

The

FLOOD

FLOOD

The Great 1937 Disaster



*John J. ...
1914 ...
Portsmouth, Ohio*

25 CENTS

Miss [unclear]
Donation
Portsmouth, Ohio

THE publishers undertake this pictorial story of one of the greatest catastrophes of all time with no small sense of awe. We are here recording the story of man in a grim death-grip with the elements. The graphic narrative is produced to record for history the mad, devouring rush of the raging Ohio and its aftermath of devastation and human misery . . . and to bring together, into one coherent picture the disjointed fragments of story and camera that have strewn the land, like the wreckage itself that has followed in the wake of this mad torrent.

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THE GREAT 1937 FLOOD

WATER—Mankind's gentle, patient servant—in shady pools—cascading from rocky hillsides—indolent and lazy in broad rivers—playful and bubbling in mountain streams—sparkling gem-like in sylvan settings—cool and invigorating on a summer's day—kindly friend and feverish brow and parched lips—accepting restraint in man-made reservoirs—upon whose bosom the canoe of a Boone—the flat boat of a Lincoln led to the building of an empire.

Water—raging—berserk—vicious—fearful—revolting—seizing and destroying—A MONSTER.

Water—a serpent robbed of its lair spewing forth on the despoiling head of an unfaithful master its vengeance.

Water—spreading suffering, pestilence and death.

Water—pure—profligate.

Somewhere, in the realm of infinity, echo and reecho the prayers of a nation that a near million of kinsfolk and their families be spared the extension of the ruthless siege of desolation, despair, disease and death in the wake of the most devastating flood in the country's history.

To overnight transform a sluggish, peacefully flowing river, upon the bosom of which trade, traffic and transportation first dawned in the progress of a new world empire, the shores of which lured hundreds of thousands and their forebears with its visual promise of contentment, into an overwhelming enemy of destruction, granting no quarter to man-made impediments, marked little short of a Providential visitation.

When the Ohio river filled its banks and first gave warning of its impending vengeful rampage, it merely foretold a startling penalty for man's betrayal of trust in denuding the watershed of its natural reservoirs and defying the fundamental laws of self preservation. Along its tortuous, serpentine path to join the Father of Waters it has since engulfed entire towns, laid waste lands and landmarks, wiped out wealth and holdings, taxed the energies, and ingenuity, the vigilance and skill of the American engineering, military, medical and health conservation authorities and the mettle of fellow citizens ever ready to respond to the call of the endangered, distressed or afflicted. To the national credit its every resource has and continues

to be devoted to the saving of human lives, and the alleviation or prevention of human suffering.

Of special interest is the reason for a flood of the proportion of the Great Flood of 1937, in the "dead of winter" when it might be expected that the land would be in the deep embrace of winter, when brook, stream and river should be frozen in icy stillness.

Experts declare that a variation from their usual form, of air masses, which control weather conditions in the Ohio Valley, responsible. This variation has resulted in mild weather and rain in the East, cold weather and snow on the usually temperate Pacific Coast.

Precipitation over the 204,000 square miles of the Ohio River basin averages from thirty-five to fifty inches in a year. In some parts of this basin, the rainfall in 26 days of January, 1937, increased from a normal three to four inches to as high as twenty-three inches. By January 20, the rainfall had sent the Ohio over its banks.

When it is considered that the Ohio River was faced by this record breaking rainfall from more than sixty tributaries, thirteen of which are navigable rivers, and thirteen good sized, the magnitude of the flood can be understood.

It was during the week of January 17th that mild weather and frequent rainfall first brought alarm to towns in Western Pennsylvania when the Allegheny River started its rise. At the same time other tributaries of the Ohio had started to rise and from there on the general flood situation was well under way.

At Pittsburgh, for several days prior to January 23rd authorities prepared for a repetition of the record breaking flood of March, 1936, when more than \$50,000,000 in property damage occurred.

However, the crest in the flood at the confluence of the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio at Pittsburgh was reached at 1 A. M. on Saturday, the 23rd, when the rise halted at 32.9 feet. Twenty-five feet is the flood stage, at Pittsburgh's "Golden Triangle."

McKees Rocks and Sharpsburg were inconvenienced and slight damage occurred from the flood waters on January 23rd, but the recession was rapid and the threat of danger soon passed.

At this time, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where on May 21st, 1889, occurred a devastating flood causing loss of life to almost 2200 persons, and where on March 17th, 1936, another destructive

flood occurred, was once again agonizing in the thought that it was to experience further disaster from flood water. A cold snap which arrested the rise of creeks and rivers saved that city.

While Western Pennsylvania was relaxing from the strain of watchful waiting, news flashed to the nation by press and radio that the Ohio River was rising and that unusually high water was expected.

During the same period the Monongahela was at flood stage and a few river towns experienced water in low-lying areas.

At Wheeling, W. Va., sixty miles down the Ohio from Pittsburgh, the flood waters of the Allegheny and Monongahela were thought to have reached a crest of slightly more than 46 feet at nightfall on January 23rd, about 16 hours after the crest had been reached at Pittsburgh. Within a few days this predicted crest had been passed and the river was still rising at 60 feet.

The stream at Wheeling inundated all but a few high points on the two mile long Wheeling Island.

The City of Wheeling was under water as was South Wheeling. Throughout the Wheeling area, about 20,000 families were affected by the water and 10,000 homes were in the flood area of Belmont County, Ohio, across the river from Wheeling. At New Cumberland, half that town's population were homeless.

Red Cross officials at this time estimated that 200 were homeless at Wellsburg and 200 in New Martinsville.

At Point Pleasant, West Virginia, water reached the second floor of many homes and business places, making upward of 1000 refugees and causing heavy property damage. At Huntington more than 6000 were made homeless by the rising waters which crept into the retail business district, closing stores, and in the West End and Guyandotte section, many families were taken from their homes from second floor windows, as the water swept upward.

The story of the Great Disaster reaches into many communities. Heroic deeds have been done. Each stricken town or city has won its place in the saga of America—New Richmond, Ripley, Manchester, Higgensport, Rome, Neville, Moscow, Agilo, Ironton, Mingo Junction, Empire, Gallipolis, Pomeroy, Marietta, Zanesville, Bellaire, Martin's Ferry, Steubenville, Bridgeport and other towns and cities in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and Illinois.

Portsmouth, Ohio river city of 43,000 experienced the horrors of the flood to a degree equal to that of any of the cities in the Ohio valley. Residents of this city rested secure in the belief that the huge 60 foot, million dollar flood wall was sufficient to offer ample protection for the water beleaguered city.

However, with the people in their homes secure in the thought of their safety, on January

21, at 11 P. M., sirens were sounded warning that the rising Ohio was lapping the top of the wall and that to save it—it would be necessary to open the sewer gates and inundate the low lying sections of the city. This was done at 3 A. M. on January 22nd. It was to no avail, however, inasmuch as several hours later the muddy Ohio topped the wall and proceeded ruthlessly to cover the city. The rise continued until January 28 when the first fractional decline in the flood waters was noted after the river had risen to 74.23 feet. During the interim, fire and disease added to the horror of the stricken city.

Reports from Portsmouth told pitiful tales of women and children pleading for rescue from windows on the second floor of dwellings; of daring rescues from homes collapsing due to the pressure of water; of sections where in many instances rooftops were covered; of children hungry and cold; of police and firemen and civilians, bedraggled, unkempt and bleary-eyed after days fighting the rising waters without sleep.

Cincinnati, city of almost a half million, experienced the most disastrous flood in a record of 31 during the past 54 years.

Fire and pestilence added to the horrors of this southern Ohio metropolis as flood waters kept rising,—55 feet—60—65—70—almost unbelievable,—75—when will it stop?—and—finally inch by inch to 79.99 feet. This crest was reached on Tuesday morning, January 26.

During the anxious days when the river was inexorably rising, every available agency was put to work at rescue and in relieving sick and distressed refugees—in fighting fires and in trying to save property.

The City government functioned as a well oiled machine, eliminating confusion, taking full charge of every phase of the desperate work.

The muddy water of the Ohio sprawled over 12 square miles of the city—one-fifth of its area.

One of the most horrifying sights of the flood was to be seen when millions of gallons of gasoline crashed from huge storage tanks crushed by the flood, spreading their inflammable contents over acres of water. One such mass ignited, throwing flames 300 feet in the air and threatening the industrial section of the city. It was subdued after causing huge damage through heroic work by firemen who took grave risks in their effort to prevent a more serious conflagration.

"Calling all boats—calling all boats—go to 28th Street and Kentucky Avenue—go to 28th Street and Kentucky Avenue—move families from their homes—move families from their homes."

"Calling all police—calling all police—looters reported working on Chestnut Street—looters reported working on Chestnut Street—police headquarters orders are to shoot to kill—orders are shoot to kill."

"Calling all doctors—calling all doctors—will

Dr. Wilkes—Dr. Wilkes report at Medical Center at once—Dr. Wilkes report at Medical Center at once.”

Typical of the above were the more than 16,500 appeals for help sent out in the Louisville flood area as a heartsick and sympathetic nation “listened in” to this most drama-packed episode in the history of radio. Noble work indeed was done by STATION WHAS—Louisville, in bringing about the rescue of about 100,000 persons from flood endangered homes.

Louisville, probably the saddest and most fatally stricken of all the communities in the Ohio valley could count her dead at 200 before flood waters had started to recede. Burial of many unidentified was necessary for sanitary reasons.

Like other flood stricken cities and towns, Louisville did not expect and was unprepared for a flood of such huge proportions. As the Ohio continued its rise, water shortage and absence of electric power followed one another. This of course added to the fear and horror which gripped this city of 330,000 souls. Courage was undiminished, however, and finally came the restless tossing of a river which had done its mightiest. The crest, 57.1 feet, was reached on January 27. At this time, the Ohio's overflow covered more than 80 per cent of the city's homes with 30 feet of water.

