

Jeff Hill Phone Interview with Albert Hemphill

Min	Sec	Speaker	Content
0	9	Hemphill	Hello
0	10	Hill	Hi, could I speak to Albert please?
0	12	Hemphill	Speaking
0	13	Hill	Mr. Hemphill, I don't know if I have the right number. My name is Jeffrey Hill, and the reason I was calling is because I was reading, were you at the Pentagon on 9/11?
0	25	Hemphill	Yeah, I just got a call from somebody not more than an hour ago asking me about 9/11.
0	31	Hill	Ho Yeah? That's kinda strange.
0	35	Hemphill	Seriously, somebody just called me.
0	40	Hill	Oh yeah, like well I was just I was reading some email. And it was talking about an Albert Hemphill and it was just talking about what he saw at the Pentagon. It was, I don't know exactly, it was [email address]?
1	2	Hemphill	Who are you with, what are you doing? Are you writing a book or something?
1	7	Hill	No, no, I'm just a, just a guy that was interested in like well I read all this stuff on the internet and like I see all these conspiracy theories and stuff about it, and lately I've been kind of in an argument with these guys who say that the plane flew over the Pentagon and never hit it. And I was just trying to like talk to people who actually saw the plane.
1	31	Hemphill	(laugh) Well, I saw it, it hit, it flew over the Navy Annex, that's what I told the guy I talked to just a minute ago. I literally just got a call from some guy from California just a minute ago.
1	44	Hill	Oh yeah, was his name Craig Ranke?
1	45	Hemphill	That was the guy.
1	46	Hill	That was the guy, and he sounded like he was an interrogator or something?
1	52	Hemphill	Sounded like a reporter, just asking questions wanting to...
1	56	Hill	Oh wow, that's strange, cause that's the guy that I'm arguing with. (laugh)
2	0	Hemphill	OK, well that was just, well he just called me and I had a, he just asked me what all I saw so I told him here's what I saw, and then, it was ... interesting, you know he has an interesting perspective, I don't, I can't agree with it, I saw what I saw, it was an airplane
2	21	Hill	Yeah, you were like in your office or something?
2	24	Hemphill	Yeah
2	26	Hill	Yeah, cause that's what it said in the email, you saw like a silver cylinder or something, and it, ... was it like, like you saw it over the Navy Annex?

2 38 Hemphill Well yeah, at the time I was working in the Navy Annex and looking out the window from the what was the then the 8th wing of the Navy Annex which is now gone, they tore it down to in order to build the Pentagon memorial, or the Air Force Memorial. Looking out the window there, I looked out the window and saw the airplane hit.

3 2 Hill So you actually saw it hit the building with your own eyes?

3 5 Hemphill Yep. You know he tried to tell me this guy says one of the theories is that you may not have actually seen what you thought you saw and that the aircraft actually flew away, and I said what, yeah, ok, whatever, but I'm telling you what I saw was a very large airplane smack into the Pentagon by the helaport. OK, it hit.

3 30 Hill Yeah. Like, like where you saw it coming from would you be able to tell me like kinda as far out as you saw it where it was?

3 40 Hemphill Well it came to my right shoulder, I was probably 8 to 10 windows down from the corner. The corner office was the director's office who at the time was Lt. Gen. Ron Kadish, ok, and so down from Kadish's office my office was about 8 to 10 windows down, cause he had a big suite. And if you go to the Navy Annex today, and you look at the end office, that's Lt Gen Pat O'Riley's office, I don't work there anymore but if you count over about 8 to 10 that's about the same position I would have been at so the aircraft would have been at so the aircraft would have been kinda over my right shoulder as it came over and it, because where I was it meant it just came directly over the Annex, over the gas station and boom into the building.

4 33 Hill So it flew over the CITGO gas station?

4 36 Hemphill Yeah, pretty much, it looked like it went right over

4 41 Hill Cause I guess what those guys are saying, I don't know if he explained to you how they're saying about how they say it must have flew over the Pentagon, they talked to a bunch of people and they said it came in north of the CITGO gas station. And they say that it wouldn't have been able to hit where it did if it came over the north of the CITGO gas station.

5 5 Hemphill He was trying to explain that theory to me also and I listened to it politely but all I could tell him was what, from where I was in the window looking out a big plane came over. It was to my right hand shoulder, and what I told him, I said look I'm telling you the same thing I told the FBI, ok. It came over, he cleared the bridge, my personal opinion got into a little ground effect, with an airplane that large, and then piled in kinda between the first and second floors.

