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WORKS CITED

History.com Editors. "World Trade Center." *HISTORY*, 22 Oct. 2021,
www.history.com/topics/landmarks/world-trade-center.

This website has informed me about the main characteristics in the construction of the World Trade Center as well as the materials used and the construction process. The most important thing I learned was the general idea of the September 11 of 2001 attack on the twin towers, New York. A hijacked plane hit the north tower and soon after another crashed into the other tower. Mentioned below were the future reconstructions at the location where the events took place. After the accident, they built the One World Trade Center and the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. I have used this source to inform myself of how the events occurred in order to be able to follow the facts in a realistic way, how the construction of the buildings was important to the collapse as well as the materials used. I searched for these information because in my story there is a part that describes how the tower collapses and how the materials from which it is formed are falling and destroying everything as they tumble.

Richards, Evelyn. "911: How Many Firefighters Died in the September 11 Attacks?" *Metro*, 10 Sept. 2021, metro.co.uk/2021/09/11/911-how-many-firefighters-died-in-the-september-11-attacks-15231202.

This source has been really useful since it reports very accurately the amount of firefighters, aid services, etc... that participated in helping on September 11, 2001. Around 9000 New York firefighters were there helping to rescue people that were trapped in the Towers that were about to collapse. Of these firefighters, 343 sadly died. In addition to firefighters, other aid services such as police or emergency services were also injured. After the attack, 220 more deaths of firefighters were confirmed due to other illnesses such as a gas inhalation disease and it is proven that the percentage of contracting cancer has increased in those who were present that day. In my story the figures are not so present but I wanted to make sure I knew more or less the percentage of deceased firefighters since in my story there are several

characters who are dedicated to this job and may have to live through some of these situations.

Tahir, Tariq. "9/11 Attack: Full Timeline of Events on September 11, 2001..." *The US Sun*, 11 Sept. 2021, www.the-sun.com/news/1455078/9-11-attack-full-timeline-events.

This website has been very helpful as it shows a timeline of the events of the World Trade Center attack. First the crash of the first plane against the north tower happened, then a second plane took the south tower ahead. A third plane crashed into the pentagon. After fifty-six minutes burning the south tower collapsed. Another hijacked plane that was on its way to crash elsewhere went down in Pennsylvania as passengers were struggling with the hijacker. Finally, about twenty minutes after the incident with the fourth plane, the north tower collapsed. The information about when the events occurred is very important for the development of a realistic plot, since the events must be well placed in time. Otherwise, the story would not be coherent and the reader would not believe that it is true. As a consequence, my story follows the marked times so that it can be deduced that the story is temporarily located at the moment in which the events occurred.

"September 11 Attacks | History, Summary, Timeline, Casualties, and Facts." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/event/September-11-attacks. Accessed 13 Apr. 2022.

On this page I have found a lot of information, but the one that has marked me the most and that I have used to make sense of my fictional narrative has been who was in charge of planning the terrorist attack. The extremist group Al-Qaeda, led by Osama Bin Laden, was responsible for this horrible and cruel event that has gone down in history as the largest terrorist attack. Although Osama is the leader of the group, it was Khalid Sheikh Mohammed who really planned the attack. The reason why the events occurred was mainly because the United States had intervened on many occasions supporting countries like the Philippines or Israel against Muslims. Throughout my history these data are not explicitly mentioned, but for a good understanding of what happened and to be able to write about an event, it is necessary to inform myself well about how everything happened.

Friend, Daniel. "President George W. Bush's Address to the Nation after the September 11 Terrorist Attacks." *The Texan*, 12 May 2021, thetexan.news/president-george-w-bushs-address-to-the-nation-after-the-september-11-terrorist-attacks.

The information contained in this page has been really useful to me mainly because it contains the speech of the president George W. Bush after the terrorist attack took place. During it, the president of the United States explains the events that have taken place: the World Trade Center has been collapsed by hijacked planes that crashed into it. He classifies

the events as despicable acts of terror in his speech given to all the American community. According to him, it is a terrorist attack that shows the worst side of humanity, but despite this, America is still fighting for its freedom and they will never touch its foundation. In my fictional narrative, the president's speech is relevant since the events take place from the perspective of a firefighter whose work helping other people is extremely important. While he is taking a break after hours of work, George W. Bush's speech is heard in the background by some of his workmates.

“Retired Firemen Talk About Painful Reminders of 9/11.” *Youobserver.Com*,

www.youobserver.com/article/retired-firemen-talk-about-painful-reminders-911.

Accessed 13 Apr. 2022.

The following web page is about the events of the 9/11 attack from the perspective of a firefighter who was there helping. He explains to us that since that day both he and his companions frequently remember the deaths they saw. Garrett Lindgren tells us that since then he has suffered from respiratory problems due to the inhalation of toxic gases and that his immune system has been weakened. One of his friends, also a firefighter, narrates how, despite having a problem that prevents him from lifting weight, he went to the rescue of the victims. All those firefighters who were retired or not scheduled that day decided to take a bus that took them to the white smoke that used to be the twin towers. This information has helped me a lot to be able to put myself in the place of these professionals and thus be able to write the story from the point of view of the protagonist, a firefighter.

“9/11 Memorial – To Lift a Nation.” *National Fallen Firefighters Foundation*, 22 July 2014,

www.firehero.org/fallen-firefighters/memorial-park/911-memorial-lift-nation.

