

PATHE JOURNAL

Paris, October 7, 1960

**FRANCE HIT BY FLOODS**

35 mm. developed positive : 66 meters - 220 ft

Two days of heavy continuous rains have sent the usually calm rivers of south-central France on a rampage that has washed out roads, railroads, flooded towns and killed at least eight persons. Local officials said the floods were the worst in 39 and perhaps fifty years. Thousands were temporarily homeless as flood waters covered some towns under more than six feet of water and inflicted millions of francs worth of damage on homes and industries. Thousands of people, families received official warning to flee from their homes and villages in the Creuse Valley.

Departmental authorities warned that cracks had appeared in the CHANTEGRELLE dam near Aubusson. The rain swollen lake surging behind the dam poised a waters threat to the valley below. Happily to this day the Dam has not broken, and it is now announced that waters are receding. Should it not rain for several days, danger will be less.

Our special helicopter has flown over the flooded countryside between the Creuse valley (showing the Chantegrelle dam with its breach on the left side of the dam), to the town of AUBUSSON, which is now begining digging out of several feet of mud after the water began receding.

Worst hit here were the towns of Brive and Tulle, about 300 miles southwest of Paris, on the Correse river along the western slopes of the Massif Central. Thousands of persons had to be evacuated.

A total of more than 6,000 residents were evacuated of eight villages from the valley below the Chantegrelle Dam.

At Aubusson (shown on our report) all business and industries of the town have been damaged. It is expected that it will take several days to clear away enough of the mud and debris to permit work to start again. Aubusson is famous for its Carpet and tapistry industries.