

# MH17 facts

Departed  
10.30 GMT  
Thursday



Amsterdam  
NETHERLANDS

11.00 GMT

NST 19/7/14 AAS 4.

12.00 GMT

GERMANY

POLAND

Amsterdam  
NETHERLANDS

UKRAINE

Kuala Lumpur  
MALAYSIA

Kiev

RUSSIA

UKRAINE

13.00 GMT

Donetsk

300km

Disappears  
from flight  
radar at  
13.21 GMT

## PLANE HISTORY

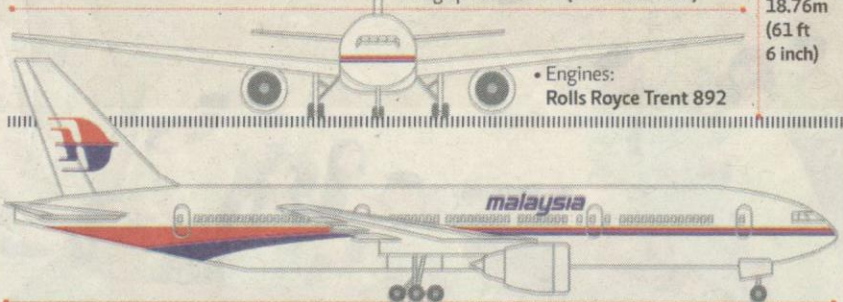
- Aircraft Type: **Boeing 777-200ER**
- Number Of Aircrafts: **13\***
- Registration Number: **9M-MRD**
- First Flight: **July 17, 1997**
- Delivered: **July 30, 1997**

- Age: **17 years**
- Configuration: **Business Class 35 Seats; Economy Class 247 seats.**
- Passenger seating capacity: **282**

Wing span: **60.93m (199 ft 11 inch)**

Height:  
**18.76m (61 ft 6 inch)**

- Engines:  
**Rolls Royce Trent 892**

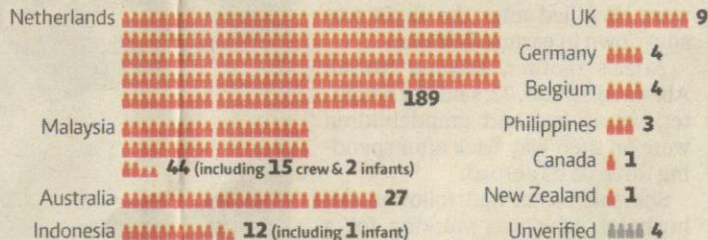


- Length: **63.73 m (209 ft 1 inch)**
- Range: **12,779 km (6,900 nm)**

- Max fuel capacity: **47,380 US Gallons**
- Cruising speed: **Mach 0.84 (897 km/h)**

\* There were originally 15 Boeing 777-200 ER, there are two less following MH370 disappearance on March 8 and the downing of MH 17 on July 17.

## NATIONALITIES



INFOGRAPHIC: NST BY AHMAD YUSRI

## MH 17 FACT BOX

Date: **July 17, 2014**

Location: **Near Hrabove, Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine**

Coordinates: **48°7'56"N 38°39'19"E**

Passengers: **283**

Crew: **15**

Survivors: **Nil**

Aircraft: **Boeing 777- 200ER**

Operator: **Malaysia Airlines**

Plane Registration: **9M-MRD**

Flight Number: **MH 17**

Flight Time:

**11 hours and 28 minutes**

Flight Distance: **6,368km**

Flight Speed: **490 knots**

Flight Height: **10,000m**

Flight Origin:

**Amsterdam Airport Schiphol**

Destination: **Kuala Lumpur International Airport**

Flight Departure Time:

**12.14pm (7.14pm Malaysian Time)**

Flight Arrival Time: **6.10am**

**(Malaysian Time)**

Flight Disappearance Time:

**10.15pm (Malaysian Time)**



**Puan Sri Siti Amirah Kusuma** was one of 44 Malaysians on board MH17

## Step-grandma of Najib was aboard flight

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Najib Razak's step-grandmother, Puan Sri Siti Amirah Kusuma, was one of 44 Malaysians on board Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 which crashed in Ukraine on Thursday.

A family spokesman Datin Faridah Abdullah said Siti was travelling alone on her way back to Jogjakarta, Indonesia, from Amsterdam and intended to transit at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

She was 83 years old and was once married to Tan Sri Mohammad Noah Omar as his second wife.

Tan Sri Noah, who passed away in 1990, was Najib's grandfather.

# Families tell of twisted fate

**BUTTERWORTH:** "There is nothing anyone can do... what has happened... has happened."

Those were the only words Jijar Singh could muster as he tried to hold back tears when talking about his son, Malaysia Airlines (MAS) steward, Sanjid Singh Sandhu, 41, who was among the 298 who died after MH17 crashed in eastern Ukraine.

