

File No. 9110001

WORLD TRADE CENTER TASK FORCE INTERVIEW

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER THOMAS FITZPATRICK

Interview Date: October 1, 2001

Transcribed by Elisabeth F. Nason

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DRURY: We can begin by stating your name and your rank.

MR. FITZPATRICK: Tom Fitzpatrick, Deputy Commissioner for Administration, assigned to the Commissioner's office.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DRURY: Just for the record, it's Monday, October 1, 2:40 p.m., conference room 8N6 at headquarters.

MR. FITZPATRICK: On the morning of the event I was in my office and I was alerted by Commissioner Feehan and one of the secretaries outside that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. I looked out the window, saw a slice in the side of the north tower, and then Bill came down the hall and said let's go. So we responded from headquarters. I had previously had a meeting with Tom McDonald, so he came with us, along with Ray Goldbach. I think that was it in the car.

En route to the alarm, we could see the smoke from the north tower. I tried to get an idea of how many floors and it looked like the upper third of the building was involved. We got across the Brooklyn Bridge, went down Broadway and stopped the car, I think it was at Broadway and Dey. We

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out of the car and ran down the street. As we got to the intersection of Broadway and Dey or just a little bit down Dey, the second plane hit the south tower. And we continued down the street. By the time we got to the plaza, a lot of debris was coming down.

Q. Did you witness the second plane hitting?

A. I heard it but I didn't look up. The noise from the plane was enough to make you not want to look up. I thought the plane was actually going to land in the street to be honest with you. The noise was outrageous. When it hit the building it was even worse. I figured, as long as we didn't get hit by the plane, we were ahead of the game. The next thing I was worried about was getting hit by the parts. Various pieces of the plane were falling on the street. As we went down the street you could see parts of aircraft with stencil numbers on it and things like that. There was a wheel, or like a wheel housing or something else there in the street.

There were lot of bodies coming down but I didn't pay much attention to it. For some reason I was more focused on the airplane parts until somebody started pointing out the body parts. I was

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particularly concerned at that point with getting hit by something falling out of the building, so we ran under the canopy of 5 World Trade Center, to make our way towards the building, the north tower. We were under the canopy as far as we could go and cut through. There is a space between 5 and 6. When we got under the end of 5 we would have had to run across the plaza. We didn't believe that was a good idea, so we went through the space between 5 and 6 and went up an escalator on the side of 6. It was on the street side, on the Vesey Street side. There was a Port Authority cop telling us not to come up and we went up anyway. He directed us to an escalator which went down to the plaza to the concourse level so we could make our way to the command post at the northwest corner of the north tower.

When we got there, I saw --

Q. So that was West Street near the pedestrian bridge?

A. Yes, yes. I got there and saw Richie Sehirer had just come into the lobby, Chief Hayden, Chief Callan, a whole host of security people and people from the Port Authority. Bill Feehan and myself and then Tom Von Essen. That's all I can recall right now.

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There are a lot of other people, but they were the only ones I focused on.

Q. Did you mention Chief Ganci?

A. I didn't see Chief Ganci in the lobby at that time.

Q. Can you tell us Commissioner, what the demeanor of the citizens or lay people were there in the lobby, or in the concourse?

A. With respect to the security guards, they seemed to be fairly composed. They were going about their business, making a lot of phone calls. The only civilians we saw were coming out as we went through the lobby of 5. The Port Authority police were directing groups of people out of the towers, out on to the street. Seemed like they were mostly going - they may have been going across the walkway at that time. I didn't really see where they were going, but they were directing them out of the building, quite a few people.

We were in the lobby, it could have been 15 minutes. We were getting reports. People were calling the security desk with reports of people trapped upstairs. We were trying to get an idea of what was going on with our own people upstairs. We -- somebody

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told us in the lobby that they had information that the Pentagon had just been hit, so in addition to the second plane, the idea of terrorism was confirmed by the Pentagon. We were looking to, because the command post was so crowded, we were looking for a place to set up a second command post, essentially for communications because we couldn't get any out from behind the desk. It's a big marble desk. It looks like the security station there is a marble counter with a wall in front of it and you had to go around it every time to get to a phone, so we figured it wasn't going to work out in the long run.