A thankful community did not forget to kneel at candle-lit altars—nor in crowded boats as the glorious word was passed. And, because of it all, Louisville stands prepared to fight pestilence and disease and will arise a finer, greater city.

Evansville and other Indiana river towns suffered extensively from the flood. This city, having a population of 102,000 was more than half under water to a depth of more than 12 feet in some places. Drinking water was being rationed and thousands were engaged in the fight against the flood waters.

Reports stated that 7000 residents of Lawrenceburg view their flooded homes from nearby hills. Evacuation of Leavenworth was ordered. Here more than fifty homes were reported washed away. At Warsaw, flood conditions were severe.

Only a few persons remained in Jeffersonville, a city of 12,000, and nearby New Albany was 75 per cent under water. Aurora was evacuated. Residents of Hazleton stood helplessly by on high ground as the White River went over its banks and devastated homes and property. The entire section was on a rationed supply of drinking water and a majority were without electric power.

Paducah, Ky., became a ghost town under the pressure of rising waters, on Tuesday, February 2. Practically the entire city of 38,000 was evacuated under orders of city officials aided by the military. The Ohio was at a 60 foot stage

here and water coursed through the streets at a depth of 18 feet.

Refugees found harbor at Avondale Heights, Arcadia and other suburbs. In some cases it was necessary to use force but as a rule the inhabitants wisely obeyed the request of the authorities. Outstanding was the unusual consideration shown by the rescuers in their care and readiness to save pets.

Paducah, a thriving town, was left to the mercy of the murky waters of the Ohio with the exception of a small group left to guard against looting.

Cairo, Ill., at the confluence of the Ohio and the Mississippi, occupying a neck of land jutting out into the Father of Waters was at press time of this publication making a spectacular fight for preservation against the ravaging flood water.

A sixty foot sea wall which protects the city from the battering waves and current has been heightened with a three foot emergency bulkhead. More than 6000 men—many of them from W. P. A. rolls, built the emergency wall and later stood guard over it ready to sound the alarm should the slightest crevice or weakness occur. As a precautionary measure, 55 Coast Guard boats and barges are standing by in the event the wall should give way. Most of Cairo lies 12 to 20 feet lower than the water which the sea wall has so effectively restrained up to this time.

The city has been evacuated of all women and children. A crest of 60½ feet was expected in the Ohio at this point.

While terror reigned in the hearts of the residents along the Ohio—where inhabitants were forced or ordered to flee as though threatened by a deadly, wartime enemy invasion, words fail to describe the mental frenzy suffered by the inmates of prisons and correctional institutions along the Ohio valley.

At Frankfort, Ky., 2900 inmates of a reformatory, deprived of the right of self-preservation in the face of what appeared certain death, trapped behind steel doors, with water a foot deep in the yard and building—without heat and light for twenty-four hours, became a mad-dened mob.

Guards hardened to their grim code and tasks, saw two dozen of the inmates brave bullets and plunge into the icy waters of the Kentucky River. Realizing the motive was not to escape punishment, but to save their own lives, the keepers watched the escape attempts with sympathy and understanding. “We could have shot them down like rats in the water if we wanted to” the warden explained. But that was not necessary. The icy torrent cut short their venture and they soon were glad to clamber back from the flood waters.

Drinking water, heat, light and sanitation

were temporarily restored by National Guardsmen and an evacuation order issued by Governor Chandler saw the dangerous situation ended.

The nation lost no time in answering the distress call of its stricken sister states. President Roosevelt immediately directed every Federal agency to co-operate.

Admiral Carey T. Grayson, Ret., National Chairman of the American Red Cross, once again threw the full force of that organization to aid a helpless people. The “Greatest Mother” has been to the fore along the entire flood front from Pittsburgh to Cairo,—ministering, directing and providing. A fund aggregating \$10,000,000 will be administered by the Red Cross for direct relief and in rehabilitation.

Major General Malin Craig, Chief-of-Staff, U. S. Army, was directed by the President to turn the full force of the war machinery into the battle against death, suffering and destruction.

The United States Coast Guard is manning more than 400 of its surf and power boats throughout the affected region, doing heroic work in rescuing and transporting refugees over turbulent torrents.

Thousands of C. C. C. boys are doing yeoman duty and the Works Progress Administration (W. P. A.), with thousands of men and an organized administrative personnel has played an important part in stemming the destruction of the watery forces. Sister cities and communities have been asked and have sent firemen, policemen and health authorities to supplement the efforts of severely overtaxed men of the flood zone.

The request of the President for aid and the plea of executives of the stricken cities for help, set in motion the greatest peacetime band of mercy ever recruited in the nation's history. Help came from East, West and North to succor and aid the unfortunate. Every manner of transportation accessory was volunteered or commandeered for the emergency—airplanes, boats, trucks, wagons, autos and trains.

Tales of heroism and sacrifice in the siege continue rife as the gorge of flood water moves from city to city along its course. Telephone and telegraph operators—radio station attend-

ants and operators, professional and amateur, spent days and nights under the tense responsibility of giving ear to calls for help and directing the rescuers. Aching limbs and sleepless eyes attested the work of thousands who labored, many under great handicaps, in checking the inroads of the flood by erecting walls and barricades of stone, sand, mud or any material available.

Paradoxically the raging rivers proved their gravest menace in the destruction of reservoirs and drinking water supplies.

Lighting and sanitation facilities were crippled or rendered useless, intensifying the state of panic and general helplessness. Chaos seemed imminent.

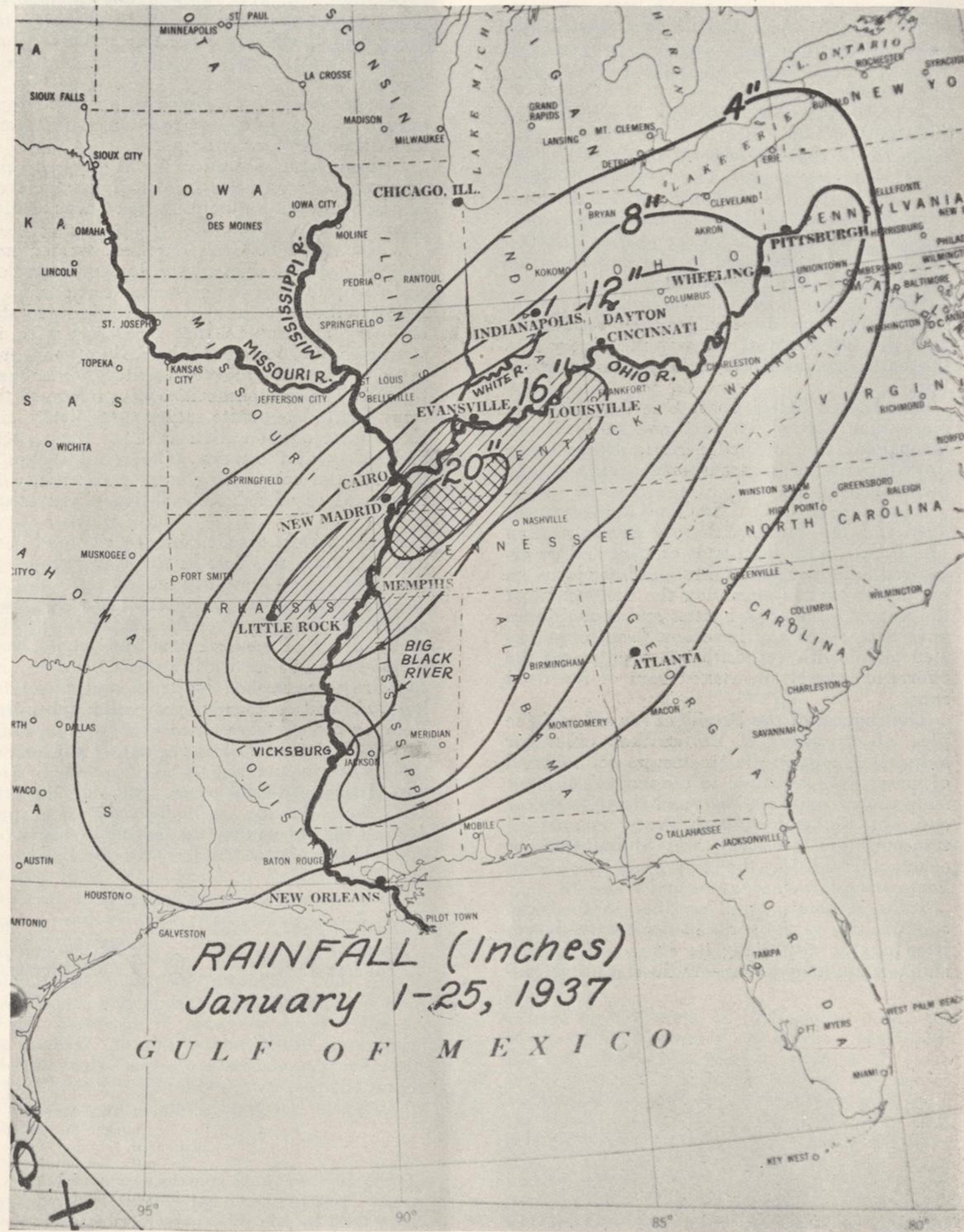
While the Red Cross enrolled, treated and fed the growing lines of the hungry, homeless and destitute from the evacuated sections, U. S. Army authorities brought a precision and disciplinary atmosphere that heartened with its assurance of orderly procedure. No attempt was made to place the affected territory under martial law. The civil authorities were informed the army would co-operate rather than dictate and give fullest consideration alone to the welfare and safety of the many. The result added to the lustre of outstanding army performance, to the credit of official tact, efficiency and actual service.

