

Lucky Escape

Each weeknight two young ladies caught the same tram home. Traveling east along Bridge Street, and then continuing along Victoria Street. Every night the two friends always sat together on the same seat, on the wooden bench seat on the right hand side of the motorman, in the front section of the tram.

On the evening of the 16th September 1970 Tram number 20 was traveling this route. Only one of young ladies caught the tram this evening. She sat alone in the same section of the tram, but on this occasion, on the left hand side of the motorman.

As the it was traveling along Victoria Street, an out of control semi-trailer crashed through the tram, almost demolishing the entire body. The motorman Ian Tierney, leapt from the moving tram moments before impact. The only seat remaining was the one where the young lady was sitting on this night.

The passenger appeared to be physically uninjured, the motorman however severely injured his back, and later suffered anxiety and stress due to the incident, and was never able to work again. Whether the passenger suffered any delayed stress or anxiety issues are unknown.

Wayne Kell
(Pitman 1968 - 1971)