

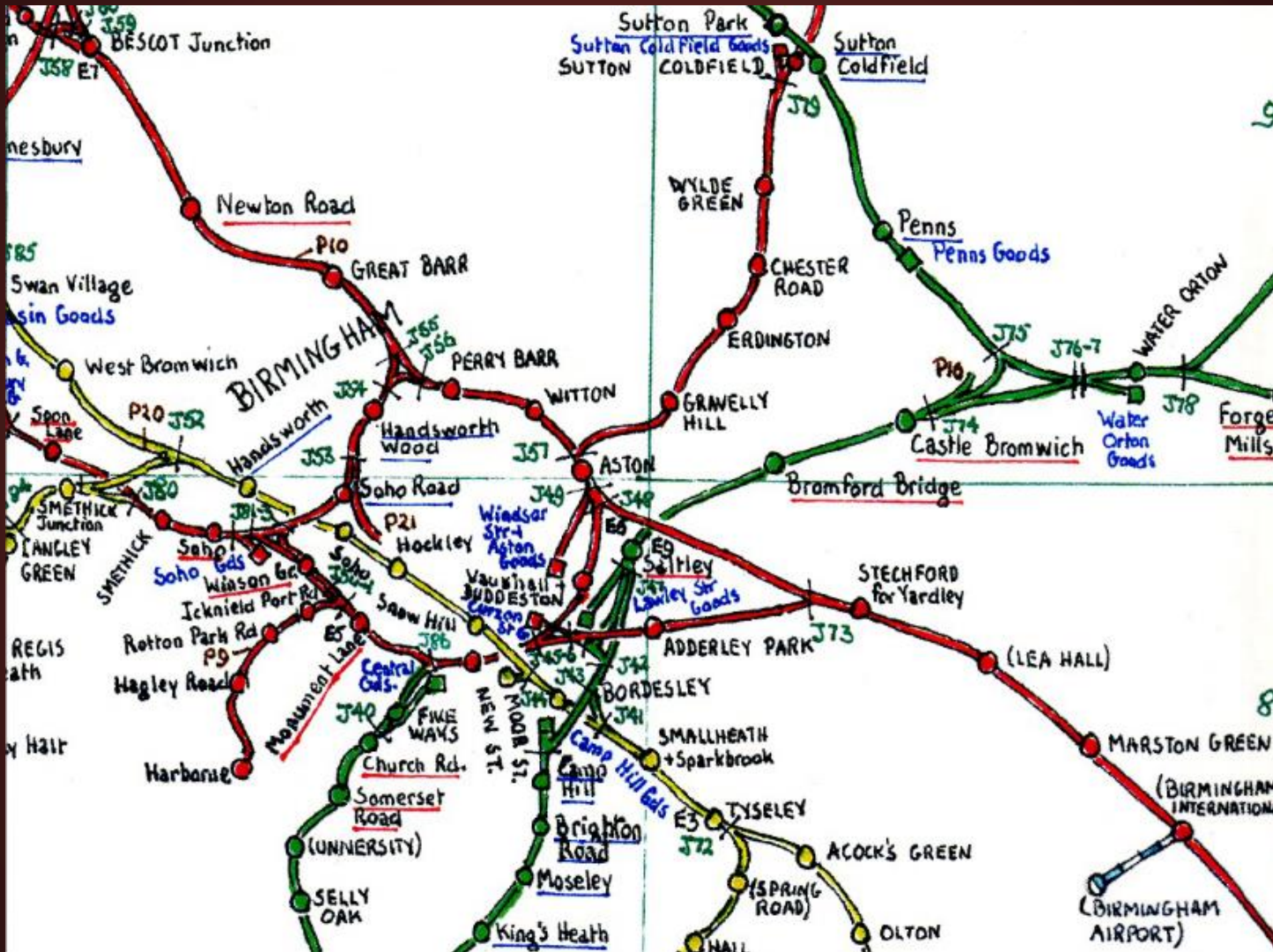
Vacation work on the Christmas Post at New St Station, Birmingham

or

*Reaping unanticipated benefits from
what my Headmaster had termed 'a
pointless pursuit'.*