As the waters receded in one city and sped onward, there was left in the wake two additional menaces—those of pestilence and disease and the hand of the ghoul and looter. National and States' health authorities offered the service of hundreds of medical men and nurses from points far and near while stores of serums and supplies were rushed by train and plane for hospital and epidemic prevention purposes. Policing powers were taken over by the militia who early issued orders regulating the use of the highways and streets of abandoned cities and villages with the stern order to “shoot to kill” those defying methodical means of preventing the desecration or looting of homes or the robbing of the helpless and the dead.

FLOOD STATISTICS

Deaths—Feb. 3, 1937.....	368
Homeless	1,000,000 persons
Property Loss.....	\$500,000,000.00

... PITTSBURGH



PICTURES INC. PHOTO

SISTERS OF MERCY care for the stricken Pittsburgh refugees in a Catholic Church in McKees Rocks, Pittsburgh suburb particularly hard hit by this flood.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



FIRE AND FLOOD • Invariably the one accompanies the other. The presence of large tanks of inflammables has multiplied the present hazard tremendously.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

MEN MUST WORK AND WOMEN MUST WEEP • While all the available man-power of Pittsburgh is mustered for rescue work and fighting flood effects, neither women nor babies are forgotten. This graphic photo, made in flooded Pittsburgh, shows a weeping mother in the boat in which she has been rowed to procure milk for her babies. All the milk in the city was rounded up and held exclusively for the young and sick.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

WHEELING . . .



WATER AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE • Rowboats have replaced autos in flood-stricken Wheeling, adding a Venetian touch to this desolate scene. The waters of the mighty Ohio have overflowed their banks and taken possession of this once industrious business section of the city. Snow, cold, hunger and disease have added their toll of suffering.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



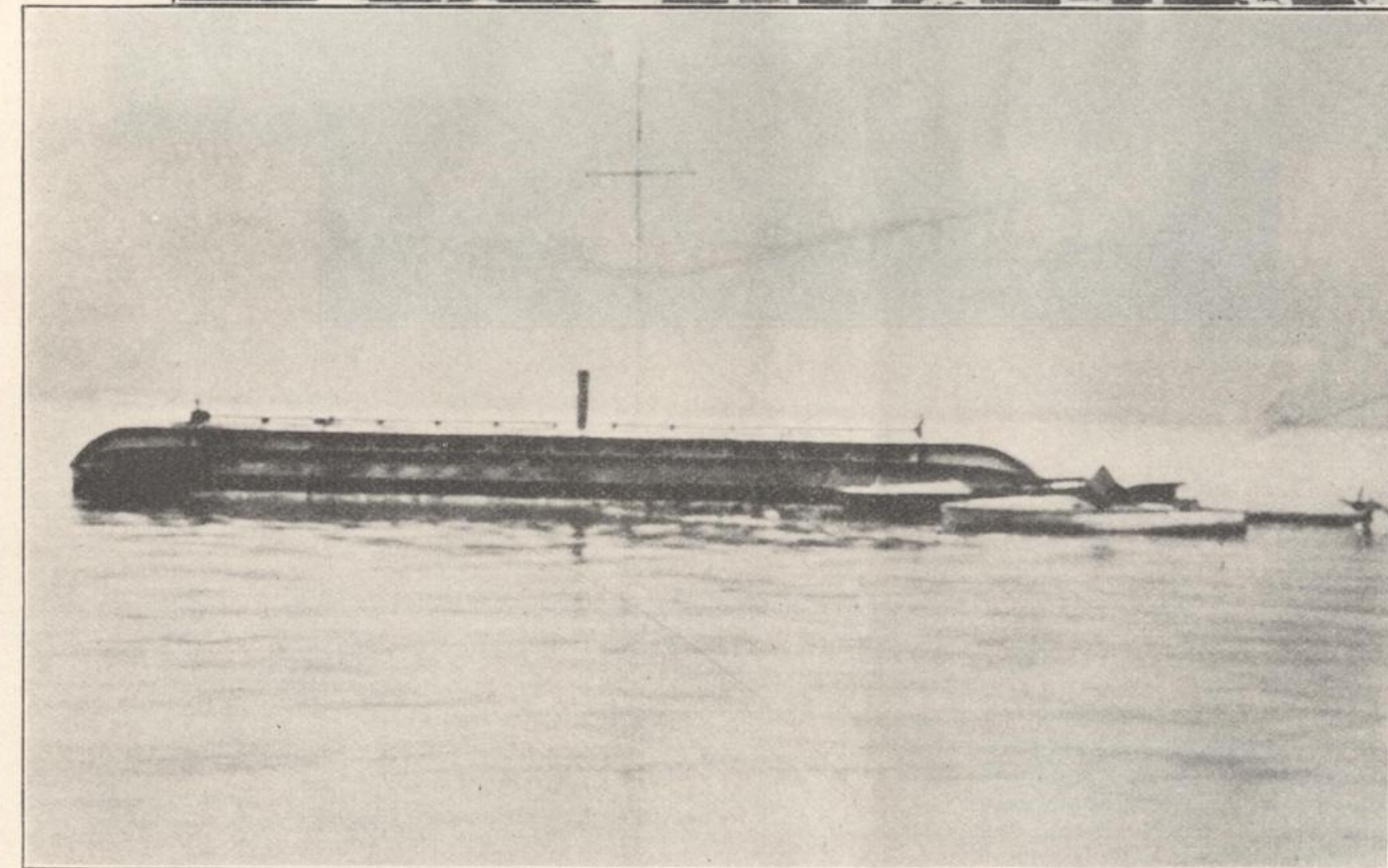
THE SWOLLEN OHIO LAPS AT THE CHURCH DOORS • No respecter of persons or of property, this mad torrent has crept over its banks and taken in its cold clutches churches, schools, mansions and humble cottages. Disease and misery crawl in its foul wake.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

. . . WHEELING

WHEELING'S ISLAND SECTION • whose once busy streets have been turned into hundreds of endless murky canals. Seven thousand of the ten thousand inhabitants of this section have been forced to seek food, clothing and shelter elsewhere.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



SUBMARINE DINER • The raging Ohio went up to the 41 foot mark here, threatening the entire city of Wheeling and driving 10,000 from their homes.

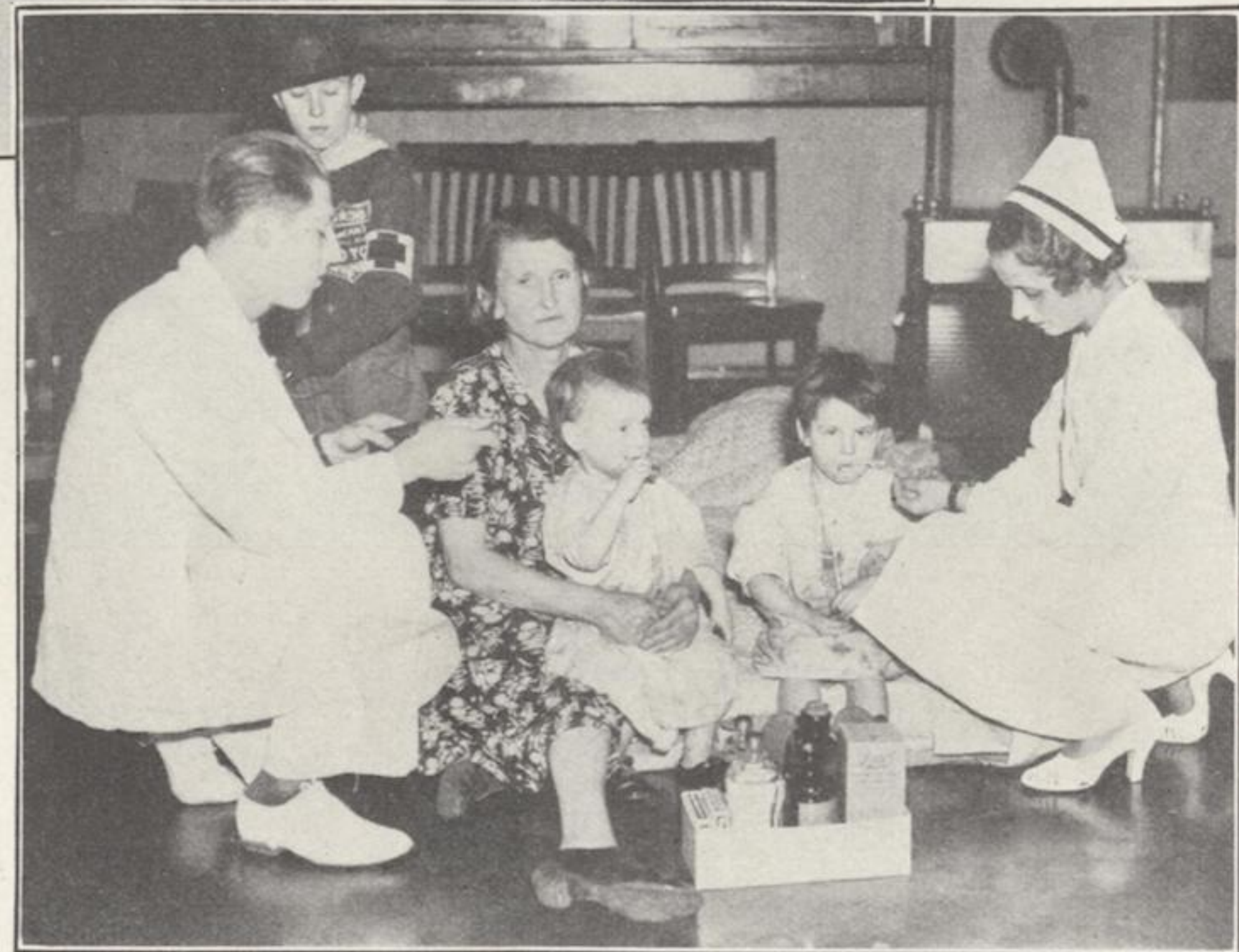
INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

WHEELING . . .



