

fourth and final time, the al Qaeda had swiftly hijacked an U. S. Airliner somewhere over Cleveland. They had successfully completed their plan, or so they thought.

The Insurrection of United Airlines Flight 93

Part 4

Some of the terrified callers left messages on recorders for their loved ones and families. Lauren Grandcols, 38, was from San Rafael, California. She left messages twice for her husband Jack, saying there was trouble but not elaborating. She was returning from her Grandmother's funeral in New Jersey. Linda Gronlund and Joe Deluca were on their way to a vacation in San Francisco. She called her sister to say she would miss her. He called his father, "The Plane's been hijacked," he said. "I Love You". When Andy Garcia, an Air National Guard Air Traffic Controller only got his wife's name, "Dorothy" before the phone went dead. All across the cabin, the passengers were making calls from the GTE seatback phones, while others passed cell phones to people who had been waiting. Christian Adams, the export-marketing manager for the German Wine Institute, was 37, he was on board. 45 year old Alan Beaven was with the passengers. His 5-year-old daughter, Sonali, said the West Coasts top environmental lawyer was "in court defending the angels" when she was asked about his death. Mark Bingham was one of the heroes. The 31 year old San Franciscan had ridden on the horns of a bull in Pamplona the year before. At 6'5", Mark had played rugby in college, and a few years before, had rustled a gun from a mugger's hand late at night, on a San Francisco Street. He made no mention of a plan to take over the plane from the hijackers, when he called his mother, informing her that three men had taken over the plane, but it is quite likely he was involved. His final words to her were that he "loved her very much". 38 year old Thomas Burnett was returning to his home in San Ramon after a business trip, eager to see his wife Deena, who was a former flight attendant having given-up work when they started a family. She was feeding her twin five-year-olds, and their younger sister Clare breakfast and watching television when she heard the phone ring. Tom's first call was short and to the point. When she asked if he were all right he said, "No, I'm on an airplane, United Flight 93 and it's been hijacked. A guy has been knifed and they have a bomb on board, please call the authorities". He quickly hung up. Sobbing when she heard a plane had just hit the pentagon, (she thought it was Tom's), a call waiting prompt alerted her and she was relieved to hear it was Tom back on the line. She had called 911 after his first call and they had given her the FBI. The 6' 2" former high school quarterback was pumped, his adrenaline running when he told her, "we can't wait for the authorities". When she told him about the World Trade Center Attacks, he asked, "Were they commercial airplanes?", and informed her that the man who had been stabbed by the hijackers had died. He relayed to her that they were talking about running the plane into the ground. Then he hung up. He would be trying to sort it out in his mind, Deanna thought. He evidently concluded it was a suicide mission long before she did.