



The 2001 World Trade Center Attack

by Jacqueline Dembar Greene



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Terrorists use two jets to topple towers

NEW YORK (AP) — Shortly after Tuesday, American Airlines flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. It was a jetliner that would not return.

Something happened shortly after 9 a.m. An apparent hijacking. Instantly, the plane veered south, to New York.

Clyde Ebanks, vice president of the company, was at a meeting on the South Tower of the World Trade Center when his boss said, "Look at that."

He turned and through a window he saw the other building go by and hit the other building. It was 8:45 a.m.

Per Peter Dicerbo and 44 other people on the 11th floor of the Union National Bank, it was a weekday — a beautiful day, with a breeze off the Hudson River and the windows on the 47th floor open.

And then, "I just heard the building knock me on the floor. It was a roar, then the building started to fall. That's what really scared me."

Harnet Griman, inside the building on the trade center's first floor, heard a boom, "and then we saw it falling."

About 15 minutes later, Lee works nearby, in Tribeca. He thought was a plane making a sharp turn, he saw a plane that looked like it was falling.

"It was going to hit something and exploded inside," he said.

Two towers, two direct hits. The chaos was immediate.

Dicerbo led his 44 colleagues down the stairs. He staggered away from his clothes torn, the workers dazed and coughing.

"The minute I got out of the building, I saw a plane hit the building blow up," said house, 34, from Union, N.J., the senator into the World Trade Center. She "heard this big boom."

"All this stuff started falling. Smoke was coming through the windows, falling, and jumping out of the sky."

Emergency vehicles flooded the streets.

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The south tower of New York's World Trade Center on Tuesday.

Military tightens security after terrorists' attacks

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — The Navy dispatched aircraft carriers to the area, also was made available. Also deployed were an

Also deployed were an

clashed to their heads in horror, stood at bombboxes set up outside stores to listen to the news. Others gathered around cars, their doors open and radios turned up high. Looking down West Street,

ing evacuated from a meeting on the 52nd floor of One World Trade Center, when he saw four severely burned people on the stairwell. "I tried to help them but they didn't want anyone to touch them."

locked around, the lobby was gone. It looked like hell," Jennings said. Boris Ozensky, 47, computer networks analyst, was on the 70th floor of one of the buildings when he felt some-

in front of a nearby hotel was trying to calm a panicked woman when the building suddenly collapsed.

"I just got blown away where, and then it was in darkness. We tried to get away, but I was blown to the ground. And I was trying to help this woman, but I couldn't find her in the darkness," Ozensky said.

After the dust cleared, found the hysterical woman and took her to a restaurant being used by rescue workers as a triage center.

As most people fled the area, others were drawn

And then the same huge clouds and debris and came through the building I work in collapsed out the sun. The building I work in collapsed. Gabriel Iannuzzi, an American Airlines spokesman, announced that the planes had gone down. No local news was not confirmed whether the plane that hit the Pentagon or one that hit the World Trade Center. "I believe what's happened. Get out to all of these people, believe there is justice," said Martha. A daughter died in the April 1995 crash.



New York's World Trade Center on Tuesday.

News of a Disaster

It was a sunny fall morning in New York City on September 11, 2001. At 8:46 A.M., firefighters at the station house of Ladder Company 6 heard a loud noise. They looked up in surprise. A jet roared above them. It was flying low—too low.

**North
Tower**

**South
Tower**

In another fire station about 100 blocks north, the **intercom** crackled on. A voice told the firefighters to turn on the television, quickly. Commander Richard Picciotto (*pich-ee-OH-toh*), or “Chief Pitch,” watched the news, stunned.

“I saw what everyone else saw,” he later remembered. “The North Tower of the World Trade Center, smoking like crazy.” He could barely believe his eyes. A plane had crashed into the **skyscraper**.



Smoke poured from the North Tower. It had been struck between the 94th and 98th floors by American Airlines Flight 11.

The Twin Towers were made up of the North Tower and the South Tower. About 50,000 people worked in the Twin Towers. Each day 26,000 tourists visited the buildings.

Racing to the Rescue

Within minutes, a crew from Ladder Company 6 arrived at the scene. Chunks of **debris** were falling from the burning building.

The firefighters dashed inside the North Tower. Each of them was carrying gear that weighed about 60 pounds (27 kg). Suddenly, they felt a jolt. A second plane had just crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center. It was 9:03 A.M.

As people below watched in horror, United Airlines Flight 175 crashed between the 78th and 84th floors of the South Tower.



Chief Pitch saw the second plane crash on television. At once, he was on his way. He drove to the World Trade Center at full speed, with sirens blaring. There, he saw flames shooting from the top floors of both towers.



“The second plane . . . didn’t simply hit the building, it exploded through it.”

—Owen Burdick, who saw the events a few blocks away from the World Trade Center

When they were completed in 1973, the Twin Towers were the tallest buildings in the world. Each tower had 110 **stories**. The South Tower was 1,362 feet (415 m) tall. The North Tower was 1,368 feet (417 m) high.

The island of Manhattan makes up part of New York City, along with Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx.

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About the Author

Jacqueline Dembar Greene is an award-winning author of more than 20 fiction and nonfiction books and stories, including *The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire*. She has illustrated some of her nonfiction books with original photographs. Learn more at www.jdgbooks.com.



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It was a sunny fall morning in New York City. Firefighters from Ladder Company 6 looked up in surprise. A jet roared above them. It was flying low—too low. Suddenly it crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Within minutes, the crew from Ladder Company 6 arrived on the scene. As they began their heroic rescue efforts, a second plane crashed into the South Tower. Soon emergency workers from all over the city rushed to the site to help. When the disaster finally ended, the survivors—along with the rest of the country—would remember and honor the thousands who had died on this tragic day.

The *Challenger* Space Shuttle Explosion

Emergency at Three Mile Island

The *Exxon Valdez*'s Deadly Oil Spill

The Great Chicago Fire

The *Hindenburg* Disaster

Nightmare on the *Titanic*

The Texas City Disaster

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire

The 2001 World Trade Center Attack

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