

High-Intermediate 2
Unit 7: Reading
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Did He Get Away with It?

get away with a crime = commit a crime, run away, and not be captured and punished

A lot of crimes never get solved. The case of Dan Cooper is one that hasn't been. It was the evening before Thanksgiving, late November 1971. On a short flight between Portland and Seattle, a flight attendant was handed a note by a mysterious middle-aged man dressed in a dark suit. The flight attendant thought he was making a romantic advance, so she slipped the note into her pocket. The man leaned closer to her, saying, "Miss, you'd better look at that note. I have a bomb." A bit later he opened his briefcase so that she could see several red cylinders and a lot of wires within. The man, who used the alias "Dan Cooper," was demanding \$200,000, four parachutes, and a plane that would fly him to Mexico.

Passive: A lot of crimes never get solved.

Active: Police officers never solve a lot of crimes.

Thanksgiving = an American holiday which is celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November.

early November = at the beginning of November

mid November = in the middle of November

late November = at the end of November

Passive: A flight attendant was handed a note by a mysterious man.

Active: A mysterious man handed the flight attendant a note.

hand = give

make a romantic advance = seduce

slip = put

within = inside

alias = false name

demand = ask for

The plane proceeded to Seattle with none of the other passengers even aware that it was being hijacked. The other passengers got off the plane, and "Cooper" got what he was demanding. He received the \$200,000, all in twenty-dollar bills that had been photocopied by FBI agents so that they could easily be identified later. Then the plane was refueled and took off for Mexico.

proceed = continue

aware = knowing

hijack = steal a means of transportation
skyjack = hijack an airplane
skyjacker (n.) = a person who hijacks an airplane

Passive: The airplane was being hijacked.

Active: Dan Cooper was hijacking the airplane.

bill = paper money

bill (American) = **note** (British)



FBI = Federal Bureau of Investigation

identify = recognize

Passive: The plane was refueled.

Active: The workers at the airport refueled the airplane.

A few minutes later, Cooper ordered the flight attendant to go to the cockpit and stay there. As she was leaving, she noticed him trying to tie something around his waist—presumably the bag of money. Then he opened the plane's rear stairway and jumped out of the plane. The crew felt pressure bumps which were probably caused by Cooper's jumping off the stairway. When Cooper jumped, into wind and freezing rain, the air temperature was seven degrees below zero. He was wearing no survival gear and only loafers on his feet.

cockpit = the cabin in front of the plane where the pilot and the co-pilot control the airplane

tie = knot

waist = the area under your back and above your buttocks

presumably = probably, possibly

rear = back

crew = the staff of an airplane

bumps = turbulence; sudden movements

below = under

survival gear = survival kit = a set of emergency equipment, including food, medical supplies and tools

loafers = ordinary shoes

Cooper has not been seen or heard from since that night. Who was Cooper? Did he get away with his escapade? Or did he get killed in the process of trying to commit the perfect crime?

Authorities speculate that Cooper landed near Ariel, a small town near the Columbia River north of Portland. Only one real clue has been discovered. Eight and a half years later, in 1980, an eight-year-old boy who was digging in a sandbank unearthed \$5,800 of Cooper's loot. The money was only a few inches below the surface of the earth, but it had been eroded so badly that only the picture and the serial numbers on the bills were visible: Rotting rubber bands were found along with the money, indicating that the cash must have been deposited there before the bands fell apart. Since then, the area has been searched thoroughly, but no trace of Cooper has been found.

Passive: Cooper has not been seen or heard from since that night.

Active: People haven't seen or heard from Cooper since that night.

escapade = an exciting adventure

authorities = officials; people in the government

speculate = think; guess

clue = hint

Passive: Only one real clue has been discovered.

Active: The detectives have discovered only one real clue.

unearth = find something in the ground and take it out

loot _(n.) = stolen money

erode = destroy, damage

Passive: The money had been eroded so badly.

Active: The river water had eroded the money so badly.

rot = decay, perish, decompose

rubber band = an elastic band used to tie bills = كَش

deposit = put; leave

Passive: The money must have been deposited there

Active: Someone must have deposited the money there

Passive: The area has been searched thoroughly.

Active: The police officers have searched the area thoroughly.

Passive: No trace of Cooper has been found.

Active: The police officers have found no trace of Cooper.

So what really happened? Many investigators believe that Cooper had to have been killed by the combination of the weather conditions and the impact of his fall. If this is true, though, why have none of the man's remains ever been discovered? Is more information known about this case than has been released? Have knowledgeable people been prevented from discussing the case? Is Cooper's body lost in some inaccessible part of the wilderness area into which he jumped, or is he living a luxurious life under an alias in some unknown location and driving a Rolls-Royce? Did he have the \$5,800 buried by an accomplice in order to throw authorities off the track? Or did he bury it himself? In Ariel, the small town near where he might have landed, Cooper has become a legend. His story has been depicted in books and articles and even a movie. Patrons of a tavern in Ariel still celebrate the anniversary of the hijacking every year. The bar's owner, Dona Elliot, says, "He did get away with it ... so far." Others don't think so. Jerry Thomas, a retired soldier who has been working independently on the case, thinks Cooper didn't survive the fall and that eventually his body will be found. "I know there is something out here," he says. "There has to be."

The mystery goes on.

investigator = detective

had to have been killed = must have been killed

Passive: Cooper had to have been killed by the combination of the weather conditions and the impact of the fall.

Active: The combination of weather conditions and the impact of the fall had to have killed Cooper.

Passive: Why have none of the man's remains ever been discovered?

Active: Why have people ever discovered none of the man's remains?

Passive: Is more information known (by the authorities) about this case?

Active: Do the authorities know more information about this case?

Passive: ... that has been released (by the authorities)?

Active: ... that the authorities have released?

Passive: Have knowledgeable people been prevented (by the authorities) from discussing the case?

Active: Have the authorities prevented knowledgeable people from discussing the case?

inaccessible = out of reach

wilderness = desert

accomplice = partner in a crime

throw sb off the track = mislead sb

legend = a legendary person; a hero
depict = describe

Passive: His story has been depicted (by the artists) in books and articles and even a movie.

Active: The artists have depicted his story in books and articles and even a movie.

patron = regular customer
tavern = pub, inn, bar
eventually = finally, at last

Passive: His body will be found (by people).

Active: People will find his body.

go on = continue



What D. B. Cooper Looked Like



The Discovered Bills

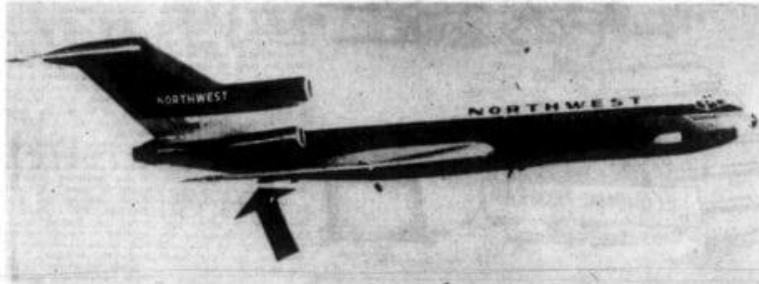


The Notice



The Hijacked Airplane

Hijacker Disappears With \$200,000



LOCATION OF REAR STAIRWELL: This is a Northwest Airlines Boeing 727 jetliner, of the type hijacked between Portland, Ore., and Seattle Wednesday. Arrow locates position of rear stairwell on plane, which was ordered lowered by the hijacker Wednesday night

while the commandeered plane was en route to Heno. The hijacker ransomed the airline and 36 passengers for \$200,000, then apparently made an unprecedented hijacking escape by parachute. (AP Wirephoto)

*** Air Pirate Bails Out Of Jet Liner

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A hijacker who apparently knew precisely what he wanted to do, and how to do it, has vanished after bailing out of a commandeered jet airliner with \$200,000.

The pilot of the Northwest Airlines Boeing 727 said he believed the hijacker "took leave of us" in the Woodland, Wash., area 25 miles north of here as the plane flew low and slow from Seattle to Heno, Nev., en route to the man's demanded destination, Mexico.

Helicopters and airplanes crisscrossed over the brushy

and timbered foothills of the Cascade Mountains east of Thursday before the weather closed in. The hunt resumes today.

Authorities held out little hope, however, that the hijacker would be found soon.

"He's probably long gone," a Clark County, Wash., sheriff's deputy said.

It was the first time an aircraft hijacker had used a parachute to make his escape and it was the largest sum of money an air pirate had ever escaped with in the United States.

Described as a tall, slim man

operate with a static line which rigs them open almost immediately after the jumper leaves his aircraft. The sport chute (See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)



Source:

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