

Tragedy on the tracks

•••• San Jose Mercury News ■ Wednesday, Sept. 2, 1987



4A1A4
B4/B2
4A1A4
B4/B2
5
S
1
B4/B2
4A1A4

One demonstrator turns away in horror as others minister to S. Brian Willson, just after he was hit by a train in Concord

Protesting vet hit by Navy train

Mercury News Staff and Wire Reports

CONCORD — As dozens of horrified witnesses watched, a Vietnam veteran was critically injured Tuesday when hit by a Navy munitions train that he tried to stop by kneeling on the tracks at the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

S. Brian Willson, 47, a member of a Santa Cruz Veterans of Foreign Wars post who now lives in San Rafael, suffered head injuries and

lost his right leg below the knee at the scene. His left leg was amputated below the knee after eight hours of surgery, according to a spokeswoman at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek.

Willson, leading a group of about 25 demonstrators protesting alleged arms shipments from the Concord station to Central America, was kneeling on the track after a news conference when the engine hit him as a contin-

gent of Marines, fellow demonstrators and reporters looked on aghast.

"They've killed my dad. They've murdered my dad," shouted Willson's 14-year-old stepson, Gabe Rauhen, after the train hit Willson.

A note Willson was carrying in his hand when he was struck, read to reporters at a candlelight vigil at the accident site Tuesday night, read: "The authorities will be notified

See PROTESTER, Page 14A

