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# LOW LYING COWBRIDGE FLOODED

## Heavy Rains Cause River To Overflow

*floods*

When those people residing in the centre of the low-lying Borough of Cowbridge suffered inundation by a foot of murky water from the rapidly rising River Thaw, on Tuesday morning, they could only philosophise and cast envious eyes in the direction of the nearby village of Llanblethian further down-stream. For in the village of Llanblethian most of the inhabitants were free of all fear of flooding, as the Glamorgan Catchment Board had already completed part of their £13,000 scheme to ease flooding of the Chaw Valley.

Houses in Llanblethian, which had been flooded to a depth of two feet last year, were entirely unaffected this year.

### MINIATURE LAKE

At 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning flood water from the swollen River Thaw cascaded into High Street, Cowbridge, and formed a miniature lake in the vicinity of the Town Hall.

As the heavy rains continued the depth of the water gradually increased, while the inhabitants of houses and shops in the vicinity frantically attempted to erect barricades against it. At 2.30 p.m. the water was two feet high, covering the pavements on either side for a distance of over 100 yards. Traffic along the road, which is the main highway from Swansea to Cardiff, was slowed down by the water. A motor-vehicle driven by an A.A. officer

stalled in the centre of the flooded area, with the result that he had to dismount and push his machine along. Policemen remained on point duty directing the single-line traffic permitted, while pedestrians without waterproof footwear sought "lifts" from passing vehicles in order to get through the flooded area.

At 3.30 p.m. the local fire unit commenced pumping the water away down-stream, under Coy. Officer Edwards and L-Fireman Harris, and the waters gradually subsided. Three-and-a-half hours later there were only small pools in the gutters and wet floors in the nearby houses.

In the Mill Fields Cottages, Cowbridge, there were 30 inches of water on Sunday and Tuesday mornings, with the result that the furniture was floating around the rooms. Another house flooded was the Blue Bell High Street, Cowbridge. At both places the water remained throughout Tuesday.

To the north of Cowbridge was a large sheet of water one square mile in area. Mr Goldsworthy, of Mount Pleasant Farm, which overlooks the Borough, was cut off from the

town by the floods.

### FOUR FEET DEEP

The Brewery yard was also flooded and the Brewery itself was inundated by over four feet of water. A whist drive at the Institute, Cowbridge, on Tuesday night was cancelled because of the dangers of flooding, and the fact that in the afternoon the Institute was isolated from the rest of the town.

Watery Lane, between Aberthin and Maendy, lived up to its name when a surface drain was burst by the excessive amount of water pouring into it. The same story was related in numerous other parts of the Vale, but as a fireman recalled to an "Observer" reporter, "The farmers wanted water!" "Indeed," he added, "the N.F.S. had been employed transporting the sometimes precious liquid to one farm less than two weeks before!"

BELOW—A typical scene in the centre of Cowbridge after the River Thaw had overflowed its banks as a result of the storms and gales of the past week. This photo was taken near the Town Hall. [St. Crispin's, Cowbridge.]