CARROLL, John 3 December 1919

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Guard	Kurrawang Woodline	Shunting operations

John Carroll was 56 years of age when he suffered fatal injuries after falling under the wheels of wagons being shunted. He lived at Kurrawang with his family and was a well liked and respected member of that community. John was the father of **John Carroll VC**. Burial details could not be found.

RAILWAY FATALITY AT KURRAWANG
JOHN CARROLL KILLED.
Whilst engaged in shunting operations at Kurrawang yesterday, John Carroll, father of John Carroll VC, came to an untimely end it appears that the deceased, who has been employed as a guard on the Kurrawang woodline for a considerable time, was directing the shunting of a rake of trucks to the sawmill siding, and was standing on the brake of one of the trucks to do so. The fireman in the engine was receiving the signals when he saw Carroll fling up his arms and disappear. The train was immediately stopped but it was too late the wheels had severed both legs below the thighs, and injured his head. Death must have been instantaneous.

Mr. Carroll was about 56 years old, and was a well known identity of Kurrawang, where he had lived for a long time, and was universally respected and admired. He leaves a wife and family to mourn his loss.

An inquest was opened yesterday before Mr. J. H. Cummins J.P. acting coroner, and a jury of three and after viewing the scene of the accident, an adjournment was made until December 9.

Source: *Trove/Western Argus (Kalgoorlie) Tuesday 9 December 1919 Page 8.*

KURRAWANG LINE FATALITY
The adjourned inquiry into the cause of the death of John Carroll senior, at the Kurrawang home station on December 3 last, was concluded before the acting coroner, Mr. Jas. H. Cummins and a jury at the Kalgoorlie Courthouse yesterday.

Sergeant Buttle elicited the evidence, on behalf of the police.

Mounted Constable Harrop testified to the removal of the body from Kurrawang to the Government Hospital Morgue and he gave evidence of identification.

Dr. S. Matthews, D.M.O., furnished the results of his postmortem examination of the remains. The left leg was severed from the body just below the hip and the left limb was practically severed at the thigh. Death was due to shock.

James Sexton, locomotive, engine driver, a son-in-law of the deceased, said he was driving an engine in the Kurrawang woodline yard about 8.15 on December 3. Deceased, was in charge of the shunting of a rake of seven trucks loaded and otherwise. He saw the deceased sitting the brake of the fourth truck with his back to the engine. That was his usual practice. Witness was watching for a signal from the deceased. The train was running on a comparatively level grade at the rate of three or four miles an hour. Suddenly he saw deceased's two hands and legs go up. This was visible along the side of the truck. Witness called out to his fireman that deceased was under the train. The brake was applied and the train pulled up. The engine was not steaming at the time. Witness ran to the spot. And here

he found deceased lying on the road between the rails. He spoke to deceased, who either mumbled something or groaned. He could not account for the occurrence. He spoke to the deceased ten minutes before the accident. Deceased was then quite sober. Bert Barton, fireman of the engine, gave evidence of a corroborative nature.

William Wildman, loco, foreman at Kurrawang gave evidence to the effect that he had examined the road thoroughly after the accident but saw nothing unusual in its condition.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, no blame being attachable to anyone.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Miner (WA) Wednesday 10 December 1919 Page 4.*

Author's Note: *John Carrol VC returned to his work as a labourer and railwayman after the Great War. He lost a foot in an industrial accident in 1927. He died in 1971 at the age of 80. His Victoria Cross is held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.*