

# Haunted daily by the Air-India tragedy



JOHN LEHMANN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

For almost two decades, Vancouver airline clerk Jeanne Bakermans relives checking-in a suitcase connecting to Air-India Flight 182.

## 'It's really put a big scar on my heart'

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For almost 20 years, Jeanne Bakermans has been haunted by a slow-motion movie that plays over and over in her mind.

She sees herself bending down at a CP Air check-in counter in Van-

couver and changing an orange, destination-Toronto tag on a suitcase to a pink international tag, connecting to Air-India Flight 182.

The movie does not have a happy ending. The Air-India flight exploded in mid-air off the Irish coast, killing all 329 people on board, making it, at the time, the worst aviation terrorist attack in history.

The plane was brought down by a bomb hidden in the suitcase that Ms. Bakermans forwarded to the doomed flight. She did so even though the passenger's reservation had been confirmed only as far as Toronto. He never boarded the Air-India plane.

Today, she remains tortured by the thought of what might have

been, if only she had kept the orange tag on.

"It's really put a big scar on my heart," Ms. Bakermans said, struggling to keep her emotions in check as she talked publicly for the first time about her fateful decision and its aftermath.

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