

THE BIGGEST FLOOD IN THE NETHERLANDS



*It was one of the most catastrophic floods in the whole modern history of
Holland.*





FLOOD CONTROL IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE NETHERLANDS, AS ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF ITS AREA IS VULNERABLE TO FLOODING, WHILE THE COUNTRY IS DENSELY POPULATED. SO DURING THE NIGHT OF 31 JANUARY 1953, A FLOOD DISASTER HIT THE SOUTH-WEST OF THE NETHERLANDS. ABOUT 1850 PEOPLE AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ANIMALS LOST THEIR LIVES. AROUND 100,000 PEOPLE HAD TO BE EVACUATED, 4500 BUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED AND MANY MORE WERE DAMAGED. ALMOST 200,000 HECTARES OF LAND WERE FLOODED. SALT WATER FLOODED OVER 500,000 ACRES OF LAND. THE AGRICULTURAL LAND AREA OF 1,500 SQUARE KILOMETERS WAS RECOGNIZED AS TEMPORARILY UNSUITABLE.



OF THE NUMEROUS FLOODS THAT HAVE SWEEPED THE NETHERLANDS, THIS WAS THE FIRST ONE TO BE DOCUMENTED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY ON A LARGE SCALE. JOURNALISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND FILMMAKERS TRAVELLED TO THE DISASTER AREA IN LARGE NUMBERS.



DURING THE WEEK, 25 COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD ASSISTED THE DISTRESSED HOLLAND. MEDICINES ARRIVED IN THE COUNTRY, SPECIALISTS ARRIVED. EVEN ENGLAND AND BELGIUM, WHICH WERE AFFECTED BY THIS STORM, ASSISTED WITH CASH. ORDER WAS RESTORED QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY. THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE DISASTER WAS ESTIMATED AT HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.



Thank you for attention!