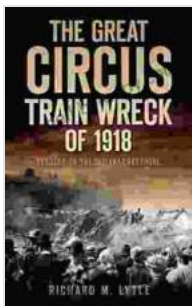


The Great Circus Train Wreck of 1918: A Tragic Tale of Death, Disaster, and Resilience

On the evening of June 22, 1918, a catastrophic train wreck occurred in Hammond, Indiana, claiming the lives of 86 people and injuring hundreds more.

The victims were performers, workers, and animals from the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The circus was traveling from Chicago to Milwaukee when its train derailed, causing a series of explosions and fires.



The Great Circus Train Wreck of 1918: Tragedy on the Indiana Lakeshore (Disaster) by Richard M Lytle

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1844 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 115 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The disaster was one of the worst in American history. It shocked the nation and cast a pall over the country's wartime morale.

The Events Leading Up to the Disaster

The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus was one of the most popular entertainment attractions in the world in the early 20th century.

The circus traveled by train, and its massive train consisted of 68 cars, including sleeping cars for the performers and workers, boxcars for the animals, and flatcars for the equipment.

On June 22, 1918, the circus train was traveling through Hammond, Indiana, when it approached a railroad crossing.

The crossing was guarded by a crossing gate, but the gate was malfunctioning. The train's engineer did not see the gate, and the train crashed into the side of a freight train.

The Disaster

The impact of the collision was catastrophic. The train derailed, and the cars piled up on top of each other.

Several of the cars caught fire, and the flames quickly spread to the other cars.

The performers and workers were trapped inside the burning cars. Many of them were killed instantly, while others died from their injuries.

The animals were also killed in the disaster. Elephants, lions, tigers, and other animals were burned alive or crushed to death.

The Aftermath

The Great Circus Train Wreck was one of the worst disasters in American history. It claimed the lives of 86 people and injured hundreds more.

The disaster shocked the nation and cast a pall over the country's wartime morale.

In the aftermath of the disaster, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus canceled its tour and went into mourning.

The circus eventually resumed its tour, but it never fully recovered from the disaster.

The Legacy of the Great Circus Train Wreck

The Great Circus Train Wreck of 1918 is a reminder of the dangers of train travel and the importance of railroad safety.

The disaster also highlights the resilience of the human spirit. Despite the tragedy, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus continued to perform, bringing joy to millions of people around the world.

The Great Circus Train Wreck of 1918 was a tragic event that claimed the lives of 86 people and injured hundreds more.

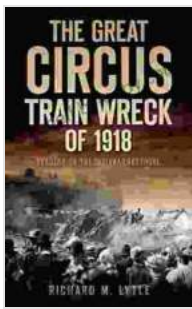
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