

INT BRIAN CLARK, 3-2-04, at 199 Water St

- Euro Brokers located on 31st floor of 1 WTC at time 1993 bombing, scheduled to move that evening to 84th floor of 2 WTC; moved delayed by a couple of weeks;
- After '93, fire drills conducted every six months; approx 10 people per floor were designated fire wardens (BC was a fire warden on 84th floor for Euro Brokers) and given whistles, flashlights etc by building; Euro Brokers fire wardens were also given walkie-talkies, good for communication up to several blocks away, from their company; procedure for fire drill was for wardens to direct people in their areas to the center of the floor, where a phone was located for warden to call down the Fire Command desk; wardens were never given uniform instructions on evacuation, e.g., not told specifically to evacuate up or down, but rather to await instructions specific to situation; after drill, wardens would meet and confer with PA security;
- On Sept 11th, Euro Brokers occupied entire 84th floor of 2 WTC;
- Approx 250 employees were in the office at 8:46;
- BC was in his office on the west wall near the southwest corner of building; when 1st plane hit;
- Lights blinked and BC saw bright flame outside his window, which was burst of flame coming out of the south side of the north tower; not entirely aware of what happened; thought there was an explosion above,
- BC was a fire warden and thought it was good idea to start evacuating people in his area; after 3 or 4 minutes however, BC himself did not consider leaving, did not feel great urgency because TV sets around the office quickly picked up coverage that the incident was only in the other tower;
- Approx 200 of the 250 employees successfully evacuated; some took elevators, some took stairs;
- At approx 8:55, strobe lights flashed, a siren sounded to get attention of building occupants, and a building announcement came over the PA system: Your Attention Please. Building 2 is secure. There is no need to evacuate building 2. If you are in the midst of evacuation, you may use the re-entry doors and the elevators to return to your floor. The message was then repeated in full; BC is certain that the man making the announcement was the Port Authority employee who conducted the regular fire-drills on their floor;
- As a result, approx ten people returned to the 84th floor; some, who were in the process of evacuating (e.g., on stairs) made decision to turn around, others were personally told to go back up by PA security in the lobby (see below);
- Most people who remained on the 84th floor migrated to windows on the northeast side of the building in the trading area facing the plaza (trading area occupied eastern side of the floor); from there saw debris and people fall from north tower; also had TV's there;
- Shortly before 9:03, BC helped female hysterical co-worker to restroom on western side of building core and then proceeded to make a call from his

- office on the west side of the building; he then went to an open area near the middle of the west wall, where he was standing when the plane hit building 2;
- When plane hit, room disintegrated; floor held, but everything on ceiling came down (tiles, lights, air conditioning ducts, speakers etc); no flames or black smoke, just construction dust and filtered daylight; then, building seemed to torque and move sideways to the west for approx 5 – 8 seconds, felt like building went approx 3 yds, stopped, and went back other way (much more sway than any wind storm);
- BC, a fire warden, waved his flashlight around and quickly led himself and 6 other people in his area over fallen items etc to center of building (where 3 stairwells and elevators were); for no specific reason, he turned left (north) to stairway A; did not check whether stairways B & C were passable, but there are no stories to BC's knowledge of anyone escaping down those stairs (except possibly having switched to them from stairway A at a much lower point);
- At this point, BC knew it was a terrorist attack but did not know what had hit their building (south tower); knew that a plane had hit tower 1 (from TV) but not clear what kind of plane or other details;
- On the 81st floor, BC's group met a heavy woman and a thin man; heavy woman was struggling, almost physically incapable of climbing stairs, and says, "you can't go down, stop, we've just come off a floor in flames;" BC not sure what floor she came from but guesses, based on her capacity to climb and time, it was probably 79th; thin man does not say anything; this was approx 9:05 AM;
- These 9 begin debate about whether to go up or down, BC shines flashlight on each of them; within about 15 seconds, BC hears cries for help coming from 81st floor; calls are from Stanley Praitnath of Fuji Bank;
- BC grabs colleague, Ron DiFrancesco, and they manage to squeeze through space between fire escape door frame and damaged drywall to get onto floor;
- While doing so, BC sees 2 colleagues (Robert Coll, Kevin York) start to help heavy woman up stairs; another colleague, David Vera, also started up the stairs; because he was a fire warden too, Vera had a walkie-talkie;
- On 81st floor, BC sees a lot more smoke but no flames (though occupant of 81st floor he seen flames from where he was standing, near the south wall when the plane hit);
- While attempting to reach cries for help w/ BC Ron DiFrancesco was overcome by smoke (RD had been using a gym bag as a filtering mask); there was a lot more smoke on 81st floor though still no flames; RD leave BC, goes back to stairway and upstairs in search of clearer air;
- BC gets to Stanley, who is trapped behind wall of drywall (they break through and BC helps Stanley over) and they proceed back to stairway A and then down stairs;
- In many places, outer 2 (of 3) layers of drywall blown off, either fallen over railings or covering stairs, like a slide; there is also a lot of water on stairs;
- Flames were visible through cracks in wall at around the 78th floor, but could see no roaring inferno;

