

AVALANCHE KILLS THREE.

Three climbers were in difficulties on the Watzmann Mountain. Even lower down, the roads were all-but impassable. Then the unexpected thaw brought disaster - an avalanche.

Quickly the Germans mounted the biggest Alpine rescue operation they have undertaken for many years. A helicopter helped the searchers. Was it still possible that the climbers had not been in the path of that terrifying snow?

The Watzmann Mountain, in the Salzburg Alps, on the German side of the Austrian Border, had long been a challenge to climbers. Now, it had claimed three more victims. Some of their gear was found, but the men had fatally matched themselves against the mountain. The avalanche had buried them alive.