

Acts of Courage: Inside America's Military

TODAY'S ★★★ MARINE ★★★ HEROES



by Michael Sandler

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U.S. SOF Adviser**

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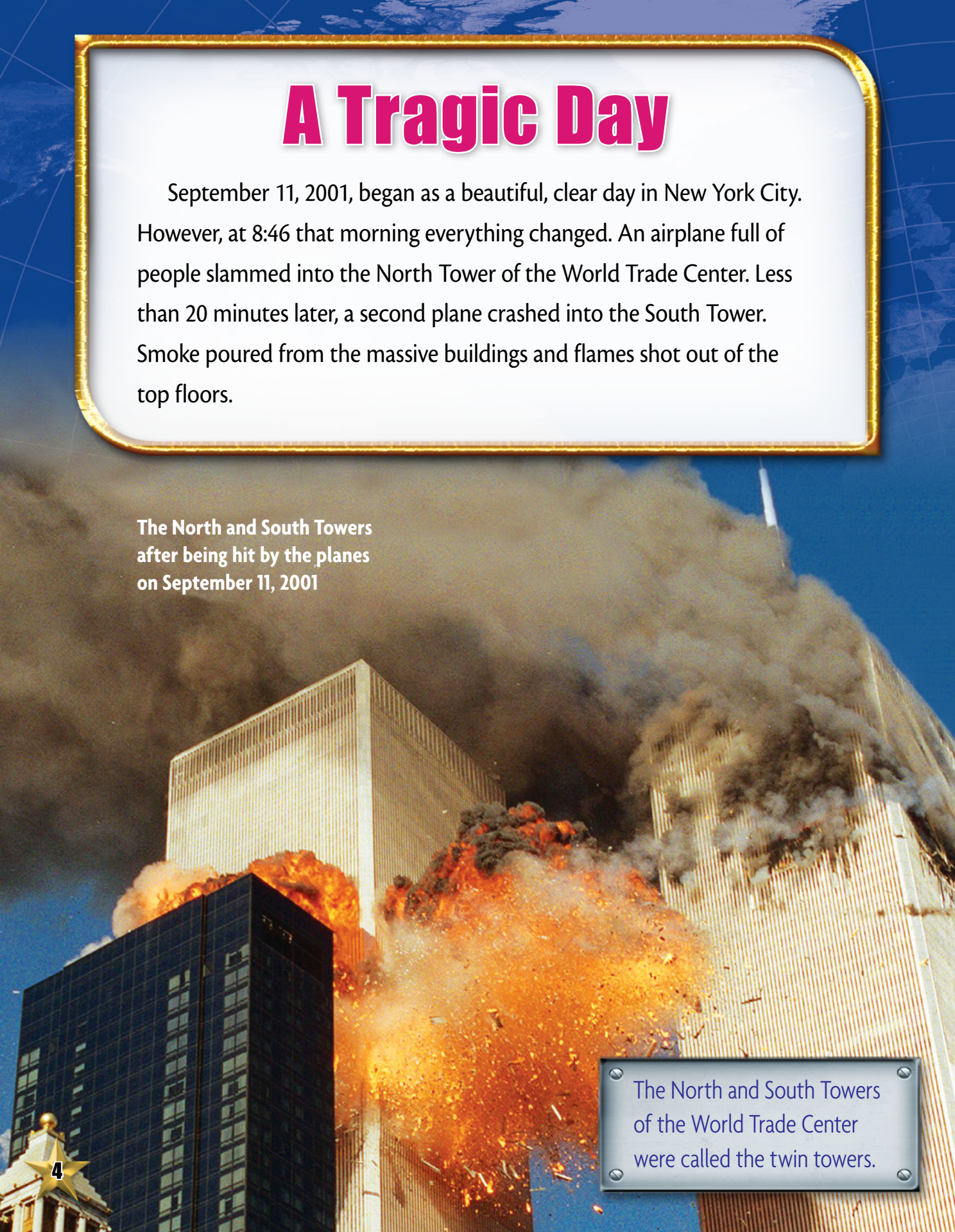
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A Tragic Day

September 11, 2001, began as a beautiful, clear day in New York City. However, at 8:46 that morning everything changed. An airplane full of people slammed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Less than 20 minutes later, a second plane crashed into the South Tower. Smoke poured from the massive buildings and flames shot out of the top floors.

The North and South Towers
after being hit by the planes
on September 11, 2001



The North and South Towers
of the World Trade Center
were called the twin towers.

The same morning, a plane flew into the **Pentagon** in Virginia and another one crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. The United States learned later that day that the four planes had been **hijacked** by members of a **terrorist group** called **Al Qaeda**. In all, nearly 3,000 people died. Al Qaeda's leader, Osama bin Laden, had organized the attack on the United States from his base in Afghanistan. Leaders in the United States decided the camps where Al Qaeda trained its soldiers needed to be destroyed. So in October 2001, the U.S. government sent **troops** to Afghanistan.



The Pentagon after being attacked on September 11, 2001

In War and Peace

The United States' war against terrorism expanded in 2003, when some government officials claimed that Saddam Hussein, the ruler of Iraq, was trying to build dangerous weapons, including **nuclear** ones. They feared he would use them against the United States and other countries. To stop him, the United States sent military troops to invade Iraq on March 20, 2003. Though the weapons were never found, the United States and its **allies** did remove Saddam Hussein from power.



Marines in Iraq

The Marine Corps is a part of the military that carries out missions on land and in the sea and air. The Marines have played a large part in America's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The red parts of this map show where some of the events in this book took place.



Thousands of brave men and women served in Afghanistan and Iraq in the years following the attack on the United States on September 11, 2001. This book recounts some of the acts of courage by U.S. Marines who fought in these wars. The bravery and **selflessness** they have shown in fighting for their country is the very definition of *hero*.



Marines not only fight in wars. They perform other important tasks, such as guarding American **embassies** in different countries and helping people when **natural disasters** strike.

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About the Author

Michael Sandler has written many children's nonfiction books. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with fellow writer Sunita Apte and their two children, Laszlo and Asha. Michael is an avid traveler.

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TODAY'S ★★★ MARINE ★★★ HEROES

In the years following September 11, 2001, thousands of brave men and women have fought in the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many of them have faced extremely dangerous, even deadly, combat situations. This book recounts some of their stories. From First Sergeant Brad Kasal, who used his body as a human shield to protect a fellow Marine from a grenade explosion, to Corporal Dakota Meyer, who saved dozens of soldiers during intense combat by driving a Humvee into enemy fire, the courageous actions of the U.S. Marines in this book show what heroism truly means.

TODAY'S AIR FORCE HEROES

TODAY'S ARMY HEROES

TODAY'S COAST GUARD HEROES

★ **TODAY'S MARINE HEROES**

TODAY'S NAVY HEROES

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