

# DISASTER

## World Trade Center gone

Hijacked airplanes crash into twin towers, the Pentagon and a rural Pennsylvania town

David Crary  
and Jerry Schwartz

The Associated Press

NEW YORK – In the most devastating terrorist onslaught ever waged against the United States, hijackers crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center on Tuesday, toppling its twin towers. The world watched on television as another plane slammed into the Pentagon and a fourth crashed outside Pittsburgh.

“Today, our nation saw evil,” President Bush said in an address to the nation Tuesday night. He said thousands of lives were “suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.”

Establishing the death toll could take weeks. The four airliners alone had 266 people aboard, and there were no known survivors. Officials put the number of dead and wounded at the Pentagon at about 100 or more,

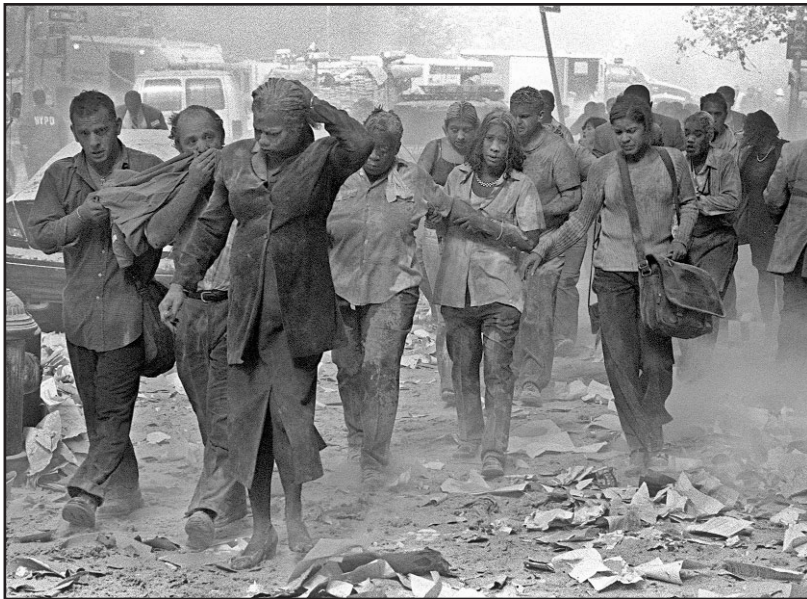
with some news reports suggesting it could rise to 800.

In addition, a union official said he feared 300 firefighters who first reached the scene had died in rescue efforts at the trade center – where 50,000 people worked – and dozens of police officers were missing.

“The number of casualties will be more than most of us can bear,” a visibly distraught Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

Police sources said that some people trapped in the twin towers managed to call authorities or family members and that some trapped police officers made radio contact. In one of the calls, which took place in the afternoon, a businessman phoned his family to say he was trapped with policemen, whom he named, the source said.

see **DISASTER**, page 3



GULNARA SAMOILOVA • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People make their way amid debris near the World Trade Center in New York Tuesday. In one of the most horrifying attacks ever against the United States, terrorists crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center in a deadly series of blows that brought down the twin 110-story towers.

## A city torn apart

Helen O'Neill

The Associated Press

NEW YORK – As night fell, the city moved past the nightmarish scenes of people on fire jumping from buildings and braced itself for more pain: picking through the rubble for the dead and the injured.

Crews began heading into ground zero of the terrorist attack to search for survivors and recover bodies. The downtown area was cordoned off and a huge rescue effort was under way. Gov. George Pataki mobilized the National Guard to help, and hundreds of volunteers and medical workers converged on triage centers, offering services and blood.

One man caught under the rubble used his cell phone to reach family in Pennsylvania with a plea for help.

“She received a call from him saying he was still trapped under the World Trade Center. He gave specific directions and said he was there along with two New York City sergeants,” said Brian Jones, 911 coordinator in Allegheny County. He would not give their names, but said the message was passed to New York authorities.

