TWO thousand lives lost and the destruction of two million dollars worth of property is the final estimate of the flood damage which swept over the states of Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky during the first three days of March and the first few days of April. In Ohio, Columbus was the center of all operations. The Ohio National Guard, under orders of Generals Miller, Mitchell, and Higgins, and of the Ohio State Highway Department, was immediately called into service.

The flood of April 3 gave Columbus the heaviest flood experience in its history. The waters were a havoc of destruction throughout the state. All supplies for the relief of the flood-stricken people were handled by the Ohio National Guard. Governor Miller, Commander of the Quartersmen’s Department, O. N. G., and were by him directed as quickly as the circumstances would permit, to those stricken cities most in need of food and clothing. As a result, many significant contributions were made to the stricken areas.

The flood was a disaster without parallel. For the first time in history, the entire city was unable to send to the world any adequate idea of the real extent of the damage. Dayton was almost completely submerged, and the houses and buildings of the lower section were submerged, to a depth of from 15 to 20 feet. The waters continued to flow for several days. The actual cost of life in Dayton was estimated at $50,000,000 in the neighborhood of $100,000,000.

The value of organization and training in the National Guard, as shown by the current events in Ohio, is that the Guard has established itself as a powerful shock absorber for the state of Ohio. It has been able to keep the peace and order and to maintain a degree of security and stability that would have been impossible without the assistance of the Guard.

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