

## Tab Fallen Brake Beam as Cause of Rail Wreck

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(Columbus Dispatch, August 18, 1957) New York Central Railroad spokesmen advanced a tentative theory Saturday night that a brake beam, falling from a freight car on a siding switch, caused a wreck which derailed 32 cars of a 92-car train Friday night at Brice, Ohio.

A spokesman in the chief dispatchers' office said it would probably be at least noon Sunday before wreck crews could dig through the debris to determine the exact cause of the crack-up at 10:35 p.m. Friday.

Brake beams are used to hold the brake shoes against the wheels of freight cars. It is theorized that the beam tore up the tracks, causing the derailment of the following cars.

**NO ESTIMATE** has been made of the dollar damages, the railroad said.

The 92-car train, en route from Hobson, near Gallipolis, to Columbus was described as a "symbol" freight, one carrying relatively important cargo.

NYC traffic is being diverted over the Chesapeake and Ohio tracks until its own line is cleared, the railroad said. Two railroad wreck cranes were on the job clearing up the wreckage Saturday afternoon.

**EIGHTEEN OF** the 32 wrecked cars were carrying coal, the railroad said.

Two were empty equipment cars, five were filled with wallboard, and one car each carried pineapple, skids, paper, phosphate, clay furniture and gravel.

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## Clean Up

The two photos that follow were taken that August 1957 weekend as the New York Central Railroad was picking up the pieces from the Brice wreck. The NYC still had a steam wrecker. It looks like it was a challenge to separate the jumble of broken freight cars.

Photos by Alex Campbell