Q. The command center was actually inside number 6?

A. No, inside of the north tower.

Q. It wasn't in number 5, it was in the north tower?

A. Yes, we used 5 for cover and we ran through 6 to get into the north tower.

Q. So the north tower is the command post?

A. Yes, that's at the level of West Street, but you've got to go down one level. We were there about 15 minutes looking for the secondary command post. We started briefly talking about who was going where. We

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were trying to figure out, if somebody was going to go to OEM or somebody was going to stay on the scene. I think the Commissioner had been told that the Mayor wanted to meet him. I'm not sure where the Mayor was but the Mayor wanted to meet the Commissioner and some of his staff just north of the tower.

I looked in the concourse level where the shops are. It was too congested, too deep in the building for the units coming out in the street to see anybody. So we went back out to the lobby and dropped back to a position right outside that had 6 escalators going up to the walkway. I thought there might be an opportunity to have people staged there before they came into the main lobby.

Q. Those are the escalators that lead to the pedestrian bridge that takes you from one World Trade Center to the Financial Center?

A. Yes, it is. I looked around. There was no communication. We didn't think that was a good spot. The longer we stayed in the lobby we realized that with the second building and with the command post getting as crowded as it was, we were not going to be able to manage anything from that point, so we decided to move, Bill Feehan, myself, and I believe Commissioner Tierney

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at that point. I met her in the walkway or I might have met her before, but she was there anyway. I decided to look for a second place to go. I believe the Commissioner left to go north and Bill Feehan and myself, went up to the walkway to go across West Street.

Q. You mean the bridge there?

A. Yes, we went across the north bridge into the Winter Garden. When we got into the Winter Garden, just as soon as we stepped through the door I looked and said to myself this is a perfect command post, because they looked like they were having some type of an event. There were tables set up and there was a big - around the tables were two rows of tables across the front of the Hudson River side of the Winter Garden. That would be perfect because if you had a phone at each position, you have an emergency command post, an OEM type set up going right away.

There were two security guards, one of which I met later on, but there were two security guards who asked us if we needed anything. We told them we needed communications set up in that lobby. Because we figured that would be the command post. We could come out and do staging at West Street. He told us he would

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try to get it set up there. It was not a standard part of the lobby set up, but he would try to get us some communications. It appeared at that time that the whole building had been evacuated. It was empty except for security.

While he was doing that, we made our way back out to West Street into the driveway of 2 World Financial Center. There were two garage doors behind us. When we got out there we noticed that the apparatus were coming in and starting to fill up West Street. Ambulances were responding, and it seemed like they were coming from two different directions on West Street. So we didn't think that would be a good idea for the long term if we were going to have an event this big. We had to stage the ambulances down from Canal Street south, so that we could bring the ambulances down, pick up patients and either go through the battery into Brooklyn or Queens or back up the west side into Manhattan or wherever else we were attempting.

It was evident that we weren't going to be able to get to people above the fire. Based on the number of jumpers, we could only assume that hundreds of people were trapped.

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We were there for, seems to me 10 minutes maybe. Time was all out of whack for me. I don't know. We were all - with all the running around and the time we spent in each place, it's kind of compressed.

Q. Are we still in the time period from when you saw the second plane hit from east of the World Trade Center?

A. Yes.

Q. You made your way over here. You told us your story about where you went to the Winter Garden back out on the street?

A. Right.

Q. Both of the World Trade Centers are still standing at this point?

A. Both still standing, both heavily involved, but both still standing.

Q. You then followed the driveway into Two Financial Center?

A. Yes, Tom McDonald was there and they asked him to go north and start to control the ambulances and the trucks that seemed to be stopping right at that point. What we wanted to do is get them to the side of the road to keep the street open. One of the things

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that was in the driveway -- while we were talking, we noticed there was groups of people with stretchers and EMS equipment running south on the sidewalk. At the same time there was a group of people with EMS equipment running north. And I thought it was at that point that we needed to coordinate which direction they were going in. If we were going to have a triage area in one set, which we presumed would be south and the ambulances were moving north, that the triage area should all be south.