His family is finding it all the more difficult to accept what had happened to him as Sanjid, who was also known as Bobby, had apparently switched duties to be on the ill-fated flight instead of another one that he had been rostered to fly in.

Ironically, his wife, Tan Bee Geok, 43, who is also a MAS stewardess, experienced a reverse twist of fate when she swapped duties and did not fly on MH370, which went missing in March.

Tan had also swapped flights with a colleague and escaped death when flight MH370 ended in the southern Indian Ocean.

Speaking from the family home in Taman Selamat, Alma, near here, Jijar said: "His wife was meant to fly on MH370, but she swapped with her colleague at the last minute.

"Bobby swapped flights and this happened. He was our only son."

Sanjid's mother, fondly called Anne, 73, said Sanjid called



**Jijar Singh**, father of MAS steward **Sanjid Singh Sandhu**, holds back tears while speaking to the press at his home in **Taman Selamat Alma**, Bukit Mertajam, yesterday. Pic by Danial Saad

her a few hours before flying off from Amsterdam.

She said Sanjid had asked her to prepare his favourite dishes to welcome him home yesterday.

Jijar and Anne learnt about their son's fate from their daughter, Sanjid's elder sibling, Sheila Kaur Sandhu.

A former MAS stewardess, she had called her parents about the news from Italy about 4am.

Jijar said he had undergone heart bypasses twice and his daughter

waited very much later to tell the news although she had known about it much earlier.

"She dared not tell us earlier.

"I am 71 and my wife is 73. My whole body is shivering," said the former Lembaga Letrik Negara (now Tenaga Nasional Bhd) employee.

Sanjid, Tan and their 10-year-old son, Hans Singh Sandhu, reside in Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, another MH17 stewardess, Nur Shazana Mohamed Salleh, 31, had made her parents

promise to join her to visit the graves of their relatives on the second day of Hari Raya.

Her father, Mohamed Salleh Samuddin, said she also planned to recite the Yasin at her grandmother's grave.

"We were really looking forward to her joining us for Hari Raya.

"All her three younger siblings and their children were also going to be with us, and now, I am not so sure."

Salleh and his wife, Shahrom Ibrahim, 57, were a picture of grief when met at their double-storey link house here.

The couple suspected something amiss when they saw a CNN news report on the jetliner's crash on Thursday night.

He tried to reach her by phone and online messenger, but to no avail. He also tried to call MAS on her whereabouts, but was unsuccessful.

However, he received the dreaded call about 11pm and MAS officials told him that Nur Shazana could be onboard the plane and that they were still trying to verify her status.

Shortly later, Salleh received another call from MAS confirming his worst fears.

"My wife cried uncontrollably when I related the sad news.

"We are still praying very hard that she and the others are still alive."

# One family, two tragedies

NST 19/7/14 MS5.

**DOUBLE BLOW:** Aussie family loses two members in MH370 and MH17 tragedies

## KUALA LUMPUR

**A**N Australian family have been struck by both Malaysia Airlines (MAS) tragedies, losing two members of their extended family in the MH17 crash four months after another couple went missing on MH370.

The couple, Maree and Albert Rizk, who were returning to Melbourne after a holiday in Europe, died on Thursday when MH17 came down in eastern Ukraine, Australian media reported.

Maree's father is married to a member of a Queensland family who lost husband and wife Rodney and Mary Burrows on MH370 when it disappeared enroute from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, Rodney's brother Greg Burrows said.

Burrows said he did not want to make a statement on behalf of the



*In this March 25 photo, Rodney Burrows' son and sister, Jayden Burrows and Kaylene Mann, hold hands as they read a statement to the media in Brisbane, Australia. On Friday, Mann found out that her stepdaughter, Maree Rizk, was killed on MH17. AP pic*

Rizk family, but said "we've got no ill feelings with Malaysia Airlines."

"Nobody could predict this one and nothing's been proven on the first one, so there's nothing there. We are still waiting for answers on the first one."

MAS flight MH17 was carrying

298 people, including 27 Australians, when it came down over rebel-held territory in Ukraine, with United States officials saying it appeared to have been shot down by a surface-to-air missile.

Rodney and Mary Burrows were returning from a holiday abroad with friends when they boarded

MH370 in March.

"They were beautiful people and we loved them dearly. Hopefully, it was quick for them," an anonymous neighbour said.

No trace has ever been found of MH370, which is thought to have crashed into the southern Indian Ocean. **AFP**

# MH17 had a clean record

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Boeing B777-200 aircraft that was shot down by a surface-to-air missile in the Ukrainian airspace, had a clean bill of health and a regular maintenance record.

MAS, in a statement issued yesterday, said the aircraft, which bore registration number 9M-MRD, underwent its last maintenance check on July 11.

MAS said the aircraft had been in service for 17 years since it was manufactured in July 1997.

