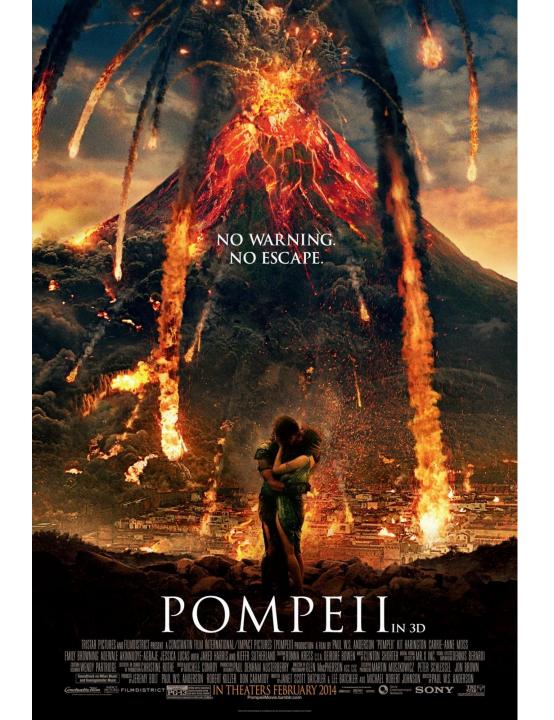
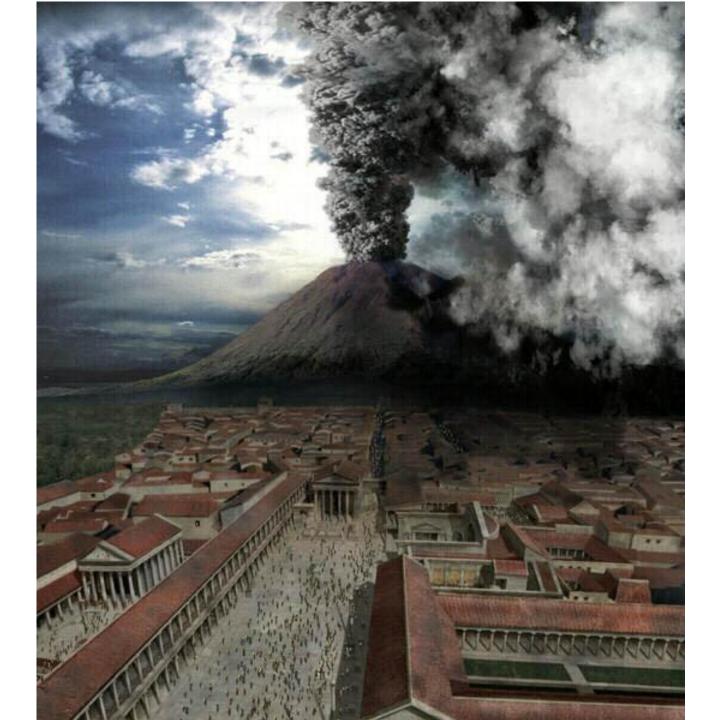
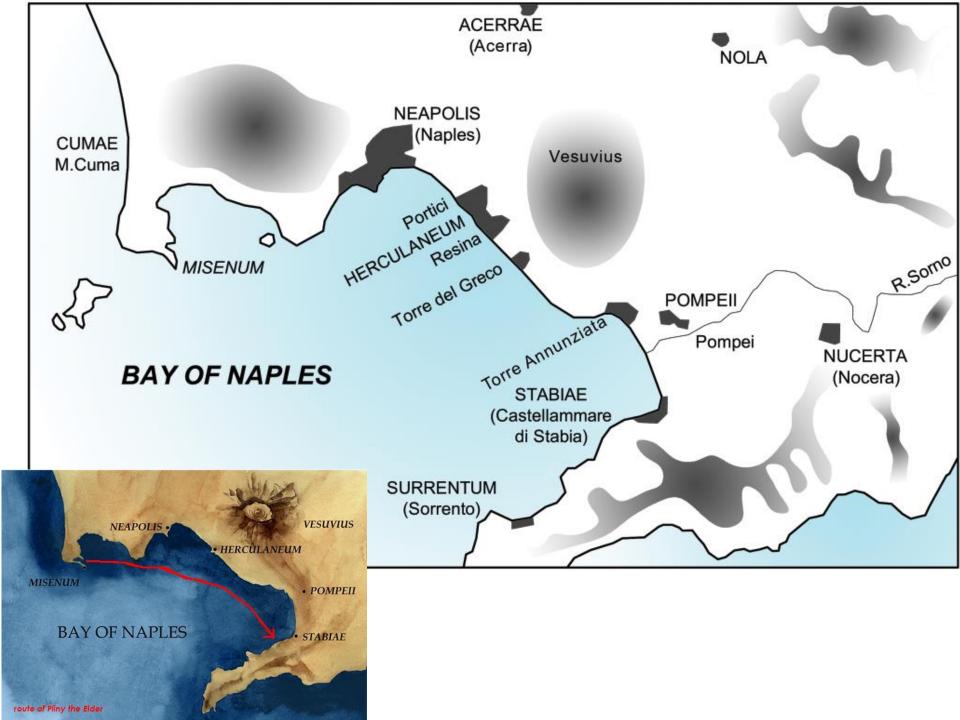
Pompei, Ercolano, Oplonti

