

FREJUS TRAGEDIE

35 mm. developed positive : 72 meters - 240 ft

The death toll in last week's Malpasset dam burst disaster which drowns the small town of FREJUS, climbed to 323 today and according to official reports many other can still remain under wreckage, buried in the mud or even be rejected on the Riviera shores by the sea. It may even necesse days before the last bodies are washed ashore on the beaches.

Five Cabinet Ministers have been visiting the disaster area and bringing their sympathy to the survivors. They have promised that investigators would make their report to the nation not later than next month. Investigators are on the spot and studying what may have caused the dam break.

Meanwhile rescue work and cleaning of the stricken area is a difficult and terrible job. Thousands of volunteers come from all organizations all over the country to help in the tremendous work to be done. Everywhere the dramatic scene shows broken trees, piled up cars, destroyed homes, all buried in deep mud. Dead animals and debris are everywhere. Many victims may still be lying in the mud.

Mass burial are made rapidly by the authorities, most of the victims have been identified and whole families found death in this unprecedented catastrophe. For fear of epidemics, mass inhumations were ordered by the government.

Relief efforts were launched to aid survivors in the valley. All of France rallied to aid the survivors and at this time tens of millions francs have been collected for aid and reconstruction. Total damage according to official sources are over 50 billion.

This coverage shows :

- various general views of the stricken area with destructions, mud pools broken fences trees and houses, the chaos left by the disaster.
- survivors madded on Frejus main square were coffins are brought for identification, without identification several deads are put into coffins with a summary description written in chalk on the cover.
- rescue workers digging into broken up debris in search of victims, some are recovered are brought to the Hospital.
- crowd on square were coffins are brought, scenes of survivors over coffins of loved ones, coffins put on trucks, and scenes at cemetery...
- rescue workers in debris, more victims brought in etc...