

Burnett would occupy another of the First Class Seats. None of these men knew each other, but for the last moments of their lives, they would band together as mutineers, joined by Jeremy Glick, a Sales & Marketing Director for an Internet Co, seated in Coach. Three of these businessmen had been scheduled to leave sooner but along with some other passengers, delays and choices made would seal their fates.

The Insurrection of United Airlines Flight 93

Part 2

One of the al Qaeda Hijackers, Ziad Jarrahi, a trained pilot and his first Officer Ahmed Alhaznawi could have put a knife to the throat of a stewardess as she brought refreshments to the cockpit, allowing them to gain access. All American Airlines have locked doors to the cockpit during flight, but Capt. Dahl and 1st Officer Homer, must have been totally surprised, substantiated by their muffled screams and yells, heard on the ground by Air Traffic Controllers. Horrifying surprise must've sent some of the 1st Class Passengers scurrying to their feet. In that group were Todd Beamer, Mark Bingham, and Tom Burnett, all immediately threatened by the display of knives of Saeed Alghamdi, and Ahmed Alnami. One of those guards was wearing a red box strapped to his waste that he claimed was a bomb. They were quickly herded with the six other first class passengers and flight attendants to the back of the plane. Huddled in the rear with the remaining Coach Passengers and attendants, they began nervously whispering and talking. Some were standing and some were sitting. It was 9:36am, when the Al Qaeda pilots dipped into a 180 degree turn, first South, then East, apparently heading towards Ronald Reagan International Airport in Washington, D.C. Flight 93 lost altitude in this unplanned maneuver, and the passengers and crew, clumped in back probably stumbled, uttering cries and gasps in the skies over Cleveland. The hijackers flying was anything but smooth, however flying the Boeing Jet was not a problem. They might not have been capable of a flawless landing, but that wasn't part of their plans. Cockpit controls behave similar to the controls on small private planes, and they knew how to alter flight computers to change course, and later would. For now, they likely navigated with the compass and dead reckoning towards America's Capital. Frantic calls of distress began with an unknown passenger in the Bathroom, "Our Plane's been hijacked, this is not a hoax" was heard by a 911 operator. The al Qaeda guard was over forty feet away from his kidnapped victims, dipping in and out of the First Class Separation Curtain. The passengers and crew became quickly aware that they could make calls from the seat-back telephones as well as their own mobiles without being seen. As they were hastily acquainted, Glick, Beamer, Burnett and Bingham, along with Sandy Bradshaw and her crew, became desperate allies. They discussed options, and made plans. For the next 23 minutes, the compatriots, and their fellow passengers made 22 calls.