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### A walk through a deathly quiet countryside

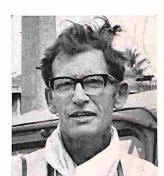
To cover the story of the Pakistan disaster (pp. 26-35), LIFE Photographer Larry Burrows and part-time correspondent Hal Ellithorpe flew from Hong Kong to the East Pakistan city of Dacca, then traveled by car to Sonapur, a small town on the northern fringe of the ravaged area. From there they had to go on foot, carrying with them a small supply of hard-boiled eggs and black tea. After five grim days Ellithorpe cabled this report:

"That first walk was the weirdest I've ever taken. The countryside

seemed absolutely normal. Ripe rice wafted on a sunny breeze, and the palm trees and banyans seemed untouched. And it was quiet, so quiet. Where we expected to see the typical savagery of a hurricane, with piles of debris and ripped trees, we saw only peaceful countryside. The storm had cleansed this land of its life, and left it shining.

"We walked until afternoon, meeting police burial teams, a few survivors with sad, silent faces, and some curious interlopers drawn by the morbid curiosity of mass death. The stench assailed us every few feet from dead cattle, chickens, fowl, humans lying in the canals and in the still water of the rice fields.

"At the coast we waited for a boat and crowded in with 10 other passengers trying to reach the island of Hatia which we heard had been virtually depopulated. For nearly four hours the boatmen rowed us across one of the arms of the Ganges, landing after dark. In the town we found a dingy open native café where patrons, survivors of the storm, eagerly told us of their experiences. One drew us a quite accurate map of the area, the first we had been able to get.



ARRY BURROWS



HAL ELLITHORPE

"The next morning we set off to tour the hardest-struck area of the island. We walked and walked, going through miles of countryside, talking to survivors, many of whom had lost everything in the storm: family, crops, houses, even bowls from which to eat.

"People called out to us, to come in, to see their personal tragedy, to be a witness of this thing which had destroyed their lives. 'Come, see this old man who has lost his four sons,' one neighbor begged us. 'Talk with my sister. She lost her husband and three boys,' said a teenage youngster. They did not plead with us for food or medicine, for we obviously carried none, but they did want us to record their loss. There was almost a fear that unless someone did, their tragedy would be ignored."

RALPH GRAVES

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## KHRUSHCHEV REMEMBERS WORLD WAR II

The great battles His fear of execution Stalin's cowardice

1963 portrait

KHRUSHCHEV

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