

FLOODS WORST FOR 53 YEARS.

Few people now living can remember such a catastrophe as the all-enveloping waters have inflicted upon the great area in the triangle whose points are the Wash, Bristol Channel and Thames Valley. When the River Lea burst its banks more than a million people in East London actually ^{experienced} ~~suffered from~~ a shortage of water, surely the last straw in the long tale of distress suffered during this appalling winter. Lea Bridge waterworks was put out of action when the floods contaminated the filter beds. In this emergency the Metropolitan Water Board supplied householders from its mobile tanks. Perhaps for a fortnight there will be only enough for drinking and cooking. Tanks were obtained from as far ~~as~~ ^{afield} as Yorkshire.

(GV) Suburban railways in this area were brought to a standstill. Even telephone services broke down.

(After Air) Thousands of people who believed their houses to be well clear of the flood limit sadly discovered their mistake. Bungalow dwellers, without upstairs rooms ~~for~~ themselves or furniture, were hard hit indeed. They had to leave their homes under feet of water and get away when rescue was improvised.

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ft slabs o ice e washed up 2 t
house doors.

(2)

FLOODS

(Air) The great Ouse burst its banks. ~~As we go to press~~
The plight of the Fen country is critical. The people
in this area feared overwhelming disaster at every high
tide. At one period the water nearly reached the highest
recorded level, as far back as eighteen twenty three. *

Heart
Air

[a] Paramount cameraman, Arthur Farmer, was marooned at M'dhead.
Hear his story.

~~On Friday evening~~ I went out to look at one or two of the
usual danger spots, but I never thought the water could
possibly reach my house. When I woke ~~on Saturday~~ ^{next day} I was
amazed to find two feet of water all round. Some of the
flood water froze. The ice jammed the garage door, and
my car is still there. I spent the day in waders, taking
pictures. The water rose all the time. My furniture is
pretty well ruined. When we thought we were completely
marooned my wife and I were rescued by a Churchill tank
that evening.

boat
x garden

(SV boat) The sympathy of the whole country goes to the
thousands of people who face their grim, homeless plight
with typical good humour. May their cruel misfortune
be nearly over. No one will ever forget this terrible
winter and the disastrous floods in which it closed.