

Floods, Blizzards Threaten Europe; American Troops Readied for Rescue

London — (U.P.) — American commanders in Europe alerted U.S. troops to be prepared for mass rescue and evacuation operations today in the face of threatening floods in several of the continent's mightiest rivers.

Since Saturday at least 25 persons have died in the severe storms buffeting Europe.

All three German-based squadrons of the U.S. Air Force's Air Rescue Service went on a standby alert at midnight on basis of reports that European rivers were rising dangerously to levels near those of last year's disastrous floods.

Serious Threats
Serious floods were threatening in the Rhine, Danube, Seine and the Saar.

Sailors of the U.S. Navy's Rhine River patrol readied rescue boats and stockpiled sandbags.

The Rhine was reported already out of its banks in many places and was lapping at the foundations of the West German Parliament building at Bonn.

The U.S. Army's Southern Area Command headquarters at Munich dispatched the 54th Engineer battalion with 700 sandbags to shore up a dike at Erbach, Germany. And the 93rd U.S. Bridge company was called out to rescue three Germans from an isolated house near Ulm.

New blizzards swept Northern Europe in the wake of rains, snows and heavy thaws which sent rivers up to danger levels.

Seven vessels radioed distress messages off Northwest Europe in storms at sea so severe that even the huge American Liner United States had to slow down and delay its arrival in Southampton by 24 hours. It had been due tomorrow from New York with 404 passengers aboard.

In Britain, airplanes trying to supply Scottish communities which have been cut off from four to six days by snowdrifts were grounded by heavy new

snowstorms.

In France scores of Burgundy villages were isolated by flooding streams.

London itself was recovering from a black Sunday of destruction which brought an "end of the world" scare to parts of the city.

A freak smog blotted out the sun and turned London's mid-afternoon light to the darkness of night.

During the five-minute black-

out a bearded man stalked the streets of suburban Croydon, shouting "the end of the world is nigh." Women fell on their knees to pray and thousands of frightened mothers hurried their children into doorways.

A four-engine British Overseas Airways Viscount passenger plane crashed in the gloom at London airport on takeoff but only the pilot and an American, Willard Irie of Lakeville, Conn., were injured.

Bill To Permit Appeals Planned

Salem — (U.P.) — Decisions of state administrative boards can be appealed to the district courts under a bill slated for introduction into the legislature here this week.

Exempted in the bill is the state industrial accident commission.

The proposal has the blessings of the Oregon State Bar Association and will be sponsored by the house judiciary committee.

The bill has been named the Administrative Procedure Act. It sets up standard general rules for administrative bodies, but will be flexible enough to allow boards and commissions to make secondary rules pertinent to their work.

Under the present law, some agencies allow the right to appeal, but from others, there is only the right of review.

The new bill would allow an appeal to be filed in either the county where the petitioner lives or in Marion county. The appeals could be made to a circuit court and carried from there to the Supreme court if desired.

Another clause provides that agencies shall provide for a hearing, after a reasonable notice, over pending directives.

JAPAN JOLTED
Tokyo — (U.P.) — The heavily populated Tokyo-Yokohama area of Japan was jolted sharply by an earthquake early today. No casualties or serious damage were reported.

A full-size electric eel—eight feet long and thick as a man's leg—can build up a 600-volt charge and release almost 1000 watts of power for a split second, the National Geographic Society says.

A Nichol's Worth of ... Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn pitched a hoe-down over the weekend.

All of the invitations went out special delivery to wheels and a lovely lady in the press coop, who would just as soon not be mentioned, since she hails from Texas.

Anyhow, the lady reporter happens to live on a side street.

So what happens? At 10:30 the other night the Post Office calls her and says it has a special delivery letter for her and how the heck can the delivery man find her house?

"Heavens," she says, "Don't you have maps around there?"

The man on the phone said he had maps but even a map didn't help.

"But," the man said, "we can tell you what it is all about. Sam Rayburn has invited you to a party. We can read it right through the envelope."

The cover on the invite was transparent. It finally was delivered and the happy lady reporter show up, dressed fit to kill.

