

SB. 2284.

Excursion Train crash

22nd November 1955

~~Berkshire: The glare of arc lamps outlines a grim tragedy on the permanent~~

**Berkshire:** The glare of arc lamps outlines a grim tragedy on the permanent way as rescue workers toil through the night at Milton, near Didcot, on the wreck of a London-bound excursion train.

The train had picked up passengers at ~~many~~ stations in South Wales, and the disaster occurred after it had been diverted to a relief line, because of track maintenance.

Daylight reveals the full extent of the catastrophe - the shattered remains of four coaches which were dragged by the engine and tender - down a ~~twenty-foot~~ <sup>9 ft 6 in</sup> embankment.

For many hours, the grim work of rescue continued - a task made more poignant by the fact that many of the passengers were making a flying pre-Christmas visit to friends and relations in the Capital.

Servicemen and women from camps nearby did magnificent rescue work. Unhappily, the total casualties exceed one hundred in this - the first passenger train disaster on the Western Region for thirteen years.