

This is the great Walser Valley in Austria --- the centre of the worst avalanche catastrophe in all the country's known history. The little village of Blons, except for its church, was buried by a moving mass of snow that came upon it without an instant's warning. And the rescue teams that set out for the scene of destruction, did so in the knowledge that the danger was by no means ~~ended~~ ~~xxxx~~ past. ^

By parachute, came medical supplies and equipment to cope with the emergency /

Walkie - talkie sets were used to enable the rescue-teams to keep contact with one another; but though these modern means were invaluable --- for the most part it was just a matter of digging and digging --- in the hope of finding someone, who was still, miraculously, alive /

And --- miraculously -- some were /

It was a farming district; and many cattle were found --- patiently holding on to life. /

Hour after hour the work went on --- and gradually the tale of those who were saved crept up; / but --- added to those who were found dead --- there were scores of missing; / the total of casualties is not known even yet. /

For the rescued --- that modern instrument of mercy, the helicopter, flew journey after journey, with scarcely more than a stop to refuel. But --- as these pictures were being taken --- experts warned that at any moment, fresh avalanches might ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ be expected. /