5 40 Hill Yeah, and was it like really low to the ground when he hit, like was it level?

5 45 Hemphill Yeah, it was starting to get a little bit level. But I guessed he was going about 350 knots, and I think the official account said he was going faster, hell I don't know.

6 0 Hill Yeah, they said something 530 mi/hr whatever that is in knots.

6 3 Hemphill Yeah, that would be about 400 knots.

6 9 Hill Like did you see it hit any light poles on the way in?

6 13 Hemphill It clipped one that I think I saw that it, it looked like a flash of something knocked down, but he talked about a taxi cab and all these light poles, and I said that's possible, but from my vantage point I didn't see a taxi cab and I didn't see a bunch of light poles. I saw what I think was one that got hit as he cleared Rt. 27.

6 39 Hill So you would have been like kinda right by where, I don't know if you know who Sean Boulder was?

6 45 Hemphill No. Don't know him. The only other witness I know personally that saw the airplane is Terry Morin. And Terry worked at the Navy Annex also at the same time I was there, and Terry used to fly F-4's in the Marine Corps, and so I think his version is I think pretty consistent with mine, what we saw. We were not together at the time when we saw it. I was up in the, in the command suite and he was I think between buildings or something. I can't remember.

7 22 Hill Oh, ok, yeah. He said he was at the Navy Annex and he saw like the belly of the plane fly over his head or something.

7 29 Hemphill Yeah, that sounds about right.

7 30 Hill Yeah, yeah, yeah. So like from where you saw it at the Navy Annex it just kinda came down like it was looking like, like it was going to land or something in a way? Or...

7 40 Hemphill Nope. He was diving the aircraft.

7 45 Hill He was diving down?

7 46 Hemphill He was diving it. He was in a powered descent.

7 51 Hill Yeah?

7 52 Hemphill Because you can hear the, are you a pilot?

7 54 Hill No.

7 55 Hemphill OK. He, you could hear the engines spooling as if he was at full power, you know just whining that sucker out. And he didn't have any flaps down, he was clean, no gear.

8 10 Hill So the landing gear wasn't down, eh?

8 13 Hemphill Nope, nope, nope. He was clean.

8 15 Hill So I talked to a guy named Master Sgt Knowel Sepluvetta? I don't know if you ever heard of him either.

8 22 Hemphill No.

8 22 Hill But he said that it hit one of the light poles with the landing gear. But he, you know I guess everything happened so quickly, you guys saw it like you know it's kinda like...

8 33 Hemphill Well it's like I told this guy Craig, what did ya say his name Craig Ranke? I told him, you know this was just a few minutes ago he called me, that you know you see something and if you count, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, from 3 to 4, maybe 5 seconds is the sight picture any of us had from the Navy Annex, how long we would have seen that aircraft to the time it hit. That's really all the more. That fast. But what's going on? Do you guys having an internet, internet battle or something? Or...

9 8 Hill I guess you could call it that, yeah. Internet wars. Well they put out a video where they interviewed like a guy named Sgt. LaGasse and a couple people from Arlington Cemetary and a whole bunch of people, they went down there I guess in 2007, and they got all these witnesses on camera saying that they saw the plane come in north of the CITGO gas station. And so what they're saying is that if it came in north of the CITGO gas station, it wouldn't have been able to hit any of the light poles in the path, and it wouldn't have been able to do the damage to the Pentagon, and then they're saying that it flew over the Pentagon and it was like a fly over and something else, that was either bombs in the Pentagon or something,
...

9 55 Hemphill No way. I told this guy the same thing. No way. I saw an airplane hit, I saw a big yellow fire ball and a gigantic puff of black sooty smoke, like happens when something that is filled with jet 1-A blows. And I believe that because the guy they'd taken off from Dulles, and had not flown that far, you're talking about an aircraft capable of doing a transcontinental flight he was loaded, with thousands and thousands of pounds of fuel and unless he vented that meant, you still had, even a flight to Kentucky and back, if he was fully loaded, you're not going to burn off that much fuel. So he was a flying bomb. And that's what caused him to disintegrate.

10 45 Hill Yeah, OK, well like what about like after it hit? Like OK, so you already told me like 100% you saw it hit the building with your own eyes. Right?

10 54 Hemphill Absolutely.

10 55 Hill So that would say like their fly-over is not true.

