

World Trade Center 2001



Al-Qaeda's leader at the time, Osama Bin Laden, did not have the original idea for the 9/11 attacks, but he chose some of the 19 terrorists responsible. He was tracked and killed by US Navy Seals ten years later.

Second plane
At 9.03 am, with the world's media already broadcasting images of the burning North Tower, horrified spectators watched hijackers fly a United Airlines plane with 65 people on board into the South Tower live on television. The tower collapsed 56 minutes after the impact.

9-11 Attacks

The world changed on a blue-skied Tuesday as New Yorkers arrived at work and a group of Islamic terrorists crashed two passenger planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center

The Twin Towers

When they were built in the 70s, the Twin Towers were the tallest buildings in the world; a symbol of American dynamism. Part of the seven buildings that comprised the World Trade Center, the 110-storey Towers were located in the heart of NYC's financial district. Not only did 2,606 people die in the burning and collapse of the Towers on September 11, 2001, but all seven WTC buildings were subsequently demolished due to structural damage.

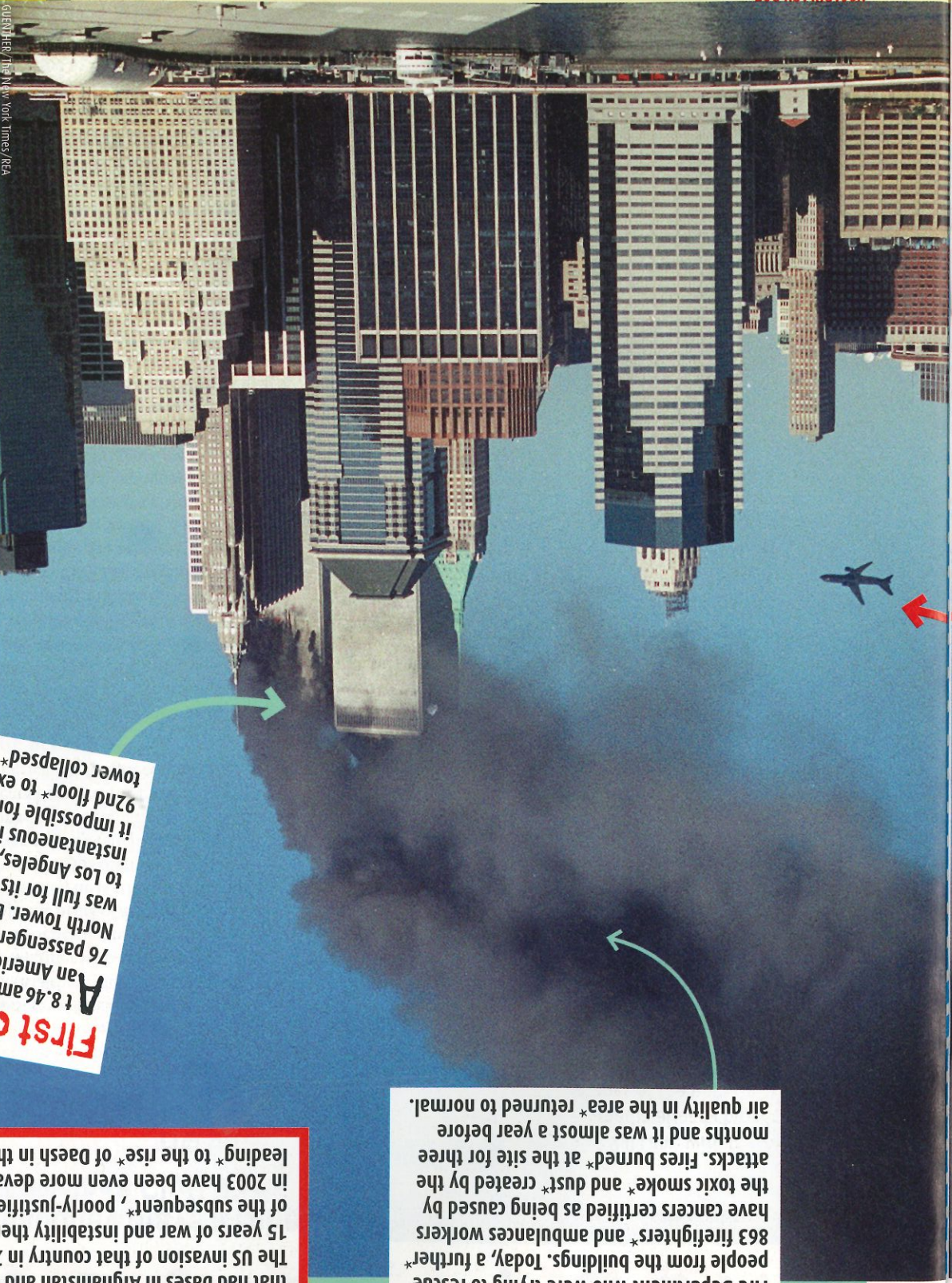
September 11 attacks
Everyone remembers the 9-11 attacks for the Twin Towers, but two more planes were hijacked that day with different targets. One, an American Airlines plane, hit the Pentagon in Virginia, killing all 64 on board and 125 Pentagon staff. The other was United Airlines Flight 93, believed to have been flying towards the White House when the passengers and crew, alerted to the earlier crashes by mobile phone, rebelled against the hijackers. As a result, the plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

CONSEQUENCES
In the immediate aftermath of 9-11, President George W. Bush declared a "Global War on Terror". The primary target of this was Al-Qaeda, the Islamic terror group that had bases in Afghanistan and was behind the attacks. The US invasion of that country in 2001 has resulted in 15 years of war and instability there. The consequences of the subsequent, poorly-justified invasion of Iraq in 2003 have been even more devastating, ultimately leading to the rise of Daesh in that region.

First crash
At 8.46 am, the hijackers crashed an American Airlines flight with 76 passengers and 11 crew into the North Tower. Because the fuel tank was full for its journey from Boston to Los Angeles, this created an instantaneous inferno that made it impossible for anyone above the 92nd floor to exit the building. The tower collapsed 102 minutes later.

BUILDING THE FUTURE
As well as a memorial to victims of the attack, a new tower, "the Freedom Tower", now stands on the site. Its height is 1,776 feet – echoing the US Declaration of Independence in 1776.

GUENTER HINNEW YORK TIMES/REA



Toxic smoke
343 of the people who died in the Twin Towers were members of the New York Fire Department who were trying to rescue people from the buildings. Today, a further 863 firefighters and ambulance workers have cancers certified as being caused by the toxic smoke and dust created by the attacks. Fires burned at the site for three months and it was almost a year before air quality in the area returned to normal.

VOCABULARY P.27
aftermath: à la suite de
area: les environs
burn: brûler
collapse: s'effondrer
crew: équipe
dust: poussière
feet: pieds
firefighter: pompier
firefighter: de carburant
fuel tank: réservoir
height: hauteur
hijacker: voleur
journey: trajet
lead to: conduire à
smoke: fumée
stand on: s'élever sur
subsequent: ultérieur
target: cible

VOCABULARY P.26
broadcast: diffuseur
burning: incendie (n); en flammes (adj)
collapse: s'effondrement (n); effondrement (v)
crew: équipage
damage: dégâts
district: quartier
flight: vol
hijack: détournement
hijacker: voleur
live: en direct
on board: à bord
staff: personnel
storey: étage
target: cible
towards: vers