

Avalanche Toll In Alps at 198

By RICHARD O'REGAN

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Man-killing avalanches thundering down the Alpine slopes left a toll of 198 persons dead or missing Tuesday night in three nations.

Austrian government officials feared many more were trapped by the moving masses of snow, ice and boulders in the high Alps. Thousands of tourists were stranded in ski resorts and an untold number of villages were cut off with dwindling food reserves.

Austria concentrated on a great rescue mission involving hundreds of American, French and British soldiers.

55 Missing

Hardest hit was the Austrian village of Blons, where it was estimated 45 of the 385 inhabitants were missing after two massive snowslides swept 23 hours into the Lutz River.

Avalanches in 12 places cut the Brenner Pass leading through the Alps from Italy to Austria. Officials said tons of snow, trees, and rocks slid into the highway and it would be blocked for another 24 hours.

The 36-hour toll in Austria was 51 persons dead and 121 missing. Many predicted the disaster would be the worst in Austria's history, surpassing a similar catastrophe three years ago which took 124 lives.

18 Swiss Dead

Switzerland counted 18 dead, four missing, 12 injured seriously and more than 100 homeless.

German rescue squads, working in the third day of a snowstorm which showed no signs of letting up, found four dead in the path of slides in the Bavarian Alps. One was a 61-year-old woman killed in her farm house.

Thousands of foreign tourists are stranded in snow-bound Austrian ski resorts. Some isolated villages are running short on food. Hundreds of farmers are being evacuated from their homes in danger areas.

Thawing weather is predicted in areas of Austria where up to three or four feet of new snow have fallen within 24 hours. This may bring a new tragedy.

Quake Jars Large Area In California

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)—A strong earthquake, which jarred cities more than 500 miles apart, rocked large sections of California Tuesday, snapping some power and telephone lines and cracking buildings.

There were no reports of injuries.

Caltech seismologists at Pasadena said the quake, lasting more than a minute, began at 3:34:08 p. m., Pacific Standard Time, and was of 5.75 to 6.4 magnitude—a major quake. The University of California seismograph at Berkeley recorded the quake for 15 minutes.

In Los Angeles, 120 miles southeast, plaster on some buildings cracked, as did walls on the 24th floor of the city hall tower.

It was felt at Indio and San Diego near the Mexican border and more than 500 miles north at Sacramento. Such beach cities as Santa Barbara, badly damaged by a quake in 1925, felt Tuesday's shock, but reported no damage.

Blue Book To Feature New Format

Oregon's new Blue Book, slated for distribution later this month, will be hardly recognizable when compared with the state's biennial reference work of previous years, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry said Tuesday.

The new Blue Book, according to Newberry, has been given a thorough face lifting and complete reorganization of contents.

Delay in placing this year's Blue Book in circulation has resulted in considerable criticism, the secretary of state said.

Newberry said the new book with its professionally supervised layout and its efficient department organization would more than offset the time taken to prepare it. Charles S. Politz, Portland layout designer, was commissioned by the secretary of state to prepare this year's Blue Book.

Changes made in the Blue Book include complete departmentalizing, divider pages listing contents, page content heading at top of each page, picture montage borders for the special section on Oregon features, individual sketches showing work of each board or commission for fast reference, more illustrations and complete new road map of Oregon.

Printing of the Blue Book will have used 6 tons of paper, 28 press runs of 15,000 impressions each, 60,000 impressions for the covers and more than 300 engravings.

There will be approximately 300 illustrations of which 111 are pen and ink sketches. Politz said this year's Blue Book would set the pace for future editions.

RHEE, GENERALS MEET

SEOUL (AP)—President Syngman Rhee met Wednesday with his Army division commanders and top-ranking military leaders in what the Defense Ministry termed a top-secret conference.

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Stryker

In 1949 Congress passed a law revising the program of government support of prices of farm products. It substituted the rigid formula of 90 per cent of parity based on the 1909-1914 period to a flexible system of guarantees ranging from 75 to 90 per cent, depending on the volume of production and carry-over, and the base period was changed to the preceding ten-year period. This plan was designed to provide some automatic restraints on production rather than the rigid marketing quotas made legal under the old act. As supplies increased, price supports would decrease. Substituting the ten-year period replaced an ancient base for one more nearly current, which would be a moving base.

Congress never let this act go into effect. It suspended it from time to time, the latest prolonging the old law through 1954. Lacking new legislation, the 1949 act will go into effect next year. Monday President Eisenhower proposed a revision of the farm support program, but in substance it follows the line of a flexible rather than rigid parity formula, and vests broad discretionary power in the Department of Agriculture for determining the support figure for a given crop in a given year.

Basic in his program is to lift, legally at least, the present accumulation of farm products from consideration in determining the procedure in the coming year. Of the six basic crops, wheat, cotton, corn, tobacco, wheat, peanuts, rice would be dropped from the list (Continued on editorial page, 4)

Adm. Blandy, A-Bomb Test Leader, Dies

NEW YORK (AP)—Retired Adm. William H. P. Blandy, 63, who led the first post-war atom bomb tests at Bikini in 1946, died Tuesday.

He suffered a stroke Sunday and later was placed in an oxygen tent at St. Albans Naval Hospital.

Blandy retired in 1950 after three years as commander in chief of the Atlantic Fleet with headquarters at Norfolk.

A keen student of naval gunnery and a man with a deep love for the stately battleship, Blandy took a fleet to Bikini. There he watched the entire science of naval gunnery as he knew it vanish in the ugly mushroom of the atom cloud.

Blandy reported after these tests that radical redesign was needed throughout the Navy, with emphasis on speed and dispersal as defense against the bomb.

But he staunchly defended the Navy, as such, and called it a delusion to label the Navy obsolete on the basis of the tests.

Astoria Listed As Disaster Area, Hill Stationary

ASTORIA (AP)—Astoria's sliding hillside apparently remained stationary again Tuesday. No movement was noticed as clear weather continued.

Twenty-six houses were in the slide area, and house movers got cribbing under six of them, preparatory to moving them to other locations.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Rep. Norblad (R-Ore) said the Small Business Administration has designated Astoria as a disaster area.

The designation follows Norblad's request of last week for an investigation into slide conditions in the city. It will permit owners of damaged homes to obtain low-interest government loans to rebuild or repair their houses, the congressman said.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH

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