

Floods Threaten To Up Death Toll

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 3 (AP)—North Sea waves pounding through broken Dutch dikes threatened last night to swell by hundreds the death toll of storms and floods that already have claimed more than 1600 lives in Holland, England, and Belgium.

Near zero cold, snow, and hail wrought misery to thousands marooned through four days as rescuers of six nations fought by sea and air to reach them. Many victims were

numb and suffering from exposure.

While the fury eased in England and Belgium, Holland stayed fast in the grip of the most terrible flood this country has seen since the 15th century. She was the hardest hit of the three countries, with one thousand square miles of rich crop land inundated by deadening salt water and one million of her people threatened with ruin.

Heavy Losses
A new burst in the dikes was reported tonight at Bommel on the north coast of Goree-Overflakke Island. Seas roared through a hole 35 yards wide and five yards deep and swept inland. Bommel has a population of 2,000.

The losses in homes, land, and livestock ran into uncounted millions of dollars. With potato land reduced, Holland embargoed the export of potatoes. More than 400 square miles were flooded in England. Arthur Haulet, Belgian tourist commissioner, said the damage to Belgium's seaside resorts alone is ten million dollars.

The final death toll may exceed 2000. This was the latest count from official and reliable unofficial sources:

Holland	991
England	536
Belgium	22
Total	1549

The League of Red Cross Societies estimated that more than 100,000 persons in England and Holland had lost their homes. Red Cross supplies valued at more than \$250,000, including bedding and clothing, are on the way by rail and air.

1500 Dutch Cut Off
A vast rescue network mobilized to answer frantic pleas for help from isolated Dutch communities. American, German, British, Canadian, and other forces joined the Dutch in the rescue efforts. Premier Willem Drees told the Dutch Parliament 50,000 victims of the national catastrophe are still to be evacuated.

About 1500 men, women, and children, some near death from exposure, huddled on a crumbling dike in southeast Holland praying for rescue as the waves hammered past. They were cut off early Sunday with the inundation of Oude-Tongue, on the island of Goree-Overflakke.

The lives of 3877 in two other villages, Oosterland and Bruinisse, were menaced by the freaks of wind and tide. Their burgo-masters pleaded urgently by radio for amphibious planes or helicopters to evacuate the villagers, saying if aid did not come quickly there will be "a big loss of life."

Group Starts Prison Probe

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 3 (AP)—Gov. John S. Fine's hand-picked prison investigating committee opened its state-wide probe yesterday at Western State Penitentiary.

The five-man committee, headed by retired Gen. Jacob L. Devers, talked to Warden Dr. John W. Claudy and his deputy, William E. Gaffney, behind closed doors. Newsmen and photographers were not allowed in the prison.

British Citizens Wish to Honor American Hero

HUNSTANTON, Eng., Feb. 3 (AP)—People in this battered Norfolk sea resort want the nation to honor Reis Leming, 6-foot, 3-inch American hero of the weekend flood disaster.

The Town Council sent a letter to the government yesterday, telling her visit yesterday, we do not think the George Cross is too high an award for what this man did. He is a stranger among us, yet time and again he risked his life to save others. But for him the death toll must have been very much higher.

The George Cross is Britain's highest award for bravery off the battlefield.

Leming, 22, was careful to keep his feet firmly on the ground as he pushed a rubber raft to fetch survivors across chin-high flood waters. His explanation: "I just can't swim."

Secretary Eden Fears Formosa Blockade Lift

LONDON, Feb. 3 (AP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden said yesterday Britain fears American de-neutralization of Formosa will have "unfortunate political repercussions without compensating military advantages."

These fears, he told a tense House of Commons, had been expressed to the United States government three times before.

President Eisenhower announced the changed policy in Congress yesterday.

Eden spoke shortly after U.S. Secretary of State Dulles arrived in London for talks in which Prime Minister Churchill and Eden are expected to call for assurances the United States will take no steps that will explode the Korean war into an Asia-wide conflict.

Dulles, who with Mutual Security Director Harold E. Stassen is on a seven-country, fact-finding tour, said he came to establish personal contact with British leaders.

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13 Communists Given 1-3 Year Imprisonments

NEW YORK, Feb. 3 (AP)—Thirteen defiant second-string Communist leaders, who preferred imprisonment to life in Russia, yesterday were sentenced to terms ranging from one to three years. They plan an appeal.

Seven drew three years in prison and \$6000 fines. Five got two years and \$4000. One escaped with one year and a \$2000 fine. Eight of the defendants came here from Iron Curtain countries, four are native Americans, and one is British.

"There is ample scope in this country," Federal Judge Edward J. Dimock told them, "for those who wish to improve the country, but no scope whatsoever for those who advocate its overthrow by force and violence."

Reds Locked Up
The 13 defendants were held in bails ranging from \$2000 to \$25,000 each, pending their appeal—which presumably will take months. The government, mindful that other convicted Communists have jumped bail, asked that it be set at \$100,000 each, or preferably denied entirely.

None of the 13 was able to offer a bond at once and they were locked up.

