The Phone Calls



The phone calls are used as evidence that the hijacks were authentic, so the phone calls had better be real.

Flight 11, to the North Tower

According to the Boston Globe, the terrorists in Flight 11 were so naive about cockpits that they accidently broadcast messages over the radio instead of to the speakers in the cabin. At 8:24AM a controller heard such remarks as, "We have some planes. Just stay quiet and you will be OK. We are returning to the airport. Nobody move."

This means the FAA knew Flight 11 was hijacked 22 minutes before it hit the towers. That would give them time to call the military. Well, not necessarily. The controller who heard those messages was even more naive; he responded with, "Who's trying to call me?" rather than announce a hijacking had taken place. This controller didn't even notice the plane was off course. (I suppose this is the same controller mentioned on page 91, in regards to Stewart International Airport. I would not be surprised if he was also watching TWA Flight 800, another mysterious accident. Or was Flight 800 practice for Flight 93?)

The Los Angeles Times reported that Madeline Sweeney, a flight attendant on Flight 11, made a phone call to Boston's Logan Airport. She told a manager that her plane has been hijacked, two flight attendants had been stabbed, and one passenger appeared dead. Therefore, the airlines knew Flight 11 was hijacked before any airplane hit the World Trade Center, even if that suspicious controller was pretending everything was fine with the flight. But the FAA did nothing.

Flight 175, to the South Tower

Who called from Flight 175? I cannot find any reports of any callers. This plane was in the air for 16 minutes after Flight 11 crashed, and when the plane approached New York City the passengers would have seen the smoke from the North Tower. So why no phone calls from worried passengers? Why didn't any flight attendant call?

Flight 77, to the Pentagon

Flight 77 was flying normally near Indianapolis when Flight 11 crashed into North Tower at 8:46. An air traffic controller contacted the pilot of Flight 77 about a minute later for a routine course correction. Their conversation ended at 8:50:51. About 6 minutes later a controller

contacted the pilot again, but this time the pilot didn't answer. The controller realized there was a potential problem with Flight 77, so he tried over and over to contact the pilot, and called for help in less than two minutes. Nobody could help, of course, but compare his rapid call for help to the controller watching Flights 11 and 175 who did

At 8:57 AM Flight 11 had crashed and Flight 77 had vanished. A few minutes later, at 9:03, Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower. Transcripts show that at 9:09 the controllers were discussing both crashes, so the information was traveling fast. Flight 93 was flying normally at this time, so controllers had no reason to worry about it, but the moment it changed course the controllers should have suspected a serious problem. However, the response to the hijacking of Flight 93 was as sluggish as it was with Flights 11 and 175. Who was watching Flight 93?

Barbara Olson calls from Flight 77

Barbara Olson's phone call is used as proof that Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon, so her call is very important. She made two phone calls to her husband, who was at work at the Justice Department. Both calls were brief because her phone connection was cut off. As her husband described it:

"She had had trouble getting through, because she wasn't using her cellphone, she was using the phone in the passengers' seats," says Olson. "I guess she didn't have her purse, because she was calling collect, and she was trying to get through to the Department of Justice, which is never very easy."

She told her husband that the hijackers forced the passengers and the pilot towards the rear of the airplane. The strange aspect of her phone calls is that in both phone calls she wanted to know what she should tell the pilot:

Moments later, his wife called again. And again, she wanted to know, "What should I tell the pilot?"

Why would she call her husband to find out what she should tell the pilot? Is her husband an expert on what to tell pilots during highjackings? Actually, why would any passenger call anybody for such information? Why not let the pilot make his own phone call?

Why was Flight 77 so quiet?

Barbara Olson's flight was in the air a long time. It traveled all the way from Washington D.C. to Ohio before turning around to fly hundreds of miles to the Pentagon (Figure 8-6). Why didn't any passengers worry about their lives? Why didn't they call their friends and family? Why didn't any of the men try to fight the hijackers?

