BROADFOOT, John 26 August 1893

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Porter	Midland Junction	Shunting operations

John Broadfoot was 23 years of age when he received fatal injuries while shunting at Midland Junction. John was struck on the head by an axle box when he fell while alighting from wagons being shunted. John lived in Midland with his wife and young child.

THE FATAL ACCIDENT AT THE MIDLAND JUNCTION.

An inquest was held at Guildford on the 28th ultimo, before Mr. W. G. Johnson, J P., acting coroner, and a jury consisting of Messrs. Wilson, Male, and Guppy, regarding the death of John Broadfoot, late railway porter, which happened at the Midland Junction on the 26tli ultimo. It appeared from the evidence of Patrick Sullivan, guard in the employ of the Canning Timber Company, that the train from the Canning Mills arrived at the Junction about three o'clock in the afternoon when all the passengers had alighted, the deceased gave the order for the train to go on from the platform to the south end of the Midland siding. The deceased stepped upon one of the wagons, and the train moved on. When nearing the end of the siding, deceased stepped off the wagon, then stumbled for two or three paces, and fell. The axle box of the next wagon appeared then to catch his coat, and he was dragged nearer to the line. The next axle box then struck him on the head. On seeing this, witness at once dropped off the wagon he was on and picked up the deceased, who was bleeding profusely from the head. He appeared to be unconscious. The witness signaled to the fireman to come. The fireman then held the deceased while witness reported the matter at once to the Station Master, and telephoned for the doctor. The Station Master, Mr. Robt. Sayers, had deceased laid on some bales, and ordered the train to take him in, immediately, to Guildford. Besides the Station Master, William Jones, engine driver, and Robert Henry Chrishson, fireman, gave evidence, corroborative of the foregoing.

Dr. Stewart, in his evidence, stated that he met the train in Guildford, at Clark's Crossing. The deceased was then quite dead. He examined the body at the hospital. The skull was fractured about half an inch above the left eye, the fracture extending over the vertex of the skull ; a portion of the skull above the eye was completely detached, leaving an opening which would about admit of two fingers. A second line of fracture extended from the same point above the eye to a point a little above and behind the left ear ; the bones of the nose were broken; the right and left upper jaws were separated ; the lower jaw was fractured in the Centre of the chin; the mouth and nostrils were full of blood, and there had been extensive hemorrhage in the brain. The causes of death were fracture of the skull and hemorrhage. There was a recent bruise over the prominence of the forehead, above the right eye. Deceased must have been unconscious from the time he was struck. There were no other marks of violence about the body. The Station Master (Mr. Sayers) stated that the deceased was a capable, steady officer.

The verdict of the jury was: ' That the deceased, John Broadfoot came by his death purely by accident while carrying out his duties, and there was no evidence to show- neglect on the part of any person.'

Source: *Trove/The Daily News (Perth) Friday 1 September 1893 Page 2.*

FATAL ACCIDENT

A fatal accident happened to a porter named John Broadfoot, at the Midland Junction railway station, on Sunday afternoon. It appears several trucks were being shunted and Broadfoot, who was standing on one of them, slipped and fell. His head came in contact with one of the axle-boxes, and resulted in a severe fracture of the skull. Death was almost instantaneous. Broadfoot who was about twenty-five years of age, was one of the porters on the Eastern railway, and was much esteemed by his fellow employees, amongst whom he bore an excellent character. He leaves a wife and one child.

Source: *Trove/Western Mail (Perth) Saturday 2 September 1893 Page 40.*