

FENS AN INLAND SEA

The plight of the Fenlands approached crisis when these pictures were taken of the 50-yard gap in the banks of the Ouse close to Earith. The great thaw created a volume of water without precedent in our lifetime; spring tides delayed its flow towards the sea. As we go to press more than a hundred square miles ~~more~~ of fertile fenland is turned into an inland sea. Hundreds of people have been rescued from deeply-submerged houses and taken to the safety of Ely.

~~The army came to the help of the engineers of the Ouse Catchment Board. A Bailey Bridge an attempt was made to ~~bridge~~ close the gap, but such was the force of water the task was almost impossible. Soldiers were sent to the area and worked day and night along with German prisoners.~~

At first comparatively few men were available for an attempt to close the gap. Theirs was an almost impossible task, ~~faced as they were by a tremendous rush of water.~~ And this was only one of several places where the maze of ~~Fenland~~ rivers breached the built-up defences. of ~~this~~ *the Fenland* ~~reclaimed marshland.~~ Soldiers were sent to help. Day and night they worked alongside German prisoners, trying to throw a Bailey Bridge across the gap. Had this succeeded they would have driven piles into the ground ~~to reinforce a sandbagged barrier.~~

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(Travel)

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to reinforce a sandbag barrier. To ~~English~~ agriculture, ✓
 dealt a severe blow by frost prolonged into the sowing
 season, the great floods are little short of disastrous.
 It is indeed ironic that modern man, who has split the
 atom, remains little better defended than the primitive
 savage against the *calamities* of Nature.