

Behind the News.

BRITAIN'S VITAL HARVEST

Wheat. And for Britain, the most momentous harvest of all time, William Lane, his daughter Kathleen, his wife, his daughter Kimbeth - they and others like them are the food commandos of 1946. Their enemies are wind and rain. And as they work their 130 acre farm, they symbolise the many thousands of small farmers up and down the country whose backs carry a vital share of the world's grain problem.

It might have been an all-machine harvest. It might have been. But the weather took ahead. Wheat laid flat by freak gales needs harvesting by hand. Another year, farmers like William Lane might have let it lie. In this harvest, every ear counts. And so they work in the knowledge that on this month's effort depends Britain's bread supply for 1947.

They begin in the thin light of morning. Their day ends at dusk. Young and old have work to do. They may be prosperous enough today, but they have not forgotten the Black years of British agriculture.

The years between the wars when a farmer could scarcely make a living. They hope that you will see to it that those years never come back.

In some parts of Britain, the harvest promises to be the worst of the century. Here in Buckinghamshire, William Lane reports that things are going fairly well. What it will be like tomorrow, the weather will decide.

Watched by a world crying out for grain, this year's harvest is headline news. And good or bad it will be a triumph for the labour of Britain's farmers.