

2-EFP101
2-HFP101
47/75 2-FP101
2-DFP101

ONE WEEK IN HISTORY

"This is no war of chieftains or of Princes, of dynasties or national ambitions, it is a war of peoples and causes — a war of unknown warriors."

Seven years ago the Battle of Britain filled the skies. The British people were fighting for their lives. Seven years ago, Winston Churchill, in that majestic phrase measured the stature of the conflict. As Battle of Britain week commemorations took place throughout the nation, his words were still significant for the warriors in the economic fight of 1947. Into a week of thanksgiving crept the light and sombre tones of a people now claiming the yields of victory. Through the eyes of a harrassed Britain, a military parade in Brazil's capital to honour the visit of America's President was not likely to signify much to the ordinary citizen. But Harry Truman's junketing in Rio could mean quite a lot to Europe. Behind spectacular parades and big-time receptions was one aim: Pan American solidarity.

Modest, freck-coated Harry Truman made a hit with Brazilians. For the U.S. President, agreement on economics and defence with the Latin-American States would add greater weight to the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. It was Truman's hope that every one of the American States would contribute toward Europe's needs. The vast resources of the Americas could make a massive contribution to Europe's economic and political stability. Through that influence the peace of Europe might be ensured. But the Truman moves against Communist influence in Europe were not, on the surface, making much headway in countries within the Russian orbit.

In Hungary, British and American observers reported disturbing facts about the country's second post-war Parliamentary elections. Organised abuses by people voting at more than one polling booth occurred in many areas. The Hungarian Government admitted these "flying voters," but claimed they were so few that they did not affect the result. The Communists emerged as the leading single party. But over a united Opposition the Communist-dominated Government gained only an uneasy working majority. The Communists hadn't yet made the grade.

Political passion and pressing domestic problems were also giving the Italian Government a rough course to ride. The Vatican was taking more than a spiritual interest in Italy's problems. Pius XII - shrewdest of the Popes - made a public appearance in St. Peter's Square. 300,000 Romans listened as the Pope ~~him~~ addressed members of the Italian Men's Catholic Action Club. Pius, uncompromisingly anti-Communist, was keeping a firm hand on the pulse of temporal affairs.