

# SAN FRANCISCO MADE CITY OF DEATH AND RUIN BY EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE

Great Western Metropolis Practically Wiped Out—Thousands Probably Killed by Horror—Flames Finish Destruction Begun by Seismic Disturbance—Stricken City Without Water to Fight Blaze.

**FACTS CONCERNING THE DEVASTATION AT GOLDEN GATE.**

Estimated property loss.....	\$200,000,000
Loss of life so far as known.....	1,000
Estimated number of injured.....	2,000
Number of square miles devastated.....	10
Number of city blocks destroyed.....	1,000
Number of buildings in ruins.....	30,000
Number of persons made homeless.....	150,000
Number of hotels destroyed.....	8
Newspaper offices in ruins.....	3
Telegraph and telephone offices wiped out.....	3
City placed under martial law.....	

San Francisco, April 18.—The heart of San Francisco is in ruins and only a miracle can save the city from almost total destruction.

A stupendous earthquake shattered the city. Fire followed nature's upheaval and increased the damage a thousandfold.

All day and into the night men have fought a losing battle with the flames, and it looks as if the limit of human resistance has been reached.

It will be a week before the roll of the dead is known. The earlier reports of 1,000 slain, which were thought to be exaggerated, are sadly admitted to be underestimated, if anything.

The seriously injured will reach a total of 3,000, while 50,000 persons are homeless.

The property loss at eight o'clock Wednesday night was estimated at \$200,000,000. It has grown since then and is increasing every hour.

**Death Comes with Dawn.**

The first shock, which lasted almost five minutes, and which started the wrecking of the city, came just at daybreak, and through a day of terror the people have fought, aided by soldiers, to check the following flames that have burned over ten square

and death covers the coast for miles, and the scenes in San Francisco are being duplicated on a smaller scale in half a dozen of the nearer cities.

Nothing remains to tell where the Cliff house stood, and only the coast lining of rugged rocks remains. The death roll here is probably large.

Gen. Funston gave orders that looters were to be shot at sight. Four men detected in robbery were summarily executed.

The Southern Pacific tracks are in such condition that only a crippled train service has been possible.

Falling walls pinned many victims fast, and they were compelled to suffer untold agonies while flames crept toward them.

Block and block of banking houses are masses of red-hot ruin, and it will be months before the money that was housed in their valuable vaults can be reached.

Sewers and water pipes were burst, and it is feared that there will be an epidemic of disease. Provisions were sold at fancy prices and even water vended by the glass.

For the first time in the history of American disasters the newspapers ceased all efforts to gather news, be-



Map Showing Towns and Country Affected by the Earthquake.

ruins, leaving 150 still buried. Two hundred lunatics are roaming the country.

At San Jose the Vendome hotel and its annex were badly wrecked. Ten or fifteen persons were killed in the wreck. Fifty others were killed in the general wreckage of the town, which includes all the public buildings.

**Death and Devastation Everywhere.**

The same story of death and devastation comes from Santa Cruz, Monterey, Gilroy and Hollister. The death list at Santa Cruz is reported to be large.

At Salinas, down the coast near Monterey, the town practically was destroyed, and the damage to property is estimated at upward of \$1,000,000, with ten reported dead. Sacramento, Stockton, Watsonville and other towns report huge damage. Redwood City, Menlo Park and Burlingame also suffered.

homeless, who are wandering the streets or sleeping on piles of mattresses and clothing in the parks and on the sidewalks in those districts not yet reached by the fire.

**Hundreds Are Roasted.**

Hundreds were killed by falling buildings at the moment of the earthquake.

Hundreds of injured imprisoned in wrecked buildings were roasted to death.

Every conceivable conveyance, from automobiles to handcars, were pressed into service to convey injured and dying to improvised hospitals.

At ten o'clock United States troops arrived on the scene and San Francisco was placed under martial law. Soldiers were scattered through the business district to prevent vandalism and hold crowds in check.

performed by firemen and police would fill a volume.

Night added to the horror. The sky was illuminated in all directions. As the flames spread into the residence districts people left their homes and fled to the parks and squares.

The series of rather severe shocks at seven o'clock further increased the terror and many left homes that were not in danger.

**Reaches Residence District.**

At seven p. m. the fire had swept from the south side of the town across Market street into the district called the Western addition, and was burning houses at Golden Gate avenue and Octavia. This result was reached after almost the entire southern district from Ninth street to the eastern water front had been converted into a blackened waste. In this section were hundreds of factories, wholesale houses and many business firms. In addition to thousands of homes.

On the North side the fire was not making such rapid headway in the Western addition, where there was a limited water supply available, and the firemen made desperate efforts to prevent the encroachments of the devastation.

**Loss May Never Be Known.**

It will be many days before the complete story of the ruin wrought by the double calamity of earthquake and fire that visited San Francisco will be written, and then there will still remain untold countless tales of pitiful tragedy. The exact loss of life will never be known, as hundreds of unfortunates have been incinerated in the flames which made the rescue of those buried under toppling steeples and falling walls impossible.

**Supreme Court Is Homeless.**

The Parrott building, in which were located the chambers of the state supreme court, the lower floors being devoted to an immense department store, was ruined, though its massive walls were not all destroyed. A little further down Market street the Academy of Sciences and the Jennie Flood building and the History building

ferry depot was shattered. Its high tower still stands, but will have to be torn down.

**Roof Slides Into Yard.**

A portion of the new city hall, which cost more than \$7,000,000, collapsed, the roof sliding into the courtyard and the smaller towers tumbling down with the great dome being moved but not falling.

The Valencia hotel, a four-story wooden building, sank into the basement, a pile of splintered timbers, under which were pinned many dead and dying occupants of the houses. The basement was full of water and some of the helpless victims were drowned.

**Business Section Ablaze.**

The south side of Market street from Ninth street to the bay was soon ablaze, the fire covering a belt two blocks wide. On this, the main thoroughfare of the city, are located many of the finest edifices in the city, including the Grant, Parrott, Flood, "Call," "Examiner" and Monadnock buildings, the Palace and Grand hotels and numerous wholesale houses.

