



for another pass, and I saw it, like, spinning. And I got up and ran over to the water, and yelled to the family, you know, that it was going to crash. And I saw that it was going to crash like right in front of our shore home. So I ran around the front of the building. And just as I got around the front of the building, I had heard=97seen the plane come down and crash like a pancake. A few seconds later the pilot had come down with a large, hard thump. He came down rather fast. And I ran over to him, he was about 50 to 70 feet from the plane. It was all on fire. The house had started to catch on fire.

COURIC: So it crashed in what, the house next to yours?

Ms. STUMPF: One shore up from ours.

COURIC: So when you approached the pilot, tell me what happened? He was unconscious, is that right?

Ms. STUMPF: Well, he was laying on his side. I don=92t know whether he was really unconscious or just had the wind knocked out of him. I went over to him and rolled him over. And I=97I was trying to get his helmet or air-breathing apparatus off his face, and he reached up and grabbed my hand and started to come to. And he took his helmet off, and his first concern was, what he had hit, if there were any people hurt. And I told him I thought that the house was empty, that there was no one in the house. Then...

COURIC: But you weren=92t able to completely reassure him that...

Ms. STUMPF: No.

COURIC: ...no one had been seriously hurt from this, were you?

Ms. STUMPF: No, I wasn=92t able to really reassure him. He was very concerned about the people on the ground. That was his first concern.

COURIC: Did he=97did he explain to you why the plane crashed or what happened up there?

Ms. STUMPF: Well, he made=97he=97he did make the remark that he was surprised that he had been alive, that he lived through it. He said he tried=97he asked me, like, what he had hit. He said =91Did you see what we=97what I had hit?=92 And, you know, at first I didn=92t put it together. But, apparently, maybe when the plane fell apart, something came back and it seemed like it hit him. At first he thought he had hit something. And his concern was to stay with the plane until he could get it over the water so that it would be safe and not hit anybody.

COURIC: And he really wanted to stay in control of the plane and not eject, correct? Is that what he told you?

Ms. STUMPF: Yes. Yes, he did. He stayed in it until the last minute. He tried to hold it together he said.

COURIC: Then the military, I guess, came by and they used your house as a command center, is that right?

Ms. STUMPF: Yes, they did. They came in and they=97we had taken=97my sister-in-law and I had gotten the pilot up, because he was only about 50 to 70 feet from the burning plane. We were concerned that it may blow up, so we had gotten him up and took him over and sat him on a chair. And he was watching the plane burn. He was still very much concerned if there was anybody around. And he was very concerned because he had upset the children at the=97my two nephews at the party very much with the crash. Because it=92s not something that, you know=97it was very unusual.

COURIC: I=92ll say. I mean, how=97how are you feeling now? I mean, quite a bizarre day for you, a bizarre afternoon. You were just having a little party for your husband and I guess your mother-in-law as well, right?

Ms. STUMPF: Yes. Yes.

COURIC: Are you...

Ms. STUMPF: I mean, it was very=97it was just bizarre, like you said. It was something that you would think couldn=92t happen, but it did. The true miracle in the whole thing is that no one was hurt or injured seriously.

COURIC: It really is a miracle. Diane Stumpf, thank you so much for talking with us this morning.

