

*LB 2402*

~~Through choking~~

Though choking, blinding fog shrouded disaster and death in a London suburb...the Newsreel Camera pierced the tragic curtain of gloom.

So we can now pay tribute to the heroic rescue workers in ~~that~~ *appalling rush-hour tragedy, a disastrous rush-hour rail-crash*

On the railway line between St. John's and Lewisham Station lay tangled wreckage, gaily-wrapped Christmas parcels and death.

In to this holocaust came the rescue workers - to toil for many ~~many~~ *WRECKED* hours with little thought of personal safety amid the ~~shattered~~ coaches

This is the shattered viaduct that crashed down on the leading coaches of the Ramsgate Express.. And though hundreds of tons of twisted steel threatened to collapse any minute - the rescue squads toiled on....

Doctors, police, nurses, firemen - even ordinary passers-by - risking their lives to ~~bring out the injured~~ save the injured and recover the dead bodies.

Through the long night the search continued - in the electric train that was standing at signals just outside Lewisham. *And in the wreckage of* the Ramsgate express that smashed its way into the rear coaches.

~~Through the viaduct was shattered by the fire~~

So into the dawn - when the Nation was stunned by news of the rising death-roll...and our cameras *were* able to gain a clearer picture of the disaster.

The yawning gap in the viaduct, where, mercifully, another crowded train was halted - before *it could plunge* into the wreckage below...

Throughout the entire rescue operation - a close watch was kept on the sagging ~~sinking~~ wreckage of the viaduct...

Meanwhile, in the shattered coaches - on each side of the steam locomotive - the rescue squads toiled on - only stopping to receive hot drinks from ~~the~~ devoted voluntary helpers.

Then, as the fog cleared - the heavy rescue-apparatus was moved in; ~~the~~ huge cranes now helped to uncover the human tragedies that will mar the festive season in so many, many homes

~~And as the deathroll slowly mounted to near the one hundred mark - with many more injured - we extend our heartfelt sympathy to all who bear sorrow in this appalling rush-hour~~

*OVER - NO CUE*

2497

Sheet Two

TOWARDS A HUNDRED

And as the death-roll slowly mounts,

~~THE NATION EXTENDS~~

heart-felt sympathy to all

who bear sorrow in this appalling rush-hour tragedy...

Choking, blinding fog shrouded disaster and death in a London suburb when our cameraman arrived at the ghastly scene of a rush-hour rail tragedy.

Two trains were locked together in a death-like embrace. ~~The crash~~ The front carriages of one - blotted out by <sup>tens of steel</sup> fallen masonry from a ~~viaduct~~ viaduct that had been smashed during <sup>this</sup> the crash. ~~that no one saw.~~ Tattered wreckage... the ~~tangled~~ remains of gaily-wrapped Christmas parcels and death lay on the railway line between St. John's and Lewisham Station...

<sup>And while</sup> ~~While~~ Rescue workers toiled desperately amid the wreckage - we visualised the tragedy...

A stationary electric train which had left Charing Cross for Hayes - packed with workers and Christmas shoppers - was held up by a signal. <sup>BOUND FOR RAMSGATE</sup> Then, with sickening force, a fast steam train ~~was~~ smashed into the ~~back of the train.~~

Wrecked carriages littered the track - a terrifying nightmare for passengers, as their cries pierced the fog. But worse was to follow... The leading coaches of the steam train reared crazily, smashing a fly-over viaduct - bringing <sup>it down</sup> down ~~tens of masonry~~ on the already ~~which~~ entombed passengers.

~~Rescue workers rushing to the scene were hampered by the blinding fog~~ Mercifully, another electric train stopped almost on the brink of that yawning gap...

Rescue workers rushed to the scene: but were hampered by the blinding fog. A score of ambulances were not enough to carry away the injured.

~~The~~ <sup>the</sup> worst London rail disaster south of the Thames - this tragic collision ~~that no one saw~~ - will mar the festive season in many homes... <sup>Altogether</sup> ~~over~~ <sup>AND MORE THAN</sup> sixty were killed, ~~with~~ two hundred injured - victims of this chaos & horror in the fog, the worst disaster in Southern Railway history...