

DUTCH FLOODS

One sixth of the most fertile land of Holland has fallen to the invasion of the sea. No man can tell how long it will take before the land grows food again. Over the drowned waste - a hopeless desolation - flew Prince Bernhard; and where the map showed islands of rich land, today only sodden patches, dotted incongruously with uninhabitable dwellings, remain to mock the plight of homeless thousands.

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~~A ferryboat washed up miles inland makes a high water mark in the fantastic tragedy.~~

On the Island of Duiveland the only dry place was the slightly higher ground near the church. There they had driven such cattle as were not drowned. People laid sheets and tablecloths to guide helicopters to the only safe landing. The R.A.F., Americans and Belgians sent all the machines they could mobilise, and on one day 400 people were flown to safety.

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(2 out)

^{to men & women}
(woman x heli) These ~~were the people~~ whose forebears won the land almost foot-by-foot from the sea, cleansed the soil of salt and by skill and toil without end made it fertile as any in Europe. And in one night the North Sea took it back.

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TS/V Refugee

(Prince) Near Middelbarnis they formed a clearing station. Refugees were shipped from there to Rotterdam, from there to Utrecht, outside the flooded areas.

Queen Juliana was at Utrecht to comfort the homeless army of people. Her country was occupied now, not by a foreign invader, but by the sea, ~~the enemy against which the Dutch have battled for centuries.~~ ~~Yet~~ already, so close to the calamity, the Dutch had taken courage. No people in Europe are greater in adversity than they. Amphibious vehicles (Dukws) were rushed from occupied Germany, ~~by the armies there.~~ Everything that could fly or float carried the people to dry ground.

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1300 people are known to have lost their lives; ~~hundreds~~ are still missing. The cost in land made barren can only be guessed. All nations will come to Holland's aid. Now, as before in history, her greatest asset is the unshakable character of her brave people.