

COURSE, NO ONE REALLY KNOWS WHETHER
AGAIN OR REALLY WANT AN ARMISTICE."

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5.10AM LONDON TRAIN CRASH

AN ELECTRIC TRAIN AND GOODS TRAIN WERE IN COLLISION AT FOREST GATE,

S. ESSEX, EARLY TODAY.

SEVERAL COACHES OF THE ELECTRIC TRAIN WERE DERAILED.

FIRST REPORTS SAID THAT TWO PEOPLE IN THE ELECTRIC TRAIN WERE
INJURED AND TAKEN TO HOSPITAL.

5.17AM. ADD TRAIN CRASH

THE ELECTRIC TRAIN WAS THE 3.45 AM FROM LIVERPOOL ST TO GIDEA
PARK, WHICH IS RUN MAINLY FOR RAILWAY STAFF RETURNING FROM DUTY.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THERE WERE FEW PEOPLE ON THE TRAIN.

6-0 AM. ADD TRAIN CRASH.

MR. W. YATES, OF DAGENHAM SAID " THERE WERE HALF A DOZEN OF US IN THE SECOND CARRIAGE OF THE ELECTRIC TRAIN WHEN WE RAN INTO THE GOODS TRAIN. WE WERE THROWN ABOUT, AND ONE MAN CUT HIS ARM. GAS CHAMBERS ON THE SIDE OF OUR CARRIAGE CAUGHT FIRE, AND WE COULD HEAR GAS ESCAPING.

" WE THOUGHT THEY MIGHT EXPLODE. WE WERE TRAPPED FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES BEFORE A RAILWAYMAN CAME DOWN THE TRACK AND MANAGED TO OPEN THE DOORS OF OUR CARRIAGE.

" WE CLIMBED DOWN AND WALKED ALONG THE TRACK TO MANOR PARK STATION, WHERE SOME OF US GOT LIFTS HOME FROM PASSING MOTORISTS"

THE INJURED INCLUDES THE MOTORMAN OF THE ELECTRIC TRAIN. A NUMBER OF PASSENGERS WERE BADLY SHAKEN UP.

THE LINES ARE BLOCKED.

6.13AM. ADD TRAIN CRASH

THE CRASH OCCURRED ON THE EASTERN SECTION OF BRITISH RAILWAYS BETWEEN FOREST GATE STATION AND BALMORAL ROAD, WEST HAM, SHORTLY BEFORE 4 AM.

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE WAS CAUSED TO BOTH TRAINS.

WEST HAM FIRE BRIGADE, USING FIVE ENGINES WERE QUICKLY AT WORK AND PREVENTED ANY SERIOUS FIRE.

EIGHT AMBULANCES, FOUR FROM EAST AND WEST HAM AND FOUR FROM ESSEX, WERE SENT TO THE SCENE.

FIREMEN WERE STILL HELPING AT THE CRASH SCENE AT 6 AM.

THE ELECTRIC TRAIN WAS ON THE OVERHEAD ELECTRIC LINE RUNNING FROM LIVERPOOL ST. TO SHENFIELD.

6.37 AM. ADD TRAIN CRASH

PART OF THE ELECTRIC TRAIN WAS COMPLETELY WRECKED, ONE CARRIAGE BEING ALMOST REDUCED TO MATCHWOOD.

BREAKDOWN GANGS ARE WORKING AGAINST TIME TO GET THE WRECKAGE CLEARED SO THAT EAST COAST HOLIDAY CROWDS ARE NOT HELD UP.

AT PRESENT THE MAIN LINE FROM LIVERPOOL STREET TO THE EAST COAST IS COMPLETELY BLOCKED. SOME OF IT BY HEAVY CARGO, WHICH FELL FROM THE GOODS TRAIN.

PART OF THE PERMANENT WAY IS DAMAGED, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE SOME HOURS BEFORE THE LINES ARE CLEARED.

*I phoned Mr Cummins at 7.15 am
but could get no reply
tried again at 7.57
no reply*

*J.A.B.
Chief Watchman*

6.39 AM. MEXICO CATTLE BAN
WASHINGTON, SUNDAY:

THE AGRICULTURE SECRETARY, MR. EZRA TAFT BENSON HAS ORDERED THE BORDER TO BE CLOSED FOR IMPORTATION OF CATTLE FROM MEXICO FOLLOWING A REPORTED OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE, THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

5 AM. STEAMER SAYS " WE ARE SINKING"
THE NORWEGIAN STEAMER TERNEFJELL RADIOED " WE ARE SINKING",
FOLLOWING A COLLISION IN FOG WITH THE BRITISH SHIP DOTTEREL
ELEVEN MILES SOUTH WEST OF START POINT, OFF DARTMOUTH, ABOUT
5 AM. TODAY.

7-0 AM. ADD STEAMER.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CREW OF THE TERNEFJELL HAVE BEEN
TAKEN ABOARD THE DOTTEREL.

