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PHOTOS: LIFE OF A 9/11 HIJACKER

In the days following the horrifying attacks in the United States attention focused on the terrorists themselves.

One of the most perplexing cases is that of Ziad Samir Jarrah, who flew one of those planes.

Raised in Lebanon in a secular family, taught in a Christian school, Ziad Jarrah seemed to friends and family a most improbable recruit to Islamic extremism.



1975

Ziad Samir Jarrah is born on May 11, 1975, in Mazraa, Lebanon, a suburb of Beirut.

Watch our [entire interview](#) with Ziad Jarrah's uncle, Jamal Jarrah  (22 minutes)



197? - 1995

Jarrah is sent to a Catholic school in Beirut. His parents believed he would get a superior education. He loved sports, particularly swimming and basketball. The Jarrahs were Muslim but not particularly devout.



April, 1996

Jarrah (right) and his cousin, Salim, move to Greifswald, Germany.



1996

Jarrah meets a young Turkish woman named Aysel Senguen who lived down the hall in his student quarters. She's the daughter of conservative, working-class immigrants from Turkey and soon they begin to date. She is attractive and is described by friends as "very western".



1997

Jarrah registers at the University of Applied Sciences in Hamburg. He studies aeronautical engineering and aircraft construction and design.

Shortly after he moves to Hamburg, Aysel first heard him talk about jihad.



late-1997

Jarrah becomes a tenant in a house owned by Rosemarie Canel. She liked the young man and as an artist was moved to paint a portrait of him. Jarrah took the portrait home to Lebanon as a Christmas gift for his mother.

Summer 1998

Aysel is in school in Bochum, Ziad is in Hamburg. He is out of touch a lot of the time. This and his new-



found religion is starting to put a strain on their relationship. And yet they still discuss marriage and children and a future together. Aysel writes this email challenging his beliefs and asking him to be open and honest with her about all aspects of his life.

Read a [translated version](#) of Aysel's e-mail. View the [original](#) in German. (.pdf)



early 1999

Jarrah's landlady, Rosemarie Canel, moves houses. Jarrah follows her, using the new address as his "official" one for some time after.

Jarrah grows a beard and expresses an interest in becoming a pilot.



September 1999

Jarrah registers for a semester at the University of Applied Sciences but disappears after only one class.

Watch [a clip](#) from our interview with Jarrah's professor 📺 (28 seconds)



late 1999 - early 2000

According to Jarrah's landlady, he spends a lot of time with friends in nearby Harburg, the location of the Technical University where others implicated in the U.S. suicide missions were living and studying at the time.

Late in 1999 Jarrah and others traveled to Afghanistan and attended an al-Qaeda training camp in Kandahar.

He and Aysel resume their tumultuous relationship.



spring 2000

Jarrah heads to the U.S. at about this time, telling his parents he wants to learn to fly. A student visa was issued to him on May 21, 2000. He arrives in Newark in June and flew to Venice, Florida where he enrolled at the Florida Flight Training Centre.

[Jarrah's student visa \(close up\)](#) - click to see the document issued to Jarrah on May 21, 2000.



August 2000

Aysel, Jarrah's girlfriend, visits his family in Lebanon. He says he's too busy with his studies in the U.S. to join her.

Watch [a clip](#) from a wedding video showing Ziad Jarrah celebrating at his father's house earlier that year. 📺 (30 seconds)



October 2000

Jarrah flies to Germany to visit his girlfriend and they travel to Paris. During his time in the U.S. their relationship is close and Jarrah makes hundreds of phone calls to her. He also sends e-mails.

November/December 2000

Jarrah receives his private pilot certificate from the FAA in November 2000 and began flight simulator training for large jets.



He visits Aysel in Germany and returns with her to Florida. She stays in the U.S. for 10 days and takes a photo of him sitting in a flight simulator.



February 2001

Jarrah returns to Lebanon for the last time, to be with his father during an open heart surgery. He re-enters the U.S. on April 13, 2001.



April 2001

Jarrah rents an apartment at 1816 Harding in Hollywood, Florida.

He joins a health club but is less interested in strength and cardiovascular workouts than self-defence.



June 2001

Jarrah moves to an apartment at 4641 Bougainvillea in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. His roommate is Ahmed Al-Haznawi, another of the suspected hijackers.

He, Atta and another Hamburg pilot Shehhi take cross country surveillance flights and carry box-cutters on board.

Jarrah also takes additional training at Hortman Aviation in Philadelphia and asks to fly the Hudson corridor, a low-altitude hallway along the Hudson river that passes New York landmarks like the World Trade Center.



July 2001

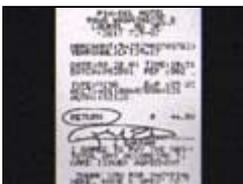
Jarrah travels to Germany to see Aysel one last time. Atta drives him to the airport. She remembers that he seemed distant. He returns to the U.S. on August 5th.



August 27, 2001

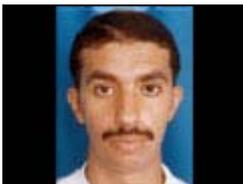
Jarrah registers at the Pin-Del Motel in Laurel, Maryland. The motel is a mile from the Valencia, where at least four other hijackers stayed in the same week.

close-up of the receipt



September 4, 2001

Jarrah's family sends him at least \$700 in addition to his regular monthly stipend of \$2,000. He tells his family he needs the money for "fun".



September 5, 2001

Jarrah and Al-Haznawi (his roommate from earlier in the summer) book one-way tickets on a September 7, 2001, flight to Newark.

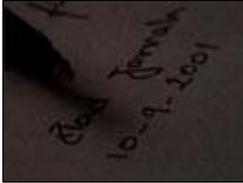


September 9, 2001

Jarrah makes his final phone call to his family. He confirms receipt of the money sent September 4th

and says he'll see them on September 22 for a family wedding.

Watch [a clip](#) from Dr. Martha Crenshaw in which she explains how Jarrah's anger and hatred may have grown stronger with his knack for deceiving others 📺 (30 seconds)



September 10, 2001

Jarrah mails a final letter and a package with his personal belongings to Aysel in Germany. She doesn't receive the letter until 9/11 investigators find it several weeks later.

Read a [translated version](#) of Jarrah's letter to Aysel. View the [original](#) in German. (.pdf)



September 11, 2001

Jarrah calls Aysel on the morning of September 11th and tells her three times that he loves her and hangs up.

Jarrah boards United Airlines flight 93 from Newark to San Francisco. He and three others are seated in first class. Shortly after take-off, the hijackers changed the plane's flight path. Jarrah took controls of the airplane.

A group of passengers attempted to overpower the hijackers and shortly afterwards the plane crashed into the Pennsylvania countryside.

Read the [9/11 Commission Report](#) which describes the last minutes of the flight. 📄 (Chapter 1, pages 11-14)