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TORNADO HITS LONDON - DUBLIN STORM DAMAGE:

A freak tornado which ripped across the suburbs of West London, leaves behind a trail of havoc, reminiscent of the war-time blitzes. In the late afternoon, the tornado struck. Within seconds its damage was done. Hurriedly rescue teams went to work, but by a miracle no-one was killed. One of the first places in the whirlwind's path was Gunnersbury, where the roof was torn off the station. About twenty people were on the platform at the time, but only eight received injury.

The hardest hit area was Acton, where walls were ripped down by the whirling wind of air. Brilliant flashes of lightning lit London as the freak storm carved its path of destruction.

Dublin, too, has suffered grievous damage. The railway bridge was totally destroyed by the swollen waters of the River Tolka. The river, which is normally only inches deep, rose to 20 feet and broke its banks. A state of emergency has been declared for the city following flooding on a scale unknown in Dublin for about a century.

Hundreds of families are evacuated from their flooded homes. Rowing boats, manned by police and ambulance men, keep up a shuttle service to clear the stricken areas. Latest news from Dublin tells how squads have blown up the remains of the smashed railway bridge in an effort to save nearby houses from complete destruction.