

FLOOD LEAVES 17 DEAD THRU W. VA. SECTIONS

Thousands Are Homeless
While Uncounted Millions
In Damages To Prop-
erty Is Reported

MANY CITIES AND HAMLETS INUNDATED

Diphtheria And Smallpox
Vaccines Being Rushed
to Health Department
Officials By Relief

Charleston, W. Va., Mar. 21
(AP)—The ravaging Ohio river
rolled on south today, leaving
in its wake thousands of West
Virginians homeless, at least
17 dead and uncounted mil-
lions of dollars property dam-
age.

Scores of cities and hamlets were
inundated; exhausted rescue and
relief workers in boats peered
through the second windows of
houses seeking stranded persons;
houses, haystacks and livestock
floated down the swollen river.

Torrent At Its Crest

At 8 a. m. Huntington officials
said the torrent was almost at its
crest, 3.3 above flood level, and only
suburban Westmoreland and Guy-
andotte inundated.

The water crept up near the busi-
ness district of the state's largest
city but relief workers looked for
little further damage. There were
2,500 already out of their homes.

Parkersburg, 89 miles up the river,
had 47 feet today, compared with
the crest of 48.4 and a flood level
of 40. The water was dropping.

The residential section called
riverside and part of the business
district were flooded. There was no
loss of life. Police estimated 2,500
are homeless.

In Point Pleasant, half-way be-

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tween Huntington and Parkersburg,
there were 600 homeless.

Water still flowed in some streets
of Wheeling, where the greatest
property damage was done and the
most lives lost.

Wheeling Damage \$2,500,000

One official estimated damage in
the Wheeling metropolitan area at
\$2,500,000.

On Wheeling Island, where 10,000
persons reside, it was impossible to
tell yet how many houses were
washed away and how many crush-
ed by the force of the flood.

Governor H. G. Kump asked for
surveys of needs in flood districts
to repair damage.

Seventy tons of food from ware-
houses of the relief administration,
and diphtheria and smallpox vac-
cines were rushed to health depart-
ment officials.

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