

Flight 93 Recordings

- Date** ■ September 11, 2001
Place ■ Between Cleveland, Ohio, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, United States
Type of Source ■ Recorded conversation (originally in English and Arabic)
Author ■ None
Historical Context ■ On September 11, 2001, United Flight 93 took off from Newark, New Jersey, at 8:44 A.M. with 44 people, headed for San Francisco. Heavy traffic at Newark delayed the flight. As a result, when four hijackers took the plane after 9:30, the passengers had talked to family members on the ground and knew about the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. Before the plane could reach its target, probably the U.S. Capitol, the passengers fought their way into the cockpit. The hijackers crashed the plane in a field in Pennsylvania, killing everyone on board. Recorders in the cockpit and air traffic control recorded the last 40 minutes of the flight. Words in red are translated from Arabic.

Time (EDT) Transcript

09:23:00 BEWARE OF ANY COCKPIT INTROUSION **[sic]**. TWO AIRCRAFT IN NY, TRADE BUILDS *[text transmission to all aircraft in the U.S.]...*

The next five minutes are typical transmission about weather conditions.

9:28:16 (in background) Mayday! Hey get out of here!

9:28:48 (in background) Get out of here! Get out of here!...

Air traffic control sends repeated requests for standard flight information for three minutes. Then they receive a transmission from Flight 93, now under the control of the hijackers. The hijackers mistakenly believed that they were talking to the passengers of the plane.

09:31:57 Ladies and Gentlemen: Here the captain, please sit down keep remaining seating. We have a bomb on board. So sit.

09:32:09 Er, uh...Calling Cleveland Center...You're unreadable. Say again slowly.

09:32:10 Don't move. Shut up.

09:32:13 Come on, come.

09:32:16 Shut up.

09:32:17 Don't move.

09:32:18 Stop.

09:32:34 Sit, sit, sit down.

09:32:39 Sit down.

09:32:41 **(Unintelligible)...**the brother.

09:32:54 Stop.

09:33:09 No more. Sit down.

09:33:10 **That's it, that's it, that's it,** down, down.

09:33:14 Shut up.

09:33:20 We just, we didn't get it clear...Is that United ninety three calling?

[sic]

"[sic]" is used to identify words that were misspelled in the original document.

Unintelligible

Words or sounds that the tape transcribers could not understand. Unintelligible sounds that are not part of an identifiable sentence are not included in this copy.

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- 09:33:30 Jassim.
09:33:34 **In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate...**
09:34:00 Go ahead, lie down. Lie down. Down, down, down.
09:34:06 **There is someone...Huh?**
09:34:12 Down, down, come on sit down. No, no, no, no, no. No.
09:34:16 Down, down, down.
09:34:21 Down.
09:34:25 No more.
09:34:27 Please, please, please.
09:34:28 Down.
09:34:29 Please, please don't hurt me.
09:34:30 Down. No more.
09:34:31 Oh God.
09:34:32 Down, down, down.
09:34:33 Sit down.
09:34:34 Shut up.
09:34:42 No more...

The plane alters its course at 9:35:09.

- 09:35:42 I don't want to die. I don't want to die.
09:35:44 No, no. Down, down, down, down, down, down.
09:35:47 No, no, please.
09:35:57 No.
09:37:06 **That's it. go back. That's it.** Sit down
09:37:36 **Everything is fine. I finished**
09:38:36 **Yes.**
09:39:10 Ah Here's the captain; I would like to tell you all to remain seated. We have a bomb aboard and we are going back to the airport and we have our demands. So please remain quiet.
[Last transmission to the ground controllers.]
09:39:21 United ninety three. I understand you have a bomb on board. Go ahead...

Ground control confirmed the message with a nearby aircraft and continued to try and contact United 93.

- 09:40:52 **This green knob?**
09:40:54 **Yes, that's the one.**
09:41:05 United ninety three, do you hear the Cleveland center?
09:41:14 **One moment. One moment...**

The aircraft's identification signal was lost at 9:41:36. Ground control could no longer locate Flight 93.

- 09:45:24 **Should we let the guys in?**
09:45:25 **Inform them, and tell him to talk to the pilot. Bring the pilot back.**

In the name of God...

