

May 22, 2012
Telecon with Annette Fisher of New Jersey
908-832-6493

Annette Fisher called me today. She had read about the PA103 Archives in a CNN news article and wanted to, no, needed to talk about something that happened to her nearly 24 years ago, a week or so before the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

She and her husband took her 11 year old son to England in 1988. They were flying home to New Jersey on Pan Am and left from Heathrow. The three of them were sitting on the left side of the plane, to the rear of the emergency doors. She said she never had any fear of flying before this except for weather, etc.

They took off fine, passed over Scotland and just as they reached the ocean a male passenger got up from his seat unexpectedly while the 'fasten seat belts sign' was still on, walked back to the emergency door row, put his hand on the handle of the door and stared out the window. She said he was fidgety and started walking up and down the aisles as if he was counting rows or seats. She described him as ethnic looking, wearing a silver gray suit with a white shirt open at the collar. She said he was tall, slim and good looking, but had a few days growth of beard.

Her husband and son had taken off their seat belts, but when this happened her husband rebuckled his and made sure their son did the same. She called the flight attendant and told her that there was a man acting strange and the attendant said they'd watch him. She said that a while later she saw the attendants talking with the man and they ended up laughing together. She said it was as though he was purposely making friends with them.

When she heard that PA103 had gone down she called her local FBI office in New Jersey and talked to an agent. She felt it was like a "dry run" that the man was checking out the flight to see how much time it would take from takeoff until they would be out over the open ocean. She never heard another word from the FBI and doesn't know if a report was filed or if the agent just felt she was 'crazy'.

She said that this has bothered her for 24 years and that she has always felt that maybe she could have done more and if she had done something more she might have saved those on 103.

She sounded very rational to me and very sincere and told a very plausible story – one that makes sense given more recent terrorist activities. I told her that I would write up our conversation and it would become part of the PA103 Archives. I also told her I would see if anyone connected with PA103 had ever heard of this.

She said that if anyone needed more concrete data such as the exact date of her flight and flight information, she could provide it.

Edward L. Galvin
Pan Am Flight 103 Archivist