11 0 Hemphill It didn't happen. It didn't happen. It did not happen that way. That is not what I saw from my vantage point where I was in one of the windows looking down the hill towards the Pentagon from the Navy Annex, it hit the building.

11 16 Hill Did you see that C-130 fly by right after?

11 19 Hemphill It wasn't right after. I saw a C-130. He was outbound, I think from Andrews probably its between 8 and 10 thousand feet heading westerly, and that was after we'd already exited the building.

11 33 Hill So it would be a few minutes after, then?

11 35 Hemphill Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

11 37 Hill So it wasn't like right above the plane or right behind it kinda deal?

11 41 Hemphill Nope. Absolutely not. Nowhere close to it. He was 8 to 10 thousand feet, if he had taken off from Andrews he probably was even higher than that. I'm being very conservative. But I've been around the Air Force and air planes my whole life, and I know a C-130 when I see one. And that was a C-130. And he was outbound westerly.

12 2 Hill Yeah, yeah, that was Captain O'Brian, he's been, he's been on record a few times that they told him to go see what he could see with that plane. But there's one guy that says that it was basically shadowing flight 77.

12 20 Hemphill (laugh) OK, I don't buy that, I don't believe it.

12 25 Hill But then everybody else says that it was like a couple minutes after that they saw the C-130.

12 29 Hemphill Well here's...I saw it hit, I went out pulled the fire alarm to get people out of the Navy Annex, we exited as quickly as we can down the stair well of the old wing 8, now gone, we're getting people over into the Arlington National Cemetary. And in that period while we're getting the people out I'm in that parking lot, are you familiar at all with the area?

12 57 Hill A little bit, yeah.

12 59 Hemphill OK, there's a, to this day it's still there, there's a parking area on the compound of the Navy Annex, and in that area we opened up a double main gate there that has been out of use for a long time because you have to go through secure entrance to get in there, carding in and out, with your Pentagon type badge, you get a card. OK, so the old gates weren't used, but for emergencies they're able to open them up, so they got those gates opened, everybody poured down those steps, and it was in that street there on cemetery drive, you looked up and you see a C-130 outbound. So that's at least 10 minutes. A while after. The Pentagon was on fire. It was burning at the time I saw the C-130.

13 49 Hill Did you go to the Pentagon after the plane hit?

13 52 Hemphill I went down to the bridge. What I did was I let people use my cell phone, went down to the bridge trying to see if where they were triaging people if we could help. Actually I found that there was a lot of people there, Arlington County Fire and Rescue were the heroes that day because they responded so quickly. So I left then, and I went back and was able to hitch a ride home because I was doing more harm than good by being there, cause I'm not medically trained, I'm not a paramedic or anything and they had people there who knew what they were doing. So the best thing you could do to help was to get out of their way and let em do their job.

14 29 Hill Yeah, yeah. So you didn't really see any wreckage or anywhere on the lawn or anything?

14 36 Hemphill Nah, I didn't go over by there. Now in the days after, I didn't tell this guy, Ranke this, but in the days after they looked for volunteers to escort cleaning crews in and out of the Pentagon. At the time I was in the missile defense agency, of course I had a very high security clearance, so I was one of the volunteers. I still have my hard hat. I still have my breathing mask. And I went in and out of that building a whole bunch. I saw the crush zone and all that, and it was a big mess. The area where years ago where I had worked in the Pentagon was gone. It was the 5th corridor on the 5th floor is where I worked years and years ago.

15 27 Hill Did you see like any plane parts or anything while you were in there?

15 30 Hemphill Nah, I saw a lot of soot. A lot of soot like you get if you burn kerosene. Jet 1-A, jet fuel, is essentially kerosene.

15 47 Hill You seen like that punch-out hole in the C-ring?

15 51 Hemphill Nah, I didn't go down there. No they didn't let us down there because we were just helping with the fire clean-up crew stuff. The crew I was escorting, we did see the body bags that were out in the center court. That was sort of disconcerting because I knew some of those people.

16 14 Hill When you told me, do you kinda think it kinda came over that CITGO gas station?

16 30 Hemphill Um hm.

16 21 Hill And you saw it hit, so basically it was on a straight like diving kinda path? Like things didn't rock like back and forth like it didn't do any right or left banks or anything like that?

