

LEGASPI, JUNE 3-9, 1938

1. Left Manila by the Bicol Express at 7 a.m.
2. From Libmanan, I saw the Mayon volcano at about 3:20 p.m. There was a white cloud as background; against this cloud, the column of smoke was clearly visible: the column was rather high.
3. People from Polangui and Ligao, standing on the platform of the station, reported to me a heavy fall of ashes, on June 5th at about 4 p.m.
4. Met the Governor of Albay at Paraga: discussed activities of the Mayon during the day and the evacuation of the barrios of San Fernando, Santo Niño and Santa Misericordia of Libog. The people of the town of Libog left the town, of their own accord, without any advice from the Governor. They moved to Salvacion.
5. After supper at the International Hotel, I retired to rest a while and requested transportation to go to kilometer 9 at 9 p.m. in order to watch the eruptions during the night.
6. At 9 p.m. captain, the Chief of Police and I motored to kilometer 9 to watch the eruption.
7. The eruption was mild: the rumbling was not very strong; the vertical expulsion of incandescent material was not very high but the rolling of incandescent material towards Libog was very fast; indeed the stream of incandescent material had in only 48 hours covered a longer area than it did in three weeks time in the eruption of 1928.
8. No flow of incandescent material was observed towards Camalig or Legaspi: the break in the crater was towards the Libog side only.
9. The material seemed to be very loose and soft, giving the appearance of extreme fluidity and great readiness to be broken and split up, divided and subdivided.
10. We retired at about 1 p.m. because it became cloudy and began to drizzle. We motored up to Libog and barrio Santa Misericordia. Returning to Legaspi, we stopped five times and advised groups of people squatting along the road to be calm and to go and spend the night under shelter, away from the rain.

Tuesday, June 7, 1938

11. At 7:45 the son of the Governor came to the Hotel to bring me to the office of the Governor in Albay. Plans were discussed and formulated as to the evacuation of barrios in the zone of danger and as to sanitation and health in the camps of concentration. I met the principal officials of the Province.
12. With the Governor I motored to the barrio of ---- and to the Air Field: a short talk was made to the refugees of the barrio ----. In the Air Field I gave an oral report to Mr. Bradford for the officials of the Weather Bureau. The volcano was quite at this time: two Americans who had flown down from Paracale to Legaspi to see the eruption had to return on the same plane without seeing any eruption. In the return trip, the plane flew between Legaspi and Libog to avoid the dark cloud that extended from Mayon towards Polangui.
13. At 1:30 with the Governor and other officials I motored to kilometer 9 and to Libog. There is a road from Libog towards Salvacion: its length is less than a kilometer. The rest of the trip is made by walking through mud or by baroto with catigs. The Governor, the Captain and myself went by baroto.
14. In the eruption of 1928, the people of Libog, had gathered