- ❑ Erdington to Selly Oak, 1951 to 1955
- ❑ Trainspotting at New St, 1955-59
 - unwittingly acquiring local and national knowledge
- ❑ Working the Christmas post, 1962 and 1963

Erdington to Selly Oak





Bradford Barton



Pre-war LNW side

Warwickshire Railways



Rebuilding LNW side, 1947



New St Platforms 5 and 6

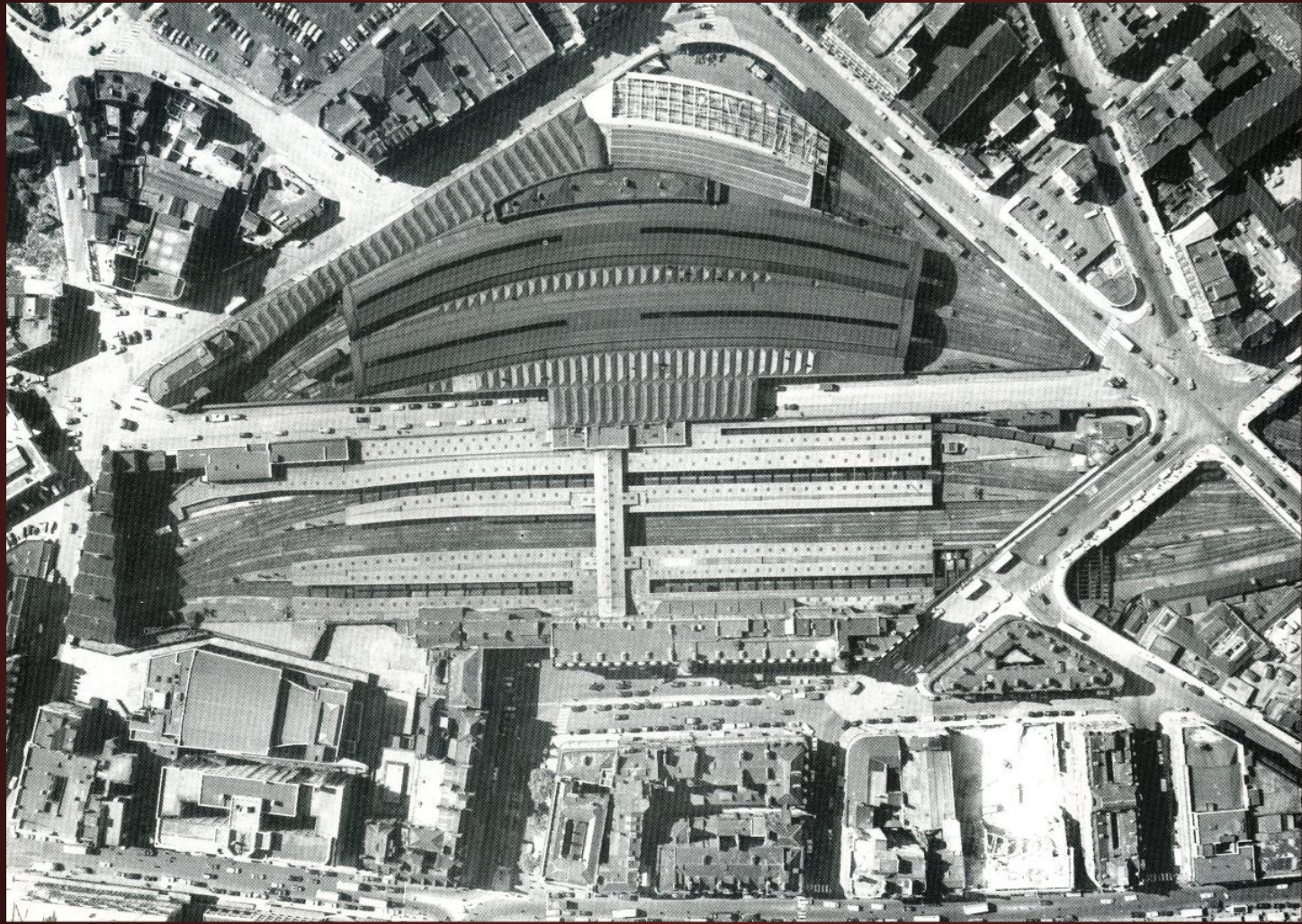


Birmingham New Street
Parcels not Passengers



Queen's Drive

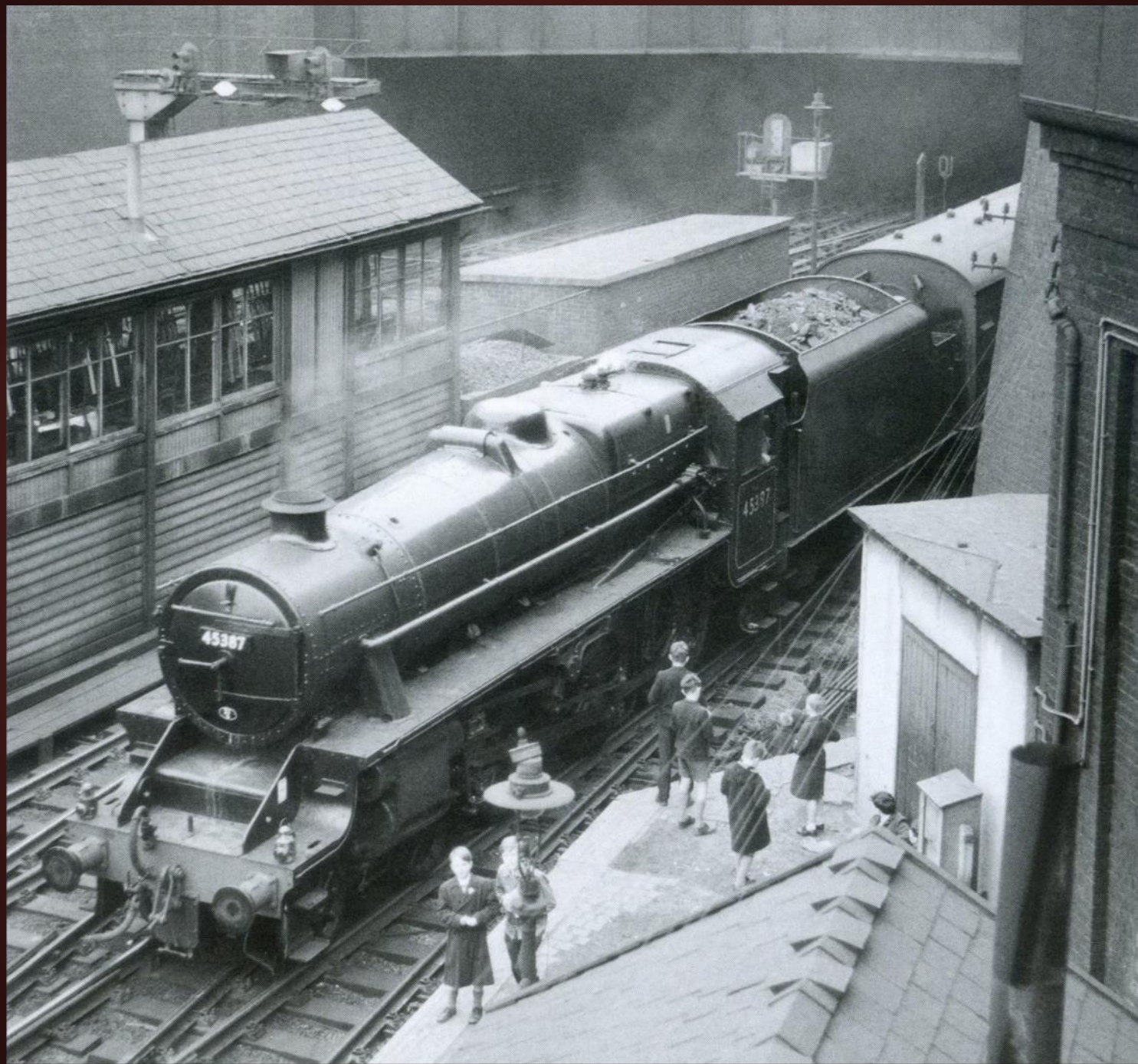
Coleman & Rajczonec





Platform 9 for Bristol – spot the mail bags!