A WATERFRONT STREET of residential homes in this once busy town, is completely submerged, as the swollen waters of the Ohio River continue to rise, forcing thousands of its residents to seek shelter elsewhere. Snow, disease, cold and hunger have added to the misery of its victims.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



FLOOD SANCTUARY ● The Market Auditorium, Wheeling refuge for flood sufferers, made over into a temporary hospital. Flood and famine have no mercy and time is relentless.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

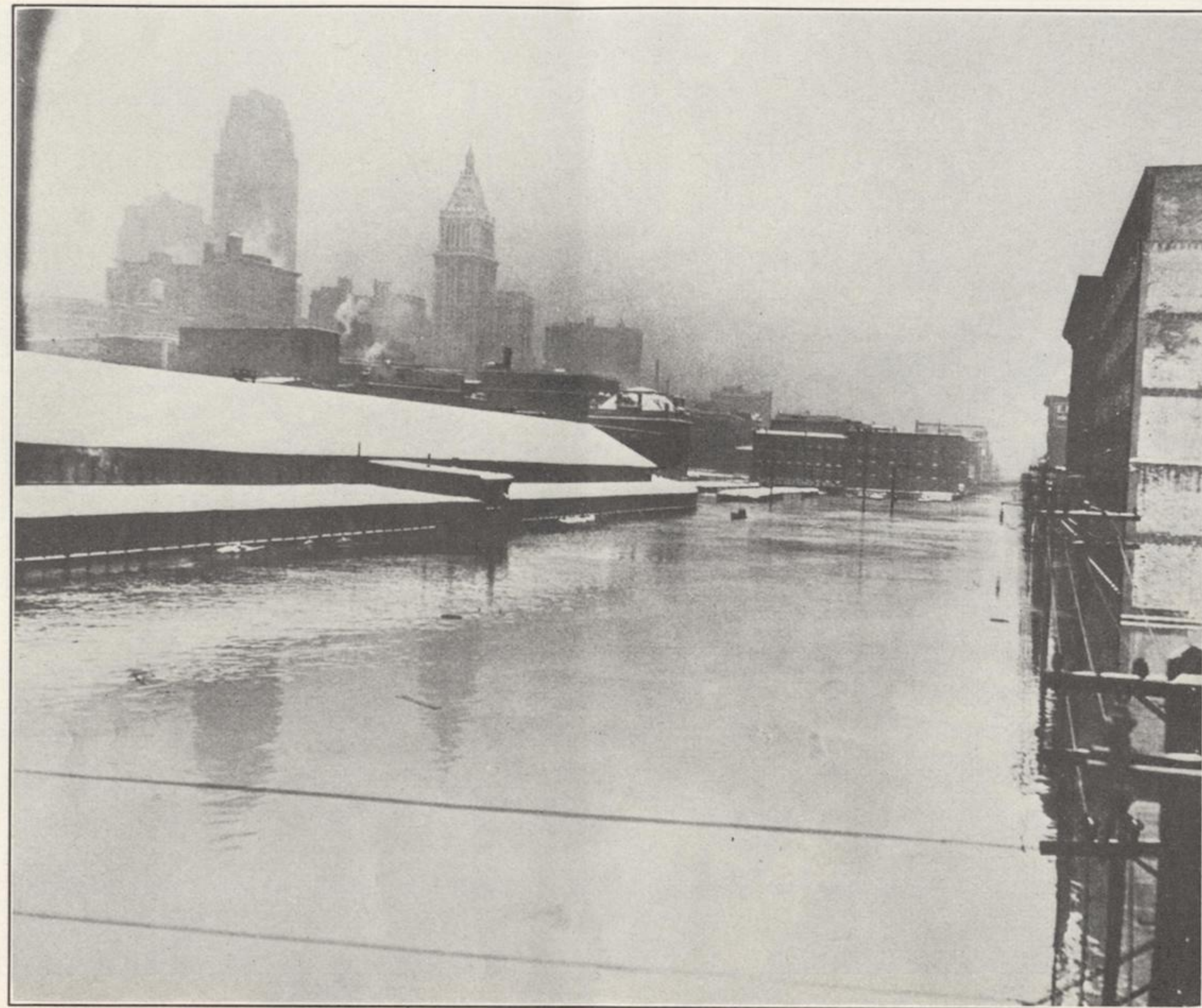
. . . CINCINNATI



DOWNTOWN CINCINNATI ● A few short weeks ago a bustling beehive of industry, whose erstwhile hum of wheels and bustle of crawling strings of traffic have given over to the gurgle and lap of yellow waters and long fingers of slimy mud, where traffic rolled. One of the great works of man frozen in the grip of a giant gone berserk.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

CINCINNATI . . .



BURIED UNDER 20 FEET OF WATER • Cincinnati's business district is shown buried under twenty feet of water in the worst flood of the city's history. A 'State of Emergency' was proclaimed by City Manager C. A. Dykstra, placing Cincinnati virtually under martial law.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

. . . CINCINNATI

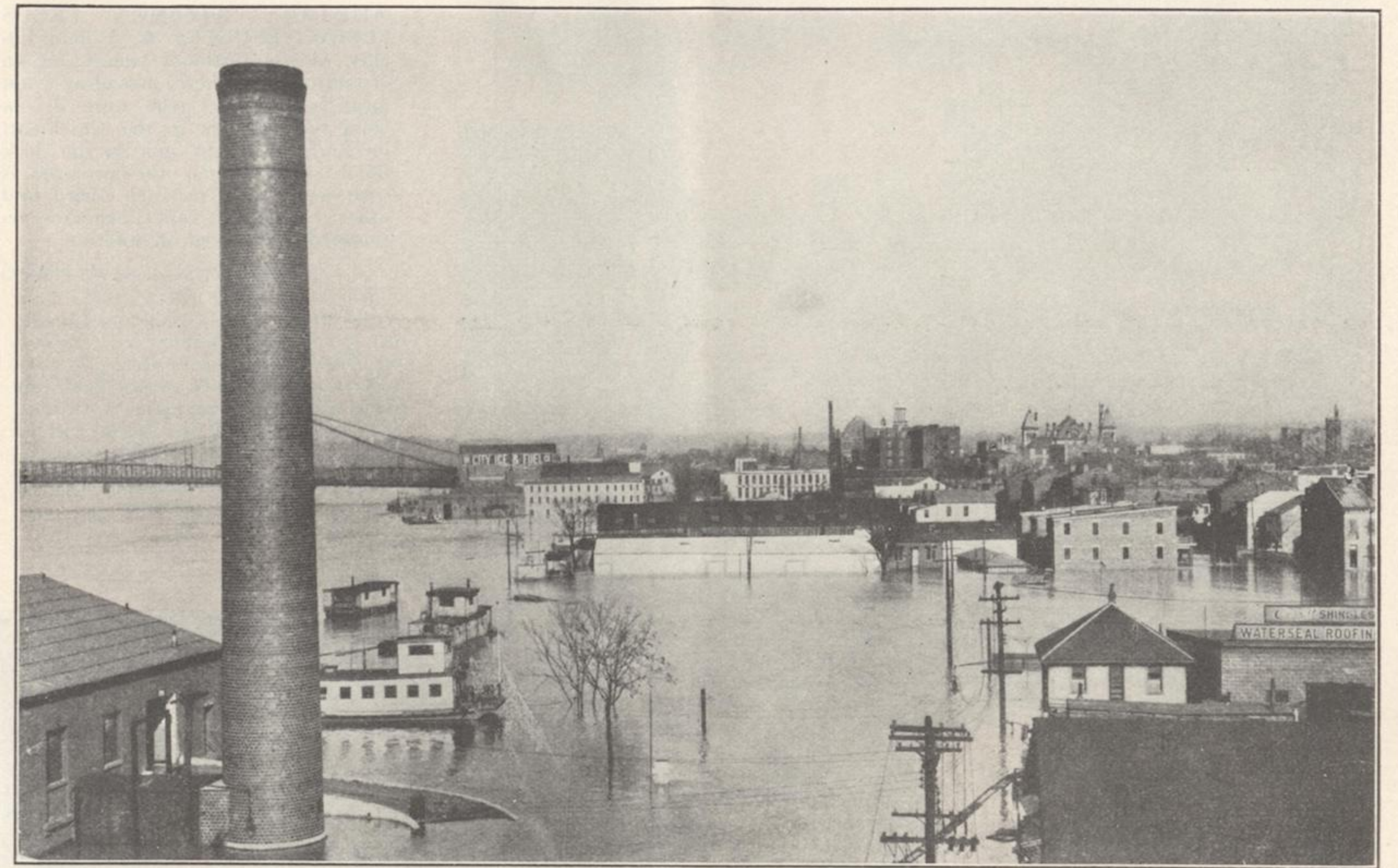
UP TO THE HIGHWAY MARKERS • The height to which the Ohio River's overflow has harassed Cincinnati is easily discernible when compared with the highway markers on the pole and the front of the building. The men in the boat are rowing about, looking for marooned folk.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



TEMPORARY BRIDGE TO SAFETY ● Workers of Cincinnati's Power Plant leave work after a long shift by crossing a temporary bridge built over marooned coal cars. They had to work all night to keep the plant going, to furnish power and light for the flood stricken metropolis.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



OLD MAN RIVER IN COMPLETE CONTROL ● A view of the industrial section of Cincinnati under many feet of water. This photo was made from the Ohio River Bridge as the river reached the 71 foot stage. More than 40,000 persons are rendered homeless in this section alone, with parts of the city under 20 feet of muddy water. Aid was rushed to sufferers by Red Cross and other relief agencies.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



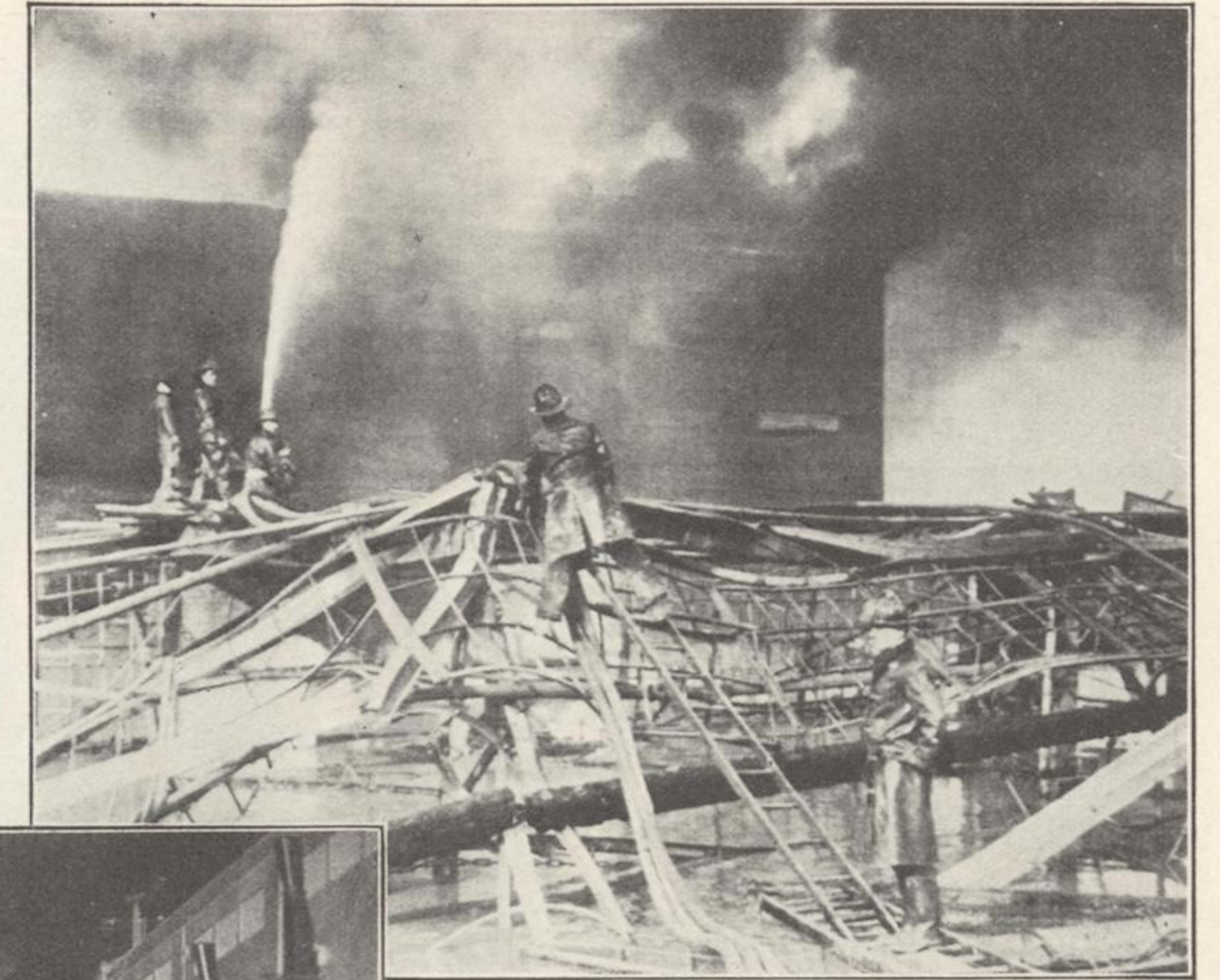
MILITARY KITCHEN FEEDS FLOOD REFUGEES • A field kitchen of the National Guard, on an errand of mercy here, providing a hot meal for refugees who were driven from their homes in the Cincinnati lowlands. A bright spot in the dark flood situation was the promptness with which the National Guard and other emergency relief agencies responded to the need of sufferers.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



WARM CLOTHING FOR THE DESTITUTE • A relief station in Cincinnati distributes warm clothing to flood refugees. Freezing weather made suffering intense.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



FLOATING FIRE • Firemen battling the floating fire, created when a live trolley wire ignited thousands of gallons of gasoline that had spread over the flood waters when tanks were torn from their moorings. The blaze raged along a three-mile front and destroyed or damaged 32 buildings.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



FLOOD WATERS THREATEN LIGHT SUPPLY • An electrician works frantically at the switches in the Cincinnati Power House as flood waters rise and threaten to leave the entire metropolis without power and light.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



FLU VICTIM ● Rescuers remove a victim of influenza from her flood-bound home, in a Cincinnati suburb. The stricken woman was taken out of the second story of her home, into the boat shown here.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



OCCUPANT DROWNED ● This is the flooded home of Henry Vaske, in Cincinnati. Vaske drowned when, in attempting to abandon his home, his boat capsized.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

B. AND O. WAREHOUSE GOES UP IN SMOKE ● Firemen, hampered by the flooded conditions of Cincinnati, were unable to fight the \$70,000 fire which razed the B. & O. Railroad warehouse here. This photo which was made at the height of the blaze, shows the burning warehouse surrounded, ironically enough, by thousands of gallons of water, flowing uselessly by.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SOUNDPHOTO



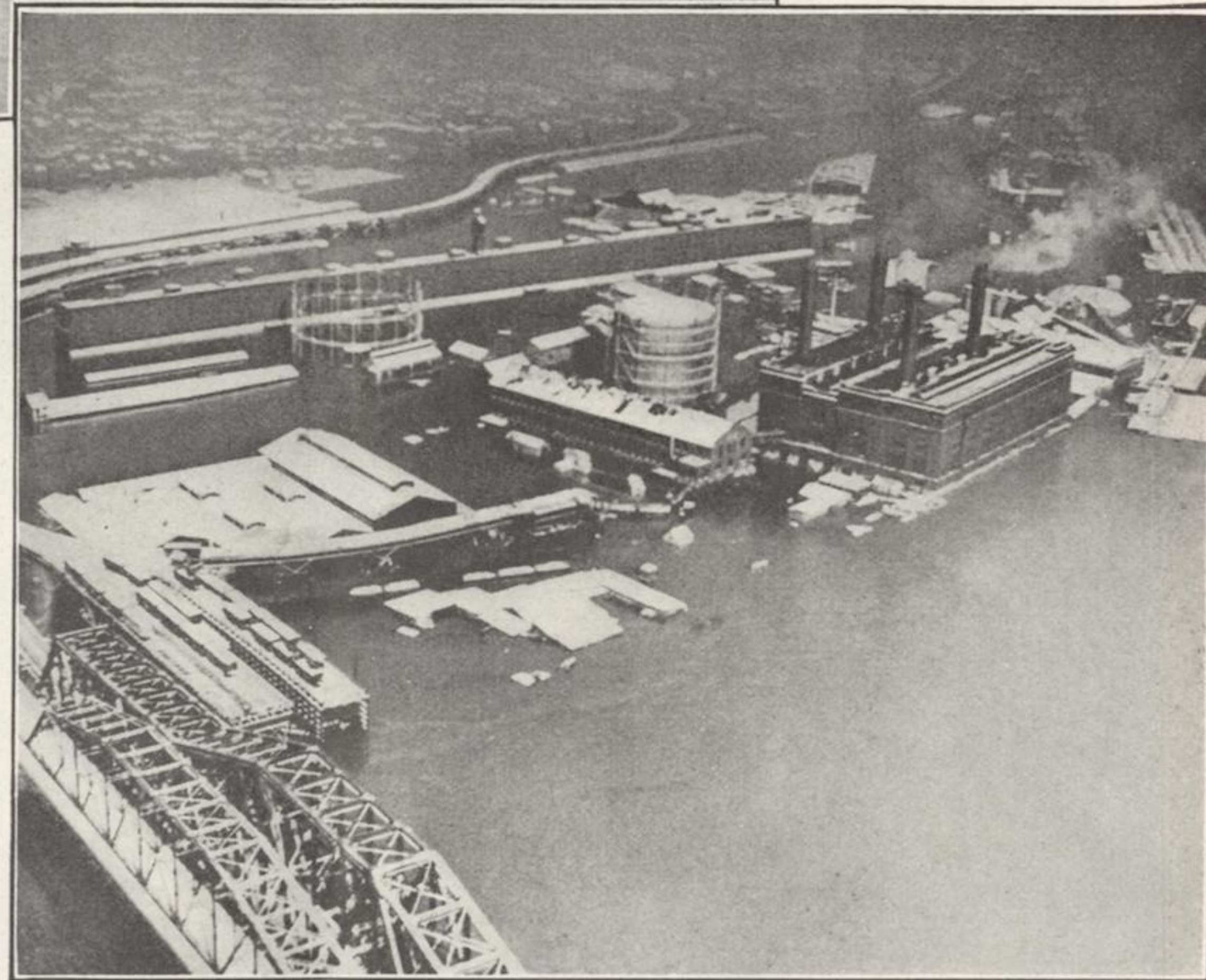
TAKING TO BOATS ● Deserting their useless fire-engines, firemen, in this photo, are taking to a boat to go to the Crosley Radio Plant, one of the buildings destroyed by the disastrous \$3,000,000 Cincinnati fire on January 24th. Caused by exploding gasoline tanks, this fire swept over the inundated industrial section of the city, adding to the distress caused by the flood.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



FIFTEEN FEET ● Covington, Ky., on the Ohio River, opposite Cincinnati, where the flood water reached the height of fifteen feet and covered more than one third of the city.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



FLOOD WATERS SHUT OFF POWER ● The flood waters of the rain-swollen Ohio River are shown surrounding and invading the Power Plant at Covington, Ky. The waters rose so high that power was cut off.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

RIVER RUNS KENTUCKY PLAYGROUND ● This Amusement Park at Covington, that once rang to the laughter of merrymakers, completely under the thumb of 'Old Man River.' This aerial view shows part of the scenic railway peeping above the flood. The rest of the park and its concessions are under many feet of water.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



RESIDENTIAL COVINGTON ● Waters of the Ohio covered the town of Covington, as shown in this aerial shot.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



FLOODS PARALYZE RAIL TRAFFIC • Railway transportation at Louisville reached a virtual impasse, as a result of the flood waters of the Ohio, which left the Louisville Railway Yards under several feet of water.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

U. S. TROOPS POLICING THE FLOOD AREA • One of the duties assigned to Regular Army troops in the flood area was that of policing the evacuated zones. Here a soldier sentry questions adventurous photographers, who must account for themselves just as you or I. No roaming through the stricken districts, unless on important business, was permitted.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



LOUISVILLE . . .



'WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE - - BUT NOT A DROP TO DRINK' ●
This long view shows the expanse of water covering Louisville's main street; yet the people of this city faced untold hardships due to disruption of the necessary water supply by the flood.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



ONE HUNDRED HOMES ABANDONED ● As the swollen Ohio River, augmented by a two-day downpour, continued to rise, here, more than one hundred homes in the low country adjacent to the river had to be abandoned. This picture shows the exodus in progress. A power boat was used to move the household furniture of the affected families.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



COMPLETE WATER TRANSPORTATION ● A boat load of furniture, beds, sewing machine and all being rowed from a flooded home in Louisville to a relief dock. Many a scene like this occurred.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

PONTOONS PRESSED INTO SERVICE ● Army engineers built these pontoon sidewalks in Louisville, Indiana, to permit evacuation of refugees and to permit business to be conducted in the flooded business areas. Note the almost completely submerged auto in the foreground.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO



THE LAST TROLLEY ● A few minutes after this street car passed over these tracks in Louisville, Ky., Bear Grass Creek rose so high it blocked all traffic.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO



DRAMATIC REUNION OF FATHER AND BABY • Words cannot describe the drama and pathos pictured here, as the camera records the reunion of a father and his baby, rescued from their inundated home in a Louisville, Ky., suburb. Scenes like this however, were duplicated every minute in this stricken area.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

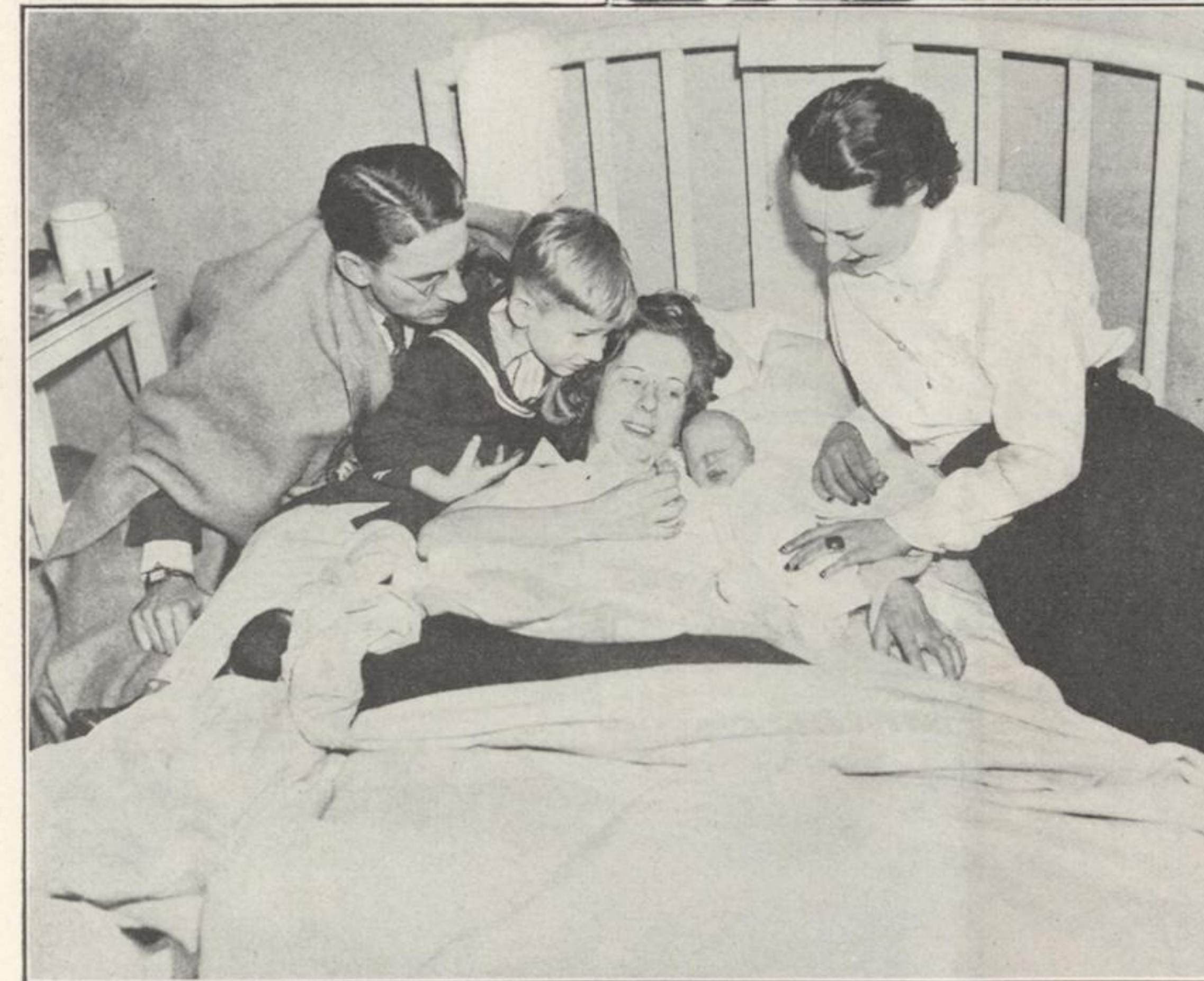


HOMELESS • Aged couple, man 82, and his wife rescued from their home in Louisville, Ky., after flood waters of the Ohio had borne down on their home, are pictured here huddled at their stove on the back of the truck that moved their few belongings to higher ground. The stove was taken from the house . . . still alight.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

ABANDONED CITY OF JEFFERSONVILLE • What was once the prosperous and busy city of Jeffersonville, Ind., is here an abandoned ghost-town, as the higher buildings gloomily poked themselves from the murky silt-laden waters which engulfed them. Situated across the Ohio from the also hard-hit Louisville, Ky., this city may show the largest death toll of the flood, as the unleashed waters of the Ohio burst their banks and rushed through the streets, sweeping all before its path.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



BABY BORN AFTER MOTHER WALKS UP 16 FLOORS • An expectant mother was forced from her home in Louisville, Ky., during the height of the flood, when the bed on which she lay, on the second floor, started to float. She gave birth to a baby on the 16th floor of the Kentucky hotel here. To add to her suffering she had to walk the 16 floors. The restaurant hostess, acted as midwife. The baby was given a middle name 'Flood.'

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

LOUISVILLE . . .



NEW ALBANY, IND. ISOLATED ● Many homes were isolated here, as the Ohio River flood waters spread over the city. This photo was made by the photo section of the 113th Observation Squadron of the Indiana National Guard.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO



DESERTED THOROUGHFARE ● Once a busy thoroughfare in Louisville, Ky., this street has become void of all activity after being submerged by the swollen flood waters of the Ohio. Normal activities and other services were at a complete standstill.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

. . . SEDANSVILLE



FIREMEN AID SICK IN THE FLOOD AREA ● Sedansville, Ohio woman ill of influenza was taken from her mired home and removed to a hospital. The local fire department aided in getting the woman to a boat for transport to the hospital, and her removal from her home via an upper story window is pictured.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

PORTSMOUTH . . .



THRILLING RESCUE OF A FLOOD VICTIM
● Swept off his feet by the raging flood waters, the victim shown in this picture faced certain death by drowning. Temporarily clinging grimly to the trunk of a tree, twice he missed the rope thrown to him by his quick-thinking rescuer. The third time he made it and was literally hauled to safety. Note the water in the background, flowing over the million dollar concrete wall, which surrounded the lowlands of Portsmouth, Ohio. All the roads leading to this city were washed out and half of its 70,000 inhabitants were without food and water, and facing disease and famine.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

. . . PORTSMOUTH

TWENTY PERSONS ABOARD SAVED ● Almost submerged in the flood waters is the 'Captain John' Ferry, which came to grief in the raging Ohio River at Portsmouth. Twenty persons aboard the craft narrowly escaped drowning, when she foundered.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



PORTSMOUTH . . .



WHERE WATER LEAPED FLOOD-PROOF WALL ● A view of Chillicothe Street, the main thoroughfare of Portsmouth, Ohio, after the raging river had leaped the \$1,000,000 "Flood-Proof" wall that was built last year to prevent such a disaster. Early estimates place damage at more than \$1,000,000 here. Eighteen thousand persons were forced to flee the city lowlands.

