



SCRIPPS HOWARD

Abilene Reporter-News

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NIGHTMARE



Justin Lane/The New York Times

Firefighters tend to a victim following the collapse of the World Trade Center. On Tuesday morning, planes slammed into both towers of the World Trade Center in Manhattan. A short time later another crashed into the Pentagon outside Washington in what appeared to be parallel attacks on quintessential symbols of American financial and military power. Before the day was over, both of the 110-story towers at the World Trade Center collapsed minutes apart.

Havoc rekindles memories

Devastation reminds many of Pearl Harbor surprise attack

By Bill Whitaker
Reporter-News Staff Writer

When World War II pilot Jack Connor broke away from televised reports of the World Trade Center tragedy Tuesday to attend his weekly civic club luncheon, the 82-year-old Abilenean had a word for fellow Rotarians, many also aging veterans of a vanishing era.

"I suggested at Rotary Club that all we retirees report to Dyess for duty," he said, referring to the Air Force base that has long contributed to Abilene's patriotic character. "Some of them said they were going to get their uniforms, too."

However ill-timed Connor's all-American bravado might have seemed, it briefly broke the somber tone that reigned over Abilene on Tuesday. The mood eclipsed outright grief and anger — emotions that will doubtless surface in the days ahead.

For now, numbing disbelief prevails. For many, that sentiment accompanied an eerie sensation that the havoc in New York and Washington had catastrophic precedents dating all the way back to Pearl Harbor. Yet, at the same time, Tuesday's tragedy represented something new, something even more horrible.

"You know, everyone keeps comparing this to Pearl Harbor, but back then we knew who was responsible," said Dr. John C. Stevens, 83, Abilene Christian Uni-



Alan Chin/The New York Times

A man and an injured woman walk down a street in downtown Manhattan shortly after the collapse of the World Trade Center towers Tuesday.

versity chancellor emeritus and an Army chaplain during World War II. "Right now, nobody seems sure who to blame.

"We need to do our level best to find out who's responsible. But, sure, when it first happened, it seemed like Pearl Harbor again."

H.V. Chapman, 80, a local bookbinder who served in the Naval Air Corps during World War II, conceded it was easy enough to view Tuesday's attack as similar to Pearl Harbor. But on closer examination even the Japanese bombers took a higher road, he said.

"They were after military," he said just before an Abilene Community Band concert Tuesday night, "and this is ordinary people."

With the uneasy feeling that war is in the air — even if it's a war unlike any America has faced — veterans of all eras admit confusion as to how best to respond,

which only contributed further to the somber mood.

"Everybody's kind of awestruck," said 46-year-old Air Force veteran David Jorgensen, a city employee and junior vice commander at VFW Post No. 6873. "There's a lot of talk about this and the Oklahoma City bombing — I mean, the feeling of how this could ever happen here. "Of course, this is much worse."

Glena Haley, 77, of Buffalo Gap, who served as a Navy aerial machine gun instructor during World War II, admitted she was nearly dumbfounded at what she was seeing on TV — and, she said, she had seen her share of wartime horrors.

"This is a different world from the one I grew up in," she said. "I guess what's so different is that so much of this involves civilians — not necessarily the people who

Please see HAVOC, 2A

U.S. Under Attack

6:58 a.m. United Airlines flight 175, a Boeing 767, to Los Angeles departs Boston's Logan International Airport, 56 passengers, nine crew.

6:59 a.m. American Airlines flight 11, a Boeing 767, to Los Angeles leaves Boston, 81 passengers, 11 crew.

7:01 a.m. United flight 93, a Boeing 757, to San Francisco takes off from Newark N.J., International Airport, 38 passengers, seven crew.

7:10 a.m. American flight 77, a Boeing 757, to Los Angeles departs Washington's Dulles International Airport, 58 passengers, six crew.

7:51 a.m. One of the Boston-originated planes crashes into north World Trade Center tower.

8:06 a.m. The second Boston-originated plane crashes into south World Trade Center tower.

8:25 a.m. New York Stock Exchange delays trading. U.S. Federal Aviation Administration orders all planes grounded.

8:41 a.m. American flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon in Arlington, Va.

8:44 a.m. White House and Pentagon evacuated.

8:48 a.m. U.S. Capitol evacuated.

9 a.m. South World Trade Center tower collapses.

9:28 a.m. North World Trade Center tower collapses.

9:40 a.m. United flight 93 crashes southeast of Pittsburgh.

9:56 a.m. Securities and Exchange Commission closes all U.S. markets for the day.

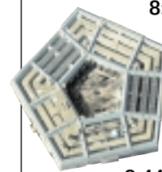
12:04 p.m. President Bush speaks via videotape from Barksdale AFB near Shreveport, La. Departs for Offutt AFB in Omaha.

3:33 p.m. Bush leaves Nebraska for Washington.

5:55 p.m. Bush returns to White House via Marine One.

7:30 p.m. President addresses nation. —Bloomberg News Service, Photos by Associated Press

*Times converted to Central Daylight Time



INSIDE: Please see page 2A for a complete guide to all the coverage of Tuesday's tragic events. **PLUS:** Index of all regular Reporter-News features.

