

WHO DID THIS?

Death toll unknown, likely in the thousands

Crashed airliner in Pa. hijacked near Cleveland

All flights grounded, military on high alert



Getty Images

A fiery blast rocks one tower of the World Trade Center as smoke billows from its twin yesterday after planes hit the buildings in New York.

By Bob Dyer
Beacon Journal staff writer

As we huddled in shock around our television sets, most of us agreed on what we were watching: our second Pearl Harbor.

Sept. 11, 2001, will surely take its place next to Dec. 7, 1941.

A new century, a new Day of Infamy.

This time, we got the news much faster. This time, we got it as it was happening.

Today, we live in a digital age. Thanks to sophisticated electronics, we can create illusions with ease, and on a grand scale. So when we glanced at our TV sets yesterday morning and saw one of our most recognizable landmarks being destroyed, many of us thought we were watching a movie preview.

We had forgotten that we also live in an age of sophisticated terrorism. Soon, with a horrified knot in our stomachs, we learned that the images on TV were not fictional.

Yesterday morning, terrorists struck the United States of America, inflicting almost unimaginable death and destruction on New York City and Washington, D.C., and bringing the rest of the nation to a dead stop.

President George W. Bush took to the airwaves to declare: "Freedom itself was attacked this morning, and I assure you freedom will be defended. Make no mistake: The United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts."

As of late last night, no one had any idea exactly how many Americans had been killed. And hope continued that survivors will be found. A New York City police official said some people trapped in the rubble from the destroyed World Trade Center twin towers managed to call authorities or family members, but it was not clear how many people or when all the calls were made. The final death toll seemed likely to reach into the thousands.

For the first time since the advent of commercial flight, every airport in the United States was closed.

Please see **Attacks**, A16



Agence France Presse

A man covers his mouth as he walks through debris from the collapse of one of the twin towers in New York.

Fear rains down from our skies following attacks

Today we are afraid of the sky.

As the first day dawns after the worst-ever attack on America, this is the most dangerous feeling of all.

We are not afraid of a person, or a country, or some definable enemy.

We are simply afraid.

Something came out of the sky and ripped into our heart. And we don't know what, or who, or from where.

As I write this, we do not yet know who erased the World Trade Center's twin towers from the New York skyline.

We do not know who erased the lives of yet uncounted thousands.

We do not know who penetrated our defense with such dreadful arrogance that, almost as an aside, part of the Pentagon lay in ruins.

We are, in Franklin D. Roosevelt's worst nightmare, afraid of fear.

And that puts us in danger of ourselves.

Already, we are pointing fingers. Assumptions,

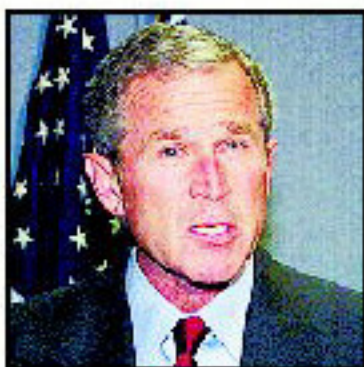
Please see **Giffels**, A16



DAVID GIFFELS

President addresses nation

Bush mourns deaths of thousands of Americans in yesterday's atrocities, vows revenge. **A12**



Editorials focus on tragedy

America shouldn't compromise its resolve or freedoms after attacks aimed to spread fear. **A14, 15**

Ohio.com

Go to <http://www.ohio.com/specials/2001/attack/> for the latest coverage of the attacks, including photo galleries and a message board on which to register your comments.

What you can do

Give blood:

Red Cross workers say blood donations will be needed for weeks, not just the next few days. For details on local blood drives, see Page A7.

Find loved ones:

The Summit County Red Cross has a phone line for local folks trying to locate relatives. Call 330-535-6131, Ext. 223, from 8:30

a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Contact the National Center for Victims of Crimes, 1-800-331-0075 for information or to leave a message.

• Several sites were created on the Internet for people in New York to post messages saying they are OK. Here are two of the Web addresses:

<http://www.shun.net/okay/>

<http://safe.millennium.berkeley.edu>

Pay tribute:

• Attend a memorial service for victims and families at 7 tonight at Fairtown Kiwanis Community Center, 3486 S. Smith Road, organized by area religious organizations and the Fairtown Chaplain Corp.

Search the classifieds
Ohio.com
<http://www.ohio.com>

