

AFTER THE TORNADO Shattered Lives, Shattered Land

A girl in her ruined neighborhood in De Soto, Illinois. For months, many survivors lived in tents provided by the United States Army.



Today, when disaster strikes, ambulances race down highways. Helicopters pluck people out of danger and fly them to hospitals. Huge trucks and airplanes can deliver supplies.

But in 1925, there were few highways. There were no helicopters, and airplanes were just beginning to zip across the skies. It took a very long time for rescuers to reach some of the towns destroyed by the Tri-State Tornado. And most of the aid arrived by train.

Rescue trains carried doctors, nurses, and supplies to wrecked towns, and brought the injured to hospitals in distant cities.

The Red Cross handed out tents and basic supplies.