

FIVE KILLED IN TRAIN SMASH NEAR LONDON

Two Coaches of Express Telescoped

Five persons were killed and 23 injured, five of them seriously, when a collision between the Plymouth express and a goods train occurred near Slough yesterday morning. The express, travelling to Paddington, London, had nearly completed its journey when the crash occurred on the main up-line a mile beyond Slough station.

Following names of casualties have been issued:—

Killed—Chief Petty Officer George Antell, Seaman Harry Housley, Seaman Frederick Ives, John Bertram, London Road, Earley, near Reading; and Mrs Bate, Barnstaple, who was on her way to meet her husband, a chaplain in the R.A.F.

Those taken to hospital are:—James Gints, Seaman John Martwick, Seaman William Henry Phillips, Seaman John

Macdonald, Seaman Alfred Leneghan, and Driver Sidney Clay.

Clay was the driver of the goods train, and he collapsed about two hours after the crash.

The crash was heard for a considerable distance, and Home Guards, A.R.P. workers, and first-aid crews were quickly on the scene. The first two coaches of the express had been telescoped, and it was here that most of the casualties occurred. The trucks of the goods train were piled up behind its engine.

It is understood that the express had slowed down at Slough for signals, and but for this the casualties would probably have been much more extensive. Most of those injured were naval men going home on leave, and of those killed three were sailors.

Rescue work was going on for some hours, and it was more than five hours after the accident that the last body was extricated.

Rail traffic on the main lines was reduced to a minimum, but several of the express coaches were detached and sent on to London with their passengers.

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EXPRESS IN COLLISION.

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9.5 A.M.

ABOUT THREE O'CLOCK THIS MORNING THE PLYMOUTH EXPRESS ON THE MAIN G.W.R. LINE TO PADDINGTON CAME INTO HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH A GOODS TRAIN ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF A MILE ON THE LONDON SIDE OF SLOUGH STATION. THREE OF THE LEADING COACHES WERE TELESKOPED AND IT IS KNOWN THAT FIVE PEOPLE, INCLUDING THREE SAILORS, WERE KILLED. A NUMBER OF OTHERS WERE INJURED, FIVE SERIOUSLY.

THE GOODS TRAIN, TOO, WAS VERY BADLY WRECKED AND THE DRIVER OF IT WAS AMONG THE INJURED. THE TRAINS WERE APPROACHING CROSS-OVER POINTS WHEN THE CRASH OCCURRED. THE WHOLE OF THE LINE HAS BEEN BLOCKED AND PEOPLE ARE FINDING GREAT DIFFICULTY IN GETTING TO LONDON.