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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 jousting 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 Brasilians. 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.

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Italy faced a strong challenge from the ever-growing Left. Catholic influence might see that the country stayed this side of the iron curtain. As the vast multitude acclaimed the Pope, he knew that the voice of the Vatican would be heard in still greater strength during the months ahead. But it was in Germany (a commitment that costs Britain 80 millions a year) where the Allies were striving to revive a broken nation. Here Germans, low in morale have little cause for gaiety. Yet home-made entertainment indicated some sparks of initiative. At notorious Dachsen, they stage a bull race.

To watching Germans this must have been an ironic spectacle. A few racing bulls could add a lot of calories to everyone's meagre diet.

Yet while the world's headlines talked gloomily of Crisis, the people of Britain still cling to simple human values.

For example there was Lealie Townsend. In Dusham Avenue, Heston, Mr. Townsend puts on a backyard show. It's at his council house that we find him with his six pets.

Skippy the Peedle is the star performer. For him the sky is the limit.

Gusky is the mother of her "adopted" family. She looks after the youngsters.

But it's Trixy who is the tidiest of them all.

Jill - Skippy's other half - is out to beat her tricks. All the dogs are veteran flyers. This is Squeaky doing his airborne training.

The dogs are brought up in non-austerity style. A grade "A" egg and spoon act is their favourite pastime. To the Townsends it's quite a day out.

But at Doncaster for the St. Leger a quarter of a million people assembled to forget their problems. Neither wars nor economies have ever succeeded in breaking down Britain's great sporting event. Fashions were restricted by morning showers - and Sir Stafford Cripps.

As the 11 three-year-olds line up, the Dollar mix-up is forgotten. And they're off, on a mile and three quarter long course. To the winner will get the first prize of 4,000 guineas. Merry Quip and Bow and Arrow lead the field, as they're off into the country.

Packed together they were for the turn. "Whiteway" has joined "Merry Quip" in the lead. "Bow and Arrow" is way out on the outside.