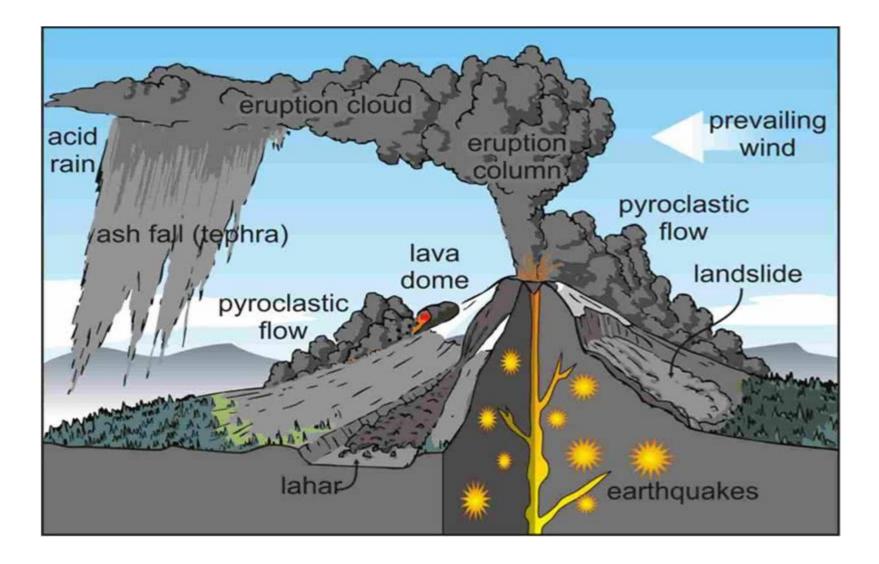
Stefano Lugli





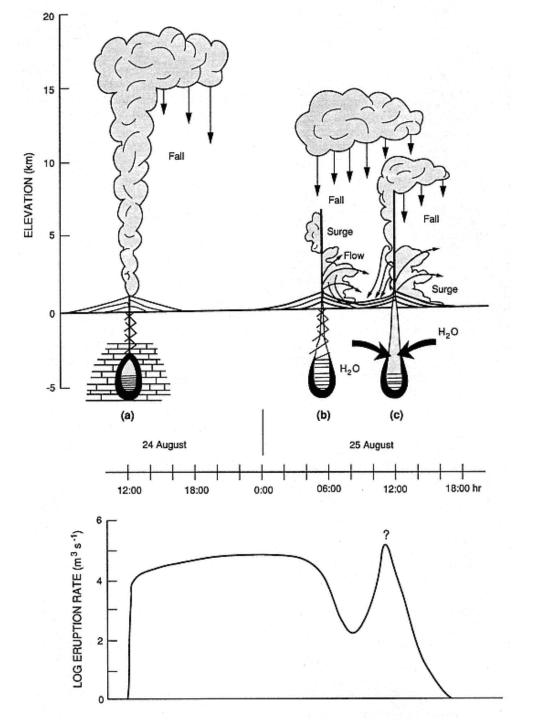






	Volcaniclastic grains	Size	Volcaniclastic sediment terms (tephra)
64 mm	bombs – ejected fluid blocks – ejected solid	coarse – 256 mm – fine	agglomerate volcanic breccia
2 mm	lapilli	coarse – 16 mm – medium – 4 mm – fine	lapillistone
	ash	very coarse – 1 mm – coarse – 0.5 mm – medium – 0.06 mm – fine	tuff — lithic crystal

 Table 3.6 Classification of volcaniclastic grains and sediments on grain-size.



3.11.1.1 Pyroclastic fall deposits

These include subaerial and subaqueous (submarine or sublacustrine) fallout tephra. They are characterised by a gradual decrease in both bed thickness and grain-size away from the site of eruption. Beds are typically well sorted and normally graded. However, they are frequently reworked by currents and waves if deposited in water, or wind if subaerial, and thus may show crossor planar lamination (strictly these would then be epiclastic deposits). Larger fragments of pumice may occur on top of the beds if they floated before being deposited. These deposits can be spread over wide areas and are useful for stratigraphic correlation, forming marker beds. Pyroclastic fall deposits mantle the topography, with layers of roughly constant thickness over both hills and valleys (Fig. 3.24).

3.11.1.2 Pyroclastic flow deposits

These are the product of hot gas/solid high-concentration density currents, which may travel at velocities of $20-100 \text{ m s}^{-1}$. One common pyroclastic flow deposit is an *ignimbrite*, produced by a violent plinian eruption, which generally occurs in subaerial situations, although the flows may continue into the sea or a lake. Ignimbrites are characterised by their homogeneous

appearance with little sorting of the finer ash particles, so they lack internal stratification. Coarse lithic clasts in the bed may be normally graded (size decreasing upward) whereas large pumice clasts (which are very light at the time of eruption) may show reverse grading (size increasing upward), or

glassy material is deformed around them. Some ignimbrites have a columnar jointing, also indicating that they were still hot on deposition. Typical thicknesses of an ignimbrite deposit are 1 m to 10 m or more. The flows are topographically controlled and so the deposits fill valleys and depressions (Fig. 3.24).

3.11.1.3 Pyroclastic surge deposits

These result from highly expanded turbulent gas-solid density currents with low particle concentrations. Phreatomagmatic and phreatic eruptions involve steam and generate base-surge deposits. They are characterised by well-developed unidirectional sedimentary bedforms (dunes) giving crossstratification (Fig. 3.26), pinch-and-swell features and antidune cross-bedding (Section 5.3.3.15), since they are deposited by very fast-flowing ash-laden steam flows. Individual laminae are generally well sorted. These deposits tend to blanket the topography, although they do thicken into the depressions (Fig. 3.24). There is a complete gradation between high-particle concentration pyroclastic flows and low-particle concentration pyroclastic surges.

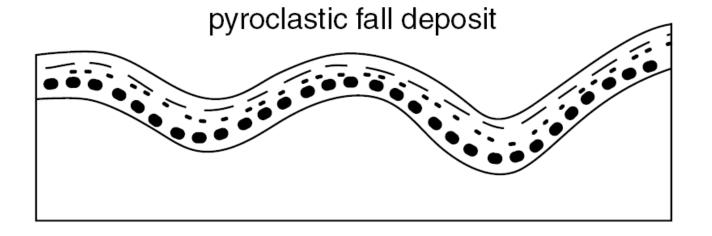
Pyroclastic flows are high-density mixtures of hot, dry rock fragments and hot gases that move away from the vent that erupted them at high speeds. They may result from the explosive eruption of molten or solid rock fragments, or both. They may also result from the nonexplosive eruption of lava when parts of dome or a thick lava flow collapses down a steep slope. Most pyroclastic flows consist of two parts: a basal flow of coarse fragments that moves along the ground, and a turbulent cloud of ash that rises above the basal flow. Ash may fall from this cloud over a wide area downwind from the pyroclastic flow.

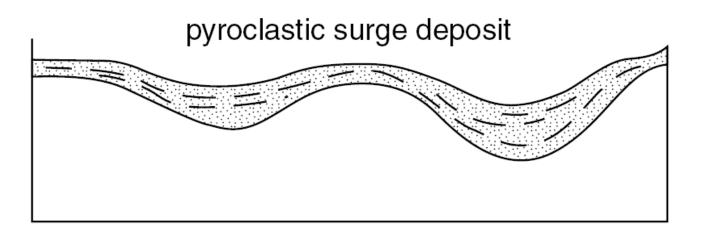
A pyroclastic flow will destroy nearly everything in its path. With rock fragments ranging in size from ash to boulders traveling across the ground at speeds typically greater than 80 km per hour, pyroclastic flows knock down, shatter, bury or carry away nearly all objects and structures in their way. The extreme temperatures of rocks and gas inside pyroclastic flows, generally between 200°C and 700°C, can cause combustible material to burn, especially petroleum products, wood, vegetation, and houses.

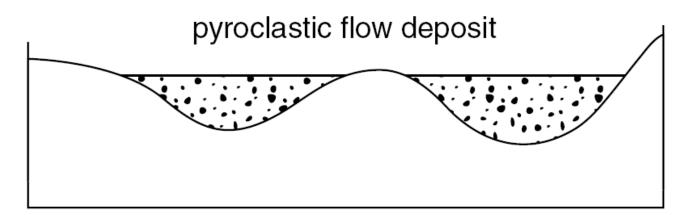
Pyroclastic flows vary considerably in size and speed, but even relatively small flows that move less than 5 km from a volcano can destroy buildings, forests, and farmland. And on the margins of pyroclastic flows, death and serious injury to people and animals may result from burns and inhalation of hot ash and gases.

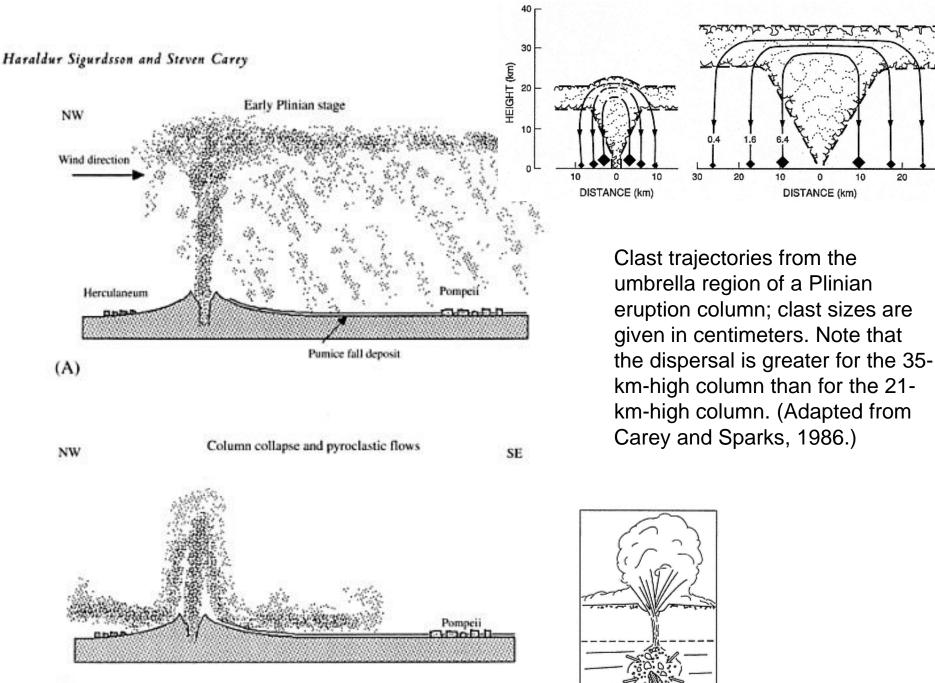
Pyroclastic flows generally follow valleys or other low-lying areas and, depending on the volume of rock debris carried by the flow, they can deposit layers of loose rock fragments to depths ranging from less than one meter to more than 200 m.

USGS

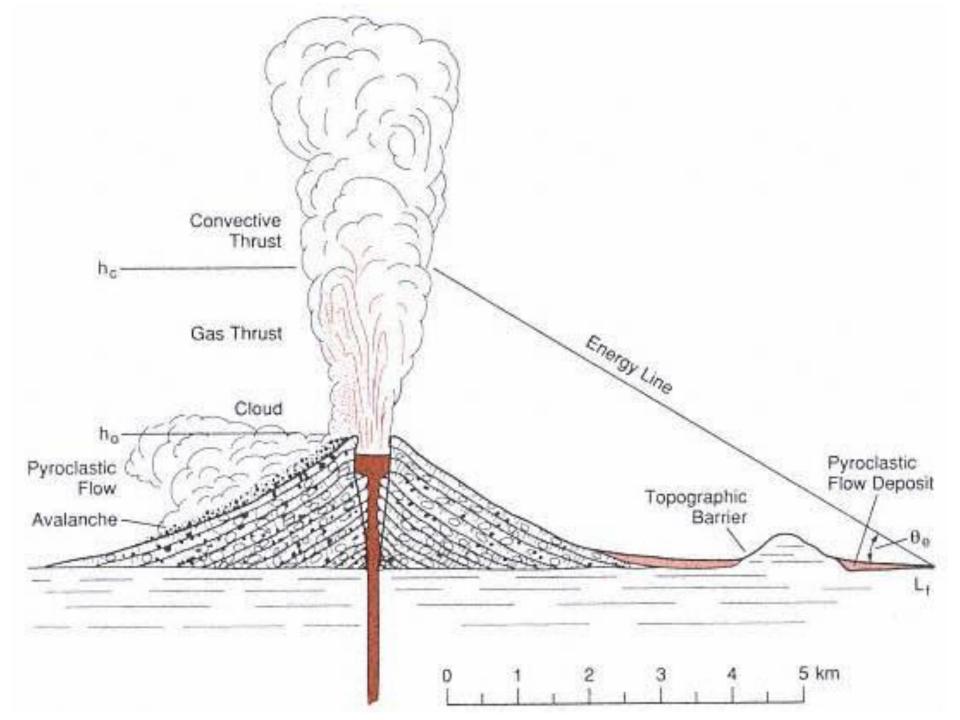


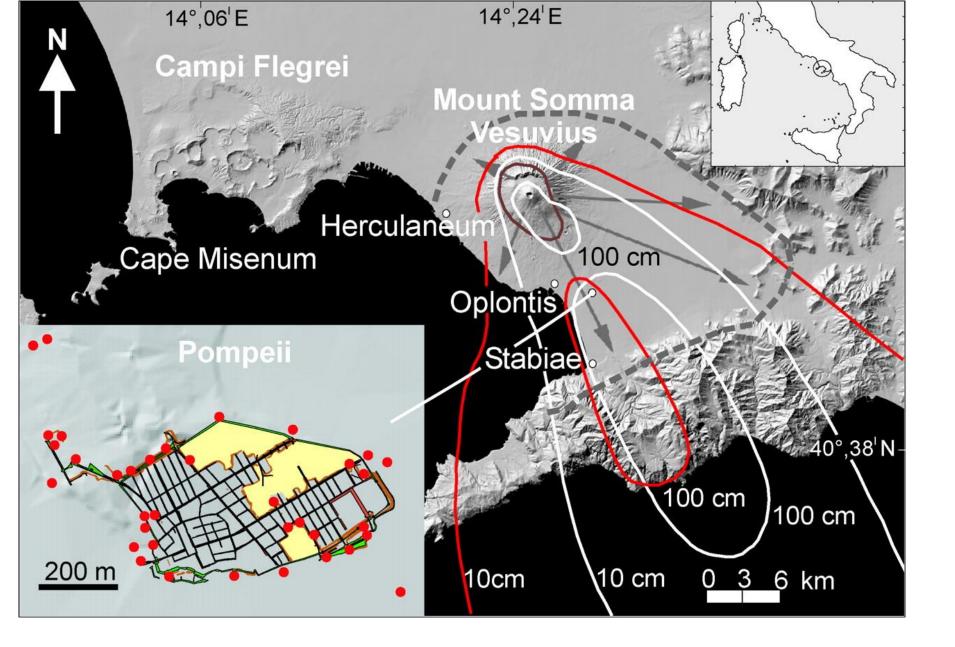


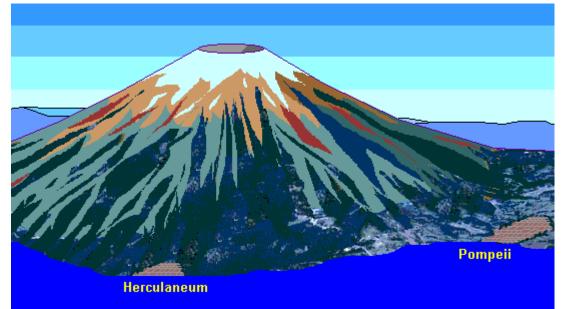


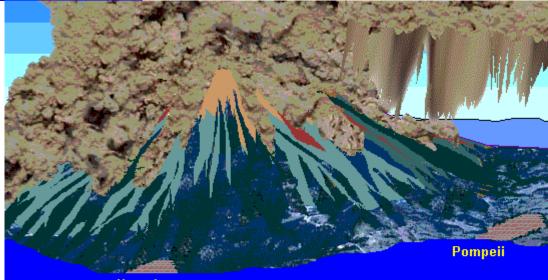


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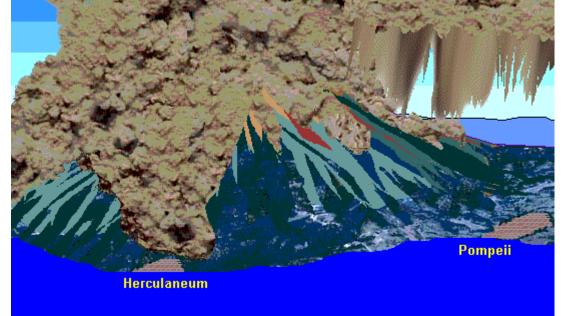