Flight 77 had 64 people whereas Flight 93 had only 45. This is 42% more people. Therefore, there should have been 42% more phone calls from Flight 77. However, Flight 77 was amazingly quiet. Why was Olson the only caller? What were the other passengers and crew members doing between Ohio and the Pentagon? The passengers were as quiet as dead bodies.

Contact with Flight 77 was lost near Ohio. The military wants us to believe that the hijackers turned off the transponder and flew hundreds of miles without the FAA noticing an unidentified blip on their radar screens. Some reports suggest that perhaps the plane was flying below radar, but how can a 757 fly along the ground without somebody noticing? And wouldn't at least one of the passengers have called their family to mention they were cruising at the tops of trees?

If Flight 77 and its dead passengers had been recovered from the rubble at the Pentagon then we could conclude that Flight 77 did indeed make that long journey to the Pentagon. However, the US military has photos of only two suspicious pieces of metal (Figure 9-4 and 9-5), both of which appear to be from a small aircraft, and I cannot find any news reports of dozens of dead bodies in the rubble.

The most likely explanation for Flight 77 is that it was shot down near Ohio. Barbara Olson's call seems to be a fake to add some realism to the flight. I think her odd conversation was because a female CIA agent made the phone call, and it did not occur to her that Olson should be making a sad call to say goodbye. Instead she made the mistake of selecting a topic of conversation that none of the other callers had selected.

Barbara Olson called from an airline phone, not her cellphone.† Her husband assumes she did not have her purse, but a CIA agent needed a lousy phone connection to hide her voice. The agent had to call Ted's office, and Ted's secretary would answer. The agent had to add noise to the line, and the best excuse for a terrible phone connection is that it is an airline phone. The calls were also brief to minimize the time people could listen to her voice.

Barbara Olson's death

Olson was originally scheduled to fly on September 10, but she changed her flight to the morning of the 11th so she could be with her husband for a few minutes that morning because that day was his birthday. It was a tragic decision.

At a trial in the Supreme Court in March, 2002, Ted Olson defended the CIA and the US government. One of his remarks:

It's easy to imagine an infinite number of situations where the government might legitimately give out false information. It's an unfortunate reality that the issuance of incomplete information and even misinformation by government may sometimes be perceived as necessary to protect vital interests.

Did Ted Olson provide false information to us about his wife's phone calls in order to "protect vital interests"?

Were the terrorists just pawns in this attack?

Flight 93 had lots of phone calls, but not Flights 11 or 175 (which hit the two towers). There were 92 people on Flight 11 and 65 people on Flight 175. That is 349% more people than Flight 93. Madeline Sweeney called from Flight 11, and she was describing a depressing situation (two flight attendants stabbed, one passenger dead). Why didn't any of the other passengers make phone calls? Why did the people on Flight 93 make almost all of the phone calls?

What if the terrorists were pawns? What if computers flew the airplanes into the towers? In such a case the terrorists would be dangerous to the scam because the airplane might be damaged if a fight breaks out. Worst of all, if the hijackers failed to get control, the pilot would send a message that the plane was flying itself. The scam would have a higher chance of success if everybody on the plane was killed before the hijacking took place, such as by releasing nerve gas via a radio signal, or by replacing the planes with drones.

The odd flight paths (Fig. 8-6 on page 90) could mean that both planes landed at Stewart International Airport, and drones could have replaced them.

Sweeney called Boston Airport, not a close friend, and provided information about the hijacking, as if she was a reporter. This could be interpreted as a fake call to provide a public record of the hijacking to give it some realism.

Why was Flight 93 delayed?

The Boston Globe reported that Flight 93 pushed back from its gate at 8:01, but was "delayed" from taking off by nearly 40 minutes. United Airlines would not explain the delay. Flights are delayed so often that this report may be irrelevant. However, since this attack appears to be a scam the delay may have been deliberate. But why would the Axis of Good want to delay it?

[†] Experiments by scientists at www.physics911.ca show that cell phones did not work in airplanes as of 2001.

