

SUTTON COLDFIELD RAIL DISASTER.

By the light of flares and floodlamps, rescue workers search amongst the wreckage of the York to Bristol Express which crashed at Sutton Coldfield, 7 miles North East of Birmingham. As the train entered Sutton Coldfield station, the engine left the rails, overturning six of the ten coaches.

First aid squads stand by. Nurse Gellion (on the right) has been here for fifteen hours. Relief workers began their tasks at once. The W.V.S. were there throughout the night. A pilot driver was on the footplate at the time of the crash, for the train has been diverted. He and the fireman were killed, but the normal driver escaped with injuries. As dawn breaks, work still goes on. The engine, which had crashed into the station platform, blocked the line, and it was due to a Railway Fireman who was travelling on the train that an even worse tragedy was averted. He ran to a signal box and gave the danger signal that halted another express approaching from the South.

It is significant that the all-steel coaches of the train were not so seriously damaged as those constructed of wood. There were no deaths in the steel coaches. The engine has been removed by cranes so that rescuers may continue their searching. Since these pictures were taken, it is known that about 25 people have been seriously injured and that the death-roll stands at 17. It is feared that several more bodies are yet to be discovered.

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