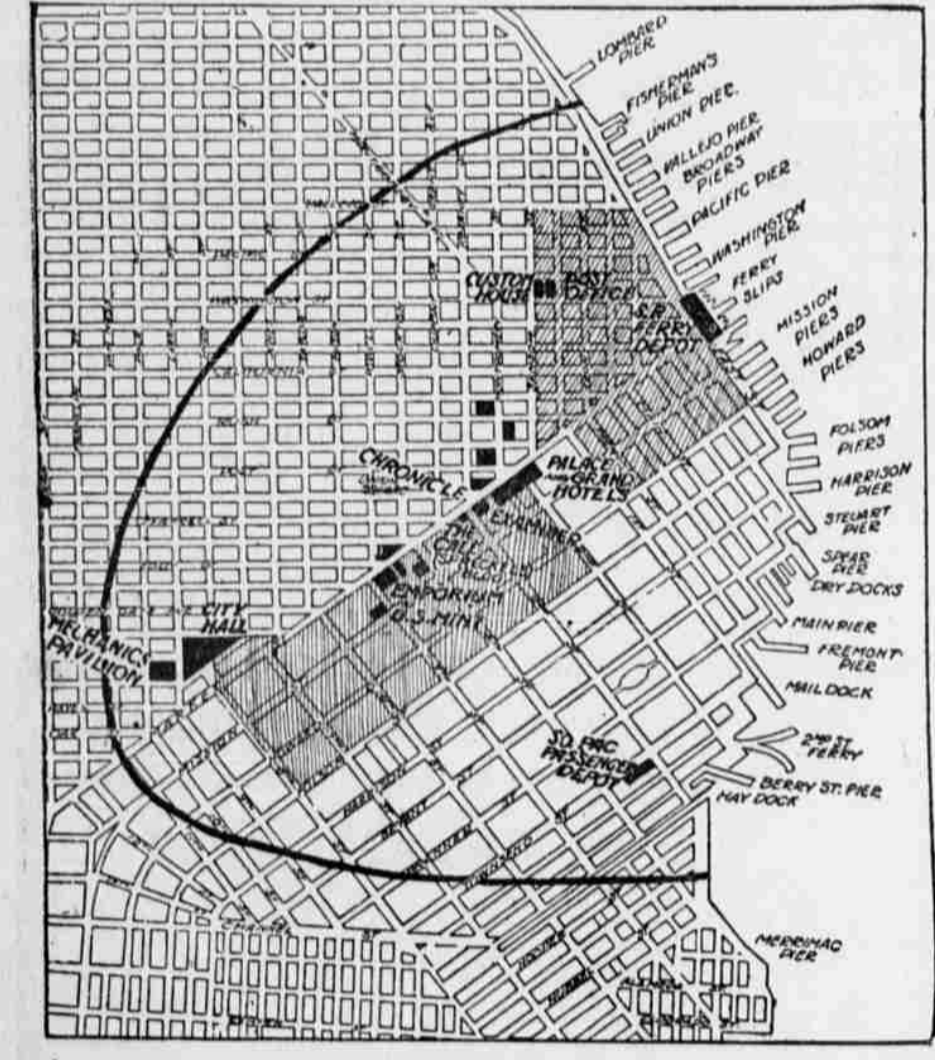
**Wholesale District Swept Clean.**

The latest reports at police headquarters show that the entire district bounded by Vallejo, Howard, East and Sansome streets, embracing practically the entire wholesale portion of the city, has been swept clean by the fire. Also the district bounded by Second, Market, Eighth and Folsom streets has been devastated. In the latter district are included most of the city's finest and most substantial buildings. The area covered by the flames up to the present time is about eight square miles, or several hundred city blocks. Very little, if any, water is available and the blowing up of buildings by dynamite is the only means of checking the progress of the flames. Most of the buildings untouched by the flames have been greatly damaged by the earthquake shocks. The pecuniary loss is conservatively estimated at \$100,000,000.

**Troops on Guard.**

At nine o'clock Wednesday morning a thousand men from the Presidio ar-

## AREAS OF DESTRUCTION IN SAN FRANCISCO.



Black Line Incloses District in Which Earthquake Did Greatest Damage—Shaded Portions of Map Show Areas of Two Big Fires in Skyscraper and Wholesale Districts.

miles of the heart of the city, destroying more than 130 city blocks, besides the small fires that rage in different parts of the town. At midnight the fire still is burning fiercely in every direction, checked on two sides by the water of the bay, and held back from the other two and from the main residence districts by the half gale that has fanned its fury all day.

**No Water to Fight Flames.**

The firemen and the 4,000 soldiers who are fighting the flames and rescuing the dead and injured have labored all day without water, for the earthquake snapped the water mains and left the city helpless.

Dynamite and powder were the only agencies left with which to battle. Many of the finest buildings in the city were leveled to the ground by terrific charges of explosives in the hopeless effort to stay the horror of fire. In this work heroic soldiers, policemen and firemen were maimed or killed outright.

San Francisco is without street car service. There is no light, except the glare of the flames—for the gas plants have blown up or shut off for purposes of safety, and the earthquakes destroyed the machinery in the electric light works.

Nearly a quarter of the population of the city either has fled to the hills and other supposed points of greater safety, or are homeless.

Martial law has been proclaimed, nearly 4,000 soldiers are patrolling the streets with orders to shoot all vandals.

While the center of the earthquake was in San Francisco, the destruction

cause by the time it could be gathered there would be no way left of publishing it. Every newspaper plant in the city was destroyed.

The \$7,000,000 city hall was torn by the earthquake, the steel-ribbed dome stripped of its covering, and the entire building wrecked.

Gen. Funston, in command of the United States troops at the Presidio, declared the city under martial law, and the troops and police are working together to save life, protect property and recover the dead.

**Hundreds Dead at Santa Rosa.**

Santa Rosa is a total wreck and there are 10,000 homeless in the city. The loss of life probably will reach into the hundreds. The whole business portion of the city is tumbled into ruins. Main street is piled on either side many feet deep with fallen buildings. Not one business building is left intact. The four-story courthouse is a pile of broken masonry. What was not destroyed by earthquake was swept by fire. The citizens have fled to the fields and hills to watch the destruction of the city. The water system was destroyed by the earthquake.

Leland Stanford university, given to the people by Mrs. Stanford in memory of her son, was destroyed by the seismic shock. One report from Palo Alto says that only one of the magnificent buildings remains standing, while another report says that conditions are not quite as bad.

At Agnew's insane asylum, containing nearly 700 patients, collapsed at the first shock. At nine o'clock 125 dead had been removed from the

ruins, leaving 150 still buried. Two hundred lunatics are roaming the country.

At San Jose the Vendome hotel and its annex were badly wrecked. Ten or fifteen persons were killed in the wreck. Fifty others were killed in the general wreckage of the town, which includes all the public buildings.

**Death and Devastation Everywhere.**

The same story of death and devastation comes from Santa Cruz, Monterey, Gilroy and Hollister. The death list at Santa Cruz is reported to be large.

At Salinas, down the coast near Monterey, the town practically was destroyed, and the damage to property is estimated at upward of \$1,000,000, with ten reported dead. Sacramento, Stockton, Watsonville and other towns report huge damage. Redwood City, Menlo Park and Burlingame also suffered.

Across the bay from San Francisco the destruction was great, but the conditions there are much better than in San Francisco. At Berkeley, the seat of the University of California, many buildings were thrown down, and the university buildings themselves were cracked, damaged and shaken to their foundations.

