

### West Germany's Missing Persons Total 5.3 Million

Bonn—(UP)—Germany's list of missing persons is 5 million names long.

Fifteen years ago, more than 5.5 million Germans disappeared. The fate of nearly 5.3 million of them remains a mystery.

Among them are 1.25 million soldiers. Many are doubtless dead, but no one knows where and when they died.

One-hundred-thousand prisoners of war captured by the Russians have disappeared, as have 800,000 German civilians forcibly removed from their homes by Soviet forces.

And what has happened to 3.2 million German who lived in the eastern provinces now under Communist rule?

Since 1950, the German Red Cross has traced some 250,000 Germans in these categories. They were found to be dead, in prison camps, or to have made their way to West Germany without notifying relatives.

Vanished

But nearly 5.3 million have simply vanished, unseen and untraced since the war ended. The Russians have never volunteered any information. Each returnee fills out questionnaires, listing all the German men and women he knew. The Red Cross follows up these names, sometimes successfully, most times not.

West German radio stations help in the giant search. For 15 years a program titled "Searching Service" has been broadcast daily. The program originated in 1945, broadcasting the names of missing slave workers. In 1946, it was extended to all missing Germans.

Since then, the program—broadcast on all wave lengths so it can be heard on the other side of the Iron Curtain—has been on the air 10 minutes a day. Recently the program was cut to five. It averages 30 to 35 names a day, with birthplace, age, living relatives, particular characteristics and other personal data supplied by the Red Cross.

Fate Uncertain  
Many names are those of children born during the confused days near the end of World War II. The parents were separated from their infant offspring. They made their way West, but they do not know the fate of their children.

Added to these 5.3 million are 1.6 million others, members of German ethnic groups still living in the Soviet Union.

The Russians agreed to repatriate any of these persons who wanted to go to West Germany, but have now all but stopped the repatriation program.

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany requested Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in a personal letter last fall to use his authority in getting the program on the move again. But a reply was still to come.

### Soft Water Unit Sales May Show Large Increase

New York—(UP)—The home water softener has a good chance of jumping its sales to \$250 million this year and of almost doubling that by 1965, according to President James Lindsay of the Union Tank Car Company's Lindsay Division.

"The industry, which still is a mere infant, should sell between 475,000 and 500,000 home units this year," Lindsay said.

"That's 75,000 to 100,000 above last year. And we have a huge market to nibble at in coming years. More than 85 per cent of the country has hard water hard enough to need immediate treatment."

After a quarter of a century of trying, the home water softener industry has only succeeded in saturating about 7 per cent of its potential market, according to Lindsay.

The reason that progress will be faster from now on, he said, is because the new units are small and long-lasting and require little in the way of plumbing installation. They no longer are so large and unwieldy that they have to be relegated to the basement.

Hardest Water  
The Midwest, Southwest and Far West generally have the hardest water, the Southeast and East the softest.

Women appreciate soft water, Lindsay said. He recalled that not so long ago they would get out barrels to catch rain water in order to wash their hair in it. Men dislike shaving in hard water. They also are vocal about the dollar losses when hard water corrodes brass and copper plumbing fixtures and tears clothing, Lindsay said.

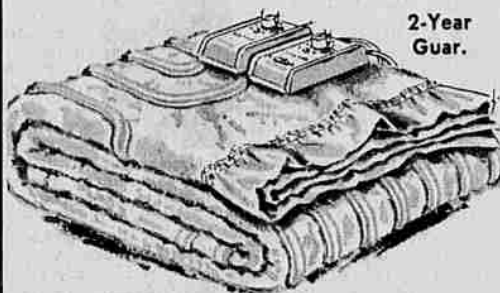


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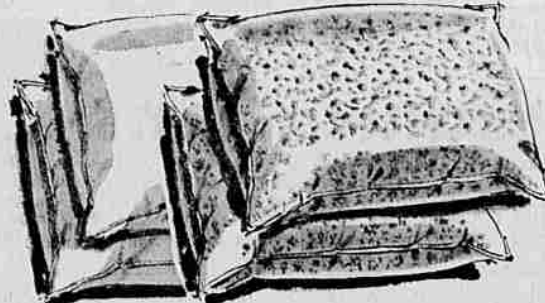
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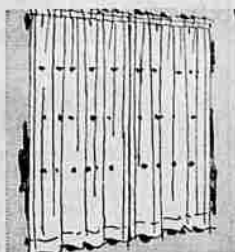
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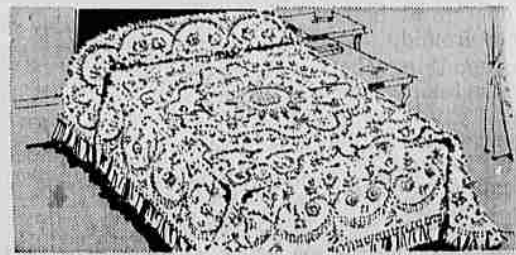
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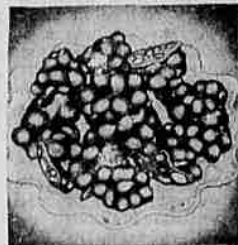
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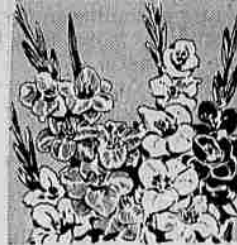
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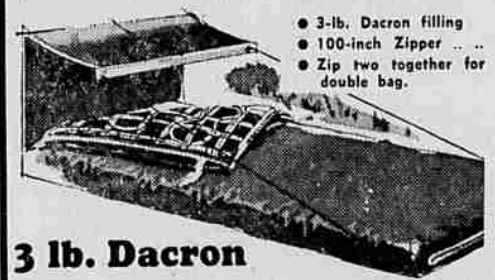
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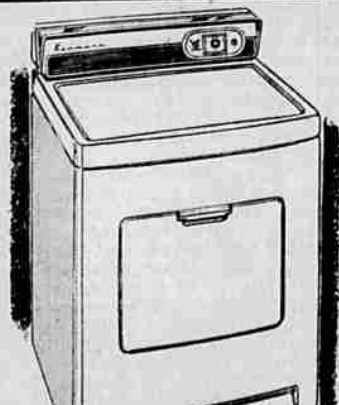


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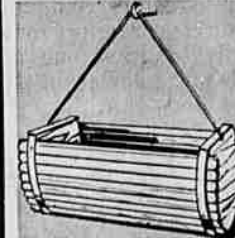
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