

THE GREAT  
1918 MEGANTIC  
WRECK.

SAME THING, SAME PLACE.

## MEGANTIC

APRIL 10, 1918

A double-headed eastbound freight train left Farnham bound for the Division Point of Megantic Sunday April 10 1918. It was the last year of the Great War and the Canadian Pacific mainline to the Atlantic Port of St John was very busy. The ice would still be in the St Lawrence River so the Port of Montreal would not be open yet. The train was heavy with grain and flour. The freight train had passed through Sherbrooke and was heading up to the summit. At Glen River the train came to a halt, and one engine was cut out the train. One of the engines was uncoupled and went on its own to Megantic. The lone engine then started to haul the cars down the steep grade, but Engineer John Adams soon discovered that they had forgot the "cut-in" on the air line on the freight cars, when the engines had been uncoupled. The only air pressure for the air brakes was on the one locomotive only. Owing to the steep grade the engine was unable to hold back downward rushing freight cars. Every minute the run away freight train gained momentum. Engineer Adams blew the locomotive whistle hard to warn the two brakemen and conductor that the train was out of control and to run along the top of the cars to apply the hand brakes. The train crew got the message and ran along the top of the train turning the brake wheels on every car. Despite the fact that some of the car brakes had been applied and the engine brakes were jammed on; the train slid downhill, through the S bend, past the lumber mill. Now St Agnes Church was on the left, downtown Megantic to the right. Then came the Quebec Central switch, followed by the Yard Lead switch and the west-end Megantic yard tracks .

A westbound freight train from Maine, lead by CPR No. 3546 was just pulling in, running past the station, facing on its left the curving yard throat and dead ahead could be seen St Agnes Church. Engineer William Wilson had only a brief moment when the run away train rounded the curve and smashed into his Baldwin steam locomotive. One account states that there was an explosion on impact as the steam boilers exploded. Twenty five freight cars littered the yard and the Main Street crossing.

Engineer Wilson and fireman J. Boulet were killed in the collision. Engineer Adams and Fireman D. Marr were injured, as well as the Brakesmen, L. Greaney, W.J. Murphy, D. McIver and Conductor A. J. Johnson. Two dead, six injured out of two five man crews.

# GRAVE COLLISION HIER A MEGANTIC

Hier soir, vers 7 heures, deux trains de fret chargés de grains et de farine sont venus en collision sur le C.P.R.

## Deux morts, plusieurs blessés

(Service spécial de la PATRIE)

SHERBROOKE, 11. — Deux hommes sont morts et un autre est dans un état grave à la suite d'un terrible tamponnement qui se produisit hier soir à Lac Mégantic vers sept heures et demie à une centaine de verges de la gare entre deux convois de fret chargés de grains et de farine. Billy Wilson, ingénieur de Lac Mégantic et M. Boulet, chauffeur, âgé de 31 ans, demeurant à Farnham, sont morts et John Adams, ingénieur, est gravement blessé. Vingt-deux wagons ont été culbutés l'un par dessus l'autre et les deux locomotives ne sont plus qu'une ruine. La bouilloire de l'une fit explosion. La scène du désastre présente un aspect terrible. Le coroner Daignault, de Sherbrooke, tiendra une enquête ce soir.

