

2097

4th Feb. 54

Royal Scot in crash near London

A crash at Watford Junction, when the rear coaches of the London-bound Royal Scot came into collision with a Midlands Express. Miraculously, only nine people were injured, though the prompt actions of two men prevented a full-scale disaster.

The (^{MIDLAND EXPRESS} ~~Wolverhampton-bound train~~) was leaving Watford, two minutes late, when the driver (seeing rear coaches of the Royal Scot rocking violently as ~~they~~ sped towards him) applied the brakes.

~~When~~ Aboard the Royal Scot, a passenger pulled the communication cord. The ^{Royal Scot} ~~express~~ slowed down, and the derailed coaches, which broke loose, scraped the ^{now} ~~stationary~~ ^{EXPRESS} ~~train~~ - then stopped, wedged between train and platform. Had the ^{now} ~~Midland-bound~~ train been on time, the ^{collision} ~~disaster~~ would have occurred at speed - with tragic consequences.

Breakdown gangs were quickly in action - clearing the blocked lines. And next morning, it was "business as usual" on this busy highway to the North.