

EXPRESS CRASH

Sunday night. Sutton Coldfield Station. On its back lay the engine of the York to Bristol Express. People were still under the wreckage, some perhaps alive. Tragedy had come to this little Warwickshire town. ^{Approaching} ~~It~~ its closed station at 4-15 p.m. /the locomotive jumped the track, overturned and piled up with nine of the ten coaches. First aid, firemen and police rushed in from all over the county. Blood transfusions were given on the spot.

52 Pale winter daylight saw rescuers and salvage crews at work side by side. At this stage it was known that 14 passengers were dead, including the pilot driver, who was on the foot-plate to see the train through this section, not its normal route. The death toll is ~~14~~¹⁶, as we receive these pictures. More than 40 are injured - a mercifully small number considering that there were 300 passengers on the train.

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85 Prompt action by Fireman Howell and ticket collector Arthur Gray, who were travelling on the train, averted a far more terrible accident. They ran to a closed signal-box, broke into it and stopped ^{the} ~~The~~ Birmingham-York Express. It pulled up only 200 yards from the wreckage. ^{Some} ~~Local~~ railway people believe that this local line was not equal to a train of this weight and speed.