

STORM DAMAGE AT HATFIELD:

Forty-seven roofless houses - a grim spectacle for the people of Hazel Grove, in Hatfield New Town, after a gale-swept night. Fierce winds raging through Southern England have left a trail of havoc - but none so bad as here. Without warning, the light aluminium roofs were torn away - and forty-seven families are homeless.

As always, disaster brings out the best in people - and help, both official and unofficial, is quickly forthcoming. Neighbours find space for the victims; but local opinion - led by their M.P., Lord Balniel - demands an inquiry into the design and craftsmanship of these post-war houses - which failed to withstand the force of an English storm.