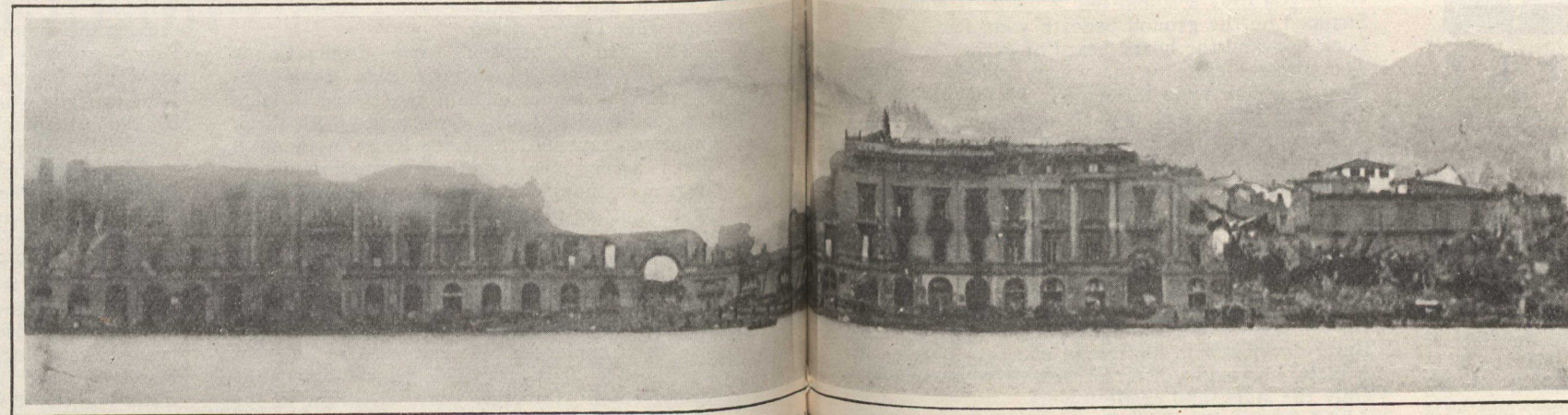


THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF MESSINA



Soldiers and nurses at work rescuing unfortunates from the ruins. Unfortunately there were thousands to whom help came too late.



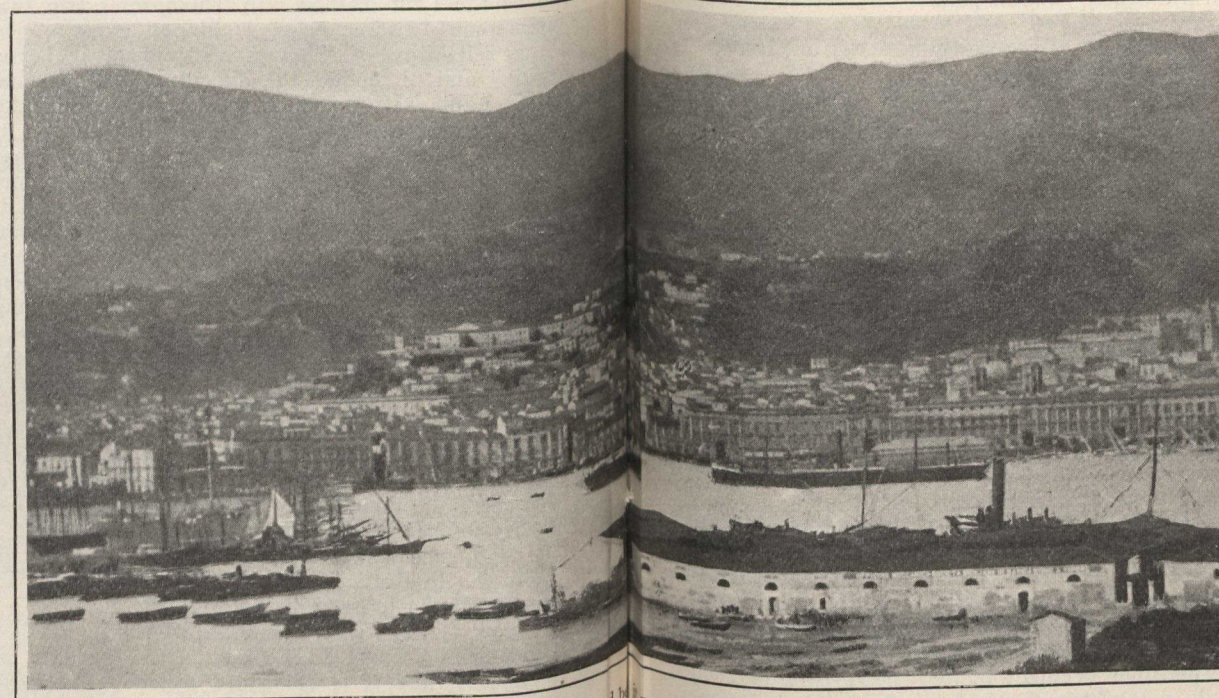
The beautiful waterfront, shaken by earthquake, wrecked by a tidal wave and consumed by fire. Messina was a great port and the buildings along the front were imposing and substantial. They can be seen from the picture directly below.



A consulate turned into a hospital. The British, Russian and other soldiers and sailors, under the direction of their commanders and the consular agents rendered all the help possible.



This gives a vivid picture of the wrecked houses and other buildings. The debris-covered streets indicate how small was the chance of escape.



This is Messina, Italy's busiest commercial port, as it appeared before the disaster. It was destroyed by one of the greatest disasters of ancient or modern times. It is said that the city will not be rebuilt and will remain a cemetery forever. Photograph copyright by Underwood & Underwood



There were no hospitals, and the wounded were laid out on doors and mattresses and rude stretchers until assistance arrived. This picture gives some idea of the fearful pathos of it all.



Church of the Souls in Purgatory, Messina, which gives some idea of the beauty of the ancient buildings which added charm to the one-time smiling seaport.

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Refugees thronging down to the ruined waterfront looking for transport to take them away from the stricken city. Comparing this with the two pictures directly above, the force of the earthquake and tidal wave is amply supplied by the justification.



The Cathedral and Montersole Fountain, Messina. This celebrated piece of art is not the only loss which the art world has suffered through this disaster. Many paintings and church decorations by famous Italian and Sicilian painters have been destroyed.