The 13 defendants said they had no remorse for their revolutionary conspiracy and one of them, Albert F. Lannon, rose suddenly and angrily shouted at Dimock:

"May I make a wish, your honor? When my children cry for the father that you take away from them, I wish you a restful vacation."

Verdict Not Historical
The 62-year-old jurist has planned a vacation at the end of the case, which now has stretched over 10 months.

"The verdict will not stand in history," proclaimed defense lawyer Frank Serri.

Judge Dimock received a surprising tribute from Serri in view of the abuse heaped on him by Red publications. The lawyer called his conduct of the trial "a sample of American justice at its best."

The 13 defendants could have been sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison and fined \$10,000 each for conspiring to teach and advocate the violent overthrow of the government in violation of the 13-year-old Smith Act.

This maximum penalty was the one generally levied against 11 top Red leaders who were convicted of the same charge in 1949. The 13 allegedly stepped into the shoes of the convicted 11 to run the party.

Reds Building Fence

HELMSTEDT, Germany, Feb. 3 (AP)—Communist people's police are erecting a 10-foot-high barbed wire fence along the Soviet zone border near here, West German authorities announced yesterday.

U.S. Takes 2 Red Hills In Korea

SEOUL, Wednesday, Feb. 4 (AP)—A famed U.S. fighting outfit with explosives and flamethrowers yesterday smashed two hill positions and killed an estimated 300 Chinese Communists, who were badly fooled by a feint.

About 200 raiders, who cannot be identified by division number, blew up bunkers and killed Chinese for three hours before withdrawing from the Western Front hills under intense Communist mortar fire.

Allied tanks and artillery feinted at a third hill nearby, hammering it so furiously the Communists apparently thought the attack would strike there. This kept them from reinforcing the hills hit by the infantry.

Taylor Replaces Van Fleet
It was the biggest Allied raid since the ill-fated "Operation Smash" Jan. 25.

The daylight assault came east of Kaesong, Communist truce headquarters, as Lt. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor arrived in Korea to take over command of the U.S. Eighth Army from retiring Gen. James A. Van Fleet. The date of the change of command was not announced, but was expected in a few days.

As photographer George Sweers, who witnessed the raid, said, Marine Corsair fighter-bombers pounded the Reds all day Monday preceding the attack. The infantry jumped off at 8:18 a.m. Tuesday. It was cold but sunny.

Worked 'Just Right'
"To keep the Chinese guessing, the general unnamed had his artillery pound the hell out of still another hill way on the left and sent a big tank force out there to shoot straight into it, about 24 tanks altogether," Sweers said.

The idea was to fool the Chinese into holding back reinforcements until too late and the plan worked "just right," Sweers added.

The attackers sent one reinforced U.S. platoon—about 100 men—swarming up one Red hill on the left and gained the objective in 14 minutes. A stronger Red hill position on the right took longer but a second reinforced platoon fought to the top.

Controls on Wages Start To Tumble

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (AP)—Federal wage-price controls began tumbling yesterday amid high confusion as to when they would all end. The White House rapped the knuckles of a top agency official for saying wage controls would be dropped immediately.

But most controls were already grinding toward a halt. The Wage and Salary Stabilization Boards sent out more than 2000 notices of dismissal to their employees, effective March 5.

Late in the day, the White House cracked down on assumption that wage controls might be lifted before April 30, the date when the present wage-control law expires.

"The question of when wage controls will be ended is now under consideration, White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty told newsmen.

Other qualified informants said a White House decision on the subject is expected by tomorrow or Friday.

The White House was riled because Harry Weiss, executive director of the wage board, put out information that "although an executive order has not been issued, a decision has been made to terminate wage controls immediately."

Fast OK Seen For Ike's Plan On Agreements

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (AP)—Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio yesterday forecast quick congressional approval for President Eisenhower's plan to repudiate any secret agreements with Soviet Russia.

Taft, the Senate GOP floor leader, said he wholeheartedly endorses the President's proposal.

Eisenhower set forth his views in his first State of the Union message to Congress yesterday. The chief executive asked the lawmakers for a resolution making it clear to the world that "this government recognizes no kind of commitment contained in secret understandings of the past with foreign governments" which permit "enslavement" of any peoples.

Most legislators thought Eisenhower was referring chiefly to agreements reached at the Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin meeting at Yalta in February, 1945. The meeting resulted in American and British concessions to Russia to persuade her to enter the Pacific war against Japan.

Eisenhower's plan was widely regarded in Congress as the first move toward carrying out his presidential campaign promise that the United States will seek to bring about the liberation of captive peoples behind the Iron Curtain, by means short of war.

Rep. Kersten (R-Wis.) has already prepared a resolution designed to nullify the Yalta agreement. Kersten said the pact "gave Stalin a seemingly legal stranglehold on his conquests" and "violated the rights of Poland and China."

UN Loses 7 Americans
UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 3 (AP)—A row over the loyalty check of Americans at the UN has led seven Americans to resign from the UN Staff Council.

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