

When Paramount cameramen flew over Canvey Island at the height of the cyclonic gale it was not known how many of the 12,000 inhabitants were dead. Nor, as ~~they~~^{we} filmed the flooded streets, could the full loss be more than guessed. And as we go to press information is still incomplete. Canvey Island, in the Thames Estuary, is no more than a facet of the whole. From the north coast of Kent, where oyster famed ~~Whitstable~~ Whitstable is badly shattered, right up the east coast into Yorkshire, the cyclone ~~had~~ struck the country perhaps as never before. Nature's onslaught was so swift and heavy that thousands of people were trapped for hours in their houses. And all the time it was blowing in bitter, icy fury, turning the week-end into a frozen Hell. It began as a cyclone north west of Scotland. Howling at more than 100-miles-an-hour it built up tremendous seas, culminating in a gigantic bottleneck between Yarmouth and Rotterdam. That was the general picture, too vast to be understood by the people who, in their thousands, looked now for safety and dry land.

In its broad path the disaster spared none. And old woman of 81 had to be taken ~~mm~~ from her home. Near Whitstable the man who wrote *There'll Always Be An England*, Ross Parker, saw his ^{house, his} part of England ^{being} washed away.

From Donaghadee Harbour, Northern Ireland, they continued the search for possible survivors of the Princess Victoria. Names of the 44 rescued were eagerly read. Meanwhile from Bangor Hospital, Jeff Bingley, Walter Baker, Dennis Peck and Malcolm McKinnon, seemed no worse for their terrible experience and thanked their stars to be alive. The Princess Victoria, smashed by terrific seas, sank four-miles off the coast of County Down. ~~Eighty~~ 128 of her passengers and crew were drowned.

20

50

70

90

109

143

Even London felt something of the cyclone. After flooding parts of Poplar and West Ham the tide swept up to Putney. All ~~mm~~ along the tideway danger was averted narrowly.

(Wires)

Lowestoft, on our most easterly Suffolk coast, caught the full fury of the flood. Hundreds of people were marooned for hours without drinking water, gas or electricity.

The great waves surged over the broken sea wall into the town.

308

In Sheerness Dockyard the frigate Berkeley Castle capsized and the thousand-ton submarine Sirdar sank.

338
308

20 Over the sea defences of Holland poured irresistibly the
piled-up waters. The Dutch Coast formed the southern
wall against which the floods hurled their final fury. The
Dykes were breached, as so often in the history of this gallant
country. The streets of Rotterdam were turned into deep
40 canals. And, as in England, disaster struck so suddenly
that in a short time 600 people were dead. Damage was
too immense to be estimated. To save life was the first
need. The Dutch Red Cross rapidly mobilised, helped by
volunteers and the military. Belgium sent help. In
60 Very short time shelter, beds and food were provided for
homeless thousands. And still the sea inundated the land;
rich farmland the salt will render barren for some years.

Cattle perished in hundreds. Others were saved in the nick
of time. This battle with the sea is in the Dutch blood.
But not for centuries has the old enemy submerged so
great an area.

Back to England. Near Hunstanton, on the north coast of Norfolk,
American Airman Reese Leming wore an exposure suit and rescued 27 people.
~~an area where the dead and missing numbered more than a 100.~~

At Beaulieu
At Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire, 7 people were drowned. On
this stretch of the coast about 50 people lost their lives;
nearly 40 are missing. It is still too early to know the
complete death toll. And what apparently hopeless mess
and confusion, confront the ^{living} survivors. The task of making
their houses habitable seems overwhelming.

At Foulness the several dead in the Murren Huts.
Canvey Island, as we showed in the first part of this report,
is hardest hit of all. The flood came in the night. There
were known to be 130 dead and the missing made
and ominous total of nearly 500. 12,000 of the inhabitants
were safely evacuated. About 2,000
30 stayed on, though it is hard to see how the island
can be restored. Hundreds of people had very narrow
escapes. On the slightly higher ground effort was made to
carry on. Almost incredibly, the inhabitants were cheerful.
Milk deliveries were resumed. At low water a small
army of men worked in the mud and sludge to repair the Dykes.

70

To the eye of the layman the old sea defences seemed bearily strong enough for a small lake, though that appearance may be deceptive.

Kings Lynn, on the southern arm of the Wash had 15 of its people drowned. It was the same story as elsewhere; the water surged in without warning. Many houses now have a fantastic flood mark in their rooms.

Many women havemnot only lost sons and husbands but their homes too. Field Kitchens were quickly improvised.

300

It is calamity on a national scale. All the country will join in relieving the distressed; the many thousands who are the victims of the fury of the untamable sea.

324