

ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS



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Episode #320

The Florida & Munich Hostage Disasters

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[00:00:00] Hello, hello hello, and welcome to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:00:11] The show where you can listen to fascinating stories, and learn weird and wonderful things about the world at the same time as improving your English.

[00:00:20] I'm Alastair Budge, and today we are going to be talking about [Hostage¹](#) Negotiations.

[00:00:27] This subject is actually going to be told in two parts.

[00:00:31] In this episode, part one, we will tell the story of two [shocking² hostage](#) crises in the early nineteen seventies, one in Florida, in the United States and the other in Munich, in Germany.

¹ someone who is held or taken as security that specified conditions will be met before their release

² horrible and very surprising

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[00:00:43] And in part two, we will look at how the strange world of [hostage negotiations](#)³ has developed since then, and look at some of the strategies and techniques that law enforcement agencies use to [negotiate](#)⁴ with people in a life or death situation.

[00:01:01] Ok then, [hostage negotiations](#).

[00:01:05] Think of the last time you had a conversation with someone.

[00:01:09] How much of the meaning you both [conveyed](#)⁵ was contained in non-verbal [cues](#)⁶ like tone of voice and movement?

[00:01:17] Psychologists would tell you that it was a lot.

[00:01:22] If [subtle](#)⁷ signals like this matter in ordinary conversation, they matter [tenfold](#)⁸ in the life-or-death scenario of [hostage negotiations](#).

³ discussions in order to reach an agreement

⁴ discuss the terms or conditions of hostage release

⁵ passed on, communicated

⁶ signals, indications

⁷ not obvious

⁸ ten times as much

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[00:01:33] **Hostage negotiations** are the most **nerve-wracking**⁹ incidents that a law enforcement team can face.

[00:01:39] The **hostage** taker may have weapons, threaten violence, and be determined to **follow through**¹⁰.

[00:01:46] The police may have more **manpower**¹¹ and weapons than the **hostage-taker**¹², but these capabilities are useless when the **perpetrators**¹³ could harm their victims at any moment.

[00:01:58] The **negotiator**¹⁴ must rely on words, **tone**¹⁵, and body language to work towards a peaceful **resolution**¹⁶.

[00:02:06] And while “peaceful **resolutions**¹⁷” are more common than ever, even a matter of 50 years ago this was certainly not the case.

⁹ causing a lot of worry and anxiety

¹⁰ do what needs to be done until the end

¹¹ number of people available

¹² the one responsible for holding someone as security that specified conditions will be met before their release

¹³ people who have done the illegal or criminal acts

¹⁴ the one who talks with them in order to reach an agreement

¹⁵ a quality in the voice expressing a particular feeling or thought

¹⁶ answer or end to the problem

¹⁷ answers or ends to the problem

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[00:02:16] Police used to [resort to](#)¹⁸ force much more quickly, and the results were often not very pretty.

[00:02:24] One major US [hostage](#) crisis in 1971 highlighted the dangers of this strategy.

[00:02:31] At 1.30 am on October the 3rd 1971, in Nashville, Tennessee, a pilot named Brent Downs waited on the runway next to a [private charter plane](#)¹⁹.

[00:02:45] He was due to fly three passengers to Atlanta, Georgia.

[00:02:51] He stood on the [tarmac](#)²⁰ ready to greet them.

[00:02:55] The three passengers finally arrived on the runway and approached the plane.

[00:03:01] One of them was George Giffe, the man who had booked the flight.

[00:03:06] He was accompanied by his [estranged](#)²¹ wife Susan Giffe and a man called Bobby Wayne Wallace.

[00:03:14] Downs and his co-pilot [struck up](#)²² a conversation with Giffe, while Susan Giffe and the other man waited 100 metres away.

¹⁸ do it as a final solution

¹⁹ an aeroplane that is used for private flights that are not part of a regular airline route

²⁰ material used for covering roads, airport runways etc.

²¹ not living with him

²² started

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[00:03:23] Giffe and his companions seemed ordinary enough.

[00:03:27] That was until the woman – Susan - began screaming that she was being [kidnapped](#)²³.

[00:03:33] Downs, the pilot, was concerned and walked towards her. George Giffe [assured](#)²⁴ him that nothing was wrong.

