



Irish Railway Factsheet: Belfast & County Down Railway



B&CDR crest

The loss of additional war-time traffic with the ending of hostilities led to the financial position of the **Belfast & County Down Railway (B&CDR)** becoming precarious and compensation claims following the 1945 Ballymacarrett accident, in which 23 passengers were killed, sealed the company's fate.

In 1946 the Stormont Government announced its intention to amalgamate all public transport services in Northern Ireland into a single organisation. The Transport Act (N.I.) came into force in 1948 and on 30th September of that year the independent existence of the B&CDR, which had reached its century a few weeks earlier, came to an end when it became part of the **Ulster Transport Authority**.

Additional Sources:

Coakham, Desmond, 2010, "The Belfast and County Down Railway", Colourpoint Books, Newtownards, Northern Ireland (ISBN 978 18906578 73 2)

Coakham, Desmond, 1998, "Belfast & County Down Railway - an Irish Railway Pictorial", Midland Publishing, Leicester, Great Britain (ISBN 1 85780 076 1)



B&CDR 'Baltic' tank locomotive No. 23 at Queen's Quay, Belfast, circa 1953. (Photo © John Macartney Robbins - IRRS Archive)



Typical train of B&CDR 6-wheel carriages near Bangor West, circa 1953. (Photo © Denis Morris - IRRS Archive)