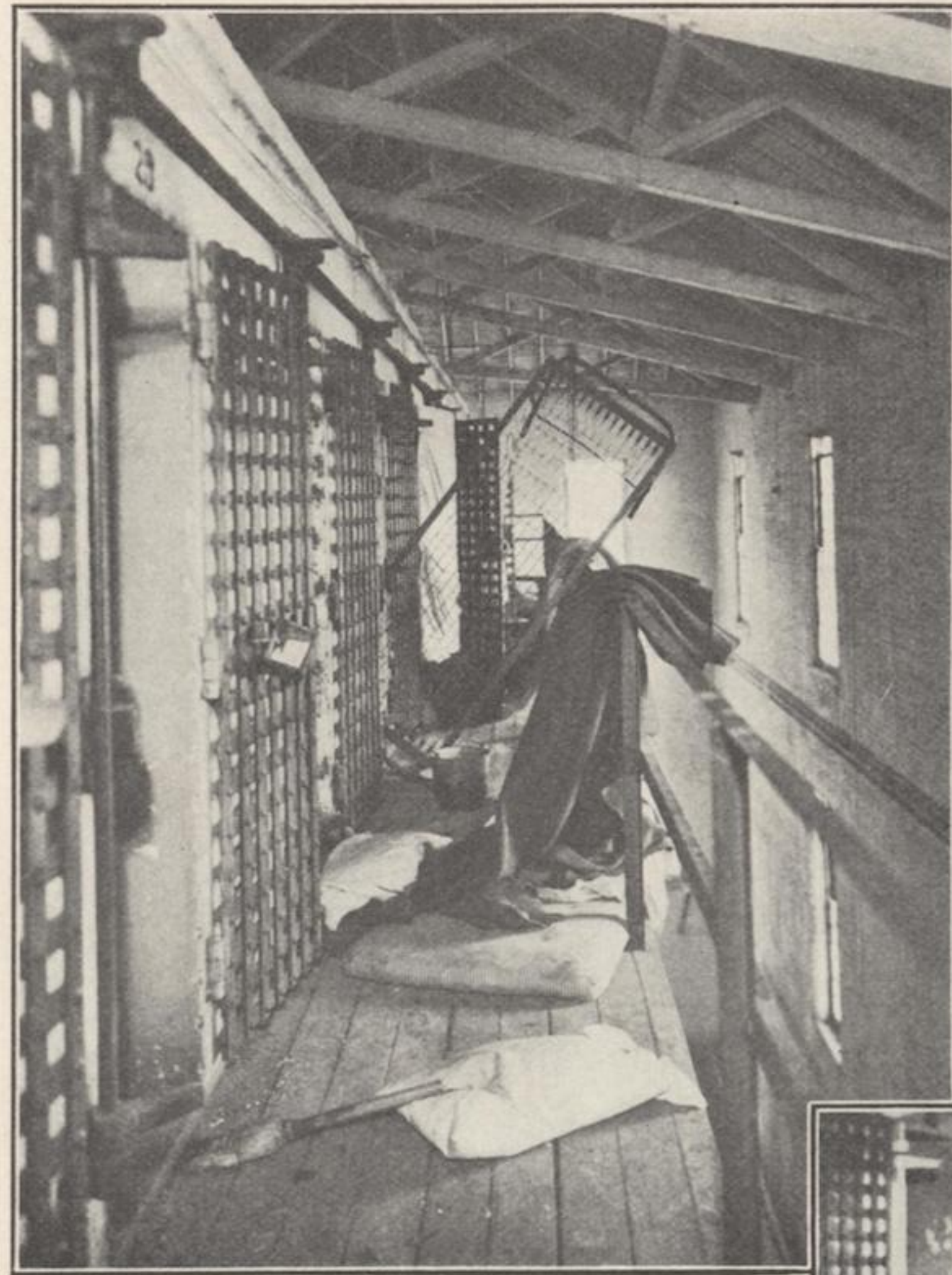
INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

. . . PORTSMOUTH

STILL BLINKING ● Traffic here was limited to boats, but this light blinked red and green for many hours after the flood invaded Portsmouth. Soaked cables finally put the light out of commission.

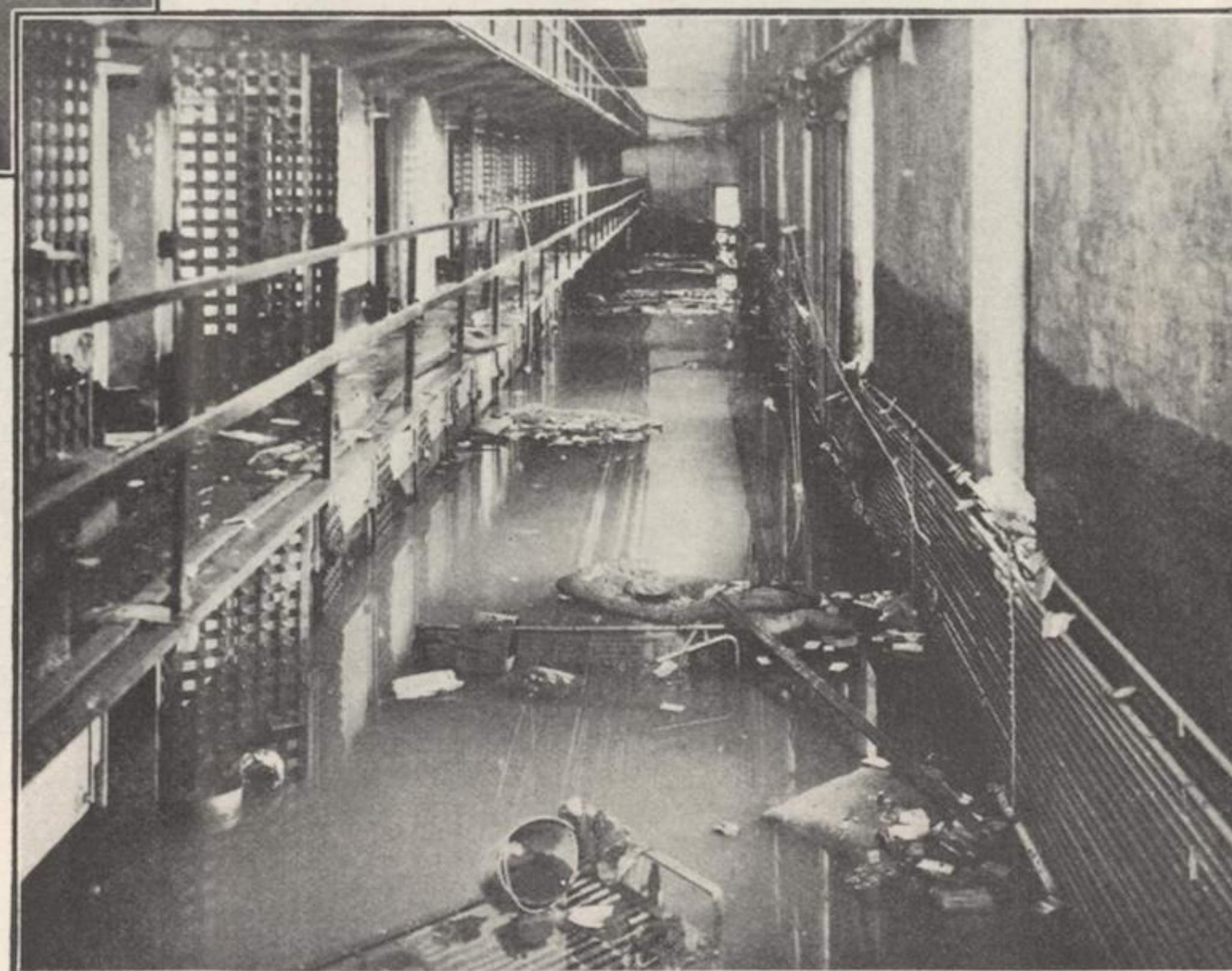
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TRAPPED LIKE RATS ● Iron cots swung by water-trapped convicts, smashed window bars and cell doors at the State Prison at Frankfort, Ky., before the prisoners were removed. Here is a top cell block as it appeared after the rioting, as flood waters rose to the top of the lower block of cells.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO



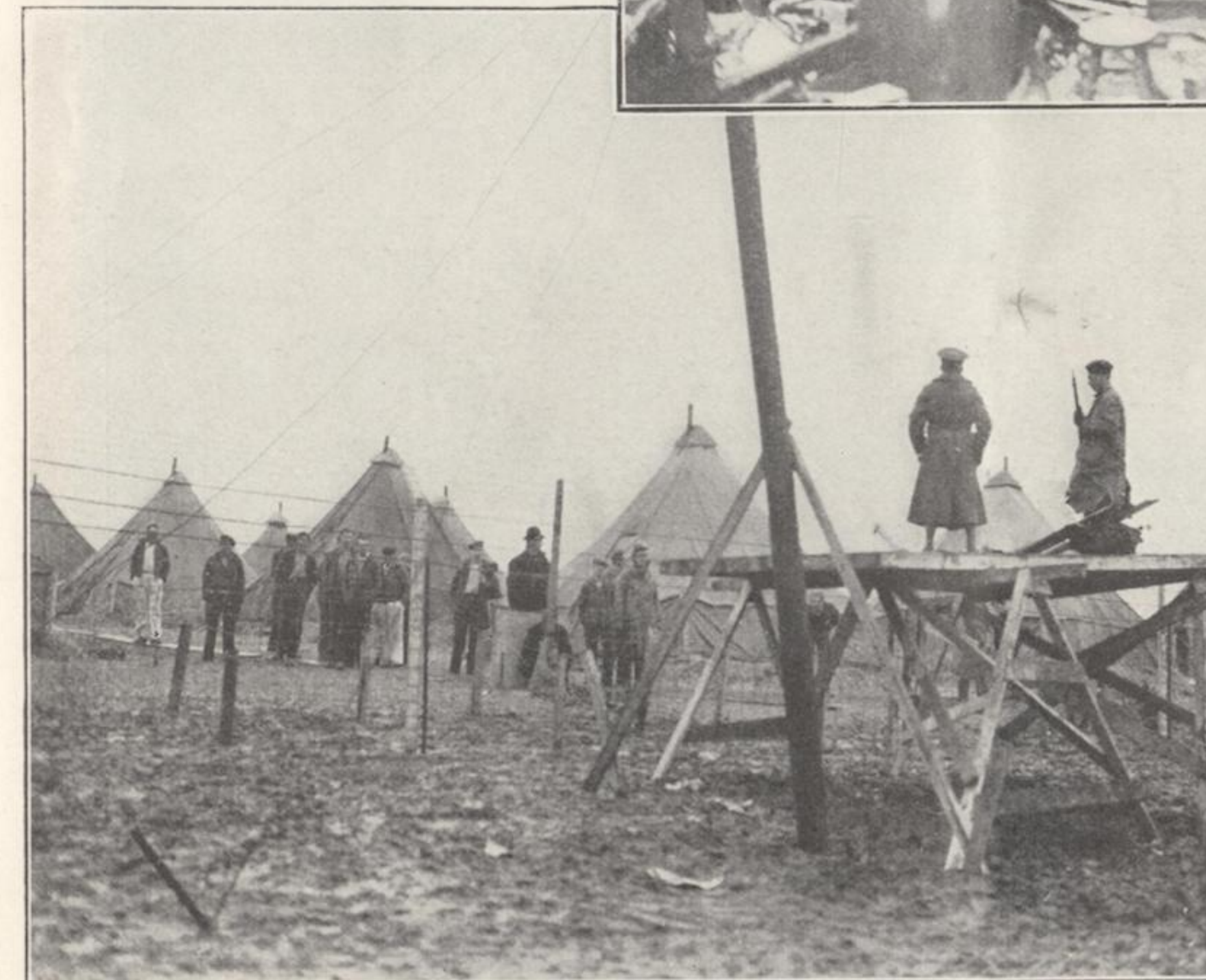
SHATTERED CELL BLOCK ● A scene at the Kentucky State Prison at Frankfort, after the convicts had been evacuated. Three days of rioting preceded the removal of the convicts, as the flood waters crept higher and higher.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO



WRECKAGE IN FRANKFORT "PEN" ● Debris and wreckage in the yard of the Kentucky State Prison, after the prisoners had rioted, terror-stricken by the steadily rising waters lapping at the lower cell blocks. The prisoners were finally quelled by National Guardsmen and moved to a tent prison nearby.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



TENT PRISON SET UP AFTER EVACUATION OF KENTUCKY "PEN" ● A view of the 'tent prison' which was set up on high ground outside the Kentucky State Penitentiary at Frankfort. Prison guards and State Guardsmen are seen patrolling the area.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

EVANSVILLE . . .



WATER AND COLD • This remarkable aerial view of flooded Evansville, Indiana, made by a staff photographer of the Chicago Herald and Examiner, from a Skyliner of Transcontinental and Western Airlines, shows a perfect picture of desolation and misery . . . flood and cold. Hundreds of families had to flee, before the fast rising flood waters.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

. . . EVANSVILLE



COAST GUARD ON THE JOB • Their work of rescue and relief easing slightly, well nigh exhausted Coast Guardsmen relax momentarily at their "dock" in Evansville, Indiana. This street in front of the Hotel McCurdy is ordinarily more than 100 yards from the nearest river water.

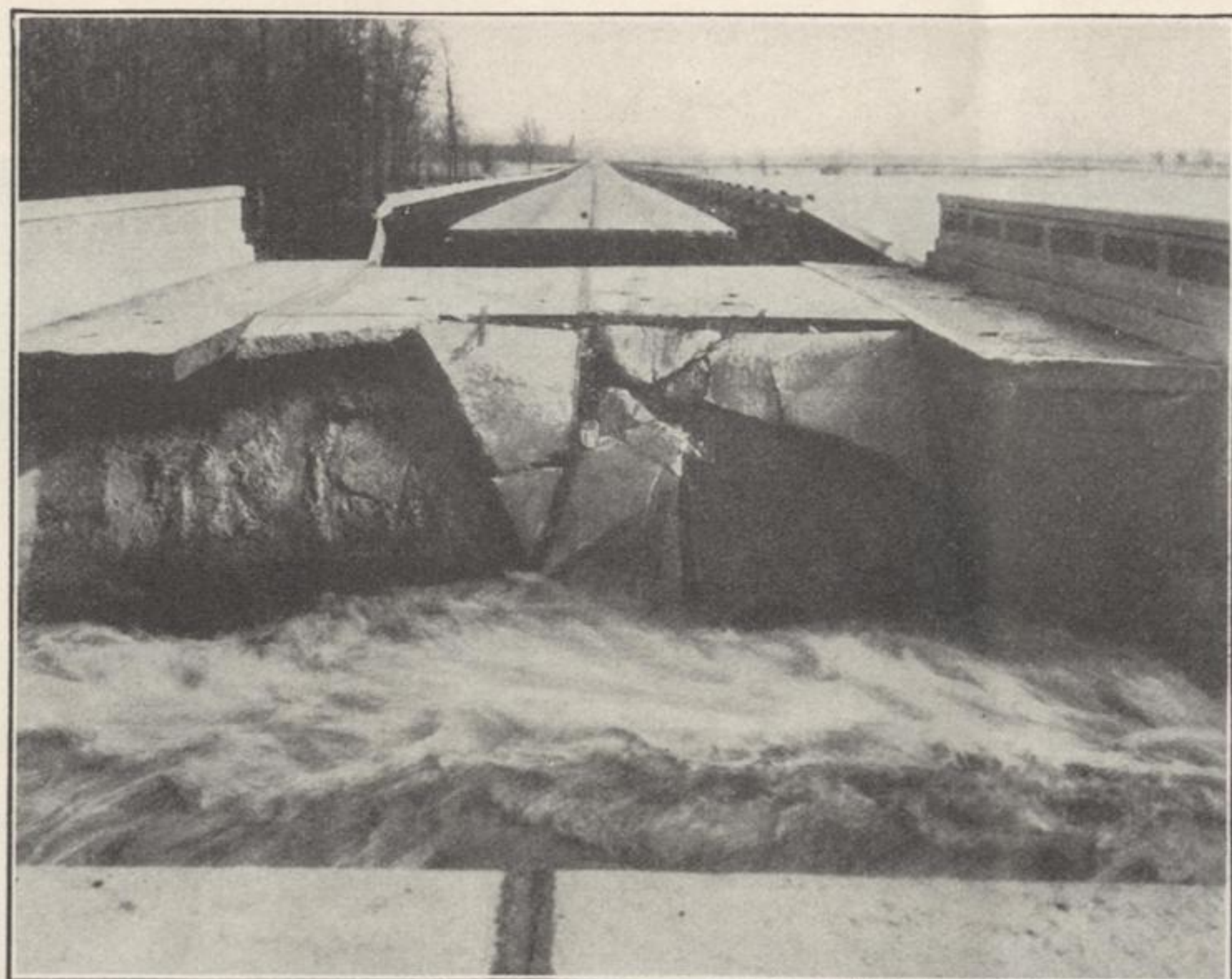
PICTURES INC. PHOTO



RESCUER RESCUED • The head of the Evansville Red Cross Unit, clinging to a telephone pole as he begged for help. He and another relief official were thrown into the icy flood waters, when the rowboat they were using fell apart in an eddy. Both were rescued.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

SEYMOUR . . .



FOREST SUPERVISOR DROWNED HERE ● Swollen to violent stage by unseasonable rains, the East Fork of the White River ripped out this bridge. U. S. Forest Supervisor Ray Dugan of Johnstown, Ind., drowned when his auto plunged from the road, as he tried to avoid the crevices in this bridge, near Seymour, Ind.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO



VIOLENCE RAMPANT ● This is a view of the widespread flood of the East Fork of the White River, near Seymour, Indiana, as the swollen watercourse poured over farmlands. The rapids in the immediate foreground adjoin the bridge ripped out as in the adjoining picture. Ray Dugan of Johnstown, Ind., was swept to his death in these rapids.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO

. . . STRANDED



A LITTLE BIT OF FLOOD FLOTSAM ● The tag he wears around his neck identifies this bewildered little boy as Oliver Dewey Carter of Earl, Arkansas. He is shown in a refugee camp in Memphis, patiently waiting for his parents to come for him. The photographer was unable to ascertain their whereabouts.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO

HEAVY ODDS . . .



THROUGH BACKED-UP FLOOD WATERS • from the swollen Ohio River, which spread far and wide through Southern Illinois, this "Big Four" train ploughs on past Harrisburg, Illinois, to deliver relief supplies. The trainman scans a "ten-mile pond."

PICTURES INC. PHOTO



15 CARS DERAILED • Undermined by waters of the flooded Cumberland River, railroad tracks gave way, derailing 15 cars of the Louisville and Nashville freight train at Clarkesville, Tenn.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO

. . . PADUCAH



PADUCAH WAS HARD HIT • This air view of this widely-famed town, showing flooded streets as far as the eye can see, affords some small conception of the magnitude of this terrifying flood.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO



RAILROADS CRIPPLED • Pouring into this Southern Illinois "Island Town," flood waters from the Ohio River surged over railroad tracks in Cairo, menacing the evacuation of refugees.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO

COAST GUARD RESCUE CHILDREN AND THEIR PETS • With the Ohio River pouring through a break in the levee above Cairo, making an island of the city, coast guard rescue boats did a busy trade. This boat was loaded with children and their pets as it headed to high ground. Only one dry highway remained open at Cairo.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO



SENTRY DUTY ATOP SEA WALL • National Guardsmen and W.P.A. workers stand sentry duty atop a 'sea wall' along the Ohio, at Cairo, as the swelling waterway slowly rises toward the crest.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO



MASS EVACUATION • Men, women and children by the hundreds were loaded on to trains and barges in a mass evacuation of Cairo, before the rampaging waters of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

PICTURES INC. PHOTO

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM . . .



AFTER THE HISTORIC "JOHNSTOWN FLOOD OF 1889" ● This unusual picture, incredible as it may seem, shows the trunk of a huge tree driven right through a house. The photo was made after the flood waters of the historic deluge of 1889 subsided in Johnstown. This picture portrays what may be expected in the wake of a devastating flood, such as has just taken place.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO