

STORMS IN JANUARY

Gales pound Britain's coastline. Striking with 80-mile-an-hour ferocity, typhoon-like storms play havoc on sea fronts.

So fierce is the gale in Sussex that a double decker bus is swept into the river Adur - 20 feet below Old Shoreham Bridge. Twenty four people were trapped - but, miraculously, only one was seriously injured.

In London, too, buses are swept off the streets. Busy streets are deserted and three million Londoners have to walk home - as a man-made storm disrupts transport. The cause of it all - a Saturday afternoon strike by the capital's 40,000 bus and tram workers. More than 8,000 buses are immobilized and it's a case of "All Change" everywhere.

Tempers grow shorter and queues longer.

Down at Southampton, January storms cause yet another hold-up. The giant liner "Queen Mary" is loaded up with 100-tons of cement, which, it is hoped, will fill in all the damage below the waterline, caused when Britain's great dollar-earner ran aground outside Cherbourg. The delay will cost several thousand dollars in passengers fares, on top of a thousand pound repair bill. Divers - working by underwater searchlights - report bent plates and a straining of the keel.

With Britain's weather temporarily taking a back seat - a near nationwide hold up is over. Roll on, Spring!