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QUEEN TOURS FLOOD AREAS

Upon the buildings in Purfleet, one of the towns hit hardest by the great flood, white painted lines mark the height to which the waters rose. Now the flood has subsided and the people begin the search for their belongings, scattered and ruined during that night of tragedy.

To meet the people who have suffered so grievously, Her Majesty the Queen makes a personal visit to the Essex town and enters many homes ravaged by the flood. Over at Mablethorpe, the Duke of Edinburgh begins his tour of the flooded areas in a naval DUKW. He has already flown over much of the land to see for himself the scale of the disaster.

At Sutton on Sea, where the sea-wall was severely breached, officials accompany the Duke on a tour of the new defences. R.A.F. and Army men are hard at work alongside many who have left their hometowns to help in the battle against the sea.

Speedily work goes on to shift the great heaps of sand swept in from the sea. Strong winds that have pounded Britain have swept the sand into great mounds, often blocking roads and hampering the work of salvage.

Meanwhile "Operation Sandbag" continues as aircraft fly in from Scandinavia, America and nearly every country in Europe with millions of sandbags to help mend more than 950 breaches in the sea walls along the East Coast.

At Cambridge, the Queen Mother visits a W.V.S. depot. Here distribution of clothing and comforts to the flood areas is arranged by the women who did such a magnificent job of relief during war-time.

The Queen continues her journey to Tilbury. As at all places she visits, crowds are delighted at the interest Her Majesty shows in their welfare. Summing up the feelings of all in Britain, the Queen expresses her heartfelt sympathy for those who have lost so much in the disaster.

Still the angry seas pound the East Coast of Britain. The first of the Spring Tides has struck, but so far the hastily repaired sea-walls have held firm. Soon the tide will rise and the seas batter against the walls. The nation waits - and prays that the new defences will withstand the next assault.