

EASTER.

In church and chapel the people gathered at Eastertide. In the passage of time Easter has become not only a religious festival, but a public holiday - a well earned break from the pattern of daily life. So with the missus and kids, Mr. Everyman set off from home. Where was he going? The seaside, the country, the races? Wherever he should decide, his coach awaited him.

Queues were the order of the day at London's main-line stations. But there was no holiday for the railwayman - or, indeed, for quite a number of people. How many of us spread a thought for them, for the men who had to cope with things like this? It took fifty firemen to deal with this top floor blaze near Victoria Station. Thanks to their ready help there was no casualties.

For a lot of us a good "go" in the garden or the allotment was our holiday. Or, if the wife finally got her way, maybe this, Pathe News looked in on a man in the headlines: Derek Kinns, George Cross, the hero of a Korean P.O.W. camp. He now hires out washing machines to the people of Leeds. While he was attending to his business, hundreds of motorists got out their old fivvers and were off into the wilds.

At Luton, the crowds turned out for a taste of the traditional Easter - a hat parade. And what a collection there was - every shape, size and colour to appeal to any young girl's fancy.

Then came the parade proper - and proper was the word all right. They certainly didn't spare a thing to make this the biggest show Luton had seen for a long time.

Meanwhile, up in Scotland, Easter Day looked more like Christmas, which suited skiers down to the ground - or rather up to the heights. And not only locals - many people came from below the border to take part in the Scottish Kandahar Race held near Aviemore, Mind you, not all were experts -

Coming down to earth within a bang (and what a bang) London's New Cross Stadium put on Britain's first stock-car race. British, American and French drivers competed in the biggest knock-em-down, drag-em-out rough house of the year. And if you think it's strictly for men only, well you're wrong - somewhere out in the middle there are two lady drivers, one French and one British.

If that isn't your idea of an Easter, well this must be. It was just one of about 20,000 similar, "happiest days" that took place during the holiday.

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holiday.

Guess what all this is about? Strange as it may seem, its a clash between England and America. And, yes, the answer's marbles. At Tinsley Green, on the Surrey-Sussex border, the Gobs (in other words the U.S. Navy) challenge the Tinsley Tigers.

Care for something more robust? Well what more bright and breezy than a typical Cockney's day-out on Hampstead Heath.

Then when it was all over for another year, came the long trek home. We'd spent a lot more money than we'd intended for that tiny bit of sunshine, but, of, what a lovely Easter it was.

