

= Wail al @-@ Shehri =

Wail Mohammed al @-@ Shehri (Arabic : ????? ?????? , W??l ash @-@ Shehr? ; also transliterated as Alshehri) (July 31 , 1973 ? September 11 , 2001) was one of five hijackers of American Airlines Flight 11 , which was hijacked and flown into the North Tower of the World Trade Center as part of the September 11 attacks .

Shehri was an elementary school teacher from Khamis Mushait in the Asir region of Saudi Arabia . In early 2000 he traveled to Medina to seek treatment for mental problems . He and his younger brother Waleed traveled to Afghanistan in March 2000 and joined an Al @-@ Qaeda training camp . The brothers were chosen , along with others from the same region of Saudi Arabia , to participate in the September 11 attacks . Once selected , Shehri returned to Saudi Arabia in October 2000 to obtain a clean passport , then returned to Afghanistan . In March 2001 , he recorded his last will and testament on video .

Shehri arrived in the United States in early June 2001 , staying in budget motels in the Boynton Beach area of south Florida . On September 5 , 2001 , Shehri traveled to Boston and checked into a motel with his brother . Six days later , Shehri arrived early in the morning at Boston 's Logan International Airport and boarded American Airlines Flight 11 . Fifteen minutes after take off , the flight was hijacked and deliberately crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center at 8 : 46 a.m.

In the aftermath of the attacks , some news reports mistakenly reported Shehri as a trained pilot and son of a Saudi diplomat , who was still alive and well . The Shehri family in Khamis Mushait spoke to the media , denying those early reports , saying that the Shehri brothers had disappeared and have not been heard from since .

= = Background = =

Wail al @-@ Shehri and his younger brother Waleed were from Khamis Mushait in the Asir province , which is an impoverished area in southwestern Saudi Arabia , along the Yemeni border . Shehri was born in Annams , and grew up in the Um Saraar neighborhood in Khamis Mushait . He had ten brothers and one sister . Several of Shehri 's brothers joined the Saudi military , while his uncle may have been a major in the army and director of logistics . Shehri 's father , Mohammed Ali Asgley Al Shehri , worked as a car dealer . On weekends , the family often spent time together at the Red Sea . The family strictly adhered to the Wahabi school of Islam , which forbids many elements of modernity . As such , the Shehri family did not have satellite television or Internet , nor did his parents permit music or contact with girls . Some of Wail al @-@ Shehri 's elder brothers had visited the United States and could speak English ; however , Wail knew little English .

During high school and college , Shehri was deeply religious and attended Al @-@ Seqley Mosque , which his family had built as the local mosque . Shehri also frequented government @-@ supported religious camps in Saudi Arabia . At this time , there were strong religious feelings in Saudi Arabia , especially in the Asir region . Many young people in the region idolized Osama bin Laden , who had family ties to the area . Wail 's father was a friend of Bin Laden 's father , Mohammed bin Awad bin Laden . Ahmed al @-@ Nami and Saeed al @-@ Ghamdi , who were both hijackers on United Airlines Flight 93 , came from the same area in Saudi Arabia as the Shehri family .

After graduating from Abha teachers college in 1999 , Wail al @-@ Shehri took a job as an elementary school physical education teacher at the Khamis Mushait airbase . Five months into the job , Shehri took leave due to mental illness and depression . Rather than conventional therapy , Wail sought consultation with Muslim clerics , and hoped that a visit to Medina would help . His treatment involved verses from the Qur 'an read to him by a sheikh . He traveled to Medina together with Waleed . After the September 11 attacks , others recalled seeing the Shehri brothers in Medina .

= = Afghanistan = =

Wail and Waleed al @-@ Shehri disappeared after going to Medina , calling their father just once ; in the conversation , the brothers were vague about when they would return . Both had expressed interest in joining the jihad in Chechnya , though may have been diverted to Afghanistan . Before disappearing , the Shehri brothers went to Al @-@ Seqley Mosque to swear an oath and commitment to jihad , as did Ahmed al @-@ Nami and Saeed al @-@ Ghamdi . Wail presided over the ceremony , dubbing himself Abu Mossaeb al @-@ Janubi after one of Muhammad 's companions .

