

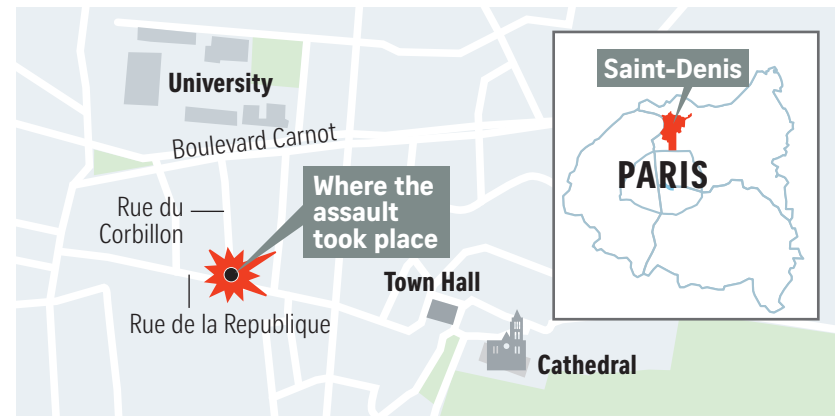
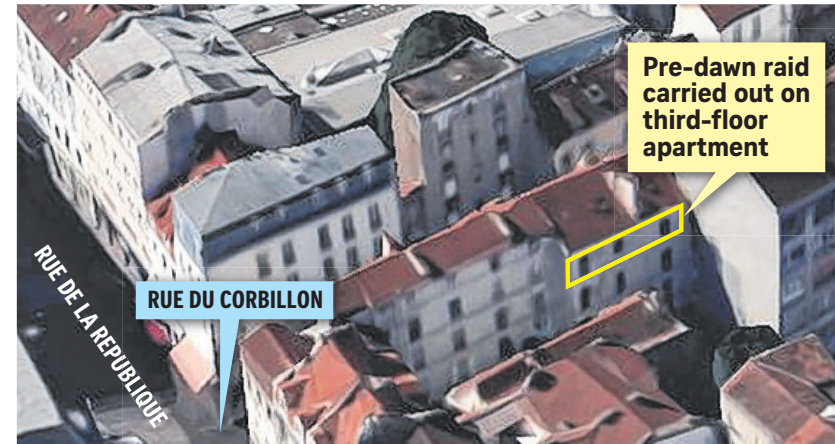
How events of raid unfolded

What had been planned as a lightning raid to capture Paris attack mastermind Abdelhamid Abaaoud turned into a fierce seven-hour gun battle



DURING THE RAID

- Operation from 4.15am till 11.47am on third-floor apartment in Rue du Corbillon
- Apartment's reinforced door held out against explosives, giving suspected militants time to arm themselves
- French elite police, backed by truckloads of soldiers, exchanged shots with suspects who took turns firing and throwing grenades
- A woman – believed to be a cousin of Abaaoud – detonated an explosive vest, causing the apartment's floor to collapse partly; explosion was so violent that part of her spine was found on the street
- Police attack dog sent in to check for signs of life was shot dead
- Drone and robots with cameras used to look into the apartment but could not get a clear picture
- At one point, police threw about 20 grenades, each containing 40g of explosives, into the apartment
- Abaaoud's body was riddled with bullets and shrapnel, and could not be identified on the spot
- Seven men and one woman were arrested in and around the building



A body being removed from the apartment raided by French police on Wednesday in Saint-Denis. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



The building where police raided an apartment to hunt those behind last Friday's attacks in Paris. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE