DEREPAS, Maxwell Herbert 28 November 1950

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Apprentice Boilermaker	Northam Loco Depot	Struck by locomotive

Max Derepas was 20 years of age when he died after being struck by a locomotive while working at Northam. Max was in the final part of his Boilermaker apprenticeship when the accident occurred. Max was single and lived with his parents and siblings at South Belmont (Rivervale) and he is interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (Wesleyan/1A/0133). Information provided by his sister Audrey Bowra. March 2016.

Railway Fatality
APPRENTICE KILLED
ACCIDENT AT LOCO SHEDS
A young man was killed at the Northam locomotive sheds on Tuesday afternoon, when his head was crushed between the cowcatcher of an engine and a heavy plank used as a footway over a pit in the running sheds. He was **Maxwell Hubert** (sic) **Derepas** (20 years), son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Larke Derepas of Norwood Road, South Belmont. Derepas was an apprentice boiler maker, serving six months experience at Northam from Midland Junction. At about 3 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, the deceased working in a pit beneath an engine. A shunting engine approached on the same line and was stopped when the driver, Mr. O. W. G. Willshire, saw a red flag, indicating that someone was working on the engine that he had come to move. The driver of the shunting engine left his engine for a few minutes. He said that when, he returned he saw the red flag removed. He blew his whistle and rolled his engine forward. Just at that time Mr. Derepas was about to leave the pit and when his head was in front of the cowcatcher of the engine he had been servicing, the engine was moved forward and crushed him against the foot plank. Mr. Willshire heard a shout from nearby and after stopping his engine, rushed along to find the apprentice, with his head between the cowcatcher and the plank. It is believed that he had been killed instantly. It was necessary to jack up the front portion of the engine before the body could be moved. The Northam St. John Ambulance was summoned, but as none of the regular drivers was available at the time an urgent call was sent to the police and Constable J. Peters took the ambulance to the locomotive sheds. The body was later brought to the morgue at the Northam Government Hospital.

Source: *Trove/The Northam Advertiser (WA) Friday 1 December 1950 Page 1.*

Railway Fatality
INQUEST FINDING
Before the District Coroner (Mr. K. H. Parker, S.M.) and a jury comprising Messrs. S. O. Newnham, J. K. Moore, and A. Bidstrup, an inquest was held in the Northam Court on Tuesday morning concerning the death of **Maxwell Herbert Derepas**, who received fatal injuries at the Northam locomotive sheds on the afternoon of November 28. The court found that deceased came by his death at 3 p.m. on November 28, 1950, from gross fracture of the bones of the skull with lacerations of the brain, the injuries having been received when he was crushed by a railway locomotive while he was carrying out his work, as an employee of the W.A.G.R. No blame was attachable to Driver Willshire or to any other person. The jury added a rider, recommending that some efficient system be used by the W.A.G.R. in future to indicate when workmen were employed in similar circumstances.

Source: *Trove/The Northam Advertiser (WA) Friday 22 December 1950 Page 1.*