Flight 93 was sitting at an airport only a few miles from the towers, and it was ready to take off. If something happened to either Flight 11 or 175, Flight 93 could take off and crash into the towers within minutes. Flight 93 finally took off when Flight 11 was only 4 minutes away from hitting the North Tower; Flight 77 was about 15 minutes away from vanishing; and Flight 175 was about 20 minutes from hitting the South Tower. Perhaps Flight 93 was released to take its part in the scam when it appeared as if the attack on the World Trade Center was on schedule.

Did a missile hit Flight 93?

Flight 93 supposedly crashed when a few passengers attacked the hijackers. However, some reports support the theory that the military shot the plane with a missile, such as an article in The Telegraph (page 91, Stewart International Airport) that reported air traffic controllers in Nashua heard from other controllers that an F-16 fighter was closely following Flight 93.

An Associated Press report tells of a frantic passenger on Flight 93 who called the emergency number 911 from the bathroom to report the plane was "going down" and that he heard an explosion and saw white smoke. He called at 9:58, and was the last call from the plane. The more interesting aspect of that phone call was reported by the Washington Post:

FBI agents quickly took possession of the tape of that 911 call, which constitutes the only public evidence so far of what went on during the doomed plane's last moments. The FBI declined to provide any information about the tape's contents or the identity of the caller.

Reports also mention that Glenn Cramer, the operator who received the phone call, has been told by the FBI not to discuss that phone call.

How could keeping that phone call a secret possibly – as Ted Olson would say – protect vital interests? How would the USA be in danger if we knew who that passenger was and what he was saying (or screaming, as some reports claim)? Why are we allowed to know about other phone calls but not that particular call? Why is there so much secrecy if nobody has anything to hide?

Which airplane landed in Cleveland?

To futher confuse the issue, WCPO television in Cincinnati reported at 11:43AM that Flight 93, from Boston, landed in Cleveland due to a bomb threat. Since Flight 93 was from New Jersey, and since it supposedly crashed, which plane landed in Cincinnati? Why does nobody care that nothing makes sense about the 9-11 attack?

Todd Beamer

Beamer's call is used not only to prove Arabs were behind the attack, but also to imply that America is full of "heros." However, there are a few odd aspects of Beamer's phone call that not only suggests the US government was involved in the attack, but also that America is full of liars:

A) Beamer talked to a stranger

Almost everybody made a phone call to their husband, wife, or mother. All calls were brief, and everybody was worried. For example, Jeffery Glick called his wife, who was with her parents at the time. The first time he called he was told that his wife was asleep, but the second time he was more certain that he was going to die, so he demanded to talk to her.

Todd Beamer was the oddball in the group. Some reports say he dialed his wife but the call didn't go through, and some reports claim he dialed the operator. Regardless of how it happened, he ended up talking to a telephone operator (Lisa Jefferson). Beamer could have asked Jefferson to connect him to his wife, but instead he talked to Jefferson. Why would he spend the last moments of his life talking to a stranger? There were strangers on the airplane; why not talk to them? Why suffer the low quality of an airplane phone?

B) Beamer talked "forever"

Beamer talked longer than anybody. I can understand Beamer talking to Jefferson for a minute or two as he explained that he was in a hijacked airplane and trying to call his wife, but after a while I would expect him to ask why the call did not go through. I would expect him to ask Jefferson to fix the problem and connect him to his wife before he dies. However, he spent 13 minutes talking to lefferson.

Furthermore, he never actually terminated the phone conversation with her; it was a "forever" phone call. When a couple of the other passengers decided to fight the hijackers, he decided to join them. So he put the phone down and went to fight the hijackers. Jefferson remained on the line waiting for him to come back, even though the phone soon became silent. Other Verizon employees told her that the plane must have crashed. Jefferson started to cry. After 15 minutes she hung up the phone with tears in her eyes, but Beamer never hung up; his call never ended. Isn't this romantic? No; it is suspicious.