"The aircraft had recorded 75,322 hours with 11,434 cycles and all the communication system on the aircraft were functioning normally."

MAS announced that its European flights would take alternative routes and would avoid the usual route with immediate effect. MH17, which was on a scheduled flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, crashed in Donetsk in Ukraine.

# MH17 chronology

INFOGRAPHIC: NST

## JULY 17

**19:14** - MH17 departs Amsterdam Airport Schiphol for Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

**22:15** - Malaysia Airlines confirms notification from Ukrainian ATC that it had lost contact with flight MH17, 50km from the Russia-Ukraine border.

**23:24** - Russian Interfax news agency report says a passenger plane has crashed in eastern Ukraine.

**23:34** - Interfax reports 295 people — 280 passengers and 15 crew members — were on board the flight.

**23:36** - Interfax quotes Anton Herashchenko, an adviser to Ukrainian deputy interior minister confirming the crash.

**23:50** - AP quotes an adviser to Ukrainian Interior Minister Anton Gerashenko saying MH17 was flying at an altitude of 10,000 metres (33,000 feet) when it was "hit by a missile fired from a Buk launcher".

**23:54** - Boeing Airlines tweets: We are aware of reports on MH17. We're gathering more information.



## JULY 18

**00:00am** - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak tweets: "I am shocked by reports that an MH plane crashed. We are launching an immediate investigation".

**00:02** - Interfax-Ukraine news agency quotes Ukraine interior minister as saying he believes all 295 passengers on board were killed.

**00:05** - Reuters reports that Ukraine prime minister has launched an investigation into the "airplane catastrophe".

**00:07** - AFP reports that US stocks fall sharply amid reports on MH17.

**00:14** - Reuters reporter reaches crash scene and describes seeing burning wreckage of airplane and bodies on the ground.

**00:15** - Interfax quotes Ukrainian presidential press service as saying that Ukrainian armed forces were not involved in MH17 "being brought down".

**00:26** - Pro-Russia separatists in Donetsk denied bringing down the aircraft, according to Interfax.

**00:28** - Reuters quotes emergency services as saying that at least 100 bodies was found at crash scene, debris scattered up to about 15 km radius.

**00:30** - MH17 could have been shot down, says Ukraine President Petro

Poroshenko in a statement.

**00:31** - Reuters reports Eastern Ukraine separatist leader Alexander Borodai as saying MH 17 was shot down by Ukrainian government forces, Kiev denies.

**00:56** - Reuters tweets: The site of a Malaysia Airlines plane crash in the settlement of Grabovo in Donetsk region.

**01:04** - Boeing says it stands ready to provide whatever assistance requested by authorities.

**01:24** - Interfax quotes Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko as saying the incident was a "terrorist act".

**01:29** - Russian News Agency RIA Novosti tweets: Putin expresses his "sincere condolences" to Malaysian PM.

**01:41** - Reuters tweets: #BREAKING: Number of dead from crash of #MH17 more than 300, includes 23 U.S. citizens: Interior Ministry adviser, quoted by Interfax.

**01:42** - MH17 appeared to have broken up before impact, wreckage scattered over a wide area in the village of Grabovo, AP reports.

**02:04** - MH17 was flying normally without any problems until it disappeared from radar, the head of Ukraine's airspace regulation body quotes Reuters.



**02:08** - Russian President Vladimir Putin offers his condolences to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

**02:08** - French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius says "at least" four French nationals were on board the flight, AFP reports.

**02:13** - President Barack Obama says the plane crash is a "terrible tragedy" and that his first priority will be to determine if US citizens were on board.

**02:26** - Anxious friends and family await news of their loved ones at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport:

**02:28** - Flight recorders found at the crash site, Konstantin Knyrik, a spokesman for the pro-Russian rebels, tells Interfax.

**02:34** - Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong expresses shock and is sad to hear about the crash.

**02:46** - Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko calls for an immediate establishment of a State Commission to investigate the crash.

**02:57** - European airlines steer clear of Ukraine's airspace.

**03:59** - U.S. airlines voluntarily agree to avoid airspace near the Russia-Ukraine border.

**04:04** - International Civil Aviation Organisation says it was closely monitoring reports on the incident and coordinating with all relevant parties.

**04:12** - International Air Transport Association (IATA) says MH17 was believed to be flying over non-restricted airspace.

**04:41** - US Vice-President, Joe Biden says MH17 was shot down.

**05:01** - Ukrainian authorities declare east of the country a no-fly zone after MH17 crash.

**05:20** - Datuk Seri Najib Razak vows to find out what caused MH17 crash, if it was shot down, Malaysia insist the perpetrators be swiftly brought to justice.

**05:30** - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon calls for a full international investigation.

**10:18** - Shares in Malaysia Airlines tumble almost 18 per cent, after Bursa Saham Malaysia opens trading.