Paramedics waiting to be sent into the rubble were told that “once the smoke clears, it’s going to be massive bodies,” according to Brian Stark, an ex-Navy paramedic who volunteered to help. He said the paramedics had been told that “hundreds of police and firefighters are missing” from the ranks of those sent in to respond to the initial crash.

“I hope we get patients,” said medical student Eddie Campbell, who rushed to help at one of the centers.

“But they’re not coming out. They’re in there,” he said, pointing down the street to where the World Trade Center once stood.

Emergency Medical Service worker Louis Garcia said initial reports indicated that bodies were buried beneath the two feet of soot on streets around the twin towers. Garcia, a 15-year veteran, said bodies “are all over the place.”

Eight hours after the catastrophe began, hundreds of firefighters sat on the West Side Highway or leaned against their rigs, waiting for orders to go into the leveled skyscrapers and search for what they feared would be hundreds of bodies – including many colleagues.



CHAO SOI CHEONG • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke billows from one of the towers of the World Trade Center, and flames and debris explode from the second tower Tuesday after the New York landmark was hit by terrorist plane attacks. The destruction was one of most horrifying attacks against the United States in history. Damage from the blows caused the twin 110-story towers to crash to the ground.



KAMNEKO PAJIC • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue workers look over damage at the Pentagon Tuesday. The Pentagon burst into flames and a portion of one side of the five-sided structure collapsed after the building was hit by an aircraft in an apparent terrorist attack.

## Bush addresses a nation in chaos

Sandra Sobieraj

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – A grim-faced President George W. Bush condemned ghastly attacks in Washington and New York on Tuesday and vowed to “find those responsible and bring them to justice.”

In the second Oval Office address of his presidency, Bush said the United States would retaliate against “those behind these evil acts,” and any country that harbors them.

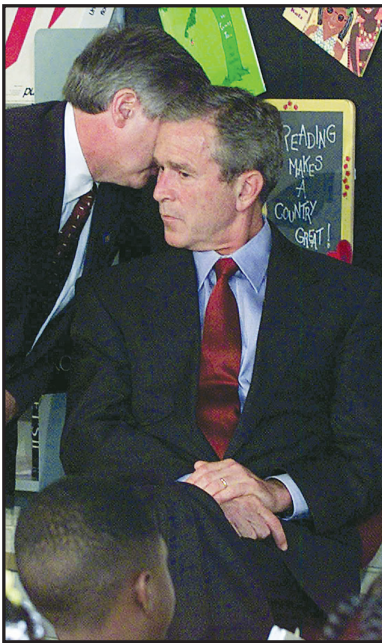
“Today, our nation saw evil,” he said.

Bush said the government offices deserted after the bombings Tuesday would open on Wednesday.

Seeking to comfort an anxious nation, he said, “These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.”

He asked the nation to pray for the families of the victims and quoted the Book of Psalms, “And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us spoken through the ages in Psalm 23.

In his address, Bush said: “Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom,



DOUG MILLS • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President George W. Bush's Chief of Staff Andy Card whispers into the ear of the commander in chief to give him word of the plane crashes.

came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts.” He said thousands of lives were “suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.”





ASSOCIATED PRESS COURTESY OF ABC



MARTY LEDERHANDLER • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



AMY SANCETTA • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MATT MOYER • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Both towers of the World Trade Center in New York burn and collapse after being hit by two separate hijacked airliners. The 110-story towers were reduced to about 30 feet of wreckage.

# America mourns

The country is left to collect itself after the worst terrorist action in U.S. history



DANIEL HULSHIZER • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ABOVE** — Flags fly at half-staff at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., as a large cloud of smoke billows from a fire at the World Trade Center in New York Tuesday.

**RIGHT** — People flee lower Manhattan across the Brooklyn Bridge.

**FAR RIGHT** — Smoke and flames rise over the Pentagon in Washington Tuesday after the crash of a commercial airliner into the side of the building.



DANIEL SHANKEN • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



GERRY J. GILMORE • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS