



NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 11
BY MAGNUM PHOTOGRAPHERS

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by David Halberstam

The date, September 11, 2001, now has a certain permanence, graven on our collective memory, like a very few others: December 7, 1941, and November 22, 1963, dates which seem to separate yesterday from today, and then from now. They become the rarest of moments; ordinary people will forever be able to tell you where they were and what they were doing when they first heard the news, as if the terrible deed had happened to them, which in some ways it did.

Up until that moment America had been spared the ravages of the last century of modern warfare. The bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon ended an amazing historical period in American life, one which I place at 87 years, beginning with World War I (we actually entered it three years late) during which we rose to unwanted superpower status, became the most powerful nation in the world, and yet none of the terrible carnage of that era took place on our soil. We had come to believe as a people, protected as we were for so long by our two great oceans, that we were immune to the awful dangers and cruelties and viruses of the rest of the world.

That sense of immunity, as these photographs so dramatically show, ended on September 11, 2001; for New Yorkers more than most Americans, what happened was particularly personal. The World Trade Center was a unique landmark for us, a wanted and needed guiding beacon, to be seen, when we had been out of the city, and when making our return, a sign that we were finally approaching the city in which we lived.

All of us have certain earlier memories of buildings represented architecturally can remember about ten years ago go comfort that it was scheduled for the I held on to the table in front of me

And now those two buildings are part of our brain where we have cata Zapruder film, and the film clips of moment, ever real, forever immediate: Ground Zero to our language.

I am reminded as I write this, a society: the nobility of ordinary people architects of this attack sought and weak and decadent a nation we had fighters and police sacrificed their order to save complete strangers; as the exact opposite of what the architect

As I write, it is only 16 days since energized place in the world—is slow