The dead in Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley are numerous, but no detailed accounts or records have been received here.

**Bounds of Devastated District.**

But the great disaster, the full weight of the earthquake, fell upon San Francisco.

The area burned over is bounded by Vallejo, Howard, East and Sansome streets—which embraces practically the entire wholesale district of the city, the fine retail district and office building district along Sansome and California streets—and the great commercial and banking district along California street, where most of the banking and brokerage houses of the city are located. Block after block of banking houses are now masses of red hot ruin, and it will be months before the money that was housed in their valuable vaults can be reached.

The second district that was swept clean by the fire is that bounded by Second, Market, Eighth and Fulton streets—that is, from the Union station on the water front at the foot of Market street back to Eighth. This district contains the finest office buildings, hotels, retail stores, theaters and shops of the city.

The landmarks of the city—its show places—the Spreckels building, the Call building, the great Phelan block, and the immense Palace hotel, said to be one of the largest in the world, practically are in ruins. The Majestic, the Grand, the Columbia and the Orpheum theaters are piles of smoking ruins.

**Chinatown Wiped Out.**

Chinatown is now a reminiscence. The Chinese theaters and joss houses are in ruins and rookery after rookery has collapsed, covering alive hundreds of the celestials. Panic reigns among the countless thousands of the Chinese, and they fill the streets, dragging whatever they could save from the wrecks.

The Japanese quarter has been burned out and from the part not destroyed the people have fled in terror. The flame-swept area covers over ten square miles.

As night descended upon the city of death and destruction the fact that there are no lights brought on fresh terror, which was accentuated by the third sharp shock, which came just before dark.

As the flames spread into the residence districts people left their homes and fled to the parks and squares.

The city resembles one vast shambles with the red glare of the fire throwing weird shadows across the worn and panic-stricken faces of the



LOOKING UP MONTGOMERY STREET

North of Market, the district burned is bounded by Market, Broadway, the water front and Sansome.

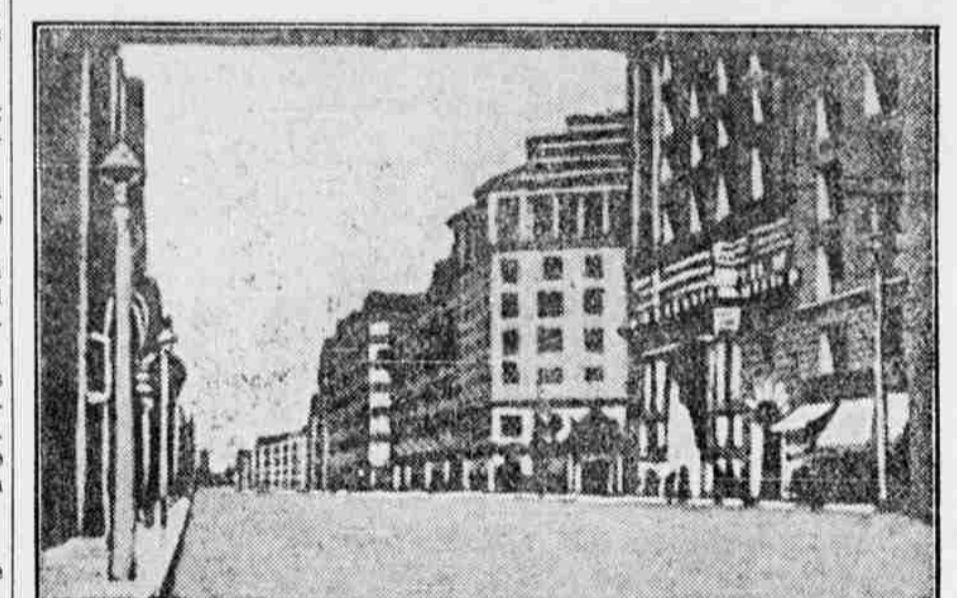
**Thirty Thousand Houses Wrecked.**

Thirty thousand houses were either partially or wholly destroyed by the earthquake, and the subsequent fire has swept the city from one end to the other. Hundreds of buildings are burning, without any effort being made to check the flames.

It is estimated that there will be 150,000 homeless people. The number of dead cannot be readily estimated. One hundred bodies have been recovered; many perished miserably in the broken down wooden houses along the water front in the Mission and along Market street. Falling walls pinned many victims fast and they were compelled to suffer untold agonies while fiery flames crept toward them.