Chief Gombo was in the driveway at that point. I asked him to take some people and set up a triage area wherever they thought it would be best to set it up. I believe they left the driveway and went south towards Albany.

Right after that there was a camera crew there from somewhere. I remember Frank Gribbon saying to me is there any chance this building would fall down. I don't think I gave him a real good answer, but he did tell the camera crew to step back because we were concerned about falling glass. We assumed from the last explosion that there were big big chunks of glass coming down from somewhere. So he told them to get back against the building.

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At some point I believe Bill asked me to call somebody. But I can't for the life of me remember who or what. I was looking for a phone and the security guard who was in the driveway, there is a little stone wall with a railing or something on top of it, that you could climb up on it right at the end of the driveway, so Bill said to make a call. I jumped up on the wall and ran in right off the street. There was an office there, a security office, and the guy directed me to an office that was 5 feet away to use the phone. I made a phone call and came back out in the driveway.

Q. Is the driveway now on the west side of West Street, so it leads to the World Financial Center or does it lead to the World Trade Center?

A. No, the driveway goes right into 2 World Financial Center on the west side. There were two double doors there.

Q. Just to clarify, Commissioner, this is where the command post was set up?

A. Yes, yes, they were setting up the magnetic board and stuff. Came back out. Met Bill and I - forget who else was in the driveway at that point. Came back out and stood somewhere near Bill in the driveway. We were right at the raised driveway, which

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went down to the street, came up and went down to the garage. It was sort of raised in the center. We basically stood on the raised portion. I started to look up the building.

Q. Was Chief Ganci present in that area at that time?

A. I didn't see him. I don't remember seeing him. I came back out. I remember seeing Bill, but I don't remember. I don't remember clearly who else was there, but I know there were about - I would guess between 40 and 50 people in the driveway.

Q. All Fire Department personnel?

A. No, I think aside from Fire Department personnel, there were some other civilian people. I seem to remember somebody in a T-shirt. The only reason I remember that is because -- I think I remember that because I ran into him later on at the back of the garage. We looked up at the building straight up, we were that close. All we saw was a puff of smoke coming from about 2 thirds of the way up. Some people thought it was an explosion. I don't think I remember that. I remember seeing, it looked like sparkling around one specific layer of the building. I assume now that that was either windows starting to collapse like tinsel or

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something. Then the building started to come down. My initial reaction was that this was exactly the way it looks when they show you those implosions on TV. I would have to say for three or four seconds anyway, maybe longer. I was just watching. It was interesting to watch, but the thing that woke everybody up was the cloud of black material. It reminded me of the 10 commandments when the green clouds come down on the street. The black cloud was coming down faster than the building, so whatever was coming down was going to hit the street and it was pretty far out. You knew it wasn't coming right down. Judging from where people were jumping before that, this cloud was out much further.

Somebody yelled we've got to take cover or get out of the way or something like that and the only place to go, because we were in that driveway area, was into the garage. I didn't, at that point, expect the building to come down, I guess, but I knew you wanted to be out of the way of this black cloud. I ran into the garage and I would say ten or 15 feet into the garage, the building hit the street. It wasn't very loud but it was big. A big noise, it wasn't like a crash, like a car accident, more like a big thud. And

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a blast of air and debris came through the garage. I think the thing that is unusual about going in was when I ran in the garage there was a railing, where the driveway of the northern most part of the garage went in and split. It split with a yellow railing and as I was going in, two people fell back. I fell over them. To keep my balance, I reached out and put my hand on the railing. The people there were scrambling to get up.

When I got up, I just kept running straight ahead but I realized that I was on the other side of the railing. Not the driveway side, but what looked like a walkway. In this garage, that would be where you pay your ticket to get your car out. So I kept going straight with the railing. Some people ran down the driveway. I don't know to this point, still don't know if the driveway's southern most point was parallel to this or if it went down another level. I really don't.

Anyway, I ran into four or five people straight ahead with the railing on the left. Eventually, I ran into a corridor, a long corridor with a door on the end of a long corridor to get out of the debris that was coming through the door. We just kept

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going down the corridor, assuming it was going to come out through the side or the lobby or a hallway.

