

12-28

AUSTRIA FLOODS: CALAMITY JUST MISSED

30 Winter is reluctantly easing its iron grip on the upper Danube; but as the ice breaks the river runs high, and for some days floods on the catastrophic scale of 1954 were feared. As it is both country and townsfolk have been tried to the near-limit of endurance. The autobahn bridge is damaged at Steyr, a town on the River Enns, a Danube tributary. Linz, a city of nearly 200,000 people, is perhaps worst hit of all. Its own bridges were severely tested.

56 Not a day too soon nature relented and the waters began to fall. The river level had been within a very few feet of causing major disaster.