The Borough of Brooklyn, N.Y., at long last has a "dirt farmer" on the House Agriculture committee. He is Democrat Rep. Victor L. Anfuso, who owns a plot of land outside the city limits. Trees grow there, just like they do in Brooklyn, and Anfuso also grows things that can be eaten.

It's been a long time since a green thumb from Brooklyn has been on the Ag committee of the House.

There were a lot of jokes some time back when one Brook-

Legislative Group Of Chamber Holds First '55 Meeting

The legislative committee of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce met for the first time in 1955 this morning. The committee plans to have 7:30 a. m. breakfast meetings during the current session of the state legislature.

Frank J. Van Dyke, Medford attorney and former legislator, is chairman. This morning's meeting was largely devoted to assignment of members to sub-committees which will study various types of legislation, and then will report on individual bills to the full committee.

To Present Policy
A policy for committee action will be adopted at next week's meeting. It is expected to state that the committee will make definite recommendations only on bills which have a general application to the over-all welfare of this area. It was pointed out this morning that specific bills in which economic groups have an interest could not logically be supported by the chamber as a whole, inasmuch as chamber members represent all types of businesses.

Bills on which the legislative committee recommends action will probably be referred to the chamber's board of directors so that the support or opposition will be from the chamber as a whole.

Tells Problems
Bob Root, former member of the house of representatives, this morning discussed briefly the problems facing the legislature this year, pointing out that the biggest problem to be solved is a deficit ranging from \$30,000,000 to \$60,000,000.

Hammarskjold Duped, Nationalists Claim

Taipei, Formosa — (U.P.) — An official Nationalist Chinese newspaper today called U. S. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold's recent save the fliers trip to Peiping a "complete farce."

"It seems Hammarskjold was entirely outmaneuvered and outsmarted by the Peiping bunch," the Kuomintang Central Daily News said.

"Mr. Hammarskjold, who had never experienced the Communists before, was duped by Peiping's sweet words," the newspaper said. "And the great pity is that he himself does not know it."

The newspaper said it saw little hope that Hammarskjold's visit would lead eventually to release of 11 U. S. airmen held by the Red Chinese as spies.

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Monday, January 17, 1955 MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—NINE

Traffic Charge Convictions Reach 122,000 in Year

Salem — (U.P.) — More than 122,000 convictions on traffic charges were reported by Oregon courts during last year to the office of Secretary of State Earl T. Newbury, he said today.

The conviction records, submitted to licensing authorities as required by law, are entered in the files of individual drivers. The information is coupled with accident reports, to check how well each driver is able to stay out of traffic trouble over a period of time.

The licenses of 6962 drivers were suspended during the year, the majority on recommendation of the courts or on conviction of serious traffic offenses for which license suspension is mandatory.

Automatic Suspension
Leading violation carrying the automatic suspension penalty, was driving while intoxicated, which grounded 3110 drivers during the year. Driving with a previously suspended or revoked license brought further suspension periods to another 1048 operators.

Newbury said the convictions reported in 1954 represented an increase of about 47,000 over the preceding year but he added that most of the gain was due to increased co-operation from traffic courts in connection with the state department's stepped-up license suspension program.

TOO THOROUGH
Tulsa, Okla. — (U.P.) — Police decided today that a Collinsville garbage collector was too eager-beaverish when it came to hurrying out his duties. They arrested Doule W. Craghead, 47, for carrying merchandise out of a grocery store in a sack of meat scraps.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Nationalist Guns Cripple Red Ship

Taipei, Formosa — (U.P.) — Nationalist guns firing from tiny Yikiangshan in the Tachen island group crippled a Communist Chinese warship, the Nationalists announced today.

An official Ministry of National Defense communique did not mention the size of the warship but said damage was heavy.

This was the only action reported in the Tachen chain today. A subzero cold wave hitting the islands, some 250 miles north of Formosa, brought fighting there to a virtual halt.

Nationalist warplanes spotted Communist Chinese MIGs over the Tachens Sunday but no dog-fights were reported.

PASSES CIGARS

Normal, Ill. — (U.P.) — Athletic Director Ray Hanson had been saving his money for a long time to pay for the cigars he passed out to honor a blessed event. He happily handed out the stogies as Western Illinois State college defeated Illinois Wesleyan for its first swimming victory in 24 years.

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