FLIGHT 1862

WHEN THE STORY OUTLIVED THE EVIDENCE

A documentary investigation into an air disaster, the search for answers, and the narratives that followed.

04 OCT 1992

AMSTERDAM BIJLMERMEER

CONCEPT & SOURCE ACCESS / HENK PRUIS

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

A disaster. An investigation. A story that never ended.

On 4 October 1992, an El Al Boeing 747 crashed into Amsterdam's Bijlmermeer district. Investigators worked to establish what happened. But decades later, contested claims about the flight, its cargo and the authorities continued to shape public memory.

What happens when public narratives become more persistent than the evidence available to test them?

NARRATIVE ENGINE

Three intertwined stories

01

THE CRASH

A 747 loses two engines over Amsterdam. Investigators reconstruct the technical failure, the aircraft’s condition and its final minutes.

02

THE AFTERMATH

Residents confront loss, fear and unanswered questions. Cargo, health, communication and trust become part of the disaster’s legacy.

03

THE NARRATIVE

Claims and counterclaims move through journalism, politics and popular culture. What can original records settle, and what remains disputed?

WHY THIS PROJECT IS DISTINCTIVE

Access to the records — not merely retellings

01	**Original investigation material**	Technical reports, timelines and working documents from the 1992–93 investigation.
02	**An eyewitness investigator**	Henk Pruis worked on powerplant and fuel systems and the examination of recovered wreckage.
03	**A navigable public archive**	Indexed documents, source references and research material accessible through the project website.

DOCUMENTARY QUESTIONS

Follow the evidence

What caused two engines to separate?

Engineering records, wreckage analysis and the accident report.

What does the recorded flight path show?

Radar data, flight-recorder evidence and reconstructed timelines.

What was known about the cargo?

Documents, later inquiries and the distinction between findings and allegations.

How did confidence fracture?

Residents’ experiences, official communication, media framing and political debate.

EDITORIAL APPROACH

A human story, not a verdict

LISTEN

Give residents, survivors and bereaved families room to describe the event and its lasting consequences.

VERIFY

Distinguish primary evidence, later interpretations and questions that cannot be resolved with certainty.

CHALLENGE

Invite independent specialists and fair responses from relevant journalists, officials and other participants.

The film should be independently researched and produced. Access to the archive does not predetermine the film's conclusions.

PROPOSED FORMAT & VISUAL LANGUAGE

A cinematic investigation

80–90

MINUTE FEATURE

Alternative: 3 × 45-minute documentary series

ARCHIVE	1992 footage, photographs, reports, press coverage
RECONSTRUCTION	Maps, flight-path animation, technical visualisations
INTERVIEWS	Residents, investigators, scholars, journalists and officials
CONTRAST	What was asserted / what the source record shows

THE MOMENT

An international story with renewed public interest

35 YEARS

The 35th anniversary in October 2027 offers a natural moment for renewed reflection and public conversation.

AUDIENCE

Jochem Boodt's English-language video (October 2026) introduced the case to a large international online audience.

EDUCATION

A Dutch-language book and planned educational engagement in 2027 provide opportunities for further inquiry.

WHAT A PRODUCTION PARTNER CAN EXPLORE

An invitation to investigate

AVAILABLE STARTING POINTS

- Access to a curated document archive and indexed original sources
- An investigator who can explain technical findings and historical context
- Potential leads for archival footage, experts, participants and further interviews
- A public historical resource available for independent fact-checking

All archival imagery, broadcasts and third-party materials require separate rights clearance. Participation and production access are subject to agreement.

DOCUMENTARY DEVELOPMENT ENQUIRIES

The next chapter is open

HENK PRUIS

Former aircraft accident investigator · archive curator

www.elal1862accidentinvestigation.nl

SOURCE & CONTEXT LINKS

Primary archive: elal1862accidentinvestigation.nl
Jochem Boodt, The Present Past (9 October 2026): youtube.com/watch?v=kV42lYbOjbo
Beatrice de Graaf, NRC column (1 October 2026): see Utrecht University publications