

ITALIAN DISASTER IS STAGGERING ONE OF MOST TERRIBLE CATASTROPHES IN WORLD'S HISTORY SWEEPS THE COUNTRY

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF LIVES LOST IN AWFUL CATAclysm

ROME NEWSPAPER ESTIMATES DEATH LIST WILL REACH 75,000

Thousands of Bodies Lie Beneath Ruins In Many Towns—Human Ghoul Loot Dead, Dying and Living—Fire Adds More Terror

Messina Reports 12,000 Dead—Great Buildings in Ruins—King and Queen to Work of Rescue—Army and Navy Busy

Associated Press.
Rome, Dec. 29.—The disaster in the province of Calabria and Island of Sicily today assumed staggering proportions.
Each successive report from the stricken region makes it more apparent that the first stories of the widespread destruction were little if any exaggerated.
Messina alone reports 12,000 victims, but it is feared this is only a partial list of the dead and wounded.
Reports are coming in from other towns giving estimates of the dead therein from 500 up to several thousand.
Reggio still remains in isolation. It is impossible to get word from the stricken city and silence gives rise to the most fearful apprehensions.

News comes from Messina, eight miles north of Reggio, but no reliable estimate of the dead there is obtainable.
Vandalism of the worst kind has broken out and the government has adopted most severe measures. Robbers and looters are shot on sight.
The prison at Messina collapsed, some of the prisoners being killed, but survivors escaped and joined the hoodlums who are sacking the city.
Such confusion reigned that robbers met no resistance.
The local chief of police lies dead in the ruins of his office.
Barracks at Messina were demolished. The commander of the troops was killed outright and many victims are among the enlisted men.
The government last night sent

General Feirra de Cossatto, an army corps commander, to take full charge with troops of the devastated territory.
One of the first moves will be to declare martial law. Robbers pillaged ruins of shattered buildings and even stole clothing and valuables from bodies of victims. They were not deterred by flames that broke out in several sections of the city but took advantage of the light's glare for vandalism.
The night in Messina was one of horror—fire, robbery, death and dying on every side, the city in the utmost confusion and people panic stricken and under a spell of terror.
Troops began to arrive at Messina last night and this morning a num-

ber of steamers arrived from the peninsula with soldiers.
Patriots at once organized and efforts were made to bring some order to the situation. Bands of citizens formed who helped the work of rescue.
Many courageous acts were performed by soldiers and citizens alike, and in some cases the rescuers themselves lost their lives trying to help others.
Toward morning several of the worst fires were extinguished and looting was under partial control and comparative order was restored.
Everything possible was done to succor the wounded, but relief measures are still utterly inadequate, owing to the immensity of the disaster.
The finest palaces, churches and

theaters of Messina are heaps of ruins.
Countless bodies are in the wreckage and decomposition doubtless will bring pestilence to add to the horror of the situation.
Devastation of the entire district is more or less complete. No part of the province of Reggio de Calabria escaped.
The disturbance was most severe along the shores of the Straits of Messina, where the cities of Messina and Reggio are situated.
In more than one town the shock caused gas meters to explode and disastrous fires resulted. Flames helped greatly to swell the death list.
Configuration of the Straits of Messina has been materially altered. The tidal wave which completed de-

struction of the work of the earthquake was thirty-two feet high.
Wireless telegraph has been one of the greatest assistances in getting reports from the devastated regions and is aiding the authorities to realize the extent of the disaster and to send help to places where most urgently needed.
A flying squadron of the Italian navy, composed of the three battleships which had left for a cruise before the disaster, was reached by wireless and ordered to Messina.
The British squadron at Syracuse also left for Messina. Also several Russian ships at Syracuse.
The dome of the cathedral at Catania collapsed and other churches, as well as the city hall, threaten to fall at any moment.

NEWBRAUNFELS PUTS LIBERTY IN TOMB

Remarkable and Amusing Occurrence Regarding Governor's Order to Obey

New Braunfels, Dec. 29.—Sunday, for the first time since this German village was founded the demand to observe the Baskin-McGregor law was followed after several conferences between the governor and the county attorney.
As far as can be learned the law was strictly observed, no side or back doors being open.
"Liberty" was placed in a coffin and buried by citizens just on the outskirts of the city.
The coffin was preceded by a brass band and the funeral was an elaborate one.
Some of the most prominent citizens were pallbearers.

