DARE, Alfred 1 September 1902

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Porter	Perth	Crushed between buffers

Alfred Dare was 33 years of age when he suffered fatal injuries as he crossed between carriages being shunted at Perth Station. Alfred lived in Perth and is interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (BAPTIST/AA/010)

Accident.
Perth. Monday.
On Saturday afternoon a porter named Alfred Dare met with a serious accident at the Central Railway Station. While shunting operations were in progress he was caught between the buffers of two carriages and had his thigh badly crushed, he has somewhat improved in the hospital but he it still in a serious condition.

Source: *Trove/Albany Advertiser (WA) Tuesday 2 September 1902 Page 3.*

Death of: Alfred Dare.
Alfred Dare, the porter who was severely crushed between two buffers at the Perth Railway Station, on Saturday afternoon, died in the Public Hospital yesterday morning at half-past 6 o'clock. An inquest was subsequently opened before Mr. A. G. Russell, J.P., and a jury, and was then formally adjourned to the Coroner's Court, on Monday next at 10 o'clock.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Tuesday 2 September 1902 Page 4*.

ALFRED DARE'S DEATH,
CRUSHED BETWEEN BUFFERS.
THE INQUEST.
The Acting City Coroner (Mr. A. G. Russell, J,P.) held an adjourned inquest to conclude the matter concerning the death of Alfred Dare, who died in the Perth Hospital on Sunday, August 31, from the effects of injuries sustained through having been crushed between the buffers of two carriages in the Perth Railway Station on the previous Saturday afternoon.

Corporal Street appeared for the police, and Mr. Durston on behalf of the widow of the deceased.

Leslie Burton, shunter at the Perth Railway Station, deposed that on Saturday afternoon about a quarter to 3 o'clock he was shunting carriages for the Bunbury train, and he saw the deceased try to get through sideways between the buffers as the carriages came together. Witness called to the shunter that a man was caught, and witness then ran up and seized the deceased by the arm. As soon as the carriages eased up he pulled the deceased out and laid him down between the two roads. Witness then went for an ambulance, and when he returned there were others beside the deceased. The deceased was quite sober, and appeared to have got down from the platform to cross to the other side. The deceased had no right to be there at the time.

By Mr. Durston: Deceased (who was a linen porter) appeared to be crossing over with a bundle of towels for the mail train. Witness did not know of any regulation prevanting employees from crossing as deceased had done, but he would have gone round by the way provided for those crossing the lines. The deceased, in attempting to pass between the carriages had acted too quickly, for witness to stop him, and had he got out safely witness would have stopped him and spoken to him about it. They were not shunting in the usual place at the time of the accident.

Edward Williams, seniorshunter, deposed that they were shunting on the ballast side of the Bunbury train. He told Shunter Burton to cut off behind the First Class lavatory. When Burton uncoupled witness gave the driver the signal to go ahead and in reversing the engine the carriages were brought together thus causing the accident. Witness did not see deceased jump down, and he first know of the accident when Burton called out that Dare was between the buffers. Dare did not say anything immediately after he was picked up but when they lifted him to the platform he said, "Give my watch to Mr. Elliott."

By Mr. Durston : The previous witness (Burton) was perfectly sober at the time of the accident. The only carelessness shown was by deceased himself. He had never before seen anyone cross as the deceased had done, by passing between the buffers.

Dr. Leslie Stuart Allen deposed that he was on the station at the time of the accident and deposed to having examined Dare, who was bleeding from a wound in his right thigh. Witness stopped the bleeding and took the man by cab to the Perth Hospital where he was admitted. Witness made a post mortem on Monday morning, September 1, and found that death was due to shock and loss of blood from the wound in the thigh.

Thomas Goudie, foreman porter, stated there was a rule in the book of regulations with which all employees were provided, stating that employees should not cross when a train was in the position described. Had he seen the deceased cross in safety, it would have been his duty to report him.

Other witnesses were examined, but their evidence was immaterial.

The Acting Coroner, in summing up, stated that there was nothing in the evidence to show that there had been neglect on behalf of any person, except the deceased.

James Alfred McDavitt, locomotive inspector, gave expert evidence to the effect that at times it is absolutely unavoidable to start an engine without first reversing or setting back.

After a short adjournment the jury returned a verdict that Alfred Dare met his death by accident, and that they could not find that any blame was attachable to anyone.

Source: *Trove/The Daily News (Perth) Wednesday 10 September 1902 Page 7.*