

GREAT EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVE IN SOUTHERN
MINDANAO, P. I.

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On August 15, 1918, at 12^h 20^m 28^s (G. M. T.), a great seismic disturbance was recorded at Manila, the origin of it being at a distance of about a thousand kilometers. Subsequent telegraphic reports showed that the whole island of Mindanao had been violently shaken by an earthquake of very long duration. The epicenter, as far as it could be inferred from later reports, was in the Celebes Sea between the 124th and 125th meridians east, and the parallels 5° and 6° north.

The number of aftershocks during the successive days was so great that the Observatory at Manila, a thousand kilometers distant, recorded fifty-one of them to the end of August. At the station of Butuan, situated in Mindanao at about 450 kilometers north northeast from the center a Wiechert seismograph recorded 599 during the same period, about 250 of which occurred on the 15th and 16th.

In September, word came from the Philippine constabulary officers stationed at Lebak and Glan, stating that the earthquake had caused great damage in the southern country, facing Celebes Sea, between Cotabato and the Davao Gulf; and that it had been followed by a tremendous sea wave which swept the whole coast between Lebak and Glan, completing the destruction caused by the shocks. All the devastated country is inhabited by Moros and wild tribes, so the real amount of damage and number of casualties is not yet, and probably never will be, known. The following reports published by the local press refer only to the Sarangani Bay and to the vicinity of Port Lebak, where constabulary posts exist and some white men live. The town of Glan is situated at the entrance of Sarangani Bay, while Port Lebak lies about a hundred miles to the northwest:

Captain Malone of the Philippine constabulary stationed at Glan, Cotabato, reports that the earthquake which occurred on the night of August 15th, last, destroyed all houses in Sarangani Bay and so far as known killed forty-six people. He reports that the earthquake lasted for three minutes and ten seconds and was later followed by a tidal wave reaching as high as twenty-four feet at some points and at the constabulary station at Glan to the height of