

Sunday, 16 August, 1953.

CAMERA.....LEN DUDLEY

ARGOSTOLIA EARTHQUAKE

GB, TV, PATHE - ALL ARRIVED MALTA ON SATURDAY, HAVING TRAVELLED BY SEA. THEY HAD HEAD START OF 16 HRS ON ME AS I ARRIVED MALTA AT 11 O'CLOCK SUNDAY MORNING, MY PLANE HAVING BEEN DELAYED 6 HRS. HOWEVER, MANAGED GET LIFT TO THE ISLAND AND LUCKILY ARRIVED ONLY 3 HRS. AFTER OPPOSITION.

AS MY SUNDERLAND HAD TO TURN ROUND AND FLY OUT AGAIN IN 1½ HRS IT LEFT ME VERY LITTLE TIME TO GET MY STORY. THEREFORE PLEASE EXCUSE THIS DOPE SHEET AND ALSO MY NOT HAVING NUMBERED ROLLS. THERE WAS NO TIME. MOST OF THE SCENES SELF-EXPLANATORY AND THE ISLAND PEOPLE ARE STILL AFRAID TO GO BACK AMONG THE RUINS, HENCE ABSENCE OF TYPE SHOTS. UNABLE GET SHOTS NAVY TYPES WORKING AS MOST WORKING PARTIES TOO FAR AWAY. HAVE HOWEVER FEATURED MANY CAMPS AND RED X. BOILERS FOR FOOD AND M.T.Ls IN HARBOUR (THESE WERE NOT UNLOADING) AIR SHOTS MAY BE BIT BUMPY. OUTER VILLAGES TO WHICH FOOD IS TAKEN BY HELICOPTER ARE UNGETTABLE BY ROAD, BUT UNDER NAVAL EXPLANATION THE PEOPLE ARE GRADUALLY CLEANING THE ROADS TO ALLOW THE FOOD THROUGH.

UNABLE FILM LOADING OF SUNDERLAND AT MALTA AS IT WAS ALL FULL WHEN I HEARD OF ITS EXISTENCE (I ONLY CAUGHT IT BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH). HOWEVER, SHOT SOME INSIDE SHOTS OF THE RALES AS WE FLEW OUT. POSSIBLY WE COULD CHEAT IT. SHOT SOME VERY POOR STUFF OF LOADING AT LYNHAM, PURELY FOR POLICY. THE STATION COMMANDER WOULD LIKE SOME 'STILLS' FROM THIS IF IT'S NOT TOO THIN. THE HASTINGS CARRY THE LOAD TO MALTA WHERE THE SUNDERLANDS TAKE OVER AND DELIVER IT TO THE STRICKEN ISLANDS. BLOOD PLASMA AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES AS WELL AS CIVVY DOCTORS ARE, I UNDERSTAND, BEING FLOWN IN. SORRY I AM NOT ABLE TO GIVE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF EACH SHOT BUT I FEEL TIME IS ALL ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO COMPETE WITH THE OPPOSITION'S HEAD START. THAT'S ABOUT ALL.

contd

WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD LET ME KNOW THROUGH AIR MINISTRY IF YOU REQUIRE ANY MORE MATERIAL. PERSONALLY I COULD TRY THE OTHER ISLANDS BUT THE ONE I COVERED WAS THE HARDEST HIT. THE OTHERS WOULD BE PURE REPETITION.

AM HOPING TO CATCH A PLANE TO SHIP THE STUFF AT 11 PM (SUNDAY 16 AUG) NIGHT, IT SHOULD REACH LYNEHAM AT 6 AM MONDAY. I AM AT THE MOMENT FLYING BACK TO MALTA AND SHOULD REACH THERE AT 9.30 PM. THE OPPOSITION LEFT 3 HRS. AHEAD OF ME.

LED DUDLEY

PATHE, TV, GB