

Australia: ~~...~~

- a flood-tide of death and destruction converging on the Hunter River. This was the prelude to the tragedy and horror that swept down on the thriving town of Maitland, in New South Wales, bringing the worst flood disaster in the <sup>Australia's</sup> history of ~~Australia~~.

In the doomed town, the Newsreel camera ~~records~~ <sup>all</sup> pictures ~~that portray~~ the grim drama of flood havoc. ~~The xxxxxxxxxx~~

The rushing waters <sup>RISE</sup> ~~rise~~ hourly, to engulf or wash away every <sup>obstacle</sup> ~~building~~ in <sup>THEIR</sup> ~~its~~ path.

Homes and personal possessions - often representing the hard-earned savings of a life-time - are ~~irretrievably~~ lost and ruined in minutes.

A tragedy such as this brings <sup>with it</sup> ~~its~~ stories of heroism - of ~~the~~ rescuers who braved the swift-running waters, ~~(often swimming periodically across the flood)~~ to save their fellow citizens.

An <sup>LARGE AS BRITAIN</sup> ~~area~~ has been claimed by flood water.

In Maitland, the railway lines disappeared, and ~~people~~ <sup>townfolk</sup> took refuge in ~~a~~ <sup>A</sup> signal-box. Then, even ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> last haven collapsed. The more fortunate ones were left to swim for their lives.

These were once ~~people's~~ <sup>people's</sup> homes, ~~now abandoned~~ <sup>NOW ABANDONED</sup> in the ~~hastened~~ <sup>hastened</sup> flight for survival.

The <sup>Floods</sup> ~~waters~~ rage on - leaving ~~in their wake~~ <sup>in their wake</sup>, the <sup>pathetic</sup> ~~flotsam~~ of life - wild creatures clinging desperately to ~~some dry spot~~ <sup>any</sup> ~~that's above water.~~ <sup>that's above water.</sup>

The first rescue planes swoop low over the area - and ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> complete the picture of human suffering - as people cling to ~~temporary~~ <sup>refuges</sup> roof-top ~~houses~~. But if flood disaster is swift, ~~the~~ <sup>as</sup> relief-measures are quickly organised. Air force transports drop food and supplies to marooned victims.

The Army takes over the distribution of food, and some families receive their first <sup>bread</sup> ~~food~~ for days.

So the work of rehabilitation goes on - ~~hastened~~ <sup>heartened</sup> by a gift of £250,000 from Britain and a Royal message of sympathy, in Australia's ~~dreaded~~ <sup>dreaded</sup> trial by flood... <sup>hour of</sup>