

AVALANCHE: RESCUERS LEARN FULL DISASTER

25 The Grosse Walsen Valley in the Vorarlberg province  
of Western Austria lies stricken under the worst avalanche  
of modern times, ~~perhaps the~~ worst ever. The first  
helicopters arriving could see from this low altitude the  
30 plight of the villages, especially Blons, where at this time,  
46 people were still buried in the snow. It is now known  
that here in Austria 114 people have lost their lives  
and there are still others missing. Helping the  
Austrians in rescue work were the Swiss. The American  
Occupation army flew in much needed medical supplies.  
Some of those victims now being recovered alive had been 50-  
60 hours buried. But for the medical supplies they might  
have died even after being brought out of the snow. Blons,  
on which much of the rescue effort concentrated, was worst  
spot of all, but five other large villages were badly hit  
80 too. Nor ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> the whole ~~of~~ disaster confined to Austria.  
Switzerland is afflicted, also parts of Bavaria.  
The helicopter is a godsend indeed. No other form of transport  
could have got to the danger spots <sup>carried injured persons</sup> or away from them.

(aft Old Man) Switzerland itself, though characteristically helping  
Austria, also suffered from avalanches. 19 people  
20 were killed near Spiringen. The plight of the villagers,  
even ~~though~~ those who are unharmed, appals rescuers in  
contact with them. Some of their belongings they have salvaged,  
though where they can take them heaven knows.  
Alsation dogs discovered many people who would otherwise have  
lain buried.

Bulldozers got through to villages on the fringe of the  
avalanches. Some people had had miraculous escapes, their  
houses untouched, only a few yards from others totally destroyed.

The damaged church at Grisons, a small Swiss village, was  
hastily got ready for the funeral service of local victims.

All Europe conveys its deep sympathy and is send<sup>ing</sup> practical  
help to the valleys stricken by the wrath of nature.

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