San Antonio, Dec. 29.—Judge Edward Dwyer of the Thirty-seventh district court, returned today from Austin where he conferred with the governor regarding the recent difficulty over the liquor laws.
Judge Dwyer brought with him the commissions of Besar county officials which the governor had held up.
Governor Campbell issued the commissions upon the report of Judge Dwyer that the Baskin-McGregor law hereafter would be enforced.
Sheriff Lindsey also called on the governor.

SENSATIONAL BRIBERY CASE

Man Jailed For Tampering With Witnesses in Hood Brown Case

The case of the state of Texas vs. I. N. Thompson on trial before Justice Kerr and in which the defendant stands charged by complaint with an attempt to bribe the prosecuting witnesses in the case of the state of Texas vs. Hood Brown, has been carried over to be finished Thursday afternoon upon application of counsel for the defense.
The chief witness in this complaint against Thompson is Miss Jane Womack who is the party alleged to have been injured in the case of the state of Texas vs. Hood Brown.
Brown was recently given a new trial and a change of venue to Armstrong county after having been convicted of statutory criminal assault with a penalty of five years in the penitentiary.
It was following the granting of his prayer for new trial and the change of venue that the alleged attempt to bribe was committed in this city.
It is alleged that an effort was made to cause the witnesses to leave this district and section of the state, so that process could not be had to compel them to appear in a second trial of the case which is set for next week at Clarendon.
The witnesses upon whom an attempt is alleged to have been made to bribe, will be held in this city until they are needed at Clarendon to testify in the case, provided the hearing is gone into during the oncoming term of court.

ELBERT HUBBARD RECOVERING

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Elbert Hubbard, head of the Roycrofters at East Aurora, is ambling about his preserves with the assistance of a cane. The Fra had the misfortune to get on the wrong side of a falling tree and a limb (of the tree) connected with his ankle. He was badly shaken and at the time fears were entertained that he was seriously hurt. A sprained ankle, however, was the worst injury he received and that is now rapidly healing.

TIDAL WAVE THIRTY FEET HIGH

Palermo, Sicily, Dec. 29.—Railroad communication with Messina has been restored. A trainload of refugees came in here this morning, but they are all maddened with terror and none are capable of giving a connected account of the catastrophe.
All agree that Messina was destroyed and victims will be counted by tens of thousands.
The Trianoria hotel, with ninety guests, was demolished. The city

hall, bourse, telegraph offices and barracks were also destroyed.
The tidal wave was thirty feet high and swept up three streets of the city in the height of the confusion. Hundreds of half dressed men, women and children were caught in the crush of waters and drowned or injured.
Refugees declare the entire country around Messina has been devastated and that several villages disappeared. Reggio is described as nothing but a vast sepulchre.

50,000 DEAD AT MESSINA IS REPORT

Message Comes to Italian Official Telling Worst Story From City

Rome, Dec. 29.—The minister of marine at 5 o'clock this afternoon received a wireless message estimating the dead at Messina at 50,000.
No news from Reggio.
Rome, Dec. 29.—Premier Giolitti has received a telegram confirming previous reports of the complete destruction of Messina by fire following the earthquake. The dispatch says the dead at Messina number tens of thousands.

KING WITH QUEEN TO RESCUE

Rome, Dec. 29.—Queen Helena refused to allow her husband, the king, to go alone to the scene of the disaster. She said she would share her husband's dangers and consequently both left Rome this afternoon for the south.
It is announced here that the pope

will inaugurate the establishment of an international committee of Roman Catholics the world over to assist the survivors of the great catastrophe.
Pope Pius heads the subscription list with \$200,000.
It is understood the king will give \$400,000 for relief.

REGGIO CITY VAST SEPULCHRE

Only Few Thousands Left in Once Populous, Gay City

London, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Canzor says only a few thousand of the entire population of Reggio have escaped death or injury.
Lieutenant General Feirra di Cossatto has ordered all looters and robbers shot on sight.
Martial law will be instituted in the earthquake zone.
The population of Reggio is placed at 59,000. The city is south of Messina.
Paris, Dec. 29.—The minister of marine has ordered two French battleships and three torpedo boat destroyers to proceed to Messina to succor victims.

