

STORMS THREATEN FLOOD AREAS

Pierce blizzards that swept across the North of England, the Midlands and Wales have covered the countryside with a thick blanket of snow. Hardest hit is the Peak District where dozens of roads have been blocked and communications cut by the heavy drifts.

Many places have no electricity, and food supplies are in danger of running short. Hurriedly, efforts are made to clear the roads. In some areas, mechanised snow-ploughs help to relieve villages cut off for nearly a week. But for most places, shovels are the only means of clearing a pathway through the drifts piled up by winds of nearly 100 miles-an-hour.

Hundreds of animals are feared to have perished in the blizzard, the worst for six years.

As communications are repaired in the North Country, East Coast towns prepare for further storms. Vigil is kept so that immediate warning may be given should the sea break through and swamp the land again. Army and R.A.F. personnel have been sent to Canvey Island (where the flooding took such a heavy toll of lives) to repair the broken sea walls.

Twenty-four hours a day, the "little ships" plough to and fro, from the mainland to Canvey Island, to help in mending the breached walls. And, like that other story of the "little ships," this is a race against time. For at this season, the tides run high and should another gale strike, the sea may roll in again.

Millions of sandbags are on their way from the United States and Europe to build barriers against the sea. R.A.F. Transport Command have organised a day and night shuttle service from the Continent to speed delivery before the peak of the Spring Tides. Britain's East Coast prepares for a new peril.