NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

DAILY NEWS, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2001

Courage in face of hell

Continued from previous page

an ambulance and gave another lady water," Tyson said.

"He told me to calm down, everything's going to be all right; then he said, 'I'll be right back.'"

Suarez rescued another, returned to the building again and never came back.

"I never saw him again," Tyson said. "I remember his face. He was wearing a gold chain and smiling, trying to make me calm down, but he was serious. He was upbeat and caring."

Over the water

Kenneth Davis, 39, an EMS paramedic, went to the Staten Island ferry terminal at the Battery as soon as he saw the first plane hit and made his way to Ground Zero.

"You could hear the alarms of the firefighters' airpacks, signaling they were out of air; you could hear moaning and you couldn't get in to help," he said.

"We pointed people in the right direction; they were running into walls, hurt, people lying there with broken legs, hundreds of people. We had to drag them or carry them.

"We told them to go down the block and don't stop ... I stepped on an amputated leg, a leg with a shoe and ragged piece of pants. An upper part of a body was lying nearby. I taped up my knee. We were giving oxygen and bandages, using their clothing to stop the bleeding."

At the terminal, he put people on ferries to get them to Staten Island hospitals, working until 10:30 that night. "Everyone worked together and got it done on such a scale," Davis said.

EMS Emergency Medical Technician Michael Kenna said he and partner Charlie Vitale got at least 50 bloodied people into ambulances.

"The magnitude was amazing, but we reacted to each one," Kenna said. "You don't join this business to lose patients. Just one loss is too much."

Steven Craver, a St. Vincent's Medical Center paramedic, pulled up outside Tower 1 and saw two women, one with third-degree burns, the other with a broken wrist, the bone protruding.

"I did as much as I could, rinsed the burns and wrapped the wrist to stop her from bleeding to death," Craver said. He placed those two and four other [illegible]



DEBBIE EGAN-CHIN

Recalling twin tower rescues are (L to r) Engine 236 Firefighters Brian Harvey, Pete Strahl, Anthony Palminteri and Capt. Hugh Mulligan in their Brooklyn firehouse.

He dropped them off at the emergency room and turned around, grabbing water and filter masks, sheets and towels, fully expecting to transport many more burn victims.

But as he returned around 10:30, Tower 1 collapsed. Craver treated the wounded on the sidewalk before packing his ambulance — "guys jumped on the running boards" — and speeding away from the debris avalanche.

Nearby, other rescuers also improvised.

> *"The sheer bravery and courage shown during this rescue and evacuation mission, can never be duplicated."*
>
> THOMAS VON ESSEN

ESU Officers Mark DeMarco and William Beaury went to evacuate the Customs House, and when Tower 1 collapsed debris crushed through the roof. The cops escaped and sent people down an alley to Vesey St. and toward safety.

Police Officer Ricardo Cabrera fired his pistol seven times at a plate glass door, allowing 60 panicked people to escape from 33 Maiden Lane, which had filled with rubble, smoke and cement dust.

Officer Ryan Baldwin of the 1st Precinct helped get injured people on a city bus. "The driver was cool; he took 40 people to Beekman Hospital," Baldwin said.

[illegible] a man approached him [illegible] He was saying, "I can't see." Baldwin had the man hold onto his belt as he led him through the dust cloud to a patrol car.

'Everything we had'

At 10 a.m., the order came over for any uniformed personnel to report to Battery Park City to move evacuated civilians from the area.

"We responded with everything we had," said Capt. Kenneth Kelleher of the NYPD harbor unit. Sixteen police boats went to the seawall on the west side of the tip of Manhattan, the North and South coves, to take people to New Jersey.

He said each craft made about 10 trips across the Hudson River. The unit's 55-foot launch holds about 40 people. Smaller boats hold 20.

"We took 3,000 to 4,000 people across," Kelleher said. "Our main focus was to make sure people were safe. We asked people to comfort each other. Some people were rushing to get on, and they fell in the water.

"People were stranded; there were no rails," Kelleher said. "They were wandering around. Some were injured. We took 100 who were injured with bruises and cuts."

Staten Island ferries, which can hold about 6,000 people per boat, New Jersey ferries, dinner and tour boats, and 35 tugboats all joined the effort. Coast Guard Lt. Mike Day estimates that half a million people were taken from lower Manhattan by 6 p.m., the bulk of them in the first hours after the towers collapsed.

Buses join the effort

Transit Police Chief Michael Ansbro ordered buses from the 14th St. garage to line up on West St., and used them to evacuate much of lower Manhattan.

"Fifty to 60 buses went back and forth to Brooklyn," Ansbro said. "We certainly saved people from being in that environment. All the buildings were emptying. Hundreds of thousands were coming out, so it saved possible stampeding."

He remembers seeing a cop walk out of the smoky haze.

"It was the most pathetic sight," Ansbro said. "He had a foot of soot on his shoulders, and he was crying that people were stuck on the subway."

Ansbro and other officers followed the cop's footprints in the dust to the E train, where it enters the Trade Center near the PATH. No one was trapped down there.

"We had given the signal and the TA stopped all the trains," Ansbro said.

Cops also directed people through the subways to Broadway.

"The mere fact of keeping people away, stopping traffic, getting people out of the buildings, saved lives," Ansbro said.

The Police Department [illegible] officers that day.

So many affected

Eight paramedics and [illegible] gency medical technicians [illegible] the disaster. Patrick Ballister, head of the paramedics' union, estimates 2,500 patients were taken by ambulance from Ground Zero.

The FDNY said 5,830 people were treated in 73 hospitals in the city; about 500 were admitted with serious injuries.

About 1,000 others were treated in New York hospitals outside the city, and New Jersey emergency rooms treated 826 patients, according to the city Fire Department.

Emergency workers treated 243 people at M*A*S*H-style stations set up all over downtown.

"The sheer bravery and courage shown during this rescue and evacuation mission, especially in the face of our losses, can never be duplicated," said Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen.

His department, which lost 343 members, can document that members got as high as the 55th floor. Some may have gotten higher, but transmissions from handheld radios used to track firefighters' locations were lost.

FDNY sources said some rescue units may have used rolled-up hoses and begun dousing the inferno in Tower 1 [illegible] found [illegible]

CITY_21MC100_011832836

NYC-WTC_000414835