

3 Dead, Many Hurt in Wreck of St. Luisan

(Columbus Evening Dispatch, November 14, 1943)

At least three persons were killed and dozens were believed injured early Sunday when the St. Luisan, all coach Pennsylvania train, struck an automobile near James road crossing , causing nine of the 12 coaches to be derailed.

Known dead were the engineer, C.L. Wollard, of Steubenville, Ohio and the two passengers in the automobile, which bore the license number which was issued to Sylvia I. Weber, 71 Morrell Ave.

The wreck occurred one-fourth mile west of James road. Trainmen reported there were 512 persons on the train, 25 of them Columbus-bound. The train, coming from New York, was due in Columbus at 1:33 a.m. and was running five minutes late.

Conductor McDonough reported that the first coach was thrown many feet into the air.

All available ambulances and emergency cars were sent to the scene but reports of injured were slow in materializing.

Bodies of both passengers in the automobile were not recovered more than an hour after the wreck.

Among the injured were Fireman Christian Abbott, of Carnegie, Pa., fractures of the right leg and scalds about the face and head.

Pvt. Elbert Hancock, 38, of West Greenwood Av., Columbus, a military policeman. His injuries , not series were treated at St. Frances Hospital.

Practically all of the passengers were asleep when the wreck occurred.

Staff Sergt. H.E. Haney of Portsmouth, Ohio, gave the first eye-witness account of the wreck. He was riding in the third from last coach which was only half derailed.

"I felt the train hit the automobile," he said, "I was just dozing. Then the train lurched. I figured it was leaving the rails so I braced myself. All the lights were out but, I saw a sailor pitched half the length of the car. None in my coach was hurt."

Sergt. Haney, who is stationed at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., was on his way home on a furlough. He helped to extricate the fireman from the wreckage.
