

DEUTSCHE WOCHENSCHAU GMBH.

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HAMBURG-RAHLSTEDT

DISASTROUS FLOODS

Rough Pre-cut coverage

The North Sea coast of West Germany, from the Netherlands to Denmark were hit by the worst gale and flood disaster in Northern Europe since a century.

The sea has broken in to a depth of many miles and a heavy deathroll - increasing hourly - is reported. At this hour on Monday there are already 134 dead - some 75,000 are homeless, including 70,000 alone in Hamburg. With a population of 1,8 millions Hamburg is the largest town in west Germany. Here 107 dead are now reported. Large areas of the town are still under water.

Thousands of people were marooned on roof-tops or trees. Hurricane-force winds swept over northern Germany and heavy seas have broken the dykes. Groups of people huddle together on or in isolated houses which the rescuers have not reached up to now.

Renewed high tides are feared which might destroy the dykes which are being feverishly repaired by 25,000 German troops in unison with British and American units.

The worst-hit spot remains Hamburg where the tidal wave 12 feet high smashed into the heart of the city during the night. Water, electricity and gas supplies as well as the telephone-circuit failed. The damage is estimated at several billion D-marks.

Flags fly at half-mast again in all the town of the Elbe Estuary, in Nether Saxony and in Schleswig-Holstein - one week after the mine-disaster of Louisenthal.