days, the city of Los Angeles was gripped with fear, which was only made worse by an incident involving two civilians in a case of mistaken identity. Two women, who were out early one morning delivering papers, were driving an SUV whose make was similar to the one said to be in Christopher Dorner's possession. The two women drove slowly, delivering the papers to addresses down a street in central LA. As they passed a local police precinct, they were mistaken as Dorner. The officers, on edge from the threats and killings of fellow police in recent days, immediately opened fire on the vehicle –peppering it with dozens of rounds of ammunition. This grave mistake, served to illustrate how high the tensions were, and how dangerous the situation had become. The two women survived, though not without complications, and are in discussions with the LAPD to have their vehicle replaced and their medical costs covered. Following this mistaken sighting, the police's leads on Dorner seemed to dry up, leading to an offer of a reward for information that would lead to his capture and arrest.



This reward pool quickly grew to more than \$1 million dollars, collected from a number of private and public California institutions and police charities. As a result of the tips called in, the police focused their manhunt in the area of Big Bear, where a report was received that Dorners vehicle had been located, and apparently had been set on fire. Investigation conducted afterward suggested that Dorner may have committed arson on his own vehicle in order to conceal evidence.

In the days that followed Police combed the ski resort community of Big Bear, California –going door to door, and stopping vehicles at checkpoints on all roads leading into and out of the area. In total the Los Angeles Police Department searched more than 400 homes in the area, although initially no further trace of the fugitive Dorner was found. It was at the time believed that he was hiding in the Angeles National Forest, a vast federal wilderness area, that currently was covered in snow and made tracking Dorner difficult.

Officers utilized snow cats capable of better movement on snow than traditional motor vehicles, and armored transports on the better maintained utility access roads. Investigation of the burned out vehicle revealed many weapons that had been left behind, leading police to estimate that Dorner may have had up to 30 weapons in his possession. After two weeks of searching, and countless tips with information on possible sightings of Christopher Dorner, he was spotted on an access road driving a purple Nissan, and was reported by several tip callers. A short chase and shootout ensued with an officer with the Fish and Game department, after which Dorner escaped, quickly hijacking a pick-up truck before fleeing once more.

After commandeering the truck, Dorner was chased by officers to a cabin complex, and reportedly barricaded himself inside, after engaging in a brief shootout. For hours the standoff seemed to proceed with no end in sight.



Then, without warning, a loud single gunshot was heard, after which the cabin proceeded to catch on fire, and ammunition could be heard going off. Officials made the call to let the cabin burn to the ground, rather than risk additional officers in the unpredictable and changing situation. After hours of the blaze burning, and small explosions going off, which police theorized could be either ammunition or homemade explosives, officials were able to enter the now charred cabin, and find the burned remains of the now deceased Christopher Dorner. After more than a week of tension, fear, and bloodshed, the perpetrator who had caused such anguish, to so many, was dead. If not for the brave officers, and the public's support through reporting crime tips and suspicious actions, the final outcome of this tragedy could have been much worse. If you see something, say something – report crimes anonymously by calling 1-888-9YOUTIP (1-888-996-8847).