



Underground Ruins revealed by the blitz in London

Nazi, Bomb Blasts Reveal Ancient Ruins of London

By ARTHUR D. WHITE

London (AP)—It's now or never for British archaeologists probing the secrets of ancient London. They're appealing for \$200,000 to finance a rush job on 2,000 years of history uncovered by German bombs. They must do it before a new London rises on the ruins. Steel grabs will smash delicate medieval pottery. Workers' picks will destroy crumbling traces of the Roman wall that shielded the legions of Emperor Claudius from barbarous Britons. What survives of Roman London now is buried 12 to 19 feet below the surface. The history-seekers are racing against time. Reconstruction cannot be delayed. London's future depends upon it. The \$200,000 the council seeks is in addition to \$12,000

already given by the government and \$10,000 from private donors. The council hopes American dollars will swell the fund.

Boss of the excavators is keen-eyed William F. Grimes, director of London Museum. "In the last two years," he says proudly, "we've made more discoveries than in the previous 50. Walls, pottery, bones, coins, implements of all kinds."

"No city in the world ever had a better chance to trace its history. Our aim is to cross-trench every blitz-site." Main search is in the area east of St. Paul's Cathedral where acres were flattened by blast and fire. This region was the center of Roman London. In spite of 19 centuries of recorded existence, the capital's history is still to a large extent unwritten. Grimes says lots of questions need answers.

Was London's story continuous? What was life like in the prosperous Roman days around A.D. 122 when it had a forum, basilica, statues, shops and markets? What happened after the legionnaires left? What of the

dark ages and Saxon days?

What traces remain of London's two great calamities—the plague in 1665 and the fire the following year?

Many clues lie in the chalk, gravel and sticky clay on which London is built. A fascinating serial is there, layer upon layer.

Excavators at Cripplegate are digging carefully into the old city ditch—filled in about 1640—which ran outside the massive wall. It was a wet and sinking

moat into which citizens tossed everything they didn't want. The old-time rubbish is priceless now.

Pottery and bone implements abound. The Saxon strata gave

up a valuable bronze pendant. Medieval pottery found included a whistle in the shape of a jester's head. Filled with water and brown, it warbles like a bird.

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