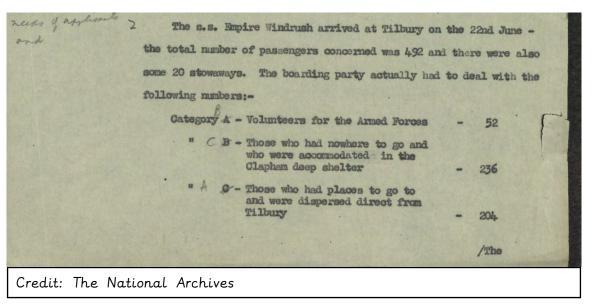
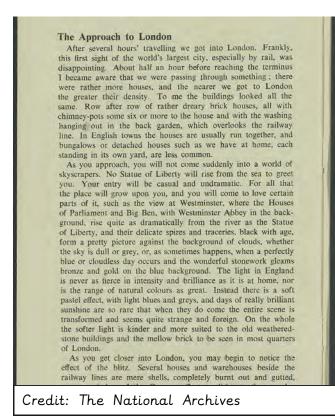
Windrush sources



Source 1



Memorandum from the Assistance Board about arrangements for the Windrush passengers, 1948.



Extract from an information booklet called 'A West Indian in England.' The booklet aimed to give immigrants information about British life in 1949.

Source 2

After several hours of travelling, we got to London. Frankly, this first sight of the world's largest city, especially by rail, was disappointing. To me, the buildings looked all the same. Row after row of rather dreary brick houses, all with chimney pots ... with the washing hanging out in the back garden, which overlooks the railway line.

As you approach, you will not come suddenly into a world of skyscrapers. No Statue of Liberty will rise from the sea to greet you. Your entry will be casual and undramatic. For all that, the place will grow upon you and you will come to love certain parts of it, such as the view at Westminster, where the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben rise quite dramatically from the river.

The light in England is never as fierce in intensity and brilliance as it is at home, nor is the range of natural colours as great. Instead, there is a soft pastel effect with light blues and greys. Days of brilliant sunshine are rare. As you get closer to London, you may begin to notice the effect of the Blitz. Several houses and warehouses beside the railway lines are mere shells, completely burnt out and gutted.

Windrush sources



2

Source 3

OR the past eight months — since I arrived in Birmingham in search of a job-I have lived in the Causeway Green Hostel where the recent racial disturbances have occurred. The problem of Causeway 2 Green is by no means unique in this country. It is an example of Great Britain's colour bar. Similar instances are constantly arising in other parts of the country. My 60 fellow West Indians in the hostel know only too well that the ill-feeling and fighting of the past week cannot be blamed on individual differences of opinion and local domestic arguments. The cause of the Polish-Jamaican dispute goes deeper than that. It is a result of ill-feeling cumulative and resentment, which has grown steadily for more than six months. Fundamentally it boils down to two main factors-accommodation and employment. Credit: The National Archives

I have lived in Birmingham for eight months at Causeway Green looking for work where the fighting between Poles and Jamaicans took place. Disturbances like this are not unusual. It is an example of Great Britain's colour bar [unfair treatment based on their race, colour or country of birth].

Events like this are common in other parts of the country. The 60 West Indians in the hostel know well that the bad feeling and fighting last week cannot be blamed on individual differences of opinion and argument in the area. The cause of the Polish-Jamaican dispute goes deeper than that. It is the result of growing bad feelings and rage which has grown steadily for more than six months. Simply, it comes down to two main things accommodation and employment.

Simplified version of an extract printed in the Birmingham Gazette, 1949.

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Windrush sources



Source 4



Credit: M&N / Alamy Stock Photo

3

A black worker, part of the 'Windrush generation', working on a moccasin in a shoe factory, Leicester, 1959.



Credit: The National Archives

Newspaper story from the 'Southern Daily Echo' (Southampton), 1954.

Source 5

700 work-wanting Jamaicans land at Southampton

Nearly 700 Jamaicans, the biggest party to this country in one ship, sailed into Southampton on Saturday in the Dutch liner Zuiderkruis. All of them hoping to get work in Britain. The party comprised 493 men, 229 women, four married couples, and 16 children. Many of the Jamaicans were met at the Docks by relatives or friends who have come to this country since the war, and others were met at Waterloo. Colonial officials estimated that only about a dozen would need hostel accommodation in London.

The bright dresses and hats of the women made a gay splash of colour in the dock shed as the Jamaicans came ashore for Customs examination before leaving in two trains.

£90 Fare

Majority of the women were dressmakers. All said they were very keen to get work.

The fare from Jamaica to New York by air and to Southampton by sea cost about £90. Since the war, 20,000 people from the West Indies have come to Britain, and only a few have become chargeable to public assistance.