La Patrie,  
Montréal  
April 10  
1918

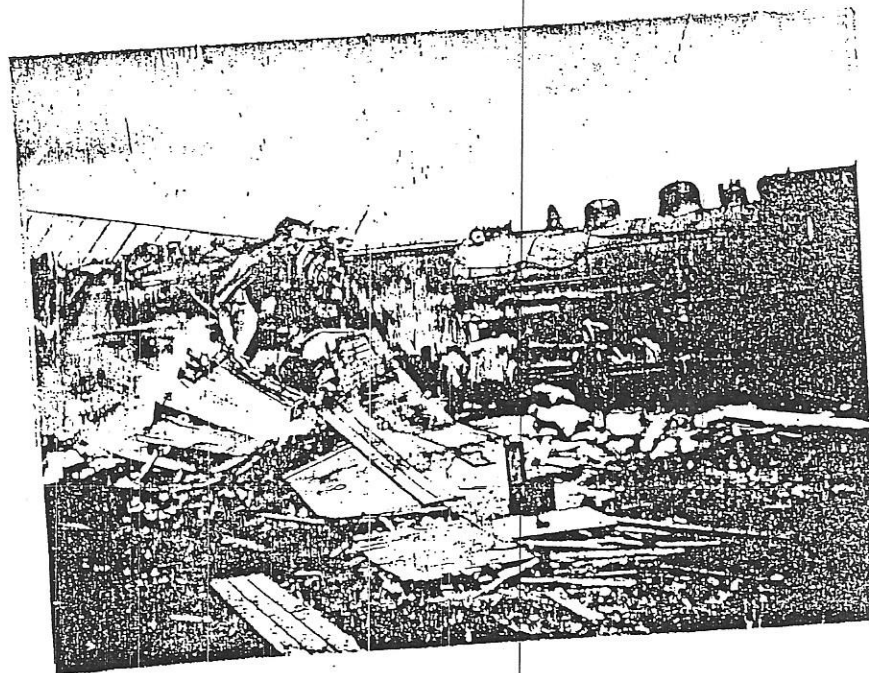


Category 21.616 Photograph A-1078  
Subject Canadian Pacific Railway freight train collision at Megantic, Quebec.  
April 10, 1918.

Source 76-J.C. McCracken  
Photographer  
Date April 10, 1918  
Prev Neg No. CP Corp. Archives  
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PS Negative

Remarks:



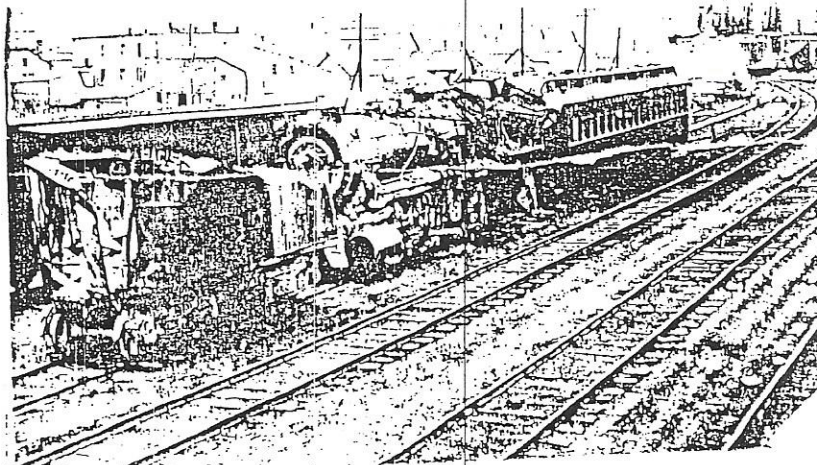
Canadian Pacific  
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Public Relations and Advertising  
Montreal, Canada H3C 3E4

Category 21.616 Photograph A-1073  
Subject Canadian Pacific Railway. Aftermath of freight train collision at  
Megantic, Quebec on April 10, 1918.

Source 76-McCracken, J.C.  
Photographer  
Date April 1918  
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Photographer.....

