

STORMY WEATHER

Pathe air pictures over the Nottingham-Manchester area of the Trent Valley tell the story of Britain's stormy weather. February Mill-Dyke, countrymen call it, but this time they're too full for comfort. It's water, water everywhere, with river and rain havee isolating houses and cutting roads and railways to marooned villages and towns. How much water came down you can guess from one look at High Street Northwich where the tide seems to be in. Six feet of flood water swirled in the main street - not quite Venice but a break for the local "Three Men in a Boat."

The swollen River Weaver swept this cargo boat overland, till a bridge got in the way. Here's one shop where they're wondering "What's in a name?"

The new Derwent Valley reservoir gives another slant on freak weather. Experts reckoned eighteen months for the valley to be submerged but with Ashopton's church spire alone above water, the fill-up is already a year ahead of schedule. Wind was on the job as well as rain. Two arches of the railway viaduct on the Bath-Shepton-Mallet road collapsed. Xylophone effect of sleepers and rails gave train drivers an outsize in headaches.

To round off the toll of disasters, came yet another train crash. Outside Petters Bar Station, the Kings Cross to Newcastle express smashed into a local train. Two soldiers were killed and ten people injured. Split second action by an L.N.E.R. signalman stopped a third train within a stone's throw of this two engine smash.