16 34 Hemphill Nah, not that I could see, it was a quick look at it but he may got into what's called some ground effect. You know when you get an aircraft of that size and you get down close to the ground, you can have what's called ground effect. And it can cause the aircraft to become very unstable, but it was only for a second, if that, and then the aircraft, it hit. You know I hate to blow this guy's bubble. You know maybe the data is all dorked up from the government, hell I don't know. But all I know is what I saw. That was my last remark to him. I said, man, all I can tell you is what I saw. I saw a large airplane, that I guessed to be either a 757 or an A-320 Airbus. Something of that size fly into the Pentagon. It hit it. It hit the building.

17 28 Hill Like that's one thing you're absolutely sure of.

17 31 Hemphill Absolutely. Absolutely. It hit.

17 35 Hill And then, well I guess that's basically what I wanted to know, is if you saw it hit the building.

17 41 Hemphill Without a doubt. That's what I told the FBI, that's what I wrote up in my official statement. I had a buddy, a guy named Rick who's a Marine that had retired from my organization and gone to work for this beltway bandit contractor operation called Whitley, Bradley, and Brown, they do consulting work, so Rick sends me an email, says hey man, you guys OK? What did you see? And so I typed up this lengthy email and said well, here's what I saw. And of course he starts forwarding it to people.

18 16 Hill That must be the email that I was reading today yeah.

18 19 Hemphill Probably was. How old was the email from was it from like the day after or something like that?

18 26 Hill Uh... Let me just pull it up here real quick. It was translated from Italian, actually. I had these Google translated, and it says ...

18 38 Hemphill It's translated from Italian?

18 41 Hill Yeah. Wed. Sept 12 (inaudible) pm. My wife's relatives and my friends keep asking me what I saw what happened, here's what I wrote up my experience describing. And then its like about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 to 10 paragraphs of stuff.

18 59 Hemphill Yep. Yeah, it was a pretty lengthy one.

19 2 Hill Yeah. Oh ok, so everything you saw is in there.

19 6 Hemphill Yeah, pretty much. I gave that to the FBI. The FBI came and interviewed me and ironically the FBI agent that came to interview, her name was Heidi Messerschmidt.

19 18 Hill Oh yeah.

19 19 Hemphill Airplane! So anyway, she came to interview me and she says we can just do the interview down here in the lobby of the missile defense agency. And I said, na, na, na, na, na. You need to come up to my office and see, because only from there can you appreciate the vantage point I had and what I saw. So I took em upstairs, there was another agent with her, I can't remember the name off the top of my head. Messerschmidt just stuck with me because I found it so ironic, you know, airplane name.

19 48 Hill So you showed them how good of a view you had, kinda ...?

19 51 Hemphill Yeah, yeah, exactly. I said here look out my window, you want to see what I saw? Look at it. And they all wen, both of em, holy shit! You were in the perfect position to see, see what happened I guess. Yeah, the airplane hit.

20 6 Hill So that would have been in the Navy Annex on the 8th floor you say?

20 10 Hemphill No, 5th floor of the 8th wing. Now keep in mind, Wing 8 no longer exists, it is gone. It was torn down about 5, 6 years ago because that's where they built the Air Force memorial. It looks like giant French fries coming up out of the...

20 27 Hill Oh that's those with the three things coming and...

20 30 Hemphill Yeah, it's really ugly, really ugly. But that's where wing 8 was. So that's gone.

20 40 Hill Looking straight at the Pentagon then.

20 42 Hemphill Yep. But from Wing 7 you know it's a further distance, but you can get a good idea if you see Wing 7 if you count about 10 windws over from the corner office that's closest to the Arlington Cemetary side, that's about the point I was in Wing 8

21 4 Hill Closest to the Arlington Cemetary side?

21 7 Hemphill Yeah, I was closer to the Cemetary side than I was to Columbia Pike. You see the airplane was to my right shoulder.

21 16 Hill And it would have been to your right shoulder.

21 18 Hemphill So, you know, he was trying to make a fine point with me of well could it have been more over Columbia Pike or was it directly over the Annex and I said I don't know, I said look. I believe it came right over the Annex from what I could tell for the approximate 3 to 4 seconds that I saw this, ok. It crossed Rt 27. I think in my write-up I mistakenly called it Rt 110 which that probably flamed up everybody saying I can see this guy's fucked up. Well, I used the wrong route number. But anyway it was Rt. 27, which takes you from 95 if you bear to your left you head on up to Rosaline, then it takes you by the old heliport and the entrance for the river entrance. So you know, bottom line is I saw the plane hit. It hit the building.