- By 74th floor, it was pretty much normal conditions, maybe a little water, but fresh air and lights on;
- On the 68th floor, BC and SP met another Euro Broker fire warden, Jose Marrero, who was walking up; he had escorted a number of people down the stairs, including one overweight person; had gotten down to about the 50th floor (BC surmises) and heard over the walkie-talkie that David Vera was upstairs helping people (DV went up stairs at 81 with heavy woman); he decided to go up to help him;
- He was the only person BC and SP met in the stairway; there was no emergency personnel and they did not hear any further announcements;
- They proceeded down, checking transfer doors for heat before they entered;
- Stopped on 44th floor to check the lower Sky Lobby (higher one on 78th floor); there was no one there but a South Asian security guard (about 65 or 70) at his post with a severely injured younger man (Caucasian, about 30, massive head wounds, not apparent how he was injured); SP broke briefly with man; BC spoke with security guard, who asked if they had phone, his were not working; says he'll stay with injured man but asks them to please call for assistance;
- They proceeded down stairs and stopped on 31 (a re-entry floor) to look for a phone; found one working in an Oppenheimer (later learned) conference room; BC called home to tell his family he was all right; SP called wife's workplace to tell her the same; BC then made call to 911 at 9:40 AM; reported to female operator that there was a severely injured man on the 44th floor, need to send a medic and a stretcher; operator says you're going to have to tell my supervisor, puts him on hold for at least 30, 40 seconds; another woman gets on, says 'yes sir can I help you?', BC reiterates request and reports where he himself is; 2nd operator says you're going to have to tell my supervisor and puts on hold for about another minute; when 3rd woman comes on, BC says, I'm only going to say this once, don't put me on hold, and repeats vital info, then says I'm not staying on the phone any longer, I'm leaving now and hangs up;
- BC and SP go back to stairs and continue uninterrupted; slow down around 15th floor, and eventually reach plaza level on north side of building; looked into plaza, like an archaeological dig;
- Continued down escalator to concourse level, where they saw a female security official (most likely PA security, no firefighting, police gear); says they can't go through lobby, must go through concourse to Victoria's Secret, turn right and go out by Sam Goody;
- Woman did not question them as to how to they got out (though they were the only people in the lobby at the time, Stanley was in tattered clothes, both were covered in dust, and it should have been apparent they came from high floor);
- In concourse, there was random activity of firefighters, mostly getting themselves organized; they did not give BC and SP any directions, nor did they question them about escape route;
- Exited concourse as directed and came out 4 WTC on Liberty (closer to Church); FF tells them, "if you're going to cross Liberty, you've got to go for

