AMESS, George 5 May 1909

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Head Shunter	North Fremantle	Shunting operations

George Amess was 44 years of age when he died as the result of being run over by wagons while shunting at North Fremantle. George was well known and respected in athletic circles in the Fremantle district. A coroner's inquest shortly after the accident did not determine the cause. George was married, lived with his wife and five children and he was interred at Fremantle Cemetery.

A RAILWAY SHUNTER KILLED.
Fremantle, May 6.
Under tragic circumstances, George Amess, head shunter at North Fremantle, met his death yesterday afternoon, during the course of shunting operations at the Galvanised Iron Company's siding. Amess was engaged in supervising the work of shunting 11 trucks into the Galvanised Iron Company's siding. Amess was negotiating a flying shunt from the main line via a loop, which was through the store and along the siding situated in that shed. Amess was standing on one of the brakes attached to a truck, and situated in the middle of the string. When the trucks were brought to a standstill in the shed, George Corkhill walked along the siding to see if they were conveniently situated, and when passing along one he heard faint moans coming from beneath looking over the edge of the siding, he was horrified to see the blood stained head of the unfortunate man Amess between the trucks and the side of the platform. One of the wheels of the truck was resting on the man's body, which was doubled up above the hips. His shoulders were against the siding. Amess was extricated, and it was found that his left leg had been smashed to pulp below the knee. His right hand was completely cut away, and his head cut badly. A portion of his body was terribly lacerated. When he was taken out, Amess made an effort to speak, but without success. He died in a few minutes.

Source: *Trove/Geraldton Guardian (WA) Thursday 6 May 1909 Page 3.*

NORTH FREMANTLE FATALITY DEATH OF SHUNTER AMESS.
BODY UNDER THE WHEELS.
THE INQUEST.
In the Fremantle Courthouse this afternoon the adjourned inquest was held into the circumstances attending the death of George Amess, who was killed at North Fremantle on May 5 while at work as a shunter on a siding. The inquiry was held before the Acting Coroner (Mr. F. Thompson) and a jury of three.

Evidence was tendered to the effect that at 12.55 p.m. on May 5 deceased, who was head shunter at the North Fremantle railway station, was supervising operations on what is known as the galvanised iron siding. At that time a rake of eleven trucks laden with cases of kerosene was being shunted into the Victoria Quay galvanised iron sheds. The trucks were "kicked," and the driver of the engine noticed deceased jump on to the brake of a truck about the centre of the rake. That was the last seen of Amess prior to the accident.

A witness named Richard Corkhill deposed that at about 1 p.m. he was standing near the iron sheds, and as he could not see the shunter along the line of trucks, he applied the brakes on the trucks ceasing running he proceeded along the line, and, on hearing groans coming from between the trucks, he looked down, and saw deceased lying on the rails, with the wheel of a truck across his thigh. He at once reported the matter, and, secured the assistance of the other men to remove the

body. With a pinch bar the wheels were eased off, and the body taken clear of the line, but deceased succumbed to his injuries about ten minutes later.

Corporal Doherty deposed to having removed the body to the morgue.

The jury found that the deceased met his death in the execution of his duty, no reason being given to show how the accident occurred.

Source: *Trove/The Daily News (Perth) Wednesday 12 May 1909 Page 9.*

FANTASIES.
NORTH FREMANTLE ACCIDENT.
The death by accident of George Amess, the shunter, at North Fremantle on Wednesday afternoon is another example of the daily risk to which railway employees are exposed. Amess had been in the service for many years and was an experienced man, and one who would be least likely to take a risk by being too careless. He was well known and universally liked at the Port where he was a leading figure in athletic circles to which Amess' always willing assistance was extremely valuable. He leaves a widow and five children, who, fortunately, will be provided for out of the Railway Benefit Fund, in addition to which they will probably be entitled to substantial compensation from the department.

Source: *Trove/Truth (Perth) Saturday 8 May 1909 Page 3.*