22 13 Hill Um hm.

22 14 Hemphill And you know, he's got all this data and these pilots and different people that are saying that, you know, the place by which I said and all these other witnesses say we saw the airplane, the damage could not possibly have occurred in the building. And I said look, I haven't seen the data, I don't know man, I said you're asking me to corroborate something I can't talk to. I don't know. OK, I haven't seen the data. Frankly, I haven't looked at that stuff because it's a very painful thing for me. You know, a girl I knew from high school got killed in that deal.

22 50 Hill Oh yeah?

22 51 Hemphill Yeah, somebody my wife and I known, knew her forever. Her name was Patty Dilaber Micklick. And Patty got killed. And so anyway I haven't paid any attention to it. I don't go on the Internet, I don't look at it, I don't care. I figure look, if the kooks want to believe that it was something, you know, that they fired a photon torpedo from the starship enterprise, whatever...

22 21 Hill Hey, there are some people that actually believe that.

22 23 Hemphill I don't doubt it ok, knock yourself out, ok, but I saw an airplane, the airplane came over where I worked, went over the gas station, over Rt 27, and it slammed into the building and made a gigantic fireball. A gigantic puff of black smoke. There was no second airplane, it didn't fly over the Pentagon, it hit the frickin Pentagon. I don't know how else to put it.

23 50 Hill Well I guess there's no way else to really put it, other than that. Like I mean, like do you blame people for like questioning what happened that day, like I mean there is kinda lot of mystery around?

24 3 Hemphill Well, I look at it this way. Did John Wilkes Booth really shoot Lincoln? Was there a guy on the grassy knoll? You know, you can, conspiracy theorists are going to believe what they believe, and there's many people that do not trust the American Government, ok, that's their right. And our constitution says I fundamentally defend their right to hold that opinion.

24 26 Hill Yeah, ok.

24 28 Hemphill I'll defend their right to hold that opinion. But it doesn't mean I agree with it.

24 33 Hill Well, I don't know, like, when you look at a lot of stuff it seems like, I mean, I don't know man, there seems to be something weird going on.

24 42 Hemphill I don't know.

24 43 Hill I don't know either.

24 44 Hemphill I really don't. I don't. And, you know, I'm not telling you anything different than I just told Craig what's his name. He seems to be a nice guy, you know, he

24 55 Hill I think it's pretty funny that we both called you at the same time.

24 Hemphill Well it'd be literally, I just got off the phone with him and it just hung up and went in and my wife says what was that all about, and I said eh, some guy writing a book or something wanting to ask me what I saw. So I just sat down played my guitar for a minute and just as soon as I tuned it up the phone rang, and it was you wanting to ask me the same thing. Go figure.

24 Hill Well, hey I really appreciate you taking the time to tell me you know what you saw that day and stuff to kind of like, it helps you know, it helps sort fact from fiction when you can talk to an actual person that saw something with their own eyes.

24 Hemphill Ah, no problem, man, I wish I could tell people more, I wish I could say, you know, that I had the data, and this is...

24 Hill Well basically anybody that doesn't think a plane hit the Pentagon is, well I can't say really an idiot, but they're wrong. They're wrong. And...

24 Hemphill As I told, you know, this guy Craig when he says I want to send you this disk and you look at it and tell me what you think, and I said sure. Send it to me. That aint much. I'll look at it. But it doesn't mean it's going to change my opinion. What I told you and what I told the FBI 10 years ago, I have not varied from my story nor will I. I saw what I saw. The plane hit the Pentagon. If there's problems with the data or whatever, you know then there's problems with the data, and the data could be wrong. Or people have miscalc... whatever... I don't know. But I'm telling you as an eyewitness what I saw. I saw the thing hit the building.

24 Hill OK, man, well, like, like I said, thank you very much for taking the time and I really appreciate it.

24 Hemphill Yeah, no problem. I hope that whatever kind of debate battle or whatever you got going, that it works out for you, and uh, you know but the truth is the truth, and that's what I saw. It hit the building.

24 Hill Yeah well you've been a big help to me and I really appreciate it, Mr. Hemphill.

24 Hemphill No problem. Call me Al. Don't call me Mr. Hemphill. Mr. Hemphill's my dad and he's in his 80's, so

24 Hill (laugh) OK, well you enjoy playing that guitar. I won't take any more of your time.

24 Hemphill No problem. Hey you take care.

24 Hill Ok. Bye bye.