

Written comprehension



I was in the World Trade Center when the planes hit

<https://sabotagetimes.com/life/i-was-in-the-world-trade-center-when-the-planes-hit>

I-Read the Text

On September 11th 2001, I was staying at the Marriott World Trade Center – the hotel at the foot of the Twin Towers. [...]

I woke up that morning, ordered breakfast, and was watching Tracey Ullman on NBC's Today Show. [...] Then stuff¹ started landing outside my bedroom window, [...] – burning debris, flying papers, and a very bad burning smell². I thought it was a bomb.

Tracey was still talking [...] on the TV. I stuck my head out the bedroom door. No evacuation announcement. Katie announced that a small plane had hit the North Tower. [...] Outside [...] it was looking really bad: more burning stuff falling within inches³ of my window. It was time to go.

I packed my case, and left my room. I went down the stairs, and got to the big lobby⁴. [...] By this time, it was nearly 9am. I joined the line to exit the building. Just as I was leaving, the second plane hit the South Tower, right above our heads. Lots more stuff started falling down, and we were pushed back inside. Some injured⁵ people were pulled in from the sidewalk⁶, quite bad. People started calling on the pay phones, because mobiles weren't working.

Panic started. This wasn't an accident any more. There could be more planes.

[...] Nearer 9.30, they started letting everyone out. Don't look up, run, and keep going. The ground⁷ outside was covered with burning fireballs, random papers, and that smell. I didn't look up, ran across West Street, and kept walking. [...]

Clear of the Towers, [...] I could see things more clearly. That blue sky, after the rain the night before. The top floors, trapped. The jumpers, quite a lot of them. People were taking photos. I watched for a bit, didn't take any photos, just watched. That's when I realised how serious it was. Then I carried on walking. I ended up on Wall Street.

It sounded like another plane was hitting. But the South Tower was falling, about four blocks away. I turned the corner of Wall Street, and saw that a massive cloud was coming towards me. I dumped my suitcase [...]. The cloud was yards⁸ behind me. To my right, a side entrance [...] An NY policeman let me and one other person inside. It was the New York Stock Exchange [...] Within five seconds, the NYSE shutter came down. I was lucky to be inside. Outside, people were getting engulfed⁹.

Dermot Finch, Aug 27, 2015

Vocabulary

¹Stuff = des trucs

²a smell = une odeur

³within inches = à quelques centimètres

⁴a lobby = a hall

⁵injured = blessé(e)(s)

⁶pulled in from the sidewalk = extirpé(e)(s) du trottoir

⁷the ground = the floor

⁸a yard = 0.9m

⁹engulfed = englouti(e)(s)