If Beamer and the other men had been successful in their fight with the hijackers, he would have gone back to the phone and resumed his conversation with Jefferson. He then would have talked for... What? Another 13 minutes? An hour? At what point would he want to talk to somebody he knows? If he wanted to talk to strangers, weren't there enough of them in the airplane?

D) Beamer's audio recording is a secret

Since the telephone company (Verizon) recorded the entire conversation, they *could* give a copy of the audio tape to his wife. Instead, they *faxed a summary* of the phone call to her. Am I the only person who considers this to be weird? How would you feel if a telephone company sent a fax to *you* to let you know that your friend, spouse, or child had just died? And what if they had an audio recording of his last conversation but would not let you listen to it?

If the tape has nothing on it except such remarks as "tell my wife I love her," as well as a few descriptions of the passengers on the plane, why does Verizon keep it a secret from his wife? Two possible reasons are:

1) Maybe Beamer is an embarrassment

Jefferson claims Beamer asked her to pray with him. Why didn't Beamer ask to pray with his pregnant wife? Why not pray with the other passengers on the plane? Perhaps because they were *not praying*.

Perhaps Beamer and/or Jefferson was such an embarrassment that the phone company decided it would add more pain to the tragedy to let people know what they were really talking about.

2) Maybe it was not Todd Beamer

Unless several family members and friends of Beamer listen to the tape and identify the voice, there is no evidence that the call was actually from Beamer.

C) Beamer behaved like a news reporter

Just like Madeline Sweeney, Beamer calmly described the passengers, the hijackers, and the situation. Both of their conversations are as suspicious as a person trapped inside a burning building making a call to a stranger to describe the fire. Why would Beamer provide such information to a telephone operator? Was he trying to help the FBI solve the case? If so, why not ask to be transferred to the FBI?

Was Beamer one of the heroes on Flight 93?

Tom Burnett called his wife four times. In his fourth call some reports quote him as saying:

I know we're all going to die. There's three of us who are going to do something about it. I love you, honey.

If those reports are correct, *three* men decided to attack the hijackers. If Tom was one of them, who were the other two? I would guess Jeremy Glick, a judo champion, and Mark Bingham, a 6-foot-5, former college rugby player, because they were both large and had experience in violent sports. Beamer preferred baseball, and in an NBC interview his wife said September 11th, 2001 was the day he was going to start a *diet and fitness program*:

Since college, you know, he had spent a lot of time behind a desk, and he really wanted to get that body back.

Beamer's call seems to be a fake

Beamer's strange phone call makes the most sense if it was made by a CIA agent. The CIA would want to provide information to somebody who would pass it to the TV news in order to convince us that the hijackings were real.

Incidently, Beamer was scheduled to fly on September 10th but switched to the 11th. Another tragic decision; another weird phone call from a person who made a tragic decision. Or was September 10th the originally scheduled date for this attack?

"Let's Roll!"

Beamer's expression is used as proof the call was from him. If his phone call was a fake, that means the Axis of Good knew Beamer. This would be easy because Beamer was a salesman who traveled frequently. (The Axis of Good may have even arranged for him to travel that day) Or, Beamer may have lived near some members. Beamer lived a few miles from Trenton, New Jersey, where the anthrax letters were mailed. Is this a coincidence? Or was he living among the Axis of Good, and were the anthrax attacks coming from the same group of people?

Will we ever settle these issues?

Why not demand the FBI release all phone calls and information so that we can settle these issues?

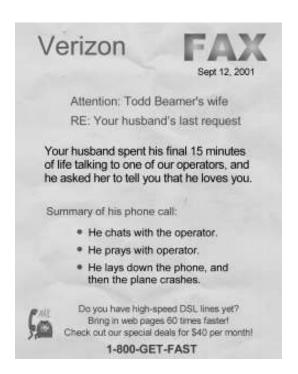


Figure 10-1 My wild guess at what the Fax looked like