

2-105301  
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### 100,000 FLEE GREAT FLOODS

The swollen Columbia River bursts through a railway embankment to sweep out of existence the whole town of Vanport, Oregon. Eighteen thousand are rendered homeless within the hour. Scores perish in the floodwaters despite the efforts of quickly mobilized rescue workers. The railway embankment was considered a safe wall against the raging river which now bears houses away like matchwood.

So brief was the warning that hundreds of families had only time to scramble to precarious safety on their own roofs.

The Red Cross is immediately at work to register, clothe and feed the thousands of refugees who have lost all but count themselves lucky to have saved their lives.

Dykes are strengthened as the waters sweep down to the coast. In Portland, Oregon, the flood crest passes thirty feet. Rail transport is dislocated as the railroad station is inundated....yet thirty thousand people are safely evacuated from the town, to swell the total of the homeless (in an area which includes British Columbia) to over a hundred thousand.

Divers continue the search for the yet unnumbered victims of the worst flood in the history of America's Pacific coast.

FLOODS

WOLF

Vanport, Oregon, a city of nineteen thousand, is wiped out by the worst floods in Pacific Coast history. A few moments before the rampaging Columbia River broke through a railroad embankment-- sweeping houses before it like match sticks. Rescue squads rush to the scene. ~~escaping.~~ Engineers called ~~the embankment a~~ No one knows how many are ~~safe dike.~~ When it broke, one lone siren sounded the warning. Unknown scores, maybe hundreds, are trapped beneath fifteen feet of swirling water.

Rooftops give perilous temporary shelter to scores unable to flee in time. The full resources of the federal government, mobilized by the President, swing into action to save thousands more. The Red Cross is already at work to register, to clothe, to feed the young, the old, the poor.

Throughout the Pacific Northwest sixty-five thousand are already homeless. The damage passes seventy-five million dollars. Dikes are reinforced and the army orders the evacuation of a hundred and twenty miles of the Columbia watershed. In ~~Portland~~ Portland, the flood crest passes thirty feet and ~~the~~ still rises. Already the railroad station is inundated.

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FLOODS -2-

National guardsmen, called ~~to the scene by an emergency proclamation,~~ <sup>OUT BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND OREGON,</sup>

~~make~~ patrol ~~in~~ Vanport. In the floatsman that was once a city,

divers search for the untold dead trapped ~~landings~~ by the

greatest floods in the northwest's history.