THE ATTACKS

ATTACK ON THE TWIN TOWERS

In a horrific sequence of crashes and collapses, the 110-story towers of the World Trade Center were obliterated early Tuesday, the epicenter of a coordinated terrorist attack that included another direct hit on the Pentagon and a crash-landing in Pennsylvania. All times are Central Daylight Time.

A low-tech plan

Two flights leaving Boston for Los Angeles 15 minutes apart — American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175, carrying a total of 127 people — were hijacked.

1. At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the face of the north tower of the World Trade Center, about 20 stories below the top of the building.

2. At 9:03 a.m., the second hijacked jet — United Airlines Flight 175 — streaked into the south tower, sending a fireball out the other side.

A day of terror

7:40 a.m. First plane crashes into the World Trade Center.
7:59 a.m. Second plane crashes into the World Trade Center.
8:41 a.m. President Bush is notified.
8:46 a.m. Second plane crashes into the Pentagon.
9:03 a.m. Bridges and tunnels are closed in New York City.
9:14 a.m. Bush addresses the nation.
9:20 a.m. The New York Stock Exchange closes.
9:45 a.m. A plane strikes the area of the Pennsylvania State Capitol.
10:03 a.m. Bush addresses the nation.
2:01 p.m. One of World Trade Center towers collapses.
6:59 p.m. The second tower collapses.

A near-miss at the Pentagon

At 9:40 a.m., a plane with a bomb crashed near the Pentagon, an official said.

Severely weakened by the impacts, the towers fell, probably when intense heat from the explosion melted crucial steel supports, say experts in skyscraper construction.

At 9:03 a.m., the south tower — the second tower hit — collapsed as floors caved onto one another. The fire spread to adjacent buildings, including the 47-story Seven World Trade Center.

Then, at 9:09 a.m., the north tower collapsed, just before nightfall. The evacuated 7 World Trade Center collapsed.

Seymour Hersh

The south tower of New York's World Trade Center begins to collapse Tuesday, killing thousands, shocking the world and creating a worldwide landmark.

The collapsing south tower of the World Trade Center raises debris and is seen as New York's Twin Towers, terror on the skyline.

A second hijacked jetliner is on its way to breaking into the World Trade Center about 18 minutes after the first one struck. Authorities later placed together through Tangle walls, phone calls that hijackers armed with knives took over those and two other jetliners Tuesday. One of the other two struck the Pentagon. The fourth jetliner crashed near Pittsburgh.

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SOURCE: Compiled from AP wire reports

‘It was like a war zone’

A plane struck the north tower of the World Trade Center.

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