7.13 AM. ADD TRAIN CRASH.

A BRITISH RAILWAYS (EASTERN REGION) SPOKESMAN STATED
THAT THERE WERE THREE CASUALTIES, NONE OF THEM SERIOUS.

THE GUARDS OF THE TWO TRAINS BOTH SUFFERED SHOCK. THEY
WERE TAKEN TO ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, STRATFORD, BUT WERE
DISCHARGED AFTER TREATMENT.

THE THIRD CASUALTY, THE DRIVER OF THE ELECTRIC TRAIN,
MOTORMAN COLEY, HAS BEEN DETAINED IN HOSPITAL.

ALL FOUR TRACKS WERE BLOCKED AS A RESULT OF THE CRASH, BUT
STRENUOUS EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO REOPEN ONE
OF THEM "FAIRLY SOON"

7.37 AM. U.S. FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILMENT.

-- THE FOLLOWING IS SUBSTITUTED FOR 3.32 AM. MESSAGE---
N ILAND, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY:

TWENTY FIVE TANK CARS OF A SOUTHERN PACIFIC FREIGHT TRAIN WERE
DERAILED FOUR MILES WEST OF HERE YESTERDAY.

RAILROAD AUTHORITIES REPORTED THAT THERE WERE NO INJURIES.

THE DERAILMENT TEMPORARILY BLOCKED ALL TRAFFIC ON THE
S.P'S M IN L NE.

7.55 AM. ADD TRAIN CRASH.

THE MOTORMAN DETAINED IN QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL, STRATFORD (CORRECT), IS MR. WALTER COLEY (48) OF '17, BENNETTS CASTLE LANE, DAGENHAM. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH RAILWAYS (E.R.) FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, AND WELL KNOWN AS AN AMATEUR FOOTBALL REFEREE IN EAST LONDON AND WEST ESSEX.

HE IS ALSO A CRICKETER AND WAS TO HAVE PLAYED IN A MATCH TODAY

8. 25 AM ADD TRAIN SMASH

THE GUARD ON THE ELECTRIC TRAIN, WILLIAM THOMAS GARWOOD, OF ORCHARD STREET, CHELMSFORD, SUSTAINED INJURIES TO HIS BACK AND WAS TAKEN TO QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR X-RAY.

WHEN THE COLLISION OCCURRED GARWOOD WAS THROWN VIOLENTLY AGAINST A RADIATOR IN HIS BRAKE AND HURT HIS SPINE.

DESPITE HIS INJURY, HOWEVER, HE CLAMBERED DOWN FROM THE TRAIN AND STUMBLED ALONG THE TRACK TO THE SIGNAL BOX TO GIVE WARNING OF WHAT HAD OCCURRED.

8. 26 AM ADD STEAMER

G THE NORWEGIAN STEAMER TERNEFJELL, 1,451 TONS, WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1948 AND IS OWNED BY THE A'S RUDOLF.

THE 1,494 TON DOTTEREL, WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE IN NO DANGER, BELONGS TO THE BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL S.S.M CO

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9. 20 AM ADD TRAIN SMASH

THE DOWN MAIN LINE WAS CLEARED AT 8.40 AM AND SINGLE LINE WORKING BROUGHT INTO OPERATION.

THERE IS NOT MUCH LIKELIHOOD OF ANOTHER LINE BEING CLEARED UNTIL ABOUT 11.30 AM

THREE BAOR TRAINS DUE TO REACH LONDON THIS MORNING FOR PARKESTON QUAY VIA COLCHESTER WILL BE DIVERTED VIA IPSWICH, BURY ST EDMUNDS AND CAMBRIDGE. THIS WILL PUT ANOTHER 90 MINUTES ON THE JOURNEY.

9. 25 AM ESCAPED PRISONER RECAPTURED

MICHAEL NIGEL LULLON WOOD, 27 YEARS OLD DARTMOOR PRISONER WHO HAD ESCAPED EARLY IN THE DAY FROM PLYMOUTH HOSPITAL, WAS RECAPTURED AT 11.30 LAST NIGHT BY PLYMOUTH POLICE.

WOOD IS SERVING A SENTENCE OF FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR HOUSEBREAKING PASSED AT GLOUCESTER ASSIZES.



Cameraman's Dope Sheet

Print all names. Attach Press Clippings or other material.
If the story looked good to you, say so, if it didn't, say so too.

SUBJECT LONDON WHITSUN HOLIDAY TRAIN CRASH		
PLACE FOREST GATE	DATE 24 th MAY 1953	
Cameraman K GORDON	Recordist	Footage Shot 400
WHO ELSE COVERED Say if sound or silent		
LIST OF SHOTS VARIOUS SHOTS OF CRASH.		
GOOD WORK BY RAILWAY STAFF OPENED THE DOWN MAIN LINE SO THAT HOLIDAY COAST TRAFFIC COULD GET THROUGH.		
PICTURE SHOWS TRAINS PASSING CRASH.		

Was there anything unusual about the story?
If you were assessing it editorially, what would you say?