Holland – Lost Joy of Rlys

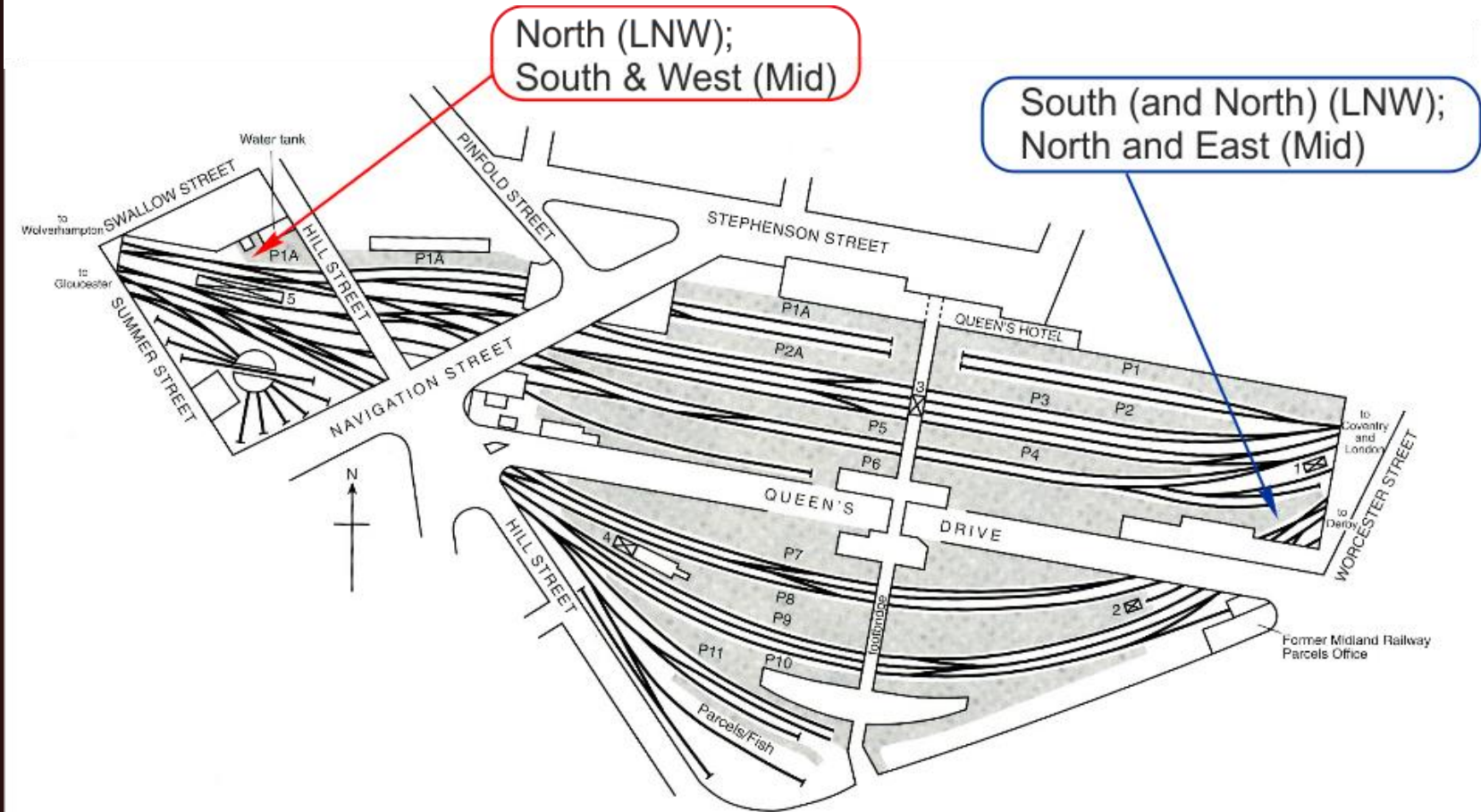




York-Bristol, April 1961

B'ham Mail

Spotting Locations



When hounded out of these key spots, the spotter could evade pursuit by taking advantage of the two public rights of way that prevented the station from being closed.