On this webpage I have been informed about the statue that has been placed at Ground Zero of the events. It should be noted that the website details the general characteristics of the measurements and weight of the monument called "To Lift a Nation" in honor of the heroes of September 11, 2001. It measures 40 feet high, six feet deep and eight feet wide. Each firefighter weighs around 5,000 pounds. The monument represents three firefighters raising the United States flag, and symbolizes the hope and courage of the nation in the face of these tragic events as well as the courage and sacrifice these people made for others. I have wanted to inform myself about this monument because in my fictional narrative it will appear commemorating firefighters (characters in my story) and for this I wanted to know if there was any monument in the area where their effort and work were commemorated.

History.com Editors. “Attack on the United States.” *HISTORY*, 27 Sept. 2021,

www.history.com/this-day-in-history/attack-on-america.

What I have learned most from this website has been the information on each flight that was part of the 9/11 attacks. The first plane (flight 93) was taken over by the hijackers but due to the confrontations of the 33 passengers they crashed in a field in Pennsylvania instead of in the US Capitol. On the next flight (American airlines flight 11) there were about 90 people and it was the one that hit the north tower of the World Trade Center. United airlines flight 175 crashed into the second tower, south tower. Then, American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the West wall of the Pentagon shortly after. This information has been of relevant interest because in my story there is a character who is on one of the planes and I have had to decide which one she was in and know a little about their departure and return destinations and about the schedules followed by each of the planes.

FICTIONAL NARRATIVE

"See you in a few days" -my wife said- "I love you"

"I love you too" -I replied- "Good luck, I'm sure you'll get it"

There we were, at the airport, my wife was going to Boston and then to Los Angeles to attend some job interviews while I stayed in New York.

A few minutes later, she calls me back, a bad feeling that something is wrong came to my mind because the use of electronic devices is not allowed on flights.

"Hi, the plane I'm on has been hijacked. We don't know what's going on. A man has stabbed a flight attendant. It may be the last time we talk, my love." -There was a lot of noise in the background. People screaming in the distance that they were going to die, others screaming their prayers, the chaos itself on that plane- "I want you to know that I love you and I will always do, tell my family that I love them too. We'll see you wherever I am." "-suddenly a loud sound broke the connection, as if it were a bomb. Since then I heard nothing but a constant beep.

I looked out the apartment window with tears in my eyes. In the distance white smoke was seen coming from a skyscraper. I saw dozens of fire units pass by. I got ready to put on my firefighter's uniform and, although I had the day off, I headed to the street. I took the first bus that passed. It was packed with other firefighters and police officers, many of them retired who had received a call to help out at the base of the building. I was told that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Centre a few minutes ago. My mind began to put together the pieces that I already had, the plane my wife was traveling in was the one that crashed in the north tower.

I couldn't think of anything else. She was so young, so charming and so kind. Never in my life had I imagined that from one moment to another I would not see her again. For her and for all those people who had already lost their lives at that moment, I set out to help others who were in a similar situation and so they did not have to go through that suffering. I took the anti-smoke mask and my companions and I entered the south tower. We evacuated as many people as possible, when suddenly we saw a plane fly and hit the second tower.

We continued rescuing and helping people injured by the fall of materials used in the construction of that giant building. A few minutes later the south tower collapsed, leaving behind hundreds of people who were still inside waiting for our help as well as many other firefighters and aid services. The north tower was still burning but at the moment it was not expected to collapse. Nothing could be seen due to the white smoke that covered the area. Debris everywhere. I looked out a window and saw a friend and two other firefighters raise the country flag to the side. I went back to work, a man told me "there is a pregnant woman, help her first." As he walked away I heard more cries of despair. I turned for a moment and saw the man buried under a large steel beam that had fallen at his feet. "My wife's name is Carolina. I have two children" he handed me a photo. "Tell them I love them."

From the FDNY office, we were told to evacuate the building because the chances of it falling had increased significantly. Accompanied by four companions and a few people we were able to rescue, we left through the main door. Barely ten minutes had passed when the north tower fell. It was 10:28 a.m. and what were once the most important skyscrapers in the city had been reduced to ashes, rubble and inert bodies on a floor full of dust.

I heard that some fire-fighters had not received the call due to technical problems between their phones and the office communication system. Robert, the firefighter I had recognized while raising the American flag, had been one of many who had died at that precise moment.

We gathered around an ambulance, those who still had strength phoned their loved ones. In my case, my most precious person was gone. Leaning on my knees, I sat up and prayed until there were no more tears to shed.

After hours of work, the lieutenant gathered us to listen to the words that the president was saying: "...Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve..." the words were fading in my mind. The last thing I understood was "None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world."

I would like to tell the world my thoughts: no matter where you are from or what you believe in, a life is not a game, nothing is achieved by taking lives away, it simply gives suffering to more people. Violence is not a form of defense or attack, it is a way of breaking humanity in half, a break that for some people lasts their entire lives. The pain does not go away, it simply fades and reappears when you least expect it, not because a long time has passed you will be better, but rather the opposite. The more time you have spent thinking about it, the more time you will have suffered. The death of both my wife and all the victims of the attack has been and will always be my biggest pain. Seeing the lifeless bodies of people lying on the ground, men and women screaming us so we could save them, people throwing themselves out of windows is a way of killing ourselves. It is true what George W. Bush said, we will never forget this day. Humanity will never get over these images that remain etched in our minds for the rest of our lives.

All being said, we spent weeks looking for the missing people. Hours of work a day that weighed on our minds when the day was over.

I would honestly say that this week can be summed up in a single sentence: it has been a tragic event in which thousands of innocent people have died due to the power and want of revenge of others who have inadvertently made the nation more united than ever.