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### SEVEN CROWDED DAYS

As October merged with the month which officially heralds winter, a variety of world affairs held the nation's attention. It was a rainy October morning as the King unveiled the memorial Statue of his father, King George V. In the shadow of the Houses of Parliament the celebrities of the land assembled to commemorate a great King.

The Statute of George V was recalled as a son paid tribute to his father.

SOUND

Earl Baldwin, the late-King's last Premier, was among those present as the King went on to say:-

SOUND

Together with the Queen-Mother, the Queen and the Princesses, the King stepped into the grey Autumn Day to take a final look.

The Statue is the centrepiece, within the Capital, of that great national memorial spread over the whole Kingdom - the "King George Playing Fields." It is set up jointly by the people of Britain and the Commonwealth.

The following day brought an event which was the talking point of the moment.

Hundreds of motorists went to London's Hyde Park to protest against the abolition of the Basic Petrol ration. Ten thousand were expected - but only five hundred turned up. The majority probably ran out of their last basic gallon on the way. Their claim is that the five million pound saving involved in the cut will result in a loss of production and incentive. Emphasising that point, motor industrialist Sir Miles Thomas told the demonstrators:

SOUND

Despite all the slogans, and speeches, it was a safe bet that Sir Stafford Cripps will stand firm on the Government's decision. But the week's dramatic story came from mid-Atlantic - a daring rescue, cheating the sea of sixty-nine victims. It begins in Ireland. The Bermuda Sky Queen, a giant flying boat takes off bound for America. Unexpected headwinds eat up petrol dangerously and pilot

Charles Martin decides to land near the U.S. weather ship BIBB, eight hundred miles North-East of Newfoundland. Despite gale winds and 37 foot seas, he makes a perfect landing. Then for the plane's 69 passengers - 34 of them British - begins a 24 hour ordeal. After a day and night of heroic seamanship by the BIBB's crew, all are saved and the BIBB heads for Boston. The plane, hopelessly damaged by the great seas is sunk. But her passengers (among them fifteen women and thirteen children) are safe. Boston gives rescued and rescuers and tumultuous welcome. 68-year-old Mrs. Last tells her story:-

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Behind these survivors is an ordeal of cold, dangerous, hungry, seasick hours aboard the crippled plane. And the triumph of brave men over angry seas -- repeated trips in small boats and fragile rafts through mountainous waves -- ends with happy reunions on Constitution Wharf in Boston.

And at the close of a crowded week came a tragedy which shocked the nation.

As heavy morning fog blanketed Southern England, Croydon was the scene of Autumn's worst rail disaster. Pathe cameras fly over the rescue work to bring these vivid pictures to the screen. At the peak of the morning rush, two trains, crowded with city travellers, collided. To 29 people came death. Nearly 100 more were injured.

Rescue parties searched the wreckage to free passengers trapped in the telescoped carriages.

Doctors and ambulance men rushed to the scene from neighbouring districts. Clambering over the debris, they gave first aid.

Firemen led the passengers to safety. Debris was littered all along the line and several carriages disappeared in a tangle of steel frames.

Occupants of nearby houses were the first to give aid. Their stories told of the grim heroism by the trapped and wounded.

The death roll is the heaviest in any London rail smash within the past century. It is the worst accident since the Bourne End disaster in 1945 when 43 people were killed. It was a sober ending to the week's news.