



TOPPLED FREIGHT CAR blocks Highway 10 near Port Credit following a crash of CPR and CNR freights early today. Two men, CPR engineer Joseph Cassidy and CNR conductor John O'Donnell, were

killed in the wreck. The 124-car CP train smashed into the rear of the CN freight after an open switch swung it on to a spur line. Railway officials expect to have the westbound line open by noon today.

—Star Photo by Frank Teskey

2 trainmen killed as big freights in crash

Special to The Star

PORT CREDIT — A mile-long CPR freight train hurtled into the rear of a CNR freight early today, killing two men and blocking the line and Highway 10 with splintered box cars.

Engineer Joseph A. Cassidy of Parkwood Village Dr., Toronto was killed in the cab of the leading CPR diesel. CNR Conductor John

O'Donnell of Scarboro was thrown out of the caboose and crushed to death under a gondola car.

One shattered boxcar plunged over the edge of the overpass and landed upside down on the highway. Another rode up on top of a tanker car full of diesel oil and teetered on the edge.

Tracks were ripped up and 20 freight cars thrown

into a mass of crumpled wreckage. Two piggy-back trailers and their flatcars were demolished. Three diesel locomotives hauling the 124-car CP train were derailed and smashed.

Two undamaged tankers loaded with propane gas were among the first to be hauled away.

The CN freight had apparently just pulled off the main freight line on to a siding when the collision occurred. After some wreckage was cleared, the switch was seen to be locked open.

Investigators believe the CP freight came up just after the CN train cleared from the main line and before the switch could be closed.

The switch swung the CP train into the siding directly into the rear of the CN train.

CPR Conductor Wallis Baines said his freight slowed "very little" as it approached the overpass. Forty of the 124 cars were loaded, and it was "a very, very heavy train," he said.

Mike Czapala, brakeman on the CN freight, was taken to hospital with a leg injury. He is believed to have been out of the caboose when it was rammed and blasted into fragments. Other members of both crews were unhurt.

The CNR chartered Gray Coach buses to pick up commuters between Hamilton and Toronto.

Railway officials expected to have the westbound line clear by noon and all tracks open later today.

Cassidy's body was removed soon after the crash, but O'Donnell lay trapped under the gondola car for nearly seven hours. Rev. Basil Breen of St. Mary's Church administered last rites.

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