

On September 10th 2001, American secretary of defence Donald Rumsfeld held a press conference, announcing that \$2.3 trillion was missing from the United States Department of Defence, more commonly known as the Pentagon. Around 25% of the total spending of the Pentagon could not be accounted for, he said.

The military, Rumsfeld implied, had a hole in it's cargo pants pocket.

A team of accountants, auditors and bookkeepers had already been set up in the western side of the Pentagon to investigate the case of the missing money.

Israeli/American citizen Dov Zakheim was in charge of the Pentagon's finances at the time. Before obtaining his position as the Pentagon's money-handler, he was an executive at *System Planning Corporation*, a defence contractor specializing in electronic warfare technologies, including remote- controlled aircraft systems.

At 9.37am on the day following the press conference, it was reported that an American Airline plane, Flight 77, had crashed into the west side of the Pentagon, causing that part of the building to collapse. 187 people were killed and most of the documents kept in the department were destroyed.

Dov Zakheim moved back to Israel shortly after the attack, and the hole in the pocket was never mentioned again.

Within moments of the incident numerous media sources started to report that an airplane had crashed into the Pentagon. Of the few images released from the site, none of them showed any parts of Flight 77 -before or after the crash. An official spokesperson informed that the engine of the Boeing 757-223 that had hit the building had vaporised as a result of the crash. There was close to no airplane debris to be found at the site. Instead, images started to circulate of an approximately 100 feet wide hole in a brick wall.

Despite the fact that several security cameras were permanently installed on and around the Pentagon, no images of the plane hitting the building were ever released. With the lack of photographic evidence of the airplane crash, a less solid airplane formed in the collective mind: An invisible object as real as any Flight 77 could ever be. This collective phantom took the form of a silver coloured American Airlines plane, with red and blue stripes down the side and a wingspan of 124 feet.

In 2016, Wikileaks released a number of emails sent between Dov Zakheim and Donald Rumsfeld. One of them contained this poem:

*A gaping hole in what was never a body
filled with the distance between any two in the world
A hole in the centre of my frail foundation
A cover-up of that which we have avoided forever; that gaping nothing in the centre of
everything
I am yet too fearful to look straight at that empty space
though I know one day we all must see
All the holes in the world I filled
until then
with Flight 77*