[00:03:41] The screaming woman was a mental patient having a crisis, he said, and he was her doctor taking her to Atlanta for treatment.

[00:03:50] Downs was still suspicious. He asked Giffe for proof of his identity.

[00:03:55] At this point, Giffe turned a [pistol](#)²⁵, a gun, on the pilot.

[00:04:00] He claimed he had a bomb.

[00:04:02] He and Wallace forced Downs and Susan into the aircraft and ordered Downs, the pilot, to quickly take off.

[00:04:12] With no other option, the pilot took to the air, with Giffe, his [estranged](#) wife, and the third man, Bobby Wayne Wallace.

[00:04:22] The ground crew quickly alerted the FBI.

²³ taken away illegally by force

²⁴ told in a convincing way in order to remove doubt

²⁵ small gun

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[00:04:27] When the plane was in the air, Giffe told Downs to [change course](#)²⁶ from Atlanta to the Bahamas. Downs protested, saying that he would need to refuel in Jacksonville, in Florida.

[00:04:39] It was a small plane, and there simply wasn't enough fuel to go all the way.

[00:04:45] Giffe agreed and Downs called ahead to the airport at Jacksonville to prepare charts, fuel, and [flotation gear](#)²⁷.

[00:04:54] At 5.08 am, the aircraft landed at Jacksonville, Florida, where the FBI was waiting.

[00:05:03] During the flight, the FBI had learned that George Giffe and Bobby Wayne Wallace had [kidnapped](#) Susan, Giffe's [estranged](#) wife, as she left for work.

[00:05:14] When the plane landed, the pilot radioed the tower saying that the [hostage](#) takers were armed with handguns. Giffe claimed to have over 5 kilos of explosives in his luggage.

[00:05:28] Now, the FBI's [priority](#)²⁸ was to keep the plane on the ground.

²⁶ change direction

²⁷ emergency gear used in case of a forced landing on water

²⁸ first concern, most important thing

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[00:05:33] Although this was a **prudent**²⁹ strategy, as it's clearly easier to **negotiate** with someone if they're in the same place, not up in an aeroplane, the FBI soon made its first error.

[00:05:46] Almost immediately after the plane had landed, the primary FBI **negotiator** J.J. O'Connor radioed the **hostage** takers on the plane.

[00:05:56] He refused to give the **hostage** takers the fuel they demanded.

[00:06:01] This **flat-out**³⁰ refusal of a key **hostage** demand closed any possibility of **compromise**³¹ between the agents and Giffe, and ended lines of communication.

[00:06:12] Even the pilot, Brent Downs, knew how dangerous O'Connor's refusal was.

[00:06:18] In **archived**³² footage from the tense 6- minute **standoff**³³, Downs gave the FBI a fearful warning, saying: "You're **endangering**³⁴ lives by doing this".

²⁹ careful, not risky

³⁰ too direct, blunt

³¹ agreement

³² stored, recorded

³³ a situation in which agreement didn't seem possible

³⁴ putting them in danger

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[00:06:29] A few minutes later, Giffe's [accomplice](#)³⁵, Wallace, left the plane [voluntarily](#)³⁶ and was arrested.

[00:06:36] According to commentators after the event, the FBI should have taken this as a small victory.

[00:06:43] They could have [leveraged](#)³⁷ the departure of Giffe's [accomplice](#) and used it to [convince](#)³⁸ Giffe to [surrender](#)³⁹.

[00:06:52] Instead, the FBI chose a different course of action.

[00:06:56] At 5.27 am, the primary [negotiator](#) ordered his agents to shoot. Bullets [pierced](#)⁴⁰ the [tyres](#)⁴¹ of the plane as well as the engine, which was still running.

³⁵ a person who helped him to commit the crime

³⁶ willingly, by choice

³⁷ used it to their advantage

³⁸ persuade, make him do it

³⁹ stop resisting, give himself up

⁴⁰ went into them, making holes

⁴¹ thick rubber rings that surround the wheels

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[00:07:09] As soon as the **firearms**⁴² went off, what was a **tense**⁴³ and dangerous situation **tipped over**⁴⁴ into a deadly one.

[00:07:18] Shots were heard inside the plane.

[00:07:21] Giffe had shot dead the pilot, his wife, and himself.

[00:07:27] It later turned out that Giffe had been suffering from a mental health episode.

