

### **How 9-11 Brought America and The World Together**

The events of 9-11 were tragic and traumatic for the country of the United States of America. Sadly, thousands of innocent people died and many more were injured by the attacks. These attacks were planned by the infamous Al-Qaeda gang from the European and Asian areas. 9-11 was a terrible time for all, but in the end, it brought America together. It is just unfortunate that thousands had to die to make it happen. 9-11 should not have happened, but it caused the world to learn about safety, a very important lesson.

On September 11th 2001, the Al-Qaeda group from all over Europe and Asia committed one of the biggest acts of terrorism on record. 19 members of the group boarded commercial aircraft in the United States Of America. They boarded four aircraft in total, from multiple airports on the USA's eastern side.

United Airlines flight 175 took off from Boston Airport at 8:14am. Flight 175 was a Boeing 767 heading to Los Angeles. There were five hijackers on board. Five minutes later, a flight attendant informed air traffic control that United 175 had been hijacked, and three people had already been stabbed. One minute after United 175 was reported hijacked, American Airlines flight 77, a Boeing 757 bound for Los Angeles, took off from Dulles International Airport with five more hijackers on board. At 8:42am, United Airlines flight 93, heading to San Francisco, left Newark Airport in New Jersey. There were four hijackers on board. Two minutes after that, a flight attendant onboard American Airlines flight 11 (departed 7:59am) talked on the phone to American Air Traffic Control. She told them that the plane was descending rapidly and was flying way too low, before the call ended abruptly.

At 8:46am, on September 11th 2001, hijackers on American Airlines flight 11 flew the aircraft into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, between the 93rd and 99th floors. 17 minutes later, United Airlines flight 175 hit the World Trade Center's South Tower, making it obvious something was very wrong. Not long after, a local air traffic control tower alerted the secret service that an unknown aircraft was flying at high speed towards the White House. This was later found to be American Airlines flight 77. At 9:37am, flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon, just outside of Washington DC, the USA's Defence headquarters. At 9:59am, the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed into a pile of rubble. At 10:03am, United Airlines flight 93 smashed into the ground near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers and flight attendants battled with the hijackers. At 10:28am, the North Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed into a heap.

The 9-11 attacks caused the government to make the Department for Homeland Security, an organisation to prevent terrorism in the United States of America. The USA declared "a war on terrorism", and they decided to start by taking down Al Qaeda, the organisers of 9-11. They searched for Bin Laden for over 10 years, facing many battles with the Al Qaeda gang. In the end, the United States was victorious and won their battles. On May 2nd 2011, Osama Bin Laden was found in a private compound in Pakistan with a local family. He was shot dead by the Navy SEALs, meaning that a big weight was lifted off America's shoulders. Eventually, the United States, along with some other countries, broke up the Taliban, another very dangerous organisation.

In the two months after the September 11th attacks, more than 1.3 million blood donations were made directly for the victims. Jay Winuk, a brother of a victim of 9-11, created an organisation called *MyGoodDeed*. It created 911Day, a day for kindness and compassion. The organisation plans to send 1.7 million meal packs for people in need, but they encourage all forms of charity. He is just one of the people in America who showed selflessness and courage in these terrible circumstances. While the actions of the terrorists shook the foundations of the United States of America, it helped to inspire the people to work together.

For many years after the attacks, memorials were held for the people who had been lost. On the 10th 9-11 memorial, over 1300 people mourned at the Pentagon, one of the places hit. In 17 years, the Department for homeland security grew to have over 240,000 employees, all dedicated to keeping the world safe.

9-11 was a horrible event, but it helped to build a solid foundation for preventing terrorism. While the attacks killed many people, they inspired the world to up security, and face terrorism head-on. It was not a good thing that it happened, but it did cause some good improvements to be made. So many people donated blood and money to help people survive, and the United States of America created a government department to take down terrorism. Since 9-11, the world has become safer from terrorism. All in all, 9-11 shook America's foundations, but in the end, they were built back stronger.

## References

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