In March 2000 , he left for Pakistan with Waleed and Ahmed al @-@ Nami ; later , they went on to Afghanistan . Wail al @-@ Shehri followed the standard path for new al @-@ Qaeda recruits in Afghanistan , spending time in the Khalden training camp and then Al Farouq training camp near Kandahar . Details on how the non @-@ pilot (" muscle ") hijackers were chosen for the September 11 attacks are vague , though the hijackers appear to have been selected by senior al @-@ Qaeda leaders in 2000 from the thousands of recruits at training camps in Afghanistan . The most capable and motivated volunteers were at al @-@ Farouq , and Saudi citizens were good candidates , since it would be easy for them to obtain visas to travel to the United States . Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director George Tenet later said that the muscle hijackers were probably told little about their mission in the United States .

Once Wail and the other muscle hijackers completed their training in Afghanistan , they received \$ 2 @,@ 000 so they could return to Saudi Arabia to obtain new passports and visas . The Shehri brothers may have been assisted by a relative who worked in the Saudi passport office . Wail and Waleed al @-@ Shehri received passports on October 3 , 2000 , and then obtained United States visas on October 24 . On his visa application , Wail al @-@ Shehri provided vague information , stating his employer / school as " South City " , and his destination as " Wasantwn " . Wail indicated his occupation as " teacher " , and that he would be traveling with his brother on a four @-@ to @-@ six month vacation , which would be paid for with Wail 's teacher salary . Although he would not be working while on vacation , consular officials nonetheless did not question if the Shehri brothers had the financial means to support themselves while in the United States .

In late 2000 , Wail traveled to the United Arab Emirates , where he purchased traveler 's checks , presumed to have been paid for by Mustafa Ahmed al @-@ Hawsawi . Five other hijackers passed through the United Arab Emirates and purchased traveler 's checks , including Majed Moqed , Saeed al @-@ Ghamdi , Hamza al @-@ Ghamdi , Ahmed al @-@ Haznawi and Ahmed al @-@ Nami . The 9 / 11 Commission believes that three of the future muscle hijackers , including Wail and Waleed , traveled in a group from Saudi Arabia to Beirut and then onward to Iran where they could travel through to Afghanistan without getting their passports stamped . An associate of a senior Hezbollah operative is thought to have been on the same flight , although this may have been a coincidence .

Wail al @-@ Shehri appeared together with hijackers Ahmed al @-@ Nami , Hamza al @-@ Ghamdi , and Ahmed al @-@ Ghamdi on a video recorded in March 2001 , and aired on Al Jazeera in September 2002 . Shehri was seen studying maps and flight manuals , but he did not speak in the video ; it also included a segment of Abdulaziz al @-@ Omari reading his last will and testament . While in Afghanistan , another video was recorded that showed Shehri reading his last will and testament . This video was released on September 7 , 2006 .

= = United States = =

On June 5 , 2001 , Wail obtained an International Driving Permit , which was issued in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates . Wail al @-@ Shehri arrived together with fellow al @-@ Qaeda member Ahmed al @-@ Haznawi at Miami International Airport , via London , from Dubai on June 8 . Both were admitted as tourists for six months . Shehri opened a bank account at SunTrust Bank in Florida on June 18 , with a deposit of \$ 8 @,@ 000 that came from American Express traveler 's cheques purchased on June 7 in the United Arab Emirates .

Shehri moved into the Homing Inn , a budget motel in Boynton Beach , on June 21 , 2001 , sharing

a room with his brother Waleed , and Satam al @-@ Suqami . Wail and Suqami both used this hotel as their address when they received Florida state non @-@ driver identifications on July 3 . Shehri checked into the Panther Motel & Apartments , in Deerfield Beach , with his brother and Suqami on August 2 , staying there until August 10 . While in Florida , Wail was a member of the World Gym in Boynton Beach , where he trained with Waleed and Suqami . During the summer of 2001 , Wail regularly used computers at the Delray Beach Public Library .

On August 28 , 2001 , Wail and Waleed al @-@ Shehri made reservations on American Airlines Flight 11 , using the Mail Boxes Etc. in Hollywood , Florida as their address . The Shehri brothers contacted American Airlines on September 3 by telephone to change their first @-@ class seat assignments for American Airlines Flight 11 , selecting seats on the side of the aircraft that offered a direct view of the cockpit . Wail and Waleed al @-@ Shehri left Florida for Boston on September 5 , traveling together on Delta Air Lines Flight 2462 .

