

Four days in September

8:48 a.m.
NEW YORK - A hijacked plane slams into the north tower of the World Trade Center. Just after 9 a.m., a second plane hits the south tower. People stream out the exits. More than 400 firefighters rush to the scene.

9:40 a.m.
WASHINGTON - A hijacked jet crashes into the Pentagon, nerve centre of the U.S. military. The U.S. government later says it has evidence that the hijackers intended to fly the plane into the White House.

10 a.m.
SHANKSVILLE, PA. - Ten minutes after the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration shuts down all U.S. airports, a fourth hijacked jet crashes into a field near Pittsburgh. Officials won't speculate on why it went down.

10:05 a.m.
NEW YORK - The south tower of the World Trade Center falls. Twenty-five minutes later, the north tower collapses. Between 200 and 300 firefighters and almost 100 police officers are believed to be buried.

8:30 p.m.
WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush faces the media. He says the United States will hold accountable those responsible for the attacks. Later he will call the attacks an "act of war."

About 7 a.m.
NEW YORK - The rescue of two New York Port Authority police officers overnight pulled from the rubble buoys hopes and at dawn, cranes, bulldozers and dump trucks converge on the World Trade Center site.

8 a.m.
NEW YORK - Rescuers as another police officer pulled from the rubble firefighters are also pulled from the wreckage. All of them are reported to be in good condition.



Day of infamy

THE BEGINNING

The four planes, about to be hijacked, depart from three airports on the U.S. East Coast.

Logan Airport
8 a.m. American Airlines Flight 11 departs.
8:15 a.m. United Airlines Flight 175 departs.

Newark Airport
8:43 a.m. United Airlines Flight 93 departs.

Dulles Airport
8:21 a.m. American Airlines Flight 77 departs.

Flight 93 crashes at 10:10 a.m. southeast of Pittsburgh.

MANHATTAN

Flight 11 and Flight 175, destined for San Francisco and Los Angeles respectively, crash into the World Trade Center.

World Trade Center
8:45 a.m. Flight 11 crashes into the north tower.
9:03 a.m. Flight 175 crashes into the south tower.

WASHINGTON

The complete route of Flight 77 is unknown. It is flown back toward Washington where it crashes into the Pentagon.

The Pentagon
9:45 a.m. Flight 77 crashes into the southwest face of the building.

MANHATTAN

World Trade Center
10:05 a.m. The north tower collapses.
10:28 a.m. The south tower collapses.

5:20 p.m. A third building, WTC7, collapses.

Other buildings: N.Y. Telephone Building, Federal Building, Millennium Hilton, East River Savings Bank, One Liberty Plaza.

Legend:
Partially collapsed (blue cube)
Major damage (red cube)

Source: Flight Explorer RICHARD PALMER/The Globe and Mail

Tuesday



After a hijacked jetliner has slammed into the north tower of the World Trade Center, leaving a trail of smoke and flames, a second hijacked jetliner screams toward the south tower. Two more hijacked planes will crash in the next hour in an unprecedented terrorist attack. America is under siege.



In Washington, a helicopter surveys the damaged Pentagon — nerve centre of the U.S. military — after it was struck by a hijacked jetliner. Smoke rises from the wreckage as the building is evacuated. Fear ripples across Washington and both the White House and the Capitol building are evacuated.

An already horrific situation worsens as the south tower of the World Trade Center collapses, sending a suffocating cloud of dust and debris into the air. The north tower falls minutes later. Each day about 50,000 people worked in the towers, which now entomb thousands.

A firefighter screams in pain as he is pulled from the rubble shortly after the towers collapse. He is one of the lucky ones. Officials estimate that between 200 and 300 firefighters and up to 100 police officers were in the buildings when they collapsed. Rescue efforts are hampered by the huge amount of debris and the instability of other buildings in the area. Over the next few days rescuers are spurred on by reports of trapped people contacting family on cell phones to tell them they are alive.



Wednesday



Firefighters pour water on the rubble at the World Trade Center, a 4-story building. The towers also collapsed. Firefighters and bulldozers and dump trucks converge on the scene and begin rescue efforts. National Guard troops are called on to help.



A woman prays for the victims of the September 11 attacks in New York. As President Bush vows to retaliate, the magnitude of the disaster sinks in. At this point, President Bush believes the world is in a state of war.

A trader at the stock exchange in Frankfurt, Germany, watches share prices fall as investors get jittery in the wake of the terrorist attacks. Asian markets tanked Wednesday. European markets, down most of the day, began to recover later. Latin American markets started to recover from Tuesday's losses. The New York Stock Exchange is closed but is scheduled to reopen Monday.

New York firefighter John Cleary wipes soot from his face while taking a break from rescue work at the World Trade Center. Mr. Cleary helped pull two New York Port Authority police officers from the rubble in the morning. More than 11,000 firefighters from the New York area joined rescue efforts. A platoon of six firefighters and another police officer are also rescued from the rubble.

