

STORMS CAUSE HAVOC IN AUSTRALIA

Lashed by a 50-mile-an-hour gale, mountainous seas bring havoc to the East Australian coastline. In 24 hours of nature's unfettered fury, storms and floods cause more than 100,000 pounds worth of damage. Launches and yachts are torn from their moorings; as the rising seas invade the most sheltered of harbours. While N.S.W. is at the mercy of the elements, another disaster rocks the State's capital - Sydney. A violent explosion in the "Tarakan" - berthed at Garden Island - has caused the death of five men - while 30 more are seriously burned. The blast caused a huge bulge in the ship's steel deck and many of the men were trapped below and overcome by poisonous fumes. Hoses are turned to pump air into the stricken vessel in an effort to clear the fumes. Exploding petrol tanks are believed to have been the cause of the accident.

It's the worst disaster in Sydney's post-war history and the miracle is that the death roll is no higher. As the city recovers from the shock, Australians survey the damage wrought by the storm. Only as wind and seas subside does the full toll become apparent. Masses of driftwood tell the story of one of the fiercest storms in living memory.

Twenty-four hours after the raging seas have calmed, coast guards report the threat of another storm - fiercer than the first. The wreckage of that one still litters the water, as the warning goes out and N.S.W. prepares to do battle anew.