Wail checked in together with Waleed at the Park Inn Hotel in Chestnut Hill , Massachusetts on September 5 , 2001 , staying in room 432 . While staying at the Park Inn , Wail and Waleed al @-@ Shehri may have called a prostitute . Wail al @-@ Shehri accompanied his brother on September 9 to the Travelex at Logan International Airport , where Waleed attempted to wire \$ 5 @,@ 000 to the United Arab Emirates . Waleed had insufficient documentation , so Wail and Waleed returned the next day to complete the transaction . Mustafa Muhammad Ahmad received the funds on September 11 at Al @-@ Ansari Exchange in Sharjah . Hijacker Abdulaziz al @-@ Omari possibly spent a night at the Park Inn before leaving with Mohamed Atta for Portland , Maine on September 10 . When Wail and Waleed al @-@ Shehri checked out on September 11 , they left a sheet of instructions for flying a jet behind in their hotel room .

= = Attacks = =

Wail al @-@ Shehri , his brother Waleed , and Satam al @-@ Suqami arrived together at Logan Airport at 06 : 45 on the morning of September 11 , 2001 . Upon check @-@ in , all three men were selected by the Computer Assisted Passenger Prescreening System (CAPPSS) for further screening of their checked baggage . As the CAPPSS was only for luggage , the three hijackers did not undergo any extra scrutiny at the passenger security checkpoint . One of the five Globe Aviation security screeners on @-@ duty later reported that either Wail or Waleed had been using a crutch when they passed through security , and that the crutch had been X @-@ rayed as per regulations .

By 07 : 40 , all five hijackers were aboard the flight , which was scheduled to depart at 07 : 45 . Wail and Waleed al @-@ Shehri sat together in first class in seats 2A and 2B respectively . The aircraft taxied away from Gate 26 , and departed Logan International Airport at 07 : 59 , following a 14 @-@ minute delay . Flight 11 was hijacked at approximately 08 : 14 , which is when the pilot stopped responding to air traffic control . Once the hijacking began , the brothers are suspected of having stabbed two flight attendants . At 08 : 46 : 40 , Mohamed Atta deliberately crashed Flight 11 into the northern facade of the North Tower (Tower 1) of the World Trade Center . The immediate damage destroyed any means of escape from above the impact zone , trapping 1 @,@ 344 people . The North Tower collapsed at 10 : 28 , after burning for 102 minutes .

= = Aftermath = =

Waleed al @-@ Shehri was reported to have been found alive by a BBC News article on September 23 , 2001 , and other news reports in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks . Reports said that the Shehri brothers were the sons of a Saudi diplomat stationed in New Delhi , Ahmed al @-@ Shehri . The diplomat 's son was trained as a pilot at Embry @-@ Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach , Florida , and was working as a pilot for Saudi Arabian Airlines . At the time of the attacks , he was in Morocco for a training program . There were also reports that Wail al @-@ Shehri was a trained pilot . In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks , Saudi officials suggested that Wail and Waleed al @-@ Shehri were victims of identity theft , but the diplomat 's son was the victim of mistaken identity .

Jamal Khashoggi , of Al @-@ Watan and ArabNews in Saudi Arabia , spoke with Muhammad Ali al @-@ Shehri in Khamis Mushait , who said his sons Wail and Waleed had been missing for months . Wail al @-@ Shehri 's father denied reports that Wail had an aeronautics degree , as some news reports said , " My son Wail was 25 years old and had a BA in physical education from the Abha Teacher ? s College . He was mentally ill and had gone to numerous clerics for assistance in overcoming this instability . He had asked the school , where he taught , for a 6 @-@ month leave to go to Madinah . " His father also told reporters that he dreaded having to believe that Wail and Waleed were involved in the September 11 attacks , " If that turns out to be the truth , then I 'll never , never accept it from them . I 'll never forgive them for that . " Family members said that Wail and Waleed became very religious in the months before they disappeared , had expressed interest in going to Chechnya , and hoped for martyrdom . In a report entitled " A Saudi Apology " for Dateline NBC aired on August 25 , 2002 , John Hockenberry traveled to Asir , where he interviewed Shehri 's brother , Salah , who agreed that Wail and Waleed were deceased . Salah described them as not very religious , and suggested they had been brainwashed .

Saudi officials later stated that the names of the hijackers were in fact correct , and that 15 of the 19 hijackers were Saudi . In response to 9 / 11 conspiracy theories surrounding its original news story suggesting hijackers were still alive , the BBC issued a response in 2006 , saying that later reports on the hijackers superseded the original story . The BBC also explained that confusion arose with the Arabic names that were common .