

WORST FOG IN MEMORY

Fog - the longest and thickest on record - brings Britain its darkest days since the blackout. Blanketing all parts of the country, it gives transport services an even bigger headache than Bank Holiday. Trains run hours behind time. In 144 hours of non-stop fog, five trains are in collision. Four die - fifty are injured. In day-and-night ordeal, signalmen work heroically to bring passengers safely through. The miracle is that so few lost their lives. The railway workers deserve the nation's thanks.

Detonators laid on the rails signal the approach of oncoming trains. Despite everything, they still go through.

The culprit is the November sun. Having already shed its summer load, it fails to provide sufficient heat to dispel warm currents of air arriving from the Gulf Stream. Once here, the fog comes to stay.

Emergency flares guide traffic through city streets plunged in gloom. Until the fog finally lifted Britain was back in the Dark Ages.