

Paris, Septembre 10th. 1954

### EARTHQUAKE IN ALGERIA

Positive UNDEVELOPED: 115 meters - 385 ft  
also covered by Fox and Actualites Francaises

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A estimated 800 persons were killed and at least 1000 others injured early yesterday when a brief earthquake wrecked the Algerian city of ORLEANSVILLE and damaged other towns and villages within a radius of about 100 miles.

The French Ministry of the Interior in Paris announced last night that 396 dead had been counted. A delay of days may be necessary before determining the full death toll, however, because the occupants of many homes were buried under debris, according to reports reaching Paris.

The disaster according to the French National news Agency was the worst of its kind that ever happened in North Africa. The earthquake occurred at 2.17 a.m. and lasted for 12 seconds. It caught the occupants of whole villages in their beds. According to the Agence France-Presse, Mayor DOBRIAC of Orleansville, a city of 32,000, which was the worst hit, said the rumbling quake gave the impression that houses were rotating on an axis. Electricity went off, the sound of collapsing walls could be heard and thick dust rose everywhere. Many persons fled to the streets and remained on sidewalks until dawn.

VAUBAN a village of 2000, 15 miles east of Orleansville was reported ruined. Duperre and Rouina, other settlements east of Orleansville were hard hit. Damage was reported at Tenes 100 miles from Orleansville and at Inkermann and Bougainville, nearer the harder hit city.

The earthquake leveled about a fifth of Orleansville destroying part of the HOSPITAL, collapsing a new NINE STORY BUILDING, and razing three hotels including one in which 80 persons were believed killed. The prison, church and post-office were wrecked. A small dam at PONTEBA was cracked but the damage was quickly repaired.

Mr. Roger Leonard Governor General of Algeria immediately flew to the spot, and Mr. Mendes-France sent a representative also there to inquire for first aid needed. Troops from all over Algeria are immediately directed to Orleansville while an airlift flies the worst injured to hospitals in Algiers.

Our Cameraman was the first arriving on the spot at Orleansville yesterday at noon. Picture shows:

- shots of the damages in ORLEANSVILLE, where CHURCH, PREFECTURE' BUILDING, MODERN COLLEGE, POST OFFICE, etc.. are destroyed,
- views of a 9 story concrete building entirely destroyed, 80 persons are believed still underneath
- shots of houses and whole streets destroyed or damaged, sometimes outside of houses is undamaged while the inside is entirely blown off
- Hotel Baudouin, shots of cars damaged, their owner is believed among victims.