

SEISMOLOGY

Violent Earthquake Centered In Northern Part of India

"Lost" Catastrophe, News of Which Has Been Delayed, May Have Centered in the Himalaya Mountains

A VIOLENT earthquake wrenched the Himalaya mountains of Northern India on Wednesday morning, May 27. It is possible that some loss of life and property damage occurred, though the region most seriously affected is not very densely populated.

Direct word from the shaken area has not yet come out by cable or radio, but the occurrence of the earthquake was assured by reports from seismological observatories in the United States, Canada, the Philippines, and China, forwarded to Science Service and interpreted by scientists of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. A brief cable dispatch from Calcutta stated that an earthquake had been felt there, but no damage was mentioned.

Near Mt. Everest

The earthquake most probably centered a long distance to the northwest of Calcutta, calculations by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Jesuit Seismological Association indicated. The epicenter was at about 29 degrees north latitude, 84 degrees east longitude, some 200 miles from Mt. Everest. Because of the remoteness of this region from modern communication networks, it may be weeks before direct news is brought to the world.

The quake started at 11:19 a.m., local time, or 1:46 a.m., U. S. Eastern Standard Time, on Wednesday morning.

The entire northern part of India is subject to frequent and powerful earthquakes. Just a few days less than a year ago, on May 31, 1935, the most disastrous earthquake that has visited India within historic times completely wiped out the city of Quetta, near the border of Baluchistan, far to the west of the region of Wednesday's quake.

Stations reporting seismological data to Science Service were the Manila Observatory, Manila, P. I., the Zikawei Observatory, near Shanghai, China; Phulien Observatory, in China; the Dominion Meteorological Observatory at Victoria, B. C.; the observatories of the Jesuit Seismological Association at Georgetown University, Fordham Uni-

versity, and Canisius College; and the observatory of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey at Tucson, Arizona; Honolulu, T. H., and Fairbanks, Alaska.

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SEISMOLOGY

Earthquake Recorded From Solomon Islands

AN EARTHQUAKE officially described as a "very strong shock," occurred at the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific Ocean on May 19 at 10:05 p.m., eastern standard time. From earthquake data assembled by Science Service, seismologists of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey located the quake's epicenter at about 8.5 degrees south latitude, 160 degrees east longitude.

Reports to Science Service were sent from Manila Observatory in the Philippines, the Dominion Meteorological Observatory at Victoria, B. C., St. Louis University, the University of Wisconsin, Fordham University, the University of California, Georgetown University, Canisius College, and the stations of the

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey at Ukiah, Calif., and Tucson, Ariz.

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SEISMOLOGY

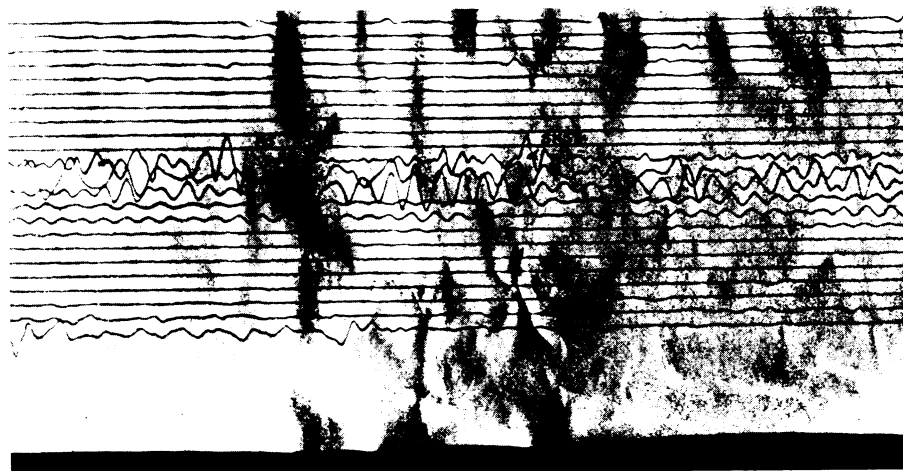
Pacific Ocean Bottom Has Its Own "Lost" Quake

ON THE heels of the "lost" earthquake of northern India, came another earthquake, "lost" for a different reason—because it happened beneath the bottom of the sea. On Friday morning, May 28, at 1:48.7, eastern standard time, a sharp shock jarred the sea bottom in the Pacific, about 700 miles southwest of Lower Mexico and about 1,700 miles due west of the Canal Zone.

Its geographical coordinates were eight degrees north latitude, one hundred four degrees west longitude, as calculated by seismologists of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. The Jesuit Seismological Association announced that the actual focus of the quake was 300 kilometers below the earth's surface.

Stations reporting to Science Service were those of the Dominion Meteorological Observatory, Victoria, B. C.; the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, Ont.; the private observatory of Mrs. M. M. Seeburger, Des Moines, Iowa; Georgetown University, Fordham University, Canisius College, Pennsylvania State College, the University of California, Manila Observatory, and the observatories of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey at Tucson, Ariz., Honolulu, and Chicago.

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EARTH WRITES OF TRAGEDY

On a seismograph at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., the earth wrote this record of a severe disturbance thousands of miles away in the Himalaya mountains. Long before news could come from this remote region, scientists were informed by these waves set up by the quake itself and carried through the earth.