This is the opening line of all chapters of the Koran.

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- 09:45:57 In the name of God. In the name of God. **I bear witness that there is no other god but God...**
- 09:48:38 Set course...
- The passengers revolt around this time. The tape is unintelligible for the next five minutes.*
- 09:53:20 **The best thing: The guys will go in, lift up the...**(Unintelligible)...and they put the axe into it. So, everyone will be scared.
- 09:53:27 Yes.
- 09:53:28 The axe.
- 09:53:29 No, not the
- 09:53:35 Let him look through the window. Let him look through the window.
- 09:54:09 Open.
- 09:55:06 You are...One...
- 09:57:55 Is there something?
- 09:57:57 A fight?
- 09:57:59 Yeah?
- 09:58:33 (Unintelligible.) Let's go guys. **God is Greatest.** God is Greatest. Oh guys. God is Greatest.
- 09:58:44 Oh God. Oh God. Oh the most Gracious.
- 09:58:52 Stay back.
- 09:58:55 In the cockpit.
- 09:58:57 In the cockpit.
- 09:58:57 They want to get in there. Hold, hold from the inside. Hold from the inside. Hold...
- 10:00:07 Is that it? Shall we finish it off?
- 10:00:09 No. Not yet.
- 10:00:09 When they all come, we finish it off.
- 10:00:11 There is nothing.
- 10:00:15 I'm injured.
- 10:00:22 Oh God. Oh God. Oh Gracious.
- 10:00:25 In the cockpit. If we don't, we'll die.
- 10:00:29 Up, down. Up, down, in the cockpit.
- 10:00:33 The cockpit.
- 10:00:37 Up, down. **Saeed**, up down.
- 10:00:42 Roll it.
- 10:00:59 God is the greatest. God is the greatest.
- 10:01:08 Is that it? I mean, shall we put it down?
- 10:01:09 Yes, put it in, and put it down.
- 10:01:11 Saeed.
- 10:01:12 ...engine
- 10:01:16 Cut off the oxygen.
- 10:01:18 Cut off the oxygen. Cut off the oxygen. Cut off the oxygen.
- 10:01:41 Up, down. Up, down.
- 10:01:41 What?

I bear witness...

This statement is part of the Shahada, "the Testimony," one of the five pillars of Islam. The word "shahada" (testimony or witness) is also the root of the Arabic word for "martyr" (shahid). ("Martyr" comes from the Greek word for "witness.")

God is the Greatest

"Allah ackbar" in Arabic. The expression is part of Muslim prayers.

Saeed

Saeed al-Ghamdi, 21-year old hijacker from Saudi Arabia. Saeed belonged to the same tribe as another Flight 93 hijacker Ahmed al-Haznawi, and Hamza al-Ghamdi (no relation), one of the World Trade Center hijackers.

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10:01:42 Up, down.
10:01:59 Shut them off.
10:02:03 Shut them off.
10:02:14 Go.
10:02:15 Move.
10:02:16 Move.
10:02:17 Turn it up.
10:02:18 Down, down.
10:02:23 Pull it down. Pull it down.
10:02:25 Down. Push, push, push, push, push.
10:02:33 Hey. Hey. Give it to me. Give it to me.
10:02:35 Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me.
10:02:37 Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me.
10:03:02 God is the Greatest.
10:03:03 God is the Greatest.
10:03:04 God is the Greatest.
10:03:06 God is the Greatest.
10:03:07 No.
10:03:09 God is the Greatest. God is the Greatest.
10:03:09 God is the Greatest. God is the Greatest.

At that moment Flight 93 crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. All were killed.

Source: CNN, "United Airlines Flight #93 Cockpit Voice Recorder Transcript," 4/12/2006 <<http://i.a.cnn.net/cnn/2006/images/04/12/flight93.transcript.pdf>> (May 16, 2011).

Source: National Transportation Safety Board, "Air Traffic Control Recording," *ATC Report UA 93*, 12/21/2001 <http://www.nts.gov/info/ATC%20_Report_UA93.pdf> (May 16, 2011).