

BREAKING NEWS

How the Associated Press has Covered War, Peace, and Everything Else

By Reporters of the Associated Press

Foreword by David Halberstam

Princeton Architectural Press, 2007

The Associated Press has been breaking news since it was created in 1846. In the generations since, AP has been the first to tell the world of many of history's most important moments, from the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and the bombing of Pearl Harbor to the fall of the Shah of Iran and the death of Pope John Paul II. **BREAKING NEWS**, the first book about The Associated Press in 60 years, tells the story of how AP got those stories.



Reviews and Reactions

"Nobody who has ever read a newspaper or listened to a broadcast should miss these gripping stories of how the intrepid and ingenious reporters of the Associated Press have gotten the scoop and recorded our history, from Indian wars to baseball's World Series."

—Walter Cronkite



"Even as I write, there are in some parts of the world where events are not yet of front-page merit, some young men and women going out every day and doing something difficult and complicated, something that takes a surprisingly varied array of talents, an ability to write quickly, a rare, almost intuitive sense of politics, and, of course, a certain kind of courage, the courage to stand up to powerful people who are always trying to bend you and intimidate you. The men and the women of the Associated Press have been doing it for a very long time, and when I was a young man in Saigon I was privileged enough to witness a great institution at its very best, at the moment in a democracy when it really mattered."

—David Halberstam

From the use of carrier pigeons, Western Union, and typewriters to conventions of newswriting, the AP since 1846 has set the standard in news gathering. The wire service has been the first onto news scenes and the last to leave, from a reporter on Custer's "last stand" against the Sioux, to the bureau chief who called in a report of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, to the bureau chief who hosted three North Vietnamese soldiers before reporting the fall of Saigon in the Vietnam War. AP reporters recount coverage of wars, assassinations, the civil rights movement, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, and stock-market crashes in this stunning perspective on history and news gathering of the last 160 years.

—Vanessa Bush
Booklist, American Library Association

Finally, a proper tribute to the most valuable and underappreciated institution in American journalism: "Breaking News: How the Associated Press Has Covered War, Peace, and Everything Else." Riveting history, iconic photos and a foreword by David Halberstam. The AP: Always there, everywhere.

—Ellis Henican
The Sunday Column, Newsday

From wars and natural disasters to sports and aviation, the stories in **BREAKING NEWS** illustrate how AP journalists have served as eyewitness—and sometimes player—in major world events:

- > AP reporter Joseph I. Gilbert borrowed Lincoln's handwritten text of the Gettysburg Address, resulting in the most accurate account of what was said on that day.
- > AP's John Aspinwall was alerted by five bells on the London incoming printer to the first details of D-Day, based on a German news agency broadcast. He ripped off the bulletin and sent it to the national wire, getting the news out six minutes ahead of the other agencies. The New York Times wondered if it was "some sort of Nazi disinformation." But the Allied surge across France was real, and some 20 AP correspondents and photographers covered it. By the war's end, five AP reporters had been killed, including Joseph Morton, executed by the Nazis at the Mauthausen concentration camp.
- > On September 11, 2001, an AP report referenced a phrase that has become part of our national lexicon: Ground Zero.
- > AP's Kathryn Johnson was the only journalist to interview Charlayne Hunter – the first African-American woman to attend the University of Georgia – as she attended her first day of classes. Johnson dressed as a student and slipped by school officials who stopped all other reporters at the door.
- > After AP photographer Nick Ut made his Pulitzer prize-winning photo of nine-year-old Kim Phuc, running naked down a highway after being burned in a napalm attack, he took the girl and her father to a hospital nearby. Phuc survived and became a lifelong friend to Ut.



AP Facts and Figures

- > 49 Pulitzer Prizes
- > 243 bureaus in 97 countries
- > 1,700 U.S. daily, weekly, non-English and college newspapers
- > 4,000 Web site customers, including U.S. newspapers, radio and television members, reaching millions of people via the Internet, desktop and mobile applications
- > 4,100 AP staff worldwide
- > 5,000 radio and television outlets taking AP services
- > 15,000 news outlets reaching billions of people around the world.
- > Over 500,000 moving image news stories from 1896 to the present day available from AP Archive
- > 10 million photos, negatives and images dating back more than 100 years available from AP Images, one of the world's largest collections of historical and contemporary imagery

The Associated Press is the essential global news network, delivering fast, unbiased news from every corner of the world to all media platforms and formats. Founded in 1846, AP today is the largest and most trusted source of independent news and information. On any given day, more than half the world's population sees news from AP.

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