Coleman & Rajczonec



An unlikely looking spotters paradise.....



New St Platform 3. 70031 Byron arrived
from Manchester London Rd – April 1955



Holland – Lost Joy of Rlys

Working on the Post

- Load and unload trains: work fast – up to several hundred bags/van
- Load and despatch trolleys
- Delay departure of trains

Day 1

One of half a dozen rookie students, regarded by postal staff as just a pair of (pretty useless) hands.

Close supervision. Learn to read the 'blackboards'.

Bag training.



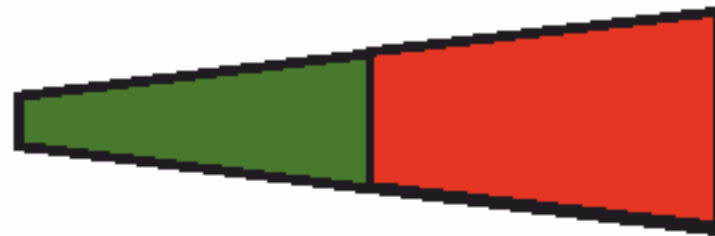


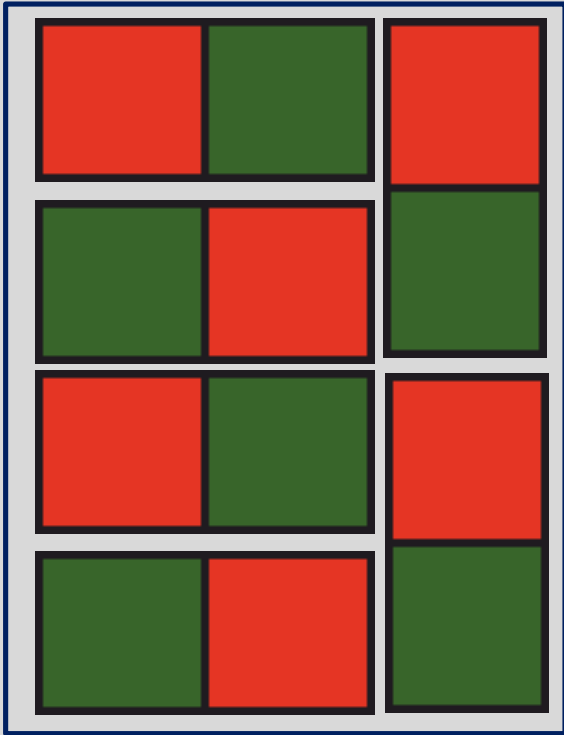
Kings Cross

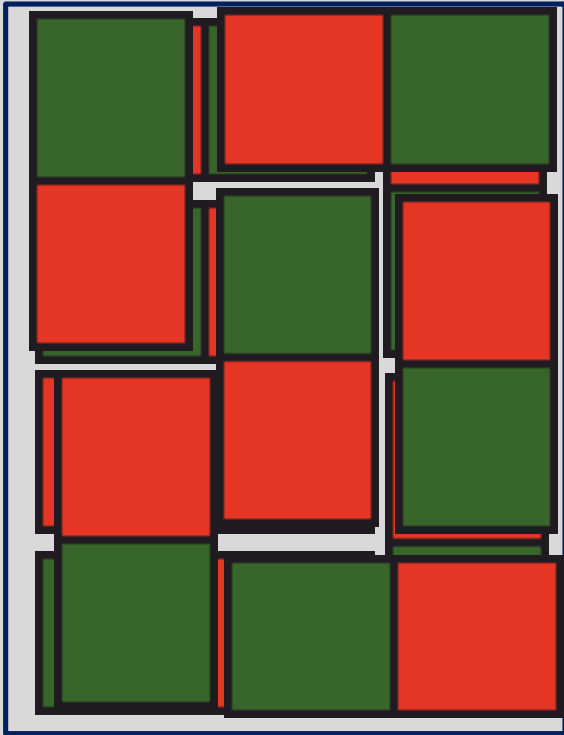
NRM Archive

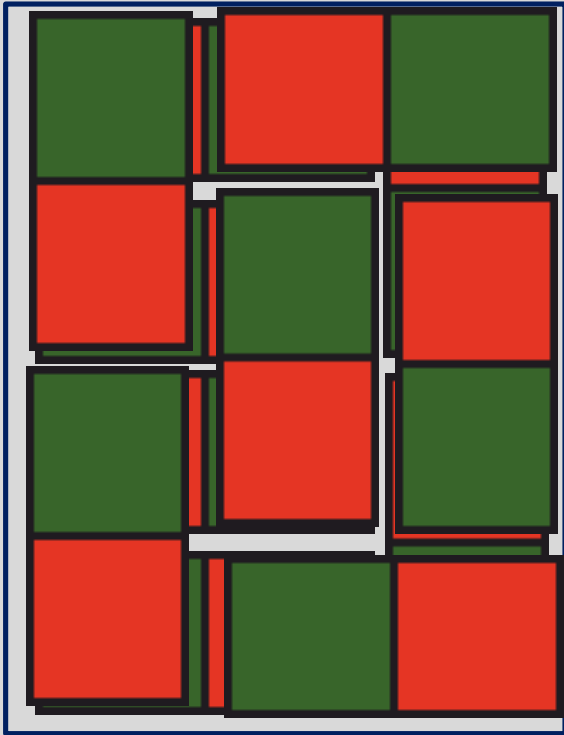
Top
(Light)

Bottom
(Heavy)











Midland Side in 1962

Coleman & Rajczonec

Day 2

Surprise expressed that I knew what mail to take on or off the trains, and to which platform bags should be forwarded.

Evidence emerged to suggest that I was potentially of above-average value to the posties.



Pines Express Sept 1962

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

Wolverhampton

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Wolverhampton - to platform 6

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Wolverhampton - to platform 6

Worcester and Hereford

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

Wolverhampton - to platform 6

Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9



Gloucester via Worcester (DMU in 1963)

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

Wolverhampton - to platform 6

Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9

Gloucester

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

Wolverhampton - to platform 6

Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9

Gloucester – **remain in the van**

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

Wolverhampton - to platform 6

Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9

Gloucester – remain in the van

Rugby

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

Wolverhampton - to platform 6

Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9

Gloucester – remain in the van

Rugby – **should have been off at Tamworth – platform 3
for the Euston slow**

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

Wolverhampton - to platform 6

Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9

Gloucester – remain in the van

