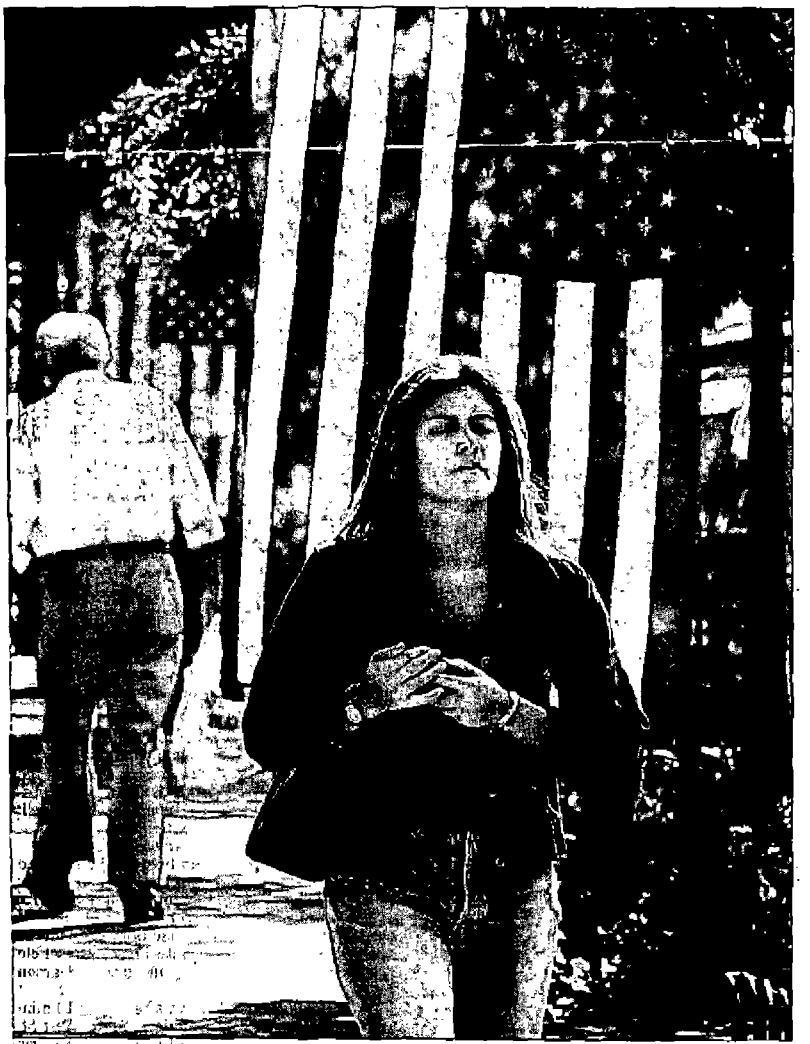
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DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2001

Fewer than 5,000 missing

Duplicate names crossed off lists as death toll grows



ROBERT BOBANCLIO DAILY NEWS

RED, WHITE AND BLUE CITY Flags fly along Central Park West yesterday as a wounded city keeps it head high while going about the business of restoring order out of terrorist chaos.

By PETE DONOHUE and CORKY SIEMASZKO
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

The number of people reported missing in the World Trade Center catastrophe dipped under 5,000 yesterday for the first time since the terror attacks, even as the death toll continued to inch higher.

Since last week, the official tally of those believed buried in the rubble has fallen by more than 1,300 as police found duplications in the lists compiled by city hospitals and rescue agencies.

The trend continued yesterday, when the number dropped by 233 to 4,986.

"We've been able to eliminate numerous duplications and get that number as accurate as we possibly can," Deputy Mayor Joseph Lhota said.

More known dead

Meanwhile, the death toll rose by six, to 369. And the Fire Department identified the remaining seven firefighters from the group of 16 whose bodies were recovered Monday. All were based in Manhattan.

They are Capt. Fredrick Ill of Ladder 2; Firefighter Michael Clark of Ladder 2; Firefighter Faustino Apostol of Battalion 2; Firefighter Martin Demeo of the Hazmat unit; Firefighter Andrew Fredricks of Squad 18; Firefighter Bruce Gary of Engine 40, and Firefighter William Johnston of Engine 6.

"There's no question that we're not going to be able to recover all of the heroes that were lost on Sept. 11," Mayor Giuliani said.

At Ground Zero yesterday, rescuers uncovered a few body parts that were sent to the morgue for identification, sources said. The last survivor was pulled from the rubble Sept. 12.

Construction crews carved a road through the wreckage between the remains of 2 World Trade Center and what had been the Commodities Exchange so they could reach the ruins of 1 World Trade Center.

"The main thing is to clean everything out," said construction worker Frank Pastori. "Clean it out fast but gently, because you don't know what you'll find."

Bush returns

President Bush visited the city yesterday for the second time since the attacks. But the trip barely registered a blip on the gridlock meter in a city where police barricades and security checkpoints have made getting around town difficult for weeks.

Lhota said there are no plans to do away with the car-pooling rules imposed last week because they have considerably reduced the number of passenger cars entering Manhattan.

"We're evaluating the information to see if we can alter the hours," he said. "But no decision has been made."

The rules prohibit solo Manhattan-bound drivers from crossing the Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg and Queensboro bridges, or entering the Lincoln and Midtown tunnels, weekdays between 6 a.m. and noon.

Lhota said the rules will remain in effect on Columbus Day.

Alternate-side parking regulations, which were suspended after the attack, will stay suspended until at least next Wednesday because of Columbus Day and the Jewish holidays.

V train delayed

Also, NY Waterway will add ferry service starting Monday between Exchange Place/Colgate in Jersey City and W. 38th St.

In another ripple effect from the terrorists attack on the World Trade Center, the Transit Authority is delaying the sweeping subway route changes slated to relieve train crowding.

The biggest casualty is the new V train, which would run from Forest Hills, Queens, to Second Ave. on the lower East Side. It was supposed to start rolling Nov. 11 and relieve crowding on the Queens Blvd. corridor trains, particularly the E and F.

"It's going to be delayed, probably for a matter of weeks, but we won't really know for how long until we see when we can get the N and R lines back," Transit Authority spokesman Al O'Leary said.

The N and R line tracks are out of use from Whitehall St. to City Hall because officials fear the cleanup of the Trade Center wreckage above could make the tunnel ceilings collapse.

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