

Never made it back
Written by Bill Webb

Available on 'moromelodious' by Jigsmith www.jigsmith.com

Never made it back

MUSIC + LYRICS
BY BILL WEBB
© 2010

V.

EM D/E EM AM G
AM BM AM G Cmaj7 BM
EM Am Bm EM
Cm C G Am Bm EM D/E
EM/G Am Bm Cmaj7 D
EM

www.jigsmith.com



Never Made it back (The Welshampton rail disaster) By Bill Webb ©2010

The year was eighteen ninety seven on June the eleventh day
A tragedy struck on a railway track, a cruel trick fate did play
The scene was along the Cambrian line in the Shropshire countryside
Fifty or more were injured there and eleven people died

Ch

Chorus
Singing laughing on the way rolling down the track
Not knowing some would die that day (and never make it back) *see below final ch.*

From Royton town in Lancashire these travellers had set forth
On a day trip down to Barmouth from this mill town in the north
The day had been a great success with spirits running high
Some would reach their homes again but sadly some would die

Chorus

A Sunday school excursion, a day arranged for fun
A visit to a seaside town for fresh air, sea and sun
But oh! what tragedy in store along the line did wait
A perfect day was ended by a cruel twist of fate

No Ch

Moving at a lively pace for Lancashire heading back
Just past Welshampton station this train did leave the track
Carriages thrown upon their sides, broken, crumpled, shattered
Twisted steel and splintered wood along the lineside scattered

Instr

Russ only

The enquiry said speed was to blame and the track was not maintained
But earlier on that fateful day a Cambrian guard complained *this vs Guitar + voice*
That the brake van from the L&Y was not riding right
And being placed at the front of the train it may have caused that plight

No Chorus

Where once the rails and sleepers lay are fields of verdant green
No longer do the trains roll by, no sign of where they've been
But on a wall in Royton town there still remains a plaque
In memory of those who died and never made it back

Ch x2 (Last line final ch =day, they never made it back)

The Welshampton rail disaster occurred on 11th June 1897 and at the time was the most serious accident on company lines. An excursion from Royton in Lancashire carrying members of the United Sunday schools was returning home following a day trip to Barmouth. The train derailed east of Welshampton station with 9 people losing their lives and a further 2 dying in hospital, over 50 were seriously injured. The enquiry put the cause as excessive speed over track with poor sleepers and rail that was to light. However, the Cambrian Railway Co disputed this as a guard had earlier mentioned that the brake van belonging to the Lancs & Yorks Rly was "riding rough" and as this was positioned at the front of the train on the homeward journey it was suggested that this was the cause. A memorial plaque is set in the wall of the Town Hall in Royton to commemorate the disaster. Wm. Webb Jan 2010