Flash Floods Take 55 Lives in Kentucky

(Pictures on back page and map on page 2.)

Lexington, Ky., July 5. [Special]
Fifty-five persons are dead and further casualties are expected by rescuers seeking victims of a cloud burst that swept creeks and rivers out of their banks in the mountains of eastern Kentucky last night.

Thirty-eight lost their lives in Morehead, the Rowan county seat east of this. Nearly the entire town of 2,500 persons was inundated by the flash flood. More than 100 homes were washed off their foundations by raging waters from Tripplet creek, which slowed eight feet deep through the town's principal street.

Seventeen more were drowned by a wall of water which rushed down the gorge of the Kentucky river on Keck, 10 miles north of Jackson in Breathitt county. Fifty-nine more are missing at Keck.

100 May Be Dead.

Mrs. N. L. Wells, chairman of the Rowan county Red Cross, said the total loss of life may run to 100.

It was believed that Clearedfield, a factory town of 500 persons on the opposite side of Tripplet creek from Morehead, had suffered heavily. Rescuers were unable to cross the swift current to reach the community. Farmers, a village seven miles west of Morehead, was cut off, as was Morehead, for several hours.

The toll in Morehead was high because the cloud burst came when residents were asleep and because of geographical factors. Morehead, which boasts many modern stores and homes, is situated in a valley between high mountains. Tripplet creek runs through the center of the town.

Many Trapped in Homes.

The flood came shortly before midnight. Tripplet creek soon was a torrent. Many persons were unable to get out of their homes before they were swept away and smashed against trees or other buildings.

Sheriff W. H. Bohan of Breathitt county said seven bridges, a school house, 44 dwellings, 66 barns, and much live stock were carried away by flood waters in the county.

The flood was the second disaster to strike Morehead in twenty-four hours. Fire yesterday caused $7,500 damage and threatened to sweep the business district.

Gov. A. B. Chandler, in Frankfort, ordered patrolmen and state highway emergency crews into the stricken areas.

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Arrows point to Morehead and Keck, Ky., where overflowing streams swept away buildings and drowned scores of persons. Clearfield and Farmers and other towns in the vicinity also suffered.
“Flash Floods” Kill 55 in Kentucky Hills; Fear 100 Dead—Shotgun A

Aerial view of Farmers, Ky., one of the mountain villages inundated by "Flash Floods" yesterday following heavy rains. Farmers is seven miles west
of Morehead, where many were drowned as they slept. Red Cross authorities estimated death list may total 100.

Sgt. James Aricevas of highway patrol pointing to gumbot hole in roof of state farmer Casaure shelter.

Daklin on stream at Morehead, Ky., a mountain town of 2,000 where 35 percent were killed in waters of river flooded by flash flood yesterday.

A house which was lifted from foundation and deposited on railroad tracks at Morehead during the flood. Occurrences of the house were eerie when the flood struck.

Field Marshal Hermann Goring of Germany polling here at a meeting of the German Forest society in Berlin.