[00:07:33] A few years afterwards, the wife of the dead pilot **sued**⁴⁵ the FBI for creating a deadly situation that could have been peacefully resolved.

[00:07:42] She won on appeal, and it was the first time ever that the FBI has been **sued** in a civil suit.

[00:07:50] The tragic **outcome**⁴⁶ of this Florida **hijacking**⁴⁷ underlined how **inadequate**⁴⁸ the law enforcement agencies were when it came to saving lives in a **hostage** crisis.

⁴² guns

⁴³ difficult, very worrying

⁴⁴ overturned, changed

⁴⁵ took legal action against

⁴⁶ result

⁴⁷ taking control of the aircraft illegally

⁴⁸ not good enough

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[00:08:02] They simply didn't know what to do, and thought that by firing at the aeroplane Giffe, the man with the gun, would be frightened into [surrendering](#)⁴⁹.

[00:08:12] Clearly, he wasn't. The shots [tipped him over the edge](#)⁵⁰, and cost the lives of three people.

[00:08:20] Less than a year later, a very different international [hostage](#) event finally shocked law enforcement around the world into taking the psychological aspects of [negotiation](#)⁵¹ seriously.

[00:08:33] This was the 1972 [hostage](#) crisis at the Munich Olympic Games in West Germany.

[00:08:40] A serious [hostage](#) crisis that the world watched [played out](#)⁵² on live TV.

[00:08:46] The attack was organised by Black September, an anti-Israeli terrorist organisation fighting for the cause of Palestinian liberation.

[00:08:56] Unlike the Florida [hijacking](#), the motives of the [perpetrators](#) were political and their demands were clear and [rigid](#)⁵³.

⁴⁹ stopping resisting, giving himself up

⁵⁰ made him lose control

⁵¹ discussion in order to reach an agreement

⁵² developing, happening

⁵³ fixed, not able to be changed

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[00:09:06] Like in the United States, the German authorities did not have a [systemic](#)⁵⁴ set of procedures for handling [hostage](#) crises at the time.

[00:09:15] [In hindsight](#)⁵⁵, this was perhaps surprising, given how politically [turbulent](#)⁵⁶ the late sixties and early seventies were.

[00:09:24] There were tensions over the war in Vietnam, nationalism in the developing world that met [pushback](#)⁵⁷ from imperial nations, and the growth of both right and left wing extremism.

[00:09:36] Terror groups cultivated global networks to train, [recruit](#)⁵⁸, and raise funds for their causes.

[00:09:43] One of the sources of extremism was the 1967 [brutal](#)⁵⁹ war between Egypt and Israel.

[00:09:51] It started after Israel was blocked by Egypt from using a key shipping route.

⁵⁴ organised in advance

⁵⁵ considering it after it has happened

⁵⁶ involving a lot of difficulty and arguments

⁵⁷ negative reaction

⁵⁸ find people to become members of their organisations

⁵⁹ very violent

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[00:09:57] What followed became known as the 6 Day War, and resulted in Israel capturing a lot of territory, including Gaza, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights.

[00:10:08] It also resulted in the capture of thousands of prisoners, the [displacement](#)⁶⁰ of around 300,000 Palestinians, and no simple diplomatic solution to the situation.

[00:10:20] For some Palestinian militant groups, the only way they thought they could weaken Israel would be through terror tactics.

[00:10:29] And although they had been targeting Israel before the war, they were now ready to organise international attacks that could bring the world's attention to their cause.

[00:10:39] So, in July 1972, two men, Abu Iyad and Ali Hassan Salameh, met in a café in Rome.

[00:10:49] They were leaders of the militant Palestinian group, Black September, and it was then that they decided to target the upcoming Olympic Games in Munich.

[00:11:01] Abu Iyah was the one who first proposed kidnapping Israeli athletes to force Israel to release Palestinians from prison.

[00:11:09] They selected seven other young men to carry out the attack, all Palestinian [refugees](#)⁶¹ from camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

⁶⁰ the situation in which they were forced to leave their places

⁶¹ people who had left their countries because of the war

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[00:11:19] For weeks before the Olympic games started, the men **infiltrated**⁶² the Olympic village to understand its layout and security weaknesses.

[00:11:29] Some even got jobs there, giving them full undercover access to the site.

[00:11:35] The Games began on the 26th of August.

[00:11:39] On the 5th of September, the terrorists were ready.

[00:11:43] At 4.30 in the morning they **snuck into**⁶³ 31 Connollystrasse, the apartment block where the Israeli **delegation**⁶⁴ to the Olympic Games were staying.

[00:11:54] They approached apartment 1, which housed 7 Israelis.

[00:11:59] An Israeli **wrestler**⁶⁵, Yossef Gutfrend, was among them.

[00:12:03] He was the first to notice that something was wrong. He heard noises outside the door and watched as it opened slightly. Beyond it, he **glimpsed**⁶⁶ a group of armed men.

[00:12:15] He shouted to warn his roommates and threw himself against the door.

⁶² entered it in order to get information

⁶³ entered quietly and secretly

⁶⁴ group of representatives, mission

⁶⁵ a person who took part in the sport of wrestling

⁶⁶ saw for a short time or briefly

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[00:12:21] He might have been an Olympic [wrestler](#) weighing 135kg, but [he was no match for](#)⁶⁷ 8 armed men.

[00:12:29] The terrorists [overpowered](#)⁶⁸ him and forced him to the floor.

[00:12:34] From there, the eight terrorists [swept](#)⁶⁹ the building, bedroom by bedroom, until they had eleven Israeli athletes held [hostage](#).

[00:12:44] Shots were fired and the village started waking up.

[00:12:48] At 5 am, the Munich chief of police was aware of a disaster [unfolding](#)⁷⁰ within the Olympic Village.

[00:12:55] Soon, the whole world would be [transfixed on](#)⁷¹ Building number 3 of Connollystrasse, in Munich.

[00:13:02] Around a billion viewers [tuned in](#)⁷² that day to watch the Olympic Park crisis [unfold](#)⁷³ on their screens.

⁶⁷ he was unable to compete successfully with

⁶⁸ gained control over, controlled

⁶⁹ controlled, covered

⁷⁰ developing, happening

⁷¹ unable to move because of their great interest in it

⁷² turned on their TVs

⁷³ developing, happening

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[00:13:10] The terrorists knew they had captured the attention of the international community, which is precisely what they had wanted.

[00:13:18] They announced their demand and deadline. The Israeli government must release Palestinian terrorists from jail by 9:00 AM or they would start to execute the [hostages](#)⁷⁴.

[00:13:31] With only a few hours to [comply](#)⁷⁵, there was no time to waste.

[00:13:37] But the German police and security services were [woefully](#)⁷⁶ unprepared, they simply weren't ready, and despite the frequent terror [hostage](#) incidents over the early seventies, the security services were always one step behind.

[00:13:53] There was no armed security or [checkpoints](#)⁷⁷ at the Munich games.

[00:13:58] The institutional [make-up](#)⁷⁸ of German security was also badly equipped to deal with this sort of situation.

[00:14:05] In Germany, power is divided among 16 states, each with its own government.

⁷⁴ people who were held or taken as security that specified conditions will be met before their release

⁷⁵ act according to their demands

⁷⁶ very badly

⁷⁷ spots where security checks would be made

⁷⁸ arrangement, organisation

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[00:14:11] There was no central federal agency responsible for organising [negotiations](#) efforts, which is critical in a [siege](#)⁷⁹ of such international importance.

[00:14:21] Instead of federal personnel, Munich police chief Manfred Schreiber and the interior minister of Bavaria state, Bruno Merk, were chosen as primary [negotiators](#)⁸⁰ who would communicate with the terrorists.

[00:14:35] Appointing the most senior state police chief as [negotiator](#) was, as it would later [transpire](#)⁸¹, a serious mistake.

[00:14:43] Nowadays, a key principle of [hostage negotiation](#) is to appoint a non-senior member that specialises in [hostage](#) dialogue as the primary [negotiator](#).

[00:14:55] This is because a [subordinate](#)⁸² officer, a more junior official, can buy more time by [blaming](#)⁸³ a higher authority for delays in delivering the terrorists' demands.

[00:15:07] As we'll see in part two, [blaming](#) other people to buy time is an important part of [hostage negotiation](#).

⁷⁹ the surrounding of the place by armed forces

⁸⁰ the people who would talk with them in order to reach an agreement

⁸¹ become known

⁸² more junior

⁸³ say that they are responsible for it

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[00:15:15] Fifteen minutes before the 9 am deadline for Israel to release prisoners, nothing had been done to resolve the situation.

[00:15:24] At the last moment, the German authorities sent Olympic [delegates](#)⁸⁴ from Arab nations as [negotiators](#) for the [hostages](#).

[00:15:33] The Egyptian who was chosen for this [appealed](#)⁸⁵ to the [hostage](#) takers to give the Israelis and Germans more time.

[00:15:41] The plan worked and the terrorists agreed to extend the deadline to noon, midday, 12pm.

[00:15:49] But then came the next [glaring](#)⁸⁶ error in the German response.

[00:15:54] The Munich police chief Manfred Schreiber offered the terrorists \$9 million dollars to release the [hostages](#).

[00:16:02] It's over \$60 million dollars in today's money, an enormous [sum](#)⁸⁷.

[00:16:08] But offering this amount of money reflected how badly the authorities understood the motives of the [hostage](#) takers.

⁸⁴ representatives

⁸⁵ asked, requested them

⁸⁶ obvious, striking

⁸⁷ amount of money

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[00:16:16] In a terror **hostage** crisis where the demands are political, **perpetrators** are typically more committed to their political objectives than preserving their own lives.

[00:16:27] A **monetary**⁸⁸ offer can also imply that the authorities believe the terrorists can simply be paid to give up their political demands.

[00:16:36] This risks offending the **perpetrators** and **inflaming**⁸⁹ the situation further.

[00:16:42] This was certainly the case with the Munich crisis.

[00:16:46] The terrorists didn't want money, they wanted their political demands to be met, for the prisoners to be released.

[00:16:53] Israel would not give in to the terrorists' demands but the German authorities had to convince the terrorists otherwise, to stop them from killing the **hostages**.

[00:17:05] They sent the Tunisian ambassador to West Germany to **beg**⁹⁰ the terrorists to give Israel more time. They agreed to a 5 pm deadline.

[00:17:15] At 4.35 p.m., Issa, the leader of the terrorists, demanded that the **hostage** takers, along with their Israeli **hostages**, should be flown to Cairo in Egypt.

[00:17:28] The Germans agreed to this and said a plane would be ready by 7pm.

⁸⁸ relating to money

⁸⁹ making it worse

⁹⁰ ask them in a desperate or urgent way

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[00:17:35] The airfield chosen was called Furstenfeldbruck and the terrorists agreed to be flown there by helicopters piloted by two Germans and a German crew.

[00:17:46] The Germans never planned for the [hostage](#) takers and their [hostages](#) to reach Cairo, their chosen destination.

[00:17:55] Unknown to the terrorists, the Egyptian government was refusing to allow them to land in Egypt.

[00:18:01] The Israelis did not want the [hostages](#) to fly to Egypt either.

[00:18:05] Instead, the Germans planned to rescue the [hostages](#) on the airfield as their captors approached the plane.

[00:18:14] The helicopters carrying the [hostage](#) takers and their [hostages](#) landed at Fürstenfeldbruck airfield at 10:40 pm.

[00:18:23] By then it was dark and the [airstrip](#)⁹¹ was lit in [floodlights](#)⁹².

[00:18:28] The German authorities had [imposed](#)⁹³ a [media blackout](#)⁹⁴ on the Fürstenfeldbruck airfield.

[00:18:35] This was their final chance to save the Israelis.

⁹¹ the long, flat piece of land which aeroplanes use to take off or land

⁹² large, powerful lights

⁹³ forced

⁹⁴ a situation when news about the event was not allowed to be reported

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[00:18:39] Five [snipers](#)⁹⁵, people expert at shooting from a long distance, had been positioned around the airfield, invisible to the terrorists.

[00:18:50] Shockingly, none of them were given [walkie talkies](#)⁹⁶, meaning that they could not coordinate with one another.

[00:18:57] Other critical items were missing from their toolkits.

[00:19:01] They did not have [bulletproof vests](#)⁹⁷ or helmets, and none had [infrared](#)⁹⁸ or [telescopic sights](#)⁹⁹ fitted on their guns.

[00:19:10] They were in the dark, literally and metaphorically.

[00:19:15] When Issa and his deputy Yusuf Nazzal stepped out of the helicopters to check their plane, they quickly became [suspicious](#)¹⁰⁰ it was a [trap](#)¹⁰¹ and started to run back to the helicopter.

⁹⁵ people expert at shooting from a long distance

⁹⁶ small portable radios

⁹⁷ protective coverings to protect them against bullets

⁹⁸ using technology that would allow them to see them in the dark

⁹⁹ devices that would allow them to see distant targets

¹⁰⁰ thinking that something was wrong

¹⁰¹ a situation in which the authorities had planned to attack them

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[00:19:29] At that moment, the **snipers** began firing, shooting two terrorists guarding the helicopter pilots.

[00:19:36] Next, the **snipers** fired on Issa and Nazzal.

[00:19:41] Issa was hit but managed to **crawl**¹⁰² back to the helicopters, where he began firing out into the dark with his machine gun.

[00:19:50] At this point, all the terrorists started shooting at the **snipers** from the cover of the helicopter.

[00:19:56] The scene was **chaos**¹⁰³. Nobody could tell which shots were being fired by whom.

[00:20:03] The small team of five **snipers** could do nothing to **disarm**¹⁰⁴ the terrorists.

[00:20:08] The **firefight**¹⁰⁵ lasted for ten minutes before the Germans called for armoured **backup**¹⁰⁶.

[00:20:14] Until they arrived, there was nothing to do but watch.

¹⁰² move slowly on his hands and knees

¹⁰³ a state of total confusion

¹⁰⁴ take away their weapons

¹⁰⁵ a fight in which guns were used

¹⁰⁶ support or help

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[00:20:19] In all, one German officer was killed, several were injured, and five terrorists were killed.

[00:20:26] After the rescue operation came the final [anguish](#)¹⁰⁷ for the loved ones of the [hostages](#), who had been [anxiously](#)¹⁰⁸ waiting, watching the news.

[00:20:36] The media outlet Reuters reported at 12.30 pm that all [hostages](#) had survived.

[00:20:44] What a [triumph](#)¹⁰⁹!

[00:20:45] Unfortunately, it was wrong.

[00:20:48] After three hours, Reuters corrected their report. All the [hostages](#), 11 Israelis, were lying dead on this dark, German, [airfield](#)¹¹⁰.

[00:21:01] It would remain a black mark on the German security services' reputation for years to come.

¹⁰⁷ extreme worry, agony

¹⁰⁸ in a very worried or nervous way

¹⁰⁹ great success

¹¹⁰ the area where the aeroplanes take off and land

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[00:21:08] Now, even though most countries do have an [explicit¹¹¹](#) policy of “not negotiating with terrorists”, it was clear that Munich had been an [unmitigated¹¹²](#) disaster.

[00:21:20] And while everything is easy with the benefit of [hindsight¹¹³](#), security forces across the globe started to develop systems and best practices for what should have been done.

[00:21:32] Systems and practices that we will discuss in detail in part two, the next episode, where we will look at the question of “How To Negotiate With [Hostage](#) Takers”

[00:21:44] OK then, that is it for today's episode on The Florida & Munich [Hostage](#) Disasters.

[00:21:50] I hope it's been an interesting one, and that you've learnt something new.

[00:21:54] As always, I would love to know what you thought of this episode.

[00:21:57] I imagine you might have known about the Munich Massacre, but were you aware of what happened on another airfield in Florida?

[00:22:04] What do you think the [hostage negotiators](#) got wrong?

[00:22:08] How should they have acted differently?

¹¹¹ clear, exact

¹¹² absolute, complete

¹¹³ understanding the situation only after it has happened

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[00:22:10] I would love to know.

[00:22:12] You can head right into our community forum, which is at community.leonardoenglish.com and get chatting away to other curious minds.

[00:22:19] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:22:24] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

[END OF EPISODE]

Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Hostage	someone who is held or taken as security that specified conditions will be met before their release
Shocking	horrible and very surprising
Negotiations	discussions in order to reach an agreement
Negotiate	discuss the terms or conditions of hostage release
Conveyed	passed on, communicated
Cues	signals, indications
Subtle	not obvious
Tenfold	ten times as much
Nerve-wracking	causing a lot of worry and anxiety
Follow through	do what needs to be done until the end
Manpower	number of people available
Hostage-taker	the one responsible for holding someone as security that specified

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conditions will be met before their release

Perpetrators people who have done the illegal or criminal acts

Negotiator the one who talks with them in order to reach an agreement

Tone a quality in the voice expressing a particular feeling or thought

Resolution answer or end to the problem

Resolutions answers or ends to the problem

Resort to do it as a final solution

Private charter plane an aeroplane that is used for private flights that are not part of a regular airline route

Tarmac material used for covering roads, airport runways etc.

Estranged not living with him

Struck up started

Kidnapped taken away illegally by force

Assured told in a convincing way in order to remove doubt

Pistol small gun

Change course change direction

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Flotation gear	emergency gear used in case of a forced landing on water
Priority	first concern, most important thing
Prudent	careful, not risky
Flat-out	too direct, blunt
Compromise	agreement
Archived	stored, recorded
Standoff	a situation in which agreement didn't seem possible
Endangering	putting them in danger
Accomplice	a person who helped him to commit the crime
Voluntarily	willingly, by choice
Leveraged	used it to their advantage
Convince	persuade, make him do it
Surrender	stop resisting, give himself up
Pierced	went into them, making holes
Tyres	thick rubber rings that surround the wheels

The Florida & Munich Hostage Disasters

Firearms	guns
Tense	difficult, very worrying
Tipped over	overturned, changed
Sued	took legal action against
Outcome	result
Hijacking	taking control of the aircraft illegally
Inadequate	not good enough
Surrendering	stopping resisting, giving himself up
Tipped him over the edge	made him lose control
Negotiation	discussion in order to reach an agreement
Played out	developing, happening
Rigid	fixed, not able to be changed
Systemic	organised in advance
In hindsight	considering it after it has happened
Turbulent	involving a lot of difficulty and arguments

The Florida & Munich Hostage Disasters

Pushback	negative reaction
Recruit	find people to become members of their organisations
Brutal	very violent
Displacement	the situation in which they were forced to leave their places
Refugees	people who had left their countries because of the war
Infiltrated	entered it in order to get information
Snuck into	entered quietly and secretly
Delegation	group of representatives, mission
Wrestler	a person who took part in the sport of wrestling
Glimpsed	saw for a short time or briefly
He was no match for	he was unable to compete successfully with
Overpowered	gained control over, controlled
Swept	controlled, covered
Unfolding	developing, happening
Transfixed on	unable to move because of their great interest in it

The Florida & Munich Hostage Disasters

Tuned in	turned on their TVs
Unfold	developing, happening
Hostages	people who were held or taken as security that specified conditions will be met before their release
Comply	act according to their demands
Woefully	very badly
Checkpoints	spots where security checks would be made
Make-up	arrangement, organisation
Siege	the surrounding of the place by armed forces
Negotiators	the people who would talk with them in order to reach an agreement
Transpire	become known
Subordinate	more junior
Blaming	say that they are responsible for it
Delegates	representatives
Appealed	asked, requested them
Glaring	obvious, striking

The Florida & Munich Hostage Disasters

Sum	amount of money
Monetary	relating to money
Inflaming	making it worse
Beg	ask them in a desperate or urgent way
Airstrip	the long, flat piece of land which aeroplanes use to take off or land
Floodlights	large, powerful lights
Imposed	forced
Media blackout	a situation when news about the event was not allowed to be reported
Snipers	people expert at shooting from a long distance
Walkie talkies	small portable radios
Bulletproof vests	protective coverings to protect them against bullets
Infrared	using technology that would allow them to see them in the dark
Telescopic sights	devices that would allow them to see distant targets
Suspicious	thinking that something was wrong
Trap	a situation in which the authorities had planned to attack them

The Florida & Munich Hostage Disasters

Crawl	move slowly on his hands and knees
Chaos	a state of total confusion
Disarm	take away their weapons
Firefight	a fight in which guns were used
Backup	support or help
Anguish	extreme worry, agony
Anxiously	in a very worried or nervous way
Triumph	great success
Airfield	the area where the aeroplanes take off and land
Explicit	clear, exact
Unmitigated	absolute, complete
Hindsight	understanding the situation only after it has happened

We'd love to get your feedback on this episode.

What did you like? What could we do better?

What did you struggle to understand?

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Let us know in the forum community.leonardoenglish.com