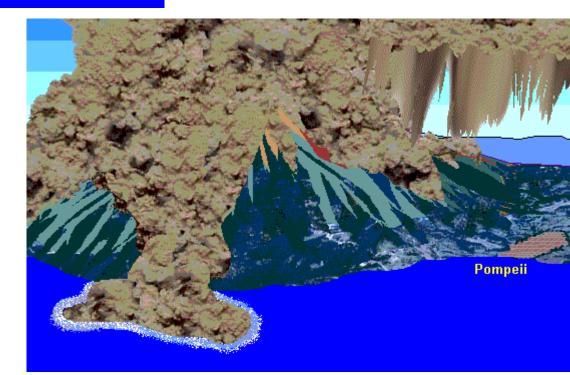




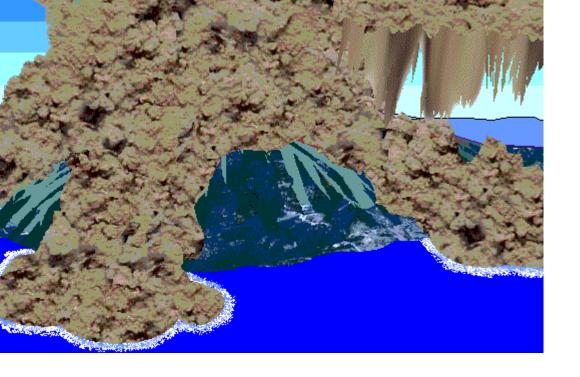


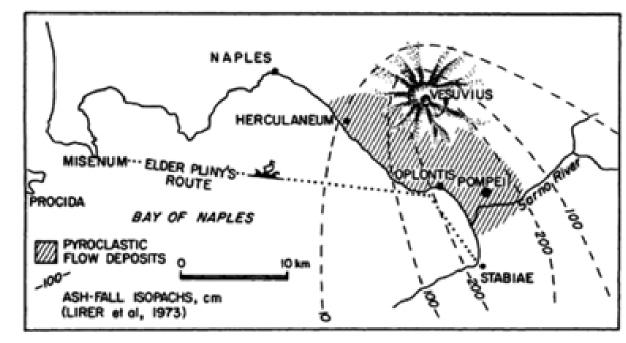
Herculaneum





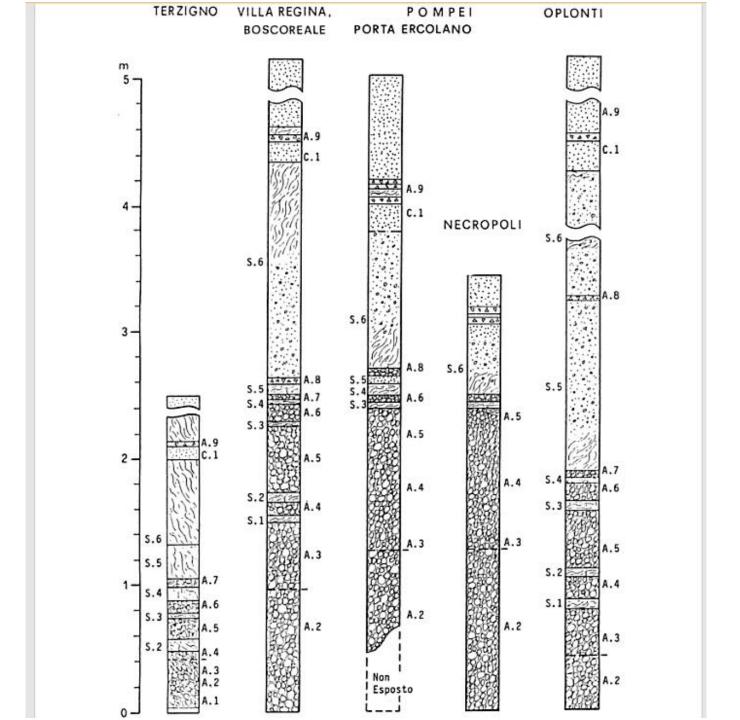
S. Dutch

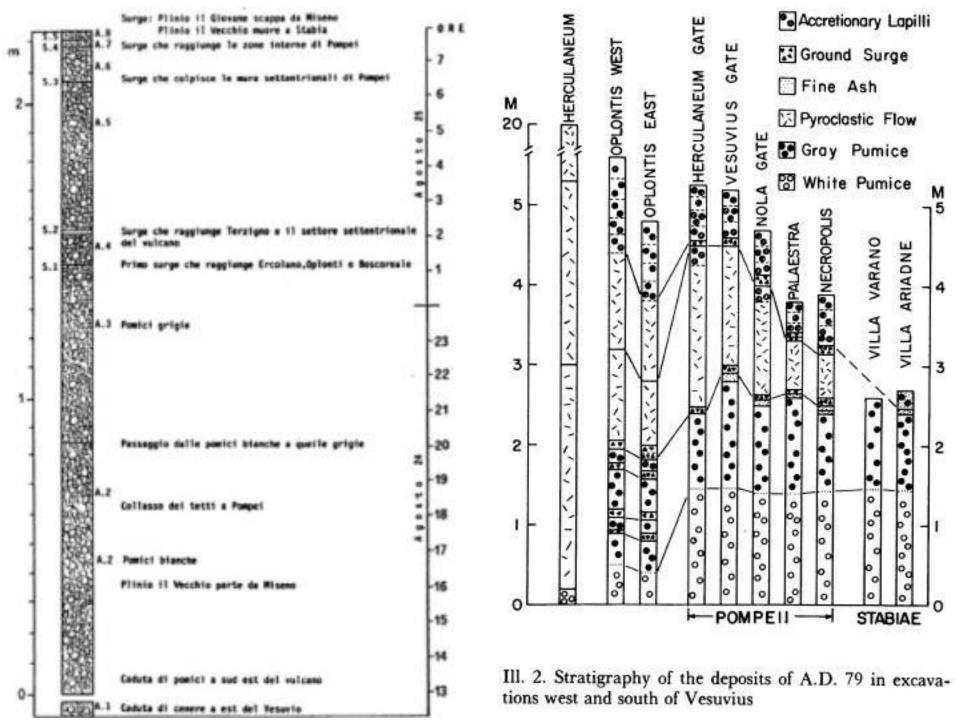




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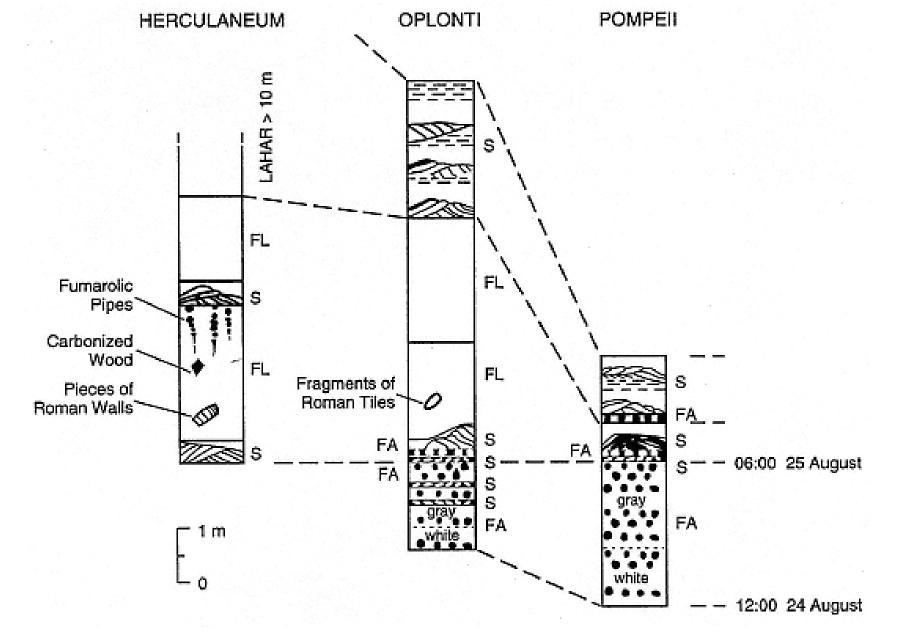
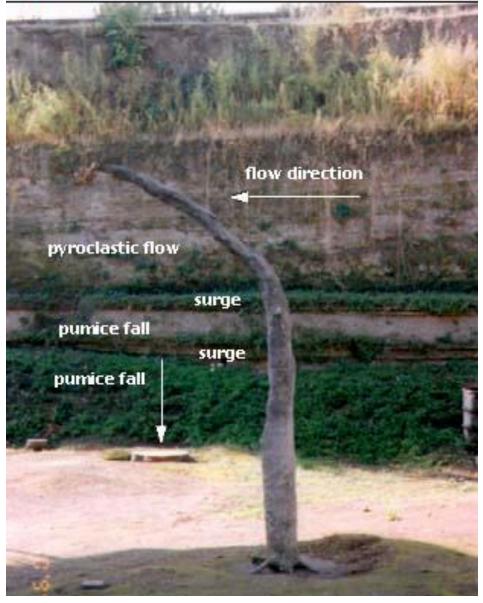
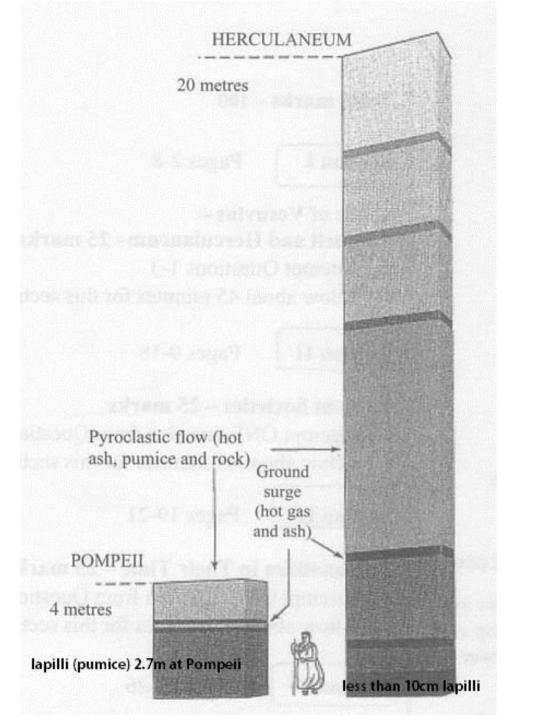


Fig. 2.18 Representative stratigraphy of AD 79 pyroclastic deposits exposed in archaeological excavations along the coastal side of Vesuvius; FA = pumice fallout, FL = pyroclastic flows, and S = surges. The basal white and gray pumice fallout was from early

Villa Regina (Boscoreale) The tree was partially buried by the fall of pumice and then was bent by the pyroclastic flow





Oplonti (Torre Annunziata)

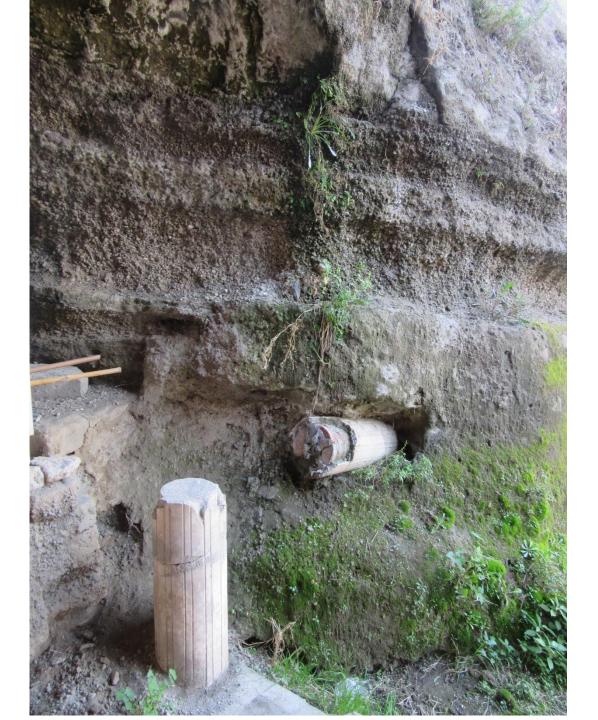
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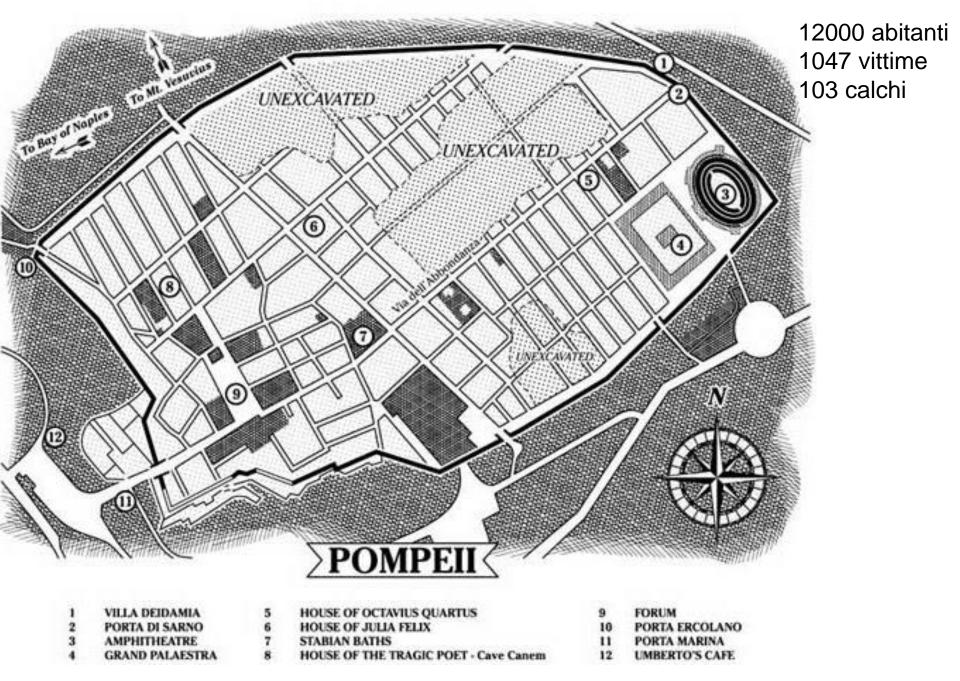


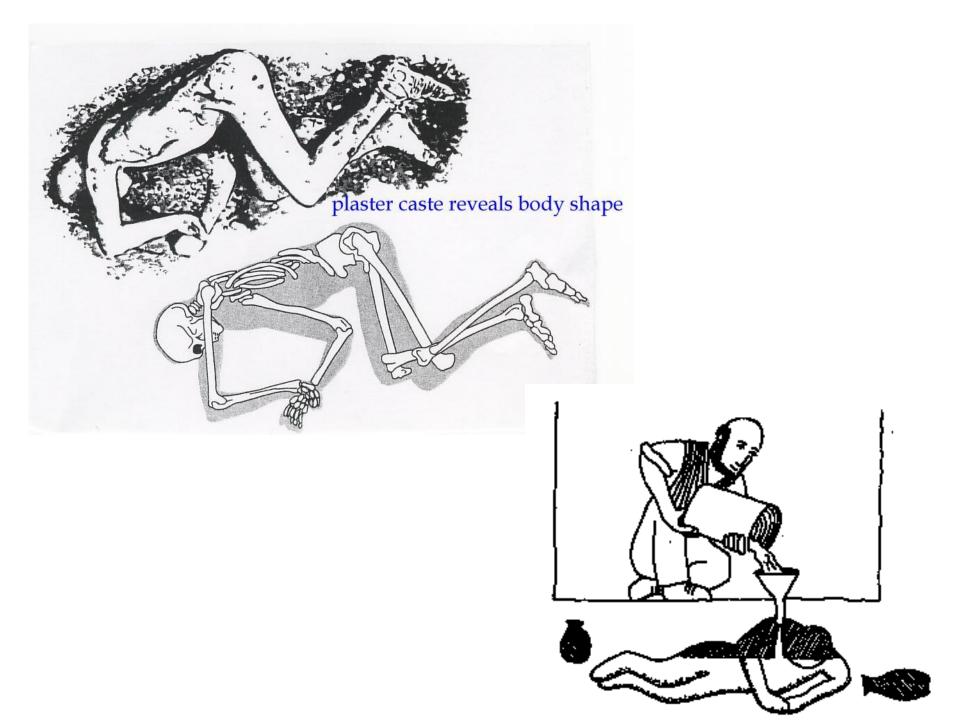
















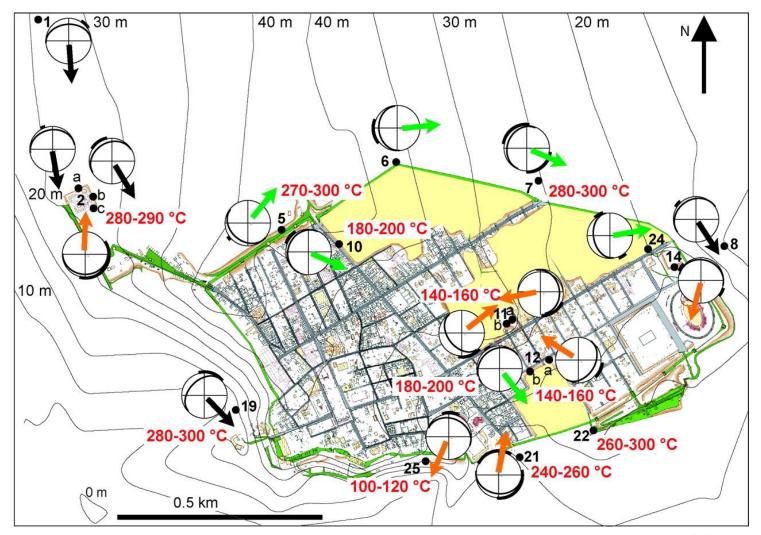


Group of corpses (casts and skeletons) near the Casa del Criptoportico 1914. They were encountered in the ash and pumice PDCs deposit above a thick, white^grey, lapilli pumice fall deposit. Below the human cast on the right side the stratigraphic sequence from unit B to E1 is well exposed. (Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei) Luongo et al., 2004



Casa del Criptoportico

'Orto dei Fuggiaschi, campo di 1500 metri quadri, scavato nel 1961, periferico e senza domus o iscrizioni. 13 calchi di uomini, donne e bambini in fuga verso le mura della città Variations in EU4pf flow direction (anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility [AMS] data) and temperature (thermal remanent magnetization [TRM] data).



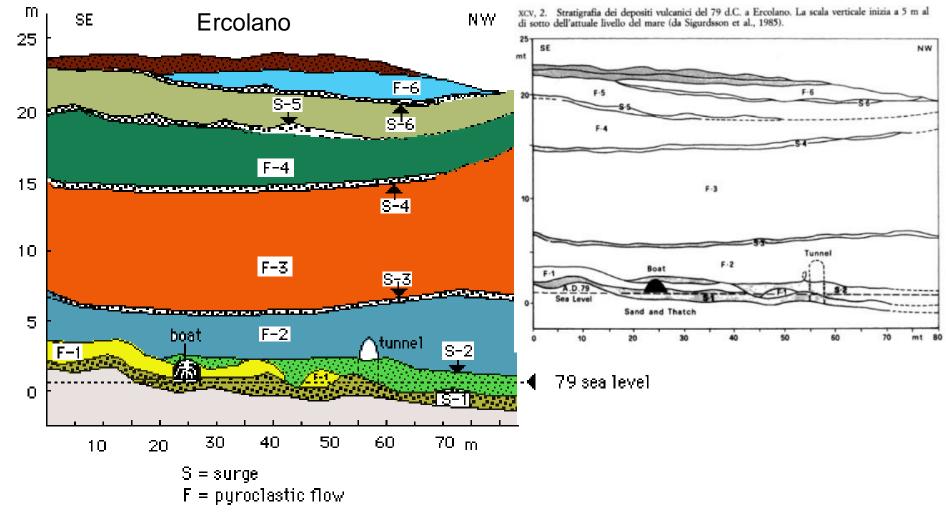
Lucia Gurioli et al. Geology 2005;33:441-444



Ercolano

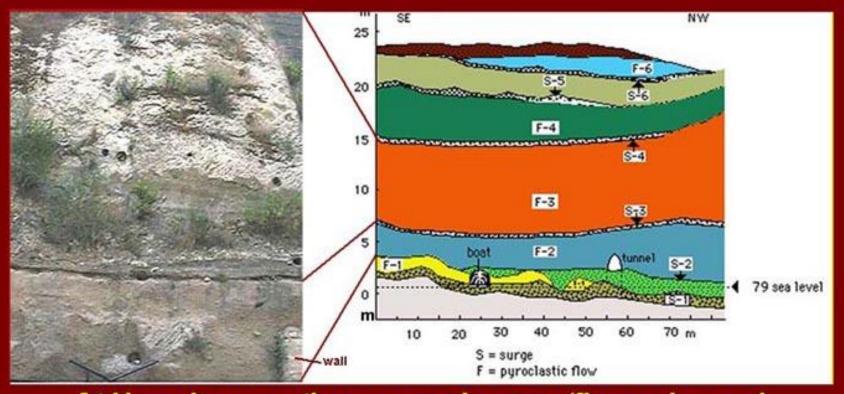






Pyroclastic Flow: A hot, chaotic avalanche of pumice, ash, and gasses. Pyroclastic flows can move at high speeds along the ground and pass over substantial objects. Their distribution is strongly controlled by topography.

Pyroclastic Surge: A turbulent cloud of volcanic ash and hot gasses, which hugs the ground and travels at speeds often exceeding 100 km per hour. Surge deposits are more widely distributed than pyroclastic flow deposits though not as widespread as air fall pumice layers.



At Herculaneum, there were six surge/flow pairs, and, although they may have contained moisture, none of them could be characterized as "mud flows" (lahars). Because Herculaneum was so close to the crater, the flow deposits were much hotter than those at Pompeii -- hot enough to fuse together into the much harder overlay than the deposits at Pompeii. The flows did act as a liquid, however: Solid particles were suspended in a gas (mostly just hot air) and fluid mechanics determined how the flows spread.

Stratigraphy of the AD 79 Eruption Deposits seen at Herculaneum

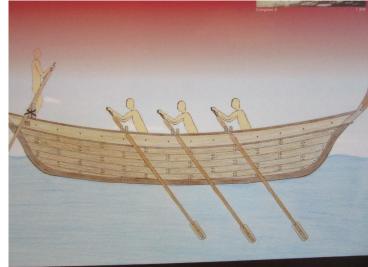
The diagram (by Roberto Scandone)above shows the stratigraphy at Herculaneum, as identified by Haraldur Sigurdsson in 1985. (The **upper flow units** F4 etc can also be identified in Pompeii). There is a very thin base lapilli layer of a few centimetres. The first broad deposit shown immediately above the ancient coast is an ashy layer interpreted as a surge. It is 20-40 cm thick and is a result of a surge of gaseous material. The majority of the skeletons found in this area lie within this deposit. Above this layer is a deposit of a pyroclastic flow

containing <u>carbonized wood</u> and <u>fragments of tiles</u>. The thickness of this deposit is less than 1.5 m. Above this layer are several alternating surge and pyroclastic flow layers resulting in a 20 to 23 metre thick cover. Flow 3 is particularly strong. According to some authors (Mike Sheridan, for example) the topmost layers are related to mudflows.

In many houses there is abundant evidence of processes of carbonization of wood due to the high temperature of the first surge and flow. On this profile, the extension of the coastline is identifiable. Also notice the location of the boatshed.

Surge 3 reached the walls of Pompeii. The next three surges covered Pompeii, S-4, S-5 and S-6. The first of these surges would have been most damaging to people, whereas the last surge would have been most damaging to buildings. S-4 may have had temperatures around 400°C upon its arrival at Pompeii. (Martini *et al. 1995*) The key basis for distinction is the amount and nature of the pyroclastic material included in the mixture of volcanic solids and gas. Denser mixtures which include larger fragments at higher solid concentrations are typically categorized as pyroclastic flow, while less dense mixtures where the pyroclasts are primarily fine dust and ash are categorized as pyroclastic surge. The term "glowing avalanche" is sometimes used to describe pyroclastic flow, while the terms "glowing cloud" and "ground surge", are sometimes used to describe pyroclastic surge. The French term "nuée ardente" is often used to describe a common phenomenon where an avalanche of coarse material, a pyroclastic flow, is accompanied by an overriding ash cloud of fine material, a pyroclastic surge. The diagram below shows how the ash cloud (surge) layer of a nuée ardente separates from the ash-and-block (flow) layer. The surge layer may separate from the flow layer climbing hills and travelling greater distances <u>Fisher 1995</u>











Scoperta 1738 Spoliata attrraverso cunicoli fino al 1828 Pochi resti umani Città evacuata? 1981 scavo dei fornici sulla spiaggia 160 scheletri di cui 12 bambini Popolazione stimata: 5000





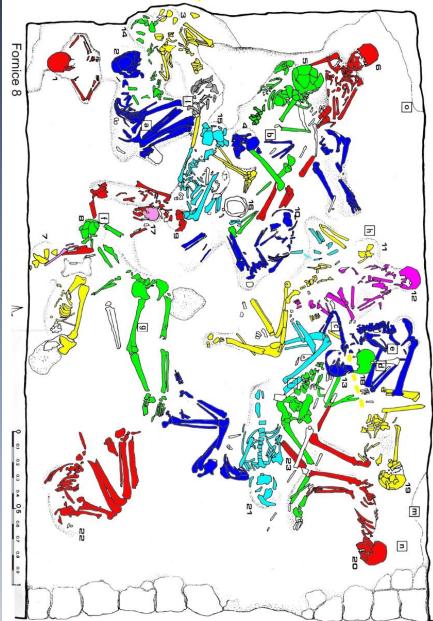












Fig. 29 - Ricostruzione degli effetti dell'impatto del surge 1 sulla antica spiaggia di Ercolano circa all'1 di notte del 25 agosto del 79 d.C.



Fig. 32 - Ricostruzione della situazione sull'antica spiaggia di Ercolano nella notte fra il 24 ed il 25 agosto 79 d.C. dopo la deposizione del primo flusso piroclastico.

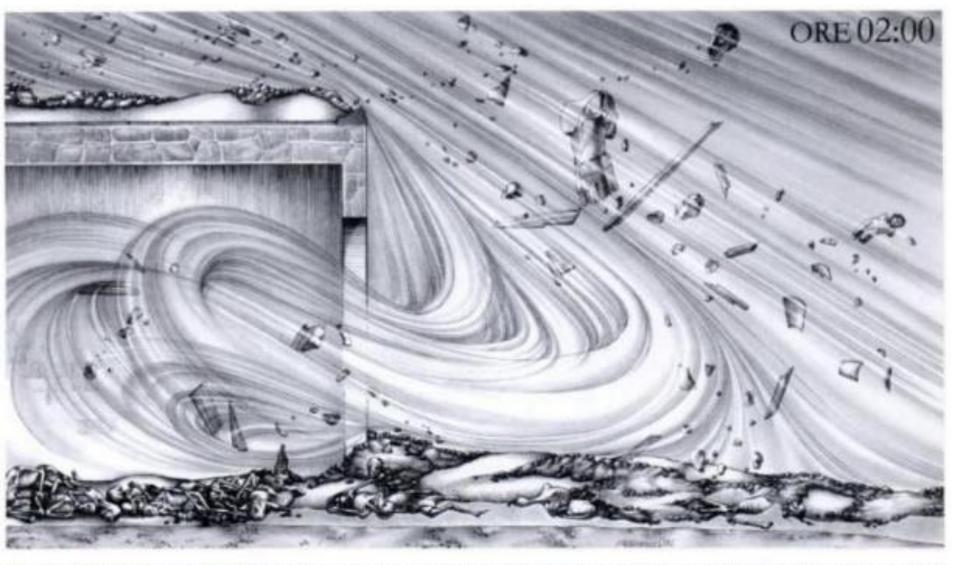


Fig. 33 - Ricostruzione degli effetti dell'impatto del surge 2 sull'antica spiaggia di Ercolano circa alle ore 2 del 25 agosto 79 d.C.

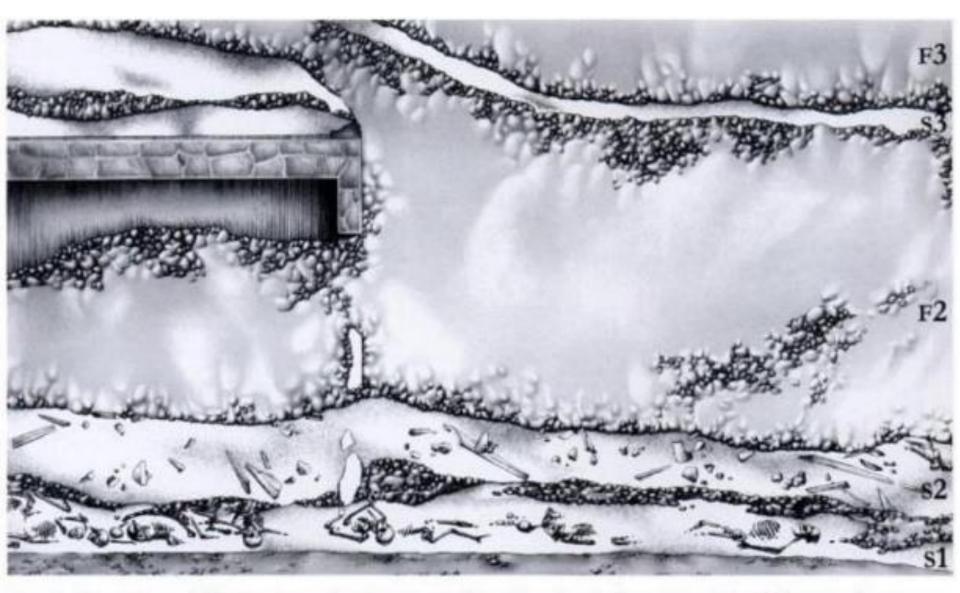


Fig. 34 - Ricostruzione della situazione sull'antica spiaggia di Ercolano dopo la deposizione dei vari flussi piroclastici e surres che si susseguirono nel corso della giornata del 25 agosto 79 d.C.







