

U.S. TORNADO

At least eighty people are thought to have died in Waco, Texas cotton town, killed by the tornado which swept thru it at night. The business centre is hardest hit. Large buildings, reported a pressman who narrowly escaped himself, folded like concertinas. All next morning they searched for bodies under the wreckage. Besides the dead more than 400 were injured, many seriously.

Waco is the seat of the famous Baylor University, which is believed to be undamaged. Martial law was proclaimed soon after daylight. Imagination cannot conceive the force which in mere minutes can so shatter a huge area.

65

The Red Cross immediately made sixty-thousand pounds available for relief. State aid is now doing everything possible to help the stricken town.

5-804440

May 15, 1953

Music: Prelude
Montage (War of Worlds)

Klein
Abbott
Non
Issue #78

TWISTERS NATURE BLITZES TEXAS CITIES

Waco, Texas had never known a tomado...Indian legend had it ever
thus ... but then -- a twister struck ... with devastating fury!
...ripping into the heart of the central Texas metropolis, leaving
its downtown section a mass of crumbled steel and broken concrete.
Stores and buildings smashed to the ground ... dozens of persons
trapped. The twister hit, just before the evening rush hour, when
downtown Waco was at its busiest. They claim it's difficult to
describe one of these things ... weather experts say it's a
colliding of cold air, and warm humid air. In Waco, the approach
was silent ... so silent that some victims got their first warning,
from an awful suction, that lifted them off their feet, and slammed
them into crumbling buildings. Two hours before the Waco tornado,
San Angelo, 200 miles to the west, was hit. Red Cross sources report
hundreds of homes, destroyed or damaged, in this city of 55 thousand,
famous as a sheep-raising center. Like a wartime blitz: landmarks
struck, communications hampered, a dazed populace counting the dead
and injured.

The toll in San Angelo, fortunately, is light...10 fatalities
listed...but in Waco, the bodies of the dead, recovered from the
debris, number more than one hundred. Damage is almost beyond
estimate. Practically every building, within 20 square blocks, will
have to be rebuilt. An awful blow, in the springtime of wild winds!

LIBRARY