

Sutton Coldfield - Express disaster

24th Jan. 55

Warwickshire: At Sutton Coldfield, a tangled mass of wreckage tells of

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the tragic fate that overtook a west-bound express - that jumped the rails while travelling at speed, through the deserted station.

The express (with about three hundred passengers on board) was *bound from* ~~travelling from~~ York to Bristol when the engine left the track - dragging the tender and the first five coaches on a crazy path to destruction.

~~THE ENGINE~~

The locomotive ~~completely~~ overturned - while some of the coaches were left piled up on the empty platform. Fortunately, the rear coaches were held upright by the station roof.

By a tragic co-incidence, the disaster occurred on a line not normally used for main-line expresses - the train having been *diverted* ~~re-routed~~ through Sutton Coldfield - while repairs were carried out on its *usual route* ~~normal course~~.

With the station closed for the day - it was some time before emergency rescue teams and breakdown gangs could be summoned. *A far worse* ~~and a more serious~~

disaster was averted by the prompt action of *two* railway workers (*travelling* ~~journeying~~ *They* ~~who~~ broke into a signal box and set all signals at danger.

This brought a following express to a halt - only two hundred yards from the scene of the *CRASH* ~~disaster~~.

