

FLOODS IN JAPAN

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The worst flood of modern times Japan has known, on the Southern Island of Kyushu, as oceans of water, fed by a week of torrential rain, swept thousands of homes to destruction, and engulfed whole villages - wiping out the very means of existence. ~~Crops were destroyed,~~ ^{WERE} Communications hopelessly ~~were~~ disrupted, ^{WAS} ~~and~~ industry crippled. ^{+ CROPS + LIVESTOCK WERE DESTROYED} Tens of thousands were made homeless and the mounting death-roll ^{REACHED NEARLY SEVEN} ~~remains unnumbered.~~ ^{HUNDRED WHEN THESE REACHED AS WE GO TO PRESS.}

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Night added terror to the plight of those who escaped the onrush of the floods as the swollen rivers burst their banks at fifteen hundred places.

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As dawn broke the full tale of destruction began to unfold and the pitiful wreckage lay strewn around the ^{TOWNS} fields and ^{FIELDS} towns in appalling confusion. Whole areas remain cut off and the work of restoring the torn and twisted railways must be pitifully slow to those who await the succour of relief.

July 7, 1953

Music: Temple Crash (Samson & Delilah) PN 501
Klein
Joyce
Non
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FIRST PICTURES DISASTROUS FLOODS IN JAPAN

Modern Japan's worst flood -- on the southern island of Kyushu. Oceans of raging waters, fed by a week of torrential rains. National police report 657 dead, more than 11 hundred injured, 546 missing. Tens of thousands are homeless. The Red Cross -- American, Italian and Danish, rush cash and relief units to the flood scene.

The floods, and landslides, wipe out whole villages. Crops are destroyed, communications and power lines disrupted, industry crippled. Swollen rivers break dikes at nearly 15 hundred places. The tragedy Holland new, is felt by stunned Japanese. The Paramount News cameraman photographs these scenes of people swept from their homes... the night adding to the dismal scene of terror in the midst of watery fury.

On hills spared from inundation, the refugees continue their pitiful flight....

Japanese troops begin the grim task of searching for the missing, and bringing out the dead. The threatened spread of dysentery is fought by medical teams.

On hundred coal mines are flooded. A United States ammunition depot is reported washed out. The Japanese Ministry of Construction estimates damage to public works alone at 60 million dollars.

But those who have known the horror of flood will tell you it's the human suffering, as always, that leaves the greatest scars.