Rugby – should have been off at Tamworth – platform 3
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Torquay and Plymouth

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

Wolverhampton - to platform 6

Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9

Gloucester – remain in the van

Rugby – should have been off at Tamworth – platform 3
for the Euston slow

Torquay and Plymouth – **leave on**

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

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Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9

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Rugby – should have been off at Tamworth – platform 3
for the Euston slow

Torquay and Plymouth – leave on

Cardiff and Haverfordwest

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

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Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9

Gloucester – remain in the van

Rugby – should have been off at Tamworth – platform 10

for the Cardiff-Newcastle

Torquay and Plymouth – leave on

Cardiff and Haverfordwest – put with Glosters (the Glos staff will transfer from Eastgate to Westgate)

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

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for the Cardiff-Newcastle

Torquay and Plymouth – leave on

Cardiff and Haverfordwest – put with Glosters (the Glos staff will transfer from Eastgate to Westgate)

Lincoln

Early evening, the York-Bristol arrives. There are no more through trains to S Wales today.

In addition to B'ham bags, the van contains bags for:-

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Worcester and Hereford – to next stopper on platform 9

Gloucester – remain in the van

Rugby – should have been off at Tamworth – platform 10

for the Cardiff-Newcastle

Torquay and Plymouth – remain on

Cardiff and Haverfordwest – put with Glosters (the Glos staff will take from Eastgate to Westgate)

Lincoln (!!)

– great - plat 7 for tomorrow morning's Cleethorpes.

Day 3

Posties spent more time in cabin playing cards, leaving me as unofficial chargehand!

Other lads are amused but happy.



Christmas 1962 – looks like it was too cold to open the van.....

Coleman & Rajczonec



Replacement for failed 'Peak' on up Devonian





My final favourites, at the other station.....but only until 1962

The End





