

18 Cars Derailed, Three Burn Near College Park

B. & O. Lines Blocked; Explosives Danger Hampers Firemen

Eighteen Baltimore and Ohio freight cars were derailed near College Park, Md., shortly before midnight, tying up B&O traffic in both directions.

A score of Prince Georges County fire companies rushed to

Picture of Wrecked Cars Burning Near
College Park. Page A-5

the scene to fight stubborn fires which destroyed three tank cars believed to be carrying chemicals. The derailment occurred at a crossing near the community of Lakeland.

There were no reports of injuries in the wreck. However, a member of the Berwyn Rescue Squad, identified as L. Edwards of Branchville, suffered a cut head when he fell on a pipe.

An automobile equipped with a loud speaker system was brought to the scene by county police to warn the hundreds of spectators back after police were told three of the box cars contained explosives.

Tracks Torn Up.

Early arrivals at the scene—about a mile east of the College Park station—said it appeared a brake coupling had broken on a car in the middle of the 87-car train. The dragging metal tore up southbound tracks for several hundred feet, throwing 18 cars in the middle of the train off the track.

Witnesses said the freight cars were jumbled along the right-of-way like a collection of toy freight cars which had been kicked aside.

The locomotive and 33 cars in the front part of the train continued to Riverdale before stopping, police said. Three other cars at the rear of the south-bound train were dragged away from the fire by another locomotive. The train was headed for Potomac yards.

Fire Fought With Foam.

Firemen fought the smoky blaze with foam. Fire trucks had to make several trips to the College Park fire station to obtain additional supplies.

The District foam wagon was sent to the scene. It broke down about a half a mile away, and a District crane was sent out to tow it to the tracks.

Railroad officials said a Washington-bound passenger train from Chicago was held up, and a west-bound passenger train from Washington was also delayed.

Mrs. Alberta Cordove, colored, who lives at Fifty-fourth street and Cleveland avenue, Lakeland, said she was ironing about 11:20 p.m., when she suddenly heard a loud bumping sound.

Early reports from county officials said the train had hit a car.

Flames from the burning tank car leaped 50 feet into the air for more than an hour.

Lakeland is a small community on the outskirts of College Park. It is about five miles from the District line.

Irked Truck Driver Hurt

CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

Evening Star (online), 11 May 1952 1 <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.dclibrary.idm.oclc.org/apps/news/document-view?>

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