Unfortunately it turned into a dead end, like a locker room, like an electrical closet or where they put lockers in. There were really no doors to the place.

We just kept going to the end and at the opening where you assume it's going to open up into another lobby, it opened up into a room about this size. It had lockers in it. That was it.

So by this time we couldn't see anything, the noise was over. It was very quiet, but this plaster was in the air so you couldn't breathe normally without inhaling a mouth full of something.

Q. Were there lights or any lighting?

A. There were lights, but the stuff was dark.

With all the stuff floating around, it was almost darkness, like a white out or a gray out. It seemed like the guy in the T-shirt was the guy - I thought he was a construction worker. He may have been a maintenance guy. But we got down to the end and he was saying is there a way out? Is there a way out? I couldn't find any. All I could see were lockers, after getting close to them, and conduits on the wall. There was no way out of that room, so we started to go back

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to where we came out and I think we ended up past the way we came in.

Q. How many people were with you, Commissioner?

A. I think there were about 5 or 6.

Q. Anybody that you know personally?

A. No.

Q. Did you have a Fire Department radio with you at that time?

A. I had no radio, no. I just had my turnout coat. Unfortunately, my helmet was in the car. Richie said he was going to go to - I think the Commissioner wanted Bill Feehan to go across the street to OEM and he said to tell Bill to give me his helmet, because I didn't have one. So we came back out of the hallway and somebody said there is a door. There is a door. Let's go out this way. I couldn't see it. So whoever said it stayed at the door, see, and kept yelling this way, this way, this way. You couldn't orient yourself. With the dust you didn't know which direction it was.

Q. Did you pass any people on the way back out?

A. I don't think I passed anybody who was walking around, because we were all together. I think there was only one guy I worked with next to me. But there were people behind him, so when we turned around

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to go back out, they were in front of us. I saw there was a door, I remember going and feeling my way around. There were a couple of door knobs. One of them said it was a locksmith shop. I saw an electrical closet and something else. It was a typical maintenance door. But I remember the locksmith one. It was stupid, I know. I assumed that the building had fallen on the other building. I couldn't get out of the garage. I keep remembering thinking that the locksmith would always have the keys to the doors and they were probably in the locksmith's closet. But who knows if he ever got out.

We came out and went into this door. I think we went up one landing into a store which seemed like a bagel shop or something. I seem to remember cameras or something, on the right side. That led around through the store into the lobby of the Winter Garden.

Q. How was the visibility at that time?

A. It was all -- it was still - the cement - you know the cement they put in, as you got further in towards the Winter Garden it cleared up. By the time you actually get into the lobby of the Financial Center, it was a little bit of stuff, but not nearly as bad as what it was before. I went to the lobby. We

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went across.

Q. Was there anybody in the lobby that you recognized?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Were there people in the Winter Garden?

A. No. I don't remember seeing anyone over there. There may have been people there, I just may not have been paying attention to that.

Q. Did you hear a lot of people yelling or screaming?

A. There was some people yelling, but I don't know exactly where they were. I didn't look to see. I didn't look back to see what had happened. But I knew that down to the right was the entrance - was Vesey Street. So we went down that way. Passed a - it was like a restaurant in the courtyard there. I think there is one on either side. I went down and I saw out on Vesey Street, I saw Tom McDonald, who we had just sent to move the rigs. So as soon as I saw him I knew he was alive. I went down there and I think he was looking for Tom Curti, might have been with Tom McDonald going down the street.

At that time I saw Tom McDonald, who looked more like a snow man than me, but it seemed like he had

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a real mouthful of stuff. So I went back in and grabbed a couple of bottles of water from the diner that we had just passed or the restaurant or something. I grabbed a couple of bottles of water and gave them to him. I then proceeded down Vesey Street to West Street, figuring that now I could come around to the right and back towards tower one and towards the driveway.

