

In Memory of 9/11 & Those Who Died

By Elaine Hayes

Five years on and the horror experienced during and after the events of the 11th of September 2001 still shock the modern world. With the London 7/7 bombing and the recent arrests following the foiled bomb plot, terrorism is still a major world threat.

This article is remembrance of the 3,030 people who lost their lives after United Airlines Flight 175 flew into the World Trade Center South Tower, American Airlines Flight 11 hit the North Tower, American Airlines Flight 77 was flown in to the Pentagon, and the heroic efforts of the people who lost their lives when United Airlines Flight 93 was crash landed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The Pentagon & Flight 93 Washington & Shanksville		The World Trade Center New York City	
Total Deaths All 9/11 Attacks	3,030	*Total Deaths WTC 9/11 Attack	2,801
Total Injured All 9/11 Attacks	2,337	Total Injured WTC 9/11 Attack	2,261
Total Deaths 9/11 Attack The Pentagon (Ground)	124	Firefighter Deaths WTC 9/11 Attack	343
Total Injured 9/11 Attack The Pentagon	76	Police Deaths WTC 9/11 Attack	75
American Airlines Flight 77 The Pentagon	64	American Airlines Flight 11 WTC North Tower	92
United Airlines Flight 93 Shanksville, PA	40	United Airlines Flight 175 WTC South Tower	65

Included in the 3,030 people who died were five Irish, two of whom were Ruth Clifford-McCourt and her daughter Juliana from Cork. People from 47 countries died on that fateful day, a day which will live long in the memory of anyone who witnessed it. For many the news reports on TV were incomprehensible; time seemed to come to a dead stop; and a feeling of having lost reality crept in and did not leave for hours.

The attacks began with the hijacking of four commercial airliners departing from East Coast airports, fuelled for flights to California. With jet fuel capacities of nearly 24,000 U.S. gallons (91,000 liters) or 144,000 pounds (65,455 kilograms), each aircraft effectively became an incendiary, guided missile.

- American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767-223, wide-body aircraft crashed into the north side of the North Tower of the World Trade Center (WTC) at 8:46:30 a.m. local time (Eastern Daylight Time, or 12:46:30 UTC).
- United Airlines Flight 175, a Boeing 767-22, crashed into the South Tower at 9:02:59 a.m. local time (13:02:59 UTC). An event which was covered live by television broadcasters from around the world who had their cameras trained on the buildings after the earlier crash.
- American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757-223, crashed into the Pentagon at 9:37:46 a.m. local time (13:37:46 UTC).
- United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757-222, crashed in a field in southwest Pennsylvania just outside of Shanksville, about 150 miles (240 km) northwest of Washington, D.C., at 10:03:11 a.m. local time (14:03:11 UTC), with parts and debris found up to eight miles away. The crash in Pennsylvania is believed to have resulted from the hijackers either deliberately crashing the aircraft or losing control of it as they fought with the passengers.

No one onboard any of the hijacked aircraft survived.

This terrorist attack resulted in the immediate invasion of Afghanistan, and later Iran, by U.S. troops. The United States still fear the threat of terror posed by people like those 19 hijackers who caused one of the biggest terrorist attacks in history.

This attack and the resulting wars have had an effect on Ireland also. American tourist numbers declined sharply immediately after the attack, impacting the tourism economy. Five years later and they have yet to return to normal. Ireland and many

other countries have been dealing with the increase in oil prices. This has had an impact in almost every industry, but in particular those involving high transport and travel costs.

The most insidious effect, however, has been on people's basic sense of safety. As has happened many times in history, and will no doubt happen again, the world has been changed, changed utterly.

Take a moment today to think of the people you care about, to think of the beautiful things in this world and of how you can affect them and it for the better.

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