**Estimate Dead at 5,000.**

Some believe that the number of deaths will reach the appalling figure of 5,000, but the figures may be excessive. The entire city presents a scene of indescribable confusion. The fire zone is so large that it takes two and one-half hours to go around it. Marvelous deeds of heroism are reported on all sides. There were many thrilling rescues. The deeds of val-



LOOKING DOWN MARKET STREET.

kindled and burned like so much tinder. Sparks carried across the wide street, ignited the Phelan building and the army headquarters of the department of California, Gen. Funston commanding, were burned.

Still nearer the bay, the waters of which did the firemen good service, along the docks, the fire took the Rialto building, a handsome skyscraper, and converted scores of solid business blocks into smoldering piles of brick.

Banks and commercial houses, supposed to be fire proof, though not of modern build, burned quickly, and the roar of the flames could be heard even on the hills which were out of the danger zone. Here many thousands of people congregated and witnessed the awful scene. Great scenes of flame rose high in the heavens or rushed down some narrow street, joining midway between the sidewalks and making a horizontal chimney of the former passageways.

**Buildings Collapse.**

The tall steel frame structures stood the strain better than brick buildings, few of them being badly damaged. The big 11-story Monadnock office building, in course of construction, adjoining the Palace hotel, was an exception, however, its rear wall collapsing and many cracks being made across its front. Some of the docks and freight sheds along the water front slid into the bay. Deep fissures opened in the filled-in ground near the shore, and the Union

rived down town to patrol the city streets. The Thirteenth infantry, 1,000 strong, arrived from Angel Island a little later and went on patrol duty at once. The soldiers have been ordered to shoot down thieves caught in the act of robbing the dead and to guard with their lives the millions of dollars' worth of property, which has been placed in the streets, that it may escape the ravages of the flames. The First California artillery, 200 strong, two companies, have been detailed to patrol duty on Ellis street. Two more companies are patrolling Broadway in the Italian section. The Ellis street contingent of guardsmen is under the command of Capt. G. A. Grattan. Capt. William A. Miller is commanding the forces on Broadway.

**University Buildings Destroyed.**

Reports from districts outside of San Francisco indicate wide-spread damage. San Jose, 50 miles south, lost many buildings and from 15 to 20 people were killed. The annex of the Vendome hotel collapsed and fire broke out. Stanford university and Palo Alto suffered. At Stanford many of the handsome buildings were demolished and two people were killed. One of them was Junius Robert Hanna, of Bradford, Pa., and the other was Otto Gurtz, a fireman.

The experience has been a testimonial to the modern steel building. A score of these structures were in course of erection and not one of these suffered.

**GREAT EARTHQUAKES OF HISTORY.**

	Lives Lost.
Lisbon, Portugal, Nov. 1, 1755.....	50,000
Lima, Peru, December, 1862.....	70,000
Lisbon, Portugal, Feb. 26, 1531.....	30,000
Mino Owari, Japan, Oct. 28, 1891.....	8,000
Lima, Peru, March, 1837.....	17,000
Castellamare, Italy, April 19, 1856.....	14,000
Linz, Austria, March 29, 1634.....	21,000
Colombo, island of Ceylon, March, 1894.....	16,000
Samarang, Java, July, 1879.....	100,000
Caserta, Italy, July 23, 1883.....	3,000
The Riviera, Italy, Feb. 23 and 24, 1887.....	1,000
Naples, Dec. 16, 1857.....	1,000
Chuddernagore, India, June 12, 1897.....	35,000
Charleston, S. C., Aug. 31, 1856.....	183
Caabria, Italy, November, 1905; forty villages destroyed.....	16,000
Queretlanaro, Honduras, September, 1905.....	1,500
Guatemala, April 18, 1902; six towns destroyed.....	900
Misacatlan, Oaxaca, Mexico, April 12, 1901.....	50
Guayaquil, Ecuador, Jan. 18, 1901.....	150
Hakone, Japan, Jan. 12, 1901.....	300
Foggia, Italy, June 16, 1900.....	124
Ile of Chios, Aegean sea, 1195.....	Entire population obliterated
Kagi, Formosa, April 3, 1906.....	Four towns destroyed

**PREVIOUS EARTHQUAKES IN FRISCO.**

	Lives Lost.	Damage.
Dec. 23, 1849, two shocks.....	20	\$ 18,000
June 22, 1851, five shocks.....	11	125,000
May 4, 1863, two shocks.....	75	200,000
Jan. 21, 1871, three shocks.....	15	115,000
June 19, 1886, one shock.....	2	45,000

**GREAT FIRES OF SAN FRANCISCO.**

June 29, 1851, business section destroyed.....	\$575,000
April 24, 1877, residence section swept.....	230,000
May 5, 1850, town practically wiped out.....	Unknown