

Seventeen minutes



in Mogadishu

Interviews with rescued hostages and airline officials built up the following sequence of the commando raid on the hijacked West German airliner at Mogadishu.

MIDNIGHT:	Commando assault begins. About 30 men slip underneath the aircraft on the blind side from the cockpit and reach the doors.
12.05:	Doors opened and 'commandos storm in. Special grenades which make loud bang' and a blinding flash detonated.
12.06:	First shots fired. Hijackers try to protect themselves with their pistols.
12.07:	From the tarmac, the first passengers are seen appearing at the six exits of the Boeing 737. Inside the aircraft, the commandos are pushing passengers towards the doors and emergency exits. There is no panic.
12.08:	Several more shots are fired.
12.09:	The first passengers start leaving the aircraft. The 86 hostages are quickly evacuated.
12.09:	Passengers are assembled in the airport terminal building, some of them only half dressed. The hostages are treated by German doctors and nurses.
12.12:	The special commando unit reports: "Mission completed, three terrorists dead, one woman hijacker critically wounded."
12.17:	Mogadishu reports to Lufthansa crisis headquarters in Frankfurt: "Action complete. All hostages free."

# WARM WELCOME AT END OF FIVE-DAY ORDEAL

## Hijacked hostages tell of horror on airliner

FRANKFURT, Wednesday. — Sobbing and drained, 86 men, women and children returned from the shadow of death yesterday and told how they had given up hope of leaving their hijacked jetliner alive.

A huge crowd applauded the hostages, freed in a daring West German commando raid in Mogadishu, Somalia, as they disembarked at Frankfurt airport after a five-day, 11,000 km trip, in which they expected to die at any moment.

But there was no cheering because Captain Juergen Schumann, the captain of the hijacked Lufthansa Boeing 737, was shot dead in front of the hostages hours before the raid.

"This was the worst moment," one hostage said.

"The captain was shot in the head in front of our eyes after being forced by the gangster leader to kneel in the middle of the aisle."

One stewardess, Gabi Dillmann, 23, was wounded in the leg during the raid. She was the first off at Frankfurt, blood dripping down her leg, and helped into a waiting bus.

The hostages were taken in two buses to an airport cafeteria where they were given clothing, shoes and toilet kits.

The survivors said most of them were dozing when three loud explosions awoke them.

"Suddenly there were explosions and men came pouring into the plane," one passenger said.

Mr Georg Freiburg, 48, recalled how the terrorist leader, Mahmoud, forced Captain Schumann to kneel in the centre of the aisle towards the front of the plane.

"This killer told us that the pilot had attempted to flee. Then he shot him in front of us all, shot him at the base of his skull," Mr Freiburg said.

In fact, Captain Schumann, praised by Mr Schmidt for his courage, had refused to take

any more orders from the hijackers.

Mrs Monika Schumann, the pilot's widow, who is left with sons aged 11 and 2, broke down and sobbed several times as an Army band played the slow movement from a Bach suite as her husband's body was brought from the plane.

One Swedish hostage said that if the raid had come five hours earlier, the passengers might have burnt to death.

"They tied our hands behind our backs with the ladies' nylon stockings and then forced us to sit in our seats with the safety belts fastened," she told a Swedish radio reporter.

"Then they poured all available liquor on the floor and all over the place, because the gangsters expected a raid. We all thought we were going to die."

The military heroes of the commando raid returned yesterday as casually as a football team returning from a winning game.

The Interior Minister, Mr Werner Maihofer, congratulated the troops of the GSG 9 force for what he called a small miracle.

(AAP)

The anti-hijack backlash, Page 7.



Commander Wegener (right), the leader of the commando operation, talks to the West German Secretary of State, Mr Wischniewski, in Bonn on Tuesday.

## Pilots call for special UN air safety debate

Strike if demands not met

HONG KONG, Wednesday. — The International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations (IFALPA) said today it had received a positive response from many of its 55,000 members to a proposed 48-hour strike unless the United Nations meet soon to discuss anti-hijacking measures.

Captain Derry F. Pearce, the Hong Kong-based IFALPA president, has demanded that the United Nations convene an urgent session to discuss the problem before October 25.

"Now the whole thing rests on the United Nations," he said. Captain Pearce declined to say how many responses he had received.

He said IFALPA's action was against Governments that failed to provide a proper and correct environment for pilots to be responsible for the safety of their passengers.

Although pilots were responsible for their planes and the safety of their passengers, the ultimate losers were the passengers, he said.

After the murder of West German pilot Juergen Schumann by hijackers on a Lufthansa Boeing 737 jet, IFALPA said Governments of the world were the true killers because they failed to take positive ac-

tion which would ensure eradication of acts of violence against civil aviation.

New Zealand pilots will stop work for two days next week in support of the planned worldwide air strike to protest against air piracy.

The stoppage from midnight on Tuesday will affect services of both the State-owned international airline Air New Zealand and the State-owned domestic airline, National Airways Corporation.

(AAP-Reuters)

Our Transport Reporter writes: The President of the Australian Federation of Air Pilots, Captain R. T. Holt, said in Melbourne yesterday that appeals had been made to the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, and the Minister for Transport, Mr Nixon, to urge the Australian delegation at the United Nations to press for an urgent debate to deal with the problem of hijacking.

He said plans for a two-day strike—due to begin at 10 pm next Tuesday—were continuing, but added that he was hopeful that developments would occur during the next few days that could avert the stoppage.

Captain Baruch Fussman of the Israel Pilots' Association, said they expected to join the strike and added that he was

certain that the next time a country decided to provide sanctuary to hijackers it would be boycotted by pilots.

If the strike goes ahead it will cancel 500 domestic flights in Australia and 100 international arrivals and departures and alter the travelling arrangements of 70,000 people.

It will stop 35,000 flights around the world and affect four million passengers.

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