

Volcano Stamps of the World

KRAKATOA 1883

"THE LOUDEST BLAST EVER HEARD"



An atmospheric blast wave circled the globe 3.5 times. Tsunamis up to 40m high destroyed coastal Java and Sumatra. 36,000 people were killed.



The loudness of Krakatoa's blast has been calculated at 180 dB. It ruptured the eardrums of sailors on a ship 65km away. It burst windows & cracked walls in Batavia (Jakarta) 160km away.



There were 11 major blasts on 27 August. The largest occurred when one side of Krakatoa collapsed into the sea. Seawater poured onto the now-exposed magma de-pressurised magma chamber. Like pouring water on a campfire, it caused a massive explosion of ash & steam.



Krakatoa's blast was heard in Perth (3,100km), and Alice Springs (3,600km) in Australia, and Rodrigues Island (4,800km) in the Indian Ocean.