MANY FOREIGNERS ARE KILLED IN HOTEL COLLAPSE

Palermo, Dec. 29.—Refugees from Messina say there were 100 foreigners in the Hotel Trinaeria and they all lost their lives. The hotel was completely obliterated. It was one of the best in the city and patronized almost exclusively by tourists.

BRITISH BATTLESHIP TO SCENE

Malta, Dec. 29.—British battleship Exmouth and two cruisers left here today for Messina to render every assistance to the survivors of the disaster.

CHURCH COMMUNITIES WIPED OUT BY QUAKE

London, Dec. 29.—A special dispatch from Rome says the pope has been notified that the entire religious communities of Messina and Reggio, including bishops, priests, monks and nuns were wiped out by the earthquake and fire.

GOVERNOR OF REGGIO IS KILLED

Naples, Dec. 29.—King Victor Emmanuel will proceed to Calabria and Sicily and do all in his power to further the work of rescue.
It is reported here that the prefect of Reggio was killed in the earthquake and an inspector general from the home office has been sent to replace him.
A prefect is the head of a province and corresponds to a governor of a state in America.

WOMAN TELLS AWFUL EXPERIENCE ROOSEVELT HORRIFIED WIRES KING

Associated Press.
Cantania, Sicily, Dec. 29.—The following graphic story was told by a woman who arrived here from Messina this morning, badly injured:
"Infernal is the only word that will describe the fearful scenes," she said.
"When the first shock came most of the city was asleep.
"I was awakened by the rocking of the house. Windows swayed and rattled and crockery and glass crashed to the floor.
"I was half stunned but knew the only thing was to make my way out. Streets were filled. Everybody

of rain which was falling in torrents.
"Terrific shrieks filled the air and we heard frantic appeals from unfortunates pinned beneath ruins.
"Walls were tottering all around us, and not one of our party expected to escape alive.
"My brothers and sisters were with me and in frenzy of terror we groped our way through the streets, holding our own against panic stricken people clambering piles of ruins until we reached a place of comparative safety.
"But this was not done before I was struck down and badly injured by a piece of furniture that fell from an upper story of a house.

"All along the road we were jostled by scores of fleeing people, half clad like ourselves.
"The houses seemed to be crashing to the ground in whatever direction we went.
"Suddenly the sea began to pour into the town and this seemed to mean the end of everything.
"Eventually we reached the principal square of Messina and found two or three thousand people, utterly terrified, assembled.
"I saw one big building on the square collapse.
"It seemed to me scores of people were buried beneath the ruins. Then I lost consciousness and remember no more."

Washington, Dec. 29.—President Roosevelt, through the state department, today sent to King Victor Emmanuel of Italy a dispatch expressing his horror and also that of the American people over the disaster which has befallen southern Italy and Sicily by the earthquake and tendering his sincere sympathy.
The president also notes that the American National Red Cross has issued an appeal for contributions to aid the sufferers, and that organization has notified him it will immediately communicate with the Italian Red Cross.
The state department is without

advice from its diplomatic or consular offices in Italy regarding the disaster.
At Messina, where the results of the earthquake are appalling, the department has both Consul A. S. Cheney and Deputy Consul Joseph H. Pierce.
As private cablegram after cablegram confirmed the frightful extent of the catastrophe, the Italian embassy attaches freely expressed grief.
When Signor Roberto Centaro, secretary of the embassy, read a dispatch in which the Tribuna estimated 75,000 killed, he seized his head in his hands and exclaimed: "My God, how terrible! Can it be true!"
Delay in receipt of official news at

the Italian embassy is taken to mean that the officials in Rome are giving all attention to aiding the stricken region.
Rome, Dec. 29.—The Tribuna today estimates the total casualties in Calabria and Sicily between sixty and seventy thousand.
Reports have just been received from other towns in Calabria. Cassano and Cosenza. Cassano is said to have 1,000 dead, while the wounded number 500. At Cosenza 500 dead have been taken from the ruins. Cassano has 6,700, while Cosenza is the center of the community with a population of 2,100.