Q. Heading east on Vesey Street?

A. Yes, but you couldn't go that way. Between the dust and everything else you couldn't see much, but I think the walkway was still up. I also knew that the second tower was up. But Tom McDonald said what had actually happened. So I went out and looked and I could see the north tower, but I couldn't see the south tower, but sometime when you are down there if you are in the right position, it only looks like one building to begin with. So I walked a little bit down further and saw that all you could see was the radio tower sticking up through the smoke. But you couldn't really see anything else. But based on where the sun was shining through, where there was a shadow before, I said to Tom, the whole building is gone. I came back to him and thought more about the guys who went in the

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garage but they didn't come up the way I came up. I assumed that the garage at 2 World Financial went down and came back out and there had to be a driveway. I knew there was a driveway in the back of the building, so I went around the back of the building.

Q. Back by Vesey towards the water?

A. Yes. (inaudible). Back around behind 4 World Financial Center. I had actually come out of 3. I went back around behind 3 looking for the garage exit that should be coming out of 2.

Q. You went between 3 and 4 and you walked behind 3?

A. Yes, south and west.

Q. Behind the Winter Garden?

A. Behind the Winter Garden.

Q. So you were back near the boat pier?

A. Yes. As I got back here, I met the same security guard that was in the lobby. He had a ponytail. He told me he was retired secret service. Something official. I think he mentioned retired secret service. I thought that was pretty reliable. So I asked him if there was an entrance to the garage from this side, if the garage went through. He said he didn't know. He wasn't sure. There was somebody else

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that said it doesn't go through, it's a separate -
because there's a wall between garages. So I started
to go south behind Merrill Lynch near the park. So we
came around and come around to that little bridge area
where they took the families down. As I got around
there, it just started to come down towards the
building and all of a sudden a whole bunch of people
started running. The second one --

Q. Towards you?

A. Yes, now they are all running towards me. I
said the second one is coming down. This is getting to
be a little bit too much. So we started to run
straight out towards the water. Right near Liberty
Street and then real close to 2 Financial Center. Ran
out to the water where the marina is, and then ran
north on the World Financial plaza till we came to the
water. By then the second building went down. The
cloud from that debris had already blown out through
the street, but the people who were in that area were
sort of protected because they didn't get the direct
brunt of the second cloud because the building took the
brunt of the hit. The cloud seemed to be, the
Financial Center seemed to, you know, clear a path.
The cloud went on both ends but didn't come straight at

you, so you were a little bit better off there.

I went out to the water and tried to figure out what was going on. There were people out there in boats, starting to pull up to the pier.

Q. You noticed a lot of people out on the pier?

A. Yes, there were a lot of people out against the fence. I think some people had gone out there and stopped to watch what was going on after the first building came down, because it looked like if they had gotten that far and the buildings came down they should have kept running. It seems like they may have run out there with the first building and decided to stop and watch the second building. And then the second building came down, and they had no place to go except into the water, over the railing. As you got further north, you could see that they were getting hit by the cloud. Some people were trying to get into boats.

Q. Was there anybody in the water that you noticed?

A. I didn't see anybody in the water. I saw some people going on the boats. Some of the boats were having difficulty with gates that dropped down to let people on, but they couldn't get them down because of the railings. So we tried to figure out a way to get

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people up over the railings on to the boats. Some firemen were helping some civilians. Then I met a Chief out there, Raynis, I think his name was, who started to take a head count. I told him to get -- there was another Chief further down. It looked like he was doing the same thing. I told him to get together, to get everybody and send somebody down and get all the firemen on the pier, to try to get them together in one group. At least get a preliminary head count and we were going to take them out to meet -- the only thing I could see was the big arch in front of BMCC.

