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The F.A. Cup Final at Wembley

1st May 1954

Wembley Stadium. The Final backcloth; crowded with fans, thrills and memories.

Memories of that first pilgrimage in 1923. Then, it was "pay at the gate" ^{TO WEMBLEY} ^{NOT AN ALL}
~~there's room for all. There was!~~ ^{TICKET FINAL AND THEY CAME IN THEIR THOUSANDS} ~~But not on the terraces.~~ Two hours
 before the kick-off, ^{THE STADIUM} ~~Wembley~~ was full. And still they came, crowding down
 the terraces, on to the arena, ~~Somehow, a policeman on a white horse~~
~~cleared the pitch,~~ and with the touchlines ~~still~~ hidden - the game began.
 That's why to-day, it's tickets only! Both finalists have won once at
 Wembley. WEST Bromwich in 1931.
 1938 brought Preston's dramatic success. ^{NO SCORE AND THE} ~~last~~ minute of extra time.
 George Mutch is tackled by Young of Huddersfield. A penalty. Mutch gets
 up and slams it home. ^{George V}
 Preston had won the cup - it was presented by the late King

Cup Final (continued)

1954

So the stage is set. The vast Stadium fills. ~~One hundred thousand and no more.~~ A well-ordered throng - in good heart and voice. / SOUND.

Cheers to greet Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. A break with tradition - as she comes out to meet the teams. First - West Bromwich Albion ~~making~~

Then - the men of Preston. The Cup has been their sole objective - they're fit and fancied. /

The ~~SPIN OF THE COIN.~~ Skipper Tom Finney wins the first round against his opposite number. A tactical battle that will continue through the game. ~~IN THE ROYAL BOX WITH HER MOTHER IS PRINCESS MARGARET~~ Referee Luty of Yorkshire gives the signal. Ronnie Allen passes to striped team-mate, Reg Ryan, the Irish international - the great game is on.

West Bromwich attacking. That fast-moving forward style has made them the team of the season. /

Twenty minutes gone. West Bromwich revealing their fine team work. ~~Constructive half-back play.~~ Lee charges down a clearance to gain possession. A shot at goal curves wide. Allen races in - it's a goal. /

The Albion are one-up; but not for long. Straight from the kick-off - Tom Finney leads a Preston counter-attack. It's partially cleared....to wing-half Docherty. He centres - and Morrison heads it home. /

Preston one. West Bromwich one. Two goals in a minute. The game has come alive. Both teams battling now for that psychological interval lead. The chance falls to Lee. ~~Thompson~~! Thompson blocks his shot. It's scrambled away. /

The Second Half

~~The interval. West Bromwich (in their dressing room) labeling anyone - making somebody history.~~

In the Royal Box - the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret look forward to the second half...

And here it is. Wayman kicks off for Preston - who are hoping to avenge a Cup Final defeat by West Bromwich - sixty-six years ago

The midland side sweeping back in attack. Griffin gets in a shot. It's diverted for a corner

~~Charlie Wayman in action~~ - At the other end, ~~the~~ Albion stop appealing for off-side. Wayman dribbled round Sanders - and scores Preston leading two-one, ^{are} ~~and~~ now - on top. A dangerous centre by Morrison. Well taken by Sanders

Wing-half Barlow tries to rally his side. He's going through. Docherty bars his way - and down he comes.

The Stadium is hushed. Right on the spot, Referee Luty, at least, has no doubts. He points to the spot

A penalty. Allen takes it. Oh! Bad luck, Thompson

Level - two goals each. Winger Lee centres for the Albion. Preston panicking under pressure. Walton nearly past his own keeper

~~Time's running out~~

Time's running out. Extra time looms. Quicksilver Charlie Wayman out on the wing. A fine centre - Sanders plays safe - flips it over - for a corner

Three minutes to go. Then it comes. Griffin beats his back - and shoots..

~~it's there!~~ The victory goal for ~~West Bromwich~~ The Midlands West Bromwich three. Preston two. The Throstles have won the Cup for the fourth time. From the Queen Mother, a great Clubman, Len Millard receives the trophy. A fitting reward for seventeen years of loyal service. And then gives fair warning for next season! SOUND.