

# TAMPA TO RULE LAKE RELIEF

## Storm Survivors Of Moore Haven Bury Their Dead

### Sebring Relief Corps Works In Rain To Dig Graves for Victims; Special Train Sent To Lakeport On New Call For Help After Refugees Tell of Flood and Suffering; Okeechobee Section Under Quarantine.

By TRAVERS GREEN  
Tribune Staff Correspondent

SEBRING, Sept. 21.—Sebring is a city of mingled joy and sorrow today. With more than 1,000 survivors of the Moore Haven disaster sheltered here, friends and relatives who lived through the horror of the hurricane are slowly finding each other. Grottesquely, but at least comfortably clad, the bronzed men and women from the shores of Lake Okeechobee are checking up their losses.

Not in property—virtually all of them lost everything—but in lives. This morning they buried their dead who were brought here. Twenty-six victims, six of them unidentified. The bodies arrived here in lots of sevens and eights. Each time the relief train brought another load of the survivors, the baggage car was converted into a moving morgue.

Sebring volunteers braved the rain and dug the graves, a long row of them. They were prepared to dig more but word was received from Moore Haven that the remainder of the bodies would be taken to Ortona for burial.

Ortona is eight miles southwest of Moore Haven, situated on comparatively high ground. It has been along with Venus, the burying ground for Moore Havenites for years. The nearby land of Moore Haven forbids burying under usual conditions. Now it would be impossible to dig a hole.

Lakeport Calls Help  
Hardly had the rescue workers completed their tasks of bringing in hundreds of hungry men, women and children from Moore Haven before word was received that Lakeport needed help quickly.

Although many of the relief workers had just returned from 48 hours of rain and water, a special relief train was promptly organized and left for Okeechobee. From there the rescue party planned to complete the trip by boat and on trucks. Early this morning two large trucks, loaded with victims of the storm there, arrived here and were cared for along with the others.

Although they escaped the terrible loss of life suffered in Moore Haven, the condition of the people at Lakeport was said to be equally as pitiable. They were less fortunate inasmuch as word of their plight did not get out so soon and dozens were marooned for days without food. Entire families were forced to remain for 48 hours or more on roof tops in a cold drizzling rain that followed the hurricane there.

One family spent a day and a night in a hayrack. A woman who arrived with the first load of refugees said she had been blown into the hayrack of a tree, clung to it, and spent more than 12 hours there. The water at Lakeport has receded to a depth of two or three feet, but for 24 hours after the storm it was impossible for the residents to make their way about except by boat.

Moore Haven Quarantined  
Marital law has virtually existed in Moore Haven since the second day of the rescue work. Although unofficial, the men in charge of relief work have insisted that no one be permitted to turn back all except those whose presence was absolutely necessary.

When news of the disaster to the little fishing village reached the outside world, hundreds of the curious immediately began to move toward the town. Scores were forced back by bad roads, but additional scores somehow managed to reach the end of the railroad tracks, three miles from Moore Haven.

From there on the trip had to be made in boats and at first the party assisted those who desired to go in. Their numbers increased so rapidly however that the men in charge were forced to call a halt. Guards were stationed along the tracks and refused to allow the great majority of persons to go by.

The situation was desperate and demanded stringent action and the men engaged in the relief work provided it. Any number of grim looking individuals have returned from 48 hours or more of labor in water up to their waists with a persuasive looking revolver strapped to their shoulders.

More Refugees Arrive.  
The first train to come from the south since before daylight today arrived here today.

### Bits of News

Today's Want-Ads

Children of working people will be taken care of during the day by party advertising in the "Personal" columns today.

Man or woman with \$7000 has opportunity to become active business in moving picture business.

New detective patrol system announced opening of offices in Tampa.

As minor persistence in want-ads, advertising at your own risk and you'll get what you expect.

## Relief Workers Lay Away Bodies In Unnamed Graves



Twenty-six of those who died in the hurricane at Moore Haven were embalmed there and taken to Sebring for burial. The picture shows citizens of Sebring, who threw open the entire city to the suffering survivors, digging graves and then lowering the coffins in them. Six of the 26 buried there were not identified and in all probability they will sleep forever in unnamed graves. Due to the condition of the bodies when they were recovered from the quagmire and water at Moore Haven many of them had to be rushed out and buried without making an effort to identify them. A score or more were taken to Ortona, eight miles from Moore Haven, for burial.

## FATAL CRASH ENDS ATTEMPTED FLIGHT ACROSS ATLANTIC

### DISASTER OVERTAKES SIKORSKY PLANE TWO MINUTES AFTER START

Fonck and Curtin Escape But Two Companions Die, Trapped in Flames

WESTBURY, N. Y., Sept. 21.—(Associated Press.)—Disaster struck down the giant Sikorsky biplane 8:55 with in two minutes after its attempted hop-off today for a non-stop flight from New York to Paris.

A mass of twisted wreckage and the charred bodies of Charles W. Clavet, radio operator, and James Isabella, mechanic, tonight were the tragic aftermath of what was to have been one of the most daring ventures ever attempted in the history of aviation.

Captain Rene Fonck, commander of the flight, and Lieut. Lawrence William Curtin, U. S. N., navigator, saved their lives by scrambling from the plane an instant before it burst into flames.

The flight which it had been hoped would take Captain Fonck and his three intrepid companions on a 5,600-mile trip across the Atlantic, ended in tragedy when the monster airplane, carrying a record weight of 35,000 pounds, was unable to lift itself from the ground and crashed over an embankment on Roosevelt field.

Previous Attempt.  
An attempt was made to take off last Thursday, but had to be postponed because of a gasoline leakage discovered at the last minute. Afterward Parisian friends of Captain Fonck urged him to make the flight for the honor of France, even at the risk of death.

"The crash was caused by the buckling of a wheel on an extra landing gear that was to have been dropped into the ocean as soon as the plane got under way.

"I knew the wheel had crashed," said Fonck, "but I could neither stop nor rise."

Lieutenant Curtin said: "The plane was driven full power, accelerated slowly, reaching a ground speed of 65 miles an hour."

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Husted into Airplane  
Brown took the tired and worn London and his precious load of films off the Palm Beach train at Richmond, Va., at four o'clock this morning, hustled him into the waiting airplane, and took off at the first break of day for New York. They arrived at Miller field at 1:45 this morning, and a fast automobile rushed them into New York.

His eyes dry and red from lack of sleep—he slept only an hour before the hurricane broke last Saturday morning and had not closed an eye since—London was on the ragged edge of exhaustion. He told the high spots of his story of terror, then was taken to a hotel and put to sleep. His conventional Miami garb—a natty linen suit—he still wore, but it had

## East Coast Death Toll Fixed At 400

MIAMI, Sept. 21.—(Associated Press.)—The shadow of death which has hung over southeast Florida for the last four days, as the result of Saturday's \$30,000,000 hurricane was not so dark today as it became apparent that the total death would not greatly exceed the earlier estimate of 400. The number of injured, many slightly, increased during the day to more than 5,000 and the number of missing grew to about 150. The homeless and dependent were estimated at 20,000.

The residents of the stricken area today gathered consolation from contact with the newspapermen active throughout the devastated sections, for they learned the true situation and thereby dispelled rumors which had caused great uneasiness. Survivors had spread reports throughout the devastated sections that the dead numbered in the thousands and that plague and pain were spreading in nearby localities. Others had some about joyfully forecasting the return of the hurricane to this section, causing confidential information from Washington weather bureau sources. The representatives of the press assured them of the fallacy of the reports.

Bay Gives Up Dead  
At Miami today the death toll grew as Liscayne bay gave up its dead. Authorities said this evening the list probably would reach 250, although it hovered around 200 tonight. Hospitals and Red Cross stations in Miami treated more than 3,000 injured during the day.

At Hollywood the list of known dead was 32 with possibly eight other bodies to be brought in and with 70 persons listed as missing. Earlier reports had included many of the missing as definitely dead and the total had been announced as 75 known dead. It is believed now that many of these missing fled into the interior when the first hurricane approached and while many possibly perished, it is regarded as more likely that they were only injured. There were about 250 injured listed at Hollywood today and more than 200 of them were

Other Gulf Coast Cities Also Suffer From Force of High Wind  
(By Associated Press.)  
Having taken an almost unprecedented toll of life and property as it swept across South Florida and the eastern part of the Gulf coast, the tropical hurricane, which came out of the Caribbean sea last Friday night, apparently had spent its fury in lower Mississippi last night before reaching New Orleans.

With the single exception of Pensacola, direct communication with the nearly a score of cities and towns in the wake of the storm had been re-established. Fragmentary reports from Pensacola, sent out by railroad men, told of heavy property damage, but indicated there was no loss of life there.

Government agencies, relief workers and railroad officials were bending every effort to get into Pensacola for an assessment of the damage there and to carry relief to the stricken population. There was no estimate either of the death or of property damage, but the reports coming through told of the wrecking of the station and property of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and of other damage.

Naval Planes at Station Damaged  
NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 21.—(A.P.)—No loss of life from the tropical hurricane which swept Pensacola yesterday had been reported to the Pensacola naval radio station late today, according to a message received at the Algiers naval station here tonight.

Mobile was in the grip of the storm from 5 o'clock Monday morning until midnight Monday night, with the greatest wind velocity at 94 miles an hour. There were unconfirmed reports of some loss of life at Jackson and Bay Minette, Ala.

Pensacola, Miss., suffered heavy damage, but there was no loss of life. Charles Farrar, special agent of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad reported. He declared that losses in Jackson county, Mississippi, would run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, principally to the pecan crop.

The cotton crop in southern Alabama was reported to have suffered considerable damage. Outside of Mobile there were no reports of damage to shipping or the fishing fleets which base on the numerous bays and inlets along the Alabama and Mississippi coast. The fishing fleets had had ample warning of the storm to make port.

The navy station at Pensacola reported that none of its personnel had been injured and that the towers and wires were intact, but that it could not operate because the electric current in the city had failed. The Pensacola radio operator was unable to give any details.

Commander A. J. McClure, of the Algiers station, said that although the naval hospital at Pensacola was reported unharmed, many of the re-

## PENSACOLA SUFFERS HEAVY DAMAGE BUT ESCAPES LIFE LOSS

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## Col. Lowry, With 3 Officers, Goes To Stricken Area

### Drastic Steps To Curb Looting By Ghouls Taken by Governor After Urgent Requests Come From Moore Haven—Embalming Supplies, Food and Water Needed—Second Tampa Relief Train Departs For Scene.

Col. S. L. Lowry, Jr., commanding the 116th field artillery, was asked by Governor Martin yesterday afternoon to proceed at once to Moore Haven and take charge of the situation there.

The request was made after the governor's office had been informed by Mayor Smith of Moore Haven that ghouls were plundering what remained of the devastated town. A. E. Lawrence, chairman of the Sebring relief committee, also telegraphed to Tallahassee that relief work in Moore Haven was being obstructed by "persons assuming to be state police," and that the situation was critical because of lack of constituted authority.

Colonel Lowry and three staff officers left Tampa in an automobile soon after night-fall. The commanding officer will have at his disposal, in the storm stricken area today, the regimental headquarters battery from Fort Myers, a service battery from Winter Haven and the Arcadia unit of the regiment.

It was explained that, while there was to be no interference with competent men in authority, Colonel Lowry was to assume complete control of the stricken district. Although not so termed, the move means virtual martial law.

Conditions at Moore Haven are "chaotic, due to lack of co-ordination of effort," said a telegram received at Moore Haven's office at 7 p. m. from Jerome A. Sherman. He went to the devastated area near Lake Okeechobee at noon with Dr. J. C. Vinson and Frank M. Coop, the three being members of the general relief organization's executive committee.

Money Chief Need  
A short time later, a telegram coming from a relief sub-committee in Sebring said, in part: "Only thing urgently needed now is cash. We are drawing on you for \$5,000."

R. Wallace Davis, secretary of the relief committee, said the mayor's office would remain open all night, in view of the storm situation and the possibility that urgent messages might be received from the committee's representatives at Sebring and in the flooded district.

Men recruited in Sebring last evening, exhausted after many hours of almost futile effort in Moore Haven, said disorders in the wrecked town were being assumed by the local officials could not cope.

"Horrible" was his description of the situation, one ghastly factor being the bodies of human bodies, lost in the tall grass, but with which local officials could not cope.

Embalmers Lack Supplies  
Even while the train was returning to Tampa, at the mandate of officials in the storm district, men, women and children were being buried in the streets and on the roofs of their inundated homes, were appealing to every neighbor for food and water, said A. L. Collier of Tampa, who returned from Moore Haven yesterday. At the same time, Mr. Collier said, embalming of the dead was at a standstill because of lack of supplies, the desperate need of which was emphasized by the swarms of nature's winged scavengers.

Mr. Collier and two newspaper men wrestled three miles, through water and mud, to reach what had been Moore Haven. They found the place without food and with no drinking water.

An Appeal To Tampans.  
The General Relief Committee, appointed to direct Tampa's response to the call of the storm sufferers of Florida, appeals to the people of Tampa to respond promptly and liberally to the urgent needs of our stricken fellow-citizens.

While the entire nation is engaged in raising money and supplies for these people of our own state, Tampa must not be found lacking.

The need is only beginning to make itself manifest. These sufferers must be provided for indefinitely—until they can resume their accustomed occupations and become again able to take care of themselves.

The committee has set Tampa's quota of this relief fund at \$100,000. Sub-committees of the finance committee of this organization have been appointed to make a canvass of all Tampa business concerns, beginning this morning. The committee urges that all business men be prepared to make immediate and liberal subscription when the committee calls.

A portion of Tampa's quota has already been collected, through unsolicited subscriptions made through the newspapers and direct to the committee. Subscriptions will continue to be received in this way and, in addition to the newspapers and the banks. If you do not wish to await the visit of the canvassers, you may send your check to either of these agencies.

Other cities in Florida and the principal cities of the country are doing this relief work and raising funds for these sufferers. Tampa should exceed any Florida city and any other city outside of Florida in the extent and promptness of its response. Members of these committees are giving their time to the good work. It should be the pleasure as it is the duty of every citizen to contribute to the cause of humanity.

PHERRY G. WALL,  
Mayor and Chairman General Relief Committee.

(Continued on Page 17)

## Miamian Grinds Camera All Through Hurricane To Record Scene For Movies

NEW YORK, Sept. 21.—(Copyright 1926 by Universal Service.)—Bringing to New York the first pictures and the first eyewitness story of the Miami hurricane, Philip London, Miami business man, arrived today by airplane, still shaken and unweary, with a gripping tale of the storm's terror.

His remarkable pictures were for a newsreel corporation, which brought him and his films to New York by train and airplane through the thick of the devastation.

Having the hurricane's fury with him and his films to New York, London went out in the height of the storm and shot film after film. All day he and his camera-man worked, and the night of the storm they were still "shooting" with flashlights.

Sleepless, hungry, worn to the last degree of strength, London and Jack Fonck ploughed through debris and water last Sunday morning to reach Miami Beach. Then they pushed on to Fort Lauderdale, Dania and Hollywood, wrecked by the storm, shooting scenes after scene.

The newsreel corporation got in touch with them through the one telephone line open. They sped to West Palm Beach by automobile, and London caught the noon train for New York. The newsreel film started the fastest airplane obtainable from Washington, D. C., with J. C. Brown, manager of its Washington bureau.

Husted into Airplane  
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His eyes dry and red from lack of sleep—he slept only an hour before the hurricane broke last Saturday morning and had not closed an eye since—London was on the ragged edge of exhaustion. He told the high spots of his story of terror, then was taken to a hotel and put to sleep. His conventional Miami garb—a natty linen suit—he still wore, but it had

## GOVERNOR INSPECTS STRICKEN SECTIONS WITH STATE TROOPS

WEST PALM BEACH, Sept. 21.—(A.P.)—Governor Martin today was in the midst of the hurricane stricken area of Florida's East Coast. He arrived here last night and went with soldiers to inspect the situation throughout the area.

Governor Martin said he intended to visit all affected points and, to stay in the storm area until he had satisfied himself as to conditions and progress of relief work.

The governor said the state health department had dispatched doctors and nurses and enormous supplies of medicines and sanitary equipment to the stricken sections and this would be continued.

He said he had received scores of telegrams offering aid from all over the United States and he wished to thank all in the name of Florida. He left West Palm Beach today for Miami.

## Insurance Company Decrees Moratorium On All Its Premiums

WEST PALM BEACH, Sept. 21.—(Associated Press.)—A moratorium on its 37,000 policies in the devastated area, involving insurance premiums of \$21,000,000, has been declared by the Metropolitan Insurance Company, according to an announcement made this afternoon by Dr. Lee Frankel, second vice president of the company, with offices in Miami.

Policies of persons rendered destitute will be continued in effect, Dr. Frankel's announcement disclosed, and policies due will be paid, with deductions for premiums. Other insurance companies are preparing to meet claims involving millions of dollars on lives, buildings and plate glass.

The exact amount of tornado and cyclone insurance in the section visited by the hurricane is unknown, but Florida's total shows \$38,201,036 for tornado and cyclone insurance in the state.

## NEWS SUMMARY

STORM  
Storm survivors of Moore Haven bury their dead at Sebring. East Coast toll now placed at 400. Pensacola hard hit by wind but escapes loss of lives. Miami devastated as though by war, survivor says.

Alf mail pilot tells of scenes of destruction in storm area. Miami virtually swept clear; Nassau escapes heavy damage. Shipping smack lost in Tampa bay, crew missing. Florida cities raise relief funds for storm victims. Tampans can send mail to Miami by plane today.

Port Myers sends relief by boat to lake sufferers. LOCAL  
Colonel Lowry ordered to Moore Haven to take charge of relief work. City asks governor for list of reports alleged uncovered by investigators. Contraband liquor serves as angel of life for storm survivors.

Relief committee here reports \$40,000 raised for list of reports for boys work within 16 minutes. Man kills self while eating lunch. Mayor starts move to reduce street paving costs. Wife of accused slayer released. Steamship Madison safe in port here after encountering storm. \$14,000 fine holds Cuban fishing boat and crew in port here.

TELEGRAPH  
Hurricane kills 150 persons and wipes out part of Encarnacion, Paraguay. Fatal crash ends attempted flight across Atlantic. Government strikes from new angle in trial of Daugherty. M.J. Gen. Charles P. Summerall to succeed Maj. Gen. Hines as chief of army staff.

SPORTS  
Cardinals and Reds lose as National League race nears end; Pirates, Cubs also defeated. Jack Dempsey draws curtain of secrecy about camp as he prepared to travel to Philadelphia for battle with Gene Tunney. Yanks retain three-game lead in American League with victory; Cleveland continues to press New York leads in P. G. A. tourney. Terrers will play first game Friday, between picked squads of Hillsborough.

RADIO STATION RESUMES  
WASHINGTON, Sept. 21.—(A.P.)—The navy department reported today the radio and radio compass station at Jupiter, Fla., had been rehabilitated and was in commission again. It was silenced by the tropical hurricane.