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WEATHER
Wednesday:
 Partly cloudy.
 High 83, low 66.
 Weather map, D22

The Atlanta Journal

**THIRD
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TUESDAY, SEPT. 11, 2001

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SPECIAL REPORT INSIDE: 5 PAGES OF COVERAGE / A6-10

ATTACK ON AMERICA

Hundreds feared dead as planes hit Trade Center; Pentagon also hit by suicide attack from the air; Bush vows: Terror against U.S. 'will not stand'



By FRANK HYLAND
 fhyland@ajc.com

Today was another day that shall forever live in infamy as terror rained from the sky in New York and Washington.

The Twin Towers of New York's World Trade Center were hit by apparently hijacked airliners 18 minutes apart. Within two hours, both had collapsed onto the streets of Manhattan.

In Washington, another plane hit the Pentagon, collapsing part of the huge office complex. Outside the State Department, a car bomb exploded.

SUZANNE PLUNKETT / Associated Press

People run in panic from the **World Trade Center Tower** today in New York after two planes crashed into the buildings.

► Please see **TERRORISM**, A6

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'People were jumping out of windows'

By HELEN O'NEILL
 Associated Press

New York — It was the scene of a nightmare: people on fire jumping in terror from the Trade Towers just before the buildings collapsed.

"Everyone was screaming, crying, running, cops, people, firefighters, everyone," said Mike Smith, a fire marshal from Queens, as he sat by the fountain outside the Supreme Court building shortly after the second tower collapsed. "A couple of marshals just picked me up and dragged me down the street."

"It's like a war zone. There are many injured."

This was the horror unfolding in New York City in the wake of an

apparent terrorist attack.

"I just saw the building I work in come down," said businessman Gabriel Loan, shaking in shock outside City Hall as a cloud of smoke and ash from the World Trade Center billowed behind him. "I just saw the top of Trade Two come down."

Nearby, a crowd mobbed a man on a pay phone, screaming at him to get off so that they could call relatives. Dust and dirt flew everywhere. Ash was 2 to 3 inches deep in places. People wandered dazed and terrified.

"People were jumping out of windows," said an unidentified crying woman. "I guess people were trying to save themselves. Oh my God!"

"I was in the World Financial Center looking out the window," said one

woman. "I saw the first plane and then 15 minutes later saw the other plane just slam into the World Trade Center."

Another eyewitness, AP newsman Dunstan Prial, described a strange sucking sound from the Trade Center buildings after the first building collapsed.

"Windows shattered. People were screaming and diving for cover. People walked around like ghosts, covered in dirt, weeping and wandering dazed."

"It sounded like a jet or rocket," said Eddie Gonzalez, a postal worker at a post office on West Broadway. "I looked up and saw a huge explosion. I didn't see the impact. I just saw the explosion."

Morning commuters heading into

Manhattan were stranded as the Lincoln Tunnel was shut down to incoming traffic. Many left their cars and stood on the ramp leading to the tunnel, staring in disbelief at the thick cloud of smoke pouring from the top of the two buildings.

Joan Goldstein, communications project leader for the Associated Press, was on a bus from New Jersey at about 8:50 a.m. when she saw "smoke pouring out of the World Trade Center building. We said, 'Oh, my God! The World Trade Center's on fire!'"

Perhaps 10 minutes later, "All of a sudden, there was an orange plume, a huge explosion. It shot out the back of the building. Everybody on the bus was just moaning and gasping."