Q. That's up by like North Moore? Chambers and West?

A. Yeah, I told them take all the guys you can get and meet in front of the arch, and when we got there, we would figure out what to do next. By then -- the school, the high school started to let kids out, Stuyvesant High School. There was a lot of kids. The firemen were stretched along the pier there. So we went down this way and it looked like the kids were starting to come out of school, I'm thinking in my mind. So we made our way across towards BMCC to regroup. We came back down West Street, and I don't

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know what the time frame is, but I ended up running into a Battalion Chief and I asked him if he had anybody with him. It seemed like he had a group of a lot of different people. So I asked him if he had anybody with him. He didn't. I had gone, come down West Street and tried to get down as far as I could in front of 3. After the smoke cleared you could see that 3 was clear, but the bridge had come down and I thought maybe the guys were in the driveway of 1 North. I was hoping they were on this side of the bridge. I looked as much as I could in front of 3 World Financial Center. It was just six inches of debris. If there was someone laying there, it would be hard to distinguish them from the mounds of paper. I didn't see anybody, so I got Shaun Reen. I said get some guys. Get some companies. I think Bill Feehan is right here. I assumed that they were between the north bridge, laying in the street, and Vesey Street. You could see right away that if they were on the other side of that, forget about trying to climb over it or get through or past it. About the only way to do a rescue was from around the other side, the south side, which I hadn't seen. So he came down and told me he had about a dozen guys. Searched everywhere and

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couldn't find anybody. And then we started to - then people started to drift in.

Q. So just prior to the first collapse, you were at the driveway of Two Financial?

A. Right.

Q. Was Commissioner Feehan with you at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Then he was out there also, but you weren't sure if Chief Ganci was there?

A. I didn't remember seeing Pete, but again that was after I had just come out of the building, making a phone call. When I came out, if you jumped off that wall there. I walked past - you might not have noticed anybody who was closer to that wall. If they were closer to the wall or if there were more people in front of him when I jumped off, I didn't see him. It's hard to tell. The only thing I could figure is that when we ran backwards, either they ran into the other driveway, which was separate, and made their way out, somehow got out. The debris had fallen and they couldn't get across the first one or if it was on a different level, they would have been at the second entrance. They must have came up next to that little

wall to get out.

Because later on when I got back there, it looked like the little wall had been shielded from the direct hit of debris, because the building deflected it. I assumed they came back up next to that wall and made their way out to the street where the magnetic board was previously and must have got hit by the second building. But I never saw either of them after that.

Q. Did you ever see Tom McDonald?

A. Tom McDonald, when I came back the second time I found Tom McDonald on West Street. Because he was limping. He was sitting on a car. He was worse than he was the first time. He was sitting on a car or bumper or something like that. He had torn a muscle in his leg. He was having trouble walking. I think then he told me he found Tom Curti. So that was one less guy to look for. That's about it. The rest of it is a blur.

Q. When you went out between the first and second collapse and as you made your way back to West Street, that north bridge was down?

A. Right, I don't know if --

Q. It was down after the first collapse?

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A. Was it? I didn't know. I really couldn't see. You could see the debris, but with the cloud, you couldn't, from where I was -- I was standing at the corner of 3 World Financial and looking up Vesey and West. All you could see was the top and the street. You couldn't see anything. It was like a snow storm. But you could see through the sun, every once in a while, you could see the north tower and the antenna sticking up. The reason I knew the second building was gone because the smoke drifted for a second, and the sunlight came through and I knew it wasn't an optical illusion, it was just gone. So that's all I know about the second one.

I don't know if the bridge was down or partially down. It could have been in the street. I didn't spend a long time looking.

Q. Commissioner, when you came back out after the first collapse, from the rear or the inside of Two World Financial, did you ever see Dr. Kelly down near that bridge area?

A. No, not by the north bridge. I didn't see her. I met David Prezant. He was in the driveway. The first one. As a matter of fact he was there when we came out. We were on the driveway the first time.

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Either before or after I came out he was there.

Because I think he went with Gombo or someone from EMS. They went together to build a triage area. But no, I didn't see Dr. Kelly. For some reason, it's real blurry. I can't remember why I went to make that phone call. I went to find out something. I ran in that building and made a phone call. I can't remember what it was. That's all.

Q. (inaudible)?

A. I called Sandy from the lobby when I went back in to get the water, because my sister lives in Battery Park City. Tom McDonald was sitting outside, I was going to get him some water. I went back in to steal the water. There was a phone right next to the counter, so I called Sandy. I told her to call my wife and find out where my sister was, because I didn't know if the building had fallen on her building. I couldn't tell. Find out how my sister was - call my wife, find out how my sister was and call my father, because he's in Florida. Just let them know that I'm still alive. And then I went on with the day.