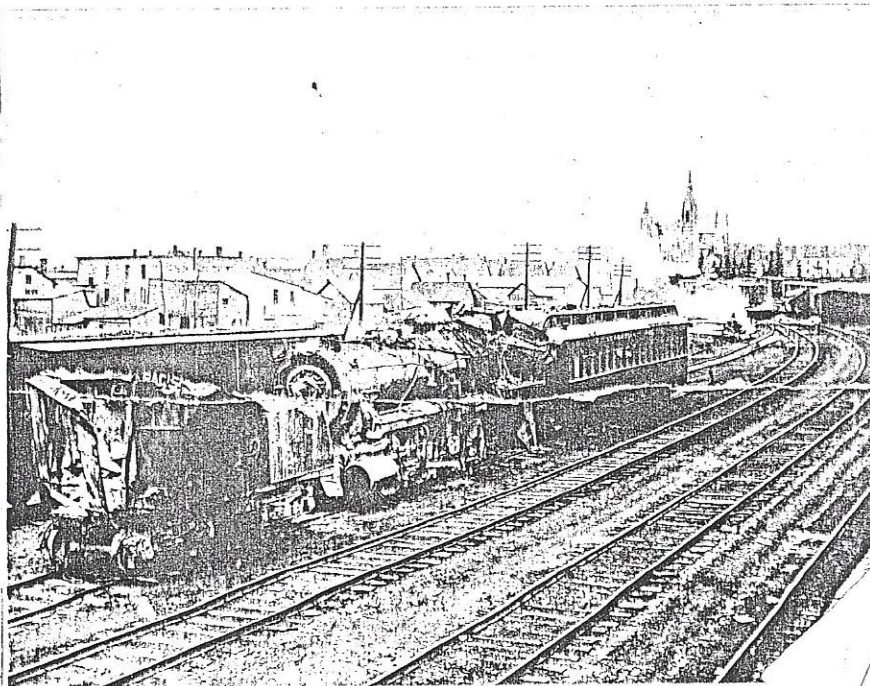
Date April 1918

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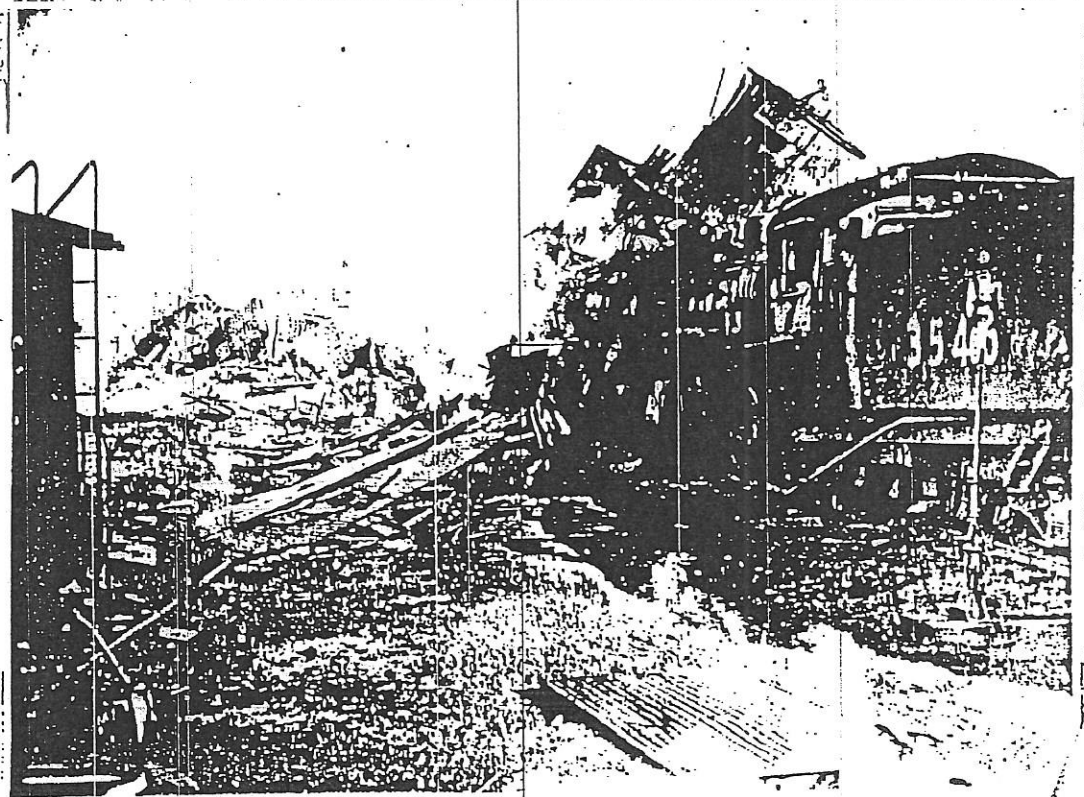
A-1071

ian Pacific Railway freight train collision at Megantic, Quebec on  
10, 1918.

Cracken, J.C.

10, 1918

Corp. Archives  
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CHRA

INCANNU  
Region de Farvum

Pods Riley, Fitz Roy

