ALLEN, John Victor 26 September 1929

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Head Shunter	North Fremantle	Load falling during shunting operations

John Allan was 25 (Also reported as John Allen (27)) years of age when he was killed in a shunting accident at North Fremantle (Mt Lyell). John was a single man living at North Fremantle he was interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (PRESBYTERIAN/FA/0605). John's father resided in Menzies at the time of the accident.

RAILWAY/ SHUNTER'S DEATH.
Inquiry Adjourned.
An inquiry, into the death of John Victor Allen (27), a shunter, of Pearse Street, North Fremantle was opened in the Fremantle Courthouse by Mr. H. J. Craig (Acting Coroner) on Tuesday.

The deceased met his death near the State Implement Works on September 16, when one of a rake of trucks, containing five tons of bagged cement, ran off the line, when travelling over a set of points. The cement fell from the truck on top of Allen, and when he was picked up by fellow workmen it was found that his neck had been broken. The inquiry was adjourned sine die in order that fuller particulars might be obtained of the state of the lock of the points where the accident occurred. It was discovered after the accident that the lock was open and, as Allen had a key to the lock, it was thought possible that he unlocked the points some time prior to the accident and forgot to lock them up again before the trucks passed over the points.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Thursday 3 October 1929 Page 11.*

HEAD SHUNTER KILLED.
BURIED UNDER BAGS OF CEMENT
The Head Shunter at North Fremantle Railway Yards, John Victor Allen (27) met with a fatal accident while engaged in shunting operations today. It appear s that Allen was on the first truck of a rake laden with bagged cement which was being taken to the Mt Lyell works. The first truck missed the points and overturned, Allen: being buried beneath bags of cement. Another shunter, Philip Jones, was on another truck but jumped clear. The bags were speedily removed from Allen but they found he was dead, his neck having been broken.
The deceased was a single man. His father resides at Menzies.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Miner (WA) Tuesday 17 September 1929 Page 4.*

SHUNTER'S DEATH.
Points Found Unlocked.
TheJ inquiry concerning the death of John Victor Allen (27), a railway shunter, of Pearse Street, North Fremantle, was concluded in the Fremantle Courthouse yesterday, before the Coroner (Mr. J. Craig, R.M.) .

The deceased was killed near the State Implement Works on September 16, when one of a rake of trucks containing five tons of bagged cement ran off the line at a set of points. Allen and another man were riding on top of the cement when the truck overturned and the cement fell on top of Allen. When he was picked up by fellow workmen it was found that his neck had been broken. It was discovered after the accident that the lock of the points over, which the truck travelled was open and it was thought that it had been tampered with.

After the adjournment of the inquest on October 2 railway officials and the police made investigations and found that the lock had been opened and the points put into a half-open position by a lever. At the first hearing Patrick 0'Loughlin, length runner, stated that on Friday, September 13, he inspected all the locks on the points between North Fremantle and Mt. Lyell and was positive that the points were locked on that date.

The Coroner found that deceased came by his death when a truck tipped over owing to the points being out of position. Some person whose duty it was to see that the points were securely locked in position was guilty of negligence, but whether it was the deceased or another person, whose identity was unknown, there was no evidence to show. Whether or not such negligence was the effecting cause of the injuries which resulted in Allen's death was doubtful.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Tuesday 15 October 1929 Page14.*