# PRIOR ATTACKS - WTC BOMBING



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For nearly three decades, the World Trade Center's twin towers were a distinctive landmark in New York City. The view, at night, was particularly spectacular.

September 11 was not the first time terrorists attacked the World Trade Center.

On 26 February 1993, six people died, more than a thousand were injured and 50,000 Trade Center workers were evacuated when a bomb in excess of 1,000 pounds <u>exploded</u> on the second level of the parking basement. The home-made device had been driven into the building in a stolen Ryder truck.

The explosion's epicenter was <u>under</u> the <u>northeast corner</u> of the <u>Vista Hotel</u>, also known as 3 World Trade Center. (The same hotel, on 9/11, was owned by Marriott.) Although the twin towers remained intact, the hotel was closed for months, undergoing repairs. The blast, as depicted in this FBI photo, tore a deep crater in the parking structure.



The attack plan in 1993, as authorities later learned, was to topple one tower so it fell on the other, spewing

forth cyanide gas and killing tens of thousands of Americans. At the time, and later, few people realized the scope of what the terrorists had set in motion.

It is now believed that September 11's events began to take shape soon after the 1993 bomb failed to produce the hoped-for catastrophic <u>results</u>. If true, the well-coordinated attack on the United States was eight years in the making.

Two years after the bombing, but before <u>Ramzi Yousef</u> was <u>arrested</u> for his role in the failed attempt to topple the twin towers, he and his fellow terrorists plotted another spectacular disaster. Using a liquid explosive designed to pass through airport security, the terrorists planned to blow up eleven commercial American aircraft in one day.

That plot was foiled when Yousef started a fire in Manilla.

When he fled the scene of the Manilla fire, <u>Yousef</u> left his computer behind. It contained what authorities needed to arrest him. Soon after, he was apprehended in Pakistan and extradited to the United States.

He, and five other conspirators, were <u>tried</u> and convicted for their role in the 1993 WTC bombing. Each received a prison sentence of 240 years.

A key piece of evidence, uncovered the day after the parking-garage bombing, had tied the defendants to the act. It was a totally mangled piece of the vehicle which one of the defendants had leased. The bomb had gone-off inside that van.



In its Winter 1995/1996 edition, *The National Interest* published an <u>article</u> (by Laurie Mylroie) about several highly debatable issues. One of those issues was the possibility of future terrorist actions against the United States (and its interests).

The article's main concern - that uncoordinated communication between U.S. law enforcement agencies "may have created a niche for terrorism within America's borders" - raised a point still hotly debated today.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PRIOR-ATTACKS-WTC-BOMBING-America-Attacked-9-1

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PRIOR-ATTACKS-WTC-BOMBING-America-Attacked-9-1

Media Stream



3 WTC - Bomb Damage under the Vista Hotel

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/



## 3 WTC - Van Evidence

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## World Trade Center - February, 1993 Bombing

Graphic, Library of Congress.

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## World Trade Center - Photo of 1993 Bomb Damage

Photo, from ATF's Report on the February, 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/World-Trade-Center-Photo-of-1993-Bomb-Damage



### World Trade Center - Vista (later Marriott) Hotel

Image online, courtesy the fotosimagenes.org website.

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 $\underline{\text{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/World-Trade-Center-Vista-later-Marriott-Hotel}}$ 



Ramzi Yousef - Convicted of 1993 WTC Bombing Image online, courtesy the FBI.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ramzi-Yousef-Convicted-of-1993-WTC-Bombing



Ramzi Yousef - Foiled Plot, Arrested in Manilla Image online, courtesy the BBC website.

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