

VOLCANO HITS CONGO

Nyamiragira erupts and vast streams of lava pour across the countryside near Lake Kivu on the borders of the Belgian Congo and British Uganda. For 50 years the volcano has simmered, now she's boiling over, and widespread destruction threatens this little-known land just south of the Soudan.

Terrible in their power, volcanoes are really safety-valves for the earth. If a crater were blocked eruptions would be rarer but devastating in their pent-up effect. The sight by night is terrifying enough, but a choked volcano has been known to blow an island out of existence.