- it" (referring to falling debris); BC asked if he should look up to determine appropriate time to go; FF says no, they should just go for it; BC looked up anyway and they ran across; got across safely;
- Ran a half block to deli on Greenwich St, where given water and a tray of food;
 - Continued down Greenwich St, not densely populated, not too many emergency personnel, but people were generally walking away from scene so didn't need to be directed;
 - Turned east to Trinity Place, where saw a couple of ministers, who said short prayer and told them Trinity Church was open;
 - On Rector St, (south side of church), SP remarked that building could come down; BC started to say no, and just then first collapse began (series of explosions, different from floors just falling; glass burst out of windows, then top slid; BC thought it had just collapsed from above fire line)
 - Wave of dust came over church; ran to 42 Broadway where they stayed for approx 45 mins, then wandered towards east river; there BC somehow got separated from SP;
 - At approx 11 AM, as walking through haze near Pier 11 on South Street (not elevated FDR) BC heard bullhorn directing people to ferry to Jersey City;
 - Ferry left immediately as BC got on board; ferry went Battery Park (southern tip of Manhattan) and up Hudson river (it wasn't until ferry emerged from haze that BC knew both towers had come down);
 - On ferry, mostly civilians; no injured people, mostly just business people trying to get away; got off ferry, called home, walked to Hoboken and was able to take NJ transit train home (trains were delayed but running); was home by 1:15;

OTHER STORIES:

- Robert Coll, Euro Brokers: Was in process of evacuating (probably by stairs) when heard announcement and went back up with a few people; he survived initial impact on 84th floor, began down stairway A with BC, but went up (helping heavy woman) and presumably died in collapse;
- Michelle Scarpitta, Euro Brokers: Arrived in lobby 15 mins after 1st plane hit; not discouraged from entering building (because she did), was in elevator on way up when plane hit building; elevator got stuck on 12th floor (known because MS, and possibly others, made cell phone calls to family and friends); apparently died in collapse of building; may be able to reach mother
- Richard Fern, Euro Brokers: (rfern@ebi.com) Had just gotten in elevator on 84th floor when 2nd plane hit; bounced around in elevator, doors did not close and went right to Stairway A, by which he was able successfully to evacuate;
- Ron DiFrancesco, Euro Brokers, (416) 203-9476: Survived crash on 84th floor; went w/ BC group down to 81; on way to help Stanley Praitnath (w/ BC), RD, who was using gym bag as filtering mask, was overcome by smoke; went up to 91st floor to get air; encountered people there; eventually decided

to go back down and escaped via stairway A; was just exiting concourse near Sam Goody with John Kren (obese male, also an employee of Euro Brokers) when collapse of tower 2 began, blown "across" Liberty St by fireball; Kren died in hospital two weeks later;

- Stanley Praimnath, Fuji Bank, now Mizuho Bnak (201) 626-9298: Decided to evacuate by elevator after 1st plane hit; as exiting building through turn-styles was encouraged to go back by building security (PA workers wearing blue blazers); group he was with decided to go back but SP encouraged office temp to go home (she did); upstairs, saw plane approaching office from 81st floor south window; dove under desk, survived crash; all other employees he ascended with died; helped by BC (see above) and able to escape down stairway A with him; (SP may have spoken directly with injured person on 44th floor)
- Adam Arias, Euro Brokers: Evacuated after 1st plane (not sure whether elevator or stairs); ran into 2 high school FF friends in lobby and stayed to help them evacuate and direct civilians; AA and 1 FF died in collapse (other FF survived) (find out which FF*)
- Jose Merrero, Euro Broker fire warden: had escorted a number of people down the stairs after 1st plane hit, including one overweight person; had gotten down to about the 50th floor (BC surmises) and heard over the walkie-talkie that David Vera was upstairs helping people (DV went up stairs at 81 with heavy woman); decided to go up to help him;
- Jerry Banks (jbanks@ebi.com): on ground with walkie-talkie
- Fakae Takushima: on phone with fiancé Manish Patel (Euro Broker employee) when building collapsed; 130 East 93rd Street, Apt 6B, 10128, (212) 880-7086, (917) 450-6713;