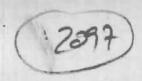
Royal Scot in crash near London



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

The 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.

The express slowed down, and the derailed coaches, which broke loose, scraped the stationary train - then stopped, wedged between train and platform. Had the Midland-bound train been on time, the district 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.