Q. You mentioned earlier that you had a conversation with Commissioner Von Essen about a helmet.

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A. Yeah.

Q. Did Commissioner Feehan give you his helmet?

A. No, no. He kept it. We never had a chance to make that. That would have been a difficult swap. I don't think he would have given it up so quick. I don't think he would have been so willing to go to OEM either. I'm glad he did, but that was the plan - it was going to be that. Once you started talking to Richie Schirer about recall, which we knew was going to be a mess, somewhere in the conversation Richie says to me "We'll do recall". I said to him "Make it quick, Yankee Stadium or Shea Stadium." Commissioner Von Essen said "I want you to go with the boss and I want Bill to go to OEM." He was going with the Mayor. But obviously that didn't work out. That was the last conversation between the three of us that day. Then Richie was at staging. I think he was on the phone, actually calling OEM, trying to get Shea Stadium or Yankee Stadium opened up. That's the last time I saw him. I guess he went off towards where the Mayor was going or back to his office.

Some people, I think when we went up across the walkway, I think some people were contemplating running out through the glass windows on West Street.

But they were having second thoughts because of the jumpers. If you got hit by a jumper, you'd be out of business. So we went up through the walkway to get out, but I don't know who might have gone out through the windows.

Q. Do you recall ever seeing Father Judge down there?

A. I didn't see him.

Q. When you were at the command post on West Street, across from the south tower, was it?

A. The north tower.

Q. North tower, could you see firefighters on either side of that tower?

A. I didn't notice. I know there were rigs. I could not actually see any people, but I could see the rigs there. When we were in the north tower, just before we left, there was a report of a third plane coming in from the Port Authority. I don't know if anybody knew whether to take that seriously or if it was true or not. But I heard Chief Callan telling guys to come down, to get out of the building.

Q. You heard him, or it on the radio?

A. No, I heard him say it. I was standing right there next to him. He told people to come down, to get

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out of the building. He wanted all personnel out of the building. I don't know if he was communicating that to the second tower or to both or to the people in the building, but I did hear him say that.

Q. This is when the command post was still in the north tower?

A. Still in the north tower. A lot of the marble in the lobby was falling off the walls, big slabs of marble were falling down. From the impact, I guess. The lobby didn't look too good. The integrity of the elevators - I started to think about the elevators. They had either blown out, cut off or could possibly have the cars coming down. The lobby was becoming an untenable place, especially if we wanted to continue operations.

Q. Elevators (inaudible)?

A. I didn't see anybody coming down the stairs in the lobby. I don't think there is an exit in the lobby.

Q. So you saw no civilian personnel coming out from the lobby?

A. No, when went I down and when I went back. We were in the lobby by the command station. You go east in the lobby. There are a couple of doors there

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that lead to the concourse. Three little doors. Those doors lead into the concourse where there are shops and stores. But as soon as I went through those doors, I figured that would be a crazy place to set up a command post, because who would find you. Where's the phones. There's nothing useful in there, so I came back out.

Q. So the first command post in the north tower was in the area of where the airline ticket booths are?

A. The first was at the street level in the northwest corner of the building.

Q. So it wasn't where the ticket booths are?

A. Right, there was nothing in the lobby that was commercial and the command post was a big marble desk which had a console behind it, but you couldn't see over it. About a five foot wall and there was all Port Authority cops and security people behind it. I went back there because somebody had given me a report. One of the cops behind there said we have people trapped on the 22nd floor. Some company was calling down to the lobby. They were trapped. Debris had come down in front of their door and they were looking for companies or firemen to remove the debris so they could get out. I gave that to Chief Hayden.

I said I don't know what we can do at this

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point, but just put it on the list. A list of places that we had to search or get to, because everybody was calling us up. And the 22nd, I thought at that point seemed like a relatively safe place to be. The 22nd would probably be the best.

Last thing we saw, as opposed to (inaudible).

Q. I just have one last question.

A. (Not recorded).

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DRURY: If no one has any further questions, Commissioner, I thank you and we will end this interview at this time.