

David Allan Coe

"Great Nashville Railroad Desister"

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One sultry summer morning in the year of 19-18
Three hundred men with ebony skin pulled out of Union
Station
Headed out of Nashville for western Tennessee
Homeward bound cause Uncle Sam closed down the
munitions factory
At that very moment on the Cheatham County line
Old No 1 train from Memphis was runnin' way behind
Buck in the smokey club car a Memphis gamblin' man
Said gentlemen I'm foldin' these cards cause I drew a
dead man's hand

A young man in a milk truck out near Dutchman's
Grade
Said my God two trains one track then he closed his
eyes and he prayed
A sister from the orphan's home made a cross upon
her chest
Cause a one iron beast was comin' from the east
And another one was comin' from the west
The birds flew from the treetops as the impact shook
the ground
The scaming wheels and the grinding steel could be
hard for miles around
The birds flew from the treetops...

Now every July 9th a few miles west of town
To this day some folks will say you can hear that
mournful sound
One sultry summer morning in the year of 19-18
Three hundred men with ebony skin pulled out of Union
Station

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