

Opening paragraph of J.P. Dunning cable to the New York Times, published in that newspaper 14th April, 1889.

The most violent and destructive hurricane ever known in the South Pacific Ocean passed over these islands on the 16th and 17th of March, and as a result a fleet of six warships and the other vessels were ground to atoms on the coral reefs in the harbour or thrown on the beach in front of the little city of Apia, and 142 officers and men of the American and German Navies sleep forever under the reefs or lie buried in unmarked graves thousands of miles from their native lands.